

K9YA Telegraph

Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club

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Welcome Ham Radio Aficionados!

Mike Dinelli, N9BOR

You are reading the premier issue of the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club newsletter. I hope you enjoy

it and return to the site for new issues as they are published. The Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club was formed in July 2002 by Stu Sokolin, W6YYY (now W6TA).

With the permission of Bob's family, the K9YA callsign was obtained through the FCC's vanity callsign program. Stu thought it would be a good idea to administer the club from the Chicago area, so he contacted me and I became the station trustee in November, 2002.

Bob Heytow, K9YA (SK), was our friend, a great person and a FB ham. Bob was an avid DXer and contester. His enthusiasm for the Amateur Radio Service was contagious. There was something special about Bob — a natural charisma, an openness that was entrée to many close friends.

For 31 years, Bob served on the Evanston, Illinois Police Department. He started as a beat cop (on foot) and loved his job. He thought he was very lucky to be paid to walk around, stay in shape and talk to people. His personality, brains and sense of humor advanced him to the rank of lieutenant. He was well liked by his colleagues.

On November 10, 2000, while on duty, Bob suffered a fatal heart attack; he was 53-years-old. He left behind his wife; his daughter; his mother; his twin brother, Dick, K9YAZ; and countless friends. "I was a little shocked because I knew how much they liked him," his brother said. "But I didn't know how much they loved him." Rabbi Dov Hillel Klein presided over Bob's funeral service. Rabbi Klein knew Bob for 15 years and it was

Bob's advice that helped him decide to become a chaplain for the Evanston Police Department. He said when he was writing Bob's eulogy he was not worried that he didn't have enough to say; he was worried he wouldn't say enough.

I could go on but I know Bob would be embarrassed by our outpouring of emotion and tribute. Our club hopes to create activities that exemplify Bob's love of Amateur Radio. That is how we honor him. As fellow ham, Philip Lazar, K9PL, so eloquently said, "Long may K9YA be heard on the Amateur Radio bands!" ■

*"Long may K9YA
be Heard on the
Amateur Radio
Bands!"*

DX Hog Heaven

Chuck Guenther, N1ØC

Remember the cartoon *Hatlo's Inferno* that appeared in the *Sunday Post-Dispatch*? Jimmy Hatlo, the creator of the comic strip Little Iodine, devised eternal punishments appropriate for all sorts of obnoxious human behavior. Applying the Hatlo principles to DX chasing, WA4JTK might be forced to spend eternity listening to inane phrases such as "good contact," and "I haven't heard you yet, so I'll give you a report on the over. OVER! OVER!" Likewise, the ubiquitous DX cop might be subjected to the word "UP" sent at three-words-per-minute, ad nauseum.

Until recently, however, I thought DX hogs also deserved some form of eternal punishment. I used to be sort of, well, ashamed of our club emblem, preferring to associate it with the wonderful pork-loin roast served at our summer picnics rather than with our pile-up behavior. I confess I didn't really want

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K9YA Field Day 2003 — Three Views



The CW Rogues

**Philip Cala-Lazar,
K9PL**

2003 marked the first year the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club, K9YA, participated in Field Day.

K9YA competed in Class 1A from Genoa

City, Wisconsin. The crew (AKA, “The CW Rogues”) comprised Mike, N9BOR; Philip, K9PL; and Steve, N9WAT.

Via Steve’s efforts, they were ensconced in a comfortable pop-up trailer located on his friends’ property in the town which is situated just north of the Illinois/Wisconsin border.

A Kenwood TS-570D spewing RF through a Hustler 6BTV vertical and a 135’ dipole was the crew’s passport to the radio spectrum. “TR” and a laptop computer linked to the rig performed logging duties and repetitive Morse tasks while a Bencher paddle stood by to supply fills. Electric power was furnished by a Coleman generator sheltering from sporadic downpours in a conveniently located garden shed.

The Rogues enjoyed a measure of celebrity during their encampment evidenced by the visits of a municipal trustee, two Genoa City police officers (one officer a ham) and Milt Windau, K9XN, a local amateur.

Despite dreadful propagation and noisy bands, the Rogues accumulated a very respectable 825 CW contacts.

Many thanks to the fourth rogue, Herb, WK9O, who was unable to participate at the last moment, for all his assistance, both spiritual and material. Herb’s Kenwood did a FB job! ■

Cap’n Mike’s Tale

Mike Dinelli, N9BOR

The sun is rising. Steve and Philip are getting some well deserved sack time. It’s chilly in the trailer and I’m fighting to stay awake. In between CQs and contacts I close my eyes and hope I can keep at it. It’s now 6:00 AM, Philip stirs and comes to my rescue. I fall into the trailer’s berth and awake an hour later feeling invigorated. The sun is bright and the air warm. Hot coffee and a freshly baked blueberry muffin are waiting for me. It’s a great day!

*“We find our
sea legs.
Call us
Ishmael.”*

We’re coming up to hour twenty now and all of us are getting a little slap happy. We start relating our Field Day activities to the ‘Ol Sea Captain — Yahr! It doesn’t take long before we realize we are landlubbers. “Which way

is port?” someone yells out. We reach the first quandary since we begot this voyage. Steve takes off for a few minutes and comes back with the answer. “Avast ye mateys . . . *port is to the left and starboard to the right.*” We find our sea legs. Call us Ishmael.

Soon there is talk of taking next year’s Field Day to the open sea. The salt air will do our lungs good. We sea-dogs have a year to prepare for next year’s attack.

There’s a treasure of Qs on the sea. Know any good sea shantys? ■

The Pequod

Commodore Steve's Yarn

Steve Wolfcale, N9WAT

Friends of mine in Genoa City, Wisconsin graciously allowed us to use their camper and park it in their side yard on the edge of town. Their yard is very large with nice tall trees for stringing wire antennas. Plus we had use of the house facilities, so it was a very comfortable FD.

Mike and I went to the FD site Friday and started setting up at noon as allowed by the rules. We put up the Hustler 6BTV vertical with no problem. I already had the lower part of the antenna mounted on a mast and tripod with the tripod bolted to a piece of plywood. The antenna was new, but had been tuned to resonance with its radials on all the CW subbands a few weeks earlier. So, that went up quick.

To suspend the 80-meter half-wave dipole between some trees we used a borrowed slingshot-fishing reel gizmo. The first shot was great and went sailing over the tree, but the line went sailing off the reel; it wasn't tied-off at the end. Long story, short, we gave up on the slingshot and I climbed the trees and threw the rope down with a wrench tied onto the end. One end was great, about 35 feet up, but the other end got caught on the branches of another tree, so that end was lower than the other.

We set up the standby station in the camper and tested the vertical. For some reason we couldn't get full power out on 80-meters even though the SWR was good. We left about 8:30 PM to drive back home and we were pretty tired.

Saturday, N9BOR, K9PL and me arrived at the site about 8:30 AM. We waited out some rain, set up the main station and connected the tuner to the ladder-line-fed dipole. The main radio was a Kenwood TS-570. The rig's 80-meter low power output problem disappeared after coax-wound baluns were installed at each end of

the vertical's feedline. We were ready about 10 minutes before FD's start at 1:00 PM.

We ran 1A, but had redundant standby equipment for everything: logging laptops, tuners, power supplies. . . everything. The standby station was a Yaesu FT-840, Timewave DSP unit and CMOS-4 keyer.

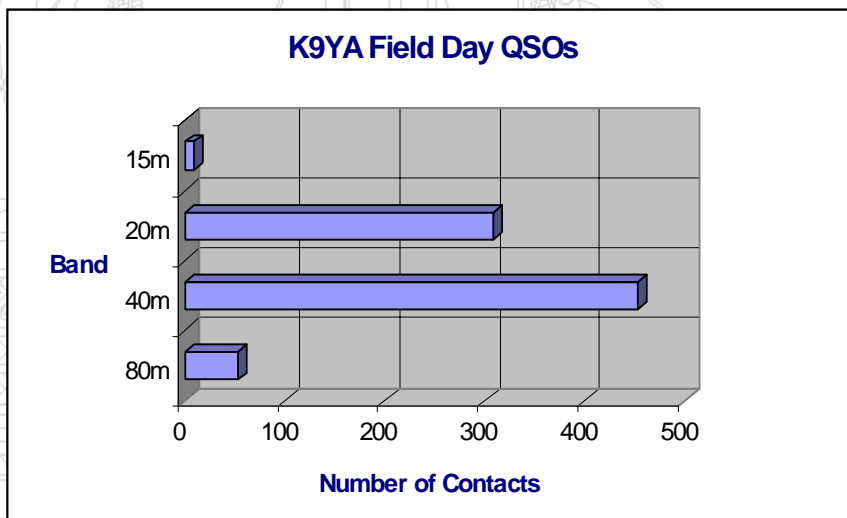
Band conditions were very poor and we were on 40 most of the night. However, Sunday morning the bands opened and it seemed like many new stations got on the air. Late at night we worked up and down the open bands, but almost all were dupes. So, with better conditions Sunday morning we had good runs and Mike hit QSO rates of over 80-per-hour.

We did 825 QSOs, all CW. We were shooting for 1,100, but with the poor band conditions we thought we were only going to get about half that until it picked up Sunday morning. Not sure what we will do about next year, but I think bigger antennas may be in the picture.

The Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club placed first, Class 1A, from Wisconsin and twelfth nationally. ■



Phil, K9PL (left) and Steve, N9WAT (right) at the helm.



QSOs by Band

How QSL?

Herb Scarpelli, WK9O



Herb Scarpelli, WK9O
Operating K9Y

The idea of exchanging QSL cards, that is, cards indicating verification of contact between hams, is as old as “Spark.” Almost without exception, every ham gets into this custom eventually. Some send and/or collect QSLs as personal mementos. Others may collect them in order to fulfill requirements for various operating achievement awards and certificates

such as WAC, WAS and DXCC (what we call “paper chasing”). Most of us do a little bit of both.

When you send your QSL to the other ham, you might want to help him out by making your card useable for any purpose he might choose. The information provided on those cards and the proper way to list it there is the subject of this article.

There are many types of QSL cards. We will confine our discussion to the cards used by the average ham operating from a fixed station for a single contact.

The personal computer has made it very easy to design and print your own cards. Modern programs will not only log your contacts, but also print out labels with the pertinent QSO information. But whether you have your cards printed somewhere or “roll your own at home,” there are some things to consider.

Things to print on your card:

1. Your callsign in a large, bold typeface.
2. Your name and address (including town, state and country).
3. County, grid square (or Lat./Long.), CQ Zone, ITU Zone.

4. Lines or boxes for entering contact information.

The above items should be prominent on the card. The callsign largest, then your name and address. The county, grid or coordinates and zone, perhaps, in smaller print. Many award-issuing organizations stipulate certain information on the card. Nothing is taken for granted, so please be sure to add your QTH’s country, as well as the other items mentioned.

Then you will want to include boxes or lines for the following contact information:

1. Station contacted.
2. Date and time in UTC (Z).
3. Frequency in MHz or Band in meters.
4. Mode

If the station was operating QRP, don’t forget to mention the power level like 5W, 500 mW, etc., if you know it. Otherwise, just plain old “QRP” might be OK. Some stations are working on awards for contacts made at a specific QRP power level. If you worked a mobile station, be sure to list the county and state. It is also a good idea to put both reports, sent and received, on the card.

*“For that
Personal Touch,
Don’t Forget a
Note.”*

It is essential to use Universal Coordinated Time (UTC), also referred to as “Zulu” or “Z.” WWV provides an accurate UTC time signal to set your station’s clock. A common mistake is to list local time instead of UTC.

The frequency is indicated in Megahertz (MHz) or sometimes expressed in meter band (e.g., 1.827 MHz = 160m, 7 MHz = 40m, etc.). Wayne, W4MPY, a prominent QSL card printer, says some European stations prefer the band expressed in meters. A quick survey of a few handfuls of DX cards in my collection shows that 25 percent of them did it in that fashion. A common mistake is to confuse frequency with bandwidth, for example “40 MHz” or “7 meters.”

For awards on some nets such as the Century Club and

OMISS it is preferable to list the exact frequency. If your card lists “meters,” be sure to write the net name on the card. A statement such as, “TNX for the CCN CW QSO” or “TNX OMISS QSO” is just what the awards managers of those nets look for.

Mode. CW, SSB, etc., a common mistake is to not indicate a mode at all.

Other things to put on your card include various certificate numbers from such groups as: 10-10, FISTS, HHH, MARAC, GERATOL, 3905 Century Club and OMISS, as there are awards that require those numbers. If the contact was made on one of those nets, indicate it on your card. If you are portable or mobile list the location/county and grid square (if known).

If you belong to any social organizations — Lions, Moose, Elks — you might include that on the card. Some include their occupations — “retired railroad,” “retired engineer,” “musician.”

If you print QSO information on labels and affix the label to your card, it is a good idea to put either your initials or callsign over portions of both the card and the label in small print. Some use a miniature rubber stamp for that purpose.

When filling out cards, avoid cross-out marks or visible erasures. If you make a mistake while filling out the card, throw it away and make another one. Fill out all information and sign the card with the same pen. Not to do these things makes the card null and void in the eyes of awards checkers.

Some checkers might take a more liberal view when it comes to “decorative effect,” but why risk it?

For that personal touch, don't forget a note to welcome a new ham just starting out, an old hand just returning, congratulate some one on their upgrade or their homebrew gear. Help them celebrate those and other milestones. It will make your card one of the more memorable ones in the other ham's collection.

One last thing, The ARRL and most of the

“awards-type” nets operate QSL bureaus that will save you money. If you are doing any DXing keep a few self-addressed stamped envelopes (S.A.S.E.) at your local call area's DX bureau and with the bureaus operated by some nets and clubs.

All of this may seem a lot to remember at first, but eventually it will be second nature to you. You will make a lot of other hams happy and probably get a better QSL return rate, and last but not least, spread a bit more “good will” around the spectrum. ■

Biographical Note: Herb got an early start in ham radio from a fellow boy scout. Unfortunately, his landlord didn't think much of the idea — no antenna meant no ham radio. Time passed and he became a radio op in the Navy during the Viet Nam era. Herb would listen to Morse code for hours on end, typing everything he heard on a mill (typewriter). When he left the service, he thought he would never want to hear another dit or dah again, but eventually that changed. In 1985, he was relicensed as KA9ULW, and later, N9GBY (Guitar Bangin' Yankee). Herb earned Extra class in 1989, and has been WK9O ever since. When Herb isn't hunting for rare DX, he's performing as a professional musician.



Mick Scott
Herb, WK9O's Alter Ego

“QSL Cards
are as Old as
Spark.”



Follow WK9O's advice
for a better QSL return
rate.

DX HOG HEAVEN - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be called a "DX Hog." But a real DX hog like W8AH (who has accomplished everything possible in the DX world, including a WAZ

definite hog tendencies in myself.

My own DX career has been a rather retarded one. After more than 40 years, I still have eleven tortuous steps to the bottom rung of the DXCC Honor Roll. Until this past May, I still needed Cocos-Keeling Island. The last time I even heard it was about ten years ago, when I was calling VK9CL on 15 meter CW. I thought I had a contact, but to my chagrin the QSO was with NIØF (my QSL manager). So, this May, when the FOC guys (G3TXF, et.al.) fired up from Cocos-Keeling, I was all over them. The trouble is, I wasn't hearing them



Chuck Guenther, NIØC with grandson, Jack — future DXer.

endorsement for QRP YLs on 160 meter SSTV, and still gets pleasure from beating out a newbie ham trying to work his first UA9) now there's an

very well æ at least at first. My R-7000 vertical doesn't hear that part of the world, unless conditions are just right. Early in the expedition, I logged two "tentative" contacts, one each on the 40 and 17 meter bands. I was about to log a third dubious "QSO" on 15 meters when I stopped, turned off my amplifier, and asked myself, "What was I doing?" Why was I calling a station when I couldn't copy them reliably? How would I feel about a QSL card if I got one under such conditions? Would I show it to my friends? Would I submit it for DXCC?

Fortunately, conditions improved (the K index dropped) and I eventually logged solid contacts on 40, 30, 17, 15 and 12 meters (Oink!, Oink!). I deleted the dubious "QSOs" from

my DXB2002 database. The QSLs arrived promptly, and have already been submitted for DXCC credits. Happy ending, yes? But I get uneasy when I ask myself: "What if conditions hadn't improved? Would I have so readily deleted those pseudo-QSOs from my log?" Now that I have had to ask myself such questions, I feel I know what it means to be "Deserving." I think I now deserve to be called a DX Hog! I'll wear my emblem with pride from now on! ■



Biographical Note: Chuck Guenther is a member of the Mississippi Valley DX and Contest Club, known as the "DX Hogs." Chuck likes to live in neighborhoods with lots of other hams. As KØVSH, he lived next door to Bud, KØYIP, and now he lives just one Beverage-length from George, AAØFT. Both Bud and George can attest to his DX Hog behavior.

DX Hog Heaven

Happy ending, yes? But I get uneasy when I ask myself: "What if conditions hadn't improved? Would I have so readily deleted those pseudo-QSOs from my log?"

inferno candidate if there ever was one. I would fantasize about operating from P5 and pretending not to hear him; or, perhaps busting his call, logging him as W8AS. Now that would be a fitting punishment for a guy like AI, who has to flex his muscles by working 100 countries every morning before breakfast. But, just lately, I think, perhaps, I've judged him too harshly. In short, I've discovered



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FISTS CW Club

The Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club is an affiliate member of the FISTS CW Club, # 9500.



FISTS CW Club, the International Morse Preservation Society, is an organization of Morse operators founded in 1987 by George Longden, G3ZQS. FISTS aims to further the use of CW on the amateur bands, to encourage newcomers to the CW mode and to engender friendship between members.

With a worldwide membership in the thousands, there's always a fellow FISTS looking for a quick chat, lengthy ragchew or contest "Q."

FISTS sponsors a number of low intensity and fun on-air activities including contests, nets and operating achievement awards. Membership is \$15 annually which includes a subscription to the club publication, The Keynote and confers a lifetime membership number.

<http://www.fists.org>

*When You've Worked a FIST
You've Worked a Friend*