

Biography

Frank P. Weed

Frank P. Weed graduated from Fresno State University in 1964 with a major in electronics engineering. He became employed by the San Francisco Naval Shipyard with the responsibility to design upgrades to ships in dry dock with sound powered telephone systems. By the end of his first year there the shipyard went into a r.i.f. and Frank sought employment with the National Park Service, which had just determined a need for another engineer. They were looking for one with a background in radio systems engineering to help them implement a federal narrow-banding mandate.

Frank was interviewed by Ralph R. McFadden and was hired; his first field assignment was in the fall of 1965 to work with Ralph and another engineer in evaluating the topography of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park to determine where radio repeaters could be installed to provide for communications throughout the park.

During the first five years Frank provided office cover, applied for radio frequency licenses for new and updated facilities for the bureau through the Department of the Interior and responded to field correspondence while Ralph continued to plan radio network improvements nationally. The need for another engineer to assist in serving the National Park Service communications network planning resulted in Ralph hiring John H. Shoaf.

John and Ralph became aware of the need to develop AM-band radio broadcast facilities to advise motorists of sights they were seeing and became involved in the early evaluation and installation of Travelers Information System facilities. They assisted the Department of the Interior in writing national standards for such service and were directly involved in implementing new facilities authorized by the FCC while Frank continued to service the needs for improved FM radio networks across the U.S. Subsequent to Ralph's retirement in 1974, Frank became the manager of the National Park Service's telecommunications networks. Shortly thereafter, John also retired.

Frank continued to serve the National Park Service as the senior radio facilities manager and retired in 2003. He worked for two more years under a contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage radio frequency assignments for that bureau, retiring permanently in 2008.