

Local residents ham it up around world

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By James J. Keeney

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Ham radio operators in Southbridge and Sturbridge are shrinking their world to their own dimensions.

David Boudreau, Federal Communications Commission license KIISW, Podunk Road, Sturbridge, established contact with a ham radio operator in Panama the day after American armed forces entered the country in search of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. The Panama contact, Lori Martin, volunteered to relay messages from Americans to persons in Panama. All she needed, Martin said, was the first name and telephone number of the individual to be contacted in Panama.

Coordinator for Southern Worcester County. He represents a group of hams who maintain constant weather watches in this area and report unusual atmospheric conditions, potential storms, hurricanes and tornadoes. Boudreau relays their reports to the National Weather Service at Worcester Airport.

David and his brother Joseph Boudreau, a retired Fiskdale postmaster, manned radio check-points for the 100-mile Multiple Sclerosis Bikeathon, and the Quinebaug River canoe race. They have participated in radio communications at the Boston Marathon, the Pasadena Rose Parade, Macy's



Donald B. Whitney, a retired American Optical employee, has spoken to hams around the world.

contact their families in Peru following the deadly mud slides in that country.

Jeanne Karp of Glover Street, Southbridge, appealed to David for news of her son Peter who was in Mexico City during the devastating earthquake on Sept. 19, 1985. David went on the air at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, and received news from a Mexican ham, at 7 the following evening, that Peter Karp was safe. Karp was delighted when David called her with the good news.

on the British ship Bounty in 1789.

Pitcairn Island will observe the 200th anniversary of its settlement by Bounty mutineers this year. Radio hams who contact Tom Christian will be sent a certificate marking the 200th anniversary.

Whitney, an optical computer programming consultant, retired from the American Optical Co. in 1982 after a 35 year career with the firm.

His interest in amateur radio began on a business trip to Louisville, Ky., in 1956.

Donald B. Whitney has talked to a descendent of the infamous Fletcher Christian, leader of the mutiny on the Bounty.

David and his wife Barbara, who raises Bassett hounds, are joined on Sunday nights by her mother, Adella Montville of Heritage Green in Sturbridge, for a ham radio chat with a cousin, Sharon Parsons, who operates station KLQT in Bayette, Idaho. Sharon is the wife of Gen. Edward Parsons of the Idaho Air National Guard.

Boudreau's station uses a satellite antenna and transmitters, receivers and transceivers covering high frequency, VHF and UHF bands, enabling him to talk to hams around the world.

"It's a fascinating hobby," he says. "You start with basic components and keep adding equipment to meet the challenge of air space beyond New England."

Donald B. Whitney, of Litchfield Avenue, Southbridge, has talked to hams in virtually every country in the world except mainland China. He has talked several times to Tom Christian on Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. Christian is a descendent of the infamous Fletcher Christian, leader of the mutiny

with an associate who was studying a FCC manual and was immediately hooked on amateur radio. He obtained FCC license WINEP. His associate failed to take the FCC examination.

Whitney laments the passing of ham radio enthusiasts who built their own equipment. Today's hams buy ready-made equipment, he explains. Most of the new stuff is Japanese, he says.

Whitney was a great admirer of the late Cliff Harvey of the former Harvey Wells electronics firm in Southbridge. "He could sit down at a drawing board and design all the equipment he needed and then build it," said Whitney. Harvey was a neighbor of Stanley Knight, on Fiske Hill in Sturbridge, who is one of the older licensed ham radio operators in this area.

Whitney ranges the world with his equipment, talking to hams in Asia, Australia and Antarctica; and countries in Europe including Russia.

"English is spoken worldwide," Whitney explains, "making it easy for American hams to establish contacts around the globe."



David Bourdeau, a former guidance counselor, made contact with hams in Panama after American forces invaded the country last month.

Boudreau, who has held his FCC license since 1956, retired in July after 21 years as guidance counselor at Southbridge High School. He is the Amateur Radio Service

Thanksgiving Parade, and in evacuation drills at the Yankee Rowe and Yankee Vernon atomic power plants.

David helped Peruvian students in Worcester colleges



Hospital offers new unit

Dr. Stjepan Kereshi, board-certified in both neurology and electromyography and a member of the medical staff of Harrington Memorial Hospital, and neurophysiology technician Audrey Kellahe demonstrate the hospital's new electromyography (EMG) unit, used to diagnose diseases of the nerves and muscles. Kereshi contributed to the new technology's design, and Harrington's new EMG, which replaced an earlier model, is one of the first of its type installed in the United States.