



Dots&Dashes

What

Hath

God

Wrought

The Official Publication of the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

Vol. 40, Issue No. 2 • Spring 2015

AWARDS ISSUED TO MTC MEMBERS

By Jim Wades

In an organization as geographically diverse as ours, and with work being done at both the International and chapter level, it is often difficult to decide who to honor with an award and when to do so.

It has been a number of years since we issued an award recognizing a MTC member for his/her hard work. Therefore, the time had come to recognize a few individuals who have often gone above and beyond the call of duty to assist the Morse Telegraph Club in some capacity. This will hopefully be a first step in a regular process of recognizing outstanding individual contributions to the club.

This year, we recognized nine individuals who were long overdue for recognition. Each of these individuals has received a plaque recognizing their “outstanding service to the telegraph fraternity.” The recipients include:

DEREK COHN: For his assistance with both weekly telegraph demonstrations at Ferguson Missouri as well as the extensive travel he has made throughout the Central and Eastern US to demonstrate telegraphy at his own expense.

CINDY GALYEN: For her work as International Secretary/Treasurer, a position that requires a tremendous investment of time and effort throughout the year and which, at times, seems to be the equivalent of a full-time job.

TOM HAMBLIN: For his promotion of the Morse Telegraph Club in Central Canada and his on-going efforts to keep the “HN” (Canada) Telegraph Hub operational.

J. CHRIS HAUSLER: For his assistance with both local and national telegraph demonstrations including extensive

travel throughout the Central and Eastern United States to demonstrate telegraphy at his own expense.

LES KERR: For the many hours he has invested in the development and operation of the “MorseKOB” program, which now supports telegraph operation throughout the World.

GEORGE NIXON: George served as International Vice President for many years and has always been a source of wisdom and professionalism when making decisions about the management of the Morse Telegraph Club.



Dots & Dashes

The official publication of

The Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

Jim Wilson - Editor, *Dots & Dashes*

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www.facebook.com/morsetelegraphclub

www.morsekob.org

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Note: If possible, please include a copy of an obituary and other available information about his/her career and relationship to telegraphy and/or the telegraph industry.

Donations of telegraph instruments, telegraph ephemera, historical materials or requests for assistance with museum exhibits, telegraph demonstrations, or other consultation should be directed to:

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General correspondence, which doesn't fall into the above categories, should be directed to the International Secretary/Treasurer:

Position open to anyone interested

Local Chapter Members: Members of local chapters should send all correspondence regarding address changes, membership renewals and similar information to their local Chapter Secretary/Treasurer. If you do not know your Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, please inquire with the International Secretary/Treasurer to obtain the necessary contact information.

Your Articles and Stories: MTC is always looking for original photographs, stories and articles about your experiences in telegraphy or radiotelegraphy. Please send articles and news stories to the Editor of *Dots & Dashes*.

Telegraph Talks and Demonstrations: If you or your local chapter should schedule any demonstrations, talks or other special events, please notify the International President so he can publish your event in our on-line calendar.

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The next issue of *Dots & Dashes* is scheduled for publication on June 30th, with submission deadline three weeks prior to that date.

➡ This ad runs routinely in the *World Radio News*:

Morse Telegraph Club

Landline Morse is Alive and well!

Dots & Dashes newsletter
The Ace Holman national telegraph office & hub
Internet Telegraphy Railroad Telegraphy
Morse Telegraph demonstration

Learn more about the history of the telegraph or simply enjoy using American Morse Code and authentic telegraph equipment.

www.morsetelegraphclub.org



Sidewire

Comments from the
Editor of *Dots & Dashes*

By Jim Wilson



My family is snowed in again for the third time within the past three weeks. “Don’t go out unless you have to,” warned the radio newscaster a few minutes ago. So today, March 6th, is just right to continue working on the spring issue of *Dots & Dashes*. Spring?

Again I am pushing the rock up the hill, getting another issue of *Dots & Dashes* ready for your reading pleasure and entertainment. The spring issue will be in the mail by March 30th. Ten years have passed since I wrote my first issue of *Dots & Dashes*; that was forty issues ago! If any of you are burning to take over this job, let me know. I’ll be glad to assist you.

My front page story in the previous issue about other inhabited planets raised a few skeptical eyebrows. But an update story from the front page of the Washington Post newspaper dated March 1st adds more intrigue to the exciting idea that intelligent life is abundant in the universe. I was shocked to read that our government already has a paid director to decide what messages we will send to other technological advanced planets. So, my suggestion of “What Hath God Wrought” may not be the first message to be sent to people on another planet; drat. Read details of this story on page 19.

The Morse Telegraph Club is searching for a new International Secretary-Treasurer. Cindy Galyen resigned for health reasons. Cindy did a wonderful job. This job description is summarized by President Jim Wades on page 24. If you qualify, please step up to the plate with confidence to be welcomed by us all.

2015 is off and running. Numerous opportunities will come your way this year for demonstrating your telegraph skills and for reminding the public that the electric telegraph was one of the top ten inventions in human history. Get out there and get that sounder clicking!

Jim Wilson

President’s Line

Jim Wades, President
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.



Leadership Changes:

As many have heard, Cindy Galyen, our International Secretary-Treasurer, has resigned from her position. In recent months, Cindy has experienced a number of health and personal struggles, which have made it impossible for her to continue in the position. Cindy invested a tremendous amount of work and effort in the club during her tenure and for that we are incredibly grateful. Fortunately, Cindy and her father, Hubert Jewell, will continue to be active members of the Morse Telegraph Club. We offer our sincere “thanks” to Cindy for all of her hard work during her tenure as International Secretary-Treasurer.

The temporary absence of the International Secretary-Treasurer serves as a reminder that all professionally run organizations require a business continuity plan. Therefore, the Board of Directors has taken a number of steps to ensure that the loss of any one individual will not result in legal problems or the inability to continue operations. These actions include a new bank account, which can be regularly audited by our accountant and which has in place two International Officers as signers, thereby insuring that the absence of one officer will not cut off access to the funds needed for on-going operations.

If you are interested in the position of International Secretary-Treasurer or know of someone who is, please contact me. A job description is posted elsewhere in this issue.

Spread the word!

A sizeable number of our members are ham radio operators who share an interest in the history and traditions of telegraphy and the telegraph industry. While some undoubtedly limit their activities to “contesting” or chasing “DX,” there are likely many who also enjoy an extended conversation on the airwaves. Such conversations are an ideal time to mention the Morse Telegraph Club.

When one encounters an enthusiastic CW operator or an individual who mentions that he/she is “100-percent CW” or “mostly CW,” this is a clue that a potential MTC member is on the other end of the radio circuit! Such individuals

have already told you they are enthusiastic about radiotelegraphy, and such individuals are also likely to be interested in other phases of telegraphy, including the history of commercial and railroad telegraphy and the American Morse Code. One need only mention that he enjoys using American Morse Code and land-line telegraphy followed by a mention of MTC. If the response is one of curiosity or enthusiasm for the idea, then one has a potential member on the other end of the line!

If you run across an individual who seems interested in the club, please drop the International President a quick e-mail or NTS radiogram with that person's call sign and location ("QTH"). We will then mail him a sample copy of *Dots & Dashes* along with a membership application. While we haven't crunched numbers, I would estimate that approximately 1 out of 5 individuals who express an interest in the club during such on-air conversations will join if they receive a copy of *Dots & Dashes* and a membership application in the mail. With nearly 500,000 radio amateurs in the United States and Canada, we could likely see a significant increase in membership if the majority of our ham members simply talked about the Morse Telegraph Club on-air.

Another place to mention MTC is at local ham radio events. I recently stopped by a "hamfest" (ham radio swap meet) held in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I didn't set up a booth or demonstrate telegraphy. Instead, I simply walked around holding a small stack of about five or six copies of *Dots & Dashes*. By the end of an hour, all six had been given to individuals who stopped me to ask about *Dots & Dashes*. One can also give a brief talk about MTC at his local Amateur Radio Club meeting or at other venues where radio amateurs gather. We have also developed an 8 ½ by 11 flyer promoting the club, which can be downloaded and printed at home for distribution at local events. One side will contain information about the club and the opposite side will be a new member application.

Finally, another area appropriate for mentioning MTC might be various e-mail lists that cater to the CW operator, the antique radio collector, the radio or telecommunications historian, rail history enthusiasts or others who might have the right background or personality type for the club.

Let's get the word out about the Morse Telegraph Club. If we are to perpetuate the history of telegraphy and the telegraph industry, we must bring new blood into our group in order to support and sustain our historical mission.

Hacked!

As many of you know, the Morse Telegraph Club web page was recently the victim of repeated cyber-attacks originating in Red China. A disreputable Chinese company, which specializes in manufacturing sports team logo merchandise using stolen intellectual property rights took over our web page. This has become a fairly common practice in recent years as questionable organizations in China, Russia and various narco-terrorist states have found the Internet to be the modern technological equivalent of the "Wild West."

The result of these cyber-attacks has been the need to temporarily revamp and simplify our Web Page to eliminate the forum feature. Your International President has developed a set of specifications for a new web page and we are currently soliciting bids from professional web developers for the development of a new web page, which will not only incorporate the former features, but also add some new capabilities, such as an "e-commerce" feature, which will allow members to securely join or renew their membership on-line using "Pay Pal" or a credit card.

Hopefully, in the future, the Chinese will move on to defraud someone else. In the meantime, if you are looking for that reasonably priced Edmonton Oilers Jersey or a Detroit Tigers logo jacket, try "Sport Chek," "MC Sporting Goods" or a similar reputable company and don't buy from on-line organizations based in nations that don't share our values and don't respect the intellectual property rights of others.

Spring is Demonstration Time

Spring time is also telegraph demonstration time. This is the time of year when steam train excursions, historical events and US Civil War enactments begin to take place. If you have an interest in becoming involved in such events, please let others know. Many of our members and chapters are always looking for volunteers to assist with such activities. While we are always in need of individuals who can telegraph, it is also helpful to have volunteers present who can perform an interpretive role at such events by answering questions and explaining telegraphy while the operator concentrates on the business at hand.

Finally, if you schedule a talk or a telegraph demonstration, please be sure to let the International President know so the event can be added to the calendar on our MTC Facebook Page.

Let's hope Spring brings everyone good health and happiness!

73,
Jim Wades

RESIGNATION OF YOUR INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY TREASURER

Letter dated March 5th

Dear Friends of the MTC,

For some time now I have struggled with a continual decline in health. As a result of my fall five stories down an elevator shaft with I was 16, my maladies are catching up with me. I am in a wheelchair at least part of each day and unable to walk much or sit at the computer for very long.

My dad had a massive stroke last October and my father-in-law had a heart attack two days after dad's stroke. That same week, my mother-in-law fell and sustained serious multiple injuries. Thus, taking care of family, the farm, and our own responsibilities has left little time for anything else.

Not to be left out, last week my husband Jerry had a fight with a 4x4 while clearing snow. Jerry then had a short mandatory "vacation" from work when his doctor advised Jerry to avoid using and elevate his leg.

The bad news is that we all seem to be accident prone. But the good news is that we're tough and with God's love and help, and with wonderful friends and family, we will get through it! Everyone is improving, but continue our struggles. My father-in-law is preparing for major heart surgery this week. I take physical therapy

three times a week and am improving, but have surgeries ahead with lots of recuperation to look forward to. I have severe pain, which requires me to spend a lot of time in bed. The pain also affects my ability to concentrate and remember things. I hope that my knees and walking again should be the easiest fix, so I can soon get back on my feet.

I feel that in fairness to the Morse Telegraph Club, need to step down and let someone who can give it the proper attention and efficiency take over. I have wrestled with this decision for quite some time. I have really enjoyed working with our President, the Board Members, the individual Chapter Secretary-Treasurers, and with you the members. The personal contact with you all has been very special to me and I will miss all the little cards, notes, phone calls and e-mails of appreciation, encouragement, or just to say hello. It's a wonderful Club and I hope it will continue representing that special and important part of our history and heritage.

Thank you for the privilege of being a part of this wonderful group of people who make up the Morse Telegraph Club, Inc. I've been proud to be a part of it.

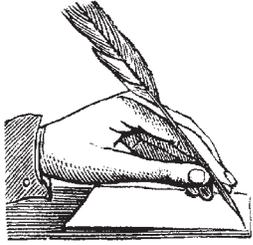
Sincerely, Darla "Cindy" Galyen

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Effective *immediately*, and until further notice, all Morse Telegraph Club correspondence, including new membership applications, membership renewals and invoices should be sent to the following address:

Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.
PO Box 192
Buchanan, MI 49107

Additional contact information for correspondence via e-mail or telephone is located at the front of each issue of *Dots & Dashes*.



Letters to the Editor

December 31st

With respect to the request for telegraphic memories on sports reporting, here are my memories. My experience dates back to the early 1950's. Hockey was the sport then. I was working telegraph at the New York Central Railroad station in Fort Erie, Ontario. Whenever the Fort Erie "Senior A" hockey team hosted another club, a local sports news reporter would attend to the game and scribble out the activities of the play on ice. I couldn't fault him on his reporting, but the way it was relayed to me left a lot to be desired. His scribbling was done on a lined fools-cap scribbler. His writing was horrendous and it was a major guessing game as to what he was trying to say for the most part. My assumptions in deciphering what he was trying to convey must have been ok, because the "CP" Commercial Office in Toronto accepted my message as sent without any question.

*Russ Nicholls
Huntsville, Ontario*

January 22nd

This is a reference to the item on page 9 of *Dots & Dashes*, the fall 2014 issue, a portable telegraph unit. The enclosed picture is pretty much identical and was manufactured by AHEARN & SOPER LIMITED, Ottawa, Ontario (patented May 1, 1900 [This picture was not of printable quality]).

I own the instrument shown in the picture. The carrying case measures 6 inches by 3 inches and is almost 3 inches high. It was designed with a shoulder strap, but I don't have the strap. (It was probably used for pack train harness repair).

Hazelton, BC was the southern terminus of the northward extension of the Yukon Telegraph to Telegraph Creek and beyond to the Yukon. I don't know how long it took to construct the telegraph line, but "the line was fully operational by 1901."

This telegraph instrument would have been used during construction times, also in the event of line breakage, probably into 1936. "In 1936, a large portion of the main Yukon Telegraph Line was

abandoned in favor of short wave wireless, with the first lengthy section to be closed being between Hazelton and Telegraph Creek. Hence, there was no further use for a miniature telegraph "office."

*Bill Heath, new member
Vancouver "DI" Chapter.*

January 30th

In a previous letter, Ronald Young asked about stock tickers. A good source of information about stock tickers the *American Telegraphy & Encyclopedia of the Telegraph* by William Maver, Jr. This book came out in a number of editions from the 1890's to about 1912. I've found that the 1909 edition is now available for free download from the web. Try: archive.org/details/american Telegraphy & Encyclopedia of the Telegraph. Look in chapter XXVII, "Printing Telegraphy." These books occasionally show up on eBay as well, but the price is often high.

The circuit tone converter to drive a sounder about which you are asking is available from the Morse Telegraph Club's website. The URL for this circuit is www.morsetelegraphclub.org/images/mtc/mbox1.gif.

When I visited the museum in Phoenicia about half a dozen years ago, there were a number of gravity cells crow's feet that I could see stacked in the agents office. Also, there are a couple of crow's feet currently listed on eBay, although in my mind these are way overpriced.

*J. Chris Hausler
Henrietta, New York*

February 7th

If you Google "The Man Called Intrepid," you will find a life history of William Stephenson. It is stated that in his early life, he worked as a telegrapher. My Uncle George told me that at the beginning of WW2, he was invited by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to participate in setting up a secret Morse telegraph school at Whitby, Ontario. This included a secret landline circuit to

New York using the Canadian National Pacific and Bell Telephone wires, reporting to William Stephenson's office.

*J. Guy Hamel
La Prairie, Quebec*

February 11th

I do not know if someone has brought it to your attention that in 1932 Ronald Reagan graduated from Eureka College located near Eureka, Illinois. In 1933 Reagan was hired as a sportscaster at radio station WOC at Davenport, Iowa. When WOC merged with station WHO at Des Moines, Reagan followed. There he created Chicago Cubs Baseball games from the studios of WHO and got his information via telegraph. I got this info by typing in "Ronald Reagan Chicago Cubs announcer." I was born and raised in Iowa and lived there until the dispatcher's office moved to Chicago. I can remember Iowans talking about "Dutch" Reagan the Sportscaster.

*Melvin Schiller
Park Forest, Illinois.*

PS: I really enjoy reading Dots & Dashes.

February 21st

I can't believe you actually put that whacky story and theory that maybe other civilizations also invented telegraphy. This proves to me that the publication has become a HAM rag, which I predicted years ago as all of the real telegraphers die off. I have been a member of MTC since the 1960's but think this year will be it for me.

There is a model of Samuel Morse's original telegraph machine on display at the Morse museum in Poughkeepsie, NY, the house where Samuel Morse once lived. Telegraph keys, sounders, relays and all the rest were invented long after the first electric telegraph machines were in use. The operator of the original telegraph machine put in what was to be sent on a strip of paper. The machine operator at the receiving end then read the marks on the strip of paper that came out on his end of the line.

The machine operators soon realized that they could read a lot of what was being received just by the sound the machine was making as it scratched out the letters. That is where Alfred Vail, not Samuel Finley Morse, got the idea for the telegraph key and sounder.

*Charlie Steeves
Nhrro700@aol.com
Branford, CT*

Thank you, Charlie, for the skepticism about the telegraph being invented elsewhere. Skepticism is healthy. An update with new facts about this story is printed in this issue on page 19, I hope you stay the course and continue as a valuable member of the Morse Telegraph Club. ~ Editor Jim

March 7th

I've been snowed in here on the side of Crawford's Knob. This has given me some time for reading. I want you to know that I enjoyed reading the latest issue of *Dots & Dashes*. All the articles were of interest to me, including the one on the little railcars (I didn't realize that privately owned railcars can travel on mainlines).

The article that was of most interest to me was the one on the North Garden train station. I didn't know that there had been a telegraph operator stationed there, but I am aware of its history with President Teddy Roosevelt. I knew that Roosevelt's wife, Alice, had bought Pine Knot for him as a surprise present, and that they traveled by train from the DC area (probably Alexandria) to North Garden, then proceeded from there to Pine Knot by buggy.

When I was a kid in the Boy Scouts, Pine Knot was outfitted with many bunk beds of the double-decker type and Boy Scout Troops often stayed there. At that time, our Troop #6, which met at the old Charlottesville First Baptist Church on Jefferson street across from Lee Park (but burned down years later), went out one weekend with our fathers to put new shingles on the house at Pine Knot. I don't know the current status of Pine Knot, but a few years ago, a committee was working on refurbishing the house and was showing the place to visitors for a fee in prearranged groups.

In March of 1909, my grandfather, Jim Miller, Sr., bought 56.5 acres of land on the side of Cook Mountain, a little above the North Garden train station. My brother and I inherited that property and still own it. The lot runs on up the mountain to the ridge line. Grandfather Jim built a small cottage near the lower (eastern) property line. In December 1910, my grandfather and grandmother were married; she lived on the adjacent farm just south of his, a property currently owned by Dan Beiker. My grandparents lived there until they

moved to Charlottesville around 1918.

Another lot, owned by Harry Campbell, between ours and the train station and our right-of-way comes up from the short dirt road going up from Plank Road to the site of the old station, which was torn down years ago while I was working out West. When I was a boy, my family would often go there and we would explore the mountainside. An old open-pit mine was on that mountainside.

I have stayed overnight in the old cottage, but it has fallen into decrepitude. After two of the three rooms collapsed, my father removed the debris in the 1970's. Having been started in the late 1700's, the iron mine has an interesting history. The iron ore was hauled over to Olds' Furnace on the Hardware River, just east of the intersection of Old Lynchburg Road and Plank Road, not far downstream from Pancake Falls. The mine closed some years later because the iron was difficult to

smelt from the ore because of its high titanium content, which also made the cast iron somewhat brittle.

After the Civil War, while Sheridan's Army was occupying Albemarle County, a soldier from Michigan was stationed there to guard the station. He noticed the weight of some rocks on the road and recognized them as iron ore. The soldier asked around and learned of the mine, then after the war, he returned and got the mineral rights and started mining again. But that lasted only a year or so. He was unable to obtain investors to support the operation.

I've attached a few old photographs taken around the place in the early 1900's (due to a shortage of space, Dave's photographs will appear in the next issue).

*Regards,
Dave Miller, friend of MTC.*

MTC Awards, continued from the front page

ROGER W. REINKE: Roger is a former International Secretary/Treasurer. He held this position for many years and in doing so, he managed to "herd the cats" in a most professional and detailed manner. MTC members owe him a great debt of gratitude for his excellent and often unseen work.

LAVINA SHAW: As most members know, Lavina is our immediate past International President. During her tenure as International President, she made valuable contributions to the club which still benefit us today. She remains very active in MTC affairs as well as at the Chapter level.

JIM WILSON: Jim serves as Editor of *Dots & Dashes*. His work is often the "face" of the Morse Telegraph Club. We appreciate the countless hours he invests in the development of each quarterly issue of our Journal.

There are others who are deserving of recognition, some of whom are already on a list for the next round of MTC awards. If you know of someone you feel has gone above and beyond the call of duty and should be honored with a subsequent award, please submit your nomination to the International President.

DO YOU KNOW?

Do you know who invented the transistor and what the transistor does?

The invention of the semiconductor transistor won a Nobel Prize in Physics for John Bardeen, Walter Houser Brattain and William Bradford Shockley of Bell laboratory in 1956. This tiny device replaced and required far less power consumption than the heavy glass bottle vacuum tube. The transistor became a breakthrough in communications, computers, photography, and more. The transistor both amplifies and acts as a switching device. Today, multiple transistors are manufactured into units called chips, allowing our electronic devices to become smaller and smaller. Transistors have also become cheaper and cheaper to produce, a good trend for us all.

WAVE OF POPULARITY

IN A DIGITAL WORLD, HAM RADIO ENDURES, AS A HOBBY AND MEANS OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION.

By Don Keith - March 1, 2015

Reprinted with permission of *The American Legion Magazine*, © May, 2013. www.legion.org

What comes to mind when you hear the term “ham radio”? Maybe, when you were a kid, it was the fellow with the tall tower in his backyard that was blamed for causing squiggly lines on neighborhood TV screens. Or the guy at work with antennas bristling from his car who spends his lunch hour eating a sandwich and talking on a radio. Or maybe you’ve read a news story about “ham” operators helping in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Whatever your impression of the hobby, you may have no idea how dynamic and fun ham

radio is, or just how crucial it can be when other forms of communication fail. And it’s a perfect fit – both nationally and at local posts – with many American Legion missions, including civil defense.

Every time you send a text on your phone, watch a TV show or use Wi-Fi at a coffee shop, you use technology developed in part by early hams – an old railroad telegraphers’ term for “inexperienced operator” – experimenting with newly invented radio in their basements and attics. And throughout amateur radio’s 100-year history, these cellar alchemists have helped create and refine innovations in the field. Meanwhile, others have helped save lives and ease human suffering during catastrophic events such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

Along the way, they’ve formed a tight-knit community that has a heck of a good time.

In the early 1900s, with radio in its infancy, its possibilities appealed to a group of early adopters. They took the work of scientists and pioneered the first practical uses of wireless technology. Meanwhile, world governments saw the need

to formalize regulation of this new communication medium to prevent on-air chaos. In the United States, the Federal Radio Commission was created for that purpose. Most regulatory agencies recognized the contributions



of those early hams and saw them as a willing and valuable resource. They designated portions of the radio spectrum for amateurs to continue to experiment and provide backup communications as a public service.

Fast forward a century, and the hobby is still as vibrant as ever. This surprises some people, who assume that smartphones, Facebook, online chat rooms and texting have made a pastime like ham radio obsolete. Yes, communicating with others is the ultimate goal of amateur radio enthusiasts, and there are plenty of ways to do that these days. But there is so much more to the hobby than simply talking to another person.

It can be difficult to convey the attraction to others, but there is a certain magic in connecting

with another person using a radio station that you put together yourself, possibly one you designed and built from scratch. There's a thrill that comes from bouncing a signal off the atmosphere – maybe even off a satellite, the surface of the moon or the tail of a comet – using newly developed digital modes of communicating, and conversing with someone who shares that passion, whether he's down the street or on the far side of the globe.

Amateur radio is not for everyone. But for those who are interested and want to join in, it can be an almost perfect avocation, offering opportunities for learning, experimenting or combining the pastime with other interests.

Campers, whether in RVs or tents, take radios with them for companionship and emergency situations when other means of communication are unavailable. Some hams hike to mountaintops or venture to remote islands with tiny, low-power transceivers and portable antennas, putting those locations on the air for others around the world to contact. Many use radio to control model aircraft, boats or robots, or as payloads in weather balloon launches. A wide range of special-interest groups meets regularly on the amateur radio bands in what are called “nets,” discussing such subjects as antique cars or gardening. There are nets, too, for veterans to connect on the air and talk about their experiences.

Those with technical flair learn, design, build and try out new ideas. Right now, satellites designed and built by amateurs are orbiting the earth and can be accessed by other hams using relatively simple gear. Computer technology is a big part of amateur radio today, and the latest advances in combining digital content with radio frequency waves put today's hobbyists on the cutting edge just like their predecessors a century ago. Others pay homage to their forerunners by restoring and repairing antique radio gear and returning it to the airwaves. For many, amateur radio has been the gateway to careers in engineering, electronics and communications.

However, technical aptitude is not required to join the fun. The hobby offers plenty for those not electronically inclined. For example, many enjoy what they term “radiosport,” using their radios and the airwaves for spirited competition and contacting as many other stations as they can in a set period of time. “Fox hunting” – searching for a hidden transmitter – is a popular activity. Others work toward awards for contacting as many fellow hams as they can in countries around the world.

Of course, many amateur radio enthusiasts simply enjoy having conversations with a group of friends or someone new each time they fire up their stations. You never know who you might encounter on the ham bands. That leisurely chat might be with a music or TV star, a member of Congress, the king of a European country, an ice fisherman on a lake in Manitoba, a Nobel Prize winner, a missionary on a South Pacific island, a group operating from an isolated chunk of glacier in the Antarctic or even an astronaut in outer space. Most crewmembers aboard the International Space Station are licensed hams and frequently converse with school groups and other individuals back on Earth.

Ready to serve

With all this fun, competition and camaraderie, it is important to note that amateur radio has a serious purpose, too. When the Federal Radio Commission – now the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – created the amateur radio service, it made it clear why hams deserved vast slices of the radio spectrum. One, as mentioned, was to allow them to continue experimenting and contributing to the field. The other was to provide a pool of trained operators with working radio stations to assist in providing emergency communications.

But have cellular technology, satellites and the like negated the need for amateur radio operators in emergencies? We only have to consider recent events – wildfires in the West, a volcanic eruption in Japan, Superstorm Sandy in the Northeast, the terrorist bombing at the Boston Marathon – for examples of normal communication infrastructure becoming overwhelmed or failing completely. In each case, hams were called upon, and they were ready to serve. When Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2005, the first structures to topple were cellphone towers. When tornadoes ripped through Alabama in 2011, hams were on the ground, first as trained “storm spotters” helping track the storms for the National Weather Service. Then they operated around the clock for weeks afterward, assisting relief operations.

From the American Red Cross to The Salvation Army to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), numerous organizations rely heavily on amateur radio groups. The American Legion has been closely aligned with the hobby since the 1930s and signed a statement of

affiliation with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2006. That agreement was reaffirmed last year in “Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts,” a handbook published by the Legion. Also, at the 92nd National Convention in Milwaukee in 2010, the Legion adopted Resolution No. 134, which urges posts and departments to assist DHS efforts in local communities – including disaster preparedness, which dovetails perfectly with amateur radio and its purpose.

But it doesn’t take a major disaster to demonstrate the value of amateur radio. Hams regularly provide communications for bicycle races, charitable running events and civic festivals. Operators are often involved in rescues of injured hikers or climbers, boats in jeopardy at sea or groups endangered by sudden weather. As we know, cellphones do not always work. Hams have plenty of experience in communicating under marginal conditions and regularly employ those skills to help others.

How to get started

A good first step to learn more about amateur radio is the website of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) at www.arrl.org. ARRL publishes books, study guides and other materials to help beginners get started and gain the most from the hobby.

A license is a prerequisite, and that requires passing an examination. You only need a basic knowledge of radio theory, operating practices and FCC rules. Many study guides and online teaching programs are available. While the material requires some study, it is not daunting. Children younger than 10 have passed the test and received their licenses.

At one time, would-be amateur radio licensees were also required to pass a Morse-code proficiency examination. That is no longer the case. Morse code is still used by ham radio operators alongside 21st-century modes of communication, but it is no longer necessary to know the dots and dashes to obtain a license.

The test is administered by volunteer examiners. The ARRL website can be used to find nearby amateur radio clubs and exam sessions. A Google search for “amateur radio club” plus your city or state can also be a good guide to locate active clubs or groups near you. Many clubs offer free or inexpensive license-exam preparation classes. When you receive your license – and your own

unique radio call sign – clubs can also help you put together a station and get on the air, so that you can start helping in public service and emergency communications.

If there’s already a club or a station at your American Legion post, the active amateurs there can tell you more about the hobby and how it can further the Legion’s mission.

If you know a post member who is already a licensed ham, suggest that he or she contact The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) and join if not already a member. The club can offer ideas for how each post can participate, from conducting exam preparation classes to starting a ham radio station at the post for use by licensed Legionnaires.

The hobby of amateur radio continues to evolve, providing unique opportunities for education, experimentation, fellowship and public service. It fits well with other interests. It is also an enjoyable pastime that can be pursued no matter a person’s age or health.

Most of all, amateur radio is simply a lot of fun while offering the chance to give back to your community and country. That is why so many hams, particularly veterans, consider their hobby to be just about perfect.

Don Keith is a former award-winning broadcaster and the best-selling author of more than a dozen books, including “Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio.” He has been an active amateur radio operator since he was 13. His call sign is N4KC.

Visit his website at www.donkeith.com.

See more at: <http://www.legion.org/magazine/226238/wave-popularity#sthash.MoWZRpLb.dpuf>



CHAPTER NEWS

Florida FX Chapter

In a new event, Rifles, Rails and History, on Sept. 27th, Florida Chapter members had a telegraph office set up within the newly built replica depot in downtown Tavares. The wood-burning steam locomotive, The Orange Blossom Cannonball, provided rides in vintage equipment for visitors of all ages. At one point, the train was pressed into service to carry Civil War re-enactor soldiers to the other side of the park, where a skirmish took place between opposing forces. When the skirmish ended, the train brought the casualties back to the depot where a field aid station has been set up. There was small arms fire, cannon fire, blood (fake) and bandages. In the midst of all of that, telegraph demonstrators informed the many visitors about the role of the telegraph in the conduct of the Civil War, and in the development of the United States as a country. One boy was so interested in the telegraph demonstration that he almost missed his train ride.

Florida Chapter members set up in the Central Florida Railroad Museum in Winter Garden, Oct 11-12, and used the occasion of the annual Music Fest to demonstrate telegraphy to the many visitors in attendance. The Morse KOB internet telegraph circuits were activated with the content of the several wires being transcribed and displayed on the museum's large flat screen TV which was converted to a computer monitor for the day.

Ideal weather brought a good turnout of visitors to the annual Fall Jubilee at the Pinellas County Heritage Village in Largo, FL Oct. 25-26, most of whom found their way to the old SAL Rwy Sulphur Springs depot now located on the grounds of Heritage Village. Chapter members had their own telegraph instruments and equipment to supplement the interactive telegraph on permanent display in the depot. The steady parade of visitors kept Chapter members busy answering both telegraph and railroad questions as well as demonstrating the art and skill of American Morse telegraphy.

The sound of American Morse telegraph, emanating from the old ACL Pierson depot, mingled with the sound of music from all over the grounds of the Barberville Pioneer Settlement, Barberville, FL, for the two days, Nov 1-2, of this annual Fall Jamboree, providing visitors with a

different type of rhythm for their entertainment and edification. In addition to demonstrating the telegraph and teaching visitors how to send their names in American Morse code, Chapter members demonstrated the act of "hooping up" train orders, much to the delight of the younger visitors who were enlisted as provisional demonstrators.

For the annual Ocali Country Days event, hosted by the Silver River Museum, part of the Marion County School District, elementary age students from both public and private schools in the county, as well as home schoolers, were brought to the museum to learn about occupations and skills pertinent to Marion County history during the Civil War era and continuing on to the end of the century. An estimated 4,000 visitors were in attendance for the three School Days, Nov 5-7, with another 3,000 on the weekend, Nov 8-9, when the event was open to the general public. Chapter members were kept busy answering questions and teaching the school children how to send their names in American Morse code. One boy was so intrigued by the telegraph demonstrations during the School Days that he insisted his parents bring him back on the weekend so that he could learn more.

Three Chapter members temporarily switched over to International Morse for the World War II weekend reenactment, Nov 15-16, known as Von Kessenger's Express. This annual event takes place aboard the preserved rail line operating out of the Florida Gulf Coast Railroad Museum, Parrish, FL. Chapter members erected a German field communications tent, complete with German operating radio equipment of the era and a replica Enigma cipher machine. They also used a period German backpack radio and, as planned, discovered a British clandestine spy radio aboard the train. Events like these add yet another interesting aspect to the Morse story, and drew interest from the hundreds of visitors.

The Sarasota Antique Radio Collector's ANNUAL winter swap meet, Dec 6th, provided the venue for three Chapter members to demonstrate the art of telegraphy using the Chapter's mini-telegraph office. Augmenting this was a display of early telegraph instruments including keys, sounders, and registers. Of particular interest to the vintage radio collectors in attendance was a demonstration of Cable Morse, using a replica dual key and Cable

CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

register. At one time the telegraph linked most of the continents of the planet, much of it by undersea cables which employed Cable Morse technology.

Florida Chapter members were set up in the old ACL RR Pierson depot, located on the grounds of the Pioneer Settlement in Barberville, to transmit Santagrams for the children attending this annual event on Dec. 13th. The children were intrigued by the sound of the telegraph and Chapter members used the opportunity to demonstrate the art and skill of telegraphy and to talk to the adults about the historical role of the telegraph in the development of North America and in business and personal communications. It was decided by Chapter participants that Santa Claus had his work cut out for him as one child requested a unicorn, while a young girl wanted a real flying pony, not one like those available in stores.

The sound of American Morse code coming from the old SAL Rwy Sulphur Springs depot on Jan 31st, competed successfully with the folk music coming from other locations throughout Heritage Village during this annual event. At times the depot could barely contain the steady stream of visitors which was so large that the two Florida Chapter members on hand were not able to take a lunch break. However, they were able to demonstrate the art and skill of Morse telegraphy and give an overview of the role of telegraphy and how it was used on North American railroads. Younger visitors had a chance to be a railroad "employee" for a minute or two as they 'hooped up' their first train order. Visitors of all ages had an opportunity to try their hand with a telegraph key, sending a few letters on a KOB.

Florida Chapter had a presence at the Central Florida Radio Exchange, a vintage radio and electronics swap meet held at an antiques center in Mt. Dora, FL, Feb 6th. The chapter was invited to participate based on the reception given at a smaller, though similar event. The Chapter's mini-telegraph office was on display and operational, along with a display of vintage telegraph instruments. Both drew considerable attention from collectors, many of whom were amateur radio operators as well. The downside of the demonstration was that there were very few children in attendance, thus there was very little opportunity to pass along the knowledge of

telegraphy to a younger generation.

Huge crowds jammed Ocala's Tuskawilla Park all day during the annual Cracker Cattle Drive and Cowboy Roundup on Feb 21st, with many of them finding their way to the telegraph instruments being operated by members of Florida Chapter, the sound of Morse code serving as an attractant. Many of those attracted to the sound were middle school aged children. Three young boys and one young girl, not together, made multiple visits to the telegraph office, fascinated by the sight and sound, as well as the idea of telegraphy. Needless to say, these four visitors received extra attention from chapter members. Visitors such as these are what makes the demonstrations worthwhile.

The annual Old Florida Days event, presented by the Collier County Museum in Naples, FL, March 7-8, afforded the opportunity for four members of the Florida Chapter to demonstrate American, International and Cable Morse to a large turnout of visitors to this outdoor event. In addition to the usual Morse presentations, the cable Morse demonstration included a dual cable telegraph key, a working cable register and a mirror galvanometer, adding further interest to the Morse story with technology seldom seen.

Warren McFarland

Washington-Baltimore WA Chapter

On February 7th, two members of the Washington-Baltimore chapter manned a Morse Telegraph booth at the annual "Frostfest" in Richmond, Virginia. Chapter President, Hubert Jewell, and Chapter Secretary-Treasurer, Jim Wilson, greeted hundreds of visitors at their exhibit table. Hubie and Jim explained and demonstrated the "ancient telegraph" to these tech savvy folks. ➔



Hubert Jewell, President of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter, awaits the horde of visitors who asked questions about the early telegraph system.

CHAPTER NEWS *continued*

Most of the visitors were amateur radio operators. A few were original railroad telegraphers. Hubert's son "Buzz" also assisted at the exhibit and he enjoyed exploring the new location. Hundreds of sample copies of *Dots & Dashes* were distributed to interested persons. And this sunny Sunday in the Virginia state capital was followed the next day by a snowstorm, so our timing was excellent!



Jim Wilson and Hubert Jewell, officers of the WA Chapter, stand by for questions from the curious folks who attended the Richmond Frostfest.

Maple Leaf ON Chapter

On Monday March 9th, 2015 the Huntsville & Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce put on a special luncheon at our newly restored (Ex CNR) train station here in Huntsville, Ontario. This station has been completely renovated and restored by the Huntsville Train Station Society. A merger between the Huntsville & Area Historical Society, Huntsville Art Society and the Huntsville Train Station Society have been put in place. The Huntsville Art Society have the station waiting room graced with many beautiful paintings and sculptures provided by the local artists.

The adjoining baggage room has been made into a railway museum displaying many railway oriented items of interest for public viewing. We even have a two station functional telegraph set-up in place, one in the baggage room museum and the other at the operators desk in the bay window of the waiting room. At the luncheon they had about thirty persons in attendance.

We gave them a telegraph demonstration and told them the Samuel Morse story of his invention of the Morse Telegraph.

They were very appreciative of this demonstration.

*73,
Russ Nicholls*

FO OFFICE IN FIELD BC AS TOLD

By MTC Member, Cliff Hine

I went to work as T&R chief (wire chief) in "FO" office at Field BC (FO being the office call on the telegraph) in 1957. At that time the pavement on the Trans-Canada highway ended at Lake Louise Alberta 15 miles to the east of Field and the rest being gravel to Field and that basically was the end of the highway. Further on to Golden BC was a treacherous trail.

From Golden to Revelstoke one needed to travel the "Big Bend Highway" which took you 180 miles north of Golden into Revelstoke over a cow trail. The Rogers Pass at that time was just a dream.

The road was being constructed and the crews doing the work were stationed in Field which made more telegram work necessary. We also had 6 passenger

trains a day and that required messages to and from the trains via a messenger boy who worked out of my office.

Telegraph traffic in those days also included a full page of news of the day and stock market quotes which were delivered to all the passenger trains.

However that was just part of the work in FO office. We were a repeater station for all the CBC cross Canada broadcast networks. Field was a switching centre and we had to follow the CBC schedule in order to have their networks working in the correct direction such as East to West or vice versa.

As we made the switching at the correct time, the Trans Canada network ended in Field and became the

“30” SILENT KEYS

News of our brothers and sisters who have closed the key



Evergreen SX Chapter

ALLAN “BUD” GOULD EMMONS, age 95, was a lifelong telegrapher. He was born on February 27, 1920 and died on February 4, 2015. Bud learned telegraphy from his father, A.B. Emmons, who was a dispatcher with the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad around Missoula, Montana, and subsequently with the Northern Pacific Railway in Tacoma.

Bud’s mother, Della Gould Emmons, was a noted writer of historical works. She authored numerous books including, “Sacajawea of the Shoshones” (1943), “Nothing in Life is Free” (1953), “Northwest History in Action” (1960), and “Leschi of the Nisquallies” (1965).

Bud worked for the Northern Pacific his entire life as agent, telegrapher, and dispatcher. He also learned International Morse code, earning the Extra class amateur radio operator license WE7I. He served his country during World War II as a radio telegraph operator in the U.S. Army, reporting to top Allied commanders during the invasion of Europe.

Bud was instrumental in assisting the Morse Telegraph Club set up and operate many telegraph exhibits in the Pacific Northwest circa 1980-2010. He was a longtime member and leader of the Evergreen Chapter, Seattle/Tacoma, Morse Telegraph Club, and attended every meeting he could, including the last meeting in October, 2014. Bud was very creative with electronics and woodworking; he enjoyed repairing electrical and electronic appliances and helping people learn about telegraphy.

Left to mourn his passing is his wife Jean, and their son Gary. Gary learned telegraphy from his father and applied it as a telegrapher, train dispatcher, and U.S. Air Force officer. Gary currently serves as Vice President of the Evergreen Chapter, MTC.

Thanks to Kevin Saville, President of the Evergreen Chapter, for this information.

Vancouver DI Chapter

KENNETH MARLIN, age 91, passed away on October 18, 2014. Ken was born in Wolseley, Saskatchewan, where he also learned telegraphy in the Canadian Pacific Railroad station. He worked as telegrapher



in the Moose Jaw CPR Division from 1942-1949, followed by a train dispatcher in Moose Jaw and Regina.

Ken was also the Local Chairman of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers (ORT) from 1950-1952.

When he worked as an operator in Mossbank, SK, he handled telegraph communications for the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Bombing and Gunnery Station during World War II. After Ken left the CPR, he became an entrepreneur, founding Marlin Travel and as one time part owner of a commercial airline. Ken’s wife, Helen, predeceased him. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

Thanks to Lavina Shaw, Secretary-Treasurer of the Vancouver Chapter for this interesting information.

GEORGE DODARO, age 95, was a well known train dispatcher. George died on January 25, 2015. He was born in Harlem, Montana on September 23, 1920. His dad was the section foreman, recruiting George into the section when George was about 15 years old (under the legal age). George hung out at the Havre office where he learned the telegraph and where he later worked the “highline” across northern Montana. On February 10, 1947 George married Mary Rensvold. They had two children.

In time, George was promoted into the relay office at Havre, Montana and became a dispatcher. He later bid for the Relay Manager’s job in St. Paul, Minnesota, which he kept for a couple of years. Then when a dispatcher’s job became available, his family moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon. Following the BN merger, George and Mary moved to Vancouver, Washington, where he retired in 1984.

Thanks to Rich Wornath for this summary of George’s career.

CD Combs Memorial FN Chapter

HAROLD TELL, age 84, of Wakefield, Nebraska passed away on May 26, 2014. Harold was born on December 6, 1929 to John A. and Maude Mullenberg Tell. He grew up in Wakefield, graduating from Wakefield High School in 1948. Harold liked and was good at playing sports, making the high school all state basketball team in 1948 and the all conference football team for three years. He was confirmed in the Swedish Covenant Church.

In October 1951, Harold joined the U.S. Army and became a cryptographer, serving during the Korean War in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. That same year, he married Anjenean Brock at the First Lutheran Church of Omaha, Nebraska. From this marriage union, six children were born.

Early in his career, Harold worked for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad at Clinton, Iowa and Winona, MN. Then he spent most of his career as a Liaison Officer and held other management positions in the Operating Division of the C&NW in Chicago. After nearly four decades of working for the railroad, he retired in 1988. Harold and Anjenean then moved to Branson, MO, where he then worked part time as a Trolley engineer with Silver Dollar City.

Harold loved fishing and he taught his grandkids how to fish. He was also an avid "Big Red" booster and he loved traveling in their motor homes to Husker football games as well as visiting nearly all states with his wife. He was an Admiral in the Nebraska Navy and a member of Harry S. Truman Branson/Hollister KVA. He and Anjenean were also very involved in youth sports in the Chicago Northwest Suburban League.

In 2009, Harold moved back to Wakefield, where he helped convert the town's old C&NW railroad depot into an amazing museum, steeped in railroad and Wakefield history. The celebration of his life was held in this museum.

Following sixty years of marriage, Anjenean preceded Harold in death. Harold's tombstone tells it all. "73 & GN" on the grave means in telegraphy: It's been great working with you and good night.

Thanks to Richard Behrens of the CD Combs Memorial Chapter for this lively detailed information.

Thomas Edison Memorial TD Chapter

JERRY GRIM, age 92, passed away on January 11, 2015 of pneumonia and the flu at a hospice in

Dayton, Ohio. Jerry was born in Athens County, Ohio on December 27, 1922. Jerry graduated from Shade High School in 1938 then attended Ohio University. During World War II, Jerry served in the Army Signal Corps, working for the Adjutant General's Department in the Philippine Islands. Following his long career, he retired as International Secretary-Treasurer of the United Telegraph Workers Union (AFL-CIO). He was also a member of the Western Union Employees Association, the Democratic national Committee, and the VFW. Jerry also earned his amateur radio license, call sign N3INZ.

Jerry was preceded in death by his wife Marjorie, married 52 years. Jerry is survived by his son, Jerry Grim III of Chicago, IL, his daughter Theresa Wilson of Huber Heights, son David Grim of West Carrollton, daughter Betty Jensen of Green Bay, WI, Dan Grim of Miamisburg, and Don Grim of San Antonio, TX. There are also 17 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, and 9 great-great grandchildren. We can see that Jerry and Marjorie were a very important link in their family ancestry!

Thanks to Al Skornicka, Secretary-Treasurer of the TD Chapter, and to Jerry's daughter Theresa Wilson for this enlightening information.

Maple Leaf ON Chapter

LORNE J. FLEECE, age 83, an Ontario telegraph lineman and telegrapher, died on January 13, 2015. He was born on April 10, 1932 in Kirkland Lake Ontario. Lorne learned telegraphy at Swastika Ontario in 1951. He joined the Ontario Northland Railway as a telegrapher then became a telegraph lineman. Lorne was predeceased by his wife. He was active in the Maple Leaf Chapter and active with Ontario Northland Railway Archives.

Thanks to Gren Schrader for this brief notice and to Don Laycock, Secretary-Treasurer of the Maple Leaf Chapter for additional information.

Edmonton MO Chapter

EDITH McINTYRE, age 78, wife of Ken McIntyre, passed away on January 3, 2015. She worked for Sears and she was an active golfer. Ken lives in Kamloops and comforted his wife, who had ALS.

Thanks to Bill for this information.

Hugh Braese Southern California SQ Chapter

SAMUEL DeDONATIS of Haddonfield, New Jersey, passed away early during 2015.

Thanks to Samuel's wife Sandy DeDonatis for this brief notice. Sandy adds, "He really enjoyed your newsletter!"

Florida FX Chapter

TOM BJORKMAN, age 76, lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on February 20, 2015. Tom served as President of the Florida Chapter for quite a few years. Like many other telegraphers, Tom learned his craft by hanging around a train depot. In his case it was a depot on the Erie Railroad in New Jersey. The story is told that at age 14, Tom went onto an Erie depot and asked the agent if he could use the wire to call his telegraph teacher. The sight of this "kid" so inspired the non-telegrapher agent that he became determined to learn to telegraph; and so he did.

Tom began his railroad career in 1956 as a telegrapher on the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad, moving to the New York Port Authority after a few years, then to the New York Central Railroad. He received a BS and MBA from New York University, after which he worked in the airline industry until 1977 when he returned to railroading on the Long Island Railroad for the next twenty years. Tom served official positions on that railroad, retiring as General Manager of Freight Operations.

After he retired, Tom and Sue, his wife of 42 years, moved briefly to Arizona then to Florida, where Tom became active in the Florida Chapter. Eventually he was elected President. Tom was instrumental in leading the chapter in the restoration of the telegraph office in the Atlantic Coast Line RR Trilby depot, now located on the grounds of the Pioneer Florida Museum in Dade City, Florida. Success of that venture led the chapter to undertake the restoration of telegraph offices in three other railroad depots, Pierson, Winter Garden, and Sulfur Springs, each located in museums. Tom and other chapter members donated their time, talent, and personal telegraph instruments in facilitating these restorations.

Tom delighted in participating in Florida Chapter telegraph demonstrations and gave special attention to the younger generation, making sure that they understood the importance of Morse telegraphy in the development of the United States and Canada. Under his leadership,

the FX Chapter received the President's Award in 2006, given to the Chapter most active in preserving the history and knowledge of the Morse telegraph.

Tom was also proud of his time as a volunteer motorman on the restored historic Tampa, Florida street car line which ran between Tampa and Ybor City.

Warren adds: Tom will be missed by the members of the Florida Chapter as well as by his family and many friends. 30

Thanks to Clyde Francis and to Warren McFarland for this interesting information.

Montreal/Ottawa GO Chapter

GERALD ROY, age 76, of Ville Saint Laurent, QC, passed away of cancer on December 11, 2014. Gerald worked most of his career as a telegrapher for the Canadian Pacific Railway in the Montreal office. He also served as a volunteer at the Railway Museum in St. Constant.

Thanks to Roly Lauriault for this brief but interesting information.

ROLAND NORMANDEAU, age 83, of Pierrefonds, Quebec passed away of congestive heart failure on February 26, 2015. Norm worked for the Canadian Pacific Railroad as a commercial agent in Terrace Bay 1949-50. Then in 1951 he became a Morse operator in Chapleau, Sudbury. Between 1951 & 1956 Norm worked as T&R Chief at Chapleau, White River, and Sudbury. In 1956 he left the Canadian Pacific RR and went to the



Bell Telephone Company, from where he retired. He was a proud member of the Bell Telephone Pioneers of Canada and he enjoyed working and showing Morse code to a new generation at the St. Constant Railway Museum.

Roland will be dearly missed by his wife of 57 years, Claire, and by his children Nicole, Lynne, and Michele, and by his nine grandchildren.

Thanks to Roly Lauriault for this information. Roly adds that Roland Normandeau was a regular participant at Morse demonstrations in the museum in Montreal and that he also served as the representative from the GO Chapter on the International Board.

Thanks also to James Wades for additional information about Roland. President Wades notes that at his death, Roland was serving on the Board of Directors of the Morse Telegraph Club.

Milwaukee-Madison MW Chapter

PETER F. DEROCHE of Neenah, Wisconsin passed away on May 2, 2014.

Thanks to Bob for this brief information.

MORSE CODE WINE

A thoughtful friend of mine, Bob Pattison (K4DU), recently presented me with an unusual bottle of wine. Bob knows that I am a big fan of Morse code. This bottle of wine, "Morse Code Wine," comes from South Australia and includes the following message printed on the label:

"In this digital world, we remember the craft of the postal telegraphists. For decades their Morse signals, dexterously delivered across Australia's great telegraph line, connected us with the world and helped to save countless lives. We honour the Morse Codian Fraternity with this collection of fine wines."

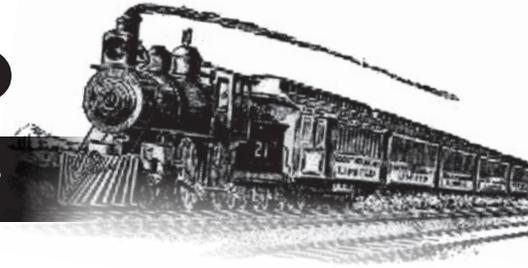
Best kept for some future special occasion, for the time being, I shall keep this bottle of "Morse Code South Australian Shiraz 2011" wine in a cool dark place, unopened. Someday I'll reveal how it tastes. If your curiosity gets the best of you, you may order a bottle from the web site www.henrydrive.com.

~Editor Jim



WELCOME ABOARD

News of Our New Morse Telegraph Club Members



First Canadian Montreal/Ottawa GO Chapter

GILDARD GODIN of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec was born on June 13, 1941 in Maisonnnette, New Brunswick. Gil worked on the Atlantic, St. Lawrence & Kingston Subs, mostly as a spare operator or station agent until 1993. Then he served in the chief dispatcher's office for Quebec City and Montreal and at numerous terminals and stations. Gildard said he made many friends at these various locations. He invites your questions at gildard.godin@sympatico.ca.

We give you a special WELCOME, Gildard. Roly Lauriault, Secretary-Treasurer of the GO Chapter, comments that your joining MTC is "a miracle" because until you joined, the First Canadian Chapter did not have a new member join in two years!

GEORGE AVERILL of Cataula, Georgia earned his ham radio call sign K4EOR. He just joined MTC on March 18th.

Welcome to MTC, George!

THAT MESSAGE TO ET

The front page article in the winter issue of *Dots & Dashes* featured Dr. Jill Tarter, spokesperson for SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. This article summarized the current scientific facts discovered by using our best technologies. Dr. Tarter estimated that, based upon the famous Drake formula, a range of 10,000 to 1,000,000 other highly civilized earths likely exists in our night sky. In this story I suggested that the first message that we send to another inhabited planet would be "What Hath God Wrought." To me this message seems appropriate and historic.

But wait. A front page story in the *Washington Post* newspaper, March 1, 2015 issue, updates this active and intriguing story. To my surprise, a person has already been hired to draft the first message to be sent to another planet containing highly intelligent people. The man in charge of messages to be sent to ET is Douglas Vakoch and his official title is, "Director of Interstellar Message Composition."

Critics have already signed a petition opposing our sending any messages from earth to any other inhabited planets. This petition was signed by 28 scientists, researchers, and government leaders. Their objection is that we may want to stay anonymous. The folks out there may not be friendly!

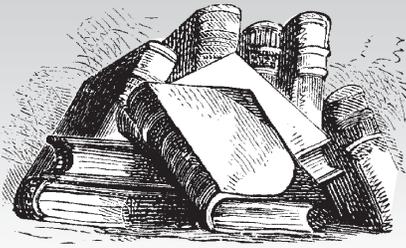
So the argument begins. Dr. Jill Tarter remains neutral in this discussion and Dr. Frank Drake, the founder of SETI, considers it too soon to be broadcasting earth messages to aliens. Tarter states that she feels that before we send any interstellar messages, a global conversation should be conducted on this matter. However, a Russian Astronomer, Alexander Zaitsev, has already routinely beamed messages to the stars. So has NASA.

The most likely initial targets for earth messages are five other inhabited earths within our own Milky Way galaxy, says Dr. Kelsey Johnson, astronomer at the University of Virginia. After all, these are our closest neighbors. For a current list of other habitable earth-like planets you can Google SETI Exoplanets.

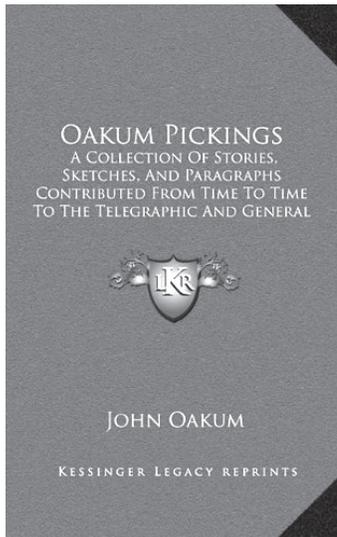
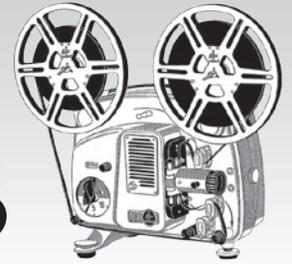
MTC members, I challenge you to answer this question: What message would you send to our nearest next door interstellar neighbors? Please send me your best draft messages for publication in the next issue of *Dots & Dashes*.

The source of this added information is a March 1, 2015 article in the *Washington Post* newspaper. The article (pages A1 & A14) is titled, *Debating The Wisdom Of Raising Earth's Voice*. If desired, you can Google this lengthy article.

~Editor Jim Wilson



J. Chris Hausler's BOOK & MOVIE REVIEWS

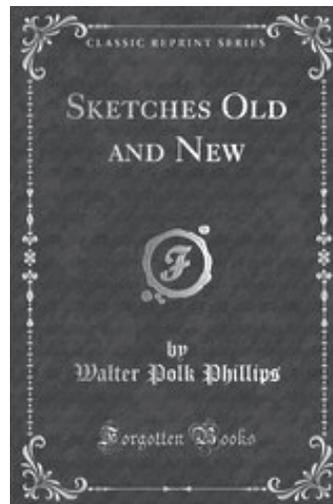


Those of you who are members of the MTC Yahoo group “slowspeedwire” know that early this year I was asked to teach one session of a college level journalism class. My task was to educate the students about the history of the telegraph and how it affected the gathering and distribution of news and other information for press publication.

Certainly a part of this involved the use of the Phillips Code system of abbreviations, named for Walter Polk Phillips, its inventor. Although I had previously known that Mr. Phillips had been a telegrapher, a newspaper publisher, had worked for the Associated Press and even been head of the United Press, that was about the extent of my knowledge.

In further researching Mr. Phillips in preparation for this class, one of the new things I learned was that he had also written two books. The first of these was a collection of short “sketches” published under the pseudonym, “John Oakum”, who is described on the title page as, “A Snapper-Up of Unconsidered Trifles”. Apparently most of these had originally been printed in the telegraphic press, particularly the periodical *Telegrapher*, and had been well enough received individually that Phillips had been encouraged to publish them as a collection. The complete title of this book is, *Oakum Pickings: A Collection of Stories, Sketches and Paragraphs Contributed from Time to Time to the Telegraphic and General Press*. It was published in 1876 by W. J. Johnston Company who also published a number of other books, many on electricity and electric railroads. Most of the stories and sketches in this first book deal with

the telegraph industry and telegraphers. Some apparently talk about individual telegraphers but these apparently describe fictional characters styled after various “types” of real telegraphers with whom Mr. Phillips had crossed paths at some time. Most of the stories are of a humorous vein. The book is available for free download from the Internet Archive site in a number of formats at: <https://archive.org/details/oakumpickingsac00phigoog>. Hard copy reprints can also be purchased from Amazon.



The second book, although similar to the first, is in some ways a little unusual. It is titled, *Sketches Old and New* and this time published under Mr. Phillips real name. However, the title page has “John Oakum” in parenthesis under his name in case there was any confusion about the connection to the previous work. True to

its title, it repeats a number of the sketches from the first book although there are a number of new ones as well. It also includes a copy of a letter sent to Phillips by Morse in 1869 congratulating him on his great skill as a telegrapher and Phillips’ return letter to Morse thanking him.

In addition, there is a long article Phillips wrote titled, *From Franklin to Edison* stated to have been written for delivery before the *Ohio Associated Dailies* at Columbus, OH on January 24, 1894. It celebrates the contributions to society of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas A. Edison. It seems to in some ways also be an autobiographical account of parts of Phillips own life and makes the case that printers and telegraphers have a lot in common. Finally, at the end of the book is an introduction to the Phillips Code and an article telling of “some remarkable

performances” through the use of the code.

Interestingly, this book was published by J. H. Bunnell & Co. the well known manufacturer of telegraph instruments. There are two separate articles, one at the beginning of the book titled, *Phillips’s Morse Automatic Telegraph* and one near the end titled, *Rapid Telegraphy* and said to have been read to the Association of Railway Telegraph Superintendents at their June 19, 1902 meeting in Buffalo, NY. This second article compares the Wheatstone Automatic, unfavorably of course, with the “Phillips Morse Automatic Telegraph”. This explains why Bunnell was the publisher as Bunnell was the manufacturer of this system and the book in at least some ways is a thinly veiled advertisement for this system.

The “Phillips Morse Automatic Telegraph” mechanism had two parts. The first provided a method for recording the sending of a Morse telegrapher by embossing the sent code on a strip of paper tape, much like the original Morse register. The second part allowed the playing back of this tape at varying speeds keying either a regular telegraph circuit or just driving a telegraph sounder. It seems the primary intended use of these devices was to be able to use a wire more efficiently by collecting the operation of up to three separate telegraphers simultaneously and then to send all three tapes out on a single wire at three times normal speed. On reception the signal would be recorded with the receiving part of the instrument also running at three times normal speed. The tape would then be cut into sections and played back for up to three receiving telegraphers at normal speed. Thus the work of up to three operators could be handled on just one wire. Phillips deemed an advantage for his machine was that the operators would be sending just as they normally would rather than punching a Wheatstone tape manually (apparently this required using mallets to operate the punches) and could receive the signal by just listening to a telegraph sounder as they normally would rather than having to visually inspect a tape as apparently required by the Wheatstone Automatic. According to Phillips this need for visual inspection led to increased errors in transcription.

A secondary use for the Phillips system apparently was to be as a telegraph training device, much like an Instructograph. Phillips complained that too many new telegraphers were learning their skill by listening to poor quality telegraphers, in particular he blamed railroad operators, and thus became poor quality operators themselves.

If instead they used his machine to listen to tapes made by good operators, they would themselves become good operators, or at least that is one of his selling points for the machine. Although not completely clear to me there is a hint that he was also selling pre-made tapes specifically for teaching telegraphy.

I have not previously found any reference to this machine which seems to indicate that its use never became popular. At the time of its design Phillips was president of the Columbia Graphophone Company and the machine was apparently somewhat based on a phonograph mechanism. Interestingly there is some hint that Roderick H. Weiny, who had worked for Phillips as an electrician at United Press and with Phillips had invented the popular “Weiny-Phillips” telegraph repeater was working for Phillips at Columbia Graphophone as well and may have had a hand in the development of the Phillips Morse Automatic Telegraph.

A puzzle is that this second book has a publication date of 1897. However, although there is no list of a second printing or a later copyright date, some of the articles toward the end of the book are not listed in the table of contents at the beginning and appear to have come along a few years later. The first is that second article mentioned above, “Rapid Telegraphy” which had a date of 1902. The book also includes a reprint of an article from McClure’s Magazine written by L. C. Hall and titled, “Telegraph Talk and Talkers, Human Character and Emotions an Old Telegrapher Reads on the Wire” which has a 1902 copyright date as well. This article mentions the origin of the use of “ham” for a poor operator. Finally there is an additional sketch titled, “Robert Howell”, likely another fictional telegrapher but based on a conglomeration of real telegraphers Phillips had known.

This second book is also available for free download from the Internet Archive in a number of formats at: <https://archive.org/details/sketchesoldandn00philgoog>. Although it took some searching as there are a number of books with similar titles, I was able to locate a hard copy reprint of this book on Amazon as well.

I think you will enjoy both of these books as they are a look at the telegraph industry and the telegraphers themselves, both humorously and seriously, through the eyes of one of their own back in the first 50 years of the use of the Morse Telegraph System. Enjoy!

Mountain network from Eastern Canada to Field and Pacific network from Field to Vancouver depending on the CBC schedule throughout the day. Obviously we had to keep a sharp eye on the clock. We opened the office at 4AM and closed up for the night at midnight due to the hours that the CBC was in operation. Going to work at that miserable hour of the morning I ran into more than one bear and a herd of elk dozing behind my office with the bull catching sight of me in the mist and half light. He ran me up a boxcar parked nearby until he lost interest and I managed to escape.

We carried the CBC Dominion network as well and various other special events on other broadcast facilities in the office.

Our office had a CBC low power transmitter (40 watts) that provided radio service to the area at 840 KC on your dial. We also fed the networks to a similar radio station in Golden BC from our office.

Apart from that we were a repeater office for most of the Canada wide telephone circuits, teletype, telegraph etc with several "carrier" systems in the office. C carriers, N, H, and VFCT systems which handled CPR yard office traffic, private line circuits, teletype etc.

When I arrived in Field there were only three telephones in the town to make long distance phone calls. One was in the Monarch hotel run by Mike and Andy Port, another in the waiting room of the CPR station which was about 400 yards down the track west of my office. The third being in FO office.

In order to make a long distance call one would have to ring one long and get the CPR telephone operator in Banff Alberta who would take the number you wanted and connect you to the Alberta Government Telephone system. There were a few local phone lines running from my office to Emerald Lake, National Parks offices in town and track phones connecting the CPR telegraph operators to sectionmen and others like the Creighan and Archibald company who were up on the "big hill" encasing the famous spiral tunnels with concrete. Prior to this only the portals of the tunnels were encased therefore water would seep down from the rock above the CPR tracks, freezing in the wintertime.

Passengers who would be riding in the dome cars of trains 1,2,5,6,7 & 8, would be asked to leave the dome whilst the trains were moving through the tunnels.

The first time the railroad brought a car full of automobiles, the entire top deck of cars were badly damaged due to the ice hanging down from above. The next freight bringing in a load was equipped with an ice breaker which was a steel frame fitted to the end of a box car and this cleaned out the hanging ice.

We had about 5 cross arms full of pairs of wires on the pole lines between Calgary and Field and west to

Revelstoke and beyond. When we experienced trouble on these lines we would do our best to determine where the trouble was and dispatch linemen to repair it.

One of the rooms in the office was the battery room. 60 wet cell batteries for 130 volt positive and 60 cells for 130 volt negative supplies as well as 20 for the 24 volt supplies which we kept on a float charge at all times in the event of a power failure and this happened from time to time with all the old wiring in town and the towns power being supplied from a diesel generator in the CPR's roundhouse.

Later on the town was re-wired and a real power station installed by Northern Canada Power came into being.

I had two successive German Shepherd dogs. They would lie on the window sill most of the time watching the world go by and the train crews on the passenger trains would tell people in the coaches to watch for the dog in the window. The walls of that building were about a foot and a half thick so as well as being a very warm building with steam supplied from the CPR roundhouse it also was a handy perch for my shepherd dog.

I closed the office up in 1969. This was due to the fact that microwave systems were coming in to use and most of our circuits were routed that way. The office likely remained in use in some fashion for awhile after that until it was abandoned.

Speaking to the Yoho Heritage Society I understand that although the building is a heritage site, the CPR is dragging their feet regarding any repairs, waiting for the roof to fall in I imagine then they can bulldoze it down.

At least that what I hear.

When I locked it up for the last time, I obtained the Seth Thomas clock from the company and I still have it today. Its unique in that it has two hour hands. One red and one black. The red one for watching Eastern time as that is what the CBC program schedule operated by.

I have been offered \$3500 for the clock but it would take a tad more for me to part with it !!!!

All in all, a wonderful job for a young fella. Very fortunate for me especially as I am color blind with no chance to follow in my fathers and brothers footsteps as a railway operator. It wasn't a requirement for me as I started as an operator in the Calgary Alberta commercial office but moving into the wire chiefs department I believe I got away with one there as no one asked if I was color blind.

I currently hold two ham radios calls, VE7FD and VE7FDR. Ham radio being a great hobby now for well over half a century with CW (International code) on the air and Morse code on the telegraph.

HOUSE TRACK **Want Ad Section**

For Morse Telegraph Club Members

AVAILABLE: O.R.T. lapel pins, 4 styles. Also 3 inch five color cloth crest of O.R.T (sunder in wreath emblem) \$5.00 each or all 5 for \$20.00. Paul D. Roy at 3874 Winlake Cres., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 2G5 Canada. E-mail: proy@shaw.ca

AVAILABLE: Book *Tales of the American Telegraph*. Issue #3 includes a photo layout. John B. Ryan, 11017 E. Sprague Avenue, Spokane, WA 99206.

WANTED: Re-enactors for Locust Grove, the Samuel Morse Historic Site in Poughkeepsie, NY. Please contact Andrew Stock, Curator of Education and Public Programs at a.stock@morsehistoricsite.org or (845) 454-4500 x13 if you are a Signal Corps re-enactor who may be interested in participation in history of telegraphy, including the annual Civil War weekend.

AVAILABLE: 2015 Railroad Calendar. The Inland Empire Railway Historical Society offers a stylish 2015 wall calendar of historic railroad events. To order a calendar, write to the IERHS at P.O. Box 471, Reardan, Washington 99029. Their annual membership is \$25.00 which includes a calendar. The IERHS is a 501-c nonprofit corporation, so all donations are tax deductible

AVAILABLE: I can duplicate small wooden resonator boxes for both 4 ohm and 30 ohm main line sounders. You will varnish or paint these to suit your desires. The cost is \$25 each. Milton Hegwood, 206 Kleven Avenue, Culbertson, NE 69024, telephone (308) 278-2152

AVAILABLE: Period attire for telegraph operators of any era. Authentic reproduction hand crafted clothing will be made to your exact fit by a certified seamstress at reasonable prices.

Several MTC members already have attire provided by this talented and well educated lady. Contact Valerie Mathers at (410) 768-3162.

AVAILABLE: Pen & ink railroad drawings on stretched canvas, frame print, art print and greeting cards. See these on the website of *Dots & Dashes* member Peter Hamel at Peter Hamel Fine Art American.com. Telephone (705) 472-8860.

AVAILABLE: Book. Hubert Jewell, President of the Washington-Baltimore Chapter, offers us his biography titled, *Working on the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad*. This book is chalked full of facts and descriptions of railroading and of Morse code communications. Hubert's book is available from the RF&P Historical Society, Inc. PO Box 9097, Fredericksburg, VA 22403-9097 or from the web site www.frandp.org. The price is only \$25.15 postage paid.

AVAILABLE: Crests, "Order of Railroad Telegraphers" with emblem in the center, \$12 each.

Email Mary Roy at terttu@shaw.ca or mail Mary at 3874 Winlake Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5A 2G5, telephone (604) 420-1292.

AVAILABLE: Vintage Rule Books of North American Railroads, at least 30 volumes, as far back in time as 1890. To purchase this valuable set of historic documents, call, e-mail, or write to James Gaw at 54 Colonial Drive in Kemptville, Ontario, Canada K0G 1J0, j.gaw@bell.net, or (613) 258-0243

AVAILABLE: A Frisco RR time book showing that Gene Autry worked as a telegrapher at Madill, Oklahoma on three occasions during 1926 and 1927: \$45 postpaid. Also for sale are the last employee's timetables issued by the Frisco RR before they were taken over by the Burlington Northern RR. These are unused and dated April 22, 1979 and include all 7 Divisions plus 6 Terminal Timetables: \$55 plus shipping cost.

Write to: Gene Wood at 104 Sunset, Madill, Oklahoma 73446. No phone calls please; no emails.

Reproductions & Other Items for Telegraph Demonstrations and Displays

Turnkey MorseKOB Interface

- Fully assembled and tested
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See <https://sites.google.com/site/morsekob/interface> for more information.



Flimsies & Other Forms



Contact Chip Morgan at MorgansElkCreekEnterprises@verizon.net



Reproduction Fountain Pens and Stylus from early 1900s advertisements

Always willing to discuss and address unique requirements

KEEP IN TOUCH...

Your participation in *Dots & Dashes* is important. We need your stories, club news, announcements and reminiscences to keep it lively and interesting for everyone.

Jim Wilson

Editor

Dots & Dashes

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E-mail: telegraphjim@gmail.com

For membership changes, address updates, dues and other information dealing with membership or with chapter operation, contact your local Chapter Secretary or:

International Secretary-Treasurer

Position currently open to anyone interested

Please do not send address changes for Dots & Dashes, dues renewals, etc., to the Editor. All mailing lists and membership rosters are prepared through the office of the International Secretary.

Ham Radio Web Sites

For those of you who are amateur radio operators, here are four current web sites that I find useful:

www.arnewslines.org

www.usrepeaters.com

www.qth.com

www.qrz.com

NOTICES & INVITATIONS

Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

Dial-Up Information

U.S. (KB) HUB

1-269-697-4506/4508/4513

(Michigan-Ace Holman)

CANADIAN (HN) HUB

1-888-822-3728 (toll free)

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HELP WANTED: INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

The Morse Telegraph Club has a job opening for the position of International Secretary/Treasurer. This is a volunteer position in which the member is responsible for the following tasks:

- Serves as primary point of contact for official MTC correspondence.
- Sends sympathy cards to families of deceased members as appropriate.
- Accepts notices of obituaries/death notices and forwards them to the Editor of *Dots & Dashes* as appropriate.
- Assists business manager with the maintenance of the membership database.
- Processes new membership requests, demits and membership renewals.
- Submits vouchers for payment of invoices owed.
- Assists business manager by reviewing books and financial statements to provide financial check/balances.

During the past year or so, some of the day-to-day functions of the International Secretary/Treasurer have been transitioned to a professional business manager/accounting firm. This lessens the work load considerably for the individual taking this position. However, the prospective candidate should plan on five to seven hours per week on average to deal with correspondence and other administrative tasks.

A background in bookkeeping, accounting, and administrative office skills are helpful for this position. Good communications skills, both verbally and in writing, as well as good computer skills are essential.

This position can be quite rewarding. It provides the volunteer with an opportunity to meet and correspond with many of our members throughout the United States and Canada.

If you can assist with this important International officer's position, please contact the International President, James Wades.