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# Amateur Radio

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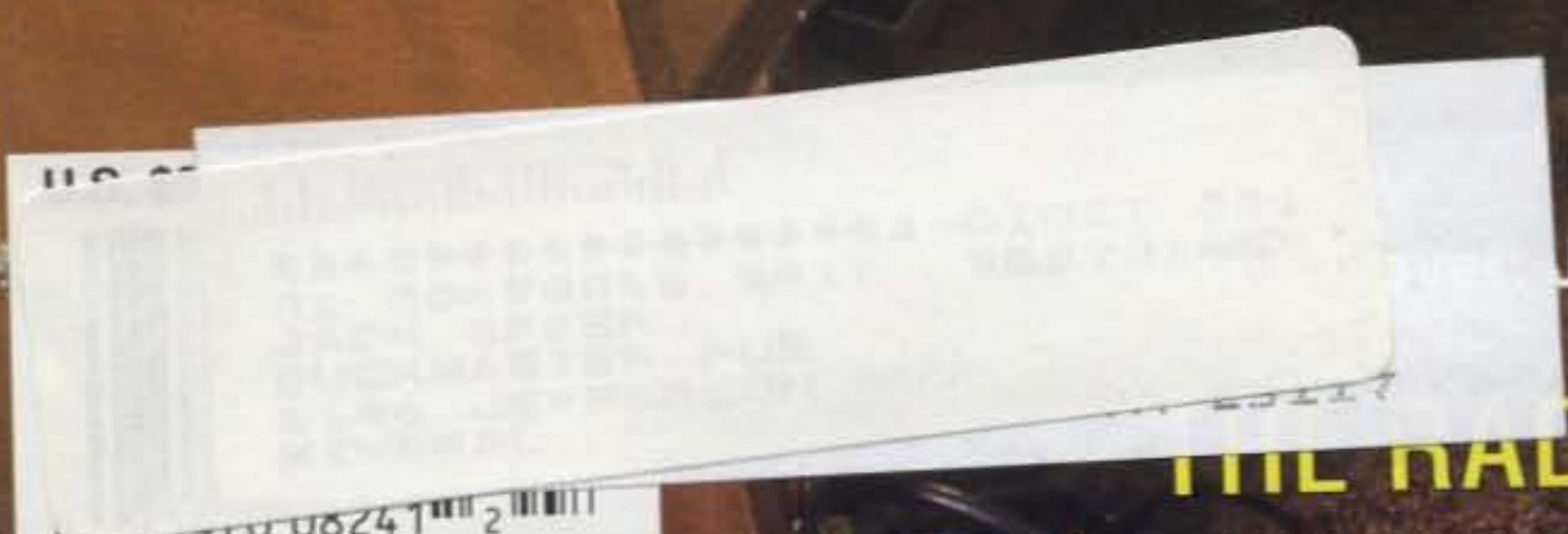


## In This Issue:

- **W6KW Builds A 3-Element 80M Yagi (page 42)**
- **A Closer Look At The Extended Double Zepp Antenna (page 28)**
- **Build An Effective All-Band Counterpoise (page 20)**
- **W3ASK: Scientists Disagree On Cycle 23 (page 101)**
- **K1AR Asks: "When Does A Contest Really End?" (page 77)**

Joseph Johnson, K3RR, Gettysburg, PA

THE RADIO AMATEUR'S JOURNAL



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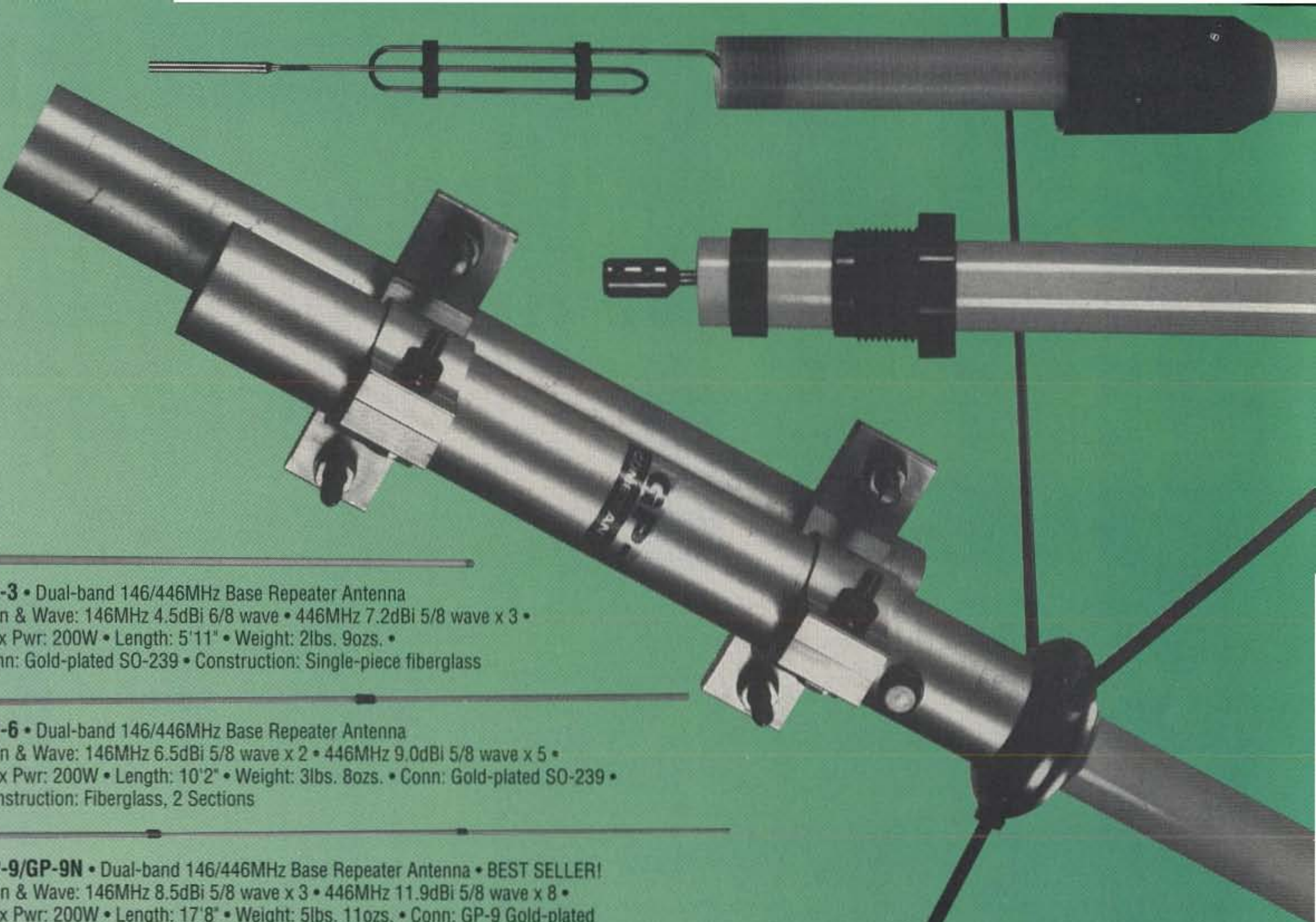
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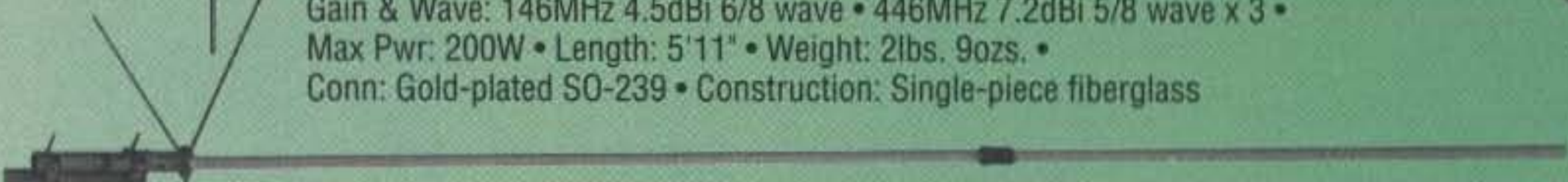


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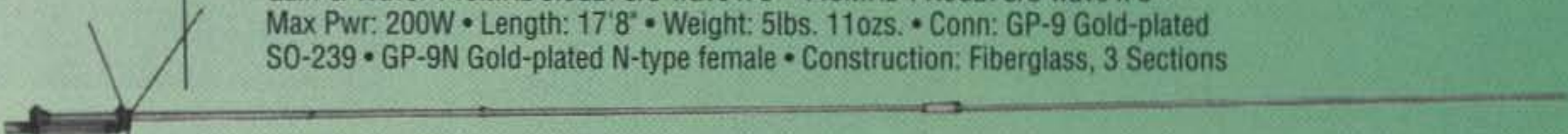
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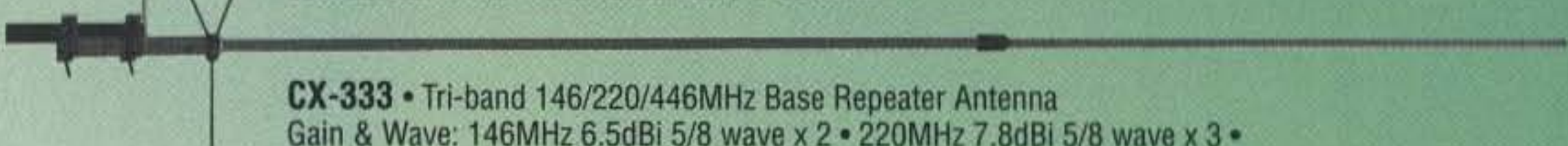
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Max Pwr: 200W • Length: 10'2" • Weight: 3lbs. 8ozs. • Conn: Gold-plated SO-239 •  
Construction: Fiberglass, 2 Sections



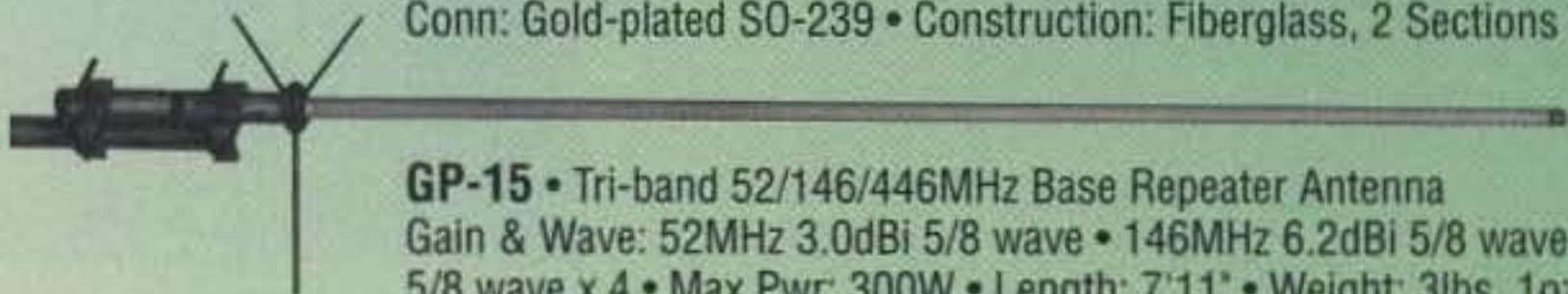
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## FEATURES

- 11 **9MØC: The CDXC Spratly Islands DXpedition**  
*By Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG*
- 20 **HOW TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE ALL-BAND COUNTERPOISE**  
*By Richard Brunner, AA1P*
- 28 **A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EXTENDED DOUBLE ZEPP ANTENNA**  
*By George Murphy, VE3ERP*
- 30 **MATH'S NOTES: Computer video vs. conventional NTSC (TV) video**  
*By Irwin Math, WA2NDM*
- 32 **RESULTS OF THE 1997 CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX CONTEST**  
*By Roy Gould, K1RY, and Ron Stailey, K5DJ*
- 42 **DESIGNING AND BUILDING A THREE-ELEMENT 80 METER YAGI**  
*By Peter J. Dalton, W6KW*
- 56 **1997 CQWW DX CW CONTEST HIGH-CLAIMED SCORES**
- 60 **WORLD OF IDEAS: QRP '98—News, views, and notes**  
*By Dave Ingram, K4TWJ*
- 66 **PACKET USER'S NOTEBOOK: Summer is here—weather emergencies and packet**  
*By Buck Rogers, K4ABT*
- 80 **ANNOUNCING: THE 1998 CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX CONTEST**

page 42

page 32



**ON THE COVER:** There are still those of us around who believe that the only "real" ham rig is one that lights up inside and keeps the shack warm in the winter. That seems to describe Joe Johnson, K3RR, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Joe not only collects tube-type Collins and Drake gear, he uses it, too, in pursuit of North Korea on 160 (or any band, for that matter!). Joe has spent the last 28 years as an Engineer with the Mass Media Bureau of the FCC, but his 30 acres of old wheat field outside Gettysburg is where his heart is. Four towers (80 to 195 feet) and ten 1000 foot Beverages round out the antenna system, with the tallest stick only supporting the 80 and 160 meter wire antennas. If you'd like to chat with Joe, chances are you'll find him on 160 CW, but plan on cranking up the code speed, as he's really in his element at 50 to 60 wpm. His philosophy on 160 meter DXing: "As Woody Alan says about life, 80% is just showing up. Be there and you'll work the most astounding stuff." (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)



page 11

## DEPARTMENTS

- 50 **THE DIGITAL DIPOLE:** The BB3 Base Station antenna, Arrow Antenna products, Bird Electronics update, Amidon on-line, and more  
*By Karl T. Thurber, Jr., W8FX*
  - 72 **VHF PLUS:** ATV, May's aurora opening, and conferences, contests, and meteor showers  
*By Joe Lynch, N6CL*
  - 77 **CONTEST CALENDAR:** When does a contest really end? Contests for July  
*By John Dorr, K1AR*
  - 82 **AWARDS:** KC4UG, USA-CA #937; the GCR; awards from around the world  
*By Ted Melinosky, K1BV*
  - 88 **DX:** DXCC 2000 explained  
*By Chod Harris, VP2ML*
  - 97 **WASHINGTON READOUT:** NTIA and amateur spectrum requirements  
*By Frederick O. Maia, W5YI*
  - 101 **PROPAGATION:** Scientific disagreement over start and progress of Cycle 23; Short-Skip
- 
- 4 **ZERO BIAS**
  - 6 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - 8 **OUR READERS SAY**
  - 41 **CQ SHOWCASE:** New amateur products
  - 104 **CQ HAM SHOP**

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# ZERO BIAS

## AN EDITORIAL

The other day I was speaking to a reader who had called and was concerned about the future of amateur radio, more youth, and the host of other profound things amateurs like to pontificate about. While having more young people is always noble, I asked how he knew we didn't already have a bunch somewhere. Perhaps the gist of amateur radio today is that it is a hobby for middle, median, and "mature" people. Maybe it's none of the above.

What if we woke up one day—say next Thursday, for example—and read in the paper that 500,000 people were missing from Utah or Rhode Island? What's it like to lose 500,000 people, and what would our reaction be? Would we try to find them and see what happened, or would we simply see it as a couple of specific geographic areas that might need repopulation? Maybe the remaining folks in those two states would view it as gaining breathing room (at last), and think that any attempt to bring new people into those states is simply a clandestine plot by unscrupulous real estate dealers to make money.

Simply put, amateur radio has about 500,000 people out there with some form of license who do not take any active part in what's euphemistically called "traditional amateur radio." They don't share our values, they apparently don't identify with us, they're not usually included in any survey material, and they simply are an apparition that shows up occasionally on a total head count. Frankly, there's no organization or commercial interest that has the financial where-with-all to question and survey each and every one of us to find out what we're doing. These basic numbers are likely to change at the end of the current cycle, Cycle 23. By that time it is conceivable that we might have a licensed amateur population of well over 1,000,000, with about 6–700,000 of them unaccounted for.

A quick reality check would tell us that it doesn't make too much difference to our every-day amateur lives what the unenfranchised group is doing. Probably most are active, some drop out, some pass on to that great shack in the sky, and the rest weave in and out of the hobby as time and interest permit. Okay, so they don't belong to the ARRL, or subscribe to *CQ*, or join radio clubs, or do anything active to participate in what's happening with technology, public service, and what constitutes our politics. They're there and yet they're not there, so whom does it really affect?

If for a moment we set aside the amateur radio industry, which by the way does include the ARRL, and not bring money into the issue, it's easy to show how those missing people do have a very great effect on what the rest of us will be doing somewhere down the road. No, they're not going to suddenly organize and rise up as a group to take over and influence the direction of amateur radio.

They've already done it, except they don't know it, and they may or may not benefit from their indifference.

Now none of this involves any nefarious plot, sinister machinations, or outward intent to deceive. It's just the way the system works, and apparently it doesn't take reality into account. At each of the WARC conferences amateur radio is represented advisedly, behind the scenes, in front of the scenes, and every which way by the IARU. The IARU is a membership organization composed of representatives from each country's national radio society—in our case, the ARRL. The dues structure for the IARU is based on the *total* number of licensed amateurs in each country. Therefore, the ARRL's dues are predicated on the *total* number of licensed US amateurs, and by extension they vote as if they speak for every single one of us. It's only fair, since they paid for the privilege.

If the ARRL, or any other national society, wished to conduct a survey as to which way their IARU representative should vote on any specific issue or issues, they could then poll their own membership. However, in our case, our national organization has less than 23% penetration into the total population. If the survey used, for example, every Nth name (some number—7, 10, 12), then an even smaller number of individuals would be queried. Yes, it's statistically possible to extrapolate the data out to a point. Supposing there were about 5,000 or so replies to this survey, and this data was extrapolated out to a total membership. You can draw whatever inference you want. However, if you were to draw that data out so as to represent the feelings of the total population, then you would be adding the element of imagination to the equation. These numbers would represent about a .007% return, which would be a giant leap of faith even if the questions were statistically neutral and valid. So, with absolutely no malevolent thought or purpose, a national society could with enthusiasm back something supported only by .007% of the total population. It would be just as if everyone said "yes" or "no" to something. It's the way the system works, and to be perfectly fair about it, there's no one around who could afford several million dollars to adequately survey each and every one of us. If you like to play with numbers, by the end of Cycle 23 there is some likelihood that the total US amateur population could very well top 1,000,000 licensed people. At that time, given what we already have and work with, as little as 7,000 amateurs (based on .007%) could set a "mandate."

Apathy, indifference, and anonymity are not confined to amateur radio. Numerous other endeavors are subject to the same ennui. After all, hobbies are not supposed to be real life. They serve to relax and enrich us, enabling us to cope with the real problems of day-to-day living. What does it take to get

people motivated and concerned about something they feel so passionate about? Recently, here on Long Island, there were island-wide elections held for school board members and an opportunity to vote on the annual school budgets for numerous districts. In an area which is probably one of the highest taxed pieces of real estate in the country, you might expect a modicum of participation. Real life does include one's children, school taxes, and perceived quality of life. About 13% of the eligible voters agreed with that last sentence and actually voted on those budgets which involve the expenditure of millions of dollars for each district and which set the future tax rate for homeowners. The other 87% who didn't vote for whatever reason can complain all they want to with no avail, or simply remain silent.

Maybe I'm the only one who sees this as a gnawing problem. Maybe since it's always been this way I should just accept it for what it is. Maybe we won't reach a million, or maybe we'll go over a million. What will our composition be then? If we now have 57% with little or no code, can that figure rise to 65–70% by the end of Cycle 23? Who becomes "real" then? While we live with occasional growth plateaus and spurts of growth, our overall numbers have increased over the years, producing one evident phenomenon. People who initially want to be like "us" get a license through personal effort, and then after some varying amount of time quickly distance themselves from "us." It's not just here in the US, either. The May issue of *Break-In*, the New Zealand magazine, reported that the WIA (Wireless Institute of Australia) last year had a drop in membership of about 8%, marking the ninth straight year of declining membership.

The core group of the truly real amateur population has waved their flag for years. We tried incentive licensing, we tried with the religious fervor of a zealot to convert the miscreant CBER, we tried shouting "CW Forever" from the rooftops, and we even tried telling no-coders how unhappy they were with their piddling efforts. It must be that the rest of the world is lazy, on the Internet, and out chasing sex, drugs, and rock and roll. We, the pure enough to cast the first stone, are just becoming hard pressed to locate some of those 500,000 targets who need a good stone tossed at them.

This is not doom and gloom for amateur radio. Quite the contrary. We have a whole bunch of people out there doing all sorts of things and having fun at whatever they like. It's just that we don't happen at the moment to know who they are, and they really don't want to tell us. There is a bright future ahead for this thing called amateur radio. It may just mean that a lot of us just won't recognize it anymore.

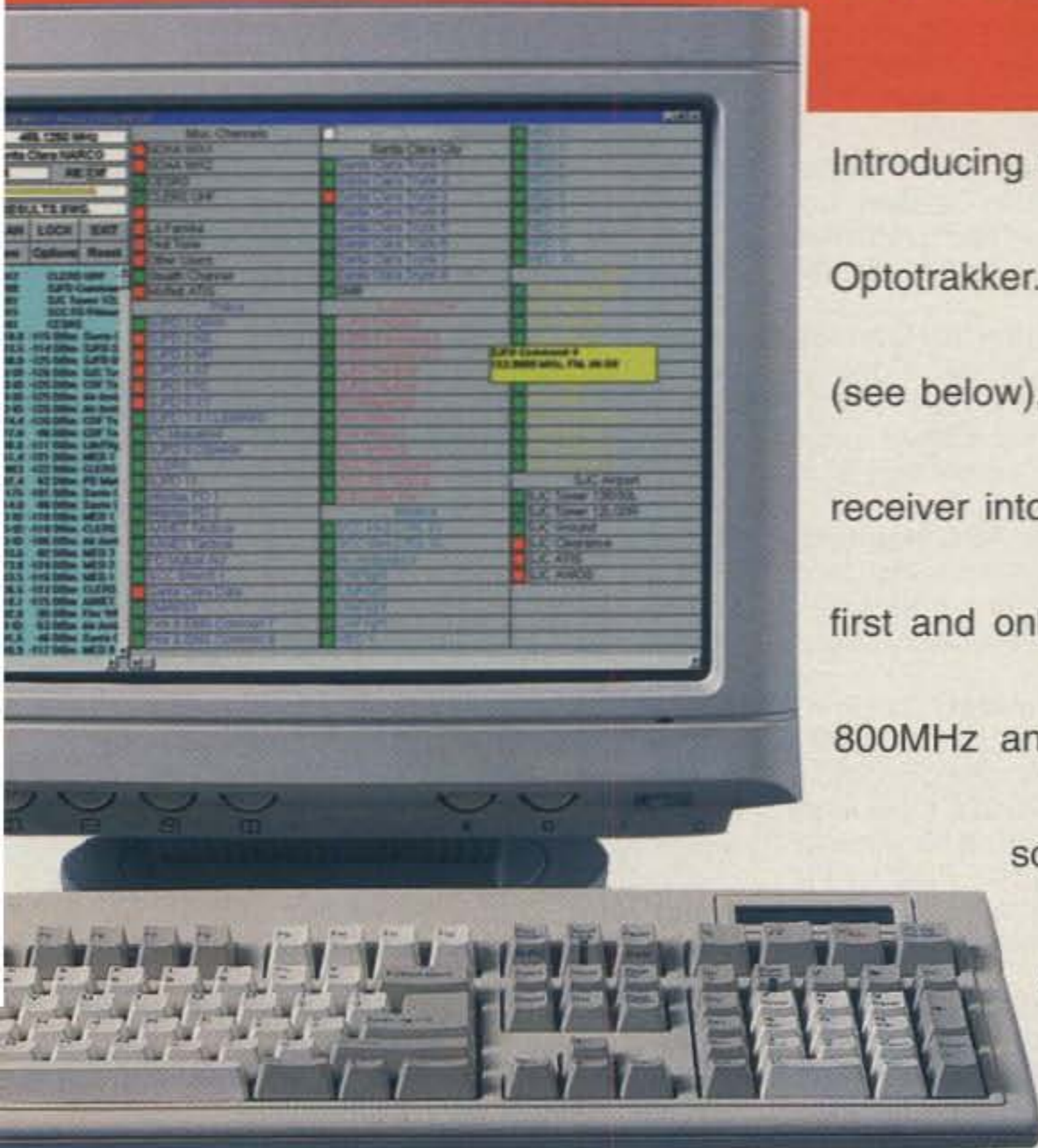
73, Alan, K2EEK

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following Special Events are scheduled for July:

**K2ARC**, from 200th anniversary of Eaton's Neck Lighthouse, Northport, LI, NY, and "Lighthouses on the Air"; American Red Cross Emergency Communication Service; August 22 (no hours given—ed.) on 7.280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380. For QSL send SASE and QSL to CABNY-ARCECS DX Assn., P.O. Box 1479, Huntington, NY 11743.

**KB2YCT**, from Nutley, New Jersey, "CQ Father Jerzy Popieluszko," Robert D. Grant United Labor ARA; 2200Z July 24 to 2200Z July 26 on 14.303, 28.420, 52.525. For certificate send QSL to RDGULARA, P.O. Box 716, Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.

**W2ZZJ**, from Stratford, New York, 172nd anniversary of birth of Dr. Loonis, radio pioneer; Fulton County Dr. Mahlon Loomis Committee; 1300–2000Z July 21 in General phone portion of 75, 40, 20 meters and Novice 10 meters phone, plus area 2 meter repeaters. For certificate and literature send QSL, contact #, and #10 SASE (55¢) to George P. Sadlon, W2ZZJ, 5738 STHWY 29A, Stratford, NY 13470.

**K6BSA**, from the Sierra Nevada near Yosemite, Rendezvous '98 International Boy Scout encampment; July 26–31 on JOTA frequencies, most HF bands. For more info, contact KM6LH; <p.wesling@ieee.org>; <www.sccc.scouting.org/programs/rend.html>.

**K8EPV**, from Port Huron to Macinac Island Yacht Race, Port Huron, Michigan; Eastern Michigan ARC; 1400Z July 12 to 0200Z July 13; CW 3.710, 7.110, 21.110; SSB 3.910, 7.272, 14.272, 21.312, 28.393. For certificate send QSL and 9 x 12 SASE to K8EPV, P.O. Box 611230, Port Huron, MI 48061-1230.

**K8KZO**, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, 40th anniversary of the Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team (SMART); 1800Z July 11 to 0200Z July 12 in the phone bands on or around 3.904, 7.204, 14.304, 28.304, 147.04. For a certificate send QSL and 9 x 12 SASE to SMART, P.O. Box 3175, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-3175.

**W8AL**, from Missillon, Ohio, Pro-Football Hall of Fame Festival; Canton Amateur Radio Club; 1300 July 24 to 2400 July 26 on 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.430. For certificate send 9 x 12 SASE to Donald E. Perry, WQ8J, 968 Culverne Ave. NW, Massillon, OH 44647.

**W8NJH**, from Plymouth, Michigan, "Salute to America's Small Towns," Stu Rockafellow ARS; 1200–2000Z July 4 on SSB 7.270 and 14.270 MHz. For certificate send QSL and 9 x 12 SASE to Dave Langston, KB8RAP, 1000 Town Center, Suite 1200, Southfield, MI 48075.

**W9ZL**, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Experimental Aircraft Assn. Fly-in and Convention, Wittman Regional Airport; 8 AM to 4 PM July 31 through Aug. 2 in General phone bands, RTTY 7085 and 14085. For 8 x 10 certificate send QSL and SASE to Wayne Pennings, WD9FLJ, 913 N. Mason, Appleton, WI 54914.

**W9W**, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Wisconsin Sesquicentennial and Sawdust Days Festival; 1700–0200Z July 1–5 in General portion of 10, 15, 20, 40 meters SSB and CW. For certificate send 9 x 12 SASE and QSL to Mark Miller, N936 W. 8th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901-5928.

**C6A25** plus last two letters of the Bahamian callsign (reciprocal licensees will sign /C6A25), from 25th anniversary celebration of independence of the Bahamas. Special QSLs and possibly certificates will be issued. For more information contact C6AGR.

**XK3K**, from 150th anniversary of Kincardine, Ontario, Canada; Kincardine DX Group; 0000Z July 26 to 2359Z Aug. 8 on all bands 10–80 meters SSB and CW. For QSL send QSL and SASE to Bill Hardie, VE3EFX, 755 Johnston Crescent, Kincardine, Ontario, N2Z 1S5 Canada.

**Naturist ARC Special Event** from July 6–12 from naturist resorts throughout North America on 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.465 ± QRM. For certificate send QSL and 9 x 12 SASE to Naturist ARC, NU5DE, P.O. Box 200812, Austin, TX 78720-0812.

**The following hamfests, etc., are in July:**  
July 4, **26th Annual Firecracker Hamfest**, Monaghan Fire Hall, Dillsburg, PA. Contact HRAC AnswerLine 717-232-6087; <fabinfo@fabral.com>; N3NJB@juno.com>. (Exams)

July 5, **Lisbon, Ohio Hamfest**, Columbiana County Fairgrounds, Lisbon, OH. Contact Dick Sisley, K8JKB, 1218 Northside Ave., East Liverpool, OH 43920 (330-385-1245).

July 10–12, **35th Annual International Hamfest**, International Peace Garden, between Boissevain, Manitoba and Dunseith, North Dakota. Contact Dave Snyder, VE4XN, or Lynn Nelson, W0CQ.

July 11, **24th Annual Ontario Hamfest**, Milton Fairgrounds, Milton, Ontario, Canada. Contact Burlington ARC, P.O. Box 85037, Burlington, ON, L7R 4K3; <www.bigwave.ca/~ve3coj/barc/> or VA3LOR Lorne 905-336-2999; e-mail: <ve3coj@bigwave.ca>.

July 11, **Monroe County ARC Hamfest**, National Guard Armory, Tompkinsville, KY. Call J. Bunch 502-678-5784; or e-mail, David Welch, K4PL, at (dwelch@glasgow-ky.com). (Exams)

July 11, **Firecracker Hamfest**, Salisbury Civic Center, Salisbury, NC. Contact N4KVF, Walter Bastow, 3045 High Rock Road, Gold Hill, NC 28071; or call 704-279-3391. (Exams)

July 11, **South Milwaukee 29th Annual Swapfest**, American Legion Post #434 grounds, Oak Creek, WI. Contact S.M.A.R.C., P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172-0102.

July 11, **Straits Area ARC Swap & Shop**, Emmet County Fairgrounds, Petoskey, MI. Call Clark, KA8TIL, 616-582-6455. (Exams)

July 12, **1998 Batavia Hamfest**, Alexander Fire Department Recreation Grounds, Rt. 8 just south of Alexander, NY. Call 716-786-3622, or <carlson@hfent.com>.

July 12, 1998 **Wood Co., Ohio Hama-A-Rama**, Wood Co. Fairgrounds, Bowling Green, OH. Contact Shawn Hudson, KB8QEW, P.O. Box 534, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402 (419-354-1811) <sjhudson@wcnnet.org>. (Exams)

July 12, **SweatFest 98**, Brunswick, MD. Contact MADRA SweatFest 98, 301-473-4151; e-mail: <madra@qsl.net>; or check Web page at: <www.qsl.net/madra>. (Exams)

July 12, **Valley Forge Hamfest**, Kimberton, PA Fire Co. Fairgrounds, Kimberton, PA. Contact Bob Haase, W3SA, 674 Valley View La., Wayne, PA 19087, 610-293-1919; or e-mail: <wb3joe@voicenet.com>; or write to MARC, PO Box 352, Villanova, PA 19085.

July 12, **North Hills ARC 13th Annual Hamfest**, Northland Public Library, Pittsburgh, PA. Contact Bob Ferrey, Jr., N3DOK, at 871 Rosalind Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 412-367-2393; e-mail: <n3dok@pgh.net>; or see the Web site at: <http://nharc.pgh.pa.us>. (Handicapped accessible)

July 12, **Sussex County ARC 20th Annual Hamfest**, Sussex County Fairgrounds, Augusta, NJ. Contact Daniel Carter, N2ERH, 8 Carter

Lane, Branchville, NJ 07826, 973-948-6999.

July 17–19, **Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention**, Double Tree Inn, Southcenter (Tukwila), Washington. Featured speaker at Saturday night dinner is K0IR. For registration forms contact Joe, W7QN, 206-784-1089, or W7TSQ ay <w7tsq@aol.com>.

July 18, **NOARSFEST 98**, Lorain County Fairgrounds, Ohio. Contact John Schaaf, KC8AOX, 216-696-5709 and leave message, or e-mail <kc8aox@qsl.net>, or write to NOARSFEST, P.O. Box 432, Elyria, OH 44036-0432.

July 18, **Sugar River Amateur Radio Festival**, on The Newport Town Common, Newport, NH. Contact Rob, N1CIR, 603-863-5383 or <N1CIR@WA1WOK.NH>. (Exams)

July 18, **Cleveland ARC Hamfest**, Bradley Central High School, Cleveland, TN. Contact David Evans, WD4EJC at 423-472-1421 or Bob Gault, KD4NEC, 423-479-6260; write to Cleveland ARC, P.O. Box 2683, Cleveland, TN 37320-2683; e-mail: <carc@rocketmail.com>.

July 18, **26th Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest**, Cary Community Center, Cary, NC. Contact Cary Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 53, Cary, NC 27512. (Exams)

July 19, **Tailgate Electronics, Computer and Amateur Radio Fleamarket**, Albany and Main St., Cambridge, MA. For information, call 617-253-3776.

July 19, **Van Wert ARC 11th Annual Hamfest**, Van Wert County Fairgrounds, Van Wert, OH. Contact Bob, WD9LPY, 419-238-1877 after 5 PM (after July 6, call 419-795-5763). (Exams)

July 19, **Fox River Radio League Hamfest**, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, IL. Contact James Von Olnhausen, N9UJC, c/o FRRL, POB 673, Batavia, IL 60510, or call 630-879-3042; e-mail: <n9uzc@amsat.org>. (Exams)

July 24–25, **Milton, Florida '98 Hamfest**, Santa Rosa County Auditorium, Milton, FL. Contact Walt Yarbrough, WA4TFR, 850-994-7335, or Bill Couch, W4VY, 850-623-0592.

July 24–26, **Fort Tuthill Hamfest & Arizona State Convention**, Coconino County Fairgrounds, Flagstaff, AZ. Contact ARCA of Arizona, 602-779-2722. (Exams Sat. 8:30 AM)

July 25, **Western Carolina ARS 23rd Annual Hamfest**, Haywood County Fairgrounds, Asheville, NC. Contact Chet Allen, KE4VXC, 828-258-3954; e-mail: <KE4VXC@juno.com>. (Exams)

July 25–26, **Ham Holiday '98/ARRL State Convention**, Oklahoma State Fair Park, Oklahoma City, OK. Contact CORA web site: <www.geocities.com/heartland/7332>, or write to Ham Holiday ARRL State Convention, P.O. Box 850003, Oklahoma City, OK 73085 or e-mail <n1lpn@swbell.net>. (Exams)

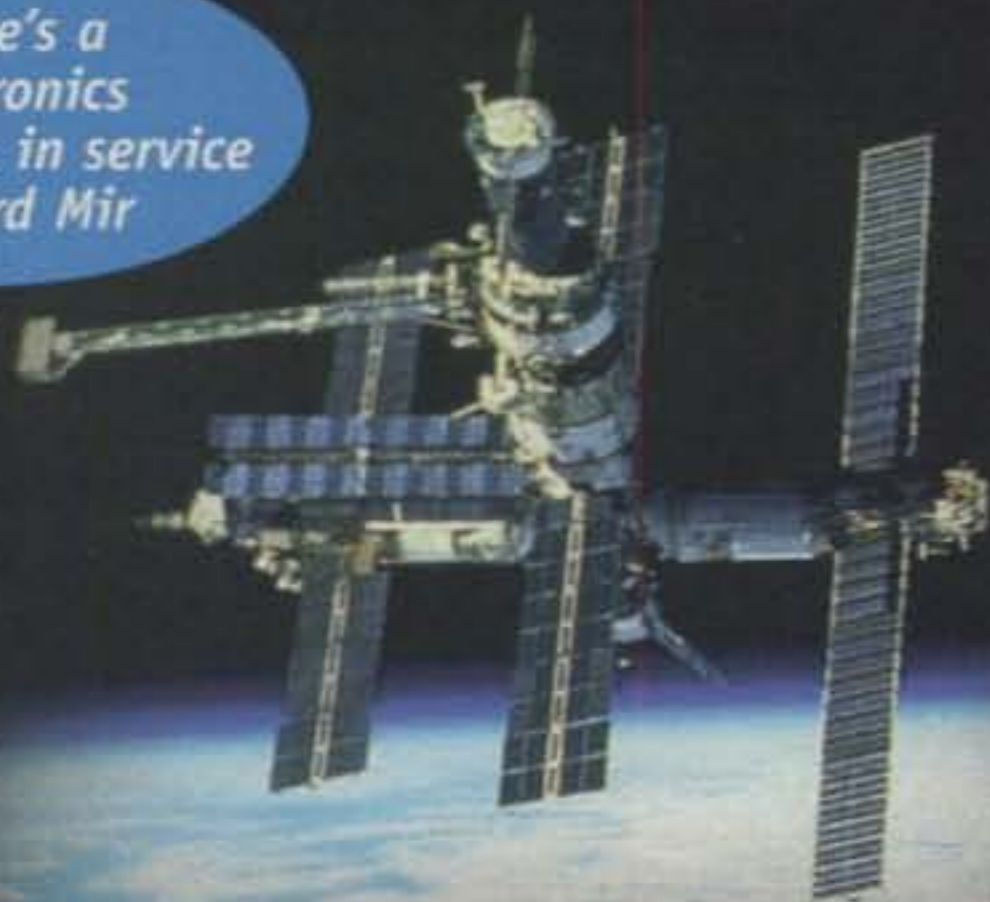
July 26, **Paulding County AR Group 8th Annual Hamfest**, Park Lane Center on Fairgrounds Rd., Paulding, OH. Contact Jerry, KB8MAF, Hamfest Chairman, PCARG Inc., P.O. Box 86, Paulding, OH 45879, 419-399-4507; or e-mail: <jlrhod@bright.net>.

July 26, **Maryland Hamfest & Computerfest**, Timonium Fairgrounds, north of Baltimore, MD. For information, see the Web page at <http://www.smart.net/~brats>; e-mail <brats@smart.net>; call or fax 410-467-4634; or write to BRATS Hamfest, P.O. Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282-5915. (Handicapped accessible; exams at 9 AM only, preregistration required call John Creel, WB3GXW after 6 PM at 301-572-5124.)



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# OUR READERS SAY

## Antenna Switch Correction

Re: "How To Build An Automatic Antenna Switch for ICOM Transceivers," by Art Rideout, WA6IPD, p. 32, May 1998 CQ. Pin 3 on the LM-3914 should be identified as going to +12 volts.

## 160 Article Compliments

Editor, CQ:

Our compliments to Cary Oler and Ted Cohen, N4XX, for their paper on the 160 meter band ("The 160 Meter Band . . ." March and April 1998 CQ). It's the most remarkable one on Topband propagation research that I ever read. I have put a hint within my weekly propagation report for our amateur radio broadcast on that paper and to encourage the German hams to participate in CAROS. (CAROS is the Coordinated Amateur Radio Observation System, a means by which amateurs can submit reports of unusual propagation conditions for Cary Oler's database. The URL is: <<http://solar.uleth.ca/solar/www/caros.html>>.—ed.)

Hartmut Buettig, DL1VDL  
HF Manager of DARC  
Germany

## The War is Over

Editor, CQ:

I read your editorial in the April issue of CQ regarding participation by ham ops in emergency operations. Here in Florida there is a vast wasteland of untapped ops just dying to lend a hand on packet, or FM, or whatever. This vast untapped source is *Yahnkees!* No one here (natives) will associate or (God forbid!) talk with anyone with a so-called "Yahnkee" call (such as my K1EXE). Dropping your W1 or K1 or (my son's) N1 into a local repeater will guarantee a clear channel (silence) until they figure you've gone away. There are many others like myself who are completely ignored on the 2 meter band. I even was ignored while giving out storm reports during the week following the biggest twister that took so many lives. I couldn't believe they would ignore storm info simply because I was giving it!

I have heard VE1's ignored while asking directions. I was invited to join in the Sunday night net on the local repeater, while attending the local club's fleamarket, then was ignored while trying to check in! (They didn't know I had a *Yahnkee* call while talking face to face.)

I think a person in your position should be able to shine the light of day on these people and watch them run! It is time this was brought into the open and dealt with.

The war's been over for 133 years, and this response (ignoring *Yahnkees*) is not what you'd expect from a group such as ham ops, who you would think had higher IQs than the average population.

I am from New Hampshire, and had never heard hams from the south being derided on the repeater(s) there.

Jim White, K1EXE  
Hudson, FL

## An Answer, Possibly

Editor, CQ:

I have been reading the 160 meter band propagation articles in CQ over the last two months ("The 160 Meter Band," Parts I and II, by Cary Oler and Ted Cohen, N4XX, March and April 1998) and have found them both educational and interesting. In addition, I may have found an answer to an experience that happened to me last December.

I was using an FM radio tuned to an unused frequency in my area to catch commercial broadcast stations, using meteor scatter as described in a past issue of Monitoring Times magazine. Being up before local sunrise, I decided to tune through the medium-wave AM broadcast band. While doing so, I copied a station on 1600 kHz in what I took to be Japanese, but could have been any Eastern dialect, as I don't speak Japanese. The station was strong for about 20 minutes, then started to fade as the sun rose over the horizon. This would coincide with the middle East Coast to the Far East propagation as reported in the article. This was also at the time of a meteor shower. Now whether that has anything to do with low band propagation, I have no idea. By the way, the radio was a Sangean ATS 909 using the internal ferrite rod.

Rich Dalton, WD3C  
Newark, DE

*Rich: It very well could have been Japan, or Korea. It would have been interesting to have the date. For example, there was a once-in-a-lifetime (mine?) opening to Japan about one-half hour before sunrise in Virginia last Christmas morning. The JA stations were running a solid S-7 on CW, and I worked three of them, two on the first call. We probably could have switched to SSB; that's how loud they were. But the time of day and the time of year were right for what you observed. December and January are probably the best two months for the East Coast to Far East path on 160.*

—73, Ted, N4XX

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*The Spratly Islands conjure up all sorts of amateur radio memories, some tragic and some the thought of a country almost impossible to work. Members of the Chiltern DX Club decided it was about time in the new sunspot cycle to create some new and exciting memories of the Spratly Islands.*

## 9M0C

# The CDXC Spratly Islands DXpedition

BY STEVE TELENUS-LOWE\*, G4JVG

**T**he Spratly Islands. The very name conjures up images of South China Seas pirates, typhoons, and—for radio amateurs—memories of ill-fated and even disastrous DXpeditions. Even today, the island group is disputed territory, with overlapping territorial claims by a number of countries in the region. Because of the uncertain political nature of the group, the Spratly Islands are considered a separate country (or “entity”) for DXCC purposes, and count as AS-051 for the RSGB Islands on the Air program.

Some of the islands are unoccupied, although claimed by one or more countries, while other islands in the group are occupied sometimes by troops of one country, even though they may also be claimed by others.

In 1979 a group of DXpeditioners sailed into the Spratly group. However, on approaching Amboyna Cay, which they believed was uninhabited, they were fired upon and had to take refuge in Brunei. Later some of the group returned to operate for a short time as 1S1DX from Barque Canada Reef, while the remainder stayed behind in Brunei. Several years later, a group of German amateurs sailed to the Spratlys and were also fired upon, this time with disastrous consequences. Their yacht was sunk, and tragically two amateurs were killed, one immediately and the second after several days of drifting in a lifeboat without food or water.

With this sad history, it is perhaps not surprising that although Spratly remained high on the Most Wanted Countries list,



*The 9M0C antenna farm at dusk.*

there were few more attempted DXpeditions for several years. Meanwhile, Malaysia had occupied Swallow Reef in the Spratly group and set up a naval base there. They built a sea wall around exposed sand bars at one end of the reef and gradually reclaimed the land to form a larger island, which they called Pulau Layang Layang. An aircraft landing strip was constructed, and a dive center resort built on the island.

It wasn't long before amateurs discovered that there was now a safe place to operate from in the Spratly group, and in 1993 a group of mainly Finnish and

American amateurs operated from Pulau Layang Layang as 9M0S.

### Early Planning

In April 1996, my wife and I spent a holiday in Malaysia, during the course of which we met Eshee, 9M2FK, who had been the sole Malaysian representative on the 9M0S operation. Eshee showed me all his photographs of the DXpedition and provided me with a vast amount of useful information. There and then the idea of a major British-led DXpedition to Pulau Layang Layang formed in my mind.

\*c/o Don Field, G3XTT, 105 Shiplake Bottom, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames, RG9 5HJ, England



*Birds on Pulau Layang Layang. Aircraft in background—not the ideal spot for a jet!*

As a member of the CDXC (Chiltern DX Club), the UK DX Foundation, I mentioned the idea to some other members who had also operated from Malaysia in the past or who had experience on other DXpeditions. The idea was accepted with great enthusiasm: There was a feeling that the CDXC was now big enough and well-enough established to attempt a major DXpedition of its own. Spratly was now at number 25 in the Most Wanted Countries listing, so it was deemed to be an excellent location for our planned operation.

A core team was soon formed, which consisted of Neville Cheadle, G3NUG; Don Beattie, G3OZF; Don Field, G3XTT; Tony Canning, GØOPB; and John Linford, G3WGV. John and I had operated on the highly successful VK9MM DXpedition from Mellish Reef in 1993, and we invited two other members of that group—both well-known DXpeditioners in their own right, Dr. Vince Thompson, K5VT, and Atsu Asahina, VK2BEX, a Japanese-Australian—to bring their own particular skills to the Layang Layang team.

The first meeting of the core UK group was held in September 1996, when the initial plans were laid. It was soon apparent that we all were thinking along the same lines: We were planning a major DXpedition, with at least four stations operating simultaneously, with high power and multiple beam antennas. In 1993, 9MØS had only used 100 watt stations, but since then the Malaysian authorities had increased the permitted power output to 400 watts.

We looked at where Spratly was “most wanted,” and decided that it was probably on the WARC bands (10, 18, and 24 MHz) and very definitely on the low bands (1.8, 3.5, and 7 MHz). Previous Spratly

DXpeditions had concentrated on making as many QSOs as possible, which meant mainly operating on 14 and 21 MHz. Nevertheless, we also wished to give as many operators as possible the chance to make a contact with Spratly, and this meant not just those with linears and monoband beams, but also those with 100 watts and either a G5RV or a multiband vertical antenna. For us, this meant taking a big antenna for 20 meters, where we guessed that propagation would be best with most parts of the world.

One of my tasks was to obtain the license. Licensing in Malaysia is relatively simple for overseas visitors these days, and four members of the core team had

already operated from that country. Layang Layang is administered from Sabah, Eastern Malaysia, but the JTM (Malaysian licensing authority) office there can only issue 9M6 callsigns. We wanted a more distinctive callsign than this, as a 9M6 callsign would suggest only that we were in Eastern Malaysia, not Spratly. We therefore applied to the JTM head office in Kuala Lumpur for a 9MØ “group special event” callsign, specifically requesting 9MØC—the “C” standing for CDXC.

Neville volunteered to take charge of the logistics and was also in charge of raising corporate sponsorship. After the initial couple of meetings, it became apparent that if we had ambitions of putting on a major expedition, with particular emphasis on the low bands, we would have to take a lot of equipment. Taking such a lot of gear to a remote location half-way around the world, and bringing it all back again, was clearly going to be an expensive proposition.

## Kingdoms

The VKØIR Heard Island DXpedition team had divided their responsibilities into areas controlled by individuals they termed “Czars.” We felt that as a British DXpedition, we ought to have “Kings” instead, and so the system of “Kingdoms” was born.

As already indicated, Neville was the “Corporate Sponsorship King,” while I took on the role of “DX Association Sponsorship King.” Don, G3XTT, as a keen top-band operator, became our “LF Bands King,” with overall responsibility for ensuring that we took the most suitable antennas for 160, 80, and 40 meters. Tony, GØOPB, drew the short straw and became the “RF King,” which brought with it



*A sea view of the 9MØC antenna farm.*

the onerous responsibility of soldering a total of 150 PL259 plugs onto the ends of the 75 separate lengths of coaxial cable we took. Each member of the team brought a different area of expertise, and was assigned his Kingdom accordingly.

### More Members

The scope of the DXpedition continued to grow, and now it was clear that we needed more operators, particularly as Atsu, VK2BEX, had to pull out as he could not take sufficient time off work. We felt that although this was a British-led and British-organized DXpedition, we nevertheless wanted at least one American and one Japanese operator on the team. Several of the members of the group had operated during contests with John Krzymuski, G4DQW, who had recently moved to New York with his job and was now licensed as N2QW. John, who was already a CDXC member, was invited to join the group, as an "honorary" second American operator. It proved more difficult to find an alternate Japanese operator, but eventually Kazu Ogasawara, JA1RJU, was signed up.

Because of our commitment to the low bands, our "Topband King," Don, G3XTT, suggested that another specialist of low band operation would be a welcome addition. Mike Devereux, G3SED, fit the bill perfectly.

Ray Gerrard, G3NOM, who was living

in Kuala Lumpur and licensed as 9M2OM, helped to obtain the 9M0C license by visiting JTM headquarters in person on several occasions, so Ray was also invited to join the team. Experience had shown that having a "man on the ground" was almost essential, and Donald Soh, 9M6SU, from Kota Kinabalu was asked to help with local arrangements in Sabah.

Finally, CDXC member Jeff Morris, 9H1EL, with whom a number of us had operated in the past, was also asked to join, making a total of 13 operators from five countries.

All members of the team were on the Internet, and between meetings of the UK group, much communication took place by e-mail. We estimate that something like 15,000 e-mails were sent around cyberspace during the planning stages of the expedition.

### Sponsorship

Most fairly large DXpeditions receive sponsorship of some sort, usually from the various DX associations and foundations around the world. The Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) is particularly well-known, and for good reason, as it has considerable reserves and is able to support several small DXpeditions each year with moderate financial donations, subject to some fairly strict criteria. For larger DXpeditions, such as the one we were

planning, donations in the region of thousands of dollars are possible.

CDXC, with a membership of around 350, is also able to support serious DXpeditions, usually with a donation of about \$350. This sum is normally matched by the RSGB's HF DXpedition Fund, which is financed mainly by income from the raffle held each year at the RSGB HF Convention. We were delighted to receive a donation of almost \$3500 from the HF DXpedition Fund, the largest sum ever provided by them for a single expedition, on the grounds that this was by now far and away the largest DXpedition ever organized by a UK group.

With financial sponsorship from the NCDXF, CDXC, the European DX Foundation, many other DX associations, generous individuals, plus material provided either free of charge, on loan, or at cost price by numerous other companies, it looked as though we would be able to keep within our original budget—just. We had now put ourselves in the major league of DXpeditions, and it looked as if it was going to become a very expensive undertaking. In order to fulfil our goals, it would be necessary to ship out large quantities of material such as antennas, mast, and coax, something that would be beyond the scope of smaller DXpeditions because of the cost.

Neville threw himself into the role of cor-

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	1.8	3.5	7.0	10.1	14.0	18.0	21.0	24.9	28.0	50	Total
CW	1149	2830	6554	5710	4635	3563	4529	3018	2048	262	34298
SSB	0	1420	4312	0	7511	2996	7282	2576	2632	127	28856
RTTY	0	0	0	0	1315	56	635	0	69	0	2075
FM	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	294	0	295
<b>Total</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>4250</b>	<b>10866</b>	<b>5710</b>	<b>13461</b>	<b>6615</b>	<b>12447</b>	<b>5594</b>	<b>5043</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>65524</b>

Table I—9MØC QSOs by mode/band.

	CW	SSB	RTTY	FM	Total
Africa	115	195	4	0	314
Asia	11309	12438	823	290	24860
Europe	16844	9086	764	1	26695
North America	5345	5695	442	1	11483
Oceania	442	1120	33	3	1598
South America	243	322	9	0	574

Table II—QSOs by continent/mode.

	1.8	3.5	7.0	10.1	14.0	18.0	21.0	24.9	28.0	50
Africa	2	17	51	28	116	25	27	32	16	0
Asia	398	1497	3090	1268	4541	3038	5313	2442	2884	389
Europe	567	1718	5501	3617	5100	2038	4283	2306	1565	0
N. Amer.	150	879	1927	695	2991	1320	2406	698	417	0
Oceania	32	123	186	68	536	167	296	90	100	0
S. Amer.	0	16	111	34	177	27	122	26	61	0

Table III—QSOs by continent/band.

porate sponsorship fund raiser with considerable enthusiasm. Because of the excellent relationship between the RSGB IOTA program and Yaesu, he was able to negotiate a deal with Yaesu which meant we could take four FT-1000MP transceivers, fully filtered, with four of their new VL-1000 solid-state linear amplifiers. We wanted to operate 6 meters, and Yaesu kindly provided two FT-920 transceivers, which cover 1.8–50 MHz.

Cushcraft was another major sponsor, through UK importer Nevada Communications, and provided our HF and 6 meter beams. These included a 3-element monobander for 20 meters, two A3S tri-banders, an A3WS WARC bands Yagi, and a 5-element monobander for "six."

UK amateur radio dealer Martin Lynch & Son agreed to provide much of our coaxial cable requirements. We took 6600 ft. of coax in total(!)—and added two of the excellent Heil Pro headsets with boom microphones. Martin also made up the DXpedition T-shirts, which bear his logo along with that of CDXC.

Dunestar of USA loaned three complete sets of their single-band band-pass filters which proved essential in preventing interstation interference; vital in a multi-transmitter environment.

We are extremely grateful to all the sponsors who have helped, and a complete list can be found at the end of this article.

## Arrival

Around 1.5 tons of equipment was shipped out to Kota Kinabalu at the end of 1997. It was taken to Layang Layang

on an open-deck fishing trawler by Donald, 9M6SU, and three other 9M6 amateurs, all of whom succumbed to sea sickness during the 24-hour voyage. Donald had also hacked seven 35–40ft bamboo poles from the jungle and took these to the island on the boat. These were later to prove invaluable for supporting ancillary wire antennas.

Eventually the day came when we all met up for the first time as a single group, in Kota Kinabalu. We were met at the airport by Donald and Phil Weaver, 9M6CT (formerly VS6CT). They had arranged a welcome dinner for us at a local Chinese restaurant, where we met many members of the Sabah and Borneo radio clubs.

The following morning we were again transported to the airport for the 70-minute flight by Twin Otter to Layang Layang. We were greeted by Steve and Coralie Stewart, the friendly Australian managers of the Layang Layang Island Resort, which is now a premier, world-standard dive location.

The temperature on Layang Layang was 95°F in the shade—except there was no shade. A stiff breeze made the temperature bearable, but antenna work in the midday sun risked second-degree sunburn. Steve and Coralie allowed us to use the conference room on the island for our stations. This was so large (about 80 by 60 ft.) that most of the antenna construction could take place indoors, in air-conditioned comfort. Of course the antenna erection itself had to be done outside, but with over 20 different antennas to make we were not ready to do this until the following day.

A combination of jet-lag and excitement at the forthcoming operation meant that few slept well, so accordingly we were all up at 6 AM the following morning for the massive antenna erection party, before the sun became too strong. Everything went very smoothly; the months of detailed planning paid off, as everyone knew exactly where each required part was located.

The conference room was located at one end of the resort, with about half a mile of open scrubland and coral sand to the west, on which we could plan our antenna farm.

We had decided that to do a serious job on the low bands, we would need to take either a Yagi or something similar for 40 meters. A Yagi was eventually dismissed on the grounds that in order to work effectively, it would have to be mounted high above the ground, which would prove to be difficult on a coral sand island. We eventually decided on a 40 meter four-square (4-SQ) array—four phased quarter-wave verticals with quarter-wave spacing. This decision was made before the Heard Island DXpedition, but we were certain our choice was the correct one after the Heard Island team reported excellent results with their 4-SQ arrays. Although we originally planned to take a single vertical for 80 meters, once we had decided on a 4-SQ array for 40 meters, it didn't take too long before it was suggested we also take one for 80 meters.

The 80 meter 4-SQ array, based on center-loaded US-made Gladiator verticals, with 65 ft. spacing between the elements and 65 ft. elevated radials, took up the most space, and this antenna was sited about 1000 ft. away from the shack. Because of the long feeder run, the array was fed with RG214 low-loss coax; even on 80 meters every dB counts. The Yagis were mounted in a line along the shore, all within just a few feet of the sea, and with a perfect salt-water take-off for hundreds of miles.

To ensure we had a good signal on 160 meters, we took Neville's Titanex vertical. This is an 85 ft. vertical made from titanium alloy. Extremely light and flexible, it can be erected by just two people. We were also loaned a Battle Creek Special for 160, 80, and 40 meters by the Battle Creek, Michigan, DX group.

By 11.30 PM local time, a full 24 hours ahead of schedule, everything was ready to go. I had the privilege of making the first QSO, with K5DV, on 20 meters SSB.

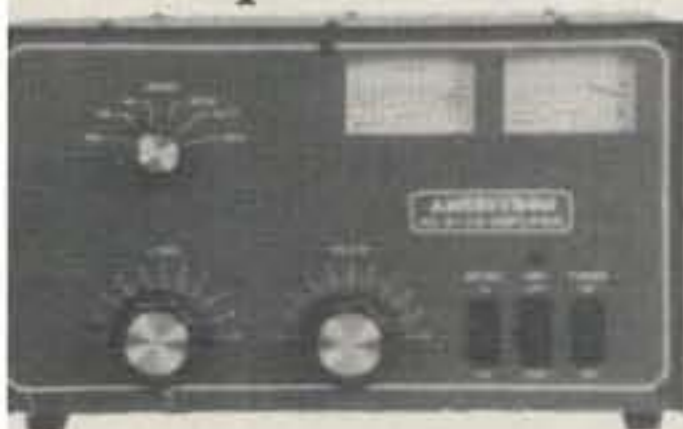
## 9MØC On the Air

Thus began 12 days of continuous operation. We had the four FT-1000MP plus VL-1000 stations located in the four corners of the conference room, and all four stations were kept on the air around the



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The 9M0C team. Left to right: Tony, G0OPB; Mike, G3SED; Don, G3OZF; John, G3WGV; John, G4DQW/N2QW; Donald, 9M6SU; Neville, G3NUG; Jeff, 9H1EL; Don, G3XTT; Steve, G4JVG; Vince, K5VT; Ray, 9M2OM/G3NOM; and Kazu, JA1RJU.

clock. One problem we faced early on was having to make a strategic decision as to which four bands to operate, as—especially around dawn and dusk—there were times when all nine HF bands were open simultaneously.

One of the FT-920s was operating in break-in beacon mode on 50.102MHz, but with no callers on 6 meters at all, it was soon decided that, at peak HF propagation times, the 6 meter station should be put on a fifth band. It didn't take long before the "spare" FT-920 was also pressed into service on a sixth band!

It was, of course, not possible to keep six stations on the air simultaneously all the time. For a start, there were not enough operators. We did have to eat and sleep as well! Second, from around 11 AM local time (0300 UTC) until perhaps 4 PM (0800 UTC) daily, absorption meant that the only bands that were really open were 21 and 24 MHz. There were some short openings into Japan during this period, but often signals were weak and business slow. However, for 24 hours a day we kept four stations on the air, and there were long periods with five or six stations active.

During the first 24 hours of operation, 8000 QSOs were put into the 9M0C log. The pile-ups were intense, but—at least from our end—appeared to be well-disciplined for the main part.

A major difficulty was the extremely high level of tropical thunderstorm static, especially on 160 and 80 meters. This meant that although we were receiving reports that the Titanex vertical was putting out a very strong signal on 160 meters, our topband operators, G3SED and G3XTT, had the greatest of difficulty in re-

ceiving any station at all, even those with extremely strong signals.

Many hours were spent experimenting with Beverages, a magnetic loop, and a low dipole as receive antennas, but it was only in the last few days of the operation, when the static level suddenly decreased, that it became possible to receive many stations on 160 meters.

Eighty meters was somewhat more successful, although on at least one night I found it impossible to hear any signals other than the relatively local JAs and VKs because of the atmospheric noise. However, the directional 4-SQ array proved a useful, relatively low-noise antenna, and on quieter nights a great many European and North American stations were put into the log.

The 40 meter 4-SQ worked superbly well. It was so directional that European stations could easily be worked through S9+ JA's, simply by switching from the NE to the NW direction. Our most difficult target area, the East Coast of North America, was worked with relative ease on 40 meters, and much to our surprise, 40 meters quickly became the band of choice for working the East Coast.

During our 12 days of operation, the solar flux peaked at 107, with the A index falling to zero for a couple of days. This led to some good 28 MHz openings to North America and Europe, with G stations being worked between about 0900 and 1100 UTC on several consecutive days.

Most of the time, however, conditions on the higher bands were not particularly good. To a large extent our antennas made up for this, with the Cushcraft 203CD full-size, 20 meter, 3-element Yagi being the star performer. We installed this

antenna on a 40 ft. pole, 50 ft. directly above the sea. Comparing it directly with a tri-bander at a lower height revealed about two "S" points difference over the important long path to Europe. Again, this made us feel we had taken the right antenna, and made the effort of putting it up at that height really worthwhile.

## Internet Integration

One relatively recent development for DXpeditions is that of integration with the Internet. John Linford, G3WGV, was our "Technology King" and wrote some software specially for the DXpedition, which further developed techniques used by the Heard Island group.

One really useful feature of John's software was that the four main operating positions were linked to a central server by means of a low-power 70 cm wireless LAN (in effect this was a temporary Spratly Packet Cluster system). This meant that all the operators knew exactly who was operating which station, and through utilizing the FT-1000MP band data, on which frequency and mode. When stations asked the inevitable questions such as "When are you going to be on 10 meters CW?" it was great to be able to say, "We're actually on 28022 kHz CW, 24945 kHz SSB, and 14195 kHz SSB right now!"

It was also possible to interrogate the server from any of the operating positions, for example to show how many QSOs had been made by any particular callsign, and on which bands and modes those QSOs had taken place.

Of course, all our stations were in one (very large) room, but the idea of this system is that it could link several remote operating sites up to a distance of several hundred meters from each other. The effect was that each DXpedition operator was almost uniquely well-informed about the activity of the other stations, and just as important, was able to give out this information on request to the waiting pile-up.

Having the logs from all six stations merged into a central server provided almost instantaneous back-up of the whole log, and allowed for an easy means of providing the log on the Internet.

The integration of the DXpedition with the Internet worked in three main ways. First, the DXpedition had (and still has) its own Internet page, at <<http://members@aol.com/spratly98>>. The page was gradually built up over the 18-month planning period, and included an overview of the planned operation, along with a map of the area, pictures of the core team, links to our sponsors' pages, and so on. During the DXpedition itself, the page was maintained by Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, who was able to upload pictures of the island and antennas which we took using a digital camera and sent by e-mail to Martin.

Second, daily feedback during the



John, G3WGV, operating the Yaesu FT-1000MP with the VL-1000 linear amplifier.

course of the operation was from a series of "pilots," using e-mail. For the Americas, our pilot was Don Greenbaum, N1DG; in Asia, Yoichi Sakurada, JP1NWZ; while for the remainder of the world it was Martin, G3ZAY. Don, Yoichi, and Martin's e-mail addresses were published, and amateurs were invited to provide feedback via the appropriate pilot. The pilots would then pass on a digest of the comments to us. These were both of the "heard other south-east Asians on 10 meters long path but you weren't on," and the "worked you first call on 160 meters—you're doing a great job, guys" type. Both types of message were very valuable to us. The former type alerted us to possible openings that we might otherwise have missed, while the latter gave our egos an at times much needed boost.

The third way the Internet was used was with the provision of log servers. Each day John, G3WGV, uploaded the complete 9M0C log by e-mail to Don, N1DG, and Richard Everitt, G4ZFE. John Clayton, G4PDQ, also posted the logs on the DX Packet Cluster system. This enabled amateurs to check that they were indeed in our log, and thus hopefully reduce the number of duplicate contacts on a given band or mode. This service proved to be extremely popular, with over 20,000 "hits" being recorded by the log servers.

## Summing Up

We went to Spratly with the target of making 40,000 QSOs. We felt this was realistic, given the number of operators, stations, and antennas we were taking. However, I don't think any of the operators really thought we would exceed this target by such a large margin. Our final QSO tally was 65,558. This makes the 9M0C operation the fourth biggest DXpedition of all time in terms of QSO numbers.

We were also very pleased at the quality of these contacts, not just the quantity. G3SED and G3XTT between them made over 1100 contacts on 160 meters in extremely difficult circumstances. This included no fewer than 39 UK stations. On all bands, especially 40 meters, we worked large numbers of East Coast USA/Canadian stations across a very difficult, almost antipodal path, across the auroral zone.

On the WARC bands, we often worked the pile-ups dry on 18 and 24 MHz. There was one occasion when I was calling CQ on 18145 kHz and getting no replies at all. Then JF1IST/7J on Okino Torishima opened up on 18150 kHz and immediately had a large pile-up of JA operators, which proved that the band was open, but that we had worked all those who were around at that time. On the other hand, on 10 MHz we made around 6000 QSOs, and even at the end of the operation there were still large pile-ups.

On RTTY we made 2075 QSOs, which we believe is more than any other DXpedition. On 6 meters we worked 389 stations, mainly in Japan and including all 10 JA call districts. We also worked almost all the active 6 meters operators in Hong Kong.

As expected, the toughest areas to work were the East Coast and mid-west of the US, though we were able to give many amateurs in those areas the last one they needed for 5BWAZ. To our surprise, 40 quickly became the preferred band for working into the East Coast, the four-square putting excellent signals into that area. Thirty meters also gave good results. We used a pair of phased verticals much of the time, fashioned from modified CB whips, and a typical comment from an N2 amateur to our US pilot N1DG was "I just worked 9M0C on 30 meters with 100 watts and my A3W (dipole) at 20 feet high!"



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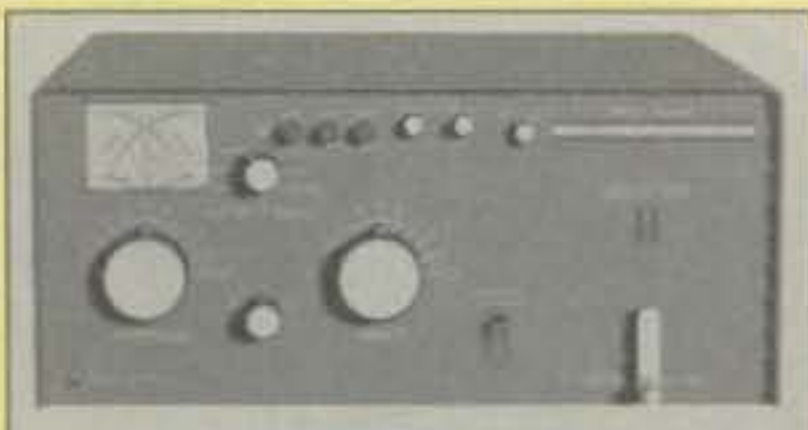
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A very important factor in this success was that all the antennas and equipment worked flawlessly throughout. The Yaesu FT-1000MP is tried and tested and is a superb performer, but it was arguably a risk taking VL-1000 amplifiers, which are so new as to be virtually untested in the amateur market. We needn't have worried: With automatic band-switching and tune-up, when used with the FT-1000MP, you simply could forget that they were there. Band changing was virtually instantaneous and involved just pressing one button on the 1000MP and switching to the correct antenna. Without exception, all the 9M0C operators were very impressed indeed with this new piece of equipment.

As for the antennas, the Cushcraft beams were easy to assemble, well made, and performed flawlessly. In the mornings all the Yagis would be beaming at Japan and North America. This was an awesome sight indeed, particularly as they were all in line and within 10 ft. of the sea. There must have been a huge amount of RF going in that direction! In the evenings we turned them all towards Europe, another wonderful sight as the tropical sunset highlighted the mass of aluminum. Equally, the LF antennas were a dream, with the all-around sea-water take-off obviously helping those low angles.

All in all we were delighted with the success of the operation and by the feedback received from the amateur community. Thanks to all the sponsors, to all the amateurs in Sabah who helped us in many ways, and to Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH, who in a moment of weakness volunteered to take on the task of QSL manager! Phil is QTHR and will be answering both direct and bureau QSLs.

**CDXC**

The 9M0C DXpedition was organized by CDXC (Chiltern DX Club), The UK DX Foundation. For a CDXC prospectus, please contact Alan Jubb, G3PMR, Secretary CDXC, 30 West St., Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds SG19 3AU, England or e-mail Alan at <SHACKLOG@aol.com>.

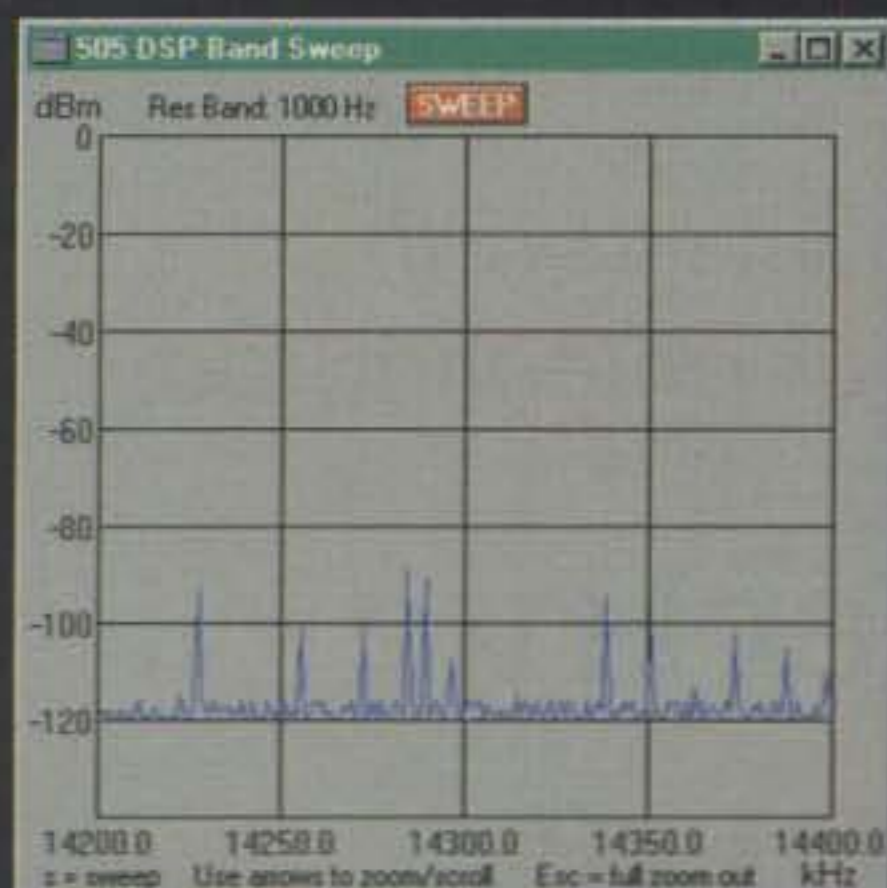
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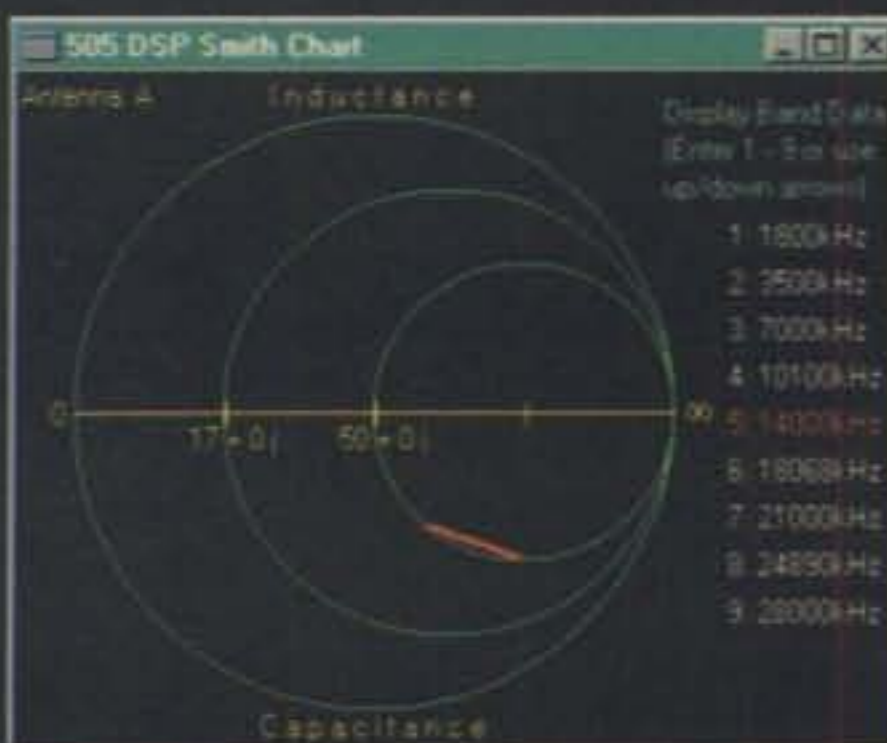
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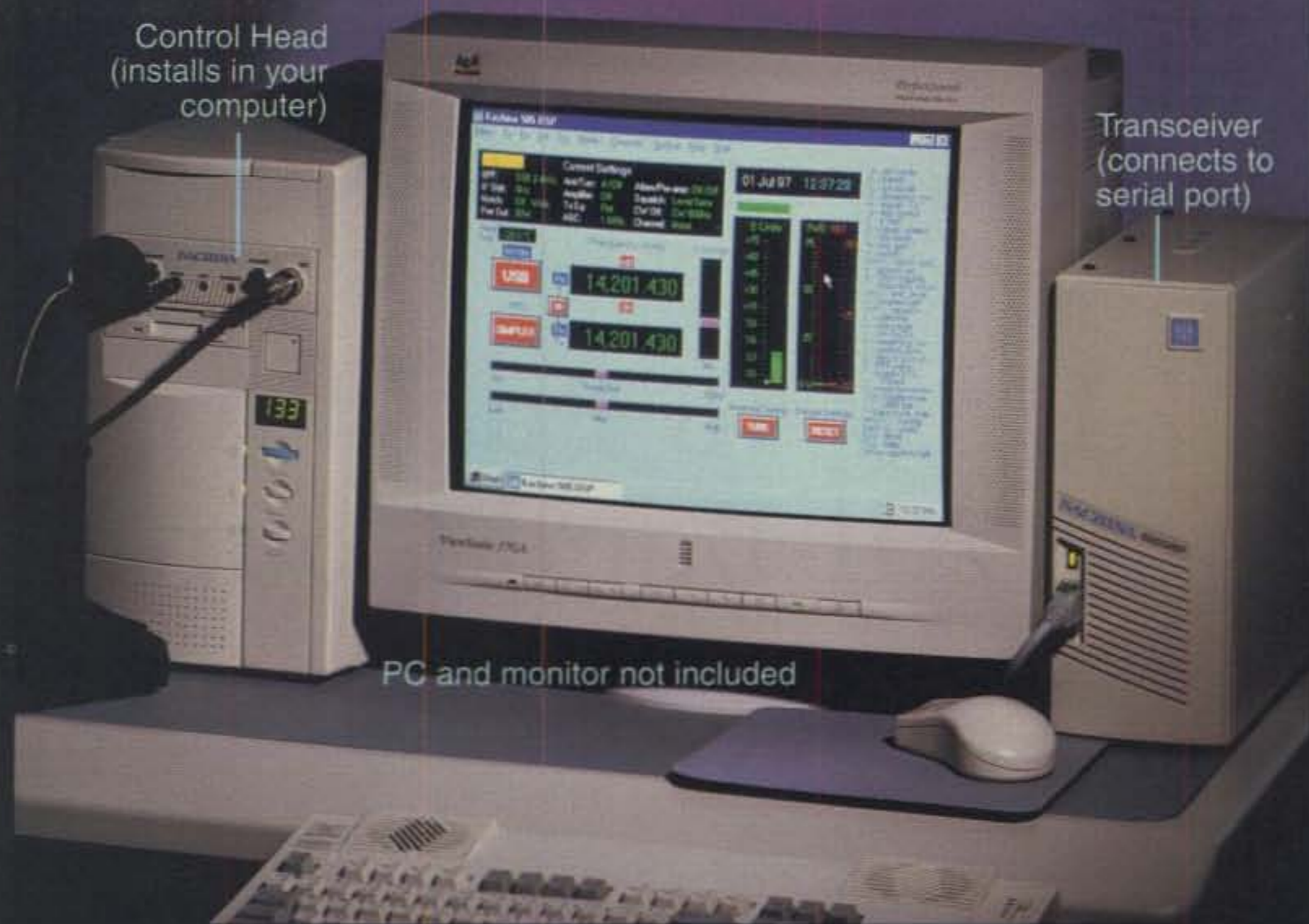
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# How To Build An Effective All-Band Counterpoise

BY RICHARD BRUNNER\*, AA1P

For several years I have been using a vertical antenna (Butternut HF9V-X) on all bands, 160 through 10 meters, using a simple all-band counterpoise with great satisfaction. A  $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave or  $\frac{3}{4}$ -wave vertical must have a counterpoise or ground grid to work properly and be effective, and here in New England, with thin rocky soil, a ground grid looks more like a 50 ohm dummy load (at least in my backyard)! Also, a counterpoise is much less trouble to install and gives performance comparable to a very extensive ground system.<sup>1</sup> This counterpoise will work very well with any antenna requiring a ground system, principally  $\frac{1}{4}$ - or  $\frac{3}{4}$ -wave verticals.

Everyone knows what a ground grid is—many (20 to 120) radials,  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength long, laid on the ground or buried, and connected to the base of the vertical antenna. A counterpoise is a wire or system of a few wires suspended above ground. Both have their physical hazards. You haven't lived until you've tripped on your own ground grid. Always be wary and careful.

With a vertical antenna, the antenna currents return through the ground, causing series resistive losses. One way to minimize losses is to put many wires in or on the ground (ground grid), shorting-out the resistive path. The other way is to use a counterpoise, which keeps most of the electric field and return currents out of the ground, also minimizing losses. Counterpoises have been used with high-power VLF transmitters, and worked as well as or better than in-ground systems, depending on ground conductivity. They were eventually replaced with in-ground systems because of maintenance problems from ice storms and their occasionally starting field fires. The counterpoises were 10 feet off the ground.<sup>2</sup>

Purists will object that one radial (80

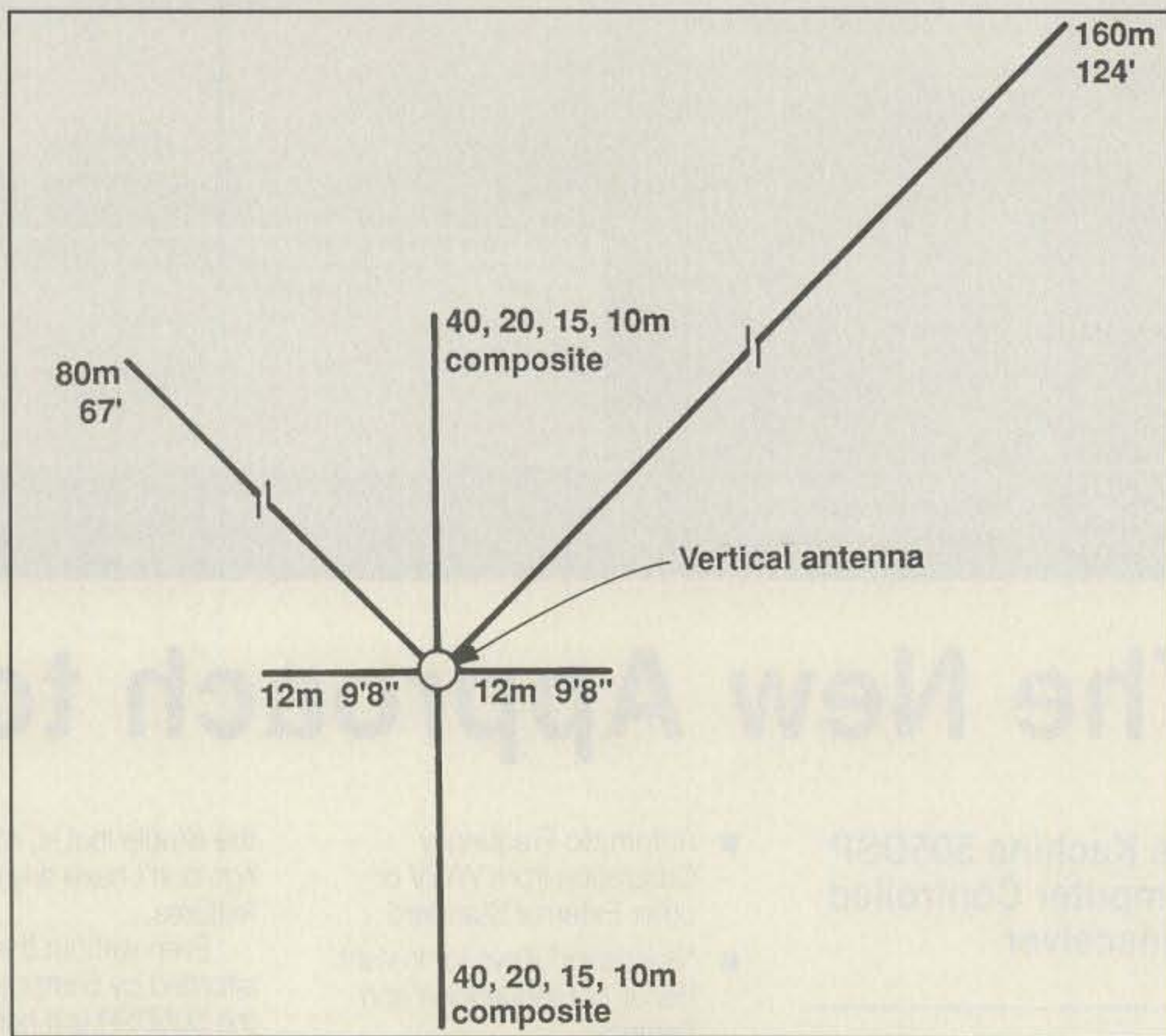


Fig. 1—The overall plan for the all-band counterpoise.

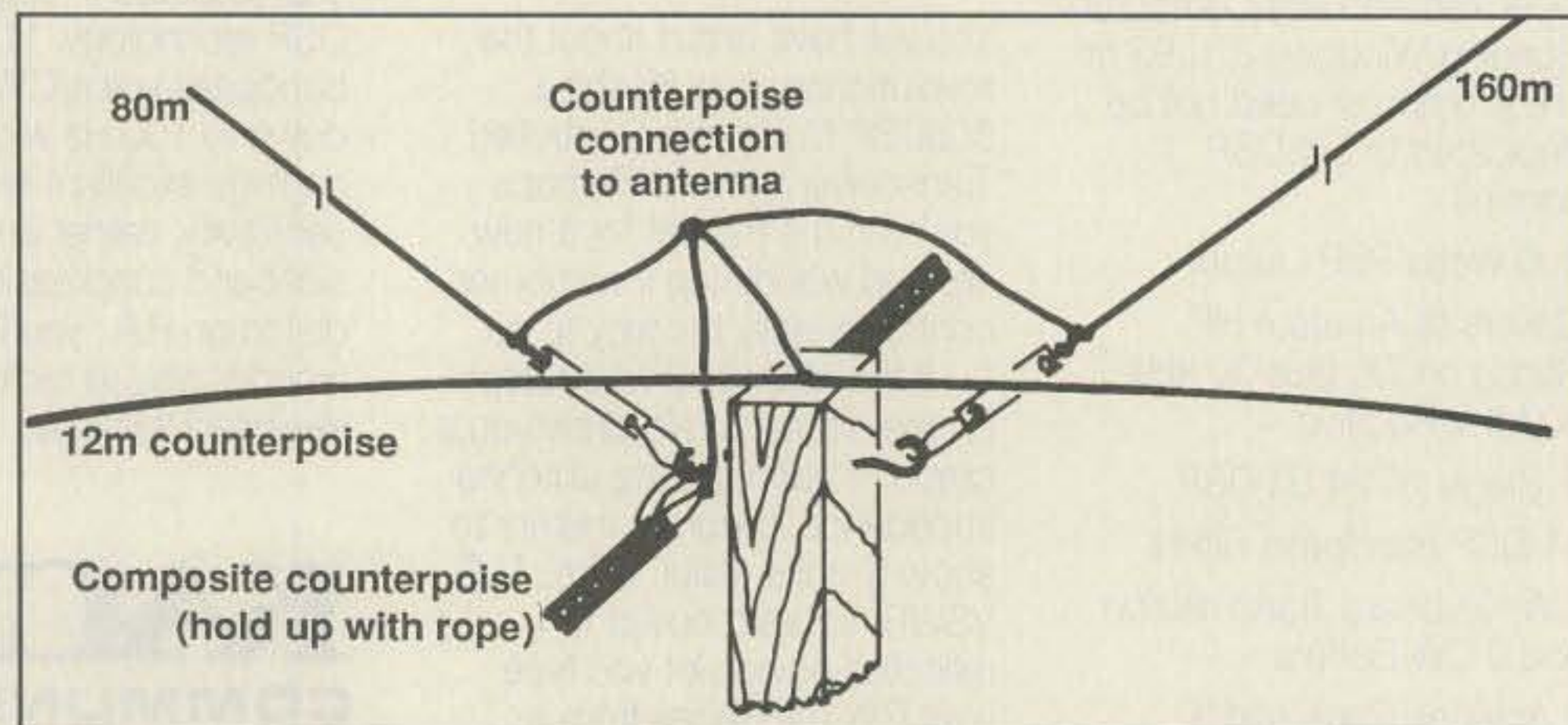


Fig. 2—How to connect the counterpoise to your vertical antenna.

\*10 Brookside Drive, Foxboro, MA 02035  
e-mail <richard.brunner@stoneweb.com>

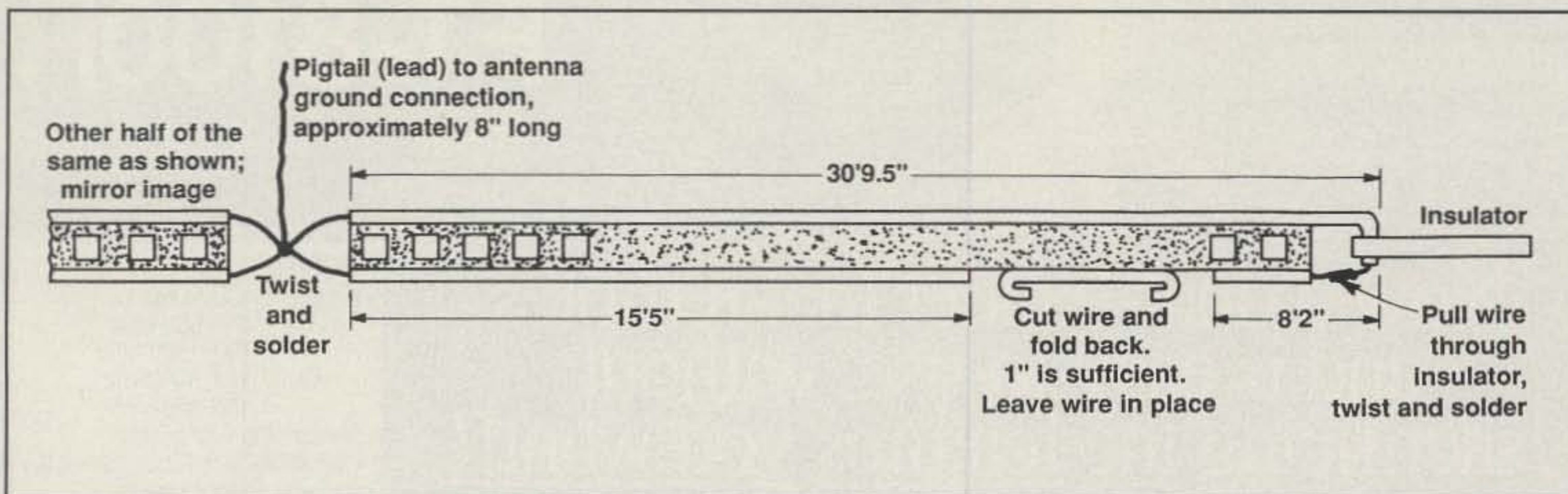


Fig. 3— The 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter ladderline counterpoise.

meters and 160 meters) is unbalanced and will permit horizontally polarized radiation from the counterpoise. That is true, as from a 10 foot high antenna, and we are in favor of radiation!

- For 160 and 80 meters I use *one* radial each. This is a variation on the old "1/4 wave up and 1/4 wave out," popular back in the 1920s. It worked well then and works well now. (See figs. 1 and 2.)

- For 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters I use a composite counterpoise made of 450 ohm

ladderline. One conductor is full length for 1/4-wave resonance on 40 meters and 3/4 wave on 15 meters, and one conductor is 1/4 wavelength for 20 meters. The long conductor is folded back to form a 10 meter stub, which isolates the first 3/4's to form 3/4 wavelength on 10. (See fig. 3.)

- No additional counterpoise is required for 30 and 17 meters, probably due to multiple wavelength resonance on the 80 and 160 meter counterpoises.

- 12 meters: Use two radials 9 ft. 8 in.

long. Actually, I used two radials from an old ground-plane, 9 ft. long with a 20 in. pigtail.

Place the counterpoise high enough off the ground so you cannot hang yourself on it. Mine is 10 ft. off the ground at the ends and something less in the middle of the spans. More height is acceptable. Another reason to keep it off the ground is because there is some coupling to the ground, and closer proximity will cause higher losses. I notice some detuning

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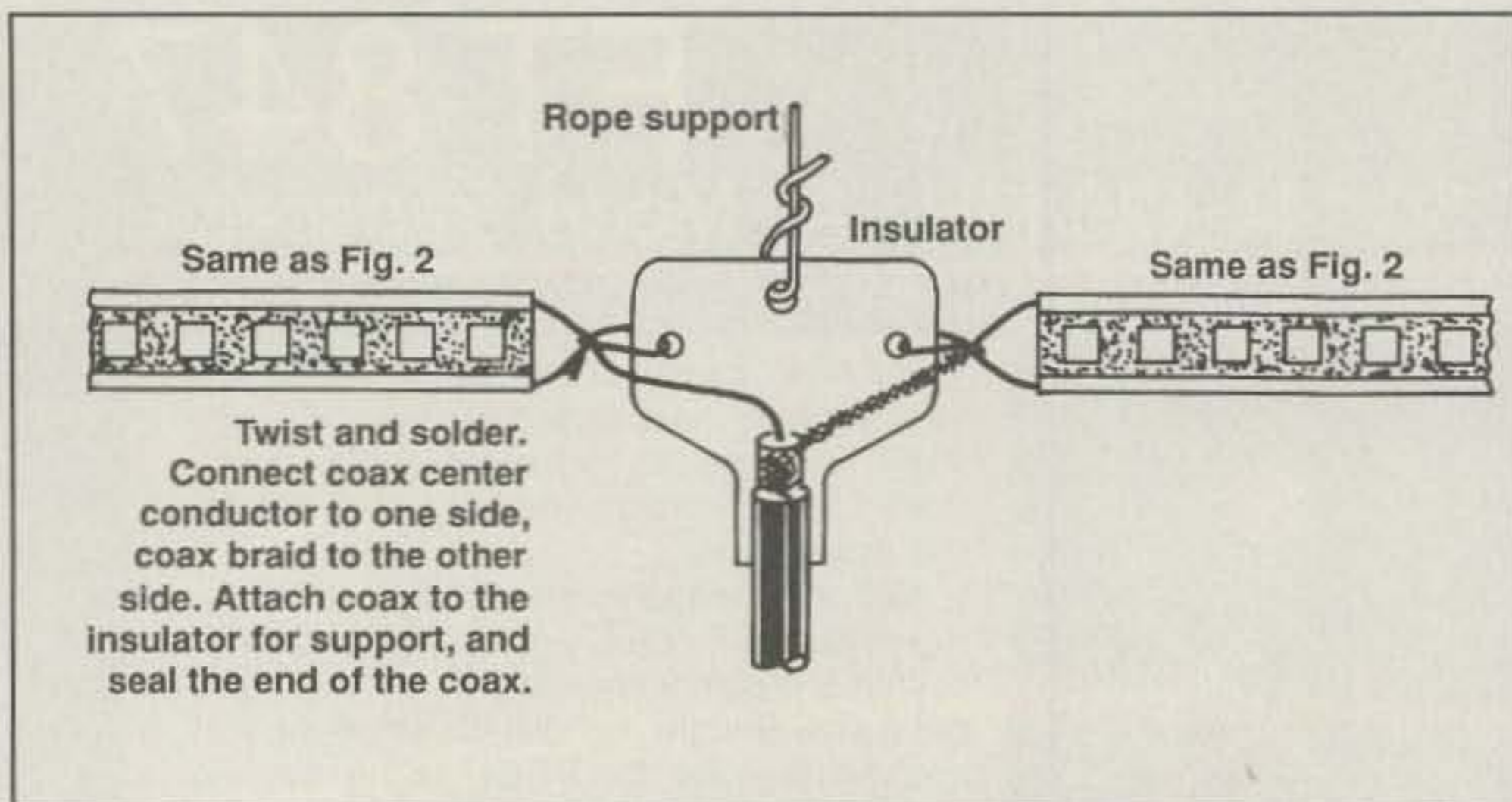


Fig. 4— The "ladderline" 4-band dipole for 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

(lower resonant frequency) when the ground is wet, but it is not a problem.

In constructing the counterpoise, the ends must be insulated the same as for any wire antenna. Strictly speaking, the ends of the counterpoise wires at the antenna are at ground potential and need not

be insulated, but I insulate them anyway where possible to assure control of where the RF currents are going, and to prevent conductors rubbing together causing strange noises in the receiver. Also, cover your soldered joints with Vaseline® or grease or something, or in a few years the

solder will deteriorate and you will have non-performing joints. The leads shown as "Pigtails" in the figures are merely short lengths of wire connecting the counterpoise elements to the antenna, in my case to the coaxial cable braid.

When installing the counterpoise elements, space them as far apart as practicable (see fig. 1). If they are too close together they will couple with unpredictable results. I originally suspended the 12 meter wires beneath the ladderline elements, and could not achieve 15 meter resonance on the antenna! Rotating the 12 meter elements 90 degrees solved the problem.

Note that the composite counterpoise will also make a good four-band dipole if fed in the center with coaxial cable (but not at the same time). With the dimensions given, resonance was measured at 7.1, 14.12, 21.23, and 28.47 MHz (see fig. 3). Seal the end of the coaxial cable, because you will have very bad results if water gets into your cable. Coax is heavy, so this antenna should be supported at the center.

For composite design of the ladderline counterpoise/antenna, other frequencies may be easily calculated:

- 1/4 wavelength resonance:  $L \text{ (ft.)} = (246/f(\text{MHz}) \times \text{VF} \times \text{end effect})$
- 3/4 wavelength resonance:  $L \text{ (ft.)} = 2(246/f(\text{MHz}) \times \text{VF}) + (246/f \text{ MHz} \times \text{VF} \times \text{end effect})$
- 3/4 wavelength resonance with isolation stub:  $3(246/f(\text{MHz}) \times \text{VF}) + \text{stub} = \text{approx. } 4(246/f(\text{MHz}) \times \text{VF})$

VF = Velocity Factor, 0.92 for 450 ohm ladder line (measured)

End effect = 0.97 (3%)

One could also use 300 ohm ribbon using a VF of 0.75, but it is not recommended. The conductors are easily broken, and then it stretches like taffy!

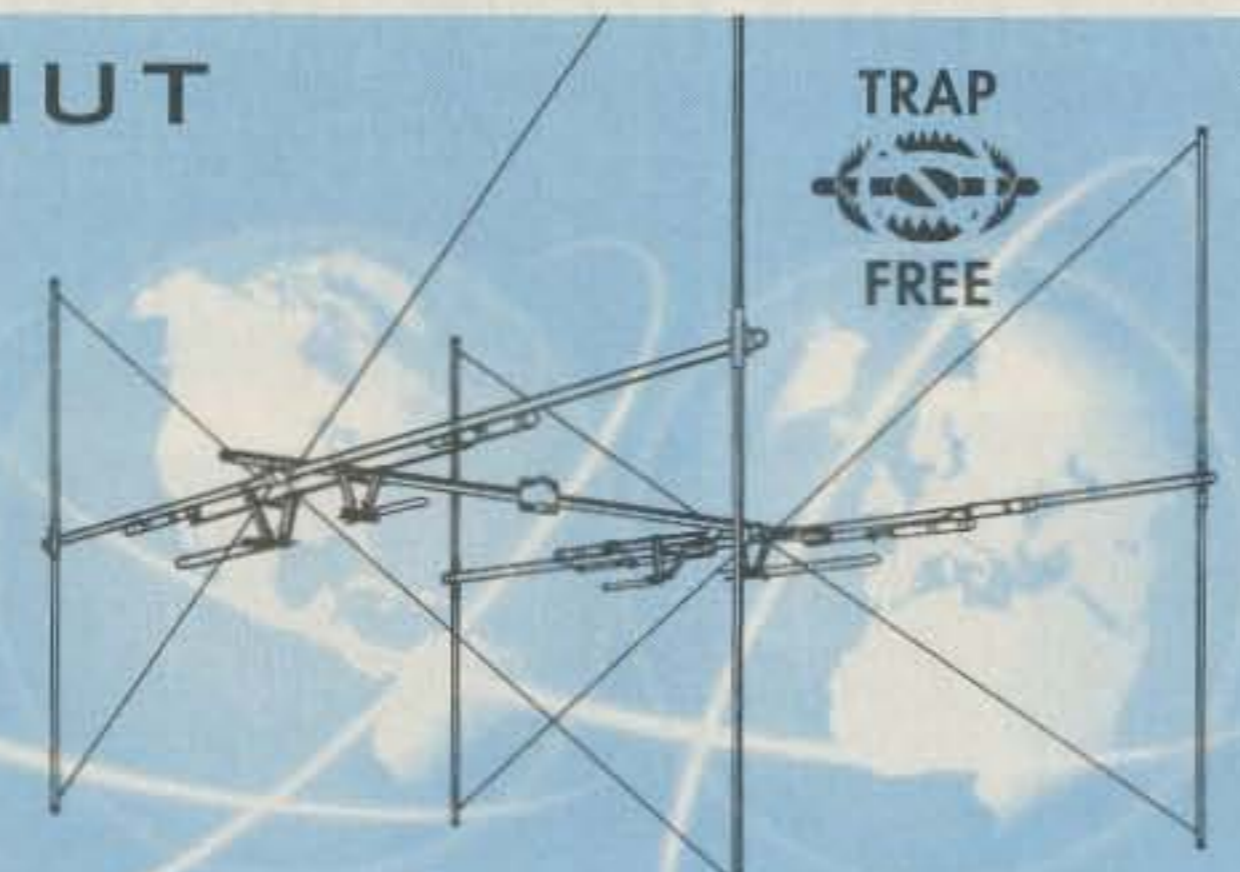
By now you are wondering if the counterpoise really works. The answer is yes! My first contact on 80 meters was a G3 (England), and on the higher bands it works as well as any antenna I've ever had. On 30 meters I easily worked Australia and Japan, and on 20 meters I worked the South Pole through a pileup with 100 watts! On 160 meters a short vertical antenna is inferior to a horizontal "Cloud Warmer" for nearby contacts, and usable bandwidth is narrow (12 kHz), but I have had many good contacts, and DX is always a possibility.

## References

1. *Build Efficient, Short Vertical Antennas*, Thomas Kuehl, AC7A, QST, March 1998, pp. 39-44.
2. *Antenna Engineering Handbook*, Henry Jasik, McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1961, Section 19.4, Low-Frequency Ground Systems. ■

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Roller inductor makes tuning smooth and easy. Turns counter lets you quickly re-tune to frequency. Lighted Cross-Needle Meter reads SWR/forward/reflected/peak/average power in 2 ranges. Current balun reduces feedline radiation and forces equal currents into unbalanced antennas.

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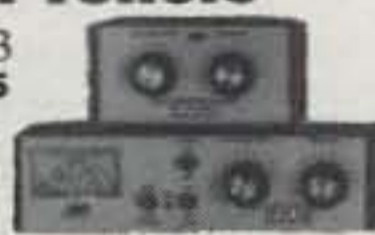


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CIRCLE 123 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Put on your thinking cap, get a pencil and paper (you can use your computer if you want to), and follow along with VE3ERP as he describes an affordable, available-space antenna.

# A Closer Look at The Extended Double Zepp Antenna

BY GEORGE MURPHY\*, VE3ERP

The Zepp could possibly be the daddy of all antennas, harking back to the very early years of the 20th century, when it was used in Zeppelins while the Wright Brothers were still building bicycles. The Extended Double Zepp (EDZ) has been in popular amateur radio use almost ever since. I call it "Daddy Long Legs" because in its pristine form (see fig. 1) it requires a lot of real estate. For instance, a 1/2-wave dipole cut for the electrical center of the 12 meter band (24.940 MHz) is a sparse 5.7 m (18' 9") long, while an EDZ for the same frequency needs about 14.6 m (48' 0") of countryside to stretch out in. The good news (conveyed to me by Dean Manley, KH6B) is that in its multiband configuration the EDZ can be shortened to fit a more reasonable available space!

## Design Considerations

If you think this is a studious dissertation containing impressive equations, think again. I know very little about antenna theory, and I do all my math on a computer.<sup>1</sup> If you want an excellent technical description of the EDZ, you can find one in the *1994 ARRL Handbook*.<sup>2</sup>

Basically, the EDZ is a two-element collinear array that exhibits superior gain and directivity over a conventional 1/2-wave dipole. Any necessary pruning should be done on the 450 ohm transmission line, not on the horizontal elements, which should retain their 0.64 wavelength dimension. Pruning the line to a low SWR will ensure that the transmission line length is close to the optimum 52% electrical length. If this length is altered, the antenna tends to act more like a center-fed longwire, resulting in (good news!) the possibility of multiband operation at the (bad news!) expense of some

\*77 McKenzie Street, Orillia, ON L3V 6A6 Canada

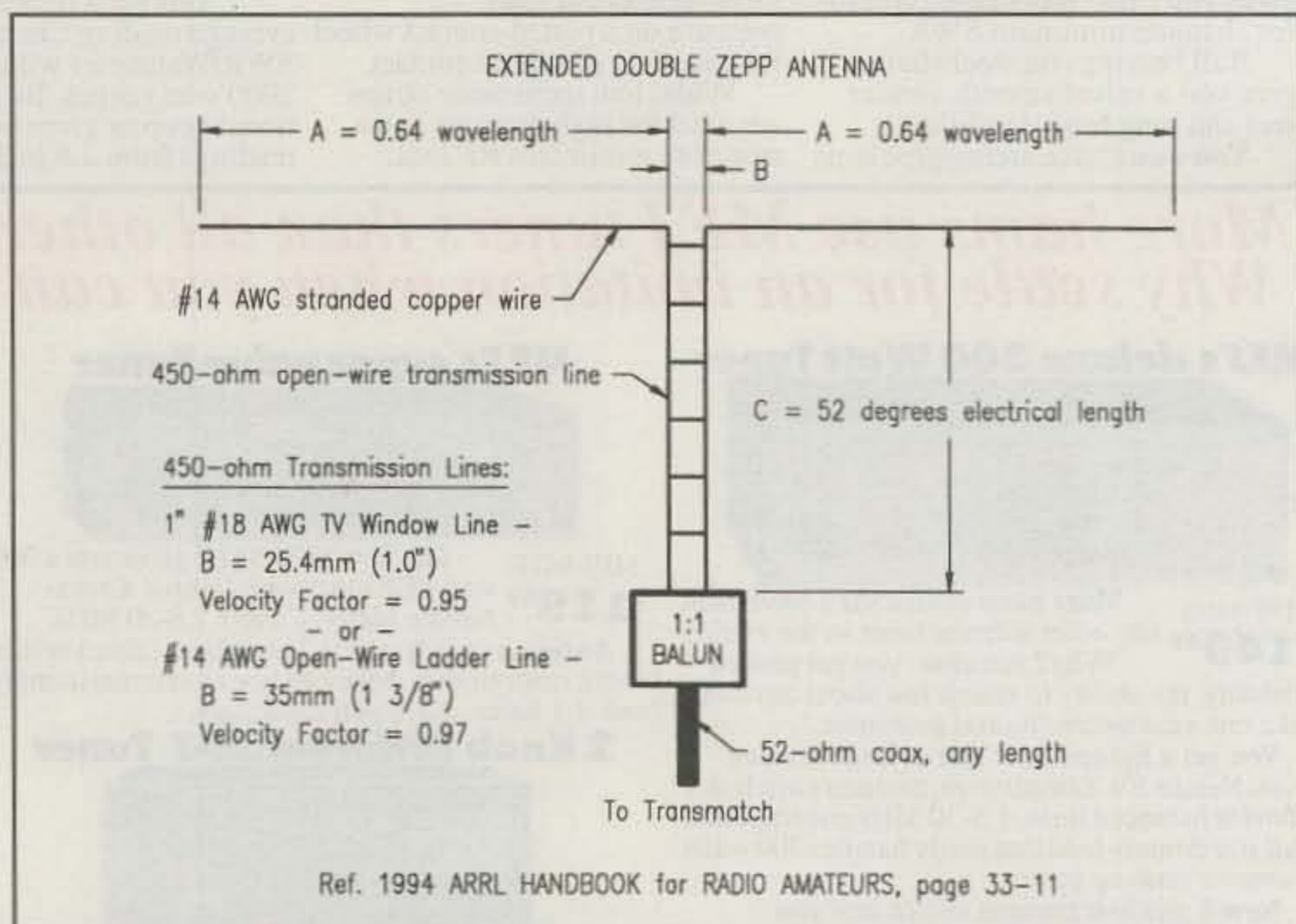


Fig. 1- The extended double Zepp antenna.

gain. In any event, a Transmatch is required for multiband operation.

You can design your own EDZ very easily either by using the following simplified equations or by a computer using *HAM-CALC*.<sup>3</sup>

## The (shudder) Math

There are two choices to start things off. If you have decided on a frequency for a monoband EDZ, you can determine the length of each 0.64 wavelength leg and of the open-wire transmission line. If you are restricted to a leg length for a multiband antenna, you can determine the base frequency. The following equations include factored-in allowances for end effect and velocity factor of the horizontal legs of the antenna.

**Step 1:** Determine frequency and length of horizontal legs:

To find leg length A where frequency is known:

$$(Eq. 1) \quad A \text{ (ft.)} = \frac{598.5}{f \text{ (MHz)}}$$

$$A \text{ (m)} = \frac{182.4}{f \text{ (MHz)}}$$

To find frequency f where leg length A is known:

$$(Eq. 2) \quad f \text{ (MHz)} = \frac{598.5}{A \text{ (ft.)}}$$

$$f \text{ (MHz)} = \frac{182.4}{A \text{ (m)}}$$

## Step 2: Calculate length of transmission line:

To find length  $C$  of the transmission line for a monoband EDZ:

$$\text{(Eq. 3)} \quad C \text{ (ft.)} = \frac{142 \text{ VF}}{f \text{ (MHz)}}$$

$$C \text{ (m)} = \frac{43.3 \text{ VF}}{f \text{ (MHz)}}$$

where VF = Velocity Factor of line

That's all there is to designing an EDZ monoband antenna. The real fun starts if you decide to create a multiband EDZ by altering the length of the transmission line. It has long been known that a dipole fed with open-wire line and a Transmatch is capable of multiband operation. While the EDZ is designed as a center-fed longwire, its two legs also form a dipole cut for some seemingly unrelated frequency. You may want to know this frequency.

## Step 3: Find resonant frequency of a dipole formed by the legs of an EDZ:

To find resonant frequency  $Df$  of a dipole  $2 \times A$  long:

$$\text{(Eq. 4)} \quad Df \text{ (MHz)} = \frac{234}{A \text{ (ft.)}}$$

$$Df \text{ (MHz)} = \frac{71.3}{A \text{ (m)}}$$

The multiband EDZ can be designed for a lowest frequency that is less than  $Df$ . This lowest frequency is determined by the new length of transmission line.

**Step 4:** Choose the desired lowest frequency of operation and determine the length of transmission line required. The chosen frequency  $Lf$  must be lower than  $Df$  from Equation 4.

To find new length  $C$  of transmission line:

$$\text{(Eq. 5)} \quad C \text{ (ft.)} = \text{VF} \left[ \frac{466}{Lf} - 2.1A \text{ (ft.)} \right]$$

$$C \text{ (m)} = \text{VF} \left[ \frac{142}{Lf} - 2.1A \text{ (m)} \right]$$

where  $Lf$  = lowest frequency of operation and  $Lf < Df$   
VF = Velocity Factor of line

## Some Design Examples

Suppose you want to design a monoband EDZ cut for 24.940 MHz, fed by 450 ohm

1 inch TV window line (velocity factor of 0.95):

From Eq. 1 the length of each leg is:

$$598.5 \div 24.94 = 24.00' = 24' 0''$$

From Eq. 3 the length of the transmission line is:

$$142 \times .95 \div 24.94 = 5.41' = 5' 5''$$

You then decide to turn this into a multiband EDZ. From Eq.4 the resonant frequency of the horizontal legs as a dipole is:

$$234 \div 24.00 = 9.75 \text{ MHz}$$

The lowest operating frequency must be less than 9.75 MHz, so you decide on starting at the 40 meter band with a lowest operating frequency of 6.9 MHz.

From Eq.5, the new length  $C$  of the transmission line is:

$$.95 \times (466 \div 6.9 - 2.1 \times 24.00) = 16.28' = 16' 3''$$

## Proof of the Pudding

Just in case you have any doubts about any of this, let's try one more. You have only 102 feet of yard space available and you want to see what you can do with it. From Eq. 4 you find you can erect a multiband EDZ with a lowest operating frequency less than:

$$234 \div 51 = 4.5 \text{ MHz}$$

Now we're getting somewhere. Why not build an EDZ that will operate on 3.5 to 30

MHz, using AWG #14 open-wire ladder line with a velocity factor of 0.97? Let's choose an 80 meter band lowest operating frequency at random—say, oh, about 3.278 MHz<sup>4</sup>? From Eq.5 the length of the transmission line is:

$$0.97 \times (466 \div 3.278 - 2.1 \times 51) = 34.0 \text{ ft.}$$

You have just designed a 102 ft. flat top antenna center-fed with a 34 ft. matching section of open-wire line, connected by any length of 52 ohm coax back to the shack. Sound familiar? It should. If the Zepp is the daddy of antennas, what you have just cloned is its most famous offspring, the G5RV.<sup>5</sup>

## Footnotes

1. *HAMCALC—Painless math for radio Amateurs*, containing nearly 200 programs, is free software obtainable from its author (me) at the address shown at the beginning of this article. For a 3 1/2" 1.44 Mb MS-DOS/Windows disk send US\$5 check or money order (no stamps or IRCs, please) to cover cost of materials and air-mail shipping anywhere in the world.

2. "An Extended Double Zepp for 12 Metres," pp. 33-11 to 33-13.

3. *HAMCALC* version 34—"Zepp EDZ Antenna" program.

4. I am pulling a fast one on you. There is nothing random about 3.278 MHz. I worked it out using *HAMCALC*'s "Zepp EDZ Antenna" program to prove a point, as you are about to find out.

5. Contrary to some advertised claims, any antenna the dimensions of which have been scaled up or down from those of the original G5RV is *not* a G5RV, but is, and will perform as, some form of center-fed random-wire antenna. ■

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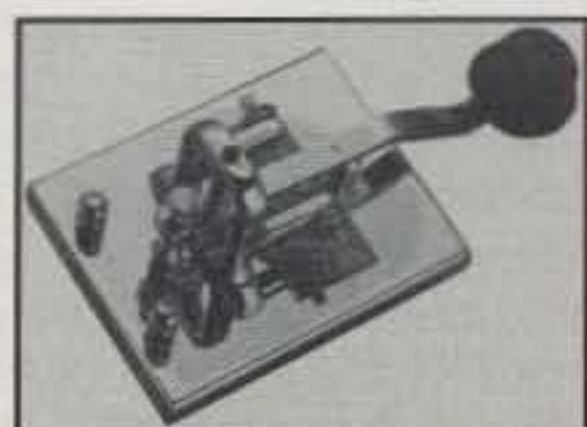
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# MATH'S NOTES

WHAT'S NEW AND HOW TO USE IT

## Computer Video vs. Conventional NTSC (TV) Video

We often are asked the question as to what the real differences between computer-related video and conventional closed-circuit NTSC TV video are and why we cannot easily use the various monitors we may have on hand for both. This month we will try to clear up some of the uncertainty.

Computer video monitors and conventional TV monitors differ in two major areas. The first is the actual vertical and horizontal scanning rates, and the second is the video signal itself. In the case of scanning, a computer often uses horizontal scanning rates that can range from 24 kHz to over 85 kHz. Standard NTSC, on the other hand, operates at a horizontal scanning rate of only 15.75 kHz. The vertical rate for computers can range from 60 Hz to over 75 Hz, while for NTSC it is nominally fixed at 60 Hz. These differences alone mean that the horizontal and vertical sweep oscillators in most NTSC monitors will not have enough range to lock onto those used for computers and will not produce a stable picture.

The video signal produced by a computer is also a very different "animal" compared to that produced by an NTSC-compatible closed-circuit TV camera. In the case of computer video, the red, green, and blue portions of the image are transmitted as separate signals on three separate conductors (appropriately called RGB), and the horizontal and vertical sync signals are transmitted on the green carrier, or on separate V sync and H sync conductors. This is why the video connector on your computer has 15 pins. In conventional NTSC, horizontal and vertical sync pulses—as well as the red, blue, and green portions of the video—are combined into what is called "composite video." This signal is then separated into its individual components by the circuitry within the TV monitor. Here, of course, the connector of choice is a simple BNC, an F style, or in some cases even an RCA type phono connector. In any event, only the center conductor and a shield are required. Table I is a chart of the most common pin connections for both types of video signals.

In addition to horizontal and vertical scanning rates, there are other less obvious differences. The conventional video system produces a complete picture (or frame) from two separate fields that are interlaced with respect to each other in 1/30 of a second. This means that during

the scanning operation the "odd" lines of a picture are first scanned in 1/60 of a second and displayed, and then the "even" lines are scanned and displayed in the second 1/60 of a second. The "merging" of the two by the persistence of vision of the human eye is what results in the final "complete" image. The fact that this "complete image" is changing at a rate of 30 frames per second is what produces the illusion of smooth motion. As a point of reference, motion pictures "update" images at 24 frames per second.

The problem with interlaced scanning is that in some scenes, especially those with thin horizontal lines (such as the patterns in some clothing), or in the case of rapid motion, there are differences between an odd and the corresponding even line 1/60 of a second later. This produces an annoying flickering in those portions of the image. In computer video interlaced scanning is not used. The computer monitor produces a complete picture in each pass so that at a 60 Hz rate, a field and a frame are the same. This effectively produces 60 frames per second. The result is that this type of flicker does not exist.

Anyone looking at a computer monitor is aware of the overall quality and resolution of the picture compared to the conventional TV. Tiny 1/16 inch high letters are clearly visible on the computer monitor screen, while 1/2 inch letters begin to blur on a TV set. This is due to two factors. The first is that the video bandwidth of conventional NTSC ranges from approximately 20 Hz to 5 or 10 MHz, while for computer video an upper bandwidth limit of from 25 to 125 MHz (or even more) is not unusual. This alone accounts for five to ten times the resolution in the vertical mode. Also, the number of scanning lines that result from the faster scanning rate can differ widely for the two formats, which also helps to produce greater resolution. Normal NTSC video produces a theoretical 525 lines per frame ( $15,750 \div 60 \text{ Hz} \times 2$ ), of which 450 or so wind up in the picture. Computer video produces 700 or so lines for most formats ( $25,000 \div 70 \times 2$ ), of which almost all wind up in the picture. Some systems even produce as many as 1600 lines (65 kHz and  $75 \text{ Hz} \times 2$ ). Couple the increase in number of scanning lines with the much wider video bandwidth, and it is clear why the computer video signal is so superior.

With all of these differences, it is plain to see that converting from one format to another is not a simple task. There is a

### VGA or Macintosh HD-15 (High Density 3-pin rows) Monitor Connector

1. Red Input
2. Green Input
3. Blue Input
4. Monitor Ground
5. Ground or No Connection
6. Red Ground Return
7. Green Ground Return
8. Blue Ground Return
9. No Connection
10. Sync Ground Return
11. Monitor Ground
12. ID Bit or No Connection
13. Horizontal Sync
14. Vertical Sync
15. ID Bit or No Connection

### VGA or Macintosh DB-15 (Standard 2-pin rows) Monitor Connector

1. Ground
2. Red Input
3. N/C VGA, Composite Sync MAC
4. ID Bit
5. Green Input
6. Red Ground Return
7. ID Bit
8. No Connection
9. Blue Input
10. ID Bit
11. Monitor Ground
12. Vertical Sync Input
13. Computer Present or Ground
14. Ground
15. Horizontal Sync Input

### Composite NTSC Video BNC Connector

Center pin	Video
Shell	Video Ground Return

Table I—Pinouts for common computer and video monitors.

specialized family of equipment called *scan converters*, which are available from a number of companies to specifically accomplish this task. These devices usually employ dedicated microprocessors to do the scan conversions with proprietary software to handle the interlace problem. Building and programming one is a formidable task and beyond the capabilities of most experimenters. Purchasing a commercial scan converter also can easily entail several hundred dollars. It is far less expensive for the amateur simply to have two monitors on hand, one for each format. Careful shopping at a fleamarket or garage sale can accomplish this for minimal cost. 73, Irwin, WA2NDM

# Calendars, Pins, Cards & Books

## The Quad Antenna by Bob Haviland, W4MB Second Printing

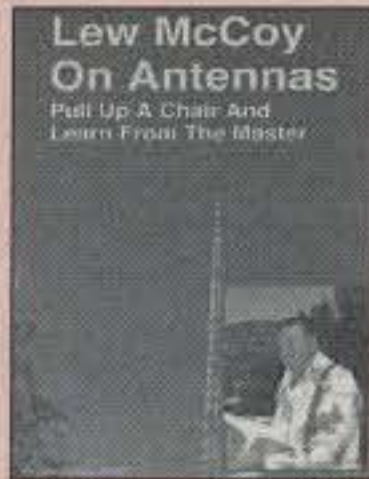
An authoritative book on the design, construction, characteristics and applications of quad antennas.



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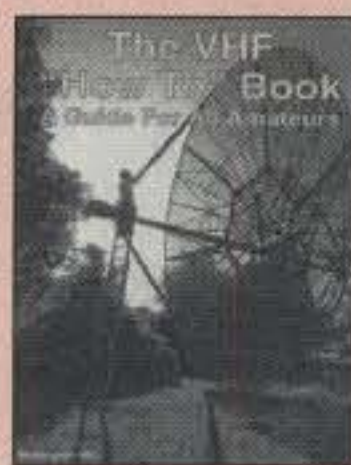
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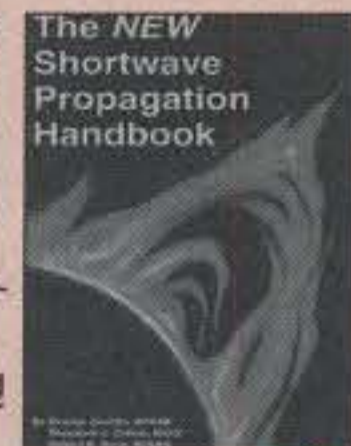
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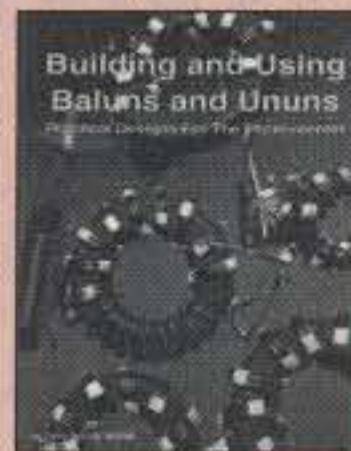
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# Results of the 1997 CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Contest

BY ROY GOULD\*, K1RY, AND RON STAILEY\*\*, K5DJ

As conditions improve, the number of entries keeps increasing, again this year by another 15 percent. It was a record-breaking year, with 601 logs and 93 countries sending in logs. The level of activity grew substantially from all parts of the globe. There were six new world records and three new world single band records. We had a total of nine new continent records set (in total categories)—not too bad, considering we are just starting the up swing toward better conditions.

Last year's new plaque design went over in a big way. Everyone thought they were something very special. However, the selection of colors wasn't exactly in line with CQ's colors. Their color is red, so this year's plaques will be just like last year's except the face will be red in color.

For the first time another major RTTY contest is supporting a world plaque in the CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Contest. BARTG's *Datacom Magazine* is sponsoring the world plaque in the Single Operator Assisted category. We want to thank you and all of the plaque sponsors for your support.

## Single Operator Category

**Single Operator High Power category (SOH):** This year's race for top seat was a hot one. The top 13 slots all had over a million points. Alejandro, XQ8ABF, took the world plaque and set a new world record in the SOH category with 1,616 QSOs and a final score of 2,071,686. Next and not too far behind, taking the European plaque and setting a new European record, was UTØI (Opr: Nick, UT2IZ), who had 1,657 QSOs for a score of 1,916,291. Then came FS5PL (Opr: Eddie, EA3NY), who took the North American plaque and set a new N.A. record with 1,493 QSOs, scoring 1,628,957. Juan, EA8PP, took the Africa plaque with 1,217 QSOs, scoring 1,551,718. Jeff, K1AM, picked up the U.S. plaque and set a new US record at the same time with 1,227 QSOs, scoring 1,212,534. Ariosto, PS2A, took the South American plaque with 1,086 QSOs, scoring 1,112,135. Romeo, UN5PR, won the Asia plaque and also set a new Asian record, with 1,013 QSOs, scoring 1,104,444 points. Norm, VK6GOM, picked up the Oceania plaque with 656 QSOs, scoring 472,119.

**Single Operator High Power Assisted category (SOA):** The Single Operator Assisted category also had some competition for top honors. K1NG (Opr: Rick, K1IG) took the world plaque and set a new world record as well with



Tina Muller, YO3FRI, a regular RTTY contester from SP-land.

1,550 QSOs, scoring 1,985,276. Then came OT7T (Opr: Marc, ON4MA) who took the European plaque and set a new European record, with 1,426 QSOs, scoring 1,891,403. Next was Roland, DK3GI, with 1,174 QSOs and a

1,554,237 score. Fred, PY2XB, took the South American plaque and also set a new South American record, with 1,080 QSOs and a score of 1,512,756. Jim, K4ZAM, took the North American plaque with 933 QSOs, scoring



Juan, EA8PP, winner of the Single Operator High Power Africa plaque.

\*P.O. Box DX, Stow, MA 01775

\*\*504 Dove Haven Drive, Round Rock, TX 78664



888,516. Brian, K3KO, took the US plaque with 712 QSOs and finished with a score of 553,035. Igor, UAØZBK/Ø, picked up the Asian plaque and finished with 463 QSOs, and 249,184 points.

**Single Operator Low Power** category (SOL): It can't be said there was a great race for the winner's circle. However, P40TT (Opr: Ray, WF1B), really wanted the top slot. Not only did he take the world plaque and set a new world record, his low power category score is now the highest score of any record holder. Only two scores were higher than his and they were both multi-multi stations. Ray finished with 2,049 QSOs and a score of 3,287,160. Congratulations, Ray, on a job well done. Next was Walter, DJ6QT, who took the European plaque and set a new European record as well with 922 QSOs and a 1,073,166 point score. Jody, VP5JM, took the North American plaque and set a new North American record of 1,117 QSOs, for a 993,018 score. Gabriel, OD5NJ, picked up the Asian plaque with 1,237 QSOs and a 899,708 score. Having a new baby girl sometimes helps improve your score, as Mike, KA4RRU, demonstrated by taking the US plaque and setting a new US record with 1,000 QSOs and a 847,616 score. Jorge, LU9VET, won the South American plaque with 677 QSOs and a score of 641,225 points. Anton, YB5QZ, took the Oceania plaque, scoring 515 QSOs and 298,312 points. Clyde, 5N7YZC, got the Africa plaque, scoring 104 QSOs and 28,785 points.

### Single Band Category

**28 MHz:** Carlos, LW9EPB, led the pack with a score of 293 QSOs and 52,762 points. Nestor, LU6AUM, finished second, scoring 256 QSOs and 44,073 points. LU4FQC was next with 145 QSOs and 31,376 points. I'm sure 28 MHz scores will really improve starting in '98.

**21 MHz:** LU6ETB (Opr: Ernesto, LU2BRG) took the 21MHz plaque and set a new 21MHz record, making 985 QSOs and scoring 456,146. Daniel, LU8EKC, finished next with 686 QSOs, and a 305,171 score. Next was Nilola, 9A5W, with 559 QSOs and 232,965 points. Jan, FR/N3NW, finished with 545 QSOs and 201,128 points.

**14 MHz:** Hermani CT3BX, had a few problems and had to operate single band this time. Hern came in strong as usual, setting a new 14 MHz record as well as taking the plaque. This is three years in a row for him to set a new world record. He finished with a score of 1,059 QSOs, 571,503 points. Zelimir, 9A2DQ, definitely in the race, finished with 962 QSOs and 462,441 points. Stefano, IK2QEI, finished with 851 QSOs and 403,332 points.

**7 MHz:** Barry, W2UP, had a little more time to spend during the '97 contest than last year. Barry took the 7 MHz plaque with 536 QSOs, scoring 159,390 points. Not far behind was Jan, OY3JE, with 626 QSOs and 146,034 points. Next was YW1A with 397 QSOs and 129,315 points.

**3.5 MHz:** Emil, 9A9A, easily took the plaque with his new world record of 489 QSOs and 99,037 points. Then came Janez, S53MJ, with 416 QSOs and 76,736 points. Janez, S51DX, finished with 357 QSOs and 68,130 points.

### Multi-Operator Category

**Multi-Operator High Power** category (MOH): The multi-single category had several teams

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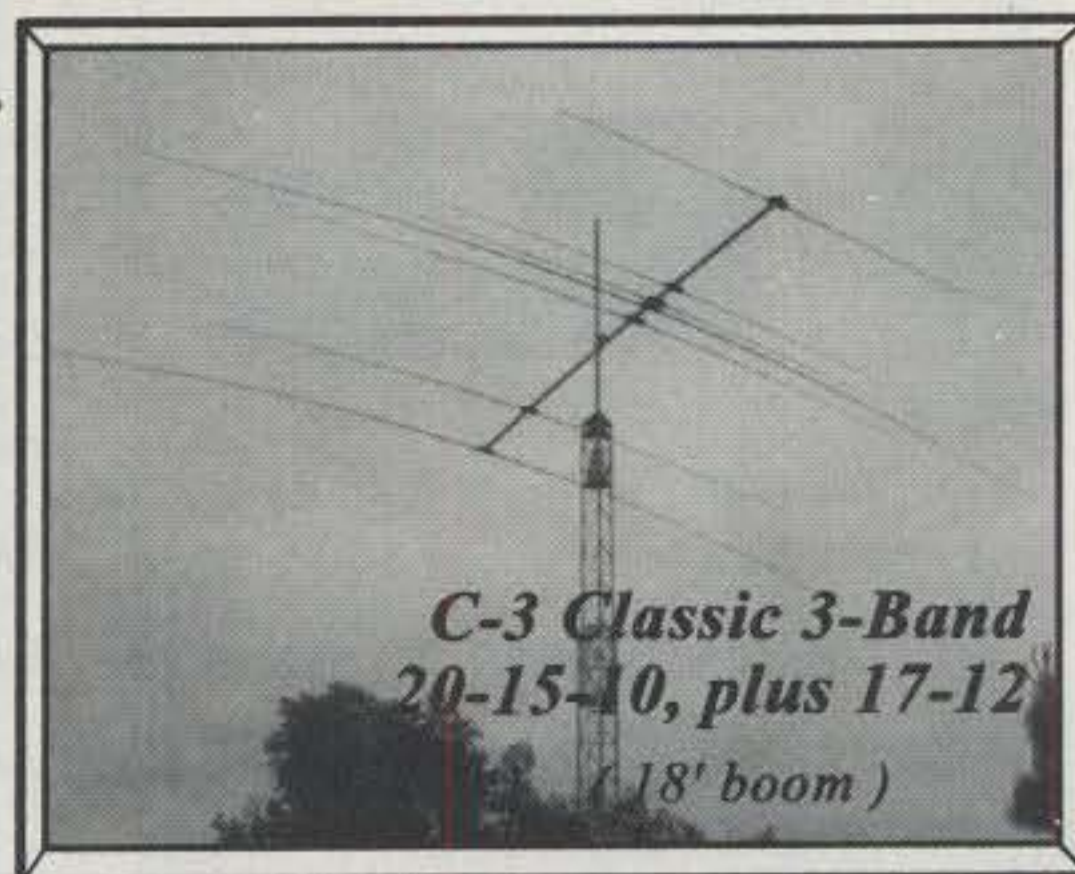
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## PLAQUE WINNERS

- World Single Operator, High Power:** Station XQ8ABF, Alejandro Fernandez. Sponsored by: Dunestar Systems.
- World Single Operator, High Power Assisted:** Station K1NG, (Opr: Rick Davenport, K11G). Sponsored by: CQ Magazine.
- World Single Operator, Low Power:** Station P40TT (Opr: Ray Ortgiesen, WF1B). Sponsored by: Amateur Radio Trader.
- World Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power:** Station IQ4A (Ops: I4VEQ, IK2NCJ, IK2MBZ, IK2JUD, IK4MPG). Sponsored by: Amateur Radio Trader.
- World Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power:** Station KP2D (Ops: NP2E, KP2N, NP3W, NP2DZ, W5TTY). Sponsored by: Hal Communications Corp.
- World Multi-Op Multi Transmitter:** Station W3LPL (Ops: K3MM, K3TZV, N3UN, ND3F, NO2T, NE3H, N3OC, K4GMH). Sponsored by: CQ Magazine.
- North America Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter:** Station W5WMU (Ops: W5WMU, K5DJ, AA5AU, WS71, WU3V, N5SYF). Sponsored by: The New RTTY Journal.
- Europe Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter:** Station RW6AWT (Ops: RN6BN, RN6MN, RA6ZX, UA6NP, RW6BQ, RX6BA, RV6YY, RA6YY, RX6BA, RA6YDX, RW6ADA). Sponsored by: The W3LPL Contest Group.
- North America Single Operator, High Power:** Station FS5PL (Opr: Eddie Shark, EA3NY). Sponsored by: TG9VT Memorial (by Roy Gould, K1RY, and Jules Freundlich, W2JGR).
- North America Single Operator, High Power Assisted:** Station K4ZAM, Jim Floyd. Sponsored by: Jeff Bouvier, K1AM.
- North America Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter:** Station W5WMU (Ops: W5WMU, K5DJ, AA5AU, WS71, W5XD, WU3V, N5SYF). Sponsored by: The New RTTY Journal.
- Europe Single Operator, High Power Assisted:** Station OT7T (Opr: Marc Wullaert, OH4MA). Sponsored by: The New RTTY Journal.
- Asia Single Operator, High Power Assisted:** Station UA0ZBK/0, Igor Pyastolov. Sponsored by: Kazuaki Ohya, JH1HRJ.
- South America Single Operator, High Power Assisted:** Station PY2XB, Fred Carvalho. Sponsored by: Great Lakes DX and Contest Club.
- North America Single Operator, Low Power:** Station VP5JM, Jody Millspaugh. Sponsored by: Dick Stevens, N1RCT.
- North America Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power:** Station KG4GC, (Ops: W4WX, WV3N, WV3R, N1WON, KD4OHH). Sponsored by: Eddie Schneider, G0AZT.
- North America Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power:** Station KE1FO (Ops: KE1FO, KT1M, KB1W, K1TTT). Sponsored by: Don Hill, AA5AU, and Eddie Schneider, G0AZT.
- United States Single Operator, High Power:** Station K1AM, Jeff Bouvier. Sponsored by: John Devoldere, ON4UN.
- United States Single Operator, High Power Assisted:** Station K3KO, Brian Alsap. Sponsored by: RTTY by WF1B.
- United States Single Operator, Low Power:** Station KA4RRU, Michael Trowbridge. Sponsored by: The New RTTY Journal.
- Oceania Single Operator, Low Power:** Station YB5QZ, Anton Iriawan. Sponsored by: Dave Barr, K2YG.
- Africa Single Operator, Low Power:** Station 5N7YZC, Clyde Zimberelman. Sponsored by: Bill Gallier, W4WX.
- South America Single Operator, Low Power:** Station LU9VET, Jorge Krienke. Sponsored by: Jim Hollenback, NK6L.
- United States Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power:** Station K4PX (Ops: K4PX, K4AW, K4QD, AF4Z, NF4F, WT4I, KC4HW, KT4DI, KT4FY, WA4HDS, W4JHH, KE4MMI). Sponsored by: WriteLog Contest Software for Windows (by Ron Stailey, K5DJ).
- United States Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power:** Station W4CV (Ops: W4GKM, W4CQE, W4RRE, W4EYJ). Sponsored by: Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society.
- Europe Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power:** Station YL8M (Ops: YL2KL, YL2KF, YL2KA, RZ3WB, RA3CQ). Sponsored by: Euraf Communications, Benin (by: Peter Schulze, TY1PS).
- Oceania Single Operator, High Power:** Station VK6GOM, Norman Gomm. Sponsored by: HamStuff by W7NN.
- Africa Single Operator, High Power:** Station EA8PP, Juan Salvador Peraza Rodriguez. Sponsored by: Phil Duff, NA4M.
- South America Single Operator, High Power:** Station PS2A, (Opr: Ariosto Rodriguez de Souza, PT2BW). Donated in the name of: Elmers worldwide who help new amateurs get started.
- Europe Single Operator, High Power:** Station UT0I (Opr: Nick Nikitjuk, UT2IZ). Sponsored by: Hal Communications Corp.
- Europe Single Operator, Low Power:** Station DJ6QT, Walter Skudlarek. Sponsored by: Don Hill, AA5AU.
- Europe Multi-Op Single Transmitter, High Power:** Station OT7E (Ops: ON4AOI, ON4GG, ON4ANT, ON4CBA, ON4AME). Sponsored by: Ron Stailey, K5DJ, & Wayne Matlock, K7WM.
- Asia Single Operator, High Power:** Station UN5PR, Romeo Loparev. Sponsored by: David Busick, N5JJ Memorial (by Don Busick, K5AAD).
- Asia Single Operator, Low Power:** Station OD5NJ, Gabruek Mardiros. Sponsored by: Bruce D. Lee, KD6WW.
- World 21 MHz:** Station LU6ETB (Opr: Ernesto Gruenebe, LU2BRG). Sponsored by: Denis Catalano, W4DC, and Mike Trowbridge, KA4RRU.
- World 14 MHz:** Station CT3BX, Hermani Correia. Sponsored by: Kunihiko Fujii, JH1QDB.
- World 7 MHz:** Station W2UP, Barry Kutner. Sponsored by: Tri-County DX Assoc.
- World 3.5 MHz:** Station 9A9A, Zdravko Balen. Sponsored by: Neal Campbell, K3NC/ON6CNC.



Jose, ZP6CC, a 21 MHz entrant.

looking for a win in the '97 contest. IQ4A took the world plaque with 1,605 QSOs, finishing with a score of 2,469,450. Close behind was OT7E, who took the European plaque with 1,461 QSOs and 2,002,924 points. S57NW scored 1,433 QSOs and 1,923,404 points. KG5G,C at Guantanamo Bay made their move setting a new North American record as well as taking the plaque, scoring 1,659 QSOs and 1,870,128 points. (Nice job, guys.) RW2F finished with 1,419 QSOs and 1,803,794 points. PI4COM had 1,204 QSOs, scoring 1,487,434 points. HV4NAC at the Vatican had 1,383 QSOs, scoring 1,279,032. K4PX, the Florida Boys, picked up the US plaque with 1,383 QSOs, scoring 1,175,940.

**Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power** category (MOL): KP2D made a great showing, picking up the world plaque and set-

ting a new multi-op low power world record at the same time with 1,420 QSOs, and 1,638,958 points. YL8M took second world and picked up the Europe plaque with 1,288 QSOs and 1,349,530 points. Z30M was next with 1,140 QSOs and 1,122,501 score. ZB2/DL2NBU had 1,260 QSOs and 798,000 points. KE1FO picked up the North American plaque with 933 QSOs and 761,596 points. GU3HFN had 636 QSOs and 397,015 points. A new club call, W4CV, for the Tennessee group, got them their first plaque in this event with 408 QSOs and 202,460 points.

**Multi-Multi** category: Speaking of competition, there was a pretty good race in the Multi-Multi category, to say the least. This is the closest race for the world plaque in the history of the CQ/RJ WW RTTY Contest. At the end of the contest W3LPL once again came out ahead



The KG4GC team. Left to right: Cory, N1WON; Rusty, WV3N; Wayne, KD4OHH; and Bill, W4WX. Ken, WV3R, took this photo.

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FBA-10	6-Cell AA case		\$14.95
BC-601a	Rapid / Trickle Charger		\$54.95

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BC-601e	Rapid / Trickle Charger		\$54.95

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with 2,914 QSOs and 3,946,822 points, also setting a new world record. Right behind him was W5WMU, who picked up the North American plaque with 2,948 QSOs and a score of 3,941,970. Next was RW6AWT, who took the Europe plaque with 1,988 QSOs and 2,654,579 points. RK9CWA finished with 1,861 QSOs and 2,561,706 points.

## Summary

Thanks to all who participated. Logs continue to be a problem. Please follow the rules, and separate logs for each band! Also, when e-mailing logs name the files with your call—i.e., K1RY.sum, K1RY.dup, etc. Many of you are naming them CQWW97.sum, etc. This makes it most difficult to figure who is who when pulling them from the attach folders. Once again, a special thanks to Gail at CQ, who always is a big help to us.

73, Roy, K1RY, and Ron, K5DJ

## Comments From Around The World

3DA0CA... I managed to break 100 countries, so all those I worked pse QSL via W4DR so I can be the first 3DA to claim DXCC on RTTY. 9A8A... Sorry I didn't have time for serious effort. AA4NC... Didn't have much time in between rock & roll; had fun. AC4AA... This was my first RTTY contest and had a ball. CT1AOZ... Thanks to all who have developed a program like (writelog); you guys need to try this. DF3CB... I slept much more than last year. DK0IU... Our first RTTY contest. F6AOE... Very good conditions. I do need a new antenna for 80m. G0LII... It was pulling teeth; the Ryder cup golf won me over after lunch. CU next year.

GU3HFN... Once again a great test. See you

again next year. IK0HBN... Saturday was great propagation even on 10m. P40TT was a real 579. JA2MOG... Wanted to work KG4; they couldn't hear me! JJ1HRJ... I enjoyed the contest with good conditions, for a change. JH4UYB... Most participants showed better typing skills than I. K0BX... Doubled my score from last year. XYL went out of town for the weekend, kids had to work, and TVI next door neighbor gone for the weekend. What could be better! K1JN... Had a ball. Will be back for more. K1NG (Op: K11G)... Conditions seemed better than last year.

K3PP... This was a fantastic event. K4BU... Did not make a big splash, but had fun. K4PX... First try at CQWW RTTY test. Highlight of contest was HV4NAC called me! K6CT... Worked 12 new DXCC countries. RTTY software incredible. K9YY... Great contest, lots of fun. Was beat to have VQ9SS es 4Z4DX call us in the test on 40m. Looking forward to the next contest. KE1FO... We had a great time again this year in multi-op low power, a very interesting category that I enjoy. KF8TM... Second time entered. Had fun as little pistol search & pounce without contest logging program. Should have spent more time working states and provinces.

KL7/KG5EG... Another great contest. KL7AC... Had a ball. KP2D... 60 percent increase over last year's score. LU6ETB... My trip to ZP was canceled. Arturo agreed to lend me his station, thanks. LU9VET... This was my first CQWW with more than 30 hrs of operation. LY2FN... Worked 10 new DXCC countries. N2FF... No great effort this year. Did not start until Saturday. We weren't ready at the start of the contest, for the zillionth time. NH6XM... Great contest. Had lotts fun. NN50CIA... We are glad we had the opportunity to participate in the contest from our special event station commemorating 50 years of the Central Intelligence Agency. Thanks to everyone who worked us. (Who are these guys??—ed.)

NX4W... Not bad for lousy antennas. Used RTTYRITE for the first time and liked it very much. OZ5MJ... Celebrated my 41st wedding anniversary over the weekend, hi hi. Not very popular! P40TT (Op:

WF1B)... My strategy was to run Europe and not the states (guess that worked). PI4COM... We all enjoyed the contest. Maybe we will participate next year in the multi-multi class. PS2A... Great contest. Beat my last year's participation. RA9FA... This was my first RTTY contest. Hope my next will be more successful. RA6AR... My first RTTY contest with three weeks experience. Very exciting.

SM6BSK... How could they put the Ryder cup on this weekend? TM7XX... I was active for 45 hrs of the test; strong QRN on 80m. UA0AGI... This was my first RTTY contest. It was fantastic! VA3NN... Fine contest. Next time I will definitely have some RTTY contest s/w. VA3WTM... Definitely the most fun since I started contesting. VE7KD... Nice to see some familiar calls again after a few years absence from this fine contest. Couldn't do without sleep so it cost me. VK3EBP... Finally worked Wyoming after 7 years. Great contest. W1TE... Was fun. Only had 20 hours to operate, though.

W3LPL... RTTY mode is definitely on the rise! W5WMU... We had a lot of fun trying to take on W3LPL from way back in Louisiana. Next time we will get them. W6CN... Great to have some sunspots again! W9ILY... Had a ball. W9OL... Severe TVI problems; tried filters and chokes. Anybody have any ideas? WB4M... I sure had a great time. RTTY is booming. WW2R... High point was being called by FK8 and two FR stations. XE1VV... I sure need some contest s/w for RTTY mode. YO3JF... Great fun as last year. ZL2AMI... peculiar multi-path distortion on 40m from North American signals on the second day made copy very difficult. Next year a full effort. ZL3JON... Had a ball. Condx improving at long last. K1RY and K5DJ... Thanks to all.

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## Radio Amateur Callbook Summer 1998 Edition

The summer edition of the 1998 Radio Amateur Callbook CD-ROM is now available. Prefix maps have been updated and new maps have been added. In addition, the summer edition features: over 1.450 million US and International listings; revised label printing routines (choose from a variety of standard Avery label formats); print the entire Windows help file with one button click; TSR and DLL's needed for compatibility with most logging programs are included; and e-mail and fax numbers.

For more information, contact Radio Amateur Callbook, P.O. Box 2013, Lakewood, NJ 08701 (732-905-2961), or circle number 105 on the reader service card.

## Alinco DJ-C5T VHF/UHF "Credit Card" HT

The new DJ-C5T HT from Alinco is designed to operate on the 2 meter and 70 cm bands. Only slightly larger and thicker than a credit card, it features an internal speaker, runs on an internal lithium-ion battery, has 50 memories, CTCSS encode and decode, includes AM aircraft band receive, and has adjustable tuning



steps, auto power off, battery save setting, MARS/CAP capability, packet radio capability, and more. The unit puts out 300 milliwatts. The transceiver can utilize a variety of speaker/mic combinations and its accessories are interchangeable with the DJ-C1 and DJ-C4.

The DJ-C5T comes with a clear-plastic case and "snap-in" charging unit and is priced at \$239. For more information, contact Alinco, 438 Amapola Ave., Suite 130, Torrance, CA 90501 (310-618-8616), or circle 104 on the reader service card.

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## Designing and Building A Three-Element 80 Meter Yagi

BY PETER J. DALTON\*, W6KW

**W**hen I decided to reconstruct my 80 meter antenna after an absence of over ten years, I asked questions most serious amateurs would likely ask: Is it possible to assemble these individual pieces on the ground so that they become a "killer" array when installed at the top of a 165 ft. tower? Is there a way to make this antenna perform even better than it did? Is there a way to design it so it is easier to troubleshoot?

### Design Challenges

This "how to make it better" approach was particularly challenging given that my previous 80 meter antenna—a KLM 4-element, dual-driven, linear loaded array on a 76 ft. boom and 120 ft. tower—had allowed me to become a fairly significant west coast competitor in the 1980s.

My first design consideration was with respect to wind loading. The KLM 4-element array had withstood recorded winds of 96 MPH at the antenna site located on the side of Mount Hamilton in San Jose, California. This particular location experiences up-slope winds every bit as threatening as lateral winds. My new station was to be located at my ranch some 200 miles farther north, where the winds are even stronger and more frequent. I decided to undertake a design of a 3-element array that would perform equally to the 4-element but with reduced wind-loading due to one less element. This meant changing from the KLM dual-driven feed to one with a new matching system.

Mike Staal, former designer for KLM and presently owner of M<sup>2</sup>, suggested I obtain a popular antenna modeling program to experiment with my ideas using computer simulation. Over the next year or so I spent many hours calculating, ad-

\*2930 Corvin Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051



*The intrepid antenna team. From left to right: Dave, W6ANR, Peter, W6KW, and Pete, W6OOL.*

justing, and experimenting—all from the vantage point of an easy chair and a home computer.

I finally discovered the optimum result I wanted. It would require a boom length of 76 ft., happily the length of the boom I still owned, forward gain within .2 of or equal to that of my previous 4-element array, and a front-to-back ratio which would exceed the dual-driven antenna. The feed point impedance would be 23 ohms, requiring a beta match. The bandwidth remained a question; although by modeling the element design, it appeared likely that the bandwidth needed for the single-driven array would be the same as that for the dual-driven. This bandwidth issue was especially critical for me, because linear loaded antennas are a high



*Here Peter, W6KW, hefts one of the big coils.*

Q system and only work on or near their design frequency.

### Mechanical Considerations

**Spacing of Elements.** The first consideration was whether to equally space elements or space them for optimum front-to-back ratio. By using the fundamental premise that antennas on 80 meters should be designed for best-receiving, I chose front-to-back spacing.

**Relay Connections.** The second consideration was how to solve the relay problem. The KLM design used vacuum relays to switch the array from 3.79 MHz phone to 3.510 MHz CW. Both Bob W6RJ, who had been encouraging me for some time to return to 80 meter DXing, and I in

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the past had experienced multiple failures in the KLM-designed relay connections. Rod, NR7E, had solved the failing relay problem caused by vibration and weather by designing a 100% weather-proof enclosure that eliminates all vibration at the relay connections and ensures a durable connection of the leads to the linear loading.

**Non-Inductive Guys.** As other antenna designers know, it is highly desirable to have as little conductive material as possible around and near the antenna, especially in the plane of the elements. On my former antenna I had used Phillystran for the top guys and side guys to the boom as well as to guy the 120 ft. tower. So I used noninductive boom guys once again.

I discovered that over the last few years the tower guying connector for Phillystran had become quite expensive, so I looked for a less costly substitute. I ended up using NUPLA rod, a fiberglass rod used by the military for guying. Glass grips which take a thimble are made for  $3/8$  inch NUPLA; this answered my need for using noninductive guys for the tower. This  $3/8$  inch NUPLA has a guying strength of 16,000 lbs., equivalent to that of steel guy wire.

When Pete, W6OOL, and I constructed the tower to a height of 165 feet using Tri-Ex T-26, we used NUPLA rod for the guys down to 40 feet from the ground, at which point we then spliced to steel to reduce the hazard from fire.

**Boom Guying.** I made my own connectors for guying the boom guying out of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch aluminum plate, using wire nuts to secure the NUPLA rod and being careful not to break the jacket. I then bonded the connectors in casting resin using small margarine tubs for the molds. In one case where I needed a very small mold, I used a 35 mm film canister and added a  $3/8$  inch hole in the bottom. The connectors were

bolted to the eye of the turnbuckles for final tensioning of the boom.

**Boom Support.** When I began to assemble the elements, I noticed that two of the insulators used to separate the linear loading points were cracked. A quick call to KLM in Washington state had new ones to me in three days.

While at lunch one day with Bob, W6RJ, and Rich, K7ZV, Rich suggested I should have a support that would enable the boom to rotate from the horizontal to the vertical. This seemed an excellent and workable idea, since Pete, W6OOL, and I had mounted the top section NUPLA guy rod 20 ft. below the top of the tower. Rich then designed a boom cradle made out of 5 inch aluminum channel  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long which perfectly held my 5 inch boom. The last three inches of each end of the bottom of the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  foot long cradle is cut out and a  $5/8$  inch hole cut through the remaining tabs and boom, so that the boom can swivel vertically from either side of the cradle. This boom cradle design proved to be cornerstone in making the modifications to the antenna discussed here later on.

The cradle is welded to a side plate which holds the original steel blocks which bolt around the 3 inch chrome molly mast.

## Building the Antenna

I built the new antenna entirely on the ground, as I planned to raise and mount it fully assembled to the top of the tower. I constructed the antenna in a sheltered clearing at the foot of a small earthen dam some 300 ft. from the tower and some 200 ft. below it. This was the only area with proximity to the tower that had enough room for the 76 ft. boom and three 90 ft. elements.

During the two years or more of conceptualizing and constructing this antenna, I vacillated between whether to lift the

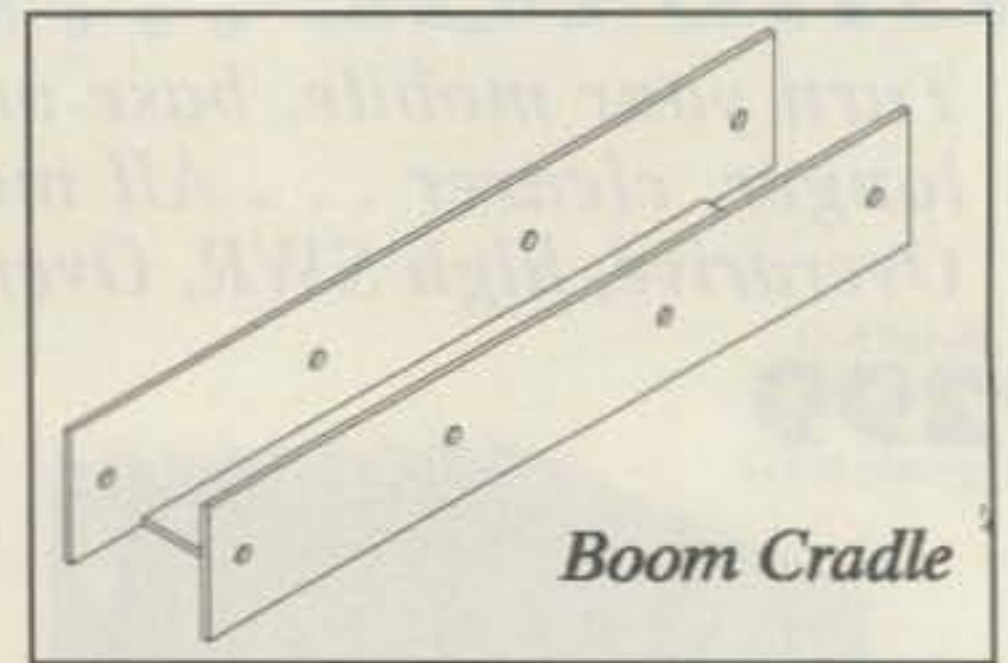


Fig. 1— The simple boom cradle design which allows the Yagi to be vertically rotated.

antenna into place on the tower using a helicopter or pull it up a catenary as I had done before with my 4-element beam. The catenary seemed the wiser and less expensive choice, so the tower was back-guyed and the catenary was stretched out using a tractor. It took five people two days to get the antenna positioned on top of the 165 ft. tower.

How well did it work the first season I used it? Unfortunately, I experienced two unanticipated mechanical failures, both caused by broken elements. One failure occurred at the polyethylene insulator for the linear loading. This turned out to have been a weak spot in KLM's original design, which the company corrected years later by triple-walling elements at this point for greater strength. The second failure was the loss of a tip, and this took as much effort to remedy as the first failure.

Once these element problems were corrected, the antenna appeared to compare favorably with other west coast arrays. It was not, however, definitely superior. One limitation I perceived was a possible on-the-air front-to-back of 18 dB and a front-to-side of 15 dB. I returned, therefore, to "the technology drawing board."

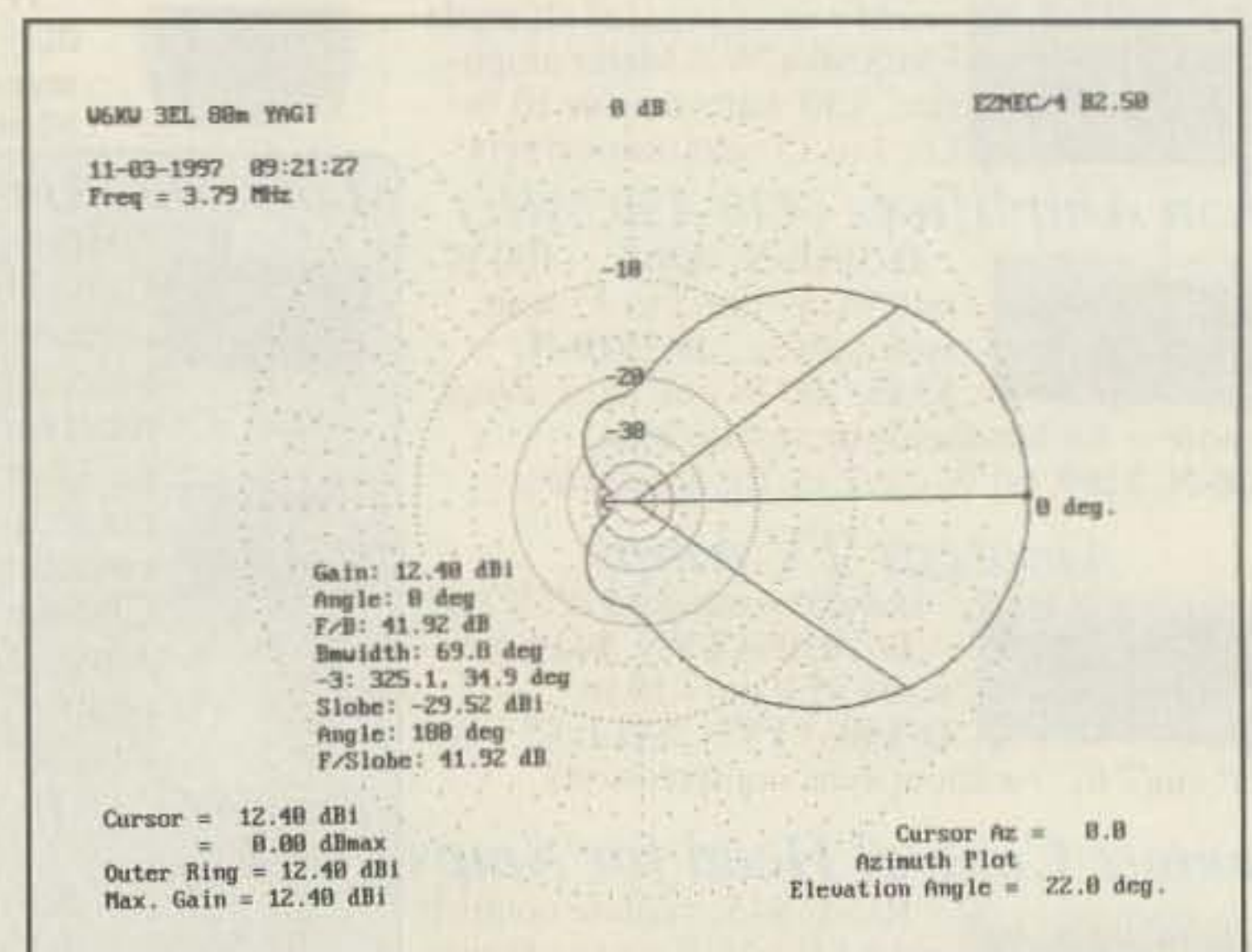
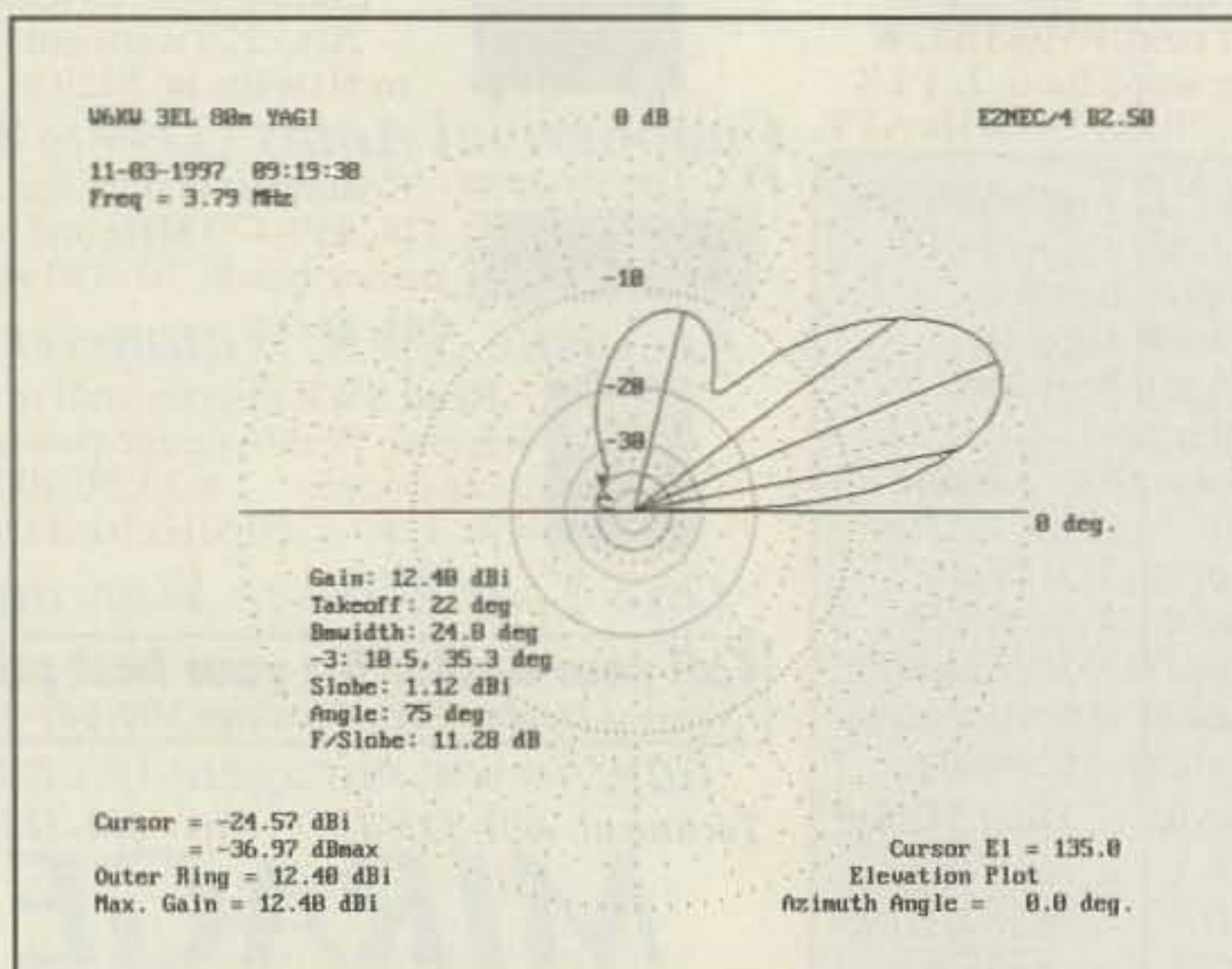


Fig. 2— (A) The elevation plot for the 3-element Yagi. (B) The azimuth plot for the same antenna.



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Close-up detail of the coil and mounting hardware.

## Inductive Loading— The Remake

In a conversation with Rich, K7ZV, I learned he had also been unable to get a linear loaded antenna to work any better than a dipole on 80 meters. He told me that when he discussed the problem with Dave, W6ANR, Dave had suggested he replace the linear loading with inductive loading coils and move the loading farther out on the element.

I contacted Dave, who then undertook an extensive research project on the ability of constructing loading coils with very high Q's. He eventually experienced success in creating coils with Q's in excess of 700.

When Dave's results were transferred to K7ZV's shortened 2-element beam, the performance turned out to be "awesome." Once Rich installed the coils on his beam, his antenna had a pattern. He heard weak ones through the noise, something he had never been able to copy before.

Rich also had a 3-element linear loaded antenna at his home in Oregon, which exhibited the same lack of pattern he had found before he installed the coils on his 2-element version. W6ANR therefore went back to his engineering board and created a new set of coils for the 3-element antenna. After a few weekends of work, the new antenna was up and running. It was summer and too early to tell much about the effects of the change except that the revised antenna already exhibited better than 30 dB front-to-back and 25 dB front-to-side.

Dave then took on the task of redoing another 3-element linear loaded beam at

W6ZJ's. Each successive modification gave him greater insight into the abilities of NEC 2 and what adjustments had to be factored into our formula. Once again the results on the modified antenna were dramatic: 30 dB front-to-back reports over and over again.

My plan was to use the same 76 ft. boom I had used with my original 4-element, dual-driven 80 meter Yagi. Dave undertook extensive computer modeling of a 3-element Yagi on a 76 ft. boom. In doing so, we found we could not depend on NEC 2 as many other designers did, so we purchased NEC 4. The resultant pattern design we finally settled on is in fig. 2. Note that the program shows a front-to-back in excess of 40 dB—results many people have heretofore thought impossible. Our experience proves that these greater front-to-back ratios are achievable with shortened elements.

With these technical issues behind us, it was now time to eliminate the mechanical problems associated with linear loading, take advantage of the electrical advantages of inductive loading, and get on with rebuilding the 3-element beam!

## The Dalton Catwalk

Because I would be doing some experimenting, I knew I would need the elements to be easily accessible. To accomplish this, I designed and built an 8 ft. long catwalk with 4 ft. hand rails, a pulley, and guys and mounted it some 30 ft. below the boom on one side of my tower. I mounted clamps and swivels so that it readily attaches to the tower legs. The walking area is constructed of mesh, and the entire

platform attaches with hinges so that it lies flat against the tower when not in use.

I calculated that since my guys were 20 ft. below the top of the tower, the antenna was 2 ft. above, and the boom was 30 ft. at the swivel point, the reflector would come into contact with the guys 6 feet down from their top when the boom was rotated to the vertical position. The guys at 120 degrees apart called for a catwalk only 3 ft. long (half the distance). However, because work on the director required a much longer reach, I made the platform 8 ft. in length.

This maintenance (catwalk) platform turned out to be a great idea. Using it shortened the time to remove the old reflector and put on a new one from 8 hours to about 2 hours.

In fact, if I were to do it over again, rather than assembling the entire antenna on the ground and then raising it to the top as a single unit, I would use the platform to raise each element, attaching it from the catwalk to the boom. After many raisings and lowerings of the elements, Dave and I found we could lower, adjust, and raise either the director or the reflector in 11 minutes with two helpers on the catwalk.

## Element Length

The linear loading design adjusted the element length by tuning the length of the linear loading wires. The linear loading also acted as back-guying support for the elements. Now that I had changed the loading to high Q coils, the element length is determined by overall length and adjusted at the tips. The coils were made of 1/4 inch copper tubing wound on a 7 inch diameter, 10 inch long ABS water pipe. The inductance of these coils is 17 microHenries. I used a length of Phillystran to back support the elements from the coil back to the boom. This gives the element slightly more support than the linear loading did since the Phillystran is farther out on the element.

## Mounting the Coils

The very important location of the coils was selected to be at a point where the current is reduced but not to the point where the voltage rises high enough to cause significant losses in the coils. The farther out from the boom the coil is located, the greater the inductance needed and the greater the loss becomes. This consideration resulted in my locating the coils 22 1/2 feet from the boom. Element back guys were made from 1/4 inch Phillystran and were connected from the loading coils back to the original 3 ft. risers mounted on the boom.

An aluminum reducer was machined for each of the six half elements to replace the poly insulators. When I took the poly insulators out of the remaining elements

of the linear loaded design, I found four of the six insulators had cracked from weather and fatigue (the other two were replaced earlier due to cracks). This aluminum reducer takes the 3 inch element and attaches it to the 2 inch diameter section. The coils have a  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch diameter 2 foot long solid fiberglass rod running through the center which sleeves into the cut section of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch tube of each of the six half elements. The copper tube ends of the coils have solid copper rod inserted as a dowel in the ends, eliminating compression when the ends are inserted in the aluminum press collar on the element. The coil mounting hardware was designed by W6ANR and built by K7ZV.

All three elements were assembled and measured on the ground based on W6ANR's calculations and were pulled up to the work platform 30 ft. from the top of the tower where they were attached to the boom. The first measurements showed the pattern to be about 60 kHz high in targeted frequency.

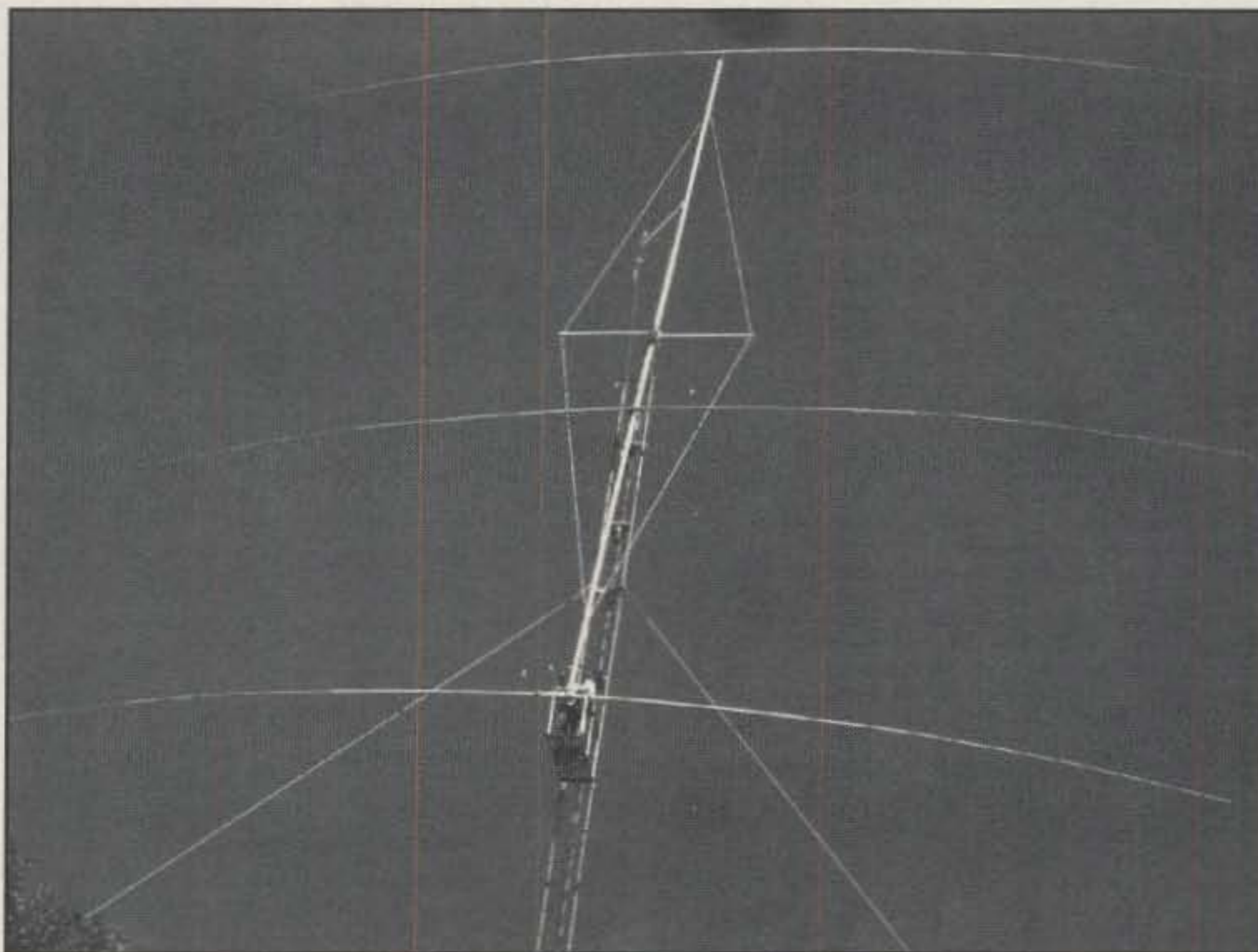
### Tuning the Array

W6ANR and I began the relatively short-term process of tuning the array. We followed the old amateur radio principle of "find a local station to tune the pattern of the antenna." The local station we used to listen on 80 meters was my 20 meter antenna, located only 700 ft. away.

We kept in mind another important principle: When tuning a Yagi, two distinct operations need to be performed. The first is tuning the antenna for its desired pattern; the second is tuning the driven element for a perfect match at pattern frequency to the feedline impedance. In order not to get confused in the pattern tuning phase of the task, we left the beta match and the beta coil off the driven element, knowing we would have a 2 to 1 mismatch while tuning the reflector and director for desired pattern.

Our design called for close coupling of the reflector for maximum front-to-back and lighter coupling of the director for maximum forward gain. To achieve the desired performance, the reflector was designed at 3745 kHz and the director at 3895 kHz.

Also key in the execution of the design was the transition of aluminum size in each of the elements. Antennas using different size elements will have dramatically different dimensions. This is not what one would typically expect. However, the fact is, when using shortened elements, a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch change in length in any of the element pieces makes a significant difference in performance. When these elements were raised, we found ourselves within .1% of our target frequency—the closest reached so far in any of the modified antennas. What we found on the ini-



With the antenna in the vertical position, removing the reflector element for adjustment is not that big a job from the catwalk.

tial rotation of the array—with 10 watts of power into the antenna and the 20 meter station listening with 40 dB of front-end attenuation—was that the front-to-back

was greater than 35 dB and front-to-side was a few dB less. In fact, when the 80 meter Yagi was pointed at the 20 meter antenna, the receiver was indicating S-9;

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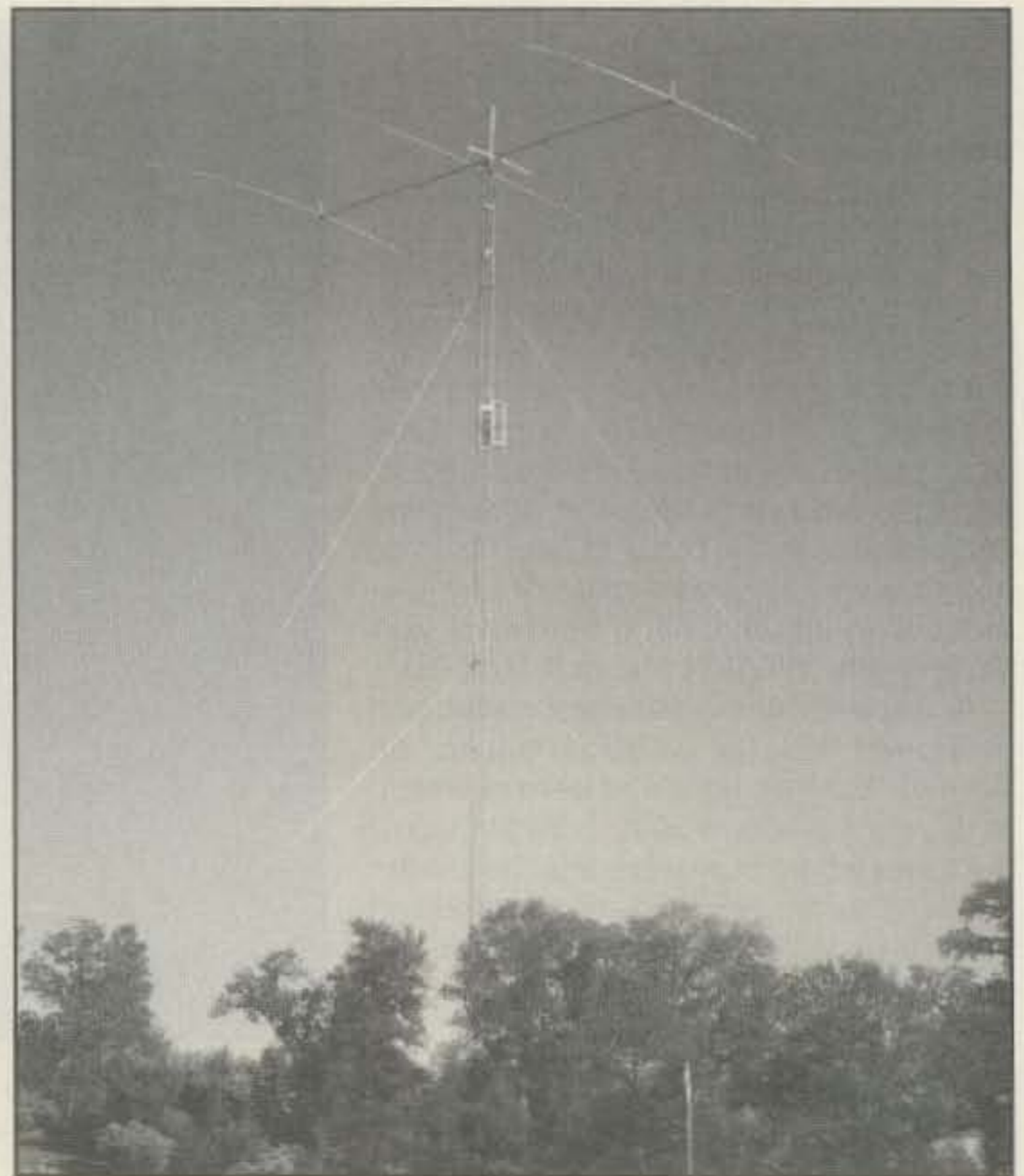
Call 1-516-681-2922 or FAX 516-681-2926

CQ Communications, Inc.,  
25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801



↑ You can judge the size of the array by the two men on the catwalk. The catwalk folds up against the tower when not in use.

This view shows everything finished, up, and working. It's a sight that makes the whole project worthwhile. →



when the beam was turned 180 degrees away, the S meter showed S-0 and we could not hear the signal and could hear band noise on the frequency.

Dave and I were overwhelmed by these preliminary results and knew we had created an antenna with incredible pattern, even though the pattern was high in frequency. We then plotted the curve of the front-to-back ratio and entered the data to the computer. We found the front-to-back ratio to be maximum over a 10 kHz span, and better than 15 dB up to 50 kHz either side of center. The computer model showed we needed to add 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches to

each of the six half elements. Once we did this, we rechecked the pattern and found it to be exactly where we wanted it—at 3794 kHz.

It was time now to tune the driven element for a match to 50 ohm coax. We used the coil formula identified by ON4UN in his publication *Low Band DXing* and wound three turns of <sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inch copper tubing 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch in diameter. With a little pruning on the tips of the driven element, we were able to achieve a flat match at 3794 kHz. We installed a ferrite choke balun at the feedpoint and measured a 2 to 1 bandwidth of 90 kHz.

On-the-air tests verified that we had achieved incredible front-to-back and front-to-side ratios. In the past when the antenna was pointed long path, QRM from Asia would become a problem. The new antenna eliminated this. We found we could now peak signals while turning the antenna, something not always possible with the former design. DX stations S-9 on the front of the antenna disappeared off the sides and the back. What's more interesting is that this antenna hears earlier in the opening and longer after the opening weakens than any antenna I've ever used on 80 meters.

Differences in propagation obviously make specific comparisons difficult. I offer, however, that the group of west coast DXers on 80 meters will agree that this new antenna out-hears the former linear loaded version I used and it hears as well or better than other west coast arrays. The W6ANR modification has now been made at W6ZJ and K7ZV, and the improvement in antenna performance over their linear loaded antennas is undeniable.

As I look back on what it took to design and erect this "improved" 80 meter antenna, I find that the effort while challenging, was also a lot of fun. Much credit and appreciation goes to the many who collaborated with me—K6MYC, W6RJ, NR7E, W6OOL, K7ZV, and W6ANR. Not only did these individuals play a key role in the design, engineering, construction, or testing, all were consistently encouraging and supportive throughout! ■

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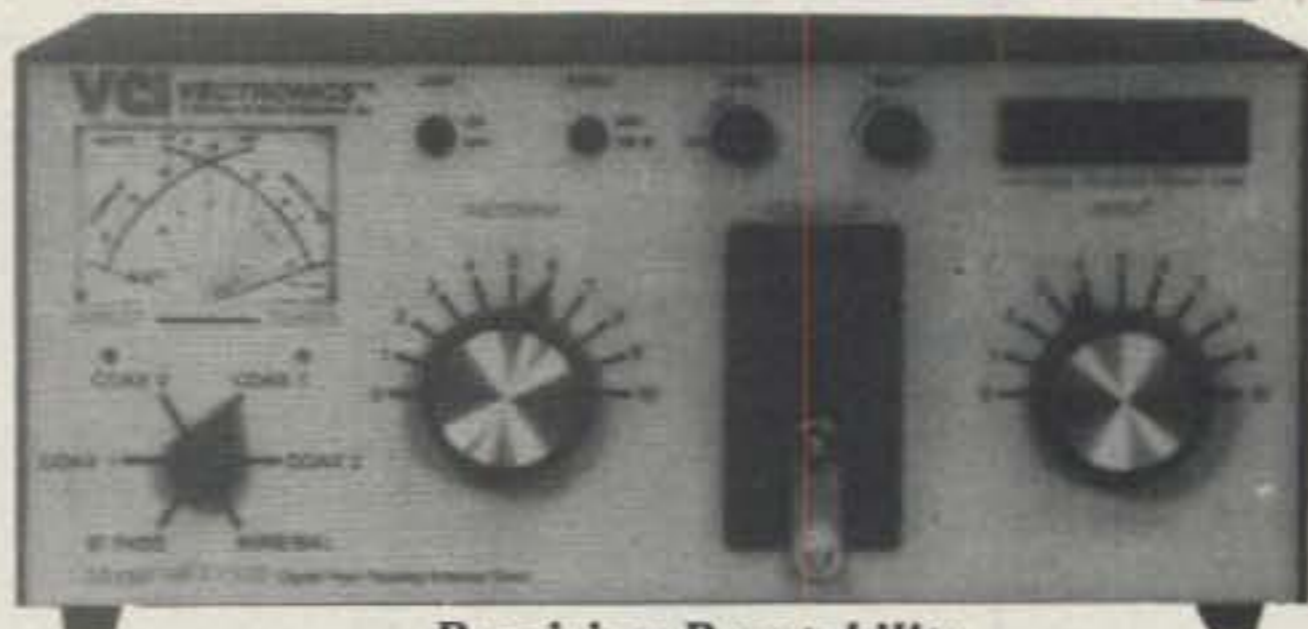
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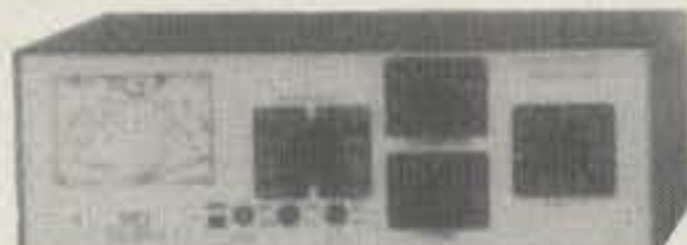
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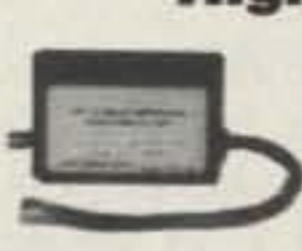
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# THE DIGITAL DIPOLE

FROM SOFTWARE THROUGH ANTENNAS FOR THE SHACK

## July Junket '98

A "junket" is a pleasurable excursion, especially one at public expense—something like, say, some of our elected officials take. Needless to say, this month's column isn't at public expense. However, we hope that our romp *will* be a pleasurable excursion as we examine some of the familiar commodities of this column: antennas, software, and books. Let's kick off with antennas.

### Antenna Notes

**BB3 Base Station Antenna and other Goodies.** In the October 1995 column we profiled the Broadbander BB3 Mobile Antenna, especially for use on automobiles, mobile homes, and RVs. As we noted, the BB3 is a 10 through 80 meter motorized antenna that tunes all HF bands at the flip of a switch. The antenna is priced at from \$265 to \$299.95, depending on finish. A new "Park 'n' Talk" range-extending whip option is \$49.95. Other products are offered, including transmitting loop antennas, remotely tuned "hidden fence" antennas, "lightning prevention" systems (the Gila-Stat dissipators), and commercial broadcast antennas.

Now the mobile BB3 has been revamped for base station use as the BB3 Base Station Antenna. With a maximum height of just under 34 ft., the antenna easily can fit on a rooftop or in a suburban yard. You can tune it by remote control continuously from 160 through 10 meters, including MARS, CAP, and other HF frequencies. Claimed SWR is less than 1.5:1 from 160 through 40 meters, and less than 3:1 on the higher frequencies.

The BB3 requires a modest ground system, which may be satisfied by mounting it on a steel roof, as on mobile homes and RVs, or on a fixed metal building. A backyard antenna needs a minimum of 16 wire radials at least 25 ft. long, according to the manufacturer.

The BB3 base portion is 2 inch diameter aluminum tubing 10 ft. up to the BB3 coil assembly. Above is a flexible, telescoping aluminum whip 22 ft. long. When telescoped, the whip is only 75 inches long, making it easy to stow. The remote control sits at your operating position and is powered by 12 VDC. The antenna is \$364.95, with 16 ft. of control cable. In-

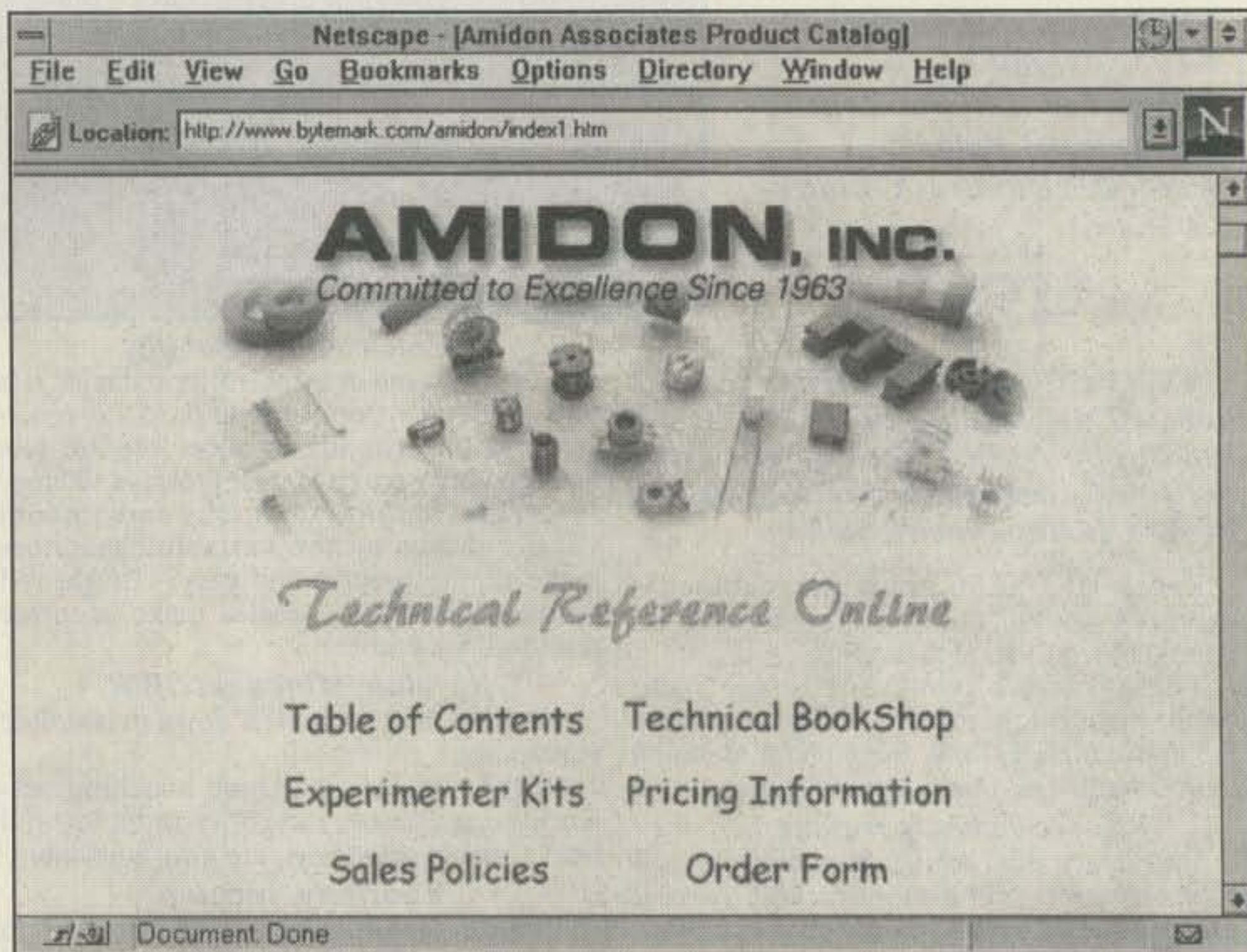


Fig. 1—Bytemark Corporation dedicates a portion of its Web site to the Amidon product line of ferrite and powdered-iron components. The Bytemark site includes the Amidon Technical Reference Online. This online reference contains useful electrical and physical information on popular Amidon components and includes detailed technical data on every part stocked. You also can download CoreCalc for Windows!, a versatile turns calculation tool. You'll find the site at <<http://www.bytemark.com>>.

cluded is the BB3 motorized loading coil, base section, top whip, remote control, ground stake with base plate, and toroidal matching network.

For more information, contact TJ Antenna Co./Nott Ltd., 4001 La Plata Hwy., Farmington, NM 87401 (1-800-443-0966; e-mail <[ka7w@tjantenna.com](mailto:ka7w@tjantenna.com)> or <[judy@tjantenna.com](mailto:judy@tjantenna.com)>; Web <<http://www.tjantenna.com>>).

**Arrow Antennas.** In January 1995 we described the Arrow Antenna fox hunt (hidden transmitter) products offered by Allen Lowe, NØIMW. His fox-hunting line includes a 5-step attenuator (\$59 assembled, \$39 kit form), as well as beams that are suitable for finding those elusive ones.

To recall, the Fox Hunt Attenuator is a heavy-duty RF signal attenuator used to reduce the received signal for radio direction finding. It offers up to about 75 dB of attenuation in 5 dB steps. It's constructed

of double-sided copper and fiberglass PC board, and it sports full-size slide switches for reliability.

The Arrow Antenna catalog shows a variety of portable ("Walking Stick," backpack, and handheld unit) antennas for 146 and 440 MHz; fixed VHF and UHF Yagis; corner reflectors (beams) for 148, 220, and 450 MHz, including a dual-band unit for 148 and 450 MHz; a 146 MHz/437 MHz satellite antenna; several J-poles ("Arrow Poles"); and ground planes ("Arrow Planes"). A dual-band duplexer and a versatile mounting bracket also are offered.

Contact Arrow Antenna, 1803 S. Greeley Hwy. #B, Cheyenne, WY 82007 (307-638-2369; e-mail <[Arrow146@aol.com](mailto:Arrow146@aol.com)>; Web <<http://Members.aol.com/Arrow146/index.html>>).

**ByteMark Online.** Bytemark Corporation is Amidon's master distributor. The firm has a portion of its Web site devoted

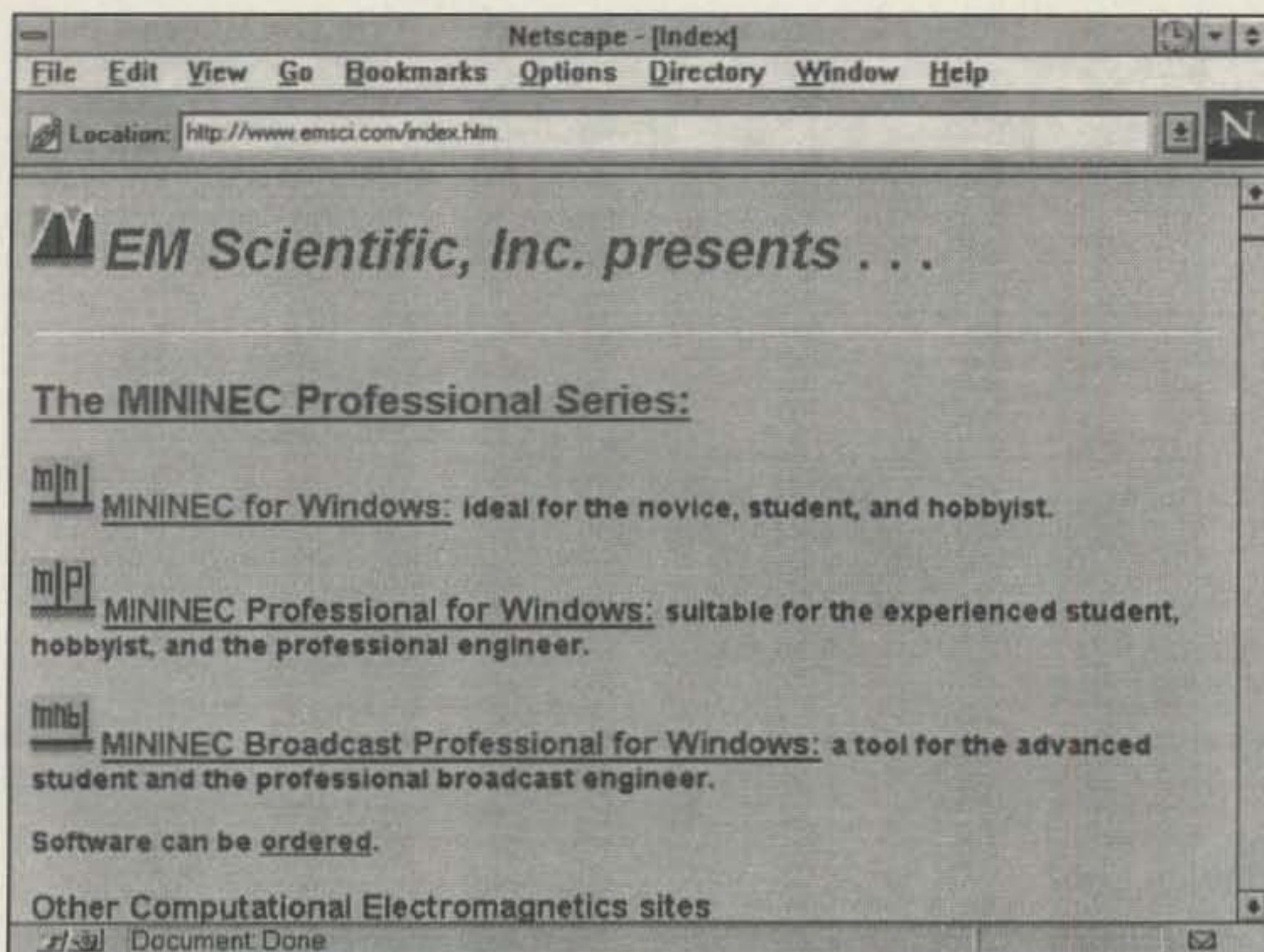


Fig. 2—EM Scientific, Inc. offers the MININEC Professional Series software, an advanced, Windows™ based engineering tool for the design and analysis of wire antennas. Three different versions are available from the publisher. These are MININEC for Windows, for amateurs, students, and hobbyists; MININEC Professional, with powerful engineering design capabilities; and MININEC Broadcast Professional, for the professional broadcast engineer. The site is at <<http://www.emsci.com>>.

to the Amidon product line of ferrite and powdered iron components.

Products include ferrite toroids, powdered iron toroids, ferrite rods, ferrite beads, and the technical data to use them. The parts are widely used for and in RF and digital applications such as resonant circuits, power supplies, RFI/EMI suppressors, transmission line transformers, signal transformers, and DC chokes. Amidon also produces the superb baluns (balanced-to-unbalanced transformers) and ununs (unbalanced-to-unbalanced transformers) developed by Dr. Jerry Sevick, W2FMI.

The ByteMark/Amidon Web site includes the Amidon Technical Reference Online (see fig.1). Based on the Amidon product reference book, this online reference contains useful electrical and physical information on popular Amidon components and includes detailed technical data on every part stocked. Also included is information on component usage and the application of formulas for optimal part selection. Amidon's CoreCalc™ for Windows™ toroid calculation software is available for download to registered owners of any powdered iron core from Amidon, with a rebate toward purchase of Amidon parts.

Contact ByteMark Corporation, 7714 Trent Street, Orlando, FL 32807 (1-800-679-3184; e-mail <[info@bytemark.com](mailto:info@bytemark.com)>; Web <<http://www.bytemark.com>>).

**Bird Electronic Corp.® Update.** Bird Electronic Corp. is a respected RF instrument manufacturer that offers a premium line of wattmeters, loads, attenuators, and accessories for RF power measurement and management in coaxial 50 ohm systems from 50 kHz to 2500 MHz. Other termination and attenuator products include a variety of high-power air-, oil-, and water-cooled terminations to 80 kW, and dry- and oil-dielectric attenuators to 4 kW. Although aimed at commercial markets, many products, such as their wattmeters, are used by quality-conscious amateurs.

Also, the Bird accessory sensors are used in other firms' power and SWR measurement equipment. For example, the P-100A digital/analog wattmeter from RF Applications, Inc. uses standard line sections and plug-in sensor elements from Bird Electronics as well as from Coaxial Dynamics®. (RF Applications, Inc., 7345 Production Drive, Mentor, OH 44060 [1-800-423-7252; e-mail <[sales@rfapps.com](mailto:sales@rfapps.com)>; Web <<http://www.rfapps.com>>].)

Recently, Bird Electronics released a new line of 50 ohm, air-cooled, bidirectional RF terminations and attenuators. These include 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 75, 100, 150, and 300 watt, convection-cooled terminations and attenuators for high-end applications. You can get them with N, BNC, TNC, and other connectors, and you also can order up custom configurations.

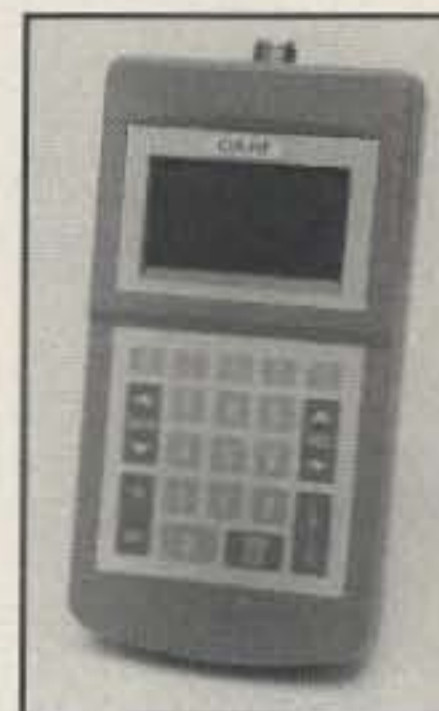
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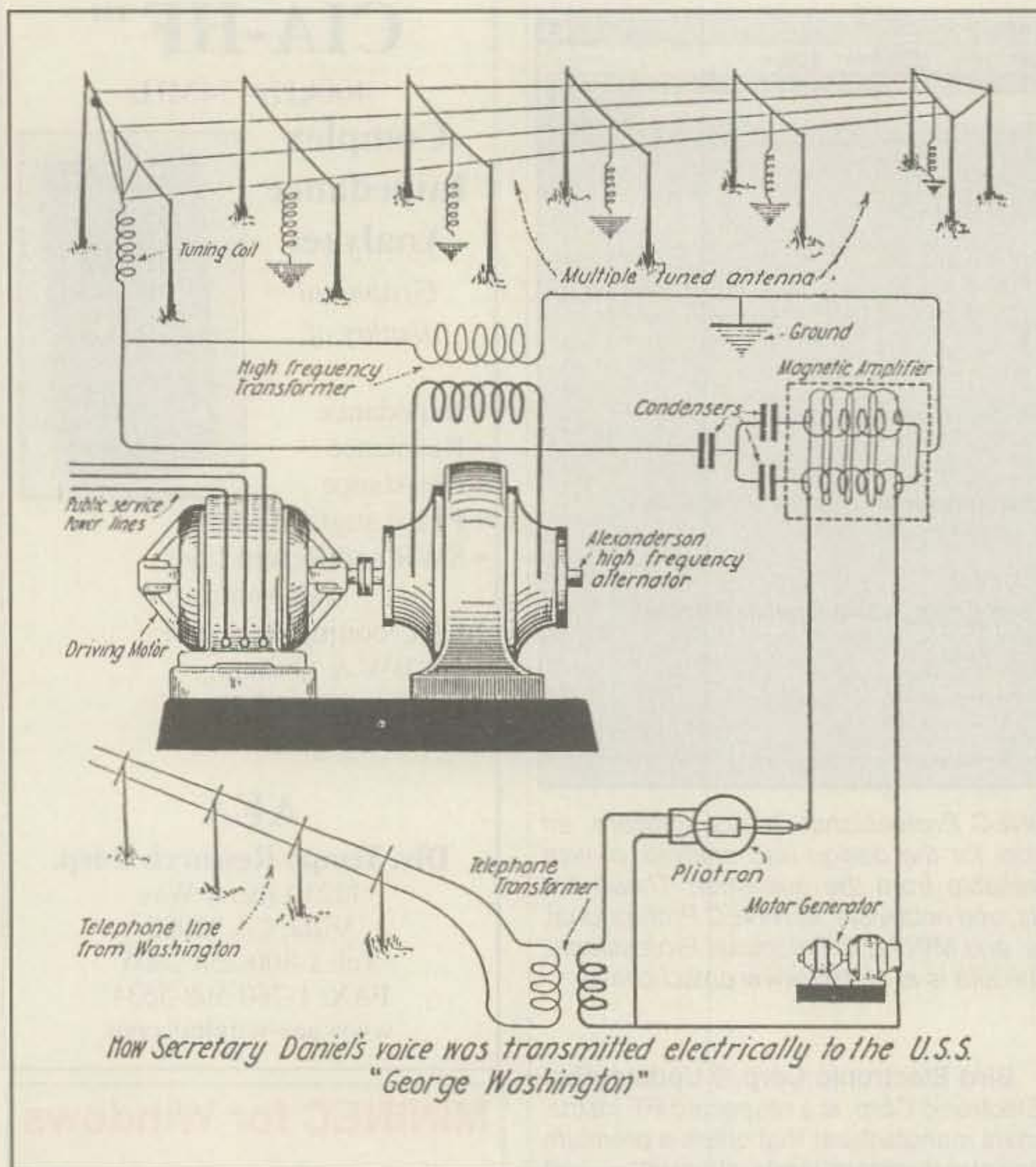


Fig. 3—CQ reader W. K. Berry, WØYNL, tells us that in the July 1919 issue of *Electrical Experimenter* magazine, there's a complete article that covers the massive 200 kW Alexanderson Alternator system which was located at New Brunswick, NJ, and which used the callsign NSS. See "We Get Letters" in this month's column and the station diagram and caption shown here which notes an important Naval communications demonstration mentioned in the 1919 article.

Corp., 30303 Aurora Rd., Solon, OH 44139-2794 (216-248-1200).

### Soft Stuff

**MININEC Windows Software.** The MININEC Professional Series is an advanced, Windows™ based engineering tool for the design and analysis of wire antennas. Three different versions are available from EM Scientific, Inc. These are MININEC for Windows (\$125), for amateurs, students, and hobbyists; MININEC Professional (\$390), with powerful engineering design capabilities; and MININEC Broadcast Professional (\$790), for the professional broadcast engineer. The computational engines of all versions are written in FORTRAN for speed and to make maximum use of memory. Square loops and Yagi antennas may be solved accurately.

Most amateurs will be interested pri-

marily in MININEC for Windows. This sophisticated design and analysis program's features include the handling of up to 800 unknowns; visualizing and rotating geometry, with results presented in 3-D displays; online, context-sensitive help; and real-time diagnostics.

Contact EM Scientific, Inc., 2533 N. Carson Street, Suite 2107, Carson City, NV 89706-0147 (702-888-9949; e-mail <76111.3171@compuserve.com>; Web <<http://www.emsci.com>>).

Incidentally, their Web site (fig. 2) has some interesting development background on the classic MININEC series of antenna modeling programs dating back to 1980, as well as descriptions of the modeling process, capabilities and limitations, and accuracy. Check it out.

**ARRL 1998 Handbook CD 2.0.** In October 1996 we featured the first ARRL CD-ROM, the 1995 ARRL Periodicals CD-ROM. To recall, it contained the full

text of every 1995 article in three major publications—*QST*, *QEX*, and *NCJ*. Since then, the ARRL has issued additional on-disc publications, even including *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs* on CD-ROM 2.0 (\$49.95). Since we reviewed the 1998 *Handbook* itself recently, we won't rehash our review, other than to mention that the 1998 "75th Anniversary Edition" tops out at 1191 pages in some 30 chapters plus an index, and as such stands as the definitive amateur radio sourcebook.

The second (1998) V2.0 of the *Handbook* CD-ROM sports a number of real improvements and enhancements that make it very easy to use. It now has a souped-up word index feature to let you type in a word and see the matching index words as you type, and auto-sizing and thumbnail print preview features in the image viewer. Web URLs (locations) in the text are "hotspots" you can click to launch your Web browser to view the contents.

The *Handbook's* template packages now also are available as Adobe Portable Document Files (PDFs), and a copy of the necessary reader software is included so you can view and print the template packages. Very important to me, the installation program lets you run the *Handbook* completely from the CD-ROM if you so choose, quite handy if your hard disk space is at a premium.

The *Handbook* CD-ROM is \$49.95 plus \$7 s/h from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1494 (1-888-277-5289; e-mail <[pubsales@arrl.org](mailto:pubsales@arrl.org)>; Web <<http://www.arrl.org>>).

### From the Bookshelf

**DXing on the Edge.** Subtitled "The Thrill of 160 Meters," this ARRL book is by Jeff Bridges, K1ZM, who is well-known as a "Topband" (160 meter) expert. It's designed to appeal to diehard 160 meter operators as well as those who have always wondered "what goes on down there" in our lowest-frequency HF band.

In part a fond dedication to 160 meter pioneer Stew Perry, W1BB, the book provides a great deal of historical information and achievements, practical receiving and transmitting antenna ideas, DX operating techniques and procedures, and more. Also bundled with the book is an audio CD that chronicles many memorable, long-haul contacts that attest to the DX excitement that awaits you on 160 (although I must warn you that many of the tracks are Morse code that may only appeal to the avid CW DXer).

The 224-page book is \$29.95 plus \$5 s/h from the ARRL, contact information as above.

**The FCC Rule Book.** You should have available a copy of the Federal Commun-

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Model	Application	Mast Size	Rotator Size	Pre-sets	Wind Load
G-450XL	Light/medium-duty	1 3/4 - 2 inches	12 1/2" H x 7 1/2" Dia.	No	10 Sq. Ft.
G-800X	Medium-duty	1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches	12 1/2" H x 7 1/2" Dia.	No	17 Sq. Ft.
G-800SDX	Medium-duty	1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches	12 1/2" H x 7 1/2" Dia.	Yes	17 Sq. Ft.
G-1000SDX	Heavy-duty	1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches	12 1/2" H x 7 1/2" Dia.	Yes	23 Sq. Ft.
G-2800SDX	Extra Heavy-duty	1 7/8 - 2 1/2 inches	13 5/8" H x 8" Dia.	Yes	34 Sq. Ft.
G-5400B	Azimuth-Elevation Rotator combination	1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches (Boom Dia. 1 1/4 - 1 5/8 in.)	Mounted together 12 1/2" H x 7 1/2" Dia.**	No	11 Sq. Ft.
G-500A	Elevation only	1 1/2 - 2 1/2 inches (Boom Dia. 1 1/4 - 1 5/8 in.)	10 1/2" H x 7 1/2" Dia.	No	12 Sq. Ft.

### Accessories:

GC-038 Mast Clamp. GC-048 Mast Clamp  
GS-050 Thrust Bearing. GS-065 Thrust Bearing  
GS-23 Computer Interface for G-800/1000/2800.  
GS-232 Computer Interface for G-5400B.  
GA-2500 Absorber Joint for G-450/800.  
GA-3000 Absorber Joint for G-1000/2800.

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Rotators not shown: G-800S, G-800SDX, G-1000SDX  
Call or write Yaesu for a free guide to help you select which rotator is best for your installation.  
\*Wind load ratings are valid when rotator is mounted in tower.  
\*\*Rotator size mounted together.



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An entry-level rotator priced low, for light to medium duty antennas. Maximum antenna wind load, 10 sq. ft.



**G-500A**  
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CIRCLE 70 ON READER SERVICE CARD

ications Commission (FCC) rules and regulations for amateur radio, whether you're required to or not. A little \$12, 316-page ARRL book meets this need handily.

The 10th edition of *The FCC Rule Book*, appropriately subtitled the "Complete Guide to the FCC Regulations Governing Amateur Radio," is edited by Tom Hogerty, KC1J. The book's heart is, of course, Part 97 of the FCC rules governing the Amateur Service. In addition, there are 12 appendices that provide a wealth of supplemental information, including extracts from the Communications Act of 1934; FCC reports and orders since 1989; a listing of landmark amateur radio legal cases; and much more.

There also are 16 up-front chapters that provide a very good overview of the regulatory environment of amateur radio in a number of different areas, some covered by Part 97 and some not. These environmental aspects include good amateur practice, antenna restrictions, technical standards, prohibited practices, self-regulation, and much more. The book is \$12 plus \$4 s/h from the ARRL, contact information as above.

**Official America Online Yellow Pages.** Although a member, I have mixed feelings about America Online (AOL). It's not my first choice as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) for a number of reasons, including the fact that it's so big (about 11 million members) and slow. While I can't argue with the fact that AOL's role as an online service "content provider" is unparalleled, I have to ask, how do I easily "find stuff" on AOL?

A new book that should help you get comfortable with AOL is the *Official America Online Yellow Pages* by John Kaufeld and Jennifer Kaufeld. The 512-page, \$24.99 softcover covers Windows and Mac platforms and has over 2,500 AOL "keywords" listed alphabetically for easy access to AOL service information.

Besides alphabetical keyword listings, the book provides two indexes that give you easy entry points to information listed. The Keyword Index is a comprehensive listing of keywords listed throughout the book, while the Topic Index lets you look up your topic of interest, find descriptions of pertinent sites, and find relevant keywords to take you to exactly where you need to go.

Contact Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2600 Tenth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710 (1-800-262-4729; Web <<http://www.osborne.com>>).

*P.S.:* There's not a tremendous amount of amateur-radio-specific information on AOL. However, if you're a member, you might want to check out the Radio Communications Forum (keyword: Ham or Ham Radio) in the Hobby Central area

(keyword: Hobby). Included in the forum is a wide selection of areas for the ARRL, callsign updates, digital and packet amateur radio, news bulletins, CB, conferences and chat, and the like.

## We Get Letters

Once again, we're just about out of space. Before wrapping it up this month, however, we'd like to acknowledge just a few of the folks who have written, faxed, e-mailed, phoned, or otherwise corresponded with your columnist over the past several months. A tip of the hat goes to W. K. Berry, W0YNL; Jerry Webster, K7ENP; Stan Balk, ZS6CFC; David Allard, N1DA; and Harry A. Weber.

One of the more interesting letters we received was from W. K. Berry, W0YNL, who saw the information on the Alexanderson Alternator in last December's column. To recall, the Alexanderson Alternator, a rudimentary VLF (very low frequency) wireless transmitter, was developed during the early 1900s by Ernst F. W. Alexanderson (1878-1975) for very long distance communications.

The Alexanderson Alternator was a large, electromechanical sender with a high-speed rotor connected *directly* to the antenna. GE and RCA built 20 of the units for worldwide coverage, including one on Long Island, NY, and at New Brunswick, NJ. Today only Grimeton, in Sweden, exists. It cranked up in 1924 on 16.7 kHz using the callsign SAQ.

W0YNL says that in the July 1919 issue of *Electrical Experimenter* magazine, there's a complete article and a station radio circuit diagram (fig. 3) that covers the massive, 200 kW system at New Brunswick, NJ, with the callsign NSS. It was used by the government for communication with both ships and aircraft, being able to send both voice or code. Reportedly, the antenna masts were 400 ft. high and had 32 cables attached at each end. The author of the article, a Mr. Ripley, even stated that sparks could be observed arcing from the nails in one's shoes as a visitor entered the area!

*P.S.:* There's more on the extremely fascinating world of the "longwaves"—and what lies below them—in my two-part article "Longer Than Longwave," in *CQ* for January and February 1998.

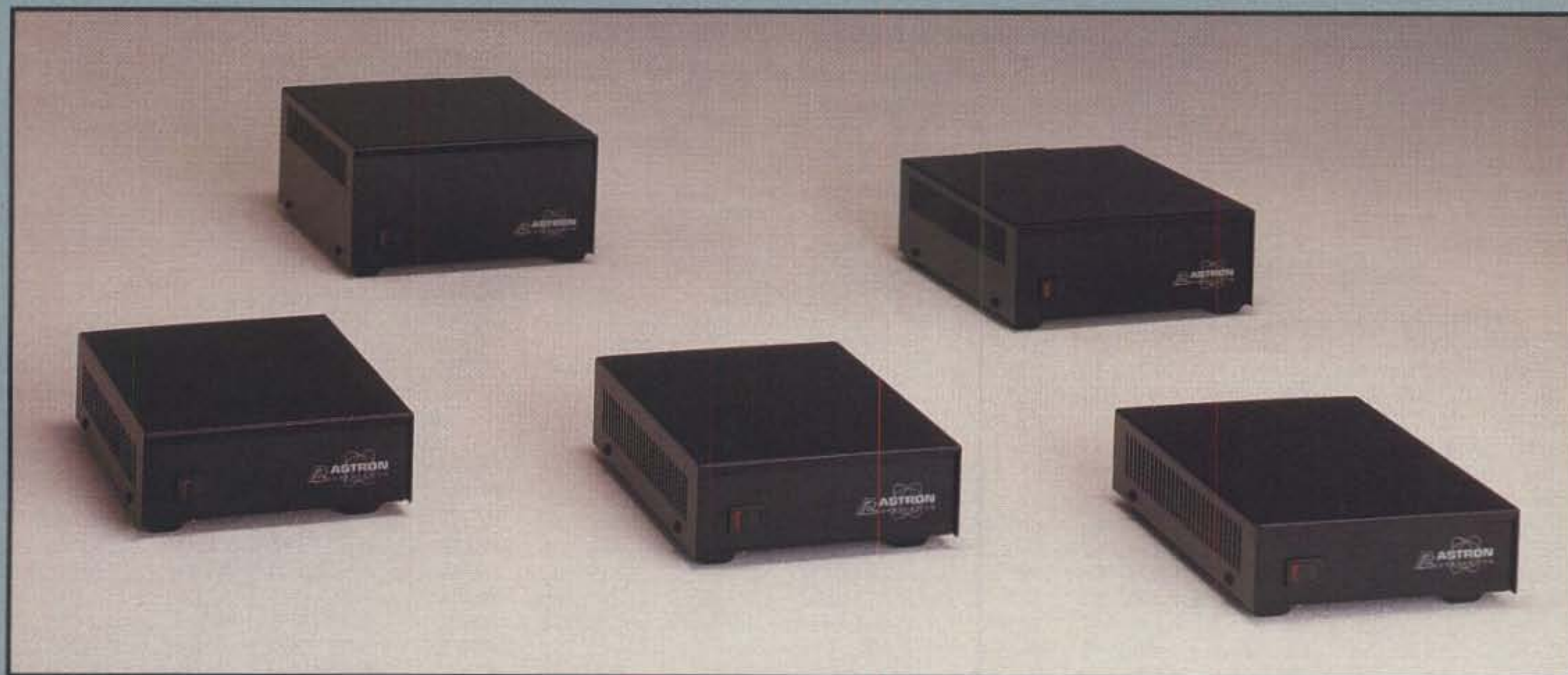
## Wrap-Up

That's all for this time, gang. Next time more "Digital Dipole" topics of current interest. See you then.

*Overheard:* "Getting organized" is a great idea, but sometimes I find I'm *too* organized for my own darned good.

73, Karl, W8FX

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SS-12	10	12	2.3 x 6 x 9	3.4
SS-18	15	18	2.3 x 6 x 9	3.6
SS-25	20	25	2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 7 x 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	4.2
SS-30	25	30	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 7 x 9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	5
SS-25M*	20	25	2 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub> x 7 x 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	4.2
SS-30M*	25	30	3 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> x 7 x 9 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	5

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# 1997 CQWW DX CW Contest High-Claimed Scores

BY THE CQWW CONTEST COMMITTEE  
e-mail: <questions@cqww.com>

The following are raw scores only, subject to verification.

## WORLD SINGLE OP ALL BAND

P4ØE ..... 13,165,480  
EA8EA ..... 12,271,790  
HC8N ..... 11,025,945  
9Y4H ..... 9,570,213  
8P9Z ..... 9,438,960  
K1AR ..... 8,144,760  
8R1K ..... 7,085,133  
A45XR ..... 6,734,701  
GIØKOW ..... 6,685,688  
W1KM ..... 5,732,776  
N2NT ..... 5,608,458  
KQ2M/1 ..... 5,582,375  
K3ZO ..... 5,456,890  
N2LT ..... 5,451,138  
VK6BAT ..... 5,382,450  
3DA5A ..... 5,368,465  
W4AN ..... 5,266,852  
V8EA ..... 5,235,776  
N6BV/1 ..... 5,070,208  
VK8VJ ..... 4,734,718  
7Z5OO ..... 4,639,821  
DX1S ..... 4,537,567  
YB1AQS ..... 4,528,335  
DL6FBL ..... 4,432,653  
4N9BW ..... 4,358,592  
G4BUO ..... 4,333,440  
W3BGN ..... 4,253,060  
JH5FXP ..... 4,184,320  
JH4UYB ..... 4,166,958  
S51BO ..... 4,099,810  
K1RU ..... 4,046,852

## 28 MHz

CX5X ..... 903,282  
CX5BW ..... 871,780  
CX9BAG ..... 624,084  
KH8/N5OLS ..... 432,666  
PY2XB ..... 424,212  
9XØA ..... 413,032  
ZB2X ..... 306,776  
PY1KS ..... 281,232  
S53X ..... 198,660  
LU3HIP ..... 198,292  
W4YV ..... 159,689  
DK5QN ..... 119,377  
W4XJ ..... 119,370  
IR4D ..... 113,076  
EA2IA ..... 108,928  
KZ5MM ..... 106,835

## 21 MHz

ZD8Z ..... 2,519,882  
ZP5XF ..... 2,103,660  
FM5DP ..... 1,204,416  
9Y4VU ..... 791,084  
LU4FPZ ..... 694,038  
JA5DQH ..... 619,320  
CV1A ..... 603,544  
US1E ..... 598,732  
CT1FJK ..... 571,067

VK5GN ..... 522,410  
K4ZA ..... 514,878  
N4CT ..... 507,600  
S50R ..... 487,572  
K9IG ..... 472,416  
UN9LW ..... 442,617  
WW4RR ..... 428,800  
S54AA ..... 421,410  
W6YA ..... 402,780

## 14 MHz

P4ØJ ..... 1,730,260  
P4ØR ..... 1,639,002  
CT3BX ..... 1,531,680  
9K2GS ..... 1,373,760  
5X1T ..... 1,307,443  
5B4AGC ..... 1,245,332  
VE6JY ..... 1,118,442  
KL7RA ..... 822,185  
IR4T ..... 807,120  
YT7A ..... 800,800  
K8DX ..... 787,200  
WØUN ..... 775,008  
M7Z ..... 722,970  
CW5W ..... 636,012  
YU1ZZ ..... 626,619  
RX9SX ..... 613,713  
W9IW ..... 612,374

## 7 MHz

C4A ..... 1,373,790  
9M6NA ..... 1,070,082  
9A5Y ..... 963,550  
ZL3CW ..... 921,014  
OHØMAM ..... 898,619  
S52AW ..... 880,680  
OK1RF ..... 867,146  
S5ØC ..... 804,940  
N7DD ..... 788,757  
UN7LG ..... 762,280  
JA5THU ..... 758,178  
T99W ..... 640,984  
UAØAGI ..... 627,356  
YU7NU ..... 620,215  
TK/DF9LJ ..... 605,748

## 3.5 MHz

SN3A ..... 619,512  
GW3YDX ..... 591,769  
TK5EP ..... 399,542  
SM4HCM ..... 378,708  
9A7A ..... 355,074  
LY6K ..... 343,700  
W1MK ..... 322,453  
S53R ..... 259,118  
PYØFF ..... 256,074  
UUØJM ..... 248,920  
S5ØY ..... 230,926  
IU2X ..... 230,100  
YX1D ..... 229,112  
OHØJJS ..... 223,123  
9A2AJ ..... 221,892

## 1.8 MHz

Ti1C ..... 206,056  
VE3BMV/1 ..... 202,700  
GW7J ..... 191,180  
TK5NN ..... 175,324

CT3/OH1MA ..... 157,056  
UA2FJ ..... 147,680  
SP5GRM ..... 128,538  
S5ØU ..... 126,518  
OY9JD ..... 117,218  
OM5ZW ..... 92,684  
YL2SM ..... 89,089  
SMØAJU ..... 85,839  
SM6CPY ..... 81,536  
OH5VT ..... 75,051

## LOW POWER ALL BAND

3V8BB ..... 7,759,294  
VP2EEB ..... 5,744,521  
WP2Z ..... 4,240,340  
UAØJQ ..... 3,263,660  
S5ØA ..... 2,464,182  
N2BA ..... 2,401,794  
S59AA ..... 2,093,000  
TA3D ..... 2,077,875  
FG5EY ..... 2,028,598  
HA1CW ..... 1,896,450  
WA1LNP ..... 1,842,256  
K1VUT ..... 1,779,000  
WA1S ..... 1,753,920  
UN6P ..... 1,717,608  
Z31JA ..... 1,674,764  
S57J ..... 1,559,148  
9M2TO ..... 1,551,600  
KM1X ..... 1,537,424  
G4KIV ..... 1,493,175  
VK2AYD ..... 1,489,851  
NA2U ..... 1,482,597  
DL2OBF ..... 1,412,670  
W2TZ ..... 1,396,500  
LU8HSO ..... 1,373,184  
RAØFF ..... 1,331,545  
S51F ..... 1,328,141  
GD4UOL ..... 1,310,984  
XØ7X ..... 1,287,384  
RUØLL ..... 1,269,190  
WO4O ..... 1,264,384

## 28 MHz

LU9AUY ..... 783,846  
AZ9W ..... 783,543  
LW4DYI ..... 611,040  
PU2RUX ..... 400,920  
LU3WEU ..... 377,630  
LU2DPW ..... 358,013  
VK4XA ..... 247,265  
3B8/F6HMJ ..... 205,737  
CU2/G3WVG ..... 185,526  
EA8ADJ ..... 151,152

## 21 MHz

VP5EA ..... 828,960  
PU2MHB ..... 543,114  
7X2RO ..... 410,316  
LW9ETY ..... 370,136  
UA4LL ..... 366,320  
UA4POL ..... 348,062  
CT1BQH ..... 320,178  
YBØECT ..... 283,671  
VA3MG ..... 283,416  
WB4TDH ..... 280,166  
HA3MQ ..... 269,804

DU3RCM ..... 258,633  
YZ4IZ ..... 247,962  
WA1FCN ..... 228,480  
JHØEPI ..... 226,996  
Z38G ..... 210,375

## 14 MHz

VK2APK ..... 616,140  
LU4FM ..... 541,320  
S58AL ..... 415,324  
RA9AA ..... 373,464  
HA8RH ..... 370,524  
ES2RJ ..... 343,536  
U5WF ..... 327,750  
JA7XBG ..... 322,806  
RZ3FA ..... 319,392  
CX9AU ..... 311,049  
OK2PAY ..... 284,472  
IQ7A ..... 275,772  
N4MO ..... 275,655  
T93Y ..... 257,146  
S53BM ..... 255,120

## 7 MHz

PA3AAV ..... 359,817  
T95A ..... 275,576  
OM5AW ..... 227,180  
VP5EA ..... 191,769  
CO2JD ..... 169,822  
OH4JLV ..... 168,726  
UT1FA ..... 153,952  
RW1ZZ ..... 150,696  
UX3M ..... 130,380  
ON4AEB ..... 127,413

## 3.5 MHz

IK4WVG ..... 168,482  
4L5O ..... 144,640  
YU7CB ..... 136,965  
YU1KR ..... 133,292  
HA8EU ..... 126,806  
YP2R ..... 112,896  
SP5JTF ..... 107,350  
PAØCYW ..... 102,102  
F5NOD ..... 87,420  
S59KW ..... 86,668

## 1.8 MHz

HA8BE ..... 71,576  
OM3OM ..... 52,668  
YU1RA ..... 45,741  
UU4JMG ..... 44,145  
HAØEQ ..... 35,340  
OK1JOC ..... 31,040  
UN5J ..... 27,690  
RV1CC ..... 25,425  
UT8IT ..... 16,695  
IK2IQV ..... 15,128  
UXØHA ..... 13,311  
OM3TZU ..... 12,730  
SP2EXN ..... 12,070

## QRP

### ALL BAND

YT7TY ..... 883,875  
AA2U ..... 876,650  
DL6RDR ..... 831,117  
WA2HZR ..... 724,548

LY3BA ..... 633,042  
K1RC ..... 547,008  
K3PH ..... 526,552  
LY2FE ..... 430,405  
OE2S ..... 408,558  
N1TM ..... 405,450  
YU1EA ..... 402,867  
N7IR ..... 401,108

## ASSISTED ALL BAND

FM5DN ..... 8,529,290  
K1NG ..... 6,643,719  
K3WW ..... 6,182,008  
K3MM ..... 4,870,162  
K2NG ..... 4,644,129  
K2TW ..... 4,317,885  
N3AD ..... 3,739,648  
W3EEE ..... 3,421,264  
K1AM ..... 3,419,770  
K3NZ ..... 3,407,910  
W2XX ..... 3,185,868  
NN4T ..... 3,175,860  
N2MM ..... 3,116,509  
WF3T ..... 3,044,076  
IR2W ..... 2,761,616  
DL2MEH ..... 2,500,590  
K3MD ..... 2,499,068  
DJ2YA ..... 2,469,496  
N3RR ..... 2,378,372  
K8MFO ..... 2,371,548  
W2RE ..... 2,358,545  
VR97BG ..... 2,248,896  
DL7ON ..... 2,224,728  
NN3Q ..... 2,102,016  
S58A ..... 2,086,444  
N4XR/1 ..... 1,925,649  
K2ONP ..... 1,918,840  
W3OV ..... 1,893,456  
W1GD/2 ..... 1,832,530

## MULTI-SINGLE

P3A ..... 14,689,074  
ZF1A ..... 12,818,067  
KP3Z ..... 12,733,490  
5A2A ..... 11,443,278  
N2NU ..... 10,209,232  
6D2X ..... 9,691,584  
IQ4A ..... 9,442,197  
OM8A ..... 9,085,620  
HG1S ..... 9,033,248  
OT7T ..... 9,016,240  
TM2Y ..... 8,817,408  
AH2R ..... 8,508,096  
RU1A ..... 8,460,291  
RZ9AZA ..... 8,392,928  
IH9/OL5Y ..... 8,382,276  
LZ7M ..... 8,249,832  
VE9DH ..... 8,136,576  
LZ9A ..... 7,815,096  
UA2AA ..... 7,811,776  
K8AZ ..... 7,390,552  
9G5VJ ..... 7,222,696  
OK5W ..... 7,065,492  
K1ZZ ..... 7,038,756  
3E1DX ..... 7,038,459  
DL6RAI ..... 6,628,878  
OH7AAC ..... 6,585,688

EU8T ..... 6,262,044  
RS3A ..... 6,206,706  
TI5N ..... 6,035,445

## MULTI-MULTI

5V7A ..... 34,708,911  
6Y4A ..... 31,697,090  
EA8ZS ..... 25,427,388  
J39A ..... 21,752,328  
VE3EJ ..... 19,874,400  
9A1A ..... 19,351,618  
KC1XX ..... 18,651,136  
KH7R ..... 17,651,997  
K3LR ..... 16,744,500  
W3LPL ..... 16,495,335  
K1KI ..... 15,533,640  
KL7Y ..... 14,107,761  
N3RS ..... 13,498,056  
OH2HE ..... 13,395,933  
DFØHQ ..... 12,873,476  
A61AJ ..... 12,744,883  
HG6N ..... 12,396,790  
EA6IB ..... 12,311,091  
SL3ZV ..... 12,176,632  
V26KW ..... 12,121,676

## EUROPE ALL BAND

GIØKOW ..... 6,685,688  
DL6FBL ..... 4,432,653  
4N9BW ..... 4,358,592  
G4BUO ..... 4,333,440  
S51BO ..... 4,099,810  
GØIVZ ..... 3,633,120  
RN6BY ..... 3,410,337  
YU7AV ..... 3,288,125  
SP4Z ..... 3,212,452  
UT4UZ ..... 3,050,901  
OZ1LO ..... 2,772,120  
OH6RX ..... 2,412,790  
OH6WZ ..... 2,286,704  
YO3APJ ..... 2,137,824  
YT1AD ..... 2,055,753  
OF1HS ..... 2,014,432  
US1U ..... 1,997,456  
LY3AV ..... 1,983,780  
OZ1IOC ..... 1,783,104  
YU1OL ..... 1,545,303  
UA6LT1 ..... 1,539,522  
DF4SA ..... 1,530,628  
DL2DX ..... 1,401,181  
G3PJT ..... 1,392,778  
ES5QX ..... 1,344,046  
G3TBK ..... 1,343,727  
DL4MCF ..... 1,337,760  
YL2KO ..... 1,334,219  
MJØAWR ..... 1,318,410

## 28 MHz

ZB2X ..... 306,776  
S53X ..... 198,660  
DK5QN ..... 119,377  
IR4D ..... 113,076  
EA2IA ..... 108,928  
IU2E ..... 66,895  
OK1XW ..... 61,766  
DKØSR ..... 60,760  
UT1IA ..... 53,820



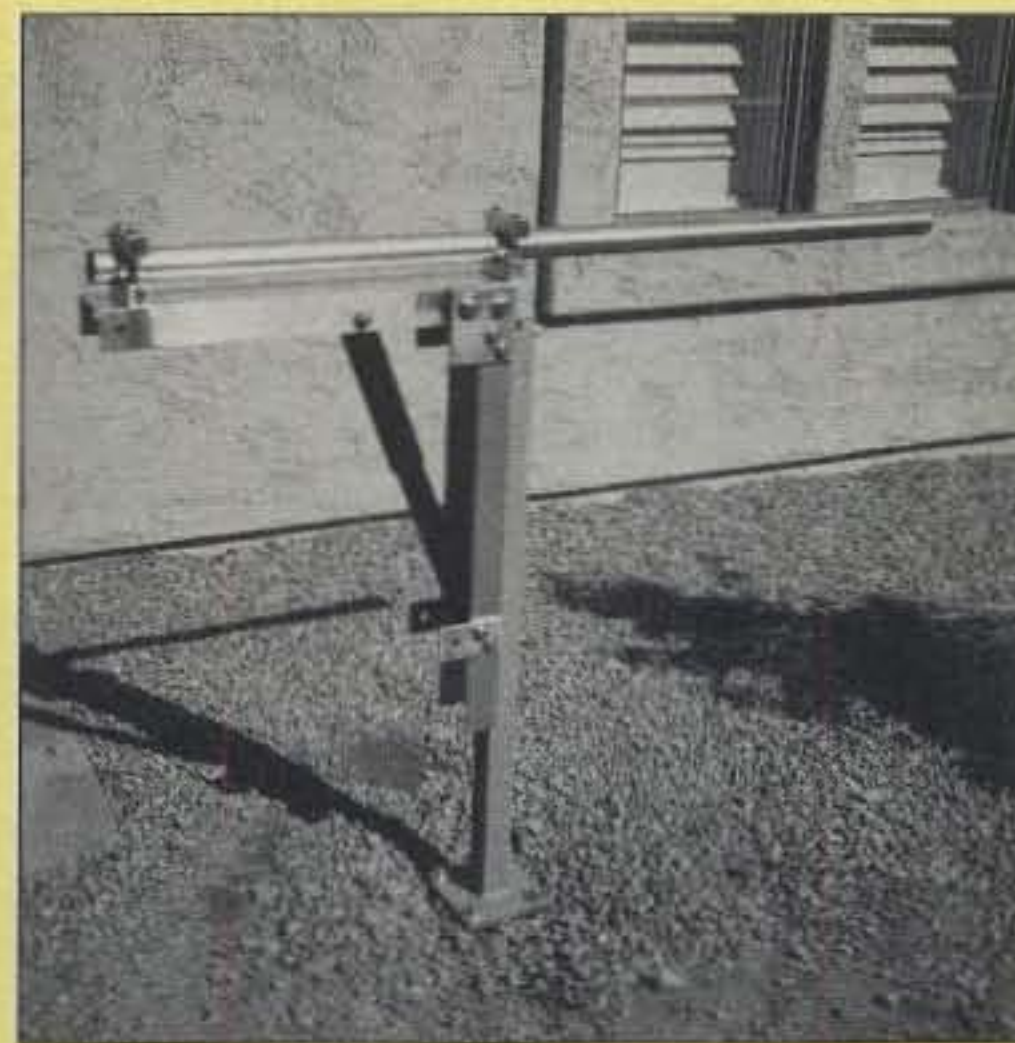
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 LY2OU .....40,400  
 G0AEV .....39,933  
 SP5DIR .....39,933  
 UX8IX .....35,090

### 21 MHz

US1E .....598,732  
 CT1FJK .....571,067  
 S50R .....487,572  
 S54AA .....421,410  
 OM3PC .....376,495  
 OT7L .....364,530  
 OH6MRA .....361,584  
 YZ1AU .....306,128  
 SP3SLA .....282,948  
 GM7X .....267,596  
 UU9JH .....258,912

### 14 MHz

IR4T .....807,120  
 YT7A .....800,800  
 M7Z .....722,970  
 YU1ZZ .....626,619  
 S53M .....599,252  
 S50K .....572,560  
 IT9XUC .....563,013  
 F5PGP .....550,257  
 G3XTT .....502,194  
 RW1ZA .....497,988  
 SP2EBG .....487,508

### 7 MHz

9A5Y .....963,550  
 OH0MAM .....898,619  
 S52AW .....880,680  
 OK1RF .....867,146  
 S50C .....804,940  
 T99W .....640,984  
 YU7NU .....620,215  
 TK/DF9LJ .....605,748  
 OF1JD .....588,892  
 YT1BB .....574,820

### 3.5 MHz

SN3A .....619,512  
 GW3YDX .....591,769  
 TK5EP .....399,542  
 SM4HCM .....378,708  
 9A7A .....355,074  
 LY6K .....343,700  
 S53R .....259,118  
 UU0JM .....248,920  
 S50Y .....230,926  
 IU2X .....230,100  
 OH0JJS .....223,123  
 9A2AJ .....221,892

### 1.8 MHz

GW7J .....191,180  
 TK5NN .....175,324  
 UA2FJ .....147,680  
 SP5GRM .....128,538  
 S50U .....126,518  
 OY9JD .....117,218  
 OM5ZW .....92,684  
 YL2SM .....89,089  
 SM0AJU .....85,839  
 SM6CPY .....81,536  
 OH5VT .....75,051

### LOW POWER ALL BAND

S50A .....2,464,182  
 S59AA .....2,093,000  
 HA1CW .....1,896,450  
 Z31JA .....1,674,764  
 S57J .....1,559,148  
 G4KIV .....1,493,175  
 DL2OBF .....1,412,670  
 S51F .....1,328,141  
 GD4UOL .....1,310,984  
 S58MC .....1,156,668  
 HA0IT .....1,111,944

HA8IB .....1,056,812  
 RA3AF .....1,052,504  
 SP2QCH .....1,026,800  
 LY2BM .....1,019,268  
 IU0X .....996,411  
 SP6NIC .....949,540  
 G3SWH .....946,048  
 S57U .....867,477  
 S57DX .....828,386  
 UA3ABJ .....821,096  
 OK1MD .....817,890  
 OK1FPS .....805,896  
 I3JSS .....783,720  
 IK4MTF .....777,616  
 DL7QU .....753,818  
 UR5U .....753,536  
 IK1RQQ .....720,698  
 EI4DW .....715,520  
 LY2FN .....673,440

### 28 MHz

CU2/G3WVG .....185,526  
 SP9W .....87,675  
 CT1AOZ .....58,035  
 S52OT .....55,692  
 S50Q .....46,870  
 S51W .....39,467  
 S52SK .....36,022  
 EA7BJV .....34,056  
 F6DYX .....18,001  
 SP3LWP .....13,600

### 21 MHz

UA4LL .....366,320  
 UA4POL .....348,062  
 CT1BQH .....320,178  
 HA3MQ .....269,804  
 Z38G .....210,375  
 OK1FKM .....173,100  
 4N1N .....158,903  
 SP9BBH .....154,752  
 IQ9AF .....145,730  
 I1XPQ .....137,100

### 14 MHz

S58AL .....415,324  
 HA8RH .....370,524  
 ES2RJ .....343,536  
 U5WF .....327,750  
 RZ3FA .....319,392  
 OK2PAY .....284,472  
 IQ7A .....275,772  
 T93Y .....257,146  
 S53BM .....255,120  
 UY8IF .....242,481

### 7 MHz

PA3AAV .....359,817  
 T95A .....275,576  
 OM5AW .....227,180  
 OH4JLV .....168,726  
 UT1FA .....153,952  
 RW1ZZ .....150,696  
 UX3M .....130,380  
 ON4AEB .....127,413  
 RW3WV .....120,000  
 F/OK1EE .....112,404

### 3.5 MHz

IK4WVG .....168,482  
 YU7CB .....136,965  
 YU1KR .....133,292  
 HA8EU .....126,806  
 YP2R .....112,896  
 SP5JTF .....107,350  
 PA0CYW .....102,102  
 F5NOD .....87,420  
 S59KW .....86,668

### 1.8 MHz

HA8BE .....71,576  
 OM3OM .....52,668  
 YU1RA .....45,741  
 UU4JMG .....44,145

HA0EQ .....35,340  
 OK1JOC .....31,040  
 RV1CC .....25,425  
 UT8IT .....16,695  
 IK2IQV .....15,128  
 UX0HA .....13,311

### QRP ALL BAND

YT7TY .....883,875  
 DL6RDR .....831,117  
 LY3BA .....633,042  
 LY2FE .....430,405  
 OE2S .....408,558  
 YU1EA .....402,867  
 DL3KVR .....385,020  
 YU1LM .....381,210  
 I1BAY .....345,072  
 YU1KN .....306,024  
 S59D .....289,836

### ASSISTED ALL BAND

IR2W .....2,761,616  
 DL2MEH .....2,500,590  
 DJ2YA .....2,469,496  
 DL7ON .....2,224,728  
 S58A .....2,086,444  
 DF4RD .....1,650,302  
 DK9IP .....1,280,208  
 DL7MAE .....1,265,936  
 G5LP .....1,115,615  
 IK5TSS .....1,043,184  
 GW3JXN .....1,003,544  
 S56A .....959,418  
 DL7VOG .....820,854  
 OH3BU .....816,144  
 SM5IMO .....812,784

### MULTI-SINGLE

IQ4A .....9,442,197  
 OM8A .....9,085,620  
 HG1S .....9,033,248  
 OT7T .....9,016,240  
 TM2Y .....8,817,408  
 RU1A .....8,460,291  
 LZ7M .....8,249,832  
 LZ9A .....7,815,096  
 UA2AA .....7,811,776  
 OK5W .....7,065,492  
 DL6RAI .....6,628,878  
 OH7AAC .....6,585,688  
 EU8T .....6,262,044  
 RS3A .....6,206,706  
 OF1AF .....5,940,014  
 US0Q .....5,113,779  
 DF3CB .....5,013,972  
 OF5M .....5,013,796  
 OL3A .....5,007,864

### MULTI-MULTI

9A1A .....19,351,618  
 OH2HE .....13,395,933  
 DF0HQ .....12,873,476  
 HG6N .....12,396,790  
 EA6IB .....12,311,091  
 SL3ZV .....12,176,632  
 TF3IRA .....11,379,824  
 EA4ML .....9,863,802  
 PI4COM .....9,622,956  
 T49C .....9,382,471  
 RZ3Q .....9,077,258  
 LY5A .....8,666,876  
 RW6AWT .....8,544,984

### USA SINGLE OP ALL BAND

K1AR .....8,144,760  
 W1KM .....5,732,776



# WORLD OF IDEAS

A LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND US

## QRP '98: News, Views, and Notes

Okay, friends, three guesses on what is the hottest pursuit going in amateur radio today—and your first two don't count. If you answered QRP, QRP, QRP, you are "in like Flint." Otherwise, return to counting solar flares and sunspots. Why has QRP become so incredibly popular, you ask? It is low in cost, flexible enough to fit any lifestyle, and truly offers something for everyone. Want to hit the airwaves with a new, fancy featured rig? The idea is both affordable and terrific fun with QRP. Enjoy collecting, restoring, and using classic gear? That too is a heartwarming treat with QRP. Like building ultra-low-cost kits? That is a really popular interest among QRPers, and working the world with a self-assembled rig really boosts self-esteem and personal pride.

4941 Scenic View Dr., Birmingham, AL 35210

Say you face enough challenges trying to work DX with a full 100 watt rig? Still carrying a stack of sandwiches and pitcher of tea into the shack while spending half the evening trying to work a needed rare, are you? Well, friends, maybe you are running too much power. That's right—too much power. If you really want to be a mover and shaker, try lowering that output—all the way down to the 5 watt level! The distant station will then think you are also a DX rare and make an all-out effort to copy you through the pileup. Bang! You land a QSO before others even realize what happened! Yes, indeed, victory snatched from the jaws of defeat! Would I lead you astray?

Need more getting-started encouragement? Begin with this month's news and views, and then order a copy of my new self-published book *QRP NOW!* for complete guidance and details on what's hap-

pening in QRP today (\$15 plus \$2 regular mail/\$3 Priority mail from Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, 4941 Scenic View Dr., Birmingham, AL 35210).

Next, gear up with a neat 5 watt rig, fine tune your antenna system and operating techniques, and then join QRP activities between 7.035 and 7.045, 10.110 and 10.124, and 14.055 and 14.065 MHz. Within a month you will have a new lease on life. Honest! Now let's check out the QRP news and views!

### First Views of The SGC-2020

Eyes throughout the QRP community turned toward the Seattle area when SGC, Inc. recently announced production of their new SG-2020 transceiver (see photos 1, 2, and 3). Since Bruce Franklin, KG7CR, of Index Labs was a key mem-



Photo 1— (Top Left) The new SGC SG-2020 HF transceiver. Unit is quite small, remarkably similar to the QRP Plus in design and operation, and packs a hefty punch on both CW and SSB. (Photo courtesy SGC, Inc.)

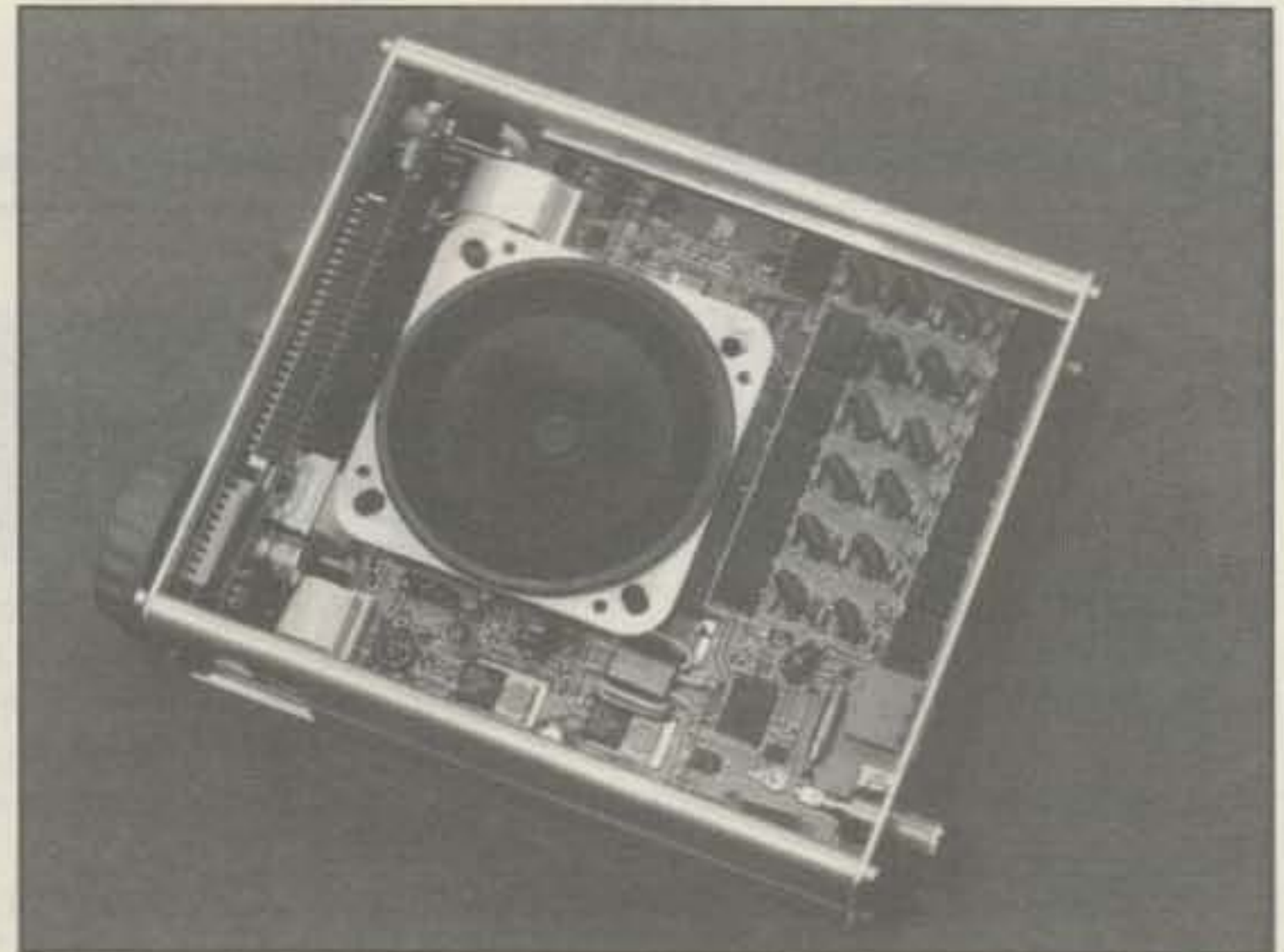


Photo 2— (Top Right) Interior view of the SG-2020 reveals a neat layout with heavy-duty components for go-anywhere hamming. Band filters are visible toward the rear of the cabinet. Push-Pull output transistors are on the right side of the cabinet, behind the antenna socket. (Photo courtesy SGC, Inc.)



Photo 3— (Bottom Right) Optional snap-on front and rear covers transform the SG-2020 into a self-contained and fully protected station for instant portable use. Batteries install in the rear, while the microphone and key store in front. (Photo courtesy SGC, Inc.)

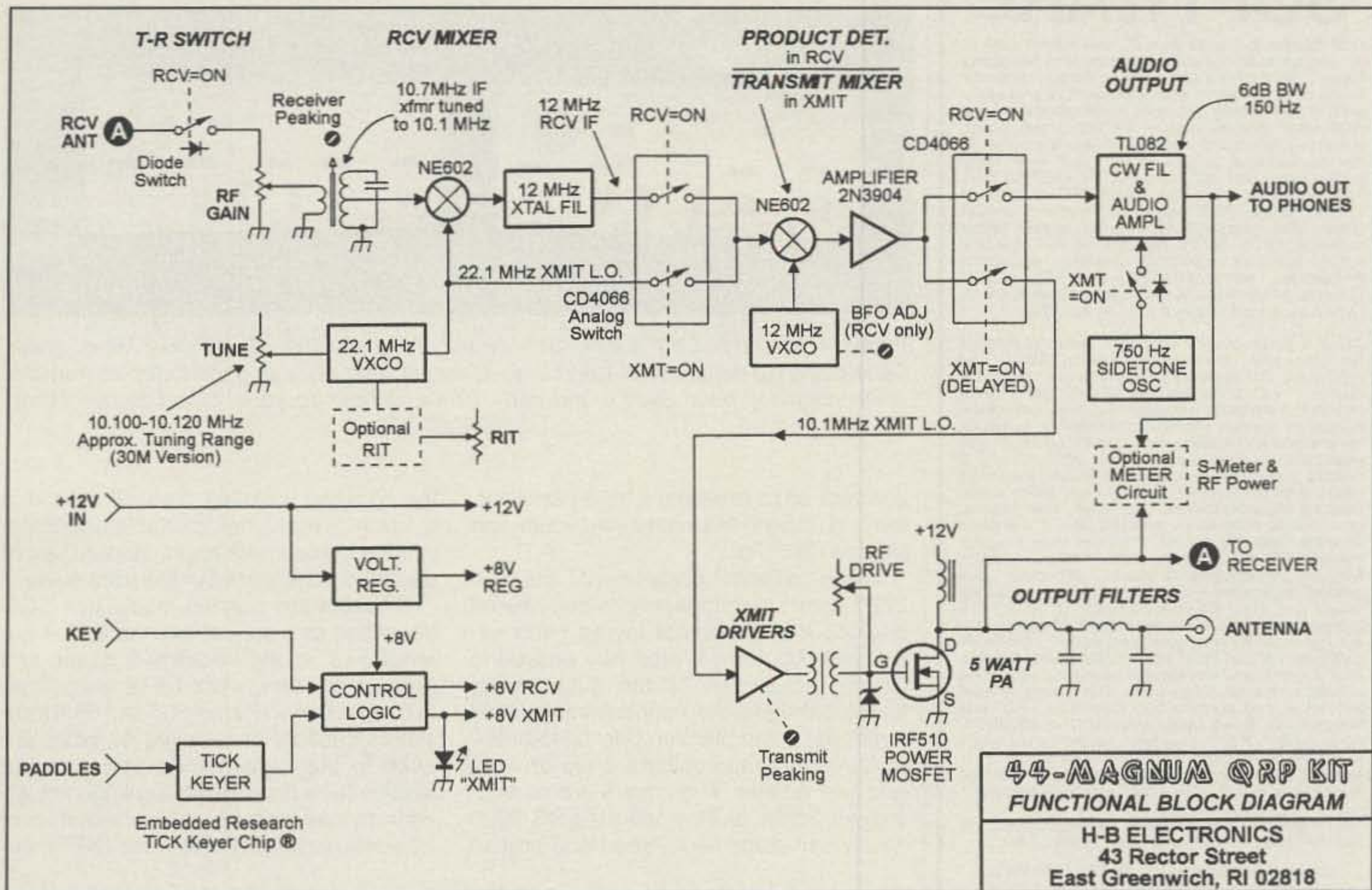


Fig. 1— Conceptual diagram of the new 44 Magnum from H. B. Electronics. Several stages function on both transmit and receive. (Discussion in text.)

ber of the little rig's design team, everyone curiously pondered if the SG-2020 would be a next-generation QRP Plus (which many folks consider top banana in commercially made QRP transceivers).

Well, friends, I test-operated an SG-

2020 on both SSB and CW for several days, and to me it seems like a formidable successor with both similarities to and differences from the QRP Plus, possibly because it is designed for both amateur and commercial markets.

In the "similar department," the SG-2020 also works all nine HF bands with full shortwave reception and features galore. Selection of memories, bands, built-in keyer speed, CW bandwidth, RIT, and split frequencies for DXing are ac-

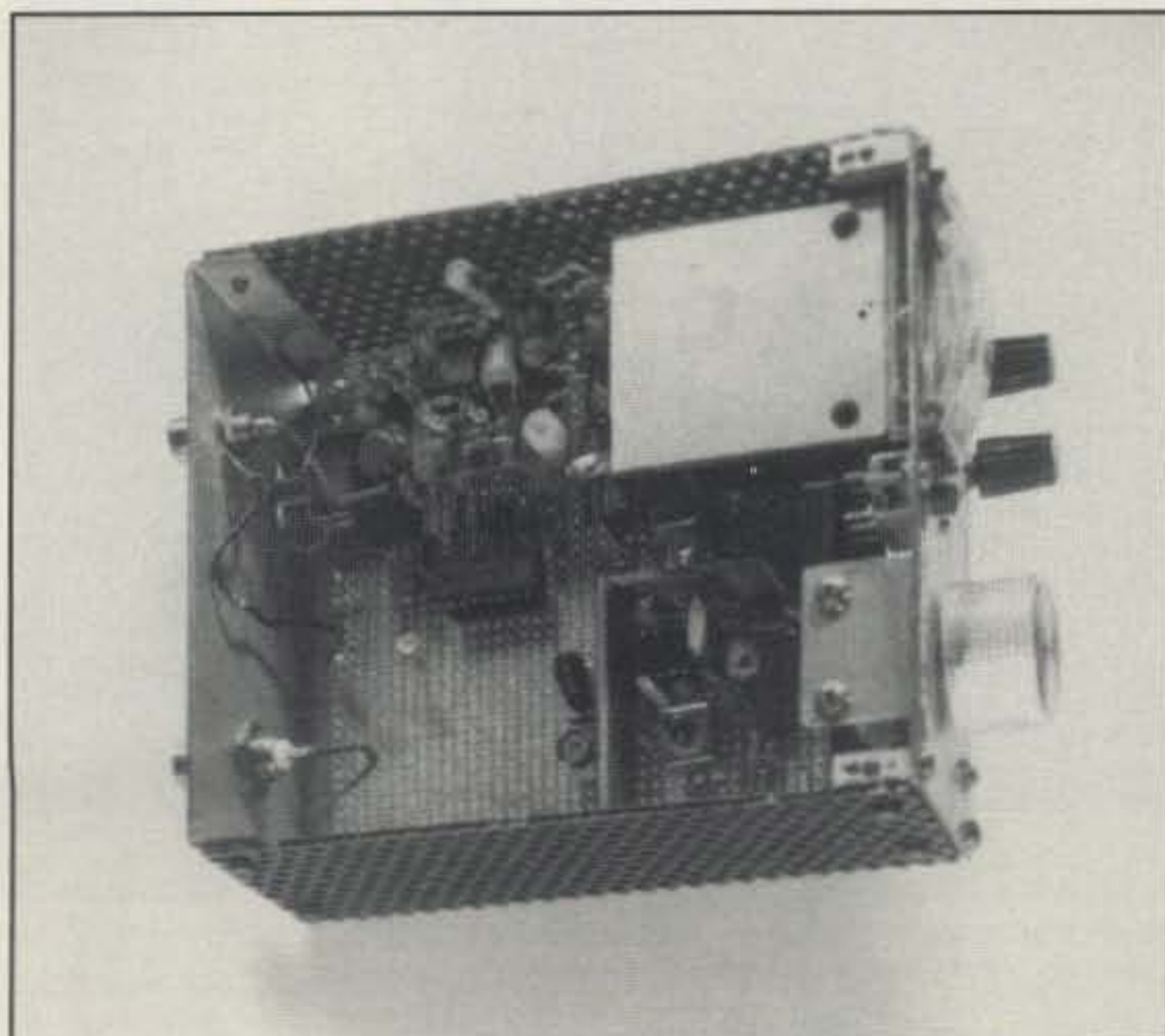


Photo 4— (Left) Over-the-shoulder view of the prototype 44 Magnum during development (and on perboard for easy experimenting). Rest assured resultant kits and PC boards will be laid out in an easier to assemble manner. (Photo courtesy Paul Harden, NA5N)

Photo 5— (Below) Although an enclosure is not included in the basic 44 Magnum kit, this front view of the NA5N prototype unit gives us a good idea of how a completed transceiver might look. (Photo courtesy NA5N)



# SOFTWARE

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**AO 6.5** automatically optimizes antenna designs for best gain, pattern, impedance, SWR, and resonance. **AO** features 3-D pattern and geometry displays, 2-D polar and rectangular plots with overlays, automatic wire segmentation, automatic frequency sweep, skin-effect modeling, symbolic dimensions and expressions, current sources, and polarization and near-field analysis. **NEC/Wires 2.0** models true earth losses, surface waves, and huge arrays with the Numerical Electromagnetics Code. Best for elevated radials, Beverages, wire beams, giant quads, delta loops, and LPDAs. **TA 1.0** plots elevation patterns for HF antennas over irregular terrain. **TA** accounts for hills, valleys, slopes, focusing, shadowing, reflection, diffraction, and ground constants. Use **TA** to optimize antenna height and siting for your particular QTH. **YO 6.5** automatically optimizes monoband Yagi designs for maximum forward gain, best pattern, minimum SWR, and impedance. **YO** models stacked Yagis, dual driven elements, tapered elements, mounting brackets, matching networks, skin effect, ground reflection, and construction tolerances. **YO** runs hundreds of times faster than **NEC** or **MININEC**. **NEC/Yagis 2.5** provides reference-accuracy modeling of individual Yagis and large arrays. Best for EME arrays. One antenna program, \$70; three, \$120; five, \$200. 386 + 387 and VGA required.

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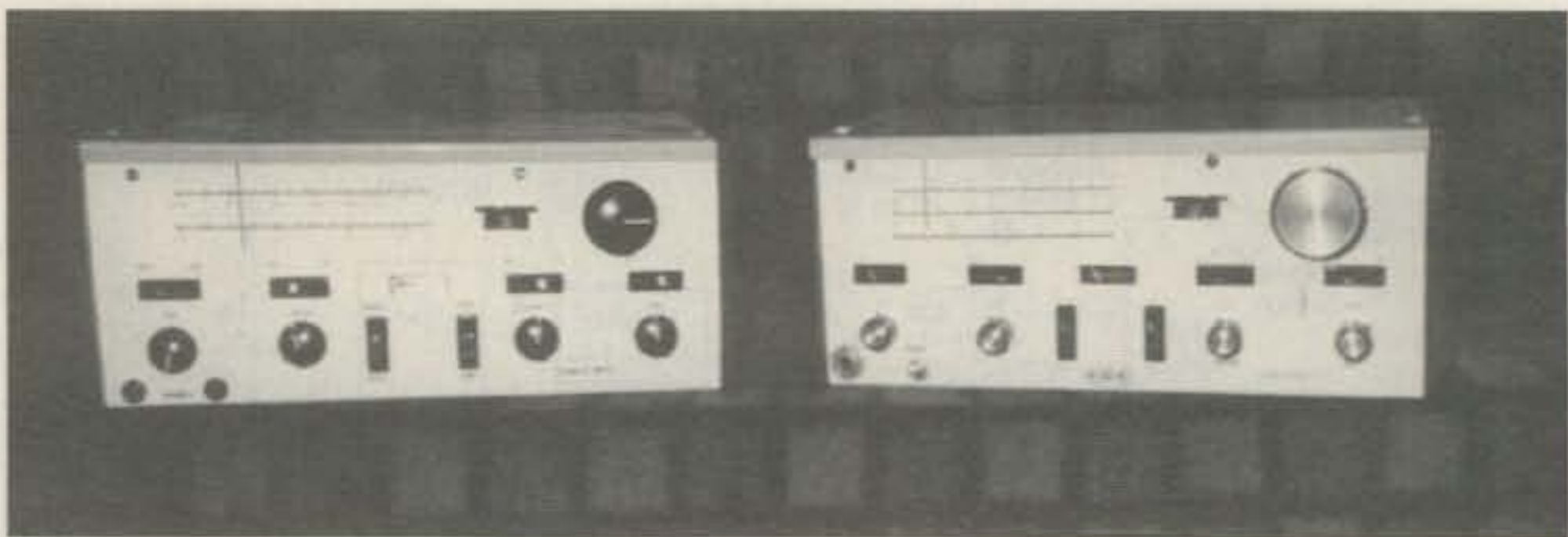


Photo 6—Nostalgic QRP supreme! This pair of like-new Ten-Tec "Power Mites" cover 80, 40, and 20 meters with 1 and 2 watts output, and work as good today as they did when originally purchased in the early 1960s. (Photo courtesy proud owner, David Larsen, N9XLT)

complished by pressing a front-panel button and rotating the main tuning knob, just like the QRP Plus.

In the "different department," the SG-2020 sports a completely re-engineered enclosure and internal layout (with expanded circuitry). It also has passband tuning (adjustable by the main tuning knob), band and memory scanning, SWR metering, noise blanker, backlight for the LCD readout, and optional snap-on front and rear covers. The covers are particularly attractive, as they make the SG-2020 a fully self-contained station and protect

the rig when traveling. Ten "D" cells fit in the rear cover for field/portable operation, while a microphone and miniature key or paddle can be stored in the front cover.

Circuit-wise, custom-made ICs SGC describes as a step above the SBL-1 are employed in the receiver's mixer and product detector, while FETs are utilized in bi-directional IF stages. Push-Pull transistors capable of handling 40 watts are used in the transmitter's power output section (which can be tuning-knob adjusted from less than 1 watt to a maximum of 20 watts output). Whether the QRP com-

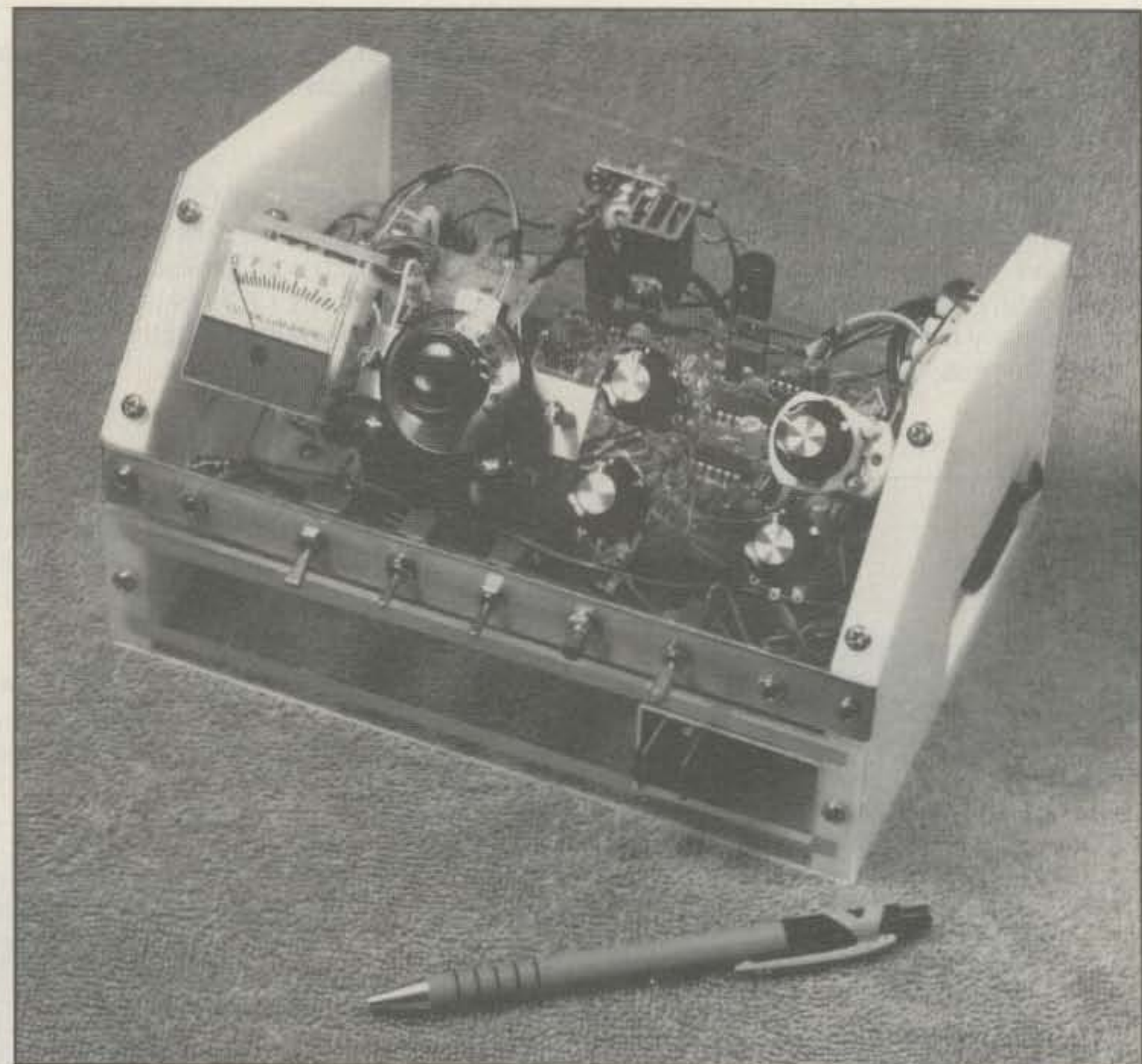


Photo 7—Jim Whiting, KØVAN, assembled this 38 Special complete with battery pack, charger, AC supply, audio amplifier, speaker, and antenna, and mounted everything in a see-through enclosure. The little gem is a real eye catcher, for sure! (Photo courtesy KØVAN)

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with 50W/35W Output



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Compact Transceiver

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FM Mobile  
Dual Receive

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munity will accept a 20 watt capable transceiver reduced to 5 watts output or less as "genuine QRP" is presently unknown, but I would say the SG-2020's high portability and low current consumption truly favor QRP.

Regarding on-the-air performance, the SG-2020 does an excellent job of copying weak signals, and its CW filters (which are adjustable from 2.7 kHz to 100 Hz) really cut out the QRM. The speech compressor packs a good punch on SSB, and "talk power" is noticeably higher than my dear QRP Plus. A high-speed relay is used for T/R switching with full QSK. When operating with my new vertical bug, resultant sounds brought visions of a classic Wirechief's office to my shack. I could have used earphones for "silent running," but as most of you know, I am a hopeless CW buff and enjoy the melodious sounds of telegraphy. Using the passband tuning took some acclimation, as I simultaneously vary it and the RIT to dodge QRM with other rigs. Overall, however, I had a ball operating the SG-2020. It strikes me as a lot of rig for the money. Maybe it should be nicknamed the QRP Plus Plus.

### The 38 Special Returns as The 44 Magnum

Remember the 38 Special mini transceiver kit offered by NorCal and highlighted in this column last September? A record number of amateurs quickly ordered kits, demand exceeded supplies, and some folks were left holding only a returned check and a cold soldering iron. Ah, but yesterday's disappointments are today's joys. Bob Berlyn, N1PWU, of H. B. Electronics is assuming production of the kit in a highly refined and improved form known as the 44 Magnum. Compared to the 38 Special, H. B.'s new transceiver kit has sharper IF filtering, smoother and "thumpless" T/R switching, and a solid 5 watts of output power—maladies common to the



Photo 8— All QRP and proud of it! This neat setup of John Peregord, Jr., KB8UMD, sports a classic Heath HW-8 and HW-9 plus Ten-Tec QRP Scout, DSP, and antenna tuner. Now who could resist sitting down to a station like this! (Photo courtesy KB8UMD)

original 38 Special. Initial/projected cost of the new kit is under \$50, which if H. B. can "pull it off," is a very good deal for what you get: a complete package with all the kibbles and bits except an enclosure. As this column is being written (mid-April) H. B. is headlong into perfecting prototypes of the new 44 Magnum. With a bit of good luck, kits may be available by the time you read this report. Meanwhile, some first "over the shoulder views" of this new gem are shown in fig. 1 and photos 4 and 5.

The 44 Magnum has a 4-IC superhet receiver with NE-602s used in mixer and product detector stages, a crystal filter for IF selectivity, and a TL-082 for CW audio filtering. Overall receive bandwidth is 200 Hz at -6 dB and 1500 Hz at -30 dB. A varicap-tuned VXCO is used for frequency control, with a key-activated CD4066 analog switch shifting mixer frequencies and signal paths between transmit and receive

for full break-in operation. The 44's transmit section thus "reuses" the receiver's mixer and IF amplifier to feed a driver stage, which in turn outputs to a power MOSFET to produce a 5 watt signal. Confusing? Let's quickly trace some signal paths in the conceptual diagram (fig. 1) for clarification.

First, incoming 30 meter/10.1 MHz signals and the local oscillator/VXCO 22.1 MHz signal heterodyne in the receive mixer to produce a 12.0 MHz IF signal. This signal passes through the crystal filter, the "top switch" in the first CD4066 section, and continues on to the product detector. There, it heterodynes with a 12 MHz (approximate) BFO signal to produce an audio signal that goes through the "top switch" in the second CD4066 section and continues on to the TL-082 and earphones.

Now return to the receive mixer/"first NE-602" and follow this explanation. During transmit, the VXCO/NE602's 22.1 MHz signal goes through the "lower switch" in the first CD 4066 section and continues on to the second NE-602. There it heterodynes with a 12 MHz signal to produce 10.1 MHz. That signal in turn goes through the "lower switch" in the second CD4066 section and continues on to the driver and power MOSFET. A clever arrangement, eh?

Judging by our technical discussion, you might think the 44 Magnum is challenging to build and "get going." Not at all. It is an "easy brew" kit in the 99 parts category, with all components mounted on a well-marked/silk screened board. Alignment takes only a couple of minutes. You just peak the receiver's input coil, tweak the transmit driver, and emerge with a hot little rig for today's hottest QRP band—30 meters. Oh, yes—Bob has hinted 44 Mag-

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nums for other bands such as 40 meters may also be coming soon. Check with Bob at H. B. Electronics, 43 Rector St., East Greenwich, RI 02818 for more specifics.

### Show Us Your QRP

Shifting into the "having fun with QRP" department, several friends recently passed along photos of their favorite gear to share with readers. First is the pair of rare and like-new Ten-Tec "Power Mites" owned by David Larsen, N9XLT, and shown in photo 6. Power Mites were produced in two versions during the early 1960s. They preceded the famous Argonauts and, to the best of my knowledge, were amateur radio's first solid-state transceivers. One version, the PM2, worked 80, 40, and 20 meters CW with 1 watt output. The other version, a PM3, worked 40 and 20 meters CW with 2 watts output. We are sure David enjoys rockin' and rollin' the bands with these gems today.

Next up is the clear-cased and fancy-featured 38 Special made by Jim Whiting, KØVAN, and shown in photo 7. Jim says our QRP columns rekindled his interest in both amateur radio and homebrewing, so he started back with my Micronaut transmitter kit and then built a 38 Special. He wanted a complete "one box rig," so he added an audio amplifier and speaker, 12 volt cell phone battery pack, charger and AC supply, antenna tuner, and SWR meter. The finished unit is enclosed in a clear plexiglass cabinet, and it is a real conversation piece—from several points of view. Since Jim lives in the woods of northern Minnesota, QRM/intermod resulting from a non-metallic enclosure is not a problem. Jolly good show, Jim!

Finally, John Peregord, Jr., KB8UMD, shows us how to blend classic and contemporary QRP in high style (photo 8). His all-QRP setup consists of an HW-8 and HW-9 (timeless favorites!) plus a 5 watt "get 'em up Scout"—all complemented with a DSP unit and antenna tuner. If you have ever wondered what a typical home QRP station looks like (although differences are common), this is a good example. Congratulations on the gear, John!

Several more views were lined up for inclusion, but we are overflowing available space and must apologetically postpone them until later.

That winds down the view for this time, gang, but stay tuned next month when our magical mystery tour of QRP continues with more small and low-cost gear and goodies guaranteed to please one and all. We will cover Pixies, Tixies, Ticks, and more. Meanwhile, we leave you with this off-the-air quote of the month: "Working QRP is terrific! No one complains about my signals interfering with their QSOs, causing QRM, or 'hogging' a frequency!" 73, and let's QSO on 30 tonight!

73, Dave, K4TWJ

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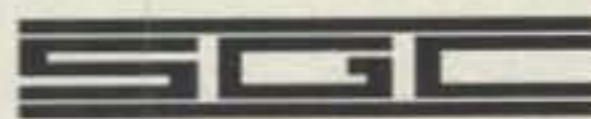


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# PACKET USER'S NOTEBOOK

CONNECTING YOU AND PACKET RADIO IN THE REAL WORLD

## Summer's Here!

Summer is here, or hadn't you noticed? There's lots of activity here in the southeastern United States. While one storm moves through, another seems to come along right behind it. And with summer now with us, we may see an even greater number of storms. We've talked about how necessary the use of digital communications is to handling emergency traffic to and from one affected area to another. In the areas of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, it's the same scenario.

Voice communication comes into play during and following a bad hit by a tornado. Then come the awful feelings we get when we begin the clean-up after the fact. I'm still amazed (and thankful) that no one was killed when not one, but two, tornadoes hit Nashville, Tennessee. In other parts of Tennessee, and in Alabama, and in the aftermath of the tornadoes that hit around Birmingham, the story is not as good. Thirty-five lives were lost in the Birmingham area tornadoes that opened the month of April 1998. Complete devastation accompanied one of the worse tornadoes ever recorded. The tornado that hit in Alabama was a "class 5," with wind speeds never before seen in that area.

It has been reported over and over again that the reason why so many people were killed is because there was little warning. Yet the National Weather Service says the warning was sent out an hour before the Birmingham area tornado hit.

### What's The Point?

Whatever the cause for the large number of deaths—be it a class 5 tornado or lack of sufficient warning—we must now begin to implement as many warning systems as possible to give those persons in harm's way as much notice as possible. We also must make this a nationwide early-warning system. There is a weather radio of sorts that is available for a hundred or so dollars. It chatters as long as it is on; when bad weather is announced, an audible alarm is set off. If it is ON!

### An Ounce of Prevention

Steps are being taken to set a trap-string alarm into some TNCs. This will set off an

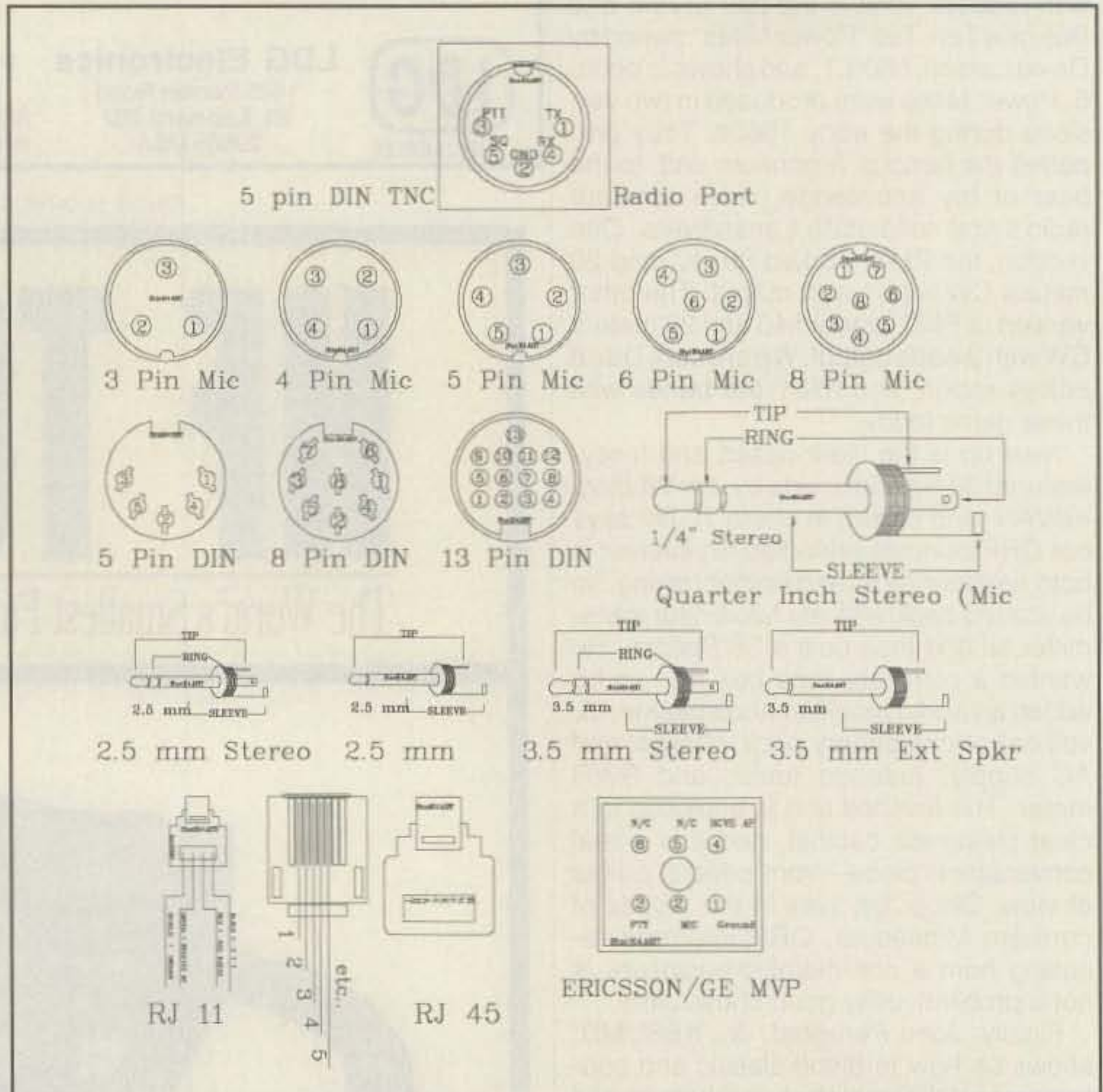


Fig. 1— Index of assorted transceiver and radio microphone connectors. (Caution: Some connectors will vary in pin number assignment.)

audible alarm within the TNC, alerting the operator that bad weather is threatening. While this new alarm feature is being incorporated into some of the popular TNCs (EPROM), we are also adding a new feature to the 1998 release of BUXTERM.EXE (version 2.7). The new feature also supports a text capture trap-string that when activated, will sound a five-level wail, five times, five seconds apart. This sound will come from the PC (speaker) that is running the new BUXTERM version 2.7. The computer must be ON and running BUXTERM 2.7 and connected to your TNC serial port.

To come up with the idea is one thing, but to implement the idea—that's a totally different story. I had to call on the real brains of the C++ code and packet TNC

internal code to get help with the implementation of this new feature.

Our thanks go to Howard Goldstein, N2WX (great callsign, Howie), and Bob Slomka, WD4MNT, for their help in building this life-saving, early-warning system. Bob Slomka is an expert when it comes to building code that talks to the TNC—any TNC. Howie is a genius when it comes to the inner workings of the TNC-2. He knows the inside of the TNC-2 and clones better than I know the path to the dinner table. Both of these gentlemen have given more to packet radio than anyone will ever know.

Similar to the trap-string that will soon be built into some TNCs, BUXTERM 2.7 will require the user to press the F7 function key and enter a pre-determined string. On the SEDAN we are implementing a

Transceiver Mfg.	Radio Connector Type	TX AFSK	Ground/Shield Pin 2	Push-To-Talk Pin 3	Receive AF Pin 4	Ext CD Pin 5
ADI	8 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 8	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
Alinco	8 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 8	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
Azden	6 Pin mini DIN	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 3	Pin 5	Ext CD Pin 6
Azden	8 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 7	Ext Spkr	—
Drake	4 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 3/4	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
ICOM	4 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 4	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
ICOM	8 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 6	Pin 5	Pin 8	—
ICOM	RJ-45	Pin 6	Pin 7	Pin 4	Pin 3	—
ICOM	8 Pin DIN (Acc)	Pin 4	Pin 2	Pin 3	Pin 5	Ext CD Pin 6
ICOM	13 Pin DIN (Acc)	Pin 11	Pin 2	Pin 3	Pin 12	Ext CD Pin 13
Kachina 505	DB25/ACC1	Pin 17	Pin 14	Pin 18	Pin 16	—
KDK	6 Pin	Pin 5	Pin 6	Pin 4	Ext Spkr	—
Kenwood	4 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 4	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
Kenwood	6 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 6	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
Kenwood	6 Pin mini DIN	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 3	Pin 5	Ext CD Pin 6
Kenwood	8 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 8/7	Pin 2	Ext Spkr	—
Kenwood	RJ-45	Pin 3	Pin 6	Pin 5	Pin 2	—
Kenwood	13 Pin DIN	Pin 11	Pin 4	Pin 9	Pin 3	—
Midland	4 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 4	Ext Spkr	—
Radio Shack	RJ-45	Pin 5	Pin 2	Pin 6	Ext Spkr	—
Regency HR-2	1/4" Stereo	Tip	Sleeve	Ring	Ext Spkr	—
Ten-Tec	1/4" Stereo	Ring	Sleeve	Tip	Ext Spkr	—
Ten-Tec	4 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 3	Ext Spkr	—
Uniden	5 Pin	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 3	Ext Spkr	—
Yaesu	5 Pin DIN	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 3	Pin 4	Ext CD Pin 5
Yaesu	6 Pin mini DIN	Pin 1	Pin 2	Pin 3	Pin 5	Ext CD Pin 6
Yaesu	8 Pin	Pin 8	Pin 7	Pin 6	Ext Spkr	—

Table 1—The pin numbers (1–5) in the topmost row of the table refer to the pin numbers of the popular five-pin DIN connector that is used on many of today's TNCs. This table lists many transceivers and their interface connections to the popular (TAPR TNC-2) five-pin DIN TNC radio port. See the radio microphone and assorted connector drawings at fig. 1.

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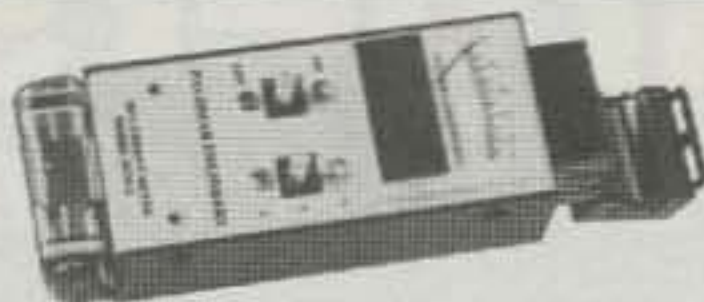
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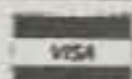
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Kerry, KE4WLP, standby. Okay, we're on the air! KE4WLP-7, SEDAN node "OHILL," on packet near Griffin, Georgia. Node "OHILL" covers western-central Georgia.

trap-string as follows: "SEDAN WX ALERT." The trap-string must be entered just as it will appear from the UI frame of a nearby node—that is, the trap-string is entered as a case-sensitive line of text. In the case of the SEDAN network, it will be as shown above—all upper-case letters, with spaces either side of "WX."

To activate the trap-string (ALERT), anyone who suspects or knows of threatening weather can send a UI frame to a node, or to a distant station that contains the exact line of text. When "any" TNC and PC using BUXTERM version 2.7 sees the text appear on the BUXTERM screen (same as the embedded text in the F7 line), a five level tone, five times repeated and five seconds apart, will begin to sound. When the operator hears the

"alert" sound, he or she should be aware of impending or threatening weather conditions and take appropriate action.

An example would be for me to have my trap-string (BUXTERM 2.7 F7) set to "SEDAN WX ALERT." Everything is running and I'm busy across the room. Later Jim Flanary, K4LMP, who lives in southwest Virginia near Gate City, Tennessee, notices a cell of bad storms heading my way. Maybe Jim hears a weather bulletin. Whatever the case, Jim connects across several nodes to the SEDAN node "SML" atop Smith Mountain and sends: "UI WX ALERT." Jim may even send "CQ WX ALERT." The local X-1J4 node SML/K4ABT-3 will retransmit the text string. Either one will trigger the F7 trap-string and activate the alarm sequence within



Kerry, KE4WLP, and David, KE4UAS, atop the silo at Orchard Hill. The "OHILL" SEDAN node has an unobstructed, picturesque view of the horizon in all directions. In the distant background (across the state line in Alabama) are the Alabama SEDAN nodes: RAL, 9663, LMN, 9650, MAL, PCAL, RHO, and RKK.

my PC. Thus begins the five strings of bells or tones which alert me to possible impending danger.

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In the Southeastern Emergency Digital Association Networks (SEDAN), our goals are:

- To help save lives, cooperating with the Sky-Warn, Weather-Watch, ARES, and RACES groups by making the SEDAN network available in the face of any impending danger(s).
- To train and guide new packet users with the correct methods used to transfer data from voice operators in an area across the network to other EOCs, Weather stations, or concerned groups—e.g., Red Cross, etc.
- To have fun with packet radio on a keyboard-to-keyboard network.

Having said that, you will understand why we make BUXTERM 2.7 available free. You can either download it from the web site: <<http://www.packetradio.com>>, or you can send me a 3.5 inch, MS/DOS-formatted disk and a self-addressed (your return address on it) legal-size envelope with two 32 cent stamps on it, ready to return to you. I will copy the new BUXTERM 2.7 onto your blank, formatted disk and have it on the way to you the following day, pending postal weekends and holidays.

Included in your (legal-size) return envelope will be a hardcopy of the BUXTERM 2.7 manual. I also include a text copy of the manual on the disk, just in case you wish to give a copy to a friend. Send the MS/DOS-formatted 3.5 inch disk and the SASE to: BUXTERM, 211 Luenburg Dr., Evington, Virginia 24550.

## For the Notebook

To help those who are keeping a notebook of the interface drawings in the "Packet User's Notebook," I've spent some long hours putting together a compilation of radio-to-TNC interfaces that I've featured in this column over more than ten years. The difference is this time I've put them into a "table" of sorts.

At Table I I've drawn the transceiver interfaces around the TAPR TNC-2 five-pin DIN radio port connector. Most TNCs utilize this type of radio port connector; hence the reason why I selected the TAPR TNC-2 five-pin DIN as a common radio port TNC I/O.

## Making It Happen

Building the nation's largest packet radio network is not an easy task. However, when two or more system node operators (SNOs) get together to help his/her fellow man, there is gratification that provides a comfort to many of us.



"Moving in for the fit" Dennis, KU4OY, checks the fit of the ERICSSON/GE Phoenix and node "EAST" into the power supply cabinet.

There is a fun side to making packet radio networks happen. In this month's column, I've included a few photos. The first several photos show two SNOs—



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LMR 400 SOLID CCA CNTR FOIL + BRAID 2.7dB @ 450MHz WP/UV JKT .....	.59/FT	.57/FT	.55/FT
LMR 400 "ULTRA-FLEX" STRD BC CNTR FOIL + BRAID 3.1dB @ 450 MHz TPE JKT .....	.79/FT	.78/FT	.77/FT
LMR 600 (OD.590") SOLID CCA CNTR FOIL + BRAID 1.72dB @ 450 MHz WP/UV JKT.....	1.25/FT	1.22/FT	1.20/FT
LDF4-50A 1/2" "ANDREW" HELIAX® 1.51dB @ 450MHz.....	2.5FT/UP		2.10/FT

## COAX (50 OHM "HF" GROUP)

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RG213/U STRD BC MIL-SPEC NC/DB/UV JACKET 1.2 dB/2500WATTS @ 30MHz .....	.36/FT	.34/FT	.32/FT
RG8/U STRD BC FOAM 95% BRAID UV RESISTANT JKT 0.9dB/1350WATTS @ 30MHz..	.32/FT	.30/FT	.28/FT
RG8 MINI(X)95% BRAID UV RESISTANT JACKET 2.0dB/875 WATTS @ 30MHz.....	.15/FT	.13/FT	.12/FT
RG58/U 95% BRAID UV RESISTANT JACKET 2.5dB/400 WATTS @ 30MHz.....	.15/FT	.13/FT	.11/FT
RG58A/U STRD CENTER 95% TC BRD UV RESISTANT JKT 2.6dB/350 WATTS @ 30MHz	.17/FT	.15/FT	.13/FT
RG217/U SOLID BC 2 95% BC BRD NC/DB/UV JKT .70dB/4000WATTS @ 30MHz.....	1.10/FT	1.00/FT	.95/FT

## COAX (50 OHM "TEFLON" GROUP)

RG142/U SOLID SCCS 2-95% SILVER BRAIDS TEFLON JKT 8.2dB/1100WATTS @ 400MHz.....	25FT/UP	1.25/FT
RG303/U SOLID SCCS 1-95% SILVER BRAID TEFLON JKT 8.6dB/1100WATTS @ 400MHz.....	25FT/UP	1.00/FT

## COAX (75 OHM GROUP)

RG11/U SOLID BC (VP-78%) 95% BRAID NC/DB/UV JKT 1.1dB/800WATTS.....	40/100FT/UP	38/500FT	36/1000FT
RG11A/U STRD BC (VP-66%) 95% BRAID NC/DB/UV JKT 1.3dB/1000WATTS.....	42/100FT/UP	40/500FT	38/1000FT
RG6/U CATV FOAM 18GA CCR FOIL + 60% ALUM BRAID .....	14/100FT/UP	12/500FT	10/1000FT

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300 OHM 20GA STRD (POWER: FULL LEGAL LIMIT).....	.15/FT	.13/FT	.12/FT

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1418 8/COND (2/14 6/18) BLK UV RES JKT. Recommended up to 300ft.....	47/FT	45/FT	43/FT
1216 8/COND (2/12 6/16) BLK UV RES JKT. Recommended up to 500ft.....	78/FT	74/FT	70/FT
2206 22GA STRD 6/COND PVC JACKET .....	.18/FT	.16/FT	.14/FT
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← "The works in a drawer." This photo says it all! David, KE4UAS, Virgil, KF4LGZ, and Kerry, KE4WLP, put the "works" in a drawer of a filing cabinet to prevent heavy grain-dust buildup in node "OHILL." Note: It's atop a 200 foot grain silo.

Kerry, David, Virgil at the ground-level entrance to the 200+ foot grain silo at Orchard Hill, Georgia. This trio of SEDAN SNOs is about to build a new SEDAN node near Griffin, Georgia. ↓



Kerry, KE4WLP, and David, KE4UAS—building network node "OHILL" atop a grain silo in Orchard Hill, Georgia. Then another two SEDAN system node operators—Dennis, KU4OY (shown), and Frank, K4ICT (not shown; someone had to take the photos!) build an emergency network node on the other side of the state (EAST/KU4OY-7) at Eastman, Georgia.

### Putting It All Into Perspective

Take a moment and think about what we've talked about in this month's "Packet

User's Notebook." You don't have to be a member of the SEDAN, or any other organization, to put an emergency node on for use as a "sky-warn" Wx Watch, ARES, RACES, or even a group/club node that can be used in times of disaster and other times as a simple keyboard node.

You can get the same good feeling that we do here in the eastern United States. With more than 150 nodes on the network, we don't consider the hundreds of thousands of dollars in equipment. We simply feel that the SEDAN is one of many instruments we use to help save lives. If the SEDAN helps save just one life, it has

more than paid its way! This network has already done that—many times over.

It is really a good feeling when you can help make someone's life better. We—that is the amateur radio fraternity—are well known as the first line of communications when disaster strikes. In this spirit, let's keep amateur radio alive and remembered this way, well into the next millennium.

Until next month, Happy Packeting, and visit the PacketRadio Networking home pages at <<http://www.packetradio.com>>.

73 de BucK4ABT

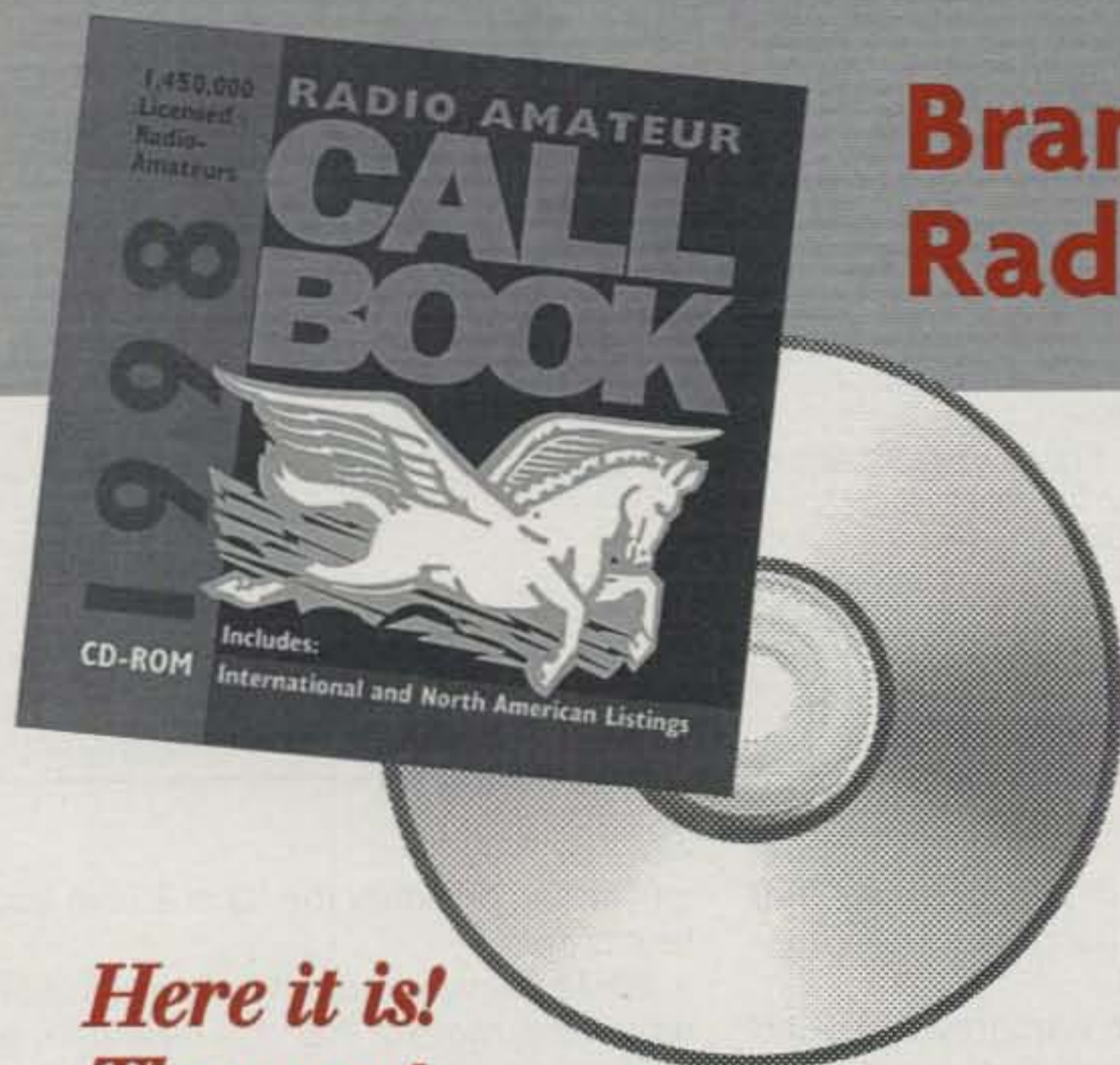


↑ We'll just take the guesswork out of this job right now and move in for a closer look.

→ SEDAN node "EAST" is located atop a fire-watch tower near Eastman, Georgia. This node covers eastern-central Georgia.



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# VHF PLUS

ALL ABOUT THE WORLD ABOVE HF

## *Amateur Television—Amateurs Should Be Heard and Seen*

### N6CL Wins B'nai B'rith Award

*CQ's* "VHF Plus" columnist Joe Lynch, N6CL, received the second-place B'nai B'rith Award in Social Ethics during the Perkins School of Theology Graduation Ceremony on 16 May 1998. The B'nai B'rith Award in Social Ethics is awarded on the basis of two main criteria: scholarly competence in the field of social ethics, and personal commitment as shown in voluntary activity in support of worthy social causes. Joe was cited for his continuing volunteer activities during his three years at seminary, which included his trips to Sarajevo and Mexico and demonstrated interest in social justice issues.

We at *CQ* congratulate Joe on his successful completion of his seminary training and his award, and we wish him the best of success in his new endeavor as a United Methodist minister.

**A**mong the VHF weak-signal community is a growing minority specialty, Amateur Television (ATV). Dedicated to the principle that amateurs should be heard *and* seen, this specialty works at making its adherents television stars! Yet while its size would suggest that it is in its infancy insofar as development is concerned, it has been around a long time—as long as the idea of broadcasting a television picture.

My first exposure to ATV came shortly after I entered the hobby. It was 1960, and when I first hung around the shack of my mentor, Bert Adams, K6BTO, I noticed that he had a television in the corner. I jokingly said something about Bert being so bored with amateur radio that he kept a TV around to break the monotony. Bert pulled me up short by telling me that yes, indeed, he watched the TV, but he watched his fellow amateurs!

Back in the 1960s the ATV operator was also the weak-signal operator, but today's ATV enthusiast is anyone with an interest in television communications. In recent years ATV operation has been given a significant boost by the relatively easy access to camcorders. In fact, ATV operation is one of the fastest growing specialties in the VHF+ world. Tom O'Hara, W6ORG, who for the past 33 years has been the owner of an ATV specialty busi-

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### VHF Plus Calendar

July 1	First quarter Moon.
July 5	Poor EME conditions.
July 8	Lowest Moon declination.
July 9	Full Moon.
July 11–12	CQ WW VHF Contest. (See last month's issue for contest details.)
July 12	Moderate EME conditions.
July 16	Moon perigee and last quarter.
July 19	Moderate EME conditions.
July 21	Highest Moon declination.
July 23	New Moon.
July 23–26	Central States VHF Society Conference, Kansas City, MO. (See last month's column for details.)
July 26	Good EME conditions.
July 28	<i>Delta-Aquarids</i> meteor shower predicted peak.
July 30	Moon apogee.
July 31	First quarter Moon.

EME conditions courtesy W5LUU.

ness called P.C. Electronics, reports that he is gaining around a thousand new customers per year!

Amateur television has grown beyond the boundaries of sending pictures of one's shack to other stations. ATV transmitters are now mounted in balloons, model airplanes, and robots. ATV is also used to retransmit weather maps, and crowd and disaster scenes for public officials. In fact, ATV has become an integral part of the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena, California, and is used to handle crises along the route. Focusing ATV on a particular problem, such as a disabled float, lets emergency service personnel access the situation and dispatch the appropriate equipment and/or personnel to fix it.

Interest in ATV, both slow and fast scan, has grown steadily over the years. Fast scan ATV is like that found in commercial broadcasting. Because it takes an enormous amount of spectrum space to transmit a fast scan ATV signal, it is only permitted on the 70 cm and above amateur bands.

As in the 1960s, the principle band for ATV operation today is 70 cm. Most ATV operation can be found on 434.000 or 439.250 MHz. ATV can also be found on the 33 and 23 cm bands and, in infancy, on the 13 cm band.

What is different today is the use of ATV repeaters—particularly crossband repeaters. Using an input frequency of either 434.000 MHz (in high population areas) or 439.250 MHz (in the midwest or low population areas), repeaters retransmit ATV signals within the 70 cm band or

crossband on either the 33 or 23 cm amateur bands.

While the vast majority are within-band repeaters, more of the new repeaters are crossband. There are a couple of advantages for using crossband repeaters. First, desensing at the repeater site is nearly eliminated. Second, the operator transmitting a signal can see the signal and doesn't have to rely on others to make adjustments to it. Third, use of a crossband repeater frees up the other 70 cm ATV frequencies for simplex operation.

Most ATV contacts are not initiated by putting a signal on the air and calling "CQ ATV." Contacts are arranged when someone gets on the ATV coordinating frequency and announces that he or she is going to put a video carrier on the air. Incidentally, the calling frequency depends on which ATV frequency you're using. Generally, if you use 439.250 MHz, the calling frequency you'll use is 144.340 MHz; if you use 434.000 MHz, the coordinating frequency is 146.430 MHz. The principle reason for the difference in these two frequencies is to prevent the third harmonic of the 2 meter signal from interfering with the ATV signal.

Once an ATV signal is on the air, the operator of the transmitting signal will switch from the coordinating frequency to the voice, or aural, sub-carrier of the TV signal for his audio transmissions. Meanwhile, the calling frequency continues to be used, only now by others for communications with the operator transmitting the signal.

As with any other type of QSO, a form of signal report exists for ATV contacts.



ATV's use a rating system of 0 to 5, preceded by the letter "P." For example, a signal that just shows the sync bars in the snow is rated "P0," a very snowy, almost imperceptible signal is a "P1," and a clear signal with no snow is a "P5." Some operators go so far as to split the signal reports into tenths. Thus, a signal with just a small amount of snow is a "P4.5." Incidentally, a P5 report represents about 150 to 200 micro volts of signal in the receiver.

So what does it take to get on the air with ATV? Surprisingly little. P.C. Electronics has a 10 watt transceiver available for around \$500. This transceiver can be obtained with a crystal for one or two of the popular ATV frequencies and is set up to convert the receive signal to television Channel 3.

This use of your television assumes that you'll be watching the ATV signal being transmitted on the 70 cm band. However, if you're using a crossband repeater, then you'll have to obtain a converter for the band of the repeater output frequency. P.C. Electronics (2522 Paxson Lane, Arcadia, CA 91007-8537 USA; telephone 626-447-4565 Monday-Thursday, 8 AM to 5:30 PM PST; web site: <www.hamtv.com>). P.C. Electronics has a wide variety of converters. Consult their web page for current pricing and ordering information. These converters connect directly to the TV from the antenna. You can use a video switch to change from the converter output to the transceiver output. If you don't wish to purchase a converter, you can put a second TV to use as one!

Your biggest expense will be the camera. If you can live with monochrome, surplus cameras are available from a variety of sources. However, if you want color, and don't mind tying up your camcorder while you're on the air, you can use that as a dual-purpose unit.

You have quite a few antenna choices, and you need to know a bit about your area before you purchase one. If you're going to work simplex and plan to use 439.250 MHz, then you'll want a horizontally polarized antenna to avoid the increasing problem of encroachment from outputs of vertically polarized FM repeaters. If you're going to use 434.000 MHz, you'll want a vertically polarized antenna to avoid interference from weak-signal stations that use 432.100 MHz. However, if you're using a repeater, you'll want to know its polarization. Many repeaters are vertically polarized and commercial high-gain omni-directional antennas. However, a growing number are horizontally polarized. Check with nearby ATV enthusiasts to learn your local repeater's polarization.

If you're trying to work DX, you'll want a horizontally polarized antenna because most ATV DXers come from the weak-signal community and use horizontally polarized antennas. However, if you want the

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flexibility of both vertical and horizontal polarization, a satellite antenna that enables you to switch between the polarizations will serve you well.

For the 2 meter transceiver you use for the coordinating frequency, you'll want a vertical antenna with some gain. This will put you in a round-table with other ATV operators and an omni-directional antenna will preclude the need to rotate your antenna to hear each of the other stations.

What if you're not quite ready to make the commitment to ATV? If you don't want to invest in a transceiver or down converter, but simply want to be an SWL, you can use your cable-ready TV as a receiver. To do so, you'll need to put your television in the "cable" mode. Many televisions have a switch that changes between cable channels and channels received by the antenna input. I have two cable-ready televisions and each is programmed differently. The Sony I own has a switch that says "Cable, Off, On." The Emerson uses remote-control programming to select between "TV" and "Cable TV." Consult your owner's manual to find out how to program your set for cable reception.

Once you've set up your TV, you can tune directly to Channel 60 if you're using 439.250 MHz as your ATV frequency, as the frequency of that channel is also 439.250 MHz. If you're using 434.000 MHz as your ATV frequency, tune to cable Channel 59. However, if you have a "Fine Tuning" adjustment, you may have to make a slight adjustment to your television because the cable frequency is 433.75 MHz. (Otherwise, don't worry about it because your television may have an automatic fine tuning (AFT) circuit that will search for the best reception of the signal the television picks up.) If you are in an area with a 70 cm repeater that uses 421.25 MHz for an output, you can tune to Channel 57, which is on that frequency.

Now it's simply a matter of finding out what frequency is used by ATV enthusiasts in your area, finding out where the signal is coming from, connecting the right kind of antenna, and rotating it. The right kind of antenna can be as simple as a commercial UHF antenna, or even Rabbit Ears! Be sure to connect an outside antenna, however, as connecting to the cable system will usually not get you any reception of the ATV signal that is being sent "over the air."

That's all there is to getting started as an ATV SWLer. Furthermore, there's nothing to stop you from joining in on the round-table discussion on the coordinating frequency. Watch out, though, you might just get hooked!

There is one caveat, however, with using your television. Most new televisions today come equipped with what amounts to a video squelch—that is, the screen turns blue (or some other color)

when there is no signal (or only a very weak signal) present. This is problematic for the weak-signal ATVer because the threshold of the squelch is high enough to block out all but the more powerful signals. Fortunately, there are a few televisions which either do not have that feature or have some way of disabling it. When I spent some time in Best Buy electronics store in Oklahoma City recently, I came away with a new Sanyo which did not have that squelch feature. I also saw at least one model which purportedly had the ability to receive "DX" signals.

The magazine for the ATV enthusiast is *Amateur Television Quarterly* (ATVQ). For subscription information, contact Harlan Technologies, 5931 Alma Dr., Rockford, IL 61108 (telephone 815-398-2683; fax 815-398-2688; orders 800-557-9469). Web site is <[www.stevens.com/atvq](http://www.stevens.com/atvq)>, on which is a complete index of all articles published within ATVQ during its history.

A partial list of states and the locally active ATV organizations include the following. Check and see if there is an active group within your area:

*Arizona:* Arizona Amateurs on Television; *California:* Amateur Television Network—Southern California; Southern California ATV Sights and Sounds; Microwave Experimenter's Television System (METS); Santiago Peak Repeater; and the Stanford ARC. *Florida:* Tampa Bay Amateur Television Society; *Georgia:* Atlanta ATN Group; *Maryland:* Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society; *New Jersey:* Brookdale Amateur Television Repeater System; *Ohio:* Amateur Television in Central Ohio; *Oregon:* Oregon Amateur Television Association; Salem Amateur Television Association. *Tennessee:* ATV in East Tennessee; *Texas:* Houston Amateur Television Society; *Utah:* Utah Amateur Television; *Washington:* Washington State Amateur Television Society. *International:* Australia: VK2XXA's Australian Amateur Television Club; *France:* Relais ATV du Finistere; *Slovenia:* ATVS—Slovenian ATV team; *Switzerland:* (unknown); International and multi-lingual associations: *United Kingdom:* British Amateur Television Club.

One other list on the ATVQ home page is that of current (or near current) ATV operators. This list is based upon their subscription list. There are in excess of 5500 names on the list. If you are looking for a mentor in your area, then consult that list beforehand.

Within the last year a national organization has been formed. Called Amateur Television of North America (ATNA), its mission and goals are the following: Protect our ATV interests and frequencies; use video transmission methods to support public service; plan for the amateur radio adoption of new technology; advance the state of the art of video and

video transmission methods; work with National Frequency Coordinators as the official coordinating body for Fast Scan ATV in North America; and associate in an equal role with other like-minded societies. For more information on ATNA, contact their web site at <www.qsl.net/atna>.

Retransmission of other services, in particular the retransmission of near real-time weather RADAR maps, is in a "gray area" of FCC jurisdiction because it is technically rebroadcasting another service—even though it has gone through computer processing beforehand. Therefore, about the only time a weather map is retransmitted is under the auspices of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (or RACES), and then only during severe weather to coordinate spotters and relaying vital information back to the National Weather Service and appropriate government agencies.

The one exception in the FCC rules that many ATV repeater operators take advantage of is the retransmission of space shuttle video and audio from NASA Television. Incidentally, this signal can be found on the Spacenet 2 satellite, transponder 5, C Band, 69 degrees west, on 3880 MHz, horizontal polarization, with the audio on 6.8 MHz.

What's in the future for amateur television? ATV operators are discovering ways to send the digitized signal from computers over ATV. Infrared cameras, which began to appear on the surplus market following Operation Desert Storm, are giving ATV operators the ability to make night-scene transmissions.

Ballooning has come a long way from the days when my high school buddies—Scott Morton and Richard Thorn (both of whom held Novice class licenses for a while)—launched a balloon with a CB walkie-talkie wired to transmit a chirpy tone, so they and I could track it using their CB radios and my general-coverage receiver. Now weather-type balloons that go up to over 100,000 feet and show the Earth and edge of space over a 500-mile radius are launched with GPS receivers that translate and superimpose the coordinates with the video signal, so they appear across the bottom screen. So much for hidden transmitter hunting! But that's a topic for another column.

Other uses of ATV are only limited by your imagination. Perhaps someday, like my mentor, Bert Adams, K6BTO, I'll be watching you via television in my shack!

## A Big Aurora

Those of us who live across the northern tier of the U.S. and throughout Canada who were on the air on the day of 4 May were treated to a wonderful aurora opening which went as high as 432 MHz. The aurora was so intense that operators in the mid latitudes which normally don't

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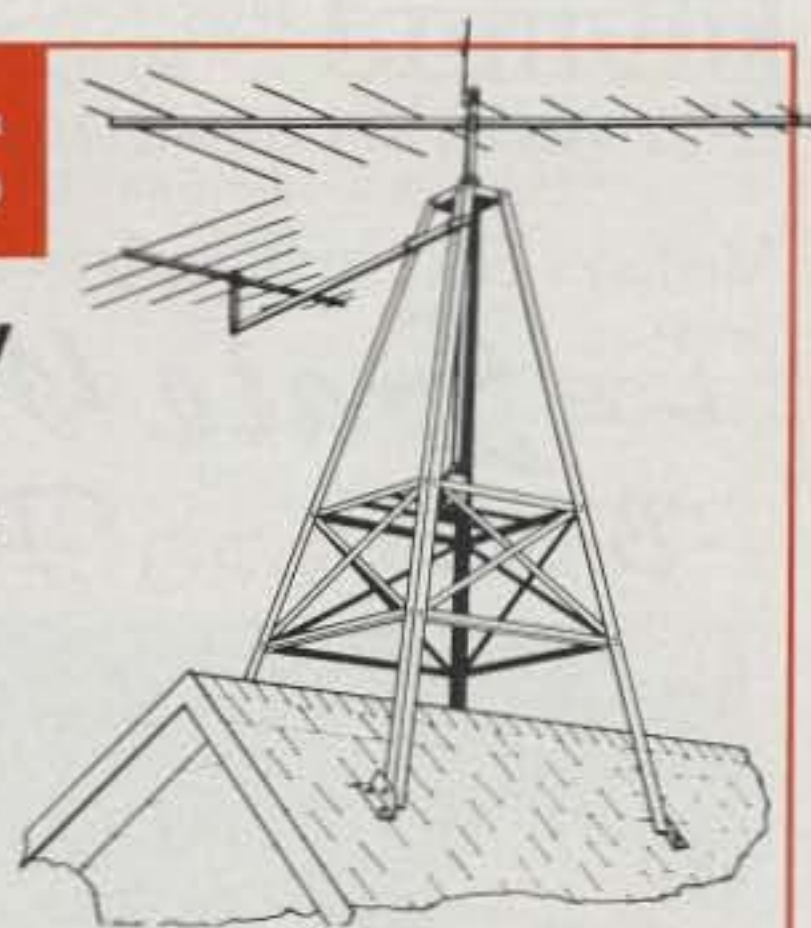
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experience aurora also worked it. To give us a perspective on just how good (or bad) conditions were, Dave Batcho, N5JHV, forwarded the following on the storm to the VHF reflector: "For those of you who don't access the Solar Terrestrial Activity Report at <<http://www.dxlc.com/solar/>>, here's a copy of their report of May 4.

"WARNING: An extremely strong solar wind shock wave was observed at SOHO at 0230 UTC on May 4. Solar wind speed increased from about 500 km/sec to 860 km/sec in just a few minutes. The magnetic Bz component was very strongly southwards at nearly -40 nT. This is likely the early arrival of plasma from the May 2 CME. The transit time will in that case be an unusually short 38 hours! A strong sudden impulse was recorded on earth at about 0305 UTC.

"Comment added at 0532 UTC on May 4: Ottawa recorded extremely severe storming between 03 and 04h UTC; the 3-hour planetary A index jumped from 58 to 148 (severe storm approaching very severe storm)! Between 04 and 05h UTC several stations recorded a K index of 9 and the 3-hour planetary A index jumped to an amazing 253!

"Comment added at 0633 UTC: During the 3-hour interval from 03 to 06h UTC an incredible planetary A index of 317 (= K index 9) was measured.

"Comment added at 0940 UTC: The 06-09h UTC interval had a planetary A index of 264. Geomagnetic activity decreased after 08h UTC; it's too early to know if this decrease was temporary or if the peak of the disturbance has been reached.

"Comment added at 1245 UTC: The Ap index for the 09-12h interval was 'only' 89. Minor to severe storm conditions are likely for the remainder of the day. As for the Ap index of 317 earlier today it should be noted that such values are only recorded during the most powerful disturbances. We have to go back to 1991 and 1992 to find similar values and all the way back to the great storm of March 13-14, 1989 for a disturbance that is significantly stronger than the current one."

## Current Conference

**Central States VHF Conference:** The annual Central States VHF Conference will be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, between 23-26 July. For more information, see last month's column or their home page at <<http://www.csvhf.org>>.

## Current Meteor Showers

This month there are a number of minor showers. The most intense, the *delta-Aquarids*, is a southern latitude shower. It has produced in excess of 20 meteors per hour in the past. Its predicted peak is around 28 July at 2330 UTC.

The only northern latitude shower is the

*alpha Cygnids*. It is supposed to peak around 20 July, but with a rate of only five meteors per hour.

Beginning around 17 July and lasting until approximately 14 August, you will see activity tied to the *Perseids* meteor shower. Its predicted peak is around 12 August. I will have more extensive coverage of this shower in next month's column.

## Current Contests

The **CQ World-Wide VHF Contest** is scheduled for 11-12 July. For complete rules, see June CQ magazine or my home page at <<http://www.smu.edu/~jlynch/hamradio.html>>.

**Internet 6 Meter Contest:** Piggy-backing on CQ's contest is the Internet 6 Meter Contest. Growing from an increased interest in a worldwide 6-meter-only contest, a group from the VHF reflector has decided to sponsor a 6-meter-only contest. The contest will run the same time as CQ's contest plus three more hours after the end of the CQ contest. For the full rules, see K1AR's "Contest Calendar" column this month.

## And Finally . . .

For those of you who found my piece about my new wife entertaining, what follows is part of the rest of the story.

Carol and I drove to Eureka Springs, Arkansas to get our marriage license. On our way, Carol had several questions about whether or not we were "doing the right thing," which I dutifully and patiently answered during the five-plus hour drive. When we arrived at the courthouse, it was nearly closing time. (I think that Carol was purposely dragging her feet in order to miss the closing time.) As we walked in the outer doors, the clerk was coming out the inner door with her keys in hand to close up. I asked her if she was closing and she replied, "Yes, but I'll take y'all," whereupon she walked behind us and locked the outer door. After it was all over, Carol remarked to me that when the clerk walked behind her and locked us in, she knew it was all over. There was no turning back. She knew that she had to go through with marrying me. Now she also tells me that she has no regrets and wonders why we didn't get married sooner!

Thank you, all y'all faithful readers, for your kind wishes for the success of our marriage. We are looking forward to a wonderful life together.

And thank you for your continuing kind words about this column. I have said it many times before, but I reiterate: This is your column. What appears here is what you are interested in and news about your activities in the wonderful world of weak-signal VHF. I continue to look forward to reporting on you.

Until next month . . . 73, Joe, N6CL

# CONTEST CALENDAR

NEWS/VIEWS OF ON-THE-AIR COMPETITION

## Has This Contest Ended Yet?

### July's Contest Tip of the Month

Don't ever get so intimidated by the size of a pileup that you simply tune by the station without calling. We all have a story or two about the time we broke through a pileup without a clue how our station pulled it off. Here's the answer: operating skill! There's one guarantee when chasing rare contest multipliers: If you don't at least try to call them, you absolutely won't work them!

A quick look at a set of contest rules should provide an answer to this month's topic. After all, we all know that the CQ WW Contests end at 0000Z, ARRL SS at 0300Z, ARRL Field Day at 1800Z (unless you're one of those crazy groups that begin setting up at the beginning of the contest), and so on. However, with the increased attention paid to call-sign accuracy in recent times, it seems reasonable that more of us are looking for the competitive edge that makes our "perfect" logs even more so. This desire for perfection has recently spawned some interesting debate.

When does a contest really end? Has a contest run its course when we power our stations down on Sunday evening? Many will argue that the contest is not *really over* until we have completed our paperwork and e-mailed our logs to the appropriate Internet address. Although there are many views on this subject, they generally fall into two categories:

1. The contest ends with the last QSO. The log may only be modified to remove duplicates and identify unclaimed multipliers.

2. Although the "physical" time has expired for the contest, other methods may be employed to "sanitize" the log prior to submission.

Many of the testers I've spoken to recently agree that the "scenario 1" crowd has a very small group of supporters. This is further substantiated by the input I received from last year's CQ Contest Ethics survey that will be covered next month. In fact, over 60% of the respondents clearly leaned towards "scenario 2."

Over the past few weeks I've been assembling a collection of methods con-

### Calendar of Events

June 27-28	ARRL Field Day
June 27-28	Marconi Memorial Contest
July 1	RAC Canada Day Contest
July 4-5	Venezuela SSB DX Contest
<b>July 11-12</b>	<b>1998 CQ WW VHF Contest</b>
July 11-12	IARU HF Championship
July 11-12	Internet 6-Meter DX Contest
July 18-19	NAQP RTTY Contest
July 18-19	SEANET CW Contest
July 19	Colombian Independence Day Contest
July 25-26	RSGB IOTA Contest
July 25-26	Venezuela CW DX Contest
Aug. 1	EU HF Championship
Aug. 1-2	North American CW QSO Party
Aug. 1-2	10-10 Net Summer Phone QSO Party
Aug. 2	YO DX Contest
Aug. 8-9	WAE CW Contest
Aug. 8-9	MD-DC QSO Party
Aug. 15-16	North American SSB QSO Party
Aug. 15-16	SEANET SSB Contest
Aug. 15-16	SARTG RTTY Contest
Aug. 15-17	New Jersey QSO Party
Aug. 29-30	Hawaii QSO Party
Sept. 5-6	All Asian SSB Contest
Sept. 5-6	LZ DX Contest
Sept. 6	NA CW Sprint
Sept. 12-13	WAE SSB Contest
Sept. 13	NA SSB Sprint
Sept. 19-20	SAC CW Contest
<b>Sept. 27-28</b>	<b>CQ WW RTTY DX Contest</b>
Sept. 27-28	SAC SSB Contest
<b>Oct. 24-25</b>	<b>CQ WW SSB DX Contest</b>
<b>Nov. 28-29</b>	<b>CQ WW CW DX Contest</b>

testers use when choosing the second scenario. If you haven't thought about this issue in great depth, I guarantee you will now. Following are just a few examples:

1. Tape record the entire contest and correct incorrectly copied callsigns/exchanges.

2. Manually scan through an entire log and remove/correct incorrectly copied callsigns/exchanges.

3. Compare your log to another and remove/correct potential errors (note that this can easily be accomplished electronically).

4. Compare your log to a computerized "master database" derived from other contests to remove/correct potential errors (either during or after the contest).

5. Utilize the growing availability of computerized callsign lists (i.e., callbook listing, assigned FCC/foreign callsigns) to remove impossible callsign combinations.

When studying this topic, I uncovered more questions than answers. For exam-

ple, if you utilize the aforementioned techniques, how should you use the new information? Is it fair to eliminate QSOs that retain high error potential? Or more important, is it even ethical to correct identified errors and take credit for QSOs that were invalid as originally logged?

### The Bottom Line

I believe that contest sponsors have just begun to see one of the growing "downside" examples of computer technology in contesting. Any measure of enforcing guidelines (if in fact that is even needed) becomes quickly impossible to administer. Can you imagine disqualifying someone's log for being too accurate? The resolution to this debate must remain with the individual contributor. It persists as a personal standard you wrestle with as you weigh your "real-time" operating ability against the pressures of winning. In my book, there is really no debate. With nearly all major contests now accepting electronic submissions, I'm finding it very easy to simply e-mail my log without ever looking at it (at least from an accuracy standpoint). The contest ends for me at the end of the contest—period! This is just one man's opinion, but I think it's a practice from which all of contesting could benefit. Do you agree?

### Final Comments

I have to offer an apology for not completing the contest survey results promised for this month's column. My continuing work commitments (and side trip to KH6) simply did not give me the needed time to finish the analysis. Rest assured, you'll see the results of your efforts in next month's issue.

That's it for this time. As always, all contest calendar submissions for the October column must reach me by August 1st.

73, John, K1AR

### Venezuelan Contest

SSB: July 4-5 CW: July 25-26  
0000Z Sat. to 2400Z Sun.

This is the 37th annual contest celebrating Venezuela's independence. It's a world-wide-type contest, so do not confine your activity to working YVs only. Working other DX is encouraged. Use all bands, 80-10 meters (no WARC bands).

**Classes:** Single Operator, Single and All Band, and Multi-Operator, Single and

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ELNEC is a MININEC-based program with nearly all the features of EZNEC except transmission line models and a limitation of about 127 segments (6-8 total wavelengths of wire). Not recommended for quads, long Yagis, or antennas with horizontal wires lower than 0.2 wavelength; excellent results with other types. Runs on any PC-compatible with 640k RAM, CGA/EGA/VGA/Hercules graphics. Specify coprocessor or non-coprocessor type.

Both programs support Epson-compatible dot-matrix, and HP-compatible laser and ink jet printers.

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**Multiplier:** One for each YV call area, and one for each different country worked on each band (including your own).

**Final Score:** Total QSO points from all bands times the sum of the multiplier from each band.

**Awards:** A plaque will be awarded to the highest scorer in each operating class. Certificates will be distributed to stations making more than 20% of the next highest score.

Use a separate log sheet for each band. Each YV call area (9) and each country (DXCC list) should be indicated in a separate column only the first time it is worked on each band.

Include a summary sheet showing the scoring, your name and address in block letters, and the usual signed declaration that all contest rules and regulations for amateur radio in the country of the contestant have been observed.

Mailing deadline is September 30th for SSB entries and October 31st for CW. They go to: Radio Club Venezolano, Concurso Independencia, P.O. Box 2285, Caracas, 1010-A, Venezuela.

### CQ WW VHF Contest

1800Z Sat. to 2100Z Sun., July 11-12

The popularity of this one continues to grow. Be sure to review the full set of rules found in the June issue of CQ. Mail logs to CQ VHF Contest, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801. Be sure to mark "VHF Contest Logs" on the envelope.

### Internet 6m DX Contest

1800Z Sat. to 2359Z Sun., July 11-12

Running concurrently with the CQ WW VHF Contest, the objective of this relatively new one is to work as many stations on 6 meters as possible (SSB/CW only), especially DX, in the allotted timeframe. Extra credit is given for those who work DX stations in far-away grids.

**Categories:** Single Operator (USA/VE and DX), Single Operator QRP (USA/VE and DX), and Multi-Operator (USA/VE and DX).

**Category Description:** *Single operator*—One operator performs all logging and operating functions of the station. Multipliers can be passed from other VHF bands if desired. A single operator means

the same operator for the duration of the contest. *Single Operator QRP*—Same rules as above, but limited to 10 watts or less RF output. *Multi-Operator*—One or more operators. Having a second operator searching for multipliers, the use of a packet spotting network, or the use of relief operators places you in the multi-operator category. Only one transmitted signal at a time is allowed. Passing from other bands is allowed. *Rover*—One or two ops QRV from a minimum of three (3) grids, portable or mobile only.

**Exchange:** Callsign and Grid square.

**Scoring:** Each QSO in your continent is worth 1 point. QSOs with stations outside your continent count 3 points. For this contest, North America is USA/VE only.

**Bonus points:** 10 QSO points can be taken for every unique grid field worked (i.e., EM, FM, FN, FL, DN, IM, etc.). Multipliers are unique grid squares the first time they are worked plus each unique ARRL DXCC country the first time it is worked, including W/VE. Count your own country for credit the first time it is worked.

**Final score:** Total QSO points plus bonus points and multiply the sum times the total of grids plus DXCC countries worked.

**Awards:** Plaques to the top finishers in each sponsored category. All first-place plaques have been sponsored! Certificates will be awarded to the top five finishers in each category.

Logs must be postmarked not later than 30 days after the last day of the contest. A signed summary sheet is required for paper logs. The log checking committee will consist of volunteers that are very active 6 meters ops. Entrants will lose an extra multiplier for each incorrectly logged unique multiplier. Entrants will lose an extra QSO for each incorrectly logged contact. Send disks or paper logs to: Internet 6m DX Contest, 2131 Woodruff Rd. 2100-250, Greenville, South Carolina, 29607 U.S.A. After submitting your CQ WW VHF log to the sponsor, you can simply separate the 6 meter log and re-score it to reflect the different multipliers, bonus point values, and score. Anyone participating in the CQ WW VHF Contest is eligible to send in an Internet DX 6m log!

### IARU HF Championship

1200Z Sat. to 1200Z Sun., July 11-12

This is the 13th annual IARU World HF Championship. All six bands, 10 through 160 meters, and the full 24 hours may be used by both single and multiple-operator stations. (No WARC bands.)

**Categories:** Single operator, CW only, Phone only and Mixed modes. Multi-operator, single transmitter, mixed mode only.

Stations must remain on a band for at least 10 minutes. (*Exception:* Only IARU member-society HQ stations may operate simultaneously on more than one band with one transmitter on each band/mode.)

**Exchange:** RS(T) and ITU zone. *HQ stations:* RS(T) and official society abbreviation.

**Points:** Contacts within own zone or with an HQ station count as 1 point. Contacts within own continent but different zone are 3 points and 5 points with different continents.

**Multiplier:** Total number of ITU zones plus IARU HQ stations worked on each band.

**Final Score:** Total QSO points from all bands times the total multiplier.

**Awards:** Certificates will be awarded to the top scorer in each category, state, ITU zone, and DXCC country. In addition, achievement awards will be issued to those making at least 250 QSOs or having a multiplier of 50 or more.

Entries with more than 500 QSOs are required to include a dupe sheet with log. A three QSO reduction will be assessed for each duplicate QSO for which credit has been taken. Disqualification may occur if the overall score is reduced by 2% or more. You may submit your contest entry via the ARRL BBS (860-594-0306), anonymous FTP to <ftp.arrl.org> or via the Internet to <contest@arrl.org>. Send your ASCII summary sheet file (make sure it includes all the pertinent information outlined in the official summary sheet) and your ASCII log file following the ARRL Suggested Standard File Format.

It is recommended that you check out ARRL's web site at <www.arrl.org> for more detailed information. A large SASE with 2 IRCs (or equivalent) will get you official forms and an ITU zone/prefix/continent map. Mailing deadline for entries is August 13th to: IARU HQ, Box 310905, Newington, CT 06131-0905.

### North American QSO Party RTTY Contest

1800Z Sat. to 0600Z Sun., July 18-19

The object of this one is to work as many North American stations (and/or other stations if you are in North America) as possible during the contest period. North American stations are defined by the rules of the CQ WW DX Contests with the addition of KH6.

**Classes:** Single operator and multi-operator, two transmitters. Multi-operator stations must keep a separate log for each transmitter and must have at least 10 minutes between band changes. Use of helpers or spotting nets by single operator entries is not permitted. Single operator entrants may only have one transmitted signal at a time. Output power must be limited to 150 watts for eligible entries. Multi-operator stations may operate for the entire 12 hour period. Single operator stations may operate 10 out of 12 hours. Off-times must be at least 30 minutes in length and must be clearly marked in the log.

**Bands:** 80-10 meters only (no WARC bands). You may work a station once per band. Suggested frequencies are 3585, 7085, 14085, 21085, and 28085. Try 10 meters at 1900Z and 2000Z, 15 meters at 1930Z and 2030Z.

**Exchange:** Operator name and station location (state, province, or country).

**Scoring:** Multiply total valid contacts by the sum of multipliers worked on each band. Multipliers are states (including KH6 and KL7), Canadian call areas (VE1-VE8, VO1, VO2, VY1, and VY2) and other North American countries. Do not count USA, Canada, KH6, or KL7 as countries. Non-North American countries do not count as multipliers, but may be worked for QSO credit.

**Team Competition:** Team competition is limited to a maximum of five single operator stations (two minimum) as a single entry unit. **Pre-contest Requirement:** To qualify as a team entry, you must register the name, callsign of each operator, and

callsign of the station operated should the operator be a guest at a station other than his own (e.g., N4RJ op. by KM9P). Teams must be registered with AB5KD.

**Penalties:** For each unmarked duplicate QSO, you lose that contact plus an additional three contacts; for each QSO for which you are not in the other station's log, you lose that QSO plus an additional one contact; and for each QSO for which the log data is incorrectly copied in any respect, you lose that contact. Entries with score reductions greater than 5% will be disqualified.

**Awards:** Trophies will be awarded for the high score in each of the following categories: Single Operator (W6OTC sponsor) and Multi-Operator (WF1B sponsor). Certificates of merit will be awarded to the highest scoring entrant with at least 200 QSOs from each state, province, and North American country.

Send all entries to Ron Stailey, K5DJ, 504 Dove Haven Drive, Round Rock, TX 78664-5926. Entries must be postmarked no later than 30 days after the party to be eligible for awards. Logs may be submitted on disk in the form of MS-DOS compatible ASCII files or .BIN format from WF1B's logging program.

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Announcing:

# The 1998 CQ/RJ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday    Ends 2400 UTC Sunday  
September 26-27, 1998

I. **Announcing:** The 12th annual CQ/RJ WW RTTY DX Contest.

II. **Objective:** For amateurs around the world to contact other amateurs in as many CQ Zones and countries as possible using the digital modes.

III. **Contest Period:** 0000 UTC September 26 to 2400 UTC September 27, 1998.

**Note:** The total contest period is 48 hours. **All stations and operator classes may operate the entire 48-hour period;** there are **no required off time periods** for any entries.

**Note the following operator classes.**

IV. **Operator Classes:** There is a **High Power** category (greater than 150 watts) and a **Low Power** category (less than 150 watts). **Only Single Operator All Band and Multi-Op Single Transmitter** entries are eligible to enter the **High** or **Low Power** category. Enter one or the other, and so note on your log. Single Band entries, Single Operator Assisted, and Multi-Multi entries are **not** eligible to enter the High or Low Power category.

1. **Single Operator, All Band and Single Band.** One person performs all operating and logging functions. Use of spotting nets, DX Alert Packet systems, telephone, the internet, etc., is *not* permitted.

2. **Single Operator Assisted, All Band Only.** One person performs all operating and logging functions. The use of DX spotting nets or any other form of DX alerting assistance is allowed. The operator can change bands at any time. Single operator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal at any given time.

3. **Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter.** All band entry only. More than one person operates, logs, checks for duplicates, use of a spotting net, etc.

(a) Only one (1) transmitter and one (1) band permitted during the same time period (defined as ten [10] minutes). Once the station has begun operation on a given band, it *must* stay on that band for 10 minutes; listening time counts as operating time.

*Exception:* One—and only one—other band may be used during the same time period if—and only if—the station worked is a new multiplier. Logs found in violation of the 10-minute rule automatically will be reclassified as multi-multi to reflect their actual status.

4. **Multi-Operator, Multi-Transmitter.** All band entry only. No limit to the number of transmitters, but only one (1) signal per band permitted.

(a) All transmitters must be located within a 500 meter diameter or within the property limits of the station licensee's address, whichever is greater. The antennas must physically be connected by wires to the transmitter.

V. **Entry Categories:** Single Operators may enter as (a) All Band High Power or Low Power; (b) Single Band; or (c) Single Operator Assisted All Band.

Multi-Operators may enter as (a) Multi-Op Single Transmitter, High Power or Low Power, All Band; or (b) Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter, All Band.

VI. **Modes:** Contacts may be made using Baudot, ASCII, AMTOR, PACTOR (FEC & ARQ), CLOVER, and Packet (no unattended operation or contacts through gateways or digipeaters).

VII. **Bands:** 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

VIII. **Valid Contacts:** A given station may be contacted only **once** per band regardless of the digital *mode* employed. Additional contacts are allowed with the same station on each of the other bands as well.

IX. **Exchange:** Stations within the 48 continental United States

and the 13 Canadian areas must transmit RST, State or VE area, and CQ Zone number. All other stations must transmit RST and CQ Zone number.

X. **Countries:** The ARRL and WAE country lists will be used.

**Note: The USA and Canada count as country multipliers.**  
*Example:* The first US State and Canadian area you work not only count as a multiplier for the state or area, but also count as a country multiplier for each band.

XI. **QSO Points:** One (1) QSO point for contacts within your own country. Two (2) QSO points for contacts outside your own country but within your own continent. Three (3) QSO points for contacts outside your own continent.

XII. **Multiplier Points:** One (1) multiplier point for each US state (48) and each Canadian area (13) on each band. One (1) multiplier point for each DX country in the ARRL and/or WAE lists on each band. *Note:* KL7 and KH6 are country multipliers *only* and *not* state multipliers. One (1) multiplier point for each CQ Zone worked on each band. Maximum of 40 Zones per band.

*Note:* Canadian areas are VO1, VO2, VE1 NB, VE1 NS, VE1 PEI, VE2, VE3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VE8 NWT, and VY Yukon.

XIII. **Final Score:** Total QSO points times the total multipliers equals the total claimed score.

XIV. **Contest entries and logging instructions:** CQ WW RTTY DX logs and forms should be used to facilitate scoring and checking. All logs **must** show:

1. Times in UTC.  
2. All sent and received exchanges are to be logged (callsign, RST, Zone, country, State/VE, points claimed).

3. Indicate State/VE area, Zone, and Country Multiplier only the *first* time they are worked on *each* band.

4. Use a separate log sheet for *each* band.

5. A check list of duplicate contacts for *each* band (dupe sheet). Logs must be checked for duplicate contacts, correct QSO points, and multipliers. Submitted logs must show duplicate contacts clearly marked.

6. A *multiplier* check sheet for each band.

7. An overall *summary sheet* showing total QSOs, Points, Zones, Countries, and States/VE areas worked.

8. Each entry must be accompanied by a signed declaration that all contest rules and regulations for amateur radio in the country of operation have been observed.

Contest forms are available from CQ and the Contest Directors. Please include a large SASE with two units of US first-class postage or IRCs.

9. **Disks:** Logs may be sent on disk. Clearly label the outside of the disk with the call, file names, and type of program. All disks **must** be accompanied by a printed summary sheet, **not** the entire log.

10. **Internet:** Watch for an announcement of an Internet address to send your logs to also.

XV. **Disqualifications:** Operating in an unsportsmanlike manner, manipulating scores or times to achieve a score advantage, or failure to omit duplicate contacts which would reduce the overall score more than 2% are grounds for disqualification. The use of non-amateur means such as telephones, telegrams, the internet, etc., to elicit contacts or multipliers **during** the contest is unsportsmanlike, and the entry is subject to disqualification. Actions and decisions of the Contest Committee are official and final.

XVI. **Awards:** Plaques will be awarded to the first-place finishers in each of the operator classes. Certificates will be awarded to sec-



ond and third places. Certificates will be awarded to the first-place finishers in each DXCC country. In countries or sections where returns justify, certificates may be awarded to second and third place. All scores will be published. To be eligible for an award, a Single Operator station must operate a minimum of 12 hours, and a Multi-Operator station a minimum of 18 hours. A Single Band entry is eligible for a single band award *only*. If a log contains more than one band, it will be judged an all band entry, unless specified otherwise. All certificates and plaques will be issued to the licensee of the station used.

**XVII. Deadline:** All entries must be postmarked **no later** than December 1, 1998. An extension may be given if requested. **Low Power logs** should be mailed to: Roy Gould, K1RY, CQ WW RTTY DX Contest Director, P.O. Box DX, Stow, MA 01775 USA. **High Power logs** should be mailed to Ron Stailey, K5DJ, Co-Contest Director, 504 Dove Haven Drive, Round Rock, TX 78664-5926.

**XVIII. Plaques (Donors):** Single Operator and Multi-Operator All Band plaques are awarded to the high scorer, either High Power or Low Power, whichever is highest.

**Single Operator, All Band, High Power**

World—Dunestar Systems

North America—TG9VT Memorial by K1RY & W2JGR

South America—Donated in the name of Elmers worldwide who help new amateurs get started

Europe—HAL Communications Corp.

Oceania—HamStuff by W7NN

Asia—N5JJ Memorial

Africa—Phil Duff, NA4M

United States—John Devoldere, ON4UN

**Single Operator, All Band, Low Power**

World—Amateur Radio Trader

North America—Dick Stevens, N1RCT

South America—Jim Hollenback, NK6L

Europe—Don Hill, AA5AU

Asia—Bruce D. Lee, KD6WW

Oceania—Dave Barr, K2YG

Africa—Bill Gallier, W4WX

USA—The New RTTY Journal

**Single Operator Assisted**

World—CQ Magazine

North America—Jeff Bouvier, K1AM

Europe—The New RTTY Journal

Asia—Kazuaki Ohya, JH1HRJ

South America—Great Lakes DX and Contest Club

USA—RTTY by WF1B

Other Continents—Open

**Single Operator, Single Band**

3.5 MHz—Neal Campbell, K3NC/ON9CNC

7.0 MHz—Tri-County DX Association

14 MHz—Kunihiko Fujii, JH1QDB

21 MHz—Denis Catalano, WD4KXB & Mike Trowbridge, KA4RRU

28 MHz—Open

**Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter, High Power**

World—Amateur Radio Trader

North America—Eddie Schneider, G0AZT

USA—WriteLog Contest Software for Windows (by Ron Stailey, K5DJ)

Europe—Ron Stailey, K5DJ & Wayne Matlock, K7WM

**Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter, Low Power**

World—HAL Communications Corp.

North America—Don Hill, AA5AU & Eddie Schneider, G0AZT

USA—Platinum Coast Amateur Radio Society

Europe—Euraf Communications, Benin (by Peter Schulze, TY1PS)

Other Continents—Open

**Multi-Operator, Multi-Transmitter**

World—CQ magazine

North America—The New RTTY Journal

Europe—The W3LPL RTTY Contest Group

Continents—Open

There are many plaques looking for sponsors: High Power, Low Power, Single Band, a specific country, Multi-Op by continent, etc. If you are interested, contact the contest co-director, Ron Stailey, K5DJ, 504 Dove Haven Drive, Round Rock, TX 78664 (Internet: k5dj@easy.com).

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# AWARDS

## NEWS OF CERTIFICATE AND AWARD COLLECTING

**K**en Carpenter, KC4UG, is the recipient of USA-CA All Counties #937, October 31, 1997. He traveled over 50,000 miles last year operating from 25 states and almost 600 counties! Recently, he has started putting out counties on CW, so you can look for him on the air. Here is Ken's background, as told by him.

"In January of 1962 a friend asked me if I would like to attend a twelve-week ham radio class at the local electronics dealer, one night each week. I asked what ham radio was, and he told me a little about it. Having nothing better to do, I signed up and started attending. The last two weeks of the classes someone loaned me a set of 78 RPM code records, and I spent the next two weeks listening to code. I took the exam and passed the General exam the first time. In June I received the call WA5HEC, and a local ham went with me to the shack of W5JJA, where I saw my first ham radio station! I later bought some military surplus and an old general-coverage receiver with a BFO and got on the air.

"I received the callsign WBØLJU when I moved to Iowa in 1968 and the callsign KA4NYM when I moved to Alabama in 1978. I passed the Advanced test in January 1979 at the FCC office in Jackson, MS and the Extra test at the FCC office in Memphis, TN the next month. I kept the Advanced callsign because it has all three of my initials in it and it's a pretty good CW call. I worked almost 100 percent CW the first 30 years I was on the air.

"I have operated from many DX locations while on vacation the past few years, including UA9M, UM8M, UL9C, LX, DL, etc. When I retired early last year, I installed a mobile in my car and drove to Alaska and started putting out counties on the SSB net frequency of the county hunters. At that time I did not plan on ever trying to work all the counties, but by the time I returned home I was hooked! I traveled over 50,000 miles during the past year, operating from 25 states and almost 600 counties.

"I have enjoyed stopping and having coffee with county hunters along my routes and having others stop by my house. I attended two mini-conventions and the National in Orlando and really enjoyed meeting all of the county hunters there. A few months ago I started putting out counties on CW and met a whole new bunch of county hunters! I plan to try for USA-CA CW next, along with Bingo and second time SSB.

65 Glebe Road, Spofford, NH 03462-4411  
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W6YLJ	1472	W6YLJ	964
KB2PWS	1473	OK1DKS	965
CP6EB	1474		
F3XY	1475		

The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America Counties Award is 3076. The basic award fee for subscribers is \$4.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$10.00. To qualify for the special subscriber rate, please send a recent CQ mailing label with your application. Initial application may be submitted in the USA-CA Record Book, which may be obtained from CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA for \$2.50, or by a PC-printed computer listing which is in alphabetical order by state and county within the state. To be eligible for the USA-CA Award, applicants must comply with the rules of the program as set forth in the revised USA-CA Rules and Program dated March 1, 1997. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained by sending an SASE to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 65 Glebe Road, Spofford, NH 03462-4411 USA. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.

"County hunters are a great group of people, and many of them went out of their way to give me counties. All the net control stations were a great help to me also.—73, Ken, KC4UG"

### Award Hunting Terms: The GCR

Award hunting has its own language, just like any other specialized interest. One of its most important words is *GCR* (General Certification Rule). Simply stated, when an award sponsor indicates GCR in the rules, they are telling the applicant that the cards need not be sent, just a statement from witnesses saying that they have personally viewed the cards as listed in the application. GCR is the usual practice for the overwhelming percentage of awards. Most sponsors don't want to have to do the checking and be responsible for packing and shipping for the small group who forget to include sufficient postage and wrapping to return the cards. The applicant does not have to worry about their valuable cards being lost. Many rare and semi-rare cards are used for many different awards. Losing some early in the game is a sad experience.

In return, the applicant should play the game fairly. Bring the cards to a club meeting or hamfest and do it honestly; have at least two licensed amateurs view the

cards and sign the statement. Remember that sponsors always have the prerogative of asking to see any or all of your claimed cards. (Claiming a 160 meter contact with Central Asia at local noon is a likely candidate for a request to view that miracle card).

### Awards Available

Don't forget that samples of the awards offered by your club or society are always wanted for possible future publication. Include complete details and member lists if applicable.

**Diplome de Wallonie (Belgium).** The Wallonie Award is designed and printed by ON7YF, a professional printer and member of the Section de Gembloux-Chastre Club, which sponsors the certificate. The "W" is brilliant red and the back-



*The Diplome de Wallonie is offered for contacting stations in the Belgian region of Wallonie.*

ground of the award is in striking yellow. It is a good example of making excellent use of the talents of a club member for the benefit of the club's award.

Contact stations located in the Belgian region of Wallonie. This includes the provinces of Namur, Leige, Luxembourg, Hainaut, and Brabant Wallon. Contacts must be on or after 1 October 1980, except that contacts with the new province of Brabant Wallon must be on or after 1 January 1995. Before that date, only contacts with the French-speaking part of Brabant are valid. Brussels QSOs are not valid. Non-Europeans need 5 contacts,



Teresa, PT2TF, is the new custodian of the Brazilian YL Award.

EU need 10, and ON's need 15 different contacts. Note that all of the provinces don't have to be contacted, but the contacts are limited to the listed provinces. Send GCR list and fee of \$US7, 7 IRCs, 200 BEF, or XEU5 to: Pierre Aubry, ON6GB, Rue Emile Dewezq, B-5030 Gembloux, Belgium.

**Brazilian YL Award.** Teresa, PT2TF, is the new custodian for the Brazilian YL Award. She earned USA-CA 3076 All Counties Award #816 in 1993, the first winner from Brazil. With that accomplishment under her belt, she is now chasing DX on SSTV. I think this is a woman who loves a challenge!



The Brazilian YL Award.

To earn the award, contact YL stations as follows: PY's need 20 from Brazil and 5 more from different countries on 3 continents; DX need 8 from Brazil and 12 more from different countries on 5 continents. Contacts must be made from same QTH, since 1 July 1975. Send a GCR list, a copy of your QSL card, and the 10 IRC fee to: BRYLA, Teresa, PT2TF, SHIN QI 14 Conj 05 c/23, 71530-050 Brasilia DF, Brazil.

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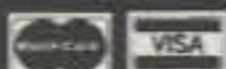


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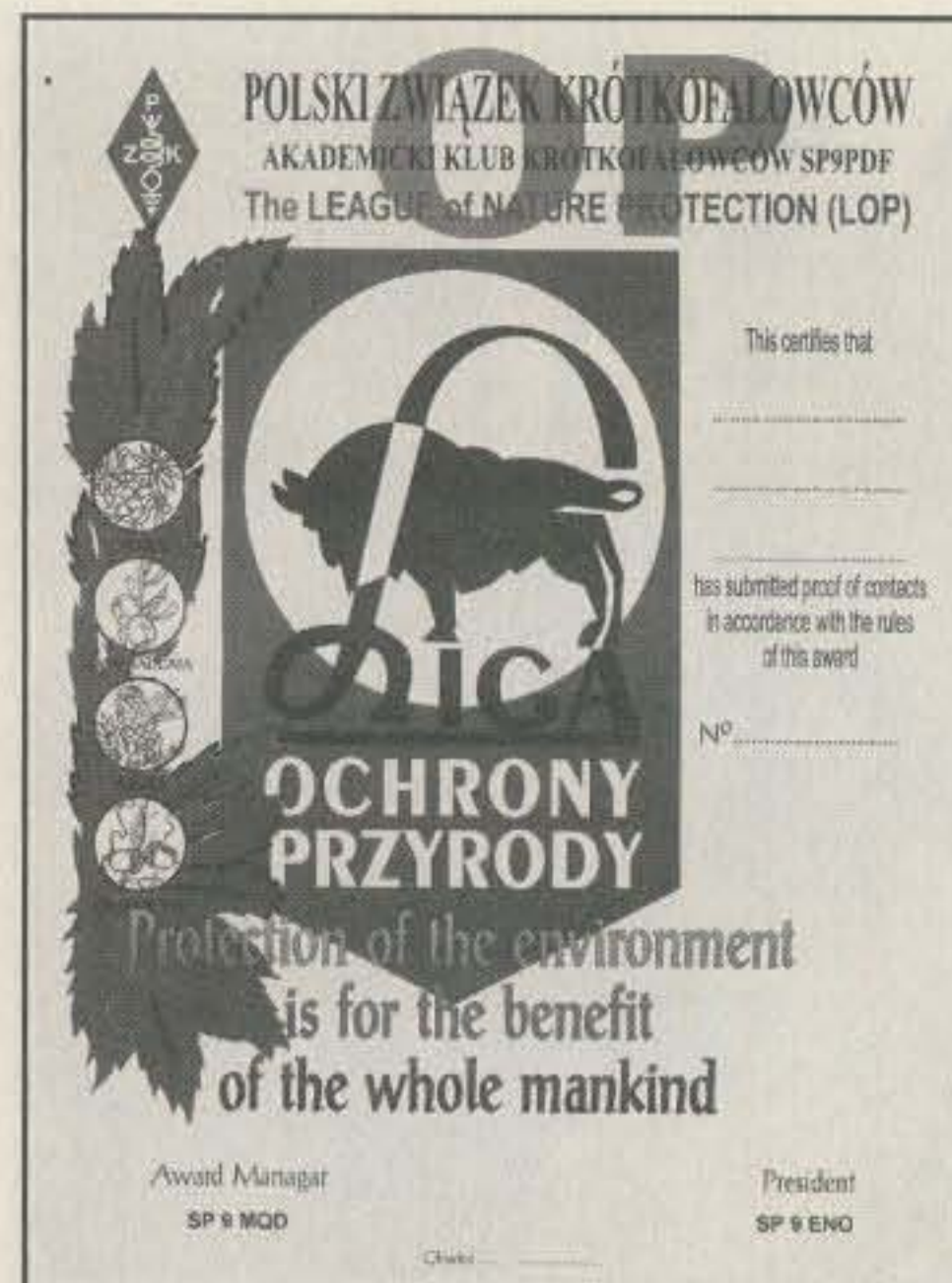
**Council of Europe Award (France).** The following award measures 12" x 17" and features a color reproduction of the Council of Europe headquarters building.

Contact each of the member states of the Council of Europe plus station TP2CE (or special call area numbers used by the same station). These are: Albania ZA, Hungary HA, Romania YO, Andorra C31, Iceland TF, Russia RA, Austria OE, Ireland EI, San Marino T7, Belgium ON, Italy I, Slovakia OM, Bulgaria LZ, Liechtenstein HB0, Spain EA, Croatia 9A, Lithuania LY, Sweden SM, Cyprus 5B, Luxembourg LX, Switzerland HB, Czech Rep OK, Malta 9H, Turkey TA, Denmark OZ, Macedonia Z3, Ukraine UX, Estonia ES, Moldova ER, U.K. G, Finland OH, Netherlands PA, France F, Norway LA, Germany DL, Poland SP, Greece SV, Portugal CT.

The award may be endorsed for Mixed or Single mode, Monoband, 5-Band, 9-Band, or all YL award. On 50 MHz it may be earned for Mixed mode, SSB, CW, or RTTY. Special endorsement for all Satellite. Send GCR list and fee of \$US10 or 12 IRCs to: Francis Kremer, F6FQK, 31 rue Louis Pasteur, F-67490 Dettwiller, France. You may also address the application directly to: Conseil De L'Europe, Regie des Moyens Audiovisuels-CERAC, Mr. Francis Kremer, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex, France.

**League of Nature Protection Certificate (Poland).** The LNR award is an interesting concept. You can demonstrate your commitment to environmental protection and join with Polish and other Europeans who feel this is a worthwhile cause. Check your collection of Polish, Czech Republic, Slovak, and German QSLs for the very distinctive rubber stamp showing "League of Nature Protection" on the top half of a semicircle with the bottom half showing "1 Point for LOP Award." The fee for the award is modest compared to most European awards, so it's not an attempt to take advantage of a popular emotional theme.

Sponsored by club station SP9PDF to popularize among mankind the idea of environmental protection, contact members after 1 January 1984. They use a 2 1/2



The League of Nature Protection certificate sponsored by club station SP9PDF.

inch circular rubber stamp leaving no doubt that they count for this award.

HF: Europeans need 10 QSOs, DX need 5. VHF: Europeans and others need 2. Any mode/band. SWL okay. Send GCR list and 150 Zt or 6 IRCs to: Akademicki Klub Krotkofalowcow SP9PDF, Box 336, 44-101 Gliwice 1, Poland.

Once you earn the diploma, you may be added to the list of stations that count towards earning the award. Send the statement "I declare that I will popularize and contribute to the idea of preservation of nature and man's natural environment against extermination." Ask to be added to the list and enclose 1 IRC for membership fee.



The WU-100 Award offered for contacting 100 different amateur stations of the Ukraine.

**The WU-100 Award (Ukraine).** Europeans need to contact 100 different amateur stations of the Ukraine on or after 1 January 1996. All others need 50 such contacts. All bands and modes may be used. QSOs with the same station are permitted on different bands. The award is available to SWLs on the same basis. Send list of QSOs (GCR) certified by two



Paul Tarasovich, UT1KY, receiver of applications for the WU-100 Award.

licensed amateurs and fee of 8 IRCs, 7DM, \$US5, or 6000 Lire to: Paul Tarasovich, UT1KY, P.O. Box 85, Rivne, 266027 Ukraine.

**USA DX-YL Award.** This award is available to licensed YL operators only, for working 25 different YL's outside your own country after 1 April 1958. USA and possessions are counted as separate countries, as are KH6 and KL7. All bands okay. Contacts don't have to be with 25 countries, just 25 different DX YL's. Send GCR list alphabetically by operator's last name. Endorsements for each 10 additional DX YL's. No use of repeaters. All contacts must be made from the same country. there is no charge, but sufficient postage for first class mail or a stamped legal-size envelope must accompany the application. Apply to: Phyllis Davis, KA1JC:

Oct 10 to July 10: 2670 S. Salford Blvd, NorthPort, FL 34287;

July 10 to Oct 10: P.O. Box 1488, Presque Isle, ME 04769.



The DX-YL Award is for YLs only.

### Internet Site of The Month

The interesting, exotic series of awards of the Korean Amateur Radio League is available for viewing at: <<http://altair.skku.ac.kr/hl1ssg/award.html>>. On the whole, these awards will be a challenge for North America and probably even Europe. However, with improving conditions, I'm looking forward to working regular Korean stations. Remember, HL9's are foreign operators in Korea, and do not count for this series. 73, Ted, K1BV

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CQ2

CIRCLE 35 ON READER SERVICE CARD

## NEWS OF COMMUNICATION AROUND THE WORLD

*DXCC 2000 Explained*

Those DXers who attended the 1998 Visalia International DX Convention learned a good deal about the application of the recent changes in the DXCC rules. At the DX forum on Saturday morning, a noted group of panelists answered a flock of questions about the new rules and their consequences. Vince Thompson, K5VT, chaired the panel, and W6CF, K5FUV, N7NG, N4MM, and K4VX added their expertise. Their answers should help DXers better understand this most popular of all DX award programs.

**Minimum size:** Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, former head of the DXCC program and now Membership Services Manager, pointed out that the controversial minimum-size rule may actually provide for new DXCC entities, rather than just ruling out possible candidates. Take the case of an island more than 350 kilometers from a Point 1 country, but with some small rocks above high tide between the island and the mainland. Under the previous rules, those rocks would prevent the island from qualifying as a separate DXCC entity. Under the new rules, however, the minimum-size rule would be applied to those intervening rocks. Thus, if the rocks failed to meet the 100 meter minimum size, they would not be counted as an island. Under the new DXCC rules, the rocks would simply disappear! This means that some potential DXCC entities that were excluded under the previous rules because of small islands or rocks between them and their parent country may now qualify. While there are probably not many such entities, knowledgeable DXers should keep alert for some possible New Ones under the minimum-size rule.

Bill further noted that there is no change to the DXCC entity status of either Scarborough Reef BS7 or Pratas BV9 as a result of the new rules. The rules will not be applied retroactively.

**Political Entities:** Bill also explained why Hong Kong VR6 remains on the DXCC list. The Hong Kong Amateur Radio Transmitting Society is a member society of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Under the new rules, any such entity qualifies as a Point 1 country. Formerly, Hong Kong was a DXCC country by virtue of separation from the parent country of England (Point 3a). Now it is a Point 1 country on its own merits. If Hong



*Jim Maxwell, W6CF, discussed the new DXCC rules at the Visalia DX Convention.*

Kong had an island more than 350 kilometers offshore, that island would qualify as a separate DXCC entity under the new rules. (No such island exists.)

This is not likely to be a common means of generating a New One for the DXCC list, however. In general, IARU rules prohibit the membership of more than a single society from a country. In fact, member societies aren't even supposed to exchange QSL bureau services with other than the IARU member society in a given country. The situation in China of two valid member societies is unique.

Jim Maxwell, W6CF, followed Bill's comment on the DXCC status of Hong Kong by commenting on the reasoning behind the new rules. Jim pointed out that the DXCC entity status of Hong Kong was no longer up to a handful of amateurs who serve on the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) of the Awards Committee at ARRL Headquarters. Now the decision of whether a given entity qualifies as a separate DXCC entity is in the hands of outside organizations: the United Nations, the ITU, and the IARU. If the IARU should drop the Hong Kong Society's membership, then VR6 would very likely be dropped from the DXCC list. As long as the Hong Kong society is a member of the

IARU, however, that entity will remain a separate DXCC counter.

The handful of amateurs who serve on the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) and the Awards Committee at ARRL Headquarters no longer must make difficult and controversial decisions about an entity's status. That task now falls on other, outside agencies: UN, ITU, and the IARU. Presumably, this largely will remove personalities and political pressure from the DXCC entity addition process. This was one of the important goals of the DXCC 2000 project. Incidentally, Hong Kong amateurs are using the VR6 prefix, which is now assigned to China by the ITU. Pitcairn Island amateurs are using the VP6 prefix, as of May 1. (Old timers may remember when this was the prefix of Barbados.)

One could raise the question of DXCC status for Hong Kong after the July 1, 1997 takeover of the territory and prior to the effective date of the new DXCC rules on April 1, 1998. While it appears that Hong Kong did not meet DXCC country criteria during that period, it would serve no purpose to attempt to have Hong Kong contacts from that time period declared invalid for DXCC, only to put the country back on the list as of April 1, 1998. On the other hand, one could make a reasonable argument for making Hong Kong a New One, effective with the new rules. There is no question that Hong Kong was annexed by China last July. The previous DXCC deletion criteria list annexation by an adjacent country a reason for deletion from the DXCC list.

The new rules specifically mention that previously removed entities that again qualify for the DXCC list will be a New One, not a reinstatement of the previous country: "Entities removed from the List may be returned to the list in the future, should they requalify under this (*sic*) criteria. *However, an Entity requalified does so as a totally new Entity, not as a reinstated old one [emphasis added].*"

Thus, if Hong Kong were to be dropped from the DXCC countries list effective with its annexation by China, it would be returned to the entity list effective with the new rules on April 1, 1998. It would now be a New One. Contacts with Hong Kong prior to July 1, 1997 would count for the then-removed country of Hong Kong; contacts between July 1, 1997 and March 31, 1998 would count for China; and contacts after April 1 would count for the New Hong Kong!

There is one problem with this argu-

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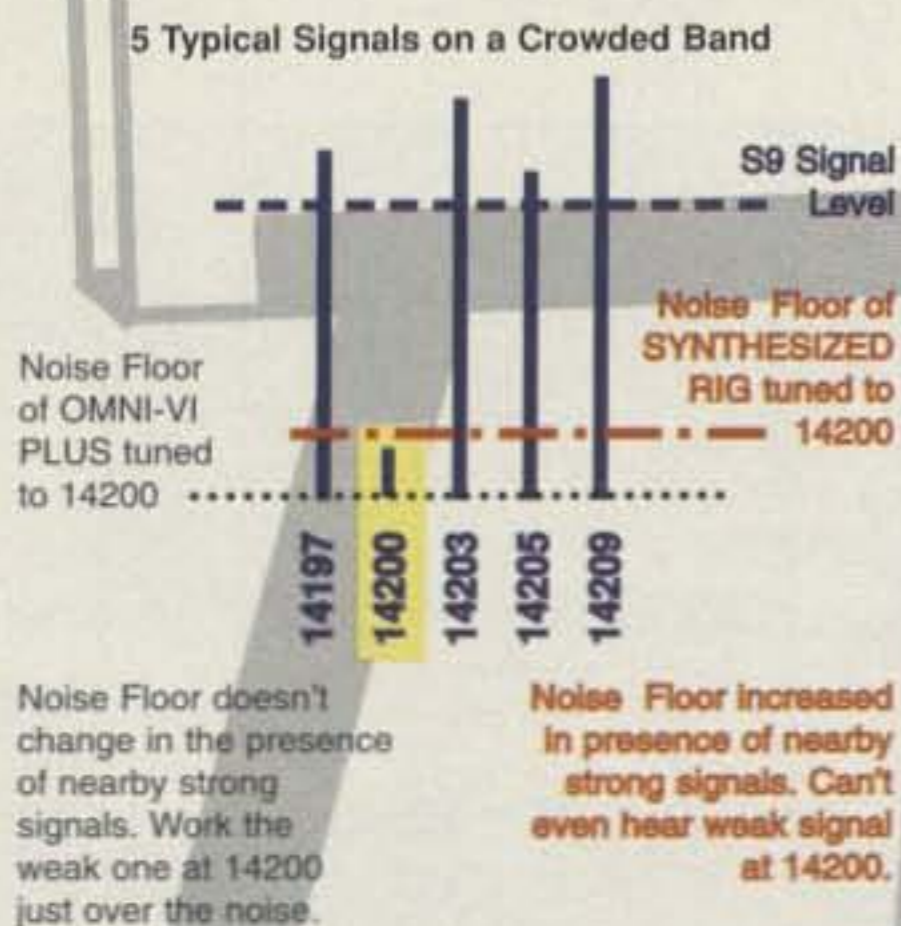
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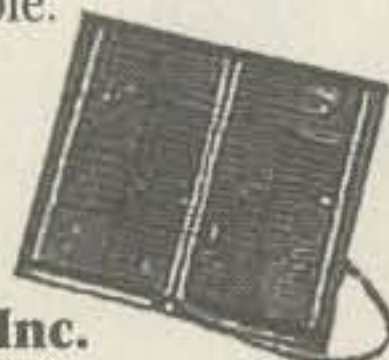
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## The WPX Program

### SSB

2669.....IK8HVJ 2672.....unassigned  
2670.....IK8YDP 2673.....IK8UHA  
2671.....JH8QOX

### CW

2981.....WA2VQVL 2982.....F5JIW

### Mixed

1805.....AK7O 1808.....JG1OWV  
1806.....VP8CEH 1809.....N3TA  
1807.....IK2TQG 1810.....9A2NO

**CW:** 350 F5JIW, 400 F5JIW, AI9L, 450 F5JIW, 2050 VR2UW, 2100 VR2UW, 2150 VR2UW, 2200 VR2UW, 2250 VR2UW, 2300 W8UMR, VR2UW, 3800 N6JV.

**SSB:** 350 IK8HVJ, IK8YDP, IK8UHA, 400 IK8HVJ, N3TA, IK8UHA, 450 IK8HVJ, VP8CEH, IK8UHA, 500 IK8HVJ, VP8CEH, IK8UHA, 550 IK8AVJ, IK8UHA, 600 IK8HVJ, IK8UHA, 650 I8HVJ, 700 IK8HVJ, 750 IK8HVJ, 800 IK8HVJ, WA3GNW, 850 IK8HVJ, 900 IK8HVJ, 950 IK8HVJ.

**Mixed:** 450 AK7O, VP8CEH, 9A2NO, 500 AK7O, VP8CEH, 9A2NO, 550 WZ4P, AK7O, 9A2NO, 600 WZ4P, AK7O, 9A2NO, 650 9A2NO, 700 9A2NO, 750 9A2NO, 800 9A2NO, 850 9A2NO, 900 9A2NO, 950 9A2NO, 1000 9A2NO, 1050 9A2NO, 1100 9A2NO, 1150 9A2NO, 1200 9A2NO, 1250 9A2NO, WA3GNW, 1700 I1-21171, 2400 W8UMR, 2450 W87MR.

15 meters: AI9L  
40 meters: WA2VQV  
80 meters: N3TA, WA3GNW  
N. America: WA2VQV, N3TA  
Europe: AI9L, IK2TQG

**Award of Excellence Plaque Holders:** K6JG, N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GQ, W4BQY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, W8RSW, WA4QMQ,

W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1BWS, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, WB8ZRL, WA8YTM, SM6DHU, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, DK4SY, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, I2DMK, SM6CST, VE1NG, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H18LC, KA5W, K3UA, HA8XX, K7LJ, SM3EVR, K2SHZ, UP1BZZ, EA7OH, K2POF, DJ4XA, IT9TQH, K2POA, N6JV, W2HG, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, YU2NA, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, K7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE0DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IV4GME, VE9RJ, WX3N, HB9AUT, KC6X, N6IBP, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HJM, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA8BM, DL1EY, KU0A, K0DEQ, VR2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLD, HB9BIN.

**Award of Excellence Plaque Holders with 160 Meter Endorsement:** K6JG, N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8RSW, W8ILC, K9BG, W1BWS, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H18LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TQH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, WX3N, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HJM, HB9DDZ, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, K0DEQ, VR2UW, DJ3JSW, OE6CLD, HB9BIN.

Complete rules and application forms may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope (foreign stations send extra postage if airmail desired) to "CQ WPX Awards," P.O. Box 593, Clovis, NM 88101-9511 USA.

ment. The previous deletion rules mention annexation of a **Point 1** country by another, adjacent Point 1 country. Hong Kong was a Point 3a country under the old rules: separation by another DXCC country (a whole host of them, in fact, between Hong Kong and England). There is nothing in the previous rules about such an annex-

ation. The DXAC would have to decide if the annexation rule applied to Hong Kong. If so, DXers could have a New One complete with resident amateurs.

**Start Dates:** The question of the start date for new DXCC entities was among the topics raised at the meeting, specifically about the Marquesas and Austral



Max, SP1AEN, operates CW from this small, but neat shack. (Thanks to Z32KV for the photo.)



## The WAZ Program

### Single Band WAZ

#### 10 Meter SSB

491 .....JA1GRM 492 .....IK2AEQ

#### 15 Meter SSB

512 .....JA8JCJ 514 .....JR1CBC  
513 .....KM7E

#### 20 Meter SSB

1024 .....W8QZA (QRP) 1026 .....RW9SG  
1025 .....IK2ANI 1027 .....N4POX

#### 12 Meter CW

16 .....DL1PM

#### 15 Meter CW

273 .....JR1CBC

#### 20 Meter CW

483 .....K7NW 484 .....W9MJ

#### 40 Meter CW

199 .....JA1GRM

#### 80 Meter CW

50 .....K5AQ

#### RTTY

109 .....W2JB

#### 160 Meters

128 .....EA6BD, 32 zones, New  
129 .....OZ1ING, 36 zones, new  
125 .....OM2XW, endorsement

### All Band WAZ

#### SSB

4426 .....JH3OHO 4429 .....RW9SG  
4427 .....RA3LZ 4430 .....JA1XCZ/4  
4428 .....SV1RK

#### CW/Phone

7788 .....SM1TDE 7794 .....IK8TPJ  
7789 .....JS1XGS 7795 .....IK7WPC  
7790 .....UV3QQ (CW) 7796 .....DK6LB (CW)  
7791 .....N0AH 7797 .....AD6W  
7792 .....IK0EIF 7798 .....DJ3RM (CW)  
7793 .....JF1EYH

#### All CW

115 .....JA7IFT

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Manager, Jim Dionne, K1MEM, 31 DeMarco Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$4.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$10.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. Questions regarding the WAZ Award may be sent to K1MEM with an SASE.

islands of French Polynesia. Both K5FUV and W6CF strongly made the point of *not* applying the new rules retroactively. (Under the "removal criteria" the new rules say: "Criteria changes will not be applied retroactively to Entities on the list.")

Pierre, F6HIZ, argued that the Event Date in the new rules should be the date that the French Polynesian radio society was admitted to the IARU—in 1983. K5FUV pointed out that the two island groups did not meet the criteria for separate country status under the rules in effect

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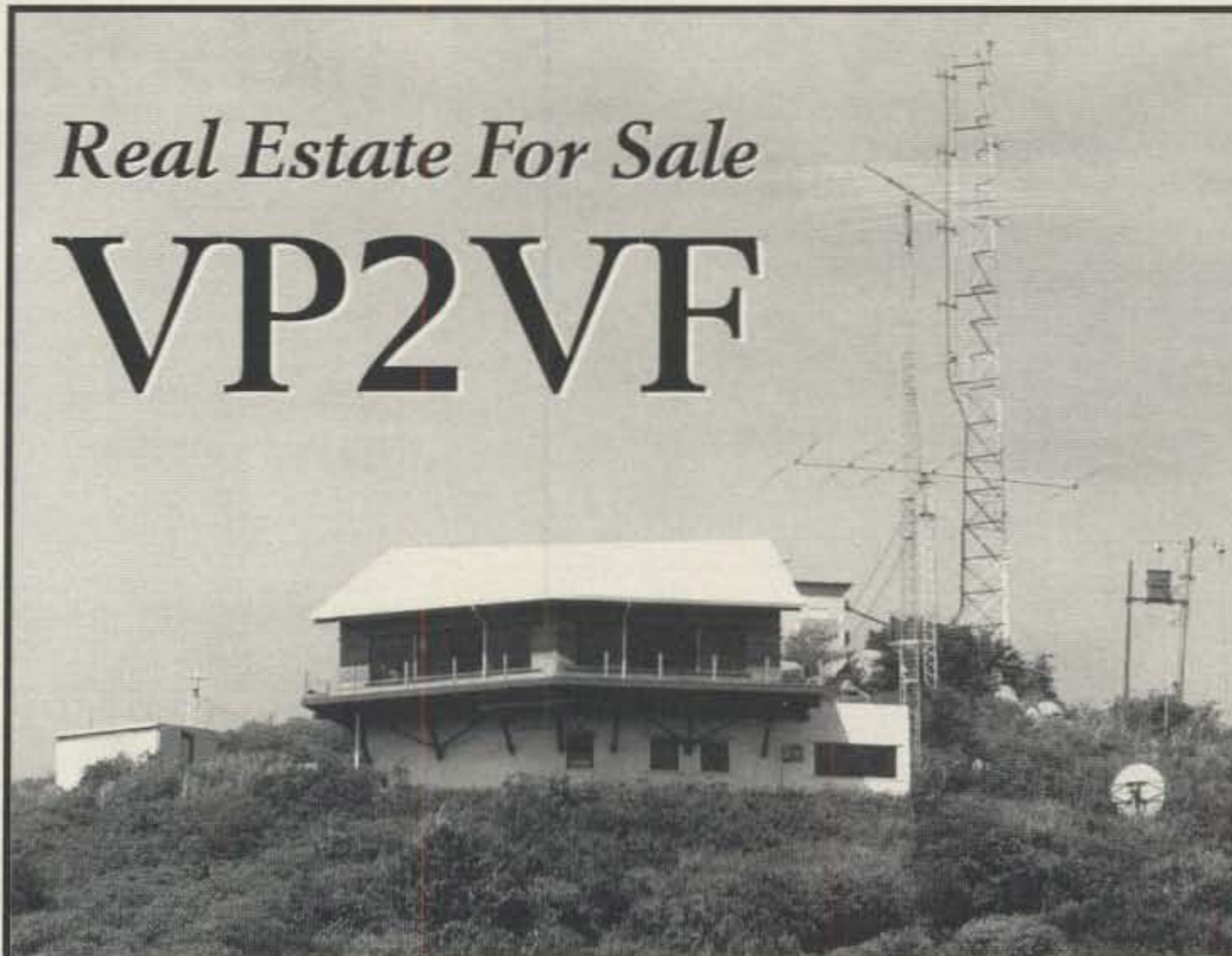
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### For more information contact:

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Road Town, Tortola

British Virgin Islands

Tel: 284-494-3523

Fax: 284-494-8254

Email: dirk@caribsurf.com

## CQ DX Honor Roll

The CQ DX Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 275 or more ACTIVE countries for the mode indicated. The ARRL DXCC Countries List is used as the country standard. Honor Roll listing is automatic when submitting application or endorsement for 275 or more countries. Deleted countries do not count and are dropped from listing as they occur. Currently there are 328 countries. To remain on the CQ DX Honor Roll, annual updates are required. Honor Roll updates may be made at any time, in any number. Updates indicating "no change" will be accepted to meet the annual requirement. All updates must be accompanied by an SASE for confirmation. The fee for endorsement involving the issuance of a sticker is \$1.00.

### CW

K2TQC.....328	K2OWE.....328	N7RO.....327	W7CNL.....326	KU0S.....323	K6CU.....319	K9DDO.....312	HB9DDZ.....307	YV5ANT.....299
K1MEM.....328	K6LEB.....328	KZ4V.....327	N6AR.....325	W1WAI.....323	K2JF.....319	K4JLD.....312	K8JJC.....306	K0HQW.....299
K2FL.....328	K9MM.....328	9A2AA.....326	K8NA.....325	4N7ZZ.....323	HA5NK.....319	K1VHS.....311	CT1YH.....305	YU1AB.....294
K9BWQ.....328	F3AT.....328	OK1MP.....326	I1JQJ.....325	AG9S.....322	N6AV.....318	WA8YTM.....311	K7JS.....305	G4MVA.....294
K2ENT.....328	PA0XPQ.....328	N4JF.....326	IT9VDQ.....325	DL3DX.....322	VE7DX.....318	N6AW.....311	KE4PO.....304	I2EOW.....294
DL8CM.....328	W6DN.....327	W9WAQ.....326	W8XD.....325	KA5TQF.....322	G3KMQ.....317	N5HB.....311	G2FFO.....303	W4UW.....294
W0IZ.....328	K3UA.....327	AA4KT.....326	K8LJG.....325	AA5NK.....321	N4CH.....317	LA7JO.....311	W7IIT.....302	KB8O.....292
G4BWP.....328	N7FU.....327	K9IW.....326	K4CN.....325	ON4QX.....321	N6CW.....316	OH3NM.....310	IK0ADY.....302	F6HMJ.....292
K6JG.....328	N4MM.....327	YU1HA.....326	WB5MTV.....324	K9QVB.....321	W3BBL.....315	OZ5UR.....310	WA4DAN.....301	LU3DSI.....292
I4EAT.....328	IT9TQH.....327	I5XIM.....326	IT9QDS.....324	HA5DA.....321	N4AH.....315	K4CX.....309	WG5G/QRPP.....301	DJ1YH.....288
SM6CST.....328	K4CEB.....327	WA8DXA.....326	W0JLC.....324	K1HDO.....320	N0FW.....315	VE9RJ.....309	W6YQ.....301	YU7FW.....286
W2UE.....328	WA4IUM.....327	N5FW.....326	N5FG.....324	IT9ZGY.....320	AA2X.....314	9A2AJ.....309	N4OT.....301	KF5PE.....282
W2FXA.....328	K4IQJ.....327	W7OM.....326	DJ2PJ.....324	VE7CNE.....320	W5OG.....313	W3II.....308	YU1TR.....300	WG7A.....282
N4KG.....328	F3TH.....327	W0HZ.....326	W4OEL.....324	W6SR.....320	WB4UBD.....313	HB9DDZ.....307	YU2TW.....300	YC2OK.....280
K8PV.....328	EA2IA.....327	IK2ILH.....326	W7ULC.....323	KA7T.....320	N1HN.....313	I2EOW.....307	KH6CF.....300	PY4WS.....276
W4QB.....328	NC9T.....327	K2JLA.....326	WA4JTI.....323	I4LCK.....320				

### SSB

K4MZU.....328	IT9TGO.....328	YS1GMV.....326	WB3DNA.....326	N2VW.....324	K4CX.....320	KB1HC.....316	CT1AHU.....309	K2EEK.....291
K2TQC.....328	WD8MGQ.....328	KF7SH.....326	I2EOW.....326	OE7SEL.....324	G4ADD.....320	K6RO.....316	EA5KY.....308	W6WL.....291
K2FL.....328	I1EEW.....328	ZS6LW.....326	KE5PO.....326	K8YVI.....323	I4WZK.....320	W6NW.....315	EA3CB.....308	YB1RED.....291
DJ9ZB.....328	I0ZV.....328	YV5AIP.....326	K4JLD.....326	K9HQM.....323	I4SAT.....320	KV2S.....315	N6AV.....306	DJ2UU.....291
EA2IA.....328	VE3MR.....328	K9IW.....326	W6SR.....326	KC5P.....323	WE2L.....320	WA9RCQ.....315	TI2TEB.....306	4X6DK.....291
K2ENT.....328	DL9OH.....328	WA4JTI.....326	N4CH.....326	WD0GML.....323	EA3EQT.....320	N3ARK.....315	VE3DLR.....306	WA3KKO.....290
OZ5EV.....328	ZL1AGO.....328	YV1AJ.....326	K1HDO.....326	WW1N.....323	WS9V.....320	K6BZ.....315	W3YEY.....306	OE7KWT.....290
VE1YX.....328	SV1ADG.....328	YV1KZ.....326	K9PP.....326	K4SBH.....323	K0FP.....320	K2AJY.....315	XE1MDX.....305	N6CFQ.....290
W6EUF.....328	LA7JO.....328	W9OKL.....326	I8ACB.....325	WB2JZK.....323	KE3A.....320	K7TCL.....315	DK5WQ.....305	IK2PZG.....289
K2JLA.....328	VE3XN.....328	9A2AA.....326	N6AR.....325	CE7ZK.....323	N4CSF.....320	I4CSP.....315	EA5OL.....305	VK3IR.....289
N7RO.....328	K9MM.....328	DL6KG.....326	K8NA.....325	K2ARO.....323	W8AXI.....320	N6RJY.....315	G4NXG/M.....304	KF7VC.....288
K6YRA.....328	K7LAY.....328	K0KG.....326	A18M.....325	LU7HJM.....323	W6SHY.....320	N0AMI.....314	VE3CKP.....304	OK1AWZ.....287
W6BCQ.....328	VK4LC.....328	OK1MP.....326	W4UW.....325	VE4ACY.....323	N4HK.....320	W5RUK.....314	WB2NQT.....303	IK2DUW.....287
K5OVC.....328	DL8CM.....328	WB3CQN.....326	VE2PJ.....325	KB8O.....323	ON5KL.....319	DL3DX.....314	K6CF.....304	EA5GMB.....287
KZ2P.....328	N0FW.....328	I2QMU.....326	I8LEL.....325	VE2GHZ.....323	WA4DAN.....319	WB8ZRV.....314	WB2NQT.....303	IK8BMW.....286
VE7DX.....328	I8KCI.....328	N4JF.....326	IT9ZGY.....325	KD8IW.....323	KI3L.....319	OH5KL.....313	EA3CWK.....303	TU2QW.....286
AA6BB.....328	XE1VIC.....328	KB4HU.....326	K6LEB.....325	YV1JV.....323	VE3HO.....319	WD0DMN.....313	EA3BT.....303	WZ3E.....286
EA4DO.....328	PA0XPO.....328	KC4MJ.....326	IK1GPG.....325	VE4ROY.....322	XE1MD.....319	K9YY.....313	YC2OK.....303	NM5O.....285
ZL3NS.....328	K3UA.....327	CX2CB.....326	I1JQJ.....325	WN5JZ.....322	KB1JU.....319	K1VHS.....313	WA9BDX.....302	EA1AYN.....285
K6JG.....328	K9BWQ.....327	TI2CC.....326	VE7WJ.....325	XE1CI.....322	PY2DBU.....319	W9IL.....313	WA8MEM.....302	IK2HBX.....284
WA6OET.....328	W0YDB.....327	IK0IOL.....326	A18S.....325	WB4PUD.....322	I0SGF.....319	W1LQQ.....313	KD4YT.....302	VE7HAM.....284
SM6CST.....328	W4QB.....327	ZL1HY.....326	W7FP.....325	LZ1HA.....322	KF8UN.....319	WA2FKF.....313	CT1YH.....302	KE6CF.....283
W3GG.....328	VE3MRS.....327	YU1HA.....326	N5FG.....325	ZS6AOO.....322	K9QVB.....318	K4LR.....312	N5QDE.....302	KK4TR.....283
I4EAT.....328	OE2EGL.....327	W4NKI.....326	AC7DX.....325	WA5HWB.....322	KB5FU.....318	WA9IVU.....312	RA2YA.....301	YC3OSE.....282
W4UNP.....328	K8CSG.....327	KZ4V.....326	K0HQW.....325	Ti2JJP.....322	AA4AH.....318	KD5ZD.....312	W2LZX.....301	WN6J.....281
YU1AB.....328	K1UO.....327	VE3GMT.....326	K2JF.....325	WD0BNC.....322	G4GED.....318	WA2FKF.....312	XE2DU.....301	YU1TR.....280
F9RM.....328	WB4UBD.....327	W4EEE.....326	KC8EU.....324	W5XQ.....321	IK8GCS.....318	K4JDJ.....312	WP4AFA.....300	KN4RI.....280
PY4OY.....328	W2FXA.....327	KE4VU.....326	N4KEL/M.....324	KA5TQF.....321	W6MFC.....318	N5HB.....312	YU2TW.....300	WD9ACQ.....280
OZ3SK.....328	IK8CNT.....327	AG9S.....326	IK8BQE.....324	Ti2HP.....321	KF5AR.....318	ZS6BBY.....311	WB4UHN.....300	W0IKD.....279
XE1L.....328	N4KG.....327	WA4WTG.....326	AA5NK.....324	I8XTX.....321	I8IYW.....318	IN3ANE.....311	KB8NTY.....300	EA3CWT.....278
4Z4DX.....328	K8PV.....327	WD8PUG.....326	WB5TED.....324	I8YRK.....321	NI5D.....318	F1OZF.....311	YT7TY.....300	VE2DRN.....277
CX4HS.....328	K5TVC.....327	W2CC.....326	W2FGY.....324	K4POV.....321	WA8YTM.....318	E16FR.....311	WB6GFJ.....299	G0LRX.....277
N4MM.....328	NC9T.....327	VE2WY.....326	YV5CWO.....324	KS2I.....321	F6BFI.....318	Y27AA.....311	VE3CKP.....299	9A9R.....277
OE3WWB.....328	I8KCI.....327	AA4KT.....326	W5LLU.....324	W7ULC.....321	KX5V.....318	WA5SUE.....311	YV4VN.....299	K3LC.....277
IK1GPG.....328	W7BOK.....327	PT2TF.....326	I8KCI.....324	W3AZD.....321	CE1YI.....318	GM4XLU.....311	KJ9N.....298	KC6AWX.....276
W7OM.....328	4N7ZZ.....327	KM2P.....326	I1POR.....324	W0ULU.....321	WB6PSY.....317	KA5RNH.....310	W5OXA.....296	OA4EI.....276
K4MOG.....328	N4CH.....327	N5FW.....326	VE4AT.....324	CT1EEB.....321	9H4G.....317	I2MQP.....310	KB5WQ.....295	N3RX.....275
K7JS.....328	W9SS.....326	K9HDZ.....326	KD5ZM.....324	OA4QV.....321	WA6DTG.....317	HA6NF.....310	IT9VDQ.....293	F5NBX.....275
DU9RG.....328	WA4IUM.....326	WA3HUP.....326	KA5TTC.....324	OE6CLD.....321	XE1XM.....317	KF7RU.....310	KJ5LJ.....293	VE2AJT.....275
W6DN.....328	WB1DQC.....326	YV1CLM.....326	KB2MY.....324	LU1JDL.....320	ZL1BOQ.....317	AB4IQ.....310	Ti2LTA.....292	US1IDX.....275
I4LCK.....328	XE1AE.....326	N6AW.....326	EA3BK1.....324	KF8VW.....320	EA1JG.....317	W4WX.....310	KQ4WD.....292	Z31JA.....275
IT9TQH.....328	KA3HXO.....326	ZP5JCY.....326	YV5IVB.....324	I0AMU.....320	N5HSF.....316	EA5RJ.....309	LU3HBO.....292	

### RTTY

K2ENT.....324	N14H.....305	EA5FKI.....284	YC2OK.....281	G4BWP.....276	KE5PO.....274	W4QB.....273	I1JQJ.....273	W4EEU.....269
WB4UBD.....310	K3UA.....288							

in 1983. It wasn't until the DXCC rules were changed in 1988 that the Marquesas and Australs could be considered for separate DXCC status, if French Polynesia were a Point 1 country. (The DXAC twice considered this question and twice turned it down.) K5FUV said the Event Date for these two potential New Ones is 2359Z, March 31, 1998. (He doesn't like the idea of the new rules taking effect on April Fool's Day.)

Note that having start date of April 1 (or March 31) doesn't mean that the DXCC desk will be accepting cards for the New Ones immediately. The DXCC desk will, in general, accept cards for New Ones just

after the two major DXCC submission dates. Thus, look for acceptance dates of April 1 and October 1.

**Minimum QSOs:** As always happens when three or more DXers gather, the topic of North Korea came up. A few DXers were in favor of a minimum-QSO rule, which would have prevented the limited P5 operation from adding North Korea to the DXCC list. K5FUV pointed out that no matter what the minimum number of QSOs for an operation to count for DXCC, most DXers will be shut out of any possible contact. The DXAC did consider the concept of such a rule, but rejected it. In a show of hands at the DX forum, the

Visalia attendees also overwhelmingly rejected the notion of such a rule.

**Other Changes:** Bill Kennamer mentioned some of the coming changes to the DXCC program. As soon as the DXCC computer system can be successfully upgraded, perhaps in another year, DXCC will begin to accept DXCC applications on disk. The idea would be for the DXer to use a program supplied by the ARRL to enter the appropriate data from the QSL cards. After the cards are checked in the field, the disk is mailed or downloaded to the ARRL, where it is used to update the DXer's records.

Following this innovation, the field-

## 5 Band WAZ

As of March 31, 1998, 480 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ Award with all 200 Zones confirmed:

OH2DW	JA2DLM	UA0FZ
K5AQ	S57J	N5KO
SP6CZ	OZ1ING	

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (zones needed, 80 meters):

N4WW, 199 (26)	KZ4V, 199 (26)
AA4KT, 199 (26)	W8DX, 199 (34)
K7UR, 199 (34)	N4CH, 199 (18 on 10)
W0PGI, 199 (26)	N6AW, 199 (34)
W2YY, 199 (26)	UA3AGW, 199 (1, 12)
W9WAQ, 199 (26)	EA5BCK, 199 (27, 39)
VE7AHA, 199 (34)	K4PI, 199 (23, 26)
W9CH, 199 (26)	G3KDB, 199 (1, 12)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	KG9N, 199 (18, 22)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40)	KM2P, 199 (22, 26)
K1ST, 199 (26)	DK0EE, 199 (19, 31)
AB0P, 199 (23)	K0SR, 199 (22, 23)
KL7Y, 199 (34)	K3NW, 199 (23, 26)
UY5XE, 199 (27)	UA4PO, 199 (1, 2)
NN7X, 199 (34)	K5RT, 199 (22, 23)
OE6MKG, 199 (31)	JA1DM, 199 (2, 40)
HA8IB, 199 (2 on 15)	OE1ZL, 199 (1, 31)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	9A5I, 199 (1, 16)
DF3CB, 199 (1)	K4ZW, 199 (18, 23)
F6CPO, 199 (1)	DJ4GJ, 199 (1, 31)
W6SR, 199 (37)	OH2VZ, 199 (1, 31)
W3UR, 199 (23)	W2YC, 199 (24, 26)
KC7V, 199 (34)	W6DN, 199 (17, 34)
GM3YOR, 199 (31)	N0FW, 199 (18, 18on10)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	

The following have qualified for the basic 5 Band WAZ Award:

IK2ANI, 166 zones	EA6BD, 190 zones
PY4OY, 195 zones	OZ1ING, 200 zones
JA2DLM, 200 zones	

Endorsements:

OH2DW, 200 zones	S57J, 200 zones
K5AQ, 200 zones	K2UVG, 170 zones
SP6CZ, 200 zones	VE5KX/W0, 180 zones
KY7M, 196 zones	N0FW, 198 zones
VO1FB, 199 zones	UA0FZ, 200 zones
OE2BZL, 181 zones	N5KO, 200 zones

1074 Stations have attained the 150 Zone level as of March 31, 1998.

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Manager, Jim Dionne, K1MEM, 31 DeMarco Road, Sudbury, MA 01776. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$4.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$10.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. Questions regarding the WAZ Award may be sent to K1MEM with an SASE.

checking of DXCC cards will be greatly expanded, with more checkers, better training, and more field-checkable countries. "Totally different and a lot better," Bill said. This step is a necessary one before DXCC can expand its awards program, another part of the DXCC 2000 mission.

The subject of electronic submission of DXCC credits also arose. Bill bases his long-standing objection to this process on the ease of tampering with the QSO data. He feels if he can add his callsign to the electronic log data, it is not sufficiently secure for use in the DXCC program.

Fortunately, a former software engineer who specialized in encryption of data and data security plans to look into this problem, thanks to the support of the Yasm Foundation. We may eventually see auto-

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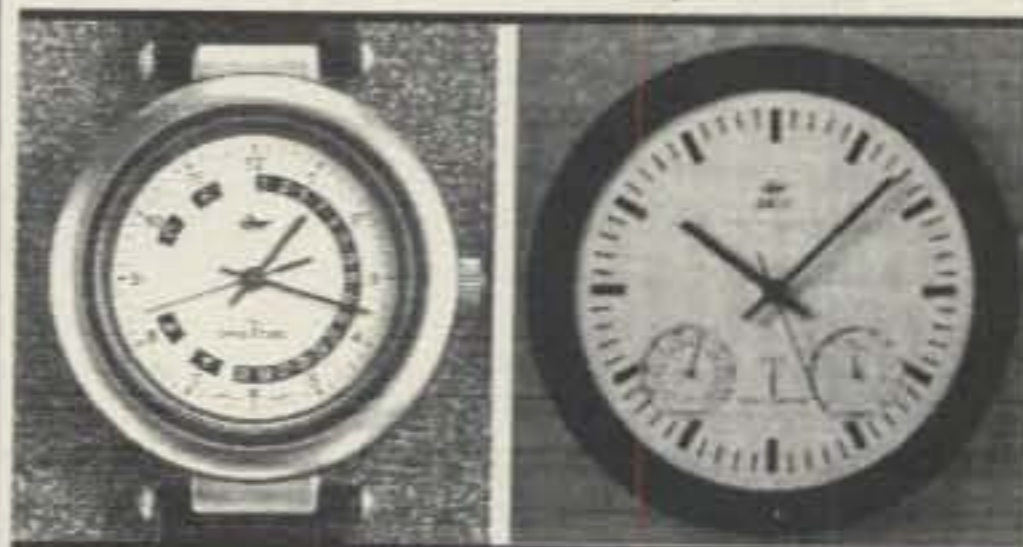
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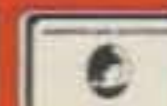
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CIRCLE 38 ON READER SERVICE CARD

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 3D2KZ to JA8VE  
 3D2TK to JA3MCA  
 3D2WP to JA1WPX  
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 4K1QAV to W3HC  
 4N4AE to YU4WU  
 4N4GD to YU4WU  
 4N4I to YU4WU  
 4N8P to YU8FFG  
 4O0SRBIH to YU4WU  
 4O4EBL to YU4WU  
 4O4WCY to YU4WU  
 4O4ZX to YU4WU  
 4X4UO to WB3CQN  
 4X51FN to AA2KD  
 5N4BAV to IK0SHF  
 6A1A to IK3ZAW  
 6A1HM to SU1HM  
 6A1TA to SU2TA  
 6K0T to DS4CNB  
 8J3AKB/3 to JG3GMG  
 9J2A to JA0JHA  
 9M2YXI to GM4YXI  
 9X5NA to W7LFA  
 AA4HU/D2 to W3HC  
 AA4NC/CY0 to WA4DAN  
 BI3H to W3HC  
 BI7Y to BD7JA  
 BV98ARL to BV4YB  
 C53HG/E to W3HC  
 DS0CX to HL2WA  
 EU/R0PK to UA0AGI  
 F6FWT to W3HC  
 FO0FI to K6SLO  
 FO5PR to LX1SP  
 FS5HI to WA4JTK  
 H22A to YL2KL  
 H44XX to JA5DQH  
 H44YC to AA5BT  
 HG6N to HA6KNB  
 HH2LD to N3BNA  
 HI8MO to YV1AVO  
 HL0Z to DS4CNB  
 HL0Z/4 to DS4CNB  
 HL0Z/5 to DS4CNB  
 HR5/HP1XBI to F6AJA  
 IR0N to IS0SIR  
 IY5PIS to IK5QPZ  
 J42Z to SV2CWY  
 J69EB to KB3AMD  
 JW9VCA to LA7JO  
 JW9YY to LA7JO  
 KH6/KB0EBH to K7VI  
 KM4P/HS0 to W3HC  
 LA8W to LA4DCA  
 LX6A to Pirate  
 LX6T to LX1KC  
 LX9UN to LX1NJ  
 MS0APF/P to MM1AUF  
 N9KX/KH4 to DK9KX  
 OK8AAE to DL4VBP  
 PJ8WP to W5SJ  
 R0DJG to UA3DJG  
 R3CA/0 to UA9OBA  
 RN0A to UA0AGI  
 RP9XUK to W3HC  
 S07AD to EA4URE  
 S07CRS to JA1UT  
 SO2DCA to LA4DCA  
 SO8FHG to PA0FHG  
 T22JY to JA1JQY  
 T22KJ to JA1KJW  
 T22KT to JA3MCA  
 T22VE to JA8VE  
 T94GB to W3HC  
 TA3ZN to DL3FDU

TA4A to W3HC  
 TK/F8UFT to F6AXX  
 TK0UFT to F6AXX  
 TK5UFT to F6AXX  
 TU4EI to W3HC  
 TU5EV to W3HC  
 UK8AN to VK4FW  
 UK8CK to RW6HS  
 UN3F to UN7FJ  
 V31HE to DL1DA  
 V31SC to DJ4IJ  
 VP8/G4VFU to G0HXL  
 VU3DJQ to Pirate  
 VU4HLE to Pirate  
 W4T to WA3HUP  
 XT2JB to W3HC  
 XT2TP to WB2YQH  
 XU3MTM to HL2AQN  
 XU6BND to JA6BND  
 XU7MTM to HL2AQN  
 YB0ZCE to YC0FTD  
 YL1ZY to YL2KL  
 YT4AM to YU4WU  
 YT4BYZ to YU4WU  
 YT4TD to YU4WU  
 YU4AB to YU4WU  
 YW1AVO to YV1AVO  
 YW1D to YV1AVO  
 YX1DIG to YV1AVO  
 YY1D to YV1AVO  
 YZ4BYZ to YU4WU  
 YZ4DAM to YU4WU  
 YZ4EBL to YU4WU  
 YZ4EE to YU4WU  
 YZ4GD to YU4WU  
 YZ4I to YU4WU  
 YZ4IZ to YU4WU  
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 Cecilleville, White Plains, Quezon City, MM,  
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*The table of QSL managers is courtesy of John Shelton, K1XN, editor of The GOLIST, P.O. Box 3071, Paris TN 38242 (phone 901-641-0109; e-mail: <golist@wk.net>).*



Bob, K4UEE, at one of Heard Island VKØIR operating positions. (KK6EK photo)

matic updating of DXCC records from DXpedition logs.

Another approach would be for the DXCC desk to have electronic access to DXpedition logs, via the Internet, for example. Bill said this was a possibility in two or three years, but the system had to be fast enough to verify a contact in five seconds. Otherwise, the DXCC desk would not be able to process the 500,000 to 1,000,000 cards they receive each year.

### New Orleans International DX Convention

This event convenes for the seventh year at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street in the historic French Quarter, August 14-15. Early registration (before July 31) is \$60 for amateurs and \$40 for guests. After July 31 the registration is \$70 and \$50, respectively. Make your check payable to the New Orleans International



9M600 (right) on Layang Layang in the Spratlys.

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DX Convention and mail it to Michael Mayer, W5PZA, 5836 Marcia Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70124. The convention includes DXpedition reports, technical sessions, QSL card checking by Bill Kenamer, K5FUV, and much more. The Saturday evening banquet, a coat-and-tie affair, features a major DXpedition report and some of the best food in New Orleans, a city known for its fine cuisine. Call the hotel at 504-586-0300 and mention the DX convention to get the special convention rate, which is good before and after the convention, if you would like to linger in New Orleans. This is a top-notch convention in a first-class facility, surrounded by the around-the-clock entertainment of the French Quarter. The Friday and Saturday evening hospitality suites on a balcony overlooking Bourbon Street are alone worth attending the convention. I'll be there; stop by and say hello.

## DX Happenings

VE9AA plans a return visit to St. Paul Island this month. He will use the callsign CY9AA as he did last year. He is shooting for a 9 to 10 day DXpedition in the window of June 25 to July 15, with exact days depending on the weather. Operation will be on 160-6 meters, CW and SSB. For more information, try Mike's e-mail address at <ve9aa@hotmail.com>. QSL CY9AA via VE9AA.

The Eindhoven Student Radio Amateur Club will operate from the mountain restaurant in Malbun, Liechtenstein, July 1-14. Look for the callsign HB0/PI4TUE on all bands/modes. Operators include PA3EZL, PA3FXW, PA3GFE, PA3HCW, PE1NVK, PE1OGF, and PE1PRG.

73, Chod, VP2ML

# WASHINGTON READOUT

REGULATORY NEWS IN THE WORLD OF AMATEUR RADIO

## *NTIA and Amateur Spectrum Requirements*

**M**ost amateurs believe that it is the Federal Communications Commission that has jurisdiction over amateur radio spectrum in the United States. While it is true that the FCC adopts rules for the use of amateur spectrum once it has been allocated, it is the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), working in conjunction with the State Department, that plans the future spectrum for all services. The NTIA is the White House advisor on telecommunications issues. This month let's talk a little about spectrum allocations.

The availability of radio spectrum in the United States is critical to many telecommunications services, ranging from cellular telephones to air traffic control. Although spectrum is not a consumable resource, the use of a frequency at a given location usually (but not always) excludes that frequency from being used by others in the same geographic area. This need for exclusive geographic use has led to current spectrum regulations that establish exclusivity in spectrum use by granting licenses for spectrum use, and the partitioning of the spectrum for shared use between radio services.

As the number of spectrum users increases, the amount of spectrum available for new and existing services decreases. Thus, to successfully plan for tomorrow's spectrum use, the spectrum management community must have an understanding of expected future spectrum requirements and spectrum availability, as well as the potential effects of new technology on the efficient use of the spectrum. A long-term spectrum plan can then be developed and used to guide modification of spectrum allocations, standards, and channeling plans for the best mix of radio services, economy, and spectrum efficiency.

The NTIA is the primary Federal agency working toward the definition and development of the National Information Infrastructure (NII), commonly referred to as "... the information superhighway." The NII will be a network linking people, businesses, schools, hospitals, communities, and governments, allowing them to communicate and exchange information us-

ing voice, video and data with computers, telephones, radios, and other devices.

The concept of the NII encompasses a wide range of telecommunications equipment, services, and transmission media. The technology encompassed by the NII includes, among other things, electronic cameras, computers, televisions, optical fiber transmission lines, microwave links, satellite systems, wireless networks, car telephones, pagers, and facsimile machines. The NII will integrate and interconnect these physical components to provide a nationwide information conduit, accessible by everyone. Although the NII is not a discrete telecommunication service, the increase in information flow, particularly to and from mobile users, will result ultimately in an increased requirement for radio spectrum to support the various mobile and fixed service interconnections.

Recently, commercial demand for access to some segments of the radio spectrum has exceeded spectrum availability in many major U.S. markets. Leading the demand for additional spectrum allocations are the various high-technology mobile systems, such as personal communications services (PCS), mobile-satellite systems interconnecting to the public switched telephone network (PSTN), enhanced public safety systems, and a variety of wireless data and voice systems. The continued growth of the telecommunications industry depends to a significant degree on the effective allocation of spectrum to meet additional radiocommunications requirements.

The Federal Government has unique requirements for spectrum use to support the many and varied missions of the Federal agencies. Most of the Federal spectrum use is in support of unique missions that are of direct benefit to U.S. citizens, such as Federal law enforcement, air traffic control, national defense, weather services, and environmental monitoring. Recognizing that continued economic growth in the telecommunications industry and other businesses is dependent on adequate spectrum to support new radiocommunications systems, the future use of the spectrum must be carefully planned so it can adequately support both commercial interests and the critical missions of the Federal Agencies.

To address the issue of spectrum planning, the Congress directed NTIA in the

early 1990s to prepare a long-term, strategic spectrum plan. The Congress also directed NTIA to meet biannually with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to discuss strategic spectrum planning and other key radio issues. The development of a realistic and dynamic spectrum plan requires periodic evaluation of spectrum requirements, analysis of spectrum availability, and preparation of spectrum planning options. Spectrum plans require periodic revisions because of the dynamics of spectrum management actions, fueled by new technologies and market demands.

NTIA's Strategic Spectrum Planning Program is divided into three phases: (1) Definition of long-term spectrum requirements; (2) spectrum availability and planning options; and (3) spectrum allocation implementation plans.

As the first phase of this planning effort, NTIA issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in June 1992, requesting comments from the private sector and Federal agencies regarding future spectrum requirements.

The Notice also requested information on future technology, technology trends, and international radio conference preparations. The purpose of this inquiry was to gather information for use in the long-term spectrum planning process. NTIA also conducted long-term spectrum studies to define critical radio service requirements.

A report was then prepared describing a ten-year projection of spectrum requirements needed to support evolving radiocommunications requirements in the United States. The report described the present and projected uses of spectrum within the United States for all licensed radio services, including the Amateur Service. These requirements are to be periodically re-evaluated as technology and needs change.

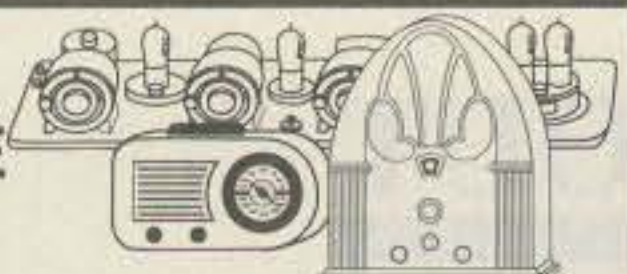
The conclusions and recommendations are those of NTIA. The report was also informally reviewed by the Federal Communications Commission, and their review of the report does not necessarily imply their endorsement.

### **Amateur Service**

In the NTIA Requirements Study, NTIA indicated that the amateur service requirements in the HF band were for expansion and upgrading of its allocations affecting about 900 kHz. Amateur alloca-

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5000 kHz	New Allocation (Shared)	(a, d)
6900-7200 kHz	New Allocation: Exclusive, Worldwide	(a, e)
10100-10350 kHz	New Allocation: Primary, Worldwide	(a, f)
14000-14250 kHz	Retain	
14250-14400 kHz	New Allocation	(a, g)
18068-18318 kHz	New Allocation: Exclusive, Worldwide	(a, h)
21000-21450 kHz	Retain	
24740-24990 kHz	New Allocation: Exclusive, Worldwide	(a, i)
28.0-29.7 MHz	Retain	
29.7-30.0 MHz	New Allocation	(a, j)
Between 30-50 MHz	New Allocation	(a, k)
50-54 MHz	Retain; Extend into Region 1	(a, l)
144-146 MHz	Retain	(a, m)
146-148 MHz	Retain; Extend into Region 1	(a)
Part of 216-220 MHz	New Allocation [already completed]	(n)
222-225 MHz	Retain	
420-430 MHz	Retain	
430-440 MHz	Revised Allocation: Exclusive Worldwide	(a, o)
440-450 MHz	Retain	
902-903 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade to primary)	(p)
903-928 MHz	Retain	(p)
1240-1260 MHz	Retain	
1260-1300 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade to Primary)	(a, q)
2300-2310 MHz	Retain	
2390-2400 MHz	New Allocation (Add Amateur-Satellite, Upgrade to Primary)	(a, r)
2400-2402 MHz	New Allocation (Add Amateur-Satellite, Upgrade to Primary)	(a)
2402-2450 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade to Primary)	(s)
3300-3400 MHz	Retain	
3400-3402 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade Amateur-Satellite to Primary)	(a)
3402-3420 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade to Primary)	(a, t)
3420-3500 MHz	Retain	
5650-5668 MHz	Retain	(s)
5668-5670 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade Amateur and Amateur-Satellite to Primary)	(a)
5670-5848 MHz	Retain	(u)
5848-5850 MHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade Amateur and Amateur-Satellite to Primary)	(a)
5850-5925 MHz	Retain	
10.00-10.45 GHz	Retain	
10.45-10.50 GHz	Revised Allocation (Upgrade Amateur and Amateur-Satellite to Primary)	(a)
All above 24 GHz	Retain	(v)

**Notes:**

- [a] Allocation must also be approved at competent World Radiocommunication Conferences
- [b] New allocation would be secondary to the fixed and maritime mobile services nationally. Additionally, must share with the broadcasting service in ITU Region 1, and aeronautical radionavigation in ITU Region 3.
- [c] The requirement is for any common, worldwide exclusive 300 kHz allocation within the 3500-4000 kHz band.
- [d] Requirement is for about 50 kHz near 5 MHz, on a shared basis. Particularly desirable for communications during solar cycle minima when maximum usable frequencies are below 3.5 MHz.
- [e] The requirement is for 300 kHz aligned worldwide to reduce sharing with high frequency broadcasting in the 7100-7300 kHz band; 6900-7200 kHz was requested.
- [f] A modification of the present 10100-10150 kHz allocation, requiring elimination or downgrading of the fixed service internationally.
- [g] The requirement is for an additional 50 kHz primary, exclusive, worldwide
- [h] The requirement is for an additional 150 kHz to the present 18068-18168 kHz allocation
- [i] The requirement is for an additional 150 kHz to the present 24890-24990 kHz band allocation.
- [j] The requirement is for amateur-satellite (space-to-Earth)
- [k] The requirement is for a number (e.g., five) of narrow bands of frequencies between 30 and 50 MHz.
- [l] A 2 MHz allocation in ITU Region 1 is requested, with at least 500 kHz being exclusive.
- [m] The deletion of RR 605 & 606 is requested. These footnotes allow operation other than amateur in certain countries.
- [n] Amateurs requested access to a portion of the 216-220 MHz band at request of the ARRL in RM-7747. The 219-220 MHz band was allocated for amateur use.
- [o] Requested for amateur television, voice and data communications, and Earth-moon-Earth communications
- [p] This band presently used by LMS systems, which have priority over amateur operations. The proposed LMS systems would also have priority. Non-government primary allocation is for ISM operations on 915 MHz + 13 MHz.
- [q] Additionally, the removal of the directional Earth-to-space indicators is requested to increase the flexibility of amateur satellite use
- [r] Expand the amateur-satellite allocation by 10 MHz in the 2390-2400 MHz band.
- [s] Retain amateur-satellite allocation in accordance with RR 664.
- [t] Amateur-satellite allocations in the 3400-3410 MHz band are to be expanded to ITU Region 1.
- [u] Retain amateur-satellite allocation in accordance with RR 808.
- [v] Retain all current amateur and amateur-satellite allocations above 24 GHz.



tions have been based, in some part, on the desirability of having a choice of relatively narrow frequency bands with different propagation properties distributed throughout the spectrum. The NTIA believes the amateur service requirements are as follows:

- In the 3500–4000 kHz band, which is allocated exclusively to the Amateur Service in the United States but is shared elsewhere, the requirement was for a common, worldwide exclusive 300 kHz allocation within the wider domestic allocation.

- On a shared basis, there was a requirement for about 50 kHz near 5000 kHz for communications during solar cycle minima when maximum usable frequencies are below 7000 kHz.

- To reduce sharing with HF broadcasting in the 7100–7300 kHz band, a 300 kHz band aligned worldwide around or at the 6900–7200 kHz band was requested.

- In the 10100–10350 kHz band, the amateur service requirement is for a new worldwide allocation where the amateur service is primary.

- A new allocation of 50 kHz for primary, exclusive worldwide was needed to extend the 14000–14350 kHz band.

- An additional 150 kHz was requested to expand the present 18068–18168 kHz amateur band.

- An additional 150 kHz was also requested to expand the present 24890–24990 kHz amateur band.

- Finally, a new allocation for the band 29.7–30.0 MHz for amateur-satellite (space-to-Earth).

## The Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services

The Amateur Radio Service is defined internationally as "A Radiocommunications service for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigations carried out by amateurs, that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest." Radio amateurs are trained and experienced in electronics, propagation theory, and communications techniques. Amateurs also respond swiftly and effectively to calls for communications assistance when normal channels are lost. The amateur service has significantly contributed to the development of radio technology. Amateur operators continue to fulfill certain public-service radiocommunications requirements, and increase their skills relating to emergency communications. During natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and other events, amateur radio communications have been particularly effective, and in many cases have been the sole means of communicating from the scene of a disaster.

The Amateur-Satellite Service was for-

mally created as a result of the 1971 World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Services. At that Conference and the 1979 WARC, both primary and secondary frequency allocations were granted to the service. Many of the secondary allocations are provided as a result of international Radio Regulation 664, which permits the Amateur-Satellite Service to operate in several bands providing interference is not caused to primary users in other services.

Amateur, or "ham," radio operators have provided a unique service to the public while enjoying a popular, technical hobby. Many innovative uses of radio systems have been developed by amateurs for use in the amateur bands, such as packet-switched systems and amateur television. It is estimated that there are in excess of 670,000 amateur radio operators in the United States, and over 2.4 million worldwide.

## Current Uses of The Amateur Service

Amateur allocations have been based, in part, on the desirability of having a choice of relatively narrow frequency bands with different propagation properties distributed throughout the spectrum. As propagation conditions change in the medium- and high-frequency bands, amateur operators can follow the changing maximum usable frequency (MUF) and still be able to communicate. Higher frequency bands have other propagation properties useful for different amateur activities, such as amateur-satellite and short-range land-mobile applications. Current amateur allocations start at 1800 kHz and, in narrow bands, extend to 250 GHz.

Amateurs use the HF bands for medium- to long-distance communications. The 160 meter band (1.8 MHz) provides good groundwave coverage and is relatively free of propagation anomalies. The higher HF bands have increasing dependence on ionospheric refraction to provide long-distance communications. Time of day and sunspot activity are important factors in the ability of the HF bands to support communications beyond the range of groundwave coverage. A good selection of frequencies spread throughout the HF bands is critical to maintaining reliable communications. Amateurs use voice and data communications in the HF bands, operating from base and mobile stations.

Frequencies above 30 MHz provide generally short-range terrestrial communications and support the use of amateur satellite communications. In the bands above 54 MHz, amateurs rely heavily on a system of radio repeaters to increase the range of amateur communications. However, amateurs are always experimenting with point-to-point systems to push the state-of-the-art in antenna design

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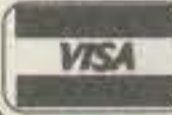
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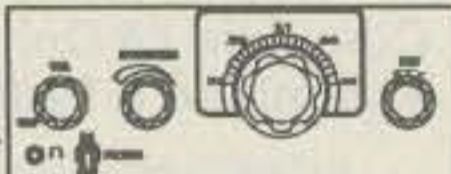
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and solid-state equipment, and to investigate the properties of signal propagation at the higher frequencies. Amateurs use Morse code, voice, packet-switched data, television, and satellite communications in the various frequency bands.

In addition to recreational use, amateurs use the amateur bands to provide public services in a variety of ways. The American Radio Relay League sponsored National Traffic System provides a nationwide network that carries thousands of messages monthly. This system is available in the event that regional or local disasters degrade the public communications systems. The DOD works closely with the amateur community in its Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) network. Local amateur radio clubs provide communications support for community events and are a source of trained radio operators to complement state and local communications personnel through the ARES and RACES programs.

## Trends

Amateurs historically have been on the leading edge of radio technology. As new solid-state devices become available, amateurs will use them in radio systems to push the upper limits of practical spectrum usage. It is expected that the current analog systems employing single-sideband, FM voice, and television modulation will be overtaken by digital techniques. The number of amateur radio operators is increasing at a current annual rate of 7.5 percent in the United States, and about 7 percent worldwide. Growth in the amateur service will require increased use of higher frequencies, and necessitate the use of radio repeaters to overcome the limitations imposed by the propagation characteristics of the higher frequency bands.

Some of the frequency bands shared by amateur operations are becoming heavily used. Radiolocation bands, which have been shared with amateurs for years, will become more valuable to military users as new radar systems are deployed and pressure for the bands to be used for non-government purposes increases.

The Amateur-Satellite Service will soon have a new generation of amateur satellites in orbit using all frequency bands allocated to the Amateur-Satellite Service from 29 MHz through 24 GHz. The Phase 3D OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) satellite is designed to be an improvement over current OSCAR satellites in terms of link performance and capabilities. The OSCAR 3D satellite will facilitate the use of gateway earth stations, so that an amateur operator with a hand-held radio will be able to reliably communicate with other amateurs over a distance of several thousand kilometers.

## Spectrum Requirements for The Amateur Services

In general, the NTIA believes that current amateur and amateur-satellite allocations should be retained. Amateur requests for international reallocations would be appropriate issues for FCC private sector advisory committees addressing U.S. preparations for future World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC's). Additional allocations at 160-190 kHz, and near 5 MHz, will require technical studies to determine the availability of these bands to support amateur use.

The expansion and upgrading of amateur allocations in the 10 MHz, 14 MHz, 18 MHz, and 24 MHz bands are acceptable, but will depend on future decrease of requirements for the aeronautical mobile or the fixed services internationally. The alignment of the amateur 3.5 and 7 MHz bands worldwide will require the inclusion of these issues in U.S. preparations for future WRC's.

The request for additional narrow spectrum allocations between 30 and 50 MHz for propagation experimentation (e.g., five 50 kHz slots) will need to be studied for technical compatibility.

## NTIA on Spectrum Sharing

The amateur service operates in many of its bands on a secondary basis. Several amateur bands are shared successfully with Federal (military) radiolocation. The sharing is successful primarily because the peacetime use of military radars does not affect amateur operation in large areas of the United States. However, there are significant coordination areas surrounding some radars in the 420-450 MHz band. Amateur operations also share spectrum with Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM) and commercial Location and Monitoring Service (LMS) systems. Interference to amateur communications is accepted in these bands on the basis that some useful operation is better than exclusion from the band.

Amateur operation in the 7100-7300 kHz band, while primary in the United States, suffers interference from international broadcasters operating on a primary basis in Regions 1 and 3. Amateurs have requested an alignment of the band internationally, but broadcasters are also requesting more HF broadcasting spectrum. NTIA believes that the amateur 7 MHz band should be aligned with a 300 kHz bandwidth internationally, since sharing with broadcasting has not proved to be satisfactory.

It must be emphasized that the NTIA Report is a long-range spectrum plan. Future amateur service allocations, of course, could differ from the original plan.

73, Fred, W5YI

# PROPAGATION

THE SCIENCE OF PREDICTING RADIO CONDITIONS

## Scientific Disagreement Over Start and Progress of Cycle 23

The monthly mean sunspot count for March 1998 was 54.8. This is based upon observations made at more than 40 solar observatories throughout the world, and compiled and coordinated by Dr. André Koecklenbergh of the Royal Observatory of Belgium. The highest number of spots was reported on March 14 with a count of 79. The lowest daily count was 29 on March 6. The mean number for March results in a smoothed number of 29 centered on September 1997. This is a gain of 5 over the previous month, as Cycle 23 begins to increase at a more rapid rate.

There was a corresponding increase in the level of 10.7 cm solar flux as measured at Canada's Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory located at Penticton, BC. A mean level of 109 was reported for March 1998. This results in a smoothed value of 87 centered on September 1997.

A smoothed sunspot number in the mid-60s is forecast for July 1998, with an expected smoothed level of 117 for the corresponding 10.7 cm solar flux.

### Sunspot Cycle 23 Disagreement Continues

While the scientific community is in agreement that the mathematical beginning of sunspot Cycle 23 was May 1996, with a smoothed count of 8, there is still controversy concerning the "real" start of the cycle. Although the minimum smoothed sunspot number, as determined telescopically, has been used in the past to determine the end of each cycle and the beginning of another, there are a growing number of scientists who now want to use the date when the number of "old cycle spots" equals the number of "new cycle spots." This can be determined by the polarity of the spots and their location on the sun's disk, and for Cycle 23 that date would be October 1996. This would make a significant difference in the start of the cycle, and in its progress to date compared to previous cycles.

Table I is based on the May 1996 beginning for Cycle 23. The latest available smoothed sunspot number for September 1997 marks the 17th month of the new cycle. The cycle has risen considerably

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### LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for July 1998

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 4, 8, 17-18, 21-22, 31	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 5, 7, 11, 15, 19-20, 24-25, 29	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 1-3, 9-10, 14, 16, 23, 27-28, 30	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 6, 12, 26	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: 13	C-D	D	E	E

Where expected signal quality is:

A—Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9.

B—Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9+, with little fading or noise.

C—Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S9, with some fading and noise.

D—Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S6, with considerable fading and noise.

E—No opening expected.

### HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Find the *propagation index* associated with the particular path opening from the Propagation Charts appearing on the following pages.
2. With the *propagation index*, use the above table to find the expected signal quality associated with the path opening for any given day of the month. For example, an opening shown in the Propagation Charts with a *propagation index* of (3) will be fair-to good (C-B) on July 1-3, excellent (A) on the 4th, good (B) on the 5th, fair-to-poor (C-D) on the 6th, etc.

slower than previous cycles 22, 21, 20, and the record-breaking Cycle 19. Compared to these previous cycles, Cycle 23 was off to a slow start, most nearly matches the progress of Cycle 20, which was a relatively low cycle, reaching a peak of only 111.

Table II is based on the start of Cycle 23 as October 1996, in which case 12 months of data are available. With this as its starting date, Cycle 23 is seen to have had a comparatively rapid start, with the likelihood that it may be an unusually high sunspot cycle.

At this point in time the future of Cycle 23 seems to depend upon when it really began. The National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) in Boulder, Colorado is among the growing number of solar ex-

perts who prefer the October 1996 date and are predicting a very high cycle, with a peak in excess of 159 to occur during late 1999 or early 2000. On the other hand, the Royal Observatory of Belgium, the world's official keeper of sunspot records, continues to base its observations on the May 1996 starting date. Their predictions for the progress of the new cycle through the remainder of 1998 and early 1999 are approximately 20% lower than those made by the NGDC.

Time will tell. Stay tuned!

### July Propagation

With the rapid rise in solar activity, HF propagation conditions this July should be noticeably improved over last July. With longer hours of daylight and the sun high in the northern sky, HF conditions should be considerably more stable than they were during the somewhat turbulent spring months.

Fifteen, 17, and 20 meters are expected to share honors for optimum DX propagation during July. Good-to-excellent openings are forecast for 15 and 17 meters throughout much of the daylight hours, and to some areas into the early evening hours as well. Conditions will favor north-south openings and openings to tropical areas. Some openings should also be possible to Africa and Europe, particularly when the bands peak during the late afternoon and early evening.

Twenty meters should remain open for DX to one area of the world or another almost around the clock. Peak conditions should take place during the late afternoon and evening hours. During these peak periods 20 meters may be open in almost all directions at the same time! Normally a dead band at night during the winter months, 20 meters is expected to remain open for DX in July during the hours of darkness.

Although a seasonal decrease is expected in 10 and 12 meter DX during July and the summer months, some good DX openings still should be possible during the daytime hours of July. Best bets are for openings on north-south paths to the Caribbean and Central and South America, but occasional openings should also be possible to Africa and Australasia. Expect both bands to peak during the late afternoon hours.

During the hours of darkness and the sunrise period, 30 and 40 meters should open to many areas of the world, but seasonally high noise levels resulting from increased thunderstorm activity may often mar DX reception. Higher static levels are also expected to hinder DX on 80 meters, although some good long-distance openings are forecast for the hours of darkness. Not many DX openings are expected on 160 meters because of the high static levels and summertime solar absorption, but some may be possible during the hours of darkness.

### Short-Skip

This month's column contains Short-Skip Propagation Charts for July and August 1998. DX Propagation Charts for July appeared in last month's column.

Short-skip conditions are expected to be at their best during July mainly due to peak sporadic-E ionization and to seasonally high nighttime F-layer ionization. During the daylight hours considerable short-skip openings are forecast for 10, 12, and 15 meters between distances of approximately 400 and 1300 miles, with some 10 meter and a considerable number of 12 and 15 meter openings extending out to as far as 2300 miles. A number of short-skip openings may also be possible on these bands during the hours of darkness. Frequent short-skip openings on 20 and 17 meters, ranging between 250 and 2300 miles, should be possible almost around the clock. Peak conditions should occur during the late morning hours and again during the late afternoon and early evening.

Good daytime short-skip openings are expected on 30 and 40 meters between distances of approximately 100 and 700 miles, with excellent nighttime openings between 250 and 2300 miles. Good 80 meter openings are forecast for the daylight hours over distances up to approximately 300 miles, with the range extending up to the F-layer one-hop limit of 2300 miles during the hours of darkness. While no 160 meter short-skip openings are expected during the daylight hours, some should be possible during the hours of darkness for distances up to about 1300 miles. During periods of lower than usual static levels, 160 meter nighttime short-skip openings may extend out to as far as 2300 miles.

### VHF Ionospheric Openings

The big VHF propagation event during July should be the numerous 6 meter and occasional 2 meter openings that are expected as a result of the seasonal peak in sporadic-E ionization. Fairly frequent 6 meter openings should be possible over distances between approximately 500 and 1300 miles, with some multi-hop openings extending out to 2300 miles. While short-skip openings can occur at just about any time of the day or night on 6 meters, statistics indicate that they generally peak a few hours before noon and again during the early evening hours. During many of the 6 meter openings expected during July, signal levels should be exceptionally strong. Some 2 meter sporadic-E short-skip openings are also expected during July, ranging between approximately 1000 and 1300 miles.

During July you can expect 6 meter openings on at least three out of every four days. Openings may last from a few minutes up to several hours. Considerably fewer openings are expected on 2 meters.

A good rule of thumb to remember about 6 and 2 meter short-skip openings is that as the skip distance gets shorter on 6 meters, the MUF is *increasing*. When you hear skip stations on 6 meters as near as 600 miles, the MUF should be high enough for 2 meter openings in the same direction. Generally, when the skip distance on 6 meters falls below 600 miles, 2 meter openings should be possible between about 1000 and 1300 miles.

A good deal of meteor activity is expected in July, which should result in meteor-type ionospheric openings on the VHF bands. A major meteor shower, the *Delta Aquarids*, should take place

Smoothed Sunspot Numbers					
Month From Cycle Start	Cycle 23	Cycle 22	Cycle 21	Cycle 20	Cycle 19
1	8	12	13	10	3
2	9	13	14	10	4
3	8	15	14	11	4
4	8	16	14	12	5
5	8	18	14	12	7
6	9	20	15	13	8
7	10	22	17	14	8
8	10	24	18	15	10
9	11	27	20	15	12
10	11	28	22	16	14
11	14	31	24	16	16
12	17	35	26	17	20
13	18	39	29	20	23
14	20	44	33	22	29
15	23	47	39	25	35
16	25	51	46	28	40
17	29	58	52	31	47
<b>Peak</b>		<b>159</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>201</b>

Table I—Based on the start of Cycle 23 as May 1996, this is a comparison of the first 17 months of the cycle compared to the same period for Cycles 22, 21, 20, and 19. Note that with this starting date, Cycle 23 may well be a relatively low cycle.

between July 27th and 30th, peaking at approximately 8 AM EDT on July 29 that with a meteor count of between 20 and 30 an hour.

Not as many Trans-Equatorial (TE) openings are expected on 6 meters during July, but some should be possible. Check between 8 and 11 PM local daylight time for openings toward South America, with conditions favoring the southern tier states.

Some VHF short-skip openings may be possible during July as a result of auroral ionization. The best dates to look for these openings are those shown as Disturbed or Below Normal in the Last-Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column.

73, George, W3ASK

Smoothed Sunspot Numbers					
Month From Cycle Start	Cycle 23	Cycle 22	Cycle 21	Cycle 20	Cycle 19
1	9	12	13	10	3
2	10	13	14	10	4
3	10	15	14	11	4
4	11	16	14	12	5
5	11	18	14	12	7
6	14	20	15	13	8
7	17	22	17	14	8
8	18	24	18	15	10
9	20	27	20	15	12
10	23	28	22	16	14
11	25	31	24	16	16
12	29	35	26	17	20
<b>Peak</b>		<b>159</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>201</b>

Table II—Based on the start of Cycle 23 as October 1996, this is a comparison of the first 12 months of the cycle compared to the same period for Cycles 22, 21, 20, and 19. Note that with this starting date, Cycle 23 is expected to be very high cycle.

## HOW TO USE THE SHORT-SKIP CHARTS

1. In the Short-Skip Chart, the predicted times of openings can be found under the appropriate distance column of a particular meter band (10 through 160 meters) as shown in the left-hand column of the chart. For the Alaska and Hawaii Charts the predicted times of openings are found under the appropriate meter band column (15 through 80 meters) for a particular geographical region of the continental USA as shown in the left-hand column of the charts. An \* indicates the best time to listen for 160 meter openings. An \*\* indicates possible 10 meter openings.

2. The propagation index is the number that appears in ( ) after the time of each predicted opening. In the Short-Skip Chart, where two numerals are shown within a single set of parentheses, the first applies to the shorter distance for which the forecast is made, and the second to the greater distance. The index indicates the number of days during the month on which the opening is expected to take place, as follows:

- (4) Opening should occur on more than 22 days
- (3) Opening should occur between 14 and 22 days
- (2) Opening should occur between 7 and 13 days
- (1) Opening should occur on less than 7 days

Refer to the "Last-Minute Forecast" at the beginning of this column for the actual dates on which an opening with a specific propagation index is likely to occur, and the signal quality that can be expected.

3. Times shown in the charts are in the 24-hour system, where 00 is midnight; 12 is noon; 01 is 1 AM; 13 is 1 PM, etc. On the Short-Skip Chart appropriate daylight time is used at the path midpoint. For example on a circuit between Maine and Florida, the time shown would be EDT, on a circuit between New York and Texas, the time at the midpoint would be CDT, etc. Times shown in the Hawaii Chart are in HST. To convert to daylight time in other USA time zones add 3 hours in the PDT zone; 4 hours in the MDT zone; 5 hours in the CDT zone; and 6 hours in the EDT zone. Add 10 hours to convert from HST to GMT. For example, when it is 12 noon in Honolulu, it is 15 or 3 PM in Los Angeles; 18 or 6 PM in Washington, D.C.; and 22 GMT. Time shown in the Alaska Chart is given in GMT. To convert to daylight time in other areas of the USA subtract 7 hours in the PDT zone; 6 hours in the MDT zone; 5 hours in the CDT zone; and 4 hours in the EDT zone. For example, at 20 GMT it is 16 or 4 PM in New York City.

4. The Short-Skip Chart is based upon a transmitted power of 75 watts CW or 300 watts PEP on sideband; the Alaska and Hawaii Charts are based upon a transmitter power of 250 watts CW or 1 KW PEP on sideband. A dipole antenna a quarter-wavelength above ground is assumed for 160 and 80 meters, a half-wave above ground on 40 and 20 meters, and a wavelength above ground on 15 and 10 meters. For each 10 dB gain above these reference levels, the propagation index will increase by one level; for each 10 dB loss, it will lower by one level.

5. Propagation data contained in the charts has been prepared from basic data published by the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

## CQ Short-Skip Propagation Chart July & August 1998 Local Daylight Savings Time At Path Mid-Point

Band (meters)	Distance Between Stations (miles)	Distance Between Stations (miles)			
		50-250	250-750	750-1300	1300-2300
10	Nil	08-10 (0-1)*	08-10 (1)*	08-10 (1-0)*	
		10-14 (0-3)*	10-14 (3)*	10-14 (3-1)*	
		14-18 (0-1)*	14-18 (1-2)*	14-18 (2-1)*	
		18-22 (0-2)*	18-22 (2-3)*	18-22 (3-1)*	
		22-00 (0-1)*	22-08 (1)*	22-08 (1-0)*	
15	Nil	08-10 (0-2)*	08-10 (2)*	08-10 (2-1)	
		10-14 (0-3)*	10-14 (3)*	10-14 (3-2)	
		14-18 (0-2)*	14-18 (2)*	14-18 (2-3)	
		18-20 (0-3)*	18-20 (3)*	18-20 (3-4)	
		20-22 (0-2)*	20-22 (2)*	20-21 (2-3)	
20	10-01 (0-1)*	07-10 (0-2)*	07-10 (2-3)*	07-10 (3-2)	
		10-16 (1-4)*	10-17 (4)*	10-16 (4-2)	
		16-21 (1-3)*	17-22 (3-4)*	16-17 (4-3)	
		21-01 (1-2)*	22-01 (2-3)*	17-22 (4)	
		01-07 (0-1)*	01-07 (1-2)*	22-00 (3)	
40	08-12 (1-2)*	08-10 (2-4)*	08-10 (4-1)	08-18 (1-0)	
	12-17 (2-4)*	10-12 (2)	10-17 (2-1)	18-21 (3-2)	
	17-21 (3-4)	12-17 (4-2)	17-18 (3-1)	21-06 (4)	
	21-23 (1-2)	17-18 (4-3)	18-21 (4-3)	06-08 (3-1)	
	23-08 (0-2)*	18-21 (4)	21-05 (4)		

80	07-12 (3-4)	08-10 (4-1)	08-10 (1-0)	08-18 (0)
	12-16 (4-3)	10-12 (4-0)	10-16 (0)	18-20 (1-0)
	16-22 (4)	12-16 (3-0)	16-18 (1-0)	20-22 (1)
	22-05 (3-4)	16-18 (4-1)	18-20 (2-1)	22-04 (4-3)
	05-07 (4)	18-20 (4-2)	20-22 (3-1)	04-05 (4-2)
160	18-19 (1-0)	19-20 (1-0)	21-22 (1)	21-23 (1-0)
	19-20 (1)	20-21 (2-0)	22-01 (2-1)	23-01 (1)
	20-22 (3-2)	21-22 (2-1)	01-04 (2)	01-06 (2-1)
	22-00 (4-3)	22-00 (3-2)	04-06 (3-2)	06-07 (1-0)
	00-06 (4)	00-04 (4-2)	06-07 (1)	

\* Predominantly Sporadic-E openings.

## ALASKA July & August 1998 Openings Given in GMT#

To:	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Eastern USA	Nil	00-02 (1)	12-15 (1) 22-01 (1) 01-04 (2) 04-06 (1)	07-10 (1)
Central USA	Nil	21-00 (1) 00-03 (2) 03-04 (1)	13-16 (1) 22-00 (1) 00-03 (2) 03-05 (3) 05-06 (2) 06-08 (1)	08-12 (1)
Western USA	01-04 (1)	17-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-03 (3) 03-04 (2) 04-05 (1)	13-14 (1) 14-15 (2) 15-19 (3) 19-01 (2) 01-03 (3) 03-05 (4) 05-07 (3) 07-09 (2) 09-11 (1)	07-09 (1) 09-12 (2) 12-13 (1) 09-12 (1)

## HAWAII July & August 1998 Openings Given in Hawaiian Standard Time#

To:	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Eastern USA	14-16 (1)	06-11 (1) 11-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	13-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (3) 18-20 (4) 20-22 (3) 22-02 (2) 02-04 (3) 04-06 (2) 06-09 (1)	18-20 (1) 20-00 (2) 00-02 (1) 21-00 (1)
Central USA	14-16 (1)	06-08 (1) 08-13 (2) 13-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	06-08 (2) 08-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (3) 18-20 (4) 20-23 (3) 23-03 (2) 03-06 (3)	18-21 (1) 21-22 (2) 22-01 (3) 01-02 (2) 02-03 (1) 20-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-02 (1)
Western USA	11-14 (1) 14-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (3) 12-16 (4) 16-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-20 (1)	06-08 (4) 08-10 (3) 10-13 (2) 13-15 (3) 15-20 (4) 20-22 (3) 22-05 (2) 05-06 (3)	18-19 (1) 19-20 (2) 20-02 (4) 02-04 (3) 04-05 (2) 05-06 (1) 19-20 (1) 20-22 (2) 22-02 (3) 02-03 (2) 03-04 (1)

#See explanation in "How To Use Short-Skip Charts" which appears in this column.

Note: The Alaska and Hawaii Propagation Charts are intended for distances greater than 1300 miles. For shorter distances, use the preceding Short-Skip Propagation Chart.

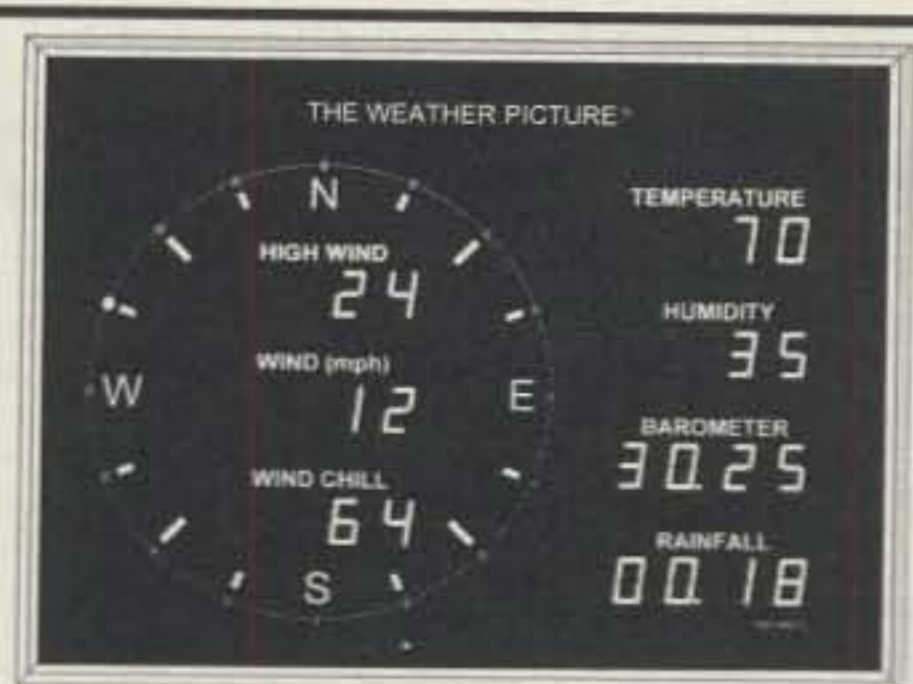
\* Indicates best time to listen for 80 meter openings. Openings on 160 meters are also likely to occur during those times when 80 meter openings are shown with a propagation index of (2) or higher.

For 12 meter openings interpolate between 10 and 15 meter openings.

For 17 meter openings interpolate between 15 and 20 meter openings.

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A&A Engineering .....	99
Advanced Specialties, Inc.....	91
AEA (Division of Tempo Research) 51	
Alinco Electronics .....	9
Alpha Delta Communications.....	57
Alternative Arts .....	87
Alternative Energy Engineering.....	90
Aluma Towers.....	104
Ameritron.....	15
Amidon Associates .....	93
Antique Electronic Supply.....	107
Antique Radio Classified .....	98
Arcron Zeit.....	93
American Radio Relay League .....	87
Associated Radio .....	85
Astron Corp.....	55
Bencher, Inc.....	64
Bilal Co./Isotron Ants .....	90
Boxboro '98 Hamfest.....	99
Brian Beezley, K6STI.....	62
Buckmaster Publishing .....	103, 104
Burghardt Amateur Radio .....	105
Butternut Antennas.....	24
C & S Sales .....	37
CB City International .....	75
CQ Buyer's Guide .....	59
CQ Contest Magazine .....	87
CQ Merchandise .....	31
CQ VHF Magazine .....	73
CABLE X-PERTS .....	69
Code Quick .....	75
Comet Antennas.....	1
Command Productions .....	62
Communication Concepts Inc.....	96
Communications Quarterly.....	96
Cubex Quad Antennas.....	107
Datamatrix .....	104
Davis Instruments.....	68
Davis RF .....	104
Delphi Internet.....	100
Denver Amateur Radio Supply.....	34
Down East Microwave.....	54
DX4WIN(Rapidan Data Systems).....	90
EM Scientific.....	51
EMTECH.....	100
EQF Software .....	74
Force 12 Antennas .....	33
Funkamateur & QSL-Routes.....	74
GAP Antennas.....	108
GEM Quad .....	104
Gladiator Verticals/R.Myers.....	74
Glen Martin Engineering .....	75
Ham Radio Outlet.....	10
HAMSURE .....	74
High Sierra Antennas .....	41
Hustler Antennas.....	13
ICOM America, Inc... Cov. II, Cov. IV	
Jan Crystals.....	106
JRC (Japan Radio Co.) .....	45
Juns Electronics .....	17

(continued on page 107)

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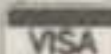
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## Advertiser's Index (cont'd)

K2AW's "Silicon Alley" .....	98
Kachina Communications .....	19
Kantronics Co. Inc. ....	7
Kenwood, USA .....	3
KK7TV Communications .....	104
Lakeview Co. ....	40,54
LDG Electronics .....	65
Lewallen, Roy, W7EL .....	78
Lynics International .....	107
MFJ Enterprises .....	27
Mirage Comm. Equipment .....	43
Motron Electronics .....	76
Mouser Electronics .....	95
Nemal Electronics .....	75
Optoelectronics .....	5
Paddlette .....	99
Palomar Engineers .....	68
Palstar .....	18
Peet Brothers .....	103
Periphex .....	85
Personal Database Applic. ....	41
Peter Dahl Co. ....	48
Prolog .....	104
QSLs by W4MPY .....	78
QSLs by WX9X .....	90
RF Applications .....	96
RF Connection .....	98
RT Systems .....	63
Radcomm Radio .....	107
Radio Amateur Callbook .....	71
Radio Club of JHS 22 .....	86
Radio Engineers .....	106
Radio Works .....	73
Ross Distributing .....	78
SGC Inc. ....	65
Sescom, Inc. ....	41
Solder- It .....	105
Spectrum International .....	58
Surplus Sales of Nebraska .....	79
Synthetic Textiles .....	78
Teletec .....	21
Ten Tec .....	89
Universal Manufacturing .....	81
Universal Radio, Inc. ....	76
Vectronics .....	49
Versatel Communications .....	98
Vibroplex Company, Inc. ....	29
Virginia Beach Hamfest .....	81
VIS Amateur Supply .....	98
VP2VF Real Estate .....	91
W5YI Marketing .....	41,95,100,105
W9INN Antennas .....	100
W & W Associates .....	67
Warren Gregoire & Assoc. ....	99
Yaesu Electronics .....	22, 23,53,Cov.III
Yost & Co .....	35

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CIRCLE 86 ON READER SERVICE CARD

# GAP: THE PERFECT ANTENNA

We at GAP realize there isn't a perfect antenna. No singular antenna will scream DX on 80 and be the best for local nets on 10. If anyone tells you there is, beware! The perfect antenna does not exist, but the right one for you may. If you want something to bust the pile on the low bands, then consider the Voyager. Just starting out in ham radio and need a great general coverage antenna, the Challenger is easy to assemble and for little effort will yield superior performance, especially on DX. Maybe you knowingly or unknowingly moved into one of those "restricted areas" where the Eagle's limited visibility, but unlimited ability is desired.

This chart helps you select the right GAP antenna. When comparing GAPs, bandwidth is not a concern. With few exceptions, a GAP yields continuous coverage under 2:1 for the **ENTIRE BAND**.

All antennas utilize a GAP elevated asymmetric feed. A major benefit is the virtual elimination of the earth loss, so more RF radiates into the air instead of the ground. This feed is why a GAP requires **NO RADIALS**. Just as elevating a GAP offers no significant improvement to its performance, adding radials won't either, making set up a breeze.

**A GAP antenna has no traps, coils or transformers.** This is important. The greatest sources of failure in multiband antennas are these devices. Perhaps you heard someone discuss a trap that had melted, arced or became full of water. Improvements to these inherent problems are the focus of the antenna manufacturer, while the basic design of the antenna remains unchanged. **GAP improved the trap by eliminating it!** Removing these devices means they don't have to be tuned and, more importantly, won't be detuned by the first ice or rain. The absence of these devices improves antenna reliability, stability and increases bandwidth.

Another major advantage to a GAP antenna is its **NO TUNE** feature. Screws are simply inserted into predrilled holes with a supplied nutdriver.

The secret is out and people in the know say:

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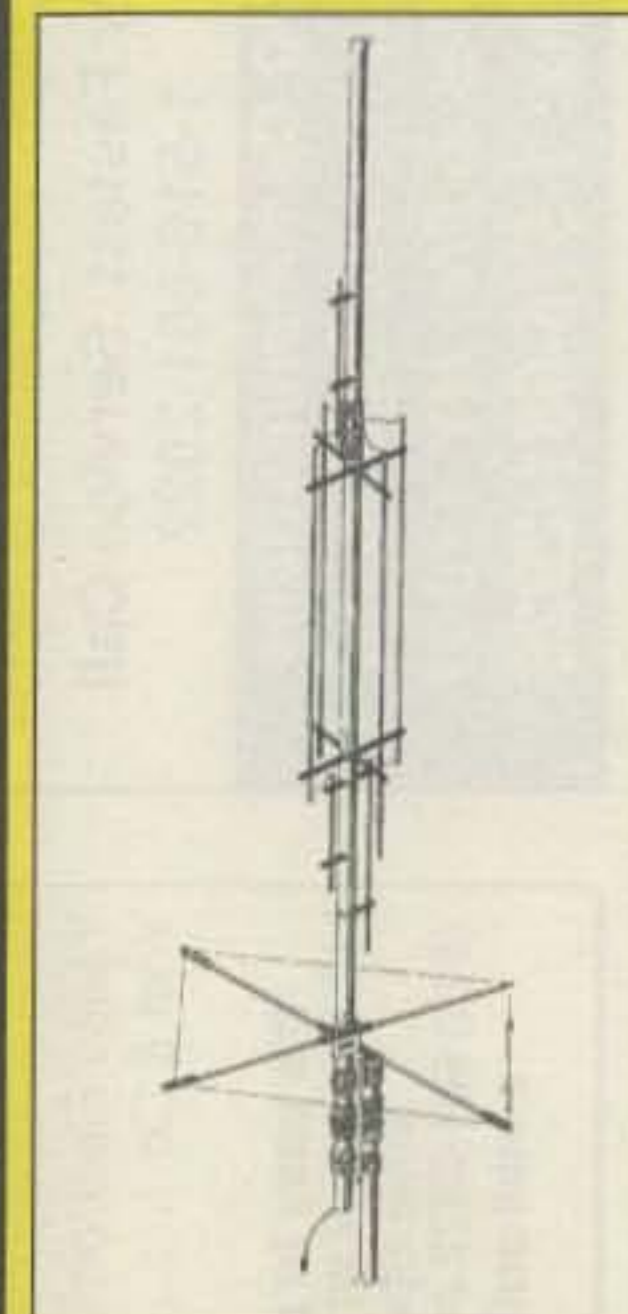
**73**—"This is a real DX antenna, much quieter than other verticals."

**RF**—"To say this antenna is effective would be a real understatement. Switching back and forth on 40m between another multiband HF vertical and the GAP, there was no comparison. Signals were always stronger on the GAP, sometimes by S units, not just DB's."

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Latest Release: **TITAN DX**



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Eagle DX



Challenger DX



Voyager DX

MODEL	BANDS OF OPERATION											HT	WT	MOUNT	COUNTER-POISE	COST
	2m	6m	10m	12m	15m	17m	20m	30m	40m	80m	160m					
Challenger DX	■	■	■	■	■		■		■	■		31.5'	21 lbs	Drop In Ground Mount	3 Wires @ 25'	\$259
Eagle DX			■	■	■	■	■		■			21.5'	19 lbs	1-1/4" pipe	80" Rigid	\$269
Titan DX			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		25'	25 lbs	1-1/4" pipe	80" Rigid	\$299
Voyager DX							■		■	■	■	45'	39 lbs	Hinged Base	3 Wires @ 57'	\$399



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  - Auto Range Transpond System™ (ARTS™)
  - Priority Channel Alarm
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...leading the way <sup>SM</sup>

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Specifications subject to change without notice. Specifications guaranteed only within amateur bands. Some accessories and/or options are standard in certain areas. Check with your local Yaesu dealer for specific details.  
†Smallest HT as of Jan. 1998

# ICOM IC-746

## HF/6M/2M with IF-DSP and 100 Watts, Even On 2 Meters



**PC REMOTE CONTROL**  
Windows™ software, RS-746,  
developed by ICOM

### PULL OUT MORE SIGNALS. DX'ing?

Even faint signals buried in noise can't hide from the '746's adjustable IF-DSP noise reduction.

**ELIMINATE ADJACENT CHANNEL INTERFERENCE** with Twin Passband Tuning, 3 optional filter slots (front panel selectable), and a selectable

DSP Audio Peak Filter (320/160/80 Hz). The '746's DSP Auto Notch eliminates multiple heterodyne signals.

### ONE LOOK AT THE LARGE LCD DISPLAY SAYS IT ALL.

A glance "above the line" instantly lets you know all operating conditions and settings. Look "below the line" for menu selection, 5 soft key functions (which vary with the menu), passband width, and a band scope to search for signals.



**TIME TO UPGRADE**  
Solar Cycle 23 is just coming in to full swing. With the HF and 6 meter bands starting to opening up, there'll be more amateur fun, day and night!



### BUILT IN AUTO ANTENNA TUNER

No external antenna tuner is required for HF and 6M operation. The IC-746 is a real HF rig!

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Transmit:** ..... HF/6 Meter/2 Meter, 100% Duty Cycle  
**Receive:** ..... 30 kHz-60 MHz, 108-174 MHz  
Quadruple conversion superheterodyne  
**Mode:** ..... AM, FM, FM-N, SSB, CW, RTTY  
**Power:** ..... 5-100 Watts (2-40W, AM)  
**Power Supply Requirement:** ... 13.8 V DC  
**Memory Channels:** ..... 102 total, 99 regular, 2 scan edges, and 1 call  
**Size:** ..... 11.3(W) x 4.7(H) x 12.5(D) in, 287(W) x 120(H) x 316.5(D) mm.  
**Weight (approx.):** ..... 19 lb, 10 oz / 8.9 kg

## FEATURES

- **IF-DSP (15.625 kHz)**
  - Noise Reduction
  - Automatic Notch Filter
  - Selectable Audio Peak Filter
- **Twin Pass Band Tuning (PBT)**
- **Multi-Function LCD Display**
  - Band Scope, Memory Names, Key Assignments, PBT Settings, Split Frequency, Memory Keyer Contents
- **3 Optional Filter Slots**
  - 2 for 9 MHz, 1 for 455 kHz
  - All Front Panel Selectable
- **Digital, Multi-Function Metering**
  - Signal Strength, RF Output, SWR, and ALC levels
- **Auto Antenna Tuner**
- **RF Speech Compressor (not AF)**
- **Tone Squelch and Tone Scan**
- **Auto Repeater Duplex Setting for 2 Meters**
- **Quick Split Function**
- **Complete CW Functions**
  - 4 Ch. Memory Keyer
  - Electronic Keyer
  - CW Pitch Control
  - Full Break In (OSK)
- **VOX**
- **Voice Synthesizer (opt)**
- **Triple Band Stacking Register**
  - Remembers tuner selection, preamp, antenna, mode and frequency for last 3 frequency selections



**CALL BUTTON**  
One touch recall of user programmed frequency and mode

**RF GAIN AND SQUELCH**  
Programmable RF gain, squelch, or both

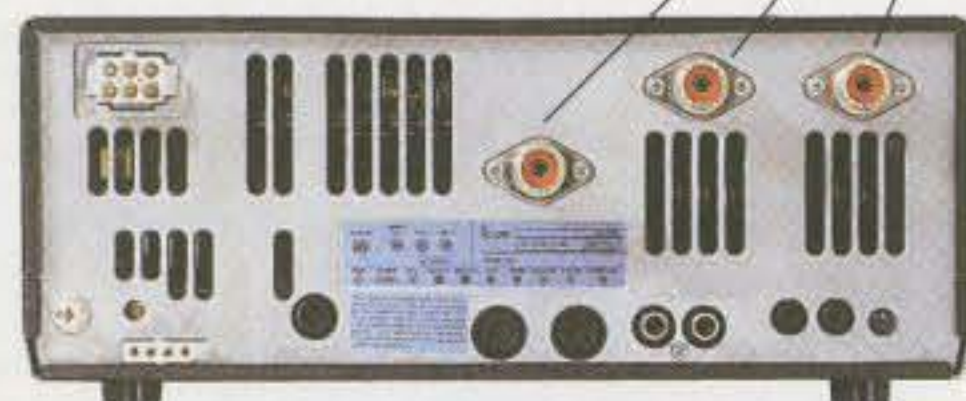
**CONTINUOUSLY ADJUSTABLE POWER LEVEL**  
5-100 W variable

**3 ANTENNA CONNECTORS**  
Two for HF & 6M, and one for 2M

**DIGITAL METERING (ON LCD)**  
Measures three parameters, all at once

**SMARTUNE™**  
Automatically senses how fast you want to tune by how fast the knob is turned

**QUICK RIT/XIT ACCESS**  
with zeroing function for today's crowded bands



Get more out of your HF. Let the digitally-advanced '746 give you the edge, and still hand you the best of 6 and 2 meters. For a free brochure, call **425-450-6088**.



ICOM options required for PC operation:  
CT-17 Level converter  
RS-746 Windows™ Remote Control Software  
OPC-478 Connection Cable

**ICOM**  
www.icomamerica.com