

## Never Say Die

**B**ack in 1971 or '72, my high school ham friends and I made our first “pilgrimage” from New York to Connecticut to visit ARRL headquarters and, more importantly, operate from W1AW. My friends all had General Class licenses, and the console of Collins gear beckoned to them as we walked into the station for the first time. I, on the other hand, was a lowly Technician, having passed my General theory exam but failed the code test (by two letters).

At the time, Technicians had absolutely no HF privileges; and W1AW at the time had virtually nothing to offer a guest op with a Tech license. No 6-meter station, no satellite station, just a crystal-controlled, 2-meter FM rig on the station manager’s desk that he used to occasionally check into local traffic nets. So, while my friends were running pileups on HF, I got on one of the area’s wide-coverage repeaters and said, “W1AW listening.”

I got an immediate response, from W2NSD mobile-1 in New Hampshire. The room got kind of quiet and I wasn’t quite sure why. I mean, I was impressed that I was able to talk from Connecticut to New Hampshire on 2-meter FM, but the QSO meant nothing more to me at the time. I had no idea I was talking to a ham radio celebrity, and—having no idea that he liked nothing more than blasting the ARRL in the pages of *73* magazine—the irony of contacting Wayne Green from W1AW was completely lost on me at the time. I do remember two things from that QSO:

1. Wayne’s comment that it was highly unusual to hear W1AW on 2 meters (symptomatic of the HF-centric mindset that persists in Newington to this day), and
2. that he was having a great time driving under the speed limit in the left lane of whatever highway he was on, because New Hampshire had a strictly-enforced “no passing on the right” law and several dozen other drivers were backed up behind him. That, I later learned, was vintage Wayne ... cantankerous, curmudgeonly, and in-your-face.

But Wayne was also a visionary. When he could discipline himself to write about ham radio in his “Never Say Die” editorials in *73*, he was virtually always on target. He saw where ham radio was heading, and where it needed to head, and helped move it in that direction. He also foresaw the impact that personal computers would have on society, launching *Byte* magazine and others in the 1980s.

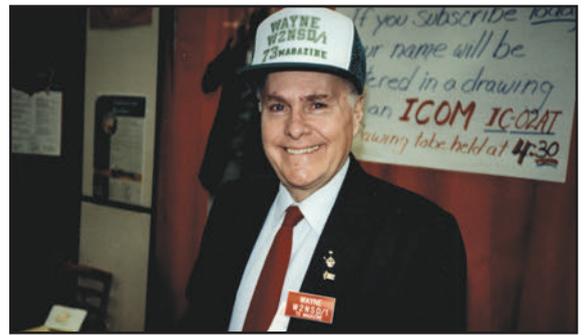
For six decades, Wayne Green—W-2-Never-Say-Die—has been an outsize presence in amateur radio. To this day, at every hamfest I attend, at least three or four people will come up to me at the *CQ* booth, and ask me—even though he’s had no connection with our magazine since 1960—“So, how’s Wayne Green doing? Is he still alive?”

I’ve always answered, “Yes, he’s still with us. I even hear from him now and then when he doesn’t like something we’ve published.” I’m saddened to report that that is no longer the case. On September 13, Wayne became a Silent Key at age 91. His passing was announced on his blog at waynegrn.com by his longtime friend, Daron Libby:

**FINAL**—Wayne Green passed away on the morning of September 13, 2013 in a peaceful, painless transition from this life on Earth. An eternal optimist, and one who loved to share his never-ending zest for life, he was a friend to many and will be missed greatly. Wayne was not afraid of dying and was very much ready to embark on his next great adventure to the afterlife. —*73*, **W2NSD (Sept 3, 1922 - Sept 13, 2013)**

Wayne was strongly opinionated, often caustic, and generally correct about amateur radio’s present and

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Wayne Green, W2NSD/1 (SK), at the 1987 Dayton Hamvention®. (Photo by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB)

future. The hobby owes a lot to him and his voice will be missed.

### Jack Althouse, K6NY

Less flamboyant but also a great contributor to our hobby, Jack Althouse, K6NY, became a Silent Key on September 15. Jack was the man behind Palomar Engineers, one of our premier sources of ferrite and powdered-iron cores, baluns, antennas, and antenna accessories. Jack’s technical knowledge was immense, particularly about antennas and antenna systems, and he quietly served as a technical advisor to *WorldRadio*’s Kurt N. Sterba when “the Krusty One” needed a little bit of backup (see Kurt’s column in this month’s *WorldRadio Online* for more on Jack and Kurt’s take on the ARRL declaring him to be a Silent Key along with K6NY). Jack was always a gentleman and will also be missed by the ham community. Our condolences to both the Green and Althouse families.

### Gone Fishin’ (for QSOs)

Regular readers of this column may recall that I’ve periodically shared my experiences in exploring a new (for me) area of ham radio—operating QRP (low power) from “the field.” It’s been a slow process, but I’m pleased to report that I finally managed to actually get out in the woods with my portable station during a summer weekend in Vermont, got on the air, and even made a couple of contacts. It was my first time but will not be my last. (If you’re interested in the details, check out this month’s issue of *WorldRadio Online*, in which I’ve written up the experience for K16SN’s “Trail-Friendly Radio” column. Visit <<http://www.worldradiomagazine.com/>> for subscription information.)

### Makin’ It ...

I’m writing this a couple of days before this year’s World Maker Faire in New York City. I plan to be there, along with at least two *CQ* columnists. To bring us full-circle, one of Wayne Green’s goals when he became Editor of *CQ* back in 1955 was “to get the magazine back into supporting building,”<sup>1</sup> something he felt was lacking at the time. We continue to support that portion of Wayne’s legacy with project articles, and regular Makers, QRP, and Kit-Building columns. The ham community has noticed as well, since 30 to 40% of the *CQ* readers who respond to our surveys routinely list “Homebrewing and Kit-Building” among their ham radio activities.

### Happy Thanksgiving...

For our readers in the U.S. ... best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at *CQ*. Let’s be thankful for our great hobby and for all of the wonderful people and experiences it brings into our lives. And don’t eat too much turkey!

<sup>1</sup> - Green, “RTTY, Building and Contests,” *CQ*, January 1995, p. 88