



# W7MNW Mercury Northwest Newsletter

## President's Message

October 2011

By

William Harding KE7DEM

**A**llow me to ask a question. Why did you get involved with Amateur Radio? I am sure this question has been asked many times before, and it will probably continue to be asked many times in the future, if for no other reason than to try and explain to others. For most of us, the common thread in Amateur Radio is Emergency Communications. But as you well know, there are so many more reasons and activities to be licensed. So let me start again and add a few more questions to the stack.

Also, if you feel inclined, respond back to me via email ([KE7DEM@arrrl.net](mailto:KE7DEM@arrrl.net)) or snail-mail (William Harding, 6132 228<sup>th</sup> St SE, Woodinville, WA 98072) with your answers to any of these questions. And if you don't mind, we will share some of your answers in the next newsletter. What you have to say may help someone else who is wondering about things.

Why did you get involved with Amateur Radio?

Are those reasons still valid?

How much are you involved?

What has been your most recent project?

What did you learn from doing this?



This, for those of you who do not recognize this oft seen picture, is the World Trade Center as it collapsed on 9/11 back in '01. This event should be one that Emergency Radio Operators take rather personally. The Emergency Communications Center for the Borough of Manhattan was in the basement of the World Trade Center. All of the traffic that came out of Manhattan were from local Hams and those in the general area. Of all those rescued from the WTC none were from the Comm Center.

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## **Mercury Memos** **Traditions and Protocol vs. Laws and** **Regulations**

**By**  
**John Swapp K7CXJ**

**T**radition says that it's not proper to give your full name on the radio, but it's not illegal. In my experience, there are not many situations where it's appropriate to give your full name. It's a friendly tradition that we call each other by our first names and we don't need to know last names.

There is a tradition (a bad one) that stations use the phrase, "This is K7CXJ for ID". To say "...for ID" is redundant and totally unnecessary, but it's not illegal. It is a regulation that we identify our station, but we don't need to say "...for ID".

Tradition says that we give the call letters of the station to which we are talking, but it's not required. All we have to do is identify our own station. It is particularly good to give the call of the station to which you want to transmit next. There is a tradition (a bad one) that during a roundtable conversation, some stations just give their call and don't say who they want to transmit. This creates "doubling" that is more than one station transmitting at the specific same time. Tradition says to invite a station to transmit when you are finished.

## **Equipment Report**

**By Jon Mitchell KD7FAU**

**J**ust returned from an 18 day backpacking trip in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area with my brother. I packed along my Elecraft K2, 5 watt solar panel and AA battery packs. Set up several portable hf wire antenna's during the trip, most all were NVIS dipoles at about 10 feet. A couple of times we used a sling to throw a rock over a tree at up to 40 feet for

an inverted vee. Antenna consisted of two 100 foot spools of 28 gauge teflon coated stranded wire. When in a hurry I'd connect directly to the radio and run each 100 foot spool off each side. Allows a person to be on the air in a couple of minutes. With more time we'd use part of the wire for an open wire feed, then T at the measured length for the desired frequency. Very effective SSB contacts on 75 and 80 meters using 1/10th of a watt to 10 watts here in the Northwest, especially to those stations with low noise levels. SSB copy was rough on a couple of nights so went to CW. We always got through to N7TDK, Bill in Goldendale, WA, Rudy KC7N, and others.



We fished 11 lakes and several streams. We enjoyed brook trout dinners with mushrooms, huckleberries, and wild strawberries.

This is the third time I've lugged along the K2 on 2 week plus trips with a total weight counting batteries, solar panel, CW paddle and wire spools of about 8 pounds. That's a very heavy load when it comes to backpacking, especially extended stay trips, but was fun for our daily

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schedules and provides solid and indefinite HF communications. If there were more buddies that enjoyed CW I could drop that weight to a couple of pounds or less. CW buddies or not, I'm getting old and CW means less work unless I can afford one of those new Elecraft KX3's.

Our original hike was scheduled for 26 days but I received a CW message on Day 18 that I was needed at home for a family emergency. We will try again next year.

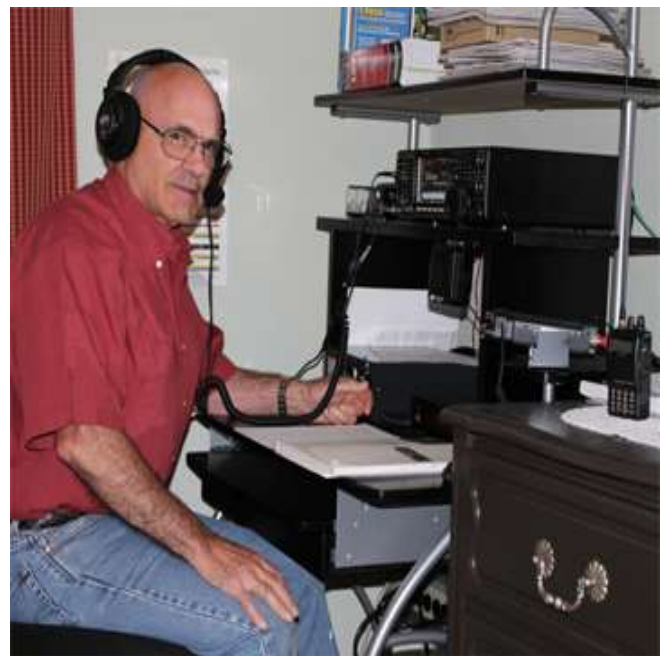
**Jon: Sounds like a pretty hard job but I am glad you were there to take on the responsibility of catching all those fish and keeping the CW rig warm at the same time. ED**

## Cell phone tips that many people may not know about

Submitted by  
John Swapp K7CXJ

1. The emergency number worldwide for cell phones is **112**. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your service provider and there is an emergency, dial **112** and the phone will search any existing network and connect you.
2. Hidden battery power: If your cell phone battery is very low, press the keys **\*3370#**. Your cell phone will restart with this reserve.
3. If you lock your keys in your car and have a spare remote keyless entry fob at home, call home and have someone hold the fob up to their phone and have them press the "open" button. Hold your cell phone about a foot from the car door. The car will unlock.

4. How to disable a stolen cell phone: To check your phone's serial number, key in the phone. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen, you can contact your service provider and give them the numbers. They can then block your phone from being used so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless.
5. Free directory service for cell phones: **(800) FREE411**.



## Mori's Life with Radio

By MORI DAY, W7DAY

**M**ori Day, W7DAY, is a relatively new ham and member of Mercury Northwest. He initially enrolled in the Technician class taught by William Harding, KE7DEM, in January 2011 at the urging of friend John Swapp, K7CXJ. He then went on to study on his own and passed the General and Extra exams in February and March.

Mori was born in San Luis Obispo, California. His family moved to New Jersey during World War II where his father worked for the U.S. Army Signal Corps. The family moved to Riverside, California in 1952. Although his Dad was an electrical engineer, the family bought a small farm that Mori feels they did to teach him how to work and to keep him out of trouble.

Mori has had an interest in electronics most of his life and even played around with amateur radio back in the 1950s with a friend who was a Novice at the time. However, since he was a farm boy, beyond his normal regimen of chores he had many interest and priorities including mechanics, model airplanes, hot rods, animal husbandry and other things including college prep. So he never quite passed the requirements to become a Ham at that time.

Mori graduated from California Polytechnic University in 1964 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Upon graduation he went to work for Southern California Edison Company in the Huntington Beach Power Generating Steam Station as a Physical Plant Engineer. In 1968 he went to work for the U.S. Air Force at Edwards Air Force Base as a flight test engineer.

Mori came to the Seattle area in 1974 to take a position in the Air Force Plant Reps Office at the Boeing Company. He and his family loved the Northwest; however, he found his job in the AFPRO unfulfilling. So he left the Air Force in 1978 and founded a medical equipment service and repair company (Omega Medical Mechtronics, LLC) that he operated for 33 years. He retired from Omega Medical Mechtronics in December 2010 and sold the

company to one of his sons who had worked with him for over 20 years.

Even though Mori's formal education was primarily mechanical engineering, his interests in electronics continued to develop – especially in practical applications. Electronics were a primary consideration in his service and repair of medical equipment. He also designed and sold various electronic devices and computerized control systems for large sterilizers and industrial washers.

Mori and his wife Karen met on a blind date before he finished college. They were married in February 1963 after dating for five months and they recently celebrated their 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have four sons and eleven grandchildren. Mori's amateur radio associations include Mercury Northwest and ARRL. His interests include DX and trying to improve radio performance and his skills. Being new in amateur radio, his interests and associations are still developing.

## **A Challenge**

**By R. S. Sturtevant AD7IL**

**O**ur Association is one primarily set up to deal with emergencies in their various forms and incarnations.

When I told people about the MARA system and how it was to serve the Church I used to say “We’re getting prepared for every kind of emergency that can possible happen, including Indian raids.” But I’ve stopped doing that. I stopped when one of my operators told me that if we were going to be involved in response to Indian raids his ethnic pride would have him on the other

side running comm for the Indians.

Any way, with the possible exception of Indian raids, the MARA NW organization is trying to be ready for anything. Even if we lose power my station can stay on the air for 5 or 6 days using the RV Marine battery tucked not so neatly under my operating desk. By then I plan to have walked across the street and borrowed one of my neighbor's two generators and get on the air again. Unless my antenna falls down again, as it did earlier this summer, I guess I'm ready for anything in the power loss department. I hope many of you are likewise.

The one thing that I and I suspect many of you are deficient in is building stuff. It used to be that one of the questions on the License Exam was "Draw the schematic for your transmitter, identify the parts and explain what function each part has." In those long past days you didn't run down to the Ham Radio store and by the latest whiz bang Giantus Transceiver with GPS, RADAR detection, incoming missile alarm and government code translator. You built your own rig from scratch. Those were the days when real Hams build real radios and the warranty was in your tool box.

I am not suggesting that we return to those golden days of Ham radio and refuse to buy our equipment. I would be off the air in less time than it takes an electron to zap me in my. . . . . never mind. I am challenging all of us, with the blessing of our Fearless Leader (long may he wave) to build *something*. I suggest that the one thing that almost every Ham has or should have built is a crystal set. It is an easy build and will teach some of us slower children what it

takes to make a radio work. I have gone over the internet and painstakingly counted how many designs for crystal sets there are. I then went through all of the books on the subject, in print and out, carefully added the two numbers together then laboriously eliminating any duplicates. My research tells me there are a bunch of them out there. Actually the total is a large bunch plus a few more.

My challenge is that each and everyone of you build a crystal set of a design selected by you, make sure that it actually works. Then photograph your baby and send it to me at [BobAD7IL@ifiber.TV](mailto:BobAD7IL@ifiber.TV). The deadline for these entries will be December 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, which should be enough time. I'll even take your word for it works or not because I know Ham radio operators never lie about such things.

Have you got someone you'd like to interest in radio? This is an excellent project to get them interested. What parent wouldn't want their child to have a radio that could not be turned up to ear splitting levels and never required batteries. It is a great project for Scouts to try. All they need is a little direction.

Under NO POWER conditions everyone is going to want one of these little beauties because they will want to hear the latest government instructions and news about the event that caused the emergency. If you don't know how to make them who is going to teach them how.

This simple project will remind us how it feels to get wire and soldering iron out and DO SOMETHING. There are so many designs that I am sure you will find one you like. For anyone who wants a parts

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list here it is: An IN48 diode or something like it will work but that exact size is not required. Wire should be of some gage that does not require industrial power tools to bend. Crystal sets can be built in AM, FM or Short Wave so I guess we'll have three categories. All entries will be judged by their builders and photos will be published in the Newsletter in the next convenient issue. Those not submitting entries will be talked about in local club meetings. So build any kind of Crystal set that you like and send me the photo. Give us an idea of how long it took in actual work time and include your name and call sign.

## Spokane Field Day

Photos submitted by Ron Billings AC7CJ



*Feel the POWER!*



**Ron Billings, AC7CJ holding forth on the  
mike at Foothills Chapel in Spokane.**

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**Aaron Noack AD7DD on the right and Rick Anhorn KF7PTB show off their field station in a great carry box. Get your tools out, these guys got it going!**



**The Antenna Farm and Certified Antenna Inspector Mike Ives KE7GLL all hard at work.**

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