

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club  
 meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the  
 Bell County Communications Center, 798 West Avenue O, in Belton**

# The President's Rant...

Gerald Richmond, N5ZXJ



Closing out another year, 2013. What a year it has been... Notable events; Boston Marathon bombing, Oklahoma tornadoes, Government shutdown, the Boston Red Sox winning the World Series, a new Pope, continuing conflict in the world, and yet the list goes on... trials and tribulations all around us, but we move ahead and into a new year... 2014.

Anyway, I want to thank the members of the 2013 board for their service to CTARC, and to the 2014 board to continue the work of the organization as we start 2014. What will 2014 bring us?? It is an open book awaiting history to be written into it. Let us see what it brings. I have some thoughts on where I would like to take the club in 2014 and we can discuss them in January at our first meeting. Things to do at the meetings, fun projects for meetings, alternate places or days to have get-togethers, like we did several years ago, monthly Saturday breakfasts and so forth.

First thing I want to touch upon: Rumors!! Rumors sink ships, destroy friendships and cause a lot of mistrust amongst people. A rumor is circulating that, "...CTARC's membership and treasury will be absorbed by TARC and CTARC will cease to exist..." OK folks, where ever this came from it is not true!!! It is completely false information to which I will not and do not condone! CTARC will continue to exist until such time that it can no longer support itself or amateur radio goes to the wayside of communications as a whole.

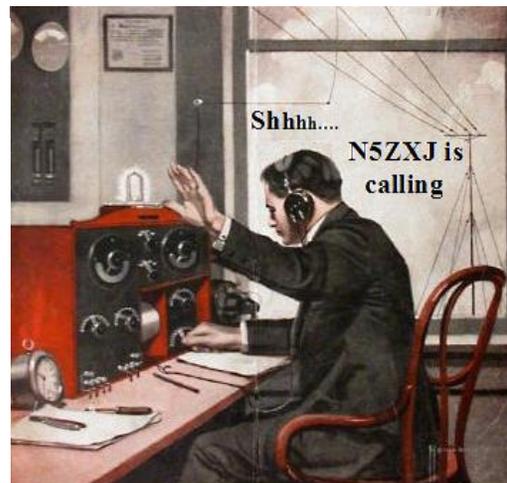
The ARRL will be celebrating 100 years of service to the amateur radio community during 2014, with a year long opportunity to work the ARRL special event stations from every state.

Skywarn is coming up and I would strongly encourage you to attend one of these free training sessions as it comes to your area.

Ham fests, VE sessions, Field Day are all just around the corner. And it's that time of year where club membership dues are due.

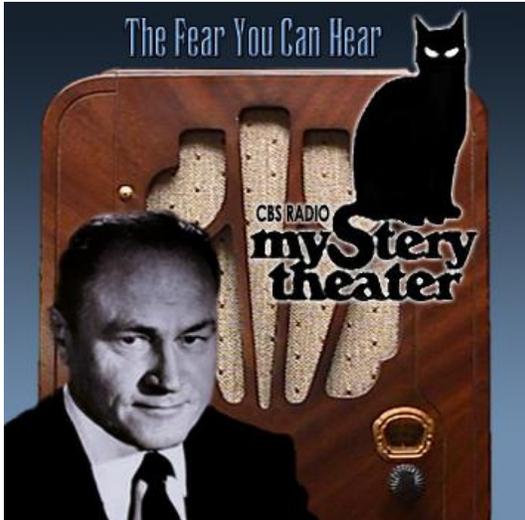
In closing, I hope one and all had a very good Christmas and I hope that the New Year is both prosperous and brings good things to us all.

- 73 de N5ZXJ



# Strays MOOW

*"Come in. Welcome to the Macabre. I'm E.G. Marshall."*



Hearing something like that on your radio would seem normal in the 1940s, but in the 1970s?

Himan Brown, who created the original *Inner Sanctum Mysteries* series in 1941, recycled his classic opening sequence for his 1974 series, **CBS Radio *Mystery Theater*** which aired from January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1974 to December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1982.

Brown seemed to have achieved the impossible when he convinced CBS to set aside an hour every night for radio drama nearly a quarter of a century after its hay day. The program was pitched, at least initially, to an audience old enough to remember classic radio and quickly developed a fan base among young listeners as well.

There were a total of 1,399 episodes in the series and you can tune-in again to what was radio drama's Last Big Broadcast by visiting:

[http://archive.org/details/otr\\_cbsradiomysterytheater](http://archive.org/details/otr_cbsradiomysterytheater)

*"This is E.G. Marshall inviting you to return to our Mystery Theater for another adventure in the Macabre. Until next time, pleasant dreams?"*



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the N5ZXJ repeater, on 145.310(-) PL 123.0 Join Us!

## January NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

January 2 <sup>nd</sup> :	January 9 <sup>th</sup> :
Net Control: W5VEX	KE5ISN
Back-Up: KE5ISN	AD5SK

January 16 <sup>th</sup> :	January 23 <sup>rd</sup> :
Net Control: AD5SK	K6WXA
Back-Up: K6WXA	W5VEX

January 30<sup>th</sup>:  
 Net Control: W5VEX  
 Back-Up: KE5ISN



## Straight Key Night

Straight Key Night is held on January 1st from 0001 - 2359 UTC on all authorized amateur frequencies. For more information on this event, visit: <http://www.arrl.org/straightkeynight>



## Village of Salado 3 Kings 3 Miler

The Village of Salado is holding a 5K run dubbed, the '3 Kings 3 Miler' on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. The run will start at 7:30 AM at St. Joseph's Church and then continue on along Main St.

Five or six amateur radio operators are needed to provide logistical support communications along the run's route. If you'd like to help out, please contact Robert Shoemaker-KE5WVC at (254) 702-8066 or via email at:

[robert1867@embarqmail.com](mailto:robert1867@embarqmail.com)

For more info on the event itself, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Salado/3Kings3Miler>



## Kid's Day

Twice a year, in January and June, the ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to youngsters and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.

This month's event is on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, from 1800-2359 UTC. For more information on this please visit: <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>



## A.R.R.L. North Texas Section Convention

*Cowtown Hamfest*, the original Hamfest in the Fort Worth Metroplex, is Friday, January 17 from 3 PM to 8 PM and Saturday, January 18, 8 AM to 3 PM. The convention will be held at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road in Fort Worth. Talk-In frequency is 147.280(+) PL 110.9 and call for **W5SJZ**.

Point of Contact is David Forbes - KC5UYR, who can be emailed at: [kc5uyr@compuserve.com](mailto:kc5uyr@compuserve.com).

More information is available at: <http://www.cowtownhamfest.com>



## ARRL January VHF Contest

Contest period is 1900Z, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> through 0359Z, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> on 6, 2, 1.25 Meters and 70 Cm. For more info visit: [www.arrl.org/january-vhf](http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf)



## Skywarn Training



**Bosque County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Meridian Civic Center, 309 West River St., in Meridian.

**Burnet County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 PM, at the Burnet Community Center, 401 East Jackson St., in Burnet.

**Coryell County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Tuesday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 PM, at the Copperas Cove City Hall, in the City Council Chambers, 507 South Main St., in Copperas Cove.

**Falls County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Tuesday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 PM, at the Falls County Courthouse, located at 122 Bridge St., in Marlin.

**Hamilton County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 PM, at the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept., located at 107 West Henry, in Hamilton.

**Limestone County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 PM at the Limestone County Courthouse, 200 West State St., in Groesbeck.

**Milam County** (*Basic Spotter Training Only*) Monday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 PM, at the Cameron Volunteer Fire Dept., 1505 North Travis St., in Cameron.

"If you've become bored with amateur radio, you're not paying attention; there's always something new to try, always more to learn."

- David Sumner-K1ZZ, CEO ARRL



## North American QSO Party

Contest period is from 1800Z, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> to 0600Z, Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters. Complete rules and further information can be found at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>



## Postage Rate Increase

The United States Postal Service has announced proposed price changes, including an increase in the price of a First-Class Mail single-piece letter from 46 cents to 49 cents. One ounce letters to international destinations will be \$1.15 and post cards 34¢.

The proposed changes, which go into effect this month, are intended to generate \$2 billion in incremental annual revenue for the Postal Service.

## THE SPECTRUM MONITOR

This past December, “*Monitoring Times*” published its final issue after 33 years. Now, a new electronic publication, *The Spectrum Monitor*, will follow in its footsteps. Ken Reitz-KS4ZR, will helm *The Spectrum Monitor*, which will debut this month as an on-line only subscription based publication available in .pdf format, for an annual rate of \$24.00 for twelve issues.

The new E-Pub will carry virtually all of the past *Monitoring Times* columnists and features.

More information on this is available at: <http://www.thespectrummonitor.com>.



## Herman Munster W6XLR4



“*The Munsters*” was a television comedy show from the mid-1960s, about a family of benign monsters. The 18<sup>th</sup> episode aired on January 21, 1965 and was entitled: “*If a Martian Answers, Hang Up*” featuring Herman Munster as a ham radio operator – with the call sign W6XLR4 – goofing around with his home-brew ham radio set.

Here’s a short 35-second video clip from that episode:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-8RItoZE30](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-8RItoZE30)

## FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK



What I normally like to do, is send out the newsletter at least a couple of days prior to what would be the next club meeting and/or the first of the coming month. In the case of what will be the **February** issue of the *Wavelength* that means that I would normally send it out between the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

However, we have an important meteorological event occurring on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and it just wouldn’t be right to report it a month late or not at all. Therefore, I won’t be sending out the February issue of our newsletter until say around noon-ish on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide

John Galvin, N5TIM

The Department of Homeland Security has just released The Auxiliary Communications Field Operations Guide (AUXFOG) which is a reference for auxiliary communicators who directly support back-up emergency communications for State or local public safety entities or for an amateur radio organization supporting public safety.

This reference guide contains information about Auxiliary Communications best practices, frequently used radio frequencies, Mutual Aid channels as well as tips and suggestions about communications for planned events or incidents. It can serve as a reference both for auxiliary emergency communicators and public safety communications professionals. You can download the AUXFOG by going to: [www.publicsafetytools.info/auxfog/start\\_auxfog\\_info.php](http://www.publicsafetytools.info/auxfog/start_auxfog_info.php) and then click on the AUXFOG that appears in the upper left corner of the page.

This booklet is a handy addition to the amateur's ARES go-kit of information and equipment.

**Editor's Notes:** Before you decide to print this file out, you might want to browse through it and see what particular pages interest you in printing out as this file is 144 pages in length.

“Just as great science fiction isn't really about spaceships, photon torpedoes and giant computers run amok – Amateur Radio, at its heart, isn't solely about technology.”

*Kay Craigie-N3KN, President, ARRL*

## NASA's Juno Spacecraft Hears Hams Say “HI”

Don Kirchner, KDØL



This past October 9<sup>th</sup>, NASA's *Juno* spacecraft, bound for Jupiter, made a gravity assist loop past the Earth and ham radio operators were invited to say ‘HI’ to it in CW on the 10 meter band.

Analyst now report that the spacecraft was roughly 23,250 miles above the Earth and that the CW signals were received by *Juno* just at or above the noise level. It is believed that this was the first intelligent information to be transmitted to a passing interplanetary spacecraft, as simple as the messages may have seemed.

Anyone who took part may request a QSL card that acknowledges their help, by emailing: [juno\\_outreach@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:juno_outreach@jpl.nasa.gov)



## Texas Slow-Speed CW Net

Jason Patterson, KD5RQB

You're invited to check-in to the Texas Slow-Speed CW Net. This net is a CW training net for National Traffic System message handling, which meets daily on 3570 KHz starting at 7:45p.m. Being a “slow” CW net, it is a welcoming place for those new to CW and a chance to copy code and to be called on to make a net call.



## First Anniversary of the Central Texas Pink HAMsters

This month marks the First Anniversary of the Central Texas Chapter of the Pink HAMsters. The chapter was formed and is conducted by Susan Godfrey-KF5OHM, who also serves as both the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bosque County Amateur Radio Club – W5BCR. Their first net was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 over the Bosque County Repeater and showed a loyal following.

A couple of weeks ago, Susan Godfrey-KF5OHM, and Elizabeth Schoenefeld-W5EAS, who share the net control duties of the Pink HAMsters net, were both under the weather. Amanda Schoenefeld, Elizabeth's mom, with Keith-W5TTL, her husband, serving as Control Operator, took over the duty. She has said that she isn't interested in getting her license, but she handled the Net Control as if she had been doing it for years.

While intended for YL's only as a chance for YL's and XYL's to get on the air together, several OM's also check-in to the net.

Show your support – especially the YL's – by checking in to their net each Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM, on the W5BCR repeater on 147.180(+) PL 123.

Texas does not, like any other region, simply have indigenous dishes. It proclaims them. It congratulates you, on your arrival at having escaped from the slop pails of the other 49 states.

– Alistair Cooke

## What's New?



### Change of CTARC's W5AMK Trusteeship

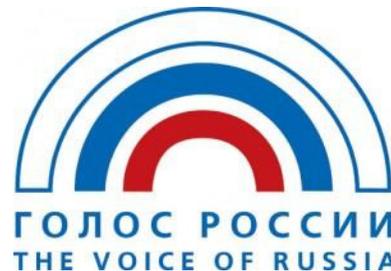
We didn't have a regular December club meeting and some things happened too late to get placed in the December issue of the newsletter. So, just to keep the CTARC membership informed...

At our November 5<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting, Joe Dorn-W5VEX who has been the Trustee of our club's license – **W5AMK** – requested that the trusteeship be transferred to someone else. Paperwork was submitted to the FCC who granted the transfer of the trusteeship on November 26<sup>th</sup>. The new Trustee for the club's license is now Rick Murray-K6WXA.

### The Voice of Russia *Rumors of Demise Greatly Exaggerated*

Several postings have been showing up on various shortwave and ham radio related websites indicating that due to budget cuts, the *Voice of Russia* – previously known during the Cold War era as *Radio Moscow*, would be leaving the airwaves effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tom Witherspoon-K4SWL, contacted the VOR, and the broadcaster told him, "We are glad to let you know that the Voice of Russia will stay on the air in 2014, however, considerable changes in our frequency schedule are expected."





The **ARRL HQs station W1AW** will be active as **W1ØØAW** throughout 2014 in observance of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. QSL via W1AW.

An international team will activate Amsterdam Island as **FT5ZM** from January 24<sup>th</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup>. QSL via N2OO.

Members of the Danish Radio Amateurs group will activate special event callsign **5P14EHC** throughout January, in celebration of Denmark hosting the European Handball Championship for Men. QSL as directed.

LA2US will be active from Bear Island until May as **JW2US**. QSL via his home call.

N2DE will be active for about 5 weeks from three DXCC entities in southern Africa, beginning in mid-January. He plans to be on the air as **A25US** in Botswana, **3DAØUS** in Swaziland and as **7P8US** from Lesotho. QSL via his home call.

**9H5G** will be active **stroke C6A** from the Bahamas throughout the month of January. QSL via NI5DX.

**DL9NDS** and **DJ2BQ** will each be signing **stroke V5** from Namibia, from January 2<sup>nd</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. QSL each via their home calls.

**6W7SK** will be active from January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> in Senegal. QSL via F6BLP.

**XU7AEU** will be active from Cambodia, January 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>. QSL via M6CFW.

**ZF2PG** will be operational from the Cayman Islands January 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. QSL via K8PGJ.

JA3ARJ and JA1CJA will be operational as **TO3JA** from Martinique January 13<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>. QSL via EB7DX.

**V47AJ** will be active from St. Kitts and Nevis Island January 21<sup>st</sup> through February 17<sup>th</sup>. QSL via N3ME.

**XT2AW** will be on the air from Burkina Faso January 26<sup>th</sup> through the end of February. QSL via MØOXO.

An international team will be active from the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, 2-7 January as **1AØKM**. QSL via IKØFTA.

The South African Radio League special event station **ZS9MADIBA** will be on the air through the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. QSL as directed.

**YV5IAL** will be on the air **stroke CE2** from Chile between January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>. QSL via his home call.

**SP7VC**, **SP3IPB**, and **SQ7OYL** will each be operating **stroke FM**, 11-12 January from Martinique. They will also be active January 15-16 **stroke J79** from Dominica. Then from January 17-18, they will be on the air **stroke FG** from Guadeloupe. January 18-22 they will be on as **VP2MPG** and **VP2MTK**. QSL each via their home calls.

BA4DW will be active January 21-27 from Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands as **E51CDW**. QSL via his home call.

F6ITD will be active from Guadeloupe Island January 28<sup>th</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> of March as **FG/F6ITD**. He will also be active from Basse Terre Dehales Island and from La Desirade Island as **TO6D**. QSL via his home call.

PAØRRS will be active as **9M2MRS** from Penang Island through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. QSL via his home call.

AD8J will be active from Dominica, mainly on CW as **J79JG**, January 29<sup>th</sup> – February 7<sup>th</sup>. QSL via his home call.

DK9FN will be active from Nendo Island through January 10<sup>th</sup> as **H4ØFN** as well as **H4ØTA**. QSL via his home call.

## The American Radio Relay League 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



In April 1914, inventor, scientist, and amateur radio operator Hiram Percy Maxim of West Hartford, encouraged the Radio Club of Hartford to organize amateur radio operators into a strong, self-reliant organization. The American Radio Relay League, a union of amateur radio relay stations, was thus formed. The league recruited amateur radio operators throughout the U.S. and imposed high standards. It was considered a distinction for an operator to be part of the league.

In observance of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it is offering the 91<sup>st</sup> edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications. This commemorative hardcover edition is gold foil embossed, serial numbered and personalized with your name and callsign. The handbook, written by radio amateurs for radio amateurs, comes with a CD-ROM and can be ordered at: <http://www.arrl.org/shop/2014-Handbook-Hardcover-Centennial-Edition>.

Also available to ARRL members, are special commemorative membership certificates of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Members can go to: <http://www.arrl.org/membership-certificate> and after logging in, can generate and print-out their own commemorative membership certificate and replacement membership card.

The Centennial certificate downloads as a .pdf file which can be saved to your computer as well.



## ARRL Centennial QSO Party

As part of the ARRL Centennial observance the League is sponsoring a Centennial QSO Party which will run from 00:01 UTC January 1<sup>st</sup>, through 23:59 UTC December 31<sup>st</sup> where every ARRL member is worth at least one point. In addition, the FCC has authorized the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW to also use the call sign **W1ØØAW** throughout 2014, the ARRL's centennial year.

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

To help kick off the ARRL Centennial, special W1ØØAW activity will begin at 0500 UTC on January 1, 2014 (midnight in Newington), and will include participation in ARRL's Straight Key Night. Operators at W1AW will be using Hiram Percy Maxim's straight key during Straight Key Night.

A detailed and lengthy explanation of the event can found at the ARRL's website at: <http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>



## Texas Forest Service Issues Winter Outlook Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

Significant rain this year could be a potential threat during the winter wildfire season. Residents are urged to take precautions as the cold weather begins drying the increased vegetation.

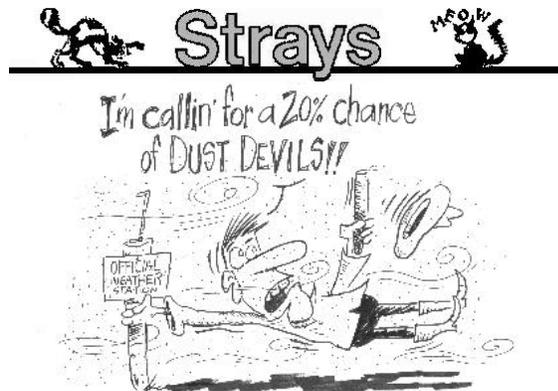
Rains earlier this year helped suppress wildfire threats by improving moisture levels across majority of the state. However, this led to a rise in grassy areas, which can help spread fires if it becomes too dry.

Potential for fire is especially relevant in the western plains regions of the state. Including the grass dominated areas west of Wichita Falls, to Abilene, to San Angelo. Strong persistent winds over this area could increase the chance of wildfires spreading.

The concern is on dry and windy days; a fire could start and spread quickly in these dry grasses, damaging anything in its path according to the predictive services department of the Texas Forest Service. Care is highly recommended throughout the winter months and activities that could accidentally start a fire should be limited.

Several safety tips are advised for all Texans this holiday season:

- Check for and obey burn bans and fireworks restrictions.
- When and where outdoor burning is allowed, keep the fire small, never leave it unattended and remove leaves and other materials from the area surrounding the fire. Avoid lighting piles on windy days.
- Keep water nearby in case a fire starts. A spark or burning ember can ignite dry, fine-textured fuels like grass and weeds.
- Read and follow label instructions on how to properly discharge fireworks.
- Use fireworks with close adult supervision and only in areas clear of dry vegetation.
- Avoid using fireworks, particularly aerial varieties, around buildings. Wind can carry hot fireworks onto roofs where leaves or other flammable debris may have accumulated.
- Remove your natural Christmas tree soon after the holidays and consider community tree recycling projects. Christmas trees can be ground up for mulch or provide shelter for birds and other wildlife.
- Dispose of wrapping paper, boxes and other holiday waste by recycling, when practical. Burn paper and cardboard in a burn barrel or other fire-proof receptacle topped by a metal screen or grill, as winds can carry embers a long distance.



On January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1965, Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, recorded 3 inches of dust in the rain gauge.



January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1949, recorded the coldest day in Austin history at -2 degrees below zero.

# Who's Who in Amateur Wireless

**Mrs. Emma Candler, 8NH** (later 8ER) of Marysville, Ohio shared a station with her husband, Charles, but was by far the more active of the two. Trained and employed as a telegraph operator at the Marconi Company, she quickly became a proficient wireless

operator when she got on the air in January, 1915 after acquiring her First Grade Commercial License. It is widely believed that Emma was the first licensed YL ham operator in the United States, though there is one obscure mention of a California lady - Mrs. M.J. Glass, of San Jose who operated as station FNFN in 1910 - slightly ahead of her.

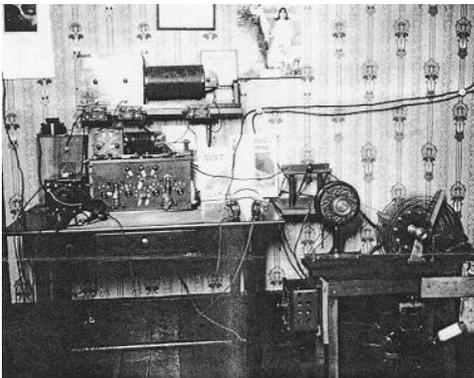
Among her most intimate wireless friends, she was known as "OW" and is responsible for this title herself. One day while on the air, another operator rather too frequently, used "OM" in conversing with her. So she told him by way of explanation, that she was in fact an "OW". Mrs. Chandler says she is awfully sorry that she could not see the other fellow's expression, but at any rate, he answered "HI-HI that's one on me."

From then on she was known as "OW" to all of her friends.



*Emma Chandler - 8NH*

The Candler station got out very well despite being at a time when equipment was usually homemade and primitive, yet they knew how to put out a good signal that was easily copied in the region and beyond. It was thought they had lake effect from Grand Lake St. Mary's to help boost the signal.



*The Chandler's station 8NH*

The Chandler station abused the ether using a one inch spark coil, crystal detector, a loose coupler with an audion with a 133 cyclic static running a full kilowatt. The antenna system was 87 feet long, 58 feet high, and had six wires, with a lead in from the center.

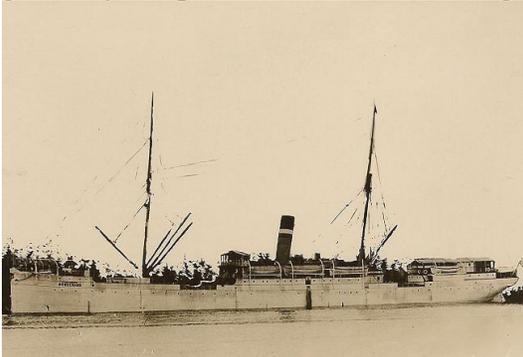
Ms Emma Candler loved handling ARRL traffic and was part of the Presidential relay coast to coast in May of 1917. She was widely known for her skill in beating out rhythmic code on Spark as a veteran traffic handler.

*"Just because a man, Marconi, invented commercial wireless telegraphy does not mean for a moment that the fair sex cannot master its mysteries." -Author Unknown*

# Young Wireless Operator – In Service But Few Months Goes Down With Ill-Fated Rosecrans

## His Call For Help Unfinished

Once, our coasts were dotted with great Morse code radio stations, all communicating with ships at sea. These men - and some women - had stood watch over the airwaves on shore and at sea. Theirs was mostly the business of maritime commerce. But when their ship was in peril they were called upon to send the most electrifying three letters in radio- **S O S**, knowing that all their fellow radio operators would press their earphones close to get every scrap of information and bring aid to their stricken ship.



On the morning of **January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1913**, the Associated Oil Company tanker *Rosecrans* was battling her way over the bar, inbound from San Francisco to Portland. The wind was blowing a steady 60-miles, driving with determined fury. The tanker labored under the weight of 20,000 barrels of crude oil. As thick weather closed down, Capt. L. F. Johnson lost his bearings and the big vessel overran the channel and drifted nearer and

nearer to the dreaded sands of Peacock Spit. The wind whistled through her rigging in weird crescendos like a haunted organ in a graveyard. Then came that dreaded moment as she plowed head on against the spit, heaving crazily. The seas swept over her.

From her launching at Glasgow, in 1884, the *Rosecrans* was plagued by mishaps--break downs, strandings and fires, some resulting in loss of life and abandonment. Each time she was resurrected from her grave. But her fate was sealed when she tangled with the elements at the entrance to the Columbia.

At 5:15 a.m., the lifesaving station on Cape Disappointment received the distress message which crackled from the wireless aboard the *Rosecrans*... “SOS SOS SOS Rosecrans wrecked on bar send assistance.”

The message was repeated three or four times and was picked up by the Astoria shore station, which replied: “OK will send help. About where are you?”

To this the *Rosecrans* sent the following:



*Lawrence A. Prudhunt, Wireless Operator of the Rosecrans*

“Water has washed in the cabins – can stay no longer – hel---” There was no further contact with the ship.

In the breaker-swept area the seas were confused, going in every which direction. The big seas lifted the bridge and the pilot house off and men were swept over-board.

At 8 a.m. as the tugboats and life-saving crews reached the neighborhood of the vessel, she was found to be hard aground and the high seas and driving winds made near approach impossible. The *Rosecrans* soon shifted and broke in two; the sections literally ripped apart, rivets and all; only a mast rose from the turbulence. Before the tugs and life-savers could get near enough to put a line aboard, she slipped off the rocks and sank until only her masts and funnel appeared above the water, with three of her crew clinging to the rigging. But even there in their perch, they were swept off one after another by the rising avalanches of water.



Capt. Lucien F. Johnson of the  
*Rosecrans*

Finally only four remained. Blue from the cold and half mad, they stared blindly, hoping and praying that rescue would come. Then the lifeboat hove into sight, but almost too late. As it approached, only a mast rose from the turbulence. One of the four men clinging to it could not stand the suspense and hurled himself into the sea, swimming frantically. The strain was too much. The rescue crew pulled him aboard dead. The others waited impatiently until the boat got under the mast, and saved them.

In the tanks of the wreck was a cargo of crude oil valued at \$200,000. As the sea broke up the ship much of the petroleum escaped; the cargo and ship a total loss. There was no salvage.

When the rescue boats reached shore, reporters were on hand to get a first-hand account of the disaster, and what caused it. The survivors were each of the opinion that the master of the *Rosecrans* had mistaken North Head Light for that on the lightship and had temporarily lost his bearings. So tragic was the wreck that none of the survivors had a desire to discuss it at length.

A memorial fountain to wireless operators lost at sea stands in New York at the lower end of Battery Park. One of the number of names engraved on the monument, is that of the wireless operator of the *Rosecrans*, Lawrence A. Prudont. He was an earnest young fellow, excited to be in his new, still cutting-edge profession, only a dozen years after Marconi's first transatlantic wireless transmission. At 21 he was heading out to sea as chief radio operator on a steamship, with all that bright new



gleaming technology. He was to be a real hero in saving what lives there were to be saved in the wreck of the *Rosecrans* (only three survived of 36) and a heroic operator who upheld a tradition of dedication by remaining at his post, signaling for help, until the sea swallowed him.

When assistance came, it was found that he had been pinned under the wreckage and washed overboard when the wireless house was swept into the hungry waves.

May his spirit find fair winds and following seas.