



THE PROFESSIONALS



MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

S-SGP SENIOR SPARK-GAP PIONEER (Prior 1915)

These are the "Alpha" members of the profession. They were the 'avant-garde' and the entrepreneurs who began with rudimentary crude equipment (and ideas) who played a great part in the development of this embryonic system which basically is the foundation of many developments in the electronic field we know today, including radio broadcasting, Television, and the many phases of sophisticated communication modes used throughout the world.

Many of these members were "Certificate of Skill" holders or equal. The majority were extremely resourceful and used their intellectual awareness and talent to improve and refine the system through their contributions to the art. In the parlance of the sea, these men were the "shellbacks" of the profession.

SGP SPARK-GAP PIONEERS (1915 - 1925)

These members began their professional careers between 1915 and 1926. The exciting stories of the "wireless" in saving lives on the Steamships Republic in 1909 and especially the SS Titanic in 1912 sparked the interest of hundreds of young men who decided to enter this exciting profession.

Most of these members saw service during WW-1. They helped to refine the art with suggested improvement and new inventions. They were privy to the field testing of new equipment and inventions which later became standard installations. Some of the important developments included the use of transmitting and receiving tubes, the installation of high power arc stations around the world by the U.S. Navy. Commercial counterparts - The Alexanderson Alternators and a multiplicity of similar installations improved the dependability of communications to a high degree.

It might be said that the Communications Industry "grew up" during this period and the wireless (now called radio) became an indispensable aid to world shipping and the expanded communications that post-war activities and commerce demanded.

"P" PIONEERS (1926 - 1939)

In the millennium of time, there were great changes in short periods. These members began their professional careers when some of these great changes were taking place in the radio-telegraphic industry. The development of high-frequencies and H.F. equipment through this period brought profound changes in the scope and reliability of radio-telegraphy. Thanks to the unions and also to many self-enlightened employers, great improvements were made in the comfort and pay of those in the profession. Significantly, many members who started their careers during this period have remained with their profession over the years. Many quickly rose to positions of affluency in the communications field or in industry.

"V" VETERAN (1940 - 1949)

The "Veteran" members entered their professional careers during the 1940's (1940-1949 incl.).

Most of these members were Radio-Officers "on assignment" during WW-2. Highly sophisticated communications equipment and navigational aids had been developed (especially in the military service/s) during the war years calling for skill of the highest order to maintain and operate this highly technical equipment. This was provided by this 'new generation' of professionals.

"M" MEMBERS (1950 to DATE)

These are members who have been professionally assigned since 1950 and Journeymen members who have spent few years in the profession but who were selected on the basis of skills required to operate and maintain the complex equipment now in use.

Their skill will match and perhaps excell that of the other classifications due to the transition of the industry with installations of even later sophisticated electronic equipment which calls for the highest degree of professional skill. While perhaps new in the field, viewed at long range, their technical skill and proficiency is perhaps short of amazing. Many an 'old-timer' would be 'lost' if he sat down at a modern-day operating position.

"TA" TECHNICAL ASSOCIATES

The 'common-denominator' of all members, regardless of classification, except for "Technical-Associates" is the requirement of having been assigned and actually operating a radio-telegraph circuit or position. This of course may have been in commercial or military services such as members of the Signal Corps, Navy (ships and stations), Coast Guard, Lighthouse Service, Aviation and in the many fields of Government and Private Services which have employed radio-telegraph personnel to operate the equipment and system.

TECHNICAL ASSOCIATES who have been approved for affiliation are not voting members of the Society. They are however invited to attend Society gatherings and will be furnished Society publications.

Technical Associates are sponsored by Society members. Most have had close affiliations in one way or another with radio-telegraph activities throughout their lives such as Engineers or maintenance personnel; those in Administrative positions or who have run schools, installed equipment or perhaps have specialized in the literary field, writing about equipment used or that relating to operating personnel and members.

Technical Associates interested should request one of our members to sponsor. In their application they should furnish a resume' of their interest and association over the years in the communications field. A sustaining fee is required from individuals to assist cost of funding publications, mailing expenses, etc. Currently this is \$6.50 per year with an initiation fee of \$2.50. The Society through its Membership Committee reserves the right to accept, or reject applications except those approved by Directors and officers of the organization.

