2018 was a good year. It’s hard to believe that another year has come and gone. As I’m writing this, Thanksgiving is upon us, so foremost in my mind are things I’m thankful for. I want to thank our club officers Gary Christian W4GDC, Marge Fowler KI4JCK, and Joe Ducar Kj4QFV for making sure I stayed on track. Not an easy task -- but they’re all too polite to say so! Looking back over the last twelve months, we had some great discussions about antennas and feedlines, ran new coax to the roof at the Salvation Army -- getting it done before Field Day which also went well -- thanks to our operators.

In case you were wondering why I didn’t simply continue on as President of the club for 2019, the reason is simple. I had originally thought that I would have retired by this time, but have decided instead to stay in my current position for as long as possible. I discovered that a club president has a great deal of club business which needs to be attended to during the workday and my job doesn’t allow for that at this time. Instead of just fading off into the sunset, I will be the Vice President in 2019.

When Jeff Blythe KA4WYC stepped forward and volunteered to take over as President of the club, I was delighted. Jeff is a longtime club member and has some unique talents. Talking with him I found he has some great ideas!

Thanks to Joe Ducar for stepping up to be Club Treasurer again in 2019. As you can see, new
Secretary Susan Nosko N4PSN has already dived in and started with our club newsletter *The Connector*.

My main job as Vice President will be to line up programs for our monthly meetings. This is where you come in. I need your suggestions, your offer to do demos and knowledge of your interests in general (contests, voice, CW, digital, analog, public service, projects, antennas, or whatever). Think of something you’d like to know more about and let’s learn together, or if you have a trick or two -- share it with us by doing a demo.

Hope to see you at the Christmas party!

Onward!

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**Upcoming Events!**

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**Mint Hill Historical Society SW Station**

The Christmas store opens in the Gold Assay office soon. The club won’t set up our shortwave station there during the month of December.

We had a great turnout on Saturday, November 10. We had a good time. Steve Hill KN4POW, our new Mint Hill ham, got to meet the club members. It looked like he was having a great time. He got a lot of questions answered!

Fred Roberts WB4QOC came to visit for the first time, and was given a W4CQ pen and a Gold Assay office QSL Card. Some of the members went to lunch at the Mint Hill Asian Restaurant after the meeting. 73, Joe Ducar KJ4QFV

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**W4CQ Christmas Party!** Mark your calendars! You and yours are invited to our Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13, 2018! We’ll gather at 6:00pm and have dinner at 7:00pm. To add to the festivities, the club is providing delicious spiral honey-baked ham slices and Price's Chicken Coop chicken. It will be a nice time of celebrating together. If you haven’t already, please RSVP via the SignUpGenius email in your email box. If you have any questions, please let me know! **Please RSVP by December 3, 2018.**

Merry Christmas! — Susan N4PSN  W4CQ.Susan@gmail.com
THE KANNAPOLIS CHRISTMAS NIGHT PARADE!

The Kannapolis Christmas Night Parade will be held on Saturday, December 8, 2018. We’ll have a pre-parade meeting at 4:00pm at the Fifth Third Bank in Concord. The parade starts at 6:00pm.

To volunteer, please email me at w4gch1@gmail.com and include your name, callsign, cellphone number, if you will be bringing someone with you, if you have a preferred spot on the route or if you have any time constraints. I will do his best to assign your location on the parade route appropriately.

As the parade ends, we secure each position along the route. The rear (Parade Marshall) will clear you and that’s when you’ll turn in your parade vest and any radios issued to you.

Please RSVP as soon as possible.

73, Greg Huffman W4GCH, Cabarrus County Amateur Radio Society, w4gch1@gmail.com

This is the parade Steve and I look forward to working every year! The main street of the city is lit up with lights, the floats are lit with lights, as are the people, dogs, etc. It’s beautiful!

— The Editor P.S. Dress warmly!

Working the Concord Christmas Parade was fun! — The Editor
My Fascinating Accidental Discovery

This article is exactly what it says! One day I’m writing a book Things I’ve Found, While Looking For Other Things!, and then I found this by accident — and found it fascinating! What do Pricilla Presley, Andy Devine, Arthur Godfrey, and James Stewart have in common — other than entertainment? They’re hams! Yep, amateur radio operators licensed by the FCC. Now, as I continued my “research,” I discovered that almost every one of their licenses has lapsed, or expired, or the hams are silent keys. I checked them on QRZ.com, but sadly most weren’t in the database.

Some I knew, like: Marlon Brando, Ronnie Mil-sap, Chat Akins, Patty Loveless, Walter Cronkite, Art Bell, and Barry Goldwater. But I didn’t that Burl Ives, Donnie Osmond, James Stewart and Jim Croce were hams. Jim Croce is one of my favorite singer/songwriters, with songs like, “Time In a Bottle,” “Operator,” “Bad, Bad LeRoy Brown”! His call was WN3OQW. He died at the age of 30, in a plane crash on September 20, 1973. Jim may have had a Novice license for a short period of time. Some operators are very active, like singer/songwriter Joe Walsh WB4ACU, of The Eagles fame. Look at Joe’s QRZ web page! Of course, who doesn’t know Joe Taylor K1JT, and doesn’t use one of his many digital programs?

But more to the “unknowns” — General Curtis LeMay, famous military legend, W6EZV, SK and Jean Shepard, actress/author, In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash and A Christmas Story, K2ORS, SK September 25, 2016, at the age of 82. At the time of her death, she was the longest-living member of the Grand Ole Opry.

Boy, I could go on, but why don’t you enjoy discovering some yourself? Go to (https://www.qsl.net/w5www/famous.html). Ron W5WWW has a most interesting website. Give him a “thumbs up” while you’re there! (I requested permission to use his content for the research for this article. Other info came from Wikipedia.) Maybe I’ll make this list….. No, I didn’t think so either!

73, Jeff Blythe KA4WYC
No one called me a nerd when I was growing up in Hillside, New Jersey, although I could have been the poster boy for what we know today as a nerd. Maybe it was because it wasn’t until 1950 that Dr. Seuss created the nonsense word ”nerd” for an imaginary animal in If I ran The Zoo. By then, I was already W2DEC. During my pre-teen years, some of the most common monikers describing me were precocious, crazy, studious, and a loner -- to name a few of the nicer names. I lived on a small farm and there were no kids my age close at hand, so I became an expert at entertaining myself. It wasn’t easy, but I convinced my parents that I should have a subscription to Popular Science when I was 11 years old. When the magazine arrived every month, I would disappear for a few days while reading the magazine cover to cover, including advertisements. One month the featured article described the manufacturing of industrial diamonds. “Ah ha!” I exclaimed, “I can do that!” The end result was almost a disaster but that’s a story for another time.

My parents realized my isolation was starting to make me both crazy and anti-social, so my 1944 Christmas present (a few weeks after my twelfth birthday), was a one-tube radio kit. It was so cool. It was built on a one-foot square piece of plywood. The components were mounted using Fahnestock connectors screwed into the plywood. The kit had an “A” battery about the size of a small shoe box. There was another box of parts including a one-piece earphone. My folks gave me the present about 9 o’clock on Christmas morning, assuming it would keep me busy for at least a week. By lunchtime, music was emanating from my earphone.

Back around 1944, very few radio stations stayed on the air twenty-four hours a day. They would sign off at either 11 or 12 o’clock at night and like magic, another station farther out west would take its place. Since it was late December, you could follow the clock with stations to the West Coast area before the east coast stations started signing on again. It was great fun, but my grades were not helped by my midnight DXing.

After a few month of broadcast band DXing and spending a good part of my allowance on replacement “A” batteries, I started to get bored. I had become fascinated with the variable capacitor. Back then, I had no idea what it was called. I did know stations changed as the capacitor rotated. I wondered what would happen if I spread the end plate out a little. What the heck, I could always bend it back. I grabbed my long-nosed pliers and give it a tug and it broke right off. I was crestfallen; I had destroyed my favorite toy. I spun the knob around and lo and behold! I was hearing non-broadcast stations that I had never heard before. I was listening to stations above the high end of the
After a few weeks of mapping my new territory, boredom started to set in once again. Dare I take off another capacitor plate? I thought no, I had pushed my luck to the limit as far as capacitor modifications; however, I did notice there was a large coil of wire connected to the ends of the capacitor. Again, I had no idea of parallel components. This time I was smart enough to think through a modification that could be reversed. I got out my trusty soldering iron and disconnected one end of the coil and took off about five turns and soldered the newly exposed wire back onto to the mounting lug. Eureka! I was hearing a wholly different group of stations. Up until this point almost all of the stations produced by my experimentation were one-way broadcast. I keep repeating the process of unwinding about five additional turns. One day I heard two guys talking to each other; it was an event that would change the whole direction of my life. I was fascinated, these stations had call letters but they were different. They had a number in the middle! I wanted to become one of them.

My uncle Will possessed voluminous amounts of worldly knowledge and his advice was, “Ignore them. They’re ham radio operators and are completely harmless.” When I wouldn’t give up my goal, I told my uncle that I wanted to become one of “them.” He told me to go to the library and ask for a book about ham radio. My local librarian pulled out a copy of the ARRL Handbook and I started reading it religiously. I renewed it so many times she finally said, “Keep it. We’re getting a newer version.” I would read about a half hour a day and practice Morse code as well. Back then you had to do 13 WPM straight away. I was making good progress until the hormones set in. I was about fourteen years old and discovered girls. Ham radio went onto the back burner for almost two years. Fortunately, I came to my senses and picked up where I had left off. On the day after Thanksgiving in 1949, when I was sixteen, I made the trip to New York City and took and passed my first FCC ham radio license exam. It was for a Class B license and predated the Novice license by about two years. For good measure I passed my Second Class Radiotelephone license on the same day. A year later I returned once again to the FCC and upgraded to a Class A license and a First Class Radiotelephone ticket.

It is now obvious. Receiving the one-tube radio kit was the most fortuitous event in my young life. It pointed me to several careers, was responsible for getting me into a six-and-a-half month school at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey and kept me out of combat during the Korean War. In addition, ham radio introduced me to a huge number of fantastic people. During my late teens through my late twenties, I keep showing up at the right place at the right time, frequently for the wrong reason!

Mom and Dad, as you look down from heaven upon your wayward son, I want to say thank you to you both for the greatest Christmas present ever.

73, Urb LeJeune W1UL, urb@ham-cram.com

When not writing newsletter articles, Urb can usually be found working on his ham radio test preparation website, http://ham-cram.com. The site has three distinguishing characteristics:

- We don’t study incorrect answers.
- We only study the questions most likely on the FCC test.
- It’s free.

**Our mantra: Study smarter — not harder.**
Do You Know Who Annie G. Ellsworth Was?

Well, as you may or may not know, I love CW. I’m not good at it, but I love hearing it and collecting telegraph keys. I also like the mystique of the history of Morse Code. I’ll try to bring y’all some interesting facts on CW in upcoming articles.

Now, do you know who Annie was, without looking it up on Google (like I did!)?

Let’s go back to the early days of the wireless—say 1843. Yep, our old friend Samuel F. B. Morse had been experimenting with electrical currents and the possibility of sending messages through the wires from one place to another. But, in order to do this, he needed capital. So he petitioned the U.S. Congress for $30,000.00 to install a line from Washington to Baltimore.

But who’s Annie? I’m getting there! Morse had an ally in Congress, an old college chum from Yale—Henry L. Ellsworth, Commissioner of Patents. Henry was standing in Congress and there were 119 bills in front of Morse’s plea for funds. It was getting late, and although Morse had hopes of gaining the funds to build the wire, it did seem hopeless. Some members of Congress thought it was a joke. Others wanted to cut the funds up to suit their interests—but Henry was as passionate as Morse. So with a mere five minutes ’til Congress adjourned for that session, Morse received his funds! Only one other bill was passed after Morse’s request; that’s how close it was to changing history as we know it!

Morse also had a young protégée who joined him in history. Enter Annie G. Ellsworth. Yep, Henry’s daughter! She came to Morse’s hotel room to deliver the news of his long-awaited congressional triumph. They were to celebrate by having breakfast with her parents. For reporting the good news, Samuel Morse announced that Miss Ellsworth would present the first recorded telegraphed message in history! Although it took a year to build the span of wires twenty-eight miles in length (from Washington to Baltimore), Morse was true to his word. Miss Annie suggested the most famous message ever to be penned, “What hath God wrought?” Just where did that question come from? Look up Numbers 23:23 (King James Version).

So, as the famous newscaster Paul Harvey once stated, “Now you know the rest of the story.” I hope you enjoyed the story, and want to see more!

DIT DIT DIT DIT, DIT DIT!

73,

Jeff Blythe KA4WYC

Information for this article was gleamed from several other articles in the Interweb, mostly from an article from The Electrical Engineer, New York, New York, 8-19-1891. (That’s not a typo!)
Minutes of the October 2018 Business Meeting
Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters, 510 Archdale Drive, Charlotte, NC

To promote the technical craft of amateur radio through training, mentoring and enhancing fellowship among radio amateurs.

DATE: November 3, 2018
CALL TO ORDER: 9:39am by President Mike Miranda W4DXL

WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS: Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jody announced that Marge enjoyed the fruit basket delivered, on behalf of the club by Jack K4LRH. (Jack hasn’t produced a receipt yet.)

Channel 36 Tower Contract: Mike stated that the Club needs to finalize the contract for the Channel 36 tower, where our repeater is located at 1,500 ft. Jeff Blythe KA4WYC will follow up on this. Ted Williams KE6QEY, Mike W4DXL and Jody Ducar KJ4QFV checked files in the clubroom for this contract and other documents. A copy of the contract with WCNC was sent to Mike and Jody via email.

Treasurer’s Report (Joe Ducar KJ4QFV): Joe gave his Treasurer’s Report. He stated nothing was coming in or going out.

NEW BUSINESS
Remote Club Station Access: David brought up the use of the club station by club members. He was wondering if the club could put in a remote station, where a club member could access the club station (say from their own home) and be able to use the radio, antenna(s), etc. If we got an amp, club members would be liable for their class of license, band limits, etc. Jeff asked David if he would be willing to gather information and present it at the January 5, 2019, business meeting.

Each club member would download the free software for their own computer Jeff asked about what costs were involved. David suggested having a second set of dues for club members who want remote access. Jeff asked if we would have to add an amendment to our club by-laws. This will be presented to the membership in the near future. Jeff also stated he will look into a computer-controlled rotor and antenna switch box.

ADJOURNMENT
Mike asked if there was any other business. Having none, David made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Jody. All members present was invited to go to Sonny’s BBQ for lunch. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08am. Respectfully submitted, Jeff Blythe KA4WYC, for Marge Fowler KI4JCK, Club Secretary
**W4CQ Repeaters**

147.06 (-600 KHz) WB4ETF On the air at Well Fargo II (400 ft)

444.675 (+5.0 MHz) – W4WBT
400 ft Charlotte

444.45 (+5.0 MHz) PL 82.5 W4CQ
Channel 36 tower in Dallas. (1500ft)

222.420 (-4.0Mhz) – PL 82.5 KA4WMZ
Channel 36 Tower in Dallas (1500 ft)
Joint project with KA4YMY

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**MARS METROLINA 2-METER EMERGENCY NET™**

The MARS (Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society W4BFB) Metrolina 2-Meter Emergency Net™ is held every night at 9:00pm. The primary frequency is the 146.94 repeater and the alternate backups are the 145.29 repeater or 146.52 simplex.

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**Other Local Nets**

Sunday — Mecklenburg Simplex Net, 8:30pm (147.505)
Wednesday — Mecklenburg ARES Net, 7:30pm (146.94- PL 118.8)
Wednesday — Union County Skywarn Net, 8:30pm (145.39- PL 94.8)
Thursday — UCARS 2m Net, 8:00pm (145.390- PL 94.8) (444.425+ PL 94.8)
Saturday — Union County ARES Net, 8:00pm (145.39- PL 94.8)
Saturday — The Dixie Radio Pirates, Weekly Net, 8:30pm (145.410- PL 136.5)

**Nightly**

The Piedmont Spotter Group Net, 8:00pm (145.230- PL 118.8)
Rock Hill Net, 8:30pm (147.030+ PL 88.5)

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**The Connector** is the official newsletter of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club. It’s published monthly.

As Editor of *The W4CQ News*, I welcome pictures (.jpeg), articles (Word doc), and any other member contributions. Please send your submission to W4CQ.Susan@gmail.com. As Editor, I reserve the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month’s newsletter is the third Friday of that month. Anything received later may be held for the next month’s publication.

As The Connector Editor, I am honored to serve the good people of the Charlotte Amateur Radio Club.

73, P. Susan Nosko N4PSN
ARRL — North Carolina News Excerpts

February 2018  (This was the last issue posted.)

Karl Bowman, W4CHX, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager

A Very Merry Christmas
And all the Best Wishes for A Happy New Year!