

## WomensRadio2022

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**Welcome to our 25 new YIs** – hope you will operate for many years. :

ZS1JVN Janita ; ZR6CMS Carol ; ZR6HV Hannelie ; ZS6BTP Bianca ; ZS6IMF Ilze Mari ;  
ZS6MSP Candice ; ZS6TAM Tammy-Marie ; ZS6VAX Marlene  
ZU6ATD Aaliyah Tatianna ; ZU6L Leah ; ZU6KIM Kim ; ZU6S Sara

From Prieska, Northern Cape RAE 10/2022 (8 Youth group, restricted license)

ZU3AF Lida-Mari ; ZU3DK Deandre ; ZU3G Madri-Lee ; ZU3LEA Lea Crystina ; ZU3MRW Mariam ; ZU3MW  
Monique ; ZU3TF Tasmeen ; ZU3ZB Zaricia,

Eastern Cape Bhisho group (Youth group, 5 restricted license)

ZU2BSB Bukazikazi ; ZU2ELO Elona ; ZU2MMA Milani ; ZU2OGU Osarugue ; ZU2ON Oratile.

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### QSL Happy!

Ivonne Marta Montag de Hendlin LU1JDL, has been Dxing for 52 years and is top of the DX Honor Roll in Argentina. To complete the current DXCC list, only Kosovo and South Sudan were missing.

On Friday, November 25, 2022 she received a special QSL card from Kosovo.

Congratulations Marta.

(Thanks to Carlos Almirón (LU7DSY) for this update.)

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### Ja-Well-No-Fine: Editorial

Dear AR Sisters, It's the end of another year and time to send and exchange Greetings and Good Wishes for 2023. Thank you for your company, wishing you and yours a radio-active Christmas.

Below is an article about a Grand Dame of Amateur Radio from the USA. I found her to be an inspiration and hope you will too. Ellen (W1YL) gave 2 interviews some years ago, without which I could not have outlined her history.

It is a reminder to all of us to write about our own and others radio activities, so we do not lose our history. I look forward to hearing from you. Ed. 33 / 88 Eda ZS5YH

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**W1YL ELLEN WHITE** [Dec 19 1927 - Nov 5, 2022]. age 95

### **Ellen White, W1YL, Silent Key, Devoted Lifetime to Amateur Radio and ARRL**

Ellen White, W1YL, of Brandon, Florida, passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2022. She was 95.

Ellen White was preceded in death by her husband Bob W1CW in 2003, and her son Jim White, K4OJ, in 2004.

Ellen loved CW, contesting, and Dxing, She was active on CW as W2RBU (Class B), W6YYM San Diego, KH6QI Hawaii, W1YYM (CA), and W1YL.

First licensed in 1946, White had already learned Morse code in high school.

First License: W2RBU Class B, upgrade to Class A within the year

She served for more than 25 years (1952 – 1978) on the Headquarters staff, at one point heading up ARRL contesting activities. She retired as Deputy Communications Manager and became QST "How's DX?" editor.

On her own time, she recorded QST on tape for the vision impaired through the US Library of Congress talking book program.

Her husband Bob White, W1CW (SK), was ARRL DXCC manager. Their son Jim White, K4OJ (SK), also once served on the ARRL HQ staff and was president of the Florida Contest Group, which now holds his call sign.

Ellen joined FOC (First Class CW Operators' Club) member [#875.in](#) May 1966, and remained active in retirement from her Florida contest station.

White was also referred to as the "founding grandmother" of the Florida Contest Group (FCG) founded by Bob White, W1CW (sk) and his son, Jim, K4OJ (sk), Ellen's husband and son.

Ellen White has been operating via the W7RN (Comstock Memorial station) a remote contest station in Nevada, staying active on CW as W1YL/7, usually on 40 meters

On May 17, 2019 Ellen White, W1YL was inducted into CQ Hall of Fame

On December 9, 2016, Ellen White W1YL, was presented with the 1st 'White Award'. Renamed the "Ellen White W1YL Award" on December 11, 2021, the award recognizes the radio amateur who has made the most significant contributions to amateur radio in the West Central Florida Section for the year.

Ellen White was admired by the world-wide amateur radio community and in 2019, she was the sole US radio

amateur to be awarded the Russian E.T. Krenkel Medal, a prestigious award granted to individuals and organizations for outstanding global contributions to amateur radio.



Ellen & Bob White

### The beginning

On Christmas night of 1942, the height of World War 2, 16 year old Ellen went roller skating in New York City where she met a young sailor Bob White, W6QEZ on shore leave.

They saw each other regularly before he sailed and they talked about Morse Code and ham radio. It didn't leave much of an impression at the time, but that was the true beginning of ham radio for Ellen. They corresponded during Ellen's last 2 years at high school.

The USA government required high school seniors to take a "war course" — a special class to equip graduates with useful skills should the war continue. One course was Morse code which Ellen had little difficulty learning.

Bob was discharged in 1945 and in October they were married. No one had any money so they eloped and Bob gave her the ARRL License Manual and Terman's Principles of Engineering as a wedding present! Ellen read them every day and night and within a year (1946), she became a Class B ham W2RBU, taking the exam in front of an FCC examiner in New York City. (age 19)

Bob felt that if he got his commercial radio licenses, opportunities would expand. He enrolled at New York's Melville Radio Institute, insisting that Ellen did too. Within a year they both had the First Phone and Second Class Radiotelegraph Commercial licenses.

You had to wait a year before you could take the FCC Class A Amateur Radio test. At year's end, Ellen had her Class A, but never felt a desire for phone operation.

In the early years following World War 2, there was little commercial equipment available and it was a lean time financially for most.

### Early years

She worked briefly for the IRE (Institute of Radio Engineers), Because she was a licensed ham and commercially licensed, she was able to do technical editing for the then Clint DeSoto, W1CBD., the editor of 160 Meters and Down. She did not realize what this meeting, or her meeting the league president at the time, George Bailey, W2KH. would mean for her future activities in Ham radio - a future of 25 years at league headquarters.

The couple returned to San Diego and worked briefly for Convair, the Consolidated Vultee aircraft giant, where Ellen wound transformers in the electronics lab.



Ellen White station manager KPOA

### Hawaii

Then Bob got an opportunity for a communications job in Hawaii with the FAA and they moved to Hawaii, Ellen as KH6QI and Bob as KH6QJ. Ellen heard local broadcast station KPOA practically beg for someone with a First Phone to interview for an engineer's job; they sounded pretty desperate. No one on Oahu was available with a First Phone, but Ellen was.

The chief engineer discovered that she had a Class A ham radio license. Ham radio operators were held in very high regard in those days because of their technical ability and innovation skills, they could trouble-shoot. She got the job as a station engineer, unheard of for a woman in those days.

She had to learn on the job, which included operating the board for audio stations, being an audio engineer, running her first radio program, being a disc jockey, going on remote broadcasts and anything and everything else! It was a year of fun and a great learning opportunity.

After a year they returned to San Diego. Ellen went back to school, entering San Diego State College and studied math and physics. She was then W6YYM and did a short stint as a local radio station broadcast engineer.

Eventually becoming the ARRL San Diego Section Communications Manager (now Section Manager).

### ARRL

One day during 1952, Ellen was reading QST and saw that the league were advertising for 2 hams to fill 2 positions in the Communications Department. They applied and within several months were moving to the Northeast, to Connecticut. Ellen was the first licensed woman on the staff at league headquarters (ARRL)

After a number of years of doing just about everything at the league relating to operating, Ellen took over the job of contest management. She checked incoming logs (paper); typed the awards, prepared results for QST, together with the page layouts (no computers). Studied contest rules, analyzed activity and scores. The process happened for all ARRL contests. She found it very satisfying being thoroughly immersed in each specific contest.

She wrote her first QST technical article, "Contacts vs Multipliers," when hams had no computer programs to calculate contest scores. The article delineated a simple way to figure if it was worth while to chase multipliers or just amass more Qs to increase your overall score. There was some doubt about YLs being "real hams," real contest operators, high-speed CW operators, let alone being published in a technical journal!

Operating at home was limited, because of competition for the station by Bob (Mr DXCC) and later by son Jim, then K1ZX. After 8 hours at ARRL, routine chores, and recording QST for the Library of Congress, there was little leisure time left. She chased CW DX in the early mornings before work; 320 DXCC countries and WAZ. CW was always Ellen's preferred mode. She also preferred short contests because her operating time was limited.

She remembered vividly the sun spot cycle at that time as an astounding, exciting period. She was really hooked on CW DXing and could hardly wait to get up in the morning, get some time on the air before going to work. On their lunch hours, all the hams at the league would talk about DX, it was an exciting time. Ellen's second language was Morse Code, she was comfortable at 40 (words per min.) or more. She did not copy CW, it was automatic for her because she had done it for so long and was so proficient. She was invited to join FOC (the First Class CW Operator's Club) in May 1966, a highlight of her life.

### Talking Book Program for the visually-impaired.

While at the league, she was approached by the Library of Congress, the Division of the Blind and Handicapped. They were desperately looking for people to read and record monthly QST for the blind and visually handicapped. It took a huge segment of Ellen's personal time because this was a volunteer project, not on league time. But she found it interesting to read QST aloud, cover to cover each month.

### Moving south

After 25 years at the league they moved south to Florida, which enjoyed a wonderful climate, and they went inland to avoid hurricanes. Until August 24, 1992 when Hurricane Andrew came through inland Florida. Next morning not much was left. All the towers were gone; vehicles badly damaged; and the roof of the house was gone. Several



months after the hurricane, the cover of QST showed Bob in the midst of the havoc created by Hurricane Andrew. They decided to relocate; to move across state to near Tampa, where son Jim White, later K4OJ lived. They found a piece of land about 8 miles from where their son Jim lived.

His enthusiasm and technical ability renewed Ellen and Bob's love of contesting and big towers! The move introduced them to new technology, with Jim building an interface allowing relatively easy multi-band operation. The first time Ellen switched bands and all station components and beams did the same; she felt she had arrived in ham heaven!

They built W1CW super-station, a highlight of their ham radio lives. The tallest tower was about 130 foot tall. They had 2 smaller towers and fought and won the battle, allowing hams to build towers on properties in the Tampa area, showing they were legal and safe.



#### A New dimension

Bob died November 22, 2002 from complications arising from pneumonia, age 83. Ellen age 75, had lost her best friend of 57 years. After both husband Bob, W1CW, and son, K4OJ, (died 2004-02-12) became "silent keys", both within a 2-year period, Ellen down-sized their enormous station and big antenna farm. It was a tremendous problem to downsize without Bob W1CW and Jim K4OJ.

It took quite a bit of doing but at a certain time of life some things become physically too much. Ellen moved to an apartment close to daily facilities, but really missed ham radio.

Ellen was a founder and an active member of the Florida Contest Group. During 2015, a group of club members realized how much Ellen (then age 88) missed being an active part of ham radio. They managed to acquire an Elecraft K3O plus all of the hardware needed for her to work a remote station. This state of the art configuration with a PC in front of her and the K3, and her key. meant she was able to remotely control W7RN a super-station in Nevada. The biggest problem was to change her mind-set to 'being' in Nevada, 3 hours further west. She had to learn what the bands sounded like in the western part of the country compared to the east. The W7RN station is a super station, in the mountains of Nevada near Reno; big antennas, stack 40 meter beams.

During earlier times (when Ellen was first licensed) radio licenses matched a specific geographical region, a tradition Ellen continued when operating. She used the portable indicator to reveal the area she was transmitting from - the old-time ham in her but she believed it was helpful to the operator on the other end, especially if using a rotary. At least they knew where to turn the beam.

Ellen used a Elecraft K0, the front panel from a K3, that plugs into the internet and gives control of a K3 that's in the W7RN station, set-up by the contest group. She was able to look at the station, physically turn the beams and monitor from Florida, into the mountains of Nevada, with a great path to Asia on 40m in the morning.

It's amazing that technology has created an opportunity for someone who's down-sizing and moving into an apartment to still have the ability to do what they love. It has enormous implications for aging hams, as well as those with physical difficulties unable to maintain an antenna farm with towers, and other weighty equipment. The opening of a new dimension in ham radio.

Sources:

<https://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/w1yl> 5/21/2016

<https://ncjweb.com/features/mayjun15feat.pdf> National Contest Journal May/June 2015

#### **Dx'ers as diplomats**

"We Dx'ers are the everyday diplomats, the honest go-between of our respective countries each of us having learned first hand that, wherever we live in this often troubled world, and whatever our language is, life presents the same challenges for all; earning a living, raising and caring for a family, worrying about bills and educating our children. It's all the same, only the language is different. It's the commonality of mankind that's clearly revealed in our dx world.

DX'ing truly represents public interest by virtue of our individual and unique ability to foster international goodwill."  
by Ellen White W1YL/4

<http://zs2pe.co.za/Newsletter/QSX%202007-06.pdf>

Ed: I am indebted to Al Akers (ZS2U) of Port Elizabeth AR Society for the extract above.

RIP Ellen White W1YL and Thank you. 33

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### Silent Keys

OA4DSP Ana María Cogorno Prestinoni, of San Borja. Lima, Peru became Silent Key Oct 20 2022  
Radio Club Peruano

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N1WTJ Patricia Francis (Hayden Holmes) Winslow [June 13, 1932 - Nov. 6, 2022]

She died Nov. 6, 2022 age 90 in her home in Nobleboro. ME (USA)

Pat graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1955. She met and married Robert Neal Holmes in 1955. They had 2 sons and a daughter. After Bob passed away in 1978, Pat married Leon Winslow, of Waldoboro, in 1980.

As a member of Portland's Caldwell Post shooting team, Pat was recognized as men's state championship sharpshooter in 1967, 1968 and 1969, since women's sharpshooting was not yet promoted.

She was a lifetime member of the Order of Eastern Star in Portland, where she was born.

In the early 90s, Pat gained her amateur radio technician licence.

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### CONTACT US

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newsletters can be found: <https://jbcs.co.za/wp/> & RadioZS

Italian Radio Amateurs Union: QTC U.R.I.

<https://www.unionradio.it/qtc-la-rivista-della-unione-radioamatori-italiani/>

also archive #89 dec 2020, <https://www.darc.de/en/der-club/referate/yl/> (German ARC)

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### December 2022

Dec 1-31 YOTA Month (Youth-on-the-Air)

Dec 4 - 9 XE1JKW, Paty activate Tiburon (Shark) Island, NA-167 activated for 1st time.

Dec 6 - 28 PH22XMAS - Special Event Merry Xmas 2022 Netherlands

Dec 11 Japan Ladies Radio Society (JLRS) "YL CQ Day" 2nd Sunday of every month!  
9:00 AM UTC+09 – 4:00 PM UTC+09

Dec 11 International Mountain Day

Dec 17 - Jan 1, 2023 Lighthouse Christmas Lights (LCL) <https://arlhs.com/>

Dec 18 -26 Hanukkah 2022

Dec 22 Indonesia celebrates Mothers Day

Dec 25 Christmas Day

Dec 26 Family Day / Boxing Day

Dec 28 - Jan 31, 2023 PH23HNY Special Event Happy New Year 2023 Netherlands