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Amateur Radio

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COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

SEPTEMBER 2008



- **CW Results, 2007 CQ WW DX Contest, p. 13**
- **CQ Reviews: TW Antennas TW-2010 Traveler, p. 24**
- **More New Goodies from Dayton, p. 32**

On the Cover: Tommy Tow, WD4K, on his tower outside his station in Joelton, Tennessee. Details on page 98.



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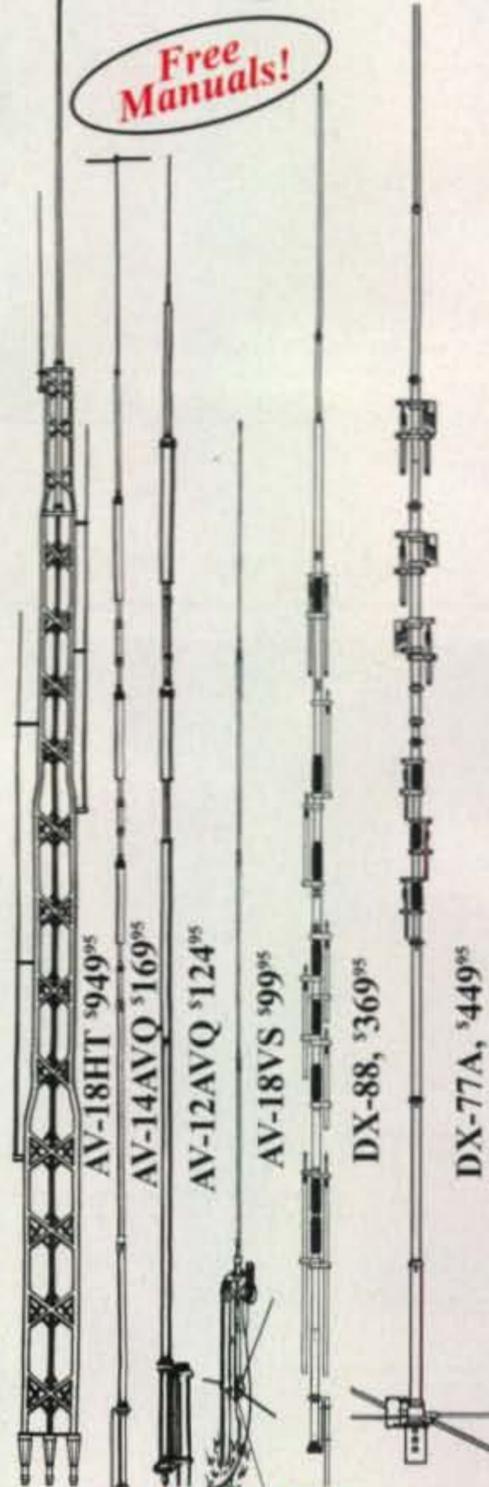
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AV-14AVQ, \$169.95. (10,15,20,40 Meters). 18 ft., 9 lbs. The Hy-Gain AV-14AVQ uses the same trap design as the famous Hy-Gain Thunderbird beams. Three separate air dielectric Hy-Q traps with oversize coils give superb stability and 1/4 wave resonance on all bands. Roof mount with Hy-Gain AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

AV-12AVQ, \$124.95. (10, 15, 20 Meters). 13 ft., 9 lbs. AV-12AVQ also uses Thunderbird beam design air dielectric traps for extremely Hy-Q performance. This is the way to go for inexpensive tri-band performance in limited space. Roof mount with AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

AV-18VS, \$99.95. (10,12,15,17,20,30,40,80 Meters). 18 ft., 4 lbs. High quality construction and low cost make the AV-18VS an exceptional value. Easily tuned to any band by adjusting feed point at the base loading coil. Roof mount with Hy-Gain AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

DX-88, \$369.95. (10, 12, 15,17,20,30,40,80 Meters, 160 Meters optional). 25 ft., 18 lbs.

All bands are easily tuned with the DX-88's exclusive adjustable capacitors. 80 and 40 Meters can even be tuned from the ground without having to lower the antenna. Super heavy-duty construction. DX-88 OPTIONS: 160 Meter add-on kit, KIT-160-88, \$199.95. Ground Radial System, GRK-88, \$99.95. Roof Radial System, RRK-88, \$99.95.

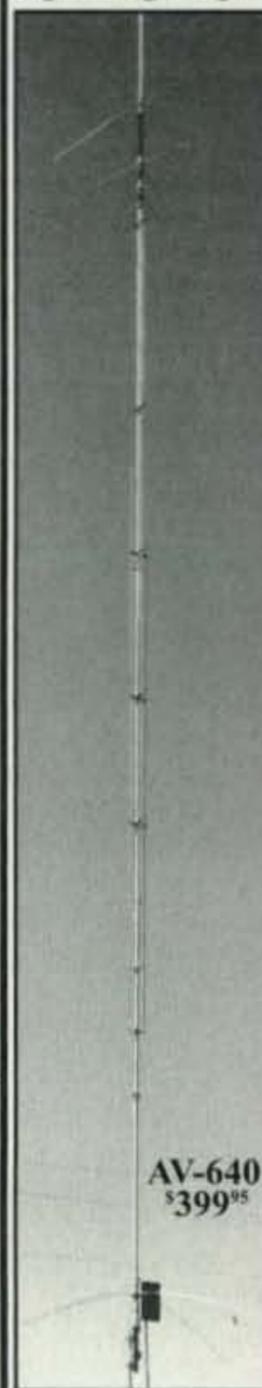
DX-77A, \$449.95. (10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40 Meters). 29 ft., 25 lbs.

No ground radials required! Off-center-fed Windom has 55% greater bandwidth than competitive verticals. Heavy-duty tiltable base. Each band independently tunable.

Model #	Price	Bands	Max Power	Height	Weight	Wind Surv.	Rec. Mast
AV-18HT	\$949.95	10,15,20,40,80	1500 W PEP	53 feet	114 pounds	75 MPH	-----
AV-14AVQ	\$169.95	10,15,20,40	1500 W PEP	18 feet	9 pounds	80 MPH	1.5-1.625"
AV-12AVQ	\$124.95	10/15/20 M	1500 W PEP	13 feet	9 pounds	80 MPH	1.5-1.625"
AV-18VS	\$99.95	10 - 80 M	1500 W PEP	18 feet	4 pounds	80 MPH	1.5-1.625"
DX-88	\$369.95	10 - 40 M	1500 W PEP	25 feet	18 pounds	75 mph w/guy	1.5-1.625"
DX-77A	\$449.95	10 - 80 M	1500 W PEP	29 feet	25 pounds	60 mph w/guy	1.5-1.625"

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AV-620, \$299.95.

(6,10,12,15,17,20 Meters). 22.5 ft., 10.5 lbs. The AV-620 covers all bands 6 through 20 Meters with no traps, no coils, no radials yielding an uncompromised signal across all bands.

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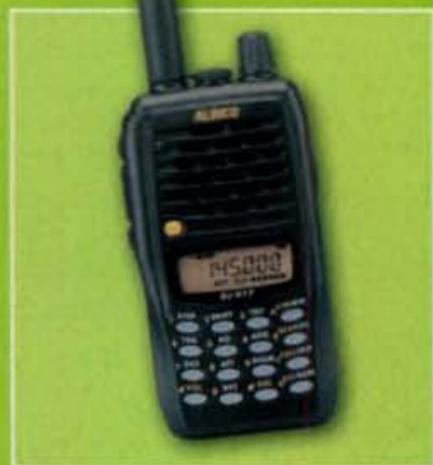
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Frequency range:
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- Tone burst function (1,000, 1450, 1750 and 2100Hz)
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- Ergonomic design, fits in the palm of your hand
- Wire cloning capability
- Ni-MH standard and varieties of optional batteries including Li-ION packs
- 2-level attenuator
- Single pin speakermic/programming jack

Included Accessories:

- Ni-MH battery pack EBP-65 (7.2V 700mA)
- Wall-charger
- Flexible whip antenna
- Belt clip
- Hand strap
- Instruction manual

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NASA: Nothing's Wrong With the Sun

Responding to reports that the current solar minimum is lasting "longer than it should," and that this might be the beginning of another "Maunder Minimum"—a 70-year stretch from the mid-1600s to the late 1700s during which there were very few sunspots—NASA solar physicist David Hathaway says there is nothing to worry about. "The ongoing lull in the sunspot number is well within historic norms for the solar cycle," he told NASA Science News. He dismissed talk of a second Maunder Minimum, noting that "we have already observed a few sunspots from the next solar cycle ... This suggests that the solar cycle is progressing normally." Hathaway predicts the next solar maximum will be just three or four years away.

Trouble with HF Digital Voice Programs

This story was still developing as we went to press, but it appears that a significant legal issue has arisen regarding hams' rights to use the engine behind several new HF digital voice modes, including WinDRM, DRMDV and FDMDV. According to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, of "Amateur Radio // Video News," all of these programs use a "codec," or coding and decoding algorithm, known as MELP, which was designed for the U.S. military and for NATO, but apparently never licensed for free distribution to or use by hams.

In response, the original versions of the software were pulled out of distribution and developers quickly changed WinDRM and FDMDV to work around an open-source code. At press time, the revised version of FDMDV was back online, and an updated WinDRM program was expected soon (DRMDV, which never really caught on, has been dropped). Pearce says users of these programs will need to download the new versions to stay compatible ... and legal. He also notes that the audio quality is not as good in the newer version as in the original, because the original codec was designed specifically for HF use. (Note that a different codec is used by the AOR digital voice modems and by D-Star, so they were not affected by this situation.)

Riley Retires ... For Real This Time

The man who brought law and order back to amateur radio has retired. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, wrote his final warning notice on June 26 (to a coal mining company using 2-meter radios in its mines), then hung up his pink slips on July 3. He had originally planned to retire this past January, but changed his mind when an interference problem cropped up between several hundred 70-centimeter amateur repeaters and the Air Force "PAVE PAWS" radar system. Not wanting to drop such a sensitive matter into the lap of a newcomer, Hollingsworth decided to delay his retirement until the immediate problems were resolved and a mechanism was in place to deal with future problems.

For the past ten years, Hollingsworth has been the "face" of FCC enforcement in the Amateur Service, assigned to be the chief enforcer of Part 97 of the FCC rules as part of a commission-wide effort in the late 1990s to put teeth back into its enforcement efforts. The ham bands, in particular, had been a virtual enforcement void since the mid-1980s. Riley is quick to assure anyone who asks that his departure will not mean an end to amateur enforcement, and that a qualified successor (not yet named at press time) will pick up where he left off. Riley plans to remain involved in amateur radio, starting by spending more time on the air.

ARRL, FCC Meet on BPL

Top officials of the ARRL met with staff members of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) in July to discuss "a possible regulatory approach" for Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL, after the U.S. Court of Appeals sent the FCC's BPL rules back to the Commission after deciding that two of ARRL's major complaints were correct. According to the *ARRL Letter*, League President Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, made proposals that "would address the needs and concerns of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding harmful interference ... while imposing the minimum necessary regulatory obligations on BPL deployments." There was no indication as to whether the FCC staff was receptive to those proposals.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals ordered the FCC to reimburse a portion of the ARRL's expenses relating to the suit over the BPL rules.

ARRL to Red Cross: Still Some Problems with Background Checks

The ARRL has notified the American Red Cross that a few sticking points remain with regard to the Red Cross policy requiring background checks for all volunteers, including those volunteering indirectly, through ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service. In a letter, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, says the language in the Authorization for Background Investigation consent form and the Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation form is still overly broad and may "discourage substantial numbers of radio amateurs from participating." However, he also made a point of saying that discussions on a renewed Statement of Understanding between the two organizations should not be delayed while these matters are resolved. The formal agreement between ARRL and Red Cross expired in 2007. Renewal talks were initially put on hold until the dispute over the background checks could be resolved.

Kansas Ham, Son, Killed During Antenna Installation

Edward Thomas, KCØTIG, and his son, Jacob, both of Kansas City, Kansas, were killed July 13th when an antenna they were installing apparently came in contact with high voltage overhead electrical lines. According to the *ARRL Letter*, Thomas_a ham since 2004—was declared dead at the scene from electrocution. His son died later in the day at the hospital. A local ham who works for the power company and says he built and maintained the substation that served Thomas' neighborhood says the overhead line carried 7620 volts. He noted that the antenna they were installing was fiberglass, but pointed out that the fiberglass merely covers a metal radiating element and that a thin coating of fiberglass is no match for 7000 volts. He reminds everyone—and we join him—that antennas and power lines do not mix. Any antenna should be installed far enough away from any power line that it can fall in any direction without making contact, or even coming close.

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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750W PEP Desktop Linear

Features

- Solid State.
- The amplifier's decoder changes bands automatically with most ICOM, Kenwood, Yaesu.
- The amp utilizes an advanced 16 bit MPU (microprocessor) to run the various high speed protection circuits such as overdrive, high antenna SWR, DC overvoltage, band miss-set etc.
- Built in power supply.
- AC (200/220/235/240V) and (100/110/115/120V) selectable.
- Equipped with a control cable connection socket, for the HC-1.5KAT, auto antenna tuner by Tokyo Hy-Power Labs.

Specifications

Frequency: 1.8 - 28MHz all amateur bands including WARC bands and 50MHz	AC Power: AC 240V default (200/220/235) - 10 A max. AC 120V (100/110/115) - 20 A max.
Mode: SSB, CW, RTTY	Dimensions: 10.7 x 5.6 x 14.3 inches (WxHxD)/272 x 142 x 363 mm
RF Drive: 85W typ. (100W max.)	Weight: Approx. 20kgs. or 45.5lbs.
Output Power: HF 1kW PEP max. 50MHz 650W PEP max.	Optional Items: Auto Antenna Tuner (HC-1.5KAT) External Cooling Fan (HXT-1.5KF for high duty cycle RTTY)
Circuit: Class AB parallel push-pull	Accessories Included: Band Decoder Cables included for Kenwood, ICOM and some Yaesu
Cooling Method: Forced Air Cooling	

Features

- Solid State.
- This world-class compact 750W HF amplifier is the easiest to handle and operate.
- The amplifier's broadband characteristics require no further tuning once the operating band is selected.
- The amplifier allows operation in full break-in CW mode due to the use of the amplifier's high speed antenna relays
- Quiet operation allows for even the weakest DX signals
- The amp utilizes a sophisticated circuit to run the various high speed protection circuits.

Specifications

Frequency: 1.8 - 28MHz all amateur bands including WARC bands	AC Power: 1.4kVA max. when TX AC 100/110/115/120V, AC 200/220/230/240V
Mode: SSB, CW, RTTY	Dimensions: 9.1 x 5.6 x 14.3 inches (WxHxD)
RF Drive: 75 - 90W	Weight: Approx. 33lbs.
Output Power: SSB 750W PEP max., CW 650W, RTTY 400W	
Circuit: Class AB parallel push-pull	
Cooling Method: Forced Air Cooling	

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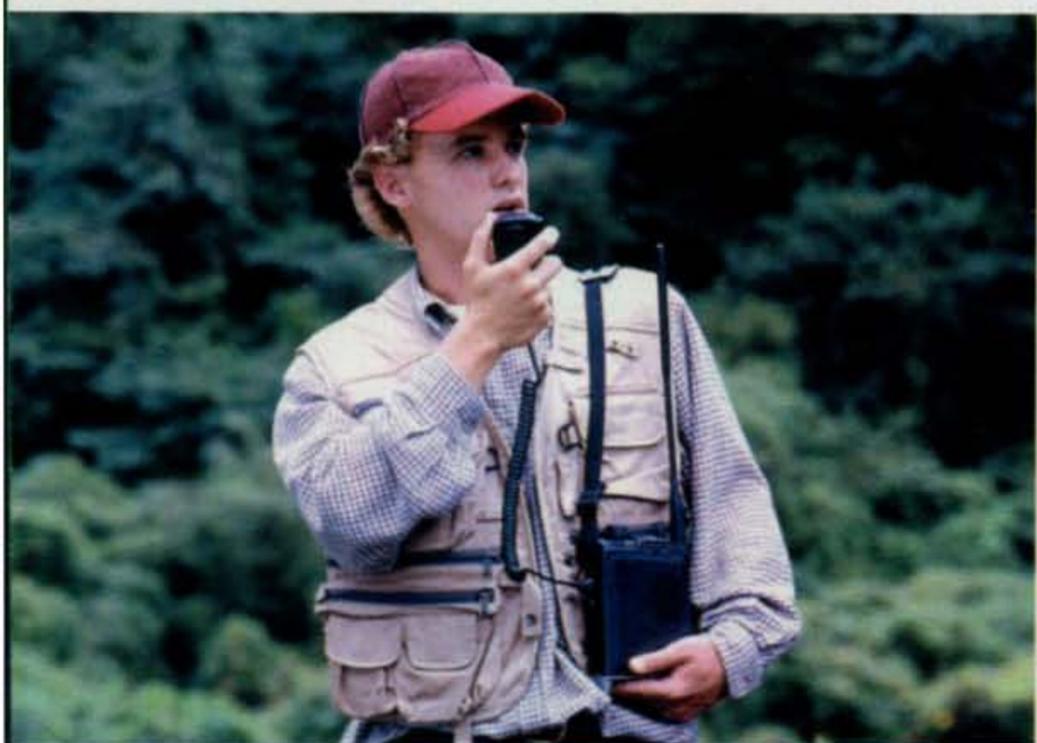
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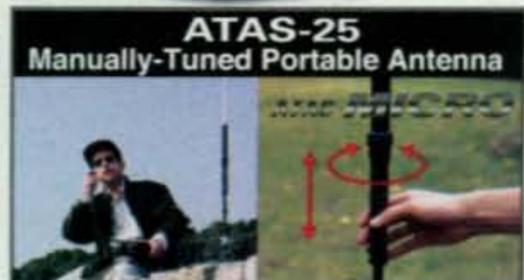
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- Built-in high stability TCXO (± 0.5 ppm after 1 minute @ 77 ° F)
- Built-in automatic antenna tuner ATU, with 100 memories
- Powerful CW operating capabilities for CW enthusiasts
- Five Voice Message memories, with the optional DVS-6 unit

- Large Multi-color VFD (Vacuum Fluorescent Display)
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- Optional RF μ -Tune Units for 160 m, 80/40 m and 30/20 m Bands

Optional External Data Management Unit (DMU-2000) Provides Many Display Capabilities



Shown with after-market keyer paddle, keyboard, and monitor (not included)

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HF/50 MHz 100 W All Mode Transceiver

FT-450 Automatic Antenna Tuner ATU-450 optional

FT-450AT With Built-in ATU-450 Automatic Antenna Tuner



Compact size : 9" X 3.3" x 8.5" and Light weight : 7.9 lb

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Vanishing Act?

What does ham radio have in common with wild horses and pit toilets? Well, according to America Online, all three are among the "Top 25 Things Vanishing from America." Unfortunately, there is no indication from the editors of "Walletpop.com," part of AOL Money & Finance, as to what their criteria were for selecting items for the list or for assessing the qualifications of the writers of each segment. Also unfortunately, the piece was a "main page feature" on AOL the day it appeared, so it was promoted to several million AOL users. Also unfortunately (well, fortunately in the larger sense), the story was wrong, at least in certain key points.

Author Tom Barlow, N8NLO, whose credentials appear to include being a writer and holding a ham license, says that in the past five years, "the number of people holding active licenses has dropped by 50,000..." He follows that by saying, "(a)s cell phones and the Internet siphon off much of what once attracted people to amateur radio, the nation's ham radio population is graying rapidly... All these elements speak to a long, slow diminishment of a pastime that began with Marconi."

There is no denying that our total licensing numbers have fallen in the past five years, and I won't even quibble too much with Tom's numbers (the actual drop was 33,000 from 2003–2007, with growth of 4,000 from 2007–2008, so he's only off by roughly a factor of two). But let's look at some important background to these numbers. The total number of licensees started falling in May of 2003, after reaching an all-time high of nearly 688,000, according to the AH0A website. That date is significant because it is just over 12 years from February 1991, when the first codeless Technician licenses were issued.

At that time, there were indeed many people who were attracted to ham radio by repeater autopatches for making phone calls from their cars and "free" e-mail via packet that operated at about the same speed as (or faster than) your typical dial-up computer modem of the day. As cell phones became ubiquitous and internet connections became faster and faster, many of the people who became hams solely to make phone calls or send e-mails did indeed drop out. Most of them had never really become part of the ham community, but their licenses remained on the FCC's books for a full ten years, plus a two-year grace period for renewal. Those first codeless Tech licenses that were not renewed began falling off the FCC's rolls in early 2003, exactly the point at which our overall numbers began to drop. Over the same period, though, there have been between 20,000 and 30,000 new licensees each year, so in the four years in which we lost 33,000 licensees overall, we also gained about 100,000 new real people. And now the overall trend is upward.

An interesting page to look at on the AH0A website is his "Average Months to Expiration" page. This is a figure that resets when a license is renewed. Anyone with more than 60 months remaining has either renewed or been issued a new license within the past five years. Between late 2000 and mid-2004, the trend was negative, with the average licensee being less than five years away from expiration. But the numbers have been climbing steadily since the middle of 2004, and except for Novice licensees, all license classes have been over 60 months since October 2006. In the most recent three months (April, May, June 08), the average ham was about 68.2 months away from license expiration—an all time high since AH0A began tallying these figures in 1999. What this means is that the average ham today is operating with a license that has been issued or renewed within the past five years, and this is a very healthy sign for our future.

Shooting Ourselves in the Foot

What *does* worry me, though, is our collective tendency to shoot ourselves in the foot, especially when we create a

negative image of ham radio in an effort to promote it. A recent article in the Rochester *Democrat Chronicle* newspaper about a high school radio club quoted its adviser as saying, "There's no secret that ham radio is an older man's hobby ... If we can get young kids interested, maybe we'll save the hobby from extinction." Of course, we don't really know how many young people are getting into ham radio these days because the FCC no longer releases birthdate information. Many of us who are active today got our starts as teenagers and we tend to think that there was much greater interest in ham radio among teens 30 or 40 years ago than there is now. I'm not so sure about that. My high school radio club had about 10 members and a half dozen licensed hams, out of several hundred students in the school. One of our local radio clubs made a point of inviting us to attend its meetings and join its activities, but we were the only kids there, maybe two or three at a time. The rest of the club was made up of "older men."

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see our report on this year's Newsline Young Ham of the Year, Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, who is neither old nor a man. Neither are the six other young women among this year's 30 YHOTY nominees. The article also includes a rundown of this year's scholarship winners from the Foundation for Amateur Radio. Of the 49 winners, 14 are young women. Last month, we pointed out the work done by ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, on revitalizing the ARRL staff radio club. Katie, again, is neither old nor a man. I think we're seeing a trend here, but it's not the one that's being shared with the media by so many other hams.

N8NLO (the author of the AOL piece), responding to the many comments disagreeing with his perspective, said he hopes they are right but that "I've seen local clubs no longer able to field volunteers for events or hold Field Day." That may be so, and one could argue that the hobby is in trouble if the staff radio club at its national organization headquarters was falling into inactivity, but the real story there is how two of those staff members, one young and inexperienced as a ham, managed to turn it all around. On a similar note, Ted Randall, WB8PUM, who produces a radio program about ham radio on international shortwave, has a story on his website, <<http://www.tedrandall.com/pages/good-stuff.php>>, about a new, young, ham in Tennessee who was looking forward to attending his first hamfest when he learned that the sponsoring club had been disbanded and that the hamfest would be cancelled. John Rhoades, KJ4EVN, got in touch with another young ham, Matt Klimkowski, KG4WXX, and along with a couple of other young hams, decided to try to run the hamfest on their own. When word of the effort reached Dr. Michael Barrett, President of TW Antennas in nearby Cookeville (see review of the TW 2010 in this issue), he immediately agreed to sponsor the hamfest and cover the costs, so not only was admission free, but so was the food! Attendance wasn't great, as there was still confusion over whether the event was on or not. What really matters, though, is that this group of young hams is already hard at work planning next year's hamfest!

Final item: One of my son's friends from high school is a film major in college. Assigned to produce a mini-documentary for a class, he picked ham radio as his topic. I don't know if he ever finished the program, but along the way, he went out and got his Tech license and last I heard, he was teaching himself Morse code!

You know, maybe they're right ... maybe this hobby of old men *is* dying ... and being replaced by a hobby led increasingly by young men and women who aren't always satisfied to play with toys that other people have built, but want to build and design their own toys for the rest of us to play with. Ham radio is dead! Long live ham radio!

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Brake Construction	Electric Wedge
Bearing Assembly	Triple race/138 ball brngs
Mounting Hardware	Clamp plate/steel U-bolts
Control Cable Conductors	8
Shipping Weight	31 lbs.
Effective Moment (in tower)	3400 ft.-lbs.

CD-45II Rotator Specifications

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

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\$289⁹⁵



AR-40 Rotator Specifications

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

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

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Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest – Sponsored by the Portage (OH) County ARS, this event will take place September 6 from 1600–2400 Z on CW, SSB, FM, AM, and Digital modes on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters. Activate one of the 73 Ohio State Parks. For information, rules, log sheets, and park information go to: <<http://parks.portcars.org>>.

Southeastern DX Club 50th Anniversary Celebration Contest – September 20–21 from 1800–0200Z, Atlanta, Georgia. Open to stations worldwide. Members will sign their call/50. For rules, times, exchange, etc., go to: <<http://www.sedxc.org/50thcontest>>.

The following special event stations are scheduled for Sept.:

N2UL, from CQ Labor Day, Nutley, New Jersey; Robert D. Grant United Labor ARA; 1200–2400Z Sept. 1 on 28.420, 21.360, 14.260, 449.975 (W2LI) MHz. For certificate send QSL and SASE to RDGULARA, c/o WA2VJA, 112 Prospect St., Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.

W2FHA, from 10th anniversary of the Town of German Flatts, Living History Weekend, Fort Herkimer Church, Dolgeville, NY; Ft. Herkimer ARA; Sept. 27 from 12–5 PM EST on 7.240 and 14.240 MHz. For certificate send QSL and SASE to: Ft. Herkimer ARA, 28 West State St., Dolgeville, NY 13329. <www.fhara.net>

W4PL, from activation of Hattaras Island (North Carolina State East group, IOTA NA-067; Tennessee Valley DX Association; 1900Z Sept. 27 to Oct. 4 on 80 meters HF (SSB, CW, with some PRK and RTTY), and 6 meters SSB and CW. QSL via K4KWK direct (SASE) or via the bureau. <www.tvdxa.com>

K5R, commemorating the landfalls of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Louisiana; Southeast Louisiana ARC; 1400–2000Z Sept. 13 on 7.250 and 14.250 MHz \pm QRM. For QSL send QSL and SASE to Scott Hernandez, K5R, 957 Nancy St., Mandeville, LA 70448. <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K5R>>

W5SLA, from 44th birthday of the Ozone ARC, Louisiana; 8 AM to 5 PM CDT on CW 7.120 MHz and SSB 14.257 MHz, \pm QRM. For certificate send QSL and 9 \times 12 SASE to Michael White, 404 Holmes Dr., Slidell, LA 70460.

K6P, in recognition of National POW-MIA Day, Santa Ana, California; Sept. 18–21 on 14.253, 21.350, 18.150, 7.250 MHz. Send QSL and SASE to Mark McMullen, KM6HB, P.O. Box 27271, Santa Ana, CA 92799.

K7T, from 81st anniversary of the Invention of the Electronic TV by Philo Farnsworth, Utah; Utah DX Assn.; Sept. 1–15 on 14.260 and 7.260 MHz. For QSL send QSL and SASE to Wesley Wilkinson, W7WES, 7363 Galazy Hill Rd., West Jordan, UT 84081.

W9UVI, from 50th anniversary of Peoria Superfest, Peoria, Illinois; 1600–0000Z Sept. 20–21 on 14.240 and 7.240 MHz. For certificate send QSL and SASE to PAARC, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612-3508. <www.w9uvi.org>

The following hamfests, etc., are slated for Sept.:

Sept. 6, **Grand Rapids Area Hamfest**, Kent County Fairgrounds, Lowell, Michigan. Contact Jack Amelar, NY8D, e-mail <grahamfest08@w8dc.org>, phone evenings 616-897-6885, <<http://www.grahamfest.org>>. (Talk-in 147.26+ [94.8 Hz], 146.52; exams 10 AM)

Sept. 13–14, **Radio Expo 2008**, Boone County Fairgrounds, Belvidere, Illinois. Information call 708-457-0966; <<http://www.chicagofmclub.org>>. (Talk-in 146.76– [107.2 PL], 147.255+ [114.8 PL], 444.725+ [118.8 PL], exams)

Sept. 14, **Western CT Hamfest**, Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, Connecticut. Contact Joe de Groot, AB1DO, e-mail <ab1do@arrl.net>, phone 203-938-4880, <www.danbury.org/cara/hamfest.html>. (Talk-in 147.30+ PL 100)

Sept. 20, **W9DXCC Convention & Banquet**, Holiday Inn, Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Contact Bill Smith, W9VA, e-mail <w9va@aol.com>, phone 847-945-1564, <www.w9dxcc.com>.

Sept. 20, **RI FM Repeater Service '76 Auction & Fleamarket**, VFW Post 6342, Forestdale (N. Smithfield), Rhode Island. Contact Rick Fairweather, K1KYI, e-mail <k1kyi@arrl.net>, phone 401-864-9611 (7–8 PM only). (Talk-in 146.76)

Sept. 20–21, **Peoria Superfest 2008**, Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds, Peoria, Illinois. Information call 309-692-3378, e-mail <w9uvi@arrl.net>, <<http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>>. (Talk-in 147.075+ PL 103.5; exams Saturday)

Sept. 21, **Gloucester County ARC Hamfest**, 4H Fairgrounds, Mullica Hill, New Jersey. Information: <<http://users.tellurian.com/freddie/w2mmd/hamfest.html>>.

Sept. 26–28, **2008 ARRL/TARPR Digital Communications Conference**, Holiday Inn, Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Information call TAPR, 972-671-8277; <www.tapr.org/dcc/>

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A publication of

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

CQ Amateur Radio (ISSN 0007-893X) is published monthly by CQ Communications, Inc., 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801, Telephone 516-681-2922; Fax 516-681-2926. E-mail: cq@cq-amateur-radio.com. Web site: www.cq-amateur-radio.com. Periodicals Postage Paid at Hicksville, NY 11801 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription prices (all in U.S. dollars): Domestic-one year \$36.95, two years \$66.95, three years \$96.95; Canada/Mexico-one year \$49.95, two years \$92.95, three years \$135.95; Foreign Air Post-one year \$61.95, two years \$116.95, three years \$171.95. U.S. Government Agencies: Subscriptions to CQ are available to agencies of the United States government including military services, only on a cash with order basis. Requests for quotations, bids, contracts, etc., will be refused and will not be returned or processed. Entire contents copyrighted by CQ Communications, Inc. 2008. CQ does not assume responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts. Allow six weeks for change of address.

Printed in the U.S.A.
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Results of the 2007 CQ WW DX CW Contest

BY BOB COX,* K3EST

Expanded CQ WW Contest Results on the Web

Several elements of our contest reporting are on the CQ website, including Station Operators of Multi-Op stations and expanded QRM. To view them go to <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>>, then click on "Expanded results, 2007 CQ WW CW" 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, 2007 CQ WW CW."

The 2007 CQ WW DX CW Contest is always an event looked forward to by many contesters around the world. You never know what propagation will provide, but you can be sure the CQ WW will provide activity from stations located in exotic locations. Lots of activity was heard as contesters filled the airwaves. Once again the propagation favored the low bands. One-sixty really showed what it could provide with several stations working over 100 countries. Look at the scores on the low bands and you will see many new records were set. Still, the high bands provided everyone with plenty of contacts. It was a real challenge to be on 10 or 15 meters at the right time to catch the 10-minute opening to somewhere. This "magic" is what makes radio and contesting so much fun. You just never know what the conditions will provide. The sun is taking its time to ramp up the next cycle. Even with a low solar flux index, a new CW logs received record was set. The number of CW entrants is growing right along with SSB.

The CQ WW has something for everyone: contesting, DX hunting, prefix hunting, IOTA activations, club participation and much more. All you have to do to take part in the biggest ham radio contesting event of the year is turn on your radio and listen. If you do that you soon will be drawn into the excitement of making QSOs. Once you jump into the contest, it is very hard to get out of the QSO pool. This year there was activity from over 240 DXCC countries.

As has been mentioned before, the CQ WW is a fantastic competition which brings out the best in amateur radio: team work, station construction, antenna erection, operating skill, and most of fun. The CQ WW is a celebration of ham radio skill and effort. New hams and old timers who participate in the CQ WW become hooked. What follows are the results of the 2007 CQ WW CW contest. Everyone who enters is a winner!

High Power

The High Power Single Operator category is a real challenge. The competition is intense and causes entrants to bring all their skills to the event. Again this year propagation favored the low bands. Conditions on 160 meters were really outstanding. To take advantage of this unexpected windfall, the top operators had to catch the right band openings, especially on 10

meters. The three operators who finished on top of the world are all well-established contesters. After all the log checking was completed, Hrane, YT1AD, operating from 3V2A, had the world's highest score. Hrane put eastern zone 33 on the map. Second place went to John, W2GD, P40W. John put his considerable contesting talent to great use. John said, "I actually enjoy the bottom of the sunspot cycle with its enhanced propagation on 160/80/40. On the other hand, I miss the endless runs of EU and NA on 10 meters. Hopefully next year both will be true as the spots begin their return." Third place world went to V47NT operated by Andy, N2LT. He observed, "It's all in the location." This explains all the wonderful DXpeditions during the contest. Travel to a DX location and you too can run them all the time.

In the U.S., Randy, K5ZD/1, continued his dominance of in this category. He sure took advantage of the band openings to overpower his competitors. Second place in the U.S. went to Alexander, LZ4UU, putting K3CR in central Pennsylvania on the map. Third place U.S. was taken by Krassy, K1LZ. He noted, "I am glad that there are still a lot of SO2R operators and friends who gave me a lot of drive for future contests."

In Europe, top honors again were taken by the Azores' station CU2A located in far western Europe. Toni, OH2UA, keyed CU2A to outdistance all competitors. Second place in Europe went to Ben, DL6FBL, who operated from SV9CVY. Ben had a it right when he said, "I knew that with existing propagation most of my QSOs in the contest would be with Europe. The signal path to W/VE is directly over EU, and without sunspots W/VE is far away from here, so chances for good W/VE runs were marginal. Being closer to Asia surely helped regarding signal strength, but QSO numbers are no longer high from that part of the world." Third place in Europe went to Ranko, 4O3A. Special mention must be made of A45XR, who was 5th in the world from Asia. The fine jobs turned in by CN3A (IK2QEI), 9K2HN (KL2A), 6W1RW (F6BEE), and 4L0A (UU4JMG) are all to be commended.

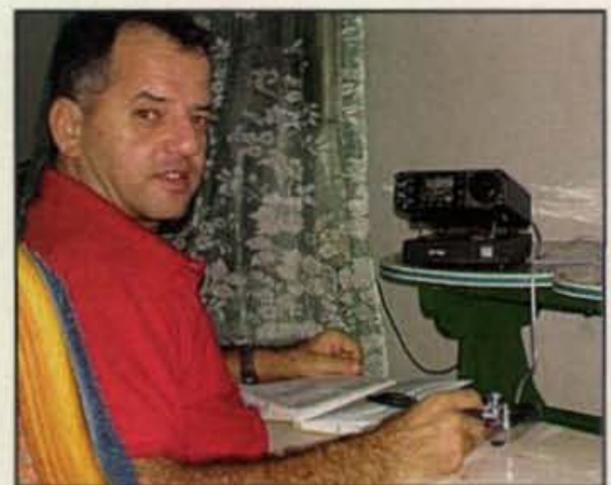
The continental winners were: North America: V47NT (N2NT), Africa: 3V2A (YT1AD), Asia: A45XR, Europe: CU2A (OH2UA), Oceania: VK9AA(VK2IA), South America: P40W (W2GD), Japan: JH4UYB, and U.S.: K5ZD/1.

Low Power

Low Power is the most popular CQ WW cate-



Dani, EA5FV, was #1 All Band, High Power for Spain.



Darko, J2800 (T95A), gave out a new one, Djibouti, to many.

gory. Anyone with a transceiver and an antenna can enter the low power group. To end up on top in LP takes skill, planning, and operating from the right location. The saltwater enhancement provided by an island location sure makes up for monster antennas. However, if you want to try to finish near the top of the Low Power category, you will have to put in a real effort.

Perennial low power winner Bud, AA3B, again keyed V26K to number one world. Second place world went to Dimitri, RA3CO, who traveled to Colombia to activate HK1AR. Great job, Dimitri. Third place in this tough category went to H7/K9NW. Mike says, "Spent very little time tuning for mults but ultimately a decent number found me and I ended up with a reasonable score to boot." You sure did!

Reprising his SSB win, Art, K1BX, took top U.S. honors. He put together the right strategy to win. Still he commented, "Gave up lots of 20-meter QSOs to get mults on 10 and 15." A lot of people probably did the same thing. Second place U.S. went to Paul, K1PT. Third place went to Marvin, N5AW. Marv had over 100 countries on 40 meters low power. That is not easy.

The top European scorer was CT6A operated by Filipe, CT1ILT. Filipe had this to report, "160 meters was great to USA. I just don't understand how USA could hear me quite well and Europeans couldn't! I was just sorry not

*e-mail: <k3est@cqww.com>

TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

**SINGLE OPERATOR
ALL BAND
World**
3V2A (Opr.: Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD)
Donor: K4FW Memorial (Scott Robbins, W4PA)

World Low Power
V26K (Opr.: Joseph Trench, AA3B)
Donor: Slovenia Contest Club

World QRPp
6V7D (Opr.: Paul Young, K1XM)
Donor: Gene Walsh, N2AA

World Assisted
ER8WW (Opr.: Sergiy Rebrov, UT5UDX)
Donor: Robert McGwier, N4HY

USA
Randy Thompson, K5ZD/1
Donor: Frankford Radio Club

USA Low Power
Arthur Hambleton, K1BX
Donor: North Coast Contesters

USA QRP
K8CC (Opr.: Ulrich Ann, KK8I)
Donor: Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ

USA - Zone 3
Glenn Rattmann, K6NA
Donor: Central Arizona DX Association

USA - Zone 4
Alex Tkatch, KU1CW/B
Donor: The Society of Midwest Contesters

Canada
Jeffrey Briggs, VY2ZM
Donor: John Sluymer, VE3EJ & Jim Roberts, VE7ZO

Carib./C.A.
V47NT (Opr.: Andrew Blank, N2NT)
Donor: Chuck Shinn, W7MAP

Europe
CU2A (Opr.: Toni Linden, OH2UA)
Donor: W3AU Memorial (Pete Raymond, N4KW)

Europe - Low Power
CT6A (Opr.: Filipe Monteiro Lopes)
Donor: Scott Jones, N3RA & Tim Duffy, K3LR

Scandinavia
OF8X (Opr.: Marko Holmavuo, OH4JFN)
Donor: W3FYS Memorial (Chas Weir, Jr., W6UM)

Russia
Vadim Ovsiannikov, UA9CLB
Donor: Roman Thomas, RZ3AA

Africa
CN3A (Opr.: Stefano Brioschi, IK2QEI)*
Donor: Gordon Marshall, W6RR

Asia
Chris Dabrowski, A45XR
Donor: Chuck Shinn, W7MAP

Japan
Masaki Masa Okano, JH4UYB
Donor: Tack Kumagai, JE1CKA

Japan - Low Power
Nobuhiro Iwasa, JH8SLS
Donor: Western Washington DX Club

Oceania
VK9AA (Opr.: Bernd Langer, VK2IA)
Donor: Chris Tran, ZL1CT

South America
P40W (Opr.: John Crovelli, W2GD)
Donor: Venezuela DX Club

**SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND
World - 28 MHz**
Juan Manuel Morandi, LU1HF
Donor: Joel Chalmers, KG6DX

World - 21 MHz
ZX5J (Opr.: Cark Cook, AI6V)
Donor: Lew Sayre, W7EW

World - 14 MHz
CN2AW (Opr.: Andrei Karpov, RV1AW)
Donor: W2JT Memorial (North Jersey DX Assn.)

World - 7 MHz
9Y4AA (Opr.: James Neiger, N6TJ)
Donor: Alex M. Kasevich, VP2MM

World - 3.5 MHz
CN2FB (Opr.: Dmitri Gorshkov, UA2FB)
Donor: Fred Capossela, K6SSS

World - 1.8 MHz
CN2FF (Opr.: Vladimir Gumennikov, UA2FF)
Donor: Kenneth Byers, Jr., K4TEA

USA - 28 MHz
Courtney Judd, K4WI
Donor: Wireless Institute of the Northeast

USA - 21 MHz
John S. Jarrett, K4FJ
Donor: Wayne Carroll, W4MPY

USA - 14 MHz
Ralph W. Bradford, Jr, K5GA
Donor: Northern Illinois DX Association

USA - 7 MHz
Paul H Newberry, Jr., N4PN
Donor: W6AM Memorial (Jan Perkins, N6AW)

USA - 3.5 MHz
Robye Lahlum, W1MK
Donor: Bill Feldt, NG3K

USA - 1.8 MHz
Theodore J. Demopoulos, KT1V
Donor: Jeff Briggs, K1ZM

Canada (14 MHz)
Christopher Llewellyn Allingham, VE3FU
Donor: John Sluymer, VE3EJ

Carib./C.A. (14 MHz)
HP1/DJ7AA (Opr.: Wilfried Gottschald, DJ7AA)
Donor: Bill Hein, NT1Y

Europe - 28 MHz
Meho Omerbasic, T930
Donor: Jay Pryor, K4OGG

Europe - 21 MHz
Kresimir Kovarik, E7/9A5K
Donor: Robert Naumann, W5OV

Europe - 14 MHz
CT8T (Opr.: Timo Klimoff, OH1NOA)
Donor: G3FXB Memorial (Maud Slater)

Europe - 7 MHz
OK5C (Opr.: Jiri Pesta, OK1RF)
Donor: Ivo Pezer, 9A3A

Europe - 3.5 MHz
ZB2X (Opr.: Jorma Saloranta, OH2KI)
Donor: K3VW Memorial (Frankford Radio Club)

Europe - 1.8 MHz
Jerzy Stanis, SP3BQ
Donor: Pat Barkey, N9RV & Terry Zivney, N4TZ

Japan - 21 MHz
Yasuji John Okamoto, JR3EOI
Donor: CQ magazine

Japan - 14 MHz
Kenji Koishi, JH3AIU
Donor: Chris Terkla, N1XS

Asia - 14 MHz
Steve Hodgson, ZC4LI
Donor: Andei Stchislenok, NP3D

**MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER
World**
C4N (Oprs.: 5B8AD, RV6LNA, RW4WR, UA9CDV, RN3QY)
Donor: Anthony Susen, W3AOH

U.S.A.
W3BGN (Oprs.: W3BGN, K2TW, NO2R)
Donor: Douglas Zwiebel, KR2Q

Canada
VE3HG (Oprs.: VE3HG, VE3KZ, VE3JAO, VA3EC, VA3HJ, VA3GGF, VE3RZ)
Donor: Eastern Canadian DX Assn.

Carib./C.A.
6Y1V (Oprs.: KY1V, W4OI, OH3RB)
Donor: Lone Star DX Association

Africa
S79UU (Oprs.: UA3AB, RA3AUU)
Donor: Harry Booklan, RA3AUU

Asia
RT9W (Oprs.: RU9WX, RX9WR, RW9WW, UA9WFM, RV9WHZ, RA9WW, R9W-498, RA9WR)*
Donor: Steve Merchant, K6AW

Europe
9A7A (Oprs.: 9A2X, 9A3TR, 9A3OS, 9A5X, 9A7V)
Donor: Bob Cox, K3EST

Japan
8N7TU (Oprs.: JE7HLZ, JG7PSJ, JO7JID, JO7DJT, JI5RPT, JJ5DWF, JH8NZN)
Donor: Madison Jones, W5MJ

Oceania - Pacific Rim
AH2R (Oprs.: JI3ERV, JR7OMD, JR8VSE, JEBKKX, JK3GAD)
Donor: Junichi Tanaka, JH4RHF

South America
PS2T (Oprs.: PS2T, PY2NDX, PY2YU, PY2EX)
Donor: Araucaria DX Group

**MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTER
World**
HC8N (Oprs.: N5KO, K6AW, N5OT, W9RE)
Donor: Array Solutions

USA
N3RS (Oprs.: N2SR, N3RD, N3ED, N3NA, N3RS, WA3LRO, W2UP, W8FJ)
Donor: Eric Scafe, K3NA

Europe
EA6IB (Oprs.: EA3AIR, EA3ALZ, EA3AVV, EA5BM, EA5GX, EA6BF, EA6FB, EA6FO, OZ1AA)
Donor: Aki Nagi, JA5DOH

**MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER
World**
3X5A (Oprs.: AA7A, G3SXW, G4BWP, G4IRN, GM3YTS, K4UEE, KC7V)
Donor: K2GL Memorial (Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q)

USA
W3LPL (Oprs.: W3LPL, K1HTV, NI1N, N2YO, ND3A, WX3B, N3KS, AI3M, K3MM, N3OC, K3RA, K3RV, N3UA, WR3Z, W3ZZ, KD4D, K4ZA, AC6WI)
Donor: N6RJ Memorial (Bob Ferrero, W6RJ)

Europe
LZ9W (Oprs.: LZ1PM, LZ1ZD, LZ1ANA, LZ1RGM, LZ1UQ, LZ1FG, LZ1PJ, LZ1GC, LZ1ZF, LZ4UU, LZ2CJ, LZ2FV, LZ2PU, LZ2UU, LZ2UZ, LZ3FN, LZ3FM, LZ3UM, LZ3SM, LZ4TX)
Donor: Finnish Amateur Radio League

Japan
JA5FDJ (Oprs.: JA1VQN, JM1UWB, JA5FDJ, JA5JCC, JH5FIS, JH5FXP, JH5RXS, JR5JAO, JR5VHU, JJ6WYS)
Donor: Ryozyo Goto, JH3JYS

WORLD - MULTI-MULTI SSB/CW COMBINED
K3LR: 29,908,123 Points
Donor: W0ID Alpha Award

USA - MULTI-MULTI SSB/CW COMBINED
K3LR: 29,908,123 Points
Donor: N8SM Memorial (Operators of K3LR)

**CONTEST EXPEDITIONS
World Single Operator**
VK9AA (Opr.: Bernd Langer, VK2IA)
Donor: Friends of Phil Goetz, N6ZZ

WORLD MULTI-OP
3X5A (Oprs.: AA7A, G3SXW, G4BWP, G4IRN, GM3YTS, K4UEE, KC7V)
Donor: Carl Cook, AI6V

**SPECIAL - SINGLE OPERATOR AWARD
World SSB/CW Combined**
8P5A (Opr.: Thomas Georgens, W2SC)
20, 613,468 Points
Donor: Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD

**CLUB
World SSB/CW**
Frankford Radio Club (266,909,574)
Donor: W1WY Memorial (CQ magazine)

Non-USA SSB/CW
Bavarian Contest Club (258,978,970)
Donor: N6AUV Memorial (Northern California Contest Club)

* Second Place

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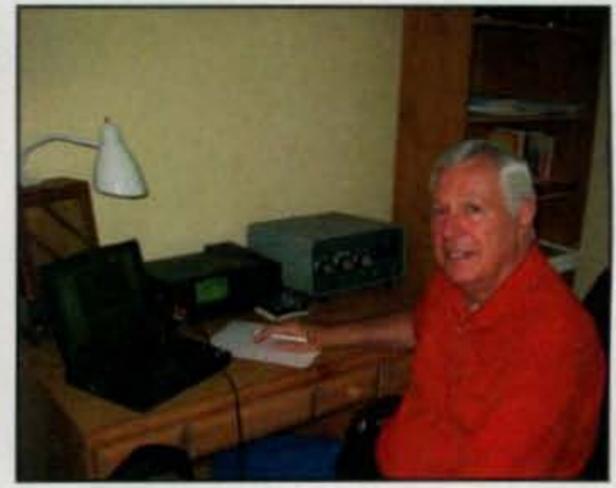
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Nodir, EY8MM, was #3 World on 1.8 MHz.



World #3, 28 MHz, was Rene, LU7HN.



Kevin, K4PG, did a fine job on 7 MHz.

having made a single QSO on 10 meters." Second place in Europe went to John, OM5XX. Third place went to OL6P, operated by Petr, OK2WTM. Special mention is made of the efforts of Willy, UA9BA, who was #5 in the world from zone 17! Turning in fine efforts were J88DR, C6AQQ, and EA8CN.

The continental winners were: North America: V26K (AA3B), Africa: EA8CN, Asia: UA9BA, Europe: CT6A (CT1ILT), Oceania: 9M6AAC (N1UR), South America: HK1AR (RA3CO), Japan: JH8SLS, and U.S.: K1BX.

QRP

The QRP category sure sharpens your search-and-pounce skills. Five watts can be lost in the QRM unless you happen to time your calls just right. Paul, K1XM, traveled to Senegal and activated 6V7D to take the top world QRP position. Paul commented, "Thanks to everyone who heard my weak signal, and especially to Francois, 6W7RV, for his help. Maybe this wasn't the best year to try QRP, but I operated low power last year and wanted to do something different." Congratulations, Paul! Second place world went to Didier, FY5FY. He said he had "poor 10 meters this year but some amazing QSOs on 160 with 5 watts." Rounding out the top world three was K8CC operated by Uli, KK8I. K8CC was also number one in the U.S. Uli made an interesting observation: "Propagation for a QRP station differs from propagation when running high power. While this seems to be obvious, a certain fluttery (I called it 'glazing') sound on the signals indicates that you will not get through with QRP despite a strong signal of the station you are trying to reach. You have to find the good waves in the ocean and ride them as long as you can. Typically, a good propagation situation does not last long for a QRP station, and you have to frequently look for opportunities on other bands."

Second place in the U.S. went to Doug, KR2Q, from northern New Jersey. Third place went to Tom, N1TM. Apparently Tom's antenna could only rotate between 0 and 115 degrees! QRP and 115 degrees to work with, wow!

In Europe, Antonin, OK7CM, keyed his way to first place. Just to the west was second place, Stefan, OM7DX, while third place went to Milan, OL4W (OK1IF), who rightly states the converse of the common idiom: "Life isn't so long to spend it with QRO." A special mention is made of the fine efforts of JR4DAH, SU8BHI, RA9SC, W6JTI, and V73NS.

The continental winners were: North America: K8CC (KK8I), Africa: 6V7D (K1XM), Asia: JR4DAH, Europe: OK7CM, Oceania:

V73NS, South America: FY5FY, Japan: JR4DAH, and U.S.: K8CC (KK8I).

Assisted

The traditional QSO-alerting system has undergone a technical leap since the 2007 contest. The availability of CW decoding devices over a wide spectrum has stirred up a lot of interest. It will be interesting to see how "Skimmer or Skimmer-like" technology will change how assisted stations operate. As the rules indicate (see the 2008 contest rules elsewhere in this issue), use of these devices places the entrant in the Assisted category. CQ embraces these exciting new technologies.

This year's world top score went to Sergey, UT5UDX. He keyed ER0WW to #1 world and #1 Europe. Sergey commented, "Enjoyed the contest a lot. Congratulations to all my friends who made a good score under difficult conditions." Second place world and second place in Europe went to Manfred, operating from beautiful southern Germany. Manfred said, "Quite astonishing what can be worked during the bottom of the sunspot cycle, but CQWW has its own rules with great activity. Long live CW!" We second that opinion! Third place in the world went to Ricardo, CT3KN. Third place in Europe went to HG3DX, operated by HA3MY. Here in the U.S., the Frankford Radio Club prevailed by taking all three top slots. Charles, K3WW, who constantly finishes in the top two U.S. Assisted, took top honors. Second place in the U.S. went to Rick, K3OO, and third place went to Noah, K2NG. Special mention is made of the trio of assisted stations who gave everyone nice multipliers: IH9U, IH9R, and IH9M. Also, XW1B and T88FY sure put in real FB efforts from nice DXCC multipliers.

The continental winners were: North America: K3WW, Africa: CT3KN, Asia: 4L8A, Europe: ER0WW (UT5UDX), Oceania: T88FY (JK2VOC), South America: CE4CT, Japan: JH3PRR, and U.S.: K3WW.

Multi-Single

With special permission from the Cyprus PTT, the callsign C4N was put on the air and boy did they do a good job. This all-Russian team took the top world honors in this very competitive category. It took a lot of work and coordination to put their effort together. Congratulations! Second place world went to the PS2T team. They sure had the right idea when they said, "The operators maintained during all the contest a high level of sport spirit and motivation." World third place and #1 in Europe went to



Making the top ten USA, High Power was Lew, N2LT.

9A7A. Their very first activity from their new location was in 1989, and their special contest callsign (9A7A) was issued in 1992. They summed up a lot of feelings that we share when they said, "Everything we have achieved in the contests is the result of our friendship, as well as a love for our hobby." Second in Europe went to the team at OM8A, the Slovak Contest Group. What a great job they put together. Third place in Europe went to 9A1P. We think they summed up the thoughts of most contesters when they said, "Another great weekend with lot of fun. Conditions were bad on the upper bands, 10 meters almost completely closed, 15 meters had very short openings, and 20 meters was closed pretty early. On the other hand, 40 and 80 meters were quite good and 160 was excellent." In the U.S., last year's top two finishers reversed positions. Frankford Radio Club's W3BGN took top honors, while Tom's team at K8AZ took second. Moving into third place was the all-wires-in-trees team at KT3Y/4. All top three U.S. teams broke the 5-million point barrier.

The continental winners were: North America: 6Y1V, Africa: S79UU, Asia: C4N, Europe: 9A7A, Oceania: AH2R, South America: PS2T, Japan: 8N7TU, and U.S.: W3BGN.

Multi-Two

The Multi-Two category is a way to have a lot of fun and make a lot of QSOs. The three top world stations all operated from island QTHs. The famous station HC8N operators once again demonstrated their operating and copying skills by taking first place. They commented, "Nice weekend working the world. Great competition in the M2 category. Thanks to all the ops who go to special places to make this such a fun event." Second place went to the

EF8M Russian team. We heard a lot from EF8M during the CQ WW CW and their newly upgraded station. Third place in this increasingly interesting category went to D4C, an Italian, Latvian and Lithuanian team. They commented, "First try from Monteverde and it was a great experience which we never had experienced in the past." In the U.S. Sig's team at N3RS took top honors from just west of Philadelphia. Second place went to K1AR operating from the K1EA QTH. Third went WE3C, who commented, "We were pleased with the results of our first CW Multi-Two effort." Over in Europe, top honors went to EA6IB. They put on another effort from the lovely island of Ibiza. EA6IB said, "Thanks to all of you and especially to the European M2 groups for a great and competitive weekend." Second place in Europe went to the long-time famous team from IR4X. They said, "Thanks to all for calling us and to all the contesters traveling around the world to activate such a great numbers of countries." Third place in Europe went to T93J, whose 160- and 80-meter antennas seemed to perform very nicely. They said, "The Beverage redesign helped us to hear many more multipliers on 80 and 160 meters."

The continental winners were: North America: HI3A, Africa: EF8M, Asia: P3F, Europe: EA6IB, Oceania: KH6LC, South America: HC8N, Japan: JA1YPA, and U.S.: N3RS.

Multi-Multi

Top honors in this difficult category went to 3X5A. Their DXpedition included a long two-day drive from Bamako, Mali to Conakry, Guinea and four long work days in the heat and humidity to be ready in time for the contest. Great job, guys! Taking second place in the world was the Rhein-Ruhr DX Association DXpedition station, ED8A. The RRDXA always brings enthusiasm and expertise to anything it does. Finishing third in the world and first in Europe was LZ9W. They commented, "Building a competitive M/M station is a *big* task. Rebuilding it, is in some aspects, an even bigger one. It took one *loong* year to rebuild LZ9W." It paid off. In the U.S., first place in this very tough category really means something. In 2007 the winner was W3LPL with the Potomac Valley Radio Club crew. Quite a lot of local talent under one roof! Second place went to K3LR. Tim's doors are always open to available talent and his team did a superb job as usual. K3LR also received the World and U.S. Combined SSB/CW trophies, quite an honor. Third place in the U.S. went to Matt's team at KC1XX. His 20-meter operator was KC1F, who became a SK in 2008. Stu was a gentleman and dedicated contester. He will be missed. Second place in Europe went to DF0HQ of the RRDXA. They expressed a wish we all hope for, "It was fun but we hope there will be some sunspots in 2008!" Third place in Europe went to DR1A of the BCC. They are hoping for more sunspots in 2008 as well.

A special mention must be made of the fine crew from China, B1Z. All of us hope to see them back this year. Finally, the competition in Japan for MM top honors for the last decade has been between two fine stations, one located in Shikoku (JA5FDJ) and the other in Nara (JA3YBK). Sadly, the leaders of both teams became SKs recently. It is a tribute their memory that these teams continue their excellent tradition.

The continental winners were: North America: J3A, Africa: 3X5A, Asia: JA5FDJ,

Europe: LZ9W, Oceania: KH7X, South America: No Entrant, Japan: JA5FDJ, and U.S.: W3LPL.

Club Scores

The social life-blood of ham radio is radio clubs. By belonging to a radio club you have a front-row seat to many sources of information on all radio subjects, including contesting. As you know, it is no trouble to linger around after a club meeting and talk about contesting for hours. "Did you work that opening to Asia on 21 MHz at midnight?" could be just one of hundreds of topics covered everyday by contesters.

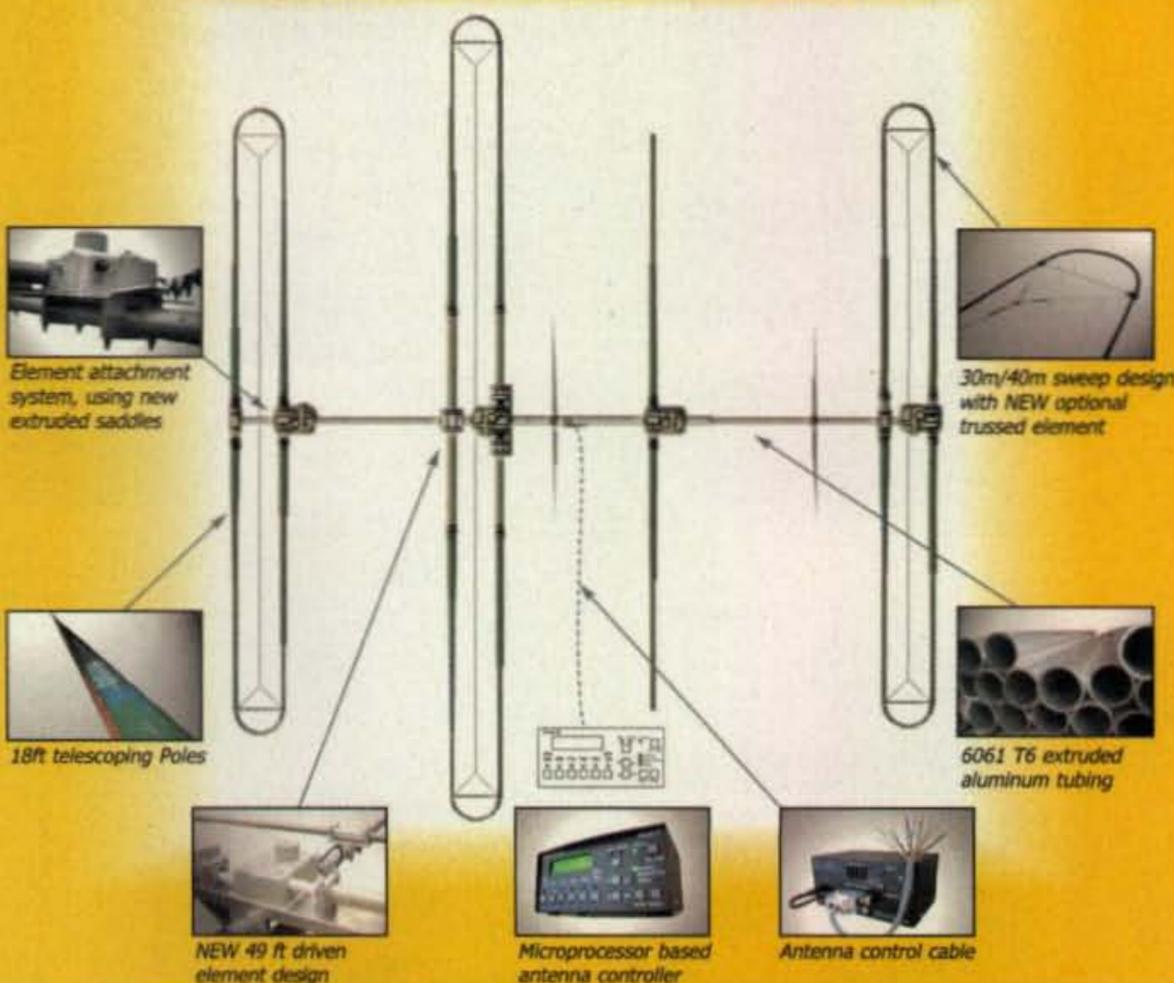
The combined scores of the top four world club scores topped a billion points! Many of the DXpeditions are initiated to help a club's

bottom line. The world's top club score was the Frankford Radio Club. With 145 entrants, the club sure had a big point total per entrant: 1.5-million points. What a great job. Second place in the world went to perennial powerhouse the Yankee Clipper Contest Club. Third place U.S. went to the Potomac Valley Radio Club. Each of these clubs has a long tradition of full commitment to the contest. Clubs encourage activity and that is good for amateur radio and contesting.

For many years now, there has been a friendly rivalry in Germany between the RRDXA and the BCC. This year the Bavarian Contest Club edged out the Rhein-Ruhr DX Association for first place non-U.S. and third place world. Third place non-U.S. went to Contest Club Finland.

SteppIR™ Antennas

INTRODUCING THE DREAM BEAM 36



THE FIRST ANTENNA IN THE DREAM BEAM SERIES

The DB-36 YAGI

- NEW Innovative, patent pending design, is 60% of full size on 40m and 30m, but virtually equals the performance of an identical full sized Yagi.
- All DREAM BEAM antennas will have gain on 40m and 30m by using shortened elements that deliver performance that is only a few tenths of a dB below full size elements.
- 80m fully tunable dipole option is available. Automatically tunes the entire 3.5MHz to 7 MHz range with 1:1 SWR. Nearly equal in performance to a full sized dipole with no additional wind load.
- The Dream Beam series will offer antennas for both space limited Hams as well as the "Big Guns" who have the space and want the very best.

Antenna Specs		Dream Beam 36		Performance		
				Band	dBi Gain	F/R dB
Weight	160 lb / 72.6 kg			80m	1.35	N/A
Wind load	17.5 sq ft / 1.63 sq m			40m	7.2	21
Longest element	48 ft / 15.1 m			30m	8.2	18
Turning radius	26 ft / 8.0 m			20m	9.27	21.5
Boom length	35' 10" ft / 11.1 m			17m	9.88	26.5
Mast clamps (incl.)	2.0 in / 5.08 cm			15m	10.21	27.1
Power rating	3 kW			12m	10.43	21.1
Wind rating	100 mph EIA-222-C			10m	10.65	11.0
Frequency coverage	**3.4 MHz - 54 MHz			6m	4.0*(12.75)	1.78(27.4)
Cable requirements	16 conductor 22 gauge shielded					
Tuning rate	1.33 ft/sec - .4 m/sec					

- Sketch shown with optional 6m passive kit
- Gain and F/R measured in free space
- *with optional 6m passive element kit
- **with 80m - 40m optional dipole

Introductory Price \$4295.00

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The #1 Line of Autotuners



NEW! AT-1000Pro

Building on the success of the AT-1000, LDG Electronics has refined and expanded its 1KW tuner. The AT-1000Pro has an Automode that automatically starts a tuning cycle when the SWR exceeds a limit you set. Other features include:

- Operates at any power level between 5 and 1,000 watts peak. RF Relay protection software prevents tuning at greater than 125 watts.
- 2 Antenna connections
- Tunes from 1.8 to 54.0 MHz (inc. 6 meters)
- Tuning time usually under 4 seconds, transmitting near a frequency with stored tuning parameters, under 0.2 seconds.
- 2000 memories.
- All cables included.

Suggested Price \$599



Z-11Pro

The original portable Z-11 was one of LDG's most popular tuners, accompanying adventurous hams to their backyards, or to the ends of the earth. Now meet the Z-11Pro, everything you always wanted in a small, portable tuner. Designed from the ground up for battery operation. Only 5" x 7.7" x 1.5", and weighing only 1.5 pounds, it handles 0.1 to 125 watts, making it ideal for both QRP and standard 100 watt transceivers from 160 - 6 meters.

"With 8,000 memories in LDG's exclusive "3-D Memory" array, the Z-11Pro uses LDG's state-of-the-art processor-controlled Switched-L tuning network. It will match dipoles, verticals, inverted-Vs or virtually any coax-fed antenna. With an optional LDG balun, it will also match longwires or antennas fed with ladder-line. All cables included. **Suggested Price \$179**



radio not included

AT-7000

The AT-7000 is the ideal tuner for IC-7000 & other Icom Radios: Covers all frequencies from 1.8-54 MHz (including 6 meters), and will automatically match your antenna. Requires just 0.1W for operation, but will handle up to 125W (100 W on 6 m), making it suitable for everything from QRP (IC-703 Plus) to a typical 100 W Icom transceiver. All cables included. **Suggested Price \$169**



radio not included

AT-897 for the Yaesu FT-897

If you own a Yaesu FT-897 and want a broad range automatic antenna tuner, look no further! The AT-897 Autotuner mounts on the side of your FT-897 just like the original equipment. We even added the ability to mount the "feet" on the side of the tuner so when you're transporting your rig by the handle, you can safely set it down and not worry about scratching the case. The AT-897 takes power directly from the CAT port of the FT-897 and provides a second CAT port on the back of the tuner so hooking up another CAT device couldn't be easier. **Suggested Price \$199**



AT-100Pro

This desktop tuner covers all frequencies from 1.8 - 54 MHz (including 6 meters), and will automatically match your antenna in no time. It features a two-position antenna switch, allowing you to switch instantly between two antennas. The AT-100Pro requires just 1 watt for operation, but will handle up to 125 watts. All cables included.

Suggested Price \$219



AT-200Pro

The AT-200 features LDG's new "3-D memory system" allowing up to eight antenna settings to be stored for each frequency. Handles up to 250 watts SSB or CW on 1.8 - 30 MHz, and 100 watts on 54 MHz (including 6 meters). Rugged and easy-to-read LED bar graphs show power and SWR, and a function key on the front panel allows you to access data such as mode and status. All cables included. **Suggested Price \$249**



Z-100

Designed from the ground up to provide 100 watt power handling in a small, lightweight package. Perfect for portable as well as sitting on your desk in your shack! The Z-100 will tune with 0.1 to 125 watts (50 watts on 6 meters), making it an excellent choice for almost any radio or operating style. Backpackers and QRP operators will appreciate the latching relays. Power can be removed from the tuner once you have tuned. Additionally, when it's not tuning, it draws nearly zero amps. **Suggested Price \$149**

Call or visit your favorite dealer today!

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LDG Electronics, Inc.
1445 Parran Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685
Phone 410-586-2177
Fax 410-586-8475



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
3V2A	322/12/59	1231/24/86	1925/30/103	2148/30/94	1599/31/94	190/8/37
P40W	428/16/68	1009/24/92	1251/28/98	1637/28/104	1679/25/103	102/14/27
V47NT	239/14/45	555/21/80	2373/32/113	1972/31/109	1789/22/94	68/12/18
8P5A	367/14/51	841/24/83	1589/31/101	1782/31/104	1773/28/93	213/13/27
A45XR	157/14/52	553/22/76	1723/33/118	1397/33/111	1169/31/103	64/18/38
CN3A	221/12/49	896/24/75	1291/25/92	1224/28/91	1381/25/96	248/12/43
9K2HN	247/12/55	1065/25/86	1346/32/105	1137/34/105	1155/28/96	36/18/30
6W1RW	25/10/23	344/20/66	815/26/80	1318/30/103	1897/29/111	223/13/53
4L0A	263/11/53	1033/25/85	1532/27/92	864/24/75	853/29/87	315/9/41
V26K	186/11/28	565/19/72	1818/28/102	1422/29/98	1434/23/91	101/13/26

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K5ZD/1	220/17/68	639/25/101	773/30/115	1293/31/118	501/24/100	29/11/20
K3CR	110/18/61	667/26/97	566/30/111	1176/32/122	467/26/95	35/10/24
K1LZ	205/14/66	701/25/103	699/34/122	1088/30/113	313/21/97	21/8/12
K1DG	147/18/73	571/22/87	747/29/103	1276/27/102	277/24/94	21/9/16
K3WW	117/18/71	468/25/103	632/34/125	862/31/125	388/23/94	29/12/24
W1KM	152/15/62	676/25/92	607/28/105	1012/25/104	314/23/81	14/9/12
K300	107/16/59	407/25/98	463/32/119	958/30/123	301/27/103	35/12/26
K4ZW/3	81/17/47	439/25/75	579/31/104	1351/30/112	154/21/70	14/8/10
K2NG	111/18/76	260/27/113	462/39/142	534/36/145	442/27/119	53/11/29
AA1K/3	143/20/62	447/21/85	471/28/101	1034/29/107	361/22/87	27/10/20

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

C4N	384/18/75	759/31/105	2431/38/138	2086/38/144	1379/32/136	429/16/70
PS2T	29/13/28	182/25/97	1440/38/137	1861/39/150	2175/36/151	501/26/77
6Y1V	149/16/68	538/27/100	2036/35/126	1854/37/135	1548/30/120	23/12/22
ZY7C	20/8/20	173/22/89	1357/35/124	1495/38/137	2220/30/122	53/18/44
AH2R	86/16/27	394/30/72	1385/35/115	1437/37/120	980/36/98	179/13/19
RT9W	283/12/61	837/29/110	1113/35/146	989/33/140	766/27/103	15/8/13

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

W3BGN	173/21/82	366/27/101	684/34/126	1152/34/134	340/26/109	41/11/34
K8AZ	87/17/63	524/27/105	569/37/130	1408/34/132	132/24/97	32/14/30
KT3Y/4	72/15/52	433/25/97	925/31/120	1389/35/134	156/23/98	12/9/12
K1IR	92/15/55	436/28/104	636/35/130	1197/29/128	269/23/100	21/13/20
K2LE/1	54/14/41	281/21/93	524/29/122	1246/34/135	190/24/102	32/11/27
W3UA/1	102/14/59	249/21/95	819/32/129	1181/30/123	130/24/97	7/5/7

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

HC8N	431/19/72	1412/30/111	3107/35/134	2992/38/145	3198/35/145	775/24/62
EF8M	493/16/76	1842/30/118	3521/35/140	3001/37/145	2639/36/142	353/17/57
D4C	333/15/70	1150/26/102	2564/34/120	3353/33/133	2936/32/127	558/21/79
PJ2T	662/20/83	1359/26/107	2853/36/139	2586/36/130	2115/27/114	166/15/34
PJ4A	533/16/72	945/25/98	3371/34/131	2803/34/127	2344/27/118	169/16/29
P3F	450/17/72	1846/28/108	3246/36/151	2151/36/133	1416/35/117	268/11/48

USA MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

N3RS	131/19/73	1025/29/110	1271/38/145	1845/36/149	804/27/125	63/15/40
K1AR	240/21/77	697/29/113	1095/38/139	1885/35/145	642/27/128	40/13/29
WE3C	108/18/77	1089/28/117	1016/31/127	1514/35/141	790/27/116	41/13/32
NY4A	139/16/65	756/26/107	1505/37/138	1404/32/133	689/27/119	5/5/4
K1RX	90/14/51	579/29/112	847/36/134	1327/33/132	407/26/112	44/12/25
K0TV/1	85/14/47	362/27/101	628/30/125	1233/31/129	361/23/98	30/9/14

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

3X5A	953/21/79	1735/25/99	2734/37/128	4472/38/154	3725/38/146	1023/22/93
ED8A	192/10/47	1338/23/94	2326/29/113	2604/33/110	2493/34/126	343/18/61
J3A	298/13/47	1903/26/112	2766/33/124	2657/35/132	1734/26/95	332/18/43
KH7X	414/22/28	1274/34/86	1498/36/106	1908/37/91	1674/30/72	359/19/30
JA5FDJ	310/23/56	1057/33/98	1582/37/132	1445/36/135	963/35/108	116/22/40
JA3YBK	387/23/57	757/33/99	1787/38/142	1383/36/142	719/36/103	114/15/28

USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

W3LPL	432/24/96	1314/32/122	1373/38/152	2080/38/152	991/29/138	132/14/38
K3LR	293/25/94	1118/32/121	1297/39/159	2296/39/159	679/30/132	99/14/40
KC1XX	395/20/85	1393/34/121	1456/38/147	1907/36/151	680/27/125	151/16/38
NQ4I	270/20/79	740/28/107	1380/39/149	1773/35/149	703/27/119	103/18/34
K1TTT	283/18/76	835/29/114	942/36/141	1728/34/145	668/29/125	127/16/39
W2FU	230/19/77	863/30/115	886/36/131	1559/33/138	400/26/111	105/12/37

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

Zone 3	K4ZW3,900,600	RG3K2,510,749
K6NA.....1,894,742	AA1K/3.....3,864,576	UA4FER.....2,066,076
N6TV1,872,780	N2LT3,538,836	RM3F2,043,500
KO7AA1,839,328		UA4CCG1,547,666
K6XX1,826,437		UR7EU1,250,232
WC6H1,738,317	Zone 14	RW1ZA1,181,601
K7GK1,437,056	CU2A7,400,808	*RV6LFE1,226,434
W2VJN/71,427,819	*CT6A4,987,632	
W6PH.....1,332,873	M6T4,122,914	
K7RL866,550	TM6X3,951,600	Zone 20
N7TT720,513	DJ1YFK.....3,711,576	SV9CVY.....6,986,736
	DL3YM3,550,858	YQ9W4,032,426
	EA5FV.....2,950,400	4Z5TA1,576,155
Zone 4	GM7V2,539,832	*TC3A1,423,800
VC3A.....4,968,440	AO7AJR2,095,104	*LZ9R1,295,111
VC3J4,853,208	PA3AAV2,011,530	ZC4LI1,294,033
VE3EY3,611,762		C4I1,219,239
VE3NE2,503,250	Zone 15	YO6BHN1,061,286
KU1CW/02,392,704	4O3A6,942,915	SV1ENG1,033,708
WX0B/52,245,120	9A1A5,765,256	*YO3FRI1,031,800
K8GL1,736,658	S50A4,851,392	
K0SR1,504,116	HA8JV4,447,950	Zone 25
*N5AW1,506,560	ES5TV.....3,228,610	JH4UYB3,752,242
N4TZ/91,450,400	OF8X2,727,276	HL2AEJ1,216,334
	*OM5XX2,387,938	JF1PJK1,146,915
	*OL6P2,301,740	JK1OPL1,025,060
Zone 5	YL6W2,258,815	JF2QNM968,803
VY2ZM6,885,168	*LY6M1,833,720	*JH8SLS930,369
K5ZD/16,399,360		JA5DQH861,713
VY2TT6,072,935	Zone 16	*J11RXQ804,678
K3CR5,330,100	UU7J4,815,774	JR3NZC790,359
K1LZ5,093,565	UT5UGR2,764,480	JN2AMD686,350
K1DG5,001,120	RS3A2,739,924	
W1KM4,433,030		*Low Power

4. Team Mannerheim: T88WV (OH7WV), CU2A (OH2UA), OA4WW (OH0XX), OF8X (OH4JFN), OF6NIO: 18,611,704

5. RRDXA Team 1: CN3A (IK2QEI), OQ5M (ON5ZO), OT1A. DJ2YA, DL3YM: 16,967,895

6. Carolina DX Association: AA4NN, AA4S, IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR), N2TU, WA4DOU: 6,679,728

7. Strausberg Re-united: 5H3EE (DL4SM), 9G5ZZ (DL1CW), DL4ME, DL5YM, DL6JZ: 5,981,305

8. Contest Group Quebec #1: VE2TZZ, VA2WDQ, VE2AWR, VA2SG, VE2SG: 3,637,804

9. Team Sisu: OF5A (OH5BM), OH1MM, OH0Z (OH5DX), OH6BG, OH2BH (OH1WZ): 3,172,259

10. DXE Full Vitamins: XE1MM, XE1CT, XE1NW, XE2S, XE2WWW: 2,392,377

11. Team Terva: OG0Z (OH1RX), CT8T (OH1NOA), ZB2X (OH2KI): 1,669,147

12. Contest Group Quebec #2: VE2FWW, VE2FK, VE2FU, VE2FFE, VE2HLS: 1,156,558

13. DXE Vitamins: 6H1ZVO, 6I2AUB, XE1AY, XE1ZW, DL6KAC: 102,270

Records

You can QSY to <cqww.com> to check the records for every country that has entered the CQ WW since 1948. If you discover an error, please let us know at <questions @cqww.com>. Below are the outstanding efforts of super operators which resulted in setting new CW records during the 2007 contest. Congratulations!

World: 3.5 CN2FB (UA2FB), 1.8 CN2FF (UA2FF), L7 TC3A, L1.8 TA2RC, Q1.8 C6ARR (N6BT), A3.5 IH9M (IK7JWY); **North America:** L14 C6AKX (KE7X), Q1.8 C6ARR (N6BT), MS HI3A; **Africa:** CN2FB (UA2FB), 1.8 CN2FF (UA2FF), L7 6W1SJ (T98A), QA 6V7D (K1XM), Q21 SU8BHI (HA3JB), A7 IH9U (I1NVU), A3.5 IH9M (IK7JWY); **Asia:** 14 ZC4LI, 3.5 UN4L, 1.8 EY8MM, L7 TC3A, L1.8 TA2RC, Q7 RW9LL; **Europe:** A3.7

EUROPE TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
CU2A	288/15/61	1013/24/92	1783/31/109	1129/31/108	1673/27/107	59/13/30
SV9CVY	293/12/59	1094/23/81	2088/34/120	1688/33/107	1245/33/101	163/7/38
403A	353/12/59	1149/24/88	2005/34/115	1455/34/97	934/33/109	179/12/34
ER0WW	328/10/57	867/29/98	1439/38/137	1515/38/136	545/35/131	69/10/43
9A1A	179/12/59	1028/30/106	1461/38/146	1103/36/119	344/33/121	176/10/46
DJ5MW	238/16/66	812/29/106	994/36/144	932/37/132	457/35/130	104/13/59
CT6A	282/11/57	773/21/86	1266/29/117	955/29/102	782/29/101	147/9/33
SS0A	254/14/59	878/24/85	1045/34/111	1192/35/101	580/34/100	46/9/31
UU7J	346/23/76	872/30/103	1215/34/127	943/36/99	632/33/108	167/11/49
HG3DX	224/15/61	611/23/82	979/34/135	982/36/127	452/35/128	67/17/67

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

9A7A	255/20/81	1282/32/124	1664/38/156	2236/39/155	624/36/144	104/12/67
OM8A	342/24/101	1073/31/124	1655/37/144	2044/39/149	659/34/146	79/13/61
9A1P	380/21/90	1146/30/114	1557/37/146	1584/39/150	849/37/144	111/17/64
OM7M	416/25/93	1011/32/118	1507/38/151	1586/40/152	467/35/139	58/12/52
T93M	219/16/69	846/26/101	1458/36/143	1768/39/142	756/37/144	138/16/55
HG1S	203/13/70	1112/32/124	1681/36/158	1571/38/143	317/36/133	128/12/52

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

EA6IB	708/18/79	1865/30/115	3000/38/154	2454/38/139	1243/36/138	362/13/59
IR4X	260/19/76	1839/34/125	2080/38/156	1973/38/153	1035/36/145	129/14/64
T93J	777/25/90	1545/31/118	1748/38/152	1490/37/137	1011/38/146	54/15/42
RU1A	769/26/91	1660/36/130	1670/37/143	1706/39/151	443/37/138	94/10/48
EE2W	331/11/61	1797/26/101	1871/35/125	1683/36/126	1242/36/118	189/14/44
Z37M	518/14/73	1899/33/119	2140/38/138	1681/36/125	634/36/135	59/10/29

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

LZ9W	1137/21/87	2257/35/129	3052/38/155	2819/38/148	1294/37/148	257/17/70
DF0HQ	1093/22/91	2033/33/125	2673/37/158	1901/39/155	677/35/146	317/15/81
DR1A	997/22/86	1870/32/123	2134/38/153	1844/38/145	813/32/138	243/14/71
OE2S	624/10/67	1951/31/113	1596/36/141	1401/39/141	331/34/135	129/14/57
SK3W	837/15/72	1330/29/110	1698/34/133	1305/38/136	495/30/119	113/10/40
LY7A	1034/17/74	1457/24/89	1592/35/132	1287/36/136	376/30/112	97/9/45

SO2R (SP2FAX); **Oceania:** Q14 V73NS, A21 VK4AN, A7 ZM3A, A3.5 ZL2IFB; **South America:** 7 9Y4AA (N6TJ); **USA:** L1.8 N2WN/4, Q1.8 W2MF; **Japan:** L14 JA1BPA, Q14 JA6GCE, A14 JG2KKG

Special Mention

As G3SXW commented in his book *Contesting in Africa*, "for Homebound Contesters and DXers alike, there is no thrill in amateur radio to match that of hearing your call come back from a new multiplier or a new country. But imagine the thrill of *being* the new multiplier or country for literally thousands of stations!" For the many of us, this means participating in a DXpedition. The following stations are some of the many who made the contest more interesting for everyone by going on DXpeditions:

VP2EDL, V26K, C6ADQ, C6AGY, C6AKX, C6ATA, 8P5A, 8P0P, 8P9MN, V31DF, OH1VR/VP9, YA/K9GY, HQ2A, HQ9R, FM5BH, H7/K9NW, HP1/DJ7AA, PJ7/DJ5HD, V47NT, J88DR, D2NX, 7X0RY, VQ9LA, J28OO, 9G5XA, 9G5ZZ, 5R8NL, 3B8GT, CN2AW, CN2FB, CN2FF, V5/DJ4SO, 6W1RW, 6W1SJ, 6W1SE, 3DA0ZO, 5H3EE, 3V2A, S21ZDX, C4I, C4M, C4Z, 4L0A, VR2/AA1ON, XU7MWA, 9K2HN, HS0ZAR, YM2W, 9M2CNC, OH0Z, OH0R, OH0M, CU2A, SV9CVY, ZB2X, J43J, 4U1ITU, EI/W5GN, MD/DL3KNF, MD/DL3KWR, G16YM, CT8T, IS0/K7QB, IS0N, IS0/OL0A, MZ5A, MZ5B, VK3TDX, VK9AA, 9M8YY, 9M6AAC, FO5RY, WH2D, KH2/KI3DNN, C6ARR, KH6/N0CO, ZL3TE, T88RJ, T88WV, A35MJ, P40W, P49Y,

ZX5J, HK1AR, HK7/VK6DXI, ZP0R, ZP6/IK1PMR, PZ5X, 9Y4AA, 6V7D, JD1AHC, HR2/LT0E, IS0/OK1CZ, SU8BHI, EA8/OH2BEM, KL2R, IH9U, IH9R, IH9M, 3B8/SM6GOR, OH0E, 9H3HH, ER0WW, T88FY, DX1M, TI5N, 6Y1V, 5J0A, S79UU, C4N, AH2R, ZF1A, HI3A, VP2MSC, VP5W, EF8M, D4C, CT9L, P3F, GJ2A, LX7I, E51A, HC8N, PJ2T, PJ4A.

Why not do a little work and find out about an overseas location? You can jump on a plane for a few hours and experience never-ending pile-ups. You will find that it will be an experience to remember.

Comments

The 2007CQ WW CW resulted in the highest number of CW logs ever received. With code requirements around the world almost eliminated, it is very heartening to see that many newcomers are taking the time to learn CW and join in the fun. With 10 meters almost totally closed, the CQ WW CW still generated 4867 logs.

For the 2007 logs, the CQ WW log-checking process underwent a considerable amount of change. After many years of developing the log checking process Dick, N6AA, turned over the process to Ken, K1EA. This was a major change in procedure. We welcome Ken and his log-checking software to the CQ WW. In addition, the CQ WW acquired a new server dedicated to it. Both of these changes have brought new challenges to the CQ WW CC. We appreciate all the input we have received from the entrants in the contest. Your input is always welcomed. As before, with a new processes in place, we will continue to provide the best log checking available. Please remember, that the purpose of log checking is to certify the winners. A side product of this process is the UBN/NIL reports, which are supplied to all entrants. The UBN/NIL reports are an aid to improve your skills.

Since the 2007 contest season concluded, there have been ongoing discussions concerning remote operating and skimmer technology on various reflectors. Remote contesting is addressed in the existing rules. All TXs and RXs must be contacted by wires to antennas and located within a single 500-meter diameter circle or the owner's property which ever is larger. The operator can be anywhere, but the remote station he (she) uses must obey the CQ WW rules and the rules of the country in which he is remotely operating. All remote RXs must be in a 500-meter station circle—nowhere else. A single operator using skimmer or skimmer-like technology places the entrant in the Assisted Category. Use of any QSO alerting technology places the entrant in the Assisted Category.

In accumulating the scores, considerable effort is put into collecting all the names used by a club's entrants. One famous club had over 15 variations of its club name, as mentioned earlier. Clubs can help out the CQ WW CC a great deal by making sure that all their entrants use the same club name on submitted documents. When you submit your log, please take the time to look at your Cabrillo header page. Check to see that the call you used during the contest is the one that appears as your

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entry call. In addition, look your log over to make sure you really logging the right band. On CW there were several entrants who forgot to change bands on their computer logging program. Please be careful to log all your QSOs on the correct band.

The Multi-Single category is very popular. Please remember to designate the run and multiplier station within your logging software. You can designate the run as station 0 and the multiplier station as 1. It is easy to do and all contesting programs can do it. By doing this, MS checking becomes much easier for the CQ WW CC.

The CQ WW CC uses the same .cty file to check all the logs. In this way all the logs are treated equally. The CQ WW CC has known for a very long time that a large number of CQ WW entrants have limited operating time. It is precisely these operators having fun who give the continuing runs available during the contest. No matter how your time might be limited because of other demands, get on in the CQ WW and have fun. The CQ WW CC wants to thank and recognize the causal operator as a major contributor to everyone's good time.

As has been mentioned many times before, your UBN/NIL report is just an aid to help you pinpoint how to improve your copying skills. Submitting an electronic log is easy. Send your SSB log and summary to <ssb@cqww.com>, CW to <cw@cqww.com>. Please send your log in Cabrillo format. If you have any problems, we can help you at <questions@cqww.com>. It bears repeating that if you make a mistake on your first submission, you can resubmit your log. It will replace the first submission.

Thanks

The CQ WW Contest Committee wants to thank all the entrants who make the CQ WW the event of each year. We try to do our best

to assure that the results are true and accurate. The results require hundreds of hours of work by a lot of people. The members of the CQ WW CC who provided labor and insight in creating these results were: K1DG, K1AR, K3WW, K3ZO, K3LR, K5ZD, KR2Q, N2AA, N2NC, N2NT, N3ED, N6AA, N6TR, N9RV, W3ZZ, K1AR, KM3T, KT3Y, W5OV, N5KO, K6AW, and N8BJQ. The logs were received and processed by Larry, N6TW, and the scores developed by Ken, K1EA. K1EA has done a great job learning all the CQ WW log-checking procedures. The CQ WW records are maintained by N2NC and K3EST. The All-Time Records are maintained by K6SSS. Thanks to KM3T, K5TR, and N5KO, who do the hard work to keep the servers working. Thanks to John, K1AR, for his advice and hard work to make the CQ WW so successful. Very special thanks to Barry, W5GN, who helps on many levels, but especially with the book keeping and development of the CQ WW certificate program. Our CQ WW CC members who are DX advisors were very helpful in offering advice, providing information, and sorting out potential problems: CT1BOH, DL6RAI, EA3DU, F6BEE, G3SXW, I2UIY, JE1CKA, OH2KI, OH2MM, PY5EG, S50A, UA9BA, VA7RR, VE3EJ, and E21EIC.

If you plan to participate in the 2008 CQ WW contests, you are on the track to having a lot of fun. Congratulations to all the 2007 participants on all levels! CU this fall in the 2008 contests! 73, Bob, K3EST

DX QRM

Only a part time effort, in between work and the weekend activities! Very happy with score ... **2E0CVN**. Great Contest! See you all again! ... **4L8A**. 10m poorer than 2006. Many thanks to Graham, 5X1GS, for use of his shack. Hard work on 40 and 80 with low power ... **5X1NH**. Nice contest. Trx all 6H1IM operators XE1IM ... **6H1IM**. Operated from a bush in Tongatapu island. Mosquitoes and Tongan wasps

were my only companions ... **A35MT**. What a terrific contest! We certainly enjoyed the pile-ups and all the terrific multipliers. Thanks to all who traveled to distant places for the weekend ... **A71EM**. Working with a special call sign was indeed difficult. Many said I was UA1 and had to go very slow CW telling them AU1, India. It was very nice so many responded with their numbers to us ... **AU1JCB**. Great contest as always but faced computer failure on first day and antenna down on second day, missed most of time during the contest. Very happy to know that B1Z, B3C, and B7P did good results! See you next year! ... **B4TB**. Cinnamon rolls from Florence's bakery, beach walks, power failure, great football. Treasure Cay beach is one of the top 5 in the world! You'll agree! Forget the Qs; please pass the SPF 60! ... **C6AGY**. Many thanks for all who took a lot of time to take me out of QRM. Every QSO was a fantastic experience. I'm sorry E51A didn't copy me. The day before contest I worked them. Signal was very stable all over 30 minutes. Tks to the JA's for the fantastic good ears to copy me. See all of you in next contest. 73 and good luck for everybody ... **CT1AOZ**. Don't forget, the fun is the power! ... **DK3RED**. CQWW shows how the conditions really are. The daily use makes you think that the conditions are bad when it in fact really is low activity. Great condx on Saturday, not so good on Sunday ... **EI4CF**. Lots of fun just being able to work a contest in the casual mode instead of trying to be in the top ten. Biggest thrill was working BZ1Z on 40 ... **F5VHJ**. With a station "optimized for Europe" and a brain "optimized for sleep," this was always going to be tough ... **G0MTN**. It's 40 years since G3TXF first took part in CQWW CW. Only three have been missed in the intervening years. Roll on the next sunspot cycle! ... **G3TXF**. Was a bit under the weather in the summer for few months. Knocked guts out of me, and what you need in this contest is GUTS! Conditions fair, especially on LF. What is certain is that CW is far from dead! ... **GW3JXN**. It was a really good propagation and outstanding activity. 15m opened unexpectedly for USA and resulted in good sigs on my wire. The contest was fun and running high. Thanks for Q's. See you next year! ... **HA2MN**. I didn't check antenna. It was lying on the floor of the terrace. Therefore some hams must have special ears to hear me. I hope to survive and see sunspots again. FT-920 100 with horizontal loop ... **IK2AIT**. QTH north Sardinia, about 100m from the sea. Rig Elecraft K2/100, ant 2-ele mini beam, 8m high. Good fun even if condx were rather poor ... **IS0/OL8A**. Many thanks to all who worked us. Great contest, great fun ... **J42WT**. I heard HC8, South American station on 1831.2 kHz but no JA freq. It was the first time to hear SA station on 160m in my 30 years of amateur radio life. Look for him in next contest! ... **JO7KMB**. A big "mahalo" to all who worked us or tried. Everyone here worked hard before and during the contest. Still a new station, improvements coming, especially on the low bands. 73 & Aloha ... **KH6LC**. High solar wind and very poor conditions through Sunday afternoon made this contest rough. Even with poor band conditions this contest is by far my favorite. Lots of great DX to be found, not to mention I finished up my WAS award, too. Thanks for a great contest! ... **KL8DX**. Good condx on 40m. Worked many new Central American and Caribbean countries. Best 73's to contest committee ... **LY3X**. Very poor conditions up here in Shetland at 60 degrees north ... **MZ5A**. Pain with 100W and Beverage and untuned loaded vertical! ... **OH8VJ**. Nice condition on 80mtrs ... **OK1TC**. As usual, PRIMA ... **OL4M**. Rig Elecraft K2 and dipole for 20 meters and up, and a short vertical for 40 meters and down. With 560 QSOs and a claimed score of 194,000 I made a new personal QRP record ... **OZ7BQ**. M2 is a great category for those of us who enjoy multi-op contesting but don't have the facility for a full MM setup. LF conditions were good but not quite so good as in 2006. At least it seemed that way. 10m barely opened at all but with zero sunspots we can't complain ... **P3F**. Thank for the great show again. Worked several new bandpoints on the 80m band. Here with my dipole always difficult and need the CQ contest! ... **PG2AA**. Thank you for FB contest! It's been big fun though condx on 10 meters was poor ... **RA3BQ**. CIDR Cyclone struck Friday before the contest, and that was it for me after all the preparations done for a serious contest effort. Anyway, managed to operate a few hours with a single 40m dipole to give out a multiplier. Worked a few QSOs on 15m and 20m as well ... **S21ZDX**. Great fun as always. The low band conditions were no good and the old trustworthy 20m did

SUCH A HAM

SH-004



I bought you a beautiful pair of earrings, Mavis.
Put them on, I'd like to try something.

CLUB SCORES

USA

Frankford Radio Club.....	266,909,574
Yankee Clipper Contest Club.....	260,552,723
Potomac Valley Radio Club.....	139,642,195
Northern California Contest Club.....	75,488,405
Florida Contest Group.....	60,754,161
North Coast Contest Club.....	38,498,561
Society of Midwest Contesters.....	34,860,384
Carolina DX Association.....	34,784,070
Minnesota Wireless Association.....	30,796,748
Southern California Contest Club.....	24,248,185
South East Contest Club.....	24,170,938
Mad River Radio Club.....	20,182,018
Western Washington DX Club.....	20,050,938
Rochester DX Association.....	14,431,175
Central Texas DX and Contest Club.....	14,086,887
Central Arizona DX Association.....	14,011,476
CT RI Contest Group.....	12,709,622
Hudson Valley Contesters and DXers.....	9,733,694
Alabama Contest Group.....	9,626,274
Mother Load DX & Contest Club(W6).....	7,158,524
North Florida DX Association.....	7,108,265
North Texas Contest Club.....	7,094,998
Willamette Valley DX Club.....	6,195,615
Oklahoma DX Association.....	4,155,279
Kansas City DX Club.....	3,842,499
Low Country Contest Club.....	3,234,334
Delaware Amateur Radio Assn.....	2,606,347
Spokane DX Association.....	2,087,073
Texas DX Society.....	1,709,275
Utah DX Assn.....	1,631,803
South Florida DX Assn.....	1,519,213
Southwest Ohio DX Assn.....	1,319,984
Southern California DX Club.....	969,673
Sterling ARC.....	965,792
NorthEast Wisconsin DX Assoc.....	887,004
Western New York DX Assn.....	803,725
Metro DX Club.....	725,328
West Park Radiops.....	715,857
Salt City Dx Assn.....	551,454
Northern Arizona DX Assn.....	447,157
Northern Illinois DX Assn.....	349,975
Kentucky Contest Club.....	302,073
Alamance Amateur Radio Club.....	248,137
Eastern Iowa DX Assn.....	244,595
Magnolia DX Association.....	240,782
Bergen Amateur Radio Association.....	211,340
Mississippi Valley DX & Contest Club.....	198,912
Great South Bay ARC.....	194,579
Southeastern DX Club.....	194,293
Redmond Top Key Contest Club.....	175,856
ARROW Communications Assoc. Inc.....	167,111
Tri-Town Radio Amateur Club.....	45,892

DX

Bavarian Contest Club.....	258,978,970
Rhein Ruhr DX Association.....	228,914,196
Contest Club Finland.....	87,361,420
Contest Club Ontario.....	70,890,904
Yu Contest Club.....	52,025,083
Araucaria DX (PY).....	51,829,933
LU Contest Group.....	50,292,163
Ural Contest Group (UA9).....	49,726,580
Slovenia Contest Club.....	47,897,732
Croatian Contest Club.....	38,827,929
*World Wide Young Contesters.....	38,696,386
Black Sea Contest Club.....	37,872,164
Bosnia and Herzegovina Contest Club.....	37,851,018
HA DX Club(HA).....	35,088,138
Caribbean Contesting Consortium(PJ).....	33,812,996
Ukrainian Contest Club.....	28,506,942
Chiltern DX Club(G).....	24,320,277
SP DX Club.....	22,813,202
VK Contest Club.....	21,425,649
Kaunas Univ. of Tech. Radio Club(LY).....	19,129,766
LZ Contest Team.....	18,383,754
UA2 Contest Club.....	15,802,077
Kiev Contest Club.....	15,036,119
Central Arizona DX Association.....	14,011,476
British Columbia DX Club.....	13,040,452
South Ural Contest Club(UA9).....	12,755,800
Latvian Contest Club.....	11,934,843
Lithuanian Contest Group.....	8,976,258
LA Contest Club.....	8,779,565
Central Siberia DX Club(UA0).....	8,228,521
Bashkortostan Dx Club(UA9W).....	7,870,773

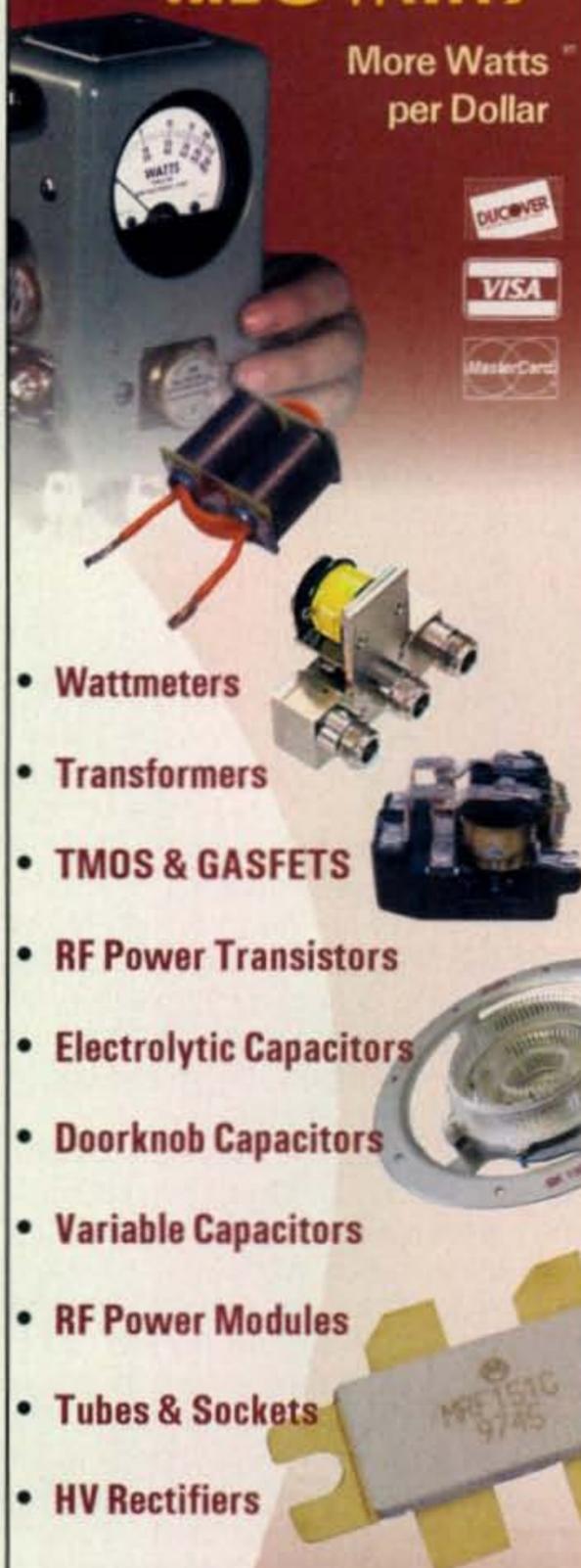
TuPY DX Group(PY).....	7,719,608
Tartu Contest Club(ES).....	7,398,734
Vrhniko Contesters(S5).....	7,362,782
Tikiriki Contest Club(IT9).....	7,343,018
Kemerovo RC(UA9U).....	7,113,011
Maritime Contest Club(VE1).....	6,526,230
Les Nouvelles DX(F).....	5,554,229
ATCC(EY).....	5,436,712
Michurinsk Contest Group(UA3R).....	5,351,016
Danish DX Group.....	5,295,316
Orenburg Contest Club(UA9S).....	5,238,827
Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC(GM).....	4,773,706
Contest Group Du Quebec.....	4,762,669
LYNX DX Group(EA).....	4,247,297
Radioclub Radu Bratu(YO).....	4,178,341
Austrian Contest Club.....	4,158,404
Top of Europe Contesters(SM).....	4,130,723
Moscow Contest Club.....	3,993,815
East Coast Canada Contest Club(VO1).....	3,980,470
West Serbia Contest Club.....	3,826,796
Low Land Crazy Contesters.....	3,601,162
Fox Contest Club(YU).....	3,571,946
Grimsby ARC(G).....	3,300,120
Belokranjec Contest Club(S5).....	2,890,360
Belarus Contest Club.....	2,779,570
Siam DX Group.....	2,608,391
Sheffield Amateur Radio Club(G).....	2,168,308
Guara DX Group(PY7).....	1,947,940
North Greece Contest Team.....	1,945,860
Perm Club.....	1,856,899
SPCC(SP).....	1,721,847
Rio DX Group.....	1,605,133
Czech Contest Club.....	1,582,307
Radio Club Honduras.....	1,575,064
South German DX Group.....	1,542,478
Jiangsu DX Club(BY).....	1,539,376
Temirtau Contest Club(UN).....	1,481,044
Omsk Radio Club.....	1,472,814
Grupo DX Grande Canary.....	1,462,308
Novokuznetck(UA9U).....	1,403,461
Gronau Contest Club(DL).....	1,396,059
ALRS(UA1).....	1,367,134
CC Krasnodarskogo Kraya(UA6A).....	1,222,053
Bekasi DX Contest Club(YB).....	1,179,504
Calgary Amateur Radio Association.....	1,152,864
LA DX-Group.....	1,142,759
Podolsk Radio Club(UA3D).....	1,135,971
OK DX Foundation.....	1,134,694
YO-DX-Club.....	1,128,712
Falkopings Radioklub(SM).....	895,630
Grupo Argentino de CW.....	802,040
Mykop Radio Club(UA6Y).....	762,730
Vladimir Radio Club(UA3V).....	743,203
Noginsky Radio club(UA3D).....	691,387
Shakhan Contest Club(UA6A).....	600,144
GM DX Club.....	580,904
Kiel Canal Activity Group(DL).....	568,802
São Paulo Contest Group.....	555,606
Ivanovo DX Club(UA3U).....	495,441
Orenburg Contest Club(UA9S).....	480,150
Jablanik Bears(YU).....	471,976
Bryansk SW club(UA3Y).....	471,249
University of Tokyo Contest Club.....	468,684
Yaroslava Contest Club(UA3M).....	462,861
YO Antenna DX Group Deva(YO).....	461,986
Obninsk QRU Club(UA3X).....	449,224
Stavropol'skiy Contest Club(UA6H).....	444,862
Saskatchewan Contest Club.....	394,340
Novosibirsk Contest Club.....	385,551
DX Club Oradea(YO).....	372,948
Irkutsk Radio Club(UA0S).....	310,356
Amsterdam DX Contest Club.....	294,204
POISK Club (UA9A).....	293,047
Bracknell ARC(G).....	280,111
Kirov Radio Club.....	227,645
CSM Craiova(YO).....	153,620
YO5KAD.....	151,341
Serpuhov Radio Club(UA3D).....	142,231
Noviomagum DX Club(PA).....	140,719
Shizuoka DXRA.....	140,067
Shetland Contest Group(GM).....	111,100
Radio Club de Panama.....	102,805
Kurgan Radio Club(UA9Q).....	74,280
Lake Wettern DX Group(SM).....	48,246
Sport Club M-Ciuc(YO).....	32,795

*Not a qualifying club

(Continued on page 100)

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Gordo tests the new five-band portable "Traveler" from TW Antennas in his back yard with promising results...

CQ Reviews:

TW Antennas TW-2010 Traveler™ Portable HF Antenna

BY GORDON WEST,* WB6NOA

Here is a compact, five-band, high-frequency antenna that swings open in seconds and is fully deployed, with its own ground system, in less than five minutes. The TW-2010 Traveler™ covers the 10, 12, 15, 17, and 20 meter bands, with a signal takeoff angle of approximately 27 degrees above the horizon.

This is a center-fed, modified-H design, double vertical dipole with a relay switch box at the feedpoint to click in coil inductance to cancel the capacitive reactance. The matching system naturally rests on 20 meters, so you don't even need to take along the tiny controller if you just plan to operate on 20 out in the park.

I was shipped the Traveler™ with the nifty and sturdy "Quadpod," which features four spring-loaded legs that swing out for a rock-solid platform onto which the heavy-duty 6061-T6 aluminum antenna network slides. When the wind picked up, the Quadpod encountered no problems. Some simple weights on each flat leg did the trick nicely. The Quadpod and antenna radiating elements are powder coated with a matte-black finish for stealth performance and for safety in case someone decides to touch the lower dipole element.

The TW-2010 controller is housed in an extruded-aluminum enclosure with a bright, easy-to-read, multi-colored LED front panel with a band-selector switch. The controller runs on 12 volts DC with a common power plug with center hole positive and a white stripe positive on the other end of the cable. I added Anderson connectors to the far end.

A control cable—an amazing 65 feet in length—comes with the antenna. One end plugs into the back of the controller and the other end plugs into the antenna relay box from the outside. You add your own coax cable, and I would recommend RG-8X rather than any larger cable. (I will explain shortly why smaller cable is preferred.)

The lower and upper dipole elements simply snap open. Large plastic knobs keep everything absolutely tight, straight, and aligned. The upper and lower elements slip into the relay control-box tube, and you are ready to go on the air on 10 through 20 meters.

The antenna incorporates a pre-tuned inductance switching array box which likely will have no need for internal adjust-



The TW-2010 arrives well-packed in several packages. The carrying case is visible at the top.

*CQ Contributing Editor, 2414 College Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
e-mail: <wb6noa@cq-amateur-radio.com>

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MFJ's Weather-proof Antenna Feedthrough Panel mounts in your window sill. Lets you feed three coax-fed antennas, balanced line, random wire and ground without drilling through walls.

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Low profile 14 ft... 7 ft. turning radius... 1.5 kW... Directivity focuses signal, reduces QRM/noise...



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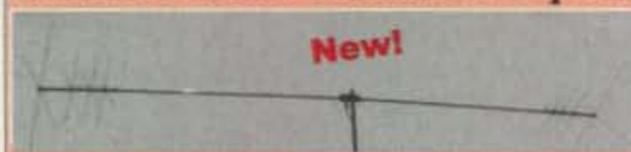
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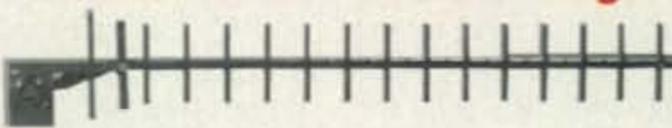
MFJ-822 MFJ-842 \$59.95 **New!** Compact SWR/Wattmeter has huge 3 inch lighted Cross-Needle Meter, easily viewable from across shack. Read forward/reflected power, SWR simultaneously. 3 1/4Wx3 1/4Hx3 1/4D in. MFJ-822 for 1.8-200 MHz, 30/300 Watts. MFJ-842 for 140-525 MHz, 15/150 Watts.

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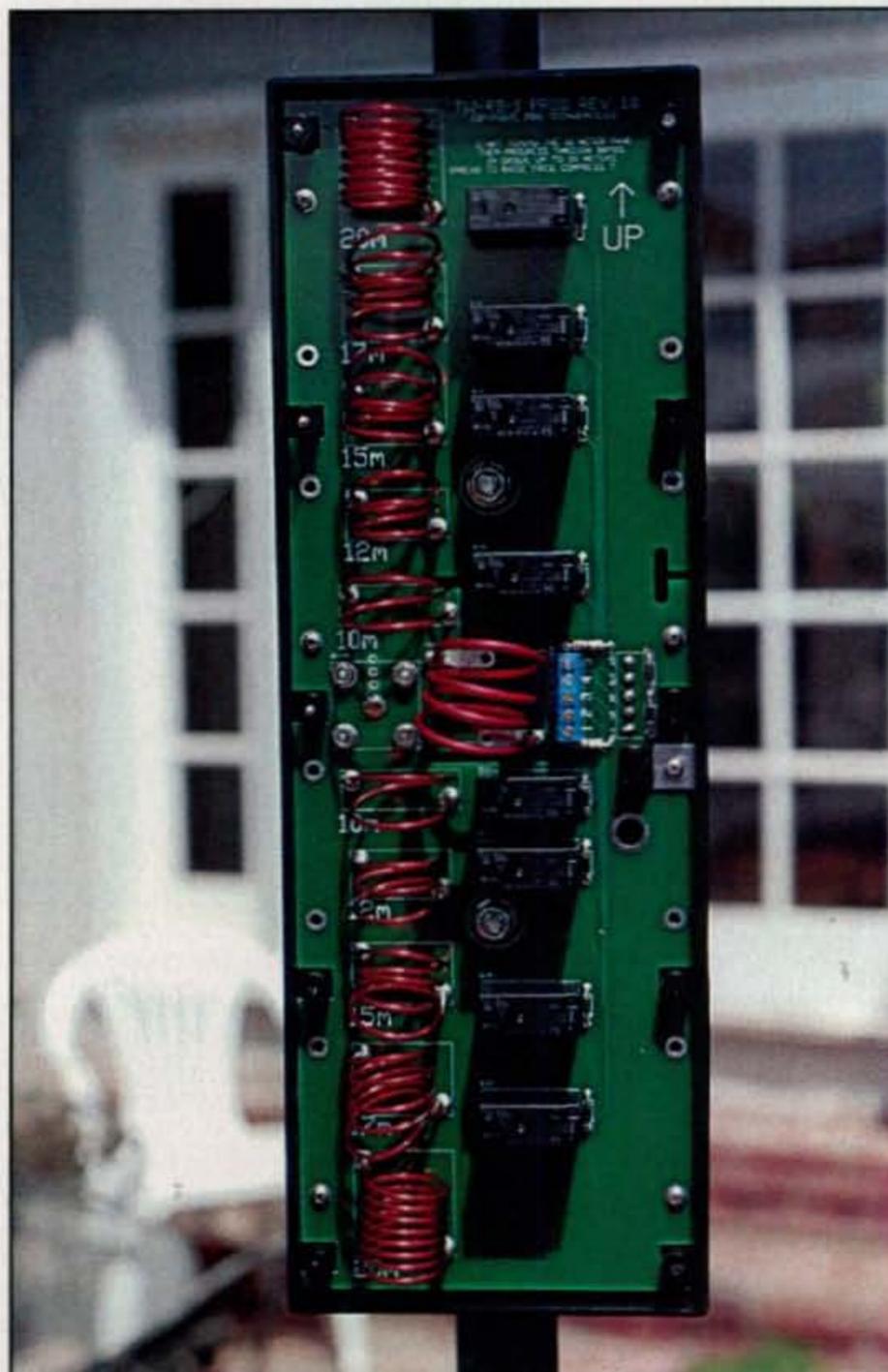
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This is the optional "Quadpod" portable base for the Traveler antenna. Also visible is the lower dipole element, just a foot off the ground.



A peek into the inductance matching box. Various band coils are to the left and the black relays are on the right. The relays switch in different coils for different bands.

ments because the antenna is a pre-balanced dipole array. Like all good hams, though, I *had* to see what was on the inside, so I opened up the box, per the instructions, and quickly spotted a simple design of relay-switched series coils to resonate the top and bottom elements for minimum SWR and little, if any, heat lost in the large element coils themselves. The instruction manual warned me not to lose the non-magnetic (no rust) screws, which, of course, I lost immediately in the wet lawn. Screw *keepers* would have been nice, along with an additional rubber seal around the edge of the plastic black box lid. Richard Rhodes from TW Antennas tells me that "there's no gasket for the box because nothing inside the box really cares if it gets damp except the relays, and they're individually sealed, so no worries. The box alone will keep the insides from drowning. Also, there's no bare metal inside the box that can corrode under normal circumstances."

A quick check of TW Antennas' internet support group gave me same-day answers to some technical questions about those pesky screws holding on the back of the black box. I worked with Hollie, who usually got back to me with answers within an hour.

I added 12 volts from a small battery, hooked up my Yaesu FT-817, and the system sprang to life. Optional Yaesu and ICOM control cables are available in case one is too lazy to

push the button to select the correct band. ICOM and Yaesu offer band data out that will let the Traveler™ control box automatically switch in the correct relays for the desired band of operation. I tried both cable kits, one on an ICOM IC-7000 and the other on several portable battery-operated Yaesu HF transceivers, and magically the controller followed the bands perfectly.

Next was the SWR check. I started out with the handy MFJ SWR analyzer, and ran more comprehensive Smith chart checks with the portable TimeWave LCD analyzer. I also triple-checked SWR by noting the output indicator on each of the transceivers.

While the antenna did offer a peak in receiver background noise reception for the specific band I was on, the initial SWR checks were *terrible!* Ten and 12 meters were fair, but 15, 17, and 20 meters were SWR whacko. Check the book, I thought, but I was far away from the side of the house, which is built of stucco and chicken wire. I tested with the permanent mounting assembly in wet grass and still had high SWR.

A drawing on page 17 of the well-illustrated instruction manual gave me the answer. It showed the coax and controller cables coming off the center of the antenna at a 45-degree angle. Presto! All bands dropped right in and the SWR was now stable! However, I had to switch from RG-8 coax

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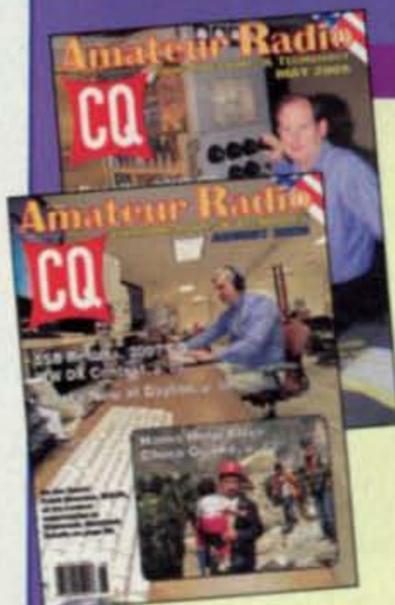
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Here are a few items we have scheduled for future issues:

- "A Rookie's Guide to Contesting," by KB1OGL
- "Galactic Cosmic Rays and 160-Meter Propagation," by NM7M & K9LA
- "CQ Interviews: Mark Stenning, AA1AC, Chief Executive, International Tennis Hall of Fame," by W2VU

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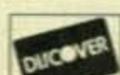
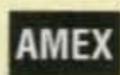
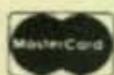
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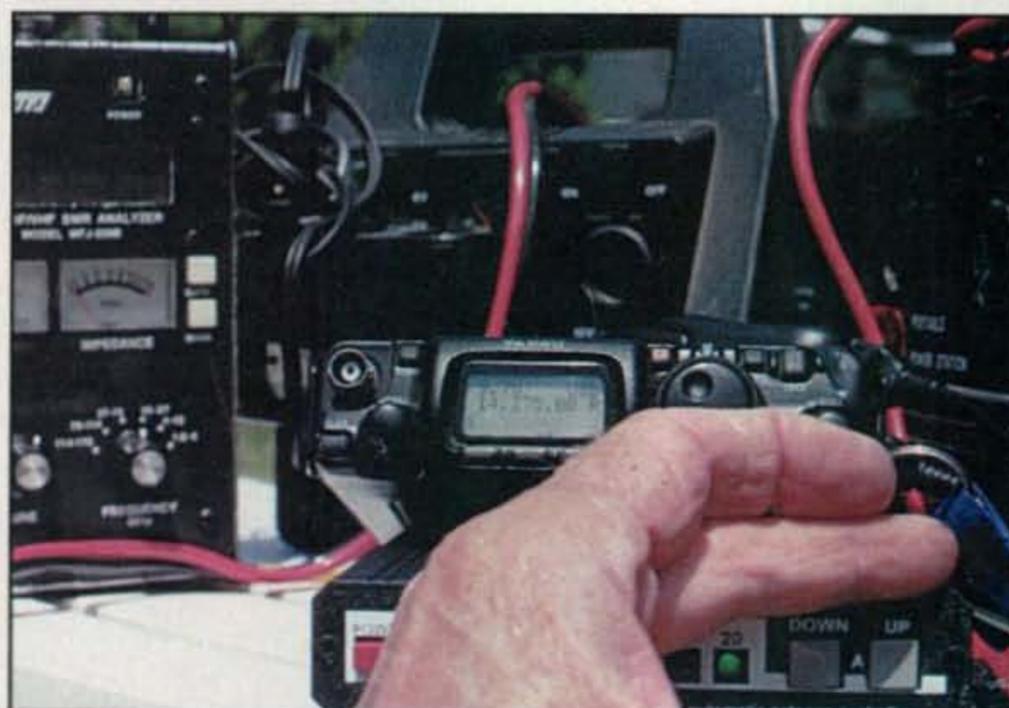
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The TW-2010 set up and on the air for testing, with the coil/relay box open. Note the control cable and feedline coming away from the box at an approximately 45-degree angle. This is essential for keeping the SWR low (see text for details).



The green LED on the control box (shaded by Gordo's hand so you can see it in the bright sunlight) shows that the relays rest on 20 meters with the controller turned off. The up/down buttons are used to select the other bands, and the LED switches to indicate which band is in use.

to lighter-weight RG-8X to keep the antenna from leaning; RG-8X is fine below 30 MHz, but the cables must *not* run down the lower mast.

My first on-the-air 20-meter check was with a station in Florida, indicating that my signal was good, especially for a back-yard ground-mounted antenna. On 17 and 15 meters, I snagged some mobiles, 1500 miles away via skywave, and they, too, reported a nice signal. In comparison to single-band inverted-V dipoles (not multiband), the physically longer, naturally resonant dipoles with slightly higher feedpoint elevation gave me increased performance at the other end of the circuit by about 1 S-unit, or 6 dB. The best aspects of the portable Traveler™ antenna are its ultra-compact design, instant relocation to get it away from nearby cable-television drops, instant band switching, and no need for any additional mounting poles.

Finally, after running the ICOM 7000 into it for a rather long QSO, I put down (actually disconnected) the mic and immediately went over to feel the open 20-meter coils. They were hardly warm, not hot, indicating minimal current loading to achieve resonance in the upper and the lower radiating elements.

A Second Test

A friend of Gordo's, Paul Bailey Gates, KA6GEM, recently purchased his own TW-2010 and recounted his initial impressions:

I set up the TW-2010 this afternoon in my front yard just to test it out. I soldered a set of Anderson PowerPoles® onto the controller power line and grounded everything as recommended. I'm using a new 75-foot length of RG-8X from Cable X-Perts. Everything worked as expected, but the bands were dead so I didn't make a single contact or hear any activity. The SWR meter on my FT-897D didn't move *at all!* In fact, my first impression was that something wasn't working.

The only problem I had was in the "Auto" mode, using the accessory Yaesu interface cable with my FT-897D. It switched OK for the 10- and 12-meter bands, but when I switched to 15, it jumped back to 10 meters... same for 17 and 20 meters. But the manual mode works so well that the auto mode almost seems unnecessary.

This antenna could prove to be a major game-changer. Its set-up was super simple and there was *no* tuning. With the growing number of very portable HF transceivers (ICOM'S new IC-7000 and the venerable 706, Yaesu's FT-897 and 857, and Kenwood's TS-2000, among others), there is, I think, a lot of demand for an antenna like this.

(Actually, according to Richard at TW, the 2010 is physically sized for 10 meters, but with all coils engaged, it goes to 20 meters. In that range "good match" bandwidth is pretty small, and any further loading will cause subsequent bands to match across a very narrow range of frequencies.)

Keep the supplied multi-conductor control line and your supplied lightweight coax away from the lower radiating element and your SWR will drop to near zero. I tried rotating the antenna to see if it was directional, but couldn't tell much difference, other than

some nice incoming strong signals. Most important, everyone I could hear, I could work.

For portable operation, the TW antenna was a kick to play with in my backyard, as well as at other locations in the California sun.

The list price for the TW-2010 Traveler is \$399.95; a complete package, which includes the antenna plus the Quadpod stand and a deluxe carrying case, is \$549.85, both plus shipping. For more information, visit <<http://www.TWantennas.com>> on the web and look for product number TW-2010.



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The quantity of young people in ham radio may not be as high as many of us would like, but there is no problem with the quality of those young hams, representing tomorrow's leaders not only of our hobby but of their professions as well.

Young Hams Shine with Awards, Scholarships

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

The accomplishments of young people in amateur radio were highlighted in late June and early July by two separate announcements—one the winner of this year's Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) award, and the other the more than four dozen young amateurs honored with scholarships administered by the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR).

Emily M. Stewart, KCØPTL

Seventeen-year-old Emily Stewart, KCØPTL, was chosen from a record field of 30 nominees to be the 2008 Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Emily is entering her senior year in Leavenworth (KS) High School and hopes to become a pharmacist in the future. She has been a ham for five years, and has been involved with promoting and demonstrating amateur radio for nearly as long. In 2006, she was appointed ARRL Assistant Section Manager for Youth in Kansas, and helped organize and run the Youth Lounge and Youth Dinner at the Dayton Hamvention® in both 2007 and 2008.

At a section leadership meeting in 2007, Emily asked how many of the attendees had persuaded their children or grandchildren to become hams. Very few hands were raised. As a result, she and Brian Short, KCØBS, developed the Kansas Legacy Project, a program designed to encourage licensed hams to get their younger family members involved in the hobby. Emily herself is the daughter of a ham, Mike Stewart, KØMDS.

At a ceremony at the Huntsville Hamfest in August, Emily was due to be presented with a plaque from Amateur Radio Newsline, along with a Yaesu transceiver from corporate co-sponsor Vertex-Standard and a week at SpaceCamp Huntsville from CQ magazine, also a corporate co-sponsor.

FAR Scholarship Winners

In early July, the Foundation for Amateur Radio announced the winners of the 55 scholarship awards that it administers. FAR has been administering scholarship programs since 1961, according to Scholarship Committee Chairman Diane Zimmerman, AA3OF. She notes that there are 49 individual winners this year, with six students winning more than one scholarship. Awards range from \$500 to \$3000, with \$1000



Emily M. Stewart, KCØPTL, Newsline Young Ham of the Year, 2008.

as the typical amount. The total value of all of the 2008 scholarships is over \$72,000. The 2008 winners are:

Ralph V. "Andy" Anderson, KØNL, Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: David T. Clark KD7NZK, Phoenix, AZ

Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Scholarships (5 total) \$1000 each: Elizabeth Albert-Bruninga, WE4APR, Glen Burnie, MD; Victor Curtis, KB3BTD, Cheltenham, MD; Christa McClenny, KB3JIU, Glenwood, MD; Rebecca Milton, KB3GFG, Sykesville, MD; **Ernie Dobos Memorial Scholarship, \$1500:** Andrew Bruninga, KB3GLF, Glen Burnie, MD

Rose Ellen Bills Memorial Scholarships, \$2000: Michael Volz, W2NRL, East Lansing, MI

Richard G. Chichester, Memorial Scholarship, \$2000: Tamara Sevier KE5DJZ, Austin, TX

Columbia Amateur Radio Association Scholarship, \$1000: Derek Wood, KB3NXY, Columbia, MD

FAR Silent Key Memorial Scholarships, 3 at \$3000 each: Derek Wood, KB3NXY, Columbia, MD; Patricia Dobson, N3DUH, Reisterstown, MD; HaoQi Li, KI4LJD, Fairfax, VA

Frederick Amateur Radio Club Scholarship, \$1000: Robert Crook, KB3JYR, Monrovia, MD

Free State Amateur Radio Club Scholarship, \$500: Amy Johnson, KB3HXF, New Castle, PA

Murgas Amateur Radio Club Scholarship, \$500: Patricia Ward, KB3QLI, Pittsburgh, PA

*Editor, CQ

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

Nanticoke Amateur Radio Club Scholarship, \$1000: Benjamin R. Frye, KI4BAW, Roanoke, VA

Lawrence E. and Thelma J. Norrie Memorial Scholarship, \$2500: Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT, Raytown, MO

Old Old Timers Club Scholarship, \$1000: Alex Brech KC0YLD, Curie, MN

Ozaukee Radio Club Scholarship, \$1000: Natalie Harding, KC9KIR, Burlington, WI

Kevin and Kelly Perdue Memorial Scholarship, \$2000: Steven Hughes, KI4EBV, Brighton, TN

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Memorial Scholarships, \$2000 each: Steven R. Chimel, KA3SRC, Clarks Summit, PA; Diana Mitchell, KB3QDW, Mechanicsburg, PA

QCWA Named Memorial Scholarships, 6, amounts vary: Bryce T. Salmi, KB1LQC, Chelmsford, MA; Grant Morine, W4GHM, Wilmington, NC; Stephen Oi, NV6A, Brentwood, TN; Brenton J. Salmi, KB1LQD, Chelmsford, MA; Nicholas Bauer, KC9GZY, Bloomington, IN; Alex Brech, KC0YLD, Curie, MN

QCWA Silent Key Memorial Scholarships, 12 at \$1000 each: Daniel Ellis, KG4IVC, Pikeville, NC; William Joshua Fisher, W4WJF, Vale, NC; Kyle Fox, W4KTF, Warrenton, VA; Catherine Jones, KI4EVA, Vinton, VA; Blake McCabe, KC2GQX, Vestal, NY; Wayne McNamar, KD7PVY, Everett, WA; Reid Morine, W4RSM, Wilmington, NC; Sabra Perry, KD7JPR, Sweet Home, OR; Matthew Poppe, AD7HF, Spokane Valley, WA; Sarah Schneider-Firestone, KB3QJR, Columbia, MD; Stephen M. Sciarini, KC8IDJ, Dover, OH; Stephen T. Simpson, KC8IOY, Ocala, FL

Radio Club of America Scholarships, 3 at \$1000: William Joshua Fisher, W4WJF, Vale, NC; Michael Volz, W8KAR, East Lansing, MI; Caleb Braff, KC0FKO, St Paul, MN

Chuck Reville K3FT Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Chris Renfrow, KD7TDC, Ellensburg, WA

10-10 International Net Scholarships, 4 at \$1500 each: James Dunn, KC0KTP, Overland Park, KS; Francis T. Gradijan, KD5HTB, Carrollton, TX; Nathaniel Heatwole, WZ3AR, Pittsburgh, PA; Jacob Wagner, KD8CDC, Rocky River, OH

Robert E. True Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Stephen M. Sciarini, KC8IDJ, Dover, OH

Tulare County Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Nathan Hager, KI6LZA, Cedarpines Park, CA

Ernest L. Walker, WB3DVL Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Thomas Christovich, KB3HUR, Baltimore, MD

Dwight Weller Memorial Scholarship, \$1000: Joshua Young, KJ4AVW, Fuquay Varina, NC

WARAC Memorial Scholarship, \$1500: Patrick Weeks, KB9ULT, West Allis, WI

Young Ladies' Radio League Scholarships, \$1500: Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT, Raytown, MO; Stephanie Schaefer, KC2NSA, Binghamton, NY

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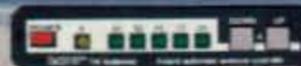
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All Line Isolators™ have Silver + Teflon SO-239 input and output connectors. T-4 & T-5 rated 160-10m, 2 kW+

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There were so many new goodies this year at Dayton that, once again, we were forced to break this article into two parts (Part I was last month). In our conclusion this month, we focus on station accessories, antennas, and antenna accessories.

The Magical Mystery Hamvention®-Tour Part II

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

KENWOOD

DX

ENTERPRISES INC

The blending of computer technology with ham radio technology continues, and it was most evident this year at the Dayton Hamvention® in the many new station accessories on the market, from software to automatically detect what band you're on and switch you automatically to the right antenna to several Bluetooth® devices to make it easier for us to operate hands-free while mobile. Our tour continues now with a look at station accessories, antennas, and antenna accessories.

Station Accessories

Array Solutions starts out our list of manufacturers offering new accessories for your ham shack (antenna-related accessories are listed with antennas). We've got three new offerings from Array Solutions this year, beginning with the BandMaster, a "universal radio band decoder" that relays band information between rigs without RS-232 ports and an external device, such as a computer logging program. It is compatible with Elecraft, ICOM, Kenwood, Ten-Tec, and Yaesu radios. Next up is the QSK-Master, which allows any radio/amplifier combination to use full break-in keying (QSK), and the Hamation Filter MAX (sold through Array Solutions), which contains six W3NQN bandpass filters in one case. Designed primarily with multi-transmitter contest stations in mind, the removable filters cover each of the traditional HF ham bands (160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters). It's easy to replace a filter if necessary or substitute ones for 12, 17, or

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



The QSK-Master, one of several new products from Array Solutions, allows any radio/amplifier combination to use full break-in keying (QSK), even if the units weren't designed to work together.

30 meters if you're not using it for contesting. All of the filters are rated for up to 200 watts.

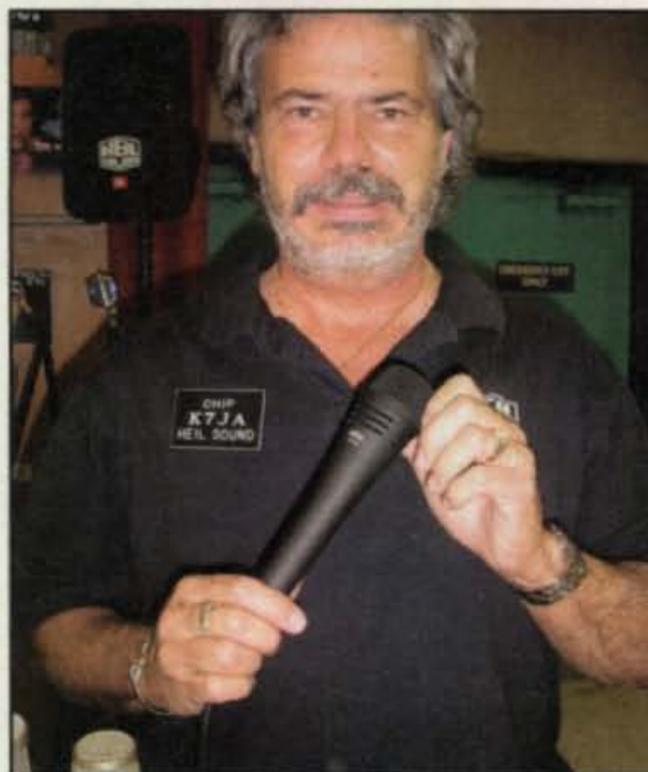
bhi introduced its "CAT-MATE" electronic "Y" splitter for the Yaesu FT-817, 857, or 897. This allows you to use the company's RadioMate compact keypad (see review, June 2008 CQ) as well as another remote device that connects through the radio's computer (CAT) port.

Creative Services Software has released a new Windows® version of its classic PacTerm (for Timewave/AEA TNCs) and PKTerm (for Kantronics TNCs) software, taking full



The CAT MATE from bhi, Ltd., is an electronic "Y" splitter that lets you use two devices through the computer port of certain Yaesu transceivers.

Heil Sound Marketing Manager Chip Margelli, K7JA (a 2008 inductee to the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame) demonstrates Heil's new PR-35 microphone. Designed for vocalists, it helps enhance ham audio as well. →

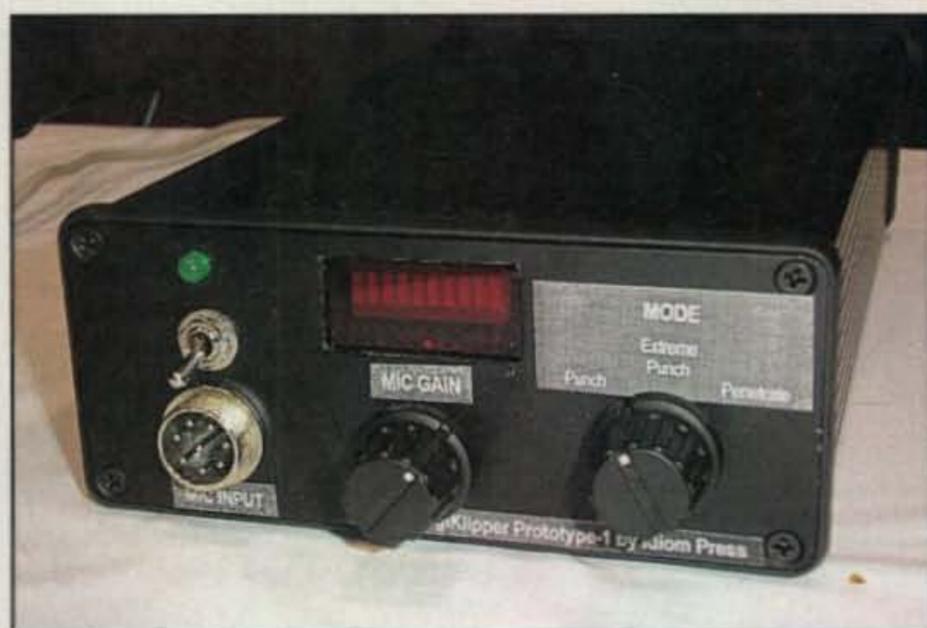


advantage of the multitasking power of Windows. This rig control software allows operators not only to control radio transmissions, but to simultaneously run additional programs, such as logging programs, callsign lookup programs, or any other Windows® application. It also supports Timewave's latest DSP-232+ terminal node controller (TNC) and will simultaneously run two TNCs, allowing the operator to operate both HF digital and VHF packet at the same time.

The Courage HandiHam System, which helps develop assistive technology for hams with disabilities, as well as helping them get licensed and on the air, featured a new "Command and Control" system for users with limited muscle control and/or blindness. Designed by KØLR and WB5KIA (who previously developed the Talking Logbook), this system lets the user communicate with the radio through a lightweight computer headset, telling it to change frequency, mode, etc., and then—by flipping one switch—the headset becomes a VOX headset mic for talking on the radio.

Heil Sound introduced two new microphones, the PR-35 and PR-781. The PR-35 was primarily intended for broadcast, recording, and live-sound use (Bob Heil tells us it was designed for folk singer Joan Baez), but is also good for ham use where you want a smooth, flat response over a wide frequency range. One particular item of interest to hams with computers all over their shacks is that the 35 was designed to be used close in to video monitors without hum or buzz. The PR-781 comes out of the ham radio side of the Heil Sound shop, and is a refinement of the PR-780, which was originally designed for the ICOM IC-7800. The 781 is compatible with all major-brand transceivers, offering a dynamic element with wide frequency response (50 Hz to 16 kHz) and a cardioid pattern.

Speaking of audio, Idiom Press has introduced an outboard SSB speech processor called the LogiKlipper, employing RF clipping to keep your transmitter operating at peak power without introducing distortion. It offers three modes: "Punch," which makes your signal sound fuller and louder; "Extreme Punch," described as a more aggressive version of punch designed to give you a dominating sound to help you hold a frequency while contesting or running a net; and "Penetrate," which adds a high-frequency boost to help your signal get through even the worst band conditions. It won't sound pretty—the literature describes the output as "a near-shrill, piercing, penetrating sound"—but you will get through if at all possible.



The LogiKlipper from Idiom Press is an SSB speech processor that offers three settings—"Punch," "Extreme Punch" and "Penetrate"—to help your signal get through in even the worst conditions.

We'll briefly break away from alphabetical order here to finish up the audio category. W2IHY Technologies brought its new iPlus audio switch to the Hamvention. This lets you use a single box to connect either your IHY audio gear or commercial rack-mounted audio gear to as many as three separate radios (or speaker systems if you're also into non-radio audio). There are separate level controls feeding each output, plus you can connect one speaker to the unit for all of your station audio. You can also connect amplifier keying lines and, in tandem with Top 10 Devices' antenna switch, provide one-switch switching of all external devices between different radios.

Kenwood's new entry for this year is the RC-D710. It's a replacement control panel for the TM-D710A or the TM-V71A and it includes a 1200/9600 baud AX.25 TNC for no-computer APRS operation (APRS® is the Automatic Position Reporting System). Other packet operation does require a computer. The RC-D710 also is set up to accept NMEA-183 output from a GPS receiver, can output waypoint position data to your GPS unit, and allows you to store a list of up to 100 APRS stations. It also supports several earlier Kenwood mobile rigs, including the TM-D700, V708, G707, V7, 733, 255, and 455.

MFJ had its usual array of new products on display at the show. If we listed everything, we'd fill up this whole article, so we asked company president Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, to pick a handful that he thought would be of interest to the greatest number of our readers. He immediately led us over to a display of window feedthrough panels. The concept was introduced a few years ago, but the new ones greatly expand their versatility.

Besides offering a variety of different connectors for different types of antennas, several of them also include MFJ's new "AdaptiveCable" wall plates that slip open to let you pass through cables that already have connectors on them (such as rotor control cables), then slide back over the cable to form a weather-tight seal. MFJ also offers through-wall and through-soffit versions for those who don't want to run their cables through a window frame. Next up was the model 826 digital SWR/wattmeter. It covers 1.8–54 MHz, QRP to the legal limit,

has an analog scale, and can be operated remotely. The software can be updated online as new versions are released.

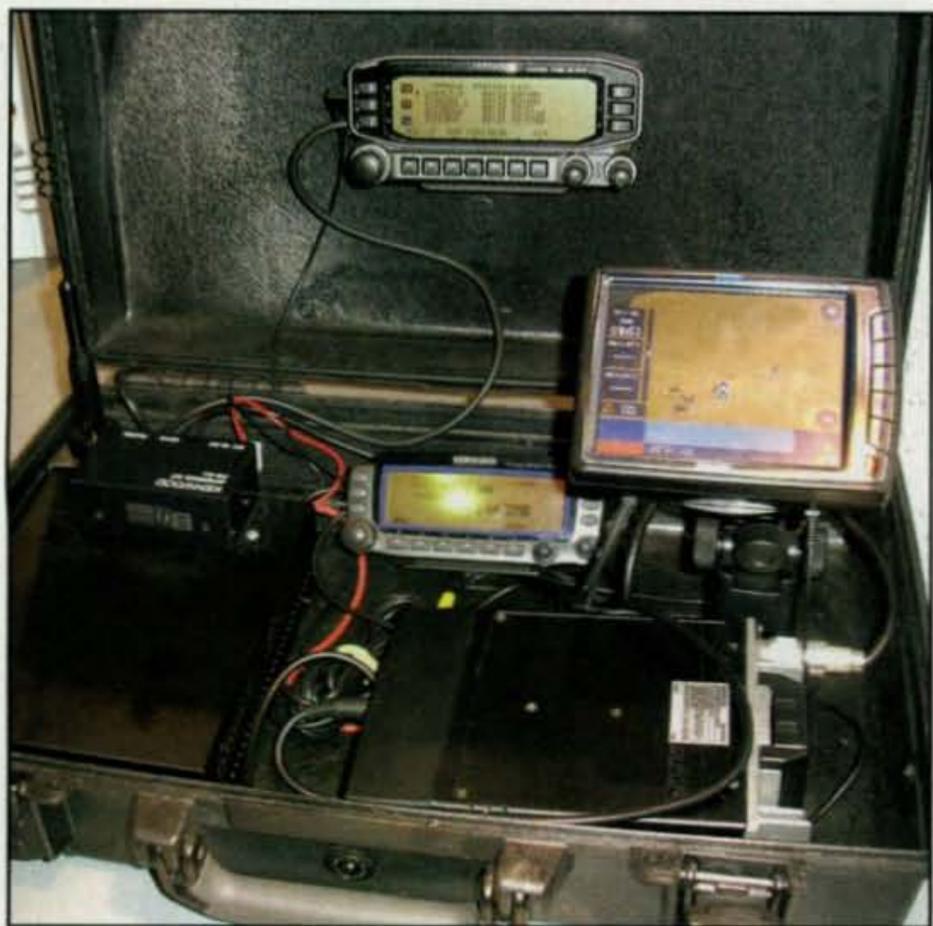
Martin's next highlighted new product was the MFJ-1251 universal microphone converter, which lets you use your favorite microphone (with either a modular or 8-pin round plug) with any rig that has either a modular or 8-pin mic input. A series of jumpers inside the box lets you re-route the cabling from your microphone to match the cabling needed by your rig. The rest of MFJ's best of the new stuff list will be found in the next section, covering antennas and antenna accessories.

British manufacturer RPF Communications paid a visit to Dayton and showcased its two "TalkSafe" products. These are outboard units that let you operate virtually any radio hands-free, using a Bluetooth® headset. The basic TalkSafe is designed for mobile use with mobile rigs, and features a speaker override switch so that anyone else in the vehicle can hear the received signals. You use the call/end-call switch on your Bluetooth® headset to key and unkey the mic. The TalkSafe Ranger is a similar unit designed for handhelds, minus the speaker override switch. Both units can operate alongside other Bluetooth® devices without interference.

Another set of Bluetooth® adapters comes from Timewave Technology, the HamLinkBT-BTH and BT-RC. The BT-BTH attaches to most recent ham rigs through the mic and speak-



W2IHY's iPlus audio switch lets you consolidate audio gear through this one box to feed as many as three different radios with the flip of a switch.



The RC-D710 from Kenwood replaces the control head of existing Kenwood VHF/UHF mobile rigs and includes a built-in packet TNC as well as software for no-computer APRS operation.



MFJ's expanded line of window feedthroughs for all sorts of radio cables includes new "adaptive cable" wall plates that slide open then provide a weatherproof seal for cables that already have connectors on them.

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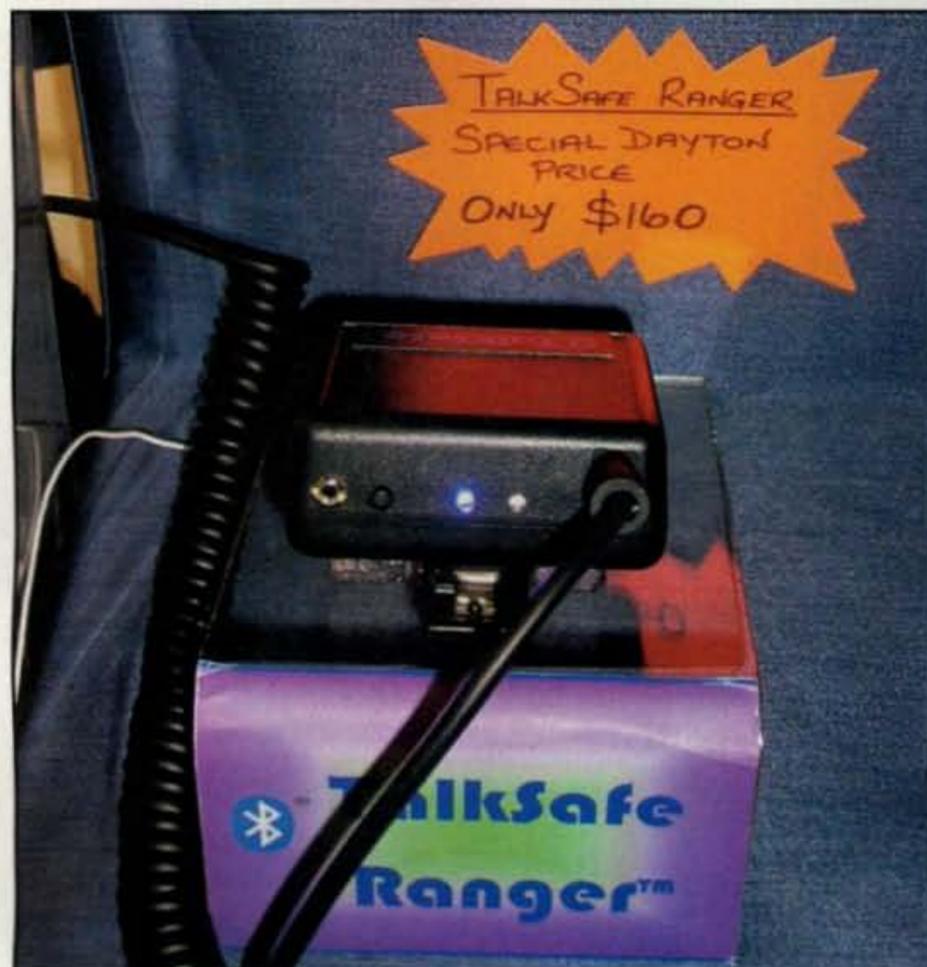
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Coax Seal	Manual UP/DOWN Switch



er connectors and offers three different ways of keying your transmitter on and off. First, if your rig is equipped for VOX (voice operated switching), then you just talk and it switches into transmit mode. If not, then you can tap the switch on your earpiece to toggle the transmitter on and off. The BTH also offers an optional pushbutton switch that activates its FastPTT system. When used with a second Bluetooth® unit,



The TalkSafe Ranger from RPF Electronics (left) and the HamLink BT from Timewave Technology (right) are among several Bluetooth® adapters introduced at Dayton this year with the goal of promoting hands-free hamming while driving.

you can use the BT-PTT switch in your hand, on your belt, or connected to a footswitch to manually activate the PTT circuit. The BT-RC is a wireless controller for remotely operating ham rigs with computer-control inputs (including RS-232, CAT and Ci-V). This lets you use your computer control program without a physical link to the rig. There is also an audio link that lets you talk through a computer headset/mic or operate digital modes through a soundcard program or an external TNC.

West Mountain Radio brought three new products to Dayton, a flexible mobile mount for the Yaesu FT-817; the

West Mountain Radio's RIGblaster duo is designed to provide all the benefits and convenience of the original RIGblaster to two rigs. Plus, it lets you share a mic, speaker, headphones, and digital-mode software between two radios.



new RIGrunner 4004, which in addition to providing 12-volts DC for powering various radios includes USB ports carrying 5 volts so you can plug in portable computing devices, such as MP3 players, that are powered via USB cables; and the RIGblaster duo—which basically lets you use a single RIGblaster for two radios—one mic, one pair of headphones, one computer, one soundcard interface ... all of which feed two separate outputs so you can switch between rigs simply by throwing a switch. The duo also includes a dual USB-to-serial converter to let you use two ham software applications at once.

Buddipole Antennas has added a non-antenna accessory to its line—a miniature 40 amp power supply. It's actually an "ultra capacitor," which stores a large amount of energy per charge.

W4RT Electronics has introduced a small (in size and price) vector network analyzer. The miniVNA Antenna Analyzer uses the power of a laptop computer (not included) to view the parameters of any antenna over any portion of spectrum between 100 kHz and 180 MHz in real time. The miniVNA comes with a USB cable and a CD with the analyzer software.

Antennas & Antenna Accessories

As usual, there were a great number of new antennas and antenna accessories introduced this year at Dayton. We'll get started with Bencher's new Skylark Yagi for 12 and 17 meters, which can be looked at as a companion to the company's Skyhawk Yagi for 20, 15, and 10 meters. With seven elements on a 16-foot boom, you will be heard! The antenna weighs in at just 38 pounds, requires no tuning, and has an SWR of 1.3:1 or less across all of both bands.

DX Engineering has a new 43-foot vertical consisting of 16 self-nesting 3-foot tubes for easy assembly and disassembly where you can't or don't want to put up a permanent antenna. The tubes are aluminum, and the antenna comes with a stainless-steel tilt base included, as well as all stainless-steel hardware and fiberglass insulation at the base. The antenna is resonant on 40 meters and can be used on all HF bands with a current balun and wide-coverage tuner.

M² Antenna Systems has two new entries this year. The KT-31D triband dipole is a companion to its existing KT-



The miniVNA from W4RT Electronics, plus your own computer, gives you the power of a professional-grade network analyzer at a fraction of the price.

series of Yagis for 20, 15, and 10 meters. On the VHF/UHF side of things (M²'s original specialty), the company has the 2M-440XP-SS, a dual-band Yagi with a handle for 2 meters and 70 centimeters. This type of antenna is ideal for making portable satellite contacts using the FM "birds" and a dual-band handheld.

MFJ also has a rotatable dipole for the upper HF bands. The MFJ-1769 covers 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters. It's 26 feet long (13-foot turning radius) and weighs only 9 pounds, so it can be turned with a lightweight TV rotor. It's a full half-wavelength at 20 meters, and 6-meter operation is via an add-on dipole attached above the main element. The 6-meter kit is also sold separately as an add-on for any Yagi or rotatable dipole.

From the one-element rotatable dipoles, we step up to SteppIR's new "Dream Beam 36." This antenna covers 40–10 meters (80–6 with optional add-ons) but is only 60% of the size of a full-size Yagi on 40 meters. The longest element (the driven element in this case) is 49 feet long and the boom is 36 feet long. Of course, it uses SteppIR's famous motorized tuning to change element length within the element tubes in order to maximize performance on a given band.

The M² KT-31D rotatable triband dipole is the newest addition to the company's line of antennas for 20, 15, and 10 meters. (Photo courtesy M²)



MFJ Speech Intelligibility Enhancer

... makes barely understandable speech highly understandable!



"What did you say?" Can you hear but ... just can't always understand everything people are saying?

As we get older, high frequency hearing loss reduces our ability to understand speech. Here's why ...

Research shows that nearly half the speech intelligibility is contained in 1000 to 4000 Hz range, but contains a miniscule 4% of total speech energy.

On the other hand, the low frequencies, 125 to 500 Hz have most of the speech energy (55%) but contribute very little to intelligibility -- only 4%.

To dramatically improve your ability

MFJ-616
\$189⁹⁵

energy below 500 Hz where only 4% of speech intelligibility lies.

The MFJ-616 splits the audio speech band into four overlapping octave ranges centered at 300, 600, 1200 and 2400 Hz. You can boost or cut each range by nearly 20 dB.

A balance control and separate 2 1/2 Watt amplifiers let you equalize perceived loudness to each ear so both ears help.

By boosting high and cutting low frequencies and adjusting the balanced control, speech that you can barely understand become highly understandable!

to understand speech, you must:

First, drastically increase the speech energy above 500 Hz, where 83% of the speech intelligibility is concentrated.

Second, drastically reduce speech

Even if you don't have high frequency hearing loss, you'll dramatically improve your ability to understand speech. You'll get an edge in contesting and DXing and enjoy ragchewing more.

Here's what QST for April, 2001 said ... "I expected a subtle effect at best, but I was astonished ... The result was remarkably clean, understandable speech without hissing, ringing or other strange effects ... made a dramatic improvement ..."

Immuned to RFI. Has phone jack, on/off speaker switch, 2 inputs, bypass switch. 10Wx2 1/2 Hx6D". Needs 12 VDC.

MFJ-1316, \$21.95. For 110 VAC operation. Provides 12 VDC/1.5 Amps.

MFJ-72, \$69.80. All-in-one MFJ-616 Accessory Pack. Includes MFJ-392 headphones, two MFJ-281 speakers and MFJ-1316 power supply. **Save \$7!**

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MFJ Contest Voice Keyer

Transformer-coupled -- No RFI, hum or feedback ... 75 seconds total, 5-messages ... Records received audio ...



Let this new microprocessor controlled MFJ Contest Voice Keyer™ call CQ, send your call and do contest exchanges for you in your own natural voice!

Store frequently used phrases like "CQ Contest this is AA5MT", "You're 59" ... "Qth is Mississippi" ... Contest by pressing a few buttons and save your voice.

Record and playback 5 natural sounding messages in a total of 75 seconds. Uses eeprom -- no battery backup needed. Use your mic or its built-in mic for recording.

You can repeat messages continuously and vary the repeat delay from 3 to 500 seconds. Makes a great voice beacon and calling CQ is so easy.

You can also record and play back off-the-air signals -- great help if you didn't get it right the first time! No more "Please repeat".

A playing message can be

MFJ-434B halted by the **\$199⁹⁵** Stop Button, your microphone's PTT/VOX, remote control or computer.

Has jack for remote or computer control (using CT, NA or other program). Lets you select, play and cancel messages.

Your mic's audio characteristics do not change when your MFJ-434B is installed.

All audio lines are RF filtered to eliminate RFI, audio feedback and distortion. An audio isolation transformer totally eliminates hum and distortion caused by ground loops.

New! It's easy to use -- just plug in your 8 pin round or modular mic plug, set the internal jumpers for your transceiver and plug in the appropriate (included) cable for your rig.

Built-in speaker-amplifier. Speaker/phone jack. Use 9 Volt battery, 9-15 VDC or 110 VAC with optional MFJ-1312D, \$15.95. 6 1/2 Wx2 1/2 Hx6 1/2 D in.

MFJ-73, \$34.95. MFJ-434B Remote Control with cable.

60 dB Null wipes out noise and interference



MFJ-1026
\$199⁹⁵

Wipe out noise and interference before it gets into your receiver with a 60 dB null!

Eliminate all types of noise -- severe power line noise from arcing transformers and insulators, fluorescent lamps, light dimmers, touch controlled lamps, computers, TV birdies, lightning crashes from distant thunderstorms, electric drills, motors, industrial processes ...

It's more effective than a noise blanker! Interference much stronger than your desired signal can be completely removed without affecting your signal.

It works on all modes -- SSB, AM, CW, FM -- and frequencies from BCB to lower VHF.

You can null out strong QRM on top of weak rare DX and then work him! You can null

out a strong local ham or AM broadcast station to prevent your receiver from overloading.

Use the MFJ-1026 as an adjustable phasing network. You can combine two antennas to give you various directional patterns. Null out a strong interfering signal or peak a weak signal at a push of a button.

Easy-to-use! Plugs between transmitting antenna and transceiver. To null, adjust amplitude and phase controls for minimum S-meter reading or lowest noise. To peak, push reverse button. Use built-in active antenna or an external one. MFJ's exclusive Constant Amplitude Phase Control™ makes nulling easy.

RF sense T/R switch automatically bypasses your transceiver when you transmit. Adjustable delay time. Uses 12 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312D, \$15.95. 6 1/2 x 1 1/2 x 6 1/4 in.

MFJ-1025, \$179.95. Like MFJ-1026 less built-in active antenna, use external noise antenna.



MFJ-1026 less built-in active antenna, use external noise antenna.

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MFJ-784B
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can customize. **Automatic** notch filter searches for and eliminates multiple heterodynes. Advanced adaptive noise reduction silences background noise and QRM.

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Stand up and salute! This flagpole is also a vertical antenna that can handle full legal power on 40–10 meters. It's made by ZeroFive Antennas and distributed by Array Solutions.



Two new accessories from Buddipole Antennas are a mini rotor control (left) and a mini 40-amp power supply (right) that uses an ultra capacitor to store power.

Finally, ZeroFive Antennas offers a new 24-foot flagpole antenna for those who need an antenna that doesn't look like an antenna. It covers 10–40 meters at full legal power, and the company says you can landscape around it without affecting performance. And yes, it comes with rope and a flag!

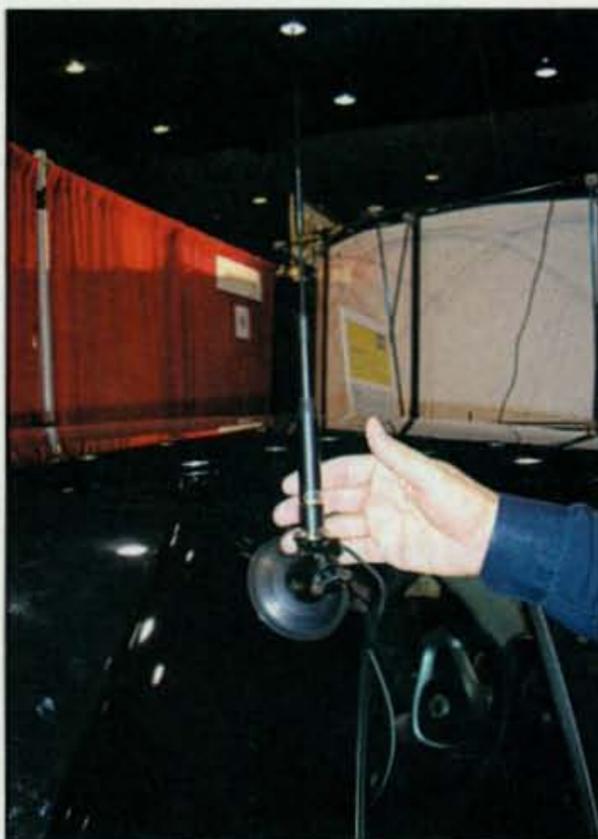
Moving on to antenna accessories, we start with Array Solutions' StackMatch Plus, the latest addition to the StackMatch line of control units for selecting, phasing, and sharing power between stacked antennas.

Next up are two new products from the Buddipole folks, who have helped make on-foot HFing popular. First is a mini rotor control for a rotatable dipole,

and the second is an 8-foot shock-corded mast that folds up and can be packed away in the included carrying case.

If you're in your car rather than on foot, Comet has its new MRS4M articulating mag mount. It's a combination suction cup and magnetic mount and lets you mount an antenna in a variety of places and then twist the mount into the best position. Comet's distributor, NCG Company, also introduced the CN801 SWR and power meter from Daiwa. This meter covers 900–1300 MHz and is focused on meeting the needs of D-Star system users and repeater/gateway operators.

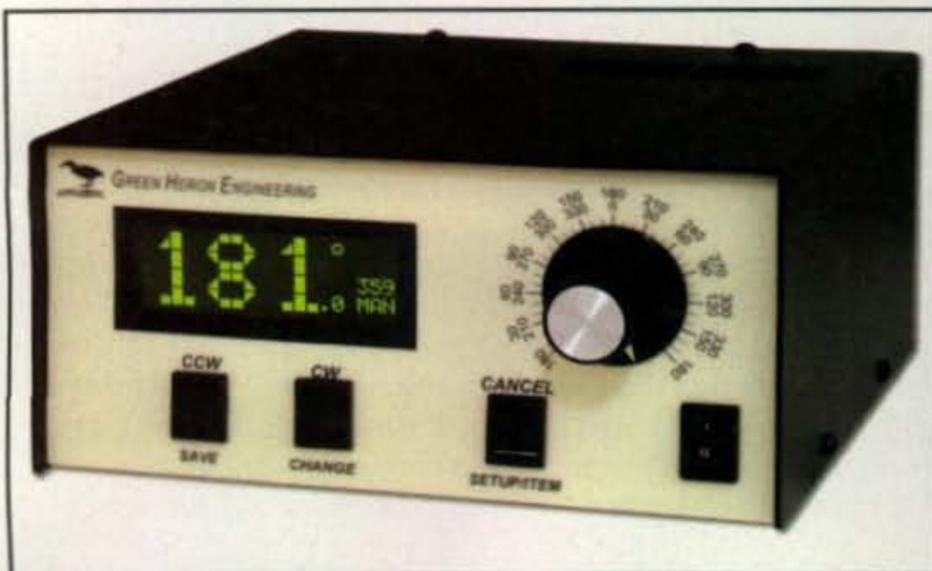
DX Engineering brought out its TFS4, a hybrid controller for four-square ar-



The Comet MRS4M is a combination mag-mount/suction-cup mount that lets you twist the antenna base in nearly any direction.



The new Daiwa cross-needle SWR/Power meter.



The RT-21 universal rotor controller from Green Heron Engineering comes in two models, the standard version (shown here) and the deluxe version, Model RT-21D, which includes satellite tracking and internet networking with optional software.



LDG's KT-100 antenna tuner is designed as a replacement for Kenwood's discontinued AT-300, which was a favorite among many fans of the Kenwood rigs with which it was designed to operate.

rays (there are versions for 40, 80, and 160 meters). The TFS4 will send power to any of the four antennas in the array, or split it among all of them for an omnidirectional pattern. The same applies on receive as well, allowing you to listen in all directions and then focus the antenna's pattern on a station you want to contact.

Green Heron Engineering has introduced two new universal digital rotor controllers. The Standard RT-21D includes both USB and RS-232 ports, accuracy to one-tenth of one degree, and an improved computer interface. The Deluxe model has all of the features of the standard one, plus a vacuum fluorescent display, IP networking, and satellite tracking (each with optional software).

On the topic of rotors, Idiom Press has rolled out a Rotator Illuminator, a small device you can build to replace the always-burning-out-and-getting-harder-to-replace lightbulbs in your rotor controller with longer-lasting and more energy-efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

About the time you read this, LDG should be bringing out its KT-100 tuner, which is billed as a replacement for Kenwood's discontinued AT-300 tuner for the TS-2000, TS-50, TS-480, and other Kenwood rigs. With an AT-300 compatible Kenwood radio, using the KT-100 is as easy as pushing the "tune" button on the radio. The unit includes 2000 memories for instantly recalling the parameters for your 2000 favorite frequencies.

M² gets into the antenna accessory act as well, this year introducing the 2M-440-DPX dual-band duplexer for 2 meters and 70 centimeters. It has a vari-

ety of mounting options and may even be used outdoors.

Moving on ... we come to MFJ's new telescoping fiberglass masts. They come in two versions, one 33 feet high and the other 43 feet high. They are strong enough to hold three full-size antennas, yet they collapse to 7 and 9 feet, respectively. MFJ also offers a variety of aluminum masts, one of which is 65 feet high ... which just happens to be a quarter-wavelength on 80 meters.

And if you think 43 feet is long for a push-up antenna support, check out Super Bertha's "Ultimate Antenna Tower." It can be pushed up from a collapsed height of 10 feet to as high as

215 feet! The rotor is at the bottom and the whole tower turns. There is also the option to let the top section rotate independently, a feature that some contesters and DXers will find handy for listening in two directions at once.

Wrap-Up

That about wraps up our annual tour of Dayton's newest products. More information on most of these products is available from dealers or from the manufacturers' websites. The only ones missing will be those that were still in the prototype stage at Dayton and are not yet ready for general sale. Enjoy your toys!

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What You've Told Us...

Our June survey asked several questions about the time you spend operating ham radio. Interestingly, 44% of those who replied said they currently get enough time to operate (although 74% said they'd like to have more operating time than they have now), while 38% said they don't get enough time, 15% said sometimes yes, sometimes no, and 2% circled "Is there such a thing?"

Asked how often they currently operate, 38% said at least once a week (but not every day); 22% said several times a day; 18% said once a day, 10% answered a few times a month (but not every week); 9% are on the air less than once a month, and 3% are not currently active. Given the same choices in an ideal world with no other demands on their time, 50% said they would like to operate several times a day, followed by 30% at once a day, 18% at least once a week, 1% more than 24 hours a day, 1% a few times a month, and zero—nobody—looks forward to operating less than once a month.

Finally, we asked what currently are the greatest obstacles to spending more time on the radio. Number one—no surprise here—was family obligations at 43%, followed by household obligations (39%), work/school obligations (28%), lack of sunspots (21%), other (15%), other hobbies (14%), antenna restrictions (11%), health/mobility restrictions (10%), religious obligations (8%), lack of motivation (8%), lack of equipment (5%), and operating prohibitions (1%). In addition, 18% of those responding said there are no major obstacles and they are happy with the on-air time they have.

This month's free subscription winner is Eric Brandariz, N2BRC, of Brooklyn, New York.

Reader Survey September 2008

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 incentive, we'll pick one respondent each month and give that person a complimentary one-year subscription (or subscription extension) to *CQ*.

This month we'd like to hear your views on where you think our hobby is headed.

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

1. Do you agree with the inclusion of amateur radio on AOL's list of "Top 25 Things Vanishing from America"?

Yes	29
No	30
Unsure	31

2. What is your perception of the current state of amateur radio in the United States?

Healthy and vibrant	32
Stable but static	33
On a downslope	34
Irretrievably sinking into oblivion	35

3. What is your perception of the current state of amateur radio technology?

Cutting edge	36
State of the art	37
Somewhat behind the leading edge	38
Far behind the leading edge	39
A mix of new and old	40

4. What is your perception of the current state of technical knowledge and skill among your fellow hams?

Excellent	41
Good	42
Mediocre	43
Poor	44
Mix of skill levels	45

5. What is your perception of your own technical knowledge and skills compared with your fellow hams?

I know more than most other hams I know	46
I know more than some other hams I know	47
I know about the same amount as most hams I know	48
I know less than most other hams I know	49
Everybody I know knows more than I do	50

6. What have you done in the past year to help keep ham radio viable and growing? (Circle all that apply)

Helped recruit one or more new hams	51
Helped train one or more new hams	52
Presented a program at a club meeting	53
Demonstrated ham radio for young people or the general public	54
Wrote an article for a magazine or newsletter	55
Invited others to my shack to visit/operate	56
Held a leadership position in a club or other ham organization	57
Improved my own knowledge and skills	58
Other	59
Nothing	60

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

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COMET CP-5M SO-239 / PL-259

COMET CP-SNMO NMO / PL-259

Footprint: 3.4" x 1.25"
Max Antenna: 60"

For Tall or Multi-band HF Antennas

MODEL / ANT CONN / COAX CONN

COMET HD-5M SO-239 / PL-259

COMET HD-5 3/8-24 3/8-24 / PL-259

Footprint: 3.75" x 1.1"
Max antenna: 80"

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• Conn: PL-259 • Max Pwr: 150W

COMET NEW! CSB770A DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHZ W/FOLD-OVER
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 4.4dBi 5/8 wave center load, 446MHz 6.9dBi 5/8 wave x 2 center load • VSWR: 1.5:1 or less • Length: 51" • Conn: PL-259 • Max Pwr: 150W

COMET NEW! CSB790A DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHZ W/FOLD-OVER
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 5.1dBi 7/8 wave center load, 446MHz 7.7dBi 5/8 wave x 3 center load • VSWR: 1.5:1 or less • Length: 62" • Conn: PL-259 • Max Pwr: 150W

Maldol AX-50 DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz
Gain & Wave: 2M 1/4 wave • 70cm 5.0dBi 9/8 wave • Length: 21" • Conn: PL-259 • Max Power: 60W

Maldol AX-75 DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz W/FOLD-OVER
Gain & Wave: 2M 1/2 wave center load 3.2dBi • 70cm 5/8 wave x 2 5.7dBi • Length: 30" • Conn: PL-259 • Max Power: 60W

Maldol AX-95 DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz W/FOLD-OVER
Gain & Wave: 2M 1/2 wave center load 3.3dBi • 70cm 5/8 wave x 2 5.8dBi • Length: 38" • Conn: PL-259 • Max Power: 60W

COMET B-10 / B-10NMO DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 0dBi 1/4 wave • 446MHz 2.15dBi 1/2 wave • Length: 12"
• Conn: B-10 PL-259, B-10NMO - NMO style • Max Pwr: 50W

COMET SBB-2 / SBB-2NMO DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 2.15dBi 1/4 wave • 446MHz 3.8dBi 5/8 wave center load • VSWR: 1.5:1 or less • Length: 18"
• Conn: SBB-2 PL-259 • SBB-2NMO NMO style • Max Pwr: 60W

Maldol EX-107RB / EX-107RBNMO DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 2.6dBi 1/2 wave • 446MHz 4.9dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • VSWR: 1.5:1 or less • Length: 29"
• Conn: EX-107RB PL-259 • EX-107RBNMO NMO style • Max Pwr: 100W

COMET SBB-5 / SBB-5NMO DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz W/FOLD-OVER
Gain and wave: 146MHz 3dBi 1/2 wave • 446MHz 5.5dBi 5/8 wave x 2 • Length: 39"
• Conn: SBB-5 PL-259, SBB-5NMO - NMO style • Max Pwr: 120W

COMET SBB-7 / SBB-7NMO DUAL-BAND 2M/440MHz W/FOLD-OVER
Gain & Wave: 146MHz 4.5dBi 6/8 wave • 446MHz 7.2dBi 5/8 wave x 3 • Length: 58"
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Are You Really Operating On Frequency?

These days with digital readouts on almost all amateur radio gear it is easy to know where you are in a particular band . . . or do you really know? Just because the digits tend to indicate that you are on a particular frequency, you might not actually be where you think you are. This, of course, is totally dependent on the accuracy of your readout. How can you check the accuracy? A simple answer is to build a low-cost calibration oscillator, the topic of this month's column.

In the "old days" before digital readouts, most amateur radio equipment came equipped with an internal crystal calibrator. This device produced RF harmonics at fixed intervals throughout the entire pass band of the receiver. These harmonics were

usually spaced at intervals of 100 kHz or 1 MHz. To use this feature you turned on the calibrator, set the dial in the vicinity of your desired operating frequency, and then tuned to the nearest harmonic. You could then determine your exact operating frequency by extrapolating between two harmonics.

These circuits were first built with vacuum tubes, then transistors. A feature also was usually incorporated to allow exact calibration (zero beating) with one of the standard radio frequency signals broadcast by the U.S. government. Once digital displays came on the market, however, these accessories went by the wayside, and users assumed that the digital-dial reading was perfect. The accuracy of a digital display, however, is only as good as its internal reference crystal, so although the digits look nice, the question still remains as to how accurate they really are.

*c/o CQ magazine

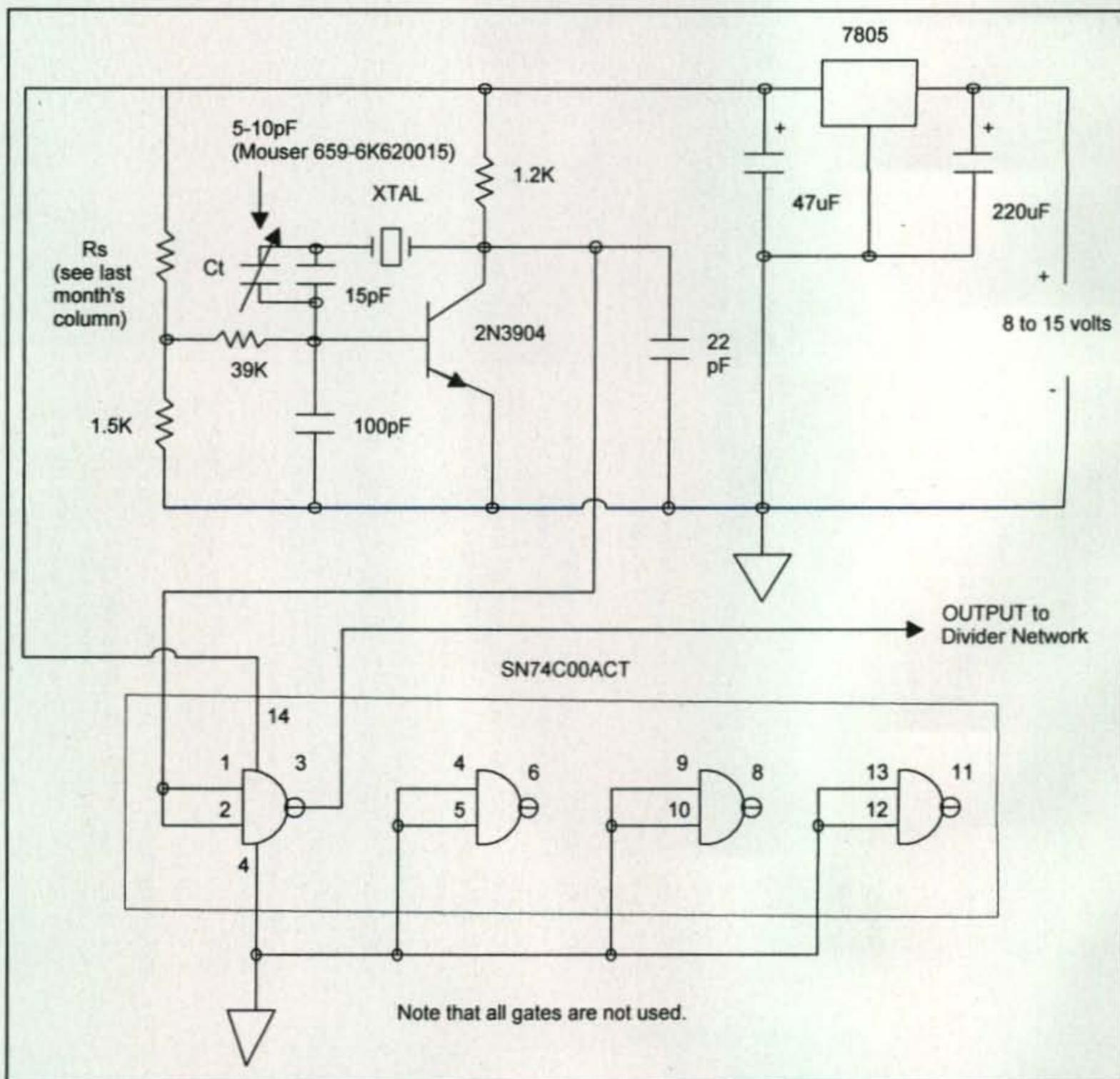
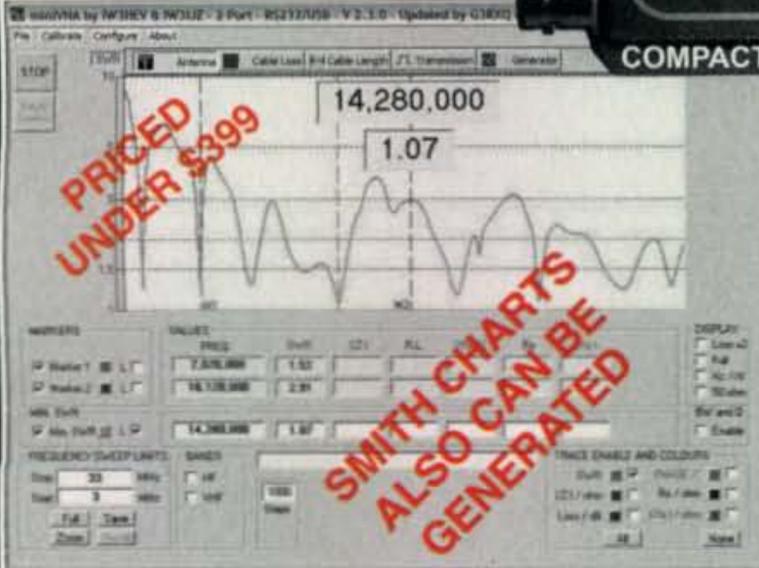


Fig. 1— Basic oscillator and driver schematic.

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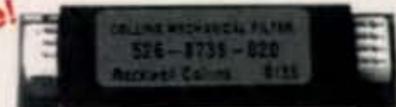
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The calibrator to be described here uses a quartz crystal for stability and has the ability to allow it to be fine-tuned to one of the standard frequency stations just mentioned. Since these stations are extremely accurate, you can easily check on the degree of calibration of your receiver. To encourage you to experiment and actually build something, I have provided the schematic in four parts. Fig. 1 is the basic oscillator and power supply. Fig. 2 is a divider to obtain additional frequencies, as we will see. Fig. 3 is a flip-flop circuit that divides by a factor of four, and fig. 4 is a pulse-shaping circuit that will provide useful harmonics well into the VHF region (and possibly higher) if you need this. Let's start with fig. 1.

The basic circuit consists of a Pierce-type crystal-controlled transistor oscillator. A discrete transistor circuit was chosen, as it tends to be more stable than an all-IC version in terms of constant drive and load on the crystal. Since the oscillator is untuned, the crystal chosen can be at any frequency from 1 MHz to 10 MHz, and the trimmer capacitor (Ct) connected in series with the crystal is used to set it exactly on frequency. The output of the oscillator is then connected to one gate of a 74ACT00 quad logic CMOS gate array. The gate is used to

buffer the oscillator in addition to providing a TTL level for additional circuits. The ACT version, by the way, was chosen for its high-speed capabilities, high input

impedance, and high-output-drive capabilities. The basic circuit uses only one gate, so the others are disabled for the moment. You can build the circuit on a

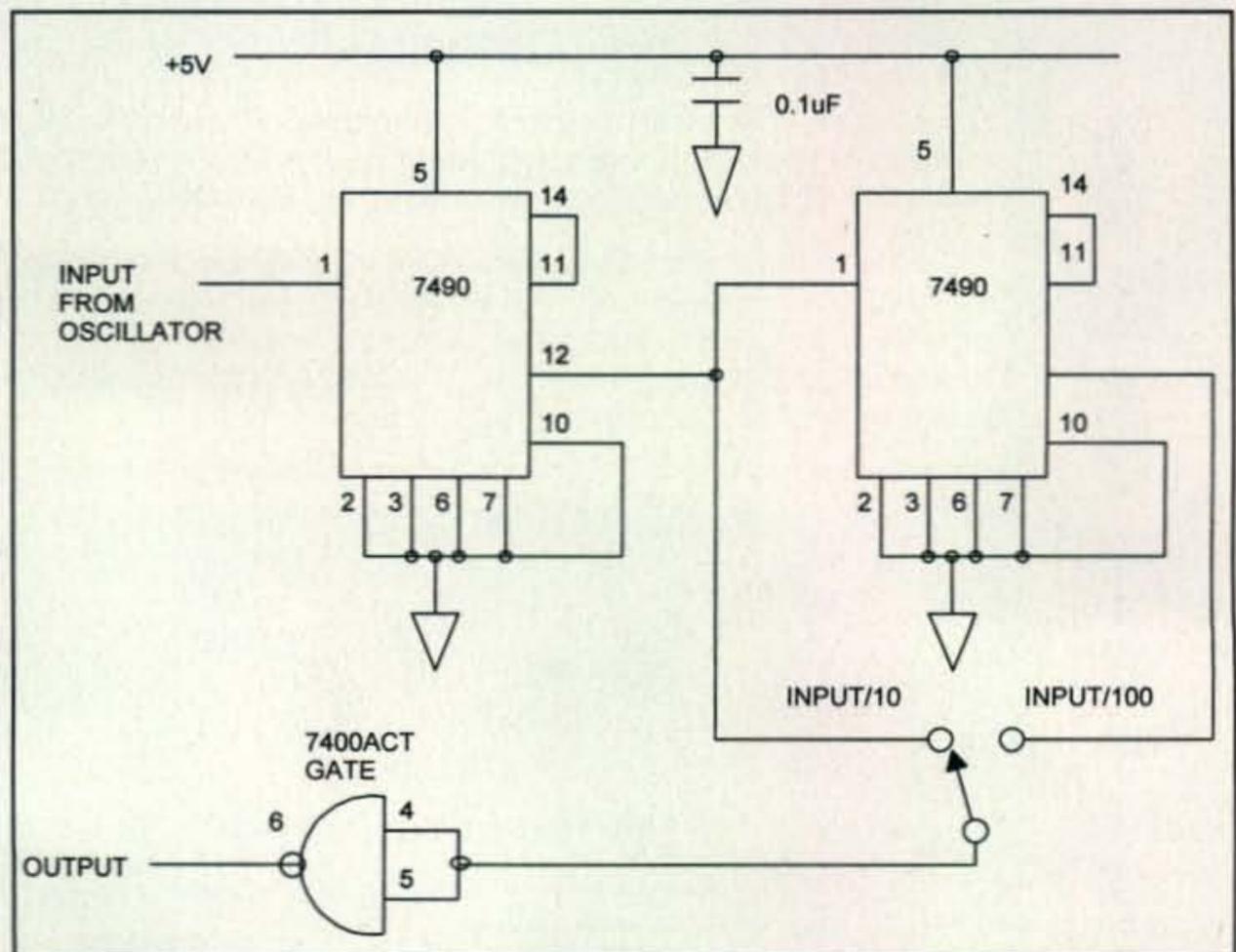


Fig. 2— Oscillator divider network.

piece of perf-board or scrap of PC material (using "ugly construction"), as layout is not too critical.

After building the circuit in fig. 1, apply power, and if you have a scope, look at pin 3 of the 74ACT00. Adjust the value of R_s for a roughly square-wave shape. R_s can go as low as 2.2K, but if you drop it too far, you must make sure that the oscillator will start every time power is removed and reapplied. When you

have a reasonable square wave (remember it doesn't have to be perfect), solder a 1 to 2 foot length of wire to pin 3 to act as a temporary antenna.

Now depending on the crystal you have chosen, turn on your station receiver and tune it to WWV at 2.5, 5, or 10 MHz. You should hear the oscillator signal as well as WWV, and there will be a beat note as the two mix. Adjust the trimmer capacitor, C_t , until the beat

note is zero. The values of C_t and the 15-pF capacitor were chosen to allow most common microprocessor crystals to be adjusted. If you cannot achieve a zero beat, vary the value of the 15-pF capacitor (from 10 pF to 20 pF) until you can. If you have chosen a 1-MHz crystal, you now will have harmonics every 1.0 MHz. If this is adequate for your needs, you can stop now. If you wish finer steps, or cannot find a 1-MHz crystal, proceed to fig. 2.

Fig. 2 shows the use of a couple of common 7490 decade counters to divide a 10-MHz crystal to first 1 MHz (as above) and then to 100 kHz. Since these are also TTL chips, they can be connected directly to the output of the 74ACT00. Note that we have used the second gate as an output driver. Now with the flip of a switch you can have markers at either 1-MHz or 100-kHz intervals. In use, you would first set the switch to the 1-MHz position and line up your dial to the appropriate frequency. Next you would switch to the 100-kHz position and calibrate even further. The purists may wish to add a third 7490 and obtain 10-kHz markers, but this is probably overkill.

By the way, if you only want 1-MHz markers but have to use a 10-MHz crystal,

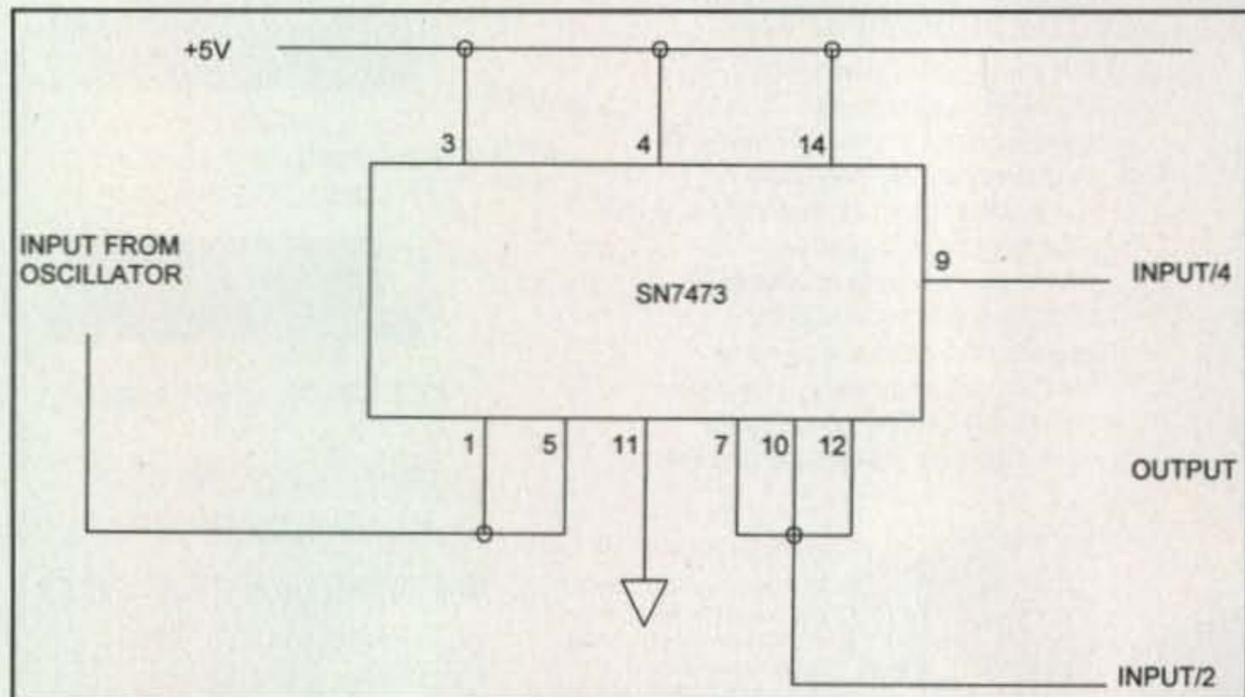


Fig. 3— The flip-flop circuit.

2 **CQ** calendar 2

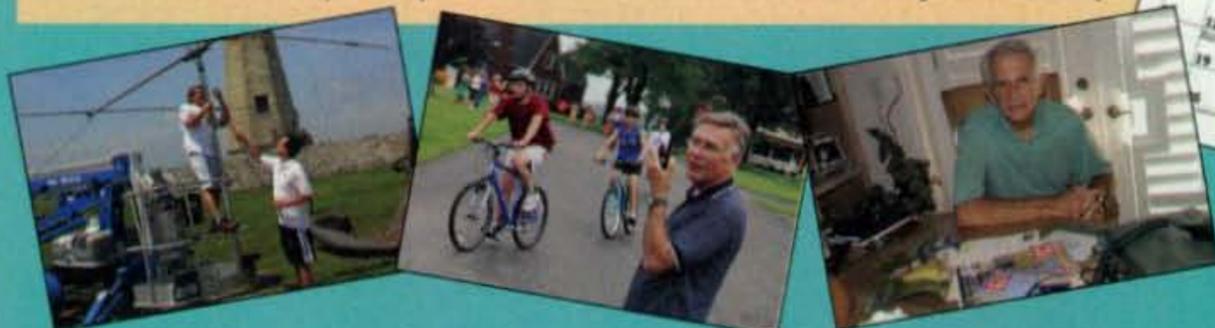
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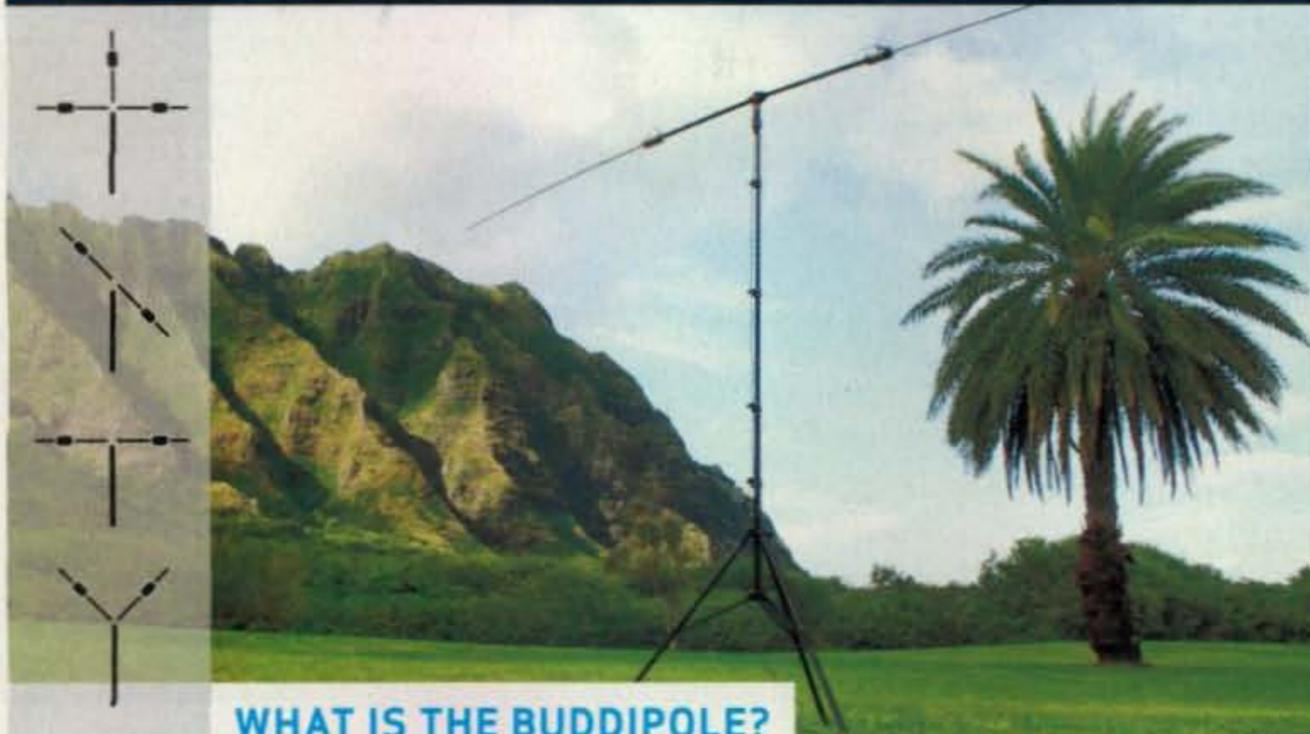


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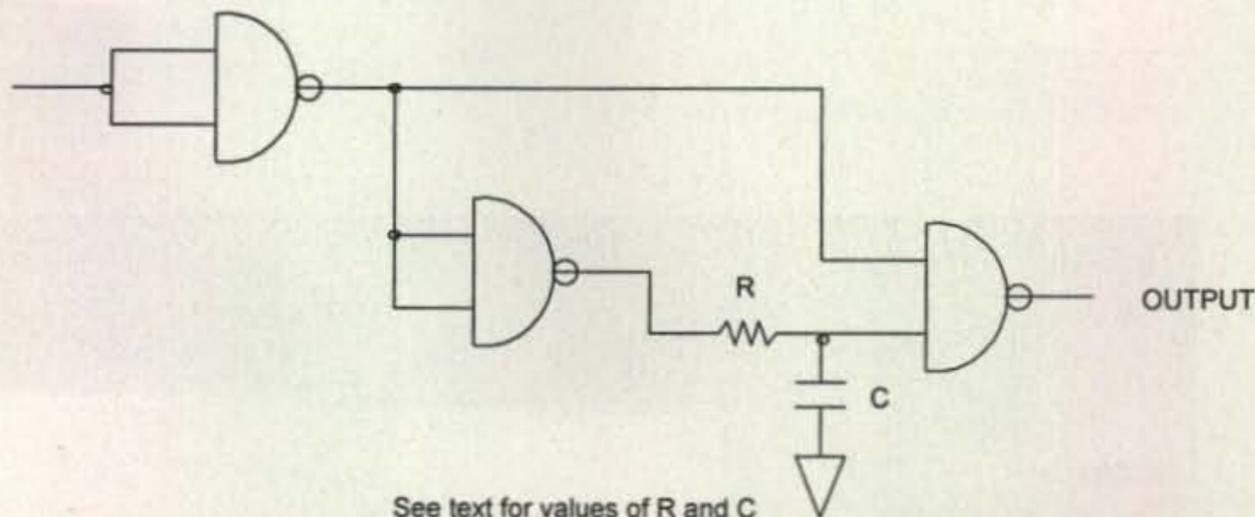
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See text for values of R and C

Fig. 4— The pulse-shaping network.

tal, simply leave off the second 7490. If for some reason you cannot obtain a 10-MHz crystal, you might consider using a 4-MHz unit (also quite common) and replace the first 7490 with a 7473 dual JK flip flop as shown in fig. 3. This will also give you a 1-MHz signal. However, whichever crystal you use, it is important that you zero beat it in accordance with the method described above (with one of the standard frequency stations) for best accuracy.

Once everything is working properly, you might find that the various harmon-

ics are not as strong as you would like. Fig. 4 is a schematic of a pulse-shaping network that will strengthen the higher frequency harmonics. It consists of the remaining gates that were not used in fig. 1. If you build this portion, initially eliminate C and replace R with a short jumper. When you do that you will note that the circuit seems strange, since the second gate always receives opposite logic levels causing its output to never change. In reality, however, there is always a delay in the signal being received to one of the gates compared

to the other due to the delay through the gate used as an inverter. This results in a narrow, fast rise-time pulse. The width of this pulse can be varied by adding R in the range of 0 to 1K and C in the range of 0 pF to 30 pF. The narrower the pulse, the stronger the harmonics.

When everything works to your satisfaction, you should mount the circuit in an aluminum minibox, and you then can use it as a stand-alone accessory or mount it in a corner of your receiver if there is room.

73, Irwin, WA2NDM

Public Service at Global Opposites

Last month we reported on the devastating earthquake that struck China in May. Over 69,196 people were killed, 374,000 injured, and 18,379 still missing two months after the earthquake struck Sichuan province. This month, we will follow up with more news from China and take a look at a rather unique form of public service that received praise from the news media and the public as well.

No Drill, No Exercise, No Plan

"Amateur Radio was a mere hobby here in China," said Michael Chen, BD5RV/4, from his home near Shanghai. "No drill, no exercise, no plan at all. We paid too little attention to the emergency service in the past." Yet the ham radio operators in China responded to the disaster and provided vital emergency communication links when all else failed.

Chen said, "The best thing was radio amateurs were responsible and willing to help. Amateurs in Chengdu organized themselves immediately after the quake. They went to many counties in Sichuan around the epicenter to support local governments in communications in the first week after the quake. Some critical information was transferred through the amateur radio." International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) disaster communication liaison Fan Bin, BA1RB, said the main organizer of local amateur radio traffic was Luo Minglin, BY8AA. "He continuously coordinated VHF/UHF

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



Chengdu is about 100 km from the quake's epicenter and was affected. Its main repeater survived and more repeaters were put up to provide 100- to 200-km communication. (Photo courtesy of CRSA)



Chinese amateur radio operators and rescue personnel had trouble reaching the earthquake area since many roads, including this one to Beichuan, were impassible. (Unless otherwise noted, China photos courtesy of BG8AAS and BA4RS)



An amateur radio emergency communications command center was established in Chengdu. (Photo courtesy of CRSA)

communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang—among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter—to form an effective amateur radio communication network."

Skills Helped. Chen continued by saying that local amateur radio clubs worked with automobile clubs to transport food, water, and injured. He said, "Thousands of vehicles were dispatched and countless materials were transported." The epicenter of the earthquake is a mountainous area. The skills of the radio amateurs helped a lot. Chen

said that VHF/UHF HTs and some military radios (mostly in the 6-meter to 10-meter range) became useless in those mountains. Radio amateurs carrying portable HF stations helped a lot in these situations. He said two key skills that were useful were the hams' knowledge of portable operation and radio propagation. "Guys in Sichuan had to set up stations based on wherever they were and choose the right band for communication. It turned out that lower frequencies were more efficient for communication across a range from 10 to 100 kilometers. The CRSA, the national amateur radio society in China, reported that immediately following the

earthquake, the long-distance telephone lines were either cut or congested and this is where amateur radio HF links, including one in the provincial city of Chengdu, were able to provide a communication link to Beijing for the Red Cross. VHF and UHF repeaters were in heavy use, both those which survived the quake and others pressed into service to provide much-needed local communications, including front-line rescue and recovery activity.

He said, "Radio amateurs could have been more helpful, but the lack of previous training and co-operation with government and other resources limited the functioning of amateur radio service. Amateur radio did quite well in the first week after the quake." CRSA reported that amateur radio emergency communications support continued for up to one month in some areas. Then, commercial communication services gradually recovered in most areas and amateur radio operators finished their jobs.

Amateurs Get Publicity. "The efforts of radio amateurs in Sichuan attracted quite a lot of publicity," said Chen. "They were reported by many local TV and radio stations. Stories could be seen in many newspapers across China, including some in Hong Kong. CCTV (China Central Television) had a report on amateur radio in its special news about the Sichuan earthquake. Above all, people became aware of amateur radio and the role it can play in an emergency. At the same time, we radio amateurs learned the shortcomings we had from this event and will try to fix them in the near future."

Moving Forward. Chen said, "We became aware of the importance of



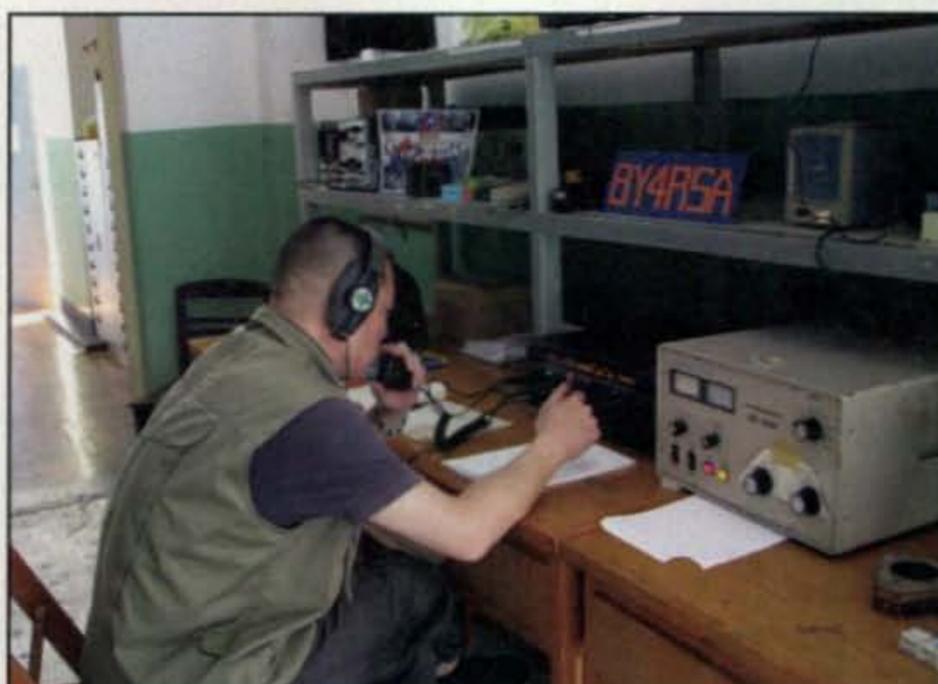
Critical communication to and from the disaster area was passed by operators at BY8AA.



Radio amateurs from the Mianyang Amateur Radio Club (MARC) set up a communication center at a local square.



Amateurs operating at BY4RSA served as the net control operators for the HF ARES network. The network was activated immediately after the earthquake. (Photo courtesy of Win Wang, BA4RS)



Amateurs kept BY4RSA activated 24 hours a day immediately following the disaster. (Photo courtesy of BA4RS)

ARES after the quake. We used to talk a lot but do little. Now the situation is changing." He is working with other radio amateurs to establish a provincial amateur radio emergency service network in Jiangsu. Jiangsu is one of the most active provinces on the air. He says that if they are successful, their organization and operational plans will be introduced nationwide. There are also similar efforts in Beijing. Chen, who serves as the liaison officer for the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC), is gathering information on amateur radio emergency service programs in South Africa, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States and other countries.

The CRSA has been asked to help set up school club stations in the Sichuan area, promote amateur radio, and train more people in amateur radio communication skills. It is going to encourage participating in the Simulated Emergency Test sponsored by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), field-day-type operations, and promote simple antenna and equipment setup skills. Finally, the CRSA will be working on establishing disaster communication procedures and organizations. It is going to study domestic and international experiences and documents, and will work with the Chinese Red Cross Foundation and other government organizations active in disaster relief.

Philadelphia Area Hams Provide Unique Public Service

Shoppers at a local department store outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, were upset recently that their remote car-door entry devices were not working properly in the store's parking lot. They complained that they locked their cars with their remote controls, went in shopping, and came out only to find that items were missing from their cars. It turned out that the remote controls were not locking the cars and the shoppers wanted to know why! They complained to Philadelphia's NBC television station, WCAU.

Investigative reporter Lu Ann Cahn said, "(t)he mystery problem repeatedly occurred outside the Kohl's department store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's, they told me they had no idea." She said shoppers had told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shop-

pers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors. "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it," Cahn reported.

Some shoppers thought that it was the local power plant causing the interference. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. Cahn said that even the police couldn't figure out the problem. Finally, an American Automobile Association (AAA) mechanic suggested that Cahn contact a ham radio guy.

Contact! Cahn contacted the ARRL, which put her in touch with Reginald Leister, N3KAS, a member of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club (PAARC), and an ARRL Public Information Officer. Leister explained that the problem could not be caused by the local nuclear power plant or cell towers since "keyless car-entry systems only work on three certain frequencies here in the U.S."

Leister was anxious to help out, but he was also cautious. He knew that investigative reporters can be hard hitting and he didn't want amateur radio to be portrayed in a bad light. As it turned out, the hams were able to help identify the problem, and they were portrayed in a very positive light.

Leister and Bob Rex, K3DBD, Vice President and Senior Technical Advisor for PAARC, met Cahn in the department store's parking lot. Both Rex and Leister are active in fox-hunting activities. Leister explained that they knew what the car remote frequency was (315 MHz). Rex had fabricated and optimized a 3-element Yagi scaled from a 2-meter design that they used in transmitter-hunting activities that their club conducts year round. Rex also set up a Hewlett-Packard spectrum analyzer in the back seat of his car. The analyzer was powered by the car battery through an inverter. The antenna was assembled from a 1/2-inch wooden dowel and aluminum tubing held together with some plastic conduit clamps and wire ties. Rex also had a frequency counter.

Leister said they did other prep work about the situation by contacting the company that manufactures Kohl's anti-shoplifting detection equipment to verify some engineering details. They also researched reports of other Kohl's door-lock jamming incidents. They found several nationwide, including incidents in St. Petersburg (Florida), Boston, Arizona, and a few in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.



When shoppers at a Kohl's department store were unable to use their remote car-entry systems, they contacted TV reporter Lu Ann Cahn (center), who ended up calling local ham radio operators Reg Leister, N3KAS (left), and Bob Rex, K3DBD (right). (Photo courtesy of N3KAS)

According to the Kohl's website the company has stores in over 40 states. Finally, they learned as much as they could about Kohl's and its corporate culture so they would know the best approach to offer "our 'public service' to their problem."

When everything was set up, Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store and immediately found where the signal was coming from. Rex said, "There are actually two signals

there. It looks like they're coming from the building." As Leister and Rex moved closer to the front of the building, they determined that one signal was coming from one entrance to the store and the other signal was coming from another entrance at the other end of the building. When Cahn approached Kohl's management with their findings, she was told that "they will look into it."

Once the outside filming was done by the news crew, they went into the store

Every Ham is a PIO

CQ asked Leister how he prepared for press relations. He responded:

As a Public Information Officer (PIO) I always have a press kit handy, but this required some specialized upgrades specific to the situation. So I excerpted some Part 15 details from the ARRL website without citing too much technical information.

The Press Kit explains what RACES and ARES are. It has a slot for my business card and on the right side, a backgrounder about amateur radio and any event-specific info or information on the club. I adapt to the situation. It might contain some articles about ham radio. In general, I keep generic info handy to "stuff" these folders which are very durable. Inside the folder there is a slot for a CD, so if I have a public service announcement or something similar, such as a PowerPoint® presentation, I can insert it there. It costs a few bucks to prepare these, but it is well worth the investment to have an organized means of controlling and preparing your story. It just looks "professional" to hand a media person this information and let them fill in their facts from a resource that I have prepared. It also saves them time trying to figure out all the details. They will remember your courtesy of respecting their time.

The timing could not have been better—Amateur Radio Week leading up to Field Day! Always be prepared when dealing with the press! Leister said the station was so impressed with us that their staff "is already looking for another project to work on with us."

The ARRL Public Information web page has a variety of tools that will help you be a successful Public Information Officer. They include a "Talk on a Disk," which is a presentation you can deliver at a meeting when you are asked to speak about ham radio. The Swiss Army Knife CD contains information on writing press releases, working with the news media, and other valuable information. For more information go to <<http://www.arrl.org/pio>>.

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Bob Rex, K3DBD, built an antenna for finding signals at the remote key operating frequency of 315 MHz. In the course of normal "fox hunting" activities, you just track down a signal on an amateur radio band, such as 2 meters. In this case, hams had to identify the exact frequency and then build the antenna to match it. (Photo courtesy of Jim Toth, K3CHJ)

to meet with the store manager. Cahn explained that a Kohl's representative never called her back. She explained that the problem was still evident. According to Leister, the store manager was eying "Bob and me and Bob's antenna and the ARRL insignia and my name on my logo shirt." He said Cahn pleaded the case with no cameras or microphones turned on. She told the manager that these dedicated amateur radio operators had taken time out of their daily schedules to come "free of charge" and identify the source of this problem "which we know exists in your store." She told the manager that "you can no longer deny it. They have satisfied us beyond any doubt that it is originating from each of your doors. When it comes to tracking radio signals they are tops in their field."

Leister said the manager continued to deny any knowledge or responsibility and that Rex then explained how this is a federal regulatory matter and that some serious fines could result. They were not there as part of an enforcement

Bob Rex, K3DBD, adjusts a spectrum analyzer while Reg Leister, N3KAS, points the antenna towards the front of the store. They were able to detect two separate signals, one near each of the front doors. (Photo courtesy of K3CHJ)



action, he noted, but to prevent one as a public service. She still would not budge, saying that their national management handles all issues of this type. Cahn said that their story would run with or without Kohl's input. "We all gave the Kohl's manager our business cards and left, pausing (for theatrical effect) at the anti-shoplifting scanners at the door," said Leister. There were several shoppers inside and outside the store who wanted "to talk" to them as they left. (CQ contacted Kohl's for comment and an update, but had not received a response as of this issue's deadline.)

"The FCC licenses radio signals and these ham radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good," Cahn said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, "The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken." Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors might be the culprit.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car-door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're working on it," Cahn said. Leister later told CQ that he and Rex did not think the anti-shoplifting detectors at the store entrances were the problem in and of themselves. "What we are guessing here is that they are probably connected to some kind of device that triggers a security camera to come on if there is a breach, except instead of just sending out a quick 2-5 second blip, these seem to be on continuously and exceeding the permissible signal levels under Part 15 of the FCC rules."

Praise from the Reporter. Despite Leister's initial reluctance to get involved with a TV investigative reporter, he said that Cahn said the story had turned into one about ham radio. According to Leister, she had already gotten the "corporate 2 step" treatment from the local Kohl's store and its national offices. To her, he said, the real story was that the ham radio operators were actually able to identify the source of the signal and they had a complete resource of information about the problem. In addition, the hams could authoritatively

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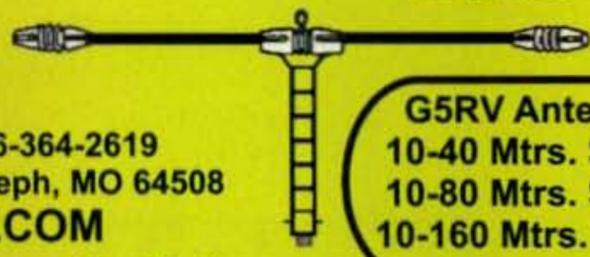
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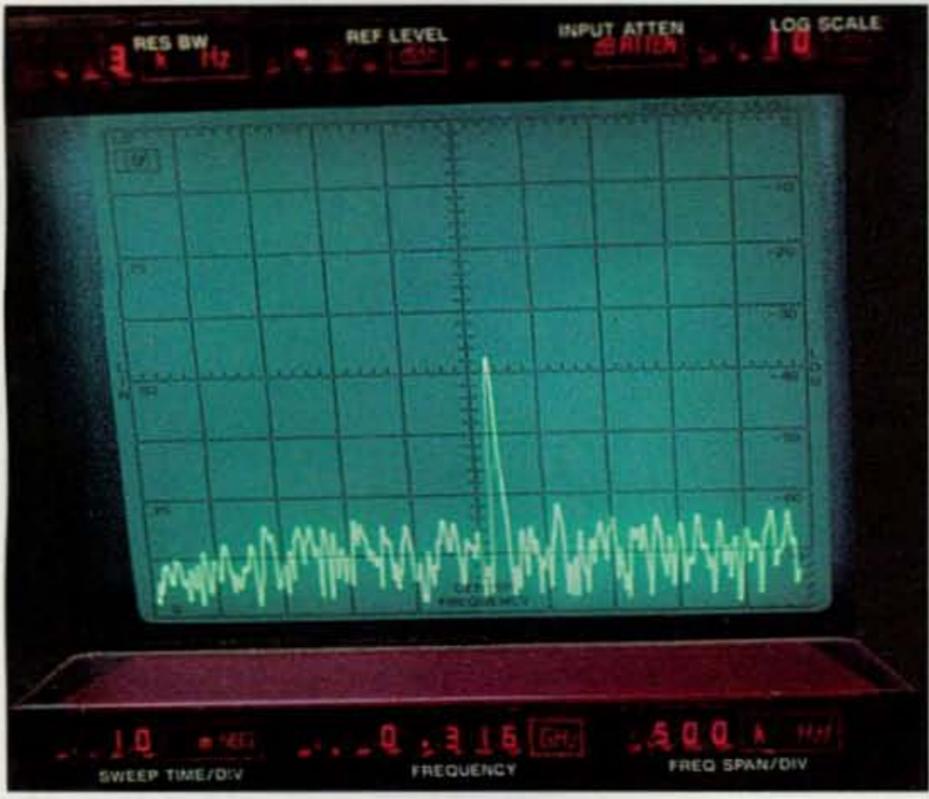
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A signal coming from the left door of Kohl's was easily identifiable on the spectrum analyzer. (Photo courtesy of N3KAS)

address all the issues involved. "We really were the whole package in a sense," said Leister.

Cahn also gave credit on the air to the local hams who helped solve the mystery. She said, "I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. They were so great and so excited. You don't know how many people we called—police, Triple A, car deal-

erships—we called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these ham radio operators. They were so wonderful and they knew all about radio signals. They created their own gadgets to help us figure this out. We really want to thank them for their help with this."

Accolades! Aside from all the local and national accolades from the amateur radio community, Leister said it was very gratifying to have performed this different kind of public service for our community. "It was obvious from the news accounts and those of the people we spoke with in the parking lot (and on-line afterwards) that this interference to their keyless entry systems was very frustrating for them—and worse yet, expensive to the contents that were being stolen from the cars that were not being properly secured." The other side of the coin was the immense pride resulting from the fact that they came to the amateur radio service to solve this mystery."

Recap

For the past two months we have reported on how China's amateur radio operators responded to the massive earthquake there. It is one of the few times that members of the press have been allowed to cover a major disaster in China. This month we couldn't have brought you this story without the help of Michael Chen, BD5RV/4, and the CRSA. Chen has asked for our assistance in providing information on emergency communications in the United States. We will help where we can.

Finally, I would like to thank Reginald Leister, N3KAS, for providing information on the Kohl's parking lot "activation" and this unique form of public service. Until next time . . .

73, Bob, WA3PZO

Giving HF A Go – Part II

Last month in this column we looked at some of the unique attractions of HF operation and discussed setting up an affordable and delightful to use HF station. We explained that the three main requirements for successful HFing are a smooth-functioning indoor setup, the best outdoor antenna system you can install according to your particular location and budget, and a liberal amount of good operating savvy. This time, we continue with a collection of tried-and-proven operating tips and notes to hopefully ensure top HFing results right from the start. These suggestions may or may not prove the ideal answer to everyone's needs or questions, but reading and thinking about them will surely spin off some ideas you can use to your benefit. Also, numerous amateurs have proven even shortcomings in gear and antennas can be offset with good operating techniques.

*3994 Long Leaf Drive, Gardendale, AL 35071
e-mail: <k4twj@cq-amateur-radio.com>

Bearing that thought in mind, let's begin with some helpful operating notes.

A Good Start

After setting up your HF station, devote a couple of days to just listening and becoming familiar with the general aspects of various bands. A band-plan chart is available in CQ's "HF Operator's Survival Guide" booklet (available from CQ for \$2.00 plus \$2.00 shipping) or on the web at: <<http://www.icomamerica.com/en/downloads/Default.aspx?Category=181>>.

You probably will find 80/75 meters favors local-area QSOs and net activities, for example. Twenty meters is always popular for nationwide and worldwide contacts. Forty meters is a mix of everything imaginable—that is, you will hear casual and ultra-pro operators running everything from QRP (5 watts or less) to full kilowatts sandwiched in between international shortwave broadcast stations. The upper bands are somewhat quiet at the present

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Photo 1— Increasing postal rates continue to threaten our proud tradition of exchanging QSL cards, but they will always stand as tangible memories of special contacts. QSLs shown here are from two of the top DXpeditions of recent times. Both (5 Star DX Association) groups also made a dedicated effort to contact amateurs running 100 watts with basic antennas and slow-speed CW.

time, but watch for 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters to literally explode with DX excitement as the sunspot counts increase during the coming months and years. Even today, 17 and 15 meters often support global communications with basic 100-watt gear, and during brief 10- or 12-meter openings even simple mobile setups can reach out worldwide.

A number of amateurs tell us that although they talk with friends daily on 2 meters, they feel hesitant about talking on HF ("The whole world is listening to me!"). Relax. We all have been in your shoes. We know how it feels and we are pulling for you. Some of us even relive our own first days on the air by listening to your transmissions. Do you feel awkward calling CQ? Just answer others' CQs. Remember that there are no squelch tails on HF and brief fades are common, so indicate the end of your transmissions with an exchange of call letters or say "go ahead" so the other station can recognize when you switch from transmit to receive. Do not become discouraged if you do not receive a reply to every call, but do start checking if you do not receive a reply to *any* calls. Ensure your output power is normal, SWR is low, RIT is off, and you are transmitting and receiving on the same frequency. Maintain a positive attitude, and you soon will be HFing in high style. Now let's assume you have some HF experience to your credit and discuss the fine art of DXing.

Reaching Out

When chasing DX, the main factors to watch are ensuring you call on the exact frequency and at the exact time the DX station is receiving and listening for calls. That sounds easy, but it is surprising how many amateurs (new and experienced) start slowly and end up calling right as the DX station begins another transmission—or call slightly off-frequency so the DX station hears bass rumble or treble squeaks that sound like QRM. Then you have alerted other near-frequency stations to the existence of DX and an ever-increasing pile-up capable of drowning out your 100-watt signal can ensue. That's why I say make your first call (or two, or maybe three) your best so you don't become unnoticed background noise in a pile-up. If the pile-up is already in full swing when you tune on frequency, you will be the fresh new signal in the mob, so again I say go for accuracy. Your first calls stand the best chance of being noticed. If you can't get through, be aware that as you continue calling in



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vain, other possibly easier to contact DX may be calling CQ after CQ unnoticed 10, 20, or 30 kHz up the band or on another band.

While checking out a new Carolina Windom wire antenna from The Radio Works a few years ago, for example, I became lulled into a 20-meter SSB pile-up centered on an HR2 in Honduras. That should be easy to work from Alabama, right? No. Call after call, the "big guns" got through right over me. I stored the station's frequency in memory, quickly switched to check 15 meters CW, and lo and behold there was a BY in China calling CQ with no takers. He answered me on my first call. Twenty seconds later I was walking two feet above the floor and grinning from ear to ear. DXing is a blast regardless of your rig, antenna, or mode!

If a DX station you wish to contact is calling CQ with few answers, check to determine if he (she) is listening on-frequency or "working split" (listening up 2, 3, or 5 kHz) and then call quickly and briefly before a pile-up develops. If you experience exceptional difficulty working DX, incidentally, relax and study the scenario. If the DX operator is sharp and band

conditions are good, he probably will be working stations rapid-fire style. In that case, he may hear you but reply to others because your calling procedure is too long. Shorten your transmit time. Note the stations making and missing contacts and analyze their strategy. Listen for that magic moment when the DX station is receiving and others are confused (deafened?) and not calling. Strive for precision here, and then insert your call *only once* in the opening. This technique works very well, but only once or twice, as others usually follow your lead.

If the DX station is slow to reply to callers and allows the pile-up to become unruly (many seem to call over and over without a reply), band conditions may be poor, the operator may be inexperienced, or both. (Being a DX station does not instantly make one a good operator!) Again, this is the time to check activity on other frequencies/bands. One good suggestion (well, maybe two or three) warrants mention here. If you use a multiband antenna with the capability of setting each band's adjustment for the lowest possible SWR, you can jump between favored bands with only a single button

Now Read This!



Need a little help learning Morse code for copying off-the-air CW? Would you like the ability to send CW from your own keyboard-type messages? This MFJ-464 Morse Reader/Keyer does both. Just connect it to the speaker and key sockets of your transceiver, plug a computer keyboard into it, tune to the CW portion of a band, and read code as it is displayed on the MFJ-464. It is not a substitute for knowing code, but it is a good "crutch" when coming up to speed.

If you need a helpful aid for learning the Morse code and operating CW, check out the MFJ-464 Morse code keyer/reader (photos 2 and 3). Connect this gem to the external speaker socket on your transceiver, tune in a station sending good CW (we call it a good "fist"), turn up the receiver's volume until the reader's "Lock" LED blinks in sequence with the CW, and the unit's display will read out the messages/code. Connect another cable from the MFJ-464 keyer/reader to the input key socket of your transceiver, add a spare computer keyboard (not a computer; just a keyboard), and you can hand-type your CW messages/transmissions, such as RST, QTH, name, etc. The general concept is similar to operating a data mode such as RTTY or packet, except you can reach out better and work more DX on CW.

Not all CW operators send letter-perfect code (in which case the reader's "lock" LED will not blink properly and the display will produce a string of incoherent letters), but that's okay, because the reader is only an aid, not an ultimate alternative solution. Factually speaking, no Morse reading/copying unit or system can equal the human brain in deciphering dots and dashes—in copying weak sig-



An MFJ-464 Morse code reader/keyer is usually set atop a station transceiver so you can watch its "code lock" LED and Morse read-out while tuning in signals. A keyboard for transmitting your own CW messages plugs into the socket on the rear of the MFJ-464. If preferred, you can also use a paddle for transmitting CW messages in real time or for loading memories for instant pushbutton replay.

nals, poor "fists," etc. That is a skill acquired only through use and practice. Ah, but a reader/keyer can also help you learn/practice (off the air, naturally). Just type in exactly what you wish to hear in a typical QSO: "UR RST 579 579 QTH NY NY AND NAME IS RALPH RALPH" (substitute your data as desired), then view each letter on the display as it is produced. Your "read along" skills will swing into action after 20 or 30 runs and then you can up the speed and repeat the practice. Within a few days, you will be recognizing your own call letters plus the letters for RST and QTH at a fairly high speed. Then for quick DX or contest QSOs you simply focus on hearing your own call letters and "filling in the blanks" for RST, etc. It is akin to learning code the easy way!

Your Guide to HF Fun

By Dave Ingram, K4TWJ



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Photo 2—Need more helping Elmer guidance for joining HF action? Check out my full-size Your Guide to HF Fun book. It is loaded with useful information, and it is available direct to your house from mine: Dave Ingram, K4TWJ, 3994 Long Leaf Drive, Gardendale, AL 35071 for \$16 plus \$3 postage.

tap (no tuner required). You can then double or triple your DXing fun.

There are two prime times every day for multiband DXing—dawn and dusk, or the approximate hours around your local sunrise and sunset. Stay alert to that fact, remember the times change with the seasons, and the weeks around the spring and fall equinox are the best for long-range or intercontinental QSOs. Now I will (seemingly) contradict that statement. Over the long run, strive to avoid always operating the same bands and modes every time you switch on your rig. Why? Because you typically will hear what you have always heard rather than expanding your horizons. Sometimes the bands are active with contesters, sometimes young amateurs are on the air, and other times the old pros are ragchewing. Plan your operations and DXing pursuits accordingly. If you would like to improve your DXing success even more, read on!

Morse Magic

Call it reverse psychology if you wish, but since Morse code proficiency has been dropped from license exams, learning the code and operating CW have become more popular than ever before. Why? Numerous comparisons confirm a 100-watt CW signal has the communications ability comparable to a

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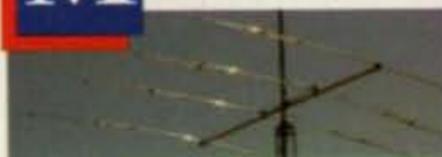
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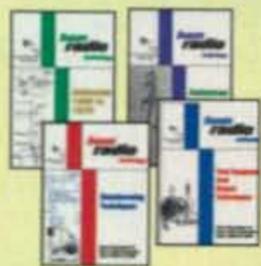
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400- or 500-watt SSB signal. Further, the combination of Morse code and regularly used Q codes produces a universal language understood by amateurs of all lands and tongues. That's right, friends, you may not speak Spanish, French, Russian, etc., but you can easily exchange greetings with amateurs in South America, France, Russia, and more using CW and Q codes. I should also point out that many of the more remote and "rare" DX locations are not financially able to purchase expensive SSB gear and are limited to using CW—often with homebrew transmitters. Contacting amateurs in such "exotic" lands may by necessity require using CW.

Knowledge of Morse code has a number of additional benefits. Only a few years ago, for example, Morse code taps on the hull of a submarine that sank in the Barents Sea were the sole means of communicating with crew members. It has also been used for passing messages by earthquake victims, the severely handicapped, and by prisoners of war using pipe taps, straw sips, eye blinks, and more.

In one of many examples, a nurse at a leading U.S. hospital helped a totally paralyzed woman learn Morse code—in only two weeks. Within two months, the woman was eye blinking beautiful poems to complement church services. A few months later, still paralyzed from head to toe, she was blinking a full book of religious poems for worship. What an amazing contribution to society—and there's more!

Realizing Morse code's endless capabilities, an increasing number of radio amateurs are carrying medic alert-cards showing the Morse code and explaining that if they are severely injured but able to move any body part, they may be able to communicate via Morse code. Could Morse code someday prove useful for helping save your life or the lives of others around you? No one knows for sure, but you must agree it is definitely worth learning!

Conclusion

Once again we have filled available space and must bow out for another month. I sincerely hope this two-part series has inspired you to give HF a go and I urge you to include CW in your activities, even if only occasionally. It could easily prove to be one of the most personally gratifying (and, yes, fun) endeavors you pursue.

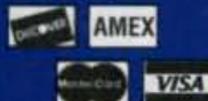
73, Dave, K4TWJ

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Building 12-meter Traps for a 12/17-meter Trap Dipole

Last month I showed how to build simple and cheap 35-pF high-voltage capacitors suitable for use in 12-meter antenna traps for a 12/17-meter rotatable dipole. Why a 12/17-meter rotatable dipole? Well, I have a Hy-Gain AV-6160 43-foot vertical that works great for me on 160–20 meters. I also have a Hy-Gain TH-1 rotatable dipole for 20/15/10/6 meters, as a dipole at a reasonable height generally outperforms a vertical on the higher bands. Therefore, I wanted a 12/17-meter self-supporting rotatable dipole for best performance on these two bands as well.

A 12/17-meter trap antenna consists of a pair of traps resonant at or about 12 meters placed within a 17-meter dipole. The 12-meter traps look like open circuits at 12 meters, so the outer sections of the antenna effectively are disconnected, making a resonant 12-meter dipole when operating on this band. On 17 meters the traps look inductive, effectively shortening the overall length of the antenna.

To build the traps, we'll parallel last month's capacitors with home-made inductors to parallel-resonate the traps on 12 meters (approximately 24.9 MHz). From *The ARRL Handbook*:

$$L = \frac{1}{C (2 \times \text{PI} \times F)^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{35 \times 10^{-12} (6.28 \times 24.9 \times 10^{-6})^2}$$

$$= 1.1 \mu\text{Hy}$$

*1517 Creekside Drive, Richardson, TX 75081
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The following equation can be used to calculate the inductance of an air core inductor:

$$L = \frac{(d^2 \times n^2)}{(18d + 40l)}$$

where: L is inductance in micro-Henrys, d is coil diameter in inches, l is coil length in inches, and n is number of turns. Again, this info is in *The ARRL Handbook*.

Table I lists all the parts necessary for the traps and resulting antenna. If you choose to build a wire version of this antenna, you can eliminate the aluminum tubes. The 8-foot fiberglass tube length is oversized, so pay 50 cents to have Max-Gain Systems cut the fiberglass tube in half to keep your shipping charges reasonable. Using the 1" OD fiberglass rod as the coil form, a 9-turn coil over 1.5" of length gives the required inductance. See fig. 1 and photo A for the trap details.

Next we must make sure the traps are resonant where we want them to be. For minimum trap loss, W8JI (<http://www.w8ji.com>) and others have shown that you should resonate the traps slightly out of band, so I chose 24.5 MHz for my resonant trap frequency. This is not that important; more important is that both traps are resonant close to the same frequency. Trap resonance is measured with no aluminum tubing connected.

The resonant frequency of the trap is easily checked and adjusted with a grid dip oscillator, or GDO. Just hold the GDO coil close to the trap and tune the GDO for a "dip" in the meter reading. The GDO analog frequency readout is probably inaccurate, so check the GDO frequency by listening to the GDO on a receiver and noting any frequency offset.

Description	Source/Part No.	Price ea.
U-Bolt/Clamp Set	Radio Shack 15-826	\$5.49
8' x 1" OD fiberglass tube	Max-Gain Systems RT-1-8	\$10.00 (pay \$0.50 extra to have the 8' tube cut in half)
3/4"OD x 6' aluminum tube (4 pieces)	Texas Towers	\$1.50/ft
5/8"OD x 6' aluminum tube (1 piece)	Texas Towers	\$1.30/ft
#6 solder lugs (14)	Mouser 534-7326	\$0.14 ea.
6 ft #14 insulated house wire	Home improvement store	
#6 x 1.5" SS machine screw (4)	Home improvement store	
6-32 SS nuts (4)	Home improvement store	
#6 SS split lock-washers (12)	Home improvement store	
#6 x 1/2" SS sheet metal screw (8)	Home improvement store	
Source contact information		
Max-Gain Systems: < http://www.mgs4u.com >		
Texas Towers: < http://www.texas-towers.com >		
Mouser: < http://www.mouser.com >		

Table I—Parts list for a 12/17-meter trap dipole.

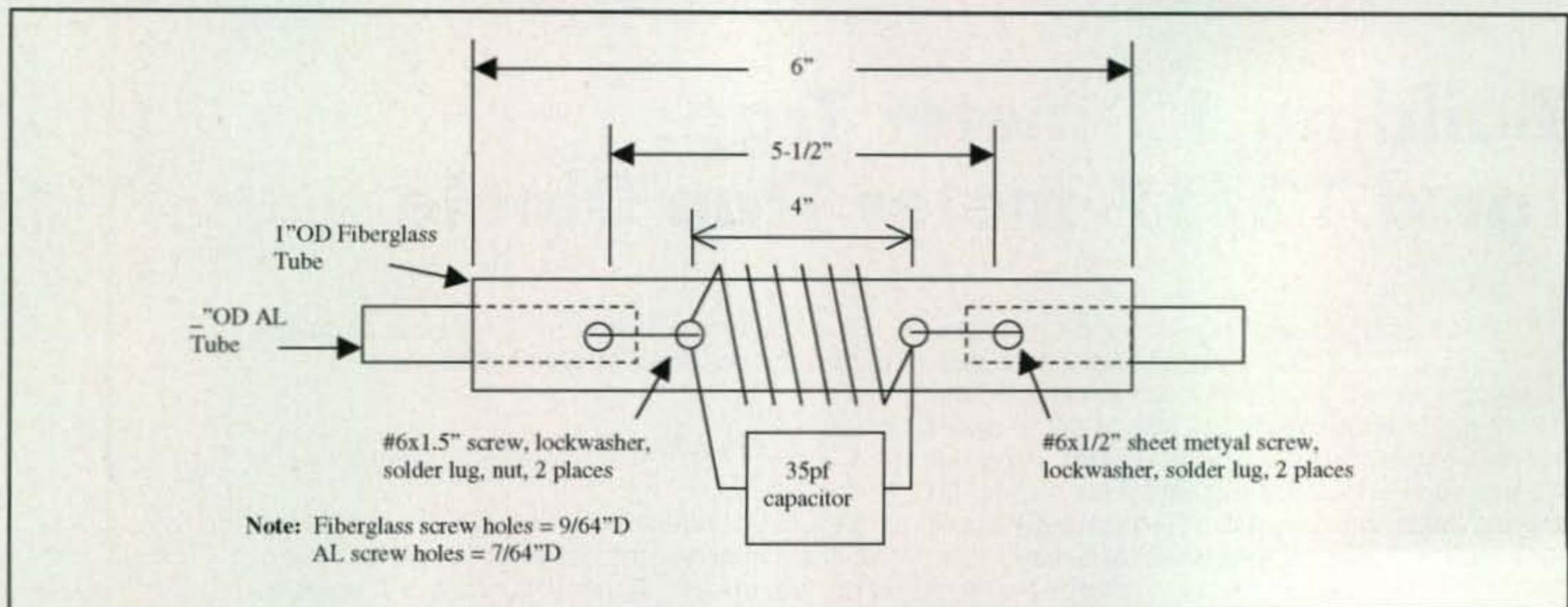


Fig. 1— Trap details.

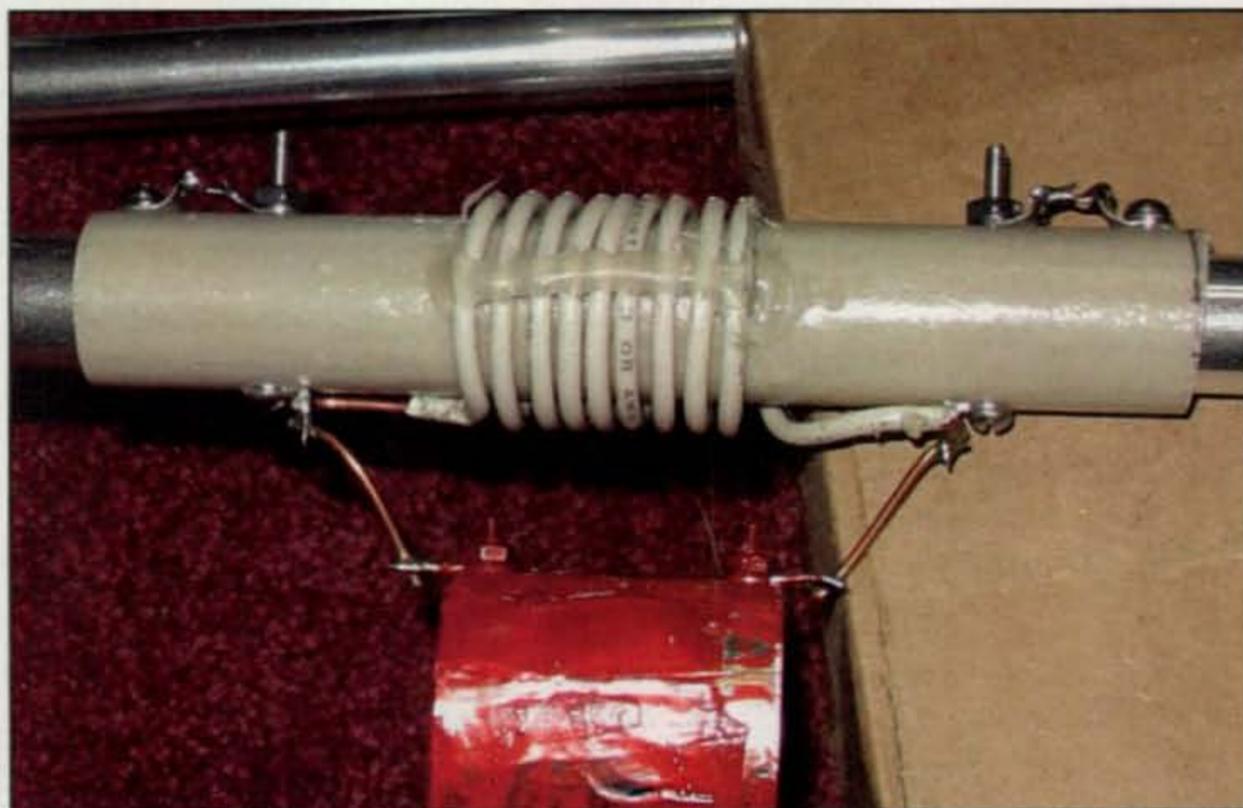


Photo A— A completed 12-meter trap using the homebrew capacitor and coil.

Since I do a lot of trap work, I prefer to use a GDO. When I was a kid back in the '60s, it seemed that everyone made GDOs—Heathkit, Knightkit, Lafayette Radio, Eico, and probably a dozen other manufacturers. Today, the only source I could find for a new GDO was MFJ (the MFJ-201, see photo B). For older GDOs, a good source would probably be through an on-line auction site. However, you can also use an antenna analyzer to find resonant frequency by opening one end of the tuned circuit (turning it into a series-resonant circuit) and connecting the open ends across your antenna analyzer. Tune the analyzer until you see a very low impedance, which indicates series resonance. It's not as convenient as using a GDO, but it is just as effective.

Whichever method you use, compress or expand the inductor windings until the resonant frequency of each trap is relatively close to that of the other (preferably within 200 kHz). Once this is done, use hot glue, epoxy, or liquid electrical tape to hold the coil turns in place.

We're out of space (and time) for this month. Next month we'll build the complete antenna. You won't be disappointed! Until then...

73, Phil, AD5X



Photo B— The MFJ-201 grid dip oscillator.



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SS-12	10	12	1 1/4 x 6 x 9	3.4
SS-18	15	18	1 1/4 x 6 x 9	3.6
SS-25	20	25	2 1/4 x 7 x 9 1/4	4.2
SS-30	25	30	3 1/4 x 7 x 9 1/4	5.0



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MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SS-25M*	20	25	2 1/4 x 7 x 9 1/4	4.2
SS-30M*	25	30	3 1/4 x 7 x 9 1/4	5.0



MODEL SRM-30

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MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25	20	25	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	6.5
SRM-30	25	30	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	7.0

WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25M	20	25	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	6.5
SRM-30M	25	30	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	7.0



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SRM-25-2	20	25	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	10.5
SRM-30-2	25	30	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	11.0

WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

MODEL	CONT. (Amps)	ICS	SIZE (inches)	Wt.(lbs.)
SRM-25M-2	20	25	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	10.5
SRM-30M-2	25	30	3 1/4 x 19 x 9 1/4	11.0



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Letters to the Editor: Your Amateur Radio Questions Answered

We get many letters, e-mails, and phone calls inquiring about ham radio procedures and rules. Every so often we respond to the questions that are of general interest. We haven't done this in a while, so this month let's cover some of your queries. We can't cover them all, but here are some that are of more than routine interest.

Q: There are 2x3 callsigns beginning with K and W. Why aren't any 2x3 callsigns beginning with A or N assigned in the U.S. Amateur Service?

A: Because they are not needed. There are already more than 8-million 2x3 format callsign combinations available using KA through KZ and WA through WZ prefixes. They could, however, be assigned some time in the future. All U.S. callsign assignments are governed by Part 2, Subpart D, of the FCC rules. Also, the AA1AAA through AL0ZZZ and NA1AAA through NZ0ZZZ callsign blocks are allocated to the Amateur Service—another 6-million possible callsigns.

It is interesting to note that the prefixes WC, WK, WM, WR, and WT 2x3s are also not available. These so-called "Group E" 2x3 callsigns were reserved for RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service), club, military recreation, repeater, and temporary licenses back in 1978 when the Group Callsign System was developed. However, the new WC, WK, WM, WR, and WTx3 callsign program did not make it to FCC rulemaking and was never implemented. These 2x3s (unless you already had one prior to 1978) remain unavailable to this day.

Q: For several years now a group of us has been meeting weekly on 80 meters. Lately, other stations have been interfering with us. What can we do to stop this?

A: One of the cornerstones of ham radio use is that no one can claim the exclusive use of any particular frequency. Priority is given only to emergency traffic. Nothing in the rules recognizes the special privilege of any net, group, or individual to any specific frequency.

Section 97.101(b) of the rules states that "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station." In short, no one "owns" a frequency. It is also important to observe band plans that traditionally assign various band segments to certain types of communications.

It's good practice, and plain common sense, for any operator, regardless of band or mode, to check

to see if the frequency is in use before transmitting. If you are there first, other operators should make an effort to operate on other frequencies.

It is, however, an unrealistic expectation to have totally interference-free operation on today's congested bands. In addition, due to the uncertainty of signal propagation, be aware that not all stations can hear all others on a particular frequency. It is usually best to change your frequency rather than have an on-the-air confrontation,

Q: I note that the FCC levies fines of different amounts against violators of its rules. How does it determine the amount?

A: The amount of a "forfeiture penalty" (an FCC administrative fine) is governed by the FCC's Forfeiture Policy guidelines contained in Part 1, Subpart A, Section 1.80(a) of the Commission's Rules. However, these are guidelines only. The FCC evaluates each case individually, taking into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the offense.

There are specific dollar-amounts recommended in the "Guidelines for Assessing Forfeitures" that may be imposed, but the FCC may also use its discretion to issue a higher or lower penalty amount than contained in the guidelines, or to issue no forfeiture at all. Fines can be adjusted up over the guidelines if the infraction is flagrant, intentional, causes substantial harm, or if there is a history of repeated or prior violations.

Downward adjustments can be made if the violation is relatively minor, or the violator cooperates with the FCC or has a history of overall rules compliance. Fines can also be reduced if the violator provides financial records demonstrating an inability to pay a higher amount. Forfeitures can run as high as \$16,000 for each violation or each day of a continuing violation.

Rule violators usually have 30 days to show, in writing, why a forfeiture penalty should not be imposed or should be reduced, or to pay the fine. Periodically the FCC increases the amounts of its "Base Forfeitures" based on inflation.

Q: How do I get one of those 1x1 callsigns I sometimes hear on the air?

A: Those are temporary calls issued under the FCC's "Special Event" callsign system to commemorate a certain occasion. A 1x1 callsign consists of a single letter (K, N, or W), a numeral 0 through 9, and one suffix letter—A to W and Y to Z. Government regulations do not permit 1x1 callsigns with the suffix letter "X." An example of a 1x1 callsign is K1A. There are 750 of these callsigns.

When transmitting, the special event station simply substitutes his or her regular station callsign with a 1x1 callsign which chooses. The special event station must also transmit its assigned

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e-mail: <w5yi@cq-amateur-radio.com>

callsign at least once per hour during the temporary operation.

The 1x1 callsign program began in 1997 after the FCC approved five different volunteer Special Event callsign Coordinators who are also VECs (Volunteer Examiner Coordinators). They collectively maintain a common online database identifying who is using a certain 1x1 callsign during specific dates. You can access this database and the 1x1 callsign procedures on the internet at: <<http://www.ncvec.org/1x1.php>>. You can also review the FCC rules covering the program by going to: <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=call_signs_2&id=amateur>.

It works like this: You apply online indicating the 1x1 callsign you want (and alternates in the event the one you request is not available), the beginning and ending date of your special event operation (which ordinarily should not exceed 15 days), the name of your "special event" (such as your city's anniversary or whatever), your name, station callsign, your current mailing and e-mail addresses, and your daytime telephone number. Once you "submit" the information, your request is sent to the coordinator, who will immediately post your reservation. Once the callsign is reserved, *no one else will be able to reserve that 1x1 callsign during the same time period.*

Anyone may reserve a special event 1x1 callsign. Unlike the vanity callsign program, there is no "pecking order." A Technician Class operator has just as much right to reserve a 1x1 callsign as an Amateur Extra Class.

An event of "special significance to the amateur community" is whatever a radio amateur thinks is important to them, their community, state, or country. Even a neighborhood amateur radio demonstration qualifies. The Special Event callsign Coordinators have very wide latitude in the acceptance, rejection, or cancellation of 1x1 callsign reservations.

Q: How can I find out who held my callsign before me?

A: The FCC began switching to a computerized Universal Licensing System (ULS) in 1998. ULS also provided the public with on-line access to licensing information which is obtainable online by using an internet browser.

Amateur radio callsign history is easily available online for all licensing activity after the early 1990s. To get callsign information, just go to ULS home page at <<http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls>> and click on the Archives button. Scroll

down to the callsign blank and enter the callsign about which you want information and click the Search button at the bottom of the page. All activity on a specific callsign over the last ten years will be displayed.

QRZ.com has posted an old FCC Amateur Service database online at <<http://www.qrz.com/search1993.html>> which shows callsigns going back to the 1980s. For callsign information before that, I suggest you contact the Quarter Century Wireless Association headquarters at 508-405-1930. The QCWA has a complete set of old *Callbooks*, and they can look up your callsign for you. They also have an online contact form at <<http://www.qcwa.org/contact-hq.htm>>. This is not a service they regularly offer, so I would send them a donation.

Another option is to contact the FCC's information contractor: Best Copy and Printing, Inc., Portals II, 445 12th St. S.W., Room CY-B402, Washington, DC 20554, telephone 202-488-5300 or 800-378-3160. It charges a research fee for the service which could be substantial.

Q: Why does a person have to pass lower class ham radio written license examinations if they can pass the higher ones?

A: In a nutshell, because the written ham license examinations are "additive." That is, most of the question pools from which the written examinations are constructed relate to a specific license.

For example, the Technician Class license questions cover beginning privileges, practices, and equipment and are more oriented to VHF operation, while the General Class concentrates on HF operation. The Amateur Extra Class pool is more technical and covers advanced construction practices and examining others for ham tickets, and so forth.

You need to know all of the subject matter included in the lower class exams, not just the material covered in the Extra Class exam. Thus, the question pools serve as an outline of what you need to know to advance up the ham radio ladder. You can't start at the top. You need to climb up one rung at a time, learning as you go.

Each written exam question pool is revised every four years. On July 1, 2008 a new Element 4 (Extra Class) question pool was implemented. There are more than 1600 different questions in the three (Element 2, Technician; Element 3, General; and Element 4, Extra Class) question pools.

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Q: I hold an Extra Class license. Why can't I get certain 2x2 format callsigns beginning with K under the vanity call-sign program?

A: There are many call-sign exclusions. The KA2AA-KA9ZZ, KG4AA-KG4ZZ, KC6AA-KC6ZZ, KX6AA-KX6ZZ, and KL9KAA-KL9KHZ blocks are allocated to the military. The following 2x3 format callsigns are also unavailable: callsigns having the letter X as the first letter of the suffix (these are non-amateur experimental call-signs) and callsigns having the letters AF, KF, NF, or WF as the prefix and the letters EMA as the suffix (allocated to U.S. Government FEMA stations). The FCC also will not assign any call-sign having the letters SOS or QRA through QUZ as the suffix (to eliminate confusion with distress or CW Q-signals).

Q: I have heard questionable communications on the ham bands. Are those communications legal? What is considered indecent or obscene?

A: You determine for yourself whether your communications should be transmitted on Amateur Service frequencies. Section 97.113 provides four general standards for you to observe. In general, any amateur-to-amateur communication is permitted unless it is specifically prohibited, transmitted for compensation, or the station control operator or his employer benefits financially. You may, however, notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of equipment normally used in an amateur station, provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

Also prohibited on the ham bands are transmitted music; communications intended to facilitate a criminal act; secret messages; false station identification and communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services; and obscene or indecent language. In the Part 97 Amateur Radio Rules the FCC has chosen to lump together indecency and profanity as simply being indecent.

To be obscene, speech must meet a three-prong legal test (developed for broadcasters but applied to amateurs as well): (1) an average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the communications, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest (i.e., material having a tendency to excite lustful thoughts); (2) the material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct; and (3) the material, taken as a whole,

lacks literary, artistic, political, or scientific value. Indecent communications contain sexual or excretory material that does not rise to the level of obscenity. Profane language includes highly offensive words, such as cursing or swearing.

Q: Our group is looking into conducting a DXpedition to Desecheo and Navassa Islands in the Caribbean. How do we go about getting a KP1 or KP5 call-sign?

A: You can't. According to FCC rules, all amateur stations must have a way of receiving mail. Neither Desecheo nor Navassa Island has U.S. postal system delivery. Both Navassa (near Haiti) and Desecheo Islands (near Puerto Rico) are very small, remote uninhabited islands. Radio amateurs wishing to operate from such locations must either use their regular call-sign followed by a location identifier or a 1x1 special event call-sign such as K7K, which was used during the October 1997 Kure Island DXpedition.

However, and this is a big however, Desecheo and Navassa are administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and *it is not currently allowing amateur radio operations*. There is an attempt in Congress to change that situation, but unless and until that legislation is passed, no amateur operation from these islands is permitted.

There are also several other uninhabited U.S. island possessions that lack mail service. They include Baker and Howland Island (KH1); Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, and Jarvis Island (KH5); Wilkes and Peale Island (KH9) and Kure Atoll (KH7 followed by the letter K). Johnston Atoll (KH3); Northern Mariana Islands (KH0); Guam (KH2); American Samoa (KH8); Midway Atoll (KH4); and Wake Island (KH9) all have permanent residents and a means of mail delivery. Therefore these call-signs are available.

Q: I previously held a Technician Plus Class license. Why, when I renewed my license, was it lowered to Technician Class?

A: The Technician Plus Class operator license was issued to Technician Class licensees, between 1991 and 2000, who, in addition to passing a written test, also had passed a Morse code exam. At first, Tech Plus was not a formal license class, but it later became one. A Technician Plus Class licensee was authorized the privileges of a Technician Class operator plus the privileges of a Novice Class amateur.

Effective April 15, 2000, the FCC streamlined the Amateur Service by reducing the number of amateur license classes from six to three. Under the FCC plan no new Novice, Technician Plus, and Advanced Class licenses would be issued, but existing licenses could continue to be renewed.

Tech Plus licenses, however, were renewed as Technician but retained the Tech Plus privileges. Technicians who passed the 5-wpm Morse code exam after that date had Technician Plus privileges, although their license said Technician. They had to retain the code test Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) they received from their VE team as proof. This all became a moot point on February 23, 2007 when the FCC stopped requiring demonstrated telegraphy knowledge in the Amateur Service and Novice Class HF privileges were extended to all Technicians.

Q: One of our club members died. How do we change our club call-sign to that of the deceased member?

A: The FCC rules covering obtaining "Club call-signs In Memoriam" under the vanity call-sign program require that three points be met:

(1) The trustee of a club station may request "in memoriam" the call-sign of a deceased member even when it has been less than two years following the club member's death. The trustee must hold a call-sign from a call-sign Group equal to, or higher than, the deceased.

(2) If it has been less than two years following the death of the club member, the call-sign of the deceased holder is immediately assignable providing the club has in its station records a written statement (do not send to the FCC unless requested) from a close relative of the deceased confirming (a) the deceased person's membership with the club and (b) showing consent of the relative to your request. Recent rule changes also permit a club member, while still alive, to grant consent for the club to be assigned his/her call after death.

(3) If the call-sign is active or expired less than two years, the FCC requires a copy of the death certificate or a newspaper obituary of the deceased member so that the call-sign may be cancelled prior to assignment to the club. The FCC also accepts death listings in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).

Q: Why are paper-document licenses needed when an amateur can oper-

ate his station when the licensing information appears in the FCC database.

A: Actually they are not needed; listing in the FCC's Amateur Service database is all that is needed. The FCC has never asked a radio amateur to produce a hard copy of a license. However, a hard copy of the ham ticket is important to many radio amateurs, so the FCC makes them available.

If you have lost your paper license copy, you can get another by logging into Universal Licensing System with your FRN (FCC Registration Number) and Password. Choose Request Duplicate from the Work on This License menu on the right-hand side of your License At A Glance screen. There is no charge for a duplicate license.

Q: I heard a boater on a local lake calling for help on the Extra Class portion of the ham bands. I hold a General Class license. Can I answer his call?

A: Yes. Section 97.403 states that no provision of the rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means of radio communication at its disposal to provide essential communications in connection with the immediate safety of human life and immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available.

Section 97.405 states that no provision of the rules prevents the use by an amateur station of any means at its disposal to assist a station in distress.

Q: I filed a vanity callsign application online to change my callsign. How do I know if the FCC got it and when will my callsign be changed?

A: Beginning on the next business day following the filing of any application, you can check an application's status to ensure a successful submission. Go to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and click on the Applications button. On the following Application Search screen select from the drop-down box the fields you want to search by (for example, enter your callsign) and click on Search. You can also search by FRN or Licensee Name.

It takes 18 days from the date of an online application for a new vanity callsign to be issued. The delay is caused by the FCC's need to simultaneously process mailed-in vanity applications with those filed online so that online-filed applications do not have an unfair advantage. The FCC goes by the postmark date on the envelope. Example: A mail application containing an August 15, 2008 postmark is processed with

the online applications submitted on that same date. It amounts to the FCC delaying online applications a couple of weeks to allow time for a mailed-in paper-document vanity callsign application to be received by the FCC.

Q: I want a specific vanity callsign. How do I know when it becomes available?

A: We have covered this before, but it keeps cropping up. As a general rule, a callsign becomes available two years following license expiration, license cancellation, or death of the previous holder. The callsign you are requesting may not already be actively assigned. Keep in mind that an amateur license is active for 12 years—the 10-year license term plus the 2-year grace period in which a license may be renewed.

To determine if a callsign is available, go to the online Universal Licensing System at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and select the search Licenses button. Enter the callsign you are interested in and click Search. Click on the callsign on the next screen to get to the FCC record for this callsign.

If the callsign has expired by more than two years, it is immediately available as of the indicated Cancellation date. If the license has not expired, but shows as cancelled (the previous holder may be deceased or has gotten another callsign), the callsign is available two years plus one day following the Cancellation date. Be very careful with this, since timing—especially for a much sought after callsign—is very important!

If more than one application is filed during a specific 24-hour day, the FCC's computer awards the callsign randomly. It makes no difference whether the application is filed one minute past midnight or one minute before midnight nearly 24 hours later. All applications for the same callsign requested during that day are lumped together.

We strongly suggest that you read the FCC's write-up on the vanity callsign rules. You can find it at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/>; click on Amateur Service under Wireless Services. This will take you to the FCC's Amateur Service section. Then click on Vanity on the left side of the page.

Do you have a question? Send it to us and we will try to answer it in an upcoming column.

73, Fred, W5YI

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Do We Have the Wrong Stuff or the Right Stuff when on the Radio?

I was in my favorite coffee shop having breakfast with a friend on a recent Sunday morning. We were discussing our latest home-improvement projects and various other topics.

Suddenly, our conversation was interrupted by an obnoxiously loud and irritatingly poor ringtone somewhere behind us. We had to endure several seconds of the "song" and then a woman answered the phone. She must have had a hearing problem, because even though she was at least eight or so feet away, we clearly heard every word she said.

The cell-phone lady carried on about some real-estate property deal and how much she knew the person on the other side of the phone would love it. Ms. Cell Phone had a breakfast partner, who had to silently eat her meal as she was being ignored by her real-estate friend. I was rather offended by several things in this intrusive behavior: First, Ms. Cell Phone's ring tone was so loud that it must have been on the highest volume setting, and she actually waited to hear the completion of the tune, as though she wanted all of us to

hear the complete song. Next, she spoke so loudly that many others in the restaurant had to listen to her side of the conversation. Finally, I felt sorry for the person who was sitting with her, who also had to bear with the one-sided conversation.

I wonder if the cell phone has invaded our society so much that good manners and common sense have been over-ridden by selfish habits and high-technology gadgets. In a "water cooler survey" at the office, the two-way radio feature of certain cell phones seems to be the most irritating feature that was ever invented. Recently, a friend sent me an e-mail message with a link to an online quiz about cellular-phone etiquette. Although a little out-dated (2005), you might want to take a look at the technological *faux pas* and the ways to avoid such negative behavior when talking on the cell phone (or radio). Here is the URL: <http://reviews.cnet.com/4520-10779_7-5843439-1.html>.

It's an Image Thing

This brings us to ham radio and our ability to instantly communicate with our fellow hams via VHF or VHF/UHF mobile and portable radios (also known as handie-talkies, or HTs). While the portable two-way radios that are carried by police

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Handy accessories for HTs include the speaker-microphone (on the left) and the boom-microphone headset. When using a speaker-mic, try not to crank up the volume too high. The headset enables hands-free operation, but should be used in the PTT mode (see text).

officers and fire fighters are usually viewed as "cool gadgets," for some reason the same or similar equipment on "civilians" (and hams) seems to be viewed as being "nerdy."

When in public view, or when we are with non-ham friends, let's see if we can be polite and courteous to those around us by limiting the noise we make if we use our transceivers in public areas. Certainly, this can be an easy thing for us to do; we can just turn off the radio and conserve battery power.

If we must communicate while in public places, accessory items such as external speaker/microphones or headsets with boom-mounted microphones can be very useful tools to have (see photo). However, just like all good tools, these accessory items are only good if used correctly. Let's take a look at what these accessories can do and how to properly adjust and use these items.

The speaker-microphone (speaker-mic) is exactly what it sounds like. It is a unit that includes a speaker for the receiver and a microphone for the transmitter in a single housing. These units look like miniature versions of a microphone intended for use with mobile radios. Some units include a volume control. Speaking of volume, when using these units, please do not crank up the volume so loud that the speaker distorts the sound and becomes an irritating noise to others around you. All speaker-mics have a clip on the back so that you can clip the unit to your clothing. A good place to hold a speaker-mic is on your shoulder so you can hear it and easily reach it when you are ready to transmit.

The boom-microphone headset provides an additional level of convenience and function. These units have a single- or double-sided headphone for receiving and a microphone on a tube (the boom) so you can locate the microphone close to your mouth. All of these units include a push-to-talk (PTT) button, and many have a feature called voice-operated switching, or VOX. If you have ever seen the television commercial for a product called the "Clapper," then you know what VOX operation is. The Clapper is a sound-activated switch.

At first this VOX function seems to be a good feature to have, since it enables hands-free operating; you do not have to push the button on the microphone or touch the radio in order to transmit. However, VOX control can be difficult to adjust properly, and it will allow unwanted noises to make the radio go into transmit mode unexpectedly. Since your voice is the trigger that puts the

radio into transmit, you must always be aware of what you are saying, because it will be transmitted over the air. Can you imagine what could happen if you had your VOX-enabled microphone on and something heavy fell on your foot? The normal reaction to this pain would be something most likely inappropriate for a "radio audience," and possibly a violation of FCC Rule 97.113 (prohibited transmissions).

By the way, this is also exactly what is wrong with the Clapper. Sometimes the switched item can be made to turn

on or off unexpectedly because of some stray noise, such as a barking dog.

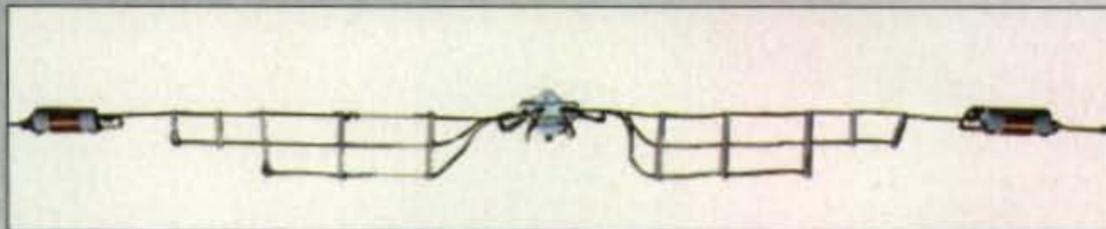
Another bad thing about VOX operation is the "hold" time adjustment. It is possible to improperly adjust this control so that once triggered to transmit, the radio could go into "lock" mode and key the transmitter continuously, jamming the frequency.

A much better solution to this VOX is an external switch for push-to-talk. This is the normal "button" on the microphone. Just about all of the boom-microphone headsets available have a little

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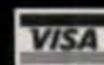
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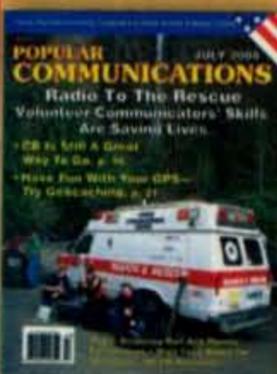
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control box that allows you to select either VOX or PTT. Thus, if you decide to get a headset, use the PTT function most often and use the VOX feature only when you truly must have hands-free operation. For example, if you are climbing a tall tree to install a wire antenna and you want to use your HT to communicate with some helpers below, you may want to have the VOX control enabled.

Can You Hear Me?

It is very natural to talk louder in noisy environments, such as a crowded restaurant or a busy industrial area. You have to overcome the noise around you so the person you are talking to can hear as well as understand what you are saying. However, this is not the case when talking over the radio.

Talking louder on the radio generally makes your signal more difficult to understand, because the transceiver circuitry can limit (or "clip") the sound of your voice, causing distortion. In addition, if the repeater you are using requires sub-tone access, talking too loudly into the microphone may distort the tone, and the repeater system may not let your signal through. (In some repeater systems, a subaudible tone must be transmitted along with the radio

signal in order to access the repeater system. Sometimes this is because the repeater is maintained by a club or group and the use of the repeater systems is limited to members only, and sometimes a sub-tone is used to prevent interference from another repeater system on the same or another nearby frequency.) Another term for sub-tone is Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System (CTCSS), and also Motorola's trademark called "PL" or Private Line.

Therefore, rather than shouting into the microphone when you are in a noisy environment, try to speak in a normal voice. Tom Wolfe, in the 1979 book and the 1983 movie *The Right Stuff*, describes how test pilot Chuck Yeager's cool and relaxed southern drawl remains controlled even under the most demanding life-and-death situations. Yeager was so well-respected that other pilots imitated his calm and controlled tone while communicating to the ground crew. Even today I think this may be true, because over the last 20-plus years, in 100 percent of the flights I have taken for business or pleasure, the captain's voice over the airplane public-address system has that calm and reassuring tone. This should also be our model when communicating on the radio.

If you must use your radio in noisy environments, such as along a parade route or in a crowded restaurant, you may want to check your radio's operating manual to see if the microphone gain can be adjusted (or have this done for you). A lower microphone gain setting will help reduce the amount of unwanted ambient noise around you. However, when you do this, you will have to speak louder or talk closer to the microphone every time you use your radio. An alternative to decreasing microphone gain is to hold the microphone so that it is as close as possible to your mouth. You will have to experiment to find the best mouth-to-microphone distance. The foam wind guard (if it has one) should be kept in place at all times.

Our society is being invaded with over 200-million cell-phone users in the U.S. The ham radio population is several hundred thousand. Many hams own a portable 2-meter radio or a multiple-band type of HT, and some hams have more than one. When these two communication tools combine (or shall I say collide?), there can be an increase in the irritation factor that ham radio sometimes generates. Let's try to be as considerate as possible with our portable operations, and make sure we display the right stuff when communicating with our radios while in public view.

73, Wayne, KH6WZ

The What and Why of Oscilloscopes

A fair number of newcomers in amateur radio have seen license exam test questions relating to oscilloscopes and probably have also noticed used oscilloscopes at hamfest flea markets. However, some are a bit confused about their actual purpose and use. Hopefully, this month's column will help clear the air with a "keep it simple" explanation of what oscilloscopes are, how they function, and how you use them. Along the way, our discussion may also spin off some additional tidbits of information you will surely find interesting. Expanding your knowledge is always beneficial!

Meet the Oscilloscope

Described in 20 words or less, the visual display of an oscilloscope is used to analyze and compare signals, waveforms, and voltage levels. Couldn't this be done with a regular multimeter? Not really. Multimeters are quite useful and versatile items, but they cannot show instantaneous changes in voltages, overmodulation, distortion, and glitches on transmitted signals, etc. Such information is beneficial in an endless number of ways, such as checking linearity of power amplifiers, analyzing transceiver passbands, and much more. You may have noticed reproductions of oscilloscope-displayed pictures from transceivers reviewed in magazines, and you also may have pondered exactly how they were obtained and what they indicate (what's good and what's poor, so to speak). Maybe our upcoming discussion will help.

As a convenient starting point, let's look at the components and circuits that comprise a typical oscilloscope. Once their purpose and operation is understood, visualizing overall 'scope operation and use should prove much easier.

As shown in fig. 1, an oscilloscope is made up of a vertical section, a horizontal section, a power supply, and an image-displaying cathode ray tube (CRT). Looking closer, we see the horizontal section has two main circuits: an adjustable frequency oscillator that generates sawtooth waves and an amplifier that boosts and conditions those waves for driving the CRT's horizontal deflection plates. This overall action produces a horizontal line on the screen. The (horizontal) sweep oscillator frequency is set by the oscilloscope's *horizontal sweep control* (sometimes called a time base control). It usually has a coarse and a fine frequency adjustment plus accompanying switch for selecting internal sweep, external sweep, or external triggering of the horizontal sweep from an outside source. In the latter case, vertical wave peaks of incoming/signal under test set the exact starting point of each horizontal sawtooth wave.

The resultant sawtooth wave is then amplified by an amount set by the *horizontal gain control*, split into nearly equal positive- and negative-going portions (adjustable with the *horizontal line position control*), and applied to the CRT's horizontal deflection plates to produce a horizontal trace line on the CRT. We will explain sawtooth waves, horizontal positioning, and sweep triggering later rather than breaking your focus at this point.

The oscilloscope's vertical section contains an input signal amplifier which actually consists of two (or more) stages; the latter one also shifts the signal more positive or more negative for *vertical positioning*. In addition to controls for setting *vertical amplifier gain* and vertical signal position, this section may also include/have an optional direct vertical input so high-frequency radio signals can be routed past the vertical amplifier and -displayed on the CRT screen. Other options in vertical sections include a DC input for measuring voltages of power supplies, batteries, etc., and an AC voltage calibrator for referencing how many CRT screen divisions equal how much voltage being measured. If the vertical gain is set too low, incidentally, the scope will only display a horizontal line. If the vertical gain is set too high or the incoming signal level is excessive, displayed waves will exceed screen size and only CRT reflections will be noticeable.

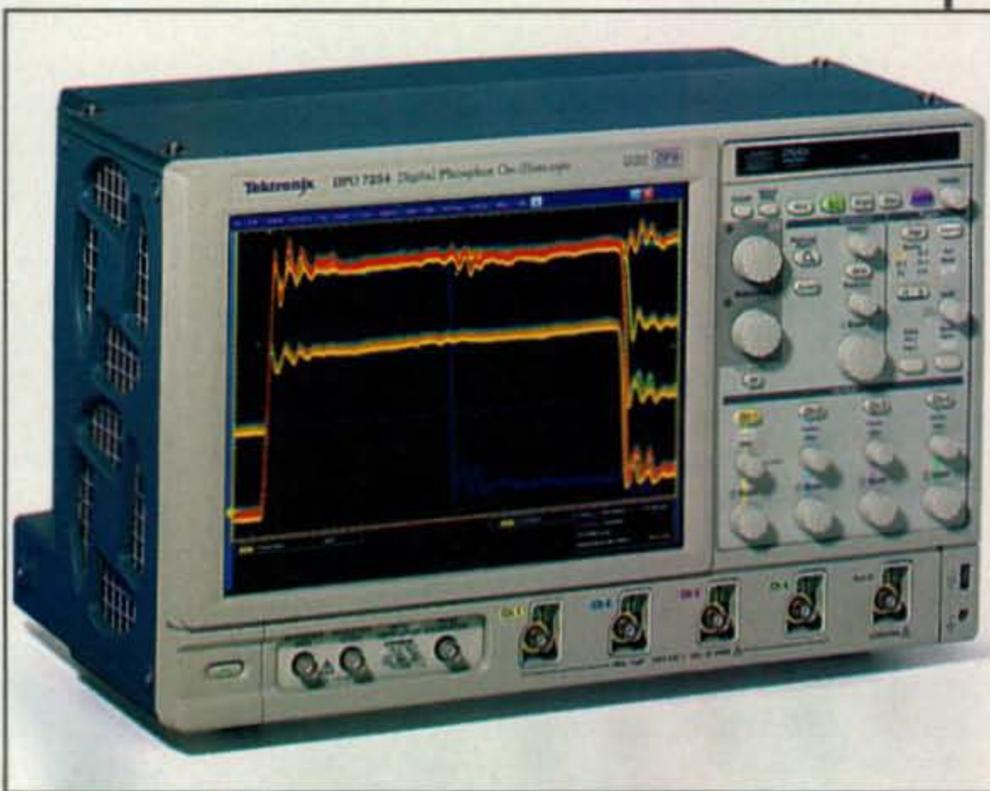


Photo A— You probably have seen traditional analog oscilloscopes. Now take a look at the latest and most innovative design unit, Tektronix's new Digital Phosphor Oscilloscope. It is a deluxe four-input/four-channel gem with each channel displayed as a separate color (which is also color-coordinated with its front-panel controls). (Photo courtesy of Tektronix Corp., a leading name in oscilloscopes)

*3994 Long Leaf Drive, Gardendale, AL 35071
e-mail: <k4twj@cq-amateur-radio.com>

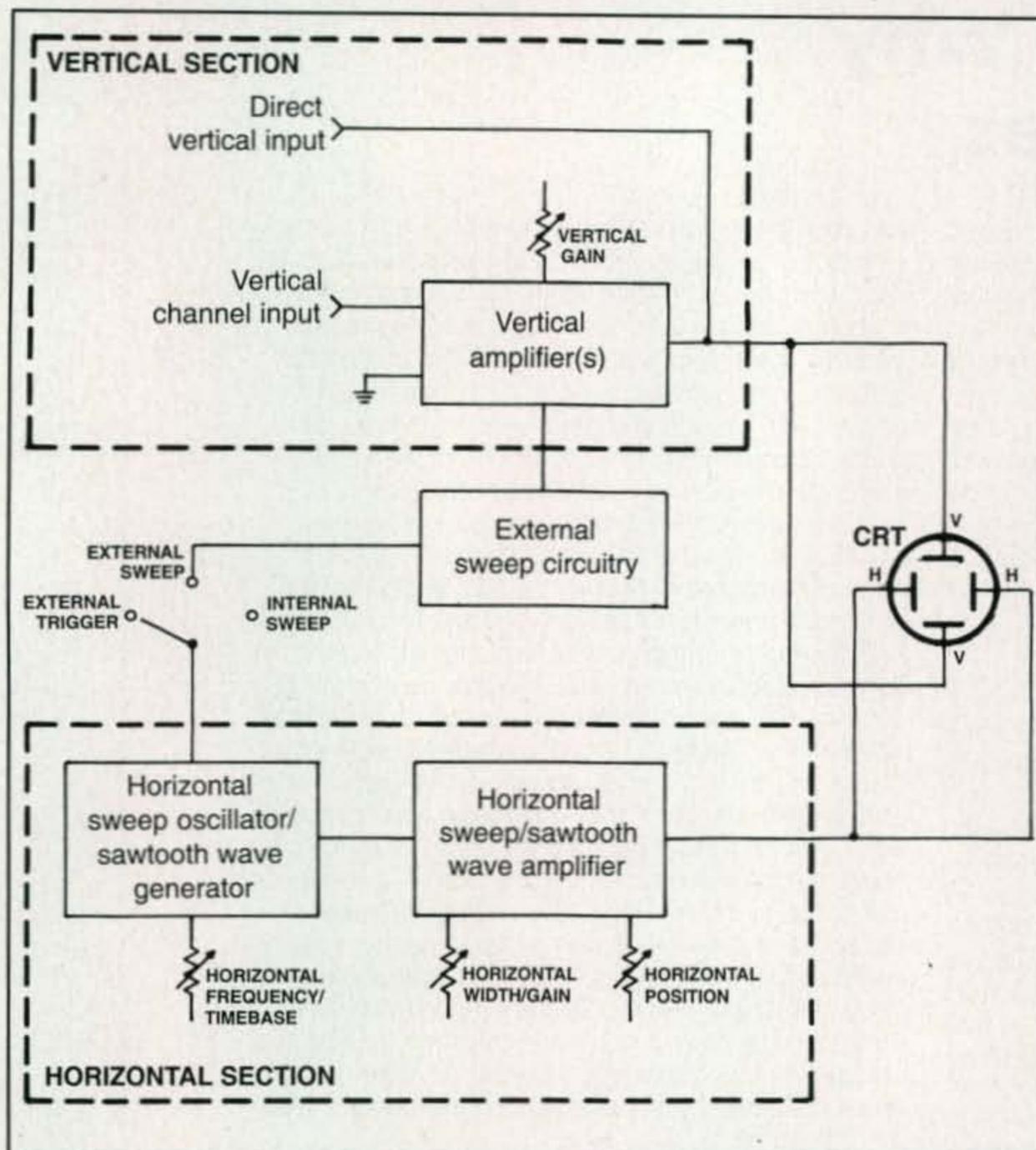


Fig. 1—Simplified block diagram of a basic-style oscilloscope as described in the text. Several amplifier stages are usually included in block-labeled "vertical amplifier" and several inputs are usually included for both vertical and horizontal sections. This basic guide, however, should help you understand the general operation of most oscilloscopes.

With the exception of physical size, use of electrostatic deflection plates rather than an electromagnetic deflection yoke, and a shorter persistence screen, the CRT in an oscilloscope is similar to the picture tube in a TV set. It has an electron gun that "fires" electrons through focusing and accelerating grids at a fluorescent screen while being moved or swept side-to-side by sawtooth voltage on the horizontal plates and deflected vertically by signal voltage on the vertical plates. Adjusting a scope's *focus control* varies the size of the CRT's trace line (or center dot, if no sweep), and adjusting its *brightness control* varies acceleration/force of electrons hitting the screen.

The time a screen continues glowing after being hit with electrons is called its "persistence," and also warrants mention. A scope's CRT usually has a short or "P1" persistence; it stops glowing

almost immediately after electron excitation. A regular black-and-white picture tube has a slightly longer, or "P4," persistence, and old-style radar sets that display a rotating sweep with dots left behind showing positions of airplanes, etc., use a very long "P7" persistence. Interestingly, color picture tubes do not follow sequence, but have their exclusive "P22" designation—possibly not too relative, but I am sure you appreciate knowing such valuable facts. An oscilloscope's power supply, incidentally, supplies operating voltages to the CRT and other circuits in the unit.

Scanning and CRTs

Earlier in this discussion I mentioned sawtooth waves are used to produce scanning or sweep lines on an oscilloscope's CRT. Lacking that capability,

the oscilloscope would only show a small dot resulting from the CRT's electron gun firing a steady stream of electrons at the center of its screen. This concept of scanning may seem difficult to visualize, so let's clarify it with some drawings of related waveforms (fig. 2).

Waveform H represents the horizontal sawtooth wave generated and amplified by the scope's horizontal circuitry. Waveform V represents a sine wave under study and applied to the scope's vertical circuitry. The CRT's resultant display is labeled, well, CRT. Now let's define screen area. As discussed, a non-deflected electron beam strikes the screen's center at Time 1/ (T1). Applying a high negative voltage between the horizontal plate moves the beam/dot to the screen's left middle side (T0). Applying a high positive voltage moves the dot to the screen's right middle side (T2). Similarly, a positive voltage applied between the vertical plates moves the dot toward the screen's top and the negative voltage between the vertical plates moves the dot toward the screen's bottom. Now let's combine vertical and horizontal actions.

The ramp, or negative to positive climb, of a horizontal sawtooth begins at T0, and at that point the CRT's sweep line is on the left middle side. Also at T0 the incoming sine wave (on vertical input) is at 0 and consequently does not move the scan line up or down. By that time T.5, the incoming sine wave, has progressed from 0 to its most positive point—which also coincides with the highest vertical position on the CRT screen for that signal. At T.5, the horizontal sawtooth has also moved the dot slightly to the right. A portion of a sine wave appears on the CRT screen at that time. By T1, the sine wave has progressed downward through 0 and its most negative point (coinciding with the lowest vertical point for this signal) and moved back to 0. The horizontal sawtooth's ramp is crossing 0 at that time (T1), so the dot is in the screen middle of the CRT. Then from T1 to T2, the horizontal sawtooth instigates right side of screen scanning while the vertical sine wave completes a second 360-degree cycle. A super-fast retrace is initiated at T2, the CRT's dot quickly flies back to the left side of the screen (from T2 to T3), and the sequence repeats. The dot moves very fast during scanning, but due to screen persistence and our own persistence of viewing, we see a trace line rather than a fast moving dot—and the retrace is so super fast that it is not even visible to the eye.

Now let's add some brief notes.

Remember the horizontal and vertical centering controls mentioned earlier? They shift the sine wave's and sawtooth wave's "zero crossing point" to move the display up/down, left/right on the CRT screen. If free-running horizontal sweep is used, you adjust its frequency so vertical sine waves appear stationary rather than sliding left or right. If triggered sweep is selected, the incoming sine wave sets, or "triggers," the start of the horizontal sawtooth so the display stays stationary rather than move. Finally, notice fig. 2 illustrates two sine waves occurring during one sawtooth wave (one from T_0 to T_1 and another from T_1 to T_2). That equates to a vertical deflection frequency of two times the horizontal frequency, or depending on your point

of view, a horizontal frequency of half the vertical frequency.

Using Oscilloscopes

Since oscilloscopes vary in their capabilities and even in the names associated with their controls, your best first step is reading the 'scope's manual and becoming familiar with each control. Remember that no one knows the scope better than the company that made it. Follow manual guidance until you can perform measurements like the manual illustrates, and then use your acquired knowledge to perform your own desired measurements.

As a simple first test, hold the vertical input probe's tip and increase the vertical amplifier's gain until you see 60-Hz

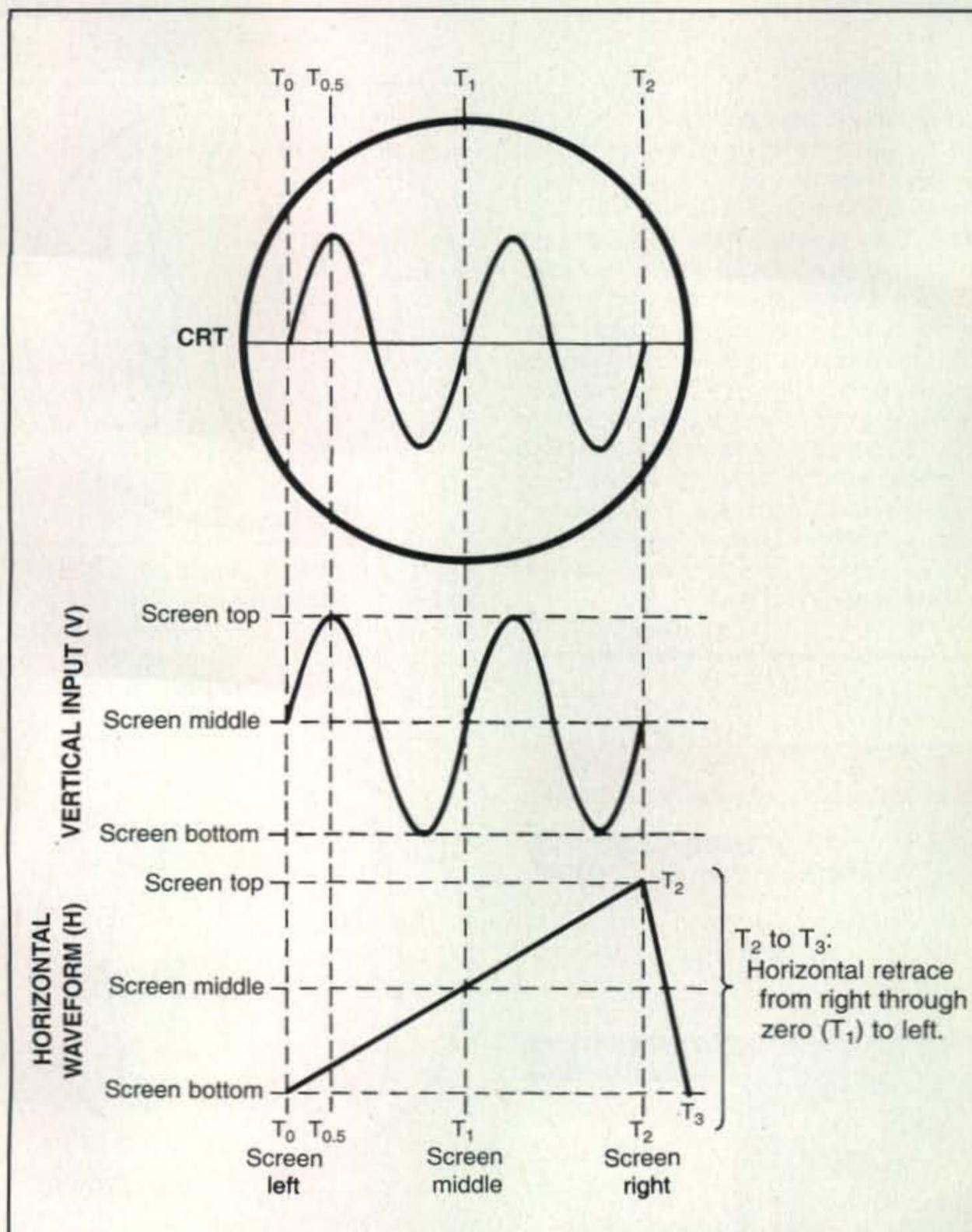


Fig. 2— Time-synchronized outline of beam-deflecting waves applied to horizontal and vertical plates of an oscilloscope's CRT and the resultant display on the screen (explanation in text).

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waves (probably filled with glitches!) on the screen. In this case, your body acts like an antenna for the scope. If the scope's vertical amplifier has capacitive/DC-blocked input and also a vertical AC voltage calibrator, you can touch the probe's tip to the calibrator's output and adjust vertical gain so 1 volt, 100 millivolts, 10 millivolts, etc., fill the screen or fill one or two or three division grids overlaying the screen (you designate the range of measurements). This technique can be used for measuring AC ripple in a DC power supply, and knowing the DC and AC levels, you can then calculate the (supply's) overall percentage of AC ripple.

Does your scope's vertical section also have a DC input? Connect its probe to a 9-volt battery, watch the horizontal trace/line move up or down (again the gain control sets the amount of movement or deflection), and then reverse the battery connections and watch the horizontal trace move an equal amount in the opposite direction. Do you have a crystal or dynamic mic that operates without transceiver-supplied voltage? Connect the scope's probe to its output terminals, increase vertical channel input gain, and watch the displayed waves as you talk. Menial exercises? No. You are learning!

Do you remember your license exam test questions regarding use of oscilloscopes for checking the quality of SSB signals? Basically, a two- or three-turn pickup loop or a signal probe is used to couple a sampling of the rig's output signal to the scope's vertical plates and external triggering is used to stabilize the display. A test signal comprised of

two non-harmonically related tones within the transceiver's audio passband (such as 700 Hz and 1200 or 1500 Hz, which are between 300- and 2800-Hz filter limits) are then used to modulate the rig. Assuming a properly operating rig and a mic gain setting of not over 100-percent modulation, the oscilloscope display will look akin to fig. 4. If the mic gain or RF drive is too high, the transceiver or linear amplifier's output will reach maximum before the two-tone test signal reaches maximum and will not be able to follow sine-wave peaks. The scope's waves will then "flat top" as shown in fig. 5. Flat topping indicates distortion and excessive bandwidth. Hopefully, it is the result of excessive mic gain (which is easily corrected) rather than a more serious problem requiring rig repair.

Conclusion

In addition to being complex in design, the applications for oscilloscopes are so extensive that we could only squeeze a brief introduction into this month's column. Stay tuned, however, as we plan to include more useful notes on oscilloscopes and understanding the concept of electronic scanning in our next "How It Works" column. I also sense many old pros saying I left out a full explanation of this, that, etc., and I again emphasize this is strictly an introductory look at oscilloscopes for newcomers, not a college thesis on the subject. Hopefully, I removed some of the intimidating mystery of oscilloscopes so newcomers will further investigate them.

73, Dave, K4TWJ

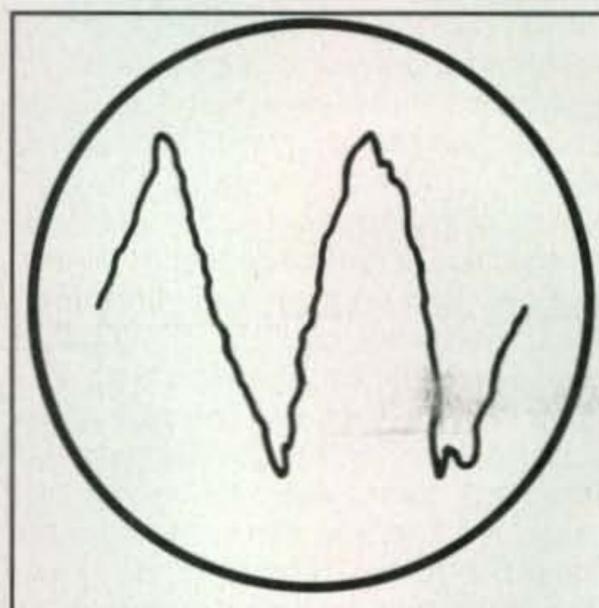


Fig. 3— Typical display of a stray 60-Hz signal picked up "through the air" by holding the input probe to an oscilloscope in hand. This display is a real-life example of high vertical amplifier section sensitivity.

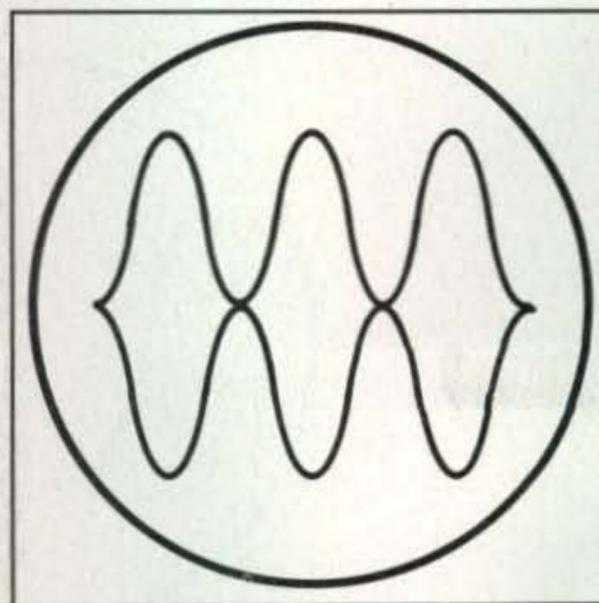


Fig. 4— A typical oscilloscope-displayed waveform for a properly adjusted and smooth-forming SSB transceiver with a two-tone audio signal applied to its mic input (explanation in text).

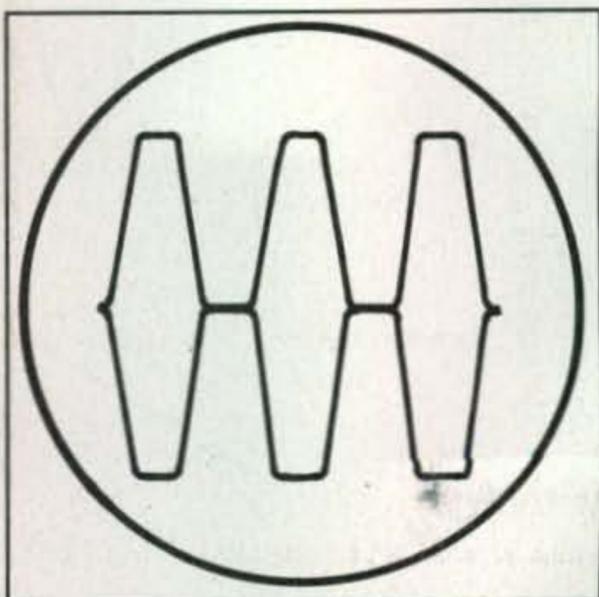


Fig. 5— Typical oscilloscope-displayed waveform for an SSB transmitter with mic gain or excessive RF output driving a linear amplifier. Note "flat topping" on the peaks of the sine waves (see text).

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Radio Control Software, Ham Radio Gifts, Copper Strap, Log Analysis Software

This month's items include a look at the N4PY Rig Control Software, a variety of ham gifts, copper grounding strap, and contest log analysis software. Finally, we visit The Amateur Radio Website of the Month.

N4PY Rig Control Software

Carl Moreschi, N4PY, has been producing a variety of radio-control software products for over nine years, but is always adding new features. Carl also has been quick to add support for new radios to existing programs. He currently has three software programs, and they each support a number of different radios, totaling over 40. The first program is designed to control the Ten-Tec Pegasus, Jupiter, Omni VII, Argonaut V, RX-350, RX-320 and RX-340, the Elecraft K2 and K3, and a large variety of Kenwood rigs. The second program supports Ten-Tec Orion and Orion II (photo A). The final program supports a wide variety of ICOM radios.

Each of the programs not only provides almost all of the controls on the actual radio on your computer screen, but Carl has been able to add even more features than can be accessed from the radios themselves. These include spectrum-sweep displays, additional memory slots, and scan modes. The programs provide the ability to use a separate receiver along with your transceiver to provide additional receive capability. The pro-

grams also fully support the LDG AT-200PC Autotuner. By using this tuner, tuning your antenna has never been easier. This allows the program to recall tuner settings when going to a new band without the need to transmit.

The software also has support for the Griffin Technology Powermate. This is a knob that is connected to the USB port and can be used as a software-controlled tuning knob. This is very helpful for radios that do not have a remote tuning pod, as this allows knob tuning while using full software control of the radio.

All the software runs on all Windows® operating systems starting with Windows 3.1 and including Windows 95, 98, 98SE, ME, NT, 2000, XP, and Vista (but not the 64-bit versions of XP and Vista). Price per program is \$65 for initial registration and \$30 for optional updates. For more details visit <www.ralabs.com/n4py> or e-mail Carl at <n4py@arrl.net>.

Ham Radio Gifts

If you are an early bird, unlike me, you may already be planning holiday gifts for ham friends or family, or leaving hints for your family on what you might like to receive. Therefore, over the next few issues I will try to include a few gift ideas.

This month we visit the TNT (TechNote Time) Electrical Trades Gift Store. It has a number of gifts for radio and electronics enthusiasts, including T-shirts, Christmas ornaments, clocks, decals, watches, mugs, and trophies. Many items can be customized with your callsign or other messages. Prices range from less than \$1 to \$65.

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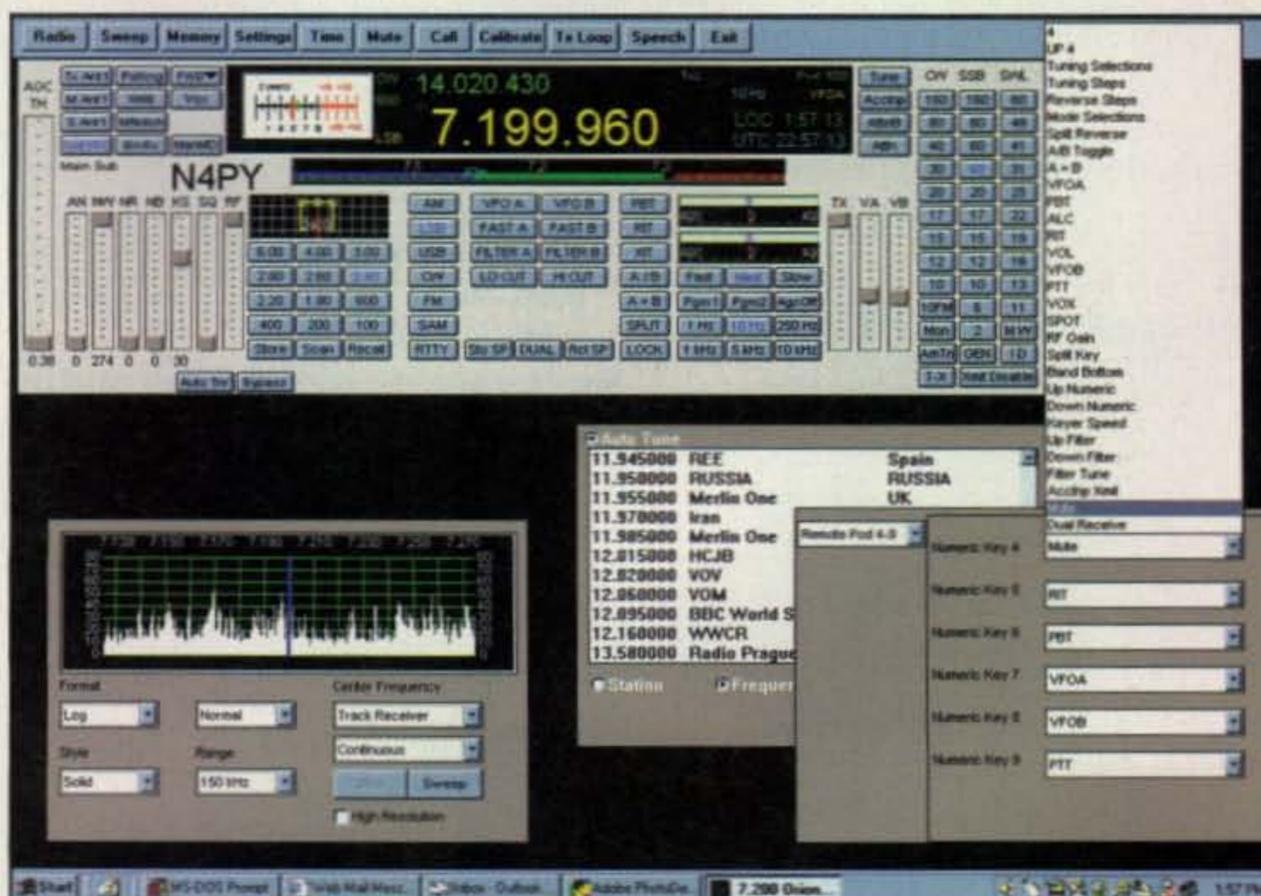
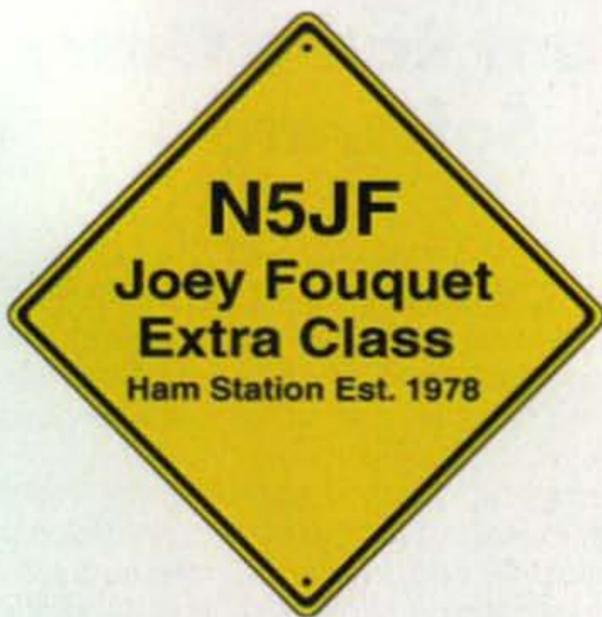


Photo A—N4PY Rig Control Software. Here it is shown controlling the Ten-Tec OrionII.

Photo B—
Customized
"caution signs" for
your shack are just
one of the many
ham radio gifts
available from
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One that caught my eye was the personalized "Caution" sign (photo B). "Just indicate in the fields provided on the site what you would like your custom metal ham radio caution sign to say!" These 14" x 14" caution signs are made from baked caution-yellow, enamel-finished, diamond-shaped .040 aluminum with rounded corners, pre-punched holes for mounting, and high-performance vinyl, making these high-quality signs perfect for indoor or outdoor use. Price is \$27. To take a look at the over 75 items in the ham radio area, visit <www.technotetime.com> and then look for the Ham Radio link on left of the page.

SH5 Log Analysis Software

This is a good month to go back and review your logs from last year's CQ World-Wide DX Contest. Reviewing last year's logs and results are a great way to improve your 2008 scores in both the SSB and CW contests. I suggest you do four things:

- Read the results of the 2007 contest in the August issue and this issue of *CQ*.
- Check out the historical information in logs and records for previous years at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>.
- Use your access code (received via e-mail if you sent in last year's log via e-mail) to review your UBN Report (see <www.cqww.com> for more information on interpreting these reports.)

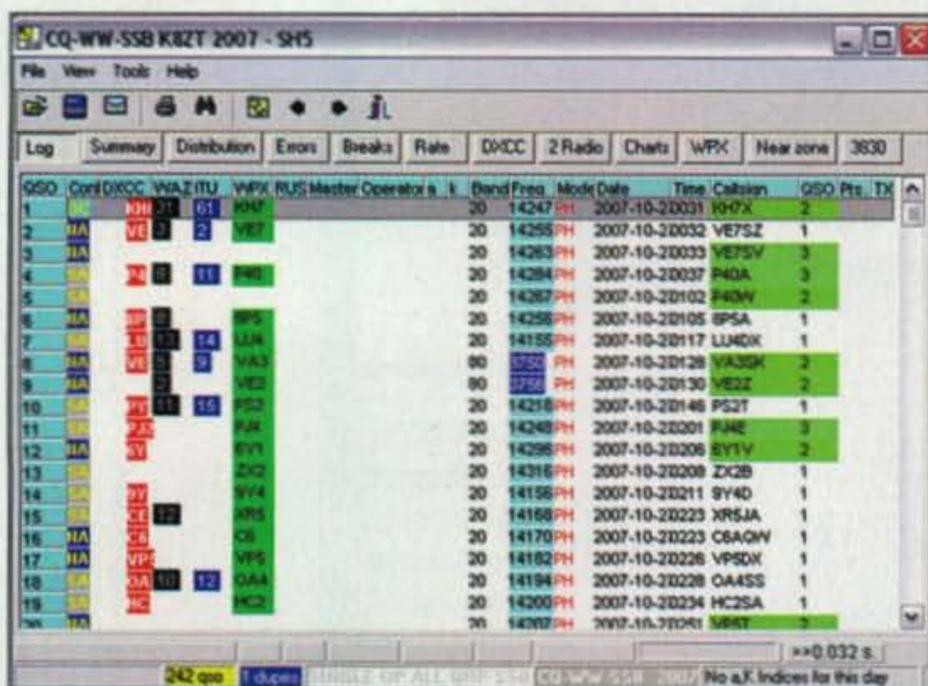


Fig. 1— SH5 Log Analysis software showing contest log.

- Use computer software to analyze your logs from last year.

I have used spreadsheet software to analyze my logs for a number of years. I found a new, free software program, the SH5 Post Contest Utility from Dmitriy Gulyaev, UA4WLI (see figs. 1–3). SH5 is available for download from <http://tr4w.qrz.ru>. Once you download and install the software, you will need to update its supporting files: K5ZD's Super Check Partial (SCP) database from <www.k5zd.com/scp> and AD1C's Amateur Radio Country List from <www.country-files.com/cty>. After you have updated these files, you are ready to open your log files from last year(s). SH5 allows you to open or import a variety of log files.

SH5 can analyze your log in a myriad of ways, including: log by band; distribution by band, time, or continent; rates; suspicious callsigns; and much more. Give it a try, as I think you might find it to be a new useful tool in planning your strategy for this year's contests.

Georgia Copper

Because of the "skin effect," radio-frequency currents tend to conduct along the surface of a conductor rather than through the middle. Because of this effect, copper strap is

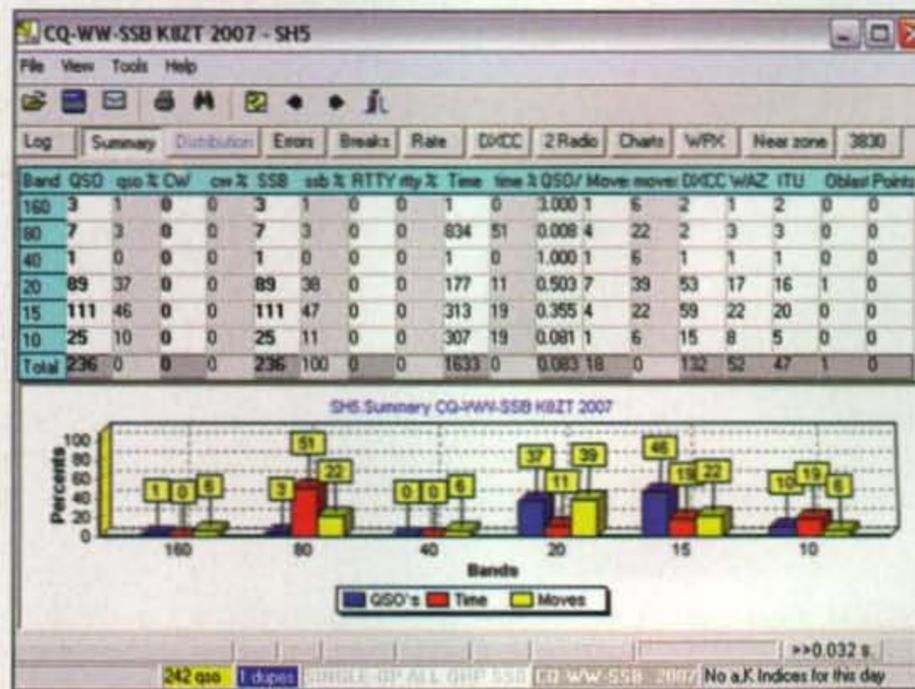


Fig. 2— SH5 Log Analysis software showing log summary.

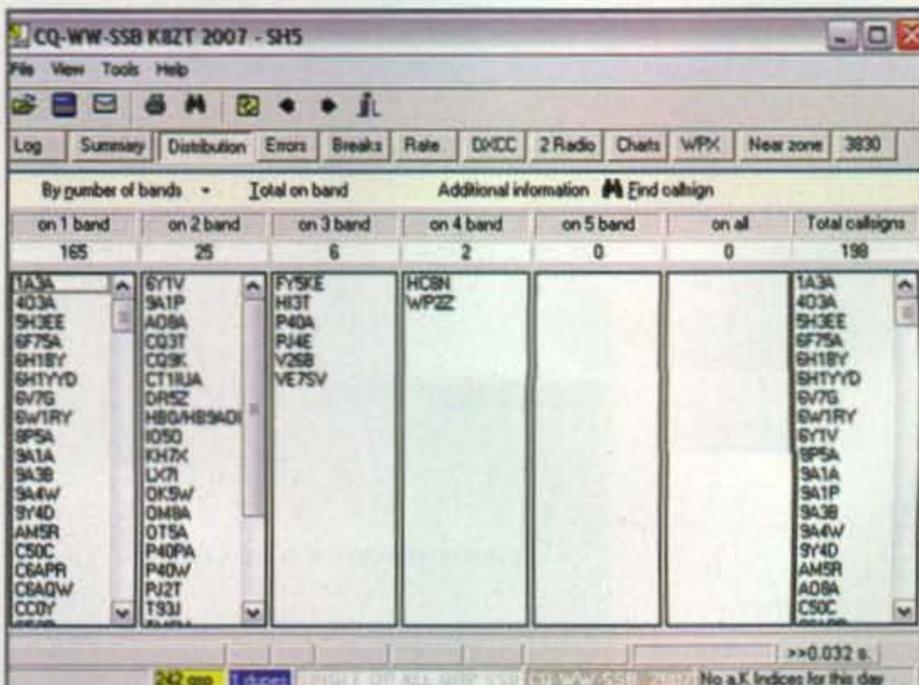


Fig. 3— SH5 Log Analysis software showing distribution of stations worked.



Photo C— Georgia Copper's 032-inch copper strap, 2 inches x 25 feet, \$60.

more efficient than an equal weight of copper wire for handling high-frequency currents. This makes copper strap a logical choice in RF-grounding applications. Copper strap has also proven extremely effective in applications requiring bonding and grounding for lightning protection. Currents encountered during a lightning strike can be compared to high-level RF currents. Copper strap handles these currents more effectively and with less inductance than round wire.

Georgia Copper sells copper straps (photo C), sheets, screens, and foil in a variety of thickness, widths, lengths, and shapes. For more info on the entire Georgia Copper product lineup or to order visit <www.gacopper.com>.

The Amateur Radio Website of the Month

This month's Amateur Radio Website is the newly revised DX Summit (fig. 4). The venerable site that has served DX for a number of years is getting a face-lift, new more powerful server resources, and a new address: <www.dxsummit.fi>. The original OH2AQ DX Summit was launched in 1998 by Jukka Salomaa, OH2BUA, and Antti Kantola, OH5TB (OH2AQ is the callsign of the Radio Club of Elisa). The New DX Summit is operated by Arcala Extremes, OH8X, and supported by the Yasme Foundation Inc. (www.yasme.org).

DX Summit offers hams DX Spots, Announcements, Custom Sorting of Spots, Search of Previous Spots, and the ability to Send a New Spot. In addition to the current features, many new features utilizing the increased computing power are currently on the drawing board.

Wrap-up

That is all for this month's column. A few months ago I started a new feature—a web page with all of the links given in my columns. This will allow you to click

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WVSH	14256.0	050A	0010 17 Jul
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Fig. 4— Screenshot of the DX Summit website showing DX spots.

on each link instead of having to type them from the written page. It will also allow me to update links as they change over time. The page will include links from all CQ articles I have written since my first, in the September 2007 issue. To reach the page, visit <www.k8zt.com/cq>.

Remember, I welcome your feedback, questions, and/or comments. If you are a producer of a new product for amateur radio, please feel free to e-mail me or use the address on the first page of this column. Until next month . . .

73, Anthony K8ZT

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.

Q&A and the DARC Awards

This month we start out by answering some questions asked by county hunters. We then present the series of awards offered by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club.

Q: I worked W4XYZ and he sent me two QSLs for the same contact. County identification was different on both cards. He says I can use the contacts as a "county line" because "my shack straddles the county line." He used as additional proof the fact that he pays property taxes in the two counties. Can I count both?

A: The station says that his shack/antennas/feedlines bracket two counties. We permit mobile stations to straddle a county line and count both with one QSO. (I personally have a queasy feeling about this, but that's just an opinion, not a rule.) This kind of situation is unique, so I can't see it causing a problem. As the USA-CA Award custodian, I would allow each of the counties. Paying property taxes in two jurisdictions as claimed is pretty good evidence.

Q: (1) Some independent cities in Virginia are not adjacent to any county—e.g. Chesapeake, VA is adjacent only to other independent cities. What does this count for?

(2) The independent city of Lynchburg, VA is adjacent to Amherst, Bedford, and Campbell counties. If I had three different QSOs with different stations/different callsigns but all in Lynchburg, could I count each of them for a different adjacent county?

A: (1) Most independent cities are located within counties and the borders of that city do not touch any other bordering county. When you work that independent city, you get credit for that one county which surrounds it. There are four independent cities along the Atlantic Coast that don't touch anything but each other. These are Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach. The USA-CA program handles this odd situation by noting that each of them counts for "Isle of Wight" county.

(2) The interesting independent cities have city boundaries that touch the borders of one, two, or more surrounding counties. Example: The City of Petersburg, VA borders Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, and Prince George counties. If you contact a Petersburg station, you get to choose *any one* of those three counties. However, if you later work another station in the city of Petersburg, *you cannot count it for anything else.* You get to choose one time, and that's it.

DARC Awards

The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club e. V. (DARC) is the equivalent of our American Radio Relay

*12 Wells Woods Rd., Columbia, CT 06237
e-mail: <k1bv@cq-amateur-radio.com>

USA-CA Special Honor Roll

James H. Rice VA6JR
USA-CA All Counties #1166
May 30, 2008

USA-CA Honor Roll

	500	
CT3MD		3435
	1000	
CT3MD		1752
	3000	
VA6JR		1190

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.

League here in the United States. It offers a broad series of awards, and we are happy to present the rules of several of the most popular ones.

General Requirements: Available to all amateurs and SWLs. All contacts must have been made from the same country. DARC DX Awards are based on the European Country List and the ARRL DXCC List. All bands may be used. Application forms are available for 1.53 Euros (or stamps) from Eberhard Warnecke, DJ8OT, Postfach 10 12 44, Velbert D-42512, Germany. They are also available on the DARC internet site (<http://www.darc.de/diplome/index.html>). Use of these forms is mandatory. QSLs for all contacts claimed must be submitted with the application. Fee for each award is 5 Euros. En-



To earn the DARC's WAE I Award contact at least 60 countries and earn 200 points.

dorsements are 5 Euros. Trophy and plaque cost is 20 Euros; endorsements are for the trophies and plaques are free. Payment in U.S. dollars or IRCs is currently accepted at the rate U.S. \$1.00 equals 0.75 Euro; 1 IRC = 0.75 Euro.

The DARC uses volunteer award managers for the award. They are:

Europa Diplom: Franz Berndt, DL9GFB, Heinrich-Heine-Str. 1, D-18209 Bad Doberan, Germany.

EU-DX-D: Dietmar Kasper DL3DXX, Birkenweg 3, Pirna-Jessen D-01796, Germany.

WAE I, II, and III: Hajo Weigand,

DJ9MH, Altensteiner Weg 1, D-97437 Hassfurt, Germany.

The European Country List, used in the DARC awards series, is as follows: 1A, 3A, 4O, 4U1I, 4U1V 9A, 9H, C3, CT, CU, DL, E7, E7, EA, EA6, EI, ER, ES, EU, F, G, GD, GI, GJ, GM, GM*, GU, GW, HA, HB, HB0, HV, HV, I, IS, IT, JW/B, JW, JX, LA, LX, LY, LZ, OE, OH, OH0, OJ0, OK, OM, ON, OY, OZ, PA, R1F, R1M, S5, SM, SP, SV/A, SV, SV5, SV9, T7, TA1, TF, TK, UA, UA2, UR, YL, YO, YU, YU8†, Z3, ZA, ZB.

* GM, Shetlands

† YU8B, Kosovo

Sharon Matthew, N0LXJ

USA-CA All Counties #1165, December 8, 2007

Hooray! I did it . . . I finally finished working all 3077 counties in the good old U.S. of A. It took me four years to do it thanks to the declining sunspot cycle and the fact that I'm still working. However, with the help of all the good folks out there and the encouragement of my husband Matt, W0NAC, I now have my USA-CA All Counties award framed and hanging on the wall next to his.

Neither of us had ever heard of county hunting back in 1960 when at Matt's urging I got my Novice ticket (KN8WHW) in Dayton, Ohio. He's a hard task master as an Elmer. He insisted I not just memorize answers to exam questions, but that I actually learn and understand radio theory, etc. By the time I got my code speed up to the required 5 wpm and passed my test I was able to design and build my own transmitter, even down to fabricating the chassis!

I had a couple of memorable experiences during that year, both having to do with CW contacts. One evening I answered a CQ and in the course of our "Chat," the ham on the other end told me his roommate was from the same hometown as mine and he turned the key over to him. Imagine my surprise (and shock) to discover that his roommate was an old boyfriend from several years earlier! On another occasion I was awarded a Rag Chewer's Certificate for a CW contact that lasted an hour or more.

About the time I needed to be studying to upgrade my license, the Air Force put Matt back in the cockpit and he was gone most of the time. I had two babies in diapers then, and I didn't have the time nor the energy left to pursue radio, so my Novice license expired and life went on.

After Matt retired from the Air Force, we moved home to Colorado. Around 1999 he discovered county hunting and set up a mobile rig, as well as the base station at home, and I became the official logger on the road. It didn't take long before he began nudging (nagging) me to get my license so we could work as a team. I'm the minister to the senior adults at South Suburban Christian Church in Littleton, and I kept telling him I didn't have the time to devote to studying for the exams. Remember the



Sharon Matthew, N0LXJ, USA-CA #1165.

old saying "If you can't fight 'em, join 'em"?

Well, the same rule applied as before—learn it, don't memorize. I received my Technician license in June of 2003 and a month later passed the General exam, and KC0QER took to the airwaves as a full-fledged county hunter and member of an OM/YL team. My current call is N0LXJ.

I'm still the official on-the-road logger. That's quite a feat with a little dog on my lap, a three-ring notebook and microphone in my left hand, and writing furiously with my right hand, especially if we're putting out a county on the fly.

What a great hobby this is. I wouldn't take a million for the fun and unusual and sometimes alarming experiences we've had over the miles we've traveled. In August 2007 Matt and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in Hawaii putting out five counties while enjoying gorgeous scenery.

Many, many thanks to the fine folks out there who have become good friends!

73, Sharon, N0LXJ

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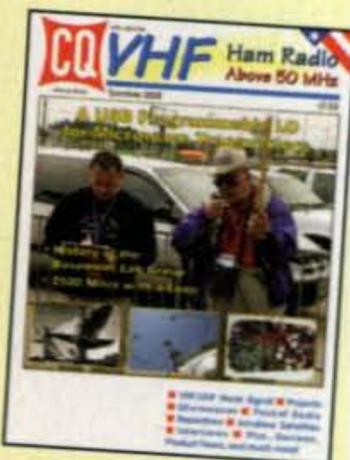
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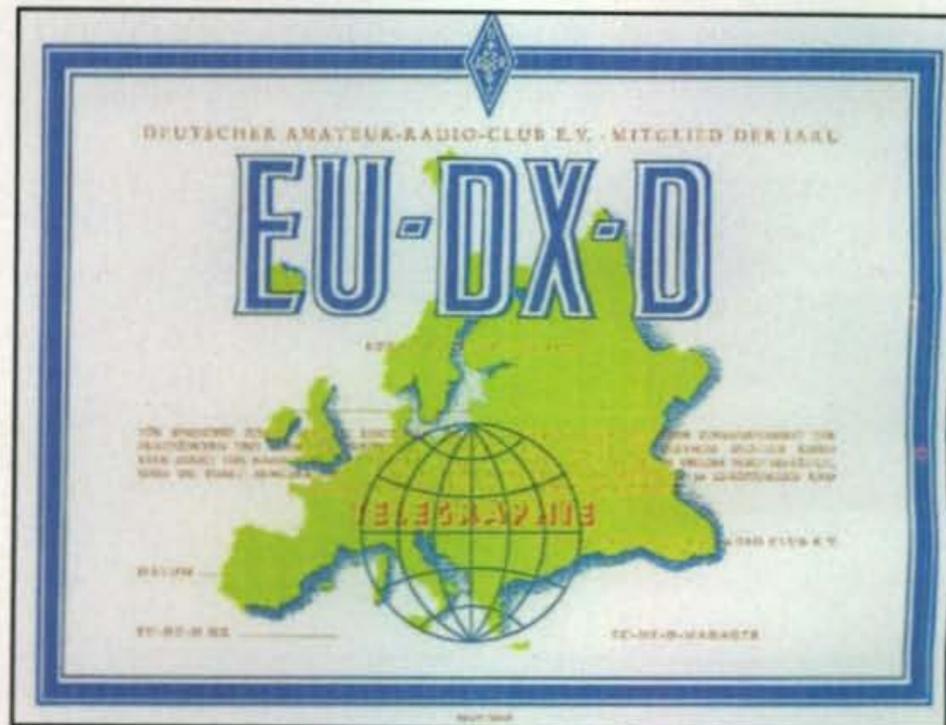
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The EU-DX-D award may be earned annually and is issued for CW, SSB, and Mixed modes.

Worked All Europe (WAE) Award. Contact European countries on different bands. The award is issued in all modes. Mixed mode okay. Each European country counts one point on each band. For stations outside of Europe, contacts on 80 and 160 meters count two points. A maximum of five bands per country may be used.

Classes: WAE III—at least 40 countries and 100 points; WAE II—at least 50 countries and 150 points; WAE I—at least 60 countries and 200 points. Holders of WAE I get a special WAE badge.

WAE Trophy: Work at least 73 countries and earn 365 points. All countries that are listed on the WAE country list at the time of application are valid. Deleted countries may not be counted. To apply for the WAE Trophy, confirmation of contacts with every country on the WAE country list is required on any five bands. All amateur radio bands are allowed. Stickers will be issued for the confirmation of contacts with each country on six or more bands. Candidates for this trophy may participate in a Top List (list of missing countries), which can be accessed at the homepage of the DARC Committee for DX and HF-Contesting.

WAE Top Trophy (plaque): Work at least 70 countries and earn 300 points. Deleted countries may not be counted towards the plaque.

EU-DX-D. This award may be earned annually. It is issued in the following classes: CW, SSB, and Mixed modes. A minimum of 50 points per year is required for the EU-DX-D basic award or any annual sticker. Twenty points must be obtained by contacts with European countries, and 30 points by contacts with countries outside Europe. All bands may be used. Each country counts one point, except on 80 and 160 meters, two points. Stickers are available for each additional block of four European and six non-European points within the same calendar year. For example:

20 EU points in 2004 + 30 DX same year = 50 pts for 2004
 28 EU points in 2003 + 42 DX same year = 70 pts for 2003
 32 EU points in 2002 + 48 DX same year = 80 pts for 2002
 Total of 200 points, or four stickers.

Each year's score may be added to obtain the EU-DX-D 500 badge and the EU-DX-D Trophy. There is no limit to the number of years you accumulate.

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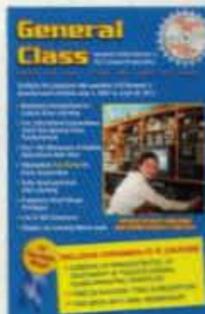
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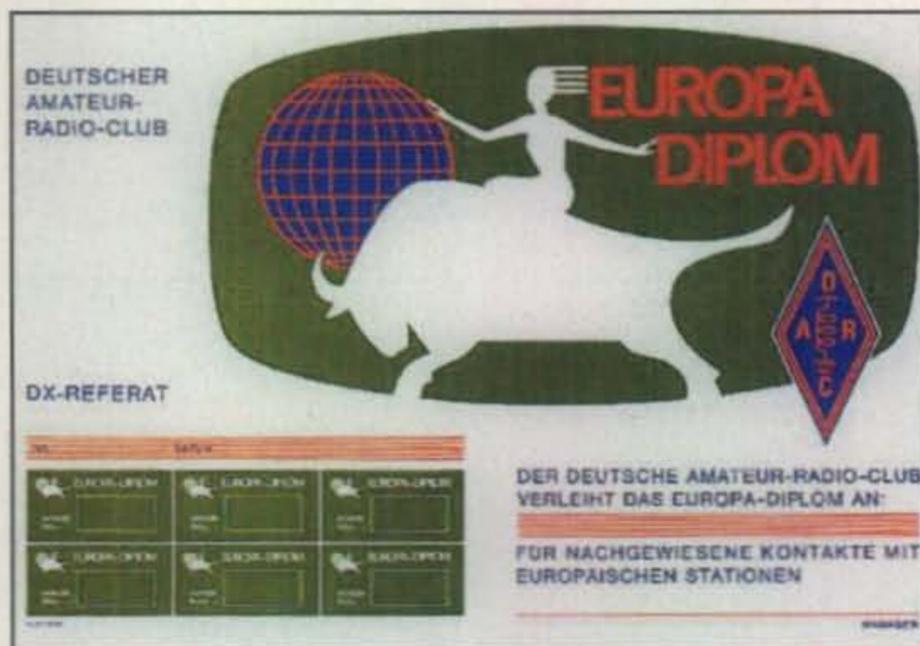


EU-DX-1000 plaque is awarded for earning a total of 1000 points, regardless of how many years are involved.

EU-DX-1000 Trophy (plaque): This plaque is awarded for earning a total of 1000 points, regardless of how many years are involved.

Europa Diplom. Awarded for working/hearing amateurs in different European countries. Applicants must prove a total score of at least 100 points. Annual score is as follows: each confirmed European country counts one point per year on each amateur band (including 10/18/24 MHz and VHF). All bands and modes. Total score equals sum of the annual score for the year of application and the five preceding years.

Europa Diplom-300 Plaque. Europa Diplom recipients can receive this plaque under the same conditions as listed for the Europa Diplom, if they earn 300 points. However, con-



The Europa Diplom is awarded for working/hearing amateurs in different European countries. Applicants must prove a total score of at least 100 points.

trary to the the Europa Diplom, each country per band may be used only once.

Examples: 50 countries on 6 bands = 300 points; or 10 countries on 9 bands plus 20 countries on 6 bands plus 15 countries on 5 bands plus 5 countries on 4 bands = 300 points.

We're always interested in hearing from clubs, special-interest groups, or individuals who sponsor an award. Please contact me at the e-mail or snail-mail address shown on the first page of this column.

73, Ted, K1BV

The "Magic Band"

What do you do when the propagation on the HF bands is just not very good? Well, I can think of a lot of things, but they are not radio related and would involve manual labor—stuff such as yard work, painting the house, etc.

However, during the month of June and extending into July there was an amazing amount of activity on the "Magic Band," 6 meters. I can say amazing, because that is what the "experts" were saying. Records were set, or broken, with Japanese stations being worked from all across the U.S. Europe was well represented working into the U.S., too. You just never know what might happen on 6 meters. Last year we were treated to some great openings, but this year it was even better. You aren't on 6? Many of the radios on the market these days include 6 meters, even less-expensive ones such as my IC-706, which puts out 100 watts. Antennas are really quite small and easy to put up; they don't have to be big for you to have some fun and maybe put some interesting entries in your log. If you are interested in the ARRL's Challenge Award, those 6-meter contacts will add to your totals, too.

There have been some "DXpeditions" that were primarily for 6 meters as well. Dennis, K7BV, was active from Belize and the Galapagos in June/July, CYØX from Sable Island was primarily a 6-meter operation, and TO5E was on from St.

*P.O. Box DX, Leicester, NC 28748-0249
e-mail: <n4aa@cq-amateur-radio.com>



We talk of getting youth involved in amateur radio. Franz, DJ9ZB, has taken action. Here his grandson is working to learn CW. In a few years he will accompany "grandpa" on DXpeditions, where Franz will work SSB and his grandson will handle CW. (Photo courtesy of Franz, DJ9ZB)

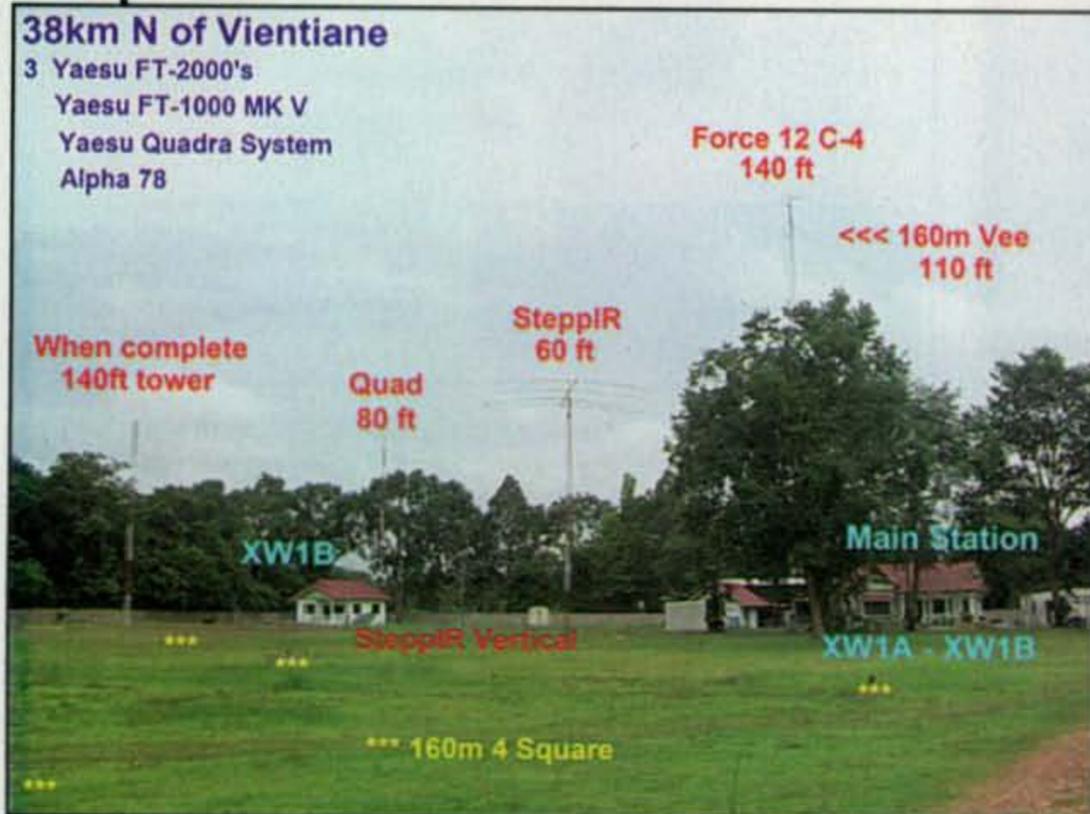
Barthelemy. All of these did operate some HF, but just to have something to do while waiting for 6 meters to open up.

Upcoming DXpeditions

In checking my calendar of upcoming operations, I note the French operation from Glorioso is still being "hoped for" in the September/October time frame. As of early July no new information had been posted. Sigi, DL7DF, and his team are scheduled to be active as A25/DL7DF September 23 to October 6.

I'm not sure why, but Willis Island, VK9W, was ranked at #12 on *The DX Magazine's* Most Wanted survey for 2007. There have been operations from Willis in the past, but apparently they failed to meet the demand. A team of nine German operators and one Polish op will be on Willis in October. The website says they plan to be on the air from October 9 to the 27 with four stations, all with amplifiers, and the antennas will be the verticals that have become so popular with DXpeditioners. There is no information concerning an on-line log as of this writing. If you want to keep up with the plans, check: <<http://www.vk9dwx.de>>.

Lots of operations are already being announced for the CQ WW DX Contests in October (SSB) and November CW). A group of at least five, led by Joe, W8GEX, will be going to St. Barthelemy. His group will be using the special call TO5DX, primarily for the CQ WW SSB Contest. Before/after the contest they will be active on CW/SSB/RTTY. There are many others who are planning operations for the CQWW, and you check them out on the website of Bill Feidt, NG3K, who does an out-



This is the layout of the XW1B station in Laos. Bruce Ault has created an outstanding station in this remote part of the world. (Photo courtesy of Larry, KJ4UY)

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB Endorsements

330.....K4JLD/339	330.....YU3AA/337
330.....XE1AE/339	330.....AB4IQ/336
330.....OZ3SK/338	330.....HB9DDZ/334
330.....WS9V/338	310.....W0ROB/317
330.....EA3BMT/338	150.....WA6JJB/197
330.....K2FL/337	

CW Endorsements

330.....W0JLC/337	310.....W6YQ/318
330.....HB9DDZ/335	310.....WA4DOU/315

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 338 active countries. Please make all checks payable to the award manager.

standing job of posting all this information for our benefit. Check it out at: <<http://www.ng3k.com/>>.

A bit further on in the calendar we find an operation from Papua, P2, late in October. This was announced back in April and little has been heard since. No website was announced, so just keep watching/listening after mid-October.

The Most Wanted Survey

I mentioned the *The DX Magazine* Most Wanted Survey above, and I invite you to visit the DX Publishing website, <<http://www.dxp.com/>>, after September 1 and submit your own "most wanted." This annual survey is used by DXpeditioners, DX Foundations, clubs, etc., to help them decide which DXpeditions to help financially. The survey is conducted during September and October each year with the results published in the January/February and March/April issues of *The DX Magazine*. This year the list has been expanded to include some 300 possible entities for you to choose from. Also, an extra column has been included for you to check if you need/want that entity on 160-30 meters. Both of these additions were made after careful consideration of suggestions made over the past several years.

Logbook of The World

Now here is an interesting item from page 8 of the ARRL Annual Report for 2007:

"Despite another year without many sunspots to spark the ionosphere, interest in awards chasing is increasing. Participation in the DX Century Club

(DXCC) is up more than 1,000 applications over 2006, and is the highest it has been since 2001 when the last solar cycle peaked. Much of the interest in DXCC and ARRL's Worked All States (WAS) award can be attributed to the strong use and performance of ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) on-line QSO confirmation system, which links directly into those two awards. More than 150-million contacts have been loaded into LoTW."

Indeed, I am seeing more and more reports of logs being uploaded to the LoTW. I personally use it every few months to keep up to date for the band/mode confirmations that could be there. In case you missed it in the DX news sources recently, the logs for 4U1UN for the last few years have been uploaded and prior years were being worked on to get them uploaded as well. I applaud anyone using the LoTW system. With the ever-increasing cost of postage, most notably from Europe to the U.S., using the LoTW is "dirt cheap" in comparison. Sure it's a little work, but after you have been through the process a few times it isn't all that difficult. When you consider the cost of just one return envelope from some

The WAZ Program

80 Meter SSB

90.....EA5GPQ

30 Meter CW

85.....K5KC

40 Meter CW

263.....JA1DIO

160 Meters

279.....EU7SA (33 zones)

All Band WAZ

Mixed

8515.....W9CPV	8518.....K4XD
8516.....UY0MM	8519.....OE3JAG
8517.....JA5NPV	8520.....CT3MD

SSB

5078.....VE7SAG	5080.....VK2RO
5079.....N6JOJ	

RTTY

187.....K5KC	188.....JR3UIC
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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>.

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N4WW, 199 (26)	RA6AX, 199 (6 on 10m)
W4LI, 199 (26)	RX4HZ, 199 (13)
K7UR, 199 (34)	K8GM, 199 (17)
W2YY, 199 (26)	S58Q, 199 (31)
IK8BOE, 199 (31)	EA5BCX, 198 (27, 39)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40m)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	JA1DM, 198 (2, 40)
W8CP, 199 (18)	9A5I, 198 (1, 16)
GM3YOR, 199 (31)	K4CN, 198 (23, 26)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
KZ4V, 199 (26)	N2QT, 198 (23, 24)
W6DN, 199 (17)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
W3NO, 199 (26)	W4UM, 198 (18, 23)
HB9DDZ, 199 (31)	US7MM, 198 (2, 6)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	K2TK, 198 (23, 24)
N3UN, 199 (18)	K3JGJ, 198 (24, 26)
OH2VZ, 199 (31)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
W1JZ, 199 (24)	F5NBU, 198 (19, 31)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	OE2LCM, 198 (1, 31)
SM7BIP, 199 (31)	HA1RW, 198 (1, 31)
SP5DVP, 199 (31 on 40)	WK3N, 198 (23, 24)
N4NX, 199 (26)	W9XY, 198 (22, 26)
N4MM, 199 (26)	KZ2I, 198 (24, 26)
EA7GF, 199 (1)	W7VJ, 198 (34, 37)
N6HR/7, 199 (37)	K9MIE, 198 (18, 21)
JA5IU, 199 (2)	W9RN, 198 (26, 19 on 40)
RU3DX, 199 (6)	W5CWO, 198 (17, 18)
N4XR, 199 (27)	WB9EEE, 198 (17, 18)
HA5AGS, 199 (1)	K9OW, 198 (34 on 10, 2 on 15)
VE3XN, 199 (26)	I5KKW, 198 (31, 23 on 20)
YU7GMN, 199 (10)	JT1BV, 198 (4, 11)

The following have qualified for the basic 5 Band WAZ Award:

UYQMM (170 zones)	G3WW (161 zones)
DK8MCT (161 zones)	S59U (187 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

K5PC, 200 zones	K5AC, 200 zones
I5KKW, 198 zones	G3VKW, 195 zones

*Please note: Cost of the 5 Band WAZ Plaque is \$100 shipped within the U.S.; \$120 all foreign (sent airmail).

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>.

European countries costing at least \$3.00 U.S. (and it will get higher), I think you could spend a little time and effort to learn how to use the LoTW, don't you?

Oh no, some DXpeditioners might say. There goes our money for QSLing! I really don't think that is going to be a problem. DXpeditions are not in the business of "selling" QSL cards anyway. Major DXpeditions are using on-line donation systems with PayPal, etc., and I hear it is working just fine.

In many cases the QSL cards are being donated, and the only expense to

The WPX Program

CW	
3204.....IK8YUO	
SSB	
3008.....JH7BBK	3010.....AA4FU
3009.....SV7CUD	3011.....KD4QMY
Mixed	
2011.....W3LL	2012.....AA4FU
Digital	
13.....W3LL	

CW: 1250 AA4FU, 4300 N4NO.
SSB: 750 JH7BBK, 1400 IA8BNR, 3600 N4NO.
Mixed: 2150 W3LL, 3950 WB2YQH, 4850 N4NO.
Digital: 1100 W3LL.

160 Meters: AA4FU
30 Meters: N4NO
17 Meters: N4NO
12 Meters: N4NO

Award of Excellence Holders: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MDD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BQY, I8JX, WA1JMP, K8JN, W4VQ, KF2O, WB8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM8DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IIC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM8AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, WB8ZRL, WA8YTM, SM6DHU, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE8DXM, DK4SY, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, I2DMK, SM6CST, VE1NG, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, HI8LC, KA5W, K3UA, HA8UB, HA8XX, K7LJ, SM3EVR, K2SHZ, UP1BZZ, EA7OH, K2POA, N6JV, W2HG, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB8G, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB8TK, K9QFR, 9A2NA, W4UW, NX8I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE8DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IK4GME, VE9RJ, WX3N, HB9AJT, KC6X, N6IBF, W5ODD, I8RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W8ULU, K9XR, JA8SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R,

CT4UW, K8IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PXV, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA8FZ, DJ3JWS, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA8FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, K4LQ, K8KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, AI6Z, RU3DX, WB9IHH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1AOB, KT2C, UA9CGL, AE5B, K8DEQ, DK8PM, SV1EOS, UA8FAI, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3OPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI.

160 Meter Endorsements: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, WB8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8ILC, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM8DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM8AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE8DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, HI8LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TQH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB8G, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB8TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX8I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, WX3N, W5ODD, I8RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, K9XR, JA8SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K8IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, VR2UW, UA8FZ, DJ3JWS, OE6CLD, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, S51U, RA8FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX, WB9IHH, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1AOB, UA9CGL, SM6DHU, K8DEQ, DK8PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3OPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI.

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 355, New Carlisle, OH 45344 USA. Note: WPX will not accept prefixes/calls which have been confirmed by computer-generated electronic means.

*Please Note: The price of the bars for the Award of Excellence are \$6.50 each.

a DXpedition would be the uploading of their logs to LoTW. Also, just think of all the time they would save by not having to handle all those paper requests.

Rumors

Now for a few words on rumors, etc. From time to time someone will say to

me, "Hey I hear there's gonna be an operation from 'xxxxxyzzz.' What's the deal? I know you hear about these things before we do." Well, let me tell you about those kinds of things. Yes, many times I am told of pending operations. Often I am asked to keep it to myself for the moment. The organizers of many of these operations are dealing with gov-



Here is the club station at Addis Ababa, ET3AA. It's always interesting to know what is on the other side of a QSO. (Photo courtesy of Franz, DJ9ZB)

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

5710.....9A2AA	4148.....VE3XN	3635.....KF2O	3294.....W9OP	2704.....K2XF	2271.....VE6BF	1826.....W7CB	1511.....KC9ARR	815.....KL7FAP
5152.....W1CU	4080.....I2PJA	3619..WB2YQH	3227.....K9BG	2673...JN3SAC	2162.....W3LL	1741.....AB5C	1330.....K6UXO	726.....K5IC
4983.....W2FXA	3916.....N9AF	3485.....IK2ILH	3091.....9A4W	2503.....K1BV	2116.....AE5B	1739.....KX1A	1322.....AA4FU	682.....AI8P
4551.....EA2IA	3821.....I2MQP	3483...YU7BCD	3007.....W2WC	2486.....N8BJQ	2192.....N2SS	1705.....W2EZ	1269.....K5WAF	644.....KW0H
4494.....N4NO	3791.....S53EO	3481...WA5VGI	2965...OZ1ACB	2455...W6OUL	1951.....K0KG	1662...SV1DPI	1016...RA1AOB	636.....ZS2DL
4447.....9A2NA	3801.....K0DEQ	3325...SM6DHU	2946.....W9IL	2410.....K5UR	1891.....VE9FX	1643.....N1KC	976.....KM6HB	
4295.....YU1AB	3703.....I2UIY	3332...ON4CAS	2873.....W2ME	2358.....I2EAY	1847.....W2FKF	1556.....W2OO	964.....K8ZEE	

SSB

4807.....I0ZV	3457.....9A2NA	2711...LU8ESU	2300...SM6DHU	2076.....K2XF	1821.....W2FKF	1591...JN3SAC	1258.....N1KC	864.....VE6BF
4310.....VE1YX	3198...CT1AHU	2672...KF7RU	2250...I3ZSX	2071.....N6FX	1765.....K08D	1525...N8BJQ	1232...AG4W	806.....K7SAM
4000.....I2PJA	3155.....I2UIY	2595.....EA1JG	2238...WA5VGI	2046.....K5UR	1754...DL8AAV	1480...AB5C	1145...EA3EQT	637.....K5WAF
3900.....F6DZU	3133...OE2EGL	2591...IN3QCI	2209...IK2QPR	1946.....W3LL	1729...W6OUL	1464...VE7SMP	1045...KX1A	
3889...OZ5EV	3108...I4CSP	2552...YU7BCD	2178...NQ3A	1935...SV1EOS	1714...IK2DZN	1463...I2EAY	1042...I20BNR	
3544...I2MQP	2970...KF2O	2451...EA3GHZ	2135...W9IL	1927...AE5B	1688...KI7AO	1386...IK4HPU	1031...IK8OZP	
3473...EA2IA	2857...4X6DK	2431...G4UOL	2094...I8LEL	1866...SV3AQR	1623...VE9FX	1377...EA3NP	978...EA7HY	
3458...N4NO	2726...K0DEQ	2326...CX6BZ	2093...W2WC	1849...K3IXD	1611...W2ME	1338...AE9DX	951...KU4BP	

CW

4953...K9QVB	3046...9A2NA	2623...SM6DHU	2324...OZ5UR	2089...K2XF	1804...EA7AAW	1250...WA2VOV	1030...AA5JG
4947...WA2HZR	2999...WA5VGI	2606...YU7BCD	2309...JN3SAC	1967...I2MQP	1465...AC5K	1220...AA4FU	915...N1KC
4042...N4NO	2927...K0DEQ	2586...EA7AZA	2246...N6FX	1953...N8BJQ	1445...EA2CIN	1209...W9HR	824...VE9FX
3685...VE7DP	2688...I2UIY	2582...I7PXV	2244...IK3GER	1945...K5UR	1364...WO3Z	1147...KX1A	749...AE5B
3557...LZ1XL	2636...KF2O	2551...KA7T	2175...W9IL	1895...W6OUL	1334...RU0LL	1086...VE1YX	608...IK2SGV
3412...EA2IA	2632...W2ME	2415...W2WC	2111...VE6BF	1848...I2EAY	1310...K6UXO	1053...K5WAF	

DIGITAL

1107.....W3LL	1009...GU0SUP	744.....N8BJQ
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ernmental agencies, some friendly and some not so friendly. It is possible that if the "agency" starts being asked about it, they could begin to question whether they should allow it to happen. Such things have happened and could happen again. DXpeditions to the Top Ten Most Wanted places don't just happen. They have to be worked at, sometimes for months, or even years. Much time and money is spent to allow these places to be put on the air . . . for you.

So, to answer the initial question... sure I know things, but I am asked to keep quiet until the time is right. When that time comes, official announcement will be made and then we

will all know the same thing at the same time. There will be plenty of time to make donations, plan time off from work, etc. Please don't ask me to give up confidential information. I won't do it.

Nellie, XE1CI, SK

Last month I mentioned that Nellie, XE1CI, was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame this year. Sadly, Nellie was suffering from cancer and she passed away on June 16th. Nellie was a consummate DXer, and well-liked and respected by all who knew her. She will be missed. May she rest in peace .

Until the next time, enjoy the chase and Have Fun!
73, Carl, N4AA



In May these gentlemen got together in Strasbourg, France at TP2CE. Left to right: F5LGF, DJ9ZB, and F5PAC. (Photo courtesy of Franz, DJ9ZB)

QSL Information

D68TK via JA1ELY	EA8/IZ2DPX via IK2DUW
DABQS via DL5KUA	EG4DCM via EA4CT
DD4B via DL3PS	EG7CDG via EA7DK
DF50PAMIR via DF9YG	EH4EI via EA4CT
DH150HZ via DL5KUA	EH7CE via EA7URM
DL0AS via DL5KUA	EI4LRC via EI8EM
DL2008DKT via DL8BEH	EI4TLH via EI8EM
DL5A via DL5KUA	EI60LRC via EI8EM
DM152ZYA via DJ7AL	EI70FOY via EI8EM
DR150HZ via DL3PS	EJ0A via EI8EM
DR5L via DK3QZ	EK6LP via IK2DUW
DS5WKW via IK2DUW	EK6LV via IK2DUW
E7/DL1MGZ via DL1MGZ	
EA6/OZ7BQ via OZ7BQ	
EA6/RW3GW via RW3GW/3	
EA8/EC1KR via EC1KR	
EA8/HA7TM via HA7TM	
EA8/IK1JPV via IK1JPV	

(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>; <http://golist.net/>.)

The Earth's Magnetotail: The Aurora-Moon Connection

This is now the third installment of my research into the Earth's magnetotail. This time I will explore the THEMIS project and how it will be used to explore the Moon beginning with two of its farthest satellites being dislodged from their present orbits starting in October 2009. First, however, some background of the Earth's aurora and of the THEMIS project.

Aurora Propagation

For those of us serious weak-signal operators who take advantage of any and all forms of propagation, we know that the aurora produces an exciting form of propagation that affects both the HF and VHF ham bands. Auroras occur when the currents flow between the magnetotail and upper atmosphere and light up Earth's gases because of ionization of electrons associated with oxygen and nitrogen. The green and red aurora lights are caused by the oxygen electrons being ionized. The blue light is a result of the nitrogen electrons being ionized.

Aurora propagation occurs as a result of the ionization that takes place during aurora activity. Sometimes this ionization takes place in the *E*-layer, which is at a height of about 60–70 miles. It is the *E*-layer that we most often associate with sporadic-*E* and meteor-scatter propagation. Hence, the similarity among the distances associated with sporadic-*E*, meteor scatter, and some types of aurora propagation.

Particularly important for us in weak signal are the 50-MHz through 222-MHz ham bands. Even though aurora propagation has been detected as high as 903 MHz, it is very rare. The current record holders of DX contacts on 432 MHz and 903 MHz respectively are Al Ward, WB5LUA (now W5LUA), EM13qc, and Mike Cresap, W3IP, FM19pd (who made their QSO on February 8, 1986); and Harry Price, K3HZO (now K3AX), FM18qp, and Paul Rose, WA3NZL (now W3NZL), FM19jg (who made their QSO on November 8, 1991).

As these two records illustrate, while the distance associated with aurora propagation is usually similar to the distance associated with sporadic-*E* and meteor-scatter propagation, not all aurora propagation can be categorized as such. Because of the curtain effect of the aurora and its resultant propagation, propagation often occurs when two amateur radio operators point their respective antennas at the curtain at angles off center from a head-on bearing. For example, for the 432-MHz record QSO, the curtain effect of the aurora propagation made it possible for Ward and Cresap to make the extraordinarily long-distance QSO because Ward's antenna was angled to the east of a head-on bearing, while Cresap's anten-

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

VHF Plus Calendar

Sept. 7	Moon Apogee and First Quarter Moon Poor EME conditions
Sept. 13–15	The ARRL Sept. VHF QSO Party
Sept. 14	Moderate EME conditions
Sept. 15	Full Moon; The 144 MHz Fall Sprint
Sept. 20	Moon Perigee
Sept. 20–21	ARRL 10 GHz and Above Cumulative Contest, second weekend ARRL 2304 MHz and Above EME Contest
Sept. 21	Moderate EME conditions
Sept. 22	Last Quarter Moon and Fall Equinox
Sept. 23	The 222 MHz Fall Sprint
Sept. 28	Good EME conditions
Sept. 29	New Moon

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU.

na was angled to the west of a head-on bearing, thereby using the curtain effect as a reflector of their respective transmissions.

The same explanation goes for the extraordinarily short-distance 903-MHz QSO between Price and Rose. Price, who was living in Huntingtown, Maryland, angled his antenna very slightly to the west of a head-on bearing, while Rose who lives in Damascus, Maryland, angled his antenna very slightly to the east of a head-on bearing. While the land distance between them is only about 85 miles, their signals traveled a much greater distance to the aurora curtain and back. It was their observation of the characteristic Doppler shift and buzzing sound associated with aurora QSOs that caused them to believe their propagation was by way of aurora.

Signals have also been known to travel along the aurora curtain. For example on December 15, 2006, Al Noe, KL7NO, worked several stations in W9-land via the aurora curtain during aurora propagation associated with intense geomagnetic activity on that date. While Noe was working those stations, he was also being heard by Jon Jones, NØJK, who was using a portable 2-element beam atop a parking garage in Salina, Kansas.

By simply operating on the VHF-plus ham bands, much has been learned about aurora propagation. However, much is still to be learned. While we are in the lull of sunspot activity, it is less likely that we will be seeing aurora propagation. Even so, this month and next, along with March and April, are typical months of increased aurora propagation.

Some History of the Aurora

From its earliest observations, the aurora has received both mythical and scientific explanations and associations for its existence. The oldest known aurora sighting was in 2600 B.C. in China. It was in 1619 A.D. that Galileo Galilei gave the phenomena the term *aurora borealis*, naming it

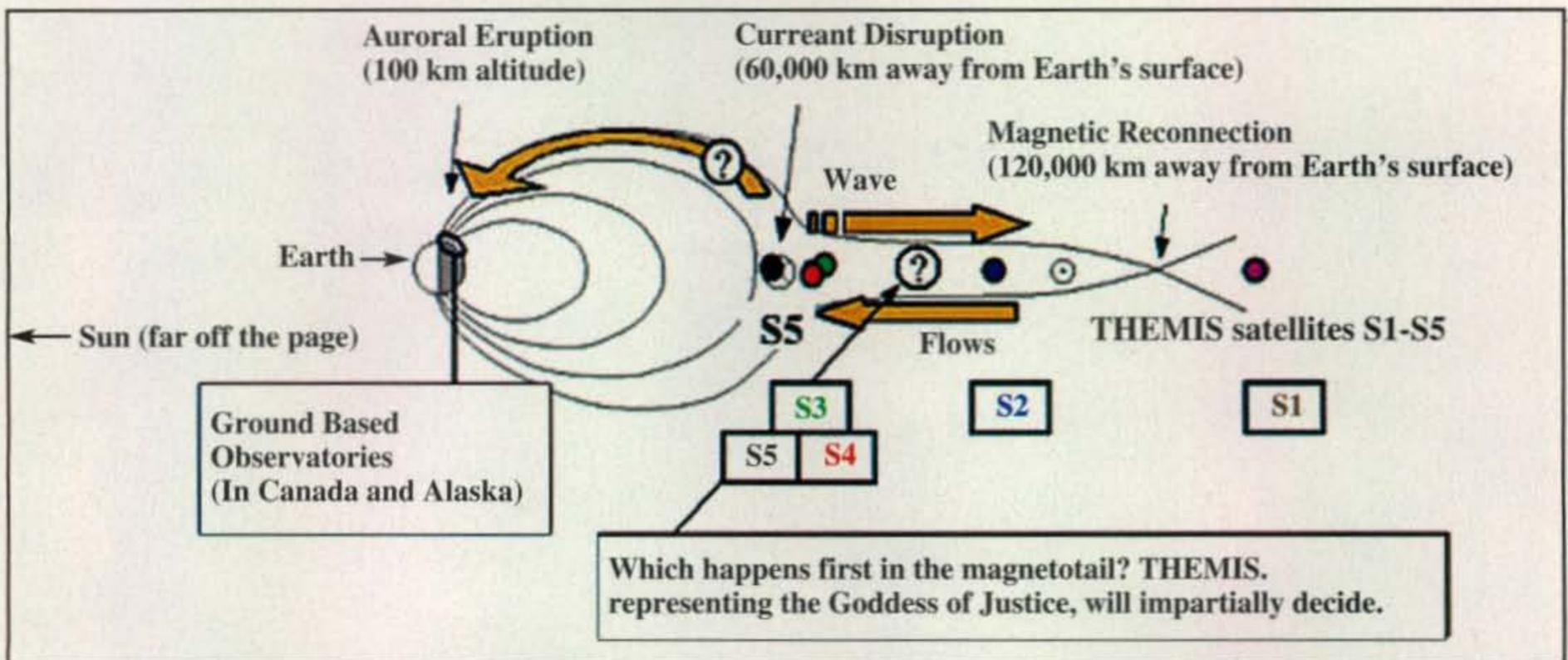


Fig. 1— Stage 3 of the THEMIS project. (Courtesy NASA)

after Aurora, the Roman goddess of morning. Unfortunately, he thought that the auroras he saw were caused by sunlight reflecting from the atmosphere. Even so, the nomenclature stuck.

In 1790 A.D. Henry Cavendish made what has turned out to be fairly accurate observations of the aurora. In particular, using a technique known as *triangulation*, he was able to estimate that the aurora light is produced around 100–130 km in altitude (about 62–80 miles above Earth's surface).

The THEMIS Mission Project

It is in the study of the magnetotail that we find another reference to mythology, this time a Greek goddess, Themis, which means the law of nature, or the goddess of justice. As such, according to Greek mythology, this goddess embodied divine order, law, and custom. It is fitting, then, that the NASA mission designed to find the trigger point of geomagnetic substorms that can spring up *within minutes* to brighten auroras and release bursts of potentially damaging radiation is named THEMIS, which is the acronym for Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms. It is the purpose of this mission to determine the natural order of events during substorms. In the process of determining this order of events, the Earth's magnetotail naturally is being swept up in this study (pun intended).

The THEMIS mission is a five-identical-satellites project that was launched February 15, 2007. After launch, each of these satellites was to be placed into an elliptical orbit according to the various stages of the mission. See <[\[themis.ssl.berkeley.edu/orbits.html\]\(http://themis.ssl.berkeley.edu/orbits.html\)> for an explanation of each of the stages of the mission. See fig. 1 for an illustration of Stage 3, which put the satellites' apogees inside the magnetotail. On October 15, 2008 the mission will conclude Stage 5, which is the Dayside Science Phase.](http://</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

This past May, NASA headquarters announced that because of the overall success of the mission, it has been extended until fiscal 2012. Additionally, the principal researchers have received approval to explore the possibility of using the remaining propellant of the two outermost satellites (see satellites 1 and 2 in fig. 1) out to the Moon. This proposal is subject to one more technical review before final approval.

In order to get to the Moon, the thrusters of satellites 1 and 2 will be used to slowly raise the apogee high point to a point in which the Moon's gravity will be strong enough to pull them away from Earth. It is a process that will take about a year to complete.

The complexity of moving these satellites into orbits around the Moon involves maneuvering that has never been done before. Particularly problematic is the Earth's gravitational effect on objects in circular orbits around the Moon that are more than 430 miles out from the Moon's surface. Accordingly, it will be necessary to place these satellites into elliptical orbits in order to minimize the Earth's influence on them. For more information on circular versus elliptical lunar orbits, see: <<http://www.physorg.com/news84202564.html>>.

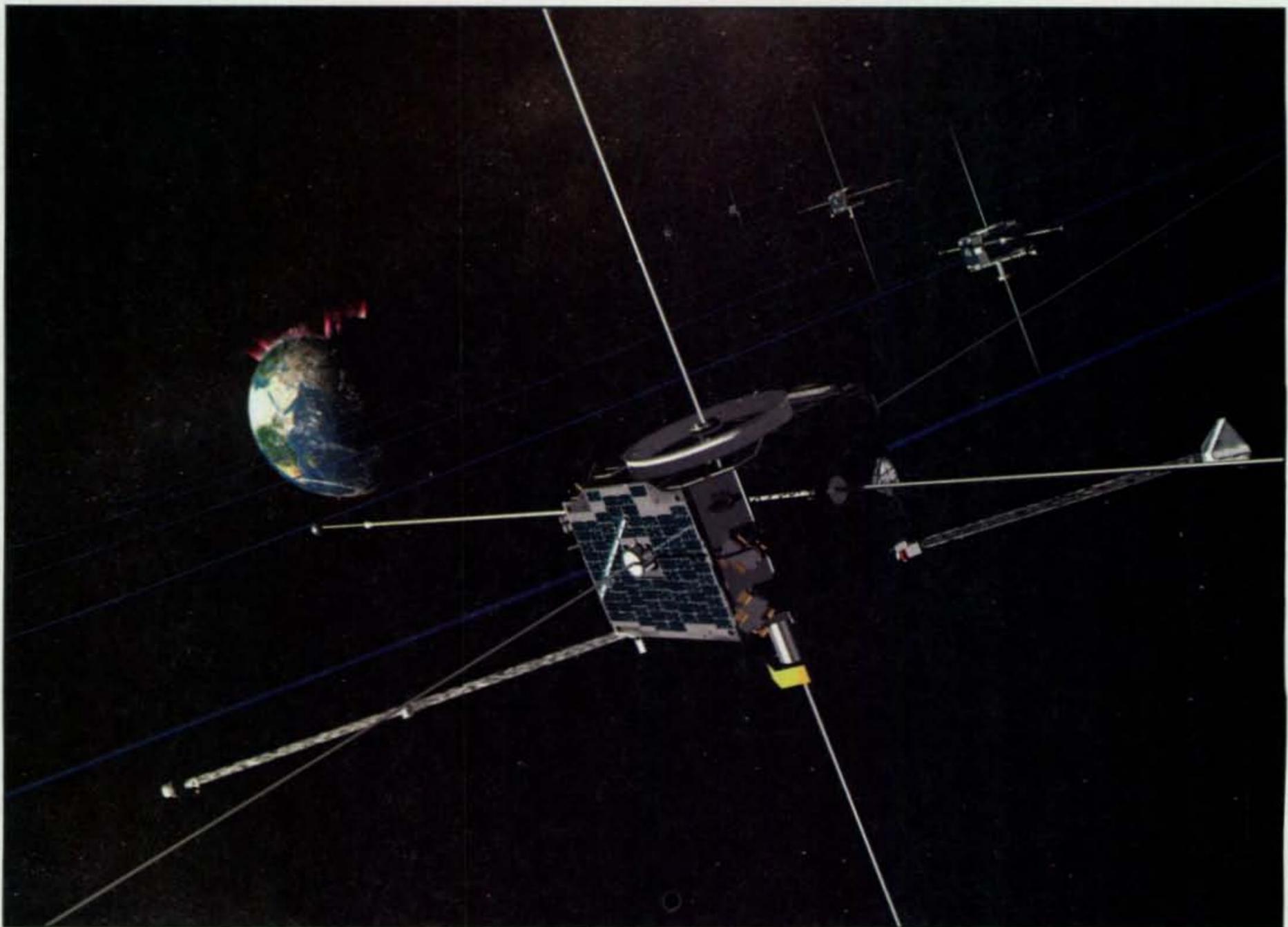
At the same time that attention is being paid to the type of orbit that minimizes the Earth's influence, the bal-

ancing act will be maintaining the effectiveness of these satellites to do the research for which they are intended, that being the influence of the Earth's magnetotail on the Moon.

My Hypothesis

As I previously pointed out (see the July and August 2008 "VHF Plus" columns), it is my hypothesis that it is the Earth's magnetotail that was and will be responsible for huge sandstorms, the most notable during June 20–30, 1975, and a potential series of sandstorms taking place during the dates prior to and just after June 20–21, 2016.

I commented on the various pieces of the puzzle that have led me to believe that the Earth's magnetotail was and will be responsible for huge storms. I would like to add one other factor that might be influential, that being the combined effect of the Moon's and Sun's gravitational pull on the Earth's magnetotail. While it has already been shown that the Moon gets a lashing from the Earth's magnetotail (<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/04/080420123319.htm>), it is my hypothesis that during certain timeframes, such as during June 20–30, 1975, with the Moon phase at full and the summer solstice on nearly the same date, the influence of the Moon's gravity, combined with the Sun's, was exceptionally strong, thereby exerting very strong pull on the Earth's magnetotail, which in turn caused an exceptionally strong sandstorm, the likes of which have not previously been recorded. Further, for the same reasons, another potential problematic timeframe could be the days



Artist's conception of the five satellites of the THEMIS project as they orbit Earth while Earth is experiencing an auroral event. (Courtesy NASA.)

immediately before and after June 20–21, 2016. Such sandstorms could be catastrophic for astronauts who are colonizing the Moon without the appropriate preparation.

Last month I mentioned that I expected to include my paper in the *Proceedings* of this year's Central States VHF Society's conference, as well as the Summer 2008 issue of *CQ VHF* magazine. I did write about the essence of my pieces in the July and August 2008 "VHF Plus" columns. However, I did not have my paper in the Summer 2008 issue of *CQ VHF* magazine. At this point I intend to publish the essence of the now three columns in the *Proceedings* of the 2008 AMSAT Symposium, as well as make a presentation concerning my paper. That symposium is scheduled for next month in Atlanta, Georgia.

On the Air

Since my last column, I received the following propagation reports:

From **Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ**: "While 6 meter sporadic-E will no doubt have the most impact on the June 2008 scores, it's hard to beat the excitement we had at the AA4ZZ contest team from the 144 MHz sporadic-E contacts with Colorado and New Mexico and the 222 MHz contact with W5DDR in New Mexico."

From **Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU**: "Here is a short report on some activity that occurred on July 7, 2008. I set up at my work QTH in North Amityville, Long Island, NY using a

2-element Yagi mounted on the roof of my car and 40 Wwatts and I was able to make a SSB QSO with EA8/DL6FAW on 50.115.

"When I got home to Patchogue at 4:40 EST, I found many signals from Spain in the CW portion. Using my 3-element Cushcraft and 150 watts, I was able to work EA3AKY (JN11), EA7RM (IM87), EA5HT (IM98) and EA1DR (IN83) from 2042 to 2055. Signals were decent, ranging from 559 to 579. During this time, I also heard EA7KW (IM67) very weakly, and AO5FX (IM99), who gets bits of my call but mentioned QRN. Later, I worked CYØX (FN93) at 2057 and CT1HZE (IM57) at 2128.

"What was very interesting about this opening was how wide it was, as normally I would only hear a small portion of southern Spain and Portugal during a trans-Atlantic opening. Filling in the Western Europe grid map from my 6 meter book on page 69, I was surprised that EA3AKY in JN11 was near the French border and EA1DR in IN83 was on the northern coast of Spain, two areas that I normally do not hear."

From **Sam Whitley, K5SW**: "It's been a big day for me CT3FQ Madeira Is. at 1421 UTC for country #143. From that time until 0300Z on the 9th there has been DX on the band. EA8/DL6FAW, EA8BPX from Canary Is. CT3FT on CW from Madeira Is., EA7KW plus CYØX in the morning, afternoon, and evening. Then the West Coast began working EU in the afternoon, followed by CT1APE, EA8BPC, and CT1HZE in late afternoon 21–2200Z. Then JAs: JE1BMJ, JHØRNN, JH7MSB, with Han JE1BMJ still in at 0300Z (10PM local 9 July). I've

never seen JAs in this late. Still plenty of stateside going on after 0340 UTC as I write. The 7th of July was good also, with ZB3B Gibraltar being the brightest spot.

From **Chip Margeli, K7JA**: "Well, it has been an interesting 24 hours. On July 7, 2008 I worked the following: CY0X, JE1BMJ, JR6EXN, and JA7QVI. On July 8, 2008 I worked the following: EA8/DL6FAW, CT3FT, KL7RA, EA7RM, and (again) CY0X, this time on SSB. I think the first CY0X (CW) QSO was the first for them into Southern California (K6QXY was their first California QSO, earlier). Then on the 8th, they actually got some propagation to this area and worked a bunch of W6/7 stations. CT3FT and EA7RM both were new countries. Long haul on E!

"The JAs were probably regular multi-hop E, not JE1BMJ's "W4 Express" SSSP propagation, which always seem to fall far north of here (due to the auroral zone component of the path formation). Haven't had much of anything to JA this year. A good 24 hours!

I also received extensive logs from **Julio Medina, NP3CW**, which showed numerous openings to North and South America and Europe. Dozens of contacts were made during these openings that occurred during most of June and extending into mid-July.

Current Contests

The **ARRL September VHF QSO Party** is September 13-15. The second weekend of the **ARRL 10 GHz and Above Cumulative Contest** is September 20-21. The **ARRL 2304 MHz and Above EME Contest** is September 20-21. The following dates for the **Fall Sprints** are based on last year's dates. Please check with the sponsor for the exact dates. The **144 MHz Fall Sprint** is September 15, 7 PM to 11 PM local time. The **222 MHz Fall Sprint** is September 23, 7 PM to 11 PM local time.

For ARRL contest rules, see the issue of *QST* prior to the month of the contest or: <<http://www.arrl.org>> For Fall Sprint contest rules, see the Southeast VHF Society URL: <<http://www.svhfs.org>>.

Current Conference

The 2008 **TAPR/ARRL Digital Communications Conference** will be held September 26-28 in Chicago, Illinois, at the Holiday Inn Hotel Elk Grove Village, Illinois. For more information, see: <<http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>>.

Calls for Papers

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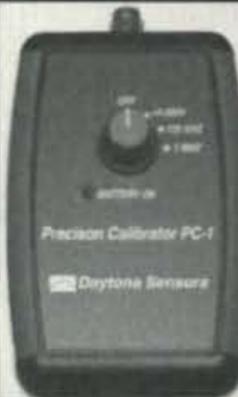
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presenters to be speakers, or for papers to be published in the conferences' *Proceedings*, or both. For more information, questions about format, media, hardcopy, e-mail, etc., please contact the person listed with the announcement. The following have announced a call for papers:

Microwave Update. A call for papers has been issued for the 2008 Microwave Update conference, to be held in Bloomington, Minnesota. The deadline for submission is August 31, 2008. If you are interested in submitting a paper for publication in the *Proceedings*, contact Jon Platt, W0ZQ, at <w0zq@aol.com> for additional information.

AMSAT-NA 2008 Space Symposium: Technical papers are solicited for the 2008 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting to be held October 23-26 in Atlanta, Georgia. Proposals for papers, symposium presentations, and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite program. Papers on the following topics are solicited: Students & Education, ARISS, AO-51, P3E, Eagle, and other satellite-related topics. Camera-ready copy on paper or in electronic form is due by September 1 for inclusion in the printed symposium *Proceedings*. Pa-

pers received after this date will not be included in the printed *Proceedings*. Abstracts and papers should be sent to: Daniel Schultz, N8FGV, by e-mail to: <n8fgv@amsat.org>.

K6MXI Silent Key

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of Al Ferrera, K6MXI. Al succumbed to a rare form of cancer. Al partnered with Bob Magnani, K6QXY, on a number of projects, both business and amateur-radio related. Regarding the latter, most notably were Bob's various multi-element antenna projects that they constructed. Our sympathy goes to Bob for his loss of a good friend.

And Finally . . .

It seems that with each passing month I find more to write about the Earth's magnetotail. My research has reconfirmed for me that there is much more to learn about how everything is interconnected.

I hope to see some of you next month at the annual AMSAT Symposium in Atlanta. For more information, go to: <<http://www.amsat.org>>.

Until next month . . .73 de Joe, N6CL

Slow CW: Is There Room for it in Contesting?

September's Contest Tip

The computer in your shack is one of your best friends in contesting. Make sure everything is up-to-date well before the contest season, whether it's the latest revisions of logging software, country files, or any other tools of the trade. You certainly don't want to be fooling around with computers right before a contest. A little planning will give you a competitive edge over those who leave such things to the last minute!

Sending and receiving CW is one of the long-standing traditions of ham radio. Even though commercial applications for Morse code have dwindled to virtually zero and its requirement for licensing is gone, the sport is still alive and well when one tunes the bands. I silently laugh at the cynics who claim CW is dead as I think about the 5000+ entries in the 2007 CQ WW DX CW Contest (with over 60,000 unique callsigns)! Indeed, CW is far from being a "silent key."

A similar aspect of our hobby is the fact that contest operators have the reputation of pushing CW speeds to super-human limits, much to the chagrin of the casual operators who haven't yet developed the CW skills of an Intel® Core™2 Quad Processor. This month we're going to explore whether or not there is a role for slow-speed CW in contesting. Is CW contesting only for the elite operator, or is there opportunity for the newbie as well?

A Conversation

The following is a dialog between CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU (representing the "little pistol" contester who also isn't a high-speed CW operator) and CQ's "Contesting" column Editor John Dorr, K1AR (representing the "big gun" contester, who has been copying/sending high-speed CW since he was a kid).

W2VU: There were several comments in the "QRM" (some of which appears elsewhere in this issue) of this year's CQ World-Wide DX Contest CW results about the difficulty that newcomers to CW contesting face in making contacts with more experienced operators sending code at very high speeds. Some examples:

GM4UYZ: If I have any complaint it is the speed at which lots of operators send CW. Not everyone is capable of receiving CW at 25+ words per minute. It is certainly off putting and I know that possible CW operators at slower speeds are definitely put off. Don't these operators appreciate that they are losing lots of calls due to this? You are also losing future potential CW contesters. I know the argument will come back and that is get your speed up, easier said than done. Thought I would throw in my twopence worth.

*2 Mitchell Pond Road, Windham, NH 03087
e-mail: <K1AR@contesting.com>

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon
Aug. 30-31	ALARA Contest
Aug. 30-31	SCC RTTY Championship
Aug. 30-31	YO DX HF Contest
Aug. 30-31	Ohio QSO Party
Aug. 31	SARL HF CW Contest
Sept. 6	Russian RTTY WW Contest
Sept. 6-7	All Asia SSB DX Contest
Sept. 6-7	IARU R1 Field Day
Sept. 7	North American CW Sprint
Sept. 7-8	Tennessee QSO Party
Sept. 13-14	Worked All Europe SSB Contest
Sept. 13-15	ARRL VHF QSO Party
Sept. 14	North American SSB Sprint
Sept. 18-20	YLRL Howdy Days
Sept. 20-21	Colorado QSO Party
Sept. 20-21	CIS DX Contest
Sept. 20-21	SAC CW Contest
Sept. 20-21	Washington Salmon Run
Sept. 20-21	QCWA QSO Party
Sept. 20-21	SEDXC 50th Anniversary Contest
Sept. 25	BCC QSO Party
Sept. 27-28	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest
Sept. 27-28	SAC SSB Contest
Sept. 27-28	Texas QSO Party
Oct. 4-5	California QSO Party (CQP)
Oct. 25-26	CQ WW DX SSB Contest

HL5YI: Hi OM ! So pse QRS!! QRS !! Am baby in CW and barefoot!

K4DGW: I'm glad I did the Assisted. Helped me with trying to understand the CW that was too fast for me. I at least knew what to listen for.

All indications are that interest in CW operating is *increasing* since the code test was dropped from our license exams and those of many countries around the world, and contesters in general are doing their best to attract new people to on-the-air competition, CW as well as SSB. However, every CW operator starts out as slow, and there's no more Novice Roundup contest to let newer CW ops build up their skills in a competitive environment. Therefore, one wonders where the new CW op/CW contester can get started.

K1AR: Any form of high-speed operating (voice or CW) can be a challenge to a new operator. Naturally, CW adds another layer of complexity, because it requires a translation step that doesn't exist on phone (unless you're working someone from my home area of Boston). I have always advocated jumping into the deep end of the pool for any mode of operation in our hobby. In the case of contesting, entering the fray as a new operator will be discouraging at first, but you'll be amazed at how quickly your skills will develop over time—capabilities that you didn't think were possible.

There are several other techniques to consider in getting started. CW is an acquired skill that can take place at any time, not just during a contest. If you want to improve your CW capabilities, get on the air in between contests and work hard at it. Work stations that are sending at your upper speed

limit and push your copying envelope. Also, consider taking advantage of the ARRL's W1AW code practice sessions that are still available on a daily basis. For me, being a participating ham was the single most effective tool in improving my CW skills as a young ham. Lastly, operate in some of the more casual contests to build up your capabilities. The CQ WW contest can be described as 48 hours of ham radio chaos. It's probably not the best place to build your CW skills. Smaller events such as state QSO parties, country-specific DX contests, and even the ARRL Sweepstakes are a great place to work guys at a slower rate that is more suitable to your current abilities as an operator.

W2VU: As John well knows, I won't operate in CW contests, and it's all because of speed. I passed a 20-wpm code test, but I'm most comfortable in the 15-18 range—which is about half the speed of a typical CW contester, who runs at about 35 wpm. If you ask someone to QRS (slow down, for the uninitiated), he or she will drop back to about 30. If you ask again, they'll move on to the next contact. One wonders: If a "20-wpm Extra" can't keep up with the CW testers, what hope is there for the newbie?

K1AR: I believe that this scenario is more the exception than the rule. While it is absolutely true that CW sending rates are high in contests overall, the drive to work guys prevails for most operators. In my view, the challenge isn't getting someone to slow down as much as convincing stations to take the time to send slowly when calling CQ in the first place. Most experienced CW testers send at higher speeds as a "default" position. It really doesn't make sense to do anything else from a strategic standpoint. As long as you're willing to adjust to how a caller answers you, we can make progress. Frankly, if I were a slower operator and the "CQ-er" didn't adjust, I'd spin the dial.

W2VU: In discussions about the CW speed question among members of the CQWW Contest Committee, one member suggested that what he termed the "QRS guys" should "start the contest on day two or find a 'nearly dead' band with few stations left ... the CQer will QRS for sure." But is it fair to tell the new CW contester that he can only operate half the contest and hope to make contacts? Or should only work "nearly dead" bands? How will that encourage people to continue taking part in CW contests?

K1AR: I disagree with this approach.

Creating tiers of operators or times is not the solution. Rather, the goal should be for everyone to strive to improve. For the experienced testers, their skills are not measured by how fast they can send. There are no contests where your score increases based on average sending speed. It's all about working guys and putting them in your log. A more realistic approach is to adjust operating speeds based on the rate of stations you are working. In a 48-hour DX contest, for example, there are really only a few hours when a USA station's rate is relatively high—and that tends to be limited to the big guns. Obviously, for a DX operator this is less the case, but surprisingly, DX operators have slow times, too. As an experienced operator, it's not a bad idea to consider slowing down to reflect your rate and attract new callers. This is an old and proven technique in the ARRL Sweepstakes, where QSO rates drop to a crawl on Sunday afternoon.

W2VU: What are your suggestions, John, for the new CW contester with limited skills, including those of us old-timers who can operate comfortably only at speeds below 20 wpm?

K1AR: As I've mentioned, not every contest is a run-and-gun affair with no hope for the slower operator. For example, if you look at this month's contest calendar on the first page of the column, events such as the Ohio, California, Texas, Tennessee, and Washington QSO parties are great events to more casually use your CW skills and begin to

grow them. While there are some operators who have truly maximized their CW abilities, I firmly believe that nearly everyone can improve if they really want to do so. It takes time and commitment. The best way to develop your skills is to be on the air and not necessarily just during a contest. Whether it's casual rag chewing, working a DXpedition, getting involved in traffic nets, or operating in many of the hundreds of "casual" contests that are offered each year, the opportunities to make significant progress are there. Improving your CW rate by only 5 wpm can make a world of difference, and you'll feel great about it, too. Give it a try!

We'd like to hear your thoughts on this subject — from the "QRS guys" as well as the "blazers" whose fingertips smoke after sending CW. Send your e-mail comments and suggestions to K1AR at <k1ar@contesting.com> or to W2VU at <w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com> (or preferably, to both of us), or by snail mail to CQ magazine, Attn. Slow CW, 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801.

Final Comments

Contesters' operating habits tend to dart around on the bands like a pinball machine. For some of us, we've forgotten the art of the QSO. The next time you hear me on the bands outside of a contest, raise the red flag and give me a call. I hope to work you on the air in the future — especially on CW and at a speed we can both enjoy. See you in the next one! 73, John, K1AR

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Phone: October 25–26 CW: November 29–30
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I. OBJECTIVE: For amateurs around the world to contact other amateurs in as many zones and countries as possible.

II. BANDS: All bands, 1.8 through 28 MHz, except for WARC bands.

III. TYPE OF COMPETITION (choose only one):

For all categories: All entrants must operate within the limits of their chosen category when performing any activity that could impact their submitted score. *All high power categories must not exceed 1500 watts total output power, or the output power of their country, whichever is less, on any band.* All transmitters and receivers used by the entrant must be located within a single 500-meter diameter circle or within the property limits of the station licensee's address, whichever is greater. All antennas used by the entrant must be physically connected by wires to the transmitters and receivers used by the entrant. Only the entrant's callsign can be used to aid the entrant's score. A different callsign must be used for each CQ WW entry. An entrant's remote station is determined by the physical location of the transmitters, receivers, and antennas. A remote station must obey all station and category limitations of Rule III.

A. Single Operator categories: For all single operator categories, only one person (the operator) can contribute to the final score during the official contest period. **QSO alerting assistance of any kind (this includes, but is not limited to, packet, local or remote Skimmer and/or Skimmer-like technology, Internet) places the entrant in the Single Operator Assisted category.**

1. **Single Operator High (All Band or Single Band):** One person. One signal at any one time. QSO alerting assistance of any kind is not allowed. Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not allowed. Total output power per band must not exceed 1500 watts or the output power regulations of the country in which the entrant is operating, whichever is less.

2. **Single Operator Low (All Band or Single Band):** One person. One signal at

any one time. QSO alerting assistance of any kind is not allowed. Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not allowed. Total output power per band must not exceed 100 watts.

3. **Single Operator QRP (All Band or Single Band):** One person. One signal at any one time. QSO alerting assistance of any kind is not allowed. Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not allowed. Total output power per band must not exceed 5 watts.

4. **Single Operator Assisted (All Band or Single Band):** One person. One signal at any one time. QSO alerting assistance is allowed (this includes, but is not limited to, packet, local or remote Skimmer and/or Skimmer-like technology, Internet). Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not allowed. Total output power per band must not exceed 1500 watts or the output power regulations of the country in which the entrant is operating, whichever is less.

B. Multi-Operator (all band operation only):

1. **Single Transmitter (MS):** Only one transmitter and one band permitted during any 10-minute period. Exception: One—and only one—other band may be used during any 10-minute period if—and only if—the station worked is a new multiplier. Ten-minute periods are defined as starting with the first logged QSO on a band. Logs found in violation of the 10-minute rule will automatically be reclassified as M2. If electronic logging is used (Cabrillo), for each QSO the run transmitter or multiplier transmitter must be indicated in the log.

2. **Two Transmitter (M2):** A maximum of two transmitted signals at any time on different bands. Both transmitters may work any and all stations. A station may only be worked once per band regardless of which transmitter is used. Each of the two transmitters used must keep a separate chronological log for the entire contest period, or if electronic logging is used, the electronic log submittal (Cabrillo) must indicate which transmitter made each QSO. Each transmitter may make a maximum of 8 band changes in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes).

3. **Multi-Transmitter (MM):** No limit to transmitters, but only one signal and running station allowed per band.

C. Team Contesting: A team consists of any five radio amateurs operating in the single operator category. A person may be on only one team per mode. Competing on a team will not prevent any team member from submitting his/her personal score for a radio club. A team score will be the sum of all the team member scores. SSB and CW teams are totally separate. That is, a member of an SSB team may be on a totally different CW team. A list of a team's members must be received at CQ Headquarters by the time the contest begins. E-mail to <teams@cqww.com>, or mail or fax the list to CQ, Att: Team Contest, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 U.S.A.; fax 516-681-2926. Awards will be given to the top teams on each mode.

IV. NUMBER EXCHANGE: Phone: RS report plus zone (i.e., 5705). CW: RST report plus zone (i.e., 57905).

V. MULTIPLIER: Two types of multiplier will be used.

1. A multiplier of one (1) for each different zone contacted on each band.

2. A multiplier of one (1) for each different country contacted on each band.

Stations are permitted to contact their own country and zone for multiplier credit. The CQ Zone Map, DXCC country list, WAE country list, and WAC boundaries are standards. Maritime mobile stations count only for a zone multiplier.

VI. POINTS:

1. Contacts between stations on different continents are worth three (3) points.

2. Contacts between stations on the same continent but different countries, one (1) point. *Exception:* For North American stations *only*, contacts between stations within the North American boundaries count two (2) points.

3. Contacts between stations in the same country are permitted for zone or country multiplier credit but have zero (0) point value.

VII. SCORING: All stations: the final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the sum of your zone and country multipliers. *Example:* 1000 QSO points \times 100 multiplier (30 Zones + 70 Countries) = 100,000 (final score).

VIII. AWARDS: First-place certificates will be awarded in each category listed under Sec.III in every participating country and in each call area of the United States, Canada, European Russia, Spain, and Japan.

All scores will be published. To be eligible for an award, a Single Operator station must show a minimum of 12 hours of operation. Multi-operator stations must operate a minimum of 24 hours. A single-band log is eligible for a single-band award only. If a log contains more than one band it will be judged as an all-band entry, unless specified otherwise.

In countries or sections where the returns justify, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be made.

All certificates/plaques will be issued to the licensee of the station used.

IX. TROPHIES AND PLAQUES:

Plaques and trophies are awarded for top performance in a number of categories. They are sponsored by individuals and organizations. For a current list of plaques and sponsors, or to learn how to become a sponsor, see the CQ website: <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>>. A station winning a World trophy will not be considered for a sub-area award; the trophy will be awarded to the runner-up in that area.

X. CLUB COMPETITION:

1. The club must be a local group and not a national organization.

2. Participation is limited to members operating within a local geographic area defined as within a 275 km radius from center of club area (except for DXpeditions specially organized for operation in the contest; club contributions of DXpedition scores are percentage to the number of club members on the DXpedition).

3. To be listed, a minimum of 3 logs must be received from a club, and an officer of the club must submit a list of participating members and their scores, both on phone and CW.

XI. LOG INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All times must be in GMT.
2. All sent and received exchanges are to be logged.

3. Indicate zone and country multiplier only the FIRST TIME it is worked on each band.

4. **Electronic log submission:** We want your electronic log. The Committee

requires an electronic log for any possible high-scoring log. By submitting a log to the CQ WW Contest, the entrant agrees to have the log open to the public. If possible, we would appreciate complete frequencies in the log.

E-mail Required Content: Please submit your log in the Cabrillo file format created by all major logging programs. Be sure to put the STATION CALLSIGN and the MODE in the "Subject:" line of each message. Your e-mail log will automatically be acknowledged by the server. You will also receive a personal access code from the server at a later time. Electronic submission implies a signed declaration that all contest rules and regulations for amateur radio in the country of operation have been observed. Submit your CQ WW SSB log to <ssb@cqww.com> and your CQ WW CW log to <cw@cqww.com>.

5. **Paper log submission:** For paper logs, use a separate sheet for each band. Each paper log entry MUST be accompanied by a summary sheet showing all scoring information, category of competition, and contestant's name and address in BLOCK LETTERS. Sample log and summary sheets and zone maps are available from CQ. A large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage or IRCs must accompany your request. If official forms are not available, make up your own, 80 contacts to the page on 8 1/2" \times 11" paper. All paper log entrants are required to submit cross-check sheets (an alphabetical list of calls worked) for each band on which 200 or more QSOs were made.

6. **Bad QSO:** The bad QSO is removed and a penalty of three more equivalent QSOs is applied to the points only.

7. **QRPP and Low Power stations** must indicate their category on their summary sheets and state the actual maximum power output used, with a signed declaration.

XII. DISQUALIFICATION: Violation of amateur radio regulations in the country

of the contestant, or the rules of the contest; unsportsmanlike conduct; taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or unverifiable multipliers will be deemed sufficient cause for disqualification. Incorrectly logged calls will be counted as unverifiable contacts.

An entrant whose log is deemed by the Contest Committee to contain a large number of discrepancies may be disqualified from eligibility for an award, both as a participant operator or station, for one year. If an operator is disqualified a second time within five years, he/she will be ineligible for any CQ contest awards for three years. ANY use by an entrant of any non-amateur means including, but not limited to, telephones, telegrams, internet, Instant Messenger, chat rooms, VoIP, or the use of packet to SOLICIT, ARRANGE, or CONFIRM any contacts during the contest is unsportsmanlike and the entry is subject to disqualification. Action and decisions of the CQ WW Contest Committee are official and final.

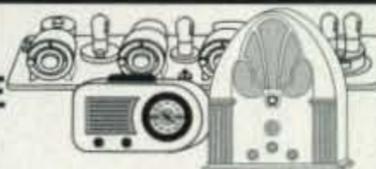
XIII. DEADLINE:

1. All entries must be postmarked NO LATER than December 1, 2008 for the SSB section and January 15, 2009 for the CW section. **Indicate SSB or CW on the envelope and/or disk.**

2. An extension of up to one month may be given if requested by e-mail (questions@cqww.com). The granted extension must be confirmed by the Contest Director, must state a legitimate reason, and the request must be received before the log mailing deadline. Logs postmarked after the extension deadline may be listed in the results but will be declared ineligible for an award.

Both Phone and CW mailed logs should be sent to CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Road, Suite 309, Hicksville, NY 11801. Please mark SSB or CW on the envelope.

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Speculation plus NVIS

A Quick Look at Current Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, June 2008: 3
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2007: 5

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, June 2008: 66
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2007: 71

Ap Index

Observed Monthly, June 2008: 7
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2007: 8

There is a lot of speculative talk going around various amateur radio blogs, forums, and in on-the-air roundtables regarding the current solar cycle activity—or, more accurately, “non-activity.” Some are speculating that we are entering a period during which the Sun will be very quiet, and we’ll end up in a mini ice age. Others are saying that the new cycle is late, but will start to pick up energy. However, they think that the delayed start indicates a weak cycle. Others hold that while late, the new cycle will still bring exciting activity in a few years. Who’s right?

Science Observes

Forecasting the future solar cycle activity is nothing but an educated guess, where the “educated” simply means applying some math to the past. We’re dealing with a dynamic, “living” star, our Sun. While some patterns have revealed themselves during the course of our short history of observations, we cannot be sure that any pattern is, in the larger scope of the Sun’s history, the way things always occur.

The delay of the new solar cycle has many scientists holding onto their seats. They are not sure what to say, or how to read it. Also, the amateur radio community is just as confounded. However, activity on the amateur bands has not diminished. Ham operators all over the world are discovering what some have always known: HF propagation can exist even during the solar minimum years. While there may be more challenges, radio is going strong, and new discoveries about how propagation works are being made by the newer amateurs who’ve only recently joined the HF ranks.

We will keep up with the latest research and news regarding the new solar cycle. Stay tuned!

NVIS

One of the modes of propagation enjoyed on HF, during any season, is NVIS, or Near Vertical Incident Skywave propagation. NVIS is pronounced *niv-iss*. Another loving descriptive name for NVIS propagation is “cloud burning.” (Hence “Burning up

*P.O. Box 9, Stevensville, Montana 59870-0009
e-mail: <nw7us@hfradio.org>

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for September 2008

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-3, 11-14, 21-24, 26-30	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 7-10, 17-20, 25	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 4-6, 15-16	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: N/A	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: N/A	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 in *The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by George Jacobs, W3ASK; Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX; and Robert B. Rose, K6GKU.
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 1 will be fair (C) on Sept 1st through the 3rd, poor (D) to non-existent on Sept. 4th through the 6th, etc.
3. As an alternative, the Last-Minute Forecast may be used as a general guide to space weather and geomagnetic conditions through the month. When conditions are Above Normal, for example, the geomagnetic field should be quiet and space weather should be mild. On the other hand, days marked as Disturbed will be riddled with geomagnetic storms. Propagation of radio signals in the HF spectrum will be affected by these conditions. In general, when conditions are High Normal to Above Normal, signals will be more reliable on a given path, when the path is ionospherically supported.

the ‘nimbus’ with NVIS”). When HF conditions are terrible, and the ionosphere does not support bouncing a 20-meter signal into exotic lands on the other side of the world, it is still possible to have communications with closer stations.

This radio propagation mode involves using antennas that radiate most of the radio energy at very high radiation angles, approaching or reaching 90 degrees (straight up), at a frequency below the critical frequency of the ionosphere (that frequency that is just lower than what would punch through the ionosphere rather than be refracted back toward the origin of the radio wave). Using NVIS, it is possible to establish reliable communications over a radius of out to about 200 miles or so, give or take 100 miles.

If you’ve spent time on 160 or 80 meters at night, talking with others within a 300-mile area, you might have thought you were working them via ground-wave propagation, where the radio signal hugs the ground as it spreads out away from your antenna. However, often, the case is quite different.

In the part of the country where I live (Montana), there are very tall mountains nearly all around me. Yet using NVIS, I am able to establish communications with stations between 50 to 300 miles away as if they are line-of-sight from my antenna. Ground wave is not possible (I’ve tried to contact them on frequencies above the critical frequency, such as on 20, 15, or 10 meters, with no success), yet on

frequencies below the critical cutoff, we are able to communicate with reliable signals.

One way of picturing how NVIS works is to imagine taking a flashlight and aiming its light beam toward a white, reflective wall (or mirror). If you were to shine it straight at the wall at a 90-degree angle, you would see the light reflected back at you. This is much like how we discover the ionosphere's ever-changing ability to reflect a radio wave at any given frequency. Ionospheric sounding is done by sending pulses of radio waves straight up at the ionosphere, and measuring at what frequency the reflections cease. The highest frequency that is reflected is the critical frequency at that location.

Now slowly re-aim the flashlight so that you are angled about 10 degrees to the left. What happens to the reflected light? The beam's azimuth changes, resulting in the light to illuminate an area just to your left. The more of an angle, the farther away from you the reflected light radiates. Call that distance the "skip zone." In radio, the same thing happens with a radio wave that is refracted. The angle at which the radio energy arrives at the reflective ionospheric layer dictates how far away the reflection will end up. The more of an angle of radiation, the farther the distance.

One then can see that NVIS is all about reducing the angle so that the reflected radio energy returns at locations much closer to the originating antenna, rather than if we were trying to shoot the radio wave far out to the low horizon so we could work very distant DX.

How do you make an antenna so that it radiates most of its energy toward the overhead sky, rather than out to the low horizon? Part of the answer is in how high above the ground you deploy your antenna. Most NVIS antennas are horizontal in polarization, and kept much lower than the height typically sought when attempting DXing. The closer to the ground an antenna is positioned, the higher the angle of its main radiation. For this reason, it is common to see a dipole cut for 5 MHz only up at 8 feet.

A great introduction to NVIS is found at WB5UDE's page <<http://www.qsl.net/wb5ude/nvis/>>. Additional resources include KV5R's page <<http://athensarc.org/nvis.asp>>, and an interesting collection of information at <http://www.tactical-link.com/nvis_discussion_page.htm>.

September HF Propagation

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On the Cover

This month's cover features Tommy Tow, WD4K, on his tower in Joelton, Tennessee, outside Nashville. His stack of antennas includes Force 12 C31XRs at 35, 70, and 117 feet; a Force 12 Mag 340N at 100 feet; and a Force 12 80-meter rotatable dipole at 127 feet. At the base of the tower is a custom-built switching system of Tommy's own design. His shack is equipped with a full set of computers, Alpha amplifiers, a full audio rack, a computerized switching system that he built, and a unit from Top Ten Devices to run the switching network.

Tommy is a founding member of the Tennessee Contest Group (TCG) and used to be a serious contester. He particularly enjoyed having ham buddies join him at his home QTH for contests. He says friends such as Don Binkley, N4ZZ, Scott Robbins, W4PA, and Mark Speck, KØEJ, all had good contest runs at his station. These days he operates more casually, as his family and his business take up more of his time. Tommy says he gets the most enjoyment from what he calls "going back to basics . . . just getting on the air and talking to somebody you've never talked to before" and chasing DX.

Tommy also spent many years as a touring and studio musician, playing bass guitar with some of the biggest artists in music, including James Brown, B.B. King, Chet Atkins, Johnny Mathis, and Sammy Davis Jr. He played on the Dolly Parton Show and in Bob Hope's USO shows, and estimates that he was on television for 15 years. He was on the road from 1966 until 1980. Last December, Tommy and Waldo Weathers, James Brown's saxophone player, assembled a 12-piece funk band for a show at B.B. King's in Nashville—a good alternative when there's no action on the ham bands! (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI; On the Cover text by Dan Moseson, KC2OOM)

tions. On September 22, 2008, the Sun will be directly over the equator. This happens twice a year, in the spring and fall, and is called an "equinox." The fall, or "autumnal," equinox is the day on which the Sun will cross the equator, as it appears to travel from northern to southern skies. On this day, over much of the Earth the hours of daylight are equal to the hours of darkness. Sunrise should take place at approximately 6 AM local time and the Sun should set around 6 PM local time, except at the high latitudes.

This results in an ionosphere of almost similar characteristics over large areas of the world and is usually the best time of the year for long DX openings between the temperate regions of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres on all HF bands. Expect improvement on 20 meters, with more frequent openings from mid-September through mid-October between North America and South America, the South Pacific, South Asia, and southern Africa. The strongest openings will occur for a few hours after sunrise and during the sunset hours.

Long-path openings improve during the equinoctial periods. A variety of paths open up on 20 meters. Expect a path to southern Asia around sunset, and daily morning openings to southern Asia and the Middle East, expanding to Africa. Also look for Antarctic short path, and signals from the Indian Ocean region long-path over the North Pole. Afternoons will fill with South Pacific long-path, and then extend to Russia and Europe. Look for possible long-path openings on 30, 40, and 80 meters for an hour or so before sunrise and just before sunset.

The winter DX season is about to open up, making for exciting DX conditions. While the weather is still warm and fair, tighten hardware on your antenna system, check coax cables, and fine-tune your radio station. Get ready to reap the DX.

The 15-meter band will supply day-path propagation even over the polar paths, although these polar openings are rare during this lull in solar activity. A considerable improvement is expected for DX propagation on 17 meters, opening shortly after sunrise and remaining open until after sundown. Openings will be best toward Europe and the northeast before noon, and to the rest of the world during the afternoon hours. Openings toward the South Pacific, Australia, New Zealand, and the Far East should be possible well into the early evening. Remember, though, that openings are dependent on the strength

of the ionosphere, which in turn is dependent upon an active Sun. During this part of the solar cycle, activity is minimal. Openings may be rare and short-lived.

Twenty meters will be the best daytime DX band this month. Look for 20 to open for DX at sunrise and remain open in all directions for a few hours. It should be possible to work into many areas of the world throughout the daylight hours, with a peak in the afternoon. Nighttime conditions will favor openings toward the south and to tropical areas, but some openings will also be possible to other areas, especially during High Normal or better days. Look for polar gray-line propagation into Asia. Long-path is common on 20 to southern Asia, the Middle East, and northeastern Africa as well as the Indian Ocean region via the north polar path.

Expect an improvement in nighttime DX conditions on 30 through 160 meters during September and October. This is due to the increasing hours of darkness and a seasonal decrease in the static level. Thirty and 40 meters should be best for worldwide DX from sunset to sunrise. Sixty meters should become more reliable for those farther contacts. Working all states on 60 is very possible during this season. Eighty and 160 meters will become hot bands during the hours of darkness, especially for an hour or so before local sunrise.

For short-skip propagation during September and early October, use 60 and 80 meters during the day for openings shorter than 250 miles, and either 80 or 160 at night. For distances between 250 and 750 miles try 30, 40, and possibly 60 meters during the day and 80 meters at night. For openings between 750 and 1300 miles, 20 meters should work during the day; 30, 40, and 60 from sundown to midnight; and 60 and 80 from midnight to sunrise. For openings greater than 1300 miles try 15, 17, or 20 meters during the day, and 30, 40, and even 60 during the hours of darkness. Check 10 and 12 meters for some fairly good openings beyond 1300 miles in the afternoon hours, especially when conditions are High Normal or better, and for paths into South America and the South Pacific.

VHF Conditions

The month of September statistically has the lowest amount of sporadic-E propagation activity. Toward the end of September trans-equatorial (TE) propagation will begin to occur between southern North America and northern South America. Openings will generally occur in the late afternoon to early evening.

Troposcatter conditions are generally very good for many of the VHF bands up to 440 MHz during September with the appearance of different weather fronts. This will be the primary mode for working up to 300 miles. A very useful internet resource for viewing tropospheric conditions is available at William Hepburn's "VHF /UHF Tropospheric Ducting Forecast" site (<http://www.dxinfocentre.com/tropo.html>).

Don't forget to check out *CQ VHF* magazine as well as the "VHF Plus" column in this issue for a more in-depth look at VHF propagation. However, no matter what, get on the radio and try working the many modes. The more people active on these bands, the more we can unlock the mysteries of VHF propagation.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for June 2008 is 3.1. The lowest daily sunspot value recorded was zero (0) on June 1-4, 6-9, 12, 14, and 23-30. The highest daily sunspot count was 9 on June 5 and June 10. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on December 2007 is 5.0. A smoothed sunspot count of 9, give or take 2 points, is expected during September 2008.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 65.9 for June 2008. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on December 2007 is 70.5. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for September 2008 is 66, give or take about 5 points.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-index (A_p) for June 2008 is 7. The 12-month smoothed A_p -index centered on December 2007 is 7.8. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to vary greatly between quiet to disturbed during September.

I invite you to visit my online propagation resource at <http://propagation.hfradio.org/>, where you can get the latest space data, forecasts, and more, all in an organized manner. If you have a cell phone with Internet capabilities, try <http://wap.hfradio.org/>.

Drop me an e-mail or send me a letter if you have questions or topics you would like to see me explore in this column. Also, I'd love to hear any feedback you might have on what I have written. Until next month . . .

73, de Tomas, NW7US

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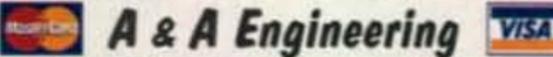
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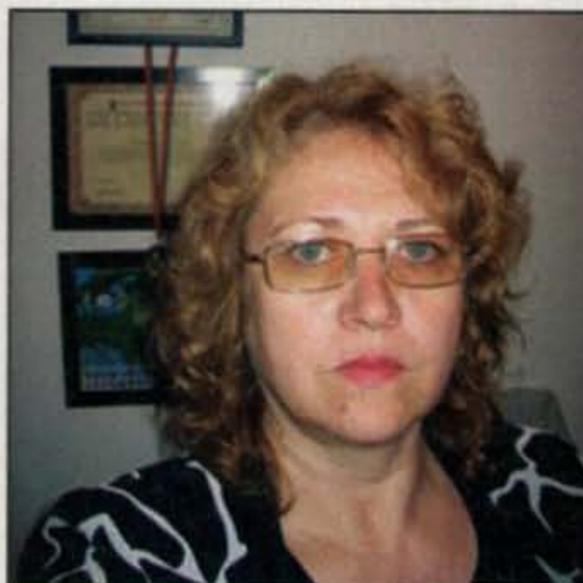
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<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqwwhome.html>

Results of the 2007 CQ WW DX CW Contest (from page 23)



John, OM5XX, was #2 All Band, Low Power in Europe.



Tina, YO3FRI, was the top Romanian All Band, Low Power.

the job once more. Half of all QSOs were from USA and half from EU. The farthest away was probably Lloyd, KH6LC, in Hawaii, but the closest one was my old friend Bjarni, TF3GB. Thanks for organizing this great event ... TF3AM. Slowly the reliability of the station grows up. Now we must find some more operators. Some more technical things to achieve before 2008 edition! Which station in the world can claim to eat rabbit civet, deer, wild pig, cow tongue, and drink 18 and 21 year-old Knockando? See you next year with less food and more multipliers! ... TM4Q. Had not planned on QRP but the main rig failed in early October and then 21 November the 706MKIIG became a door stop. All I have left is the IC-703 and a G5RV flat top at 60 feet and a lot of saltwater! Rather than "hunt & peck" I picked a freq. and would call until someone noticed me, then the fun begins! Difficult to manage QRM as the 703 only has one filter so it was a challenge. I often had to QSY when high power stations squeezed me out. Still I am thrilled with the QRP results! Yes, it does help to have a rare callsign too! I might run QRP next year too, except with the 746Pro's receiver! ... V73NS. Low power and a simple wire antenna. Is the glass half empty or half full? Is it "you pretty much work all you hear" or "you can't get no satisfaction"? Still undecided ... VE3FDT. Had to work on the roof and then lay new hardwood flooring the next day. Low score, nice floor! ... VE3RCN. I got a little more serious about this contest to improve on the last two years efforts. Friday evening and Saturday I used my FT-757GX I inherited earlier this fall. Sunday I used my IC-751A with the FL-53A narrow filter to get more serious. I still had a lot of fun. You don't have to have the latest rigs to have fun contesting. The QSK on that FT-757 blew me away in the contest. It's that nice. ... VE7BGP. A very fine contest where even the slow operator has a chance, many DX ops gave me a QSO in slow speed. That was very fine of them ... VU2LYX. I am not a CW op. That is, I am not a CW contester. Just ask the 30 stations who worked me. However, this may have been a baby step, thanks to Robby, VY2SS. Outside of a feeble effort in a RAC Winter contest, I have never entered a CW contest. We'll see where this goes ... VY2LI. Trx for contest QSOs! ... YL1S. Had a lot of fun on my first WW CW contest expedition! ... YS/K9GY. We had a lot of fun and in this Macedonian-German Contest Team. We Germans enjoyed it very much to be guests in Macedonia. The hospitality was overwhelming ...

Z37M. Grateful thanks to Les for the use of his QTH for the weekend. Very poor condx for the first 12 hours or so, then much improved, but deteriorated again towards the end. Never a dull moment!! As part of the ZL6QH gang we had to be there come hell or high water! ... ZL2AGY.

USA QRM

Highlight was having XW1A call me at 1405Z on 15 meters the second day. Wasn't expecting that kind of opening the way conditions have been ... AA1K. Great band opening on 40 meters in early morning. Worked only a few hours but had a ball working DX all over the world ... AF4Z. No problems from Murphy here, just a problem with the alarm clock (the Murphy Bed)? Overslept two hours Sunday morning, missing a good part of the EU opening, an inexcusable lapse for an East Coast station. Fell short of last year's totals, and I could blame the difference in 15m propagation, but I probably would have matched last year but for the alarm clock ... K2PS. I entered mainly to complete the NAQCC November challenge, but after I finished, I was having so much fun I kept going. The sunspot minimum certainly made it rough compared to when I was making 500+ QSOs at the maximum. But I'm happy with my results with my QRP 5 watts and simple wire antennas. I enjoyed working CN2FB on 80m for a new band country and SV9CVY on 20m for another one. Also a thrill to work New Zealand on 40m thanks to ZM3A's good ears ... K3WWP. Conditions really difficult. Thunderstorms in area kept me off 160 and very few contacts on 80. 10 was almost dead and 15 not very good. Everybody was on 40 and 20 so they were pretty busy. We had rain all day Saturday and Sunday. If it was not for the contest I would have had everything unplugged and watched TV (ugh)... K5EWJ. Bands were better than expected, plenty of stations to work (other than on 10). 80 was great to Europe Friday night. Operated the whole contest remotely using my station located 80 miles away. Fortunately the network and control equipment cooperated this time. Worked HC8N, KH7X, and KH6LC on 6 bands ... K6NR. New antenna that didn't get fully installed, new software that I never used before, limited time to contest, reworked the shack the day before, and mixed band conditions made for an interesting contest. Missed the guy in Hanoi but worked my first Laos station with a few minutes left in the contest ... K7DD. Two men and a truckload of dipoles. Great fun! ... K8DO. Wish I had more time to operate. Nice 10 meter opening Sunday morning. Happy to get 100+ countries on 20. Zone 33 stations need to sign their calls more. Great expeditions: 3X5A, D2NX, CT9L, 5J0A, 5X1NH, D4C. Some of these folks can REALLY send code. What an art form! ... K8GL. Big thrill was working 102 countries on 80 from far NW Wisconsin ... N0IJ. This turned out to be a much better event than I had expected. In spite of zip sunspots and somewhat noisy bands, the DX just kept coming. It was great. My (in)famous WimpyWire antenna system was on its best behavior this weekend, allowing me to get around the bands quickly, looking for new stations. I even worked three Chinese stations. Wow, the first and only time I've worked China before was back in 1998. N6WG, The Little Station with Attitude ... N6WG. I only made a few QSOs during the contest but it was a great way to shake out the two Elecraft K1s I assembled this month! ... NE1RD. Money band was 20m with openings to all parts. 40m was mostly SA, AF, and Asia, little EU here. Fun to work EU, Caribbean, KH6, ZL, VK on 80m. Even got 3 JAs, CN2R, CN2FF, and Caribbean on 160m. Thanks to those who have great ears to hear my 100W and 65 ft vertical w/45 radials on the ground. Thanks to DXpeditions who put many countries on in AF, SA, and Asia! ... W0ETT. This was the first CW contest I didn't touch the key in. Very strange feeling for a CW op ... W6XI. No Spots, No Problem, No 10 Meters, No Kidding. It'll all be better next year! ... W7AT. Search and Pounce from Arizona Ranch using 100W always presents a challenge to both new and old members of the contest. Conditions this year were as good as they can get ... W7RH. All-time record for us. Had a very good time ... W9NGA. With fair conditions few Europeans were heard except for 20 meters, but there were big local problems: (1) Very strong power line noise to the NE, (2) Remote relay box failed, so we ran 250 ft. of coax at night for the 40 meter antenna. (3) Bad QRM from close-by 50 KW BC station really hurt 160 meters, (4) Ten minutes in the local RF packet node transmitter failed ... WA7LT.

Number groups after call letters denote following: Band (A=all), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Zones, and Countries. An asterisk (*) before a call indicates low power. Certificate winners are listed in bold. (All country terminology reflects the DXCC list at the time of the contest.)

2007 CW RESULTS SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES					
K5ZD/1	A	6,399,360	3455	138	522
K1LQ	"	5,093,565	3027	132	513
K10G	"	5,001,120	3039	129	475
W1KM	"	4,433,030	2775	125	456
K1ZZ	"	3,112,416	1837	127	479
WC1M	"	3,077,464	2245	111	397
W1WFF	"	2,828,700	2016	112	413
W1FJ	"	1,627,444	1307	102	374
W1GQ	"	1,075,355	956	100	379
K1JB	"	891,808	720	106	368
W1EBI	"	822,908	776	96	313
K1RM	"	805,464	953	87	237
K2KQ/1	"	735,013	627	95	354
KQ2M/1	"	694,683	860	72	225
KB1W	"	496,341	714	70	209
K1VV	"	404,544	509	67	227
W1HIS	"	396,644	524	85	238
W1UK	"	294,930	344	77	262
W1BYH	"	252,120	317	86	244
NS1L	"	176,120	296	75	184
W5WMU/1	"	111,910	299	36	119
K1KU	"	102,789	209	66	177
W3IZ/1	"	61,202	164	40	102
N1JW	"	45,500	146	37	93
K1SND	"	37,647	144	39	102
W1YRC	"	32,258	105	42	85
KB1000	"	31,320	137	39	89
K1IM	14	262,409	755	29	104
W1XX	7	149,688	475	30	102
W1MK	3.5	426,313	1156	30	109
K3FN/1	"	78,369	453	21	76
K1TV	1.8	117,165	501	21	86
*K1BX	A	2,058,800	1547	109	371
*KS1J	"	1,175,853	1091	88	311
*W1JQ	"	949,062	846	97	334
*W2JU/1	"	670,712	616	99	314
*K1IB	"	607,695	729	75	244
*K1HT	"	491,980	545	87	253
*KB1T	"	402,458	493	84	239
*AB1FY	"	365,574	457	76	243
*N1DC	"	342,550	450	75	235
*K1ZE	"	315,892	383	73	229
*AK1Q	"	296,390	413	65	212
*W1ECH	"	242,946	369	76	221
*W1VB	"	213,153	353	53	174
*K7JE/1	"	206,448	322	72	181
*K1RO	"	191,505	296	68	187
*AE1T	"	175,824	310	50	166
*AB1J	"	158,207	266	58	175
*K1VSJ	"	121,397	234	54	139
*W20Q/1	"	50,786	152	38	96
*W1HI	"	48,510	195	19	80
*K1GPL	"	19,097	207	42	71
*K10Q	"	17,876	95	38	71
*W1HBR	"	15,224	242	42	131
*WB1FLA	"	11,610	88	32	54
*W1OHM	"	10,792	75	22	49
*K1KNJ	"	9,440	64	16	43
*K1HTJ	"	9,348	54	25	51
*K1EP	"	8,540	56	29	41
*AA1Z	"	3,600	38	12	27
*KM1Z	"	2,989	76	26	35
*KA1VMG	"	588	14	9	12
*K1KAV	"	416	10	6	10
*NJ1Q	"	84	10	4	3
*N1NK	21	83,547	220	22	87
*W1MU	14	446,090	1026	32	123
*K1EF	"	57,327	219	18	79
*W1NK	3.5	11,610	85	14	40
N2LT	A	3,538,836	2112	134	470
W2RU	"	2,262,904	1805	111	365
K2NV	"	1,547,658	1114	117	402
W2LC	"	1,057,137	1010	96	323
K2FU	"	873,016	782	98	326
N2GC	"	723,788	668	95	308
W2XL	"	357,840	485	71	213
WA2VYA	"	272,734	397	61	192
KW2J	"	240,300	342	73	194
W2TB	"	203,346	330	50	187
AB2E	"	188,955	298	69	186
KM2L	"	157,178	298	54	152
WA2YSJ	"	142,480	271	60	148
W2FJ	"	98,032	202	52	124
WW2DX	"	85,617	201	59	130
KC2NB	"	85,084	222	50	128
W2YJ	"	69,388	179	50	116
N2BEE	"	62,835	235	52	125
N2CG	"	61,560	147	52	119
N2G2P	"	49,491	142	37	104
N2VM	"	28,408	127	30	76
K2RET	"	19,100	105	30	70
N2RJ	"	10,530	54	29	49
N2BZP	"	9,375	70	26	49
WA2EMF	"	9,216	62	20	44
WB2JEP	"	1,798	34	11	20
W2KXZ	"	440	24	10	12
W2RR	28	4,144	50	11	26
KE2WY	14	99,600	375	23	97
N2MF	7	413,660	985	38	134
KZ2I	"	35,595	146	24	81
NQ3N/2	"	6,278	87	19	54
NA2X	3.5	39,867	161	21	76
W2TX	"	10,416	67	17	45
WF2W	1.8	43,788	225	18	64
W2VO	"	21,409	131	17	62
*K2PS	A	1,294,272	1152	91	337
*N2MM	"	1,270,320	1101	108	366
*K2UF	"	555,360	619	86	270
*NP3D/W2	"	498,348	538	86	295
*NX2X	"	401,685	520	73	232
*W2CVW	"	185,650	300	60	175
*K2MX	"	172,270	327	66	164
*K2TW	"	144,200	273	42	158
*WA2VZQ	"	127,710	236	52	146
*K3GYS/2	"	121,472	294	50	158
*A2N	"	119,973	236	59	144

*N2JUS	"	109,804	233	45	149
*WB200Q	"	100,190	204	53	162
*N2SQW	"	89,388	204	54	137
*K2DJC	"	77,044	239	58	129
*K2MK	"	75,843	202	46	113
*K2CJ	"	66,452	172	36	112
*WA2BMH	"	50,592	154	37	99
*W2CCC	"	50,540	155	38	95
*WA2MCR	"	47,840	167	55	105
*N2RI	"	36,890	157	54	101
*K2EKM	"	29,362	110	27	79
*WA2VOV	"	22,620	103	29	58
*K2IZ	"	21,070	98	28	70
*WB2AA	"	12,516	60	34	50
*N2UM	"	10,780	63	21	56
*N2JSD	"	3,726	35	21	33
*K2VX	"	3,542	41	16	30
*N3SY/2	"	2,379	24	15	24
*WA2IAU	"	425	14	5	12
*K2ZRD	14	339,880	838	29	116
*K2MFY	"	164,347	412	28	121
*W2AW	"	127,680	418	23	91
*W2DXA	"	41,895	157	21	84
*K2RR	3.5	31,648	138	20	66
*K3BU/2	1.8	1,200	32	9	11
K3CR	A	5,330,100	3021	142	510
AA1K/3	"	3,864,576	2483	130	462

*K3IO	"	178,210	291	68	183
*W3Z	"	148,144	286	55	142
*WB3YYY/3	"	141,900	302	56	164
*W3DGN	"	126,350	262	47	143
*WA3OFF	"	89,056	203	54	130
*K3KU	"	58,140	149	45	108
*W3TB	"	54,826	164	55	103
*N3TG	"	47,002	148	46	96
*W3TUA	"	45,844	197	43	103
*KN3A	"	41,720	138	57	92
*N3XL	"	38,646	156	34	79
*N3WU	"	37,710	147	21	69
*N8NA/3	"	31,625	106	41	84
*W3CB	"	17,138	89	27	55
*KA3DRR	"	14,904	90	29	40
*K3PG	"	12,152	82	35	63
*W3RT	"	4,900	88	39	59
*AF3Z	"	3,520	39	22	33
*AA3H	"	1,700	18	16	18
*K3CV	"	100	3	3	3
*W3EH	21	638	15	8	14
*W3OD	"	2,304	29	12	24
*NS3T	3.5	54,390	229	19	79
K4ZW	A	3,900,600	2618	132	418
W4RX	"	2,230,872	1584	126	407
N6AR/4	"	1,948,620	1315	125	439
N4TB	"	1,706,232	1333	118	388
W4O4	"	1,380,288	1218	112	336
W4QM	"	1,017,904	865	103	349
K4LTA	"	924,320	1032	107	329
K4RO	"	908,776	781	110	339
KC4HW	"	27,136	104	26	80
K21X/4	"	26,250	99	30	75
K4FZY	"	23,711	127	47	84
K1ZW/4	"	17,860	90	30	64
W4PV	"	5,329	51	27	46
W4QJC	"	4,896	83	39	57
K4FJ	21	159,816	473	24	104
K4PIC	"	16,425	102	17	56
K4CEB	"	9,666	73	16	38
K4RV	"	627	12	7	12
KK9A/4	14	246,192	636	30	108
K4RDU	"	53,025	198	22	83
A14WW	"	1,100	19	9	13
N4PN	7	665,533	1466	38	149
N4OV	"	100,415	298	27	106
W4YA	"	49,926	203	24	82
AF4Z	"	7,216	84	23	65
AA7J/V/4	3.5	101,660	361	23	82
K4PI	1.8	71,585	300	20	83
W90X/4	"	1,242	27	8	19
*K1PT/4	A	1,641,413	1273	114	377
*W3AU/4	"	1,246,768	978	107	357
*N4YOU	"	968,814	960	108	354
*WK2G/4	"	952,614	1160	85	269
*N4IG	"	773,817	769	93	300
*NA4K	"	769,120	728	104	314
*WA4DOU	"	637,007	643	88	283
*WA1FCN/4	"	632,024	725	105	292
*WD4AHZ	"	601,370	634	94	261
*W4YE	"	573,903	611	89	274
*NA4CW	"	337,876	420	85	223

*N4AO	"	24,947	99	32	69
*K4BK	"	24,396	102	39	68
*NA4C	"	24,380	133	44	71
*NA4U	"	23,653	94	39	70
*A14RJ	"	23,005	103	39	68
*KS4S	"	22,977	107	34	77
*K14E2C	"	22,275	105	33	66
*K4BX	"	21,400	99	35	65
*K4FTO	"	15,244	91	37	66
*N4HH	"	11,880	59	38	52
*N4LS	"	11,858	60	35	42
*K14EGT	"	11,397	93	32	55
*WA4OSD	"	9,750	61	32	43
*W4EBA	"	9,576	62	26	46
*WA4EUL	"	8,976	58	23	43
*K3QC/4	"	8,140	47	21	34
*W4IEI	"	8,030	86	26	47
*W4WNT	"	6,864	60	30	48
*K4AGT	"	5,238	39	18	36
*N4MIO	"	5,029	89	38	69
*W4NDX	"	2,774	29	12	26
*K4WI	28	4,392	58	14	22
*W4EX	21	124,740	364	26	106
*WB4TDH	"	86,760			

*WW6D	41,745	140	49	72	*NBAA	A	985,886	842	103	348	*N1WQ/B	23,391	153	40	73	VE5CPU	A	14,820	102	28	48	*9G5XA	21	492,282	1369	27	99								
*AA6DX	18,144	92	38	46	*WBBJUI	A	712,218	695	95	382	*NDBUI	22,892	101	30	67	*VE5SF	A	62,580	389	30	54	*9G5ZZ	14	527,730	1303	31	116								
*K6CSL	16,109	115	37	52	*WBGOC	A	268,464	396	65	207	*NDBQ	20,174	114	27	50	VE6EX	A	723,620	1880	73	121	*9G5ZS	7	11,316	129	20	49								
*K6NWB	15,604	103	37	46	*WBBTLI	A	213,213	318	75	196	*WBDZ	19,040	84	44	66	VA6IK	137,104	340	55	121	Madagascar														
*WBJR	14,700	83	34	50	*WBIOM	A	121,576	254	52	130	*NDBK	17,425	85	35	50	VE6EPK	14,835	116	26	43	5R8NL	A	522,111	631	66	171									
*K6CSL	13,175	115	37	48	*K3XQ/B	A	102,924	257	35	121	*NDBR	11,360	55	31	49	VE6WQ	7	125,337	486	31	92	Madeira Islands													
*NA6G	5,757	86	28	29	*N9AUG/B	A	101,990	262	69	166	*KBJ	8,103	76	34	39	*VE6BF	A	70,358	255	58	69	CT3NT	A	3,755,805	2927	110	355								
*KA6GDT	4,116	55	23	26	*W8XK	A	97,216	176	60	164	*KDRY	7,991	66	28	33	*VE6CNU	14	112,746	647	27	59	CT3AS	A	719,495	786	76	261								
*K6RM	3,936	36	20	21	*K8VUS	A	85,500	198	59	121	*WADIAF	6,318	95	35	43	VA7ST	A	571,155	1449	68	127	CT3BD	A	21,024	123	15	58								
*N6QZS	3,648	41	15	17	*K8EE	A	80,115	273	39	108	*KZHT/D	5,040	71	32	48	*VE7NH	A	320,292	676	80	137	*CT3KU	7	32,336	139	19	75								
*N6ERD	200	7	5	5	*WBOKWJ/B	A	78,480	222	53	127	*K0XTR	2,436	21	17	25	VA7KQJ	A	90,630	245	62	109	Mauritius													
*K6CU	14	19,241	114	24	47	*K8AB	A	63,318	207	58	125	*WAOBNX	1188	32	13	10	*VE7JKZ	A	87,057	238	63	90	*388GT	A	141,108	471	39	93							
K07AA	A	1,839,328	1547	124	334	*NFBM	A	50,736	137	54	97	*WYDV	792	17	10	14	*VE7BGP	A	17,848	112	43	49	Morocco												
K7GK	A	1,437,056	1298	126	310	*WDBKRV	A	42,395	165	51	88	*W0PC	21	1,275	20	9	16	CO8ZZ	3.5	232,680	1061	21	84	CN3A	A	8,353,488	5261	126	446						
W2VJN/7	A	1,427,819	1308	121	288	*W8KTQ	A	33,180	215	45	113	*K0PJ	3.5	20,746	133	20	62	*COBLW	21	346,203	1397	25	92	CN2AW	14	1,387,176	2904	38	130						
K7RL	A	866,550	1012	107	220	*KDBRB	A	28,583	110	33	68	*K7LV	A	300,690	1191	49	81	*CO8TW	14	19,030	137	25	85	CN2FB	3.5	1,590,288	3244	35	133						
N7TT	A	720,513	860	110	249	*N8WS	A	23,280	110	37	83	KL7WV	A	300,690	1191	49	81	*CO2WF	7	75,297	687	16	41	CN2FF	1.8	618,849	1599	26	107						
WY7I	A	588,506	761	94	229	*W8TM	A	17,072	78	26	62	KL8DX	14	27,258	304	19	23	*CO6LP	3.5	78,810	630	18	56	CN2R	A	559,860	1568	26	98						
N7ZG	A	503,728	685	100	204	*W8AN	A	17,020	111	41	74	KL7NC	A	4,332	88	20	18	Dominican Republic																	
W7AT	A	405,224	611	114	182	*K8VW	A	16,920	79	35	59	*VP2EOL	7	513,291	1699	26	103	*H8RV	A	311,805	742	61	144	*YSK9GY	A	1,711,970	2459	100	238						
K7ZA	A	390,544	507	98	210	*K8ZJ	A	16,320	85	35	61	Alaska						Grenada						*J39BS	A	13,875	91	32	43						
KG7H	A	389,355	540	94	209	*W8EH	A	11,200	63	20	50	Anguilla						*J3JT	A	10,773	121	17	40	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
N6TW/7	A	309,636	466	96	184	*W8ASA	A	2,091	29	18	23	*VP2EOL	7	513,291	1699	26	103	Guadeloupe						*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
K7MM	A	308,700	521	79	166	*N8KV	A	1,504	23	14	18	Antigua & Barbuda						Honduras						*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7YS	A	292,400	426	85	187	*N8CX	A	85	11	8	9	*V26K	A	7,220,340	5526	123	417	*H02A	A	4,329,555	4683	107	328	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
K7GQ	A	233,761	332	82	187	*WBCR	A	1,089	18	14	13	Bahamas						*H09R	A	296,829	887	59	118	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
NG7R	A	220,332	429	80	164	*K8IR	14	54,648	210	23	76	*C6AQQ	A	2,978,024	3270	99	329	*HR2DX	7	6,992	97	12	26	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
K7EG	A	175,840	315	65	159	*AF8C	A	17,301	100	19	54	*C8AGY	A	44,821	293	52	81	*HR2DMR	1.8	140	19	3	2	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
K7HC	A	161,766	314	81	177	*W8GG	3.5	22,590	117	21	69	*C8AXX	14	887,696	2475	31	111	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40												
N8GZ/7	A	161,508	350	99	159	*K8BL	1.8	4,715	59	12	29	*C8ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40												
K87N	A	150,520	295	73	139	W90P	A	746,823	791	88	283	Barbados						*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W6AEA/7	A	112,424	259	59	125	K9VV	A	669,086	715	90	284	BPSA	A	9,040,800	6565	141	459	Belize						*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40
KN7T	A	108,500	265	66	109	W9WV	A	545,650	651	92	258	BPDP	A	157,140	426	57	123	V31DF	A	1,747,040	2856	88	217	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40
N17R	A	104,823	236	59	112	W9WV	A	342,798	463	75	216	*BP9MN	A	64,581	195	25	60	Bermuda						*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40
N6MA/7	A	99,588	235	67	105	W9WV	A	281,397	391	78	213	Canada						*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7SYJ	A	98,334	242	50	112	W9WV	A	181,492	251	82	232	VEZYM	A	6,885,168	4708	124	448	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
N6KW/7	A	98,280	229	59	109	W9WV	A	176,412	311	73	171	VEZTT	A	6,872,935	4552	115	430	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W1PMA/7	A	90,804	201	61	127	W9WV	A	171,288	298	63	171	VO1HE	A	414,072	498	73	251	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
K57T	A	84,645	216	58	107	W9WV	A	145,728	233	79	174	VE1MC	A	372,960	601	61	198	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
KF7PG	A	84,409	220	59	92	W9WV	A	122,728	248	50	134	VE1RBB	A	977,262	1102	82	292	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7HT	A	76,916	212	46	88	W9WV	A	122,590	251	62	149	VE1MM	A	803,979	1256	77	220	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7/DL1UF	A	37,908	111	65	91	W9WV	A	82,164	214	41	123	VE1N	A	733,410	1307	68	193	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7XA	A	26,069	108	46	85	W9WV	A	77,292	242	27	77	VE1S	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7LKG	A	17,732	105	22	40	W9WV	A	66,216	228	62	124	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7TTE	A	12,155	54	32	53	W9WV	A	62,155	155	56	99	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
K7DD	A	10,640	75	40	55	W9WV	A	55,870	182	64	121	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W8TK/7	A	6,758	48	26	36	W9WV	A	17,098	85	38	65	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
NE7X	A	100	8	8	8	W9WV	A	15,930	81	34	56	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
N6MZ/7	A	6	1	1	1	W9WV	A	754	17	13	13	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7WA	14	320,850	841	36	114	W9WV	A	15,792	80	21	63	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
W7KKR	A	20,435	115	23	44	W9WV	A	15,792	80	21	63	VE1T	A	565,110	883	61	209	*C6ATA	7	1,142,803	3133	33	124	*J39BN	A	10,773	121	17	40						
KC7UP	A	11,152	72	22																															

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DK9IP	7	552,231	1882	37	144	*DL1KUR	95,472	279	54	154	*DL1TPY	22,000	280	17	83	*DL9LM	106,821	500	27	90	*HA8TP	152,856	621	30	102	
DJ7IK		248,788	1009	35	129	*DL9ABM	94,760	228	54	130	*DL7BD	21,735	122	37	78	*DL20XA	91,770	370	29	86	*HG8C	129,903	403	34	125	
DL7AU		170,166	745	33	125	*DL8NB	94,668	390	36	160	*DC8HF	21,588	169	20	64	*DL4YR	58,962	324	22	71						
DL8MFS		14,952	91	23	66	*DL8JDX	91,739	225	56	143	*DL3DBY	20,972	168	29	78	*DF7EM	43,055	374	18	61	*HA7MW	72,471	322	29	90	
						*DJ3XA	90,922	418	31	138	*DL5HP	19,560	186	24	96	*DL2MIH	2,030	41	10	25	*HA7NK	65,400	327	25	84	
DL2AMD	3.5	100	6	4	6	*DL2ANM	90,753	350	43	136	*DJ2FR	19,332	163	25	83	*DL2HQ	181,600	546	23	104	*HA6FQ	65,303	299	28	105	
DJ8MDR	1.8	169,740	1147	22	83	*DL8DWD	88,871	428	33	148	*DL6RCK	19,012	135	26	72	*DL2XC	61,000	391	23	102	*HA3MU	7	119,328	668	26	106
DK2FG		50,572	403	19	75						*DL2ZA	19,008	188	19	80	*DF9CY	14,238	179	12	51	*HA8KW	3.5	195,787	1206	26	101
DJ60Z		27,193	317	10	61						*DL4NT	18,856	132	24	64	*DG8DG	7,424	71	13	45	*HGSY	1.8	418	22	4	15
DM3ML		11,584	185	10	54						*DL1THB	18,480	169	18	66	*DF7GG	3.5	67,997	603	15	74					
*DC4A	A	1,563,588	1712	112	402						*DL40Y	18,288	108	28	44	*DL9UDS	44,455	436	16	69						
											*DL1ARD	18,126	95	39	67	*DL8KWN	43,725	505	12	63						
*DD5M		1,146,680	1645	96	340						*DF1HF	17,407	101	32	71	*DL2RUG	26,496	309	11	61						
											*DL2FK	17,143	134	24	55	*DK3UA	1.8	11,776	170	9	55					
*DL1NKS		793,950	1359	78	317						*DL8UFO	16,415	97	25	42	*DF3IS	5,763	113	7	44						
*DL9GFB		777,308	1064	101	375						*DL6DVU	16,366	150	19	79	*DK3AX	2,952	73	7	34						
*DK5DD		776,586	1233	85	288						*DL3XM	16,275	74	41	64											
*DL5RMH		755,438	1241	84	305						*D01UZ	16,019	193	15	68											
*DL5KUD		616,911	985	88	323						*DG4YGV	15,228	112	30	64											
*DL6JZ		474,175	983	89	256						*DL1RLB	12,935	90	23	42											
*DL7UMK		468,350	1043	66	257						*DK2ZO	12,397	103	20	57											
*DL4FN		464,877	957	86	263						*DL1AWM	12,328	90	34	58											
*DL1SAN		381,780	834	71	244						*DL8UAT	12,282	56	33	56											
*DL4TJ		367,352	662	88	288						*DL3EJ	11,392	82	24	65											
*DF3AX		352,275	856	57	218						*DL8HGO	11,016	127	18	63											
*DL2BCKL		349,700	695	75	250						*DL7VRG	10,212	110	24	68											
*DL7DZ		348,986	693	72	247						*DL2AL	10,206	115	31	50											
*DL5ARM		342,790	828	68	227						*DL3JRA	9,360	83	17	35											
*DF3KV		334,480	648	87	283						*DL3T	9,288	90	24	62											
*DL1EFD		315,153	697	62	229						*DHSNT	9,029	117	18	64											
*DJ8UV		312,244	767	63	248						*DG8ETE	8,176	105	17	56											
*DH6JL		303,072	633	65	181						*DL9GMC	7,128	104	19	53											
*DL1NUX		294,656	695	56	200						*D09KT	6,930	106	17	60											
*DF1HE		289,608	809	49	215						*DJ6KV	6,853	75	29	60											
*DL3BRA		277,580	694	55	215						*DL5KMS	6,300	65	22	48											
*DL2NBY		261,280	736	50	180						*DL1CI	5,576	94	19	49											
*DL5JRA		253,232	621	61	205						*DL1DXL	4,949	43	20	29											
*DF3OL		224,624	401	72	206						*DF5BM	4,717	65	15	38											
*DL1VJL		222,981	425	65	168						*DL2EF	4,158	94	13	41											
*DF1MM		217,118	518	67	211						*DL5LWM	3,990	68	16	41											
*DL4HWI		207,788	445	62	225						*DH1OK	3,640	53	16	36											
*DL3ZAI		205,155	557	48	187						*DK8SU	3,172	65	11	41											
*DL2HWB		190,518	523	48	178																					
*DL5ASE		190,112	580	51	157						*DL6UAM	3,050	83	6	44											
*DL8UKE		183,727	412	72	197						*DL6NWA	3,024	81	16	47											
*DK8AX		179,324	423	64	190						*DL4SUN	2,760	33	19	27											
*DL8ZAJ		170,640	410	56	184						*DL5SVB	2,440	66	9	31											
*DL1ARJ		160,284	473	52	176						*DL9DBZ	2,360	71	21	38											
*DL5XAT		159,004	394	56	198						*DL2DYL	2,173	38	19	34											
*DL5JS		151,140	437	50	179						*DK7CH	2,135	88	14	47											
*DL1RTS		149,648	495	48	151						*DL2AXM	2,064	49	13	35											
*DL5CD		146,664	518	51	165						*DL5KX	2,014	62	17	36											
*DL8ULO		141,264	480	48	168						*DJ5GK	1,975	48	10	15											
*DF2CH		129,913	397	63	214						*DL5SWB	1,200	21	11	13											
*DK7KR		123,977	388	55	144						*D01SAJ	972	32	7	20											
*DL8YR		123,319	398	46	177						*DL2VB	644	13	11	12											
*DL8UGF		113,229	321	50	157						*D07MA	110	7	4	7											
*DL2MWB		106,547	297	40	177						*DL4UL	40,365	179	27	88											
*DL8KB		105,276	320	44	142						*DK5ZX	24,336	164	18	60											
*DL5DSA		102,342	288	61	161						*DH88QA	2,016	31	11	17											
*DF6GC		101,460	461	35	155						*DL3DTH	194,910	676	34	112											
*DK7GH		95,675	349	51	164						*DL4AAE	125,250	508	27	98											

*WH2D	A	434,948	794	74	120	*PP5DA	.	495	19	5	4	JK1TCV	*	29,744	114	46	58	RU3RM	*	46,545	349	19	68	AA1QD	.	67,886	141	47	135
*KH2/K13DNN	.	11,165	141	15	14	*PR7AR	3.5	36,515	291	15	52	DL4EAX	*	29,524	193	26	96	G3LHJ	*	44,555	319	17	68	W12R	.	56,072	184	48	115
		Hawaii				*PUBTFA	1.8	16	2	2	2	N3HU	*	28,288	118	32	72	JA4DQX	*	33,072	290	25	53	WJ1B	.	37,410	149	43	86
KH5YR	A	3,599,360	4089	126	194			Chile				KD4HXT	*	27,913	142	39	64	FM5CW	*	31,536	176	15	58	N1AU	.	22,200	84	33	78
AH7C	.	2,871,149	3313	116	197	3G1X	7	416,745	1223	33	114	OK2BWX	*	26,208	209	24	88	E21ADY	*	31,400	131	22	46	K1TR	.	17,195	73	33	62
KH7Y	21	478,084	1870	28	66	*XR3A	21	257,982	882	26	88	OE8NTK	*	26,078	155	29	89	UA4WK	*	28,035	229	19	70	WATZYX	.	7,360	47	21	43
KH7B	3.5	321,636	1155	31	67			Colombia				JD1AHC	*	23,872	334	28	36	EW8DX	*	25,862	218	16	51	W1MAT	.	1,071	19	6	15
*KH6/NBCO	A	78,980	300	49	61	HK30	A	736,376	955	96	236	K8CD	*	23,859	105	40	59	M80	*	22,800	257	12	48	NE1B	.	726	17	11	11
		Indonesia				HK6K	.	157,552	421	56	116	HC08	*	22,848	172	27	85			(OP: G4JZO)		KC1F	14	97,240	280	28	102		
Y83JZ	14	58,401	382	22	41	HK3J	.	72,540	196	56	130	K3WVP	*	21,840	93	24	67	IAKRF	.	20,234	212	17	50	K1LT	1.8	42,873	196	17	76
*YC1KAF	A	475,692	918	50	146	HK3Q	.	19,197	103	27	57	RV3DBK	*	21,476	226	14	77	DL4HG	.	17,922	165	17	41	K2NG	A	3,876,374	1862	158	624
*YBDDPO	.	380,799	535	82	179	HK3J	.	17,808	103	27	57	YU2CV	*	21,306	152	26	80	N4PJ	.	15,912	95	19	53	N2NL	.	2,655,240	1484	158	541
*YE1AA	21	24,525	126	24	51	*HK1AR	A	6,913,397	4439	130	421	US8ICM	*	21,090	136	35	79	VU2UR	*	13,317	87	20	49	K2DM	.	1,708,720	1217	124	396
*YBZDA	.	20,435	123	16	51	*HK1AA	.	89,010	394	31	59	G4ILO	*	19,080	166	24	82	K8CN	.	12,393	105	11	40	N2WK	.	1,392,384	906	128	464
*Y2UTX	.	18,836	131	21	47	*HK7/VK8DX1	7	211,998	861	28	69	DM1LM	*	18,795	207	22	83	W7J1	.	10,218	155	21	57	N2ED	.	1,225,947	1080	115	366
*YD1HUH	.	16,704	119	23	49	*HK3WPC	.	741	27	8	11	PA1B	.	18,480	102	40	65	DL4DDA	.	8,742	122	11	37	K2NP	.	1,101,397	920	99	350
*YB8WWW	14	3,680	50	11	21			Paraguay				A1ZP	.	18,200	147	22	78	JR8GFM	*	5,967	108	9	30	K2DNP	.	1,100,223	872	102	357
*YB0ECT	.	2,163	42	9	12	ZP8R	21	972,332	2138	33	125	ON7CC	.	17,568	210	25	71	9A8MM	.	4,730	114	9	34	W2LE	.	1,026,630	796	126	384
*YD3KWR	7	26,163	189	18	39	*ZP9EH	A	58,256	198	61	97	RA6DB	.	16,798	91	34	40	PABATG	.	3,910	67	8	26	WQ2N	.	987,309	852	107	352
*Y2BG	.	2,120	45	15	25	*ZP6/K1PMR	7	5,950	60	14	21	JA1KEB	.	13,832	84	28	63	RA3KEV	.	3,096	73	8	28	W2GDU	.	797,895	700	102	345
*Y2MKV	3.5	12,663	100	19	44			Peru				N8LY	.	13,200	132	21	79	Y04BI	.	2,904	40	12	21	KA2D	.	782,034	655	97	354
*Y2WWW	.	9,728	90	20	44	OA4WW	A	5,702,269	3988	140	383	HR2LTDE	.	13,416	123	38	48	JH8DBI	.	1,250	24	11	14	K2ITT	.	761,057	709	110	363
		Mariana Islands				OA4SS	14	568,540	1611	30	94	DL6OZ	.	13,188	125	26	58	ER3AU	.	828	29	5	7	W2RD	.	569,452	497	111	355
*WH85	A	124,660	479	42	73	*OA4JW	A	51,156	179	56	91	RX3ALL	.	12,826	114	29	77	JA1GTF	.	576	16	8	10	N1JP/2	.	353,160	438	72	252
		New Caledonia						Suriname				VE9QR	.	12,814	71	36	50	Y04ATW	.	576	16	7	11	K2GG	.	292,657	520	50	161
*TX3SAM	A	154,896	547	42	70	P25X	A	2,832,285	2820	91	292	7K1CPT	.	12,636	87	35	43	K6BBQ	.	209	19	6	5	W2REH	.	291,618	393	69	237
		New Zealand						Trinidad & Tobago				F5MPS	.	12,012	127	18	66	UA1CEG	.	80	10	2	6	KE2SD	.	254,092	476	74	204
ZL1BHQ	7	20,888	169	19	43	9Y4AA	7	1,674,456	3525	35	133	N8XA	.	11,988	71	33	48	EAB/OH2BEM	.	6	1	1	1	K2QPN	.	245,619	356	78	219
ZM1K	3.5	78,917	376	23	54			Uruguay				Y06EX	7	13,929	84	32	47	Y06EX	7	139,440	783	30	110	K2XF	.	233,772	307	84	224
*ZL4JB	A	3,864	54	20	22	CW6V	7	984,872	2068	38	134	F5LEN	.	11,780	150	25	70	F5LEN	.	129,844	565	27	116	K2BX	.	211,312	299	64	217
*ZL3TE	21	62,222	425	23	38			Venezuela				H80G	.	10,738	136	22	69	H80G	.	56,306	407	17	77	K2SOS	.	200,168	327	67	195
*ZL/VK4BA	.	28,215	249	19	26	YW4D	A	6,290,040	3591	143	493	Y06AEI	.	10,738	136	22	69	RA5JLV4	.	17,287	127	18	43	WK2H	.	198,588	307	64	183
*ZL4LW	7	293,760	790	33	102	*YW7A	A	128,110	497	69	161	Y06AEI	.	10,400	112	19	61	SP7BCA	.	15,163	274	8	51	N2VW	.	180,684	293	65	187
		Palau				*YV5NWG	.	59,508	137	62	112	Y06AEI	.	9,900	109	23	43	RA4SMM	.	11,780	153	11	51	N2VW	.	167,960	298	57	164
T88RJ	A	2,339,260	2782	96	214	*YV1FM	14	14,952	167	18	38	Y06AEI	.	9,790	95	17	38	F5MBM	.	9,720	121	11	49	W2VQ	.	157,520	327	60	160
T88WV	.	1,407,045	1799	188	185			QRP				Y06AEI	.	9,620	58	29	45	KO1H	.	8,190	62	19	46	W1TY/2	7	19,039	95	20	59
		Philippines				6V7D	A	2,602,192	2208	95	317	Y06AEI	.	9,266	49	35	47	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	N2LQ	1.8	5,424	51	14	34
DU3NXE	A	382,872	832	60	71	FY5FY	.	2,833,714	1961	95	284	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3WW	A	4,513,465	2496	143	542
		Tonga				K8CC	.	973,588	835	103	333	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K300	.	4,221,000	2271	142	528
*A3SRK	21	234,960	955	29	59	OK7CM	.	777,362	1242	87	387	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3AD	.	3,154,194	1962	139	580
*A3SMT	3.5	28,538	310	16	22	KR2Q	.	692,982	708	82	287	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3PH	.	2,674,812	1657	123	465
		SOUTH AMERICA				OM7DX	.	608,190	967	105	313	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	N3AM	.	1,490,482	1159	103	366
		Argentina				OL4W	.	511,368	1242	58	240	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3GF	.	1,488,027	1047	121	416
LU1HF	28	198,275	720	24	79	US2IZ	.	429,351	1048	60	243	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3ZZ	.	1,340,700	1150	112	380
LS1D	21	1,194,638	2680	34	124	H8AGIA	.	411,201	894	66	255	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3ND	.	1,288,800	900	120	417
LU7HN	.	1,060,683	2294	35	138	JR4DAH	.	401,250	681	86	164	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K03F	.	1,258,002	1096	93	330
LW4DYI	3.5	26,068	129	23	53	Y03APJ	.	350,030	865	58	232	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K9RS/3	.	1,230,120	837	125	411
LU6QI	1.8	154	8	5	6	DF1DX	.	342,608	795	58	208	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	AB3CX	.	886,968	845	89	299
*LU7EE	A	795,808	997	93	297	N1TM	.	295,293	447	61	196	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	W3EKT	.	600,928	654	90	332
*LU7YE	.	649,950	1084	79	131	OK1JOC	.	293,440	833	51	211	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	NE3H	.	547,596	610	86	285
*LW5EE	.	460,814	788	70	156	W6JTI	.	288,024	427	85	179	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	W3GG	.	394,476	531	69	215
*LUSYF	.	62,156	187	65	99	RA9SC	.	277,512	504	61	187	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10	37	K3CT	.	379,040	401	92	276
*LWDCZHP	.	7,040	59	30	34	UA6LCJ	.	269,010	659	59	235	Y06AEI	.	8,777	98	19	48	RA9QCE	.	7,990	114	10							

I23KKE	*	47,995	173	48	97	Y05CBX	14	259,120	933	36	122	UW50	7	720,330	2279	38	157	Jamaica	10,377,640	6148	157	571	OH4XX	1,160,397	1582	108	381
I21HIV	*	21,183	263	15	54	Y03JW	7	177,264	1032	32	112	U01CW	*	4,998	76	10	39	San Andres/Providencia	5,634,708	5288	116	383	OH28J	236,402	896	68	221
IK2ECP	*	9,240	102	16	39	Y03JOS	*	157,872	882	30	108	URSE	1.8	16,579	244	9	50	AFRICA					TM2Y	6,564,192	4371	169	639
IK1QBT	28	5,358	91	11	36	Y05KIP	*	85,786	553	23	95							Seychelles	5,249,490	4036	113	353	TM2S	4,848,102	3828	144	562
I02CJ	14	763,045	1974	38	153													South Africa	819,766	1258	70	181	TM4Q	4,233,255	3830	139	524
																		ASIA					F6KNB	2,337,270	2809	108	533
I2GPT	*	77,300	378	26	74													Asiatia Russia	7,277,550	4003	144	573	DP4T	6,465,756	4260	167	636
I03P	7	670,605	2215	36	145														4,441,880	3139	129	466	DF3CB	5,032,132	3296	162	637
I24GWE	*	43,754	209	29	102														4,415,580	2805	128	484	DR4A	3,839,238	3239	157	545
I03N	3.5	375,570	1796	31	104														3,958,722	2659	127	451	DP9A	3,215,788	2846	145	577
I04T	*	232,848	1553	26	86														3,327,104	2641	122	434	DA3A	2,825,104	2704	118	439
IR2C	*	159,962	830	25	96														3,052,758	2373	114	405	DR5N	2,105,075	2283	127	448
IK1YDB	1.8	137,360	1019	29	81														2,824,640	2033	115	405	DL4WA	1,418,162	1770	108	413
																			1,094,058	1352	80	262	DKDMN	1,043,860	1505	93	317
																			893,669	1245	67	234	DF5RF	888,160	1414	98	357
																			872,074	1148	88	246	DM5A	284,992	633	65	227
																			602,330	883	77	258					
																			597,908	954	60	208					
																			144,705	354	42	123					
						</																					

Andrew Cinta® Cable Assemblies



All assemblies are tested to ensure optimum performance.



CNT600 (LMR type)



CNT400 (LMR type)



CNT240 (LMR type)

CNT600 (LMR type)

Connector: N, PL259, TNC & 7/16 HALF INCH SIZE SHOWN
 Burial: Yes, UV Resistant: Yes.
 Shields: 2 (100% bonded foil +90% TC Braid) **VP 87%**.
 Attenuation 3.9dB @ 2 GHz at 100ft.
 Usage 450 MHz and Higher.

CNT400 (LMR type)

Connector: N, PL259, TNC, SMA, BNC. RG8U SIZE SHOWN
 Burial: Yes, UV Resistant: Yes.
 Shields: 2 (100% bonded foil +90% TC Braid) **VP 85%**.
 Attenuation 6.0dB @ 2 GHz at 100ft.
 Usage 450 MHz and Higher.

CNT240 (LMR type)

Connector: N, PL259, TNC, SMA, BNC. RG8X SIZE SHOWN
 Burial: Yes, UV Resistant: Yes.
 Shields: 2 (100% bonded foil +90% TC Braid) **VP 84%**.
 Attenuation 3.0dB @ 150 MHz at 100ft.
 Usage 1 MHz and Higher.

CNT195 (LMR type)

Connector: N, PL259, TNC, SMA, & BNC RG58U SIZE NOT SHOWN
 Burial: Yes, UV Resistant: Yes.
 Shields: 2 (100% bonded foil +90% TC Braid) **VP 80%**.
 Attenuation 0.45dB @ 2 GHz (3ft Jumper).
 Usage 1 MHz and Higher.

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MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER NORTH AMERICA

United States			
K1AR	9,665,362	4599	163 631
K1RX	5,841,844	3294	150 566
K0TV/1	4,633,848	2699	134 514
K2AX	3,164,980	2050	128 483
W2CQ	2,377,817	1595	121 456
W2YC	2,047,908	1432	129 499
K2UA	1,259,190	930	114 396
N3RS	10,871,328	5139	164 642
WE3C	9,374,886	4558	152 610
NE3F	2,268,408	1709	119 445
K3DI	931,385	792	103 342
NY4A	8,377,544	4498	143 566
A16V	2,485,161	2151	137 350
W6DAT	545,514	800	116 286
W7RN	3,632,970	2701	151 394
WC8VOA	85,554	233	58 136
W9MU	881,166	790	112 362
N0NI	3,534,195	2124	150 529
N0LJ/R	1,502,833	1124	128 431
K0DXC	46,452	163	52 106
VE7SV	4,425,987	4361	133 338
VE7GL	2,712,406	3377	113 270
Cayman Islands			
ZF1A	15,198,712	9981	148 564
Dominican Republic			
HI3A	18,467,722	10600	160 594
Montserrat			
VP2MSC	3,068,480	3340	104 342
Turks & Caicos			
VPSW	12,017,160	8350	139 509
U.S. Virgin Islands			
KP2M	10,082,510	7533	132 458
AFRICA			
Canary Islands			
EF8M	27,660,420	11849	171 678

D4C	Cape Verde	23,954,832	10894	161 631
CT9L	Madeira Islands	17,428,866	8836	146 553
ASIA				
Asiatic Russia				
RK9CWB		1,485	23	9 18
B7P	China	4,219,101	4036	134 375
B4B		420,510	1149	75 139
P3F	Cyprus	20,466,448	9377	163 629
JA1YPA	Japan	1,461,513	1914	104 217
JR1CBC		1,073,189	1229	127 276
JA6ZPR		1,026,033	1139	121 260
HSBAC	Thailand	1,456,320	1802	125 319
EUROPE				
Balearic Islands				
EASIB		14,179,922	9632	173 684
TS3J	Bosnia-Herzegovina	9,674,577	6625	184 685
OZSE	Denmark	3,729,890	3891	138 532
G5O	England	2,985,462	3609	117 432
RU1A	European Russia	9,424,382	6342	185 701
RK4WWF		1,312,850	2398	91 343
OF5Z	Finland	4,856,088	4700	153 579
F50DA	France	905,160	1976	94 286
DO4W	Germany	6,634,400	4719	165 635
DLBGS		5,440,680	4373	157 608
DLDAO		4,405,220	3297	149 591
DKDED		1,457,064	1798	103 401
DLOWH		476,280	727	88 290

IR4X	Italy	12,704,006	7316	179 719
GJ2A	Jersey	4,866,763	4736	134 537
LX7I	Luxembourg	8,286,410	6294	159 622
Z37M	Macedonia	8,601,198	6931	167 619
LA8G	Norway	101,702	297	52 189
CS5NRA	Portugal	388,877	1545	48 185
YU1ARC	Serbia	2,287,190	2795	118 403
S52ZW	Slovenia	5,803,138	4594	159 578
EE2W	Spain	8,790,136	7113	158 575
AM5R		5,387,556	5422	134 502
SK5M	Sweden	4,722,525	4643	144 551
HB9CT	Switzerland	6,621,460	5488	146 564
GW8GEI	Wales	2,228,490	3123	100 395
OCEANIA				
Hawaii				
KH5LC		8,379,000	6341	155 320
DX1DBT	Philippines	157,200	525	45 75
E51A	South Cook Islands	5,968,604	5452	140 248
SOUTH AMERICA				
Argentina				
LT1F		11,817,362	6588	161 501
HC8N	Galapagos Islands	28,736,800	11915	181 669
PJ2T	Netherlands Antilles	20,759,622	9741	160 607
PJ4A		20,715,138	10165	152 575

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER NORTH AMERICA				
United States				
W3LPL	13,939,191	6322	175 698	
K3LR	13,247,624	5782	179 705	
KC1XX	12,761,902	5982	171 667	
N04I	9,702,672	4969	167 637	
K1TTT	9,144,404	4583	162 640	
W2FU	7,830,540	4043	156 609	
NR4M	6,930,000	3770	158 592	
W3PP	6,239,482	3436	145 574	
K5GD	6,150,760	3566	163 607	
K81H	6,083,392	3324	151 583	
W4MYA	5,742,647	3027	153 590	
K8RF	5,443,026	3059	170 561	
W8AV	3,747,769	2226	147 550	
N6RO	3,554,880	3155	155 405	
W8AIH/9	2,350,135	1701	145 490	
KD1EU	1,583,225	1234	116 429	
W6UE	266,500	451	82 178	
Canada				
VE7UF	1,935,594	2411	106 276	
J3A	Grenada	15,100,800	9690	151 553
AFRICA				
Canary Islands				
ED8A	18,146,604	9296	147 551	
3X5A	Guinea	36,547,280	14642	181 699
ASIA				
Asiatic Russia				
RW8A	4,938,228	3913	142 470	
B1Z	China	4,441,444	4743	135 373
JASFDJ	Japan	10,362,375	5473	186 569
JA3YBK		9,627,104	5147	181 571
EUROPE				
Austria				
OE2S	7,840,938	6032	164 654	
LZ9W	Bulgaria	16,177,421	10816	186 737
RK4FWX	European Russia	812,040	1673	82 253

OF2BAH	Finland	1,236,563	1785	104 335
DF8HQ	Germany	13,115,189	8694	181 756
DR1A		11,909,092	7901	176 716
DK3W		1,283,927	1552	100 399
LY7A	Lithuania	5,508,506	5843	151 588
PH4Z	Netherlands	29,356	266	36 128
SK3W	Sweden	6,449,720	5778	156 610
UV2L	Ukraine	1,484,850	2264	116 405
OCEANIA				
Australia				
VK2ATZ		2,231,704	2498	102 230
KH7X	Hawaii	11,469,537	7127	178 413
CHECK LOGS				
The following logs were used as check logs. Check logs are always appreciated: 4Z5MU, 4Z8DT, AB3AI, B03BSV, D05KG, DF9KF, D95MM, D13RA, DK3RED, DL0XM, DL1DUJ, DL1KL0, DL1LRA, DL1RNT, DL1VRL, DL2WRJ, DL45VA, DL6AP, DL6DSA, DL7HT, DL7VAF, DL7VBJ, DL8WB, EA2RU, EA7GB, EW3WO, G0K0Z, G3RWL, G3UHU, HA1SN, HB9EP, HS0GBI, J4SKLN, J4DHC, J43YPL, JY4NE, K2QD, K400U, K8MI, K8BYK, LA4NE, LA4RT, LA8HGA, LA9Z, LY2BNL, LY3BY, LZ2RS, N0FW, N1NN, N5AU, N5ESA, N7UA, N9LF, N9SF, N9NW, N9XPX/W4, O60Z, O80MM, O81PY, O82BAI, O83WD, O85PT, O81DMP, O81DSU, O81KT, O81KW, O82DF, O82SG, O87RJ, OLSQ, OMAF, O87SS, OZ1TL, OZ7YL, PA8RB0, PH8AS, RA4HD, RA4NAJ, RA4UVK, RA6FV, RK3SWB, RL3DF, RL3WX, RL3ZZ, RN3AKK, RN8FK, RU1AT, RU8DI, RU8YY, RV3FU, RV3PN, RW0BG, RW3CW, RW6AF, RX6AY, RX9WN, RZ0AF, RZ30SN, RZ3FW, SF7WT, SJ4F, SK3PZ, SMSAPS, SM5ENX, SM5GMZ, SM6BSK, SP1DMD, SP2EXE, SP2FOV, SP3AMZ, SP4GOC, SP4KDX, SP5ELM, SP5ICS, SP6CZ, SP7CVW, SP7FGA, SP7GAO, SP7JLH, SP7XK, SP8AJK, SP8HKT, SP9CVY, SQ1BVG, SQ2DYL, SQ2GX0, SQ6MS, UA1AKE, UA1AUW, UA1OM, UA2FT, UA3AVR, UA3MNB, UA4NU, UA4WLI, UA9CCL, UA9CEP, UA9JJG, UA9MD, UN7TS, UT11WA, UT3NF, UT7WZ, UT8LO, UUBJC, UV3RT, UW7W, UX1IL, W5ZH, WS4C, YL2PJ, YL2TD, Y02GL, Y03FF, Y04AB, Y04DJ, Y06LV.				

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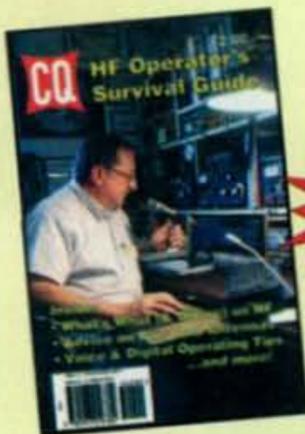
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Oops...

We had a city substitution in K8ZT's WPX crossword puzzle (July issue), which may have caused some head-scratching. What should have been Bucharest (in YO) appeared as Budapest (in HA), making for some clue confusion. We apologize for the error.

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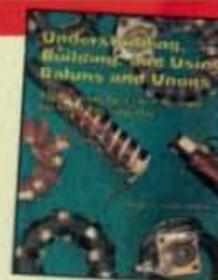
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our readers say

Making His Day... and Ours

Editor, *CQ*:

In the Dr. Haseltine interview article published in the April issue, Dr. Haseltine mentions a Lloyd Brubaker, WA6KZV, as one of his mentors. The attached letter to *CQ* was written by Lloyd's daughter Sherry, and she has asked me to send it on to you.

Harry Hodges, W6YOO

Editor, *CQ*:

My dad taught junior high science for 30-plus years. Besides science he also taught ham radio. The printing of the article on Dr. Eric Haseltine, AB3DI (April 2008) was a real "day maker" for Dad, right up there with ham radio calls followed by, "Mr. Brubaker, is that you?" Dad, the Lloyd Brubaker Eric had as a science teacher way back in junior high, has been sharing these kinds of success stories with his ham buddies, fellow teachers, and friends. "This," he says, "is what made teaching worth while."

Dad, now retired from teaching, has spoken of the fondly of his Haseltine students (dinner table conversation notwithstanding), stating that he always knew each would go on to be a success in their chosen field.

Thank you, for printing the article and making Dad's day.

Sherry Brubaker
Daughter of Lloyd Brubaker, WA6KZV

Those *CQ* Interviews

Editor, *CQ*:

Some hams can really be boring sometimes. I refer to those complaining about the excellent feature interview articles you have been doing with hams in senior positions. My favourite of these articles so far was the story on Mr. Scott Redd, who is burned into my memory banks as XE1IJ (was his mentor KH6IJ?) from my early operating years. These articles are probably the most interesting journalism that has appeared in any amateur radio magazine in recent years. The reason? They tell the human side of the story of successful hams who should be our role models instead of just talking about components and schematics. Keep using your gut to decide what is best to publish and don't always listen to what some readers say.

Murray Lycan, VE7HA/7J1AQH

And for a different point of view...

Editor, *CQ*:

I'm really surprised you published Jim Aguirre's comments (Our Readers Say, April 2008) on your chronic publishing of long interviews with government officials. I agree with Jim completely. These articles are too long, boring, and mostly irrel-

evant. I have nothing against the individuals you interview, but much of what you print has nothing to do with amateur radio. You could sum up such interviews in a quarter-page article and then use the saved space to talk about radio.

How about it? Can we see more articles on the technical and operational aspects of radio? ... Forget the useless narratives and gross generalizations that we see too much of in magazines like yours. Let's see some block diagrams, schematics, and photos of actual stuff for a change. Thanks for listening.

Whitham Reeve

RTTY vs. CW

Editor, *CQ*:

I love *CQ* magazine, however I want to comment on an article in the May edition: *CQ* WW RTTY DX Contest. There is nothing wrong with RTTY; however, did anyone forget that there are avid CW operators on (e.g.) 7.025 to 7.060 MHz? When these guys come on, they have no regard for us CW guys . . . since many of us non Extra Class operators are [barred from] the lower, lower ends of these bands, why can't these guys do their RTTY thing, say, from 7.050 up? Also, isn't it time that the FCC eliminates the lower end of the CW bands exclusively to Extras, since there is no longer a CW requirement? We need the room. I was hoping you guys could start a petition to the FCC to do that. I personally have no idea how to petition the FCC to make those changes so we all can have more room.

In summary, it's awful listening to big RTTY signals battling it out with CW guys during these many RTTY contests. By the way, I operate CW only!

Don Lampkin, WA2HMB

W2VU replies: It seems that operators of whatever mode is *not* having a contest on a given weekend object to the "interference" caused by operators participating in whatever contest it happens to be. All of our frequencies are shared, and it is the responsibility of all hams to make sure they are not interfering with other stations. While there are recommended "centers of activity" for certain modes, when activity rises above a certain level, people spread out. RTTY activity is legal on all CW subbands. A contest sponsor may suggest certain frequencies (we generally recommend compliance with established band plans) but it is impossible to enforce any limitations of the use of specific frequencies.

The Extra Class subbands have nothing to do with whether there is a code test. They are additional frequencies granted in recognition of the additional work a licensee has done to study and upgrade his/her license.

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Large TFT, Data Management Unit and Flash Memory Slot Built In. Main/Sub Receiver VRF, plus Full Dual Receive Capability, Three μ -Tuning Modules for 160 - 20 M, 50 V/12 A Internal Switching Regulator Power Supply.



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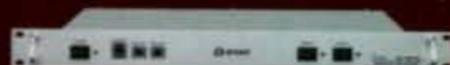
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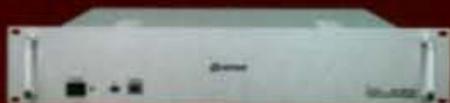


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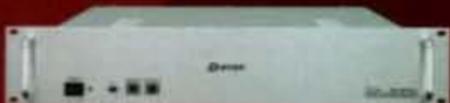
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