



February/March 2009 Newsletter

MEETING NOTICE: SATURDAY April 18, 2009, High Noon, Ryan's Family Steakhouse, Norcross, Georgia

Hello all,

As we are entering the "Spring Time", we have already sprung ahead our clocks and to rise in the AM. As the trees and flowers blossom into great new beginnings, so does this new year of radio and assorted fun activities. If you are a QRPer, it's time to get out the portable antenna and charge the battery and head to the woods or local park. As you sit there pounding brass, you get many "funny" looks from those who do not know any better. We know better by being a "HAM".. We ham it up in the park and more people pass by and give you a funny look too. If lucky, someone will ask "watcha doing". Then lead in to an explanation that you just talked to some South Pacific Island they never heard of. They walk away shaking their head thinking you are some kind of kook.. We take the best with the worst of comments. We learned long ago, maybe very long ago, that not everyone appreciates our GREAT!!! hobby. They know not what they are missing!!! Maybe you could have called that station on a cell phone, if you knew his telephone number, maybe not. We do not have to worry about such little things as knowing anything about anyone we talk to. They can be anyone from a king of a country or a local day laborer or even maybe a farmer in the heart of America. We do not discriminate who we talk to, we just have fun. Which leads us to the topic of having fun. The Summer Hamfest Calendar has been running since January 1, 2009 for this year. Some in Snow and some in the Sun (Orlando). What we do is catch up with old friends and meet new ones. What a wonderful hobby to be involved with!! Kennehoochee is over and Sugar Valley is coming up. Soon it will be the Atlanta Radio Club and Mid Georgia. All are fine places to see old friends. We may even find some treasure that we did not know we needed and haul it home with us! Ah Ham Radio at it's finest! I do hope each of you as you visit the festivities will remember those who used to be with us and are now Silent Keys. They broke the ice for us to have a good time and we are continuing the tradition of having fun talking to folks we never knew and did not know we would meet them or they would be our friend forever.

Get you home antennas up before the leaves are out on the trees in their full glory and you can no longer find the tree!! 8-) See you at the meeting at Ryans, I hope.

God Bless

Jerry Lofstead

W3CDE

Pres. QCWA Chapter 49

February Meeting: The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Lofstead, W3CDE, at 1324 hours after a good meal and lots of good discussions on the usual wide range of topics. We welcomed new members Jim Staffors, W4QO, and Richard Maxwell, W8KHK, to the organization. It was moved and seconded and passed by consensus to make a \$25 donation to the QCWA Scholarship Fund in the name of Florence Montgomery, N4TNZ (SK). This is an addition to the now (mid March) \$700 plus dollars donated in memory of Florence to the fund by others from with the Chapter 49 membership and other individuals.

Dave Bruse, W4DTR, reported an opening balance of \$769.42 and a closing balance of \$742.27. Our primary expenditure was on door prizes for the meeting and they are indeed nice ones. Luck of the draw yours truly walked away with the 2009 ARRL Handbook. The door prize for the upcoming meeting promises to be equally excellent.

We discussed the possibility of adding a meeting on the odd months, most probably at Ryans. The thought was this could be an informal meeting without a program. Rather it would be a time to get together, swap tall tales, and talk about the last DX contact that got away. We decided to send around an email to poll the membership and see what everyone thought of the idea. There have not been a lot of returns but so far (mid-March) they are mixed. Some like the idea, others are okay with the idea but feel it is a long way to travel or one more thing to try and add into a very busy schedule. If you have an opinion on the subject, please contact the club secretary at k7sys@arrl.net and voice your choice. We will discuss this again at the April meeting.

It seems a number of our members have passed major QCWA milestones. Sometimes the wheels grind slowly and we apologize for the delay in getting the awards issued but they should be in the hands of these long time practitioners of Amateur Radio as you are reading this.

W4MMQ – Ed Bigbie

60 Year Award

W8CXU – Frank Prager

50 Year Award

55 Year Award

60 Year Award

W4OHA – Bobby Canup

50 Year Award
55 Year Award
60 Year Award

W4UXJ – Marvin Moss
50 Year Award
55 Year Award

WA4EGV – Bill Shenkel
50 Year Award
55 Year Award

N4DK – Don Kasten
50 Year Award

W2NJH – Doug Benner
50 Year Award

W4PBV – William Duckwitz
50 Year Award

W2IQA – Curt Harris
50 Year Award

Gentlemen, thank you for your many years of support for Ham radio and QCWA. If for some reason you have not received your awards, please contact Dave, W4DTR, Chapter 49 Membership at w4dtr@arrl.net

Our program for the February meeting was a show and tell of some of the homebrew projects of Chapter 49 members. Frankie, W4BJT brought in tow offerings for our perusal. By far the most complex project was a scratch built dual trace oscilloscope that, yes, still works. Pretty impressive item, Frankie. His second offering was a 2 meter cavity built from PC board. Frankie shared with us one of the bigger challenges of the project was the order of assembly. To be able to solder all of the joints, and there were a lot of them, everything had to be done in the correct order. Doug, W2NJH, brought in a very nicely constructed transmatch complete with roller inductor. Remember when you use one of these you actually had to do something more than push the “Tune” button on the transceiver? Nice work, Doug. The last project was a 5 watt 2 transistor CW transmitter for 80 and 40 meters built about 35 years ago by John, K7SYS. This was a real step forward for the K7SYS station, replacing a 5 watt 6AG7 single tube transmitter for 80 and 40. I mean, wow, transistors! As an aside, I actually found the original article for the 6AG7 rig in the ARRL archives in the November, 1953, issue of QST. If you haven’t tried the QST archives, it is a real trip down memory lane – give it a whirl. With all the years of experience in Chapter 49, there must be other homebrew efforts out there –

consider bringing one to the next meeting to share. If it is too big to move, bring a picture and tell us about it anyway.

Upcoming Programs

April 16 – DVD on the DXpedition to 3B7C (St. Brandon 2007) from the Five Star DXers Association courtesy Marvin Moss W4UXJ

June 20 – TBD

August 22 – Summer Picnic, location TBD (any volunteers?)

Respectfully submitted

John Kludt, K7SYS
Secretary
QCWA Chapter 49

Hamfest Update

I was trying to explain to my wife “hamfests.” You see, I wanted to go to the Kennehochee Hamfest and that meant we were in a negotiation as to who would take our daughter to the gym. My first attempt was, “Well, you see it is kind of like a garage sales for hams. There is all of this great stuff there that I can pick up for really reasonable process.” That was probably not the smartest way to approach the topic as the response was almost immediate and in retrospect predictable. To paraphrase, “Great, more junk to store in the basement!” Now what most of you don’t know is my wife loves to ride horses. I have found it useful when negotiating to put things in a way that the other person can relate to subject. In our basement there are two “storage areas.” One is full of very important ham radio treasures and the other is full of horse stuff like saddles, bridles, blankets, and bits, lots of bits. So I tried the “bit gambit.”

“You know how it is very important to own one of every bit ever made to go in a horses mouth? I mean, one can never own too many bits.”

“A ‘bit’ of an exaggeration but, okay.”

“Think of the kinds of treasures I bring home from hamfests as ‘bits’ –there is always another ‘bit’ out there and you never know when it will come in handy.

Long story short, I made it to Kennehochee and I am now the proud owner of a working RCA WO-33A oscilloscope, vintage 1959. For, you see, one can never own too many oscilloscopes!

To make sure all of the Chapter 49 members have as many chances as possible to find those treasures that we have to have, the Hamfest calendar has been updated. Thanks to all of you who contributed updates and a special thanks to Susan AF4FO, for a very complete list.

Updated 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
14 Kennehoochee Hamfest www.w4bti.org

April 2009

18 **QCWA Meeting**
24-25 Southeastern VHF Conference Charlotte, NC www.svhfs.org
25 Calhoun Hamfest www.k4woc.com

May 2009

2 Greenville/Spartanburg Hamfest www.brars.org
15-18 Dayton Hamvention –www.hamvention.org

June 2009

6 Atlanta Hamfest www.w4doc.org
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
8 Ellijay www.ngamtn.com/w4hhh/
15-16 ARRL 10 Ghz and Up Contest
15-16 Huntsville Hamfest www.hamfest.org
22 **QCWA Meeting (Picnic) (Tentative)**

September 2009

- 4 - 6 Shelby Hamfest www.shelbyhamfest.org
11 Praters Mill (tailgater)
12-13 ARRL VHF QSO Party
19 Dallas (Paulding County)
19-20 ARRL 10 GHz and Up QSO Party

October 2009

- 10 Augusta
17 Rome
17 **QCWA Meeting**

November 2009

- 7-8 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
7-8 Stone Mtn Hamfest www.totr-radio.org
14 Montgomery, AL
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

2007-2009 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President	Jerry Lofstead	W3CDE	770-979-5500	w3cde@arrl.net
Vice President	Doug Foos	KT4XF	bogeyman10@netzero.net	
Secretary	John Kludt	K7SYS	770.891.8091	k7sys@arrl.net
Treasurer	David Bruse	W4DTR	770-623-0149	w4dtr@arrl.net
Director	Frankie Womack	W4BJT	404-767-5382	w4bjt@mindspring.com
	Mike Swiderski	K4HBI	770-449-0369	k4hbi@arrl.net

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)