

## QSO with a Radio Hero

I fired up the old Heathkit HW-16 that I bought from Paul Hintz, WB8SZI, a couple years ago to see that all was in working order for Straight Key Night (SKN) which was less than a week away. David, N1EA, of Green Harbor Massachusetts answered my CQ on 80 meters and gave me a signal report of 589. We had a nice QSO which was interrupted after 10 minutes by QRM from a net control operator that jumped on the frequency and began calling his net to order. We signed with each other, relinquishing the frequency to the net.

It wasn't until I looked up his call on QRZ.com that I realized that N1EA was a radio hero. His QSL card is shown below along with a more legible version of the text that appears at the bottom of his card.



SOS DE PJTAA – October 4, 1980 – In what many called a miraculous rescue, all 535 passengers and crew of Holland-America's burning passenger liner Prinsendam/PJTA were rescued from lifeboats after abandoning ship in the frigid waters of the Gulf of Alaska. The ship's modern high-tech SATCOM, 2182 kHz MF SSB and VHF FM distress signals failed to summon aid, but the dependable 500 kHz Morse Code SOS was heard by over 350 stations, including the USA supertanker Williamsburgh/WGOA. In 1988, the Williamsburgh's two Radio Officers, Mr. D.J.J. Ring, Jr., N1EA and Mr. J.N. Pfister, NS1L were each awarded a VWOA Marconi Gold Medal for helping those in peril on the sea.

Mike, K8DDB