



May

5 Years in Print - Issue Number 60

2015

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

From the Editor's Desk...

Rick Murray, K6WXA

It seems like it was just a couple of months ago, I was commenting on passing the mile stone of the 50th issue of our newsletter. How quickly time flies - here it is, ten months later and we're at issue Number 60 - the 5th anniversary of the newsletter. Five years just doesn't seem possible. I hope through the past five years I've brought you all content that has been both informative as well as entertaining; and I hope to continue that trend. Most important to me anyway, is that I hope you enjoy reading each issue of the newsletter as much as I enjoy putting them together.

I'd like to ask you all to keep one of our net control operators, Hal Pagel-N5JLL, in your thoughts. Hal was involved in a very unfortunate motorcycle accident where he broke his right leg and foot. If you don't hear him on the air much, that's why. If you do hear him on be sure to extend your best wishes for a speedy recovery.

From the rumor mill... word has it that Dennis Baker-W5DWB will be retiring June 1st from his position as the Bell County Emergency Manager. Dennis was one of the original founding members of CTARC and perhaps with his retirement, we'll hear him on more often. In any case, congratulations on a well deserved retirement Dennis.

Perhaps when it's decided who will be his replacement, we can get the new emergency manager in at one of our club members and introduce them to us, our activities and what we're all about.

The summer months will soon be upon us bringing many special event stations and operating activities to the airwaves. Be sure to try and take part in some of these activities and get a few 'rare ones' in the logbook - there'll be things on the air you shouldn't miss!

Our next club meeting will be Tuesday evening, May 5th, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center and I look forward to seeing you all there. And, be sure to mark your calendars for our luncheon get together coming up later in the month ----->

- 73, de Rick K6WXA

CTARC Luncheon Saturday, May 23rd
CTARC will be holding a luncheon at "Grill Daddy's" 308 Avenue D, in Copperas Cove at Noon-ish, in their back room (...big sign above the door says 'Bigfoot Area'...) ya can't miss it. Folks showing up should just mention they're with the radio club.
Getting there from Temple / Belton / Killeen... take Hwy 190 into Copperas Cove and turn right on Avenue D. The restaurant will be a couple of blocks up on the left hand side.



"You're walking alone on the street at night, but then you hear another set of footsteps and a haunting tune being whistled by an unseen stranger."



The Whistler aired from May 16, 1942 until September 22, 1955 over the CBS radio network.

The unseen Whistler didn't kill anyone (that we know of), but he certainly loved watching murders take place, narrating them for us, and chuckling at the suffering of others instead of doing anything to stop it. He kept walking the streets every week for thirteen long years, whistling his ominous thirteen notes and telling us another tale of bizarre fate. Perhaps Fate is who the Whistler really was? He never provided any sir name, and the killer was usually punished by some twist of fate that only *The Whistler* seemed to expect.

The Whistler knows many strange tales hidden in the hearts of men and women who have stepped into the shadows, and the nameless terrors they dare not speak.

Here are 502 episodes from the series you can listen-in again to, by visiting: https://archive.org/details/OTRR_Whistler_Singles



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!

May NCS and Back-Up NCS Schedule:

May 7th:	May 14th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	K6WXA
Back-Up: AD5SK	W5GNK

May 21st:	May 28th:
Net Control: W5GNK	KF5OHR
Back-Up: KF5OHR	KE5ISN



Spring COMEX

John Galvin - N5TIM

The 2015 Spring Interoperability Exercise is scheduled for May 1st and 2nd. The key element is digital messaging between local groups supporting an agency to and from the State EOC.

The premise here is that the Internet and phone service has been severely damaged and is out of service over the majority of the state.

Groups from ARES, RACES and MARS are all participating in this exercise.

Winlink is the primary digital messaging medium within the state of Texas.



The Central Texas Air Show runs from May 1st through the 3rd, at the Draughon Miller Central Texas Regional Airport. Volunteers are needed to provide commercial radio support for the support staff. If you'd like to help out, contact Darwin Geiselbrecht-K5DOA via email at: k5doa01@gmail.com



CCRA Swapmeet

The Copperas Cove Repeater Association will hold their annual swapmeet on May 2nd from 8:00 AM to Noon at the Copperas Cove City Park. The park is located on West Avenue B / FM 1113, off of Hwy 190, in Copperas Cove. Talk-In frequency is 147.260(+) PL 88.5 and call for K5CRA.



U.S. Islands Event

This event will be on Saturday, May 9, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC (Friday evening to Saturday evening in the continental US). U.S. Islands promotes portable ham radio operation from islands in all bodies of water — lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, and coastal islands in US territorial waters.

Complete information on the U.S. Islands Program, is available at: www.usislands.org



Military Cross Band Test

The annual military to amateur cross-band communications test and message receive test, will be held on Saturday, May 9th. These tests give amateur radio operators an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense for their proven expertise.

Participating military stations transmit on selected military MARS frequencies and listen for amateur radio stations in the amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur-band frequency being monitored.

More information can be found at: www.hamcalendar.com/pages/t%20club%20mars.htm



The “Day of the YL’s” HF contest is sponsored by the European Radio Amateurs Organization and will be held May 16th and 17th. The purpose of this weekend event is to get as many YL’s and XYL’s to take to the airwaves at the same time as is possible. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.eurao.org/en/node/472>

In the 1980s, National Public Radio had three prominent female broadcasters; their resentful male colleagues dubbed them “The Fallopian Troika.”

New Radio Applications

Radio News - May, 1923



Who would have thought that radio would fall in line with fashion? Miss Ethel Fleming has decided that a loop aerial is a desirable piece of headgear. It doesn't look so bad at that.



Big Changes Coming To Field Day Rules

Gerald Darnell, WBØRUR

NEWINGSTEAD, VT — In a controversial decision, the National Radio Retransmission Legion will no longer accept Field Day score summaries on paper beginning this year. The organization had no choice, says NRRL Director of Contests and Promotions Dr. Johnson Longville.

“Last year we received over 1,200 hand written log entries, and about 80% of them were illegible.” The contest director says it’s not poor hand writing which creates the issue, but food. “Last year we saw it all. One club entry was complete with smeared apple pie and Cool Whip. Another included BBQ sauce. One club even submitted an entire chicken salad sandwich with their entry...and the mayonnaise ran all over the bonus point section. Completely illegible.” Other “foreign particulates” submitted with entries included coffee and creamer stains, pie filling, condiment stains, bacon grease, fried eggs and even beer.

Longville says in the future, clubs must download a 4.5 terabyte logging and score-keeping app, submit a pass code request from NRRL, and run Linux Red Hat version 2.8 on a 8GB ram desktop computer. Additionally, uploads to the NRRL computer must be made with a Level 4 VPN secure connection similar to those used in the NORAD Command Center.

“We know it’s a difficult process for clubs to get this set up, but it’s easier than setting up Logbook of the World.”

Call for "New Hams" Online Survey

Joel Shelton, N8XJ

For a research project, I am conducting a survey of hams who are "relatively new" to amateur radio—those who were first licensed on January 1, 2000 or after. I am focusing on these hams because I am interested in what attracts people to take up a century-old hobby for the first time in the 21st century.

If you fit this category, please take a few minutes to complete the survey. The survey results will be used to write articles about the current state of amateur radio and what continues to attract newcomers.

The online survey can be found at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ET5...?usp=send_form

"Personally I do not see why the poor amateur radio enthusiast should always be referred to as a "ham", for I will wager, and I am sure you will agree with me, when I say about 50 percent of the sea-going commercial operators of today know less about the radio art than the fellow who has a station of his own set up in his home."

- Charles Reberger May, 1921



Lest We Forget
Memorial Day – May 25th



In the golden age of U.S. radio drama, Mutual was best known as the original network home of *The Lone Ranger* and *The Adventures of Superman* and as the long-time radio residence of *The Shadow*. For many years, it was a national broadcaster for Major League Baseball, and for Notre Dame football.

A group of four radio stations had organized into a loose confederation and founded the Mutual Broadcasting System. The original participating stations were WOR—Newark, NJ, WGN—Chicago, WXYZ—Detroit, and WLW—Cincinnati, which brought sheer power; billing itself as "The Nation's Station" it had night broadcasting at a massive 500,000 watts - ten times the clear channel standard.



On May 24, 1935, the network aired its inaugural live event—the first-ever night baseball game, between the Cincinnati Reds and the Philadelphia Phillies at Crosley Field in Cincinnati. Both teams were on their way to forgettable seasons, finishing 6th and 7th in the National League. But on this night, the two squads made history playing under artificial light.

No pun intended, but there was electricity in the air, on the field, in the stands, and in the dugout. The Reds won the game, 2-1, but more importantly, night baseball had proved to be both legitimate and successful.



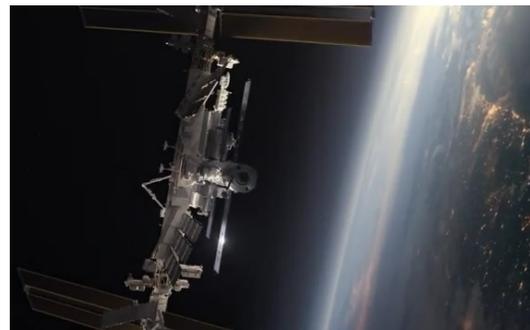
Found this old time MGM film on ham radio featuring "Jimmy Mulligan - W9SR3" no date is given on the film.



Worth the 10-minute watch... Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyWlJPNLPf8>



A little boy discovers that it is very simple to build a homemade radio that will allow him to actually speak to an astronaut in space. He tries and fails and tries again, to embark on a journey of discovery that takes a rather unexpected turn. Because that's the thing about discovery, there's always more to discover.



This is probably the best ever amateur radio promotional video. The little boy in this film should win a Grammy for this, he was incredibly natural. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxU1ZhiNaHk>



Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

Jan Gregg, W5GNK

In conjunction with HamExpo this past April 18th, amateur radio tests were given in the main building of the Expo center, sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club.

20 applicants tested for a total of 28 examinations in the various license classes. From this testing, we now have 6 new Technicians, 8 new Generals and 4 new Extra's. Administering these exams were 15 wonderful Volunteer Examiners from across the region - and we appreciate every one of them.

One of those new Technicians is our own Emery Chandler, who joined CTARC this past February 3rd as the club's first ever non-ham associate member.

I want to extend a special Thank You to Joe Dorn-W5VEX, for his assistance during the VE testing session. His willingness to help made a great difference. Without his help some of us would have been there a long time. I hope we didn't work you too hard and you will be able to help in the fall.

Speaking of which, the next HamExpo will be on Saturday, October 3rd. Hope to see you all there!



Exhibition Cars Tour the U.S.

Radio News - May, 1935

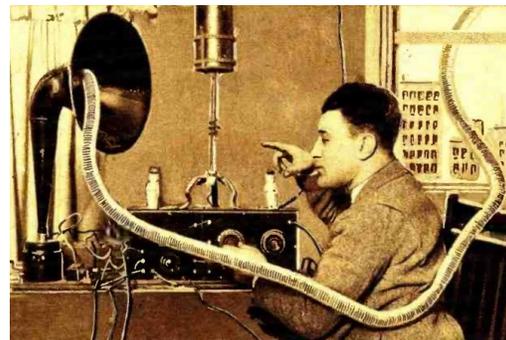


The RCA-Victor Company has launched a fleet of exhibition vans which are literally radio shows on wheels. The fleet will tour the nation in a promotion campaign for radio receivers, tubes, home talkie apparatus and records.

Domestic Radio

Radio News - May, 1923

Here's an idea for the ambitious. Feed music to your neighbors through the vacuum cleaner hose or borrow a hose from the nearest fire department.





WW1USA will be active on May 9th and 10th in remembrance of the sinking of the *Lusitania* on May 7th, 1915. QSL direct with s.a.s.e.

Special event station **VE7ØDAY** will be active from May 1st to the 30th to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE Day. QSL via VA7DP.

W6NN and **KE1B** will be active from Grenada Island 23 - 31 May as **J38NN** and **J38MM**. QSL via KE1B.

JA2AAU, **JA2ATE** and **JA2LSS** will be active from Niue Island 15 - 25 May as **E6NK**, **E6TE** and **E6SS**. QSL via JA2ZS.

DF2WO will be on the air signing **XT2AW** from Burkiuna Faso between May 20th and June 25th. QSL via MØOXO.

DX-Interceptors will be active from the Isle of Man as **MTØIXD** from May 8th to the 11th. QSL via MØOXO.

Special Event Station **N4V** will be operating through the 3rd of May to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. QSL via W4SKB.

JAØRQV will be active from Efate Island, Vanuatu through the 5th of May as **YJØMT**. QSL via his home call.

JH3AEF, **JA3ARJ** and **JA3IVU** will be active from Bhutan through the 6th of May as **A52AEF**, **A52ARJ** and **A52IVU**. QSL each via their respective home call signs.

Members of the Camb-Hams will be active as **GS3PYE/P** from the Isle of Mull in the Scottish Inner Hebrides, between May 15th and the 22nd.

VA3EGG will be active as **6Y4DX** from Jamaica until mid April. QSL direct to VA3EGG.

A group of Belgians will be active from Belle Ile Island as **TMØD** from 2-8 May. QSL via ON4AZP.

DG4ABE will be active from Maldives 10 - 17 May as **8Q7BI**. QSL via his home call.

EA5IDQ will be active **stroke 3B8** from Mauritius 10 -19 May and then signing **stroke 3B9** from Rodrigues Island from 19 - 24 May. QSL via his home call.

W9IMS will be operating from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for the "Indianapolis 500" on 3.840, 7.240, 14.245 and 21.350 MHz on May 18th to the 24th. QSL direct with s.a.s.e.

DL7UCX and **DK7AO** will be active from Armenia through the 4th of May, each signing **stroke EK**. QSL via their home calls.

DL2RPS will be active from Praslin Island from May 2nd - May 8th as **S79RPS**. QSL via his home call.

HB9AW is a Switzerland 60 meter CW beacon that sends its call sign at 10 watts out on 5.291 MHz. Those wishing to send a reception report can do so on-line at www.hb9aw.ch

S55OO will be active from Malta through the 2nd of May as **9H3OO**. QSL via his home call.

K7P will be on the air May 10 -17, to commemorate National Police Week. QSL via N7WR.

W6HB and **WØVFT** will be active from Rarotonga Island in the South Cook Islands, 18 - 23 May as **E51DL** and **E51VFT**. QSL via their respective home call signs.

N8YSZ will be active from Long Island, Bahamas 9 - 16 May as **C6ASZ**. QSL via his home call.

K3LP and **VK3FY** will be active from Aruba 19 - 26 May as **P4ØDC** and **P4ØFY**. QSL via MØOXO.



Sampling Space Weather

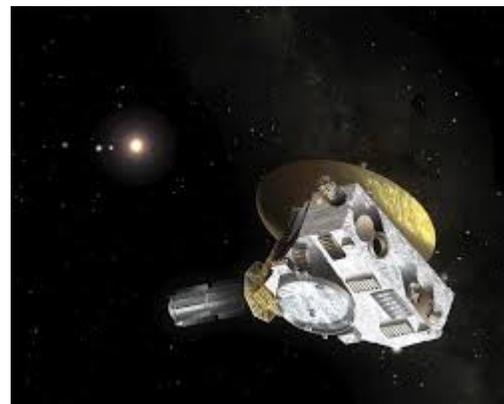
We're all familiar with how space weather impacts radio communications in a number of different ways. At frequencies in the 1 to 30 mega Hertz range the changes in ionospheric density and structure modify the transmission path and even block transmission of HF radio signals completely.



There are several types of space weather that can impact HF radio communications. In a typical sequence of space weather storms, the first impacts are felt during a solar flare. The solar x-ray photons ionize the atmosphere and create an enhancement of the D layer of the ionosphere. This enhanced D-layer acts both as a reflector of radio waves at some frequencies and an absorber of waves at other frequencies. The "Radio Blackout" associated with solar flares occurs on the dayside region of Earth and is most intense when the sun is directly overhead. Another type of space weather, the Radiation Storm, is caused by energetic solar protons, which are guided by Earth's magnetic field such that they collide with the upper atmosphere near the north and south poles. During auroral displays, the precipitating electrons can enhance other layers of the ionosphere and have similar disrupting and blocking effects on radio communications. This occurs mostly on the night side of the polar regions of Earth where the aurora is most intense and most frequent.

Out there... launched on January 19, 2006, NASA's *New Horizons* spacecraft has been on a 3-billion-mile, 9-year voyage to Pluto and is now just weeks away from its closest encounter with Pluto, which will be on July 14th. The spacecraft is so precisely on course, it will be able to image Pluto's surface from a mere 7,750 miles.

As the spacecraft approaches the Pluto system, its charged particle instruments have been taking measurements and assessing the space weather environment in the Kuiper Belt near Pluto.



Three billion miles from Earth, the solar wind consists mainly of protons and electrons, along with trace amounts of helium and oxygen that New Horizons has detected. Typical solar wind speeds at Pluto's orbit distance range from about 750,000 to 1 million miles per hour with atypical density of 6,000 particles per cubic meter - about a 1,000 less than the solar wind near Earth. And for comparison, the Earth's atmosphere at its surface is one hundred billion-billion times denser.

The forecast for the *New Horizons* flyby of Pluto on July 14th, from space weather meteorologists: “Expect typical gusts of solar protons and electrons with speeds up to 1 million miles per hour, varying by maybe 10 degrees or so radially from the Sun, that will slow down as they interact with Pluto’s escaping atmosphere, picking up energetic ions created from nitrogen, carbon monoxide and methane along the way. Expected temperature will be roughly -380 degrees Fahrenheit.”



At left is the first ever color image of Pluto and its Texas-sized largest moon Charon. The image was acquired by *New Horizons* on April 9th from a distance of roughly 71 million miles - roughly the distance from the Sun to Venus.

New Horizons’ flyby of Pluto will occur almost exactly 50 years after Mariner 4’s flyby of Mars—and it could shock observers just as much.

The great thing about first-time encounters like this -- we don’t know exactly what we’ll see, but we know from decades of experience in first-time exploration of new planets that we will be very surprised.



Strays



Grapefruit size hail from Rising Star, TX - roughly 60 miles east of Abilene, April 26th.

Photo courtesy of N5SSI.

The Texas Weather Wire

The Spring edition of *The Texas Weather Wire*, published by the NWS Austin - San Antonio Weather Forecast Office is now available at:

www.srh.noaa.gov/images/ewx/pdf/Spring_2015.pdf

Information courtesy of K5TBS



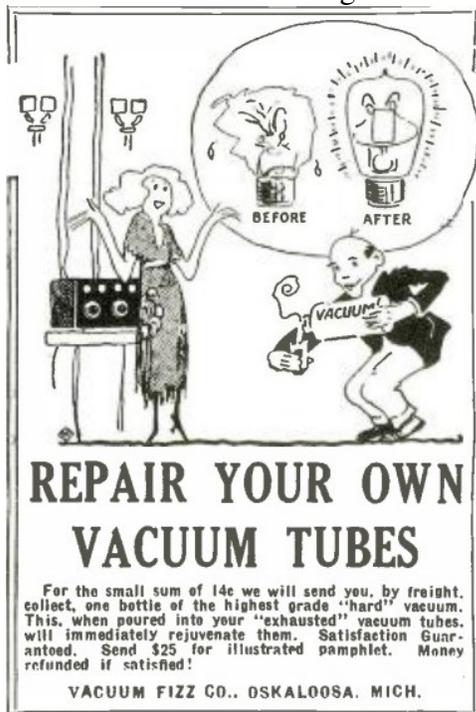
Editorials

The Lunatic Fringe

Carl Dreher

Radio News - May, 1923

When Colonel Roosevelt originated the phrase "lunatic fringe," he surely did not have radio in mind. Fringe? Radio in its present state consists rather of a small sane clearing surrounded by extensive steppes and jungles of pure delirium. The sane oasis is populated principally by Yours Truly, and a few of my friends, particularly the ones I owe money to. Outside of it, what do we find? Radio half-wits with three foot loops and crystal sets in New York City, complaining because they cannot hear Detroit on a loud speaker. Spiritualists who proclaim that static is caused by the spooks spitting out fish bones at the celestial dinner tables. Journalists printing pictures of dogs, cats, newborn infants, chorus girls, and other fauna listening raptly to imaginary concerts, the phone terminals having been hooked onto the "A" battery posts of the set. Novice listeners in Borough Park, Brooklyn, who write hot letters to their congressman demanding the suppression of amateur transmitters, while actually they are being jammed by WNY, eight blocks away, calling his flock of ships with a kilowatt or two in the aerial. Loving couples being spliced by radio. Women falling in love with announcers of broadcasting stations and writing them mash notes asking for interviews.



**REPAIR YOUR OWN
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For the small sum of 14c we will send you, by freight, collect, one bottle of the highest grade "hard" vacuum. This, when poured into your "exhausted" vacuum tubes, will immediately rejuvenate them. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Send 325 for illustrated pamphlet. Money refunded if satisfied!

VACUUM FIZZ CO., OSKALOOSA, MICH.

We could continue enumerating symptoms of lunacy, but there is no necessity. A touch of insanity was characteristic of radio men in the old days; it was the only thing that gave them strength to bear up against coherers, fading periods, spark coil vibrators, patent lawyers, summer static, harbor testers, and the other manifold curses of the art. But the early style radio men were crazy within reasonable limits, while the rising generation has gone the whole hog. Much as we dislike the role of a prophet of evil, mere self-protection impels us to issue a lone protest and exhortation.

Let all radio men and women - particularly women; and let us mention in passing that we are very fond of red-haired girls weighing around 120 pounds - let all such who have remained partially sane rally around the Radio!

We make no threats - but let the batty radio

experts take warning while there is yet time. The next feature writer who lets loose the power-transmission-by-radio-is-at-hand yarn will discover what we mean. That feature writer will be measured for a wooden cabinet, and it will not have a bakelite panel, either.

S.O.S. from the Arctic

- The Crash of the Airship *Italia* -

The Airship *Italia* was a semi-rigid 347 foot long airship, designed and built by Italian engineer Umberto Nobile for a series of five exploration flights around the North Pole. The airship was commanded by Nobile and carried 17,000 pounds of supplies, a crew of 20, and Nobile's dog Titina - the expedition mascot.

On May 23rd, 1928, the *Italia* left its base at Kings Bay for its third flight around the polar region. Following a route along the Greenland coast, with the assistance of strong tailwinds, they reached the North Pole 19 hours later at 00:24 on the 24th of May. After a 2-hour period of flying around the North Pole, the *Italia* began heading back to base.

After 24 hours of increasing head winds and thick mist the *Italia* was only halfway back to base and struggled to gain ground and break through the zone of heavy winds. Ice formed on the propellers and shot off into the envelope, necessitating running repairs. Dr Běhounek, in charge of the compass, started reporting variations in course of up to 30 degrees, and the elevator man Cecioni had similar problems maintaining control. By 07:30 on 25 May, Nobile, who had been awake for over 48 hours, knew that the situation was critical and Giuseppe Biagi, the wireless operator, sent out the message: *"If I don't answer, I have good reason"*.



The Airship "Italia"



Artist's depiction of the crash of the Italia

At 9:25am on 25 May the elevator control jammed in the downward position while the ship was traveling at less than 1000 feet altitude. All engines were stopped and the airship began to rise again after it had dropped to within 300 feet of the jagged ice pack. Then at 10:25 the ship was noticed to be tail-heavy and falling at a rate of 2 feet per second. The nose rose to an upward angle of 21 degrees as the descent continued. A short time later, seeing a crash was unavoidable, Nobile ordered full stop and the cutting of electrical power to prevent a fire on impact. Seconds afterwards the airship's control cabin hit the jagged ice and smashed open. Suddenly relieved of the weight of the gondola, the envelope of the ship, with a gaping tear in the keel and part of one cabin wall still attached, began to rise again. Nine survivors and one fatality were left on the ice, and six more crew were trapped in the still drifting airship envelope. The envelope and the crew members aboard it were never seen again.

A short while later, the survivors saw a column of smoke on the horizon to the north — perhaps it was a fire from the crash of the rest of the dirigible. For Nobile and his crew, the harsh reality of surviving the Arctic was now upon them. As the men gathered what supplies could be found amidst the wreckage of the control cab, the surviving radioman called out one bit of good news — he had located the airship's emergency radio.

Six hours after the crash, wireless operator Giuseppe Biagi is radioing the world on an emergency set with a 435 mile range... *"SOS Italia. Nobile on the ice near Foyen Island, northeast Spitzbergen, latitude 80:37, longitude 26:50. Impossible to move, lacking sledges and having two men injured. Dirigible lost in another locality. Reply via IDO 32. SOS."*

What he didn't know was that aboard their escorting merchant ship, the *Citta di Milano*, the radio operators weren't bothering to monitor the frequencies for any emergency messages.



Wireless Operator Giuseppe Biagi

Instead, they were busying themselves with broadcasts of pre-written messages from the airship crew to the waiting ears of the journalists across Europe. Six days of radio messages passed without reply while Biagi listened to the mundane news and regular updates of personal crew messages to family back home in Italy.

Fifteen days pass. On June 3rd, while broadcasting the regular SOS message, Biagi was stunned to receive a reply. Nicholas Schmidt, a Russian ham radio operator in the village of Vokhma, 1,200 miles away, is the first to pick up the message. Schmidt informs his government, which then notifies the Soviet Embassy in Rome and the world. Rescue operations by air started at once.



Nobile and his dog, Titina, on the day of their rescue.

Half a dozen nations - including Norway and Soviet Russia - sent out search parties. Their efforts to locate Nobile's party - by now drifting with the ice - were, however, largely unco-ordinated, and nine of the rescuers lost their own lives. The Italians, meanwhile, had been slow off the mark, even though the eyes of the world were focused on the disaster. This was due to petty jealousies of the army, navy and air ministries.

It was not until a week later than an Italian pilot managed to locate the group and drop supplies. Nobile was then picked up by a Swedish pilot, but the aeroplane crashed when the Swede returned for the others and he had himself to be rescued. The remaining five survivors, by now stranded on a rapidly melting floe, were finally taken aboard a Russian ice-breaker after spending 49 days in the snowy wastes.

Umberto Nobile returned to Italy, then spent some time in Russia as well as the U.S., and later returned to Italy where in 1978, passed away at the age of 93. By the way, Umberto Nobile's loyal dog, the fox terrier named Titina, survived the ordeal on the ice and was rescued along with Nobile.



A Girl Operator's Story

The Trials and Delights of Wireless
as related by Miss Cecil Powell, the
only girl wireless operator in the
state of Connecticut.

The Wireless Age - May, 1915

My initial interest in wireless was due, I believe, to the fact that my employer had a station in his home where he frequently discussed radio work with a friend who was also a disciple of the spark. I enjoyed listening to them and my interest in the art grew. Finally I became imbued with the determination to take up the study of wireless.

I was considerably excited when the day came for putting up my set. The aerial, to which we first gave our attention, consisted of two No. 24 cotton covered wires held by ropes in the branches of two trees about fifty apart. Then came my receiving set, shiny and pretty. The first evening it was connected up, I was filled with elation. But this changed to despair when I heard the signals. It did not seem possible that I should be able to ever master those dots and dashes. My friends sent to me slowly, however, and after a time I was able to distinguish a dot from a dash.



Miss Powell and her set.

The excitement of installing a transmitting set in my station was done with a 1/4 kW closed core transformer and the other essential parts of the apparatus having been obtained, I began to

work several stations in the neighborhood. I had an ordinary open spark gap, but as I did not like the noise resulting from its use my friends decided that it would be advisable for me to substitute a quenched gap. I had little success with the quenched gap, however, and received several shocks.

Concluding that the trouble was due to my condenser which had twenty glass plates, we made one of five. But this plan was not successful, so we took out the five-plate condenser and replaced the one with twenty plates. We also added one of fifteen plates. After that, the results obtained were excellent.

Before I bring to a close this account of my wireless impressions I intend to tell of a visit I paid one evening to another operators station. He invited me to operate his set and I had been at the key only a short time when I received an answer to my call from a distant station. The operator there believed that the station owner was sending. He was somewhat surprised, therefore, when he was informed that he was about to be introduced to a girl via wireless. This led to more introductions, and before the evening was at an end I had talked with a considerable number of stations.

Exchanging thoughts by wireless is good fun. More over it has many advantages over verbal communication, the principal one being that it keeps folk with whom you are talking wondering what you look like.