

"KAR" Kansas Amateur Radio "KAR"

1970's SPECIAL

THE GOOD OLD 70s!

Hi this is Orlan WØOYH but most of this is from John NØEI. How many remember the 70s and the time of the Novice Class License? In my club Charlie Taylor and Bill Epperson (both SK) were teaching our Novice classes, one hour of CW and one hour of Tech and they gave the FCC tests. We had to limit the class to 100 applicants. Yes we had to turn away future hams.

John and his xyl were Novices who worked the 80M segment nightly and developed a following that grew into the ARRL Ks CW slow speed traffic net, QKS-SS. We soon had around 200 Novices checking in from 5 to 10 states. We had SMs writing our SM complaining we were stealing their Novices. Our SM, Ron has a lot of paper work and reports to the SM and ARRL of that time. Some one needs to scan and put it into into USB memory sticks. For me, this was the peak of ham radio in activity. I am very sorry to see the Novice license go by the way side.

It was a fun time when I would set up saw horses in my garage with a 4 x 8 sheet of ply wood and the kids would come with their code practice oscillators and we would run a net. After a few Sunday afternoons I said Guys, next Sunday afternoon at 4pm on 3735 kHz I will call the net and you check in. Soon they were all Net Controls Stations and real traffic handlers. My son WNØHTR was one of them. In a year he was copying CW in his head at 40 WPM. And so were many of the Novices. Many of them earned their "Brass Pounders Medallion" with their call engraved. Most hams today wont know what that is but you can go to the ARRL home page and use the search box and get up to speed. <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%2520Service/Brass%2520Pounders%2520League.doc>

Here is John NØEI.....

I just finished reading the May KAR, and looking at Tom's B-A pictures, trying to find that Johnson Valiant he mentioned. I guess it came later.

I also thought for a second that I should write something, maybe showing my Valiant with Helen operating it.

I have pictures of the Drake Twins at the 1976 Denver ARRL National, the Midwest Division Convention at Lincoln, and the Concordia hamfest you and the "boys" attended.



Helen Morse, WN0GQL, operating the Johnson Viking Valiant and Heathkit SB-303 around 1973-1974. Homebrew ("reverse-engineered" HA-1 circuit) keyer in an extra SB-303 case. Drake 4B line to left of the Valiant for John, then WB0GVR. We did operate contests simultaneously from this console, and even QNI nets by pushing the paddle back and forth. Many PSHR and BPL cards on the wall.

That equipment helped Helen win the Novice Roundup, and the YLRL contest (as a novice on CW).

On top of the Valiant is a homebrew powerline monitor used when operating mobile off the Heathkit 500 watt inverter. It contains an RCA voltmeter, a vibrating reed frequency meter, and an AC ammeter. Don't know where the L4-B is. Maybe I bought it after the Drake Twins.



WB0GQL and WB0GVR at the 1976 ARRL National Convention, Denver, Colorado. Notice the QRV Drake 4B station to NCS QKS-SS. This was an upper floor of a downtown hotel, and I don't remember what was used for an 80-meter antenna. Long wire hanging out the window?



At the Midwest Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska, WB0GQL, WB0GVR and Louise (McKinny) Crawley, WB8JIB, from Yellow Springs, Ohio. **One of the Novices we stole from Ohio.** Behind the camera was Steve Schultz, W0CHJ.

This was a trip for Louise after Helen and I attended the Dayton Hamvention a few months earlier, and stayed at her farm. She had enough room to put up a 160-meter dipole.

Louise owned a beauty shop in Xenia, Ohio, the area destroyed by the 1974 tornado superoutbreak a couple weeks before the Hamvention. First experience for me to see what a tornado (or tornadoes) can do. Back then, automobile bumpers were made from heavy steel, but the tornado wrapped them around tree limbs like tinfoil.

http://www.ohiohistory.org/etcetera/exhibits/swio/pages/content/1974_tornado.htm



At the Concordia, Kansas Hamfest. I'll let Orlan add the date, and name the "boys" since it's been too long for me.

WBOGQL is standing beside Orlan Cook, W0OYH (previously WN0FSL). His son, Kevin, N0FNL (then WN0HTR or WB0HTR) behind him. Behind Kevin is Steve Shultz, W0CHJ, talking to me (WBOGVR) in the blue shirt.

I won the grand prize at this hamfest: a Millen KW Transmatch. Still has never felt RF pass through it because I used the Johnson KW Matchbox with balanced feeder line.

We returned to Kansas City on old U.S. 36 Highway, operating the QKS-SS NTS net from the back of my 1968 Chevy Van, using the Johnson Valiant transmitter, powered by a Heathkit 500 watt inverter. Since all of the QKS-SS NCS operators were together, someone had to run the CW net -- mobile.

The first ham on the right is Marshall AAØ?? Than UR XYL than me and my son Kevin NØFNL standing behind me. To my right is Dave but can not remember his last name WNØHT?????. The last time I saw him he was on his way to Rolla, Mo for engineering school. I can not remember who was to the right out of the picture. Kevin has just finished his 30 years with AT&T and enjoys going out to Field Day with the Jo Co RA Club and keeping the CW stn on the air all night.

I should have a lot of photos of our Novices at Field Day but where? I will try to dig them up for a future special.

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