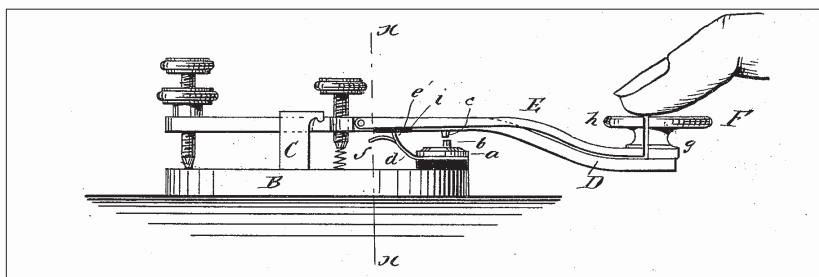


# The Low Down

The Journal of the Colorado QRP Club

## Al Dawkins KØFRP

1947-2014



### INSIDE

Club Info .....	2&19	Operating: No Fear CW .....	9
Editor's Notes .....	2	Operating: Reverse Beacons .....	12
President's Page .....	3	Homebrew: '20s Hartley Oscillator	13
Club News .....	4	Al Dawkins KØFRP/SK .....	16
Funny Noises: Weighty Matters .....	6	CQC Top Ten .....	18
Rigs/Gear: Ham Central Terminal ....	7	CQC Awards/Contests/Mart .....	19

Issue 76

Fall 2013

## *Al Dawkins KØFRP SK*

Alan Vern Dawkins, 66, KØFRP, ACQC#32, passed away on Friday, January 3, 2014, at the Colorado State Veterans Home in Denver.

Al was a former president of the Colorado QRP Club and was one of its strongest pillars. He loved ham radio and led the club's competitive Field Day teams to several scoring records that still stand.

Al was born May 5, 1947 to Flora and Vern Dawkins in Oakes, ND. He received his early education in the Oakes school system, graduating from Oakes Public High School in 1965. He enrolled in the Electronics Engineering & Technology



*You wanna take my frequency? Go ahead, make my day.*

program at the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, ND.

In 1968, Al enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving on the USS San Jose. He met his wife, Marive Tirol, in the Philippines, and they were married on August 22, 1974.

Al and Marive moved to Park River, ND in 1974, where Al worked for Polar Communications. In 1979, they relocated to Wadena, MN, where Al taught Cable Television Technology at the Wadena Technical College. Their son, Aaron Lee, was born on May 15, 1980, at Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. In 1982, the family moved to Aurora, CO, where Al worked for Time Warner Cable, Comcast, and most

### *Donations*

Please send donations to the  
Wounded Warrior Project.  
<http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>

recently, Morse Express. Their daughter, Alicia Lea, joined the family on August 15, 1984.

Al became a ham radio operator at the age of 13, participating in ham radio contests and field days throughout his life, and was an Extra Class operator. His callsign was known worldwide among ham radio operators, especially contesters.

"He loved ham radio," said his daughter, Alica, in a message to the club. "It was a huge part of his life. I know he missed it these past few months."

He also enjoyed fishing, golf, watching sports on TV, and spending time with family.

Preceding Al in death were his parents, Flora and Vern, and a son, Ronald. Survivors include his wife, Marive; his son, Aaron, his wife Christene, and soon-to-be born grandson; his daughter, Alicia, her fiancé Justin Johnson, and his beloved granddaughter, Kennedy. Also surviving are Al's brother, Leon, and his wife, Lori, from Fergus Falls, MN.

### *Memories from CQC Members*

From former club president Pete Inskip NO2D: "Al always had a special enthusiasm for ham radio. He was also a great tester. What he could do running just five watts was amazing. Shortly after I received an Elecraft K3 for my 70th birthday, Al called to see if I would mind if he could run a Fox Hunt from my house with the new K3. Scott, KCØHSV, also joined us that evening, December 9, 2008."

"Al put on a show the likes of which I had never seen before. He was making the K3 sing as never I could. He picked out calls from the pileup and responded before

I was able to copy the first letters of the call. And all of this with a simple wire doublet up 30 feet. I don't remember how many hounds he got that evening, but he was happy, and Scott and I were much impressed, so much so that both Scott and Al ended up buying Elecraft K3s of their own. That evening, and on so many other occasions, Al inspired me to be a better operator, and to do more using QRP low power. We will all miss him greatly."

"As a past president of the club and its Field Day co-chairman for so many years, Al was a mainstay of the club," wrote current CQC president Frank Ivan KØFEL. "We have missed him the past few years due to his declining health. His obituary and other pictures of his club activities are on the web site - www.CQC.org. Please remember his family in your thoughts."

Another former CQC president, Dick Schneider ABØCD, recalled working



*The Al Dawkins KØFRP Memorial Field Day Tent*

"Rich had this goofy tower – I think it was a Wilson product, which he used to sell, but it was a tower that could be shipped standard UPS in a few boxes," Dick said. "It was comprised of a bunch of 3-foot long sections of aluminum tubing crimped on each end where there was a hole for a bolt. Well, the thing was like a tower version of Buckminster Fuller's geodesic dome. It was made up entirely of triangles—very strong—but very odd to look at. Rich wanted to get his old Wilson tribander up on this thing. Al started climbing but there were no horizontal members, just long "V"s from the triangles. As we know, Al was slightly vertically challenged, and those short legs just could not make it from one section to another. So Rich and I rented a superlong extension ladder, slapped it up against the tower, strapped it in a bit, and Al shot right to the top. We hoisted the beam up, working from Rich's roof, and Al got her into place. Come to think of it, I think Scott—another former club president—was there too. He gets around."



CQC treasurer Roger Wendell WBØJNR summed it up for all of the hams who knew Al:

***"72s Al. CQC and the QRP community will never forget your contribution to the science of radio and the friendship you brought us."***



*"Who was the (Expletive Deleted) (Expletive Deleted) who swiped the (Expletive Deleted) elements from this (Expletive Deleted) beam?"  
(Al was in the Navy – ed.)*

with Al on an antenna project not too many years ago, when Al was commuting between Colorado and South Carolina to make a living, Al did some tower climbing over at the QTH of club co-founder Rich High WØHEP (SK).