

## Harold (Hal) Kennedy, N4GG

First licensed in 1961, Hal Kennedy, N4GG has been an active contester and DXer for more than 65 years. Hal's early passion for electronics and ham radio led to a BSEE, an MBA and a 55-year career as an aerospace engineer, project manager, executive, consultant and author. His engineering career focused on laser guidance systems, high dynamic range receivers and millimeter-wave radar. After earning his MBA, he managed Lockheed Martin's technology commercialization activities, resulting in private equity positions in entrepreneurial high-tech start-ups. Today he consults to electronics manufacturers and ham radio-related companies on technical and business subjects.

An enthusiastic contester from both sides of the pileups, Hal has logged wins and top five finishes from PJ2, PJ4, PJ6, HP, VP2M and TI, as well as while guest operating multi-op stations in the U.S.

Hal is the author of two books: *Ham Radio Tips & Tales*, and *Ham Radio Tips & Tales, Volume II*, both available on Amazon. The books' 74 chapters are a wide-ranging mix of actionable technical insights, ham radio history, personal experiences, storytelling and humor for contesters and DXers at every level.

Hal first became a *QST* author and frequent presenter at radio clubs and hamfests – including Hamvention – in the 1970s. He has written extensively for ARRL publications including *QST*, *NCJ*, *The ARRL Handbook* and *The ARRL Antenna Book*. Much of his writing has centered on station design, antenna design and RFI mitigation. From 2017 through 2025 he wrote “*Around the Shack*,” a monthly column syndicated in radio club newsletters, where technical topics were explained in terms all hams could understand and apply.

Hal is an active member and former officer of the Southeast Contest Club and the Southeastern DX Club and currently serves on the ARRL's DX Advisory Committee.

Hal has ham radio DNA. His father was first licensed in 1916 – callsign 2NJ, and was a practicing electrical engineer until his passing in 1952. In 2010 Hal scratch-built *Blue Lightning*, a replica 1910 ½-KW synchronous rotary-gap spark transmitter, in the style 2NJ would have used in that era. In 2022 *Blue Lightning* was donated to the Antique Wireless Association in Bloomfield, NY, where it can be seen today.