

WAVES

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SB SPCL ARL ARLX010

ARLX010 WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo XI lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today" (<http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>). Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to ham radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

Walter Leland Cronkite was born in St Joseph, Missouri on November 4, 1916, the only child of a dentist father and homemaker mother. When he was still young, his family moved to Texas. "One day, he read an article in "Boys Life" about the adventures of reporters working around the world -- and young Cronkite was hooked," said his obituary on the CBS Web site. "He began working on his high school newspaper and yearbook and in 1933, he entered the University of Texas at Austin to study political science, economics and journalism. He never graduated. He took a part time job at the Houston Post and left college to do what he loved: report."

(<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/17/eveningnews/main5170556.shtml>)

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot -- and later to declare that he had been killed." CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence -- in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears -- captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America and the world over the next four days."

One of Cronkite's enthusiasms was the space race. In 1969, when America sent a man to the moon, he couldn't contain himself. "Go baby, go." he said as Apollo XI took off. He ended up performing what critics described as "Walter to Walter" coverage of the mission

-- staying on the air for 27 of the 30 hours that astronauts Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong were on the moon. In 2006, NASA honored Cronkite by giving him their Ambassador of Exploration Award. "His marathon, live coverage of the first moon landing brought the excitement and impact of the historic event into the homes of millions of Americans and observers around the world," NASA said in a news release announcing the award. Cronkite was the first non-astronaut and only NASA outsider to receive the award. (<http://www.arrl.org/?artid=6130>.)

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with 'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL. "Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just 'get in the mood' to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.



"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed 'The New York Times' and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two general class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact:

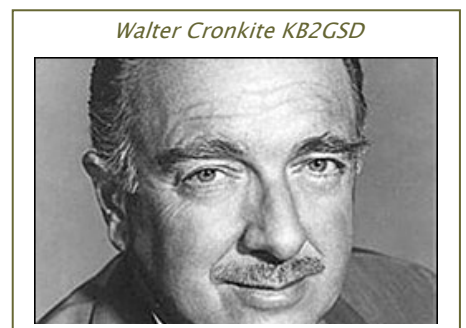
"Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard.' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award. This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington" (<http://www.arrl.org/pio/VTS-video.wmv>.) "It was quite a thrill to make this presentation to Cronkite," Fallon said. "He has long been recognized as the 'most trusted man in America,' so lining our causes to his face, name and voice has been a great help."

Cronkite is the recipient of a Peabody Award, the William White Award for Journalistic Merit, an Emmy Award from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the George Polk Journalism Award and a Gold Medal from the International Radio and Television Society. In 1981, during his final three months on the CBS Evening News, Cronkite received 11 major awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In 1985, he became the second newsman, after Edward R. Murrow, to be selected for the Television Hall of Fame.

A private memorial service was scheduled for July 23 in New York City. Cronkite will be cremated and his remains buried in Missouri next to his wife Betsy, who passed away in 2005. A public memorial service will be held within the next month at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the Austin Community Foundation (<http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/>), which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.

As Cronkite said on March 6, 1981, concluding his final broadcast as anchorman: "Old anchormen, you see, don't fade away, they just keep coming back for more. And that's the way it is."





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RTTY from page 3

available with MMTTY, and that is AFSK. AFSK can be used with any SSB transmitter. AFSK is a bit trickier to set up and use, but when it is done correctly, it works just as well as FSK and will transmit a perfect RTTY signal. Also, AFSK can do some things that FSK cannot, such as Automatic Frequency Control (AFC) of the transmitter.

To operate with AFSK, you put your transmitter in the SSB mode instead of FSK mode, and you inject an audio signal into the microphone input (some transceivers have a rear connector for data input). When you transmit, MMTTY causes your sound card to put out a pair of audio tones that cause your transmitter to send the required RF output. The tones are two sine waves but the frequency and amplitude of the tones is critical.

Let's say you want to transmit on 14080 kHz, as in the previous example. Remember, your MARK signal has to be on 14080 kHz. With your transmitter in the LSB mode (Lower Side Band), whatever frequency goes into the microphone input will be subtracted from what your dial says and be transmitted on that frequency. For example if your dial says 14080 kHz and you put in a 1000 Hz audio tone, your transmitter will put out an RF signal at 14079 kHz, exactly 1000 Hz lower than your dial. So in this case, if the 1000 Hz represented your MARK signal, you would have to set your transmitter to 14081 on the dial, and your MARK signal would be transmitted on 14080, just as you wanted. The SPACE frequency will be transmitted 170Hz lower, on 14079.83 kHz. The audio tone that will give you 14079.83 is 14081 minus 14079.83, or 1170 Hz. So the MARK audio frequency is 1000 Hz and SPACE is 1170 Hz.

There you have the basics of AFSK. MMTTY generates the two audio frequencies and your transmitter converts them into two RF frequencies. For technical reasons related to harmonic generation, audio frequencies of 1000 Hz and 1170 Hz are NOT recommended. They are used in this example just to keep the math simple. The recommended audio frequencies are 2125 Hz for the MARK audio frequency and 2295 Hz for the SPACE audio frequency. Making the frequencies higher like this will reduce any second harmonics that might be generated in your transmitter. At one stage lower tones were used and this very problem caused a MAJOR problem on the air.



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You may have noticed the SPACE audio frequency is higher than the MARK audio frequency - just the opposite of the RF frequency you actually transmit. This happens because you're using lower sideband. If you happen to forget and set your transmitter to USB instead of LSB, two things will happen. Because your MARK and SPACE are now reversed in your receiver, any RTTY signals you hear will not print correctly. All you will see is random characters that make no sense at all. The other thing is that YOUR transmissions will also be nonsense to the other guy, so just remember - always use LSB. In the real world of course, sometimes USB gets selected accidentally. This is why MMTTY has a button marked REV. When you have a station tuned correctly but all you see is nonsense printing, click on REV and your transceiver will be reversed. Now you can print the other fellow and tell him he is "upside down", as it's commonly called. After he reverses himself, just click REV again and you will both be back to normal.

Note: By default when using AFSK, REV reverses both your receiver and transmitter. If you want REV to reverse only your receiver, go to Option/Setup MMTTY, click the TX tab and click "Disable REV". When using FSK, REV reverses only your receiver. If you want to reverse your transmitter and receiver with FSK see is nonsense printing, click, your transceiver should have a way of doing that.

Also, you should know that in some parts of the world, especially Europe, the standard is to use USB instead of LSB. This works fine as long as you also reverse the MARK audio frequency and the SPACE audio frequency. MMTTY defaults to LSB, and it is recommended to leave it there, even in Europe, since your signal will be identical. If you prefer to use USB, leave REV on all the time. This is no big deal on most modern transceivers, as the memories can be set up in such a way that modes such as RTTY will come up correct each time when selected via the memories.

The really critical part about AFSK is the amplitude of the signal fed into the microphone connector (or rear panel connector),



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together with the microphone gain setting. You must NOT overdrive your transmitter or spurious signals will be transmitted. In general, keep the audio drive low enough that your transmitter does not generate any ALC voltage. Never try to drive your transmitter to maximum output. Around 80 to 90 percent of maximum is about right. Consult your owner's manual for more information on how to do this. If you ever hear a station at two or more frequencies at the same time, the cause is almost always overdriving. None of this applies to FSK, of course. With FSK, you can run full power and not worry about overdrive.

Minutes of July 16 CARC Board Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Tom Wolfe (K4CMY) at 6:50 PM.

Members in attendance were Charlie Curle (AD4F), Tom Wolfe (K4CMY), Tom Morgan (K4VCM), Jim Knight (KD4EHN), Ben Timmerman (AC4HG), Mark Rose (KA0YDC) and Bill Dobbs (K4TSF). Future ham Shane Rose was in attendance as a visitor.

Tom (K4VCM) reported that Charlie Wheaton (KJ4RC) has agreed to be the 2010 field day chairman.

President Mark (KA0YDC) announced that the club is needed and will be involved in the local Cherokee Area Boy Scout Jamboree on April 24, 2010.

President Mark (KA0YDC) announced that the club will hold a work day in the new radio room at the American Red Cross on Saturday, August 8th at 9:00 AM. The job at hand may include removing old unused furniture and cabinets, general clean-up, rerouting antenna coaxial cables, surveying electrical needs and discussing ideas for equipment desks and general station set up.

President Mark (KA0YDC) announced that several pieces of used ham radio equipment have been donated to the CARC and is in the process of being added to the W4AM inventory list.



A swapfest page is being added to the W4AM.org web site. Swapfest will be 10-24-09 at Burkes United Methodist Church.

An antenna raising project was discussed by members of the board. Additional details are not available at this time but may be discussed at the August CARC meeting.

The next CARC board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20th, 6:00 PM at Ryan's on Hixson Pike. Visitors are welcome.

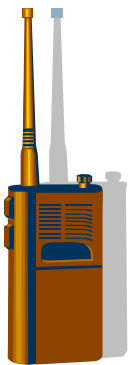
Respectfully submitted
Bill Dobbs, K4TSF



Tuesday Night 8 PM 146.610



Thursday night 8 PM 146.790



CARC Sunday night net 9 PM 146.790