

The Rod Newkirk Collection : From the Pages of the K9YA Telegraph
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Published by the K9YA Telegraph and the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club www.k9ya.org It is in 6" x 9" format and is available from www.lulu.com just search for the author.

This 104 page book is a collection of articles by Rod Newkirk, VA3ZBB/W9BRD written for the K9YA Telegraph. The Telegraph is a free internet based monthly newsletter which is distributed as a pdf file. In these articles Mr. Newkirk chronicles amateur radio operators he has known, many personal experiences, and some ham radio history. This book has to be the most entertaining \$7 value in ham radio reading material.

Rod Newkirk is well known not only for his Telegraph articles, but also because he was the ARRL's DX Editor, writing QST's "How's DX?" column for 25 years. He is credited with coining the term "Elmer" in a 1971 QST article. Additionally he is the recipient of a 55 WPM award, and is a member of CQ magazine's CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

This collection of 47 short stories includes titles such as "My Accidental Beam", "Morse Code Magic", "Running Forty Kilowatts-Legally", "Bailey's Barn", "The Beer Can Rumble", and other tantalizing titles.

Rod tells all his stories with an easy reading, pleasant and comfortable, self effacing style. No sterile theoretical pontifications here, these vignettes are about real people and real stories with whom we all can identify. Philip Cala-Lazar, N9PL, says this much, much better than I can in this quote from the book's Forward, "Within these pages you will find wit and humor, drama and pathos, character studies, razor-sharp reminiscence of amateur radio "Golden Age" and some novel antenna designs."

All are wonderful stories, here are a few of my favorites:

"Beat Me Daddy, Eight to the Bar" A story about high speed straight key CW, would you believe two handed 30 wpm?

"The Indoor Sportsman" is a four part series on indoor loop antennas.

"A Tale of the South Pacific" A great story about long lost ops making contact again.

"From a Galaxy Far Away" A poignant long delayed echo. Grandparents will love this one.

"Morse Code Magic" My personal favorite, written by Rod's wife, Betty Broome Newkirk, VE3ZBB. A this line provides a glimpse into this splendid story. "It's difficult to believe that what happened in my life could be possible. Cynics will frown, but seasoned amateur radio operators and dreamers will smile knowingly."

"WAR - CW at 500 WPM" Hams to the rescue.

Rod's amazing recollections, and his skill and ability to write about his experiences in such a genuine manner, make The Rod Newkirk Collection one of my all time favorite books.

To conclude this short and inadequate review: This little book has the power to uplift the reader. It resides on my coffee table where it receives much well deserved attention.

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