

The Story of the Rattlesnake Net

In 1978, while on vacation in Key West, FL., Bill Graham WBOZEH called for anyone on 144mhz who could help him with information. George Hoagland WA4EFB heard and answered his call. While they conversed, George told Bill he was the manager of the Key West airport. Bill told George he was an employee of McDonald aircraft corporation out of Saint Louis, MO. George invited Bill to his residence.

Bill and his wife Nora WBOZEG met George and his wife Donna who introduced them to other local amateur acquaintances. At this time George informed Bill of a weekend schedule he had with other hams in 7.278 mhz at 7:30 eastern 1130 zulu. George had instituted this schedule years before when he left Ohio to start an air charter business in Key West, FL. Unfortunately, George later developed heart problems and could not maintain his pilot's license.

In 1980 George moved to Kissimmee, FL. To become manager of the airport there. He had an ambition to start an airshow displaying military and civilian aircraft. George had achieved his life's dream.

In 1983 George purchased a new home in a development bordering a large woods. When describing his property on the air he spoke of large rattlesnakes present. He proposed calling the group the Rattlesnake Net and so it became.

On November ninth 1987 George became a silent key. At his funeral Kissimmee officials announced the renaming of Airport Road to Hoagland Boulevard. To this day the Hoagland Boulevard sign is on U.S. Highway 192. It also reads George B. Hoagland Memorial Boulevard.

George set a fine example for his fellow amateurs and we honor him by continuing the net. Originally the net met on weekends then expanded to daily except for field day. We now hold it daily at 1130z to 1230z. It is followed by another net, The National Doublers which many of us also participate in. All are welcome in these nets.

This story and information were graciously compiled by Bill WBOZEH. We thank all of you who help perpetuate this net.