

W1FH Charles Mellen, *1914-2006*

A Boston area DX great, of Greek heritage. Reminiscing the rare ones with Jeff Kadet!

The ARRL in 1947 awarded Mellen with the first post war mixed mode and phone DXCC certificates ever issued.

In 1949 Charles kept in constant cw radio contact into Tibet with British Agent Reginald Fox. Charles gathered news about the Chinese Communist invasion and annexation of Tibet, which included the news of the safe escape of young Dalai Lama. All of it appeared on the networks.



Our picture by K1MOD, Charles W1FH in the foreground and K1MOD Jeff pointing to probably the most rare QSL card of all time. The W6ODD/CR8 operation - The only authorized activity from deleted entity Damao and Diu. Only 28 QSO's were made in 1948. Charlie never retired from active DX chasing, his prior major heart surgery and declining health intervened in the early 1990s.

Mellen's DX secret was something he never bragged about but taught by example: Operator skill and especially knowing how to listen carefully.

W1FH and W6AM were constantly battling for the top of the Honor Roll list.

(Picture credit to K1MOD Jeff and WIUA for annexation of Tibet information.)

Charles expired at age 91, top dog on the DX rolls, with many awards and a member of many fraternal groups. His wife and a daughter remain. TNX Charlie!

