

I am from a sub-strata of a minority of the population known as SWL or Shortwave listeners and Ham operators. We rely on and lay under the Ionosphere! There was a time when we were very popular in the beginning of Marconi's time and mistrusted a short time later when the U.S. Navy Bureau of Navigation and commercial land stations complained of our interference in the teens and 20's. Equipment began to have better design with improvements. Then we got a reprieve from Herbert Hoover whose son was a ham operator.

Countless of our members were ready trained for radio communications and electronic repair in times of war and were utilized to the maximum in WW1 and continuously thru the Vietnam War.

Then in the 50s and the advent of TV, we were most disliked for our bungling of neighbors household telephone, radio & TV reception. Yet, we do have a proud history of public service and in times of distress come through with health and welfare messages to aid our fellow citizens. All of it free and donated time.

Some of this sub-strata of our fraternity come across as rude, crude and mistrusted! It is a fact of life, some rotten apples in every barrel! We are many in number and our contributions are great. We cover every type, shape and size of mankind.



There was one persons view of we ham radio types, I thought it interesting. He wrote "I do remember ham radio operators, usually in attics or basements, pallid, unsociable and obsessed, inhabiting a spirit world and harmless." Come to think of it, that description might as well cover the whole gambit! Smile ! At times it was even difficult to stay awake with stout coffee and a cigarette searching for the rare and far away distant place. We have understanding wives who have brought countless beverages and meals to the radio shack. Many of the old style radio shacks were in small buildings away from the main home in the rear sections of the main dwelling.

Father Gordon Mycue WØOTU has aptly put it - "We should make use of the gifts God has given us." Look at the ionosphere 100 miles up, it's invisible, like the air we breathe, but God put it there so your radio receiver works on the frequencies that bounce off the layers. We shouldn't allow the opportunity to flee without grasping it in this lifetime, especially if we have been called to the art of radio by exercising the wonder of it all in our minds. - May these thoughts be enjoyed and show how much I cherish the hobby of Ham Radio! Many changes are being administered to this proud hobby but it still affords one to learn and be a contributor. W8SU 2007