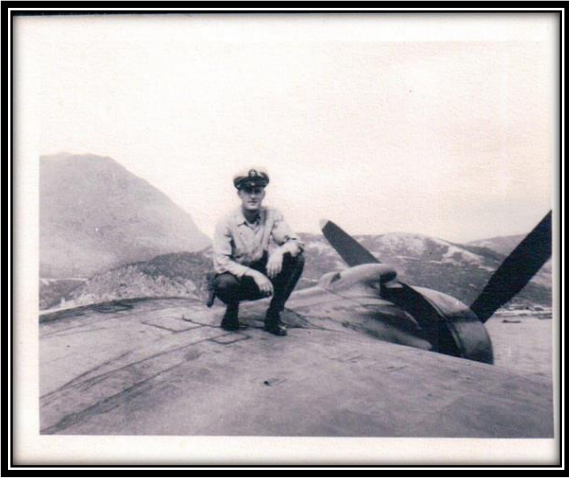


K7OH - Leif "Pete" Pedersen - SK:

With great sadness I write this report that, **K7OH** - Pete (95 years) became a Silent Key early morning on March 29th, 2019. Pete was one of my very closest, respected, beloved friends. He has been my mentor with HF amplifiers, radio equipment repair and building, and the person who inspired me to become an avid DXer, encouraging my quest to earn that elusive ARRL DXCC Honor Roll Plaque. Pete was always generous with anyone needing help, and continuously promoted home-brewing, especially 4-1000 HF amplifiers and their high voltage power supplies...



Born in 1923, Pete grew up in upstate New York where he graduated High School at 17, mid school year. Employment was difficult to find, so he joined President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which was a public work relief program, operated from 1933 to 1942 and intended for unemployed, unmarried men ages 18-25. But shortly after he joined the CCCs, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7th, 1941. Pete immediately joined the Navy and after boot camp was temporarily assigned to the USS Manley (DD-74) an older WWI destroyer still in action. His orders were to meet up and transfer to the USS WASP (CV-7) near the Caribbean, which had instructions to sail for the Pacific theater after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The 1940 commissioned USS Wasp was a smaller version by Treaty, of the Yorktown Class Aircraft Carriers. On September 15th, 1942, the USS WASP was sunk by three torpedoes fired by a Japanese submarine. Pete, her crew and Officers abandoned ship and were forced into the South Pacific near the Salomon Islands. 193 sailors died and 366 were wounded. Pete was one of 1946 USS Wasp crewmen whom abandoned ship to tread water with the South Pacific sharks for several hours, until rescued by several other USS Naval Ships in the area. As a USN Radioman, Pete went on to serve to



the end of WWII and then made a career in the US Navy. Two years before retirement from the Navy in 1960, Pete transferred to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island near Oak Harbor, Washington and bought a 40 acre spread nearby, to raise he and wife Betty - **N7GSG**'s four children. He retired E-7 Chief Petty Officer from the Navy in 1962...

Tom Brokaw wrote the book titled, The Greatest Generation, and I agree with Tom about the special heroes of WWII, and Pete was one of the few WWII vets who were still here contributing today, well into his 90s. For many years, these WWII heroes and their radio training have been the backbone of Amateur Radio. Pete and I met when I had just turned 33 years old and Pete was 64 years old. I am now 64 and he 95, and I am very thankful for his friendship and appreciate every year and sked I have ever shared with him over the airwaves. Pete earned his Ham License in 1947 and has actively been on the air ever since! A few years back he received his 40 year membership pin from the ARRL...

I moved to Stanwood in 1986 and built my home and it is about 10-12 miles as the crow flies west across the Puget Sound to Oak Harbor where Pete lives. A year or so later, I kept hearing this fellow **K7OH** - Pete on a daily 10AM sked with **KC7PR** - Stanley (now SK) on the 2 meter band (147.570 MHz simplex). Through listening to these QSO's, I found Pete to be a very interesting, considerate, friendly person, although we had not actually met, yet. But someone, I knew I wished to meet. So one day, after their 10AM

sked, I called **K7OH** and he came back to me. I introduced myself and I was not disappointed with Pete's response and we had a great upbeat QSO, ending with my invitation to join his nightly sked on 10M, and so I did! **K7OH** - Pete and **VE7ZR** - Larry who lives near Victoria, BC, Canada had been meeting on 28.575 MHz for nearly 12 years already, they were the originators of this 10M nightly sked. I joined in and was instantly welcomed as many Hams have over the years whom chose to joined in. But after 32 years meeting nightly on 28.575, I was still the newbie! Over the past 44 years many hams have come and gone on frequency, some for a one night hello, to others whom stayed for months or even years...

Our nightly QSOs were carried on covering any and every minutiae topic about life. Not only would there be Amateur Radio conversation, but we have shared and fellowshiped about much of our personal lives and families too, including life's triumphs and losses throughout these many years. From sea stories to working on bulldozers and tractors, to planting seeds or splitting, bucking and stacking firewood. I don't believe there a single topic we haven't covered at least once on this nightly sked. Sometimes stories told four or five times over the years. But, I never tired of hearing Pete's sea stories and especially the friendly, welcoming upbeat cadence and tone of his voice when heard in my headset! Every couple of months or so, it has always been a special treat for me to drive to Oak Harbor to Pete's QTH and visit him, for an eyeball or lunch...

Over these many years, Pete, Larry and I have compared notes and strategy to work the very rarest DX and DXpeditions and have always celebrated each of our conquests and then compared notes for the pursuit of that sometimes elusive confirming QSL card. Larry and I have earned DXCC Honor Roll and Pete our mentor, earned DXCC #1 Honor Roll. He is in the current ARRL 2018 yearbook with 349 countries confirmed all time, and he was in the process of submitting the **Z60A** card shown to the left, for his 350th country worked all time...



Pete always supported ham radio clubs, including his home club ICARC on Whidbey Island, but current SCARC member's might also like to know, that Pete has helped many of our Club members with HF amplifier parts and repair over the years. And in the early 1990's when a group of us were trying to get this club off the ground, **K7OH** - Pete and wife **N7GSG** - Betty (SK), were huge supporters of our fledging club and themselves SCARC members, too. In fact, in the early 1990's the Oak Harbor couple donated nearly \$1500 of surplus ham radio equipment and parts, which the club sold to bolstered its treasury, which in turn ensured our club's successful startup. Pete and Betty also enjoyed attending the early SCARC Christmas parties, then held at the Terry's Corner fire station. And until the week before his passing, he always looked forward to this Tuesday morning "SCARC Net Report", where he could continue to keep up with our Club and its membership and search for opportunities to offer his help to one of our members in need. Also, not shown in the photo above, and hanging in the top left corner of his ham shack, continues to hang a SCARC Special Service Plaque, presented to he and Betty in the mid 1990's, for their contributions to our club...

I will post **K7OH**'s memorial information when known...

This loss is so very painful for me, 73 Pete! **N7MZ**