

Photographic memories

The Saving of Oleg

A USA-USSR Medical Success
Using Packet and Ham Radio, Facsimile
and Electronic Mail

by Lionel Traubman, DDS, MSD

The full 1990 story is at <http://traubman.igc.org/oleg.htm>



The 400 mile road from Penza to Moscow, USSR



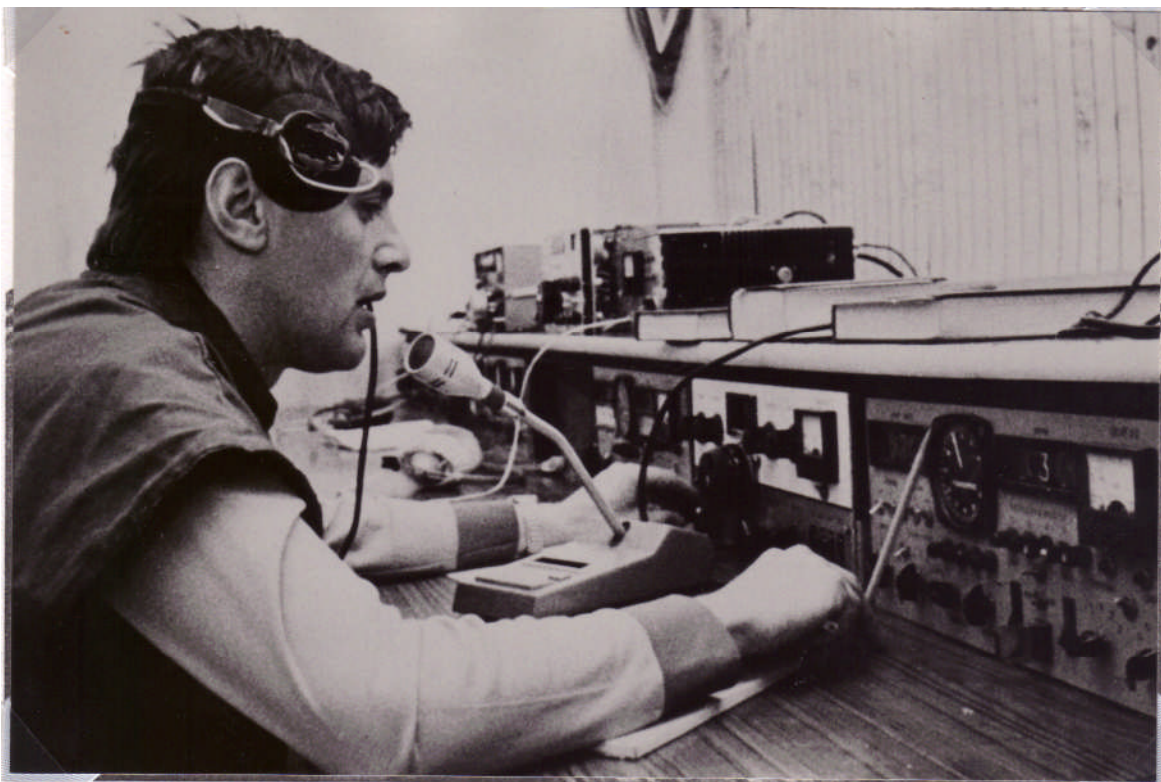
The Penza radiosport club, before the accident, with Oleg Murugov (upper left). Oleg Kolotilin (lower right) died in the accident.



Oleg, UA4FAY, (foreground) raising antennas in a field with his club before leaving for the Moscow radiosport competition



After helicopter evacuation and emergency surgery, Oleg lay near death in the Ryazan hospital, USSR.



Igor Korolkov, UA4FER, rushed 300 miles, secured Oleg's helicopter evacuation, and drove back home to send a call for medical help.



Ed Kritsky, NT2X, Brooklyn, New York, received Igor's transmission and began establishing a network of American hams and doctors.



Rolf and Florence Beier, San Mateo, California, received Kritsky's FAX in Russian, describing Oleg's medical condition.



Dr. Margarita and Alexander Shkolnik, San Mateo, received the relayed FAX from the Beiers, then translated it for Len Traubman to pass on to the American doctors.



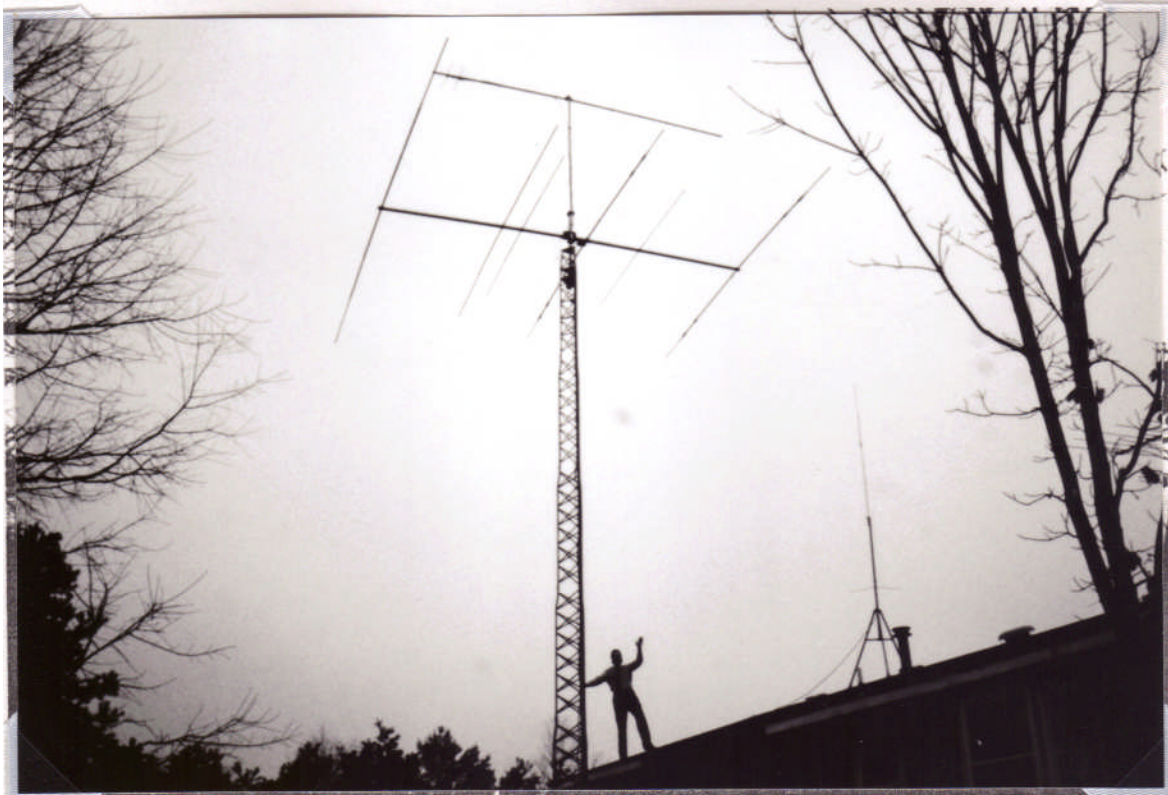
Len phoned Dr. Joseph Izzo, San Mateo neurosurgeon, who agreed to help and did so with total generosity.



Dr. Izzo and Len Traubman (W6HJK), pediatric dentist, had never met but worked well in tandem to build the network and help Oleg.



Dr. Lawrence Probes, Grand Rapids, Michigan physician and ham (ND8S), translated from Russian and relayed data by short wave and PeaceNet computer electronic mail.



Lawrence Probes, MD, with his amateur radio antenna

From lprobes Mon Jun 4 13:39 PDT 1 990
To: ltraubman
Subject: 3rd telex from Korolkov, Russian version

KOAGULOGRAMMA

03.06.1990

FIBRINOLITICHESKAJA AKTIWNOST' BOL EE DNUH CHASOW

FIBRINOGEN 2.22 G/L

TOLERATNOST' PLAZMY GEPARINA 12 MI N 30 SEK

TROMBINOWOE WREMJA 28 SEK

PROTROMBIN 0.46

AKTIWNOST' FIBRINAZY 50 PROCENTOW

FIBRINOGEN B+++

ERITROCYTY 3.3×10^6 W 12 'STEPENI

CWETNOJ POKAZATEL' 0.94

GEMOGLOBIN 100

GEMOTOKRIT 0.3

LEUKOCYTY 12.0

Examples of an incoming Telex from Russia, and Dr. Probes's translation for use by doctors in the United States.

From lprobes Mon Jun 4 14:08 PDT 1990
To: ltraubman
Subject: translation of 3rd telex from Korolkov

Len,
Here's the translation to telex #3
Lawrence

Coagulogram: 3 June 90
Fibrinolytic activity: more than two hours
Fibrinogen: 2.22 G/L
Tolerance of plasma to heparin: 12 min 30 sec
Thrombin time: 28 sec
Prothrombin: 0.46
Fibrinase activity: 50 %
Fibrinogen: B+++
RBC: 3.3×10^6 in the 12th degree
Color index: 0.94
Hgb: 100



Angel Garcia (WA2VUY), Long Valley, New Jersey joined the emergency network in response to Kritsky's packet radio request.



Packet radio links computers through ham radio stations instead of telephone lines, using similar central bulletin board systems.



Allen Singer (N2KW), Bayside, New York worked tirelessly procuring medical supplies and putting them on airplanes from JFK to Moscow. He used his home and "mobile" ham radio station for communication.





Dr. Joe Izzo took emergency calls anytime, anywhere, including on his car telephone.



In the first days, Izzo would come to W6HJK for intensive exchanges about Oleg's critical care.



Igor, Russian-English and medical dictionaries always in front of him, was in daily contact by telephone with Dr. Markov in Ryazan.





While Oleg lay in bed, the Russian doctors and nurses did an excellent job. On Day 14, Dr. Yuri Dragunkin, Oleg's treating physician, noted less pneumonia. Then Oleg opened his eyes.





Charles Starke, MD (NX2T), Briarcliff Manor, New York, a physician experienced in trauma, joined the daily short wave schedules as a valuable consultant.



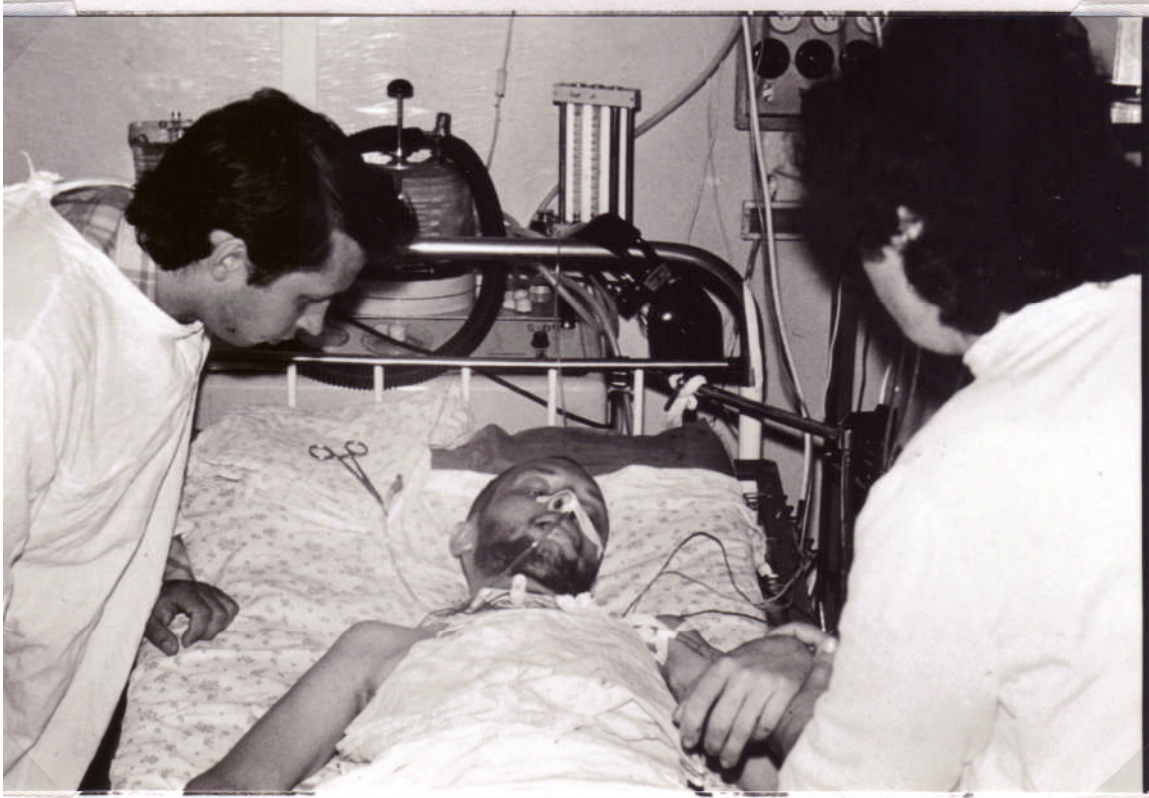


Dr. Yuri Dragunkin guided Oleg's recovery and stayed in close contact with his new American colleagues by telephone with Igor.





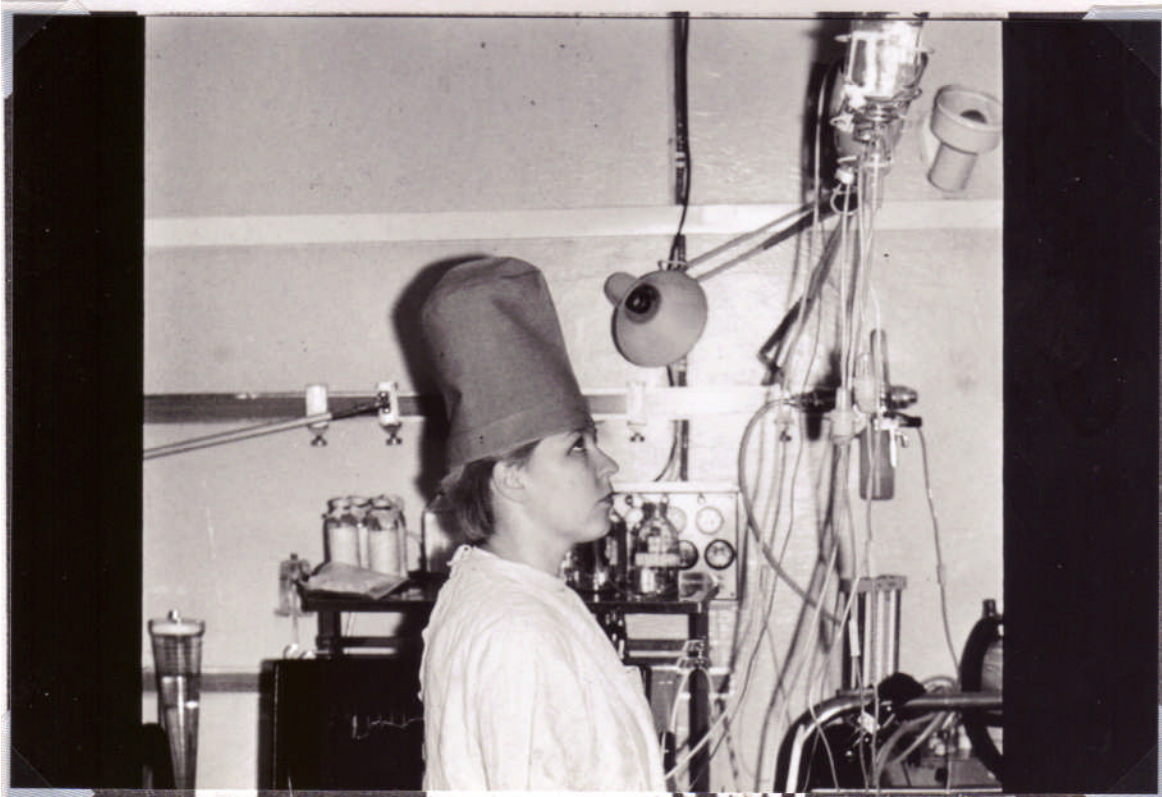
On Day 20, Oleg's twin brother Alex, mother Olga, and wife Elena visited him in the hospital.



Oleg responded to simple questions by squeezing his hand. He then became tired and fell back to sleep.



Igor and the hospital staff remained vigilant day and night.....





.....as did Dr's. Starke and Izzo and the whole support team, until.....





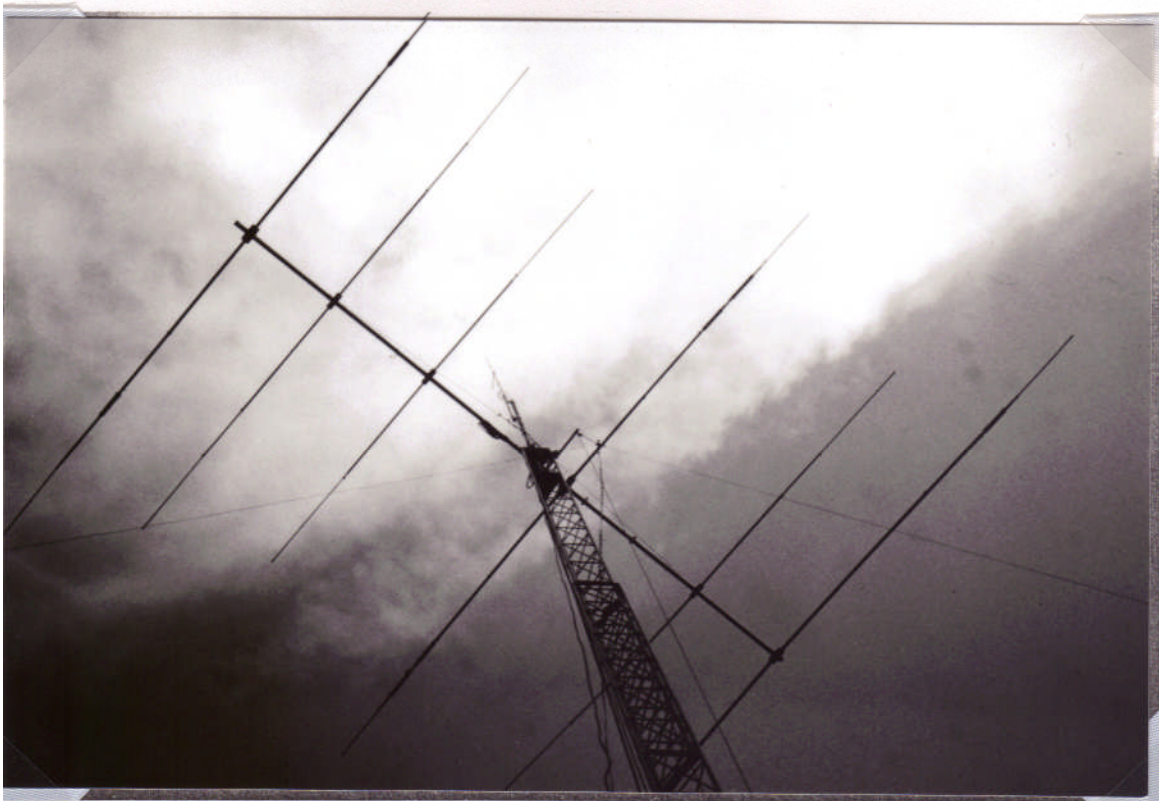
Oleg arrived home on Day 80. His friends met him at the Penza train station, escorted him 200 meters to the car, and took him home to have a party.



Oleg, just home from the hospital, with his wife, Elena, and his mother, Olga.



Dr. Dragunkin reflected happily on the Soviet-American medical success and new professional relationships.





Igor was delighted that Oleg had survived, as was Ed Kritsky, NT2X, in Brooklyn.





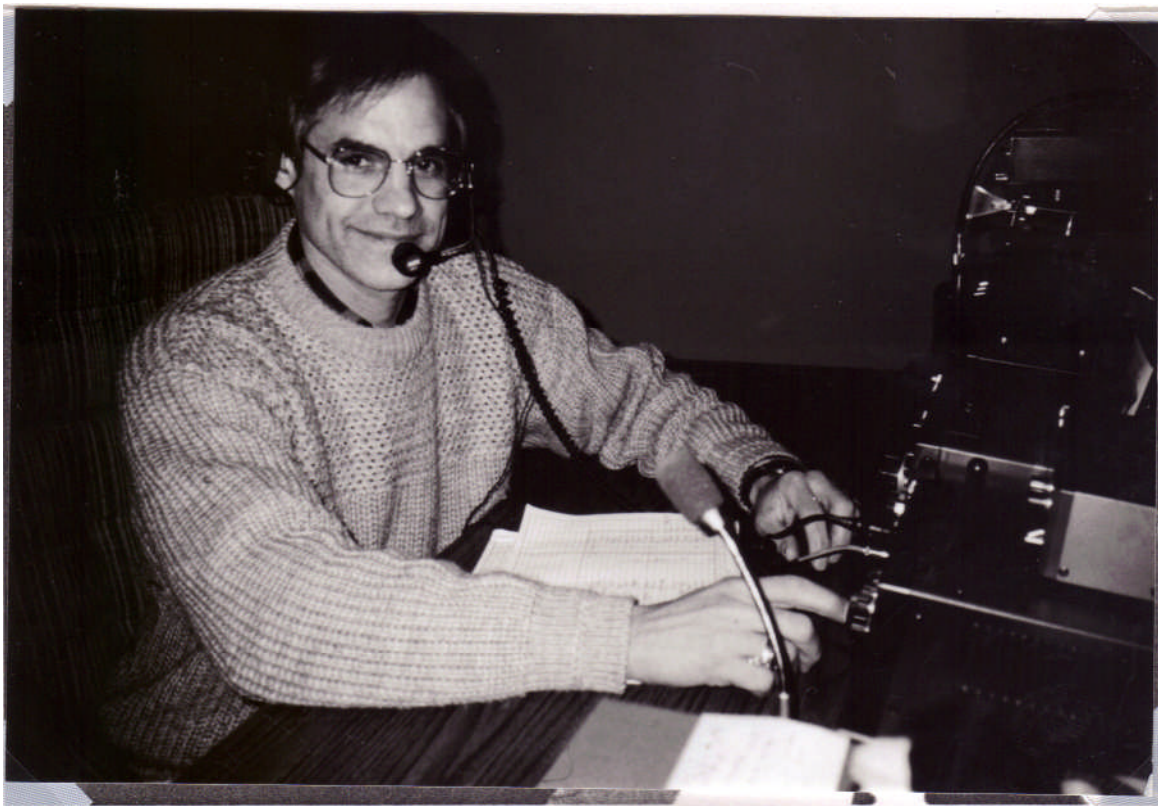
Now, 18 months after his accident, Oleg again operates the radio station and repairs equipment. He again writes, paints, and takes long walks in the woods.





The Cold War had ended. Walls had fallen, and new partnerships had begun.





Angel Garcia (WA2VUY), was invaluable in relaying information, and in locating antibiotics and endotracheal tubes to send to Oleg.



Angel and Edith Garcia, Long Valley, New Jersey



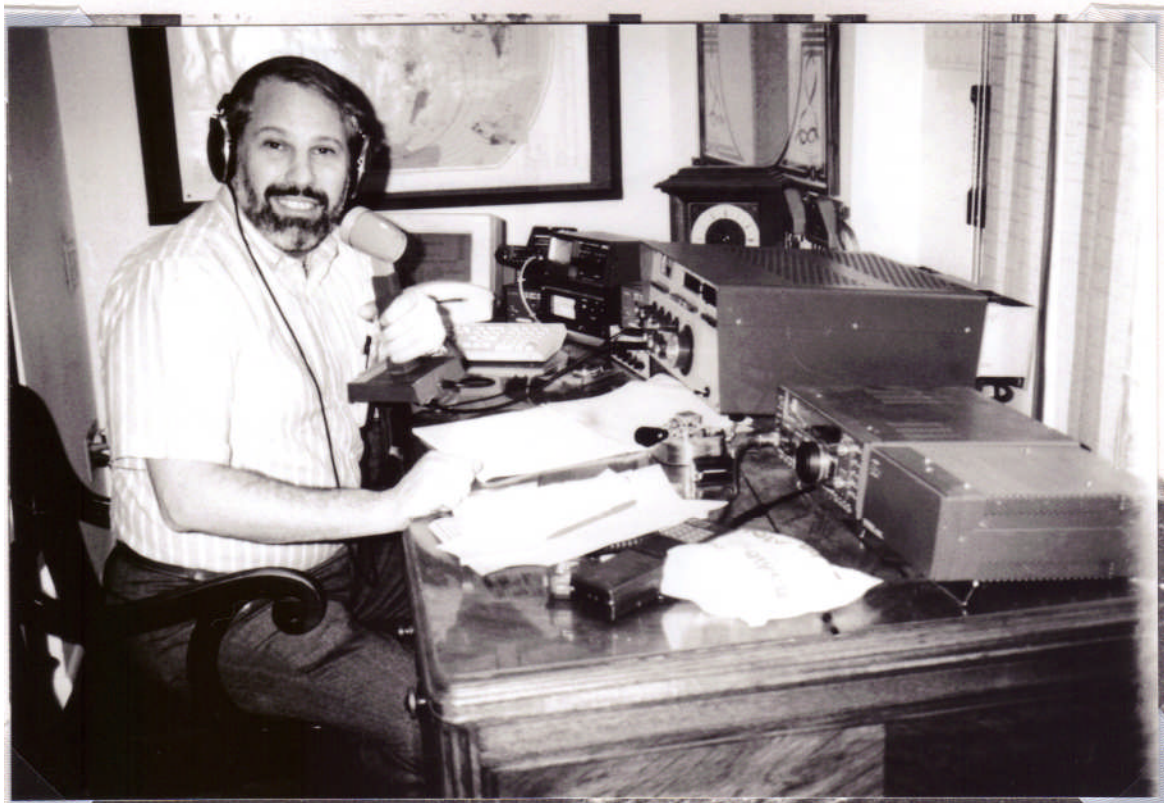
Rolf Beier, once a German soldier in combat against Russians, joined his wife, Florence, using FAX and computer electronic mail, to relay medical data during the first days of Oleg's crisis.



Allen Singer, Bayside, New York took all three emergency shipments to JFK Airport. "By the third time, I could do it in my sleep."



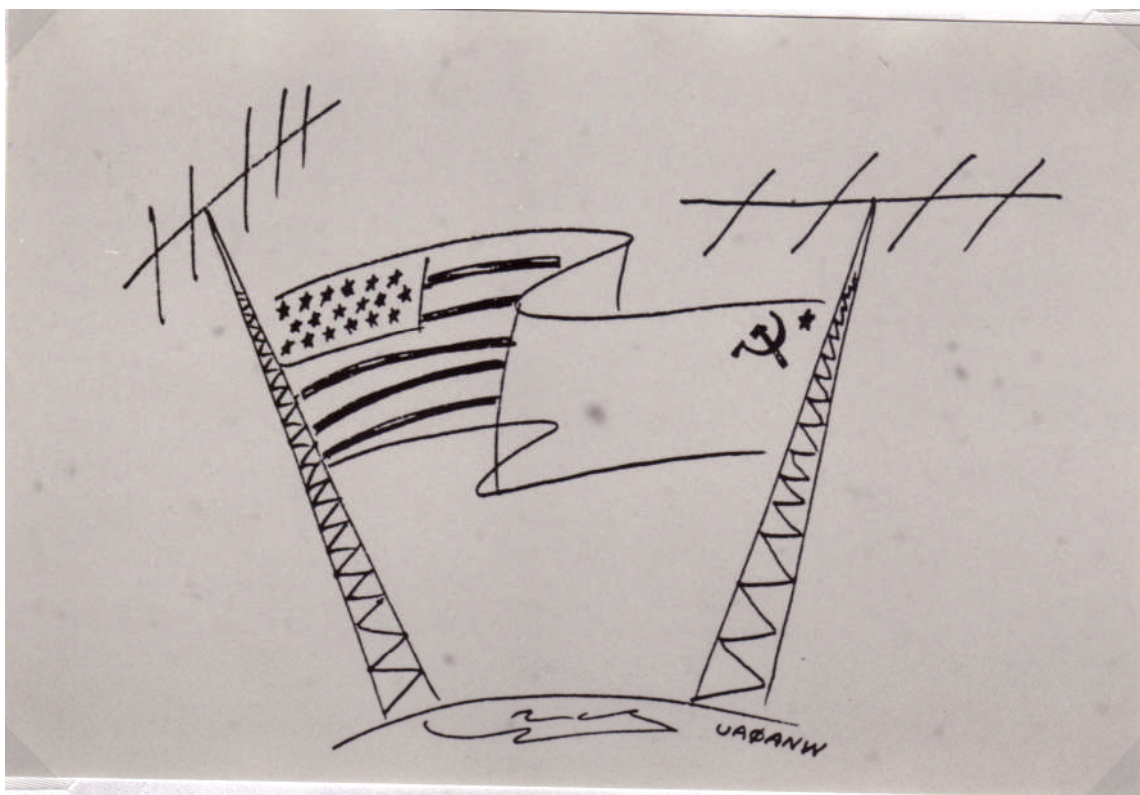
Dr. Charles Starke (NX2T), his wife, Mary (N2HXX), with Robert (N2IAR) and Katherine (N2IAQ), Briarcliff Manor, New York



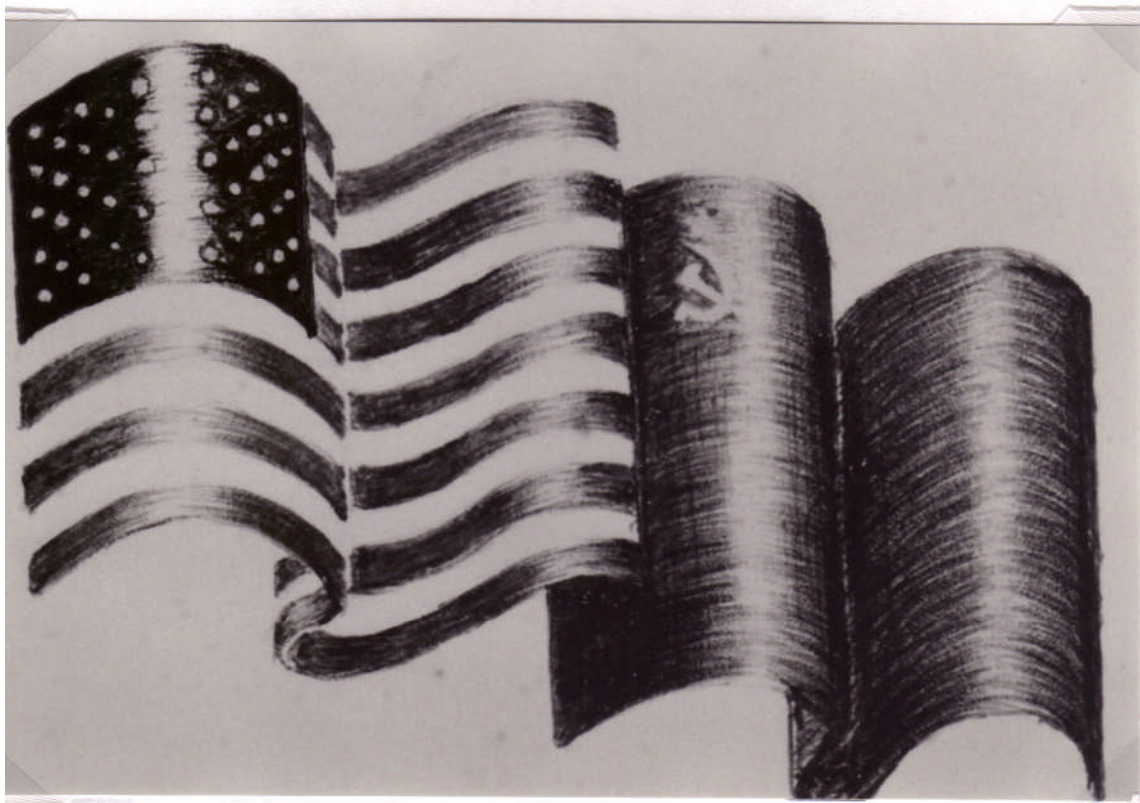


Len Traubman, DDS (W6HJK), his wife, Libby, with Adam and Eleanor, in San Mateo, California





Drawn during the Cold War, during glasnost and perestroika, by Andrei Svyatets, a Soviet ham radio operator who had begun a short wave friendship with Len Traubman (W6HJK).



Pen and ink drawing by 16-year-old Kostya Grigorov, short wave listener, Krasnoyarsk, USSR, sent to Len during the Cold War.



The home of Len (W6HJK) and Libby Traubman, San Mateo, California