



Dixie Amateur Radio Club

February 2010

Volume 34, Issue 2

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This Month at DARC!

Storm Spotter Training

The Dixie Amateur Radio Club welcomes Kevin Barjenbruch with the National Weather Service to our February meeting, on Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Kevin will be conducting Weather Spotter training for our club members and Washington County emergency response officials.



Since SKYWARN's inception in the 1970s, the information provided by the program's participants has enabled the National Weather Service to issue more timely and accurate life-saving weather warnings. Spotters provide the real-time "ground truth" necessary for an effective national warning system.

(Continued on page 6)

January Meeting



If the January meeting is any indication, 2010 will be a great success!

7 people took and passed VE exams. The new Board of Directors was introduced. President Nick Nickle informed us about the club's financial position,



and a demonstration of a 2 meter Yagi beam antenna made from PVC pipe and an inexpensive steel tape measure. The participants were pleased with the presentations and stayed to talk and discuss things after the meeting.



Instructions on building this 2 meter beam are featured prominently on the club website.

We were also very happy to welcome Randy Wakefield, KD7VQV, formerly of Mountain Home, ID, who has recently relocated to St. George with his family and joined our club!

Who Are We?

The Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) association of federally licensed Amateur Radio operators (also known as "ham radio" operators) who primarily reside in southwestern Utah, mostly in the greater St. George City metropolitan area. We also have members who live in rural areas of Washington County and in areas outside of the county. The Dixie Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a formally "Affiliated Club" with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) "The National Association for Amateur Radio".

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2010 Board Members

- President...C. R. "Nick" Nickle W7CRN
- Vice-President....Kory Talbot KE7MMH
- Secretary..... Kevin Merrill KE7TLW
- Treasurer.....Harold Wells KE7OZG
- Board Member.....Scott Taylor KE7YIQ
- Board Member..Bruce Bissell KE7LGD
- Board Member....Ken Forshee KE7DZI

Past Presidents of DARC

- 2009.....Ken Forshee KE7DZI
- 2008.....Ric Wayman K7DLX
- 2007.....Hal Whiting K12U
- 2006.....Hal Whiting K12U
- 2005.....Gary Zabriskie N7ARE
- 2004.....Dan Farwell W8EQA
- 2003.....Dan Farwell W8EQA
- 2002.....Ron Sappington W17Z
- 2001.....Travis Lofthouse KD7FRN
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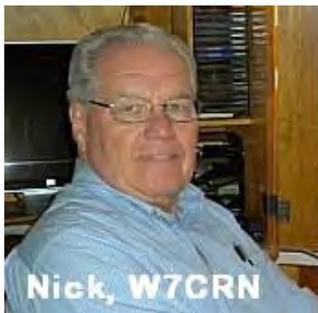
Can anyone help me complete this list?
 Please contact Ric Wayman at
 k7dlxham@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS WANTED!

Send your ideas, bios, articles, cartoons, etc.
 to Ric Wayman at k7dlxham@gmail.com.
 ALL HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED!

Nick Nickle, W7CRN

President's Corner



The February Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 PM in room E of the Community Arts Building at the corner of Main Street and 100 South, members are welcome to attend.

At our February Club meeting on Wednesday February 17th, Kevin Barjenbruch with the National Weather Service will conduct a "Weather Spotter" training session – Also at the February meeting the proposed amendments to the Club's Bylaws will be passed out to club members (and posted on the website). A vote on these amendments will be held at the March 17th Club meeting – to vote you must be a full member in good standing (2010 dues paid).

Watch the website for an upcoming announcement for the date and time for our February Fox Hunt.

Thanks & 73,
 Nick Nickle – W7CRN

VE Sessions - Helping you get your license and upgrade

The Dixie Amateur Radio Club has a very active Volunteer Examiner group, led by past president Gary Zabriskie (N7ARE), our VE Liaison. The ARRL VE program is designed to give you the best chance of obtaining or upgrading your license, while maintaining the integrity and honesty of the examination process.

Exam sessions are conducted by volunteers working under the direction of the FCC. There will likely be a charge for taking the exam. The exam fee is set by the Volunteer Exam Coordinator (VEC), and is \$15. Contact the exam session administrator to ensure you have everything you need. If you have any special needs be sure to notify the exam session administrator before exam day so special accommodations can be made for you.

1. Bring a legal photo ID (drivers license, passport) OR, when no photo ID is available, two forms of identification must be presented (birth certificate, report card, library card, Social Security card, utility bill, bank statement, Non-photo ID/driver's license, etc.). Students may bring a school ID card, minor's work permit, school report card, library card and/or a written note from a legal guardian.
2. If applicable, bring the original and a photocopy of your current Amateur Radio license and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) you may hold from previous exam sessions. The photocopy(s) will not be returned.
3. Bring your Social Security Number (SSN) or your FCC issued Federal

(Continued on page 8)

Meet The New Board Members**Bruce Bissell, KE7LGD**

Bruce Bissell KE7LGD in the shack.

A long way from his home town of Alexandria, Louisiana, DARC Board Member Bruce Bissell KE7LGD now lives in Central, Utah, about 28 miles Northwest of St. George, Utah on Hwy. 18. Bruce wanted to be a Ham Radio Operator from around age fourteen, but he didn't get around to it till 2007. Better late than never. Right?

Most nights you'll find Bruce around 3.913 MHz, with the likes of N7IU, Jim in California and K9HSS, Ed in Wisconsin. This roundtable has apparently been going on there for 30 years. Bruce says it's great fun listening and learning from these older hams. "It's not age so much as experience: most have been hams for more than 5 decades. Some nights I hear stories that have me laughing my head off and other nights maybe a tear will come to my eye. It's wonderful to go out to your Radio Shack and visit with great people all over and never get out of your chair to do it."

Bruce feels like it is like having a second family after a few years of rag chewing with the same friends most every night. In his opinion Ham Radio is the one of the best hobbies mankind has ever come up with.

Bruce was a little slow joining the Dixie Amateur Radio Club, thinking he did not know any of the members and would not fit in. SURPRISE!! Bruce says the greatest thing about DARC is the people! Bruce is so thankful for all the help and encouragement he has gotten from so many of the wonderful members in this group. Three Field Days and 3 years of helping hands, have made membership in the Dixie Amateur Radio Club absolutely priceless to Bruce. Nothing else jump starts a new ham's understanding of radio better than listening and learning from other hams who love this hobby. Bruce smiles. "If every one started as young as Jaden (KE7ZPD) we would all be radio whiz kids."

Just to give the newer members an idea of what Bruce is talking about regarding the advantage of belonging to the DARC group, his neighbor and Elmer WØRMV, Dave, has helped teach him the art of tuning older tube HF radios and amps and kept his great 30+ year old Kenwood TS-830S rig, and TL-922A amp operational. The amplifier was bought from the club's donated gear that was getting older and dustier. It now has a new home and is used every night now. The club officers were very fair and helpful making it affordable to obtain a much needed piece of radio equipment. For someone just starting to build a radio shack, the club and it's members can be a great source to help you get on the air.

And speaking of building, Ned Stevens K7ELP, went out of his way to help Bruce build his 12 foot by 16 foot storage shed/ radio shack. Even though Ned did it left handed, it has withstood high winds and snow loads in the harsh Central weather. Ned was a godsend to a ham truly in need of a helping hand. Bruce would cut a board twice and it would still be too short! Ned would cut it once and it fit like a glove, every time. Half the nails Bruce would hit with his hammer bent more than once. Most of Ned's nails took 3 taps with his left-handed hammer and it was a done deal. Having the right tools really helps. Ned's cordless drill made short work putting up 4 foot by 8 foot panels. Bruce says: "When I was younger I heard that when you get older you work smarter not harder. Well I'm here to tell ya, it is true. Ned would work circles around me. We would start on something and he'd be done while I was still scratching my head about it. Thanks Ned for all that hard work and know how. Ned is a wonderful Elmer as well. He soldered some parts into my TL-922A amp, it looks like it was done in the factory - and he did it left-handed as well!" Great job Ned.



The Shed

Bruce would also like to thank our new president Nick, W7CRN. Nick helped Bruce program his FT-60R hand-held 2 meter rig just after Bruce got his first ham license. Kory Talbot (KE7MMH) and his friend Jim came out to Central and did some tests on Bruce's Equipment, with a tube tester that Kory's dad let him use. Ric Wayman (K7DLX) is also a great computer doctor, and has kept Bruce from shooting his HP Pavilion desk top computer.

(Continued on page 4)

Farwell and Good

One Ham's Journey

By Dan Farwell W8EQA

I start this project not knowing if I'll ever finish it. My fondest wish is to impart some interest and enthusiasm in my fellow ham radio operators, so that they might get some of the satisfaction and fun out of this hobby that I've received.

I hope I can make you laugh or cry, but what I really want is to put you all on the road to being better operators and getting more from this wondrous hobby.

My intent is to relate stories and instruction that can be easily assimilated by most hams. My little one page wonders will hopefully help to explain some of the mysterious facets found in ham radio. Some you will already know, some may go over your collective heads.

Some are just stories and aren't intended to teach you anything except where I came from and how I got to where I am now.

These pages are particularly aimed at new Ham Radio operators who may be confused and overwhelmed by all of the technology currently available to all of us.

Any of the topics I relate can be further pursued through books, tapes and CDs available through the American Radio Relay League.

There are a myriad of ham sites on the internet. Ham radio and the internet is the most exciting combination of technologies I can imagine.

Good luck, best wishes and good hunting on your individual quests. God bless you all.



(Continued on page 5)

Bruce Bissell KE7LGD (cont.)



Spc-4 Bissell, 101st Airborne
Div. Recon Radio man
September 1971

(Continued from page 3)

Ken Forshee (KE7DZI) and his sweet wife Maxine (KE7HNY) have been great friends and made Bruce feel welcome as a new member. Norm Smith (KE7FPG) and Tom Smith (K7AHD) and his wife are a few more of the wonderful members that make this such a really great group to learn and play Ham Radio with.

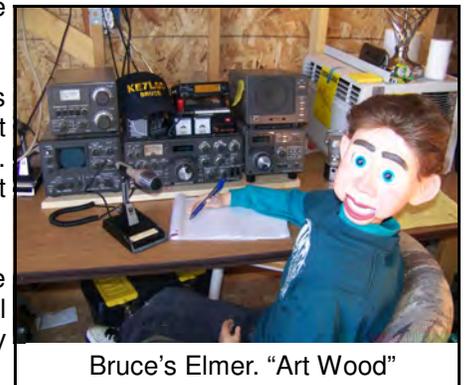
Bruce went to high school in Little Rock, Ark. He joined the Army in June of 71 where his first duty station was the 82nd Airborne Div. at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Bruce then found himself off to sunny, hot Vietnam. After 3 months with the 173rd Airborne, he was off to the 101st Airborne Div. and a 6 man recon team. On November 9th while walking as pointman, Bruce hit a booby-trap killing his team leader, and all but blowing his own right foot off just above the combat boot. Two weeks in a MASH unit, then a month in Japan, and 9 months in the Army hospital in Denver Colorado got him back on two feet.

But when he was building his shed he fell off his ladder and brokeYep, his right foot. It has been broken for over a year, with a few more months to go.

Bruce helped to start the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America four years ago and was on the board of directors for the first three years. He wants to thank all of our veterans from all wars for all that they have done for our liberty. Vets like Ken Forshee, who was in the big one, WWII. Bruce says "Thanks to Ken I didn't have to learn Japanese or German in school (but you know it's kind of funny most all the radios are made in Japan)..."

Bruce has worked as a miner in Colorado & Utah, drilling and blasting. He has driven a truck through all 48 States. He worked at St. George Steel, then went to Dixie College where he earned an Associate degree in Architectural Drafting. He states that what he learned in college was how to color inside the lines. (most of the time.)

Other DARC members Bruce would like to thank for their friendship and help are Gary Zabriskie (N7ARE), Dan (W8EQA) and Melody (W7RRR) Farwell, Hal Whiting (K12U), Jon Duckworth (KB6TLJ) and the youngsters like his new buddy Jaden Taylor (KE7ZPD), who is helping to keep the spirit of Ham Radio alive.



Bruce's Elmer. "Art Wood"

Farwell and Good - One Ham's Journey (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

In The Beginning...
by Dan Farwell W8EQA

Danny: MOMMY! MOMMY! What is that thing?

Mom: Well, honey, I don't know. Let's go to the front door and ask...Hello, my son here is really curious. What is that thing up there?

Dave: Oh, that's my ham radio antenna.

Mom: Uh, well, what do you do with it?

Dave: Well, I can talk to people all over the world - wanna see?

Danny: Wow, look at all that stuff on his desk!

Dave: Have a seat right here son...K4CDC this is W8AHM do you copy?



W8AHM this is K4CDC, loud and clear here in Sarasota, Florida. My name is Bill what's yours - over.

Danny: MOMMY he's talking to Florida!!

Dave: Very fine business Bill you're 5 X 9 near Youngstown, Ohio and my name is Dave. I have some visitors in the shack and I'd like to have them say hello....

Danny: Er, well Hello my name is Danny.....

Good afternoon Danny, glad to meet you and hope you're having fun!

The seed was planted and I was awestruck. It would be several years later when a local commercial painter was working on our house that ham radio would surface again.

That same painter would lead me into ham radio. First I visited his house for dinner and a demonstration. Then when I showed real interest he loaned me his WWII instructograph to help learn the code.

My first rig was all borrowed. A crystal controlled Globe Scout and a WWII BC-348 receiver to a dipole antenna.

I'd work on my cw daily but I just couldn't seem to get past 5 wpm.

One day my Elmer took me to a friend's house and sat me down in front of a real receiver. I marveled at the beautiful knobs on that old HRO-50. I found the cw band and began to copy. After a few minutes the station owner came by and said: "OK, now put away that pencil and paper, close your eyes and just try to see the code in your mind."

He was right and with a little practice my code speed and confidence soon skyrocketed. I was on my way.....

TO BE CONTINUED

Ham Radio Contests - Feb.

The following is a list of selected amateur radio contests taking place in the month of February, 2010. If you would like more information about these and other contests, you can visit the National Contest Journal's complete contest listing at : <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/feb.pdf>.

Get on the air! Join the fun with amateur radio contesting!

- ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint.....2000Z-2359Z, Feb 1
- NCCC Sprint.....0230Z-0300Z, Feb 6
- Vermont QSO Party.....0000Z, Feb 7 to 2400Z, Feb 8
- 10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB..0001Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
- NCCC Sprint.....230Z-0300Z, Feb 7
- Minnesota QSO Party.....1400Z-2400Z, Feb 7
- British Columbia QSO Party.....1600Z, Feb 7 to 0359Z, Feb 8
- Delaware QSO Party.....1700Z, Feb 7 to 0500Z, Feb 8
-and 1300Z, Feb 8 to 0100Z, Feb 9
- New Mexico QSO Party.....1700Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
- North American Sprint, CW.....0000Z-0400Z, Feb 8
- SKCC Weekend Sprint.....0000Z-2400Z, Feb 8
- ARRL School Club Roundup.....1300Z, Feb 9 to 2400Z, Feb 13

- NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint.....130Z-0330Z, Feb 11
- NCCC Sprint.....0230Z-0300Z, Feb 13
- CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest...0000Z, Feb 14 to 2400Z, Feb 15
- New Hampshire QSO Party....0001Z, Feb 14 to 0001Z, Feb 15
- NCCC Sprint.....0230Z-0300Z, Feb 14
- Louisiana QSO Party.....1500Z, Feb 14 to 0300Z, Feb 15
- FISTS Winter Sprint.....1700Z-2100Z, Feb 14
- North American Sprint, SSB.....0000Z-0400Z, Feb 15
- Run for the Bacon QRP Contest.....0200Z-0400Z, Feb 16
- NCCC Sprint.....0230Z-0300Z, Feb 20
- ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW...0000Z, Feb 21 to 2400Z, Feb 22
- High Speed Club CW Contest.....0900Z-1100Z, Feb 22
-and 1500Z-1700Z, Feb 22
- NCCC Sprint.....0230Z-0300Z, Feb 27
- CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB.....2200Z, Feb 27 to 2159Z, Mar 1
- Mississippi QSO Party.....500Z, Feb 28 to 0300Z, Mar 1
- NAQP RTTY.....800Z, Feb 28 to 0600Z, Mar 1

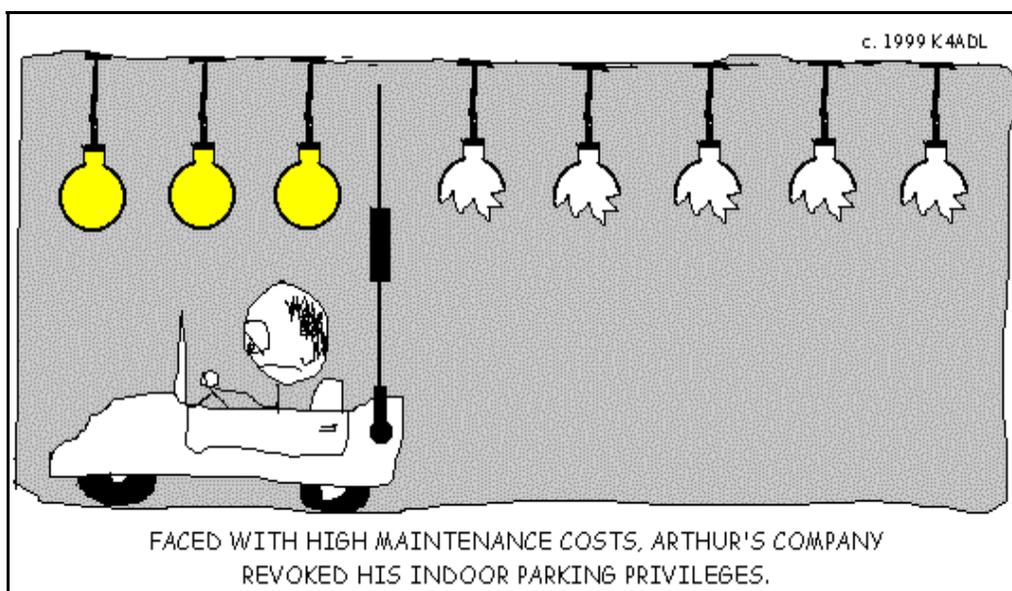
73 ES GL OM!



The Forshee Household Corner

By Ken Forshee KE7DZI
and Maxine Forshee KE7HNY

- ◆ Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
- ◆ Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and not mold!
- ◆ Peppers with 3 bumps on the bottom are sweeter and better for eating. Peppers with 4 bumps on the bottom are firmer and better for cooking.
- ◆ Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef. It will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.
- ◆ To really make scrambled eggs or omelets rich add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream in and then beat them up.
- ◆ For a cool brownie treat, make brownies as directed. Melt Andes mints in double boiler and pour over warm brownies. Let set for a wonderful minty frosting.
- ◆ Add garlic immediately to a recipe if you want a light taste of garlic and at the end of the recipe if you want a stronger taste of garlic.
- ◆ Leftover snickers bars from Halloween make a delicious dessert. Simply chop them up with the food chopper. Peel, core and slice a few apples. Place them in a baking dish and sprinkle the chopped candy bars over the apples. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes!!! Serve alone or with vanilla ice cream. Yummm!
- ◆ Heat up leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.
- ◆ Easy Deviled Eggs! Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done -easy clean up.



More next month! Send your household tips to Ken and Maxine at kf24mf@beyondbb.com.

Storm Watching (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

Every year the NWS conducts SKYWARN spotter training sessions. Currently the NWS has 122 Weather Forecast Offices across the nation, each with a Warning Coordinator Meteorologist who is responsible for administering SKYWARN in their local area.

SKYWARN storm spotters form our nation's first line of defense against severe weather. Visit the SKYWARN web-page at www.stormready.noaa.gov for more information and a way to contact your local office.

The club meeting will be held in the usual location, at the Aldred Senior Citizen's Center property, located at 245 North 200 West in St. George. Come early to ensure you get a good seat.

K7DLX's Word Search

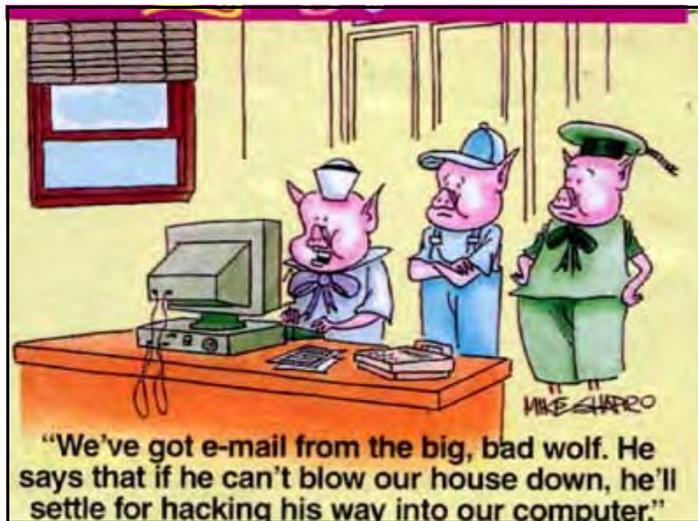
RADIO EQUIPMENT

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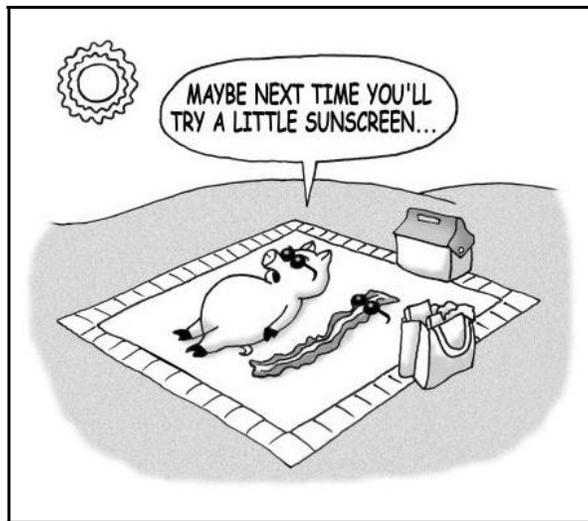
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- ALPHADELTA
- AMERITRON
- ARTSCI
- ASTRON
- COLLINS
- HALLCRAFTERS
- HEATHKIT
- HEIL
- ICOM
- KANTRONICS
- KENWOOD
- MFJ
- MOTOROLA
- PRYME
- STANDARD
- WILSON
- YAESU

Funnies



"We've got e-mail from the big, bad wolf. He says that if he can't blow our house down, he'll settle for hacking his way into our computer."



Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air...

From the 1969 ARRL "Radio Amateur's Operating Manual"

The Wouff Hong



This is the Wouff Hong.

It was invented -or at any rate, discovered- by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. "The Old Man" (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, Co-founder and first president of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of QRM as he tuned across a band filled with signals which exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs, considering the state of the art as they knew it. As amateur technology and ingenuity have advanced, we have discovered new and improved techniques of rotten operating, but we're ahead of our story.

As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. He wrote a number of QST articles about contemporary rotten operating practices and the use of the Wouff Hong to discipline the offenders.

Early in 1919, The Old Man wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong which came to light out here . . . Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay hands on it quickly in an emergency." The "specimen of a real live Wouff Hong" was presented to a meeting of the ARRL Board and QST reported later that "each face noticeably blanched when the awful Wouff Hong was . . . laid upon the table." The Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League and there it remains to this day, a sobering influence on every visitor to League Headquarters who has ever swooshed a carrier across a crowded band.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air.

Next Month: The Rettysnitch

VE Examinations (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

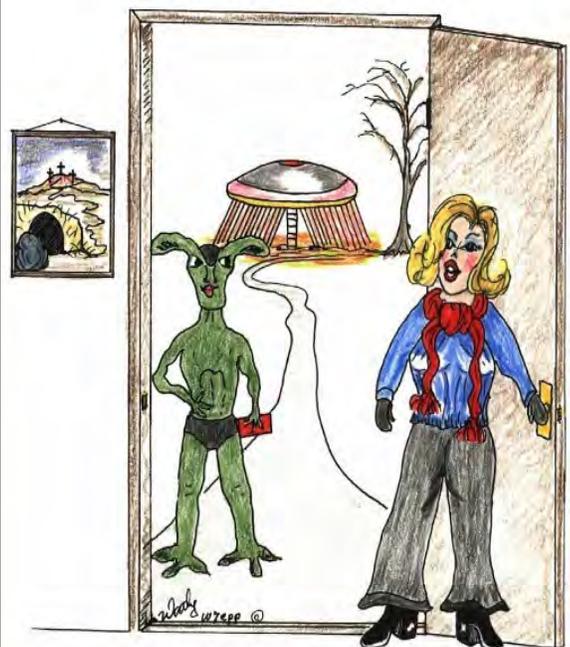
Registration Number (FRN). VEC's are required by FCC to submit either your SSN or your FRN number with your license application form. If you prefer not to give your SSN, then you may use your FCC issued FRN, if you have one. For instructions on how to register your SSN with the FCC and receive a FRN, visit the ARRL web page.

4. Bring a check or money order for \$15.00 made out to "ARRL-VEC" to cover the exam session fee.
5. DARC will provide the test, answer sheet, pencils, and scratch paper.
6. A calculator with the memory erased and formulas cleared is allowed. You may not bring any written notes or calculations into the exam session.

Our next VE session will be held before the February meeting, Wednesday, February 17, 2010 beginning at 5:30PM. If you wish to take an exam, please email Gary Zabriskie at n7are@arrl.net before the meeting. You may also call Gary at 435-674-2678. In your message, please include your name and phone number, and what class of license you intend to test for.

Good luck and welcome to the great hobby of Amateur Radio!

HAMTOON



HONEY ! THE GUY IS HERE WITH YOUR QSL CARD !