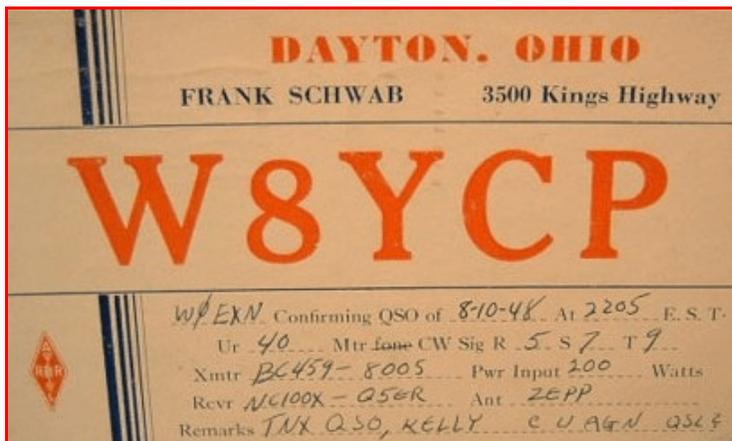


Francis J. "Frank" Schwab - *1925-2003* W8OK - W8YCP - Co founder of the Dayton Ham-vention and founder Dayton Sky-Warn - Frank's wife a retired nurse said "Frank a U.S. Navy radio operator stationed on the Destroyer USS Ingersoll during World War II" - At the end of the war he continued his love affair with radios and from the first day I met him he has been totally involved in that wonderful world.

Frank was a well known top flight contester and cw operator, around Dayton he was known as the "Father of the Hamvention or Mr. Hamvention." He earned his first ticket in 1946 as W8YCP and his considerable cw skill (could copy 55 WPM) Soon rose to the top of the DXCC ranks and eventual membership in the CQ DX Hall of Fame. He was a veteran of ARRL Field Day, an event in which he'd participated for 52 consecutive years. After a tornado ripped through Xenia Ohio in 1974, Schwab was instrumental in setting up the ham radio emergency network that helped keep the community in touch with the outside world. Our subject was credited with establishing the Skywarn program in the Dayton area.

The annual event, Dayton-Hamvention which Frank was a part of from the ground floor, began with a convention of 600 radio operators at the old Biltmore Hotel downtown well over half a century ago. The operation has grown so much that final year Frank was alive, the Hamvention weekend of more than 30 thousand ham radio enthusiasts from around the Unites States and more than 30 countries descended on Hara Arena for the 2003 Hamvention.

Carolyn our subject's wife of 56 years continued "Frank is such a family man and so devoted to his children and to me. He taught his kids honesty, hard work, loyalty, compassion. He always has such wonderful sense of humor about things. "I think he is quite an inspiration to his kids and his 30 grandchildren."



Schwab has been honored for his ham radio work and was presented the top DX Hall of fame award years ago. Schwab lead the world with radio contacts in 376 countries.

Mr. Schawb a retired printer, age 77 gave it his valiant battle at the Dayton VA hospital in the hospice unit. He expired 30 May 2003 after a lengthy illness.

Survivors include Frank's wife, Carolyn, 12 children, 30 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. Four of his family members are ham radio operators. They include his daughter Joanne Hubbard, N8QMP; grandchildren Bobbie Anderson KC7RWX; Sarah Anderson KC7MRO and son-in-law Jack Hubbard NI8N.

Frank W8OK is known th have said and appreciated the statement "CW is an art...be an artist!" Information provided by NI8N and ARRL Web services. W8SU 2008