

Fellow OMISS Members,

As 2017 comes to a close, many of us will be celebrating with our families. Some will be spending it with us on our nets. Some will do both. 2017 has been a busy year for your administration. OMISS now offers an annual scholarship to a young mind looking to enrich the amateur radio hobby. OMISS attended Dayton Hamvention, hosted a dinner for our members and gave away over \$1300 in door prizes. OMISS awards took on lots of changes this year. K9WVL, Tim, worked tirelessly before he passed away to edit the awards and they are beautiful! KI6WOW, Mike, took on the task of converting them all to jpegs and they are now posted on the website. We hope you are able to add a few of these to your award goals.

Your advisory council has been actively working on your suggestions. The ABC and Band Coordinators have doing a great job at recruiting new NCS stations and keeping our nets scheduled. 16om will also be testing an extra day for the month of January. While you are on the nets, watch for those that have a "V" and thank them for all they do for OMISS. I am so truly grateful for each and every volunteer that gives their time to make this the best amateur radio club on the air. A special thank you to each of the members of the Board. The work you do and time you give does not go unnoticed.

I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas. I hope that 2018 is filled with good health, family, friendship, and fellowship. I would also like to remember those we loved and lost this last year.

Respectfully,

Your OMISS President.

Carrie L. Krueger W9FML OM 8420



Tips for Healthier Radio Clubs

By D.E.Logan and Russell W. Pelleberg

Healthy radio clubs, or in the case of OMISS a Society, are vitally important to the future of Amateur Radio. It is the club/society that often provides the motivation and support for such fundamental activities as recruiting new hams, sponsoring events and running club/society nets and meetings. The club/society is often the best organizer of promotional events and society gatherings as well.

What makes a radio club/society successful? What secrets enable them to keep adding members, providing interesting activities and offering interesting programs or events?

Many radio clubs/societies have pondered these questions over the years. Here is a list of several tips for a healthier radio club/society.

Have Fun!

Most of us enjoy Amateur Radio because it's fun. We use it to escape from work and stress, and as long as it fills that need, we return to it again and again. So the first sign of great radio club/society is that it is a fun place for hams to go. If it is fun, they will come, but if club/society meetings are long, boring and serious, seldom creating a chuckle among the members, the future is dark. If, however, the business meetings are kept short and to the point with plenty of light-hearted and fun things on the agenda, and there is a warm welcome waiting, members (and visitors) will enjoy coming -- and they will return. While clubs/societies must conduct business during the meetings, most of the lengthy planning and detail work can be done by its Board and officers.

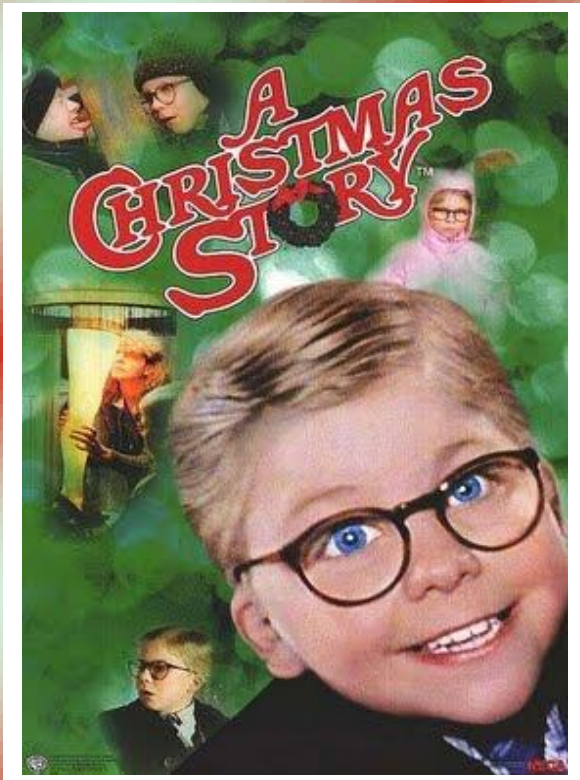
Give 'Em What They Want

Good clubs/societies have good programs. The most popular programs will meet the needs and interests of the members, so it pays to stay in touch with them. How? By listening. Survey them, talk with them and solicit feedback. Ask members to list their favorite things about the club/society and invite ideas for guest speakers and activities at meetings or events. Ask what they do not want. Check other clubs/societies in the area, region or nation for what they may be doing to promote their clubs/societies and engage their membership.

Tap the Talent

Radio clubs are societies! Since they lack employees or paid staff, everything must be done by the members. These volunteers are the brains and brawn behind every club/society activity, net, event and more and are extremely important to the success of the organization. Radio clubs/societies must tap their talent pool for important positions such a Board members and more. These are sometimes thankless positions with tremendous responsibilities! A skills inventory is helpful in identifying those with special talent or training such as electronic engineers, lawyers, writers, skilled amateur radio operators and so on. New member applications can ask for such information, and a periodic update of skills is helpful. How a club/society treats its volunteers influences the rest of members and sets the overall tone of the club/society, and from those ranks can come even more volunteers/members that want to get involved in the future.

In summary, there are numerous factors that can, and have, determined the success and longevity of a club/society such as OMISS. Please reach out to those elected officials and Board members who make this Society so successful and thank them for all they do for OMISS.

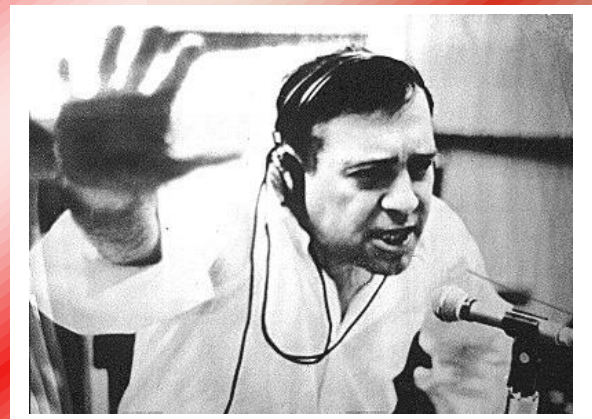


Everybody knows the 1983 holiday classic 'A Christmas Story'. I mean c'mon, who doesn't know all about Ralphie and his dream of owning a Red Ryder, carbine action, 200-shot, range model air rifle, with a compass in the stock and this thing that tells time right? But what would that story be without it being told so eloquently by...by....hey, wait a minute. Just who is that guy?

That man happens to be Jean Shepherd and he was not only the voice of 'A Christmas Story' but he also co-wrote the script along with Leigh Brown and Bob Clark.

Shepherd was born in 1921 on the south side of Chicago, Illinois and was raised in Hammond, Indiana before joining the Army Signal Corps during World War II. After his military service, Shepherd started his broadcast radio career in early 1945 in Hammond, Indiana at WJOB. He then worked at stations in Cincinnati (WSAI, WCKY, and WKRC) before landing a late-night gig on KYW in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Eventually Shepherd was headed to the Big Apple and WOR radio in the winter of 1955. It was there he entertained fans by reading poetry and telling stories which brings this story back to 'A Christmas Story'.

'A Christmas Story' was based on short stories written by Shepherd, ones he read on the air at WOR-AM in New York. In fact, it was on Christmas Eve of 1974 when Shepherd read a tale to listeners that would later become the basis of 'A Christmas Story'.



Here are some other interesting trivia notes on the late great Jean Shepherd (1921-1999)

- 1) Provided the voice of the Narrator/Father character in the 'Carousel of Progress' attraction at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL.
- 2) Inspired the deejay character in Jack Kerouac's novel 'On the Road'.
- 3) The inspiration for Jason Robards' character in 'A Thousand Clowns' (1965).
- 4) Peter Finch's famous rant in the 1976 film 'Network' was inspired by Shepherd's radio diatribes.
- 5) Steve Allen, who listened to Shepherd on WOR, suggested him as his replacement on Tonight!, the first of 'Tonight Show' series, in the late 1950s. NBC went with Jack Paar instead, deciding that Shepherd was too critical and opinionated to host a network show.
- 6) A life-long, die-hard Chicago White Sox fan.
- 7) A columnist for the 'Village Voice' weekly newspaper in New York City, called 'The Night People Column', in 1956 and '57.
- 8) Posthumously inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame on November 13, 2000.
- 9) Is mentioned in the 'Dictionary of American Slang' in the entry for 'Night People', which is defined as 'People who work or live at night, sleeping during the day' and 'Nonconformists'. Shepherd referred to his listeners as 'Night People' often explaining how they differed from 'Day People'.
- 10) Was a licensed amateur (ham) radio operator with the call sign K2ORS. Following his death, another ham took over Jean's call sign to honor his memory.

When everything else fails, amateur radio will still be there—and thriving

By Rupert Goodwins and Russell W. Pelleberg

It's a good time to be technical. Maker communities are thriving around the world, tools and materials to create and adapt are cheaper and more powerful now than ever, and open source hardware, software, and information mean that if you can think it, you can learn how to do it and then make it happen.

For one group of technological explorers, this is more than just a golden age of opportunity: it's providing the means to save one of the oldest traditions in electronic invention and self-education, one that helped shape the modern world: amateur radio



Radio amateurs get a sweet deal, with effectively free access to many gigahertz of the same radio spectrum that companies pay billions for. They've earned it. Throughout the history of electronics, they've been at the borders of the possible, trying out ideas that commerce or government deem impossible or pointless—and making them work. Here's one example of hundreds: Allied military comms in World War II needed a way to reliably control the radios used by front-line forces, replacing tuning knobs with channel switches. Hams had the answer ready and waiting—quartz crystal oscillators. (Those are part of computing history, too. You're probably using about 10 of them right now.)

The trouble with making a success of frontier territory is that it doesn't stay frontier for long. As radio hams colonized new frequencies and new methods, government and commercial interests wanted in (and they got in). What was useless yesterday can be very desirable today, and a lot of the ham bands in the once-fallow UHF and microwave spectrum now look very tempting for wireless data, satellite downlinks, and the constant chatter of the Internet of Things. Some attacks on amateur spectrum have been repelled, others have succeeded. More are on the way.

It has looked like a losing battle at times, as the relevance of amateur radio seemingly faded with the advent of the Internet and cheap digital technology to play with. Radio hams looked like yesterday's people, as relevant as steam engine enthusiasts in the age of spaceflight. Who cares if they lose their spectrum if the rest of us can stream more HD cat videos as a result?



Tim Peake aboard the International Space Station, describing how he communicates with on-Earth schools via ham radio.

There's enough truth in that to make it dangerous. A large cohort of hams just want to play with radios and talk to their pals, but that attitude masks four things that amateur radio still does that can't be easily replaced.

Start with STEM. In the days of tube radios, it was a standard rite of passage for 10 year olds to take them apart and find out how they worked. The likes of Richard Feynman, Claude Shannon, and Robert Noyce all started that way. Good luck taking the back off an iPhone, kids—but the whole path from simple radio receivers to megabit interplanetary communication is still there. Amateur radio will take you every step, bypassing barriers and making connections. There's a reason ham radio is aboard the International Space Station.

Then, there's backup. Take the European HAMNET, for example. That's a four-thousand-node high speed data network covering a large part of continental Europe and providing full IP connectivity at megabit speeds. It connects to the Internet—ham radio owns 16 million IPV4 addresses, believe it or not—but is independent of it, doing its own robust and flexible routing. If the Internet was to go away, HAMNET would still be running. The same's true of nearly all ham radio infrastructure. When everything else fails (power, comms, roads), ham radio is still there. These days it can even be a full-fat digital medium.

This independence gives ham radio a further edge. It is vigorously non-commercial and non-governmental, and by law the format has to be open—encryption is almost completely forbidden. It's open to all nations (and nearly all allow it). It has survived war, dictatorships, disaster, and CB radio. If you want to use the airwaves, then provided you can pass a simple technical test and pay a nominal admin fee, you don't need any further permission. Increasingly, that means unique creations that can't happen any other way, like global free-to-access digital voice radio networks and international automated satellite tracking and data systems.

This resurgence has helped amateur radio keep its place at the negotiating table with regulators and lawmakers. It's kept the world full of active expertise in wireless, one of the major drivers of modern IT and also one of the guarantors that things like commercial cellular networks are constantly checked for abuse. Those radio hackers at the Def Con and Blackhat conferences who gleefully expose the flaws and backdoors in your mobile phone will usually be active ham radio geeks.

It's also a lot of fun. Nobody has to be a radio amateur, but if you want to use radio inventively, understand how it works, or need to create a communications link that doesn't conform to other people's limits or require their permission, it's there for you. Be there for it.



Checkout the OMISS Facebook Page!



OMISS Christmas Word Search!

E	D	J	E	L	F	V	N	A	L	H	H	N	I	O
Q	C	N	G	F	A	Y	M	U	O	N	O	L	R	I
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- Director: John N8SPM #8683
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Don't forget to check the
OMISS website for Net
times and Frequencies!