Well, as I write this, the 2019 Charlotte Hamfest is history. And what a two-day weekend that was! Hamfest is the place to see old friends, meet new ones, see old equipment, and what’s brand new! Time to add the coax connectors to your junk box, right beside the ones you brought last year. Did anybody buy new rigs?

What was the downfall of my meager cash cow? Our W4CQ club tables were right next to the Girl Scouts cookies! At $4.00 a box. And geezzz, those were small boxes!

I was amazed by the goals and objectives of some of the Girl Scouts I talked to. Mary Ellen, the Girl Scout Cadet Leader, said she wants to go to West Point, and work in some type of communications. Before you ask, she has a 4.0! One junior high student wants to go into nursing. Man, have they got their heads screwed on right. Good luck, Girls!

I guess I have to say the high point was meeting our last surviving charter member of W4CQ, Richard Bell WA4BNO. Jim Crisco WA4YIZ and Wilford Eury N4MD were talking to this gentleman and asked me to step over. What an honor to talk (listen) to Richard. He had so many stories about Francis Nakamura (sk) WB4ETF (who was also a charter member) and him during the early years of W4CQ. I have a picture of him among the five founding members which included Carl Gluck W4CQ, who held the callsign that is now assigned to the W4CQ Club. I would love for Richard to come out to a club meeting and let him recount his stories to us. He would be the program! Whenever we lose this icon, we will lose a piece of history which we can’t recover.

I want to thank the many club members and visitors who stopped by and chatted with everyone hanging around the W4CQ club tables. We picked up some new members and a few renewed their memberships. Also a shout out to the York County Amateur Club K4YTZ for coming by and for their club display. It was top notch. Joe Ducar KJ4QFV brought some items to sell; he made money hand over fist! Thanks to Joe KJ4QFV and Gary Christian W4GDC for hanging out for so long.

Just a short note: I’m looking forward to our next club meeting on April 6. Tim Slay N4IB will talk to us...
about grounding our stations. Tim is always an entertaining speaker.

Remember that we not meet at the Salvation Army HQ on May 4, 2019. We’ll go to the Mint Hill Historical Society to give an amateur radio demonstration, instead. See an article elsewhere in the newsletter or on our website, www.w4cq.org.

Now when we left Hamfest, what do you think we did? What do hams do more than operate? Yep, we ate! Here is supper after the Friday night Hamfest which Sparky Ramey KE4TES, Shawn Goodin K4RSG, Mike Miranda W4DLX, Mike Wentz KE4EHC and I enjoyed. I took the pics behind the camera!

— Jeff KA4WYC

Upcoming Events!

Mint Hill Historical Society SW Station

Come to the Mint Hill Historical Society on the third Saturday of each month, from 8:30am to 1:00pm. We set up a HF short wave station in the Gold Assay office. We have made contacts all over the world. Most every where in Europe, Israel, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Iceland, Greenland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, and more.

73, Joe Ducar KJ4QFV
Some Ramblings That Will Give You Goose Bumps

This story begins as I was trying to finish up my ‘Words From The Prez’ article. The cellphone rang and I didn’t recognize the number (someone from Troutman, NC). Ok, it can go to voicemail.

After I put the article to bed, I checked my voicemail. It had been from someone named Chris, calling about her dad who had been a ham and who had passed away. The family wanted his equipment to be donated instead of going to a landfill.

I looked up the callsign on QRZ.com. Hmm, a ham in Florida? No, I must have mis-typed the call. So I tried again. The call was WB4CES, but it came back as W4CES, a Paul Summerville, out of Statesville, NC. I didn’t recognize the call or his name, but his daughter had left a number for me to call her back, so I did.

Chris was a nice lady. She and a brother named Paul were trying to clean out the house. She had contacted another ham, but he had said the equipment wasn’t antique, and wasn’t modern, either — so, he wasn’t interested. I ran some of the names of the equipment manufacturers, and they didn’t ring a bell for me, either.

I noticed the same first name of the father and son, and asked if the son was a ham? She replied no, none of the kids got bit by the ham bug, but her dad had been very active. Then her next comment made my skin crawl! Oh, my brother goes by “Paul,” and Dad went by “Glenn.” Glenn Summerville? I couldn’t say a word. A name from my amateur radio past!

Glenn had been a good friend whom I had helped with his antenna years ago in Charlotte. I remember he had done photographic portraits somewhere near Cotswold Shopping Center. I had even gotten a metal desk from him. A big, heavy desk that I had planned to turn into an operating desk. Sadly, that never happened and it got lost in a move. I did say it was heavy!

I asked Chris how she had found my name and number? She had tried Googling hams in the Charlotte area, but that didn’t get her anything. Once she noticed the ARRL website, she contacted them and they did a search of clubs in the Charlotte area. Of all the clubs listed, she saw my callsign listed with the Salvation Army HQ and W4CQ. She wrote my information down.

Of all the callsigns and clubs listed.... I truly believe God has a direct hand in our lives!

So the long story is — I’m going to Statesville. In the meantime, Chris is emailing me some pictures. She asks that all proceeds go to our club for buying students books and materials, and to assist students in getting their ham licenses. WOW. Can you believe that? On one hand, I’ve lost another ham friend, but on the other, I’ll help his family liquidate his equipment. 73, my dear friend Glenn W4CES, sk. — Jeff Blythe KA4WYC
**Dits and Dahs**

**Phrases That Will Live On in History**

OK, by now I hope you all know who Annie G. Ellsworth was and why she is remembered throughout history. Do you remember? She spoke the words, “What hath God wrought?” which Samuel F.B. Morse sent to Alfred Vail in 1844. It was the first transmitted message by telegraph. What other words or phrases can we recall which made a significant impact upon the course of history? I will offer only a few. These could be statements made in speeches, words uttered in defiance, in TV commercials, movies, etc. I’m sure there are many phrases which we can remember.

How can a noun become a verb? More on that later.

Going back to 1941, who said, “... A date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan”? Yep, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose words to Congress brought the United States into World War II. I imagine there aren’t many folks still around today who heard that first-hand.

So, what else? I was young at the time, but I remember when John F. Kennedy stated: “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country!” As a side note, this “Ask not...” phrase wasn’t the first time it had been used. Most of the world heard it from Kennedy’s inauguration address in January 1961. Do you know Kennedy’s classmates were enraged to hear him speak those words as if he written them, or his Press Secretary? He had “borrowed” the phrase from his Headmaster George St. John, from Choate School in Connecticut.

But not all common phrases come from a delivered speech. We hear some on TV, like Wendy’s iconic, feisty little lady asking “Where’s the beef?” In 1984, Wendy’s had needed a promotion to counter companies like Burger King and McDonald’s. So after several auditions, they happened upon Clara Peller. Although she was supposed to say, “Where is all the beef?”, Clara kept saying, “Where’s the beef?” Executives left it alone, and a star was born. So who else used this same phrase? Believe it or not, Walter Mondale used it in a 1984 campaign debate with Gary Hart. Mr. Hart had been using the term “New Deals,” trying to align his campaign with John F. Kennedy’s. So when Hart used the phrase “New Deal,” Mondale leaned close to the microphone and said, “You know, when you use that phrase, I’m reminded of the ad, ‘Where’s the Beef?’” Mondale went on to win the Democratic nomination.

How does a word (which is a noun) become a verb? Mmmm... How about “Let me Google that”? Google is a company, a program, and a noun, (person, place or thing), but we’ll often hear it referred to as something to do on the internet, as a verb (action).

I challenge you to look up some other phrases. “One small step for (a) man. One giant leap for mankind,” was spoken by Neil Armstrong in 1969, as he was the first to step on the surface of the moon. The reason the a is parenthesized is because some didn’t hear the quote correctly. Armstrong always stated that the a was what he actually said. An audiologist named Shann Ford took the recording from NASA and ran it through software for the hearing-impaired. There is a 35-millisecond bump in the recording between “for” and “man.” Just enough time for an a!

Do you have any favorite phrases? Send them to Susan N4PSN and let’s fill the newsletter with them! Thanks for reading. — Jeff Blythe KA4WYC
If It’s Trash Day, I’m Collecting!

Prologue:
I was born in 1932, which by definition made me a Depression baby. This episode in the life of "Urb the Emerging Nerd" demonstrates that people were totally capable of doing economically irrational things during the height of the Depression. They would throw things away needing only simple repairs.

How it all began:
At the time my trash-picking started, I was in 7th grade. I was the only student living far enough away from school to where I couldn’t make it home for lunch and back within the allotted hour. Thus, I was a brown-bagger.

Early one beautiful spring day, I was walking leisurely to school and suddenly, there in front of me, was a beautiful floor lamp. I quickly realized that if I left it and waited until school let out, the lamp would be long gone. It would have been deposited in a landfill. (We called them "junk yards" back then.) I picked it up and continued walking. About two blocks from school was an empty, wooded lot. I placed my lamp in the lot and camouflaged it with a few branches and continued on my way to school. I agonized all day, worrying that someone would abscond with my lamp.

After school, I rushed over to find that it was still there. I took it home and showed it to my father. He eventually determined that the lamp had a switch that was malfunctioning. Off we went to a local hardware store to purchase a new one. (Home Depots didn’t appear for many decades into the future.) I later learned that lamps similar to my trash-pick-find were selling for about five dollars of 1940s money.

A new switch cost about 20 cents. Although my knowledge of the consequences of the Depression was very limited, I still found it strange that people would throw out a five-dollar lamp just because it needed a 20-cent switch.

The lamp, with its new shade, occupied a place of honor in the LeJeune household for years to come. My mother, God rest her soul, was very excited about anything I did which did not require a trip to see the school principal.

After my lamp experience, I started leaving for school about a half hour earlier on trash days. One day, someone threw away a pair of roller skates (the type you attached to your shoes and tightened with a key.) I fashioned a wagon using a milk box and those skates.

I was now ready for the big-time of trash collecting. I made a camouflaged den in the lot close to school and established my trash-picking business.

Turning Trash into Art:
Even I was amazed at the quality and variety of things tossed, despite then-current economic conditions. If a discarded item contained gears, I was in Trash-Land heaven. If something had a motor, functioning or not, I was in paradise. Anything with gears was especially prized. I used gears mounted on pieces of plywood to make Christmas presents. My relatives told me how creative I was, but my artwork typically wound up on their basement walls.

At Christmas time, I would load up some of
my artwork into my wagon and traverse my neighborhood selling them. When people asked the selling price, I would reply, “Whatever you think it's worth.” I'd make enough money to get nice presents for my mother and father for Christmas.

**Spare Parts:**
Growing up, my family lived in half of a farmhouse. I had a corner of the basement all to myself. My little den served as workshop, storage area, and a laboratory for performing experiments. My attempt at making artificial diamonds was a barn-burner (a future article).

**Epilogue:**
An event viewed through the key-hole of currency frequently takes on a greater meaning when viewed through the rear-view mirror of realism. As an example, the fact that I lived at a greater distance from school than any other student probably led me to trash-pick. If I had walked to school with other students, I doubt I would not have picked up trash.

I went through a period between jobs (a nice euphemism for being unemployed) and money was tight. I put my trash-picking skills to good use. On the bulletin boards of local super markets I posted notices: “Small appliances repaired. No fix. No pay.” The results were a God-send when satisfied customers recommended me to neighbors and friends.

When times are tough, we frequently receive the emotional help to give us the strength to get through these periods, if we are alert to them.

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

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**When and Where We Meet**

All are welcome to attend!

**W4CQ Club Business Meetings (1st Saturday of each month)** at 9:30am, held at the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters (501 Archdale Drive, in Charlotte, Exit 4 off I-77). We meet in a secured facility, so please be on time to ensure entry. If you know you're going to be late, please call/text the Club President Jeff Blythe (704-577-3619).

A Shortwave Station (3rd Saturday of each month) at 8:30am-1:00pm, located at the Mint Hill Historical Society in the Gold Assay Office (7601 Matthews Mint Hill Road, Mint Hill, NC).

Please visit our website for more information: www.w4cq.org.
"The Internet Will Kill Ham Radio!"

I’m sure you have heard that comment often; however, the Internet has proven to be a great resource to ham radio in a variety of ways.

I have had the opportunity to present the WSJT-X software and FT8 to several clubs and at the Charlotte Hamfest this year. In developing the forum, I located numerous references that relate to WSJT-X and other digital programs. Here are the references and a short description of how they are used:

• Joe Taylor K1JT's home page is where you find the latest version of WSJT-X. http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/index.html. There are October and November 2017 QST Magazine articles by Joe Taylor K1JT, Steven Franke K9AN, and Bill Somerville G4WJS, describing WSJT-X, as well as a You Tube video: Work the World with FT8 (Joe Taylor K1JT).

• Additionally, there is a good presentation on You Tube by Jim Shaver N2ADV, FT8 Description, Myths and Operation (N2ADV). Jim is also the moderator of a busy Facebook group: FT8 Digital Mode Experimental (and General Use) Group.

• Windows OS needs time sync software to keep your computer clock within one or two seconds of real time. Two of the most commonly used are Dimension4 (which is found at Thinkman.com) as well as Meinberg NTP (found at www.meinbergglobal.com/english/sw/ntp.htm).

• Left over from last year’s Grid Chase is the International Grid Chase Grid map. Input your ADIF and it will map all the grids you have worked. http://www.n1kdo.com/lotw-gridmapper/GridMapper.html

• To see where you are being heard when running digital and CW modes, there is PSK Reporter: https://www.pskreporter.info/pskmap.html Look in your digital software to enable reporting, then enter your call sign and the band where you are operating. The program will give you a map showing where your signal is being heard.

• The Honolulu Emergency Amateur Radio Club End Fed Antenna which I have been using is found at http://www.earchi.org/proj_homebrew.html. They may be selling it through PayPal, but they also have construction instructions on their web page if you would like to roll your own.

• There is also a WSJT Yahoo Group.

• Ian Wade has a web page that discusses the IC-7300 at G3NRW.net/IC-7300. (Also has a TS590 family website).

• Gary Hinson ZL2IFB, has a nice website for FT8 uses. www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf

• Other digital modes are easily accessed through FLDigi, which is a free program found at www.W1HKJ.com. Dave Freese updates the software often and it covers lots of digital modes.

• One of the derivative programs that have popped up since the introduction of WSJT-X is JS8Call, written by Jordan Sherer KN4CRD, which uses the basic coding of WSJT-X and adds some “free text” possibilities. The documentation leaves something to be desired, but the program can be found at js8call.com

• Lastly, for those looking to catch DXPeditions, there is the VOACAP propagation prediction program found at http://www.voacap.com/dx/. Enter your grid square, antenna, and hit run; the program will give you the best frequencies and times to catch current DXPeditions.

While we wait for solar cycle 25 to kick in, digital modes can be a great way to enjoy ham radio in a period of low propagation. 73, Bill Turner W4WNT
Charlotte Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the February 2019 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: March 2, 2019

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by President Jeff Blythe KA4WYC.

He welcomed all, and introduced our guests: Bill Turner W4WNT and Patrick Irish KE8DOA. Patrick was given a membership application and Bill renewed his membership!

Old Business
We talked about etiquette on our repeaters.

Shawn Goodin K4RSG gave a quick update on our website, QRZ pages, and Facebook.

Jeff asked Mike Wentz KE4EHC to provide information on ordering club apparel. Mike said he is still in contact with a supplier for shirts. Marge Fowler KI4JCK stated that her nephew has access to making hats. Randy Matthews KE4JXF suggested we should check name badges at the upcoming Charlotte Hamfest.

New Business
Jeff introduced Bill Turner W4WNT and his DXer’s Guide to FT-8. This was a PowerPoint presentation which Bill will give at the Charlotte Hamfest next weekend. Bill gave a very good talk on how to get started using FT-8, a popular digital mode on HF. Several members had questions and the meeting went well.

Meeting Adjourned
Having no other business, Jeff asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45pm. All were invited to Sonny’s BBQ on Tyvola Road.

Respectfully recorded by Marge Fowler KJ4JCK, and written by Jeff Blythe KA4WYC

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
## Gary Whitt’s KN4ICY Weekly Net List

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<th>Net Name</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Off-set</th>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Backup/Link</th>
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<td>Piedmont Spotter Group</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Nightly</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<td>Harrisburg</td>
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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