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Listen to the Future

RC-D710

The RC-D710 is a standalone 1200/9600 bps TNC with APRS firmware and now including SmartBeaconing™ Technology



KENWOOD
Listen to the Future

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TM-G707A



TM-V7A



TM-D700A

With the supplied accessories the RC-D710 is a full upgrade to the TM-V71A. The TM-V71A will have full functionality of the TM-D710A by exchanging the TM-V71A panel with the RC-D710.

This is where it gets interesting!

PG-5J connection kit makes the RC-D710 a complete standalone APRS/TNC for your current radio. This option allows connectivity with previous and current Kenwood models* as an external modem.

*Compatible models include: TM-D710A / TM-V71A / TM-D700A / TM-G707A / TM-V7A / TM-733A / TM-255A / TM-455A
SmartBeaconing™ from HamHUD Nichetronix

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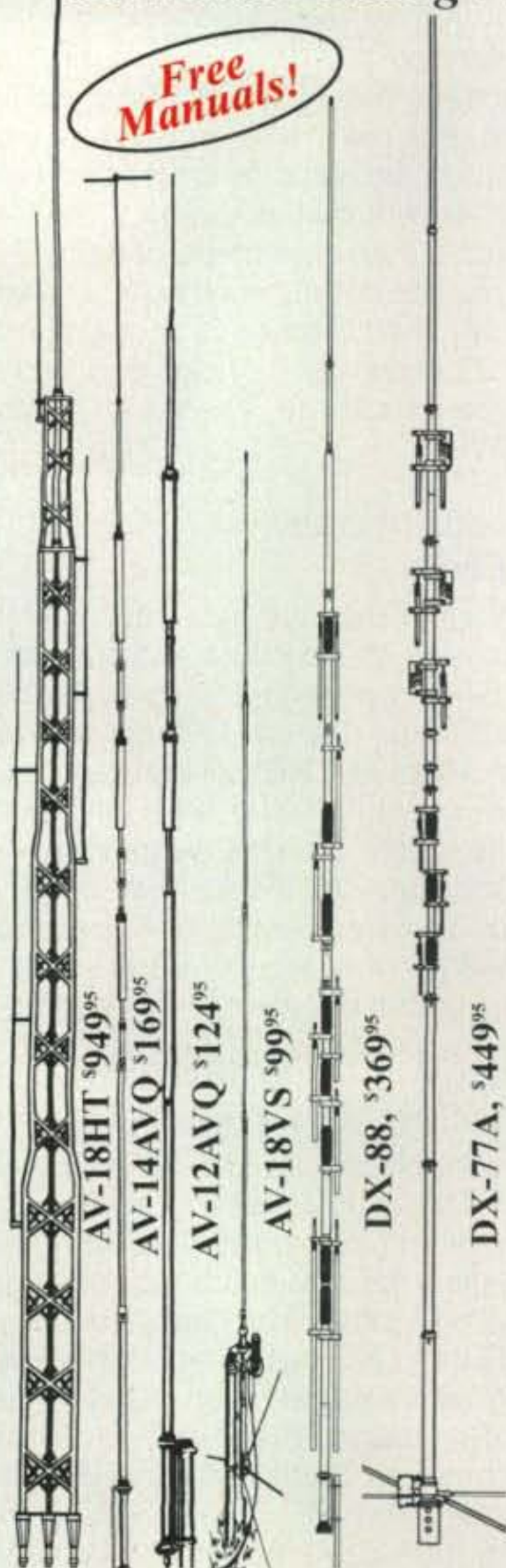


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Kenwood Corporation
ISO 9001 certification

hy-gain® HF VERTICALS

Self-supporting -- no guys required... Remarkable DX performance -- low angle radiation, omnidirectional... 1500 Watts... Low SWR... Aircraft quality aluminum tubing... Stainless steel hardware... Recessed SO-239 connect...

Free Manuals!



hy-gain® Classics

All hy-gain multi-band vertical antennas are entirely self supporting -- no guys required.

They offer remarkable DX performance with their extremely low angle of radiation and omnidirectional pattern.

All handle 1500 Watts PEP SSB, have low SWR, automatic band-switching (except AV-18VS) and include a 12-inch heavy duty mast support bracket (except AV-18HT).

Heavy duty, slotted, tapered swaged, aircraft quality aluminum tubing with full circumference

Two year limited Warranty...

compression clamps is used for radiators. Includes all stainless steel hardware. Recessed SO-239 prevents moisture damage. Hy-gain verticals go up easily with just hand tools and their cost is surprisingly low. Two year limited warranty.

AV-18HT, \$949.95. (10,12,15,20,40,80 M, 160, 17 Meters optional). 53 ft., 114 lbs.

Standing 53 feet tall, the famous Hy-Gain HyTower is the world's best performing vertical! The AV-18HT features automatic band selection achieved through a unique stub-decoupling system which effectively isolates various sections of the antenna so that an electrical 1/4 wavelength (or odd multiple of a 1/4 wavelength) exists on all bands. Approximately 250 kHz bandwidth at 2:1 VSWR on 80 Meters. The addition of a base loading coil (LC-160Q, \$109.95), provides exceptional 160 Meter performance. **MK-17, \$89.95.** Add-on 17 Meter kit. 24 foot tower is all rugged, hot-dip galvanized steel and all hardware is iridited for corrosion resistance. Special tilt-over hinged base for easy raising & lowering.

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 tilttable base. Each band independently tunable.

Hy-Gain 160-6 Meters Self-Supporting Vertical

Full 1500 Watts, 43 feet, includes base mount

New! AV-6160 Operate all bands 160-6 Meters at full 1500 Watt with this self-supporting, 43 feet high performance vertical!

\$399⁹⁵
UPS SHIPPABLE

It assembles in less than an hour and its low profile blends in with the sky and trees -- you can barely see it...

Exceptional Performance

The entire length radiates to provide exceptional low angle radiation 160-17 Meters and very good performance on 15-6 Meters. You can shorten it by telescoping it down for more effective low angle radiation on higher bands.

Just talk with automatic tuner!

An automatic or manual antenna tuner at your rig or your rig's internal auto-tuner easily matches this antenna for all band 160-6 Meters operation. There's no physical tuning adjustments on the antenna -- you simply put it up!

An optimized balun design allows direct coax feed with negligible coax loss (typically less than 1/2 dB with good quality, low-loss coax).

Extremely low wind loading

With just 2 square feet wind load, the AV-6160 has the lowest wind-loading and lowest visibility of any vertical antenna! The key is a nine foot section of 1/8" diameter stainless steel whip that flexes in strong wind instead of stressing the bottom sections. Its 2-inch O.D. and .120 inch thick walled tubing bottom section makes it incredibly strong.

Just 20 lbs., uses super-strong 6063 aircraft aluminum tubing. Stainless steel hardware.

Assembles in an hour

Ground mounting lets you hide antenna base in shrubbery. Requires ground system -- at least one radial. More extensive ground work better.

Stealth Operation

Low profile. Use as flagpole, hide behind trees, fences, buildings, bushes. Easily telescopes down during the day.



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

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 no guy	1.5-1.625"
DX-77A	\$449.95	10 - 80 M	1500 W PEP	29 feet	25 pounds	60 mph no guy	1.5-1.625"

hy-gain®
Antennas, Rotators & Towers
308 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759 USA
Toll-free Customer Sales Hotline: 800-973-6572
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<http://www.hy-gain.com>

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice or obligation. © Hy-Gain®, 2009.

CQ Buys WorldRadio Magazine

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, and *WorldRadio* publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, jointly announced in November that CQ Communications, Inc. had purchased *WorldRadio* and would be converting it to an online magazine. Noble said that, at age 74, the time had come to retire and he offered the magazine to CQ because "I wanted to be sure that *WorldRadio* found a good home and that our readers would continue to be served by an independent voice in amateur radio." Ross said that *WorldRadio* Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, would continue to edit the online edition, and that *WorldRadio* print subscriptions would be converted to CQ subscriptions. Details on subscription conversions are in the January issue of *WorldRadio* (still in print form) and on the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

IBM Gets Into BPL

Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL, got a big boost in November with IBM's announcement that it had set up a partnership with a small BPL provider to try to bring high-speed internet access to rural America over power lines, according to various news reports. Early BPL systems generated RF hash across the high-frequency (HF) spectrum, causing interference with hams and other shortwave radio users. ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, the League's resident expert on BPL, told the *ARRL Letter* that the system used by IBM's partner, International Broadband Electric Communications (IBEC), does not operate in the ham bands, so interference to amateurs is unlikely. In addition, said Hare, an IBEC staff member who is also a ham is a member of the ARRL's Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee. The IBM/IBEC plan is initially to sign up rural electric cooperatives in seven states for the service, rather than trying to compete with established broadband providers in urban and suburban areas. It is reported that 86% of the customers served by the cooperatives in the first part of the plan currently do not have the option of purchasing broadband connections from cable or phone companies.

PAVE PAWS Mitigation Enters Third Round

The FCC is making contact with the licensees of some 40 repeaters on the 70-centimeter band that have been identified as causing interference to an Air Force "PAVE PAWS" radar system in California. PAVE PAWS helps detect water-launched missiles and is in constant use on the 440-MHz band. According to the *ARRL Letter*, repeater owners will be provided with operating parameters that Air Force engineers have determined will eliminate or significantly reduce the interference from their systems, and will be expected to implement the changes as quickly as possible. The military is the primary occupant of the 70-centimeter band. Amateur radio's allocation there is secondary, and amateur stations may not cause interference to the primary occupants.

Aurora Rocket Research Planned

A professor at Oslo's Institute of Physics was planning to launch a sensor-filled rocket into the northern lights in late November or early December, trying to determine why airplanes flying through the auroral zone sometimes lose HF radio communications for several hours at a time. According to *Science Daily*, Professor J6ran Moen hoped to measure the electric fields and waves of the northern lights, as well as particles of low and high energy and fine structures in the electronic clouds of the aurora. As many hams already know, intense auroras can shut down HF communications while enhancing VHF communications. Professor Moen wants to find out *why*.

Garriott Says Thanks to Hams

Space tourist and video-game developer Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, said it was "an unexpected joy" to contact so many enthusiastic hams during his recent flight aboard the International Space Station. In a message delivered to AMSAT by his father, former astronaut and first ham-in-space Owen Garriott, W5LFL, Richard said, in part:

"On my recent flight I had the great opportunity to speak directly with and trade call signs with hundreds of hams around the globe. For me it was an unexpected joy to find so many enthusiastic hams, who were so well informed and interested in my activities in orbit... By late in my flight I had contacted many hundreds of hams by voice and I have good records of these contacts... I also contacted many hams who had listened to or contacted my father from space 25 years ago... I can only hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did. Thanks so much and 73, Richard, W5KWQ."

NASA Finds "Magnetic Portals" Between Sun and Earth

Approximately every eight minutes a "portal" opens between the magnetic fields of the sun and the Earth, allowing the transfer of tons of high-energy particles before it closes again. Those are the findings of two groups of satellites, NASA's five THEMIS craft and the European Space Agency's four Cluster satellites, presented recently at the 2008 Plasma Workshop in Huntsville, Alabama. According to NASA, these energy transfers are called Flux Transfer Events, or FTEs, and represent important conduits of energy for Earth's magnetosphere. The impact of these transfers was not discussed in the NASA news story.

NASA Searching for New Meteor Showers

A new computer-controlled camera at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center is detecting previously unknown meteor showers and automatically sending e-mails to researchers, telling them to come look at what it saw! The all-sky Sentinel camera was designed at the University of Western Ontario and has been modified by NASA for its studies. What the camera has found so far is that the so-called "September Perseids"—a minor shower appearing to originate from the constellation Perseus—isn't so minor after all. In the skies over Huntsville, Alabama this past September 9, the camera recorded more than two dozen fireballs brighter than Jupiter and Venus, some even casting shadows, according to NASA. A second camera has been added to try to determine the actual points of origin of the meteors that are detected. For more on this, see this month's "VHF Plus" column elsewhere in this issue.


Spanish Hams Get Brief Band Expansions on 160

Spain's national ham radio organization reports via the *ARRL Letter* that the country's regulatory authority is giving hams there temporarily expanded access to 160 meters during certain events. According to the report, Spanish hams were permitted to operate on 1810–1830 kHz and 1850–2000 kHz during the 2008 CQ World-Wide DX Contest, and will be allowed to do so again during the 2009 ARRL and CQ 160-meter contests as well as the 2009 King of Spain Contest. Hams in Spain were also granted temporary access, until April 25, 2009, to experimental areas on the 4-meter band, between 70.150 and 70.200 MHz.

(Continued on page 8)

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100 Watts 160-6m - Great for home or travel - General coverage receiver - High resolution, real time 96 KHz panadapter - Single Firewire connection - Computer required - ATU standard - High-end performance - Weighs only 7 lbs



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All in one SDR Solution - Same amazing radio as the FLEX-5000A - Just requires a monitor - Intel Core 2 Duo - Windows XP Pro installed - DVI interface - 1 Gigabyte of RAM - 160 Gigabyte hard drive - Wireless keyboard and mouse - Requires 13.8V DC - Internal speaker 7 watt audio amplifier - Optional transverter - Optional antenna tuning unit

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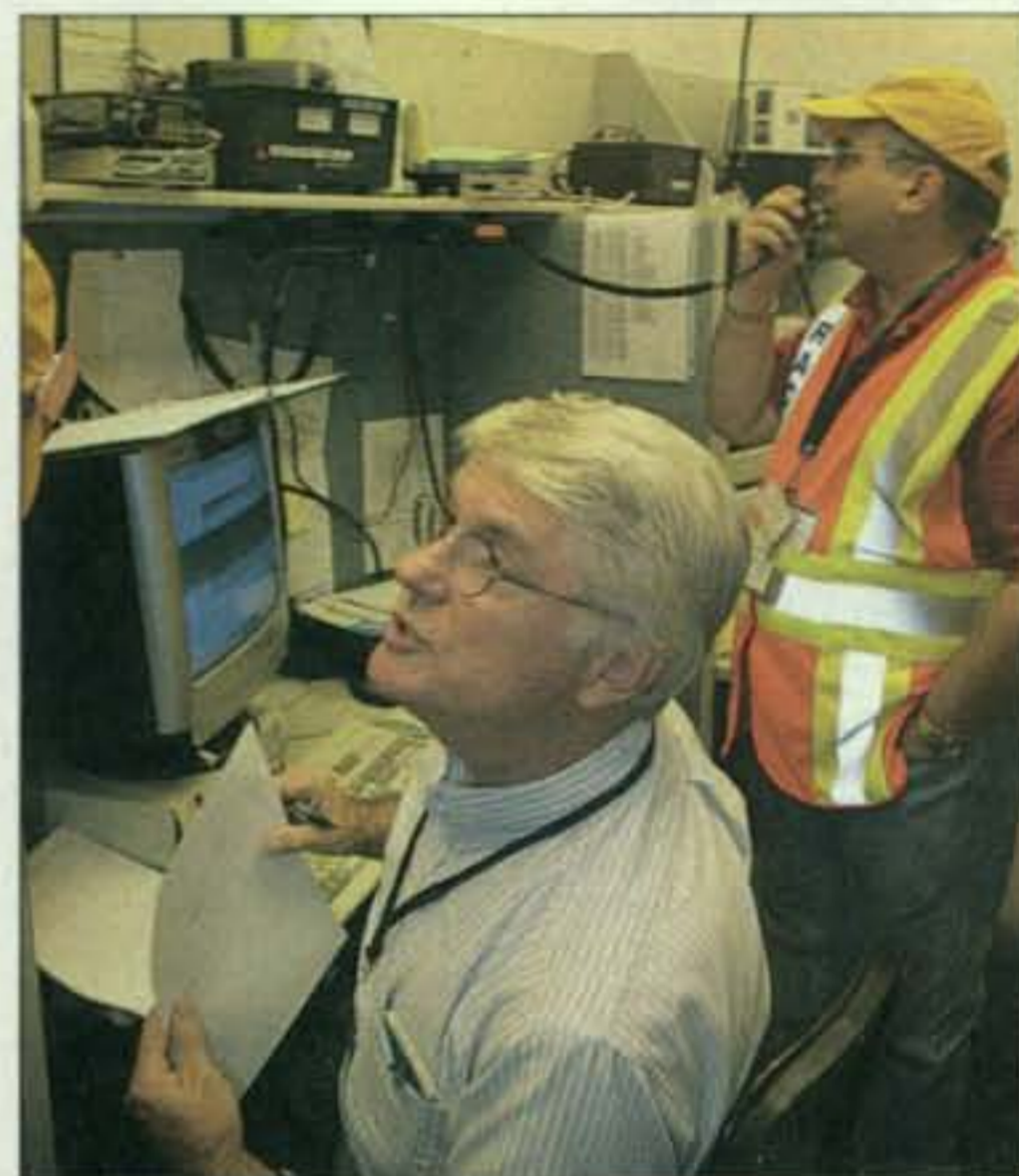
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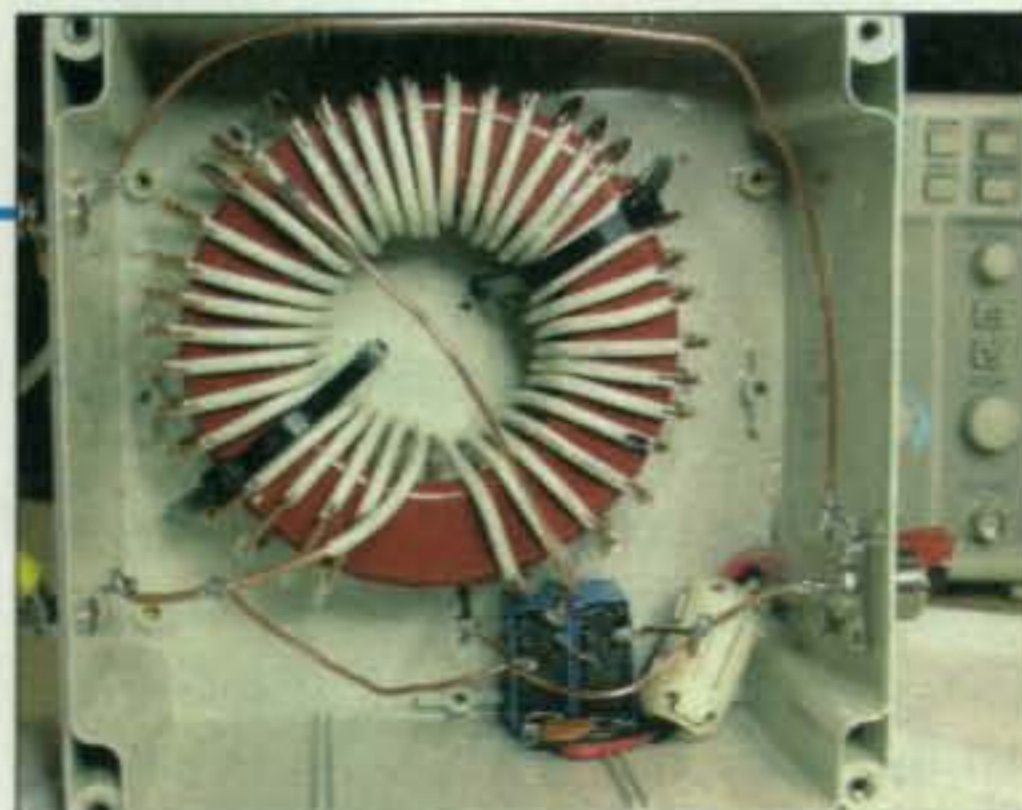
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Never before has a compact HT offered as many features, and such high powered performance as the TH-F6A. Arm yourself with one today and gain your own airwave superiority.

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- Receives 2 frequencies simultaneously even on the same band
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- FM/FM-W/FM-N/AM plus SSB/CW receive
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- Built-in charging circuitry for battery recharge while the unit operates from a DC supply
- Tough construction: meets MIL-STD 810 C/D/E standards for resistance to vibration, shock, humidity and light rain
- Large frequency display for single-band use
- Automatic simplex checker
- Wireless remote control function
- Battery indicator • Internal VOX • MCP software

¹Note that certain frequencies are unavailable. ²5W output

TH-F6A TRIBANDER



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Ride Cycle24 to the Top with Yaesu

The radio... FT DX 9000



Photograph depicts after-market keyboard, keyer paddle, and monitor, not supplied with transceiver. Display image simulated and may differ in actual use.

HF/50 MHz Transceiver FT DX 9000MP

Two Pairs of Meters, plus LCD Window; Data Management Unit and Flash Memory Slot Built In. Main/Sub Receiver VRF, plus Full Dual Receive Capability, External 50 V/24 A Switching Regulator Power Supply and Speaker with Audio Filters. Display color (Umber or Light Blue) may be selected at the time of purchase. Modification from 400 to 200 W not possible.



HF/50 MHz Transceiver FT DX 9000D 200 W Version

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



HF/50 MHz Transceiver FT DX 9000 Contest Custom-Configurable Version

Two Pairs of Meters, plus LCD Window, VRF Input Preselector Filter, Three Key Jacks, and Dual Headphone Jacks, 50 V/12 A Internal Switching Regulator Power Supply

Display color (Umber or Light Blue) may be selected at the time of purchase. Modification from 200- to 400-Watt version not available.

Loaded with Leading-edge Performance Capabilities...
The First Triumph in the 2nd Generation of the FT DX 9000 Lineage:
The Powerful FT-2000!



Shown with after-market keyboard, and monitor (not supplied).
Optional Data Management Unit (DMU-2000)



HF/50 MHz Transceiver FT-2000D 200 W Version (External Power Supply)



HF/50 MHz Transceiver FT-2000 100 W Version (Internal Power Supply)

"The Best of the Best Just Got Better"

Introducing the new FT DX 9000 Series with PEP-9000 and FT-2000 Series with PEP-2000 (Performance Enhancement Program)
Contact Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV at k7bv@vxstdusa.com for details

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Direct lineage from the legendary FT DX 9000 and FT-2000



HF/50 MHz 100 W Transceiver

FT-950

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- Eight narrow, band-pass filters in the RF stage eliminate out of band interference and protect the powerful 1st IF
- 1st IF 3 kHz Roofing filter included
- High-speed Direct Digital Synthesizer (DDS) and high-spec Digital PLL for outstanding Local Oscillator performance
- Original YAESU IF DSP advanced design, provides comfortable and effective reception. IF SHIFT / IF WIDTH / CONTOUR / NOTCH / DNR
- DSP enhancement of Transmit SSB/AM signal quality with Parametric Microphone Equalizer and Speech Processor
- 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)
- Optional Data Management Unit (DMU-2000) permits display of various operating conditions, transceiver status and station logging.
- 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 supplied).

COMPACT HF/50 MHz TRANSCEIVER WITH IF DSP



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

A superb, compact HF/50 MHz radio with state-of-the-art IF DSP technology configured to provide YAESU World-Class Performance in an easy to operate package.

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

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2009 Nominations 2009 Dayton Hamvention® Awards: Deadline for nominations for the 2009 Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, and Technical Excellence Awards is February 18. All amateur radio operators are eligible and the winners will be announced at the Hamvention®, May 15–17. Documentation that informs the Awards Committee of a candidate's accomplishments may include magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and videos. Additional details on the awards and a nomination form are available on the Hamvention® website. Nominations also will be accepted via mail to Dayton Hamvention® Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, OH 45401.

Straight Key Century Club Third Anniversary Special Event Station K3Y: 0000Z January 1 to 2359Z January 31 on 1.820, 3.550, 7.055, 10.120, 14.050, 18.080, 21.050, 24.910, 28.050, 50.090, and 144.070 MHz. All K3Y ops will be using straight keys, cootie keys, or bugs. For QSL mail QSL and SASE to Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 5408 Chillingham Place, Frederick, MD 21703. Working all ten call areas will earn the operator a certificate with SASE. For details: <www.skccgroup.com>.

The following hamfests, etc., are scheduled for January and early February:

Jan. 3, **18th Annual Morristown Hamfest**, Smoky Mountain Expo Center, White Pine, Tennessee. Contact June McClary, AI4SO, e-mail <ai4so@hughes.net>. (Talk-in 147.030+; exams 11 AM)

Jan. 3, **West Allis RAC Midwinter Hamfest/Swapfest**, Waukesha Co. Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, Wisconsin. Contact Phil Gural, W9NAW, phone 414-425-3649, or visit <www.warac.org>. (Exams 9–11:15 AM at AMF Waukesha Lanes across from Expo)

Jan. 17, **NCARC Winter Superfest**, Lincoln Center, Fort Collins, Colorado. Contact Matt Kassawara, KG0W, e-mail: <kg0w@arrl.net>, phone: 970-433-2123. (Talk-in 145.115 –/100 Hz; exams)

Jan. 17, **Southeast Louisiana ARC Hammond Hamfest**, University Center of SLU campus, Hammond, Louisiana. Contact Tyrone Burns, N5XES, e-mail: <n5xes@arrl.net>; phone: 985-351-8315; <www.selarc.org/selarchamfest>. (Exams 9:15 AM)

Jan. 18, **Hazel Park ARC Hamfest**, Hazel Park High School, Hazel Park, Michigan. Contact WD8S at e-mail: <WD8S@comcast.net>; phone: 248-399-7970; <www.hparc.org>. (Talk-in 146.640 [100 Hz PL])

Jan. 31, **Lockport ARA Hamfest**, South Lockport Firehall, Lockport, New York. Contact Dan Caswell, N2OBX, e-mail: <caswelld@verizon.net>; <http://lara.hamgate.net>. (Talk-in 146.820 [107.2 PL])

Feb. 1, **Northern Ohio ARS Winter*Ham*Fest**, Gargus Hall, Sheffield, Ohio. Contact Darlene Ohman, KA8VTS, e-mail: <dfohman@att.net>; phone: 216-398-8858; <http://www.noars.net/>. (Talk-in 146.70/10)

ham radio news (from page 2)

FCC Responds Quickly to ARRL Objection

An experimental license trying to determine the feasibility of using various HF frequencies to deliver digital radio broadcasting to Alaska was modified by the FCC the day after the ARRL complained it would cause significant interference in the 40-meter amateur band. The experimental license to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) originally authorized digital transmissions over a 500-kHz segment from 7.1–7.6 MHz, including the top 200 kHz of the 40-meter ham band. The ARRL filed objections and the following day, the FCC revised the license to permit transmissions only from 7.3–7.6 MHz.

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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Billy Williams, N4UF, CQ DX Award

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Andy Blank, N2NT, 160M Contest Dir.
Glenn Vinson, W6OTC, RTTY Contest Director

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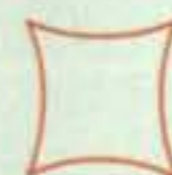
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Two of the **LIGHTEST** and **MOST COMPACT** Amplifiers in the Industry!



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600W OUT, Weighing only 22.5lbs.

HL-1.1KFX Lightweight HF Linear

This world-class compact HF amplifier has built-in switching mode power supply to save the weight. It is compatible with wide AC line of 100 to 250V, and is best suited for DX-peditioners.

Features

- The amplifier allows operation in full break-in CW mode due to the use of the amplifier's high speed antenna relays.
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Specifications

Frequency:
1.8 - 28MHz all amateur bands including WARC bands

Mode:
SSB, CW, RTTY

RF Drive:
75 - 90W

Output Power:
SSB 600W PEP max.
CW 600W.
RTTY 500W (5 minutes)

Final Transistor:
SD 2933 x 4
(MOS FET by ST micro)

Circuit:
Class AB parallel push-pull

Cooling Method:
Forced Air Cooling

Multi-Meter:
Output Pf 1kW, Reflected Power 100W, Drain Voltage Vd 60V, Drain Current Id 50A

Input/Output Connectors:
Type M-J (UHF SO-239)

AC Power:
1.4kVA max. when TX
AC 100 - 250V (Auto Select)

Dimensions:
9.1 x 5.6 x 14.3 inches (WxHxD)

Weight:
Approx. 22.5 lbs.



NEW!

To go with the popular Yaesu FT-817 series.

Compact 45W Power Amp.

HL-45B HF/50MHz 45W Linear Power Amplifier

Features

- HL-45B is a solid-state HF/50MHz band linear power amplifier with the maximum output power of 45W. Designed RF drive power is 5W.
- This amplifier is particularly designed for the use with popular portable radio of YAESU FT-817. When combined with FT-817, you can enjoy a unique and very comfortable feature of automatic band selection as well as send-receive switching, by connecting the amp and radio with the supplied special control cable.
- LED power level meter will always indicate the relative output power level for the convenience of the operator.

Specifications

Frequency:
HF Band (1.8 - 28MHz and 50MHz Amateur Bands)

Mode: SSB(A3E), CW(A1A), FM(F3E)

RF Output Power:
SSB (PEP)/CW 45W

RF Drive Power: 5W max.

DC Power: DC 13.8V, 8.5A max.

In/Out Impedance: 50Ω

In/Out Connectors: SO-239

Major Circuits and Functions:

1. Class AB wide band linear power amp
2. Automatic/manual switching output low pass filters
3. WARNG (Protection circuit) for over-voltage and over-drive
4. LED meter for indicating transmitting power level

5. Send-receive switching remote terminal
6. ALC

Final RF Power Transistor:
RD30HVF
(by Mitsubishi Electric) x 2

Accessory Parts:
DC Power cord (Red/Black) x 1
Coax jumper cable with PL-259 connectors x 1
Remote control cable for FT-817 x 1
Spare fuse 10A x 2

Dimensions:
150(W) x 47(H) x 211(D) mm
(5.9 x 1.9 x 8.3 inches)

Weight:
Approx. 1.6kgs. (3.4lbs.)

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Endings and Beginnings

January, as you probably know, is named for the Roman god Janus. As the patron of beginnings and endings, he is often depicted as looking backwards and forwards at the same time. This is an appropriate theme for this month, since we are not only starting a new year but a new chapter for *CQ* and for amateur radio magazines. Plus, of course, as Janus reminds us, every new beginning also represents an ending of something else.

WorldRadio

As you may have read on our website or elsewhere, we announced in November that our parent company, CQ Communications, Inc., has purchased *WorldRadio* magazine from its former publisher, Armond Noble, N6WR, who has decided to retire. Within the next couple of months, we will be converting *WorldRadio* from a print publication to an online publication. Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, will continue at its helm. So, while the print magazine that has been familiar to its readers for more than 38 years will be ending, we are looking forward to its new beginning as a fully-online magazine, right at the leading edge of the magazine publishing industry.

Our plan is to make the online version of *WorldRadio* freely available, with its subscribers receiving *CQ* magazine as well (details of *WR*-to-*CQ* conversions are on our website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadioConver.html>). Our current plan is to produce the magazine in .PDF format, making articles readily available for either reading online or for downloading and printing, whatever your preference. We will also set up an e-mail list (similar to the *CQ* e-news list) that will alert readers when the next issue is available and provide highlights of each issue's contents. This is an exciting time for us, and while there will most certainly be some technical glitches along the way—since we'll be learning the process as we go along—we are looking forward to both the challenges and opportunities that this new beginning for *WorldRadio* represents.

Of course, this month also marks the beginning of a new administration in Washington. It remains to be seen how ham-aware and ham-friendly the new President will be, or how his administration's policies play out at the FCC. Generally speaking, though, amateur radio is far enough down the priority list that it rarely even appears on the presidential radar. It only appears on the FCC commissioners' radar when we start making noise about something ... such as the Commission's apparent abandonment of amateur radio enforcement efforts after the retirement of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, last July. It is something we need to keep making noise about until there is action.

Enforcement Follow-up

The early feedback from last month's editorial calling on the FCC to get back into the amateur radio enforcement business and to quickly name a successor to Hollingsworth has been quite interesting, and mostly positive. Some readers have pointed out that Riley's efforts resulted in very few actual license revocations, massive fines, etc., as opposed to "negotiated settlements" in which people agreed to change their behavior or stay off certain bands for a set period of time rather than facing long and drawn-out proceedings that



accompany formal enforcement actions. They saw this as evidence of ineffectiveness. We disagree. The goal here was not so much to punish people for breaking the rules as to get them to change their behavior and to once again become respectable, law-abiding members of the amateur community. In that regard, Riley was incredibly effective, since behaviors did change and the instances of "things I wouldn't want my kids to hear" on the ham bands dropped off dramatically. Unfortunately, much of that has returned in the face of the Commission's failure so far to name a successor. We remain concerned that without a public face to connect with amateur enforcement, and particularly with the complete absence of amateur enforcement actions, or even "call me to talk" letters, all the improvements we have seen in the past ten years will quickly be lost.

Back to Janus

Before we leave Janus behind for another year, I want to mention a couple of additional endings and beginnings in the *CQ* "family." *CQ* RTTY Contest Director Glenn Vinson, W6OTC, has turned the reins of our two radioteletype competitions over to Ed Muns, WØYK. In his eight years at the helm, Glenn has guided the growth of the *CQ* WW RTTY DX Contest and the *CQ* WW WPX RTTY Contest into the world's most popular RTTY events. We thank Glenn for his service and his dedication to RTTY contesting. Ed is a championship RTTY contester himself. He's a retired computer engineer and now works full-time running the California vineyard he started in 1998. We look forward to working closely with Ed. It should be noted that Glenn's original plan was to turn the contests over to Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, who had been his co-director for the past several years, a plan that was short-circuited by Paolo's untimely passing last October. We also thank Ed for stepping in to fill the resulting void.

Finally, "Weekender" editor Phil Salas, AD5X, has decided he would like to devote more time to operating than to tinkering, especially as the new sunspot cycle starts showing some signs of life, so this month's column is his last. We would like to continue the "Weekender" column, as homebrewing is not only a ham radio tradition but an activity that takes on greater importance in a bad economy. If you, or someone you know, is an inveterate tinkerer who not only can come up with simple, useful weekend projects, but can also write about them clearly and succinctly, we'd like to hear from you.

All the best to you and yours for a happy and healthy new year from all of us here at *CQ*. 73, Rich, W2VU

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T-2XD
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with DCU-1

CD-45II

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\$449⁹⁵

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

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

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

HAM-V

HAM-V
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with DCU-1

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



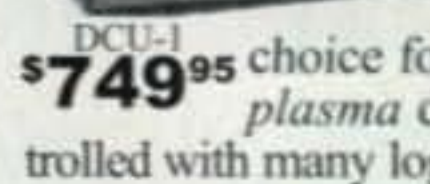
For medium antenna arrays up to 15 square feet wind load area. Similar to the HAM IV, but includes DCU-1 Pathfinder digital control unit with gas plasma display. Provides automatic operation of brake and rotor, compatible with many logging/contest programs, 6 presets for beam headings, 1 degree accuracy,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

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



Wind load capacity (inside tower)	25 square feet
Wind Load (w/ mast adapter)	not applicable
Turning Power	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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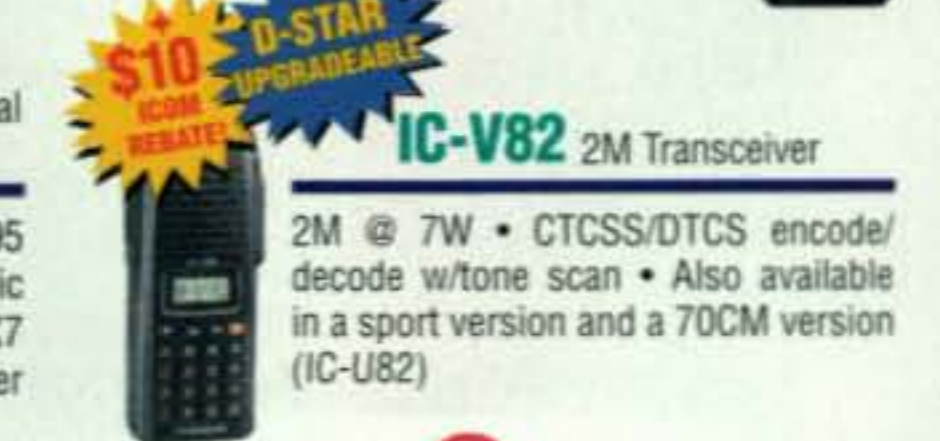
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CQ Interviews:

John Kanzius, K3TUP “Always Pushing the Envelope”

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

When I spoke with John Kanzius this past January, he was waiting for a *60 Minutes* crew to come talk with him for a piece that aired nationwide in April. He'd already been in newspapers all over the country. In fact, he first came to our attention about two years ago, when *Reader's Digest* listed him among “America's 100 Best” for 2006, under the category of “best brainstorm”—a totally new approach to fighting cancer.

In case you've missed all of this, here's the main story: John, a retired broadcast executive and K3TUP, was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia soon after his retirement in 2002. After suffering through multiple rounds of chemotherapy, and watching kids with cancer do the same, he had a brainstorm at 3 o'clock one morning—figure out a way to “tag” cancer cells with metallic particles that would heat up in the presence of a strong RF (radio frequency) field and kill the cancer cells while leaving nearby healthy cells unaffected. The metal particles, he explained, essentially act as receiving antennas for the RF energy. He cut up some of his wife's pie plates to use as chassis, raided the freezer for some hot dogs, and headed to the ham shack, where he tried a crude experiment ... that worked. His method, now refined, has been published in the journal



John Kanzius, K3TUP, at his winter home in Florida. John's 100-watt transceiver and 33-foot vertical there keep him on the air, but with a different perspective from when he had a contest superstation at his Erie, Pennsylvania QTH. (Photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

*Cancer*¹, and is undergoing tests at two major medical centers with promising results. Oh, and in the process, he may have discovered a way to use the same method to get energy out of salt water, one of the most abundant resources on the planet.

But there's more to John's story, especially from a ham radio perspective. So, to steal a line from *The Sound of Music*, we'll “start at the very beginning (it's a very fine place to start...)”

And as is so often the case, it started with ham radio...

Field of the Future

“I got my ham license back in 1959, I believe,” John told us, “and my dad (Sil Kanzius, W3NRE, licensed in 1933) thought at that time that electronics would be the field of the future to get involved with, and I liked building transmitters and receivers and so forth. I

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John in his contest station back in 1990 when he was profiled in CQ by Contest Editor John Dorr, K1AR.

always liked transmitters. I went to two years of a technical school for electronics, got a job at RCA, and was the first person at RCA who actually got accepted into their engineering department for AM and FM, TV—their whole band of television transmitters—without a degree.”

There’s a story there, of course, and it has to do with his ham skills, of course...

“I was assigned to work with Ralph Harmon, who RCA hired (away from) Westinghouse broadcasting, on a differential phase problem,” John explained. “A differential phase was occurring on the high channels of the new RCA transmitter lines, and what happens with differential phase is the color shifts from red, or from black to white, and instead of having a true color red for instance, that would be red with a light color red for the bright colors ... instead of that staying a true red, it would start to turn a different color. And RCA had (a couple of lawsuits) because their transmitters would not meet the differential phase regulations of the FCC, which at that time was 1–10% and most of these transmitters had a differential phase of 15–17%. Anyway, Ralph Harmon asked me to get a transmitter ready for him, a brand new one, up in the test area. He said, ‘You and I are going to be working on this together probably for a long time,’ because they had been working on it for a couple of years with PhDs over in Camden (RCA’s technical headquarters). So I cleaned it up and got the vector scope

and looked at the differential phase and sure as heck, it was like 14, 15 degrees, and well, I had the rest of the afternoon, so I thought I may as well screw around and see what I could see. Probably in about 15 minutes I figured out it was occurring in the cathode of the driver of the transmitter. It was a driver tube that put out 5000 watts; it drove the final amplifier, and it looked like it was in the cathode. Knowing that the cathode was inductive, I got a small capacitor and ... put it on the cathode ring and tuned it to ground and tuned out the reactance and the differential phase went from 14, 17 degrees down to 2 degrees. I went down and got Ralph Harmon, who was still working in his office putting pictures on his wall, and said, ‘You know, Mr. Harmon, I think I got this fixed already.’ And he said, ‘What!?’ and so he came up and looked at it and said, ‘Holy smokes, that is amazing.’ So to make a long story short, they had a big meeting and sent their top engineers from RCA up to make the modification that I had developed that afternoon, on a Friday afternoon, and on Monday morning, the lawsuits were dropped.”

John also found himself with a new job, as Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President of RCA’s communications division, traveling the country as a high-powered troubleshooter. Even as a young man, though, the travel quickly lost its glamour.

“I had a chance to meet engineering directors, television managers, chief engineers, and so forth,” he recalled, “and after about eight months of travel-

ing, I thought, ‘these guys at the broadcast stations have a better life than I do, going to lunch and having a crew there, and they don’t have to worry about traveling and going out in the middle of the night looking for problems, where there are rattlesnakes and every darn thing.’ Now at the same time, RCA told me they were going to pay for me to get an engineering degree, and I had signed up at the University of Pittsburgh. One of the things I picked up at the broadcast stations was that there was a trade magazine called *Broadcasting*. I subscribed to *Broadcasting* and saw that there was a new UHF station being built in Erie, Pennsylvania, which was about 125 miles north of Pittsburgh, or from Washington, Pennsylvania, where I was living, and where RCA had their big plant and metal labs. And I called up there and it just happened that the owner at that time was going to be in Pittsburgh the night that I was going to have some classes. So I skipped the classes, had dinner with him, and the rest is sort of history. I became his Chief Engineer, Director of Engineering, Executive Vice President, and eventually owned part of the broadcast company, that was in 1980, and became President in 1982. So that’s my career pretty much for you.”

Always Pushing the Envelope

Throughout his career, John said, he was always trying to make things better. “I had my radio stations and television stations, but was always trying to find ways to improve those stations, and I’d buy an AM station that was a 500-watt daytimer and figure out how to re-engineer it to get it up to 5000 watts fulltime, if possible. So always, even with the broadcast properties, I did everything I could to optimize those, whether it be the first color station; we had the second live broadcast out of China for a local television station and that was unheard of in the ‘80s for a small market TV station to do a live shot out of China. When Tom Ridge, the Homeland Security Director, who was still a (Pennsylvania) Congressman, went back to Vietnam, I sent a camera crew with him in the ‘80s, did a live shot to open up our 11 o’clock news from Bangkok, Thailand. ... When Pope John Paul became the new Pope, Erie had a high population of Polish and Italian immigrants, so I sent a camera crew to his hometown in Poland and then on to Rome. ... On the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, we had a camera crew at Pearl Harbor. Always pushing the envelope, and for television news and news ratings, our television station in Erie had more people watching it at 6 o’clock than all the other stations com-

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bined. We took it from a poor number three to the news leader in that market. I think it still ranks number one, even though we sold it a number of years ago."

It was also through his TV stations that John had his initial first-hand exposure to kids suffering through debilitating diseases. "We did a lot of work with muscular dystrophy with one of our TV stations, and carried the muscular dystrophy telethon from the '70s," John said, "and I got a chance every year to meet all the young MDA kids at the national level by going to the Jerry Lewis Telethon. Knowing that those kids with muscular dystrophy would never walk and probably would never get well, I had a taste of young kids suffering from a long time back, before I got diagnosed with cancer. And then, seeing young kids again, with different types of blood disorders and cancers and so forth while I was getting my own treatments, I'd watch them prepare for chemo or stem-cell transplants or whatever they were getting treated for. I thought, man, these young people have more than one disease to worry about. They've got cancer to worry about, which I'd never thought much about. But ... I looked at myself, and said you've had a full life, you've been in the broadcast business, you've met a lot of people, you've done a lot of interesting things, and there's a lot of people who died younger than you, but these young kids, they don't have a chance—six, eight years old—they've never looked at life, they've never had a chance to live, and it was through that whole process that I got a chance to revisit young kids being sick and that's not a great experience."

The Brainstorm

It was that experience, though, and his desire to help ease children's suffering, that spurred John to his now-famous 3 AM brainstorm. We noted that most of the media reports on his breakthrough were non-technical, for obvious reasons, and asked if he could give us a slightly more technical explanation for a ham audience without giving away any trade secrets.

"I can tell you how it works," he assured us. "The idea was to try to establish a high energy field that didn't have a lot of current in it, that perhaps would cause an instability of microparticles or nanoparticles ... and my thought was to find a frequency that, with a few hundred watts, up to a thousand watts, could pass through a human and you wouldn't feel anything. The 13.56 (MHz) that I ended up using was one of those frequencies ... (M)y thought was to create a very high energy field that perhaps the atoms, in

particular, the electrons of an atom, would become unstable and produce heat, either by friction—within dipolar action within water—just plain friction, or whether or not it might be a shifting of the electrons from the 'l' ring to another ring, and actually having a shift within electrons within an atom or a molecule."

"The first substance that I used was copper sulfate," John explained, "and I was able to inject that into some hot dogs and different types of organs from fresh-cut animals that I could get at the supermarket. You know, being on chemo and being deathly sick at the time, it was really difficult to inject that stuff and even smell the odors of the stuff when you're nauseous and not feeling well, but I built the thing and developed a tremendous voltage field and, in fact, the people at Rice University have looked at this device and the voltage field that's created, and they've never seen anything quite like it, that much voltage within an open-air circuit. But I did that by having a very, very high-Q circuit, and that was the thought behind it, to achieve the highest Q possible. I injected the copper sulfate into the (hot dog and) lo and behold, the areas of injection would actually heat and start to give off steam, and the rest of the meat would remain at room temperature. It was at that point that I knew I had something that might work."

Kanzius filed a patent on the process in 2004 and the local newspaper ran a story on it that caught the attention of Dr. David Geller, the co-director of the liver transplant division at the University of Pittsburgh. "People with cancer from Erie were bringing the newspaper stories down to him and saying, 'what is this new device?' I had dinner with him and (he) read the patent. He said, 'this is one of the most amazing things I've ever read,' and wanted to know whether they could get a device built and that they would like to be part of testing this on animals. That's how the thing got started."

Enter the Nanoparticle

What John didn't know at the time was that researchers in various places were looking into the use of something known as "nanoparticles" as agents to deliver treatments directly to cancer cells. These are metallic particles so small that according to John, you can fit 75,000 to 100,000 of them across a tip of hair. "A cell can hold 10, 15, 20,000 nanoparticles," he said. "One of the things we're trying to find out is, do we really need that many nanoparticles within a cell? What's the minimum

amount that you need? Is it 300 per cell? Is it 1000?"

"There are a lot of research centers trying to use nanoparticles ... to deliver to the cancer sites radioisotopes, chemotherapy and so forth," John explained, including those at Rice University and the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center of The University of Texas. The next step came when John's doctor brought them all together. "My personal doctor down there knew Rick Smalley, the fellow who created nanoparticles (and who was, ironically, a cancer patient himself) and got a friend of his, Steve Curley, who actually developed the current invasive treatment, to get a hold of me."

There's a difference, though, says John, between what they've been doing and what he is doing. "They're trying to use the nanoparticles as the delivery system for standard chemotherapy or standard radioisotope treatment. In my case, I am trying to deliver the nanoparticles because they are the silver bullet, and they're what I've built that kills the cells, and that is a little cleaner because there's no chemotherapy being applied to someone's body and there's no radiation being applied to somebody's body, so if the nanoparticles can get in there and literally be heated externally from the body... then there's no toxicity."

Dr. Steve Curley from M. D. Anderson came up to the University of Pittsburgh carrying some vials of carbon nanoparticles from the Smalley Lab. He told John that "Smalley told him, 'Steve, there's zero chance of these working, but to humor you, go ahead and take as many as you want; it's never going to work.' And when we put 'em in the device in the field up at the University of Pittsburgh, not only did they heat, they literally came out of solution and looked like carbon again. I mean they just turned into solid pieces. And at that point, Rick Smalley became a huge proponent of this and said, 'My God, this will change the treatment of cancer and other diseases forever.' On his deathbed, he told everybody that they need to work on this thing to take it further."

Indeed, it has been taken further. In an article published in the December 2007 issue of *Cancer*, a team of researchers from M. D. Anderson and Rice University (John is also listed as a co-author) explained in great technical detail an experiment in which nanoparticles were injected into a rabbit with cancer. The nanoparticles attached themselves to the cancer cells, and as John explained it, "within two minutes—in this particular case, we used carbon

nanoparticles—within two minutes, the tumors were totally necrosed, totally eradicated, there was no sign of any tumor cells after they euthanized the rabbits. It took two minutes and there were no side-effects. And that's about as good as you can get, in any treatment, to kill the cancer 100%, not have any side-effects to the animals, and the brevity of time was just amazing. Now they have switched to gold nanoparticles—gold is already FDA-approved—and the gold nanoparticles heat just as well as the carbon nanoparticles.”

“(There is) very little attached to these gold nanoparticles,” John added. “Twenty to 30 pieces of information so that you attach two or three different ‘targeting molecules.’ Targeting molecules are the antibodies that ... would deliver the gold nanoparticles after injection in your arm. They would take the nanoparticles to the particular cancer site, attach to the cancer cells at their nuclei, and once put in the field, the nanoparticles begin to heat rapidly. They release a lot of heat. The phrase is actually ‘releasing heat.’ They don’t heat; they *release* heat, and that is the real operative term. They release heat and they release heat up to three or four hundred degrees centigrade, and stick within themselves. It takes only 60 degrees to kill a cancer cell so it can never divide again. Once exposed to 60 degrees centigrade, a cancer cell is dead forever. So we have plenty of headroom here, with these things being able to heat up to three, five hundred degrees centigrade.”

John also notes that while most of the work so far has been done at 13.56 MHz, there is nothing magical about that frequency. “It’ll work at 2 MHz, it’ll work at 13, it’ll work at 27, it’ll work at 54,” he explained. “In a lot of the applications that we envision, it might be preferable to have two frequencies, transmitted at the same time, perhaps even pulsed, based upon where the cancer is, because some cancers are very deep into the visceral area, and the outside of the cancer might be 3 cm below the surface. The other one might be 10 cm below the surface. You may want to shoot that at two different frequencies from two different angles to make sure you get uniform heating throughout the tissue.” Amazingly, he adds, the process does not require a lot of power. “The nanoparticles will heat fine at 30 to 40 watts, which is unique. The voltage that’s developed is in the thousands of volts (but the current is very low). To heat the nanoparticles is a voltage phenomenon.”

John notes that M. D. Anderson is “the

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only place in the world where an infrared microscope is being used to look at nanoparticles within a cell, and you can actually see one nanoparticle within a cell. It's pretty interesting. It's sure far from a hot dog to an infrared microscope in a lab down there." Work there continues and Dr. Curley says he hopes to be able to begin human trials within two to three years.

Parting the Sea (Water)

A not-yet-understood offshoot of Kanzius's process was discovered by accident as a result of a visit to the University of Pittsburgh by Gary Mar, who was then Canada's Minister of National and International Provincial Affairs. John explained that Canada has universal health care as well as a big nanoscience center in Alberta, and was interested in getting involved with the research. He says Mar watched a demonstration and "he saw the instantaneous heat, and the heat gave off so much steam that he saw the steam coming down the side of the test tube walls, and he said, 'Man, have you guys ever thought about desalinization? You could make some steam from salt water quickly with this thing.'"

Well, initial efforts at desalinization did not work, but when test tubes of salt water were put into the RF field, *the water caught fire and burned!*

"Where that's going to go, I have no idea," says John. "That is not something that I had planned on." This new aspect of John's invention caught the attention of Dr. Rustum Roy of Penn State University, who is founder of both the school's Materials Research Laboratory and its Science, Technology, and Society program. John says Roy is considered the world's foremost authority on water, and that he (Roy) "claims this is going to be the biggest find, ever, in the use of water, for not only perhaps energy but for other things."

After observing the process both in Kanzius's lab and in his own, Dr. Roy released a statement saying that "(i)t is clear that Mr. Kanzius has demonstrated the ability to dissociate aqueous solutions of sodium chloride at normal sea water concentrations into hydrogen and oxygen," and noted that "it is the hydrogen and oxygen (emerging from the water) which are being burned" in videos that have been shown on TV and on YouTube, "not the water or NaCl (salt)."

Kanzius says he has signed a collaboration agreement with Penn State to work together on exploring the process, in which he says the molecu-

lar bond between the hydrogen and oxygen in the water is broken, releasing huge amounts of energy. "I've been privileged to see some of the earlier work that's been done there," says John, "and they're already generating new intellectual property with this device and with salt water, trying to get a jump on the rest of the world, so that the Russians and the Chinese and the Japanese don't beat 'em to it."

Basement Inventors

I pointed out to John that his experience seemed to fly in the face of the common wisdom in recent years that the day of the solitary inventor working in his basement or garage is over and that invention today is the province of highly-paid researchers in big companies. His response was that the perception itself is false.

"You know," he said, "in talking to a Steve Curley at M. D. Anderson, who has been in research for 20 years, or Rustum Roy, who has been in research for probably 50 years, they tell me that more inventions—particularly the large inventions—still come out of somebody like myself, and they see it all the time. It's one or two guys in their garage or in their basement who come up with these ideas that will work. And I guess if I was educated to 'know' that nanoparticles would not heat in a radio frequency field, then I never would have tried it. Not just nanoparticles, but microparticles—copper sulfate. It was taught in a formal setting such as Rice University by a guy like Rick Smalley that you never could heat these things, so why would you ever try it? So sometimes not having that knowledge is a little more useful than having it."

You didn't know it was impossible, I asked, so you went ahead and did it anyway?

"Yeah," John replied, "and then, of course, after I did it (the experts were) able to put the science and the math to it and say, 'Hm, here's why it happens, and why the heck didn't we think of it?'"

I also asked John if he had thought of himself as an inventor before all this started. He responded that he still doesn't. "I'd never considered myself an inventor. I considered myself an experimenter, a guy who liked to experiment with antennas, built stacked antennas over in Erie, Pennsylvania, and was always playing around with antennas, trying to get more signal and better performance out of a ham radio station. So I would consider myself an experimenter but not truly an inventor."

About Those Stacked Antennas...

That, of course, brings us back around to ham radio. "I was very big into contesting in the '80s and '90s," John recalls. "In fact, I had quite an antenna farm in Erie, Pennsylvania and had people like (Tim Duffy) K3LR and (Randy Thompson) K5ZD, different people, come out to Erie and operate as guest operators and win some contests from both CQ and the ARRL from (my station). And then I had a big ham bash golf tournament every year that I put on for hams around the country, and Bob Cox (K3EST) would come to some of these. I would have a special guest speak, people from ARRL and so forth. And I did those until I retired, so I did those for seven or eight years, nine years ... Even though I was in radio and television, ham radio was a time that I could come and do what I really wanted to do, and that was experiment and try to achieve a better signal and so forth. It was just something that I enjoyed ... didn't have the time for it but I sure enjoyed it."

I noted that CQ Contesting Editor John Dorr, K1AR, profiled K3TUP back in 1990 and described the 140-foot rotating tower that John had at the time. I asked him if he still had that.

"No, actually that's over at K8AZ's right now," he replied. "We decided to build a house in around 1992 or so, different QTH, and there was no room for rotating towers but I put up three 300-foot self-supporters at the new location and really set up a nice contest station there, except 5¹/₂, 6 years later, the leukemia came and that was the end of my contesting."

John continued, "I still get on and make a few contacts during the contests down here in Florida, where I have a winter home ... I really get a chance to operate with a 33-foot vertical and can load that up on different bands by screwing around with some top-loading and so forth, but it sure gives me an idea of what a regular ham station operates like. You know, you don't go into a pile-up and call and become the second or the first guy somebody answers, but I still enjoy operating. In fact, I've been on most of the weekend, even though conditions aren't good, trying to eke out a few contacts here and there."

Kanzius added that his work in broadcasting gave him the opportunity to give something back to the hobby. "Being in the broadcast business, you know, we're talking about communication and so ham radio just seemed to be a natural extension to come home to and make a few

contacts and get to know people around the country and around the world. I was able to use the TV station facilities to provide some services to ham radio, too, to tape for hams, programs that I did for nothing, and that was a value, to be a licensee of a broadcast station, to actually highlight the main hobby that I had, and I enjoyed doing that."

John credits his early and ongoing involvement with ham radio as being the foundation of his career and even for his latest accomplishments involving the possible cancer treatment. "If I wasn't in ham radio as a teenager ... and I think I've been in ham radio for 50 years now, I wouldn't have gotten into electronics ... If I didn't have the electronic knowledge, I wouldn't have gone to RCA, I would not have gone to the broadcast business, and who knows what (path) my career would have taken. ... So it influenced my whole career, and as I've told some of the major networks and newspapers, even if I had this idea about sending a signal to superheat cancer cells ... with some kind of an antenna or whatever you want to call it, inside the cells, if I wasn't in ham radio, I wouldn't have had the equipment inside my house to even experiment with that. Having the equipment, the oscilloscopes, the wattmeters and so forth, and all the parts necessary to try to build an in-house coupling system, it was doable. So that's the story of the pie pans at 3 o'clock in the morning when I was looking for a chassis to build some circuits, I had everything I needed except some specific hardware, which my wife had! But I had the coils and ... I had bolts, nuts, coil forms, and so forth, and without ham radio in my house, my project never would have been developed."

Read More Online

For additional details from John about the salt water experiments and his views on ham radio's continuing role in science and technology today, see "Digging Deeper with John Kanzuis, K3TUP," on the CQ website. Go to our home page at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>, click on the cover for this issue, and then click on the "Digging Deeper" link.

Notes

1. The abstract of the *Cancer* journal article is available online at <<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/116834125/abstract>>. The full text is also online but must be purchased. Information on purchasing access to the article is available from the abstract page by clicking on "full text."

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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



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**



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



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**



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**



NEW! KT-100

The new KT-100 Autotuner fills a need for Kenwood transceiver owners after Kenwood discontinued the Kenwood AT-300 antenna tuner. The KT-100 is a flexible, low cost, easy to use unit just right for an AT-300 compatible Kenwood transceiver. Of course, most any LDG tuner will work just fine with a Kenwood transceiver, but wouldn't it be great if you could use that Tune button on the radio. The KT-100 allows you to do just that as LDG's first dedicated autotuner for Kenwood Amateur transceivers.

The LEDs on the front panel indicate tuning status, and will show a match in seconds, or even less if you've tuned on or near that frequency before. The KT-100 has 2,000 memories for instant recall of the tuning parameters for your favorite bands and frequencies.

If you have an AT-300 compatible Kenwood radio, you can simply plug the KT-100 into your transceiver with the provided cable; the interface powers the tuner, and the Tune button on the radio begins a tuning cycle. The supplied interface cable makes the KT-100 a dedicated tuner for most modern Kenwood transceivers. **Suggested Price \$199.99**

Call or visit your favorite dealer today!

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1445 Parran Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685
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LDG

Results of the 2008 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

BY RANDY THOMPSON,* K5ZD

On the weekend of March 29 and 30, 2008, over 41,000 amateur radio callsigns were active in the 50th running of the CQ World-Wide WPX SSB Contest. Conditions weren't the best, but that didn't prevent participants from breaking score records or having lots of fun.

The sun tried to do its part to help, with the solar flux approaching the 80s, but conditions got ugly as the contest began. The north-south paths were there, but working east and west between the population centers was difficult. At times, the contest divided into regional affairs with contacts only possible between local stations. With one point for contacts between stations in the same country, top scorers could continue to make points even as DX rates slowed.

It's prefixes that make the WPX Contest so much fun. You never know what the next station on the dial will be. Some of the more interesting calls included 9UXEV, 4D75T, 5D5A, 9A50KDE, A73A, HB10DX, HG1848I, LZ05ANT, LZ08IPY, R35NP on a floating ice station near the North Pole, S566D, TB37F, V48M, VQ59W, XR6T, and ZV5K, to name just a few. While it's fun to chase exotic prefixes, working that first W5 or JA7 can bring just as much boost to the score. This means everyone gets to experience being both the hunter and the hunted! The top two hunters this year were multi-multi stations DR1A with 1389 prefixes and AO8A with 1387.

Single-Operator All-Band

Tom, W2SC, working from Barbados as 8P1A, made it three in a row for world high score in the Single-Operator All-Band category. With almost 5600 contacts and over 1200 prefixes, Tom missed breaking his own North American record by less than 27,000 points (that's about one tenth of one percent!). Just a few islands away, a strong second place world score was turned in by Ivan, OM3LA, operating from Guadeloupe as FG/OM3LA. Less than 200k points behind in third was CT9L operated by Helmut, DF7ZS. How bad were conditions? None of the top three made any contacts on 10 meters! Fourth place went to Hrane, YT1AD, operating once again from 3V8BB in Tunisia. AE6Y also returned to P49Y to take fifth overall. Two close races filled out the world top ten. PY2NY took the wheel at PS2T to finish just ahead of PY2YU for sixth, while in Canada, the battle between John, VE3EJ,



Claudio, LU7DW, takes a walk in the snow at VE3RM.

and Ron, VE3AT, operating as VB3E, came down to log checking and QSO points, with EJ taking the win.

In the world low power classification, Andy, KK9A, piloted P40A to a wide margin of victory and a score that would have placed him fourth in the high power category! His 15-million point score also raises the low power world record by almost a million points. Second place was earned by Didier, FY5FY. Ted, HI3TEJ, used his contest call HI3T to finish a close third.

Competition for tops in the USA was intensified by a number of operators seeking to earn qualifying points for the 2010 World Radiosport Team Championship. When all the yelling was over, Jeff, K1ZM, took top honors operating from his Cape Cod location. A little over a million points back was a close race for second place between Ken, K4ZW, operating from NR4M using the call KN1DX, and Alex, LZ4AX, operating from K3CR using the call KC3R (got all that?). Both submitted extremely accurate logs (less than 3.7% score reductions), leaving the margin of victory based on Ken finding a few extra multipliers. Krassy, K1LZ, finished off the pack of top scores in fourth. George, K5TR, in Texas had the top score away from the Eastern Seaboard.

With perennial winner N1UR traveling, the

chase for top low power USA score was between four stations in different parts of the country. Bud, W3LL, operating from Maryland used 40 meters very effectively to take the win. Ed, NX7TT, made a great effort from K0UK in Colorado to grab second. Less than 100k points behind was Terry, KS9K, operating from the station of N4TZ in Indiana. Finishing out the top pack was Thomas, WD5K, located in Texas.

Andy, G4PIQ, operated M6T to the top Single-Operator score for Europe. He used some of his 12 hours of off-time to repair antennas and amplifiers, so it was not an easy weekend. Second place went to OK5R, operated by Jiri, OK1RI, who struggled with difficult conditions to the USA on the first day. Close behind was Felipe, CT1ILT, using the call CS2T. Felipe took advantage of his location in the south and west of Europe to find 15 meters open the USA, but not with enough activity to move him up in the standings. Anti, HA3OV, worked single op from the big station of HG6N in order to earn qualifying points for WRTC, and finished fourth. The center of Europe was well represented, with impressive scores from S50A, OM3BH, and HG8R. OG8X and OG6A turned in very nice scores from the top of Europe.

The low power competition in Europe was dominated by stations from the south.

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from Oms, PY5EG, operating as PP5EG. Both managed to find more than 1000 contacts on what seemed like a dead band. Joel, KG6DX, took advantage of being south of Japan to earn third place. W5PR used the call KJ5W to make 308 contacts and win the USA.

Sergio, PP5JR, delivered a dominating performance on 15 meters from ZX5J. His 4255 contacts and 1242 prefixes raise the South American record by over 1-million points. Second- and third-place finishers Marcelo, PY1KN, and Roberto, PX2T, gave Brazil all three places on the podium. In Europe, 9A5Y (op Zvonko, 9A3LG) and Tom, 9A4W, had almost identical QSO totals, but it was the extra multipliers that gave 9A5Y the win. Charlie, VR1ØXMT, beat JA3YBK (op Hiro, JS1PWV) for tops in Asia. George, NR5M, got past Bob, WN1GIV, for the top USA score.

When conditions are poor, everyone seems to end up on 20 meters. Stations are stacked two or three deep across the band from sunrise until midnight. Into this maelstrom stepped Jim, W7EJ, operating as CN2R from his well-equipped station in Morocco. After 4429 contacts and 1199 multipliers, Jim captured his fourth single-band world record. Oliver, W6NV, did a great job from PT5A in Brazil, but had to settle for second. Marc, TM1W, and Marko, S5ØK, ended in a photo finish for top score in Europe. After log checking, TM1W earned the win by less

than 30k points. Dan, W7WA, finished fifth overall for another convincing victory among USA entrants. 4Z4OQ was close behind and represented the fifth continent among the top six scores!

As we checked logs from around the world, there was one call that seemed to show up in almost all of them. That call was ZL3A, operated by Dule, ZL3WW. Operating single band 40 meters from Auckland, New Zealand, Dule worked almost 1800 contacts for a new Oceania record. Dusan, YT8A, worked over 2000 contacts to win Europe over LN9Z, operated by Roy, LA5KO. In the USA, NY6N,

operated by Jim, W6YI, broke one of the oldest records in the books—USA single-band 40 meters held by KC7EM from 1995. What's really amazing is that Jim only worked three European stations all weekend!

Eighty meters saw an interesting competition between stations on three continents. With 1696 contacts and 713 prefixes, Chris, SN7Q, took the trophy. Spyros, 5B4MF, operating H22H from Cyprus, made half as many contacts, but took advantage of the higher points per contact to take second place. ZF1A finished third overall, but enjoyed setting a new North American record.

TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

WORLD: Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ Trophy. Won by: **8P1A** operated by Tom Georgens, W2SC

WORLD Low Power: Caribbean Contesting Consortium Trophy. Won by: **P40A** operated by John Bayne, KK9A

WORLD QRP/p: Phil Krichbaum, NØKE Trophy. Won by: Antonin Bechyna, OK7CM

WORLD Tribander/Single Element: Helmut Mueller, DF7ZS Trophy. Won by: **CT9L** operated by Helmut Mueller, DF7ZS

USA: Atilano de Oms, PY5EG Trophy. Won by: **Jeffrey T. Briggs, K1ZM**

USA Low Power: Terry Zivney, N4TZ Trophy. Won by: **Bud Governale, W3LL**

USA QRP/p: Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q Trophy. Won by: **NAØCW/6** operated by Bill Parker, W8QZA

USA Zone 4 High Power: Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **George Fremin III, K5TR**

USA Zone 4 Low Power: Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **Ed Campbell, NX7TT/Ø**

USA Tribander/Single Element: Paul Newberry, N4PN Trophy. Won by: **KJ4VO** operated by Paul H. Newberry, Jr., N4PN

CANADA Low Power: Contest Club Ontario Trophy. Won by: **Ken Tucker, VO1KVT**

AFRICA: Peter Sprengel, PY5CC Trophy. Won by: **3V8BB** operated by Hranislav Milosevic, YT1AD

EUROPE: Jim Hoffman, N5FA Trophy. Won by: **M6T** operated by Andy Cook, G4PIQ

NORTH AMERICA: Albert Crespo, F5VHJ Trophy. Won by: **FG/OM3LA** operated by Dr. Ivan Dobrocky, OM3LA

SOUTH AMERICA: Andrew Faber, AE6Y Trophy. Won by: **P49Y** operated by Andy Faber, AE6Y

OCEANIA: Phillip Frazier, K6ZM Memorial Trophy. Won by: **9M8Z** operated by Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX

JAPAN: Hamad Alnusif, 9K2HN Trophy. Won by: **Masaki Okano, JH4UYB**

NORTH AMERICA QRP/p: Phil Krichbaum, NØKE Trophy. Won by: **Antonio Handal, HR2DX**

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

WORLD: Steve Merchant, K6AW Trophy. Won by: **CN2R** operated by James P Sullivan, W7EJ

WORLD 14 MHz: Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: **PT5A** operated by Oliver Sweningsen, W6NV

WORLD 7 MHz: Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: **ZL3A** operated by Dusko Dumanovic, ZL3WW

WORLD 3.7 MHz: Tom Haavisto, VE3CX Trophy. Won by: **SN7Q** operated by Krzysztof Sobon, SP7GIQ

EUROPE 28 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Aleksander Zagar, S57S**

EUROPE 21 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **9A5Y** operated by Zvonimir Karnik, 9A3LG

EUROPE 14 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Sentuc Marc, TM1W**

EUROPE 7 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Dusan Ceha, YT8A**

EUROPE 3.7 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **S52AW** operated by Karl D. Bucar, S52RU

EUROPE 1.8 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Arunas Vaglyis, LY2IJ**

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED

EUROPE: Martin Huml, OL5Y Trophy. Won by: **E77DX** operated by Emir Braco Memic, OE1EMS

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER

USA: Steve Bolia, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: **K3EST/4** operated by K3EST & KT3Y

ASIA: W2MIG Memorial (NX7TT Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **P33W** operated by RW4WR, RX3DCX, RA3AUU

USA Zone 4: Mike Fatchett, WØMU Trophy. Won by: **NX5M** operated by NX5M, KU5B, AB5K, K5GA, N5XJ

MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Ken Adams, K5KA Trophy. Won by: **6Y1V** operated by KY1V, K6AM, W4PA, WE9V

USA: FCG, Florida Contest Group Trophy. Won by: **WE3C** operated by K3CT, KQ3V, N3FTI, NM3E, NN3Q, W2GD, W3FV, W3PA, WB3FIZ, WE3C

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Gail Sheehan, K2RED Trophy. Won by: **AØ8A** operated by EA8AH, EA8CAC, EA8ZS, N5ZO, TF3CW, ES2RR, OH2MM, OH2KI, OH2ZZ

USA: Rick Dougherty, NQ4I Trophy. Won by: **NQ4I** operated by NQ4I, WI4R, K4PK, K4NV, VE7ZO, WB4A, W5LE, K4BAI, K5KG, KF4GTA, KØEJ, KU1CW

Log Checking Honor Roll

A major goal of log checking in any contest should be to confirm that the winners are truly the winners. This year the CQ WPX Contest used new log-checking software developed by Ken, K1EA. Of the 1,791,048 QSOs reported in the 3728 logs received, over 93% were cross checked against other logs. Callsign errors resulted in a loss of the contact plus a penalty of one additional contact. Errors in copying numbers, band-change violations, or operating beyond the permitted time resulted in a loss of the contact. Any lost QSO could hurt even more if it causes the loss of a multiplier.

Looking at the score reductions, it should be no surprise that the operators near the top had some of the most accurate logs. The top 20 Single-Operator All-Band entries had an average score reduction of only 4.6% after penalties. The average for all Single-Operator entrants was 11.2%. We urge every competitor to use these results as a benchmark for measuring their personal progress toward operating perfection. Detailed log-checking reports can be requested by sending an e-mail to <k5zd@cqwpx.com>.

Speaking of perfection, there were 289 golden logs—i.e., perfect with no score reductions. The top five golden log scorers (with number of contacts) were K9JE (346), VE3BVA (254), OE3DMA (241), PE1FTV (232), and BG4DVK (223).

It takes two to tango and two stations to make a QSO. There were 134 entries that caused no errors in other logs. The top scores among these golden transmitters were K6GEP (191), UA9CIR (103), OL4W (95), K6VFF (77), and K3ISH (71).

Will we see your call in this list next year?



Braco, OE1EMS, was the top European scorer in the SOAB Assisted category from E77DX.

The top USA score was submitted by Karl, ND8DX, who outpaced WI4R, operated by Mark, W4SVO.

Arunas, LY2IJ, spent his weekend calling CQ and listening to noise on 160 meters to earn the top score in the world. It was a close three-station race in the USA with Mike, K9NW, finishing ahead of Manny, W2MF, and Leo, AA4MM.

QRP

What kind of person steps into the poor conditions and SSB splatter while running only 5 watts? Well, there were at least 128 of them who submitted logs in the QRP category. The top all-band score was by Antonin, OK7CM, who finished just ahead of Janko, S59D. Both made more than 500 contacts and 300 multipliers—quite an accomplishment! Bill, W8QZA, operated NA0CW/6 to just squeak by Eric, N2RRA, and Chas, K3WW, for the top USA score.

Tribander/Single Element

The tribander/single-element classification is designed to compare scores from similarly equipped stations. Helmut, CT9L, took advantage of his island location to easily win the category and set a new world record! Pali, HA8JV, worked as HG8R to finish tops in Europe and second overall. It was a close three-way race among FY1FL, CN2BC, and EA6SX for spots three through five. In the USA, Paul, N4PN, repeated as the champion, this time operating with the call KJ4VO. Close behind were K4PV and NF4A.

Rookie

The Rookie category is for operators who have been a licensed amateur radio operator for less than three years. Newcomer Koji, NH0DX, scored an impressive 2.4-million points to take the lead. Just behind in second was last year's winner, Patrick, OT2A, in his last year to be eligible for the category. IZ1LBG was only 100k points behind for third place.

Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter

Last year, the two-person team of IK2QE1 and IK2SGC operated as 5D5A in Morocco

and made over 6000 contacts to finish just short of the world record in the Multi-Single category. This year, they returned to try again—working over 6300 QSOs and 1342 multipliers—only to miss the record by less than 400k points. Even so, this is a great score given the conditions. Second place went to the Russian team of RW4WR, RX3DCX, and RA3AUU operating as P33W. Third place was an all CT3 team operating with the special contest call CQ95F from Madeira. ZY7C finished a strong fourth from northeastern Brazil. Multi-Single is probably the most competitive category in the contest with 21 stations making more than 3000 con-

tacts! In the USA, K3EST/4 led a virtual three way tie among WU3A/1, WR3Z, and NX5M.

Multi-Operator Two-Transmitter

In the Multi-Operator Two-Transmitter category, the four-man team of KY1V, K6AM, W4PA, and WE9V operating at 6Y1V exceeded their goals and broke the North American record on the way to making the world high score. The next places were held by two of the most miscopied calls in the contest: 9A60A (operating from 9A7A) beat ES90C (operating from ES5TV) for high score in Europe. The group at C4I took fourth.

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EUROPE TOP SCORES

SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND	
M6T (G4PIQ)	9,975,816
OK5R (OK1RI)	9,315,900
CS2T (CT1ILT)	8,916,812
HA30V	7,968,296
S50A	6,722,650
OM3BH	6,628,692
HG8R (HA8JV)	6,211,205
OG8X (OH6UM)	5,841,780
UW2M	5,816,635
OG6A (OH6KZP)	5,266,170

28 MHz	
S57S	48,444
UU5WW	2,760
UA6AK	5

21 MHz	
9A5Y (9A3LG)	1,248,650
9A4W	991,800
IU3X (IV3SKB)	796,060
YT7Z (YT7EI)	526,095
EA5DFV	514,206
TM4W (F5HRY)	491,928
UZ4E (UV5EOZ)	234,855
RL3BM	103,179
YO5BBO	68,388
UR5FAV	65,037

14 MHz	
TM1W	4,473,924
S50K	4,442,844
R3K	3,882,440
LY80 (LY1PM)	3,454,052
S57AL	3,120,816
UZ8M (US0MR)	3,064,094
YT1BB	2,824,326
IT9STX	2,415,420
EA5KV	2,273,810
DL1Z	2,249,468

7 MHz	
YT8A	5,197,840
LN9Z (LA5KO)	2,089,542
SP4TKR	1,822,266
S56X	1,813,089
YU3AA	1,561,824
IZ1GAR	1,164,096
EA3ATM	1,030,806
DJ0UD	820,988
AM7M	760,914
UT7U	444,882

3.7 MHz	
SN7Q (SP7GIQ)	2,969,645
S52AW (S52RU)	2,107,380
OK2BYW	1,788,534
9A6A	1,684,256
9A3B (9A2VR)	1,244,740
SP7HKK	1,126,428
9A5D	956,823
IT9RBW	950,137
SN3A	937,480
OK1W (OK2WM)	817,180

1.8 MHz	
LY2IJ	669,108
YT6T (YU7CM)	359,822
DL1SWB	204,614
SP1GZF	177,480
OM7RU	165,436
RA6DB	84,597
DF2UU	77,437
OZ1AXG	42,444
YR8D (YO8DAR)	35,040
IK2DZN	31,088

LOW POWER SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND	
*IZ2FOS	2,706,688
*S53EA	2,296,193
*YT1HA	1,873,470
*F4FLO	1,561,716
*OK1WCF	1,534,468
*RV6LFE	1,316,714
*S59KW	1,316,641
*S51F	1,305,678
*IU9A	1,262,602
*UA4FRL	1,215,504

28 MHz	
*IW0HBY	32,508

*EC7AKV	17,821
*IZ8CCW	5,500
*F5TMJ	1,863
*EC6UD	1,140
*UT1IA	644
*RW6CW	472
*UZ7HO	220
*SQ9CNN	198
*YO2LEE	192

21 MHz	
*SV1UT	94,966
*IK2YGZ	94,668
*EA5EOR	83,172
*SP9DSD	71,645
*LZ2PEP	68,040
*YT1YV	62,918
*YO6CFB	59,136
*HA8TP	58,176
*UR6IJ	56,628
*SP2EXN	48,608

14 MHz	
*EB7DX	2,178,000
*PD1DX	1,539,163
*9A50KDE (9A1AA)	1,513,400
*YU5RA	1,183,507
*HG3DX (HG3M)	847,476
*S57RTH	723,008
*YT3MA	658,815
*YT5C	601,224
*YR8B	592,740
*IW1QN	515,394

7 MHz	
*LZ5W	1,057,707
*E77DO	780,858
*SN3X	690,135
*EC5CSW	409,370
*IZ5DKJ	355,946
*EA1JJ	310,534
*G7TWC	294,465
*S50B	293,715
*US0HZ	267,534
*LY2MM	229,457

3.7 MHz	
*YU3A (YT2RX)	641,346
*OL5J (OK1RZ)	558,298
*3Z10UM (SQ9UM)	541,320
*YU5B	528,200
*RV3WT	492,156
*F5BEG	468,096
*YU0U	431,395
*OM7AB	409,968
*S57O	407,640
*UU2JM	374,958

1.8 MHz	
*HA8BE	229,457
*LY2OU	180,648
*S52OT	180,389
*SQ9HZM	95,445
*YO5PBF	93,930
*US8ICM	59,356
*OL6P (OK2WTM)	41,396
*ER3HW	36,816
*OK1JOK	32,096
*RA6MT	13,604

QRP/p	
OK7CM	A 489,342
S59D	A 402,500
S57SU	A 333,086
IZ1ANK	A 213,850
US2IZ	A 178,176
YP8A	A 171,105
RZ6MP	A 140,896
DJ0MY	A 131,054
RW6HJV/6	A 123,190
IC8FAX	A 106,672
I5KAP	28 11,907
SQ4HRN	21 26,826
DJ0MY	14 131,054
S57SU	7 333,086
US2IZ	3.7 178,176
RN3ZJJ	1.8 21,952

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED	
E77DX (OE1EMS)	A 8,715,798
YT2T	A 4,979,676

RK4FD	A 4,753,098
YR9P (YO9HP)	A 4,495,568
IQ2CJ	A 3,701,335
OG5B	A 3,574,928
YT5A	A 2,915,704
SV9GPV	A 2,750,334
YT3M	A 2,539,176
DL0WW	A 2,455,164
9A2U (9A3ZA)	28 15,795
Z35X	21 477,356
IQ2CJ (IK2NCJ)	14 3,701,335
UZ7M (UT9MZ)	7 2,390,166
IR2C (IW2HAJ)	3.7 2,380,644
IC8TEM	1.8 162,675

TRIBANDER/SINGLE ELEMENT	
HG8R	A 6,211,205
EA6SX	A 4,284,054
CT1DIZ	A 3,875,040
S56M	A 2,388,100
*OK1WCF	A 1,534,468
UA6UDV	A 1,534,280
MD0CCE	A 1,471,927
OH1RX	A 1,381,788
*S59KW	A 1,316,641
*IU9A	A 1,262,602
*EC7AKV	28 17,821
Z35X	21 477,356
EA5KV	14 2,273,810
SP7HKK	3.7 1,126,428
RA6DB	1.8 84,597

ROOKIE	
OT2A	A 2,220,288
IZ1LBG	A 2,115,280
RN3ZC	A 1,524,772
UA6YIU	A 1,361,835
*IZ3KKE	A 702,093
IW3SSA	A 652,080
UT6EE	A 495,670
*F4FDA	A 416,780
LA9LMA	A 381,628
*EA2COD	A 274,205
*EC7DZL	21 8,151
OM7ANB	14 569,296
*EC5CSW	7 409,370
IW3SSA	3.7 652,080
*RK2FXG (RA2FIR)	1.8 11,520

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER	
TM6M	14,075,078
OM7M	9,746,737
S53M	9,351,920
EE2W	8,702,568
OE2S	8,467,888
YO22NATO	7,973,688
IO5O	7,911,360
LY9Y	6,662,782
TM7F	6,630,633
EA1EEY	6,234,162

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER	
9A60A	16,471,710
ES90C	13,724,640
HG80HQ	12,871,896
UU7J	11,789,823
OL7R	9,949,407
YT9X	9,917,964
AM3SSB	9,126,700
DA0BCC	8,929,620
OL1X	6,270,660
PI4COM	3,501,924

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER	
DR1A	22,340,676
OT5A	16,285,416
LZ9W	14,928,360
LY7A	8,371,200
EB1WW	7,711,155
SX5P	6,530,185
SN6O	4,582,080
SN75T	1,650,873
SP75S	684,648
SF6DX	523,083

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W1TO, N1NK, W2JU, W1KQ, KM1P, W1KM, and W1ZT. Their work enabled every QSO from every paper log to be incorporated into the log-checking process! Two key helpers in the back office are K1DG, who manages the plaque program, and W5GN, who coordinates all of the certificate printing and distribution.

For expanded QRM of the 2008 contest and operator lists for mult-op stations, go to <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> to the contests section.

The 2009 WPX SSB Contest will be held on March 28 and 29. Conditions are sure to be better by then, so please plan to join in the fun. Rules can be found in the February issue of CQ, on the CQ website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com), and on the CQ WPX Contest website (www.cqwp.com). Logs are requested to be submitted by e-mail in Cabrillo format. Send WPX SSB logs to <ssb@cqwp.com>. Hope to see you in the 2009 contest!

73, Randy, K5ZD

QRM

My first attempt as SOAB and I am spoiled. Great competition; will come back next year. Thank you! ... 4L0A. Another incredible contest from Morocco! 5D5A@CN3A ... 5D5A. Sigs from W/VE disappointing. Little heard from western EU too. Quote from K7RI: "Is my frequency clear? I'm not getting many responses." Yes, the frequency was clear. But even K7RI was only S7 ... 7J1AQH. Very

hard conditions especially during the first part of the contest. We worked multi/one with low power and a 2-el 3-band quad on 10 (no QSOs), 15, and 20m. On 40, 80, and 160m we used a multiband dipole. It was fun but we hope that conditions will improve next year. We operated from Skinnskatteberg, JO89UT ... 8S0C. First time worked in QRP mode contest with Yaesu FT-817 and homebrew 14-element Spider Beam. Mainly worked Asia Pacific region. Surprisingly worked abt 20 contacts with EU on 14 MHz, and one from AF. I am very enjoyable to work in QRP mode. Many thanks for those good-ear stations for my weak signal ... 9M6YBG. Operated first day from home, then flew to Austria and was able to operate a few hours from OE6MBG. Great fun to work the con-

test from two continents and hear how different the contest sounds from each place ... AK1W. I'm a volunteer paramedic here. Had to respond to some calls during the contest. The dispatchers now know what QRZ, QSL, and QRX mean! ... AK9I. This was four stations M/M from EA8AH QTH. Poor conditions and many problems with generators, but we still managed to keep four stations on the air for entire contest ... AO8A. I am glad of contacting hams around the world. See everyone next contest ... BV4VR. Second day was much better. In memory of Charki ... CN2R. SSB contests keep getting tougher. Even with HP it becomes increas-

(Continued on page 102)

CQ WW WPX SSB CONTEST ALL-TIME RECORDS

The contest is held each year on the last full weekend of March. The All-Time Records will be updated and published annually. Data following the calls: year of operation, total score, and number of prefix multipliers.

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS

Single Operator

1.8	CN2R('07)	1,613,955	399
3.5	CN2R('06)	11,849,076	894
7.0	CN2R('05)	14,724,696	931
14	CN2R('08)	15,778,840	1199
21	ZD8Z('05)	17,129,112	1196
28	D44AC('02)	15,707,401	1123
AB	D4B('05)	26,871,482	1271
QRP/p	HC8A('94)	7,520,562	714
Assisted	P40W('07)	15,837,235	1069

Multi-Operator Single Transmitter

D44TD('02)	33,443,856	1332
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Multi-Operator Two Transmitter

AN8A('07)	47,019,528	1444
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Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter

HC8N('03)	60,703,452	1476
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U.S.A. RECORD HOLDERS

Single Operator

1.8	K1ZM('95)	327,712	308
3.5	WE3C('95)	1,519,300	475
7.0	NY6N('08)	2,038,192	533
14	KK9A('00)	6,621,446	962
21	KX8R('00)	7,556,250	930
28	NY4A('00)	6,006,573	877
AB	KQ2M('00)	11,875,240	1066
QRPp	KR2Q('00)	2,688,158	649
Assisted	NB1B('01)	7,463,666	1022

Multi-Operator Single Transmitter

KM3T('99)	14,091,468	1077
-----------	------------	------

Multi-Operator Two Transmitter

KD4D('06)	14,535,521	1183
-----------	------------	------

Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter

KM3T('00)	29,338,460	1355
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CLUB RECORD

Contest Club Finland('00)	250,320,141
---------------------------	-------------

QRPp RECORD

HC8A('94)	7,520,562
-----------	-----------

WPX (Prefix) RECORD

OT0A('00)	1528
-----------	------

CONTINENTAL RECORD HOLDERS

AFRICA

1.8	CN2R('07)	1,613,955	399
3.5	CN2R('06)	11,849,076	894
7.0	CN2R('05)	14,724,696	931
14	CN2R('08)	15,778,840	1199
21	ZD8Z('05)	17,129,112	1196
28	D44AC('02)	15,707,401	1123
AB	D4B('05)	26,871,482	1271

ASIA

1.8	*YM0T('05)	486,846	222
3.5	H22H('08)	2,432,692	502
7.0	H24LP('87)	5,348,975	503
14	H2A('91)	6,297,464	758
21	7L1GVE('92)	6,848,136	838
28	H22H('00)	9,092,146	931
AB	JY9NX('01)	15,463,485	1017

EUROPE

1.8	SN3R('07)	835,884	434
3.5	SN7Q('08)	2,969,645	713
7.0	YT8A('08)	5,197,840	860
14	DJ7AA('00)	7,955,224	1052
21	CQ1BOP('00)	6,989,997	1029
28	GM7V('00)	8,305,756	982
AB	OK1RI('01)	10,844,592	1034

NORTH AMERICA

1.8	VA1A('99)	535,225	271
3.5	ZF1A('08)	2,269,344	462
7.0	TI4CF('05)	8,057,479	751
14	KP2A('95)	7,088,976	912
21	WP3R('98)	10,167,632	986
28	KP2A('00)	11,385,710	1046
AB	8P5A('06)	20,560,452	1199

OCEANIA

1.8	KH6ND('07)	26,432	59
3.5	WH7Z('03)	1,208,900	308

7.0	ZL3A('08)	8,200,800	816
14	KH6ND('03)	6,493,727	887
21	AH7DX('00)	7,645,990	890
28	TX0DX('00)	12,049,422	847
AB	KH6ND('01)	15,498,798	1029

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	YV5JEA('84)	40,320	63
3.5	P40A('96)	1,715,076	426
7.0	ZX9A('97)	10,787,128	814
14	PY0FM('95)	9,660,432	939
21	ZX5J('08)	14,740,056	1242
28	ZX5J('99)	14,405,820	1095
AB	HC8A('01)	25,180,199	1199

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

AF	D44TD('02)	33,443,856	1332
AS	5B/AJ2O('05)	28,966,272	1252
EU	9A7A('02)	19,034,950	1306
NA	VP2EC('92)	24,409,580	1115
OC	T33RD('99)	17,778,372	998
SA	HC8A('93)	32,502,677	1107

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

AF	AN8A('07)	47,019,528	1444
AS	A61AJ('04)	30,157,650	1255
EU	OE4A('07)	18,533,494	1337
NA	6Y1V('08)	29,018,014	1306
OC	KH7X('05)	20,910,656	1066
SA	HC8N('06)	46,791,472	1456

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

AF	CN8WW('99)	55,151,562	1334
AS	P3A('00)	53,554,592	1456
EU	9AY2K('00)	42,477,343	1493
NA	WL7E('00)	42,013,215	1395
OC	KH7R('02)	32,806,032	1304
SA	HC8N('03)	60,703,452	1476

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Announcing:

The 2009 CQ World-Wide WPX RTTY Contest

February 14–15, 2009

Starts: 0000 GMT Saturday Ends: 2359 GMT Sunday

I. Objective: For amateurs worldwide to contact as many amateurs and licensed prefixes as possible during the contest period.

II. Period of Operation: 48 hours. Single Operator stations may operate 30 of the 48 hours; **off times must be a minimum of 60 minutes.** Multi-Operator stations may operate the full 48 hours.

III. Bands: The 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands may be used. No 1.8 MHz or WARC bands allowed. *Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged.*

IV. Terms of Competition for All Categories:

(a) All entrants must operate within the limits of their chosen category when performing any activity that could impact their submitted score. Only the entrant's callsign may be used to aid the entrant's score.

(b) A different callsign must be used for each entry.

(c) All entrants must not exceed 1500 watts total output power, or the maximum output power of their country, or the power limit of their entry category, whichever is less, on any band.

(d) Any form of QSO alerting assistance may be used in *all* categories. However, self-spotting or asking other stations to spot you is not allowed.

(e) All operation must take place from one operating site. Transmitters and receivers must be located within a 500-meter diameter circle or within the property limits of the station licensee, whichever is greater. All antennas must be physically connected by wires to the transmitters and receivers used by the entrant.

(f) The entry location of a remote station is determined by the physical location of the transmitters, receivers, and antennas. A remote station must obey all station and category limitations.

V. Entry Categories

A. Single Operator Categories: Only one person (the operator) may contribute to the final score during the official contest period.

(a) **Single Operator High (All Band or Single Band):** One person performs all of the operating and logging functions. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time. **Total output power must not exceed 1500 watts.**

(b) **Single Operator Low (All Band or Single Band):** One person performs all of the operating and logging functions. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time. **Total output power must not exceed 100 watts.**

B. Multi-Operator Categories (all band operation only, high power only):

(a) **Single-Transmitter (MULTI-ONE):** Only one transmitted signal at a time. A maximum of 8 band changes may be made in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). For example, a change from 20 meters to 40 meters and then back to 20 meters counts as two band changes. Violation of the 8-band change rule will result in reclassification to the Multi-Multi category. Maximum power allowed is 1500 watts total output.

(b) **Multi-Two (MULTI-TWO):** 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. The log must indicate which transmitter made each QSO (see rule XIII(b)). Each transmitter may make a maximum of 8 band changes in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). For example, a change from 20 meters to 40 meters and then back to 20 meters counts as two band changes. Use a separate

serial number sequence for each band. Violation of the 8-band change rule will result in reclassification to the Multi-Multi category. Maximum power allowed is 1500 watts total output.

(c) **Multi-Transmitter (MULTI-MULTI):** No limit to transmitters, but only one transmitted signal (and running station) allowed per band at any time. Use a separate serial number sequence for each band. Maximum power allowed is 1500 watts total output.

VI. Exchange: RS(T) report plus a progressive contact serial number starting with 001 for the first contact. Multi-Single and Multi-Two use a single serial number sequence for the complete log and Multi-Multi entrants use separate serial number sequences starting with serial number 001 on each band.

VII. Contact Points:

(a) Contacts between stations on different continents are worth three (3) points on 28, 21, and 14 MHz and six (6) points on 7 and 3.5 MHz.

(b) Contacts between stations on the same continent, but different countries, are worth two (2) points on 28, 21, and 14 MHz and four (4) points on 7 and 3.5 MHz.

(c) Contacts between stations in the same country are worth 1 point regardless of band.

VIII. Prefix Multipliers: The prefix multiplier is the number of valid prefixes worked. Each prefix is counted only once regardless of the band or number of times the same prefix is worked.

(a) A prefix is the letter/numeral combination which forms the first part of the amateur call. Examples: N8, W8, WD8, HG1, HG19, KC2, OE2, OE25, etc. Any difference in the numbering, lettering, or order of same shall count as a separate prefix. A station operating from a DXCC country different from that indicated by its callsign is required to sign portable. The portable prefix must be an authorized prefix of the country/call area of operation. In cases of portable operation, the portable designator will then become the prefix. Example: N8BJQ operating from Wake Island would sign N8BJQ/KH9 or N8BJQ/NH9. KH6XXX operating from Ohio must use an authorized prefix for the U.S. 8th district (/W8, /AD8, etc.). Portable designators without numbers will be assigned a zero (0) after the second letter of the portable designator to form the prefix. Example: PA/N8BJQ would become PA0. All calls without numbers will be assigned a zero (0) after the first two letters to form the prefix. Example: XEFTJW would count as XE0. Maritime mobile, mobile, /A, /E, /J, /P, or interim license class identifiers do not count as prefixes.

(b) Special event, commemorative, and other unique prefix stations are encouraged to participate. Prefixes must be assigned by the licensing authority of the country of operation.

IX. Scoring (QSO Points):

(a) **Single Operator:** (i) All Band score = total contact points from all bands multiplied by the number of different prefixes worked (prefix multiplier; prefixes are counted only once). (ii) Single Band score = total contact points on the band entered multiplied by the number of different prefixes worked on that band only (prefix multiplier; prefixes are counted only once).

(b) **Multi Operator:** Scoring is the same as Single Operator, All Band.

(c) A station may be worked once on each band for QSO point credit. Prefix credit may be taken only once.

X. Awards: Certificates will be awarded to the highest scoring station in each category listed under Section V—

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(c) In countries or call areas where entries justify, second- and third-place awards may be made.

All scores will be published. To be eligible for an award, a single operator station must show a minimum of 12 hours of operation and multi-operator stations must show a minimum of 24 hours of operation.

A single-band log will be eligible for a single-band award only. If a log contains more than one band, only contacts made on the band specified in the Cabrillo header or summary sheet will be considered for scoring purposes.

XI. Plaques and Donors:

Plaques are awarded to recognize top performance in a number of categories. For a current list of plaques and sponsors, or to learn how to become a sponsor, see the CQ WPX RTTY Contest website: <<http://www.cqwxrtty.com/plaques.htm>>.

A station winning a World plaque will not be considered for a sub-area award. That award will be given to the runner-up for that area if the number of entries justifies the award. Contestants who win a category for which no plaque is sponsored may contact <plaques@cqwxrtty.com> to arrange to order one.

XII. Club Competition: A plaque will be awarded each year to the club that has the highest aggregate score from logs submitted by members. The club must be a local group and not a national organization (e.g., ARRL or DARC). Participation is limited to members operating from a local geographic area defined as within a 275 km radius from center of club area (except for DXpeditions specially organized for opera-

tion in the contest). Single operators can only contribute to one club. Multi-operator and DXpedition scores are allocated as indicated with the entry. Please spell out the full club name in the Cabrillo file. To be listed in the results, a minimum of three logs must be received from a club.

XIII. Instructions for Submission of Logs:

(a) All times must be in GMT.

(b) All logs must be submitted in chronological order. Entries from Multi-Two stations must clearly indicate which transmitter made each QSO (column 81 of Cabrillo QSO template for CQ contests.)

(c) The log **must** show the correct serial number sent and received for each contact. Logs without sent and received serial numbers may be reclassified as checklogs.

(d) We would appreciate receiving all logs in electronic format. Electronic submission of logs is **required** for anyone competing for an award and for all who use a computer to log the contest or prepare contest logs.

(e) **Single band entrants are requested to include all contacts made during the contest period, even if on other bands.** Indicate the single band information in the Cabrillo header and only those contacts made on the single band will be included in the scoring.

(f) **The Cabrillo file format is the standard.** Please make sure all of the Cabrillo header information is included. For detailed instructions on filling out the Cabrillo file header, see the CQ WPX RTTY Contest website <www.cqwxrtty.com>. Failure to fill out the header correctly can result in your entry being placed in the wrong category or reclassified as a checklog. **U.S. stations must indicate the ARRL Section or state of operation in the Cabrillo header (e.g., ARRL-SECTION: OH).**

(g) **E-mail is the expected method of log submission.** Logs in Cabrillo format should be sent to <rtty@cqwp.com>. In the "Subject:" line of your e-mail message, please include only your callsign and nothing else. All logs received via e-mail will be confirmed via e-mail. A listing of logs received can be found on the CQ WPX RTTY website.

(h) **Instructions for NON-CABRILLO electronic logs:** If you are not able to submit a Cabrillo log, please contact the Contest Director for permission to submit another format.

(i) **Instructions for paper logs:** Official log and summary sheets are available from CQ Communications, Inc., 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA; fax (+1) 516-681-2926; or e-mail your request to CQ at <cq@cq-amateur-radio.com>. You may make your own forms as long as all required information is present. Each paper log entry must be accompanied by a Summary Sheet listing all scoring information, the category of competition, and the entrant's name and mailing address in BLOCK LETTERS. Indicate CQ WPX RTTY Contest on your envelope.

XIV. 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.

Any use by an entrant of any non-amateur means including, but not limited to, telephones, e-mail, 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.

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.

XV. Declaration: By submitting an entry in the CQ WPX RTTY Contest you agree that: (1) you have read and understood the rules of the contest and agree to be bound by them, as well as all rules and regulations of your country which pertain to amateur radio; (2) your log entry may be made open to the public; and (3) all actions and decisions of the CQ WPX RTTY Contest Committee are official and final.

XVI. Deadline: All entries must be postmarked NO LATER than March 11, 2009. All logs, including e-mail entries, are subject to these deadlines. Logs postmarked after the deadline may be listed in the results, but will be ineligible for any awards.

Any questions pertaining to the contest may be e-mailed to the CQ WPX RTTY Contest Director, Ed Muns, WØYK at <w0yk@cqwxrtty.com>.

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Announcing:

2009 Nominations Open for the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Amateur radio operators have been responsible for many advances in communications technology, and entire industries have been built on the foundation of amateur radio experimentation and activity. In an effort to recognize outstanding amateurs and their achievements, and help the public appreciate the far-reaching and long-standing value of amateur radio in our society, we have established the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Nominations for the 2009 "class" are now open. Members of the 2008 "class" were announced last May and appeared in the July issue of CQ.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those whose technical or other accomplishments have helped propel amateur radio forward, or whose achievements in other areas of life have helped improve ham radio's reputation simply through association. Nominees for the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame will be judged on the basis of qualifying in one of two broad areas: those individuals—whether licensed amateurs or not—who have made significant contributions to the amateur radio hobby; and those radio amateurs who have made significant contributions to society in general. Nominees must have made significant contributions of nationwide or worldwide impact.

Nomination Period Closes March 31

Between now and March 31, 2009, we will be accepting nominations for the 2009 "class" of the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Nominations received after that date will be considered for future selection. You may either use the form on the following page or on our website, or simply write us a letter stating your candidate's name, where to contact him/her if still living, for which category you are nominating him/her, and a brief

CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame

Deadline March 1st

Nominations are also open for the CQ DX Hall of Fame and the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, which recognize those amateurs who have made major contributions to DXing and contesting, respectively. The activities and accomplishments that qualify one for membership in these elite groups involve considerable personal sacrifice and can usually be described by the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty."

Nominations for the Contest and DX Halls of Fame are made by **contesting or DX clubs or national organizations**, and must be submitted by **March 1** of each year to be considered. A maximum of two (2) people may be inducted into each hall of fame each year. Nominations for the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame should be directed to Bob Cox, K3EST, c/o CQ Communications Inc., 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801; or via e-mail to <k3est@cqww.com>.

one- to two-paragraph description of this person's accomplishments. Please include your name and contact information as well. E-mail to <hall-of-fame@cq-amateur-radio.com> or mail to CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801. If you feel someone has earned this recognition, please submit a nomination. Please *don't* assume that someone else will nominate the person you may have in mind.

We'll be making up our own candidate list at the same time, and will announce this year's selections at the Dayton Hamvention® in May 2009. Please help us recognize these "ham radio heroes" whose contributions have helped shape our hobby, our nation, or our world.

(The official nomination form is on the CQ website.)



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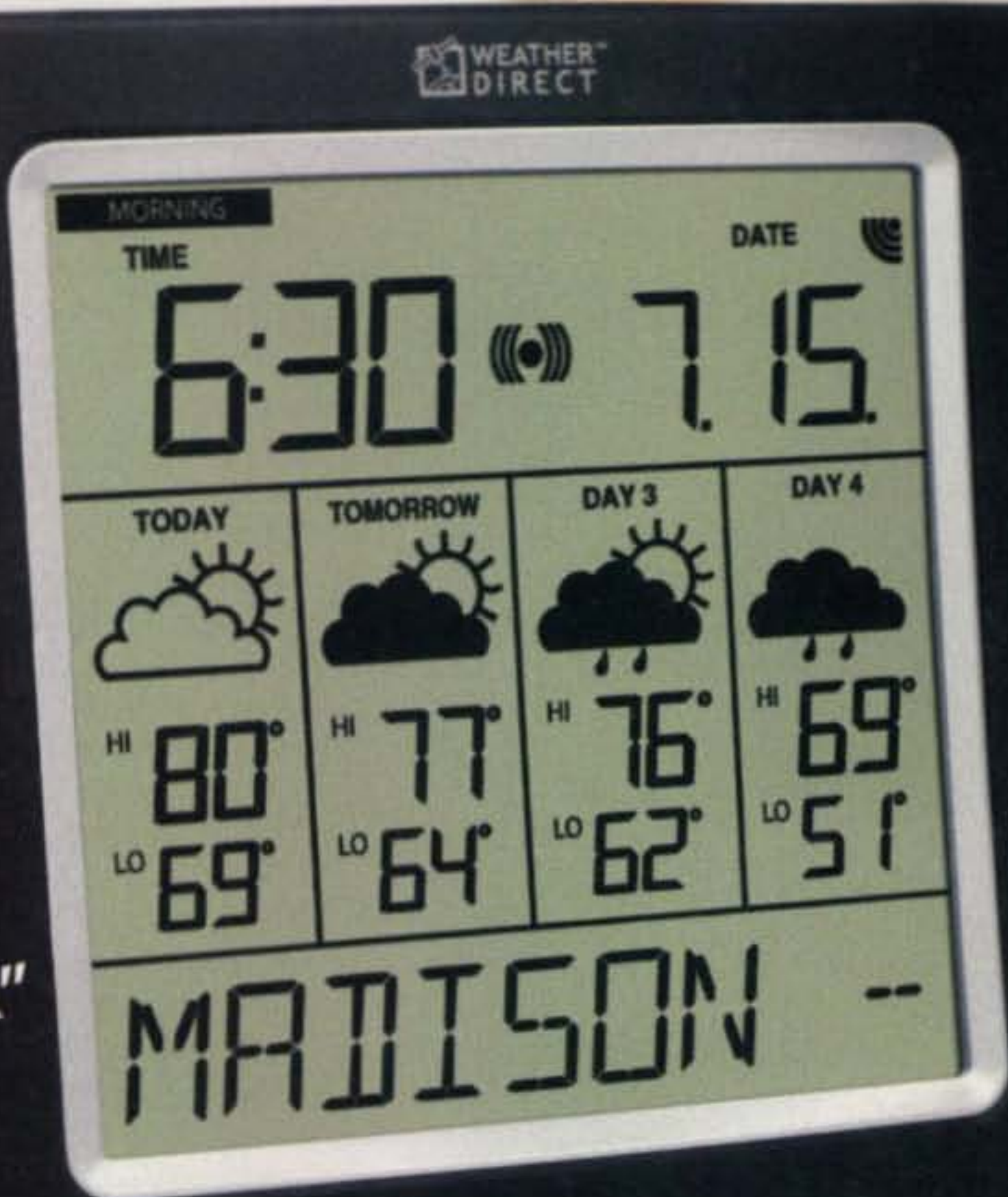
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Potpourri

First and foremost, I would like to wish a very happy and healthy New Year to all of my loyal readers. I sincerely hope that this is the year when all of those dreams and wishes you have had for so long really do come true. Always remember, you never know what a new year (or tomorrow for that matter) will bring!

Although my professional career is continuously involved with lasers, fiber optics, and multi-giga-bit transmission systems, I am not a technological "freak." I grew up during the age of the maturing of semiconductors and am well aware of the amazing accomplishments our current technology is capable of, but *my* cell phone only rings (like the old-fashioned telephone). It does not have a multitude of "ringtones" or pictures of the people I talk to or any of the many so-called "desirable features" available. Don't get me wrong. This is my personal choice. I love technology. I just don't like so-called "technology for technology's sake."

My amateur radio station consists of a Kenwood hybrid (solid-state front end, vacuum-tube final), as I feel that the lower noise capabilities of transistors are "worth it," while the forgiveness of vacuum tubes driving mismatched loads is hard to equate with solid-state devices (unless one provides an elaborate feedback network). My well-equipped lab has a 200-MHz digital Tektronix scope as well as a 1000-MHz analog Tektronix scope. I also have a digital pulse generator and an analog function generator. I mention all of this to indicate that the reason for such a mix is that each has its own specific advantages as well as inherent disadvantages (which we will look at in a future column). In short, I feel that technology should certainly be used wherever and whenever appropriate, but *never* just to demonstrate how clever a designer can be.

In the "old days" a radio's controls were simple and to the point. One knob had one function (volume, tone, bandswitch, RF gain, etc.). Sometimes a switch was coupled to a potentiometer to produce a volume-control/power on-off combination, but that was pretty much the limit. Every control was self-explanatory, and even the least technically adept person had no real problem understanding each function. Instruction manuals were not really necessary, and most people never read them but filed them away "just in case." Today, however, you must push button #1 twice quickly to get one function, three times to get another function, and in conjunction with another button or two to get additional functions and so on. This has been taken to such an extreme that the average consumer has real problems programming a DVD player, a simple TV remote control, or even the features on a cell phone. Even the instruction manuals that are provided are fairly complex and often hard to follow. I often wonder if the real reason all of this has come to pass is to impress someone

with how clever the designer (or the designer's company) can be.

I can already hear the shouts of "but this is progress!" or "how can your generation possibly understand?" or even "because it's really *cool*." Well, I am not so sure it really is so cool. Our youngsters are no longer captivated by the "magic" of technology, but by how quickly they can "text-message" a friend. Our RF spectrum is being auctioned off to the highest bidder for even more of the same, while it seems that the major effort of industry is to create even more uses for the cell phone. Live video (who wants to watch a movie on a cell phone?), voice recognition (eliminating the human component altogether), and a host of games (are we so bored all of the time?) all are in the offerings to come or are available "at a small additional cost."

Even the amazing computer, which has proven to be so useful in providing research and simulation tools, has had its real growth in internet chat rooms, MySpace, and similar features, not to mention spawning a group of people who get their kicks by creating viruses to interfere with legitimate users. Even search engines are becoming so clogged with erroneous data that trying to find something is getting harder and harder.

Other than a source of revenue for the various manufacturers involved, has any of this really improved the quality of life for the human beings on this planet? I am not so sure. In the old days (there he goes again!) one who was so inclined learned electronics by building circuits, experimenting, blowing out components, and getting burned by soldering irons, but also by truly creating something that one could often be proud of, not by mastering level 10 on some mindless video game. Occasionally such "amateurs" even actually created something that did indeed revolutionize our lives.

The excitement of my first radio contact (New York to London) on homebrew equipment I built with my two hands (from salvaged radio and TV components) still has not been equaled, but as my 15-year-old says, "So what?! I can easily dial anyone in the world I want to with my transceiver (aka cell phone)." "Yes," I answer, "but do you even have any appreciation of what is going on in that little piece of equipment in your hand?" "Why should I care?" is the curt answer. This, in a nutshell, is part of the problem. Not too many do care anymore (at least in this country).

I am deeply disturbed by a recent article that stated that over the next 50 years more than 90 percent of all of the engineers in the world will not be in the U.S. If this is true, does it mean that the technological age that started here is over (as far as the U.S. is concerned)? Will we all simply become mindless users of some other country's technology, possibly even one with radically different views than ours? I for one certainly hope not.

One possible solution to this scenario (as far as I am concerned) is to try to awaken an interest in

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technological endeavors such as amateur radio. If we take a little of our time and try to show technically oriented youngsters the fun side of technology perhaps we can guide such people toward a career in technology.

My entry into this "world" occurred when I was only 10 years old. My father brought home a simple crystal radio kit. Together we wound the slider equipped "tuning coil" and put up an antenna between a couple of vents on the roof of the apartment house we lived in. A convenient water pipe served as a ground. I remember spending hours sharpening the "cat's whisker" and searching for the most sensitive spot on the galena crystal. The fact that I could only receive three stations did not matter. It was "magic" to my 10-year-old mind. Not only did this create a close relationship with my father, it literally gave my life direction! I don't think MySpace, Facebook, text messaging, and/or video games are really capable of doing the same.

Ladies and gentlemen, the handwriting is on the wall! What we as responsible adults (at least most of us) do from this point on may well shape the world our children will inherit. Let us hope that the spirit that has been "America" for so long is still there! 73, Irwin, WA2NDM

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Controversy at the Radio Club of America, W2RCA

“Unauthorized” club trustee change reveals schism in century-old club

The Radio Club of America, Inc., is the oldest and most prestigious radio club in the world with membership by invitation only. Nearly as old as the radio art itself, the club has roots dating back to 1907 and was founded as the Junior Wireless Club Limited. Its first meeting was called to order 100 years ago this month, in January 1909.

An amateur station built and operated by The Radio Club of America was the first to send a message across the Atlantic on the shortwaves. It was sent from Old Greenwich, Connecticut, to Ardrossan, Scotland by amateur station 1BCG on December 11, 1921.

The Radio Club of America counts among its current and past membership the best in the radio communications industry, including radio pioneers such as Edwin H. Armstrong and David Sarnoff.

Club Election Brings Disputes to Light

One of this year's candidates for RCA Vice President is Don Bishop, W0WO, of Overland Park, KS. Don is a lifetime Fellow of the Radio Club of America, an ARRL and QCWA life member, and a member of IEEE, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Bishop was also a member of the RCA Board of Directors and Editor of its magazine, *Proceedings*, for many years. He was elected once again to the board in 2007 for a two-year term beginning in 2008. For three years beginning in September 2005, he had been writing and distributing a separate RCA newsletter (he called it “Personal Correspondence”) which apparently was not the “official” club publication. Another newsletter claimed to be the “official” one. We were never able to figure out why there were two, but suspected there was some sort of problem.

It came to a head on September 12, 2008, when we received another official RCA newsletter that carried an item entitled: “Club Call Sign To Be Restored.”

The newsletter went on to say: “Without the knowledge or the authority of the Radio Club Board, the Radio Club's amateur call sign, W2RCA, was secretly assigned to Don Bishop, who alleged on the application to the FCC that he was the new trustee of the station. ‘The original trustee, Eric Stoll [K2TO], was not informed of and did not participate in this activity,’ says President Phil Casciano [who is not a licensed radio ama-

teur.] ‘The Radio Club's Board was shocked to find that this asset was improperly spirited into Bishop's control without warning or authority.’”

“The Executive Committee voted to restore the license to the rightful trustee,” the article continued. “Meanwhile, the matter has been referred to Radio Club legal counsel to determine what, if any, federal laws have been violated by Bishop's unauthorized actions. ‘We are providing Mr. Bishop an opportunity to explain his bizarre actions,’ comments Robert Schwaninger, co-counsel, ‘prior to making further recommendations to the Board.’”

Dr. Eric Stoll, trustee of W2RCA, said he “...found this a curious situation considering that W2RCA has been active in all the recent Radio Club of America QSO Parties....”

Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA)

We decided to look into this, since FCC rules, Section 97.5(b)(2), clearly require that club trustee changes must be authorized by an officer of the club and submitted through an FCC-appointed Club Station Call Sign Administrator. It takes two signatures on the trustee-change application: appointment by a club officer and the agreement of the new trustee.

The FCC privatized the club call sign assignment system several years ago. All club licenses must go through a CSCSA and there are three. Two are the ARRL-VEC and W5YI-VEC. (ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, and the retired founder of the W5YI-VEC, Fred Maia, W5YI, are both longtime members and Fellows in the Radio Club of America.) The RCA trustee change application was submitted through the ARRL-VEC.

W5YI contacted Don Bishop to get more details. In a September 13 e-mail, Bishop said he was asked to be the trustee by Ray Minichiello, W1BC. Minichiello, 91, is RCA Secretary and therefore an officer of the club. He also believes Ray was authorized since “It was Ray's idea for RCA to apply for the license in the first place, ten years ago. He prepared the original application back then, and he asked Frank Gunther, W2ALS (SK), to be the first trustee for the license.” The W2RCA trustee change was made in May 2008.

Bishop said that he did not initiate the trustee change, but “agreed to serve,” adding, “No one from RCA contacted me about this W2RCA matter before sending the RCA e-mail newsletter, so that was my notice that there was a problem.” He said, “I hear complaints from some club leaders

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who are not radio amateurs that 'Bishop is trying to turn RCA into a ham club.'

"What I actually am doing is looking to restore a proportion of technical understanding and engineering background to the club, and especially within its complement of elected officials," Bishop continued. "The club leadership has shifted toward the non-technical during the past decade or two. Also, the club is taking on more of the attributes of a trade association and losing its identity as a fraternal organization of individuals interested in the radio art."

Bishop added, "In 2007, of the 21 board members, only four were radio amateurs. Through a grassroots effort using e-mail and telephone communication to identify potential candidates and then using petitions to nominate them, nine candidates with RF-oriented backgrounds and radio amateur licenses were placed on the ballot for director for the 2007 election to take office in 2008. ...This change in the makeup of the board of directors shocked an influential part of the incumbent leadership. They saw it as a step that was not in the best interest of the club. Many others among the rank-and-file members saw it as a welcome step forward."

"This year, the same grassroots effort used e-mail and telephone communication to identify some more potential candidates. Then, once again using petitions, seven candidates with technical backgrounds and radio amateur licenses—and many with executive, managerial and entrepreneurial experience, I might add—were placed on the ballot."

"The incumbent leadership has sometimes described this development as 'hijacking the election' or 'taking over the club' or worse." "What it is," Bishop said, "is good old-fashioned activism intended to improve the club and move it forward."

"If these seven candidates are elected as directors, along with Ray Minichiello as secretary, and myself as vice president, then the Radio Club would have about 15 radio amateurs on its 21-member board of directors. The exact number depends on who is appointed to fill vacancies."

Bishop continued, "But the candidate field is large. Ray and I both share the ballot for officer positions with candidates who are not radio amateurs, and the list of director candidates includes the names of eight nominees who are not radio amateurs. It therefore is possible that no one with a radio amateur license will be added to the board in this election, and next year's board would have six members with licenses. The actual number could be somewhere between six and 15."

"A focus on radio amateur licenses is not so important, but the candidates with licenses generally have technical or engineering backgrounds, and those without often do not. That's just the way it tends to work. People who are interested in radio for career purposes often obtain radio amateur licenses, and youngsters with radio amateur licenses may grow up to become adults with technical careers."

Bishop went on to say, "Last year's election results were not lost upon the incumbent, influential leadership. This year, some of them are going to great lengths to obtain a different outcome that does not include radio amateurs. Whether what you have just seen in the newsletter and in a previous postal letter sent by the club president is a reflection of that effort, I would leave to you to decide. Whether you also are seeing RCA officials with a desire to sway the election outcome using the club's media and its postal permit, in effect spending club money on electioneering, is also something I would leave for you to decide."

"I have never seen the club give so much attention to its

amateur radio club station license. You won't find the call sign printed on the *Proceedings* masthead. You won't see it displayed in the "Aerogram" printed newsletter. You won't see it identified in the e-mail newsletter heading. You won't see it mentioned anywhere on the club's website. I've urged the club to do any one or all of those things, but the incumbent leaders won't do it because it would 'make RCA look like a ham club.' It's as though the club station license and the call sign W2RCA were an insignificant part of the Radio Club until that e-mail newsletter from the club came out on Sept. 12."

Response by Radio Club of America

On September 16, W5YI sent an e-mail to RCA President Phil Casciano, pointing out that it is not possible for a club trustee to assign himself as the new trustee and that the trustee change was authorized by the signature of Raymond Minichiello, a current RCA officer. The trustee rules do not require that the RCA Board nor the outgoing trustee be involved.

Casciano forwarded our e-mail to Robert Schwaninger, legal counsel for the Radio Club of America. He said, in part, "You are correct when you state that the trustee of a club license cannot be assigned without participation by an officer of the club. The applicable FCC Form requires execution by both the new trustee and an officer. What the completion of the form does not reach, however, is whether the proposed trustee or the officer has the necessary corporate authority to take those actions to assign the trusteeship. In the subject case, neither Mr. Bishop nor Mr. Minichiello possessed such authority."

"Just because a person serves as an officer of a club, that person is not imbued with the authority to transfer the control of club assets without consent of the board. Nothing in the RCA by-laws provides such authority to Mr. Minichiello by virtue of his status as club secretary. To the contrary, such authority resides solely in the board. Similarly, nothing in the by-laws would allow Mr. Minichiello to unilaterally name Don Bishop trustee of the radio license."

"As for what the FCC rules require, the following statement is more accurate: The FCC rules require that an officer, who is also empowered by the licensee, approve such an assignment. When a club officer executes a Form 605 they are not just 'approving' the assignment, they are also warranting that they have been provided all corporate authority to take such actions. Mr. Minichiello made that warranty to the FCC, but that warranty was incorrect as he had never requested such authority from the club, was never granted such authority from the club, and never even informed the club that he intended to so act. Therefore, your assertion that 'The trustee rules do not require that the RCA Board nor the outgoing trustee be involved' is inaccurate. FCC rules, in combination with corporate law and, frankly, polite participation in a non-profit organization, require that, at least, the RCA Board be involved."

Schwanger continued, "Both Mr. Bishop and Mr. Minichiello knew or should have known that their actions required board approval. They did not seek such approval and, instead, acted outside of their respective authority. This situation raises legal issues which are being explored by legal counsel, pending a fuller explanation from Mr. Bishop and Mr. Minichiello."

The fact is that the trustee change was indeed properly handled by the American Radio Relay League. As of press time,

Don Bishop is still listed as the trustee for the Radio Club of America's ham station call sign, W2RCA.

More Don Bishop "Personal Correspondence"

On September 27, Bishop distributed another of his "Personal Correspondence" newsletters. He said that it was puzzling to him "...why I am being made the subject of all this controversy involving the trustee for RCA's amateur radio club station license, W2RCA. Someone seems to be instigating this when it is entirely unnecessary. It was not my idea to become the trustee. I was honoring a request from Ray Minichiello, W1BC, the Radio Club's elected secretary. The core of the question seems to be, 'Did Ray have the authority to ask me?' That is simply a matter for the board to decide, and it should not have resulted in the personal attack upon me. ...As a result, I feel obliged to send out my correspondence describing the situation."

Bishop retained an attorney to protect his interests.

We also contacted Ray Minichello, W1BC, the club's secretary. He confirmed that he did indeed ask Don Bishop to be the trustee of W2RCA and that—after thinking it over—Bishop accepted. Ray added that he and Don had been discussing possible amateur radio activities to celebrate the upcoming 100th anniversary of the club in 2009 and that he had arranged a donation of a state-of-the-art transceiver to be used during the event.

In a letter to RCA, Bishop's attorney (Michael L. Higgs, who is also a member of the club) said the club had "libeled and defamed our client," and that its accusations were "reckless" and "wholly unsupported by fact." He pointed out that the club's constitution and by-laws do not address handling of the club's call sign. Higgs said they were offering "...one opportunity for the club to remedy this dreadful error." The club was asked to publish a retraction of the September 12 accusations and issue "...a sincere apology to Mr. Bishop for publishing such scandalous claims without providing Mr. Bishop the opportunity to explain himself."

A deadline of September 30 was set but RCA did not issue a retraction or issue the apology. Don Bishop eventually decided to deal directly with the club and discharged his attorney.

In a follow-up email, I asked Don Bishop for his views on the upcoming election:

"The election appears to have cast light on some differences of opinion regarding what the Radio Club of America is and what its future holds," he replied. "Some members see the Radio Club's future as a trade association or industry association, and they believe that it already is an organization of that nature, regardless of what it might once have been. Others see its future as a fraternal organization devoted to the investigation and advancement of the radio art that welcomes technically minded members, including radio amateurs, and that its shift toward being an industry association is more a reflection of its complement of elected officials than the makeup of its membership."

"An effort by several members, including me, identified a large number of members with technical backgrounds and radio amateur licenses who said they would be interested in serving as officers or directors. I circulated petitions on their behalf to nominate them as candidates."

"Seeing 10 candidates nominated who, if elected, would represent the technical and radio amateur segment of the membership on the 21-member board, the industry association segment responded by nominating additional candidates of its own," Bishop continued. "Both groups then conducted election campaigns for their slates of candidates using postal mail and e-mail."

I asked Bishop his view on where Ray Minichiello now stands:

"Ray has been placed in a most unfortunate position because he believes, as I believe, he has or had the authority to transfer the trustee and sufficient reason to do so. Yet, it could have been handled better, and circumstances involving the board and other officers made it difficult if not close to impossible for Ray to handle it better. But I can't say exactly why because it would violate a confidence."

Bishop continued, "Ray also is a candidate for office, and he is one of several of us members who conducted election campaigns. I believe it would be safe to say that objections have been raised to the way everyone campaigned, and that objecting to the way the other guy campaigns is fairly common."

Finally, I asked Don where he currently stands with the club:

"As of today, October 24," he replied, "I am a life member and Fellow of the club, a member of the board of directors, and a candidate for vice president."

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Response to This Column from The Radio Club of America

I shared much of what I would be writing for this month's column with the people involved. On October 30, I received the following from Martin Cooper, a Radio Club of America Vice President (and inventor of the first portable cellular telephone in 1973). According to Mr. Cooper, this statement represents the views of the Board of Directors and is the official club position on the matter:

I am grateful to Fred Maia for sharing parts of this story before its publication and for allowing me to present my views. I fear that, while Fred's reportage is largely accurate, the story leaves some misleading impressions. Here are my views on some issues covered in this article.

It would be difficult to find an organization of intelligent, opinionated, and enthusiastic people in which there are not disagreements and controversies; the Radio Club of America is no exception. These controversies are healthy. They ensure that the views of all members are represented and when they are resolved, that the organization serves all constituents. But resolution involves processes and procedures that must be observed. I know all of the RCA people mentioned in Fred's article, some better than

others. All of them are acting, in their own way, in the interest of the Radio Club of America. But reasonable people differ and, not surprisingly, there have been mistakes, perhaps errors in judgment, made by parties on every side of the controversies described by Fred. The reactions to these differences and mistakes have most often been overblown. I point out that there is not one shred of evidence of dishonesty, not one fact of breaking of trust, mentioned in the article. Fred believes that there may be value in reporting of rumors, opinions, and allegations so long as they are identified as such. I don't agree! What purpose is there except to dishonor club members and spark continued unhealthy controversy? Fortunately, the readers of the article are smart enough to recognize the facts, as such.

The characterization of two factions in the RCA, one representing marketing-oriented people (CMA, etc.), and the other technical people (hams, engineers, etc.), is simply wrong. Yes, we are a diverse group. The collegial element of the RCA embraces not only marketing and technical people, but regulators, lawyers, and others, all of whom have contributed to make the radio industry great. A more careful look at our officers would disclose that the "CMA" group includes ama-

teurs and engineers and the "techies" group includes many who make their living out of marketing and journalism and law. The club has made all welcome. There are processes and procedures available to those who wish to change this inclusive policy and they are within their right to do so.

The Board of Directors of the RCA is addressing the potentially damaging aspects of the controversies. My dream is to see everyone working together in the interest of the club. I have urged Don Bishop to publish his newsletter as an official publication of the Club, with appropriate oversight by the RCA Board, and he has indicated a willingness to do so. I have urged Ray Minichiello to apply his considerable talents to create a magnificent 100th Anniversary Memorial book and he, also, has volunteered.

The RCA Board is working hard to move forward and to put the negative aspects of the controversies discussed in this article behind us. By the time this article is published, I believe (but don't guarantee) that we will be successful. Meanwhile, I urge the readers of this article to focus on the facts, dismiss the rumors, and enjoy the benefits of club membership. And those of you who don't yet belong to the Radio Club of America, NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN.

I am a devoted member of the club and hope to remain a member and also an active contributor to club projects.

"I used to send 'personal correspondence' e-mail messages to some RCA members that contained information about other members' activities, stories about new members, historical information about the club, photos I took at club events and original artwork. I started the [personal correspondence] e-mails as an offshoot of travel e-mails I sent to relatives and friends. The first one I wrote had to do with an RCA breakfast meeting I attended in August 2005. My first e-mail was sent on Sept. 28, 2005, and the last one on Sept. 27, 2008. During the three years, I wrote about 100 of them. Although many members liked my RCA-related e-mails, some did not, and enough members of the board objected to them that I decided to discontinue them indefinitely. RCA started its own e-mails in April 2007, and some board members saw mine as confusing RCA's official message, competing with the club's own effort to disseminate information and otherwise unnecessary or unwanted.

"Some members of the board also objected to my accepting an invitation from the club secretary, Ray Minichiello, P.E., W1BC, to be the trustee for the amateur radio club station license W2RCA, and the way the transfer of trustee was handled. Although it was entirely consistent with the way I became the trustee of another club station license 30 years ago, it did not meet the expectations of the Radio Club's board. I could have handled the matter better, and I'm sorry I didn't. I have apologized to the board for the mistake.

"Along the way, though, the matter of the trustee escalated to the point where club officers made some accusations about me in public and had an attorney send me a letter about it before asking me what happened. I responded via an attor-

ney, which is what I always have been advised to do: When contacted via an attorney, respond via an attorney. I have since discharged my attorney in an effort to bring the matter back down to something to be fixed among club members. Some officers said they couldn't talk to me as long as I was represented by an attorney, so I ended that representation. I also asked that the club discontinue using an attorney, and maybe that was done.

"One of my friends in the club told me that what upset some board members never was so much about the license trustee matter, it was mostly about the e-mails, even though no one wanted to say it because who can challenge one person's right to send e-mail correspondence to another? But in the interest of harmony, I have discontinued the e-mails and would like to see the other matters resolved quietly and amicably.

"I was surprised by the highly adverse reaction by a fairly large number of board members who tend to represent the 'industry association' part of the club when I helped to nominate technically minded members with radio amateur licenses to run for office. I would have hoped that the new candidates would have been welcomed as coming forward to possibly represent a segment of the club that has been under-represented for a number of years. The idea never was to push out or diminish the size of the industry association segment, but instead to increase the proportion, just the proportion, of technically minded club leaders. I would also like to see the proportion of technically minded club members increase, whether or not they have radio amateur licenses. I believe that would be in the best interest of the club and good for its future."

73, Fred, W5YI

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In a follow-up to his November article co-authored with K9LA, NM7M says some of the data used to develop their theory of galactic cosmic rays and enhanced propagation on 160 meters can also be used to predict future long-distance openings.

Predicting Ducting-Assisted Propagation on 160 Meters

BY ROBERT R. BROWN,* NM7M

Recently, an article was published in *CQ* (Brown and Luetzel-schwab, November 2008) which dealt with the role that galactic cosmic ray intensity plays in 160-meter propagation and DXing. For us, galactic cosmic rays are a weak flux of particles, largely protons in the 10–20 GeV range, that have entered our atmosphere after first getting through the *heliosphere* (the sun's magnetic field, which contains the entire solar system) as well as the Earth's magnetic field and ionosphere.

In the article, use was made of records of ground-based *neutron monitors*, devices that detect secondary neutrons generated in the atmosphere by primary galactic cosmic rays (GCR). It is now apparent that these measurements may also be used to predict the formation of ducts capable of supporting very long-distance DX (over 10,000 kilometers) on the band.

Turning to the ionosphere, it was found (Brown, 2008) that the GCR flux can support the ionization at the bottom of the electron density valley above the *E*-layer after sunset. That valley has long been considered a potential site for ducting, with signals propagating for great distances by reflections with the walls of the valley without ground reflections. This ducting mode is realized when the flux of GCR decreases (Brown and Luetzelschwab, 2008) or falls below the normal background level.

Neutron monitors such as those at Moscow, Kiel (Germany), or Calgary report decreases in GCR on a routine basis and electromagnetic theory can be used to relate the ducted distance,

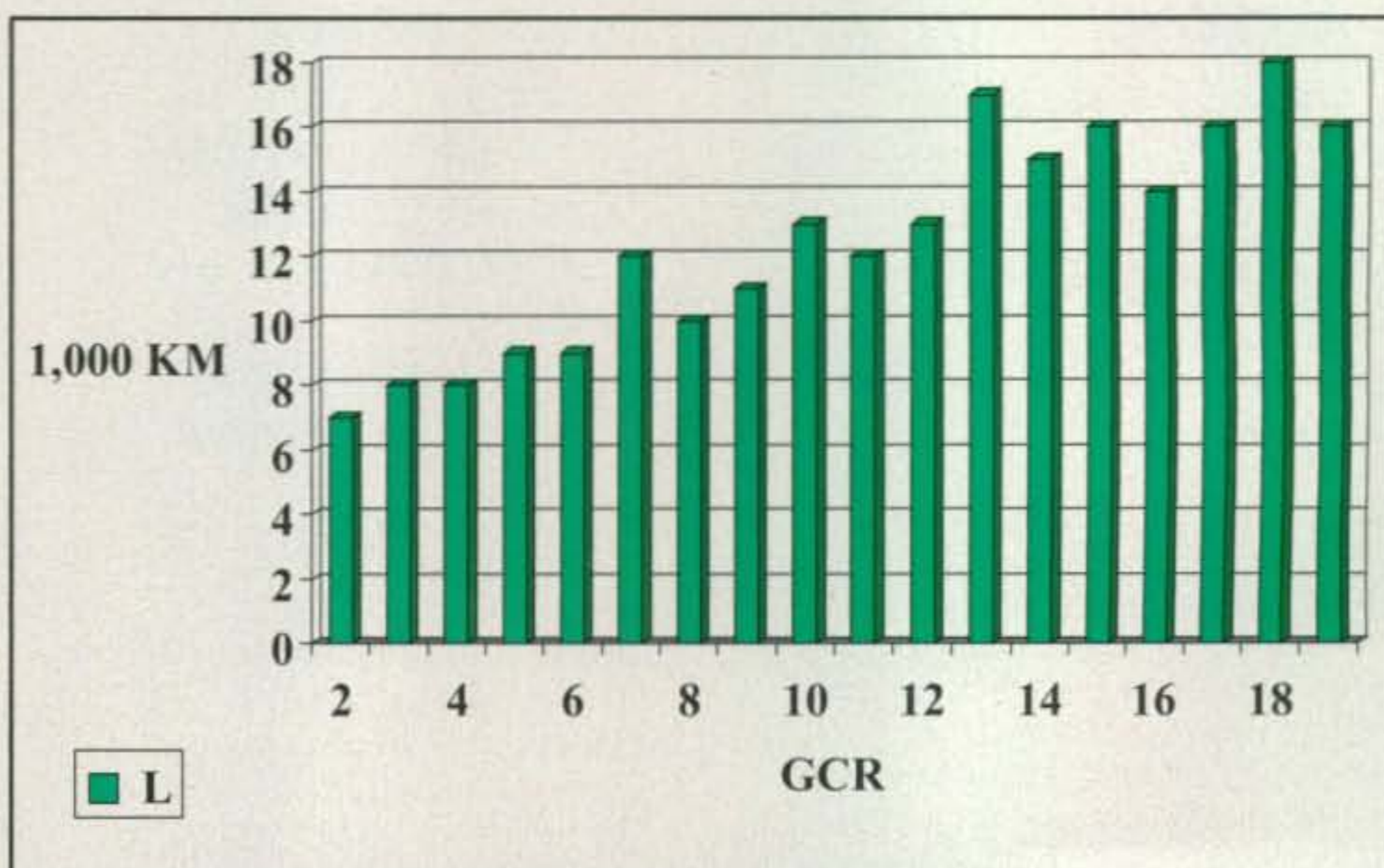


Fig. 1— The greatest distances reached on 160 meters by W7LR compared with the flux of galactic cosmic ray decreases (GCRd) in the ionosphere. Note that with GCRd values of 2–9, most contacts were at distances of less than 9000 km, while most contacts of 10,000 km or more were during times of GCRd values of 10 or higher.

L, to which signals may be propagated on 160 meters for a given decrease in GCR intensity. The first result was

$$L = 3.5 \cdot \sqrt{\text{GCRd}}$$

where units for L are 1,000 kilometers with a maximum (Lmax) of 20,000 km, and GCRd in percent decrease.

As a first test of this result, more than 100 contacts with the USA were analyzed from the logs of VK3ZL and VK6VZ using GCR data from the Calgary neutron monitor from 2004–2005.

This test was encouraging, as the contacts across the Pacific Ocean (11,000–14,000 km) were for GCR values consistent with the theoretical

result. However, a larger, broader test was needed, so more than 900 contacts from the DX logs of W7LR (2003–2007) were used next.

The theoretical methods were also improved. Using GCR in unit steps, the L-GCR algorithm changed to

$$L = 1 + 3.4 \cdot \sqrt{\text{GCRd}} \text{ (for GCRd < 9\%)}$$

or

$$L = 2 + \text{GCRd} \text{ (for GCRd > 9\%)}$$

Results with the W7LR database in fig. 1 show that for GCRd = 2 to 9, there is a large block of data points for contacts with Japan and western Europe,

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e-mail: <nm7m@aol.com>

but nearly all to distances of less than 9,000 km. Fewer than 5% of the contacts in that group reached beyond 9,000 km. These included prefixes such as TZ, VP6, VR, and ZL8. On the other hand, for the smaller group of DX contacts above $L = 10$, 50% were beyond 10,000 km, with prefixes such as FT5, TR, ZD8, and 9V.

The distribution of L_{max} values for each GCRd bin is shown in fig.1. As a summary figure for the five years of operation (2003–2007) of W7LR, the L-GCR diagram has 20 GCR bins which contain data entries for each of the QSOs, but the L-value shown for each bin is the most distant entry. About 50 DX entries are in the last 10 bins, but none of the longest entries reached the L_{max} for its GCR value. The increasing trend in the figure suggests that ducting does support DXing beyond 10,000 km. Without ducting assistance, one could expect to find the DX contacts beyond 10,000 km spread more evenly in the figure instead of being concentrated at the high GCR end.

GCRs and Sunspots

Now a few words about sunspot numbers. They are counted and tallied by solar astronomers, just numbers on paper, but we find their trend is followed to a high degree by the state of ionization in the terrestrial ionosphere. Physics tells us the ionosphere requires a strong flux of UV and X-rays to maintain it, so sunspot counts serve as surrogates for energetic solar UV and X-rays. We will find a new application from that idea with the study of another database, the SEANCE NET, a trans-Pacific operation between British Columbia and Australia during the summers of Cycle 22. Such an operation in the face of heavy ionospheric absorption points to the efficiency of ducting-assisted propagation.

In fig. 2, GCRd (heavy trace; values doubled for clarity) and increasing sunspot (SSN) counts (light trace) are shown for Cycle 22. The SSN count may be interpreted as representing the flux of solar UV and X-rays, pointing to heating or temperature increase by absorption as the mechanism affecting the solar wind in producing GCR decreases by its modulation of the interplanetary field (IMF).

As noted above, UV and X-ray activity associated with SSN are features that interact with the solar wind and affect how it modulates GCR. The degree of connection is seen in the correlation between SSN and 2^*GCR , say on the rising portion of Cycle 22,

January 1988 to January 1990, in fig. 2. For that period, the correlation coefficient was $R^2 = 0.89$.

Across the peak at solar maximum, the SSN began to decline a bit while going through large fluctuations, giving $R^2 = 0.11$. After that, the two decreased with $R^2 = 0.6$ in the declining phase of the cycle. In any event, GCRd and SSN are related in time, and the signal gain due to ducting serves to counteract ionospheric absorption from increased solar activity.

Neutron Monitors and Top-Band DX

Finally, cosmic ray neutron monitor observations have been available since the 1950s, but until recently 160-meter propagation predictions have tried to use other variables, say the geomagnetic K - and A -indices as well as SSN, to no avail. Now, however, we see that ducting occurs when the GCR flux decreases, and that decreases in excess of 10% are quite promising for DXing.

However, for GCR decreases less than 10%—i.e., $L = 10,000$ km—path predictions are less reliable, as E - and F -hops have signal strengths competitive with ducted signals.

With neutron monitor records dating back to the '50s, the cyclical nature of GCR decreases, shown in fig. 3 from Alberta, Canada, available for study.

This record involves solar activity in two ways: GCR intensity changes as the heliospheric volume changes with solar activity and temperature changes of the solar wind with SSN, as inferred from fig. 2. A cyclical variation of GCR decreases seen in comparison with solar activity shows a few months' lag behind SSN counts.

At the present time (Fall, 2008) GCR decreases are running low, about 1–2%, according to the Moscow monitor. Thus, 160-meter DXing for now will be by E - and F -hops, and assistance on long-haul DX by ducting probably will not become frequent again until GCRd reaches 10%. After that, ducting will help put more contacts beyond 10,000 km in your log.

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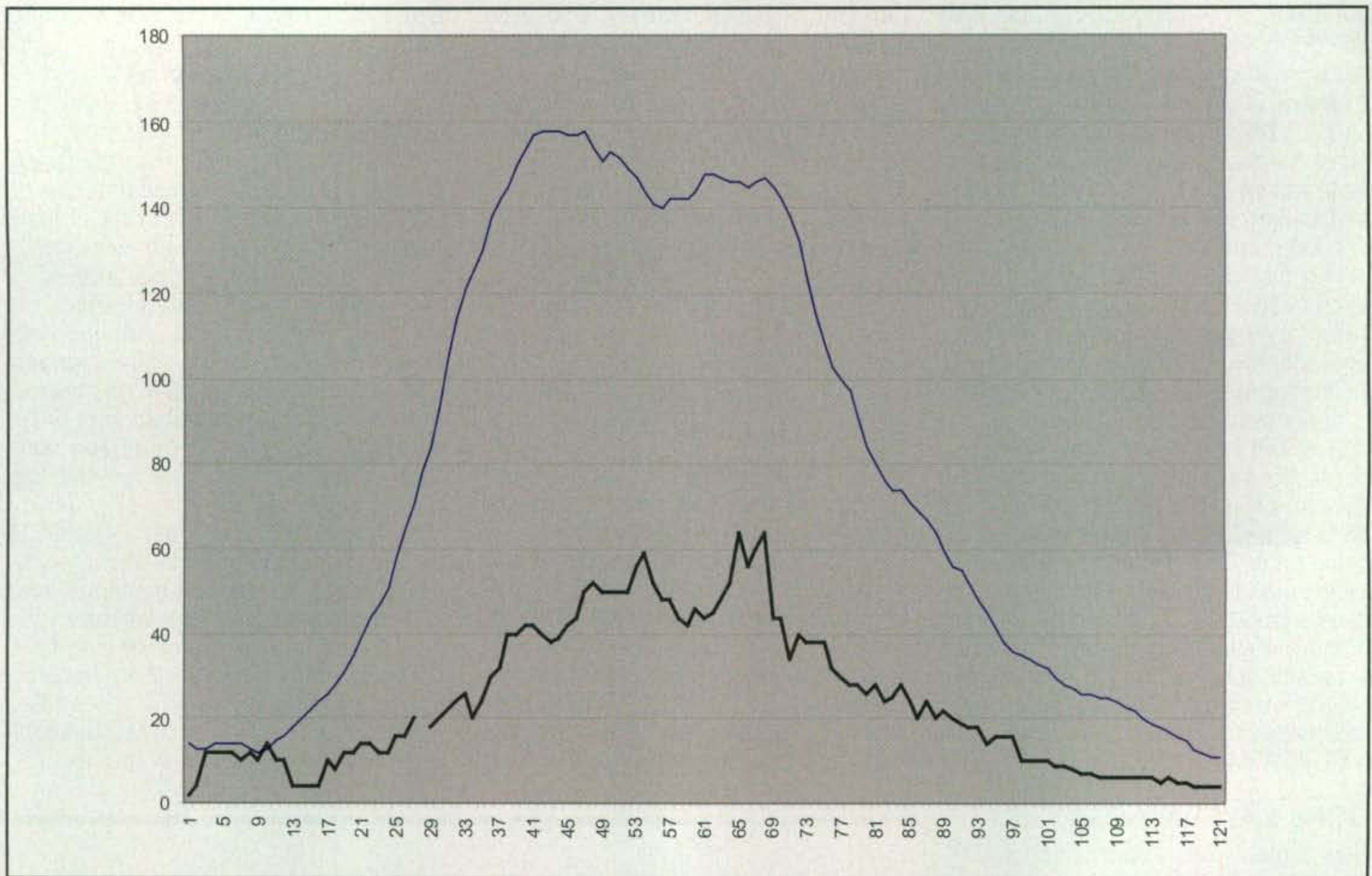


Fig. 2— Comparison of GCRd levels (lower, heavy line, multiplied by 2 for clarity) and sunspot numbers (higher, lighter line) during Cycle 22. Note that the GCRd levels generally track with the SSNs but lag slightly.

One cannot leave this subject without noting the good fortune that the first work on 160-meter propagation and GCR was carried out using log data from 2004. It also rested on a senior research project on cosmic ray physics taken in college more than 50 years ago. All in all, this is called “serendipity.”

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- Brown, R. R. and R. C. Luetzelschwab, “A Theory on the Role of Galactic Cosmic Rays in 160-meter Propagation,” *CQ* magazine, November 2008.

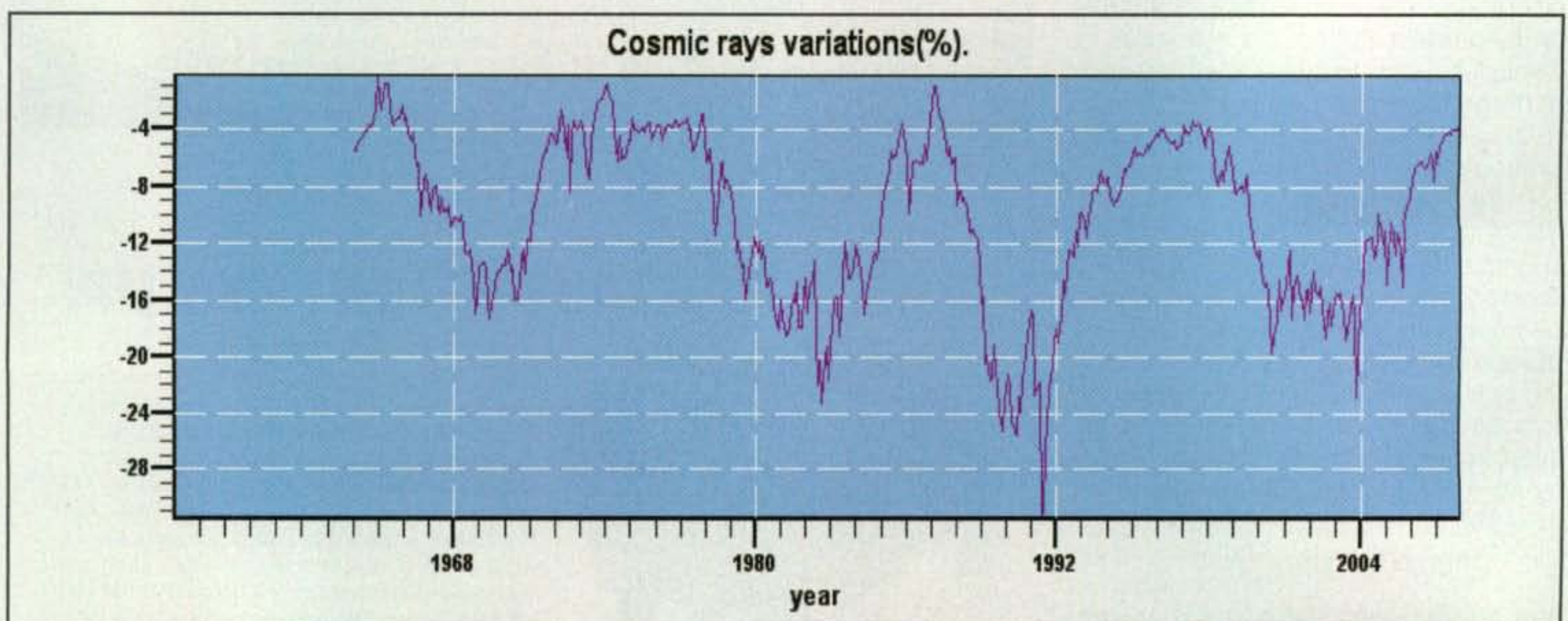


Fig. 3— GCR levels from 1964–2008 as recorded by the neutron monitor in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. These levels are roughly inverse of the sunspot cycle, as it is the measure of the decrease in GCR levels that tracks with the sunspot numbers (note the negative numbers on the Y-axis).

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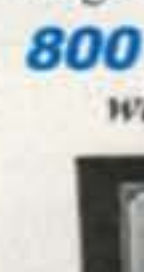
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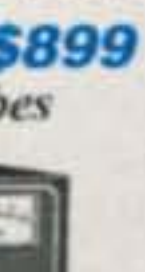
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The Future is Now

As I began writing this article I had just returned from a World Series Championship parade for the Philadelphia Phillies. Millions of people lined the parade route. As the festivities ended and fans made their way back to the train station, the building was packed with excited fans. They were also in for a substantial wait until they could get on a train to go back home. SEPTA, the local transit agency, reported that it handled over 215,000 more people than the 135,000 commuters who ride the rails on any given Friday. SEPTA admitted there was no way it could handle the crowd, but the agency kept all of the equipment working and everyone got home with no injuries reported.

What does this transportation issue have to do with emergency communications? Probably everything. Take a look at what happened during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The storms were powerful enough to test both the amateur radio and MARS response. It was certainly better than any exercise could have. Yet for as bad as the storms were, the emergency response wasn't overwhelmed. Just like the parade, SEPTA was able to handle the crowds.

However, incidents like these don't mean there is no use for amateur radio emergency communi-

cations. However, as technology changes we must be able to offer value to the emergency management community. Army MARS Chief Stuart Carter recently explained how Winlink is now "firmly in place interconnecting the three MARS services with the full range of supporting agencies." More and more amateur radio groups are adding digital communication to their list of available resources that can be deployed in an emergency.

This time we'll report on several activities and events involving amateur radio emergency communication.

Traffic Changes

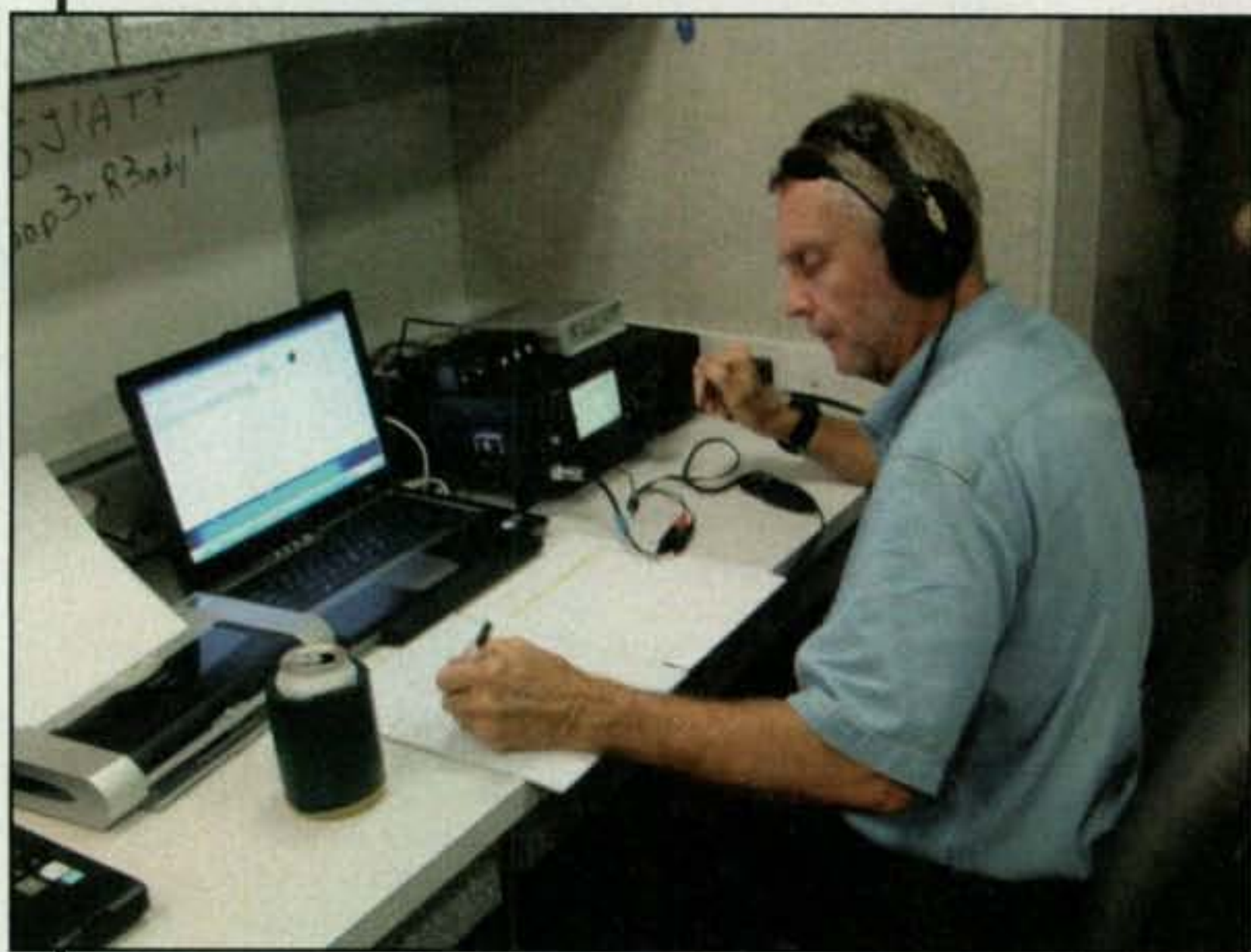
This month word comes that formal message routing will change in North America and come to a halt overseas. In order to keep amateur radio message traffic flowing across the country the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) has expanded its reach to include eastern Canada. In a joint announcement NTS Eastern Area Chair Marcia Forde, KW1U, and Bill Thompson, W2MTA, NTS Second Region Net (2RN) Manager for Cycles 2 and 3, invited Canadian radio amateurs who handle traffic to participate in Second Region Net operations, as the Eastern Canada Net (ECN) is no longer active. The ARRL reported that the ECN, a CW net, handled traffic for Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland into the U.S. for transcontinental transmission.

"This expansion of 2RN operations is intended to allow Section Nets in the eastern provinces of Canada to have outlet to Eastern Area Net operations and to allow inbound traffic to flow to those provinces of Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes," Thompson said. "This is much the same way as the more-western provinces in Canada currently interface with the NTS RN7 (Seventh Region Net) and TEN (Tenth Region Net) nets."

Meanwhile, we may have seen the end of the MARSgram to soldiers overseas. Carter told Army MARS members that MARSgrams served very few soldiers who are not within reach of e-mail or phone service. He said, "We can handle MARSgrams still, but final delivery will have to be by mail. We won't be promoting the service." Carter continued that the message he gets from Europe on the MARSgram is that the "Army's warfighters don't think they need us given the systems they now have. Our work is here at home, supporting the Army's commitment to civil support." He labels this "the new reality."

Exactly how Army MARS will fit into the national emcomm picture is still evolving, according to Carter. There has been a thriving partnership with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). He says it's proven to be a "natural fit." He sees another growth opportunity with the National Guard and domestic civil support to U.S. North-

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



Army MARS member Lewis Thompson, W5IFQ/AAR6UK, operates on the MARS WinLink net from Galveston, TX. He's aboard "Big Blue," the mobile command post of the Texas Military Forces' Standing Joint Interagency Task Force, the first unit to reach Galveston Island after Hurricane Ike's landfall. (Photo courtesy of Army MARS)

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com. This might take the form of a tie between the MARS regional commands and Army Northern Command, 5th Army's newly established Defense Coordinating Officer teams attached to each FEMA region. He said this new mission will continue to support the military, federal agencies, and their state and local partners.

Flu Season

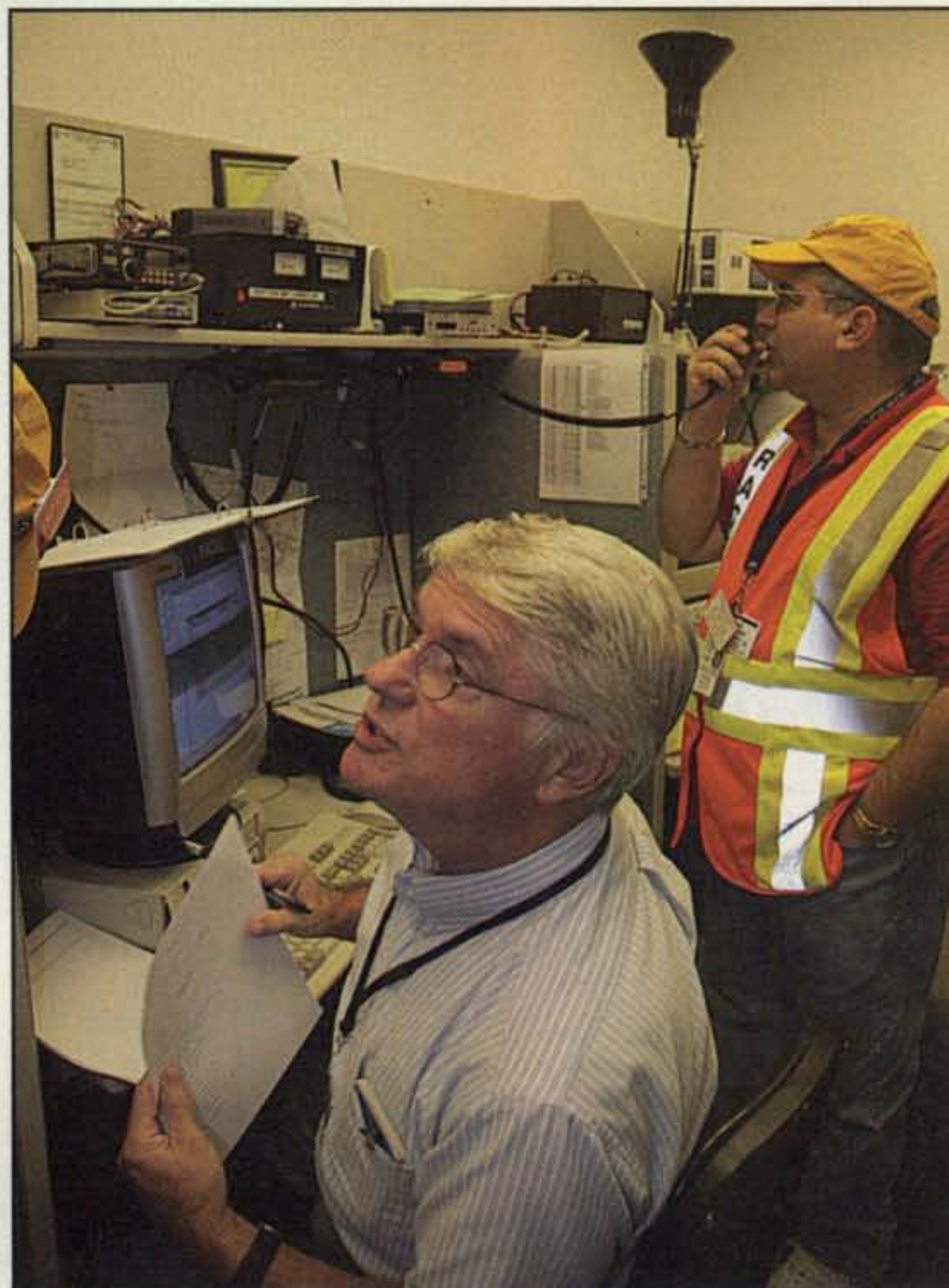
The Bucks County, PA Health Department and Emergency Management Agency recently held their third Pandemic Flu drill. The drill had a dual purpose—immunize citizens from the winter season's flu, and prepare county officials and citizens for a Pandemic Flu mass-vaccination scenario. Local ARES and RACES organizations were activated to support the drill.

Over the course of four hours, more than 4500 vaccines were administered in five locations (PODs) around the county. Amateur radio operators staffed each of the locations. Each station had voice and digital communications available to pass information between the distribution sites as well as the County Emergency Operations Center.

"We are grateful to the public, our volunteers, and the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) team for a successful drill," noted Exercise Director and Health Department epidemiologist Meredith Allen.

In addition to the vaccine distribution sites, an amateur radio resource staging area was set up at a shopping mall in the

Ron Wenig, NY3J, and other members of Bucks County (PA) ARES kept track of activity at various flu vaccination distribution sites at the county emergency operations center. (Photo courtesy of Steve Pearl, N3LJZ)



neighboring county. From that point, amateurs had access to major roads in Bucks County for quick deployment to possible additional deployment points.

In addition to the approximately 55 members of Health Department staff at the PODs, personnel from the county's Emergency Management Agency were called to staff the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Ivyland. The EOC serves as a communication and coordination hub during emergencies and exercises. John Dougherty oversees operations there. "At this level, we're able to troubleshoot. For example, we can determine whether a POD might need additional vaccines and facilitate the escort of those doses using the MIRT officers for security."

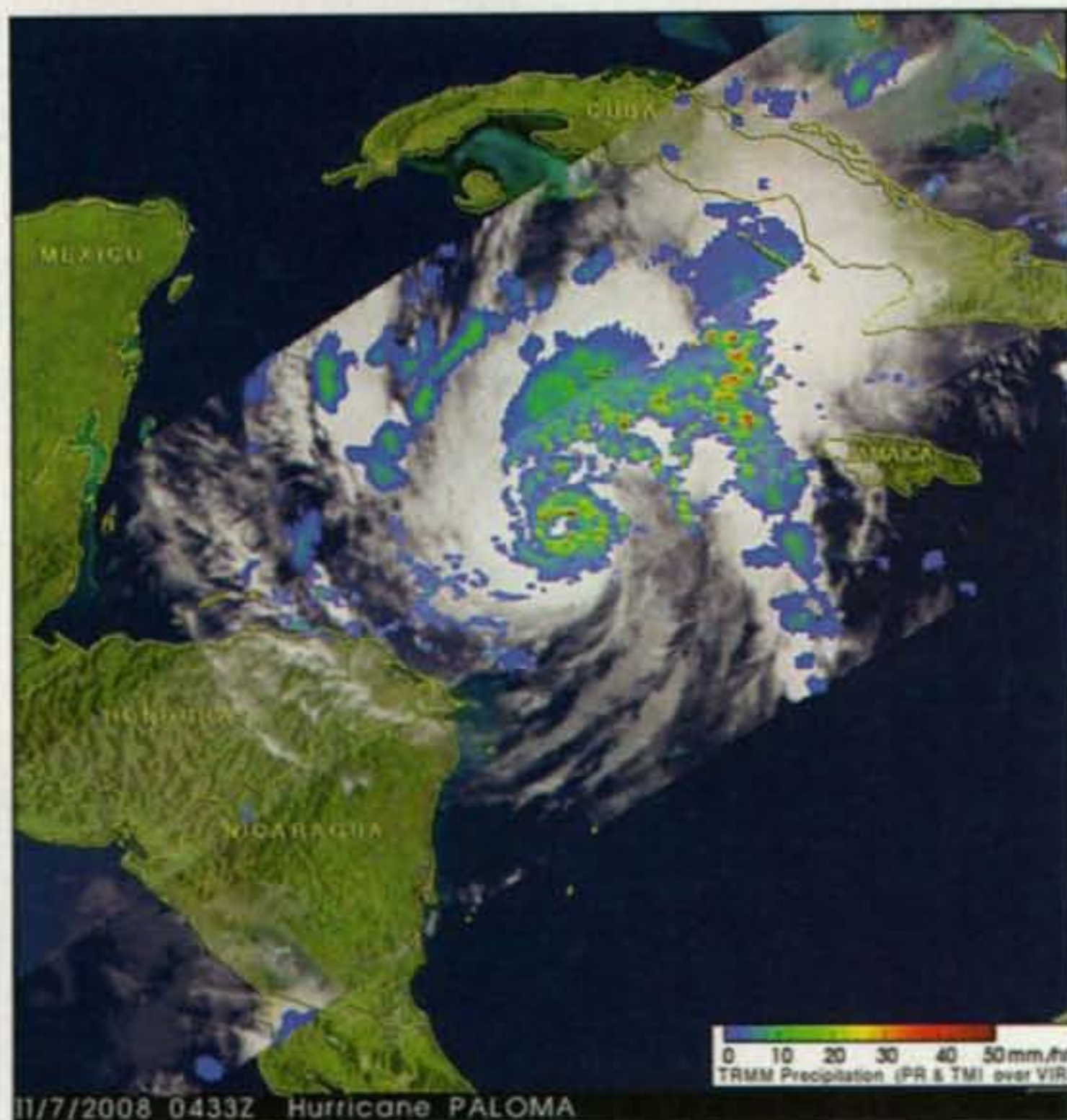
No Power, No Phones

In mid-November the lights at the San Bernardino County's Emergency Operations Center went out. The phones stopped working. The staff on hand huddled under their desks, holding on through a minute-long imaginary earthquake of magnitude 7.8 rippling along the San Andreas Fault. The drill was part of the Great Southern California ShakeOut, which is part of the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history. Emergency responders from San Bernardino's central command spent two hours without computers, lights, or land-line communication to get a better sense of what things would be like after such a powerful quake. The drill scenario indicated that the phone system and the internet would fail in the first 10 minutes after the earthquake.

The drill was "as similar to a real activation as we could make it," said Megan Blaney, a spokeswoman for the county's Office of Emergency Services, in advance of the event. She said that about 70 representatives of various emergency agencies, utilities, water districts, and schools would be on hand in what would essentially be a war-room type exercise. "We fall back on our backup or redundant communication, which is ham radio operators and emergency radio." The drill indicates that ham radio operators would still be assisting local officials 72 hours after the earthquake, but that the internet would be available where there was electricity. At this point, friends and family from outside of the region would begin to reach people in the disaster area. It is thought that within one week response organizations would be able to use the telephone and the internet.



Todd Hevener, KB3LCT, served as net control for the Bucks County Operations Net during the flu vaccination drill. (Photo courtesy of Steve Pearl, N3LJZ)



Hurricane Paloma takes aim at the southern coast of Cuba. This would be the third major hurricane to hit Cuba in 2008. (Photo by Hail Pierce, courtesy of NASA/SSAI)

While California residents have seen their share of large scale disasters such as the destructive wildfires that have taxed resources and provided experience in dealing with sheltering displaced residents, gaining access to damage-affected areas and post-event cleanup, the scope of destruction from a magnitude 7.8 earthquake would dwarf those operations seen during the wildfires. "In an earthquake, some of that would be the same," she said. "Some wouldn't. We'd have terrible, terrible amounts of debris. That's a problem with fires was well, but it's nothing compared to this."

Find the Gaps

The idea of the ShakeOut was to "find where the gaps are and take corrective action to fix them. It takes continuous planning and exercising to find out where you need improvement." Similar activity was also planned at the Riverside County Emergency Operation Center in Riverside, where 120 people would be reacting to the fictional quake. Spokeswoman Zuzette Bricker, KI6PPO, said the county hosted two large Field Day activities for trained community emergency response teams. "We'll bring out all the people who have taken the CERT training and do some hands-on triage and (search and rescue) and fire suppression," Bricker said.

International News

At deadline, extremely dangerous Hurricane Paloma was bearing down on the Cuban coast. Amateur radio operators were supplying information to the National Hurricane Center in Miami via the Hurricane Watch Net and the VoIP Weather Net. In addition, the Salvation Army's SATERN net activated to help with the possible hurricane-related information. Amateur radio operators were also assisting local emergency management officials in various Caribbean countries. Hurricane Paloma had become a Category 4 storm prior to

making landfall with 145-mph winds. It was the second strongest hurricane recorded in November.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU says they will promote each other's activities related to disaster relief/response. They will promote joint events for disaster preparedness, coordinate disaster relief activities, and cooperate on training activities and exercises relating to the use of emergency telecommunications in the service of humanitarian assistance.

According to the MOU, the IFRC will "collaborate with IARU (either directly or in co-operation with its member National Societies) in its work with national telecommunications regulatory entities on matters related to use of amateur radio resources for disaster management and in particular in promoting the Tampere Convention."

Global SET

In early November a Global Simulated Emergency Test was held for the headquarters stations of IARU member societies and stations of emergency communications groups. According to Greg Mossop, GØDUB, the objectives of the test were to "increase the common interest in emergency communications, test how usable the IARU Emergency Center of Activity frequencies are across ITU regions, create practices for international emergency communication, and to practice the relaying of messages using all modes." Recommendations included suggestions that all stations limit their power during the exercise to 100 watts.

One major objective to overcome during the test is the message format used among various countries. During the May 2008 GlobalSET gathered information on emergency power available or in use at participating stations. One of the designators used during the drill was placing a "/D" after the callsign. However, it was noted that some data-mode software would not accept the "/D" as a callsign suffix for transmission or identification. This led to messages that were sent to different stations.

The GlobalSET report for the May exercise said, "Having messages that change their content depending upon which mode is used to transmit them is not good for message accuracy and having variation in the message structure passed during each exercise is not

good for getting a common message-handling procedure."

Exciting Year

As you can see, there are many activities and events involving amateur radio emergency communications. We'll be covering the new mission of Army MARS, the expansion of amateur radio usage in international disasters, and the disasters here in the United States where amateur radio operators will be

ready to assist their local communities when normal communications fail.

Let us know how you are getting ready to be prepared to provide emergency communications in your community. As a reminder, each emergency group should have a public information officer. News today is almost instantaneous. There isn't time to wait several weeks or months for an after-action report. Drop us a note. Add us to your mailing list.

73, Bob, WA3PZO

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The Joys of New Gear

How long has it been since you sat down to a nice new transceiver complemented with a new mic, new CW paddle, and possibly a new antenna? It is a most exhilarating experience for sure (akin to reliving those exciting first days in amateur radio), and the good news is the endeavor need not be overly expensive. There are good transceivers and accessories—really good transceivers and dazzling accessories—to fit every budget. If your funds preclude going with all new gear, however, adding only a single item such as a new key or even a new wire antenna can open a world of enjoyment for you. The previous statement obviously requires further explanation, and that is the subject of this month's column.

A New Transceiver!

I sense you bouncing around like those parrots atop the Texaco sign in old TV ads and singing the Trump theme song "Money, Money, Money," but look behind that intro humor. Both \$10,000 super transceivers and \$900 economy transceivers are equipped with high-grade receivers and 100-watt transmitters, and both types are quite capable of global communications. The special benefits of a new rig, however, are numerous. First there is the sheer pleasure of using new gear—the feeling that you can take on anything that comes your way and work out three times better than ever before. The feeling is well-justified, as even fundamental cir-

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Photo 1— There is no better way to rekindle your interest in amateur radio than with a new rig, a new antenna, and/or new mic and key. As shown by the Kenwood TS-480, Bencher Hex key, and Heil FIN microphone shown here, the endeavor can also be quite affordable—and reward you with many years of enjoyable operation.

cuitry in modern gear is noticeably superior to that of older gear. It's heartbreaking, true, but you can really hear a difference in performance between "tube rigs" and recently introduced "solid-state rigs" (sigh).

There is also an "hours of operation" factor worthy of consideration. Simply explained, with age any piece of equipment becomes more susceptible to some type of failure or malfunction. Even with limited use, dust and humidity can creep into connectors, switches, etc., and cause malfunctions. Additionally, world economic situations are requiring many manufacturers to discontinue producing circuit boards and special components required to repair older gear. Conversely, the "all new components backed with a full-year warranty and supported by a proven reliable service center" is the best assurance that you can enjoy amateur radio to the max without long-term breakdown and repairs.

Should old pro amateurs—those of us who built and/or repaired our (tube-type) gear of eras past—feel guilty about sending our new-style gear off for repair? Absolutely not! Most new rigs are sold with little, if any, service data or even a usable circuit diagram. Half the components are only available from the equipments' manufacturer, and working with tiny surface-mount components while wrestling with unsteady hands and high-magnification glasses is a major challenge. We have spent our time in the trenches; now we deserve time to enjoy life hamming to the max!

A New Antenna

Have you noticed how antennas of all types seem to work out really great when new, but settle into a more ho-hum category after a few years? Why does that happen? Aluminum tubing in beams and verticals tends to corrode at joining points, individual strands in wire antennas break over a period of time, feedpoint connections weather, and losses in feedlines/coax cables increase with age. The changes are gradual and often go unnoticed until we refurbish or replace a beam or vertical or replace an old favorite wire antenna with a new version and discover a whole new world of amateur radio communications. In light of these facts, I say, "Why wait? Do it now!"

Are you thinking of replacing a dipole antenna? Consider moving up a couple of steps in the process. Among multiband wires, the Carolina Windom (available preassembled and in several sizes from <www.theradioworks.com>) is a very good choice. If big-time results on one particular band are your goal, the Extended Double Zepp (available from <www.mfjenterprises.com>) is a romper. With either choice, your investment is small and your returns are large.

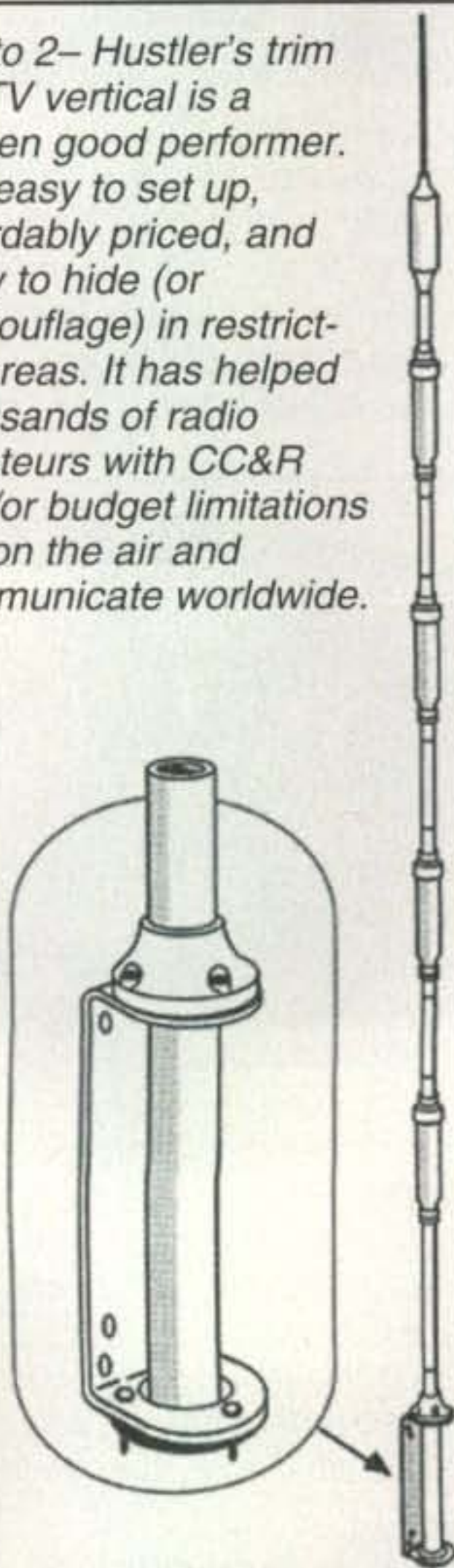
Thinking of a vertical? Good idea. There is something special about seeing a tall length of aluminum tubing in your backyard that inspires feelings of grandeur. A large number of Europeans favor Hustler's 6-BTV vertical (photo 2;

<www.new-tronics.com>), possibly because it is trim, slim, and can be hidden in plastic rain-gutter material and disguised as a lamp post. Personally, I have used every type of vertical imaginable and find Hy-Gain's AV-620 and AV-640 (photo 3; <www.hy-gain.com>) beat all others by a noticeable margin—probably because they are $\frac{3}{8}$ -wave rather than conventional trap-type $\frac{1}{4}$ -wave verticals. I spent over two years with in-QSO A-B checks/comparisons between a regular $\frac{1}{4}$ -wavelength vertical, a popular tri-band beam, and an AV-640, and the AV-640 consistently stood tall as the best buy for the (overall) money.

Mics and Keys

Whether your transceiver is new or old, large or small, simple or super-elaborate, complementing it with a new key and/or mic always makes on-the-air operation delightful. They are truly affordable accessories with glitz and glamour galore. In microphones, Heil Sound is the unquestioned leader. Heil mics enhance your voice and give your signal more "punch" than any other type

Photo 2—Hustler's trim 6-BTV vertical is a proven good performer. It is easy to set up, affordably priced, and easy to hide (or camouflage) in restricted areas. It has helped thousands of radio amateurs with CC&R and/or budget limitations get on the air and communicate worldwide.



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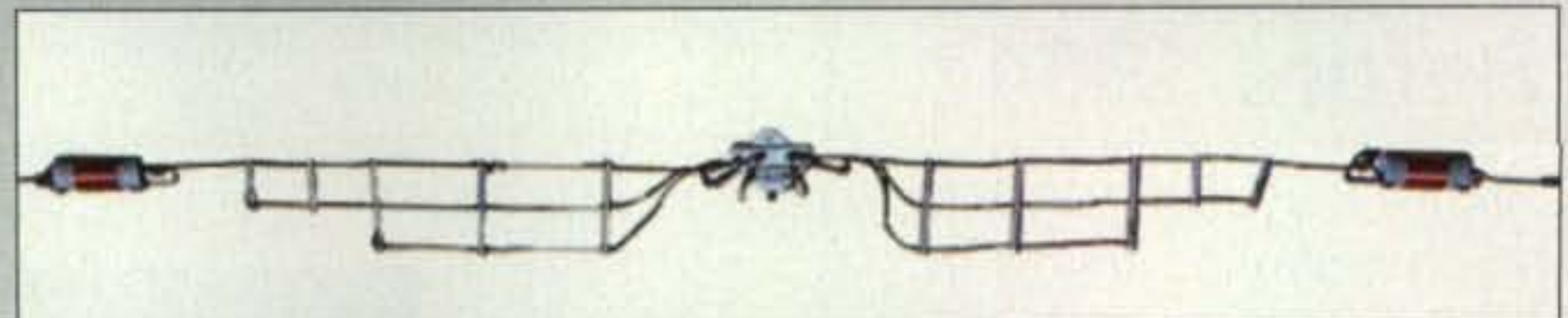
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of microphone. In fact, Bob (Heil) demonstrated his mics at the Huntsville (Alabama) Hamfest in August 2008, and you could actually hear how they boost one's voice like switching on a linear amplifier.

Heil's new FIN mic (photo 4) includes a unique finishing touch: Blue cool LEDs behind its blue windscreen can be illuminated by phantom voltage from an external audio mixer or equalizer such as the low-cost Berringer Model UB-802. Numerous other Heil mics are available to fit every need and voice, and they are surprisingly affordable. Check <www.heilsound.com> for more details.

Many radio amateurs recognize the benefits of CW for reaching out long distances, and from that standpoint I can say nothing beats a new key or paddle in the shack. Indeed, getting behind a great-looking and smooth-handling paddle is akin to getting behind the wheel of a new car or sitting down to a new transceiver—but it is much less (!) expensive. A new paddle also inspires you to enjoy more on-the-air time each day. Dinking with a new paddle is just plain fun! Expensive? It can be (some keys are

akin to jewelry!), but we have also noted several really impressive paddles in the "under \$200" category. Check out, for example, Bencher's neat Hex key (photo 5; <www.bencher.com>).

Investigating New Areas

Thinking about something more than new gear and/or accessories, something



Photo 4— Like to add a touch of big-time glitz and glamour to your setup and enhance your on-the-air sound quality at the same time? Heil Sound's new blue cool FIN mic fills the bill in high style and it is priced right to boot. Details at <www.heilsound.com>.

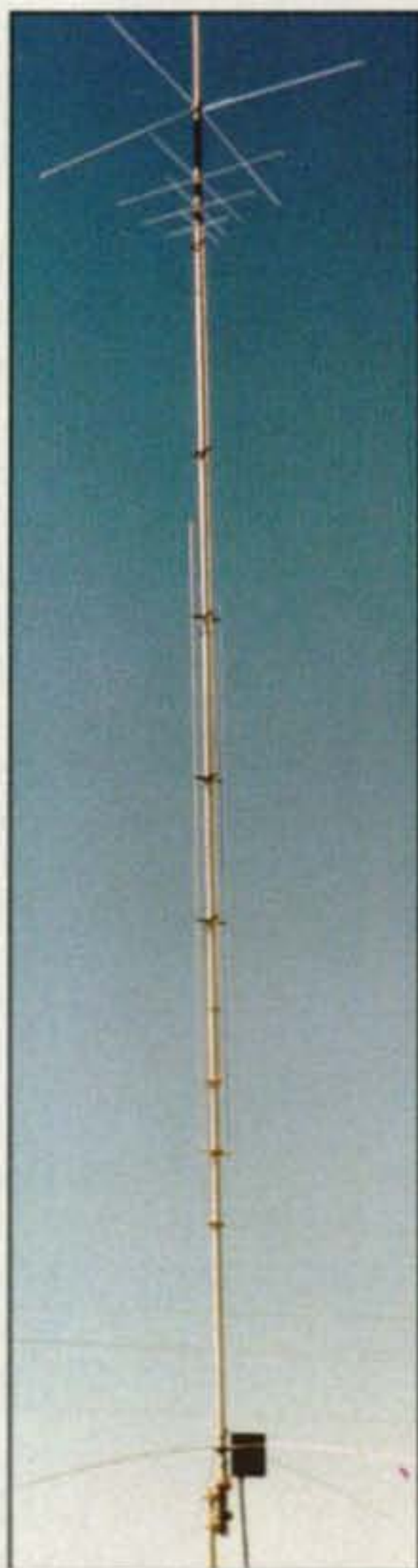


Photo 3— Hy-Gain's AV-640 vertical may be somewhat "high profile," but its 3/8-wave-length design helps it to perform almost equal to several "triband" beams. If you want top results with a multiband vertical, this will provide them.

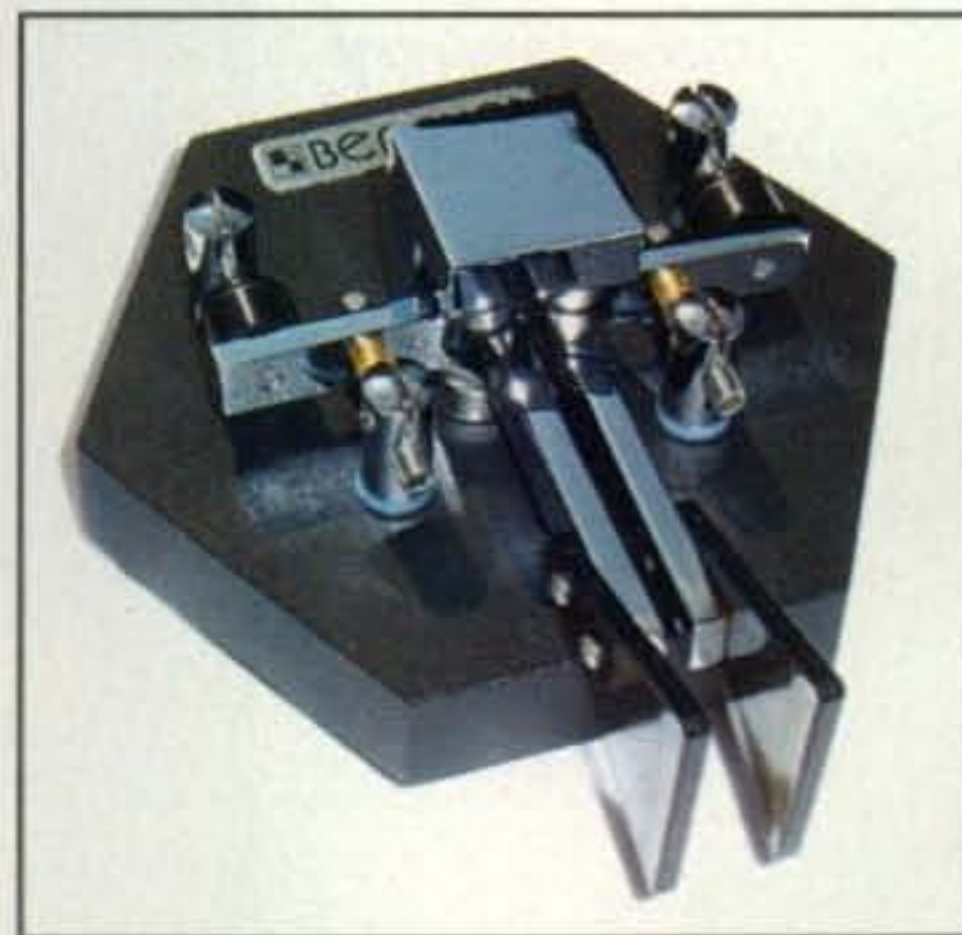
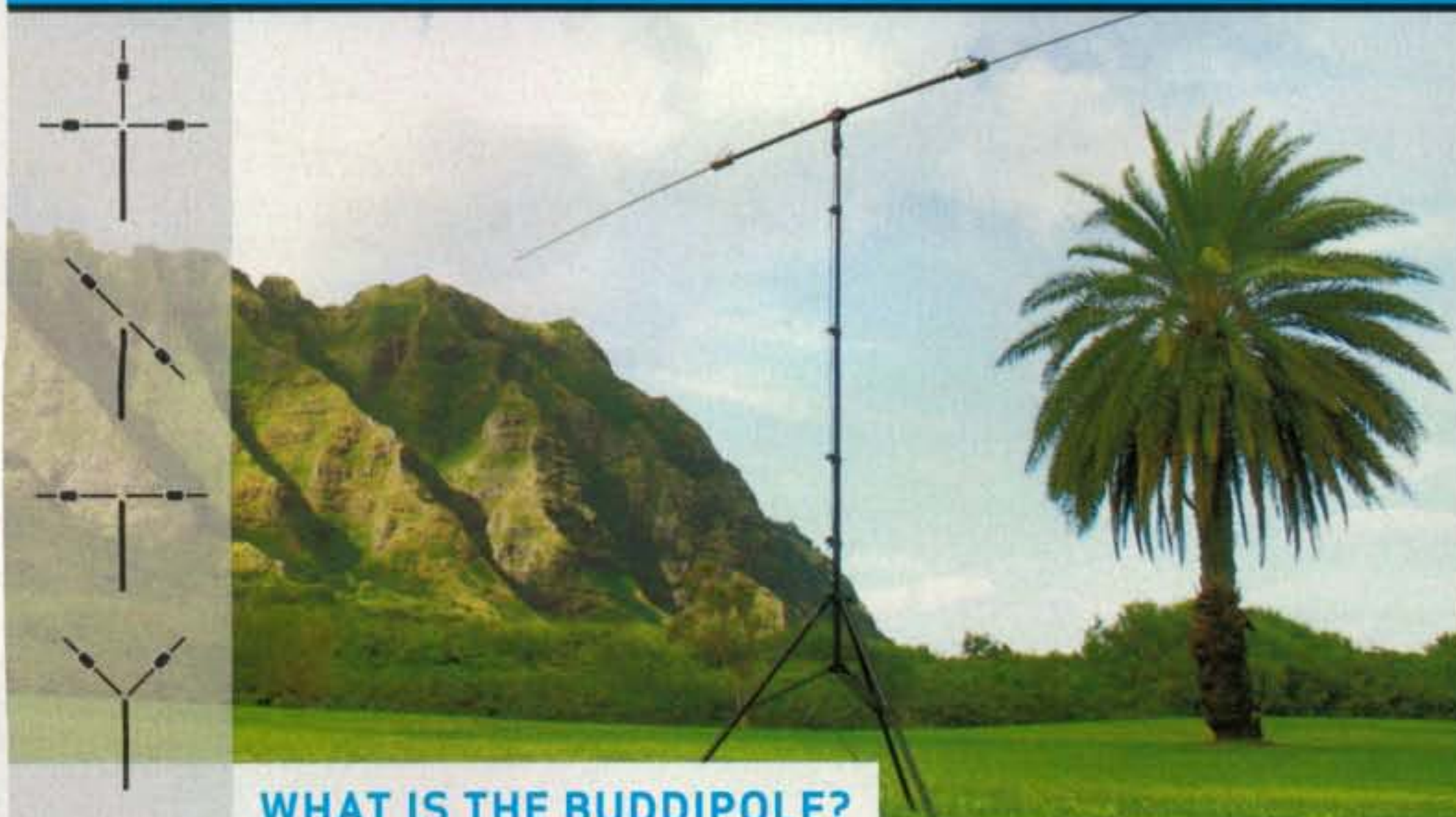


Photo 5— Bencher's reasonably priced Hex key is fashioned similar to the world-famous N2DAN "Mercury" iambic paddle with magnetic tensioning and positive action. It is an impressive CW instrument that is, well, fun to use! Details at <www.bencher.com>; paddles available from <www.morseX.com>.



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Photo 6— All new areas of pursuit need not be massive, complex, or expensive to join, and the world of QRP is a prime example. This (10-watt version) Elecraft K3 is a QRPer's dream rig with features galore, and it fits in the smallest "shack" imaginable. Details at <www.elecraft.com>.

Milky Way can mask signals in the noise. Once you beat the odds and make an EME contact, you realize the efforts were worth the reward. It is a wonderful memory.

Another area of significance is radio astronomy and its "spin-off interest" of SETI—the Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. These areas are sure to become major frontiers of interest during coming years as we move closer and closer to colonizing the Moon, mining its ice deposits, and exploring Mars. There is an endless amount of information right beyond our telescope's view in space, information that may define our future. The study is captivating!

All "new" areas need not be complex or expensive to pursue, incidentally, and they need only be "new" to you to hold creditable appeal. QRP (see, for example, the Elecraft K3 in photo 6) is a prime example of that fact. It is a low-cost and easily affordable pursuit, one you can enjoy from the most confined locations imaginable, and working the world with low power is incredibly exciting. Give it, or any other special area of interest, a go! Investigate new frontiers. Gear up with new goodies. Enjoy life!

Conclusion

If we look back a hundred years from today, we can see stout-hearted amateurs having a ball dinking with primitive but new gear, new antennas, and new ideas. If we then use that same mindset to look at the present, we see that same form of excitement and golden-age thrills live on in high style today. These are indeed good times—times that people of tomorrow will look back on with envy, and each one of us has the privilege of enjoying these times to the max right now! May the force of good signals always be with us—one and all!

73, Dave, K4TWJ

that may require a few years' investigation and study to join but something with real horizon-expanding flair? Expanding horizons is commendable from any viewpoint, and some areas of interest can prove captivating for a lifetime.

Moonbounce is a good example of a horizon-expanding pursuit. The Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) signal path is one of 260 dB loss. Do the math on that, and you can actually feel how you must start with high effective radiated power (ERP) to even produce weak echoes that must be amplified low-noise style. Look further and you will discover how the Earth's atmosphere can twist transmitted signals right-hand circular and reflected/received signals left-hand circular, and improper antenna polarization can cause signals to drop below noise levels. Then too, galactic noises from the sun, stars, and the

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Last month I described an inexpensive 40/15-meter vertical antenna made from surplus 4-foot aluminum tubing. I've done a little more work on this antenna, making it easy to put on 60–10 meters by increasing the length and using a wide-range antenna tuner (i.e., something better than the typical 3:1 internal antenna tuners provided in some radios).

First I added another 4-foot section of aluminum tubing to last month's vertical, making the antenna about 36 feet long. The reason I did this was to keep the antenna from becoming a half-wave long on 20 meters, which would make it extremely hard to match.

With the 36-foot length, I found that the worst-case SWR from 60–10 meters was about 10:1 on 20 meters. The SWR was lower on all other bands. I know; this sounds bad. However, it turns out that if you feed the antenna with low-loss coax such as LMR-400 or 9913, your coax losses due to SWR are pretty much negligible when you tune the antenna system from your

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Photo B— Matchbox installed at the 36-foot vertical antenna base.

shack. As an example, I'm using about 60 feet of LMR-400 with an antenna tuner in my shack. On 20 meters, I lose less than 1 dB due to the high SWR. Detailed information on the impact of SWR on coax losses can be found in the *ARRL Handbook* and *ARRL Antenna Book*. Take a look at this information, as I think you'll be surprised at just how little power you will lose under high SWR conditions if you use low-loss cable.

OK, this is great. One antenna covering 60–10 meters, and all you need is low-loss coax and a good antenna tuner in your shack. However, is there any chance we can make this antenna work on 80 and 160 meters as well? Sure there is!

A 36-foot long vertical antenna is very short (electrically) on 80 and 160 meters. Like any short antenna, though, this vertical can be matched on these bands as well. A short antenna has a high capacitive reactance, requiring a series inductor in order to resonate the antenna in your band of interest. There are detailed equations available to determine exactly what the capacitance is, but I've found that if you assume the antenna capacitance of a short vertical is about 4 pF/foot, you will be pretty close. So, let's see what it takes to resonate this antenna on 80 and 160 meters.

For this 36-foot antenna, the effective series capacitance is about 144 pF (36 ft × 4 pF/ft). To resonate this, we need:

160 Meters:

$$L = 1/[(2 \times \pi \times 1.9)^2 \times 144] = 49 \mu\text{Hy}$$

80 Meters:

$$L = 1/[(2 \times \pi \times 3.7)^2 \times 144] = 12 \mu\text{Hy}$$

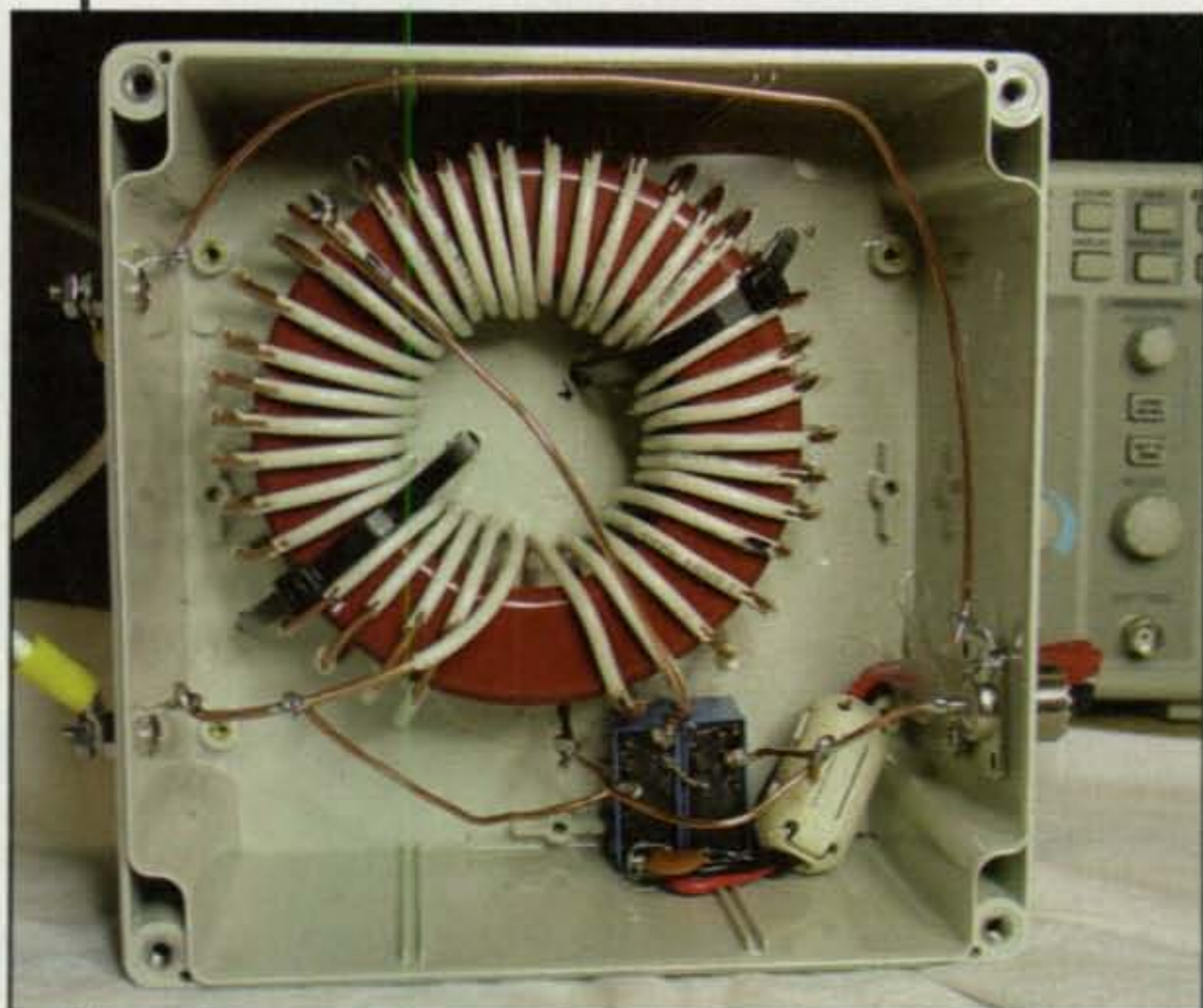


Photo A— Internal wiring of the 160/80-meter matchbox.

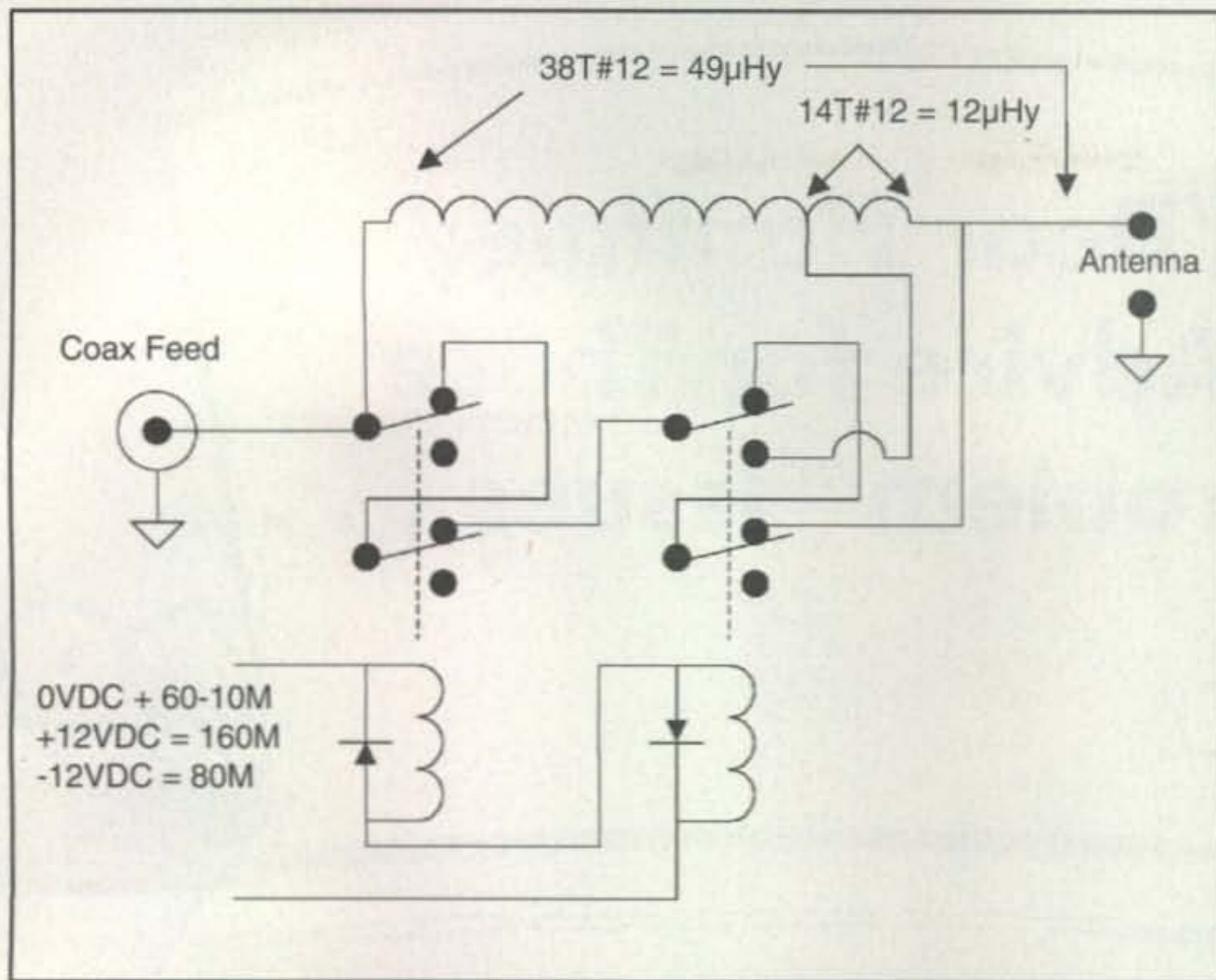


Fig. 1— The 160- and 80-meter base matching circuit.

Fig. 1 shows my final creation. The relays are power relays with 1000 VAC RMS minimum breakdown between contacts, and 5000 VAC RMS breakdown between contacts and coil. I wired the relays so as to double the breakdown voltage by putting contacts in series. The relays are powered such that the coil is shorted out on 60–10 meters. A negative 12 VDC causes 12 μ Hy to be in series with the antenna feedpoint, and positive 12 VDC causes the full 49 μ Hy coil to be placed in series with the antenna feedpoint.

In order to handle high power, I wound the inductor with 14-gauge insulated house wiring on a T400A-2 toroid core. Everything was built into a plastic NEMA outdoor box. The critical parts are given in Table I. I drilled holes in the NEMA box for tie-wraps that hold the toroid in place, as well as to provide water drainage holes. I used a pendant DC cable terminated in an Anderson PowerPole™ connector for the DC input. I gooped hot glue around the DC

cable hole for waterproofing. Photo A shows the internal wiring, and photo B shows the matching unit placed at the base of my 36-foot vertical antenna.

How does this work? In a word: Great! The SWR on 160 and 80 meters drops to less than 3:1 from the >15:1 it was before the matching coil was put in place. This SWR value keeps line losses very low and makes matching with your indoor antenna tuner very easy on these bands.

Until We Meet Again...

And now it is time to retire! I have enjoyed writing the "Weekender" column for almost two years now, but I'm starting to spend more time operating and less time tinkering, although hopefully you'll still continue to see some articles of mine on occasion. Finally, I want to thank the many of you who have e-mailed me with ideas and comments. I have appreciated and valued your input.

73, and I hope to run into you on the air.
Phil, AD5X

Qty	Description	Source/Part Number	Price each
1	6" x 6" x 4" NEMA Enclosure	Lowes/Home Depot	\$12.00
1	T400A-2 Powdered Iron Toroid	Amidon T400A-2	\$30.00
2	DPDT Power Relays	Mouser 653-G2RL-24-DC12	\$3.85

Misc: 14-gauge house wiring, stainless-steel hardware, UHF connector, tie-wraps, DC power wire and connector.

Table I— 160/80-meter base matching unit.

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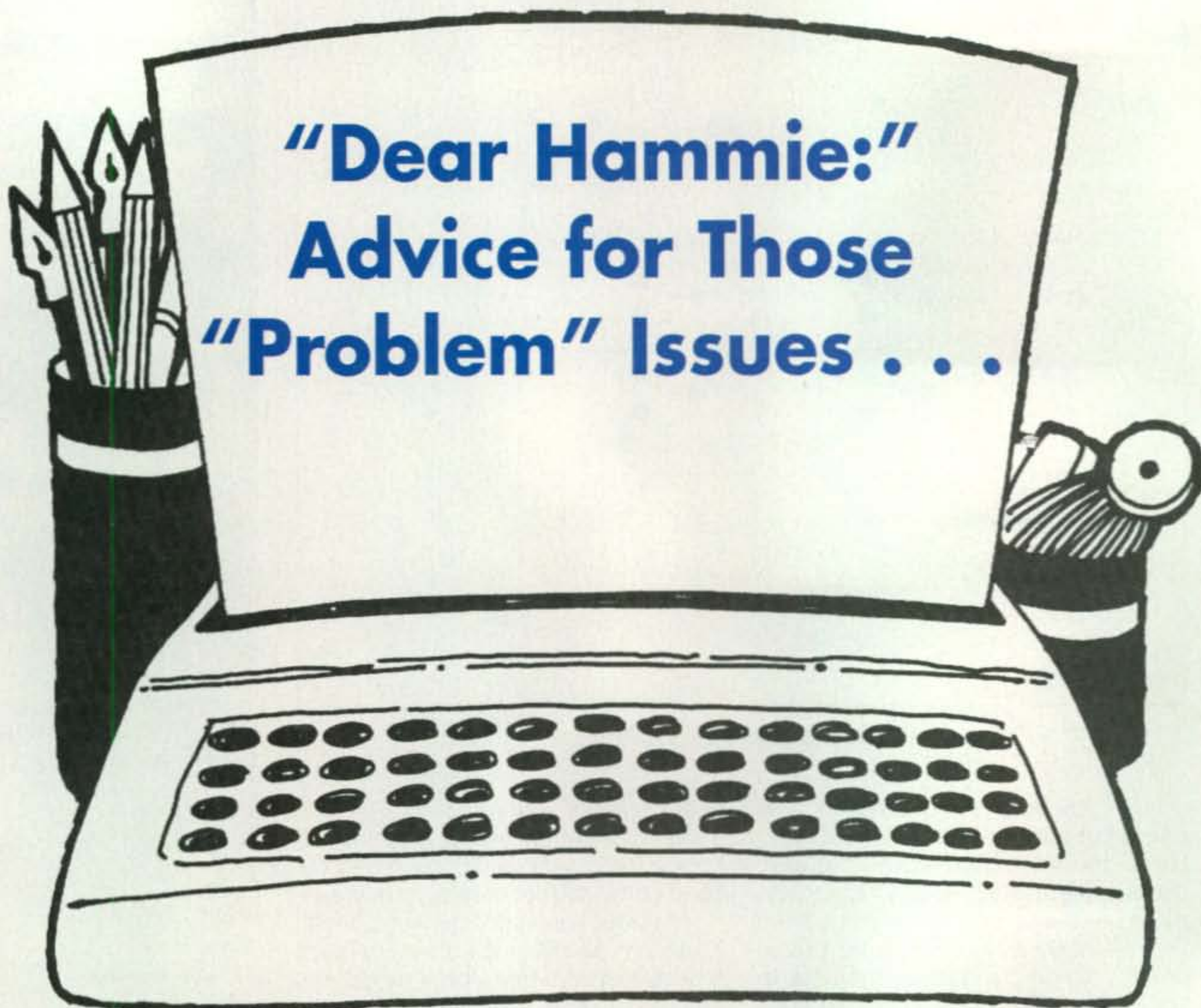
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In an effort to once again fill a gap left unaddressed by other ham radio publications, "Magic in the Sky" dares to go beyond the technical. Sure, there are columns that deal with technical Q&A; a column in another publication purports to have expertise at the doctoral level. What's missing has been a true advice column that places focus on the operator in this unique pursuit we share.

Ann Landers and her twin sister, Abigail Van Buren, provided guidance in the nation's newspapers for decades. With apologies to them and those who have followed, let's dip into the mailbag!

Dear Hammie:

I'm in love with a wonderful girl. We dance. We laugh. She's smart, beautiful, with radiant red hair, a great smile, and a perfect figure. She loves to cook gourmet meals, she has a professional job with a six-figure income, and she collects exotic cars. She's proposed to me and wants to take an around-the-world cruise for our honeymoon. The

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e-mail: <aa6jr@cq-amateur-radio.com>*

problem is, we'd be gone for months and I'd miss Field Day. What should I do?

Confused in Colorado

Dear Confused: I thought you said she was smart? Dump her. There are more like her out there. You just haven't looked hard enough.

Dear Hammie:

I was among the many "undecided" voters in the last election. In fact, I was so pressed to make a choice, I decided to stay home and leave the decision to others. How can I avoid such a quandary in the future?

Undecided in Utah

Dear Undecided: It's easy. Vote for the ham. After that, nothing else matters.

Dear Hammie:

I hope you don't mind my seeking your advice; my dad is a ham radio operator but I am not. I am gearing up for that all-important meeting with my fiancée's parents. I'm nervous about it but I think it will go well. I have a medical degree and am ready to get my life going in high gear. My older brother runs a bookie operation in a distant city. My younger brother is a convicted drug dealer but

is now in a halfway house. My sister runs guns to third-world revolutionaries, and my mom helps her with back office bookkeeping. The question is, how do I explain to my girlfriend's parents that dad is a ham?

Fidgety in Florida

Dear Fidgety: Tell the girl's parents that Dad abandoned the family. That way there's no expectation he'll be at the wedding if it falls during Dayton or a contest weekend.

Dear Hammie:

I find I'm torn between my favorite two hobbies, ham radio and golf. I'm retiring soon, and my budget will only allow me to sustain one. What guidance can you offer?

Tee or Key in Tennessee

Dear T or K: This required some analysis, but here it is. Golf only allows you to be frustrated and curse at missing balls during the summer. DXing allows you to be frustrated and curse at missing calls the entire year. By that calculation, ham radio is the far better value.

Dear Hammie:

I made a deal with my wife that she could pick out our new car, as long as I got to install a mobile radio in it; she agreed, provided I was careful not to mess up the new purchase. She picked out a nice sedan with all the options, and I just completed installing the radio. So far, so good. Just like the manuals say, I took precautions to center-mount the rooftop antenna in a carefully drilled hole. Only when I was done did I come to realize the sunroof now won't open. How can I explain this to her?

Hiding in Huntsville

Dear Hiding: Try telling her that soft light in darkened rooms makes her skin look like she's 17, but strong sunlight shows some creases. That sliding cloth panel under the sunroof should remain closed tighter than a bank's vault at midnight.

Dear Hammie:

I realize this is a somewhat technical question, but it really falls under the category of advice. I'm a new ham in a quandary as to which radio to buy. Any recommendations?

Newbie in Norfolk

Dear Newbie: All of them. (Rookies ... sheesh!)

Dear Hammie:

I understand that radio waves go into space and continue across the universe

forever. Isn't it possible that some alien species on another planet could DF those signals back to the source and find our planet?

Frightened in Fresno

Dear Fresno: Your theory could be true. On the other hand, put yourself in the shoes of the alien species. Listen in on some 40- and 80-meter nets for a while and ask yourself if you'd want to risk a 40-light-year trip to meet these life forms? Some of these rag chews could be the best defense against alien invaders our planet could ever hope for. And so far, it's worked. (I think).

Dear Hammie:

My spouse wants more "togetherness" but I enjoy ham radio in all its forms, which doesn't leave a lot of spare time. She's taken up needlepoint, which bores me. How can we mutually enjoy our respective hobbies?

Partnered in Pottstown

Dear Pottstown: Have her needlepoint the schematic to your HF transceiver.

Dear Hammie appreciates your questions, so send them in, but no need to

hurry. Editor Rich, W2VU, says the next time he expects room for Hammie's column may be sometime in 2019, but twice in a given decade may be too often.

"Hidden Morse" Postscript

The mailbag (and okay, the e-mail inbox) had some nice responses to our "Hidden Morse" vignette. Among them, Geoffrey Sutton of Texas and Gary Bartlett, VE1RGB, of Canada both identified a feature carried for years in *Mad* magazine, "Spy vs. Spy." The author, Antonio Prohias, embedded Morse symbols between the panels of his creative cartoons, which spelled "By Prohias." How many "closet" *Mad* readers were also hams? I'm willing to bet more than a few of us!

Happy 2009

Here's to a 2009 that's full of great contacts, compliant and cooperative equipment, superb sunspots, awesome antennas, and fantastic friends all brought together through your participation in the world's greatest hobby. This year, make a resolution to add even more to the "Magic in the Sky."

73, Jeff, AA6JR

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Wires and Cables

Over the years, I have had many conversations with hams (and their non-ham spouses) about "all those wires." While non-hams may think a wire is a wire is a wire, most hams know that this is not the case at all.

In its simplest sense, wires and cables transport electrical signals from a source to a destination. In ham radio stations and equipment, wires are used to route operating power from a source such as an electrical AC mains outlet or a battery to the radio gear. Wires are also used to transport radio signals from the radio to the antenna during transmit, and from the antenna to the radio during receive. Inside the radio, other signals are moved from place to place and can include data signals from a micro-processor. However, it all boils down to electrical signals moving from one place to another.

Wires for Antennas

When making antennas with insulated wire, you do not have to remove the insulation. I do not recall any antenna article that addressed this bare-wire versus insulated-wire question, so let's make a clarification here: When making antennas with wire, such as a dipole or inverted-Vee, you do not have to remove the insulation. If the antenna wire you are using is not insulated, you do not have to

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e-mail: <kh6wz@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo 1—A very low-loss coax-cable type is called *hardline*. In this cable, the outer shield is made of solid copper, rather than woven wire braid. This type of cable is used on VHF-and-above frequencies and is particularly useful when long runs are needed.

add any insulation. You can use No. 12 or smaller wire, in either stranded or solid copper. (You can use heavier, thicker gauge wire, but the weight may make the antenna difficult to support.)

Hardware and home-center-type stores carry insulated bell wire (usually in small gauges, from 18 to 26) as well as insulated house wire (usually with a designation called THHN and in larger, heavier 10- or 12-gauge sizes) both of which are suitable for wire antennas.

I use plastic-coated, No. 12 gauge solid-copper wire for just about all of my dipoles and inverted-Vees, mostly because I have hundreds of feet of this type of wire stored in my garage. (I found a "good deal" several years ago when a local electrician friend decided to clean out his workshop.) No. 14 can also be used, and the antenna would also be a little lighter in weight. Take a look at the wire antenna books sold in the CQ Bookstore for more details.

Coax is a two-syllable word in the ham radio world. It is short for "coaxial cable." Coax consists of a center conductor with a layer of insulation, followed by a woven braid or a solid shield (the shield forms the second conductor of the cable), and finally an outer insulating jacket.

There are many types of coax suitable for ham radio antenna installations, including many types with specialized jackets or construction and materials. The impedance for radio transmitting and receiving is 50 ohms. Since there are so many cable types from which to choose, your best source for help would be your favorite ham radio equipment dealer. If such a dealership is not conveniently located, you may want to ask your fellow ham club members for coax-cable advice.

The most common cable types for two-way radio applications are RG-58, RG-8X, RG-213 and RG-8. Generally speaking, the larger the diameter, the better the cable, with some exceptions, such as UT-141, a small-diameter, solid-copper-jacket coax used in the microwave frequency ranges.

A very low-loss cable type is "hardline," in which the outer shield is not a braid, but solid (or corrugated) aluminum tubing. Thus the cable is "hard," as opposed to a traditional cable with a soft and flexible braided wire shield. Hardline cable is usually used in VHF-and-above applications, such as a repeater installation (see photo 1).

Several types of outer jacket materials are available for most coax types, depending on where the cable is to be used. If the coax is to be buried, a jacket made of polyethylene (PE) should be used, and if the cable will run mostly outdoors, a UV-resistant jacket should be used, such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

According to Belden Technical Bulletin T/8-6

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Connector	Upper Frequency Limit
PL-259	144 MHz
BNC	4 GHz
SMA	25 GHz
N	11 GHz normal, 18 GHz precision

Table 1— Various coax-connector types and applications.



Photo 2— From bottom right to upper left, typical cables and connectors found on ham radio gear: PL-259 on RG-213, BNC on RG-58, SMA on some sort of very flexible cable, and Type N on 1/2-inch hardline.

Issue 5, "Underground Burial of Belden Cable," a high-density polyethylene jacket is particularly well-equipped for direct burial because it can stand up well to compressive forces, it is both non-porous and non-contaminating, and it provides complete protection against normal moisture and alkaline conditions.

It would be a good idea to spend a little extra and install an underground coax run inside a length of polyethylene water pipe or other suitable conduit to further protect the cable and to simplify replacement of the cable in the future. Use a large-diameter pipe so that if you decide to add another antenna, the new coax can be run inside the existing conduit.

References Wire and Cable Information and Facts

Belden, Inc.: <<http://www.belden.com/index.cfm>>

Hardline coaxial cable—Andrew®, a CommScope Company, makes HELIAX® hardline cables:

<<http://www.commscope.com/andrew/eng/index.html>>

An online calculator for determining the voltage drop (loss) using power-supply voltage, wire size, and distance, from Current Solutions, Inc.:

<<http://www.currentsolutions.com/knowledge/vdrop.htm>>

A nice chart comparing wire sizes and voltage drop from Affordable Solar:

<<http://www.affordable-solar.com/wire.charts.htm>>

Connector, cable, and other useful information can be found at the Microwaves 101 website. Although this site is dedicated to the microwave-frequency ranges, it has some very useful information and interesting images on radio technology:

<<http://www.microwaves101.com>>



Photo 3— In this not-so-typical radio setup the rig is located far away from the power source (car battery). The voltage drop at the radio end of the long cable can be enough to cause the radio system to malfunction. Minimize this loss and maximize performance by using a cable made with thick wires.



Photo 4— A good source for flexible, large-gauge wire is your local electronics store that caters to car audio buffs. Other items, such as fuses and fuse holders, cable clamps, and other car audio supplies may also be available from shops like this.

The Belden information mentions one more important thing: In cold-weather areas, the conduit and cables should be run below the frost line to avoid damage from the expansion and contraction of the earth during freezing and thawing.

There may also be local laws or regulations regarding the use of buried wires, so you may want to check with the local building inspectors or do some research for any electrical codes for your area before considering burying any cables.

Loss is Bad; Gain is Good

In the financial world, losses are bad and gains are good. The same is true in the electronics world. For wire and cable, losses and gains are affected by voltages and current and resistance, the factors you learned about when studying Ohm's Law and Watt's Law. Note that wires really do not have gain, but let's think about maximizing performance by reducing loss as much as possible. Of course, if one thinks in terms of wire antennas, it is possible that wires contribute to antenna system gain, since wire is used for the antenna elements, and the antenna elements can improve or increase antenna gain when compared to a simple one-element antenna (dipole).

In practical terms, we should minimize loss as much as possible when dealing with wires and cables. For antenna work, there are two major contributors to losses in the feedline.

The first is cable construction, and suitability of the cable to the frequency for which it will be used. This translates into a simple rule: You get what you pay for when buying feedline cable. Perhaps a better way to think about this is the fact that cable price increases as the frequency for which it is designed increases. The second factor is cable length. All coax-cable specifications include loss information per length, usually per 100 feet.

Related to antenna cable loss is the connector type and its suitability for the operating frequency. The most common connector for many ham stations is the PL-259. This connector can be used from about 2 MHz to 144 MHz, and is sometimes used at 450 MHz. One main reason the PL-259 is so ubiquitous is that it is fairly easy to install and use. Other connector types and their typical frequency ratings are shown in Table 1 and also in photo 2.

Most ham equipment dealers have varying lengths and types of coax cable as well as a selection of connectors. Almost all of these dealers also carry

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Wires for Power

In power-supply situations, losses can be avoided by increasing cable diameter, or gauge. The fatter the wire, the smaller the loss. By the same token, cable losses are minimized when the cables are kept as short as possible. Now for most home and mobile station installations, the power cord supplied with the radio is usually adequate for almost all installations. The loss for such short lengths should not be an issue.

However, what if you are not doing a "typical installation," like we sometimes do in an emergency situation when we must remove the radio from its normal position and use it in the field? Or perhaps the installation is going to be in a boat, on the bridge, and the battery and electrical system are located many feet away?

In photo 3 the radio equipment is not mounted within the vehicle, but instead is connected to the power source (vehicle battery) via a cord about 20 or 30 feet long. The power cable is very long because the power must move from the car battery under the hood to the radio

system located away from the vehicle.

Let's see what happens when we power 12-VDC radios with a long and lossy cord, and see what we can do to optimize performance, or at least minimize power loss and voltage drop at the radio end of the wires.

Most ham equipment operates at 12 VDC, which is actually 13.8 V to accommodate an automotive electrical system with the alternator running at highway speeds. High-transmit-power radios draw from 15 to 20 amps or more, and this is where the losses come into play. If the power-supply wires are "thin," the voltage drop caused by the cable length may be enough to cause improper operation of the radio.

Using the online voltage-drop calculator mentioned in the "References" section, a run of No. 14 wire, 30 feet long, connected to the car battery (assuming 13 V), powering a rig that pulls 14 amps will have a voltage drop of 1.05 V. This means that the cable will have 11.95 V at the "radio end."

Although this seems to be a very tiny amount of voltage drop, it may be enough to cause a radio to malfunction. As the battery begins to discharge—say to 10 V—the voltage drop is the same, but the voltage going to the radio drops to 8.95 V. This may explain why many

battery-operated stations seem to lose performance after a long weekend of operating. The combination of cable loss and battery state of charge (or in this case "discharge") will likely cause a radio setup to malfunction.

Now keeping everything the same, but changing the wire gauge to No. 8 wire, we see that the voltage drop becomes much less than 1 volt, 0.260 V, so the radio will get 12.74 V to operate.

A good source for large-diameter power wires is your neighborhood electronics parts store or a stereo shop that caters to the car audio crowd (see photo 4). A wide range of colors and sizes of wire is available. I like the No. 8 or No. 4 wire for long DC cable runs. The car audio power wire is also very flexible, so it can be routed and handled easily.

Of course, using very heavy power wires is not going to totally prevent this from happening, nor will it magically increase operating time of a battery operated system. However, if losses are kept to a minimum, operating time can be maximized per outing.

In summary, wires and cables can be a way to improve station performance by minimizing loss, from top to bottom, or from the antenna system to the power supply.

73, Wayne, KH6WZ

dBs, S-units, and You

I'm sure you have heard fellow radio amateurs comparing transceiver and linear-amplifier power levels, antenna-gain figures and S-meter readings, but unless you have studied electronics technology, you may have been rather confused over the relationship among various figures. You also may have pondered if a linear amplifier producing less than 800 watts output would be a worthy addition to your station, or if a small beam antenna might give better results for the money. Hopefully, I can help answer those questions plus add a few more points of interest in this month's "How It Works" column. Along the way, I will also bring in some notes that may not fall in specific categories, but ones I have found useful for visualizing how electronics works. Let's begin with some proven beneficial and easy-to-remember facts.

dBs Plain and Simple

The term *decibel* is often used in electronic discussions, but what exactly is a decibel? Basically, decibel, or dB, describes a measure of one power level as compared to another. Also, 1 dB is the smallest increase or decrease in level detectable by ear. Technically and/or mathematically, dB(s) can be calculated as: $\text{dB} = 10 \times \log \text{power}_1 / \text{power}_2$. As an example, consider a linear amplifier produces 600 watts output for 50 watts input. Grab your calculator with scientific notations (log, sin, cosine, tangent, etc.) and divide 600 by 50. When the answer (12) appears, press "LOG" and read 1.079. Then press "x", enter "1, 0", then "=" and read 10.79 dB. Try it again using 1500 watts output divided by 75 watts input. $1500/75 = 20$, press "LOG", read 1.30, press "x" and "1, 0", and the answer is 13 dB. Now substitute your own station's numbers (or planned numbers) into the keystrokes you have performed twice and checked against our figures for accuracy, and you have mastered the formula.

Is there an easier way to estimate power levels and/or antenna gain? Yes, indeed. Just remem-

ber every 3 dB is approximately equivalent to doubling or halving a previous power level (fig. 1). Using the previous example, let's return to our "600 watts output with 50 watts input" calculations. Doubling 50 watts to 100 watts equals 3 dB. Doubling 100 watts to 200 watts equals another 3 dB. Doubling 200 watts to 400 watts equals a third 3 dB. Doubling 400 watts to 800 watts equals three more dB, but we only wish to go halfway between 400 and 800 watts (to 600 watts) and that's half of 3 dB, or 1.5 dB. Now add up the dBs (using your fingers is acceptable; each finger will equal 3 dB): $3 + 3 + 3 + 1.5 = 10.5$ dB. Look back and notice the exact answer was 10.79 dB, while our quickly estimated answer was 10.5 dB. How much difference does 0.29 dB make? Again look back. One full dB is the smallest increase or decrease discernable by ear.

But wait, you say: I am interested in how strong (or weak) my signal will be at a distant receiver—how high or low it will read on that distant receiver's S-meter. A large number of estimable/estimated variables are connected with that answer, but again let's stay in the "keep it simple" category (refer to fig. 2).

S-meter Levels

First let's "reference," or "calibrate," your transceiver's S-meter. Tune in WWV, W1AW code practice, or another relatively strong signal in the 3- to 15-MHz range. Pick a station/band/frequency so the received station is 20 or 30 dB over S9, and then check your rig's manual to determine if its front-panel attenuator is 10 or 20 dB and switch on/in the attenuator. Confirm the received signal drops 10 or 20 dB as expected. (Remember that QSB fades. Perform the check several times for accuracy).

Next, tune in a steady signal registering S8 or S9 and again switch on/in your rig's attenuator and note the amount of signal drop. Some people say each S-unit is equal to 3 dB, some say each S-unit is equal to 6 dB, and some have even different opinions, but they are all exactly that—opinions. I have also noted S-meters on some transceivers respond differently than others. By using this test,

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Decibels	Hypothetical Example	
0 dB (reference) unity	50 watts	—
3 dB (double the previous/reference level)	100 watts (estimation)	1 or 2 S- units on distant transceiver. (Discussion in text)
6 dB (double the previous level of 3 dB)	200 watts (estimation)	—
9 dB (double the previous level of 6 dB)	400 watts (estimation)	—
10 dB (10 times the reference level of 50w)	500 watts (exact calculation)	—
*10.5 dB (estimate)	*600w (see text)	—
12 dB (double the previous level of 9 dB)	(800 watts estimation)	—
15 dB (double the previous level of 12 dB)	1600 watts	—

Note: This level (+15 dB) could also be attained using 9-dB gain amplifier plus a 6-dB gain antenna.

Fig. 1— General relation of power levels, dBs, and S-units as discussed in text. Figures shown here apply equally to transceivers, linear amplifiers, and antennas.

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Fair signal	S4 - S5 = 3 dB
Weak signal	S3 - S4 = 3 dB
Weak signal	S2 - S3 = 3 dB
Quite weak signal	S1 - S2 = 3 dB
Very weak but occasionally readable signal	S0 - S1 = 3 dB

Fig. 2- "Keep it Simple" chart for estimating approximately how much difference a linear amplifier or beam antenna may make in your transmitted HF signal strength. Example of use: If you typically run 90 watts and receive signal reports of S4-S5, a small beam antenna or 400-watt linear amplifier should raise your signal to approximately S7 and a 1-kw amplifier should increase it to almost S9. (More details in text.)

however, you confirm for yourself on your own rig in your own shack exactly how many dBs equal each S-unit. If your transceiver has a 10-dB attenuator, for example, and an S8 signal drops to S5 (or a tad lower) with attenuation, each S-unit equals 3 dB. If the S8 signal drops to slightly above S6, each S-unit equals 6 dB. Again, perform these checks several times to minimize errors due to fades. You may also wish to check levels at various "S counts" to ensure full-scale accuracy/linearity of your rig's S-meter. Let's now progress to applying your acquired information/knowledge to real radio world situations.

Beams, Verticals, and Decibels

Do you occasionally feel like an underdog because you use a wire antenna or a vertical rather than a beam on a big tower? Don't fret. Your on-the-air signal may be stronger than assumed—and with CC&Rs becoming rampant, you may be slightly ahead of the changing times. Locating precise signal gain figures on modern Yagi or triband beams has become rather difficult today, probably because some years ago manufacturers and advertisers became engrossed in a free-for-all stretching actual gain figures. The full story is quite lengthy, so I will just focus on the main facts.

The typical forward gain of a full-size 2-element Yagi is approximately 5 dB, and its typical front-to-back ratio is approximately 20 to 23 dB. The typical

forward gain of a full-size 3-element Yagi is 8 dB—maybe 8.5 dB if it is a real romper—and its typical front-to-back ratio is around 25 dB. Classic triband beams with traps are full size on only one band, usually 10 meters, and reduced-size "mini beams" on other bands such as 15 and 20 (and maybe 40 or 30) meters. Further, traps are slightly "lossy," and the more traps (required for operation on lower frequency bands), the greater the losses. A 3-element triband beam with traps and shorter-than-full-size elements is doing well if it exhibits 5 or 5.5 dB gain on 20 meters, and it probably functions as a reduced-size dipole on 40 and/or 30 meters. Also, I should mention all Yagi and beam antennas acquire or produce their signal gain by reflecting energy from their "back" side and directing it "forward."

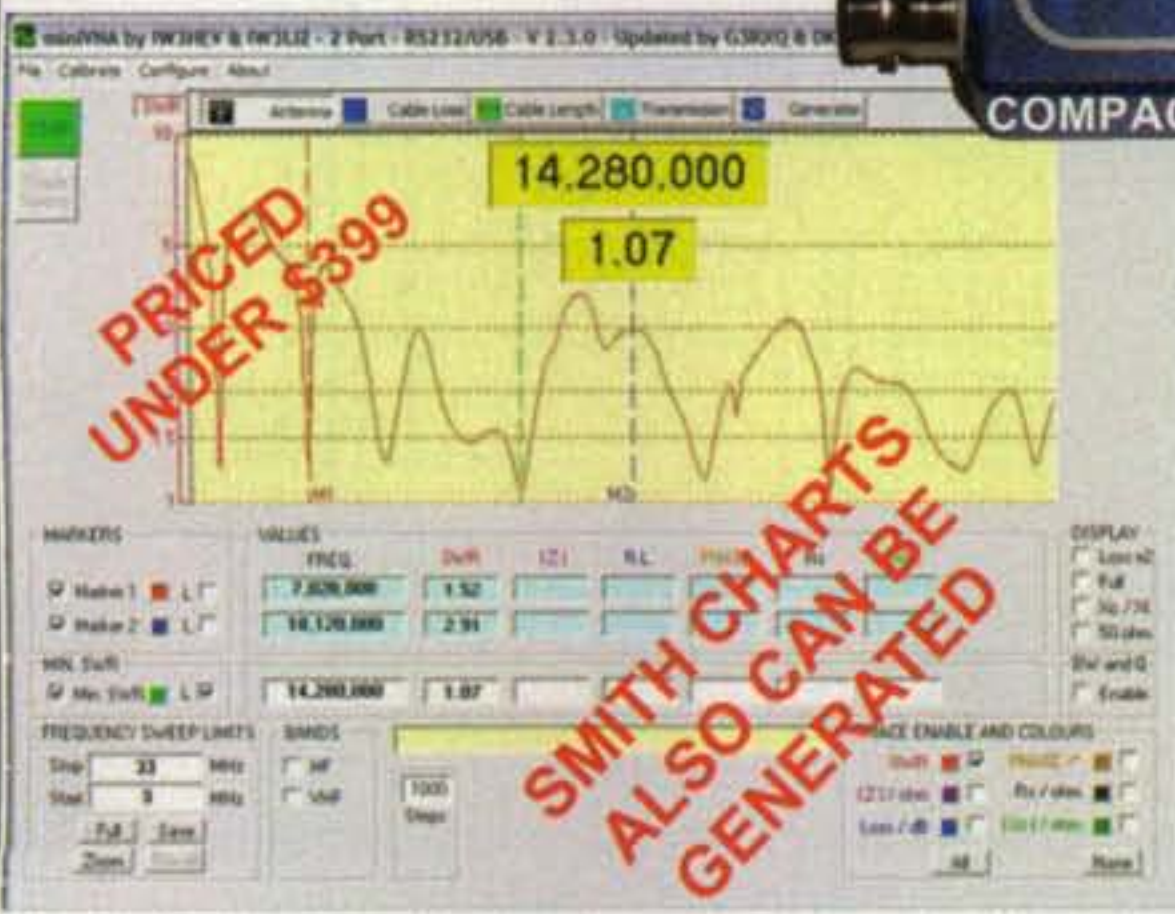
Two more triband or multiband antenna types warrant mention here: the linear loaded-type, such as KLMs, and the full-size-element types, such as SteppIRs. Linear loading is more efficient than traps, because element sections are folded back on themselves (and still efficiently radiate signals) rather than being coiled up in shielded traps. Full-size elements are obviously best for gain, but they are also very big, very heavy, and very expensive. If you are not familiar with the SteppIR concept, incidentally, its working technique is based on lengths of .75-inch wide spring copper strips with sprocket holes placed within high-strength PVC tubes being adjust-

	Signal Gain	Approx. S-meter Gain
Full-size 2-element Yagi		
Reduced-size 3-element triband beam (20m)	5.5 dB	1 or 2 S-units
Full-size 3-element Yagi	8-8.5 dB	2 or 3 S-units

Fig. 3- General comparison of popular beam antennas as discussed in text.

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A Note of Encouragement

This month's column may not contain "glitz and glamour" pictures to capture your attention, but it is filled with scarce and useful information I am sure you will find beneficial for many years to come. Read it at least twice for best understanding and watch for further expansions of presented information in our next/March "How It Works" column. —K4TWJ

ed to band-related lengths by a stepper motor. That numerical control, in turn, is operated by an indoor control box. The SteppIR's non-metallic tubes may be 36 feet long to accommodate full-size 20-meter operation, even when internal copper straps (the actual elements) are only 17 feet long. Operation on 30 and 40 meters also involves folding back elements "linear loading style." Overall, SteppIRs exhibit full-size Yagi gain on 20 meters and up, and also reasonably good performance on 30 and 40 meters.

While discussing Yagis and beams, I should mention the same full-size/linear-loaded/trapped/radiator factors apply to verticals. Also, all verticals are not equal. A 1/4-wave vertical mounted on a single metal stake for a ground rod and lacking at least 3 1/4-wave radials per band typically performs 3 to 7 dB

below the same vertical with a good radial ground system. A 1/4-wave vertical with a good ground system also performs generally close to par with a dipole or G5RV. Although a personal opinion derived from two full years of direct on-the-air A-B comparisons, I have found newer design 3/8-wave verticals (such as Hy-Gain's AV-620 and AV-640) with their full-size or linear-loaded elements deliver very good performance. They typically "outwork" 1/4-wave verticals by 3 to 6 dB and are within 3 or 4 dB of a 3-element trapped triband (20, 15, 10 meter) beam. Also, 3/8-wave verticals do not require multiple ground radials; their half-dozen 5- or 6-foot "spokes" are quite sufficient. Obtaining 3 or 4 dB gain with wire antennas is also easy; the Extended Double Zepp and the Carolina Windom are two good examples of that fact.

Briefly recapping, a full-size Yagi (or vertical, or wire dipole) radiates (and receives) signals better than a Yagi (or vertical or wire antenna) with linear-loaded elements, and the same antenna with linear loading outperforms one with traps. Also, a "larger than 1/4-wave" vertical often performs almost comparable to a triband beam on bands below 10 and 12 meters—and that's assum-

ing the beam is pointed directly at the distant station one wishes to contact. If that station is "off the back" of the beam, the vertical has an advantage.

Wrap Up

We have covered a vast amount of ground in this month's column, ground that was vital before we could progress to the main points of interest. However, we have now also run out of space (right at the "highpoint"!). I can only say (encourage you!) to read our next "How It Works" column in two months, when I will discuss which will be the best addition to your station—a linear amplifier or a beam antenna (or both!)—and how much gain (in dBs and S-units) may best fit/parallel your needs, budget, and lifestyle. I will also discuss how signals both transmitted and received are influenced by propagation, polarity, and operator expertise, plus look at the "magic dB equalizer," a receiver's AGC system. The combination of these two columns is a learning experience you probably will not find anywhere else, so stay with me, and drop me a short note or e-mail if you found this month's column informative. I aim to please!

73, Dave, K4TWJ

Antenna Help for (and hopefully from) Readers

This month the column is going to cover a variety of topics rather than one project. We start off with reader feedback regarding the last column on using loop antennas for transmitting. Oleh, KD7WPJ, reminds us that the RF currents are very high in a loop antenna and that any resistance in the loop very quickly reduces its efficiency. Connections between segments can be particularly troublesome. When practical, the loop needs to be one piece of metal. Segments as used in the G4TPH antenna can be problematic. G4TPH used wide antenna segments with lots of contact area as you can see in photo A. Thus, make sure the sections are clean where the elements come together and the connections are tight. Also, with any loop antenna used for transmitting, you need to have good low-resistance connections between sections.

From Gordon we get the question: "If I improve my antenna from its 1.9 SWR to 1.1, how much more gain will the antenna have?"

There are several ways to define gain, but the most common way is how the antenna takes energy from one part of its pattern and focuses that energy in a preferred direction. In short, there is no relationship between the SWR of an antenna and its gain. Now there *may* be a slight improvement in the efficiency of the antenna.

An SWR of 1.9:1 means about 8% of the power is reflected, while a 1.1:1 SWR is about 1% reflect-

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Photo A— Low-resistance contact points.

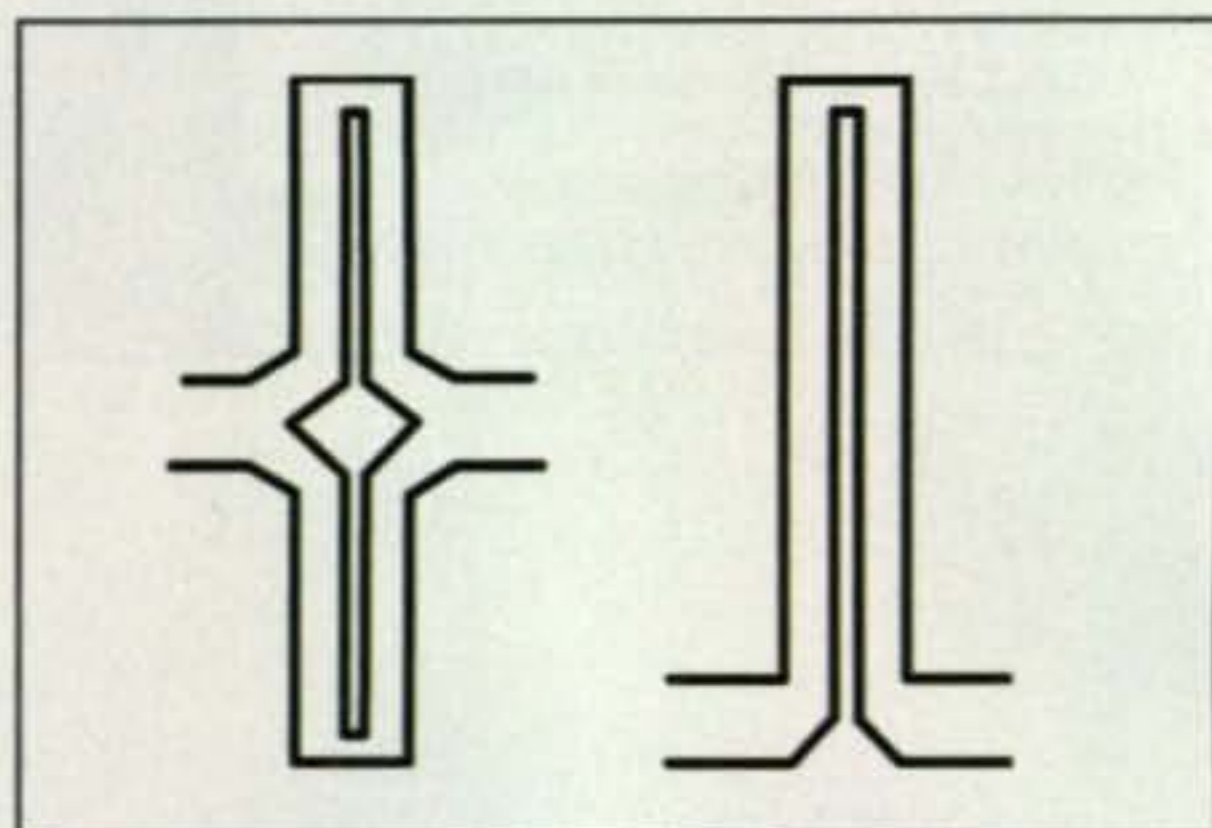


Fig. 1— Schiffman Phase Shifters.

ed power. Therefore, there is a potential for a 7% improvement in radiated power, but the pattern and gain of the antenna are unchanged.

Again I say the *potential* for a 7% improvement. If you have a very low-loss transmission line and the transmitter is quite happy working into a 1.9:1 SWR, then there is *no loss* in the efficiency of the antenna. The transmitter simply returns the reflected power to the antenna.

If you have a long, lossy feedline, then the reflected power shows up as heat in the coax. This is why many HF antennas fed with ladder line and an antenna tuner may have SWRs near 100 but still work fine. The reflected power is simply bounced back to the antenna again and again. Since ladder line has virtually no loss at HF, the signal is eventually radiated. This is also true when the transmitter is mounted at the antenna. In short, SWR and gain are not related.

Now for Your Help

I am looking for someone who has designed a Schiffman Phase Shifter (see fig. 1). When you have $1/4$ wavelength of coax, there is a 90-degree phase shift as the wave travels through the coax. If you change frequency, the coax is no longer 90 degrees long.

The Schiffman Phase Shifter is both a phase delay and a coupler that bypasses its own part of the phase delay. As frequency goes up, the phase shifter is bypassed. The result is a 90-degree phase shift that stays a 90-degree phase shift over a broad range of frequencies. For the next family of AMSAT transponders, we are looking at using two crossed Vivaldi antennas like the one shown in photo B. We end up with an antenna much like the ridged horn on the left side of photo B, but without the horn. When one of the Vivaldis is driven 90 degrees out of phase, we get circular polarization, but that would only be on one frequency. Use a Schiffman Phase Shifter and we can have a 2–6



↑ Photo B— Tapered slot or Vivaldi antenna.

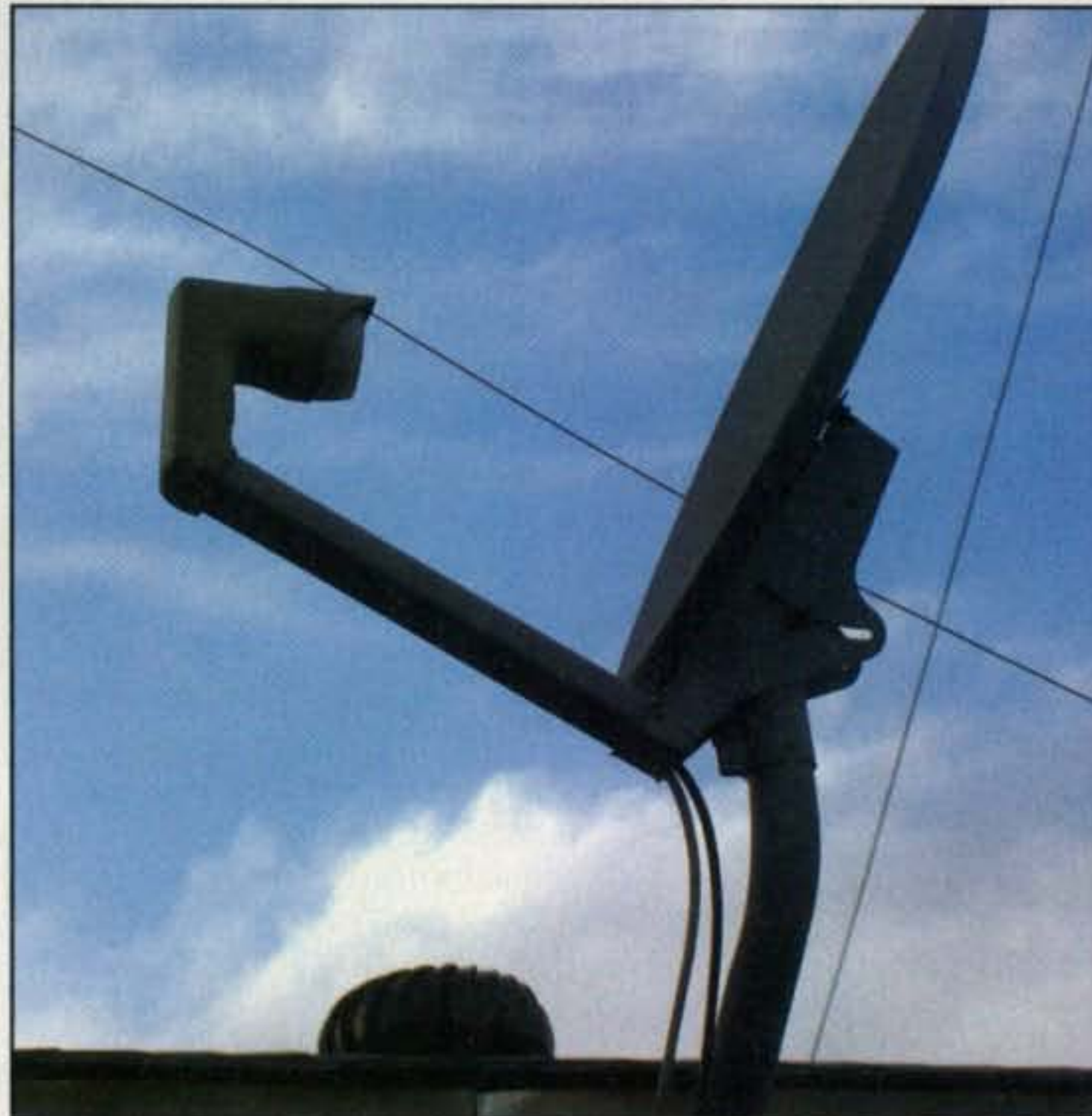


Photo C— Plain-sight hidden AMSAT antenna. →

GHz circularly polarized dish feed than maintains CP over the 2400, 3400, and 5700 MHz ham bands. So I am looking for help designing 100-ohm and 50-ohm 2- to 6-GHz, 90-degree Schiffman Phase Shifters.

"Well, why don't you just look it up on the internet?" Step up close ... a little closer. ... I want to whack ya upside the head! I have Schiffman's original paper, several newer papers, and have reviewed the first 300 of the 8000 Google hits. They all talk about the Schiffman designs in broad terms and never get into line impedances and their separation. That's why I am hoping one of you, our readers, has actually worked with these.

You are welcome to contact me at my CQ e-mail address, <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

Now for where I am going with these. These new AMSAT birds will be in geostationary orbit this time, so no tracking motors will be necessary. Many hams would like to put up an antenna to use these transponders, but local antenna restrictions and neighborhood covenants forbid outside antennas. Ahhh ... but not the satellite TV antennas. Those neighborhood busy-bodies can't keep you from getting your news. That's protected by the US Constitution (as well as the FCC's "OTARD" ruling). If we can come up with a multiband dish feed that sort of looks like a satellite LNB, then you would be able to bolt that deception 2–6 GHz circularly polarized feed on a surplus dish and mount on a spot with a good southern exposure such as the one shown in photo C. How

about that for a plain sight-hidden antenna? 2400 MHz, 3400 MHz, and 5800 MHz all are covered at the same time in the same antenna.

As always, we welcome your questions and topic suggestions. Just drop a snail mail to my QRZ.com address or an e-mail to <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com>. Oh . . . as for that con-

struction project suggested from Washington State, it looks like we will need to wait until room-temperature superconducting wire is available for that one! For other antenna articles and projects, you are welcome to visit <www.wa5vjb.com>. Go put up some antennas before the snow gets too deep!


73, Kent, WA5VJB



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Tuning Controllers, Bluetooth® Adapters, Antenna Book, and ARRL Handbook

This month we start with products to allow some popular portable HF rigs to control your antenna tuning. Next up are two Bluetooth® adapters to get your hands off the radio and back on the steering wheel. We then have some reading material for the cold winter nights. Finally, we visit The Amateur Radio Website of the Month.

Four Antenna Tuning Accessories

The BetterRF 7000 Screwdriver Control works in conjunction with an ICOM IC-7000 radio and any screwdriver antenna. It finds resonance settings with the push of the Tune button. All operations are done from IC-7000 controls and no extra buttons or speakers are necessary. No RF connections to the 7000 Controller and no modification of your screwdriver antenna or radio are necessary. Your SWR reading is visible on the IC-7000 during the tuning process. Pricing is \$84.95 plus shipping.

The BetterRF ICOM 7000 Tune Control makes the Tune/Call button functional on the ICOM 7000! The SWR is displayed on the radio as you tune an antenna or an external tuner. There are two available modes: constant 30 watts out or pulsed (50% duty cycle) output at user-selectable power (good for tuning an amp). No radio modification is required, simply plug-and-play installation. Pricing is \$54.95 plus shipping. Also available is a similar unit that can work with the IC-706 or IC-718.

The BetterRF I-Mate (photo A) implements the external selection of pre-recorded voice and keyed messages for the IC-7800, IC-756 PROII/III, and keyed CW messages for the IC-746 PRO. It eliminates the necessity of shifting the display from an operating mode to a memory-select mode simply

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Photo A— BetterRF's I-Mate implements the external selection of pre-recorded voice and keyed messages for many of the recent ICOM rigs.



Photo B— Timewave's new HamLinkBT-RC Wireless Rig Controller is a Bluetooth® device that features Receive/Transmit audio, rig control, and PTT connectivity for remote operation of RS-232, CAT, and CIV enabled transceivers.

to transmit the pre-recorded message. In addition, the I-Mate provides a pulsed sine-wave oscillator for the tuning of high-powered amplifiers and antenna tuners. Pricing is \$74.95 plus shipping.

The BetterRF Yaesu Tune Control for the FT-100, FT-857, and FT-897 (will also work with FT-450 and FT-950 with an easy modification) makes the Tune button function to provide a low-power output for tuning, adjusting an antenna, checking SWR, etc., no matter what mode you are using. An interface cable is included. No radio modification is necessary. It can also provide an interface between your Yaesu transceiver and ICOM-type accessories such as ICOM antenna tuners, tuners from other manufacturers, and screwdriver antenna controllers. Price is \$44.95 plus shipping.

For details or to order BetterRF products, visit <www.betterrf.com> or phone 800-653-9910.

Two Bluetooth® Adapters

Timewave's new HamLinkBT-BTH™ Wireless Headset Adapter is a Bluetooth® device linking a Bluetooth® wireless cell-phone earpiece to a transceiver for untethered remote operating. The HLBT-BTH features Receive/Transmit audio and PTT connectivity. The design eliminates most wires for safer mobile operation.

The HamLinkBT-BTH connects directly to your transceiver. You can operate virtually hands-free with VOX. If your radio does not have VOX, PTT (push-to-talk) is just a quick tap of the switch on your earpiece. Supported radios include Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Ten-Tec, Elecraft, Alinco, and other models.

In addition to PTT with the standard built-in push-button switch on your Bluetooth® earpiece, the HamLinkBT-BTH™ has a FastPTT output and input for wired local PTT control. Optionally, the HamLinkBT-PTT has a built-in FastPTT™ push-button switch that connects via a separate

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Bluetooth® link to your HLBT-BTH PTT output. You can hold the HamLinkBT-PTT in your hand, clip it on your belt, or plug in a footswitch or other PTT line. Just as with Timewave data controllers, a safety transmit timeout disables the PTT line after an adjustable period of inactivity.

Most radios and Bluetooth® earpieces require no special configuration to operate with the HLBT-BTH. For special configurations, the included RadioSwitch™ software program features easy setup and pairing of any one of multiple earpieces connected to a radio with HLBT-BTHs.

Timewave's new HamLinkBT-RC™ Wireless Rig Controller (photo B) is a Bluetooth® device that not only has Receive/Transmit audio and PTT, but it also adds remote operation of RS-232, CAT, and CIV enabled transceivers. The HLBT-RC Controller connects directly to transceivers with RS-232, CAT, CIV inputs. Supported radios include Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Ten-Tec, Elecraft, Alinco, and other models.

In addition to the standard rig control interface, the Wireless Rig Controller has a PTT output that operates from your rig control program. Optionally, the HamLinkUSB plugs into your operating PC and routes a footswitch or other PTT line via the Bluetooth® link to your HLBT-RC PTT output. The controller also establishes a Bluetooth® audio link between your remote operating PC and your radio. You may use a computer headset/microphone, a sound-card program, or an external TNC to operate over this link.

Timewave supplies a variety of cable choices for the HamLinkBT-RC Wireless Rig Control, ranging from standard pre-molded cables for the most common radios to custom cables for special requirements. Suggested retail pricing for either the HamLinkBT-BTH or HamLinkBT-RC is \$299, and for the HamLinkUSB \$59. For more details or to order visit <www.timewave.com>.

Cebic Antenna e-Book

A new book by L.B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK) entitled *Some Basics of Multi-Band Beam Design* is being published posthumously by antennex. In addition to the text, the book also contains 52 examples of working antenna-modeling files.

Starting from the premise "What is a Multi-band Beam?" the author wrote that a "beam is any directional antenna. In the broadest terms, then, a multi-band beam is any antenna that is directional on more than one amateur band. (Of course, we can make multi-band beams for other than amateur radio use—for example, for the old lower- and higher-frequency television broadcast channels.) We shall pare down our subject by first limiting ourselves to horizontal antennas, the type used in the upper HF and the VHF regions of the spectrum."

L.B. Cebik describes how "the process of designing multi-band beams has largely hidden beneath a veil of silence. Those who pursue this work very often have a proprietary interest in the designs. Some with a virtually intuitive knack for the process very often cannot clearly articulate what they do so well. Therefore, most amateur literature simply passes over the subject or presents a design without much theoretical commentary. We, the outsiders who look in on multi-band beam design, view it as a mystery, as a function of secret optimizing software, as esoteric knowledge to which the average amateur is denied access."

This 247-page volume presents what L.B. managed to learn about the designing process over the years. As usual L.B. Cebik's books are always full of helpful information and even some myth debunking of antenna lore. The book is available as an e-Book either on CD (\$24.95) or as a download

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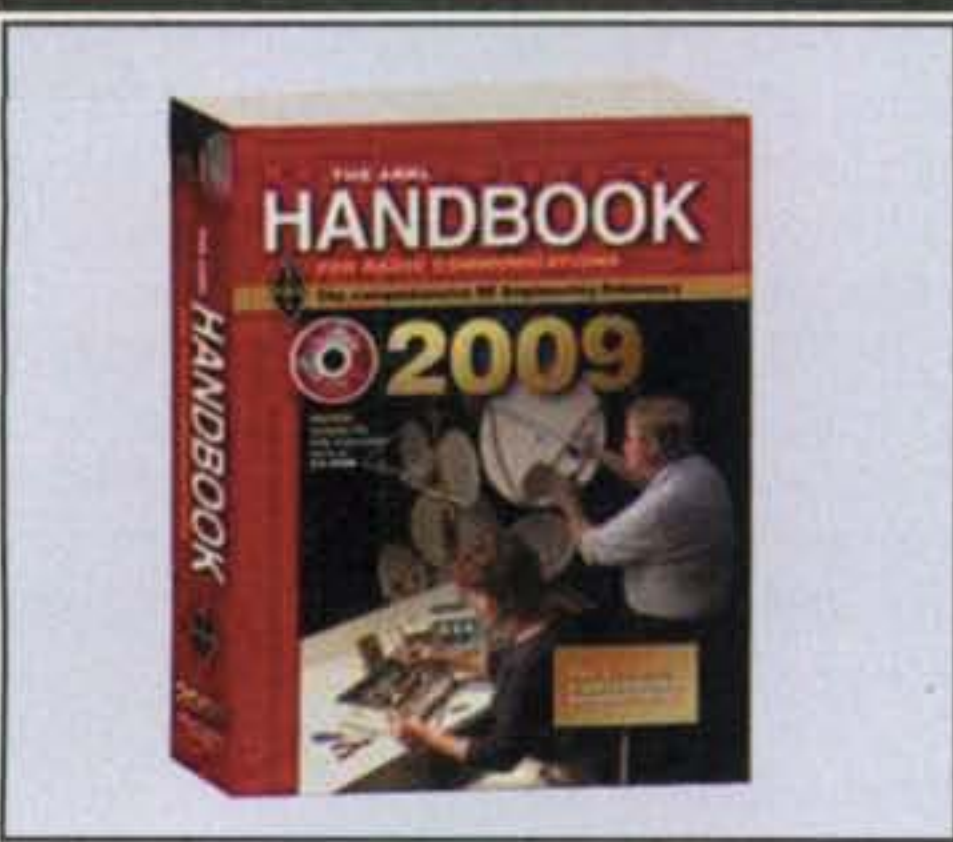


Photo C—The 86th edition of The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications continues the tradition of providing information in applied electronics and communications.

(\$22.95). For additional information visit: <www.antennex.com/news/index.html>.

ARRL Handbook

Many hams have heard of *The ARRL Handbook*, or they may even own a few versions. However, some do not realize that *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications* uniquely serves both amateur experimenters and industry practitioners, emphasizing connections

between basic theory and application. *The ARRL Handbook* is simply the standard in applied electronics and communications. The 86th edition (photo C) is both a useful introduction to radio communication and features the most current material on electronics and amateur radio. If you do not have a copy you need one, and if you have older versions you may still want the new edition. Topics in the 2009 edition include, among others:

- Principles of Electronics—including basic theory, components, analog and digital circuit construction.
- Radio Communications Fundamen-

tals and Design—including modes and systems, filters, EMI, digital signal processing and software radio design, and RF power amplifiers.

- Real-World Applications and Operating—including practical projects, station setup, antennas, transmission lines, and methods for testing and troubleshooting.

- References—hundreds of detailed tables, illustrations, and photos.

The CD-ROM at the back of the book includes all of the fully searchable text and illustrations in the printed book, as well as companion software, PC-board templates, and other support files.

Fig. 1—Screenshot of Amateur Radio Website of the Month, "K8ZT's CW & Digital Mode Links."

Morse Code & Digital Modes

Morse Code

Digital Modes

Learning Morse Code-Software

Morse Code Copying Software

A Brief History of Digital Modes

Sound Card Mode Software

Morse Code Sites	Learning Morse Code
PA3BWK's Ultimate Morse Code Web Site	The Art & Skill of Radio Telegraphy: Learning, Using, Fixating and Enjoying CW
Morsum Magnificet	K06YQ's Introduction to Morse Code
R.A.C. Morse Links	ARRL's Learn Morse Page
NW7US's Morse Code Radio Center	W1AW Code Practice
N9BDR's Morse Links - Extensive	So You Want To Learn Morse Code by N11RZ
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Revisions to the 2009 *Handbook* include updated material on amateur satellites, with details for today's fleet of operational satellites, as well as updated versions of accessory software on the CD-ROM included with the book.

New projects in the 86th edition include:

- The RockMite QRP CW transceiver—now expanded to cover 80, 40, 30, or 20 meters.
- Audio Interface for Field Day or Contesting—audio and mic connections for two operators sharing a radio.
- Remote Power Controller—turn high-current devices off and on.
- Audible Antenna Bridge—tune for the lowest SWR by ear.

The soft cover edition of the *Handbook* sells for \$44.95 and the hardcover sells for \$59.95. Visit <www.arrl.org/catalog> to order or for further details.

The Amateur Radio Website of the Month

This month's Amateur Radio Website's name may sound familiar: K8ZT's Morse Code & Digital Modes Links (fig. 1). The page at <www.k8zt.com/morse.html> is, in fact, one of the pages from my personal website. You will find sets of links that include: Morse Code Sites, Learning Morse Code, Morse Code Copying Software, Learning Morse Code Software, Morse Code Copying Hardware, Macintosh Morse Code Software, Morse Code Sending Hardware—Keys and Keyers, and Digital Modes.

By the way, a few alert readers noticed that I forgot to give the web address for November's Amateur Radio Website from K3WWP, John Shannon. The website's address is <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan>.

Wrap-up

That is all for this month's column. 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.

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Father, Son Link 25 Years of Amateur Radio in Space History

As reported in last month's column, Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, the son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, followed his father into space onboard the *Soyuz TMA-13* on October 13, 2008. Richard, who holds his grandfather's original call-sign, flew to the International Space Station (ISS) as a paying passenger, along with Commander Edward Michael "Mike" Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Valentinovich Lonchakov of the 18th International Space Station crew.

Richard is the first son of a U.S. astronaut to fly in space. His father, Owen, W5LFL, was the first amateur radio operator to make contacts from space while onboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia* mission STS-9. After ten days in space, Richard, along with Expedition 17 crew members Russian cosmonauts Sergei Volkov and Oleg Kononko, returned to Earth onboard the *Soyuz TMA-12*.

During Richard's ten-day stay onboard the ISS, he made dozens of QSOs. Commenting on his stay, he stated, "This mission to the ISS fulfilled a lifelong dream to experience spaceflight, just as my father first did 25 years ago. It's an honor to be the first American to follow a parent into space."

Through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program Richard made many contacts with school children. Additionally, he sent numerous SSTV images back to Earth. Commenting in the *ARRL Letter*, "ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had nothing but praise for Richard and his trip to the ISS," stating:

We have all made history, starting with Richard, W5KWQ, and his father Owen, W5LFL, and continuing with all [who have] participated and/or volunteered in his ISS journey. Along the way, we have sparked the imaginations of thousands of students, and I understand [that Richard's journey has] excited some youths to the point where they are now licensed.

Along with Richard's amateur radio activities were his NASA experiments. These experiments examined the physical impact of spaceflight on astronauts. In particular, he observed the eyes' reaction to low and high pressure in a microgravity environment, the effects of spaceflight on the human immune system, and the astronauts' sleep/wake patterns and sleep characteristics.

In another linking with his father, Owen's previous flight, Richard photographed ecologically significant places on Earth for the Nature Conservancy (<http://www.nature.org/>). These photos will be compared with photos that Owen took 25 years earlier as a way of documenting how the Earth has changed over a single generation.

VHF Plus Calendar

Jan. 3	Moon Apogee.
Jan. 4	<i>Quadrantids</i> Meteor Shower Peak and First Quarter Moon. Moderate EME conditions.
Jan. 10	Moon Perigee.
Jan. 11	Full Moon. Good EME conditions.
Jan. 17-19	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes Contest. See text for details.
Jan. 18	Last Quarter Moon. Moderate EME conditions.
Jan. 23	Moon Apogee.
Jan. 25	Very poor EME conditions.
Jan. 26	New Moon.

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU.

Finally, Richard also worked with the European Space Agency in performing experiments related to the early detection of osteoporosis (vestibular inner ear), adaptation to G-force transitions, and the occurrence of lower back pain. Truly, Richard contributed immensely to a variety of disciplines during his all-too-short stay onboard the ISS.

For more information on his spaceflight, please see the following websites: <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/11/06/10437/?nc=>>>, <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>>, and <<http://www.richardinspace.com>>. To read an accompanying story of the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club's participation in Richard's ARISS QSOs, see its story "ARRL ETP School Gets 'Up Close and



Expedition 17/18 Flight Engineer Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ (left), and Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, pose for a photo in the Zvezda Service Module of the International Space Station. (Photo courtesy of NASA and the ARRL Letter)

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

Personal' With Space" in the November 7, 2008 issue of the *ARRL Letter* (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/08/1107/>). Portions of this piece courtesy the *ARRL Letter*.

NASA Discovers a Meteor Shower?

On May 21, 2008 Science@NASA reported on a lunar observation program at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama in which observed impacts on the Moon's surface are categorized and compared with known meteor showers (see: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/21may_100explosions.htm?list209719 for the full report). Since 2005, they've recorded more than 100 lunar impacts.

Commenting on the observations thus far, researchers have concluded that not all impacts are meteorites. Some may be sporadic meteorites; some may be space junk. Researchers have observed that the ratio of sporadic hits and other debris of known meteor showers is 2:1 in favor of the sporadic hits. Commenting on this research, Dr. Rob Suggs, KB5EZ, of the Marshall Space Flight Center stated: "That's an important finding [because] it means there's no time of year when the Moon is impact-free."

As part of this ongoing correlative research, other observers have been observing Earth. As a result of these observations, on November 10, 2008 Science@NASA reported on a possible discovery of a previously unknown meteor shower on September 9, 2008 (see: http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/10nov_sentinel.htm?list773018 for the full report). When NASA astronomer and meteor expert Bill Cooke checked his e-mail that morning, he discovered that he had received an automatically generated e-mail from his all-sky Sentinel camera. It turns out that during the early morning hours the camera detected "a surprising flurry of meteors had showered the skies above Huntsville, Alabama. More than two dozen of them were fireballs brighter than Jupiter or Venus; a few even cast shadows."

As it turns out, dedicated meteor-shower observers on occasion have noticed meteor streams originating in the Perseus constellation on September 9. Not knowing the comet that might be responsible for these outbursts, the shower became known as the September *Perseids*.

Thanks to the Sentinel camera's observation, NASA now has documentation of a possible annual meteor shower. Future observations will confirm just how prolific this shower might be.

Getting back to the explosions on the Moon's surface, Cooke is especially interested in centimeter-class meteoroids because he and his colleagues at the NASA Meteoroid Environment Office are working on correlating their joint research. Concerning this research, the November 10, 2008 Science@NASA article states:

With NASA planning to send people back to the Moon, the frequency and power of lunar impacts has become a matter of considerable interest. By studying the meteoroids at close range in the skies over Alabama, Cooke hopes to learn more about their properties, especially their speeds, which is an important factor in luminous efficiency—i.e., how much of a meteoroid's kinetic energy is converted to light when it disintegrates upon impact. This will help researchers understand the distant flashes they see on the Moon.

What does not seem to be explored in the research is whether or not such distant flashes may, in fact, be moon-dust that has been excited by the Earth's magnetotail, and thus caused to crash to the surface after such excitation. Perhaps those NASA researchers at the Marshall Space

Flight Center need to be talking to Dr. Tim Stubbs, a University of Maryland scientist working at the Goddard Space Flight Center, about the Earth's magnetotail. If they talk to him, they may find additional correlation between the Earth's magnetotail and those lunar flashes. For more information on my hypotheses concerning the Moon and the Earth's magnetotail, please see my July, August, and September 2008 "VHF Plus" columns in *CQ*.

Fred Fish Memorial Award No. 1 Presented to Lee Fish, K5FF

For decades Fred, W5FF, and Lee, K5FF, Fish were icons on the VHF+ ham bands. Fred and Lee both worked WAS and DXCC on 6 meters (Lee being the first to achieve that award and Fred being the second). Lee and Fred also worked WAS on 2 meters, 1.25 meters, and 70 cm. Fred went on to



Lee Fish, K5FF, receives the Fred Fish Memorial Award No. 1 on behalf of her husband, Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), at the Texoma Hamorama in Ardmore, Oklahoma on October 25. Front row, left to right: West Gulf Division Director Coy Day, N5OK; Lee Fish, K5FF; and West Gulf Division Vice Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV. Back row, left to right: Richard Allen, W5SXD; Oklahoma Section Manager John Thomason, WB5SYT; and Marshall Williams, K5QE. (Photo courtesy of David Woolweaver, K5RAV, and the *ARRL Letter*)



Lee Fish, K5FF, receives the Fred Fish Memorial Award No. 1 on behalf of her husband, Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), from ARRL West Gulf Division Director Coy Day, N5OK. (Photo courtesy of W5SXD)

achieve a goal that no one else to date has achieved—working and confirming all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous U.S. states on 6 meters.

Earlier this year the ARRL established the Fred Fish Memorial Award (FFMA) to honor Fred's unique achievement and to encourage others to also attain such a goal, as well as to encourage 6-meter operations from rare grids. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, "Plaques bearing Fred Fish's likeness will be awarded to any amateur who can repeat Fred's accomplishment." More about this award and Fred's history can be found in Bill Van Alstyne, W5WVO's article "In Search of the Legendary Fred Fish," which begins on page 44 of the Spring 2008 issue of *CQ VHF* magazine.

To honor Fred's accomplishment, the first Fred Fish Memorial Award plaque was awarded posthumously to his widow, Lee, during the ARRL Forum at the Texoma Hamorama in Ardmore, Oklahoma on October 25. Several members of the Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) were present for the ceremony. Fred and Lee were members of CSVHFS for many years.

Commenting on the presentation, Kutzko stated, "Lee was visibly moved when she saw the photo of her late husband on the plaque bearing his name and her voice broke as she spoke out loud, realizing that 'when award number 2099 is presented, Fred's picture will still be on the plaque.'" Lee went on to thank the ARRL and the amateur radio community for recognizing her husband's contributions to amateur radio.

More information on the Fred Fish Memorial Award, as well as other ARRL operating awards, can be found on the ARRL Awards Program portion of the ARRL website: <<http://www.arrl.org>>. Portions of this piece courtesy the *ARRL Letter*.

More on Tropospheric Ducting

In reporting on the first FR-ZS 2-meter QSO in last November's column, I relied on Dave Pedersen, N7BHC, to supply me with much of the information. This month Dave presents an update of what happened on Reunion Island in November, as well as an announcement for this month. First the report from John Turner, FR5DN, forwarded to me by Dave, N7BHC:

On the evening of November 3, 2008, the station I was listening to on 92.8 MHz was still there but much fainter and nearly swamped by another on 92.7 MHz. And when I got up onto the ridge that runs along the centre of the island there was also a

strong South African on 92.8 MHz, so I'm still not able to confirm. I think I could hear French language through the interference, but sometimes you hear what you want/expect to hear. But the 92.7 MHz station was definitely in Portuguese and very strong. FMSCAN lists hoards of Brazilian stations on 92.7 and I wouldn't begin to guess which one I was hearing (if anyone wants to have a go, all I can say is that at 2200 UTC they seemed to be having a discussion about economics). My wife Catherine confirms that it was Portuguese (she doesn't speak it but has visited Portugal many times and rec-

ognized it). I think we can safely say that last night there were simultaneous clear paths from here to both sides of the Atlantic.

Now the announcement:

A number of ZS hams are hosting a VHF and EME expedition to Luderitz Bay in Namibia January 7-17. I will be going out to lead the tropo DX effort. We're intending to gather scientific data as much as we are able as well as work the DX.

The Expedition to Luderitz is really good news because the planned dates in January





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will also be optimum for tropo ducting across the Atlantic to St. Helena, Ascension, and Brazil. Hopefully the hams in ZD7, ZD8, and PY will be able to get on the air and be ready to work Namibia. It would be ideal for someone to do an expedition to Salvador and Recife in Brazil at the same time. The odds of successfully completing a QSO to ZD7 are probably 100 percent during that time, ZD8 probably over 80 percent, and PY more than 50 percent.

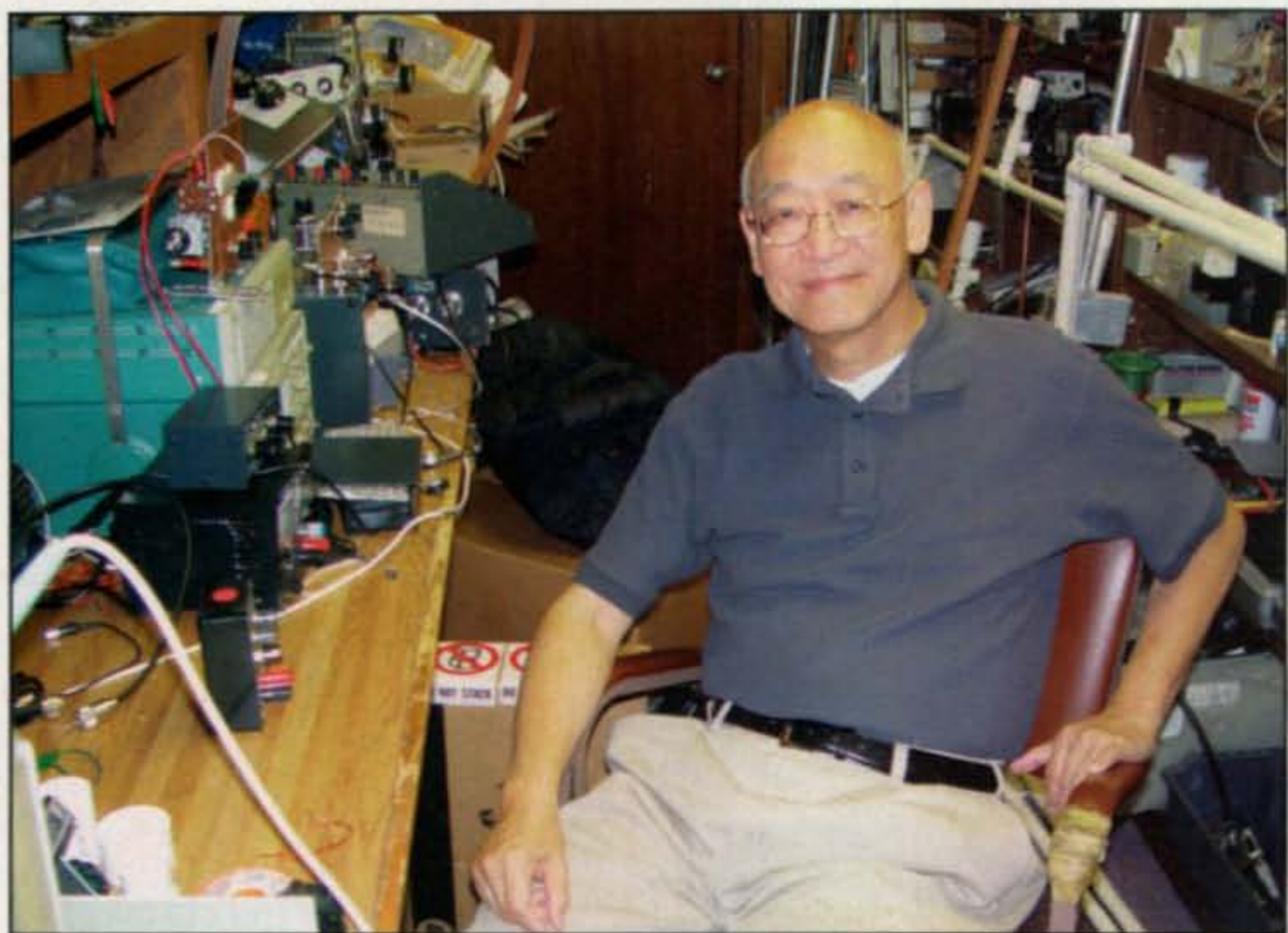
Our Tour of MFJ Enterprises

This past October my wife, Carol, W6CL, and I had the pleasure of touring MFJ Enterprises. It all began with her desire to have another way to send CW while we mobile around the country. Presently, she uses an old Heathkit HD-8999, which she carries in her lap in order to make CW contacts. Knowing that MFJ Enterprises once had a product that used a standard computer keyboard to send Morse code, we looked into their product line at their booth at the Huntsville Hamfest this past August.

While we were checking out MFJ's products, we had the opportunity to meet its owner, Martin Jue, K5FLU. Martin introduced us to Richard Stubbs, who told us about the two MFJ products currently available. Later that day we were invited to join Martin for lunch in the dealers' area of the convention hall. During the course of that conversation, Martin invited us to come through Starkville on our way back to Tulsa for a tour of his company. We agreed to do so the following Tuesday. Unfortunately, my secretary called me to advise me that one of my parishioners was hospitalized and it seemed rather serious. We made the decision to return to Tulsa immediately and postpone our trip to Starkville for a future date.

As it turns out that future date came by way of our travel to Atlanta for the AMSAT Symposium, where I presented my paper on the Earth's magnetotail. On the way to Atlanta, we stopped in Starkville for the promised tour. We were totally thrilled with the hospitality we received. Meeting us was Randy Romero, Martin's chief financial officer. He brought us into Martin's office for our time with him.

Martin has an incredible history. His youth was spent in Hollandale, Mississippi, living on the premises of his parents' grocery store. He inherited the management of that grocery store when his brother wanted to travel for awhile. At that grocery store he learned his business skills that would serve him well during his more than 30 years of ownership of MFJ Enterprises. Martin has a very fine pencil drawing of that



Martin Jue, K5FLU, likes to work in the privacy of this cubby hole area in his office at MFJ Enterprises. If you ever contact him during his work hours at MFJ, chances are that he is at his station that he has set up in this cubby hole. (N6CL photo)

grocery store hanging in his office to remind him of his humble beginnings.

During our time with Martin, he showed me his not-so-secret cubby hole that is positioned behind one of the many bookshelves that surround his office. In that cubby hole he takes time to operate and to experiment with various products that he is considering adding to his product line.

After our interview and lunch with Martin, Richard gave us an extensive tour of the company's various locations. Richard displayed wonderful sensitivity toward Carol's blindness by having her feel various circuit boards, cabinets, transmitting tubes, and components associated with the various products that MFJ produces and sells. Carol was quite impressed with the oil, solder, and fiberglass that she got on her hands (albeit a bit negatively impressed by the slivers of fiberglass that she got into one of her fingers!).

We concluded our stay with Martin by having dinner with him, along with Randy. Ever the promoter that I am, I told him that I would look over his catalog and identify products that would be of interest to those of us in the VHF-plus community.

The following week we came through Starkville, this time on our way back to Tulsa. We stopped in and visited with Martin, Randy, and Richard, and I discussed my findings with him. During the course of my conversation with Martin,

I added that I was really impressed with his loyal workforce. Martin responded that he employs around 150 people and that some of the employees are second generation, their parents being prior employees of MFJ Enterprises.

In conclusion concerning my visits with Martin, I would like to urge you to continue to look into MFJ's product line when you are seeking those aftermarket products to complement your amateur radio station. It is a great product line and Martin continues to expand it to meet the market needs. For more information, please see MFJ's website: <<http://www.mfjenterprises.com>>.

Silent Keys

I regret to report the following weak-signal operators became silent keys late last year: Tom Baker, K8MMM, and Art Moe, KB7WW. Both Tom and Art will be sorely missed.

Current Contests

The ARRL VHF Sweepstakes is scheduled for the weekend of January 17-19. For ARRL contest rules, see the issue of QST prior to the month of the contest or its URL: <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

Current Meteor Showers

The *Quadrantids*, or *Quads*, is a brief, but very active meteor shower. The expected peak is on 3-4 January, with

the expected average to be 120 meteors per hour at its peak. The actual peak can occur three hours before or after the predicted peak. The best paths are north-south. Long-duration meteors can be expected about one hour after the predicted peak.

For more information on the above meteor shower predictions, see Tomas Hood, NW7US's "Propagation" column elsewhere in this issue. Also visit the International Meteor Organization's website: <<http://www.imo.net>>.

Calls for Papers

Calls for papers are issued in advance of forthcoming conferences either for presenters to be speakers, or for papers to be published in the conferences' *Proceedings*, or both. For more information, questions about format, media, hardcopy, e-mail, etc., please contact the person listed with the announcement. The following conference organizer has announced a call for papers for its forthcoming conferences:

Southeastern VHF Society Conference: Technical papers are solicited for the 13th annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 24-25, 2009. Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF, and microwave weak-signal amateur radio. In general, papers and presentations on non-weak-signal related topics such as FM repeaters and packet will not be accepted, but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak signal.

The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is March 2, 2009. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or alternatively Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files. Please indicate when you submit your paper or presentation if you plan to attend the conference and present there or if you are submitting just for publication. Papers and presentations will be published in the conference *Proceedings*. Send all questions about topics and format, comments, and submissions to the program chair, Steve Kostro, N2CEI, at <svhfs2009@downeastmicrowave.com>. For further information about the conference please see the society's website: <<http://www.svhfs.org>>.

And Finally . . .

The beginning of the new year also begins the term of the new U.S. President, Barack Obama. A new administration brings with it the

potential for changes in laws and regulations enacted under the previous administration.

Of ongoing concern to experimenters in our hobby is the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Within the amateur radio experimenting community is a growing "ITAR paranoia" as Bill Ress, N6GHZ, comments in his paper "ITAR and AMSAT," which was published in the *Proceedings* of the 2008 AMSAT Symposium. More than one experimenter has walked away from the research and development tables at AMSAT-NA as a result of ITAR paranoia. In particular, cooperation between AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-DL has all but stopped because the Americans do not want to inadvertently break the law that prohibits the exportation of what might be deemed as sensitive research and technology.

The sanctions for violating the regulations can run into the millions of dollars, as Boeing found out when it was fined \$32 million for its role as successor to the Hughes Corporation, which had (according to the U.S. government) illegally transferred technology to China concerning the January 1995 failed launch of the Long March 2E rocket that was carrying the Hughes-built Apstar 2 spacecraft.

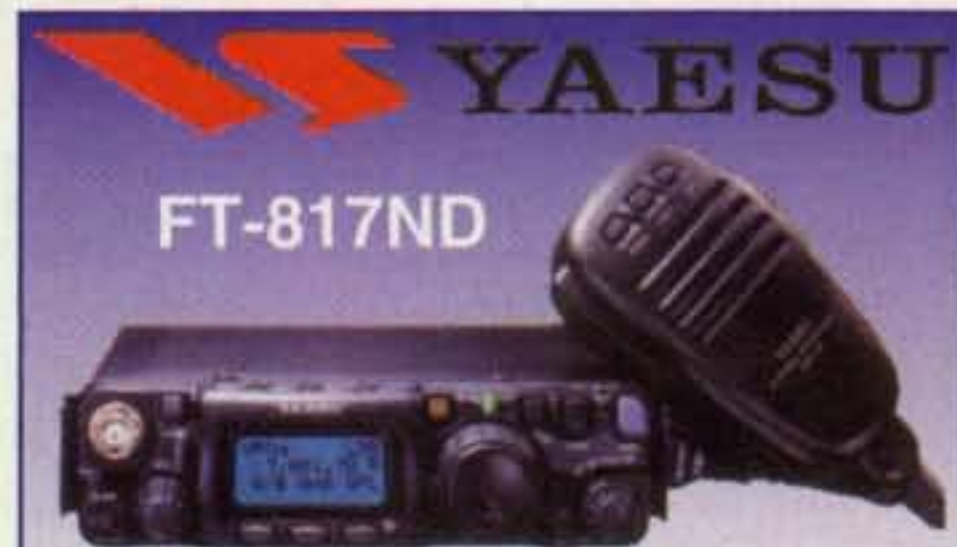
From Wikipedia (go to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Traffic_in_Arms_Regulations>) is the following concerning the controversy:

There is an open debate between the Department of State and the industries and academia regulated by ITAR concerning how harmful the regulatory restrictions are for U.S. businesses and higher education institutions. The Department of State insists that ITAR has limited effect and provides a security benefit to the nation that outweighs any impact that these sectors must bear. Every year, the Department of State can cite multiple arrests of ITAR violators by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. However, many companies and institutions within the affected areas argue that ITAR is stifling U.S. trade and science. Companies argue that ITAR is a significant trade barrier that acts as a substantial negative subsidy, weakening U.S. industries' ability to compete.

It is your editor's hope that under the new administration a new, healthier look at ITAR may emerge that will positively deal with the concerns within our hobby. Should I learn of any such changes, I will keep you informed via this, your column.

Until next month...

73 de Joe, N6CL



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World Flora Fauna Award Series

We saw the awards trend start with countries—about 350 of them ranging from uninhabited sand spits, to major industrial powers, to “entities” of various legal and political descriptions. That kept the kilowatt gang happy, fighting to be on top of the pile earned by working them all. Then along came IOTA (Islands On The Air), counting islands, hundreds and maybe thousands of them. Lighthouses and lightships, thousands of them, also became popular. In short order came awards for contacting stations in the vicinity (on the premises, or within the sight of the operator) of castles, crumbling fortresses, or volcanoes. Then the possible subdivisions incorporated islands on inland lakes, tens of thousands of them. Even contacts for covered bridges were chased in the USA, but that one is now obsolete (and I never got the chance to activate them even when I lived in New Hampshire, which is loaded with them).

World Fauna Flora Award Series

The latest trend is making contacts with national parks or nature reserves as documented in the sponsor's official listing. The World Fauna Flora Award Series is connected to the Russian Robinson Award Series, a successful awards program. The rules are summarized below, although I strongly suggest that you read the complete text on the website <<http://wff44.com/en/>>. An excellent English language number of pages is found on the site. The official list of valid parks and nature preserves is available as a XLS worksheet, downloadable upon request in the popular EXCEL spreadsheet format.

Contacts must date from July 1, 2008, so everyone is on the same level. One of the best features of an award series like this is that it gives every amateur the opportunity to activate “a new one.”

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e-mail: <k1bv@cq-amateur-radio.com>

USA-CA Special Honor Roll

William R. Claypool, NU0Q
USA-CA All Counties #1171
September 26, 2008
Jerry Davis, KE4TTS
USA-CA All Counties #1172
October 7, 2008

USA-CA Honor Roll

500		2000	
NU0Q	3444	NU0Q	1366
KE4TTS	3445	KE4TTS	1367
1000		2500	
NU0Q	1758	NU0Q	1285
LYR-794	1759	KE4TTS -	1286
KE4TTS	1760		
1500		3000	
NU0Q	1474	NU0Q	1196
KE4TTS	1475	KE4TTS	1197
K9AAA	1476		

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.

Once propagation conditions resume at something like “normal intensity,” whatever that is, I suspect that the summer months will see many activations of national parks by amateurs on vacation to a qualifying park who will toss a wire into the trees, pop a cold one, and proceed to make a few dozen contacts from a camping location. Every program has suggested frequencies, and the ones most likely to be productive for all of us in the near future include 7.044 (not USA), 14.244, 18.144 MHz SSB, and 7.024, 10.124, 14.044, 18.084 MHz CW. The web-



Samples of Russia's World Fauna Flora Award series certificates.



More of Russia's World Fauna Flora Award series.

site also contains a list of planned trips and expeditions, not too busy during the winter months, but it should be hopping with activity during the summer, especially since the sponsor plans to publicize a week of special activity during the first week of July each year. Look for expedition or trip activity to be publicized by the "425 DX Letter," "ARRL DX News," and "Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin," all on the internet.

Other countries that have adopted their own version of the WFF rules by starting similar awards are Moldova (5 parks) and Portugal (46 parks). This would be a great project for radio clubs. (How about operating Field Day in a new entity park?)

General Requirements: This is a program requiring contacts (SWL OK) with stations operating from national parks and nature reserves worldwide that are on the official listing of recognized locations (see website) at the time your QSO was made. Each contact must be with a different park or reserve regardless of whether the contact is made by different modes or on different bands. All contacts must have been made from the same DXCC country. All bands okay. You may apply by e-mail or by regular mail. Send a list containing all QSO data plus the name and official WFF check number (two-letter country code and two or three digits representing the sequence number of the park, such as FF-01). The actual card, or a photo copy showing the front and back of the card (the sponsor reserves the right to examine any card), must be submitted unless the contact is made with a station or expedition that has provided the sponsor with a copy of its electronic logs, in which case you should note this in your application.

A separate set of rules applies to the activators of parks and reserves. See the website for details. Look for expedition activity on 14.244 and 14.044.

It is recommended that you visit the sponsor's website due to the length and complexity of the program. This is a developing program, and the sponsor is still looking for data from many countries regarding parks and preserves that will

qualify under the rules. The fee for each award listed below is 12 IRCs. In the case of multiple awards being applied for, the fee for each is reduced to 10 IRCs. The WFF Globus Glass Trophy cost is 100 IRCs. Apply to: WFF Award Manager, Valery Sushkov, RW3GW, P.O. Box 88, Moscow, 101000 Russia. E-mail: <rw3gw@yandex.ru>; internet: <http://wff44.com/en/>.

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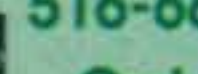
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2. WFF 200 - 200 different FF.
3. WFF 300 - 300 different FF.
4. WFF 400 - 400 different FF.
5. WFF 500 - 500 different FF.
6. WFF Africa - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF located in Africa.
7. WFF Antarctica - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF located in Antarctica. (Stations operating in the Antarctica territory and representing different countries as scientific, seasonal, or permanent bases are considered as different national parks or nature preserves.)
8. WFF Arctic - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF of the Arctic (north of latitude 66°).
9. WFF Asia - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF of Asia.
10. WFF Europe - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF of Europe.
11. WFF North America - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF of North America.
12. WFF South America - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF of South America.
13. WFF Oceania - 5, 10, or 20 QSOs with different FF of Oceania.
14. WFF Globus - a specially laser-engraved glass trophy (80 mm diameter) for proof of having made QSOs with over 500 different FF of the world.

Germany's Royal Wedding of Landshut Award

A beautiful princess married a young German nobleman in the splendor of a Middle Ages royal wedding, truly the story of fairy tales which date from this era. In 1475, Duke George the Rich of Landshut married Polish Princess Jadwiga (Hedwiga). The citizens of Landshut commemorate this royal wedding event with a festival that takes place every four years. With about 2000 participants dressed in historical costumes and around 800,000 visitors from all over the world, the re-enactment of the "Royal Wedding of Landshut" is one of the largest events of its kind.

The next re-enactment of the "Royal Wedding of Landshut" is taking place from June 27 to July 19, 2009. The German Amateur Radio Club e.V. (DARC, section Landshut, DOK U-8) and the Union of Radio Amateurs of the German Federal Post (VFDB, section Landshut, DOK Z-76) sponsor a special award that can be obtained by all radio amateurs and SWLs during the year of this performance. Note that contacts valid for this award may be made during the entire calendar year of 2009.

Earn a total of at least 1475 points. The point values are as follows (listed as German station, followed by points for HF DX stations, then points for all others):

DL0LA/DQ0L (U8); first = 475; first = 475.

DL0LAT/DL1E (Z76); second or later = 125 points each; second or later = 125 points each.

All other stations of Landshut (DOK U8 und Z76); 250 points; 125 points.

All applicants must work at least one of the listed club stations: DL0LA, DQ0L, DL0LAT, DL1E. Only the first contact with one of these club stations counts for 475 points. All further contacts with club stations and all other stations located in Landshut count 125 points, and 25 points in the case of HF DX contacts (i.e., for stations outside of Europe). QSOs via Echolink or packet are excluded; however, there is no fur-

ther restriction with respect to any bands or modes. For this award each station can only worked once.

Send the application for an award together with the relevant extract from

the logbook and 8 Euros or \$13US to: Andreas Lehner, DF5LR, Wernstorferstr.11,D- 84 36 Landshut, Germany. E-mail: <df5lr@u08.de>.

For further information about the "Royal Wedding of Landshut" visit the website: <www.landshuter-hochzeit.de/welcome.htm>. The rules are located at: <http://www.u08.de/pages/diplomen.shtml>.

earned one of these, you have permanent bragging rights on your wall.

Q: Do you require use of the official record book?

A: The USA-CA Award dates back to the time when PCs were not even available to the general public. Oh yes, there were probably about 500 mainframes in action using maybe 20K of ferrite-core memory and processing all those punched cards. (Old timers, get ready to answer the youngsters about these old terms.)

Enough history, though. I will accept any printed output from a database or spreadsheet program that contains at least the same data as found in the little booklets printed by CQ. The listing should show contacts by state and county in alphabetical order. Display the callsign, city/town/"mobile" location data, band, and mode. Your certification as well as those from your witnesses may be a photocopy of the form found in the booklet.

We're always interested in hearing from clubs, special interest groups, or individuals who sponsor awards. Please contact me at the e-mail or snial mail address shown on the first page of this column. 73, Ted, K1BV



The Royal Wedding of Landshut Award certificate.

County Hunting Q&A

Q: What kind of endorsements are available for USA-CA?

A: Achieving USA-CA is a massive job, sometimes taking 10 or 20 years to finish. Most of the applications I see are "Mixed Bands and Modes." The next major subdivisions are ALL SSB, ALL 20 SSB, and ALL CW. Only a few of the hardest county chasers even try for the next level, such as ALL 20 SSB mentioned above. However, recognizing the tremendous effort it takes to earn even the mixed band/mode award, we are pleased to endorse your certificate with the appropriate wording that reflects your dedication and perseverance. You should know that we do not maintain official records that show any of these special endorsements, but if you've

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DX News and more

Another year gone and a new one to look forward to. I guess we're looking forward to it, aren't we? After a very long political "season," which finally ended in early November, perhaps we can get our attention back to things that are a bit closer to our ham hearts and minds . . . like DXing.

DXpedition News

As of early November we still don't know when the operation from **Desecheo, KP5** will take place. All we do know is that it should happen sometime in the January-March time frame. Keep listening/watching. The team does have a website and it is

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



At a Chinese restaurant in Hawaii we find (left to right) Lee, KH6BZF; Yasuko-Chan, JL1BWO; Uti, KS6FO; and Tets, AH7C. Lee says, "The picture was taken by our waitress, Kitty." (Photo courtesy of Lee, KH6BZF)



If you recognize this gentleman, you are probably an Old Timer. It is Bob Winn, W5KNE, the former editor of "QRZ DX," operating from the shack of Larry, AH8LG, on American Samoa. Bob and his wife were on a cruise ship that stopped there, and he took the opportunity to spend a few hours with Larry. (Photo courtesy of Larry, AH8LG)

being "refined" as details become available. You might want to make a note of it so you can keep track of what's happening: <<http://www.kp5.us/>>.

Glorioso, FR/G is still a question mark. We hoped this would happen in September, then October, but no further information has been seen/heard. Last word we had was that the team still had their mind set on going and it was just a matter of time to arrange transportation. As with Desecheo, keep listening/watching.

Marion Island, ZS8... Where, oh where is Petrus, ZS6GCM/ZS8T? We don't know. We believe he is still on the island but with absolutely no word for months, we can't be sure of anything. It's a real disappointment, to say the least.

A week-long operation from both **VU4** and **VU7** the end of October and early November provided some folks with another opportunity to put these formerly Most Wanted islands on their "worked" list. For the most part the U.S. had little or no opportunity to work the VU4, although the VU7 group was workable.

We're starting to see a lot of operations from **Cambodia, XU** and **Vietnam, XV**. I'm not sure of the reason for all the recent activity, but there has been enough to cause me to notice it.

Crozet (FT5WO) is expected to have a year-long resident. Florentin, F4DWY, is a Volunteer Civilian Technical Assistant and is expected to be on the island from December 2008 to November 2009. He is reported to be taking an FT-757GX and will use dipole antennas. This could be a real opportunity for DXers, as Crozet was ranked #9 on the last Most Wanted Survey.

Speaking of the Most Wanted Survey, *The DX Magazine* Most Wanted Survey is conducted annually between early September and mid-October. The results for 2008 are being compiled now, but they won't be available in time for any reports for this issue of *CQ*. You might want to check the website <<http://www.dxpub.com>> around mid-January to see the overall Top 100.



Lee, HL1WD/T88YB, on the left and Harry, WX8C/T88OO, in the shack of George, T88GN, at the VIP hotel on Palau last October. They were there for the CQ WW DX SSB Contest. (Photo courtesy of Lee, HL1WD)



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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 1/2	4.2
SS-30	25	30	3 1/4 x 7 x 9 1/2	5.0



MODEL SS-25M

DESKTOP SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES WITH VOLT AND AMP METERS

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



MODEL SRM-30

RACKMOUNT SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES

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

WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

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



MODEL SRM-30M-2

2 ea SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES ON ONE RACK PANEL

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

WITH SEPARATE VOLT & AMP METERS

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



MODEL SS-12SM/GTX



MODEL SS-10EFJ-98

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- EF JOHNSON GT-ML81
- EF JOHNSON GT-ML83
- EF JOHNSON 9800 SERIES
- GE MARC SERIES
- GE MONOGRAM SERIES & MAXON SM-4000 SERIES
- ICOM IC-F11020 & IC-F2020
- KENWOOD TK760, 762, 840, 860, 940, 941
- KENWOOD TK760H, 762H
- MOTOROLA LOW POWER SM50, SM120, & GTX
- MOTOROLA HIGH POWER SM50, SM120, & GTX
- MOTOROLA RADIUS & GM 300
- MOTOROLA RADIUS & GM 300
- MOTOROLA RADIUS & GM 300
- UNIDEN SMH1525, SMU4525
- VERTEX — FTL-1011, FT-1011, FT-2011, FT-7011

NEW SWITCHING MODELS

- SS-10GX, SS-12GX
- SS-18GX
- SS-12EFJ
- SS-18EFJ
- SS-10-EFJ-98, SS-12-EFJ-98, SS-18-EFJ-98
- SS-12MC
- SS-10MG, SS-12MG
- SS-101F, SS-121F
- SS-10TK
- SS-12TK OR SS-18TK
- SS-10SM/GTX
- SS-10SM/GTX, SS-12SM/GTX, SS-18SM/GTX
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I'll be able to give you a short summary in the next issue of *CQ*.

VK9DWX from Willis Island wrapped up their operation a few days earlier than expected due to a weather front coming at them. The team reported they had over 95,000 QSOs and a great adventure full of unforgettable moments and sweet memories behind them. Quoting from the report: "We enjoyed nice and trusty fellowship within our team. Our two rookies, Josh, W4WJF, and Rhy, ZS6DXB, turned out to be a real surprise for us. They not only slipped into the team very

easily but they also shouldered the operating burden in amazingly good performance. They became a valuable support for the DXpedition. We are very sorry that in the last days of operation the online log was not available. Due to a crash of the database on our server we were not able to fix it from the island (not at a rate of 6 EUR/MByte...). But now the online log is available again and also the QSO statistics."

Still Room for Improvement

A friend of mine (I'll call him "Doug the DXer") and some friends went on a short trip to an island not too far away but still

CQ DX Awards Program

RTTY
 429A6ZT

SSB Endorsements

330K6YRA/339	330DJ9ZB/339
330WB4UBD/339	330AB4IQ/337
3304Z4DX/339	300K5UO/335
330N7BK/339	

CW Endorsements

330EA2IA/338	330K3JGJ/335
330K9MM/338	320IK8ADY/328
330K7LAY/336	275K0KG/298
330K5UO/336	

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.

The WAZ Program

15 Meter SSB
 641OZ1ADL

20 Meter SSB
 1176WA3RHW

All Band WAZ

Mixed

8526YO7APA	8530EA2BCJ
8527YO7LCB	8531WA3FRP
8528DL4CW	8532BA7IO
8529JH1EPS	

RTTY
 191WA3FRP

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>.

The WPX Program

SSB
 3022LU4DLL 3023IZ8FFA

Mixed
 2017JA7OXR 2018OK7RJ

CW: 2250 VE6BF.
SSB: 700 IZ8FFA. 900 VE6BF. 1350 AE9DX. 2400 WA5VGI.
Mixed: 2400 VE6BF.

80 Meters: K8ZEE

Award of Excellence Holders: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MDD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BQY, I8JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, WB8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, WA4QM, 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, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, HA8UB, HA8XX, K7LJ, SM3EVR, K2SHZ, UP1BZZ, EA7OH, K2POA, N6JV, W2HG, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, Y80TK, K9QFR, 9A2NA, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, I3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE8DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IK4GME, VE9RJ, WX3N, HB9AU, KC6X, N6IBF, W5ODD, I0RII, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, W73W, IN3JB, I5FJ, EA5BM, DL1EY, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PXV, S53EO, DF7GK, S57P, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU0A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, K4LQ, K0KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, A16Z, RU3DX, WB9IHH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, KT2C, UA9CGL, AE5B, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, UA8FAI, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI.

160 Meter Endorsements: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8ILC, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, N3ED, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM8DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM8AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE8DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TQH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, KB0G, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, Y80TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, I3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, WX3N, W5ODD, I0RII, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K0IFL, W73W, IN3JB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU0A, VR2UW, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLD, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, S51U, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX, WB9IHH, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, UA9CGL, SM6DHU, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, 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.

much sought after. After the operation Doug had a few comments, "We had the same old problem with some of the European operators in pile-ups. They just keep calling and it takes forever to work somebody. We worked 23,000 and should have doubled that count."

He asks the question, "Why do they call over each other all the time?" I wish I had an answer for Doug, but I don't. How about you? This is one of those things that I have been talking about for the past few years now, and I had hoped we had made some progress. I believe we have, but obviously there is still plenty of room for improvement, especially from some of our European friends.

5 Band WAZ

As of November 1, 2008, 757 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1613 stations have attained the 150 zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones confirmed:
None

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (zones needed, 80 or 40 meters):

S51U, 199 (27)	K7LJ, 199 (37)
N4WW, 199 (26)	RA6AX, 199 (6 on 10m)
W4LI, 199 (26)	RX4HZ, 199 (13)
K7UR, 199 (34)	KØGM, 199 (17)
W2YY, 199 (26)	S58Q, 199 (31)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	WB9EEE, 199 (17)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40m)	EA5BCX, 198 (27, 39)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
WØCP, 199 (18)	JA1DM, 198 (2, 40)
GM3YOR, 199 (31)	9A5I, 198 (1, 16)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	K4CN, 198 (23, 26)
KZ4V, 199 (26)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
W6DN, 199 (17)	N2QT, 198 (23, 24)
W3NO, 199 (26)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
HB9DDZ, 199 (31)	W4UM, 198 (18, 23)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	US7MM, 198 (2, 6)
N3UN, 199 (18)	K2TK, 198 (23, 24)
OH2VZ, 199 (31)	K3JGJ, 198 (24, 26)
W1JZ, 199 (24)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	F5NBU, 198 (19, 31)
SM7BIP, 199 (31)	OE2LCM, 198 (1, 31)
SP5DVP, 199 (31 on 40)	HA1RW, 198 (1, 31)
N4NX, 199 (26)	WK3N, 198 (23, 24)
N4MM, 199 (26)	W9XY, 198 (22, 26)
EA7GF, 199 (1)	KZ2I, 198 (24, 26)
N6HR7, 199 (37)	W7VJ, 198 (34, 37)
JA5IU, 199 (2)	K9MIE, 198 (18, 21)
RU3DX, 199 (6)	W9RN, 198 (26, 19 on 40)
N4XR, 199 (27)	W5CWQ, 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:

NKØS (157 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

JH1EEB (193 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>.

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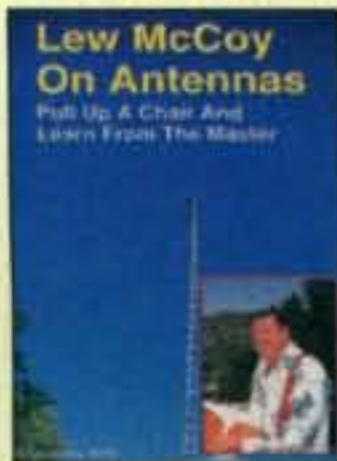
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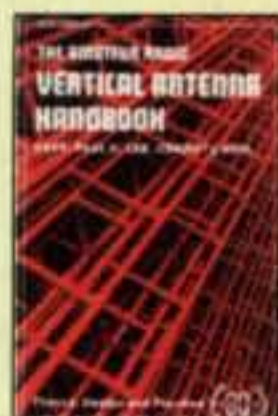


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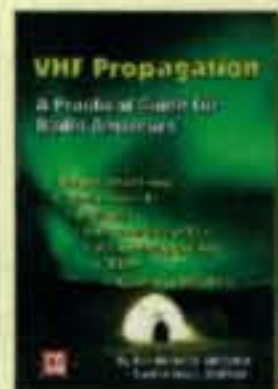


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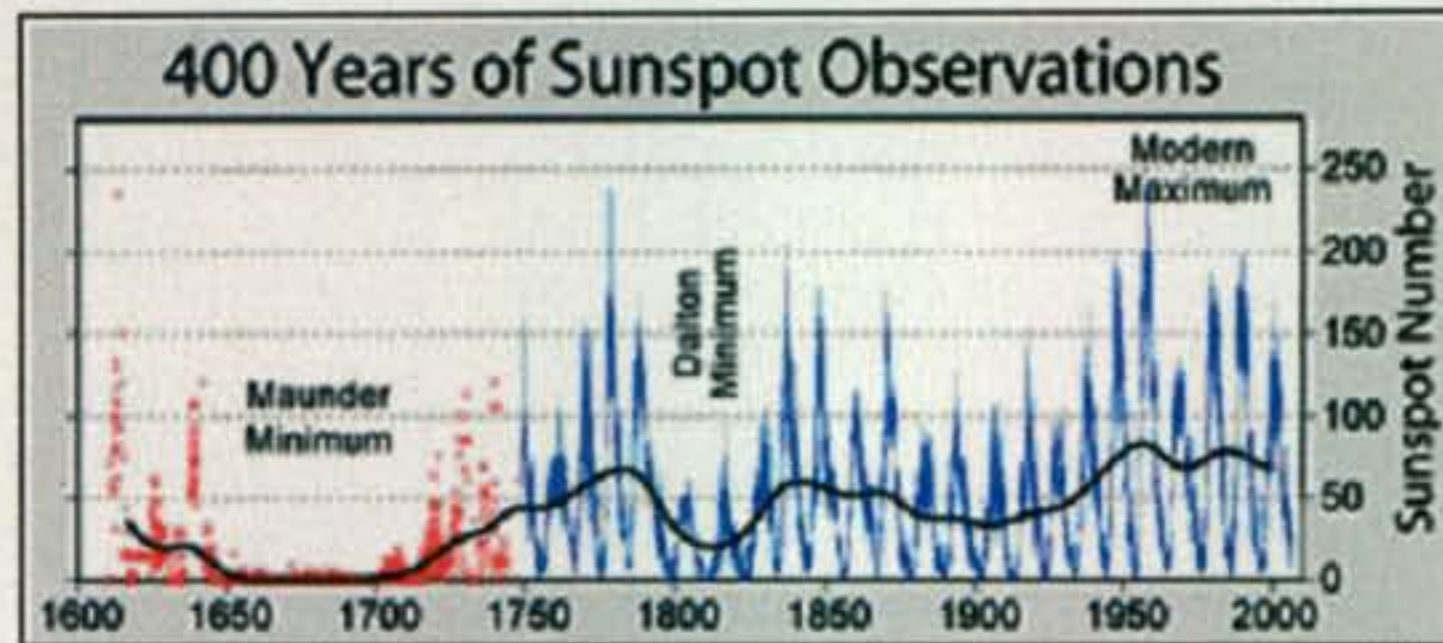
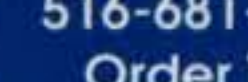


Fig. 1— A graphical display sunspots for the period 1600–2000.

Sunspots and Some History

Every once in awhile there has been a sunspot reported, causing folks to get their hopes up that Cycle 24 is getting started. That start has been very slow and still there are no definitive facts to show it is starting. In spite of the less than ideal propagation DXers are a dedicated group and lots of good DX is still being logged. The low bands (especially 160) have been surprisingly good in early November. We should be grateful for what we can work on those bands while waiting for the upper frequencies to improve.

I can't take credit for the following, as it was sent to me by a friend, but I thought it was interesting enough to pass along. Here is what the article said: "The Maunder Minimum is a 400-year history of sunspot numbers. The 'Maunder Minimum' is the name given to the period from roughly 1645 to 1715, when sunspots became exceedingly rare, as noted by solar observers of the time. It is named after the solar astronomer Edward W. Maunder (1851–1928), who discovered the dearth of sunspots during that period by studying records from those years. During one 30-year period within the Maunder Minimum, for example, astronomers observed only about 50 sunspots, as opposed to a more typical 40,000–50,000 spots." Fig. 1 is a graphical display of the period from 1600–2000. (For more information on the Maunder Minimum, see the "VHF Plus" column by N6CL in the April 2008 issue of CQ—ed.)

Here is more on the progress of Cycle 24 (or lack thereof). According to an article by David Archibald on the website

QSL Information

JU4Y via I0SNY	OG8X via OH2BN
JW0P via JW0P	OH2EURO via OH2HSJ
K4J via KS4RX	OK8AEP via DL5KUA
KH0/JA1XGI via JA1XGI	OL1908D via OK1KT
KH0/K3UY via RA3AUU	OM3KAP via 9M6TW
KH2/K3UY via RA3AUU	OM9AQA via SP8AQA
KL7J via N3SL	OX3PG via WA0SMQ
KP2/KC4YHL via JA1ELY	OZ1RDP via DL9BCP
KP4ED via EB7DX	P33W via RA3AUU
KR6IG via K5YG	P40GY via K9GY
KX6ND via JA1ELY	PG1ITU via PA0ABM
LA1IARU via 3A2LF	PJ2/KC4YHL via JA1ELY
LY999X via LY3X	PJ7/KJ9I via KJ9I
M/F5KEE/P via F8ATS	PJ7/LA3ZH via LA3ZH
M0NRC via G1HIP	PT5T via N3SL
M7A via M0NRC	PY0FT via JA1ELY
MJ0DOL via M0DOL	PY2KC via N3SL
MM/DH5JBR/P via DH5JBR	R0L via IK2DUW
MM/DL5AUA/P via DL5AUA	R100R via RW3GW/3
MM0BNN/P via M0BNN	R1ANT via RW3GW/3
MX0NRC via G1HIP	R1FJV via RW3GW/3
NN7A/NL7 via NN7A	R3AA/9 via RW3GW/3
OA4BHY/3 via DL2JRM	R3IOTA via RW3GW/3
OA4WW via HP1WW	R3IOTA/MM via RW3GW/3
OD5QB via YO3FRI	(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/>.)
OD5QT via YO3FRI	
OD5UJ via YO3FRI	
OE2008BZL via DK5AD	
OE2008L via OE5FSL	
OE8/R3RRC via RW3GW/3	

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Total Length of Antenna at 3.5 Mhz - 54"

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<<http://www.warwickhughes.com/blog/?p=181#comment-20552>>, "A large number of spotless days means that the following cycle is going to be late, and the later a cycle is, the weaker it will be." There are a number of graphs to justify the

author's opinion. If you are interested in the whole story, please visit the cited website.

Until next month, enjoy the chase and please Have Fun!

73, Carl, N4AA

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

5770.....9A2AA	4313.....YU1AB	3799.....K0DEQ	3332...ON4CAS	2873.....W2ME	2358.....I2EAY	1858.....W7CB	1556.....W2OO	976.....KM6HB
5492.....K2VV	4151.....VE3XN	3637.....KF2O	3294.....W9OP	2704.....K2XF	2343.....VE6BF	1847.....W2FKF	1511...KC9ARR	964.....K8ZEE
5141.....W1CU	4112.....N6JV	3624..WB2YQH	3227.....K9BG	2673...JN3SAC	2162.....W3LL	1741.....AB5C	1446.....DF3JO	815.....KL7FAP
5027.....W2FXA	4084.....I2PJA	3572...WA5VGI	3091.....9A4W	2503.....K1BV	2116.....AE5B	1739.....KX1A	1330...K6UXO	726.....K5IC
4566.....EA2IA	3947...I2MQP	3485.....IK2ILH	3007...W2WC	2486...N8BJQ	2192.....N2SS	1705...W2EZ	1322...AA4FU	682.....AI8P
4500.....N4NO	3916.....N9AF	3483...YU7BCD	2965...OZ1ACB	2475...W6OUL	1951.....K0KG	1662...SV1DPI	1269...K5WAF	644.....KW0H
4466.....9A2NA	3807.....S53EO	3325...SM6DHU	2946.....W9IL	2410.....K5UR	1891.....VE9FX	1643.....N1KC	1016...RA1AOB	636.....ZS2DL

SSB

4954.....I0ZV	3457.....9A2NA	2726...IN3QCI	2326.....CX6BZ	2076.....K2XF	1849.....K3IXD	1591...JN3SAC	1258.....N1KC	895.....VE6BF
4310.....VE1YX	3198...CT1AHU	2711...LU8ESU	2300...SM6DHU	2071.....N6FX	1821...W2FKF	1525...N8BJQ	1232...AG4W	806.....K7SAM
4000.....I2PJA	3155.....I2UIY	2709...KF7RU	2250...I3ZSX	2051...SV3AQR	1765...KQ8D	1480...AB5C	1145...EA3EQT	637.....K5WAF
3929.....OZ5EV	3133...OE2EGL	2595...EA1JG	2209...IK2QPR	2046.....K5UR	1729...W6OUL	1464...VE7SMP	1045...KX1A	
3900...F6DZU	3108...I4CSP	2552...YU7BCD	2178...NQ3A	1946...W3LL	1714...IK2DZN	1463...I2EAY	1042...IZ0BNR	
3720...I2MQP	2970...KF2O	2451...EA3GHZ	2135...W9IL	1935...SV1EOS	1688...KI7AO	1386...IK4HPU	1031...IK8OZP	
3473...EA2IA	2857...4X6DK	2431...G4UOL	2094...I8LEL	1927...AE5B	1623...VE9FX	1385...AE9DX	978...EA7HY	
3458...N4NO	2726...K0DEQ	2398...WA5VGI	2093...W2WC	1877...DL8AAV	1611...W2ME	1377...EA3NP	951...KU4BP	

CW

5048...WA2HZR	3412...EA2IA	2632...W2ME	2415...W2WC	2175...W9IL	1848...I2EAY	1334...RU0LL	1053...K5WAF	608...IK2SGV
4953...K9QVB	3096...WA5VGI	2623...SM6DHU	2324...OZ5UR	2089...K2XF	1804...EA7AAW	1310...K6UXO	1030...AA5JG	
4114...N6JV	3046...9A2NA	2606...YU7BCD	2309...JN3SAC	2040...I2MQP	1465...AC5K	1269...WA2VQV	915...N1KC	
4042...N4NO	2927...K0DEQ	2587...KA7T	2308...N6FX	1953...N8BJQ	1445...EA2CIN	1220...AA4FU	824...VE9FX	
3685...VE7DP	2688...I2UIY	2586...EA7AZA	2244...IK3GER	1945...K5UR	1395...W9HR	1147...KX1A	749...AE5B	
3557...LZ1XL	2636...KF2O	2582...I7PXV	2177...VE6BF	1927...W6OUL	1364...WO3Z	1086...VE1YX	740...F5PBL	

DIGITAL

1107...W3LL 1009...GU0SUP 744...N8BJQ

Contests – Your Favorite and Mine!

January's Contest Tip

In recent weeks there has been a lot of internet discussion about ways to improve CW skills. The two tactics that seem to be most recommended are: (1) practice, practice, practice (hard for many of us who live in the world of "instant gratification"), and (2) utilization of freeware training/practice software such as what is offered by Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK (<<http://lcwo.net/>>). There are real hurdles in developing advanced CW skills. However, without them you are missing out on one of the greatest aspects of radio contesting!

As contest operators, we often are asked what we consider to be our favorite contests. As you might expect, the answers cover an incredibly wide range. In part, I think it's because we operate contests for so many reasons. I suspect it's also due to the large number of operating events that are sponsored throughout the year (more on that later).

When it comes right down to it, most of us have one or two favorite contests that stand out above all the others. It could be based on our station's limitations or strengths, or simply a nostalgic feeling about the first one we ever operated.

Without a doubt, and having nothing to do with the source of this column, my favorite events are the CQ World-Wide DX Contests. In fact, I suppose I have to concede that DX contests in general are where my interests lie. This is, for the most part, a very widely held feeling on the East Coast of the U.S. As with any geographical area, the contests that afford the best results are usually the most popular. If you pose the same question to someone in Texas or Nevada, they would probably tell you about the benefits that come from operating domestic contests such as the ARRL Sweepstakes.

I started my ham radio experience by focusing on DXing. To this day, I still enjoy the chase of working a DXpedition on several bands and the thrill of breaking a pile-up with marginal antennas. It only seems natural that these interests would extend into contest operating as well. I suspect that I'm not alone either.

As mentioned earlier, there is a nostalgic part of this equation, too. Like many of you, my first "contest" was ARRL Field Day. It was my first exposure to ham radio as well. For that reason, Field Day has always held a special spot in my contesting interest curve—so much so that I've never missed operating one (albeit from home many times) in nearly 40 years of hamming. I'm sure many of you that can relate a similar story from other events, such as the defunct ARRL Novice Roundup. When I look back at the 20+ hours of operating I endured to make only 230 QSOs in the 1969 NR, it's amazing that I ever operated in another contest. However, to tell the truth, it was one of the best times I ever had in a contest! The excitement of putting one QSO after another into my log was root-

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e-mail: <K1AR@contesting.com>

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon
Dec. 27	RAC Canada Winter Contest
Dec. 27–28	Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge
Dec. 28	RAEM Contest
Jan. 1	ARRL Straight Key Night
Jan. 3–4	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan. 4	Kid's Day
Jan. 10–11	North American CW QSO Party
Jan. 17	LZ Open Contest
Jan. 17	CQ UT Contest
Jan. 17–18	Hungarian DX Contest
Jan. 17–18	North American SSB QSO Party
Jan. 23–25	CQ WW 160M CW Contest
Jan. 24–25	REF CW Contest
Jan. 24–25	UBA SSB Contest
Feb. 2	Minnesota QSO Party
Feb. 2–3	Vermont QSO Party
Feb. 2–3	Mexico Int'l RTTY Contest
Feb. 3	North American CW Sprint
Feb. 2–4	Delaware QSO Party
Feb. 14–15	CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest
Feb. 27 – Mar. 1	CQ WW 160M SSB Contest

ed in my earliest days of contesting, where 200 QSOs is now measured as an hour of operating as a large multi-multi or 30 minutes when cranking away from the Caribbean.

From an international perspective, DX contests are hugely popular, and not just the CQ WW and ARRL DX, where activity levels are at all-time highs when measured by the number of logs submitted. There are literally dozens of national contests, some permitting international participation and others limited to domestic QSOs. Maybe some of you can recall an experience such as listening to a buzzsaw of weak JA stations on 80 meters working each other at high QSO rates, wondering what it would be like to work them yourself.

Another favorite is contests that focus on special operating skills. The North American Sprint is a good example. Since its inception, this contest with its special QSY rule has driven a more even-handed result to large station advantages—well, to a degree. With operators being required to QSY after every QSO, operating skill uniquely comes into play, as you can no longer sit and call endless CQs from a loud run station. If you've never given it a try, I suggest you check out this year's winter event in February. However, put your seatbelt on; there's nothing like it.

Finally, there are those good-old organizational contests. You know the ones: QCWA QSO Party, YLRL events, Classic Radio, FOC, etc. They're great in that they increase HF activity while advancing the fraternal aspect of our hobby. Who can question those motives?

Our Contest Activity Comes at a Price

The preceding discussion cannot be concluded without some comments on the number of contests currently being sponsored throughout the year. I think about this topic in months such as January

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As we reported last month, well-known contester Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, passed away last October. This photo showing Paolo (left) and Carl Cook, AI6V, and was sent by Carl with the sentiment "Paolo, you will be remembered always."

or February, where the contest calendar is particularly filled with many events. One of the most common complaints I receive from non-contesting hams is that there are too many darn contests. When you look at the contest calendar, it's easy to see that point of view. There are some weekends in which four or five simultaneous operating events are under way at various times.

Hopefully, most contests have some goal in mind. Some are

trying to stir up activity from rare states. Others are attempting to increase activity on certain modes or bands. Still others are designed to encourage newcomers or those with small stations to join in the fun. My question for the contest community to consider is: If there is no significant goal you're trying to achieve by sponsoring a contest, or the organizational support for the event is minimal at best, then why conduct the contest in the first place? The concept is something like building another drug store in your town. Do we really need four drug stores on the corner of a busy intersection?

We've all heard the arguments, however. Given that some of these contests have little or no activity, what's the big deal? Well, my view is that this is precisely the point. If a contest has little or no activity, then why sponsor the contest at all? It sure seems like common sense to me.

The contest and non-contest communities will never completely see eye-to-eye on the virtues of contest operating. It's no different from the conflicts SSTVers and non-SSTVers put up with on 20 meters SSB, or the long-standing challenges of net operators and non-net operators. The list just goes on and on. Fortunately for the hobby, our self-policing approach works very well—for the most part. So what's your favorite contest?

Final Comments

With 2009 upon us, it's always useful to take advantage of the passing into a new calendar as a reason to evaluate our contesting strategy. Will this be the year of station building for some? Or, perhaps, these are the 12 months that will go down as a breakthrough in CW skills for others. Whatever the goal, I challenge you to have one. And as I've said many times, above all – have fun! That's what contesting is all about.

73, John, K1AR

Good Conditions Predicted for 2009

Moderate 2008 CQ WW DX SSB Contest Conditions

The 2008 CQ World-Wide DX SSB Contest weekend of October 25–26 started off with great geomagnetic activity. Geomagnetic activity was very quiet (with single-digit planetary *A*-index (*A_p*) readings, less than 4 over the poles, and less than 2 everywhere else), making for a very stable ionosphere. Sunspot counts were zero for both contest days. The 10.7-cm solar flux index was 68 and 67. Most of the HF contest bands were usable, although not spectacular.

A Quick Look at Current Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, October 2008: 3
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2008: 3

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, October 2008: 68
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2008: 70

A_p Index

Observed Monthly, October 2008: 6
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2008: 7

The new solar cycle is picking up some steam. Flux readings during November already have risen above the 70 mark, and more often than not there are sunspots to be counted. Further proof that the new cycle is here to stay is that most of the recent sunspots are now “new cycle spots.” New cycle spots are those which are magnetically arranged reversed from those orientations typical of the previous cycles.

Here is an overview of expected propagation conditions on each amateur band between 6 and 160 meters for 2009.

6 Meters: About the only real action on 6 meters will be during the summer season’s troposcatter and sporadic-*E* activity. Aurora will play a minor role during spring and fall. Meteor-scatter propagation might offer an occasional peak in activity, as well.

10 and 12 Meters: These bands will be fair to poor, except during times of sporadic-*E* activity. Expect most DX openings to be generally on north and south paths. Most of the time the solar activity will not support propagation on higher bands, except for possible openings on paths between lower latitudes and locations on the other side of the equator (north/south paths).

15 Meters: This band will be fair during the first part of the year, with occasional worldwide openings during the daylight hours of all seasons. Most openings, though, will be short, except for the strong and frequent north/south path openings. By

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for January 2009

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1, 4-18, 21-25, 27-28, 31	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 2-3, 19-20, 29-30	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 26	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 2 will be good (B) on Jan. 1st, fair (C) on the 2nd and 3rd, good (B) on the 4th through the 18th, 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 end of 2009, we should be in a more rapid climb in solar cycle activity, so this band will be open for worldwide DX more often.

17 Meters: This band should behave much like 15, but you will find it open more often, with it remaining open for DX an hour or two longer than 15 meters.

20 Meters: This band again is going to be a main player during this period of low solar activity. Expect fair conditions during the daylight hours, with DX openings possible to limited areas throughout the year. DX conditions on this band tend to peak for a few hours after local sunrise and again during the sunset period.

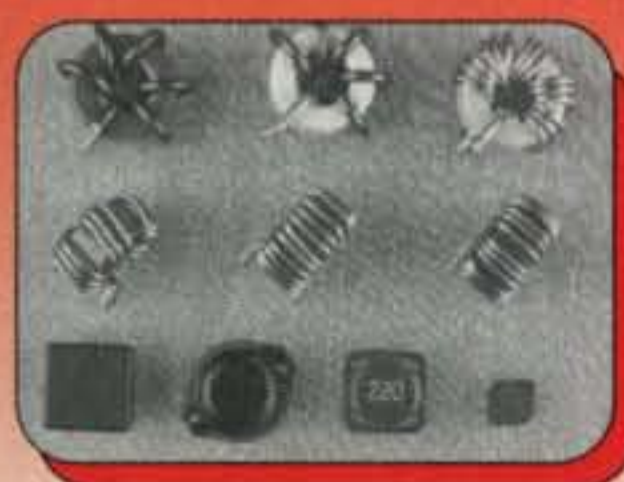
30 Meters: As Cycle 24 begins to offer more sunspot activity, conditions on this band will offer moderate openings, especially a few hours before sunset until a few hours after sunrise. In 2009, 30 meters will be an exciting band for those low-power digital signals. Winter brings longer nights, providing the right mix for exceptional worldwide DX.

40, 60, 80, and 160 Meters: These are nighttime DX bands. Great worldwide DX should continue on 40 meters from about two hours before sunset to approximately two hours after sunrise during all seasons. Expect coast-to-coast DX on 60 meters. DX openings on 80 and 160 should peak during the early spring, late fall, and winter months. Expect

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somewhat stronger signals than those of last year.

January Propagation

It should be a toss-up between 17 and 20 meters for some great DX propagation openings during the daylight hours. These bands should open to most areas of the world, often with very strong signals. Seventeen meters may have a slight edge before noon, with 20 meters taking the lead after noon and both becoming optimum DX bands during the late afternoon hours. Short-skip openings between distances of about 1200 and 2300 miles should be great during the daylight hours. Excellent short-skip openings are expected on 15 and 17 meters from shortly after sunrise through the early evening hours for distances between 1000 and 2300 miles. Twenty meters is expected to be a solid band with openings for both DX and short-skip. DX conditions should peak during a window of an hour or so right after sunrise and again during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Short-skip openings between approximately 1300 and 2300 miles should be possible from just after sunrise to as late as midnight. Shorter distance openings

should also be possible from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

The optimum band for DX conditions during the hours of darkness should be 40 meters. Expect openings to most areas of the world from shortly before sundown, through the hours of darkness, and until shortly after sunrise. Signal levels may be exceptionally strong at times. During the daylight hours, short-skip conditions should be optimal for openings between approximately 100 and 600 miles. Skip will lengthen during the late afternoon, and by nightfall short-skip conditions should be optimal for openings between 800 and 2300 miles.

Expect 60 meters to play a significant role in nightly DX across the United States. With very low noise levels this month, the weaker signals of 60 meters will be easy to copy.

Because atmospheric noise levels will be at seasonally minimum levels in the Northern Hemisphere during January, the 80 and 160 meter bands should also be hot. Expect some good openings to many parts of the world on 80 meters during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. Short-skip openings between distances of 50 and 250 miles

should be optimal on 80 meters during the daylight hours. During the later afternoon and early evening hours short-skip openings should increase to between 250 and 1500 miles, and by nightfall openings up to and beyond 2300 miles should be possible.

Expect some DX openings on the 160-meter band during the hours of darkness. Openings towards Europe and the east should peak at about midnight. Openings towards the South Pacific and in a generally southerly direction may be possible just before daybreak, as well as openings into Asia and North Pacific. Short-skip openings up to 1300 miles should be possible during the hours of darkness, and frequently the skip will extend out as far as 2300 miles. During the daylight hours intense ionospheric absorption will severely limit openings, although at times some may be possible up to 150 miles or so.

VHF Conditions

Sporadic-E can occur during January, so be on the lookout. This has happened right around New Year's Day and that week. After that, it is rare.

The *Quadrantids* meteor shower is the major meteor shower for January

our readers say

Is it Ham Radio?

Editor, *CQ*:

Here's my reply to the Weisman, W1VIV, letter to you (October 2008, page 111, regarding Echolink and IRLP): "YES, IT IS HAM RADIO."

Mr. Weisman would be well advised to consider what it's like to be a life-long ham, then suddenly become faced with being confined to a retirement home, assisted facility, or other living quarters that prohibit the installation of antennas, and any form of radio transmission that might interfere with radio and TV reception.

Who cares how Merriam-Webster defines radio? That definition has nothing to do with ham radio. Weisman should read Al Goldberg's story in the in the October 2003 *QST*; Anthony Manser's story in the January 2004 *QST*; Guy Duke's story May 2005 *QST*; and Hugh Tingley's compelling story in the April 2006 *QST*.

According to the FCC engineer who discussed Echolink with Tingley, "Hams need to realize that they are communicators FIRST and radio amateurs SECOND. When it comes to serving the public, hams should understand and accept that their communication skills might include tools other than radios."

Weisman, licensed since 1952, should get back to the real world!

Nunzio Addabbo, W4VYD (licensed since 1950)

But is it SDR?

Editor, *CQ*:

I applaud your editorial in the October issue of *CQ*, and your perception that the next few years will see SDR (software defined radio) technology really come into its rightful place in amateur radio products and usefulness to amateur radio operators.

However, I must take exception to your characterization of the current offerings on the amateur market, such as the FLEX-5000A, that have a computer interface, as a SDR. I would prefer calling this kind of equipment software-controlled radios, or perhaps a digital radio, since they really do not fit the FCC definition of a real SDR. The FCC's Forum defines an SDR device as one that functions independently of carrier frequencies and can operate within a range of transmission protocol environments. They further define the ideal SDR as one that has transceivers that perform up-conversion and down-conversion between baseband and the RF carrier itself exclusively in the digital domain, reducing the hardware interface to a power amplifier in the transmit path, a low-noise amplifier in the receive path, and little or no analog filtering. It is possible to completely change the features by simply uploading new software to the device. So for instance, if I wanted to use my amateur radio configured SDR for a marine radar set on my boat, I could just upload another software program, connect my radar antenna instead of my 20 meter beam, and away I go. The FLEX-5000A can't quite do this yet, but it is getting closer, so I would submit that it is a digital radio and not a real SDR.

Pete Hansen, W8TWA

W2VU replies: First of all, I'm sorry we didn't have space to print the rest of your letter regarding the potential pitfalls of SDR. Secondly, the definition of SDR is definitely a hot-button issue. I'm not sure how old the FCC definition you cite is, but the current definition agreed to by both the SDR Forum and the IEEE simply says that a software defined radio is "Radio in which some or all of the physical layer functions are software defined." The "What is SDR?" page on the SDR Forum's website (www.sdrforum.org) further clarifies that "physical layer functions" refer to the radio's operating functions. Under this definition, not only is the FLEX-5000A an SDR but so is any other radio on the amateur market today with at least some functions defined in software rather than hardware.

Thank you, Fred

Editor, *CQ*:

Thank you for the splendid article in your October 2008 issue by Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, in Washington Readout, entitled "Amateur Radio Licensing and Callsign Systems." There have been so many changes over the past 60 years in amateur radio by the FCC that Fred's outstanding summary of the most current information brings us old-timers up to date and is most welcomed reading.

Please continue your fine work in producing such an interesting, quality magazine with so many superb articles.

Meyer A. Minchen, AG5G

and appears from January 1 to January 5. The maximum should occur at 1250 UTC on January 3. This shower can sometimes be quite intense, so it may be a good idea for setting up some 2- and 6-meter schedules. Morning meteor openings may be the best bet during this month. The hourly rate can be as high as 600 this year, although the expected average is about 120. View <http://www.imo.net/calendar/2009> for a complete calendar of meteor showers in 2009.

Check out the *CQ VHF* magazine propagation column for an in-depth look at propagation on VHF and above.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 68.3 for October 2008, continuing a slow but steady monthly rise since July. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on April 2008 is 69.6. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for January 2009 is about 72, give or take about 7 points.

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for October 2008 is 2.9, showing a slow rise since July's and August's 0.5. The lowest daily sunspot value during October 2008 was zero, occurring on October 1-3, 5-9, and 18-30. The highest daily sunspot count for October was 16 on the 12th. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on April 2008 is 3.3. A smoothed sunspot count of 15 is expected for January 2009, give or take about 5 points.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-index (A_p) for October 2008 is 6. The 12-month smoothed A_p index centered on April 2008 is 7.1. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to be quiet during most days in January. At the time of this writing in mid-November, the forecast holds that January will be a very quiet month with little to no geomagnetic storminess. Refer to the Last-Minute Forecast on the first page of this column for the outlook on what days this might occur.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding the fascinating science of propagation. You may e-mail me, write me a letter, or catch me on the HF amateur bands. Please come and participate in my online propagation discussion forum at <http://hfradio.org/forums/>. See you on the air!

73, Tomas, NW7US

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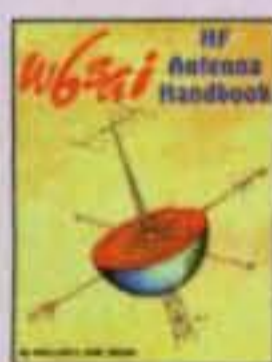
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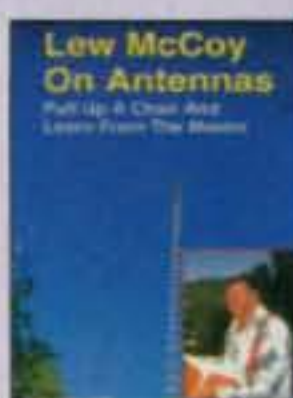
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Results of the 2008 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

(from page 28)

ingly difficult to keep a frequency to reach a rare stn. I guess it has to do with the fact that for long periods of time one can only use a single band, which then, of course, is completely overcrowded. Still, it's been lots of fun. I thoroughly enjoyed my participation ... **DJ3WE**. Great first experience in the new farm contest QTH. Only time to put a fun dipole on the top of a high mountain ... **EA3ATM**. My goal was to go over my 2007 score. I decided to try the Tribander/Single Element class and I had a lot of fun too! ... **FY1FL**. My first venture with CQ WPX SSB, and it didn't take me long to realize that a 9 foot vertical antenna is not conducive to attaining a high score. In fact I finished early, having worked all I could. Otherwise it was great fun and will have another attempt with better antennas ... **G1FON**. Fantastic DX conditions on 80m on Sunday sunrise! ... **H22H**. The Swiss DX Foundation (SDXF) used this special call to celebrate its 10th birthday. The team operated from HB9CA (Letzi-DX-Group) station ... **HB10DX**. Conditions were good but AC power at the mission where we operated was not available for 8 to 10 hours each night. We used an IC-7000 and the antennas were a beam for 10, 15, and 20 meters and a SuperLoop for 40 and 80 meters. Jan and I want to thank all the stations that worked us during the contest ... **HH4/AF4Z**. No USA except KH6 but a lot of good DX worked. Not bad for a 33 ft. piece of wire taped to a telescoping fiberglass pole. being on the roof at 150 ft helps I guess, hi! ... **HS0ZDR**. First WPX for us, testing equipment and sharing happy time together. We chose Multi-2 for testing interference ... **IQ5AE**. I entered in single-op 80m low power. The condition between the USA and JA was not so good. Especially on 75m DX band, we east Asian stations have very heavy QRM of the OTH radar from China. its signal strength was over S9++. When it transmits, we can hear no amateur radio signals. Hams all over the world must to say to Chinese government about it! I used Micro Vert Antenna by DL7PE. It is only 2m long and I set it on my small balcony of my condominium ... **JE1SPY**. Very few EU, AS, or OC stations were heard. Miss the good old days of EU stations coming in over the pole early in the mornings of the contest. I certify that, other than caffeine, no performance enhancing drugs or steroids were used during this contest. Also, no small animals or children were harmed ... **K7ACZ**. Difficult conditions, especially for QRP. But the best moment came when KF4GDX commented, upon my calling, "At last, a signal above the noise" ... **KA6SGT**. Wow, I went over 100,000 points for the first time! ... **KB0ARZ**. Two new operators this time with their first contest operation. Was quite a bit of fun hearing all the great signals with lots of band activity. Thanks to everyone for their patience with those learning to operate in the contests ... **KD0S**. I have done some QSO Parties. This was my first BIG Contest with CQ. It was a hoot! Beats Field Day. With all the overseas stations active, picked up almost enough for my first 100 countries worked. Managed a couple of rarer ones to boot! I'll Be Back, eh ... **KD7DCR**. Sometimes very bad conditions, only local QSOs ... **LY4DX**. Yaesu FT-747GX to base-loaded inverted-L, Datong RF Clipper. Awful results. Think my aerial has turned into a dummy load! ... **M0EZP**. Maybe QRP was BAD idea but it was fun ... **MU0FAL**. We did a contest training seminar and open house for this contest. Hoping to get more contesters active! ... **N2CW**. Come on sunspots, please! ... **N4DXI**. New antenna and amp made for even more fun this year ... **N8AJN**. Where did all the sunspots go? CU next year ... snorezzzzzz ... **ND6S**. Good food, good beer, great contest! Third time out for us and all had a blast. Too bad still another 60 months 'til the peak of cycle 24. (Hope we make it, hi!) 73's from John, Paul & Scott ... **NQ2F**. Operated first day from home, then flew to Austria and was able to operate a few hours from OE6MBG. Great fun to work the contest from two continents and hear how different the contest sounds from each place. Logged using pencil and paper! ... **OE/K5ZD**. People should listen more. I could hear many but they did not listen or could not hear. If you can't hear does not matter how much power! ... **OX3UR**. I had my best score ever in this contest and I finally broke ZD88V's world record. This was fun! ... **P40A**. Like every year I try to enter the 80m single band but the DX lures me so I do some operating on the other bands ... **PA0MIR**. A very good time I had in this contest. With a better result than last year. Worked some new DXCC too. And again with two pizzas, lot of cola, and an XYL to serve it to me. See you next year ... **PE2KP**. Thanks to Sergio, PP5JR, for allowing me to operate his nice 10m station. 73, PP5EG/PY5EG ... **PP5EG**. First contest with PV2 prefix ... **PV2P**. Great contest, as usual! Sounds like a big party where everyone is invited. Unfortunately, didn't have more time to be on the air due to homework, just 24h on duty. Was fascinating to meet some friends and being recognized by some others ... **PY3DX**. Thanks for perfect competitions! Our school club "Contact" acted in structure four school boys. Their age 12 years. PWR 100 W; ant. delta . The trainer, UA3DAF, Chaplygin Vladimir. 73! ... **RK3DZH**. First full effort since 1999 with low power! Hope to appear in CW! ... **RV6LFE**.



Patrick, OT2A, second world high in the Rookie category.

Where were all USA stns? Only few called CQ. Closed down 3h before end. There was a moral dilemma: scanning band ten times in a row for new QSO? Maybe score would be bigger by 10 QSO and few mults. Guess will never know ... **S57SU**. OK, this was fun! Many new DXCC for me and nice to get an idea of what's waiting when conditions getting better in cycle 24. Contest site was club house with a 20m mast with 3-el 3-band beam and 100W. Worked quite well! Thanks for all QSOs! I'll be back! ... **SE5S**. Wkd for fun. All ops out there please think about this: a brand new radio transceiver is not equal to a clean TX signal! You do need to use the buttons too. Nevertheless the WPX is a fun thing. CU next time! ... **SF6DX**. Our first attempt for participating in the M/M category and we are more than pleased with our score. Thanks everybody and hope to see you next year ... **SX5P**. 21 MHz band quite nice to work ... **TA1HZ**. What a great contest. This time, I had access to real broadband dipole on 20m poles. What a difference. My 300W and the outstanding dipole made it possible to keep the frequency for a while and score up to 100 Qs/h. The conditions were strange with almost no USA stations. Thanks for organizing this great contest ... **TF3AM**. Had a great time working DX from a relatively new entity, FJ! The pile-ups were huge, in spite of the poor band conditions. We hope that we were able to give out a "new one" to our friends around the world ... **TO5RZ**. Thanks to UA9CLB for letting me use his excellent SO2R setup ... **UA9CDC**. Tnx for contest. Tnx for good program SD ... **UA9MR**. Hard work taking your station 4100 miles, but made it worth it to give some people a new one ... **V25V**. V48M was a new prefix never used before ... **V48M**. I managed to work a new one to add to my 160-meter DXCC total! That alone was worth the price of admission to me, hi ... **VE3CUI**. As usual, at low sunspot numbers, VE5 is the black hole for sure. First day, we could hear them, they couldn't hear us. Second day, much better, now the fun begins. No great score but fun anyway ... **VE5RI**. The VK6 DX Chasers Club operated from Faure Island IOTA OC-206. We were hit by the tail end of Cyclone Pancho and were lucky that the antennas were not blown down. Conditions were not very good but 15 metres was the best ... **VK6FAU**. Great fun giving out the first ever VQ58 prefix! See everyone next year ... **VQ58V**. 81 yrs old and still going strong. Well, maybe just staggering along! ... **W3MGL**. Whilst other contesters usually mention the DX they work, I am wondering if I can claim the prize for the closest unscheduled QSO? During a run near the end of the contest on Sunday, I was called by WD4BEE who said I was 60 dB over S9. I asked where he was located and he said Sebring. It turns out he is in the next block to me. We had seen his tri-band beam but didn't think he was on the air! ... **W4/M0BUE**. Spending the weekend with my best friends from all over the world was priceless! ... **WB8LCD**. Fun time! Had about the same number of Q's as last year but scored a lot higher due to better use of 40m. 10m still a big disappointment. Radio Reef is a GREAT place from which to operate. Stan, K8MJZ ... **WP2Z**. Fun contest. 28 was open only to SA and no USA heard this time ... **XE1EX**. Great contest! It was my first Cabrillo log submitted. Hope next time I have better ham shack. Now only old TS-430S barefoot with homebrew 3-el Yagi 12m high. All the best ... **YB1VA**. From Menjangan Island OC-022, the small island on the north of Bali Is, with a very wonderful sea garden ... **YB3MM**. Several long power outages put me almost out. I will try again next year ... **YV6BXN**. Our result better than last year with most operating by two oldies. 10 metres surprised us in this low sunspot period ... **ZM2M**. My QTH was on Magaliesberg Mountain (Montana Lodge) 1550m ASL. Cond. were nice on Saturday but weather, lightning, thunderstorms, power shading, terrible. But I enjoyed the time which I spent with radio ... **ZS6CCW**.

Number groups after call letters denote following: Band (A = all), Final Score, Number of QSOs, and Prefixes. An asterisk (*) before a call indicates low power. Certificate winners are listed in bold-face. (Note that the country names and groupings reflect the DXCC list at the time of the contest.)

2008 WPX SSB RESULTS SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA

United States			
K1ZM	A	8,316,563	3060 1051
K1LZ		6,468,150	2507 930
NC11		4,774,728	2303 879
(OP: K9PW)			
W1UE		4,478,656	2050 832
NN1N		2,047,815	1302 693
NA1L		1,049,256	1264 494
(OP: W1XX)			
WB1DX		671,772	798 444
KQ2M/1		583,376	629 340
W1BYH		500,480	546 304
N1BCL		463,592	530 347
AE1P		406,086	649 318
K2TE/1		381,174	413 303
AK1W		293,328	376 291
(OP: K5ZD)			
ND1X		209,013	390 269
K1SND		173,732	405 257
W1TO		151,980	264 204
WC1M		137,904	239 204
AA1O		123,615	268 201
KB1000		109,610	308 194
AB1BW		52,345	168 145
W1KQ		48,772	150 137
KB10GZ		782	24 23
KB1PLN	1.4	6,027	51 49
K1HAP	1.8	26,598	169 93
*K1XM	A	236,385	329 255
*N1GKX		230,187	385 277
*N1JH		203,442	371 246
*K1SLB		144,627	290 213
*NA1QP		129,116	273 191
(OP: W1CTN)			
*K1TC		108,864	257 189
*K1TR		82,446	178 151
*W1CRK		71,442	217 162
*K1PU		70,215	213 151
*K5MAV/1		56,364	142 122
*AG1C		50,673	181 133
(OP: KB1JFG)			
*KB1FRK		48,564	165 142
*KA1G		30,316	122 106
*KA1VMG		22,989	105 97
*NJ1Q		18,900	107 84
*K1VU		13,359	82 73
*KB1JUF		8,680	73 62
*K1YSY		7,844	60 53
*KB1NRI		5,076	53 47
*K1YM		4,050	50 45
*N1PAR		4,002	57 46
*N1ORK		988	31 26
*WK1H		684	21 19
*AB1EP		204	12 12
*KB1KRS		1	1 1
*W1OHH	21	987	21 21
*KG1V	14	33,154	134 121
*K3IU/1		1,122	23 22
(OP: WA2A0G)			
AB3CX/2	A	765,798	792 451
N2DWS		217,872	327 272
W2OSR		98,552	201 194
K2NV		48,552	129 119
K2XA		36,259	123 101
W2FUI		35,256	122 104
N2WLS		33,354	130 109
KB2DE		23,400	101 90
AA2NA	21	17,017	36 187
W2RR		14,784	77 77
(OP: N2GC)			
N2RJ	14	464,457	502 357
K2RET		31,428	115 108
WA2JOK	7	5,832	59 54
WN2Q	3.7	241,528	423 266
(OP: N2GG)			
W2MF	1.8	99,006	293 174
WA2A0G		1,716	29 26
*AB2TC	A	139,776	269 224
*KV2M		117,537	290 193
*WA2MCR		101,638	220 178
*K2RNY		71,394	214 163
*N2MTG		59,631	197 139
*WA2LXE		53,055	197 135
*AA2DS		48,112	157 124
*K2BBQ		47,580	153 122
*K9CBP/2		30,067	140 107
*K2YLP		26,300	120 100
*K2SI		23,835	133 105
*KM2O		22,989	112 97
*WN2Y		21,854	122 98
*WA2JTX		16,660	79 70
*WB200Q		14,673	80 73
*W2LP		14,555	91 71
*KA2FHN		13,172	96 74
*W2SR		8,062	62 58
*WB2SXY		7,540	70 65
*KC20GR		5,828	49 47
*K3DE/2		3,660	44 40
*K2KZJ		3,366	35 33
*KC2QJB		2,310	36 33
*N2TEW		1,770	33 30
*W2JAT		1,410	31 30
*KC2JRO		276	12 12
*KG2RW	14	546,939	718 431
*W2AG		185,724	293 252
*K2HVE		9,728	86 76
*K2ZLYQ		8,178	61 58
*NP3JG/W2		7,205	59 55
*KD2MU		1,608	24 24
*NA2H	7	130	10 10
*K3BU/2	1.8	3,060	53 36
(OP: LZ4AX)			
KC3R	A	6,829,005	2646 985
K3ZD		3,898,310	1860 785

KJ3X		1,007,820	1078 495
K3WI		989,920	957 460
N3UM		603,648	618 384
W3BW		349,563	421 327
N3YW		214,250	329 250
W2BZR/3		116,228	263 196
W1WR/3		107,568	242 162
W1K3		69,496	189 146
K8OZ/3		66,138	198 151
K3YG		20,315	87 78
W0BR/3		16,068	96 75
K3ISH		12,998	71 67
NA3F		10,728	72 72
WR3H	14	74,094	171 159
A13Q		21,948	98 93
K3QD		20,394	142 99
N3TXH	7	4,161	64 57
W3T98T	3.7	362,148	557 309
W3BGN		335,240	555 290
*W3LL	A	1,234,480	1013 520
*KB3LIX		191,293	339 253
*N3ALN		189,750	445 233
*KB3EXB		113,373	219 171
(OP: K1DOV)			
N6AR/4		184,275	302 225
N4ZZ		158,625	446 235
N2XD/4		143,808	437 224
KY4P		141,470	301 215
K3IE/4		141,372	298 204
W4NTI		139,582	293 202
NJ4F		131,453	268 211
NC4KW		129,168	242 208
(OP: N1LN)			
K4PHE		126,060	256 191
K4BP		100,672	250 176
N3FP/4		82,280	240 170
NC4MI		68,370	200 159
NE8J/4		65,120	292 176
A14WW		44,861	136 113
KO4Y		33,150	115 102
N4RVM		30,192	131 111
N3BM/4		30,098	127 101
K14MF		28,710	101 87
N4DXI		21,432	93 76
K2EUH/4		19,440	76 60
K4CRM		18,576	97 86
W2OO/4		9,424	64 62
WB3E/4		8,253	82 63

*W4YE		110,774	235 194
*WA4JA		98,271	260 183
*N3UC/4		97,121	233 197
*W4KAZ		85,008	235 168
*W4WNT		80,454	211 159
*N4MM		80,162	180 149
*AA4LR		78,971	204 157
*N4QWB		73,752	243 168
*K4WES		72,265	199 149
*KN4DS		67,360	230 160
*W4PFM		66,289	193 151
*NA4BW		63,550	234 155
*N4JED		62,000	203 155
*KF4CG/4		54,950	193 142
*NV4B		54,008	174 157
*A14DB		48,465	187 135
*KF4DVG		42,939	160 117
*KA5VZG/4		36,992	171 128
*N3UA/4		36,225	122 105
*K4ML		35,148	148 116
*N4IL		33,759	174 121
*N34Y		32,996	149 113
*NC3Z/4		32,015	121 95
*K4UVA		31,740	122 115

*WC4V		756	21 21
*W4NX		187	11 11
(OP: W4BCG)			
*AE4EC		144	12 12
*W4BCG		36	6 6
*WA1FXN/4	28	2,688	36 32
*ND4X	21	139,105	279 215
*NQ4K		1,196	25 23
*K250H/4	14	163,250	291 250
*WB1HBB/4		42,775	190 145
(OP: W4WR)			
*K4YYD		5,200	56 50
*WA2BKN/4		2,379	40 39
*W8KHP/4		90	6 6
*KU4BP	3.7	60,941	266 149
K5TR	A	3,938,420	3064 764
NN5J		3,329,405	2163 745
K75J		2,607,303	2370 667
(OP: N3BB)			
AA5B		1,235,500	1617 500
(OP: @K5HAB)			
K5ER		1,162,830	1235 498
AD5XD		694,800	1095 400
W5ZUP		141,680	425 220
W5GN		119,152	245 176
NQ5D		92,950	247 169
N5RMS		80,842	227 166
K15XP		78,292	195 148
NX5O		73,593	226 153
W5YAA		73,538	204 166
KD5JAA		61,628	194 142
W5BKT		14,350	102 82
KE5FUE		9,864	85 72
KD5RXN		4,465	48 47
W5JDX		1,870	22 22
KD2KW/5		1,248	28 26
KJ5W	28	100,110	308 142
(OP: W5PR)			
NR5M	21	388,440	562 312
NQ5K	14	370,300	742 350
(OP: W5ASP)			
W9DX/5		299,398	462 341
W5FO		45,698	167 146
*W5DK	A	1,042,056	1112 492
*N5D0		819,680	1046 436
*NE5D		258,093	413 237
(OP: K5RX)			
*N5AW		154,000	286 175
*K3TD/5		128,270	340 202
*KD5J		101,915	421 187
*KC5R		71,568	208 144
*W5TMC		63,600	234 150
*AB5C		61,754	204 154
*WBDM/5		56,420	197 140
*KE5LO		41,080	175 130
*AE5MM		39,375	207 125
*K5DHY		34,336	161 116
*KB5DRJ		30,397	162 113
*NN5T		25,380	112 94
*WV5L		23,124	128 94
*KB5HPL		18,040	132 88
*WA5O		12,636	107 78
(OP: K5KA)			
*K5LAD		11,780	76 62
*W5CSM		10,082	81 71
*KX5RW		10,034	66 58
*AA5SH		8,909	62 59
*WD5DCZ		8,700	77 58
*KB0LZQ/5		8,085	60 55
*AA5JG		6,200	74 62
*N5HMH		5,964	90 71
*W5RAW		3,869	64 53
*N5PU		2,418	41 39
*AD0K/5		2,320	45 40
*KC0LFO/5		1,200	29 25
*N5VP		680	19 17
*N5V		231	12 11
*KD5UBC		198	11 11
*N5DTT	21	1,512	24 24
*NN5Z	14	78,120	321 180
(OP: K5PX)			
*KB5UOK		35,250	241 125
*WW5D/5		14,130	114 90
*AE5FT		3,264	62 48
*KE5LHC		100	

*RA0SMS	20,116	150	94	*JA1RYC	21	11,466	87	63	*U06P	530,216	570	347	*O05D	200,256	339	298	Denmark							
*RABLE	17,876	105	82	*JA1JLP		7,008	64	48	(OP: UN7PBY)				(OP: ON5SD)				OZ5EV	A	377,856	443	384			
*RA0CAH	14,421	97	69	*JA1DBG		4,100	50	41	*UN4PG	222,360	336	255	(OP: ON6ML)				OZDL1TM		276,640	458	304			
*RADAY	5,226	48	39	*JA1LPQ		1,007	23	19	*U07BF	126,684	240	204	*ON4CAS	112,350	262	210	OZDJ4MG		152,514	344	229			
*RZ0AK	3,078	45	38	*JE1QCL		1,000	22	20	*UN7EX	24,840	100	90	*ON3AR	83,727	256	189	OZBPI		5,005	58	55			
*RABSCA	21	40,920	283	120	*JA1SMD		216	10	9	*UN5C	3.7	4,002	34	29	*ON4AAA	11,484	71	66	OZ2PBS		3,268	45	38	
*UA0SAD		7,493	80	59	*JF1TEU	14	72,980	204	164	Kyrgyzstan			*OT2C	14	156,429	342	273	OZ1ADL	3.7	584,350	651	403		
*UABIDZ	14	544,211	609	389	*JH1UUT		59,888	197	152	EX2T	A	357,272	518	284	*ON78BR		34,450	149	130	OZ1AXG	1.8	42,444	130	162
*UA0SJ		442,586	582	361	*JH1FNU		16,896	98	88	EX8MAT		160,392	221	163	*O06U	3.7	145,197	339	219	*OZ1ACB	A	228,636	402	292
*RV0AL		143,100	262	212	*JE1GZB		10,640	87	70	*EX7ML	21	125,296	302	191	(OP: ON6UU)					*OZ2DAN		96,248	261	212
*RW0UM		124,848	332	216	*JA18FN		1,050	22	21	Laos			*ON8PH		107,759	277	197	*OZ4RT		39,390	139	130		
*RX0AW		101,928	217	186	*JG1GCO		756	22	18	XW1A	14	8,784	66	61	*OZ1XV		16,781	108	97	*OZ6TL		6,840	59	57
*RW0AA		99,792	234	189	*JH1RDU	7	1,408	16	16	Macau			*OZ1DGO		1,134	30	27	*OZ1XV		16,781	108	97		
*RW0CV		73,610	250	170	*JK1BI		308	11	11	*XX9AU	21	3,995	60	47	*OZ26L		6,840	59	57	*OZ1DGO		1,134	30	27
*UC0LAF		49,880	173	145	*JE1SPY	3.7	3,885	43	35	Mongolia			E77EZ	3.7	354,662	497	329	*OZ1XV		16,781	108	97		
*RADACM		43,798	163	122	JA2PAC	A	2,040,996	1248	601	*E74AA	A	1,064,469	1082	519	*E72WG		68,480	206	160	*OZ1XV		16,781	108	97
*RUDAT		16,800	93	84	JA2BNN		324,816	488	268	*E73ACL	14	35,775	160	135	*T97J		2,226	45	42	*OZ1XV		16,781	108	97
*RW0UB		2,660	44	38	JH2FXX		202,653	327	253	*T97J		2,226	45	42	(OP: YU2EA)					*OZ1XV		16,781	108	97
Azerbaijan				JA2CJB		147,278	297	211	*E77DO	7	780,858	765	426	*E77AR	3.7	1,404	28	27	M6T	A	9,975,816	3476	1047	
*4J7WMF	A	368,621	410	253	JF2FIJ		68,949	211	141	*E77AR	3.7	1,404	28	27						(OP: G4PIQ)				
*4K9W		73,728	164	144	JG2REJ		62,061	215	137	Ogasawara			L22SX	A	976,752	1095	532	M8C		928,574	974	527		
*4K8M	7	16,461	60	59	JJ2PUG	21	2,040	27	30	*J01BIA	21	3,420	42	36	LZ1ND		226,947	507	303	G0MTN		377,104	547	364
Bahrain				JA2XCR	14	196,560	319	260	Oman			LZ1BJ		76,110	221	177	M0WLF		367,734	510	334			
A92GR	A	436,248	537	332	*JA2GHP	A	36,192	175	96	*A41MX	A	807,222	765	393	LZ1AQ		54,931	187	163	G3TXF		137,532	267	219
Bangladesh				*JA2VZL		23,940	122	84	Saudi Arabia			LZ2JR		1,372	29	28	G4OWT		121,695	236	183			
*S21YV	A	19,866	123	86	*7L2PDJ		22,078	111	83	*7Z1SJ	A	3,767,244	1946	741	G4MKP		93,933	256	189	G4FAL		53,818	179	142
Bhutan				*JA2PFO		10,500	70	50	*HZ1PS		189,840	297	226	G4FAL		53,818	179	142	G0DFQ		51,972	174	142	
*A52K	A	3,192	63	42	*JA2TTH		6,063	59	43	Singapore			LZ3GA		630	15	15	G8DYT	3.7	434,190	497	353		
China				*JQ2OUL		2,632	36	28	9V1YC	A	3,856,128	2215	768	*G4DFI	A	306,525	469	335	*G8YRF		292,400	488	344	
BA7ID	A	251,680	613	260	*JA2DLM		960	21	20	9V1UV		35,046	166	118	*GB9RAF		292,400	488	344	(OP: G3VAO)				
BA5DX		121,626	376	174	*7N2UQC	28	4,480	61	40	South Korea			LZ2PG	21	22,968	92	99	(OP: FBCKH)						
BG5HST		18,532	128	82	*JG2KKG	14	412,657	494	353	HL2FDW	A	625,666	1026	307	*LZ4UU	A	636,141	771	407	*G4DBW		195,021	396	279
BG5HSC		1,674	31	27	JS3CTQ	A	1,420,660	1075	502	HL5JCB		30,260	139	89	*LZ2HA		207,360	398	288	*G8MIA		146,993	334	253
BG5HRE		1,242	26	23	JA3AOP		896,325	797	425	DS5DNO		15,774	95	66	*LZ1ONK		69,324	217	159	*G4WGE		116,256	299	224
*BL7IN	A	100,230	292	195	JH3PRR		627,057	613	361	*DS5KJR	A	52,614	214	111	*LZ5XQ		42,059	174	137	*2E0PLA		91,739	259	199
*BD4RET		25,774	151	98	J03DDD		201,080	378	220	*HL5YI		4,268	55	44	*LZ2DF		12,744	82	72	*G1FON		89,621	281	217
*BD4AGK		19,096	109	88	JA3LEZ		90,628	207	163	Taiwan			*LZ1WJ		6,200	50	50	*G0CER		81,965	208	169		
*BY8AC		12,986	141	86	JA3YBK	21	800,384	839	416	BX5AA	A	1,138,212	1429	486	*LZ2HN		2,838	33	33	*G8ZRE		81,755	266	197
(OP: BD8ATI)				JH3GCN	7	45,504	104	96	*BV4VR	A	56,440	244	136	*LZ2PEP	21	68,040	209	162	*M0MCR		81,328	240	184	
*BG4TBJ		10,143	84	63	*JA3UWB	A	97,376	248	179	*BU2AE		51,328	227	128	*LZ130JA	14	401,821	742	419	*2E1FVS		59,532	194	164
*BD4AHS		7,375	73	59	*JR3RIY		66,640	180	119	*BX4AQ		50,908	240	143	*LZ1CAR		37,240	158	140	*M0SDY		47,762	157	143
*BD4SX		5,336	48	46	*JA3PYC		38,304	138	112	Tajikistan			*LZ2FM	7	1,057,707	859	489	*2E0SJC		41,273	176	149		
*BG4XNG		4,343	55	43	*JH3PTC		30,874	146	86	EY2Q	21	33,592	137	104	*M5KJM		33,411	142	129	*G0KXS		33,033	128	121
*BG4JWU		3,311	53	43	*JA3JM		21,440	133	80	*EY8DQ	21	47,838	165	134	*G4NKG		26,304	110	96	*M3ENF		25,538	120	113
*BG4DGI		3,204	40	36	*JF3SAD		9,500	65	50	Thailand			SV9COL	A	225,261	466	309	*G6UBM		22,422	118	101		
*BD4RCS		2,730	31	30	*JA3KDJ		4,551	57	37	HS0ZDR	21	17,220	100	84	*G6CSY		22,295	103	91	*M0TLN		20,790	121	110
*BG3EO		2,262	47	39	*J03EVM		3,312	39	36	*HS0ZCW	A	2,025,368	1513	619	*M0TLN		20,790	121	110	*G0MLY		19,251	111	93
*BD3MZX		1,450	35	29	*JR3SZZ		1,764	37	28	*HS1CKC		938,546	1111	427	*2E0PSK		17,266	102	97	*M0JFF		16,660	101	98
*BG6AIF		1,344	35	28	*JA3EOE		341	13	11	*E2BYLM	21	1,034	28	22	*M30HI		15,288	110	98	*M0Y0Y		12,480	83	78
*BG7NWF	28	28,014	197	87	*JL3MCM	28	6,864	48	66	*E21YDP	14	182,000	325	250	*M3PZT		10,611	92	81	*G4SJI		3,408	51	48
*BD5HIS	21	21,168	132	98	*JF3BFS	21	24,395	126	85	*E21EIC	7	136,594	230	163	*G4SJI		2,914	49	47	*M0BGR		234	13	13
*BD7IBN		15,480	108	90	*JR3KAH		2,760	40	30	Turkey			*G4LMW		24	2	2	*G3WW	14	468	18	18		
*BG7IEU		1,458	34	27	*JA2VSLU/3		765	19	17	TA3YJ	7	2,400	20	20	*G7TWC	7	294,465	406	293	*M3RCV		22,860	94	90
*BG4DVK	14	68,445	223	169	*JA3COA	14	192	8	8	*TC3D	A	6,757,972	2384	769	*M0BZP	1.8	98	7	7	(OP: ES1GE)				
*BG7LDM		22,927	132	101	*JF3IYW	7	7,396	46	43	*TA1CM		161,777	245	191	Uzbekistan			*ES6RMR	A	19,136	111	104		
*BG4KUU		21,582	164	99	*JH3MCM		104	8	8	*TA2IB	21	4,400	45	40	Vietnam			*ES2BH		5,642	64	62		
*BG6AGB		13,035	100	79	JH4UYB	A	5,407,080	2093	840	*TA1HZ		3,838	44	38	XA1X	A	377,848	730	292	*ES4RD	14	116,550	263	225
*BG4JUU		9,882	96	81	JA4NQD		5,670	59	45	West Malaysia			*ES1LS	7	120,768	249	204	European Russia						
*BY7KP		9,246	91	69	JH4UTP	28	15,276	109	57	9M2MT	A	435,404	704	337	RM3F	A	4,366,560	2423	880	(OP: UA3DPX)				
*BG4IGL		2,860	47	44	JM4WUZ	14	7,560	64	54	*9M2TO	A	345,072	622	312	RG3K		3,311,529	2350	779	(OP: RA3CW)				
*BG4TYQ	7	64	6	4	*JA4BDY	A	7,904	68	52	*9W2DRL	28	9,782	119	67	RS3A		2,966,340	1875	780	(OP: UA3QDX)				
Cyprus				*JF4GWA	28	153	9	9	UK Bases on Cyprus			*OK1WCF	A	1,534,468	1162	598	UA4WKW		2,681,206	1857	737			
H22H	3.7	2,432,692	854	502	*JR4LRY	21	6,721	68	47	ZC4LI	7	18,126	57	57	*OK6Y		782,292	779	469	RW1ZA		2,592,910	1966	766
(OP: 584MF)				*JA4CBX		585																		

Estonia				Ireland				Spain				Wales				OCEANIA				South America				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
ES5QX	21	9,348	64	57	EI2CN	A	939,875	899	515	A05W	A	294,120	536	360	K4PV	*	2,315,936	1828	686	Australia				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
ES5RW	14	2,257,717	1669	763						EF5J	*	270,732	386	293	NF4A	*	2,168,280	1686	634	Hawaii				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
ES5MG	3.7	171,186	251	277											N3MX	A	1,958,535	1160	613	Indonesia				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
European Russia				Italy				Sweden				Switzerland				Wales				OCEANIA				South America				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela			
RA4FD	A	4,753,098	2595	882	IZ8EPX	A	896,660	1125	535	SM8GYX	A	195,088	381	274	W67X	*	331,154	739	313	Philippines				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
UA3SAQ	*	1,931,942	1412	647	IZ1MHS	*	346,408	449	344	SM6WET	*	5,670	49	45	NJ1F/2	*	324,324	505	297	India				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
UA4RZ	*	1,389,816	1196	597	IW8HOU	28	13,872	88	68	*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	W0ATC	*	300,310	567	295	Japan				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
					IZ5ASZ	21	114,063	245	197	*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	WA4ASJ	*	299,376	446	297	South Korea				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
					IK2XYI	*	7,242	50	51	*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	W8RJJ/L4	*	260,739	401	261	Taiwan				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
					IQ2CJ	14	3,701,335	2018	865	*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	AE1T	*	249,242	356	266	USA				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	N2DWS	*	217,872	327	272	Canada				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	ND1X	*	209,013	390	269	Mexico				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	K2SX/4	*	190,476	341	234	Central America				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	N2VW	*	150,046	253	199	Caribbean				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	WA5ZUP	*	141,680	425	220	South America				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	KY4P	*	141,470	301	215	South America				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
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										*S18E	A	6,171	61	51	NJ4F	*	131,453	268	211	South America				Argentina				Brazil				Chile				Uruguay				Venezuela							
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Here are some of the articles we're working on for upcoming issues of CQ:

- 2009 CQ Market Survey, by Gordon West, WB6NOA
- Ham Radio Groundhog Day, by Henry Hill, WA3CVC
- Creating a Ham Radio Legacy, by Emily Stewart, KC0PTL

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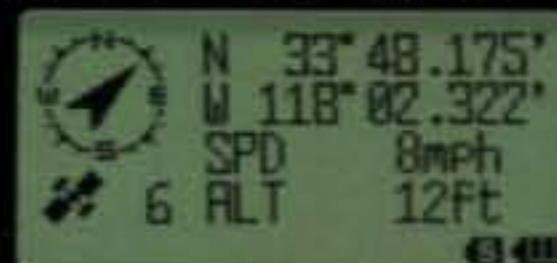
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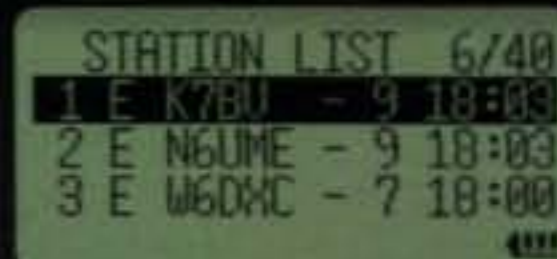


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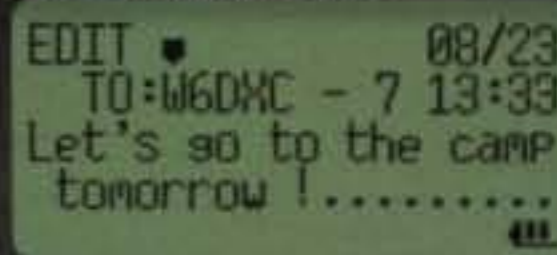
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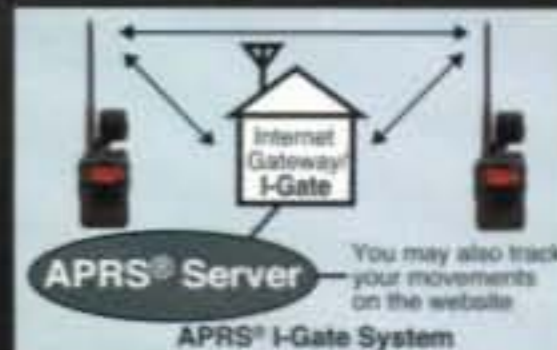
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