

The Dipole

Radiating the News of the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club

February 2010

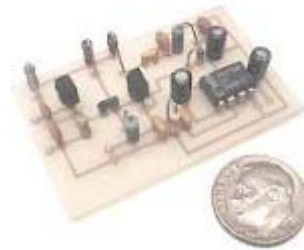
Next Club Meeting: Thurs. Feb. 4th, 7 p.m. at The Gauntlett Center

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HOME BREW EXPERIENCE CONTINUES

The February 4 Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club will present part two of the well-received introduction to the theory and construction project that began at the January club meeting. Dennis Silage K3DS hosted that evening's program. He explained the simple Pixie 2 QRP transmitter is a small, direct conversion CW transceiver using just a handful of common parts.



He added that a trip to Radio Shack will get you connectors and an enclosure to complete the kit. To demonstrate both size and simplicity, he had an unassembled

and an assembled Pixie 2 at the meeting. Additionally, he also shared his educator skills and described the construction techniques and explained the electronic circuitry.

The following is a review of the previous month's *eDipole* text:

The Pixie 2 is an HF CW transceiver, with a standard two-transistor transmitter with a Colpitts oscillator and a keyed power amplifier (PA). Depending on the PA device chosen, RF power outputs of between 100mW and 500mW can be achieved. The only components which are band critical are in the TX PA output, so modifying for different bands can be done. On receive, the TX PA is used as an RF mixer, which feeds the LM386 IC audio amplifier. This is a "bare bones" transceiver but more components can be added as an offset for the crystal and volume control for the audio.

Members of the MNARClub, both those who will become kit builders and others are invited to become a part of this team effort. Anyone ordering the kit is reminded to bring payment for the evening's project.

Anyone having a soldering station and magnification is invited to bring these helpful tools. These items help in both parts identification and placement.

And who says, "No one builds anything anymore."

MARPLE NEWTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
c/o The Gauntlett Center
20 South Media Line Road at West Chester Pike
Newtown Square, Delaware County, PA 19073

For information about our club,
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The Dipole

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Meetings, Nets, and Packet BBS
Monthly Club Meetings: First non-holiday Thursday,
7:00 p.m. at the Gauntlett Center in Newtown Square,
Delaware County. Talk-in: 147.195 repeater
Daily Weather and Information Net: Every morning at 8:30
a.m. on 147.195 repeater
Club Web Page (including online version of *The Dipole*):
<http://mnarc.org>
Delaware County ARES Net: Every Wednesday at 19:30 local

Not the Red Ones

The story line, almost as bold as a headline, stated, **“GREY squirrels are ruining Christmas in the US state of New Jersey by eating all the festive lights.”**

Well, not all of them - the red ones seem to be off-limits.

Officials in the town of Fredericton say the rodents have developed a taste for the lights that decorate their downtown Christmas tree and have implemented several measures to deter these losses. These steps are, however, not having much success.

“The squirrels, I think, are getting the better of us,” Downtown Fredericton general manager Bruce McCormack told a network news reporter.”

His interview dialog continued:

“They seem to be very, very hungry and they like plastic and they like the LED lights and that's all.”

“We just can't fight them anymore.”

The squirrels normally diet on nuts, seeds and fruits, but even replacing the lights with bigger ones hasn't stemmed their appetite for plastic Christmas bulbs.

However, in something less than a true scientific study, a local sports team manager has discovered the squirrels only have a taste for blue and white lights.

“They will take their time and they will eat through the bulbs of every light.” Dave Morell said.

“Except the red ones.”

He added, “I'm a little more determined than Bruce is ... he's tried it so long that he's just given up.”

Concluding his statements, Morell added, “Well, I don't give up. I just keep putting up red ones.”

A Special Hint

A very special hint was shared in a new feature that is now available in the ARRL Letter sent to members by e-mail. This special hint will prove to be a cost saver as well as help in reducing stress during a restoration of tube-era radios.

This hint was included in the ARRL Letter topic that focused upon tubes, which are also known as valves by our European-language cousins.

Many times, a restorer will attempt to check a radio and find that it does not come to life as hoped. Often, the first feeling is that one or more of the “hollow-state,” glass devices are dead.

Maybe not!

Shown in italics in this month's selected segment of “*The Doctor Is IN: Tubes and Tube Replacements,*” is the following hint:

ARRL Lab Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM -- an amateur with years of dedicated experience with vintage gear -- notes that if the equipment has sat around for many years, the chances are the tubes are gassy. The glass part of a tube is not a perfect envelope. One molecule of air at a time leaks into the tube and after a few years, the performance degrades. If a tube hasn't been used in 20 or 30 years, it can appear to be totally dead. *The trick to solve this to let the radio run for a day or two.* The filaments in the tubes will eventually burn away whatever air is inside and the tubes will often be back in good shape.

Rick Richardson, VE7WF, of New Westminster, British Columbia, recently has acquired some vintage vacuum tube-based equipment. He recalled that years ago, there was a product on the market -- Tubesters -- solid-state replacements for vacuum tubes. He asked the ARRL's Doctor if anyone still manufactures such devices.

Here's what the Doctor had to say:

I do remember them, as well. If I recall, these were popular in the 1970s. To my knowledge, they are no longer available. You may find some on Internet auction sites from time to time. But before you go too far in that direction, I would think about what problem you are trying to solve. Old tube gear works very well with tubes, probably with better performance than "force fit" solid-state replacements. In those days, many solid state receivers were quite vulnerable to overload and other problems, for example.



The nice thing is that most tubes are still available, often unused in original boxes and generally at similar prices to what they cost 50 years ago. An Internet search will turn up a number of places that sell tubes. I've always had good luck with Antique Electronic Supply

(<http://tubesandmore.com>). If used within their

ratings, tubes can last many years. I have WW2 vintage equipment that still works with some original tubes. I also have Drake tube based equipment from the period still going strong.

ARRL Lab Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM -- an amateur with years of dedicated experience with vintage gear -- notes that if the equipment has sat around for many years, the chances are the tubes are gassy. The glass part of a tube is not a perfect envelope. One molecule of air at a time leaks into the tube and after a few years, the performance degrades. If a tube hasn't been used in 20 or 30 years, it can appear to be totally dead. The trick to solve this to let the radio run for a day or two. The filaments in the tubes will eventually burn away whatever air is inside and the tubes will often be back in good shape.

The only exception that I often make is to replace power rectifiers with plug-in solid-state equivalents. I usually make my own, but they are also commercially available. My rationale is that rectifier tubes generate a lot of heat the old gear doesn't need. In addition, the filaments can draw 15 to 20 W and by removing that load from the power transformer it should stay cool and last longer. Unlike tubes, power transformers are not so easy to find. If needed, the original condition can be restored by unplugging the solid-state unit and putting the tube back.

Thanks Doctor! Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail (doctor@arrl.org) or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST (<http://arrl.org/qst>), the official journal of the ARRL.

Suspension and New ARRL Web Page

The *ARRL Audio News* is being temporarily suspended. With the coming of the new ARRL Web site, the League is looking at ways to better bring members Amateur Radio news. In order to do this properly, they will be temporarily suspending the *ARRL Audio News* while looking for solutions that will enable them to provide the technical quality and distribution channels that Amateur Radio operators expect from the ARRL. The last edition of

the *ARRL Audio News* (for now) will be produced on Thursday, January 28.

In 86 words, the feature is being eighty-sixed.

DX Station Was Nearby

Unknown to many radio listeners, the Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club's meeting location is not far from a landmark radio station. Research-oriented and former broadcast engineer Gary Bodnar, K3GZ, provided a review of the history of the former short-wave broadcaster.

In a nostalgic retrospective of a long-forgotten radio niche, this is review of a history that saw CBS radio in Philadelphia being a part of the World War II radio history.

During the radio era before World War 2, there was quite a movement in the United States, and in other countries throughout the world also, to establish short-wave relay stations in an endeavor to give wider coverage to the programming from a local medium wave station. At the time, television was an experimental concept and not a reality, and FM radio was still a distant dream. The standard medium wave band was not overcrowded at the time, though the medium wave signal generally gave only local coverage, particularly during the daylight hours. However, it was understood that short-wave transmissions could give wide area coverage within the country, and even internationally on a much larger scale.

Many medium wave stations in the United States established short-wave relay transmitters during the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s to carry their programming to distant listeners. In fact, printed documents from this era indicate that there were several hundred of these short-wave relay stations on the air in the United States during the past eighty years. Some of these short-wave stations were quite large, while many were quite small and temporary.

One of these short-wave relay stations that held a high reputation back during those early years was located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This station was launched on behalf of the co-located medium wave station WCAU, under the experimental short-wave callsign W3XAU. And again, even though a casual glance at the callsign might seem to indicate

that it was an amateur radio station, this was not the case. Station W3XAU was indeed a professional station, relaying the programming from the medium wave WCAU.

The X in a pre-war short wave callsign indicated an experimental station, either amateur or professional, and in this case, indeed quite professional.

The medium wave station WCAU was launched in 1922 as a very small operation located in the back room of a small radio shop in Philadelphia. Ten years later, following a couple of intermediate migrations, WCAU was established in a professionally built studio complex, the first building in the United States that was constructed specifically as a radio station. This facility was located at 1622 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia.

Now, at the same time, a new 50 kW medium wave transmitter was under construction also, and this was installed in a new transmitter building out at Newtown Square. The initial broadcast from this grand new, and we might add, quite powerful, WCAU was on September 19, 1932.

Before we leave the medium wave scene and take a look at the short-wave events in Philadelphia, just a touch of humor from a re-run of the TV series, "Gilligan's Island". On July 5, 1992, Gilligan and his six fellow castaways on a lonely and unidentified tropical island somewhere out in the Pacific Ocean tuned in their radio receiver and they heard a broadcast from a radio station that gave the identification announcement as "WCAU". At the time, the real WCAU in Philadelphia had undergone a callsign change to WOGL, and so there was no real radio station on the air with the callsign WCAU at this stage.

And now back to the story. Not only was there a new suite of studios and offices, and a new transmitter facility back in 1932, but the relatively new medium of short-wave broadcasting was also under development. Early in the year 1930, a small locally made 1 kW short-wave transmitter with the callsign W3XAU was co-installed with the regular medium wave unit in Philadelphia. It is claimed that this was the first license issued by the FCC for an international short-wave broadcast station as a commercial operation.

However, two years after the Newtown Square facility was inaugurated, a re-built version of the same 1 kW short-wave transmitter was installed

alongside the huge 50 kW medium wave unit. All of these developments took place during the era when the innovative William Paley of later CBS fame was at the helm.

Four years later, this same transmitter was rebuilt to a 10 kW capacity and two V type antennas were erected to provide coverage into Europe and South America. Station WCAU became even more ambitious for a truly international outreach with the erection of two large curtain type antennas for coverage into the same two areas, Europe and South America. At the same time, they made a request to the federal licensing authorities for 50 kW operation on short-wave. In fact, on several occasions in the late 1930s and early 1940s, CBS lodged similar applications, but on each occasion the request was denied.

With war clouds looming over Europe in 1939, the FCC took a hard look at the international short wave scene in the United States and they issued a set of three new rules. This edict, issued on May 23, 1939, required that:

1. All short-wave call signs should be regularized
2. The power output of each short-wave transmitter should be increased to a minimum of 50 kW
3. Directional antenna systems should be installed

As far as the call signs were concerned, this edict gave time for consideration and negotiation regarding desired call letters. Initially, the first new callsign chosen to replace the experimental call W3XAU was WCAI. This new callsign for the short-wave outlet, WCAI, proved to be only temporary. With information derived from a contemporary issue of Time Magazine, FCC news releases, and several other sources, it is learned that this temporary new callsign was in use for a little less than two weeks, beginning in mid August 1939. The FCC subsequently ruled that all callsign changes for the short-wave stations should become effective on September 1, 1939. However, some stations introduced the new callsign prematurely, and at least a couple were a little tardy in implementing the change. As far as W3XAU was concerned, the change from the initial WCAI to the subsequent WCAB was implemented on August 26, one week before the official date. It is probable that the call WCAI stood for "WCAU International" but

there is no known logic for the subsequent call, WCAB.

As for the directional antennas, they were already in place. And the power increase to 50 kW? CBS Philadelphia had already applied on several occasions and had been denied. However, there was another factor involved; a new short-wave station for CBS was already under construction at Brentwood on Long Island.

Initially, the concept was for WCAB Philadelphia to supplement the new Brentwood facility. However, in view of the power restriction imposed by the FCC upon the Philadelphia transmitter, CBS finally considered it best to close this Pennsylvania station in favor of the new high-powered facility under development on Long Island, New York.

Programming from the Philadelphia short-wave station was initially a tandem relay from medium wave WCAU, though separate identification announcements were given over the air. However, when the station became a genuine international broadcaster, much of the scheduling was specifically prepared for the target areas, Europe & Latin America.

Programming in foreign languages was taken on relay from the CBS sister short wave station W2XE in Wayne, New Jersey, and programming in English was often taken live from the CBS national network. This short-wave station was heard quite frequently throughout the Americas, over in Europe, and also in the South Pacific.

The first new transmitter at the new CBS short-wave station at Brentwood was officially inaugurated on January 1, 1941, and just one year later, the 10 kW unit in Pennsylvania was finally switched off. This nostalgic event took place at midnight on December 31, 1941.

One More Look Back



In a clever and humorous invitations, ARRL New Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, touched

upon a bit of history. This is a history that embraced both serious and funny topics. Yet,

readers of the ARRL in print were always given a wonderful dose of humor. The ARRL tease, *Now You Know!* Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD, was a fitting way to prompt reading more about this highly respected and enjoyed cartoonist.

Longtime readers of *QST* will certainly remember the cartoons of Phil Gildersleeve, W1CJD (ex-1ANE). Known affectionately as "Gil," he drew more than 1500 cartoons for the ARRL, with many of them appearing on the pages of *QST*.



Gil started cartooning for the ARRL back in June 1927. His characters -- such

as Jeeves the Butler and the gang at the Podunk Hollow Radio Club -- became old friends to readers of *QST*. Gil's first Jeeves cartoon was published in February 1940: From the other room comes his master's voice, saying, "Jeeves, come here and help me look for DX!"

Jeeves, not really sure what exactly DX is, comes on the run with a road map, a telescope, binoculars, a lantern, a compass and a butterfly net in hand! As a native of the great state of Texas, my favorite Jeeves cartoon shows him trying to push a giant QSL card (from Texas, of course!) through the door -- the card can barely get through. Of course, things are bigger in Texas! If you ever tour ARRL Headquarters, you can see a large version of this cartoon in the second floor hallway.

The mythical Podunk Hollow Radio Club depicted the idiosyncrasies of a group of radio enthusiasts getting together. The cover for the June 1964 issue of *QST* shows the Podunkers -- hundreds of them -- happily camped out in a forest setting. In the large tent in the rear, several hams are operating their radios.

In the foreground, several more are chatting up a couple of attractive girls in a convertible, little cartoon hearts fluttering over one ham's head. And off to the far right, the Department of Conservation is beginning to set up their blasting apparatus with its accompanying signs of "Turn off all two-way radios!"

But Gil also used his cartoons to teach proper on-the-air behavior. In March 1938, he drew an

eight-panel cartoon of a man calling CQ on CW. Each panel had the man getting older, where by the seventh panel, he was old, bald and with a long beard, spider webs all around. The last panel showed a tombstone that read, "Here lies C. Q. McCall. He died without even signing his call."

The next month, Gil drew a single panel cartoon with a line separating the panel into two parts. In the first part, he showed a radio amateur "all worn to a frazzle" from handling so much traffic, as well as dealing with QRM. The second half showed two amateurs handling traffic as a team, "all full of vim and vigor."

Gil's point was spot-on: "Cooperative operating does a better job with greater efficiency all around. Instead of harassed, inefficient, overworked operators, put key stations on a 6 or 8 hour basis, with relief and second operators for efficiency during intensive operation."

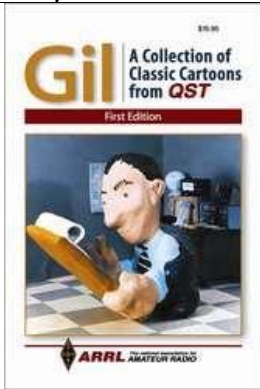
Gil's interests were not limited to ham radio. A native of Portland, Connecticut, he began working for the *Middletown* (CT) *Press* as the Portland correspondent in 1940, became county editor in 1943 then city editor in 1945. Sometime later, he was named news editor. His cartoons also decorated the *Press* and various trade journals. He served in the volunteer fire company and was captain of Fire Company No 2 for nine years, as a member of the Portland Board of Education for eight years, and as a vestryman in his local church.



In 1966, he was chairman of Portland's 125th anniversary celebration. As part of the celebration, he drew the town seal, depicting a number of elements of historical Portland.

Foremost is an old-time oxen driver with his team, pulling a large brownstone sling; the greater part of Portland's 19th century wealth came from the brownstone industry.

To the left of the oxen is a small building like those visible in old pictures of the quarries. Its tall chimney is smoking, connoting industry. To the right is another such building atop the quarry wall with a pulley for lowering things into the quarry.



Gil passed away on November 4, 1966. "His work became a tradition," wrote former *QST* Managing Editor Laird Campbell, W1CUT (SK) in the foreword of *Gil: A Collection of Classic Cartoons from QST*.

Campbell continued, "His knack for expressing ideas, feelings or situations unique to Amateur Radio was, and still is, unexcelled. [He] could take a rudimentary idea and turn it into a final masterpiece through the uncanny strokes of his pen. Gil's creations will never be forgotten...his conceptions remain alive in the minds of both old-timers and newcomers to Amateur Radio." *Now you know!*

Information about the Gil Cartoon Book;

-- First Edition

This publication is more than a book of illustrations. It is a tribute to a legend, a man who created more than 1500 pieces of art for *QST*. The work of Philip "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD, became a tradition. In tribute to this talented, creative and devoted artist and ham, the ARRL presents in this book a reprint of a portion of the best of his work.

About the Artist:

Philip "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD, contributed over 1500 cartoons and drawings to *QST* and the ARRL for almost 40 years. Gil was an avid radio amateur, devoted family man and exceptionally active in the community. For several years he worked as a radio operator aboard merchant ships and later on was News Editor of the *Middletown* (CT) *Press*. Although Gil became a silent key in 1966 his characters live on. Still today, his conceptions remain alive in the minds of both old-timers and newcomers to Amateur Radio.

"This first edition collection of Gil's cartoons was introduced in 1986."

130 Pages. First edition, 2007 printing. © 1986-2007, published by American Radio Relay League, Inc.

(ISBN: 0-87259-036-4) #0364 -- \$15.95

This book is now shipping.



Kay Craigie, N3KN, the tireless ARRL, in-the-trench worker



Kay Craigie, N3KN, the New ARRL President

Southeastern Pennsylvania has had for several years a not-so-silent hope. That wish was centered upon the American Radio Relay League's administrative structure.

Those hopes began their life when former Delaware Valley Amateur Radio operator Kay Craigie was selected as a part of the upper echelon of the Newington Connecticut based Amateur Radio organization.

First licensed in 1983, Kay became the editor of Marple Newtown Amateur Radio Club's sister organization newsletter. *REMARCS*, the Mid-Atlantic Amateur Radio club newsletter grew under her 24-year responsibility. Also during her local activities, she was a Volunteer Examiner for more than 20 years

These hopes for the former Atlanta Georgia resident began to form in 1986 when the southeastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio operator

began her national activities. It was then she began national responsibilities serving as the Eastern Pennsylvania section manager.

Through dedicated activities, Kay Craigie began her trip to the presidency. She was selected to become Atlantic Division vice director in 1990 and then director in 1996.

Four years later, N3KN was elected a vice president in 2000. Again dedicated efforts and a well-focused set of values, she became first vice president in 2006.

She has served on all the standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors and also worked on the League's Enforcement Task Force, the committee whose pressure finally resulted in the FCC's assigning Riley Hollingsworth to clean up the ham bands.

In reflecting upon this new role, Kay Craigie recognizes the legacy of her predecessors:

"If you stand in the lobby at ARRL headquarters, you see photographs of all the presidents of ARRL going all the way back to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW."

Craigie added. "I'm here to tell you when you think about joining that list of amazing, outstanding radio amateurs, if it doesn't throw you for just a little bit of a loop there's something wrong with you. Because these are people who had a tremendous contribution to amateur radio and I am just unbelievably honored to be joining that group."

During a recent interview following her selection, Kay Craigie said she was humbled to have been elevated to such an honor. She added she is pleased the ARRL board has the confidence to entrust her with such an awesome responsibility.

Craigie says during her initial ARRL responsibilities, she has the opportunity to work on many of the challenges facing the amateur radio service.

In a self analysis of both the ARRL and her personal efforts, that group's newly-elected president share the following:

We were believing that Part 15 devices were going to be a challenge for amateur radio. Boy were we right. The whole issue of broadband over power lines - not so much BPL but the interference that BPL can create - has been a real issue for us over the last several years. We're still working on that one."

Looking to the future, the League's new leader stressed:

Another challenge that we're now seeing is the increasing demand for spectrum for mobile broad-band," she continues. "I have a Smartphone, lots of radio amateurs have Smartphones. We're using them. They gobble up a great deal of spectrum to serve us the way we want them to.

And, the ARRL's job is to make sure that meeting the needs of that industry doesn't cut into the spectrum that amateur radio operators have to use and to experiment with.

Kay Craigie added that one of big efforts she is committed to be attracting more qualified and dedicated people into the amateur radio service. She explained:

We're making good strides on that, thanks to the efforts at the grass roots by individual instructors and radio clubs and groups who are getting out the word about amateur radio and helping people become licensed.

Of course, we'd like to have more younger people involved in Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio is a fellowship based on achievement. Everything else is just a demographic factoid, really.

Achievement is the key and that's why amateur radio is so good for young people in that it stimulates them to achievement of a very positive and constructive kind and the League wants to do what we can do in cooperation with local hams to promote more young people getting involved in amateur radio.

While Amateur Radio is a key part of Kay Craigie's life, the 1968 Georgia State College graduate, (now Georgia State University) began her academic preparations prior to her relocation to Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, she earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Kay Craigie taught at the University of Maryland for three years in the 1970s. Later, she taught part-time at Cabrini College in Pennsylvania and worked on the non-instructional staff at a high school.

Fueled by her experiences as an educator, Craigie accepted the challenge of becoming the head of the League's Education and Technology program.

While her responsibilities grew with the ARRL, she has stated the efforts of this responsibility continue to work on a number of levels.

In describing the successes of this effort, the League's leader stated, "This project is ongoing, it's successful, it has achieved things beyond my wildest dreams."

Craigie added:

"And the League is very pleased to continue to offer school teachers the skills and the knowledge that they need to bring amateur radio into the classroom and help kids get excited about education, excited about science, about technology about social studies, about languages – all the different things that you can use Amateur Radio to support in the classroom."

In an interview, Kay Craigie stated one of her top priorities is to continue to promote the valuable public service role of amateur radio.

In this dialog she stated:

"When you have situations where infrastructure is crippled, overloaded, Amateur Radio, as we say, is what works when all else fails."

In a current reference, ARRL President Craigie added:

And, in the circumstances like what we have in Haiti right now, of course, it's tremendously dangerous.

We've seen news stories about amateurs who have attempted to help and then had to fall back to safer positions. But, amateur radio for the foreseeable future will be in a position to assist the authorities and to assist charitable relief agencies to help the public.

Whether it's helping the public in our own communities, elsewhere in our country or in some cases, around the world. And we certainly commend the hams who have the dedication and courage to do that. And, of course we also encourage them to take some note for their own personal safety in those circumstances where that's a real issue.

Local Amateur Radio operators joined in the many messages forwarded to the newly elected President.

The following message was sent to MARC members by that group's president Dieter Hauer, K3DK:

Dear MARC Members,

We are very pleased to announce that a long-time MARC member; **Kay Craigie, N3KN** has recently been elected by the ARRL Board, to serve in the position as President of the ARRL (American Radio Relay League)!

We wish to extend a hearty and well-deserved congratulations to you Kay!

Let there be no doubt, Kay has an extensive background and experience serving in a variety of roles concerning amateur radio. She is well balanced and is duly qualified for this critical and important position at the ARRL. We know that she will do a wonderful job and will be a great ambassador and representative for amateur radio and its continued future.

Please offer her your congratulations and support.

In his own message to President Craigie, Dieter Hauer said the following:

Congratulations Kay! Way to go and best wishes to you on success in the future!

- 73/88 and good luck to you, from the MARC Board and Membership

As proud parents-grandparents, the Pennsylvania Craigie family, Carter, N3AO, Kay, N3KN, and their Jack Russell Terrier, Frodo, relocated to Virginia. Their quest was to be closer to their southern part of the family.

Their daughter Jenny Riffe, KA3WVD, a student and graduate from the former MNARC-staffed Amateur Radio summer school, lives in Virginia with her husband and their two children

In a well-balanced, Amateur Radio family, Kay's husband Carter is a retired college professor. He has served as a Section Traffic Manager and as an ARES Emergency Coordinator. He especially enjoys QRP and operating outdoors on the Appalachian Trail. He is also a Skywarn volunteer.

Her original Worked All States Award (WAS) was earned when she was a new Pennsylvania-based Amateur Radio operator. Following the

Craigie move to Virginia, she has earned yet another WAS.

In reading the QRZ page bio, readers of the *eDipole* will find the following:

My main hobby interest in ham radio has always been DXing. I also enjoy contesting – both the DX events and state QSO parties. Awards earned include DXCC on 8 bands, DXCC Challenge, 5BDXCC, Worked All Europe Class 1 (CW), WAZ, VUCC (6 meters, FN20 and EM97), 5BWAC, and WAS. My original WAS was earned as a new ham in Pennsylvania, and I earned it over again after moving to Virginia.

On the service side, I'm a Volunteer Examiner and have been active in emergency communications and club leadership. I'm one of the Skywarn ops for WX4RNK at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Blacksburg, VA. Since the mid-1980s, I've been an elected official of the ARRL. My OM is N3AO. Previous call signs held: KA3KPW, KC3LM, WT3P. My QSL is sure via direct, bureau, or Logbook of the World. No e-qsl. 73 and have fun on the ham bands!

The following is an ARRL thumbnail of President Craigie's predecessor:

After more than 27 years of elected volunteer service to the ARRL, outgoing ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has retired. In recognition of his dedication to the League over nearly three decades, the ARRL Board of Directors bestowed their thanks in the form of an engraved plaque. Presented by incoming President Kay Craigie, N3KN, on behalf of the Board, the plaque recounts Harrison's elected service to the ARRL: Arkansas Section Manager, 1983-1988; Delta Division Director, 1988-1996; Vice President, 1996-2000; First Vice President, 2000-2006, and President, 2006-2010.

Project Score

The unexpected discussion that followed what may have been miscommunications provided a collection of nostalgia topics. The scheduled

speaker at a recent MARC meeting was not able to attend that group's scheduled meeting.

The meeting went on and the events of the evening proved to be a test of communications from space memories. The leader and informed fill-in speaker was Dennis Silage, K3DS. He and others within the meeting's attendees had many stories to share.

A reflection upon this meeting between an attendee of that gathering and another area Amateur Radio operators evolved into the reference to a trend-setting communication satellite that is not as well known as others. SCORE (Signal Communications by Orbiting Relay Equipment), with its Atlas B missile launch vehicle from Cape Canaveral, became the world's first communications satellite.

This launch also saw another first. While Atlas was a proven defense department offensive missile, this was the first use of the Atlas as a space launch vehicle. It should be noted that updated Atlas missiles are still being used for the launch for the current generation of space items.

The launch of SCORE on December 18, 1958 was only little more than a year after the world's introduction to space hardware. It was through Russia's Sputnik 1 (October 4, 1957) and the successive Sputnik 2 (November 3, 1957) that signals from space took on a new importance.

Unknown to many Americans, the use of space had been a longtime project for the US military. Thanks to an ongoing project that was being developed at the New Jersey's shore's Fort Monmouth, the US was not far behind in making space news. It became Monmouth's Signal Research and Development Laboratory (SRDL) project to construct a communications satellite with a maximum weight of 150 pounds.

The yet-to-acquired capability of achieving a stationery, synchronous orbit became a challenge. This is a challenge that was, in its own way, a learning lesson. The use of a low orbit also provided a projection of a life expectancy that was thought to be only two or three weeks. This low orbit application would also demand the use of a store-and-forward concept of communications. The low orbit would otherwise only have the ability to have real-time communications between two earth station over a short distance.

This handicap was solved in what some may have viewed as a simple way. The storage of the up-linked audio was accomplished through the use of an audio tape repeater. Today, if there were to be a similar need, that need would be filled through a solid-state storage device.

A byproduct of this communication's concept was the capability that would provide a worldwide communications tool. That role was to expand just before the launch to provide the identity of a worldwide broadcast tool.

What was the initial use of this broadcast role? The progress during the development spawned some concern about the reliability of the tape recorder. That hurdle was overcome through the installation of a second tape unit.

Because of the secrecy of this project, America and the world was not aware of this project. A near launch decision would in time inform the world of the U.S. launch and delivery strengths.

By December 1958, the Army's SCORE satellite was ready to be launched. The audio on the tape recorder was a prerecorded message that had been prepared by a member of the development team. At the last minute, President Eisenhower was persuaded to record a Christmas message to be aired to the world.

With the near launch arrival of the President's tape at Cape Canaveral, the goal of a Presidential message looked like an impossible task. The communications package was already sealed in the fueled and ready-for-launch Atlas missile.

The answer to this hurdle was one of the first tests of the secreted design of this project. On the morning of December 18, the Signal Corps transmitted the President's message across Cape Canaveral to the communications payload on the waiting rocket. The SCORE payload dutifully recorded the new message onto both the primary and backup tape recorders.

At 6:02 p.m., on December 18, 1958 the Atlas missile was launched into orbit. In a language soon to become a commonly understood set of values, this orbit had a perigee of 114 miles, an apogee of 920 miles, an inclination of 32.3 degrees and a period of 101.5 minutes.

On the first orbit, as the satellite passed over California, the primary payload did not respond properly. Finally on December 19, the backup tape recorder responded to coded commands from the

ground. The short wave-equipped world was able to hear the President's message. The value of redundancy was validated.

The following was the message that short-wave listeners heard as the low level satellite passed overhead:

"This is the President of the United States speaking. Through the marvels of scientific advance, my voice is coming to you from a satellite traveling in outer space. My message is a simple one: Through this unique means I convey to you and all mankind, America's wish for peace on Earth and goodwill toward men everywhere."

The backup SCORE package continued to work perfectly during its life where it responded to 78 real-time and store-and-forward voice and teletype transmissions between ground stations located in Georgia, Texas, Arizona and California. After 12 days of communication pioneering success, the batteries failed.

Hampered by the lack of orbit-maintaining capabilities, the satellite reentered the Earth's atmosphere and burned up on January 21, 1959.

In addition to newsworthy communications capabilities, there were other, less-heralded firsts. The Air Force's 9,000-pound Atlas rocket body was the heaviest object to have been launched into orbit and the Army's SCORE satellite was the first communications satellite. All of these accomplishments produced a broader military significance. This experiment demonstrated the practical operation of a satellite radio-relay system with intercontinental capability.



*Atlas-B rocket with SCORE on the launch pad –
The whole rocket body (without the booster engines) constituted the satellite SCORE.*

Then and Now Allied Radio

Over the years, Allied Electronics has built an enviable reputation as a distributor of electronic components.

Since their conception in 1928, Allied's main pursuit, and now our legacy, has been providing excellence through customer service. Now, as part of the Electrocomponents Group, Allied has added a global presence to our customer orientation – the latest chapter in their fascinating, eight decade history.



1928: Allied Radio was established as the radio parts distribution arm of Columbia Radio Corporation. The company was soon to become one of the most recognizable names in the electronics industry.

1932: The Company built a growing business in marketing radio parts and kits to home hobbyists, and was one of the first to sell electronics through a catalog. In addition, Allied opened storefront distribution outlets to reach more amateur ham radio operators and experimenters



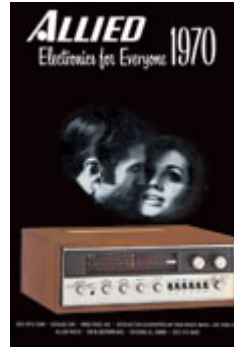
1941-45: Having survived the depression, Allied focused on the war effort, primarily servicing government contracts and high-priority industrial orders. Allied gained experience in the industrial arena for the first time through government and military contracts, which laid

the groundwork for the distribution niche they occupy today.

1946-60: The electronics industry exploded as new developments in electronics were adopted on a widespread basis in commerce and industry. Innovations such as television, industrial automation, space technology and defense accelerated the need for electronics. Consumer demand also grew as radio sets and components not available during the war proliferated. During this

exciting era, Allied gained both the experience and specialized staff necessary to handle both consumer and industrial sales.

1962: The first industrial catalog for Allied Electronics, a subsidiary of Allied Radio, was released. The company continued to serve both professional and Amateur Radio operators as one of the few places to locate that "hard to get" piece of radio equipment.



1970: Allied moved its headquarters from Chicago, Illinois to Fort Worth, Texas.

1981: Allied began the process of moving from an all-manual system to a fully computerized company. The process was completed in 1985.

1995: Allied is the first electronics distribution company to come out with a CD-ROM catalog and quickly followed-up by entering the e-commerce arena with the launch of a web site.

1999: Allied Electronics acquired by Electrocomponents of the United Kingdom.

2000 & Beyond: The combination of Allied's commitment to a high level of customer service and Electrocomponents' global reach delivers a very powerful supply chain solution to meet future customer demands

W3PWG – SK

It doesn't seem that long ago that I saw my long-time friend Rolland Madara riding north on Lansdowne Avenue. A quick "CQ" on my car horn was rewarded by first a wave, and then a trademark Madara smile as he recognized either my "fist" or he saw my face.

This relationship was first captured in a prefacing note written to introduce a permitted reprint of a 2008 newspaper story that was spawned by a professional friendship with a local feature writer-turned editor.

This story and a local chapter in Amateur Radio and MARS activities have come to an end with the death of a very active, special service Ham Radio operator

The following is the original *eDipole* story from February 2008.

A grand old ham captured

The normal response to many newspaper stories carries a sentiment that the writer didn't capture the important elements of the story. A recent story appearing in the News of Delaware County was a wonderful exception. News of Delaware County Life Editor Amy Winnemore, formerly a reporter covering the busy news areas of north western Delaware County, very aptly capture the impact of a key player in the new era of Amateur Radio.

For those who have known Rolland Madara since the mid 1950s, they have seen a former key ingredient in the early days of ARES – RACES. This radio concept was an outgrowth of the former, World War II Civil Defense.

The efforts of this foundation groups were slow but effective in that era. Meeting and working in a room adjacent to the original Delaware County Police and Fire Communications Center, a great deal of growth came from that low-ceilinged, Court House basement.

In a time when there were seemingly no enemy threats that paralleled those of World War II, encouraging both Amateur Radio operators and County officials to work toward a supportive, auxiliary communications concept such as Ham Radio operations was an almost full time undertaking. Participating in this effort were many people. Rolland Madera is one of those un-thanked participants.

Ms Winnemore's words and photographs taken by Anne Neborak very accurately capture the quite, effective manners and his slow, but authoritative speech that are a Rolland Madara trademark.

Thanks to a longtime association with the staff of the News of Delaware County,

the *eDipole* has been granted permission to replicate this feature story. Special appreciation is extended to Editor Brigette reDavid for this permission and the equally important contributions from Amy Winnemore, News of Delaware County Life Editor and the images of Anne Neborak, News of Delaware County photographer.

Saluting our Vets

Rolland Madara

By Amy Winnemore, LIFE EDITOR

Rolland "Rollie" E. Madara has traveled the world, was part of the search party for Amelia Earhart's missing plane, fought off kamikazes in the South Pacific during World War II and has shared his enthusiasm for amateur radio with thousands around the world.

For relaxation and fun these days, the spry Madara drives his electric scooter around the streets of Lansdowne. You wouldn't expect a 97-year-old man to be on a scooter motoring about his adopted hometown of 55 years, but, then, again, that fits into a story and "storied life" which includes assisting the Brazilian Navy and attending engineering school.

Despite all the hard work, or maybe because of it, the impressive Madara stays soft-spoken.

Born Aug. 5, 1910 in Alvin, Texas, 25-miles southeast of Houston, Madera decided to join the Navy on Dec. 6, 1929, six months after graduating high school. Assigned to Company D2 at the United States Naval Training Station in San Diego, Madara attended electrical school before he was sent to serve on the USS Argonne. Aboard until the spring of 1933, Madara was transferred to the USS Raleigh CL7 and sailed for the east coast. Relocated to the USS Jacob Jones DD130 in Norfolk in December 1933, Madara was part of the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Ranger CV4 being built in Newport News, Va.

"I was made second class electrician mate the day we sailed for South America on shakedown," says Madara, of Lansdowne.

Aboard the Ranger, Madara sailed to the west coast and onto Hawaii, before returning to San Diego, where he was sent to the IC School at the Naval Research Labs in Maryland and later to Gyro Compass School in Brooklyn. While stationed at the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Madara was assigned to another destroyer, the USS Cushing DD376. During that time, the

world's most famous female aviator of the time, Amelia Earhart, disappeared in July 1937 while flying over the South Pacific.

"After commissioning, we were plane guard for the Lexington on the Amelia Earhart search," he says.

In 1939, Madara shipped out to Brooklyn to the Sound Motion Picture Operators School and then to the Philadelphia Navy Yard to put the cruiser Wichita in commission. While in Philadelphia, he met Anna Scully, a student nurse. The couple married on Nov. 4, 1939 at Lady of Rosary Church in West Philadelphia. She passed away in 1996.

In 1941, Madara was aboard the Wichita on a convoy run in Iceland when he received an urgent message.

"It asked if I would accept duty with the US Naval Mission to Brazil and said that my wife and daughter could accompany me," he says.

"I said yes right back, having been in Brazil a number of times on the Ranger and the Wichita," he says. Two days later, Madara was onto Washington, D.C. and the Berlitz School of Languages. While there, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 and America was thrust in World War II.

Because of the war, his family was not allowed to go with him to Rio de Janeiro. For the next three years, Madara helped the Brazilian Navy build three destroyers, testing and training the crews while his family stayed behind in Philadelphia. Madara returned stateside in June 1944, where he had gone from chief to warrant to ensign. He was a lieutenant upon arriving in Miami. After attending several engineering schools in Philadelphia and Norfolk, Madara was assigned to the USS Massey DD 778, being built in Bremerton, Wash.

"So I bought a car and took the family with me to San Francisco where the crew was being assembled," he says. "Then we went to Seattle where the ship went in commission, and I was assistant engineer and electrical officer and also worked in communications."

After sailing for San Diego to join the fleet, Madara's wife and daughter came down from Seattle where the young family bought a small house.

Gearing up for combat, Madara sailed off to Hawaii, Ulithi, the Philippines, and onto Okinawa, "where we were on kamikaze station most of the time. We knocked down 19 planes and sustained very little damage to ourselves,

but we lost a lot of our ships there, too," he recalls.

After the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, Madara left for a number of ports before returning to San Diego the day before Christmas Eve. "I took a month leave to be with wife and daughter and my new daughter, who was born while I was off in Okinawa," he remembers.

After 17 years of active duty, Madara applied for shore duty. Instead, he was sent to Guam and Japan, then to Hong Kong. While in

Japan, he found orders to report to the interior communication schools in Washington for three years of shore duty as an instructor.

"I sold the San Diego house and headed the family to Washington. We spent three enjoyable years there and gained another daughter and two sons."

In 1950, Madara transferred to the Navy Fleet Reserve and relocated to his hometown of Alvin, Texas. After 10 months, he was recalled to active duty and assigned as an electrical school instructor at Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois. In June 1953, the family bought a home in Lansdowne (where he still lives today) to be near his wife's parents.

After the Navy, Madara worked at RCA in Camden for three years, before retiring after 15 years at General Electric in Southwest Philadelphia.

But retirement didn't slow him down. Madara shared his avid knowledge of amateur radio with thousands of others. For 30 years, he conducted the man-made lighting shows and operated the amateur station at the Franklin Institute until 2002.

"I'm the oldest member of the Navy Amateur Radio Club, which meets daily on the 40-meter amateur band."

A room in Madara's home is dedicated to his extensive collection of radio equipment. He has communicated with people all around the world for decades. Knowledgeable in several languages, Madara says probably 90 percent of those on the radio speak English. He was awarded the "Grand Ole Ham" lifetime service award winner in 1998 by the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club.

A member of Navy MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) for over 40 years, Madara is extremely impressive with his familiarity of new technology. His amateur call number, W3PWG, also serves as his e-mail address. If that's not enough, he's regularly on the Internet researching his genealogy. "I

researched my ancestors back to 1425 in Switzerland. The first one came to Philadelphia in 1739, and in 1749 three more families came over," he says.

In addition to amateur radio and his family history research, Madera has eight children, 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. They help him stay busier yet.



Lansdowne resident Rolland Madera pictured in one of his favorite pastimes, communicating via Amateur Radio Anne Neborak photo News of Delaware County

POST SCRIPT

The following is the death notice carried in area newspapers. It shares a sampling of his final days.

MADARA ROLLAND E. on Jan. 1, 2010, age 99 of Upper Darby, formerly of Alvin, TX. Beloved husband of the late Anna C. (nee Scully) Madara. Loving father of Patricia Ann Bendler, Barbara Merdian, Marian V. Adnane, Madelyn L. Prosachik, John C., Anne E. and Rolland J. Madara. Also survived by his 16 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Predeceased by his daughter Kathleen M. Moore. Relatives and friends are invited to his viewing Tues. eve, 7-9 P.M. and Wed. morning 9:30-10:20 A.M. followed by his Funeral Service 10:30 A.M. at THE DONOHUE FUNERAL HOME, 8401 W. Chester Pk., Upper Darby, PA 610-449-0300. In lieu of flowers contributions would be appreciated in his memory to SPCA, 555 Sandy Bank Road, Media, PA 19063.

The following is the QRZ record for W3PWG...

ROLLAND E MADARA
306 N LANSDOWNE AVE
LANSDOWNE, PA 19050-1018
USA

Lookups: 635
Email: Login required to view **QSL: Reported SK**

Click for less...

QRZ Record: 574001
Lookups: 635 (639)
Last Update: 2009-10-22 10:45:41
Class: Advanced **Codes:** HAI
Effective: 2005-03-10
Expires: 2015-05-11
Latitude: 39.947747 (39° 56' 51" N)
Longitude: -75.278463 (75° 16' 42" W)
Grid Square: FM29iw
US State: Pennsylvania
US County: Delaware
Born: 1910

Another side of Rolland

This poem was penned by Rolland in 1929. The title and an introduction by a relative provide some background behind this poem.

My Uncle's Ford

In 1929, my mother's older brother wrote this poem for the High School newspaper.

MY FORD

The Ford is my auto.
I shall not want another.
It sorroweth my soul.
It maketh me to lie down under it.
It leadeth me in the path of ridicule for its name's sake.
Yea, tho I ride through the valley
I am towed up the hill.
I fear no evil; my wheel and my engine discomfort me.
I anoint my tires with patches.
My radiator runneth over.
I repair my tires in the presence of my enemies.
Surely if this follows me all the days of my life
I shall dwell in the bughouse forever.
--Rolland E. Madara
Class of 1929, AHS
Alvin, Texas

“A cat who leaps onto a hot stove and oh-so-quickly leaps off the hot stove will never get on a hot stove again. Or on a cold one either.” –Bill Hall

“What is the difference between a *cat* and a comma? One has the paws before the claws and the other has the clause before the pause.”