

**MEETING NOTICE: SATURDAY February 21 High Noon, Ryan's Family
Steakhouse, Norcross, Georgia**

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION.. We did make it into the Winter issue of the QCWA Journal, pages 22-23. YIPPPPIE! Thanks for the hard work, Johnny, in persisting on the adventure.

Now that we have the formalities handled.. Good Day all. As we enter a new year and new experiences, I hope all did well with the end of year holiday celebrations and food . If you added a little around the middle, you can now work it off doing things around the house, just ask the XYL what needs to be done. Be sure you put that list at the end of the HAM_TO_DO list. We have an exciting year ahead of us with a string of QCWA programs, prizes, contests, drooling over new radios and the list goes on. The Saturday morning QCWA nets have been doing very well. Some days we have 10 check ins and great fellowship all the way around. The 2-meter nets are on Wednesday evening at 8 PM and usually have 2-3 of us exchanging info. Please come join us. The MATPARK repeater is working wonderfully now that it has a new controller. We will issue you a Gold or Purple Star if you talk it out. They are free.!

Look around for you old time buddies who are eligible for QCWA and suggest they give it a try. There must still be a few out there who have not heard of us. Please note the attached "Calendar of Events" for QCWA meeting dates. Add them to your "Household Where To Be When Calendar" so you do not miss any.

Save your appetite and do not eat breakfast before the meeting, so you have room to eat the good stuff. And maybe some fattening good stuff too.

C U There
Jerry Lofstead
W3CDE

December Meeting: What with December being the Annual QCWA Holiday Party, no formal business was conducted. The food was plentiful and the conversation was excellent as always. Our balance is healthy, though Jerry, W3CDE, did allow it is fixin' to drop as door prizes, good door prizes, have already been purchased for the February meeting. For the February program we are going to feature home brew amateur radio equipment – your home brew radio equipment. We would like everyone to bring something they have built for a "show and tell" with the other members of Chapter 49. There are just a couple of rules:

- 1) You either built it yourself or modified it based on another amateur's initial work.
- 2) It functions – or at one time did function – or has the potential for functioning again with minor effort

The equipment in question need not be tube based or otherwise “old.” If you have some new surface mount state-of-the-art item that you have constructed, we would love to see and hear about that as well. So, please bring your homemade toys for what should be a very interesting meeting.

We continue to search for programs for the April, June and October meetings. The August meeting is the summer picnic and we do need a QTH and a host. If interested, please let either Jerry or myself know. The December meeting will be the annual Holiday Party. The 2009 QCWA Chapter 49 calendar has been included with the newsletter. As of this writing, many of the Hamfest website have not been updated with 2009 dates. The dates on the QCWA calendar assume the same weekend will be used next year and will be confirmed as the information becomes available.

We want to try and include one story from a QCWA Chapter 49 member in each of our six newsletters in 2009. If you would be willing to contribute, please contact John, K7SYS and we will work something out. If you have a great story but are a bit shy, just tell me the story and we will write it down together.

73's and BCNU
John Kludt
K7SYS, Secretary

The Auction John Kludt, K7SYS

My career with Ham Radio started somewhere in the early 1960's as KN7SYS. While other kids were dreaming of being the junior high school football star, I could be found most days in the school library thumbing through an already dated copy of the ARRL Handbook. The big AM rigs were just too complicated and way too expensive for a kid on an allowance but there was this nice little 5 watter that had caught my eye. Just two tubes, a 5U4B rectifier and a 6AG7 oscillator, a Pi network output and I would be “on the air.” Now if I could just find the necessary parts.

Central to my development as a Ham was my radio club, the Mike and Key Radio Club. In those days, we met at the QTH of “Pop” Brown K7LED (SK) on Angle Lake. For those of you not familiar with Seattle, Angle Lake is just south and east of Seattle Tacoma Airport. We met in Pop's family room in his basement. And behind the family room was “the shack.” The big rigs on HF were the Apache and its matching receiver, the Mohawk. There was a Gonset Communicator for two meters and some other rigs that time has obscured. The most impressive piece of equipment was Pop's HF antenna, a HyGain AV-18HT, fifty feet of the most beautiful antenna I had ever seen. And there it always was, sitting not by, but in the lake. Imagine trying to get just the paperwork done to do that today. But I digress.

I had most of the parts for my new transmitter but a couple of key items were missing. One of the things we did from time to time at club meetings was have auctions. I quickly learned that most Hams had lots of really neat stuff in their shacks, far more stuff than they could ever use. And a Ham ritual was to take stuff from the shack and trade, barter or sell it to other hams so they could put it in their shacks. It was a real economy based on the exchange of things of value, probably only to other Hams. And that is what we did at Mike and Key auctions, traded stuff around, often with much excitement and more than a little laughter.

As I recall, Ken Jackson K7PZX (SK) was the auctioneer on many occasions. In addition to being a real Elmer, Ken was a jovial guy with a great sense of humor. I wish I could remember the exact item that I needed for my rig. I do remember the fateful afternoon at the Mike and Key Club that brought me and whatever it was face to face. Man, did I want that thing! Now being a new Ham, I had almost no trading stock. So, I was going to have to buy it. And nobody was going to outbid me for the last piece of my first amateur radio transmitter. Nobody! Of course, being a kid of 13 or maybe 14 I did not know a thing about how an auction worked but I was never one to let a lack of knowledge stop me.

Off we went, with Ken opening the bidding at a very small amount, maybe a dollar, who can remember? And I was on it. A few other people bid. Darn! I jumped back in and topped them all. A couple of folks dropped out but the bidding still went on. With every bid I countered, trying to make sure I didn't go over the money I had saved from my allowance that was there, safely in my pocket. The price was getting up there but I was still okay, still under my limit. Then some more folks dropped out and it was just me and this other person. Man, did I want that thing! What could this other person possibly want with my item? Could someone else be building exactly the same transmitter I was so desperately trying to build? I was in the back of the room and whoever it was that was my competition was clearly sitting in the front of the room. With each bid I would make, Ken's gaze would turn from me to the front of the room where this fiend would raise my bid by a dime. On and on we went for what seemed like an eternity. I had to have that part, the last part for what I was sure would be the best transmitter ever constructed by an amateur radio operator.

And then Ken smiled. And the entire room erupted in sidesplitting laughter. Ken let me know the object of my desire was mine. He even allowed as how he would knock something off the price. Because Ken knew, the whole room knew and very much enjoyed the obvious fact that for the last couple of minutes I had been feverishly bidding against myself!

QCWA Chapter 49 2009 Calendar
(All events are confirmed unless otherwise noted)

January 2009

17-19 January VHF Sweepstakes

February 2009

21 QCWA Meeting www.qcwa49.org
21-22 ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
28 Dalton Hamfest www.w4drc.com

March 2009

7-8 ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)
7-8 Charlotte Hamfest www.w4bfb.org (not confirmed)
14 Kennehoochee Hamfest www.w4bti.org (not confirmed)

April 2009

18 QCWA Meeting
24-25 Southeastern VHF Conference Charlotte, NC www.svhfs.org
25 Calhoun Hamfest (not confirmed)

May 2009

2 Greenville/Spartanburg Hamfest www.brars.org (not confirmed)
15-18 Dayton Hamvention – www.hamvention.org (not confirmed)

June 2009

6 Atlanta Hamfest www.w4doc.org (not confirmed)
13-14 ARRL June VHF QSO Party

20 QCWA Meeting
27-28 ARRL Field Day

July 2009

11 Gainesville Hamfest www.lanierlandarc.org/ (not confirmed)
23-25 CSVHFS Conference – Elk Grove Village, IL www.csvhfs.org

August 2009

- 1-2 ARRL UHF Contest
- 15-16 ARRL 10 Ghz and Up Contest
- 15-16 Huntsville Hamfest www.hamfest.org (not confirmed)

- 22 **QCWA Meeting (Picnic) (Tentative)**
- 28-30 Shelby Hamfest www.shelbyhamfest.org (not confirmed)

September 2009

- 12-13 ARRL VHF QSO Party
- 19-20 ARRL 10 GHz and Up QSO Party

October 2009

- 17 **QCWA Meeting**

November 2009

- 7-8 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
- 7-8 Stone Mtn Hamfest www.totr-radio.org (not confirmed)
- 21-22 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)

December

- 4-6 ARRL 160-Meter Contest

- 5 **QCWA Meeting - Christmas party!**
- 12-13 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

QCWA PEACH STATE CHAPTER 49 Web address: www.qcwa49.org

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Net Manager Jerry W3CDE using the K4VN Chapter 49 Club Call

Chapter 49 QCWA HF Net Saturday 0900 3.8575 Mhz.

Chapter 49 QCWA VHF Roundtable Wednesday 2000 145.410(-) MHz (MATPARC repeater)

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PEACH STATE CHAPTER 49

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