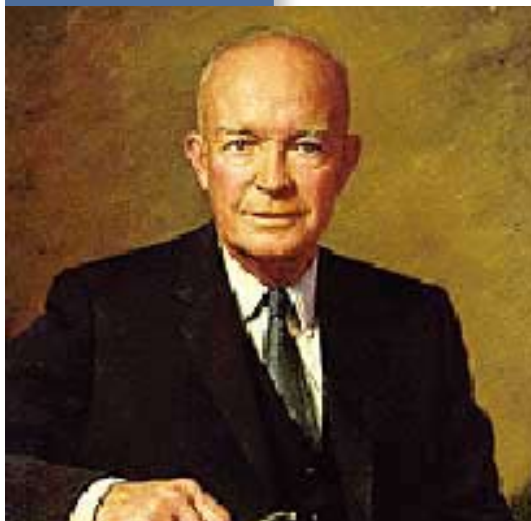


K9YA Telegraph

Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

Volume 4, Issue 8, August 2007



The Eisenhower Years

Amateur Radio—The First Term

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL

The period January 20, 1953 to January 20, 1961 marked the presidency of Dwight David Eisenhower: Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe, 34th President of the United States and elder statesman.

in Minnesota who provided instructions for injecting glucose to revive her. Meanwhile, an operator in Los Angeles copied the transmission and notified the Coast Guard who dispatched a Martin PBM Mariner flying boat to retrieve her.

"THE ROAD TO SUCCESS"

August 15: Ross D. Siragusa

October 3: William J. Halligan

In his series of success stories columnist Philip Hampson profiles tycoons Ross D. Siragusa of Admiral Corp. and William J. Halligan of Hallicrafters Company. These self-made men shared an early and continuing fascination with amateur radio.

September 27: 'HAMS' BECOME MINUTE MEN OF CIVIL DEFENSE

An overview of amateur radio: examples of the diverse nature of hams helping out, including emergency traffic handling, civil defense and MARS. Fondly-remembered amateur radio author and CQ magazine's Novice column editor, Herb Brier, W9AD, is pictured. Bedridden with arthritis, Brier maintained a busy writing schedule and was an active operator.

CONTINUED - EISENHOWER ON PAGE 6

During Eisenhower's two terms in office, the West continued its march toward peacetime normalcy and increased prosperity even as the Cold War grew more frigid. There were rumblings of war and the reality of war, rumors of spies and actual spy cases and above all else the threat of nuclear calamity.

Amateur radio was there and judging by the number of articles and their subject matter, the public was still fascinated by this service with its ability to transcend national borders and ideologies. Radio's emergency and traffic handling abilities enjoyed the lion's share of the news, but now human-interest articles examining ham radio's "softer side" shared the spotlight.

What were we reading about amateur radio during Ike's first term in office? Read on from the pages of the Chicago Daily Tribune and other publications.

1953

June 19: RESCUE WOMAN IN COMA ABOARD DRIFTING YACHT

Amateur radio plays essential role in rescue of stricken woman aboard a yacht 300 miles off the coast of Mexico. The woman drifted into a diabetic coma following her usual insulin injection. Using onboard amateur radio gear, her husband contacted a doctor

*"ham radio's
'softer side'"*

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A Study in Flea Marketing

Hamvention 2007

Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT



Steve, N9WAT

There was no traffic backup turning into entrance number 4 and we drove to our assigned flea market spaces with no problems or delays. The organizers were late in mailing out our tickets so they made them available at a drive-through will-call station, which worked very well. Temperatures were on the moderate to cool side for most of the event with no rain. No heavy traffic, severe crowding or extreme weather? Welcome to Hamvention 2007.

This year additional aisles were added to the flea market area spreading out the fewer vendors and easing foot traffic between spaces. This worked well and, although I didn't get to walk around until Sunday, it seemed there were the same amount of vendors with ham equipment as in previous years. If reduced attendance numbers mean fewer vendors of non-ham items, then, perhaps, it is a good thing. This was my first time attending as a vendor, and very much a novice in that respect, it was a learning experience.

We didn't get a chance to finish set up before greeting customers and making sales. I didn't realize until later that these were other vendors and that the flea market hadn't officially opened. It was a lot of work, but once things settled down it was very enjoyable watching people shop and chatting with the occasional shopper. I brought over 1,000 pounds of electronic components to sell (yes, I did weigh it) and it was definitely a buyer's market. My theory is that prices are low for old-style electronic components and test equipment because fewer and fewer people have the skills necessary to work with them and, of that small group of individuals, even fewer are interested in doing any projects in "classic" technology.

Birds of North America

Watching the flea market shoppers, probably better described as "attendees," we started classifying their purchasing styles. To help any future first-time flea market vendors reading this, I will summarize our findings. First, the non-buyers:

Drive By - These individuals simply cruise by and look at the items without stopping and mostly without getting close to the table. They either don't know what they are looking at or they know for sure they have no interest in the items. By far, the largest number of flea market attendees fall into this class.

Stop and Go - These guys stop and look and make brief comments to each other or to us behind the table but make no pretense of buying. They linger a moment only and are off to the next table. This class is probably the second most common type of attendee.

Dreamer - Interesting and amusing characters, they are always alone, never with a companion. They find a relatively rare item and announce they have been looking for one of these for years or need one to complete some project and ask, "How much?" After we quote the princely sum of a dollar or two, they simply lay the part down on the table and walk away. At first these people flabbergasted us. Are they that cheap? How long do

*"Interesting
and amusing
characters..."*



Inside Hara Arena



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they think it will take them to find another one—at any price? Why didn't they counter-offer?

Pondering this behavior I conjectured that upon hearing the price they realize the item will join a ton of other parts on the workbench, parts bin or garage; that they will never have time to finish the projects and plans they already have; and they are better off keeping the dollar in their pocket and not compounding the problem. Rather than face this unpleasant thought, they simply walk away to repeat the exercise a few tables down or the next aisle up. They are only momentarily *dreaming* of acquiring and using that item. Amazingly, there were quite a few dreamers; this class comprises not a few individuals.

Joy of Shopping - The rarest of the non-buyer class—only one paid us a visit. Beginning at one end of the booth, moving slowly and carefully, he examined many items and methodically sorted through boxes of stuff. Surely, this was for some great project lacing together these diverse items. Forty-five minutes to go from one end to the other of our two-parking-space area, he simply walked off. Yes, I timed him and no, I am not exaggerating.

I have only witnessed this phenomenon once before: Shopping for a coat at a mall with the XYL she stopped to examine dresses, shoes, skirts, men's clothes, children's clothes, etc. So, the Joy of Shopping shopper is probably looking for a widget we don't have, but enjoys the act of shopping so much he looks with no intention to buy. Most Joy of Shopping individuals spend 15 to 30 minutes at the booth and can easily be recognized by their intense concentration while sifting through the merchandise.

"Darn!"



FISTS CW Club Booth

On To The Buyers:

Sharp Shooter – He knows what he wants and wastes no time getting it. Usually will not counter-offer on price (it's already cheap!), but if he does, the negotiation is completed in a few seconds.

Haggler – Probably the stereotypical flea market buyer—prices are never low enough! Usually you can strike a deal, but occasionally one goes away empty-handed. Hagglers supply much entertainment, for example: "I have a box of these at home." We wonder how that makes this box worth less? Or, arguing that a technical book that cost \$100 five years ago is overpriced at \$5 today, they exclaim, "It's five years old!" Yes, were it new, the price would be \$100.



Chuck Guenther, NIØC

A special sub-category of the Haggler is the "Mr. Haney." Like his namesake on the 1960s sitcom *Green Acres*, Mr. Haney types are hard-core negotiators. Fortunately, I remembered how Eva Gabor's character, Lisa Douglas, frustrated Mr. Haney by negotiating in the direction opposite of convention. I lowered prices not just to meet Mr. Haney's deal, but also enticed him into some package deals. Staying within character, every deal was punctuated with Mr. Haney's, "Darn!" At the end, Mr. Haney walked off with about 25 pounds of stuff in his roll-aboard suitcase and I had 25 pounds less to load back into the car that night.

High Roller – Individuals who want *it* and lots of *it*. They will negotiate on price, but make up for any price reductions by buying in quantity. A few came back hours later or the next day to make another quantity purchase. This prompted us to create a High Rollers lounge area complete with lawn chair and cold bottled water where they could rest and admire their purchases. I am trying to think up some other High Roller perquisites for next year, but everything I come up with is either against Hamvention rules or local ordinances.

Sunday

Sunday was very slow and I was able to get inside and tour the commercial exhibits. I renewed my FISTS



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CONTINUED - FLEA MARKETING ON PAGE 8

K9YA Field Day 2007

A Buccaneer is a lot to pay for Corn

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL



Steve, N9WAT

Art reflects life? Life reflects art? While pondering the insoluble, consider; the August 2005 issue of the *K9YA Telegraph* compared our Field Day experience to then popular *Survivor* TV series. This year, with a bit of literary license, it's the summer's flavor de jour—pirates of the bounding main.

Shipspace & Bristol Fashion

Another Field Day and the *K9YA Telegraph* team, a.k.a.

the CW Rogues, deployed an operating crews' complement that was reduced in number, but not in spirit. Our group of hearties included Mike, N9BOR; Steve, N9WAT; Art, WB9JKZ/W9BSA; and ye scribbler.

As zero hour passed we set sail upon the *Mare Nostrum* of the amateur HF bands in the good ship *Dipole*. The sea-lanes were thick as krill and it was exceeding difficult to find a suitable berth from which to signal "CQ FD" at 28-wpm. Old Sol swung his great arc west as we stowed many a contact on 20-, 40- and 80-meters in the ship's log.

Avast Ye Spirits

But, tiring it was, so our venerable sleeping vessel (tent), the S.S. Colander, "Old Leaky" to landlubbers, sheltered our fitful naps. It also billeted a detachment of fearful big earwigs, undiscovered until Sol's next appearance.

As wraiths and ghouls plague cinema pirates, Phantom CW Syndrome plagued us. Headphones on or doffed, eerie 600 Hz Morse tones had us tracing its source—without success—the pesky tones were trapped between our ears!

Speaking of ghouls, a blood-seeking tick clambered aboard Captain Mike's back in search of iron-rich vittles. The scurvy knave was sighted and keelhaunched before he could drop anchor.

Blood was drawn—no cutlass involved—when a three-inch thorn pierced an old tar's pinky finger. The ship's surgeon soon put that right.

Land Ho!

On schedule and port sighted, we arrived with all hands on deck and broom secured to mainmast—another clean sweep for the CW Rogues! ■



K9YA Field Day Box Score

Class: 1A | Section: IL
Power Multiplier: 2 (< 150w)
Participants: 4
Hours Worked: 24

QSOs

1,234 CW QSOs x 2 = 2,428 pts.
Power Multiplier x 2
Total QSO Points 4,936

Bonus Points

100% Emergency Power	100
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS msg. to ARRL SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
(10) Formal NTS msgs.	100
Site Visit by Elected Official	100
Site Visit Served Agency	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Total Bonus Points	950

Claimed Score 5,886



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The Indoor Sportsman—Part III

On 160?? A Sporting Proposition

Page 5

Rod Newkirk, VA3ZBB / W9BRD

If you've played the game with Betty and me this far, you probably have a bargain bag of old-style, receiver-type, variable capacitors from your local flea market, plus a cheapie outboard SWR meter to use at your Sportsman's feed point. Unless you have the eyes of an eagle, it's hard to read a transceiver's meter across the room. By the way, the radiator's shape tolerates some distortion. Two-point suspension may be convenient, allowing the sides to taper delta style.

Now where were we? Oh, yes—we had so much fun with Sportsman II, our two-turn 80-meter model that we wondered how it would perform on top band. Our shack space limitation restricts physical size to 7' by 11' in the vertical plane. That amounts to a rectangle with 1/32-wavelength sides on 1.8 MHz, equivalent to a two-foot square on 20-meters. We're talking *mini*-loop here, but don't despair. It's only a hobby.

Tuning the Shebang

A logical four-turn loop seems like too much drapery. The two-turn deal already provides the interesting current/voltage dispersal desired, so we'll fool the coupling arrangement into thinking it's firing into a normal Sportsman quarter-wave which would be about 135 feet on 160 meters. So we'll just tune the whole shebang lower, accepting higher Q, narrower bandwidth and less efficiency.

Bridging the two original tune/match capacitors with a third capacitance, connected split-stator as illustrated readily does this. Interpolating from the progressive values on higher bands, the 1:1 VSWR match to coax should occur when each of the twin series capacitances is in the vicinity of 300 pFd. In our case this happens sharply when the new capacitance is about 150 pFd. In tune-up, remember to vary the twin series capacitors equally to maintain system balance.

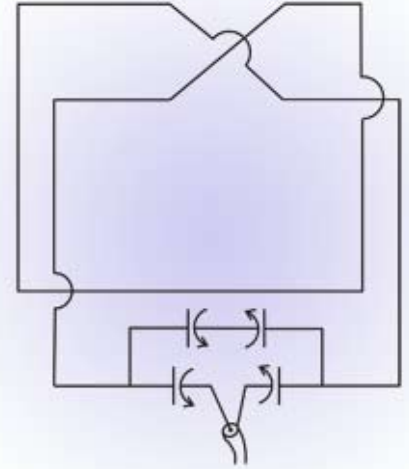
Snagging QSOs

Our very first call captured George, W1HBM, in Bar Harbor, a solid S7 contact on 1812 kHz. More QSOs down the east coast drew comments like "Forty watts to an indoor loop on this band? Surely you jest." Next winter's agenda may include

checking out the Sportsman in the horizontal plane, a cumbersome exercise with high four-point suspension. Maybe by then we'll have better sky wave propagation to enhance results.

De Minimus

Meanwhile we're having a ball with a rotatable 4-foot-square Sportsman II on 7 MHz. As for 28 MHz and higher, be careful. The darned thing could disappear completely. ■



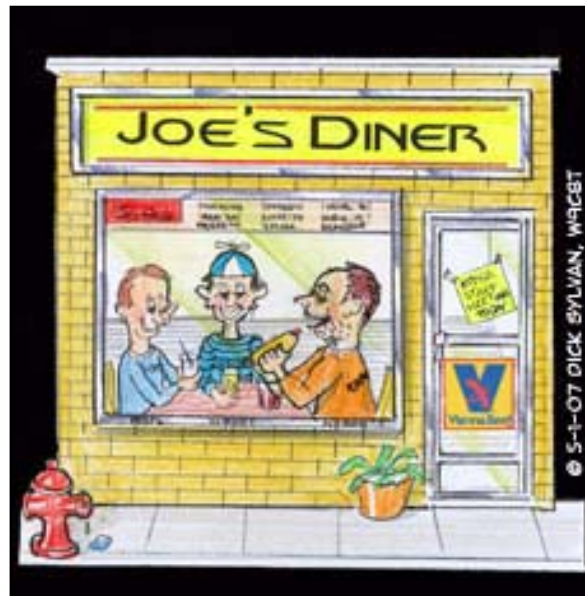
Sportsman III, dressed for 160 meters. (side view)

Correction—Indoor Sportsman—Part II

Thanks to Rod for catching two errors we made in his article in the July 2007 issue. The value at which a 1:1 VSWR match should be near 150 pFd—not 50 pFd, with twin capacitors. The Sportsman II uses 1/16 wavelength sides—not 1/6 as indicated in the article.

Ham Quips

DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



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November 24: TV NEWS & VIEWS

Incongruously, this daily column featured some local DXCC high rollers including W9FKC, W9NN, W9KA and W9PGW. (Today's column decries the "idiot dad" characters on the popular "Life of Riley," "Danny Thomas," "Ethel and Albert," "Amos 'n' Andy," "Ozzie Nelson" and "Pride of Family" sitcoms. Only the "I Love Lucy," "Burns and Allen" and "I Married Joan" father figures escaped ignominy.)

November 30: TECHNICAL WRITERS NEEDED

Collins Radio Company's large display ad seeks technical writers to work at their facility in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Qualified writers are needed for editorial work on technical manuals and instruction books for complex electronic equipment.

Our units are used in government, commercial, and private planes, and by other government agencies (foreign and U.S.), broadcast stations, and amateur radio operators.

December 6: GLOBAL HOBBY PAYS OFF FOR ULMER TURNER

TV-Radio newscaster, Ulmer Turner, W9UG, offers global news and views on his daily radio program, "Turner Calling." The program, an outgrowth of his SWL hobby and sponsored by Hallicrafters, gathers information from a bank of 14 shortwave receivers pumped full of RF from an acre and a half of antennas adjoining his shack.

He says, "With Turner Calling I've made a business from my hobby," and adds, "I've really got it made, don't I?"

1954

Clipperton Island: Still in demand as a DXCC entity, coverage of the 1954 Clipperton Island DXpedition was thorough.

March 19: 5 IOWANS HEAD FOR PACIFIC IN HAM RADIO TEST

Five participants, sponsored in part by Hallicrafters, plan to participate in an ARRL "long distance listening contest."

STORM TOSSED IOWANS HOPE TO REACH GOAL

The DXpedition's yacht, *Barco de Oro*, stymied by engine failure, is stranded "about 80 miles northeast" of Clipperton.

April 20: 5 IOWANS ON YACHT SWEEP PASSED ISLAND

Foul weather pushed the *Barco de Oro* past their destination.

April 21: ENGINE PARTS REACH MEXICO ON WAY TO DISTRESSED VESSEL

Marvin Eichorst, W9RUK, of Glenview, Illinois reports engine parts for *Barco de Oro* arrived in Acapulco and the Mexican coast guard will deliver them to the vessel now stranded 30 miles west of Clipperton.

June 2: RADIO CLUB HAMFEST TO HEAR IOWAN'S TRIP

Clipperton DXpedition participant, Robert Deniston, offers an insider's view of the adventure at Chicago's Conrad Hilton Hotel.

1955

January 21: TOP MAN HEEDS A CHILD'S PLEA

Who needs high-paid lobbyists? The article's sub-heading: "CQ Blanks Out TV; She Writes Ike," says it all. An eight-year-old Chicago girl writes the commander in chief asking for relief and gets it. FCC acts on a request from the President's secretary and the offending signals, from a next-door neighbor, are no more.

TVI

Rejoice in cable and satellite television feeds—two letters to the editor comment on recent articles about TVI.

February 5: TV INTERFERENCE: William B. Smith, W9VBV, takes a diplomatic tack; he believes both hams and TV set owners share responsibility for solving the problem. OM Smith suggests installing high pass filters on affected receivers and, if necessary, imposition of quiet hours. He finishes with an interesting statement: "The hams are indispensable in national defense, but the few that abuse this title by using it as an excuse give the rest of us a rough time."

April 6: FAULTY TV SETS: Another commenter (no call sign given) agrees with the previous writer and suggests some TV sets are, themselves, offenders through faulty engineering by radiating unwanted signals into "neighbors' TVs, and also to hams and short wave listeners." He suggests TVI will end only when television receiver manufacturers correct the

problem or when the FCC mandates a license for "each prospective (TV set) owner as an amateur radio operator."

May 16: A NEW HOBBY SPARKS LIFE OF LONELIEST MAN

Thomas H. Standish, W9LWQ, is no longer lonely. Confined to bed for years with arthritis, he took up shortwave listening and as his interest grew into earning a license, so did his world expand. Starting with a Class B license earned in a test administered by an FCC examiner dispatched to Standish's home, he upgraded to Advanced Class a year later: "Now Tom Has Friends Everywhere." He operates 2-meter AM and 40-meter CW and controls his rigs through "a series of switches that he operates by tugging at cords."

June 28: BIG MUSHROOM CLOUD VISIBLE 30 MILES AWAY

A huge explosion at the massive Standard Oil Company refinery in Whiting, Indiana and amateur radio operators were there. From the fire scene they supported overburdened first responders as they relayed messages from their mobiles.

December 2: RADIO OPERATORS GET SPECIAL AUTO TAGS

William J. Halligan, W9AC, pictured receiving his 1956 amateur radio license plates from Illinois Secretary of State Charles Carpentier. Also depicted is Ladd J. Smach, W9CYD. (See: February 2007 *K9YA Telegraph*, page 7.)

1956

January 22: JOLIET YOUTH HAS BIG HOBBY IN SMALL RADIO

Sixteen-year-old, Rick Gerdes, W9UYZ, of Joliet, Illinois has been a ham for three years. Featured are his miniature transmitter (1 by 1 by 2 inches) and receiver (2 by 3 by 5 inches) that enabled him to work CW 200 miles and phone 100 miles. Based on plans published in a radio magazine, the equipment took seven hours to build and parts ran to \$4.50. Today, the gear would still be wonders of compactness.

January 26: JOEY IS A SCOUT, RADIO HAM, MUSICIAN, THO 9—AND BLIND!

Joey Zitzka, nine years old, plays five musical instruments and is a "ham radio fan." Seemingly not ham-

pered by his visual impairment, in addition to his school and Cub Scout activities he weekly attends Hamfesters Friday night meetings.

April 15: GROUND OBSERVERS, RADIO HAMS TAKE PART IN EXERCISE TODAY

Amateur radio operators paired with members of the ground observer corps join forces for "Exercise Fly-over." Stationed in "Fifteen to 20 radio cars (they) will watch for aircraft... within a 10 mile radius of the (Edgewater Beach) hotel." Reporting back to the control center located on the hotel's top floor, they will report the aircraft's type and flight direction. Hams participating are members of the Night Owl civil defense net, Skokie Civil Defense, South Town emergency radio net and Chicagoland Mobile Radio club.



July 3: WOMEN GREET AMATEUR RADIO EDITOR HERE

Eleanor Wilson, "women's editor of *QST*," on her way to a "national amateur radio convention in California," makes a stop in Chicago and meets with 23 female amateur radio operators.

August 19: 3 MEN ON RAFT AT SEA MAKE RADIO CONTACT

Three seafarers crossing the Atlantic Ocean aboard their "40 foot cedar log raft" since departing Halifax, N.S. in May contact amateur radio operators along the coast of Brittany.

September 6: 'HAM' RELAXES WITH AN EAR TO OTHERS' CRISES

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Richard J. Lyons, Illinois state revenue director, is also W9VO. A ham since 1923 (listed as 9VO in the May 1922 edition of *The Consolidated Radio Call Book*), the article offers examples of Lyons' assistance including: directing a wayward airplane pilot to the "landing field nearest his destination" and helping the Indian agent in Kayenta, Arizona secure parts from Gallup, New Mexico for a broken down truck carrying perishables. It's not all public service though; his hobby helps relieve the "tensions of his important position in Illinois government."

Hams don't always do the right thing as the following illustrates. (See also: January 2007, *K9YA Telegraph*, pages 5 & 6.)

October 15: RADIO HAM'S ERROR HARMS SEARCH FOR 59

October 10 an American Liftmaster (Douglas C-118/R6D) carrying 59 men disappears 150 miles north of the Azores Islands. An SOS heard during the search for the aircraft came from "an amateur radio enthusiast operating in [sic] the wrong frequency." The U.S. embassy in Lisbon, Portugal reports the false signals hampered rescue operations over the Atlantic. The ultimate fate of this flight remains a mystery to this day.

December 27: 'HAMS' HELP GI LEARN OF MOM HURT IN CRASH

A group of amateur radio operators get the message through for an Army master sergeant stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. The soldier, learning his mother was seriously injured in a Chicago area traffic accident, is unable to contact home via radio-telephone link to the mainland, so he turns to KH6QU, the Honolulu USAF base's amateur radio station. The Hawaiian station's QRR on 20-meters is answered by W4ELU in Jacksonville, Florida but he is unable to reach the Gary, Indiana hospital where the injured woman was taken. Then, Ralph Sanders, W9GDM, in Wheaton, Illinois responds and successfully relays a condition report from hospital staff who suggest the sergeant "start for home... soon."

Watch for amateur radio news and views from Ike's second term in next month's *K9YA Telegraph*. ■

membership and spent most of my time looking at the new Elecraft K3 transceiver and the Begali sculptured key. The K3 has the ability to receive digital modes without a computer and reply using a key, which the radio translates into the correct digital mode. On the other end it's as if you were using a computer and keyboard.



The Begali sculptured key is a work of art and adjustable to a sensitivity where your breath on the paddle creates dits. They are expensive; but their beauty and extent of craftsmanship makes me believe they are a labor of love and not a profit-making venture.



While not at Hamvention, we stayed with the QRP ARCI group and attended their builder award display, vendor night and annual dinner. A fine bunch of guys, they continue to utilize home brewing and kit building to further their QRP efforts. Their dinner was a first class affair with door prizes galore and to top it off they raffled and awarded a K3.

Each year there is much talk about fewer attendees and vendors at Dayton, and that appears true. However, Dayton still offers virtually everything ham radio-related in one event and is much more enjoyable with the thinner crowds. If you haven't been to Hamvention recently, I highly recommend you try it next year. And, when attending the flea market, remember whether you are a Drive By, a Dreamer, a Mr. Haney, or a High Roller, the sellers will welcome you as part of the experience that makes Dayton great. ■