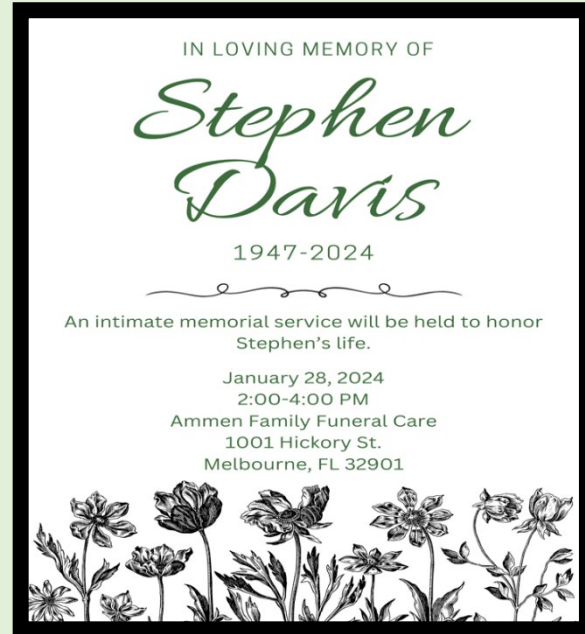




The Centurion



The 3905 Century Club Monthly Newsletter



IN MEMORY OF STEVE DAVIS, K7QHU (1947 – 2024)

Members of the 3905 Century Club were shocked and saddened to receive the email from our President, Dean Davis, telling us that Steve, K7QHU, was a Silent Key. Dean had received this email on Thursday, January 25, from Steve's daughter, Annalei Davis:

"My name is Annalei, I'm Steve's daughter. Unfortunately, my dad passed away early Saturday morning after complications with a procedure he had done. We know how much he enjoyed running the nets so just wanted to let you know."

Shortly after receiving this news Bob, W5UOT, emailed Annalei and family:

"Dean Davis, our club President, forwarded your email to me. Dean has also informed the Club members by way of our Club's email list of Steve's passing. We are shocked and deeply saddened. Words of respect and appreciation for all Steve meant to individual Club members and to the whole Club as well are flooding the email reflector. Your loss is profoundly shared by so many others. I am the Club member who assumed the role of the 3905 Century Club Cares Chairman from Steve this past December. I emailed Steve to thank him for the job he had done. He emailed back. "Thanks for volunteering. I appreciate you for doing that for the club... The ship is now yours."

Little did we know that one of my first messages of condolence would be to you, his family. Steve was the right person for every job he assumed in support of the Century Club. The 'ship will sail on'. But the sense of loss is real!"

As the 3905 Century Club Cares Chairman, I send our love and best wishes to you all. And, personally, I offer my prayers of comfort and support."

Many of us knew Steve through his presence on the nets, as an NCS, and as a helpful mentor who was never more than a phone call away. However, we had not met him in person and gotten to know about his life and his family. His daughter Annalei was kind enough to email us after the memorial service with this more personal introduction to Steve:

Steve was born in Washington DC and spent time living in California, Florida, and Idaho before eventually moving back to Florida's Space Coast in 2010. His first (and favorite) job was as a police radio dispatcher but he eventually transitioned to software engineering where he spent the rest of his career. Steve loved spending time with his wife, Amy and two daughters, Annalei (24, who lives and works in New York city) and Bethany (22, who lives and works in Boston). He also enjoyed hanging out with the family dog, Winston, and cat Scout. In his spare time, Steve enjoyed gardening, cooking, woodworking, reading science fiction, and of course running the nets. He was extremely passionate and proud of his awards and accomplishments with the Century Club and it was a huge part of his daily life that he enjoyed immensely.

The responses from club members to the news of Steve's passing were heartfelt. They capture the impact Steve's presence in the Club had on all of us. Many Club members shared their thoughts on the Chat Group immediately after the word went out that Steve was now a Silent Key. This outpouring is an indication of the impact Steve had on the Century Club. These words were shared with Steve's family so that they could be combined with other memories to be a part of the intimate memorial service held on Saturday, January 28, 2024.

"I am saddened to hear this. This is a huge loss for not only his family, but for the club, and myself as well."

"Wow this is sad news."

"This is both shocking and sad! Never got to meet Steve in person but I am sure he was just as wonderful as his radio voice. Always pleasant and willing to help. He was a huge asset to this club and will be missed immensely."

"I'm shocked and saddened. Steve was a great asset to this club and always pleasant to work with in my role as webmaster. He will be missed!"

"Wow. Very sad to hear this."

"How awful! What a loss for our club and his family. One of the finest fellows on the nets. He will be sorely missed on the nets and especially by all of us CW nuts."

"This is a sad day for our club. My thoughts and prayers are with the family."

"I am shocked to say the least. I just spoke with Steve on the phone a week ago today. When I read this, I thought it must be a mistake. ... Such sad news. He was so helpful. Had it not been for him, I would probably never have started back as NCS on CW net. He will most certainly be missed. RIP Steve."

"A huge loss for our club. Steve did a great job with the Centurion and as CW net coordinator. I was working with him about 10 days ago on how to submit for our Prefix Award. He had it almost together, just needed to scan some cards. Rest in Peace, Steve"

"What a shock. It was always a pleasure to work with Steve. He will be sorely missed. Prayers go out for him to his family."

"I'm stunned. Steve was a vibrant cog in the club, a great op and a great guy. Prayers to his family."

"Prayers for his family. Steve is the one who got me started in psk and rtty Nets. Last week it was just me and him to ck into a net. So we chatted about 30 minutes in AIM and a new guy stopped by and asked questions. Steve gave him his phone number and told him he would be happy to help. Just like he had helped me get started."

"This is horrible news. Thoughts and prayers for his family. Rest in peace Steve."

"This is indeed a shock. Steve was such a great guy. My prayers go out to his family. Rest in Peace Steve."

"This is a big SHOCK!!!! RIP Steve...Prayers to your family."

"Prayers for family and friends. -A Friend"

"I too remember Steve. He was on a lot of nets that I was on, and always seemed to be an "A1" op."

"Well said, (by all who have posted.) He will be missed."

"This was a huge shock to all, completely unexpected and sudden. I had just sent my Centurion article to Steve yesterday. I thought it was unlike him not to reply. Now I know why he didn't and I'm very sad. I wish his family comfort in their time of grief."

"Wow, this is really sad. Steve was a fantastic operator and club leader. Besides his presence on the nets, he was super helpful and encouraging off the air as well as on. He covered all the bands and modes, SSB, CW, PSK and RTTY. Steve was more than helpful with setting up the Eyeball QRP nets, patiently making suggestions while trouble shooting with me getting those ready to travel. What a saint! I'll sure miss him and think of him anytime one of our nets is on the air."

"This was a great loss to the club. Steve was very active and helped me out a lot on nets. He will be greatly missed."

"Condolences and blessings to the family and friends"

“Steve will be greatly missed and leave a rather large hole in the Club, and I’m sure a large void in his family. Steve was always there to help me with setting up the digital modes. Steve was the best of the best, and for sure a “Gentleman HAM.” God bless is family in this time. You will be missed and remembered Old Man.”

“Wow. Unbelievable. He will surely be missed.”

“Words are simply inadequate. May we meet again in a better here-after.”

“Steve spent time with me on the phone helping me to learn how to operate on the PSK nets. Steve was an excellent Net Control Station. But more than that he was an encourager and supporter of anyone who was trying to become a CW or digital mode operator. His editions of our Club newsletter, The Centurion, were excellent. Each edition garnered thanks and appreciation from Club members.

Steve held various positions in the Century Club.

7th Area Awards Manager from January 31, 2010 to June 16, 2016.

Centurion Editor March 19, 2020 and the from February 1, 2021, until now.

CW Nets Coordinator November 1, 2022 until now.

Century Club Cares Chair July 1, 2023 until December.

Steve held 56 Club Awards. He was very close to receiving the Masters Award, the Club’s highest award.

K7QHU appeared as the first check in on all our nets for several days following the receipt of the news of his passing. For many, this the moment of silence following the NCS’s call, “K7QHU, Steve, it’s your turn” were very poignant. Indeed, each time we honor a SK with the first call we are moved us as our heart and minds are flooded with the memories made on our nets.

Marty, AG5T, shared this poem with the Chat Group:

In Memory of Our Silent Key
My chair is sitting empty.
My call's no longer heard.
My radio rests quietly.
From it comes no words.
On my shack door is a message.
That reads "From Me to Thee"
My frequency's much higher now
I've become a Silent Key.

Judy Hudson KC9CCJ