

Cherry Ridge Resident Honored for Lifetime Service in Ham Radio

His name is Irv Goodman, but he's an Elmer.

In the lingo of amateur (ham) radio operators, "Elmer" is an esteemed term for an experienced operator who provides personal guidance to those new to the field of amateur radio.

That's Irv Goodman, a resident of Cherry Ridge and an avid ham radio enthusiast. Known to his colleagues as AF2K, Irv was recently presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Rochester DX Association, a club dedicated to amateur radio.

"People all over know AF2K," says Tom Eney (KD2SJN), a maintenance mechanic at Cherry Ridge and a fellow ham who helped Irv set up his radio when he first moved in. "He's been a fixture on the local scene for over 50 years."

Now in his 80s, Irv has been the go-to guy for generations of young ham radio operators.

"It honestly was his life," says Max Kelley (KC2SPY), whose first radio

was a loaner from Irv. "He retired early from Burroughs Corporation and helping others in ham radio became his life."

In addition to being a mentor to young hams, Irv held leadership positions with the Rochester DX Association, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, and the Rochester VHF Group. The clubs provide opportunities for ham operators to ply their craft both for fun and in service to the community. (For example, in natural disasters amateur radio is often used for emergency communication when conventional means fail.)

Irv was supposed to receive his award at a banquet in 2020 but COVID-19 changed that plan. Ever resourceful, his fellow hams found a unique way to honor their Elmer: as Irv watched from his window, a parade of 32 cars with more than 50 hams aboard drove past, honking, waving, and of course sending their congratulation to him over their radios.



Irv Goodman, resident of Cherry Ridge and avid ham radio enthusiast.

Although Irv isn't on the air much these days, the tribute proved inspiring.




"It triggered something in him," says Max. "He got behind the microphone and just fell right in like the old days. It was an honor communicating with him again over the radio."

The Lifetime Achievement Award is now on display in Irv's apartment alongside congratulatory cards from radio enthusiasts from all over the world who are proud to call him a friend. "It felt odd," Irv says of receiving the award, "but it looks good in my apartment. I'm gonna keep it."



St. Ann's Employees Give Back during Covid Pandemic

In addition to volunteering time to support community activities such as Meals on Wheels and Red Cross Blood drives, our Employees also contributed more than:

-  2,880 hours providing buddy support for the elders
-  \$118,400 in the 2020 Employee Campaign
-  \$54,000 to the United Way, the Open Door Mission and the Alzheimer's Association