

OFFICIAL  
NEWSLETTER  
DEVOTED TO THE  
INTEREST OF  
YLISBERS



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# THE COMMUNICATOR

ISSUE 188

DECEMBER 2012



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings from Texas

### AWARDS

Jim, VE1JIM has issued the Canadian Rhapsody #44 Award to Amy, KC8VRT. Congratulations on a tough one, Amy

### VOICE

The 2012-2013 Voice is scheduled to go into the mail in December. IF you have paid your 2012 dues, and do not receive your copy by January 1, please let us know. One will be sent out as soon as possible.

### POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

Our supply of the Policy and Procedures Manual is running short, which means we need to reprint. Anyone want to volunteer to serve on a committee to update this publication? It should not be too difficult, we hope to have it ready to print by at the first of February. Contact me at [kl7fqq@yahoo.com](mailto:kl7fqq@yahoo.com) if interested. Otherwise, I might contact YOU!

### SPECIAL DAYS ON THE SYSTEM

December 8 is the Golden Fireside Day. We hope that many yl/om teams will make themselves available on this day. Look for the Special Days on the System to be REALLY special, starting in January for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. More information next month.

### VETERAN'S AWARD

The Board of Directors has established a new award, which started August 1, 2012. It is for working current or past members who have served in the US military, or for foreign military service...such as Canadian. Certificates are available for working 25, 50, or 100.

I hope you have a wonderful Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

33's, 73's and 88's Rose KL7FQQ

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

## NEW MEMBERS

|       |        |         |     |
|-------|--------|---------|-----|
| 16748 | K4NSX  | DAVID   | VA  |
| 16749 | KB5FLA | RICHARD | AR  |
| 16750 | N5ISS  | JAMES   | TX  |
| 16751 | N6QIC  | LISA    | CA  |
| 16752 | KDØOJC | DONALD  | MO  |
| 16753 | KD7ADH | JERRY   | WA  |
| 16754 | VE3EQV | DOUG    | ONT |
| 15755 | K9UWJ  | PAUL    | WI  |
| 15756 | N8ZOR  | MICHAEL | OH  |
| 16757 | N8KCJ  | CHUCK   | FL  |
| 16758 | K5RWB  | RADAR   | MS  |
| 16759 | KDØNQM | JIM     | CO  |
| 16760 | KDØSVT | GREGORY | MO  |
| 16761 | N5YHM  | BRIAN   | LA  |

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|    |        |    |        |
|----|--------|----|--------|
| 01 | KD2Q   | 21 | KE2ZG  |
| 03 | WA2AFV | 22 | NØQAU  |
| 07 | KD4ZBP | 23 | N3MQO  |
| 08 | W5VTM  | 24 | VE3JPJ |
| 08 | K8FUN  | 24 | W5BUB  |
| 09 | NV4Z   | 25 | AC4NC  |
| 09 | KQ4IQ  | 25 | K6AMC  |
| 10 | N5WQ   | 27 | K1RED  |
| 12 | W5HNI  | 29 | WA9YZK |
| 15 | KV4DT  | 31 | ACØKV  |
| 20 | KCØECK |    |        |

## ANNIVERSARIES

|       |                            |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 12/06 | KØMSR VERN / BARBARA - 60  |
| 12/07 | KD4ZBP / KE4VRW            |
| 12/25 | W7WTQ RALPH & BARBARA - 60 |
| 12/27 | W4CT BEN/W4YL SUSAN - 39   |
| 12/20 | W5LJ LINDA/W5BUB BOB       |

## SILENT KEYS

|       |        |         |    |
|-------|--------|---------|----|
| 2472  | KC9DJ  | HERB    | IN |
| 5376  | WA4KXM | DICK    | VA |
| 6998  | W2BHK  | JOSEPH  | VA |
| 7535  | WA9UNN | GENE    | WI |
| 8187  | KCØBH  | GEORGE  | MN |
| 8705  | WX1D   | DAN     | CT |
| 12070 | KB3PD  | RICHARD | DE |
| 13204 | KH6BTV | SAM     | HI |
| 14752 | N8KRP  | LIZ     | OH |
| 15521 | W5VOQ  | GEORGE  | TX |
| 15764 | KCØJNP | DONALD  | NE |
| 15933 | W9QC   | JAMES   | FL |
| 16216 | NA8N   | NANCY   | OH |

Annually, we produce "THE VOICE" as a tool for every YL System member whose dues are paid. We have a new Editor and he is providing this year's "THE VOICE" with options.

We can produce the printed version as we have in the past. This year, we have the option of sending you "THE VOICE" on a CD OR as an E-mail as a series of PDF files.

If you would prefer to have "THE VOICE" on CD or as an e-mail of PDF files, please immediately send an e-mail to Bill W7AJP at::

[treasurer@ylsystem.org](mailto:treasurer@ylsystem.org) Put "THE VOICE" in the subject line of your e-mail. In the E-mail, just say: "CD" or "E-mail." Please do it today! It will save you space, printing costs, postage and speed the process.

The printing must start soon. Send the treasurer that note right away if you want a CD or as an e-mail. If you choose to continue the printed format, you do not have to respond.

## BITS & PIECES

### YL - SYSTEM FREQUENCIES

10 Meters: 28.573 - 0000 UTC M - F  
15 Meters: 21.373 - 1500 UTC Tue & Thur.  
20 Meters: 14.332 - 1300 UTC Daily  
40 Meters: 7.265 to 7.273 as required for a clear frequency. M - F 0000 UTC  
80 Meters - No System activity at this time.

### TFO OF THE YEAR:

It is that time of the year for holders of the TFO Award to submit nominations to Karen KB8NSA for the TFO of the Year Award. Also, holders of the TFO Award are again reminded that none of us would have the honor of having this award if other TFOs had not nominated us. With that in mind, please exercise your right and privilege to nominate other members for TFO. This award is for demonstrating good operating habits and procedures.

### RIGEL TROPHY/PLAQUE:

This award is presented in recognition of and in appreciation for our System Controls and those who help continuously on the System.

### KI4P CURTIS:

We have learned that his wife, Rosemary has been on a ventilator and was in a coma. We have also been told she might be put on dialysis. Let us all keep Curtis and Rosemary in our thoughts and prayers. His address is good in qrz.com.

### CW QSO PARTY CORRECTION:

In issue #187 we listed the CW portion as 2/8 and 2/9. Should have been 9 & 10.

### CALLSIGN CHANGE:

Randy, KK4KRK in KY is now K4KRK.  
Bobbie, KK4LGE in FL is now K4ZGH

### CONVENTION 2013:

The 2013 Convention in Colorado Springs is shaping up to be very special. Look for the information in the Voice, and check out the web site.

THE YL SYSTEM  
"INSTANT FRIENDSHIP"  
MAKING FRIENDS WORLD WIDE SINCE 1963  
50th Anniversary - February 9, 2013



**NANCY K9DIG OPERATING KH6BB, CLUB STATION ON BATTLESHIP MISSOURI**

K4ICA, V. Mayree Tallman, Sidebander #1 who founded the YL System in 1963, asked that out of respect for our many OM members, [that we call our membership number a Sideband Number and not a YL Number](#). If you call it a YL number, you are not wrong and no one is going to chastise you. However, it is suggested that we all "honor her request" and refer to our membership number as a Sideband Number. She also designated us as a "System" and not a net.

## From the Chadron Record, Chadron Nebraska

Featuring KØPKT Ron Cashon

Entering Ron Cashon's favorite room in his small house on Belle Fourche St. in Kenwood can seem a bit like stepping back in time, to a point when radio shack referred not to a national chain of [electronics stores](#) but to a place where a hobbyist sat in front of lighted dials and glowing vacuum tubes, tuning in distant voices from around the world through static filled background noise.

Parts of the tiny room fits that nostalgic picture perfectly. A chair pulled up to a crowded desk faces a bank of black faced radios, with dials and switches galore. Two walls are covered with certificates, some yellowing with age, attesting to participation in a variety of amateur radio activities. A couple of [cabinets](#) bulge with card files, recording the contacts Cashon has made over his 54 years as a 'ham' radio operator. But a computer set up on a small tray next to the desk, and the digital readouts on many of the radios show that not everything in Cashon's hideaway dates from an earlier era of electronic communication.

And the aftermath of natural disasters like the 'super storm' called Sandy that hit the East Coast last week, Cashon believes, shows the relevance of ham radio operators and their equipment in the age of cell phone and internet communications.

Amateur (ham) radio is the use of specific portions of the radio frequency spectrum for private recreation, non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation and emergency communication, according to the Wikipedia website. The use of ham radio is regulated by national governments, and internationally through International Telecommunication Regulations. Ham operators must pass tests on knowledge of electronics and the regulations governing radio operations. Estimates put the number of radio 'hams' at about two million worldwide, with some 830,000 in the Americas.

In Chadron, the hobby is represented by the Pine Ridge Amateur Radio Club. Cashon, a long time member of the club, isn't sure how many people belong to the group, but said that about ten are the most active. Besides a weekly coffee shop meeting, the group holds regular simulated disaster training exercises, most recently on Oct. 6, to verify operators' ability to communicate in emergency situations.

Because of Sandy, normal communication channels were disrupted for several days in New York and New Jersey, according to reports. A story on the [Computer Work](#) website said that 25 percent of cell phone sites in 158 counties in ten states were out of service one day after Sandy hit, and the next day 20 percent were still not operating. That, and the failure of electric power in a wide swath of the storm-hit area, left millions of people without distant communication abilities.

In such situations, ham radio operators, using portable stations and emergency generators, can be an invaluable aid to emergency responders and law enforcement, according to Cashon. It's a view shared by Jack, a ham radio operator in Jacksonville, Florida, who responded to a call on the ten meter band, as Cashon demonstrated his radio hobby for a reporter last week. "Ham radio is for emergency communication," Jack said. "It's a great hobby, but if it came down to a national emergency when cell phones go down, then radios are the only way people have to communicate."

Cashon has participated in numerous disaster simulations, and some real emergency activities, since he first got started in ham radio in 1958. "My father got me into it," he said. "I started studying (Morse) code. Back then you had to know code (to get a license)." Knowledge of Morse code is no longer required for a basic ham license, but many hobbyists, including Cashon, still use it. "I can send and receive 30 words per minute," he said. "I use code all the time."

Cashon's primary activity on the radio, though, is talking with people from around the country, and around the world. "I'm just a talker. I just have to get on and what they call 'rag chew,'" he said.

Cashon said he spends several hours each morning and evening on the air. He logs in to a number of 'nets' of organized hams who talk with each other regularly. "I do South Dakota nets, Nebraska nets, Wyoming nets," he said. "There are thousands of nets I could get on."

When hams start talking, they typically first announce their call letters-Cashon is K0PTK- location, and type of equipment and signal strength. A report on current weather conditions is also a frequent part of the exchange. Atmospheric conditions and the electromagnetic waves put out by the sun play a major role in how well radio signals carry, so hams are alert to both weather and sunspot activity. "Lots of people like to know what's going on around the country," Cashon said. "People are tracking to know what the weather would be.

"The weather in Jacksonville last Thursday was about the same as in Chadron, Jack reported. Hurricane Sandy didn't hit the area, and the storm's passage brought clear skies and good conditions for radio signals, he said. Pat, a ham from Schenectady, N.Y. who joined the discussion, said his area too had escaped any storm damage. "We never skipped a beat, but three hours south it's total mayhem," he said. Ham operators in the storm area were likely very busy, Pat added.

Talking to other operators and recording the contacts, known to hams as 'working' is a popular aspect of the hobby. "I've probably worked 75 countries," said Jack, a medical doctor, who said he started as a ham in 1969 and got back into the hobby about 15 years ago. "I have worked all states," said Cashon. "I haven't worked all countries-they have a lot of new ones.

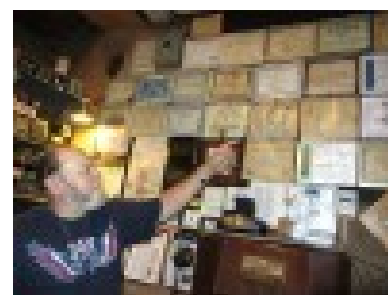
"He has also worked on emergency communications, making contacts for law enforcement and other agencies during storms, and is now the assistant emergency coordinator for amateur radio operations in the region.

Cashon, like most hams, keeps a 'log' that records every contact he makes. For years the logs were kept exclusively on paper, but recently computer logs have become popular, he said. Besides logging contacts and helping with emergency communications, there are many other aspects to ham radio, said Jack. "You can bounce signals off satellites, you can bounce signals off the moon," he said. "Electronics is fascinating.

"Just talking to people from all over the world is a big attraction of ham operations, Jack said. "It's a lot of fun. You meet many people," he said. "I'd like to see more people get into it." "This is a good hobby," agreed Pat. "There are more ham radio people every week, even in this age of technology."

"It's the greatest hobby in the world," said Cashon, who estimates that the cost of his radio set up, which includes radios in his bedroom and in two automobiles, besides his main console, runs to thousands of dollars. But that money was spent over many years, he said, and entry level equipment is affordable enough that almost anyone can experience the enjoyment of amateur radio.

"I love my ham radio," said Cashon . "I'm really proud of it."



November 13, 2012 2:13 pm • [By GEORGE LEDBETTER Record Editor](#)  
This article from The Chadron Record reprinted with permission.



TOP - SALLY AT WB7TAR - JERRY'S RIG.  
 BOTTOM - SALLY WITH JERRY



KEITH K5BOO AND KEN N5OTR



KI4P CURTIS



JEANNE GUY K8RLD #16474



## ANTARCTICA ACTIVITY WEEK - FEBRUARY 18 THRU 24

In order to bring attention to what the nations of the world are doing to protect Antarctica, AAW is held every year, having begun in 1979. This event is held in February because that is the middle of the Antarctica summer. During February, almost all of the Antarctic bases are open and active. Antarctica remains uncontaminated by modern human activity.

During the AAW events, hams around the world can work Antarctic Special Event Stations and apply the contacts towards the three Antarctica Awards. The Antarctic Awards are as shown below:

**Antarctic Special Events Award:** Issued for working at least five of the 43 Special Event Stations. Endorsements are available for working Antarctic stations beyond the basic level of five. A list of the Antarctic SES can be found at:  
[www.waponline.it/WAPSpecialCallsign/tabid/116/default.aspx](http://www.waponline.it/WAPSpecialCallsign/tabid/116/default.aspx)

**Worked Antarctic Callsign Award:** Issued for working ten (10) different Antarctic callsigns. An endorsement for working the full list of stations is also available.  
[www.waponline.it/WapAwards/WACAAwards/tabid/90/default.aspx](http://www.waponline.it/WapAwards/WACAAwards/tabid/90/default.aspx)

**Worked Antarctic Directory Award:** Issued for working ten (10) different Antarctic bases belonging to at least three different countries.  
[www.waponline.it/WapAwards/WACAAwards/tabid/92/default.aspx](http://www.waponline.it/WapAwards/WACAAwards/tabid/92/default.aspx)

The Antarctic Awards Week Program: <http://www.waponline.it/WapAwards/tabid/61/default.aspx>

Additional Information here: <http://www.waponline.it>

*This information being provided a couple months early in order to give everyone a chance to check out the Antarctica websites and make any necessary arrangements to be sure to get your Antarctica contacts. Good Luck!*



## KN4AA and KK4YL Odyssey 2012 (Part 2)

As promised in the October edition of the Communicator, the following is a summary of our return trip from Washington State to home here in Pennsylvania.

As our remaining days visiting Sally's children in Washington waned, we enjoyed our time with Bernard, AB7HB, and Jerry, WB7TAR. They are really neat fellows, and a solid boon to the YL System! We have included a few more pics of those visits for you to view.

Below is - Right is Gerry and Bernard Kevin, KN4AA, at Gerry's rig



\* \* \* \* \*

Newman Lake, Washington, just outside Spokane, is the home of our YL System President, Rose, KL7FQQ, and her husband, Stan, KL7FQR, and they graciously invited us to spend the night with them on our return trip. As you can see by the pictures, they were in the process of replacing the coax leading to their beam, and we arrived just in time. We either helped, or got in the way, but in the evening, after supper, thanks to a few glasses of their homemade Alaskan wine, it was hard to tell if we were hindering the antenna project or helping HiHi.



\* \* \* \* \*

The next morning, Sally and I bid Stan and Rose a fond adieu, and began traveling east. Our next stop was an overnigher with two of the nicest hosts you can imagine.

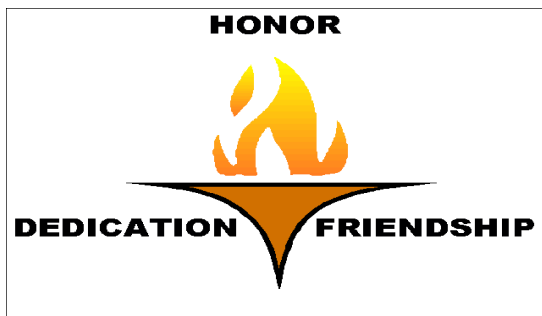
Gene, W7GMF, and his lovely wife Karen! They call Harlowton, Montana their home, and the drive from Big Timber to Harlowton was one of the neatest rides you can imagine! Wide open prairies with abundant wild life on either side. We saw antelope, deer, and bison. Yes, Buffalo folks, hundreds of them! Not wild, but still....



Gene and Karen provided us with sustenance, great conversation, and we stayed in their “bunkhouse”, a really nice travel trailer with all the comforts of home! The next morning, Gene took me for a ride in his restored 1924 Willys Knight Model 64 Roadster!



All in all, a very nice trip but it's good to be Home Sweet Home!  
73, Kevin and Sally



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*Editor's Comments:*

*This subject came up on the System and we thought it was worth mentioning. When changing clocks to or from Daylight Savings Time, you only change your LOCAL clocks. Never, never change your UTC clocks. We and the military and others use UTC clocks to make sure all of us around the world have the same time - at the same time. Otherwise, if you tried to find a DX contact on your log, you would have to check all 24 hours until you found the contact since times are different around the world. However, when we all use the same-UTC time then we are all, so to speak, on the same page. So again, UTC clocks should never be changed....*

A Nice Warm anniversary note from Ralph: I asked if their anniversary was actually on 12/25.  
Howdy Dick:

The answer is Yes, Christmas Day. We were going to get married when I got out of the Army. But things changed and Barbara came from Oregon at 18 years to NY on trains. Needless to say I was all nerves until I saw her arrive at NYC (Grand Center Station). The reason she was coming all that way is the notification I received alerting me I was going overseas. That meant I would wind up in Japan or even Korea. (I was drafted & entered on April 18, 1951 total 2 years) Anyway, I found out I had less than 2 months before I get my Discharge which means I wasn't going any where

I told Barbara (in a letter) since we had been engaged just before I went into the Army, we should get married and she said "yes" but our financial situation was very low (typical Army pay). She stayed at her Aunt & Uncle's who lived in Pleasantville, NJ & I was stationed at Fort Monmouth, NJ about 90 miles one way from Pleasantville (near Atlantic City).

On Christmas Day, we were married in the church where Barbara's Aunt & Uncle went. The Pastor told us on Christmas in the afternoon would work as the church will be nicely decorated and they have two services on that day, one in the morning & evening Services.

It is good that it is on Christmas because I never missed our anniversary, all 60 of them. The down part is giving Barbara a Christmas present & the anniversary at the family get together,

73,  
Ralph Cook W7WTQ

Just a reminder that annual dues are due beginning 1/1/2013 and may be paid by check in the amount of \$20 or on line by using PayPal in the amount of \$21.00. Dues go to Bill W7AJP.