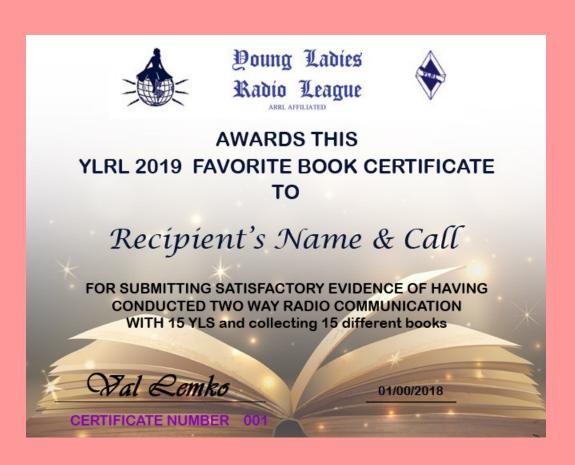


## YL-Harmonics

A Bi-monthly Publication of the Young Ladies' Radio League, Inc.



January/February 2019



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For YL-Harmonics CONTENT or Editorial changes or corrections Please contact: AE7MB, Margaret Hardwick at ae7mb@arrl.net January/February 2019

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Dues are \$15.00 (US dollars) a year due and payable January 1, and delinquent February1st. For new and reinstating (lapsed more than 2 years) members joining after June 30th, dues are pro-rated by half the annual dues for that fiscal year.

An additional is **\$4.00** required for Canada and Mexico **airmail**.

Dues for a licensed YL family member (residing at the same address) are \$3.00. Subscriptions for non-members are \$15.00 per year and may not be pro-rated for portions of years.

For US **ADDRESS CHANGES** please contact the Receiving Treasurer, **Carol Laferty**, **K4SAF**, 55 E. Cardinal Lane, Clearfield, KY 40313

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Please note that as with all subscriptions, it may take one or two issues for corrections to go into effect. Subscriptions start 6-8 weeks after being received by the Receiving Treasurer. Please double check you label information for corrections.



## President's Message de Marilyn Melhorn, AF7BI

29139 NE Hammond Ct Battle Ground, WA 98604

Hello YLs, and welcome to winter. I do hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas with family and friends. And now Happy New Year and I hope 2019 is a super year for you all.

Do any of you have any ideas of what you want to do during this year yet? I'm still working on code. It's taken me longer than I thought it would but I'm still determined to increase my speed. Did you know that you can listen to the first two chapters of Moby Dick in code on Youtube? Yes, it's there and in different speeds too! Who would have thought.

We have lost one of our district chairs unfortunately. District 9 Chair, Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, needs to step down for personal reasons. We all appreciate her work with YLRL and are glad she's still a part of amateur radio. Thank you Rhonda for taking on the job and doing so well at it. We appreciate all you've done. And now, we have Linda Metz, KC8PKY, taking over District 9 Chair. She has stepped right in so there won't even be a glitch. Thank you, Linda.

I would also like to congratulate our 2018 scholarship winners-- Jordon Mann, W1KXJ, from Massachusetts; Anna Veal, W0ANT, from Colorado; and Trina Boyce, K16GZG, from Nevada. Good job, ladies!! (I love being a part of a group that is willing and able to help young women in amateur radio.)

Have any of you looked at the back page of the Harmonics? On that page is the list of YLRL supplies. There's jewelry, patches, shirts, stationary. I've gotten some of the jewelry. It's really nice. And if any of you would like a memento, or something to give a friend, you should look there.

Thank you all for your commitment to YLRL. Each one of you makes a difference. 33, Marilyn Melhorn, AF7BI, YLRL President

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## **Vice President's Advisory Committee**

Kay Eyman, WA0WOF, Lois Gutshall, WB3EFQ, Mary Moore, WX4MM



## Vice President's Message de Barbara Yasson, AC7UH

13208 NE 5th Ave. Vancouver, WA 98685-2679



Contest Update

Unfortunately I did not receive any logs from the DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest in October. With more information about the 2019 contests we hope for better results in the New Year.

Our next contest is the YL/OM Contest. It will be held from 1400 UTC February 9, 2019 until 0200 UTC February 11, the weekend prior to Valentine's Day. I received a few logs from last year's contest and hope to see more this year. We accept SSB, CW and Digital logs (electronic and manual) for both contests. Look for the contest rules on the YLRL.org website under Activities and Contests and make a note in your calendar for the contest the second weekend in February.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions about the contest.

Barbara AC7UH

## Editor's Message de Marga<u>ret Hardwick</u>, AE7MB

A year ago I was asked to become the Editor of <u>YL Harmonics</u> by our President, Marilyn Melhorn, AF7BI, because Cheryl Muhr, N0WBV, could no longer do both the Editor job and the Publications job. After doing the Editor's job for a year, I have no idea how Cheryl did both jobs unless she is Super-Woman

I was told that I could change the way the publication looked, if I wished. I did make some changes and some of those where accepted, while others were not. Hey, the first year is a learning year and I've learned a lot. I've also had great support and encouragement from all of the officers and District Chairladies. "Thank you" to all of you.

I have one plea - Ladies, please get your articles in on time! I have asked that all articles get to me by the 15th of the even month - December, February, April, June, August, and October. That means that you should get your articles to your District Chair by the first of that month or whatever date she sets, so that she can format them and send them on to me in a timely manner. That gives me one week to get the <a href="Harmonics">Harmonics</a> put together and sent to Cheryl, who then publishes the edition and sends them out. If you have a time critical article, then make sure that it is sent three to four months before it happens. For example, if you are sponsoring a contest or event that will happen the first weekend in May and you want YLRL members to participate, you should send the announcement to your District Chair by the first of December.

One other note - I am limited to where I can use color, so most of your pictures will be changed to gray scale. Therefore, it's best if there is good contrast between background and subject. We love to see your pictures, so please keep sending them with your articles and I'll do my best to keep them in color.

33, Margaret, AE7MB



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District Two Chairwoman Ria Jairam, N2RJ



District Three Chairwoman Lois Gutshall, WB3EFQ



District Four Chairwoman Amber Cole, K4TAC



District Five Chairwoman Michelle Carey, W5MQC



District Six Chairwoman Carol Milazzo, KP4MD



District Seven Chairwoman Robin Resnick, KJ7BI 2325 SE Tibbetts Portland, OR 97202



District Eight Chairwoman Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD PO Box 775 N Olmsted, OH 44070-0775

No Picture at this Time

District Nine Chairwoman Linda Metz, KC8PKY



**District Ten Chairwoman Doshia Kretke, KB0NAS**7779 Devonshire Way
Boulder, CO 80301-4112



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VE Chairwoman Suzanne Snape, VE7IM



Youth Chairwoman Eva Knapple, N5EVA



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US Districts 1-10, KH6, KL7 & VE Carol Laferty, K4SAF 55 E. Cardinal Lane Clearfield, KY 40313



## New YLRL Members de Anne Manna, WB1ARU

614 Webster St. Hanover, MA 02339-1180



#### DISTRICT 1

### Clare O'Lena KB1TMC



Clare holds a General license and does Customs Data Entry. She recently upgraded and is a member of Meriden ARC. She is looking forward to getting on the air when the radio is fixed. Her OM is Ed, N1YLN.

#### DISTRICT 6

### Nancy Mitchell KB5LCR



Nancy holds a Technician+ license and is a Supervisor at Home Depot. She is a member of Redwood Empire DXA, Sonoma Co. RA, and Mt. Diablo ARC. She is active on 2m. Family members include OM David, N5PSM, and son Parker, KK6OKZ.

### Taymia Akber KM6OKR



Taymia holds a Technician license and is a Student. She is a member of West Valley ARA and California QRP Club. Her father is Faisal, VA3SFA.

#### Gail Brarmann KM6GBN



Gail holds a General license and is Retired. She is a member of Mountain Top ARC and is active on 20 and 40m. She enjoys the Route 66 contest.

#### Janet Fisher KK6RXO



Janet holds a General license and is Retired. She is a member of California Rescue Communications 40 m Net and Ladies of the Net. She is active on 40m. KC6OZC, Chris is a family member.

## Dawn Biocca KB6LHP REJOIN



Dawn holds a General license and is a Premier Design Jeweler. She is active on 2 m.

### Tina Maria Madsen KK6KSY REJOIN



Tina holds a General license and is Retired. She is active with Ladies of the Net 7.245 KM6CIR and one of the founders. She is also part of Western Public Service System, RV Net and California Rescue Communications. KI6VLC, "Bravo Ben" is her OM.

#### **DISTRICT 9**

# Paulette Quick WB9VHF

Paulette holds an Extra license. She is a member of Four Lakes ARC and is active on 40 and 20m.

Welcome to these new members! We look forward to meeting you on the air soon!



# Scholarship Information de Linda Hynan, AC5QQ

1312 Western Ridge Dr. Waco, TX 76712-8709

Scholarship Information Memorial Scholarships Ethel Smith, K4LMB Mary Lou Brown, NM7N Martha (Marte) Wessel, K0EPE

No donations have been received.

To make a donation

Make your check payable to: YLRL Scholarship Fund

Send your donation to: Linda Hynan, AC5QQ

1312 Western Ridge Dr. Waco, TX 76712-8709

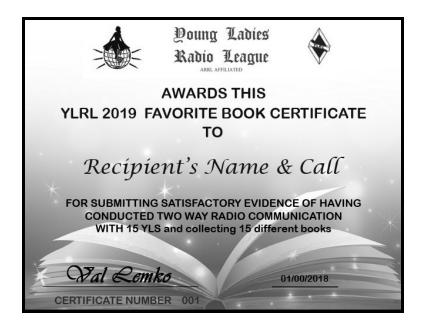
A donation was received from: Michelle Carey (W5MQC)

Thank you for your generous contribution.

Scholarship application information.

The Federation for Amateur Radio (FAR) will be administrating 53 amateur radio-related scholarships (a total of more than \$98,000 total scholarship funds are available for 2018) including the 3 offered by YLRL. The application is available on the FAR web site (<a href="http://www.farweb.org/">http://www.farweb.org/</a>). The applicants do not apply for a specific scholarship, but are considered for all of the scholarships for which they are qualified. The YLRL web page (<a href="http://www.ylrl.org/">http://www.ylrl.org/</a>) also provides information about the YLRL Scholarship applications. The application deadline is April 30.

## 2019 Friendship Award



The 2019 YLRL certificate will be called the 2019 YLRL FAVORITE BOOK CERTIFICATE! This one should be a lot of fun! In 2019, let's find out what everyone's favorite book is. Here are the rules for this new award:

- 1. Talk to YL's and exchange favorite book. If you don't have a favorite book just choose a book to give out
- 2. You will need to collect 15 different books.
- 3. You will need one YL for each book. You can only use a book once. You can only use a YL once.
- 4. All contacts must be made during the 2019 year (January 1 December 31, 2019).
- 5. Contacts may be made on any band the YL is licensed to be on, and any mode including SSB, all digital modes, Echo-link, and repeaters.
- 6. Favorite book must be exchanged over the air. You cannot e-mail someone after the contact and ask them for their favorite book.
- 7. Contacts may be made during nets only if the net control allows it.
- 8. Report the following for each contact:
  Date, time, band, first name, QTH, FAVORITE BOOK.
- 9. Send your list, in book title alphabetical order, to the Certificates Manager at any time during the year, but no later than the end of January 2020 to receive your certificate.
- 10. This certificate is available ONLY to YL's.

A few hints on the books ...

- 1. Be specific in your choice of your favorite book. For example, please don't say, "Any book by Steven King." Make sure you give the title.
- 2. If you don't have a favorite book, go to a website and look at all the different books. Then choose one that is unusual.

Applications may be submitted by: e-mail to: or mail to: Val Lemko
1125 Iroquois St. W.
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
Canada, S6H 5C1

## **District News**

#### District 1

Leandra, AF1R, writes: I had an adventure operating portable in Vermont for the ARRL Sweepstakes Phone contest in November. I wrote an article about my "expedition" to Vermont. The enclosed photo shows me working the contest at the B&B.

I've been dabbling in some radio contests over the last six months. I was a rover for the June VHF contest and a rover for the CQ VHF contest, made a few contacts for the all Germany contest, and spent two hours working NY stations during the NY QSO party. I only have a small, 9000 square foot suburban lot, with very little room to put up an HF antenna. I wanted to try the ARRL phone Sweepstakes contest on November 17-18, but with my small lot and compromise antenna and being in the well populated ARRL section of Eastern Massachusetts, I did not think my station would stand out.



November Sweepstakes – An Excuse for a Portable Adventure in Vermont

The object of the Sweepstakes contest is to contact North American stations, with each station worth 2 points, with a multiplier of the of the number ARRL sections contacted. Many of the Top Gun stations try for the Clean Sweep award where the object is to contact all 83 sections in the 30 hours of the contest. These competitors would be looking for the rare states to complete their 83 sections.

I remembered growing up in Vermont where I was constantly getting comments over the air, from the hams I talked to, about how thrilled they were to contact a Vermont station. I looked up the Sweepstakes (SS) results from the last two years. In 2016 and 2017 there were only 4 Vermont stations, and only one in class A (150 watts, single operator, no spotting assistance) in 2016 and only two class A stations in 2017. So, I thought I could be much more popular if I operated from rare Vermont! And if I operated from Vermont, surely I could find a location where I could have room to put an 80 meter dipole high in the trees.

So, where could I operate a portable station in Vermont? November is much too cold to go car camping. I don't own an RV and didn't want to just drive up and operate for a couple of hours out of my car. I wanted to make a serious effort for this contest, not just a couple of hours. So I searched the Internet for B&Bs and Airbnb where there might be some possibility of putting up an antenna and operating a radio for the weekend. I found a B&B near Wilmington, Vermont, Shearer Farm B&B, which looked like a good possibility. It was a working farm 3 miles off the main road. With some trepidation, I wrote them an e-mail to ask if they would let me come up, put up an antenna in their trees and talk on the radio all weekend. They said sure, come on up!

I couldn't turn down this opportunity. Now I had to go up to Vermont for Sweepstakes! It was early October. OK, now how do I plan for this event? I've never done a full weekend competition by myself, and I've never operated my own HF 100 watt station as a portable for a weekend. There were no ham radio stores, or hardware stores near the B&B so there was no running out to buy a part I forgot to bring. I had to bring everything I needed, and backups in case something broke.

I knew the secret to doing well would be operating on 80, 40, and 20 and maybe 15 if it opened, so I needed a multiband antenna for rapid band changes. I didn't have time to make one, so I bought a NI4L 80-10 Windom. I don't throw well, so I bought one of the fancy slingshots to get the antenna rope high into the trees. I didn't have time to make coax cables either, so I bought a variety of lengths of RG-8X cables. I had been using a 12V switching power supply, but during the NY QSO contest I discovered it made a lot of noise on 40, 15 and 10 meters. I didn't want to take a chance on another buying another noisy switcher, so I bought a linear Astron. I had 1200 feet of rope purchased from Davis Rope at the 2017 New England Convention. My 40-10 meter end-fed antenna would be back up. I loaded N3FJP's SS contest software on two laptops. I packed these, my Yaesu FT-991, my Elecraft KX2 (as backup), my antenna analyzer and various tools into five large storage boxes.

I took a vacation day on November 16, the Friday before the contest weekend, so I could get up there early, put up my antenna Friday afternoon and wait for the contest to begin. Friday morning I reviewed

my checklist of gear, filled the back of my car with everything I thought I would need and headed up to Vermont. Little did I know that Murphy would sneak a ride up with me, too.

I arrived at the B&B and was greeted by Bill, who was plowing the 8 inches of fresh snow in the driveway. Patti enthusiastically welcomed me inside, informed me I could have the dining room and dining room table all weekend for my radio gear since I was the only guest and told me to make myself at home

I immediately noticed that the only trees near the B&B were three scrawny apple trees, with tangled branches, that were less than 20 feet high. And the trees were lined up west to east. So much for putting the antenna 30 feet in the air, facing west to east. And there was 8 inches of fresh snow on the ground. And the temperature was in the 20's, with a gusty, strong, frigid wind. Perfect conditions for erecting an antenna! No problem, with my slingshot, I'll quickly get ropes in the trees for the antennas before dark. After moving my 5 boxes of gear and two bags of clothes into the B&B, I grumbled about the cold and the wind, found my heavy mittens and my gators (for the snow) and prepared to work outdoors. I grabbed the slingshot and the rope and went outside to inspect the trees. Up close they were a massive tangle of tiny branches with no substantial branches more than 15 feet off the ground. I thought I'd try to see how high I could get a rope over the first tree. I tried the slingshot for the first time. The weight went 6 inches. I tried again. The weight went 8 inches. I tried again. 8 inches. I inspected the reel, confirmed it was in free wheel (casting) mode and tried again. The rubber broke. So much for the slingshot and quickly getting ropes in the trees. By this time it was sunset and getting dark and cold quickly. I had a broken slingshot and not even a single rope in a tree. I spent the next 2 hours in the dark, with a headlight and frozen fingers, running inside to get warm, trying over and over, to throw weights in the trees, in an attempt to get ropes over the higher branches. I finally got ropes into two trees and gave up for the night.

The next morning I discovered the two trees I thought would be far enough apart for the 120 foot Windom were only 100 feet apart. I needed to get a rope in a third tree to get the antenna in the air. The middle tree was lined up with the other two, so I used it as a center support. But it took three tries to unsnag the branches that engulfed the balun in the middle of the tree as I attempted to hoist it up. There were many branches touching the antenna and balun. I wishfully hoped this wouldn't be a problem. I finally got the antenna 10 feet in the air at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon, just two hours before the start of SS at 4:00 P.M.

I nervously connected my antenna analyzer and scanned 0 to 30 MHz. This was a brand new antenna and the first time I erected it.

80M – the SWR dip was at 4.3 MHz. Everything below 3.85 MHz was greater than 5:1 SWR. Bad.

40M – the SWR dip was at 7.3 MHz. It was less than 2:1 across the band. Manageable.

20M – SWR was greater than 5:1 across the band. 20M was unusable!

15M – SWR less than 2:1 across the band

10M – SWR dip was around 29.7 MHz, with the low end of the phone band around 3:1

This was terrible. As I feared, the low antenna height and the tree branches were affecting the resonance of this antenna. I needed 80M for the close-in evening contacts and 20M for the daytime. I had no backup antenna for 80M, but I did have my end-fed 40-10 antenna. Outdoors again. I spent another hour trying to get a rope into yet another tree (tree #4) and finally got this antenna, connected to 200 feet of coax, 10 feet in the air after another hour of effort. I checked this antenna with my analyzer. 40M and 20M SWR was less than 2:1 across both bands. Now I had coverage for 20M.

It was now 3:00 P.M., an hour before the start of the contest. I hadn't even turned on my radio to see if it would work. I connected the radio, power supply and computer and all came up properly. I wanted to see if I could get a signal out, so I tuned around on 20M looking for a CQ. At 3:50 I heard K0GV calling CQ and answered his call. He came right back to me! Success! I could get a signal out! Darryl in Minnesota was also checking out his rig just before the contest. We both were watching the clock count down for the starting time of the contest and we agreed to be each others' first contact. We made small talk to fill in the time. Darryl literally counted down the seconds, and 15 seconds after the top of the hour, gave

his contest exchange. I returned with my exchange. I had my first contact in the log! I was only running 100 watts into a wire antenna ten feet off the ground, so I knew I would not have much luck parking and barking, so I had to resort to pounce mode. But I discovered I had to compete in the pile ups and my signal was no match for the stations running a full gallon. At the end of the first hour I only had 10 contacts. I figured out what I had to do. I had to pick and choose the stations calling CQ and find the right time to get in. There was no way I was going to break into the big pileups, so I skipped over them. I often found another station calling CQ only a few KHz above the pileup who had no pileup and I quickly snagged him. The ARRL sections were multipliers, so I was constantly on the hunt for new sections. When I heard them I would make an effort to get them. If they were rare, and had a pileup I'd be persistent and wait for the right opportunity to get them. I heard a station in North Florida which was a new section for me. It had a huge pileup, and there was no way for me to get in. But I continued to listen for an opportunity. I was disappointed when he announced he was going QRT to take a phone call. The frequency went quiet. I wanted his section, so I stayed on frequency and hoped he would return. Two minutes later he was back and I got him on his first CQ. There was a pileup calling him when we were done.

I only averaged 9 contacts per hour. I would have some quick runs, and then I would hit a dry spell where it just seemed like I could not get a signal out. About a quarter of my contacts asked for multiple repeats. I could hear well, but I could not work everything I heard. It took me 2 minutes to repeat my exchange multiple times to make a NH contact on 40M, yet I got San Diego on 20M with no repeats of my exchange. I tried parking and barking, but after 8 calls with no replies I gave up.

I missed a lot of opportunities on 80M because most of the contest activity on 80M was between 3600 and 3850 KHz which I could not work because the SWR on my antenna was too high. I tried the LDG automatic tuner I bought with my FT-991, but I discovered it wouldn't talk to my radio. I had to make do with the tuner in the FT-991, which couldn't handle the high SWR below 3850.

The north-south orientation of my antennas hindered my ability to work the central states. I got 17 stations in Maryland-DC, 8 stations in North Carolina, 10 stations in the 3 Texas sections, 4 stations in Tennessee (one TN station said I had a great signal), and a contact with most of the states along the east coast. Somehow I was able to work Manitoba, New Mexico, Western Washington, Oregon, and three sections in California, too. I never heard another Vermont station, though.

My personal goal was to work 100 stations. At 11:00 A.M. Saturday morning I met that goal. But I didn't want to quit. I wanted to see how many more I could make. The SS contest ran for 30 hours, and Patti told me I could stay as late as I wanted on Sunday, but I wanted to take down my antennas in the daylight. At 1:30 P.M. on Sunday I made my last contact, in Delaware, a new section and multiplier for me. It was hard to push the button to turn off the radio and shut down the computer.

I finished after 14 hours of activity, with 129 contacts and I got 46 of the possible 83 sections, for a score of 11,868 points. My radio and computer worked flawlessly. I'm sure I could have made a lot more contacts with a better antenna system and a wide range antenna tuner. But I had fun and I'm satisfied with my first time effort.

Taking down the antennas was easy compared to the effort to put them up. I had to fight with the apple tree that had the balun, though. When I loosened the rope to drop the balun, it didn't move. The tree wouldn't give it up. I had to fight with the tree to get it down through the branches.

When I paid Patti for my B&B stay she asked me what my plans were for a better antenna for next year's visit to the B&B!

-Leandra, AF1R

Anne, WB1ARU, has continued to call "CQ YL" for the YL Meet-Up once a week at 0200 on Thursdays, which is Wednesday evening in the U.S. Recently, it has been on 40m, somewhere between 7.192 and 7.196. When propagation on 20m improves in the evening, the frequency will be around 14.288. This is not a traditional net, but a chance to work other YLs. Hopefully any YL will get on around the same time and call "CQ YL" also. It would be great to learn that there were conversations between YLs all over the place, even if everyone doesn't hear all the others. So give it a try! 33, Anne ~ WB1ARU

Niece, KA1ULN, writes: Hello ladies. I am so pleased to see all YLs getting more and more active in the meetings. Where we (YLs) are lacking is on the radio/contests/sprints. Please DO NOT BE AFRAID TO PUSH THE PTT BUTTON. The more YL voices we hear the more "clout" we have, if you understand that. If you are a little leery of pushing the PTT button and hate your voice, there are alternatives. Check out DIGITAL modes - FT8, JS8, RTTY, FELD, HELL, PSK, and many, many more. Software for these (FLDIGI and WSJTX are currently the most popular) are FREE! You can Google these and get the download page and use them. All you need to do is just download them and see what they look like on YOUR computer. They are very easy to use. If you need assistance you can ask for help on any of the YL nets or check out KA1ULN.BLOGSPOT.COM

This summer District 1 YLs had a cookout/swap meet and just a get together for the YLs. I really hope we, as a district, can get together more often than Boxboro and Deerfield. If YOU have a suggestion to get us together please let us know. Send email to

I am booked for Dayton/Xenia this will be my first time out there. I am very excited to see YLs I have had QSOs with but never met/eyeball with them.

I will look for you on the bands

33 Niece/KA1ULN

#### District 5

Leah Ohse, W3LEO, has been a busy YL!!! Lots of preparation for her and her club to provide communication for the city's Veterans Day Parade. They also provide communication for the city's Christmas light display!

Virginia Smith, NV5F, is a pro at kit building. Check out her latest project! She has been heading to the great outdoors and taking her radio portable! She also played her bagpipes, in the Fort Worth Parade of Lights and hung out with some storm troopers.

Judith Nurenberg, KC7KPG, camped on BLM land off the grid in the CA/AZ desert with other ham radio friends. She will attend Quartzfest mid-January and the Yuma Hamfest mid-February. Life is good camped out for the winter. 33

Aria Cunningham, KI5BDF, and her Cross-Country team made it to state! The girls have all been working hard all year.

Susan Meckley, W7KFI, had the opportunity to visit Embangweni School for the hard of hearing, in east central Africa. She was there for two weeks and operated as 7Q7M. Marvelous people, so friendly and helpful...pileups during the qw contest were unbelievable....

Michelle Carey, W5MQC, recently took her DMR radio out to the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas and participated the WWYL DMR net, remotely while digging for diamonds. She is also the 2019 President of the South Canadian Amateur Radio Society Club (W5NOR).

#### District 7

From CJ, K7CJS: This fall I made the permanent trip from the Sequim, Washington area to Pahrump (pronounced Pah-rump), Nevada. Now why would anyone do that?? First, the weather and I do not see eye to eye in Washington. Second, I lived in an RV park that was in a bit of a hole so HF was out of the question. Two big drawbacks. I have been spending wintertime in my RV, off and on, in Pahrump for the last five years and finally decided to move here. In those five years I made many friends who RV here for the winter and many who live here year round. There is something magnetic about Pahrump. It's a small town located between Las Vegas and Death Valley and surrounded by mountains. At this time of year we even have snow on "them thar" mountains. I have a Polaris RZR that I roam the desert and mountains in and found a group with a few HAMs that like to go out riding as a group. So, Sunday I joined them for a 40 mile ride. I really liked how they organized it: one HAM with radio in the front and one bringing up the rear. Pat (YL) was the ride organizer and it turned out she and I were the only li-



censed women in the group, and we each had Baofeng radios! She had me up front behind the leader and her OM brought up the rear. Rules are that if you cannot see the ride behind you then you have to slow down until they come into view. That way we never get too far apart from each other and no one misses a turn. We only needed to use our radios once when someone near the rear said we were going the wrong way. Pat radioed me and we stopped until everyone could catch up and decided we were on the right road. I really enjoyed the camaraderie and the great scenery as we rose higher and higher into the mountains. What a great way to spend a day with new friends.

So far my radios and antennas are still packed away. As soon as I get a permanent spot in the Pair-a-Dice RV park I will be setting up everything and hoping to get to started on some real HFing. More to come

From Barbara, KI7BR: I am starting a new position with the State of Oregon as a policy analyst, specializing in initiatives, education, and resources for hard of hearing people statewide! It is a dream job for me, as I grew up partially deaf, and see many areas of need that I might be able to address. Aside from this, I continue as one of the net controls (every other Monday) on the World Wide Friendship Net, and am now serving as net manager for my club's (OTVARC) Casual Net.

From Robin, KJ7BI: Season's Greetings everyone! I am completely neutral about what you believe, although you will probably celebrate some type of holiday during the latter days of 2018. I used to celebrate Hanukkah, being Jewish, but my life has taken me on a different spiritual path in that I don't celebrate any particular holiday because I stop to make private notes of seasons changing and particularly unique holiday decorations or music. I completely enjoy the holiday season now that decorating, cooking and present buying are no longer "MUST DOS." I even managed to get my nuclear family to join me in buying a special gift for someone when running across something we are certain s/he will enjoy! Sure takes stress out of the occasion! I am indebted to Barbara, KI7BR, and CJ, K7CJS, for sending in their contributions to Harmonics despite the busyness of the current time of year (this paragraph is being written on Thursday, December 13). Personally, I have been FREEZING since early Fall, and I don't even attend my monthly NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) meetings. Occasionally, in the evening, I turn on the HF rig hoping to find that 20 m has significantly opened. No such luck, at least not yet. Lastly, I want to mention Anne Dirkman, KC9YL, because she is always ready to help me, to answer questions, or to remind me of something I feel that I should know. Anne, you are seriously making this

## **Pictures**



Leah, W3LEO, and friends providing communications for the Christmas light display



Barb, WD0WAU, and the Santa Net Crew



Susan, W7KFI, at a school in Embangweni School for the hard of hearing, in east central Africa



Michelle, W5MQC at Crater of Diamonds State Park



Group photo of TM64YL



Barbara Kayton, VK3AGU / KC2KLF Pottery projects



Bambi, VK4AYL, with Tony, HS0ZDX, (VP and Liaison Officer) at the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand meeting/luncheon Dec 2, 2018



Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, presenting the 2018 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award Plaque to Ruth Willet, KM4LAO. Photo by Scott Willet.



Carol, ZL1AJL, knit nativity set



Carol, K4SAF, helping Girl Scouts with code



Aria Cunningham, KI5BDF, and her Cross-Country team

position manageable for me and I hope you know how grateful I am! BTW, Anne, KC9YL, is YLRL's new DX News columnist and DX Treasurer.

#### **District 8**

Phyllis, KE8CPM, writes: The Germantown Amateur Radio Society (GARS) had it's officer election for 2019 on Sun. Dec. 9th, followed by our annual dinner. I will be the club secretary for another year. I order all of the club apparel and I also work as a VE for our exam sessions. I appreciate all of the hard work that was done in my behalf when I was becoming licensed, so I try to give back all I can. I am proud to be a member of the YLRL. This organization is a unique group of talented and hardworking individuals, of which every woman should automatically join when she is licensed. Many thanks for all of your hard work in making it all possible.

Nancy, KC4IYD/8 writes: Annette, KC8SQM, and I and friends got together for a Halloween dinner party on Sat Oct 28. In the past we would come together on Halloween and help Annette pass out candy but several of us couldn't make it on Halloween.

Nancy, KC4IYD, her OM Steve, W8HF, and their daughter Carol, W8CSH, got together with Carol, KI8IM, her OM Jim, KI8IL, and Jim and Carol's son, Aaron, daughter-in-law Kim and their kids Georgia and Lucas to celebrate the birthdays of Jim (Dec 13) Aaron (Dec 14) and the younger Carol (Dec 20). We played some board games, had dinner and then had cake and cupcakes. It was a nice get together we try to plan every year.

Nancy, KC4IYD, and two of her Girl Scouts helped out at the "Toys For Tots" event in Lorain, OH on Dec. 15. We were assigned the role of "shoppers" which meant as families came, we went with one of them showing them where the toys were for their age group for their kids and helped them pick out 2 or 3 toys, depending on the age. Many were overwhelmed by the selection and that we were helping them. It was great making a difference for families this holiday season.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Festivus or Bah Humbug. Chat to you all in 2019.

Nancy, KC4IYD/8

#### District 9

Anne, KC9YL (Wisconsin USA) – Hi ladies! For a recently retired person, I certainly have been keeping myself busy, volunteering and catching up with odds and ends around the house. With the ham band conditions reported by others, I don't feel too bad that I haven't had much time for radio lately. Hopefully I'll get FT8 and JS8CALL figured out shortly and then I'll be bumping up my DX count in between QSO parties. As the new YLRL DX Receiving Treasurer, I plan to keep busy on our blustery snowy days, processing renewals. I look forward to getting to know more of our DX YLs. I encourage all of you to connect with your adoptees! I check in with mine from time to time, and for those who are on Facebook, I enjoy the pictures they share from the other side of the world!

#### District 0

Barb Schlueter, KD0WAU, with her hubby, Wayne, and others from her club, FHARC, helped the kids at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita KS talk to Santa on the air. The club members were vetted by the hospital and permission was obtained from the parents. They had to be careful of what they brought in and what was left with the kids as a gift. They did this last year as well. This year the nurses were very excited and decorated the radio cart. They also made little ornaments for each of the kids. There were 11 kids who were able to get on the air. Barb is really hoping this becomes a larger outreach during the holiday season. If you are interested in getting information on the program, contact Barb!!

#### **District 4**

Carol Laferty, K4SAF, writes: Dues are starting to come in to me for 2019. I am still the Receiving Treasurer for the U. S. and Canada. We are actively seeking a member to take my place, but with our implementing PayPal to pay dues online, I am choosing to hold the office until the next election. We need to get the PayPal function working well and I need to add a new section to the Receiving Treasurer's Handbook about PayPal payment and processing.

I belong to the Morehead Amateur Radio Society in Rowan County, KY, and our club was asked by the local Girl Scout troops to help them with their badge in Technology during JOTA. My part of their day was telling them about Morse Code and sending some code and letting them try on the code oscillators I brought. Each girl made a plaque with her first name spelled in code, using adhesive jewels. Some nice plaques were made to take home with them.

I took part in the Kentucky QSO party in June. I'm not really a contester, but I wanted Rowan County to be represented. I was the only operator in our county taking part. I came in 6<sup>th</sup> in the Mixed CW category. Lesson learned: do one or the other. Next year I won't operate any phone, strictly CW and my score will be higher!

I am dabbling in the Digital mode of PSK31 now, using a Signal Link with my FT-920. I'm just seeing what all the fuss is about, but much prefer to just keep working CW digital mode. I do have my eye out for a new rig that includes the capability to operate digital. I'm anxious to see Yaesu's new FT-DX101D, when it is finally released. I'm also practicing again on the Iambic keyer, trying to become more sure-footed with it before I take my straight key off the desk.

My oldest son, Don, in Wisconsin now has his late dad's call, K4GFY. Don Sr. became a SK in 2015. Don Jr. isn't active on the air right now but hopes to be in the future. I'm very happy the call is still in the family.

Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, recently received the 2018 ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. On Nov 3rd, 2018, Ruth Willet, an Extra Class YL and youth operator, was presented with the plaque commentating this achievement as well as a \$1,500 check. The award was a fitting recognition of her accomplishments and contributions to both Amateur Radio and the local community.

The award ceremony was held at the Stone Mountain Hamfest in Lawrenceville, GA. Hosted by Alford Memorial Radio Club, the Stone Mountain Hamfest was also the 2018 ARRL Georgia Section Convention. Members of the Georgia section leadership team were in attendance. David Benoit, AG4ZR, the ARRL Georgia Section Manager, started out the ceremony by speaking about the nomination process which took place before Ruth was elected to receive this prestigious award.

In addition, David Prestel, W8AJR, President of the Foundation for Amateur Radio scholarship foundation, spoke a few words about Ruth's achievements and encouraged any students present in college or above to apply for scholarships. There are numerous scholarships available to amateur radio operators through ARRL and FAR due to the generosity of radio clubs and individuals around the country. Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, the ARRL Southeastern Division Director, then congratulated Willet and presented the award to her in front of an enthusiastic crowd. In his presentation speech, Greg said, "The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award is one of the top awards that the ARRL awards annually. When I saw Ruth's nomination package come in, it was a no-brainer for me to support Ruth to win the award this year. I am very proud of this award and honored to be here and present it to Ruth."

Numerous club members from within GA, as well as radio friends from throughout the country, were thrilled to witness this presentation.

Ruth is a junior at Kettering University where she is dual-majoring in Engineering Physics and Mechanical Engineering. She is an active member of ARRL, the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS), the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL), and the Columbia County Amateur Radio Club in Georgia, as well as the Genesee County Amateur Radio Club in Michigan, the Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL), the Straight Key Century Club, CWOps, and AMSAT. She is also the president

of the Kettering University Amateur Radio Club (K8HPS). During her bi-annual co-op terms, Ruth works at Textron Specialized Vehicles in Augusta, GA. As an active member of AMSAT, Ruth enjoys operating portably on satellites wherever she travels. When she is not studying or on the air, Ruth enjoys singing classical repertoire, traveling, and spending time with her family and cat, Pattycake.

"This award means so much because of the people that have made my amateur radio adventures so meaningful; many of whom nominated me for this honor," Ruth said. "I am so touched by the amount of affection and support that I have received from the ham radio community. I am thankful for all the life lessons I have learned so far from this hobby. I hope that this award will give me a platform to continue encouraging more people to get licensed and involved in this amazing hobby. I would also like to motivate experienced hams to reach out and make a lasting impact on new hams through



Ruth Willet, KM4LAO, giving an acceptance speech. Photo by Sherry Sarratt

mentoring them. I enjoy sharing my love for the hobby through various platforms and encouraging young hams to explore many aspects of the hobby and learn as much as they can."

Following the award presentation, chocolate and golden pound cakes were served with lemonade. Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO, GARS Vice President, prepared the reception tables and cut and served the cake. The congratulation cakes were baked and decorated by Sharon Willet, KM4TVU. This reception was enjoyed by the many attendees as they mingled together and congratulated Ruth.

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award is given in honor of the late Hiram Percy Maxim, who was an American radio pioneer and was instrumental in the founding of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Ruth was named as the recipient of the 2018 ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award by the ARRL Board of Directors at its July 20-21, 2018 meeting. This award is given annually by the Board to a radio amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions to both Amateur Radio and the local community are of an exemplary nature.



#### Youth

I would like to first say hello to all the YLs and give a special thanks to Jim Flanders, W0OOG, who donated a working receiver out of a submarine to the Muskogee War Memorial Museum for the USS *Batfish*. A bit of background how this receiver and W0OOG played a major role in working the Armistice Day Centennial.

W0OOG is a submarine veteran and an uncle of his was one of the 3508 submariners who died during World War II. As you can see W0OOG has a connection with submarines, submariners, and being a licensed amateur radio operator.

The path the donated receiver took proves networking and amateur radio operators are gracious and willing to support the hobby. First Leah, W3LEO, who is a member of the Mid-Del ARC out of Midwest City, Oklahoma, was working HAMARAMA and contacted K5NAP, my father, and asked if we would be going to the War Memorial Museum for Veterans Day. We had been kicking it around but the opportunity to be part of delivering a great piece of history to the museum pushed us over the top, so of course we said we were going!

Coordination between K5NAP and W3LEO began and we found out Mark, N5HZR, who was in the same ARC, SCARS, as Michelle, W5MQC, who was also at HAMARAMA with W3LEO transported the receiver from HAMARAMA to Norman, OK. This started coordination with W5MGC/N5HZR and Wade, KF5IF, trustee for WW2OK and WW2SUB.

K5NAP and I were thinking, since the 17th and 18<sup>th</sup> of November was November SSB Sweeps we might be able to work the lost subs, *Corvina* and *Sculpin*, over Veterans day weekend. To our dismay the dates to work the lost subs are actually on set dates and not on the closest or best weekend. To our delight the always thinking of ways to promote amateur radio and the War Memorial Museum KF5IF asked if we wanted to work the Armistice Centennial, since this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Armistice for World War I. Any chance to support the museum, WW2OK/WW2SUB, the *Batfish*, and especially veterans as well as get on the air is always good. Of course, we said yes!

Coordination continued then between W5MQC/N5HZR, ourselves, K5NAP/N5EVA, representing KR8ZE and KF5IF representing WW2OK/WW2SUB. K5NAP and myself departed from our QTH near Elgin, Oklahoma a little after 0700 on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. With a stop for fuel and breakfast burritos we proceed to Norman, Oklahoma, and linked up with Michelle around 0900 prior to the SCAR club meeting.

With a quick hello, thank you, and good-bye, K5NAP and I were back on the road headed to Muskogee, Oklahoma, to deliver a very clean looking receiver to the KF5IF and in turn to the Muskogee War Memorial Museum.

To pause a moment lets look at the route this receiver took. From a very generous donation from W0OOG, Plano, TX, to HAMARAMA, TEXOMA, through Mid-Del ARC to SCARS in Norman Oklahoma, to KR8ZE in Elgin, Oklahoma, to WW2OK/WW2SUB in Muskogee, Oklahoma, to its destination at the Muskogee War Memorial Museum. It was also my understanding that W0OOG approached the YL booth at HAMARAMA because he had heard or read of the 2018 District Five YLRL USS *Batfish* Get-a-way. As I stated earlier the donation to the *Batfish* was very generous and the networking and willingness to support amateur radio is great within the amateur radio community as this is but one example of hams making things happen.

## **VE News**

I am writing this just a week before Christmas but it is not the sort of news for when the January/ February issue of YL Harmonics comes out.

Looking forward to 2019 and already have two super events recorded on my calendar for May. One is my grandson's graduation from Southern Utah University with a degree in Science. His plans are to go further, probably in Canada, to obtain a degree in sports medicine or sports physiotherapy. Fran and I are making tentative plans to fly to Salt Lake City, rent a car and work ourselves south exploring as much as we can between Salt Lake and Cedar City. The other May event is a beach wedding and reception. A nice young man who did "grunt" work for me, in my garden, for many years until he grew up and went off to University, He is getting married at his parent's home. They live just across the street from my old QTH. Nice family and very good neighbours to me when I lived there.

My very best wishes to you all and your families. I hope the New Year brings you much good health and happiness... 33 Suzanne - VE7IM

Elizabeth, VE7YL, writes: I too can't remember when I last found a copy of the Harmonics in my mail box. Pity as it has always been a good read. With the days getting shorter and finding I am turning on inside lights earlier and earlier I did a Google check on the Winter Solstice. Here on the west coast it is December 21st so I have twenty more days of less and less daylight!! Our tides in the Fraser River have been very high and it has been worth while to drive along the dyke just to see where the water is in the river compared to where the land is on the other side of the dyke. A break in the dyke and I would be huddled on the flat roof of my house waiting for someone to come in a boat and rescue me! Looking forward to the West coast family being together at Christmas and trying to watch those calories as I attend different holiday parties. A Merry Christmas and may we have peace in 2019 - I am probably repeating my 2018 wish, too, when I say better propagation would make DXing more fun too! 33 VE7YL

Helen, VA1YL, writes: We have had a lot of fun with the Work YLs Challenge. CLARA set it up so we could work any YL twice in the same month on the same band. Of course, as Net Controller, out on the East Coast, I get to work lots of YLs in the CLARA nets. But any YL who can copy another YL is welcome to jump in and work her!

My biggest news of this period was my trip to Ontario to meet up with my three sisters. When I lived in Montreal and my sister lived in Toronto we always got together at our Ontario sister to exchange presents. Now my Toronto sister lives here in Nova Scotia like I do. Nova Scotia is where we grew up. We both flew up to meet with our Ontario sister and our Montreal sister.

Our Ham Radio Club is turning 50 in January. We will be on the air on Sunday January 20th as VE1LD in our ham shack. We will also be on the air for the Canada Winter Contest December 29th as VE1RAC.

Helen Archibald VA1YL

## **DX** News

Here, we go – my first DX report! I've occasionally heard other District Chairs remark that their YLs were sometimes remiss in sending in their articles. I decided to try my luck and sent an email out to *all* 107 of my DX ladies, asking about their 2019 Amateur Radio (or other) goals.

A few of my personal goals are to get my KX3 on the air, set up portable operations on the western shore of Lake Michigan, and set up a demonstration station at our local farmer's market next summer. Wish me luck! It's been fun reading the responses and checking out the QRZ pages of my DX ladies. Enjoy! – Anne, KC9YL

Barbara Kayton, VK3AGU/KC2KLF, (Australia) - I have to admit I am not as involved in radio here in Australia as I was in the US. Fortunately, my husband is and I've still got my little hand-held and a radio in the car. Currently I am focusing on pottery and have my first pieces back from the glaze kiln. I want to get back into horseback-riding and also a little bit of sailing and flying. It's a bit of a challenge due to mobility and health issues, but I am persevering. It's now officially Summer here, which is still very odd to me for Christmas-time!

Janet, M0JMP, (England) - I hope to set up a shack here in UK again sometime next year. I've spent the last year settling back into my home here, having spent the last fifteen years in Malawi as 7Q7YL. It has been a long year as I lost my husband, Brian 7Q7BP/G3MRC, just before my return, but with the help of many friends I have managed. Greetings and best wishes. 73 and 88.

Bambi, VK4AYL, (Australia) - It would be nice to finally get my HF tower up! It's has been half up for 4 years, and then it became a complex project. Also I'd like to meet and share information with other Amateur Radio operators, like I am doing at the moment with the members or the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) in Bangkok, where there were over 6 YL operators at the recent meeting and luncheon of over 60 attendees. ~byes~

Threeza Aniceto, DW3TRZ, (Philippines) - As of Dec.2, 2018, I am still the LONE "DW" Prefix in the MasterDX SuperPartialCheck SPC by Stu Philips, K6TU, since I became active on the HF Bands in 2014 (40M/15M and 10M license allocations). Aside from DXing/Contesting and making "MABUHAY" x-stitched call for Amazing Young Ladies on earth:)

I am writing/contributing for our national organization for amateur's website which covers mostly BA-SICs on Ham Radio in Tagalog/English for the newly licensed Pinoy Hams. (Philippine Amateur Radio Assoc. PARA https://para.org.ph). My QRZ.com callsign page is always updated/modified for the incoming souvenir pictures of Amazing YLs who received their x-stitched call. (https://www.qrz.com/db/DW3TRZ). Just GOOGLE "DW3TRZ" and most of my amateur radio activities will pop up on your screen. Cheers! Hope to see you on the air soon... 33 & MABUHAY!!!

Tammie Evans, M3ENF, (England) - Hoping to get my antenna fixed and get back on the air, plus a little shortwave radio listening. Anxiously waiting the start of the 2019 NASCAR season so I can cheer for my driver, Chase, in the #9 car. Also hoping to get out and about on my bike!

Tuulikki Hartikainen, OH7XX/OH7YL, (Finland) - We are having the darkest time of the year. Every day daytime is shorter than yesterday was. Soon this is over on 23rd of December, after that daytime will be every day longer than yesterday was. In summer we don't have night at all, sun is shining also at night. I don't have radios now because I'm living now in an apartment house and cannot have antenna. I have been member of YLRL since March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1985.

Vjollca, Z61VB, (Kosovo) – Greetings from the other part of the globe-Republic of Kosovo - Z6 country. I am the president of the Amateur Radio Association of Kosovo - SHRAK. This month, I am going to introduce the HAM Radio Library, a set of most comprehensive literature on amateur radio communications that was donated by YASME foundation this year (2018) to the new HAMs for their better education on radio communications. They have already started to be active on the air with the 6 radios that have been donated by Kip Edwards, W6SZN, now a silent key, unfortunately. Kip was a great man, a HAM, and above all a very generous person. He was a former board member of YASME Foundation, who unfortunately passed away recently. We were very touched with his generosity and humanity and were very sad to hear he passed away. May his soul rest in peace, while the HAMs of Kosovo shall always remember his great HAM spirit and the great support he did in supporting the new HAM spirit in the other part of the globe. The radios and the books are excellent for this purpose Wishing all the XYL and YLs wonderful and happy end of year holidays, Merry Christmas and many, many DXes:):) 33 & 88



Vjollca, Z61VB, with YASME donation for 76

Tina, DL1ICB, (Germany) has been a HAM since 2000, she is QRV on the HF Bands. Tina is most interested in DXCC, IOTA, LH, WWFF and DX - YLs. Her QTH is Nature Park Frankenwald Bavaria DLFF-060 as a fixed Station Resident. Skeds are welcome. vy 33

Marietjie, ZS6CEZ, (Thabazimbi, South-Africa) - We experience heat waves and very hot. My radio's is not connected and close to an airport but love to read the magazines of the YL *Harmonics*. Have a great Christmas. 73 88 33 Marietjie and guide-dog ABRA



Evelyne, F5RPB

Evelyne, F5RPB, (France) – Evelyne has been having email troubles. She has met Rose Marie and her husband in Iceland for SYLARA. Evelyne, 81, likes to work CW and has been a YLRL member since the meeting on the Queen Mary in 1999. Last summer she spent one week on the Island of Noirmoutie. 15 YLs, 2 from Iceland, 4 from Germany, and 4 from Switzerland, we had a nice time together operating as TM64YL. She enjoys a nice wintertime with 14C (57F) temperatures in the afternoon. "I wish you a nice Christmastime. Best regards from south of France!"

Marilyn, ZL2BOA, (New Zealand) - I have attached a story\* for you about the Cornflakes net which I run at 7.30am each morning Monday to Friday. On occasion that I am not available I get one of the other Hams to take over. There are 2 YL's on the net, myself, ZL2BOA, and Joy, ZL2UGV, who lives in Wairoa. Joy got her license about the same time as I did. The net runs on 2 metres and our coverage is from Wairoa in the north to Palmerston North in the south. Wairoa is about 80 miles from Napier and Palmerston about 100 miles to the south. The repeater is on a hill 1200' to the south of Napier. We love having Ham's drop in on us during the net and we get to meet some interesting people. I am afraid this is all the ham radio work I do these days. 33 & 88

\*(Ed: Marilyn sent a GREAT article about her daily Cornflakes net. It started out as a 2-person chat between a bread delivery man and another ham who was recovering from a heart attack, added another member who served as net control and expanded from there. The net has run for over 40 years and now includes about 8 "regulars". Marilyn has been active on the net for 37 years! The group also meets once or twice a year for a meal. The social net runs for a half-hour every weekday, and if one of the regulars misses a few days, someone will phone them to make sure they are OK.)

Carol, ZL1AJL, (New Zealand) – I currently do not have an operational HF Radio Station as I now live in a retirement village. I will be celebrating my 70th birthday on 20th December. Most of my time is now spent on village activities, including playing Mahjong and knitting for charity/premature babies. This year, I knitted a complete nativity set for the village Christmas display. Season's greetings to all from N.Z.

Christine, GM4YMM, (Scotland) - I have been a member of YLRL for over 30 years. We had a busy year with the family, child minding 2 grandchildren in Wales and for holidays up here in Scotland. Ken celebrated his 80th birthday in August and lots of celebrations with family and friends. We had a glorious hot summer, it lasted for 8 weeks and we basked in the sunshine for a change! I have been on the radio off and on, held the GMDX club call twice for a month at a time. I was very pleased to receive the Marie Curie Award from the French YL's and now try to be on 7.188 on Sat am's at 10 UTC to get more French YL's into my logs. Also received the Int. Women's Day certificate in March, then took part in CLARA's Chatterparty and YLRL's YL-OM SSB contest. Had no propagation



Christine, GM4YMM, and Ken on summit of Garth Hill near Caerphilly, Taffs Well, Wales

for the JLRS and DX-YL contests in the autumn. Was very happy of just having worked Elena, H7/RC5A, twice on 40m SSB and CW, they were new band slots for me. Future events will be the SYLRA meeting in Norway in September, (sylra.is) for info and Eva, HB9FPM/OK3QE, is planning a YL event in the Czech Rep. August, 2-9. Eva would like to know who is interested to attend, 9fpm@uska.ch, also check www.qrz.com...USKA. This came up after the successful TM64YL meet in France in August. BYLARA is celebrating their 40th Birthday in Blackpool, England, on 27-29th April, 2019. Contact Judith, G4IAQ, for more details. Email judith.brooks@ntlworld.com. Ken and I have continued to climb a few hills for SOTA, Summits On The Air, and our total is creeping up. Looking for new DX as usual....have all DXCC entities, but now it's to fill empty band slots. Happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Rosel, DL3KWR, (Germany) – Rosel has been a member of YLRL for 18 years. Check out her website at <a href="https://www.dl3kwr.de">www.dl3kwr.de</a>. It's amazing! From Rosel: Happy Christmas greetings and many good wishes for the coming year 2019 for all YLRL members and their families! (Sponsor: Roland, WO6X)

## Don't Forget to Send in Your 2019 Dues

## **Activating Round Island**

By Helen Archibald, VA1YL

Our daughter, Margaret, VE2ZOO, works for Alaska Fish & Game in the summer. Her job the last few years has been on Round Island off the coast of Alaska. She counts Walruses, Sea Lions and Birds. She invited us to come and visit this year.

It is quite a trip from Nova Scotia to Round Island – 5 plane rides and a boat ride. Halifax to Montreal, Montreal to Vancouver, Vancouver to Anchorage. The next day, Anchorage to Dillingham on a 30 passenger plane, then Dillingham to Togiak on a 6 passenger plane. From Togiak the only way to get to Round Island is on a 6 passenger boat. The boat only goes when the weather is good and the Captain wants to go. Five flights and a boat ride home.

Round Island only allows visitors to stay in tents. Because we carried a ham radio station we didn't take enough warm and waterproof clothing! Luckily, Margaret had some waterproof trousers for Fred and waterproof boots. My boots were waterproof and one of the visitors lent me her waterproof pants. Thank you, Kim!

All of the radio equipment weighed about 45 pounds! Not like what we take when we go to an IOTA Island for the IOTA contest. Radio conditions were poor and the Explore.org electricity generator was very close to the tent and made a lot of radio noise (QRM). Fred,VE1FA/KL7, was able to make about 150 contacts. I only got on the air once and made 15 contacts as VA1YL/KL7. We had huge pile-ups but very poor propagation. Many of the QSLs were with Russia, which was odd because the island is very high between the Weather Port and Russia and Japan.

We also spent a lot of time hiking the trails and looking at walruses, sea lions and birds as well as wonderful scenery. The foxes on Round Island came to watch us. Day one was 70 degrees Fahrenheit and sunny. Other days were not so pleasant – cool and rainy! The population of the island is usually only two Alaska Fish and Game employees, but this year there were six guests including us! Lovely visitors. Of course, the Alaska crew need to look after their guests so we saw a lot of Margaret, even though she had a lot of work to do.

We took over 1500 pictures! We had a brand new camera and didn't think to take a tripod. Many of the pictures are not good to share!

The walruses leave the island to go get food and most of them left just after we arrived and came back the day we left! Several days before we arrived, Margaret counted 1200 walruses – the most we saw was about 50. The birds were not breeding well – it is Margaret's job to report on the birds and their offspring.

Explore.org pays Alaska Fish and Game money to pay the employees on Round Island. So, when their electricity for internet cameras went down, it was Margaret's job to get it back up and running. Margaret was frustrated that the wind generators were wearing out their bearings and the only way to shut them down was too close to the wind blades!

Round Island's IOTA status: It turns out that the Walrus Is. Group (NA-121) is very rare, with only 6.4% of all-time IOTA chasers having worked it. The last activation was many years ago.

We first obtained the necessary visitor permits from Alaska Fish and Game. Then we put together a "fits in the overhead bin" portable station. It consisted of an IC-706Mk2G transceiver, tiny switching power supply, 70' of quality mini-8 foam co-ax, and a common feed double 40m-20m dipole made with tough, light 24-ga Kapton-coated silvered wire. Total station weight, with all accessories: 11.4 lbs. This station, nicely padded with socks, shirts, and long johns rode in my suitcase in the overhead bins of most of the 10 flights needed to get us there and back. The only exception was the ancient 6-seat Piper to Togiak that didn't have bins, overhead or anywhere else.

Because there are no trees on Round Is. we also had to bring a duffel bag that contained 7 x 4' lengths of 1.75" diameter fiberglass and aluminum masting, 1/8" Dacron guy cord and halyard, plus aluminum stakes and hardware. Our boots and sleeping bags rounded up the bag.

July 3, 2018. We arrived in the Yup'ik (Eskimo) village of Togiak, on Alaska's west coast (Bristol Bay) and contacted the driver who was supposed to takes us by boat the 35 miles out to Round Island the next

morning. After a night filled with anticipation (and a great dinner of king salmon caught 200 yards away a few hours earlier) the boat driver decided not to go. July 5th was a go, and we were off in his light launch, skipping across the big swells pushed by the 225 hp outboard. The huge hump of Round Is. (it's 1400 feet tall, with a broad, low plateau on the east side) grew and grew, until we finally nosed into Boat Cove. The island, clothed in waist- to chest-deep grass was a most brilliant green up to the raw rock and tundra near the mountain top. The entire population of 6 (4 visiting tourist-photographers, and Amber and Margaret, the Fish and Game staff) came down to greet us.

There is only a single small dwelling/office/lab on the island, which is Margaret and Amber's, but for us Margaret had set up their auxiliary "Weather Port", a Quonset-style tent, tall enough for a small table and chair, making it both our dorm and radio shack.

Interestingly, on each of the 9 places it is permitted to camp on Round Is. there is a platform made of 1" x 6" "boards" of recycled plastic. Each of these platforms rests on and protects the site of an ancient house or hut, probably used when hunting walrus. The oldest was occupied 6000 years before the present. It made us wonder who was sleeping a few feet below us.

Antenna setup went smoothly, except for the strong cold wind and occasional blasts of fine rain and the deep grass that would "disappear" anything you dropped! The island's power for computers, satellite links, lights, and the Explore.com walrus "critter cams" was produced in a shed with triply redundant wind turbines, solar panels, and methanol-powered fuel cells. Unfortunately, the shed was close to our tent and it generated a continuous and evil S-5 t o S -7 buzz across 20m. Disconnecting the co-ax showed the buzz was entering the IC-706 entirely via the antenna. Added to this was "audio QRM": one of the shed's wind turbines had bad bearings, which whined loudly when the wind blew, which was 90% of the time.

We could move neither our Weather Port nor the power shed, so we just had to work with it. Before leaving home we sent Bill, NG3K, who posts IOTA Announced Operations online, our planned operating dates and approximate frequencies, which he posted and passed on to other DX sites, so when we went on the air crowds were waiting!

On 7 July our first "CQ CQ CQ from Round Is., NA-121. This is VE1FA/KL7 standing by" went out on 20m from the Weather Port. Propagation on 20m was poor, but the ops who responded were very excited!

There were many very faint JAs, who would probably have filled our log, but unfortunately for them, Round Island's 1400 foot mountain was exactly between Japan and our antenna, blocking RF up to about 50 degrees elevation. Fortunately for North America and Europe, we had a clear 25-mile wide ocean takeoff to the east from our antenna which was about 100' above sea level.

West coast Vs & Ks were relatively strong and clear, but many central US & EU stations got through also, especially I, D, F, SM, OM, & R ... but strangely, only a single UK station... on the Isle of Man! Our biggest disappointment: no Canadian Maritime stations were logged, although Gary, VE3XN, was there with a good signal...as he always is!

We spent much of our week hiking, photographing, and observing the myriad flowers, seabirds, foxes, Steller sea lions and walrus with our expert, Margaret. The weather changed constantly, from leaden gray skies, strong, cold wind and driving drizzle, to crystal blue skies, warm breezes with magnificent scenery and views in all directions!

Unfortunately, between the attractions and distractions of beautiful Round Island, the power shed buzz, and the poor propagation we only logged 179 QSOs. We were pleased to see that about 60% of our contacts were from outside North America, so our little dipoles and 100W worked pretty well! Already (4 months later) we've received direct paper QSL cards from about half of all the stations logged, including many IOTA Honour Roll members, who were very excited to work a rare new one! Our thanks to those who persisted and made a QSO with us. Our sincere regrets to those who tried unsuccessfully to work us, especially those we almost got before the QSB whisked you away! For a live glimpse of Round Is., Google "Explore walrus cam", and watch the 1500-3000 pound "big boys" lounging on Main Beach and First Beach of this very special island.

## Lucia Da Silva Santos, CT1YH

Some of you, and more so the older YLs, have certainly heard of Lucia CT1YH and I know that many of you have had radio contacts with her along the many years she has been active.

She has been a Radio Amateur for around 70 years now and was also a professional CW operator in the old times when this was one of the most important means of radio communications. Along the years as a very active radio amateur she has accumulated an impressive amount of trophies, diplomas, certificates as well as several important achievements, related to radio communications, contests, etc.

Lucia is my mom and I want to give her the pleasure of sharing some of her glory times with you, because I know that along her 35 years of membership with the YLRL, she has collected very good memories and many friends, that are very dear to her.

Lucia is now 97 years of age and although still completely independent and able to look after herself, she has gone off the air. Her energy and stamina are not the same anymore.

She maintains her QTH in Coimbra, but is now living about 300miles away in Portimão (Algarve-Portugal) the town where I live, in a villa with proper assistance for senior people. Here she is near the family including grandchildren and great-grandchildren. During summer every year she spends some time in Coimbra, but has gone off radio altogether.

Thank you for your time and greetings of the season

Your's sincerely, 73 Rui Tome



Lucia 20 years ago in her Ham shack



Lucia's Trophies



Lucia today

## Batfish and SoS-1

Hello Ladies,

I would like to first thank Michelle, W5MQC, and Wade, KF5IF, for making the 2018 <u>District Five YLRL USS Batfish Get-a-way</u> a fun event. I truly enjoyed meeting everyone that participated and especially Annie, KG5VGA, who is my own age.

I will just briefly cover the USS Batfish YLRL Get-a-way briefly because I am sure Mitchell will speak to it and possibly others. I will also speak to the event that I missed at my local QTH while attending the 2018 District Five YLRL USS Batfish Get-a-way. First the "Fish" and supporting WW2SUB and the Muskogee War Memorial Park (MWMP) is up first.

A little back ground to set the stage. The War Memorial Park in Muskogee, Oklahoma, stays open because of donations and the work the WW2SUB ARC does keeping the maintenance up on the "Fish" and the park. So, please do not take the "Fish" and the MWMP for granted or be upset because they charge a fee for staying overnight. Since we are HAMs we also had the run of the library/break area/kitchen and meeting room. Not a bad deal at all. Too bad the outside movies were cancelled due to the weather. We could not have asked for better weather which was refreshing while putting up the YAGI Saturday morning hi hi. It was raining!

If anyone is interested in the MWMP or the Fish you can find more information by following these two links. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/USSBatfish/">https://www.facebook.com/USSBatfish/</a> and <a href="http://warmemorialpark.org/">https://warmemorialpark.org/</a> and <a href="https://www.ussbatfish.com/">https://warmemorialpark.org/</a> and <a href="https://warmemorialpark.org/paranormal3/">https://warmemorialpark.org/paranormal3/</a> and <a href="https://warmemorialpark.org/paranormalapark.org/paranormal3/">https://warmemorialpark.org/paranormal3/</a> and <a href="https://warmemorialpark.org/paranormalapark.org/paranormalapark.org

In turn I believe Michelle contacted Wade, who basically maintains, provides tours, and deals closely with the MWMP, or possibly Mitch, KE5HWW, who is the WW2SUB president. Again, I am not sure on this point. What I do know is that Michelle was able to coordinate for the YLs to spend the weekend at the MWMP, work off the Fish, as well as work out of the museum in support of WW2SUB's special event "Remembering the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of lost submarines during WWII".

The special event is sad but having QSOs with those that had family on submarines or had been on submarines is a very rewarding experience. There were times people would tell stories or relate experiences. Like my dad says "keep your mouth shut and listen and you can learn a lot" especially from an event like this. I hope to be able to work this special event again and do plan on it.

I will present a very brief overview of the event. We had three operating stations on the Fish Friday night; two in the galley and one in the radio room. The radio room's station was using a 40-6m Radio-wavz hex beam. I am not sure what the other two stations were using. Then on Saturday with Wades' (KF5IF) assistance the WW2SUB antenna trailer was deployed with a tri band YAGI to be used with the station that was moved from the galley to the museum. Lest I forget there was a YL working birdies using an Elk five element Log Periodic hand-held antenna.

Some of the ladies were very experienced and some made their first HF contacts off of the Fish. To those ladies that were participating "great job ladies." For a more information on this event go to the article Michelle posted on the W5NOR website at <a href="https://w5nor.org/batfish">https://w5nor.org/batfish</a>.

Now for the community event I missed to work with a bunch of great YLs off of the Fish. This will be just a small bit about it to bring awareness to this great event.

The event is the "Spirit of Survival" which is a bike race and marathon. The local Lawton Fort Sill area HAMs provide communications with net control and SAG wagons to support the event. If any have had, has, or knows of those with cancer you will see the name is appropriate because the event is about bringing awareness to cancer, cancer victims, and cancer survivors. Not only does it bring awareness but the proceeds go to the Oklahoma cancer centers. More information on the event can be found at <a href="http://www.spiritofsurvival.com/">http://www.spiritofsurvival.com/</a> and <a href="https://www.facebook.com/spiritofsurvival/">https://www.facebook.com/spiritofsurvival/</a>. Please check out the links you may want to participate in the event or volunteer to support it.

N5EVA-Eva

## **Armistice Day Centennial**

First, I want to say hello to all the YLs and give a shout-out and special thanks to Wade (KF5IF) trustee for WW2OK/WW2SUB. If it wasn't for KF5IF I would not have had the opportunity to work the Armistice Day Centennial special event over the Veterans Day weekend.

A quick recap for those that may not had read my submission on "A Tale of a Donated Receiver to WW2SUB". We (K5NAP and I) were asked to take a receiver to the USS Batfish. We had been knocking the idea around going to the USS Batfish during Veterans Day and thought we might be able work the Lost Sub event since the following weekend when two subs were scheduled to be worked was also during the November Sweeps (SSB) and the bands would be extremely crowded. No, darn, but I was invited to work the Armistice Day Centennial.

That was a fantastic invitation and I jumped at the chance to educate folks on Armistice Day, the origins of Veterans Day, to include thanking the veterans and their families for their sacrifice in keeping our country free and assisting other countries in need. Since it was also during the Marine Corps birthday, we also said happy birthday to the Marines and former Marines.

So, K5NAP and myself representing KR8ZE as well as being members of WW2OK/WW2SUB worked the Armistice Day Centennial with KF5IF taking over when we ran out to bring back breakfast. Again, thank you KF5IF for the opportunity and providing a break for use to grab some grub and bring it back to the museum.

Speaking of the museum, we worked out of the museum instead of the USS Batfish, loving referred to as The Fish because there was a scout troop that booked The Fish and showed up early. This meant we did not have the RadioWavz Hex-beam (40-6m) <a href="http://www.radiowavz.com/">http://www.radiowavz.com/</a> or the 80m loop along with the Kenwood 480HX. Now we could had still worked out of The Fish up until the Scouts were hitting the rack, but neither K5NAP or myself wanted to worry about 33 Scouts and handlers being curious or loud, so we worked portable out of the Muskogee War Memorial Museum.

We did use a Kenwood 480SX, A Radiowavz Scout (40-6m), and an end-feed antenna which we were going to use for 160-80m, but by that time the steam was out of KR8ZE. The RadioWavz Scout seemed to work very well and even running barefoot we usually got as good or close to the reports as we gave with a receiving a few better than we gave.

Conditions were not the best Saturday night and then by the time conditions were picking up Sunday it was somewhat difficult finding a clear frequency. Two – three times we established a frequency and had to change when we were getting interference from other stations. We did have a good run of 70 contacts after lunch before we had to break down to beat the darkness this time of year with an over casted sky.

We used the call WW2OK because WW2SUB had been getting a lot of exposure because, well folks like The Fish and the 52 Lost Sub event. There were quite a few that asked about the The Fish and related stories or mentioned family members that were veterans. This was a great event and I am now thinking of ensuring I can work a special event again next year for Veterans Day. Now what should it be called to separate it over stations and special events? If anyone has ideas please let me know.

While KR8ZE was working at making contacts KF5IF and AF5SW were working QSO cards and certificates the entire time K5NAP and myself were up on the radio to include a bit after we shut down Saturday night. What does this mean? It means even though the 52 Lost Sub Special event generates a lot of excitement from the operators and those making contact the small club of WW2OK/WW2SUB has generated a lot of follow-up work.

Our thanks to WW2OK/WW2SUB for hosting the "52 Lost Sub" event and allowing us to work the Armistice Day Centennial, along with everything else it does for the Muskogee Memorial War Museum, and amateur radio.

Eva Knapple N5EVA

Notes	

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