As I write this, it’s Thursday, February 14. Happy Valentine’s Day! I hope you got to hug your sweetie. Luke is mine, and he gave me a kiss. He also wanted the BBQ rib I had in my hand. Oh, well...

I’ve gotten feedback about our club meetings. So far, we have had some really good presenters. Let’s keep it up! Mike W4DXL needs help getting information for our programs. Please contact the officers at officers@w4cq.org.

Recently, a member contacted me about something that was very disturbing which he heard on our 450 “Oscar” repeater. He picked up only the last of a conversation and didn’t hear any call signs. (I trust this member and what he relayed to me.) Basically, the two operators were describing something involving body parts. They used the vulgar names -- not the medical terms. I’m telling you right now -- I will not condone it. I know people like to kid, joke, and jab each other on the air. I’m not trying to be the Etiquette Police, but I don’t want our trustees nor our club’s licenses to be in jeopardy. I’ve asked about having the repeater recorded digitally. If call signs are recovered, I’ll pursue it with the FCC. Just saying.

On a good note, several of us made the trek to HamCation in Orlando, Florida. It was a long trip, but we all had a good time, enjoyed some great food, and brought home some goodies for our shacks. The weather was marvelous! 85 degrees, and sunny — only to come back Sunday to 45 degrees and rainy.

On the way home we witnessed (firsthand) Karma at its finest! Now have you ever seen a dummy in traffic, being just plain stupid, and thought, “Where’s a cop when you need one?” Well, we were coming back on I-95 in somewhat heavy traffic, three lanes in each direction, with all three lanes packed. There was this person in a U-Haul pickup truck, speeding, jerking in and out of traffic, from the right lane to the left lane. Then he whipped in the emergency lane to pass some semis. He took off and was gone. Yep, you guessed it! About five minutes down the road, there’s Mr. U-Haul, pulled over and talking to a Georgia Highway Patrol officer. HAHA! We can only guess someone must have called...
Thoughts & Prayers

Please keep our country and our leaders in our prayers. Let’s always remember those who are serving in uniform to keep us safe.

911 and turned him in. I just hope he didn’t have a true emergency.

I hope you have accepted the Groups.io invitation we sent out. If you didn’t see one, or didn’t know actually what it was, please see me or Shawn K4RSQ as soon as possible. We need to get everyone moved over to our Groups.io email reflector. Soon, if you don’t move over, you won’t see information from the club.

I hope to see you at our next club meeting on Saturday, March 2 at 9:30am. If you need to get in the Salvation Army HQ, call my cell phone (704-577-3619).

73,
Jeff KA4WYC, W4CQ Club President

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 everywhere in Europe, Israel, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Iceland, Greenland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, and more.

73, Joe Ducar KJ4QFV

Upcoming QSO Parties — Submitted by Steve Nosko W4SJN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
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<td>4/14/2019</td>
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<td>4/13/2019</td>
<td>4/14/2019</td>
<td>Valencia County Amateur Radio Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>4/13/2019</td>
<td>4/14/2019</td>
<td>North Dakota</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
I must say that the internet provided most of the information for this article; however, it has a personal twist, too.

Just about everyone who knows me knows I like collecting telegraph keys. I have about twenty or so keys. But then you say, “Jeff, why are you not on CW?” That’s another story. Back to the FYO Key.

In the early 60’s, J. A. Hills W8FYO designed a telegraph key that was Iambic, meaning the key would produce dits and dahs with the use of an electronic keyer. Touch one side and a string of dits would key; touch the other, a string of dahs. In later designs, this key was also known as a “Hills” key. To the left is an ad from the October 1962 QST. Later versions of this key offered a spring as the tension spring, but earlier versions (like mine) used a piano wire.

While I was at HamCation in Orlando last weekend, I was able to talk to Professor Tom Perera W1TP, who runs a telegraph museum with over 3,000 telegraph keys. It is an internet museum, which I suggest you go and check it out! (www.w1tp.com) Maybe you own a piece of history!

Meanwhile, back at HamCation, I was able to show my FYO Key to Tom. and I asked what he thought the key was worth. He observed that it was a fine version of the FYO key (!!) and that it should bring in $300.00! Wow!

OK, Jeff, just how did you come about to own such a nice piece of history? In the early 80’s, the W4BFB MARS gang held a club auction for members who wanted to sell their gear, and also some estate sales for spouses of silent keys. I saw the key and knew I had to bid on it, so I bid — for $5.00. (Well, it was dirty!) There was a bid against me for $10.00. I bid $15.00. There was a bid for $20.00! I bid $25.00 (which was all I had). It was right about then I learned it was my good friend Andy Hawkins G4GKK/K4GKK was my bidding adversary. I asked Andy if he really wanted the key. He said no, he just liked bidding against me! I told him to quit bidding; I wanted the key! Everyone laughed and Andy said I could have it. I got the key for $25.00. Not a bad investment.
Below is my key, pictured on the left. Notice the piano wire used for the tension spring, and the FYO nameplate with J.A. Hills of Dayton, Ohio stamped on it. On the right is a later version (1965) with a spring tension. I found it on the internet.

This is the 1946 British Admiralty key. Notice how heavy the contacts are. Not only was it used for Morse Code over the air, but it could be hooked up to use signal lights from ship-to-ship or ship-to-shore. I wouldn’t want to touch the key’s Tunion Bar when connected to live voltage! Ouch! In the photo below, you can see the date 1946. This key is heavy!

Oh, wait! You’ll want to know the story behind this key. In the early 90’s, I worked for Duke Power Communications. Tim Slay N4IB was the manager; one of the other techs was Mike Smith WA4EQM. We always talked ham radio with the other hams employed by Duke Power. Well, sadly, Mike suffered a heart attack and passed away. His wife Susan called me up one day and invited me to come by and see if Mike had left anything I might want. (He had some vintage radio equipment, meters, test equipment and the usual stuff.) Well, I saw the 1946 key and knew I wanted that. Susan asked, “Are you sure? What about the radios?” Nope, that key reminded me of Mike — robust, been used and still worked! Yep, as I write this, I have a fond tear in my eye thinking of Mike. RIP, SK WAEQM.

Well, I’m sure I’ve bored you with my treasures. How about showing us some of yours? Your keys, or your shack? Susan N4SPN would like more content for the Connector!! So take a picture, and write up a little article for our newsletter. Who has a whole ham cave?

73, Jeff KA4WYC
Random Acts of Kindness

Prologue:
About fifteen years ago, during a trip to Florida on an oppressively hot August day, I was dispatched to the local supermarket to buy an ingredient for dinner. As I walked to the entrance, an older gentleman walked out, heading toward his car. I noticed he was using his shopping cart more like a walker then a transporter of grocery items. I also noticed his car had some Purple Heart license plates. I approached him and said, “Thank you for your sacrifice and service.” He literally started to cry, commenting that he had had the plates for about ten years and I was the first one ever to comment on them. In the ensuing conversation, he disclosed he was wounded during the invasion of Guadalcanal and was also awarded the Bronze Star.

Starting on that eventful day, I approached every veteran I could identify by sticking out my hand and saying, “Thanks for your service.” He literally started to cry, commenting that he had had the plates for about ten years and I was the first one ever to comment on them. In the ensuing conversation, he disclosed he was wounded during the invasion of Guadalcanal and was also awarded the Bronze Star.

I also noticed his car had some Purple Heart license plates. I approached him and said, “Thank you for your sacrifice and service.” He literally started to cry, commenting that he had had the plates for about ten years and I was the first one ever to comment on them. In the ensuing conversation, he disclosed he was wounded during the invasion of Guadalcanal and was also awarded the Bronze Star.

Starting on that eventful day, I approached every veteran I could identify by sticking out my hand and saying, “Thanks for your service.” In the ensuing years, every recipient would say, “Thank you.” Frequently a nice conversation would follow.

You might remember when Viet Nam vets returned home. They were treated with disdain. They didn’t dare wear their uniforms in public because people would curse at them and frequently they were spit upon.

I think that irrespective of our personal opinions about the military and wars, we owe a debt of thanks to those who served, especially those who put their lives on the line. If I can identify a Viet Nam veteran, I’ll shake his hand and say, “Welcome home and thank you for your service.”

What is a Random Act of Kindness?
A random act of kindness is simply a deed we do to give pleasure to someone else with no expectation of anything in return. Thanking a veteran is just one example, however. The kindness universe is infinite.

We humans tend to complain frequently and give accolades rarely. Have you ever complained to the manager of a restaurant that the meat was over-cooked and the server impolite? Thinking positively rather than negatively the comment could have been, “Both your food and service was great.”

The pervasiveness of a lack of positive feedback was driven home during my Master’s graduation at Monmouth University. The then New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean was the keynote speaker. He started his presentation with the question, “How many of you know this is the year of the teacher?” Many people, especially students, raised their hand. He then asked, “For everyone, not just graduates, how many of you have had a teacher who made a meaningful impact or change in your life?” Almost everyone raised their hand.

The next question from Governor Kean was, 'How many of you ever took the time to thank teachers who had a meaningful impact on your life?’ Almost no
one raised his hand. There is an important point here. Just because someone is doing an outstanding job doesn't mean they wouldn't appreciate a pat on the back.

What Does This Have to do with Ham Radio?
Nothing and everything. Expressing your gratitude doesn't have a beginning and end point. Did you ever thank the person who helped you prepare for your license? Ever thank a speaker at a meeting? Almost everyone applauds the speaker, but there is nothing like going up to the speaker and saying, “Great presentation. I learned a lot.” How about thanking the outgoing officers of your club, the publisher of your club’s newsletter or the person who makes the snacks at meetings?

Epilogue:
My father's mantra was, “The measure of a person is how they interact with someone who can do nothing for them in return.” I think he was talking about random acts of kindness.

One last thought. Place a phone call to a couple of your ham radio friends and simply tell them, “Since I've met you, I am enjoying ham radio much more. It carries over to my quality of life.”

Thanking or complementing someone will make you happy and — possibly make the recipient’s day.

It's a win-win situation.

73,

Urb LeJeune W1UL, urb@ham-cram.com

W
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.

Submitted by
Steve W4SJN
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: February 2, 2019
CALL TO ORDER: 09:30am by President Jeff Blythe KA4WYC
WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS: Jeff welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized any guests.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Jeff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January Business Meeting, as distributed by the Secretary. Ted Williams made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by David Cantley. The motion passed.

REPORTS
Treasurer’s Report (Joe Ducar KJ4QFV): Joe gave the yearly financial status of the club. Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Jeff asked for a motion to approve the February Treasurer’s Report. Shawn Goodin K4SRG moved to approve the report. David Cantley WD4DDC seconded it. The motion passed.

NEW MEMBERS (Jeff Blythe KA4WYC, Joe Ducar KJ4QFV): Bill Owens KN4PXY, Justin Spangler, Oscar Norris W4OXH, Stephanie Robertson KN4PPN, Gary Whitt KN4ICY. Welcome!
Joe announced the names of those who had recently joined our club. Jeff asked for a motion to approve them for W4CQ membership. David Cantley WD4DDC made the motion. Steve Nosko W4SJN seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS
1. Groups.IO -- Our New Email Reflector (Jeff KA4WYC): Jeff reminded everyone that our current W4CQ email reflector/group will soon be turned off. He also noted that several members had not moved yet to the new reflector. Members who have not moved to the new reflector will soon no longer receive W4CQ communications. Shawn noted that the new reflector (Groups.IO) is a secure and private group; it’s by invitation only. To move to the new reflector, you can simply click on the link of the invitation which was mailed to you or respond to the invitation email.
2. Overall Status of the Club (Jeff KA4WYC): Our website is looking fantastic, thanks to Shawn Goodin K4RSG. John McDermott KK4LZN has been working on our Facebook page. Remember to not use w4cq.us because we no longer own it. W4CQ.org is the only one to use.

NEW BUSINESS
1. NC/SC QSO Party (Feb. 23-24, 2019): Who wants to participate?
2. W4CQ Club Apparel: Mike Wentz KE4EHC brought a t-shirt and cap as samples to show us and suggest that we have our W4CQ logo or call signs on them.
3. WCNC Tower/Noise (David Hass KK4OEW): There is an intermittent noise issue that sounds like static. A visual inspection of the equipment was made; everything looked fine. We’re trying to determine its source. There are codes for tower construction which need to be adhered to. Over the years, the codes have become more restrictive and the tower was, at one, 105% overloaded, due to the more
restrictive code. They’ll be putting up a new antenna and equipment this year. (It’s a 2000 foot tower.) David Marcelli N4CQ suggested putting a tone on it.

**Donated Aluminum Tower:** Bob Cole KD4IIN is considering what he wants to do with his ham radio equipment. He wants to donate his 30’ self-supporting aluminum tower and rotary control box to the club. We need to look into replacing ours on the roof; will need to coordinate with the Salvation Army.

**ADJOURNMENT**
Steve Nosko W4SJN moved the meeting be adjourned. Ted Williams KE6QEY seconded it. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Susan Nosko N4PSN, W4CQ Club Secretary

**QRP Presentation** by Richard Dodd K4KRW: Richard encouraged others to “share the wealth” via presentations or submissions to your club newsletter. You never know how your interests or projects may interest or help others in this hobby. The beauty of ham radio -- There’s something for everyone. You get to meet some very interesting people. QRP improves your practice; your equipment has to be optimized. Radios are small and equipment costs are reasonable. Easy operation from the field. Richard introduced QRP equipment and operations.

Thank you, Richard K4KRW for your interesting and informative presentation.

A child asked his father, “How were people born?” So his father said, “Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on.” The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, “We were monkeys and then we evolved to become like we are now.” The child ran back to his father and said, “You lied to me!” His father replied, “No, your mom was talking about her side of the family.”

**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. (15000ft)

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>Offset</th>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Time</th>
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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