

VWOA NEWSLETTER

Email Issue #47

Francis T. Cassidy Editor

2009



----- Original Message -----

From: stig-olof jokinen

To: <wenben@nyc.rr.com>

Sent: Friday, March 14, 2008 4:10 PM

Subject: membership

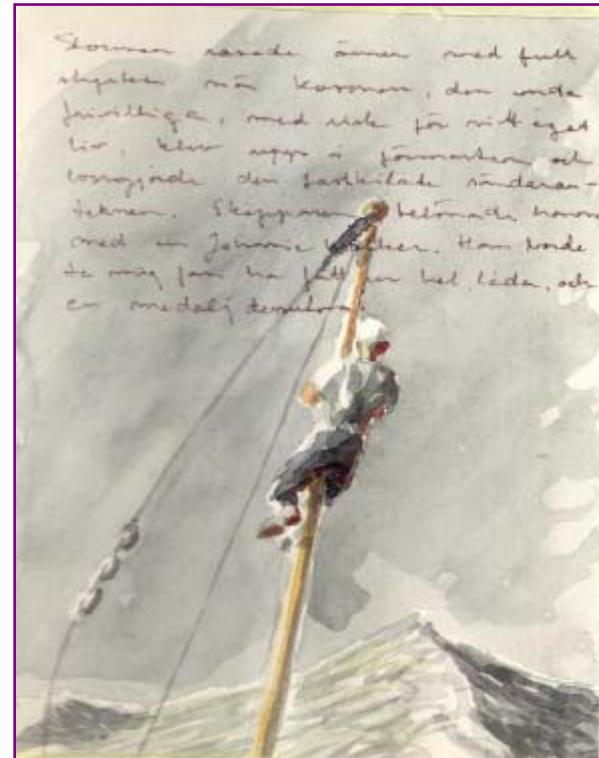
Hi OM!

I occasionally found your homepage, searching for anything that could bring me back to the glorious era of merchant shipping where radio-officers still were a part of the trade.

I am a Finnish radio officer with a 1st class certificate issued in the 70's.

I got my 2nd class certificate in May 1967 from Aland Maritime School/OGPF in Mariehamn, Finland.

During 1967-72 I worked as a radio-operator in Finnish vessels in a North Atlantic route (North America-Europe and Mediterranean countries), 1972-74 as a radio-operator in a coastal radio station on Aland Islands (Mariehamnradio/OHM) 1974-1979



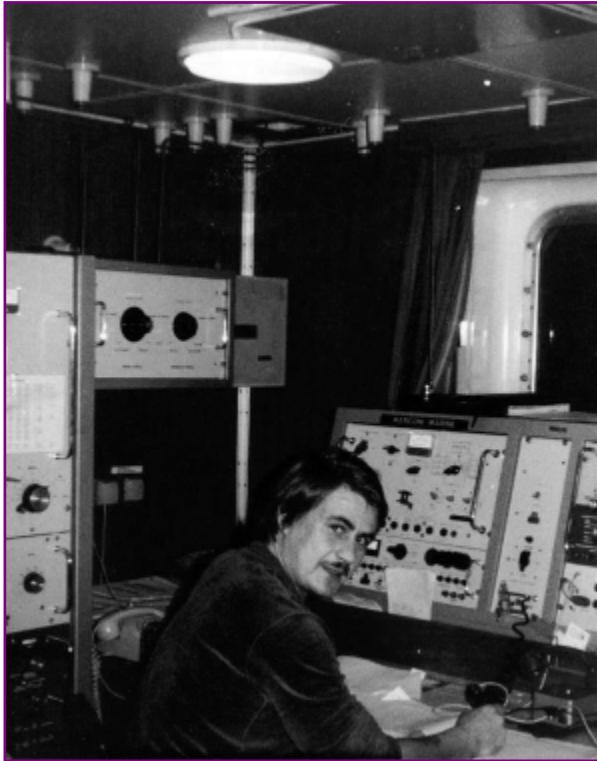
Painting by :

Stig-Olof Jokinen celebrating the repair of an aerial broken immediately aft of the foremast of the M/V Agneta/OFYY in the year 1968

as a radio-officer onboard Vikingline passengerferries between Finland and Sweden

If this association still receives new members I'm very willing to enjoy Your company.

> Sincerely,
> Stig-Olof Jokinen



Stig-Olof Jokinen has been a WWOA Member for about one year and you can visit his Web Site at URL:

<http://www.personal.inet.fi/private/stig.jokinen>

----- Original Message -----

From: stig-olof jokinen

To: [Wendell R Benson](#)

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2008 4:12 PM

Subject: Re: radio officers

Hi Wendell!

Yes Sir i rcvd all ur msgs - great!

When you first sent them I crossed for the wrong column in the mailwasher, so they were deleted.

You have given me a whole lot to explore in near future.

By the way I noticed that you request a QSL for each msg You send. Does the function not fill up Your inbox or is it something You prefer?

Birgittas book caught my interest, I will look for it in our library in Mariehamn.

During late sixties I worked in a small cargo vessel. Her name was m/v Agneta/ofyy. I remember that we joined the AMVER-system, which gave a R/O a little more to do working with the USCG stations. Is it still operational in any form?

73
Stig-Olof+

I feel I have to add following to the description of my R/O career.

I quit the work at sea by 1979 and joined the Finnish Coast Guard in 1980. My base was Finnish CG Center Mariehamn/OGA, which at that time also served as a Maritime Rescue Subcenter (MRSC) for the Åland region. Later, all responsibility of the International Maritime Rescue Operations in finnish waters were concentrated to one and only MRCC in Finland operated by the Finnish CG, namely Turku. Operators in these CG MRSC:s and MRCC:s did not work on 500 kHz at all, only monitoring 2182 kHz and VHF ch 16 (h24). As a fact there were only 2 other international R/O:s employed by the CG when I joined.

As a head operator in Mariehamn and also responsible for the education of the other operators working there, I believe I was able to bring about some knowledge from the years at sea and from my work at Mariehamnradio. I was retired from The Finnish Coast Guard as a Ltn in 2004.

PS The Finnish Coast Guard is listed under the Authority of The Finnish Border Guard, which is ruled by the Ministry of the Interior.
DS.

73
Stig-Olof+

----- Original Message -----

From: stig jokinen
To: [Wendell R Benson](#)

Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2009 1:14 PM
Subject: a story

Hello Wendell!
Long time no QSO.
I remember U guys inquired for contributions in means of stories from the wireless era.
Here's a very modest story.
I attach an illustration from the occasion.
Wendell, please correct my English if necessary.

On a run from Floroe in Norway to Freeport, Galveston, TX with fish-meal onboard in February 1968, M/V Agneta/OFYY hit a full-forced hurricane in the middle of the Atlantic.

Though we had early warnings, from US weather centers about this fearsome and large depression heading for Europe, our captain, decided to take the normal great circle between Orkneys and Shetlands to Florida. The 300 feet long lady took the enormous seas outside the hurricane very elegantly, accepting the 4-story high waves with no complaints.

The center of the hurricane hit us just before midnight. I had finished the last 2-hours pass (20-22 hrs GMT) having heard no distress-calls, but warnings from operators in ships struck by this weather phenomena, checked the auto alarm and shut off the receivers.

Realizing it was not possible to get any sleep in the bunk, as the ship rocked and rolled so heavily, I sat down by the porthole in my adjacent cabin, facing the foredeck, watching the raving circumstances outside.

Sometime during morning hours I saw and heard the main aerial between the ships masts burst and come down as the ships hull twisted in the heavy seas. Due to present conditions one only had to accept the fact, nothing could be done to the antenna for the moment. The aerial broke immediately aft of the foremast and left the wire stuck into the block in the top of the mast.

Discussing the apprized situation with the captain, we came to the conclusion that the auxiliary antenna might not be sufficient for a distress call to reach helpers, if we were distressed in the middle of the Atlantic. The problem had to be resolved by rigging up the main antenna again.

The greatest obstacle was to loosen the wire stuck in the block in the foremast though. For that, someone had to climb 15 feet of a slick and soapy (saltwater) mast top without any securing gear, the ship twisting from side to side by some 70-80 degrees totally in the heavy swell.

At the morning call, the captain asked for volunteers to climb the foremast to loosen the wire. One young and brave, physically well fitted O.S. with the surname Kosonen reported he would do it saying "Perkele (Finnish swearword), I'll do it".

From the ships bridge we could see our young hero gaining a foot climbing the slippery mast top and then slipping down a foot again. With the stubbornness of a descendant from a warrior of the Finnish winter war he finally, after a half an hour or so, made it to the top and loosened the wire and we could rig the main antenna again. The ship's captain rewarded him with a bottle of scotch and the leisure for the rest of the day. I remember I was so impressed by his achievement I could

have given him a whole case of whisky and a medal for his bravery.

A week later we landed safely in Freeport, Galveston, TX
Stig-Olof+

Thank you Stig-Olof for responding to our request for Memories to be Shared with WWOA Members—The Editor

2009 WWOA AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 84th Annual Awards Luncheon will take place on Sunday, June 7, 2009 at the Top Deck of the Seamen's Church Institute, 241 Water Street, New York.

The Reception and Cocktail Hour will start at 1 PM followed by the Luncheon at 2 PM. You will have a choice of grilled salmon, half of roast of chicken, or filet mignon for the main course.

The Speaker for the Luncheon will be:

**REAR ADMIRAL J. ROBERT LUNNEY
NY NAVAL MILITIA (Ret.)**

The theme will be Meredith Victory (1945), a Victory ship which evacuated 14000 people from Hungnam to Pusan, Korea in one three day trip during the Korean War.

VWOA MEMBER NEWS

In case you missed the Reservation Forms for the VWOA Awards Luncheon or have yet to show your support for VWOA by sending your 73s and Business Card or QSL Card for publishing in the 2009 VWOA Year Book; the final pages of this Newsletter will contain another Reservation and Publishing Form for your use.

Please make every effort to show your support of the efforts of your VWOA Officers and Directors to memorialize those who made Wireless what it is today.

We at the VWOA Newsletter would like to hear from you and try to pass along to the rest of the VWOA stories of events that you have experienced and that you feel the rest of the membership would enjoy hearing about. Send us a picture or two and we will try to include it in one of our Email Newsletters.

We would prefer to hear from you by Email at:

ftcassidy@optonline.net

Or

wenben@nyc.rr.com

but if you must, send mail to:

VWOA
PO Box 1003 Peck Slip
New York NY 10272-1003

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

*F. T. Cassidy
Secretary*



*Wendell R. Benson
Assistant Secretary*

84th ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON - 2009

The 84th Annual Awards Luncheon will take place on **Sunday, June 7, 2009** at the Top Deck of the Seamen's Church Institute, 241 Water Street, New York.

The Reception and Cocktail Hour will start at 1 PM followed by the Luncheon at 2 PM. You will have a choice of grilled salmon, half of roast of chicken, or filet mignon for the main course. The cost will be \$45 per person.

The Speaker for the Luncheon will be:

REAR ADMIRAL J. ROBERT LUNNEY, NY NAVAL MILITIA (Ret.)
The theme will be Meredith Victory (1945), a Victory ship which evacuated 14000 people from Hungnam to Pusan, Korea in one three day trip during the Korean War.

Please use the coupon below to make your Luncheon Reservations, which must be sent to the **VWOA Treasurer, J. Michael Shaw**, to arrive no later than **May 15th, 2009**.

Detach Coupon Here

2009 VWOA AWARDS LUNCHEON RESERVATION COUPON

Name

Main Course Desired

Number of tickets _____ at \$45 each for a total of \$_____
Transfer this total to the TALLY SHEET on TALLY PAGE.

VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

*F. T. Cassidy
Secretary*



*Wendell R. Benson
Assistant Secretary*

84th ANNUAL AWARDS YEARBOOK - 2009 BUSINESS CARD & QSL CARD ENTRY

The 84th Annual 2009 Yearbook will once again include business cards and QSL cards as illustrated on the next attachment sheet from the 83rd Annual 2008 Yearbook.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to present yourself to all your fellow Veteran Wireless Operators Association members by including your own personal business card or amateur radio operator's eyeball card in the yearbook. Every member of the organization will receive the yearbook, which is a traditional keepsake.

In addition to the inclusion of business and eyeball cards, you may choose to include your amateur radio QSL card for publication in the yearbook. The QSL card can be your own, or a QSL card from your collection that has special meaning for you or others, or a QSL card in memory of a Silent Key. You may choose to include either a business card, or eyeball card, or QSL card, or any combination of these items.

Please use the coupon below to make your Business/QSL card selections, which must be SENT to the VWOA Treasurer, J. Michael Shaw, to arrive no later than May 15th, 2009.

Detach Coupon Here

2009 VWOA YEARBOOK BUSINESS/QSL CARD ENTRY

Name Call Sign

Business or QSL Card

Mail your **BUSINESS/QSL CARD ENTRIES** to the **VWOA Treasurer, J. Michael Shaw, 11 Caton Ter, Caldwell, NJ 07006-4808** to arrive no later than **May 15th, 2009**.

Number of cards _____ at \$20 each for a total of \$_____

Transfer this total to the TALLY SHEET on TALLY PAGE.



TALLY PAGE

For a listing on the 73 Page in the 2009 VWOA Yearbook, send your name(s) to the Treasurer by listing them on the coupon below. See rates listed on the coupon itself. Don't miss this opportunity to greet your friends. It is also another way to let your fellow members know that you appreciate the work that goes into the production of the Yearbook. Remember that the cutoff date for your listing is May 15th, 2009.

73 PAGE IN YEARBOOK

Rates are: One name \$3.50 Two names (Mr. & Mrs., etc.) \$5.00

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

Total \$ _____

Transfer this total to the TALLY SHEET below

TALLY SHEET

Any emergency changes call VWOA Treasurer, Mike Shaw at (973) 228-5722.

Your total cost for Luncheons	\$ _____
Your total cost for Business & QSL Card	\$ _____
Your total cost for 73 Page	\$ _____
Check Total	\$ _____

Please make check totaling above payable to **VWOA, Inc.** and mail to the **VWOA Treasurer, J. Michael Shaw, 11 Caton Ter, Caldwell, NJ 07006-4808** to arrive no later than **May 15th, 2009**

Include the Luncheon Reservation Coupon with this TALLY PAGE.

Include the Business Card & QSL Card Coupon with this TALLY PAGE.

