

The Importance of Radio Scouting Today.

Here is a story that illustrates why I continue to do JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) and Radio Scouting events. It demonstrates the life-long interest, challenges and fun Amateur Radio can be. Over the weekend I traveled home to help celebrate a birthday, my Dad's 94th. Many of you may know him as Art, W3WM, W3LNE, or as he was licensed in 1939 as W9FUY. He has been a member of the ARRL since 1941 and a life member of QCWA. You might even know him from his interviews on W5KUB and Amateur Logic at Dayton last year. He has been continuously on the air since 1939 except for the five years during WW II when the airwaves were shut down. His was on the air the day Pearl Harbor was attacked.

My Dad has always been active in Amateur Radio, but the last few years, life has taken priority of his



time, so I figured I would go portable as part of the celebration. KB3LEZ, my son, threw up a Radio Wavz 40M dipole to operate in the backyard from my IC 7000, and LDG tuner. To cover all the possible bases and for a little better visibility, I ran Ham Radio Deluxe on my laptop with a big monitor. All that only took about 40

minutes to set up and was so worth the effort. We were ready to operate from a table in the back yard in Central Pennsylvania. My thoughts went back to my youth hearing CQ, CQ, CQ, booming out of the shack on contest weekends. My mother Sylbia (SK), KB3HYV, supporting the efforts with snacks, drinks and understanding.

We didn't get to sit down until about dusk that late August weekend, but let me tell you the propagation gods were smiling on us. As he went up and down the bands 160- 10, he was delighted to hear the bands in great shape and multiple special events and QSO parties underway. In the low light I could picture him as a youth, leaning into the radio to hear the faintest station, tuning the antenna and being bathed by the warm tube light of his radio. The focused concentration, the sparkle in his eyes and the hint of a smile as he worked through the pileup, putting another station in the log. The great stories about contacts from the past and how it was done when radio was young only added to the moment. It was heartwarming and probably the best present I could have given him.



We sat there for two and half hours working station after station, into Kansas, Kentucky, Texas,



Mississippi, Mexico City, an island activation, a battlefield and Katrina special event stations. As he was about to hang it up for the night, one last spin on 20M brought in multiple 5/5 Hawaii QSO stations,



and the hunt was on again for another 20 minutes. Although conditions continued to improve, so did the size of the pile ups. He didn't get Hawaii in the log that night.

To me this is what Amateur Radio and Scouting is all about, creating and sharing great memories and bridging the gap between youth and adult for life-long fun. You too can also share the traditions of Scouting and Amateur Radio through Radio Scouting, it's up to you.

Join me in the fun and excitement.

Don

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