



# QST

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO

December 2013

WWW.ARRL.ORG

**QST reviews:**

42 | **Icom ID-51A**  
Dual Band Handheld  
Transceiver with  
D-STAR

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— The Results Are In

# Season's Greetings



\$4.99 US \$6.99 Can.



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Official Journal of  
**ARRL** The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO

DECEMBER 2013

QST

Vol 97 No 12

# Exciting New C4FM/FM Digital Mobile Transceiver

**C4FM**  
*Digital Communications*  
 Clear and Crisp Voice Technology

C4FM 144/430 MHz DUAL BAND  
 50 W DIGITAL/FM TRANSCEIVER

## FTM-400DR



- Digital Group Monitor (GM) Function
- Smart Navigation Function
- Snapshot Function (Image Data Transmission)
- Built-in GPS with Antenna in the Controller
- Wideband Receive (108 MHz – 999.99 MHz)
- Equipped with microSD Card Slot

*Advanced visibility and operability with full color touch panel Operation*

3.5-inch full color touch panel operation



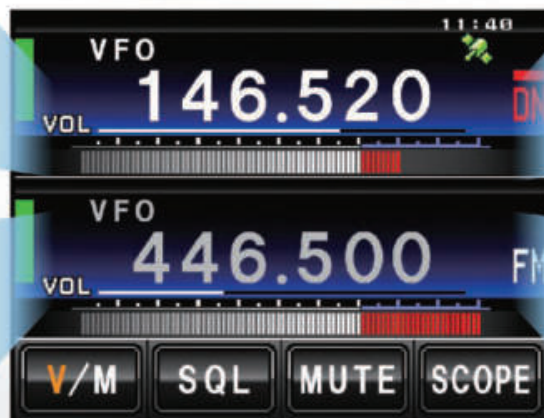
Band Scope Screen



Smart Navigation Screen



Altitude Screen



The icon symbols, multi-function key display and pop-up messages are all displayed in high-resolution color thanks to the full-color, high luminance TFT liquid crystal screen.

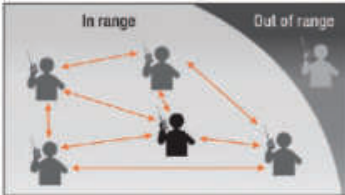


Frequency Direct Input Screen

# New Functions Enabled by C4FM Digital Communication

## Digital Group Monitor (GM) Function

- Automatically checks whether members registered to a group are with the communication range.
- This function can be used to send messages data between group members.



Group Monitor Function



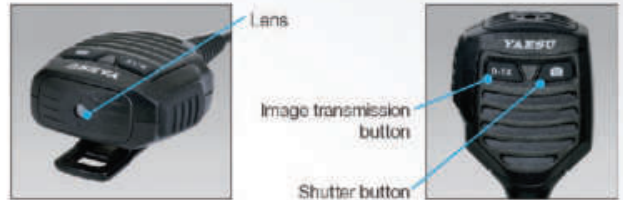
## Smart Navigation Function

- Real-time navigation function enables Location checking at any time.
- Backtrack function that starts navigation facing a registered point.



## Snapshot Function (Image Data Transmission)

- Image data can be displayed on the screen.
- Image data can be sent easily to other C4FM FDMA digital transceivers.



## Additional operating and support features

### Wideband Receive Capability

Covers 108 MHz - 999.990 MHz (A(Main) / B(Sub) Band), VHF Marine, Aircraft, Public service channels, etc.

### Hands-free operation

Hands-free operation is available by using the optional wireless Bluetooth® unit and headset.

(Optional Bluetooth® unit (EU-2) and Headset (BH-2A) are required.)



C4FM 144/430 MHz DUAL BAND  
5 W DIGITAL/FM TRANSCEIVER

## FT1DR

- Digital Group Monitor (GM) Function
- Smart Navigation Function
- Snapshot Function (Image Data Transmission)
- Built-in GPS with Antenna in the top
- Wideband Receive (504 kHz - 999.99 MHz)
- Equipped with microSD Card Slot

For latest Yaesu news, visit us on the Internet:  
<http://www.yaesu.com>

**YAESU**  
The radio

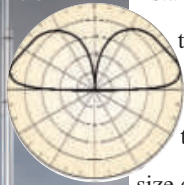
YAESU USA  
6125 Phyllis Drive, Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 827-7600

Specifications subject to change without notice. Some accessories and/or options may be standard in some areas. Frequency coverage may differ in some countries. Check with your local Yaesu dealer for specific details.

# New! Cushcraft R9 . . . 80-6 Meters

R-9  
**\$639<sup>95</sup>**  
80-6 Meters

R-8  
**\$539<sup>95</sup>**  
40-6 Meters



**Omnidirectional**  
low angle radiation  
gives incredible  
worldwide DX.

## 80 Meters... No Radials... 1500W

Cushcraft's world famous R8 now has a big brother!

**Big Brother R9** now includes 75/80 Meters for local ragchewing and worldwide low band DX *without radials!*

It's omni-directional low angle radiation gives you exciting and easy DX on all 9 bands: 75/80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 Meters with low SWR. QSY instantly -- no antenna tuner needed.

Use full 1500 Watts SSB/CW when the going gets tough to break through pileups/poor band conditions.

The R9 is super easy to assemble, installs just about anywhere, and its low profile blends inconspicuously into the background in urban and country settings alike.

**Compact Footprint:** Installs in an area about the size of a child's sandbox -- no ground radials to bury with all RF-energized surfaces safely out of reach.

**Rugged Construction:** Thick fiberglass insulators, all stainless steel hardware and 6063 aircraft-aluminum tubing is double or triple walled at key stress points to handle anything Mother Nature can dish out.

31.5 feet tall, 25 lbs. Mounting mast 1.25 to 2 inches. Wind surface area is 4 square feet.

**R8, \$539.95.** Like R9 antenna but less 75/80 Meters.

**R-8TB, \$79.95.** Tilt-base lets you tilt your antenna up/down easily by yourself to work on.

**R-8GK, \$56.95.** Three-point guy kit for high winds.

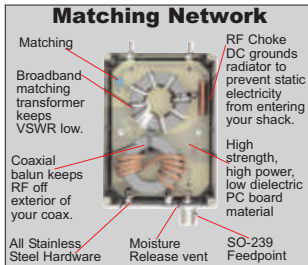
# MA-5B 5-Band Beam Small Footprint -- Big Signal



MA-5B  
**\$499<sup>95</sup>**

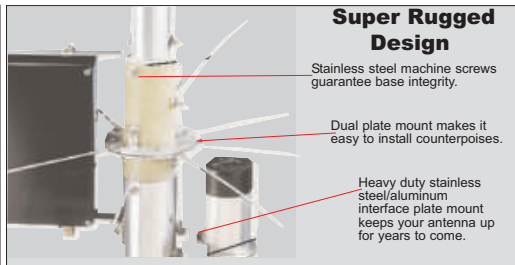
The MA-5B is one of Cushcraft's most popular HF antennas, delivering solid *signal-boosting directivity* in a bantam-weight package. Mounts on roof using standard TV hardware. Perfect for exploring exciting DX without the high cost and heavy lifting of installing a large tower and full-sized array. Its 7 foot 3-inch boom has less than 9 feet of turning radius. Contest tough -- handles 1500 Watts.

The unique MA-5B gives you 5-bands, automatic band switching and easy installation in a compact 26-pound package. On 10, 15 and 20 Meters the end elements become a two-element Yagi that delivers solid power-multiplying gain over a dipole on all three bands. On 12 and 17 Meters, the middle element is a highly efficient trap dipole. When working DX, what really matters are the interfering signals and noise you *don't hear*. That's where the MA-5B's impressive side rejection and front-to-back ratio really shines. See [cushcraftamateur.com](http://cushcraftamateur.com) for gain figures.



### Matching Network

Matching  
Broadband matching transformer keeps VSWR low.  
Coaxial balun keeps RF off exterior of your coax.  
All Stainless Steel Hardware  
Moisture Release vent  
SO-239 Feedpoint



### Super Rugged Design

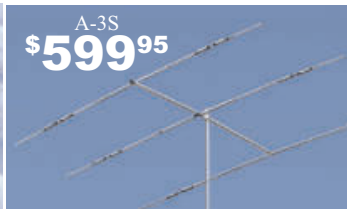
Stainless steel machine screws guarantee base integrity.  
Dual plate mount makes it easy to install counterpoises.  
Heavy duty stainless steel/aluminum interface plate mount keeps your antenna up for years to come.

## Cushcraft 10, 15 & 20 Meter Tribander Beams

Only the best tri-band antennas become DX classics, which is why the Cushcraft World-Ranger A4S, A3S, and A3WS go to the head of the class. For more than 30 years, these pace-setting performers have taken on the world's most demanding operating conditions and proven themselves every time. The key to success comes from attention to basics. For example, element length and spacing has been carefully refined over time, and high-power traps are still hand-made and individually tuned using laboratory-grade instruments. All this



A-4S  
**\$699<sup>95</sup>**



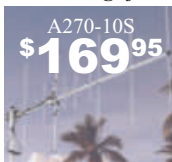
A-3S  
**\$599<sup>95</sup>**

attention to detail means low SWR, wide bandwidth, optimum directivity, and high efficiency -- important performance characteristics you rely on to maintain regular schedules, rack up impressive contest scores, and grow your collection of rare QSLs!

stainless-steel hardware, and aircraft-grade 6063 make all the difference.

The 3-element A3S/A3WS and 4-element A4S are world-famous for powerhouse gain and super performance. **A-3WS, \$499.95,** 12/17 M. **30/40 Meter add-on kits** available.

### Cushcraft Dual Band Yagis One Yagi for Dual-Band FM Radios



A270-10S  
**\$169<sup>95</sup>**

Dual-bander VHF rigs are the norm these days, so why not compliment your FM base station with a dual-band Yagi? Not only will you eliminate a costly feed

line, you'll realize extra gain for digital modes like high-speed packet and D-Star! Cushcraft's A270-6S provides three elements per band and the A270-10S provides five for solid point-to-point performance. They're both pre-tuned and assembly is a snap using the fully illustrated manual.

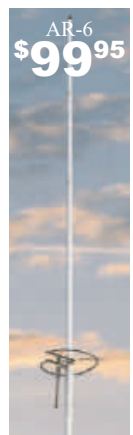


A270-6S  
**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

### Cushcraft Famous Ringos Compact FM Verticals



AR-2  
**\$64<sup>95</sup>**



AR-6  
**\$99<sup>95</sup>**



AR-10  
**\$109<sup>95</sup>**

WIBX's famous Ringo antenna has been around for a long time and remains unbeaten for solid reliability. The Ringo is broad-banded, lightning protected, extremely rugged, economical, electrically bullet-proof, low-angle, and more -- but mainly, it just plain works! To discover why hams and commercial two-way installers around the world still love this antenna, order yours now!

**Free Cushcraft Catalog**  
and Nearest Dealer . . . 662-323-5803  
Call your dealer for your best price!

## Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas

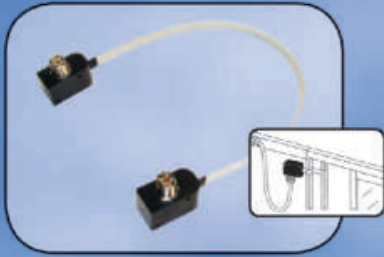
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# Life is a *JOURNEY.* Enjoy the ride!




**NEW! COMET CTC-50M  
Window Gap Adapter!**

Max Power: HF 100W PEP  
VHF: 60W FM  
UHF: 40W FM  
900MHz - 1.3GHz: 10W  
VSWR: <500MHz 1.3:1  
>500MHz 1.5:1  
Impedance: 50Ohm  
Length: 15.75"  
Conn: 24k Gold Plated SO-239s

**MALDOL HVU-8  
Ultra-Compact 8 Band Antenna!**

Unique ground radial system rotates 180 degrees around the base if building side mounting is required.

Max Power: HF 200W SSB/100W FM	
6M - 70cm: 150W FM	
TX: 80/40/20/15/10/6/2M/70cm	
Impedance: 50 Ohm	
Length: 8'6" approx	
Weight: 5lbs 7oz	
Conn: SO-239	
Max Wind Speed: 92MPH	

Each band tunes independently.  
Approx 2:1 band-width:  
80M 22kHz  
40M 52kHz  
20M 52kHz  
15M 134kHz  
10M 260kHz

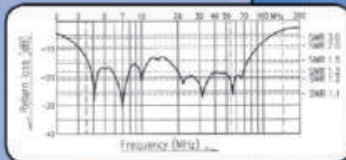
**COMET CHA-250B  
Broadband HF Vertical!**

3.5 - 57MHz with SWR of 1.6:1 or less!

- NO ANTENNA TUNER NEEDED
- NO RADIALS
- NO TRAPS
- NO COILS

If you suffer in an antenna restricted area, must manage with space restrictions or you simply want to operate incognito you will be forced to make significant antenna compromises. The CHA-250B makes the most of the situation, making operating HF easy!!

Max Power: 250W SSB/125W FM  
TX: 3.5- 57MHz  
RX: 2.0- 90MHz  
Impedance: 50Ohm  
Length: 23'5"  
Weight: 7lbs 1 oz  
Conn: SO-239  
Max Wind Speed: 67MPH



H-422 "V" Shape



CBL-2500  
2.5kW Balun

H-422 Horizontal



**NEW! COMET H-422  
40/20/15/10M compact,  
broadband, rotatable dipole!**

Assemble in either a "V or horizontal ("H") configuration. CBL-2500 2.5kW balun and heavy duty hardware included.

Max Power: 1000W SSB / 500W FM  
SWR: Less than 1.5:1 at center frequency  
Rotation Radius: "V" 12' 6" "H" 17' 5"  
Length: "V" 24' 5" "H" 33' 10"  
Weight: 11 lbs 14 ozs  
Wind load: 3.01 sq feet  
Max Wind Speed: 67 MPH



**For a complete catalog, call or visit your local dealer.**

Or contact NCG Company. 15036 Sierra Bonita Lane, Chino, CA 91710  
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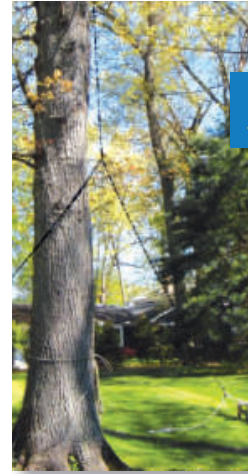
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ARRL Executive Committee okays filing system symbol rate.



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Ryan Holm, OZ8RH, of Holstebro, Denmark, is settled in for winter underneath this impressive antenna farm that includes a Comet GP-1 for 144 and 430 MHz, a Tonna five-element Yagi for 50 MHz, a Fritzel UFB 22 for 18 and 24 MHz, an Optibeam OB1-40 rotating dipole for 7 MHz, and a Fritzel FB 53, five-element Yagi for 14, 21, and 28 MHz.



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# Field Gear That Goes The Distance!



## FT-897D

HF/VHF/UHF Portable Operation Powerful Transceiver

- The Ultimate Emergency Communications Radio
- Rugged, Innovative Multi-Band
- Operates on the SSB, CW, AM, FM, and Digital Modes
- Wide Frequency Coverage
- 20-Watt Portable Operation Using Internal Batteries
- 100 Watts When Using an External 13.8-Volt DC Power Source



## FT-857D

The World's Smallest HF/VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver

- Ultra-Compact Package
- Ideal for Mobile or External Battery Portable Work
- Wide Frequency Coverage
- Optional Remote-Head
- High-Performance Mobile Operation

## FT-817ND

The Ultimate Backpack, Multi-Mode Portable Transceiver

- Self-Contained
- Battery-Powered
- Covering the HF, VHF, and UHF Bands
- Provides up to Five Watts of Power Output
- SSB, CW, AM, FM, Packet, or SSB-based Digital Modes like PSK31



## FT-450D

HF/50 MHz 100 W Easy to Operate All Mode Transceiver

- Illuminated Key Buttons
- 300Hz / 500Hz / 2.4 kHz CW IF Filter
- Foot Stand
- Classically Designed Main Dial and Knobs
- Dynamic Microphone MH-31 A8J Included



# YAESU

The radio

YAESU USA

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<http://www.yaesu.com>



# Heavy-Duty FM Dual Band Mobile with Exceptionally Wide Receiver Coverage\*

\*108 to 520 MHz/ 700 to 999.99 MHz (Cellular blocked)



**NEW**

50 W 2 m/70 cm\* DUAL BAND FM TRANSCEIVER  
\*70 cm 45 W  
**FT-7900R**  
Size: 5.5" (W) x 1.6" (H) x 6.6" (D) / Weight: 2.2 lb

2 m/70 cm  
DUAL BAND

## Best Selling, Reliable Mobile

**55 WATTS**



**NEW**

ULTRA RUGGED 55 W 2 m FM TRANSCEIVER  
**FT-1900R**  
Size: 5.5" (W) x 1.6" (H) x 5.8" (D) / Weight: 2.2 lb

2 m  
MONO BAND

## Commercial Grade Field Radio Submersible Construction

2 m  
MONO BAND

HEAVY-DUTY 75 W 2 m FM TRANSCEIVER  
**FT-2900R**  
Size: 6.3" (W) x 2.0" (H) x 7.3" (D) / Weight: 4.0 lb

**NEW**

## Compact Field Radio with Top Mounted LCD and Loud Audio



ULTRA-COMPACT 5 W 2 m FM HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER  
**FT-250R**  
Size: 2.3" (W) x 4.3" (H) x 1.0" (D) / Weight: 12.4 oz.

2 m  
MONO BAND

**NEW**

COMPACT 5 W 2 m FM HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER  
**FT-270R**  
Size: 2.4" (W) x 4.7" (H) x 1.3" (D) Weight: 13.8 oz.

2 m  
MONO BAND

**NEW**



## The King of Mobile

**75 WATTS**



# YAESU

The radio  
YAESU USA

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Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 827-7600

For the latest Yaesu news, visit us on the Internet:  
<http://www.yaesu.com>

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The radio... **YAESU**

# HF/50 MHz 100 W Transceiver **FTDX 3000**

New Crystal Roofing Filters provide ultimate weak signal receiver performance in crowded, strong signal environments



Join Us in Paradise!  
ARRL Puerto Rico  
State Convention  
January 24-26, 2014  
[www.arrlpr.org](http://www.arrlpr.org)



## The amazing Crystal Roofing Filter performance

The Down conversion 9 MHz 1st IF frequency receiver construction, can realize narrow 300 Hz (optional), 600 Hz and 3 kHz bandwidth roofing filters.

## Outstanding receiver performance, the heritage of the FTDX 5000!

The high dynamic range IP3 performance that was realized and proven in the FTDX5000.

## IF DSP provides effective and optimized QRM rejection

## Independent Frequency display

The newly developed LCD has a wider viewing angle and higher contrast.

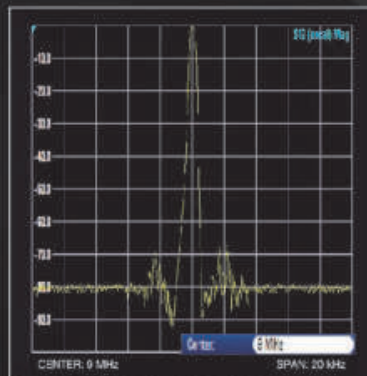
## 4.3-inch Large and wide color LCD display with high resolution

## High Speed Spectrum Scope built-in

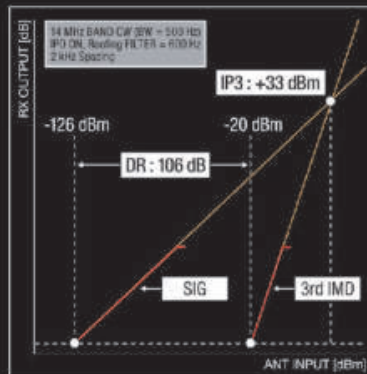
## AF SCOPE display and RTTY/PSK encoder/decoder

## Other features

The specialized Receiver amplifier for 50 MHz is built in / Three antenna connectors are provided / The "ANT-3" terminal may be assigned to "RX-only" / Signal output for an external receiver and the 9 MHz IF output are furnished / High speed Automatic antenna tuner built in / Optional  $\mu$ -tune unit available / USB interface equipped



Characteristics of the Crystal Roofing Filter (600Hz)



3rd Order Dynamic Range / IP3 (2MHz Spacing)

**YAESU**  
The radio

YAESU USA  
6125 Phyllis Drive, Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 827-7600

For latest Yaesu news, visit us on the Internet:  
<http://www.yaesu.com>

Specifications subject to change without notice. Some accessories and/or options may be standard in certain areas. Frequency coverage may differ in some countries. Check with your local Yaesu Dealer for specific details.



**David Sumner, K1ZZ — dsumner@arrrl.org**  
**ARRL Chief Executive Officer**

# Taking Stock

*“How are Amateur Radio and the ARRL doing? It seems timely to address that question in this, the last issue of QST before the start of the ARRL’s Centennial Year.”*

As these words are being composed, the 10 meter band is alive with huge signals from distant corners of the globe. Outside, the New England foliage is in its finest autumn raiment. But the leaves are falling, the days are growing shorter, and the holiday season is drawing near. In just a few weeks we will begin the celebration of the Centennial of the ARRL. But before we cross the threshold into a new year and our second century, let’s pause to take stock of our avocation and its national association.

Amateur Radio is healthy. Here in the United States the total number of FCC-licensed radio amateurs stands at about 715,000 and continues to grow slowly as we welcome more than enough newcomers to offset expiring licenses and Silent Keys. By the end of 2013 we expect the number of new licensees to exceed 28,000 for the year, the largest “freshman class” since 2009.

More important than raw figures are the signs that activity is also on the upswing. The great propagation on the higher HF bands will not last forever, but that’s just a part of the picture. Developments in software defined radio (SDR) and digital voice technologies are creating whole new fields of experimentation and application. Inexpensive microcontroller platforms such as Arduino and simple computers such as Raspberry Pi offer endless opportunities for creative problem-solving. The continued relevance of Amateur Radio in public service and emergency communications is demonstrated all too frequently, as in Colorado during its widespread wildfires and severe flooding earlier this year.

As the pages of *QST* document every month, radio amateurs are seeking and meeting new challenges: launching high altitude balloons, backpacking their portable gear into the wild, conquering the upper microwave bands, or just squeezing another decibel or two out of an antenna. If you’ve become bored with Amateur Radio, you’re not paying attention; there’s always something new to try, always more to learn.

The ARRL is healthy, too. In 2013 we have seen our seventh straight year of membership growth. Members are the most important ingredient in our success, particularly when they become active volunteers. Thanks to our loyal advertisers and the members who purchase their products, the *QST* page count is envied by other association publishers — and we are proud that members can now access the Digital Edition of *QST* with even more content and at no additional cost. The *ARRL Handbook*, always a standard-setter and the flagship in our library of publications, has raised the bar even higher with the 2014 Centennial Edition. The Second Century Campaign, described on this page in the June 2013 issue, is off to an excellent start and is approaching the \$6 million mark toward the goal of increasing the ARRL Endowment by \$10 million.

There will be much to celebrate next year. It is rare for any association to reach its Centennial Year, much less with its founding

vision intact and such a bright future ahead. The ARRL is one of these. Yet, we cannot let our pride blind us to the challenges we face.

Largely because of our continuing role in emergency and disaster communications — our ability to bridge gaps in communications infrastructure and to communicate without having to rely on any infrastructure at all — Amateur Radio in the United States is in the public eye and mind. This has helped offset some of the effect of instant communication via mobile phones and the Internet increasingly being taken for granted, but that is not necessarily true in other countries; many of our sister societies in the International Amateur Radio Union are struggling to retain and attract members. Radio signals do not respect borders; for Amateur Radio to flourish here we must have strong partners throughout the world.

Nor are we immune to demographics. A very large proportion of ARRL members are so-called Baby Boomers, born in the years after World War II. That generation is moving into retirement and eventually will diminish and disappear, as have the preceding generations. We can be certain that Amateur Radio will continue to exist as long as there is a strong organization representing its interests, but there can be no doubt that it will change as newer, younger radio amateurs take the reins.

Those of us who are now active owe the enrichment that Amateur Radio has brought to our lives to those who came before us. Whether or not the previous generations of radio amateurs intended to do so, they developed traditions, social frameworks, and activities that made Amateur Radio what it was when each of us discovered it. For whatever reason, we became attracted to what they had built and made it a part of ourselves, in turn adding to their legacy with our own creations and achievements.

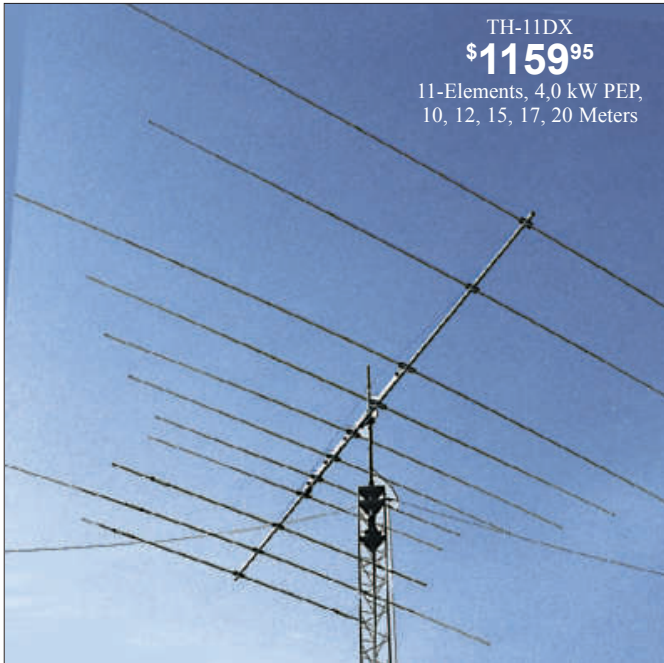
Hiram Percy Maxim and many others laid the foundation for what we now enjoy as Amateur Radio. We have built upon that foundation. We have succeeded in protecting and expanding the operating privileges that they bequeathed to us and have developed radio communications capabilities that even Mr. Maxim’s powerful intellect could not have led him to imagine.

As the ARRL enters its Centennial Year we can say with confidence that with a strong ARRL, the next generation will be able to do the same.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Sumner, K1ZZ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# hy-gain. HF BEAMS...

... are stronger, lighter, have less wind surface and last years longer. Why? Hy-Gain uses durable **tooled** components -- massive boom-to-mast bracket, heavy gauge element-to-boom clamps, thick-wall swaged tubing -- virtually no failures!



TH-11DX  
\$1159<sup>95</sup>

11-Elements, 4.0 kW PEP,  
10, 12, 15, 17, 20 Meters

## TH-11DX, \$1159.95. 11-element, 4.0 kW PEP, 10,12,15,17,20M

The choice of top DXers. With 11-elements, excellent gain and 5-bands, the super rugged TH-11DX is the "Big Daddy" of all HF beams!

Handles 2000 Watts continuous, 4000 Watts PEP.

Every part is selected for durability and ruggedness for years of trouble-free service.

## TH-7DX, \$869.95. 7-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

7-Elements gives you the highest average gain of any Hy-Gain tri-bander!

Dual driven for broadband operation without compromising gain. SWR less than 2:1 on all bands.

Uniquely combining monoband

Features a low loss log-periodic driven array on all bands with monoband reflectors, BN-4000 high power balun, corrosion resistant wire boom support, hot dipped galvanized and stainless steel parts.

Stainless steel hardware and clamps are used on all electrical connections.

and trapped parasitic elements give you an excellent F/B ratio.

Includes Hy-Gain's diecast aluminum, rugged boom-to-mast clamp, heavy gauge element-to-boom brackets, BN-86 balun. For high power, upgrade to BN-4000.

## TH-5MK2, \$759.95. 5-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

The broadband five element TH5-MK2 gives you outstanding gain.

Separate air dielectric Hy-Q traps let you adjust for maxi-

## TH-3MK4, \$469.95. 3-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

The super popular TH-3MK4 gives you the most gain for your money in a full-power, full-size durable Hy-Gain tri-bander!

You get an impressive average gain and a whopping average front-to-back ratio. Handles a full 1500 Watts PEP. 95 MPH wind survival.

Fits on average size lot with

## TH-2MK3, \$369.95. 2-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

The 2-element TH-2MK3 is Hy-Gain's most economical full power (1.5kW PEP) full size tri-bander.

For just \$339.95 you can greatly increase your effective radiated power and hear far better!

## EXP-14, \$599.95. 4-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

Revolutionary 4-element compact tri-bander lets you add 40 or 30 Meters! Has 14 foot boom and tight 17.25 feet turning radius. Fits on roof tri-pod, mast or medium duty tower.

Hy-Gain's patented broadbanding Para Sleeve gives you

mum F/B ratio on each band.

Also standard is Hy-Gain's exclusive BetaMATCH™, stainless steel hardware and compression clamps and BN-86 balun.

room to spare -- turning radius is just 15.3 feet. Four piece boom is ideal for DXpeditions. Rotates with CD-45II or HAM-IV rotator.

Features Hy-Gain BetaMatch™ for DC ground, full power Hy-Q™ traps, rugged boom-to-mast bracket and mounts on standard 2" O.D. mast. Stainless steel hardware. BN-86 balun recommended.

Ruggedly constructed, top-performing, compact 6 foot boom, tight 14.3 foot turning radius. Installs almost anywhere. Rotate with CD-45II or HAM-IV. BN-86 balun recommended.

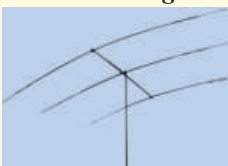
less than 2:1 VSWR. 1.5kW PEP.

BetaMATCH™ provides DC ground to eliminate static. Includes BN-86 balun. Easily assembled.

Truly competitive against giant tri-banders at half the cost!

QK-710, \$179.95. 30/40 Meter option kit for EXP-14.

## Compact 3-element 10, 15, 20 Meter Tri-Bander For limited space ... Installs anywhere ... 14.75 ft turning radius ... weighs 21 lbs ... Rotate with CD-45II, HAM-IV



Fits on light tower, suitable guyed TV pole, roof tri-pod

TH-3JRS, \$359.95. Hy-Gain's most popular 3-element 10, 15, 20 Meter tri-bander fits on most lots! Same top performance as the full power TH3MK4 in a compact 600 watt PEP design.

Excellent gain and F/B ratio let you compete with the "big guns".

Tooled manufacturing gives you Hy-Gain durability with 80 MPH wind survival.

Model No.	No. of elements	avg gain dBd	avg F/B dB	MaxPwr watts PEP	Bands Covered	Wind sq.ft. area	Wind (mph) Survival	boom feet	Longest Elem. (ft)	Turning radius(ft)	Weight (lbs.)	Mast dia O.D.(in.)	Recom. Rotator	Sugg. Retail
TH-11DX	11	<b>For Gain and F/B ratio--See...</b>		4000	10,12,15,17,20	12.5	100	24	37	22	88	1.9-2.5	T2X	\$1159.95
TH-7DX	7			1500	10, 15, 20	9.4	100	24	31	20	75	1.5-2.5	HAM-IV	\$869.95
TH-5MK2	5	• www.hy-gain.com • Hy-Gain catalog • Call toll-free		1500	10, 15, 20	7.4	100	19	31.5	18.42	57	1.5-2.5	HAM-IV	\$759.95
TH-3MK4	3			1500	10, 15, 20	4.6	95	14	27.42	15.33	35	1.9-2.5	CD-45II	\$469.95
TH-3JRS	3	800-973-6572		600	10, 15, 20	3.35	80	12	27.25	14.75	21	1.25-2.0	CD-45II	\$359.95
TH-2MK3	2			1500	10, 15, 20	3.25	80	6	27.3	14.25	20	1.9-2.5	CD-45II	\$369.95
EXP-14	4			1500	10,15,20 <sup>95%</sup> <sub>1040</sub>	7.5	100	14	31.5	17.25	45	1.9-2.5	HAM IV	\$599.95

## Tooled Manufacturing ... Highest Quality Materials

1. Hy-Gain's famous super strong tooled die cast Boom-to-Mast Clamp



2. Tooled Boom-to-Element Clamp



3. Thick-wall swaged aluminum tubing



Tooled manufacturing is the difference between Hy-Gain antennas and the others -- they just don't have it (it's expensive!).

Die-cast aluminum boom-to-mast bracket and element-to-boom compression clamps are made with specially tooled machinery.

Hy-Gain antennas feature tooled swaged tubing that is easily and securely clamped in place. All tubing is deburred and cleaned for smooth and easy assembly.

Durable precision injection molded parts.

Hy-Gain antennas are stronger, lighter, have less wind surface area, better wind survival, need no adjustments, look professional and last years longer.

Free Hy-Gain Catalog and Nearest Dealer ... 800-973-6572 Call your dealer for your best price!

# hy-gain.

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(800)221-7735

## Customer Appreciation Day

Saturday December 14, 2013, 10AM – 4PM

Manufacturers scheduled to attend this year:

**Ameritron, Cushcraft, Heil, Hygain, Icom,  
 Jetstream, Kenwood, MFJ, Mirage,  
 Vectronics and Yaesu.**

**Presentations, Prizes, Special Pricing**  
*Must be present to enter prize drawing*

**Take Your Ham Radio Test**  
**7:30 AM FREE testing!**

**W5KUB will be doing live streaming video in our store on December 14.  
 Go to [www.w5kub.com](http://www.w5kub.com) for more details**

Visit our website for **DAILY SPECIALS**  
[www.randl.com](http://www.randl.com)



JTPS31MA/B

### Popular Jetstream Power Supplies

<b>JTPS14M</b>	14 amp power supply w/meters and adjustable voltage	<b>49.95</b>
<b>JTPS28</b>	28 amp power supply w/lighter plug	<b>84.95</b>
<b>JTPS31MA</b>	30 amp power supply w/meter and Anderson Connector	<b>94.95</b>
<b>JTPS31MB</b>	30 amp power supply w/meter	<b>89.95</b>
<b>JTPS35BCMA</b>	35 amp power supply w/battery backup	<b>139.95</b>

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### FTDX3000D



Yaesu is pleased to announce the introduction of our FT-DX3000D 100W HF/50MHz Transceiver - the new Leader in the mid-price range of HF/50MHz radios. Continuing the proud Yaesu "FT DX" Legacy of Excellence established decades ago, the FT-DX3000D brings forward critical design concept advancements created for the FT-DX5000 and FT-DX9000. Yaesu's proved IF DSP package of features for effective and optimized QRM rejection make the FT-DX3000D a pleasure to use even on a crowded band.

<b>DVS6</b> Digital Voice Memory Unit .....	<b>65.95</b>
<b>FC40</b> Auto Tuner for Long Wires .....	<b>304.95</b>
<b>MD100A8X</b> Desk Top Mic .....	<b>149.95</b>
<b>MD200A8X</b> Desk Top Mic .....	<b>389.95</b>
<b>SP2000</b> Ext Spkr w/Audio Filters.....	<b>198.95</b>
<b>XF127CN</b> 300Hz CW Filter.....	<b>199.95</b>

### FT1900R



The ruggedly built yet compact new FT1900R 2m transceiver brings you Yaesu's legendary mechanical toughness along with outstanding receiver performance and 55 watts with crisp, clean audio that will get your message through!

<b>JTPS14M</b> Jetstream Power Supply .....	<b>49.95</b>
<b>MLS100</b> External Speaker .....	<b>47.95</b>
<b>MX2</b> Hustler 2m Mag Mount.....	<b>32.95</b>

### FT7900R



Yaesu's economically priced One-Touch Operation FT-7900R Dual band FM mobile. Back-lit push button controls ensure extraordinarily easy and safe operation while driving at night. The exceptionally wide receiver coverage provides all sorts of additional uses!

<b>ADMS2K</b> Programming software and cable...	<b>39.95</b>
<b>MEK2</b> Microphone Extension Kit.....	<b>47.95</b>
<b>JTPS14M</b> Jetstream Power Supply .....	<b>49.95</b>
<b>MLS100</b> External Speaker.....	<b>47.95</b>
<b>MMB60</b> Quick Release Mobile Bracket .....	<b>37.95</b>
<b>YSK7800</b> Separation Kit .....	<b>39.95</b>

### FTDX1200



This medium-price HF Transceiver Excels on all fronts. The High Frequency Design Technology it has inherited, ensures "Best-in Class Performance". The Outstanding Operability is Perfect for the DX Scene. Superior triple conversion receiver, and optimum gain distribution at each IF stage will eliminate out of band unwanted signals.

<b>DVS6</b> Digital Voice Memory Unit .....	<b>65.95</b>
<b>FC40</b> Auto Tuner for Long Wires .....	<b>304.95</b>
<b>FH2</b> Remote Keypad.....	<b>95.95</b>
<b>MD100A8X</b> Desk Top Mic .....	<b>149.95</b>
<b>MD200A8X</b> Desk Top Mic .....	<b>389.95</b>
<b>SCU17</b> USB Interface Unit.....	<b>169.95</b>
<b>SP2000</b> Ext Spkr w/Audio Filters.....	<b>198.95</b>

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Includes



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### Membership options (circle your choice/s)

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years	
Regular	\$39	\$76	\$111	Monthly QST via standard mail for US members
Canada	\$49	\$93	\$132	Monthly QST via standard mail for Canadian members
International QST	\$62	\$118	\$167	Monthly QST via air mail for international members
International – no printed QST	\$39	\$76	\$111	Digital QST only
Family	\$8	\$16	\$24	Reside at the same address as the primary member, no additional QST. Membership dates must correspond with primary member.

Membership includes \$15 per year for subscription to QST. Dues subject to change without notice and are nonrefundable.

Blind and youth rates are available. Contact ARRL for more details.

Additional membership options available online at [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join).

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### Payment Options

- Visa  MasterCard  Amex  Discover  Check Enclosed

Total enclosed payable to ARRL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I do not want my name and address made available for non-ARRL related mailings.

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## Inside HQ

Harold Kramer, WJ1B – [hkramer@arrrl.org](mailto:hkramer@arrrl.org), ARRL Chief Operating Officer/QST Publisher

# The Digital QST Android App and Other Digital Publishing Updates

Starting with this issue, we are publishing a dedicated Android app for Digital QST. Android is the operating system Google developed for touch screen mobile devices. This should make many of our members happy because, in the US smartphone market, Android has a 53% market share and iOS (Apple) has a 40% market share, according to Nielsen, an information and measurement company ([www.nielsen.com/content/corporate/us/en.html](http://www.nielsen.com/content/corporate/us/en.html)).

Until now, members with Android devices used their mobile browsers to read Digital QST on the Android platform. This new Android app is available to members who use Android devices, such as smartphones and tablets, and it will be available to download through Google Play. It is compatible with Android based devices using operating systems Gingerbread (2.3), Ice Cream Sandwich (4.0), Jelly Bean (4.1), and later.

Each month, about 60% of readers of the digital edition of QST view it on a web browser, 40% on the iOS app, and about 8% on other mobile platforms. (The numbers exceed 100% because some members view it on more than one platform.) A typical issue of Digital QST is saved over 6,000 times and viewed by about 25,000 members.

While Digital QST currently looks fine on an Android browser, the new, dedicated Android app will permit members to download QST to their device for reading offline. We have also added an enhancement that will allow members to quickly search all archived issues of Digital QST using a dedicated search function. As an added feature, similar to the iOS app, we have archived all QST back issues (starting with January 2012) to the Android archive. For more information about the new QST Android app, please visit the Digital QST FAQ page [www.arrrl.org/digital-QST-faq](http://www.arrrl.org/digital-QST-faq).

### Our Digital Future

We now publish three different versions of digital QST each month: a browser based version, an iOS app, and an Android app. Along with these three, there will be other digital publishing platforms that we will need to consider in the future. Today, the digital version of QST that we publish are “replica editions,” because they substantially match the look and format of the print version. Our publishing partner, Nxtbook Media, projects that in a few years, we will be migrating to a single version of Digital QST that will be published on an advanced HTML platform. This edition will be compatible across all devices and operating systems. However, at that time, the digital edition of QST will need to be completely redesigned to accommodate the format and it will look and act differently than the print version.

### The League on Facebook

While we are on the topic of digital publications, you may not be aware that the ARRL has its own Facebook page.



The page is appropriately named “ARRL — The National Association for Amateur Radio” ([www.facebook.com/ARRL.org](http://www.facebook.com/ARRL.org)). The ARRL posts all of its news stories on the Facebook page as soon as they are published on our website. There are currently about 33,000 “Friends” who have “Liked” the page. If you are a Facebook user, please give it a look and “Like” it yourself. There are always a number of interesting and ongoing discussions!

### A New Outlet for The ARRL Letter

We have also begun publishing *The ARRL Letter* on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com). Thanks to [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) owner, Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, for making this arrangement possible. *The ARRL Letter* is available as a direct e-mail to all ARRL members at no charge. To sign up for the *Letter*, go to your Profile Page on the ARRL website and follow the link to Edit E-mail Subscriptions. The directly e-mailed version contains some additional content that, for technical reasons, cannot be added to the QRZ version.

The world of publishing has changed considerably in the last 5 years and it continues to evolve. Our goal is to provide our members with the best possible reading and viewing experiences regardless of whether we use print, digital, or other formats.

## ARRL Member Services



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### Membership Benefits

Your ARRL membership includes *QST* magazine, plus dozens of other services and resources to help you **Get Started**, **Get Involved** and **Get on the Air**. ARRL members enjoy Amateur Radio to the fullest!

#### Members-Only Web Services

Create an online ARRL Member Profile, and get access to ARRL members-only Web services. Visit [www.arrl.org/myARRL](http://www.arrl.org/myARRL) to register.

- **QST Digital Edition** – [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst)  
All ARRL members can access the online digital edition of *QST*. Enjoy enhanced content, convenient access and a more interactive experience. An app for iOS devices is also available.
- **QST Archive and Periodicals Search** – [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst)  
Browse ARRL's extensive online *QST* archive. A searchable index for *QEX* and *NCJ* is also available.
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- **E-Mail Forwarding Service**  
E-mail sent to your [arrl.net](mailto:arrl.net) address will be forwarded to any e-mail account you specify.
- **Customized ARRL.org home page**  
Customize your home page to see local ham radio events, clubs and news.
- **ARRL Member Directory**  
Connect with other ARRL members via a searchable online Member Directory. Share profiles, photos and more with members who have similar interests.

#### ARRL Technical Information Service — [www.arrl.org/tis](http://www.arrl.org/tis)

Get answers on a variety of technical and operating topics through ARRL's Technical Information Service. ARRL Lab experts and technical volunteers can help you overcome hurdles and answer all your questions.

#### ARRL as an Advocate — [www.arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy](http://www.arrl.org/regulatory-advocacy)

ARRL supports legislation and regulatory measures that preserve and protect access to Amateur Radio Service frequencies. Members may contact the **ARRL Regulatory Information Branch** for information on FCC rules; problems with antenna, tower and zoning restrictions, and reciprocal licensing procedures for international travelers.

#### ARRL Group Benefit Programs\* — [www.arrl.org/benefits](http://www.arrl.org/benefits)

- **ARRL "Special Risk" Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan**  
Insurance is available to protect you from loss or damage to your station, antennas and mobile equipment by lightning, theft, accident, fire, flood, tornado, and other natural disasters.
- **The ARRL Visa Signature® Card**  
Every purchase supports ARRL programs and services.
- **MetLife® Auto, Home, Renters, Boaters, Fire Insurance and Banking Products**  
ARRL members may qualify for up to a 10% discount on home or auto insurance.

\* ARRL Group Benefit Programs are offered by third parties through contractual arrangements with ARRL. The programs and coverage are available in the US only. Other restrictions may apply.

### The American Radio Relay League, Inc.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is a noncommercial association of radio amateurs, organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment of networks to provide communication in the event of disasters or other emergencies, for the advancement of the radio art and of the public welfare, for the representation of the radio amateur in legislative matters, and for the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

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Radio Clubs (ARRL-affiliated clubs) — [www.arrl.org/clubs](http://www.arrl.org/clubs)  
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#### Quick Links and Resources

*QST* — ARRL members' journal — [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst)  
*QEX* — *A Forum for Communications Experimenters* — [www.arrl.org/qex](http://www.arrl.org/qex)  
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ALS-600 Amp with Switching Power Supply New! ALS-600S, \$1599. ALS-600 amplifier with 10 lb. ALS-600SPS switching power supply combo.



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From QST Magazine, March, 2005

"... the amplifier faulted only when it was supposed to. It protected itself from our boneheaded, sleep-deprived band changing manuevers..."

"I found myself not worrying about damaging this amplifier. It seems quite capable of looking out for itself... Kudos to Ameritron."

"I couldn't hear any noise at all from the SPS (switching power supply) on the vertical or quad..."

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"The ALS-600S makes it possible to pack a transceiver and a 600 Watt amplifier, that together weigh less than 30 pounds."

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New ALS-500RC, \$49 Remote Head lets you mount ALS-500M

amplifier anywhere and gives you full control. Select desired band, turn On/Off and monitor current draw on its DC Current Meter. Has power, transmit and overload LEDs. RJ-45 cables plug into Amplifier/Remote Head.

Covers 1.5-22 MHz, (10/12 Meters with \$29.95 kit, requires FCC license).

Virtually indestructible! Load Fault Protection eliminates amplifier damage due to operator error, antenna hitting tree branches, 18-wheeler passing by. Thermal Overload Protection disables/bypasses amp if temperature is excessively high. Auto resets.

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ALS-500M, \$849, 500 Watt mobile amp.

ALS-500MRC, \$929, ALS-500M/Remote Head

ALS-500RC, \$49, Remote head for ALS-500M (for serial # above 13049).

ARF-500K, \$179.95, Remote kit for ALS-500M serial # lower than 13049. Includes AL-500RC Remote Head, filter/relay board for ALS-500M, cables, hardware, instructions.

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Active circuit gives true peak/average readings on lighted cross-needle meter. 3000/300 Watt ranges, Remote sensor.

### RCS-4 Remote Coax Switch... \$159<sup>95</sup>

Use 1 coax for 4 antennas. No control cable needed. SWR <1.25, 1.5 - 60 MHz. Useable to 100 MHz.

### AWM-35 Flat Mobile SWR Wattmeter... \$159<sup>95</sup>

1 1/2" in. thin on dashboard. Remote sensor, 25' cable. True peak, Cross-Needle, 1.5 kW, 1.8-30 MHz. High-SWR LED.

### RCS-8V Remote Coax Switch... \$169<sup>95</sup>

Replace 5 coax with 1! 1.2 SWR at 250 MHz. Useable to 450 MHz. <1 dB loss, 1kW@150MHz.

### ATP-100 Tuning Pulser... \$69<sup>95</sup>

Safely tune up for full power, best linearity. Prevents overheating, tube damage, power supply stress, component failure.

### RCS-10 Remote Coax Switch... \$179<sup>95</sup>

Replace 8 coax with 1! SWR<1.3 to 60 MHz. RCS-10L, \$219.95 with lightning arrestors.

### ADL-1500 Dummy Load with oil... \$74<sup>95</sup>

Oil-cooled. 50 Ohms. 1500 Watts/5 minutes. SWR<1.2 to 30 MHz. Low SWR to 400 MHz.

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### ADL-2500 fan-cooled Dry Dummy Load, \$219<sup>95</sup>

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AL-811H, \$949. Plugs into 120 VAC outlet. All HF bands. Hi-silicon transformer, heavy duty tank coils, tuned input, operate/standby switch, Xmit LED, ALC, lighted meters, 32 lbs. 13 3/4"Wx8Hx16D in. AL-811, \$799. Like AL-811H, but three 811A, 600 W.

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## Up Front

Steve Ford, WB8IMY, [upfront@arrl.org](mailto:upfront@arrl.org)

### Special Technicians

Amateur Radio became the gateway to new adventure for two special education students at Thomas A. Edison High School in Queens, New York. The students, who overcame many personal life challenges, were able to complete their studies and earn their Technician licenses.

The exams were administered by Volunteer Examiners Mike Siegel, W2RT, and Rich Balas, W2RB, from the Broadcast Employees Amateur Radio Society (BEARS) — the Amateur Radio organization at the Walt Disney Company in New York City — and Pete Dobrow, K2IQK, from the Staten Island Amateur Radio Association (SIARA).

The students, Karl Anthony Singh, KD2DMF, and Kolsuma Begum, KD2DME, were mentored by Edison High School teacher Fred Usherson, N2EGQ. A third student, Kashaun Barnes, K2DKB, passed the Technician exam with flying colors at a SIARA VE session. Barnes was so excited about Amateur Radio, he purchased training materials to prepare for the General and Amateur Extra exams.

Singh has since gone on to earn his General license at a second Edison High VE session.



Left to right, background: Edison High School teacher Fred Usherson, N2EGQ; Rich Balas, W2RB; Pete Dobrow, K2IQK and Mike Siegel, W2RT. Foreground: students Kolsuma Begum, KD2DME, and Karl Anthony Singh, KD2DMF.

### The Meeting of the “Ns”

Roger Hentershee, N1NN (left), paid a visit last July to Dave Patton, NN1N (right), ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, and exchanged QSLs. Turns out Roger and Dave had more in common than scrambled call signs: both are former US Navy Radiomen.



### When You Need a Beer, Make It Special!

Ron Young, W8RJL, received a Kegerator for Christmas last year and, while assembling the unit, realized the tap handle needed to be customized. He pulled an 807 transmitting tube from the junk box and adapted it to become the tap handle. Ron frequently hosts Sweepstakes CW multi-op stations, so now the teams can have “cool 807s” on tap!



### Just His Luck

When Dan Baker, N4GXE, applied for a license plate several years ago, he was astonished at the result. “By the luck of the draw I ended up with this plate. I reapplied for a call sign plate after a few years, but I’m keeping this one!”



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RIGrunner 4012

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# Letters from Our Members

### Gratitude for Members of ARES

The article, "Taking the Mystery Out of ARES — The Role of the PIO," in the September 2013 issue of *QST* struck a chord. In rural Seneca County, Ohio, our local ARES chapter consists of approximately 50 members who provide emergency communication and much more. These hams go about their work quietly and without fanfare. It's no wonder few know who they are and how vital a role they play in our community.

As a volunteer with our local Emergency Management Agency, I have seen these men and women provide emergency communication, SKYWARN operations, amateur license training, special event communication, and generally just be around in times of great need to lend a hand. Their professionalism and devotion to their craft is known and recognized among our public service and EMA regulars, but is rarely seen by the public.

Like many small communities, we are understaffed and underfunded, particularly in times of wide-scale emergencies, weather events, and disasters. The ARES personnel provide all of us with a valuable service and, most important in times of great stress, peace of mind. It is an honor serving with them.

**Dean Henry, KD8RSP**  
Seneca County, Ohio

*[An article in an upcoming issue will further discuss the PIO's role on an ARES team. Keep an eye out for it. — Ed.]*

### Another Wireless Pioneer

I wish to add Irving Langmuir to the pioneers listed by Michael W. Marinaro, WN1M, in "Pioneers of Wireless," in the October 2013 issue of *QST*, as Langmuir invented the vacuum in the vacuum tube.

Lee de Forest invented the triode tube detector, but his was not a vacuum tube. As de Forest describes in his US patent 879,532, his Audion triode detector was a gas tube, and the "conducting gaseous medium" was required for operation. In the circuits in the patent, the grid circuit requires a series capacitor blocking DC current flow, so the grid DC potential could be controlled by the gas inside the tube.

Irving Langmuir invented the high-vacuum triode tube, and patented pumping out the gas. In his US patent 1,558,436, Langmuir describes how de Forest's Audion depended on gas to operate, and describes the tests

needed to ensure a good vacuum free of gas. In the circuits in the patent, there is always a DC path from grid to filament. Langmuir includes both a detector circuit and an oscillator circuit.

**Peter Traneus Anderson, KC1HR**  
Andover, Massachusetts

### Experience Doesn't Equal Etiquette

I'm writing in response to the letter titled "Dumbing Down?" in the August 2013 issue of *QST*.

This letter suggests that there is a connection between technical knowledge — knowing how to build antennas, etc — and good, courteous operating. It might help to present evidence that such a connection does exist. What percentage of the bad on-air behavior is carried out by operators who don't know code or how to build antennas, and what percentage is carried out by technically proficient Amateur Extra class operators?

Without such evidence, why does anyone have the conviction that there is in fact a connection between courteous, friendly operating, and superior technical skills? I have been licensed since 1996 and have spent most of my time as a ham in Micronesia, as KHØES and V63PD. I have never been very good at the technical side of radio, but have always appreciated the help of my friends on the air to assist in answering my questions.

I do love radio, though, and always keep trying to learn. One part of radio I care very much about is being a courteous and friendly operator. When I was one of only two V63 calls on the planet for a while, and therefore creating pileups, I insisted on giving my call on each QSO, among other things. I felt it important to strike a reasonable balance between being courteous to each operator and contacting as many as possible. I cannot just say "QRZ," and "You're 5-9," and that's it.

The few occasions on which I have encountered rude operators over the years have almost always involved those with a single letter at the end of their calls. It seems that the cause of rude behavior on the air is often not a lack of knowledge, but just the opposite. Those who have much knowledge sometimes seem to feel superior to less knowledgeable hams, and treat them accordingly. In the "Dumbing Down?" letter, for instance, the writer does not hesitate to write in an insulting way about those who send in questions to *QST*. In doing this he seems to me to

be presenting evidence that it is those with more knowledge who more often forget about the value of courtesy.

Radio is about talking to people. The technical side of it is a means to that end. I suggest that *QST* publish much more about good operating and the simple pleasure of talking on the radio. How about helping hams who know how to build antennas learn how to build courtesy and friendliness on the air? When I tell people why I love radio, I talk not about equipment, but about something like the time I talked with a hillside goat farmer in Taiwan, an architect restoring old buildings in Berlin, and a dentist in Japan — all in one evening. I discuss the fun of causing and working through a CW pileup of European operators, or hearing the 1930s radio experiences of an elderly Australian ham.

**Peter Denman, KH2VM**  
Tumon, Guam

### Hamfest and Convention Confusion

In planning trips to hamfests, I usually check the website of the particular event for information. But, I've found that while clubs list their events on the Convention and Hamfest Calendar published in *QST*, it takes them much longer to get something on their own website — or there's invalid data on the date, location, contact person, etc.

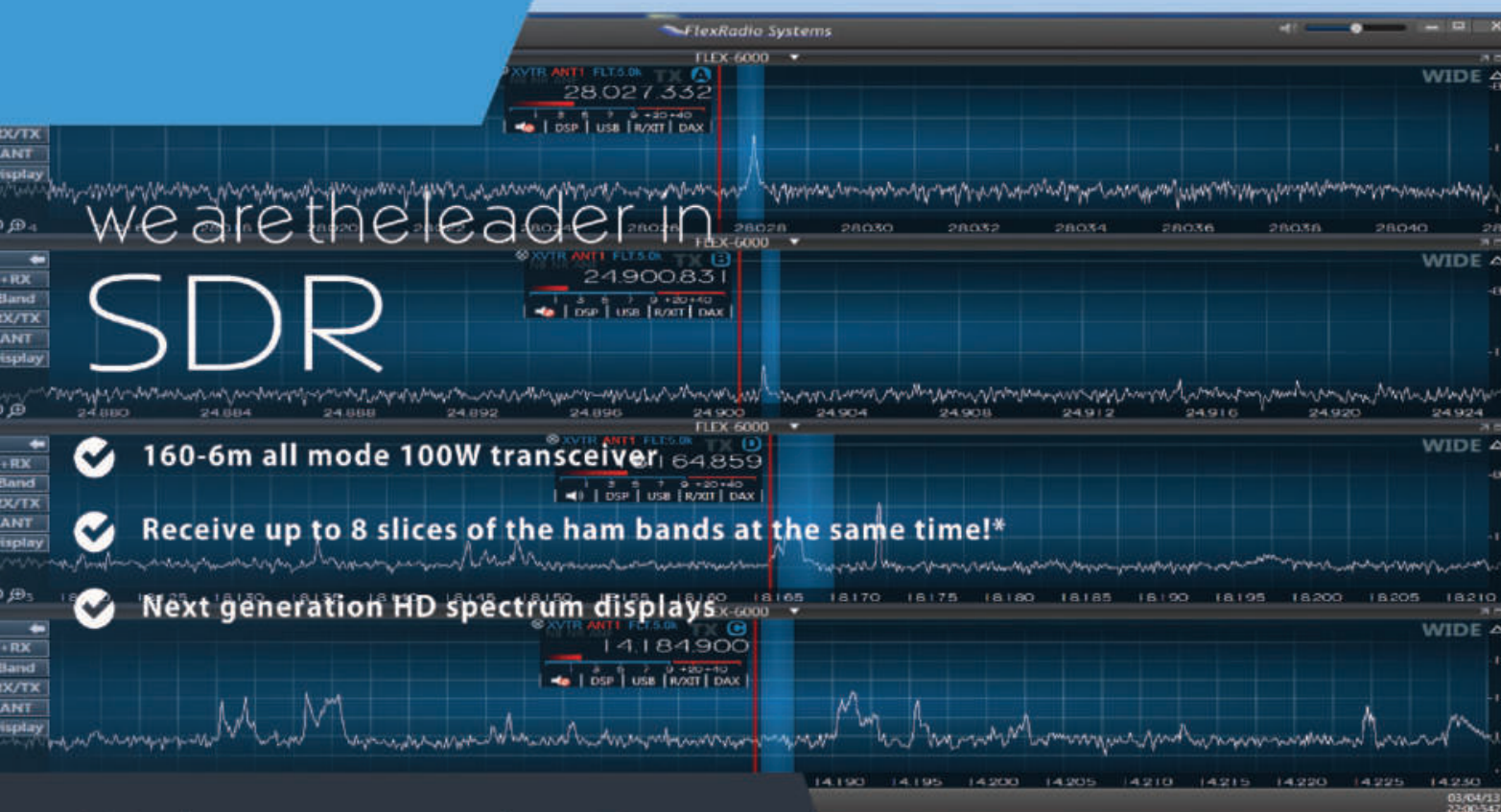
One recent event had "data sent out on an e-mail list," but hardly anything on their website. When I arrived, no one seemed to know where the events were to be held. I've noted events that didn't get website updates until less than a month beforehand.

Attendees want to know about forums, prizes, testing, lodging (if it's more than a 1 day event), transportation, etc, in advance, so they can plan their trip...or cancel trip plans should things change. There's nothing more discouraging than making a long drive to an event to find little, if anything, available...or finding out the event has been cancelled due to lack of participation, information, etc.

I know things can change at the last minute. But, if the group isn't willing to get the word out in a timely manner, all the other hamfest work (getting facilities, vendors, forums) is basically for nothing.

**Daryl Stout, WX1DER**  
ARRL Life Member  
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ADS#21713

# How Much “Punch” Can You Get from Different Modes?

**The mode you choose can make a big difference in how far you can communicate.**

## Kazimierz “Kai” Siwiak, KE4PT, and Bruce Pontius, NØADL

In chasing DXCC entities, we do everything that we can to improve the chances of logging a new one. Our chances of improving our DX score depend on how flexibly we use frequency bands and operating modes. During a recent quest for the WAS Triple Play Award, one of us (KE4PT) noticed that working the same station on CW was easier than on RTTY, and that RTTY was easier than SSB. We will compare CW, phone, RTTY, and various digital modes — and determine how far each can “talk.”

### Not all Modes Transmit Equally

We account for a complete transmission path that uses a pair of transceivers and antennas shown in Figure 1. Each receiver has a typical noise figure of about 10 dB, while the transmitters emit up to, but no more than, 100 W peak envelope power (PEP). Two factors affect the maximum range: *average transmitter power and receiver sensitivity*. For example, PSK31 (upper curve in Figure 2) emits an average of half PEP transmitting “0” bits, and full PEP during “1” bits, so the average power with an equal number of “1” and “0” bits is 75% of PEP.

A Morse code CW signal (lower curve of Figure 2) operates at full PEP during key down dits and dahs, but zero power during key up. Transmitting the standard word “PARIS\_” including the inter-word space results in 44% of PEP or 44 W average power. FM voice, on the other hand, generates the full 100 W PEP for the duration of the voice transmission.

When our equipment limits us to a certain PEP, typically 100 W for many ham transceivers, the *average transmitted power differs for different ham radio modes* according to Table 1, and this affects the performance in the radio transmission link of Figure 1.

Our own measurements for FM, CW, RTTY, PSK31, and JT65 transmitter power levels closely correspond with the Table 1 average power values. Clearly, FM voice, RTTY, PSK31, and JT65 can generate more average power than can CW, AM, or SSB voice. Signals like SSB voice can be processed to increase the average power by a few decibels — however we consider unprocessed voice here. But that is not the full story; the receiver sensitivity for each mode also plays a role, as we can see in Table 2.

### Different Modes Vary in Receiver Sensitivity

Table 2 shows receiver sensitivity both in traditional microvolts and in decibels relative to a milliwatt (dBm). The last column shows decibels compared to CW sensitivity. We gleaned the receiver sensitivities shown in Table 2 from an average performance of 30 popular ham transceivers that were measured in the ARRL Lab and reported in product reviews.<sup>1</sup> We relied on the ARRL measurements for AM and FM sensitivities, as well as minimum discernable signal (MDS) in a 500 Hz bandwidth from which we derived SSB and CW sensitivities. Although this is lab-measured data and not theory, keep in mind that “white noise” is the only impair-

<sup>1</sup>Notes appear on page 32.

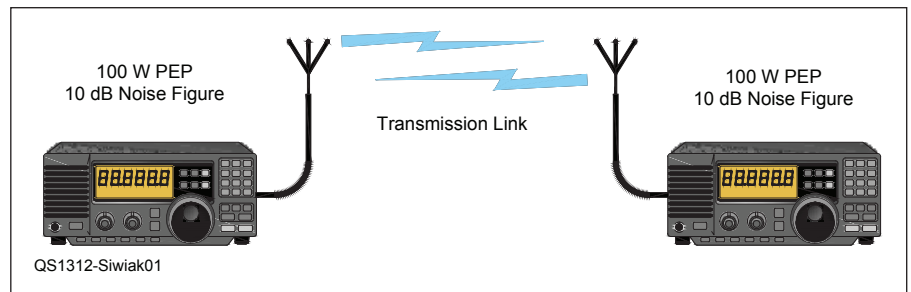


Figure 1 — A pair of transceivers and antennas form the basic radio transmission path link.

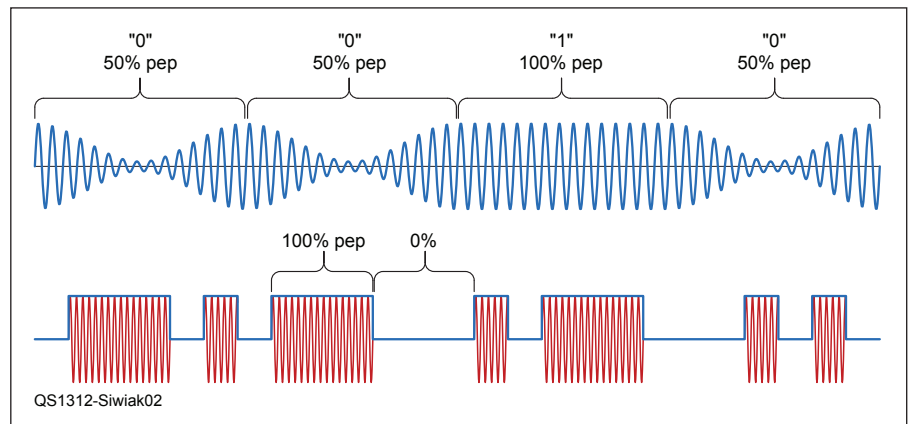


Figure 2 — PSK31 (upper curve) emits half PEP during “0” and full PEP during “1” bits, so average power with an equal number of “1” and “0” bits is 75% of PEP; CW (lower curve) emits 44% of PEP.

**Table 1**  
Average Power for  
100 W PEP Transmitter

Mode	Average Power (W)	Compared to CW (dB)
AM	25	-2.5
SSB	25	-2.5
FM	100	+3.6
RTTY	95	+3.3
CW	44	ref: 0
PSK31	75	+2.3
JT65	100	+3.5



ment in these lab measurements. The sidebar above explains what we mean by “receiver sensitivity.” Good operators might copy signals at weaker signal to noise ratios than we defined for our almost-perfect-copy measurement standard, especially when using the limited vocabulary of DXpedition exchanges. “Armchair copy” of SSB, on the other hand, may require stronger signals than our measurement standard. The sensitivities measured in the ARRL Lab are of course for the

complete receiver with the correct IF filters appropriate to each mode. Our own measurements of PSK31 and RTTY sensitivities for the entire transmitter to receiver path link of Figure 1 are shown by X symbols in Figure 3.

### The Full Transmission Link Tells the Story

We might be tempted to compare modes using just the receiver sensitivities in Table 2 and conclude, for example, that JT65 outper-

forms CW by 21.2 dB. The full transmission link, however, includes the PEP limitation of the transmitter as well as the receiver sensitivity. With a 100 PEP transmitter JT65 generates 3.5 dB more average transmitter power than does CW. So, the full advantage of JT65 over CW is 21.2 + 3.5, or 24.7 dB. Adding up the relative advantages of the modes in both Tables 1 and 2, we arrive at the Figure 3 comparison of modes. The error bars signify estimates of implementation loss variations, and the performance variations across the 30 ARRL Lab measured ham transceivers that we used for the comparisons.

### Comparing Modes in the Full Radio Path

FM compared to SSB is a surprise. Although the typical SSB receiver is more sensitive than the FM receiver by 2.5 dB, the FM radio link performance benefits from FM’s 6 dB average transmitter power advantage over SSB, netting a 2.5 dB advantage. Remember that FM was measured using a 12 dB SINAD standard and with an FM detector, while SSB sensitivity was measured at the 10 dB SNR standard using a linear detector, so audio qualities are very different at the threshold signal levels even though their pre-detection SNRs are about the same. One of us (NØADL) measured and verified FM versus SSB performance, but also noted a strong preference for the SSB audio quality over FM audio at marginal signal strengths, especially at levels below our measurement standard.

**Table 2**  
**Average Receiver Sensitivities**

Mode	Receiver Sensitivity (microvolts)	Receiver Sensitivity (dBm)	Compared to CW (dB)
AM	0.72	-109.9	-25.1
SSB	0.22	-120.3	-14.7
FM	0.29	-117.7	-17.3
RTTY	0.096	-127.3	-7.7
CW	0.040	-135.0	ref: 0
PSK31	0.023	-139.8	+7.1
JT65	0.0035	-156.2	+21.2

## What We Mean by “Receiver Sensitivity”

Consistent comparisons of receivers and modulation modes require us to apply a consistent standard definition of sensitivity. For voice modes we chose 12 dB SINAD for FM and 10 dB (S+N)/N for AM, straight out of the ARRL product reviews. For SSB we adopted 10 dB above the minimum detectable signal (MDS) measured in the SSB bandwidth, adjusted from the ARRL Lab measured MDS in a 500 Hz bandwidth. Thus, all of the measurements can be traced to ARRL Lab product review tests and test procedures.<sup>A</sup>

For CW and conversational digital modes like RTTY, and PSK31, we defined sensitivity as the signal level needed to decode a random five-character group (“PARIS\_”) with a 95% reliability. For CW that level is 9.2 dB above MDS in a 100 Hz bandwidth using theory for on-off keying. A 100 Hz bandwidth corresponds to the ERB (effective rectangular bandwidth) of the ear for a 700 Hz CW side tone frequency.<sup>B</sup> Yes, the human ear can act as the final bandwidth filter for aurally decoded CW. CW at 20-25 words per minute occupies nearly 100 Hz of spectrum.

We calculated the PSK31 sensitivity using theory for Differential PSK as 9.4 dB above the MDS in an ideal 31.25 Hz receiving bandwidth, but the necessary or occupied bandwidth is 62.5 Hz. That signal level includes an additional 2 dB for decoder implementation loss. Using 2-FSK theory we calculated that 170 Hz shift two-tone 45.45 baud Baudot RTTY modulation requires 11.9 dB signal to noise ratio to decode the 990 ms string “PARIS\_” with 95% reliability. We stated the RTTY sensitivity in a 250 Hz occupied RTTY bandwidth and then allowed 2 dB for decoder implementation loss. JT65 data are encoded with a Reed Solomon (63,12) code and use limited vocabulary messages as well as synchronized transmissions, so we relied on published measurements.<sup>C</sup> We normalized sensitivity to the 2.7 Hz effective noise bandwidth of JT65 tones.<sup>D</sup>

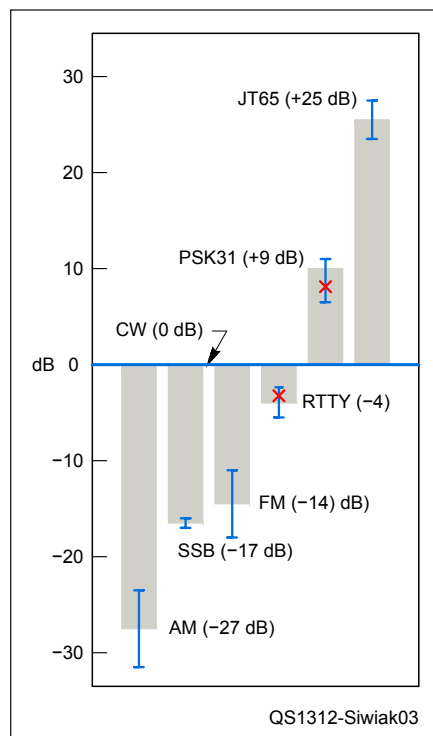
Other sensitivity standards are possible including “20 dB Quieting” level for FM. Different standards result in different audio quality. Short CW exchanges such as with a DXpedition station are not “random groups.” They use a very limited vocabulary that often may be copied at much weaker signal to noise ratios than our 9.2 dB standard. Our measurements are in “Additive White Gaussian Noise” (AWGN). Measurements in different noise conditions can alter the results dramatically and differently for each modulation.

<sup>A</sup>ARRL Lab Test Procedures Manual, [www.arrrl.org/how-equipment-is-tested](http://www.arrrl.org/how-equipment-is-tested).

<sup>B</sup>The effective rectangular bandwidth (ERB) of the ear is  $(0.108F + 24.7)$  Hz,  $F$  is the center frequency in Hz: B. C. J. Moore and B. R. Glasberg, “A revision of Zwicker’s loudness model,” *Acta Acustica*, vol. 82, pp 335-345, 1996.

<sup>C</sup>J. Taylor, K1JT, and B. Walker, W1BW, “WSPRing Around the World,” *QST*, Nov 2010 pp 30-32.

<sup>D</sup>S. Ford, WB8IMY, “JT65 – The ‘Musical’ Mode,” *QST*, Apr 2011, p 45.



**Figure 3** – Comparison of ham radio modes relative to CW.

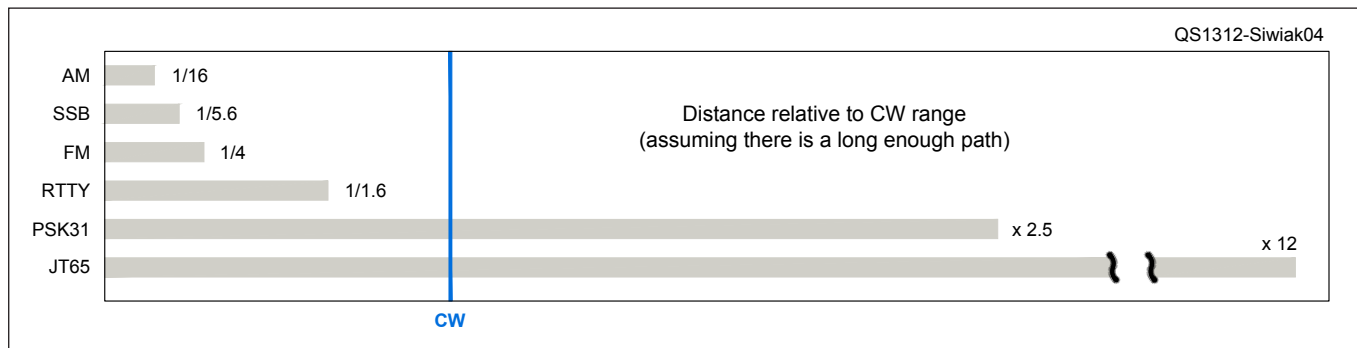


Figure 4 – Relative range of different modes for a radio path link.

**Table 3**  
**Occupied Bandwidth and Noise Bandwidth**

Mode	Noise Bandwidth (Hz)	Occupied Bandwidth (Hz)	Emission Designator
AM	6000	6000	6K00 A3E
SSB	2456	2500	2K50 J3E
FM	12,500	12,500	12K5 F3E
RTTY	180	250	250H F1B
CW	100	100	100H A1A
PSK31	31.25	62.5	62H5 G1B
JT65	2.692	175	175H F7B

The full spread of performance from AM to JT65 (remember, this is in a white noise environment) is more than 52 dB, a power ratio of 160,000. That’s a “big knob” we can crank to choose the radio path link performance. The receiver effective noise bandwidth per mode accounts for much of the huge spread in receiver sensitivity. The receiver audio passband is treated as the “last IF” for digital modes. Digital mode software and its implementation losses further processes the digital signal, applies digital bandwidth filtering and decodes the message. Table 3 shows how noise bandwidths and occupied bandwidths compare for the various modes. The listed SSB noise bandwidth corresponds to an average value for the 30 measured radios. We quote the pre-detection FM noise bandwidth in Table 3, which does not relate linearly to post detection noise bandwidth. The FCC and ITU-R show us how to calculate the occupied bandwidths, and how to assign the emission designators.<sup>2</sup> Although JT65 occupies a bandwidth of about 175 Hz, clever signal design keeps the effective receiver noise bandwidth at 2.7 Hz. Couple that with its powerful error correcting code plus the high average transmit power, and JT65 can place spectacular distance performance at our fingertips. It’s easy to see why hams use a version of JT65 for EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contacts.

So which mode is best? That depends on

what you want to send, and how fast you want to send it. A JT65 contact comprises a limited vocabulary of call signs, signal strengths, and locations, and operates at roughly three words per minute. Voice modes, on the other hand, support real-time conversations, but require more power for a given distance. It’s all about the noise bandwidth in Table 3 and average power in Table 2. The “best mode” lets you pass the information you want at the rate and distance you want.

**How Far Does it Talk?**

How much further can one mode “talk” compared to another? For a fair comparison of *distance*, a long enough path must actually exist (we’re ignoring skip zones in an ionospheric path). But if a good path does exist for a JT65 contact at the threshold of performance, Figure 4 reveals the range would be 12 times the range of a threshold CW contact.<sup>3</sup> CW range would extend to nearly 6 times that of SSB and AM talks only 1/16 as far as CW. DX operators commonly use CW, RTTY, and SSB, which can have a performance spread of about 17 dB. Those popular DX modes may have a range spread of up to 6 to 1 among them. Individual DX stations, on the other hand, use all modes. One of us (KE4PT) recently snagged a new one (Reunion Island) on two bands using JT65. If you need that rare one in your logbook, concentrate on CW, then on RTTY, and

finally SSB *in that order*. Using this strategy the authors have increased their DXCC totals using every mode except AM or FM.

**In Conclusion**

In this simple comparison we considered “Additive White Gaussian Noise” (AWGN) as the only impairment in the radio link. While we did take transmitter PEP and receiver bandwidth filters into consideration, we didn’t account for the Sun, Moon, radio settings, QSB (fading), QRN (natural noise), QRM (man-made noise), or QLF, so your experience may vary.<sup>4</sup> You can target the DX station’s operating mode more confidently when you know CW can outperform unprocessed SSB by 17 dB, and RTTY can outperform SSB by 11 dB. If you can’t get them on phone, try RTTY or better still, try CW.

**Notes**

- <sup>1</sup>[www.arrrl.org/product-review](http://www.arrrl.org/product-review).
- <sup>2</sup>Modes and occupied bandwidths for emissions are defined in US Title 47 Code of Federal Regulations: 2.201 – 2.202, and ITU-R Recommendation SM.1138, 1995.
- <sup>3</sup>Range estimates, assuming that a long enough ionospheric path exists, use a 23log (distance) propagation model based on: K. Siwiak, KE4PT, “Optimum Height for an Elevated HF Antenna,” QEX, May 2011, pp 32-38.
- <sup>4</sup>QLF means, in fun, “I’m sending with my left foot,” and here refers to operator skill.

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For updates to this article, see the QST Feedback page at [www.arrrl.org/feedback](http://www.arrrl.org/feedback).



# Making the Switch to LEDs

**When a hard-to-find incandescent pilot lamp gives up the ghost, sometimes it's best to replace it with a long-life, low-power LED.**

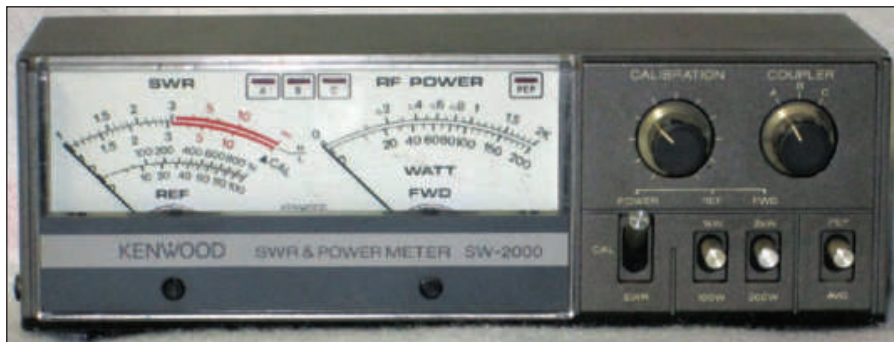
**Charles Rankin, WA2HMM**

When one of the meter illumination lights on my Kenwood SWR & Power Meter SW-2000 went out, I decided I would just replace them both if I was already going to go through the trouble of partially disassembling the unit. It turned out that I was getting ahead of myself — the incandescent bulbs used for the meter illumination were no longer being manufactured. I was left with two choices: I could try to find a similar incandescent lamp, use it as the replacement, and then worry about having to go through this again at some time in the future, or I could replace both bulbs with LEDs now and be done with it. I chose the latter.

## “LEDology”

Light emitting diodes (LEDs) are now ubiquitous — shining out from everything from GFCI sockets to audio/video equipment. If you have a junk box, you are bound to have some attached to a circuit board...or perhaps a bag of a hundred LEDs bought on impulse off the Internet for a few dollars.

Unlike incandescent lamps, LEDs should be driven by a *current* source, not a voltage source. For LEDs, a reasonable approximation of a current source is simply a resistor inserted between the voltage source and the LED. Unfortunately, LEDs with a junk box pedigree usually come without specifications. However, we can make a pretty good guess at the relevant parameters needed to calculate the series resistor: the maximum



**Figure 1** — The Kenwood SW-2000 SWR & Power Meter prior to having incandescent meter illumination lamps replaced with low-power, long-life LEDs.

operating current and the forward voltage drop across the LED. For miniature, single-die indicator LEDs, the maximum dc current specification is often 20 mA; the forward voltage drop varies with the emitted color. Red LEDs typically have a voltage drop of 1.9 to 2.1 V, while white LEDs can range from 3.0 to 3.4 V. Other colors have other values.

To calculate the series resistor minimum value, subtract the forward voltage drop from the operating voltage and divide the difference by the maximum rated current. This will provide the maximum brightness; however, this may not be the most desirable brightness.

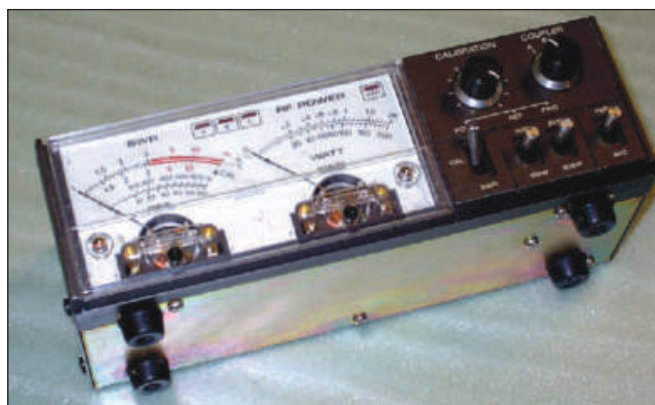
If possible, it's a good idea to try the new LED out in typical shack lighting conditions before putting everything back together.

In a 2003 *QST* article, Phil Salas, AD5X, used a potentiometer to empirically determine the series resistor value.<sup>1</sup> With the previously calculated series resistor in place, insert a potentiometer that has a maximum value that will limit the LED current to 1 mA. Varying the pot from maximum resistance to minimum resistance will change the LED current from 1 mA to 20 mA which should cause a substantial variation in the LED's light output. If less than maximum LED brightness is satisfactory, then select a new series resistor roughly equal to the sum of the current pot setting and present series resistor. Of course, if the LED's light out-

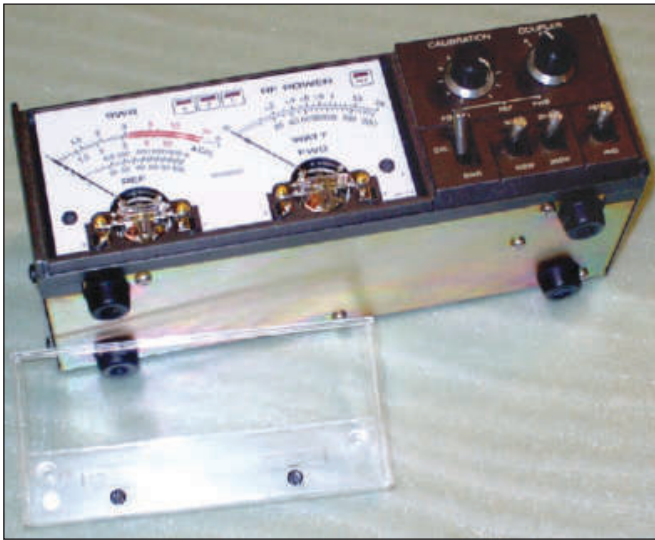
<sup>1</sup>Notes appear on page 34.



**Figure 2** — Removing the name plate.



**Figure 3** — Screws at lower left and lower right holding the plastic face to the cabinet.



**Figure 4** — The plastic face has been removed and the two incandescent lamps are ready to be desoldered.



**Figure 5** — The blue LEDs are installed and the plastic face has been reattached.



**Figure 6** — The meter faces are now illuminated by long-life blue LEDs.

put is insufficient, then a brighter LED will have to be used.

In a dc circuit, the cathode (the bar part of the diode schematic symbol) must be connected to the more negative voltage for the LED to shine. If it's a new part and the leads are unclipped, the cathode is the shorter of the two. If the leads have been clipped, the cathode is the lead by the flat spot on the ring at the base of the plastic body. If you can't find your reading glasses, the polarity can be determined with a 1 k $\Omega$  resistor in series with a 9 V battery.

Finally, two points to consider: power dissipation in the series resistor and LEDs driven from an ac source. The power dissipated by the series resistor is the square of the voltage across it divided by its resistance. It's often considered good engineering practice to derate a resistor's maximum power dissipation by 0.7. This means that for increased reliability you should not put more than 0.7 W through a 1 W resistor. When an LED is driven from an ac source it appears as a half-wave rectifier so the source voltage used to calculate the series resistor should be 0.45 the RMS value (RMS is the ac value read by your voltmeter).

### Modifying the Kenwood SW-2000

My SW-2000, shown in Figure 1, has a pair of meters protected by a plastic face. Each meter is illuminated by an incandescent bulb hidden by the name plate attached to the plastic face. My first challenge was to remove the plastic face in order to gain access to the meter lamps. If you've ever had to remove an automobile dashboard you can appreciate how clever product designers can be with

hiding screws. Well, Kenwood's designers are no less clever.

It finally occurred to me that the screws were probably hidden under the name plate. I used an X-Acto knife with a thin blade to carefully lift the name plate from the plastic face (see Figure 2). Sure enough, there were the two screws at the lower left and right of the plastic face, holding it to the cabinet (see Figure 3).

Next, I unscrewed the two screws and removed the plastic face, being careful not to touch either of the meter movements. I now had access to the meter illumination bulbs (see Figure 4) and unsoldered them, again taking care around the delicate meter movements.

As you can see in Figure 5, space was tight, so I opted for an LED with a built in series resistor. I chose an LED-12B from All Electronics.<sup>2</sup> This is a blue diffused LED with a luminous intensity of 100 millicandelas (mcd) when operated at 12 V. Before soldering the LEDs in place, I double checked the polarity of the lamp supply and then dressed the leads and positioned the LED bodies so that they would not interfere with the meter movements while equally illuminating the meter faces.

Figure 6 shows it all — the SW-2000 once again shining forth — now with its fancy blue LED illuminated meter faces.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup>P. Salas, AD5X, "Solid-State Those Pilot Lamps," *QST*, Sep 2003, pp 38-39. [The editor's comment that  $E_{avg} = 0.9 E_{rms}$  is in error. It should be  $E_{avg} = 0.45 E_{rms}$  because an LED is only a half-wave rectifier. — Ed.]

<sup>2</sup><http://allelectronics.com/>.

Photos by the author.

Charles Rankin, WA2HMM, holds an Amateur Extra class license and is an ARRL member. Charlie was first licensed in the late 1950s as WV2HMM and later received his 20 wpm Extra. He enjoys DXing on the HF bands and 2 meter mobile from his cars and pickup. He has had several items published in *QST*. Charlie works for Motorola Solutions, in the Holtsville, NY facility, where he runs the Engineering GTEM Laboratory (EMI/EMC). He is a charter member of the Symbol Technologies Amateur Radio Club (STARC). Charlie has a US patent for a "Universal Dipole," which is used for testing at WAN radio frequencies (GSM, DCS, PCS). Charlie can be reached at 165 Hickory Ln, Smithtown, NY, 11787-4429 or at [crankin@dialup4less.com](mailto:crankin@dialup4less.com).

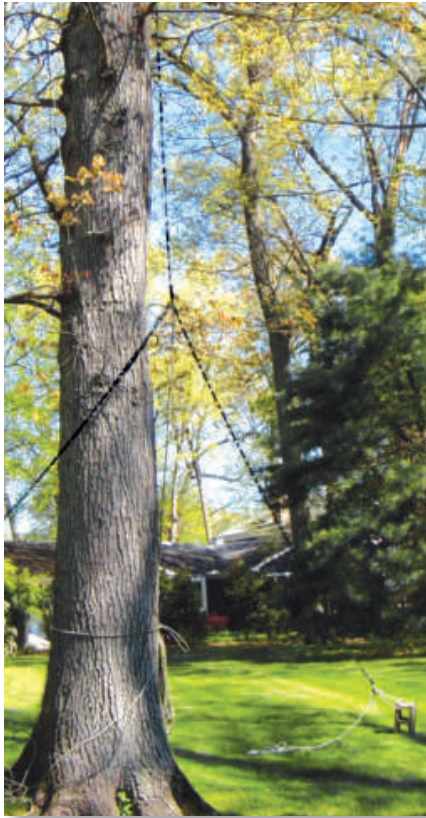
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## New Products

### DX Engineering DXE-400MAX Coaxial Cable

DXE-400MAX is a 50  $\Omega$  RG-8 size coaxial cable that features an AWG #10 stranded copper center conductor, gas injected foam polyethylene dielectric, and two layers of shielding — bonded foil and tinned copper braid. The outer jacket is UV-resistant polyethylene suitable for indoor or outdoor applications and for direct burial. Price: \$0.82 per foot (ready-made coaxial assemblies with silver/Teflon PL-259s are available at additional cost). For more information, or to order, visit [www.dxengineering.com](http://www.dxengineering.com).



# An Easy to Make Two Band HF Ground Plane

**Here's another application of the popular window line coupled resonator antenna.**

been adapted to most combinations of amateur bands from MF to UHF.<sup>2</sup> I recently received a request to further adapt it to vertical polarization.

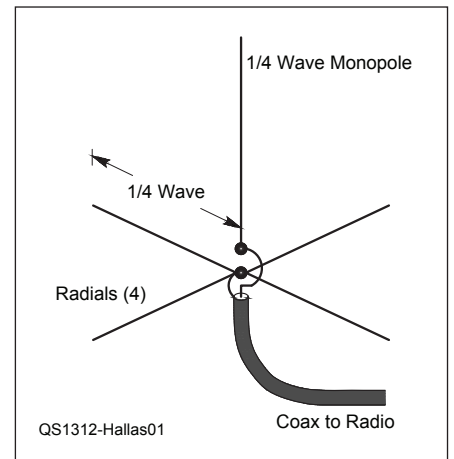
## Shifting the Polarization

The original design could, of course, be adapted for use as a vertical dipole, and some have successfully done so, particularly for VHF FM operation. It turns out that a coupled resonator can also be configured as a vertical ground plane in order to minimize the height of the required support. This makes sense, since a vertical dipole needs a support more than half a wavelength high. With a single available support at that height, for most HF applications, an inverted V dipole provides improved performance.

## Try a Ground Plane

A *ground plane antenna* is a vertical  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave

monopole mounted and fed against an artificial ground system — the “ground plane.” As originally developed, the artificial ground consisted of a metallic disc with a radius of  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength or more. While that is feasible at UHF, at lower frequencies, the ground plane is usually constructed of multiple  $\frac{1}{4}$  wave conductors, called *radials*, perpendicular to the vertical element and located at its base, as shown in Figure 1. Configured in

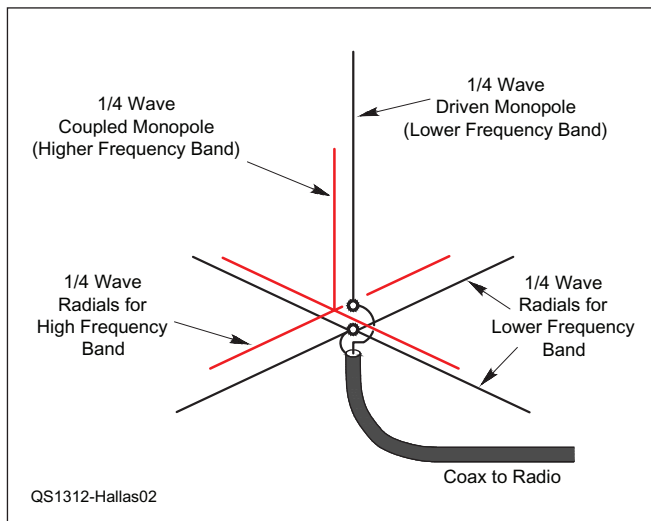


**Figure 1** — A traditional ground plane antenna. The four horizontal rods (radials) serve as an artificial ground for the monopole. Note that while they serve in place of a ground, they are not at ground potential. The ends of the radials are at the same potential as the tip of the monopole and people and animals should be protected accordingly.

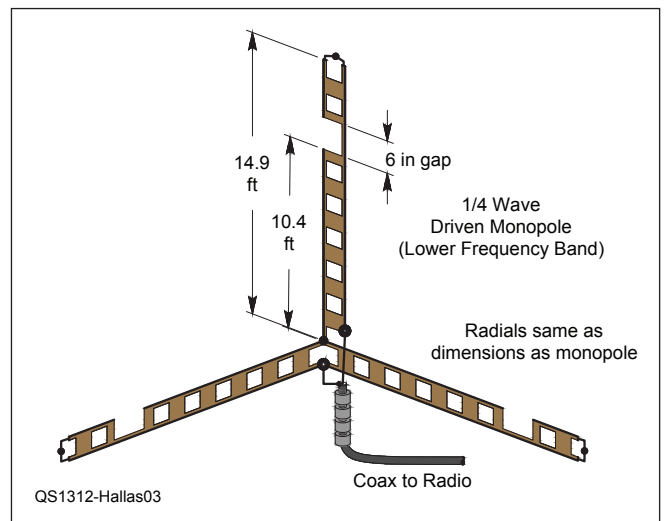
## Joel Hallas, W1ZR

In the May 2011 issue of *QST*, we described a simple and efficient two band *coupled resonator* dipole made from window line. That antenna worked very well, was easy to make, and perhaps more importantly, easy to duplicate.<sup>1</sup> It became very popular and has since

<sup>1</sup>Notes appear on page 37.



**Figure 2** — Simplified drawing of the two band coupled resonator ground plane. Note that there are no electrical connections to the higher frequency unit.



**Figure 3** — Dimensions of the window line 20 and 15 meter ground plane. For best match the radials should droop from the horizontal. While 45° is optimum, it will work satisfactorily with a less extreme droop.



**Figure 4** — Close up of the feed arrangement for the prototype ground plane. The six ferrite beads that make the common mode choke are shown below the feed point. A permanent antenna would do better with more structural integrity at the feed. The rope adjacent to the antenna is the halyard for a different antenna.

that way, the antenna has a feed point impedance that is half that of a dipole, or  $36 \Omega$ , in free space.

While the configuration of Figure 1 is often encountered — sometimes using a *gamma match* to provide a feed impedance of  $50 \Omega$ , another alternative is to lower the outboard end of the radials to make a *drooping* ground plane. This skeleton conical arrangement is topologically somewhere between the standard ground plane and a vertical conical dipole. Such an arrangement can provide a good match to  $50 \Omega$  coax. We have taken that approach here, although to use even less vertical space, if a small mismatch can be tolerated on the lower frequency band, horizontal radials can be used.

### The Coupled Resonator Ground Plane

As with the original two band horizontal dipole, this antenna is really two parallel ground planes made from window line. I selected the 20 and 15 meter bands for this model, however, it could easily be adapted to other pairs of bands. The lower frequency ground plane is fed directly with  $50 \Omega$  coax, while no portion of the higher frequency ground plane is connected directly to the driven unit, but receives its energy through parasitic coupling (see Figure 2). While three, four, or even more radials could be used, the two radial configuration I used is within less than 1 dB of being omnidirectional and works very well for those with physical constraints. Some have even used a single radial — picture a bent vertical dipole configuration

— but that is more directional and has a higher angled main lobe, so we used two here.

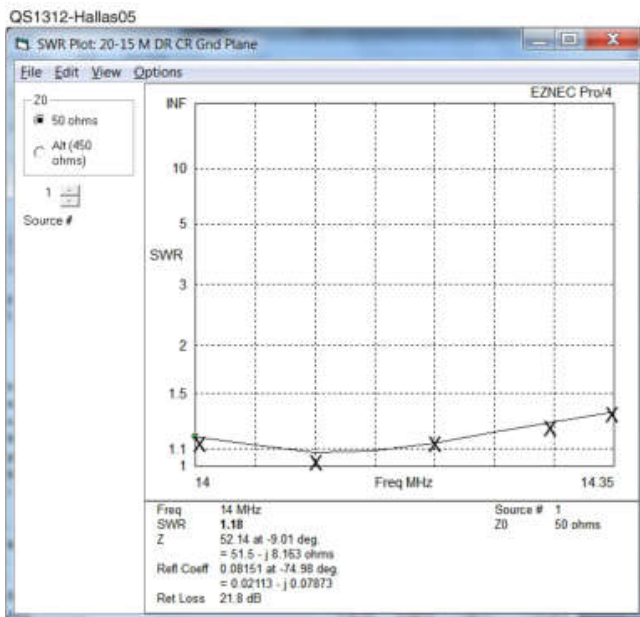
### How High Should It Be?

As discussed in a recent *QST* article, a vertical monopole can be ground mounted, but works somewhat better if off the ground.<sup>3</sup> Another consideration is that the ends of the radials are a high voltage point, with a potential comparable to that at the top of the monopole. Thus for optimum safety, those ends should be high enough or otherwise protected from accidental contact. It is important to remember that while the radials serve as an artificial ground, in this configuration they are very much a part of the antenna and must be insulated as well as the vertical monopole.

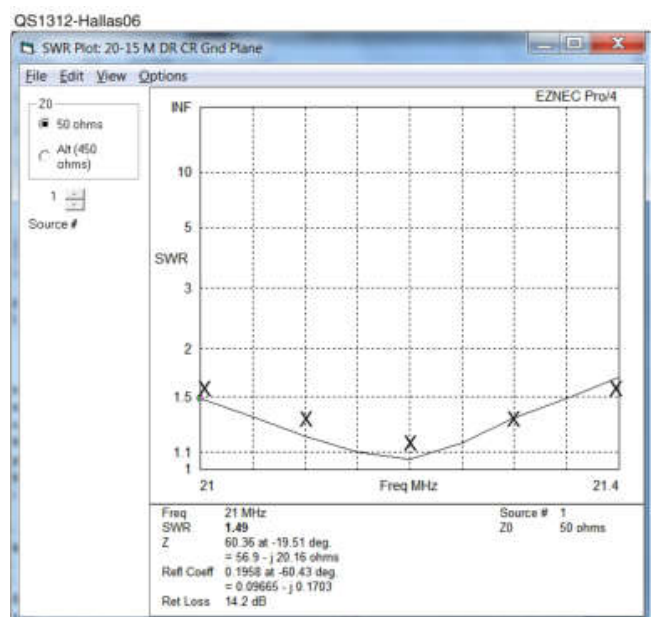
If we were to have the ends of our radials at a safe height of 8 feet off the ground, and droop our radials at 45 degrees, we would need a support about 36 feet above ground. If we had a single support that high, we would likely be better off with a dual band inverted V for these bands. Thus, in most installations a lower height will be used and sufficient insulation and other protection should be employed, especially if higher power is used.

### To Fold or Not to Fold

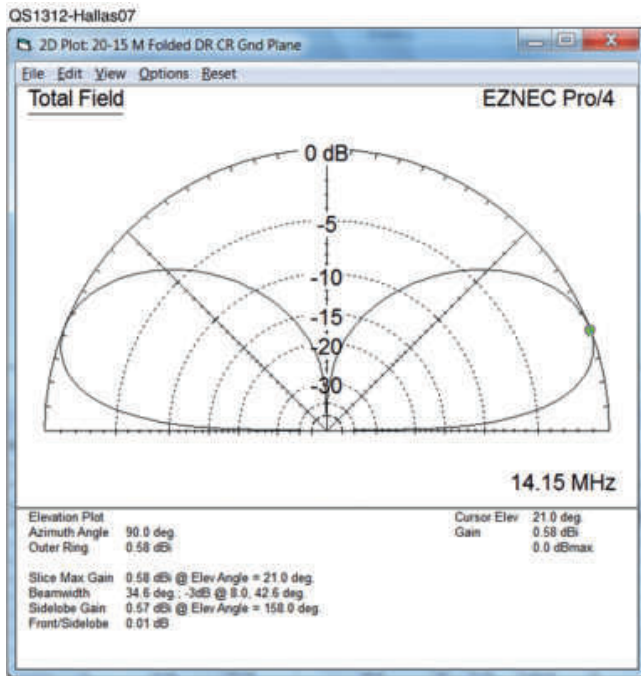
As with the coupled resonator dipole, it is possible to have either traditional linear elements or use the unused conductor of the window line beyond the end of the 15 meter elements to shorten the lower frequency antenna elements in a “folded” arrangement. At first, I was just going to describe the linear arrangement, but then decided that since available



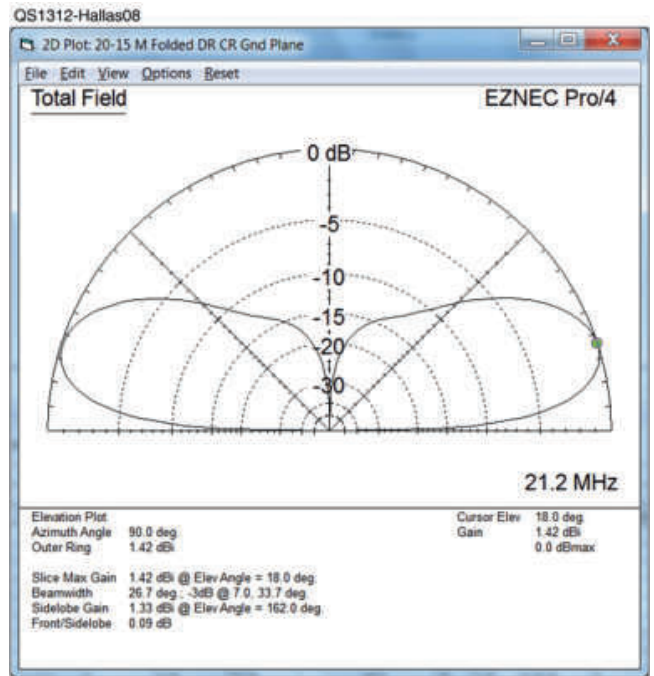
**Figure 5** — EZNEC predicted SWR of the folded coupled resonator ground plane on 20 meters. The measured results taken through 25 feet of RG-8X are shown with the Xs.



**Figure 6** — Same as Figure 5, but for 15 meters.



**Figure 7** — EZNEC predicted elevation pattern on 20 meters. The unfolded version (16.25 feet high) at the same height has a gain only 0.1 dB higher. The antenna was modeled with the base 12 feet above typical ground (conductivity 0.0005 S/m, dielectric constant 13). The azimuth pattern is within 1 dB of being omnidirectional.



**Figure 8** — Same as Figure 7, but for 15 meters.

height was a key issue, I would save a bit more than a foot by using the folded approach. There really is no downside to this arrangement. Note that in the folded configuration, the highest voltage points are at the gap.

### Putting it Together

The exact dimensions will depend on the height above ground and the ground conditions. My dimensions (see Figure 3) were set with the base 12 feet above ground. I lowered the antenna so that the feed was at 3 feet, and the radial ends were at about 1.5 feet. As a result, the 20 meter resonance dropped by 270 kHz, while the 15 meter resonance dropped by only 20 kHz. Of course, this is a good direction in which to have a change, since it's easier to trim than stretch antenna wire. My suggestion would be to start with a few inches more than shown and trim as needed. By the way, order a few more feet of line than you think you will need — my order came up a few feet short.

I made my prototype from Davis RF window line that uses #18 AWG stranded copper covered steel wire.<sup>4</sup> While other types of window line could be used, different wire size or dielectric properties will have an effect on the final dimensions, so plan accordingly.

Note that while it looks like there are three distinct pieces, the two radials can be made from a single length of window line with the insulation stripped at the center of each piece.

I used a common mode choke made from six slip-on ferrite beads taped in place just below the feed.<sup>5</sup> Of course, other kinds of chokes could be used, however, the beads noted slip nicely over RG-8X, don't require tight turns as on a toroid and are lightweight and compact.

While the design shows the monopole and radials the same length, if you are close to being on frequency, you can just trim the monopole. It makes the antenna the ground plane equivalent of an *off-center fed* dipole. Any unbalance resulting from the small difference will be largely eliminated by the common mode choke (see Figure 4).

### Antenna Performance

The antenna came together quickly and works just as EZNEC predicted.<sup>6</sup> The measured SWR for both bands at the end of 25 feet of RG-8X is shown on top of the EZNEC SWR predictions in Figures 5 and 6. Figures 7 and 8 show the elevation patterns on both bands, with the antenna feed 12 feet above typical ground.

Tests on the air tended to confirm the predictions. In A/B comparison with a three element triband Yagi at about 35 feet, the Yagi always did better by around 3 S units for stations at medium range that needed high elevation angles. DX stations were usually within 1 or 2 S units of the Yagi. Part of the difference was due to the extra 2 dB of line

loss getting from my entrance panel to the antenna test position.

In summary, this antenna will not outperform a Yagi on a tower, but it will work DX at low cost and with a small footprint.

### Notes

1. J. Hallas, W1ZR, "Getting on the Air — A Folded Skeleton Sleeve Dipole for 40 and 20 Meters," *QST*, May 2011, pp 58-59.
2. J. Hallas, W1ZR, "The Folded Skeleton Sleeve Dipole on Other Bands," *QST*, Oct 2011, p 48. An updated list is on the *QST* In Depth web page at [www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth](http://www.arrl.org/qst-in-depth).
3. J. Hallas, W1ZR, "How High Should Your HF Vertical Be?" *QST*, Nov 2011, pp 51-52.
4. Davis RF part LL-450-553, [www.davisrf.com](http://www.davisrf.com).
5. Palomar Engineers FB-56-43 ferrite beads, [palomar-engineers.com/ferrite-beads](http://palomar-engineers.com/ferrite-beads).
6. Several versions of EZNEC antenna modeling software are available from developer Roy Lewallen, W7EL, at [www.ez nec.com](http://www.ez nec.com).

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# Modern Breadboarding Tools and Techniques

**Today's breadboards accommodate ICs as well as breakout boards and leaded components.**

## Dick Barnett, N9NP

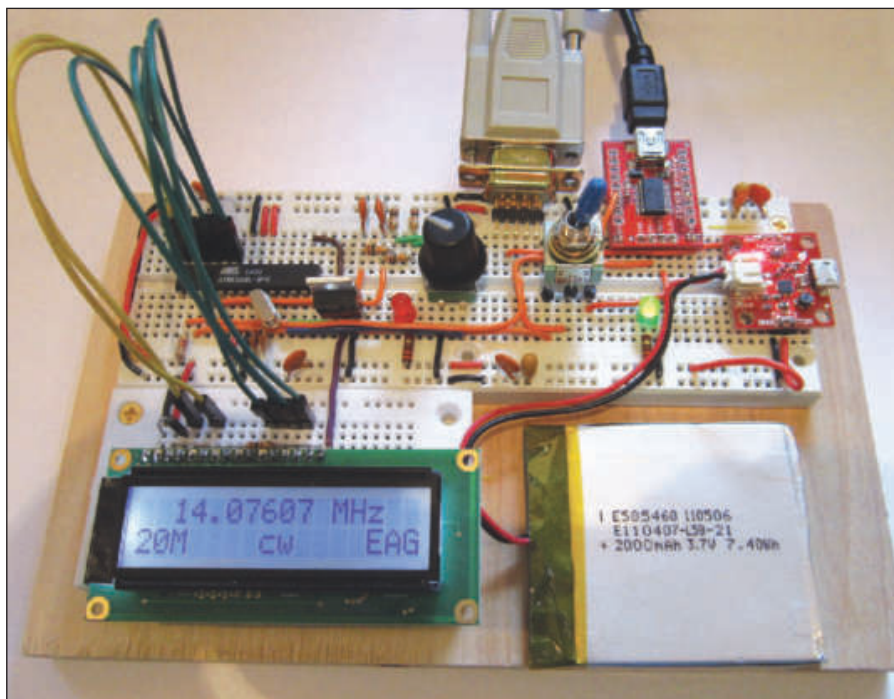
When I was first licensed in 1964, a breadboard circuit consisted of a wooden board on which bread was sliced (hence *breadboard*). We screwed down octal and miniature tube sockets and terminal strips, and connected up discrete parts using wires. Those at the cutting edge of technology might have included a transistor or two. Today we have integrated circuits (ICs), surface-mount technology (SMT), LCD displays, microcontrollers, and a host of electronic devices that may be applied to do-it-yourself (DIY) circuit projects. These newer devices present a few challenges to the modern breadboarding process.

Breadboarding circuits is a fun and relatively painless way to try out circuit ideas and projects. Figure 1 is the third generation of my auxiliary display project, and I've tried out a number of different features and operational modes before soldering anything in a permanent fashion. To encourage more DIY projects, I am introducing some methods and tools to make breadboarding easier. Figure 1, for example, shows a breadboard for my auxiliary display and mode control project. The project displays the in-band frequency (otherwise it indicates "Out-of-Band!") and the license privileges for that frequency, controls the operating mode, and also provides a USB CAT interface for my Elecraft K2 transceiver.

### Breadboard Sizes and Shapes

Figure 2 shows three convenient breadboard types and sizes.<sup>1</sup> Each vertical row of five holes connects beneath the surface of the board to a clip that solidly grips and connects wires or pins pressed into any hole of that row. For example, microcontroller IC pin 2 (second pin from the lower left of the IC in the upper left of Figure 1) connects to a 4.7 k $\Omega$  resistor and to an orange wire in the same row of holes. The wire then connects to the toggle switch. The other side of the resistor connects to the supply voltage buss (described below). Another orange wire connects pin 3 (next row of holes) to one of the toggle switch connections, and so on.

<sup>1</sup>Notes appear on page 41.



**Figure 1** — This breadboard illustrates an auxiliary display and breakout boards in a mode control project. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

The horizontal groups of five holes along the breadboard edges usually connect in a long buss that is a convenient connection point for ground or for a supply voltage. A break in these buss connections occurs at the center point of the larger breadboard. In Figure 1 you can see short red and black jumpers that span these gaps to make the busses continuous across the length of the breadboard. I usually route the supply voltage on the inner buss and ground on the outer buss, but you can assign any signal or voltage that needs multiple connection points to the busses.

Breadboard holes are on 0.1 inch centers, the same as many IC pins, such as the microcontroller IC. As long as the parts you are using have pins on 0.1 inch spacing or can be adapted to that spacing, these breadboards provide a convenient way to try out your circuits. The rotary encoder (under the black knob in the center of the breadboard) and the power MOSFET (the TO-220 package

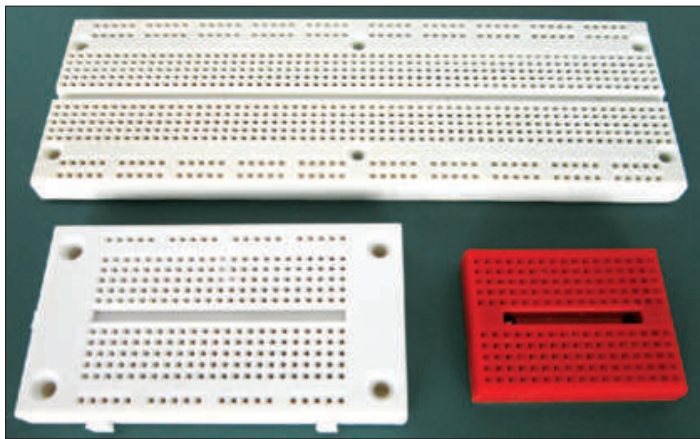
just to the left of the red LED) have leads on 0.1 inch centers, so they easily adapt to the breadboard.

I usually attach breadboards to a scrap piece of plywood to hold everything steady. The two larger breadboards have convenient screw holes, but the small red one in Figure 2 does not. I drilled  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch holes at the ends of the center cutout to accommodate #4  $\times$   $\frac{3}{4}$  inch wood screws that I use to attach everything to the plywood.

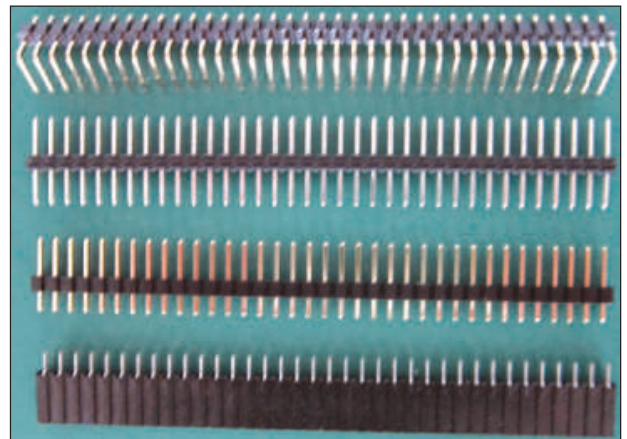
### Pins and Sockets

Many devices and connectors such as the edge connector of the LCD or the DB-9 connector at the top center in Figure 1 are also on 0.1 inch centers, but do not have pins to insert into the breadboard. Figure 3 shows a variety of pin types that you can solder to these devices for convenient use with breadboards.<sup>2</sup> The right-angle pins at the top are convenient for attaching the DB-9 connector in Figure 1 to





**Figure 2** — Breadboards are available in several sizes and shapes. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]



**Figure 3** — Several pin styles make soldering devices on breadboards convenient. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

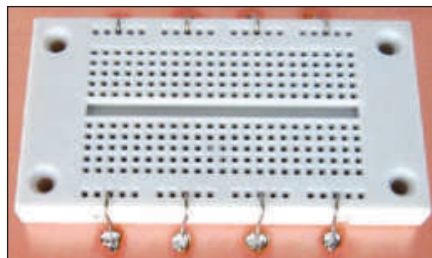
the breadboard. Note that I've installed pins for only the bottom row of the connector. If you need to connect to the upper row, solder wires into those DB-9 connections that are long enough to reach the breadboard holes.

The straight pins that are equal length on both sides of the plastic center strip are convenient for other devices where the extra length allows some flexibility. The toggle switch in Figure 1 uses these pins because the switch contacts are not spaced at 0.1 inch intervals. I soldered the longer pins to the switch terminals so they have enough length to flex a bit and allow the pins to fit into the breadboard holes. I soldered the straight pins that are longer on one side into edge connectors of the LCD board and the edge connectors of the breakout boards at the right end of Figure 1. The bottom of Figure 3 shows a black strip of female connectors that mate with the pins. These can be used to create connectors or jumpers. You can either snap off the pins you need or cut them to length with diagonal cutters at the convenient breakpoints between each set of pins.

### Wiring Up Parts

Small parts such as resistors or capacitors can simply be pushed into the breadboard holes as needed to create circuits. Examples are the four 10 k $\Omega$  resistors and the capacitors above and to the left of the rotary encoder in Figure 1. Bare leads should be kept as short as possible to prevent inadvertent shorts and to reduce induction of unwanted signals on the leads.

Always include power supply bypass capacitors on the power busses. Figure 1 shows bypass capacitors at the far upper right, and another set below and to the left of the toggle switch. I recommend tantalum capacitors in parallel with ceramic disks to ensure clean power. The yellow capacitors are



**Figure 4** — This breadboard has extra ground plane connections and is useful for RF projects up to 100 MHz. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

22  $\mu$ F tantalums and the disk capacitors are 0.001  $\mu$ F.

### Breadboarding RF and SMT Circuits

You can breadboard high frequency circuits using the breadboard shown in Figure 4. It has an added single-sided printed circuit board ground plane and extra bare wire ground plane connections from the ground buss. That RF breadboard is regularly used up to 100 MHz successfully in the ECET Labs at Purdue University. You may want to spread your circuit out a bit because adjacent connection rows can have up to 11 pF of capacitance between rows.

Many very useful devices and ICs are available only in SMT packages, none of which lend themselves to breadboarding. SurfBoards<sup>®</sup> from Capital Advanced Technologies are one solution to the SMT challenge.<sup>3</sup> These small circuit boards (see Figure 5) allow mounting SMT parts and provide 0.1 inch spaced pins along one edge of the board that fits into the breadboard. You can mount SMT resistors, capacitors, or other discrete parts on SurfBoards. The downside is that once the SMT parts are mounted, they are difficult to remove and reuse. However, the SurfBoards can be re-used in your final

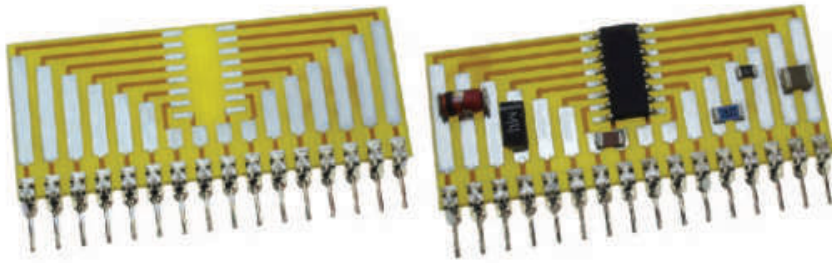
project as a component, saving you time and effort as you finalize your project.

### Using Breakout Boards

SparkFun Electronics provides another solution to the SMT challenge in the form of a wide variety of useful SMT parts mounted to small printed circuit boards called *breakout boards*.<sup>4</sup> These boards typically have 0.1 inch spaced holes for pins along at least one edge, and some come with pins installed. Typically you can install pins so that the breakout board fits into your breadboard. Some of the breakout boards have holes along multiple edges, so you need to be selective about where you install pins so they are useful in breadboarding.

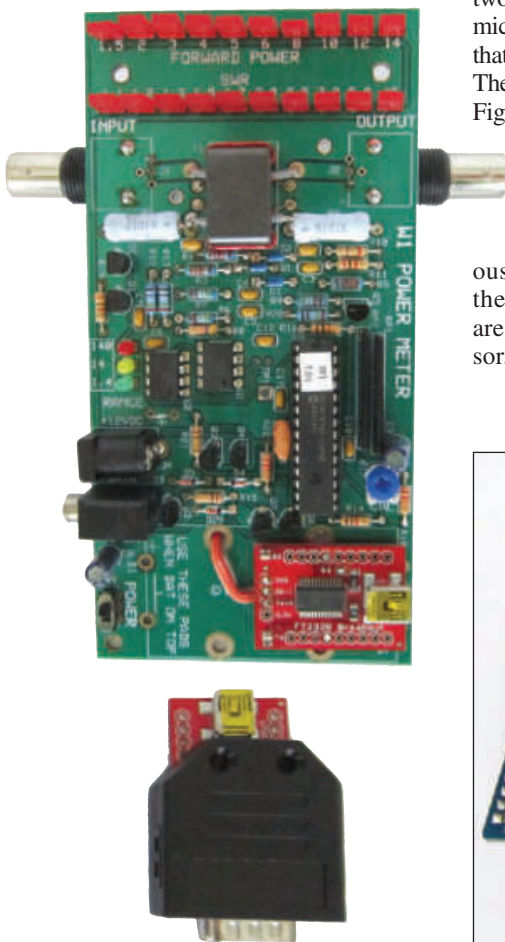
I used two breakout boards in my breadboard project shown in Figure 1. The one on the far right end of the breadboard is a SparkFun PRT-10300 Power Cell LiPo Charger Booster. It provides a regulated 5 V or 3.3 V (jumper selectable) and controls the charging of a Lithium Polymer (LiPo) battery using either the 5 V from the micro USB connection or from an external 5 V supply. I installed pins on the 5 V charger input (along the top of the board shown in Figure 1) and on the Vcc output along the bottom of the board to facilitate use in the breadboard. This breakout board handles the fussy charging requirements of the LiPo battery safely and also supplies Vcc for the project. I used the long red wire from the Vcc connection on this board as a power switch by plugging or unplugging it into the 5 V power buss.

The second breakout board is a SparkFun BOB-00718 FT232RL USB to Serial converter. I installed pins only across the end of the board where the Rx, Tx, GND, and 3.3V pins are located. In this way the most common pins conveniently plug into a



**Figure 5** — This SurfBoards® from Capital Advanced Technologies accommodate mounting SMT parts. [Photo courtesy Capital Advanced Technologies, [www.capitaladvanced.com](http://www.capitaladvanced.com)]

breadboard. The balance of the serial flow control pins (and a few others) are along the sides of the breakout board. You can install wires into any of these that you may need to plug into your breadboard. For example, the orange wire attached to the left edge of this board connects to the 5 V supplied by the USB connection. I connected it to the 5 V charge input of the LiPo charger board so that the battery is charged whenever the USB connection is in use. The GND connection to the board (not visible) is underneath the breakout board.



**Figure 6** — Breakout boards like the red FT232RL board on the lower right are an easy way to provide a specific function. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

Breakout boards provide specific functionality as needed. Figure 6 shows two uses of the FT232RL breakout board. I mounted one of them to an Elecraft W1 Power Meter board (green) to provide a USB interface instead of the supplied serial interface. Another FT232RL board connects into a DB-9 connector shell to provide USB to TTL-level serial signal conversion.

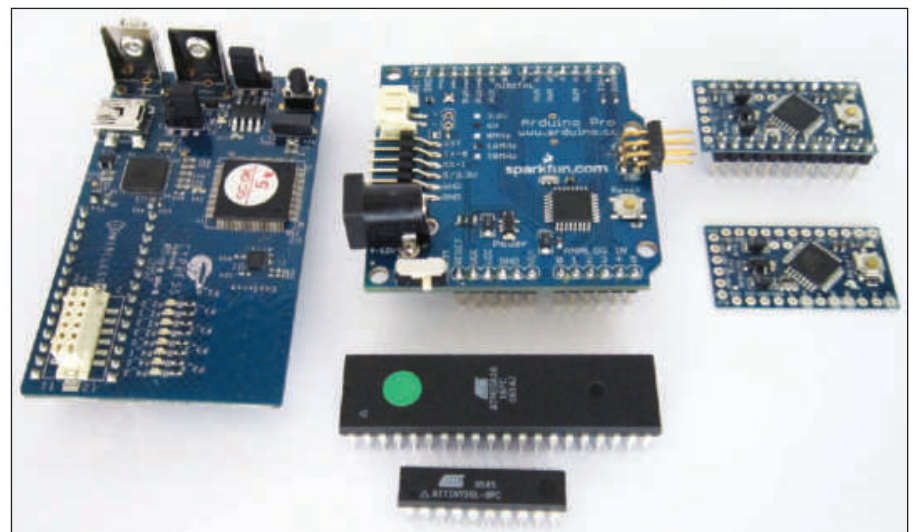
### Microcontroller Boards

Microcontrollers are often a part of modern projects. Figure 7 shows various development and demonstration microcontrollers and microcontroller boards. The two devices at the bottom are Atmel AVR microcontrollers in through-hole IC packages that are very easy to use in breadboarding.<sup>5</sup> The Atmel ATmega8 microcontroller IC in Figure 1 is also supplied in a through-hole package.

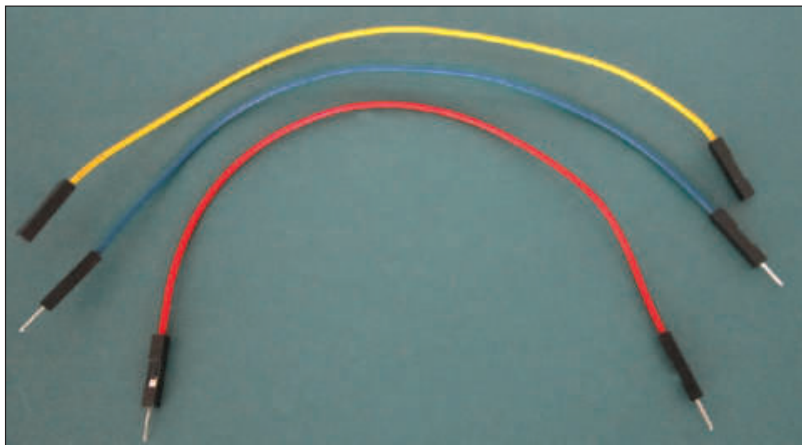
The left-most board in Figure 7, a Cypress PSoC III microcontroller demonstration board, includes various additional components that display the versatility of the device.<sup>6</sup> Included are an accelerometer, a temperature sensor, a wireless port for Cypress wireless

modules, a slide controller (the zig-zag circuit traces), eight LEDs and a few other devices. Demonstration boards are usually equipped to allow limited use as development boards as well. In this case the microcontroller port connections (those not committed to the on-board devices) are available in two rows of pins that extend beneath the board. The tops of these pins are visible in two rows that straddle the (white) wireless connector, and are spaced appropriately to be plugged into breadboards. From a breadboarding perspective, the extra components on demonstration boards often limit their usefulness to some extent by consuming I/O ports that might otherwise be useful in projects.

The top center board and the two right-hand boards in Figure 7 are Arduino boards.<sup>7</sup> Arduino boards are very popular among hobbyists, and much software for them is available on the web. The top center board is an Arduino Pro available from SparkFun. The connectors on many Arduino boards are on 0.1 inch centers, however the two connectors along the edges are not spaced correctly to fit conveniently into breadboards. These boards are more correctly termed *development boards* because they contain the microcontroller and the minimum additional circuitry to allow programming and using the microcontroller. Most of the port pins are brought to the edge connectors and the connectors are made convenient to connect to other common devices. For example, the pins along the left sides of the Arduino boards include the signals that are important to connect to Bluetooth® modules or other wireless devices. Arduino boards typically also provide power connectors and power regulation on the boards. Note that pins are not supplied along the top, bottom, and right hand side of



**Figure 7** — Microcontrollers like the several microcontroller development/demonstration boards shown here are often a part of modern projects. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

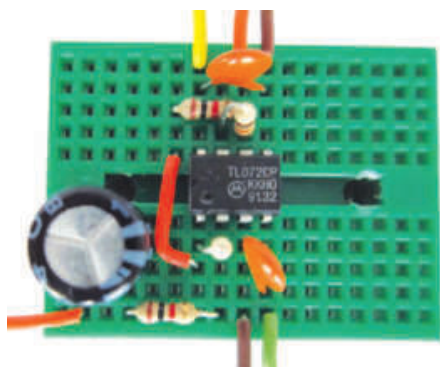


**Figure 8** — Connector wires are available with either pins or sockets on their ends. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

the board, so I installed pins for convenient breadboarding.

The two boards along the right side of Figure 7 are Arduino Mini Pro boards. One of the boards shown has pins installed for breadboarding while the other does not. These boards use the same microcontroller (Atmel ATmega 328) as the Pro board (top center) but have less on-board circuitry. The port pins along the edges allow connection to other port pins, and the row of holes along the end of the board are set up for connection to serial or wireless modules. Remember that microcontrollers require program code development, but that is beyond the scope of this article.

Breadboards are usually wired with #22 AWG solid wire. Wires should be kept short to prevent noise pick-up (see Figure 1 for examples). For longer connections such as the connections to the LCD in Figure 1, you can use wires with pins on the end (SparkFun PRT-10898), as shown in Figure 8. The connector wires shown in Figure 8 may terminate in either pins or sockets of several sizes. I tend



**Figure 9** — This analog module has color-coded wire leads attached. [Dick Barnett, N9NP, photo]

to use socket ends that can easily turn into a pin end by inserting a single pin (Figure 3) to switch the gender of the wire end. You can use pieces of # 22 AWG solid wire for off-board connections.

#### Tips and Tricks

■ Follow a consistent color code with your wiring. Compare Figure 1 with the two-stage analog amplifier of Figure 9;

- Black is digital ground.
- Brown is analog ground (the grounds are kept separate except at the power supply for noise reduction).
- Red is digital Vcc (+5V or +3.3V).
- Yellow is positive analog supply voltage.
- Green is negative analog supply voltage.
- Other colors are typically for various other signals.

■ Never allow wires to cross over ICs. It is much too easy to cause shorts or to confuse points if you are trying to make measurements or adjustments through a tangle of wires.

■ Always provide a power-on LED indicator. In Figure 1, the lit green LED near the battery management breakout board connects directly to power. That way it is obvious when power is applied to the circuit. I always provide a “heartbeat” LED whenever my circuit involves a microcontroller. In Figure 1, the red LED just below the optical encoder always blinks slowly indicating that the microcontroller is operating.

■ Keep common elements wired up for future projects. I’ve used that LCD breadboard in previous projects and keep it wired for future use. That avoids re-wiring circuits that are used commonly in projects. Figure 9 shows another circuit that I’ve re-used. SurfBoards (Figure 5) are another excellent way to keep commonly used and

re-used circuits as needed in your breadboards.

■ Use plenty of bypass capacitors on your power supplies as discussed earlier. In Figure 9 there is a bypass capacitor (orange disc) on both the positive and the negative voltage supply connection.

In summary, breadboarding circuits is a fun and relatively painless way to try out circuit ideas and projects. You can try out a number of different features before soldering up your circuits in a permanent fashion.

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup>Small breadboards are SparkFun PRT-08800 series, medium breadboards are SparkFun PRT-00137, large board is similar to a RadioShack® 6" Modular IC Breadboard Catalog #: 276-002, [www.radioshack.com](http://www.radioshack.com).
- Breadboards are available from multiple sources.
- <sup>2</sup>Pins are Molex 22-28-4360 (straight) and 22-28-8360 (right angle), available from Digikey, [www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com), and Newark, [www.newark.com](http://www.newark.com).
- <sup>3</sup>Surfboards® from Capital Advanced Technologies, [www.capitaladvanced.com](http://www.capitaladvanced.com). Available from Digikey.
- <sup>4</sup>SparkFun Electronics, [www.sparkfun.com](http://www.sparkfun.com).
- <sup>5</sup>Atmel microcontrollers available through Digikey, [www.digikey.com](http://www.digikey.com).
- <sup>6</sup>Cypress Semiconductors, [www.cypress.com](http://www.cypress.com).
- <sup>7</sup>Arduino, [www.arduino.cc](http://www.arduino.cc), available from SparkFun Electronics.

Dick Barnett, N9NP, is an ARRL member. He is mostly interested in circuit development and operating the newer digital modes. You can reach him at [n9np@arrrl.net](mailto:n9np@arrrl.net).

For updates to this article, see the *QST* Feedback page at [www.arrrl.org/feedback](http://www.arrrl.org/feedback).



## New Products

### MacLoggerDX HD Version 1.13 for iPad

*MacLoggerDX HD for iPad* from Dog Park Software is an Amateur Radio application for the iPad that monitors the spots from your favorite DX Cluster. It alerts you to rare contacts or band openings by looking up and displaying real time propagation paths on a zoomable map. *MacLoggerDX HD* can log your contacts to a database and includes ADIF import, export and log syncing with *MacLoggerDX* for the desktop. Version 1.13 has been redesigned for iOS 7 and includes several new features. Price: \$39.99 from the Apple iTunes Store. For more information, visit [www.dogparksoftware.com](http://www.dogparksoftware.com).

Mark J. Wilson, K1RO, k1ro@arrl.org

# Icom ID-51A Dual Band Handheld Transceiver with D-STAR

Analog FM, D-STAR and much more in a compact, dual-band handheld.

Reviewed by Rick Palm, K1CE  
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Just when you thought the ubiquitous handheld transceiver, a staple of Amateur Radio since the early 1970s, had reached its evolutionary limit, it's time to think again. This has certainly been the case with the protocol Digital Smart Technology for Amateur Radio, more popularly known as D-STAR, and the parade of radios released by Icom over the years to support it. The ID-51A is the second in a new series of D-STAR capable handhelds from Icom. A 70 centimeter model, the ID-31A, was reviewed in the August 2012 issue of *QST*.<sup>1</sup>

I was involved as a user early in D-STAR development here in the southeastern portion of the US, where it seemed to take off more quickly than in some other parts of the country. This was probably due to a few dynamic, enthusiastic individuals here who pushed it through, conducting seminars at club meetings and “Elmering” individual operators at conferences and on the air. That was the case with me as I drove down to my local ham radio supply store in Orlando several years ago to have a chip installed in my IC-2200H, which would give me access to the D-STAR system.

Programming and operating the IC-2200H

on D-STAR took some patience as there was frustration with entries in fields changing without operator knowledge, caused by some of the early system and radio nuances. The learning curve looked like a Nordic ski jump. Numerous D-STAR radios have succeeded the '2200H for user-friendliness and functionality. Icom's newest in this line is the ID-51A, the first D-STAR radio I've used since the '2200H. The evolution has been profound.

## Major Innovations

For me, the single most significant enhancement in the ID-51 is the incorporation and application of a GPS receiver. The application that is most useful is when the operator is mobile and pushes the NEAR REPEATER button in the D-STAR Repeater (DR) mode to find and select the closest D-STAR repeater. With access to it, the operator can then proceed with the panoply of functions and networking available to the system. With the DR mode, programming is simplified with UP, DOWN, and ENTER buttons to be pushed while scrolling through the easy-to-read menus. In fact, it's the only way to go while away from your home area and home access repeater. (While in your home area, it's easier to simply program your local repeater and frequently used commands — such as linking to your favorite reflectors — into the rig's memory channels).

Sooner or later, almost every handheld will have a GPS receiver and an updatable, onboard directory for all repeaters, digital or analog. It's just a matter of time before mobile FM and digital operators will simply push the “find nearest repeaters” button, and start talking. (There's an app on my iPhone called *Freq Finder* that updates its repeater listings periodically and displays operating parameters for machines closest to me — it works great.)

## Fun and Function

The ID-51A is laden (not burdened) with the most functions of any radio I've ever used. A bit daunting and intimidating at first, the radio comes with two manuals: A 54 page *Basic Instructions* manual, and a

whopping 369 page *Advanced Instructions* manual. But, the power is in the pushbuttons.

Six buttons and a “D-pad” in the middle of the front panel under the large display are all you need to control the radio. For the most part, operation is intuitive, especially if the operator already has D-STAR experience. The MENU key gives access to the comprehensive menu selections, while the QUICK key provides quick access to those functions that are used more frequently. The QUICK key is context sensitive for what the user is doing at the time (for example, character editing functions when entering data).

A MODE/SCAN key changes modes and starts scans. A MAIN/DUAL key selects the VFO band and frequencies to be displayed on the screen. A V/MHZ/CLR/LOW button puts the rig in the VFO mode versus the M/CALL/S.MW, which selects the memory channels and functions.

D-STAR-specific functions can be manipulated with the D-pad in the center of the face. Starting at the



## Bottom Line

Icom's ID-51A dual band handheld is a feature laden analog FM and D-STAR digital transceiver with a GPS receiver and a host of available options. This is perhaps the most flexible handheld available, and you'll need to spend some time learning the radio's operation to get the most from it.

6 o'clock position is the DR key, which turns on the D-STAR Repeater mode and doubles as the down arrow selector. Clockwise, at the 9 o'clock position is the CD (call sign display) button, which, when held down for a second, places received calls on the display with messages and repeater info. It also serves as the "back" key. At the 12 o'clock position is the RX->CS button, which captures the received station's call sign and repeaters and places the call sign into the UR field for call sign routing. The key also serves as the up arrow key. And at the 3 o'clock position is the CS or call sign select button, which, when held down for one second, displays the call sign information currently stored in the four ubiquitous D-STAR operating fields that are at the heart of the system: UR call, MY call, Repeater 1, and Repeater 2. This is a handy feature to have as the operator can quickly confirm that the proper information is coded into the four slots. I used it all of the time. The button also serves to select different menu tiers as does the CD key. At the center of these four buttons is the ENTER key. All of these keys and the menus they are associated with worked very well.

Power levels are selectable from the V/MHZ key described above — there are five levels (SLO, LO1, LO2, MID, and HIGH).

### Audio Quality

There have been critical comments circulating about the transmitted audio quality, which some have categorized as "muffled." This was caused by the membrane that is apparently incorporated into the microphone to allow for some measure of water resistance. While the first production units had the thicker membrane, Icom was quick to implement a fix with an upgrade plan that solved the issue in short order. You can tell if you have the new material by looking into the mic opening. If it is white, it is the new membrane. I looked: The test unit has the white membrane and the audio was not at all muffled.

You can check your transmitted audio by two methods. By using the echo function on your local D-STAR repeater, you can hear your audio repeated back to you. Or, you can record transmissions (and indeed both sides of a complete QSO) by using the radio's record function (recordings are made onto a microSD card that is inserted into a slot on the side of the radio). There's even a voice recorder function for simply recording your own notes — reminders, lists, anything. You can evaluate your own audio and compare it to others participating in the QSO. I tried both methods, and the audio quality seemed absolutely fine to me.

### Review of Functions

Some might question the utility of recording

your QSO onto your radio's SD card, but I immediately realized its value in the context of disaster response and public service communications for served agencies. It helps to have a hard record of messages sent and received during the heat of battle on the disaster field for not only the after-action hotwash, but also in case questions arise. Incident Commanders won't need to rely on subjective answers when they can hear the actual messages themselves. Not as dramatic as all that, listening to your QSOs after the fact can help you hone your basic QSOing and social skills on the air! And, well, truth be told, it's just plain fun, too. This function worked well for me: you can automatically parse the QSO recording into transmissions and receptions, or just keep the recording running.

The GPS receiver discussed briefly at the outset of this review works well, not only for the benefit of finding and entering your nearest D-STAR repeater for almost instant access to the system when mobile, but it also does a fine job of providing your position, elevation, and speed. This information can be transmitted automatically via D-PRS in the Digital Voice mode every time you key the mic, if desired. Software installed in most D-STAR gateways will convert the D-PRS data packet into standard APRS packets and send it on the Internet, allowing your position to be viewed on APRS servers. The GPS logger function stores positions along your course on the microSD card for display using mapping software.

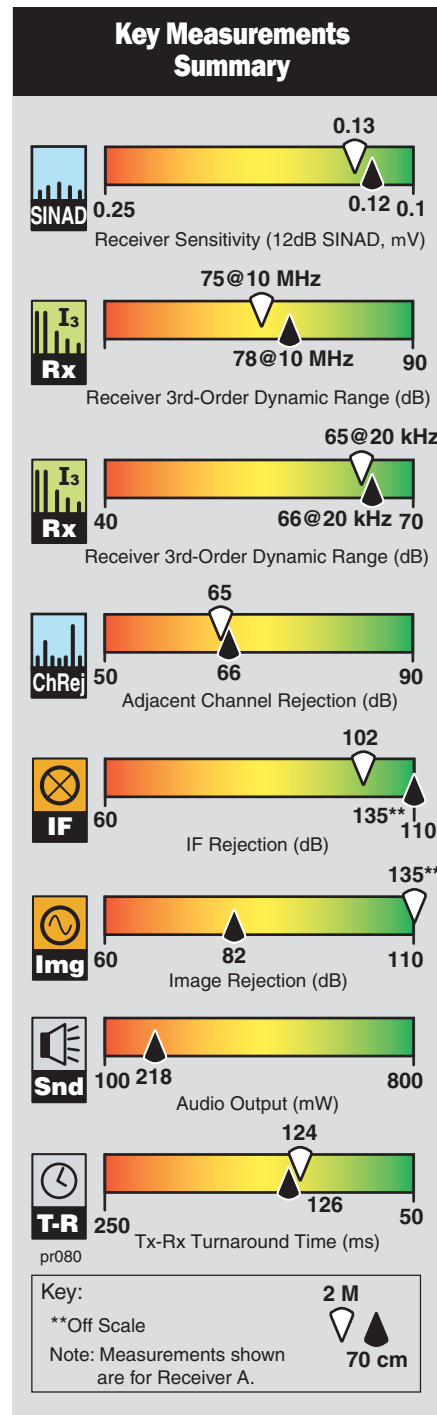
### BC Radio and Two Band Monitoring

As with many radios nowadays, the operator can monitor two bands at once, along with the broadcast radio receiver incorporated into this radio. The operator can listen to each one separately, too, of course. The broadcast radio works fine, and it sounds better than my car's FM radio. Both AM and FM bands are available and favorite stations can be stored in memory. Again, from the perspective of an emergency or disaster response communications operator, having access to the AM and FM broadcast bands for general disaster information and alerts is very useful.

### Memory Channels

The transceiver has 500 regular memory channels, 50 scan edge channels (25 pairs) and 4 call channels. Also, 26 memory banks, A to Z, can be used to store groups of operating channels, and so on. Up to 100 channels can be assigned to a bank.

I programmed memory channels using the RT Systems ([www.rtsystemsinc.com](http://www.rtsystemsinc.com)) software and cable, with thanks to Scott Freudenthal, K2LSF, from Jacksonville, Florida, for sending me his incredible memory channel file, and for his patient mentoring — you can catch



him on Reflector 037C. The software and cable work great with the ID-51A. It is easy to use, and will have your memories uploaded and in use within just minutes. All of the necessary memory channel data fields are there, and many more.

Icom's CS-51 programming software comes on the CD packed with the radio. Further, a programming cable is not absolutely necessary because the .icf programming file can



**Figure 1** — Despite the size constraints of a handheld radio, the ID-51A's display resolution is high enough to show quite a bit of data clearly.



**Figure 2** — The built-in broadcast band radio is a plus for public service operators who need to keep an ear on local news updates.



**Figure 3** — The ID-51A features a built-in GPS receiver. The receiver is used to determine which D-STAR repeaters are closest to you. The transceiver can also use the GPS receiver to track your position and share the information over the network.

**Table 1**  
**Icom ID-51A, Serial Number 05001656**

Manufacturer's Specifications	Measured in ARRL Lab
Frequency coverage: Receive, 108-174, 380-479 MHz, 0.520-1.710 MHz, 76-108 MHz; transmit, 144-148, 430-450 MHz.	Receive: 137-174, 380-479 MHz (FM, DV); 76-108 MHz (WFM); 0.520-1.710, 108-136.995 MHz (AM). Transmit: as specified.
Modes: FM, NFM, DV, AM (receive only).	As specified.
Power requirements: At 7.4 V dc: receive, FM, <350 mA (internal speaker), <200 mA (external speaker); DV, <450 mA (internal speaker), 300 mA (external speaker); transmit, <2.5 A (5 W output).†	Battery power: FM, receive, internal speaker, 225 mA (max volume, backlight on), 82 mA (standby), 59 mA (standby, backlight off). Transmit: 146 MHz, 1.79 A (high), 1.28 A (medium), 0.98 A (low2), 0.62 A (low1), 0.41 A (s-low); 440 MHz, 2.69 A (high), 1.88 A (medium), 1.21 A (low2), 0.91 A (low1), 0.53 A (s-low). External power (13.8 V dc): Receive, 138 mA (max vol, backlight on), 107 mA (max vol, backlight on, external speaker). Transmit: 146 MHz, 1.76 A (high), 1.25 A (medium), 0.88 A (low2), 0.61 A (low1), 0.35 A (s-low); 440 MHz, 2.59 A (high), 1.79 A (medium), 1.15 A (low2), 0.86 A (low1), 0.48 A (s-low).*
Receiver	Receiver Dynamic Testing**
Sensitivity, FM (12 dB SINAD): <0.178 $\mu$ V; DV, 0.282 $\mu$ V.	FM, for 12 dB SINAD, 146 MHz, 0.13 $\mu$ V, 440 MHz, 0.12 $\mu$ V; 162.4 MHz, 0.127 $\mu$ V, 100 MHz, 0.45 $\mu$ V.
Sensitivity, AM (10 dB (S+N)/N): Not specified.	AM, for 10 dB S+N/N, 1.0 MHz, 0.7 $\mu$ V, 120 MHz, 0.3 $\mu$ V.
FM two-tone, third-order IMD dynamic range: Not specified.	146 MHz, 20 kHz offset, 65 dB, 10 MHz, offset, 75 dB; 440 MHz, 20 kHz offset, 66 dB, 10 MHz offset, 78 dB.
FM two-tone, second-order IMD dynamic range: Not specified.	146 MHz, 69 dB, 440 MHz, 108 dB.
Adjacent-channel rejection: >55 dB.	20 kHz offset, 146 MHz, 65 dB, 440 MHz, 66 dB.

be written to the micro SD card by the *CS-51* software on a PC and then read by the radio after transferring the card to the radio's card slot. You also have the ability to utilize the SD card storage to backup your configuration. In fact, the SD card can hold multiple .icf files allowing you the ability to restore any configuration file in the field without the need for a computer or cable.

### Other Features

The microphone audio can be recorded. It worked fine for me, with some 68 hours of recording available per the display note; I can't imagine listening to myself for all 68 hours! But, for 15 seconds, I could stand it.

Two band monitoring from the two VFOs works well, and the broadcast band radio can be monitored, too, all at the same time: The volume control adjusts the BC radio output to

a level where the operator can hear the channel output versus the radio output as a matter of operator preference. This worked well.

An Auto Position Reply function can automatically send your call sign, with or without a GPS position and brief (10 second limit) voice message, when you receive a call and cannot immediately answer. A Voice TX function allows the operator to transmit recorded audio once or repeatedly, from either the main MENU key, or the QUICK menu. It works fine, although I question the utility of repeating the voice memo transmission over and over again for up to 10 minutes — I couldn't figure out why anyone would want to do that.

The Speech function allows the various modes, frequencies, and call signs (DV) to be announced, which is nice while driving — you don't have to look at the radio's display to

Spurious response: Not specified.

IF rejection: RX A, 146 MHz, 102 dB, 440 MHz, >135 dB; RX B, 146 MHz, 101 dB, 440 MHz, >135 dB.  
Image rejection, RX A, 146 MHz, >135 dB, 440 MHz, 82 dB; RX B, 146 MHz, >135 dB, 440 MHz, 98 dB.

Squelch sensitivity: < 0.178  $\mu$ V.

At threshold, 146 MHz, 0.3  $\mu$ V (min), 1.17  $\mu$ V (max), 0.1  $\mu$ V (auto); 440 MHz, 0.26  $\mu$ V (min), 1.05  $\mu$ V (max), 0.1  $\mu$ V (auto).

Audio output: at 10% THD, >200 mW into 8  $\Omega$  load (external speaker); >400 mW into 16  $\Omega$  load (internal speaker).

218 mW at 10% THD into 8  $\Omega$ ; THD at 1 Vrms, 1.4%.

### Transmitter

### Transmitter Dynamic Testing

Power output: 5.0 W (high), 2.5 W (medium), 1.0 W (low2), 0.5 W (low1), 0.1 W (s-low).

146 & 440 MHz, 4.7 W (high), 2.2 W (med), 0.9 W (low2), 0.4 W (low); 0.07 W (s-low, 146 MHz), 0.130 W (s-low, 440 MHz) at full charge and 13.8 V dc external power.

Spurious signal and harmonic suppression: >60 dB (high, med), -13 dBm (low, s-low).

>70 dB; meets FCC requirements.

Transmit-receive turnaround time (PTT release to 50% of full audio output): Not specified.

Squelch on, S9 signal, 146 MHz, 124 ms, 440 MHz, 126 ms.

Receive-transmit turnaround time ("tx delay"): Not specified.

146 MHz, 52 ms, 440 MHz, 64 ms.

Size (height, width, depth): 4.9 x 2.3 x 1.0 inches (with protrusions); antenna length: 7.0 inches.

Weight: 9.0 ounces (with battery and antenna).

Price: ID-51A, \$580; OPC-2218LU USB cable, \$70.

<sup>†</sup>BP-271 7.4 V, 1150 mAh Li-ion battery and BC-167 wall charger supplied.

Available options: extra BP-271 battery, \$90; BP-272 7.4 V, 1880 mAh Li-ion battery, \$125; BC-202 drop-in charger, \$60; BP-273 battery case for 3 AA cells, \$60; CP-12L cigarette lighter dc power cable with filter, \$40.

\*Power consumption in DV mode: receive equal to FM; transmit,  $\leq$  25 mA greater than FM.

\*\*Both Receiver A and Receiver B had equal performance, except when noted. DV not tested; PN9/GMSK signal generator was not available.

see what is happening. I liked this feature a lot. Hold down the QUICK/SPCH button for a second, and the voice tells you your operating parameters on the fly.

A Home CH (home channel) Beep function works well: you can program your favorite (your home repeater, for example) frequency as the Home CH and whenever your VFO dial, or DR, or memory channel selection hits the Home CH, a beep is emitted, letting the user know his/her home repeater has been selected. Again, the idea here is to free the eyes from having to look at the display, and again, that is a safety feature while driving.

### Summary

The reader will note that this review is a few pages long, with lab results and graphics. The ID-51A comes with two manuals as I've already noted, for a total of more than 400

pages. Hence, there is no way to cover every nuance of this radio. I have, in this review, attempted to hit the hot buttons for this radio. The menu choices for many of the functions,

including the BC radio function, for example, are extensive and frankly, astounding. The programmers at Icom seemed to have left little to be desired in a radio like this. It is incredible, and that is no hyperbole.

The purchaser of this radio, like other D-STAR radios, will benefit from a good understanding of the D-STAR system network, and especially of the four main programmable parameters that are at the heart of the system. And in that subset, the UR call field, with its myriad commands and modes, is the most critical to understanding and enjoying the system. So, especially if you are new to D-STAR, while you are waiting for your package to arrive, get a good source of information (there is a plethora on the Internet) and bone up on it so you'll be able to enjoy this radio out of the box.

Roland Kraatz, W9HPX, adds: "The importance of the UR call field to the successful use of D-STAR's functionality cannot be over-emphasized. A lot of new users have difficulty setting up the DR mode so that their transmission passes through the repeater's gateway to the Internet. In that regard, the website [www.dstarinfo.com/Data/Sites/1/GalleryImages/FullSizeImages/id-51-beginner.pdf](http://www.dstarinfo.com/Data/Sites/1/GalleryImages/FullSizeImages/id-51-beginner.pdf) has a lot of how-to info for the ID-31 D-STAR radio that is almost exactly applicable to the ID-51, particularly the 'Easy Repeater Operation' section. The other ID-31 sections are also useful for the beginning user."

For me, the ultimate litmus test for a review radio is whether or not I would actually buy one for myself. In this case, the answer is yes, even though the radio is not inexpensive compared to a standard dual band handheld. I loved this radio and opening the package and discovering all of its features and functions.

*Manufacturer:* Icom America, 2380 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004; [www.icomamerica.com](http://www.icomamerica.com).



See the Digital Edition of QST for a video overview of the Icom ID-51A.



Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, w1zr@arri.org

# Horizontal HF Antennas Have an Edge

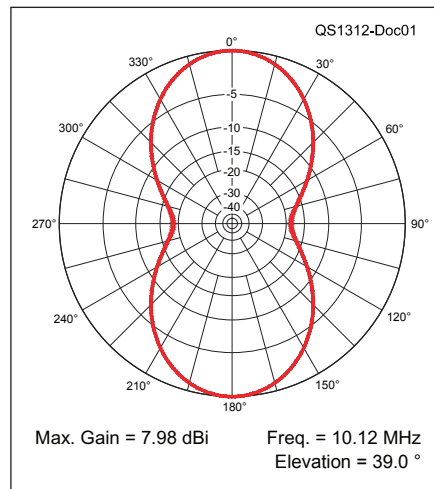
**Q** Evan, AA8TK, asks: Why does my 100 foot horizontal dipole fed with window line do so well? I don't have much room for an antenna farm. I do have a multiband monopole and a random-length vertical loop fed with window line but neither matches the performance of the dipole in most situations.

My dipole is up about 35 feet and snakes through the trees between my neighbor's house and mine. On 40 through 10 meters I have no problem working DX, including VK and ZL on 40 and 30 meters. To date, I have worked almost 250 DX entities with my modest setup.

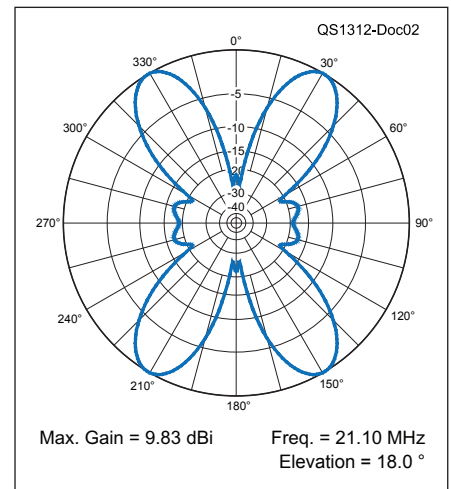
**A** There may be a number of reasons why your antenna works so well, or at least seems to work so well. The first reason is that a horizontally polarized antenna has about a 6 dB ground reflection advantage over a vertical antenna at a range of elevation angles, depending on the height in wavelengths. The next reason is that on the higher frequency bands, your antenna acts like a multilobed beam with significant additional gain at some azimuths. For example, on 30 meters, a 100 foot center-fed dipole is actually "two half waves in phase," with a maximum intensity in the direction broadside to the antenna of 8 dBi at an elevation angle of 39° (see Figure 1), but still has an intensity of 4 dBi at 15° elevation compared to probably 0 dBi of your verticals, depending on the efficiency of your ground system.

The problem is that the 3 dB azimuth beamwidth of your dipole antenna on 30 meters is about 58°. You have two beams, one on each side with that beamwidth, so for other azimuth angles, which make up the remaining 244 of 360°, one of your vertical antennas will likely work better than the horizontal. Thus, while you do well with DX in the directions that your horizontal antenna focuses, you may not even hear the DX in between the strong lobes on your horizontal, whereas you may on a vertical.

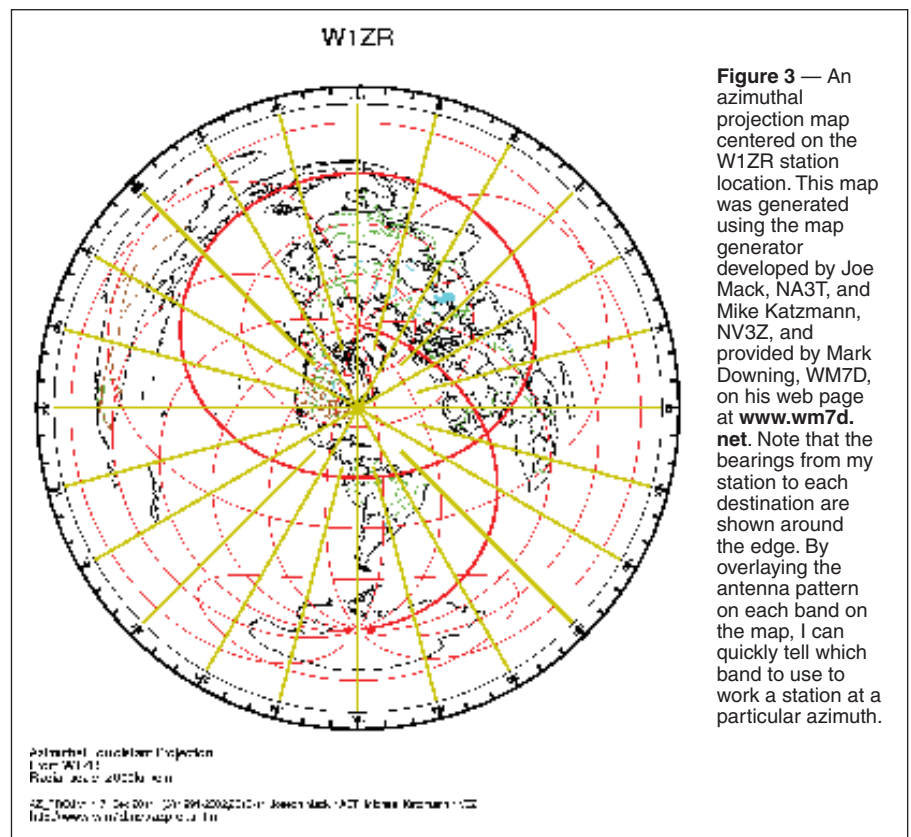
On higher frequency bands, the picture gets somewhat more complicated, with more than two lobes, but they are generally sharper, even more intense (in some cases comparable to a three element Yagi, see Figure 2) and have deep nulls in between the lobes. Thus, your



**Figure 1** — The EZNEC azimuth pattern of a 100 foot center fed dipole 35 feet above typical ground (conductivity 0.005 S/m, relative dielectric constant of 13) on 30 meters. This pattern, in the peak of the elevation lobe, is at an elevation angle of 39°.



**Figure 2** — The azimuth pattern of the same 100 foot dipole on 15 meters. On this band, the peak of the elevation lobe is at 18° and the gain is almost 10 dB in its favored directions compared to an isotropic radiator.



**Figure 3** — An azimuthal projection map centered on the W1ZR station location. This map was generated using the map generator developed by Joe Mack, NA3T, and Mike Katzmann, NV3Z, and provided by Mark Downing, WM7D, on his web page at [www.wm7d.net](http://www.wm7d.net). Note that the bearings from my station to each destination are shown around the edge. By overlaying the antenna pattern on each band on the map, I can quickly tell which band to use to work a station at a particular azimuth.



horizontal antenna can be about two or more S units stronger for transmit and receive than the vertical in good directions, but you may not even hear stations from the direction of the nulls with the horizontal.

This effect can be used to your advantage. While an HF center-fed Zepp is hard to rotate, an alternative is to take advantage of the fact that the lobes go in different directions on different bands. While I was using such an antenna, I used a hand bearing compass (you can use GPS) to determine the wire axis, then I made EZNEC pattern plots on each band and overlaid the -3 dB and -6 dB directions on an azimuthal projection map centered on my location (see Figure 3).<sup>1</sup> By shading the regions between the lines that the antenna worked on each band on multiple sheets, I could quickly decide which band I should use to work a multiband DXpedition, and which bands I should pass on.

**Q** Bruce, KE1CY, asks: Motivated by my homeowners association restrictions, I decided to spray paint my old five band vertical antenna a flat brown before installing it at the back of my lot. It really does camouflage it well. I then wondered whether this was advisable and if adverse performance should be expected. What are the effects of paint on an antenna's performance?

**A** I am only aware of two potential concerns. First, with insulated (compared to bare) wire, the insulation of the paint will make the antenna behave as though it is electrically longer (by slowing down the propagation along the conductor surface). Still, since the paint layer is so thin, I would expect that any change in resonance won't be noticeable at HF.

The other possible issue comes up with any insulating materials that are part of the antenna. I would mask any insulating sections, particularly those on traps, before painting, and then remove the masking tape when the paint is dry. Traps can be high-Q devices, with resulting high voltages at resonance across the insulating surfaces and there is no point in putting the paint's electrical properties to the test.

**Q** Norm, NZ5L, asks: I took a half size G5RV antenna on a recent trip. This is a 51 foot center-fed dipole fed with a 16 foot length of 300 Ω twinlead serving as an impedance matching section intended to make the antenna operate on 40 through 10 meters. When set up as an inverted V with the apex about 16

feet high and using only a short coax lead, the SWR on all bands was in the range of 5 or 6:1, and I was only able to get a match with my tuner on a few bands.

**When I returned home, I set the antenna up as a sloping dipole with one end about 40 feet high, and the antenna at a 45° angle to the ground. The bottom was 4 feet off the ground, and I fed the system with 150 feet of RG-8X coax cable. With this arrangement, the SWR on both 40 and 20 is less than 2:1, and very easily matched with my tuner. On the higher frequency bands the SWR is about 3:1, although the performance seems poor. Why should the amount of coax used make such a difference to this antenna?**

**A** I must admit that I also have had poor luck trimming a half-size G5RV to work on multiple bands at low SWR. I call the effect you are observing *transmission line loss matching*. The loss of transmission line increases directly with length and the high SWR increases the loss substantially. On 14 MHz, for example, 150 feet of RG-8X would have a loss of about 1.9 dB if matched, but with a 5:1 SWR, the loss increases to 3.6 dB. This means that if you send 100 W up from the bottom, only 43.6 W will get to the antenna. It will reflect back almost half of the power due to the mismatch and that power will also be attenuated on the way back to the tuner. Note that this reflected power is not lost, it gets reflected from the tuner back toward the antenna — but the loss in the transmission line is real, and happens at each pass.

As far as your tuner is concerned, it is sending up 100 W and the reflected power it sees at the bottom will be around 10 W, so it's very happy and thinks the SWR is around 2:1.

I would suggest using the best coax you can for the shortest possible distance and getting a tuner that can handle it. Alternately, use window line all the way from the antenna to a wide range tuner and call it a center-fed Zepp — it will work even better.

**Q** Don, WA2HMB, asks: I've recently seen a number of surplus Russian vacuum variable capacitors in the 0 to 50, 100, and 300 pF range with a voltage rating of 15 kV at very attractive prices on websites. I was considering using one as part of an antenna tuner project. Is this type of capacitor useful for antenna tuner applications?

**A** Well, a 300 pF vacuum variable should work electrically in your tuner as well as any other type of variable capacitor. They tend to be very good

capacitors — at least the classic American-made Jennings type are. They are generally adjusted by turning a multiturn lead screw that provides very fine adjustment, perhaps more precise than needed for most tuners.

In addition to the purchase price, which seems competitive with air variables, the one cost element that needs to be considered is that they do need some kind of turn counting dial to allow reading of the adjustment position. While there are suitable commercial dials available, the cost of them might negate any savings from the low purchase price of the capacitor. If you use your ingenuity, however, you may be able to rig up something that provides a mechanical indication — perhaps using gears or pulleys — that can do the trick at low cost. If you do come up with a good solution, consider sharing it with QST readers through "Hints and Kinks."

**Q** Doug, W8YU, asks: I have a 20 meter array of vertical monopoles with elevated radials. Currently, I am using a #14 AWG wire attached to a fiberglass pole for the radiators. What improvement, if any, would I achieve if I substituted telescoping aluminum tubing for each radiator?

**A** I modeled a single ground plane with four horizontal elevated radials at 6 feet above typical (conductivity 0.005 S/m, relative dielectric constant of 13) ground. If all five wires are #14 AWG copper, the maximum intensity is about 0.1 dBi at 22° elevation. If I change to a 1 inch aluminum monopole, with the same wire radials, the intensity is increased to 0.75 dBi. That difference amounts to about 1/10 of an S unit.

Do you have a question or a problem? Ask the Doctor! Send your questions (no telephone calls, please) to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; for fastest response, e-mail [doctor@arrl.org](mailto:doctor@arrl.org).

## Feedback

In "Hints and Kinks" [October 2013, p 67] there was an error in the hint "A One Trim Dipole." Near the end of the hint, the length of the dipole is misstated as 17 feet 6 inches. The dipole length should have been 17 feet and would require adding 3 inches to be resonant. Please see this month's "Hints and Kinks" for more information.

In the article "A Cascaded Current Transformer RF Coupler" by Ralph Crumrine, NØKC, which appeared in the November 2013 QST, page 52, the Steward core number shown for transformer T2 is incorrect. The correct part number is 28-0375-400.

<sup>1</sup>Several versions of EZNEC antenna modeling software are available from developer Roy Lewallen, W7EL, at [www.eznec.com](http://www.eznec.com).



Steve Ford, WB8IMY, wb8imy@arrl.org

## DXLab Suite

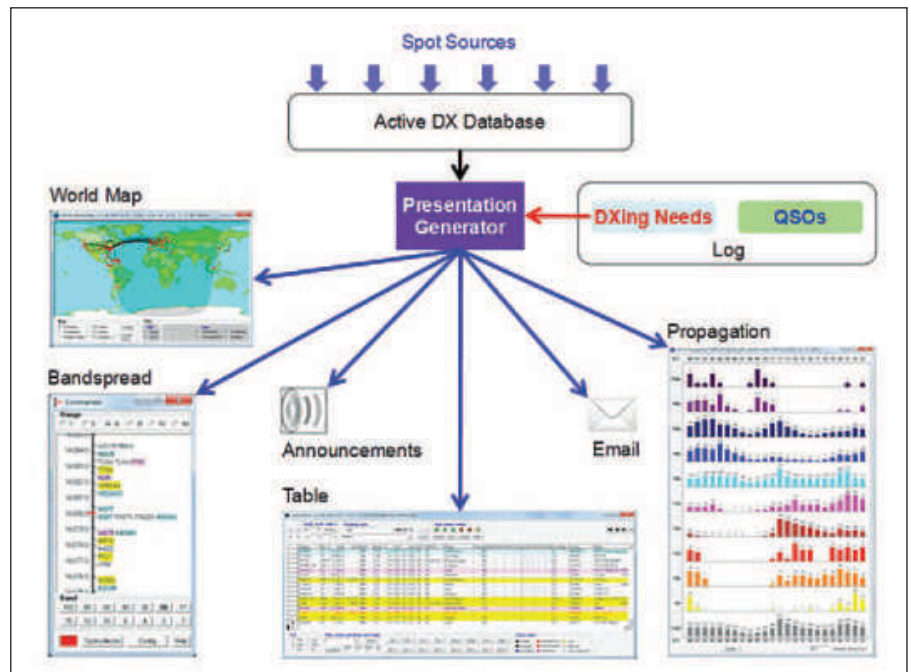
The *DXLab Suite* is a set of eight free *Windows* applications that support making QSOs in general and DXing in particular. Each of these applications has a specific role: *Commander* provides transceiver control, *WinWarbler* supports RTTY and PSK operation, *DXKeeper* provides logging and award tracking, *DXView* supports mapping and rotator control, *Pathfinder* automates QSL route discovery, *PropView* predicts and monitors propagation, and *SpotCollector* tracks active DX stations. Whichever of these applications you've installed will seamlessly cooperate as if they were one program. *DXLab* applications also interoperate with several other digital mode applications, like *MultiPSK*, *Fldigi*, *MixW*, *CW Skimmer*, and *DM780*. The eighth application — the *Launcher* — automates initial installation and subsequent updates, and provides the ability to start or terminate all of the suite's applications with a mouse click.

### Impressive Features

The entire suite was impressive, but I particularly liked *Pathfinder's* ability to search more than 80 websites for QSL information, *PropView's* ability to generate graphical propagation predictions, and *SpotCollector's* ability to show active DX stations and help me work the ones I need.

In many countries, licensing authorities or national radio clubs maintain websites where you can search for an address by specifying a call sign. QSL routes can be found in sites maintained by hams like IK3QAR and DL1SBF, and via searches by companies like Buckmaster, QRZ, and Google. Select an active DX station in *SpotCollector* or a decoded call sign in *WinWarbler* or a logged QSO in *DXKeeper* — and *Pathfinder* will provide a search button that queries the appropriate licensing authority or radio club site and displays the result. Twelve additional buttons rapidly search your favorite online sources. *Pathfinder* makes it easy to make multiple queries, and compare their results to obtain the best QSL route.

*PropView* makes your DXing more productive by showing you when and where to find HF openings to needed counties, districts, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, countries, zones, and continents. Click an active, decoded, or logged call sign, or click a location on *DXView's* world map; *PropView* will display a 24-hour



*DXLab* maintains a database of active DX stations that you can simultaneously “view” in multiple ways.

propagation forecast, in which the thicker the horizontal line, the more likely the opening. You can configure *PropView* to generate forecasts with its included *IONCAP*, *ICEPAC*, or *VOACAP* engines.

*SpotCollector* can connect to five Internet sources of DX spots: three DX clusters, DX Summit, and the Reverse Beacon Network. It can also connect to a local packet cluster. Information from DX spots received from these sources is used to create an *Active DX Database*, with one entry for each active DX station. This entry specifies the station's call sign, country, CQ zone, time first spotted, time last spotted, mode, receive frequency, and — if operating split — its last-reported transmit frequency (this is a particularly neat feature!). The entry also indicates the regions of the world from which the DX station has been spotted, and the distance between you and the closest spotting station. Entries in the *Active DX Database* are continuously updated as new spots arrive. Connecting to multiple sources speeds updates from spotting stations in distant regions, and ensures

updates when some sources are “down.”

Information in the *Active DX Database* is presented in six ways:

- A tabular display, highlighting DX stations needed to advance your DXing.
- A scrolling bandspread showing DX stations near your transceiver frequency, with needed DX stations highlighted.
- A world map showing DX stations and the stations spotting them.
- A propagation display showing DX station activity by band over the past day.
- Audible announcements of needed DX stations.
- E-mail announcements of needed DX stations.

Each of these presentations can be filtered independently.

Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, has been developing *DXLab* since 2000, releasing several new updates each month with help from an enthusiastic user community. You can download the entire *DXLab Suite* at [www.dxlabsuite.com](http://www.dxlabsuite.com).



### Experiment #131

# Coax to Open-Wire Line Balun

I recently designed some Extended Double Zepp (EDZ) antennas that present a reasonable SWR on 14 and 21 MHz. The design uses a specific length of 450 Ω ladder line, resulting in an SWR of less than 2:1 at the end of the ladder line on both bands. Since that length was too short to reach the shack, I chose to transition from the 450 Ω line to 50 Ω coaxial cable. (The EDZ design will be presented in a future column or article.)

One can just connect the coax to the ladder line and hope for the best — it might work, as some designs for multiband antennas will function that way. Unfortunately, the *outside* of the coax shield is also connected at the junction of the two feed lines, creating a *common-mode current path* with impedance depending on the length of the coax and the operating frequency.

The basic idea is explained in Roy Lewallen's, W7EL, classic article "Baluns & What They Do," at [www.eznec.com/Amateur/Articles/Baluns.pdf](http://www.eznec.com/Amateur/Articles/Baluns.pdf). If you haven't read it, this would be a good time to do so.

#### The Case for Using a Balun

Roy's article shows why a current or choke balun is needed at the transition from the coax to a dipole with the wires at right angles to the coax. What if instead of a dipole, the coax is connected to ladder line? Is a balun still necessary? In transmission lines, the conductors are tightly coupled so that the currents are equal and in opposite directions.<sup>1</sup> That means the same current should flow on the inside of the coax shield and the conductor of the ladder line to which the shield is connected. If any of the current escaped on the outside of the coax feed line as common-mode current, then the balanced current rule would be violated, upsetting the impedance presented at the junction of the two feed lines.

While the coupling of the two conductors in the feed line *should* be sufficient to guarantee balanced currents in each, it's a good idea to raise the impedance of the common-mode

current path, especially because you don't know the impedance of that path. Common-mode current on feed lines can cause the antenna system to behave unpredictably.

There is another reason to add some common-mode impedance to the feed line — preserving the symmetry of the antenna system. With a balanced antenna such as a dipole or EDZ, *decoupling* of the feed line's common-mode current path from the antenna's radiated field is also important, as explained in W7EL's article. Since common-mode chokes are difficult to create for ladder line, I oriented that portion of the feed line at close to right angles from the antenna to preserve antenna balance. Adding a choke balun at the junction of coax and ladder line was the next step. (If the coax is parallel to the antenna, add a coiled-coax choke or two along the coax to minimize common-mode current all along the feed line.)

The choke balun can take many forms, as explained in the *ARRL Handbook* and *ARRL Antenna Book*.<sup>2</sup> I decided against the W2DU-style balun of many ferrite beads on the coax because of the expense, and against the coiled-coax balun because it is somewhat

heavy and unwieldy when suspended by the feed line (particularly if form-wound). It is also hard to create a scramble-wound choke that works well over the range of 40 to 10 meters (the EDZ is tunable on the WARC bands and 40) so I selected a compromise between all three designs.

#### Balun in a Jiffy

My choke balun was easily wound on a ferrite toroid core, using a bifilar winding that is really just a very closely spaced parallel-conductor feed line. By using the right mix of ferrite, the choke will create enough impedance across the HF range.

Following the guidance of Jim Brown's, K9YC, tutorials on ferrites and chokes, I chose a 2.4 inch diameter #31 mix with a winding of 10 turns.<sup>3,4</sup> The ferrite tutorial estimates that the balun's choking impedance at 7, 14, and 28 MHz is 3000, 3500, and 2000 Ω, respectively, as shown in Figure 1. For the bifilar winding, I used two-conductor PVC-insulated #16 zip cord which is fine for 100 W power levels. (If you plan on running high power, use #12 or larger wire.) For this core you need about 3 inches

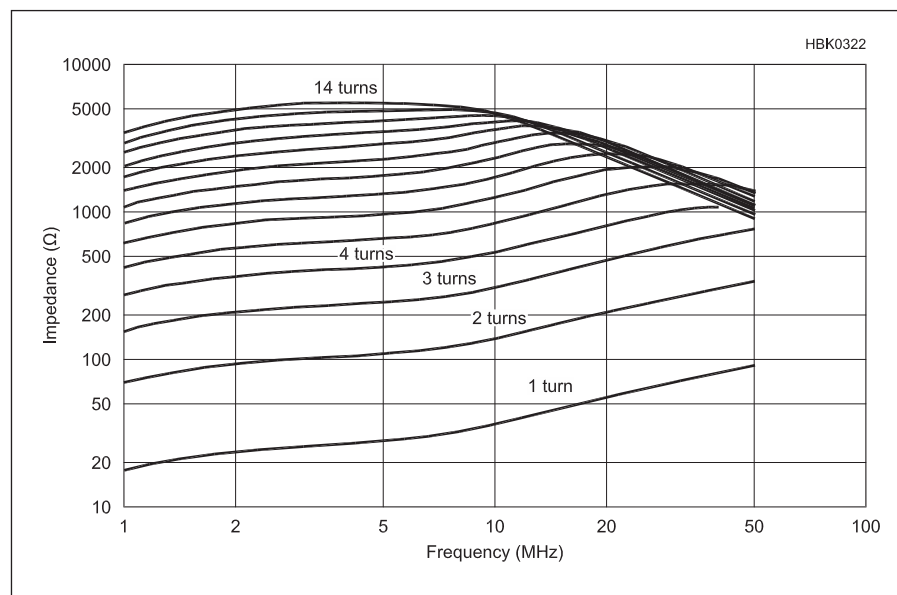


Figure 1 — Data from K9YC shows the broad response of #31 mix with graphs of impedance vs number of turns on a 2.4 inch OD ferrite toroid.

<sup>1</sup>See the discussion of mutual induction and Lenz's law in Experiments #117 and #118. All previous Hands-On Radio experiments are available to ARRL members at [www.arrrl.org/hands-on-radio](http://www.arrrl.org/hands-on-radio).



**Figure 2** — Use a hole saw, chassis punch, or hobby knife to cut a hole in the bottom of the jar large enough for a PL-259 to go through. Use an awl or small drill to make two holes in the lid for the ladder line conductors. Drill small holes around the bottom of the jar for drainage.



**Figure 3** — A close-up of the balun showing the SO-239 connector with winding soldered to the sheet metal screw.

of wire per turn plus the connections at either end for a total of about 36 inches of wire, including the input and output connections.<sup>5</sup>

The balun would be installed outside, suspended in mid-air, with up to 30 feet of coax hanging from the balun. Therefore, I needed a lightweight, non-conductive enclosure that could accommodate an SO-239 connector and the ladder line. New enclosures all seemed to be rectangular, heavy, and expensive. PVC pipe and caps would be *really* heavy. While sorting through a bag of empty food containers that I use to hold parts, I found my balun enclosure in the form of a peanut butter jar.

The 16 oz size turned out to be perfect for a 100 W balun and 28 oz jars are large enough for high-power models (Figures 2-4 show balun assembly). The clear jar is tough and a 2.4 inch toroid fits inside after winding, although you have to squeeze the jar a bit to get it through the threaded part of the jar. To get the ladder line through the lid, punch

some holes with an awl or small drill bit. Drill or cut a hole in the bottom of the jar that is a little bit bigger than the shell of a PL-259 connector. Drill three or four small holes around the bottom of the jar for drainage. For UV protection, spray paint the jar and lid with outdoor enamel.

Begin winding by securing the first turn with high-quality electrical tape such as Scotch 33+ or a wire tie. Then wind 10 turns on the core, making sure each turn is snug on the core, securing the final turn. I have tried both a single end-to-end winding and the crossover style of winding introduced by W1JR in which after half the turns are wound, the winding crosses through and over to the opposite side of the core, then continues to the point opposite the first turn.<sup>6</sup> The crossover winding has little effect at HF but it conveniently places the input and output connections on opposite sides of the core. This makes the balun easier to assemble and holds it straight between the top and bottom of the jar. Both styles work fine in this use. The input and output leads should be short enough (about 1 inch for the low-power version) that they are not bent against the jar with the lid on.

To attach the winding to the SO-239, tin the hollow tip of a #4 self-tapping sheet metal screw. Then place a small amount of anti-oxidation compound such as Penetrox on the screw threads and turn it into one of the SO-239 flange holes. (A #6 screw also works but you'll probably have to drill out the SO-239 hole a little bit, depending on the manufacturer.) Then solder one winding wire to the screw and the other to the SO-239 center conductor. Attaching the SO-239 to the jar with more sheet metal screws during installation is optional.

To test the balun before attaching the ladder line, solder a 47 or 51  $\Omega$  resistor across the output winding and use an antenna analyzer to measure the balun's input impedance. It should be close to 50  $\Omega$  with an SWR of 1:1. Move your hand along the coax and make sure the SWR doesn't change, a symptom of common-mode current on the coax. Polarity of the input and output windings is not important unless you are making a set of baluns in which case you should be consistent in how the windings are attached to the SO-239 and ladder line.

<sup>3</sup>[audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf](http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf).

<sup>4</sup>[audiosystemsgroup.com/CoaxChokesPPT.pdf](http://audiosystemsgroup.com/CoaxChokesPPT.pdf).

<sup>5</sup>The 36" bifilar winding starts to have an appreciable electrical length at 10 meters and has an additional transforming effect on the impedance that increases with frequency.



**Figure 4** — A version of the balun with the crossover winding. Notice how the input and output connections are in line with the feed lines.

Poke the ladder line conductors through the lid, and then use needlenose pliers to curl the wire into a circle or U for soldering. Solder the output leads to the ladder line wires. If you want, coat those connections with liquid electrical tape or aquarium RTV sealant. Leave the lid off for now.

To install the balun, insert the coaxial feed line's PL-259 through the hole in the jar and screw it on to the SO-239. Use the coax to pull the core into the jar until the lid is against the threads. Screw the jar back into its lid. The PL-259/SO-239 should turn freely and not bind in the hole. Waterproof the coax connectors and you are done!

### Parts List

2.4" #31 mix ferrite toroid core (Fair Rite 2631803802, Mouser 623-2631803802)

36" of two-conductor, #16 PVC-insulated zip cord (RadioShack 55057440)

16 oz peanut butter jar

SO-239

#4 self-tapping screw

<sup>6</sup>[www.njgrp.org/balun/Balun%20Manual%20-%20final.pdf](http://www.njgrp.org/balun/Balun%20Manual%20-%20final.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>The *ARRL Handbook* and *ARRL Antenna Book* are available from your ARRL dealer, or from the ARRL Store. Telephone toll-free in the US 888-277-5289, or 860-594-0355; fax 860-594-0303; [www.arrl.org/shop](http://www.arrl.org/shop); [pubsales@arrl.org](mailto:pubsales@arrl.org).



Steve Ford, WB8IMY, [wb8imy@arri.org](mailto:wb8imy@arri.org)

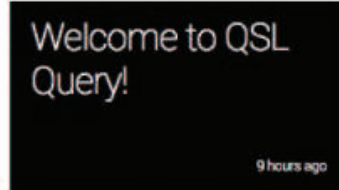
# The First Amateur Radio App for Google Glass

Google Glass is a wearable computer with an optical head-mounted display. If you read the technology press, you've heard a lot about it because Glass has captured the imaginations of gadget lovers worldwide. Google's goal is to produce a wearable, wireless computer that displays information directly in the user's field of vision and interacts with the user (and the Internet) through voice commands.

At the moment Google Glass looks like a pair of eyeglasses without lenses. However, Google is working on partnerships with sunglass retailers and they've stated that, eventually, Google Glass *will* be available in a version that accommodates prescription frames and lenses.

This year Google made Glass available to a limited group of developers and testers they called "Explorers." David Young, AE5DY, was one of those Explorers and he set about writing an Amateur Radio software application for the device.

Dave's app, known as *QSL Query*, allows you



If you were wearing Google Glass and started *QSL Query*, this is what you would see.



David asked for the QSL address of ARRL Maxim Memorial Station W1AW and received this response (along with his image as the Glass owner).

to look up call signs. When Glass accesses the Internet, you're asked which call sign you want to look up. You tap the navigation bar on the side of the Glass frame, or simply say "OK Glass," and then select REPLY. At that point you speak the call sign using standard phonetics and that data is sent to Google's servers where it is translated into a call sign and passed to a lookup database.

Within seconds you're presented with the re-

sults — literally right before your eyes. You can then tell Glass to forward the information to someone else, share the information on Facebook or Google+, or even have the information read aloud.

Google says it will release Glass to the rest of us sometime next year, but no there's been no mention of the selling price at press time. If you're curious and want to get on Google's mailing list for updates, go to [www.google.com/glass/start/how-to-get-one/](http://www.google.com/glass/start/how-to-get-one/).

## WSJT-X Has Gone "Bilingual"

*WSJT-X* by Joe Taylor, K1JT, is now "bilingual," as Joe describes it. That is to say, the software now transmits and receives both JT9 and JT65, switching between modes automatically as needed.

By now most digitally active hams are well aware of JT65, the highly popular mode that has made HF DX available even to those running 5 W to attic antennas. JT9 isn't as well known, yet, but the user universe is growing as amateurs discover its power. As it turns out, most JT9 activity takes place just above the JT65 watering holes. For example, you'll find the musical sounds of JT65 centered around 14.076 MHz with the longer, steadier tones of JT9 at about 14.078 MHz.

The new version of *WSJT-X* operates across a bandwidth of 5 kHz. Assuming your transceiver supports a bandwidth of, say, 3 kHz in the USB mode, you can park your rig on 14.076 MHz and *WSJT-X* will capture the JT65 activity around that frequency *plus* the

JT9 exchanges taking place 2 kHz higher.

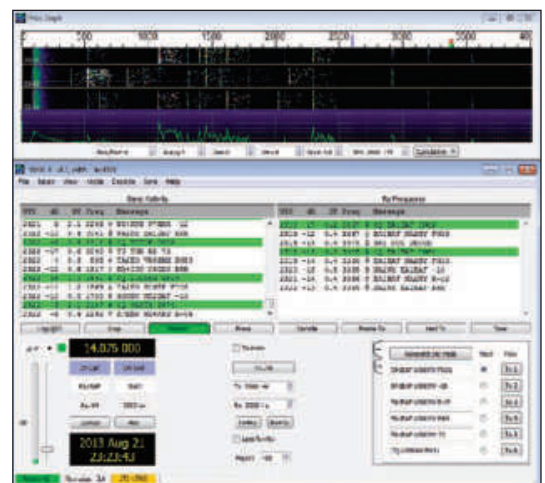
*WSJT-X* uses "mode flags" to tell you which text belongs to JT65 or JT9 transmissions. If you double click on a JT9 line, the software automatically configures itself for a JT9 contact — and vice versa if you click on a line of JT65 text.

Even if you are already familiar with previous versions of *WSJT-X*, you should still read the new online *WSJT-X* User's Guide at [www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSJT-X\\_Users\\_Guide\\_v1.1.pdf](http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/WSJT-X_Users_Guide_v1.1.pdf).

You can download the Windows installation package at [www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjsx.html](http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjsx.html). The program also runs well under *Linux* and *OS X*, but on these platforms you must compile it yourself.

To make life even easier with

*WSJT-X*, Andy O'Brien, K3UK, has written the *K3UK Old Codger's Guide to WSJT-X*. You can find this work in progress at [obriensweb.com/wsjsx.html](http://obriensweb.com/wsjsx.html).





Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK, hk@arrrl.org

## Solar Lite, Piano Wire Antenna, and *Ubuntu* VFO Control

### Simple Solar

The students of the Central Middle School Amateur Radio Club (sponsored by the Midland Amateur Radio Club, W8KEA) were building AM radio sets that operate on a 9 V battery. During the meeting, one of the adult volunteers suggested the idea of using a 9 V solar panel to operate the radios. His comment sparked an idea.

I had the solar cells and associated circuitry from six solar yard lights. Each of them had an AA rechargeable battery to store energy during the day and supply it to an LED at night. I decided to make a 9 V supply from these discarded yard lights.

Each light contains a solar cell, a control circuit, an AA battery, and an LED. First I had to understand how the control circuit worked. During the day, the sun shines on the solar cell and recharges the battery. When the sun goes down, the LED lights come on. In order for these units to work as a 9 V supply, I needed to be able to draw current for the radios and charge the batteries at the same time. I also didn't want the LED to drain the battery when the sun wasn't shining.

With no schematic for the circuit available, I used a circuit drawing program called *ExpressSCH* (a free download at [www.expresspcb.com](http://www.expresspcb.com)) to reproduce the circuit as it was laid out on the controller board.

Once completed, I dragged the components

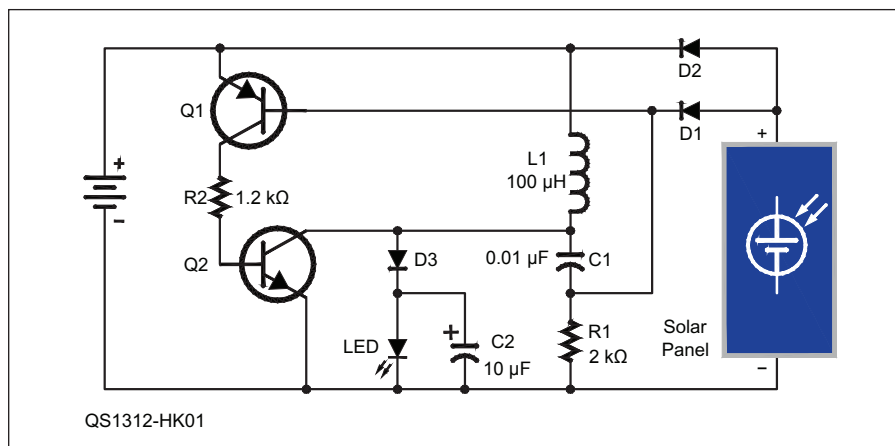


Figure 1 — Schematic of solar LED yard light control circuit. [Dennis Klipa, N8ERF, photo]

around to rearrange the schematic and make it easier to understand how the circuit worked (see Figure 1). The diodes and transistors were unmarked so their exact identities are not known. For the purpose of the circuit analysis I assumed that Q1 and Q2 were bipolar transistors.

The AA battery charges directly from the solar cell through D2. The LED requires about 2.6 V just to turn on, and about 3.5 V for full output, but neither the battery nor the solar cell can supply that much voltage. The voltage is generated by a simple step-up converter (boost converter). While the sun is

shining, the base of Q1 is biased off and so is Q2 as a result. As soon as the sun stops shining Q1 is turned on and thus Q2 as well. This causes current to flow through L1 and Q2 to ground. The LED does not light because the voltage is still below 2.4 V. At this point, C1 will briefly pick up a charge and the voltage at the junction of C1 and R1 will cause Q1 and subsequently Q2 to turn off. However, the energy stored in the magnetic field of L1 will cause the voltage at D3 to rise high enough for the LED to turn on and shine. Meanwhile, the voltage at the junction between C1 and R1 will fall to the point where Q1 turns on again,

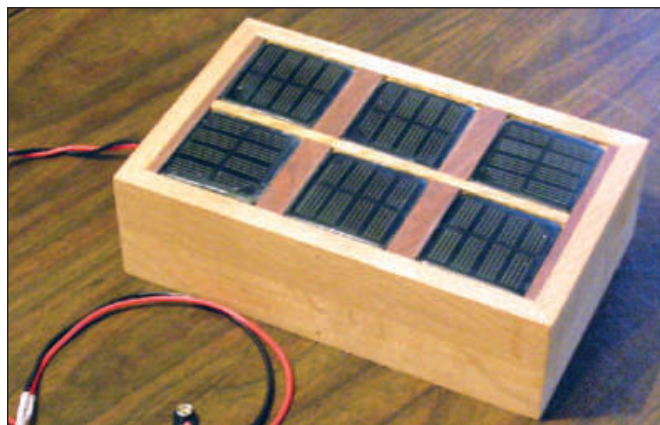


Figure 2 — The completed 9 V solar power supply in an oak walnut case. [Dennis Klipa, N8ERF, photo]

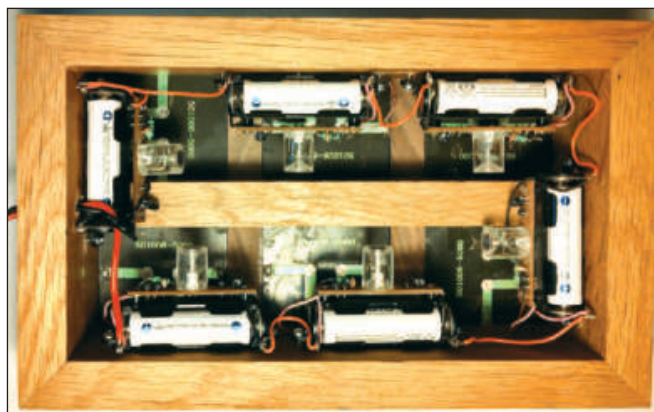


Figure 3 — Bottom view showing the six controllers mounted in the case with their batteries installed. [Dennis Klipa, N8ERF, photo]

causing the cycle to repeat itself. The frequency of this cycle will be influenced by the R1C1 time constant. This cycle will continue until the battery voltage drops too low to operate the LED or the sun comes back up.

I disconnected one side of L1 to disable the step-converter — preventing the LED from draining the battery when the solar cell was in the dark. Furthermore, I could access the solar panel's output at the battery terminals, whether a battery was installed or not.

So with six of these units hooked up in series and mounted in a nice oak and black walnut case (see Figures 2 and 3) I had my 9 V supply ready to go. With the rechargeable AA batteries installed, I can leave it all day in the sunshine and listen to my AM radio at night. — 73, *Dennis Klipa, N8ERF, 644 E Whitethorn Dr, Midland, MI 48640, n8erf@arrrl.net.*

### A Piano Plays Radio

I am one of those hams who lives in a townhouse community that does not allow antennas of any kind outdoors. I have found that piano wire in gauges from #0 to #5 works well for a low-visibility antenna. [Steel and piano wire gauge sizes 0 and 5 are similar in diameter to copper AWG sizes 31 and 27, respectively. — *Ed.*] It's available from many suppliers and an Internet search will provide a number of leads.

I went out on a foggy Sunday morning (a stealth antenna has to be raised in a stealthy way) and slung a weight with some 50 lb test line about 35 feet into a tree behind my home. I then ran the piano wire from my shack to the tree for a length of about 150 feet. It has proved successful in that you cannot see the very fine but very strong piano wire.

One thing to note, when buying piano wire, be sure to order it on a spool — *not* in a coil. I first bought the coiled wire and learned the hard way that it has a mind of its own. It took me some 2½ hours to get it untangled!

I run 100 W with an AH-4 autotuner and have made many contacts around the world. So, if you also live in a restricted community, give this idea a try. I think you'll be happy with the results. — 73, *James Waters, W3BIF, 311 Cherry Ln, Kennett Square, PA 19348, captainjimwaters@comcast.net*

### More On the One Trim Dipole

In the October "Hints and Kinks" column, the hint titled "A One Trim Dipole," contained an error. In the example given, the target resonant frequency was 14.2 MHz. Using the standard formula ( $Length = 468/frequency$ ), the length of a dipole would be 32.96 feet, or about 16½ feet per side. You would add 6 inches to each side for trimming, making the final length 17 feet per side or 34 feet total.

Toward the end of the hint, the length is misstated as 17 feet 6 inches, instead of 17 feet. Since the recalculated length of the dipole using the real constant is 17 feet 3 inches, you need to add 3 inches to the 17 foot dipole to bring it to resonance at 14.2 MHz, *not* trim 3 inches. This makes sense from the standpoint of antenna theory since the first resonance for the dipole was 14.4 MHz, a higher frequency than the desired resonant frequency of 14.2 MHz. In order to lower an antenna's resonant frequency, you need to add to, not trim, its length.

My thanks to Tony Bogusz, W9MT, for noting the error. — 73, *Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK, aglyk@arrrl.org*

### Using Fldigi for VFO Control

I was trying to use *Fldigi* for software control of my rigs but was unable to access the VFOs. In researching the issue, I found an excellent and detailed discussion by Thomas Adsit, K8WDX, of *Fldigi* software on the [ubuntuforums.org](http://ubuntuforums.org) website, which provided the solution. For those simply interested in allowing *Fldigi* to access their rig's VFO via a USB cable, the following notes may help.

In general, many radios have either a serial or USB port that can connect to a computer. Since most recent computers no longer have serial ports, a USB to serial converter may be necessary.

*Fldigi* is able to show the current VFO setting and change the VFO frequency. If that functionality is not working on your *Ubuntu Linux* computer, two simple software changes may fix the problem.

Using administrator privileges, edit the file named *group* found in the */etc* directory of the *Ubuntu* file system. Add your "username" to the following two lines:

```
dialout:x:20:[username]
```

```
tty:x:5:x:[username]
```

Save the changes, log out and then log back in to activate the new permissions. This simple change allows *Fldigi* to access the VFOs of my Kenwood TS-590S (with a standard USB cable) and Icom IC-R75 receiver (with a USB to serial cable). — 73, *Thomas Hart, AD1B, 54 Hermaine Ave, Dedham, MA 02026-6321, tm.hart@verizon.net*

### Mag Mount Sealer

After repairing my 2 meter magnetic mount antenna, I needed to apply a weather resistant seal to the bottom surface. Rows of electrical tape didn't appear to be the best solution. I had some leftover bumper stickers just waiting to be stuck onto something. I cleaned the base of the mount to remove any dirt that might penetrate the covering. Then I cut one of the bum-



**Figure 4** — An old bumper sticker, cut and trimmed to fit, protects your car's roof against scratches from your mag-mount antenna. [Phil Grant, N1YPS, photo]

per stickers in half, stuck it to the bottom of my newly repaired antenna, and trimmed the excess with my pocket knife (see Figure 4). Now the bottom of the mag mount was extra clean and smooth, and ready for a scratch-free roof mounting. — 73, *Phil Grant, N1YPS, 119 Hoe Shop Rd, Bernardston, MA 01337, phill12643@verizon.net*

### Heavy Duty Altoids Tin

If you like to build radios using the ubiquitous Altoids mint tins and have wished for a stronger version (or one without the product information), there is an alternative that you should consider. CountyComm Government Products Group is carrying a plated, food grade steel tin identical in size (3.70 × 2.32 × 0.82 inches) but of heavier gauge construction ([countycomm.com/tin.html](http://countycomm.com/tin.html)), and is said to be twice the weight of similar tins. These are easier to punch and drill without tearing the metal. CountyComm also sells a nylon pouch that fits the tin to provide a belt-carry option ([countycomm.com/pcc.html](http://countycomm.com/pcc.html)).

These tins have only two issues: They're \$3.45 — not free, and they lack the fresh minty bouquet of Altoids tins. — 73, *Dean Lewis, W9WGV, 1193 E Azalea Ln, Apt D, Palatine, IL 60074-1566, w9wgv@arrrl.net*

"Hints and Kinks" items have not been tested by *QST* or the ARRL unless otherwise stated. Although we can't guarantee that a given hint will work for your situation, we make every effort to screen out harmful information. Send technical questions directly to the hint's author.

*QST* invites you to share your hints with fellow hams. Send them to "Attn: Hints and Kinks" at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, or via e-mail to [hk@arrrl.org](mailto:hk@arrrl.org). Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address on all correspondence. Whether you are praising or criticizing an item, please send the author(s) a copy of your comments.

# Once Upon a Christmas

## Finnish amateurs bring Christmas magic to the world via Amateur Radio.

### Martti J. Laine, OH2BH

For many — and for children in particular — the white-bearded Santa Claus is a symbol of the Christmas season. He represents the warm spirit of the holiday, one that inspires us to do something special for family and friends.

Perhaps it is no surprise that some of the most creative Christmas activities come from those of us who live closest to Santa Claus — the Finnish hams who catapult Santa onto his world tour every year. During Christmas 2012 we used Amateur Radio to do something special indeed!

### Point Your Beam at Lapland

Many nations lay claim to being the location of Santa's home and workshop. During my years of travel, I have seen Santa in many forms and in many places, including *both* Christmas islands — Australia (VK9X) and the Central Pacific (T32) — and places such as Greenland (OX), Iceland (TF), and nearby Nordic countries in Europe. For children living in the US, however, tradition states that Santa Claus resides at the North Pole.

Here in the “real” Santa country, we don't fuss about such claims, but it is true that the Republic of Finland, Santa's home, indeed lies *next* to the North Pole. When swinging your beam our way, your signals end up here in a mysterious northern village. It is said that Santa Claus resides at the Arctic Circle



Anyone who contacted both OF9X and OH9SCL earned a Santa Certificate.

(66° N), in Finnish Lapland, which is where most people who live above the Arctic Circle reside.

In our Finnish tradition, Santa's home base is the city of Rovaniemi, the capital of Lapland (OH9). The city boasts an extensive workshop complex and a mammoth Santa post office that regularly receives more than 600,000 letters a year from those who believe. It is probably not widely known

that Santa is a powerful tourist attraction, employing more than 10,000 people whose livelihood is attributable not only to the spectacular Arctic landscape, but also the five-star hotels and ski resorts served by direct flights to Rovaniemi Airport (also known as “Santa Claus Airport”) from many major European locations. There is even non-stop service from Tokyo, Japan. Local legend says that the workshop is filled with elves assisting

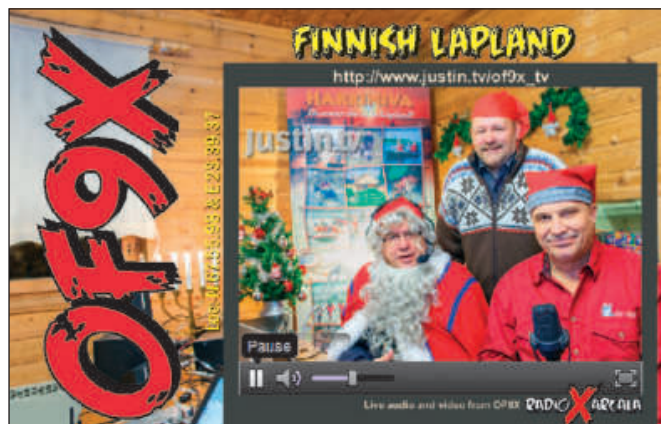


Figure 1 — This is how the interactive Santa window looked through the two selected web portals, with live audio and video streams. The OF9X QSL card shows the organizers: Santa-Martti, host Kopi Pietikainen and Juha Hulkko, OH8NC.



Figure 2 — The Sun never rises during Christmas time in Lapland, which makes outdoor work a bit tricky. Here, Aaro Hyvarinen, OH9RJ (right), and Kimmo Rautio, OH9MDV (who made the majority of the Santa QSOs), are preparing antennas for Santa Radio.



Santa, while Mrs Claus resides in nearby Korvatunturi.

Rovaniemi is the spot from which Santa is said to start his journey around the world on Christmas Eve. In Finland and other European countries, Santa traditionally appears “in person” to delighted families on Christmas Eve. In the US, with its busier lifestyle, stockings are hung near the chimney for Santa to fill with goodies in the wee hours of Christmas Day, while the family is still asleep.

### Santa Radio at OF9X

In 2012, the folks at Radio Arcala, OH8X, near Lapland, wanted to use Amateur Radio to bring Santa to the children of the United States and other parts of the world. The kickoff for “Santa Radio” was organized in the village of Muonio (67.55° N, 23.39° E) where both stations, OH9SCL, and OF9X, were outfitted with the latest radio and computer technology.

The plan was that Santa Radio, OF9X, would



The kickoff for Santa Radio was organized in the village of Muonio (67.55° N, 23.39° E) at the official Santa Claus Land station, OH9SCL.

## My Special Christmas Morning Contact

Dear Santa Martti, OH2BH...

Thank you for being my first contact ever! My name is Maile, I am 10 years old, and my call sign is K7MKD. Making my first contact with you on Christmas Day was very special to me and has helped open the door of possibilities to talk to other hams all over the world.

My dad, NT7U, was excited to have a new rig for Christmas and quickly set it up. That is when he heard “this guy in Finland near the North Pole dressed up like Santa.” After he talked to you it changed my attitude about giving it a try, and I climbed on his lap. He helped me a bit with what to say because I was really nervous. I kept saying, “But what if I

screw up, and the FCC ends up on our stoop?”

Dad said I could write some notes on what to say. My hand shook so much that I had to rewrite it. Usually I have really good penmanship. “K7MKD, kilo seven mike kilo delta.” I didn’t want to mess up my own call sign! We had to wait for you to call for our call area, as Dad calls it. I forget now how many times I had to try before you heard me.

“Dad, he heard me!” I kept thinking — my gosh, I did it! Dad had to whisper to me a few times to help get me out of la-la land.

I think that you thought someone else was the control operator, so I repeated that it was my call sign and that you were my first contact. Maybe it was in the stars, because so many things lined up for this to happen. I shrieked after we were done and gave my dad a big hug! We were still in our pajamas since we had just opened our gifts. This was the best Christmas surprise.

Getting my ham radio license was a father-daughter bonding project this summer and with school starting right after I have been busy with other things. We studied for months before I was ready to take the test. Now I hope to pick up the microphone more often and see who else wants to talk. We only have an American flag pole tied to the roof of the garage for an antenna, but it was good enough. I am going to work with Dad to build a bigger one so we can talk to you again someday.

I believe in Santa but I noticed that you didn’t have a beard when I saw your picture — that was a tipoff! I’m just happy to be able to say that I know someone at the official station of Santa. That is good enough for me.

Thanks for the special contact and 73,  
Maile Danilchik, K7MKD, Poulsbo, Washington USA



Ten year old Maile Danilchik, K7MKD.

## The Santa Claus Polar Path

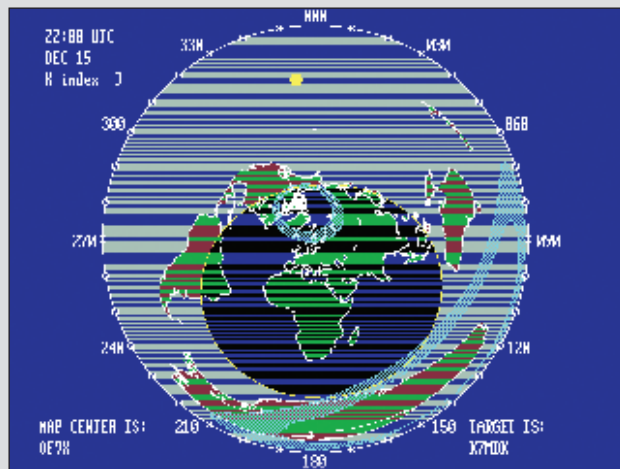
OF9X (Santa Radio) and OH9SCL (Santa), enjoyed unique 20 meter propagation to North America that was not available to other, more southern, Europeans.

Normally we wouldn't expect any propagation on 20 meters from these high northern Finnish latitudes to North America at night in winter due to low  $F_2$  region MUFs (maximum usable frequencies) on the Finnish end of the path (the North American end would be okay). The accompanying image shows the path between OF9X and K7MKD for their 1900 UTC QSO on December 25. Two modes of propagation may explain these QSOs.

The first mode is auroral-E, and it would mostly be associated with contacts to the US East Coast and Midwest. From August 1991 to August 1992 Bob Hunsucker, AB7VP (then KL7CYS), and Bob Rose, K6GKU, studied a 960 km east-west path in Alaska on 25.545 MHz. They discovered that the path was nonexistent until the K index rose high enough to put the auroral oval over (and tangential to) the path. This mode occurred during all months (it was most prevalent during the equinoxes) and was centered around the local midnight portion of the auroral oval (the thick portion).

The second mode is drifting patches of F region ionization across the dark polar cap, and it would mostly be associated with the QSOs to the West Coast of North America. Bob Brown, NM7M (SK), brought this mode to the attention of radio amateurs in 1993, and these patches occur in the Northern Hemisphere winter, when the polar cap is dark. The patches offer F region ionization several times greater than the background ionization, and can even support 28 MHz.

In summary, the unique location of northern Finland with



The polar opening between OF9X and K7MKD during their 1900 UTC QSO on December 25.

respect to the auroral oval and the polar cap appears to have enabled these contacts. Whether they're due to auroral-E or drifting patches of F region ionization across the dark polar cap is not important. What's important is they're available on a rather regular basis in winter and are available only to the northern Scandinavian areas. — Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

remotely access and operate the powerful Radio Arcala station, OH8X, while OH9SCL was to be activated from various locations within Lapland. Anyone who contacted both stations earned a Santa Certificate via e-mail, inscribed with the names of the children or grandchildren of the family.

The 2012 results were impressive with 5557 call signs in the log, 3734 of which were American. We issued more than 700 certificates.

### More High-Tech Magic

Santa's friendly voice on 20 meters prompted many children to talk to the white-bearded old man. The use of a live Internet audio/video stream, with Santa waving his hand and talking to the children, only improved the experience. The video stream also allowed distant amateurs to hear playbacks of their signals. With the massive 24 element array on a rotating 350 foot tower at Radio Arcala, many participating hams were surprised at the strength of their signals.

The whole multimedia machine was built and run using the world's largest ham radio web portal, [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com), in parallel with Radio Arcala's world renowned DX Summit website. The person who orchestrated the

Internet magic was Santa's webmaster, Vlad Lambrianov, UA6JD, who is also part of the [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) support team.

Look up OF9X on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) and you'll find various interactive elements from Santa's village such as current weather, online logs, and a write-to-Santa option. It also displays web traffic statistics for the entire Santa Radio operation. More than 35,000 hits were registered during the holiday period. The site is still up and running for your viewing pleasure.

### Radio Station and Propagation

For the convenience of the scattered Santa Radio operators here in Finland, we made it possible for them to get on the air using OF9X via Internet remote control, rather than using local station facilities. This gave them the option to spend Christmas at home while still transmitting during prime hours for the US on 20 meters. We chose times in the US and elsewhere that would make it possible for children to be at the radio.

The aurora borealis (northern lights) frequently blaze in the skies of the Far North and typically kill radio propagation when active. Fortunately, the December 2012 auroral activity was such that it allowed us to ride the

rare polar openings on 20 meters and establish the only European signal presence across a large footprint in the US. This added to the overall success of the program. Even if Santa was sandwiched beneath the auroral oval, the unique polar or "Santa" path on 20 meters did the trick (see the sidebar "The Santa Claus Polar Path").

In 2013 the Radio Arcala group hopes to once again bring some Christmas magic to delight youngsters and old timers alike, during this special time of the year. Check the OF9X page on [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) for the latest updates.

Martti Laine is an avid DXpeditioner who has served the DXCC program for more than 50 years, most recently in the context of his "Missionary DXpeditioning" concept in which he attempted to inspire Amateur Radio activity in various DXCC entities. Although Martti is retiring from DXpeditioning, he remains active on the air as OH2BH from Finland and CU2KG from his second home in Azores. You can contact Martti at [oh2bh@sral.fi](mailto:oh2bh@sral.fi).





# Colorado Flooding and Ham Radio: Public Service at its Finest

**A father calls for help, and Amateur Radio relays the answer.**

## **Sean Kutzko, KX9X**

ARRL Media & Public Relations Manager

Nobody ever expects to be involved in an actual emergency situation. But we think about it, we talk about such a scenario with our friends, and some even train for such occasions. When a very real emergency happened in Colorado — the devastating flooding during September — Amateur Radio stepped up during the first critical days in a way that many non-hams say made a huge difference in the initial response and subsequent recovery efforts. In the middle of the storm, ham radio provided a father in Nebraska peace of mind that no other source of information did.

Between September 9 and 13, almost 15 inches of rain fell in rugged northern Colorado. This was double the state's previous record for a single storm, which was set in May 1969. The mountains and streams simply couldn't manage that much water in that short of a time frame; gentle creeks became raging rivers, expanding far beyond their banks. Seventeen Colorado counties were affected, with the flood covering nearly 4500 square miles, or an area roughly the size of Connecticut. It was confirmed that six lives were lost and over 18,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Bridges and roads were wiped out, and entire communities lost all utilities and communications, cutting them off from the rest of the world.

When the magnitude of the event became apparent, state and county disaster plans went into effect. Part of that plan was a group of Amateur Radio operators throughout Boulder and Larimer and counties who are part of the Colorado Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES. These ham radio operators are ordinary people from the local communities who have been federally licensed to use the ham frequencies. They have undergone training to respond to such emergencies, including routinely practicing message handling under duress.

### **Radio Amateurs Called for Communication Assistance**

Several dozen amateurs participated in the emergency response throughout the 17 affected counties and provided critical information and support to federal, state, and county served agencies (including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Red Cross, and the Office of Emergency Management for Boulder and Larimer counties). One request for as-

sistance, however, stood out for Doug Tabor, N6UA, and David O'Farrell, WBØIXV. Both men live in Estes Park, a mountain community of about 6000, located about 75 miles north-northwest of Denver at the border of Rocky Mountain National Park. Tabor is a pilot and IT consultant; O'Farrell is retired. Both became interested in Amateur Radio as young men in the mid-1960s.

As members of both the Colorado ARES team and the Estes Valley Amateur Radio Club, the two men were asked to set up at the Estes Park Fire Station on Thursday, September 12. Tabor said, "US 34 was washed out around noon, and with it went the fiber optic cable that provided cell phone and landline service and almost all of the Internet service to the Estes Park valley." While the low-lying downtown area was flooded, large portions of Estes Park still had electricity. They found out later that the other two routes out of town — US 36 and State Highway 7 — were also washed out. They were sent to the Estes Park Fire Department on Thursday evening, to help handle communications between the Red Cross shelters in the area and to keep the Larimer County Office of Emergency Management informed on the Estes Valley's status. They spent the better part of four days there, relaying messages and information from their cars in the Estes Park Fire Department parking lot using radios on

Above: Estes Park was just one of several communities flooded out; they received as much as 15 inches of rain over a period of four days. Communities throughout the flood area will be cleaning up for months. [Kris Hazleton, photo. Courtesy Estes Park News, Inc, used with permission.]



Dave O'Farrell, WB0IXV (left) and Doug Tabor, N6UA (right), spent the better part of the first four days of the flooding in the parking lot of the Estes Park (CO) Fire Department handling health and welfare traffic, including the call from Ron Young, KD0HCH, about his daughter who was stranded in nearby Allenspark. [Dave O'Farrell, WB0IXV, Photo]



Loy Young, KD0IHF, of Hastings, Nebraska and her husband Ron, KD0HCH, are relieved to find out their daughter is safe. Ron made the call to Estes Park via the Internet Radio Linking Protocol (IRLP) to get information about his stranded daughter. [Ron Young, KD0HCH, photo]

VHF and UHF frequencies designed for local area communications. Tabor and O'Farrell took turns — one manning the radios, with the other taking notes, to ensure accurate reporting and gathering of information. Sometimes they would both be on a radio at the same time. One would retrieve regular status reports from the Red Cross shelters and the Estes Park Medical Center; the other would be talking with hams stationed throughout the Estes Park valley, getting information about the condition of roads, diminishing supplies of food and fresh water, or the needs of evacuees at Red Cross shelters throughout the area. Sometimes one of them would drive to the Red Cross shelter or the medical center to take care of a problem, and then head back to the fire department. Other members of the Estes Valley Amateur Radio Club provided communications at locations throughout the Valley.

They had two different radios with antennas on the roofs of their cars, which connected them to other hams throughout the affected area via several Amateur Radio transmitter receiver combinations known as "repeaters" all throughout Larimer and Boulder counties. Repeaters allow signals from lower-powered transmitters, like the ones in Tabor and O'Farrell's cars, to be retransmitted with higher power and a better antenna, allowing Tabor and O'Farrell's signals to cover a much wider area than they could on their own in the mountainous terrain. "Things quieted down at night, and we were both fortunate to be able to sleep in our own beds," Tabor said. "The last thing you want to do during a flood event is to be wandering around at night and become a victim." They would go back to the Fire Department each morning and stay until 10 or 11 at night, relaying whatever information was needed to provide assistance.

### Concern Arises For Woman Isolated by Flooding

475 miles away in Hastings, Nebraska, Thursday, September 12 was the beginning of a very long three days for Ron Young, KD0HCH.

Young and his wife Loy, KD0IHF, have two daughters living in Estes Park. He is a member of the Estes Valley Amateur Radio Club and knows some of the members due to his regular visits to see his daughters. While his older daughter was safely in Estes Park when the flooding hit on Thursday morning, his younger daughter made it to Allenspark, 18 miles to the south, where she worked as an administrative assistant. She had a condition that required medication at very specific times. Young said, "She called me on Thursday and told me it had been raining really hard since Wednesday, and she drove through a washed-out road just to make it to work." That was the last he heard from her. "We were concerned, but not too concerned. But when we started getting reports from friends before communication was lost, we knew she was stranded at work and was low on medicine. We knew there could be a problem." Young didn't know how much medicine she had with her at work. Without the medication, Young's daughter gets tired and lethargic very quickly; going without medication for a long time could be life-threatening to her.

There was no word from Young's daughter on Friday. "I woke up about three AM on Saturday, and that's when it all hit me," Young recalled. "Not having heard from her in three days, all I had to go on was my imagination, guessing what her condition could be. She could be on a cot at work, and the others with her would think she's just sleeping in, but actually, she's dying. At three AM, I got really scared."

### Information Brings Comfort in Times of Crisis

Saturday morning in Estes Park saw slight improvement. A very spotty Internet connection was established to the repeater site in Estes Park. That allowed amateurs to use a protocol known as the Internet Radio Linking Protocol (IRLP), which provides dedicated voice communication links between amateur repeater systems via the Internet. It took several attempts but, using his iPad, Ron Young in Nebraska was finally able to make contact with Doug Tabor on the Estes Park repeater via IRLP around 9:30 AM Saturday and explain his daughter's situation.

"Ron told us his daughter was stranded in Allenspark at work and hadn't had her medication in three days," O'Farrell said. Tabor asked Young to stand by and then made a call for assistance via an Amateur Radio repeater in Allenspark; Bob McDonald, KD0SCC, a resident of Allenspark and newly licensed amateur, answered.

"I was monitoring our local repeater and heard [Doug Tabor] trying to raise the Allenspark Fire Department with no response," McDonald said. "After a second call by Doug, I broke in and asked if he needed to get in touch with the Fire Department. When he told me what he needed and because the phones were not working, I offered to drive over to the station and get him in touch with the dispatcher. The Fire Station is less than two miles from my home, so within a few minutes I was at the station and initiated a third party link between Doug and the Allenspark Fire Department dispatcher." Paramedics were dispatched to find and retrieve Young's daughter.

"When I got hold of Doug, you don't know how good I felt," Young said. "It brought me to tears. There was no other way to get info. I heard him

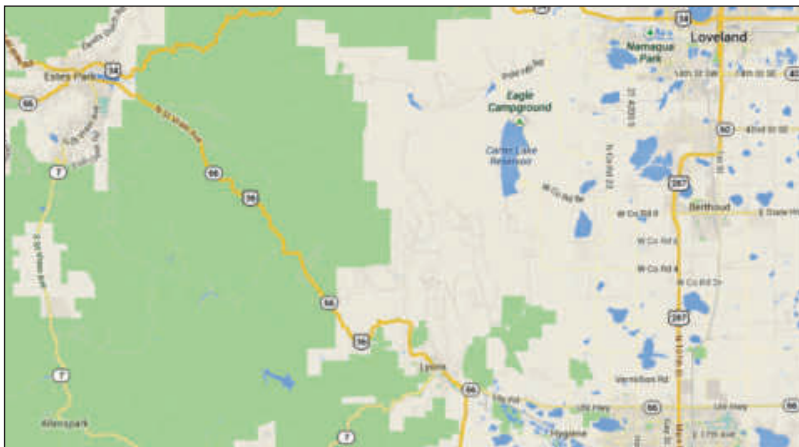
radio for assistance to Allenspark, and I just knew then that things were going to be okay.”

As it turned out, Young’s daughter had decided to take a chance on her own. By Saturday afternoon, her condition worsening and running low on food and potable water, she opted to get in a car with a couple of her coworkers and make an attempt to get out on their own. Firefighters at the Allenspark fire station told the women that State Highway 7 was believed to be passable, but if they tried to make the trip, they were doing so at their own risk.

The dispatched paramedics missed Young’s daughter by only a few minutes.

The women eventually made it safely to Estes Park. Young received word that his daughter was at the Estes Park Red Cross shelter, and was in good hands.

“Ron was very grateful and thankful,” Tabor said. He and O’Farrell continued relaying other messages and information about conditions in the Estes Valley until Sunday morning, when the major fiber optic line into Estes Park was repaired, restoring landline telephone and internet service. All in all, 155 man-hours were put into Amateur Radio emergency communications efforts in Estes Park by nine members



Estes Park is in Larimer county; Allenspark is 18 miles south of Estes Park, in Boulder county, approximately 75 miles north-northwest of Denver. [Map courtesy of Google Maps]

of the Estes Valley Amateur Radio Club from September 12 through 15. Damage assessment and rebuilding will continue for several months throughout the 17-county affected area.

Young said his daughter is going to be okay, but it will take a couple months to get her medical condition stabilized again. He looks forward to returning to Estes Park to thank the men who, through Amateur Radio, gave him the peace of

mind he needed at a very difficult time.

“It was well run, boy,” Young said. “It was simple but it was effective.”

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is the ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager. He has been licensed since 1982 and employed at the ARRL since 2007. He enjoys HF and VHF contesting, DXing, and backpack QRPing. He can be reached [kx9x@arrl.org](mailto:kx9x@arrl.org).

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and Peace on Earth  
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and QST's  
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Paul Wade, W1GHZ  
Dan Wall, W1ZFG  
Pete Warner, K1HJW  
Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB  
Mike White, W1RSX  
Rosalie White, K1STO  
Mark Wilson, K1RO  
Larry Wolfgang, WR1B  
Janice Wytas, KB1ODH  
Sani Zanovic

# A Contact I'll Never Forget

## Amateur Radio forms a bridge between two famous men.



Lowell Thomas was one of the most well-known journalists of his day, with a career that extended from World War I into the 1950s. [Wikimedia Commons]

### Paul Danzer, N1II

The evening was warm, and the daylight was fading into night. I was tuning 15 meters and the signals there were also fading in and out with the weakening of the ionosphere.

There was still some daylight at my shack in Norwalk, Connecticut. One minute there were a few signals indistinguishable from the S-2 noise level, and the next minute a host of JAs would pop up S-7 or S-8. It was a usual summer evening on 15. Then, suddenly, it went from typical to exceptional.

At about 0120Z, “Nine Nancy One Mickey Mouse” appeared. Father Moran had the only station operating from Nepal at that time. A missionary, he became well-known in Amateur Radio circles as a DXer and in the popular press for his work with the residents of Nepal.<sup>1</sup> His position brought him into contact with any number of world famous leaders — from presidents and kings, to explorers and entertainment personalities. He

<sup>1</sup>U. Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, “In Loving Memory: Father Moran, 9N1MM,” *QST*, Jun 2006, pp 48-49.



Figure 1 — Paul's, N1II, QSL card from Father Moran, 9N1MM. [Paul Danzer, N1II, photo]

was featured in innumerable magazines and newspaper stories.

I was surprised to hear his short CQ, and shocked when he came back on my first call. My station at that time was rather modest — 100 W to a three element trap Yagi, about 40 feet off the ground. We exchanged signal reports; he was a solid 56 and he gave me a 57. Then, instead of the usual small talk about his station and the weather, he asked me how far I was from the New York state line. I told him I wasn't far and he asked me if I could run a phone patch.

### Phone What?

Before the Internet, long distance calls were often very expensive — running from 25 cents up to a several dollars a minute. Many hams had an accessory called a *phone patch*, which interfaced your rig to the telephone line. If you had a friend in a distant city, you could call a directional CQ, looking for a ham in that city. The ham who answered your CQ would place a local call to your friend, connect his rig to the phone through the phone patch, and you could talk to your friend via the airwaves.

My patch was homebrewed — with a junk box switch and a miniature RadioShack audio transformer — for a total cost of approximately \$2. Once a standard station accessory, phone patches have faded into technological history because long distance calls have become so inexpensive — often included as part of a cell phone plan.

### The Contact Gets Interesting

I told 9N1MM I would be happy to run a phone patch and asked who he wanted to talk to. Very casually he said that his friend, Lowell Thomas, lived just over the New York/Connecticut border and gave me his phone number.

For those of you who have never heard of Lowell Thomas, or don't remember his prominence, this was roughly equivalent to someone on the air giving you Steven Spielberg's phone number and asking if you minded calling him.

Lowell Thomas was a world-famous broadcaster, writer, explorer, and producer of docu-

mentary and travel films, known for his commanding voice on the radio. Similar to Father Moran, Thomas quite often appeared in the company of various presidents, kings, and other noteworthy individuals. He is credited with making T. E. Lawrence — better known as Lawrence of Arabia — famous.

Apparently Moran and Thomas met and became good friends when Thomas was in Nepal shooting a film.

### A Chat Across the Continents

With some hesitation I took the number and dialed. Someone answered and I explained that I had Father Moran on the other end of a radio link (no use in trying to explain Amateur Radio!) and that he wanted to talk to Mr Thomas. The voice on the other end, without missing a beat, said, “Just a minute,” — and sure enough the next voice was immediately recognizable as belonging to Lowell Thomas. Briefly I explained that this was not a telephone system — only one person could talk at a time and when he was finished with his sentence and wanted a response he should say “over.”

Then I became nervous. Signals were 56 or 57, but the band was unstable and I did not really want to have to explain that the call was dropped due to propagation. Thankfully, the band held and no one broke in. For about 15 minutes, these two distinguished gentlemen chatted while I threw the patch switch from receive to transmit and back again.

When they were though, both parties thanked me as though this was a common occurrence. I signed, and with a shaking and sweating hand logged the contact — July 26, 1979. Figure 1 is the front of the QSL 9N1MM sent me, but I hardly need a reminder to bring back my memories of this incredible contact.

Paul Danzer, N1II, an ARRL member, has been an active ham since his teenage years. He has had a number of interesting contacts, but the one described here is certainly one of the most memorable. After a career as an electronic engineer in the defense business, he is now a Professor of Computer Science at a local community college. You can reach Paul at 2 Dawn Rd, Norwalk, CT, 06851-1106, [n1ii@arrl.net](mailto:n1ii@arrl.net).



# ARRL Executive Committee Okays Filing Symbol Rate

**ARRL General Counsel receives authorization, comments on other regulatory matters.**

The ARRL Executive Committee (EC) has authorized ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, to file a *Petition for Rule-making* on the League's behalf, calling for the deletion of symbol rate references for data emissions in the HF bands. The EC met October 5 in Aurora, Colorado. The League's *Petition*, still in the final stages of preparation, would substitute an authorized bandwidth of 2.8 kHz for all data emissions in the bands below 30 MHz. Current FCC rules limit data emissions to a symbol rate of 300 baud below 28 MHz and to 1200 baud on 10 meters. The current limits date to 1980, when US amateurs first were authorized to use ASCII, reflecting the state of the art back then, which, the League points out, has been overtaken by technology.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Symbol Rate Rule Modernization Committee, directed Imlay to draft a *Petition for Rulemaking* with the FCC seeking to modify §97.307(f) of the Amateur Service rules to delete all references to symbol rate. The *Petition* will ask the FCC "to apply to all amateur data emissions below 29.7 MHz the existing bandwidth limit, per §97.303(h), of 2.8 kHz." In digital systems "symbol rate" refers to the number of times per second that

a change of state occurs. The ARRL chose the 2.8 kHz bandwidth, since the FCC already has applied it to emissions on the channelized 60 meter band and because it's slightly wider than the data mode bandwidths currently in use by amateurs on HF.

The Ad Hoc Committee had determined that the current symbol rate restrictions in §97.307(f) "no longer reflect the state of the art of digital telecommunications technology," and that the proposed rule change would "encourage both flexibility and efficiency in the employment of digital emissions by amateur stations." ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, discussed the symbol rate issue in detail in the September 2013 issue of *QST*'s "It Seems to Us" editorial ([www.arrl.org/news/arrl-ceo-explains-board-s-action-on-symbol-rate-regulation](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-ceo-explains-board-s-action-on-symbol-rate-regulation)).

On another FCC-related matter, Imlay told the EC that the FCC shutdown had delayed the League's review of comments in ET Docket 13-84, the FCC's reexamination of its RF exposure rules. The ARRL wanted to determine whether any of the comments required an ARRL response.

Imlay further noted that the FCC has yet to

take action in ET Docket 12-338 to formally reflect the *Final Acts* of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference in its rules. Comment deadlines were more than 6 months ago. The Commission also has taken no action on the ARRL's November 2012 petition to implement a 472-479 kHz allocation, which stemmed from WRC 2012. Imlay said the subject may be considered in a *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the proceeding.

Imlay told the EC that FCC action is expected soon on WT Docket 12-283 and WT Docket 90-209, which contain several proposals to amend rules governing the administration of Amateur Radio examinations. The League has argued against a proposal to reduce the number of volunteer examiners required at an exam session from three to two.

The EC reviewed and approved a draft FCC filing prepared by ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, that supports recommendations approved last month by the FCC Advisory Committee for World Radiocommunication Conference 2015. The comments were filed October 17.

The complete minutes of the ARRL Board and Executive Committee meetings are online at [www.arrl.org/board-meetings](http://www.arrl.org/board-meetings).

## FCC Issues Warnings for Amateur Radio Infractions, Unlicensed Operation

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau made public warning letters to several individuals for earlier alleged infractions of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules or Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. On August 9, Special Counsel Laura L. Smith wrote Jack Hartley, K4WSB, of Tampa, Florida, citing evidence received from members of the Amateur Auxiliary (Official Observers) that Hartley had operated outside of his Advanced class privileges.

"According to the OOs, the operator refused the contact noting that you were not authorized to be operating in the band," Smith wrote. "This was your 4th attempt to contact

this operator...your continued attempts to contact the operator on Kwajalein Atoll constitute a violation of our rules, as you are not authorized to be operating in that band."

Smith cautioned Hartley about revocation or suspension and fines. "It could also jeopardize any attempts to obtain an upgraded Amateur Radio license," she added.

On June 24, Smith sent warning notices to Eric J. Christianson, KNØCW, and Thomas E. Barnes, N7OVC, both of Reno, Nevada, to inform them that the trustee of the WA7DG repeater in Sparks, Nevada, had requested that they refrain from using his repeater.

"The written request was issued as a result of

your failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for their users," Smith said.

Smith advised the licensees that the FCC expects them to abide by the repeater owner's request. She said continued use of the WA7DG repeater could subject them to "severe penalties, including license revocation, monetary forfeiture (fine) or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies upon which you may operate."

On July 8, Smith warned James E. Richburg, address withheld and unknown, against unlicensed radio operation in the Amateur Radio bands.

Smith pointed out that operating transmitting equipment without a valid FCC license may subject the responsible parties to substantial monetary forfeitures, *in rem* arrest action against the offending radio equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.”

All of Smith’s warning notices concluded with the advisory, “Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.”

### **FCC Reopens, ARRL VEC Processing Resumes**

Along with most of the rest of the federal government, the FCC ground to a halt on October 1, save for emergencies, and it remained shuttered until October 17, when Congress resolved the funding crisis. With the Commission’s Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, facility, main website and Amateur Radio call sign database (ULS) dark for the duration of the shutdown, no Amateur Radio applications were able to be filed, even on paper, and the FCC made no license or call sign grants.

Once the FCC was up and running again, it was not long before application processing resumed. During the shutdown, exam session paperwork continued to flow into the ARRL VEC, and work was piled up. “We had approximately 250 sessions and over 1500 forms in the queue,” ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said as the FCC reopened. By the end of the day, the VEC staff had filed the entire backlog with the FCC for processing.

Beyond that, Somma said, “day-to-day opera-



ARRL VEC staffers Amanda Grimaldi, KB1VUV (left), and China Chaney review some of the exam session paperwork that began to pile up during the FCC shutdown. [Maria Somma, AB1FM, photo]

## **ARRL Designates Six Regional ARRL Centennial Events**

As part of its 2014 Centennial Celebration ([www.arrl.org/centennial](http://www.arrl.org/centennial)), the ARRL has designated six major ham radio gatherings as “Regional ARRL Centennial Events.” The action was approved October 5 when the ARRL Executive Committee met in Colorado. ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, developed a way to bring the ARRL Centennial celebration to more radio amateurs across the US.



“While ARRL has planned a premier national-level Centennial Convention for 2014 in Connecticut, organizing some regional events will encourage greater awareness of the anniversary and greater participation by members, for whom traveling to New England will be too far, too costly, or otherwise not practical,” Inderbitzen suggested in his proposal to the EC.

The centerpiece of the League’s centennial is the 2014 ARRL National Centennial Convention (<http://arrl2014.org/>) in Hartford, Connecticut, July 17-19. EC members approved six Regional Centennial Events to complement the National Convention.

- Orlando Hamcation® — Orlando, Florida, February 7-9, 2014
- Dayton Hamvention® — Dayton, Ohio, May 16-18, 2014
- SEA-PAC — Seaside, Oregon, June 6-8, 2014
- Ham-Com — Plano, Texas, June 13-14, 2014
- Huntsville Hamfest — Huntsville, Alabama, August 16-17, 2014
- Pacificon — Santa Clara, California, October 10-12, 2014

In addition to celebrating ARRL’s 100th anniversary, sanctioning the regional centennial events is aimed at enhancing the all-volunteer ARRL Field Organization, generating greater interest in League membership, program, services, and publications, and helping to promote the ARRL’s Second Century Campaign ([www.arrl.org/arrl-second-century-campaign](http://www.arrl.org/arrl-second-century-campaign)).

tions at the ARRL VEC office ran smoothly despite this unusual event.”

### **Window Opens for 2014 Dayton Hamvention Award Nominations**

Dayton Hamvention® solicits nominations for its 2014 awards for Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, Technical Excellence, and Club of the Year. All Amateur Radio operators are eligible. Nominations must be received by January 17, 2014. Winners will be recognized at the 2014 Dayton Hamvention®, May 16, 17 and 18.

- The Amateur of the Year Award goes to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio.
- The Technical Excellence Award is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of Amateur Radio.
- The Special Achievement Award honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio, usually by spearheading a significant project.
- The Club of the Year award goes to a club



that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio.

The Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee makes the final decision on all awards, based in part upon the information it receives, not on the number of nominations. Documentation that informs the Awards Committee of a nominee’s accomplishments may include magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and even videos (these materials become the property of Hamvention and will not be returned).

Additional details on these awards and a nomination form are available on the Dayton Hamvention website ([www.hamvention.org/awards.php](http://www.hamvention.org/awards.php)). E-mail nominations to [awards@hamvention.org](mailto:awards@hamvention.org) or mail to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 1446, Dayton, OH 45401-1446. — *Dayton Hamvention®*, c/o Henry Ruminski, W8HJR





### FCC Dismisses “Encryption” Petition

The FCC has dismissed a *Petition for Rulemaking* (RM-11699) that sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to permit the encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations or related training exercises. Don Rolph, AB1PH, of East Walpole, Massachusetts, had requested an additional exception to §97.113, which currently prohibits “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning,” but the FCC said in a September 18 *Order* that it’s not persuaded that Rolph’s petition provides sufficient reasons to support the change.

In his petition Rolph suggested excepting “intercommunications when participating in emergency services operations or related training exercises which may involve information covered by HIPAA [medical privacy requirements — *Ed.*] or other sensitive data, such as logistical information concerning medical supplies, personnel movement, other relief supplies or any other data designated by Federal authorities managing relief or training efforts.”

The ARRL had called on the FCC to deny Rolph’s petition. “While Mr Rolph has concisely stated his argument, it is ARRL’s considered view that there is no factual or legal basis for the assumption that encryption of transmissions... is necessary in order to continue and enhance the utility of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications,” the League said in comments July 8 with the FCC.

The FCC concluded, “Thus, while the proposal could advance one purpose of the Amateur Radio Service — value to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications — it would undermine other characteristics and purposes of the service.”

The League allowed in its comments that “the Commission may be asked to revisit this matter.”

responsible to the US Department of Defense for homeland security was set to monitor the 48-hour exercise. According to Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, the exercise culminated a year-long series of escalating preparations by Army MARS for responding to complex emergencies that might crash or compromise national communications.

Joining Mims were MARS Southern New England Emergency Operations Officer John Weinland, N1ATB, and MARS members Jon Perelstein, WB2RYV, and Matt Hackman, KB1FUP. The MARS contingent met with ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, ARRL Emergency Preparedness Assistant Ken Bailey, K1FUG, and WIAW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q.

Subsequent to the meeting at League Headquarters, ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI, paid a visit on October 8 to Army MARS Headquarters in Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Woll says he enjoyed an extended conversation with Army MARS Chief of Operations David McGinnis, K7UXO.

McGinnis recounted that he and Woll discussed conducting regular checks with WIAW, using both Amateur Radio and MARS circuits, and quarterly drills on both circuits. Woll is also an ARES assistant District Emergency Coordinator.

### Tibet Radio Operator, Diplomat Robert W. Ford, ex-AC4RF, SK

Robert W. Ford, who operated from Tibet as AC4RF from 1948 to 1950, died September 20 in London at the age of 90. His fascinating autobiography, *Wind Between the Worlds*, was published in 1957 and is now available as a free Internet Archive download. The book describes his time and travails in Tibet and how his radio work nearly cost him his life.

As Ford explains, he first came to Tibet “by accident” to relieve the radio officer at the British Mission in Lhasa. He returned later as a member of the Tibetan government to establish Radio Lhasa. His stay in Tibet coincided with the Chinese invasion of the Himalayan nation. Ford eventually was imprisoned by the Chinese in 1950; He was tried for “radio espionage” and spent 5 years in jail before being released.

He later became a member of the British Diplomatic Service, serving in various postings before retiring in 1987. He was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Last spring Ford was given the International Campaign for Tibet’s Light of Truth Award by the Dalai Lama.

### Army MARS Seeks Partnership with ARRL, ARES

Representatives of the US Army Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) met with ARRL staff at League Headquarters October 2 to discuss ways the two organizations might collaborate in emergency response activities. Army MARS Region 1 Director Bob Mims, WA1OEZ, headed the delegation. Mims, who is also manager of the Army MARS National Net, said most of the discussion centered on how ARRL Headquarters and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) might

interact with MARS during an early November national-level test of backup communications, and going forward. ARRL has an Army MARS station, AAN1ARL, located at the Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW.

Army MARS invited Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps MARS to take part in the joint national communication exercise, aimed at measuring the auxiliary force’s capabilities, should normal communication systems be disrupted throughout North America. A joint Army/Air Force/Navy-Marine Corps team

MARS/ARRL get together at W1AW (L-R): Ken Bailey, K1FUG; John Weinland, N1ATB; Jon Perelstein, WB2RYV; Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; Bob Mims, WA1OEZ, and Matt Hackman, KB1FUP.





Rick Palm, K1CE, k1ce@arri.org

# A Look Back, Books and SKYWARN® Recognition Day

The books highlighted here make great gifts for the ARES® operator on your holiday shopping list.

It has been a busy and demanding year in terms of major exercises and disaster operations across the country. One need not look further than the Colorado flash flooding, the California wildfires, or the Boston Marathon for examples of critical emergencies.

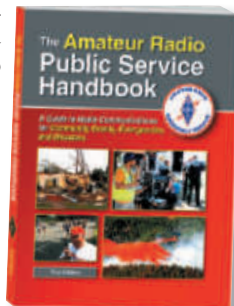
The government, in the pursuit of *interoperability*, remains committed to making the country's emergency responders able to communicate with each other more efficiently and effectively on the disaster scene. The ubiquitous Incident Command System (ICS) is the template for government emergency response that puts all players on the same page, regardless of the size of the incident. Whether it is a car crash on the Los Angeles Freeway, a Category 5 hurricane slamming into the Gulf States, or a major earthquake along the New Madrid fault line, the ICS adapts to the event.

In Florida, a state-wide exercise was held in February that was on a larger scale than had been seen before. Dubbed "Operation RADAR II," it combined rolling communications vans from the state EOC at Tallahassee with many county vehicles and operators from local EOCs across the state. They convened on a sprawling military campus outside of Jacksonville for this multiday interoperability exercise. Amateur Radio played a major role, as was reported in the May issue of *QST*.<sup>1</sup>

FEMA has grown its Independent Study Program (ISP) offerings. The Department of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) has offered more of its Auxiliary Emergency Communications courses across the country to help train those deployed as part of an ICS Communications Unit. Bill Smith, Jr, W7HNV, the emergency coordinator for Clark County, Nevada, wrote: "I was able to attend the first Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Auxiliary Emergency Communications Course in Nevada. It was simply excellent. I learned a lot, especially how to build the Incident Command System (ICS) forms."

## **The Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook, First Edition**

Published last year by the ARRL®, *The Amateur Radio Public Service Handbook* is the authority on the topic, superbly written and edited by the ARRL Headquarters' Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU. Corey pulled together a group of qualified contributors who lend the book a fresh perspective. The first few chapters concern the basis and purpose of Amateur Radio as applied to public service and especially disaster communications, and the League's ARES program. A nice example of Washington State's ARES programs and the cooperation that exists between its two sections (Eastern Washington and Western Washington, divided roughly by the Cascade Mountains), lends interest and readability.



Part 2 covers served agencies. ARRL has signed memoranda of understanding with many major entities, including the American Red Cross, the subject of Chapter 3. There is true insight to be found here: "The best advocate for the ARRL and Red Cross relationship is someone who is a member of both organizations. The culture and politics of each will then be understood, enabling a volunteer to more effectively transition from the duties of one role to the other."

There is a good section on the SKYWARN program and its longstanding partnership with Amateur Radio operators as the eyes and ears of the NWS, radioing in "ground truths" to local NWS offices to give early warning to the citizenry.

Working with local emergency management agencies is a critically important topic that is covered in Chapter 6. It is a topic that appears frequently in this column, too. As I

said last month regarding Amateur Radio's role within the emergency operations center, "We are there to provide a transparent service to the emergency manager, who is the professional." Chapter 6 expands on this basic concept to define our role in the emergency management function.

"Leading and Training Volunteers" is the subject of Chapter 7, and is arguably the most demanding responsibility of the ARES Emergency Coordinator. With FEMA's expanded Independent Study Program courses, the ARRL's Emergency Communications training course, and books like Corey's, there is simply no excuse for not having well-trained volunteer ARES operators. Motivating volunteers is more art than science, and is also addressed in this chapter.

A volunteer operator's home and family come first in any disaster situation, but when they have been secured and the operator is deployed, his or her personal safety, survival, and health are the next priorities, and are the subject of Chapter 8. There is an excellent chapter on the "science of radio" and another one on network theory for the emergency communicator, which will help the operator understand and choose best practices, including best modes and frequencies for the task at hand. It's a good technical review for any radio amateur, actually. Go-kits, "going portable," and Field Day as a training exercise are covered extensively. Traffic handling, the essence of what we do, and network theory as it applies to emergency communications is covered well. Other radio services on the ARES operator's periphery are addressed to enhance his or her grasp of the overall disaster response environment.

## **Community Communications**

Not only are emergency and disaster response communications covered, but support for public service events is addressed as well. A chapter on the complex communications planning and operation for the Boston Marathon is included. This section certainly has new meaning after the events that occurred in April.<sup>2</sup> It hammers home the mes-

<sup>1</sup>R. Palm, K1CE, "Public Service," *QST*, May 2013, pp 77-79.

sage that public event environments are not guaranteed to be benign.

Two of my favorite chapters in this book are Chapters 20 and 22, on the popular digital modes for emergency communications: NBEMS (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System) and the Winlink 2000 global e-mail messaging system, respectively. They are my favorites simply because I have been experimenting with both systems. Both sound card-compatible suites have unique qualities of interest to the emergency operator: NBEMS for its impressive multimode capability and for its ICS message and form templates; Winlink 2000 for its ability to receive, store and forward e-mail messages independent of local Internet infrastructure.

Both systems' advantages are undeniable. Both are easy to use, with simply a radio, free software, and a laptop with sound card or external sound card and digital interface device like a RIGblaster or SignalLink USB. There's a chapter on D-STAR applications, which are hardly Internet-independent, although local simplex and repeaters can be used for local area networks and county EOC applications. D-STAR incorporates GPS, and is an asset for emergency applications.

Chapters on MARS, the Handiham program, international aspects, and an extensive set of appendices — including technical information on emergency power sources — round out this 300-plus page essential book. Congratulations to Mike Corey, K1IU, and his team for a fine contribution to the literature. Put it on the top of your to-be-read pile.

## Personal Emergency Communications

Andrew Baze's, AB8L, *Personal Emergency Communications — Staying in Touch Post-Disaster: Technology, Gear & Planning*, is an excellent review for radio amateurs in CERT teams and ARES organizations. Written primarily for the lay public, the book seeks to answer the question, "How will you contact anyone if your landline phone, cell phone, and Internet connection don't work?" It appropriately starts off by emphasizing the need for a family emergency plan with realistic options for backup communications. True stories are included, which support this argument and lend human interest and readability. The first four chapters are devoted to drafting the plan.

The next section is devoted to listening strategies for gaining hard information and advisories on unfolding disaster conditions. The

discussion includes pros and cons of a simple AM/FM/SW radio, NOAA weather radio, the EAS, scanners, TV and even the crystal radio, which doesn't need a power source.

Turning to two-way radio systems, technologies covered include: FRS/GMRS (two-way radios available at Wal-Mart and most sporting goods stores), CB radio, eXRS radio, VHF/UHF Amateur Radio, HF radio, Satellite phones, Personal Locator Beacons, scanners, and basic backup power supply recommendations. For each system, pros and cons are discussed, along with the specific problems they tend to solve, and recommendations for their use.

The largest section of the book is devoted to "Amateur Radio — The King of Emergency Communications," which does a good job of reviewing its flexibility of modes and frequency bands for short, medium, and long range communications, and digital and voice applications. Baze lays out a good argument for the public to obtain a ticket, and explains licensing and testing.

Chapters on emergency backup power sources, training and skills for using radios and communicating, eg, "How to Talk on the Radio," and a good set of appendices round out this well-written book. I highly recommend it, especially for neighborhood CERT teams for use in their own training, and for possibly handing out to the neighbors they serve. It would make a great stocking stuffer!

## SKYWARN™ Recognition Day, December 7

The annual SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday December 7, 2013. This is a day when Amateur Radio operators visit National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other operators around the world. The purpose of the event is to recognize the vital public service contribution that Amateur Radio operators make during National Weather Service severe weather warning operations. It also strengthens the bond between Amateur Radio operators and the local

National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service. Please remember that this is not a contest, so no scoring will be computed.

### Object

For all radio amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands as well as the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN™ Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by Amateur Radio operators during threatening weather.

### Date

National Weather Service stations will operate December 7, 2013, from 0000 – 2400 UTC.

### Exchange

Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny," "partly cloudy," "windy," etc).

### Modes

National Weather Service stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., NØA/NWS).

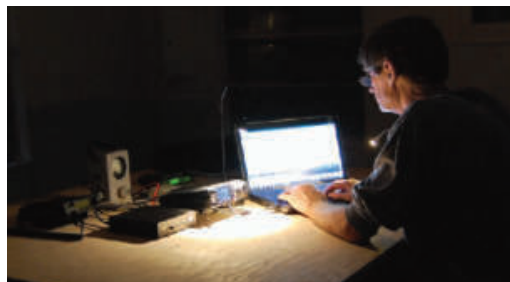
### Station Control Operator

It is suggested that during SRD operations, a non-National Weather Service volunteer who is a licensed radio amateur serve as a control operator for the station that is set up at a NWS office.

### Event and QSL Information

The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will likely be electronic and printable this year. Stay tuned!

Details about this year's event may be found at [www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/).



Season's greetings from your column editor Rick, K1CE, from his 1940s country cabin shack, across from the Ichetucknee River, Fort White, Florida. My rig consists of an Icom IC-7000, with an LDG IT-100 autotuner, classic Bird 43 wattmeter, SignalLink USB digital interface, RIGblaster Plug and Play digital interface, and Icom IC-2200H with D-STAR chip. [Rick Palm, K1CE, photo]

<sup>2</sup>R. Palm, K1CE, "Public Service," *QST*, July 2013, pp 77-79.

# Contest Corral – December 2013

Check for updates and a downloadable PDF version online at [www.arrl.org/contests](http://www.arrl.org/contests)

Refer to the contest websites for full rules, scoring information, operating periods or time limits and log submission information.

	Start Date-Time	Finish Date-Time	Bands HF / VHF+	Contest Title	Mode	Exchange	Sponsor's Website
1	1300Z	1 1600Z	3.5-14 / -	SARL Digital Contest	Dig	RST and serial	<a href="http://www.sarl.org.za">www.sarl.org.za</a>
6	2200Z	8 1600Z	1.8 / -	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	CW	RST and ARRL/RAC section if US/VE	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests">www.arrl.org/contests</a>
7	0000Z	7 2359Z	1.8-28 / -	TARA RTTY M�el�ee	Dig	RST and State/Province or serial	<a href="http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html">www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_melee_rules.html</a>
7	1200Z	8 1200Z	3.5-28 / -	VU International DX Contest	Ph CW	RS(T) and Indian state or prefix	<a href="http://www.arsi.info/contests/international">www.arsi.info/contests/international</a>
7	1600Z	8 1559Z	3.5-28 / -	Top Operators Activity Contest	CW	RST, serial, and TOPS/PRO number	<a href="http://www.procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html">www.procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html</a>
7	2300Z	8 See website	3.5,7 / -	AWA Bruce Kelly QSO Party	CW	RST, Xmtr type, power, name	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org">www.antiquewireless.org</a>
8	0000Z	8 2359Z	28 / -	Ten Meter RTTY Contest	Dig	RST and state or province or serial	<a href="http://www.rttycontesting.com">www.rttycontesting.com</a>
8	1200Z	8 2359Z	3.5-28 / -	Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon	CW	RST, S/P/C, SKCC nr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
8	2100Z	8 2259Z	14 / -	Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	CW	RST, S/P/C, class, CQC number or power	<a href="http://www.cqc.org/contests">www.cqc.org/contests</a>
10	0200Z	10 0400Z	3.5-28 / -	ARS Spartan Sprint	CW	RST, S/P/C, and power	<a href="http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com">www.arsqrp.blogspot.com</a>
11	0000Z	17 0200Z	- / 50-222	Meteor Scatter Contest	Dig	Both calls, grid square, acknowledgment	<a href="http://www.meteorscatter.org">www.meteorscatter.org</a>
11	0130Z	11 0330Z	3.5-14 / -	NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint	CW	RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC mbr nr or power	<a href="http://www.naqcc.info">www.naqcc.info</a>
11	1300Z	12 See website	1.8-28 / -	CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test	CW	Name and member number or S/P/C	<a href="http://www.cwops.org/onair.html">www.cwops.org/onair.html</a>
13	0230Z	13 0300Z	1.8-14 / -	NS Weekly Sprint	CW	Serial, name, and S/P/C	<a href="http://www.nccsprint.com">www.nccsprint.com</a>
14	0000Z	15 2359Z	28 / -	28 MHz SWL Contest	Ph CW	Log ARRL 10 Meter Contest QSOs	<a href="http://swl.veron.nl/swlcontest.htm">swl.veron.nl/swlcontest.htm</a>
14	0000Z	15 2359Z	28 / -	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Ph CW	RS(T) and State/Prov or serial	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests">www.arrl.org/contests</a>
14	1700Z	15 See website	1.8-7 / -	UBA Winter Contest	Ph CW Dig	RS(T) and UBA section or serial	<a href="http://www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules">www.uba.be/en/hf/contest-rules</a>
15	2000Z	15 2359Z	1.8-28 / -	Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint	CW	RST, S/P/C, ARCI number or Power	<a href="http://www.qrparci.org/contests">www.qrparci.org/contests</a>
16	0200Z	16 0400Z	1.8-28 / -	Run For the Bacon	CW	RST, S/P/C, Flying Pig nr or power	<a href="http://www.fpqrp.org">www.fpqrp.org</a>
18	0130Z	18 0330Z	3.5-14 / -	NAQCC Milliwatt Sprint	CW	RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC mbr nr or power	<a href="http://www.naqcc.info">www.naqcc.info</a>
19	2100Z	19 2300Z	1.8 / -	Russian 160 Meter Contest	Ph CW	RS(T), serial, square ID (see website)	<a href="http://www.radio.ru/cq">www.radio.ru/cq</a>
20	0001Z	Jan 1 2359Z	1.8-28 / 50,144	Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party	Ph CW Dig	Serial or ARLHS number	<a href="http://arlhs.com">arlhs.com</a>
21	0000Z	21 2400Z	3.5-28 / -	Feld-Hell Rudolph Hell Sprint	Dig	RST, S/P/C, Feld-Hell member nr	<a href="http://www.feldhellclub.org">www.feldhellclub.org</a>
21	0000Z	22 2400Z	3.5-28 / -	OK DX RTTY Contest	Dig	RST and CQ Zone	<a href="http://www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM">www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM</a>
21	1400Z	22 1400Z	1.8-28 / -	Croatian CW Contest	CW	RST and serial	<a href="http://www.9acw.org">www.9acw.org</a>
22	1800Z	22 2359Z	3.5-28 / -	ARRL Rookie Roundup	CW	Both calls, name, check, S/P/XE or "DX"	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests">www.arrl.org/contests</a>
26	0000Z	26 0200Z	1.8-28 / 50	SKCC Straight Key Sprint	CW	RST, S/P/C, name, SKCC nr or power	<a href="http://www.skccgroup.com">www.skccgroup.com</a>
26	0830Z	26 1059Z	3.5-7 / -	DARC XMAS Contest	Ph CW	RS(T) and DOK or special station code	<a href="http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en">www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en</a>
28	0000Z	28 2359Z	1.8-28 / 50,144	RAC Winter Contest	Ph CW	RS(T) and province or serial	<a href="http://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests">www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests</a>
28	1200Z	29 1159Z	3.5-28 / -	Iron Ham Contest	Ph CW Dig	RS(T) and CQ zone	<a href="http://www.araucariadx.com">www.araucariadx.com</a>
28	1500Z	29 1500Z	1.8 / -	Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge	CW	4-char grid square	<a href="http://www.kkn.net/stew">www.kkn.net/stew</a>
29	0000Z	29 1200Z	3.5-28 / -	RAEM Contest	CW	Serial and lat/long in degrees	<a href="http://raem.srr.ru">raem.srr.ru</a>
Jan 1	0000Z	Jan 1 2400Z	3.5-28 / 50+	ARRL Straight Key Night	CW	General QSO information	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night">www.arrl.org/straight-key-night</a>

All dates refer to UTC and may be different from calendar dates in North America. Times given as AM or PM are local times and dates. No contest activity occurs on the 60, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands. Serial = Sequential number of the contact. S/P/C = State, Province, DXCC Entity. XE = Mexican state. Publication deadline for Contest Corral listings is the first day of the second month prior to publication date (December 1 for February QST) — send information to [contests@arrl.org](mailto:contests@arrl.org). Listings in blue indicate contests sponsored by ARRL or NCJ. The latest time to make a valid contest QSO is the minute listed in the "Finish Time" column.

# ARRL's Centennial QSO Party

A special year-long operating event in which every ARRL member is worth points.

Dave Patton, NN1N, nn1n@arrl.org

A 100 year anniversary is an event that calls for recognition and celebration! In honor of the ARRL Centennial, we have created a unique operating event that has not been previously attempted. The Centennial QSO Party — a year-long operating event — will be the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member will be worth at least one point.

## Operating Period

0000Z, 1 January, 2014, through 2359Z, 31 December, 2014. W1AW will operate portable from each state and most US territories throughout the year. See the W1AW schedule online for details. Each state will be activated twice, so if you miss one operation, there will be another opportunity to work the station.

## Participation

Everyone may participate. Only ARRL members and appointees/elected officials/staff/W1AW are worth points. See the table for a complete list of QSO values.

## Bands and Modes

To count for points, all QSOs must be two-way (no cross-band or cross-mode), using CW, phone (FM, SSB, AM, digital voice), or digital (any digital mode, PSK31, RTTY) on nearly all the bands (see the complete listing online). Additionally, one QSO with each eligible station on any satellite, regardless of mode, is allowed for points.

## QSO Information Exchange

Many stations will try to keep their QSOs short and, for many, the exchange will be a signal report and ARRL abbreviation (see table.) QSOs do not have to be contest style, and it isn't necessary to give the ARRL organizational information. A Centennial database will be used to assign point values to logs submitted electronically via ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). Those who do not use electronic submission will need to obtain the QSO information from their contacts. This event is not a contest, so feel free to make contacts in any way you like.

## Scoring

The values of all eligible, completed QSOs will be totaled. There are no multipliers or bonus points. See the table for QSO values.

## Awards

Work each of the 50 states using QSOs with W1AW operating portable. W1AW at Headquarters does not count for Connecticut

Centennial QSO Party Points Table

Abbreviation	Full Position/Title Name	Point value
PRES	ARRL President	300
PE	President Emeritus	275
PP	Past President	275
HVP	Honorary Vice President	250
VP	ARRL Vice President	250
DE	Director Emeritus	225
PVP	Past Vice President	225
DIR	Director	225
VD	Vice Director	200
SM	Section Manager	175
OFF	Staff Officer, Treasurer, Counsel	150
PD	Past Director	150
PV	Past Vice Director	125
ARRL	W1AW ARRL HQ Station	100
CLM	ARRL Charter Life Member	100
PSM	Past Section Manager	100
DM	ARRL HQ Department Manager	75
HQ	ARRL HQ Staff Member/Volunteer	50
AC	CAC/DXAC/ECAC Advisory Members	40
AD	Assistant Director	40
ASM	Assistant Section Manager	35
ACC	Affiliated Club Coordinator	30
DEC	District Emergency Coordinator	30
NCJ	NCJ Editor	30
OOC	Official Observer Coordinator	30
PIC	Public Information Coordinator	30
QEX	QEX Editor	30
SEC	Section Emergency Coordinator	30
SGL	State Government Liaison	30
STM	Section Traffic Manager	30
TC	Technical Coordinator	30
LAB	W1INF Lab Museum Operations	25
CM	Contest Managers/Log Checkers	20
QSM	Incoming QSL Bureau Manager	20
LC	W1HQ HQ Ops	15
VC	Volunteer Counsel	15
VCE	Volunteer Consulting Engineer	15
ADEC	Assistant District Emergency Coordinator	12
ANM	Area Net Manager	12
ASEC	Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator	12
EC	Emergency Coordinator	12
LGL	Local Government Liaison	12
OBS	Official Bulletin Station	12
OES	Official Emergency Station	12
OO	Official Observer	12
ORS	Official Relay Station	12
PIO	Public Information Officer	12
RNM	Region Net Manager	12
TS	Technical Specialist	12
TA	Technical Advisor	10
AM	Awards Manager	5
CC	Card Checker	5
RI	Registered Instructor	5
USA	W1AW/x around the USA	5
VE	Volunteer Examiner	5
MS	Monitoring System Volunteer	3
QSL	Incoming QSL Bureau Sorters	3
LM	ARRL Life Member	2
AFF	ARRL Affiliated Club Call Sign	1
MEM	ARRL Member	1

for this award. Connecticut credit is given only for working W1AW/1 in Connecticut. A W1AW WAS plaque and certificate will be available. For the biggest challenge, work each of the 100 W1AW portable operations (both operations from each state) — essentially a double WAS with W1AW!

Endorse the W1AW WAS with the Territorial Stickers for working W1AW/KH2, KP4, KP2, and any others that may be active, and also

endorse with W1AW/3 in the District of Columbia.

Centennial QSO Party certificates are available for making QSOs with point-level achievements at four levels. If you do not use LoTW, printable forms are available online. Please see the web page for final award point levels and for award prices.

## Centennial QSO Party Competition — The Centennial Points Challenge

In order to compete in the **Centennial Points Challenge**, logs must be submitted through LoTW in standard ADIF or Cabrillo format. The system will automatically look for points-qualifying QSOs and apply them to each participant's Centennial QSO Points table. QSOs do not have to be matched in LoTW for points to be achieved — *this is an honor-based QSO Party*. We cannot accept any paper forms or information.

- Repeater contacts are not valid.
- Mobile and portable operations are okay, but do not count for points in addition to home operation; ie, one QSO with KØGW counts for KØGW, whether it is made with KØGW/4, KØGW/m, or PJ4/KØGW.
- Stations outside the USA may also count for points. Some members outside the US are also VEs and Card Checkers.

- ARRL appointees/staff/officers should choose their QSO exchange from the appointment or office held that is the highest point value (this is how the database will work also). For instance, KI9XX is an ARRL Life Member (LM is worth 2 points), and a Volunteer Examiner (VE is worth 5 points), and a State Government Liaison (SGL is worth 30 points). Therefore, if he wants to send the appointment

information as part of a QSO, he should use SGL, as that is the highest point value. Regardless of what designation is chosen, the database will credit the highest point value.

## QSLs

QSL cards from W1AW and W1AW operating portable will be sent automatically via the QSL Bureau system to each US station that signs up to receive such cards. This is a one-time only use of the QSL Bureau for this purpose. QSLs will automatically be sent to stations outside the US via the QSL Bureau as normal. QSLs may be requested directly also, with an SASE required for return.

Centennial QSO Party web page  
[www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party](http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party)

# 2013 ARRL June VHF Contest Results

## Where did all the propagation go?

Bob Striegl, K2DRH, k2drh@arri.net

After several years of above average propagation during the June VHF Contest, it was almost inevitable that we were due for a down year. While conditions on 6 meters were relatively good the week before the contest, for most participants it did not carry through to the weekend of June 15-17. Tropospheric ducting or other enhanced modes on 2 meters and above did not seem to play a major role for the majority of stations either. Ryan, KB9OWD, in EN53 IL may have overstated things slightly by comparing it to a recent root canal, but he was not the only one feeling frustrated; Mike, K7ULS, in DN41 (UT) felt similarly. Most other stations voiced similar perceptions of poor band conditions and slow QSO rates in their post contest comments. Bobby, N3LL, in EL86 (FL) claimed these were the worst June VHF Contest conditions he has experienced in over 35 years of operating. Jeff, K1TEO, in FN31 (CT) made only 17 6 meter sporadic E (Es) contacts in the whole contest, fewer than he did in September or even January. Bill, K3WA, in EN50 (IL) summed it up: "A long, slow slog. Read a good book. Watched the grass grow. Mowed the grass. Watched the grass grow again. Worked out on my treadmill. And worked the desultory sparse openings to get very few QSOs and 9 new grids. Just wait 'til next year."

### Logs

1010 logs were submitted — significantly fewer than the 1222 that were submitted in 2012 — but that's not surprising considering the lack of exciting propagation in most areas. As always, the number of logs submitted was far less than the total number of participants. Overall QSO and grid totals were significantly lower this year. The number of Classic Rovers has also continued to drop — down from 49 in 2011 and 34 in 2012, to 25 in 2013.

Based on a review of the submitted logs against the June contest records published on the ARRL website (except for one multiop record noted below) no existing section or division scoring records were broken. However, initial record scores for the new SO3B (Single Operator, Three-Band) and SOFM (Single Operator, FM-Only) categories and the new Canadian sections were established. One longstanding record for the Mississippi section was broken when Unlimited Multioperator (UM) WN2E scored 21,008 points to break the record of 8804 points set in 1988 by N5KDA. K8DOG posted the first Unlimited Rover (RU)

score for the Michigan section and Great Lakes division. The previous contest score records are available for review on the ARRL website at [www.arri.org/contest-records](http://www.arri.org/contest-records) and will be updated to reflect the new records set in 2013.

### DX

Fewer DX stations sent in their logs than last year because 6 meter conditions did not favor much in the way of DX. Canadian participa-

tion was also lower than last year — 70 logs submitted in 2012, but only 42 in 2013. Nine stations in Mexico submitted their logs. Jorge, XE2X, mounted a respectable 6 meter-only effort, as did Julian, XE2JS, and Javier, XE2CQ. Three stations submitted logs from Cuba including Limited Multioperator (LM) T43S. Three stations from Alaska; KL7YK, KL7AIR, KL7UW, as well as KH7Y from Hawaii all submitted multiband efforts. Finally, Pedro, HI8PJP, submitted a log with one QSO for the SO3B category.

### On the Bands

Despite the majority of stations experiencing only short Es openings with sharply defined footprints, some sections had much better luck with 6 meter propagation — notably Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. During the past few years 6 meter QSO and grid totals have significantly boosted the scores of stations in these areas, and this year was no exception. Jay, W9RM, at his soon-to-be-permanent QTH in DM58 (CO) had constantly shifting 6 meter openings both days, often in multiple directions at once. He took full advantage of them by logging the most 6 meter QSOs of anyone in the contest while using only a single 5-el Yagi on a push-up pole at 25 feet. Perennial STX 6 meter powerhouses George, K5TR, in EM00, and George, NR5M, in EM10, also made good use of their more impressive antenna farms to mine the band. And despite reporting poor 6 meter conditions in EM31 (STX) the gang at K5QE was still able to log more 6 meter multipliers than any other station.

Other notable 6 meter totals were logged by Pete, WA7JTM, in DM33 (AZ) and Mark, K5AM, in DM62 (NM), and the operators at W0KVA, in DM89 (CO). The multiops at W2SZ and K8GP also made high QSO numbers despite the lack of sustained Es apparent in their much lower grid count. But unlike last year, with six stations reporting more than 1000 QSOs and another 51 with more than 500 contacts on the band, only Keith, W9RM, came anywhere close to the thousand QSO mark with 920; only 17 stations made it over 500.

In June, 2 meters is the go-to band when 6 meters closes and is most often a springboard for multiple band runs. Despite significantly less 6 meter propagation, the number of stations working more than 100 QSOs on 2 meters remained about the same with 27 this

### Top Ten

Single Operator Low Power		Limited Multioperator	
K2DRH	169,926	K5QE	383,691
AB5EB	88,615	W3SO	214,140
WB1GQR	84,249	K2LIM	165,725
N0POH	80,088	WA7JTM	142,780
N4QWZ	78,960	N5RZ	126,000
AF1T	69,156	AA4ZZ	119,250
N0LL	68,425	N8ZM	96,775
KC9BQA	63,840	W2LV	78,648
N9DG	63,802	W4NH	76,311
KK0Q	59,760	K4MM	35,632
Single Operator High Power		Multioperator	
K1TEO	373,250	W2SZ	940,416
W9RM	230,622	K8GP	650,076
K1RZ	218,816	N6VI	475,200
K5TR	200,999	W3CCX	315,668
NR5M	196,448	W4IY	197,580
K1WHS	151,677	VE3WCC	194,575
K5AM	148,890	W0KVA	183,359
WA2FGK	123,888	K9CT	131,776
W3PAW	117,450	KB0HH	119,780
W6OAL	113,064	AA7XT	93,786
Single Operator Portable		Rover	
N6NB	96,036	K6AH/R	208,254
KJ5RM	32,384	K16FGV/R	182,637
W1MR	26,400	N6HD/R	164,780
W9SZ	16,600	VE3OIL/R	141,372
KB5VIA	15,650	KJ5MSY/R	126,126
K9AKS	8,496	VE3SMA/R	116,775
N2SPI	4,773	NN3Q/R	55,776
AF6RR	3,103	W9SNR/R	54,908
WB9PNU	2,205	VE3WJ/R	52,074
WB2AMU	1,675	K1DS/R	43,706
Single Operator Three Band		Limited Rover	
AA5AM	72,488	AL1VE/R	34,959
K7XC	63,510	K2QO/R	33,562
K0NR	48,117	WW7D/R	27,588
K09A	41,944	W9YOY/R	22,875
KF7NP	23,532	N6ORB/R	17,766
N7IR	22,632	KK6MC/R	17,563
K15YG	16,432	N6GP/R	15,768
K6MI	16,402	KV2X/R	15,120
W9PA	13,608	W5VY/R	13,272
N9ISN	9,936	N2ZBH/R	12,672
Single Operator FM-Only		Unlimited Rover	
KB0LYL	1460	W6TE/R	189,000
K6TDI	360	WA3PTV/R	47,044
W2EV	312	W3HMS/R	19,520
VE6CCL	242	KJ1K/R	12,696
N9VM	216	KR0VER/R	10,416
KB1YNT	75	W0BL/R	9,936
W7DMU	66	KC0P/R	4,401
KD2DLL	27	N0HZO/R	3,575
AK2S	12	K8DOG/R	3,042
		NV6C/R	3,038



With conditions comparable to pulling teeth, Mike's, K7ULS, Single Op Portable might as well have been a mobile dental surgical office.

support it. Most of the time it has as good or better propagation than 2 meters and better immunity to manmade noise. QSOs score the same higher point value as 432 as well as providing additional multipliers. While competitive multiops, rovers, and single ops know they must have it, many stations justify not having a separate rig or transverter for this band because of increased cost and significantly lower QSO total than 2 meters (roughly 35%) or 432 (about 60%). Unfortunately this also tends to make rig unavailability

and lower QSO totals on 222 a self-fulfilling prophecy. Only three stations in the June VHF contest had more than 100 QSOs on 222, all of them multiops. While it is more commercially available on multiband rigs, 432 generally has more difficult propagation characteristics and coax loss can be a significant factor. More attention to detail is required to be successful on this band. Six stations in the June contest had 432 QSO totals over 100, four of them multiops.

QSOs on 902 MHz and above count for more points and additional multipliers; the technical complexity and difficulty rises with the frequency, and so does the cost to put together an effective station while the QSO total continues to go down. Adding SHF and microwave bands with their higher point values tends to be the province of the more technically minded as well as being a necessity for the more competitive stations. But diminishing returns come with low geographical population density where there are few, if any, other stations avail-

able to work. Generally rovers and portables have an easier time adding these bands than fixed stations since high-gain antennas are significantly smaller and coax runs are shorter. The ranks of the Classic and Unlimited Rovers who do carry them continues to dwindle, and along with that the number of QSOs other stations make on these bands.

### Single Operators

The majority of contest activity originates with the Single Operators who take advantage of their station capabilities, ranging from a single band with modest antenna to a multiband station with stacked arrays. The Single Operator, Low Power (SOLP) category has had the most logs submitted since its inception and has seen successful portable as well as fixed station efforts. The Overall SOLP W3ZZ Memorial First Log Award has been sponsored by Tim, K3LR, and Dave, W9PA, for a second year and goes to KF7PSM in DM26 (NV). I'm proud to confirm I worked Pete! Good job and welcome to the ranks of SOLP VHF+ contesting!

Bob, K2DRH, in EN41 (IL) built a single-tower multiband station with pairs of long boom antennas on each band that has helped him earn 1<sup>st</sup> in the SOLP category for 9 of the past 10 years. This year, with the help of a new 6 meter tower and array he attained a score of 169K using eight bands through 3456 MHz to put win number 10 in the books. In only his second June VHF Contest, Mike, AB5EB, added an Innovantenna 3-el OWL (Optimized Wideband Low-impedance) stack to his 7-el LFA (Loop-Fed Antenna) and took advantage of the STX 6 meter propagation with a single-band effort that took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 88K. Frequent Top Ten finisher WB1GQR manned by Mitch, W1SJ moved up to 3<sup>rd</sup> this year with 84K, also using eight bands through 3456 MHz. NØPOH placed next with a seven-band effort of 80K and Todd, N4QWZ, completed the Top Five with a 78K six-band log.

The Single Operator, High Power (SOHP) category is where the true heavyweights in the VHF world exercise their capabilities. Jeff, K1TEO, in FN31 (CT) has built a very effective 10-band station; his continuing success over more than a decade shows his dedication. Once again Jeff takes top honors with 373K, even after a 5760 MHz failure soon after the contest started. This is about half of his winning score in 2012, attesting to the generally poor conditions experienced in most places. The big news in SOHP was Jay's, W9RM, three-band effort from DM58 (CO) who moved up from 8<sup>th</sup> place last year to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place in his second June VHF outing from his soon-to-be new QTH. Using only Field Day-style antennas with a temporary setup in a pole barn he racked up a great score of 230K, mostly on the merits of his 6 meter effort. Jay was a 6 meter operator at the now silent K9NS EN52 (IL) Limited Multiop and says to watch out when he puts up some "real antennas."

year versus 29 in 2012. But it's no surprise that 7 out of the 10 highest 2 meter QSO totals were made by multiops K8GP, W2SZ, K2LIM, W3SO, W3CCX, N6VI, and W2LV. Jeff, K1TEO, turned his lack of 6 meter Es into the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest 2 meter QSO total. Andy, K1RA, and Art, K1BX, operating at K1WHS filled out the rest. N6VI is notable as the only West Coast station among the top 2 meter QSO scorers. While most of the multiops also do WSJT meteor scatter and a few do EME contacts to boost their 2 meter grid totals, one really stands out. K5QE used both meteor scatter and EME to accumulate 102 grids on 2 meters, ¾ more than K8GP at 68. As is true of most western stations, Marshall has many fewer 2 meter neighbors than you would find in other areas, so his pool of stations that are workable by terrestrial propagation is limited.

222 MHz is a great band but there is a limited amount of commercial equipment available since the "Big 3" Japanese rig manufacturers (Icom, Kenwood, and Yaesu) do not normally

### Sponsored Plaque Winners

Plaque Category	Plaque Sponsor	Winner
Overall Single Operator High Power	Southeastern VHF Society	K1TEO
Overall Single Operator Low Power	Society of Midwest Contesters	K2DRH
Overall Single Operator 3-Band	Northern Lights Radio Society	AA5AM
Overall Single Op Low Power, First Log	W3ZZ First Log Award — Memorial by Tim K3LR and Dave W9PA	KF7PSM
Overall Multioperator	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR	W2SZ
Overall Limited Multioperator	Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ Memorial — ARRL Contest Branch	K5QE
Overall Rover	73 Tim KE3HT/SK, Microwave DX Addict	K6AH/R
Atlantic Division Rover	Potomac Valley Radio Club	NN3Q/R
Dakota Division Single Operator Low Power	Northern Lights Radio Society	WA3EOQ
Hudson Division Single Operator Low Power	NY2NY — In Memory Of Dick, W2GFF	WB2SIH
Northwestern Division Single Operator High Power	Boring, OR Amateur Radio Club	W7EW
Northwestern Division Multioperator	Randy Stegemeyer, W7HR	N7NW
Northwestern Division Rover	Pacific Northwest VHF Society	KD7DCR/R
Roanoke Division Rover	Potomac Valley Radio Club	W4STR/R
Southeastern Division Single Operator High Power	Southeastern VHF Society	K4PI
Southwestern Division Single Operator Low Power	Bud Semon, N7CW	WJ0F
Canada Single Operator Low Power	Northern Lights Radio Society	VA3ZV

Dave, K1RZ, is also no stranger to the Top Ten and posted a nine-band effort of 218K to take third place. George, K5TR, came in 4<sup>th</sup> with 200K from respectable totals on the bottom four bands and George, NR5M, came in 5<sup>th</sup> with a 6 meter-only effort of 196K.

The Single Operator, Portable (SOP) category limits stations to 10 W, which makes it more difficult to attract the attention of other stations. Wayne, N6NB, who is a living legend in VHF+ contesting and has built more tower trailers than most folks have erected towers, once again succeeded in this category. With his 96K score it is evident that conditions play a somewhat lesser part in his winning strategy than the pursuit of the Southern California Contest Club rover pack. Jory, KJ5RM, found a great spot in EM12 to take advantage of the 6 meter propagation to TX and with three bands took second place with 32K. Chris, W1MR, (NH) took 3<sup>rd</sup> this time with his six-band station scoring 26K. 4<sup>th</sup> place is held by Zack, W9SZ, with 16K who takes 10 bands to a hill in EN50 (IL) every year. It's definitely worth seeking out his 10 dB weaker signal on 2 meters since he and I can usually sweep on all of my eight bands. Dave, KB5WIA, in CA took the 5<sup>th</sup> spot with a 15K four-band effort and over 100 more QSOs than Zack, but the additional multipliers and points on the micro-waves worked to Zack's advantage.

Two new single operator categories were added to this year's June VHF Contest. Single Operator, Three-Band (SO3B) is already looking like a big hit with 108 entries that mostly put a dent in the SOLP log totals. Single Op, FM-Only (SOFM) generated nine log submissions. The majority of these entries set the first section, division, and contest records for these categories.

It was a battle of NTX stations for the initial first-place score in SO3B. Scott, AA5AM, in EM13 made the switch from SOLP and parlayed the 6 meter openings to edge out Tim, K7XC, with 72K. K7XC used his tower trailer for the first June VHF Contest at his new QTH in EM12 to score 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 63K. They were only separated by seven QSOs but Scott managed to find 20 more multipliers on 6 meters, pushing him well over the top. We hope to see many more battles like this with these two stations in the future! Bob, K0NR, in DM78 (CO) also used his operating skills to rack up good 6 meter totals and secure 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 48K. Jim, KO9A, in EN52 (IL) made the best of the meager Midwest 6 meter openings on Sunday and leveraged good results on 2 meters and 432 to take 4<sup>th</sup> place with 42K. Rounding out the Top Five was Burke, KF7NP, in AZ who also took advantage of 6 meters with 23K to barely squeak by Gary, N7IR, in an adjacent grid by less than 1K.

While entries in the SOFM category were few, they did span both coasts and most included QSOs on all of the bottom four bands. The

initial top score in the SOFM category was logged by Art, KB0LYL, from EN34 (MN) with 146 2 meter QSOs in 10 grids for 1460 points — congratulations! Art was closely followed by Terry, K6TDI, with 23 Qs and 12 grids for 360 points and Ev, W2EV, from the opposite coast with 312 points. Fourth place went to Bob, VE6CCL, from AB — the only Canadian to participate in this new category.

### Multioperators

These stations and the crews dedicate much time and effort in finding just the right spot to operate from; many carry and set up equipment and antennas in remote locations every year. The Limited Multiops (LM) can operate on as many bands as they wish but can only submit the results from four bands for scoring. Most acquire their best score from the bottom four bands (50, 144, 222, and 432 MHz). The Unlimited Multiops (UM) can score QSOs from practically dc to daylight. These stations are on the air all the time and they set the limits of what's possible for VHF+ contesting.

Despite their disadvantageous distance from major population centers that have more stations to work, K5QE posted a score of 383K to win the LM category this year. Being in the area with some of the best 6 meter openings during a down year, and posting the highest 6 meter grid total certainly didn't hurt their score. But it was really their all-out efforts on 2 meters really put them over the top with the highest grid total of the contest on that band as well. W3SO garnered 214K to take second place with much lighter 6 meter results but solid performances on the other three bands. K2LIM with 165K has a firm hold on 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the second year in a row with more QSOs than W3SO but fewer multipliers on 222 and 432. The crew at WA7JTM in AZ took advantage of conditions and had an excellent run on 6 meters that propelled them into 4<sup>th</sup> place with 42K. And Gator, N5RZ, with Deborah, N5RZA, turned their mostly 6 meter effort into a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish with 126K. Sadly, missing this year was the top three finisher efforts of K9NS in IL due to harsh winter ice storms taking out many of the antennas at veteran VHF+ contesters Frank's, K9HMB, QTH. I know all of us in the Midwest miss their big signal and hope that things get back to normal soon.

The stalwart crew at W2SZ on Mt Greylock posted another win in the UM category. Despite significantly lower grid totals than last year on 6 and even 2 meters they were still able to log a score of 940K on the strength of their 902 and above efforts. This group has been in the June VHF Contest every year since 1983 and has claimed the top spot in this category 23 times. Their dedication year after year is admirable. The Grid Pirates, K8GP, relative upstarts since 1993, along with their sorely missed muse, Gene, W3ZZ (SK), are among the few who have also reached the top of this category. For the second excursion to their new spot in



The AB5EB three-element 6 meter OWL Yagi array. [Mike Crownover, AB5EB, photo]

### Affiliated Club Competition

Southern California Contest Club	23	1,369,498
Potomac Valley Radio Club	35	1,339,392
Florida Contest Group	13	127,548
Contest Club Ontario	19	642,152
Mt Airy VHF Radio Club	13	636,754
North East Weak Signal Group	17	606,322
Society of Midwest Contesters	47	547,744
Grand Mesa Contesters of Colorado	11	509,554
Central Texas DX and Contest Club	9	419,111
DFW Contest Group	10	335,230
Northern California Contest Club	22	308,932
Badger Contesters	14	305,211
Pacific Northwest VHF Society	20	269,307
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	27	232,468
Northern Lights Radio Society	15	229,000
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	20	202,371
Carolina DX Association	5	139,663
North Texas Contest Club	3	88,434
Tennessee Contest Group	7	81,800
Cold Brook Contest Club	5	49,316
Frankford Radio Club	9	45,049
Mad River Radio Club	7	44,317
Alabama Contest Group	7	22,274
CTRI Contest Group	4	20,380
South Jersey Radio Assn	3	13,301
Georgia Contest Group	4	5,133
South East Contest Club	5	4,969
Minnesota Wireless Assn	6	2,655
Rochester (NY) DX Assn	3	2,046
Willamette Valley DX Club	4	1,864
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers	3	632

### Local Club Category

Badger Contesters	14	305,211
Stoned Monkey VHF ARC	4	46,333
Florida Weak Signal Society	4	31,776
Chippewa Valley VHF Contesters	3	22,028
Bristol (TN) ARC	8	21,231
Kansas City DX Club	3	11,887
Granite State ARA	3	9,847
Hilltop Transmitting Assn	3	8,302
Contocook Valley Radio Club	3	5,577
Portage County Amateur Radio Service	3	3,790
Bergen ARA	3	2,916
Raritan Bay Radio Amateurs	4	2,713
10-70 Repeater Assn	3	279



## Regional Leaders

Northeast Region (New England, Hudson and Atlantic Divisions; Maritime and Quebec Sections)			Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions)			Central Region (Central and Great Lakes Divisions; Ontario East, Ontario North, Ontario South and Greater Toronto A)			Midwest Region (Dakota, Midwest, Rocky Mountain and West Gulf Divisions; Manitoba and Saskatchewan Sections)			West Coast Region (Pacific, Northwestern and Southwestern Divisions; Alberta, British Columbia and NWT Sections)		
WB1GQR	84,249	LP	N4QWZ	78,960	LP	K2DRH	169,926	LP	AB5EB	88,615	LP	WJ0F	33,264	LP
AF1T	69,156	LP	N3LL	44,388	LP	KC9BQA	63,840	LP	N0POH	80,088	LP	NQ7R	22,572	LP
WB2SIH	51,612	LP	KX4R	41,529	LP	N9DG	63,802	LP	N0LL	68,425	LP	KE0CO	14,706	LP
K1KG	48,654	LP	N4TWX	15,810	LP	K8GDT	17,056	LP	KK0Q	59,760	LP	K6ATZ	14,384	LP
K2KIB	38,658	LP	AA5AU	13,112	LP	VA3ZV	16,985	LP	N5JR	37,760	LP	K2GMY	13,530	LP
K1TEO	373,250	HP	W5MRB	42,075	HP	W0UC	95,765	HP	W9RM	230,622	HP	K6KLY	73,168	HP
K1RZ	218,816	HP	W3IP	37,856	HP	K9EA	72,708	HP	K5TR	200,999	HP	W7EW	48,488	HP
K1WHS	151,677	HP	K4PI	37,050	HP	VE3ZV	70,980	HP	NR5M	196,448	HP	VE7JH	41,412	HP
WA2FGK	123,888	HP	W4ZRZ	34,989	HP	K8TQK	52,096	HP	K5AM	148,890	HP	N7EPD	36,757	HP
W3PAW	117,450	HP	KE2N	31,995	HP	W9GA	52,029	HP	W6OAL	113,064	HP	AJ6T	34,989	HP
W1MR	26,400	QRP	NV4B/5	770	QRP	W9SZ	16,600	QRP	KJ5RM	32,384	QRP	N6NB	96,036	QRP
N2SPI	4,773	QRP	KC8KSK	35	QRP	K9AKS	8,496	QRP	WB9PNU	2,205	QRP	KB5WIA	15,650	QRP
WB2AMU	1,675	QRP	K3TW	1	QRP	K9PLS	30	QRP	N0JK	110	QRP	AF6RR	3,103	QRP
K2FR	1,638	QRP	K1TO	9,636	3B	W9LGP	12	QRP	KD7WPJ	72	QRP	WA9STI	1,674	QRP
N1PRW	744	QRP	W4ATL	6,110	3B	K9TMS	4	QRP	AA5AM	72,488	3B	KE7UQL	672	QRP
KV2M	8,400	3B	K4UB	4,092	3B	KO9A	41,944	3B	K7XC	63,510	3B	KF7NP	23,532	3B
W1FW	5,976	3B	N5QO	2,193	3B	W9PA	13,608	3B	K0NR	48,117	3B	N7IR	22,632	3B
N3UM	4,699	3B	N5BLY	1,989	3B	N9ISN	9,936	3B	KI5YG	16,432	3B	K6MI	16,402	3B
N2SLO	4,454	3B	AA4ZZ	119,250	LM	N8TF	7,728	3B	WB0GAZ	5,035	3B	K7BG	8,680	3B
W3LL	3,948	3B	W4NH	76,311	LM	N9TF	7,728	3B	KB0LYL	1,460	FM	VE7DAY	7,888	3B
W2EV	312	FM	K4MM	35,632	LM	N8ZM	96,775	LM	K5QE	383,691	LM	K6TDI	360	FM
KB1YNT	75	FM	K5KDX	23,517	LM	W9RVG	9,796	LM	N5RZ	126,000	LM	VE6CCL	242	FM
KD2DLL	27	FM	K5GDX	22,311	LM	WW8OH	6,240	LM	W0LSD	29,008	LM	N9VM	216	FM
AK2S	12	FM	W4IY	197,580	UM	W9TE	5,831	LM	W0FRC	21,620	LM	W7DMU	66	FM
W3SO	214,140	LM	W5ZN	32,805	UM	VE3EG	1,275	LM	N0EO	19,758	LM	WA7JTM	142,780	LM
K2LIM	165,725	LM	WN2E	21,008	UM	VE3WCC	194,575	UM	W0KVA	183,359	UM	K0DI	13,200	LM
W2LV	78,648	LM	N4JQQ	14,857	UM	K9CT	131,776	UM	KB0HH	119,780	UM	N6ML	11,690	LM
W1QK	34,320	LM	AG4V/R	24,528	R	N9UHF	46,287	UM	AA7XT	93,786	UM	K7NG	9,398	LM
W3HZU	21,183	LM	W4STR/R	84	R	K8MM	28,737	UM	WQ0P	62,556	UM	AA7A	8,255	LM
W2SZ	940,416	UM	K4YRK/R	50	R	AJ9C	14,175	UM	W0RIC	29,302	UM	N6VI	475,200	UM
W3CCX	315,668	UM	W5VY/R	13,272	RL	VE3OIL/R	141,372	R	K0MHC/R	12,648	R	W6TV	74,375	UM
K3EOD	51,408	UM	WB0POH/R	570	RL	VE3SMA/R	116,775	R	W7QQ/R	8,550	R	N7NW	58,926	UM
WB3IGR	14,213	UM	A14GR/R	558	RL	W9SNR/R	54,908	R	N7SM/R	500	R	WB6W	40,664	UM
W1AN	7,832	UM	K11U/R	180	RL	VE3WJ/R	52,074	R	AL1VE/R	34,959	RL	N7CW	34,055	UM
NN3Q/R	55,776	R	KS4YX/R	133	RL	KF8QL/R	5,184	R	KK6MC/R	17,563	RL	K6AH/R	208,254	R
K1DS/R	43,706	R			W9YOY/R	22,875	RL	K0BBC/R	10,248	RL	K16FGV/R	182,637	R	
KA3KSP/R	99	R			K9JK/R	11,220	RL	KR5J/R	7,701	RL	N6HD/R	164,780	R	
K2QO/R	33,562	RL			K9GY/R	4,056	RL	N0LP/R	7,314	RL	KJ5MSY/R	126,126	R	
KV2X/R	15,120	RL			VE3GJ/R	3,240	RL	KR0VER/R	10,416	RU	KE6QR/R	21,112	R	
N2ZBH/R	12,672	RL			W8ISS/R	465	RL	W0BL/R	9,936	RU	WW7D/R	27,588	RL	
KC2SFU/R	8,154	RL			K8DOG/R	3,042	RU	KC0P/R	4,401	RU	N6ORB/R	17,766	RL	
N3XUD/R	5,436	RL						N0HZO/R	3,575	RU	N6GP/R	15,768	RL	
WA3PTV/R	47,044	RU								K6LMN/R	6,380	RL		
W3HMS/R	19,520	RU								N6ZE/R	2,709	RL		
KJ1K/R	12,696	RU								W6TE/R	189,000	RU		
										NV6C/R	3,038	RU		

FM19 this year, they posted a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish of 650K with outstanding totals on 6 and 2 meters, but were unable to take the same command of the higher bands. N6VI on the West Coast moved up into the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in this category with a solid performance on 10 bands. W3CCX also posted a solid performance of 315K including 15 QSOs on Light to take 4<sup>th</sup> and W4IY came in 5<sup>th</sup> with 197K narrowly beating VE3WCC by 3K.

### Rovers

In the RL category Tim, AL1VE, once again captured the field with 3 bands and a score of 35K with good totals on 6 meters and by roving in seven grids in OK. Mark, K2QO, with Paul, W2TAU, by his side came in a close second with 33K by visiting eight grids in WNY. Darryl, WW7D roved in nine relatively rare grids in WWA and OR to amass a score of 27K to capture 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Rounding out the Top Five were Charles, W9YOY, who added eight grids in IL with a score of 23K and Dave, N6ORB, who activated three grids and logged a score of 17K.

The stalwart rovers of the Southern California Contest Club took the top three spots in the R category. Andre, K6AH, was the leader of the

pack with 208K — amassed on 10 bands through 10 grids. Jim, KI6FGV, took second place using 10 bands with 182K by visiting nine grids and Dave, N6HD, took 3<sup>rd</sup> also operating on 10 bands from nine grids. Perennial rover Russ, VE3OIL, ran 11 bands in nine grids around Ontario with a score of 141k to take 4<sup>th</sup> place. Mark, KJ5MSY, also



The K7XC SO3B antennas at his new QTH in TX. [Photo by K7XC]

ran with the SCCC rovers in nine grids to amass a score of 126K.

There were ten entries in the Unlimited Rover (RU) category. Dave, W6TE, roamed a whopping 11 grids in the SJV SCCC stomping grounds with 10 bands to dominate the field with 189K. Joe, WA3PTV, ran four grids in the hills of WPA with 10 bands to garner 47K for second place. John, W3HMS, also fielded 10 bands for a three-grid rove through EPA that netted him 19K. Sig, KJ1K, placed 4<sup>th</sup> with nine bands on a six-grid rove in WMA with 12K. In 5<sup>th</sup> Eric, KR0VER, roamed through six grids for 10K.

### Epilogue

A common observation among 6 meter operators who have been through a few sunspot cycles is that Es propagation is less prevalent during the peak sunspot years. When I've voiced this observation on the ON4KST chat page several very knowledgeable and respected stations who keep statistics on such things told me in no uncertain terms that it's without merit. True or not, you certainly won't disprove it from the QSO and grid totals reported during this June contest.

See you on June 21-23 in 2014!

# 2013 Field Day Results

**36,560 operators celebrate 80 years of portable Amateur Radio.**

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, [kx9x@arrl.org](mailto:kx9x@arrl.org)

June 10, 1933 was not a typical Saturday morning. For the first time in Amateur Radio history, an organized “Field Day” activity was taking place. That year, the May issue of *QST* announced that all US and Canadian stations were invited to “...schedule ‘field activities,’ excursions with concentrated operation of portable transmitters and receivers....[T]he object will be for each ‘portable’ station to work as many other amateur stations as possible.” Eighty years later, Field Day has become the most popular on-air Amateur Radio activity on the planet.

The Saturday morning of Field Day is always an exciting time. For most participants, the day starts early; after all the setup work that began on Thursday or Friday, last-minute details need addressing. The scenario is one we are all



packed in with them, often weighing just a few pounds. The draw of the solitude, the noise-free operating site, and the fantastic views are just as important as the QSOs made on a small rig running only a few watts.

Sunday comes, the final QSO is made, and the dust settles. The task of teardown begins. Tired but happy, hams lower the antennas, pack up their radios, save their logs, collect the sup-

familiar with: the generator decides not to work (although it was working perfectly on Friday night), or there’s suddenly a shortage of operators for a station that was fully staffed at the last planning meeting.

But Field Day is all about making adjustments. Plans go awry, equipment malfunctions, and power sources mysteriously run out of juice. You devise another operating plan, the malfunctioning gear is repaired, and the generator fires up again. Clubs come together, work out problems, and keep on making QSOs.

For others, Saturday morning is just the beginning. One- or two-person teams begin their hike to the mountaintop, remote beach, or lakeside camping site. Their entire station is



Using only a handheld VHF/UHF transceiver, Gary Morris, KK6YB, of Redlands, CA, set up atop Mt Baldy, overlooking Los Angeles. [Gary Morris, KK6YB, photo]



The flag is flying, and so are the pigs, atop one of the makeshift towers at the site of the Stanwood Camano ARC, W7PIG, near Stanwood, WA.



11 year old Sylvia Riddell and her father Tim stopped by the Williamsburg (VA) ARC, K4RC, to investigate their Field Day operation. Sylvia made almost 30 QSOs at their GOTA station, thanks to GOTA Coach Don Johnson, N4DJ (pictured). Sylvia and Tim had so much fun, they both earned their Technician licenses! Listen for Sylvia, KF5WZF, and her father Tim, KF5WZG, as they travel across the country in their RV. [Dan Ewart, WG4F, photo]

### Entries by Class

1A	138	4AB	1	3D	5
2A	440	2AC	5	4D	2
3A	350	3AC	4	1E	251
4A	169	4AC	1	2E	30
5A	79	1B1	69	3E	18
6A	45	1B1B	132	4E	8
7A	17	1B1C	12	5E	2
8A	8	1B2	27	6E	1
9A	8	2B2	12	7E	1
10A	5	1B2B	31	1F	33
11A	2	2B2B	7	2F	72
12A	2	1B2C	4	3F	47
15A	1	2B2C	2	4F	17
16A	1	1C	55	5F	8
29A	1	2C	1	6F	4
36A	1	3C	1	7F	3
1AB	3	1D	380		
2AB	1	2D	26		

Top 10 Claimed		
Call Sign	Score	Class
W3AO	33,724	29 A
W6ZE	21,258	12 A
K5UZ	20,696	2 A
W4IY	19,924	9 A
K6EI	18,885	9 AB
W4EZ	17,675	9 AB
K4LRG	17,392	5 A
NA5NN	16,750	5 A
W6YX	16,074	9 F
K4FC	15,954	7 A

Important Field Day Statistics	
Total CW QSOs	528,569
Total Digital QSOs	51,103
Total Phone QSOs	689,244
Total QSOs	1,268,916
Number of People	36,560
Entries Active	2548

slightly from last year's number, largely because some of the bands didn't show up. With a solar flux around 128 and elevated A and K indices, the bands just didn't play as well as years past. 10 meter QSOs were significantly off this year — nothing like the 2011 Field Day, where hundreds of QSOs could be easily made on 10 meters. 2013 was also an off year for 6 meters, and Field Day weekend was no exception, despite being in the middle of the summer sporadic E season.

Small club efforts remain the most popular way Field Day is enjoyed. 2A had more entries in 2013 than any other category, providing a

good balance of stations with those choosing to participate either solo or with a friend in the "B" category, or others who stay at home and enter either D (home station on commercial power) or E (home station on emergency power).

Regardless of what you made Field Day — a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public outreach effort, a camping trip, or a great club event — we hope FD2013 was a fun, safe, and rewarding experience for all involved. We look forward to working you from the field again on June 28-29, 2014!

porting documentation of their efforts, and make their way home. Another Field Day is in the books.

Conditions this year weren't ideal. Indeed, the number of participants actually dropped

**Scores**

Score listings are grouped according to the number of transmitters in simultaneous operation and their entry class. The listings show club or group name, call sign(s) used, total number of QSOs, number indicating power output used (5 is less than 5 W, 2 is less than 150 W; 1 is more than 150 W), number of participants and total score including bonus points and ARRL section. Entries are listed from highest to lowest claimed score in each class. Class A stations are clubs or groups portable with three or more participants Class B stations are portables with one or two participants. When there are two operators, the other operator's call is listed in parentheses, if it is known. Class C stations are mobiles. Class D stations are home stations using commercial power. Class E stations are home stations using emergency power. Class F stations are EOC stations.

1A		First State ARC		Playground ARC		KA2BEO								
Colorado QRP Club		K3QBD	508 2 15	2,338	DE	W4ZBB	194 2 13	1,372	NFL	Ether Busters				
W0CQC	1167 5 6	12,225	CO	Union Metropolitaine des Sans-filistes de Montreal		NP2CB FD Group				W0KU	154 2 6	748	CO	
Tilson CC				VE2UMS	670 2 40	2,336	QC	NP2CB	83 5 6	1,325	NFL			
K5WA	2392 2 8	8,308	STX	Los Angeles ARES NW District				Fayette FD Hams						
K1R	631 5 18	6,970	ME	K6MA	494 2 50	2,302	LAX	N9TU	241 2 11	1,298	IN	Eastern Michigan ARC		
Case ARC				Benton ARS				Flying Pigs QRP Int — No Central TN				K8EPV	155 2 12	748
W8EDU	1545 2 4	6,054	OH	K5NE	511 2 15	2,252	AR	WA4PIG	104 5 5	1,290	TN	USS Jurassic (Star Trek & ARC)		
Hunters Ridge Hams				PA Knightlites				4X4 Ham				K8SSJ	89 2 4	716
NK9R	501 5 7	5,960	GA	KA2QPG	226 5 10	2,175	WPA	W7AZO	310 2 22	1,236	AZ	Portland Amateur Wireless Assn.		
W6GV	525 5 5	5,700	SJV	Alamance Co ARES				TERAC				W1KVI	81 2 14	696
Boomer CC				WX4BUY	159 5 3	2,160	VA	K7AUO	418 2 3	1,176	WWA	N9NX	168 2 5	678
NN5Z	1313 2 5	5,356	OK	K0LG	518 2 3	2,134	MO	Hamburger's Helpers ARC				K3TAR	246 2 9	642
VE2FET	1103 2 4	4,778	QC	SSRC				K3HH	270 2 3	1,174	MDC	Central Dakota ARC		
Nashoba Valley ARC				K4DAE	1009 2 3	2,068	NFL	Middle Peninsula ARC				W0ZRT	175 2 18	620
N1NC	1237 2 35	4,700	EMA	Newton ARA				W4HZL	169 2 10	1,098	VA	Club de RA du Madawaska		
Lafayette DX Assn				W0WML	351 2 10	2,060	IA	W5NC	299 2 41	1,090	STX	VE9CRM	181 2 15	612
W9LDX	1284 2 9	4,682	IN	Burlington ARC				Rocky Fork FD Group				W7HAV	20 2 14	604
Gunnison Valley & Pitkin ARCS				VE3CJ	172 5 5	2,055	GTA	W8BXG	360 2 6	1,086	OH	Pocatello ARC		
W0FD	1268 2 8	4,652	CO	Bass Hill Repeater Group				Mayerthorpe Flying Tigers				N7PI	224 2 40	598
Dr. Loomis Mem Jr Mechanics League				W1KX/1	451 2 7	2,046	ME	VE6FT	434 1 12	1,068	AB	Honeywood Club		
W3KDR	1484 2 8	4,500	MDC	Peekskill / Cortlandt ARA				U of Akron ARC				KF7HB	26 5 3	555
Why Gee ARG				W2NYW	768 2 14	2,040	ENY	W8UPD	403 2 7	1,066	OH	Kent Co ARC		
K2YG	388 5 4	4,220	NNJ	RC of Redmond				Yarmouth RC				KC3ARC	123 2 20	554
Greer ARC				N7KE	627 2 11	2,018	WWA	W1YAR	80 5 6	1,050	ME	SMARC		
K4SV	1465 2 15	4,184	SC	N0SFF	750 2 12	2,006	IA	K5GOE	250 2 10	1,050	AR	KC0IHF	149 2 8	548
Page Valley ARC				Jefferson Cty ARC				Bitterroot ARC				450' Antenna Group		
K4PMH	933 2 13	3,774	VA	KB0TLL	746 2 25	1,992	MO	W7FTX	258 2 31	1,016	MT	KG4CDI	195 2 7	540
RAA / BVARC				SCVRA				Howard Hettinger Hams				Maxims Old Men		
W6NW	1388 2 7	3,768	SJV	K0CD	376 2 12	1,948	WI	WA7GVT	321 2 3	1,002	ND	AD7IC	137 2 3	524
RAA/BVSARC				KC4AA	932 2 4	1,914	GA	DeKalb Co ARC				Marconi RC of Newfoundland — Signal Hill		
K6NW	1388 2 7	3,768	SJV	Central WA ARC				W4GBR	265 2 15	998	AL	Splinter Group		
Los Chupacabraderos				W7TT	441 2 34	1,904	EWA	Nanaimo ARA				V01MRC	6 5 8	510
K5AXW	416 5 7	3,765	STX	Arkansas River Group				VE7NA	191 2 20	996	BC	Novi ARC		
Associated Radio Amateurs of Southern NE				W0UY	427 2 4	1,854	CO	Richardson Wireless Klub				N8OVI	100 2 4	496
W1AQ	980 2 13	3,762	RI	Le Club Radioamateur de Beauce				K5RWK	214 2 23	994	NTX	Possum Hollow Dads Club		
Alberta Clippers				VE2CRB	300 2 5	1,726	QC	W5ASHOT	166 2 6	982	STX	WD8MQN	65 2 10	480
VE6EX	315 5 5	3,520	AB	Three Men and a Radio				N4QET	154 2 9	966	GA	K2CC	157 2 8	464
VE2CWI	766 2 22	3,284	QC	K0JV	365 2 3	1,676	SD	Hamilton Co ARA				Northern MI ARES		
Neurosa Gopher Munchers				Wiregrass ARC				K0KWO	93 2 4	934	IA	NM8ES	27 2 7	458
AEC6	658 2 4	3,122	SV	WB4ZPI	611 2 17	1,672	AL	WA4JUK	145 2 3	924	VA	LBCECG		
Athens Co ARA				Parma RC				Tick Bite Trio				N3RAY	143 2 3	442
W8MHV	555 2 11	3,092	OH	W8PRC	274 2 26	1,634	OH	K4RET	139 5 3	890	VA	Tres Hermanos		
South Georgian Bay ARC				York Co Contesters				K2QR	24 5 4	890	WNY	AB3KC	123 2 3	416
VE3SGB	937 2 11	2,982	ONS	W4YCC	594 2 6	1,620	OH	Club RA de St-Hyacinthe				Keeping AR Fun		
Big Lake AR Enthusiasts				VE2CLM	325 2 14	1,562	QC	VE2CAM	45 5 12	885	QC	K0ARF	132 2 3	414
W0G	1252 2 6	2,854	MN	Patrick Henry ARA				Atchison Co. Radio Services				KB9OFM	65 2 3	380
Wasteland Com Corp				K4MVA	433 2 25	1,536	VA	K0HK	70 2 20	880	KS	AC7KY	111 2 8	372
K6WCC	719 2 3	2,820	SB	Marshall Co ARC				MDOT ARC				Ocean State ARG, Inc.		
Koolau ARC				W0GJY	292 2 7	1,524	KS	KMSDOT	251 2 4	878	MS	K1OS	85 2 5	370
KH6J	1309 1 37	2,738	PAC	Senoia ARC				North Georgia VHF Soc				St Marys ARC		
IOOK Outback In The Hills				KK4SRC	339 2 3	1,496	GA	K4NGA	382 2 7	854	GA	VE3SDF	22 2 5	344
W8I	632 2 14	2,718	WV	WA0W	87 5 21	1,480	KS	N0ZTO	134 5 4	830	CO	W8AQ	142 2 23	334
Souris Valley ARC				Salted Hams Club				Peruvian-American RC				Team PIR		
K0AJW	659 2 11	2,704	ND	N5PJ	316 2 3	1,452	OK	W0PNA	124 2 3	808	MN	K7PIR	77 2 3	304
N5JB	649 2 3	2,676	NTX	Amargosa ARC				Minnesota AR Technical Society				Central Halifax AOS		
Berwick Contest Team				N7A	187 2 6	1,450	NV	A00MN	182 2 6	802	MN	N2JFS	30 5 3	300
KY3W	872 2 3	2,652	WPA	Juneau ARC				Tidelands ARS				Burlington ARC		
VE6NQ	580 2 9	2,622	AB	KL7JRC	210 2 40	1,438	AK	K5BS	42 2 20	786	STX	VE3RAB	21 2 3	292
Southwest MS ARC				Mountain Eagles				Chautauqua & Erie ARC				W9LKZ	14 2 3	284
W5WQ	753 2 16	2,476	MS	AC3V	142 5 3	1,375	EPA	NZ2Y	117 2 6	784	WNY	Sao Paulo CG		
												PX2F	82 2 3	264
												KYPN		
												K4KPN	10 2 3	220

Watertown ARC N9HR 35 2 11 170 WI	Bishop ARC N6OV (+W6TD) 1674 2 25 6,232 ORG	Hellgate ARC W7PX (+W7INW) 1052 2 20 4,120 MT	Derangers N6MI 1985 1 7 3,492 SCV
IL Valley RA K9AVE 59 2 5 168 IL	Portland Radio Contester Club KK7PR (+AE7YP) 1810 2 21 6,104 OR	Mills CO ARC K5TRC (+N5QBU) 1199 2 11 4,064 NTX	Hannibal ARC W0KEM (+W0MTL) 798 2 14 3,472 MO
KC7LHV 45 2 3 140 ID	Cape Fear ARS K4MN (+K4KMI) 1397 2 20 6,044 NC	Escondido ARS N6SD (+N6WB) 888 2 50 4,044 SDG	Fox Cities ARC W9ZL 725 2 93 3,410 WI
<b>2A</b>	Blackstone Valley ARC W1DDD (+W1TBR) 1482 2 38 6,006 RI	Tri Co ARC W9MQB (+KD9PM) 786 2 13 3,908 WI	Hancock ARC W9ATG (+N9TT) 709 2 31 3,302 IN
Batesville ARC K5UZ (+KD5J) 6085 2 10 20,696 AR	W0EF 1438 2 30 5,992 MN	Ottawa ARC VE3RC (+VA3BIT) 844 2 65 3,852 ONE	Irvine Disaster Em Comm N6IPD (+K6PB) 913 2 40 3,252 ORG
Kansas Cirt CC KS0MO 1518 5 10 15,715 KS	Oconee District 17 RC N4S 1738 2 20 5,952 SC	Minden ARA N5RD 1145 2 15 3,842 LA	Paso Robles ARC W6R (+N6KKS) 1193 1 25 3,246 SCV
Radio Amateurs of No VT W1NVT (+W1PU) 4547 2 30 13,876 VT	Phillips ARC W1HP 1544 2 15 5,916 EMA	N5RD 1145 2 15 3,842 LA	Walton RA W2LZ (+W2CD) 274 5 10 3,235 WNY
Newport Co RC / Sakonnet 49ers W1LY (+W1SYE) 3354 2 64 11,130 RI	Wyoming 7 Flamingo Desperadoes WY7FD (+WY7SS) 1266 2 10 5,860 WY	Heart O' Texas ARC W5ZDN (+W5TSA) 1056 2 56 3,788 NTX	St Croix ARC NP2VI 1975 1 22 3,221 VI
Muskogee ARC N5KW (+NN5Q) 2685 2 16 10,754 OK	PRARL KP4ES 1491 2 10 5,812 PR	Livingston AR Klub W8LRK (+N8EOC) 1638 1 10 3,760 MI	Rogue Valley ARC W7DTA (+K7TFC) 879 2 32 3,214 OR
Chew's Ridge Gang K6MI 1043 5 8 10,630 SCV	Olive Branch ARC W5OBM (+KW5GP) 1847 2 28 5,734 MS	Sioux Empire ARC W0ZWY (+W0FSD) 1040 2 25 3,758 SD	Acadiana ARA, Inc. W5DDL (+W5EXI) 964 2 34 3,208 LA
LA Cane Field CC W5ZR (+W5RZY) 3171 2 30 10,538 LA	W0MR (+K0AGF) 1605 2 43 5,632 MN	Harris-Intersil ARC K4HRS 1449 2 10 3,756 SFL	Morris RC W2YD 698 2 8 3,192 NNJ
WK5T 2631 2 7 9,554 NM	Providence RA W1OP (+W1PRA) 1740 2 13 5,600 RI	Palms West ARC W4SS (+A14PW) 942 2 15 3,752 SFL	Hospital Disaster Support Com Sys N6NH (+W6KOS) 699 2 90 3,180 ORG
Canton ARC W8AL (+KD8XD) 2240 2 39 9,424 OH	McMinn Co ARC NA4K 1276 2 28 5,518 TN	Spring Hill ARC N4WO 811 2 26 3,748 NFL	Southern VT ARC K1SV (+WT1B) 900 2 20 3,140 VT
Pacific Co ARC W7R (+W7Y) 2791 2 21 9,306 WWA	Mountaineer ARA W8SP 1338 2 26 5,342 WV	Northern AZ DX Assn / Cocoonino ARC W7TB (+KC7KCN) 879 2 26 3,732 AZ	Maui ARC KH6RS 2073 1 15 3,129 PAC
Randallstown ARC N3IC (+K3MZ) 2696 2 17 9,278 MDC	Tallahassee ARS K4TLH (+N4PIH) 1403 2 51 5,298 NFL	Spartanburg ARC K4II 952 2 35 3,728 SC	K5QHD (+KF5FWK) 580 2 46 3,112 NTX
REDXA & Marin ARS W6KB (+W6SG) 2832 2 42 9,254 SF	Trojan ARC NW0K (+WY0I) 1102 2 7 5,266 KS	North Shore ARC VE7NSR (+VE7WRS) 1049 2 28 3,722 BC	Radio Farm N0MA 977 2 20 3,092 IA
N4TP (+W4DUG) 2584 2 45 8,864 WCF	Three Guys and a Girl WB6BFG 1455 2 4 5,256 SDG	Rice Family NX8Y (+AB8FF) 872 2 10 3,706 OH	Carbon ARC W3HA 770 2 6 3,074 EPA
Smith Chart ARS K4OO 2639 2 14 8,752 NC	Delaware ARA K9NN 1377 2 15 5,238 IN	High Desert ARC of NM NM5HD 803 2 29 3,662 NM	Univ of MS ARC W5UMS 771 2 15 3,072 MS
Blue Lake Brothers N0AT 1911 2 5 8,296 MN	Marietta ARC W8HH 1378 2 13 5,180 OH	The Villages ARC K4VRC (+N4FP) 768 2 35 3,642 NFL	Carteret Co ARS W4YMI (+K4TRP) 974 2 16 3,038 NC
Northern OH DX Assn W8DXA 2358 2 20 8,262 OH	Lake Region Rep Assn W1UR (+W1BST) 1593 2 46 5,124 NH	SW LA Am Rep Club W5BII (+W5LLH) 1318 2 34 3,606 LA	EPCOM VE7PCE 1043 2 25 3,036 BC
SARA K6SA (+K6NN) 2242 2 15 8,102 SCV	Candlewood ARA W1QI 1190 2 25 5,110 CT	Massillon ARC W8NP (+KB8STV) 905 2 40 3,572 OH	Half Moon Bay ARES WR6HMB 743 2 15 2,998 SCV
W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee N9AW (+KC9WPS) 2108 2 16 8,090 WI	The 1900 Club K3PT (+W3QJ) 1417 2 15 5,036 DE		Decatur ARC W4ATD (+KB4CAY) 855 2 18 2,970 AL
Suncoast ARS / Sarasota Co ACS W4CEM 2363 2 15 8,048 WCF	Beach Boys ARC W6SL 1309 2 10 5,034 SB		
Falmouth ARA K1RK (+W1HQH) 2200 2 43 8,048 EMA	K0LIR 1300 2 12 5,010 MO		
Order of Boiled Owls / Radio Central ARC KW2O (+W2RC) 2353 2 22 8,016 NLI	KE2D 1634 2 5 5,000 SNJ		
W9JP (+WD9BSA) 2317 2 35 8,010 IN	Motorcity RC W8MRM 1265 2 52 4,996 MI		
NCCC Sierra Chapter K6NV 1924 2 8 7,554 SV	Crawford ARS W3MIE (+N3QQH) 1130 2 22 4,996 WPA		
Schaumburg ARC N9RJV (+AC9CG) 2123 2 57 7,530 IL	Prairie Dog ARC W0OJY (+W0EJ) 1025 2 14 4,986 SD		
NA9U (+KC9TEW) 2025 2 13 7,120 IN	AR Guild of Pleasant Hill N6VV 1686 2 22 4,936 EB		
Central OR DX Club N7LE (+WN7K) 1958 2 11 7,028 OR	San Mateo RC W6UQ (+K6VJ) 1397 2 28 4,930 SCV		
Kanawha ARC W8GK (+N8LW) 1948 2 31 7,002 WV	Montrose ARC K0IIT (+KC0QXX) 1227 2 50 4,794 CO		
Lynchburg ARC K4CQ (+KV4MW) 1787 2 70 6,980 VA	N0SS (+K0ETY) 971 2 68 4,558 MO		
Platinum Coast ARS W4MLB (+AF4Z) 2294 2 35 6,968 SFL	Fort Madison ARC WF0RT (+NF5B) 998 2 18 4,548 IA		
WCARC N5TT (+N5T) 1983 2 86 6,854 STX	Monroe Co Radio Com Assn W8PI 1433 2 35 4,526 MI		
Big Bend ARC K5FD (+AD5BB) 1936 2 15 6,768 WTX	New Providence ARC N2XJ (+W2FMI) 1371 2 51 4,496 NNJ		
N3VZ 2037 2 5 6,752 EPA	Tuscaloosa ARC W4XI 1387 2 15 4,474 AL		
NHC Em Prep Group NC4NH (+N2WG) 1751 2 51 6,634 NC	Northern OH QRO Club K8SM 422 5 4 4,470 OH		
NA3DX (+NA1DX) 616 5 14 6,555 MDC	Palatine ARES / RACES Group W9P (+WX9PAL) 1110 2 75 4,462 IL		
Williamsburg Area ARC K4RC (+AK4WL) 1967 2 46 6,532 VA	Meriden ARC W1NRG (+W1FD) 944 2 20 4,358 CT		
Montgomery ARC W4AP (+AK4ZE) 1519 2 75 6,354 AL	Wilderness Road ARC W4CDA (+WQ4Z) 946 2 25 4,256 KY		
Explorer Post 599 W42DFI (+W7BSA) 1973 2 26 6,336 AZ	Palos Verdes ARC K6PV (+A16DF) 1157 2 36 4,248 LAX		
N4AW (+N4SBA) 1549 2 12 6,278 SC	Alamance ARC K4EG (+W4VGZ) 1025 2 42 4,220 NC		
Massanutten ARA/ Valley ARA W4XD (+K4MRA) 1652 2 89 6,234 VA	MARCA W7MOT (+AA7OO) 1153 2 16 4,210 AZ		
	Ellsworth Amateur Wireless Assn W1TU (+KB1NEB) 823 2 20 4,140 ME		



Members of the KnightLites QRP Society, WQ4RP, in Raleigh, NC know how to keep Field Day simple! Their 3A effort was good for 718 QSOs, while running a mere 5 W. No word on how many contacts their canine companion contributed. [Marc Sullivan, W4MPS, photo]

West Allis RAC W9FK 867 2 14 2,962 WI	RATS / RARC Joint Operation W4RAT (+W4ZA) 762 2 38 2,396 VA	Great Bay RA W1FZ (+N1YGH) 377 2 7 1,968 NH	Aeronautical Center ARC W5PAA 349 2 34 1,510 OK
Straits Area ARC W8GQN 769 2 8 2,950 MI	Coastside ARC WA6TOW 550 2 15 2,380 SCV	High Forest ARC K4H (+KK4RVE) 438 2 6 1,966 TN	North Okanagan RAC VE7NOR (+VA7XN) 195 2 10 1,496 BC
KO0A (+WB0HSI) 689 2 18 2,950 MO	Rogue RF Project TK7KO (+KF7IBN) 490 2 9 2,376 OR	South Bay ARC W6SBA 376 2 17 1,958 LAX	Ellis Co ARC W55DDH (+KB5YYK) 447 2 20 1,494 NTX
Club Radioamateur Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean VE2CRS 625 2 7 2,938 QC	Wireless Society of So ME WS1SM (+KB1HNZ) 583 2 16 2,370 ME	NA4CC 386 2 7 1,956 NC	Will Work 4 Kentucky Bourbon W44KB 499 2 6 1,486 KY
Suwannee ARC N4SVC (+WA4ZET) 866 2 31 2,906 NFL	Tri-Co FD W4C (+K14OAS) 443 2 16 2,358 TN	Kamloops ARC VE7UT 358 2 27 1,938 BC	W44MM 255 2 14 1,480 GA
Samuel F Morse ARC W6SFM 484 2 18 2,906 SV	Green Valley ARC WE7GV 485 2 59 2,354 AZ	French Creek QRP Renegades W3PBC 174 5 4 1,935 EPA	Chicago Suburban RA N9BAT 239 2 18 1,476 IL
Club RA de Quebec VE2CQ 716 2 43 2,904 QC	Coastline ARA N1EG 801 2 50 2,348 CT	Benzie AR Friends W8BNZ 509 2 14 1,928 MI	Stuebenville-Weirton ARC W8CWO 502 2 15 1,472 WV
AR Transmitting Soc of Louisville W4CN 791 2 60 2,884 KY	Story Co ARC W0YL 478 2 15 2,336 IA	Crown Radio Group W3RP 405 2 5 1,928 WPA	Sam Houston ARK A15M 226 2 28 1,472 STX
Rome RC W2OFO (+N2MG) 660 2 12 2,868 WNY	VE3SOO 598 2 14 2,336 ONN	East Greenbush ARA W2EGB 735 2 20 1,920 ENY	London Bridge ARA K7LHC 206 2 11 1,470 AZ
Anaconda ARC W7VNE 723 2 5 2,864 MT	Valencia Co ARA K5OUR (+KC5OUR) 337 2 74 2,334 NM	Thousand Islands Repeater Club KD2CPX (+K2MJC) 383 2 23 1,894 NNY	SPARC KH6EL 917 1 20 1,467 PAC
Raytown ARC K0GQ (+K0OMO) 765 2 50 2,860 MO	DNB ARC K6EMI 650 2 5 2,334 ORG	W6UUS 331 2 63 1,890 SDG	W5PFC (+N5WDG) 248 2 18 1,458 MS
Briston Co Rep Assn W1ACT (+N1JOY) 781 2 11 2,858 EMA	NE WY ARA NE7WY 503 2 22 2,302 WY	Legion of Indianapolis DXers W9VW (+W9SU) 436 2 8 1,886 MI	Stillwater ARA W0JH 280 2 25 1,456 MN
Shelby Co ARES K8EMA (+KD8RLF) 622 2 23 2,828 OH	Mid-Atlantic ARC W3NWA (+W3ZV) 503 2 54 2,302 EPA	Twin Cities Repeater Club W0BU (+W0HO) 333 2 10 1,880 MN	K2YNT 402 2 9 1,454 NJ
K-State Alumni Radio Team K0DNG 823 2 3 2,822 MO	York RC W9YRC 573 2 25 2,284 IL	Ogdan ARC W7SU 431 2 29 1,874 UT	Community Service RC W0CSR 263 2 6 1,454 MO
Trident ARC N4EE 630 2 13 2,810 SC	W9YRC 573 2 25 2,284 IL	Rainbow Canyon ARC WR7AAA 147 5 13 1,865 UT	Laurel ARC W3LRC 311 2 25 1,432 MDC
Richmond ARC VE7RAR (+VA7ODY) 554 2 27 2,806 BC	W3OC 654 2 25 2,280 WPA	Caribbean ARG WP4CRG 383 2 18 1,856 PR	Guilford Co ARES/ Greensboro ARA NA4GC (+W4GSO) 366 2 29 1,428 NC
Northwest FL ARC KE4FD 693 2 7 2,790 NFL	W5AUU (+AE5NW) 511 2 50 2,270 AR	Vashon / Maury Island RC W7VMI 292 2 22 1,854 WWA	West AL ARC KC4UG (+KK4QXJ) 256 2 18 1,422 AL
Barstow ARC WA6TST (+KJ6YJF) 276 5 30 2,790 ORG	K8OCB 614 2 4 2,256 OH	Pathfinders ARC VA4PAR 800 2 15 1,850 MB	UCSC ARC AC6P 405 2 23 1,420 SCV
ARC of Amite Co W5CCW 700 2 5 2,788 MS	Hidden Valley ARC KC9KQ 398 2 23 2,246 WI	W4QDX 696 2 7 1,834 IA	Jones Co ARC W0CWP 297 2 6 1,420 IA
Gallatin HRC W7ED 841 2 20 2,778 MT	RF Wireless ARC of Burley W7JQ (+W7BRC) 607 2 33 2,242 WWA	Hiawatha ARC N0DH 442 2 20 1,806 MN	W0CWP 297 2 6 1,420 IA
Fidelity ARC W1MB (+W1MB) 494 2 15 2,760 RI	Radio Operadores Del Este KP3RE 330 2 36 2,240 PR	Lenoir ARC / Caldwell ARES N4LNR 368 2 19 1,806 NC	VE3RAM (+VE3ZZU) 227 2 9 1,416 ONE
K4WAK 559 2 6 2,734 NFL	Pamlico ARC K4BCH 524 2 10 2,240 NC	Oak Grove Hamsters KB0NHW 426 2 4 1,802 MO	Barrie ARC VE3GCB 243 2 25 1,406 ONS
Pine State ARC N1ME 766 2 26 2,724 ME	Pen Bay ARC W1PBR (+W1PBR) 364 2 15 2,222 ME	Rappahannock ARA W4NNK 543 2 8 1,778 VA	VE3OSR 323 2 16 1,406 ONS
W3BN (+W3CCH) 634 2 40 2,718 EPA	Winona ARC W0NE 373 2 23 2,192 MN	Southern Kentucky ATS KY4AR 401 2 12 1,772 KY	N3TN 262 2 15 1,398 WPA
Littleton Area Radio Klub K1EME (+AB1SX) 418 2 54 2,712 NH	Bloomington ARC K9DIY (+K9SOU) 300 2 53 2,192 IN	Columbia Co ARC K4KNS (+WE4GW) 278 2 7 1,768 GA	NA1RL 223 2 26 1,390 CT
Port Lavaca ARC W5KTC 486 2 6 2,710 STX	N7IG 324 2 15 2,192 WWA	AB9PN 351 2 3 1,754 WI	Mtn State Transmitters K8VNO (+KD8MIV) 182 2 28 1,388 WV
Panhandle ARC W5WX 543 2 15 2,692 WTX	Anoka Co RC W0YFZ (+AE0AL) 647 2 37 2,168 MN	Larkfield ARC W2LRC (+KC2TAF) 489 2 22 1,746 NLI	Queen Creek ARC N2QOJ 249 2 8 1,388 AZ
Blossomland ARA W8MAI (+W8KIT) 654 2 35 2,692 MI	Matagorda Co ARC W5WTM (+KE5KVR) 497 2 34 2,166 STX	Issaquah ARC W7BI (+KG7DTK) 327 2 23 1,744 WWA	VARES / DBARA K4BV 329 2 50 1,378 NFL
Cedar Valley ARC W0GQ (+K0JCX) 588 2 32 2,666 IA	WPPS RC W7POE 419 2 3 2,148 MT	Grant ARC W8STZ 336 2 10 1,700 OH	Morrow Co ARES W8NL 342 2 13 1,374 OH
Murray St Univ ARC K4MSU (+W4GZ) 415 2 25 2,646 KY	Santa Clara ARA W6UW (+W6UU) 506 2 35 2,144 SCV	Washington Area ARC W0ARC 360 2 20 1,696 IA	Lake Erie ARA W8CQR 266 2 10 1,374 OH
ARC EM COMM SVC WB2QBP (+K2ARC) 929 2 15 2,634 NLI	Just Havin' Fun QRP Club W8WOO 217 5 4 2,135 OH	Chickasaw ARA W5K (+W5GWD) 289 2 20 1,692 MS	Tuscola Co ARA K8CNCN 321 2 12 1,374 MI
Sandia National Labs ARC W5MPZ 596 2 17 2,632 NM	Los Alamos ARC W5PDO 482 2 20 2,132 NM	Big Sandy ARC / CO ARES D17 KD0TOS (+N0EMU) 179 2 18 1,690 CO	Greenwood ARS W4GWD 394 2 8 1,372 SC
Pamlico ARS N4PRS (+A14WL) 584 2 34 2,620 NC	Lauderdale Co EOC WX5MEI 271 2 60 2,118 MS	BPI Alumni RC W3CDI 377 2 7 1,688 MDC	W4GWD 394 2 8 1,372 SC
Warren Tech RC KC2WT (+WC2FD) 536 2 38 2,612 NNJ	MCARES K4ZK (+WX4MC) 490 2 30 2,112 SFL	Chickasaw ARA W5K (+W5GWD) 289 2 20 1,692 MS	St Albans ARC K2KI 253 2 14 1,362 VT
Tyler ARC K5TYR 576 2 63 2,604 NTX	WB4GNA 496 2 48 2,100 AL	Franklin Co ARC WE4A (+W8EMD) 488 2 13 2,060 NC	Whitley Co ARC WC9AR 406 2 15 1,362 IN
California City ARC KE6RN (+KK6EZO) 495 2 15 2,596 SJV	Franklin Co ARC WE4A (+W8EMD) 488 2 13 2,060 NC	Sierra Blanca ARC KR5NM (+K5RIC) 459 2 12 2,058 NM	Spokane DX Assn / PARC K7SDX 369 2 25 1,358 EWA
W4FD 450 2 30 2,594 NC	Jasper RC K4ACW 464 2 34 2,042 GA	Los Alamos ARC W5PDO 482 2 20 2,132 NM	Maple Valley ARC KC7KEY 249 2 35 1,352 WWA
Gold Coast ARA N4FL 553 2 64 2,558 SFL	Not All There N9TO 390 2 7 2,040 IL	Lauderdale Co EOC WX5MEI 271 2 60 2,118 MS	Mountain ARC W6BW (+KJ6JZU) 265 2 12 1,340 SJV
Goochland Co ARES / VA Capital District 6 ARES N4MI (+N4HOK) 569 2 40 2,528 VA	SC4 ARC W6SCF (+W6NZH) 268 2 44 2,030 SCV	MCARES K4ZK (+WX4MC) 490 2 30 2,112 SFL	OARS KD8SQ 495 2 6 1,340 OH
Pearl River ARC W5PMS (+K5RDA) 408 2 48 2,512 MS	Eastern Shore ARC K4BW 505 2 20 2,028 VA	K4ZK 390 2 8 1,652 GA	VA5DR 285 2 9 1,330 SK
Central Mississippi ARA WM5A 415 2 22 2,506 MS	The Happy Hams K2DXU 556 2 15 2,024 ENY	W0CA 326 2 30 1,648 CO	Club Radio Amateur Matane VA2CMQ 243 2 7 1,318 QC
Fresno ARC W6TO 491 2 20 2,432 SJV	Laguna Mt. KK6I (+W6BAF) 418 2 11 2,012 SDG	K5GCC 413 2 27 1,638 NTX	Moosehorn ARC KL7AN 240 2 43 1,302 AK
Franklin Co ARC AC1L (+KB1MSU) 552 2 28 2,418 WMA	North Arkansas ARS W5LR 468 2 40 2,006 AR	Emerald ARS WA7FQD 297 2 15 1,634 OR	Utica ARC K2IQ 198 2 8 1,284 WNY
	Union Co. ARS NC4UC (+KB4NET) 594 2 13 1,988 NC	Floyd ARS W4FCV (+W4VZH) 302 2 20 1,598 VA	Theodore Roosevelt ARC K0ND 316 2 17 1,282 ND
	San Jose ARES / RACES W6SJC (+KF6IY) 282 2 29 1,976 SCV	NE WA ARC W7GHJ 170 2 8 1,586 EWA	ARG of Youth in Lowell K8LHS 323 2 10 1,276 MI
	Jefferson Co ARC W7PT (+KG7AVA) 335 2 15 1,972 WWA	East Pasco ARS K4EX 413 2 28 1,582 WCF	Yellowknife ARS VE8YK 42 5 10 1,270 NWT
		Newport Beach Repeater Club K6NBR 319 2 25 1,578 ORG	Lake of the Ozarks ARC N0ZS 327 2 17 1,266 MO
		Jim Bell Wireless Assn K4TNS (+W4WE) 289 2 9 1,564 AL	Calexico ARS K6CLX 502 2 11 1,254 SDG
		Central Toronto ARC VA3CTA 360 2 25 1,540 ON	Kings Co RC KC2RC 202 2 20 1,246 NLI
		Okanogan Co ARC W7ORC 467 2 6 1,534 EWA	Greater NE ARL K0GNE 289 2 15 1,238 NE
		K5LIB (+K5S2) 389 2 21 1,528 WTX	Socorro ARA W5AQA 317 2 13 1,234 NM
		Fullerton ERC N6ER 379 2 10 1,528 ORG	Voc of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs V01AA 96 2 18 1,212 NL
			NHRC ARS W1CUM 386 2 10 1,206 NH
			K5LKB (+KF5QIS) 116 2 15 1,202 WTX
			Mizpah Shrine Radio Unit W9FEZ 296 2 6 1,198 IN
			N Bass Island OH Expedition N8B 76 5 3 1,195 OH



United Radio Amateur Club K6AA 1236 2 27 5,544 LAX San Andreas Faultline Survivors W6SW (+K6F) 1604 2 11 5,332 SJV Culpeper Area Rep Assn W4CUL (+AE4ML) 1254 2 8 5,250 VA Des Moines Radio Amateurs Assn / AR Technical Soc W0AK (+W0SCI) 1211 2 50 5,212 IA Bella Vista Rep Group K0SNG (+KD5UFY) 1082 2 24 5,146 AR JCARC W7JCR 1078 2 25 4,996 WWA San Lorenzo Valley ARC K6MMM (+N6OTA) 1190 2 82 4,988 SCV Easton ARS K3EMD (+W3ATA) 1337 2 30 4,940 MDC Fond Du Lac ARC W9EBV 1244 2 38 4,926 WI Rip Van Winkle ARS WD2K (+K2RVV) 1117 2 31 4,844 ENY Eastern CT ARA K1MUJ (+K1AGL) 1204 2 20 4,692 CT Estes Valley ARC N0FH 913 2 25 4,648 CO Utah ARC W7SP (+K7LO) 1197 2 98 4,646 UT Central IL RC W9EX 1313 2 43 4,580 IL W4VIY 1045 2 10 4,514 NFL N0GF 1226 2 10 4,490 ND Brandon ARS K4TN (+WJ4G) 1012 2 30 4,434 WCF SW Dallas Co ARC W5WB (+W5AUJ) 1045 2 49 4,414 NTX Roanoke Valley ARC W4CA (+AB4A) 1040 2 27 4,324 VA ARES of Douglas and Elbert Cos. W00DE 1265 2 22 4,318 CO Greater Beloit ARC W9PN (+W9DL) 1079 2 15 4,234 WI Reelfoot ARC K4RFT (+N4MJ) 833 2 11 4,232 TN Central OH Op Klub Extra-Novice WW8OH (+W8TNX) 1175 2 26 4,224 OH White Mtn ARC W1MWW (+N3LYT) 941 2 20 4,112 NH Milwaukee Rep Club WQ9A (+K5GBW) 1379 2 47 4,072 WI North American QRP CW Club N3AQC 352 5 4 4,070 WPA Boeing Employees' ARS W0MA 896 2 19 3,926 MO McKinney ARC W5MRC 818 2 22 3,870 NTX Austin ARC W5KA (+K5LBJ) 698 2 150 3,806 STX Reno QRP Group W7FST 298 5 12 3,760 NV Central MI ARC W8MAA (+N8TSP) 884 2 22 3,738 MI Saratoga Co ARA K2DLL (+NR2J) 1034 2 25 3,716 ENY Anchorage ARC KL7AA 1510 1 40 3,698 AK K6YA (+W6DLF) 932 2 60 3,662 SCV K5SLD (+N5ACK) 888 2 50 3,644 NTX Rolla Regional ARS W0GS 762 2 48 3,608 MO VE2CVR 882 2 28 3,594 QC Muscatine ARC W0M (+KC0AQS) 845 2 27 3,586 IA Owensboro ARC K4HY 786 2 20 3,568 KY Aero ARC W3PGA 678 2 52 3,552 MDC FPL Goup K8ESQ 829 2 4 3,534 MI Geezer Natomas ARC N6FR 843 2 12 3,520 SV Cumberland Plateau ARC W4CV (+KT4BW) 757 2 11 3,508 TN W2XRX 976 2 19 3,488 WNY	Wilson's Wonders N7QT 749 2 3 3,478 EWA Hernando Co ARA K4BKV 510 2 11 3,476 NFL Charleston ARS WA4USN (+NT4HI) 924 2 18 3,470 SC W4BFB 1020 2 36 3,452 NC ACTU 1005 2 7 3,432 AZ Hilltop Transmitter Assn & Keystone VHF Club W3HZU (+W3ZGD) 878 2 26 3,426 EPA Randolph Co ERC K4RAN 966 2 8 3,420 AL Albemarle ARC W4DO 845 2 43 3,400 VA Splitrock ARA K2GG 812 2 23 3,378 NNJ Milford ARC W8MRC (+K8BOUT) 761 2 18 3,358 OH New River Valley ARC N4NRV 751 2 12 3,352 VA W7SST 922 2 7 3,324 OR North Port ARC W4NPT 699 2 16 3,318 WCF Clay Center ARC W1CLA (+WX1CLA) 947 2 53 3,260 EMA San Joaquin Valley ARS W6V (+WY6L) 603 2 22 3,260 SJV Coquitlam/Burnaby/NewWest ARCs VE7SCC 847 2 35 3,246 BC Hambuds KK5E (+K5KTF) 760 2 57 3,214 STX SPARK W4QR (+W4HPT) 849 2 73 3,142 VA TriState ARS W9OG (+WA9C) 702 2 33 3,138 IN Scranton-Pocono AR Klub K3CSG (+NA2T) 619 2 19 3,108 EPA Kankakee Area RS W9AZ (+N9FD) 756 2 12 3,086 IL Granite State ARA N1QC (+KB1NH) 607 2 25 3,086 NH ARCNEM K3NEM (+W3GR) 728 2 10 3,080 MDC Parkersburg AR Klub N8NBL 900 2 32 3,044 WV Quinte ARC / Prince Edward RC VE3RL 808 2 25 3,036 ON Boca Raton ARA N4BRF 934 2 20 3,028 SFL Wireless Assn of South Hills N3SH 760 2 20 3,022 WPA Henry Co ARC W9OB 1118 2 10 3,006 IN MRAC / MAARS / GTCARC W9RH (+N9GTC) 622 2 20 3,000 WI Sonoma Co Radio Amateurs K6SON (+W6SON) 509 2 45 2,980 SF Grand Rapids ARA W8DC 682 2 25 2,976 MI Rockwall ARC K5RKW 1000 2 25 2,974 NTX Lambton Co RC VE3SAR (+VE3CGC) 665 2 24 2,966 ONS JTRG W4J 790 2 46 2,964 SFL Coshocton Co ARA W8CCA 578 2 19 2,958 OH Fayette Co ARC KK4GQ 843 2 33 2,946 GA Emporia ARS KB0SSR (+K0ESU) 1034 2 23 2,940 KS West Palm Beach ARG W4HAW (+K4WPB) 769 2 72 2,938 SFL Onslow ARC NC4OC (+WD4FVO) 564 2 15 2,936 NC Cape May Co ARC N2CMC (+W2CMC) 744 2 36 2,918 SNJ Springhill ARC N5II 798 2 8 2,916 LA Genesee Co RC W8ACW (+WA8MY) 684 2 13 2,906 MI Moore Co ARS NC4ML (+KR4W) 845 2 35 2,892 NC Tri-Co ARA K6AGF (+KK6CRP) 633 2 20 2,858 ORG	Tri-Co ARA K6ASK (+KK6CRP) 633 2 20 2,858 ORG KU6S 1573 1 53 2,813 EB Haywood Co ARC KW4P 988 2 12 2,776 NC Peoria Area ARC K9P 620 2 30 2,770 IL N1WWW 889 2 21 2,766 WMA Nixa ARC NOC 818 2 30 2,758 MO Boro of Barrington OEM WA2WUN 840 2 37 2,742 SNJ Newton/McPherson Group N0NK 515 2 10 2,714 KS 21 Rep Group / Kendallville Contesters N9VI (+N9WLW) 617 2 32 2,688 IN Nashville ARC K4CPO (+WA4VGZ) 615 2 37 2,662 TN Dixie ARC W7DRC (+NA7UT) 312 5 24 2,605 UT Northeast Wireless RC NW2C 511 2 10 2,604 NLI Association Radioamateur de Portneuf VE2CSP 477 2 24 2,566 QC Royal Gorge ARC NC0A 461 2 17 2,558 CO Delaware Lehigh ARC W3OK (+WX3MAS) 1086 1 68 2,541 EPA Blue Ridge ARS W4NYK 497 2 21 2,540 SC Shelby ARC / ARES of Clev Co KM4C 663 2 17 2,526 NC Sturdy Memorial Hospital ARC W1SMH 563 2 15 2,512 EMA OKC Autopatch Assn W5MEL 457 2 10 2,484 OK Wyandot Area Ham Op Org KD8BNV (+KD8FLT) 453 2 10 2,452 OH Golden Spike ARC K7UB 643 2 25 2,434 UT Bloomfield ARC W1CWA (+KB1YNT) 345 2 71 2,426 CT MO Outlaws ARC K0SKC 499 2 3 2,426 MO Kennehoochee ARC W4BTI 490 2 40 2,422 GA M&M ARC W8PIF 1277 1 55 2,345 MI North Kitsap ARC KC7Z (+K7SQD) 521 2 23 2,334 WWA	Hughes ARC W6HA (+KG6NWJ) 459 2 39 2,330 LAX Middle TN ARS W4UOT 287 2 20 2,316 TN Oakland Radio Com Assn WW6OR 421 2 138 2,316 EB Vancouver Em Community Telecom Org VE7VCT (+VA7VCT) 366 2 100 2,308 BC Sachse ARA K5S (+KF5NBO) 403 2 21 2,294 NTX 455 2 29 2,290 NLI W2AMC North Shore ARC VE3NSR 420 2 12 2,290 ON W6SD 446 2 35 2,276 LAX Gaston Co ARS N4GAS (+K4GNC) 444 2 33 2,258 NC Valley of the Moon ARC W6AJF 472 2 15 2,248 SF Troy ARA N2TY 545 2 30 2,246 ENY Lincoln Co ARA W4BV (+W4LCS) 615 2 8 2,238 TN Kettle Moraine Radio Amateurs N9KS 426 2 8 2,236 WI Bedford ARC K5BED 461 2 22 2,230 NTX Ramapo Mtn ARC WA2SNA 540 2 8 2,230 NNJ Okaw Valley ARC KK9N (+W9KXQ) 457 2 19 2,228 IL WAFAR/PJ'S Group W9FT 708 2 20 2,222 IL Irving ARC N5BB 339 2 25 2,218 NTX NB6GC (+W6BB) 513 2 15 2,218 EB CBF ARC W8CBF 928 2 17 2,206 OH Southern OK DXC W5CSC 435 2 20 2,192 OK NC4LC 419 2 39 2,188 NC W8JXN 545 2 15 2,184 MI Middlesex FD Group K3GT 529 2 4 2,154 WPA Southington ARA W1ECV 759 2 13 2,152 CT ARC of Augusta W4DV 416 2 19 2,136 GA JCARES KN4EM 504 2 10 2,136 TN Boston ARC W1BOS 446 2 10 2,122 EMA
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Paul Wardner, KA0NDS, took to the hills of Wyoming for FD 2013. His dipoles and verticals for 80m – 6m played very well, he reports. [Paul Wardner, KA0NDS, photo]

Yolo ARS / Yolo ARES/ UCDARC W6YAR 364 2 36 2,122 SV	Moreno Valley ARA AB6MV (+KK6CXA) 233 2 23 1,584 ORG	Robins Group N4R 306 2 4 1,176 GA	Brunswick-Glynn Co WE8J 227 2 3 604 GA
Skyline ARC K21WR 508 2 19 2,108 WNY	High Point ARC W4UA 553 2 25 1,576 NC	West Santa Barbara County ARES W9EC 158 2 6 1,166 SB	Mercer Co ARC W3LIF 260 2 18 570 WPA
Tipp City ARG K8ZC 430 2 22 2,080 OH	N8ARA 337 2 40 1,574 OH	Wood Co. ARES W9DQA 282 2 15 1,164 WI	Yellow Thunder ARC WB9FDZ 75 2 20 556 WI
Yonkers ARC W2YRC (+KF2FK) 372 2 70 2,064 ENY	WI Valley RA W9NA 186 2 7 1,568 WI	STARS WA7VE (+KE7RRO) 172 2 64 1,164 OR	Radio Adventurers of ME K1AOM 236 2 8 550 ME
Mt Magazine ARC W5MAG 587 2 10 2,064 AR	Arctic ARC KL7KC 32 2 16 1,556 AK	Wexaukee ARC K8CAD 250 2 18 1,160 MI	WE4HOE 12 5 3 515 AL
MAARC / Tri-Co ARC VE9EMM 402 2 15 2,040 MAR	Portsmouth ARC / ARES W4POX 118 2 30 1,540 VA	K8CAD 250 2 18 1,160 MI	Hill Country Mtn Toppers Assn W5F 158 2 5 502 STX
VE9ND 344 2 20 2,032 MAR	Montchuset ARA W1GZ (+N1QDX) 265 2 12 1,538 WMA	The Lancaster & Fairfield Co. ARC K8QIK 187 2 22 1,144 OH	Eastern New Mexico ARC KA5B 115 2 25 312 NM
W8WRK 470 2 16 2,026 OH	Genesis ARS N1ZIZ 141 2 40 1,516 EMA	Northwest Ohio ARC W8EQ 244 2 14 1,134 OH	<b>4A</b>
Liverpool ARC W2CM (+K9CHP) 483 2 54 2,026 WNY	Winchester Pioneer ARC AC4YD 433 2 14 1,512 KY	W7GRA 301 2 5 1,130 OR	HARC K4BFT 4347 2 60 15,476 AL
EPARA N3IS (+W3PRK) 419 2 12 2,018 EPA	Lee DeForest ARC N6CG (+K6SSI) 149 2 35 1,482 ORG	Mendocino Co AR Com Serv NC6MC 228 2 20 1,106 SF	Delaware ARA K8ES (+W8JK) 4391 2 56 15,458 OH
West River RC WR1VT 360 2 28 2,006 VT	North Franklin ARS N2NNY 286 2 10 1,472 NNY	Elmore Co ARC N2VPZ 66 2 16 1,082 ID	Palo Alto ARA W6ARA (+W6OTX) 4308 2 115 14,172 SCV
KZ9B 481 2 6 1,994 WI	South AL RC WC4M 211 2 6 1,468 AL	Radops of El Jebel Shrine K0FEZ 186 2 21 1,078 CO	No Fulton ARL K4JJ (+NF4GA) 3761 2 205 11,574 GA
Elko ARC W7V 407 2 17 1,992 NV	Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club W3UU 438 2 20 1,468 EPA	Hayward RC K6EAG 172 2 9 1,066 EB	Zuni Loop Mtn Expeditionary Force N6GA 1094 5 6 11,010 LAX
South Georgia ARC W4NUN 457 2 5 1,984 GA	Big Rapids Area ARC N8OE 460 2 8 1,464 MI	Portsmouth RC / SCARES N8QA 297 2 15 1,064 OH	Old Barney ARC N2OB (+N2CW) 3150 2 40 10,610 SNJ
Cascade RC W7EK 457 2 30 1,968 WWA	Not Quite Workable FD Group AA8BV 424 2 4 1,458 OH	N9NAU 265 2 30 1,060 IN	Sterling Park ARC K4NVA (+N4Q4) 2662 2 25 9,736 VA
Elkhart ARC AE9U 532 2 18 1,956 MI	NT4K 645 1 26 1,456 NFL	Metropolitan ARC KNOW 180 2 5 1,058 MI	Contoocook Valley RC K1BJE (+K1DFQ) 3380 2 37 9,734 NH
Big Thicket ARC N5BTC 416 2 34 1,944 STX	Aroostook ARA K1FS 356 2 32 1,452 ME	Warren Co RC W2WCR 194 2 23 1,038 ENY	PCARS K8BF (+WB8LCD) 3035 2 136 9,526 OH
San Angelo ARC W5QX (+W5MAT) 307 2 66 1,942 WTX	ARCC of Churchill Co NV7CC 182 2 24 1,452 NV	Hot Springs ARC K0HS 112 2 10 1,028 SD	PCARS K8CAV (+WB8LCD) 3035 2 136 9,526 OH
Cumberland Valley ARC W3ACH 349 2 35 1,892 WPA	Winnipeg ARC VE4BB 422 2 67 1,446 MB	Buffalo AR Rep Assn W2EUP 380 2 15 1,022 WNY	K2VSN 2573 2 42 9,186 NLI
PGCARES K3ERA (+K13DS) 287 2 20 1,886 MDC	Ham Assn of Mesquite WJ5J 291 2 42 1,440 NTX	Ouachita ARA W5HUM 130 2 10 1,014 AR	Sussex Co ARC W2LV (+KD2DTD) 2622 2 32 8,772 NNJ
Tri-Co ARC WX4TC 404 2 20 1,874 GA	Bankhead ARC N4IDX 367 2 10 1,432 AL	VE3AIR 127 2 4 1,004 ONE	Peel ARC VE3XR (+VE3AZA) 2406 2 37 8,334 GTA
Regina ARA VE5NN 434 2 26 1,858 SK	Charles CO ARC K3SMD 197 2 27 1,418 MDC	Insurance City Repeater Club K1CRC 247 2 16 994 CT	VA Beach ARC / VADXCC W4UG 2167 2 47 8,312 VA
Mt Diablo ARC W6CX 400 2 45 1,852 EB	Humboldt ARC / Redwood ARC W6IES 449 2 50 1,414 SF	Pioneer AR Fellowship W8CTT 191 2 6 988 OH	Arkansas River Valley AR Foundation K5PXP (+W5QC) 2379 2 15 8,290 AR
Franktown FD Club N0UA 357 2 14 1,830 CO	ARC of Alameda K6QLF (+KF6UVB) 111 2 18 1,414 EB	Santa Clarita ARC W6JW 157 2 11 984 LAX	Sawnee ARA N4NE 2348 2 77 7,640 GA
Albamarle ARS K4WO 534 2 38 1,828 NC	Coastal ARS W4LHS 527 2 19 1,404 GA	Mountain ARC NX0G 173 2 4 948 CO	Montgomery ARC W3M (+KV3B) 1953 2 43 7,444 MDC
Delta Co ARS K8PL 299 2 15 1,818 MI	Land of Lakes ARC K9HD 367 2 7 1,398 IN	Lakes Area ARC W5JAS 87 2 15 940 STX	Vienna Wireless Soc K4XY (+K4HTA) 1830 2 95 7,238 VA
North Woods ARG N0I 287 2 12 1,814 MN	The Road Show ARC WA4TRS (+K2JB) 317 2 15 1,390 NC	Las Vegas ARC K7UGE 223 2 40 934 NV	Westchester Em Com Assn N2SF (+N2GDY) 2003 2 35 7,236 ENY
ROADS W7ORE 263 2 30 1,806 OR	Sask-Alta RC VA5AA 302 2 12 1,374 SK	W7U7 234 2 12 930 ID	Murgas ARC K3YTL (+W3MTP) 2083 2 33 7,138 EPA
Club de Radio Amateur de l'Outaouais VE2CRO 575 2 21 1,800 QC	VA5AA 302 2 12 1,374 SK	Hillsdale Co ARC K8HRC 191 2 25 922 MI	OR Tualatin Valley ARC W7OTV (+N7QR) 1746 2 101 7,056 OR
Binghamton ARA W2OW 338 2 18 1,800 WNY	W4LHS 527 2 19 1,404 GA	Mouth of the Columbia ARC KF7TCG 26 2 10 902 OR	Lake Monroe ARS N4EH (+WA2FRW) 1910 2 75 6,452 NFL
Holmesburg ARC K3FI 386 2 12 1,794 EPA	Land of Lakes ARC K9HD 367 2 7 1,398 IN	AB8VV 168 2 3 902 MI	Dog Hollow Contest Group AK9D (+WG0TA) 1846 2 32 6,440 MO
K3Rivers ARC KK3ARC 369 2 12 1,788 ID	The Road Show ARC WA4TRS (+K2JB) 317 2 15 1,390 NC	Almonte ARC VA3AAR 289 2 6 892 ON	Franklin Co ARC W4FCR 1181 2 9 5,356 VA
Southern Berkshire ARC W1BAW (+K1LEE) 224 2 30 1,754 ENY	Sask-Alta RC VA5AA 302 2 12 1,374 SK	VA3AAR 289 2 6 892 ON	Warminster ARC K3DN 1661 2 39 5,312 EPA
Murray Co ARC KD0MC 267 2 6 1,718 MN	VA5AA 302 2 12 1,374 SK	N9KY 112 2 13 880 KY	K8EEN 1293 2 30 5,200 OH
Peace River RA W4DUX 310 2 17 1,716 WCF	LI-QRP W2GL 413 2 3 1,364 NLI	Club Radio Amateur de l'Estrie VE2RAE 175 2 22 876 QC	W8VP 1134 2 35 5,126 OH
W1GLO (+KB1PGH) 313 2 35 1,710 EMA	Cumberland ARC K3IEC 334 2 18 1,358 EPA	Assn Radio Amateur de la Mauricie VE2MO 122 2 18 876 QC	K4NAB (+KK4AMJ) 1433 2 40 5,018 SC
Gainesville ARS K4GNV 405 2 16 1,706 NFL	Clallam Co ARC K3F 386 2 12 1,794 EPA	Carlsbad AR N5CNM 152 2 5 874 NM	W5SH 1157 2 42 4,974 NTX
Cleveland ARC W4GZX 334 2 93 1,696 TN	W7FEL 324 2 22 1,356 WWA	Capital City ARC W7TCK 59 2 26 868 MT	Peterborough ARES VE3RB (+VE3KRG) 1298 2 30 4,696 ON
Plattsmouth ARC KB0SMX 197 2 15 1,694 NE	OCRACES W6ACS 298 2 20 1,350 ORG	Manhattan Area ARS K50MAN 56 2 5 868 KS	Lakeland ARC K4LKL 1184 2 51 4,676 WCF
Brownwood ARC K5BWD (+KE5UDM) 251 2 12 1,674 NTX	Columbia ARA N7EI 299 2 15 1,348 OR	KS0MAN 56 2 5 868 KS	Northern Berkshire ARC N1WM (+KB1DMR) 1060 2 25 4,610 WMA
NW MO ARES WD0SKY 264 2 6 1,656 MO	Monessen ARC W3CSL 210 2 27 1,346 WPA	CARS N2MQ 207 2 30 854 WNY	
Hiawatha ARC KD0NEB (+N0QIX) 305 2 47 1,654 IA	W3CSL 210 2 27 1,346 WPA	N2MQ 207 2 30 854 WNY	
Tri-States ARC W4GTA 322 2 10 1,636 GA	Hall of Science ARC WB2JSM 290 2 23 1,344 NLI	Lamorinda Radio Interest Group K6ORI 120 2 10 850 EB	
Athens ARC & Northeast GA ARC NE4GA 341 2 34 1,632 GA	Lakeshore ARA W9LRC 342 2 5 1,334 WI	World RC W3WRC 501 1 4 831 SV	
W4KBL 261 2 31 1,622 KY	Paulding ARC W4TIY 261 2 16 1,332 GA	Capital City ARS AA3DC 210 2 9 810 MDC	
Lake Oswego ARES WA7LO 301 2 11 1,620 OR	Clay Co. ARC W0TE 350 2 17 1,316 MO	Yakima ARC W7AQ 128 2 8 806 EWA	
Northern Lakes ARC K0Z 351 2 30 1,610 MN	High Desert Amateur Radio Group W7JVO 144 2 7 1,314 OR	Cullman ARC N4TUN 172 2 21 794 AL	
Olympia ARS NT7H 218 2 32 1,602 WWA	Colquitt Co Ham Radio Soc AA4P 268 2 31 1,306 GA	OFOG Group W16T 92 2 5 792 CO	
Putnam Am Em Rep League K2PUT 202 2 29 1,598 ENY	Westmoreland ARC NN4VA (+W4WHD) 181 2 6 1,294 VA	Mason Co ARC N7SK 93 2 15 780 WWA	
Silver Springs RC K4GSO 252 2 20 1,598 NFL	Orchard City ARC VE7OGO 290 2 20 1,288 BC	Upper Pinellas ARC N4WGL 192 1 15 742 WCF	
Fallbrook ARC N6FOQ 412 2 49 1,594 SDG	Sacramento Mountains RC KE5MIQ 221 2 8 1,250 NM	W6AK 192 2 7 734 SV	
	Hurst ARC W5HRC 148 2 4 1,248 NTX	West Wash Med Svcs Emer Comm Dist AD7AW 42 2 4 734 WWA	
	Lewis & Clark Radio Club K9HAM 307 2 21 1,238 IL	Western CO ARC W0RRZ (+AK0TQ) 30 2 40 730 CO	
	Greenwood ARC VE1ARC 188 2 12 1,238 MAR	K0KSN (+K0KSN) 97 2 10 714 KS	
	NE AR RC K5NEA 342 2 10 1,234 AR	Mystic Valley ARG N1MV 4 2 22 708 EMA	
	IBM ARC / Lockheed ARC W4IBM 323 2 16 1,210 GA	Mountain Wave Em Comm K7MTW 243 1 3 707 EWA	
	Victor Valley ARC K6QWR 148 2 20 1,202 ORG	WAOZQG 77 2 3 704 IA	
	Canwarn Quebec VE2CWQ 211 2 20 1,194 QC	Indy Midtown ARC NE9T 76 2 10 702 IN	
	Waukesha Co ARES W9AUK (+KC9UEA) 197 2 7 1,194 WI	VHARA VE3LNZ 118 2 25 686 ONE	
		Inland Empire ARC W6IER 80 2 24 632 ORG	
		WC8OH 31 2 12 612 OH	

















# The 2014 ARRL January VHF Contest

**1900 UTC Saturday, January 16 — 0359 UTC Monday, January 18**



There will be plenty of activity on 6 meters and higher for this year's January VHF Contest. If you're new to VHF contesting, this may be the perfect event for getting your feet wet in that world.

- Home, mobile, or hilltop entries are all encouraged.
- SSB and CW will be the main modes; FM activity will be concentrated around high-population centers.
- Tropospheric ducting, aurora, and sporadic E propagation are all possible, allowing QSOs over distances of hundreds of miles.
- All logs must be received or postmarked no later than 30 days after the contest. E-mail Cabrillo-formatted electronic logs to [januaryvhf@arrrl.org](mailto:januaryvhf@arrrl.org). Paper logs should be mailed to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

**Full rules are available at**  
[www.arrrl.org/january-vhf](http://www.arrrl.org/january-vhf)

KJ6VZC and N6ZE enjoyed this view of the Malibu coastline from their effective rover setup in the 2013 January VHF Contest.

# The 2014 ARRL RTTY Roundup

**1800 UTC Saturday, January 4 —  
2359 UTC Monday, January 5**

The digital modes are growing in popularity, and it's time to get in on the fun! This year's ARRL RTTY Roundup promises high activity and excitement for everyone.

- W/VE send signal report and state; DX send signal report and consecutive serial number, starting with 001.
- Multipliers are US states (plus Washington, DC), Canadian provinces, and DXCC entities.
- All logs must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the contest. Cabrillo-formatted electronic logs should be e-mailed to [rttyru@arrrl.org](mailto:rttyru@arrrl.org); paper logs should be mailed to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, USA.

**Full rules and paper forms are available at**  
[www.arrrl.org/rtty-roundup](http://www.arrrl.org/rtty-roundup)

KE2SX used a modest Buddipole antenna to work 37 multipliers in the 2013 ARRL RTTY Roundup.





# The 2014 ARRL International DX Contest

**CW: 0000 UTC Saturday, February 15 —  
2359 UTC Sunday, February 16**

**Phone: 0000 UTC Saturday, March 1 —  
2359 UTC Sunday, March 2**

How many different countries can you work? The ARRL International DX Contest — Amateur Radio's oldest contest — is the perfect chance to find out.

- E-mail Cabrillo-formatted electronic logs to [dxphone@arrrl.org](mailto:dxphone@arrrl.org) or [dxcw@arrrl.org](mailto:dxcw@arrrl.org); send paper logs to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, USA. For assistance with converting your logs, the WA7BNM Cabrillo log converter can be found at <http://b4h.net/cabforms/>. All logs must be received no later than 30 days after the contest.
- W/VE stations send a signal report and their state or province; DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power.
- Soapbox submissions may be added by visiting [www.arrrl.org/soapbox](http://www.arrrl.org/soapbox).

**Full rules and log information can be found at  
[www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx](http://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-dx)**



Goran, SMØDRD, and Don, N6DA, operate at the KH6LC multi-multi station in the 2013 ARRL International DX Contest. [Curtis Knight, AH6RE, photo]



KJ6PUO operates the 2013 Phone Rookie Roundup from the well-equipped Stanford Radio Club, W6YX. Will they be back for CW? [Photo: N6DBJ]

## The 2013 ARRL December Rookie Roundup

**Sunday, December 22, 1800 UTC — 2359 UTC**

Have you been licensed three years or less? Use that to your advantage in the Rookie Roundup. This month's event is CW, so start practicing and get ready for fun!

- Rookies (licensed for three years or less) can work anyone; non-Rookies can work the Rookies. All Rookies earn a certificate of participation.
- Use the free online logger at [www.inthelog.com](http://www.inthelog.com) to log, and the online submission form to enter. All entries must be received no later than 72 hours after the event.
- Non-Rookies should be prepared to send slowly and act as Elmers.

**Complete rules, helpful tips, and the  
online score submission form can be found at  
[www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup](http://www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup)**





# The 2014 ARRL Straight Key Night

0000 UTC – 2359 UTC January 1



Rod Bunn, KA6ROD, of Big Bear Lake, California returned to Amateur Radio after a 20 year absence. For SKN 2011, he used his childhood J-38 along with his reconditioned Heathkit HW-100 and had a blast!

Observe the New Year while celebrating the past! The ARRL Straight Key Night will have the bands full of J-38s and bugs as operators around the world participate in this fun event.

- Enjoy leisurely CW QSOs by hand and vie for the coveted “Best Fist” and “Most Interesting QSO” awards.
- This is the perfect opportunity to fire up your vintage gear, but newer rigs are also welcome.
- All reports must be received by January 31, 2014. E-mail reports to [straightkey@arrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrl.org); mail paper reports to ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111, USA.

Complete rules can be found at  
[www.arrl.org/straight-key-night](http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night)

# The 2014 ARRL Kids Day

1800 UTC – 2359 UTC January 5

Kids Day is an on-air activity focused on engaging the next generation of hams. Kids don't have to be licensed, so long as they are interested in having fun with ham radio and they have an Elmer to assist them.

- Suggested exchange: name, age, location, and favorite color. Be sure to call “CQ Kids Day,” in order to draw attention to the event.
- A certificate for all participants is available online for free. Alternatively, you can send a 9 × 12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.
- The Kids Day e-mail reflector can be found at [lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/kids](http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/kids).



Kids Day offers fun for operators of all ages, whether it's children getting on the air and making contacts, or experienced hams guiding the way.

Share your experiences, submit photos,  
print certificates, and find the full rules at  
[www.arrl.org/kids-day](http://www.arrl.org/kids-day)



## How's DX?

Bernie McClenny, W3UR, w3ur@arri.org

# Kimaam Island (OC-275)

**Dr Stephanus J D Busono, W2FB, interviews the Kimaam Island IOTA DXpedition Team**

Indonesia, with over 13,000 islands, is the largest archipelago in the world, but until recently there was no Indonesian Islands Award. In 2012 the Nusantara Indonesian Islands Award was launched, spawning many operations from YB land from different IOTA (Islands On The Air) activators since its inception.

By the time this column appears in print, two new IOTAs will have been activated: OC-275 and OC-276. Here is an interview with the three operators who activated OC-275 on September 10-16, 2013: Taufan, YBØAI; Budi, YF1AR, and Lucky, YD9RQX.

The conductor of the interview, Dr Stephanus J D Busono, W2FB, was first licensed in 1983 as YDØDBH. In 1984 his family moved to California and he was licensed as N2MAU, eventually becoming W2FB in 2001. He has been actively chasing YB islands since 1991. Together with Adhi, YB3MM, they founded the Indonesian Islands Hunter Group in 2012, which sponsors the Nusantara Award (Work Indonesian Islands Award). Steve is the QSL manager for Lucky's, YD9RQX/P, Kimaam Island operation.

### **W2FB: How did the idea to activate OC-275 come about?**

YBØAI: We were chatting casually at Budi's house and the idea came up to activate a brand new IOTA — there were two in YB9 and three in YB8. I did a search on these islands and decided on the coastal islands around South Papua near Merauke. There is a large island, Yos Sudarso, which has many other names, including Dolok and Kimaam. An important factor in the decision was the regional airport in the town of Kimaam. Merpati Airlines provides a 45 minute flight from Merauke on Mondays and Wednesdays. With this information, we decided to activate Kimaam Island, Part of the OC-275 Irian Jaya's Coastal Islands South group.

### **W2FB: How did you assemble the team?**

YF1AR: Everything moved quickly, we recruited some operators. We did not want a big team; YB3MM, YB4IR, and YB9WZJ were



Map of Kimaam Island (OC-275)



Figure 1 — Budi, YF1AR; Taufan, YBØAI, and Lucky, YD9RQX, outside the military post on Kimaam Island.

not able to make it. By early August, we made an announcement to the IOTA community. I was placed in charge of fundraising. Because of the time constraint, it was decided to use individual call signs rather than to apply for a special one.

YBØAI: In the end we had only three operators, less than I wanted, but the show must go on.

YD9RQX: I joined 2 weeks before the expedition started and I was grateful that YBØAI welcomed me, a novice, to the team; I was very excited to be a part of the DXpedition.

### **W2FB: Can you tell me a little bit more about the preparation for getting to Kimaam?**

YBØAI: I contacted other amateurs in Merauke and inquired how to get to Kimaam. I also asked Lucky, YD9RQX, to help because he lives in Papua.

YF1AR: For 2 weeks we tried to secure tickets to Kimaam but came up empty handed. The small plane can only take 16 passengers each way and only flies twice a week.

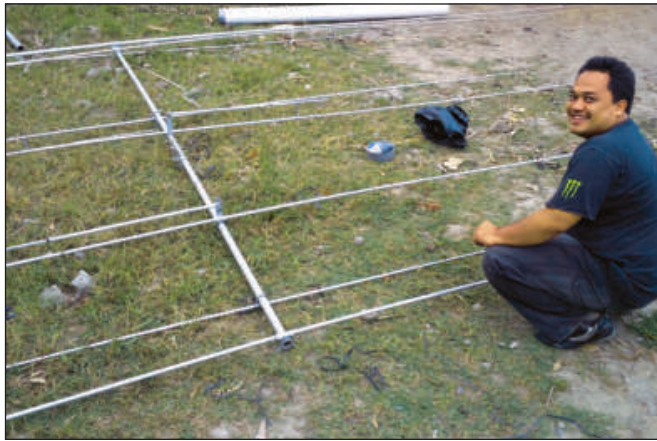
YD9RQX: Taufan and Budi asked me to contact Merpati Airlines in Merauke and book three tickets to Kimaam. I was not successful because of limited availability. I mustered up the courage to contact my friend from the local police department in Merauke and was promised three tickets.

Up until then, I had not met Budi and Taufan. We were aboard the same plane from Jayapura to Merauke on Monday morning September 8 but did not realize this until we arrived in Merauke.

YF1AR: We went to the Merpati ticket office and were met by the chief of police of the Merauke Airport who had secured three tickets for us to Kimaam. Best of all, the tickets cost almost half of what we had been quoted.

### **W2FB: What happened when you arrived at Kimaam? How did you decide on the operating site since you had not surveyed the island before?**

YFØAR: In Merauke, we met some military personnel en route to Kepi, a community deep in the wilderness of Kimaam. They helped make arrangements for our transportation. At the airport we were picked up by a team in a military truck and were driven to a



**Figure 2** — Novice operator Lucky, YD9RQX, assembling one of the Yagi antennas.



**Figure 3** — Taufan and Budi displaying their Kimaam Island OC-275 banner.

lighthouse approximately 10 kilometers from the airport. We stopped at the military post (see Figure 1) and met Mr Adam, the owner of the only general store in town, which is right by the lighthouse. We struck a deal with him to use his two 10 kilowatt generators during our stay.

YB0AI: We decided to set up camp at the base of the lighthouse. There is a tower about 30 meters high and we installed a vertical antenna on the top. Dipoles for 40 meters and 80 meters were installed at a height of 17 meters. The Yagis for 20, 17, and 12 meters were erected about 20 meters away from the lighthouse. YD9RQX helped assemble the antennas and we were done in an hour (see Figure 2).

**W2FB: Finally, the moment we all had been waiting for — OC-275 on air for the first time. Who called CQ and who made it in the log first?**

YF1AR: I called CQ on 15 meters on September 9 at 1201Z and logged Helmut, HS0ZIV. YB0AI/9 was on 20 meters and logged Bert, YB1/PD1SA. We were immediately spotted on the DX clusters and the madness started. YD9RQX had trouble with his coax and couldn't get on the air until the next day. He finally got on 40 meter SSB and worked Andi, YC9XAV.

**W2FB: How were the propagation and the pileups?**

YB0AI: Early during the week, 15, 20, and 40 meters were very good. Initially I worked simplex but the pileup quickly went out of control and I had to listen up 5-10 kHz. My fingers were shaking as I typed the calls on my laptop, the adrenalin was rushing, and nothing could beat that feeling. I really enjoyed the pileups.

YD9RQX: As a novice I was extremely ex-

cited to work a pileup for the first time in my life. Unfortunately, I had to cut my participation short due to a family emergency that required me to return home to Jayapura.

**W2FB: How did you divvy up the operating time?**

YB0AI: After Lucky, YD9RQX, left, it was just the two of us. Budi would operate non-stop during daytime on 15 and 20 meters. Occasionally, when there was an opening, he would operate 10 meters, but propagation there was poor. During the nighttime, I operated 17 and 12 meter simplex because the pileup was manageable. I also operated 40 meters with good results to OC, AS, EU, and NA, but 80 meters was limited to AS and OC.

**W2FB: Can you describe the logistics while you were on the island, such as electricity, food, sleeping quarters, hygienic needs?**

YF1AR: There was no electricity at the operating site so we used the generator 24 hours a day. The base of the lighthouse served as our sleeping quarters. When there was no propagation, we put plywood on the ground and took naps in sleeping bags. For the first 2 days, Mrs Adam (the wife of the store owner) cooked for us, but then she left for Merauke on Wednesday. After that, we survived on instant noodles and fried eggs. On the last night, we had a farewell meal with our host Mr Adam and the local residents. We feasted on venison on a skewer and stew.

YB0AI: We did not shower for a week; there was a lack of fresh water on the island. We tried to brush our teeth every day though...HI... HI...

**W2FB: Tell us about your last day on the island.**

YB0AI: Budi made the last contact on

20 meters around 1600Z, or 1 AM local time. Then we packed our radios and disassembled our antennas.

YF1AR: At 3 AM local time it was pitch dark. With a flashlight, I climbed the 30 meter tower to take down all of our antennas because we had to be ready to leave at 7 AM. The military truck was due then to transport us to the airport. The total number of contacts made was 5147 with 150 DXCC entities across six continents. We operated 80-10 meters, all phone.

**W2FB: Now that the DXpedition is over, how did you feel about your accomplishment?**

YB0AI: Personally, since activating OC-275, I feel invigorated, especially to start DXing and contesting again. I have not been very active since completing 5BDXCC. I felt fatigued from constantly listening to high noise levels on 80 meters to attain DXCC on that band. It was draining.

YF1AR: Exhausted but very happy and satisfied, we activated a new IOTA OC-275, lighthouse ARLHS IDO-148, one of the Indonesian outer islands, and best of all; it was our gift to the YB Land DX Club for its second anniversary (see Figure 3).

YD9RQX: I wished I could have stayed longer but I was very proud to be a part of the OC-275 team. It was my first DXpedition and it will not be my last.

**W2FB: Taufan, Budi, and Lucky, on behalf of the Indonesian Islands Hunter Group and IOTA community we want to convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for activating OC-275. Good luck with your next island activation.**

All photos courtesy of Stephanus Busono, W2FB.



Jon Jones, N0JK, n0jk@arri.org

# 50 MHz DX During a Solar Grand Minimum

**Even if sunspots take a nosedive, there are still ways to keep your contact count rising.**

Last month's column mentioned the Gleissberg solar cycle and that some solar scientists think we may be entering another solar minimum — an extended period of low solar activity. *Grand Minimum* is the general term for an extended period of low solar activity, of which the Maunder Minimum and Dalton Minimum are specific examples. During solar cycle peaks, F-layer propagation could be amazing on 6 meters. Stations with 10 W and a dipole could work Europe and Japan from North America. During Solar Cycle 21, a station in Kansas City running a 3 W Icom 502 radio and a three element Yagi on his chimney achieved Worked All Continents on a November afternoon in 1979.

With 100 W and a small Yagi, dedicated operators would work 100 countries on a regular basis. If a Grand Minimum were to occur — F<sub>2</sub> propagation such as appeared in recent Solar Cycles 22 and 23 on 6 meters would be all but gone in Cycle 25 and beyond. Even 10 meter F<sub>2</sub> DX may be rare. But don't tear down your 6 meter antenna — DX does not end on 6 meters in a Grand Minimum. So how can you work the foreign DX on 6 meters? How can you earn the DXCC award under these conditions? It will be possible using some modes you may be already familiar with.

### Sporadic E

Propagation off of small ionized clouds in the E layer, or sporadic E (E<sub>s</sub>), occurs throughout solar cycles. Its appearance seems independent of sunspots. Summertime E<sub>s</sub> can reach thousands of kilometers in range. Single hop E<sub>s</sub> is usually about 2200 km long. This can be easily worked with even with 10 W and a dipole. A double hop doubles the distance to 4400 km and occurs fairly often. Small stations can work it, but it is much easier with 100 to 1000 W and computer optimized Yagis. Three hops takes you out to 6600 km. Signals are weaker out here, and high power and a big antenna make the difference. This puts the eastern half of North America within range of western Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and northern South America.



**Figure 1** — This photo shows the 6 meter antenna farm that Bill, KØHA (EN10), used to work BV2DQ. [William Hohnstein, KØHA, photo]

This is a treasure house for DXCC. Your location in North America greatly affects how many countries are workable via E<sub>s</sub>. From VE1, VE2, VE3, W1, W2, W3, and the east part of the W4 call area — up to 75 or more countries may be possible via E<sub>s</sub> alone. Even from the central USA, there are around 50 potential DXCC countries within a three hop E<sub>s</sub> of Kansas City. Go out to four hops, and the air and the signals are getting thin. These openings may happen just a few days each summer and are most often very weak signals, or “EME quality.” But a range of up to 9000 km puts much of the northern hemisphere in play.

Unfortunately, for those farther west, the E<sub>s</sub> pond for DXCC dries up. There are not many countries even at three hops. But openings over the last couple of years from the Pacific Northwest to Europe at four and even five hops suggest that even the West Coast may have more countries available than previously thought.

### Short-Path Summer Solstice Propagation

Another DX mode is short-path summer solstice propagation (SSSP). This theory was developed by Han, JE1BMJ, to explain the

fairly frequent long-haul summertime openings from the Midwest and Eastern North America to Japan. Others consider the propagation mode to be multiple hop chordal E<sub>s</sub>. In any case, contacts are possible on a number of days each summer from many parts of North America to Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea, and other Far East countries. This can potentially add 10-15 more countries on 6 meters. The stations that have had the best success on this mode are those with the state of the art equipment, including at least one long Yagi — some with large Yagi stacks and high power. Stations such as James Kesterson, KØGU (DN70), Colorado and William Hohnstein, KØHA (EN10), Nebraska (see Figure 1) have made some truly amazing contacts via this mode to China, Taiwan, and other Far Eastern countries.

### Trans-Equatorial Propagation

Even in a Grand Minimum, Trans-equatorial Propagation (TEP) will still occur around the equinoxes across the geomagnetic equator. It is a very robust mode. But the zone for working TEP will move south and be smaller. As I write this column stations in South Florida and the Gulf Coast have been making TEP contacts to Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. But as the northern TEP zone moves south with

the decline in solar flux, stations in these states will need help from an E<sub>s</sub> hop to reach it. Such contacts are still possible, but will be much less frequent. There is only a handful of countries workable — but for achieving a DXCC on 6 meters, every country counts!

### Aurora and Aurora E<sub>s</sub>

Aurora may permit stations in the Northeast to work FP, CY9, CY0 and those in the Pacific Northwest to contact Alaska. Aurora E<sub>s</sub> has longer range, up to 5000 km. Stations in the Northeast have worked Greenland, Iceland, and Scotland via Aurora E<sub>s</sub>. Auroras will be rare in a quiet solar cycle.

### EME

This mode has the potential to help stations achieve DXCC on the 50 MHz band. This involves reflecting signals off the Moon and back to Earth. Joe Taylor's JT-65 digital mode has revolutionized EME communications, bringing what was an esoteric mode into the realm of a reliable propagation mode even for single Yagi stations. Stations running the legal power limit and a single Loop Fed Array (LFA) or M<sup>2</sup> long Yagis with 14 dBd gain (including ground gain) can work this mode on a regular basis.

Conditions for EME may be even better on 6 meters with the low solar activity, as high solar activity can increase ionospheric path loss and Faraday rotation of the signals. EME proponent Lance, W7GJ, has worked over 90 different countries on 6 meters via EME alone. Better results will be obtained with bigger and more antennas. A steerable four Yagi array such as used by W7GJ allows you to work many of the smaller DXpeditions with 6 meters. EME along with E<sub>s</sub> and SSSP will be the workhorse DX modes if a Grand Minimum occurs. DXCC will still be possible, but to achieve it from North America will likely require a "state of the art" setup and EME.

### F<sub>2</sub>

You may ask why it's necessary to mention this mode. With no sunspots, F<sub>2</sub> on 6 meters is unlikely. But F<sub>2</sub> can occur even in a weak solar cycle on 6 meters. A huge solar flare such as the Carrington event can do it. On September 1, 1859 astronomer Richard Carrington observed a "white light" solar flare. This flare was so powerful it was visible against the bright surface of the sun. About 18 hours later, the Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) from the flare reached Earth, causing a monstrous geomagnetic storm. A storm this huge would boost the F layer and MUF, making F<sub>2</sub> possible on 6 meters. Events such as this are very rare. Data from ice cores in Greenland suggest they occur about every 500 years. Mini-Carrington flares occur more often, and they

could spark F<sub>2</sub> as well. There may be one such event in each Grand Minimum.

### What Does the Future Hold?

Solar activity prediction is an inexact science considerable uncertainty remains. In an article in *Solar Physics*, J. Feynman reviews what is known from 1500 years of proxy data about Maunder-type Grand Minima and the minima of the cyclic Centennial Gleissberg variations.<sup>1</sup> He and coauthor A. Ruzmaikin were able to generate criteria that distinguish between the two types of events.

Applying these criteria to the observed solar terrestrial data, we conclude that the unexpected behavior began well before the solar cycle 23/24 minimum. *The data does not support the Maunder Minimum conjecture.* However, solar cycle behavior can be understood as a minimum of the Centennial Gleissberg Cycle that previously minimized in the beginning of the 20th century. We conclude that the Centennial Gleissberg Cycle is a persistent variation that has been present 80% of the time during the last 1500 years and should be explained by solar dynamo theory

If this is the case, then Solar Cycle 25 may be stronger than 24. Worldwide F layer skip may be just a cycle away on 6 meters. We can only wait and see.

### On the Bands

**50 MHz.** The E layer seemed to shut down at the end of August. I noted only one North American E<sub>s</sub> opening — and a brief one at that — on September 18 between Florida and W8 around 1430Z. There was an E<sub>s</sub> opening to Central America from Texas spotted by N5DG on September 2 at 0110Z to Costa Rica (see Figure 2) and again on the 22nd at 0330Z also to TI.

Afternoon TEP and F<sub>2</sub> started the month off for stations in Florida and South Texas to South America September 1. N5DG spotted CE, HC, HK, and LU around 2325Z that day. Ed had South America in again on the 8th, 18th, 23rd and 27th in the late afternoons.

On September 23, Lefty, K1TOL, caught a surprise E<sub>s</sub>-TEP link type opening to South America around 0200Z (see Figure 3). He found "most signals were at S-0 or S-1 but contacts were made. Heard at least 5-7 more but they never heard me over the TEP sigs at S9." He reported, "I park on 50.110 every day from 3 PM on in the fall months, just in case.

<sup>1</sup>J. Feynman; A. Ruzmaikin; "The Sun's Strange Behavior: Maunder Minimum or Gleissberg Cycle?," *Solar Physics*, Volume 272, Issue 2, pp 351-363.

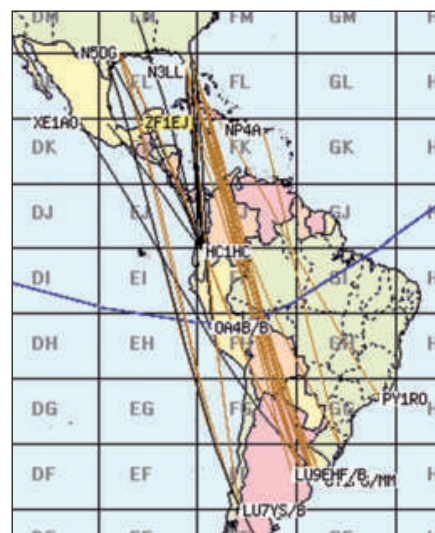


Figure 2 — Ed, N5DG, spotted this E<sub>s</sub> opening to Central America on September 2. [dxmaps.com]

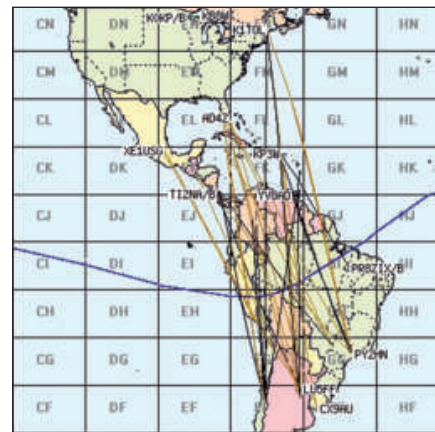


Figure 3 — Lefty, K1TOL, was surprised to catch this Es-TEP link to LU land. [dxmaps.com]

I heard a voice with a Spanish accent at 9:00 PM local but discounted it as impossible, so late at night. I got coffee, fed the cats, and sauntered back into the shack where I heard some LUs/PYs chatting on 50.110 at 9:30 PM or so, local time. I spit out my coffee in total surprise! I contacted LU5FF at 0148Z and LU1FP at 0208Z." This was the latest ever E<sub>s</sub>-TEP contact for Lefty in 50 years of radio.

Fred, KH7Y, on "The Big Island" worked V73NS on the 27th for a "new one." Neil, V73NS, was using his HF fan dipole on 6 meters: "I'll tune up the fan dipole around 0840Z. I tuned the fan and called CQ. While the TX was happy it made the RX deaf. I left the tuner off and let the rig fold back. EZNEC say it has a 9.6:1 VSWR at 50.110 MHz. Not a DX antenna on 6 meters. HI HI. I figured I

**Table 1**  
**Two Meter Contacts by Jay, W9RM**  
**(EN52)**

Call Sign	Grid	Distance
K5SW	EM25	570 miles
N1GC	EM95	589 miles
W4AMP	EM74	584 miles
N4ION	EM62	644 miles
ND0B	EM07	654 miles
KA2KQM	EM74	594 miles

was getting 20-30 W out of the rig, about 2 dB less than the beacon. If I could get a palm tree removed I'd put the beacon on from my home quarters. Maybe I could make a bracket and mount it to a palm. Either way I'd likely take some antenna damage when fronds fall. With the budget cuts, tree trimming was one of the reduced items."

**144 MHz Tropo Is Back!** There were a number of strong and fairly widespread tropospheric openings during September. Those who relied on various Internet "maps" and "spotting clusters" to alert them of tropo may have missed out. On the 3rd, Sam, K5SW (EM25), worked K8TQK (EM89) OH, WB8ART (EM79) OH, W8BYA (EN70) IN, KY4MRG (EM77), K9MRI (EN70) IN, W8MIL (EN74) MI, W9EWZ (EN52) WI, W8PU (EM89) OH, and WB9TFH (EN53) WI. September 4th was good for Jay, W9RM (EN52), to the Northwest and also to the southeast. Jay reported the 2 meter contacts listed in Table 1.

On September 5, JD, N0IRS (EM29), worked W3IP (FM19) over a thousand mile path on tropo. JD said W3IP popped up "on a dead band." He said of the instance, "I was on HF radio with some regulars when I heard W3IP calling CW on the Flex 5000. I thought I was dreaming. I had the lunar link amplifier on the Flex and it seemed like it took forever for it to warm up. I was just about ready to switch to the K3 and 1 kilowatt amplifier when the light finally came on and I started calling. I thought I had missed him but he came back and I confirmed his grid and state. Strange conditions, but you have to call CQ regardless of what the APRS map says, because it didn't show any activity nor did my local APRS Hepburn map."

Another station who worked tropo that was not "predicted by the APRS or William Hepburn's maps," is Terry, N4TWX (EL89 Florida): "This morning (September 9) Perry, W7PLS, alerted me to Doug, K4LY (EM85), in South Carolina being on 432.095 MHz. I went there and worked Doug on 432, 2, 222, and 1296 MHz. Signals were the best I have ever heard them from his location. I also heard W4DEX's beacon on 432.400 at S1.



**Figure 4** — K4UHF/b is in operation from atop Johanna Bald Mountain. [Vic Woodling, Jr; WB4SLM, photo]

None of the Internet maps indicated any propagation. It just goes to prove that you can't rely totally on predictions."

Many stations found conditions flat in the September VHF contest, but there was some tropo DX for those who were persistent. Sam, K5SW (EM25), worked AA4ZZ (EM96) on 2 meters at 0400Z on the 15th. Todd, K0KAN (EM19), worked AA4ZZ on 144, 222 and 432 MHz in the contest at 0232Z September 15th. He said they were not loud but solid copy. Paul, AA4ZZ, from his end commented, "AA4ZZ team member Roger, W4MW, was predicting good tropo based on his study of the weather. Hepburn was not. Roger was the 2 meter operator who worked K0KAN and he passed him to me for the 432 and 222 contacts. This was my first time to work Kansas on 432 and the first time on tropo on 222 MHz! I wonder if the lack of big things on the Hepburn and APRS maps cut activity?"

Gedas, W8BYA (EN70), found great conditions in the contest: "I wanted to comment on the really nice opening we had on 2 meters from EN70 into 5-land, almost to the Gulf. The opening lasted over 4 hours starting at 1300Z Sunday morning (15th). It may have been open earlier but 8 AM is when I got on. K5QE (EN31), NE5BO (EM35), K5MRB (EM35), and K5OMC (EM44) were all worked on 2 meters Sunday morning. K5QE was heard almost continuously the entire morning calling on 144.200, and was at times S7 to S8!" Repeating the theme about

Internet maps not helping to find tropo openings, Gedas said, "It was interesting once again that the APRS map did not correlate very well with what the actual conditions were. The map did show 5-6 discrete yellow and orange sections linked together between here and EN31 but never any red the whole morning. Temps here were quite cool, in the 50s, and with a nice breeze. Not what I would think are nice VHF tropo conditions." Jay, W9RM, caught a great tropo opening on September 24 UTC during the 2 meter sprint with many contacts over 500 miles. His best DX included W3IP (FM19) 658 miles, K3TUF (FN10) 658 miles, W4DXE (EM95) 645 miles, NT4RT (EM94) 639 miles, and WA2FGK (FN21) 664 miles. Jay notes he is moving to DM58 in Colorado by the end of the summer of 2014. Chris, K1KC (EM73), also had great Sprint conditions. He worked W0ANH in rare EN47 at 1027 miles at 0402Z. N0IRS (EM29) worked W3IP (FM19) "again" in the Sprint.

**222 MHz.** W9RM worked ND0B (EN07), KN4OK (EM64), W4AMP (EM74), and KX4R (EN73) 592 miles on the 5th. AA4ZZ (EM96) worked K0KAN (EM19) September 15 at 0242 UTC.

**432 MHz.** Vic, WB4SLM, reports the K4UHF/b on 432 MHz is operational again (see Figure 4). The K4UHF/b site is on top of Johanna Bald (EM85cg). W9RM (EN52) worked KA2KQM (EM74) at 594 miles September 5th.

**1296 MHz and Up.** "Thanks to Russ, K2TXB/3, I was able to work Delaware for state number 13 on 10 GHz. Signals were very loud and contact was easy on SSB. We were tallying up states and realized another close state has not been worked yet, by us and others. Who would have guessed that it was New York!" Thanks Herb, K2LNS, the station manager at WA2FGK.

### Here and There

Colin, KH9/WA2YUN, has a "POP3" e-mail account that may be used to alert him if you hear his beacon from Wake Island. Colin says, "If someone needs Wake on 6, have them send me an e-mail at [wa2yun@yahoo.com](mailto:wa2yun@yahoo.com). I have this account set up as a POP3 on Outlook and my computer should beep for an incoming e-mail."

Aves Island, YV0. The 4M5DX Group's mostly Spanish web page for their DXpedition to Aves Island is now active at [www.avesisland.info](http://www.avesisland.info). The group plans to be active as YW0A sometime between November 1, 2013, and February 28, 2014. Their page mentions 50.110-50.115 MHz CW and SSB.

## Special Event Stations

**Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, events@arrrl.org; www.arrrl.org/special-event-stations**

Working special event stations is an enjoyable way to help commemorate history. Many provide a special QSL card or certificate!

**Nov 11, 0900Z-1700Z, W0V**, Sioux Falls, SD. USS *South Dakota* Wireless Association. **USS South Dakota Battleship Memorial, 5th Anniversary.** 28.315 21.315 14.315 7.215. QSL. Mark Carlson/W0V, 135 1st St, Ashton, IA 51232. [www.qrz.com/db/W0V](http://www.qrz.com/db/W0V)

**Nov 15-Nov 20, 0000Z-2200Z, WP4CRG**, Arecibo, PR. Caribbean Amateur Radio Group. **520 Years Puerto Rico Discovery.** 146.520 28.320 21.320 14.280. QSL. Caribbean Amateur Radio Group, HC 4 Box 43014, Hatillo, PR 00659. [wavilesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:wavilesjr@yahoo.com)

**Nov 17-Nov 24, 0000Z-2359Z, W1G**, East Berlin, PA. Area Amateurs. **150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.** All bands, all modes, as propagation permits. Certificate & QSL. Robert Hess, WO4L, 74 Curtis Dr, East Berlin, PA 17316. [www.qrz.com/db/w04l](http://www.qrz.com/db/w04l)

**Nov 23, 1700Z-2359Z, N6IWI**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* (CV-41) Museum. **Loss of the 5 Sullivan Brothers/Sinking of the Cruiser USS *Juneau* during the Battle of Guadalcanal.** 7.250 SSB 14.070 PSK 31 14.320 SSB DSTAR wide area reflectors. QSL. USS *Midway* Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.

**Nov 23-Nov 24, 1500Z-0000Z, WA2XM**, New York, NY. Columbia University Amateur Radio Club. **100th Anniversary of 2XM Call Sign to Wireless Telegraph Club of Columbia University, 103rd Anniversary of Columbia University.** Amateur Radio Club. 147.500 28.350 14.310 7.250. Certificate. Columbia University Amateur Radio Club, c/o Edward Miller, 3000 Broadway, MC 3136, New York, NY 10027. [www.w2aee.columbia.edu](http://www.w2aee.columbia.edu)

**Nov 29, 1300Z-2100Z, W1P**, East Falmouth, MA. Falmouth Amateur Radio Association. **Steamship *Portland* Special Event.** 14.260 7.260 3.997. QSL. Henry Brown, 19 Sao Paulo Dr, East Falmouth, MA 02536. [k1wcc@arrrl.net](mailto:k1wcc@arrrl.net)

**Nov 30, 1700Z-2300Z, W9CAP**, West Chicago, IL. Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol. **72nd Anniversary of Civil Air Patrol.** 18.125 14.250 7.255. QSL. IiWG CAP Maj Ron Walerowics, IL WING CAP, PO Box 397, West Chicago, IL 60186. [w9cap.com](http://w9cap.com)

**Nov 30-Dec 1, 1300Z-1900Z daily, WA1NPO**, Plymouth, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club. **The First Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth.** 18.160 14.260 7.240 3.860, EchoLink WA1NPO-R, IRLP:8691. Certificate & QSL. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382. [www.wa1npo.org](http://www.wa1npo.org)

**Nov 30-Dec 7, 1900Z-2300Z, KB9WQF**, Mauston, WI. Juneau County Radio Amateur Club. **Boorman House Christmas Special.** 14.270 14.054 7.240. QSL. Howard Fischer, N2450 Scoville Rd, Mauston, WI 53948. [kc9ivj@gmail.com](mailto:kc9ivj@gmail.com)

**Jan 1-Dec 31, 0000Z-2359Z, EI13CLAN**, Dublin, Ireland. Irish Radio Transmitters Society. **The Gathering.** 28.050 21.320 18.080 14.220. Certificate & QSL. David, O'Connor, Silver Howe, Sydenham Mews, Corrig Ave, Dunlaoghaire, Co Dublin, Ireland. [www.qrz.com/db/ei13clan](http://www.qrz.com/db/ei13clan) or [irts.ie](http://irts.ie)

**Dec 5, 0900Z-1600Z, W4BUG**, Pompano Beach, FL. Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association. **Flight 19 Memorial.** 14.325. QSL. Joey Jet,

4116 NW 1 St, Deerfield Beach, FL 33442. [w4bug.org](http://w4bug.org)

**Dec 6-Dec 7, 2300Z-2300Z, WX9LOT**, Romeoville, IL. National Weather Service Amateur Radio Club. **SKYWARN Recognition Day.** 146.520 14.332 7.226 3.870. QSL. National Weather Service Amateur Radio Club, 333 West University Dr, Romeoville, IL 60446. [www.crh.noaa.gov/lot](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot)

**Dec 7, 1300Z-2100Z, W8VP**, Cambridge, OH. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association. **100th Birthday Celebration.** 14.260 7.235. Certificate & QSL. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, PO Box 1804, Cambridge, OH 43725. *12th and final Special Event in CARA's year-long 100th Birthday Celebration.* QSL. Certificate available for anyone who works all 12 of CARA's monthly Special Events of 2013. [www.w8vp.org](http://www.w8vp.org)

**Dec 7, 1600Z-2000Z, W5BMC**, Morgan City, LA. Bayouland Emergency Amateur Radio Service. **Santa's Block Party Remembering Pearl Harbor.** 14.275 7.250. QSL. Jackie Price, KA5LMZ, 708 Front St, Morgan City, LA 70380.

**Dec 7, 2100Z-2330Z, W2HO**, Newburgh, NY. Orange County Amateur Radio Club. **Santa Net.** 7.190 3.920 146.94(-) repeater, PL 88.5. QSL. Orange County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 624, Cornwall, NY 12518. [www.ocarc-ny.org](http://www.ocarc-ny.org)

**Dec 7-Dec 8, 1000Z-1630Z, N4WIS**, Virginia Beach, VA. USS *Wisconsin* Radio Club. **Pearl Harbor.** 14.264 7.264. QSL. N4WIS, USS *Wisconsin* Radio Club, PO Box 6682, Virginia Beach, VA 23456. [www.n4wis.org/n4wis/index.php](http://www.n4wis.org/n4wis/index.php)

**Dec 7-Dec 8, 1300Z-2200Z daily, W2W**, Baltimore, MD. National Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club. **Pearl Harbor Commemoration.** 14.241 14.041 7.241 7.041. Certificate & QSL. W2W — Special Event Station, PO Box 1693, MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

**Dec 7-Dec 8, 1600Z-0100Z, W3PIE**, Uniontown, PA. Uniontown Amateur Radio Club Inc. **80th Anniversary Celebration.** 28.440 14.245 7.225 3.925. Certificate. Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, Special Event Station, 433 Old Pittsburgh Rd, Uniontown, PA 15401. [www.w3pie.org/year80](http://www.w3pie.org/year80)

**Dec 7-Dec 9, 0000Z-0000Z, W7ORC**, Okanogan, WA. Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club. **Grand Coulee Dam Special Event.**

14.270 7.260 3.860; PSK31 14.070 7.035 3.580. Certificate. Okanogan County Amateur Radio Club, 219 W Winesap St, Tonasket, WA 98855. *E-certificate via e-mail.* [www.w7orc.com](http://www.w7orc.com)

**Dec 13-Dec 14, 0001Z-0700Z, W1E**, Burley, WA. Burley Amateur Radio Club. **Friday the 13th Special Event Operation.** 28.313 14.303 7.233. Certificate\* & QSL. W1E BARC W7JQ, PO Box 639, Burley, WA 98322. [www.qrz.com/db/w7jq](http://www.qrz.com/db/w7jq)

**Dec 14, 1700Z-2359Z, N6IWI**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* (CV-41) Museum. **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.** 14.320 7.250 SSB; 14.070 PSK31; D-STAR wide area reflectors. QSL. USS *Midway* Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.

**Dec 14-Dec 15, 0100Z-2300Z, K7CCH**, Coquille, OR. Coos County Radio Club. **Shore Acres Holiday Lights.** 28.325 14.325 7.235 3.935. QSL. Coos County Radio Club, K7CCH, PO Box 698, Coos Bay, OR 97420.

**Dec 14-Dec 15, 1010Z-1000Z, W8ZQ**, Wheeling, WV. Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club. **Wheeling Light Fest.** 14.250 7.232. Certificate. Joe McCreedy, PO Box 192, Blaine, OH 43909. [j\\_t\\_mccreedy@yahoo.com](mailto:j_t_mccreedy@yahoo.com)

**Dec 15-Dec 16, 1400Z-2300Z daily, WX3MAS**, Nazareth, PA. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club and Delaware/Lehigh Amateur Radio Club. **Christmas City Special Event.** 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.850 SSB CW and PSK31. Certificate. WX3MAS, 14 Gracedale Ave, Greystone Building, Nazareth, PA 18064. [cjfishing@rcn.com](http://cjfishing@rcn.com)

**Dec 18-Dec 24, 1500Z-2300Z, KC5OUR**, Belen, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association. **Christmas in Bethlehem.** 28.483 21.283 14.283 7.283. QSL. Valencia County ARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. [www.kc5our.com](http://www.kc5our.com)

**Dec 21, 1400Z-2200Z, W3C**, Bethlehem, MD. Easton Amateur Radio Society. **Christmas in Bethlehem.** 14.255 14.055 7.255 7.055. QSL. Easton Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 311, Easton, MD 21601.

**Dec 28, 1700Z-2359Z, N6IWI**, San Diego, CA. USS *Midway* (CV-41) Museum. **US Claims Midway Island in 1867.** SSB 14.320 7.250 SSB; PSK31 14.070; DSTAR wide area reflectors. QSL. USS *Midway* Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101.

**Certificates and QSL cards:** To obtain a certificate from any of the special event stations offering them, send your QSO information along with a 9 × 12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address listed in the announcement. To receive a special event QSL card (when offered), be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped business envelope along with your QSL card and QSO information. \*Note: Some clubs may ask for a nominal fee to cover the cost of the certificate or QSL. Request will be made on air during the event or on the club's website.

**Special Events Announcements:** For items to be listed in this column, use the ARRL Special Events Listing Form at [www.arrrl.org/special-events-application](http://www.arrrl.org/special-events-application). A plain text version of the form is available at that site. You may also request a copy by mail or e-mail. Offline completed forms can be mailed, faxed (Attn: Special Events) or e-mailed.

Submissions must be received by ARRL HQ no later than the 1st of the second month preceding the publication date; a special event listing for **Feb QST** would have to be received by **Dec 1**. In addition to being listed in *QST*, your event will be listed on the ARRL Web Special Event page. Note: All received events are acknowledged. If you do not receive an acknowledgment within a few days, please contact us. ARRL reserves the right to exclude events of a commercial or political nature.

Special Events listed in this issue include current events received through Oct 10. You can view all received Special Events at [www.arrrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrrl.org/special-event-stations).



## IARU Region 2 Conference Charts Three-Year Course

The member-societies of IARU Region 2, the Americas, held their triennial General Assembly in Cancun, Mexico the week of September 23, 2013, with 18 national Amateur Radio associations represented. Representing the ARRL were President Kay Craigie, N3KN, as the voting delegate; First Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR; Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ; and Technical Relations Specialist Jonathan Siverling, WB3ERA. The ARRL carried the proxy of Club de Radio Aficionados de El Salvador, whose president, José Arturo Molina, YS1MS, was present in his capacity as Vice President of Region 2 and could not also serve as a national delegate. ARRL International Affairs Vice President Jay Bellows, KØQB, participated in the conference as a member of the Region 2 Executive Committee. Also attending were most members of the IARU Administrative Council.

The delegates reviewed activity reports from member-societies throughout the region.

Several reported increases in amateur licensing, however, several others reported declines in licensing and activity because of license fees and the growth of the Internet and mobile phones.

For the first time in Region 2, band plans for the VHF, UHF, and microwave bands were adopted to guide development of these bands. HF band plans were reviewed with the objective of improving terminology and aligning them more closely with those of the other regions, particularly Region 1 (Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union). The new and revised band plans will be posted on the Region 2 website, [www.iaru-r2.org](http://www.iaru-r2.org). In most countries, including the US, IARU band plans are voluntary guidelines and do not carry the same weight as regulations; the band plans may differ from national regulations, in which case the latter must be observed.

An important function of the conference was to adopt a budget for the upcoming three year

period. Region 2 dues are assessed at \$0.07 per licensed amateur in the country that the member-society represents. This amount has not been adjusted in many years but is still adequate to fund the activities of the region.

Another important function is to elect the members of the Region 2 Executive Committee, which manages the affairs between conferences. There are four officers and seven area directors, with two officers also serving as area directors. Members for 2013-2016 are: Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AM, President; Ramón Santoyo, XE1KK, Vice President and Director; José Arturo Molina, YS1MS, Secretary; Noel E. Donawa, 9Y4X, Treasurer and Director; and Directors George Gorsline, VE3YV, Jay Bellows, KØQB, Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD, Gustavo de Faria Franco, PT2ADM, and Galdino Besomi, CE3PG.

Chile will be the host country for the 19th General Assembly of Region 2, to be held in October 2016.

### IARU: Administrative Council Studying Ways to Work with Non-IARU Organizations

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council (AC) is looking into ways to work with non-IARU Amateur Radio organizations in countries where the IARU member-society is failing to represent all of its radio amateurs. The issue came under discussion at the annual AC meeting September 21-22 in Cancun, Mexico.

Suggested solutions included establishing communication with the non-IARU societies to allow input from the country's amateur community on IARU and amateur-related issues or recommending QSL bureaus that will serve amateurs within a particular country.

In other business, the Administrative Council:

- Reviewed IARU positions for World Radio-communication Conference 2015 agenda items and future WRC agenda items and discussed the strategy for achieving IARU objectives at WRC-15.
- Named David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, and Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM, joint recipients of the Michael J. Owen VK3KI Award, which

recognizes individuals who exemplify the dedication and hard work of IARU volunteers.

- Adopted the theme "Amateur Radio: Your Gateway to Wireless Communications" for World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2014.

### First IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Workshop Stresses Awareness, Cooperation

The first IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Workshop, held September 24-25 in Cancun, Mexico in conjunction with the IARU Region 2 XVIII General Assembly, explored international issues facing Amateur Radio's response to emergencies and disasters. Sponsored by IARU Region 2 and the ARRL, the event was co-chaired by ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K1IU, and IARU Region 2 Emergency Coordinator Dr Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P.

Attendees heard presentations that covered ITU response to disasters, technical innovations in disaster response, the *IARU Emergency Communications Handbook* project, and organizational updates. Attendees and presenters also took part in a tabletop exercise. Discussion focused on several key points.

- The general public and served agencies need to be aware of what Amateur Radio can do.

- The IARU should consider approaching the ITU about developing partnerships with Amateur Radio equipment manufacturers to assist with communication responses to large international disasters.

- There should be more participation from young amateurs as presenters and attendees in international emergency communications workshops, and cross-border cooperation and coordination of amateurs should be encouraged. Amateurs also need to be aware of cultural differences that may arise in international responses.

- There is a greater need from served agencies for high-speed video, data, and high-resolution imagery.

- More input is needed for the *IARU Emergency Communications Handbook* project.

Presentations and material from this workshop will be made available at [www.iaru-r2.org](http://www.iaru-r2.org). Direct comments and questions to Mike Corey, K1IU, at [kilu@arrl.org](mailto:kilu@arrl.org) (English), or Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, at [psantos56@yahoo.com](mailto:psantos56@yahoo.com) (Español).





# Earl Abbott's Massie Coherer

**A mysterious piece of vintage brass has a surprising origin.**

The earliest piece of radio gear I own is a coherer that dates to 1905 (see Figure 1). Coherers were one type of very early detectors. Mine was made by the Massie Wireless Telegraph Company in Rhode Island. I didn't always know it was a Massie coherer — in fact, I first thought it was just a signal bell for a telegraph with its bell missing.

The coherer came to me courtesy of Earl Abbott, W2FTT (SK). (See the September 2013 Vintage Radio column for his story.<sup>1</sup>) I remember the day I found it in Earl's cellar. It was located away from his other radios, on a small wooden shelf built into the wall of his shack. There were two or three other telegraph type relays with it. I recognized that they were special and old, so I carefully placed them in a box and carried them to my car.

With all the confusion at the time, bringing home so many things and going to hamfests, I almost sold it, not knowing its value. I put it aside and during the next couple of years I almost forgot about it. As it turned out, this procrastination paid off.

### Serendipity

It was on a visit to my favorite wireless museum, the New England Wireless and Steam Museum (NEWSM) in Rhode Island ([www.newsm.org](http://www.newsm.org)) that I spotted what appeared to be a duplicate of my curious piece of equipment. At the museum was the historic 1907 Massie System Wireless Station, PJ (for Point Judith, RI). PJ had been relocated to the museum grounds in 1983 by Robert Merriam, W1NTE, and his museum volunteers, to avoid demolition. The original Massie equipment on display there was donated by the Massie family (see Figure 2). The Massie station's historic value is enormous and it is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

After spotting the duplicate, I rushed to ask Bob if he could tell me about it. He explained that it was a Massie coherer. When I told him I had one, he was astounded and asked me to bring it on my next visit. I did, and he verified that it was, in fact, a Massie coherer and



**Figure 1** — This side view of the Massie coherer shows the glass tube of the coherer itself on the left and the de-coherer assembly that looks like a telegraph sounder.



**Figure 2** — The inside of the Massie station at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum. The Massie coherer is on the far side of the table, behind the bell. [Stan Avery, WM3D, photo]

<sup>1</sup>J. Dilks, K2TQN, "Vintage Radio," *QST*, Sep 2013, pp 96-97.

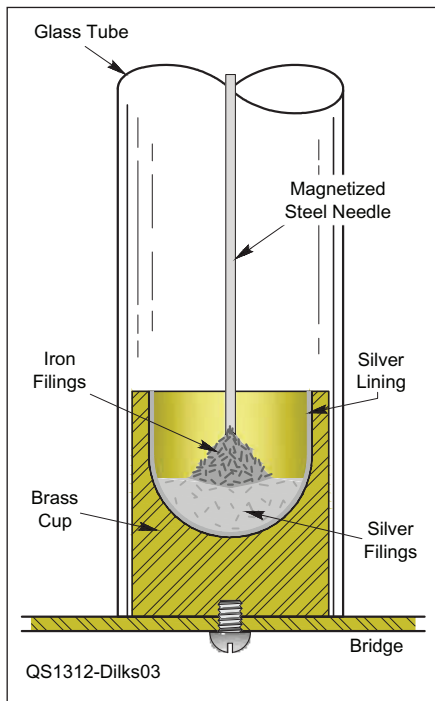


Figure 3 — Detail drawing of the Massie coherer.

provided me with copies of the patent documentation and a small French perfume bottle. The perfume bottle is what Walter Massie used as a cover, with the top and bottom cut out of it, for the silver cup and needle that formed the coherer. This piece was missing from mine.

I explained that I found it in New Jersey, in Earl's, W2FTT, ham station — we could only guess where he might have come across it. I believed that it may have come from the Massie station at Cape Henlopen in Delaware. It was probably rescued by one of the wireless operators when the station was closed, and later given

to Earl. (Cape Henlopen is at the mouth of the Delaware River and some operators there may have lived in New Jersey, as similar surviving early wireless stations were located on both sides of the river.)

Bob Merriam explained that Massie was a strong competitor of Marconi. Marconi sued and closed Massie down after a very few years. Then Marconi destroyed all the Massie stations and replaced the equipment with Marconi gear. Due to this, Massie equipment is very rare, and I was lucky to find it.

### How the Coherer Works

A wireless coherer in its simplest form is a mixture of metal filings in a confined space, usually a glass tube (see Figure 3). When excited by a radio wave, the filings cohere — that is, they stick together — forming an electrical circuit, just as if a switch had been turned on. This circuit operates a sounder of some kind and simultaneously triggers another device, called a “de-coherer” (see Figure 4). The de-coherer (the ball next to the glass cylinder) physically taps the coherer's brass support bridge. The vibrations generated loosen the filings to open the “switch.” The coherer needs to be de-cohered many times during the dot time period and many more times during the dash time period. As long as RF is present the coherer stays cohered until the tap. If the RF is still present after the tap, it coheres again immediately, and gets tapped repeatedly. The buzzing sound comes from the tapper tapping. If no RF is present, nothing happens. In practice, fast CW would be difficult with a coherer set. Under good conditions, 10-15 WPM would be the limit.

My Massie coherer uses a mixture of silver and iron filings. These were missing, so I filed some particles off an old silver Liberty dime and an old iron nail. These filings were placed in the

small silver-lined brass cup. Next, a magnetized steel needle was inserted into its carrier above the cup and pushed down into the cup. The filings jumped to the needle. One tap on the support bridge loosened the filings, which fell back into the cup (see Figure 5). The entire assembly was surrounded by a 1 inch long, 9 millimeter wide glass tube, which I cut from scrap instead of using the perfume bottle.

Because I intended this piece to be showcased, rather than used, that was as far as I was prepared to go. I wiped the coherer clean of 100 years of dust. The brass is still tarnished, as found. Wiping the wood with a light coating of WD-40 gave it a shiny appearance.

### The Final Touch

I planned to display the coherer at radio contest meets and thought a display case would be a good idea. I found an excellent company with cases in an almost unlimited variety of sizes — Specialty Plastics Fabrications ([www.casesforcollectibles.com](http://www.casesforcollectibles.com)). They carry cases in a wide range of styles and sizes, to accommodate almost any type of display.

I chose a 10 × 6 × 5 inch display case with a medium density fiberboard (MDF) base. Together with shipping, the cost was less than \$60. The wood base came unfinished, and I spray painted it green to complete the exhibit.

For more information about coherers, search “wireless coherer” on the Internet. A brand new Marconi or Branley type coherer detector designed from an 1896 original is available from David Navone, N6SWX. See his website [www.davidnavone.com](http://www.davidnavone.com) or e-mail him at [dnavone@davidnavone.com](mailto:dnavone@davidnavone.com). He has additional coherer parts and items available.

The Massie station configuration, patent information and additional photos are on my website, [www.k2tqn.com](http://www.k2tqn.com). Note: For more on the early Delaware River stations in New Jersey, see columns that ran in the September and October 2006 issues of *QST*.<sup>2,3</sup>

All photos by John Dilks, K2TQN, except as noted.

<sup>2</sup>J. Dilks, K2TQN, “Old Radio,” *QST*, Sep 2006, pp 80-81.

<sup>3</sup>J. Dilks, K2TQN, “Old Radio,” *QST*, Oct 2006, pp 91-92.

Figure 4 — Close up of the Massie coherer and tapper. The coherer is the glass assembly on the left. It sits on a brass bridge. The ball on the right is the tapper part of the de-coherer.

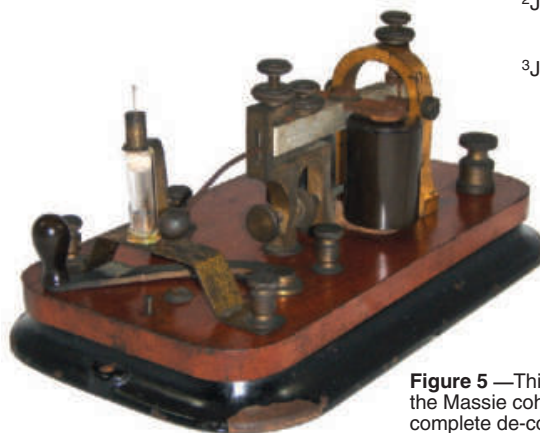


Figure 5 — This side view of the Massie coherer shows the complete de-coherer assembly.

## Life Members

### Elected October 5, 2013

Chris S. Aberle, KB7IAY  
George T. Abouaki, KC6KBD  
Jerry M. Agan, KJ4MBJ  
Jeremy C. Allen, N1ZZZ  
Orville F. Alwin, WL7BXJ  
Sheron L. Ames, KC6ZSH  
William R. Arcand, W1WRA  
Carol L. Ashburn, N3STZ  
James D. Atkinson, N05L  
Brennan S. Autry, KC9QXP  
Donna J. Barker, WQ4M  
D. Berrett, KC9FDL  
Howard J. Black, KD0LRA  
Jerry A. Boyd, WR5G  
Ian M. Branson, N0IMB  
David A. Breiland, K16ETL  
George L. Bringhurst, KM5SL  
Mark J. Brown, W7UM  
Lionel Bryson, N4YYL  
Thomas Buhreind, N9ZOZ  
Karen L. Burke, W3MJX  
Sam R. Burnes, WY8V  
Thomas V. Burrus, WD4F  
Jennifer L. Cappell, KD8UUS  
Elaine Chapin, KJ6YYP  
Sherry A. Christiansen, K2SAC  
John O. Coan, W4CTP  
Adam E. Coffey, N8DDW  
Carl W. Collins, K5CWC  
Joseph Conover, AB3KC  
Charles O. Cornell, K6COC  
Chris Cowgill, KJ7KU  
Michael L. Cox, KF4UQM  
Howard E. Craig, KC0HI  
Michael A. Crain, KE5MC  
David W. Crane, K4RU  
Jeff Cummings, N7QOB  
Chris T. Daniel, W5AWX  
Gary E. Davis, K4GED  
Richard G. De Oreo, N5GI  
Dorai A. M., VU2DVG  
James M. Feazell, WB8GVI  
Victor M. Ferrer, AH7P

J. Ficara, KJ6KMT  
Francis L. Findley, KC9VHM  
Lee M. Finkel, KY7M  
Michael J. Fisher, KD7HOT  
Michael J. Fitzsimmons, KJ6YYO  
R. Pinkney Foster, K7ILA  
Thomas Fournier, W4PIO  
Jan Weeks Franzen, W5OCE  
Larry R. Fravel, K8YYY  
James M. Froncek, KA3RDA  
Steven S. Gallion, W9SSG  
Peter D. Gambee, K6TTD  
Steve H. Gilmore, W4SHG  
Gary D. Goeken, WA9RTI  
James L. Goldman, W3JG  
Maureen S. Gutowski, W1MSD  
Brian S. Hall, K8TIY  
Richard Hallman, N7TR  
Raymond C. Hansohn, K4RCH  
Donald W. Happel, WB5UJZ  
Thomas L. Henderson, W4WCQ  
Mark Hendrick, KK4RMF  
Robert H. Herrin, KE4JLL  
Bruce Holt, KG1BAH  
Bruce N. Homer, NN7BH  
Frank M. Howell, K4FMH  
Richard E. Hoyer, KB3WCG  
Matthew S. Huber, KD8LLT  
Roberts A. Hunter, KB0BJL  
Greg D. Isringhaus, K0GDI  
Ron Jahr, KC9SNI  
Ronald J. Jasinski, K1ZPZ  
Philip Jeffries, KC1AAC  
Jim Jerzycke, KQ6EA  
Stephen M. Jones, W0TTY  
Harry R. Jonte, KF7FHE  
John P. Karabees, KK4SOG  
Alan D. Kline, KB1DJ  
Leonard W. Klopp, K9QHH  
Christopher M. Knizeski, K16UWR  
David Koerner, N0HIO  
Harold P. Kopp, K7YZO  
Adam Kornegay, NC4AK

Patricia L. Kornegay, K4PLK  
Alice M. Kottmyer, N5DXZ  
Brian D. Kuebert, N4UEZ  
Randall H. Kurashige, AH6Q  
E. David Ladd, K8EDL  
Thomas A. Lane, N7RTX  
David Laveck, W0COP  
Mark S. Le Blanc, N7PUR  
Lon M. Lease, NL7LE  
Jeffrey J. Lehmann, N1ZZN  
Kuohsing Liao, KJ6UMU  
Andrew Mackie, ZL2HZ  
Timothy J. Madden, K14TG  
Jack L. Magill, AC0UL  
Vittorio Marchisio, IW1DUH  
Robert E. May, NV5E  
Michael W. McIlheran, K0MWM  
James L. Morton, KB8KPJ (SK)  
Wayne P. Netherland, KF5KCR  
Lars Nilsson, SA0BUX  
Cynthia L. Novak, NN9JA  
Martin A. Ohrenberg, KV4OD  
John J. Pardini, AI2D  
John P. Parks, W6JPP  
William B. Pendleton, KE5OEX  
David J. Pesec, KA8UPR  
William B. Pfof, N4APG  
Timothy D. Phillips, W5JOC  
Randall S. Pitchford, WW7ZZ  
Lee A. Porter, KC2MKL  
Herman L. Price, W5HLP  
Barry G. Rector, KB1VBE  
Daniel G. Reimer, K0ZL  
Jake Reynolds, AC9G  
Paul W. Richardson, KC0NWC  
Charles Ristorcelli, NN3V  
David R. Roberts, KB3UUW  
Suzanne T. Robinson, KF5ECX  
Jeffrey T. Satterfield, KD7ADI  
Kathleen G. Savage, KB1LPW  
Richard Savage, KB1LYJ  
Micah T. Schmitt, AB9KK

David J. Schneider, AD4CC  
Paul W. Shallbetter, N0YPS  
Paul B. Shelton, KG5NP  
Richard K. Sherman, K6AEN  
Yin L. Shih, N9YS  
Michael J. Shimp, K0EBH  
N. Carol Shrader, W14K  
Thomas R. Sly, WB8LCD  
Rick D. Smith, N6GSE  
Robert Solberg, AC2KQ  
James L. Spencer, W0SR  
Marcus Stevenson, WB5LFS  
William T. Strayhorn, K4WTS  
Kenneth H. Stritzel, W9AEK  
Arthur W. Strong, K2AWS  
Chuck Stroud, KA8HDE  
Chris A. Swartout, N6WCP  
Cynthia Swartout, KD6ALN  
Tirina Swartout, KG6HWK  
William Taylor, KC9BNW  
Dominic Theodore, K8HHL  
John Thompson, N4JDT  
Robert Thompson  
Jerome M. Traynor, KC2SIE  
Hector Trestini, K1HDT  
Guy L. Tribble, N6SN  
Winfield Wagner  
Ronald J. Walerowicz, K9SX  
Donnie Ward, K14TXI  
Jeffrey D. Waters, W4UWF  
Jared A. Watson, KJ4IVC  
Robert E. Whatley, KD5ZPB  
Matthew E. Willis, N2PYI  
Christopher D. Wilson, AC0PP  
Mark D. Winek, W3GN  
Paul D. Wolf, AA5PW  
Jake Wolfe, AE7KZ  
John P. Wolterbeek, W6BCE  
Forrest A. Woolley, N5RWE  
Steven H. Wyld, KX6J  
Nancy M. Yoshida, K9DIG  
James F. Zuelow, KL2ZZ

## Radio Tips

### Shopping for an Antenna Tuner

If you determine that your station needs an antenna tuner, you'll find there are many available. Despite the bewildering number available to choose from, they can be reduced to just a few categories, according to how they function.

■ **Manual Tuners:** As the name implies, you operate these antenna tuners by hand, twisting knobs and watching the SWR meter until you achieve the best match. These are among the least expensive models, but they are also the least convenient to operate. If you think you'll want to change bands and frequencies quickly, a manual tuner may not be the best choice.

■ **Automatic Tuners:** These tuners have automated the tuning process. You simply apply RF and push a button — the tuner rapidly searches through combinations of inductance and capacitance until it finds the values that

render the best match. Some models will respond as soon as they detect a signal from your radio — no button pushing required.

■ **Remote Automatic Tuners:** These tuners are designed to be installed outdoors at the antenna. By achieving the best SWR at the antenna, remote tuners minimize RF loss in the cable between the antenna and the station. Remote automatic tuners will operate when they detect RF, or when they receive a command from the transceiver.

When shopping for a tuner, be sure to check its impedance range. The impedance range is critical to the tuner's ability to match a wide array of loads. Limited-range tuners can only handle mismatches that result in a maximum-SWR of 3:1. In contrast, wide-range antenna tuners will handle SWRs of 10:1 or more.

Also pay attention to the tuner's RF power rating. For example, you may find a tuner

rated for 150 W PEP — peak envelope power. This is an expression of RF power commonly used when we're talking about SSB signals. A 150 W PEP rating is fine for SSB, a signal with rapidly changing power levels, but what about a signal with a power level that is maintained continuously? A RTTY (radio teletype) signal is said to be "100% duty cycle," which is another way of saying that it is at maximum power continuously during the entire transmission. An antenna tuner rated for 150 W PEP may not be able to safely handle 150 W at a 100% duty cycle. Check the specifications carefully. Look for language such as, "150 W SSB, 80 W CW." In this example "CW" doesn't mean a Morse code transmission; it refers to "continuous wave" in the literal sense, meaning 100% duty cycle. If you plan to operate RTTY or other 100% duty cycle modes, be sure your antenna tuner is rated for the power.

## Convention and Hamfest Calendar

Gail Iannone, [giannone@arrl.org](mailto:giannone@arrl.org); [www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar)

### Abbreviations

Spr = Sponsor

Tl = Talk-in frequency

Adm = Admission

### Alabama (Locust Fork) — Jan 4

**D F H R T V**

8 AM-2 PM. Spr: Blount County ARC. Locust Fork High School, 155 School Rd. Tl: 146.7 (91.5 Hz). Adm: \$5. Chuck Walley, KF4TCU, 205-681-8354; [kf4tcu@bellsouth.net](mailto:kf4tcu@bellsouth.net); [freeze fest.com](http://freeze fest.com).

### Florida (Ocala) — Dec 14 **D T**

7 AM-noon. Spr: Silver Springs RC. Green Clover Hall, 319 SE 26th Ter. Tl: 146.61 (123 Hz), 146.79 D-STAR REF037C. Adm: Free. Ed Biederwolf, W9CHA, 352-292-3135; [ed.w9cha@gmail.com](mailto:ed.w9cha@gmail.com); [www.k4gso.us](http://www.k4gso.us).

### Louisiana (Minden) — Dec 21

**D F H R S V**

8 AM-2 PM. Spr: Minden ARA. Minden Civic Center, 520 Broadway St. Tl: 147.3. Adm: \$5. Dusty Collins, N5COL, 318-422-3159; [n5col@att.net](mailto:n5col@att.net); [n5rd.org](http://n5rd.org).

### Mississippi (Poplarville) — Dec 14

**D F H Q R S V**

8 AM-3 PM. Spr: Pearl River County ARC. Old National Guard Armory, SW corner of Hwy 26 and Hwy 11. Tl: 145.21 (136.5 Hz). Adm: \$5. Roger Aubert, K5RDA, 601-795-4425; [k5rda@att.net](mailto:k5rda@att.net); [W5PMS.info](http://W5PMS.info).

### Missouri (Brighton) — Jan 4 **D F H R T V**

8 AM-1 PM. Spr: Ozark Mountain AR Group. Brighton Assembly of God, 5403 Hwy F. Tl: 147.015 (162.2 Hz). Adm: \$5. Mike Ballantyne, KC5MNP, 417-788-8882; [kc5mnp@gmail.com](mailto:kc5mnp@gmail.com); [www.w0omd.org](http://www.w0omd.org).

### New Jersey (Bergenfield) — Dec 14

**D F H R S V**

8 AM-3 PM. Spr: Boy Scout Troup 139/Venture Crew 7373. St John the Evangelist's Conlon Hall, 19 N William St. Tl: 146.955 (141.3 Hz), 146.52. Adm: \$3 (non-ham spouses and kids free). Gordon Beattie, W2TTT, 201-314-6964; [w2ttt@arrl.net](mailto:w2ttt@arrl.net).

### NEW YORK CITY/LONG ISLAND SECTION CONVENTION

January 5, Bethpage, NY

**Q R S V**

7:30 AM (doors open), 9 AM (forums start). Spr: Great South Bay ARC. Briarcliff College, 1055 Stewart Ave. Ham Radio University 2014, Special Event Station W2V. Tl: 146.85 (136.5 Hz). Adm: \$3 (donation). Tom Carrubba, KA2D, 631-422-9594; [ka2d@arrl.net](mailto:ka2d@arrl.net); [hamradiouniversity.org/](http://hamradiouniversity.org/).

## Strays

### Looking for Nautical QSLs

Horst Ballenberger, DL8NBM, is collecting QSL cards that feature a nautical theme (see his collection online at [www.qrz.com/db/dl8nbm](http://www.qrz.com/db/dl8nbm)). He is looking for more cards and welcomes scanned image file sent to his e-mail address at [dl8nbm@darq.de](mailto:dl8nbm@darq.de). You can also send originals by postal mail to: Lindenäckerweg 14, D - 90455 Nürnberg, Germany. Cards sent by postal mail will be returned; no return postage necessary.

## Coming ARRL Conventions

### November 16-17

Indiana State Convention,  
Fort Wayne, IN\*

### December 6-7

West Central Florida Section Convention,  
Plant City, FL\*

### January 5

New York City/Long Island Section  
Convention, Bethpage, NY

### January 17-18

North Texas Section Convention,  
Fort Worth, TX

### January 19-26

Quartzfest Convention,  
Quartzsite, AZ

### January 24-25

Mississippi State Convention,  
Jackson, MS

### January 25-26

Puerto Rico State Convention,  
Hatillo, PR

### January 31-February 1

Southern Florida Section Convention,  
Miami, FL

### February 7-9

Northern Florida Section Convention,  
Orlando, FL

\* See November QST for details.

### Tennessee (White Pine) — Jan 4

**D H R S T V**

8 AM-2 PM. Spr: Lakeway ARC. Walter State CC Expo Center, 1615 Pavilion Dr. Tl: 147.03. Adm: \$8. Gloria Pritikin, KJ4BHF, 865-674-7884; [GAPritikin4128@aol.com](mailto:GAPritikin4128@aol.com); [www.lakewayarc.org](http://www.lakewayarc.org).

### Wisconsin (Waukesha) — Jan 4

**D F H R V**

8 AM-1 PM. Spr: West Allis RAC. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Bldgs, 1000 Northview Rd (County Trunk FT). 42nd Annual Midwinter Swapfest. Adm: advance \$4 (5 for \$18 or 10 for \$35 before Dec 20), door \$5. Phil Gural, W9NAW, 414-425-3649; [janphil68@att.net](mailto:janphil68@att.net); [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org).

## December 2013 W1AW QUALIFYING RUNS

W1AW Qualifying Runs are held at 10 PM EST on Friday, December 6 (0300 UTC December 7) and at 9 AM EST on Tuesday, December 17 (1400 UTC). The West Coast Qualifying Runs will be transmitted by station K6KPH at 3581.5, 7047.5, 14047.5 18097.5 and 21067.5 kHz at 2 PM PST (2200 UTC) on Saturday, December 14. Unless indicated otherwise, sending speeds are from 10 to 35 WPM.

## To All Event Sponsors

Before making a final decision on a date for your event, you are encouraged to check the Hamfest and Convention Database ([www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar)) for events that may already be scheduled in your area on that date. You are also encouraged to register your event with HQ as far in advance as your planning permits. See [www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application](http://www.arrl.org/hamfest-convention-application) for an online registration form. Dates may be recorded up to two years in advance.

Events that are sanctioned by the ARRL receive special benefits, including an announcement in these listings and online. Sanctioned conventions are also listed in the *ARRL Letter*. In addition, events receive donated ARRL prize certificates and handouts.

*For hamfests:* Once the form has been submitted, your ARRL Director will decide whether to approve the date and provide ARRL sanction. *For conventions:* Approval must come from your Director and the ARRL Executive Committee.

The deadline for receipt of items for this column is the **1st of the second month preceding publication date**. For example, your information must arrive at HQ by **December 1** to be listed in the **February** issue. Information in this column is accurate as of our deadline; contact the sponsor or check the sponsor's website for possible late changes, for driving directions and for other event details. Please note that postal regulations prohibit mention in QST of games of chance such as raffles or bingo.

Promoting your event is guaranteed to increase attendance. As an approved event sponsor, you are entitled to special discounted rates on QST display advertising and ARRL web banner advertising. Call the ARRL Advertising Desk at 860-594-0207, or e-mail [ads@arrl.org](mailto:ads@arrl.org).

**D = DEALERS / VENDORS**

**F = FLEA MARKET**

**H = HANDICAP ACCESS**

**Q = FIELD CHECKING OF QSL CARDS**

**R = REFRESHMENTS**

**S = SEMINARS / PRESENTATIONS**

**T = TAILGATING**

**V = VE SESSIONS**



# Building a Strong Future for Amateur Radio

**Active promotion is the key. Here's how one group of Ohio hams approaches the task.**

Devere "Dee" Logan, W1HEO

The recent growth in the numbers of licensed US radio amateurs is encouraging. But, as the saying goes: "Trend is not destiny." To ensure a bright future, we must continually spread the word about our radio service, and provide opportunities to prepare for license exams. This is up to us, and no one else.

We should recognize the major role the ARRL® has had in providing us with the support and materials for recruiting, educating, and training the many who have chosen to join our ranks. Yet the ARRL cannot reach into communities across the country and recruit new hams. That is up to each of us.

Many hams are not comfortable venturing into the community to "sell" ham radio. Yet, often it's an individual ham radio demonstration given to a friend or relative that creates the spark of interest. There are limits to this technique, which is why larger numbers are recruited by radio clubs that offer classes and volunteer examiner (VE) testing. It is such "radio-active" groups that hold great potential for building our numbers and our future.

## Stepping Toward Greater Participation

Realizing the critical role of radio clubs, a group of radio amateurs (who would later become the foundation of the Ham Radio Promotion Project) assembled in 2005 to discuss how clubs could improve the effectiveness of their promotion and recruitment activities. They identified four steps to improve recruitment:

- Step 1: Raise awareness of Amateur Radio.
- Step 2: Identify prospects among those who appear interested in ham radio.
- Step 3: Focus training efforts on those who appear interested in obtaining a license.
- Step 4: Offer training classes, VE licensing sessions, and invitations to join a sponsoring radio club.

Conducting an effective promotion campaign requires a variety of tools. A number of promotional items are available from the ARRL, including printed materials and help from a public relations professional at headquarters.

Training and educational materials developed by the League can be very helpful.

While developing the program, suggestions for how to conduct promotional campaigns came from local hams who were experienced public relations professionals and accredited members of the Public Relations Society of America.

## Wireless Window to the World

Video is a powerful promotional medium. In order to assist in introducing the public to Amateur Radio, the group produced a video entitled *Amateur Radio: Wireless Window to the World*. Experienced television broadcasters on our team applied their talents to create the 15 minute DVD. To date, dozens of copies of this video have been provided to individual hams and radio clubs across the country for use in public showings, radio classes, and TV programs.

As for radio clubs, the group identified several ways to help with their promotion and recruitment efforts. Since few members are experienced in this field, a 50 page how-to handbook was developed; it contained sample news releases, display templates, press relations techniques and more. Other promotional tools were developed, including signs, banners, and a quarterly newsletter — *The Ham Radio Promoter* — containing practical tips and information on promotional techniques.

These steps became the foundation for what was designated "The Ham Radio Promotion Project." Since radio clubs are the logical place to build a local promotional campaign, invitations to join the project were extended to a number of groups in northeast Ohio. A website was established — [www.neoham.org](http://www.neoham.org) — presenting an overview of the project.

Financial support for the project was initially provided by the Hamfest Association of Cleveland and Chapter One of the Quarter Century Wireless Association along with several contributions from area amateurs. Invitations to join the effort were accepted by a number of northeast Ohio radio clubs. Today, more than 27 clubs are members of the project.

Our project has also provided support for individuals by supplying the promotional video for a modest \$12 donation. The video has been used widely in training classes, presentations to civic clubs, scout troops, and other audiences.

We also encourage radio clubs to establish the objective of promoting ham radio on a continual basis. For example, regular club-sponsored licensing classes usually result in gaining new club members from among the students. This steady growth will help assure a bright future for your club and Amateur Radio itself.

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Devere "Dee" Logan, W1HEO, an ARRL Life Member, received his Novice call, KN8WZJ, in 1961. An Amateur Extra class licensee, he has served as an Assistant Director of the ARRL Hudson and New England Divisions. He reached the top of the DXCC Honor Roll in 2007, holds nine-band DXCC, WAZ, and WAS, and authored the book, *Tips to the Top from DX Pros*. Dee lives with his wife Mary Elizabeth and can be reached at 9901 Cypress Cir, Mentor, OH 44060-7221, [deverelogan@gmail.com](mailto:deverelogan@gmail.com).

## Op-Ed Policy

The purpose of Op-Ed is to air member viewpoints that may or may not be consistent with current ARRL policy.

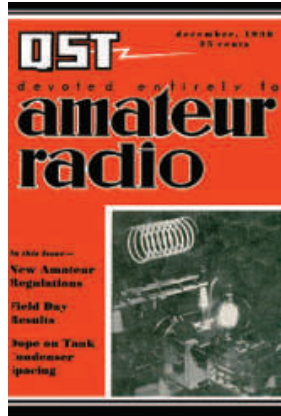
- 1) Contributions may be up to 900 words in length.
- 2) No payment will be made to contributors.
- 3) Any factual assertions must be supported by references, which do not necessarily have to be included in the body of the article to be published.
- 4) Articles containing statements that could be construed as libel will not be accepted.
- 5) The subject matter chosen must be of general interest to radio amateurs, and must be discussed in a way that will be understandable to a significant portion of the membership.
- 6) With the exception that the article need not be consistent with League policy, the article will be subject to the usual editorial review prior to acceptance.
- 7) No guarantee can be made that an accepted article will be published by a certain date, or indeed, that it will be published at all; however, only articles that we intend to publish will be accepted, and any article we have decided against publishing will be returned promptly.
- 8) Send your contributions to ARRL Op-Ed, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 or via e-mail to [qst@arrl.org](mailto:qst@arrl.org) (subject line Op-Ed).

## 75, 50 and 25 Years Ago

Al Brogdon, W1AB

### December 1938

- The cover is an infrared photo of a large final tube and its glowing tank coil. There's no doubt that R.F. is present!
- The editorial addresses the recent panic that followed the famous "War of the Worlds" radio broadcasts reporting that Martians had invaded New Jersey. FCC Chairman McNinch commented, "Public reaction again demonstrates the force of radio and points out again the serious public responsibility of those who are licensed to operate stations."
- By Goodman, W1JPE, describes "A Simple Transmitter for Portable or Emergency Work," which was a crystal-controlled two-tube rig with single-control tuning.
- "Results, 1938 A.R.R.L. Field Day," reports that there were 1060 participants — an amazingly large number. Many fine photos of FD stations in action add to the excitement of the report.
- D. K. Oram, Chief Engineer for Hammarlund, tells how we can get "Full-Range Selectivity with 455-Kc. Quartz Crystals," complete with wide-range bandwidth control.



### December 1963

- The cover shows some of the Aerojet RC gang working on a Field Day antenna.
- The editorial, "Field Day and Amateur Radio," discusses the great value of Field Day — for its technical training, operating training, and simulation of actual emergency conditions.
- Ernest Adolph, K8WYU, describes "A Medium-Power Band-Switching V.H.F. Transmitter" with v.f.o. or crystal control and 240 watts input on 2 and 6 meters.
- "The TOT" (Transistors on Two), by Robert Glorioso, W1EBW, is a hand portable for 144 Mc. that uses only three inexpensive transistors.
- "Harris's Theorem," by John Harris, VE3ON, describes a problem-filled Sweepstakes effort.
- "63 Field Day Results — the Biggest!" by Ellen White, W1YYM, reports a FD record of 15,654 participants and 3815 transmitters CQFDing away.



### December 1988

- The cover photo shows Santa, played by Kermit Broderseno-ho-ho!, who has visited the children's hospital in the ARRL HQ area for 30 years.
- Kevin Balmforth, NC6U, introduces "The Electronic Parrot," his voice-saving contest machine, a real cracker of an idea.
- Edward Ocarson, WA1TWX, describes "The CW6805 — An Inexpensive Morse Keyboard."
- Ken Goetz, NX7C, thinks outside the box and makes "The Case of a Portable Hand-Held Transceiver," using a plastic soldering-iron case to hold the H/T and using the case as an antenna base.
- In "The W6AM Rhombic Antenna Farm Dismantled," Jan Perkins, N6AW, tells the sweet but sad tale of W6AM's famous antenna farm and its finally coming to an end, following Don's death. A period photo in the article shows a young Don Wallace as the Chief Radio Officer aboard the USS *George Washington* at the Versailles Peace Conference.



## Field Organization Reports

SEPTEMBER 2013

### Public Service Honor Roll

This listing recognizes radio amateurs whose public service performance during the month indicated 70 or more points in six categories. Details on the program can be found at [www.arri.org/public-service-honor-roll](http://www.arri.org/public-service-honor-roll).

512	171	K4IWW	105	KZ8Q
W5KAV	WS6P	KW1U	KJ6JJ	WB4BIK
		K7BFL	N9VT	K3IN
375	170		N1TF	NSZOC
KT2D	AD4BL	129		N3KB
	WD8USA	KA8ZGY	104	KC8BW
356	165	N7EIE		NS7K
WM2C	KESHYW	WA1STU	103	89
340	K7OAH	NX9K	NSNVP	W8IM
WB8RCR		AG9G	K4JUJ	KJ4HGH
330	160	W8LAW		100
K8RDN	K1PJS			87
	KE4CB	124	K6JGL	N2DW
290	KG0GG	KB2BAA	KJ6PCC	
KB2RTZ	N1UMJ	KC2QVT	K4SCL	85
			K5KKT	WD0GUF
270	159	123	W5CU	
W5DY	KF7PDV	KA9QWC	NOYR	84
			N1JX	NA9L
265	158	122	K2GQQ	KC2UMX
KT5SR	KD5RQB	W9LFL	WE2G	83
260	157		KB2QO	K6RAU
K4BEH	W9EEU	120	N8SY	82
249	156	K0VTT	W8GZ	KB9KEG
WA7PTM	WB8YYS	NN7H	WA0VKC	WB4Y
		WB9WKQ	WB8Q	
247	155	KA4FZI	N3SW	81
WB9FHP	N5TMC	KF5IOU	KB1NMO	K4VWK
	W3YVQ	W02H	WB4FDT	
235	W4DNA	NM1K	KB3LNM	80
K0IBS	WB4ZIQ	AA2SV	AA3SB	KC0ZDA
		WA2NDA	AJ4TH	K0DEU
231	154	K4GK	WS4P	N0MHJ
N8JWM	KK7DEB	NA7G	AK4RJ	KB1WXC
230	153		AK4RJ	K8ED
KK4BVR	K6GNU	119	W4TTO	WB4RJW
	KK3F	KB1RQG	WB8TQZ	KB7RFV
217	WK4P	118	KB8RCR	W7VY
WB8R		N3RAY	K8VK	
210	148	N7IE	WB8WKQ	79
W9BGJ	KB5SDU	W3GGJ	W9GJQ	K9DUR
KC2LIX	147	117		78
209	WA4YWM	KB3GJT	K7FLI	AB1AV
W7FQQ	145	116		75
208	N9VC	W7JSW	88	
KC8QWH	N7CM	115	KC8UR	K7MOF
KC5ZGG	K7EAJ	K0PTK	N1LKJ	N2YJZ
		114		WB3FTQ
200	144	W3CB	95	74
WA4STO	N9EXM		95	AL7N
199	141	113	K9LOT	N5MBQ
KB1UAU	K7GJT	KB3GJT	AB9ZA	73
195	140	110	WB9OLT	KA0DBK
VE7GN	K6FRG	WA1MXT	WA0CGZ	72
	WB2FTX	K5AXV	94	WA9QIB
190	WA3EZN	KC5OZT	N3RB	KD7THV
KB8QKC	WK4WC	N8IO	N2RTF	71
188	NX8A	N8CJS	93	K3KH
KC8HPG	137	K7BDU	WA2BSS	W5XX
	KB1YNE	W7QM		
185	N7XG	WB6UZX	91	70
K9LGU	136	W0RJA	W0RJA	AJ7B
184	W9WXN	N7YSS	W2CC	KD7ZUP
N8OSL	132	KB0DTI	KJ4G	KD0AYN
180	KJ4JPE	W2EAG	NU8K	KD0NJK
AE5VY	130	N1IQI	90	KD0USN
N9WLW	WB9QPM	K1YCC	WA4BAM	K0DLK
N8FVM	K6HTN	KA1G	KA5AZK	K0PTK
	W4VX	N9MN	KF5TTN	K0RXC
177	W7GB	KF7GC	WB9HJ	N3NTV
W1INC	W7BCH	W7YRT	WB8SIQ	N0DUW
KB8VXE	K6JT	N7YRT	N8IBR	N0DUX
175	WB8DJG	108	K1HEJ	W0FUI
KC8YVF	N2JBA	KB3MTW	KC2EMW	K8IAF
				N2VC

The following stations qualified for PSHR in previous months, but were not recognized in this column yet: (Aug) KD8EBY 463, KE5HYW 160, N5TMC 155, KD5RQB 135, K6JT 130, KC5OZT 110, KF5IOU 110, NC3F 108, KF5TTN 105, AJ4TH 100, WS4P 90, KA5AZK 90, KE5YTA 86, N5MBQ 86, KZ8Q 80. (Jul) KD8EBY 401. (Apr) VE7GN 208. (Feb) VE7GN 150. Note of correction to Aug report: KJ6PCC earned 197 points.

### Section Traffic Manager Reports

The following Section Traffic Managers reported: AK, AL, AR, AZ, CO, CT, EB, EMA, ENY, EPA, EWA, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, LA, LAX, MDC, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NE, NFL, NNJ, NTX, OH, OK, OR, ORG, SC, SD, SFL, SJV, SNJ, STX, TN, UT, VA, WI, WCF, WMA, WPA, WV, WY.

### Section Emergency Coordinator Reports

The following ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators reported: DE, ENY, GA, IA, IN, KS, KY, MDC, MI, MN, MO, NC, ND, NLI, NM, OH, STX, SV, WTX, WV, WVA.

### Brass Pounders League

The BPL is open to all amateurs in the US, Canada and US possessions who report to their SMs a total of 500 or more points or a sum of 100 or more origination and delivery points for any calendar month. Messages must be handled on amateur radio frequencies within 48 hours of receipt in standard ARRL radiogram format. Call signs of qualifiers and their monthly BPL total points follow.

W5KAV 3544, WA4STO 2493, KK3F 2434, WB9FHP 1413, K6HTN 1285, N1IQI 803, NS7K 774, KW1U 707, K7BDU 642, K6JT 563, WA1STU 561, W9WXN 534, K6FRG 522, N9VC 511. The following stations qualified for BPL with Originations plus Deliveries: NM1K 106, K8LJG 102.

## Silent Keys

Silent Keys Administrator, sk@arri.org

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of these amateurs:

KR1B **Snowman**, Robert L. Sr, Fremont, NH  
 W1BKT **Doughty**, Everett W., Windham, ME  
 KB1CWE **Bezak**, William J., Coventry, RI  
 KF1DX **Ferreira**, Kenneth M., North Providence, RI  
 WA1E **Klockars**, Frederick O., North Smithfield, RI  
 AA1FG **Hubel**, David H., Newton, MA  
 K1FU **Barter**, Jon E., Wetumpka, AL  
 W1HQM **Thomas**, Donald F. Jr, Torrington, CT  
 W1JIT **Richardson**, William F., Wayland, MA  
 ex-KK1G **Baker**, Mary C., Portsmouth, NH  
 K1OMJ **Mocker**, Joseph F. Jr, Schenectady, NY  
 KB1OYH **Kerr**, Gary L., Danbury, NH  
 ◆WA1TLC **Bell**, Robert L., Spring Hill, FL  
 KB1VYR **Brooks**, Timothy C., Plainville, MA  
 WA1WMG **Pivero**, James V., Pittsfield, MA  
 WD2AID **Randel**, Harry M., Scotch Plains, NJ  
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 WB2MDA **Johnson**, Nicholas C., Okeechobee, FL  
 W2MEP **Conlon**, Francis T., Brooklyn, NY  
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 W2NSD **Green**, Wayne S. II, Peterborough, NH  
 KG2QX **Seiboth**, William E., Bessemer City, NC  
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 W3NCC **Roxas**, Richard A., Pittsburgh, PA  
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 K3NLY **Brenneman**, Kay I., Carlisle, PA  
 W3NTL **Paul**, Boyd E., Snow Shoe, PA  
 K3NUZ **Baker**, Don C. Sr, York, PA  
 K3OLJ **Hermer**, Raymond F., Towanda, PA  
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 W3RPO **Mick**, Stanley P., Saint Clair, PA  
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 K3SUY **Bell**, Eugene S., New Castle, DE  
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 KK4AI **Bartholomew**, R. D., Huntsville, AL  
 WT4B **Burdick**, Tyler B., Lynchburg, VA  
 KQ4BQ **Petkiewicz**, Joseph, Saint Petersburg, FL  
 N4CEK **Loflin**, Arlen H., Virginia Beach, VA  
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 N4CQU **Humphries**, Vander P., North Richland Hills, TX  
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 K4CWA **Stuchell**, Charles W., Bluff City, TN  
 AG4CY **Satterfield**, Mark A., Virginia Beach, VA  
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 W4HZV **Titus**, L. Templar, Ellijay, GA  
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 AE4LT **Krull**, Bernard A., Camden, NJ  
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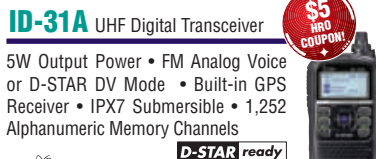
D-STAR optional



#### IC-880H Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

• D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver

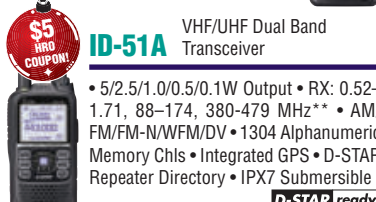
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#### IC-31A UHF Digital Transceiver

5W Output Power • FM Analog Voice or D-STAR DV Mode • Built-in GPS Receiver • IPX7 Submersible • 1,252 Alphanumeric Memory Channels

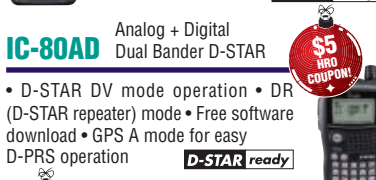
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• 5/2.5/1.0/0.5/0.1W Output • RX: 0.52-1.71, 88-174, 380-479 MHz\*\* • AM/FM/N-WFM/DV • 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Chls • Integrated GPS • D-STAR Repeater Directory • IPX7 Submersible

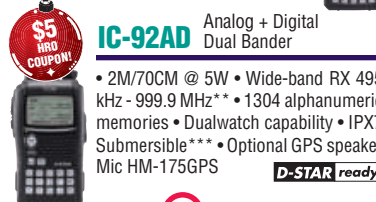
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#### IC-80AD Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

• D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation

D-STAR ready



#### IC-92AD Analog + Digital Dual Bander

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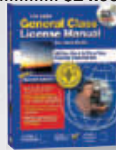
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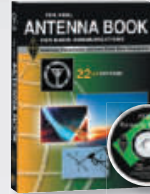
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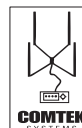
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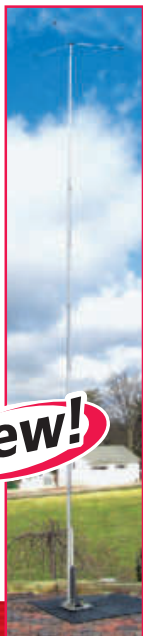
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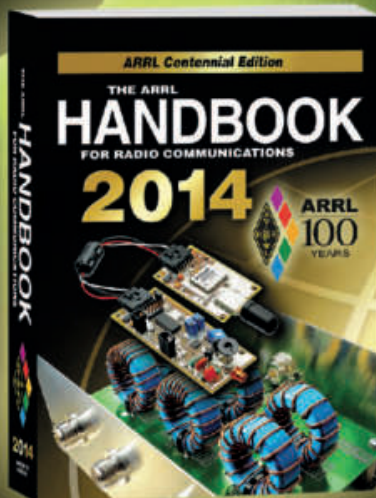
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Bulk Cable	Impedance	Length	Price
<b>Low-Loss Mini-8 Cable</b>			
DXE-8X	50 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.31</b>
DXE-8X-1000	50 Ω	1,000'	<b>\$259.99</b>
<b>Low-Loss Cable</b>			
DXE-213U	50 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.89</b>
DXE-213U-500	50 Ω	500'	<b>\$409.99</b>
DXE-11U	75 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.52</b>
<b>Premium Low-Loss Cable</b>			
DXE-400MAX	50 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.82</b>
DXE-400MAX-500	50 Ω	500'	<b>\$364.99</b>
<b>Low-Loss Foam Cable</b>			
DXE-8U	50 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.79</b>
DXE-8U-500	50 Ω	500'	<b>\$359.99</b>
<b>Highly Flexible Cable</b>			
DXE-58AU	50 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.29</b>
<b>Flooded Jacket Cable</b>			
DXE-F6-CTL	75 Ω	per foot	<b>\$0.19</b>
DXE-F6-1000	75 Ω	1,000'	<b>\$149.95</b>

**Multi-Conductor Control Cable**

The ideal cable to control your rotator or antenna switch, this color-coded stranded copper cable is reliable and flexible. A vinyl jacket shields it from the elements and it is available by the foot and in bulk spools. Find all the details at DXEngineering.com.



**Phasing Cables**

DX Engineering provides precision, electrically-tuned phasing lines for your 50 or 75 Ω applications. Choose from pre-manufactured four-square and two-antenna array cables or contact us with your custom application.



**Multi-Conductor Heavy Duty Tinned Copper Flat Braid**

A critical part of any grounding system, this Flat Braid is made with terminals for quick, easy installation. See more sizes and grounding solutions at DXEngineering.com.

Part Number	Conductors (Gauge)	Description	Price/Foot
COM-CW3	3 (20 AWG)	Standard	<b>\$0.25</b>
COM-CW4	4 (20 AWG)	Standard	<b>\$0.28</b>
DXE-CW8	2 (18 AWG) 6 (22 AWG)	Standard	<b>\$0.48</b>
DXE-CW8-HD	2 (16 AWG) 6 (18 AWG)	Heavy Duty	<b>\$0.89</b>
DXE-CW9	9 (24 AWG)	CAT5e	<b>\$0.32</b>
DXE-CW9S	9 (24 AWG)	Shielded	<b>\$0.36</b>

**DXE-8X BNC Jumper Cables**

These male BNC jumper cables use secure, crimped connectors and weatherproof shrink tube strain relief. They are Hi-Pot and high voltage tested. In addition to these 50 Ω assemblies, 75 Ω cables are available as well.

DXE-8XDB002	2' Length.....	<b>\$14.25</b>
DXE-8XDB003	3' Length.....	<b>\$14.75</b>
DXE-8XDB006	6' Length.....	<b>\$15.75</b>
DXE-8XDB012	12' Length.....	<b>\$17.75</b>
DXE-8XDB025	25' Length.....	<b>\$21.75</b>
DXE-8XDB050	50' Length.....	<b>\$32.75</b>



**DX Engineering is the Best Place to Get Coax, Here's Why:**

- 100% High Voltage (Hi-Pot) Tested
- Weatherproof: Adhesive Shrink Tubing Seals Connections
- Silver-plated PTFE-insulated Connectors
- Hand Crafted by Top Techs



**See DXEngineering.com for more connector options.**

**DXE-8U Low-Loss Foam Dielectric Cable**

- .405" high-flex PVC jacket

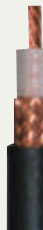


Black PVC Jacket

UV-Resistant, Non-Contaminating, Black PVC Jacket

**DXE-213U MIL-Spec Cable**

- .405" Type II UV-resistant jacket is non-contaminating and suitable for outdoor use



Attenuation per 100 feet	Power Rating	Efficiency
0.4 dB @ 5 MHz	4.9 kW	90%
0.6 dB @ 10 MHz	3.4 kW	87%
1.0 dB @ 30 MHz	2.0 kW	79%
1.3 dB @ 50 MHz	1.5 kW	73%
2.4 dB @ 150 MHz	0.9 kW	57%

Pre-cut Cable with Connectors		
Part Number	Length	Price
DXE-213UDU003	3'	<b>\$19.95</b>
DXE-213UDU006	6'	<b>\$22.95</b>
DXE-213UDU012	12'	<b>\$27.95</b>
DXE-213UDU025	25'	<b>\$42.95</b>
DXE-213UDU050	50'	<b>\$67.95</b>
DXE-213UDU075	75'	<b>\$95.95</b>
DXE-213UDU100	100'	<b>\$117.95</b>
DXE-213UDU150	150'	<b>\$177.95</b>

UV-Resistant, Black PE Jacket

**DXE-8X Low-Loss Foam Dielectric Cable Known as RG-8X or Mini-8**

- Very flexible; ideal for short, in-shack jumper cables
- .242" Type II jacket is non-contaminating and UV-resistant
- Direct-bury



Attenuation per 100 feet	Power Rating	Efficiency
0.6 dB @ 5 MHz	3.0 kW	86%
0.9 dB @ 10 MHz	2.2 kW	81%
1.4 dB @ 30 MHz	1.2 kW	69%
2.0 dB @ 50 MHz	0.9 kW	62%
3.8 dB @ 150 MHz	0.4 kW	42%

Pre-cut Cable with Connectors		
Part Number	Length	Price
DXE-8XDU003	3'	<b>\$17.95</b>
DXE-8XDU006	6'	<b>\$18.95</b>
DXE-8XDU012	12'	<b>\$23.95</b>
DXE-8XDU025	25'	<b>\$28.95</b>
DXE-8XDU050	50'	<b>\$36.95</b>
DXE-8XDU075	75'	<b>\$43.95</b>
DXE-8XDU100	100'	<b>\$53.95</b>
DXE-8XDU150	150'	<b>\$78.95</b>

UV-Resistant, Non-Contaminating, Black PVC Jacket

**DXE-400MAX Low-Loss Cable**

- Gas-injected foam, polyethylene dielectric bonded tape foil covered by a braided copper shield
- .405" low-density UV-resistant polyethylene jacket is ideal for outdoors
- Direct-bury



Attenuation per 100 feet	Power Rating	Efficiency
0.3 dB @ 5 MHz	6.9 kW	93%
0.5 dB @ 10 MHz	4.8 kW	90%
0.8 dB @ 30 MHz	2.8 kW	83%
1.1 dB @ 50 MHz	2.1 kW	79%
1.8 dB @ 150 MHz	1.2 kW	65%
3.3 dB @ 450 MHz	0.7kW	47%

Pre-cut Cable with Connectors		
Part Number	Length	Price
DXE-400MAXDU003	3'	<b>\$20.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU006	6'	<b>\$23.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU018	18'	<b>\$30.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU025	25'	<b>\$43.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU050	50'	<b>\$68.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU075	75'	<b>\$96.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU100	100'	<b>\$118.95</b>
DXE-400MAXDU150	150'	<b>\$178.95</b>

# The #1 Line of Autotuners!



## AT-1000Proll

LDG Electronics' flagship 1KW tuner features: 5 to 1,000Watts PEP; RF Sensing; Auto and Semi Tuning Modes; 1.8 to 54 MHz range; 6 to 800 ohm range (15 to 150 on 6M); simplified operation; and an optional external 4.5" analog meter. With the two position antenna switch, there are 2,000 memories that store tuning parameters for almost instantaneous memory recall whenever you transmit on or near a frequency you've used before. Includes six foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$539.99**

Optional M-1000 external analog meter \$129.99



## NEW! AL-100

The AL-100 is compatible with all Alinco radios including the new DX-SR8T. Includes Alinco interface cable.

The AL-100 is the definitive low cost automatic antenna tuner for the definitive low cost Amateur transceiver! It has been designed from the ground up to provide the power handling you asked for, in a small, lightweight package that is perfect for portable as well as sitting on your desk in your shack!

**Suggested Price \$149.99**

## NEW! USB-100

The USB-100 provides serial communication for the AT-1000 and AT-600 over a USB port to your computer. Third party software will be available to provide communication including Army MARS.

**Suggested Price \$49.99**



## IT-100

Matched in size to the IC-7000 and IC-706, for either manual or automatic tunes, and status LEDs. Control the IT-100 and its 2000 memories from either its own button or the Tune button on your IC-7000 or other Icom rigs. For your Icom radio that is AH3 or AH-4 compatible.

**Suggested Price \$179.99**



## YT-100

For Yaesu FT-857, FT-897 and FT-100 (and all D models) an integrated tuner, powered by the interface. Press the tune button on the tuner, and everything else happens automatically.

**Suggested Price \$199.99**



## KT-100

For AT-300 compatible Kenwood transceivers (except TS-480HX). The KT-100 actually allows you to use the Tune button on the radio. 2,000 memories for instant recall of the tuning parameters for your favorite bands and frequencies.

**Suggested Price \$199.99**



## YT-450

Designed for Yaesu's newest 100 watt radios. Interfaces directly with the Yaesu FT-450 and FT-950 radios. Press the tune button on the tuner and the rest happens automatically. It will quickly match nearly any kind of coax fed antenna with an SWR of up to 10:1. 2000 memories recall settings in an instant! Seamless connection to a PC.

**Suggested Price \$249.99**



## YT-847

YT-847 Autotuner is an integrated tuner for the Yaesu FT-847. An included CAT/Power cable interfaces with your FT-847. Just press the tune button on the tuner and everything else happens automatically!

**Suggested Price \$249.99**

Designed to handle the higher power of the Tokyo Hi Power HL-45B.



## Z-817H

The ultimate autotuner for QRP radios including the Yaesu FT-817(D) with addition of the Tokyo High Power HL-45B. Interfaces to the CAT port (ACC) on the back of the radio with the provided cable. One button push on the tuner and the Z-817H takes care of the rest. Will also function as a general purpose antenna tuner with other QRP radios or QRP radios with up to 75 watt HF amps. Powered by four AA internal Alkaline batteries (not included). 2000 memories cover 160 through 6 meters.

**Suggested Price \$159.99**



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

## AT-200Proll

The AT-200Proll now includes LEDs to show antenna position and if the tuner is in bypass. A two position antenna switch stores 2000 memories per switch. Handles up to 250 watts SSB or CW on 1.8 to 30 MHz and 100 watts on 54 MHz. Rugged and easy to read LED bar graphs simultaneously show RF power and SWR. Includes a six foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$259.99**



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

## AT-100Proll

This desktop tuner covers all frequencies from 1.8 – 54 MHz (including 6 meters), and will automatically match your antenna in no time. It features a two-position antenna switch with LEDs, allowing you to switch instantly between two antennas. The AT-100Proll requires just 1 watt for operation, but will handle up to 125 watts. Includes six foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$229.99**



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# We have a tuner that will work for you!

We make tuners that will work with any transceiver. Don't know which one is right for you? Give us a call or see the **Tuner Comparison Chart** on our web site for more selection help!

# LDG ELECTRONICS



radio not included

## AT-897Plus for the Yaesu FT-897

If you own a Yaesu FT-897 and want a broad range automatic antenna tuner, look no further! The AT-897Plus Autotuner mounts on the side of your FT-897 just like the original equipment and takes power directly from the CAT port of the FT-897 and provides a second CAT port on the back of the tuner so hooking up another CAT device couldn't be easier. **Suggested Price \$199.99**



## AT-600Proll

Building on the success of the AT-600Pro, we refined and expanded the model with an optional external 4.5" analog meter. The new AT-600Proll keeps many of the same features of the previous model, but simplifies the operation. With the two-position antenna switch, there are 2,000 memories that store tuning parameters for almost instantaneous memory recall whenever you transmit on or near a frequency you've used before. Includes six-foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$369.99**

**Optional M-600 external analog meter \$129.99**



## Z-100Plus

Small and simple to use, the Z-100Plus sports 2000 memories that store both frequency and tuning parameters. It will run on any voltage source from 7 to 18 volts; six AA batteries will run it for a year of normal use. Current draw while tuning is less than 100ma. The Z-100Plus now includes an internal frequency counter so the operating frequency is stored with tuning parameters to make memory tunes a blazingly fast 0.1 seconds; full tunes take an average of only 6 seconds. Includes six foot DC power cable. **Suggested Price \$159.99**



## NEW! RT-100

### A Technological Breakthrough in Remote Tuning!

The RT-100 is a coax in / coax out tuner designed to be placed near the feedpoint of the antenna. If you're worried about power loss due to SWR in your feedline, the RT-100 is the answer. Place the RT-100 near the feedpoint and virtually eliminate all feed line loss due to SWR.

The RT-100 is DC powered over the coax, so add your own DC injection circuit or use the LDG RC-100 to power and control the tuner from your shack. The RC-100 will provide DC power over the coax as well as control for Auto mode, Lock, and Tune.

**Suggested Price \$199.99**

**Optional RC-100 \$49.99**



## Z-11Proll

Meet the Z-11Proll, everything you always wanted in a small, portable tuner. Designed from the ground up for battery operation. Only 5" x 7.7" x 1.5", and weighing only 1.5 pounds, it handles 0.1 to 125 watts, making it ideal for both QRP and standard 100 watt transceivers from 160 - 6 meters. The Z-11Proll uses LDG's state-of-the-art processor-controlled Switched-L tuning network. It will match dipoles, verticals, inverted-Vs or virtually any coax-fed antenna. With an optional LDG balun, it will also match longwires or antennas fed with ladder-line. Includes six foot DC power cable. **Suggested Price \$179.99**



radio not included

## Z-817

The ultimate autotuner for QRP radios including the Yaesu FT-817(D). Tuning is simple; one button push on the tuner is all that is needed - the Z-817 takes care of the rest. It will switch to PKT mode, transmit a carrier, tune the tuner, then restore the radio to the previous mode! 2000 memories cover 160 through 6 meters. The Z-817 will also function as a general purpose antenna tuner with other QRP radios. Just transmit a carrier and press the tune button on the tuner. Powered by four AA internal Alkaline batteries (not included), so there are no additional cables required.

**Suggested Price \$129.99**

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# hy-gain® Rotators

... the first choice of hams around the world!

## HAM-IV

The most popular rotator in the world!

HAM-IV  
\$649<sup>95</sup>

For medium communications arrays up to 15 square feet wind load area. Has 5-second brake delay, Test/Calibrate function. Low temperature grease permits normal operation down to -30 degrees F. Alloy ring gear gives extra strength up to 100,000 PSI for maximum reliability. Precision indicator potentiometer. Ferrite beads reduce RF susceptibility. Cinch plug plus 8-pin plug at control box. Dual 98 ball bearing race for load bearing strength and electric locking steel wedge brake prevents wind induced movement. North/South center of rotation scale on meter, low voltage control, max mast 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>".



HAM-VI  
\$749<sup>95</sup>

with DCU-2

HAM-VII  
\$799<sup>95</sup>

with DCU-3

## TAILTWISTER SERIES II

For large medium antenna arrays up to 20 sq. ft. wind load. Has 5-second brake delay, Test/Calibrate functions. Low temp grease, tough alloy ring gear, indicator potentiometer, ferrite beads on potentiometer wires, weatherproof AMP connectors plus 8-pin plug at control box, triple bearing race with 138 ball bearings for large load bearing, electric locking steel wedge brake, North/South center of rotation scale meter, low voltage control, 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" max mast. **MSHD, \$109.95.** Above tower heavy duty mast support. T2X, HAM-IV, HAM-V, HAM-VI. Accepts 1<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" OD.

T-2X  
\$799<sup>95</sup>

T-2XD2  
\$899<sup>95</sup>

with DCU-2

T-2XD3  
\$949<sup>95</sup>

with DCU-3



## CD-45II

For antenna arrays up to 8.5 sq. feet mounted inside tower or 5 sq. ft. with mast adapter. Low temperature grease good to -30 F degrees. New Test/Calibrate function. Bell rotator design gives total weather protection, dual 58 ball bearing race gives proven support. Die-cast ring gear, stamped steel gear drive, heavy duty, trouble free gear train, North center scale, lighted directional indicator, 8-pin plug/socket on control unit, snap-action control switches, low voltage control, safe operation, takes maximum mast size to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inches. MSLD light duty lower mast support included.

CD-45II  
\$449<sup>95</sup>



HAM IV and HAM V Rotator Specifications	
Wind Load capacity (inside tower)	15 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	7.5 square feet
Turning Power	800 in.-lbs.
Brake Power	5000 in.-lbs.
Brake Construction	Electric Wedge
Bearing Assembly	dual race/96 ball bearings
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight	26 lbs.
Effective Moment (in tower)	2800 ft.-lbs.

TAILTWISTER Rotator Specifications	
Wind load capacity (inside tower)	20 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	10 square feet
Turning Power	1000 in.-lbs.
Brake Power	9000 in.-lbs.
Brake Construction	Electric Wedge
Bearing Assembly	Triple race/138 ball brngs
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight	31 lbs.
Effective Moment (in tower)	3400 ft.-lbs.

CD-45II Rotator Specifications	
Wind load capacity (inside tower)	8.5 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	5.0 square feet
Turning Power	600 in.-lbs.
Brake Power	800 in.-lbs.
Brake Construction	Disc Brake
Bearing Assembly	Dual race/48 ball brngs
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight	22 lbs.
Effective Moment (in tower)	1200 ft.-lbs.

## hy-gain DCU-3 Digital Rotator Controller 6 Programmable Beam Headings . . .

Gives you fully automatic and manual control of your hy-gain rotators



**New!**  
DCU-3  
\$449<sup>95</sup>

New DCU-3 Digital Controller lets you program 6 beam headings! Gives you fully automatic or manual control of your hy-gain HAM or Tailtwister Rotators.

Push a memory button or dial in your beam heading or let Ham Radio Deluxe (or other) control your DCU-3. Your antenna automatically rotates precisely and safely to your desired direction.

DCU-3 makes sure your antenna is free and safely unlocked before turning begins and then turns off your motor before your antenna reaches its final destination. Your antenna gently coasts to a stop before the brake locks. Greatly reduces potentially damaging overshoot.

Fine tuning and full manual control is effortless with automated Left and Right direction buttons - no more worrying about releasing and relocking the brake. Brake automatically releases before fine tuning begins and relocks after fine tuning. Bright blue LCD displays actual, dial-in and computer controlled beam headings in one degree increments and your call.

AutoBrake Release - no need to remember to release brake -- release time

is automatic and adjustable 0 to 8 seconds.

Coast feature allows antenna to gently stop before brake locks. Adjustable coast delay (0-10 degrees) turns off motor before antenna reaches its final destination to reduce potentially damaging overshoot.

AutoJog unlocks and frees antenna before turning -- great for older rotators with "sticky" brakes. It jogs the rotator backwards slightly to ease brake pressure enough to release.

Offset feature allows you to calibrate display to show actual beam heading. USB/RS-232 ports. Adjustable LCD sleep time. Field upgradeable. 8.5Wx4.3Hx9D". 110 VAC. DCU-3X for 220 VAC.



DCU-2, \$399.95.

Digital Rotator Controller, like DCU-3, but no programmable memories. 110 VAC. Order DCU-2X, for 220 VAC.

## HAM-VI & HAM-VII

New! HAM-VII, \$799.95.

Like HAM-IV but with DCU-3 digital controller with six programmable memories. For medium antennas up to 15 sq. ft. wind load.

HAM-VI, \$749.95.

Like HAM-VII but with DCU-2 digital controller.

**New!**  
HAM-VII  
\$799<sup>95</sup>

with DCU-3

HAM-VI  
\$749<sup>95</sup>

with DCU-2



## AR-40

For compact antenna arrays and large FM/TV up to 3.0 square feet

AR-40  
\$349<sup>95</sup>

wind load area. Dual 12 ball bearing race. Automatic position sensor never needs resetting. Fully automatic control -- just dial and touch for any desired location. Solid state, low voltage control, safe and silent operation. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> inch maximum mast size. MSLD light duty lower mast support included.



AR-40 Rotator Specifications	
Wind load capacity (inside tower)	3.0 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	1.5 square feet
Turning Power	350 in.-lbs.
Brake Power	450 in.-lbs.
Brake Construction	Disc Brake
Bearing Assembly	Dual race/12 ball bearings
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel bolts
Control Cable Conductors	5
Shipping Weight	14 lbs.
Effective Moment (in tower)	300 ft.-lbs.

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TH-K20A



TH-F6A

INSTANT COUPON



TH-D72A

Instant Coupons expire 12/31/13



INSTANT COUPON

**TM-V71A Dualband FM Mobile**

• TX: 144-148, 430-450 MHz • RX: 118-524, 800-1300 MHz (cell blkd) • Power: 50/10/5W • Dual receive (V+V) (U+U) • Cross-band repeat • EchoLink® ready • Optional RC-D710 can replace the TM-V71A control panel to enable all the features of the TM-D710A

**\$15 INSTANT Coupon**

**TH-K20A 2M FM HT**

• TX: 144-148 • RX: 136-174  
• Power: 5/1.5/0.5W • 100 Memories

**TH-F6A Triband FM HT**

• TX: 144-148, 222-225, 430-450 MHz  
• RX: 0.1-1300 MHz (cell blkd) • Dual band RX  
• FM Wide/Narrow, AM, SSB and CW receive modes  
• Power: 5/0.5/0.05W • Memories: 435

**\$25 INSTANT Coupon**

**TH-D72A 2M/440 FM HT with Built-in GPS**

• TX: 144-148, 430-450 • RX: 118-174, 320-524 MHz  
• Power: 5/0.5/0.05W • Memories: 1000 • USB Port  
• 1200/9600 bps packet TNC • SkyCommand and APRS  
• Stand-alone Digipeater • Built-in High Performance GPS  
• GPS logging - stores up to 5,000 points of track data  
• Echolink® ready • KISS mode protocol



INSTANT COUPON

**TS-480HX 200W HF/6M Mobile**

• TX: HF/6M • RX: 0.5-60 MHz • Power: 10-200W (with two optional 22A PS's) • Memories: 99  
• IF/stage DSP on main band, AF/stage DSP on sub-band

**\$250 INSTANT Coupon**

**TS-480SAT 100W with auto antenna tuner.**

**\$250 INSTANT Coupon**



INSTANT COUPON

**TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver**

• TX: HF/6M/2M/440 MHz • RX: 0.03-60, 142-152, 420-450 MHz • Power: 10-100W (10-50W on 440 MHz) • 99 Memories • HF/6M Auto Antenna Tuner  
• IF/stage DSP on main band, AF/stage DSP on sub-band

**\$200 INSTANT Coupon**

**TS-2000X** The TS-2000 with 1.2 GHz @ 10W.

**\$250 INSTANT Coupon**



INSTANT COUPON

**TM-281A 2M FM Mobile**

• TX: 144-148 MHz • RX: 136-174 MHz  
• Power: 65W • 200 Memories

**\$25 INSTANT Coupon**



INSTANT COUPON

**TM-D710A Dualband FM Mobile with TNC**

• TX: 144-148, 430-450 MHz  
• RX: 118-524, 800-1300 MHz (cell blkd)  
• Power: 50/10/5W • Dual receive (V+V) (U+U)  
• Built-in TNC for APRS (needs GPS)  
• Cross-band repeat • EchoLink® ready

**\$40 INSTANT Coupon**



**TS-590S 100W HF/6M Transceiver**

• TX: HF/6M • RX: 0.03-60 MHz • Power: 5-100W  
• 110 Memories + 10 Quick Channels • Auto Antenna Tuner • USB for PC and remote control • Down conversion receiver • Narrow first roofing filter • More!



**TS-990S HF/6M Flagship Transceiver**

• TX: HF/6M • RX: 0.13-60 MHz • Power: 2-200W  
• Built-in Auto Antenna Tuner and AC Supply • Dual TFT Display • Dual receivers Narrow-band roofing filters  
• Triple DSP • Serial port, USB ports and Ethernet port



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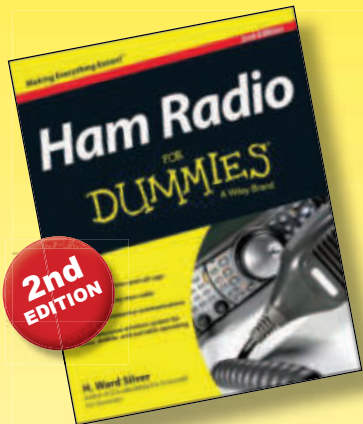
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- Power: 2-100W/2-50W (2M)/2-35W (440)
- Memories: 495, 900 D-Star Repeater Channels
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- Much faster DSP unit compared to the IC-746PRO
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- Memories: 101 • 5.8 inch color screen • High-resolution real spectrum scope • Automatic antenna tuner



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- Same as FT-8800R but TX: 28-29.7, 50-54, 144-148, 430-450 MHz and RX: 28-29.7, 50-54, 108-180, 320-480, 700-985 MHz (cell blkd) • Power: 50/20/10/5W (10/6/2M), 35/20/10/5W (440 MHz) • YSK-8900 Rem. Kit included!

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- TX: HF/6M • RX: 0.03-56 MHz • Power: 10-100W
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- High-speed auto antenna tuner • RTTY/PSK31 encode/decode included • 5 Digital voice messages

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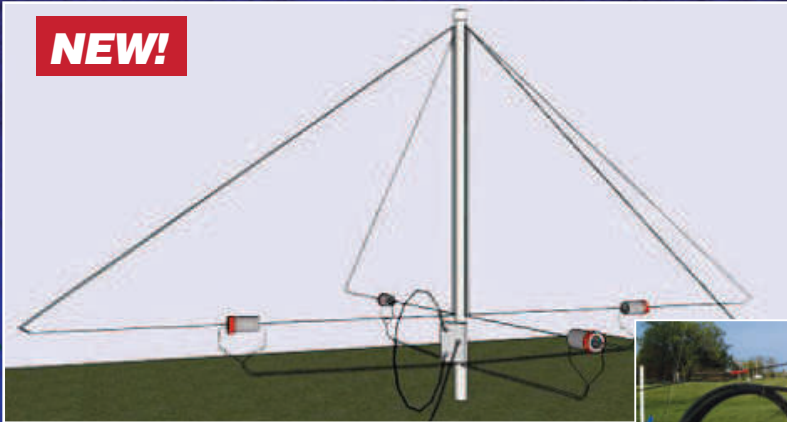
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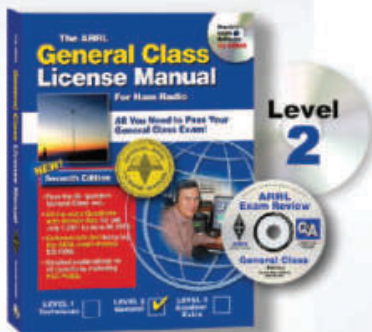
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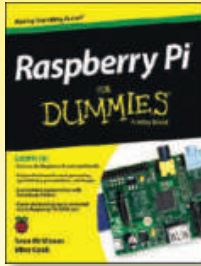
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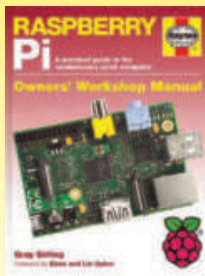
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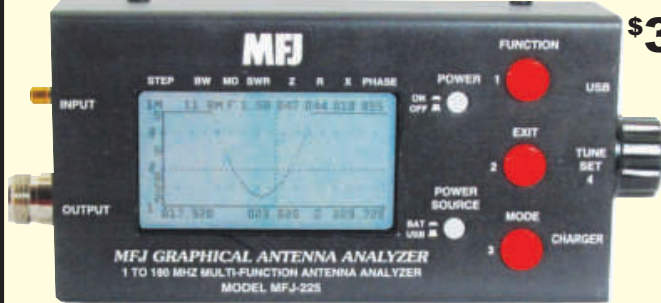


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# MFJ ANALYZERS

## MFJ-225 . . . 1.5-180 MHz, Two-Port Graphic Analyzer



In the field, MFJ-225 is a completely self-contained handheld analyzer. On the bench it becomes a two-port (S21) desktop machine teamed with your PC. Use powerful IG-miniVNA firmware, run data analysis and print out stunning color-graphic plots to document your work!

**Back-lighted 3" LCD graphic display, full-screen SWR bargraph captures vivid swept SWR, impedance displays and more!**

**Tunes 1.5 to 179.9 MHz with rock-solid stability and no gaps.** VFO is state-of-the-art programmable DDS (direct digital synthesis) generator with *pin-point*

**\$399<sup>95</sup>** MFJ-225 1-kHz resolution. DDS control means no switches or tuning elements, just a reliable velvet-smooth optical encoder.

DDS stimulus generator gives leveled -5 dBm signal source for driving mixers, low-power amps, filters, networks, diplexers, and antennas with *over -50 dBc* of harmonic and spur suppression.

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**Requires 3 NiMh AAA cells or optional 12VDC/110VAC with MFJ-1312D, \$15.95.** Interface requires a USB Type-B cable. 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>32</sub> Wx6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> Hx1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> D inches.

### MFJ No Matter What™ Warranty

Every MFJ analyzer is protected by MFJ's famous one year No Matter What™ limited warranty. We will repair or replace your MFJ analyzer (at our option) for a full year.

### HF/6M Analyzer, 1-60 MHz MFJ-213, \$199.95.

Reads SWR, complex impedance, impedance magnitude. Measures capacitance, inductance, field strength, frequency, generate test signals. Tune stubs, analyze coax, test baluns, RF transformers, more.



## More hams use MFJ analyzers than all others in the world!

### MFJ-259B 1.8-170 MHz . . . World's most popular analyzer



**\$289<sup>95</sup>**

**World's most popular antenna analyzer gives you a complete picture of your antenna performance 1.8 to 170 MHz.** Super easy-to-use -- Read antenna SWR, complex impedance, return loss, reflection coefficient. Determine velocity factor, coax cable loss in dB,

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### MFJ-249B Analyzer

**MFJ-249B, \$269.95.**

If digital display is all you need MFJ-249B does everything MFJ-259B does without analog meters.



### MFJ-269 1.8-170 MHz plus 415-470 MHz, 12-bit A/D

**\$389<sup>95</sup>**

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### MFJ-269PRO™ Analyzer MFJ-269Pro, \$419.95.

Like MFJ-269, but UHF range covers **430 to 520 MHz** to include commercial and industrial frequencies. Rugged protective shell protects knobs, switches, meters, digital display for commercial, industrial and lab work.



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Tune your antenna for minimum SWR! Works 1.8-30 MHz on dipoles, verticals, inverted vees, random wires, beams, mobile whips, shortwave receiving antennas... Use coax, random wire, balanced lines. Has heavy duty 4:1 balun for balanced lines.

**Custom inductor switch**  
Custom designed inductor switch, 1000 volt tuning capacitors, Teflon<sup>®</sup> insulating washers and proper L/C ratio gives you arc-free no worries operation



up to 300 Watts PEP transceiver input power.  
**The MFJ-949E** inductor switch was custom designed to withstand the extremely high RF voltages and currents that are developed in your tuner.

**8-Position Antenna switch**  
Antenna switch lets you select two coax fed antennas, random wire/balanced line or

dummy load through your MFJ-949E or direct to your transceiver.  
**\$179<sup>95</sup>**

**Lighted Cross-Needle Meter**  
Full size 3-inch lighted Cross-Needle Meter. Lets you easily read SWR, peak or average forward and reflected power simultaneously. Has 300 Watt or 30 Watt ranges.

**QRM-Free PreTune™**  
MFJ's QRM-Free PreTune™

lets you pre-tune your MFJ-949E off-the-air into its built-in dummy load! Makes tuning your actual antenna faster and easier.

**Plus Much More!**

Full size built-in non-inductive 50 Ohm dummy load, scratch-proof Lexan multi-colored front panel, 10<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>x3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x7 inches. Superior cabinet construction and more!

**MFJ-948, \$159.95.** Econo version MFJ-949E. Has all features except for dummy load.

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MFJ-989D  
**\$389<sup>95</sup>**

New, improved MFJ-989D legal limit antenna tuner

gives you better efficiency, lower losses and a new true peak reading meter. Easily handles full 1500 Watts SSB/CW, 1.8-30 MHz, including MARS/WARC bands. Six position antenna switch, dummy load. New 500 pF air variable capacitors. New improved AirCore™ Roller Inductor. New high voltage current balun. New crank knob. 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>Wx6Hx11<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>D".

### MFJ-986 Two knob Differential-T™



MFJ-986  
**\$349<sup>95</sup>**

Two knob tuning (differential capacitor and AirCore™ roller inductor) makes tuning foolproof and easier than ever. Gives minimum SWR at only one setting. Handles 3 KW PEP SSB amplifier input power (1.5 KW output). Gear-driven turns counter, lighted peak/average Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, antenna switch, balun. 1.8 to 30 MHz. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>Wx4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>Hx15 in.

### MFJ-962D compact kW Tuner



MFJ-962D  
**\$299<sup>95</sup>**

A few more dollars steps you up to a kW tuner for an amp later. Handles 1.5 KW PEP SSB amplifier input power (800W output). Ideal for Ameritron's AL-811H! AirCore™ roller inductor, gear-driven turns counter, pk/avg lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, antenna switch, balun, Lexan front, 1.8-30MHz. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x10<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in.

### MFJ-969 300W Roller Inductor Tuner

Superb AirCore™ Roller Inductor tuning. Covers 6



MFJ-969  
**\$219<sup>95</sup>**

Meters thru 160 Meters! 300 Watts PEP SSB. Active true peak reading lighted Cross-Needle SWR Wattmeter, QRM-Free PreTune™, antenna switch, dummy load, 4:1 balun, Lexan front panel. 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>Wx3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>Hx9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>D inches.

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MFJ-941E  
**\$139<sup>95</sup>**

### MFJ-945E HF/6M mobile Tuner

Extends your mobile antenna bandwidth so you don't have to stop, go outside and adjust your antenna. Tiny 8x2x6 in. Lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter. Lamp and bypass switches. Covers 1.8-30 MHz and 6 Meters. 300 Watts PEP. MFJ-20, \$6.95, mobile mount.



MFJ-945E  
**\$129<sup>95</sup>**

### MFJ-971 portable/QRP Tuner

Tunes coax, balanced lines, random wire 1.8-30 MHz. Cross-Needle Meter. SWR, 30/300 or 6 Watt QRP ranges. Matches popular MFJ transceivers. Tiny 6x6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in.



MFJ-971  
**\$119<sup>95</sup>**

### MFJ-901B smallest Versa Tuner

MFJ's smallest (5x2x6 in.) and most affordable wide range 200 Watt PEP Versa tuner. Covers 1.8 to 30 MHz. Great for matching solid state rigs to linear amps.



MFJ-901B  
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### MFJ-902 Tiny Travel Tuner

Tiny 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x3 inches, full 150 Watts, 80-10 Meters, has tuner bypass switch, for coax/random wire.

MFJ-902H, \$149.95. Same but adds Cross-needle SWR/Wattmeter and 4:1 balun for balanced lines. 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches.



MFJ-902  
**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

### MFJ-16010 random wire Tuner

Operate all bands anywhere with MFJ's reversible L-network. Turns random wire into powerful transmitting antenna. 1.8-30 MHz. 200 Watts PEP. Tiny 2x3x4 in.



MFJ-16010  
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### MFJ-906/903 6 Meter Tuners

MFJ-906 has lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, bypass switch. Handles 100 W FM, 200W SSB. MFJ-903, \$69.95, Like MFJ-906, less SWR/Wattmeter, bypass switch.



MFJ-906  
**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

### MFJ-921/924 VHF/UHF Tuners

MFJ-921 covers 2 Meters/220 MHz. MFJ-924 covers 440 MHz. SWR/Wattmeter. 8x2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x3 in.



MFJ-921/924  
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Eliminates RF hot spots, RF feedback, TVI/RFI, weak signals caused by poor RF grounding. Creates artificial RF ground or electrically places far away RF ground directly at rig. MFJ-931, \$109.95. MFJ-934, \$209.95, Artificial ground/300 Watt Tuner/Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter.



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MFJ-994B **\$359<sup>95</sup>**

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Digital Meter, Ant Switch, Balun



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SWR/Wattmeter, 10000 VA Memories



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Matches IC-706, FT-857D, TS-50S



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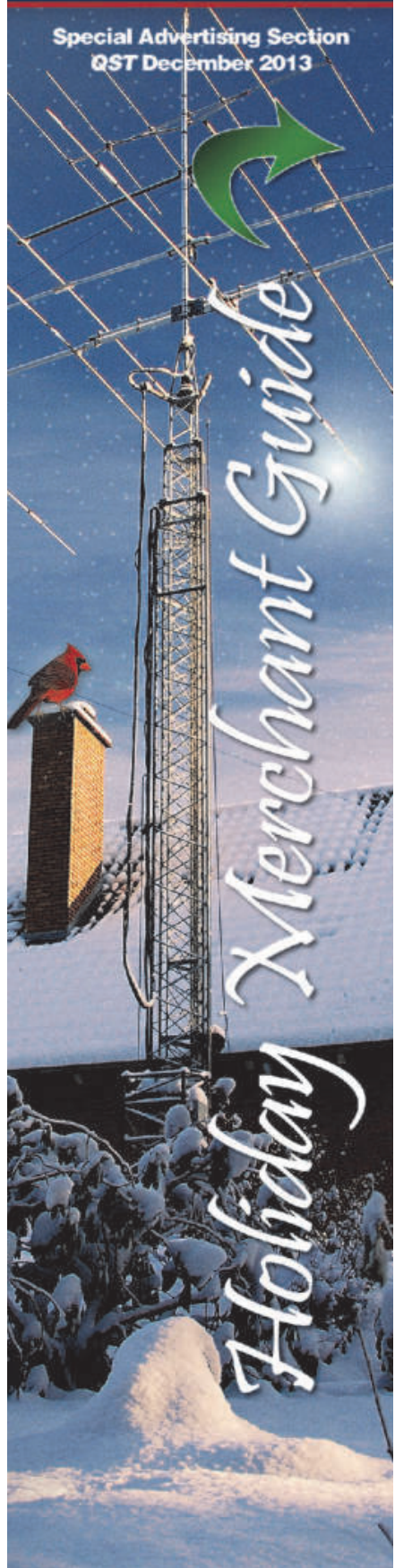


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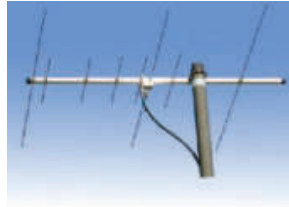
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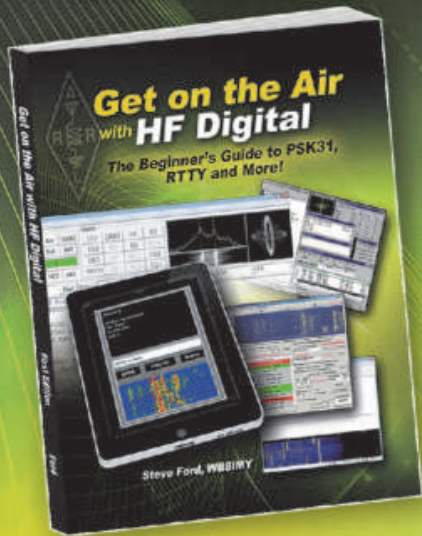
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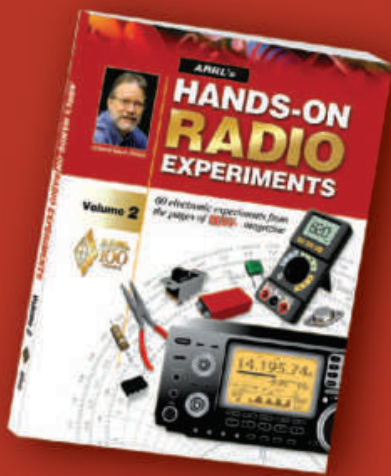
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A wide-range automatic or manual antenna tuner at your rig easily matches this antenna for all bands 160-6 Meters. There's no physical tuning adjustments on the antenna -- you simply put it up!

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*Assembles in an hour*

You can easily assemble it in an hour! Ground mounting lets you com-

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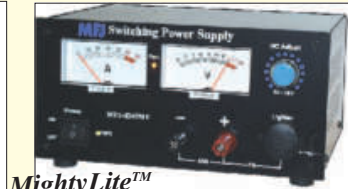
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## 30 Amps Continuous

Linear with 19.2 lb. Transformer

This heavy-duty linearly regulated MFJ-4035MV has *absolutely no RF Hash*. It delivers 30 Amps continuous, 35 Amps maximum from its massive 19.2 lb. transformer.

Front panel adjustable 1-14 VDC output with convenient detent at 13.8 VDC. Volt/Amp Meters. 1% load regulation, 30 mV ripple. Over-voltage/current/temperature protection, 5-way binding posts, 2 pairs of quick-connects and a covered cigarette lighter socket for mobile accessories. Front panel replaceable fuse. 110 VAC input. 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>Wx6Hx9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>D in.



MFJ-4035MV \$149.95

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# MFJ Speech Intelligibility Enhancer

... makes barely understandable speech highly understandable!



**"What did you say?"** Can you hear but... just can't always understand everything people are saying?

As we get older, high frequency hearing loss reduces our ability to understand speech. Here's why...

Research shows that nearly half the speech intelligibility is contained in 1000 to 4000 Hz range, but contains a miniscule 4% of total speech energy.

On the other hand, the low frequencies, 125 to 500 Hz have most of the speech energy (55%) but contribute very little to intelligibility -- only 4%.

To dramatically improve your ability

to understand speech, you must: **First**, drastically increase the speech energy above 500 Hz, where 83% of the speech intelligibility is concentrated.

MFJ-616  
**\$189<sup>95</sup>**

energy below 500 Hz where only 4% of speech intelligibility lies.

The MFJ-616 splits the audio speech band into four overlapping octave ranges centered at 300, 600, 1200 and 2400 Hz. You can boost or cut each range by nearly 20 dB.

A balance control and separate 2½ Watt amplifiers let you equalize perceived loudness to each ear so both ears help.

By boosting high and cutting low frequencies and adjusting the balanced control, speech that you can barely understand become highly understandable!

Even if you don't have high frequency hearing loss, you'll dramatically improve your ability to understand speech. You'll get an edge in contesting and DXing and enjoy ragchewing more.

Here's what QST for April, 2001 said... "I expected a subtle effect at best, but I was astonished... The result was remarkably clean, understandable speech without hissing, ringing or other strange effects... made a dramatic improvement..."

**Immuned** to RFI. Has phone jack, on/off speaker switch, 2 inputs, bypass switch. 10Wx2½Hx6D". Needs 12 VDC.

**MFJ-1316, \$21.95.** For 110 VAC operation. Provides 12 VDC/1.5 Amps.

**MFJ-72, \$69.80.** All-in-one MFJ-616 Accessory Pack. Includes MFJ-392 headphones, two MFJ-281 speakers and MFJ-1316 power supply. **Save \$7!**

**Try it for 30 Days**

**Order** from MFJ and try it -- No obligation. If not delighted, return it within 30 days for refund less shipping.

## MFJ Contest Voice Keyer

Transformer-coupled -- No RFI, hum or feedback... 75 seconds total, 5-messages... Records received audio...



MFJ-434B halted by the **\$199<sup>95</sup>** Stop Button, your microphone's PTT/VOX, remote control or computer.

Has jack for remote or computer control (using CT, NA or other program). Lets you select, play and cancel messages.

Your mic's audio characteristics do not change when your MFJ-434B is installed.

All audio lines are RF filtered to eliminate RFI, audio feedback and distortion. An audio isolation transformer totally eliminates hum and distortion caused by ground loops.

**New!** It's easy to use -- just plug in your 8 pin round or modular mic plug, set the internal jumpers for your transceiver and plug in the appropriate (included) cable for your rig.

**Built-in** speaker-amplifier. Speaker/phone jack. Use 9 Volt battery, 9-15 VDC or 110 VAC with optional MFJ-1312D, \$15.95. 6½Wx2½Hx6½D in.

**MFJ-73, \$34.95.** MFJ-434B Remote Control with cable.

Let this new microprocessor controlled MFJ Contest Voice Keyer™ call CQ, send your call and do contest exchanges for you in your own natural voice!

Store frequently used phrases like "CQ Contest this is AA5MT", "You're 59" ... "Qth is Mississippi" ... Contest by pressing a few buttons and save your voice.

Record and playback 5 natural sounding messages in a total of 75 seconds. Uses eeprom -- no battery backup needed. Use your mic or its built-in mic for recording.

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You can also record and play back off-the-air signals -- great help if you didn't get it right the first time! No more "Please repeat".

A playing message can be

## 60 dB Null wipes out noise and interference



MFJ-1026  
**\$199<sup>95</sup>**

Wipe out noise and interference before it gets into your receiver with a 60 dB null!

Eliminate all types of noise -- severe power line noise from arcing transformers and insulators, fluorescent lamps, light dimmers, touch controlled lamps, computers, TV birdies, lightning crashes from distant thunderstorms, electric drills, motors, industrial processes...

It's more effective than a noise blander! Interference much stronger than your desired signal can be completely removed without affecting your signal.

It works on all modes -- SSB, AM, CW, FM -- and frequencies from BCB to lower VHF.

You can null out strong QRM on top of weak rare DX and then work him! You can null

out a strong local ham or AM broadcast station to prevent your receiver from overloading.

Use the MFJ-1026 as an adjustable phasing network.

You can combine two antennas to give you various directional patterns. Null out a strong interfering signal or peak a weak signal at a push of a button.

**Easy-to-use!** Plugs between transmitting antenna and transceiver. To null, adjust amplitude and phase controls for minimum S-meter reading or lowest noise. To peak, push reverse button. Use built-in active antenna or an external one. MFJ's exclusive Constant Amplitude Phase Control™ makes nulling easy.

**RF** sense T/R switch automatically bypasses your transceiver when you transmit. Adjustable delay time. Uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312D, \$15.95. 6½x1½x6¼ in.

**MFJ-1025, \$179.95.** Like MFJ-1026 built-in active antenna, use external noise antenna.



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Only MFJ gives you tunable and programmable "brick wall" DSP filters.

MFJ-784B  
**\$279<sup>95</sup>**

You can continuously tune low pass, high pass, notch and bandpass filters and continuously vary bandwidth to pinpoint and eliminate interference.

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MFJ-868 QRP or QRO operation.  
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MFJ-891  
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**Boost battery voltage as low as 9 Volts back up to 13.8 VDC! Keeps your transceiver at full power output, compensates for run down battery, wiring voltage drop, car off . . .**



MFJ-4416B **Boost battery voltage as low as 9 Volts back up to 13.8 VDC!** Keeps your transceiver at full power output, provides full performance/efficiency, prevents output signal distortion and transceiver shutdown. Compensates for run-down battery, wiring voltage drop or when car is off. Provides up to 25 Amps peak with 90% efficiency. Selectable 9/10/11 Volts minimum input voltage prevents bat-

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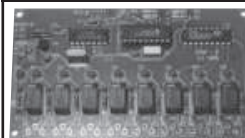
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## 8-Band Portable Dipole

34 feet Radiators  
Covers 7-55 MHz



MFJ-2289  
\$179<sup>95</sup>

Whether you're relaxing in the mountains or beach or at your antenna restricted neighborhood, MFJ's BigEAR™ portable HF dipole puts out a strong full-size dipole signal!

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BigEAR's™ whopping 34-foot stainless steel radiator -- twice the length of other portables -- gives you full-size dipole performance on 20-6 Meters. An ultra low loss, high-Q adjustable air-wound loading coil gives you highly efficient loaded dipole performance on 30/40 Meters.

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BigEAR's™ dipole pattern lets you aim a strong main lobe toward your QSO or null out QRM by simply rotating your tripod or mount.

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Current Balun gives you consistent high-performance. Kills feedline radiation, pattern distortion, SWR shifts, RFI, noise pickup.

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MFJ-2286 MFJ's extra long  
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MFJ-1918, \$49.95,

Smaller tripod. Supports 66 lbs. 1 inch diameter mast extends 6 foot. Collapses to 3.2Hx.3D feet. Triangle base spreads to 2.75 feet. Weighs 6.75 lbs.

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1000 Alpha  
Memories,  
Dual Display

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100 Watts HF+6M  
50 Watts 2M, 35 Watts,  
All band Multimode

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**YAESU FT-817ND**  
HF/6/2/440  
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5W QRP all bands

**YAESU FT-897D**  
HF/6/2/440 all mode  
Portable 100W HF/6,  
50W 2M, 20W, 440MHz

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**YAESU FT-250R**  
5 Watts RF  
Output,  
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Frequency Range:  
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**SX-5 144/430 Base Station Antenna**  
Frequency (MHz):  
144/430  
Zo(Ω): 50  
V.S.W.R: <1.5  
Power(W): 200  
Length(m): 1.7  
Weight(g): 900  
Connector: UHF

**Priced from \$69.95**

**SX-3 144/430 Base Station Antenna**  
Frequency(MHz):  
144/430  
Zo(Ω): 50  
V.S.W.R: <1.5  
Power(W): 150  
Length(m): 1.3  
Weight(g): 800  
Connector: UHF

**Priced from \$69.95**

**S-850B Antenna**  
Frequency (MHz):  
144/430  
Max. Power(W):  
150  
V.S.W.R: <1.5  
Length (M):  
1.04  
Connector:  
PL-259

**SC-ECH PL/NMO Mobile Antenna Cable**  
Color: Black  
Cable: RG-58  
Length: 4M  
Connector: UHF  
Male to NMO Male

**PRESENTING The Surmen NEW Max-1 PL/NMO in Black!**  
Frequency (MHz):  
144/430  
Max.Power(W): 60  
V.S.W.R: <1.5  
Length (M): 0.92  
Weight(g): 135  
Connector:  
PL-259

**Combo Price \$39.95**

**UL-01 Hatchback Door Trunk Lid Mount**  
Color: Black  
Weight: 202g

**Priced from \$14.95**

**SX-20 144/430 Base Station Antenna**  
Frequency(MHz):  
144/430  
Zo(Ω): 50  
V.S.W.R: <1.5  
Power(W): 200  
Length(m): 2.5  
Weight(Kg): 1.20  
Connector: UHF

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able mount

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Weight: 168g

**WP-115 Frequency Meter**  
144/430 MHz  
Z (ohms): 50  
Max Power:  
10W  
Length (mm):  
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Weight: 42g  
Connector:  
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Output,  
Backlit Keypad

**YAESU FT-270R**  
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RF Output  
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**TDXOne TD-Q8**  
4 Watts, Dual  
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on both bands

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**YAESU VX-3R**  
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2M 1.0W

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# QST QuickStats



**sta-tis-tics** (st-tstks) n.

1. (used with a sing. verb) The mathematics of the collection, organization and interpretation of numerical data, especially the analysis of population characteristics by inference from sampling.
2. (used with a pl. verb) Numerical data.

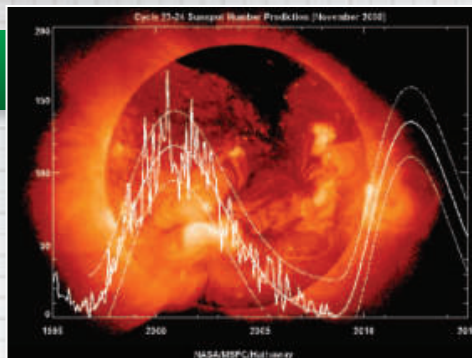
www.arrl.org/QuickStats

## Online QuickStats Poll Results for September 4 through October 4, 2013.

Get on the web and vote today at [www.arrl.org/quickstats](http://www.arrl.org/quickstats)!

### If you read a grim HF propagation forecast on the Internet, do you...

- Turn on the radio and check the bands anyway **68%**
- Find something else to do that day **9%**
- I never read propagation forecasts **19%**
- I don't operate HF **4%**



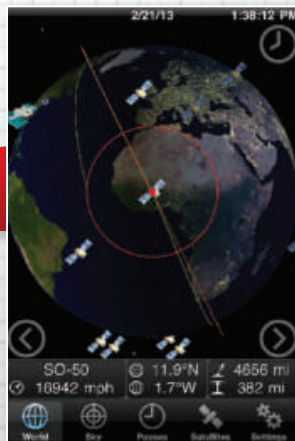
### Have you ever operated 10 Meter FM?



- Yes, recently **12%**
- Yes, but it has been a long time **43%**
- No **45%**

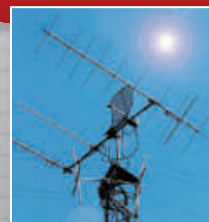
### Do you use the extended frequency coverage and AM reception features in your FM transceiver to listen for aeronautical activity?

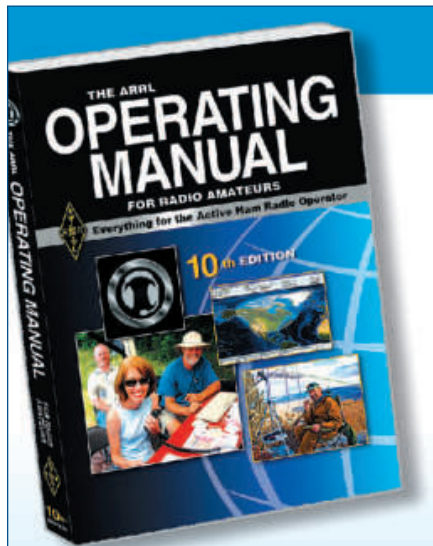
- Yes **48%**
- No **40%**
- My FM transceiver doesn't have those features **9%**
- I don't own an FM transceiver **3%**



### Have you ever made a contact through SO-50, the FM repeater satellite?

- Yes, recently **9%**
- Yes, but it has been a long time **7%**
- No **84%**





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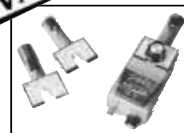


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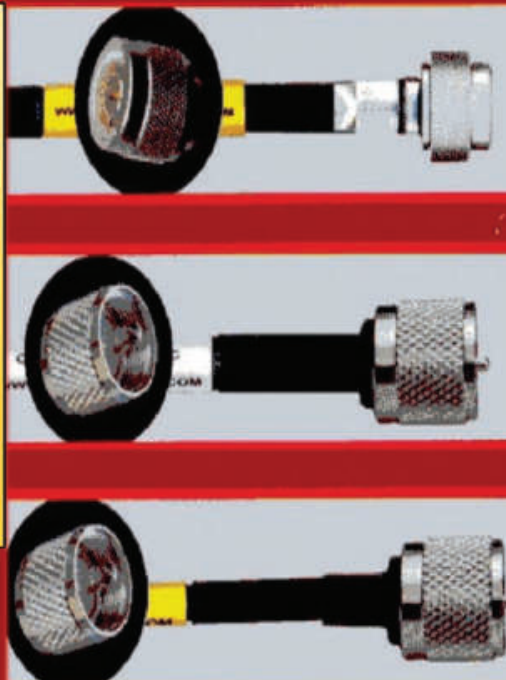
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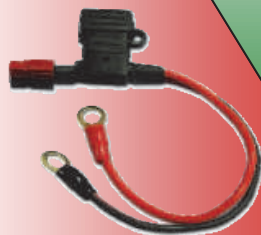
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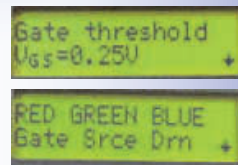


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# ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention

January 24-26, 2014

Friday January 24, 2014 – Pre-Event Activities

- 9:00am – Exhibit Setup
- 1:00pm – Arecibo Observatory and Exhibitors Center Tour
- 7:00pm – Welcome Reception

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Saturday January 25, 2014

- 8:00am – Exhibitor Setup
- 9:00am – Exhibits Open ARRL VE Exams
- 4:00pm – Exhibits Close
- 6:00pm – CoquiFest



Sunday January 26, 2014

- 8:00am – Exhibitor Setup
- 9:00am – Exhibits Open ARRL VE Exams
- 2:00pm – Prize Drawing
- 3:00pm – Exhibits Close



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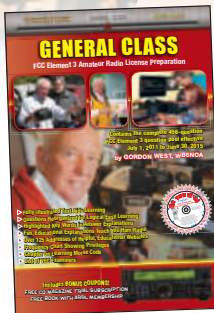
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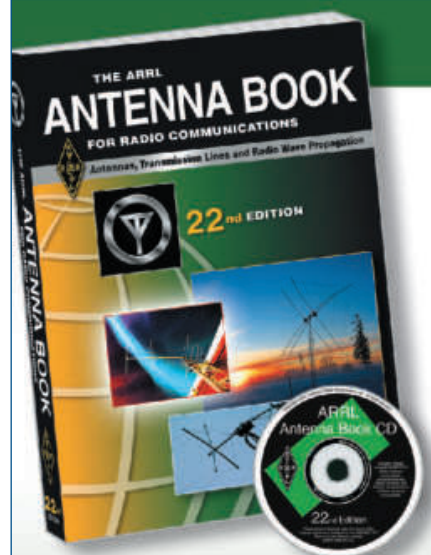


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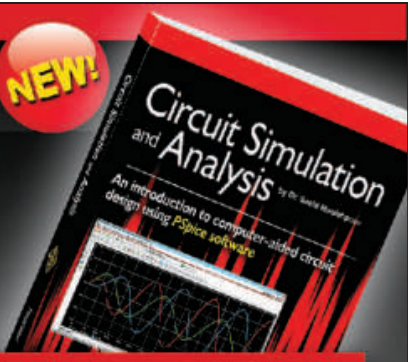
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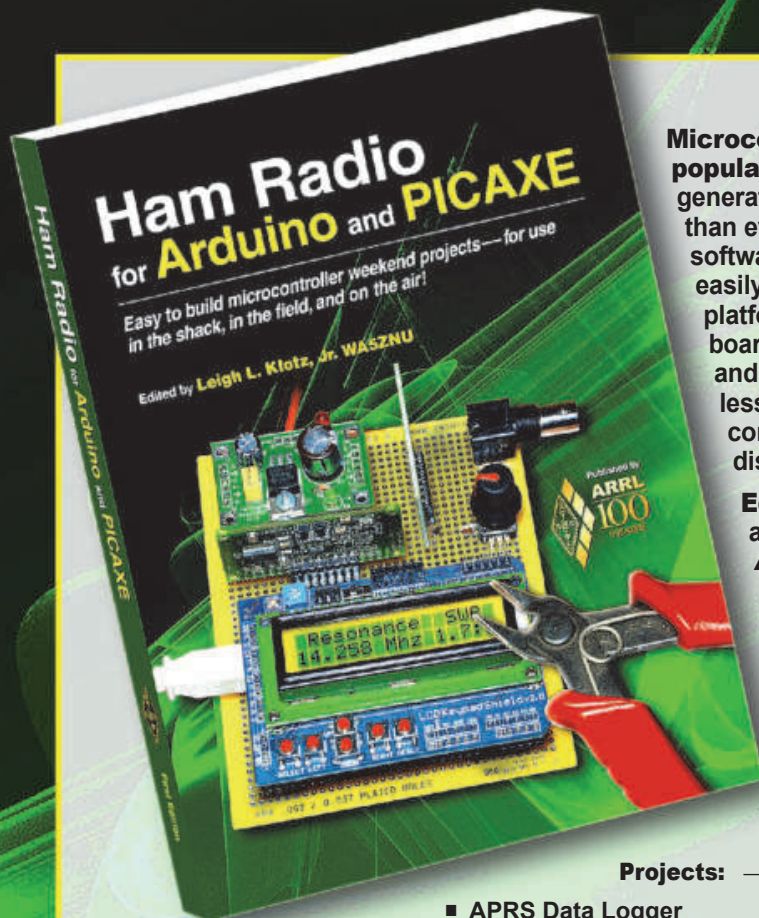
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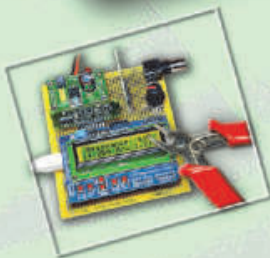


Microcontroller technology has exploded in popularity among ham radio operators. The new generation of single-board microcontrollers is easier than ever to use, bringing together hardware and software for project-building most radio amateurs can easily dive into. With inexpensive microcontroller platforms—such as the popular open-source Arduino board—along with readily available parts, components and accessory boards, the possibilities are limitless: beacon transmitters, keyers, antenna position control, RTTY and digital mode decoders, waterfall displays, and more.

Editor Leigh L. Klotz, Jr, WA5ZNU has assembled this first edition of *Ham Radio for Arduino and PICAXE* to help introduce you to rewards of experimenting with microcontrollers. Klotz and many other contributors have designed projects that will enhance your ham radio station and operating capabilities. Or, you can take it to the next step, using these projects as a launch pad for creating your own projects.

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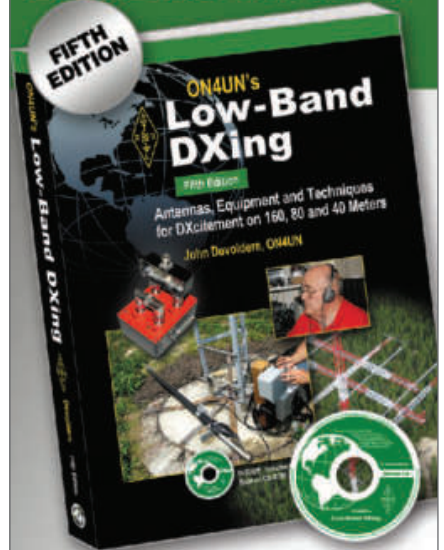
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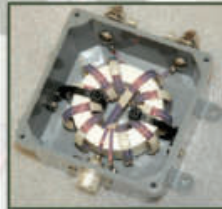
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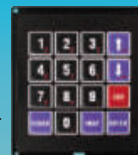
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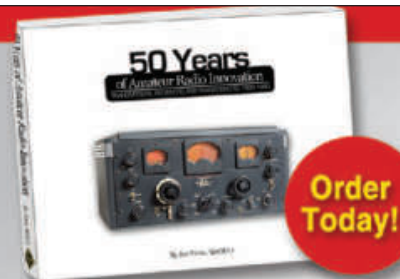


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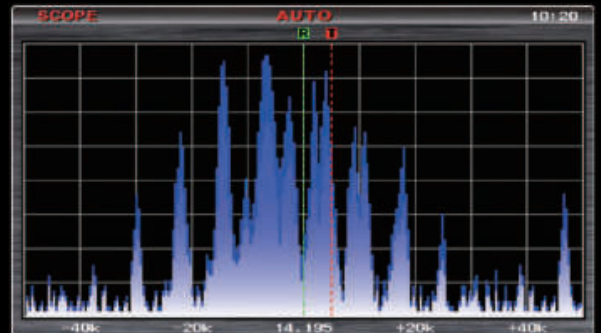
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