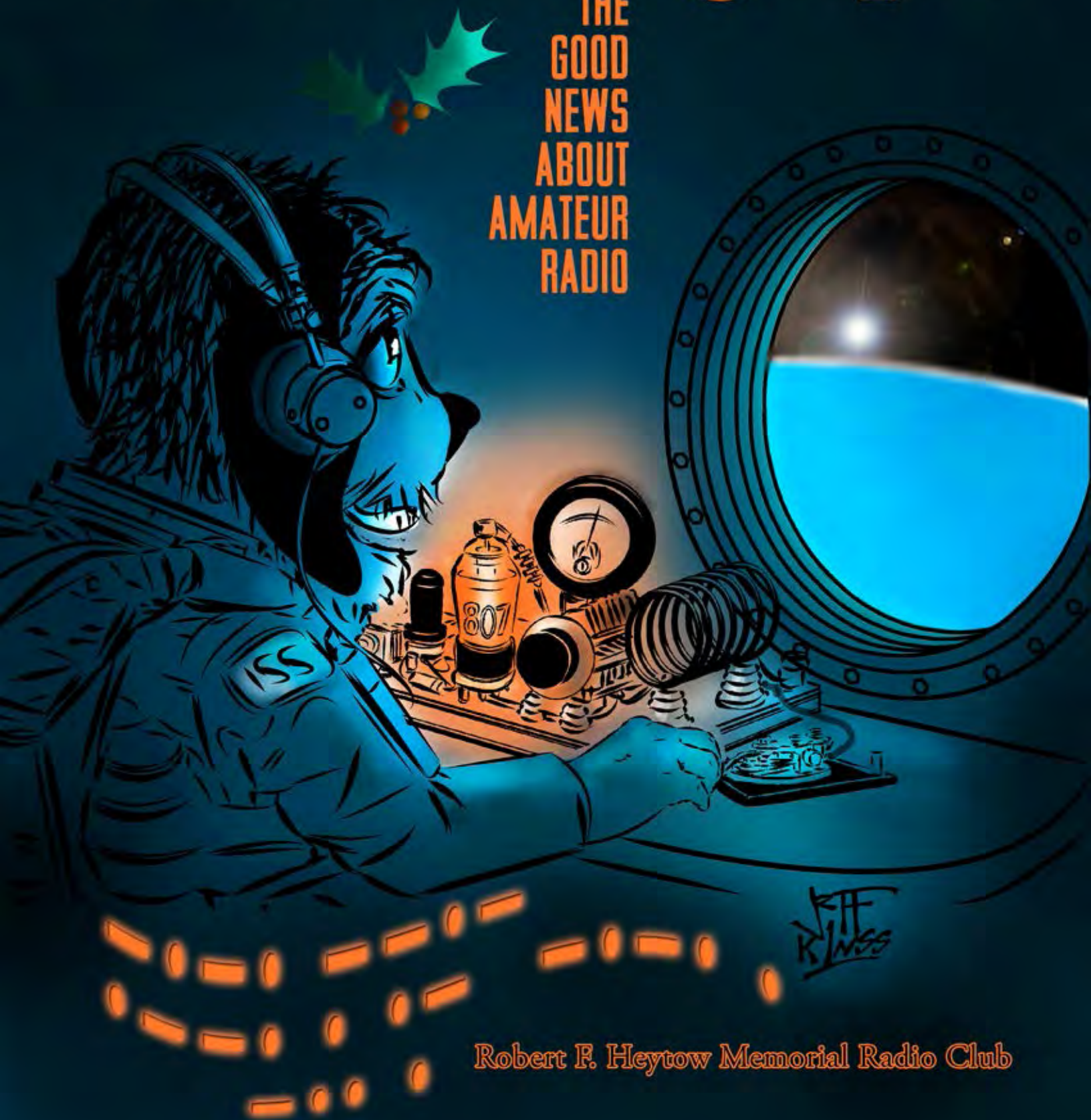


Volume 10 Issue 12 December 2013

K9YA Telegraph

THE
GOOD
NEWS
ABOUT
AMATEUR
RADIO



Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

K9YA Telegraph

Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

Volume 10, Issue 12 December 2013

RÈGLEMENT TÉLÉPHONIQUE

(REVISION DU CAIRE, 1938)

ANNEXÉ À LA

CONVENTION INTERNATIONALE

DES TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS

(MADRID, 1932)

PROTOCOLE FINAL

AUDIT RÈGLEMENT

International Law & Ham Radio

Part II: 1938 to 1954

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL

1938-Cairo

The 1938 Cairo Conference was administrative only. There, the ARRL pushed for expanding the 40- and 80-meter bands. Their effort was based on a study indicating adjacent frequencies were being used “in a most

uneconomical way.” In addition, the number of amateurs had grown 300% since the Washington conference. No matter, the decision was made to leave the frequency allocations unchanged.

At this conference, with the threat of another great war darkening and driving the proceedings, amateur radio was “attacked in terms more bitter than had ever been before used at an amateur radio conference.” Without the efforts of the U.S., Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and the countries of Latin America it was “quite likely that the amateur frequencies would have been virtually emasculated.” At the Conference’s close only the non-Europeans retained their allocations, whereas the “European Region’s” bands were “segmented, cut down, or restricted by shared use (with broadcasting particularly) as drastically to impair their effectiveness in the amateur service.” Only 20-meters remained unscathed.

To augment the drums of war, the delegates concerned themselves with allocating additional frequency assignments to “aviation, broadcast [disseminating propaganda and espionage], and the military.”

From the February 1938 issue of *QST*, in the article “What the League Is Doing,” an ironic twist on Japanese manufacturers’ post-WWII preeminence in amateur radio equipment: “As we go to press, we

learn of a belated proposal by our old friend Japan, who will be recalled as one of the most persistent enemies of amateur radio at past conferences.” Japan’s proposal, described as “the worst that country has ever advanced... a lulu!”

To gain additional spectrum for its aeronautical services “Japan would calmly wash out our 160-meter band and would strip us to a meagre 100 kilocycles in each of the 80- and 40-meter bands!” Twenty meters would be narrowed to 200 kilocycles and shared

“between amateur, fixed and mobile services. Above 28-Mc. amateurs would be eliminated.” The article informed readers there was little chance those proposals would succeed: “We hasten to assure readers that this proposal is not anything to worry about unduly; although never before confronted with anything quite so drastic, even from Japan, we know from past experience

that ways can be found to neutralize such proposals.”

The Rome Conference planned for 1942 was delayed for the war’s duration.

1946-Moscow

The 1946 Moscow Preliminary Telecommunications Conference was attended by delegates from

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*“the drums
of war”*

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Timing: P5, DXCC and the U-505

John Swartz, WA9AQN



U-505 Being Moved Ashore at Museum in 1954

Photo: Chicago Museum of Science and Industry

My earliest recollection of the U-505 is seeing it bobbing in Lake Michigan off the beach immediately east of the Museum of Science and Industry. The World War II German submarine became a permanent exhibit at the museum in 1954 after being rescued from becoming a target for U.S. naval gunnery practice. The story of its rescue is an episode in itself, and worth the time to explore.

I was standing on the beach holding my father's hand as the sub was slowly hauled out of the lake onto the trolley that would carry it across the Outer Drive and to its resting place outside the museum. I was eight years old that summer, and had the typical boy's fascination with things mechanical, electronic and military.

World War II was accessible history; we could learn directly from those who had "been there, done that," which seemed much more real than what we could access from the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, or even World War I.

There certainly was a mystique about that submarine. I couldn't fathom why we were supposed to be so excited about a German submarine. Hadn't they been the enemy? Why were we celebrating? Wasn't one of our own submarines parked at a pier just off Randolph Street? Why shouldn't we make it the big attraction? Why wasn't ours being taken to the museum for us to be able to go crawling inside?

Even though I had seen pictures of the interiors of submarines, and knew what was there and how they worked, I wanted to see it for myself. But, it wasn't quite ready for the public, and when it opened, we didn't go immediately. I remember my father saying something to the effect, "Don't be in such a hurry, it will be there for a long time. When the excitement

dies down, and the lines are shorter, you'll be able to spend more time looking." That made eminent sense to me; there was so much else I could do with the time that we would otherwise be spending in those horribly long lines. And they were long. And, I knew we would be rushed through when we reached the front of the line. I could wait.

The lines must have stayed long for years, because I don't remember actually seeing the inside of the sub until I was old enough to go to the museum by myself. But the life lesson sank in. Don't be in such a hurry to be first in line. There is a price for that, and that is the lost opportunity to do something else, and, what you gain by waiting is the opportunity to spend more time exploring when you actually do get there.

Fast forward, I'm still living that life lesson. In the meantime, I became a genuine licensed amateur radio operator, among other things, and discovered the thrill of DX. For years and years, I worked DX as it came along. Those were the days when the mega-DXpeditions were only dreams, and a kid with a 15-meter rotary dipole at 20 feet in the air (remember the one from the old ARRL Handbook... Armstrong rotor and all?), a DX-40 and an SX-110 wasn't going to be much competition in

a real pileup anyway. It didn't do much good to try to zero beat those weak signals, the VFO kept drifting (and so did the receiver).

But, early in my amateur radio career I set a lifetime goal to work as many of the countries as I could. Somewhere along the line they lost that status and became "entities." Some of them don't even seem to qualify under that title, either. I couldn't understand the fascination with contests or other competitive aspects of radiosport, but I did understand how to attack a goal I set for myself. "Slow and steady wins the race." But according to the latest ARRL listing in August, 2013 QST, I haven't been quite as steady as some others, and maybe slower; there are 1,382 amateurs who are just one ahead.

"...the VFO kept drifting..."



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In November, 2001, amateur radio paid a visit to North Korea. A Georgian began operating as P5/4L4FN with apparent permission of the North Korean authorities, SSB, and some RTTY. It was commonly understood that he was scheduled to be there for a full year. Of course, it was an “all time new one” and the pileups were anticipated to be furious. Naturally, the lesson of the U-505 was uppermost in my mind. Don’t waste your time, let the crazies waste their time and once the pileups have subsided, there will be plenty of opportunity to work him. Of course, that approach was a big mistake for at least one reason: Permission from the North Korean government for anything is not the kind of permanence that results from spending millions to restore and park a surplus submarine on dry land for kids to crawl through. But then again, he wasn’t going to be on CW, and if it isn’t CW, well, it just isn’t ham radio. The realization of what was happening while I sat back and let everyone else work him did not sink in until after we heard that the North Korean government had changed its “mind” and threw him out, cutting short my “plan.”

Timing! Well, that’s what DX’ing is all about. It’s all about timing. And that was the lesson of the U-505. Don’t waste your time standing in line or calling into the ether. Knowing when your signal is going to be at its peak, jumping in at just the right moment when the DX is listening right where you are sending. Oh, the finesse, the satisfaction! Which TV network was it that used to open its weekly sports coverage by trumpeting, “The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat?” There I was, riding my Vibroplex down the ski jump and flying off the side; I ditted when I should have dahed and I was NIL – Not In Log. Of course, timing was what got the U-505 captured, and ultimately brought it to the fresh water shore of Lake Michigan.

But the story isn’t over because the U-505 has surfaced again. Well, not literally. In 2004 it was actually sunk. Having succumbed to the ravages of Chicago weather (including “The Hawk,” the name affectionately given by South Siders to the winter wind that comes off the Lake), it was time to either scrap the old hulk, or invest some serious dough. (Recall another Illinoisan, Senator Everett Dirksen, saying “A million here, a million there, pretty soon you are talking serious money.”) So, for the second time in its captivity, the U-505 was rescued by a

huge fundraising machine (it was in Chicago, after all) that dug a big hole in front of the museum and gingerly submerged the U-505 into its more permanently secure mooring, out of the elements.

The display is quite moving, and the approach to it has much more dramatic impact than when the beast was parked outside the Museum standing on pylons. If you haven’t yet seen it, the approach is down a long, winding, sloping passageway lined with displays showing its history and role in the Battle of the Atlantic, and its capture. Don’t rush past those exhibits, absorb them. By the time you reach the end of that passageway, your sense of the history will put you in the frame of mind of the late years of the war, just one week before D-Day.

Then you walk into the chamber where you suddenly see it, to your right, nose to nose. You stand looking down the length of its deck at the conning tower. With the incredible losses inflicted on Allied shipping by the U-boat fleet, Churchill was reported to have claimed that the U-boats were the only thing that really frightened him during the war. If you have examined the exhibits lining the passageway, you can thoroughly understand that fear. I don’t know whether the museum has the vents of its air conditioning system blowing chilled North Atlantic air, but the museum visitor at that moment inevitably has the sudden urge to find a woolen cap, a scarf, and a warm coat.

In 2005, I returned to the Museum to see the U-505 in its new home. My wife and I had been hosting a young Rotary Youth Exchange student for the year, and he was interested in seeing some of the sights in Chicago. I’ll have to admit that he was more interested in the exhibits at Wrigley Field, but there was only so much of that “agony of defeat” to go around. His view was somewhat different, but instantly recalled my younger questions about why we, Americans, were celebrating the German submarine. Our student was from a small town near



WWII German U-505 in its New Setting at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago

*“A million
here, a million
there...”*

CONTINUED - TIMING ON PAGE 8



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Post Office Net

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night...

Bob Cashdollar, NR8U



My interest in amateur radio leads me to explore many related subjects. I now know enough to be dangerous about how radio signals are propagated around the world, how radio actually works, and a host of other things concerning radio.

I learned the United States Post Office, in 1964, issued an amateur radio commemorative stamp. Delving into this area I became a stamp and first day cover collector. Now, having collected for a quite a

number of years, I'm always looking for more amateur radio topical stamps.

Thanks to the Internet, collecting this information has become a bit easier. During one of these searches I discovered a site that posted USPO *Postal Bulletins*. The *Postal Bulletin* is a weekly newsletter style publication produced by the Post Office for its employees. Searching "amateur radio" on the site, I found some information about the amateur radio stamp and the Post Office Network (PON).

The front page of the May 8, 1958 *Postal Bulletin* has an article from Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield seeking volunteers from the PO's licensed employees to assist in forming an emergency radio network. The Bulletin included a one-page questionnaire asking basic questions about the volunteer's radio activities. The questionnaire was to be turned in to the local postmaster for forwarding to Washington, D.C.

Apparently the Network's formation took some time, the PON is next mentioned in the July 3, 1959 Post Office Bulletin. That article indicates plans have been completed with the help of W8QCU and KØAGJ to form the net. The article cites the net's mission statement: "The mission of the Post Office Net is to provide communications for the Department in the event of emergency or natural disaster situations."

Again a questionnaire is included, a little more detailed than the original.

In the November 29, 1962 *Postal Bulletin* Postmaster J. Edward Day expresses his "sincere appreciation to the many postal employees who are so capably serving in the Post Office Amateur Radio Network." Later, in the same article, Day restates the mission statement for the Post Office Amateur Radio Network: "The mission of PON is to serve the Post Office Department as an auxiliary communications system in emergencies."

From the same article: "Approximately 1,500 postal employees currently participate in this program which operates in 43 states."

Another detailed questionnaire was included in this issue.

The last mention of the PON I found was in a 1962 issue of the *Postal Bulletin*. I wondered what became of the Net.

"...what became of the Net."

I'm a member of the American Radio Relay League and so have access to back issues of *QST* through their Website. I did a search through the back issues of *QST* and found more information about the PON.

In the Public Service section of the February 1963 *QST* is a photo of PON officials attending a conference in Chicago the previous October. The Post Office officials attending are identified, but in the usual practice of the era, just their call signs were listed. No other details about the conference were provided.



PON Membership Certificate



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POST OFFICE NET RADIOGRAM

NR	PRECEDENCE	NR	STATION	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME	DATE
1		2		3		4	5
6		7		8		9	10
11		12		13		14	15
16		17		18		19	20
21		22		23		24	25
26		27		28		29	30
31		32		33		34	35
36		37		38		39	40
41		42		43		44	45
46		47		48		49	50

TO: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

RECEIVED FROM: _____ TIME: _____ DATE: _____ SENT TO: _____ TIME: _____ DATE: _____ OPERATOR: _____

RECEIVED BY AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR (STATION): _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ FOR POST OFFICE NET USE ONLY _____

PS Form #131 DEC 1973

Searching further, the Public Service section of *QST* for October 1974, under the byline of Bill Mann, WA1F-CM, is headlined, "PON Dumped." The article opens: "We are advised that as of June 30, 1974 the Post Office Net has no longer received administrative sponsorship support from the Post Office Department." (Pg. 86)

The article details the beginnings of the PON and what the League did over the years to help the PON. The article also gave me a name to go along with a callsign. Phil Bruce, W8QCU, was the PON's national director and a founding member of the net. KØAGJ, another founding member is mentioned, but not identified by name.

After reading all this about the PON, I asked some local Old Timers if they had ever heard of the PON. Nobody remembered the PON or its net activity.

This Month's Cover



Jeff Murray's, K1NSS, inimitable creation, Dash, the Dog-Faced Ham, again graces our holiday cover. This year, from his celestial vantage point in the International Space Station, our canine hero glimpses the star rising in the East as he keys a message of peace. The vintage transmitter and key announce an enduring truth.

Visit Dashtoons, Jeff's one of a kind Web site (<http://www.dashtoons.com/>) for the further adventures of Dash and a whole lot more.

I decided to go to the source and check with the United States Post Office. Post Office publication 119 gives a list of sources for various historical aspects of the postal system.

None of the listed areas seemed to fit my search for PON information, so I sent an email to the Historian, United States Postal Service inquiring about the PON. I then moved on to other things and sort of forgot about the PON.

Several months later I received an email from Jennifer M. Lynch of the Historian

Department, which basically covered the things I'd already seen. She also stated:

"Unfortunately we don't have any files on the program—in fact, your email was the first

I'd heard of it." (Personal email, March 1, 2013)

So, I was stumped for a while. I guessed that the PON was some sort of emergency communications backup for the Post Office in case of national emergency. I assume it was also some sort of traffic net as well.

I made one last stab at the Internet and found some things. Allen W, Leigh, W7RCP, has some information on a Web site about him being a net control for the PON; he called the PON traffic net. There are also some images of PON certificates on his Web site.

Also on the Web is a QSL card from a special event station commemorating a Post Office dedication in Hackensack, New Jersey on May 6, 1967. The card's title is Post Office Amateur Radio Net Commemorative QSL Card. The back of the card lists the special event station as WA2TEK/2 a PON member station operating on 39.2 kHz (!).

Well, I guess after all this looking the best I can say about the PON is it was a traffic/emergency net, which at one time was sponsored by the United States Post Office. It lasted about 15 years or so and faded away when the Post Office withdrew its support. Still, it is a part of amateur radio history and was interesting to research. ■



PON Net Certificate



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"Song of the Sky"

Radio Operator Ernie Silvers

Philip Cala-Lazar, K9PL



Bromma Airport

Guy Murchie (1907-1997) in his lyrical book *Song of the Sky* described a skill familiar to experienced CW operators. Murchie, navigator aboard an American Airlines (American Overseas Airlines) C-54 Skymaster (DC-4 Airfreighter) flight from Stephenville, Newfoundland to Prestwick, Scotland narrates the action. The aircraft's radio operator, Ernie Silvers, in his bunk, asleep, headphones, via an extension cord, connect him to the radio. A CW message intended for his four-engine Douglas transport knifes through the atmospheric noise lulling his slumber.

Yet this harsh sound was as peaceful as the kettle on the stove to Ernie. He slept on and on—until suddenly there came into his subconscious a faint pattern of meaning: "whoowew-meeeee – dah – di– dah – di-moueeeee i– didi – di – dit – deommm – di – di – dah – aaeooumm – dah – dit – mmmmmmmeeeo – dah – di – dah – dit – eoooo – di – di-di-dit – 000000 – di–di–dah – 0000emmm.

C-H-U-N

CHUN, the C-54's callsign, sent by the radio operator of an aircraft trailing 30 minutes behind Murchie's flight; he rhapsodizes:

"It was a routine check, but to me seemed a significant demonstration of human adaptability to radio waves – response of the human mind to something a hundred miles away in the sky – if not beyond the horizon at least hidden behind an ocean flowing with quadrillions of molecules. It was tuning in on part of the great mystery of the total electric forces of nature – forces that have scarcely begun to be resolved even in the limited pragmatic understandings of industry."

There is much radio peppered throughout *Song of the Sky* to interest hams. Murchie, his literary eloquence born of experience, breathes life into Q signals, taking a radio fix, geomagnetism, emergency radio gear, LORAN, propagation and snowflake precipitation noise—poetically described as: *...broadcasting dainty music like a purring newborn kitten from its own radiolike sending station as if to tell the big world below of things it never dreamed – if only, it could hear and understand.*

The November 28, 1954 Chicago Daily Tribune review of *Song of the Sky* included this Murchie biography; note the two examples of the paper's effort to rationalize the spelling of English words: *Graduated from Harvard in '29, Murchie set forth with the powers of observation of a microscope, the imagination of a poet, and a Thoreau-like love of nature. He was a round the world stowaway, a photografer, an artist, a sailor, a salmon fisherman, a weather bureau employe, a student*

of military strategy, a foreign correspondent for THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, an outing class instructor, a grave digger, an engine room wiper, a hospital assistant, a lecturer, a railroad section hand, a feature writer, and finally the head of an inter-racial school for youngsters.

Song of the Sky, Guy Murchie, The Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1954 ■

"...quadrillions of molecules."



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the “U.S.S.R., France, China, Great Britain, and the United States.” Accompanying the U.S. delegation, in an advisory position, was a representative of the ARRL. At this conference there was provisional agreement by attendees regarding frequency allocations “except in those areas where the amateur bands were located.” There was, however, a “general agreement on the proposal to grant amateurs the use of new bands in the super-high region [above 1200 megacycles] developed since the Cairo Conference.”

1947-Atlantic City

At the Atlantic City International Telecommunication Convention amateur radio was redefined as a “service of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried on by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest” and an amateur station as a “station in the amateur service.”

This convention oversaw the formation of the International Frequency Registration Board. The Board comprised eleven members who were charged with “performing duties as specialists on a world-wide and not a national basis, while serving as ‘custodians of an international trust.’”

On April 17, 1947 “a close working relationship was established between the IARU and United Nations.” An agreement for the “‘promotion of international communication and maintenance of friendships established thereby’” was signed at Lake Success, New York, the UN’s temporary headquarters. Amateur station K2UN was installed “with the hope it would serve as a concrete symbol of the global objectives both of the United Nations and the IARU.”

Selections from the 1947 Radio Regulations Annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention

Chapter 1, article 1

31 Amateur Service: A service of self training, intercommunication and technical investigations carried on by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

55 Experimental Station: A station utilizing Hertzian waves in experiments with a view to the development of science or technique. This definition does not include amateur stations.

56 Amateur Station: A station in the amateur service.

Chapter XVI

Miscellaneous Stations and Services

Article 42

1003 § 3. (1) Any person operating the apparatus in an amateur station must have proved that he is able to transmit, and to receive by ear, texts in Morse code signals. Administrations concerned may, however, waive this requirement in the case of stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 1000 (one thousand) Mc/s.

1952-Buenos Aires

The 1952 Buenos Aires Convention was plenipotentiary only.

At the time Schroeder wrote this article it was hoped the Buenos Aires Convention would not reduce the existing amateur radio spectrum. “There is, however, little doubt that the Delegation of the United States, along with those of many other members of the free world, will work to preserve amateur radio as an international service.”

According to the author, that the international amateur radio service survived and successfully hurdled the many obstacles fielded against it over its history, “was in large part due to the strong stand taken on the matter by the Government of the

United States, a position subsequently adopted, and often reluctantly, by the other governments of the world.”

Author Peter B. Schroeder (1902-1991), W1PNY (Ex-9AHQ, Ex-W3IEX/1), was born in Spencer, Iowa and made his first two-way wireless contact in 1912. He was first licensed as 9AHQ in 1919. A 1927 graduate of Yale University, he taught in Hampton, Virginia 1927-1942, and then taught history at the University of Connecticut. He served in the U.S. Navy 1942-1946, returning to the University of Connecticut in 1946. He was member #264 of the Old Old Timers Club. Peter Schroeder was the author of the book, *Contact at Sea* published in 1967.

CONTINUED - INTERNATIONAL LAW ON PAGE 8



Ambassador Hotel
Atlantic City, New Jersey
Image: ITU

*“preserve
amateur radio”*



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Eleventh Anniversary Message

What is 35 pages long and full of wonder?

In 2014 the *K9YA Telegraph* celebrates its 11th anniversary. In that decade plus we've managed to fill those 35 pages, and growing, of our Annotated Index with stories written by radio amateurs for radio amateurs and their friends.

It all started with a very simple idea, first, create a free amateur radio newsletter all hams would enjoy reading. Next, invite the global amateur community to participate by publishing *their* stories, the adventures and collective knowledge of hams you know and hams you would like to know.

As we look forward to 2014 we invite you to join the authors whose *K9YA Telegraph* articles you've enjoyed over the years with *your* stories.

73 and Happy New Year from the
K9YA Telegraph staff

2013 K9YA Telegraph Authors

The *K9YA Telegraph* staff acknowledges the thoughtful contributions of its talented authors. Without the efforts of these volunteers, there would be no *K9YA Telegraph*. Thank you!

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International Telecommunication Convention, Buenos Aires 1952, Geneva, General Secretariat of the International Telecommunications Union, 1953

CONTINUED - TIMING FROM PAGE 3

Bonn. Members of his family had been alive during that war and I think he had an uncle who had been in the submarine service and had not returned. He noted that the displays focused on the Allied losses in the war, with very little mention of the fact that fully three-fourths of all the young German men and boys who put to sea in those fearsome machines never came home either. The price of war is paid mostly by youth on both sides of any conflict.

My father was right, timing is essential and you need to have your priorities set and in order. I finally did take the time to see and absorb the interior of the submarine. And, there's bound to be another operation from P5. Isn't there some talk of that going around? Maybe I should get a new antenna now to be ready... ■