

VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #58

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2010



The last salute to VWOA Awards Luncheon from Snug Harbor retiree Herman Arond, 1989 recipient Marconi Gold Medal of Service 1998 David Kintzer Memorial Award Plaque

Coast Station WNE Receives Donation of Transmitter

By Paul Bock, K4MSG (T2, PG)
Member, VWOA



Herman Arond N2CCF
SK 02/27/10
Former VWOA Treasurer

Within the past year a Public Coast Station license was issued to the New England Historical Radio Society (NEHRS) headquartered near Boston, MA, to operate on frequencies of 500 and 472 kHz under the call sign WNE. Information about NEHRS can be found on their web page at <http://nehrs.net/default.aspx>.

Since NEHRS is a “fledgling” coast station project with no facilities or equipment initially available it is necessary to seek donations and/or low-cost procurement to help get the effort off the ground.

Because of a personal interest in radiotelegraph history I decided to try and assist NEHRS in any way I could, so in late 2009 I contacted Steve Russell, WA1HUD, the WNE station licensee, and learned that NEHRS needed an AM broadcast transmitter for conversion to the desired frequency range.

Because of my 1970s experience as chief engineer of an AM/FM radio station I knew of some transmitters that might fill the bill so I volunteered to see what I could find.

As luck would have it I discovered that a local ham and fellow member of the Loudoun Amateur Radio Group (LARG) in Loudoun County, VA, had an old AM broadcast transmitter that he was willing to donate to NEHRS. The owner, Frank Gentges, KOBRA, said that NEHRS could have his Gates BC-250GY AM broadcast transmitter if they could arrange pick-up and transportation back to Massachusetts. WA1HUD and his associate in the NEHRS project, Mark Starin, K1RMC, agreed to drive to northern Virginia in early 2010. (NOTE: Although the BC-250GY is broadcast-service rated at 250 watts output, the parallel 810 finals can safely be run at

around 450 watts output on CW without exceeding the tube ratings)

The BC-250GY stands about seven feet tall and weighs approximately 1,000 pounds, so it was pretty clear that there would be some effort involved in removing the transmitter from KOBRA’s shack and safely loading it into a truck for transport. Some of the problem areas included removing the transmitter from a ground floor location, maneuvering it up a grassy slope to a sloping paved driveway and thence to a flat paved area for loading, and then getting it into the bed of a large pick-up truck.

My wife, Sandra, and I agreed to provide meals and accommodations to the NEHRS team during their stay while KOBRA planned the loading operation and solicited assistance from two local clubs, LARG and the Amateur Radio Research & Development Corporation (AMRAD) of which he is also a member.

On Friday, January 22, 2010, the NEHRS crew of WA1HUD, K1RMC and driver Ryan Gingras arrived at my QTH. Weary from a nine-hour drive that included negotiating the typical New York City area Friday traffic they gratefully accepted pizza & chocolate cake for dinner followed by a good night’s rest. The next morning we had a fine egg & sausage casserole and then drove to KOBRA’s QTH where we were greeted by eight enthusiastic

volunteers from LARG and AMRAD, which brought the total number of “bodies” to 13.

We began by tipping the transmitter on its side onto a small dolly and rolling it outside through a sliding glass door, then sliding it onto a low trailer - the type used to transport lawn equipment - with the aid of a large piece of floor carpeting to protect the transmitter. Using manpower and a sturdy block & tackle we successfully pulled & pushed the heavily-loaded trailer up a soft, grassy slope to a paved driveway (I recall some exclamations of joy that Man had once upon a time invented something called a “wheel.”)

Once safely in the driveway the little trailer was hooked to the back of an SUV and towed up to a large flat parking area. There the transmitter was lifted erect, slid to the back end of the trailer, then tipped over and slid into a waiting pick-up truck with the help of more carpeting.

With tie-down straps installed we took a group photo and then retired to KOBRA’s kitchen for pizza, sodas, and more “war stories” than I have ever heard in one place at one time..

After arriving back at my QTH the NEHRS team covered the transmitter with plastic sheets over canvas tarps and tied it down securely for the trip north. We had an

excellent dinner that evening including a celebratory glass of wine, and on Sunday morning the NEHRS crew departed, arriving in Massachusetts many hours later where the transmitter was unloaded and safely stored.

THE FUTURE

As of this writing, both WA1HUD and myself hold commercial 2nd Class Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates (T2) and are qualified to operate station WNE when it is ready to go on the air (although it will be a mighty long commute for yours truly, HI!).

Much work needs to be done to make the station operational, not the least of which is transmitter modification to cover the desired frequencies and installation of a suitable radiotelegraph keying circuit. Steve, WA1HUD is hard at work on the modifications and it is hoped that other hams and non-hams, both with and without commercial operator licenses, will join the project and assist with the development and ultimately operation of Coast Station WNE.

There are ample opportunities for participation at many levels and those interested should communicate with NEHRS through the email link provided on their web page.



PHOTO 1: Gates BC-250GY 250-watt AM Broadcast Transmitter donated to NEHRS by Frank Gentges, KOBRA.



PHOTO 3: Having been transported up the grassy slope and the subsequent paved driveway, the transmitter is hoisted into a vertical position for repositioning on the trailer and loading into a waiting pick-up truck.



PHOTO 2: The BC-250GY transmitter removed from KOBRA's shack and loaded onto a small trailer, ready for transport up a grassy slope using manpower and a block & tackle secured to a suitable tree.



PHOTO 4: The entire crew, L to R: Frank, KOBRA (LARG/AMRAD); Chris, W3CUM (LARG); Sandy, WB5MMB (AMRAD); Paul, K4MSG (LARG); Mark, K1RMC (NEHRS, kneeling); Doug, KJ4BRN (LARG); Paul, K4KRE (AMRAD); Steve, WA1HUD (NEHRS); Bill, N4TS (AMRAD); David, KE4OKY (LARG); Ryan, driver (NEHRS, in truck); Dave, KE4S (LARG). Photo by Denny, KF4TJI (LARG)



PHOTO 5: Ryan Gingras (driver), Steve Russell, WA1HUD, and Mark Starin, K1RMC, packed and ready to drive back to Massachusetts.

END OF STORY

The author of this submission Paul H. Bock Jr., received his amateur radio license as K4MSG while in high school (1957) and enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduation. Trained as an Electronics Technician (ET), he served 23 years of combined active & Reserve service and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer. He earned his First Class Radio Telephone License in 1972 just before leaving active duty and subsequently worked four years as Chief Engineer of an AM/FM broadcast station. He spent the next 25 years as a design & systems engineer in the defense and telecommunications industries and retired in 2002. He earned BS & MS degrees, is co-inventor of a patented circuit board design, and is a Life Senior Member of IEEE.



Paul H. Bock Jr. K4MSG

Paul H. Bock Jr., currently holds two commercial licenses, a 2nd Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate (T2) and a General Radiotelephone Operator License (PG), and an Amateur Extra Class License. He is a member of VWOA, ARRL & QCWA. His favorite operating activity is CW traffic nets with occasional DXing and rag-chewing. He enjoys researching radiotelegraph history and has been actively supporting the NEHRS Project.

Visit the following URLs for more stories from Paul H. Bock Jr.:

<http://www.k4lrg.org/Editorials/index.html>

<http://datagrps.vic.wicen.org.au/db.htm>

WENDELL'S NEWS CORNER

From: [Wendell R. Benson](mailto:Wendell.R.Benson)
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 9:02 PM
To: radio-officers@googlegroups.com
Subject: [Radio Officers, &c] Joe Pinkus, WSL
op - SK

On Mar 5, 2010, at 5:47 PM, George Flanagan wrote:

> Received word that Joe Pinkus, WB2FHP, passed away this morning. Joe > was a WSL op from 1962 until the station closed in 1984.

George:

Appreciate your passing on the sad news re Joe Pinkus. If you see his obit in any paper would appreciate if you would forward it to me.

73

Wendell ww2g

From: "Thomas Curtis"
Date: March 10, 2010 9:09:54 AM EST
To: "George Flanagan" , "Wendell R Benson" <wenben@nyc.rr.com>
Subject: re Joe's service

GM,
Talked to Morris Welte and he said there was a large turnout at the service for Joe Pinkus - Morris was the only one from WSL as I was at my Dr's having an EKG at the time. Joe was Pres. of the local Elks club for at least two

terms and many members were there. There was a special service by the Elks afterwards.

There will be an obit in the SN Press this Thursday and I'll send you both a copy. Joe was always good natured and he took the cancer with a great attitude also.

cul 73 Tom

Publication: The Southampton Press
[Joseph T. Pinkus of Southampton dies at 71](#)
Mar 10, 10 10:12 AM



Joseph T. Pinkus of Southampton, NY died on March 4 at his home. He was 71. Born August 29, 1938, in Worcester, Massachusetts, he was the eldest son of Joseph and Gladys Pinkus. In 1960 he married Mariette H. Tanguay at St. James Church in Grafton, Massachusetts, and three years later they settled in Southampton, NY. Mr. Pinkus was employed by ITT as a ship to shore radio operator in Southampton until the facility closed, serving as union president of the Local CWA chapter for many years. He was

then employed by Xerox as a technician, until his retirement.
An active member of the Knights of Columbus, he served as Grand Knight for many years, in addition to other officer posts. He was also an active member of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, Southampton Lodge, serving in many offices at the local, district and state levels; and the Southampton Kiwanis Club, also holding many board positions.

We sadly report that we have received notice recently of the following SK VWOA Members:

Life VWOA Member
Herman Arond N2CCF
SK 02/27/10

**VETERAN WIRELESS
OPERATORS ASSOCIATION**

Eighty-Fifth Annual Banquet

June 5, 2010

**Seamen's Church Institute
New York, New York**

Reserve this DATE on your
Social Calendar