

has always believed in hams and has always accepted their checks without first cashing them at the bank. It is perhaps a fine testament to amateur radio that of the hundreds of such checks that Fred has accepted, not one has ever bounced!

Meanwhile, unknown to Fred, back at Walnut Creek CDROM they were having a hard time keeping the new QRZ CDROM on the shelves. They were soon sold out of the first 1000 copies and had to order a second printing. Within a few months, the sales had topped the 5000 unit mark and Fred was now getting e-mail from new CDROM users from all around the world.

This activity generated a lot of excitement and soon Fred (a software engineer by profession), started to work on the second edition and a new Windows callsign program. Three years later Fred wrote the Windows 95 version of his program and QRZ became the first ham radio CDROM to ship with full 32-bit "designed for Windows 95" lookup software. During this same period the World Wide Web was born and in the fall of 1994, QRZ went online with <http://www.qrz.com> and a web based callsign lookup server. QRZ holds the distinction of being one of the first 5,000 websites in existence (there are many millions today).

Today in the spring of 1999, 13 editions and over 150,000 copies of the QRZ Ham Radio CDROM have been sold worldwide and it has earned the title of the #1 bestselling amateur radio software product of all time. The QRZ CDROM has been used on all 7 continents (yes, including Antarctica) has been carried on the Space Shuttle and was taken aboard the MIR space station.

QRZ remains a small family business that is run by Fred and his wife, Brigitte from a spare room of their home. Fred still works his daytime job as a consulting engineer and Brigitte helps with most of the bookkeeping and mailing. Both Brigitte and Fred are grateful for the support of the many friends that they have made on the internet and look forward to making many more in the future.

And what do the letters QRZ stand for? Well, back in the days when radio telegraphy was widely used, QRZ was a shorthand code which meant "Who is Calling me?" It's still used today, even by voice operators during contests or when they simply didn't hear the complete call.

If you'd like to contact Fred by email, please write to floyd@qrz.com .

Fred and Brigitte Lloyd

EDNOTE: The history of the Internet and QRZ.com's involvement is a little more complicated than as written above. Conceptions of computers communicating between each other were articulated at least as early as the 1950s; 1961 for sure. The World Wide Web (www.) was released as an integrated routing signature in 1991. The Internet wasn't "invented"; it evolved. By 1987, there were over 10,000 Internet hosts. For a detailed history of the Internet, see: <http://www.zakon.org/robert/internet/timeline/>

%%%

SPEAKING OF LABRADOR...

As of this writing, I have 16 days and a Wake-Up to go before I depart for Labrador. I expect to commence operations on 6 June. The first Four-County Net to contact local hams back home will be on Tuesday 12 June if all goes well. Please look for me. Details in: <http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/local> and <http://sites.netscape.net/thefred3/labr1> . I hope to see everyone on the air!

73 de Fred K2FRD

VOLUNTEER EXAM SESSIONS

NOTE TO PERSONS TAKING AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS: PLEASE BRING \$10 TO COVER THE COST OF THE EXAM, A PHOTO IDENTIFICATION, AND YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (CARD PREFERRED).

21 MAY, ONEONTA, NY. OARC meeting and VE session for May is NOT on May 28 but on May 21. (a little messed up on holidays). VE session begins at 6PM at the Elk Park Methodist Church, Chestnut Street, Oneonta. -73 DE Bill, aa2rm

12-May-2001 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ENDICOTT NY FIRE DEPT.

09 Jun 2001 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) ENDICOTT NY FIRE DEPT.

16 Jun 2001 Sponsor: SKYLINE ARC - CORTLAND HAMFEST Time: 9:00AM (Walk-ins allowed). Location: CORTLAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS. CORTLAND, NY 13045

16 Jun 2001 Sponsor: MARGARETVILLE ARC Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: MARY A BOURKE (845)586-2324 Email: BOURKE@CATSKILL.NET. VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: MARGARETVILLE TELEPHONE CO, SWART STREET, MARGARETVILLE, NY 12455.

14 Jul 2001 Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Location: ENDICOTT NY FIRE DEPT ENDICOTT, NY 13760.

23 Jul 2001 Sponsor: ONEONTA ARC (OARC) Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: WILLIAM T HOLLAND (607)746-2777, VEC: ARRL/VEC, Location: ELM PARK UNITED METH CHURCH, CHESTNUT ST & CYPERYL AVE, PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED ONEONTA, NY 13820.

%%%

AS USUAL, IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL ME AT: thefred@ascent.net.
