



# *YL-Harmonics*

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



March/April 2018

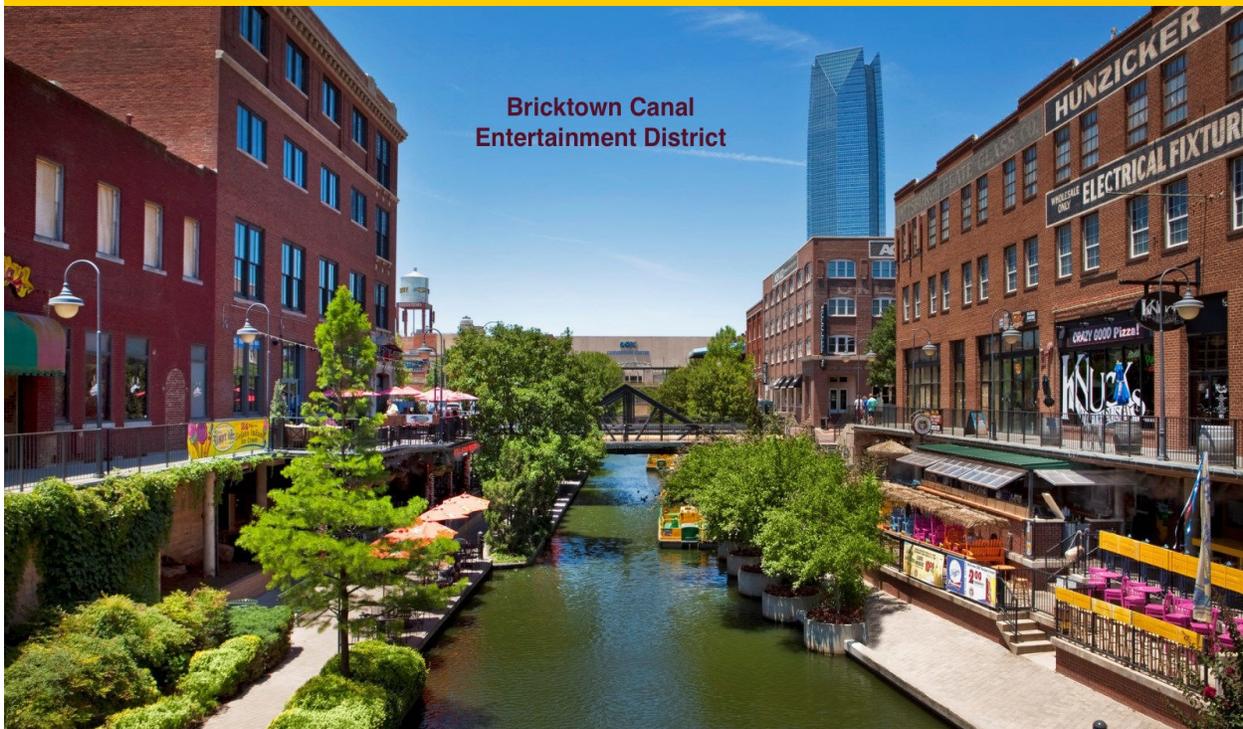
\$2.75

## **It's convention time!**

**Dayton Hamvention May 18-20, Green County Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH**

**Field Day June 23-24, locations all over the US and Canada**

**YLRL National Convention August 3-5, Oklahoma City, OK**



Bricktown Canal  
Entertainment District

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For *YL-Harmonics* **CONTENT** or  
Editorial changes or corrections  
Please contact:  
AE7MB, Margaret Hardwick at  
[REDACTED]

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January/February 2018

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## President's Message de Marilyn Melhorn, AF7BI

29139 NE Hammond Ct  
Battle Ground, WA 98604

Spring is here and it's finally starting to warm up. Coming from the Pacific Northwest, USA, most of us here are happy about that. The club my OM and I belong to has already started Field Day meetings and we're also getting ready for Seapac, the PNW's largest ham fair. It's in Seaside Oregon. My OM and I go every year. Those of you that are in the area please try and come. It will be good to meet you there. We have a YLRL table and there is also a YLRL Luncheon. I'm the speaker at the luncheon this year, too.

I mentioned in my last letter and thought I would mention again, that we have a YLRL Convention coming up the beginning of August in Oklahoma City, OK. I hope many of you are going to make it and we can all have eyeball QSOs while there. Michelle, W5MQC, and her committee are doing a great job planning this event. Thank you Michelle for your hard work.

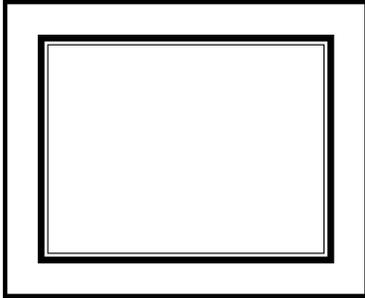
I just got back from Honolulu a couple weeks ago. My OM and I try and take a vacation every year around our anniversary which is March 1. But this year he couldn't make it because he was in classes. Well we couldn't cancel the plans so I went alone. So there I was in Honolulu and able to do whatever I wanted. I walked all over (I'm a big walker) and I even climbed Diamond Head! That was really a lot of fun. Not only that but I also went to the Cheesecake Factory twice for cheesecake!! I have to admit those were 2 of the highlights right up there with Diamond Head! One thing I didn't get to do though is go on the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor and call out on their radios. We've done it before so it wasn't terribly disappointing, but I was hoping to call out this trip. So I'm home now and basking in the joy of that vacation.

We got a tower put up a few months ago and have been getting on the radio more and more and able to get further and further out. It's Hygain TH6-DXX, 10 element, 10, 15, 20 meter. And it's up about 70ft. We also have a dipole that does 20, 40, 80 meters. So we're covered. It's so much fun!

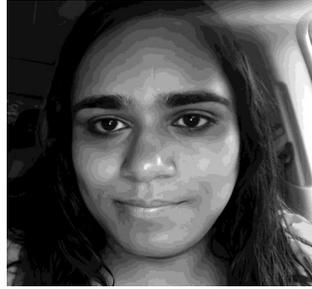
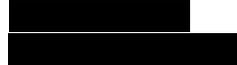
I do hope you all are starting to think about what you can do in your own clubs to get involved with what that club is doing. With summer coming up it's a good time to start planning.

33, Marilyn, AF7BI, YLRL 'Chief'

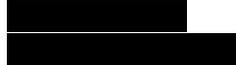




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**US Districts 1-10, KH6,  
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**Vice President's Advisory Committee**

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



## New YLRL Members de Anne Manna, WB1ARU

614 Webster St.  
Hanover, MA 02339-1180



### DISTRICT 1

#### Rebecca Addison K1BKY



Rebecca holds a General license and is a Library Assistant. She is a member of Franklin Co ARC. Her OM is Aaron, KC1CXX.

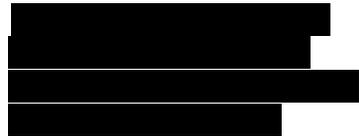
#### Jeanne A. Dodge KC1DCQ



Jeanne holds a Technician license and is a Teacher. She is a member of Franklin Co ARC and active on 2m.

### DISTRICT 4

#### Julie N. Collis NZ2X



Julie holds an Extra license and is an Administrative Manager. She is a member of Digital Modes Club and 30 Meters Digital Group. She is active on all bands and enjoys DX. Her new favorite is 17m. Other hams in her family include OM Jimmy, K4SOT, and Mary, KK4MGG. Former calls include KE4VLP and KV4DU.

#### Dot Timmerman AC4HH



Dot holds an Extra license and is Retired. She is a member of the Chattanooga ARC. She is active on 2 and 440. Her OM is Ben, AC4HG.

#### Marie A. Kroll KM4MSO



Marie holds a Technician license and is a College Instructor. She is a member of Morehead ARS. She is active with her OM Robert, N3QED.

#### Kerry Dunn KN4JAK



Kerry holds a Technician license and is a Radiography Educator. She is newly licensed and looking forward to becoming active. Her OM is Matthew, KN4DLZ.

**DISTRICT 5**

**Melissa Ruth WA5MEL**

[Redacted]

Melissa holds a Technician license and is a Consultant, Author, and Speaker. She is newly licensed, using 2m and 70cm. She is a member of Texas EAC and South East Texas AC. David, WA5DAV, is her OM.

**DISTRICT 7**

**Amy Haptonstall AG7GP**

[Redacted]

Amy holds an Extra license and is a Home Health Caregiver. She is a member of Cascade ARE and Rogue Valley ARC. She has participated in a few contests and is eager to work YLs. Robin, N7HAP, is her OM.

**DISTRICT 9**

**Janet Maggart N9ZKU**

[Redacted]

Janet holds a Technician license and does Inside Sales. She is a member of CLARA and her former call was VE3WLT. VE3HAI, Ann is her mother. welcome them!

**DISTRICT VE**

**Carla Candler VE5YAK**

[Redacted]

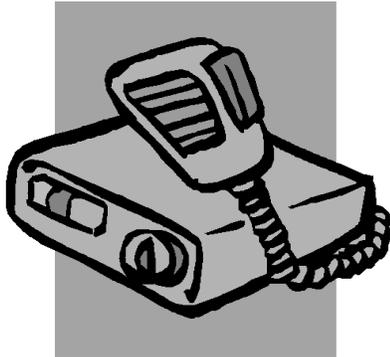
Carla holds a Basic + Honours license and is an Administrative Assistant. She lives with OM Dave, VE5DLC, son Mitchell, VA5KMG, and 2 more sons on their family farm. She became interested in ham radio from reading Hetta Coffey mysteries by Jinx Schwartz.

**If the new member is in your district, please welcome them!**

Coming to a Location Near You

Field Day 2018

June 23 and 24



## 2018 YLRL Convention

Hi Ladies, I hope we get to meet each of you at the 2018 YLRL Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma this summer. The convention will be August 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>.

OKC is a short 15 minute drive from the airport, 3 minutes from the Amtrak station and a nice drive for those driving in. Oklahoma City is where IH40 and IH35 cross, right in the middle of USA.

The convention will be at the Sheridan Hotel in Downtown Oklahoma City. All classes and meetings will take place in the One Broadway Ballroom. There is plenty of room. All YL's are welcome (we will have a membership table for those that need to finalize their membership or renew). We are going to have some great speakers, meetings, some learning sessions and a little fun!

The OKC Sheridan has a lounge, coffee bar and a fantastic restaurant. Nearby is the OKC Bricktown Canal with lots of restaurants, museum's, and other attractions. From wine tasting to zip lining, there is something for everyone of every age.

We will start Thursday evening with a meet and greet in the Aria Lounge. Registration opens Friday at 8:00 am. We will hear from our current President Marilyn Melhorn, AF7BI. Ria, N2RJ, will talk about digital modes. Andrea Slack, K2EZ, is going to get us all Rovering! Our Banquet will be on Friday evening with Nancy Hall, KC4IYD, our Keynote Speaker! Dinner will be both Chicken and Beef and plenty of vegetables choices.

Saturday morning will be an early start for the Board Members and District Representatives. They have a meeting at 7:30 am in the upper level of the Ballroom. 9:00 am will be the YLRL General Meeting. This is followed up with Carol Milazzo, KP4MD. She will get us all ready to go on a remote vacation with her class "DeExpedition Holiday Style".

After lunch will have roundtables where YLs can help other YLs in all areas of Amateur Radio, from setting up your first rig, logging your contacts, Echolink, DMR, FT8, programming your radio, to antenna's. Elmira's are here to help! Are you ready to upgrade? We will have VE's available for a test session (give us the heads up, so we can have the paperwork ready).

There is so much to do in OKC. Judi Voeller, N5KUO, and Leah Ohse, W3LEO, are going to start a blog about them. Then we can decide which activities you'll be interested in.

For more information check out the convention website at [ylrlconvention.org](http://ylrlconvention.org). If you are looking for someone to share a ride and room with we have an online forum as well.

We are working on prizes. If you have something you would like to donate or have connections with a vendor, send me an email [w5mqc@yahoo.com](mailto:w5mqc@yahoo.com).

See you in August!  
Michelle Carey, W5MQC

## Member News

**From Robin, KJ7BI:** Good Day to All! Today happens to be an especially nice day, weather-wise. I should turn the dirt in the raised beds, but no, I am spending the day on the computer... While perusing the internet, I discovered some interesting amateur radio news pertaining to the NW. FISTS Northwest, call sign K7FFF, is the first FISTS-affiliated club in Oregon. The club has a special QSL card, so you might attempt a CW QSO! There is an absolutely superb calendar of NW ham radio events at <http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm>. The 2018 calendar is the most complete that I have seen, while there are several events listed annually through 2025. Additionally, I would like to trumpet Theresa Aniceto, DW3TRZ, from the Philippines. She truly is a proponent of female hams! 33 & 73 de Robin, KJ7BI

**From Marilyn, AF7BI:** Dan, KF7BHM, and I flew into San Diego at the beginning of Dec. I wanted to visit my parents and we wanted to go on the USS Midway and make calls from the radio room. We were able to do both. We had a great time with the man that took us into the radio room. It was exciting using these radios and hearing all the stories from KI2HAL. He has been involved with the Midway radios for years. After that, we flew into Honolulu. A couple days later we were having breakfast with OMs from the USS Missouri ARC. Yes, there is an active club on the Missouri. WH6Q took us aboard and I was able to make contacts and even made one using CW. The contact understood me! It was exciting for me as this was my first contact using CW. So, those are my experiences on the ships. Sure hope we can do the same on other ships!

**From Barbara, AC7UH:** Margaret Hardwick, AE7MB, was the recipient of one of the major awards at the Clark County Amateur Radio Club Awards Banquet last weekend. She received the Sparky Sherman Public Service Award. She received a small plaque to keep and the larger traveling plaque that lists all of the recipients of the award since the club started giving it in 1982. The award was developed to give recognition to members of the club who are distinctive in Community Service. The Clark County, WA ARES EC and I were each given the Board's Leadership award. I was honored to receive the award, which was developed in 2013 to recognize superior leadership in the many club activities and management. This is the first year the Board has awarded two Leadership awards and I am in the very good company of John Allen, N9YQ.

**From Claudia, KL0HI:** Hello YL's. First of all, congratulations to all new officers on your wins. I know the new President, Marilyn, AF7BI, and Vice President, Barbara, AC7UH, and know they will be very helpful to the YLRL organization. Beautiful here on the Southern Oregon coast today. When we came back from Alaska last fall you couldn't see across the street because of the Chetco Bar Fire. It started as a ¼ acre fire and the US Forest service, in their wisdom, chose not to fight because it was in the "wilderness area". The fire burned 191.125 acres, an area about as big as Portland, our paper said. A couple of private homes burned to the ground, then they decided to put it out. No more comment on that, IT IS OUT... Radio down this way, especially 20 meters, has been nothing to crow about and I have heard nothing on 14.292 for the Alaska Pacific Net in weeks. OM has checked all cables, antenna, etc. and everything is OK so I guess it is solar problems... Poor fishermen down here have had a bad crab season, which closed several times for different reasons, and finally opened two days ago. Hopefully, for them, the season will be plentiful.

**Carol W8CSH** completed her first semester at Bowling Green State University with a 4.0 GPA. She was very excited to make the Dean's list. This semester she is taking 2 film classes along with Economics and French. Meanwhile, I, **Nancy, KC4IYD** got a B+ in the Combustion Processes graduate course I was taking as I'm involved in combustion science research at work in addition to fluid physics.

**Carol KI8IM** sent me a note to say she doesn't have any new YL news but was remembering the old days when the girls contested against the Cincinnati guys (Bean counters) - this was in reference to a Nov Sweepstakes competition we had - and the Chinese carry out lunches the Chix YL club used to have at the home of **May, N8MZT**.

**Doshia, KB0NAS**, writes: I heard from **Rita, NE0DB**, in Pueblo West, Colorado: I'm thrilled to report that the Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club (Pueblo West, Colorado) has six YLs out of a total of 45 members. Of these, there are five YL/OM teams in our local club. I try diligently pursuing YLs in my area to become more involved with the hobby.



Of particular interest is **Trina, KE0PIE**, who is visually impaired, passed her Tech License recently (with flying colors). Trina is a real trooper; she is a Physical Therapist and a Master Gardener, and not afraid to talk on the radio. She is working toward her General License.

I'm also proud that Jim, NE0DA, and I are a YL/OM Team in YL-ISSB ... member numbers 17349 and 17350. As well as being a member of YLRL and ARRL, I also became a member of BYLARA.

Rita sends 33. Thanks, Rita.

How many of us, I wonder, participate in amateur radio with our husbands? Not everyone, I know. The first ham I ever met (I remember already knowing her when she gave me a wonderful turquoise ring for the Christmas right after my 6<sup>th</sup> birthday) was a co-worker of my father, Dorothy Parkin, K0KHR/SK. She was never married, but was active in radio until not long before she passed away in the 2000's. Another of my early ham acquaintances was Margaret Koerner, K0IQ/SK. I first met her on the air when she did a phone patch so I could talk with my family when I was in the Peace Corps. When I met her in person, some years later, she was widowed, but still active. Then there was Ellie Van Winkle, N0QCX/SK, who made her ham participation her own as the supervisor of the BARC Juniors and Elmers. She never had any ambition to test past her Tech, despite encouraging hundreds of youth to do so, saying she could do what was important to her—listen for her kids on 2 meters. Her husband Rip, (yes, Rip Van Winkle) was an expert electrical engineer with a workshop that was the envy of every ham who knew him.

As for myself, my husband and I tend to have similar likes as far as modes of operation. However, he sometimes gets up in the middle of the night to work the radio, and I never do. I really enjoy meeting the people I talk with/listen to, and the topic being presented is secondary (which is one reason I really look forward to the Convention in August!), he is most interested in the topic of a meeting.

How do you and your significant other participate in radio together? How are you different? Drop a line and let me know at [KB0NAS@ARRL.net](mailto:KB0NAS@ARRL.net).

33 from District 10,  
Doshia, KB0NAS

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**Brenda Brown, AC1EJ** (new upgrade to Extra)

1. Passed Extra exam at W1YU, the Amateur Radio Club at Yale, on March 3.
  2. Participated with other mentors in 4 training sessions for the Techs and Generals who were studying to take their exams the same day I took mine. My own mentor is my OM, K1RSU.
  3. Participated in previous VE sessions at W1YU, signing exams for new techs. I am certified VE for ARRL and W5YI.
  4. Complete list of UHF nets that I participate in, all on 443500, the SPARC repeater:  
Sundays: CT State ARES net  
Mondays: Ct Regional ARES net  
Tuesdays: W1YU Yale net  
Wednesdays: SPARC info and talk net - I am net control once a month.
  5. Thursdays: I also participate weekly in the YL net on Echo Link.
  6. Daily discussions with my OM about the system of antennas that we will be installing at home. We plan a long wire for HF strung out to a tree. We plan to move our UHF antenna to the roof. We will also have a probe on the roof. We are making numerous measurements and considering many options. It is a slow process and will take a few months before we have things set up, but we are doing it right.
  7. We are working with our local maker space, Make Haven, to give New Haven its own web sdr, and radio antennas for Make Haven. Again it is a slow process as they just moved to a new location and are just getting set up in the new building.
  8. We regularly attend meetings of SPARC, MARRA, VARG, and W1YU and occasionally make it to MARS in Portland CT.
  9. I finally finished my Core 4 FEMA certification for ARES, which is also a requirement for VARG, the Veterans Administration Radio Group. I am secretary/treasurer of VARG, which is associated with the EOC at the West Haven VA Medical Center. We are learning about their Resilient HF network and organizing their radio room.
  10. I am practicing Morse Code on various iPhone apps- just started focusing on that as my next goal after passing Extra.
- 33 Brenda

**Niece Haynes, KA1ULN**, writes:

**I love this hobby.** I needed some nuts and bolts for a task I was working on and upon arriving at the hardware store Girl Scouts were there selling Girl Scout cookies. IMMEDIATELY, MY HEAD GOES **BINGO MORE YLS**. I actually don't like Girl Scout cookies. When I came out they asked me if I wanted to buy cookies, immediately said no thanks, BUT I would love to come and talk to the group about Amateur Radio. The scout leader asked what kinds of things do Amateur radio Operators do? I mentioned Boston Marathon (all the communication), Emergency Management and we work with FEMA and MEMA (mass emergency management Agency and lots more. I said, "but I would like to show the Girl Scouts something about Morse Code. I gave her a quick demonstration of Morse Code. She loved it. She said that is great we are now teaching girls how to be analytical and survey everything. We are also teaching them how to detect cryptic codes. So your Morse Code would come in very handy. WELL, I went to the meeting with two straight keys attached to a 4" x 4" light. I had asked the scout leader to print out International Morse Code for everyone. I had 2 keys for 16 girls and leaders. I showed them how to use the keyers. I first said A sounds like DIT DAH when you use the keyers. So and A is a DOT and a DASH, dit dah. I went thru A,B,C. with them. they caught on very fast and loved it... I asked who wants to try to code your name. one Girl Scout was very aggressive and put her hand up first. She took the key and keyed and said Dah Dah, Dit Dah, Dit Dah Dit, Dah dit Dah Dah. MARY. I asked them to write their name at the bottom of the page and then try it on the keys. They were very excited about it. They started competing and coding other stuff. They realized this is cryptic. I also mentioned a couple of apps which will let you send code to your friends

instead of words. I did not want to bore them too much so I let them use the keys until my time was up. I tried not to talk too much. I wanted them to talk.

Walking out the door one of the scout leaders asked me if I was coming back, I responded only if I am invited. I would highly recommend getting in touch with your local Girl Scouts and doing the same thing. **ONLY** show them code. Also, **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE, DO NOT USE HAM RADIO. SAY AMATEUR RADIO.** They do not understand ham radio. Use Amateur all the time from now on. Congrats to Rebecca Addison, K1BKY, for passing her Extra on Saturday 3/10/18  
33 Niece



**Ria ,N2RJ**, writes: Greetings one and all! What a wild winter it has been. Thankfully it should all be over soon and then before you know it, it will be Dayton Hamvention and the YLRL convention in OKC! I'm hoping to see many of you ladies there, as well as at Dayton. We had a wonderful turnout at the YL forum at Dayton in 2017. Hopefully we'll have more this year than last. I'll also be speaking at Dayton about remote radio operation at the K6UFO remote forum. The forum is at 9:15AM on Friday in Room 2 and moderated by K6UFO. See you there!

Winter is also contest season, as I have been contesting up a storm here, with two ARRL DX contests (CW and SSB) and the North American QSO Party for both modes as well. It isn't over until the log checking is done, but I think I did pretty well. Our antennas did get bent temporarily from the ice and snow but we largely got over it. Some did not fare so well with reports of hexbeams and other antennas being destroyed by the heavy, wet snow and winds.

Speaking of contests, quite a few YLs were on during the ARRL DX contests and NAQP, and of course the YLRL YL-OM contest. It is wonderful to hear our DX and North American sisters on the air and working the contests and DX. There was also activity for International Women's Day on March 8.

Hamfest season is coming around the bend, so expect YLRL to be at several hamfests in NJ and NY. More details to come.

Finally, we are planning a small YL get together in district 2, so stay tuned. It would be nice to see everyone. Maybe we can coordinate with a local hamfest. Let me know your preference. I'll be putting out a poll to the district very soon. Bring your friends, and please encourage more YLs to be part of this wonderful hobby and the YLRL. This is not limited to district 2 ladies, mind you, so if you want to drive up here, you are more than welcome.

33

Ria, N2RJ

**Linda Robinson, W1MP,**

Here's my story. As a kid, I had always wanted to learn Morse Code, partly because I had uncles who fought in WWII, I even still have a practice signal coder given to me by one of them. In the 70s one of our sons, totally on his own, joined ARRL and was trying to study for his license, he was quite young and we were quite busy with 3 growing children. It unfortunately never happened and I still feel badly that he didn't get enough support from us to become licensed. He is the only one of our 3 that someday might actually get into amateur radio, when his children are grown.

Now fast forward to 1993 and my OM got his license and worked his way to Amateur Extra, a very proud and exciting day for us. We had a 2M mobile rig in the car and he would do a lot of listening but not a lot of talking. And I'd always be nagging at him to put out his call and get into one of the repeater conversations, they were quite active back then. One day after pestering him about this, he said, if you want to talk so much, why don't you get your own license.

What a challenge! This was in the days when there was significant presence of Morse Code involved. I thought, I'm too old to learn something new like that, practically a new language. But I plunged ahead and signed up for a course being taught at a local school by a local old time ham. There were 4 other potential future YLs in the class, so 5 of us in a class of probably 10 or 15. That's pretty good! 4 of us YLs stuck it out and completed the class and we've never lost that connection to each other. When we tested, they all made tech but I only passed the Novice Q&A plus the 5 wpm Morse Code portion and ended up with a Novice license. KB1BMO was my first call and we had a local ham that was right on with the phonetics, mine was Big Mouth Operator. Little did he know.

Looking back on it, it was probably the best thing that happened to me because my first HF contacts were CW and I'm pretty proud of that. I still remember my very first contact with an OM in Montreal, we had a great rag chew and he was very patient and encouraging. I still try to get on the air for Straight Key Night, even with other keys now available, that's still my favorite.

I went on from there to pass Tech, Advanced and then really pushed to get my Amateur Extra while 20 wpm code was still required. I knew there was a change coming to license requirements and I wanted to be tested while 20 wpm was part of the AE license. Next year will be my quarter-century anniversary and when I originally was licensed and learned about the Quarter Century club, it seemed so far away that I wondered if I'd still be around.

After ARRL, the first groups I joined were WRONE and YLRL and I've been a member of all 3 ever since. Sometimes, maybe even now, I'm the only Vermont member. I made lifelong friends through WRONE and a small group of us who were part of WWV, Wireless Women of Vermont, used make regular trips to ARRL HDQ to operate at W1AW, CW and SSB. Incredible fun!

I am fairly active in the hobby although not on the air as much as at our old QTH. Propagation here has always been a problem and even with radio and antenna improvements we've never achieved the same level. I am VT Section OOC, a VE, ARES member and at one time FEMA, Bulletin Station and WAS HF Awards Manager. I am the trustee & admin of call sign W1WWV (Wireless Women of Vermont), and admin of W1ARF (Amateur Radio Fun), our family club call.

33, Linda W1MP

**Carla, VE5YAK**, writes: Hello! I'm Carla and I love to read. In fact, that's how I got interested in amateur radio. One day I started a new novel, "Just Add Water" by Jinx Schwartz. The main character is Hetta Coffey, a single gal from Texas and a civil engineer by trade. Due to some crazy job-related circumstances, Hetta sold off her money-pit of a house and bought herself a live-aboard yacht. A contracting job saw her sailing from San Francisco to the Sea of Cortez in Mexico. As Hetta didn't always follow the rules, she got herself tangled up with the Mexican bad guys. While in Mexico, she used her amateur radio to get weather updates (via the early morning Sonrisa net which we can't hear from home) but just as often, she used the radio to get herself out of trouble!

I didn't understand amateur radio at first and started asking hubby questions. This got him interested, so he started studying and in Spring 2016 he got licensed. Our oldest son and I picked up the books that summer, but sadly neither of us stuck with it. As we listened to Dave, VE5DLC, make contacts on the radio at home and at the park while camping, I knew I wanted to get my license.

Fall of 2017 I saw an ad on Facebook about a radio course in Swift Current at the library. You could attend in person or online, perfect! Our son and I joined up and we started studying again. We plugged away over the winter, attending weekly radio class and studying on our own. It was late January 2018 and finally I was ready to write (due to his school and cadet commitments, he will be writing his exam early March).

My callsign is VE5YAK. Why YAK? Is your first thought a big hairy beast? Or maybe a chit-chat session with friends? Actually, I love to kayak! Check out my QRZ page and you'll see a couple photos of the South Saskatchewan River where I kayak during the summer. Nothing is more peaceful than paddling the calm water in the evening.

My goals? My first goal was to get licensed and it took me two years to accomplish that. I qualified with Basic with Honours which allows me all of the HF bands. And now I'm trying to understand Echo-link. I do know we need to construct a 2m antenna to connect to a repeater (when the weather warms up and we can comfortably work outside). And our 5W handheld radios aren't powerful enough to connect to our closest IRLP repeater (about 80km away) so we need to upgrade those, too. And since old-school hams know Morse Code so I want to learn that as well. This may take me awhile but for now I can copy M K and U, but sadly there sure aren't a lot of words that use those 3 letters ;) So my amateur radio learning is far from complete.

My first official contact was Brian, AI6US. Oh my I was nervous...what was my call sign, don't forget to key the mic before talking, don't mumble ... that kind of thing. Thank you Dave for (holding my hand) standing by and prompting me along that first call!

I freely admit I've never been much of a historian but my favorite contact so far was with WW2SUB. It was a special event on the USS Batfish, one of many over the next four years to commemorate the 52 boats & crew lost during WW2. It took me the weekend to break through the pileup but I finally logged the contact.

73 from VE5YAK

**Susanne, VE7IM**, writes: Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, both past and present, as YLRL would not exist without you and your time, your effort and your expertise. Our thanks to Margaret who is helping Cheryl with the YL-Harmonics. We are all looking forward to receiving our copies and keeping up with all the news. Thanks also to Val and Yvonne for their super work in keeping the Website updated, current and interesting. And a very special thank you to those who are planning and organizing the Convention in Oklahoma City this coming August !!

By the time you read this the YL-OM Contest and GOTA, in February, and the CLARA Chatter Party, in March, will be in the past. I hope many of you managed to find time to enter both and were lucky enough to make many contacts. Make sure you submit your logs, no matter how few contacts you make. They give the organizers an indication of how many were actually interested and participating. Looking forward to the Convention in Oklahoma City in August !! We had CLARA's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash last summer and now another happy gathering this coming summer. God willing, I hope to meet many of you there. Life is good. 33 Suzanne, VE7IM

**Ann, VE3HAI**, writes: She hopes everyone had a great Christmas and is looking forward to 2018. Ann's daughter, Jean, came for a visit following a meeting of Parks Managers in Ottawa in January. Some idiot came to the meeting very ill with the flu and gave it to everyone. Yes, Jean left it behind when she returned to Canmore, Alberta. Ann, who did have the flu shot last Fall, was house-bound for a couple of weeks. Not so bad really in this weather. Toronto experienced record cold and several dumps of snow. So, Ann is eagerly looking forward to Spring. It can't come soon enough for her. Ann also hopes to see everyone at the YLRL convention in August. 33 de Ann, VE3HAI

**Elizabeth, VE7YL**, writes: A miracle arrived in my post box yesterday! In 2011 I worked an Italian Island which was an new IOTA contact for me. I immediately sent off a QSL card, return envelope and US green stamps - NO reply - twice more I tried again - this was getting expensive - still no results and then I got the brilliant idea that I would send the card to a YL I sponsor into CLARA - Ruth IT9ESZ - and asked her if she would go around to the home of the QSL manager, pound on the door, and ask for a card. Then came the miracle and on Friday last week there was the envelope from Ruth enclosing the QSL card I wanted. I literally jumped up and down with glee.

It has been a dull and very wet winter but now in early Feb. things are beginning to stir in the garden. Am looking forward to golf but first the course has to dry up. Hope everyone enjoys spring - a lovely time of the year! ve7yl.

**Heather, VE3HQH**, writes: I was just outside for a walk and noticed that my tulips on the south side of the house are up about 3/4 of an inch, this is much too early since I know that winter is not over yet. At least whatever snow comes now, will keep them warm. I've had a good winter and have kept well except for one cold that didn't last too long.

I took part in the YL-OM contest and had a ball, no great score but that didn't matter. Now I'm working on the YLRL Favorite Song and the CLARA 2018 Challenge, the object is to work as many YL's as possible in the year, but only working the same YL, on the same band, twice in a month. Hope everyone will try their hand at these ones.

Valentine's went well, very busy but no hitches, just lots of flowers delivered. We're still square dancing until the end of May then we get the 5th wheel out and start the summer dancing/camping season.

All the best to everyone, and enjoy the sunshine. 33, Heather, VE3HQH

**Val, VE5AQ**, writes: Winter in Saskatchewan was not as bad as it was everywhere else in Canada. Moose Jaw, which is in the Southern part of the province, was minus snow. I think we had about 2 inches from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to end of March. So farmers here in the south are worried that they won't have the moisture in the soil that they need for their crops. Here, I am also worried about moisture. All I can hope is that we get rain in May like they say we are going to get, and get enough to fill my 2-250-gal water tanks. That will be enough water to water the flowers, and the few veggies that I put in the garden. Also, I am hoping that we can finish doing our well so that we can have a green lawn., otherwise it will be brown like last year.

I am still debating on coming to Oklahoma in August. Right now, we are just waiting to see how the rest of the family is doing. Some of you met my Aunt and Uncle at CLARA's 50<sup>th</sup> last summer. My uncle's health has been questionable most of the winter, so, it is a wait and see, but on that note: I am busy making a door-prize for the convention, and will send it off to Michelle, just in case I can't make it. Even if I can, I won't have to pack it in the suitcase and risk the chance of it bending (it's supposed to be flat). That is all I am going to say about it. You will just have to wait and see.

So, now you are all up to date on me, hope you all have a lovely spring and if you are like me can hardly wait to get into the garden. Oh, how I love my gardening.

33 Val, VE5AQ

### **VA1YL Helen**

We are having a busy winter. We flew off to Panama to visit our daughter on her boat in San Blas Panama. We had a wonderful trip although I lost my Fitbit! As soon as we got back we were signed up to teach a ham radio class 60 miles away. So far we have been lucky that the roads have been good for each trip. The first weekend was Thinking Day on the Air – when Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are encouraged to get on ham radio and talk to other Guides and Scouts. I had 39 girls and women come in on the weekend. After a few medical appointments things are quieting down!

### **Helen VA1YL's trip to Panama**

Helen, VA1YL, and Fred, VE1FA, have a daughter, Margaret, VE2ZOO, who has a sailboat in the Caribbean. In February, Fred and Helen flew to Panama City to visit with Margaret on her boat – "SV Drummer". They had a wonderful visit with Margaret and saw some wonderful Panama things.

One of the things Fred did was check out Margaret's ICOM 735, which she inherited from her parents when she got the boat. She doesn't use it much as a ham operator but she uses it to check into the Caribbean Net.

We also went on an awesome hike into the jungle with Lisa, a marvellous tour guide. We came back in the river, sliding down waterfalls and swimming across pools.



Rio Cidre was having a traditional ceremony which we were invited to.

We got to snorkel on lots of coral reefs. The latest one was just a few feet below the surface, which was good for me because I am not brave enough to dive with the snorkel.

We have about 1000 pictures!

We did see bits of the canal and a bit of the Soberania National Park. We were supposed to do a four hour hike there but the malaria medication I took made me very sick and our guide wouldn't take us on the hike.

*VE1FA, VE2ZOO, and VA1YL*

## NASA on the AIR

Hi everyone, below is a general article that was posted on 11/22/2017 on the ARRL News and Feature site and featured in QST. It highlights a year long NASA on the Air event where the different NASA centers will be operating on the air. As president of the NASA Glenn Amateur Radio Club, NA8SA, I will also be on the air with members of my club. I'm willing to set up a schedule if someone wants to specifically contact our club station. Here are some other cool links

<https://nasaontheair.wordpress.com/> NASA On the Air website

<https://www.grc.nasa.gov/na8sa/> NASA Glenn Amateur Radio Club

Nancy, kc4iyd/8

### **Year-Long NASA On The Air Event Kicks off on December 11/22/2017**

The Amateur Radio clubs at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (**NASA**) centers around the US have invited the Amateur Radio community to join the NASA On The Air (**NOTA**) special event. NOTA gets under way in December 2017 and continues through December 2018. In addition to being the agency's 60th anniversary, 2018 will mark 50 years since NASA orbited the first human around the moon, and 20 years since the first elements of the International Space Station (ISS) were launched into low-Earth orbit.

Starting on Monday, December 11, 2017 (UTC), Amateur Radio club stations at various NASA centers and facilities will be on the air with special event operations to celebrate these monumental achievements, as well as current milestones. Some clubs will offer commemorative QSL cards, and a special certificate will be available indicating the number of NASA club stations worked on various bands and modes.

"We plan to have a web-based system for you to check your points total and download a printable certificate at the end of the event in December 2018," the NASA announcement said. "Points will be awarded for each center worked on each band and mode (phone, CW, digital, and 'space' modes — satellites, meteor scatter, EME, ISS APRS)." That would, of course, include contacts with any of the Amateur Radio stations on the ISS.

Key anniversaries during NOTA include the 45th anniversary of Apollo 17 on December 11, 2017, which kicks off the event; NASA's founding on July 29, 1958; the 20th anniversary of the ISS first element launch on November 20, 1998; the 20th anniversary of the ISS Node 1 Launch on December 4, 1998, and the 50th anniversary of Apollo 8 — launched on December 21, 1968, and returned on December 27 — marking the end of the event.

Ham radio clubs at various NASA facilities will sponsor their own special events to commemorate and celebrate specific events. "We hope to be on the air for casual contacts and contests as well. All contacts with NASA club stations will count toward your total," the announcement said. "QSL cards can be requested from each club you work and details will be on the individual QRZ.com profile page for each club call sign."

**More information** is on the NASA On The Air website. Participating Amateur Radio clubs, and the NASA On The Air (NOTA) event are independent of — and not officially sponsored by — NASA. — *Thanks to **Rob Suggs**, KB5EZ, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center Amateur Radio Club (NN4SA), and **Kevin Zari**, KK4YEL, NASA Kennedy Space Center Amateur Radio Club (NIKSC).*



## **Webmistress Message de Val Lemko, VE5AQ**

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ve4aq@sasktel.net  
(306) 693-6127

### **Website Report:**

Well Spring is in the air! At least it should be by the time you read this YL Harmonic. So in saying that, I will say congratulations to all of our newly elected Officers. A bit late yes, but never the less, thanks to all the YLs who took on new responsibilities within the YL organization. Thanks also to the past officers. You all did outstanding jobs. I have the website all up today, except for some pictures of officers that we don't have. If you have already sent them to Margaret for the YL Harmonics, then I am sure she will send them on to me so that I can use them.

Several of the Officers and myself are working diligently to get PayPal onto the website, and actually I am hoping that by the time you read this, it is already on and functioning. The only thing that I ask of all members, is that when membership dues are due, please get things filled in and sent in when they are due, not 6 or 8 months down the road. I say this because one of the Radio Organizations that I am a member of, found that folks decided that they didn't have to send in the money on time because it was PayPal, and trust me, it really messes up the book-keeping. I know this is not my area, but please let's all just be on time when things are due. Other than that, again, I ask that if you have something wonderful to share that you send it to me and I will get it put on the website. I can't keep the site fresh and vibrant without you. Thanks so very much, stay healthy, and keep on the radio-band conditions will improve eventually.

33 Val, VE5AQ and Yvonne, ZR6TBL

### **Changes and Corrections**

Carol Laferty ,K4SAF, has a new email : ██████████

Sara Lyon, AB7PS, has a new address: 508 Milroy St. NW, Olympia, WA, 98502

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**Note:** please make your check or money order payable to **YLRL, Inc.** All items are postpaid except for DX airmail. For DX airmail please add \$10.00 per order. International Postal Money Orders are requested, if possible.

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