

**The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club  
meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the  
Bell County Communications Center, 708 West Avenue O, in Belton**

## From the Editor's Desk...

*Rick Murray, K6WXA*



At our last club meeting on September 1st, we did something that we've never done before at a club meeting. Joining the group at our meeting was Brent Rechtfertig from Salado, who was very interested in getting his ham license. So... we held a VE session and Brent easily passed his Technician Class exam. He can now be heard on the air as **KG5JHK**. Congratulations Brent and welcome to the amateur radio fraternity!

There's a boat-load in store going on this month; first off on the 3rd is the ever popular HamEXPO and it's related VE session. If you're a VE, your services will definitely be appreciated. AND - if you're new to the club and have not received a CTARC Name Badge, reply back to the email that brought you this newsletter and let me know. On the 3rd and 4th is the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test, followed on the 10th by the Fall COMEX. Coming up on the 17th and 18th is Scouting's Jamboree On-the-Air, then the 19th through the 23rd is the ARRL School Club Round-Up. Then on the 24th and 25th is the CQ World-Wide DX Contest. Also running this month from the 1st through the 31st, is CTARC's first ever club contest - the October Harvest Contest. More on all these follows further on in the newsletter.

The big news this month however, is that at our next club meeting on the 6th, we will have a special guest speaker - Mr. James Haney and his wife Lyn. James is the author of the book, "My Mother, Radio and Me" which tells about growing up in the 1930's and 1940's where radio was the center of the household before television. He and his wife will be giving a presentation entitled "When Radio Was Fun." This will be a presentation you won't want to miss!

Lastly, October is the time of year that always brings out a tale or two about hauntings, poltergeists, and lingering spirits. Some people believe in ghosts and some don't. This is the kind of topic that radio people don't usually talk about. We're often more concerned with high outputs and low losses. We don't avail our thoughts with ghosts, the supernatural, or the unseen occurrences of things that go bump in the night. Or do we? Our next club meeting is Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00 PM, at the Bell County Communications Center. Until then, pleasant dreams... Hmmm?



# HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, the *Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, October 3rd** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking!

Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM.

General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event. Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>



## Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, on the 2nd floor, and is sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM.

Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available.

This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Jan Gregg - W5GNK at: [jang5@yahoo.com](mailto:jang5@yahoo.com), or you can contact her by phone at (254) 217-3791.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.





*"Welcome to the Hall of Fantasy. The series of radio dramas dedicated to the supernatural, the unusual, and the unknown. Come with me, my friends. We shall descend to the world of the unknown and forbidden... down the depths where the veil of time is lifted and the supernatural reigns as king!"*



*The Hall of Fantasy*, first aired in 1946 over station KALL - a CBS affiliate in Salt Lake City. Later, in 1952, it became syndicated and aired over the Mutual Broadcasting System until 1954.

This series of radio dramas was dedicated to monsters, horror, and the supernatural where the supernatural forces of darkness often triumphed and man was usually the loser. Its episodes were frightening, having dark, desolate atmospheres and down-beat endings.

Evil spirits live in the shadows and whisper; crickets chirp in the night; a far off scream; the snap of a neck; the stretching of rope; the crickets would cease their chirping; a dog would howl and someone would wind up hanging from the nearest tree.

For your Halloween enjoyment, try listening to this late at night with all the lights out. I triple dog dare you that you will be turning the lights back on by the mid station break. If you dare, visit:

[https://archive.org/details/hall\\_of\\_fantasy](https://archive.org/details/hall_of_fantasy)



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!

#### October NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

October 1st:	October 8th:
Net Control: KE5ISN	N5JLL
Back-Up: N5JLL	K6WXA

October 15th:	October 22nd:
Net Control: K6WXA	KD5FJF
Back-Up: KD5FJF	W5VEX

October 29th:  
Net Control: W5VEX  
Back-Up: AD5SK



### Simulated Emergency Test

*John Galvin, N5TIM*

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is October 3rd & 4th and is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Both the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the National Traffic System will be involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency communications capability within their community while interacting with NTS nets.

The purpose of the test is to find out the strengths and weaknesses of ARES and NTS, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and other groups in providing emergency communications, and help radio amateurs gain experience in communications with shared agencies in an emergency situation.

*Please note... this announcement is from the North Texas ARES and not the ARRL which has made no announcement. -Ed.*



## Fall COMEX

*John Galvin, N5TIM*

The Fall interoperability and communications exercise will be held on October 10th. Suggested frequencies are 7277.5, 7285, and 7290 KHz LSB and 5375 KHz USB during the daylight operations, and 3873, 3860, 3935, and 3845 KHz LSB during night-time operations.



## Scouting's Jamboree On-the-Air

The 58th Jamboree-on-the-Air will be active as **K2BSA** from October 17th to the 18th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM local time – extended evening hours are possible. For more info on this event visit: [www.k3bsa.org/JOTA.htm](http://www.k3bsa.org/JOTA.htm)



## School Club Round-Up

This event is for the exchange of QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college and runs from October 19th to the 23rd. More information on this is at: <http://www.ar1.org/school-club-roundup>



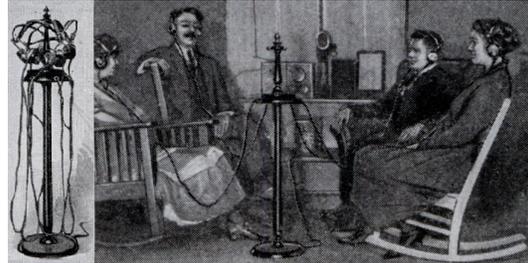
## CQ World-Wide DX Contest

Contest period runs from 0001Z, October 24th through 2400Z October 25th, on 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 & 160 meters SSB. For further information, please visit: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>



## Headset Stand for Radio

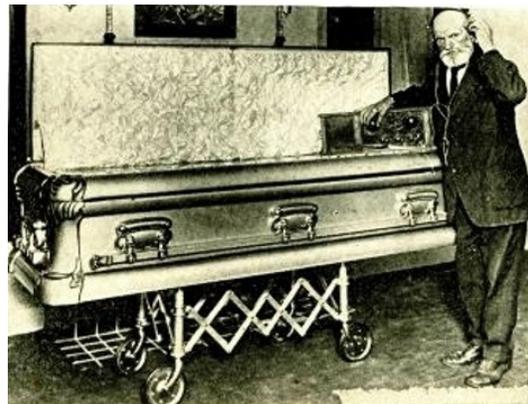
*Popular Mechanix - October, 1923*



An ornamental wooden headset stand, for use as a distribution center when a number of receivers are used, and as a rack for holding the headphones when these are idle. This appliance eliminates any crowding near the equipment.

## Listening In From Kingdom Come

*Popular Radio - October, 1925*



Sam R. Kimball, an aged San Fernando Valley rancher, has placed an order with a Los Angeles undertaker for a twelve hundred dollar steel coffin equipped with a radio receiver. Through it he expects to be able to hear what is going on in the world after he dies, being convinced, he says, that the soul lingers near the body until the day of judgment.

## Free Boat Anchor Manuals

Danny Rymer, K5FDR



Have an old boat anchor that you need the manual for? You'll probably be able to find it at this site. They're all free.

Visit: <http://bama.edebris.com/manuals>

"Consider the boy and girl of today. They get all this wonderful information and entertainment through the air. The world is smaller. Radio will have a marked effect on the people of tomorrow."

*The Wireless Age - October, 1922*



The entire Police Department of Twisp, Washington, are all licensed amateur radio operators.

All 4 of them.

"The radio craze will soon fade."

*Thomas Edison, 1922*



## From the District 6 Emergency Coordinator

Jim Jud - KA5QKL, ARRL District 6 Emergency Coordinator, wants to compile a list of radio amateurs who can be relied on for emergency communications in the area. Many of the smaller communities do not have a hospital or police department, but do have amateur radio operators who could be the first line of communications in a disaster. If you are interested, please contact Jim at: (254) 235-2315 or [jjud654@aol.com](mailto:jjud654@aol.com)



## Daylight Saving Time Ends

*Halloween Night...* once the ghouls and goblins, witches and warlocks, and the undead have returned to the realm from which they came, and you prepare to call it a night, be sure to set your clocks back one hour. Daylight Saving Time will end while you're asleep.

Pleasant dreams... Hmmm?





A group of hams will be active from Kiritimati (Christmas) Island, Oct. 27th - Nov. 3rd as **T32DX**. QSL as directed.

LA7GIA will be active from Bioko (Fernando Po) Island, 10 - 22 October as **3C7GIA**. QSL via his home call.

A group of German operators will be active from Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands 13 - 28 October as **V73D**. QSL via DL4SVA.

A group of hams will be active from Saint Barthelemy Island, 20 - 27 October as **FJ/G4XUM**, **FJ/M5RIC**, **FJ/NØVD** and **FJ/GM4AFF**. They will also put station **TO4K** on the air 24-25 October. QSL via G3NKC.

LZ1GC will be active from Tuvalu through the 14th of October as **T2GC**. QSL via his home call.

LA7GIA will be on the air as **3C7GIA** from Malabo Island between October 10th and the 22nd. QSL as directed.

A group of hams will be active from Saint Martin Island 24 - 25 October as **TO1E**. QSL as directed.

N7QT will be active from Manihiki Island, in the North Cook Islands, through the 27th of October as **E51MQT**. QSL via his home call.

SP5EAQ will be active from Rarotonga Island starting 18 October as **E51EAQ**. QSL via SP7DQR.

DL2AH will be active from Yap Island 18 October - 10 November as **V63AH**. QSL via his home call.

A group of hams will be active from Boa Vista Island in the Cape Verde islands, 17 - 24 October as **D4D**. QSL via EB7DX.

**YV5IAL** will be active from the Dominican Republic, 25 - 31 October, signing **stroke HI7**. QSL via his home call.

**W9ILY** will be active from Saint Martin Island 21 - 29 October signing **stroke FS**. QSL via his home call.

A group of American and Cuban hams will be on the air from Havana, Cuba, as **T42US** between October 21st and the 28th. QSL via WB2REM.

JA4BXL, JA4BDY and JA4BVU will be active from Palau 30 October - 2 November as **T88ZE**, **T88KK** and **T88SH**. QSL via their home calls.

KZ1W will be active from Manihiki Island in the North Cook Islands, until the 27th of October as **E51MKW**. QSL via his home call.

**WF2S** and **K1ZZI** will be active from Gros Islet, Saint Lucia, 7 - 18 October each signing **stroke J6**. QSL via their home calls.

VK6LC will be active from Vietnam through the 23rd of October as **XV2VTC** and **3W2HCM**. QSL via his home call.

SM6CVX will be active from Bhutan 27 - 29 October as **A52CVX**. QSL via his home call.

**W6HGF** and **KK4PHP** will be active from Saint Kitts and Nevis Islands through the 4th of October, each signing **stroke V4**. QSL via their home calls.

**IK7YTT** will be active from Curacao Island 19 - 27 October signing **stroke PJ2**. QSL via his home call.

**5JØB** will be active on San Andres Island, from October 17 through the 27th. QSL via LU1FM.

**NO8I** will be active from Costa Rica, 24 - 25 October signing **stroke TI5**. QSL via his home call.

PH2M will be active from Bonaire Island through October 11th as **PJ4M**. QSL via his home call.

3B8FA will be active from Saint Brandon Island 26 - 31 October as **3B7FA**. QSL via his home call.

# October Harvest Contest

*Announcing the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club's first ever club contest!*

**Purpose:** The purpose of this contest is to have fun and spark some interest in radio as well as the radio club's activities.

**Eligibility:** The October Harvest Contest is only open to Full, Associate and Honorary Members of the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club.

**Contest Period:** The contest period runs from 00:01 CDT October 1st, 2015, to 24:00 CDT October 31st, 2015.

**Objective:** Work as many *different* amateur radio stations during the month of October as possible, on any authorized amateur radio frequencies, and modes - AM, FM, SSB, CW, SSTV, Misc Digital modes, etc., including EchoLink (node-to-node contacts excluded) as well as repeater contacts.

**Net Contacts:** For Net Control Operators - regardless of the net that you may be controlling - each check-in counts toward your total. For Back-Up Net Controllers and participants in a net, only the Net Control Station will count toward your contacts, unless of course you make other individual contacts during a net.

**Log Submissions:** Logs should be submitted no later than November 15th, 2015 in either MS-Word, MS-Excel, .pdf or text style email and should include the date, time, station worked, frequency and mode (i.e., FM, CW, SSTV, etc.) Submit your logs via email to: k6wxa@yahoo.com and list "October Harvest" in the subject line.

The winner as well as 'honorable mentions' will be announced in the December issue of the *Wavelength* newsletter and a certificate suitable for framing, will be presented to the winner at our club Christmas dinner on December 1st. If for any reason the winner cannot be present at the dinner, the certificate will be held until the next club meeting and presented then.

Rake in the contacts in October and have fun, because the air is full of things you shouldn't miss!





## Amateur Radio Users Help Scientists Study Space Weather

Research now suggests that ham radio operators - more than 2 million of them world wide, whose chatter fills the global airwaves day and night, may represent a vast trove of data from these communications that could help scientists study and monitor space weather.

Space weather encompasses the phenomena that occurs in the ionosphere — the outermost layers of Earth’s atmosphere — arising from the sun’s activity and its interactions with the planet’s magnetic field. Disturbances, like the geomagnetic storms that light up aurorae, can disrupt communication systems and GPS networks, while strong events like solar flares can threaten spacecraft, satellites and even terrestrial power grids.

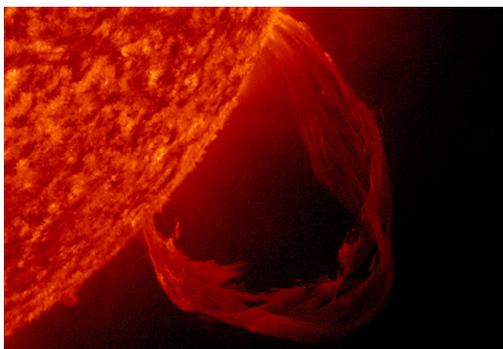
Space weather also affects Ham radio signals. Ordinarily, radio waves — like light — travel in straight lines, but they are affected by the medium in which they propagate, says Joe Taylor-K1JT, a Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist at Princeton University. If they are moving through the atmosphere, they can be refracted or reflected in the same kinds of ways that ordinary light can.

In fact, the short-wave frequencies used by Hams, which range from 3 to 30 megahertz, bend so much that they actually come back to Earth — that’s how a Ham in the U.S. can say hello to a fellow ham in Australia. But just how much these radio waves bend and how far they propagate depends on their frequency and the amount of ionization in the upper atmosphere, which in turn depends on space weather.

Generally speaking, more ionization enables better signal propagation, but during extreme events, like when a solar flare temporarily blew away the ionosphere on May 13, 2013, communication can be cut off entirely.



*Aurora over Upsala, Ontario - July 23, 2015*



*X2.8 Solar Flare of May 13, 2013*

One of NASA’s Geostationary Operational Environment Satellites documented this event, but Nathaniel Frissell-W2NAF, a space scientist at Virginia Tech and lead author of the new study, wondered if he could also detect the flare in archives of Ham radio transmissions. So, he looked at data from the Reverse Beacon Network, a grassroots organization that catalogs all radio transmissions received at a web of listening stations scattered around the world.

Frissell found that although radio propagation conditions were strong before the solar flare, permitting communication between Europe and South America, for example, the

number of calls dropped precipitously right after it struck. Frissell says this illustrates how amateur radio networks can be used to monitor space weather and augment existing scientific observation networks.

Formal networks, such as the National Science Foundation-sponsored SuperDARN program, provide a lot of useful data, which Frissell also studies, but they can't monitor everything. "Ideally, you'd have a sensor in every single part of the sky from the ground all the way out into space," Frissell says. Of course, that's not possible, and Frissell says Ham communications might help fill gaps and provide additional data, similar to what private meteorological stations do for the National Weather Service. "Similar, but for space," he says.

This approach isn't all that different from the one used by Anthea Coster, a research scientist at MIT's Haystack Observatory, who studies space weather using signals sent and received by scientific GPS stations. Coster says Frissell's work demonstrates that Ham radios can "add information to the global picture of what's happening," primarily because "different frequencies are sensitive to different irregularities in the ionosphere."



*Antenna Radar Array at SuperDARN*

Coster also praised the choice of the Reverse Beacon Network because it is passive and autonomous, and thus, doesn't need an operator to record data. There are several other Ham networks in existence, all designed to provide information on the state of the ionosphere for radio users, including one established by Taylor, called the Weak Signal Propagation Report Network. One day, Frissell hopes to integrate them all into a single database.



*MIT's Haystack Observatory*

So far, Ham communications only provide qualitative information about space weather events like solar flares. Moving beyond this presents a formidable challenge because the call data aren't produced systematically or explicitly for scientific purposes. For now, Frissell hopes the new study, published in the journal *Space Weather*, will highlight the scientific utility of Ham communication data. "The space physics community may be less aware of the amateur radio community, and the types of contributions it can make and already is making," he says.

These kinds of contributions, along with emergency communication, education and promotion of international goodwill, are why governments have reserved frequencies for Ham users in the first place. This is just one more way Hams can help.

**Editor's Notes:** The study mentioned in the journal 'Space Weather', can be found at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014SW001132/full>



# W H E R

## *The First All-Girl Radio Station*

*"WHER, 1,000 Beautiful Watts, 1430 On Your Dial"*

With those words WHER, the first all girl radio station took to the air on October 29th, 1955. WHER was owned by local record mogul Sam Phillips of Sun Records and Holiday Inn founder Kemmons Wilson. But it wasn't just a gimmick, WHER was unique in that women almost exclusively ran it. Women read the news, played records and interviewed. They wrote commercials, sold, produced and directed programming. Sam Phillips wife, Becky served as a disc jockey and announcer.

The studio space was described as tiny, but was designed to be lighthearted and play up the theme of an all female staff. Rooms were painted bright colors reminiscent of a doll house and offices were feminized from front door to rear exit. The disc jockeys were called jockettes; the studio was known as the doll's den; the control rooms were called playrooms; the hallway was mirrored, the equipment room had been decorated with murals depicting the evolution of feminine clothing; the stationary was perfumed, the advertisers were listed in a date book. The exit to the parking lot was labeled "Bye, Bye 'Till Next Time".



*Becky Phillips*

By many of today's standards, the ideas of women and feminism promoted by the station was groundbreaking and progressive. The only Y chromosomes at WHER were there to write the checks and fix the transmitter whenever it got wonky. The women controlled everything else.



*Donna Barlett*

A radio station with a mostly female staff is still a very rare thing. But in the 1950s, it was extremely rare to hear a female DJ with her own program. The 1950s were a pretty sexist time and the ceiling wasn't glass in the radio industry. Most women in air positions at that time were network voice actresses or they were local socialites who read recipes during the midday show. But most women overall however remained behind the scenes, doing office work.

But at WHER they were doing something different and doing it well in a male world.

And, they weren't doing it as part of a "movement" - but because they liked it and they were good at it, a situation that was all too rare 40 years ago.

Marge Thrasher said that when she was first asked to come and work for the station, she wasn't really interested in doing it in the beginning. She had heard this kind of sexy come-on style of the women who were at the station previous to her arrival.

But she found it was done in a completely unselfconscious way and that it was a wonderful and pleasant job, and appropriate for women.



*Marge Thrasher*



*Peggy Sternberger*

There was a female spin to everything at the station, which should be expected by a station dominated by women, who worked in every possible capacity. In that light, it wasn't unusual that sports would figure in to the programming. Peggy Sternberger, one of WHER's on-air personalities, would become one of the first women to report on professional sports.

The photo at left shows her covering the USA Golf Championship in 1971 at the Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

Another of the station's radio pioneers, was Vida Jane Butler, who was better known on the air as "*Janie Joplin*" and who was an announcer as well as a copywriter at the station. Later she would go on to use her talent and wit creating radio commercials. She went on to be nominated for the Cleo Award - the highest honor in advertising.

She would typically end her broadcast day with the words: "*Be good, and you'll be happy.*"



*Vida Jane Butler*



*Dorothy Abbott*

Assistant Manager and Program Director Dorothy Abbott was quoted as saying: "We are not trying to prove that we can get along in a world without men. We are simply trying to prove that when a group of women make up their collective minds that they are going to do something successfully, no force on earth can keep them from it."

The women-only format lasted for sixteen years, until 1971, when the station was redesigned as WWEE, added male broadcasters, and moved more toward a talk radio format.

Still, the trail-blazing women of WHER made a lasting mark on radio in a time when women weren't considered serious journalists or "real" reporters. So hats off to Memphis which gave the girls a chance to show what they were really made of!

# If Not For Radio, All Would Have Perished

*When Neptune Scowls...* October gales were sweeping over the steamer routes. Huge liners were limping into port a day or two days late, with lifeboats and super structures smashed, passengers injured and veteran skippers proclaiming the gale the worst in their experience. Out in mid-Atlantic, the *S.S. Ignacio Florio* an Italian freighter with 39 passengers and crew, was battling eastward in winds of hurricane force and mountain high seas.

It was the evening of October 19th, 1925, when amidst the pounding seas, the freighter's cargo of grain shifted and the ship began to list. Captain Amiello Lauro went below to check on conditions leaving his 2nd Officer Lugi Leboffe, on forward watch. When the Captain returned he found his 2nd Officer gone - having been swept over board by the angry seas. Then the rudder was sheered off, leaving the freighter helpless.



At once the ether was filled with the message of tragedy... "SOS SOS LAT 49:55N. LONG 38:16. BROKEN STEERING ENGINE." Several ships responded to her call, the closest of which was the liner *President Harding* - 150 miles away and only able to make 8 knots through the churning seas. It wouldn't be until the following afternoon that the great liner reached the stricken freighter.



Attempting to shoot a line from the deck of the *President Harding* to the *Ignacio Florio*

At that time another message would come from the *Florio*: "I REQUIRE YOUR SERVICE. COME TO SAVE LIFE. COME. MASTER, COME. WE TRUST ONLY IN YOU AS WE CANNOT REMAIN LONG TIME ON SHIP, ALL LIFEBOATS ARE BROKEN."

The first attempts at rescue, came from the *Harding* which tried to shoot lines across to the *Florio*, but this proved unsuccessful. Finally, a 2-hour period set in where the storm calmed.

Small boats were put out from the *Harding* to the *Florio* and all of the ship's crew were safely taken off. Shortly afterwards, the freighter was engulfed by the seas and went to the bottom. The photo at bottom right, shows the last of her crew being taken off.

In the end, all of the remaining 38 passengers and crew - including the ship's mascot cat - were safely taken aboard the *Harding*. The *Florio's* radio operator, Luigi Ambrogi, was regarded as a true hero. He remained at his post, at the key, throughout the ordeal for 50 hours straight - tired, hungry, wet and cold. The rescue of the Italian freighter's crew is one of the greatest in the annals of the Atlantic Ocean.

