

# WRC UPDATE

## - DECEMBER -

DECEMBER 24, 2004

RADIO AMATEURS SERVING  
THE WESTERN COMMUNITIES OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

remember to Z-O-O-M in  
on the photos... 200% recommended



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QSL &  
INVENTOR  
CHARLES  
JENKINS  
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**YOUR ARTICLE COULD  
BE HIGHLIGHTED HERE...**

**THE WRC UPDATE**

### LATE BREAKING NEWS...

## WELLINGTON CERT JOINS WEC!

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Wellington CERT to the world renowned Wellington Elves Council... WEC is a Special Services group geared to helping neighbors and friends before, during and after the Holidays. WEC fulfills their wish lists for Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza and Diwali.

CERT will activate should Santa's elves execute the Mutual Aid Agreement. Aware of 800MHz system unreliability, Santa has again chosen the Wellington Radio Club to provide local communications for his entourage.

Anonymous but informed elf sources have stated that Santa has been stuck in chimneys, the heavily laden sleigh bogged down in deep snow, elves trampled upon by reindeer, and tens of thousands of gifts have been mixed up and/or misdelivered. CERT's cribbing, first aid, light rescue and triage sorting skills have been desperately



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

needed in the past and this year CERT members may face their toughest test ever. The multilingual North Pole EOC, Emergency Operations Center, is expected to coordinate this operation with NORAD and radio amateurs worldwide.

So rest assured that when you hear sighs of relief, squeals of joy or gleeful high pitched voices on-the-air or near your home, it may be Santa or WEC associates as they make their appointed holiday rounds.



## OVERSEAS HAMS EXPLAIN THE FACTS-OF-CHRISTMAS LIFE TO US AMATEURS

Bruce ZL2ABC of Christchurch, New Zealand sent his Seasons Greetings to us after work late Thursday afternoon... he was already enjoying Christmas Eve and anticipating, with great glee, the ham toys he'd be receiving. Bruce made sure to add:

Santa visits the hams of ZL land and other countries well before the hams of the US... almost a full day earlier! Thus they receive the best gifts... like ICOM 7800s. It doesn't seem to matter any longer whether you have been naughty or nice!

Bob SM6UQP from Gothenburg, Sweden sent us this cartoon which seems to support Bruce's statements. It shows Santa's reaction upon discovering that he has given out his best gifts before reaching the USA. Moreover, Santa's helpers did not know that the "eggs" hams wanted were not for Easter but antenna *insulators* for next Field Day!

Bruce also explained why many communities ban ham towers and antennas... they fear Santa will bypass their towns to avoid damaging his sleigh or injuring Rudolph and the other reindeer. Bruce, that may also explain our high insurance rates!



ALMOST ALL OF US HAVE A RELATIVE, NEIGHBOR, FRIEND OR WORK COLLEAGUE SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN THESE CHAOTIC TIMES. THEY ARE MISSED ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. WE WISH TO HONOR THEM BY FOCUSING ON ONE WHO IS PERHAPS REPRESENTATIVE... THE DAUGHTER OF WRC MEMBER DAVE KI4DDX AND WELLINGTON CERT MEMBER PAT NEUWEILER.

## GUNNERS MATE 2 JULIA NEUWEILER ABOARD THE USS BENFOLD...

*MAYBE A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK AFTERALL!*



GM1 Delbert Desparrois and GM2 Julia Neuweiler observe a gunnery exercise aboard the USS Benfold. The Benfold is one of 35 Arleigh Burke Class Guided Missile Destroyers. The ship is named to honor the life and service of Hospital Corpsman Third Class Edward Clyde Benfold, U.S. Navy, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism in the Korean Conflict. USS BENFOLD is a multi-mission ship equipped with the modern Aegis combat weapons system, which combines space-age communication, radar and weapons technologies in a single platform for unlimited flexibility.

Somewhere in the Sea of Japan is the USS Benfold, a guided missile destroyer. Packed with electronics and the Aegis and Tomahawk missile systems, her crew of three hundred or so personnel are continually on alert and training to be successful in their mission.

On board the Benfold, living in tight quarters is Julia Neuweiler who is in her third year of service. Her first cruise was along the West Coast of South America. Sailing into the calm, southern waters of the Pacific was momentous because it required crossing the Equator... and Julie, according to naval tradition, was transformed from a "pollywog" to a "shellback."

Now she and her crewmates are on their first longterm deployment and have encountered rough winter seas heading to the Sea of Japan.

But Julia reports the food is good, she has been

kept very busy training and in her spare time she can crank out emails to friends and family on the Benfold's satellite connected system. Her Mom Pat, describes her sleeping arrangements as a "rack below the ceiling." But Julia doesn't miss a cozy bed as much as her cat Saturn.

Last week, Dave and Pat were pleasantly surprised to receive the photo of Julia that is reprinted above. It appeared in the ship's newsletter. Dave was particularly impressed by Julia using a handheld radio... something he's done a lot of lately.



It was suggested to him that perhaps it's her first step towards joining the ranks of radio amateurs!

*Julia, we wish you and your shipmates the Best of Season's Greetings and calm, safe sailing.*

## WEIRD NEWS HEARD ON THE WRC MEMORY LANE NET...

### STARLINGS STEAL HUNDREDS OF QUARTERS DAILY FROM CARWASH

Coming up several hundred dollars short per week, the owner of a Fredricksburg, MD carwash initially suspected his employees of stealing. When he set up a surveillance camera to catch the thieves in action, they weren't quite what he expected.

They were starlings working in teams: one bird would go up inside the machine to jimmy coins loose, and others would grab them and fly off with them. Starlings are often attracted to bright, shiny objects and



Per the posted instructions, the heist starts with a Starling slowly entering the coin machine on seeing the green light and climbs the chute to the coin box. Finding no Cashier, rather than making a deposit, he withdraws a quarter by dropping it down the chute to an awaiting accomplice. No one knows whether they became jailbirds, laundered the money at a nearby coin laundry or made a clean get-away from the carwash! :-)

will collect them for nesting or mate-attraction purposes whenever the opportunity presents itself. More info at:

<http://www.snopes.com/photos/animals/carwash.asp>

Checkin to the **MEMORY LANE NET** on Thursdays at 7:30pm to hear more weird news and learn about our heritage based upon science, engineering, technology and the social sciences.



## RARE QSL ON EBAY FAILS TO GET MINIMUM BID BUT SUCCEEDS TO BRING ATTENTION TO: CHARLES JENKINS W3XK...

### INVENTOR & TELEVISION PIONEER

Four hundred seventy dollars was the highest bid for what was described as "a very rare and historic, museum-quality QSL-Card that helps document the earliest days of Television Broadcasting over the airwaves."

Although the QSL card didn't sell, it succeeded in rekindling interest in Jenkins. He was born just after the Civil War and lived in a period of exciting change and invention. The development of automobiles, radio and powered flight had tremendous impact on the minds of his generation. Remarkably Jenkins had the foresight to envision not only television but the use of TV to view movies!

Before looking more closely at Jenkin's life and work, the QSL card and its history merit our attention. The owner of the prized card describes, in his own words, what motivated him and how he came to possess it.

#### WHY

"I have decided to run this ebay ad for ten full days not only to give everyone a chance to find it, but to give them an equal good chance to find anything even remotely as rare and cool and relevant to the most earliest TV broadcasting proof as this, when it comes to 1930 TV QSL cards. In the 20 years I've had this card, I've never even heard of any other, from any station, that dates this early, or even a decade beyond this date.

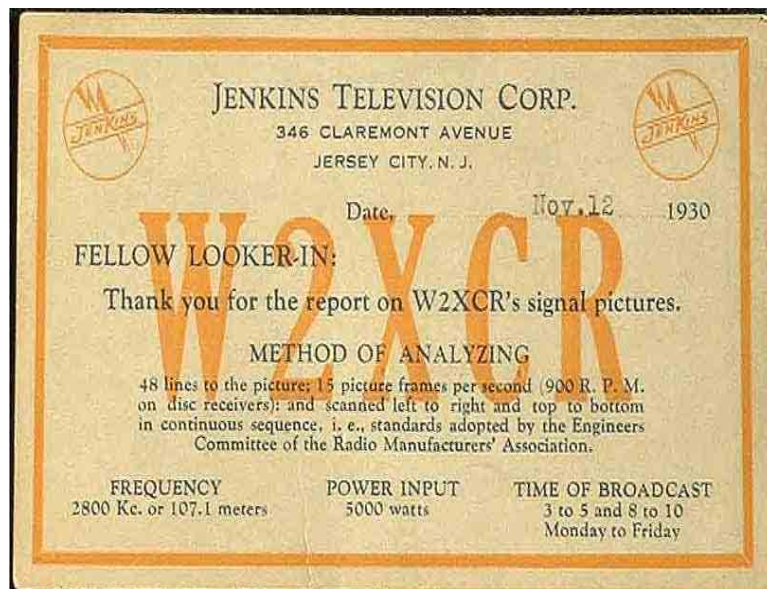
#### HISTORY OF THIS PARTICULAR QSL-CARD

This QSL-Card was found in a scrap-book, about 20-years ago, which had been placed in the trash with 4 other scrap books, each full size ledger books. It was when I was helping my grandmother in St. Petersburg, Florida resolve her household effects, sell her house and bring her to Albuquerque where we could have a better chance to help her as she was growing older (she was born in 1900).

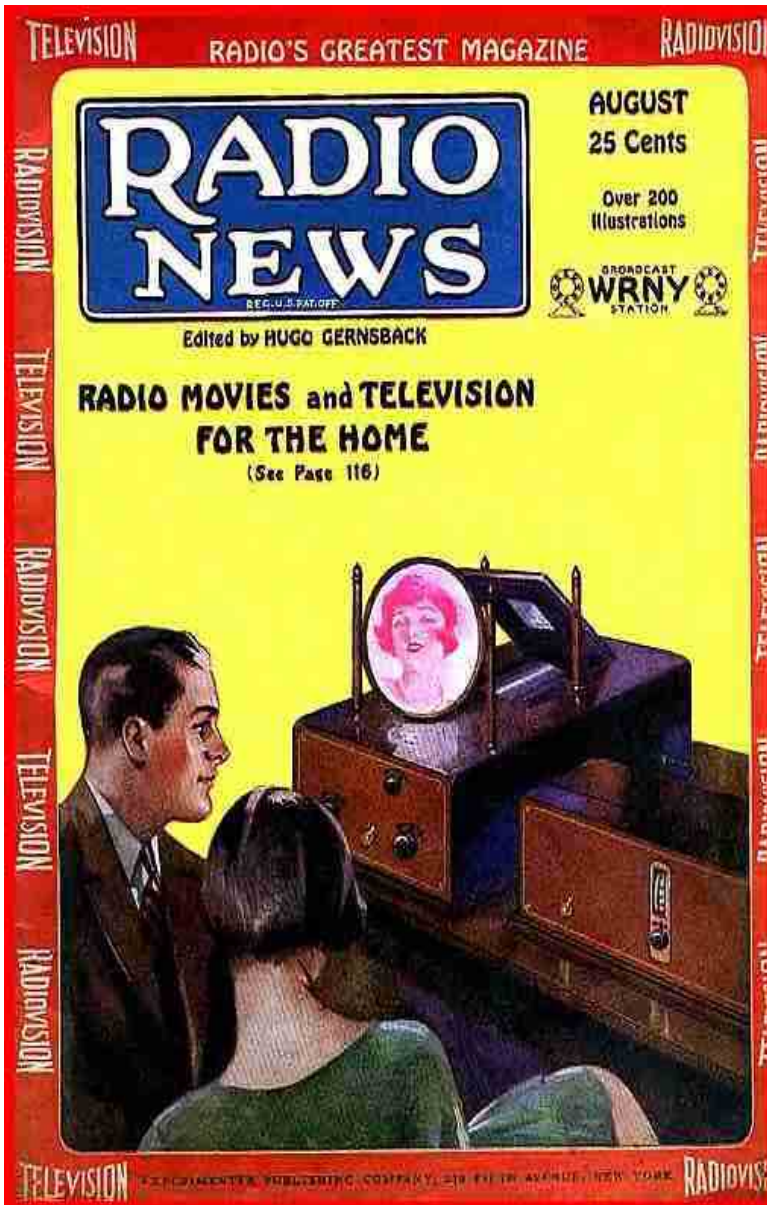
Well, I dont know how she kept these scrap books all these years, but they did belong to my mother's step-father, who had put them together, all in the very early 1930s. I was told that he was always a sickly and frail person, always staying indoors for his activities, even since he was a boy. Yes, so I rescued them all out of the trash, where someone put them, and loaded into her '65 New Yorker for the long drive back here with my older son who was then 10, (now 30).

Those 5 scrapbooks were all about everything that was happening in the world, Dirigibles, the Empire State Bldg going up, Adm. Byrd's trip to the South Pole, submarines, bridges, SPORTS (like boxing, football, etc..) and TONS of radio stars. There were quite a few old radio broadcast QSL cards glued inside those pages, and station schedules, and a B&W photo of a Golden Leutz multi-staged Radio he had obviously owned in the mid-twenties.

Continued on page 4



QSL card mailed to viewers who sent reception reports to Jenkin Television from the NY-NJ market. (See next page for typical report).



Publisher Hugo Gernsback witnessed Jenkins make an early television transmission in December 1923 and became a Jenkins supporter. To make TV available to the masses, he offered TV kits for only \$7.50!



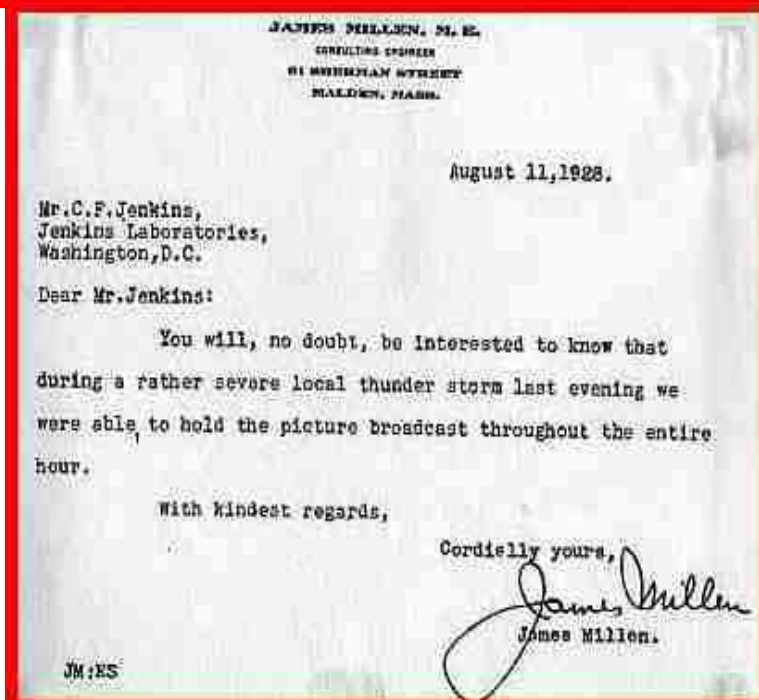
This QSL-Card from Jenkins Television Corp. was the only TV related thing in all the 5 volumes. It was glued onto one of the pages, which I carefully took out more than 20-years ago, as some things were getting discolored from opposing newsprint cut-outs. well,... This is more than you need to know, but, He obviously had a scanning-disc tv, or the other kind (see card particulars in method of bcst). I never met Mr. Krampff, my step-grandfather, as he died before My mother was even married, but I know we would have had many things in common. I had always wanted to save this card, but, needing the money here, and eventually wanting it to end up in a museum where it belongs, am finally letting it go, here on eBay."

#### THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHARLES JENKINS

From the website of San Francisco State University we learned more about Jenkins.

Charles Francis Jenkins (1867-1934) W3XK was the founding member and first president of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE). He was a prolific inventor who achieved over 400 patents, including 75 devoted just to mechanical television. Among his other patents were the automobile self-starter, radio navigation, paper milk carton technology, reversible propellers, time-lapse photography, and the front-mounted automobile engine.

Albert Abramson wrote that Charles Francis Jenkins was "...the only man in history who was present at the birth of both the motion picture and television. As America's first pioneer of television, his vision is revealed in two historic articles: "Transmitting Pictures by Electricity" in the July 25, 1894 issue of ELECTRICAL ENGINEER and "Motion Pictures by Wireless" in the September 27, 1913 issue of MOTION PICTURE NEWS. Jenkins transmitted the earliest moving silhouette images in December 1923, which was the first witnessed demonstration (by two journalists, including Hugo Gernsback) of a working television system. On June 13, 1925, he publicly performed his first public

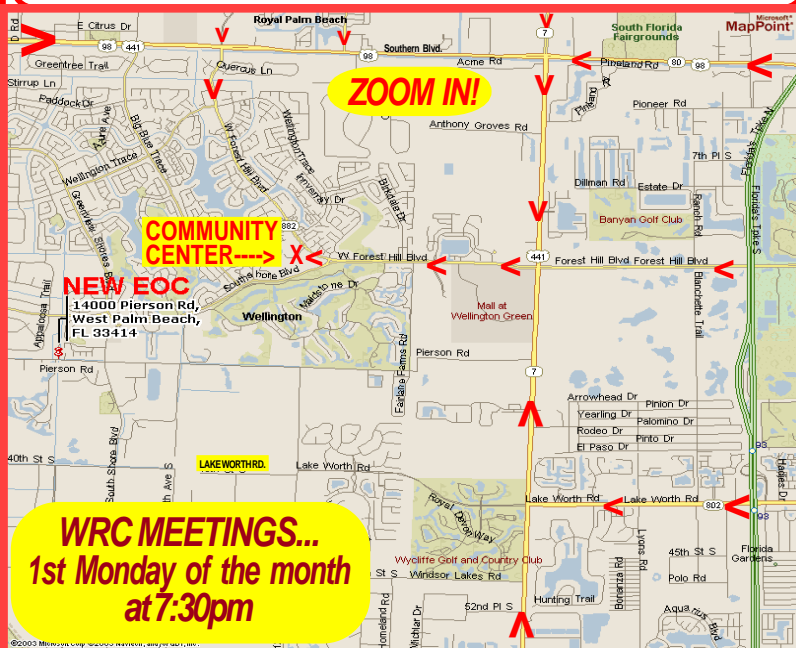


Signal report from James Millen W1HRX, also a pioneer in electronics and communications. He converted the National Toy Company to the famous National Radio and later founded James Millen Manufacturing.

wireless transmission of television images from Anacosta, Virginia to Washington, D.C. And on July 2, 1928, Jenkins Labs commenced broadcasting on W3XK scheduled television programs five nights a week continuously for several years. At first, the television station was limited to primitive silhouette images because of its 10kHz bandwidth, but soon it was allowed to move its carrier frequency to 4.95 MHz with a bandwidth of 100 kHz and a power of 5000 Watts. The following documents (QSL postcards and ordinary postcards) assembled by Jenkins in his personal scrapbook record the reception of some of these vintage television transmissions as well as his other amateur radio and experimental broadcasts involving this station.

Letters & QSLs located at: <http://online.sfsu.edu/~hl/cfj/cfj.W3XK.html>

MONDAY JANUARY 10TH MEETING AT THE WELLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER, 12165 FOREST HILL BLVD. 1/4 MILE WEST OF SOUTHSHORE BLVD.



### WEB SITE UPDATED - CHECK IT OUT!

#### THE WRC UPDATE is the official publication of the Wellington Radio Club

1213 White Pine Drive,  
Wellington, FL 33414

(561) 385-2986 Email: [LARRY33414@AOL.COM](mailto:LARRY33414@AOL.COM)

President & Editor - Larry Lazar, KS4NB  
Vice President - Juan Abellon, MD, KG4QYY  
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## WELLINGTON RADIO CLUB... Nets Open to All!

MONDAYS... INCLUDING HOLIDAYS  
7:30PM - WELLINGTON EMERGENCY NET  
147.285

THURSDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS  
7:30PM - MEMORY LANE NET  
147.285

SATURDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS  
7:00PM - IRLP SKYWARN NET  
442.050/103.5

SUNDAYS... EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS  
7:30PM - SLOW SCAN TV NET  
147.285