

# K9YA Telegraph

Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2011



## Who Did You Meet Today?

*Memorable QSOs with Admirable Ops*

**Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL**

When the subject of celebrity hams arises there are those whose name and fame automatically puts them on the A-list: Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB; Gen. Curtis LeMay, W6EZV; Sen. Barry Goldwater, K7UGA; Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG; Walter

Cronkite, KB2GSD; Jean Shepherd, K2ORS; and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. Yesterday's and today's famous hams, the list goes on and on.

I submit there is another A-list of celebrity hams who, though less known to the public at large, are nonetheless celebrated and revered as such by the amateur radio community. In addition, these operators, thanks to their love for the medium, provide many memorable QSOs to all of hamdom.

In my July 2005 *K9YA Telegraph* article "Fishing for QSOs" I wrote, "You know you'll get something with fins (aside from the errant and proverbial rubber boot), but it may be a tiddler or a tuna." Well, sometimes you can reel-in, or get reeled-in by, a Leviathan. With these three gentlemen of the RF spectrum I hauled in some record-breakers.

### **Prose A. Walker, W4BW (1910-2002)**

It was just after noon on 9 March 2002 when I answered the 20-meter band CQ of W4BW/2. We exchanged information: his name was Prose; his QTH, Rochester, N.Y.; and our mutual RST 599. Prose was living in a retirement community and his fist was flawless. Our ragchew lasted nearly two hours and Prose, in his early 90s, was up for more after a 30-minute break. FISTS members, we exchanged numbers.

It was some time after our QSO that I learned the man behind the key was known as the "father of the WARC bands."

From 1971-1975, Prose headed the FCC's Amateur and Citizens Division. At the 1972 congress of the International Amateur Radio Club in Geneva, Switzerland he proposed new bands at 10, 18 and 24 MHz. His proposal was implemented, to the greater good of the worldwide amateur radio community, at the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference.

Prose authored at least three *QST* articles: September 1970, "Mandatory Considerations Relative to Expansion of American Phone Bands"; July 1972, "Amateur Radio – Privilege and Responsibility"; and August 1973, "Planning for the Future."

A footnote to the 1970 *QST* article noted Prose, to that point, was or had been: *Chief of TV Allocations Branch,*

*FCC, in preparation for 1947 Atlantic City conference; 18-year Chairman of Study Group 10, International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR); CCIR National Committee, Department of State, and Chairman of the Aural and TV broadcasting preparatory work; since 1947, a member of U.S. delegations to 15 international conferences, and Head of two such delegations.*

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...his name  
was Prose...

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# Wouxun KG-UV3D

## Product Review

Paul W. Ross, W3FIS



Wouxun KG-UV3D Dual-Band 2M/UHF Handheld

This is *not* your father's Gonset Communicator! A local ham buddy showed up at our club meeting the other evening with one of the new Wouxun hand-held dual band transceivers. Not only was it remarkably small, but so was the price—slightly over \$120. Hmm....

Having long been a big fan of Yaesu handhelds, I was a bit skeptical of the “new kid in town.” At the price however, it was going to be hard to beat, and represented a minimal

outlay on my part. Well, off to the Internet to find a vendor. There are three slightly different versions of this same radio, and two different basic models, one available as a 2-meter/70 cm version, and the other as a 2-meter/1.25 meter version. If you live in an area with 220 MHz repeaters, this is a pretty painless way to play that game, as there aren't many transceivers on the market at attractive prices with 220 MHz capability.

I ordered up the model from Powerwerks in California, as it had a slightly huskier battery than the other versions. I use my HTs for ECOM work, and needed something that would run for a long time. Also, at the price, I wouldn't be all that upset if it were to come to a sorry end. However, the fellow that showed me his, had his cat knock his off the table onto a hard floor. The HT didn't fare well, and neither did the cat. I understand that the cat is now down to eight lives...

As I said before, this is not your father's Gonset. The manual suffers a trifle from the translation to English from the Chinese, and the programming strategy is clearly different than what I had been used to with my Yaesu HTs, and the FT-817ND. A little prowling around in the menus strongly suggests that we are seeing a “commercial” product that has been re-packaged with different firmware for the ham market.

The model I purchased can be tuned *only* to the ham bands. It may be possible to “open it up,” but I am not inclined to pursue that route.

OK, now what do we get for our \$120 plus shipping? The box contains:

- The Wouxun HT KG-UV3D.
- An attractive and quite complete instruction manual.
- Battery pack—a very nice 1,700-mAH Li-ion pack.
- A belt clip that fits on the back of the battery pack.
- A handy wrist strap for us fumble-fingered people.
- A desk charger and wall cord.
- A whip antenna—this is different. Instead of the usual male SMA or BNC fitting on the end of the antenna, we find a “reversed” SMA connector. The male pin is on the HT itself.

“...not your father's Gonset...”

I had anticipated the reversed SMA issue, and since I wanted to be able to use other antennas, and also hook it to my “J” pole base station antenna, I needed to purchase the optional BNC to SMA adapter. There is also an UHF to SMA adapter available. The adapters fit very nicely and remove the strain from the SMA connector.

The “stock” antenna also fits snugly, and is by no means fragile.



Reversed SMA Antenna Connector



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I also ordered up the accessory speaker microphone, which makes things easier when “out and about,” with the radio clipped to my belt or in the pocket of my parka or jacket. The cord fitting on the speaker microphone is quite snug, and is not going to come loose. In fact, they warn you not to pull on the cord when removing the plug, but to grasp the plug firmly on extraction and insertion. There is a jack on the speaker microphone unit for plugging in an external earphone, if desired. The plug is a two-pin affair, similar to what is found on other HTs.

There is an optional programming cable and downloadable software from the Website. This would make the programming easier, and I may pick that up at some point in the future. However, once I got the hang of programming the Wouxun, I can easily live without the programming software. As expected, this programming cable plugs into the microphone speaker connector. Some other accessories are available, such as a battery eliminator (allowing you to run the Wouxun directly from your cigar lighter), car charger cord (which plugs into the back of the desk charger cradle), and a vinyl case. More toys...

How do you program repeaters or simplex frequencies for the Wouxun? This is where things get become different. It pays to have a list of all the channels you want, including offset (if any), offset direction (if any), and CTCSS tones where required. You can “name” your channels, if you wish, with up to six characters. I didn’t do so, as I have all my HTs programmed with the same channel assignment. For example, for me, Channel #1 is the “2 meter wilderness calling frequency,” and Channel #5 is our local club repeater.

Programming is then the usual drill of selecting the frequency, offset, offset direction (those parameters



KG-UV3D with Desktop Rapid Charger

are *not* automatic, as in the Yaesu HTs), and CTCSS tones. Then, simply save in the desired channel location. There are 128 memory locations available.

You then go on to the next frequency, leaving the other parameters the same, unless one changes, like the repeater offset. In about 15 minutes, I had all of the two dozen local repeater and simplex frequencies programmed into the Wouxun HT. There are apparently two separate VFOs in the unit. This allows a “dual watch” capability. I keep them set for the two local repeaters I use most frequently. For ECOM work, this will be especially helpful, as we often use one channel for calling, then QSY to a different channel for continued conversations. Switching between channels for transmission is done with a simple A/B button on the front of the HT.



Rear View with Li-ion Battery Removed

One feature that is hard to beat is the voice synthesizer prompt, with your choice of English, silence, or Chinese. After a bit of chattering away, the XYL suggested pointedly that the “silence” mode might be better for continued domestic tranquility... There is an optional FM broadcast receiver capability, and a flashlight of all things! Quickly depressing the squelch button turns the flashlight off and on! That’s one less thing to carry in my “go” bag.

All right, now we have it programmed.

How well does the Wouxun work? For the “close in” repeaters, which are less than 10 miles away, the factory-supplied antenna is satisfactory from inside my house. For the more distant repeaters, I substituted a Diamond RH77CA “scanner” antenna with a BNC fitting I use for my other HTs and the FT-817ND when I want better range in the field. With this longer antenna (pretty close to 1/4 wavelength at 2-meters), I could easily hit repeaters up to about 20 miles away. If I hooked up my J-pole antenna, I could then hit any repeater up to better than 25 miles away. In fact, this HT may turn into a “base” station for VHF/UHF. I am running the Wouxun at the full 5 watts on 2-meters, and 4 watts on 70 cm. There is a low power, 1-watt mode

*“More toys...”*

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# A Bicycle Mobile Adventure

Part I

Scott B. Laughlin/N7NET



“I’m shifting gears,” Wiley announces over his shoulder. No verbal response from is necessary. The timing chain connecting he and Alice telegraphs her reply. “Okay,” he calls as the shift is completed. Again, he feels the strength of her long legs. The younger cyclists have always shaken their heads at Wiley’s use of the word “gears.” And he’s still mystified at their reminding him that bicycle speeds as calculated in inches. Indeed, his and Alice’s progress sometimes

can be measured in inches. But velocity and conquest is not the issue here. No one is judging their movement or awaiting their return. They have launched themselves on an extended journey and pace is the name of the game. Wiley signals for a rest period. They coast to a stop at the edge of the roadway. Together, they fetch their water bottles. Alice is announcing her call on 2-meters while he reflects on the forces that have brought them to this point.

It’s been two years since he and Alice finished their goal, conducting at least one QSO in each county while crisscrossing Oregon. They would have immediately begun a new project had cancer not played havoc with their plans. Air Force retirement benefits paid most of the cost of Alice’s treatments, but expensive, civilian specialists have depleted their resources. They were fresh out of everything—house, cars, stocks, and savings. However, on this November morning they cannot believe their ears when the doctor announces what no medical professional can explain. Her tumor has vanished.

“Please understand this is a rare occurrence and it could return. Don’t waste this gift. Decide how you’re going to use this opportunity and get on with it,” the doctor urges.

Stunned, Wiley returns to his job while Alice works at regaining her strength. Collectively, they gather their

wits. He is fifty-six. She is fifty-four. They are too old to recover what is gone.

By early February Alice was back to stoking the tandem. Their journeys are short in the beginning, but with time the distances increase.

They both conclude that time is more precious than material wealth. They must find a way for Wiley’s Air Force retirement to be enough.

In March they purchase a secondhand pickup and a well used camper. After loading their camping gear, along with the Burley tandem, their BicycleR Evolution trailer, and their sandy-colored cocker, McBark, they leave Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Their destination is uncertain, other than to escape into the high desert east of the Cascade Mountains.

Something pulls them south and three weeks pass before they roll into a windswept hamlet halfway between Tucson and Yuma. Two service stations compete for the motorists traveling to and from Mexico. George, a local resident, calls the place Why, and then adds that for many years it was known as Rocky Point Junction. Its name, he explains, echoes that of another place, a Mexican community located on the shores of the Sea of Cortez. That’s where Wiley loses interest in his story. George knows he talks too much and he has some experience with deaf ear syndrome. Rather

than waste his breath he directs these newcomers to a nearby campground known as Coyote Howls Park.

Coyote Howls is a primitive winter retreat for snowbirds and offers only bare necessities—a water spigot, a coin-operated bathhouse, and a clubhouse with a pay-as-you-drink coffee pot and paperback library. Space rent reflects the lack of amenities. Some residents consider this place one step removed from living beneath a bridge, but for Wiley and Alice it’s a perfect solution. It fits their budget. After signing a year lease they begin preparations for a new, more vigorous bicycle mobile adventure—pedaling back to Oregon’s Willamette Valley.

Alice has never cared to be captain of the tandem. Instead, she is content to occupy the rear saddle and

*“...the Sea  
of Cortez.”*



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stoke. Once, while crossing the high desert in Oregon while the wind was at their backs, she entertained them both by reading a novel called *The Shining*.

She's an excellent navigator and photographer. When they encounter a vicious dog she arms herself with pepper spray, becoming the weapons officer. Prior to their last tour she earned her Technician license and added communications officer to the list. A female voice always fetches more contacts. And she's made hundreds of new friends using the HT to announce her call followed by "bicycle mobile."

Wiley is anxious to get started. Apparently McBark is as well. Sensing that something is in the air, he's constantly under foot. He's accompanied them on every cycling adventure, occupying his place in a modified milk crate between the trailer and the bike. He weight adds to the burden, but he earns his keep when they camp in unfamiliar places.

This year Wiley is adding HF to the mobile capability, 40-meter CW QRP, to be more specific. Actually, the HF should be classified as portable rather than mobile. It's the ticket when they're holed up awaiting a change in weather conditions and during the long evenings when no repeater is within range.

A host of possible QRP radios exist, each satisfying important needs. Wiley requires something physically small, a rig without a microprocessor, and a receiver with low current draw. After studying many specifications he's chosen a MFJ-9040 for two reasons. It covers the entire 40-meter CW band and provides three or four watts of output, making the use of eight AA dry cell batteries a viable option.

A ham stick carefully tuned prior to departure eliminates the need of a tuner. The BicycleR Evolution trailer makes a perfect antenna platform. A jumper wire between the tandem frame and trailer provides an excellent counterpoise.

Shortly before sunrise on April first the three of them prepare to leave Coyote Howls Park. However, as they approach the exit and pass the clubhouse, Wiley notices that his friend, Ethan, is already there swilling down his first cup of the day. Realizing they are leaving for the summer, he grabs his coffee and strolls out to conduct a brief inspection. After twice around, he steps back and sips his coffee.

"How far you figuring on going with this rig?" he finally asks.

"I don't know. I guess we'll know we're there when we get there," says Wiley.

Ethan smiles, sips his coffee again. "Well, it seems fitting that you folks would leave on this day."

There's no meaningful response to Ethan's caustic remark, so they mount up and began the ten-mile trek to Ajo. Once on the road they've emerged from behind a hill giving them a clear shot at the Ajo 2-meter repeater located on Child's Mountain. Alice issues her call and for a brief time she QSOs with a trucker on Interstate 8. He's headed for California. After only a few turns his signal grows weak then breaks up and he's gone. They continue in silence.

"Look!" says Alice, placing her hand on his left shoulder.

"What?"

"That spot. What is it?" she says, pointing into the sunrise.

Following her finger he sees nothing. Then a small black dot materializes. At first he thinks it's a jeep in the desert, but it's doubling in size with each passing second.

"It's an airplane, probably a fighter heading for the Barry Goldwater Bombing Range," he answered.

Wiley has hardly completed his statement before the airplane arrives. With it comes a deafening scream of the jet engine and a burst of wind akin to a microburst. The air is filled with black smoke and the pungent odor of half-burned fuel is overwhelming. Wiley, having lost control of his motors skills has almost run them into the ditch. Then he notices that his left arm is extended vertically overhead. With difficulty, he retrieves it. It's almost as though it's someone else's limb.

The pilot is west of them now, and obviously overjoyed with the havoc he's created. Apparently taking Wiley's arm as a salute for a job well done, he performs a double victory roll. Then, with the belly of his aircraft looking at the Growler Mountains he continues skidding in a westerly direction and lights

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*"...akin to a  
microburst."*



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## Galen Johnson, WA6SBB

We live on a small farm outside of town and next to ham radio, reading is what I love to do whenever I am off of work and awake. My wife, Gloria, KE6OTX, is driven nuts by my book and magazine collecting, but as long as I'm neat about it, she puts up with it. My "shack," on the other hand, is my domain and the perfect 12' X 18' hideaway. There I build or repair my equipment, have three walls with bookshelves and in one end, my station.

Currently I'm using the FT-450 I bought a couple of years ago and it is in the prime location along with my key and bug. Next to the 450 is my TS-520, TS-930AT, TR-9000, and several QRP rigs. The antennas consist of a Lightning Bolt 5-band; 2-element quad at 40'; and, on the other tower, two stacked 14-element beams for 2-meter CW/SSB; one 14-element, 2-meter for FM; and 18 elements on 432, all at 50 feet. For 80 and 40 I use inverted V's hung from the tower and, with my limited schedule, I have worked all but five states on 80 CW. Plus, as I mentioned before, I have made lifelong friends along the way and I could die tomorrow and be proud and happy to have traveled the path I did.

I apologize for the long-winded note but I didn't get nominated for the Rag Chewers Club for nothing, hi hi. The FISTS Rag Chewers came about from Dennis Franklin, K6DF, after a LONG CW QSO when he was aboard the USS *Pampanito* one evening several years ago. The funny thing about that QSO is that a few days before it, Dennis was on 80 SSB and the pile-up was awful! As I very, very seldom use SSB on the low bands, I just listened and shook my head at the mayhem. Then, lo and behold, a day or so later, I heard Dennis calling CQ on CW. I went back to him and we weren't even noticed for several hours. Another good thing about CW! ■

## Call for Articles

Have a story to share? An experience to relate? Some gear to review? A technical tip to dispense? Feeling didactic or pedantic? Write it up, add a couple of appropriate photographs and send them off to the *K9YA Telegraph*. Hams worldwide will thank you, and so will we.

Here's the place to start:  
[http://www.k9ya.org/write\\_for\\_us.htm](http://www.k9ya.org/write_for_us.htm)

## Update: Earhart's Hams

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL

My November 2009 article, *Amelia Earhart's Hams*, cited two oft-quoted amateur radio operators who participated directly or peripherally in Earhart's 1937 flight: Joseph Gurr and Walter McMenemy. Gurr was her radio technician and McMenemy had monitored her 1935 California to Hawaii flight and, following her 1937 disappearance, was one of a group of hams and non-hams who claimed to hear signals from her Lockheed Electra.

Despite the fact their names almost never appear without the appendage, "amateur radio operator," their call signs, unlike the call signs of others involved, like Carl Pierson, W6BGH, are never mentioned. Scanning the W6 listings in the spring 1938 and fall 1946 issues of the *Radio Amateur Call Book Magazine* turned up the following.

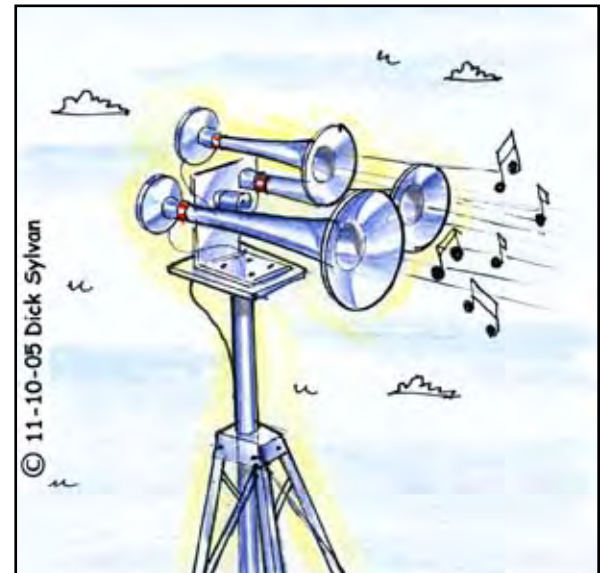
Spring 1938: W6AEW, J.H., Gurr, 834 N. Walnut Av., Burbank, Calif.

Fall 1946: W6AEW, J. Gurr, 834 N. Walnut Av., Burbank.

Still no luck finding Walter McMenemy's call sign. Anybody? ■

## Ham Lingo

DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT

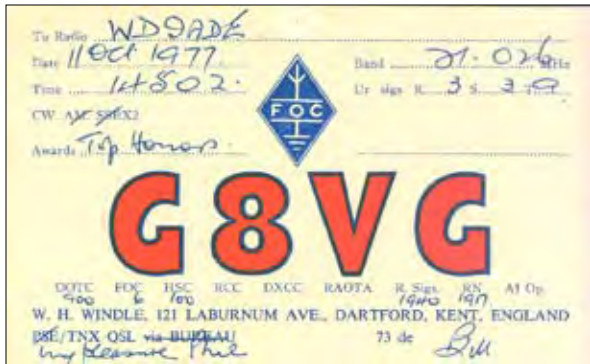


HORN ANTENNA -- YOU'LL BE HEARD!



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**W.H. Windle, G8VG (1902-1983)**

I had the pleasure of working Bill Windle, G8VG, the first full year I was licensed. The date was 11 October 1977, my call sign was WD9ADE and I was straining the few 15-meter watts my Ten Tec Argonaut 509 produced through my stealthy aluminum storm window antenna-screens and all. It sufficed to launch my call to G8VG in Dartford, Kent, England to earn a RST 339. A few weeks later I received, direct, Bill Windle’s classic G8VG QSL card and a bonus (blank) G4FOC card commemorating the “First-class C.W. Operators’ Club Annual Dinner 1977–Clarendon Court Hotel, Maida Vale, London.”

His G8VG card listed among his memberships and accomplishments: OOTC #900, FOC #6, Royal Signals 1940 and Royal Navy 1917. “First brass pounding was in 1917 when in the Royal Navy—Just a youngster at heart. 73 Bill”

On the reverse of the FOC card Bill wrote, “The standard of a good operator may be measured by the filter between his ears.” Wow! What great advice for every newly-hatched (and some “old roosters,” too) CW op.

Five years later, as AA9N/4, and again on 15-meters, I worked Bill, this time earning RST 569 with the same rig and a fan dipole. In July 1982 he was, “A young 80 yr old who aims to be the best 100 yr old CW man—20 years to go.”

Following WWII Bill Windle served as chairman (1951-1968 & 1981-1983) of the First Class CW Operators’ Club. Serving in other posts at the club until his death, “he was instrumental in driving the club forward and in encouraging more activity and participation in events.”

Today, G8VG is annually memorialized by the FOC’s Bill Windle Memorial Award and Bill Windle QSO Parties and by the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society’s G8VG Cup.



**Taroh Yagi, JH1WIX (1908-2001)**

Chicago to the UK via QRP and a stealth antenna is pretty good work. How about the same set-up’s Chicago to Ohtaku, Japan, Taroh Yagi’s, JH1WIX, QTH?

Taroh Yagi’s name was familiar to many newcomer hams of the 1960s and 1970s. Often their first JA contact, Taroh was a welcome presence on the 15- and 10-meter bands where his potent signal offered entry to far east DX.

In a letter to *QST* published in the October 1932 “Correspondence,” Taroh, then J1DO, Director Kwanto Division of J.A.R.L. and Chief Editor, *J.A.R.L. News*, informed hams of the restrictions placed on Japanese operators. He noted there were “well over 125” licensees, they were limited to “10 watts output” and also limited to strictly prescribed operating hours.

*QST*’s “I.A.R.U. News” for December 1934, penned by Clinton DeSoto, W1CBD, features photos of Taroh, now J2GX, and his “rationalized autodyne.”

It was only after Taroh’s death I learned that I was but one of the many new hams whose first brush with a “rare one,” and that all-important DX QSL card, came thanks to Taroh’s patience, persistence and kindness.

What did I take away from my too fleeting contact with these three operators? All I knew at the time was that I was having a great QSO with an excellent operator. Nothing in their on-air demeanor or in what they said led me to believe they were anything more than a ham radio operator just like me. I knew they had decades more experience and could teach me a thing or two, but we were on that time-honored “level playing field” of the amateur radio service. From Novice to Extra Class, from “bank president to newspaper boy” we earned our licenses to have fun, learn and meet some mighty interesting people. Hams all and equals.

Now, please tell us whom you have met. ■



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that extends battery life, but I don't usually bother with this.

How does the Powerwerks KG-UV3D model from Powerwerks differ from the KG-UV1D or KG-UV2D models also available on the market? It appears the KG-UV3D is actually a KG-UV1D with the optional 1,700 mAh Li-ion battery pack, a redesigned black textured case, new ergonomic knobs and additional firmware revisions including a customizable 6-character power on display message. My understanding is that if you buy enough HTs from Wouxun they will do a little customization for you. View the differences, other than the bigger battery, as simply cosmetic issues. The programming software does appear to be model specific, however.

I suspect that due to the Wouxun's small size and excellent battery life that it will be my HT of choice for trips and walking the dog. ■

CONTINUED - BICYCLE MOBILE FROM PAGE 5

his afterburner. With an ear shattering bawl the engine promises to stall and Wiley is certain it will crash in the desert. But somehow the fuel is cleared. Without further hesitation, the airman and his bird proceed toward Mexico at a blurring speed.

Rattled, they stop their bike in the roadway. McBark has bailed from his box and stands in the ditch awaiting a signal that everything is okay

After a few minutes they continue toward Ajo. The ice cream/coffee shop on the plaza is open. The sidewalk tables are filled with early risers. Wiley locates Bob, a friend from the park who flew an F-86 in Korea, and tells him of their encounter.

"He had you locked on with his fire control system," Bob said, laughing.

"I don't understand."

"His computer-controlled guns were locked on to you. That's against the rules. They aren't supposed to do that, but it happens to folks who travel that road during the early morning hours. I wonder if his guns were hot. If they were and he had pressed the button on his stick it would have been a bad day at Black Rock, that's for sure." They drank more coffee while Wiley detailed their adventure. After filling their water bottles they began the second leg, the forty-five miles to Gila Bend. Their route will pass through the middle of the Barry Goldwater Bombing Range. They can only hope that additional surprises weren't awaiting their arrival. ■

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## K9YA Telegraph Photo Contest



*K9YA Telegraph* subscribers are invited to participate in our first ever photo contest! You may submit photos of anything related to ham radio. Submissions may be either digital or print format. Large, high resolution digital images are preferred. Photographic print submissions will be scanned and returned as long as you provide an SASE.

Entries will be accepted until September 30, 2011. Submissions should include your name, callsign, and information about the image. Up to five images may be submitted per individual. The submitter must be the photographer and own all rights to the image.

Entries may be sent to [contest@k9ya.org](mailto:contest@k9ya.org) or mailed to K9YA via their callbook address. Photographs must have never been previously published. By submitting your entry, you grant *K9YA Telegraph* and Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club permission to publish your images as it sees fit, for any non-commercial use. It is our intent to publish winning photographs in a 2012 calendar, to be sold at our cost.

The first prize winner will receive an autographed copy of *HI HI — A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons* by Dick Sylvan, W9CBT.

Winners will be determined by *K9YA Telegraph* staff. Contest will be overseen by the prestigious law firm of Dewey, Cheatum and Howe. All decisions are final. Celebrity voices impersonated.

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