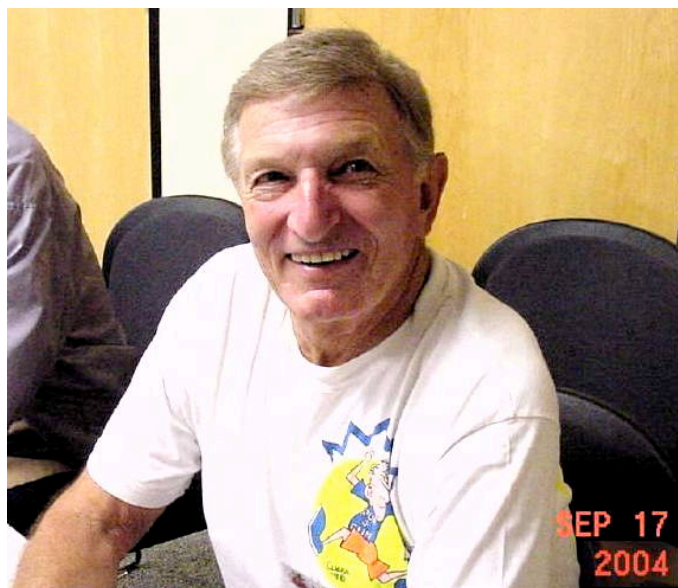


W6KFW - Silent Key
Christopher William Winter Jr.
27 July 1928 - 8 June 2018



Chris at our first-ever club reunion in 2004. At that time Chris was the Membership Chairman of the OCARC.

Longtime club member Chris Winter passed away on Friday June 8th, just weeks before his 90th birthday. Chris joined the club, in the mid to late seventies. He was a co-worker and longtime friend of Art - WA6LHB (Now K7ZE).

Services were held Friday June 22nd. at Fairhaven Memorial Park, the day of Field Day setup. Unfortunately notification to the club came the evening before. Still, Bob - AF6C attended and represented the club.

Chris was a frequent board member, often as Membership Chairman, a position he enjoyed. He also held positions as Activities and TVI Chairman. Chris was very active in Field Day and occasionally took on the task of band captain. He was also an avid CW operator.

Chris joined the Navy at age 17 just missing WWII. He later also served in the US Army. In the Navy they teach you knots, and Chris often entertained club members with his rapid tying of a bowline. "When you go overboard in the North Atlantic," he explained, "and someone throws you a line, you have just seconds to tie



Chris operating 40 meters during the 2003 Field Day.

it around your waist before the cold makes it impossible."

Chris knew the importance of an education, and after his military service he got his high school equivalency and later added a college degree and a master's degree in engineering, graduating with honors.

Chris, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was originally licensed as W3VYE. In 1960 he moved to Orange County, specifically Santa Ana, and as a result his call changed to W6KFW. Chris got a civilian job at the Navy base in El Toro at the Naval Training Device Center. There, he was involved, at an engineering lev-



40 meter Field Day Team. Chris W6KFW, Larry Beilin K6VDP and Stephen Samoorea KG6QVY.

el, in the design and programming of aircraft and helicopter simulators. While working there he met Art, then WA6LHB, who has been a club member since the early 70's, and soon Chris joined the group.

Besides Amateur Radio Chris had many other hobbies to keep him occupied. He was into running and bicycling as well as roller skating. A hobby he shared with his family. He skated competitively at the regional and national level for almost 20 years.

Chris, a devout Catholic, was also very active in his church Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1956 Chris married Eleanor Hughey also of Pittsburgh. Eleanor would often accompany Chris to a club function. Chris and his wife enjoyed ballroom dancing and at his memorial service were numerous photos of them in formal ballroom attire. They made a stunning couple. Chris often talked about the dancing and his love for Lawrence Welk. Eleanor passed away in late 2014.

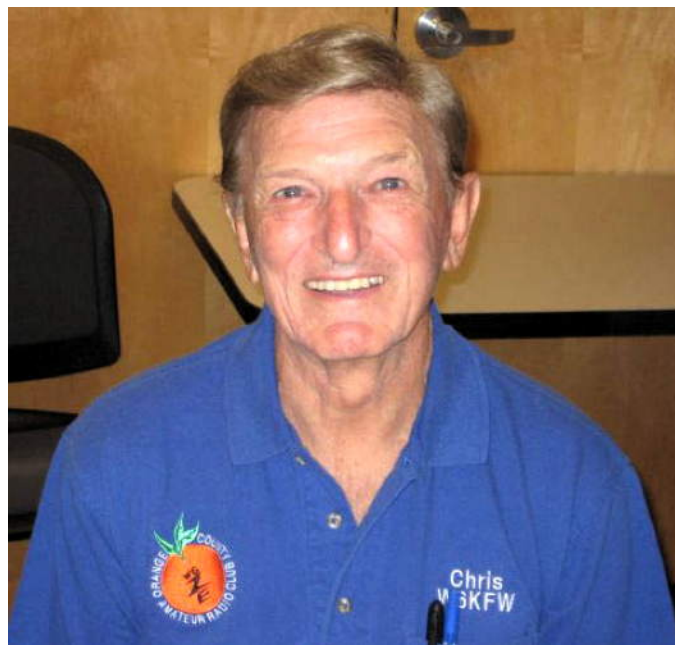
Chris and Eleanor were the parents of three girls. Linda, Carole and Christie. Carole and Christie live locally and Linda lives in Colorado. Chris is also survived by eight grandchildren three great-grandchildren, and a sister, Mary.

In 2007 Chris had quite a scare. He and some of his family were on a cruise off Mexico when he suffered an aneurysm. He ended up being



Chris and Eleanor at the 2000 Christmas dinner held at Mimi's in Fountain Valley.

taken ashore to a tiny hospital that is part of a strip-mall. With two patient rooms, one operating room, all one could say for it was it looked very clean. What the hospital lacked, was made up in spades by the surgeon who soon had Chris stable and able to travel back to the States where he underwent further surgery and full recovery.



Chris at the 75th Club Anniversary Reunion in September 2008

"I had the opportunity to visit with Chris over the past year-and-a-half. Chris was moving out of his home in Santa Ana and asked me to help him get rid of some of the old electronics in his garage. I got to meet his two local daughters, Carole and Christie who were busy painting and fixing up his house for sale. He had been ill but seemed on the road to recovery. Since the visits to his Santa Ana home, I visited him a few times at his sister's house in Yorba Linda. Chris and I would sit in the shade of the garage door and enjoy the weather while we chatted. Sometimes the subject turned to math, a passion of Chris's, and I found I was rustier than him! Repairing electronics was also a topic he enjoyed. I attended his funeral representing myself as well as the OCARC. There I learned so much more about his life. I'll miss never having that next chat!" - Bob, AF6C