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Amateur Radio

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COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

AUGUST 2004

CQ

1945 **Our 60th Year** 2004

- Centennial of the "Bug," p. 11
- **SSB Results: 2003 CQ World-Wide DX Contest, p. 16**
- Big is Back at Dayton, p. 26
- **Olympic Countdown on the Air, p. 96**

On the Cover: Phil Krichbaum, NØKE, of Vail, Colorado, guest-operations from the station of [unclear], WØTM, on a ridge 20 miles west resort. Details on page 97.

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

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Fits on average size lot with

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

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

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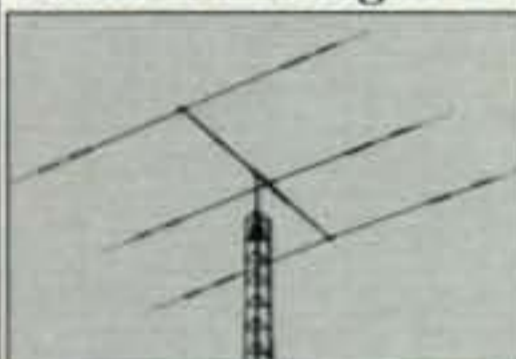
Hy-Gain's patented broadbanding Para Sleeve gives you

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

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For limited space... Installs anywhere... 14.75 ft turning radius... weighs 21 lbs... Rotate with CD-45II, HAM-IV



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

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

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



2. Tooled Boom-to-Element Clamp



3. Thick-wall swaged aluminum tubing



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

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IC-703

The QRP Rig!

THEIR SCREEN
IS THIS BIG

IN RELATION TO OURS...



(IC-703 shown actual size)

Looking for the best in a QRP rig? Better check the fine print first.

- **DSP.** That's right, pull out the weak signals! Automatic Notch and Noise Reduction is included.
- **Low Current Consumption.** With current drain as low as 300mA on 9.6VDC, this QRP rig rivals some handheld radios. The '703 is designed for maximum efficiency!
- **Internal Antenna Tuner.** 160-10M or 160-6M*. Internal, automatic and designed with latching relays so no current draw when the match is achieved.
- **Big Ears.** Sensitivity of 0.16µV at 10dB S/N rivals some of the big rigs. This helps compensate for antenna compromises when you're in the field!
- **Cold Hands.** Don't worry, the '703 comes with the TXCO, so your frequency will not drift when you touch the knob with cold hands. Ready for outdoors!
- **CW Memory Keyer.** Contest QRP is sweet with the internal CW Memory Keyer. Three memories capable of holding 50 characters each. Variable pitch control (300-900Hz) with a bug, paddle, or straight key.
- **Easy to See, Large Display.** The '703's display is over 300% larger than the competition's.
- **Built-in Pop-up Stand.** The pop-up stand is great when operating from a table top.
- **Adjustable Power Output.** Power is adjustable from 10W down to 0.1W, for more flexibility.
- **Smart Power Mode.** The '703 knows when to throttle back the current to prolong battery life.
- **HF or HF & 6M.** Icom's engineers focused on the bands that really mean the most to QRP operators.
- **IC-706MKIIG Operations.** Anyone who has a '706 will know how to operate without the manual!
- **No Assembly Required.** The '703 is ready to go when you are!

AH-703 HF/50MHz 5 Band Antenna

Designed specifically for use with the '703 and LC-156 Backpack. Compact size - stows easily when not in use.

Going portable?

BP-228 Battery Pack

2800mAh/9.6V. Compact and lightweight. Up to 7 hour operating time depending on power level selected.

LC-156 Backpack

Designed by hams, for hams! Take your hobby with you into the great outdoors. The LC-156 offers plenty of room to store and protect your '703, batteries, antenna, and other gear!



IC-703. Best bang for your buck!

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Ham, Cited as "Domestic Terrorist," Gets 8 Years for QRM

A Wisconsin ham radio operator has been sentenced to eight years in prison after being convicted of intentionally jamming the emergency radio system in Madison, the state capital, more than three dozen times in the course of a year. According to the Capital Times newspaper, 25-year-old Rajib Mitra, KB9DJE, of Brookfield, Wisconsin, was sentenced as a "domestic terrorist" under the terms of the Patriot Act for "the substantial disruption of a critical public infrastructure." His attorney says an appeal is planned.

ARRL Goes to Bat for Ham With BPL Interference

A ham in Iowa who has had severe interference from Broadband over Power Lines in his neighborhood for over two months is getting some help from the ARRL in efforts to get the FCC to take action. According to the *ARRL Letter*, Jim Spencer, W0SR, of Cedar Rapids, has been having interference problems ever since a BPL system in his area came on line. While the utility and BPL provider have been working with him to solve the problem, the interference has continued for more than two months. In mid-June, the ARRL filed a formal complaint with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, calling on the Commission to order the field trial shut down until the problem is resolved, and to fine the utility \$10,000 for knowingly continuing to cause interference to a licensed station, in violation of Part 15 FCC rules.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, said Spencer's case is "egregious," and that "if this is the best we can expect when a BPL system causes interference, then the only answer is to prevent them from being deployed."

The League has also objected to public funding of a BPL trial in New York State, via a grant from the state's Energy Research and Development Authority. According to the *ARRL Letter*, Sumner has written to the agency's president saying that interference from the pilot system is violating federal law and questions "whether such a grant of funding is in the public interest."

ARRL Supports Most of FCC's "Omnibus" Proposals

The ARRL has filed comments with the FCC generally supporting most of the changes proposed in the Commission's so-called "omnibus" rulemaking proceeding, including the League's plan to "refarm" the HF Novice and Technician Plus bands and Kenwood's petition to permit auxiliary operation on 2 meters. The ARRL comments also supported the FCC's proposal to lift the restrictions on power amplifiers used by hams on the 12, 10, and 6 meter bands.

While supporting the FCC's plan to adopt its "refarming" proposal, the League called for the Commission to look at it in conjunction with a much broader restructuring proposal that it filed more recently. Support of allowing auxiliary operation on 2 meters is a reversal, as the League strongly opposed previous efforts by Kenwood to get FCC approval for its "Sky Command" remote-control system. ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, told *CQ* the League is now satisfied that sufficient safeguards are in place to protect weak-signal and satellite frequencies.

Contesters Beware...

The FCC is starting to crack down on interference between hams during contests. A ham in California has gotten a "Rileygram" from FCC Amateur enforcement chief Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, asking for his side of a complaint that his operations during the 2003 ARRL Sweepstakes contest caused interference to communications in progress on 14.230 MHz.

NTIA: BPL Could Help Cut Power-Line Noise

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, whose own engineers determined that interference from Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL, signals extends out to a quarter mile on the ground and 25 miles at 20,000 feet, and that current methods to measure noise levels are inadequate, now tells the FCC that BPL could actually "reduce the risks of interference to radiocommunications" by cutting down on existing levels of power-line noise. At the same time, it calls for "notching out" BPL signals on certain key government frequencies. NTIA is the chief advisory agency to the White House on telecommunications matters and is in charge of frequency allocations for federal government agencies.

The ARRL, responding to the NTIA filing in its *ARRL Letter* newsletter, said the comments "more clearly reveal the political face of an agency eager and determined to sell the technology's viability, no matter what its own scientists have concluded."

Meanwhile, the FCC agreed to multiple requests and extended until June 22 the deadline for reply comments on its BPL Notice of Proposed Rule Making. This was to give commenters a chance to digest and respond to NTIA's earlier engineering study (see last month's "Ham Radio News" column for a summary).

ECHO Satellite Set for Launch

The AMSAT News Service reported in mid-June that the new ECHO satellite had been successfully moved to its launch site at the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan and that work was under way to integrate it into the launch vehicle. The 30-day launch window was supposed to open on June 28, so the satellite may be in orbit by the time you read this. It will operate on 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

A decision in Washington will likely make future amateur satellite launches more expensive. The FCC has ruled that amateur satellites, like commercial satellites, must have plans and procedures for reducing the amount of orbital debris they might produce, possibly including the installation of thruster engines to force re-entry after a satellite's useful life is complete.

New Antenna Design May Help in Restricted Spaces

A new antenna design, developed by a ham working for the University of Rhode Island, has the potential to greatly reduce the amount of space needed for an efficient radiator. Rob Vincent, K1DFT, says his "distributed load monopole" antenna will permit efficient, wide-bandwidth operation on 15 meters with an antenna just 18 inches high, according to a university news release. Details were not available at press time due to patent filings, but we hope to bring you more information in upcoming issues so the amateur community can discuss and experiment with Vincent's design.

Restaurant Fined \$10K

A Chinese restaurant in New Jersey has been fined \$10,000 by the FCC for continued use of a high-power cordless telephone that operates on the 2-meter ham band. Best Wok, of Westville, NJ, apparently did not respond to previous correspondence from the FCC, including a Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL). As a result, the FCC on May 19 issued a Forfeiture Order affirming the \$10,000 fine proposed in the NAL.

Additional and updated news is available on the Ham Radio News page of the CQ website at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>>. For breaking news stories, plus info on additional items of interest, sign up for CQ's free online newsletter service. Just click on "CQ Newsletter" on the home page of our website.

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HAM-IV

The most popular rotator in the world!

For medium communications arrays up to 15 square feet wind load area. New 5-second brake delay! New Test/Calibrate function. New low temperature grease permits normal operation down to -30 degrees F. New alloy ring gear gives extra strength up to 100,000 PSI for maximum readability. New indicator potentiometer. New ferrite beads reduce RF susceptibility. New Cinch plug plus 8-pin plug at control box. Dual 98 ball bearing race for load bearing strength and electric locking steel wedge brake prevents wind induced antenna movement. North or South center of rotation scale on meter, low voltage control, max mast size of 2 1/16 inches.

HAM-IV
\$559⁹⁵



TAILTWISTER SERIES II

For large medium antenna arrays up to 20 sq. ft. wind load. Available with DCU-1 Pathfinder digital control (T2XD) or standard analog control box (T2X) with new 5-second brake delay and new Test/Calibrate function. Low temperature grease, alloy ring gear, indicator potentiometer, ferrite beads on potentiometer wires, new weather-proof AMP connectors plus 8-pin plug at control box, triple bearing race with 138 ball bearings for large load bearing strength, electric locking steel wedge brake, North or South center of rotation scale on meter, low voltage control, 2 1/16 inch max. mast.

T-2X
\$649⁹⁵

T-2XD
\$1029⁹⁵
with DCU-1



CD-45II

For antenna arrays up to 8.5 sq. feet mounted inside tower or 5 sq. ft. with mast adapter. Low temperature grease good to -30 F degrees. New Test/Calibrate function. Bell rotator design gives total weather protection, dual 58 ball bearing race gives proven support. Die-cast ring gear, stamped steel gear drive, heavy duty, trouble free gear train, North center scale, lighted directional indicator, 8-pin plug/socket on control unit, snap-action control switches, low voltage control, safe operation, takes maximum mast size to 2 1/16 inches. MSLD light duty lower mast support included.

CD-45II
\$389⁹⁵



Wind Load capacity (inside tower)	15 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	7.5 square feet
Turning Power (in lbs.)	800
Brake Power (in lbs.)	5000
Brake Construction	Electric Wedge
Bearing Assembly	dual race/96 ball bearings
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight (lbs.)	26
Effective Moment (in tower)	2800 ft/lbs.

Wind load capacity (inside tower)	20 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	10 square feet
Turning Power (in lbs.)	1000
Brake Power (in lbs.)	9000
Brake Construction	Electric Wedge
Bearing Assembly	Triple race/138 ball brngs
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight (lbs.)	31
Effective Moment (in tower)	3400 ft/lbs.

Wind load capacity (inside tower)	8.5 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	5.0 square feet
Turning Power (in lbs.)	600
Brake Power (in lbs.)	800
Brake Construction	Disc Brake
Bearing Assembly	Dual race/48 ball brngs
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight (lbs.)	22
Effective Moment (in tower)	1200 ft/lbs.

HAM-V

HAM-V
\$949⁹⁵
with DCU-1

For medium antenna arrays up to 15 square feet wind load area. Similar to the HAM IV, but includes DCU-1 Pathfinder digital control unit with gas plasma display. Provides automatic operation of brake and rotor, compatible with many logging/contest programs, 6 presets for beam headings, 1 degree accuracy, auto 8-second brake delay, 360 degree choice for center location, more!

ROTATOR OPTIONS

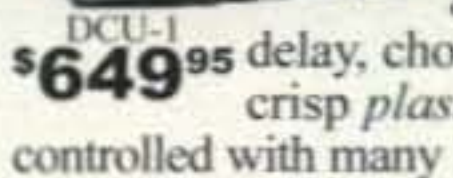
MSHD, \$99.95. Heavy duty mast support for T2X, HAM-IV and HAM-V.

MSLD, \$39.95. Light duty mast support for CD-45II and AR-40.

TSP-1, \$34.95. Lower spacer plate for HAM-IV and HAM-V.

Digital Automatic Controller

Automatically controls T2X, HAM-IV, V rotators. 6 presets for favorite headings, 1 degree accuracy, 8-sec. brake delay, choice for center of rotation, crisp plasma display. Computer controlled with many logging/contest programs.



DCU-1
\$649⁹⁵



AR-40
\$289⁹⁵

For compact antenna arrays and large FM/TV up to 3.0 square feet wind load area. Dual 12 ball bearing race. Automatic position sensor never needs resetting. Fully automatic control -- just dial and touch for any desired location. Solid state, low voltage control, safe and silent operation. 2 1/16 inch maximum mast size. MSLD light duty lower mast support included.

Wind load capacity (inside tower)	3.0 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	1.5 square feet
Turning Power (in lbs.)	350
Brake Power (in lbs.)	450
Brake Construction	Disc Brake
Bearing Assembly	Dual race/12 ball bearings
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel bolts
Control Cable Conductors	5
Shipping Weight (lbs.)	14
Effective Moment (in tower)	300 ft/lbs.

AR-40

HDR-300A
\$1379⁹⁵

For king-sized antenna arrays up to 25 sq. ft. wind load area. Control cable connector, new hardened stainless steel output shaft, new North or South centered calibration, new ferrite beads on potentiometer wires reduce RF susceptibility, new longer output shaft keyway adds reliability. Heavy-duty self-centering steel clamp and hardware. Display accurate to 1°. Machined steel output.

Wind load capacity (inside tower)	25 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	not applicable
Turning Power (in lbs.)	5000
Brake Power (in lbs.)	7500
Brake Construction	solenoid operated locking
Bearing Assembly	bronze sleeve w/rollers
Mounting Hardware	stainless steel bolts
Control Cable Conductors	7
Shipping Weight (lbs.)	61
Effective Moment (in tower)	5000 ft/lbs.

AR-35 Rotator/Controller

For UHF, VHF, 6-Meter, TV/FM antennas. Includes automatic controller, rotator, mounting clamps, mounting hardware. 110 VAC. One Year Warranty.



AR-35
\$69⁹⁵



NEW! Automatic Rotator Brake Delay
\$29⁹⁵ Provides automatic 5-second brake delay -- insures your rotator is fully stopped before brake is engaged. Prevents accidentally engaging brake while rotator is moving. Use with HAM II, III, IV, V, T2Xs. Easy-to-install. Includes pre-assembled PCB, hardware.

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Reaching Out

Twenty years ago, I remember walking to work in midtown Manhattan, talking on an HT and having kids ask me if I was an undercover cop. Today, virtually everybody walks down the street talking on a two-way radio. Half the time, it's not even disguised as a phone. Nextel and its competitors have made HTs "mainstream."

Fifteen years ago, I remember being at the New York City Marathon, where several of the hams who were heavily into packet radio had these new-fangled laptop computers and were setting up a digital network to pass text messages by radio to the family reunion area with information about runners who had dropped out—where and why they'd stopped, how they were getting back to the finish line area, or if they were going to a hospital. Today, anyone with a cell-phone equipped for text messaging can do the same thing (at a price).

The revolution is over and we've won. Of course, many people worry that in winning the battle, we're losing the war—that with handheld radios and wireless long-distance becoming commonplace, ham radio is losing its uniqueness and its appeal. Perhaps what we need to do is pay more attention to designing and building products with which non-hams, particularly young non-hams, are already familiar, and then introducing the unique aspects of our hobby.

For example, I just got a new laptop computer with a built-in wireless modem. It operates on the 2.4 GHz shared Part 15/ham band. I'm finally active on microwaves! But if computer makers are routinely building radio transceivers into their computers, why aren't radio manufacturers routinely building computers into their radios? Yes, I realize that most radios today are run by sophisticated microprocessors and that users can customize many (in some cases, all) of the radio's parameters. But I have yet to see a radio with a USB or firewire port for connecting to a computer. For that matter (and I know our friends who make these add-ons won't like this idea, but I don't think they have too much to worry about in the near future), why don't we routinely have radios with built-in TNCs and digital software (in upgradeable flash memory) and a PS-2 or USB port for a keyboard? Forget the computer. Why don't handhelds and mobile rigs—especially those already equipped for location tracking with APRS—have GPS receivers built in so they can automatically transmit their precise locations?

My kids hardly use the phone anymore to talk to their friends. Instead, they spend hours in front of the computer instant-messaging—it's packet radio or PSK-31 without the radio. If I had text-messaging enabled on my cell phone, they'd be continuing to chat even while we're out. That's packet with the radio! But it's also a budget-buster, which is a big plus for ham radio. Why can't our handhelds do text-messaging without plugging in a TNC and a laptop? Why not put little Blackberry®-type alphanumeric keyboards on them instead of just numeric keypads (although cell-phone text messaging works fine with the standard keypad)?

Why not build amateur wireless networks that encourage kids to use our microwave frequencies for multi-player computer games for which they now need to rely on the internet or linked computers at an internet café? My son and some of his friends enjoy "battling" each other on computer games at the local internet café. But what if they could do it just as easily from their homes, without the need to pay for computer time? There's no difference between using ham radio for computer games and using ham radio for chess games.

Our manufacturers are remarkably responsive to the desires of their existing customer base. Many new features on most new models have their origins in some ham saying, "Why don't you do this?" But they're not quite as good at anticipating the wants and needs not only of current customers but of potential customers as well. We want to bring more young people into ham radio? Let's start building radios that do what they want to do as well as what we old folks want to do.

*e-mail: <w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com>

Today's kids already "do" ham radio, but without realizing it. They're constantly using two-way voice and text communications. There are people going out into the desert to see how much range they can get out of their 802.11 wireless networks - without realizing that if they got their ham licenses, they could crank up the power to a watt (or more) and really get some distance. But where are the hams who should already be doing this? Where are the 2.4 GHz and 5.7 GHz ham networks using modified (or unmodified) off-the-shelf wireless cards? Why can't I put my laptop on a 2.4 GHz ham network as well as a 2.4 GHz Part 15 network?

Bottom line: if we want to draw more young people into the hobby, we need to give them a reason to do their wireless communication as hams, and produce equipment that will meet their needs. For more on this general topic, see N6CL's "VHF Plus" column in this issue (p. 84), which shows how hams can become heroes in helping to develop a wireless alternative to BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) known as WiMax. We'd help our non-ham neighbors and, at the same time, build a vibrant ham radio wireless network.



Megan McClellan, KE5BSZ, seen here with her parents, Lisa, KB5NEB, and Jim, N5MIJ, was the first new ham to receive an "instant license." W5YI-VEC submitted 24 applications to the FCC directly from the Hamcom hamfest in Dallas via an internet link. Megan's callsign (and 23 others) were issued just two hours later.

Instant Licensing

A little bit of ham history occurred Friday afternoon, June 18 at the Hamcom hamfest in Dallas. Twenty years ago, the first volunteer-administered ham licensing tests were given at Dayton. This year, Hamcom and W5YI-VEC worked out an arrangement to have internet access at the hamfest and to immediately submit licensing paperwork to the FCC. Some two dozen people who took tests for new ham licenses at the hamfest on Friday went home with their callsigns! The first was 12-year-old Megan McClellan, a new Technician, now KE5BSZ. Congratulations to Megan and to the Hamcom/W5YI-VEC folks who made this possible. We hope it's the beginning of what should become a regular feature at test sessions.

A Singular Accomplishment

We'd like to acknowledge the achievement of Stanislav Blazka, OK1MS, who has qualified for Worked All Zones EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) Award number one. OK1MS is the first ham to confirm contacts with at least 25 CQ zones entirely via moonbounce contacts. Congratulations, Stan! We hope to have details of his accomplishment in an upcoming issue.

Speaking of upcoming issues, I promised last month that this issue would include an article on young hams at Dayton. Well, guess what? It didn't fit. Neither did a planned feature on the 5JØX operation from San Andres during last year's CQ World-Wide DX Contest SSB weekend, to go along with the results in this issue. We'll get both in as soon as space permits.

73, Rich W2VU

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Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLHS) Contest – This event will take place 0001Z August 7 to 2359Z August 8, all modes, SSB and CW. The purpose of this international contest is promote public awareness of ham radio and lighthouses. Last year over 40 countries participated and more than 400 lighthouses were activated. For details, go to: <<http://arlhs.com/NLLW-2004-guidelines.html>>.

International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend – The ARLHS will sponsor this annual event from 0001Z August 21 to 2359 August 22 in conjunction with International Lighthouse Day. For more information, see: <<http://arlhs.com>>.

W3SSA Special Event – The Social Security Employees' ARC will be on the air with the call W3SSA from 1300–2200Z August 15 to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Social Security Act. Frequencies will be near 7.280 and 14.280 MHz. For a certificate send QSL and SASE to Greg Stec, K3ANG, 1624 Pickett Rd. Lutherville, MD 21093, or electronically by e-mail to <ac3p@arrl.net>.

N7C from Navajo Code Talkers Day – Special event station N7C will be active 1400Z August 14 to 0200Z August 15 from Window Rock, Arizona to commemorate Navajo Code Talkers Day. Frequencies: SSB 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.460; CW 3.533, 7.033, 14.033 MHz. QSL direct with SASE to Herbert Goodluck, N7HG, P.O. Box 3611, Window Rock, AZ 86515.

N9L to Activate Wisconsin Lighthouses – Special event station N9L will operate from several lighthouses along the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin from August 5–14 (1400–2100Z each day), including activation of the Eagle Bluff Lighthouse (USA-252) during the National Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend on August 7 and 8. Frequencies will be centered on 14.270 or 7.270 ±. A QSL of each of the lighthouses as well as a certificate representing all of the lighthouses will be available to confirmed contacts and SWLs. QSL direct to W5AZN. For details go to: <<http://www.w5azn.com>>.

• **The following hamfests, etc., are scheduled for August:**

Aug. 7, **West Central Illinois Hamfest**, Macoupin County Fairgrounds, Carlinville, Illinois. Contact Tim Jones, KA9VIV, 217-627-2355, e-mail: <ka9viv@yahoo.com>. (Talk-in 146.82–)

Aug. 7, **Juniata Valley ARC Hamfest**, Decatur Fire Co., Lewis town, Pennsylvania. Contact Cliff Bell, WB3IVX, 717-248-2616, e-mail: <wb3ivx@localnet.com>. (Talk-in 146.910)

Aug. 8, **Hamfesters RC Hamfest**, Will County Fairgrounds, Peotone, Illinois. Contact R. J. Morrow, KB9YRE, 708-636-0963, e-mail: <kb9yre@aol.com>; <www.hamfesters.org>. (Talk-in 146.52; exams 8–10:30 AM)

Aug. 13–15, **Boxboro 2004**, ARRL New England Division Convention, Holiday Inn Conference Center, Boxboro, Massachusetts. For details go to <www.boxboro.org>. (Talk-in 146.52; exams Saturday 10 AM & 1 PM and Sunday noon, preregistration suggested and state preferred time—contact Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, 16 Regis Rd., Tewksbury, MA 01876 with SASE, or e-mail <w1lus@arrl.net>)

Aug. 20–21, **Duke City Hamfest**, University of New Mexico Continuing Education Conference Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Contact Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, e-mail: <n5zgt@juno.com>; <www.qsl.net/dchf>. (Talk-in 145.33– and 444.00+; exams)

Aug. 21, **Huntsville Hamfest**, Von Braun Center, Huntsville, Alabama. Contact Huntsville Hamfest, 1215 Dale Drive SE, Huntsville, AL 35801; or Don Tunstill, W4NO, e-mail: <DonTunstill@hamfest.org>; <www.hamfest.org>. (Exams Saturday and Sunday at 1000 hrs.)

Aug. 21, **Central Missouri Radio Assn. Hamfest**, National Guard Armory, Columbia, Missouri. Contact Bob Clinton, W0BUX, 573-696-0231; e-mail: <rhclinton@tranquility.net>; <www.qsl.net/cmra/>.

Aug. 22, **Northern Berkshire ARC Hamfest**, Bowe Field/Adams Agricultural Fairgrounds, Adams, Massachusetts. Contact Al Vigiard, K1SAV, 413-743-1619, e-mail: <k1sav@nobar.org>; <www.nobar.org/hamfest>. (Exams registration 8:30 AM, test 9 AM)

Aug. 27–29, **ARRL Southwest Division Convention**, Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort and Spa, Phoenix, Arizona. Contact Bob Davies, K7BHM, e-mail: <k7bhm@cox.net>; on the web: <<http://www.hamradio2004.com>>.

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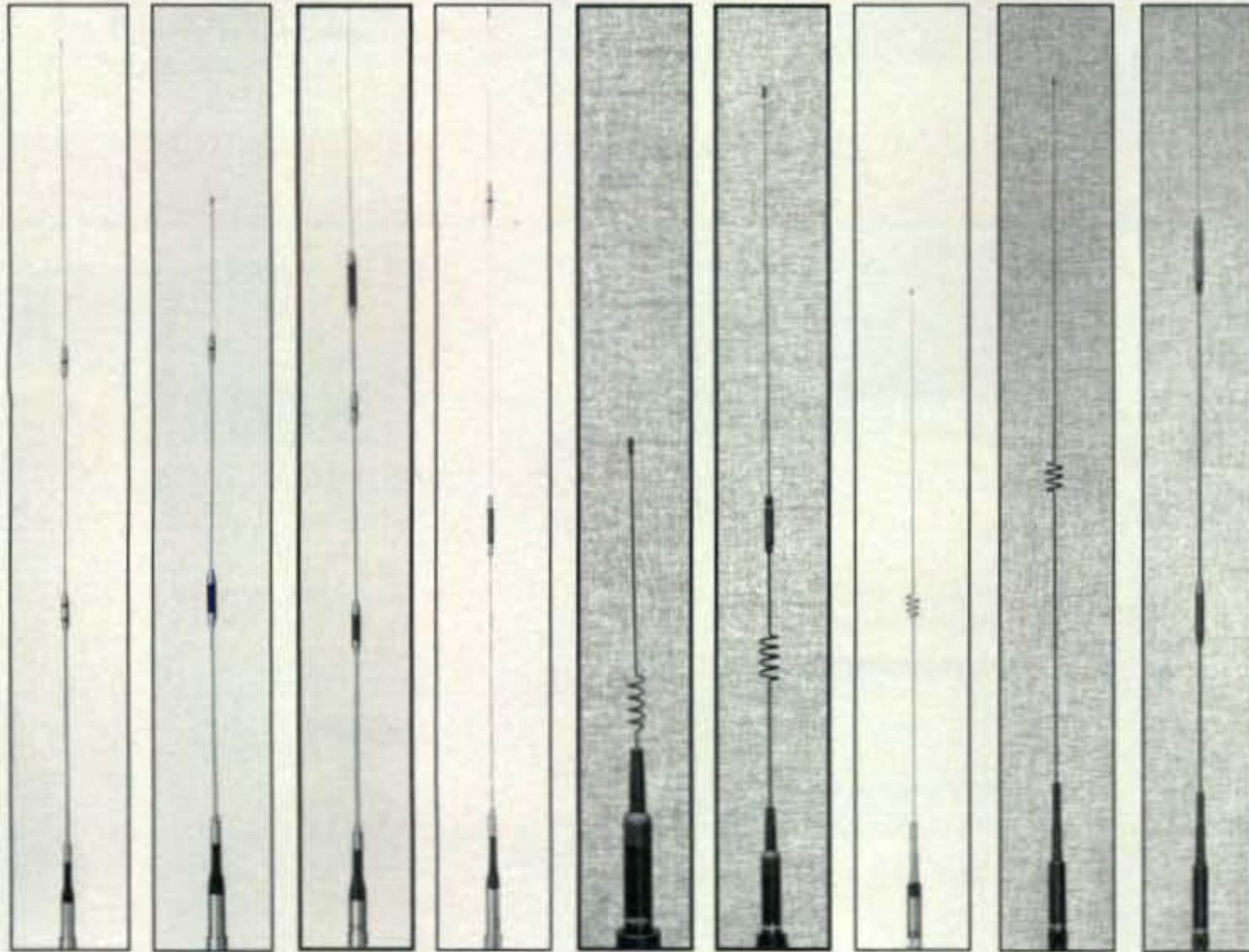
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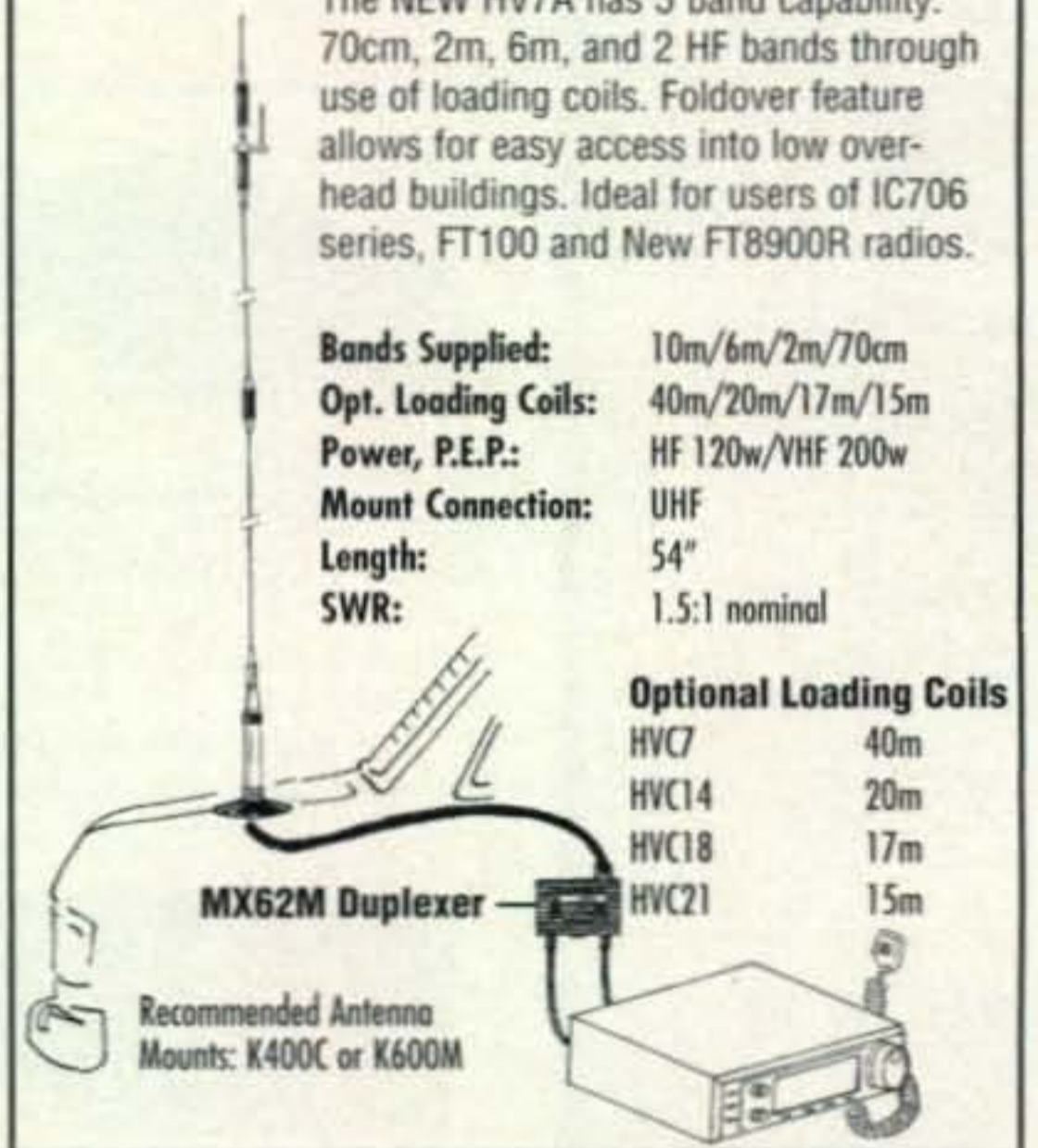
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NR72BNMO* ⁶	2m/70cm	100	NMO	13.8	1/4λ, 1/2λ
NR73BNMO	2m/70cm	100	NMO	33.5	1/2λ, 1-5/8λ
NR770HA ⁷	2m/70cm	200	UHF	40.2	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
NR770HNMO ⁸	2m/70cm	200	NMO	38.2	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
NR770RA	2m/70cm	200	UHF	38.6	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
NR7900A*	2m/70cm	300/250	UHF	57	1/4+1/2λ, 3-5/8λ
SG7000A* ⁶	2m/70cm	100	UHF	18.5	1/4λ, 6/8λ
SG7500A	2m/70cm	150	UHF	40.6	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
SG7500NMO	2m/70cm	150	NMO	41.0	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
SG7900A*	2m/70cm	150	UHF	62.2	7/8λ, 3-5/8λ
SG7900ANMO*	2m/70cm	150	NMO	62	7/8λ, 3-5/8λ
SGM510	2m/70cm	100	UHF	37	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ

MODEL	BAND (MHz)	WATTS	CONN.	HT. IN.	ELEMENT PHASING
CR8900A* ^{6, 11}	10m/6m/2m/70cm	60	UHF	50	1/4λ, 1/4λ 1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
SG2000HD*	2m	250	UHF	62.6	1/2λ+3/8λ
CR320A* ⁶	2m/1-1/4m/70cm	200/100 200	UHF	37.4	1/4λ, 1/2λ 2-5/8λ
CR627B* ^{6, 9} CR627BNMO* ^{6, 9}	6m/2m/70cm	120	UHF/NMO	60	1/4λ, 1/2+1/4λ 2-5/8λ
HF6FX* ⁶	6m	250	UHF	40	1/4λ
HF50CX* ⁶	6m	200	UHF	75	3/8λ
NR22L*	2m	100	UHF	96.8	2-5/8λ
NR2000NA	2m/70cm/23cm	100	N	39	1/2λ, 2-5/8λ 5-5/8λ
M285* ¹⁰	2m	200	UHF	52.4	5/8λ
M685* ⁶	6m	200	UHF	52.4	1/4λ
MG200	2.4GHz	-	N	23.6	3-1/2λ
SGM911* ^{6, 9}	6m/2m/70cm	60	UHF	41	1/4λ, 1/2λ, 2-5/8λ
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It's a mainstay of many a ham shack, but how many of you realize that your Vibroplex "Bug" semi-automatic key has a history that goes back a century? Vibroplex owner Mitch Mitchell, W4OA, provides us with some history and a look at how today's "Bugs" are built.

Centennial of the "Bug" Vibroplex®[®], 100 Years Later!

BY MITCH MITCHELL,* W4OA

Vibroplex is celebrating 100 years of continuous production of telegraph keys in 2004! There are not many companies that can claim a product that has been in continuous production for 100 years with only cosmetic changes. Horace G. Martin, inventor of the Vibroplex, was a mechanical genius, and he got it right with the "Bug," the 100-year, premier product of The Vibroplex Co. (photo 1). (For the early history of the Bug, see the sidebar—*ed.*) Although there is controversy about the exact year the Bug came into existence, the official company position has always been that the Bug originated in 1904, and all of the early Vibroplex logo plates carry the August 9, 1904 patent date.

As just about everyone knows, the telegraph was invented by Samuel F. B. Morse in 1836. He patented the telegraph in 1840, and the first commercial message ("What hath God wrought?") was transmitted in 1844. From the invention of the telegraph in 1836 until the Vibroplex came into widespread use in the early 1900s, telegraphy sending primarily was done with what we now call a *hand key*. The most prominent modern example of the hand key is the famous World War II era J-38.

A good telegrapher can send 20 to 25 words per minute with a hand key. However, try sending 20 wpm with a hand key continuously for about a half hour, and you'll find you have to go lie

down and take a rest! Your poor arm and wrist will be numb. Over time, the constant, unvarying motion of the hand key could cause temporary or permanent damage to cartilage, tendons, ligaments, nerves, and muscles involved in producing the motion. Early telegraphers suffered from this malady, which they called "glass arm," and which we now know as "repetitive motion injury." There were literally tens of thousands of telegraph operators in the U.S. manning telegraph offices 24/7. Being a telegrapher was a modern profession that was being decimated by the glass-arm malady, for which there was no cure.

Necessity being the mother of invention, enter the Vibroplex. With a Vibroplex Bug, and its side-to-side motion, a good operator could send effortlessly at blazing speeds of 50, 60, and even 70 wpm or above for hours without becoming subject to glass arm. The Vibroplex



Photo 1—Original Bug with gold base. (Photos courtesy of the author)



Photo 2—Hand Key Deluxe.

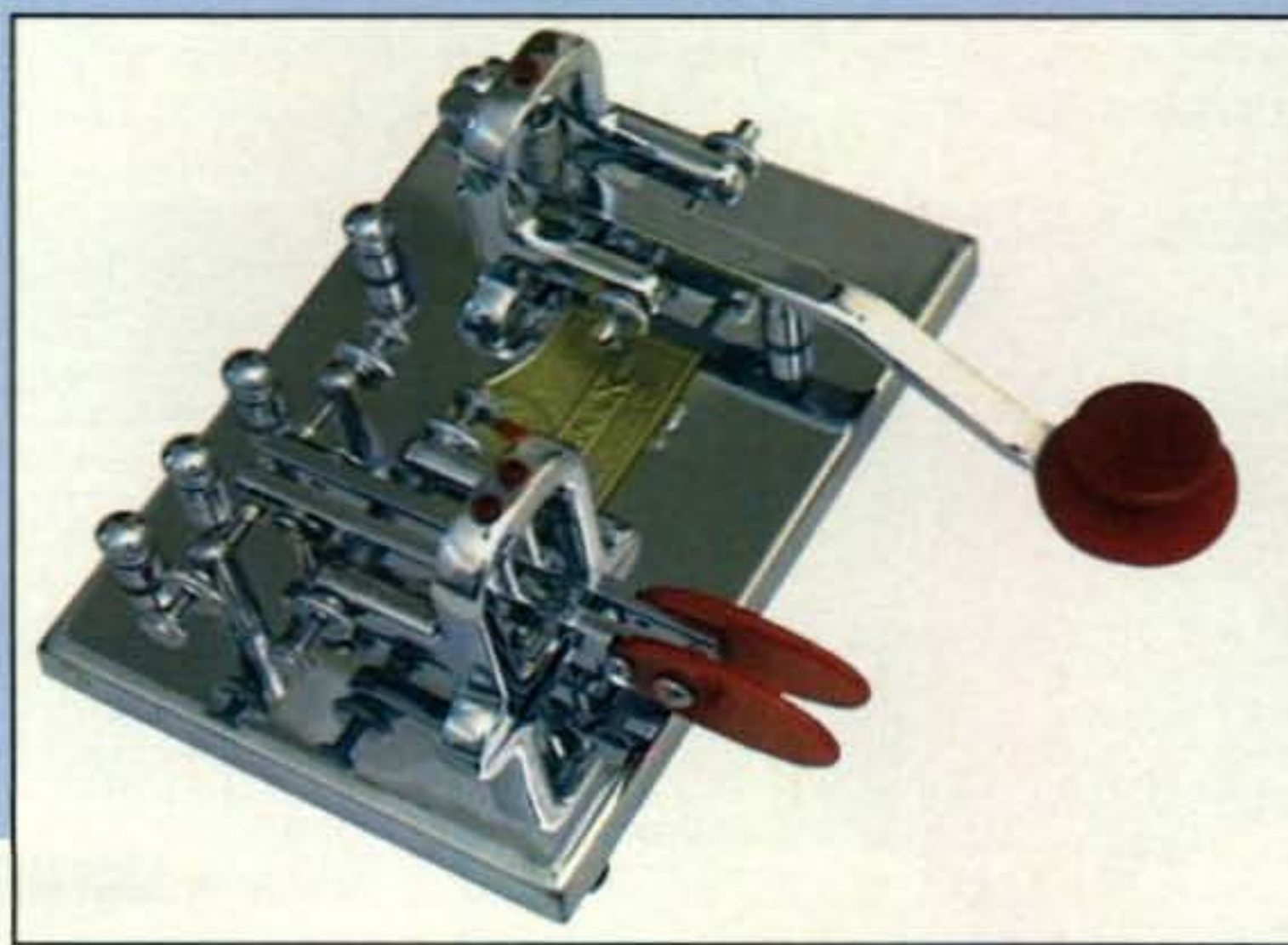


Photo 3—Double Key.

*Owner, The Vibroplex Co., Inc., 11 E. Midtown Park, Mobile, AL 36606
on the web: <www.vibroplex.com>

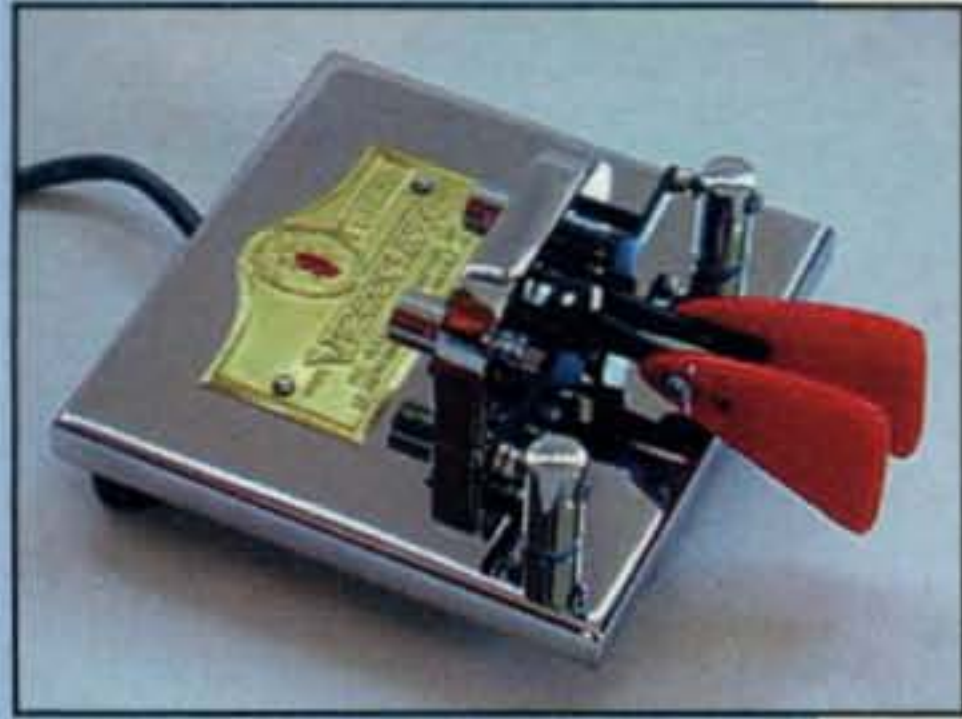


Photo 4— Square Racer Deluxe.

in a very short time became *the* tool of the telegrapher's trade, with each telegrapher having his (or her) own Bug with its carrying case. When the telegrapher went to work, he took his Bug with him. The telegraph operating positions were set up with a hand key designed to allow the easy substitution of the Bug, with its "cord and wedge" as the sending key. If you closely examine almost any old (pre-World War II) Bug, you'll most likely find an extra hole that was drilled in the base after the Bug left the Vibroplex factory. This allowed the telegrapher to slide his Bug down on a bolt that was attached to the operating table to keep the Bug from moving while being used.

Just think, for a moment, of the speed of communication. With the advent of the telegraph, with a hand key a good operator could send 20 to 25 wpm. With a Vibroplex Bug, the speed of communications easily doubled, to 40 to 50 wpm, or faster. It took 60 years, from 1844 to 1904, to double communications speed. Today we spew data at billions of bits per second (or faster).

A Family Business

Horace Martin, by the way, had a great incentive to develop the Vibroplex. He was one of the premier telegraph operators in the country at the time, and he

Early Vibroplex History

There has been confusion as to exactly when Horace G. Martin developed the Bug, with many conflicting stories, and the confusion continues to generate magazine articles today (see "Technical and Legal History of the 'Bug' Trademark," *Old Timer's Bulletin, Official Journal of the Antique Wireless Association, Inc.*, February 2004, page 50). Based upon the information in Vibroplex's official history book, *The Vibroplex Co., Inc. 1890 to 1990*, the prototype of the telegraph instrument that came to be called the Bug, and which is still manufactured today, was patented on August 9, 1904, patent number 767,303. Unfortunately, a competing patent by William O. Coffe was filed shortly before Martin's. Although in 1902 Martin had patented an electromechanical key, the "Autoplex," a patent infringement lawsuit with Coffe resulted in a draw, with both parties being allowed to manufacture their keys.

Martin continued to develop his key, and in 1905 he began production of what we now call the Bug. Although production of the Bug began in 1905, Martin did not apply for a patent until 1906, and the patent was granted in 1907 (patent no. 842,154). With the 1907 patent and the later purchase of the Coffe patent, Vibroplex owned the technology, which was to dominate the telegraph-key market for the next 40 years.

Martin partnered with a typewriter salesman and former railroad telegrapher, J. E. Albright, in 1911 to market the Bug. Why a typewriter salesman? Well, the custom of the time was for a telegrapher to furnish his own typewriter, removing the variable of handwriting in delivering telegraphic messages.

Vibroplex continued to be involved in litigation about the Bug. Patent infringers were vigorously pursued in court, but when the patents on the Bug expired, many competitors entered the market. Vibroplex continued to protect its trademarks, but received a real setback in 1927 when a suit against Bunnell for naming one of its keys the "Gold Bug" was lost. The court held that the term "Bug" had become generic in describing all telegraph sending machines.

For a complete history of the Vibroplex Company, see the official company history, *The Vibroplex Co., Inc., 1890 to 1990*, available from Vibroplex, 11 E. Midtown Park, Mobile, AL 36606 (phone 251-478-8873, <www.vibroplex.com>).

There are many resources available on the internet on the history of Vibroplex and telegraph keys. Just do a search on Vibroplex and you will get thousands of hits.

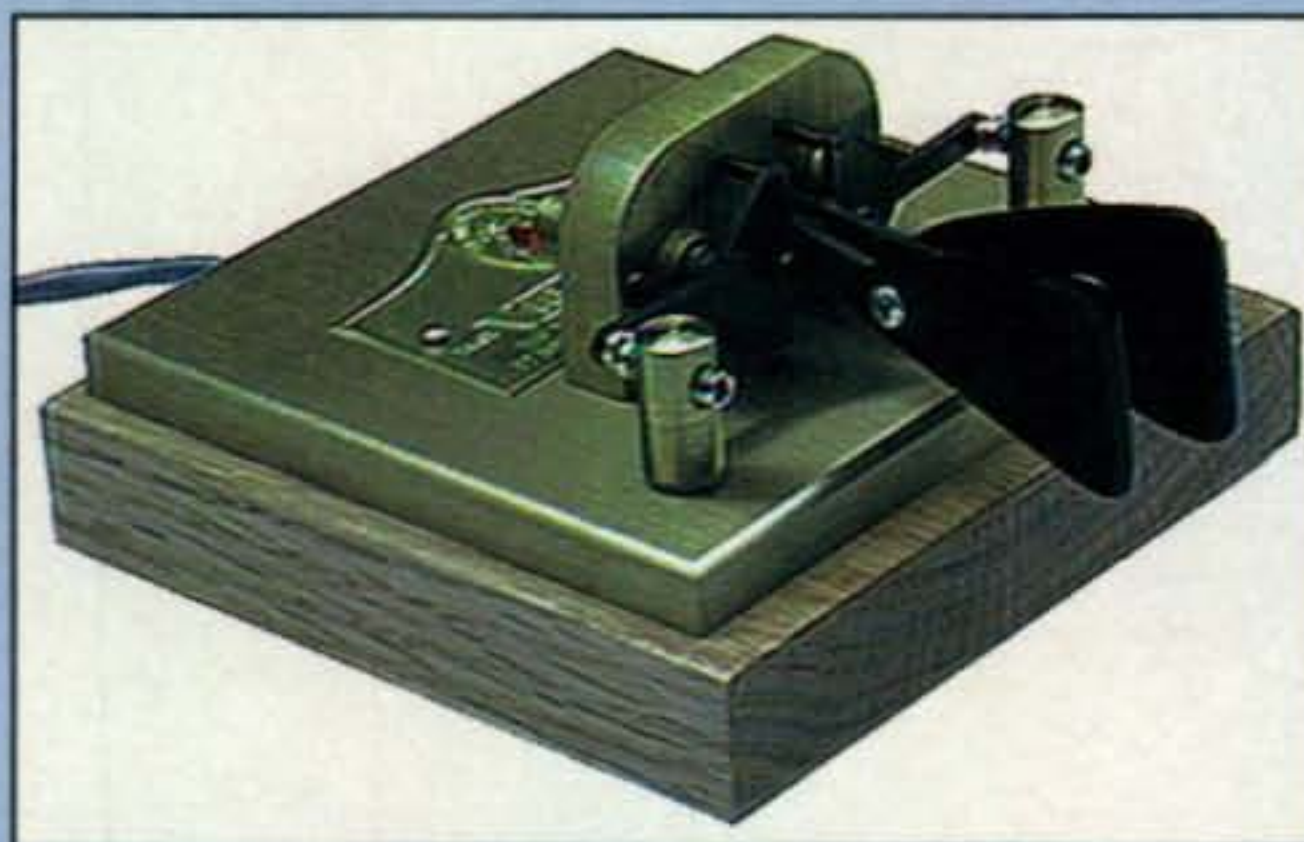
attended the contests where top telegraph operators competed for prizes. Martin couldn't enter the competitions, though, because he could no longer send. He, too, suffered from telegrapher's glass arm. (For a very good biographical sketch of Martin, see <<http://www.telegraph-history.org>>.)

Vibroplex has always been a small business. First with Martin and partner J. E. Albright (see sidebar), then with members of Albright's family, and then with members of the La Hiff family, Vibroplex continued in business on Broadway in New York City for approximately 65 years. It is interesting to note that Vibroplex's last Broadway address,

833 Broadway, is now an antique shop. In 1979 the company was bought by Peter Garsoe and moved to Portland, Maine, where it remained until I bought the company in 1995.

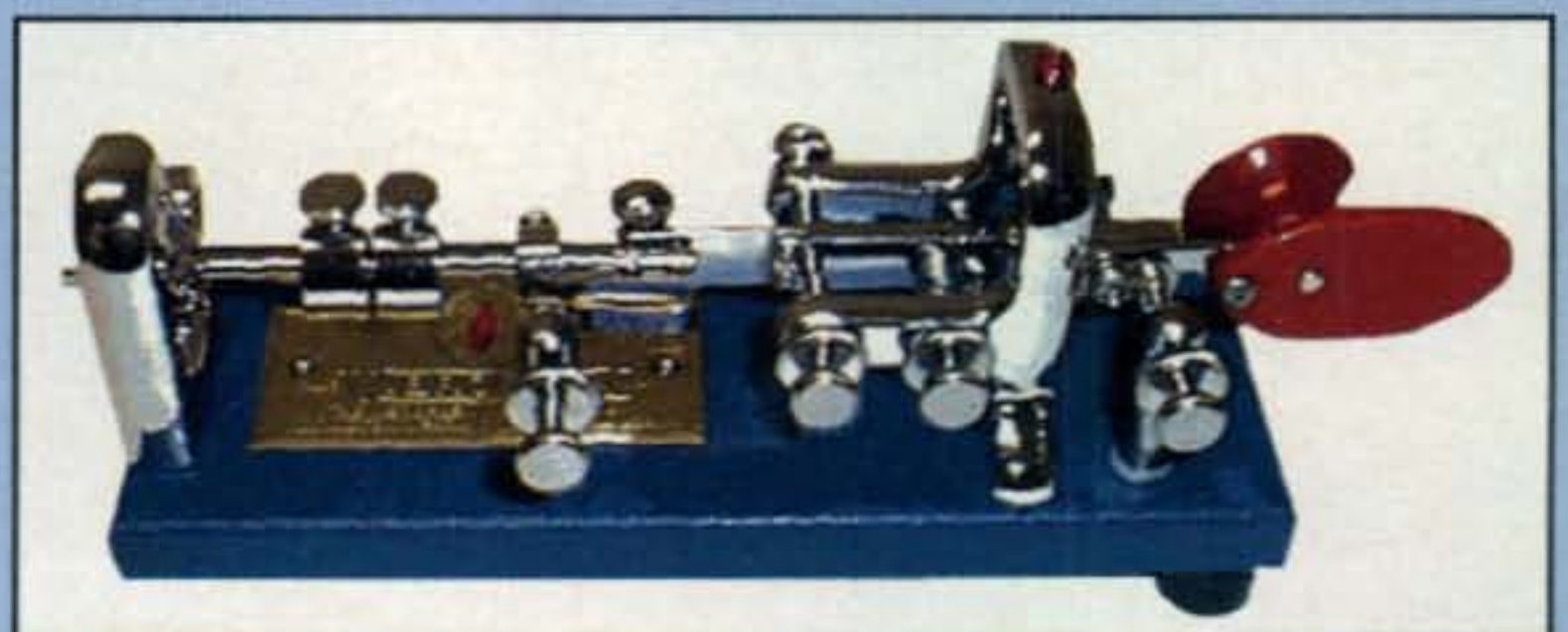
Enter the Ham!

I am the first ham owner of Vibroplex. In all of the books and articles about Vibroplex, I have not found any reference to any of the prior owners being hams. Today Vibroplex remains a small company. When I bought the company, I moved the production facility to LaGrange, Georgia (my hometown), with my sister, Betty M. Harper, as production manager. The administrative



← Photo 5— Square Brass Racer.

Photo 6— Blue Racer 2000.



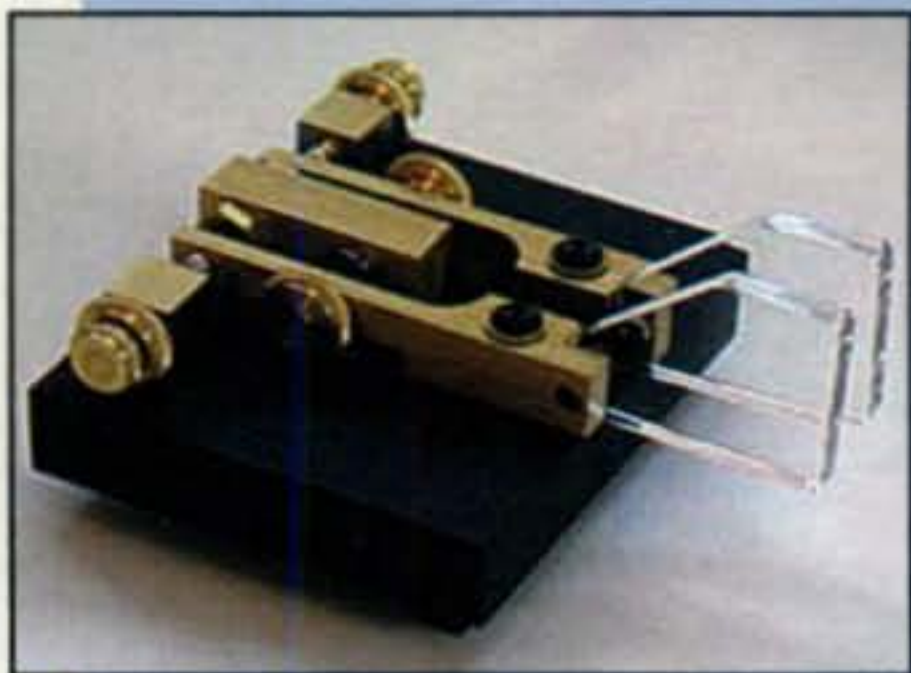


Photo 7—Code Warrior.

office was moved to Mobile, Alabama. Unfortunately, my sister succumbed to cancer in 1999. At that time, production was moved to Mobile and located in the same building as the administrative offices. If you are in the Mobile, Alabama area, come by and visit us.

Changes at Vibroplex

Vibroplex has produced a large variety of keys over the years. Significant new keys since World War II include the Vibrokeyer, introduced in 1960, and the Iambic, introduced in 1979. No new keys were introduced from 1979 until I bought the company.

As anyone reading the ham radio magazines realizes, new products are the lifeblood of amateur radio. Since buying Vibroplex, I have introduced several new keys, with the most significant being the Vibroplex hand key. As a Vibroplex hand key seems to be an oxymoron, I wanted the key to instantly be recognized as a Vibroplex. Also, from a production viewpoint, I wanted to use as many parts that are common to our other keys as possible to minimize inventory. If you look at photo 2, I think you will agree that we accomplished the objectives.

Other new traditional Vibroplex keys that have been introduced include the Double (photo 3) and the Triple (not pictured). We also introduced the Square Racer (photo 4) and the Square Brass Racer (photo 5). A really fun key is the reintroduction of the most collectable modern Vibroplex, our "millennium Bug," the Blue Racer 2000 (photo 6). Each of the Vibroplex keys is available in a variety of finishes, including the Standard, with a black wrinkle powder coating; the Deluxe, which is chrome plated; and Gold, in 14k gold plate. Of course, too, we can't overlook the QRP crowd, so we spiffed up the NorCal kit key as the Code Warrior (photo 7).

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B1-200	1:1	200 W SSB	160-10m	"Low Profile"	\$29.95
Y1-5K+	1:1	5 kW SSB	160-6 m	"YagiBalun"	\$39.95
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PL-259ST	Silver-Teflon, U.S.A.	SALE	\$1.25
PL-259GT	Gold-Teflon, U.S.A.	\$1.69 or \$30 pk of 20	
N-200	N' Silver-Teflon, installs like a PL-259	\$3.25	
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18" single shield - \$4.95 3' - \$4.95 3' double shield - \$ 5.95
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R1 Rotator	8 conductor (2 x #18, 6 x #24) 50' multiples	24¢
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#14 HD	Stranded, 7-conductor hard-drawn	9¢
#14 FlexWeave	168-strand, bare, for any wire ant.	17¢
#12 FlexWeave	259-strand, excellent for long runs	19¢
450 Ladder Line	#16 stranded conductors, poly, 420 Ω	29¢/23¢
450 Ladder Line	#14 stranded conductors, poly, 390 Ω	34¢/29¢
Tinned-copper braid	for grounding, 1/2" @ 65¢/ft or 1" @ \$1.19/ft	
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Photo 8— The Vibroplex hamfest crew, left to right: Les, AA4F; Wayne, WB4JUJ; Marv, K4BVG (SK); and George, W4LT.



Photo 9— (Left) Betsy, WB4ZYK, administration and key refurbisher, and (right) Mitch, W4OA, owner, The Vibroplex Co.

stantly coming up to our displays at hamfests wanting to know if we have parts for grandpa's old bug. Our answer is, if it was made after World War II, we probably have the parts. Parts lists for current-production and other post-WW II keys are on our website, <www.vibroplex.com>. We also offer a refurbishing service. For a standard price of \$40 plus parts and return shipping, we will refurbish your post-WW II key. We don't, however, do plating, but suggest you find a local plating shop that does plating for the motorcycle crowd. They know the meaning of decorative plating.

Vibroplex Today

Although we are not perfect, our quality control is the best it has ever been. Our plating is superb! For example, there are our bases. First, we cut and mill the raw-steel bases square, and then radius the edges. The tops of the bases are milled 30 mils to remove the imperfections in the steel. The base is then polished and plated with 4 to 5 mils of copper. Next the base is polished again, with the soft copper being easy to polish. The polished copper-plated base is then plated with 4 to 5 mils of nickel, and polished again. Then the base is plated with a very thin coat of chrome, just a fraction of a mil, which protects the soft nickel from scratching and keeps it from tarnishing. The shine you see on the base comes from the nickel, which shows through the layer of chrome, and which is so thin that it is transparent.

Our standard-model keys are not painted, but are powder coated. Powder coating is a very fine plastic powder sprayed on the part with a powder gun, which charges the powder so it will stick to the part using static electricity. The part is then placed in an oven and "baked." The plastic powder actually is so fine that it penetrates the pores of the metal and bonds with the metal during the "baking" process. This process produces a finish that is very tough and durable. It will not flake or peel. You can scratch it with a sharp object, but otherwise it is impervious to normal wear and use. The powder coating process can duplicate any paint color or finish. Of course, Vibroplex traditionally uses a wrinkle finish.

A company and its products are no better than its people. We think we have the best crew ever at Vibroplex. I have been a ham since 1963 and have held my Extra Class license since 1969. I have been active on almost all modes and

bands except microwaves. My favorite modes are 40-meter CW and 6-meter sideband. I got my first Vibroplex, a Standard Vibrokeyer, in 1963 when I got my Novice license. I built a W9TO electronic keyer for it and have been "Vibroplexing" ever since.

Our crew at Vibroplex includes Betsy Hopson, WB4ZYK, administration and key refurbisher, and Joan Turner, production and shipping. We also have several part-time employees and contractors who make parts for us. Last, but not least, is the Vibroplex hamfest crew. George, W4LT; Marv, K4BVG (sadly now a Silent Key); Les, AA4F; and Wayne, WB4JUJ, are regulars at our hamfest booths (photo 8). Come by and see us at the Dayton Hamvention® next year.

The Future of Code

I often am asked what I think about the possible elimination of the code requirement for getting a ham license. My answer, and I have always thought this, is that the more people we have in ham radio, the better off we all are. If you want to contest, you almost have to know code. If you want to participate in QRP, you *have* to know code. As new people come into amateur radio, they will migrate into a particular facet of the hobby that appeals to them. That means a certain percentage of them will learn the code in order to participate in QRP or contesting type activities. That's good for amateur radio, and good for Vibroplex. If ham radio ever "goes away," I believe the last transmission will be "dit dit."

Owning Vibroplex for the past ten years has been a lot of fun. I enjoy meeting people at hamfests and talking to them about their grandfather's Bug. I like talking to people on the telephone and helping them get their key or keyer working with their rig. I enjoy getting a call from the *New York Times* librarian asking about the Phillips code. I enjoy seeing a new key come into production. I especially enjoy working with the Vibroplex crew and going to Dayton. I really enjoy looking on eBay and seeing the large number of old Vibroplex keys for sale at sometimes exorbitant prices.

Vibroplex has now been an American institution for 100 years. I hope ham radio and Vibroplex will be around for another 100 years, making quality products for hams working the original digital mode. ■

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Results of the 2003 CQ WW DX SSB Contest

BY BOB COX,* K3EST

Expanded CQ WW Contest Results on the Web

We've moved a few elements of our contest reporting onto the CQ website again this year, including **Station Operators** of Multi-Op stations, **Team Contesting**, and **Zone Leaders/Single Op**. In addition, we have expanded **QRM** on the web.

To view these additional and expanded elements of the 2003 CQ WW SSB results, go to <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>, then click on "Expanded Results, 2003 CQ WW SSB" and select the category you want to see. You may also get there by going to our home page at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>, clicking on "Contest Rules & Info," then clicking on "CQ World Wide DX Contest" and selecting "Expanded Results, 2003 CQ WW SSB."

It was predicted that solar conditions would not cooperate for the 2003 CQ WW DX SSB Contest. However, that did not stop 4093 contesters from entering the world's largest international radio event. For weeks before the contest the bands were quiet. Suddenly, at 0000 UTC on October 25 they exploded into life, and once again the CQ WW made its own propagation. The activity over the weekend can best be summarized by the words of the entrants themselves:

"Once again CQ WW SSB beat the propagation pundits! The sheer volume of signals on the band during CQ WW must warm up the ionosphere, providing better than expected conditions"—G3TXF. "Wow, what a ride! Solar flares followed by great activity and then interrupted by 'RF blackouts'—WN6K (*the best description of the weekend's propagation—ed.*). "Flux at 298—wow! Great conditions; amazing signals on 10 meters. Went very auroral Sunday evening on 40"—G3BJ. "CQ WW wins again!"—GU5W. "Conditions were great on 15 meters! That major flare right before the contest seemed to seed the ionosphere with DX-friendly electrons!"—K2MFY. "Another great WW! The RF blackout on Sunday was the strangest thing we ever saw. All three high bands went to S0 in seconds at 1751Z. After confirming the towers were still standing, we realized what had happened"—W4WS. Aurora, our faithful friend, was again present, even in visible form on Friday night—OH1F.

Sure the CQ WW is a fantastic competition, but it is much more than that. It is a celebration of ham radio skill and effort. Over the years, thousands of hams throughout the world have received their first ham radio thrill in the CQ WW. New hams and old timers who enter the CQ WW become addicted, as evidenced by the following comments from the 2003 contest: "My first contest. I am trapped!"—OA4BQE. This could be addictive—KA2BZS. The greatest phone contest, a five-star contest!—YC2ECG.

Following is a summary of the results. The line scores are presented elsewhere in this issue. Look them over and find your callsign.

High Power, All Band

D4B is located on a mountaintop on an island at 15°N latitude. Over the last few years Al, 4L5A, has built a world-class station, which can be seen at <http://www.qsl.net/d44tt>. All of his hard work has paid off, too. Al took the top position in the world in the very competitive High Power All Band category with the all-time #2 score. Finishing in second place was Jim, W7EJ, who operated CN2R to new heights. Third place went to Dave, NN1N, who put HC8N in lots of logs (<http://hc8n.info/>). The top three entrants in Europe all broke the 5-million points barrier. First place in Europe was M6T operated by Andy, G4PIQ. Second was taken by Steve, GW4BLE, and third place went to Tonno, ES5TV, with his FB station (<http://www.lhv.ee/images/files/es5tv.htm>).

Breaking the 6-million point barrier is a real accomplishment. Bob, KQ2M/1, pushed his station over the barrier for the top U.S. position. A little farther to the north, Randy, K5ZD/1 (on www.qrz.com), took second-place honors. There was a *real* battle for third place between two Indiana friends. Finally, Mike, W9RE, just edged out Pat, N9RV (www.qrz.com). The difference was only about two QSOs! Special mention must be made of the fine score of KH7X operated by Mike, KH6ND. What an effort! For the first time, three Canadian stations made the world top ten box: VY2ZM, VC3AT, and VE2IM.

The top scorers from each continent were: North America 8P1A, Africa D4B, Asia C4W, Japan JH4UYB, Europe M6T, South America HC8N, and Oceania KH7X.

Low Power, All Band

Zone 34 is hard to work, as everyone knows. When SU9NC operated by W9NC takes the world top place Low Power All Band, you know there were a lot of smiles around the world during the contest. I'll bet he could hear, "Yes!!" every time he worked someone. World second place went to CQØT operated by CT1ILT, who is 17 years old! Quite a job. Third place in the world went to A45WD operated by Alex, YO9HP. Another Asian top score and tops in Asiatic Russia was Willy, UA9BA, operating UA9AYA. Second place in Europe went to Zlatko, 9A2EU, and rounding out the top three was Dave, G4BUO.

All three top U.S. entrants were *not* on the east coast . . . well, sort of. Jeff, N8II, in West



The Cape Verde mountaintop location of Single Op, High Power, All Band World winner D4B, operated by Alex, 4L5A.

*e-mail: k3est@cqww.com

TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR

World All Band
D4B (Opr. Alexander Teimurazov, 4L5A)
Donor: Dave Rosen, K2GM
WA2RAU and W2SKE Memorial

World Low Power
Thomas Poland, SU9NC
Donor: Slovenian Contest Club

World QRP
Valentin Benzar, 5B4AGM
Donor: Doc Sayre, W7EW

World Assisted
9Y4ZC (Opr. Bernd Och, DL6FBL)
Donor: CTRI Contest Group

USA
Robert Shohet, KQ2M/1
Donor: Potomac Valley R.C. - KC8C Memorial

USA Low Power
Jeffrey Hartley, N8II
Donor: North Coast Contesters

USA Zone 3
Mitch Mason, K7RL
Donor: Dave Pruett, K8CC & Greg Surma, K8GL

USA Zone 4
Mike Wetzel, W9RE
Donor: Dave Pruett, K8CC & Greg Surma, K8GL

Canada
VY2ZM (Opr. Jeffrey Briggs, K1ZM)
Donor: Niagara Frontier Int'l DX Assn.
VE3WT Memorial

Caribbean/C.A.
8P1A (Opr. Thomas Georgens, W2SC)
Donor: Alex M. Kasevich, VP2MM

Europe
M6T (Opr. Andy Cook, G4PIQ)
Donor: Potomac Valley R.C. - W4BVV Memorial

Europe Low Power
CQ8T (Opr. Filipe Monteiro Lopes, CT1ILT)
Donor: Scott Jones, N3RA & Tim Duffy, K3LR

Russia
Paul Bogachev, RK4FD
Donor: Roman Thomas, RZ3AA

Africa
CN2R (Opr. Jim Sullivan, W7EJ)*
Donor: Gordon Marshall, W6RR

Asia
C4W (Marios Nicolaou, 5B4WN)
Donor: 2 AM Dayton Pizza Gang

Japan
Masaki Okano, JH4UYB
Donor: Tack Kumagai, JE1CKA

Japan Low Power
Minoru Kumoi, JE6EK3
Donor: Western Washington DX Club

Oceania
KH7X (Opr. Michael Gibson, KH6ND)
Donor: Northern California DX Club

South America
HC8N (Opr. David Patton, NN1N)
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND
World - 28 MHz
ZY5G (Opr. Walter Gomes Filho, PP5WG)
Donor: Joel Chalmers, KG6DX

World - 21 MHz
PX5E (Opr. Sergio Almeida, PP5JR)
Donor: Robert Naumann, N5NJ

World - 14 MHz
P40A (Opr. John Bayne, KK9A)
Donor: North Jersey DX Assn. - K2HLB Memorial

World - 7 MHz
EA8AH (Opr. Pekka Kolehmainen, OH1RY)
Donor: Fred Laun, K3ZO - K7ZZ Memorial

World - 3.7 MHz
Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD
Donor: Fred Capossela, K6SSS

World - 1.8 MHz
Bojan Sever, S57M
Donor: Robert Wruble, W7GG

USA - 28 MHz
Bill Tippett, W4ZV
Donor: Donald Thomas, N6DT

USA - 21 MHz
David Pascoe, KM3T/1
Donor: WorldRadio

USA - 14 MHz
Gene Frohman, K1RU
Donor: Southern California DX Club

USA - 7 MHz
Bill Kollenbaum, K4XS
Donor: Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ

USA - 3.7 MHz
Theodore Demopoulos, KT1V
Donor: Alex Jozsa, KG1E

USA - 1.8 MHz
Charles Dietz, W5PR
Donor: CQ Magazine

Carib./C.A. (14 MHz)
KP2A (Opr. James Neiger, N6TJ)
Donor: Nate Moreschi, N4YDU

Europe - 28 MHz
Danijel Voncina, S58D
Donor: WorldRadio

Europe - 21 MHz
Emil Balen, 9A9A
Donor: Tine Brajnik, S50A

Europe - 14 MHz
Robert Cummings, G1BKOW
Donor: A.G. Anderson, GM3BCL

Europe - 7 MHz
Joseph Cornee, F6CTT
Donor: Roger Burt, N4ZC

Europe - 3.7 MHz
Anrzej Worosz, SP8BRQ
Donor: CQ Magazine

Europe - 1.8 MHz
Markovic Milovan, T9/KG6KZK*
Donor: Robert Kasca, S53R

Oceania (28 MHz)
Hans Budhiono, YB2DX
Donor: Bruce D. Lee, KD6WW

Japan - 21 MHz
JI2UNR
Donor: DX Family Foundation

Japan - 14 MHz
Hiroyuki Inaba, JS3CTQ
Donor: Take Yokoyama, JL1BLW

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER

World
VP2E (Oprs.: KC5EA, N5AU, N5KO, N5TJ, K5MR)
Donor: So. Calif. DX Club - W6AM Memorial

USA
K8AZ (Oprs.: K8AZ, K8BL, K8MR, K8PP, N8AA, ND8L, W8CAR, W8KIC, W8K, WT8C)
Donor: Carolina DX Association

Carib./C.A.
VP5DX (Oprs.: AB4UF, NF4L, N4EPD, N4KE, K4UTE, WA4ET, NU4Y)*
Donor: Eric Scace, K3NA

Africa
3V8BB (Oprs.: PY5EG, S56A, YT1AD, YU1AO, YU1FW, YZ1BX)
Donor: Tikiriki Contest Club - IH9P

Asia
P3A (Oprs.: RA9JX, RZ9UA, RW4WR, UA9CDV, UA9UR, RA3AUU, RZ3AA, RA8AM)
Donor: Edward L. Campbell, NT4TT
AA6BB and KA6V Memorial

Japan

JA7YAA (Oprs.: JI5RPT, JE7HLZ, JG7PSJ, JO7DJT, JO7FTJ, JH8NZN)
Donor: Vienna Int'l ARC - 4U1VIC

Europe

IR4X (Oprs.: I4VEQ, I4TJE, I4IND, I4EAT, I4IKW, IK4DCT, IK2NCJ, IK2JUB, IK2QPR, IK2ULH, IZ4BOY)
Donor: Bob Cox, K3EST

Oceania

YB8ZDA (Oprs.: YB88AI, YB88AR, YB88DPO, YB88ECT, YB88LBK, YF88ANA)
Donor: Junichi Tanaka, JH4RHF

South America

FY5KE (Oprs.: F1HAR, F5HRY, F5LND, F5MZN, F6FGZ, F6FVY, FY5FY)
Donor: The Cuba Libra Contest Club - Victor Burns, K16IM

MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTERS

World
IH9P (Oprs.: I2IFT, IK2ANI, IK2CIO, IK2HKT, IK7JWY, I8QLS, IK8ETA, IN3QGY, IT9BLB, OK1FUA)
Donor: Ranko Boca, YT6A

USA

K4JA (Oprs.: K4JA, W3BP, K9JY, KA9FOX, K4MA, K4ZW, KE9I, K9GY)
Donor: Doug Morgan, KH6U - KL7Y Memorial

Europe

9A7A (Oprs.: 9A8A, 9A7V, 9A4RX, 9A4PA, 9A3OS, 9A3TR, 9A6DM)
Donor: Aki Nagi, JA5DQH

Oceania

KH8AA (Oprs.: JP1NWZ, JF1SQC, JA5OVU, JH1EAQ, JE1JKL)
Donor: Japan CQ Ham Radio

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

World
C5Z (Oprs.: AB6BH, K5OT, K6AM, K6JL, OH2KI, N6AA, N6VI, N6ZZ, W6XD)
Donor: Dave Leeson, W6NL & Barb Leeson, K6BL

USA

KC1XX (Oprs.: KC1XX, K1DG, K3EST, K6AW, W2RQ, K1EA, W1FV, K1GQ, P4WW, KC1F)
Donor: Paul Hellenberg, K4JA

Europe

OT3A (Oprs.: DH5HV, JK3GAD, ON1AEI, ON2BIG, ON2BJC, ON4AID, ON4AMI, ON4ASB, ON4AWU, ON4AWV, ON4BAG, ON4CCL, ON4CCM, ON4CDE, ON4CFQ, ON4CHO, ON4CMT, ON4DB, ON4FG, ON4FI, ON4LN, ON4LO, ON4XB, ON5CIM, ON5JC, ON5OT, ON5UM, ON6FX, ON6LK, ON6MR, ON6PU, ON6UM, ON7AM, ON7AW, ON7BRA, ON7CIP, ON7HU, ON7NB, ON9CC, Daniel, Denis, Francois, Laurens, Mia, Nancy, Rupert, ONL10449, ONL10577, PA1BX, PC5A, SP8ARY)
Donor: Finnish Amateur Radio League

Japan

JA3YBK (Oprs.: JH3PRR, JG3KIV, JI3OPA, JP3PZD, JM3XKG, JH4IFF, JH4NMT, JR4PMX, JF4FUF)
Donor: Ryoza Goto, JH3JYS

CONTEST EXPEDITIONS

World Single Operator
VK9XD (Opr. David Burger, VK2CZ)
Donor: National Capitol DX Assn.
Stuart Meyer, W2GHK Memorial

World Multi-Single

VP2E (Oprs.: KC5EA, N5AU, N5KO, N5TJ, K5MR)
Donor: Gail Schieber, K2RED

World Multi-Multi

5I3A (Oprs.: 5H3GRN, 5H3JMN, 5H3NNN, 5H3PEN, 5H3WJN, K1XM [5H1X], KQ1F [5H1F])
Donor: Tachio Yuasa, JA9VDA

SPECIAL SINGLE OPERATOR AWARD

World-All Band Under 21 years old
CQ8T (Opr. Filipe Monteiro Lopes, CT1ILT)
Donor: Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ

*Second place

NEW from Kuranishi Instruments LTD, Japan
BR-200 Professional-Grade SWR/Antenna Analyzer



Perform SWR and impedance measurements with confidence! The BR-200 is a laboratory grade precision test instrument providing a wide-band RF signal source for analyzing antenna systems and other equipment without the need for a separate transmitter. • 1.8-170MHz • High precision meter • 500mW 50 Ohm dummy load included • Impedance measurements: 12.5 - 300 Ohm • Connector: SO-239

NEW

COMET™ & Maldol Dualband and Multiband Base Antennas



**Wi-Fi/802.11b/LAN/HSMM
 Access Point Antennas**

COMET GP-15 • Tri-band 52/146/446MHz Base Repeater Antenna
 • Gain & Wave: 52MHz 3.0dBi 5/8 wave • 146MHz 6.2dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • 446MHz 8.6dBi 5/8 wave x 4 • Max Pwr: 150W • Length: 7'11" • Weight: 3lbs. 1oz. • Conn: Gold-plated SO-239
 • 2MHz band-width after tuning (6M) • Construction: Single-piece fiberglass

COMET CX-333 • Tri-band 146/220/446MHz Base Repeater Antenna
 • Gain & Wave: 146MHz 6.5dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • 220MHz 7.8dBi 5/8 wave x 3 • 446MHz 9.0dBi 5/8 wave x 5 • Max Pwr: 120W • Length: 10'2" • Weight: 3lbs. 1oz.
 • Conn: Gold-plated SO-239 • Construction: Fiberglass, 2 Sections

COMET GP-3 • Dual-band 146/446MHz Base Repeater Antenna
 • Gain & Wave: 146MHz 4.5dBi 6/8 wave • 446MHz 7.2dBi 5/8 wave x 3 • Max Pwr: 200W • Length: 5'11" • Weight: 2lbs. 9ozs. • Conn: Gold-plated SO-239 • Construction: Single-piece fiberglass

COMET GP-6 • Dual-band 146/446MHz Base Repeater Antenna
 • Gain & Wave: 146MHz 6.5dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • 446MHz 9.0dBi 5/8 wave x 5 • Max Pwr: 200W • Length: 10'2" • Weight: 3lbs. 8ozs. • Conn: Gold-plated SO-239 • Construction: Fiberglass, 2 Sections

NEW

Maldol NEW HVU-8 Ultra-compact 8 band HF/VHF/UHF vertical antenna
 80/40/20/15/10/6/2M/70cm Only 1/2 the traditional size and weight of vertical HF antennas, and it includes 2M/70cm! Unique radial system rotates for balcony installations, the radials can all be rotated to one side. • HF and 6M: 1/4 wave-length • Gain FM: 1/2 wave-length, 2.15dBi • Gain 70cm: Two 5/8 waves in phase, 5.5dBi • Impedance: 50 Ohm • Max Power: HF 200W SSB • 6M-70cm: 150W FM • Conn: SO-239 • Height: Only 8'6" • Weight: 5lbs. 7ozs.

COMET GP-9/GP-9N • Dual-band 146/446MHz Base Repeater Antenna • BEST SELLER!
 • Gain & Wave: 146MHz 8.5dBi 5/8 wave x 3 • 446MHz 11.9dBi 5/8 wave x 8 • Max Pwr: 200W • Length: 17'8" • Weight: 5lbs. 11ozs. • Conn: GP-9 Gold-plated SO-239 • GP-9N Gold-plated N-type female • Construction: Fiberglass, 3 Sections

COMET GP-24 The standard high gain 2.4GHz access point antenna for maximum range/signal strength • 2400-2500MHz • Gain: 15.4dBi • Length: 5'10" • Weight: 2lbs. 9ozs. • Conn: Gold-plated N-type female • Construction: Heavy-duty white fiberglass radome

COMET GP-24-3 The same physical high gain 2.4GHz antenna as the GP-24, but with a 3-degree electrical downtilt to concentrate the signal to the horizon and below

COMET GP-24-S Medium gain access point antenna for applications where maximum distance is not as important as a solid signal around and directly below the antenna. • Gain: 9.9dBi • Length: 3'9" • Weight: 1lb. 14ozs. • Conn: Gold-plated N-type female • Construction: Heavy-duty white fiberglass radome



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BAND-BY-BAND BREAKDOWN—TOP ALL BAND SCORES

Number groups indicate: QSOs/Zones/Countries on each band

WORLD TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
D4B	99/14/53	278/24/76	434/27/95	2733/38/141	1785/34/130	3627/32/139
CN2R	111/9/53	587/21/85	960/26/98	1993/31/131	1676/35/113	3355/30/114
HC8N	73/8/17	295/19/64	1048/30/103	1608/33/106	1834/31/120	3506/30/122
PT0F	29/8/16	150/19/58	616/28/95	2825/34/115	1309/31/113	2883/30/105
8P1A	76/7/22	373/17/64	774/24/92	2045/31/107	2990/33/113	3205/27/108
C4W	128/8/41	366/14/64	666/24/88	1344/29/118	613/28/88	2679/30/114
VY2ZM	90/10/31	470/18/76	423/22/74	1157/28/104	2176/29/112	1343/22/99
KH7X	18/7/8	262/24/38	933/33/64	1074/35/90	1319/34/68	2557/32/63
VC3AT	112/6/8	262/15/50	489/21/65	1465/32/113	1825/30/112	819/27/97
VE2IM	22/4/3	247/15/48	300/18/65	1695/25/108	1938/25/105	856/20/82

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
KQ2M/1	17/5/9	274/17/72	182/23/85	1880/33/114	1438/36/125	952/29/108
K5ZD/1	18/6/9	209/17/72	283/23/7	834/32/107	1359/29/110	749/24/95
W9RE	18/6/7	111/15/55	227/25/82	587/34/108	860/32/119	1219/28/110
N9RV	19/7/11	116/14/47	341/23/83	666/31/105	959/30/101	1054/28/95
K3ZO	12/5/9	200/16/60	233/23/77	408/26/84	957/29/104	959/23/99
K3CR	15/5/7	95/14/50	206/23/76	537/30/100	748/30/100	1032/26/102
K9NW	19/7/10	72/16/42	235/20/72	424/31/101	773/28/110	931/29/106
W3BGN	26/7/13	127/18/60	138/23/69	609/29/101	661/26/101	610/29/107
K5TR	12/6/9	82/17/37	201/27/82	411/29/91	1104/32/105	902/31/104
N2LT	15/6/9	44/12/24	78/19/47	404/29/92	650/31/108	1092/30/115

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

VP2E	128/13/47	414/24/88	1162/32/130	2763/39/147	2990/39/151	4160/35/157
FY5KE	100/13/50	320/21/79	903/29/119	1201/35/138	2268/35/145	4276/33/145
P3A	163/10/61	923/20/83	1201/27/103	1835/36/131	1671/37/133	3417/37/145
3V8BB	215/7/53	629/16/74	1008/24/100	1734/34/122	1801/37/135	2362/35/133
IR4X	69/8/58	259/18/77	1045/32/118	994/38/136	1867/38/145	1815/37/147
VP5DX	106/12/26	294/18/66	664/25/91	973/34/126	2274/30/116	1932/31/121

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

K8AZ	18/6/17	99/21/67	193/28/101	921/37/135	742/34/125	800/32/138
K1IR	14/7/13	263/17/76	254/27/98	490/34/117	1024/30/116	571/30/118
N4PN	24/9/22	44/16/42	175/29/96	532/34/112	901/34/122	862/31/129
N0NI	20/11/16	63/16/41	174/25/84	522/33/114	652/33/118	801/31/127
W4WS	9/4/8	67/12/38	175/25/85	432/33/113	803/33/120	759/31/125
AA2MF	24/6/10	120/16/53	191/24/88	326/28/106	876/29/113	661/29/115

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

IH9P	457/11/6	1024/21/88	1290/28/107	2265/37/139	3491/38/144	3304/36/144
PJ2T	146/8/23	498/19/63	1495/30/120	2443/36/130	4015/33/134	3732/31/132
CT9L	71/7/49	273/15/73	1119/28/105	2455/36/133	3227/36/135	3815/33/135
VP5B	214/9/22	1078/23/81	1431/28/85	2156/31/97	3968/33/118	3967/31/103
V26N	112/7/21	292/18/59	1059/22/95	2427/32/115	3431/33/129	3780/31/118
KH0AA	3/2/3	187/27/38	782/31/79	1218/37/131	2831/39/119	2568/36/118

USA MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

K4JA	64/12/33	498/21/93	540/31/117	911/39/142	1780/37/145	1583/34/142
N3RS	47/9/21	329/19/85	580/31/115	993/38/140	1933/36/140	1394/32/137
K1KI	23/7/16	215/19/71	378/29/98	1112/37/131	1921/35/134	1301/32/137
N2NT	53/10/27	297/19/81	320/26/99	966/36/130	1361/33/126	1180/30/137
W4RM	24/7/10	260/18/72	380/29/101	869/37/123	1330/35/127	1283/31/141
NT1Y	42/11/22	321/21/82	277/28/95	796/36/123	1377/29/129	998/31/132

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

C5Z	69/11/39	690/22/91	1474/35/120	3637/37/146	3982/38/148	4178/34/129
A61AJ	309/8/55	1432/29/95	2107/38/137	2371/40/164	3100/39/153	3671/37/164
CQ9K	107/8/48	444/16/82	1171/27/101	3367/38/149	2999/38/143	3521/35/152
YV4A	129/9/29	339/19/59	921/29/105	2772/37/128	2581/31/117	3088/30/113
KC1XX	101/12/38	632/23/98	805/34/126	1551/39/161	2702/37/158	1846/32/142
OT3A	764/11/64	1374/20/82	1909/33/115	2411/40/152	2334/36/137	1566/32/133

USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

KC1XX	101/12/38	632/23/98	805/34/126	1551/39/161	2702/37/158	1846/32/142
W3LPL	236/12/30	457/22/93	789/34/125	1682/38/152	2022/36/149	1708/35/145
K9NS	207/12/28	272/24/72	448/31/110	1469/40/145	2340/36/151	1910/34/153
K1TTT	95/9/24	373/19/86	301/26/96	1270/38/133	1935/32/138	1031/31/134
NQ4I	216/9/26	319/23/88	293/26/95	1483/39/143	1632/35/133	1381/33/140
K1RX	51/6/19	220/17/70	484/27/106	1262/38/136	1677/33/131	897/30/124

The top scorers from each continent were: North America N8IE, Africa EA8TX, Asia 5B4AGM, Japan JH7RTQ, Europe F5BEG, South America LU1VK, and Oceania KH6/K0CD.

Assisted

The Assisted category offers a way for DXers and contesters to contribute to their club scores. The secret to doing well in this category is to remember that QSOs are the name of the game. Try not to chase the band map too much, and you may end up with a better score than by QSYing each time a juicy multiplier flies by on the screen.

Place an excellent operator in an excellent location and the combination is tough to beat. Bernd, DL6FBL, as 9Y4ZC talked his way to the world #1 spot in the Assisted category. Perennially among the world's top scorers is John, W2GD; second place went to him. Third place went to D44TD. The top honor in Europe was won by TM7F. He was followed by Fabio, IT9GSF, and Igor, UT7QF. In the U.S., W2RE walked away with a 1.3-million point lead to garner the top spot. Second place went to Bob, W4MYA, operating from central Virginia, while third place went to Noah, K2NG. Two Asian stations did very well; YM2ZF (ex-M0SDX) edged out RG9A. A long way from population centers, JR1AIB and VK4UC did outstanding jobs.

The top scorers from each continent were: North America KP3Z, Africa D44TD, Asia



Jacek, CE0Y/SQ9BOP, operated in the Single Op, Low Power, All Band category from Easter Island.

YM2ZF, Japan JR1AIB, Europe TM7F, South America 9Y4ZC, and Oceania VK4UC.

Multi-Single

The Multi-Single category is one of the most competitive. It entails assembling a team and months of planning. How do you set a new world MS record, a record that has stood for many years at around 23-million points? The first thought would be to plan to go to a three-point area. Yes, that makes sense. However, this time throw out that idea. The new champions and new world MS record holder is the

team who placed VP2E in 11,617 logs! Since you are allowed only one run station, that figures out to be about 229 QSOs/hr for 48 hrs! Wow! Congratulations to the team.

The top three stations all finished above 20-million points! The world second spot went to the FY5KE team. Finishing a very FB third was the P3A group. The top European score came from the team operating from Bologna, IR4X (ex-IQ4A). The next four MS stations all finished above 8-million points. HG6N was second, followed by DA0BCC, OK5W, and OM7M. In the U.S., Tom's crew at K8AZ operating from northeastern Ohio took the top spot. The fine score of K1IR took second, followed by the team from N4PN. Multi-single is a real party, and if you get a chance to join a team you will find it a real learning experience.

The top scorers from each continent were: North America VP2E, Africa 3V8BB, Asia P3A, Japan JA7YAA, Europe IR4X, South America FY5KE, and Oceania YB0ZDA.

Multi-Two

"It was a fun weekend and the Multi-Two operation just gets better"—D70LW. "Running part of our usual Multi-Multi field-day setup with less than half of the 2002 crew, the planned targets have been fully achieved (QSOs, mults, and final score). Local 'moscato passito' wine, friendship, and acquired know-how have been again the keys of another great result"—IH9P. IH9P is the new world Multi-Two record holder, and what a fine job

EUROPE TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
M6T	188/10/53	658/17/71	504/20/84	603/26/85	1710/34/109	828/25/103
GW4BLE	110/6/43	556/15/64	398/23/82	551/26/92	1362/26/91	1108/27/94
ES5TV	185/7/45	317/17/75	506/29/101	895/33/121	1077/34/122	745/34/130
GM7V	151/8/46	650/16/72	410/22/84	896/32/97	1318/29/101	624/26/101
TM2Y	67/6/41	330/17/62	224/21/83	425/28/96	873/32/99	1286/31/112
S57DX	106/6/37	555/16/65	512/26/90	783/32/111	1011/33/102	603/30/102
DJ5MW	126/7/42	547/12/64	138/18/65	438/24/90	1239/30/106	966/32/110
EA4KD	12/3/11	134/10/51	340/20/77	961/27/96	1005/32/95	1010/24/88
OH0B	140/7/48	245/13/56	542/26/77	1088/33/111	1195/29/94	444/25/91
DJ4PT	177/8/51	254/14/60	372/25/88	681/31/93	883/31/95	448/26/83

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

IR4X	69/8/58	259/18/77	1045/32/118	994/38/136	1867/38/145	1815/37/147
HG1S	112/9/56	464/17/79	898/30/119	879/35/129	1581/37/139	1325/34/146
OK5W	97/8/52	441/17/76	875/30/113	959/38/143	1992/38/144	556/33/138
OM7M	183/8/58	675/19/85	739/32/116	1208/38/129	1486/37/153	684/35/143
OE2S	191/7/53	675/18/79	580/28/110	792/37/125	1244/38/142	1463/35/147
SY8A	170/9/54	662/14/74	1170/29/112	1078/35/125	1725/37/127	1563/36/128

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

9A7A	351/8/57	946/17/77	961/30/113	1891/39/143	1779/39/140	2083/37/150
HG6N	522/11/62	1007/19/79	853/29/120	1412/36/132	2157/39/138	1469/34/133
DA0BCC	297/8/57	672/19/81	940/32/115	1280/38/132	1929/38/147	1510/35/146
RU1A	177/9/56	923/27/100	1172/32/121	2078/39/145	2177/38/141	836/33/128
MD4K	624/11/61	969/16/75	1021/23/99	2254/37/135	2499/38/134	792/30/127
OH1F	231/8/50	555/17/73	595/32/111	2026/39/139	1450/37/134	561/32/122

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

OT3A	764/11/64	1374/20/82	1909/33/115	2411/40/152	2334/36/137	1566/32/133
DF0HQ	947/12/65	1483/22/94	1670/32/114	2474/40/162	2021/39/162	1479/37/157
LZ9W	539/9/57	912/19/79	1512/30/113	1680/39/142	2089/36/140	1245/36/142
RW2F	407/9/60	794/18/78	1074/29/115	1700/39/136	2110/35/140	776/35/136
HBD/HB9AON	694/7/56	1402/15/75	1306/20/96	1939/31/119	1425/27/108	1202/25/104
IS0/DL3EW	256/9/57	729/15/69	739/22/80	2048/33/123	1561/34/118	2066/34/127

they did. Second place went to the contesting consortium at PJ2T. Facing south and west on Curacao, this seasoned team put PJ on the map. A great job was done by the CT9L team led by the Rhein-Ruhr DX Association. Europe's top score came from 9A7A, the Radio Club Varazdin Contest Team. Second place went to HG6N, the Salgotttarjani Varosi RadioKlub. Here in the U.S., Paul's crew at K4JA reprised their win from 2002. After carefully constructing a FB station in Tidewater, Virginia, K4JA's team walked away with the U.S. Multi-Two top score and a new record. Second place went to N3RS, Sig's fine team in the Philadelphia area. Third place went to a Yankee Clipper Contest Club station, K1KI.

The top scorers from each continent were: North America VP5B, Africa IH9P, Asia UP5G, Japan JR1ZTT, Europe 9A7A, South America PJ2T, and Oceania KH0AA.

Multi-Multi

The C5Z crew arrived at their location and prepared to set up verticals on the beach. The only problem was that the Gambian government had decided to remake the beach. Getting around the problem required very long coaxial cables, but all the work paid off. The C5Z gang took home the coveted Multi-Multi crown. They were followed by Ali, A61AJ's fine crew from Dubai. They say that 16% of the world's cranes are in Dubai; one was used to put up antennas at A61AJ. In third place was CQ9K. This all-CT3 crew did an outstanding job! Breaking into the top world six was the team at KC1XX. They felt the effect of the aurora, but not enough to dent their great multiplier total. Second place in the U.S. went to Frank, W3LPL's crew. Located in the rolling hills of central Maryland, his gang used the eight towers holding up big antennas to their best advantage. For third place you have to go much farther west to the home of the Mount Frank Contesters. There you will find K9NS. They sure do get out.

Introducing new hams to contesting and gathering together a large party is what OT3A was all about. With 50 operators, they must have had the largest crew. They took the top Europe spot. You can check-

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

Zone 3	VO1AU.....5,514,435	SN8F.....2,202,860
K7RL.....1,999,830	K3ZO.....4,240,200	*9A2EU.....2,199,724
K5RR/7.....1,658,435	K3CR.....4,021,509	YL6W.....2,061,720
W6PH.....1,236,690	W3BGN.....3,456,607	
WA7LT.....932,340	N2LT.....3,245,274	Zone 16
*N6MU.....838,134	K1ZR.....2,922,624	RK4FD.....2,853,785
*K8IA/7.....826,117	AA1K/3.....2,508,504	*UA4FER.....1,476,366
K7RI.....562,424		RJ1Z.....1,320,304
*WN6K.....521,094	Zone 14	RD4M.....998,800
WR6M.....514,324	M6T.....5,518,331	*RU3QW.....995,687
K6LRN.....469,299	GW4BLE.....5,356,955	RN3ZC.....874,923
	*CQ0T.....5,291,104	RD3A.....769,698
Zone 4	GM7V.....4,948,370	RK3BA.....711,383
VC3AT.....6,898,752	TM2Y.....4,376,532	RZ4FA.....675,200
W9RE.....4,872,366	DJ5MW.....4,118,400	*RZ3DW.....558,832
N9RV.....4,868,525	EA4KD.....3,850,674	
K9NW.....3,611,608	DJ4PT.....3,712,885	Zone 25
K5TR.....3,337,350	EI8IR.....3,325,350	JH4UYB.....3,866,265
VE3PN.....2,062,482	GM0F.....2,442,032	JA6GCE.....2,231,840
VE3SY.....1,702,148		JA7NVF.....1,424,130
K0SR.....1,694,607	Zone 15	JM1XCW.....1,309,308
N4TZ/9.....1,581,888	ES5TV.....5,049,000	JR3NZC.....720,405
*N5AW.....1,551,930	S57DX.....4,344,600	JA2FSM.....550,240
	OH0B.....3,807,620	JA1TMG.....461,121
Zone 5	ZA1A.....3,097,575	*JE6EKC/3.....417,294
VY2ZM.....8,843,125	II4A.....2,471,064	JH1UAJ.....373,065
KQ2M/1.....6,088,992	LY2MW.....2,390,256	JA4YHX.....280,438
K5ZD/1.....5,630,769	YL2KO.....2,252,024	*Low Power



José, YV6BTF, made a nice showing from Venezuela, Single Op, High Power, All Band.

out their station at <<http://www.on7lr.be>>. Second place went to the Ilmenau Contest Club, DF0HQ (<http://www.tuilmenau.de/~df0hq/index.html>). Third place in Europe went to the LZ9W contest team.

The top scorers from each continent were: North America KC1XX, Africa C5Z, Asia A61AJ, Japan JA3YBK, Europe OT3A, South America YV4A, and Oceania DX1DBT.

Team Contesting

Get five contesters together from anywhere, form a team, and you can enter the Team Contesting category. This year's SSB winner was Contest Club Finland's Team Suana. They led the pack of 18 entries. Here is the lineup:

1. CCF Team Sauna (9,255,886 pts.): OH6NIO, OH0Z (OH4JFN), OH2RA, OH0B (OH2UA), 5W0UU (OH3UU).
2. WWYC Ragchewers (8,956,668 pts.): CQ0T, G0MTN, MJ2Z, NR3X, SM3W.
3. YCCC Phone Alpha (7,589,523 pts.): W2WB, N1SV, W1RZF, KS1J, W1CTN.
4. WWYC Lids on Purpose (6,610,773 pts.): 9A7P, I3MLU, L44DX, OT3R, SP1DID.
5. YCCC Phone Bravo (5,788,668 pts.): W1ZT, K1RV, K1HT, W1KT, W1TE.
6. YCCC Phone Charlie (5,226,702 pts.): K1LD, WA1Z, WO1N, KG1E, W1DAD.
7. Minnesota Wireless Assn. Team #1 (4,391,422 pts.): LA/N0HJZ, N0FP, K0KX, AC0W, KH6/WA2HFI.
8. Aztecas Contesting Revolutions (3,868,220 pts.): XE1CQ, XE1CT, XE1KK, XE2AUB, XE2AC.
9. YCCC Phone Delta (3,812,189 pts.): W1EBI, N1UR, W1JQ, KT1V, W1EL.



Andrew, OZ1XJ, and Jan, OZ1ADL, Multi-Single at OZ5E.

10. Team Australis (3,589,836 pts.): VK2IA, VK9XD (VK2CZ).
11. CCF Team Terva (3,580,497 pts.): EA8EA (OH2MM), EA8AH (OH1RY), EA8BH (OH2BH), OH8L (OH8LQ), OH0V (OH6LI).
12. CCF Team Sibelius (1,545,699 pts.): OH4RH, OH6OS.
13. WWYC Showing Off (1,174,026 pts.): KE9R, OE8CIQ, OE8YDQ, LZ5AZ.
14. CCF Team Sisu (1,031,118 pts.): OH2LU, OH3WW, OH5DX, OH6KXL, OH6QU.
15. CCF Team Finlandia (671,565 pts.): OH5B (OH5BM), OH4A (OH9MM).
16. WWYC Singles (629,131 pts.): LX7I, LY7Z, PY8AZT.
17. YCCC Phone Echo (582,408 pts.): K1VU, K1NQ, KB1JCT.
18. Minnesota Wireless Assn. Team #2 (494,405 pts.): WB0TRA, N0KK, K0AD, WA2MNO, WG0M.

Records

On the CQ web page (www.cq-amateur-radio.com) and the cqww.com web page are the All-Time Records for each continent and country. Setting a new record is difficult and challenging. Take a look at your country's records and choose one you can shoot for. Congratulations to the following stations that set new records.

- World: KP4KE (Q3.7), IH9P (M2), VP2E (MS)
- Africa: IH9P (M2)
- Asia: BA4RF (A7), RA0CG (A14), P3A (MS)
- Europe: CQ0T (CT1ILT) (LA), YU1NR (Q14)
- Japan: JH7LRS (A14), JR1ZTT (M2)
- North America: VP2E (MS)
- Oceania: KH6WW (W8QZA) (Q14), KH0AA (M2)
- South America: HC1/NP3D (L7), 9Y4ZC (AA), PY2WC (A7), PJ2T (M2)
- U.S.: K4JA (M2)

Special Mention

For many, the CQ WW sure brings out the desire to travel. Thanks to the many DXpeditions and the efforts of hundreds of contesters, the contest experience is made more interesting. Here are some calls you probably worked: C6/VA3SWG, 8P1A, V31LZ, VY2ZM, ZF2AH, TO5A, PJ7/OK1BNS, PJ7/OK1NS, VP5/W9RN, KP2/K2ZZ, KP2A, EA8EA, EA8AH, EA8BH, D4B, CN2R, 9J2KC, YI3DX, 9N7MV, 9N7ET, BW4/UA3VCS, UK/JE7RJZ, OH0B, OH0V, ZA1A, T9/KG6KZK, SV9/PA9NMH, YM0T, J43J, GU5W, MJ2Z, MW/VE6WQ, 9M6A, 9M8YY, 9M6OO, 4W2A, 4W4W, V73AZ, ZL/W3SE, KH0A, YJ0ONM, 5W0UU, DU7/G4DUM, VK9XD, P40A, CE0Y/SQ9BO, CE0Y/

SP9PT, CE0Y/SP9EV, HC1/NP3D, HC8N, KH6/K0CD, KH6WW, HC1/EW1AR, PJ7/AH8DX, IH9YIT, 4U1ITU, OH0Z, P40W, 9Y4ZC, VP2E, TI5A, HR6/VE3BW, VP5DX, EA8ZS, CQ3T, 3V8BB, V55V, P3A, J49Z, JW5E, V63B, ZK1SSB, PJ4T, V26B, VP9I, TI8M, V47DM, 5J0X, VP5B, IH9P, MD4K, AH2R, KH0AA, PJ2T, PZ5A, V26DX, VB2C, TI5N, V47KP, VP5T, C5Z, CQ9K, 5I3A, A61AJ, HB0/HB9AON, and IS0/DL3EW.

Comments

As the opening comments indicated, the 2003 CQ WW SSB was a real roller coaster ride. The conditions were much better than expected and the solar flux really did hit 298! We received about 4100 contest logs, about 4000 of which were electronic! Your effort to submit an electronic log allows for a fairer adjudication process. Thanks to all the contesters around the world who sent in a log. Please send in your log, no matter how small.

Submitting an electronic log is easy. Send your SSB log and summary to ssb@cqww.com (CW logs to cw@cqww.com). Please send your log in Cabrillo format. The Cabrillo format is now a standard submission with CT, TR, NA SuperDuper, and WriteLog. Remember to name your file with your call with .cbr extension—e.g., C5Z.cbr. If you did everything okay, you will get back an acknowledgement. If there was something wrong, you will get a message telling you what to do to correct the error. The messages are presented in numerous languages. If you don't see your native language and you would be willing to help out by translating for your fellow countrymen, please send an e-mail to questions@cqww.com for more information.

Several problems have arisen with the use of packet. First there is using packet to help find QSOs, mostly multipliers. We have addressed this problem by checking all SSB entries for unclaimed packet use. Again we can report that very few entrants made the mistake of not claiming the correct category. There were eight entrants who were reclassified. The second problem is the use of packet to self-spot, which is against the rules. Self-spotting can be broken down into an entrant doing it himself with his call, or a participant trying to hide the fact that he is doing it by using other callsigns. The first case is almost always due to ignorance of the rules. We notify those stations of the offence. The second



The TI8M ops (l. to r.): Back row TI2KAC, K4ZJ, N5VI, K4WPM; front W4KTR, W4BD, and K4UN with Oso.

case is a deliberate attempt to hide the spot by the entrant or by someone associated with the entrant. Fortunately, the internet is very exact and the ISP address of every spot can be traced. We found several stations who even used Silent Key calls (not club calls) as spotting calls. There is nothing wrong with coming across a station and spotting it, but self-spotting is against the rules. The CQ WW has few requirements: write down the callsign of the station to which you are talking, claim the correct category, and do not self-spot. It's not so hard. Everyone should enter the contest to have fun, meet friends, perhaps work some new ones, and compete fairly.

Thanks

Thanks to the CQ WW log checkers who validated the winners and provided insight into many contesting topics. The 2003 crew included: K1DG, K3WW, K3ZO, KR2Q, N2AA, N2NC, N3ED, N6ZZ, N9RV, W3ZZ, K1AR, KM3T, KT3Y, N5TJ, N5NJ, K6AW, and N8BJQ. Our DX advisors were very helpful in offering advice, providing information, and sorting out potential problems: CT1BOH, DL6RAI, EA3DU, F6BEE, G3SXW, I2UIY, JE1CKA, OH2KI, OH2MM, OK2FD, PY5EG, S50A, UA9BA, VA7RR, VE3EJ, and E21EIC.

A special thanks to Dick, N6AA, and Larry, N6TW, who once again spent countless hours to make the CQ WW database the best in contesting. The CQ WW uses the software developed by Tree, N6TR. Additional software provided by WT4I was used. The results were proofread by VE3EJ. Translations of the rules into Spanish, Japanese, German, Turkish, and French were done by EA3DU, JE1CKA, DL6RAI, TA3J, and F6BEE, respectively. The CQ WW records are maintained by John, N2NC, and K3EST. Phil, N6ZZ, put in lots of hours making sure the database was as clean as possible. Thanks also to John, K1AR, for his advice and hard work to make the CQ WW so successful.

Congratulations to all the winners! To participate and have fun is what contesting is all about! CU in the 2004 contest.

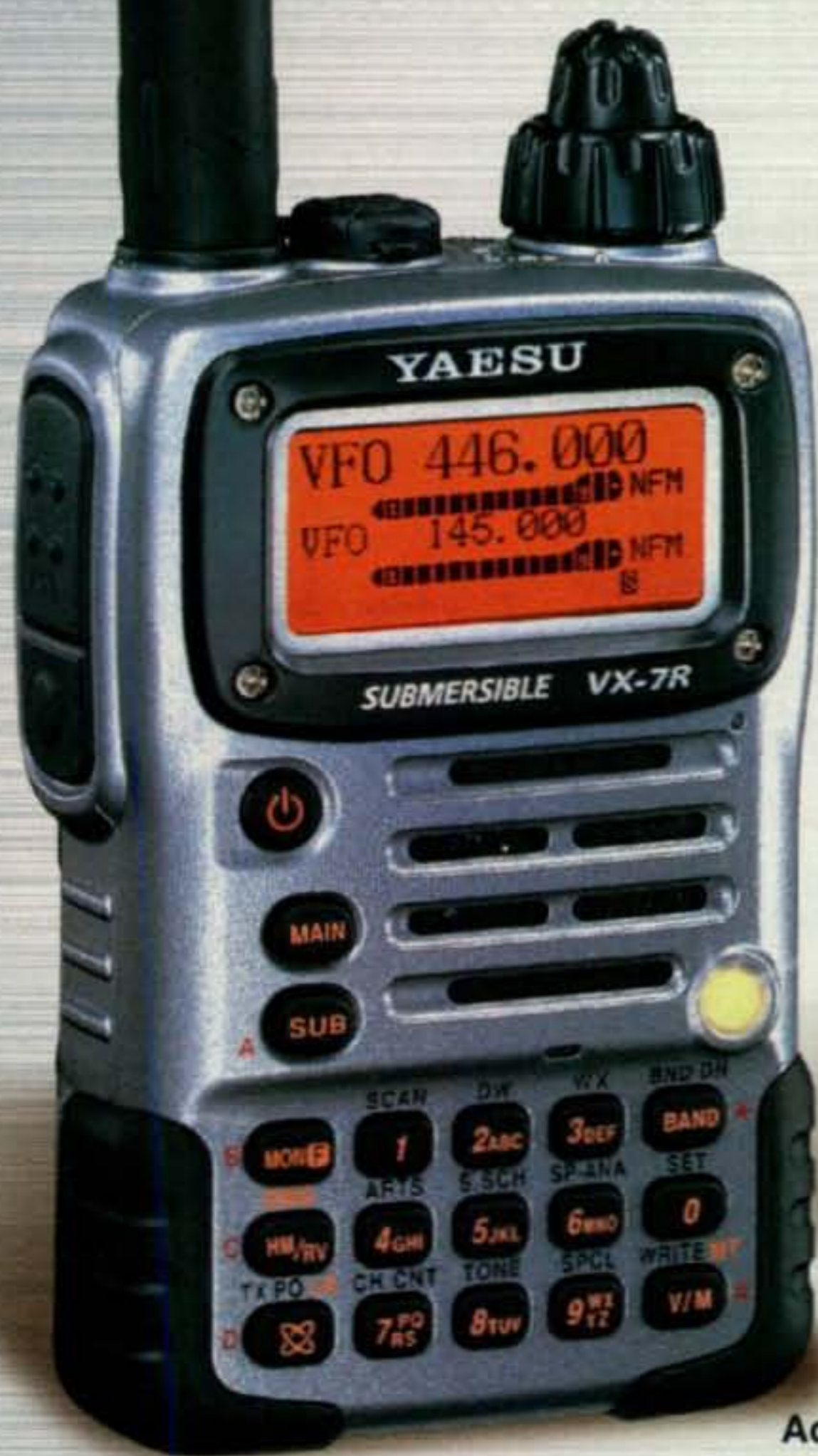
73, Bob, K3EST

DX QRM

Conditions were excellent the first night, but the second night there was very heavy atmospheric noise. Many QSOs were missed because of this. . . . 4X4NJ. Thanks to Yuri, XE1UN, the 6D9X contest group is born. Contesting is alive and well in Mexico! . . . 6D9X. Output power's only lonely 10w. MNI TNXs 4 pickin' me out! CU on my love, 10m. . . . 7K2PBB. What a run on the first night, but soon the solar flare was in full effect here in 8P. Congrats to PX5E, who never missed a beat all weekend. I actually had to check whether my antennas were still in the air a couple of times—that's how bad it got on 15 at times on Sunday. . . . 8P2K. Multi-Single our first attempt. Very good score for portable setup. No fatal breakdowns with equipment. . . . 9A8R. I could enjoy this contest in Zambia. There was a power failure during the contest. . . . 9J2KC. I enjoyed the contest in Nepal. . . . 9N7ET. Many thanks to my old school for hosting me again. I enjoyed this one greatly. . . . C4W. Condx were great to Europe. Lost 1.5 hour when electricity went QRT. . . . CN2R. Very good propagation on 10m, but too bad in the others. Thanks for the beautiful pile-ups. . . . CO8DM. I am 17 years old and I enjoyed a lot this contest. . . . CQ0T. Good DX conditions on Saturday. On Sunday evening at 17:30 all bands closed. Before contest weekend watched on TV about intense solar explodes. Was an effect of it. . . . CX9AU. Condx in contest changing very quickly. My thanks to everyone who called me and get with me on another bands. Special thanks to N6TJ, CT1BOH. . . . D4B. It was a fun weekend and the Multi-Two operation gets better. . . . D70LW. DP1POL is located at Neumayer sta-

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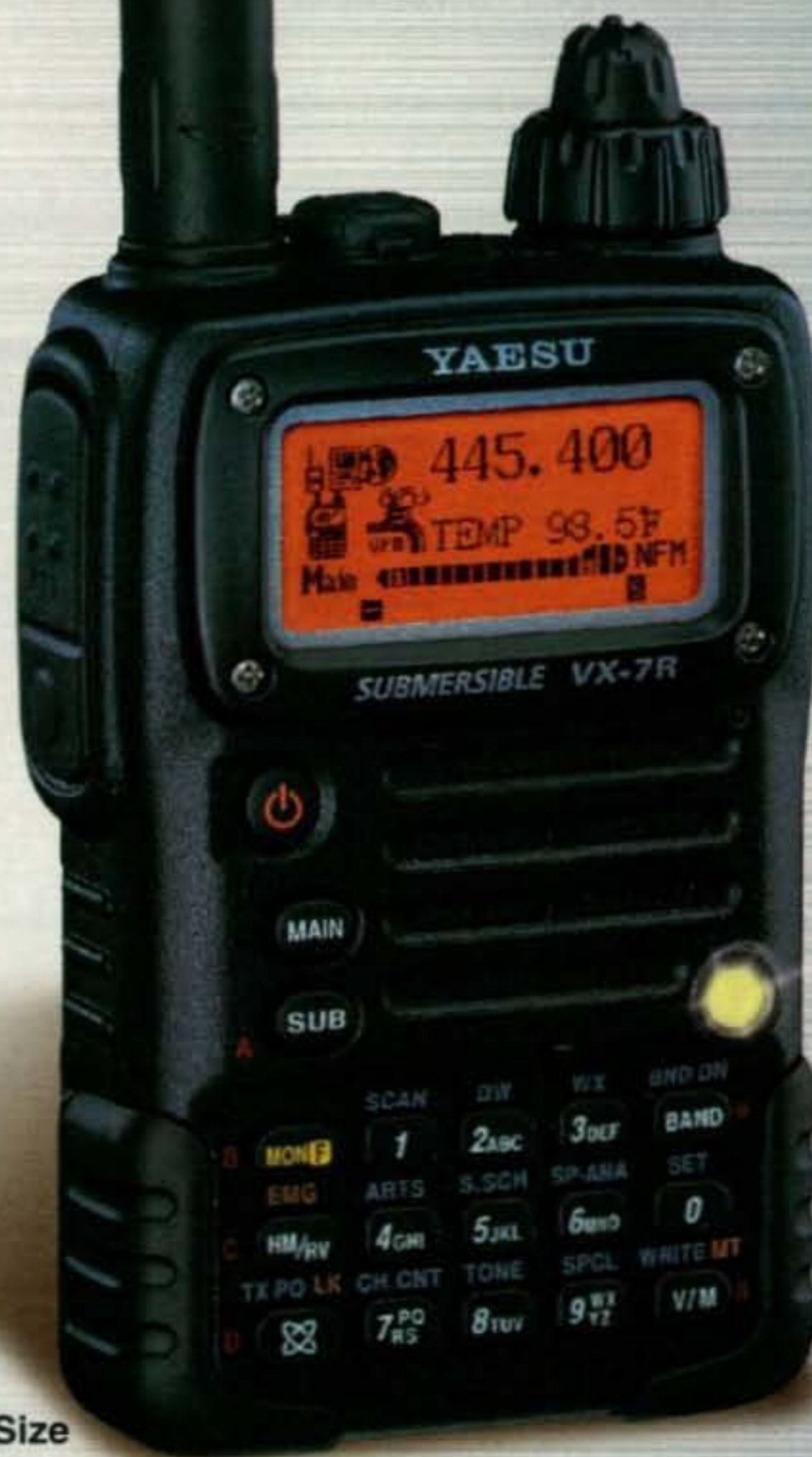
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tion, a German polar research base in Antarctica. I am a member of the 23rd wintering team 2003, and have been working on the base since December 2002. It was good fun to hear "thanks for the mult" every now and then. Unfortunately, some stations were not using current country files, which led to a few lengthy discussions about the validity of my CQ Zone. Yes, I know that Germany is in zone 14, but this is not where I was. . . . **DP1POL**. I used mobile antenna at the door and power 100w. Thanks to all QSOs and thanks to CQ for support contest! . . . **E21EIC**. Thanks to "Propagation" column in CQ magazine. NW7US was right with his predictions. We had glorious openings on 10m! . . . **EA3ALV**.

Our first experience as Multi-Single (two operators). Too many work on Friday afternoon (we found the antenna cables cut) and we paid the first night and the whole Saturday because we were really tired, but the final score encourage us for the next CQWW. . . . **ED3SSB**. I operated from a motor home at the tip of the ring of Kerry, Ireland, one of the most beautiful places in the world. . . . **EI2VNO**. Last time was 31 years ago in 1972 with call 9C9ES, mode phone 20m. . . . **EP3PTT**. No doubt: CW is far easier for small guns! . . . **F5SGI**. For sure, if every mosquito puncture counts as QSO, we may have set a new world record! . . . **FY5KE**. Flux at 298—wow! Great conditions: amazing signals on 10, low noise on LF. Went very auroral Sunday evening on 40. . . . **G3BJ**. Once again CQWW SSB beat the propagation pundits! The sheer volume of signals on the band during CQWW must warm up the ionosphere, providing better than expected conditions (on 15m at least). . . . **G3TXF**. Conditions weren't good on Saturday, though late afternoon on 10m I was able to get a semi-decent run going. Got a bit fed up with my performance on the first day, so took the luxury of 4 hours sleep from 2320Z. Sunday was better; I could run 10m much earlier. At times when I could only just hear the W callers, they seemed to hear my 100w easily. First day's QSO total was 1052 and second day 1075, showing how much better Sunday really was. . . . **G4BUO**. Variable conditions at times leading to some excellent propagation into NA on Saturday afternoon. Increasing auroral activity on Sunday affected the length and range of the propagation. . . . **G4F**. Hard going at the start with the solar flare killing some bands. Enjoyed the contest once again this year but very tiring! . . . **GM2T**. Thanks especially to GU0SUP, GU4YOX, and GU6EFB for their hospitality. Unbelievably high solar flux (298) led to great conditions and the solar flares held off until the day after the contest. CQWW wins again! . . . **GU5W**. My first CQWW from Italy. Took one



Dave, VO1AU, relaxing after his Single Op, High Power, All Band effort.

FT-990 and a 6-band vertical out of a container on Saturday and had fun competing for a DXCC. In 14 hours I nearly made it, working 98 countries. . . . **I7/9A3A**.

First time in Multi-Two. Running part of our usual Multi-Multi field-day setup and less than half of the 2002's crew, the planned targets have been fully achieved. Local "moscato passito" wine, friendship, and acquired know how have been again the keys of another great result. . . . **IH9P**. Mr. Murphy called me. He told he will visit me during the CW contest! Nice contest in SO2R setup with homemade automatic switching. No amplifier to tune for mults' radio. Big antenna work till Friday. For me the contest period is always more than 48 hours! It lasts a full week! . . . **IT9GSF**. Congratulations for organization in CQWW. In 2002 for me the first participation in CQWW and in 2003 it's the second, but I'm a novice always. Good propagation on 15 and 10, bad in other bands. . . . **IZ7EVZ**. My first CQWW in more than 17 years. I came back on the air this year. Times have changed, but the excitement of CQWW contest has not. See you next year! . . .

JA1BPA. It was nice to be back on Guam contesting again after 8 years off island. . . . **KG6DX**. Forty meters single band, non-serious. This is the only antenna I have still up. All others are down for shipment to the Kenai. . . . **KL7RA**. In loving memory of Pablo de Cesare, LU3VAH (SK), 1963-2003, my son. . . . **LU1VK**. My first contest. I am 16 years old. . . . **LU8EOT**. Need a Beverage for the next time. More radials made the vertical array working better. LX7I did it better again. I'll try it again next year. . . . **LX1KC**. WWYC team singles. First time operating SOSB in the CQWW. I missed some countries and zones but nice contest! . . . **LX7I**. Yup! Very hot contest. Lovely! I'm waiting next year! Thanks to all folks for QSOs and hope to contact them again! . . . **LZ5AZ**. Ten meters was amazing considering the two x-flares during the contest! Enjoyed it certainly, apart from the pile-up gotaways! . . . **M0DDT**.

After five minutes with the mult station headphones, my 7-year-old son wanted to get a novice license so he could say "Mike One Papa," too. . . . **M1P**. My first entry in CQWW. Only licensed since March 2003. Yaesu FT-817 (5 watts), Cushcraft R6000 vertical + G5RV. Delighted with the score (and a KH0) running just 5w. . . . **M3RCV**. Great fun as always. David, M3DKG, is only 9 years old. I think he is now hooked on contesting. . . . **M4T (G0VQR)**. Great fun as usual. Started late since was still stringing out Beverage, which was bad planning but good choice since it helped work some mults later. . . . **M6T**. Interesting propagation on 10m. The gamble to do single band at fall of the cycle paid off. Always enjoy the meeting of old pals. . . . **MU0FAL**. My first contest, as I have only been licenced a few weeks. Thanks to the sponsors, and hope to be back next year. . . . **MU3GSY**. Propagation surprisingly good and enjoyed my effort; was never going to be a full-time one. This year some exceptionally strong signals from all parts of the world on all bands. . . . **MW5EPA**. My first contest. I am trapped! . . . **OA4BQE**. Nice condx most of the contest. Almost broke our record, but then the solar flare stopped everything. Still great fun. . . . **OE2S**. Low power on 40 SSB in the CQWW is sure not an easy task. Nevertheless I am very power after entering last year in the high power category. . . . **OE5CWL**. Our first try in the Multi-Two class in CQWW contest. Hard with three ops only but a lot of fun! Aurora, our faithful friend, was again present, even in visible form on Friday night. . . . **OH1F**. Two new countries on SSB. Conditions better than usual in the last few weeks. Looking forward to the CW part. I'm mostly working telegraphy. DX and WPX contests are the best competitions. . . . **OK1DVK**. To be beaten by "9a1a" (9a9a) is not a shame. Nice contest, had fun as always.

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DISCOVER

Thanks to all who called in. . . . **OK1RI**. Was great to be present again. Sometimes strange propagation. Second day heard V73AZ on 20 with nice signals. 10 minutes nobody called so wonder if every body have zone 31 in the log. The new one-letter call in PA did give some questions (hi). . . . **PA1V**. Only operated on 20 and 40. Lost our 20m beam and tower during build up, so only the vertical and dipole remained. Propagation was poor due to the previous solar eruptions but still a good contest for us. . . . **PA6Z**. Many thanks to PZ1AP, Uncle Arnie, for his help and hospitality. Don't you love solar storms? . . . **PZ5JR**.

Condx good on short bands. No good on low. Mostly tired due to antenna work. How do big performance ops do it? Chewing pills? US not loud. Aurora on Saturday. High power didn't get my sigs to overseas. Considering go QRP for the rest of my life. What the heck! I'll sleep all the time until the CW part next month! . . . **SM6E**. We all enjoyed the contest. We were unlucky because the antennas broke the Friday and all weekend tried to repair, the amplifier never worked also and the cluster worked next day of the contest. But we did the best score in the club history and we train some new operators. . . . **SV1AFA**. Fine conditions on Sunday, but might have been better on Saturday. Best DX was 513A on 10m. No JA's at all, very unusual, and very few from AS at all. Great 40m opening to North and South America on Sunday morning. . . . **TF3W**. Our team members were from five countries. One-half of the crew was on the 2002 T15N team. Members represented several major contest clubs. All enjoyed meeting old and making new friends. . . . **T15N**. CQWW as field day operation under tents with minus 5 degrees C. . . . **TM7Z**. Dreams do come true, but sometimes it takes a lifelong effort. . . . **UA9AYA**. First ever SOAB HP effort. Glad the sun cooperated; conditions were excellent. Thanks to Kwaj club for use of the station. . . . **V73AZ**. Despite the experts' claim of pending propagation doom, a great weekend for condx on all bands. Higher bands stayed open longer and opened sooner each morning. As usual Don's wife Barb and my XYL Marg fed us well and a great time was had by all. . . . **VE3SY**. Deciding to do single band 10m with conditions that were atrocious, and then having two of the longest running electrical storms run through my area coupled with a 3-1/2 hour blackout contributed to the low score. However, taking these factors into account my overall score was not too bad and the main thing is, I had fun. . . . **VK4WPX**. I guess it is good for the soul to go from seven towers to three ground-mounted verticals! . . . **VK7GN**. Great fun from a rarer DX spot and surprised many with a larger station than the seven other ops on the island for the CQWW. But even so, missing zones 2, 13, 34, 36, and 40 was disappointing. . . . **VK9XD**. Newfoundland is a great place for radio. Marconi was right! . . . **VO1AU**. Biggest thrill almost working A61AJ on six bands. Missed only on 160m, where I heard them, but they could not hear me. 10m condx on Saturday were far better than expected. . . . **VY2ZM**. Team contesting Aztecas Contesting Revolutions running low power this time, yielded almost 400k points, less vs. last year effort (HP). . . . **XE2AC**. The greatest phone contest, five-star contest! . . . **YC2ECG**. A portable contest DXpedition from Kefken Island AS-159. Antennas are two Windoms and one 10m vertical only. Portable simple antenna operation is my hobby, but my goal is a contest station in the future. . . . **YM0T (TA2RC)**. Saturday much better than Sunday. There was some wall for me for stations from east, south, and southwest, hi. Anyhow, had a nice fun again. . . . **Z36W**. Pleased to activate ZA on SSB. Due to very bad cold I could not operate more than 36 hrs. . . . **ZA1A**. This was yet again a great contest. Pity conditions just didn't play the game! . . . **ZS5T**. Thanks to my friend Sergio, PP5JR. . . . **ZY5G**.

USA QRM

So many stations, so little time. . . . **AA8CY/3**. My first CQWW DX contest. Gave me lots of ideas on how to improve the station! Sunspots helped, too. . . . **AB4EJ**. Surprise—the sunspots are back! Who woulda thunk it! . . . **AE9B/0**. Went single band this year due to antenna limitations. Plenty of fun until the radio blackout happened. . . . **K0IL**. Amazing results for just 5w. I enjoyed sniping some good DX from the big pile-ups! . . . **K1DX**. A great workout for the new station. What X-class flare? Thanks to my team of great ops, and congrats to all! . . . **K1IR**. Flares! Flares? We don't need no stinkin' flares! Highlight: Getting packet spot telling me to call my mom (NH7FY). Unfortunately the band (10m) had already closed to there. We did work her later on 15m. . . . **K1TTT**. Conditions were great on 15m! That major flare right before the contest seemed to seed the ionosphere with DX-friendly electrons! . . . **K2MFY**. As always, the best part was meeting so many friends on the air. My thanks to the great people all over the world who make the contest happen. . . . **K2RED**. A young contesting team: 13-year-old Sara, K3000, and 17-year-old Trevor, W7TDC. . . . **K3000**. After 12 years QRT, I wanted to remember how hard contesting was. 40m SSB from Kansas during a solar storm was just the way to do it! . . . **K3PA/0**. Thought conditions were going to be really poor so decided on low power. Bad move: 10m was hopping! Saturday morning was the best to Europe and Sunday evening the best to Japan. Didn't work a single SM, OZ, or LA. Didn't get KL7 until Sunday evening. Very few QSOs from Russia either! Thanks everyone. . . . **K4WI**. Very

strange conditions from 48N. First day no JA's except for a few via skewed path. Same with Europe, no openings to speak of. Second day had a very small opening to Europe and good run to Japan in the afternoon. . . . **K7OX**. The local newspaper had a picture of the sun/sunspots on the front page Saturday morning. Despite the ominous predictions, I found the conditions to be better than last year. . . . **K8IR**. Bands in super good condx considering geomagnetic storm. Worked everyone I could hear and there were many to hear. . . . **K8RT**. Fun contest! Reasonably good band conditions here in Wisconsin and had a decent run of contacts on 10 and 15. Best conditions in quite a while up here, though aurora probably croaked all of my transpolar contact opportunities. . . . **K9FWH**. Interesting conditions from the West Coast. Low bands were non-existent from here. My best effort in many years. . . . **K9JF/7**. Sure ran the propagation gamut from unbelievably great to unbelievably poor! That's ham radio. . . . **K9MWM/0**.

Great propagation in spite of the "giant solar flare." Looking forward to next contest. This could be addictive. Peace. . . . **KA2BZS**. We were blessed with wonderful support from Christine, Sabrina, Cassandra, and Anika, capped by a post-contest Chinese food feast catered by KD1EA. AD1C had to cancel due to illness (leaving more food for John). K1EA stepped in and did a pretty good imitation of a phone op for a guy who only hears vowels. First time at XX for Mr. CQWW, and we hope he will return. . . . **KC1XX**. This was my first CQWW contest. I am new to contesting. I guess you could say I'm the new kid on the block, and I'm here to stay. Hopefully I will be able to improve my score next year. Thanks, everyone for coming back to my contest calls. Will look forward to working all of you again next year. Little gun with big hopes. . . . **KC2HLI**. In my pick-up truck parked in my driveway, using RS HTX-10 25w and homebrew mobile antenna. . . . **KI7AB/5**. Hey! It ain't much but I at least found my microphone! . . . **KJ9C**. Lucky to work anybody with so many weak signals until of course 2300 on Sunday on 10 meters South Americans were suddenly S9. I strongly recommend using a pre-amp on the RX. Without it everyone for most of contest was in the noise. With it, loud and clear audio even with S-meter at S3. Geo storm hit here! . . . **KS7T**. The tough conditions on 80m just made me work harder. I always "felt" loud, but I also felt deaf despite the Beverages. I'm sure I missed a lot of callers with the low signal levels. . . . **KT1V**. The bands were in fairly good shape until the "blackout" on Sunday afternoon. I never even heard a hint of Oceania or Asia until late Sunday. Several JA's were heard on 10m but never worked. I had no idea that there were so many stations in Argentina and Brazil. The EM1 (Antarctica) station was heard many times while swishing around the bands. He was CQing away with no pile-up. Weird and very loud in Minnesota. Great fun. . . . **N0FP**. 160 phone QRP—Just do it. . . . **N2AA**. Not bad conditions, though very heavy QSB into Europe! Had terrible power-line noise to my west and never worked much in Asia except for some JA's. For once nothing broke! . . . **N3HBX**. We expected really bad conditions. Fortunately, the solar flux index was well above 200 and this overcame the high K and A indices. Thanks to all my hardworking team members for a FB effort. . . . **N3RS**. Solar flares really messed things up on Sunday. Bands just went straight downhill. Missed the JA's that are usually there in the evenings. . . . **N4SEA/8**. It was the most fun with 100 watts and a dipole I've had in many years! . . . **N4SRT**.

Prop almost too good! 15 open nearly worldwide most of the time. Great fun. . . . **N5ID**. Condx were much better than expected, but this area was shut out from Asia for much of test. First JA was after 0130Z Saturday. Ten meters saved the day; I managed to run well in EU, even working Scandinavia and Russia along with a few Middle East stations on Sunday. The solar flare around 1740Z Sunday wiped out the bands here; I took a break. By 22Z 10m was opening well to the Pacific and by 23Z to a few JA's. . . . **N8II**. My first low power operation. What a rush. A learning experience from western Colorado. . . . **NT4TT/0**. Under 21 years old; I am 9 years old. . . . **W1MAT**. I couldn't get on the air until 11:00 PM EDT Friday, and when I turned on the radio on 15 meters, I immediately heard (and worked) C5Z in Gambia. Great way to start a contest! . . . **W2VU**. Fifty years of DX contesting. Thanks for all the QSOs. . . . **W3AP**. Solar flux above 250! What's up with that? . . . **W4QA**. Another great WW! The great blackout of 2003 will have two meanings, the summer AC outage, and the Sunday afternoon of WW. The RF blackout on Sunday was the strangest thing we ever saw. All three high bands went to S0 in seconds at 1751Z. After confirming the towers were still standing, we realized what had happened and at the worst possible time. We continue to improve our champagne station on a cheap beer budget. . . . **W4WS**. Interesting conditions. Solar disruptions on Sunday morning local time shut HF bands down like somebody had put a pin in my coax, but they recovered with a vengeance in short order. . . . **W5ZL**. First CQWW in 40 years as a ham and the thrill of ham radio is still there! . . . **WB2RHM/4**. Wow, what a ride! Solar flares followed by great activities and then interrupted by "RF blackouts." . . . **WN6K**.

(Continued on page 102)

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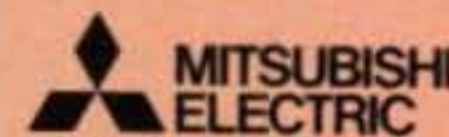
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The 2004 Dayton Hamvention® was much like the 2003 event. It rained most of the day Saturday, accessories dominated the product introductions, and just about everyone had a good time! The trend we noticed, though, is that the age of ever-tinier ham rigs appears to be ending.

Hamvention 2004: Big is Back

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

After decades of making ham equipment smaller and smaller, several manufacturers are now going the other way, bringing "big" back into ham gear in a very big way—and with big price tags to boot.

Transceivers/Receivers

The trend actually started a few years back but moved into high gear last year with ICOM's introduction of the physically large IC-7800—with a \$10,000+ list price—which was finally available this year (and sold quite well, we understand). But Vertex Standard (Yaesu) upped the ante with its introduction of the 21¹/₄-inch wide (and nearly as deep) FTDX-9000. This monster radio covers HF plus 6 meters and will be available in both 200-watt and 400-watt versions. The 400-watt model requires an external power supply and will operate Class A up to 100 watts, while the power supply is built into the 200-watt version, which also has a Class A transmitter option, but only up to a 75-watt level. The radio has more dials than I could count (somewhere around two dozen) and is expected to carry a list price of over \$13,000. Still, the biggest question at Dayton seemed to be, "When will it be available?"—and Yaesu's goal is to have it in hams' hands by this December.

Yaesu also introduced a new dual-band handheld—the FT-60R, with an "Emergency Automatic ID" feature that allows other hams to remotely activate the transmitter of someone who is incapacitated and have it send beep tones every 2.5 seconds and a CW ID every 10 minutes, allowing searchers to use direction-finding techniques to locate the ham in trouble.

ICOM's new entry this year (besides the availability of the IC-7800) is a high-power (65 watts) 2-meter mobile rig, the IC-2200. The radio has 200 regular memory channels, which—like many scanners today—may be organized into banks, permitting you to choose which banks you want to scan for activity. The optional UT-115 digital unit permits you to record and play back brief messages of up to 20 characters, and you can hook up a properly-equipped GPS receiver and exchange position information with other hams (*When is somebody just going to build the GPS receiver into the radio already?—ed.*)

On the receive-only side of things, ICOM has introduced the IC-R20 handheld, which gets closer than just about any-



thing we've seen so far to true "DC-to-daylight" coverage. It still won't do visible light, but it does provide multimode receive from way down at 150 kHz all the way up to 3305 MHz. (Being true hams, of course, instead of saying, as we should, "Oh, wow! That's amazing!" our initial response was,



One of the biggest hits at Hamvention® 2004 was this booth selling "massage beds" and offering free 5-minute samples. We don't know how many (if any) they sold, but the freebies sure were popular! (W2VU photos)

*Editor, CQ



ICOM's intent in suspending its high-end IC-7800 transceiver from an engine hoist was to convey its "power" as part of an overall racing theme at its Dayton booth, but it also highlighted the growing trend of returning to physically big and heavy ham gear.

"Gee, too bad it won't go down just a little more to 136 kHz to monitor the Canadians and Europeans on VLF, or just a little higher to include the 3456-MHz ham band. But really, that kind of coverage is amazing). It also includes a band-scope, over 1000 memories (in up to 26 banks), and, get this, a built-in 32-MB digital recorder to record and play back up to four hours of received communications!

A new company to the ham market, Rfpace, introduced a combination software defined receiver (SDR) and spectrum analyzer. The \$900 unit receives from DC to 230 MHz and uses your personal computer to do all the signal processing. The included software is available in both Windows® and Linux versions.

Antennas & Antenna Accessories

Old-timers who remember the multiband Hy-Gain 18AVQ vertical will be pleased to know it's back. The folks at MFJ, who have owned Hy-Gain for the past several years, have brought back this classic 5-band (80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters) antenna, with a few improvements, including three separate air dielectric traps to allow full legal power on 40–10 meters, plus up to a kilowatt PEP on 80 meters. Total height is 18 feet. In addition, there's now an 80-meter add-on kit available for the 14AVQ.

MFJ's Ameritron division has brought out a screwdriver antenna controller, a peak-reading mobile SWR/wattmeter, and a remote-control 500-watt mobile amplifier. In addition, the company has introduced the ALS-600SPS switching power supply for the Ameritron ALS-600 amplifier.

The main MFJ division also has some new antennas—two wire loops, one 12 feet in diameter for 20–10 meters and the other 20 feet in diameter for 60, 40, and 30 meters. There's a portable and a home version of the 12-foot loop, each of which is designed to include PVC supports inside the loop. MFJ has also introduced a new travel tuner and three remotely controlled automatic antenna tuners, each with a different maximum power level (150, 300, and 600 watts PEP).

SteppIR—which pioneered beams with variable length elements to match different bands—has introduced the "MonstIR," which covers 40–6 meters. Copper beryllium elements extend or retract within fiberglass supports to tune the antenna for each band, essentially giving you a 3-element



Yaesu's brand new FTDX-9000, which was displayed under glass at the Hamvention, is nearly two feet wide and will list at more than \$13,000 when it hits the market later this year. *Big ... is back.*

monobander on each band it covers. Plus, you can reverse the beam direction without changing frequency in just three seconds, reducing the need for 180-degree rotations.

Speaking of reversible antennas, DX Engineering has a new reversible Beverage receiving antenna system. Fed with 450-ohm ladder line, you can remotely switch the direction of greatest receive sensitivity. The company also introduced a vertical antenna tilt plate, to make it easier to lower vertical antennas for service and adjustments, plus an 8-position remotely controlled antenna switch.

Yaesu is making it easier for users of its portable FT-897 and FT-957 transceivers to get good antenna matches no matter where they are. The new FC-40 will tune a wide variety of antennas, including long whips and random wires—typically in 10 seconds or less—to resonance anywhere between 160 and 6 meters.

Another new automatic antenna tuner comes from SGC. The SG-211 Mini Smartuner™ weighs one pound and runs for up to five years on a set of internal AA batteries. There are no controls, no control cables, and no power cables. The only connections are coax in and your choice of coax or balanced line out. An LED will let you know when the antenna is tuned. It operates between 1.8 and 60 MHz with up to 60 watts CW or PEP, except 30 watts PEP maximum for short antennas below 3.5 MHz, and 20 watts maximum for continuous data operation.

High Sierra has added the "Bullseye" position indicator to help users of its 1800 Pro and Sidekick antennas know how far up or down the antenna is, and to quickly retune to positions that you know provide a good match on certain bands. High Sierra has also introduced the "i-Box" for use with ICOM transceivers. It works automatically with the low-power "tune" setting and built-in SWR meters on many popular ICOM radios to let you simply tune for lowest SWR. According to the company, it will put your antenna where it needs to be in 10 seconds or less.

Tarheel Antennas has introduced the "Perfect Match"™ variable inductance matching device, which works with all brands of motorized antennas and matches any motorized antenna to virtually any situation.

Hi-Q is expanding further into the motorized home antenna market with its new tunable dipoles with 5-inch wide coils (another entry in the "big is back" category). There are two models available, one for 10–80 meters and the other for 10–160 meters.

Degen has introduced a "Vwave" antenna for 2 meters. This 3-element beam has the elements bent back at 45-degree angles (90 degrees to each other) to allow for a smaller turning radius while maintaining maximum gain. Mounting plates are pre-drilled for either vertical or horizontal polarization.



ICOM's new IC-R20 handheld receiver covers an amazing range of 150 kHz to 3305 MHz and even has a built-in four-hour digital recorder.

W3FF Antennas has a new "military-style shock-corded whip," on which sections may be added or removed in the field. There is a minimum of three sections and a maximum of seven. The new whips attach to the ends of the coils on the Buddipole antenna, replacing the previous telescoping whip and adding four feet overall to the full length of the Buddipole.

Alpha Power has a new way for you to measure your power. The Model



MFJ Enterprises President Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, holds the tuners used with the company's two new wire loop antennas—a 12-foot loop for 20–10 meters and a 20-foot loop for 60, 40, and 30 meters.

4510 digital HF wattmeter has both analog and digital readouts, measures 30 milliwatts to 3 kilowatts in nine power ranges, and even has a serial port for downloading data to your computer logging program.

A unique accessory is Elecraft's KRC2 Band Decoder. This is a station controller that automatically directs your transceiver to switch to the correct antenna whenever you change bands. It also contains a memory keyer and other features. Designed to complement the Elecraft K2 transceiver, it will also work with most ICOM, Kenwood, and Yaesu transceivers.



The classic Hy-Gain 18AVQ vertical antenna is back, reintroduced with some improvements after a long absence.

Finally among antenna accessories, Palstar has three new items: (1) The ZM-30 digital impedance meter with flash memory for downloadable software updates. It reads out frequency to 1 Hz, as well as SWR and antenna resistance, and sells for \$329 with battery and a sleeve balun for balanced lines. (2) The AT1KBAL is a dual ceramic inductor tuner for antennas with balanced trans-



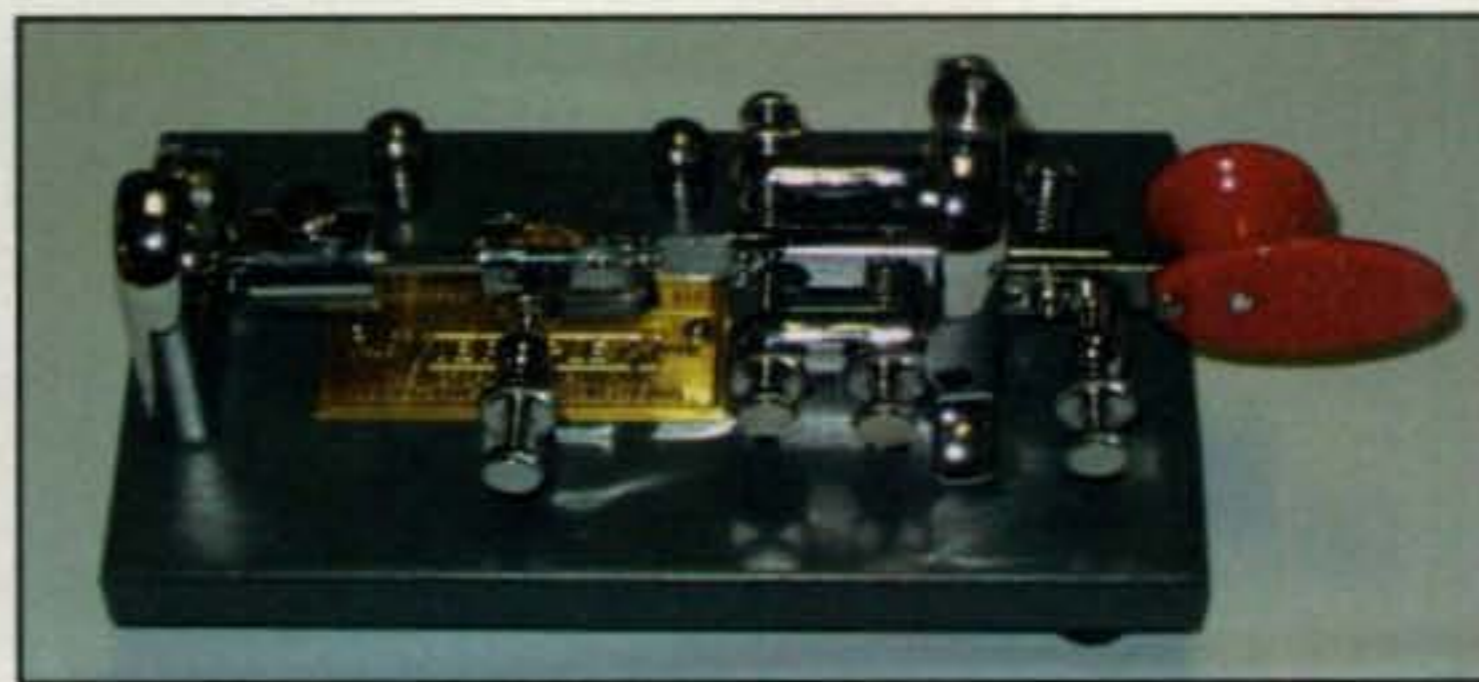
Paul Sergi, NO8D, of DX Engineering demonstrates his new vertical antenna tilt plate, which allows you to work on vertical antennas without having to take them down completely.



Chris Drummond, W6HFP, demonstrates Buddipole's new military-style shock-corded antenna elements, which may be lengthened or shortened in the field.



SGC's new SG-211 Mini Smartuner™ has no controls! It detects your transmit frequency and automatically tunes your antenna system for the best match.



The Collins Collector's Key from Vibroplex is a classic "bug" painted to match the front panel of a Collins KWM-2 transceiver. A limited edition of 250, each will have a special engraved label and serial number.

mission lines (such as twinlead), covering 160–10 meters at up to 1500 watts PEP. Palstar notes that it designs and builds all of its own roller inductors and variable capacitors. (3) The DL5K dummy load, with two custom-made 100-ohm graphite resistors wired in parallel for a 50-ohm load, and a thermostatically controlled fan system. As the name suggests, it will handle up to 5 kilowatts, so it's useful for commercial as well as amateur applications.

Other Accessories

While antenna accessories seemed to be big items this year, there were also a few other accessory items introduced at Hamvention®.

Collins enthusiasts who also enjoy CW will love this: Vibroplex and the Collins Collectors' Association have gotten together on a limited edition Collins Collector Key. This special "bug" is painted to match the front panel of the KWM-2, and each of the 250 keys made will have a special engraved label and serial number.

If your vehicle looks like (or is) a mobile command post, with multiple radios, multiple microphones, and multiple speakers, New Communications Solutions may have a solution for you. Their NCS-3250 mobile multi-switcher operates on 12 VDC and allows you to bring together up to four radios and operate them all using just one microphone and two speakers (one for the active transmit radio and one for the others). There's also an output for a public-address speaker. You can switch between radios with front-panel buttons or the tone keys on your mic. You can also mute unselected radios and set up two rigs to act as a crossband repeater.

The folks at TAPR (Tucson Amateur Packet Radio) continue looking beyond packet radio in their high-tech and low-cost development efforts. This year's entry is a vector network-analyzer kit that



Another example of "Big is Back"—HiQ's Charlie Gyenes, W6HIQ, shows us his new motorized antenna with a 5-inch diameter coil. Obviously not intended for mobile use, it's part of a new tunable dipole system for limited space installations.

uses your personal computer and takes this valuable tool out of the high-end-only category. It measures transmission and reflection parameters in a network, including magnitude and phase, and is, as co-developer Steve Bible, N7HPR, describes it, "the modern version of the impedance meter." Bible adds, "I want this in the hands of 14-year-old boys and girls ... (to) learn by doing, with a reasonably priced analyzer."

Last but not least, our favorite product category: Books, videos, and CDs. Master Publishing/W5YI has introduced a new Gordon West General Class license manual, along with an audio CD (replacing tapes) and a new code CD, again replacing cassette tapes.

The ARRL has premiered several new books, including the *General Class Q&A Book*, a book by Echolink developer Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, on ham radio and internet voice (VoIP), and, of course, this year's *ARRL Repeater Directory*.

Not seen at the show, but showing up at bookstores everywhere is Ward Silver, N0AX's *Ham Radio for Dummies*.

Ten-Tec has produced a 72-minute video, available on DVD or VHS, about the company and its top-of-the-line Orion transceiver. Could be a good club meeting program.

Finally, we at CQ have published a new book called *VHF Propagation*, co-authored by Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU, and Gordon West, WB6NOA. Both Ken and Gordon are Contributing Editors for both *CQ* and *CQ VHF* magazines. In addition, WB6NOA is independently offering an audio CD companion to the book, featuring the unique sounds of various VHF propagation modes, such as Aurora and meteor scatter.

The Big Picture

Overall, in this year of "big is back," the Dayton Hamvention® continued to be the world's biggest hamfest and biggest showcase of new equipment and ideas in amateur radio. The crowd appeared smaller than last year, but the big dropoff many had feared due to rising fuel prices did not materialize, and those people who did come seemed to come to buy things (a trend we've been seeing at many hamfests—attendance down but sales level or higher), and just about everyone—except the rain-soaked flea-market folks—went home happy.

Finally, next year: The Hamvention folks announced repeatedly during this year's show that Hamvention® will again be at Hara Arena next year, on May 20–22, 2005 (that seems like a week later than usual, but it is the third full weekend in May). See you there! ■

More Product Rollouts

This month in your "What's New" column we'll again present some noteworthy radio gear, hamshack accessories, antennas and antenna accessories, mobile and portable goodies, books, and other fascinating items that have been rolled out over the past few months. Let's dig right in.

Radio Gear

Elecraft KX1 Ultra-Portable CW Transceiver Kit. We have profiled Elecraft's radio gear and accessories, including many innovative kits, in previous columns. Now we think we have another winner from Elecraft, in terms of its newly introduced KX1 transceiver.

The Elecraft KX1 Ultra-Portable CW Transceiver Kit (see photo A) is said to be a backpacker's dream. It's a small, featherweight, multiband HF CW station with an internal battery and an automatic antenna tuner—also an excellent rig for short hikes and emergency use. The top-mounted controls and plug-in paddle are ideal for beach-chair, picnic-table, or trail-side operation. You can even use the KX1 while relaxing in bed.

The KX1, which has many "big rig" features and amenities, includes a superhet receiver with variable-passband crystal filter, receiver incremental tuning (RIT), S-meter, VFO with three tuning rates, three-digit display, memory keyer, battery voltage monitor, and LED logbook lamp, as well as a 1- to 4-watt transmitter with full break-in (QSK) capability. The VFO covers the full 20- and 40-meter ham bands, with receive-only tuning of nearby SWL segments; 30 meters is available as an option.

The KX1 is designed to be highly efficient, drawing typically only 34 mA on receive; the LED display adds only 1 to 2 mA in low to moderate lighting conditions. Thanks to the low current drain, you can operate casually for some 20 to 30 hours from internal batteries at the 1- to 2-watt level.

The radio is designed to be easy to build and align. The basic KX1 kit uses a single printed circuit board. Assembly is almost effortless, thanks in part to the use of through-hole (leaded) components; the few surface-mount parts used are professionally preinstalled. You can align and test the KX1 using nothing more than a digital multimeter and on-the-air signals.

A comprehensive assembly and user manual also is included. The illustrated, step-by-step assembly instructions include modular assembly and checkout of each control, receive and transmit stage. Extensive theory of operation and troubleshooting sections also are provided.

The KX1 Ultra-Portable CW Transceiver Kit covering 20 and 40 meters is \$279; the 30-meter adapter is \$29. The plug-in keyer paddle is \$69,

*289 Poplar Drive, Millbrook, AL 35054-1674
e-mail: <w8fx@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo A— The Elecraft KX1 Ultra-Portable CW Transceiver Kit is a backpacker's dream. It's a small, featherweight, multiband HF CW station with an internal battery and an automatic antenna tuner. (Photo from the Elecraft website)

while the internal automatic antenna tuner (ATU) adds \$79 to the price.

For further details, contact Elecraft LLC, P.O. Box 69, Aptos, CA 95001-0069 (831-662-8345; e-mail: <sales@elecraft.com>; on the web: <<http://www.elecraft.com>>).

Accessories for the Shack

Porta-Paddle from American Morse. New from American Morse is the Porta-Paddle (photo B), which is said to offer "incredible feel in a miniature paddle." It's an original design that features a solid feel with full adjustability in a miniature iambic paddle. Precision-manufactured from aircraft aluminum (rather than from plastic), the small, 2.5-oz.

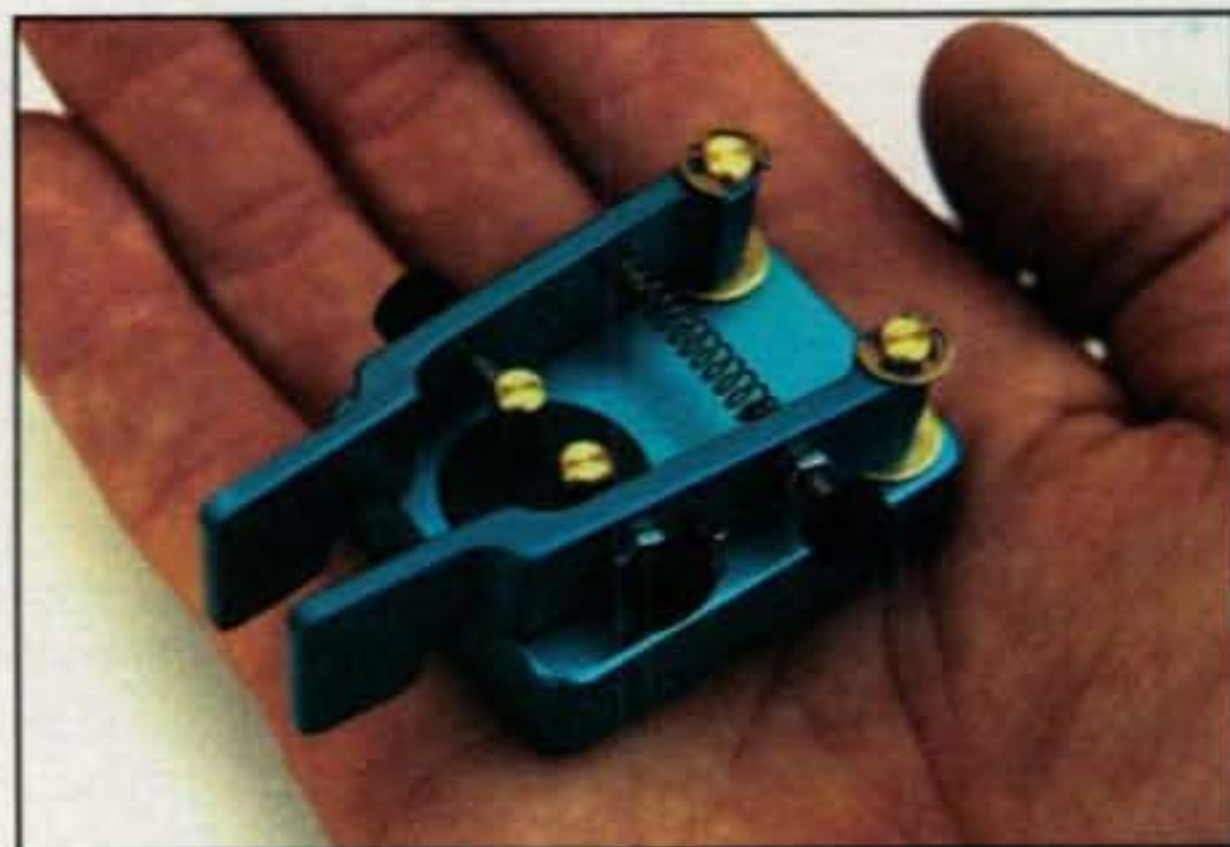


Photo B— New from American Morse is the Porta-Paddle, which is said to offer "incredible feel in a miniature paddle." It's an original design that features a solid feel with full adjustability. It's available with an anodized blue (as depicted here) or a clear finish. (Photo from the American Morse website)



Photo C— The new Cadex C7400ER Programmable Battery Analyzer is the most powerful battery analyzer in its series. Each of the four stations can be programmed to charge and discharge at 6 amps, adjustable in 25-mA increments. The analyzer accommodates nickel-, lead-, and lithium-based batteries. (Photo courtesy Cadex Electronics)

paddle has an attractive and durable anodized finish, with the gap and spring force fully adjustable to individual tastes.

The unit is of very solid, reliable design, with no delicate parts to fall out of adjustment. It's drilled and tapped in the

Photo D— The MFJ-283 Ear-Vibration Speaker Microphone is available for ICOM, Kenwood, and Yaesu radios; the speaker and microphone are both integrated into the earpiece. The "vibration pickup microphone" in the earpiece picks up the vibration of your ear bone when you speak. (Photo courtesy of MFJ Enterprises)



base for mounting, and various mounting accessories are available. Perhaps best of all, the paddle comes with a "no ifs and buts" lifetime guarantee. Made in the United States, the patent-pending Porta-Paddle is available either with an anodized blue or a clear finish for \$69 plus \$4 s/h.

Contact American Morse Equipment, San Luis Machine Company, Unit F2, 200 Suburban Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805-5498065; e-mail: <dhauff@digitalputty.com>; on the web: <http://www.americanmorse.com>).

Cadex C7400ER Programmable Battery Analyzer.

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Get into ham radio the right way — studying with Gordo! His new *Technician Class* book reorganizes the Q&A into logical topic groups for easier learning. His audio theory course brings ham radio to life and is a great study companion to his book. W5YI software includes Gordo's answer explanations from the book, making learning easy and fun!

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Canada-based Cadex Electronics offers battery analyzers, chargers, and battery maintenance software. Committed to quality, Cadex combines solid engineering strength with some 23 years of manufacturing excellence. Its products are sold in some 100 countries.

The recently introduced Cadex C7400ER Programmable Battery Analyzer (photo C) is the most powerful battery analyzer in its series. Each of the four stations can be programmed to charge and discharge at 6 amps, adjustable in 25-mA increments.

The analyzer accommodates nickel-, lead-, and lithium-based batteries with voltages ranging from 1.2 to 36 volts (28.8 volts for nickel-based batteries). Batteries interface with custom and universal SnapLock™ adapters that automatically configure the analyzer to the correct settings. The optional Battery Shop™ software transfers operation to a PC.

For more information, contact Cadex Electronics, Inc., 22000 Fraserwood Way, Richmond, BC Canada V6W 1J6 (604-231-7777; e-mail: <sales@cadex.com>; on the web: <http://www.cadex.com>).

MFJ Speaker Microphone and Speaker/Microphone Holder. We're



Photo E— The MFJ-390 GooseNeck™ Speaker/Microphone Holder, shown here, effectively turns your favorite handheld microphone into a desktop microphone in an instant. The MFJ-390 contains a gooseneck rod that provides excellent positioning flexibility. (Photo courtesy MFJ Enterprises)

pleased to report two related audio products from MFJ Enterprises. First up is the MFJ-283 Ear-Vibration Speaker Microphone (photo D), available in three different configurations for ICOM, Kenwood, and Yaesu radios.



Photo F— One of the newest Tarheel Antenna products is the Little Tarheel II, shown here. Like all the Tarheel motorized antennas, it's built to meet the highest of standards in motorized antennas, but in a smaller size. In fact, it's one of the smallest motorized antennas on the market. (Photo from the WBØW website)

The MFJ-283 series uses new technology to provide a state-of-the-art, high-quality speaker/mic; the speaker and microphone are both integrated into the earpiece. The highly sensitive "vibration pickup microphone" in the earpiece

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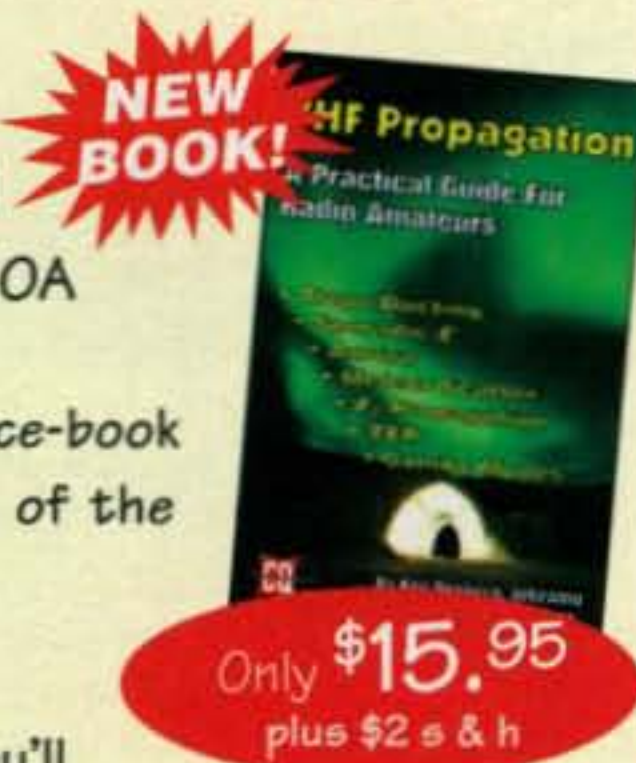
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picks up the vibration of your ear bone when you speak, and then translates the vibration into a signal through your transceiver.

Because the unit's mic only transmits the vibrations from your ear, it's said to be ideal for use in high ambient noise environments—reportedly great for use at hamfests, or for providing security at a community event or other large gathering. The unit's small PTT switch and earpiece let you operate discretely so that people around you may not even notice you're using your radio. Two clips on the cord allow you to position and secure the earpiece and PTT to your shirt, coat, or pants quite comfortably. Either MFJ-283 version (designated I, K, or Y, for ICOM, Kenwood, or Yaesu radios, respectively) is \$39.95.

The second MFJ product is the MFJ-390 GooseNeck™ Speaker/Microphone Holder (photo E). The new accessory effectively turns your favorite handheld microphone into a desktop microphone in an instant.

The MFJ-390 contains a gooseneck rod that provides excellent positioning flexibility (left, right, straight up, etc.). The unit has a heavy-duty, all-metal base that stays put at your operating desk, and a tough and durable plastic microphone clip holds most speaker/mics tight and steady. The MFJ-390 is \$14.95.

For additional information or a free 2004 catalog, contact MFJ Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 494, Mississippi State, MS 39762 (1-800-647-1800; e-mail: <mfj@mfjenterprises.com>; web: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>).

Antennas and Antenna Accessories

Little Tarheel II Antenna. North Carolina-based Tarheel Antennas enjoys a fine reputation for quality. Its motorized mobile antennas, base-station antennas, whips, stainless-steel mounts, and other accessories are designed with the most avid amateur radio operator in mind. The products are made with the best materials and top-of-the-line workmanship.

Especially popular are the flagship Tarheel series antennas. One of the firm's newest products is the Little Tarheel II (photo F). The Little Tarheel II, like all Tarheel motorized antennas, is built to meet the highest of standards in motorized antennas, but in a smaller size. It's reportedly one of the smallest motorized antennas on the market.

When properly installed on your vehicle, the antenna will provide continuous coverage from 6 through 80 meters with

the supplied whip. All Tarheel antennas come with the sensors already preinstalled so if you decide to add an auto controller now or later everything is ready.

Tarheel designed the antenna especially for the person who wants to enjoy HF mobile but is not interested in a large antenna. The antenna is designed to be mounted high on the vehicle; when mounted high, you reportedly have less ground loss, which translates to higher performance. Also, because of the smaller antenna size you can use a more common type of mount.

As with other Tarheel antennas, you get the DuPont Basecoat/Clearcoat system, with standard colors of black, white, or red. You also can have the antenna custom-painted to match your vehicle. The antenna comes with the Lexan™ Weather Shield, like its big brothers.

The Little Tarheel II is designed as a package. All you need extra is a mount and an HF radio. Included as standard are the whip, 20 ft. of "plug and play" control cable, the manual control box, the ferrite decoupling core, a 3/8-24 stud, and even the Allen wrench to tighten the set screw to the whip.

The 1.9-lb. antenna covers 6 through 80 meters, with a power-handling capa-

bility of 200 watts PEP. Typical SWR is 1.5:1 or less. The antenna's total length is up to 54 in., depending on band, with a whip length of 34 in. The antenna comes with a one-year, no-matter-what warranty, plus a lifetime warranty on the coil and fingerstock, to the original owner. The price is \$349.

For more information, contact Tarheel Antennas, 913 Old Honeycutt Road, Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526 (919-552-8788; e-mail: <tarheelantennas@aol.com>; on the web: <http://www.tarheelantennas.com>).

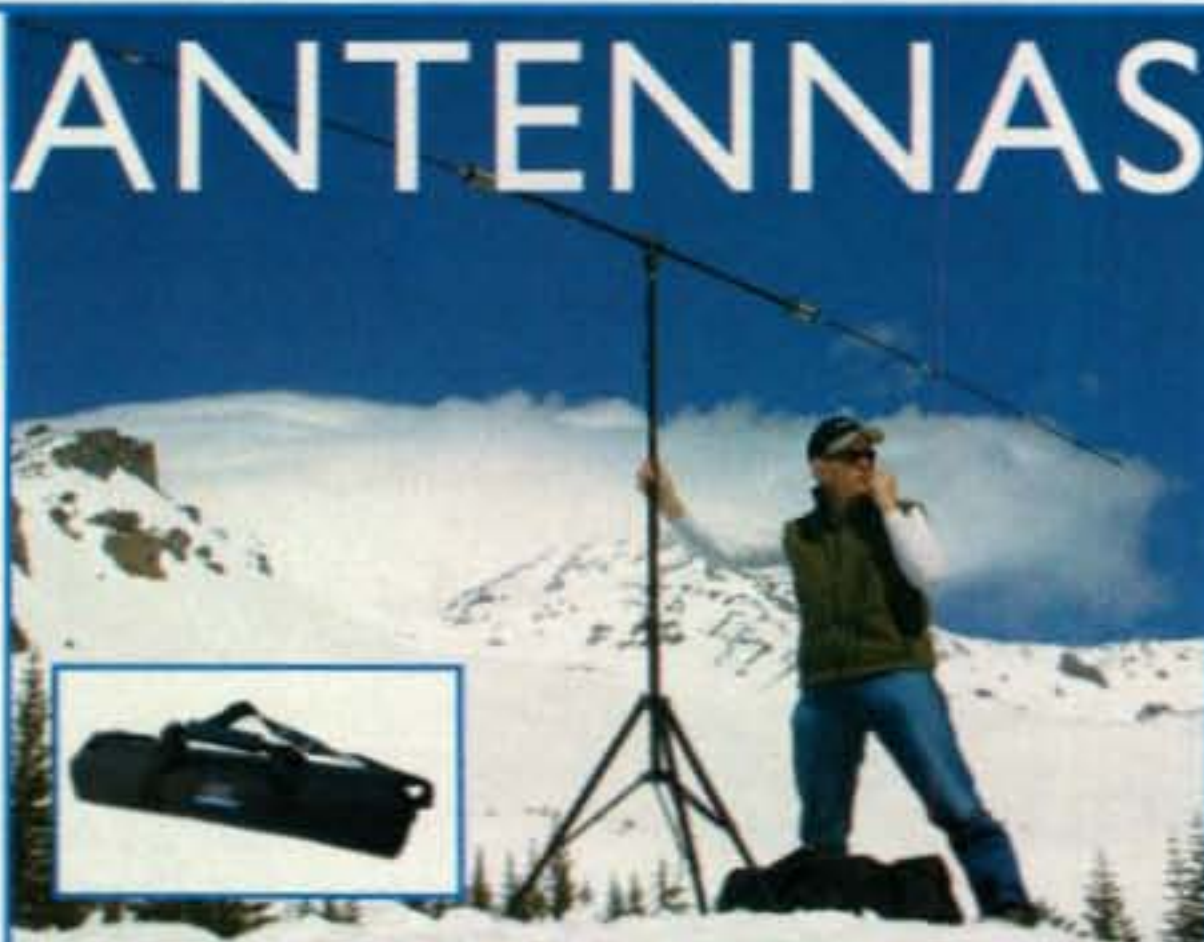
The Tarheel antennas also are distributed by WB0W, Inc., P.O. Box 8547, St. Joseph, MO 64508 (1-800-626-0834; e-mail: <wb0w@wb0w.com> or <WB0W@attglobal.net>; on the web: <http://www.wb0w.com>).

DXpedition Mark II 160–80 Preamp and Front End Saver. Gary Nichols, KD9SV, and Radioware have announced a new version of their popular DXpedition model Front End Saver (FES) with dual-band 80/160-meter preamplifier (photo G). Using Gary's proven variable-gain preamp and FES design, the new Mark II is designed to fill the gap with radios without a separate receive antenna input, such as the ICOM 706 and 746 transceivers. The

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The standard Buddipole contains 2 ultralight antenna arms (available in blue or black), 2 adjustable coils with 3 removeable coil taps, one center Tee, two stainless steel telescopic whips, coax assembly with choke balun, antenna bag with stretch velcro straps, and thermoplastic carrying case (not shown).



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Photo G— Gary Nichols, KD9SV, and Radioware have announced a new version of their popular DXpedition Model Front End Saver (FES) with dual band 80/160-meter pre-amp. Using proven variable gain preamp and FES design, the Mark II fills the gap with radios without a separate receive antenna input. (Photo courtesy Radioware)



Photo H— FlipLite™ Auto is a compact, bright-white, multi-function flashlight for on-the-go use. You can use the light for studying maps and repeater atlases, reading, or other activities when in your car, boat, RV, or other vehicle. The unit features an integral seatbelt attachment. (Photo courtesy Imagine-It-Concepts)

Mark II allows you to select one of up to four separate receive antennas or the transmit antenna for receive. It also automatically switches to the transmit antenna when keyed. The unit is controlled using the radio's accessory connector for 13.8 VDC and the send keying signal.

The Mark II features adjustable gain from 0 dB to approximately 23 dB on receive, and it has tuned input and outputs to provide the needed selectivity to reduce AM broadcast station overloading. The Mark II also has soft keying circuitry with a linear-amplifier keying relay. The unit is compatible with both QSK (break-in) and non-QSK amplifiers and is ideal for home station or portable use. The Mark II is \$259.95 plus s/h.

Want to know more? Contact Radioware, P.O. Box 209, Rindge, NH 03461-0209 (1-800-457-7373; <radware@radio-ware.com>; on the web: <<http://www.radioware.com>>).

Portable and Mobile Goodies

FlipLite Auto from Imagine-It-Concepts. FlipLite™ Auto (photo H) is a compact, bright-white, multifunction flashlight for use when you're on the go. With an integral seatbelt attachment, you simply slide the FlipLite up or down the seatbelt—and you always know where your flashlight is! The light can be used for studying maps and repeater atlases, reading, or other activities when in your car, boat, RV, or other vehicle.

FlipLite Auto comes with five bright-white LEDs and two red LEDs. You can use the flashing red LEDs as an "eFlare" alert for an emergency situation; the flashers can be seen up to one mile. A long battery life for the three AAA cells used offers utility and dependability—some 20 hours at full brightness for white light and up to 100 hours for flashing red lights. FlipLite Auto also works as a hands-free light by rotating the cover.

The Auto model is waterproof, lightweight, and very compact. It can operate both as a flashlight or hands-free worklight, in addition to being a map, game, reading, and emergency light. The light comes on automatically when the unit is opened so there's no fumbling in the dark.

For more details, or to order, contact Imagine-It-Concepts, Inc., 5445 Oceanus Dr., Suite 116, Huntington Beach, CA 92649 (phone 714-899-2068; e-mail: <sales@imagine-it-concepts.com>; web: <<http://www.imagine-it-concepts.com>>).

WindowMate from Pro.Fit International. Pro.Fit International has announced WindowMate (photo I), a premium suction mount for windshield applications of various aftermarket electronics devices and equipment. The suction-cup design offers portability and is popular with travelers, sales people, and multi-car families—especially since you



Photo I— Pro.Fit International offers WindowMate, a premium suction mount for windshield applications of various aftermarket electronics devices and equipment. You can move the WindowMate from one vehicle to another in just seconds. (Photo courtesy Pro.Fit International)

can move the WindowMate from one vehicle to another in just seconds.

The WindowMate has a strong and proven suction cup, yet is sleek in design, complementing any electronic device it holds. At the top of the WindowMate is an integrated swivel, which allows for an additional 30-degree adjustment in any direction. The swivel creates an attractive base with the industry-standard Advanced Mobile Phone Service (AMPS) hole pattern for attaching devices such as hands-free car kits, Global Positioning System (GPS) units, and satellite or other radios. The WindowMate installs in just seconds and is easy to use. It comes with complete instructions; no tools are required for installation. Contact Pro.Fit International, Inc., 1335 Eagandale Court, Eagan, MN 55121 (1-800-388-0073; e-mail: <sales@pro-fit-intl.com>; on the web: <<http://www.pro-fit-intl.com>>). All products can be seen and purchased at the website

From the Bookshelf

The Web Library. Information Today, Inc. (ITI) has published an interesting and very helpful new guide book, *The Web Library: Building a World Class Personal Library with Free Web Resources*, written by Nicholas G. "Nick" Tomaiuolo.

The author's primary purpose in writing *The Web Library* was to show how individuals can take advantage of free or low-cost resources to build their own personal libraries online. The idea is that if you follow his instructions, with very little effort you can build a periodical collection that would be the envy of many libraries, for next to nothing. The author's definition of "personal library," by the way, goes well beyond a basic collection of reference works on a user's desktop. Instead, he refers to a vast, rich collection of data, documents, and images that—if you follow his instructions carefully—can rival the holdings of many traditional libraries.

A readable, easy-to-use guide, *The Web Library* puts hundreds of useful resources at your fingertips 24/7, while saving you considerable time and money. The 440-page softbound book includes a wealth of website addresses (URLs), 30 helpful figures and screenshots, interviews with librarians and content providers, abundant examples of free web resources, and techniques for finding new content. The book is supported by a companion web page that features links to all the resources referenced in the book, to help you develop an extensive personal online library.

The ITI book is \$24.95. Contact your local bookstore or Information Today, Inc., 143 Old Marlton Pike, Medford, NJ 08055-8750 (1-800-300-9868; e-mail: <custserv@infotoday.com>; on the web: <http://www.infotoday.com>).

Wrap-Up

That's all for this time, gang. Next time, more "What's New." See you then.

Overheard: In this sometimes unkind world, it's often said that the one who sows seeds of kindness truly enjoys a perpetually bountiful harvest.

73, Karl, W8FX

Note: Listings in "What's New" are not product reviews and do not constitute a product endorsement by CQ or the column editor. Information in this column is primarily provided by manufacturers/vendors and has not necessarily been independently verified. The purpose of this column is to inform readers about new products in the marketplace. We encourage you to do additional research on products of interest to you.

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Non-Timer Uses for the LM555

The LM555 is well known in timer circles, but you may not be aware of other uses for this chip. This month we will describe a few.

Although most circuitry we build operates from positive voltages, occasionally the need arises for a negative supply. This is particularly true when op-amps are involved and often requires the use of a separate negative power supply, two batteries, or a charge-pump IC such as the ICL7660 and its many cousins. These methods all work well to produce negative voltages from a positive supply, but the additional cost often easily can rise into the \$3.00 to \$5.00 range, and the necessary components might not always be as readily available as one would like. However, there is a way to generate a negative voltage from a positive supply using the LM555. Not only is the cost minimal, but just about every "real" experimenter has at least a couple of these chips lying around.

The basic circuit of the negative inverter is shown in fig. 1. The 555 is connected as an astable multivibrator and set to operate at a frequency of about 20 kHz with a wave shape that is almost square. This near-square wave is then capacitively coupled to a simple diode voltage doubler comprised of two silicon diodes (almost any type, such as 1N914 or 1N4148, will do). These produce a negative voltage at roughly the same level as the input voltage. Finally, a simple RC filter removes the residual 20 kHz and the result is a negative voltage. Note that the current you can draw from such a supply is limited to only 5 to 10 ma, but this is often more than enough for bias purposes. Voltage regulation is not ideal, but if you are driving an op-amp, this is probably not too important. Also note that for this application the basic bipolar LM555

works better than the CMOS LMC555 version, since it has greater current-handling capabilities.

Fig. 2 is the circuit for a simple, self-excited FM modulator. Here the 555 is connected as an astable oscillator with an external control voltage determining the output pulse position. The center frequency of operation is determined by Ra, Rb, and C, and for the values shown the frequency is about 80 kHz. You can experiment with these values to achieve frequencies from a few Hz to as much as 500 kHz, the upper limit of the chip. Such a circuit is ideal for encoding audio and transmitting it by means of an LED in a free-space optical communications system.

Fig. 3 shows the additional circuitry needed for the transmitter of such a link. The final value of the 330-ohm resistor should be varied to allow the desired peak current through the transmitting LED. The value shown will provide about 20 ma to a normal visible indicator LED, but higher current LEDs will require a lower value. When choosing the resistor, do not forget the wattage rating for the current you plan to draw through it.

As we all are probably aware, AC equipment designed for use in the U.S. operates at 115 volts AC and a power-line frequency of 60 Hz. Equipment used in Europe and in much of the rest of the world, however, operates at 230 volts, 50 Hz. Therefore, trying to test foreign devices in the U.S. requires a 50-Hz power source. Fig. 4 is a simple way to produce such a source with the 555 and a common audio amplifier. In this circuit the 555 is configured as a 50-Hz oscillator with Ra used to "fine trim" the frequency. The square-wave output is then filtered to remove sharp transitions by the 10K resistor and 0.01- μ F capacitor low-pass filter and applied to a common audio power amplifier with the power capability required by the device you are trying to power. A 100-watt PA amplifier would be a good general-purpose choice. The output of the amplifier is connected to

*c/o CQ magazine

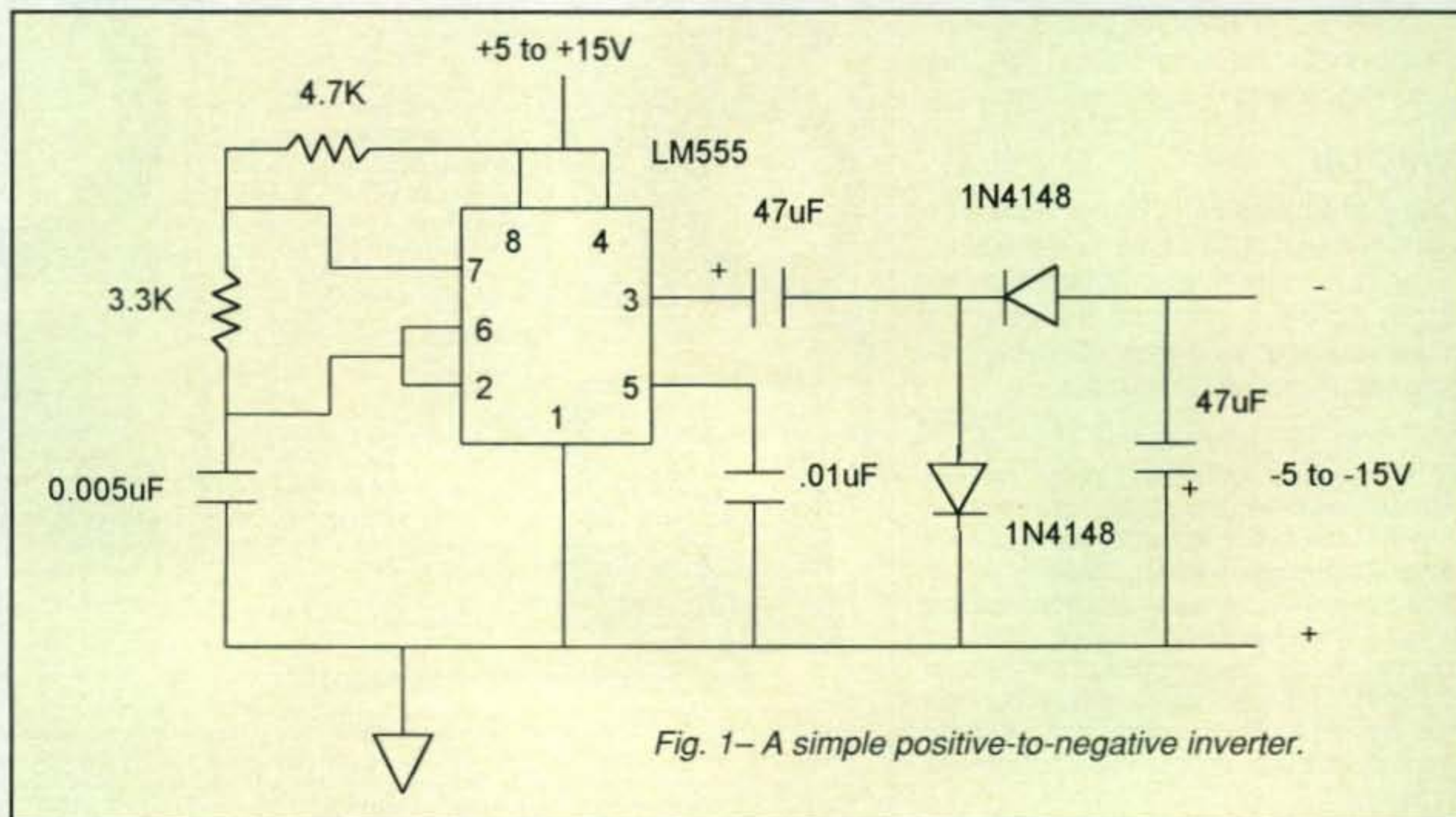


Fig. 1—A simple positive-to-negative inverter.

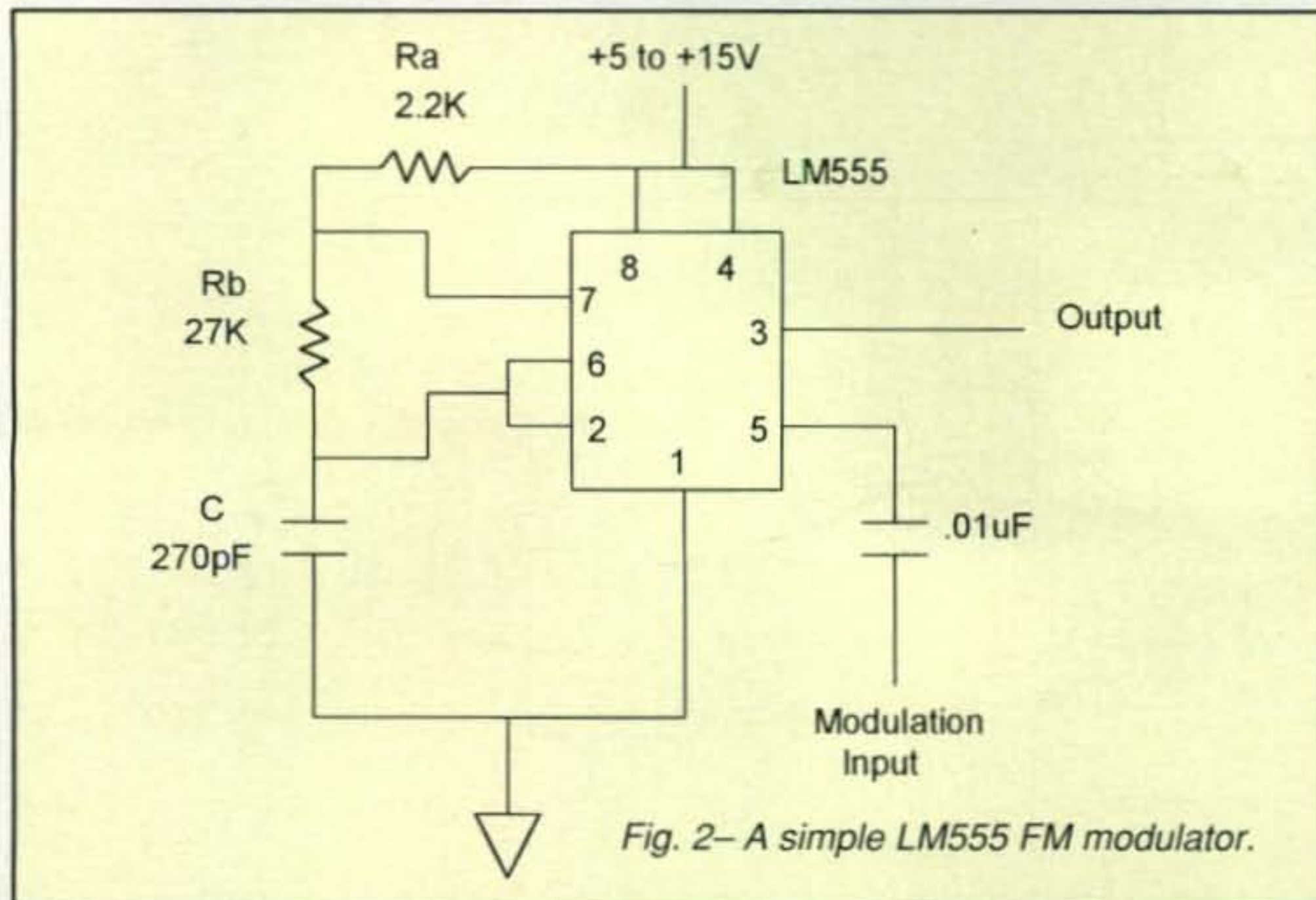


Fig. 2— A simple LM555 FM modulator.

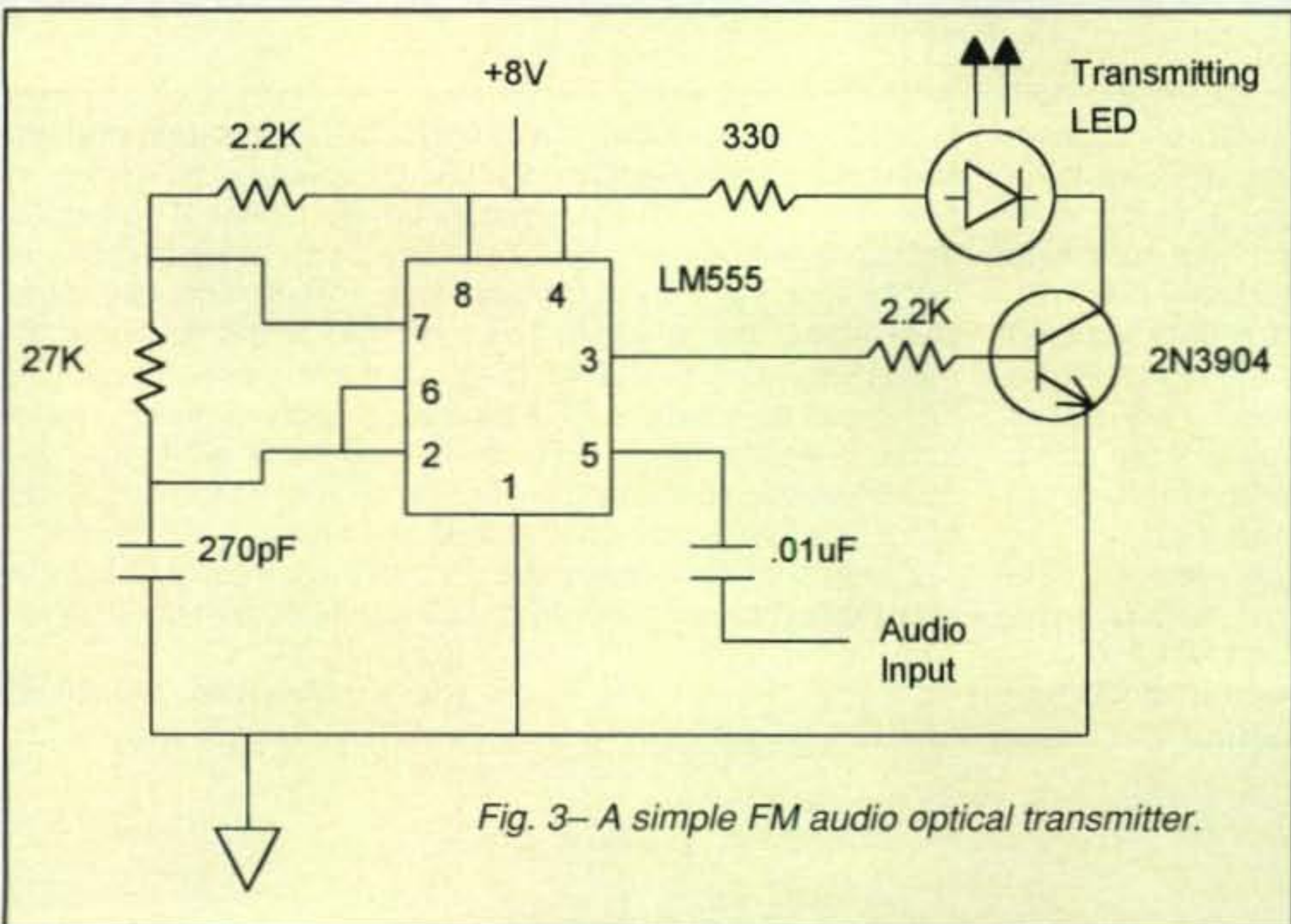


Fig. 3— A simple FM audio optical transmitter.

the secondary of a dual primary (115/230volt) 24-volt 50/60-Hz power transformer, and the transformer steps up the amplifier's output to 230 volts. The gain control of the amplifier is then used to adjust the output voltage level as required. When building such a circuit, be certain to choose a transformer with the correct power rating to match the amplifier you are using as well as the ability to operate at 50 Hz. Also be very careful, as you will be producing 230 volts at enough current to seriously hurt you (or worse) if you come in contact with the wrong leads.

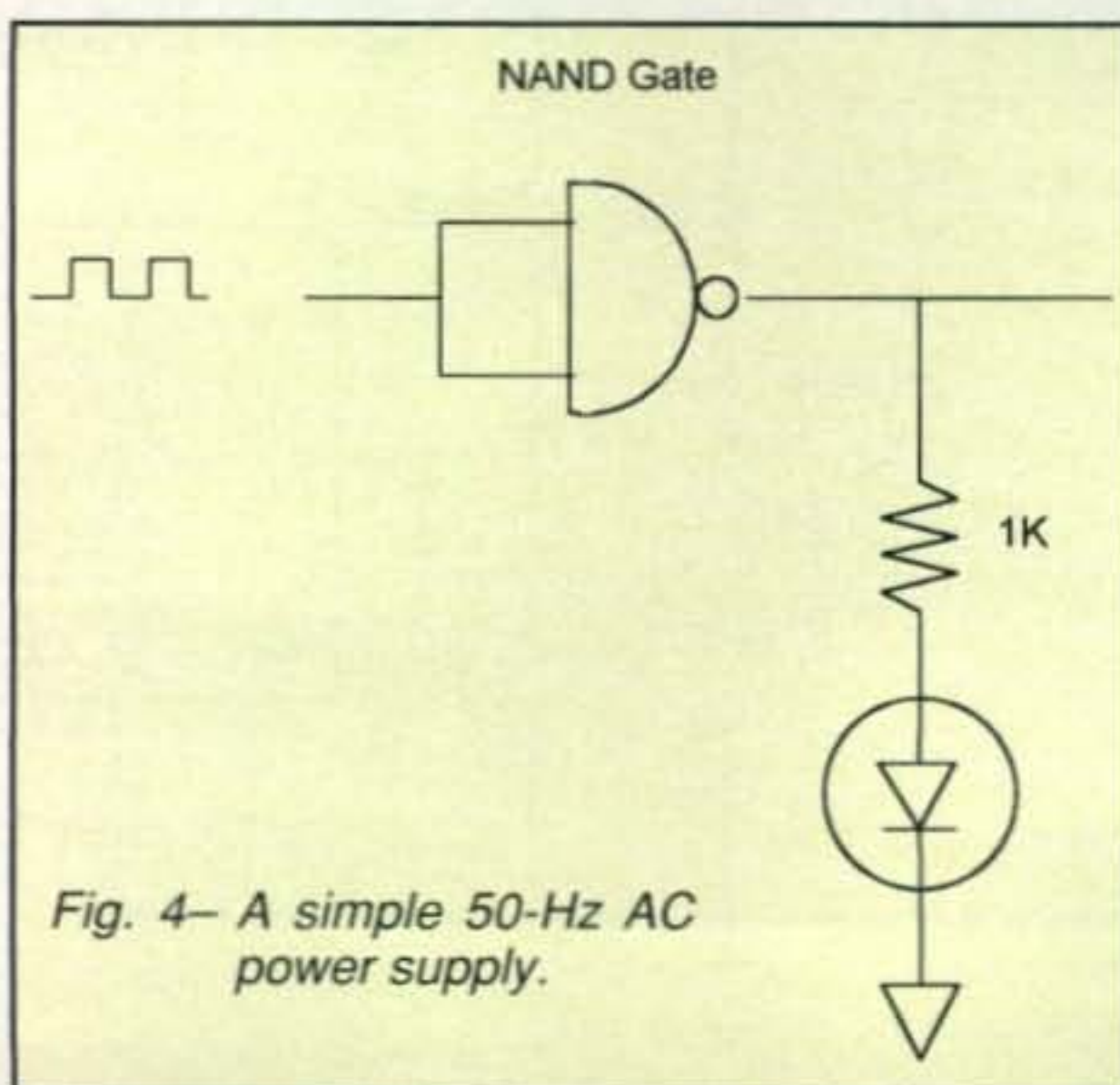


Fig. 4— A simple 50-Hz AC power supply.

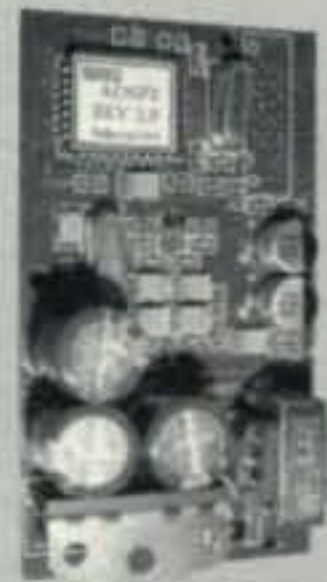
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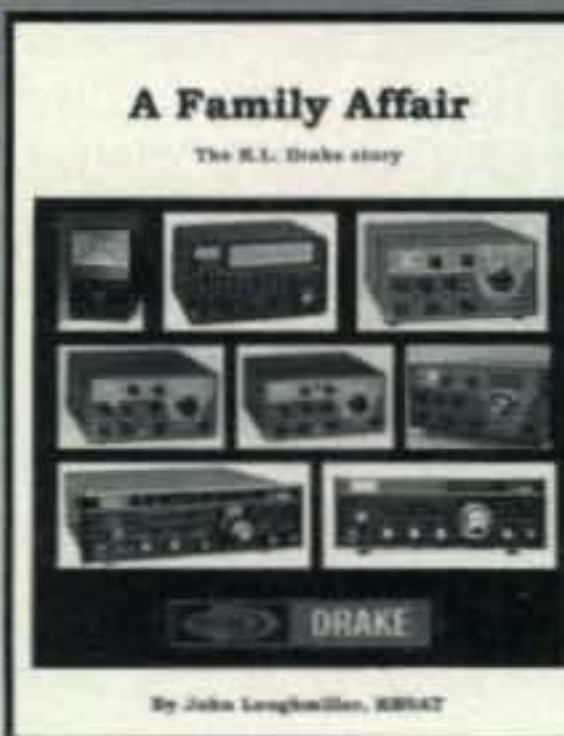
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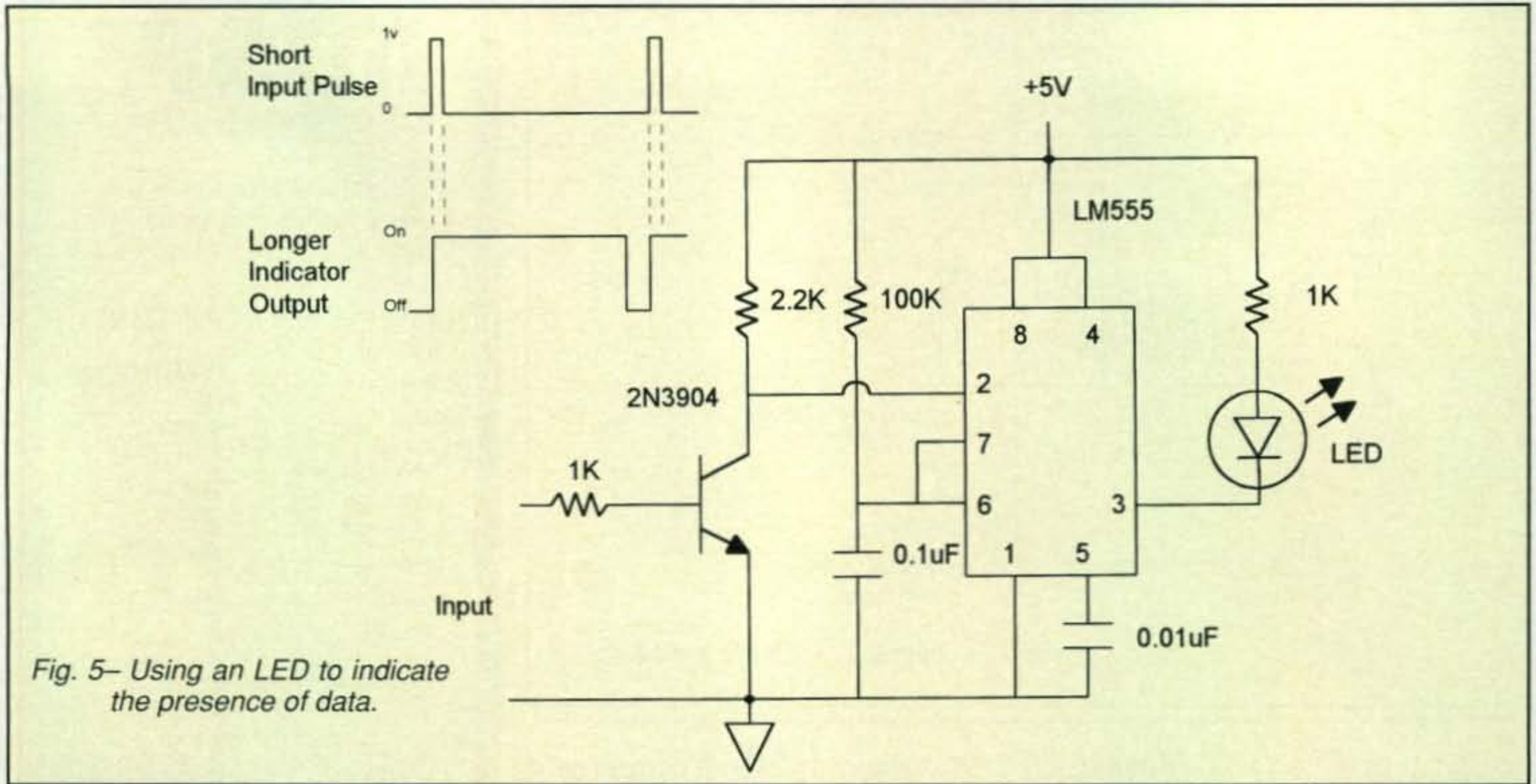


Fig. 5— Using an LED to indicate the presence of data.

Often, particularly in data-transmission systems, it is desirable to indicate the presence of valid signals. This is usually done with indicator LEDs as shown in fig. 5. In this configuration, whenever the output of the NAND gate goes high (to logic 1), the LED lights. If the output goes low (or logic 0), the LED turns off. When actual data is present, the LED "blinks" in step with the data, so as long as the high, or logic 1, time duration is long enough, light from the LED will appear to be continuously on. If the logic 1 data pulses are short, however, or if the on-to-off ratio is very wide, you may not see anything, since the light flash may be too short.

A solution to this problem is shown in fig. 6. Here the data pulses are first inverted by a transistor (since the 555 needs a negative-going pulse to trigger) then applied to a 555 configured as a one-shot "pulse stretcher." The time constant of

the 555 is set such that the indicator LED lights long enough to easily be seen. Because the 555 is capable of triggering on pulses as short as 20 nanoseconds, single pulses at data rates as high as 40 Mb/sec. can be detected, which, incidentally, is well beyond the maximum continuously rated frequency of the chip. Also, since a 40 Mb/sec. logic 1/logic 0 repeating data rate is equivalent to a 20-MHz square wave, you can even use this circuit as a simple RF indicator by applying the RF input to the transistor stage in fig. 6. The transistor will trigger the 555 on positive excursions of the RF as long as the amplitude of the positive excursion is at least 0.7 volts.

These are only a few of the uses of the versatile 555. I am sure that with some thought you can come up with even more.

73, Irwin, WA2NDM

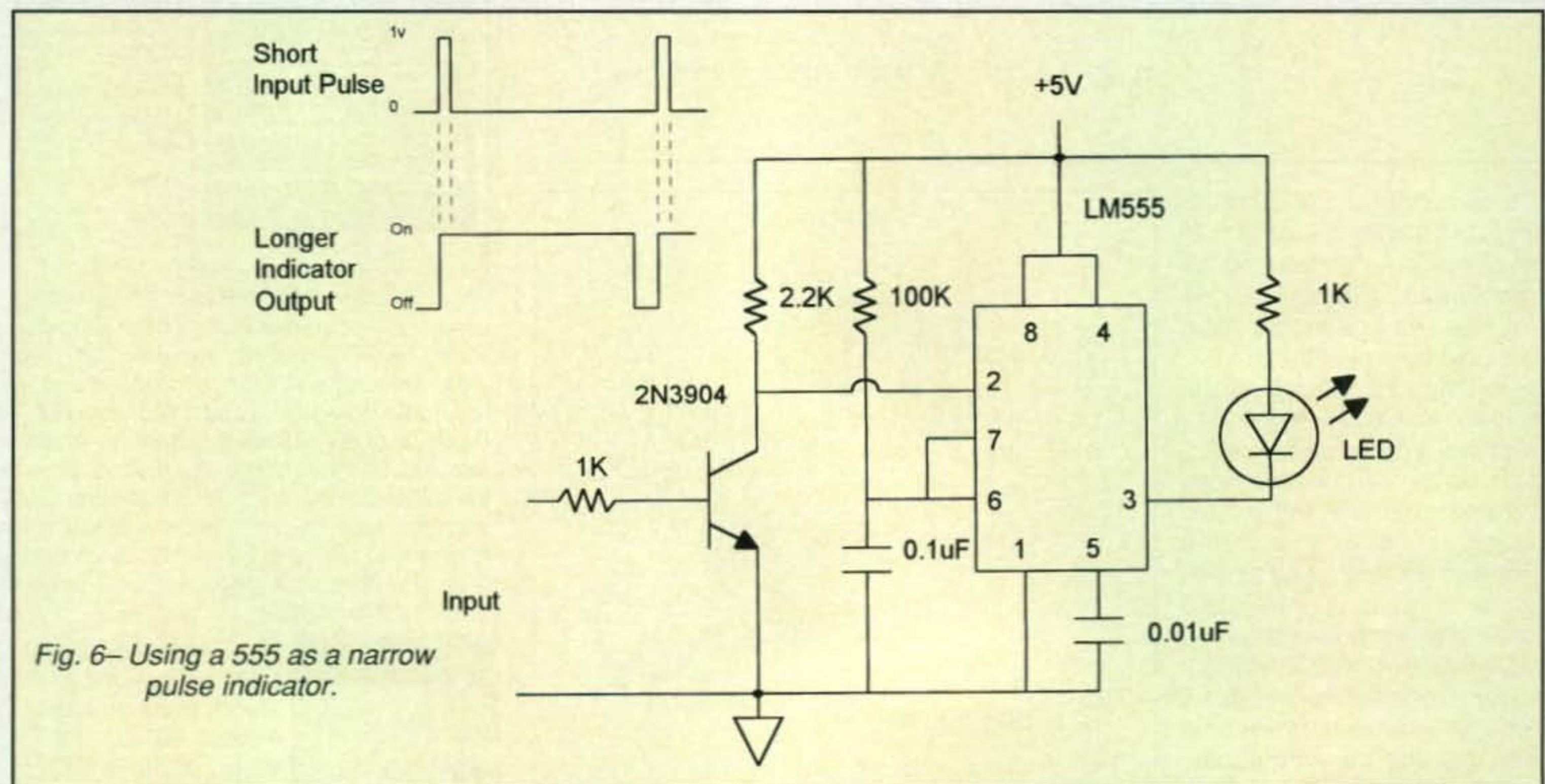


Fig. 6— Using a 555 as a narrow pulse indicator.

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What You've Told Us...

Our June survey was a continuation of our hamfest questions that began in May. Once again, more than three quarters of you have been to a hamfest in the past two years. Only 14% have never been to a hamfest or have not attended one in more than 5 years.

In answer to our question about your most recent hamfest purchase(s), 38% of you had bought books, magazines, CDs or videos; 37% a new accessory; 26% something not on our list; 22% each a new antenna or a used accessory; 18% bought nothing; 8% bought a new transceiver for home use; 7% a used transceiver for home use; 7% got a new handheld transceiver (only 1% bought a used HT); 6% got a new mobile rig (plus another 3% who bought a used mobile radio); and 5% bought a used antenna.

Hamfests continue to be major points of purchase for ham gear. While 36% of our respondents made their most recent ham equipment purchases from a dealer by phone or mail order, 27% bought their most recent rig from a dealer at a hamfest and another 13% bought a rig from another ham at a hamfest (that's 40% of recent equipment purchases by our readers being made at hamfests). In addition, 14% made their most recent radio purchase from a dealer at a store; 11% bought from a dealer online; 9% from another ham in person (but not at a hamfest); 7% via an online auction site, such as eBay; 4% through an online classified ad; 3% through a classified ad in a magazine or newsletter; 2% other, and nobody bought a rig via an on-air swap net. Only 5% have made no recent purchases of ham gear.

Finally, we asked those readers who had not been to a hamfest in three years or longer why not. The main reason (12%) was "no hamfests near me," followed by "not enough interest" and "other" (11% each), "not enough free time" (6%); "better deals online" (3%), "not enough used gear" (2%), "not enough new gear" (1%) and "don't know" (1%).

This month's free subscription winner is Richard Olson, K9BWI, of Fountain, CO.

Reader Survey August 2004

We'd like to know more about you—about who you are, where you live, what kind(s) of work you do, and of course, what kinds of amateur radio activities you enjoy. Why? To help us serve you better.

Each time we run one of these surveys, we'll ask a few different questions and ask you to indicate your answers by circling numbers on the Survey Card and returning it to us. As a bit of an incentive, we'll pick one respondent each month and give that person a complimentary one-year subscription (or subscription extension) to *CQ*.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Volunteer Examiner system for giving ham license exams, and in June, the first "same-day licenses" were issued to test-takers at the HamCom hamfest in Dallas (see this month's "Zero Bias" for details). This month, we'd like your views on the VE system after 20 years.

Please answer by circling the appropriate numbers on the reply card.

1. Have you taken one or more license exams under the Volunteer Examiner (VE) system?
 - Yes.....1
 - No.....2
2. Have you taken one or more license exams at an FCC office or before an FCC examiner?
 - Yes.....3
 - No.....4
3. Are you a certified Volunteer Examiner?
 - Yes.....5
 - No.....6
4. If you answered yes to question 3, how long has it been since you participated in a test session as an examiner?
 - Within the past 3 months.....7
 - Within the past 6 months.....8
 - Within the past 12 months.....9
 - More than a year ago.....10
 - Never.....11
 - Not a VE.....12
5. Overall, do you think that over the past 20 years, the VE system has been...
 - ... good for amateur radio.....13
 - ... bad for amateur radio.....14
 - ... neither good nor bad for amateur radio.....15
 - ... don't know/no opinion.....16
6. Do you think that the ability, using the Internet, to get a license issued within ours of taking a test, rather than days or weeks, will be ...
 - ... good for amateur radio.....17
 - ... bad for amateur radio.....18
 - ... neither good nor bad for amateur radio.....19
 - ... don't know/no opinion.....20
7. Do you think there is a problem with abuse of the VE system by examiners and test candidates?
 - Yes, a major problem.....21
 - Yes, a small problem.....22
 - No abuse problem.....23
 - Don't know / no opinion.....24
8. If you feel there is a problem with abuse of the VE system, do you feel that the VE Coordinators (VECs) do an adequate job of policing their teams and watching for discrepancies?
 - Yes.....25
 - No.....26
 - Don't know / no opinion.....27
9. If you feel there is a problem with abuse of the VE system, do you feel that the FCC does an adequate job of enforcement when discrepancies are found?
 - Yes.....28
 - No.....29
 - Don't know / no opinion.....30

Thank you very much for your replies. We'll be back with more questions next month.

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EDC-91

Rapid Charger for DJ-V5TH

EDC-36

Cigar Plug Cable with filter



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FCC Discusses Amateur Radio Rulemaking at Dayton Hamvention®

The FCC Forum at the 2004 Dayton Hamvention® featured FCC's William Cross, W3TN, as the keynote speaker. Bill Cross works in the Public Safety and Critical Infrastructure Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at the FCC's Washington, D.C. headquarters. This division is responsible for most of the rule-making activities that impact the Amateur Radio Service. It also handles the day-to-day administration of the Amateur Service. (The staff in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, handles most Amateur Radio applications and other licensing matters.)

Bill started out by updating everyone on the recent Amateur Service Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. "Much of what we do is to react," he explained. "The NPRM that came out April 15 addresses 20 miscellaneous petitions the amateur community filed. An additional 18 WRC-03 related petitions are also from you. There are other petitions pending, and most have come from a radioamateur or organization."

During the forum, Cross briefly discussed each of these proceedings and talked a bit about the Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) proceeding as well. The following are excerpts from Cross's comments:

Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (WT Docket No. 04-140)

...that was released April 15 addresses 20 petitions for rulemaking ...including one informal request. Twelve of these petitions were denied. The rest were either granted, which means we proposed what the petitioner requested, or granted in part, which means we proposed at least one rule change the petitioner requested.

The NPRM proposes to revise operating privileges for all licensees, even Novices. It also proposes to eliminate obsolete and duplicative rules, to conform the Amateur Radio Service rules to the international Radio Regulations, and to amend certain rules to reflect changes in Commission organization and practices.

There are many rule changes proposed. The major ones and the petitioner are:

- Revise the operating privileges in four HF bands. These include voice and data privileges (ARRL)
- Permit auxiliary stations to transmit on the 2 meter band (Kenwood)
- Permit amateur stations to transmit spread spectrum communications on the 1.25 meter band (ARRL)
- Permit amateur stations to re-transmit International Space Station communications (NASA John H. Glenn Research ARC)
- Allow Amateur Service licensees to designate an amateur radio club to receive their callsign, in memoriam (QCWA)
- Prohibit an applicant from filing more than one application for a specific vanity callsign (Edwards, Lynch, and Young)

**Chairman, NCVEC Rules Committee
Member, Question Pool Committee
1020 Byron Lane, Arlington, TX 76012
e-mail: <w5yi@cq-amateur-radio.com>*

- Eliminate unnecessary restrictions imposed on certain equipment manufacturers (FCC)
- Allow amateur radio stations in or near Alaska more flexibility in providing emergency communications (FCC)
- Eliminate unnecessary rules in the amateur radio operator license examination system (FCC).

What the FCC Proposed

High-Frequency Phone-Band Expansion. The proposal is to eliminate the telegraphy frequency segments currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus Class licensees, and to use that spectrum to expand the portion of 80, 40, and 15 meter bands that may be used for phone communications.

Novice and Technician Plus Class licensees would be authorized to control an amateur station transmitting in what you all refer to as the General (and Advanced) Class CW bands.

Novice and Technician Plus Class licensees also would be authorized CW, RTTY, and data emissions privileges in 28.0–28.3 MHz. Presently they have 28.1–28.3 for CW, RTTY, and data.

General Class licensees would be authorized 3800–4000 kHz, 7175–7300 kHz, and 21275–21450 kHz frequency segments for voice.

Advanced Class licensees would be authorized 3750–4000 kHz and 7125–7300 kHz frequency segments for voice.

Amateur Extra Class licensees would be authorized voice communications on the 3725–4000 kHz and 7125–7300 kHz segments.

Data Communications. The proposal is to allow an amateur station to transmit an image emission 500 Hz or less on the frequency segments now authorized for data and RTTY emission types. 500 Hz or less was requested so that the narrow bandwidth nature of these band segments is maintained.

The proposal also changes the definition of *data* to include emission types A1C and F2C (FAX) having an occupied bandwidth of 500 Hz or less. This change would allow development of new or improved communication systems.

Very-High-Frequency Privileges. Auxiliary stations are amateur stations, other than one in a message-forwarding system, that are transmitting point-to-point communications within a system of cooperating amateur stations. Auxiliary stations are used for repeater and "remote base" control links among other things. Auxiliary stations are also used when remotely controlling something ... turning on or off a remote receiver in a 2 meter network or an HF transceiver, for example.

The proposal is to allow auxiliary stations to transmit on the 2 meter band above 144.5 MHz, except 145.8–146.0 MHz. It would promote the development and use of new technology, including Kenwood's Sky Command system, and would be consistent with our flexible-use policy in the Amateur Service.

The proposal does not affect the frequency segments authorized to automatically controlled beacon stations, space stations, earth stations, or those frequency segments that amateur radio operators have voluntarily agreed to use for simplex and weak-signal work.

Spread Spectrum. SS currently is allowed on any Amateur Service frequency above 420 MHz. Proposal is to authorize SS emissions on 222–225 MHz. We also requested comment regarding whether we should allow

transmission of SS emission types on either or both the 6 and 2 meter bands.

Retransmission of Space Station Communications. The proposal here is to allow retransmission of communications between a manned spacecraft and its associated Earth stations. The basis for the request is that there are no distinctions between retransmitting space shuttle communications and ISS communications.

Vanity Call Sign System. "In Memoriam" provisions. The proposal is to allow currently licensed amateur radio operators to designate a specific amateur radio club to acquire their callsign in memoriam. As the rules are now, licensees may not express a desire as to which radio club receives their callsigns "in memoriam," but any of your relatives can. Even ones you don't know ... or admit to. A recipient club would still have to apply for the callsign before former holders and relatives of former holders, now deceased, to get the callsign.

Multiple Vanity Callsign Applications. Here you requested we amend Part 97 to prohibit acceptance of more than one application per applicant per vanity callsign. The issue is equity and fairness, according to the petitioners.

Space Station Launch Notification. This proposal doesn't affect many of you, but notification is necessary because there are many satellites orbiting the Earth. Notification is necessary so everyone knows where their bird is relative to all the other birds. You don't want these things colliding. Our proposal is to require that pre-space notification be submitted within 30 days after the launch vehicle is determined, but no later than 90 days before the space station is integrated into the launch vehicle.

Commission Proposals and Order. There were a number of Commission-initiated proposals. Most would not affect many licensees or are of an administrative nature. The ones that people seem interested in are:

HF amplifiers capable of transmitting on the 12 and 10 meter Amateur Service bands. The Rules prohibit commercial manufacturers from marketing amplifiers that are capable of transmitting on the 12 and 10 meter bands to amateur radio operators. But you can make and modify, or buy, or have modified an amp so that it is capable of transmitting on these bands.

Our proposal is to clarify and simplify the exceptions in our Rules and eliminate the restrictions imposed on manufacturers as compared to the restrictions imposed on Amateur Service licensees. The proposal would allow manufacturers to market equipment in the United States that they now may market overseas.

The intent of the current rules is to prevent commercial manufacturers from marketing to CB Radio Service users RF power amplifiers that had been approved for use at amateur stations. But Section 95.411 of our CB Rules prohibits, under any circumstances, an individual from attaching an external RF power amplifier or any device capable of amplifying the signal to a CB transmitter. Therefore, an individual who uses an amplifier at a CB sta-

tion would violate a CB Radio Service rule, not an Amateur Service rule.

We also proposed to delete the definition of an external RF power amplifier kit. The current definition is so broad that an amateur radio operator would find it difficult to determine if a group of electronic parts he or she purchases or possesses will be defined by the Commission as an external RF power amplifier kit.

Public-service communications. We proposed to amend Section 97.111(a) to clarify that amateur stations may at all times and

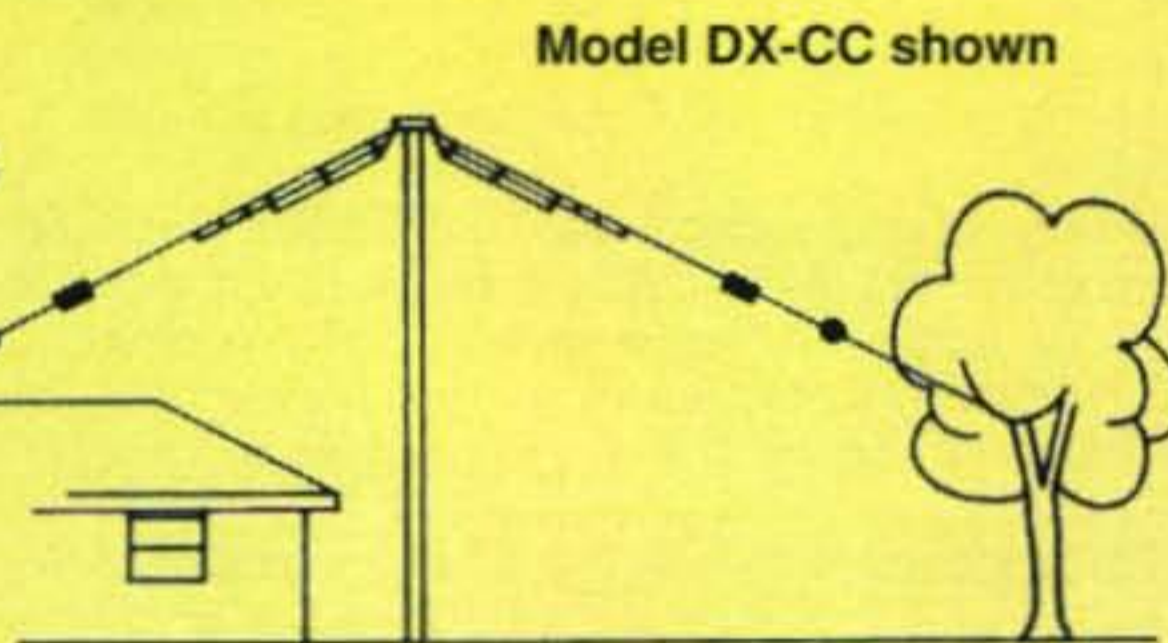
on all channels authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions. This rule is now in Section 97.401 under operating during a disaster. There has been confusion over whether there must be a disaster before an amateur station may make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions. We believe that we should not restrict these communications, which may be instrumental in saving human life and property.

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The FCC proposal eliminates the need for Sections 97.401(a) (concerning disaster communications) and 97.401(c) (concerning the priority given to disaster communications), so these sections would be deleted.

Alaska emergency frequency. Amateur stations in or within 92.6 km of Alaska are permitted to transmit communications during emergencies on 5.1675 MHz. Section 97.401(d) of our Rules does not authorize communication for training drills and tests on this frequency. The proposal is to authorize an amateur station in or within 92.6 km of Alaska to transmit communications during tests and drills on 5.1675 MHz.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). Presently, procedures for the use and coordination of the radio spectrum during national emergencies are specified, among other places, in Parts 201 and 214 of our Rules. Authority rests with the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, an office that answers directly to the president. The director may issue policy guidance, rules, regulations, procedures, and directives to assure effective frequency usage during wartime emergency conditions. The Director, OSTP, has the authority to specify which, if any, frequency segments RACES stations and other amateur stations may transmit on.

The proposal is to delete the frequency bands and segments specified and to clarify that during certain emergencies the frequency segments available to RACES stations and amateur stations participating in RACES would be authorized pursuant to Part 214 of our Rules.

Qualifying examination system rules. We proposed to eliminate the requirement that a public announcement of test locations and times be made. Adequate announcement is already on club and VEC websites, in newsletters, and in other media. Public announcements could still be made; they just would not be required by the FCC.

We proposed to require that VEs give examination credit for the telegraphy examination element to an examinee who holds a Technician Class license document granted after February 14, 1991,

and who has documentation showing he or she has passed a telegraphy examination element.

We proposed to eliminate the mandated ten-day time during which VEs and VECs must submit or forward applications. The VECs file applications electronically with the Commission and the rules require that they do so. We believe that a rule mandating a ten-day submission time is unnecessary in light of the current rules and actual practices in the VEC system.

We also requested comment regarding whether there are other unnecessary rules applicable to the Amateur Service qualifying examination system that we should eliminate, and whether there are other rules we should amend to conform with actual practices in the examination system.

The FCC Order. Makes minor amendments to various rule sections to clarify or eliminate duplicative language, or conform them with other rule sections.

- We revised the definition of an "amateur operator" in Section 97.3(a)(1) of our Rules to reflect that it is an entry on our Universal Licensing System (ULS) that determines whether a person is an amateur radio operator.

- We replaced the term "Engineer-In-Charge" with "District Director" in one section of the rules and deleted it from another section.

- We consolidated rules applicable to repeater stations in Section 97.205.

- We amended Section 97.307(d) of our Rules to require the mean power of any spurious emission from a new amateur station transmitter or amplifier transmitting on a frequency below 30 MHz to be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. The current rule is inconsistent with the Radio Regulations.

- We revised Section 97.505(a)(9) to refer to only expired Technician Class license documents granted before February 14, 1991. There are no more unexpired Technician Class operator license documents granted before February 14, 1991. They have either been renewed or the licensee has been dropped from the database.



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• We revised Section 97.507(a)(2) so that a Technician Class Amateur Radio operator may not prepare a Technician Class operator license examination.

WRC-03 Petitions

As I mentioned earlier, we have received and assigned rule-making numbers to 18 petitions that request rule changes based on the changes in the international Radio Regs that were adopted at WRC-03.

I want to briefly summarize what each petition requests so you get a flavor of what we have before us. The summaries will be brief, I do not claim they include everything the petitioner requested. They are listed in the order we put them on Public Notice.

Keep in mind that all of these petitions were developed and filed before the WT Docket No. 04-140 NPRM was released April 15, so none of them could have taken into account our proposal to re-farm the Novice bands and expand the phone bands.

• **RM-10781** addresses only operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. It requests that Technician Class amateurs be authorized the same CW, RTTY, and data privileges now authorized Tech Plus and Novice Class licensees; CW, phone, and image privileges (this would include SSTV) in 3850–3900 kHz and 7225–7300 kHz; and CW and SSB in 28.3–28.5 MHz. [CW and SSB in 28.3–28.5 MHz is what is now authorized Tech Plus and Novice Class licensees.] The petition notes that its intent is to eliminate the difference between the Tech Plus and the Technician Class license in the HF bands.

• **RM-10782** seeks the removal of Element 1—the 5 wpm telegraphy or CW exam—from the Amateur Service exam system. The petition says that removing the CW exam requirement would put CW on the same standing as other modulation techniques. Petition also requests that Technician Class licensees be authorized privileges available to Tech Plus Class licensees.

• **RM-10783** requests that we amend the rules to remove all requirements for knowledge of Morse code. It argues that because

Morse code use has declined in other services there is less reason to require it in the Amateur Service, and that the requirement as it is now limits the number of people who take advantage of amateur radio as a hobby.

• **RM-10784** requests that we amend the rules to remove the CW exam requirement for the General Class license. This proposal would retain the CW exam requirement for the Amateur Extra Class license and keep the written exam elements as they are now. This petition also requests that we authorize General Class privileges to foreign amateur service licensees who have a no-code license.

• **RM-10785** proposes that proficiency in using Morse code be eliminated. It argues that Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement is independent of making a value judgment about the utility or desirability of Morse code as a mode of communication. It also points out that no amateur radio operator is required to use Morse code for communications even though the rules require that proficiency be demonstrated to qualify for certain licenses.

• **RM-10786** is from No-Code International. It also requests that we eliminate Morse code proficiency tests for an amateur radio license. It, and others, argue that because the Amateur Service is fundamentally a technical service, a code proficiency requirement is inconsistent with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service. NCI says it believes that the Morse code requirement has been the biggest single impediment to recruiting new, more technically inclined, and younger individuals into amateur radio. NCI also requests that the operating privileges for the Technician and Tech Plus operator licenses be made the same.

• **RM-10787** is from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators. NCVEC is comprised of the 14 VEC organizations that develop and administer all amateur radio operator license tests and who file the successful ones with us. It requests that we terminate the telegraphy examination requirement and that we permit Technician Class licensees the same access to HF spectrum that we permit Novice and Technician Plus Class licensees. NCVEC says that taking the Morse test is an unnecessary burden



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on examinees and the VEC system, and that Morse proficiency is not an indication of operator quality.

• **RM-10805** requests that we eliminate the Morse code proficiency test from the exam requirements for the Technician Plus Class operator licenses, and leave all other classes and exam requirements as they are today. It also requests that we allow Technician Plus Class licensees access to the top 50 kHz of the General Class phone bands, except on 17, 30, and 60 meters, using a maximum power of 100W ERP.

• **RM-10806** requests that we retain and preserve, permanently, the present Morse code test requirements for licenses classes with privileges below 30 MHz. The petition states that voice communications does not diminish the vital and necessary role of more accurate and reliable CW for emergency communications. The petition argues, among other things, that removing the code requirement would result in a dramatic reduction of future skilled operators.

• **RM-10807** is a comprehensive restructuring petition. It requests that we merge the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus Classes into a new Technician Class; authorize additional CW/data privileges on 3600–3750, additional data privileges in the 40, 15 meter Novice bands, no change to 10 meter CW/data band, additional 100 kHz to 10 meter phone, 200 watts maximum power. The petition also requests we automatically upgrade Advanced Class licensees to Amateur Extra Class.

Exam requirements: The petition requests we regard Morse code as another mode of operation equal to others. Morse exams would continue but scores would be combined with written exam. Petitioners suggest 44 questions for Technician exam, 88 questions for General and Amateur Extra written exams, 75% passing score. CSEs (Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination) would no longer be necessary.

• **RM-10808** says it was submitted as an alternative to NCVEC petition. It requests that we amend the rules to require an examinee to demonstrate proficiency in the mode he or she wishes to operate. Basic test would cover phone privileges; test CW skill if an applicant

intends to operate CW. Modes requested are RTTY, data, image, spread spectrum, pulse, RACES/ARES, and space communications.

• **RM-10809** is from the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League. It requests that we eliminate the Morse code test as a requirement for the Technician and General Class licenses, but keep the requirement for the Amateur Extra Class license. It also requests that changes be made to the contents of the written exams, that we impose additional requirements on VECs regarding certification of VEs, and that we prohibit re-testing of examinees in the same session.

• **RM-10810** requests that we have only two operator license classes: General and Extra. The General Class would require passing a written exam; the Extra Class license would require passing a 15 wpm Morse code test, in addition to the General Class written exam. General Class licensees would have all privileges except the Extra Class CW subbands. Extra Class phone subbands would be eliminated. All licensees except Amateur Extra Class licensees would be granted General Class privileges.

• **RM-10811** is from the FISTS CW Club. It requests that we retain Morse code testing, increase technical skills required on written exams, and allow Technician Class licensees to use digital modes in the Novice subbands. FISTS argues that requiring Morse code proficiency for licensing will ensure an adequate supply of radio operators for emergency communications.

FISTS requests that we merge the Technician and Tech Plus Classes of licenses and that no Morse code exam be required. Digital privileges in the Novice bands would be authorized but not HF voice privileges. FISTS requests we retain the 5 wpm code test for General Class license and require a 12 wpm code test for the Amateur Extra Class license. It also requests an increased technical level be required on the written exams for General and Amateur Extra Class licenses.

Other requests from FISTS are that we retain the Novice subbands for narrow-band digital modes and that we prohibit re-testing of examinees in the same session.

• **RM-10867.** The ARRL requests streamlining the licensing struc-



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ture ...consolidating all current licensees into three classes, Technician, General, and Amateur Extra Class.

Novice Class would be authorized HF phone privileges with no Morse code test. Current Novice licensees would be "grandfathered" into a new Novice Class ... with a 25-question written exam; no RF safety questions; limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters; plus VHF and UHF privileges on the 6, 2, 1.25 meters, and 70 cm bands. Power would be limited to 100W output on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50W on 10 meters and up (to avoid the need for the RF safety questions).

Technician and Tech Plus Class licensees would be upgraded to the General Class and gain current General Class privileges without additional testing. General Class no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Element 3 examination would remain in place for new applicants; no changes in privileges for General Class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17, or 12 meters.

Current Advanced Class licensees would be upgraded to Amateur Extra since the technical level of the exams is very similar. The Amateur Extra Class written exam would be the same plus 5 wpm. There would be no changes in privileges on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17, or 12 meters.

• **RM-10868.** The Radio Amateur Foundation petition is similar to the others. It proposes a three-class license structure: Technician, General, and Amateur Extra. They request to upgrade Novices to Technician Class and Advanced Class licensees to Amateur Extra Class. Code-free Technician Class ...no change to exams for General and Amateur Extra Class licenses.

RAF would authorize Techs limited HF phone, data, image, CW privileges, all privileges above 50 MHz. Lifetime exam credit for those who have passed 5 wpm tests.

• **RM-10869.** This petition is similar to FISTS: three classes of operator license; two code examination elements. Eliminate Morse code test element for Technician Class licenses, retain Element 1 for General Class, require 13 wpm for Amateur Extra Class operator licenses. Petitioner states Morse code proficiency is a key component of community-service responsibilities under and within

Department of Homeland Security. Also says Morse code will be a key backup mode for secure-coded and non-secure messages.

• **RM-10870.** This petition from the NCVEC also requests three classes of operator licenses: Communicator Class with distinctive call-signs (NA1AAA–NZ0ZZZ); General Class and Amateur Extra Class. Novices would receive Communicator Class licenses; Techs and Tech Plus Class licensees would be upgraded to General; Advanced Class licensees would be upgraded to Amateur Extra Class. No code tests for any license class. Exams for General and Amateur Extra would not change ... a 20-question test for the Communicator license would be required. Communicator Class licensees would receive privileges on the 80, 40, 15, 10, 6, 2, 1.25 meters, and 70 cm bands. Use of commercially available equipment or equipment built from a kit would be required.

7 MHz Realignment ET Docket 04-139

The band 7000–7100 kHz is allocated to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services on a primary, exclusive basis throughout the world. 7100–7300 kHz is allocated to the Amateur Service on a primary, exclusive basis in Region 2, including the United States; it is allocated exclusively to the HFBC (high frequency broadcasting) service in Regions 1 and 3.

Effective January 1, 2005 the Amateur Service in Regions 1 and 3 is allowed 7100–7200 kHz on a co-primary basis with the broadcasting service. This means that amateur stations in Regions 1 and 3 will shortly be permitted to transmit in the band 7100–7200 kHz, if they can find a frequency that is not being used by an international broadcast station. Amateur Service use of this 100 kilohertz will be shared until the broadcasting service vacates the band 7100–7200 kHz on March 29, 2009. After that date, the band 7100–7200 kHz is allocated to the Amateur Service on an exclusive basis throughout the world, except in certain countries.

We anticipate that administrations in Regions 1 and 3 in the near future will authorize phone emissions in the segment 7150–7200 kHz, and we note the ARRL has requested that the frequency seg-



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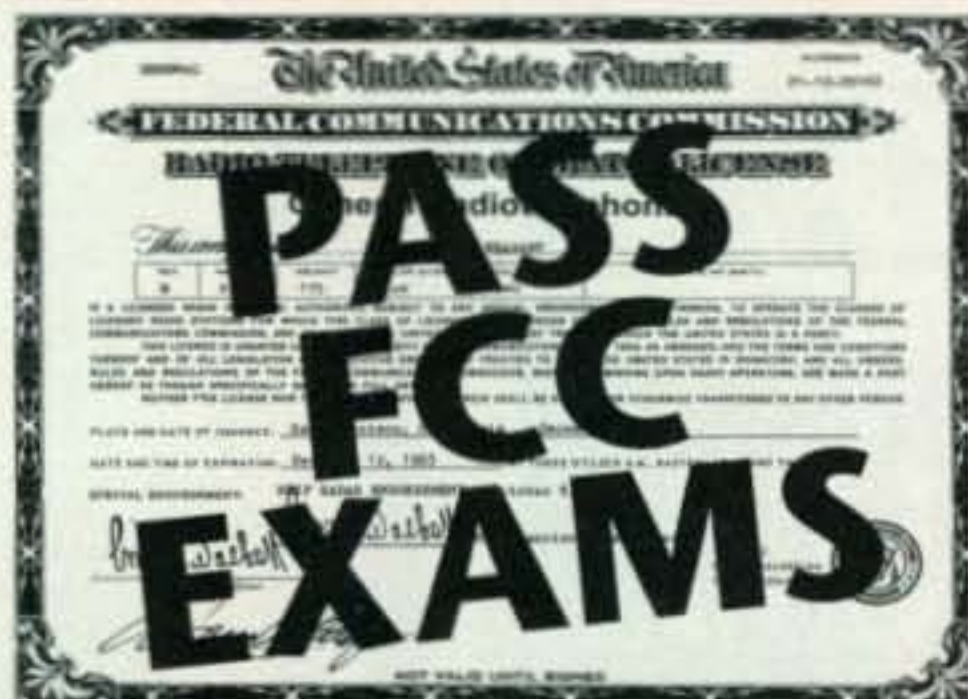
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ment for phone emissions be expanded to 7125- 7300 kHz. These changes, if implemented, would permit transceiver operations by amateur stations (as opposed to the "split" method currently used for most voice contacts between North/South America and other parts of the world—ed.).

Broadband Over Powerlines (BPL)

In ET Docket No. 04-37 the Commission is proposing to amend Part 15 of our rules to adopt new requirements and measurement guidelines for a new type of carrier current system—Access BPL—which provides access to broadband services using electric utility companies' power lines.

The Commission also is proposing to require that BPL systems and devices incorporate capabilities to mitigate harmful interference should it occur, to adopt administrative requirements to aid in the identification and resolution of harmful interference from Access BPL systems, and to clarify certain measurement guidelines for all types of carrier current systems.

Carrier current systems have existed previously. Until recently, they operated generally on frequencies below 2 MHz and with relatively limited communications capabilities.

The availability of faster digital processing capabilities and the development of sophisticated modulation schemes have produced new designs that can overcome these technical obstacles. These new designs have led to the development of new BPL systems that couple RF energy onto the existing electric power lines to provide high-speed communications capabilities.

BPL systems may operate either inside a building ("In-House BPL") or over utility poles and medium-voltage electric power lines ("Access BPL"). Electric utilities can use Access BPL systems to monitor their electric power distribution operations.

Most Access BPL systems today operate on frequencies up to 50 MHz with very low-power signals spread over a broad range of frequencies. These frequencies are also used by licensed radio services that must be protected from harmful interference as BPL systems operate on an unlicensed basis under Part 15 of the Commission's rules.

There is significant disagreement regarding the interference potential of Access BPL. A number of parties maintain that Access BPL poses the potential for new interference to a variety of radio services. ARRL contends that the potential interference from Access BPL would be so severe as to warrant its exclusion from all bands allocated for amateur use.

NTIA also states that we must ensure that Federal Government operations are adequately protected from unacceptable interference. There are over 18,000 Federal Government frequency assignments in the 1.7-80 MHz spectrum range. Commenting parties representing other services also raise potential interference concerns.

The FCC Proposal is to:

1. Define Access BPL for purposes of our rules;
2. Maintain the existing Part 15 emission limits for Access BPL;

3. Require that Access BPL devices employ adaptive interference mitigation techniques;

4. Require that Access BPL providers maintain a database of installation locations and technical information; and

5. Adopt specific measurement guidelines for both Access BPL and other carrier current systems to ensure that measurements are made in a consistent manner and provide for repeatable results in determining compliance with our rules.

**There's a Lot Coming
Down the Pike...**

...that you need to watch and know about. First, there will be Commission items such as a Notice of Proposed Rule Making that will address the petitions I talked about. There also may be items coming out of other bureaus such as OET and the Office of Managing Director, or OMD. OMD handles matters such as the fee you pay for vanity call sign applications.

We still have to address the bandwidth limitation Petition for Rulemaking we received from Mr. Lonke and Mr. Ladisky. This may be done on its own or as part of a larger proceeding, such as the NPRM that will address the 18 WRC-03 petitions. You may see some of these items coming out later this year.

There also is a Report and Order to be written for the NPRM in Docket 04-140 (see beginning of article—ed.). My guess is this will come out sometime in 2005.

Second, planning has already started for the next World Radio Conference, WRC-07. Possibilities in that WRC include an allocation for the Amateur Service in the LF part of the spectrum, maybe access to 7 MHz sooner if the HF broadcasting transition moves along, and other changes. There seems to be something at every WRC that affects the Amateur Service in some way.

Third, there will have to be some kind of action to implement WRC-03 changes that have not been included in items we have released so far. WRC-03 did a lot more than change the requirement that you must demonstrate proficiency in Morse code to receive a license that allows HF privileges. International rules on call sign formats and third-party communications, among other things, also were changed.

Last, keep your eye on legislation that has been introduced on Capitol Hill. A couple of bills have been introduced that may be of interest to you. One could help you with antenna installation issues. Another addresses spectrum allocation or re-allocation matters. There also has been talk that Congress may want to take another look at parts of the Communications Act in the next session.

We thank Bill Cross for this update on where things stand on amateur-related issues at the FCC, and we hope this summary was useful for those of you who were not able to be at Dayton and/or attend Bill's forum.

73, Fred, W5YI

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Hams Assist in Medical Evacuations

Amateur radio operators provided critical support at various simulated airplane crashes this spring. Just outside of Washington, D.C. more than a hundred Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) members from seven counties and two states provided emergency communications support at Dulles International Airport, ten area hospitals, and other key locations.

The drill consisted of a "mock" airplane crash with a fire, and with the treatment and transport of 200 volunteer "victims" to ten area hospitals by helicopter, ambulance, and bus. In order to provide vital communications among agencies at the "crash" site, a patient staging and transportation area, and participating hospitals, local amateur radio operators set up several portable repeaters on and around the airport grounds. The repeaters made communications much easier for those hams who were "shadowing" key officials as they moved around the airport grounds.

Ham Technology Provides Valuable Added Information

A quick search on the internet for news stories on the drill proved useless; however, that didn't mean that the simulated crash wasn't on TV. A key component of the drill was an amateur TV (ATV) link between the crash site and the airport Operations Center. This allowed airport management to monitor the progress of the drill, which was out of view from the Operations Center.

While the Operations Center was concentrating on activities at the crash site, other officials were coordinating the movement of patients to local area hospitals. All patients were evaluated or "triaged" to determine how severe their injuries were, what hospital they should be sent to, and how they should be transported. The triage tags that were attached to the victims were color coded. Red indicated that the victim's condition was critical and that he or she was in need of immediate care and transport. Yellow was serious, but the patient could wait for the red-tag victims to be handled. Green indicated that emergency transportation was not considered necessary at the time (green-tagged victims are often called the "walking wounded"), and finally black indicated that the victim was deceased.

From the patient staging areas, the hams relayed information to the hospitals as to how

*c/o CQ magazine
e-mail: <wa3pzo@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Over a hundred hams responded to a simulated plane crash in the Washington, D.C. area. (Photos courtesy of Larry Hughes, K3HE)



A very organized (but unidentified) ham set up an aluminum J-pole antenna on a camera tripod, a portable battery pack, and his equipment at the Red Cross station at the staging area where the volunteer "victims" were made up to look like injured persons.



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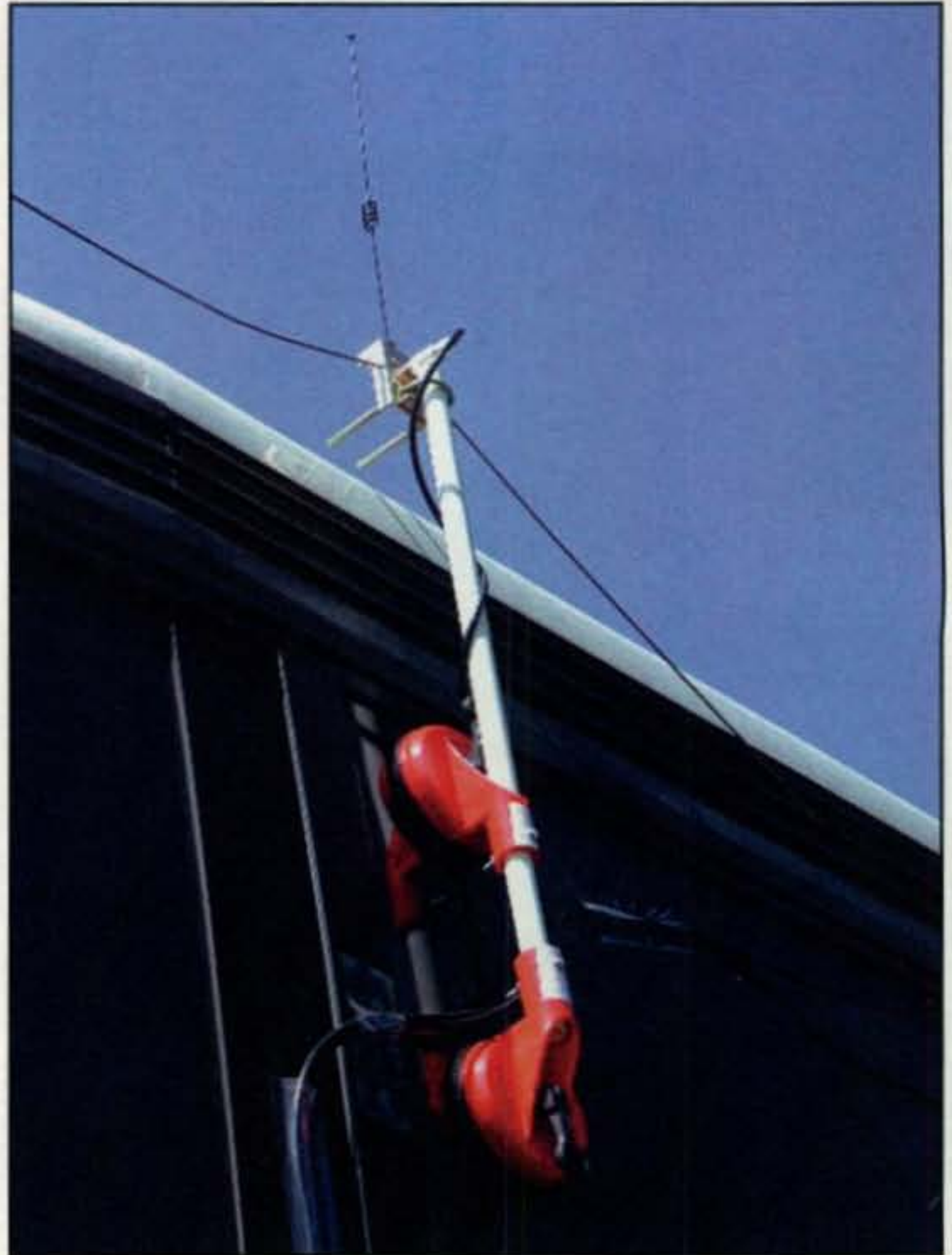
FT-840 160-10M, 100 Watts





ARES Volunteer Ian Keith, N8IK, sets up and tests the APRS and voice station on one of the buses that would transport the "walking wounded" to a local hospital.

With most buses not having metal roofs, local amateurs came prepared with antennas that could be mounted with suction cups on the bus windows. →



many patients and the types of injuries they would be receiving. They also indicated the estimated time of arrival. ARES member Larry Hughes, K3HE, said the red-tagged victims were flown by helicopter, the yellow-tagged victims were taken by ambulance, and the green-tagged victims were taken by bus.

Each bus had amateur radio voice communications as well as an APRS unit on board. These units provided real-time position data via the Automatic Position Reporting System. Still other hams were stationed at the ten area hospitals to help coordinate the arrival and departure of the "victims."

Drill is Repeated in Massachusetts

In a similar drill at the Worcester Regional Airport in Massachusetts, more than 30 members of the Worcester Emergency Communications Team (WECT) provided communications for 12 public-service officials, as well as the Worcester Emergency Operations Center, a feeding station, registration, victim transportation buses, and the city's three major hospitals.

ARRL Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer Mark Rubin, WB1ARZ,

told the ARRL that the hams were able to provide 2-meter repeater as well as simplex communications for the drill. "We had to deal with inadvertent interference from an open mic," he noted, "and an actual (false) fire alarm at the Worcester EOC during the drill." Both added some realism to the event. Despite the distractions, amateur radio operators were able to provide timely information, such as weather reports, to key drill participants. "It was a great demonstration of local amateur radio and emergency first responder cooperation," Rubin said.

Last-Mile Communications

Often normal communication fails over "the last mile"—the area where conventional communications, especially phone lines, have been totally disrupted or overloaded by the emergency situation.

Last year amateur radio operators in Florida tested a method to pass messages via radio e-mail. After receiving the information by voice communications, the information was keyed into an e-mail program on a laptop computer. Another ham transceiver outside of the affected area received the e-mail and

sent the message via the internet to the local hospital.

While this technology may have been overkill for this particular exercise, it began to demonstrate the ability of hams to send e-mail via radio without needing a phone connection to the internet.

An American Radio Relay League committee on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARESCOM, has made a recommendation for the use of a digital system to pass messages. Members of the committee have indicated that one component amateur radio is missing in providing emergency communications is traditional e-mail. Everyone uses it and there needs to be a way to send e-mail from the disaster site to a government office or relief agency across the state or across the country. "Of greatest concern," says a committee report, "would be communications within the larger states with their state government, and states on the West Coast, the Pacific, and Alaska communicating directly with Washington, D.C. or the closest federal agency responsible for forwarding communications to the national command structure." If amateur radio emergency communications is going to stay up to date, then e-mail capability is a must.

ARESCOM has recommended the use of WinLink 2000 (WL2K) software to bridge radio and internet connectivity, and the Pactor II and III controllers as the standard.

"The WL2K system provides for the movement of radio e-mail with multiple addressees, multiple copies, blind copies, and encoded binary attachments between all client e-mail applications," says the ARESCOM recommendation. "Compression is used to conserve valuable spectrum."

ARESCOM claims the move is an efficient use of spectrum that will allow more simultaneous access and provide room for the growth of data rates to better align with wired networks and future commercial wireless networks. The main idea behind the recommendation is to digitally complement existing voice communication.

"It is not meant to be a replacement for such longstanding and proven services," ARESCOM's documentation says, referring to current technologies of ARES and the National Traffic System (NTS), which are used to move amateur radio traffic.

Why Digital?

For years hams have been passing tactical voice communications, or short 25-30 word messages, from the field to an emergency operations center or agency headquarters. Today written documents may be a large list of supplies, a map, a drawing, or a picture. They may be stored on a laptop computer that an agency worker is using. The agency worker needs to get his/her information to the office to be worked on. Since we are there to provide communications on behalf of an agency, then we have to be able to meet its needs. According to the WinLink Development Team, "Let's face it, the world has adopted SMTP internet e-mail, and in order *not to appear antiquated* when assisting our served agencies, we should not disrupt their normal pattern by attempting to use any other medium. Rather, we should efficiently and transparently provide them with what they use daily, SMTP e-mail on their *own* computers, in their *own* normal operating places with their *own* familiar e-mail programs. We can do that without placing invasive software on their desktop computers or disturbing their firewall/router. We can do this simply by placing another e-mail account in their everyday e-mail program such as Outlook or Outlook Express."

Former FCC Director of Engineering and Technology Dale Hatfield, W0IFO,

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spoke on the role of amateur radio in the new century. He said:

"In the past, hams have adopted more spectrally efficient technologies—for example, by migrating from double-sideband amplitude modulation to single-sideband modulation and, more recently, by shifting to more efficient modulation for digital modes. I would urge you to continue shifting towards more spectrally efficient communications techniques—especially digital techniques. Such a shift has a number of benefits:

- First of all, it demonstrates to policy makers and regulators that you are good stewards of the public's airwaves even without direct economic incentives.

- Second, by efficiently using what you have, it strengthens your case when you need to ask for additional spectrum.

- Third, by allowing more users to access the available allocations simultaneously, it improves the amateur experience and ultimately increases the attractiveness of the service to new and old users alike.

- Fourth, it provides the opportunity or "headroom" for increases in data rates to more closely match those available on wire line networks and, in the future, on commercial wireless networks as well.

- Fifth, as the rest of the telecommunications world makes the transition to digital techniques—and there are very few exceptions to that trend—the amateur service will look antiquated if it is not making progress in that direction as well.

So looking to the future of the amateur radio service in the new century, I would urge you to continue your traditional role in public service by being prepared for and providing communications in times of emergencies, conducting experiments, providing

training in radio communications, and encouraging international comity. But I would also urge you to focus particular attention—for the reasons I just mentioned—on experimentation with digital techniques."

Is It Doable?

Many people are concerned over the possible cost of setting up a system. Some reports say the average ham spends between \$300–600 a year on ham equipment and related activities. This might include a new HT or dual-band VHF/UHF transceiver. According to the ARESOM report, "An amateur radio operator wishing to run Pactor III will need to spend between \$850 and \$1200 (PTC-II pro unit and PACTOR III license). Even the amateur radio operator with a budget of \$600 per year will probably consider this a two- to three-year investment. This one piece of equipment is almost the investment cost of a new HF station." Other concerns have been raised over the proprietary software being used. The WinLink developers have indicated that this will not be a problem. Finally, some have asked whether it is more appropriate to have a "chat" mode for communication rather than e-mail. The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to take up the subject at its July meeting, which should be taking place as this issue reaches your shack.

Medical Emergency At Sea

We often report on medical emergen-

cies at sea requiring amateur radio to be link between the ship and medical specialists. In late May, the *Motorized Vessel Brandon Travis* came onto the Maritime Mobile Service Network (14.300 MHz) stating that it needed assistance. The captain of the *Brandon Travis* was not an amateur radio operator, yet he knew that if there was an emergency on board, he could get immediate and capable help on this frequency. Under normal conditions, transmissions by non-amateur stations on this frequency are prohibited by international law. However, when an emergency occurs, anyone may use the frequency for assistance.

The captain said that there had been a fight between some crew members on the ship and that a 17-year-old crew member had been stabbed three times. He said that the crew member had been stabbed twice in the arms and once in the back. The stab wound in the back was of the greatest concern, as the knife had entered between the third and fourth rib on the right side of the back and the 7-inch blade had penetrated to its full depth.

The captain gave his position as 16° 06' north and 080° 38' west, or approximately two days east of Roatan, Honduras. The *Brandon Travis* is an 80-foot steel-hulled commercial fishing boat and is owned by a company in Honduras.

The captain requested that the net contact the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and tell them that he needed assistance with the injured person. The original call was taken by Tom Job, VE3II, near Toronto, Canada, and the necessary initial information was obtained. The Coast Guard's District 7 SAR (Search and Rescue) Center in Miami, Florida was then contacted and the information relayed to it. In turn, the center contacted the Honduran authorities and efforts were made to intercept the vessel and evacuate the injured person.

Dr. Jim Hirschman, K4TCV, Miami, Florida, was contacted and came onto the net. Dr. Hirschman is a physician with extensive experience in assisting with injuries and medical emergencies over the radio. He spoke with the captain and passed instructions on how to treat the injuries. It was determined that the person was in shock and having difficulty breathing. The injury was life-threatening and medical evacuation was of the utmost urgency. The *Brandon Travis* had been redirected from its original course to Laguna de Caratasca, Honduras. At its top speed, this port was approximately 12 to 14 hours away. In the meantime, the Honduran Navy was

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launching a vessel to intercept the *Brandon Travis* and take the injured person to the hospital.

The Maritime Mobile Service Network maintained an hourly radio schedule with the *Brandon Travis* for a position report and a medical update. Dr. Hirschman was joined by another doctor, Peter Sosnow, W1KY, in Niskayuna, New York. Dr. Sosnow is an emergency-room trauma specialist. Each hour the doctors were apprised of the injured person's condition and were ready to recommend changes in the treatment. This radio schedule was maintained for over seven hours.

Shortly after midnight the net was informed by the *Brandon Travis* that the injured person had been moved onto a Honduran Naval vessel and was being taken to a hospital. His condition was stable.

Once more, amateur radio was ready, willing, and able to assist in an emergency situation. The Maritime Mobile Service Network stands ready to assist any mariner with any situation that may arise. Without the assistance of the net, this life-threatening situation could have resulted in the death of the crew member.

There were many other amateur operators and net control stations on the frequency during the time of this incident and *all* stations should be commended for their assistance in keeping the frequency clear so that the traffic could be passed rapidly.

With Thanks....

This month we took a look at amateur radio assisting with medical evacuations, whether at a mass casualty exercise or a real event on the high seas. We took a brief look at some emerging technology in amateur radio digital message handling and how we might have to change the way we respond to disasters. I'm sure we will have more on digital message handling in the future.

We can't tell the exciting stories of amateur radio public service without your help. This month we want to thank Larry Hughes, K3HE, Tom Job, VE3II, and the ARRL for their assistance. We also want to acknowledge the WinLink 2000 webpage (www.winlink.org) for providing information.

Do you have a story to tell? Sometimes the event doesn't involve a disaster, but your efforts show amateur radio helping in the public interest. Drop us a note and let us know what you are involved with. Until next time . . .

73, Bob, WA3PZO

TECH TALK

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IC-910H

But it is single sideband on VHF and UHF that may offer instant excitement! Try 50.125, upper sideband, and maybe catch some 1,500-mile skywave "skip" in the early morning and early evening hours. Once you make contact, move up the band to around 50.150 to clear the calling channel.

On 2-Meters, you'll find single-sideband, long-range nets around 144.180 through 144.250 MHz. 144.200 MHz, upper sideband, is the call and shift-up frequency. Antenna polarization is normally horizontal, but some sideband nets switch to vertical every few minutes so no one gets left out. Tropospheric ducting could lead to contacts up to 300 miles away!

432.100 MHz upper sideband is where you'll find weak signal calling. Many nets are also found on this frequency; and while horizontal polarization of your antenna is recommended, you should still be able to hear some pretty good DX with a mobile or base vertical.

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VHF and UHF weak signal operators normally run with squelch turned off. "CQ" calls are encouraged on the calling frequency, upper sideband, adding an announcement if you are vertically polarized. Hot times with your Icom multi-mode equipment to get onto a weak signal net is around 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. most evenings.

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C4S	10/12/15/17/20/40m, 7 el	\$719
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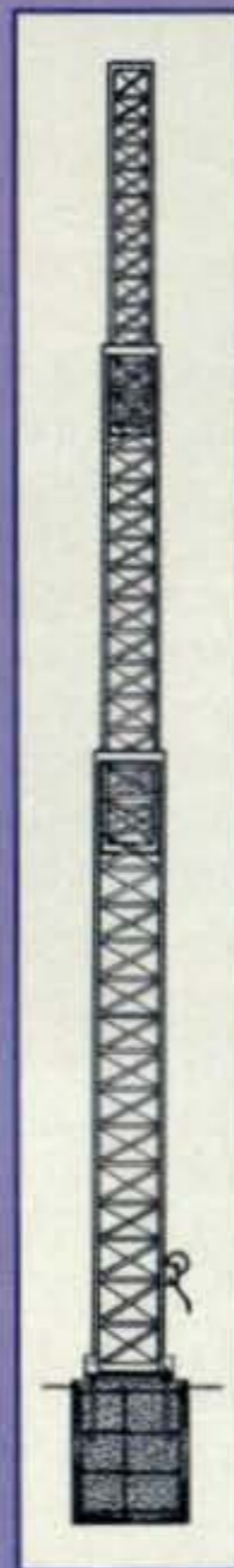


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TX-438	38'	21'6"	355	\$1,523	\$1,289
TX-455	55'	22'	670	\$2,107	\$1,789
TX-472	72'	22'8"	1040	\$3,462	\$2,929
TX-472MDP	72'	22'8"	1210	\$5,571	\$4,699
TX-489MDPL	89'	23'4"	1800	\$9,034	\$7,649

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- Options include coax arms, raising fixtures, masts, motor drives, and more!

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HDX SERIES HEAVY DUTY CRANK-UP TOWERS					
TOWER MODEL	MAX. HT.	MIN. HT.	WT. (LBS.)	LIST PRICE	SALE PRICE
HDX-538	38'	21'6"	600	\$1,807	\$1,539
HDX-555	55'	22'	870	\$3,162	\$2,679
HDX-572MDPL	72'	22'8"	1600	\$8,281	\$6,999
HDX-589MDPL	89'	23'8"	2440	\$10,841	\$9,179
HDX-689MDPL	89'	23'8"	3450	\$20,943	\$17,699
HDX-5106MDPL	106'	24'8"	3700	\$22,791	\$19,299

MA SERIES CRANK-UP MASTS

- Handles up to 22 square feet of antenna load. (See chart below)
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- All models supplied with anchor bolts, load-actuated hand winch, and house bracket.
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MA-40	40'	21'6"	242	16.5	6.8	\$1,209	\$1,039
MA-550	55'	22'1"	435	22	9	\$1,875	\$1,599
MA-550MDP	55'	22'1"	620	22	9	\$3,584	\$2,999
MA-770	71'	22'10"	645	15.5	5.5	\$3,091	\$2,619
MA-770MDP	71'	22'10"	830	15.5	5.5	\$4,890	\$4,129
MA-850MDP	85'	23'6"	1128	15.3	6.3	\$6,591	\$5,549

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TMM SERIES COMPACT CRANK-UP TOWERS					
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TMM-433SS	33'	11'4"	315	\$1,626	\$1,379
TMM-433HD	33'	11'4"	400	\$1,970	\$1,669
TMM-541SS	41'	12'	430	\$2,135	\$1,799

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Keys and CW Hot in 2004! Part II

Our coverage of terrific telegraphic treats continues this month, and we have compiled some real beauties along with some always useful information to share with you. We have also noticed the more we spotlight keys in this column, the better you like it—and the more you support additional keys columns with views and details of your own special keys. Thanks! With your help, this series will continue indefinitely. Oh, if we had only kept a stack of back issues with keys columns or at least made an ongoing list of those issues. Now it seems the series has become a collectable. Have any of our readers been storing or cataloging the series? We would like to hear from you. Now let's talk Morse, keys, and CW!

More New Keys

Opening this month's showcase are, as you naturally expect, two more beautiful, new, and available-right-now keys. First in the spotlight is the little single-lever paddle from Richard Meiss, WB9LPU, shown in photo 1. We understand Richard is still buried in back orders for his small dual-lever paddle and miniature bug featured in last year's column, so you may need to join the waiting list for this one. It is worth the wait, however, as it is a real beauty. Single-lever paddles are also easier to manipulate than dual-lever paddles, as their arm can move only one way at a time.

The WB9LPU paddle has separate dot/dash gap adjustments (the red-tipped screws at the rear in photo 1), and tension is set by removing the fingerpieces and ever so slightly bending the spring

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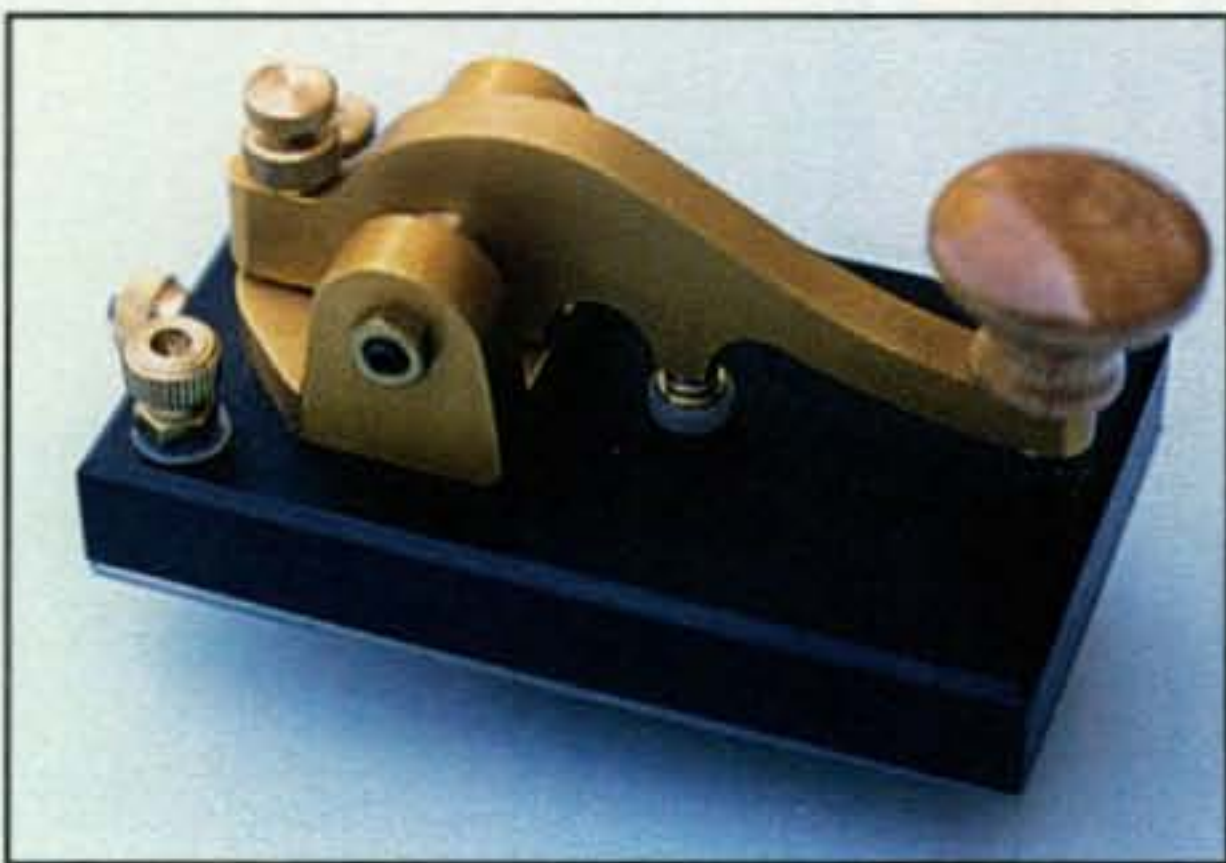


Photo 2— Combining telegraphic history with sheer artistic beauty, Englmair Wenk, DK1WE, makes this miniature Chubcock camelback replica key. It measures 1.5"H x 1.5"W x 2.75"D, has ball race bearings, fine gap and tension adjustments, silver contacts set in Teflon® insulation, and handles great. Key requires many hours to make, so it is a special-order item (available through K4TWJ).

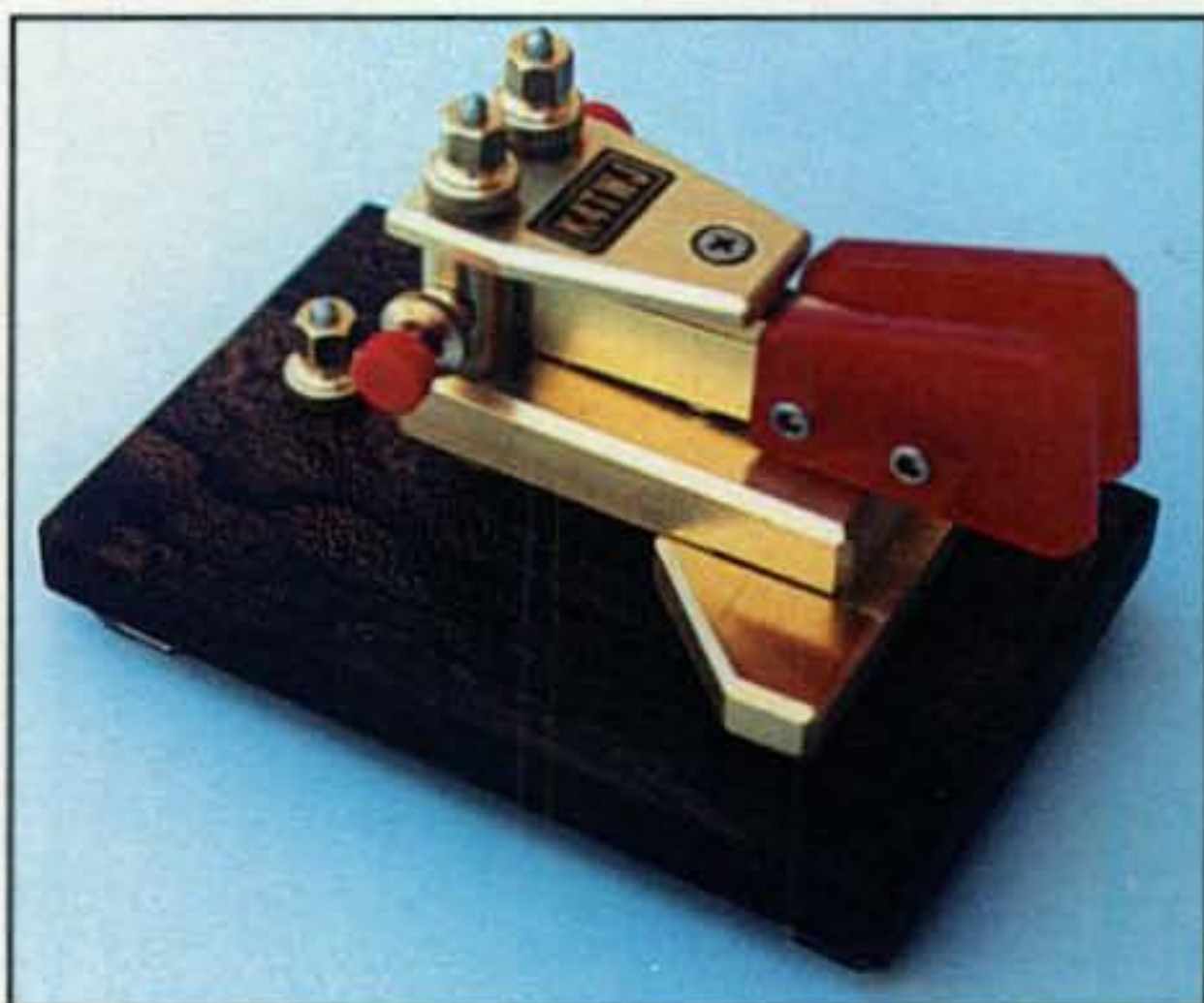


Photo 1— The new single-lever Parkwood paddle made by WB9LPU measures 2"H x 2"W x 3"D and sports a highly polished brass mechanism with bright-red fingerpieces and red-tipped gap-setting screws for glamour. Paddle can be used portable or the wide foot can be removed and the mechanism mounted on its bocote wood base for home station use.

brass strips on each side of the main lever. The paddle is also a "convertible": its complete brass section comprises a palm-size paddle for portable use, or the wide foot near the fingerpieces and front stabilizer can be removed and the full key mounted on its bocote wood base. The little paddle is fun to use either way.

Want one? Contact Richard Meiss, WB9LPU, at 2626 Parkwood Drive, Speedway, IN 46224, or e-mail him at <wb9lpu@earthlink.net> for details.

Next up is another very special, limited production key we are sure you will absolutely love. It is special in both its design and historical background (photo 2). This little beauty is hand made by



Photo 3— The original Chubcock camelback key, which Englmair measured, studied, and used as a guide to reproduce both miniature and full-size replicas of this telegraphic treasure. Key is on display in the Post and Telegraph Museum of Germany, and a similar Chubcock is in the sealed collection of K9WDY in the USA.



Photo 4— A more familiar and conventional-design camelback is this meticulously preserved Patrick and Carter item from the 1870s. The hump was thought to be helpful in minimizing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. (Photo courtesy master key collector, Gil Schlehman, K9WDY)

Englmar Wenk, DK1WE, in Germany, and I (K4TWJ) am serving as his North American agent so you can get one without excess fumbles. The key is a miniature replica of the most famous camelback of all times, the legendary Chubcock that dates back to the 1860s and the early days of telegraphy. Englmar's miniature is fashioned after an original Chubcock on display in the German Post and Telegraph Museum, with some upgrades for great operation. It has ball race bearings at the fulcrum, and the tension adjustment has been shifted to the rear of the base for smoother action. The changes work well, too. The miniature Chubcock is a sheer delight to use—

really superb. In fact, I often use it with my Elecraft KX1 or Yaesu FT-817 switched from keyer to hand-key operation just for fun.

As I mentioned above, I am presently Englmar's North American agent, so more details (and DK1WE keys!) are available from me at <k4twj@cq-amateur-radio.com>. As I mentioned last month, I will soon move QTH and my postal and personal e-mail addresses will also change, but my CQ e-mail address should work fine during this transition period.

Keys, Mice, and CTS

History often opens our eyes to some interesting situations, doesn't it? During the 1860s, for example, small towns were springing up across the country, railroads were starting to link the east and west, and the telegraph was replacing the Pony Express. When General Custer and company were massacred at Little Big Horn, keys and sounders in almost every telegraph office clattered day and night for several weeks. Poorly made keys fell apart, telegraphers' nerves were challenged, and the continuous repetitive action of using a simple hand key 16 hours a day resulted in what we know today as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

Camelback keys, with their different shape and feel, were the first keys designed to address minimizing CTS. Whether or not they actually were effective is anyone's guess, but Camelbacks have evolved as sheer works of art and are highly sought collectibles, especially among hand-key enthusiasts. They have also spun off other mild to wild designs and gizmos, from J. H. Bunnell's famous Double Action ("Sideswiper") key to the unbelievable Pump Handle key shown in photo 5. Yes, the latter is an authentic telegraph key with a full mechanism mounted inside its beautifully craft-

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Photo 5—A number of unique items were devised to aid telegraphers with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, but few are as wild and witty as this incredible Pump Handle Key. You pull down on its handle rather than pushing down on a knob to send Morse code, and it really works. A full key mechanism complete with gap and tension adjustments is mounted in the decorative case. (Photo courtesy K9WDY)

ed and immaculately preserved case. You send code by pulling down on the handle. It is a hoot and a rare item, but it sidesteps CTS!

In taking a closer look at Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, incidentally, I notice a striking similarity between it and modern problems with a computer mouse and tendinitis. Like many CQ readers, the day job of my XYL Sandy, WB4OEE, has her using a computer mouse many hours every day—point, click, point, click, point, click. Eventually, her thumb became quite painful. The injury was first addressed with a splint or brace provided by Worker's Comp insurance, but it basical-



Photo 6—In the same manner that camelback keys offered relief for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, modern wireless and multifunction trackball controllers are viable alternatives to a computer mouse for sidestepping tendinitis. It is a switch worth considering! (Discussion in text.)



Photo 7— We call this intriguing little item a "door latch key." It was homebrewed by James Butler, KB4LJV, and uses a small door or cabinet latch for its main pivot point. The mating arm is half-inch steel stock fitted with screws for gap and tension adjustments plus a round ceramic cabinet pull with wood skirt for a knob. Clever!

ly did not help. Hand surgery followed. We are hopeful it will correct the injury. Time will tell.

During Sandy's surgery, I noticed the outpatient waiting room was filled to capacity and overflowing into hall areas. I also overheard doctors talking with other spouses of patients, and I learned that they, too, were undergoing hand surgery from problems with a computer mouse. Obviously, this is a serious problem that will continue escalating until next-generation (voice-recognition) computers evolve.

A few days later, a very bright, new amateur who considers me his "helping Elmer," Brent Cantrell, KI4DYA, introduced Sandy to the wireless and multifunction trackball controller (photo 6). The trackball functions like a mouse, but it does not move. It works with your right or left hand and includes extra buttons you can set to access often-used functions. You drive or "navigate" it with the flat of your hand or thumb rotating the



Photo 8— We are unsure if this KB4LJV-homebrewed item is a top-hat key or a can key (the cover is a cat-food can lined with hold-down magnets). Either way, it is a killer! Round keys rock!



Photo 9— Under the can . . . err, top . . . we find another neat steel stock arm and door-latch pivot point. I have used this key on the air, and I must say it handles very well.



Photo 10— KB4LJV made this neat little treat from an inexpensive MFJ hand key. He cut the arm to the length of the base, moved the knob forward on the arm, and emerged with a clever QRP key for toss-'n-go use.

ball, and click with your fingers or thumb, depending on which hand you use and if the trackball controller is positioned forward or backward, so to speak. Since it is wireless, it can sit on a desk, a keyboard shelf, or your leg to minimize stretching, which also aggravates tendinitis. A word to the wise should be sufficient: alternate hands and consider switching to a trackball—today!

Code Talk

In the same manner that our previous columns highlighted tips for sounding good on the air, we now offer a few helpful

notes for operating CW like a pro. You may or may not know these facts, but reviewing them from time to time is always beneficial in maintaining good operating skills.

Three of the most common pitfalls I notice every day are haphazardly sent and challenging-to-decipher code, omitted or neglected callsign exchanges, and exceptionally slow-sent Morse. Please, friends, visualize how your transmitted CW sounds to others and strive for perfection. Just because you

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Photo 11— Notice the pilot light on this classic J7A flameproof key owned by Jack Hornsby, W0NQ. The key was used with a rotary spark-gap transmitter on an airplane during the 1920s. Engine noise drowned out sidetone buzz, so the light extinguished with key closures for monitoring transmitted Morse. (Photo and info courtesy W0NQ)

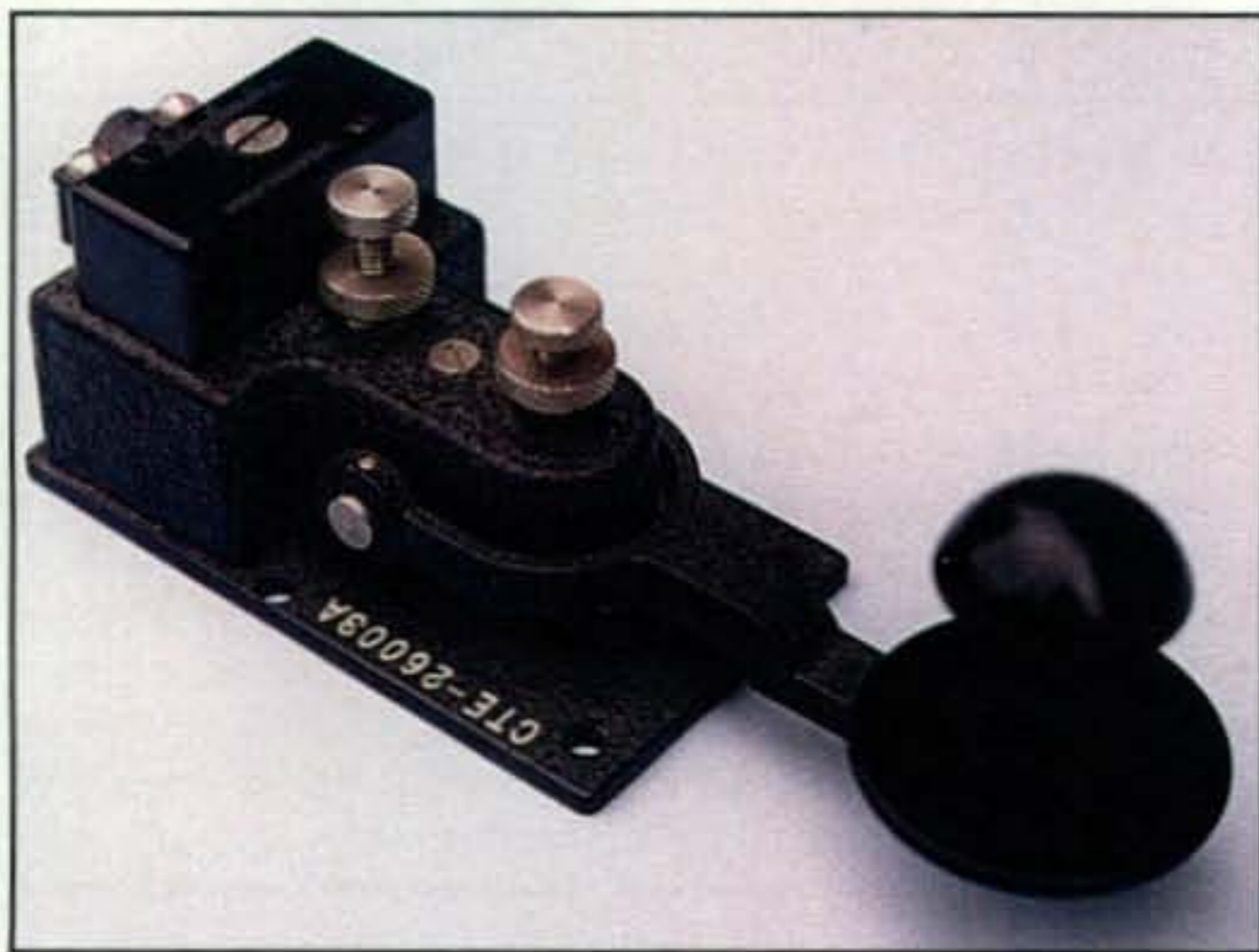


Photo 12— Precious little information was available on this little pumper, but we are sure you will find it interesting to study. Like the J7A, it is also an enclosed/flammeproof key. Ships often carried volatile cargo, and arcing contacts on keys used with spark or tube transmitters were potential igniters, so their mechanism was covered for safety. Interesting, eh?

know what you are sending does not guarantee other operators understand it. Minimize choppiness. Aim for a classic 3:1 dot-to-dash ratio (a dash is 3 dots long). If ratios and spacing are a problem, switch to an electronic keyer with dot-dash memory (it follows behind you and sends perfect code even if you have shaky hands). If mastering iambic action with a twin-lever paddle is difficult, change to a single-lever paddle.

You can send good CW with it even when wearing thick mittens—really!

While transmitting callsigns at each and every “over” during a QSO is no longer mandatory, including station calls when band conditions are less than ideal and at the end of a QSO is most beneficial. Why? Even when signals fade, operators can recognize their call letters. Hearing even part of a call helps each station know (or judge)

when to transmit or listen. Furthermore, a good friend may tune across the frequency and never realize you are there unless you add your call at the end. We all are justifiably proud of our call letters. Use them! Often!

Practice copying Morse in your head and increasing your code speed. This simple step makes CW ten times more enjoyable. A vast number of QSOs follow similar “RST, name, QTH, and rig” formats, so mentally “filling in the blanks” works well for any speed or for contesting. One final tip: Learn to concentrate on a single tone while ignoring all the rest on frequency or in a pile-up (it is easier if you use RIT to tune the desired signal for a very low-pitch or bassy tone). Optional IF filters are great, but “mental filtering” is a special asset and skill to admire. As I always say, the operator rather than the rig makes the difference—especially in copying CW!

Closing Views

Have you ever considered homebrewing your own keys from readily available parts? James Butler, KB4LJV, did precisely that, and he came up with some quite interesting items in the process (photos 7, 8, 9, and 10). Making good use of door latches, drawer pulls, and small food tins, James produced some good examples of what one can devise with a creative imagination. Thanks for sharing the views, James! Hopefully they will encourage others to also share details and photos of their own favorite keys, bugs, and paddles via this ongoing series. Regular 35 mm color photos still reproduce great in CQ (if you shoot them in focus!). Digital images in tif or jpg format also work, provided they are in the 250k to 300k or 300 dpi range. However, do not e-mail me such high-resolution views; just show me a low-resolution, quick view and I will tell you where to send the big file.

On that note, our curtain closes on another year’s tour of magical Morse treats. Thanks for your continuing support, and I look forward to exchanging key clicks with you on 30 meters one weeknight soon! 73, Dave, K4TWJ

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SRM-30	25	30	3 1/2 x 19 x 9 1/2	7.0

WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25M	20	25	3 1/2 x 19 x 9 1/2	6.5
SRM-30M	25	30	3 1/2 x 19 x 9 1/2	7.0



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MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
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SRM-30-2	25	30	3 1/2 x 19 x 9 1/2	11.0

WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25M-2	20	25	3 1/2 x 19 x 9 1/2	10.5
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- SS-12MC
- SS-10MG, SS-12MG
- SS-101F, SS-121F
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- SS-10SM/GTX
- SS-10SM/GTX, SS-12SM/GTX, SS-18SM/GTX
- SS-10RA
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- SS-18RA
- SS-10SMU, SS-12SMU, SS-18SMU
- SS-10V, SS-12V, SS-18V

CIRCLE 134 ON READER SERVICE CARD

*ICS - Intermittent Communication Service

A Day in the Life of A Communications Volunteer

The clock radio on my nightstand springs to life. I groggily open my eyes to see what time it is, since it's still dark outside. The green digital readout says 3:00. I wonder what is happening so early on a Sunday. My eyes open wide and I remember: I am a Huntington Beach Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) "bicycle mobile" for a fund-raising 10k run/walk event today.

I get a little nervous, since I still need to add some lights to my bicycle. I really like the bicycle-mobile assignment, because it is a great way to get some exercise, you get to see a lot more of the event, and you are able to maneuver quickly to respond to anything that may happen. The bike can move quickly and quietly through the crowds to lend assistance in any situation, including relief to other RACES positions along the route. It's also just plain fun.

I head for the shower, then finish my "wake-up procedures," and remember again that I still need to attach lights to my bike. I am glad that everything else has been ready for at least a week, and I even have a long-lasting gel-cell battery pack for my radio, fully charged and ready to go (see "Beginner's Corner," February 2004). All I have to do is "suit up" with my 2-meter gear, ID badge, and RACES jacket.

The race starts at 7 AM, but the RACES team members need to be in place by 6 AM to make sure we get decent parking close to each post and get a chance to check our gear. Meanwhile, the Net Control station is being set up in a police sub-station somewhere along the course.

Since I am not too far from the course, I decide to bicycle my way down to the rendezvous location, check in with the race officials, and get my credentials. This eliminates any vehicle parking issues, but also complicates matters a bit, since I will not have a "home base" in which to store any additional gear or work on the bicycle if something goes wrong. It's still dark outside, so I make sure my head- and tail-lights are working. I put on my helmet and gear and pedal down to the course. The cool pre-dawn air is invigorating, and the streets are very quiet and empty, making me feel safe, despite the darkness.

The repeater is already filled with spontaneous chatter as other RACES team members leave



Photo A— One of the nice things about bicycle mobile is having the chance to rove along the event. My bicycle-mobile station is almost invisible, leaning against the railing next to the traffic-signal post. RACES team members Tim Sawyer, WD6AWP, and Marilyn Brandon, KH6FL, are in this photo, making notes of the front- and rear-runners at this post along the Huntington Beach shore.

their homes and proceed to the check-in table. Everyone already has their assignments, so as soon as they get their credentials, they will move into position. I keep my rig in the receive mode, since I am just a little out of breath and am puffing already.

I get in line with the other volunteers for the race. Medical personnel, race officials, and the RACES team are checking in to grab their "goodie bags" and credentials. I grab a donut and coffee to energize me for the morning, and I pedal my way to my first post.

The Net Control Station (NCS) announces to the repeater users that the machine will be in use for RACES emergency and health-and-welfare communications for the next eight to ten hours, and repeater communications should be limited to the closed net, unless any emergency communications is needed.

It's 6:45 AM, and the NCS initiates roll call. It's still early, but the NCS wants to make sure everyone is in place and each post is covered with a working radio. Sometimes things can go wrong at the worst possible moment, and we want to avoid this as much as possible.

Since the net is officially "on," we are operating with tactical callsigns. Tactical calls are more efficient and also describe the station by function, increasing efficiency. Besides, tactical calls are cool. I am Bike Mobile One, since there is a second bicycle-mobile station, covering the second

*16428 Camino Canada Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92649
e-mail: <kh6wz@cq-amateur-radio.com>

The Bicycle-Mobile Grab-'n-Go Kit

After doing bike mobile for public-service events for a little while, I've developed a "minimalist" version of the Go Kit for roving on a bicycle. First, everything must be safe, and anything attached to the bike must not become a hazard to the rider, participants, or spectators. This includes protruding antennas.

The bicycle mode adds some complications to your preparation list, since something can go wrong with either your bicycle or your radio. If your bike breaks down someplace, you will have to find a way to get rolling again. Even if you take your bike out for a "little spin around the block," you should take your bike tool kit with you. I once thought that I could get away with not taking the tool kit on such quick trips, but just last weekend I took the bike out with only an HT and a bottle of water. After only a few blocks, the seat post bolt somehow worked its way loose, and the seat slammed all the way down after going over a bump in the road. Since I didn't have my bike tools with me, I had to go back home just to tighten the bolt. It took less than five seconds to perform the "repair."

Don't forget head- and tail-lights, even if you think you will return before dark. It is always better to be safe than sorry, and you do not want to get stopped for violating any traffic laws in any case. Photo C shows my simple, but effective bicycle-mobile setup. It's basically an HT attached to the handlebar with Velcro® straps. I made a handlebar extension with one-half-inch PVC pipe, caps and Ts. The first T is sliced with a hacksaw and attaches to the handlebar with a pair of hose clamps. (Heat the PVC T with a hot-air gun, and, wearing gloves, "open up" the cross section to form around the handlebar. Then use the hose clamps to secure the T to the handlebar. Plug in a short, straight section, and plug another T into that. Make small extensions to the left and right for your HT and your boom/microphone control unit. There is also room for my portable GPS unit, not shown in these

photos. Make sure that the bracket and wiring for the radio do not interfere or bind with brake and derailleur cables, or the steering action and pedals, chain and gears.

A headset/boom microphone is used for "almost hands-free" operation. The VOX (voice-operated transmit) feature is disabled, and manual PTT (push-to-talk) is enabled to prevent wind and ambient noise from triggering the transmitter.

Include a personal first-aid kit as well as food and water. Water is a necessity on hot days, since the heat will increase your sweat output, and you must replenish water in your body. A standard water bottle and carrier are used on the bike, while a fanny sack holds my snacks, spare keys, and coins.

Of course, all this liquid intake will increase the likelihood of the need to get rid of it. You will need to have a way to secure your bike as well as your radio equipment if you need to take a break. My radio system is based on the HT, so I actually wear most of my radio gear. The bike will need to be locked to a stationary object. Another very useful item when you are bicycle mobile is a metal mesh bag, designed to secure backpacks. You can enclose your radio, antenna, GPS, and other gear in this metal mesh bag and lock it to your bike. Of course, as a good friend advises, the only way to prevent theft is to take everything with you.

The bicycle-mobile operator must also be aware of the communications capability of his or her equipment. For casual work, some amazing contacts are possible, depending on the frequency range used and propagation conditions. For local work, as used in public-service communications, VHF and UHF FM repeaters and/or simplex are usually used. Experiment and verify and know what you can and cannot do (both radio-wise and physical ability-wise) before you volunteer for a bicycle-mobile roving position.

half of the course. Tactical calls are assigned for all stations, from Net Control and Start-Finish to Rest Stop One and all the way to Rest Stop Six. There are also "shadow" positions for race officials. A RACES shadow operator walks with another person, usually an event management or other official person. This way, the event management team can have instant communications to other officials or positions along the entire course.

The HB RACES group uses tactical calls because they define the operator by function in the operation, rather than by personal name or callsign. This is very useful for long events, and avoids confusion when radio operators are changed; the same tactical (functional)

call remains constant. Of course, FCC Rules [Section 97.119] on station identification still apply. Thus, as we use a tactical call such as "Bike One," we add our ham radio call along with the tactical callsign. For example:

Bicycle Mobile One station: "Net Control from Bike One."

Net Control Station: "Net Control."

Bicycle Mobile One: "There is a runner down near Rest Stop Seven."

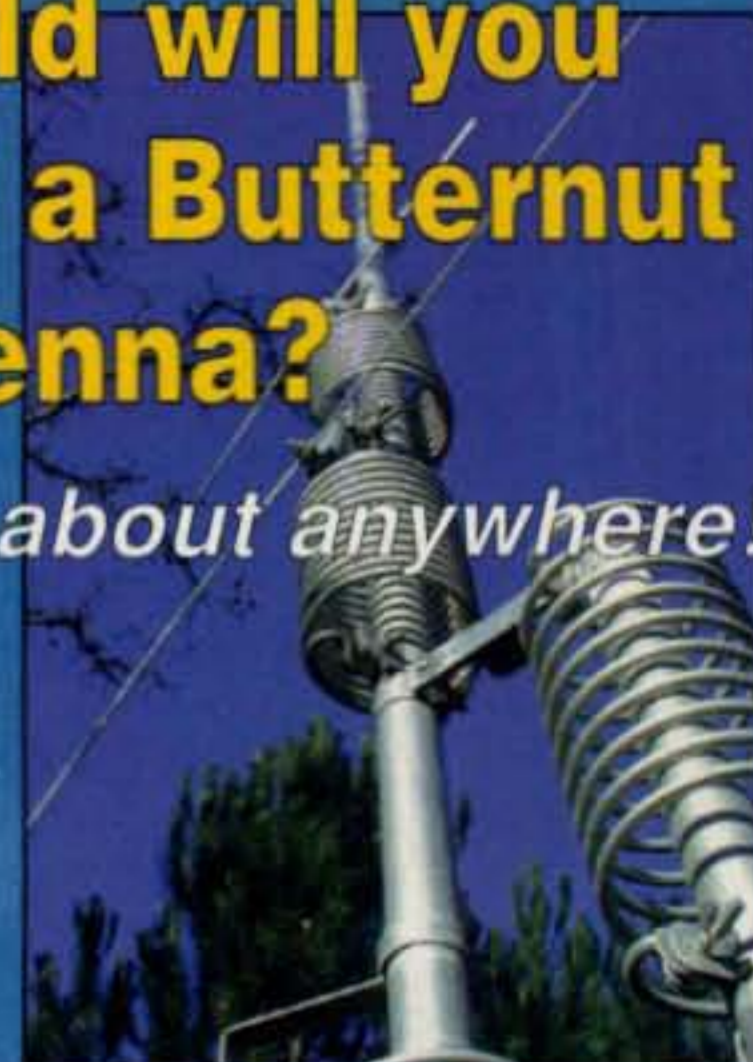
Net Control Station: "Understood. Paramedics are on the way. KG6CNL Net Control."

Bicycle Mobile One: "Bike One clear. KH6WZ."

I lean my bike against a railing to snap a quick picture as the sun rises, capturing the silhouette of my radio and bike

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Photo B— Both sides of a four-lane highway (Pacific Coast Highway, or PCH) are filled with human bodies rather than automobiles during the run, an unusual sight.

against the multi-colored sky. My HT comes to life as the race starts. It will be a few minutes before the runners come into my view, so I relax and take a sip of water. I double-check my bike and my radio. Everything is still in place and functioning.

I listen to the smoothly running net, with communications limited to runner status and where the leaders are on the course. The runners should be appearing soon. I get my notepad out, preparing to take notes on the front-runners. My camera is in hand, in case a picture opportunity happens (photo A).

The runners pass by, all bunched in clusters. Both sides of the major ocean side street are filled with human bodies rather than automobiles, and this is an unusual sight. I take a few shots of the runners going by and take another photo of the RACES members at their post (photo B).

Several hours have gone by and radio traffic is routine. This is a good thing, because as one of the RACES senior officers always says, "We need to always prepare for the worst, and expect the best" during any emergency or public-service event.



Photo C— The KH6WZ bicycle-mobile station consists of an HT attached to the handlebars with a PVC bracket. Scrap half-inch PVC pipe and parts are used to make the radio/GPS support bracket. Similar, but nicer, handlebar accessories are available at your local bike shop. Not shown is the small GPS unit that clamps on to the right of the HT. Make sure that no part of the setup gets in the way of safe bicycle operation.

The Net Control takes roll call again, since most of the positions may be a bit tired and, yes, a little bored, since nothing "exciting" has happened. Each station checks in. It is always interesting to listen to all stations and their signal strengths, making notes on who is the loudest and clearest as well as which stations are weaker. This note-taking is important for the post-event critique. We need to make sure all stations are aware of what they sound like on the receiving end, since when we transmit, we hear nothing.

The background noise at the start-finish line is particularly loud, since the band and the public-address system are blaring all the time, and the rest of the net has to hear the noise whenever "Start-Finish" clicks the PTT button. Several rest-stop positions seem to have weaker signal strengths, probably due to the terrain. This is definitely something to bring up at the critique session, and something to improve for the next event.

The end of the race is near. The NCS asks each location to report on the race leaders and the race stragglers so that we can get ready to close the net. The bicycle mobiles are to "sweep the course" looking for the last runner. This is my cue to watch for the last group of

runners (identified by the bib number and description of the runner) and to "follow them in" as they get to the finish line. I stay a respectful distance away from the stragglers and stay in touch with Net Control. Finally, the NCS lets me know that they have the last runner in sight, so I can be excused from the net. My assignment is finished.

It's nearly noon now. My water bottle is almost empty, and I ran out of energy bars a while ago. At the end of this very long but fulfilling day some of us gather at the Net Control location to check out and get a race T-shirt as a memento of our public service.

At a recent family gathering, a relative asked me why I do these things—

get up really early in the morning and put all that expensive radio gear on a bicycle, and all I get is a T-shirt. I just said, "I do it because it's fun, I get some exercise, and I help out my city. I am a RACES volunteer." The next question is, predictably, "Are you going to do it again?" The answer is always, "Of course, because it's really a lot of fun."

As we enjoy the summer season, I hope I have inspired you to try some of these outdoor public-service ham radio events if you have not done so already. Public service and mobile-portable ham operations go well together in the summer months.

73, Wayne, KH6WZ

References

A quick Google inquiry generated 10,500 results on ham radio and bicycling. Here are some of the more interesting sites to visit:

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America: <<http://www.lafetra.com/bmha>>

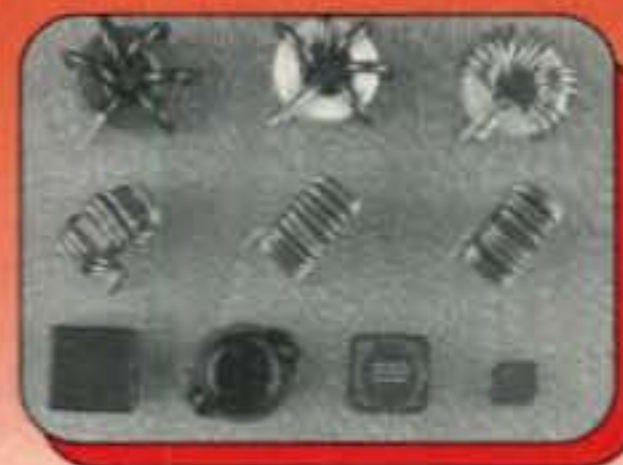
WB9GIE's Bicycle Amateur Radio Page: <<http://community-2.webtv.net/WB9GIE/WB9GIEsBicycling>>

Bicycle Mobile Antennas: <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/9303052.pdf>>

A good reference on public service communications is posted on the ARRL website: *The Special Events Communication Manual*, By Steven R. Ewald, WV1X, published by the ARRL, <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/spevman/>>

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Quick-Brew Fun: The Super Mite

Our quest to help newer amateurs discover the unlimited fun and excitement of QRP continues this month with a special quick-brew project with widespread appeal: a mini-transmitter with some really unique features. As I have mentioned in previous columns, dinking with simple circuits and occasionally building one or two pieces of radio gear just for fun has always been one of QRP's top attractions. Indeed, nothing compares to the thrill and exhilaration of contacting other amateurs with a small rig built by your own hand. That, dear friends, is the sheer essence of amateur radio!

Our featured "Super Mite" is an ideal first project in this respect. It can be assembled for 40, 30, or 20 meters; its circuit is simple and well proven; and it includes some very special mods, such as VXO frequency control and a wireless BFO mode for transceiver-type operation with a portable AM shortwave receiver. I have even put together some low-cost

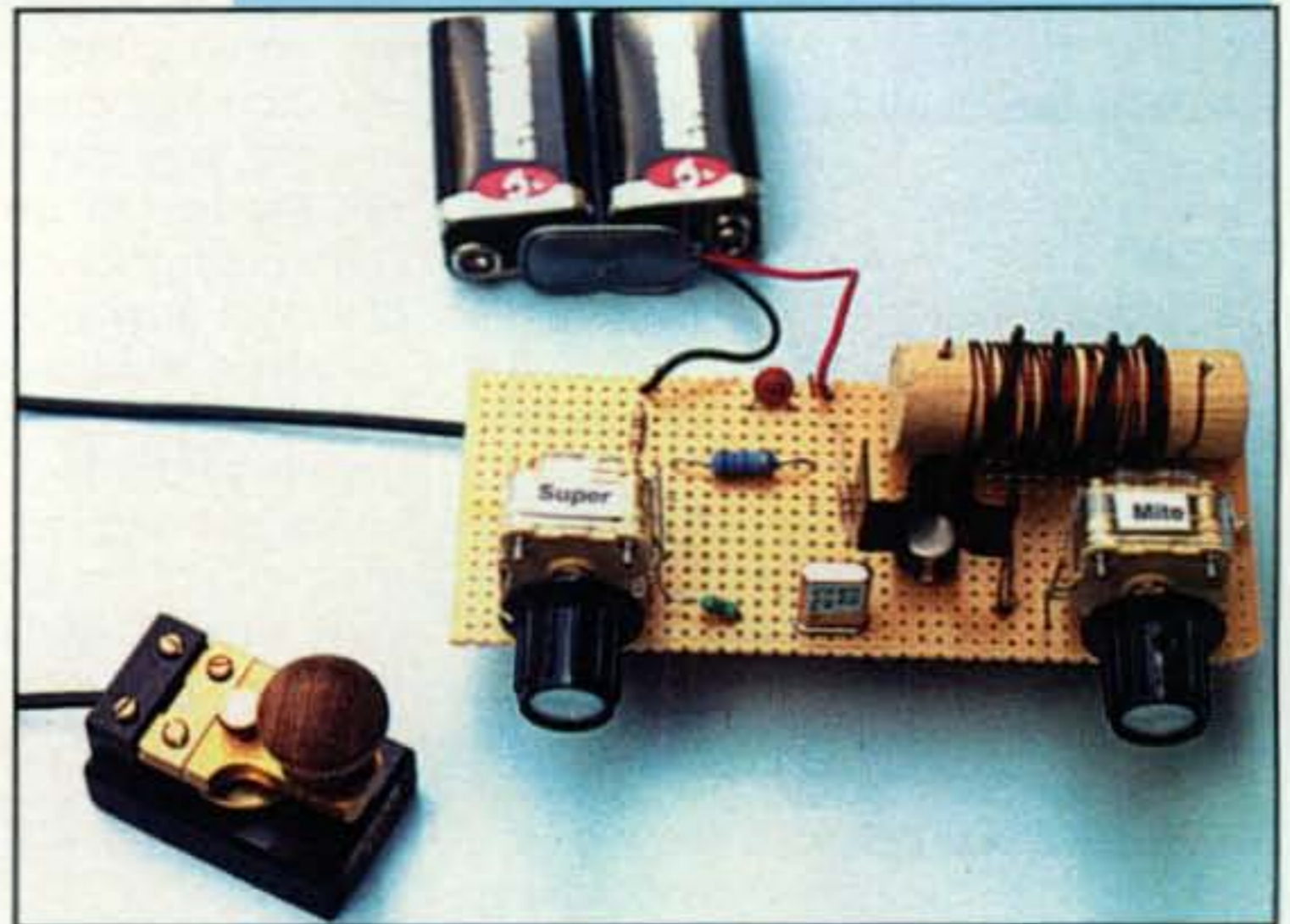


Photo A—Meet the Super Mite, a quick-brew, one-transistor transmitter for 40, 30, or 20 meters with VXO frequency control and "no connection required" BFO function for transceiver-type operation with an external AM/FM/shortwave radio. The little delight is powered from readily available 9-volt batteries and pumps out a clean 900-milliwatt signal.

*4941 Scenic View Drive, Birmingham, AL 35210
e-mail: <k4twj@cq-amateur-radio.com>

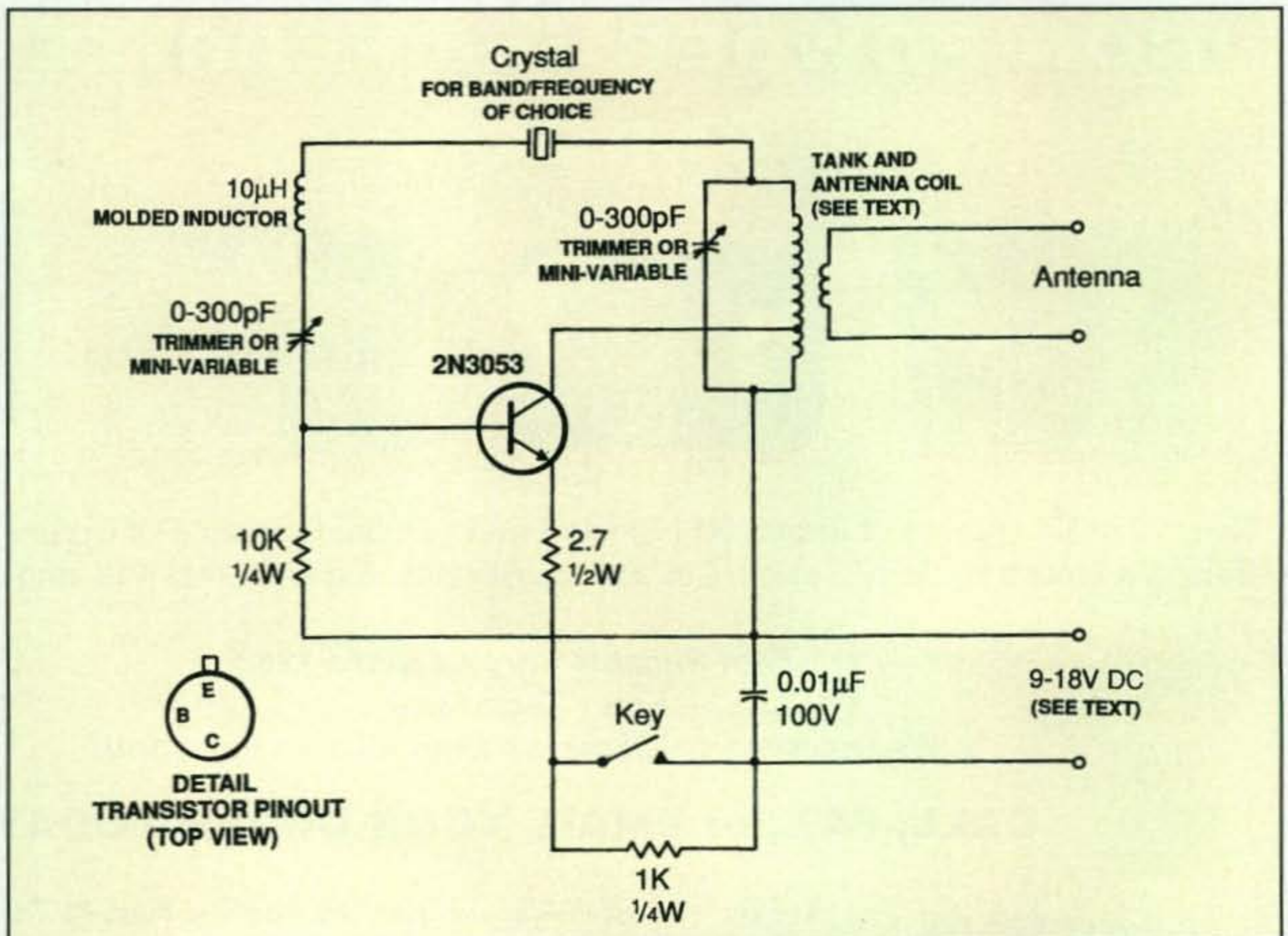


Fig. 1—Circuit diagram of the full-featured Super Mite transmitter. Value of emitter resistors can be juggled to fit your specific needs. (Discussion in text.)

1 1/4" Diameter Coil Form			5/8" Diameter Coil Form	
Band	Tank Coil	Antenna Coil	Tank Coil	Antenna Coil
40m	26 turns	4 turns	44 turns	4 turns
30m	16 turns	4 turns	25 turns	4 turns
20m	14 turns	4 turns	18 turns	4 turns

All coils tapped at 5 turns.
All coils wound with No. 18 solid, insulated hook-up wire.

Tank coils tapped at 6 turns.
Tank coils wound with No.22 enamel-coated copper wire.
Antenna coil wound with No. 18 solid insulated hook-up wire.

Fig. 2— Coil data for the Super Mite mini-transmitter.

parts packages of the Super Mite for your homebrewing convenience. Sound enticing? Read on.

Meet the Super Mite

A number of QRP friends asked me to devise or highlight a simple transmitter project they could whip together in three or four hours and use to make a few special contacts and show their colleagues. They wanted a battery-powered unit that could be assembled "breadboard style" on perfboard so they could plan their own layout, run their own wires, and modify them as desired. Our Super Mite meets those needs in high style, plus you can package the finished transmitter in several cool

ways to fit your own preference.

If you look at the Super Mite's full circuit diagram in fig. 1 plus check out our quick-brewed version in photos A and B, you will notice the elegant simplicity of this little gem. A cylindrical coil, tapped to match the transistor's collector, is used in the tank circuit. It is tuned to resonance (minimum emitter current and maximum output power) with a small 300-pFd compression-type trimmer capacitor or plastic-case variable capacitor such as that used in a pocket AM radio. A second variable capacitor is paired with a 10- μ H inductor and used VXO style to shift the crystal's frequency between 5 and 15 kHz (the exact range depends on the crystal and band of operation).

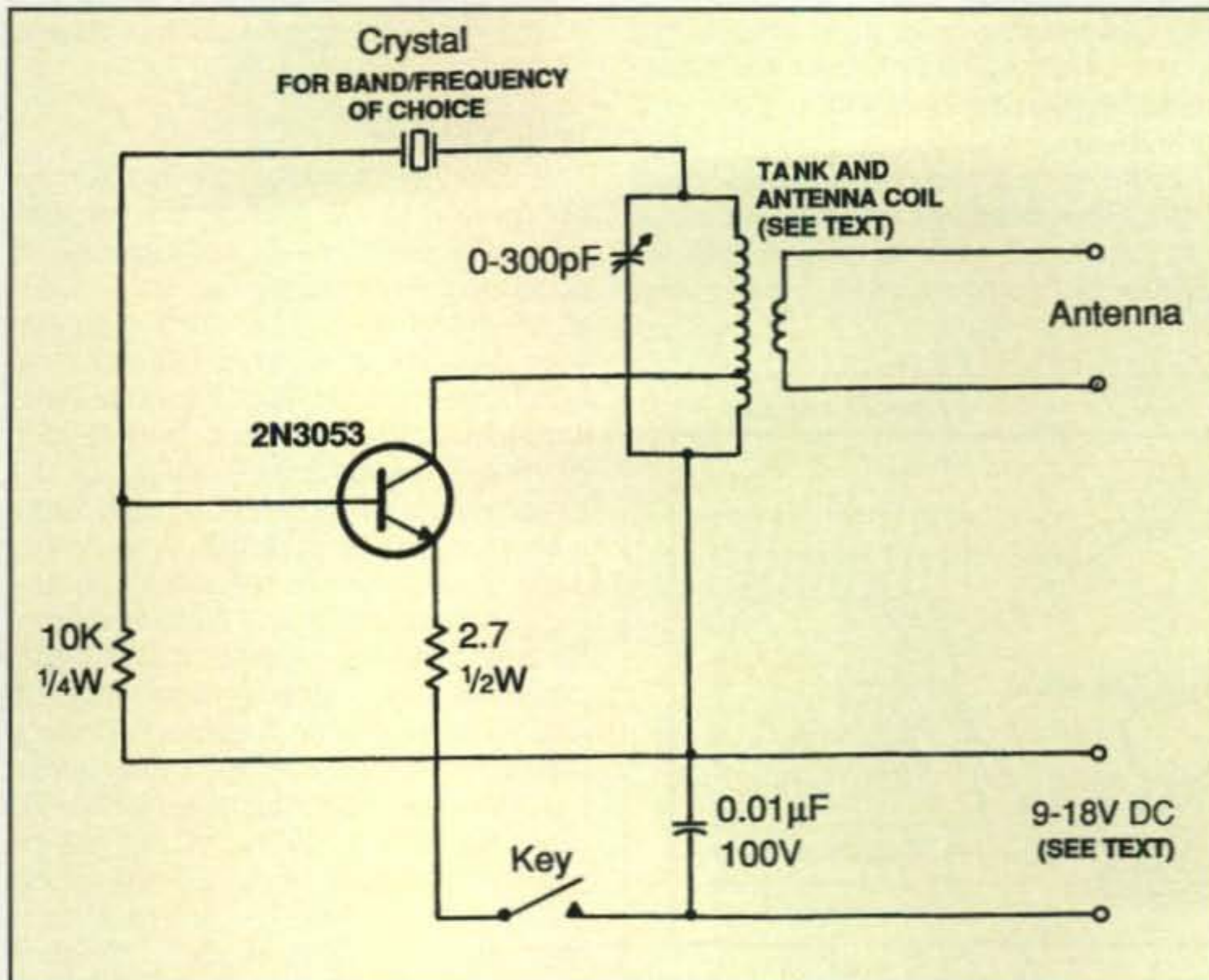


Fig. 3— Circuit diagram of the basic Super Mite. Assemble this "bare bones" circuit first, ensure it works smoothly, then add the special "frills" included in fig. 1, and your homebrewing success is eminent.

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Specifications

Lower Mast Size- 1 1/2"

Lower Mast Length- 16"

Whip Length- 34"

Total Length of Antenna in 6mt position- 50"

Total Length of Antenna in 40mt position- 56"

Freq. Coverage Continuous- 6mt thru 40mt

Power Rating- 500 watts P.E.P.

Typical SWR- 1.5 or less

Weight- 1.8 lbs.

LITTLE TARHEEL II

6-80 meter

\$349.+S/H

Specifications

Lower Mast Size- 1 1/2"

Lower Mast Length- 16"

Whip Length- 34"

Total Length of Antenna in 6mt position- 50"

Total Length of Antenna in 80mt position- 56"

Freq. Coverage Continuous- 6mt thru 80mt

Power Rating- 200 watts P.E.P.

Typical SWR- 1.5 or less

Weight- 1.9 lbs.

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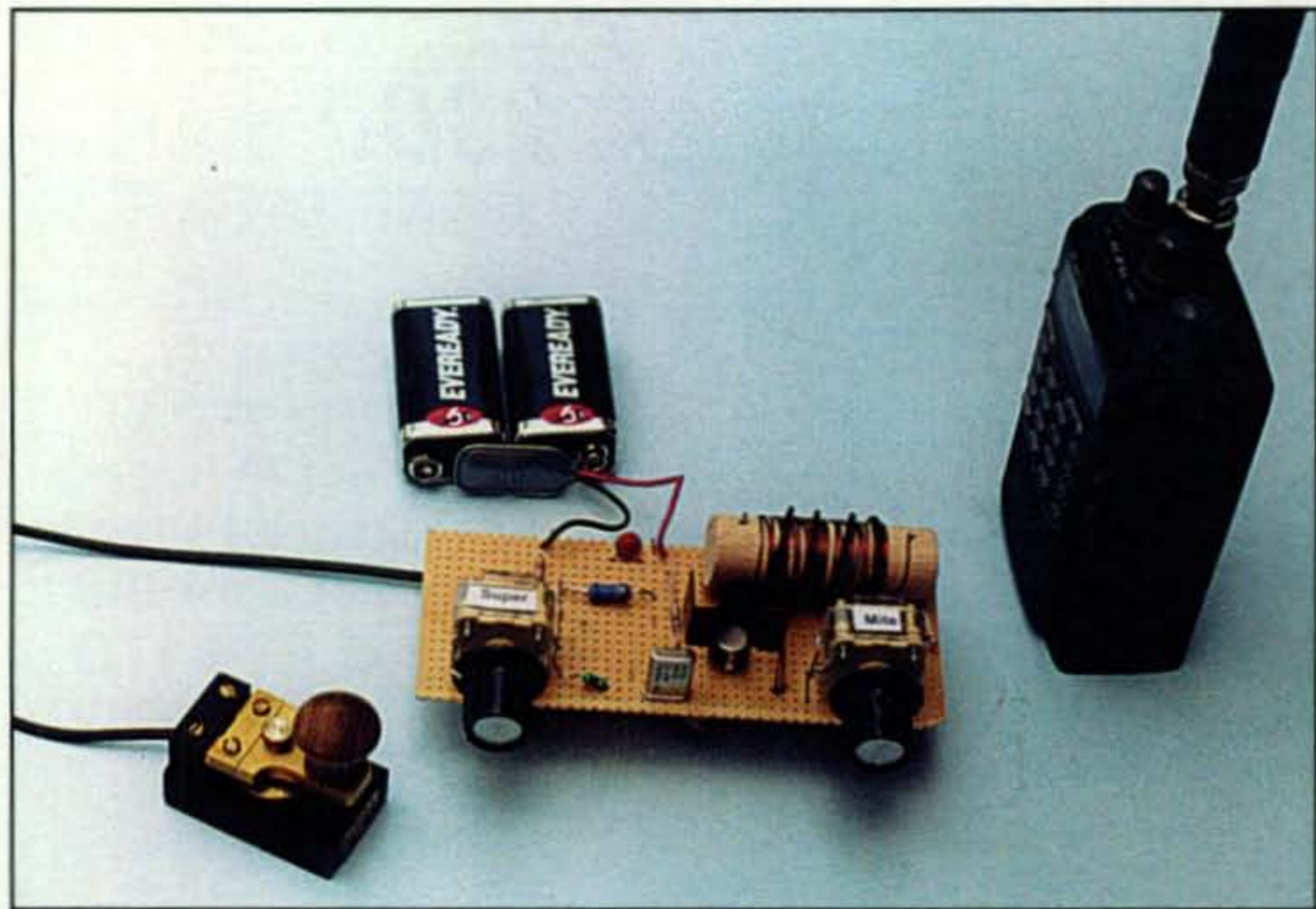


Photo B— The Super Mite's wireless BFO function works with almost any portable shortwave radio or VHF/UHF/HF receiver for on-the-spot survival communications and emergency preparedness, important considerations during these uncertain times. It is a neat, fun project for setting your own QRP records, too!

Two resistors are wired in series with the transistor's emitter. The 2.7-ohm resistor limits current flow during transmit/keydown to prevent transistor overheating. The 1K-ohm resistor allows the transmitter to function as a wireless BFO for its mated receiver during receive/keyup time. Say what? Notice the key connects in parallel with the 1K-ohm resistor. When the key is up, it limits emitter current to less than 10 ma and output is only a couple of milliwatts—just strong enough to radiate to a nearby receiver and act like a BFO to beat or heterodyne with incoming signals. Closing the key shorts out the 1K-

ohm resistor so emitter current increases to between 100 and 140 ma and output increases to maximum. As an extra benefit, the change of voltage between receive/keyup and transmit/keydown causes a very slight shift in frequency—a bare offset so you can copy another signal zero-beat with your signal. I sense your next question, and no, there is no resultant chirp on the transmitted signal. It sounds clean, pure, and marvelous.

If the mated receiver includes good CW/SSB reception capability and does not require an external BFO to heterodyne with incoming signals, incidentally,

just remove or delete the 1K-ohm resistor. Be sure, however, to leave the emitter's 2.7-ohm resistor wired in series with the key. If you use the external BFO idea, only coarse frequency tuning (roughly within 5 or 6 kHz) will be required at the receiver. Fine frequency tuning of both the Super Mite and its mated receiver is handled "transceiver style" with the VXO capacitor. Wild, eh?

If a 9-volt battery is used for power and output coupling is light, power output will be around 400 milliwatts. Preferring a bit more power, I threw caution and transistor ratings to the wind and connected two readily available 9-volt batteries in series. Yes, indeed, a hearty 18 volts total and a rompin' 900 milliwatts of band-blasting power! Oh the pleasures of unrestrained dinkin! This measure is "pushing" the little 2N3053, however, so a few words of advice (caveats?) warrant mentioning. Use a big heat sink on the transistor and avoid holding the key down for extra long dashes. Touch a fingertip to the transistor within its heat sink. If it is hot, reduce the voltage or increase the 2.7-ohm emitter resistor's value to 10 or 15 ohms. If higher power is still your goal, try substituting a more heavy-duty (and more expensive) RF transistor such as a 2N3553, 2SC799, or 2SC2166. Changing the coil's tap point and turns count by two or three may be necessary to achieve oscillation with these transistors, so dink, experiment, learn, and enjoy! That's the purpose of this project!

Coil Details

The coil plays a major role in this mini-rig's performance, so I built two versions with different sizes of coils to ensure good flexibility in assembly. The first coil was wound on a 1¹/₄-inch diameter form (a pill bottle) with No. 18 solid, insulated hook-up wire. The second coil was wound on a Wal-Mart-obtained 5/8-inch diameter wood dowel using No. 22 enamel-coated copper wire (both forms were 2 inches long, or tall). A few more turns of wire were necessary for obtaining resonance with the smaller diameter coil; otherwise operation and output power was the same. Drill two holes in each end of your selected form to hold/secure tank-coil ends after winding. The antenna coil for either form uses more No. 18 insulated wire. It is wound over (and with its turns spaced evenly along) the tank coil. The antenna coil is held in place by threading its ends through holes in the perfboard (for wood form) or by a single twist of its leads (for pill-bottle form). Coil winding counts for each band are shown in fig. 2. Adding or

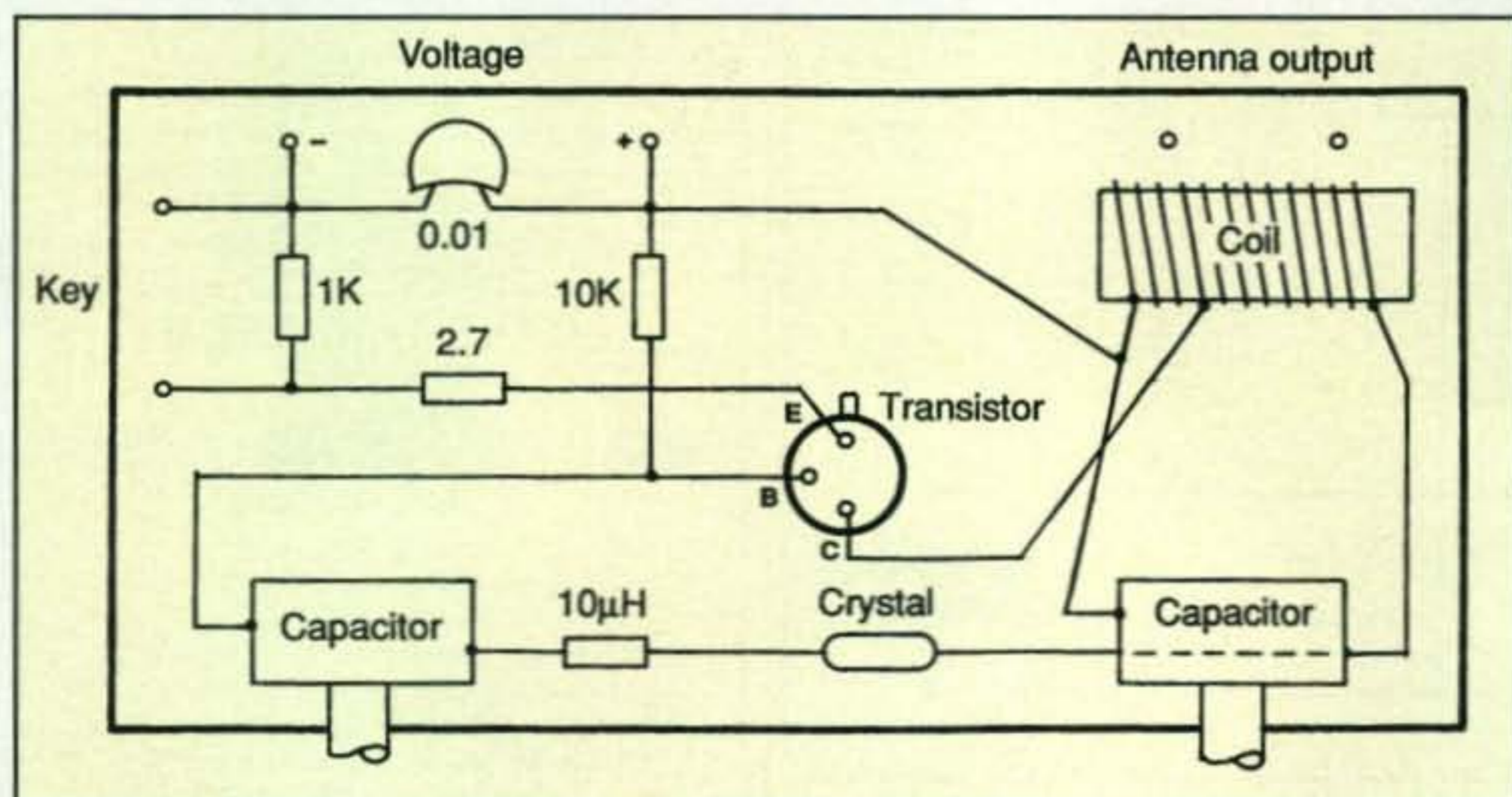


Fig. 4— Diagram of the Super Mite illustrating typical layout of parts and wire runs for easy assembly.

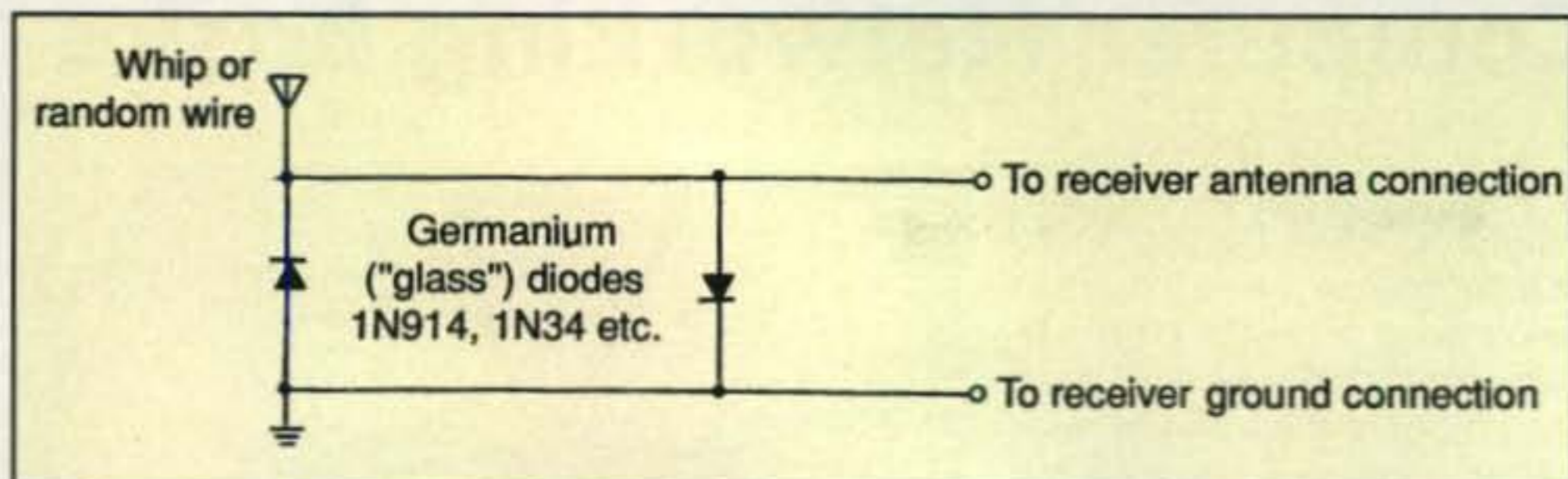


Fig. 5— Arrangement for connecting dual germanium diodes back-to-back for receiver "front end" protection. When a strong signal (above .3 volts) is sensed, diodes conduct and short antenna wire to ground. (Discussion in text.)

unwinding one or two turns to achieve oscillation or peak output may be necessary in a few cases, but be sure your wiring is correct before experimenting with coil turns or taps.

Assembly Tips

As a success-ensuring measure, I suggest starting by building the basic circuit first (less VXO and antenna pickup coil and using a single 9-volt battery as shown in fig. 3). After proper operation is confirmed and you are familiar with how the Super Mite acts, add (one at a time) the VXO, antenna coil, and dual battery mod. Should the rig stop working, you will then know where to check first for problems. The wood-dowel-type coil lies in the horizontal position. Its wire leads are threaded through the perfboard and pulled tight to hold it in place. The pill-bottle coil will stand vertically half on and half off the perfboard. Small dabs of Super Glue® are used to secure the pill bottle and plastic-case tuning capacitors to the perfboard.

A general parts layout and wiring guide is included in fig. 4. Strive for accuracy during assembly. Remember the "short" (5-turn) side of the coil connects (along with the 10K-ohm resistor) to positive voltage, the "long" side (most turns) connects to the crystal, and the tap connects to the transistor's collector. The most common error folks make is interchanging these three wires and/or not scraping enamel from copper wire. Scrape it shiny clean!

Check Out and Operation

After assembly carefully recheck your wiring, looking not for what's right, but for what's wrong. Then apply power. Listen for the Super Mite's signal on a nearby receiver, bearing in mind that even without a VXO, it may be 5 or 10 kHz above or below its crystal's frequency if the variable capacitor is not tuned to resonance. If necessary, jump or short out the 1K-ohm emitter resistor

(use only one 9-volt battery, do not hold down the key for more than 5 seconds, and install a heat sink on the transistor). Once the circuit is oscillating, re-tweak the tuning capacitor for the cleanest sounding signal consistent with high output (as read on an SWR bridge or FSM) and then compliment yourself on a job well done.

Earlier I mentioned pairing the Super Mite with a low-cost AM-type shortwave receiver for portable hamming. The "easy approach" here is using a dipole or Delta Loop (think *big!*) with the transmitter and a whip or random wire with the receiver. Remember to protect the receiver's "front end" during transmit by shorting its antenna and ground connections, or by adding a diode limiter circuit as shown in fig. 5. The germanium diodes will not affect normal reception, but will shunt signals above 0.3 volts to ground. Finally, remember you can raise

or lower the BFO's receiver injection level by changing the value of the 1K-ohm emitter resistor. Each case may differ, but values between 800 (a high BFO level) and 4700 ohms (a low BFO level) work for all, with 1K ohms being a good "general" or "starting" value.

The Parts Pack

As you probably surmised, our Super Mite is more of a homebrew fun project than a formal kit (you route wires and alter/modify resistor values to fit your needs rather than insert component leads in marked holes). Bearing that fact in mind (and also sensing many amateurs will consider assembling a Super Mite as their first QRP project), I expanded on several fine points in this discussion to help ensure your first-time success.

I have also gathered a bundle of required components and put together some parts packs both with and without perfboard and/or coil forms to help you get started homebrewing at the lowest possible cost. Be aware I am also planning to move farther south toward the land of sand and sun during the next few months, so my postal and personal e-mail addresses will soon change. Meanwhile, drop me an e-mail at <k4twj@cq-amateur-radio.com> and I will forward more details (and my new addresses) to you. May the force of good signals always be with you!

73, Dave, K4TWJ

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Home-Computer Networking Basics

Digital operating modes are an important part of amateur radio, and we've had some in-depth looks at a number of these modes in the past months. One purpose of this column is to expand your knowledge and understanding of all things digital: operating modes, the internet, theory, and even computer hardware. This month we'll take a practical look at getting computers to talk with one another.

As the price of computers continues to sink, many households find themselves with two or more computers. Now the general public can afford to enjoy the benefits of networking. Although the possibilities extend well beyond amateur radio, one of the most common uses for networking is to share resources, such as a broadband internet connection, printer, or just about any device with an Ethernet or USB port. Sharing is a powerful tool, allowing you to leverage your computer hardware to best advantage. One obvious ham usage is allowing multi-operator contest stations to share a single log database, but the advantages are myriad even for the casual user.

Ah, yes, but don't you need a Doctorate in Computers and the Dark Arts to build a network? Hardly. Today, the folks who sell networking gear have made it easy.

This, then, is the task for today: A clear and simple explanation of networking hardware, and the process of connecting it all together so that it works. There's really not much to it, but an understanding of what's involved will definitely lessen the anxiety of starting on any project in an unknown area. For this column, we're going to restrict our discussion to the two major types of network: Wired Ethernet and Wireless 802.11b/g.

Wired Ethernet

Wired Ethernet most commonly uses "Category 5" unshielded twisted-pair wire, available for well under \$80 per thousand feet. You might hear of "better" versions (e.g., Enhanced Cat 5, Cat 5e, or Cat 6), which might do no harm to use, but for a typical reader's needs plain old Cat 5 is just fine. All of it is four pairs (eight conductors) of what looks like telephone wire. However, beware: Lower categories of this kind of wire (such as Cat 3) look the same and are fine for telephones, but are not quite good enough for high-speed data. The network wiring is universally terminated with an RJ-45 connector, an 8-pin version of the "modular" telephone connectors introduced many years ago.

To connect the computer to this wire, you need a Network Interface Card, or NIC. Many modern computer motherboards have a built-in NIC, or you can buy one for under \$25. Popular network speeds today are 10, 100, and 1000 Megabits per second. In my opinion, even the 10 MB/s standard is plenty fast for home use, although these older NICs are

*P.O. Box 114, Park Ridge, NJ 07656
e-mail: <n2irz@cq-amateur-radio.com>

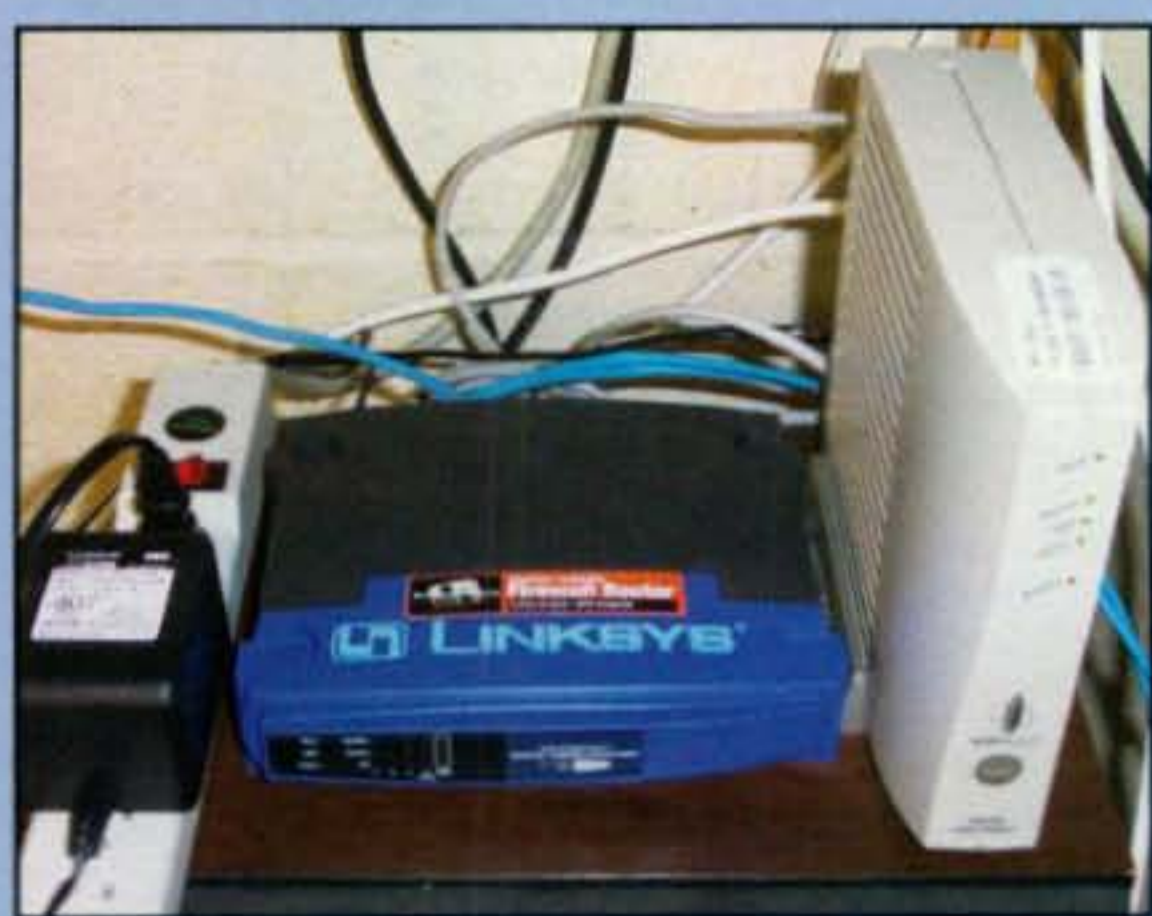


Fig. 1— The N2IRZ main networking facility in a corner of the basement. On the right is a cable modem, in the middle is my four-port router with firewall, and on the left is the outlet strip that powers it all. Ethernet, cable TV, and power wires are scattered in the background. This is about all you need for a wired network.

getting hard to find. The NIC will come with driver software, but newer versions of Windows® can usually detect what you have and manage it.

To connect all of the computers together, you need a *hub*, a *switch*, or a *router*. These pieces of hardware all are similar, but they differ in exactly what they can do for you. In general, spend the \$40 and buy the most versatile piece, the router, and be done with it. All of these items are used to connect a number of Ethernet wires together.

A hub is like an FM voice repeater; only one person (computer) can talk at a time, and everyone else can hear its transmissions. A switch is like a bunch of simplex channels under the control of a Net Control Station, who assigns pairs of people wanting to talk to their own channels. A router is much like a switch, but imagine that the simplex pairs are on different bands, allowing a larger number of computers to join the network. These, of course, are simplifications, but you get the general idea. Again, the most versatile of these is the router, and these are amazingly inexpensive, so why even bother with hubs and switches? Finally, a router is the only device that will allow you to share a single IP address among many computers, an essential part of sharing a broadband (Cable, DSL) internet connection.

Wireless 802.11b/g

While Ethernet is extremely inexpensive and very fast, it does require that you run a wire to each device. In some cases that can be either inconvenient or impossible to do. For these cases we have 802.11 wireless devices. The 802.11b standard has a data rate of 11 Mb/s, while the newer 802.11g standard has a data rate of 54 Mb/s, both on the 2400 MHz (13 cm) "Part 15" band. In practical use, the actual data rate is about half the channel capac-

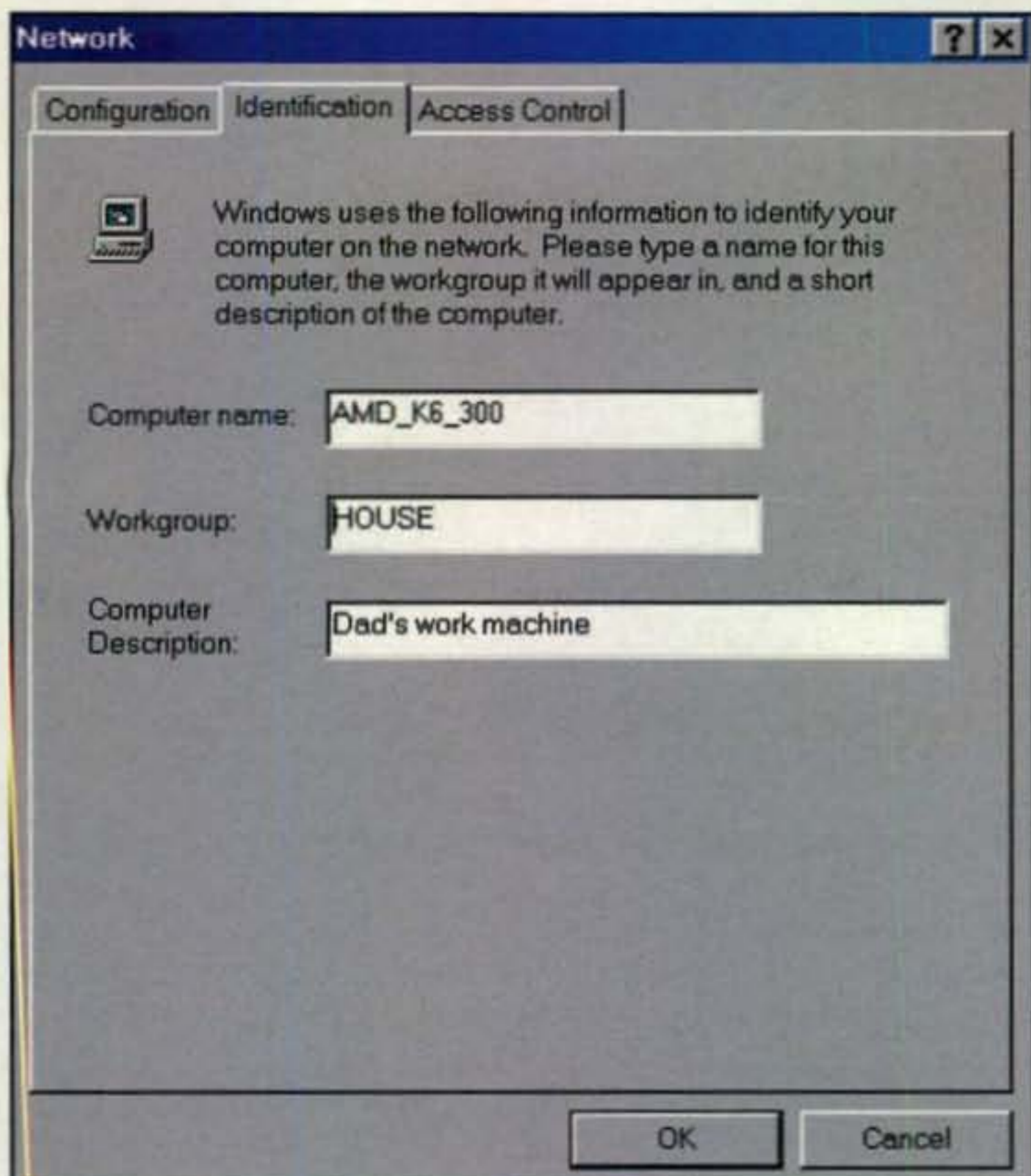


Fig. 2—Configuring Windows® for a network. In this step you need to name your computer and network. The computer's name must be unique, and the network name must be the same for everyone connected.

ity, which is still more than enough. Also, wireless devices tend to cost somewhat more than their wired equivalents.

Just as with Ethernet, your computer needs a NIC. Most wireless network adapters use either the USB port or the PCMCIA port (commonly found on laptop computers) to connect to the computer, and radio waves to connect to the wireless router. To bridge between the wired and wireless world, you can connect a *Wireless Access Point* (WAP) to the wired network.

As far as costs go, an 802.11b USB NIC can be had for under \$40, with a faster 802.11g (which is backwards-compatible with the slower 802.11b) card available for about \$60. A Linksys 802.11g four-port wireless router was on sale this week at Best Buy for the same \$60.

One obvious advantage of a wireless network is the flexibility to bring your computer wherever you prefer while remaining connected to the network. You can be working out by the pool and print a document on the laser printer in the den.

Planning the Network

Whether you decide to go with the wired route (as I chose) or with wireless (*it's possible to do a mix of both, depending on your needs—ed.*), the first order of business is planning the network. Decide where to put the router, remembering that you'll need AC power and a convenient central location. For wireless, consider antenna placement for good coverage. If you want to share a broadband connection, consider a location near the cable or DSL modem.

Now you'll need a NIC for each computer. Some computers, especially newer ones, have one already built in; look for the RJ-45 port. If you're going with a wired network, buy some Cat 5 wire and RJ-45 connectors, along with a crimp tool (\$25 at RadioShack) or you can get pre-made cables.

For a neater, built-in look, you can get wall plates in which you can mount RJ-45 receptacles, as well as a wide variety of other connectors (such as RCA jacks for audio and speakers, F connectors for TV, and RJ-11 jacks for telephone).

Consider any other hardware you might want, such as a print server, which allows every computer on the network to use the printer (printers connected to networked computers may also be shared; see setup info below for details). Take a look online, or in a better computer store, to see the many options available.

Finally, hook up all of it according to the instructions you get with the router and/or NICs. In nearly all cases, the router comes with a CD of software which is first used to configure the router and then to configure each computer in the network. Detailed tutorials are given, explaining how to activate the NIC in software and make all the settings for sharing printers and files. One note: If you're planning on sharing a broadband connection, first get that working with a directly connected computer and then introduce the network to the equation.

Macintosh Configuration

Before we conclude with setup info for Windows® users, let me describe the software configuration process for any device you may want to connect to a network using Macintosh computers:

1. Connect the device to the network and allow it to self-configure.
2. Umm . . . there's no step 2. You're done.
Maybe those Mac people have something there. . . .

Windows® Configuration

While I can't describe every possible situation for every vari-

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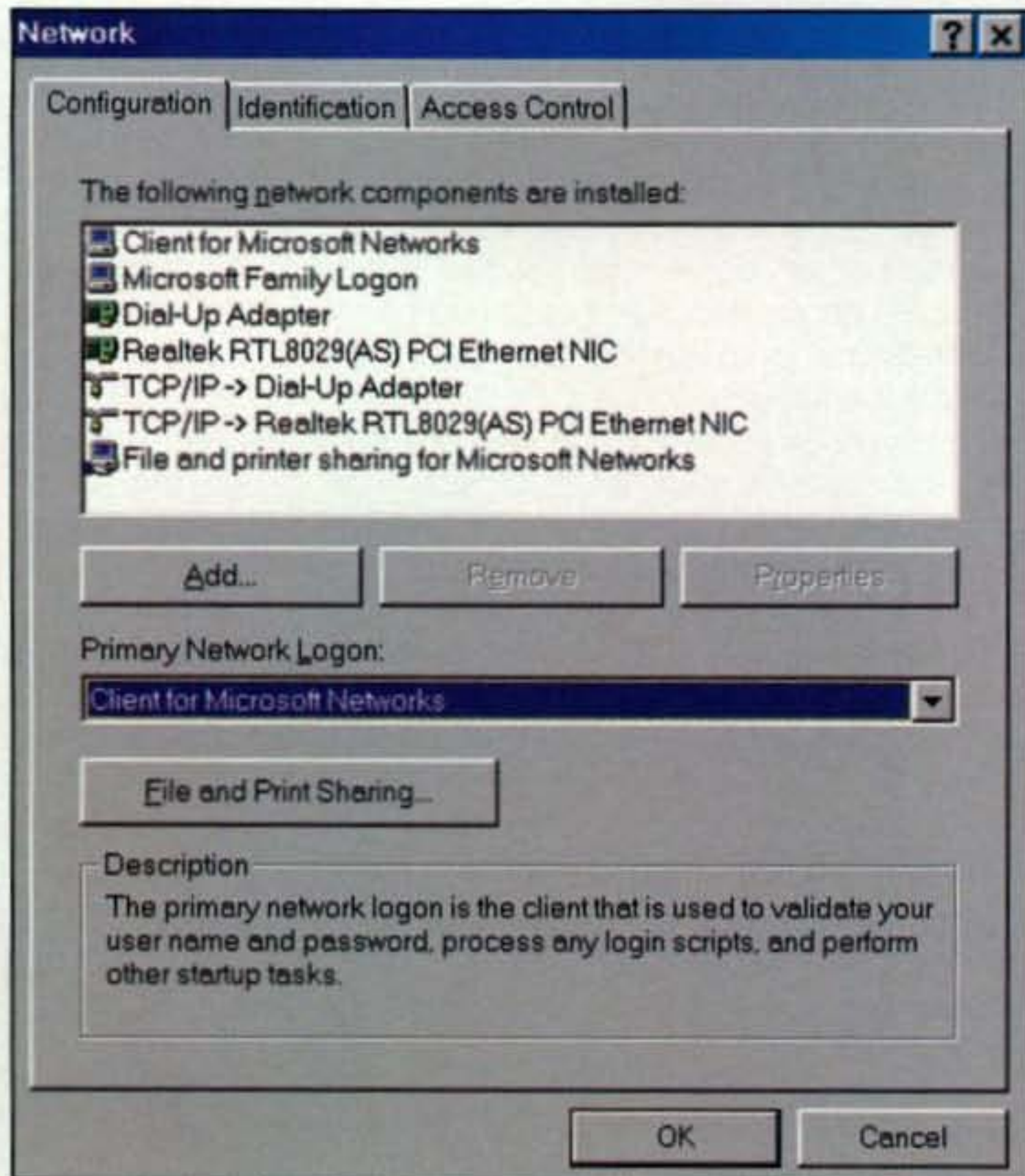


Fig. 3— Installing the correct Network Client, Protocol, and Adapter is essential for your network to function. You also need to enable Printer and File sharing here, as well as the level of log-on security you desire. Only basic security is included with home versions of Windows®; industrial-strength versions are readily available.

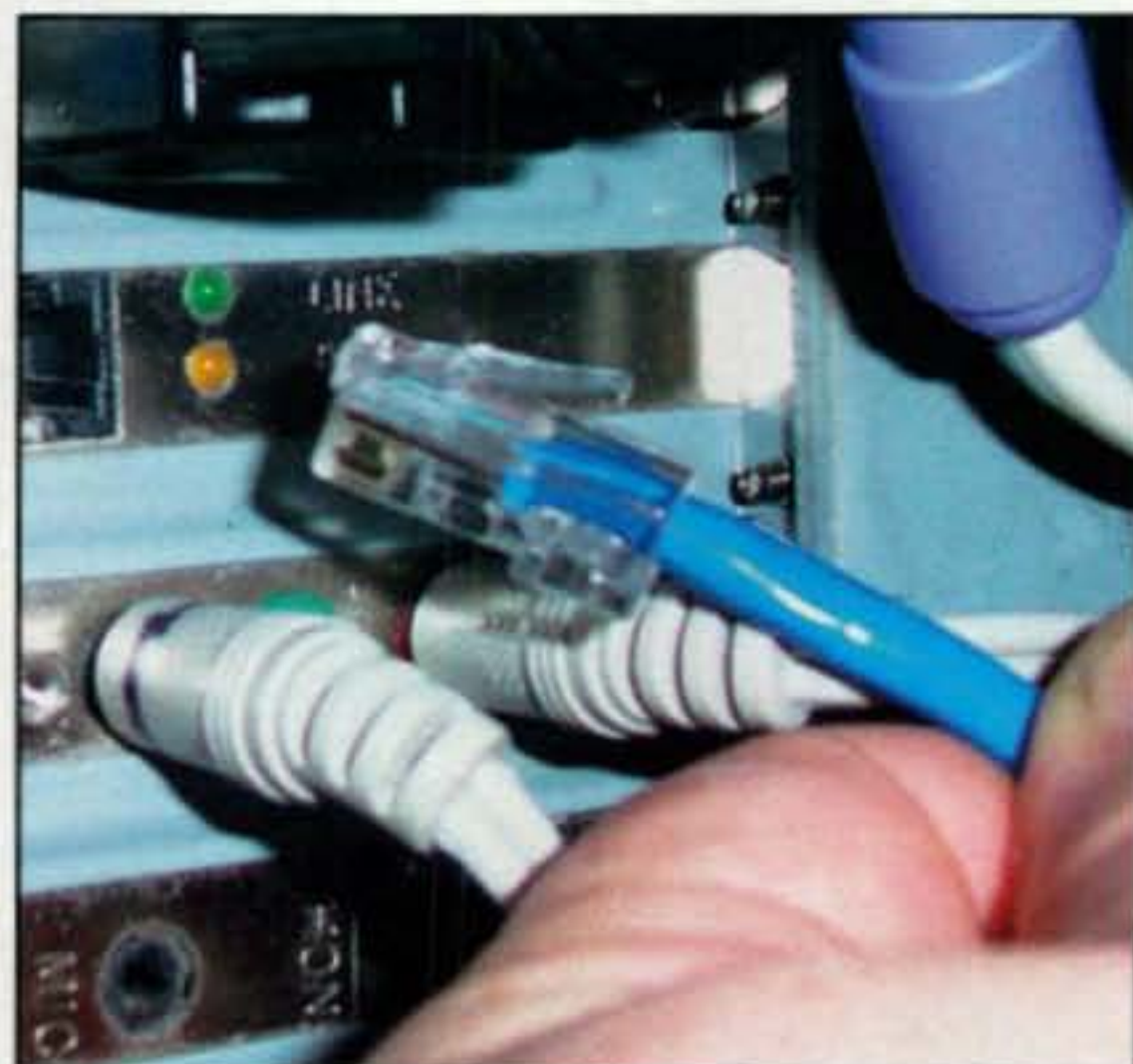
ation of computer you may encounter, here's some information on the basic process that applies to Windows® users. The following assumes that you have installed your NIC (if necessary) in your computer and loaded its driver. Follow this process for each computer in your network.

Configuring. Open Windows® Control Panel and double-click on "Network" ("System" for Windows® XP). Under the "Identification" tab, type in a name for this particular computer and a name for your "workgroup." Each computer must have a unique name. I usually use the processor type and speed, but you should use something that helps you remember which computer is which. Also select a short, simple name for your workgroup. Computers in different workgroups cannot communicate with one another, so make sure you use the same workgroup name in all your computers. Refer to fig. 2.

In the Network window, click on the "Configuration" tab. Be sure the "Client for Microsoft Networks" is installed. If not, add that "client." You should also see your NIC listed (add "adapter" if not) and, scrolling down, be sure that "TCP/IP" for your NIC is also installed (add "protocol" if not). See fig. 3.

Click on "File and Print Sharing," and assuming you agree, check off both "Allow others access to my files" and "Allow others access to my printer." Click OK, and then select the "Access Control" tab. I recommend selecting "Share-level access control," but in a larger network you may find "User-level access control" more useful. Unfortunately, this last option requires you to set up users for each computer, which is a little beyond our scope today. It's not difficult; there is a wizard that starts when you open the "Users" icon in Control panel that should help you through it.

Fig. 4— A close-up of a 100BaseT Ethernet connector, also known as an RJ-45, on the back of my computer. This is the standard connector used for most wired networking.



File Sharing. Now we need to set which file folders can be accessed by the network, as well as any restrictions on that access. Open "My Computer" and select a drive or folder that you want to share. Right-click on it and select "Properties." Select the "Sharing" tab, set the "Share Name," and select the type of access. "Read-Only" is just that—data can be read from that location, but not written to it. "Full" access allows everything, and "Depends on Password" allows read-only or full access, depending on the password used when the drive or folder is accessed. Repeat this for any other drives or folders you want to share.

Once all other computers have their file sharing set up, you can again open My Computer and click on the "Map Drive" button, allowing you to see all the available drives or folders on the network (assuming they're all on!). Select a drive letter, and the network drive or folder, and check off if you'd like that drive to always try to reconnect when you start your computer. Note that if the other computer is not found, you'll get an error message when your computer starts up.

Printer Sharing. Select the "Printers" icon in Control Panel, right-click on a printer, and select either "Sharing" or "Properties" and then the "Sharing" tab. Give your printer a name, set the security password if you like, and remember that all the other computers on your network will need the driver installed if they want to use that printer.



Fig. 5— My main computer setup—one for me, one for the kids. The cabinets hide supplies and printers, and servers for hard-disk storage and other functions are in the cellar. Note the neat look the wall plate provides for both Ethernet connections and a phone jack.



Fig. 6—A wireless router located at the CQ offices. The antennas can (and often must) be oriented to provide a good signal in the right places. It's a trial-and-error process to find the right "sweet spot," reminiscent of adjusting rabbit ears for your television. (Photo by Dick Ross, K2MGA)

Once all computers have their printer sharing set up, select the "Printers" folder and start the "Add Printer" wizard to set up a network computer on your local machine. Again, the other computer needs to be on for this to work!

Internet Sharing. The last task is optionally sharing a high-speed internet connection. If you are using a router, then follow the instructions that came with the router, or on its software CD, to connect all networked computers to the router. When I did this, it took about 15 minutes for the first computer and about 3 minutes for each of the others.

If you're not using a router—that is, you have a hub and one machine has an internet connection (even a dial-up connection)—you can still share using a utility available with Windows® 98 and later named Internet Connection Sharing (ICS). You only run ICS on the one computer with the internet connection. If you need the details on this, either use Windows® Help, or write to me.

Anti-Virus Software

This is a no-brainer. A virus spreads rapidly on a network, so you really need anti-virus software. At home I run both McAfee Anti Virus and Norton Anti Virus for virus protection, on different machines. I like Norton's automatic update feature much better, but McAfee's control panel is easier to use. Both offer plenty of virus protection. My suggestion is to see which one is on sale and buy that. Invest in the subscription for regular updates as well.

Firewall

If you have an internet connection, don't just rely on your router's firewall. Get a software firewall as well. I tried both the McAfee and Norton firewalls and hated them both. In my opinion, the best firewall is ZoneAlarm, which can be downloaded for free from Zone Labs. They also offer ZoneAlarm Pro, as well as an Anti Virus program that I have not yet tried. If either is anywhere near as good as the free version, it's well worth whatever they charge.

In Conclusion

I hope you enjoyed our whirlwind tour

of computer networking—advantages, hardware, setup, and more.

Every time I sit down to write a column, I always find myself at this point—the end—with another few pages of information I'd like to share but just don't have the room. I have to go back through what's already on paper and edit out all the fluff, bringing it down to the bare bones. For this column I had to remove about a third of what was written to make it fit. You may have noticed that I tend to fit a lot of information into a small space, but I'd like to hear from you: Is it too much or not enough? Let me know.

73, Don, N2IRZ

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Is Your Next Car a Voltswagen?

Okay, it was an old joke from the '60s, remember? "The Germans are making a new electric car; they're calling it the *Voltswagen*." (Drum roll, muted cymbal.)

We've seen a run at all-electric cars in the past and it was a bust. Both GM (with its EV-1) and Toyota tried all-electrics, but they just didn't have much range. A lot of money and research were devoted to developing newer, high-capacity batteries, but getting the vehicle beyond 100 miles on a single charge was an insurmountable obstacle. The range also dropped dramatically with the use of climate-control systems and headlamps. An inability to serve anything but short, urban trip needs doomed the all-electric car.

The Hybrids are Coming!

Phase Two is now bringing your charging system along for the ride in the form of a gasoline engine/electric-motor hybrid vehicle that combines a lot of technology in a small package. If the demand for hybrid (gas/electric) cars in California is any measure of things to come, the next vehicle you buy could well be this new blended technology. With Toyota and Honda already in the market, and Ford about to introduce a hybrid SUV, manufacturers are getting a good read that there's a powerful demand for more fuel-efficient vehicles. Aided by the run-up of gasoline prices, hybrids have created long lists of customers waiting for delivery. Is it a fad or is it for real? I believe they're here to stay and will garner a significant portion of the market, due to higher fuel costs and tighter emission requirements, mixed with a genuine concern about larger issues such as global warming and uncertain fuel supplies from the Middle East.

What lies in the future for ham radio operations from your new hybrid vehicle? Happily, it would appear they can coexist, but it's still early. I have driven a first-generation Prius and found it to be okay for hand-held radio operations. As it isn't mine, I could not install a 50- or 100-watt transceiver in it to test it for noise generation and ability to power the transceiver. Another ham I know has had a hybrid Honda, and he found it to be an acceptable platform for operating the HF bands.

There are many possible noise generators in a hybrid vehicle. The engine drives a large generator as well as the drive wheels, at least some of the time. In most hybrids a large electric motor gets the car up to speed and hands the load over to the gasoline engine. There are circuits handling hundreds of volts,



Photo 1— Direct from Detroit, the sign says it all!

and there are some pretty large magnetic fields flying around. Braking is done in part by the regeneration of electricity, slowing the car with an electrical load in addition to friction brakes. There's also a very large battery (or an array of batteries) to power the electric motor. Wiring patterns differ greatly. Public-safety agencies are being advised to be careful with cutting hybrid cars apart to extract accident victims, as there are high-voltage/high-current wires running all over the place, including up and down the windshield pillars in some models!

If you are considering the purchase of a hybrid, be sure to discuss your ham radio concerns with the dealer or a qualified representative from the manufacturer *before* you commit to a purchase. Don't forget to ask if there are recommended locations for antennas, or more specifically, places to



Photo 2— Chevrolet's new dream car looks even better with a ham antenna attached!

*5904 Lake Lindero Drive, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
e-mail: <aa6jr@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo 3— A simple mag-mount and "stick" antenna can get the job done!



Photo 4— This "bug-catcher" seems at home on an RV.

avoid when considering the drilling of holes for antennas or radio mounts.

Dayton and Mobile Operations

The Dayton Hamvention® was again a great place to chat with vehicle manufacturers about integrating two great hobbies—radios and vehicles of all descriptions. There was an SUV that was a virtual showcase of how to stuff radios into a functional command/communications response platform.

Chevrolet was showing off its sporty new convertible pickup truck, which also had a nifty antenna mount at the rear (see photo 2). I also had the pleasure of speaking with Bob Vitale, a GM electrical-system research engineer who's a ham, about a wide variety of topics, including what the future may hold for radio operations in new, space-efficient vehicles.

There's good news, at least for now. Cars and light trucks will continue to be "radio friendly" in that they won't be too different in the foreseeable future, with of course the exception of the above-mentioned hybrids.

Whither 42 volts?

What's up with the 36/42-volt systems that were being discussed just a short

time ago? Industry insiders are now saying those higher voltage systems are some time away from becoming a standard, as there are a number of issues in the way. Some of the reasons given for developing newer high-voltage systems include smaller, lighter weight starter motors, high-voltage headlamps, cooling fans, climate systems, rear-window heaters, and the like. However, there are disadvantages, including high voltages in the car, new battery technologies to be developed, and legitimate concerns about the use of accessories. There's a lot of 12-volt equipment out there, and changing the platform to support up to 50 volts is quite a departure.

When might we see 12/14-volt cars start to fade away? The earliest projection I'm hearing is 2008, if not later. If and when that day comes, it will be interesting to see how the radio manufacturers, along with other accessory providers, will react. . . . or will the vehicle manufacturers still maintain a 12-volt "subsystem" in high-voltage cars for all those cigar-lighter accessories, including portable computers, cell phones, and yes, ham radios?

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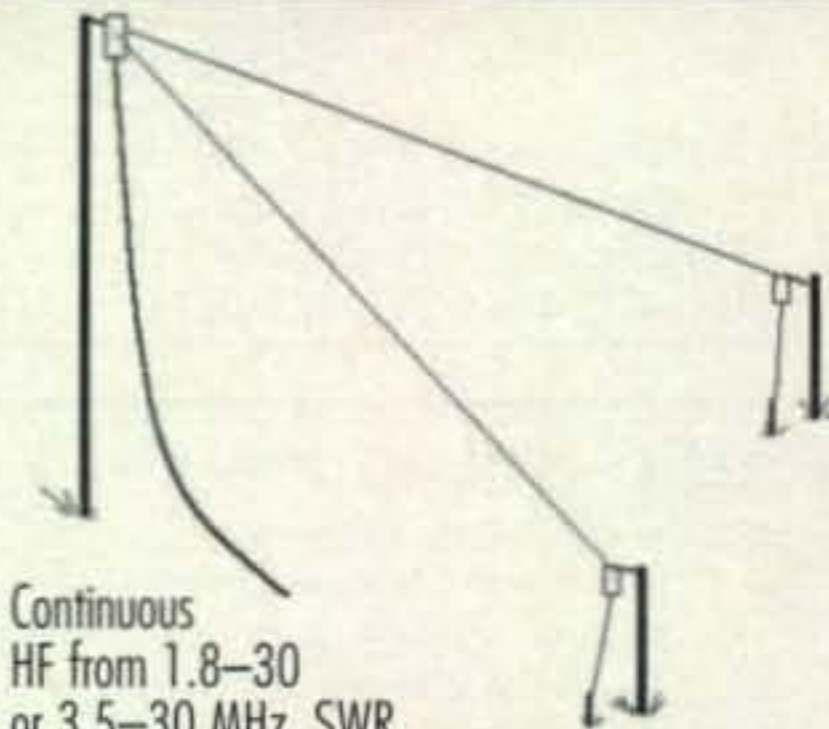
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Photo 5– Sturdy is the word for this SUV “screwdriver” antenna mount



Photo 6– A big antenna requires a strong support system. This one is connected to a trailer hitch.

require lower (e.g., 5 volts), not higher voltages.

We're already beginning to see some cars come equipped with a 120-VAC outlet. Could that be the answer? Will you buy a mobile power supply for your 12-volt radio gear? Or maybe a DC-to-DC converter?

Incidentally, the reference to dual voltages is not meant to be confusing. Current cars operate at a 12-VDC standard but are charged at a nominal 13.8- to 14.2-volt rate. Triple those values to get 36/42-volt systems. Would manufacturers install three 12-volt batteries in series or opt for a single 36-volt battery? Probably the latter, as the constant push for fuel efficiency typically has looked at reduced vehicle weight as the easiest way to gain miles per gallon. That's why the “real” spare tire and wheel will soon become a thing of the past; it's dead weight, not to mention that eliminating it represents a reduced cost for the manufacturer.

Antennas

One other aspect of Dayton is the opportunity to peruse the parking lots and

look at the wide variety of antennas and mounting systems employed by hams. I don't think any two installations are identical. Take a look at some of the photos I snapped while walking around; perhaps you'll see an idea worth noting as it pertains to your specific needs.

Hit The Road!

With summer weather upon us, get out there and get on the air! Mobile operations have always been a challenge, from the days when a motor driven generator was necessary to power tube-type transceivers to the present, when placing the radio and antenna are more challenging with each new model. Through it all, hams have invoked their creativity and ingenuity to make mobile operations an ongoing pleasure. Once you get it right, there's nothing quite like working a great contact while engaged in the daily commute or putting a rare county on the air for an avid audience. You can help by sending in photos of your mobile installation. We'll be glad to share your ideas with others. After all, hams helping hams is what we're all about, right? 73, Jeff, AA6JR

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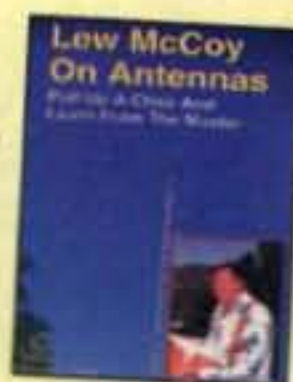


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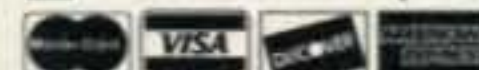
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The Perseids - Caffeine Time

It was Esko Lyytinen who successfully predicted the *Leonids* meteor storms a few years ago. Now, using the same modeling, Lyytinen has predicted a possible short-lived peak for this year's *Perseids* meteor shower and a possible storm in 2028.

According to Lyytinen (see: <<http://www.metaresearch.org/solar%20system/perseid/perseids.asp>>): "In 2004, August 11 at about 21h UT, the one revolution dust trail of the *Perseids* parent comet Swift-Tuttle is calculated to pass within 0.0013 AU [about 180,000 km] from the Earth's orbit, and we expect this to cause a moderately strong, short outburst of mainly visually dim meteors." While Lyytinen admits that the prediction of around 2100 UTC is a bit uncertain, he adds: "Using techniques that have had considerable success in predicting the times, locations, and rates for meteor storms and shower peaks for both *Leonids* and *Ursids*, we expect that even the annual activity of the *Perseids* may be better than normal this year. Observations possibly confirming this or rejecting this will be valuable." For those of us in the Western Hemisphere, the predicted peak occurs in daylight. Visually, the most favored part of the world will be in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Even with Lyytinen's prediction, the International Meteor Organization is sticking with its predictions of dual peaks. It states on its URL (<<http://www.imo.net/calendar/cal04.html#July>>) that there may be a primary peak time around 1100 UTC on August 12, which will coincide with the most probable maximum time of the "traditional" peak always found previously. It adds: "Another feature, seen only in IMO data from 1997-1999, was a tertiary peak at sol = 140.4°, the repeat time for which would be shortly before 21h UT on August 12."

With predictions for this year's *Perseids* spread out all over the calendar, it would serve the meteor-scatter operators (ping jockey) well to be alert both days, which doesn't allow for getting much rest.

BPL and the Math

The time for commenting on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) is now over. It will be several months before the FCC separates the relevant from the non-relevant comments in the hundreds of filings that occurred during the permitted periods.

Assuming that the FCC gives BPL some sort of green light in the next year, the major question for the industry remains: Will it be profitable?

The following internet posting on MSN Money (<http://moneycentral.msn.com/content/P81685.asp>) by Michael Brush provides some insight into that question. Before I get to the posting, however, I first need to introduce Mr. Brush.

Michael Brush is an award-winning New York-based financial writer who has covered business

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

VHF Plus Calendar

Aug. 1	Moderate EME conditions.
Aug. 6-8	The 11th International EME Conference. See text for details.
Aug. 7	Last Quarter Moon.
Aug. 7-8	ARRL UHF and Above Contest. See text for details.
Aug. 8	Poor EME conditions.
Aug. 11	Moon Apogee.
Aug. 11-12	<i>Perseids</i> meteor show predicted peaks. See text for details.
Aug. 15	Good EME conditions.
Aug. 16	New Moon.
Aug. 21-22	First weekend of the ARRL 10 GHz and Above Cumulative Contest. See text for details.
Aug. 22	Moderate EME conditions.
Aug. 23	First Quarter Moon.
Aug. 27	Moon Perigee.
Aug. 29	Moderate EME conditions.
Aug. 30	Full Moon.

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU.

and investing for the *New York Times*, *Money* magazine and the Economist Group. A series of columns reminding readers of the many ways that insiders and unfair play still held sway at the highest echelons of Corporate America earned him a "Best in Business" award from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers.

Michael studied at Columbia Business School in the Knight-Bagehot Fellowship program. He is the author of *Lessons From the Front Line*, a book offering insights on investing and the markets based on the experiences of professional money managers.

The following is excerpted from his May 24, 2004 article in MSN Money:

How the utilities may get into BPL

The most profitable way for utilities to offer BPL is to set up a telecom division to run the service outright. That's what PPL in Pennsylvania is doing. At the other extreme, utilities wary of getting tangled up in a new consumer service will passively offer access to their networks for a fee, says Henry Quintin of Fine Point Technologies, which sells software that helps users install BPL. They'll make less money, but the risks of getting bogged down in customer service are lower. Pepco is going this route, he points out.

The middle road—both for profits and risk—is a joint venture with a service provider. The marriage between Cinergy and Current Technologies is a great example. But can a joint venture like this produce enough profits to move the earnings needle at a giant utility like Cinergy? A quick back-of-the-envelope calculation raises some doubts.

Cinergy hopes to offer BPL service to 250,000 homes within three years, and it expects that 15% to 20% of customers will sign up. That suggests 50,000 customers will be paying \$40 per month, or \$24 million per year. If the service produces 20% profit margins, Cinergy's 50% split of profits with Current Technologies would give the util-

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ity \$2.4 million from BPL. With 180 million shares outstanding, that works out to 1.3 cents per share.

Cinergy's take, however, could get bigger once VoIP [Voice over Internet Protocol] is added—not to mention video further down the road. Plus, Cinergy will soon start reaching out to more customers in Indiana and Kentucky. So, potential profits could be higher.

Even if it takes a few years to generate meaningful profits, utilities believe they can gain from BPL right away because it helps with automated meter reading and network monitoring. "It is like having an intelligent distribution grid sitting out there," says Leif Ericson, a business development manager at Southern Company, the big regional power company in the Southeast. "I can tell exactly where that tree fell on the line."

Potential roadblocks

As good as BPL sounds, it faces several obstacles. Despite exceptions like Cinergy and PPL, for example, many utility companies are notoriously slow to adapt to new ideas. Next, a variety of "last mile" internet-access technologies compete with BPL—from DSL and cable to more cutting-edge options like fiber to the premises and WiMAX, a wireless network that transmits signals over as much as 30 miles.

And despite the warm glow from the nation's capital, there are several regulatory issues that could snag BPL, says Andy

Lipman, a Washington, D.C. lawyer and telecom regulation expert of the law firm Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman in Washington, D.C.

First off, ham radio operators hate BPL. A vocal group that's raised lots of money for the fight, they're concerned that BPL interferes with their radio transmissions. Next, regulators have yet to decide whether VoIP should be treated like regular phone service. If so, that will push up costs and reduce interest among consumers. What's more, state utility regulators may slap BPL with surcharges to cover the cost of power lines.

Lipman believes upcoming technical studies will prove the ham radio operators wrong. And most of the other potential regulatory snags will be resolved, he says. So if more utilities get on board and consumers go for the service, the future could be bright for BPL companies. After all, the field is still wide open—given that 80% of internet users still haven't made the transition from dialup to any form of broadband at all.

Brush's analysis is very insightful for one very important reason—VoIP. He points out that Cinergy hopes to substantially increase its profit margin with the addition of VoIP service to the BPL equation. Unfortunately, VoIP is far from being a viable alternative to twisted-pair telco service for three reasons. First, the quality of VoIP is still inferior to that of other available voice communications.

According to W. David Gardner, TechWeb News (see "InternetWeek.com" News for June 14, 2004 at <<http://www.internetwk.com/breakingNews/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=21800184>>), "Potential subscribers to internet phoning services are still hesitating to sign up for Voice over IP (VoIP) service due to 'inferior sound quality and service reliability'..." He adds: "Although VoIP service has improved dramatically in recent years, subscribers can still experience poor fidelity and their service fails when broadband connections fail—a still common occurrence."

The second reason is law enforcement's problems with monitoring VoIP communications. Ryan Singel, writing on June 17, 2004 for Wired News (see: <http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,63884,00.html?tw=wn_2_polihead>) reported: "Deputy Assistant Attorney General Laura Parsky told the Senate Commerce Committee [on June 16, 2004] that unregulated VOIP would be a 'haven' for terrorists unless the government forces connected providers to build special wiretapping capabilities into their systems."

"If legal loopholes allow criminals to use new technologies to avoid law enforcement detection, they would use

these technologies to coordinate terrorist attacks, to sell drugs throughout the United States, and to pass along national security secrets to our enemies,' Parsky said."

The third reason, which Brush alludes to above and gets to the heart of the profitability of VoIP, is state and local governments' huge interest in taxing VoIP communication. Add a tax on VoIP service to the franchise fee that may be charged to the utilities for BPL and what you have, in effect, is a tax on a tax, not to mention a revenue loss to the BPL provider.

In considering these caveats, it would be very advantageous for Cinergy and others to take a long, hard look at the economic sense of BPL—even with the potential add-on services.

The Last Mile Versus The Last 30 Miles

As Brush indicates above, BPL is not without competition from other "last mile" providers. What may be the sleeper competitor, however, is WiMAX, the potential last 30-mile provider. Furthermore, here is where ham radio

operators have the golden opportunity to look like heroes.

For more than a year we ham radio operators have been beating up utility companies and the FCC over BPL. On June 10, 2004 something happened at the FCC that, for me, makes it look like the FCC has heard our concerns. Seemingly off our radar screen because it is not on our frequency allocation was the creation of the Broadband Radio Service (BRS). For a press release on this FCC ground-breaking ruling, see: <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-248267A1.doc> for a MS Word document, and <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-248267A1.pdf> for a pdf file of the same. You might also look at each of the commissioners' positive comments on the ruling. They are fascinating reading. You can find them at: <<http://www.fcc.gov>> under the June 10, 2004 date. Ironically, what they have written about BRS are very similar comments to what they previously wrote about BPL—their interest in enabling the development of broadband internet access for the entire country and how BRS will be yet another



Assistant HSM Working Group Chairman Walt DuBose, K5YFW, received a Certificate of Merit from the ARRL at HamCom in June for his outstanding accomplishments on behalf of the HSM Working Group.



HSM Webmaster Dr. Gerry Creager, N5JXS, Texas A&M University Network Infrastructure Specialist, also received a Certificate of Merit from the ARRL at HamCom for his outstanding accomplishments on behalf of the HSM Working Group.

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er way to bring about this development.

What does BRS have to do with ham radio? With regard to our future and BPL's threat, everything! It is within BRS that WiMAX will find a home.

What does WiMAX have to do with ham radio? We can develop the technology on our frequency allocations. That is great for utilizing unused amateur radio frequencies. It is also great for incubation of commercial systems, which brings me to my most important point: There is something far more important for us hams in WiMAX than a new toy. It is a venue for good public relations.

Let's face it. Our image in the media right now is not the best. We appear to

be a bunch of crybabies complaining about how the utility companies are trying to play fast and easy with the truth and claiming that government agencies such as NTIA and FEMA are not showing backbone in their weak stances concerning BPL interference issues. Granted, there is some truth to these complaints. However, our days of being the canary in the mine are over—mainly because the utility companies keep hiding the mines. Furthermore, our days of being David against Goliath are over as well. We have thrown more than enough rocks at those giant utility companies. Now it is time to borrow a 15-year-old movie title—that being to focus on the building of our own *Fields of Dreams*. While the original field of dreams was limited to a cornfield in Dyersville, Iowa, ours could have many 30-mile perimeters.

Here is how: There is a small, but fast-growing interest in HSMM technology, our using 802.11 technology under Part 97 regulations as opposed to under Part 15 regulations. This past June, Walt DuBose, K5YFW, of the Texas Roadrunners Microwave Group and Ron Cole, N5HYH, of the North Texas Microwave Society, gave a presentation to the Roadrunners at their meeting in San Antonio, Texas. They explained what High Speed Multi Media is all about and how one can put together a home station and an access point (AP). They also explained the difference between operating under Part 97 and Part 15 regulations.

As I write this column, I am in my hotel room in Arlington, Texas, awaiting the start of HamCom. During this convention around ten different HSMM forums will be presented. In addition, Walt DuBose, K5YFW, Assistant HSMM Working Group Chairman, and Webmaster Dr. Gerry Creager, N5JXS, of Texas A&M University, Network Infrastructure Specialist, will receive Certificates of Merit from the ARRL for their outstanding accomplishments.

Here is where the "Fields of Dreams" come into play. There are huge transferable skills between WiFi and WiMAX. Therefore, hams who are developing WiFi systems can also be in on the ground-floor development of WiMAX systems. Amateur radio frequencies can be used for incubation of WiMAX systems, which then can be transferred to commercial application on the new BRS frequencies. Hams can get together and form micro industries for profit (since this will be a commercial operation on commercial frequencies) and set up rural systems for the purpose of sup-

plying broadband internet access to their neighbors. Imagine this: Hams being perceived as good neighbors for a change!

There is a fascinating ancient story of a king, his queen, the prime minister, and the queen's uncle. In that story the prime minister gets angry with the queen's uncle for his failure to give proper homage to him as the prime minister. In retaliation, he gets the king to issue an irrevocable decree to destroy the tribe to which the uncle belongs. The

uncle intercedes with his niece over his concerns for the future of their tribe, warning her of her responsibility and the consequences if she fails to intercede with her husband concerning the future of the tribe, and concluding with this prophetic rhetorical question: "What's more, who can say but that you have been elevated to the palace for just such a time as this?"

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which effectively negates the king's former decree. For his part in the shenanigans, the prime minister is hung on the gallows that he had prepared for the queen's uncle.

What does this ancient story have to do with ham radio? With the FCC's June 10, 2004 ruling the FCC has given ham radio the opportunity to defend itself in a positive way against the BPL threat. It is now up to us to use our creativity to make it happen. Are we going to be a part of the problem or are we going to be a part of the solution? Perhaps a bit of rewording of the uncle's question might be in order for us and our hobby: "What's more, who can say but that we are active in our hobby for just such a time as this?"

Echo In the Air?

As this column is being prepared, we are a couple of weeks away from launch of AMSAT-NA's Echo satellite. Assuming a successful launch during late June or sometime during July, now is the time to start looking for the bird to come to life. For more information, see: <<http://www.amsat.org>>.

Current Contests

There are two important contests this month: The **ARRL UHF and Above**

Contest is scheduled for 7-8 August. Complete rules can be found in the July issue of *QST*. The first weekend of the **ARRL 10 GHz** and above cumulative contest is scheduled for August 21-22. The second weekend is September 18-19. Complete rules for this contest also can be found in the July issue of *QST*. Rules for the contests can also be viewed at <www.arrl.org>.

EME Conference

The 11th **International EME Conference** will be held on the campus of the College of New Jersey, in Ewing, NJ, August 6-8. For more information, go to: <<http://www.qsl.net/eme2004/>>.

Calls for Papers

Calls for papers are issued in advance of forthcoming conferences either for presenters to be speakers, or for papers to be published in the conferences' *Proceedings*, or both. For more information, questions about format, media, hardcopy, e-mail, etc., please contact the person listed with the announcement. To date this year the following organizations or conference organizers have announced calls for papers for their forthcoming conferences:

The 2004 **TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference** will be held

September 10-12 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines, Iowa. You'll find more conference information on the web at: <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc/>>. Please send your submission by August 10 to: Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, or via e-mail to: <maty@arrl.org>.

The **Microwave Update** conference will be held October 14-16 in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area of Texas. The contact person is Kent Britain, WA5VJB, at <wa5vjb@cq-vhf.com>. Submissions are to be sent to him no later than August 16. For more information, see the North Texas Microwave Society's URL: <<http://www.ntms.org>>.

The 2004 **AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting** is scheduled for October 8-10 in Arlington, Virginia. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the ARISS International Meeting, which is planned for October 10-13. Camera-ready copy of submissions on paper or in electronic form are due by August 1 for inclusion in the printed symposium proceedings. Papers should be sent to: Daniel Schultz, N8FGV, 14612 Dowling Drive, Burtonsville, MD 20866, or by e-mail to: <n8fgv@amsat.org>. For more information, please see the AMSAT URL pertaining to the symposium at: <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/news/ans.html#03>>.

Dayton and Me

For those of you who looked for me at the Dayton Hamvention® VHF Forum, you did not see me because on the way to the forum I was in an automobile accident. While transitioning on the US 35 West to I-75 North freeways, my new Saturn VUE began hydroplaning on the wet pavement. As a result, I lost control of the vehicle and crashed into two retaining walls, one after the other. The accident was a total loss with regard to the vehicle. My wife, Carol, W6CL, and I sustained bumps and bruises, with Carol getting most of the injuries. We are healing, but it will take time—more time for Carol. For those of you who have known about the accident and have expressed your concern to us, we appreciate your kind words, thoughts, and prayers very much. Perhaps next year's Dayton will be a bit less eventful.

This is a wrap for another column. Thank you for your continuing support of this, your column. As usual, next month there will be more news than there is allocated space. Even so, we want to print your news, so let us hear from you. Until next month...

73, Joe, N6CL

Looking Ahead in

Here are some of the stories we're working on for upcoming issues of *CQ*:

"CW Results, 2003 CQ World Wide DX Contest," by K3EST

"5JØX: The CQWW from San Andres," by W9AAZ

"Secrets of Top DXers," by W1HEO

Plus...

"Breaking the Language Barrier," by KD5HTB

"Still Chasing the Invisible Wave," by RV3IZ

"Wireless Signaling Without Radiated Power," by W4LTU

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The 2004 Contest Survey

August's Contest Tip

Now that the good weather is here, it's time to "sweat" the details on some of your outside projects. If you're like many hams, there are examples throughout your contest station where compromises were made. Perhaps it was a connection you didn't bother to solder or a connector that wasn't prepared properly. Remember that those situations will eventually cause problems. It is much easier to fix them now in the comfort of summer than in the middle of an ARRL DX contest in February. Take some good, old-fashioned advice: Sweat the details and do it right!

One of the traditions I've established over the years is to solicit your input via an annual contest survey. Well, it's that time again! (See page 90 for the survey form.—ed.)

When I began running these surveys over ten years ago, I was interested in using them as a vehicle for focusing on timely contesting topics as well as a tool for helping me understand what subjects you wanted covered in future columns. This is still the case, and as participation has continued to grow with each passing year, I've been pleased with the interest and effort that many of you have taken to complete the survey.

As has been the case in the past, I have quite a variety of questions in this year's survey. There's something for everyone, whether you own a monster contest station or have concerns about the impact of contesting on the hobby as a whole. In many cases, the survey topics come from the questions and comments I receive from you. In addition, there are the hot topics of the day which always make their way into the analysis. However, keep in mind that this is not a scientific process. We'll leave the real surveying up to the professionals.

I hope you'll benefit from the work that takes place as part of the survey process. At the very least, when the results are published in a future column you'll get an idea of what's on people's minds and perhaps determine how we can make contesting and ham radio a better hobby for everyone.

How about you get right to it? I encourage you to take a few minutes and voice your opinion. You'll find that in addition to being published in *CQ*, I'll be making this survey available on most of the popular internet e-mail reflectors and other electronic sources. An on-line response is strongly preferred, as it makes for much easier tabulation. With the assistance of Tom Roscoe, K8CX, your responses can be submitted this year by logging on to <<http://hamgallery.com/survey/>>. By the way, Tom has a very cool website, so after you've completed your survey, be sure to take a drive through his gallery of photographs and news. Of course, if you must, you can still "snail mail" your replies in the conventional (is snail mail conventional anymore?)

*2 Mitchell Pond Road, Windham, NH 03087
e-mail: <K1AR@contesting.com>

Calendar of Events

July 24-25	Russian RTTY WW Contest
July 24-25	RSGB IOTA Contest
Aug. 1	SARL HF Phone Contest
Aug. 7	European HF Championship Contest
Aug. 7-8	North American CW QSO Party
Aug. 7-8	ARRL UHF Contest
Aug. 14-15	Maryland-DC QSO Party
Aug. 14-15	WAE CW DX Contest
Aug. 21-22	North American SSB QSO Party
Aug. 21-22	New Jersey QSO Party
Aug. 21-22	SARTG WW RTTY Contest
Aug. 21-22	SEANET Contest
Aug. 28-29	YO DX Contest
Aug. 28-29	Ohio QSO Party
Sept. 4-5	All Asian SSB DX Contest
Sept. 8-10	YLRL Howdy Days
Sept. 11-12	WAE SSB DX Contest
Sept. 11-13	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sept. 12	North American CW Sprint
Sept. 25-26	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest
Oct. 30-31	CQ WW DX SSB Contest
Nov. 27-28	CQ WW DX CW Contest

manner to: John Dorr, K1AR, 2 Mitchell Pond Road, Windham, NH 03087.

Enjoy the survey! If all goes according to plan, we'll have results in a few months.

Contesters Show Their Stuff!

What follows is a very touching story that was published by George Wagner, K5KG, on some of the internet e-mail reflectors. It's a true testament to the generosity of hams, and contesters in particular. Be sure to read on.

At the time I posted my request on May 5th, 2004 on the CQ Contest and FCG reflectors I did so with a great deal of hesitancy, not knowing what kind of response I would get. Here is what I asked for:

"Please excuse the bandwidth for this message, but I am looking for a wheelchair and funds to ship it to Dominica, J7. This is for my close friend Lambert Charles, J73LC, who needs it immediately for his ailing mother. Lambert is not able to find a wheelchair locally in Dominica. I know that many of you have worked J7 operations over the past several years—J7OJ, J75KG, J7A, J75KG, J79JRC, J79APS, and J79MM. It is Lambert who has made these trips possible. It was also Lambert who, on a moments notice, got the J7OJ callsign for the ARRL DX CW contest in February in memory of Jim White, K4OJ.

"If anyone can donate a used chair, I know he would be most appreciative. I can buy a new or used chair and ship it via airfreight out of Miami. I don't know the prices of chairs, either new or used, but I can easily find that out. Shipping will probably run on the order of \$200.

"If any of you are so moved and can donate a wheelchair, or would like to make a cash contribution for a chair or its shipping, please contact me. This is an urgent matter; even if I somehow acquired a chair today, it would be another week or so before I could get it to Dominica. Please respond to me by e-mail.

"Thank you so much for your consideration.—73, George, K5KG/J75KG"

(Continued on page 111)

2004 CQ Contest Survey

Your Callsign (optional): _____

Contesting Experience (years): _____

Age: _____

1. Do you spend more time on the radio (including contests) or the internet?
 - A) Radio
 - B) Internet

2. How do you envision contesting in 10 years?
 - A) Forget about contesting; ham radio will not even be around anymore
 - B) Contesting will be better than now with more activity and interest
 - C) Things will remain pretty much the same as they are today

3. In addition to your contest club, do you belong to a local club?
 - A) Yes
 - B) No
 - C) I don't belong to any clubs
 - D) I only belong to a local club and not a contest club

4. Do you believe packet radio is an asset or a detriment to contesting?
 - A) Asset
 - B) Detriment

5. What has been your favorite radio (including current rig)? _____

6. Apart from contesting, what is your second favorite activity within ham radio?
 - A) DXing
 - B) Public Service
 - C) Ragchewing
 - D) Local club involvement
 - E) Antenna experimentation
 - F) Homebrewing/technical endeavors
 - G) Other _____

7. How would you rather spend your time when involved in contesting?
 - A) Operating your own station by yourself or with others
 - B) Station construction and being a host operator
 - C) Operating someone else's station
 - D) Helping someone else build his/her station
 - E) Other amateur radio activities altogether; I don't operate contests

- 8) What is your favorite contest?
 - A) CQ WW DX
 - B) CQ WW WPX
 - C) ARRL International DX
 - D) ARRL SS
 - E) NA Sprint
 - F) Other _____

- 9) On average, how many hours per week do you operate your radio and what % of that is on CW?
 - A) Number of hours _____
 - B) % using CW _____

- 10) Have you recently built and completed a working homebrew project for your station?
 - A) Yes
 - B) No

- 11) If yes to Question #10, what did you most recently build?

Additional Comments (use extra paper if necessary):

Return your survey responses to:

John Dorr, K1AR, 2004 Contest Survey, 2 Mitchell Pond Road, Windham, NH 03087 USA

or submit via the internet at: <http://hamgallery.com/survey>

Deadline: September 30, 2004

DX Cluster Activity; DXCC/DXAC Ten Years Ago

For some time now, I've been watching the "spots" on the DX Summit cluster and making some observations. During the daylight hours in the U.S., the vast majority of the reports are coming from European stations. Just this morning (at around 1300Z, June 10), of the 50 showing at one time, I counted 30 spots from EU stations, 10 from the U.S., 7 from Asia, and the remaining 3 scattered in other areas.

While I realize that these daylight hours are "working hours" for those in the U.S., they are also the afternoon hours in Europe, and yet there are three times as many reports from EU as there are from the U.S. What is the reason for this discrepancy? Could there be that many more DXers in EU than there are in the U.S., or is there another reason? Could it be that EU DXers are more willing to report DX activity than U.S. DXers? Surely, at any given time there are hundreds of DXers in the U.S. scanning the bands for DX. However, they are not putting out any spots for that DX. Even if they don't want to work the DX they hear, they could spot it for others. Has the fascination of the spotting network lost its attraction for U.S. DXers?

There are those DXers who steadfastly refuse to use the cluster networks to locate DX, but I know there are countless others who use it all the time. They leave their computers running 24/7 just to make sure they don't miss anything, yet they rarely

*P.O. Box DX, Leicester, NC 28748-0249
e-mail: <n4aa@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Antonio, EA9BO, at his operating position. Rick, NE8Z, visited with Antonio while he was in Ceuta and found that Antonio also enjoys deep-sea fishing. (Photo courtesy of Rick, NE8Z)

push the button to put out spots themselves. It seems a little selfish to benefit from the efforts of others and not reciprocate. Some up-and-coming DXer just might need that ZD7 or 5B4. A little food for thought!

DXpedition Activity Falls

DXpeditioning seems to have dropped off for whatever reason. Is it the solar cycle? Is it that DXpeditioners can't find a place to go? I know there are some trips "in the works," but the timing



Bill, W4WX, and William, N2WB, visited Sardinia in March. Here (left to right) are Bill, W4WX; two sons and a daughter of their host, Gianni Vincis, ISØVSG; William, N2WB; Gianni's XYL; and Gianni. Bill says they enjoyed the wine and fine food. (Photo courtesy of Bill, W4WX)



Bill, W4WX, and William, N2WB, were guest ops at the T70A station. Here Bill takes a break from the action. (Photo courtesy of W4WX)

Advertiser OUTLINE



ALINCO

Evelyn Garrison, WS7A

Russell Dudley, KW5O

www.alinco.com

Alinco is distributed in North America by Ham Distribution, Inc.

Evelyn Garrison, a familiar face at ham shows across the country has been representing Alinco for over ten years. Along with Alinco's new North American distributor, Russell Dudley, Evelyn will continue to greet hams, answer questions and demonstrate the many new additions to the Alinco product line. Both Evelyn and Russell know that amateur radio operators appreciate value.

Alinco's tagline, "Simple, Clean, Dependable" really describes the product line, notes Evelyn. Russell adds, "Throughout my years in the amateur radio industry, I have noticed that whether you're talking about working VHF and UHF bands or concentrating on HF and DXing, hams still want a dependable radio at a great price. That's what makes Alinco such a great choice!"

"It's also what makes CQ a great choice to advertise Alinco products", adds Evelyn. CQ's straightforward style of editorial really appeals to hams who want to get the most enjoyment out of the hobby without getting caught up in too much jargon.

CQ readers are active hams who turn to the magazine for news of the latest developments in equipment as well as for entertaining columns that showcase amateur radio "fun". It's a great combination that reaches a diverse group of amateur radio enthusiasts. That's why Alinco relies on CQ as a key component of its advertising.

"We know that advertising in CQ is a smart move!" notes Evelyn. When something works well, you stick with it. Alinco plans to stick with CQ now and in the future.

CQ may be over 60 years old, but it shows no signs of slowing down. Let CQ put its years of experience to work for your company!

To find out how CQ can help your business become more competitive give me a call
1-516-681-2922 Fax 516-681-2926
Arnie Sposato, N2IQO
arnie@cq-amateur-radio.com

The WPX Program

CW

3138.....CT1EEN

SSB

2906.....K3QDV 2907.....YB0IR

CW: 600 KE6FQC, 3950 N4NO, 4050 K9QVB, VE3NQK, 1500 HB9DOT, 2400 CT1EEN, 3350 N4NO.
SSB: 600 KE6FQC, KL7FAP, 800 K3QDV, IZ0BNR, 850 VE3NQK, 1500 HB9DOT, 2400 CT1EEN, 3350 N4NO.
MIXED: 750 KL7FAP, 800 KL7FAP, 1050 WB0WAO, 1300 G4PWA, 2050 AA1KS, 3950 N4NO, 5350 W2FXA.

10 Meters: WB0WAO

15 Meters: WB0WAO

20 Meters: WB0WAO

40 Meters: DS4DRE

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE: CT1EEN, G4PWA
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WITH 160M BAR: G4PWA

Award of Excellence Holders: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BQY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IIC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, AB0P, FM5WD, I2DMK, SM6CST, VE1NG, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, HA8XX, K7LJ, SM3EVR, K2SHZ, UP1BZZ, EA7OH, K2POF, DJ4XA, IT9TQH, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1PO, K9LNU, YB0TK, K9QFR, 9A2NA, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MC, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, W5ODD, I8RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S,

KA1CLV, KZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, S53EO, DF7GK, I7PXV, S57J, EA8BM, DL1EY, K0DEQ, KU0A, DJ1YH, OE6CLD, VR2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, W4BP, K4LQ, K0KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, A16Z, RU3DX.

160 Meter Endorsement: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8RSW, W8ILC, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK3AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, UR1QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TQH, N8JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, WX3N, WB0DD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DZZ, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA5CLV, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, K0DEQ, DJ1YH, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, S51U, RA0FU, UA0FZ, CT4NH, W1CU, EA7TV, LY3BA, RW9SG, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, W4GP, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX.

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 USA. Note: WPX will not accept prefixes/calls which have been confirmed by computer-generated electronic means.

***Please Note:** As of February 2004, the price of the 160 meter bar for the Award of Excellence is now \$6.50.

is not for months to come, even into next year. World travel to many places of interest to DXers is limited nowadays, but not impossible to a determined group. There will, however, be DXpeditions for us to work in the future.

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB

2435.....N8TMW

CW

1060.....K0KG

SSB Endorsements

320 DU9RG/335 320EA3EQT/333
320...I8LEL/335 320....K9IW/331

CW Endorsements

320.....K9IW/331 275.....WA4DOU/281
320.....W4UW/330 200.....K0KG/228

RTTY Endorsement

310.....N5FG/318

The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$6. For non-subscribers, it is \$12. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00 each plus SASE. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are free. All updates and correspondence must include an SASE. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards may be found on the <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> website, or may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to CQ DX Awards Manager, Billy Williams, N4UF, Box 9673, Jacksonville, FL 32208 U.S.A. Currently we recognize 335 active countries. Please make all checks payable to the award manager.



Vlado, ZL35M, has been active from Tirana, Albania since June 2002. Since then about 50,000 QSOs have been made on the HF bands, mostly CW and SSB. The only antenna in use is a G5RV multiband dipole between two tall buildings. Inside the shack are an IC-746 PRO transceiver, Ameritron AL-811 amplifier, MFJ antenna tuner and memory keyer, etc. Vlado's first operation from Albania was in 1994 and 1995 when he signed ZA/Z32KV and also was a guest operator at ZA1MH (station of Mike, K5KWG), ZA1B (Geni), and ZA1AJ (Vit, OK2ZV). In 2003 he was part of Project Goodwill Albania and joined the multi-national operation at ZA1A and ZA1UT. ZA/Z35M QSL via Z35M: Vladimir Kovaceski, Box 10, Struga 6330, Macedonia. (Photo courtesy of Vlado, Z35M)

THE WPX HONOR ROLL

The WPX Honor Roll is based on the current confirmed prefixes which are submitted by separate application in strict conformance with the CQ Master Prefix list. Scores are based on the current prefix total, regardless of an operator's all-time count. Honor Roll must be updated annually by addition to, or confirmation of, present total. If no up-date, files will be made inactive.

MIXED

52649A2AA	3808.....N6JV	3237..WB2YQH	2944.....IT9QDS	2510.....K9UQN	2070.....I2EAY	1697.....Z35M	1369..KW5USA	738.....AK6I
4646.....W2FXA	3768.....YU1AB	3234....JH8BOE	2824.....W2ME	2422.....W8UMR	2018.....HA9PP	1674.....YB0AI	1226...EA2BNU	710.....K0CF
4257.....W1CU	3668.....N4MM	3175....K0DEQ	2772..YU7GMN	2399.....W6OUL	2005.....VE6BF	1587.....W2EZ	1220....K6UXO	697.....KL7FAP
4211.....9A2NA	3589.....N5JR	3166.....K9BG	2720.....K2XF	2385.....K5UR	1976.....DJ1YH	1561.....N1KC	1130..PY1NEW	
4149.....EA2UA	3548.....N9AF	3140....I2EOW	2701...WA1JMP	2369...JN3SAC	1958...CT1EEB	1560.....KX1A	1090....W2OO	
4111.....F2YT	3489...SM3EVR	3121...PA0SNG	2650.....9A4W	2287...OZ1ACB	1837...AA1KS	1535.....AI6Z	933...SM7GXR	
3960.....N4NO	3379....I2MOP	3082....IK2ILH	2642.....W9IL	2212...PY2DBU	1773...W7CB	1521.....NG9L	865.....N5DD	
3822...VE3XN	3291.....KF2O	3011....W2WC	2598.....W9OP	2203...W4UW	1772...VE9FX	1487.....W13W	803...VE3NOK	
3816.....I2PJA	3281.....S53EO	2987....HA0IT	2550.....W7OM	2175...WB3DNA	1765.....K0KG	1472...OK1DWC	742.....K5IC	

SSB

4509.....I0ZV	3234.....N4MM	2782.....KF2O	2350.....IN3QCI	2014.....K2XF	1806.....K3IXD	1533.....KI7AO	1190.....K4CN	903.....N9DI
4027.....ZL3NS	3226.....EA2IA	2741...PA0SNG	2325...CX6BZ	1994...W4UW	1721...DK5WQ	1520...DF7HX	1162...EA5DCL	822...K1BYE
4018...VE1YX	3215....I2MOP	2734....4X6DK	2289...HA0IT	1973...I3ZSX	1704...IT9SVJ	1460...NG9L	1148...AG4W	822...W8UMR
3793.....I2PJA	3101.....N4NO	2646...LU8ESU	2259...K5RPC	1969...CT1EEB	1701...K8MDU	1385...JN3SAC	1083...VE7SMP	812...KU6J
3649...F6DZU	3049.....F2VX	2618...OE2EGL	2143...W2WC	1954...CT1EEN	1698...W6OUL	1384...LU3HBO	1078...EA3KB	793...KU4BP
3373.....9A2NA	3036...CT1AHU	2594.....I8KCI	2094...LU5DV	1942...W7OM	1669...W2FKF	1259...I2EAY	1048...EA3EQT	733...AK6I
3353...EA8AKN	3004.....N5JR	2538...KF7RU	2028...K5UR	1937...I8LEL	1562...W2ME	1238...LU4DA	1043...AI6Z	670...VE6BF
3307...OZ5EV	3000...I4CSP	2516...EA1JG	2027...NQ3A	1933...W9IL	1562...SV3AQR	1218...WT3W	990...HA9PP	601...K7SAM
3260...CT4NH	2807...I2EOW	2509...EA5AT	2021...N6FX	1862...EA7TV	1538...VE9FX	1194...N1KC	934...KX1A	

CW

4297...WA2HZR	2959...9A2NA	2386...EA7AZA	2146...N6FX	1893...EA5YU	1834...W9IL	1439...EA2CIN	1158...YU1TR	767...VE9FX
3655...K9QVB	2948...LZ1XL	2380...KF2O	2112...OZ5UR	1882...W7OM	1718...I2EAY	1342...WO3Z	1132...WA2VQV	642...PP6CW
3532...N4NO	2694...N5JR	2268...W8UMR	2043...K2XF	1867...VE6BF	1712...I2MOP	1337...AC5K	1047...KX1A	
3361...VE7DF	2476...W2WC	2260...I7PXV	2040...JN3SAC	1847...IK3GER	1584...IK2ECP	1235...AI6Z	998...T94GB	
3229...EA2IA	2389...KATT	2149...K9UQN	1939...K5UR	1841...W6OUL	1520...4X6DK	1203...K6UXO	898...WT3W	

Twenty meters is the mainstay for DXing here in the U.S. in early June. Although 17 and even 15 meters show signs of life, it is 20 that attracts the most

attention. We've always been able to count on this band for DXing, regardless of the state of the solar cycle. Most of us "old folks" remember what it was

like back in the mid-'50s, late 60s, etc. Ten meters was a shadow, 15 sometimes was good, but 20 was "where it was" in those days. Oh, yes, equipment

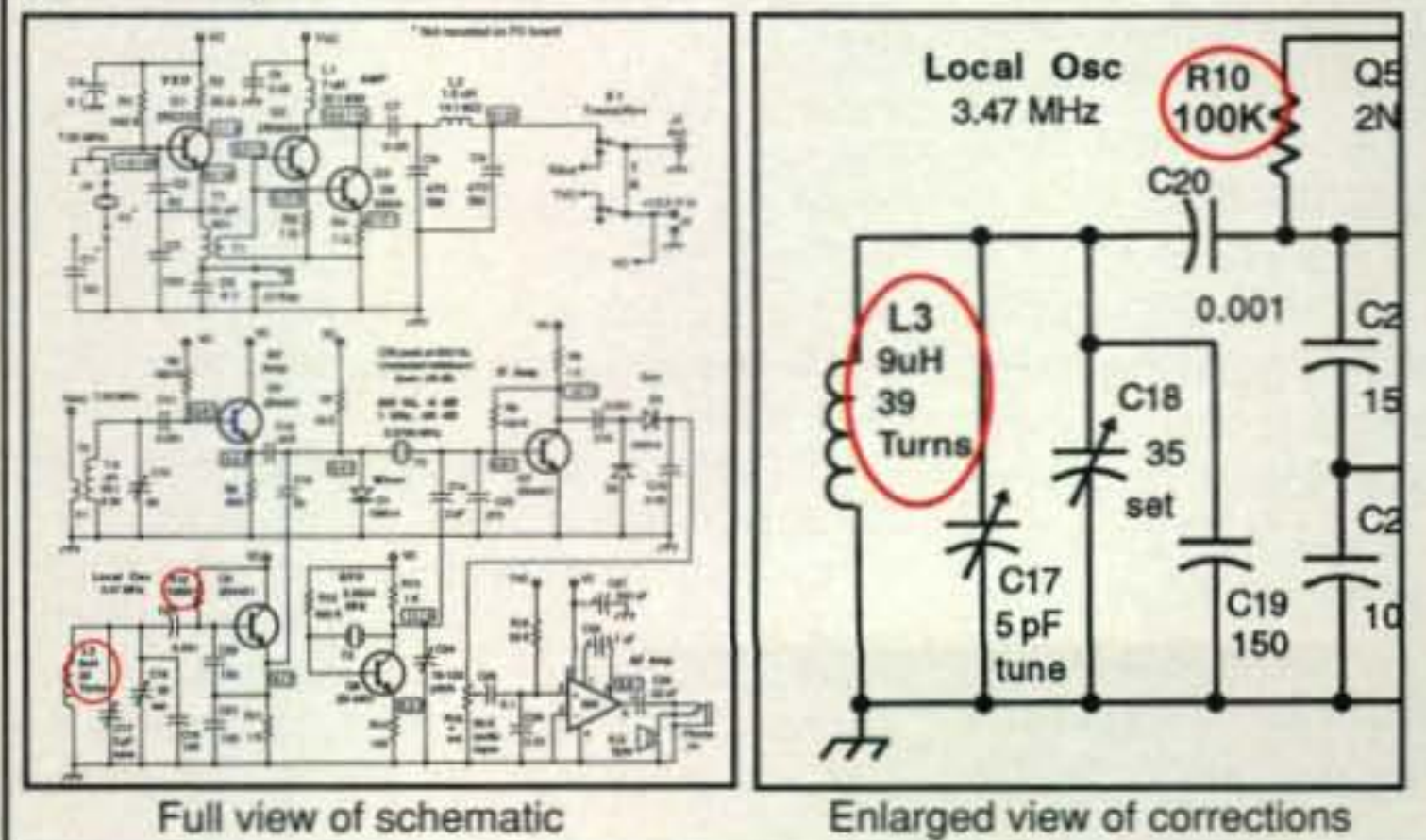
Oops...

Watt? Ohm, My...

Well, we really blew this one. Somehow, as we edited WA5VJB's July Antennas column, in trying to replace the "ohm" symbol (Ω) with the word, "ohm," we did a global search-and-replace but accidentally put in the replacement word as "watt," leaving us with antennas and coax with impedances of either 50 or 72 watts. And it slipped past all of us (but not too many of you!). So, yes, folks, Kent and the rest of us really do know that impedance is measured in ohms, not in watts. We were, um, just testing to see how many of you knew! Good news: Ham radio has not been dumbed down, after all! We have, but then we were pretty dumbed up to start!

Missing Link

The schematic in June's first installment of the "Phoenix Transceiver" article had two values missing, both at the lower left. The coil labeled **L3** should have a value of **9 μ H, 39 turns**; and the **100k** resistor to the left of Q5 should be labeled **R10**. We apologize for any confusion.



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The WAZ Program

10 Meter SSB

565AI6Z 566LU7DW

15 Meter SSB

611YC9WZJ

17 Meter SSB

36W7FP

20 Meter SSB

1130JA1BDF

40 Meter SSB

103YB0AI

10 Meter CW

189NI0G

15 Meter CW

321NI0G

20 Meter CW

543J11BJB 544NI0G

30 Meter CW

59W5ODD

40 Meter CW

238NI0G

80 Meter CW

62KF2O

160 Meters

197NX4D (30 zones) 198RA2FBC (38 zones)

All Band WAZ SSB

4916IK7VKD 4919K3KO
4918NZ3O 49204X6ZQ

Mixed

8310UR7CA 8313WD8QKQ
8311NZ3O 8314WA5KBH
8312VE3IC

All CW

421NZ3O 425N3ZN
422DL1AMQ 426K3KO
423DK5HZ 427W1EBI
424W6YOO

RTTY

146IN3MQT 147K3KO

EME

1OK1MS

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 Award Manager, Floyd Gerald, N5FG, 17 Green Hollow Rd., Wiggins, MS 39577. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$6.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$12.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to Floyd Gerald. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. N5FG may also be reached via e-mail: <n5fg@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

and antennas are better now than they were back then, and we can hear better with the new digital radios. One can make the argument that we can create our own propagation, but that only goes so far. We have to be flexible and have the capability of going where the DX is if we are to have any enjoyment in DXing. Bigger antennas, higher towers, and low-noise receiving antennas all

5 Band WAZ

As of June 1, 2004, 655 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1398 stations have attained the 150 zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones confirmed:
DL1AMQ

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (zones needed, 80 meters):

N4WW, 199 (26)	UU5JR, 199 (4)
W4LI, 199 (26)	W8GF, 199 (22)
K7UR, 199 (34)	N4NX, 199 (26)
W0PGI, 199 (26)	N4MM, 199 (26)
W2YY, 199 (26)	DL2KQ, 199 (31)
VE7AHA, 199 (34)	JA5IU, 199 (2)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	EA5BCX, 198 (27, 39)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40m)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
NN7X, 199 (34)	KG9N, 198 (18, 22)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	JA1DM, 198 (2, 40)
DF3CB, 199 (1)	9A5I, 198 (1, 16)
GM3YOR, 199 (31)	K5PC, 198 (18, 23)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	K4CN, 198 (23, 26)
KZ4V, 199 (26)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
W6DN, 199 (17)	N2QT, 198 (23, 24)
W6SR, 199 (37)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
W3NO, 199 (26)	W4UM, 198 (18, 23)
K4UTE, 199 (18)	US7MM, 198 (2, 6)
HB9DDZ, 199 (31)	K2TK, 198 (23, 24)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	K3JGJ, 198 (24, 26)
HB9BGV, 199 (31)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
N3UN, 199 (18)	N4XR, 198 (22, 27)
OH2VZ, 199 (31)	N4PQX, 198 (24, 26)
K5MC, 199 (22)	RU3DX, 198 (1, 6)
W1JZ, 199 (24)	UT5JAJ, 198 (12, 30)
K2UU, 199 (26)	N6HR/7, 198 (34, 37)
W1WAI, 199 (24)	OE2LCM, 198 (1, 31)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	EA7GF, 198 (1, 27)
SM7BIP, 199 (31)	W7SX, 198 (18, 23)
PY5EG, 199 (23)	HA1RW, 198 (1, 31)
SP5DVP, 199 (31 on 40)	WK3N, 198 (23, 24)
W8AEF, 199 (40)	HA9RT, 198 (1, 31)
K8RR, 199 (26)	

The following have qualified for the basic 5 Band WAZ Award:

I8PND (155 zones)	WA2NPD (195 zones)
I5ZGQ (190 zones)	JA5IU (199 zones)
N5ID (151 zones)	JJ0KDW (170 zones)

Endorsements:

DL2KQ (199 zones)	KF2O (200 zones)
JR2KDN (200 zones)	DL1AMQ (200 zones)

****Please note: Cost of the 5 Band WAZ Plaque is \$80 (\$100 if airmail shipping is requested).**

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 Award Manager, Floyd Gerald, N5FG, 17 Green Hollow Rd., Wiggins, MS 39577. The processing fee for the 5BWAZ award is \$10.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$15.00 for nonsubscribers. An endorsement fee of \$2.00 for subscribers and \$5.00 for nonsubscribers is charged for each additional 10 zones confirmed. Please make all checks payable to Floyd Gerald. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. N5FG may also be reached via e-mail: <n5fg@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

are things that we can use in our attempt to create propagation, and all these things certainly will improve our chances of working that elusive DX.

The number of DXers achieving the goal of "worked 'em all" has been climbing each year. Hams are growing older and "new blood" seems to be in short supply. Who is going to follow us as we age and pass from this life? We really need to cultivate younger hams and educate them in the wonderful world of chasing DX. A recent licensing class in my town had several teens in the

class. It was especially interesting, because their teacher, a YL, brought them to the class. At the end of the class she passed the tests, but unfortunately the youngsters missed by only a few questions. I was assured that they would be back to try again, and I hope to be there to observe. There were a number of others in the class, ages from mid-30s to late 60s. Several of them passed the tests, some even passing the code test (not everyone wanted to take the code exam).

Last month I had a review of Ward Silver's book *Ham Radio for Dummies*. Believing that the book might inspire some of these students, I acquired several copies of it and went to the exam session. As each student had his or her exam graded, I stood back and watched. When one passed the test, I took the opportunity to present him/her with a copy of Ward's book and ended up presenting a total of six books. I can't do as much as I would like these days to give back to ham radio, but I just felt this was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. Perhaps this small contribution to these new licensees will make a difference in what they do with that license and how they operate in the years to come.

Do You Remember?

Ten years ago, the late Chod Harris, VP2ML (former editor of this column) wrote in *The DX Magazine* about DXCC and DXAC news. I thought I would share with you his comments from ten years ago . . .

As expected, the DX Advisory Committee voted to delete both the Penguins (ZS0) and Walvis Bay (ZS9) from the DXCC countries list, effective March 1, 1994. The Awards Committee concurred on April 27, voting unanimously to accept the deletion recommendation. This reduces the number of current DXCC countries to 326.

In other DXAC news, the DXAC voted down a proposal to add additional single band awards to the DXCC program. The vote was 13 to 2 against the idea of adding 30, 20, 17, 15, and 12 meter single band awards. The DXAC felt this would increase the workload of the DXCC desk at a time when the backlog was once again growing.

The DXAC also voted 15 to 1 against a proposal to add a 10 meter DXCC Honor Roll to the existing program, again citing DXCC desk workload.

The vote to reconsider the addition of Mt. Athos (SY) to the DXCC countries list (in essence to remove the country from the list) will be re-balloted. There were concerns over the wording of the question on the ballot.

The DXAC voted 15-1 to accept the QSLing guidelines as per subcommittee

QSI Information

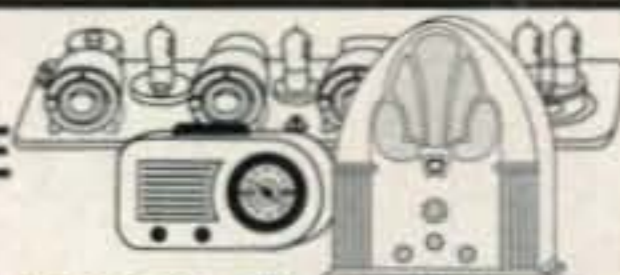
4A2Q via WD9EWK
 4D2B via G3OCA
 4D2C via UA4SKW
 4D70VDG via DU1VDG
 4D71X via NZ7X
 4G1A via N2NL
 4G6A via VE7DP
 4J1S via UA3FDX
 4J3DGF via DK6CW
 4J4AF via EA7FTR
 4J6ZZ via UT3UY
 4J85YGA via UT3UY
 4K0GNY via GM0GNY
 4K1QAV via W3HC
 4K1V via UA3FDX
 4K3MA via DK6CW
 4K50V via UA3FDX
 4K51V via UA3FDX
 4K1QAV via W3HC
 4K1V via UA3FDX
 4K3MA via DK6CW
 4K50V via UA3FDX
 4K51V via UA3FDX
 4K52V via UA3FDX
 4K53V via UA3FDX
 4K60AA via UA3FDX
 4K6DI via W3HNC
 4K70DWZ via UA3FDX
 4K7DWZ via UA3FDX
 4K7Z via UA3FDX
 4K7Z/F8LPX via F8LPX
 4L1BR via DL2RMG
 4L1DX via OZ1HPS
 4L1FX via DJ1CW
 4L1MA via ON4RU
 4L1R via W3HNC
 4L1RK via RW6HS

4L8A via OZ1HPS
 4M5X via W4SO
 4N1A via YU1YV
 4N1X via YU1AI
 4N200A via 4N1A
 4N25K via YU1SB
 4N4MX via DJ2MX
 4N50A via YU1YV
 4N7N via YU7BPQ
 4N7ZR via VE3EXY
 4N9A via YU1YV
 4N9C via YU1JU
 4N9T via YU1JU
 4O8AA via UA3DX
 4S7AAG via 7J3AOZ
 4S7ARG via JA3ARJ
 4S7CHG via JA3CHS
 4S7CWG via DK7PE
 4S7DA via W3HNC
 4S7DBG via JA3DBD
 4S7DLG via DK7TF
 4S7DUG via JQ3DUE
 4S7DXG via UR9IDX
 4S7FAG via JH3FAR
 4S7FBG via DL9GFB
 4S7FDG via JA5FDI
 4S7FPG via DL4PG
 4S7GGG via JA3ART
 4S7GXX via JH3GXF
 4S7JKG via JG3JJK
 4S7JWG via DL9MS
 4S7KJG via JA1KJK
 4S7LHG via DJ3FK
 4S7LSG via JH3LSS
 4S7OCG via JR3OCS
 4S7QIG via JN4QIN
 4S7RO via DJ9ZB

4S7UJG via JA3UJR
 4S7VK via DJ9ZB
 4S7WAG via DL9MS
 4S7YHG via JA3HXJ
 4S7YJG via JM3INF
 4T4V via DL5SE
 4U1UN via HB9BOU
 4V200YH via DL7CM
 4V2PK via N3SL
 4V4H via N3SL
 4W1BK via WA2MOE
 4W1DN via JR2KDN
 4W1SW via JI1NJC
 4W2A via JR2KDN
 4W2AQ via OM2AQ
 4W2DN via JR2KDN
 4W3CW via G3WQU
 4W4JEG via JR6ETW
 4X/NP3D via W3HNC
 4X0IS via 4X1GA
 4X1UH via W3HNC
 4X55I via 4Z4SZ
 4X6FR via 4X6OM
 4X6HP via EA7FTR
 4X75TA via 4X6LM
 4Z0TA via 4X6LM
 4Z80TA via 4X6LM
 4Z85TA via 4X6LM
 4Z8EE via OK1EE
 4Z8GZ via OE1GZA
 4Z8OTA via 4X6LM

(The table of QSL Managers is courtesy of John Shelton, K1XN, editor of "The Go List," 106 Dogwood Dr., Paris, TN 38242; phone 731-641-4354; e-mail: <golist@golist.net>.)

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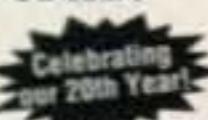
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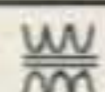
Part No.	Description	Price
PL-259/USA	UHF Male Phenolic, USA made	\$.75
PL-259/AGT	UHF Male Silver Teflon, Gold Pin	1.00 10/\$9.00
UG-21D/U	N Male RG-8, 213, 214 Delta	3.25
UG-21B/U	N Male RG-8, 213, 214 Kings	5.00
9913/PIN	N Male Pin for 9913, 9086, 8214 Fits UG-21 D/U & UG-21 B/UN's	1.50
UG-21D/9913	N Male for RG-8 with 9913 Pin	4.00
UG-21B/9913	N Male for RG-8 with 9913 Pin	6.00
UG-146A/U	N Male to SO-239, Teflon USA	7.50
UG-83B/U	N Female to PL-259, Teflon USA	7.50



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report. This report has not yet been made public.

Active agenda items as of late April (1994) included Pratas Island, Aldabra Island, Scarborough Reef, minimum size for a DXCC country, working by call areas, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and Mt. Athos.

DXCC Processing Status

The DXCC desk made a little progress on the backlog in April, at least in terms of applications processed. They received 644 applications in April (down from 1127 in March) and processed 723, leaving 541 unprocessed at the end of the month. In terms of QSL cards, they continued to fall behind. The 644 applications received in April included 53,843 cards. They processed 52,115, leaving a backlog of 63,665 unprocessed, up slightly from the 61,937 at the end of March. Turn-around time has also slipped slightly, and in late April was about four weeks for those whose DXCC records were computerized. Some applications still await entry from paper records, and these take longer to process. DXCC applications are up 19% from last year, and the number of QSL cards in those applications is up 38%.

Just a walk down memory lane – from ten years ago. Things certainly have changed since 1994, haven't they? We now have 335 current DXCC countries, for example. For comparison purposes, in early June 2004, the DXCC desk reported receiving 570 applications with 63,056 "credits" in March 2004 and only 209 applications with 26,266 "credits" in the April 2004. Turn-around time for applications was reported as approximately three weeks. These numbers further indicate a substantial decrease in the DXCC workload from that of ten years ago. When I asked about paper records, I was told that they now only exist for DXCC holders prior to 1991 who have not submitted an application since then. Those records have *not* been computerized, but all others have been. Gee, I hope they keep a backup of that computer file!

Until next month, good luck in your DXing efforts. Whether it's on 20 meters or 6 meters, enjoy the chase and remember to have fun! 73, Carl, N4AA

Olympic Countdown on the Air

The 2004 Summer Olympic Games are scheduled for August 13–29 in Athens, Greece. Greek amateurs have been active on the sub-committees working on publicity, and they have developed a great series of certificates requiring contacts with regular SV stations as well as a large number of special-prefix stations.

A special, interesting "Countdown on the Air" program will be activated by many Greek radio amateurs in the 99 days preceding August 13, 2004, the starting day of the Olympic Games. Nine multi-operator, special-event stations (SX9A, SX8A, SX7A, SX6A, SX5A, SX4A, SX3A, SX2A, and SX1A) from the nine Greek regions will be active from May 6 until August 12. These stations will be on the air on all bands and modes every ten days, one by one, to celebrate the games. All contacts made with these special calls will automatically be QSLed via the bureau. There is *no* specific QSL manager for them. QSL via the Greek Bureau *only*. For more information, go to: <http://www.qsl.net/sv2ngct/sx.htm>.

In addition, the Greek Communications Authority has announced that Greek radio amateurs may use the optional SX2004 or SY2004 callsign prefix from June 1, 2004 until November 15, 2004 to commemorate the Athens Olympic Games and Paralympic Games 2004. QSL via the individual operator's instructions. Also, foreign radio amateurs, as visitors to Greece from CEPT countries or from countries with reciprocity (U.S., Canada, Cyprus, Switzerland, and Australia), may use the special prefix J42004 from August 2004 until November 15, 2004 without any license from the Greek Communications Authority. All others need to contact the Communications Authority for special permission. QSL via each individual operator's instructions.

The official website of the 2004 Olympics is <http://www.athens2004.com>.

Athens 2004 Olympic Games Awards

These awards, sponsored by the Greek national radio organization, Radio Amateur Association of Greece, are issued to radio amateurs or SWLs who have confirmed contacts with Greek stations during the period May 15 to September 30, 2004.

A. Special prefixes J4, SX, and SY count 10 points.

B. SV prefixes count 5 points.

C. RAAG's club station SZ1SV or SX1O counts for 50 points.

D. Club station SZ1SV or SX1O can be worked on more than one band to give an extra 50 points per band.

The awards are available for contacts made on CW, SSB, RTTY, or Mixed Mode and are offered in three categories:

*12 Wells Woods Rd., Columbia, CT 06237
e-mail: k1bv@cq-amateur-radio.com

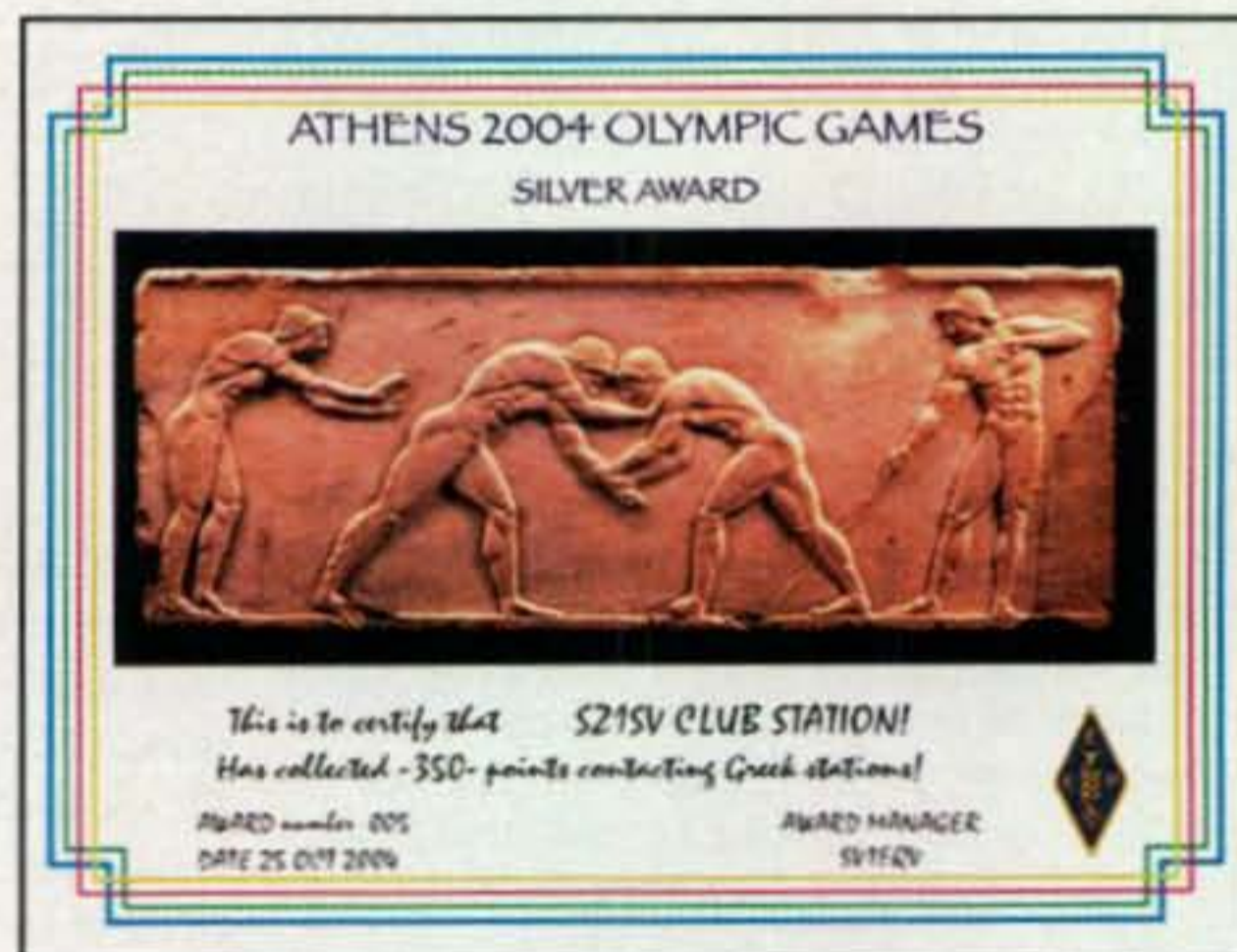
USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Robert T. Woody, N8KIE
USA-CA All Counties #1093
May 24, 2004

USA-CA Honor Roll

500	1500	2500
WZ3AR ...3300	K2RP.....1388	N8KIE.....1205
NEØP3301	N8KIE.....1389	
N8KIE.....3302		3000
	2000	N8KIE.....1115
	N8KIE.....1286	
1000		
K2RP.....1659		
N8KIE.....1660		

The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America Counties Award is 3077. The basic award fee for subscribers is \$6.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$12.00. 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 June 1, 2000. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained by sending an SASE to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 12 Wells Woods Road, Columbia, CT 06237 USA. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.



The Athens 2004 Olympic Games Awards are issued to radio amateurs or shortwave listeners who have confirmed contacts with Greek stations from May 15 to September 30, 2004.

Gold—contacts with Greek stations, collecting 500 points. The certificate shows a Kouros statue depicting the ancestors of hockey, 510 B.C.

Silver—contacts with Greek stations, collecting 350 points. The certificate shows a Kouros statue of wrestlers, 510 B.C.

Bronze—contacts with Greek stations, collecting 250 points. The certificate shows a Kouros statue of runners, 510 B.C.

A GCR list with all QSO information is required, and the award manager of a national society (an IARU member) or two licensed radio amateurs must certify it. Cost of the certificate for all categories is 10 IRCs or 10 Euros. Send list (or cards) to RAAG,

Award Manager, P.O. Box 3564, 102 10 Athens, Greece.

Great Lakes Lighthouse Awards

The Great Lakes have played a major role in the economic development of the United States, especially in the transportation of coal, iron ore, and grain products. Aids to navigation, such as lighthouses, were built early in U.S. history to protect lake shipping. The Michigan DX Association sponsors an award for contacting or activating these lighthouses, and the certificate features a stunning satellite photo of the Great Lakes surrounded by a representative selection of lighthouse images. The Contact Award is for any licensed amateur or SWL who can verify contacts with a minimum of seven Great Lakes lighthouses/lightships. The Activators Award is for any licensed amateur who activates ten Great Lakes lighthouses/lightships.



The Great Lakes Lighthouse Awards are issued for contacts with or activation of lighthouses/lightships on the Great Lakes.

The five Great Lakes are Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Superior. The following bodies of water *do not count* for these awards unless they are where these bodies of water meet one of the five Great Lakes: Lake St. Clair, St. Lawrence River, St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Georgian Bay.

Great Lakes states and provinces that have lighthouses are New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario.

The Basic Contact Award. To earn this award, work at least seven lighthouses/lightships on any two of the five Great Lakes. The lighthouse/lightship *must* be on one of the Great Lakes. To claim an endorsement to the Basic Contact Award, work an additional five lighthouses/lightships on the Great Lakes.

The Activators Award. To claim the Activators Award, activate at least ten

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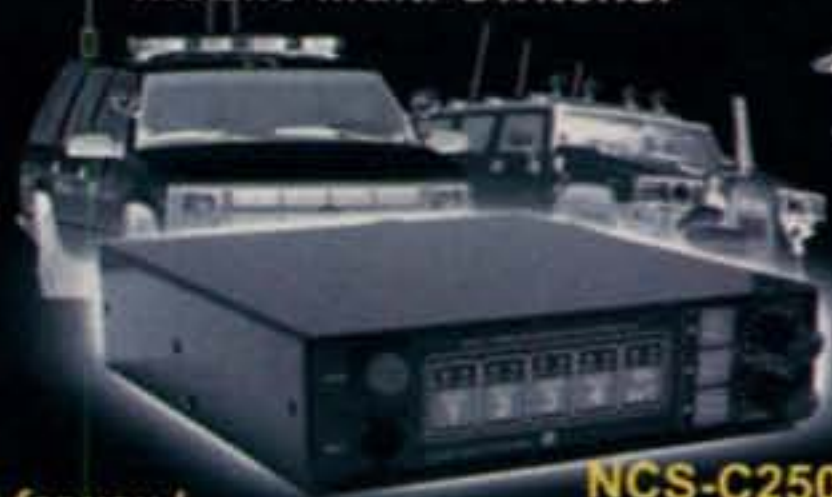
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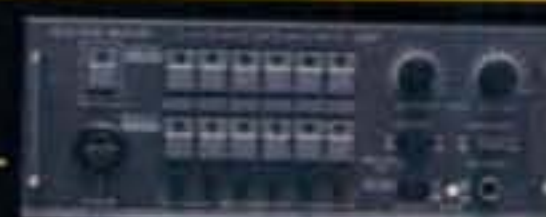
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On the Cover

This station with the magnificent view of Vail and the Colorado Rockies does *not* belong to the man sitting in the operator's chair, Phil Krichbaum, NØKE. But Phil, a well-known contester and DXer, lives in a part of Vail that could almost be called an RF black hole. Even though his own QTH is at 8,000 feet above sea level, he describes it as "3,000 ft. HBAT," or Height *Below* Average Terrain, since it's surrounded by 12,000 and 13,000-foot peaks. So Phil does a lot of guest operating, most frequently in contests as T15N from T15KD's station in Costa Rica.

The station on our cover this month belongs to Gary Yantis, WØTM, another well-known contester and DXer. And while it's "only" at 8,700 feet above sea level, its location on Bellyache Ridge, 20 miles west of Vail, provides 40-mile line of sight in most directions. On his QRZ.com bio, Gary—a transplant from Kansas—notes that "all hams from Kansas dream of a ham station on a mountaintop somewhere," and wonders, "Do hams born in the mountains all dream of a ham station in the middle of a flat-as-a-board wheatfield?" We doubt it, Gary.

Phil, by the way, is celebrating his 50th year as a ham. He was first licensed as WN8TTN in 1954 (he's a transplant from Ohio), and has been a contester ever since he discovered it was easier to work DX in contests than at any other time. He splits his operating between phone and CW, HF and VHF, high power, and QRP. During the winter, Phil teaches skiing and snowboarding and in the summer, he leads 4WD tours in the Colorado backcountry. More photos of WØTM's shack and the surrounding area may be viewed at <http://www.w0tm.com>.

(Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

lighthouses/lightships. All of the activated lighthouses/lightships must be on the Great Lakes, as stated above. Include a QSL card from each operation with your application. To claim an endorsement to the Activators Award, activate an additional ten lighthouses/lightships on the Great Lakes.

The fee for the Basic Contact or Activators Award is \$5.00 for U.S. or \$6.00 for DX (in U.S. funds). The fee for any endorsement seal is \$2.00 for U.S. or \$3.00 for DX (in U.S. funds). Send the signed application form, confirmation QSLs (copies only), and fees to: MDXA Awards Manager, Ted T. Sarah, W8TTS, 239 Belmont Ave., Munroe Falls, OH 44262-1105. (For more information, go to: <<http://mdxa1.org/GLLAMAINPG.html>>.)

Worked All Virginia Award

The latest state to offer a worked all counties award is Virginia. The Worked All Virginia Award is sponsored by the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club of Fredericksburg to promote radio activity in the state of Virginia and to encourage contacts with Virginia amateurs. It is available to amateurs worldwide for making contact with at least 50 Virginia counties and independent cities. The club's website lists of all the



The Worked All Virginia Award is sponsored by the Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club to promote radio activity in the state of Virginia and to encourage contacts with Virginia amateurs.

counties and independent cities in Virginia and provides PDF copies of the application form. Contacts may be made from any QTH.

Virginia is a state that has 39 cities that aren't included in the boundaries of a county. Read the rules carefully as the basic level allows you to work a mixture of counties and independent cities, the Golden Endorsement allows the substitution of an independent city for a bordering county, and the Virginia Presidents Endorsement requires a contact with each county *and* each of the independent cities. (Hint: The annual Virginia QSO party is an excellent way to contact many of the rarer counties. It is held in mid-March every year and has good participation, with both fixed and mobile stations.)

Basic Award—contact 50 counties or independent cities.

Golden Endorsement—contact all 95 counties or an independent city bordering the county claimed. If using the independent city to claim credit for working a county, you may use that independent city credit for only *one* county (for example, if you work a station in Richmond, you can't claim credit for working Henrico County *and* Chesterfield County).

Virginia President's Endorsement—requires communication with a station in each of the 95 counties (not a bordering independent city) *and* each of the independent cities.

All bands and modes okay. No use of repeater, phone patch, or cross-mode QSOs allowed. Applications must be submitted on the WAV application form, along with a county record sheet showing callsign and county of station worked, date, time (UTC), and mode. Applications and county record sheets can be obtained by sending a legal-size SASE, via e-mail file attachment, or by down-

load from the website: <<http://www.qsl.net/w4mhq/rvarc/rvarcwava.html>>.

Send application and fee of \$US5 for the Basic Award; SASE for the endorsement stickers. Apply to: Rappahannock Valley Amateur Radio Club, c/o Worked All Virginia Award, P.O. Box 1496, College Station, Fredericksburg, VA 22402.

(Thanks to Bob Hollcombe, AF4UU, the current president of the club, for supplying this information.)

Robert Woody, N8KIE USA-CA All Counties #1093

Bob, N8KIE, received CQ's USA-CA All Counties on May 24, 2004. Following is his story:

I was first licensed in 1976 as WD8CMT. It took the FCC 14 weeks to issue that first license. By the time I got it, my wife and I were on our way to Hawaii for Christmas with the inlaws. My wife bought me a Wilson 800 two-meter rig, so I had to go to the FCC field office in Honolulu to upgrade to Technician so that I could use it. I studied really hard in several night spots in Waikiki the night before, and I somehow passed.

When we were granted 10-meter operating privileges, I got out the Heathkit SB-104 that I had built but never used and started having real fun until the sunspot cycle went into the tank. With the new code requirements I upgraded to Extra and achieved Worked All States (WAS), DXCC, and 75 meter WAS in the Extra band (the Geratol Award).

I retired from DaimlerChrysler at age 54 in 2001 and discovered the joys of county hunting in April 2002. My XYL Jaclyn, N8RLJ (Tech), and I have since put out about 1000 counties, including Kalawao, Hawaii twice. It's a lot more fun to give than to receive, I have found. I got a lot more excited about going to Indiana and Ohio for W9JL to give him his last two than when I got my last one. This last weekend we happened to be in the right place at the right time for KB9ER for his fifth time.

The best part of county hunting is meeting the other operators at the gatherings we have gone to. I use an ICOM 706 on the road with a Hustler antenna, and an ICOM 756 Pro II at home with a 9-element tribander at 60 feet.

My other hobbies include flying my Cherokee 6 and collecting "muscle" cars.
—73, Bob, N8KIE

U.S. Counties

NEØP's 500 county USA-CA award is endorsed All 6 Meters, the first I've seen for VHF accomplishment. Are there any earlier all-VHF award holders out there?

Is your club or special-interest group sponsoring an award? Send me samples or a link to the information, and I'll get you the publicity that will encourage award hunters to apply. 73, Ted, K1BV

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The Dog Days of Summer?

BY TOMAS HOOD, NW7US

propagation

A Quick Look at Current Cycle 23 Conditions

(Data is rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, May 2004: 42

Twelve-month smoothed, November 2003: 57

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, May 2004: 100

Twelve-month smoothed, November 2003: 122

Ap Index

Observed Monthly, May 2004: 9

Twelve-month smoothed, November 2003: 20

Late August and early September are dog days for propagation forecasters. This is a time when many of us go around in disguise so that we will not be recognized. It is the most difficult time of year for which to make accurate band predictions, because conditions can change drastically from day to day.

On many days typical summertime conditions will continue much as they were during June and July. On the other days conditions may sound typically fall-like, with somewhat higher daytime usable frequencies and somewhat lower nighttime usable frequencies, then add to this *equinoctial* conditions, which can begin as early as late August. This often can result in optimum openings between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres on the one hand, but periods of active to stormy conditions on the other.

Since this is a period of transition, this month's DX Propagation Charts cover only the one-month period from August 15th through September 15th, rather than the usual two-month period. Short-Skip Charts for use during this period appeared in last month's column.

During the daylight hours good DX conditions should be possible on several bands—15, 17, and 20 meters. Expect signals on the 17- and 20-meter bands to peak approximately during the two-hour window immediately following sunrise and again during the late afternoon. These two bands, and to a lesser degree the 15-meter band, will see openings for DX throughout the daylight hours. Fairly good DX openings should occur along an arc extending across central Africa, Latin America, and into the far Pacific area. Peak conditions should occur during the afternoon hours, but an increasing number of earlier openings should be possible by early September.

Between sundown and sunrise 20 meters is expected to be the best DX band. However, with lower solar activity, the band in general will suffer compared with the past few years. Openings might be possible to many areas of the world, some with surprisingly strong signal levels. Until midnight good DX conditions should be found for openings toward Latin America, the far Pacific, and into Asia. You might even catch some activity on 17 or 15 meters. Fairly good conditions are also expected on 30, 40, 60, and 80 meters despite the high sta-

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for August 2004

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1, 6-7, 10, 15-17 24, 28	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 2-5, 8, 11-14, 18-21, 23, 25-27, 29-31	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 9, 22	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: none	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: none	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 S6, with some fading and noise.

D—Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, 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 excellent (A) on August 1st, good (B) on the 2nd through the 5th, excellent (A) on the 6th and 7th, etc.

tic level at times. Openings should be possible before midnight along an arc extending from northern Europe, through Africa, and into Latin America, the far Pacific, and Asia after midnight.

By late August it should be possible to work some DX on 160 meters during the hours of darkness. Conditions on this band—as well as on 40, 60, and 80 meters—will tend to peak just as the sun begins to *rise* on the *light*, or easternmost, terminal of a path.

For *short-skip* openings during August and early September, try 80 meters during the day for distances less than 250 miles, with 60 and 40 meters also usable. During the hours of darkness, both 80 and 160 meters should provide excellent communications over this distance. For openings between 250 and 750 miles, use 30 and 40 meters during the day for distances up to 500 miles, and 20 and 17 meters between 500 and 750 miles. At night, 40 and 30 meters should be the best bands for this distance until midnight, with 80 meters optimum from midnight to sunrise. Try 60 meters, as well. For openings between 750 and 1300 miles, try 20 and 17 meters, as they should provide optimum propagation during the hours of daylight. Optimum conditions should continue on these bands for this distance range after sundown and until midnight. Between midnight and sunrise the best band should be 40 meters, but check 60 meters, too. For openings between 1300 miles and the one-hop short-skip limit of approximately 2300 miles, try 20 and 17 meters during the day, with 15 meters also usable. After sundown try 30, 40, and 60 meters, with 80 meters also providing good propagation conditions for this distance range.

VHF Conditions

Sporadic-E propagation usually tapers off during August, but it should continue to occur fairly fre-

*P.O. Box 213, Brinnon, WA 98320-0213
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quently. Some 6-meter sporadic-E openings are expected during the month over distances of approximately 750 to 1300 miles. During periods of intense and widespread sporadic-E ionization, two-hop openings may be possible considerably beyond this range. Also check the 2-meter band for an occasional sporadic-E short-skip opening between approximately 1200 and 1400 miles. While sporadic-E short-skip openings may occur at any time, there is a tendency for them to peak between 8 AM and noon, and again between 6 PM and 9 PM local daylight time.

The *Perseids* are not expected to be a major optical storm this year, even though some are predicting it. Others have come to conclude, based upon forecasts, that it might play out more as a radio event rather than a visual event, since radio observation is more sensitive than visual observation. These forecasters call for observers to be particularly vigilant between August 11 and 12, and even before and after. For more on the *Perseids*, see N6CL's "VHF" column in this issue.

Aurora? You would think that aurora would not be a frequent player at this point in the decline of Cycle 23, but as I write this column during June, we are observing moderate auroral activity. There are occasional coronal mass ejections (CMEs) as well as the coronal holes that continue to send massive clouds of plasma toward the Earth. Auroral-scatter-type openings, on both 6 and 2 meters, can range from a few hundred up to about a thousand miles, and they are usually characterized by very rapid flutter and Doppler shift on SSB signals.

For the very patient, check the 6-meter band for possible trans-equatorial (TE) openings between 8 and 11 PM local daylight time. This type of propagation favors openings from the southern tier states into deep South America, with the signal path crossing the magnetic equator at a right angle. TE openings during August are rare, but they can occur. Very weak signals and severe flutter fading usually characterize them.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for May 2004 is 42, up a bit from April's 39, but still down from March's 49. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on November 2003 is 57, just one point down from October. The lowest daily sunspot value during May 2004 was recorded on May 7, with a count of 16.

HOW TO USE THE DX PROPAGATION CHARTS

1. Use chart appropriate to your transmitter location. The Eastern USA Chart can be used in the 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, KP4, KG4, and KV4 areas in the USA and adjacent call areas in Canada; the Central USA Chart in the 5, 9, and 0 areas; the Western USA Chart in the 6 and 7 areas; and with somewhat less accuracy in the KH6 and KL7 areas.

2. The predicted times of openings are found under the appropriate meter band column (10 through 80 meters) for a particular DX region, as shown in the left-hand column of the charts. An * indicates the best time to listen for 160 meter openings.

3. The propagation index is the number that appears in () after the time of each predicted opening. 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.

4. Times shown in the charts are in the 24-hour system, where 00 is midnight; 12 is noon; 01 is 1 A.M.; 13 is 1 P.M., etc. Appropriate daylight time is used, not GMT. To convert to GMT, add to the times shown in the appropriate chart 7 hours in PDT Zone, 6 hours in MDT Zone, 5 hours in CDT Zone, and 4 hours in EDT Zone. For example, 14 hours in Washington, D.C. is 18 GMT. When it is 20 hours in Los Angeles, it is 03 GMT, etc.

5. The charts are based upon a transmitted power of 250 watts CW, or 1 kw, PEP on sideband, into a dipole antenna a quarter-wavelength above ground on 160 and 80 meters, and a half-wavelength 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.

6. 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.

August 15 - September 15, 2004 Time Zone: EDT (24-Hour Time) EASTERN USA To:

Reception Area	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Western & Central	Nil	09-11 (1) 14-16 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (2)	19-21 (1) 21-22 (2)
Europe & North Africa			08-09 (3) 09-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 13-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (4) 17-18 (3) 18-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	22-01 (3) 01-03 (2) 03-04 (1) 21-23 (1)* 23-01 (2)* 01-03 (1)*
Northern Europe & CIS	Nil	09-11 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-03 (1) 22-02 (1)*
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	Nil	11-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-16 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-14 (1) 14-15 (2) 15-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1) 22-00 (1)	19-21 (1) 21-23 (2) 23-00 (1) 22-00 (1)*
Western Africa	14-16 (1)	09-13 (1) 13-14 (2) 14-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	13-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (3) 17-18 (4) 18-20 (3) 20-21 (2) 21-23 (1)	20-23 (1) 23-02 (2) 02-04 (1) 22-02 (1)*
Central & East Africa	Nil	11-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	13-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-19 (3) 19-20 (2) 20-21 (1)	21-01 (1)
Southern Africa	12-14 (1)	08-11 (1) 11-12 (2) 12-14 (3) 14-15 (2) 15-16 (1)	07-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-20 (1) 23-01 (1)	21-23 (1) 23-01 (2) 01-03 (1) 23-02 (1)*

Central & South Asia	Nil	17-19 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-11 (1) 20-23 (1)	05-07 (1) 18-21 (1)
Southeast Asia	Nil	108-20 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-11 (1) 18-22 (1)	Nil
Far East	Nil	17-20 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 17-19 (1) 19-21 (2) 21-23 (1)	06-08 (1)
South Pacific & Zealand	16-19 (1)	13-16 (1) 16-18 (2) 18-20 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-11 (2) 11-13 (1) 18-21 (1) 21-00 (2) 00-02 (1)	01-02 (1) 02-03 (2) 03-06 (3) 06-08 (2) 08-09 (1) 04-08 (1)*
Australasia	17-19 (1)	16-17 (1) 17-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	06-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 15-16 (1) 16-18 (2) 18-21 (1) 21-00 (2) 00-02 (1)	03-04 (1) 04-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 05-07 (1)*
Caribbean, Central America & Northern South America	13-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	08-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-16 (4)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-10 (4) 10-12 (3) 12-15 (2) 15-17 (3) 17-19 (4) 19-21 (3) 21-22 (2) 22-02 (1)	19-20 (1) 20-21 (2) 21-04 (3) 04-06 (2) 06-08 (1) 22-02 (1)* 02-04 (2) 04-07 (1)*
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	14-16 (1) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	08-10 (1) 10-12 (2) 12-15 (1)	06-08 (1) 14-16 (1) 16-17 (2) 17-18 (3) 18-20 (4) 20-21 (3) 21-00 (2) 00-02 (1)	21-23 (1) 23-01 (2) 01-03 (1) 03-06 (2) 06-07 (1) 04-06 (1)*
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica	Nil	15-18 (1)	07-09 (1) 16-18 (1) 18-19 (2) 19-21 (3) 21-23 (2) 23-01 (1)	01-06 (1)

Time Zones: CDT & MDT (24-Hour Time) CENTRAL USA To:

Reception Area	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Western & Central Europe & North Africa	Nil	09-11 (1) 13-15 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-13 (1) 13-15 (2) 15-16 (3) 16-17 (2) 17-19 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-01 (2) 01-04 (1) 22-02 (1)*
Northern Europe & CIS	Nil	10-13 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-12 (1) 12-13 (2) 13-14 (3) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1) 21-23 (1)	20-02 (1) 22-01 (1)*
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	Nil	10-15 (1)	07-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (1) 21-23 (1)	20-21 (1) 21-23 (2) 23-00 (1) 21-23 (1)*
Western Africa	12-14 (1)	09-11 (1) 11-14 (2) 14-16 (1)	07-09 (1) 13-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-19 (3) 19-20 (2) 20-22 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-01 (2) 01-02 (1) 23-01 (1)*
Eastern & Central Africa	Nil	12-15 (1)	13-17 (1) 17-19 (2) 19-21 (1) 07-09 (1)	21-00 (1)
Southern Africa	11-14 (1)	08-10 (1) 10-14 (2)	07-09 (1) 12-15 (1)	20-21 (1) 21-23 (2)

		14-15 (1)	15-18 (2) 18-20 (1) 22-01 (1)	23-01 (1) 22-00 (1)*
Central & South Asia	Nil	18-21 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-11 (1) 18-21 (1)	06-08 (1) 19-21 (1)
Southeast Asia	Nil	17-21 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 20-23 (1)	06-08 (1)
Far East	Nil	15-17 (1) 17-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-13 (1) 17-19 (1) 19-22 (1) 22-01 (1)	03-06 (1) 06-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 06-07 (1)*
South Pacific & New Zealand	16-19 (1)	12-15 (1) 15-19 (2) 19-21 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-18 (1) 18-21 (2) 21-23 (3) 23-02 (2) 02-07 (1)	00-01 (1) 01-03 (2) 03-06 (3) 06-08 (2) 08-09 (1) 02-04 (1)* 04-06 (2)* 06-07 (1)*
Austral-Asia	16-19 (1)	14-16 (1) 16-19 (2) 19-21 (1)	00-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-10 (3) 10-11 (2) 11-16 (1) 16-18 (2) 18-20 (1) 20-00 (2)	02-04 (1) 04-07 (2) 07-09 (1) 04-05 (1)* 05-07 (2)* 07-08 (1)*
Caribbean, Central America & Northern Countries of South America	12-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-12 (2) 12-14 (3) 14-17 (4) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (3) 08-10 (4) 10-12 (3) 12-16 (2) 16-17 (3) 17-19 (4) 19-21 (3) 21-22 (2) 22-02 (1)	19-21 (1) 21-23 (2) 23-03 (3) 03-06 (2) 06-07 (1) 21-00 (1)* 00-03 (2)* 03-06 (1)*
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	13-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	08-10 (1) 10-12 (2) 12-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-18 (4) 18-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	07-09 (1) 13-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (3) 17-20 (4) 20-22 (3) 22-01 (2) 01-03 (1)	21-23 (1) 23-01 (2) 01-03 (1) 03-05 (2) 05-07 (1) 02-06 (1)*
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica	Nil	15-18 (1)	15-17 (1) 17-19 (2) 19-21 (3) 21-23 (2) 23-00 (1) 08-10 (1)	01-06 (1)

**Time Zone: PDT
(24-Hour Time)
WESTERN USA To:**

Reception Area	10 Meters	15 Meters	20 Meters	40/80 Meters
Western & Europe North Africa	Nil	11-13 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-12 (1) 12-15 (2) 15-17 (1) 22-00 (1)	20-21 (1) 21-23 (2) 23-00 (1) 22-23 (1)*
Central & Northern Europe & European CIS	Nil	10-13 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-16 (1) 21-23 (1)	19-00 (1)
Eastern Mediterranean & Middle East	Nil	09-12 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-15 (1) 20-22 (1)	20-23 (1)
Western & Central Africa	Nil	12-15 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (3) 18-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	21-01 (1)

Eastern Africa	Nil	Nil	12-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-19 (1)	20-22 (1)
Southern Africa	Nil	10-12 (1)	07-09 (1) 12-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-18 (1) 22-00 (1)	20-21 (1) 21-22 (2) 22-23 (1) 20-22 (1)*
Central & South Asia	Nil	17-20 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 17-19 (1) 19-20 (2) 20-21 (1)	06-08 (1)
Southeast Asia	Nil	16-20 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-11 (2) 11-13 (1) 18-21 (1) 21-00 (2) 00-01 (1)	02-05 (1) 05-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 06-07 (1)*
Far East	Nil	15-17 (1) 17-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	07-08 (1) 08-10 (2) 10-12 (1) 12-14 (2) 14-18 (1) 18-20 (2) 20-22 (3) 22-23 (3) 23-01 (1)	01-02 (1) 02-06 (2) 06-07 (3) 07-08 (1) 07-05 (1)*
South Pacific & New Zealand	16-18 (1)	12-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-19 (3) 19-20 (2) 20-21 (1)	01-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-10 (3) 10-11 (2) 11-14 (1) 14-18 (2) 18-20 (3) 20-22 (4) 22-23 (3) 23-01 (2)	22-23 (1) 23-00 (2) 00-06 (3) 06-07 (2) 07-08 (1) 23-02 (1)* 02-05 (2)* 05-07 (1)*
Austral-Asia	15-18 (1)	13-16 (1) 16-17 (2)	12-19 (1) 19-20 (2)	00-02 (1) 02-03 (2)

Caribbean, Central America & Northern Countries of South America	12-14 (1) 14-17 (2) 17-18 (1)	08-09 (1) 09-12 (2) 12-14 (3) 14-16 (4) 16-17 (3) 17-18 (2) 18-19 (1)	06-07 (1) 07-08 (2) 08-10 (3) 10-16 (2) 16-17 (3) 17-19 (4) 19-20 (3) 20-22 (2) 22-02 (1)	18-21 (1) 21-22 (2) 22-01 (3) 01-03 (2) 03-07 (1) 20-22 (1)* 22-02 (2)* 02-05 (1)
Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Argentina & Uruguay	13-14 (1) 14-16 (2) 16-17 (1)	08-10 (1) 10-12 (2) 12-15 (1) 15-16 (2) 16-17 (4) 17-19 (2) 19-20 (1)	04-07 (1) 07-09 (2) 09-15 (1) 15-17 (2) 17-19 (3) 19-22 (2) 22-00 (1)	20-22 (1) 22-00 (2) 00-02 (1) 02-04 (2) 04-06 (1) 01-05 (1)*
McMurdo Sound, Antarctica	Nil	13-16 (1) 16-18 (2) 18-20 (1)	08-10 (1) 16-19 (1) 19-21 (2) 21-23 (3) 23-00 (2) 00-01 (1)	01-06 (1)

**Indicates best times 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.
For 30 meter openings interpolate between 40 and 20 meter openings.
Propagation charts prepared by George Jacobs, W3ASK.*

The highest daily sunspot count for May was 73 on May 16. A smoothed sunspot count of 31 is expected for August 2004. The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 100 for May 2004, down just a point from April. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on November 2003 is 122, two points below October. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for August 2004 is about 89, give or take about 17 points. The observed monthly mean planetary A-index (*A_p*) for May 2004 is 9, down one point from April, showing a steady decline in geomagnetic activity,

and smoother sailing on the HF bands. The 12-month smoothed *A_p*-index centered on November 2003 is 20, also one point down from October. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to be quiet to unsettled during most days in August.

You may e-mail me, write me a letter, or catch me on the HF amateur bands. I also have an EchoLink node where you might find me; look for node number 152783, NW7US-L. Please come and participate in my online propagation discussion forum at <<http://hfradio.org/forums/>>. I look forward to hearing from you. Happy DXing!
73, Tomas, NW7US/AAMØEWA

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JH2BTM	15,196	110	21	37	UN7TO	73,832	402	23	65	EU1SA	21	81,427	500	25	82	*OK1MMN	11,895	190	11	50	*RU3DM	319,284	537	80	282			
JA2VGF	3.7	72	6	4	5	UP4L	43,977	176	25	82	EWSMW	14	297,182	1682	31	188	*OK1CAZ	11,484	165	13	53	*RX3DCN	298,320	610	76	263		
*JA2GHP	A	56,566	227	43	73	*UP6P	A	870,585	1079	101	280	EWSAF	3.7	130,936	1010	22	82	*OL6T	7	51,168	425	18	78	*RK3DH	260,480	446	82	288
*JA2KWP		55,970	191	58	87	*UN6P	(OP: UN6P)				EWSWA	1.8	2,640	85	6	27	(OP: OK10CF)					*UA30Q	255,040	677	61	259		
*JA2VZL		15,900	101	32	43	*UN8GU		490,152	654	85	227	EU6EU	A	47,124	684	9	59	*OK1DTC	37,179	380	16	65	*RA3AUM	249,745	711	50	201	
*JR2NTC		4,335	44	22	29	*UQ1D		78,840	214	41	105	*EW1GA	A	385,344	984	64	224	*OK1HMP	11,505	176	9	50	*RV3LD	243,916	622	62	227	
*J01RUR/2		2,640	31	18	22	(OP: UN7DA)					*EW1CG		261,040	687	57	194	*OK1FFU	3.7	73,416	923	14	62	*RW1AI	241,264	598	58	214	
*J12VLM		2,304	32	15	17	*UN7JX	21	186,560	1084	23	87	*EW8FU		22,644	179	23	79	*OK1FFS	45,440	616	9	62	*UA4FRL	212,265	579	58	209	
*JA2KCY		36	6	6	6	*UO7DG		123,676	541	25	83	*EW6MM		6,460	71	20	48	DENMARK					*RZ3AED	190,620	594	55	215	
*JG2SON	28	95,216	416	31	57	*UN7SW	7	46,814	231	20	69	*EW6DX	28	21,052	174	17	59	OZSEV	A	297,549	530	82	317	*UA3FDX	190,512	671	51	192
*JG2TKH		10,885	112	16	19	HL9DX	A	360,876	729	75	169	*EW1ABF		11,289	144	13	40	OZSSK	1.8	51,612	835	9	57	*RU3WR	187,068	561	56	206
*JQ2EAN/2		74	5	3	5	HL5UG	A	147,987	429	80	135	*EVM6	21	2,688	73	8	24	OZ1HXQ		51,027	737	11	62	*U1BA	176,101	597	43	186
*JQ1AHZ/2	21	40,824	212	26	58	HL3GD	14	2,400	29	15	25	*EU2MM	14	149,864	830	30	101	*OZ1ACB	A	287,076	632	57	225	*RA4ADR	147,528	514	47	169
*JA2KKA		22,440	139	21	47	*D52QJS		79,056	256	53	109	*EU4EU	3.7	6,027	163	6	35	*OZART		32,184	152	30	78	*RZ3EC	143,752	478	51	187
*JA2JTN		14,280	122	22	34	*HL9TY		37,072	190	43	69	OR3N	14	345,648	1540	36	116	*OZ1EO		18,480	124	29	91	*RW3FY	143,127	357	54	189
*JF2FKJ		760	25	9	11	*D5SKJR		7,332	127	25	27	(OP: ON6UO)					*OZ2AE	28	2,723	39	11	18	*RU3DNN	128,895	491	40	155	
*JG2REJ	14	459	12	7	9	*HL5AP	21	124,122	151	17	39	*OT3R	A	1,446,640	1861	88	340	*OZBAE	21	70,434	270	31	95	*RA6XNR	120,840	532	47	165
*JA2DLM	7	7,882	80	22	33	KOREA					(OP: ON4CCP)					*OZ5WQ	1.8	2,318	70	6	32	*RV3YR	118,668	417	41	133		
*JE2OTM	3.7	1,012	20	11	12	HL9DX	A	360,876	729	75	169	*ON7BS		222,642	716	82	294	*RW5AH	117,914	390	50	164						
JR3NZC	A	720,405	893	104	211	HL5UG	A	147,987	429	80	135	*ON4ON		191,310	457	52	158	*RW3VI	115,628	488	38	173						
JA3ETD	21	30,441	178	28	56	HL3GD	14	2,400	29	15	25	*ON4XG		120,117	432	53	177	*R26HN	112,210	484	43	186						
JG3DMQ		22,388	119	21	38	HL2FDW	A	298,511	736	86	153	*ON4MGY		105,984	361	45	162	*RA3RHA	97,858	329	52	174						
JS3CTQ	14	337,875	830	35	124	*D52QJS		79,056	256	53	109	*ON5SY		95,669	326	51	122	*RA3RAW	90,798	275	47	175						
JA3ORD		5,898	53	15	35	*HL9TY		37,072	190	43	69	*ON6LD		81,312	376	36	118	*UA3LEO	85,848	353	47	149						
JR3UIC	7	4,368	47	12	27	*D5SKJR		7,332	127	25	27	*ON7VZ		60,465	255	31	114	*RX3MM	84,180	317	39	144						
*JE6K/C3	A	417,294	604	185	186	*HL5AP	21	124,122	151	17	39	*ON4HAM		52,545	211	43	112	(OP: G4PIQ)					*RA3KT	72,930	280	36	134	
*JR3RY		300,888	566	75	141	KUWAIT					*ON4CIN		29,751	204	34	107	*RZ3DA	69,495	232	57	148							
*JA3AOP		215,604	400	85	141	9K2HN	A	41,496	274	12	45	*ON4CHK		14,255	185	15	40	*UA4CCC	66,102	421	36	102						
*JK3GWT		121,002	278	71	130	KYRGYZSTAN					*ON4TNB		7,488	120	20	52	*RA6DE	65,790	281	40	113							
*JA3UWB		94,809	285	55	111	EX80	A	283,490	474	97	188	*ON4KVA		4,324	90	10	36	*UA1WSV	80,454	239	40	141						
*JA3LEZ		53,502	189	44	67	*EX7ML	21	108,200	495	27	73	*ON5SPA		1,870	104	27	58	*UA4HY	51,496	300	36	122						
*JH3OXM		40,356	190	47	71	MACAO					*ON5CZ		1,383	43	7	26	*RA3XAU	47,852	309	34	98							
*JA3QDS		14,213	85	28	33	*XX9AU	21	9,880	165	16	36	*ON4ADZ	21	119,062	594	24	94	*RV3IC	46,565	229	39	100						
*JL3RDC		7,000	69	23	33	MONGOLIA					*ON4APU	14	69,996	407	28	86	*UA3MOM	43,450	219	37	121							
*J11BDX/3		3,804	46	18	24	JT1BV	A	802,674	1613	113	229	*ON4ACA	1.8	9,200	228	5	41	*RN3FA	31,510	204	32	105						
*JR3EOI		2,940	26	19	23	JT1CN		573,603	1842	85	178	BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA					*RW4FX	29,920	195	23	62							
*JR3KEX		2,633	42	17	22	JT1DA		317,200	1617	67	133	T99W	7	391,426	1829	32	114	*RA9CO/3	29,025	114	38	97						
*JN3MUC		1,793	31	17	25	JT1CO	7	12,558	256	17	25	T9KGGKZK	1.8	73,632	1035	12	66	*RA3AMG	27,930	186	29	118						
*JM3HVL		838	19	11	13	JT1JA	1.8	49	9	4	3	*T95A	3.7	17,752	311	8	48	(OP: G3VHB)					*UA1AFZ	25,680	197	26	94	
*JF3EHO	28	13,113	110	19	28	JT1AS	A	10,000	124	26	32	*T97M		3,772	90	6	35	*RZ3DH	23,620	112	43	71						
*JA3PYH		2,072	33	11	19	*JT1CH	21	38,332	449	21	53	*T94LW	1.8	13,992	381	7	46	*RW1AU	23,600	114	33	67						
*JF3BFS	21	188,748	586	35	91	NEPAL					BULGARIA					*UA4FEL	23,541	131	37	96								
*JN3DRB		94,615	305	33	94	*9N7MV	A	178,285	844	63	118	LZ1BJ	A	1,830,407	1552	93	324	*RW4LQ	22,248	84	37	66						
*J3VUB		30,420	188	23	42	*9N7ET	21	45,856	392	15	49	LZ2ZJ		36,387	115	48	69	*RZ3VA	21,122	148	27	91						
*JR3KAH		2,407	49	12	21	(JABUMV)					LZ1ZS	28	478,282	1558	38	143	*RW6LFE	21,079	81	40	67							
*JR4FLW/3	14	25,075	135	28	57	SRI LANKA					LZ1YU		93,056	436	29	99	*RA3NZ	20,007	133	34	83							
*JA3AYX		13,852	97	26	44	*4S7FBG	A	53,728	226	53	93	LZ1ZG		10,800	64	30	45	*RA3VGD	18,424	80	39	59						
JH4UYB	A	3,866,285	2659	154	431	*4S7WAG	7	3,220	60	16	30	LZ1ZU		9,450	81	24	51	*RZ3OV	17,184	111	29	67						
JA4YHX		280,438	409	102	179	TAIWAN					LZ1ZV		8,052	105	18	48	*RA3MB	17,013	119	32	75							
JA4ESR		49,435	163	57	80	*BW4/UA3VCS	21	155,001	827	35	86	LZ1ZW		1,870	19	15	19	*UA3OCB	11,881	116	22	87						
JA4UTP	7	11,859	109	22	45	TAJIKISTAN					LZ1ZB		197,532	1059	38	94	*RD3DD	11,704	85	28	60							
*JA4BAA	A	30,599	143	45	61	*EY7AV	21	49,677	257	23	64	LZ1ZC		18,816	236	19	37	*RX1AX	9,656	56	27	44						
*JA4AOR		30,195	119	37	62	THAILAND					LZ1ZD		18,816	236	19	37	*RW4NH	9,600	66	23	52							
*JA4ETH	28	11,407	100	21	40	HSBZEE	A	571,340	910	102	283	LZ1ZE		18,816	236	19	37	*RX3DD	9,310	118	19	51						
*JA4DWG		7,728	60	23	33	*HS1PDY	A	298,768	534	89	195	LZ1ZF		18,816	236	19	37	*RA3TYL	8,692	97	19	63						
*JR4GPA	21	39,578	203	23	54	*E21EC	21	48,510	208	28	77	LZ1ZG		18,816	236	19	37	*UA3AKI	8,316	86	21	56						
*JM4WUZ	3.7	1,995	37	15	20	*HS1JNB		4,488	56	16	28	LZ1ZH		18,816	236	19	37	*RA3AW	8,052	54	30	36						
JASAPU	21	136,641	513	33	78	TURKMENISTAN					LZ1ZI		18,816	236	19	37	*RV6LSS	5,520	75	16	53							
JA5CPO	7	1,980	33	13	17	*EZ8CW	A	14,448	93	30	57	LZ1ZJ		18,816	236	19	37	*RA3APO	5,476	72	19	55						
*JA5EO	A	111,750	310	54	96	UZBEKISTAN					LZ1ZK		18,816	236	19	37	*RN6FA	4,160	46	35	45							
*JG5CBR		8	2	2	2	UK/JE7RJZ	A	306,440	840	68	167	LZ1ZL		18,816	236	19	37	*RW3SU	3,894	50	24	42						
*JA5ATN	28	8,428	74	16	27	WEST MALAYSIA					LZ1ZM		18,															

*OH2BPA	96,170	309	57	186	*DL1CWI	161,500	420	56	194	EISGM	7	146,475	1041	29	85	*IRSB	3.7	63,640	780	14	72	*LA3S	A	742,500	1214	77	319	
*OH2MO	76,320	309	131	44	*DL6ZNG	123,750	368	48	150	E6JK	7	9,079	159	9	51	*IZ1DGG	1.8	2,553	84	5	32	*LASLJA		397,072	789	69	263	
*OH3AD	10,780	140	23	75	*DL9SXX	120,904	328	56	182	*E8HB	A	134,260	418	52	144							*L8BAE		39,059	246	28	111	
					(OP: OH3HY)	120,669	347	47	172	*E5FQB		9,079	113	20	55	JERSEY						*L8HUA		34,000	236	20	107	
*OH6KXL	5,959	79	14	45	*DH2PL	112,784	323	55	157	*E19ES		6,666	90	17	49	MJZZ	21	266,684	1307	24	92	*LA2QJA		19,897	155	26	75	
*OH3WS	15,664	97	19	69	*DF2FM	111,155	309	52	163	*E2VNO	21	64,974	576	28	71							*L89LE		14,994	131	27	71	
*OH6RC	5,519	59	15	41	*DL1DBR	108,932	285	63	163							*G7DNI	A	36,256	163	43	133	*LA9TY		13,440	105	31	81	
*OH3R	120	6	4	6	*DB8NI	108,864	386	52	191													*LA5JX	28	24,509	160	20	74	
*OH5ZZ	73,323	672	23	70	*DJ1WQ	108,145	380	42	173													*LA2J		16,259	104	16	55	
					*DL1FZZ	105,984	232	62	145	*GD4GWO	A	ISLE OF MAN	20,979	141	34	77							*LA1YE	14	32,725	371	15	62
					*DJ1QJ	102,762	296	45	128														*LABWG	7	5,323	126	7	42
					*DK5JM	97,680	239	51	171																			
TM2Y	A	4,376,532	3205	135	493	*DH1DA	96,084	302	50	154																		
F2JD		1,843,450	2204	95	363	*DL5EBS	82,502	204	52	114																		
FSAMH		837,899	1625	69	240	*DL2MIH	79,120	277	45	127																		
F6FYD		717,514	1123	80	291	*DM2AWM	72,446	277	45	133																		
FSVHY		574,443	852	63	186	*DL8UVG	67,645	268	42	121																		
FSRAB		555,373	838	74	285	*DKSNAD	65,274	283	38	100																		
FSRQ		248,240	463	61	229	*DK4DS	56,108	181	43	123																		
FSUTN		162,162	390	57	132	*DL6ATI	54,080	241	37	123																		
TM9R	21	1,843,784	2949	38	133	(OP: F5FLN)	53,900	218	40	135																		
						*DF6LQ	53,582	200	42	104																		
F6CTT	7	618,562	2149	37	124	*DL4KUG	52,496	206	35	101																		
F5NBX		39,193	356	17	60	*DG8DBW	52,221	186	40	129																		
F6CWA	1.8	5,355	118	5	40	*DG2MIC	44,897	210	42	97																		
*F6DZU	A	1,568,074	2206	90	276	*DL4ZBC	43,216	241	35	111																		
*F8AAN		743,046	1242	81	273	*DL8UAT	38,645	123	43	88																		
*F6FTB		694,707	1015	81	298	*DH6DAO	37,386	112	50	84																		
*F6KZC		641,918	1184	79	307	(OP: F6CUG)	33,033	135	38	83																		
						*DL3DRN	30,666	178	36	78																		
*F5DRD		550,712	1194	71	257	*DH4BM	28,209	132	41	87																		
*F5INJ		177,216	521	47	161	*DL8SDI	25,963	164	37	86																		
*F5AXG		148,526	438	46	160	*DL4ORA	25,516	176	31	100																		
*F5VHN		137,800	321	50	215	*DL2YET	25,086	145	36	75																		
*F6DNX		105,370	383	49	156	*DL2YCA	24,900	136	30	75																		
*F6DFN		92,565	346	47	140	*DL4JTW	21,620	139	32	83																		
*F6BAT		78,973	296	40	111	*DJ2UB	21,251	150	22	57																		
*F6VIO		70,524	530	40	122	*DL2VB	20,910	167	22	80																		
*F6RFB		63,867	246	38	131	*DK3WN	20,178	102	36	78																		
*F6SGI		35,960	160	35	81	*DF3HS	19,550	190	32	83																		
*F6FRA		400	12	7	9	*DG8CC	15,576	103	23	43																		
*F6KSE	28	21,488	155	17	51	(OP: F6LJT)	13,056	99	28	74																		
						*DL3ZAI	12,408	119	22	66																		
*F5JY	21	109,620	494	30	96	*DL5KMS	12,126	81	26	60																		
*F5PRR		12,090	150	15	50	*DL3SCN	11,932	101	25	51																		
*F8BJJ	14	83,655	505	25	92	*DL7VRG	11,600	139	15	65																		
*F5AJG		60,528	377	24	80	*DL2ASK	10,230	91	21	41																		
*F5RVO		4,705	110	7	40	*DC9AM	8,600	80	29	57																		
*F5LEN	7	21,252	240	14	63	*DL7CU	7,920	83	18	54																		
*F8AKS		14,616	211	12	60	*DL8NCR	7,076	87	16	42																		
						*DL5ANS	6,926	99	15	60																		
						*DG1BOC	6,426	48	24	39																		
						*DL3KDC	5,510	56	21	37																		
						(OP: F5LJT)	5,184	70	24	57																		
DJ5MW	A	4,118,408	3454	123	477	*DL5MHR	5,032	74	19	49																		
DJ4PT		3,712,885	2815	135	470	*DB6ZH	4,959	33	29	28																		
DL4NAC		907,410	1093	90	316	*DL7MAT	4,399	46	23	30																		
DL2DX		761,504	825	111	338	*DK8AP	4,150	38	21	29																		
DK3KD		598,120	899	84	296	*DL3HWP	1,872	31	16	23																		
DL2APJ		516,402	843	82	311	*DL1ARD	1,583	58	6	28																		
DL10TC		497,448	643	91	301	*DL3HWM	1,369	31	11	26																		
DJ8UV		496,736	1135	75	269	*DL6OZ	858	27	11	22																		
DJ9HX		442,303	535	89	312	*DL4VAB	100	11	5	8																		
DJ3HJ		414,994	715	68	253	*DL1ARJ	7,875	103	12	51																		
DL2OT		349,778	563	71	215	*DL2VSF	7,875	103	12	51																		
DK1MAX		307,812	450	98	241	*DL2MJW	7,875	103	12	51																		
DJ1TU		300,312	534	65	226	*DL1NKS	7,875	103	12	51																		
DF1DV		280,908	682	61	228	*DL1DWR	28,844	108	15	37																		
DJ8IF		269,850	509	70	187	*DJ6XB	2,976	42	14	17																		
DL80BF		258,441	598	63	248	*DF5RF	495	16	5	6																		
DF3IS		241,300	562	55	199	*DH9SB	134,208	524	31	113																		
DK6CO		238,209	431	72	199	*DJ2XC	81,282	392	27	87																		
DF5AN		194,171	352	71	210	*DL3BRA	80,676	435	25	83																		
DL1PT		183,400	489	65	197	*DL3LBA	4,510	89	9	32																		
DK2QD		166,808	395																									

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CZECH REPUBLIC			
OK2FD	A	2,237,872	1740 138 551
OK1FDY		203,574	446 69 193
OL7N	28	370,832	1040 31 125
		(OP: OK1HRA)	
OK2ZJ		5,934	50 15 31
DENMARK			
OZ40	A	388,276	631 70 273
OZDF		43,508	259 31 115
		(OP: OZ1AIZ)	
ENGLAND			
G3LZO	A	278,720	445 79 256
M0C	14	619,650	2038 38 132
M3MCX	7	5,264	154 6 41
ESTONIA			
ESSQX	3.7	30,340	304 15 67
EUROPEAN RUSSIA			
UA3BZ	A	641,560	1007 92 338
RN4WA		640,135	1041 90 353
UA3AB		141,478	269 80 174
RF4R	28	129,360	602 32 122
		(OP: UA4RC)	
RU6YY		43,520	142 33 103
UA6LV	21	461,700	1541 36 126
UA4RC	7	69,690	294 26 89
RU6LA	3.7	84,209	683 24 83
UA6D		6	1 1 1
FINLAND			
OH6NO	A	1,689,171	1598 118 443
OH6DX		287,217	719 72 219
OH2LU		266,385	553 64 237
OH3HS		54,378	218 41 118
OH6Y		48,576	234 25 67
		(OP: OH6YF)	
OH3WW		18,424	150 25 73
OH2CI		8,165	89 17 54
OH4MDY	14	401,432	1860 37 115
OH2BO	1.8	11,136	215 8 50
FRANCE			
FM7F	A	5,321,810	3720 128 483
F5IN		202,860	429 57 195
FM5HV		189,334	540 59 215
		(OP: F5GKW)	
F6FFM		124,488	292 54 180
GERMANY			
DLBWW	A	3,400,704	2366 134 514
		(OP: DK3GI)	
DJ2YA		3,204,180	2212 134 512
DL1YD		2,212,272	1815 112 457
DL8OH		1,826,820	1427 132 465
DL4YAO		1,199,544	1437 96 357
DL4FAY		1,141,832	1551 90 334
DL6LAU		1,100,317	1006 116 455
DF6DN		1,083,460	1199 98 399
DL8NFU		740,253	1021 85 358
DL8AAM		641,991	1067 80 319
DL4RCK		613,468	916 83 329
DF2LH		609,952	834 82 307
DJ9MH		308,040	535 73 267
DL3NM		263,088	574 57 195
DL1NEO		249,426	519 54 225
DF6JC		225,387	397 58 179
DL6QW		223,266	388 64 190
DL5KM		189,126	414 56 210
DP1POL		163,614	465 43 91
		(OP: DL5XL)	
DF8QB		137,997	325 65 204
DF2UJ		88,355	256 52 153
DF2AP		36,828	170 35 89
DK2ZO		16,350	99 31 76
DL9LR		14,596	110 27 55
DL9EE	28	27,468	130 20 64
DF9ZP	21	1,012,285	2330 40 153
DL3BQA		123,711	504 29 100
DJ7EO	14	829,738	2229 39 143
DL7CX	1.8	31,570	653 9 61
GREECE			
SV18FW	A	379,908	539 88 278
SV1XV		8,976	62 24 44
HUNGARY			
HABHW	A	368,418	651 74 233
HASPT		40,326	160 40 101
ITALY			
ID2A	A	1,653,864	1548 117 431
		(OP: IK2RZP)	
IK1RQT		1,549,824	1869 107 405
IK0YVV		1,416,389	1626 107 386
I2SVA		908,564	1060 88 306
IK2ULV		246,268	596 74 245
I7CSB		41,952	145 42 110
IK2SAE		4,500	69 16 44
IR2A	28	291,653	1332 24 65
		(OP: IZUIY)	
I28DBJ		122,303	395 35 122
I24AFW	21	164,640	551 31 189
IV3NVN	3.7	22,470	282 9 61
LATVIA			
YL8M	A	487,396	872 98 322
		(OP: YL2KL)	
YL2KA		299,437	515 71 206
YL8A	3.7	50,825	559 13 68
		(OP: YL2KA)	
LITHUANIA			
LY2FY	A	3,759,120	3716 144 546
LY3CY		62,208	329 32 130
LY2IJ	21	451,770	1321 37 128
LY3BY	14	20,856	292 11 55
NETHERLANDS			
PG3N	A	609,687	1089 77 274
PA9ZZ		331,483	688 64 225
PASA		146,328	485 48 108
PE2SVN		72,036	283 43 131
PA8R	28	73,312	351 27 89
PC1A	21	627,444	1717 37 137
PE1PQH		22,188	129 21 65
NORTHERN IRELAND			
GI4XSF	A	9,234	64 28 53

POLAND			
SP6EKS	A	2,737,800	2110 130 518
S0BFEW		199,984	446 56 176
SP6EQZ		87,531	361 39 140
SP3HUU	28	46,530	212 30 111
S02R	14	1,031,940	3118 37 145
SQ5BE	7	3,157	78 5 36
PORTUGAL			
CT1CXP	A	11,625	68 32 61
ROMANIA			
YP3A	14	728,160	2822 37 148
		(OP: YO9GZU)	
SCOTLAND			
MM8Q	A	41,313	173 35 106
		(OP: MM8QI)	
MM8QI	3.7	11,644	123 16 55
SICILY			
IT9GSF	A	4,782,904	2917 146 620
IT9IQQ	21	115,164	646 28 98
SLOVAK REPUBLIC			
OM7ZZ	A	162,178	509 35 96
OM2VL		53,818	208 39 103
OM8M	14	696,756	2359 39 147
		(OP: OM8WR)	
OM3DX	3.7	55,091	498 16 73
OM3GI	1.8	30,933	494 8 55
SLOVENIA			
S52ZW	A	2,816,844	2572 126 492
S58WW		1,087,734	1383 91 307
S52A		132,912	270 65 169
S54G	21	719,043	1925 38 141
		(OP: IK3UNA)	
S51CK	14	178,149	1014 29 180
SPAIN			
EA3DA	A	936,945	1515 90 353
EASJY		91,324	541 32 126
EA1JW		7,998	55 37 49
EA2AYD	28	87,330	320 25 98
ECSAMK	21	60,168	743 23 69
SWEDEN			
SM2EKM	A	1,999,230	2357 115 400
SM5D		353,775	507 89 356
		(OP: SM5DJ)	
SM4XIH		32,619	145 31 100
SM6RXZ		1,216	19 14 18
UKRAINE			
UT7QF	A	4,168,826	3336 164 607
UL2JO		85,744	215 47 137
UTSUGR	21	614,008	1856 37 147
UXBL	14	281,240	1144 37 121
		(OP: UXBLV)	

UY2UF		1,020	49 4 16
EO3Q	7	300,672	1446 31 113
		(OP: UR3QCW)	
UU7J	3.7	110,460	989 22 83
		(OP: UUBJM)	
WALES			
GW7X	14	130,581	894 21 78
		(OP: GWBRYT)	
YUGOSLAVIA			
YT6A	21	1,087,952	2867 39 155
YZ1V	14	211,640	1258 31 112
		(OP: 4N1FAN)	
YU1UU	1.8	9,250	194 6 44
YU1UA		418	14 5 14
OCEANIA			
AUSTRALIA			
VK4UC	A	1,875,578	1307 97 198
HAWAII			
AH6NF	A	9,869	57 34 37

KA2FIQ	2,735,054	1851	120	443
N2LBR	809,904	799	82	294
N2SS	744,600	710	100	308
AB2DE	545,184	672	102	330
W2YC	425,600	496	80	280
WB2KHO	360,944	561	63	209
K2YEH	313,425	405	84	231
W2IW	273,790	574	71	191
KC2EVL	6,480	55	23	37
NE3F	3,065,403	2024	134	493
W3LJ	296,529	429	66	225
W3LRC	10,152	124	34	74
N4PN	4,258,124	2538	153	523
W4WS	3,538,161	2245	138	489
K9ES4	2,733,659	2038	129	458
W4K	2,641,548	2113	127	406
W4H	1,914,704	1635	116	390
W4M	638,308	693	90	266
KD4QHB	407,826	508	86	240
W44TFZ	179,536	337	51	178
K5GH	1,333,239	1075	131	390

CANADA				
VY2TT	5,423,220	3691	119	486
VE3RM	5,074,710	3945	124	427
VA3SK	4,228,466	3472	121	433
VE7SV	3,216,960	3266	130	350
VE3YAA	1,631,840	1761	104	330
VE7GL	1,597,365	1999	112	273
VE8AD	1,494,200	2682	92	218
VA2TG	432,900	746	53	207
VA3ARG	101,304	296	61	128
VE8JL	16,560	132	34	38
COSTA RICA				
T15A	5,082,975	5577	124	351
CUBA				
T42GG	3,203,605	4273	91	274
HONDURAS				
HR6/VE3BW	1,137,150	1679	90	225
MEXICO				
6D9X	3,708,403	4420	120	289
PUERTO RICO				
KP4US	347,851	683	61	156
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS				
VP5DX	11,106,072	7244	150	546
AFRICA				
CANARY ISLANDS				
EA8ZS	8,732,607	4886	144	555
MADEIRA ISLANDS				
CO3T	8,427,762	5002	129	505
NAMIBIA				
V55V	1,819,958	1943	82	261
TUNISIA				
3V8BB	15,548,610	7749	153	617
ASIA				
ASIATIC RUSSIA				
RT9W	7,191,120	3873	150	572
RK9TWA	2,268,402	2051	92	346
RF9C	1,984,580	1662	105	337
RK9CXE	828,412	972	87	269
RK9QWZ	259,530	460	66	180
RK9AZZ	238,266	457	69	210
RW9OWD	10,985	103	21	44
RK8AXX	285,600	522	78	282
RK8QWT	10	7	6	6
CYPRUS				
P3A	20,196,420	9210	167	656
ISRAEL				
4X6FR	7,096,896	4398	128	464
JAPAN				
JA7YAA	3,146,343	2147	156	417
JJ2ZJS	2,078,822	1862	141	337
J6ZJH	1,538,908	1592	131	296
JA1KDX	1,312,395	1189	123	308
JA2ZJW	1,121,170	1168	118	264
JJ2ZEY	883,014	1053	114	260
JA6WFM	432,789	689	89	170
JJ2ZMW	334,662	513	94	195
KYRGYZSTAN				
EX9A	4,000,457	3415	120	407
SINGAPORE				
9V1YC	2,674,100	2689	137	413
EUROPE				
AUSTRIA				
OE2S	8,087,625	4945	163	656
BELGIUM				
OT3H	2,094,300	2306	97	371
OR3P	2,048,196	2532	108	384
OT3O	1,183,767	1707	81	300
ON5GQ	1,104,840	1353	90	306
OT3W	313,335	735	63	234
CRETE				
J49Z	5,950,413	5376	149	572
CROATIA				
9ABR	6,599,124	4707	155	619
CZECH REPUBLIC				
OK5W	8,635,320	4920	164	666
OL3A	3,752,234	3255	139	583
OL7R	3,421,898	2901	142	532
OK1KQH	1,359,072	1632	104	364
OK1KCI	1,333,306	1749	96	398
OK1KDO	467,777	968	72	287
OL7C	411,312	989	71	257
OL2A	308,028	656	66	200
OL2U	289,980	809	66	258
OK1KMG	147,489	649	43	190
DENMARK				
OZ5E	2,527,300	2245	131	504
OZ5ESB	1,530,672	1985	97	349
OZ7SKV	37,736	414	43	135
ENGLAND				
M1P	5,031,208	3404	144	584
G3BJ	4,455,028	3581	143	600
G6PZ	2,758,118	2659	115	451
M4A	2,209,942	2116	122	480
G3B	1,711,709	1951	100	403
M4U	574,092	1122	76	257

EUROPEAN RUSSIA	ED1ISS	78,125	294	38	87	SAN ANDRES/PROVIDENCIA	SJDX	3,978,116	5188	98	288
RM6A 5,561,652						TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	VPSB	18,404,223	12814	155	506
RL3A 5,383,826						U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	WP2Z	13,370,255	9245	145	502
RD4M 3,073,915						AFRICA					
RF3A 2,925,868						AFRICAN ITALY	IH9P	29,447,379	11831	171	688
RD3R 1,487,730						MADEIRA ISLANDS	CT9L	24,455,105	10960	155	630
RK3RXX 1,398,225						ASIA					
RK3MWD 790,575						JAPAN	JR1ZTT	103,312	278	61	115
RK6AYN 775,746							JA7YAF	5,187	53	24	33
RK3QVM 541,926						KAZAKHSTAN	UP5G	6,543,040	4621	146	498
RK3DZD 434,252						KOREA	D70LW	980,624	1881	114	220
RK4CWA 335,315						EUROPE					
RK6XWA 50,560						AUSTRIA	OE5T	6,196,683	5447	144	569
RK3DZV 48,504						BELGIUM	OT3L	5,760,558	4303	152	577
							OR3R	656,214	1213	83	275
FINLAND						CROATIA	9A7A	12,757,650	8011	170	680
OH2BP 370,363	745	71	266			EUROPEAN RUSSIA	RU1A	10,925,937	7363	178	691
OH2K 39,312	173	39	105			FINLAND	OH1F	7,140,442	5418	165	629
						FRANCE	TM7Z	2,232,120	3047	94	346
FRANCE						GERMANY	DABBC	10,940,896	6628	170	678
TM0DX 4,678,100	4634	131	521				DL0TS	2,941,920	2594	129	519
F6KHM 3,555,576	3318	101	385			HUNGARY	HG6N	11,501,568	7420	168	664
TM2S 2,743,200	3171	102	378			ISLE OF MAN	MD4K	9,976,898	8159	155	631
F8KGM 1,175,493	1743	134	463			MALTA	9H3UD	2,291,696	3259	96	353
TM6R 500,136	1004	74	238			NETHERLANDS	PA1T	3,292,030	3167	125	530
F6KRK 149,372	446	50	164			NORWAY	LN2T	428,888	1169	74	287
F8KGH 85,598	519	61	193			POLAND	SN5Z	2,662,464	2981	114	474
TM5ER 71,133	315	36	145				HF25JP	43,732	175	36	80
FSKAR 63,712	314	39	137			ROMANIA	YO3KSD	12,261	109	12	35
						SCOTLAND	GM5A	5,341,075	4742	138	557
GERMANY						SWITZERLAND	HB9H	4,565,204	4361	134	524
DL0CS 5,166,372	3504	160	629				HB9OK	3,100,494	3742	107	431
DF3CB 4,176,900	2879	148	617			OCEANIA					
DK0SU 3,803,388	3058	120	484			AUSTRALIA	VK4WR	1,269,681	1582	100	209
DF0RI 2,817,920	2350	126	469			GUAM	AH2R	9,724,779	5604	171	462
DL0AD 2,060,765	2030	120	487			NEW ZEALAND	ZM1G	992,904	1440	84	180
DL0OV 1,484,625	1562	106	427			NORTHERN MARIANAS	KH0AA	14,109,480	7589	172	488
DL0DX 1,377,459	1636	92	367			SOUTH AMERICA					
DK0ALK 1,040,655	1349	85	300			BRAZIL	PX2A	7,481,877	6330	102	337
DK0MN 488,700	815	74	288				PJ2T	26,212,824	12329	157	602
DL0DRO 234,300	520	69	231			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	PZ5A	11,952,050	7904	119	431
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
GREECE						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
SV8A 7,632,300	6368	160	620			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
SV1AFA 924,687	2106	82	299			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
J43GRC 804,672	1776	78	303			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
HUNGARY						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
HG1S 8,960,680	5259	162	668			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
ICELAND						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
TF3W 1,193,812	2413	71	255			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
IRELAND						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
EI9E 1,113,658	1350	87	319			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
ITALY						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
IR4X 11,866,656	6049	171	681			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
IU2X 6,602,208	4321	161	615			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I04T 3,971,058	3442	126	509			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
IU4U 3,010,287	2644	125	484			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I05LV 1,991,108	2447	110	366			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
IR8M 1,609,471	2514	114	437			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I13A 880,341	1140	95	312			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I03T 874,014	1686	84	297			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I02LS 681,054	977	86	288			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I5UWT 669,510	1242	79	308			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
IK3TCH 667,667	1154	86	233			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I02CJ 321,114	607	47	171			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
I03TN 77,976	320	40	131			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
LATVIA						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
YL4U 2,551,689	3327	119	468			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
YL1XN 162,567	585	45	178			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
MOLDOVA						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
ER3R 1,089,175	1534	102	373			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
NETHERLANDS						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
PA7MM 6,052,233	4242	141	582			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
PI4DEC 1,878,590	2047	112	459			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
PG9W 972,426	2017	89	322			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
NORWAY						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
LN8W 1,454,656	1992	97	379			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
POLAND						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
SO6Y 2,154,388	2454	128	483			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
SO9O 1,862,245	2867	115	424			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
SPSKVW 1,098,048	1761	111	421			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
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SP1KZE 21,210	202	24	77			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
PORTUGAL						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
CT7A 4,504,104	4240	118	446			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
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S53S 2,072,520	2547	109	404			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
S59TTT 408,000	854	82	258			NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					
SPAIN						NETHERLANDS ANTILLES					

Clubs are Ham Radio "Glue"

Editor, CQ:

Your comment about clubs (May "Zero Bias") is right on point. I recall that back in 1947 I belonged to a great club which met in Brooklyn every couple of weeks and it really was a "glue" which added to our feeling of ham brotherhood. In all the years I was in New Jersey, I never bumped into such a club. When we moved to Virginia, I joined the Vienna Wireless Society and I felt transported back in time. In fact, the VWS is better than the NY club because it has a bunch of very active members, runs good Field Day outings, and is in some other contests. It also runs the "Winterfest" hamfest and actually has a few young members. In addition, it runs a couple of good repeaters and is active in various ARES activities. Also, the Vic Clark Chapter 91 of QCWA is a very active chapter.

—73, Dave Wiesen, K2VX

Car Care

The following letters are in response to K4TWJ's two paragraphs in his May "World of Ideas" column on keeping your car—as well as your mobile ham station—neat and clean.

Editor, CQ:

Remember, you are a magazine devoted to amateur radio, not polishing one's vehicle. It's bad enough you continue to rehash old articles, but how to polish a car?? That takes the cake. Really too bad QST isn't available here in Canada. Have fun with your car . . . er ham radio magazine. I have read my last copy.

—Max Donoghue, VE3TMT

Dear Max,

First of all, we don't rehash old articles. We do revisit certain topics periodically, as new hams come along who need to learn about them for the first time, and there are old-timers who benefit from the review as well (though most would never admit it). Regarding Dave's column, the "car care" segment included only two paragraphs at the end of the column, along with a few photos. Hardly enough to qualify us as a car magazine. Read on for a different point of view...

Hi Dave,

I liked your HF article but (probably unlike most...) I liked your car more! Blue Camaro! Nice! What year is it? Z28 or base model? But where do you mount a radio in it?? I just bought a 1998 Z28 six speed and went to mount my front-mount Motorola Radius UHF radio in it—arrgggh! No room! LOVE the car but. . . .

—Scott, N1KXT

BPL Matters

The following letter was to author Gary Pearce, KN4AQ:

Hi Gary,

I just read your article "BPL Primer: How Do I Know What I'm Hearing?" in the May issue. Very FB. I spent several weeks reading everything I could find (on BPL) and you covered all that quite well in summary.

It became very obvious from reading your piece that BPL is even more expensive than I realized, probably the most expensive broadband solution, and that's without all the linesmen and service people who will get tied up in its problems with real world implementation. All for a solution that cannot compete today, much less in the future.

BPL will fail here just like it did in the other countries, and just as quickly. But the sense of betrayal by the FCC is the hardest thing for me to accept over the entire issue. You will notice that they required the stations to identify on those "Earth station" 3-Gig frequencies, yet felt no need to for HF. Nice to know where you stand. Despite the best efforts at the FCC to hand over the HF spectrum to the special interests, they will fail. I only hope that the HF spectrum never seems appealing to said special interests again anytime soon.

—Don Rasmussen

KN4AQ replies:

Thanks, Don. I'd like to believe that economics will bring BPL down. I don't have much expertise there, though bad ideas have gathered lots of startup money before, and some of them keep limping along. Still, we're aiming our complaints toward making Progress Energy feel it in their wallet. We want them to know just how much effort (money) will have to go into "interference mitigation" before they commit.

Contest Calendar (from page 90)

The response to my request was absolutely amazing. In fact, it was actually overwhelming, and within 48 hours I had a wheelchair plus several hundred dollars in cash donations to cover the shipping. I actually had to cut off the donations once the shipping costs were covered. The donations came from all over the country and even from a ham in DL who has a relative in J7. Here was my reply to the contest community:

"Thanks to the generosity of hams in the US and DL, a wheelchair was delivered yesterday to Lambert, J73LC, for his ailing mother in Dominica. Ten generous hams stepped forward with cash donations and another with a nearly new wheelchair that was shipped to Miami for air delivery to J7. They made a difference. The fellow who donated the wheelchair told me his mother had used it until she passed away last October. She had been very supportive of ham radio and would think it fitting that her wheelchair would go on a DXpedition to help someone else who loves the hobby.

"God Bless you all. 73, George, K5KG"

I think enough has been said on this one. Thank you testers!

Final Comments

Thanks in advance for taking the time to respond to this year's survey. Your answers (and comments) are invaluable in helping guide the future editorial direction of this column. I encourage you to respond and pass the survey along to your friends and club members. With the capability of submitting your responses via the internet (<http://hamgallery.com/survey>), the time to participate takes only a matter of minutes. Feel free to include either the survey itself or the internet link in your club's next newsletter. Increased participation will make this a better survey!

73, John, K1AR



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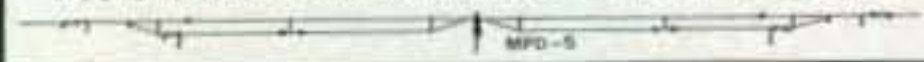
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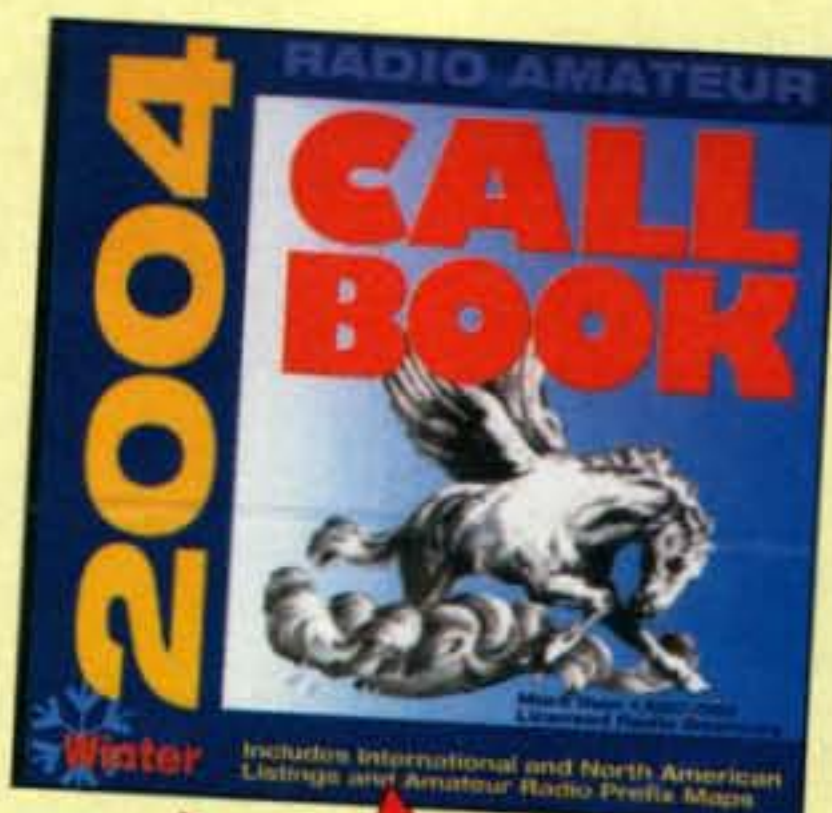
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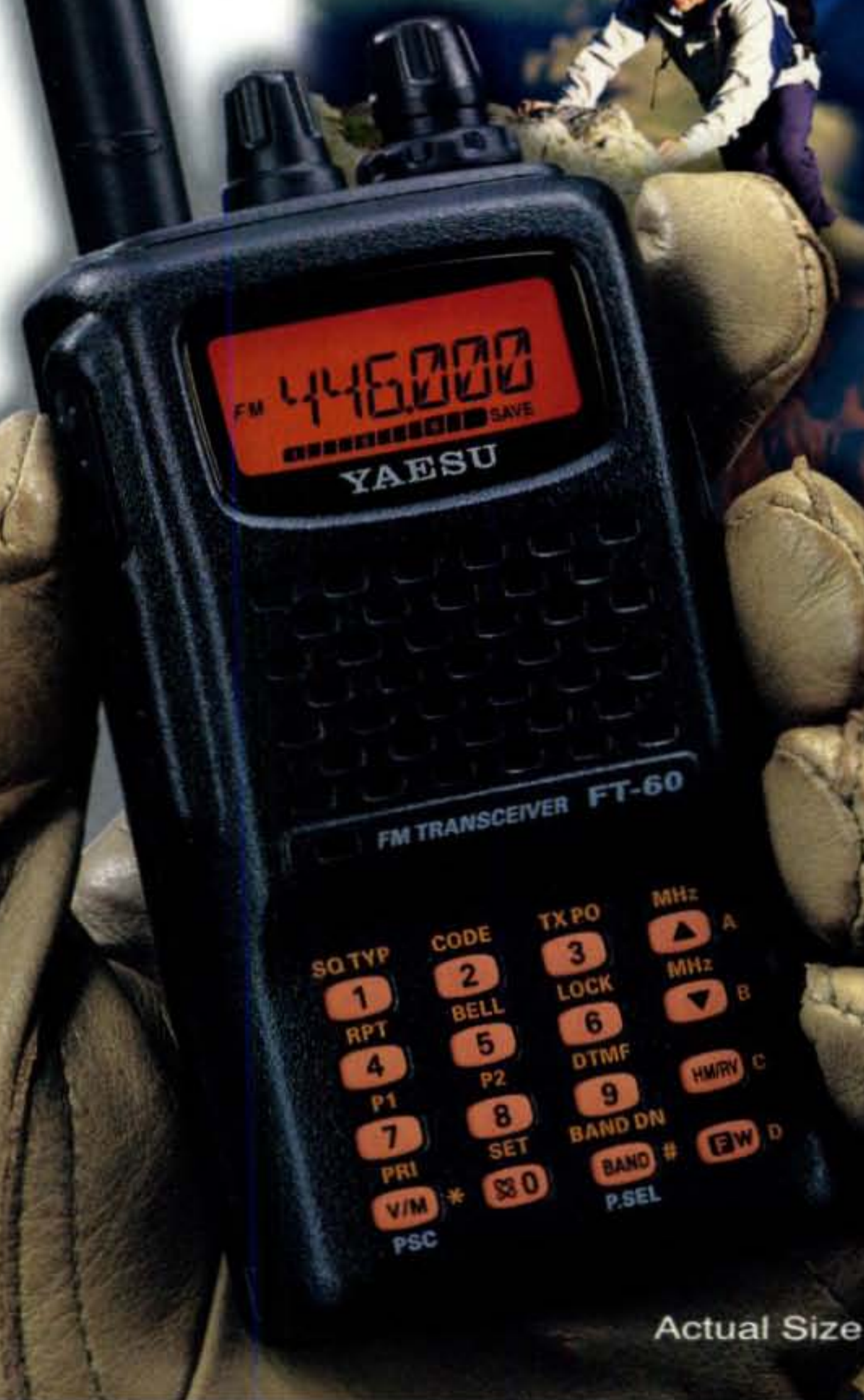
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