
In Pages of Pictures and QSLs, W4YBV Leaves His Story to His Grandkids

After My Last CQ, Paying Forward the Fun and Thrill of Amateur Radio

BY TERRY JOYNER, W4YBV

One day not too long ago I was thinking about what will happen after I send out my last CQ, work my last DX contact, or attend my last North Fulton Amateur Radio League meeting.

My name will appear as a Silent Key and all of my ham friends from the radio club will help my wife have an estate sale of all my equipment. After my tower is down and all of my QSL cards on the walls and in boxes are put in storage or probably thrown away, what will be left of my great hobby? How could I show and tell my 11 grandchildren — and even the great grandchildren that are yet to come — about the great hobby that I had for so many years?

The other day I was visiting one of my grandkids and came across a photo book that my daughter-in-law had made with her computer and a company named Shutterfly. This book had a hard-bound cover and contained about 25 pages. In her book she was able to put comments and title each photo.

Looking around my shack at all my QSL cards and old photographs, I had an idea to take some of my QSLs along with some old photos and make them into a ham radio book for all my grandchildren to enjoy after I am long gone.

It took me a month to go through all of my cards putting them in order as to how I wanted them in my book. I was very lucky to have kept a number of old pictures of some of my stations over the past 53 years.

My favorite one is of an old black-and-white of me at age 16 with my first station — a Heathkit Sixer in Atlanta, Georgia in 1961.

My next job was to scan all my photographs and QSLs onto a disk and put them on my computer.

Using the Shutterfly program was easy as I started to put my book together. The first thing I had to do was to pick out a picture for the book cover. I



Terry Joyner, W4YBV, shares the story of his life in amateur radio with grandchildren (top to bottom) Garrison, Kenzie, Whitley, and Trenton from his station in Steinhatchee, Florida.



*From his radio shack, W4YBV proudly shows the back and front covers of *Amateur Radio Station W4YBV, Licensed in 1961* — a story that will live long after he works his last DX contact.*

"How could I show and tell my 11 grandchildren — and even the great grandchildren that are yet to come — about the great hobby that I had for so many years?"

chose one from 2011 in my shack in Steinhatchee, Florida with a lot of old gear showing. I titled the book *Amateur Radio Station W4YBV, Licensed in 1961*.

For the opening page I put the old black-and-white picture of me at age 16 with my first radio station.

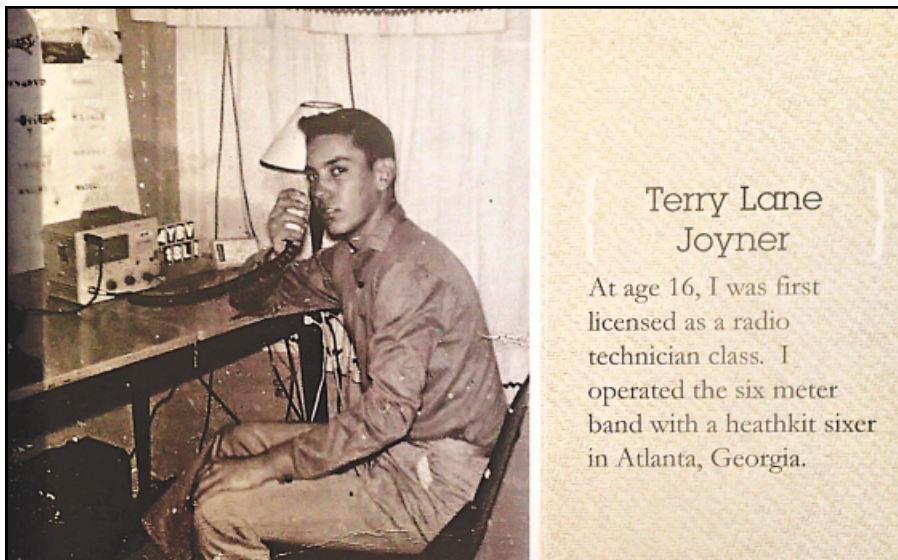
The next four pages were filled with photographs of old stations and antennas I had used over the years, includ-

ing some of me climbing my 65-foot tower and putting up beams.

The next two pages were from the old days using Morse code, a picture of some of my old keys along with old CW QSL cards that I had received in the 1970s.

Then I put a full page of me on my 26-foot fishing boat in Florida with all my ham antennas on it.

The following pages are QSLs from around the world of other hams that I



Terry Lane Joyner

At age 16, I was first licensed as a radio technician class. I operated the six meter band with a heathkit sixer in Atlanta, Georgia.

This black-and-white picture was taken in the earliest days of Terry Joyner's long amateur radio hobby. That's a Heathkit Six "Benton Harbor Lunchbox" at his operating position, circa 1961.

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This Heathkit advertisement for its popular Sixer AM 50-MHz transceiver appeared in CQ's April 1961 edition — just about the time W4YBV was getting started in amateur radio.

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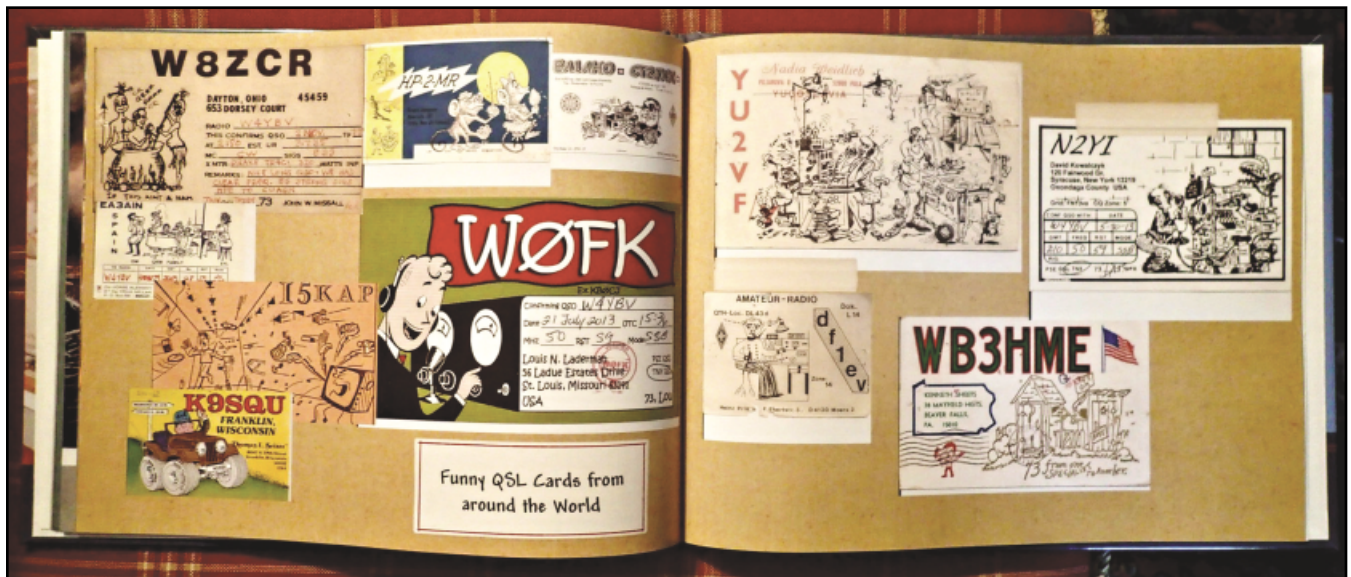
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These pages are devoted to W4YBV's QSL collection from contacts he made with Russia. The full-page image on the left is a hand-painted QSL Terry received in 1976.



Over the years, there has been no shortage of humor in QSL-card designs. Labeled "Funny QSL Cards from Around the World," these two pages show the clever images that bring a laugh.

have talked to from my boat. Following along these lines was another four pages of cards from my rare Islands contacts.

Next was a full page of a special event station card from the Ships Amateur Radio Club called "November's Fury," remembering three sunken ships: the Edmund Fitzgerald, Carl D. Bradley, and the Daniel J. Morrell.

The ships are followed by pages of special events cards from around the world.

Now it was time for me to make the grandkids laugh a little with a few pages of old hand drawn cards — you know, the ones we used to get that looked like cartoons and were so funny to read.

Over the past 10 years QSLs have changed a lot in how they are printed today. The colors are great with animals and landscapes. I put many of them on six pages. With Russia

always being in the news I wanted to show the grandkids that ham radio has brought the countries together with this hobby, so I used my favorite hand-painted card from Russia I received in 1976, along with a page of other cards from Russia.

Last, but not least, is a full page of Holland America cruise ship (Zuiderdam) where I took part in the Quarter Century Wireless Association cruise to South America in October 2013. Pictures of us putting up antennas and operating our stations on the ship along with QSLs that I received would finish my 27-page book.

The process was easy and it cost less than \$40. I hope in years to come this book will be passed around for all the grandkids and great grandkids to read, and if just one of them picks up old PaPa's hobby, it will all have been worth it!