



The Sunrise Bible Study Group

Our Net Theme Verse:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Tim. 2:15 KJV

The Gospel of the Grace of God:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...”

1 Cor. 15:1-7 KJV

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Overview & Welcome

We Welcome You to Join our Fellowship in our Lord Jesus Christ around His Word!

We Welcome You to Participate to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and explore His Word, the Bible.

Join us any morning of the week, Sunday through Saturday, on the **75 m** ham band on **3912.0 kHz SSB (LSB)**. **Check in after: 6:00 AM EST (1100 GMT)**, or in the summer time after 6:00 AM EDST (1000 GMT). **The Net begins at 6:30 AM EST (1130 GMT)**, or in the summer at 6:30AM EDST (1030 GMT).

It does seem rather hard to believe — an adult Bible Study Class that meets daily, is always well attended, and progresses with near perfect order and harmony. Each member has opportunity to share in each session, and no speaker is ever interrupted by another speaker. Surprisingly enough, such a class does exist. The short-wave radio enthusiast who tunes across the 75-meter amateur band during the early morning hours may suddenly come across references and quotations from the Bible – the Word of God, as an unusual group of Christian radio amateurs meet on the air to share their ideas and to fellowship in the one common denominator of all Christians, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Radio amateurs are individuals who are licensed by their governments to operate short-wave communications stations as a hobby. In the United States, each must prove his knowledge of radio principles, and demonstrate his operating proficiency to the Federal Communications Commission before a license is granted. Each amateur radio operator is assigned a call sign with which his station must be identified during each transmission. Over half of the world's amateur radio operators are situated in the United States and in Canada.

Background and History of the SRBSG

The Sunrise Bible Study Group was begun as a joint effort of Lloyd Alford, VE3AX, and Don Cronemeyer, AD4NT (K8HHK at the time). These two men had met through a Christian amateur radio organization known as ARMS, The Amateur Radio Missionary Service, which had been operating on the ham bands for a number of years. At that time, Lloyd operated a quite successful automobile dealership in London, Ont. Canada, and Don was a research physicist at the Bendix Research Laboratory in Southfield, Michigan. Their common interest was the bond in Christ and desire to win others to Him, as well as a keen dedication to ham radio. They had also become aware that groups of Christian amateurs in other parts of the United States had been conducting radio nets for the purpose of Bible Study and Christian fellowship; also, certain cults had been counterfeiting Christian fellowship via amateur radio for some time.

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by W. Edmund Hood (W2FEZ)

Revised by Don Cronemeyer (AD4NT) in 2012 and Jim Spoerl (NG1Y) in 2018

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Rather than participate in such a net dominated by a cult, they were led by the Lord to start a new Christian non-denominational Bible Study net. This net was to be centered around the Word of God, and would give preeminence to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Author of the Word of God. This new net was to adhere closely to orthodox Christianity with a fundamental outlook on Scripture – verbal and plenary inspiration of the Word being stressed. The one true gospel of the grace of God was to be emphasized and saving faith defined in relation to that wherein is “the power of God unto salvation”. In addition, an emphasis was to be made upon the "born-again" experience which underscores the gift of a new nature given to all true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation. That moment, of course, was “when he or she has believed” that message of good news through Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Ideas and plans for the new organization were discussed during and after sessions of the ARMS net. Indeed, one can say that the Sunrise Bible Study grew out of the ARMS net – for there are many connections. On March 26, 1964 at 7 AM on 3903 kHz on the 75-meter ham band. the Sunrise Bible Study Group began. The first study was devoted to the 15th chapter of the Gospel of John. Basically, it amounted to a Bible discussion between the two founders of the net, Lloyd Alford, VE3AX in London, Ontario, Canada, and Don Cronemeyer, (then K8HHK, now AD4NT) of Franklin, Michigan, near Detroit. Both of the amateur radio stations of the founders were equipped with first-class equipment manufactured by Collins Radio Corp., running near the legal limit of power – one kilowatt, and could be heard well over the whole eastern half of the country. The particular time of day, near local sunrise, was favorable for "skip distances" of 150 to 1500 miles, so the founders were well aware that their two-way "private" conversation about the Scriptures could be monitored over a vast area of the two countries, the United States and Canada. From the start, the international flavor of contact between the USA and Canada was also an attraction. The first few sessions were held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, since these days were alternate to the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday meeting days of the ARMS net. The 3903 kHz frequency was chosen since it was adjacent to the ARMS net frequency of 3907 kHz.

Initially, it was hoped that the new group, the Sunrise Bible Study Group would be an adjunct to the ARMS net. Many of the regular ARMS net members were interested in the formation of the Sunrise Bible Study Group, particularly Jack Buck, K2AXO, of Centerport, L.I., NY. The second session of the Sunrise Bible Study Group was held on Saturday, March 28, 1964, and was devoted to Phil. 3:4-7. Later, it became obvious that the regular study of Scripture was more important than coordination with Christian missionary activity as stressed in the ARMS group, and the net became a 7-day a week operation, completely independent of the ARMS net. Among those who were involved in these earliest sessions besides Jack Buck, K2AXO, were Bob Bell, W9RPX of Worth, Illinois, Tom Adams, K8CUC, of Farmington, Michigan, and Jim Erwin, W8CXE, of Blissfield, Ohio. Many, many others joined in as time went on, and the group is still going strong and is attracting new members. Part of the fascination which adheres to the operation is the wide diversity of check ins, spiritually and geographically speaking. Check ins from California (3 hours earlier!) and Bermuda do not happen every day, nor do

check ins from "completed" Jews or converted Roman Catholics, but such events have happened and there is no way of predicting in advance when they may occur again.

In the early days of the net, many of the Sunrise Bible Study Group members sought to enhance their witness to other radio amateurs by the use of QSL cards featuring Scripture verses. Often these cards which radio amateurs share with each other to acknowledge and verify contacts could include references to the times and frequencies used by the Sunrise Bible Study Group as well. Gospel tracts especially suitable for amateur radio operators and designed to win others to receive Christ as Savior became popular with the members. A number of these tracts had their origin in the work of the ARMS net; several tracts such as "Your Best Contact", and "The Wrong Manual", had been written by Dr. William A. Meirop, K2JEI. Dr. Meirop is credited with being the founder of the ARMS net. Also, Lloyd, VE3AX, designed a little brochure which detailed times and frequencies of the Sunrise Bible Study Group; the brochure gives our theme verse, Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). The verse is extremely applicable to our Study since it so well encapsulates the reason for our existence.

Current Net Control Stations

The Sunrise Bible Study Group is a directed net. This means that one operator is responsible for preparing the scripture selection for that day's study, checking in operators and making verse assignments as check ins progress, and then managing the operations of the net for that session. The current net control list is (as of February 2018):

<u>Day</u>	<u>NC</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Town / City</u>	<u>State</u>
Sunday	Bill	K8BDR	Bruceton Mills	WV
Monday	Jim	NG1Y	Hebron	NH
Tuesday	Del	WB8FYR**	Sanford/Edenville	MI
Wednesday	Don	AD4NT	Greenville	SC
Thursday	Eric	KB4MTS	Lexington	NC
Friday	Tom	AB1FF	Shirley	MA
Saturday	Jim	KE4NLI**	Richmond	VA

**** For health or other reasons, temporary NCs N9TU & K3GAU have been standing in for these operators (N9TU for WB8FYR & K3GAU for KE4NLI).**

Internet Tools (RemoteHams & Google Docs)

For nearly five years now the net has had the added benefit of using two tools that have really made the difference especially during times of poorer propagation. These are the remote operations capability provided by remotehams.com software and management tools (called by the group, “the dashboard”) available through a shared spreadsheet that reflects each day’s Bible study.

Remote Station access with RemoteHams.com

A number of stations are currently made available by way of the Internet for both listening and for transmitting (when transmit rights have been assigned upon request of the station owner). A server PC application is installed on the shack PC which is then connected by serial or USB connection to the shack’s transceiver. This application “publishes” that station to the Internet for access by stations running the PC client application. Both applications are freely downloadable after registering one’s call sign (or ID, for those who are not licensed hams, who ARE ALLOWED to listen!) from www.remotehams.com. Using a station that is operating this remote capability requires only that the remotehams client application be installed on one’s PC (sorry, but no Mac version is available). The user logs in to the application using his call sign and password (as determined during the registration process) and the client application then lists the stations that are available to be used at that time. Clicking on an “online” station will then connect your PC to that station. The stations in the list that are NOT grayed out are currently “on line” and available for use. If all has gone well, the audio stream as it is received by that connected station may then be heard on your PC speaker. Transmitting via the Internet on that connected station may also be done for those to whom transmit rights have been granted. [Note: As of early 2018, only the 0.8.xxxx software versions are stable. The 0.9.xxxx versions are a complete rewrite and are currently under active development.]

The “Dashboard” using Google Docs

Net Control manages a shared Google Docs spreadsheet for management of the net each morning. It is very useful to know who is assigned what verse(s) and what the net status is as the net proceeds. All of that and more are provided by this shared spreadsheet (which we call the “dashboard”) as it is viewed by means of an Internet browser connected to the Internet. There is also a shared chat column for interactive messages and a comments / notes column is often kept up to date as the Bible study proceeds (usually well done by Dave Vittum, W1DV or Eric Disher, KB4MTS). If you would like a link to this document, please send a request email to Bill Ramsey, K8BDR, the creator and maintainer of the Google Docs spreadsheet and he will send it to you.

What to Expect

The SRBSG—“The World is their Classroom”

by W. Edmund Hood (W2FEZ)

Revised by Don Cronmeyer (AD4NT) in 2012 and Jim Spoerl (NG1Y) in 2018

The average session involves anywhere from half a dozen to a score of amateur radio stations. Many others listen, but since broadcasting is forbidden on ham radio, this fact is not emphasized. Besides, the intimacy and interest of getting to know the various operators and their Scriptural ideas would be side-tracked by any focus on a listening audience. The spontaneity of expression is more similar to that of a "party-line" telephone conversation where all can and do contribute. Those hams who get the most out of the study are those who actually participate—and, many do considerable Biblical research before giving their comments on the Bible passages, either before the net begins, or during. Bible commentaries, Greek and Hebrew lexicons, and other Biblical helps are referenced by some of the participants, and the uniqueness of the study in the domain of Christian activity can be understood in the light of the verse-by-verse nature of the format in which each one can contribute as the Lord leads him to do. Often times, one hears reference to old standards such as may be found in good old Matthew Henry as illumination of Scriptural passages (from 300 years back), or more up-to-date references to Oliver Green or J. Vernon McGee's opinions regarding the meaning of certain passages. More than a few net members may also refer to the Henry Morris Study Bible and to the helpful notes found in it. Arguing or wrangling over the Scripture is never countenanced, however. Each individual is entitled to his opinion as led by the Holy Spirit.

The attendance of the various members and "check ins" fluctuates. Unfortunately, Lloyd, VE3AX, went to be with the Lord about twenty-five years ago. He always emphasized "going first class for the Lord Jesus", giving his utmost for the cause. It was a great emphasis. It was hoped that Lloyd's wife (xyl), Edith would be able to carry on, as she had missionary training, and frequently participated with Lloyd during the Sunrise Bible Study Group sessions. This did not come to pass. All of the earliest members of the group have dropped by the wayside for one reason or another. One of our great net control operators, Dick Johnson, W2BDL, of Succasunna, NJ, passed away on January 25th, 2000, 85 years and two days old. (85 Gideon Memorial Bibles were placed to commemorate his home-going.) Dick was a tremendous asset to the net, especially with his high powered station, and "Big Bertha – extended double Zepp antenna". His intellectual and spiritual qualities were likewise challenging, leading many a discussion into the works of C. S. Lewis and decrying the "dumbing down" of modern educational ways which depart from Scriptural patterns.

Some radio amateurs who have taken part in the net find difficulties from time to time in getting on the air as a result of changes of location, time changes from daylight to standard time, interferences with work schedules, and the ever-present competition of other interests. Nevertheless, other ham radio operators have come along later, and some have stayed for many years up to the present times. The Lord has always seen fit to provide a solid, dependable nucleus for the group. Truly, the Holy Spirit is the overseer of the group, not only with regard to the selection of those who can and will participate, but also of the particular Scriptures studied. We always attempt to alternate between the Old and New Testaments, and during the course of the net's long history, the entire Bible, both Old and New Testament are covered, on average, every three years or so. So both portions of the Scripture have been studied verse by verse many times during the years since 1964. Through the years of the Sunrise Bible Study Group, more

than 2000 radio amateur operators, and countless short-wave radio listeners have encountered and participated in the group. Some of those listeners have become licensed amateur radio operators as a result of the incentive provided by interest in the group. Some have even gone from short-wave listener to net control station. We have 7 net control stations, one for each morning of the week, and many more who are capable of substituting when necessary.

The Net Schedule

The group meets at 6:30 AM EST or EDST (1130 or 1030 GMT), 7 days a week on a frequency of 3912.0 kHz. Check ins start out at 6 AM, so that the net can start right on time at 6:30. The starting time approximates local sunrise for the eastern half of the United States and Canada, so that optimum "skip" conditions prevail almost all of the year.

In the past we also have sponsored an evening net on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 8:30 PM EST on 3835 kHz, but this is presently inactive. On Saturday mornings in the past, a Young Adult Bible Study has been held following the regular Sunrise Bible Study Group session at 7:30 AM EST on the same frequency of 3912 kHz. This Bible Study was held particularly for the younger Christian radio amateurs and amateurs-to-be.

Also for quite a while, an International Bible Study Group was held on either 21.350 or 14.330 kHz at 3 PM EST on Sunday afternoons but this also eventually became inactive. But in its place a daily Bible study intended for an International audience was started in 2012 which meets since December 7th of that year every day on 14.322.5 at 3:15 PM EST or EDST (2015 or 1915 GMT) with check ins 15 minutes earlier. The International Bible Study Group therefore recently celebrated its 5th anniversary. A complication appeared with regard to such a multi-continent meeting in that such a Bible Study is considered to be illegal in Europe. Perhaps we see a lesson in this matter, in that we rarely consider just how extremely fortunate and blessed we are with freedom here in the United States and in Canada and in most of South America! It is hoped that these other sessions of the Sunrise Bible Study Group could be reactivated again. For CW (Morse Code) enthusiasts, we have even contemplated sessions in that mode, but so far have not implemented the proposal.

Net Operations

Each Bible Study session is moderated by a "net control station". Participants who are regular in attendance, sound in Christian doctrine, and who have powerful signals take turns acting as net control operator. Each net control operator has a particular morning on which he is to officiate, and he must do his "home-work" in advance in preparation for this task. Being a net control operator is fascinating and interesting, but also requires the discipline of getting on the air early, making certain the frequency is clear, as well as lining up the Bible verse assignments in advance. He must also make certain that his transmitter and antenna are in good operating condition so that he will be able to control the net effectively. A strong signal usually requires an amplifier and a considerably elevated antenna. Most of our net control stations are classi-

fied as Advanced or Extra Class in their operator status. At least a General Class license is required in order to operate on the frequency used by the net, 3912 kHz. The usual net control operator has been with the net for years, and is thoroughly familiar with the procedure and the stations which usually check in. Careful, considerate handling of his station is essential to success. Technical prowess in radio, and courtesy in interaction with the members of the net go hand-in-hand.

A separate net control operator officiates on each morning of the week. Participating stations "check in" by calling the net control station in response normally to a call or standby request issued by net control. As each station checks in, the net control operator assigns a verse or two from the portion of the Bible currently under study. The net control operator has previously reviewed the Scripture portion and has laid out the verses in as logical a fashion as possible, so that verse assignments make sense and each check in will have something to comment upon concerning his Scripture verse assignment.

During the check in period, one station will be asked to take the first one or two verses of Scripture in the study, preceded by an opening prayer. Prayer requests are solicited during the check in period.

The Net “Prolog”

Just before starting time for the net at 6:30 AM, the net control station gives a brief announcement concerning the fact that the Sunrise Bible Study Net is in session and shares the net “prolog”. That normally will include at least the following items: The Sunrise Bible Study Net is a directed net (the net control operator is in charge of the net and usually maintains control over who is allowed to transmit); it is a verse-by-verse study of the Scripture; that we are a group of born-again radio amateur radio operators; that we address the Bible as the inerrant and infallible word of God; that it is helpful if we read the verses from the King James Version of the Bible to assure continuity from one reader to the next; that we are fundamental in the faith; that we meet regularly on (or near) the 3912 kHz frequency; that we welcome new-comers and old-timers alike; that all are welcome to take part; that we are independent of denominational ties; that, in fact, we are non-denominational in our approach to the Scripture as discussed on the air; and that each station on the first round should take no more than a minute or so for his transmission. Normally that would consist of the simple reading the verse or verses. Following the readings, there is then a "go-round" portion in which comments can address the entire Scripture passage or related subjects. The “go-round” is the central portion of the net and the most important, as this net is intended to be a Bible study net and is not intended for Bible reading only. Those that can stay for both rounds are the ones who gain the greatest blessing although it is true in every net that some need to leave early due to other commitments. Either way, all are welcome, whether it is for a few minutes only or for the entire net.

The King James Version is our “Standard” text

The use of the King James Version is not mandatory but is highly recommended. It enhances clarity and orderliness in the study to be able to follow along in one's own Bible as each operator reads and comments on the Scripture. The KJV is still not only the most widely available Scripture version, but is also one of the most reliable translations available today, even after over four hundred years! For those reasons it was chosen as our common Bible text; reference to other reliable versions of the Scriptures, and to their rendering of certain verses may be helpful, but should not be allowed to get out of hand, since confusion easily results. The King James Version may be obtained in any bookstore or freely online at sites like biblegateway.com, blueletterbible.org, biblehub.com, biblia.com and youversion.com.

Format & Structure

There is no required format for the study, so that the content may be altered at any time to fit the needs of the net at a given time under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. If cultists should appear (and the Jehovah's Witnesses are not the only ones as there are so many these days), emphasis is firmly made to the orthodox fundamental stand upon Scripture alone as our basis of operation. Such emphasis immediately quells such distractions from the Scripture. The net procedure is firmly directed by the net control station, so that each station takes his turn and little transition time is consumed in passing from one station to the next. As the net proceeds, each station is called by the net control, has the opportunity to read the verses (but normally saving his comments for the second round), and then turns it back to the net control station. The net control then passes it on to the next station in order. Each station is numbered in the net control operator's log, and is checked off as he has his turn. The progression is orderly—that must be emphasized and must be maintained for maximum success. The focus during the net is on the Scripture — weather, personal affairs, other matters should not detract from this focus to maintain continuity and interest in the Scriptures.

Assuming 15 to 20 or more check ins on any given morning, the Scripture portion has been covered verse by verse during the first half hour of the net operation. There are pauses in the procedure to allow other stations to check in, or new stations may break in any time during the net. These new stations are immediately (or as soon as possible if there are break-in stations) assigned verses and an order number in the study at the end of the queue; these new stations handle the assigned verses when their turn comes up later. If all has gone according to the usual plan, at about 7 AM, the net control starts the "go-round". On the "go-round" each station is given an opportunity to comment on the complete passage under study, or to present applications, to give a testimony of the Lord's faithfulness, or to offer corollary Scripture passages which will be of help to the others on the net. Again, out of courtesy to the other operators on the net, a maximum of three minutes per station is our guideline (sometimes difficult to keep). We are reminded that this is not an opportunity to preach, but that this is a Bible study in which all are participants, and in which each shares with the others. The go-round is usually completed in half an hour, so that the net is ready to conclude at around 7:30 AM.

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The net control operator usually closes the net with a word of prayer, although he may assign this task to another operator if he desires. Again, prayer requests may be sought before this closing prayer. The net control station for the following morning is responsible for preparing the study based on where this study ended. He will start with his assignments approximately at that point, sometimes with a slight review for continuity or introduction. When the study reaches the point in a book of the Bible that one will run out of verses in a few days, a vote is taken on the net to see what other book of the Bible is important to the net members for the next study. Usually, we try to alternate between the Old and New Testament, and we try to cover the entire Scripture in a few years, so the books studied and their dates are tracked to aid in selection. However, chronological constraint is always overridden if the Holy Spirit directs otherwise. Sometimes a particular book of the Bible suits personal or national situations and is selected by vote of the members on this basis. Insofar as feasible, the operation of the net is under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, thus we are assured that it accomplishes the Lord's purpose in the lives of the net members and also of the listeners.

The net control operator should not comment at any length on the Scripture during the study, but is simply there to effectively expedite the transition from one station to the next in an orderly fashion. It is a polite and thoughtful procedure for Bible study. Each session represents a real spiritual contribution to those who take part and also to those who listen. It is not a "free-for-all" in any sense of the word, as many ham nets turn out to be.

Disparaging remarks or unfriendly criticism is definitely out of place, and the net control operator must keep a firm hand upon the proceeding so that all remarks honor the Lord Jesus Christ. This caution is necessary particularly for new check ins who are not familiar with the net operation; new-comers are always welcomed, and over and over the remark is heard that "this is the best thing going in ham radio!" Anything which detracts from the true message of Christianity is definitely out of place and should not be tolerated. When the net control station closes the session for the day at or about 7:30 AM EST, a dozen (usually far more) men and women, although physically located hundreds of miles apart, have started their day having been strengthened and united in Christian fellowship in our Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed, it is a very good way to "start the day". In no way does it replace one's personal devotions, but it is a very useful adjunct to our private study of the Scripture. It is easy to note the tremendous increase in interest and Scriptural familiarity and facility in those who regularly take part in the study.

The Sunrise Bible Group Experience

It is a fascinating experience to participate in such a Bible study, or indeed just to listen to such a study, as the signals hop-scotch across half of the USA from Florida to Maine, and on up into Canada. The discussion might pass from Jim, KE4NLI in Richmond Virginia; on to Bill, K8B-DR in Bruceton Mills, WV; over to Jerry, N9TU in Connersville, IN; then to Bill, W2BWL in Twin Bridges, NJ; then to Eric, KB4MTS in Lexington, NC; and then on to Okey, WVOP in Ho-

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bart, OK, then on to Dave, K3GAU in Springfield, OH, to Jim, NG1Y in Hebron, NH; and on to Dick, KA8DCJ in Summerville, SC; then to Don, AD4NT in Greenville, SC; and to Clayton, KC5ZLX in Bastrop, TX, then to Steve, N2COJ in Geneva, NY; to John, KA8DRJ in Charlevoix, MI; then to Duncan, VE3GXU (a Braille reading operator) in Ottawa, Ont. Canada; and to Laurel, WA9RDL in Fort Wayne, IN; and on to Del, WB8FYR in Sanford, MI; then to Bob, WD8PIC in Sylvania, OH (another Braille reader), or Pat, KK3F (a third Braille reader) [with many “regulars” left out of this list]. All of this might be controlled by a net control operator such as Tom , AB1FF in Shirley, MA. The participants comment on their assigned verses as the Holy Spirit prompts them. Some participants may cite current events as they seem to apply to the Scripture studied. Other participants may point out related passages of Scripture. Some operators simply read the verses and pass it back to the net control station. The participants range in age from 15 to 93 male and female, and have stations ranging from minimal to far advanced in cost and complexity. Diversity of participation is welcomed at all times. "The ground is level at the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ!"

One distinctive appreciated by all is *the Sunrise Net's unique orderliness*. While this can be partially attributed to the characteristics of the communications media, and to the early morning hour of operation, a God-given spirit of courtesy and cooperation prevails to enhance these characteristics. In addition, the Sunrise Bible Study Group has other qualities which make it highly unusual—it knows no state barriers, no national boundaries, no racial barriers, no denominational constraints, not even barriers of unusual handicaps such as blindness prevent participation. Several sightless hams have taken part in the study using their ability to read the Bible in Braille. One, Duncan, VE3GXU, in Ottawa, Ont. Canada, has been on the net almost from its earliest days. It is always a privilege to hear his exposition of the Word, and he reads Braille flawlessly. You would never know from the way that he handles his radio station and reads from his Braille text that he was blind unless you had personal acquaintance with him. Another of our great net control operators was Alice, WB2TJC, formerly of Pompton, NJ and later of Richmond, VA. She did her "homework" in her comments on the Scripture, and had a near ideal voice for radio and not as high pitched as many female voices sound, particularly on single-sideband. She served for many years as an accomplished net control station on Tuesday mornings. Alice went to be with the Lord a few years ago; one among many that she encouraged is Jim, KE4NLI in Richmond, VA, who is presently one of our most valued net control stations as well as an engineer for the Christian broadcast radio network, BBN. The Sunrise Bible Study Group is not a church, but merely a loosely organized group of Christian hams, and as such, the question of female leadership which might arise in a local church may be by-passed here. We hope that other female hams will join us in the future as they are always welcome.

Affiliations

The Sunrise Bible Study Group is not affiliated with any particular denomination or group, nor is it directed exclusively by any one person. Sectarian discussion is avoided, so that oftentimes operators will participate for years without other operators knowing what group they may belong to; thus each net proceeds harmoniously in spite of a wide variety of groups represented,

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and considerable actual divergence of opinion with regard to certain matters of individual Christian practice.

Interference by Radio Operators

Of course, when a subject as personal as Christianity is discussed in a public forum in this fashion, it is bound to become a target for hecklers. This doesn't happen very frequently to the Sunrise Bible Study Group, but it does happen. It has happened that one individual played a recording of a train, another played a recording of white noise, another "tuned up on the frequency" causing a shrill heterodyne tone which was distracting, and still another played a recording of a gospel song on the frequency of the Sunrise Bible Study Group. Deliberate jamming of this nature however is extremely rare, since it is of course illegal, and most radio amateurs are decent law-abiding citizens. The best defense against such activity seems to be to ignore it. If the jammer cannot disrupt the study he soon gives up. Outside of an occasional outspoken critic or heckler, the group seems to have earned the wholehearted approval of nearly all of the amateur radio community. In no way do we seek to retaliate for offenses. That policy pays off in the end.

Face to Face Fellowship

Although most all of the interaction of the members of the Sunrise Bible Study Group revolves around the reading and studying of God's Word, there have been some actual get-togethers of some of the members and their families in the past. Memorable meetings at London, Ont. Canada; Niagara Falls, NY; Clark Summit, NJ; and Girard, PA come to mind. More recently, several gatherings have occurred near Charlottesville, Virginia and other smaller gatherings have occurred in several states including New Hampshire where there is currently a yearly fellowship at one of our member's family's summer cottage. All would agree however that the spiritual acquaintance gained from a knowledge of their comments on Scripture and related topics seems far in ascendancy over the knowledge gained from viewing the physical appearance of members of the group. The actual physical meetings, although enjoyable and instructive, don't seem that important in furthering the continuation of the work—"if ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31). An album of pictures of the Sunrise Bible Study Net operators was put together a few years ago by Ed, N4EUN. "Rosters of net members" have been put together in the past by W2BDL and AB1FF, but it is difficult to keep the list up to date! Presently, Del, WB8FYR, has an online web site where physical and e-mail addresses and pictures of some of the members may be viewed:

http://www.lafevordr.net/srbsg_roster.htm.

When reviewing the pictures on Del's website, it is impossible not to be moved by the proofs there that members come and go for one reason or another, and the history of the net spans 54 years now. Regrettably, many of our members are now with our Lord Jesus Christ in heaven. Some have indelibly marked our hearts such as Arnold Knable (N1JX) who only a few short years ago went to be with his blessed Lord Jesus. His closing words most mornings for many,

The SRBSG—“The World is their Classroom”

by W. Edmund Hood (W2FEZ)

Revised by Don Cronmeyer (AD4NT) in 2012 and Jim Spoerl (NG1Y) in 2018

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many years were these: “Exercise daily, walk with the Lord.” We will not soon be forgetting him. It should be added that our helpmeets have also sometimes gone before, with great sorrow but joy in heavenly expectation of reunion. That would include Arnold’s wife who was called home before he was, Pat’s wife a few years ago, and then Dave’s wife Jean.

But though we miss those who have gone before very much indeed, we do not sorrow as others who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13).

Some Final Notes

When the Sunrise Bible Study Group first began in 1964, some question was raised as to the legality of such a group operating on ham radio. Many amateurs have the notion that there is at least an unwritten rule that discussion of politics and religion are forbidden on ham radio. That's just it—it is unwritten! The laws of the United States and Canada have been searched, and it is found that since amateur radio is a private personal communication service, religious discussion is quite legitimate. In addition, there was considerable precedent of long standing for the conduct of such groups via ham radio. On the other hand, those who would deliberately attempt to break up a session of the Bible study or cause intentional interference are subject to heavy fines and loss of their licenses if convicted. The air-waves are to be shared, as a party line, on a first-come, first-served basis. Again, this accentuates the fact that the net control station must get up early, and be ready to occupy the frequency, or otherwise we may well lose it. The "armour" of prayer for God's work is essential to the effective operation of the Sunrise Bible Study Group at all times.

Listening in to the Sunrise Bible Study Group sessions requires a communications receiver. An ordinary AM-FM-Short Wave radio will not be adequate. Most radio amateurs today use a sophisticated technique of voice communication known as "single- sideband, suppressed carrier transmission", or single sideband (SSB) for short. This technique permits voice transmission over much greater distances with less actual power than by the more conventional amplitude modulation (AM) technique. Rather than having two sidebands which both say the same thing and a carrier which says nothing as in AM, in SSB all of the available power goes into just one sideband. However, that means that a receiver is required which will be able to insert a local carrier frequency to replace the carrier frequency suppressed at the transmitter. This inserted carrier usually must be of a considerably higher amplitude than that which is obtained from a beat frequency oscillator (BFO) usually incorporated in higher grade AM-FM-Short Wave receivers and used to detect and read continuous wave (CW) signals used for Morse Code transmission. Any communications receiver can demodulate single sideband signals however; usually with the help of a built in product detector in conjunction with the automatic volume control, (AVC) giving just the appropriate amount of local carrier to demodulate the single sideband signal with excellent clarity. On a conventional AM-Shortwave receiver, single sideband signals are either extremely distorted or completely unreadable.

On the AM-FM-Short Wave receiver with BFO, the input signal must be kept quite weak (short

antenna) to avoid overloading the weak BFO, and hence getting very distorted reception. Don't attempt to discourage yourself from listening to the net by using other than a communications receiver; it doesn't have to be expensive or of the latest model, but it does need to be designed to receive single sideband signals. And put up a least a few feet of wire to help receive those signals which are coming from all over the eastern half of the United States and way up into Canada. A dipole antenna (120 foot flat-top) up 30 or more feet will make a dramatic difference in what you can hear, and may encourage you to become a ham and join us. It's happened many times before!

Our Confidence and Our Hope

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and the Bible, the written Word of God draw the members of the Sunrise Bible Study Group together, and hold them together. The message of hope, the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ daily reaches across the United States and Canada through a network of true Christian fellowship and prayer, and it has done so since March 26, 1964. Warm, sincere Christian fellowship is just as effective today as it has ever been down through the centuries —

"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." (2 Tim. 4:8)

"We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37).