



R.O.O.S.T

Radio Operators of South Texas
Amateur Radio Club

A chartered not-for-profit organization



#74284

☐ PSE QSL

WAZ WAS

WAC DXCC

TNX QSL ☒

Grid: EL09
Bexar County

W5ROS

ROOST ARC - 7201 Palm Park Blvd. San Antonio TX 78223 USA

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	2 x WAY
N8VZ Carl	24	6	2001	17:38Z	14.070	599	PSK31

www.qslfactory.com

RADIO N8VZ Carl CONFIRMING

QSO OF _____

AT _____ UTC ON _____ MHZ

2X ☐ CW ☐ FM ☐ SSB UR SIG _____

RIG _____

ANT _____

GRID SQ EL-09 BEXAR COUNTY TEXAS
Carl, Hope to work you some-
time. I'm an NCS on Tin Can
Sailors Net Sunday @ 20:00Z.

☐ PSE QSL ☐ TNX 73.
No e-mail address

Bob

USS STORMES (DD-780), US Navy photo, 1961.
Summer-class destroyer in FRAM-II reconfigu-
ration. Length: 376', beam: 41', crew: 330,
3300 tons fully loaded. Built during WW2 by
Todd - Pacific Shipbuilding, Seattle. Com-
missioned 1/27/45 and named in honor of CDR
Max C. Stormes lost in sinking of USS PRES-
TON (DD-379). Kamikaze attack 5/25/45 killed
21, injured 15. STORMES was saved but out of
the war. Battle stars: WW2 one, Korea three,
Vietnam one. Radio calls: NKQT, Lucky Strike.
DESRON - 32, homeported at Norfolk. Struck
from Navy List 2/16/72; sold to Iran then
renamed Palang (DDG-9). I served in STORMES
in 1960-62 as electronic technician, ETR3.
Permanent Disability Retired List, 1964.

Licensed in 1955. Member: ARRL, QCWA 16329,
OOTC 3477, FISTS 4038, Tin Can Sailors Net
003 (TCSN NCS-3), Paralyzed Veterans of
America, Disabled American Veterans, Gun
Owners of America. ETR3 USN Ret.
Founding Mbr Athens Radio Club,
1956.

TO: Carl N8VZ



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ROBERT G. WHEATON
16015 WHITE FAWN DRIVE
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78255-1042

6 May, 2010

Mr. Carl J. Denbow, N8VZ
17 Coventry Lane
Athens, OH 45701-3718

Dear Carl,

First let me introduce myself; today I go by Bob but while growing up in Athens I went by Gary. The Navy was where it changed; nobody ever asked what the "G" stands for.

Chris, K5VCR, recently gave me the QSL's recently received to look at and I immediately saw yours and told him I'd send the reply myself. I'm currently the president of ROOST. I noticed right away that it was for a 9-year-old QSO, but Chris said we just received your card. The W5ROS reply QSL is enclosed. We hope to work you again this Field Day and will be doing PSK-31. Our whole operation will be 5W QRP and from alternative power, wind and solar. Ted Turner (not "the" Ted Turner), KC5NYJ, will be in charge of that site.

I was licensed as KN8DIH in December of 1956 and am a founding member of the original Athens Radio Club. I believe I've seen an Athens County Radio Club in the QST FD listings. The Athens Radio Club was founded I believe in the late spring or early summer of 1956. Our first organizational meeting was in the basement of Wilson Norris, W8PGQ's home, where he had his hamshack. I had been invited by Carl Johnson, W8VCD, after he discovered me in the field between my home at 60 Stewart Street and the old Vanadium Tool factory about 200 yds east by the RR tracks. I had a spark coil and some #6 dry cells hooked to a magnet wire antenna and it was "key down" when Carl drove past on his way from work at Bridgewater Machine, where he also worked with Bob Shellman, W8VKD. As I reentered the field after listening to my spark signal at home on a crystal set, Carl saw me and asked what I was doing--then asked my name. He then asked if I was Emma Wheaton's boy, and told me his name and that my mom did the payroll at Bridgewater where he worked. At that point he became less angry, but told me he'd stopped to drive around since he'd noticed terrible QRN on his 75-meter mobile, and thought he might locate it with his S-meter. Well, he did, HI HI. Carl told me he and some other local Hams were about to start a local radio club and asked if I'd be interested in attending the first meeting--and maybe getting a Novice license because I sure could not continue "reinventing radio" as he'd found me that afternoon. He told me to bring any others I thought might be interested, and I did. At the time I'd have been 14- $\frac{1}{2}$ years old, so I was pretty impressed when he told me I was already violating federal law, and the Ham ticket sounded like a pretty good deal.

Ray Michaels, who worked at Kerr's Hardware (but wasn't a ham), soon put me onto a barber out at The Plains who had a used Hallicrafter's S-38A for sale, and I bought it for my first Rx. I still have it and it works! Carl Johnson volunteered to teach a Novice code and theory class at that first meeting and along with Jim Eblin, KN8DHW, I got my ticket in December, 1956.

I don't remember everyone who was there that night, but I believe we elected Wilson Norris, W8PGQ, president. I'm sure Carl Johnson, W8VCD and Bob Shellman, W8VKD, were both there. Jim Eblin, was. Perhaps Dick Jones, our class-

mate, attended; he was licensed but in a later class. Roger Jones, (atty., was there (I forget his call). K8CKW, Ed Greer, who managed the W-U office on W. Union St. was there. I later worked for Ed at W-U delivering telegrams part time. Lee McVey, W8UYE, lived at Albany but also worked at Bridgewater and he was there with several of his kin and a Larry Enos and Dick Spurlock, all teens. Dick eventually got his Novice but Larry had tried learning code in Boy Scouts and never got past the mental gymnastics of converting "long-long-short" into Morse in tone beeps. Carrol A. "Andy" Riley, W8VKJ, was there--I rode to Columbus in early 1957 with Andy to upgrade to General Class; he'd stayed a Technician too long and failed the code test. Happily I passed and by March was a General. Armond Rist, W8CSH, was there at the founding. He worked for the TV cable company and after he visited my Novice station and saw I was using PSQJ #18 lamp cord for a feedline, supplied me with about a 75-foot length of used RG-59/U. I'm pretty sure Dr. D.B. "Doc" Green, who headed the EE Dept. at OU, W8LKU, was there; he was the trustee for the OU Radio Club station, W9PZS. Bill Shingler, W8UYD, from Millfield was there. Since Art Cornwell, who later became postmaster in Athens, was already KN8BZW, he was probably there as well. Those are about all I can remember who might have attended.

Very quickly the club incorporated and got the club callsign K8EBV. An Athens County building space became available to us for a clubhouse and we put on an ARC-5 on 75M AM with an SX-28A in the backroom. I used to go up there on weekends before sunrise and get on the Graveyard Net (3885). That was at 176 N. Lancaster Street, right where the cemetery stopped and Columbia Avenue starts. A cousin told me that he believes the building is still there (it was a single-story) and may today be a Welfare HQ).

I was graduated from AHS in 1959, the 100th class, and in September went into the USN. After boot camp and Electronic Technicians "A" School at Great Lakes I was assigned to the destroyer USS STORMES, DD-780, at Norfolk. In January 1962 after reenlisting, I was injured enroute back to Great Lakes for more school, and retired medically with service-connected disability.

My grandparents, Fred S. and Nellie Wheaton had the big house on the point of Northwood Drive which overlooked the city. Their daughter Marjorie was the last Wheaton to pass away in Athens, and her brother Fritz was living on Elmwood until last year when his health had declined too much to live alone as a widower and he moved to Powell, OH, where he's living with a daughter. As far as I know there are no Wheatons left in Athens that I'd be related to.

Perhaps I've mentioned a name or two that you know? Carl Johnson was still living, out at Albany, the last I knew. Carl was a Navy radioman in WW2, so he's surely 85-90 by now.

I hope something in the letter has been of interest, particularly the early history of the Athens Radio Club. If it wasn't carefully recorded at the time, maybe it'll fill in a few of the blanks.

73 and look for W5ROS again this year at Field Day,

Bob Wheaton, W5XW