



Amateur Radio

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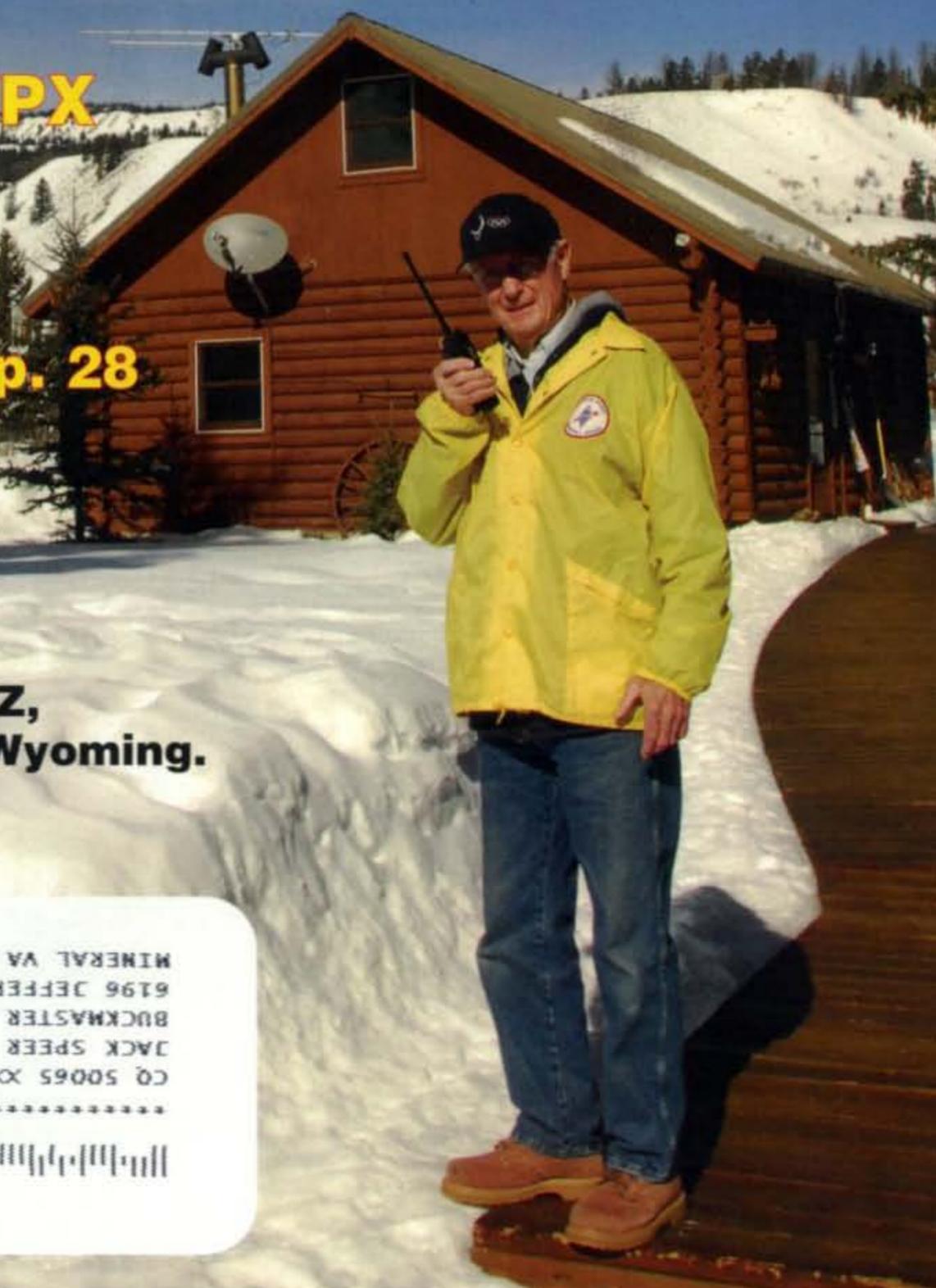
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY 2011



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On the Cover: Bill Rinker, NE9Z, enjoys a sunny winter day in Wyoming. Details on page 66.



*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 23117 CQRA P127 028834

CQ 50065 XXXX
 JACK SPEER
 BUCKMASTER PUB
 6196 JEFFERSON HWY
 MINERAL VA 23117-3425



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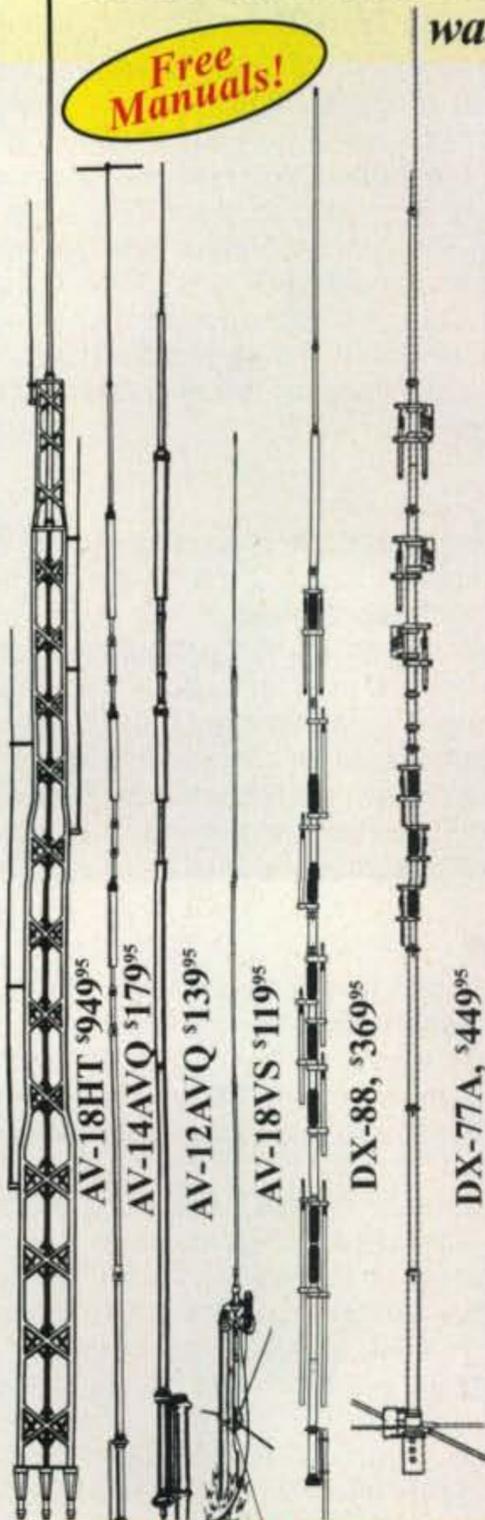
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AV-14AVQ, \$179.95. (10,15,20,40 Meters). 18 ft., 9 lbs.

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, \$139.95. (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, \$119.95 (10,12,15,17,20,30,40,80 Meters). 18 ft., 4 lbs. High quality construction and low cost make the AV-18VS an exceptional value. Easily tuned to any band by adjusting feed point at the base loading coil. Roof mount with Hy-Gain AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

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

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

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

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

Model #	Price	Bands	Max Power	Height	Weight	Wind Surv.	Rec. Mast
AV-18HT	\$949.95	10,15,20,40,80	1500 W PEP	53 feet	114 pounds	75 MPH	-----
AV-14AVQ	\$179.95	10,15,20,40	1500 W PEP	18 feet	9 pounds	80 MPH	1.5-1.625"
AV-12AVQ	\$139.95	10/15/20 M	1500 W PEP	13 feet	9 pounds	80 MPH	1.5-1.625"
AV-18VS	\$119.95	10 - 80 M	1500 W PEP	18 feet	4 pounds	80 MPH	1.5-1.625"
DX-88	\$369.95	10 - 80 M	1500 W PEP	25 feet	18 pounds	75 mph <small>no guy</small>	1.5-1.625"
DX-77A	\$449.95	10 - 40 M	1500 W PEP	29 feet	25 pounds	60 mph <small>no guy</small>	1.5-1.625"

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Hy-Gain's new PATRIOT HF verticals are the best built, best performing and best priced multiband verticals available today. For exciting DX make full use of your sunspot cycle with the PATRIOT's low 17 degree angle signal.

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Handles 1500 Watts key down continuous for two minutes.

Built-to-last

High wind survival of 80 mph. Broadband matching unit made from all Teflon[®] insulated wire. Aircraft quality aluminum tubing, stainless steel hardware.

hy-gain[®] warranty

Two year limited warranty. All replacement parts in stock.

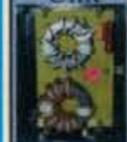
AV-640, \$399.95. (6,10,12, 15,17,20,30,40 Meters). 25.5 ft., 17.5 lbs. The AV-640 uses quarter wave stubs on 6, 10, 12 and 17 meters and efficient end loading coil and capacity hats on 15, 20, 30 and 40 meters -- no traps. Resonators are placed in parallel not in series. End loading of the lower HF bands allows efficient operation with a manageable antenna height.

AV-620, \$299.95.

(6,10,12,15,17,20 Meters). 22.5 ft., 10.5 lbs. The AV-620 covers all bands 6 through 20

Meters with no traps, no coils, no radials yielding an uncompromised signal across all bands.

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Chip Margelli, K7JA, Joins CQ Staff

Charles H. "Chip" Margelli, K7JA, has joined the staff of *CQ* magazine's parent company, CQ Communications, Inc., as Director of Advertising Sales and Marketing. He will be coordinating marketing activities for all of the company's products, as well as advertising sales for *CQ*, *CQ VHF*, and *Popular Communications* magazines. He succeeds Don Allen, W9CW, and Arnie Sposato, N2IQO, both of whom retired in December.

Chip is well-known in the amateur radio community as a contester, DXer, and DXpeditioner, as well as his nearly 30 years with Yaesu (now Vertex-Standard) and the past four years with Heil Sound. He and his wife, Janet, KL7MF, live in Garden Grove, California. Chip began working for *CQ* on December 1.



Dayton Award Nominations Sought

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association is seeking nominations for the three awards it bestows annually at the Dayton Hamvention®. The Radio Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement and Technical Excellence Awards are considered among the most prestigious honors in amateur radio. In addition, the association has decided to continue its new Radio Club of the Year Award, introduced last year, and make it a permanent part of the Hamvention awards program. Nominations must be submitted by *January 15, 2011*. Details and nominating forms are available on the DARA website at <www.hamvention.org>.

ARISSat-1 Due for Launch This Month

The ARISSat-1 satellite, originally designed to be orbited in a surplus Russian spacesuit hand-launched from the International Space Station (ISS), is slated to head to the space station this month aboard a Progress supply rocket. When the spacesuit launch became impossible, volunteers at AMSAT quickly reconfigured the design to create a stand-alone spacecraft that still could be hand-launched by ISS crew members during spacewalk. The AMSAT News Service reports that the satellite passed a NASA safety review in October, then was prepared for shipment to Russia for the January Progress launch and an anticipated launch into its own orbit in February.

Space Station to Sport Two Ham Stations

A second ham radio station is due to be installed on the International Space Station. According to the AMSAT News Service, NASA has approved the installation in the U.S. segment of the station the VHF and UHF handhelds originally used for ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) contacts in the station's Russian segment. Those were replaced by a Kenwood D-700 transceiver, but still work fine. Installation in the US area would give crew members a choice of two operating positions for future ham contacts, with the possibility down the road of operating both stations simultaneously.

Spratly Island DXpedition Extended Through CQWW 160 Contest

The DXØDX expedition to the Spratly Islands has been extended by a week to include operations during the CW weekend of the 2011 CQ World-Wide 160-Meter DX Contest on January 28–30. According to a posting on the DXØDX.net website, the decision to extend operations from the originally-planned end date of January 24 in response to "strong

interest from Top Band contesters and the 160m band being the highest sought after in the DXØDX website online survey." The DXpedition, now slated for January 6 through February 1, will involve more than three dozen operators from 15 countries. The Spratly Islands are located in the South China Sea and are administered by the Philippines, which issued the license for the operation.

New Chief for Air Force MARS

Richard Jenson is the new Chief of Air Force MARS, the U.S. Air Force's division of the Military Auxiliary Radio System. Jenson, who is not a ham, is a program manager at the Air Force Network Integration Center (AFNIC) at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, according to the *ARRL Letter*. Jenson succeeds Tech. Sgt. Jason Sandifer, who served as Interim Chief after the retirement last May of former Chief Allen Eiermann, K3LSR. Jenson has provided training and communications support to units of the Air National Guard, and supported disaster relief efforts in Haiti after last year's massive earthquake there.

Report from GAREC

The earthquakes in Haiti and Chile shared top billing at the annual Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) conference, held on the island of Curacao in early October. According to the South African Radio League, the conference also included a "tabletop exercise" simulating a massive earthquake off the Canary Islands and a resultant tsunami, as well as presentations on emergency response exercises in the Netherlands, Finland and South Africa. The 2011 GAREC conference is scheduled to be held in South Africa.

Hams Making News

A ham from Michigan has been named a Knight of the French Legion of Honor. Ken Kott, W8ROG, was honored for his actions in France during World War II. Kott, 90, is still active on the ham bands and an ardent CW enthusiast. He is the father of former *WorldRadio* and *WorldRadio Online* Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C.

Milton "Buddy" Sullivan, Jr., ex-K8YDO, became a Silent Key in late October. Sullivan was the chief engineer for the R.L. Drake Company during its heyday. According to the *ARRL Letter*, Sullivan either designed or oversaw the design of virtually all significant Drake amateur radio products, including the 1A, 2B and 2NT, the 4 lines and the beginning of the 7 line.

The *ARRL Letter* also reports that John Soderberg, W1AKV, became a Silent Key in early November. He was a pioneer in designing sonar and related systems for U.S. Navy submarines. Two other notable hams who have passed away in the same timeframe are former *CQ WPX* Award Manager Norm Koch, WN5N, and *CQ VHF* High-Speed Multimedia Editor John Champa, K8OCL. Read more about Norm and John in this month's "Zero Bias" editorial on page 8.

Old "F7" QSL Cards Sought

A French ham radio website that posts old QSL cards online is looking for images of QSLs for "F7" calls, issued to U.S. amateurs in France between 1948 and 1962. The "LesNouvellesDX.fr" website has about 50 F7 cards in its collection but is looking for more, according to Jean-Michel Duthilleul, F6AJA. More information is available on the website at <<http://LesNouvellesDX.fr>> or via e-mail to <LesNouvellesDX@free.fr>.

Four New Cubesats Feature Ham Transponders

Four of seven tiny "cubesats" launched from Alaska on November 19 operate on amateur frequencies and/or

(Continued on page 10)

HC-1.5KAT

HF 1.5kW Auto Tuner

HL-2.5KFX Auto Band Set and QSK

Solid-state HF 1.5kW Linear Amplifier



Photo : From left HC-1.5KAT (HF 1.5kW Tuner with Auto Band Set Feature), HL-2.5KFX (HF 1.5kW MOSFET Linear) and IC-7700 Transceiver



For DXpeditioners

HL-1.1KFX

HF 600W Linear



HL-1.2KFX

HF 750W Linear



HL-1.5KFX

HF / 50MHz 1kW Linear
(650W PEP on 50MHz Band)

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The Totally New - Advanced Dual Band Mobile Radio

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- NEW** Compatible with the worldwide standard data-communications system, APRS®, and SmartBeaconing™ capabilities
- NEW** 3 Speaker System (including Built-in Dual Speakers on the rear of the Control Head for FM Broadcast in Stereo!)
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Screen Example



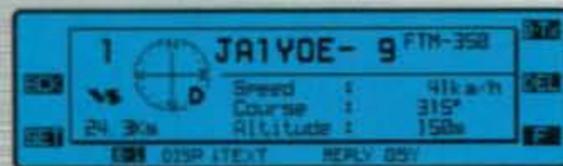
Dual Band (Spectrum Scope function)



Navigation (with GPS antenna unit attached)



Mono Band (Spectrum Scope function)



APRS®



Barometer



Timer

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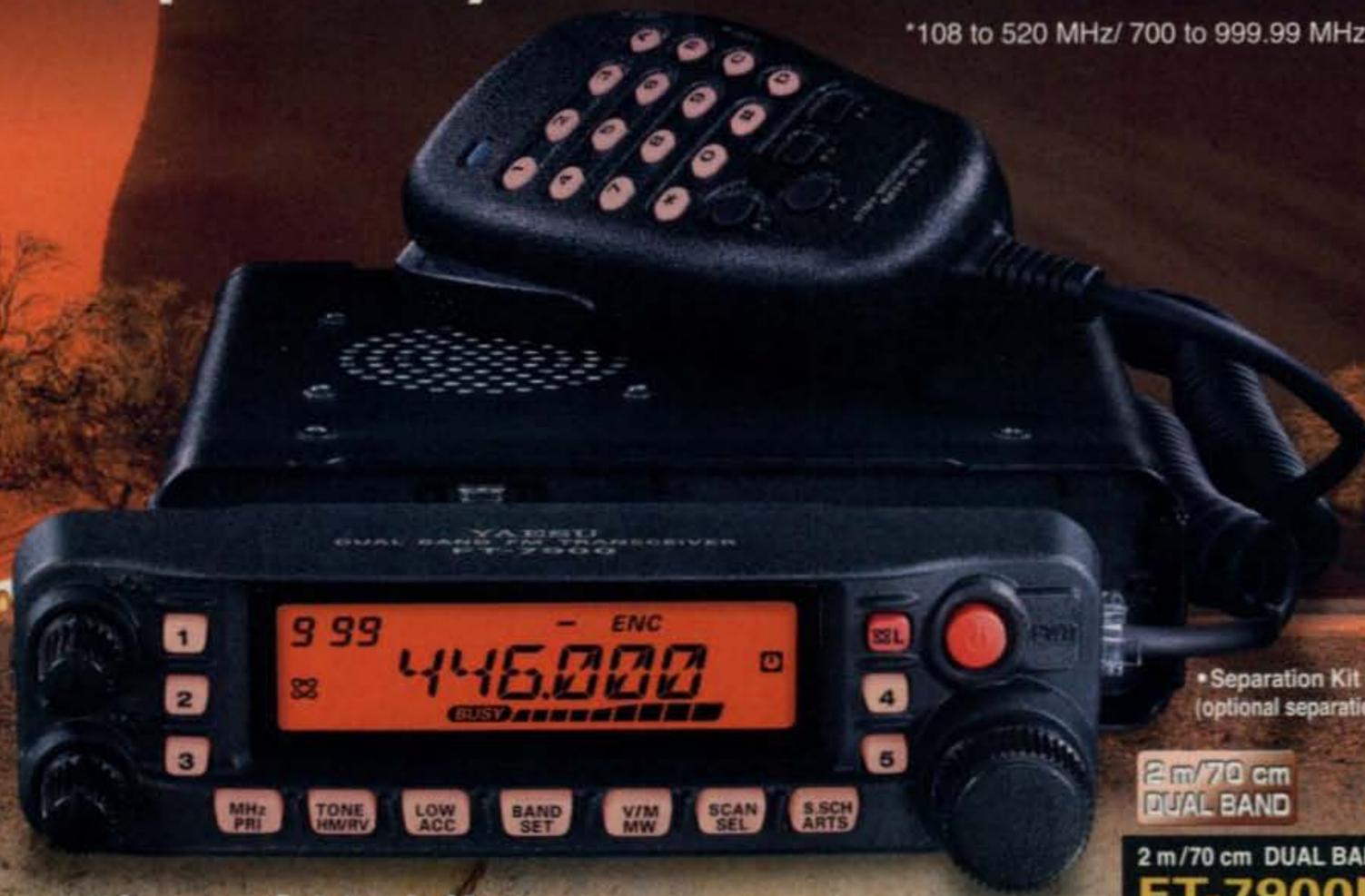
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75 WATTS

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55 WATTS



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FT-270R

2 m
MONO BAND

new



2 m
MONO BAND

new

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Transitions

Welcome to a new year and a new decade. Traditionally, a new year is a time to reflect on the year that has just ended and to look forward to what might be different in the year that is just beginning. It is a time of transition, and not always as simple as changing to a new calendar (speaking of which, I hope you all have your new CQ calendar on your shack wall!).

For most of us hams, the year just ended was a tough one, both in terms of the economy and the sunspot cycle, which are sharing the unfortunate feature of being much slower to recover than any of us would like. On the other hand, there were some encouraging signs on both fronts, and both promise to continue slowly improving in 2011 (see this month's "Propagation" column on page 98 for non-economic predictions).

We are in the process of a transition here at CQ, as well. While your editor is the "face" of this magazine to its readers and writers, and the general ham community, the advertising manager is the "face" of the magazine to the people who work in the ham radio industry. He or she is the person they hear from every month to make sure their company will be getting its message out to our readers, with whom they work on crafting the details of an ad, and whom they see at hamfests (usually along with me).

Since I joined CQ nearly 20 years ago, either Arnie Sposato, N2IQO, or Don Allen, W9CW, has occupied at least one chair in the advertising department here at CQ Communications. When I started, Arnie was ad manager for CQ and Don was ad manager for *Popular Communications* and *Communications Quarterly*. Over the years, each of them has left the company and later returned, and eventually ended up swapping hats, with Don in charge of advertising for CQ and CQ VHF, and Arnie running the show at *Pop'Comm*. But one or the other has always been here, willing to share decades of knowledge of the amateur industry and the people who work in it.

Therefore, it was quite a shock to the system last fall, when over the course of two weeks, both Arnie and Don informed publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, that they planned to retire by the end of the year.

After a rocky start to looking for replacements (including one textbook case of how not to get hired), the stars finally came into alignment, a few flares popped off the sun, and we are extremely pleased to welcome a very well-known face in the ham radio hobby and industry—Chip Margelli, K7JA—to be our new "face" to the industry, as Director of Advertising Sales and Marketing for CQ Communications. Chip will be taking over the ad sales duties on CQ, CQ VHF, and *Pop'Comm*, as well as coordinating marketing efforts for all of our products.

Some of you may know Chip as a DXer, DX-peditioner, and contesteer extraordinaire, as the "public face" of Yaesu for nearly 30 years, or more recently, as VP of Marketing for Heil Sound. Chip brings with him a tremendous depth of knowledge of the inner workings of the amateur radio industry, which will be of great value as he helps both current and prospective advertisers communicate most effectively with our readers. We all look forward to working with Chip as a colleague.

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

Still, it's going to be quite strange for quite a while, not to be picking up the phone and calling Don or Arnie about this company or that product, and having a new roommate at hamfest hotels. Don and Arnie, it has been an honor and a privilege—and a pleasure—to work with both of you, and we will miss you greatly here in the "hallowed halls of Hicksville."

Additional Goodbyes

Speaking of hamfest hotels, one of my most lasting memories of Dayton is the year that I roomed with then-WPX Award Manager Norm Koch, WN5N. Norm was proudly from the southwest, and that year he brought along some jars of homebrew spicy salsa to give to certain staff members. We stored them in our hotel room until it was time to hand them out. Complication: When we came back from the show on Friday, we were greeted by a huge and unpleasant mess. It seems that one of his salsa jars, all by itself, had *exploded* while we were at Hara Arena. The cleanup was interesting, the housekeeper got an extra tip, and for some reason, everyone politely declined Norm's offer of a jar of homemade salsa! I am recounting this story because Norm became a Silent Key in November after several years of declining health. Because of that experience, though, thinking of Norm always brings a smile to my face. What better way to be remembered?

Also leaving us in November was John Champa, K8OCL, the High-Speed Multimedia (HSMM) editor for CQ VHF magazine, after a battle with cancer. I did not know John well, nor did anything of his ever blow up in my hotel room. But the few times that I did meet him, I was always impressed by his depth of knowledge about very complex technical topics as well as his ability to discuss them in plain English with folks like me who could only begin to scratch the surface. I was also impressed by his common-sense, no-nonsense approach to dealing with issues. His expertise and insight will be missed by the entire amateur community as we lose a leader at the leading edge of amateur radio technology.

Scaling Back

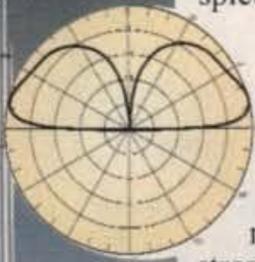
Finally, since this is January, and many of us make New Year's resolutions to promptly ignore, here is one to try to help more of us stick around on the planet a little longer (and you can credit/blame my wife for this one): How about if we collectively resolve to each lose about 30 pounds in 2011? Now some of you out there are skinny as rails, but we all know that the vast majority of us are not. Thirty pounds sounds like a lot (it sure does to me), but it works out to an average of 2¹/₂ pounds a month, a goal that many of us can achieve simply by walking more and eating less. One approach my wife and I have taken is to either share a meal when we eat out, or immediately put half of each serving aside to take home and eat the following day. It is, pardon the pun, a "no-lose" resolution. Even if you simply manage to maintain your current weight, you'll be no worse off at the end of the year than you are right now. And every pound that you do manage to lose will pay off in both short- and long-term dividends. While we're on the topic, get regular colonoscopies as well. They can save your life.

On that happy note, may your health, wealth, and DX totals all improve in the new year! 73, W2VU

Cushcraft R8 8-Band Vertical

R-8
\$539⁹⁵

The R-8 provides 360° (omni) coverage on the horizon and a low radiation angle in the vertical plane for a better DX.



Covers 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, and 40 Meters!

The Cushcraft R8 is recognized as the industry gold standard for multi-band verticals, with thousands in use worldwide. Efficient, rugged, and built to withstand the test of time, the R8's unique ground-independent design has a well-earned reputation for delivering top DX results under tough conditions. Best of all, the R8 is easy to assemble, installs just about anywhere, and blends inconspicuously with urban and country settings alike.

Automatic Band Switching: The R8's famous "black box" matching network combines with traps and parallel resonators to cover 8 bands. You QSY instantly, without a tuner!

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

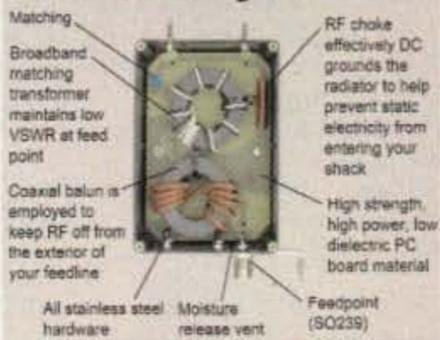
Compact Footprint: Installs in an area about the size of a child's sandbox -- no ground radials to bury and all RF-energized surfaces safely out of reach.

Legal-Limit Power: Heavy-duty components are contest-proven to handle all the power your amplifier can legally deliver and radiating it as RF rather than heat.

The sunspot count is climbing and long-awaited band openings are finally becoming a reality. Now is the perfect time to discover why Cushcraft's R8 multi-band vertical is the premier choice of DX-wise hams everywhere!

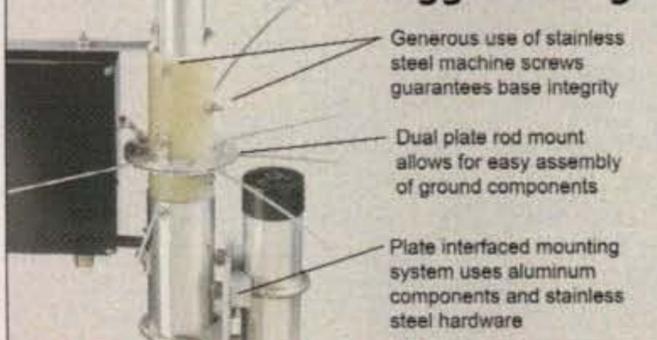
R-8GK, \$56.95. R-8 three-point guy kit for high winds.

R8 Matching Network



Matching: Broadband matching transformer maintains low VSWR at feed point. Coaxial balun is employed to keep RF off from the exterior of your feedline. All stainless steel hardware. Moisture release vent. Feedpoint (90239). High strength, high power, low dielectric PC board material. RF choke effectively DC grounds the radiator to help prevent static electricity from entering your shack.

R8's Rugged Design



Generous use of stainless steel machine screws guarantees base integrity. Dual plate rod mount allows for easy assembly of ground components. Plate interfaced mounting system uses aluminum components and stainless steel hardware.

MA-5B 5-Band Beam

Small Footprint -- Big Signal



MA-5B
\$499⁹⁵

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

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

Cushcraft 10, 15 & 20 Meter Tribander Beams

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



A-4S
\$699⁹⁵



A-3S
\$599⁹⁵

All this from attention to basics. For example, element length and spacing has been carefully refined over time, and high-power traps are still hand-made and individually tuned using laboratory-grade instruments. All this

Cushcraft Dual Band Yagis

One Yagi for Dual-Band FM Radios



A270-10S
\$169⁹⁵

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

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



A270-6S
\$129⁹⁵

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

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

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

Cushcraft Famous Ringos Compact FM Verticals



AR-2
\$64⁹⁵



AR-6
\$99⁹⁵



AR-10
\$109⁹⁵

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

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(from page 2)

The following Special Event stations are scheduled for January:

K3Y, from The Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) celebration of five years of growth, to over 7200 members on CW; operation in all call areas from 0000Z Jan. 1 to 23:59Z Jan. 31 on 1.820, 3.550, 7.055, 10.120, 14.050, 18.080, 21.050, 24.910, 28.050, and 50.090 MHz (± 10 kHz). Stations contacted may request a special K3Y QSL. Send name and address to: Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 618 Seminole Dr, Erie, PA 16505. Contact: Roger Kepner, W6SQQ, SKCC PIO <w6sqq@sbcglobal.net>; <www.skccgroup.com>.

W9LY, from 2011 Boy Scout Klondike Derby Camp Topenebee, Michigan City, Indiana; Michigan City ARC; 1500-2100Z Jan. 8 on 14.240, 7.240, 3.940, 14.070 PSK. QSL to Michigan City ARC, P.O. Box 148, Michigan City, IN 46361.

W0JH, from Lake Mille Lacs Ice Fishing Shack Special Event, northern Minnesota; Stillwater (Minnesota) Amateur Radio Association; 2100-2100Z Jan. 14-16 SSB on 21.358, 14.258, 7.258, 3.858 MHz. QSL certificates will *only* be sent via e-mail. Complete "eQSL Request Form" at: <www.radioham.org>. You do *not* have to send a printed QSL card. Required QSO information includes: callsign, date, time, frequency, RST report, etc. A file with 8.5 x 11 color QSL certificate suitable for printing will be sent to you via e-mail.

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

Jan. 8, **FirstFest Swap Meet**, Summit School Athletic Center, Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. Free coffee and donuts, tailgating at no additional cost, free parking. Admission \$5 at gate; coupon available through <http://www.worldradio.w4nc.org>. Tables must be reserved ahead of time. Information: <http://www.w4nc.org> or (336) 245-5740.

Jan. 9, **Ham Radio University 2011**, Briarcliffe College, Bethpage, Long Island, New York. Sponsored by the Kings County Repeater Association in conjunction with the ARRL New York City/Long Island Section. Complete details and form list: <http://www.HamRadioUniversity.org>.

Jan. 14-15, **Cowtown Hamfest**, Lockheed Martin Recreation Area, Fort Worth, Texas; Lockheed Martin ARC. Contact david Forbes, KC5UYR, e-mail: <KC5UYR@compuserve.com>; <www.cowtownhamfest.org>. (Talk-in 147.28 tone 110.9; exams Sat.)

Jan. 29, **2011 146.580 Group Albuquerque Winter Tailgate**, rear parking lot of the Transcore Amtech Technology Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information, contact Tom Ellis, K5TEE, at (505) 259-6281 or e-mail: <k5tee@arrl.net>.

Jan. 29, **Hamfest-Raffle-Winter Field Day**, Palm Springs, California; Desert Rats (WD6RAT) and Palm Springs DX Club. Info: <http://www.desertrats.am>. (Talk-in 146.940- PL 107.2)

include experiments of interest to hams. The AMSAT News Service reportst that FASTRAC, built by students at the University of Texas at Austin, includes a GPS experiment that will rely on participation by hams monitoring and relaying its transmissions; when the experiment is complete, the satellite will be reconfigured for general amateur packet radio use.

The RAX (Radio Aurora eXplorer) satellite will use a radar receiver to monitor select bandwidths in the 400-500 MHz range, including the 70cm. amateur satellite band, to study phenomena that affect space radar and ground-to-space communications; the amateur radio phase of the mission is still under development. RAX was built at the University of Michigan.

NanoSail-D is a NASA mission testing solar sail technology. It will transmit a beacon signal every five seconds on 437.270 MHz. O/ORES is another NASA mission, this one conducting research on microorganisms in space. It also has a ham-band beacon, on 437.305 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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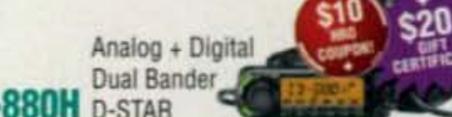
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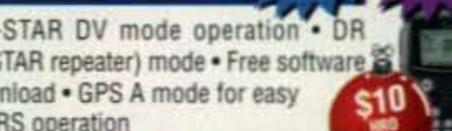
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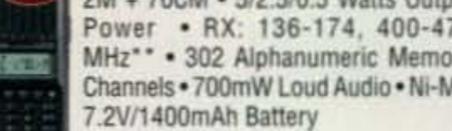
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If you enjoy operating in CQ's WPX Contest (2010 SSB results in this issue), you might enjoy it even more once you know its 55-year history, and its role in promoting the use of single sideband on the amateur HF bands.

History of the CQ WPX Contest

BY JOHN PESCATORE,* K3TN

For many years in ham radio, phone meant *amplitude modulation* (AM). When single sideband (SSB) began to appear after World War II, it was nearly as exotic then as today's newer modes such as Olivia or JT65. In 1956, CQ magazine began a column dedicated to promoting SSB. There were awards for working stations via SSB and at about the same time, CQ announced a new certificate for working stations with different prefixes—the first WPX award.

In November 1956, Bob Adams W3SW, editor of the SSB column, said CQ was considering holding an SSB "test" (contest) to be held in January '57. The rules for the contest were published in the SSB column in December '56 and looked very different from the WPX Contest we know today; the contest was split over two weekends with 24 hours of operation each and there were no multipliers at all!

Approximately 500 logs were received, with the husband-and-wife team of Alex and Eva at CN8MM declared the winner. That first contest was deemed a success and another one was scheduled for 1958, this time using the same rules as the CQ World-Wide DX Contest. (Back then, CQ WW Phone meant CQ WW AM.) The second contest attracted only 400 logs, though scores were higher since there were now zone and country multipliers. The official results of the contest were never detailed, but the winner was once again CN8MM.

Adding Prefix Multipliers

To differentiate from the CQ WW contest, and since the WPX certificate program was proving to be popular, it was decided that the 1959 version of the contest (now called the CQ World-Wide Side-Band Contest) would use prefixes as the only multipliers. The contest ran for 24 hours in April with no rest period. HB9IE came in first with 612 QSOs. The 1960 contest once again was won from Morocco, this time by CN8JF with 751 Qs. The top U.S. score came from a call familiar to many contesters: Bill Leonard, W2SKE. Bill was later to drive many of the changes in the WPX contest rules that created the format we follow today.

In 1961, the husband-and-wife team of K2HEA and K2MGE took over both the SSB column and management of the contest. The 1961 contest was the first in which an off-time was required, with six consecutive hours of mandatory "quiet time" out of the now 30-hour contest period. It was won by ZS5JY with 712 contacts, but many complained about conditions for a contest in January and the lack of activity on the low bands. Back then, phone DXing and contesting on

40 and 80 meters were not common and the SSB contest rules were Sweepstakes-like; you could only work stations once per contest, which further discouraged low-band operation. Plus, the prefix multiplier meant U.S. stations could just work U.S. stations all contest long, taking away the DX flavor of the contest. For the 1962 contest, W2SKE came up with some familiar-sounding rules to address those issues:

- The contest was moved to the last full weekend in March.
- Contacts between stations in the same country would

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sideband

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Y27X	234	W0CVU	200
W2ZX	233	W1LLF	200
HB9TL	227	W3LMA	193
W1NKM	226	K2JFV	183
W0VZ	225	W0JBY	183
W2JXN	223	W3RT	179
K5EAB	220	DL1N	178
K2MGE	221	K1XG	178
W4PKH	222	W2Y8D	177
W2JXN	221	W3V5U	177
VE3AHJ	220	W2V2Z	175
W4RFP	219	W4BTP	173
W0DAF	215	W2HXG	173
W0WNE	216	G2BYN	173
K4JL	212	W2HUT	173
K3AFK	211	W1RHW	174
M4R8W	208	K8ALL	165
K3RTW	206	W0YMY	163
OH4DA	203	W0ERZ	163
W3IYU	204	K2HEA	163

CQ SSB STICKERS AND CERTIFICATES

<p>Worked 50</p> <p>URSWP W4UT U3XG GMJCL</p> <p>Worked 75</p> <p>KP6CN SM5BP W4JWH W4MAZ</p> <p>Worked 100</p> <p>VK4RO W2FGZ K5MLP K4KXO W0NJJ</p> <p>Worked 125</p> <p>G3CCN D08CT K1FY DL4NO DL1N W4RM</p>	<p>Worked 150</p> <p>W2MAP DL1N DJ5CP</p> <p>Worked 175</p> <p>G2BYN W3V8U DL1N W2NLT K1XG</p> <p>Worked 200</p> <p>W1LLF</p> <p>Worked 225</p> <p>W2JXN K2EAB</p>
--	--

Sixth Annual CQ World-Wide S.S.B. Contest

1200 GMT, Saturday, March 24, 1962 to
1800 GMT, Sunday, March 25, 1962

There are several changes of rules in this year's contest so please read the following carefully

There are several changes of rules in this year's Contest so please read the following carefully.

As usual, the object of the contest is to work as many stations and as many different prefixes as s.s.b. in the world as possible. (A "prefix" is considered the two or three letter/numeral

It's a toss-up as to who deserves the title of "Mr. DX". It is Don Chesser, W4KXZ, left whose weekly news bulletin is so eagerly awaited throughout the world, or Buck Jaynes, W4TO, right, who, quietly, consistently, and effortlessly, has worked more DX than most of the DX boys? Both men set operating examples that we would all do well to follow.



58 • CQ • January, 1962

Major changes came to the CQ SSB Contest (now the WPX Contest) in 1962, suggested by Bill Leonard, W2SKE, including moving the contest to March and allowing contacts with in one's own country to count only for multiplier credit.

*1515 Lost Creek Dr., Ashton, MD 20861
e-mail: <jpescatore@aol.com>

count for zero points, but would count as prefix multipliers.

- Contacts on 40 and 80 meters would be worth twice as much as high-band contacts.

- Stations could now be worked once per band, although prefixes would only count once as multipliers.

The rule changes were a big success, with 4X4DK winning with a whopping 1774 QSOs. For the next several years the rules stayed fairly stable, with the addition of a multi-op category being the major change. A lot of operators began to chafe at the mandatory 6-hour off-time as solar Cycle 20 began to improve. The rules were tweaked to allow 30 hours of operating over a 48-hour period with multiple shorter off times. Over this period, DL3LL came in first for three years in a row and some familiar calls began to show up in the results: W4BVV, K3UDX (Rush Drake, later W7RM), W3MSK, W3AZD, W6AM, W3GRF, and K2HLB (Don Miller) among them. The first disqualification for dupes appeared in 1967.

The Middle Years

In 1968, the name of the contest was changed to "CQ WPX Phone," marking the first use of the WPX term in the name. K4FMA as ET3FMA won with 1870 contacts, and KH6IJ made an appearance in the top ten. Brazil began to allow many new prefixes, greatly increasing the available multipliers, while Cycle 20 opened up the high bands. In 1968, the multi-operator, multi-transmitter (multi-multi) category was added. In 1969, KV4FZ took the top position with a phenomenal 3144 QSOs, with Bob Cox, K3EST, at W3MSK taking fifth worldwide and top U.S. In 1970, Jack Reichert as PJ9JR took top honors, with OH2BH and K4BAI making appearances in the results.

CQ WPX SSB stayed pretty stable through the early 1970s with minor date changes and rule tweaks. W2PV, often operated by WB2SQN, began to consistently win top USA honors. W8IMZ took over contest management duties in 1974, while in 1976 the USA bicentennial prefixes doubled the number of available multipliers. In 1978 the QRP and club categories were added, and K3ZO, K7SS and W9LT made their first appearances in the results. Eric, K3NA, operated the old W3LPL station to first place USA (see sidebar.)

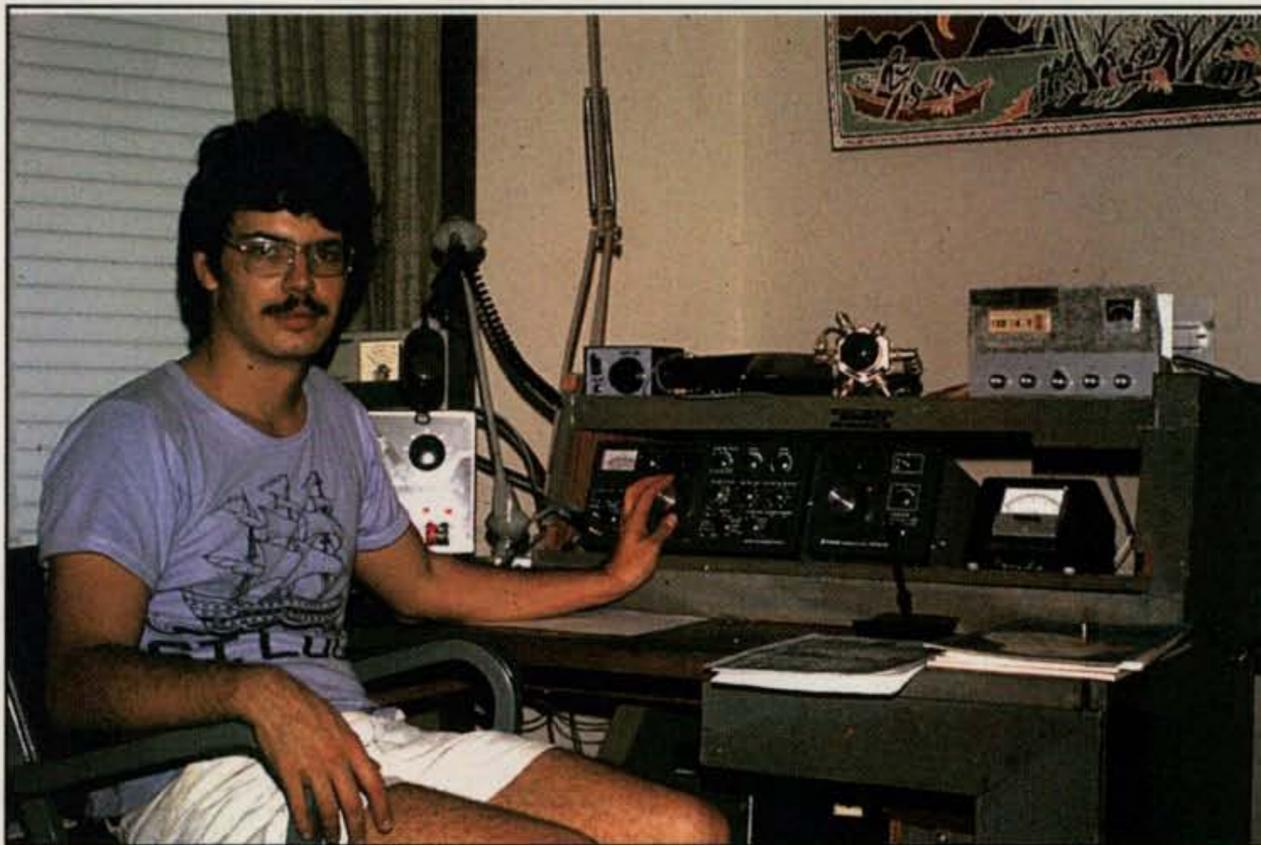
Adding CW

The growing popularity of the WPX test led to a CW version being added for the

first time in 1979. K7JA at KG6SW took top worldwide in that inaugural WPX CW test (a rare win from Oceania), with AE4H taking top honors in the U.S. More familiar contesting calls began to show up in the results: G3FXB, G4BUE, ON4UN, K5RC, K5ZD/4, W9WI. In 1980, N4RV at PJ2CC took SSB worldwide, breaking the 4000 QSO barrier,

while K1AR made his first appearance in the winners' box, taking top U.S. SSB with 2537 QSOs. N6CW at KP2D won worldwide CW, with K1GQ top U.S. WB4SGV (now KT3Y) made his first appearance in the results.

The controversial 10-minute rule for multi-single entries showed up for the Silver Anniversary version of the WPX



A very young-looking Chip Margelli, K7JA, won the first WPX CW contest in 1979, operating from Guam as KG6SW. (Photo courtesy K7JA)

K3NA on His WPX Experience from W3LPL

In 1977, Eric, K3NA, operated W3LPL to first place U.S. and followed up in 1978 with second place U.S. Here are some of Eric's reflections on the WPX Contest in the "old days":

These contests were done from Frank's station in Crownsville, Maryland, at just about the time Frank was contemplating switching to M/M. I had a chance to do some S/O SSB operations, as Frank was less interested in making a serious effort on phone. As a relatively new PVRC (*Potomac Valley Radio Club—ed.*) member, it was great experience to operate from a well-equipped single-op station. This was a chance to test some hypotheses on maximizing results as a single op. With the 36-hour limitation in effect, a major issue was juggling time-off periods. Another strategy trade-off was balancing the richer point value of low-band QSOs vs. the deeper volume available on the high bands. As I was accustomed to continuous (or close to continuous) 48-hour operations, it felt a little odd to be wandering around the yard on Sunday afternoon, killing time during a (hopefully) slow part of the contest.

Without voice keyers, I inevitably finished the weekends with a rather hoarse voice. My colleagues at the office on Monday sometimes wondered if I had been out on a binge weekend, as I was bleary-eyed, not entirely together mentally, and spoke in a deep, rough whisper. Perhaps contest abuse isn't much different from alcohol abuse in this respect.

Around this time Frank added another AB-105 tower and invited me to work with him to learn tower-construction skills. One afternoon we were adding pieces to the top, now well above the tree level, when we started hearing a steady buzzing sound. No, neither bees nor wasps were responsible. The sound was corona discharge off the sharp corners of steel and the bolts. No threatening clouds were nearby, but we elected caution and climbed down about 150 feet of tower as quickly as we could—much faster than my usual leisurely pace! About three minutes after we hit the ground there was a loud electrical "snap!" and a fraction of a second later a clap of thunder. Rain arrived a few minutes thereafter. We were glad not to be on the tower for the nearby strike!

Looking back at my paper WPX logs, my custom-designed DX dupe sheet, and multiplier check-off sheet, those pre-computer days seem rather like working with stone knives while clad in bear skins. Still fun, but today is even more fun!

—Eric, K3NA

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contest in 1981. KC1F dominated the U.S. CW results in 1982–1984, while the worldwide results showed a different winner each year. N8BJQ took over running the WPX contest in 1983, and in 1986, N6KT at PJ2FR was the first to smash through the 4000 QSO and 800 mult barrier as he took the SSB worldwide title. More familiar calls in the results: W3BGN, KM3T, WN4KKN, K4PQL, KK9A, KRØY.

The KQ2M Years

When I was a kid, I used to think the World Series meant some team playing the New York Yankees. From 1987 to 2005, WPX SSB USA honors pretty much meant seeing who could come even close to KQ2M. Bob had a remarkable string over that period, winning WPX SSB 16 out of 19 years, including winning seven years in a row *twice!* (See sidebar.) Over nearly two decades, only WM2H, KM3T, and K4XS (at WK4R) beat KQ2M on SSB in the U.S. Bob even threw in four CW wins, with only KT3Y having as many U.S. CW wins over that period.

There was no single call dominating the worldwide scores to such an extent over that period, but from 2003 to 2005, 4L5A at D4B took top worldwide honors in both modes. YT1AD at 3V8BB was a frequent winner in both modes, while N6KT, AI6V, and KW8N won multiple times from various

South American and southern Caribbean locations. Various rule changes were made over that period:

- 60-minute off-periods were standardized in 1987.
- In 1992, a low-power category was added and operating time was increased from 30 to 36 hours.
- The assisted category was added in 1993 after many complaints about packet cheating.
- In 1995, the “overlay” categories for rookie status and simple antenna configurations were added.
- In 1999, the rules were changed to make same-country QSOs worth 1 point each.

The rule changes and growing popularity of the WPX contest (along with Cycle 22) drove sharp increases in scores over this time. KW8N (at KP2A) broke the 5000 QSO barrier in 1989; AI6V (P40V) broke 1000 multipliers in 1990; N6KT (HC8A) reached 6887 Qs in 1992 and 1199 mults in 2001.

You could also call this period the “PC years.” In 1990, N8BJQ said, “It is now OK to submit logs on disk” and by the next year more than 100 logs came in that way. The 1991 results showed the first mention of K1EA’s CT logging software and the first complaints about packet clusters! This move to electronic logs facilitated deeper log checking and N8BJQ began to warn about uniques and busted calls in 1993. In 1995, 60 logs came in directly over the internet and the TR and NA programs were added to the mix. By 2000,

Reflections from Multi-WPX Champ KQ2M

I’ve always loved this contest. I first operated WPX back in 1975 when I was 14 as WB2SJK from a small low-power home station with low wire antennas. (*Even so, Bob came in third in the U.S., after W2PV and K3EST (at K4VX)—ed.*) Back then, some contesters looked down on WPX as a second-tier contest, but I always thought it was one of the most difficult and challenging contests because of the mandatory off-times and the need to work zero-point QSOs for multipliers. It was also the most fun, especially for a little station.

Years later, with the addition of the one-point U.S.-U.S. QSO rule and the increase of single-op operating time to 36 hours, scores and activity *exploded!* The combination of equinoctial propagation (WPX SSB is near the Spring Equinox) and the event’s large international following has made it a great DX contest. The “everyone can work everyone” format means that you can find people to work at any time of day or night, and now with ability to work DX direct on 40 with the elimination of most of the broadcast stations, there are even more *fun* strategy decisions to make.

You don’t really need a superstation to be competitive or even to win. My first win was in 1987 from KM1H, which was a single tower with mono-banders—nice, but not a superstation. Over the years, a lot of folks have guest-operated at big stations on the east coast and found that WPX is not a contest in which the loudest station who hits the F1 key on the computer the most often wins. Maximizing prefixes and points makes WPX a thinking contest.

Remembering 2001. Probably the year I remember most is the 2001 WPX SSB. It was at the top of the solar cycle and a big solar flare hit. The auroral oval was at 10 (the highest reading), and all I heard at the start was a weak W4MYA on 20. I worked him and turned off the radio. At 0530 I went back and operated 80 for 30 minutes, but conditions were still awful, so I turned off the radio and went to bed.

In the morning I spent time with my family, but at about 1500Z I turned on the radio. Fifteen was great and I had a 200+ Qs per hour! So I just had fun running people. Since I’d already been QRT more than the required off-time, I had no expectations of being competitive. Six hours later, my wife stuck her head in and said, “Hey, I thought you weren’t going to operate,” but the bands were wide open in every direction and I was rolling, running an endless stream of EU

and U.S. on 15 followed by an all-night run on 20! The next time I looked up it was 0600 and I decided to just go for it. I ran continuously with no more off-time until the end of the contest, mostly ignoring 40 and 80. I ended up with only 33.5 hours of operating time, but I passed everyone on Sunday and won the contest!

It should be noted that propagation, and therefore operating strategies, are completely different for WPX CW compared to WPX SSB in the northeast USA. In fact, I can say that I have never operated WPX CW the same way twice. That simply adds to the challenge and the fun, along with the ever-increasing activity level and the number of prefixes to work. Now WPX is widely considered to be a major DX contest and I am pleased to see that the big single ops and the big multi-ops make it an annual operating event.

Strategy & Suggestions. The most important strategy is to maximize points per hour. I’ve operated SO2R from the very beginning. In WPX it is critical to be on multiple bands and target multiple geographic regions at all times. You can always work U.S. prefixes somewhere at the same time you are working DX stations for higher points. I always maintain a sense of urgency; since this is a contest, there is nothing casual about it. I try to treat each minute as if it was the last minute in the contest. If after 54 seconds have passed, I have worked five stations in that minute, and then I want to make it six! At 0 seconds, the next minute starts “fresh.”

There are two things I would change about the WPX contest: (1) Removing the single-op. off times. Twelve more hours of operating would be 12 more hours of higher activity, bigger scores, and more fun! (2) Since the scoring system favors the rest of the world over the U.S. (2 points/Q for DX vs. 1 point/Q for U.S.-U.S. Qs), I would also like to see the plaque system changed so that U.S. stations can win North America and World plaques, since if you can overcome a large scoring disadvantage and win North America or the World, you should be rewarded with a plaque!

Having operated and actively contributed to the WPX contests for nearly 35 years, I am very pleased to see that WPX has a lot more cachet today. Over the years, a lot of big contesters have discovered WPX, and even more joined in when the WRTC (*World Radiosport Team Championship—ed.*) made WPX a scoring contest for WRTC qualification. What a great contest!

73 and thanks for the Qs!

—Bob, KQ2M



Bob Shohet, KQ2M, dominated the WPX SSB Contest in the U.S. from 1987 to 2005. (Photo courtesy KQ2M)

disk or electronic logs were required if computer logging was used and the Cabrillo format made its debut in WPX.

The Modern Era

As solar Cycle 23 faded away after 2005 (and solar Cycle 24 looked like it was in no hurry to appear), the number of logs submitted and callsigns active in the contest continued to grow, despite weak band conditions. W2SC (at 8P1A/8P5A) started a KQ2M-like trend, winning SSB worldwide honors in 2006, 2007, and 2008. YT1AD took 3V back to worldwide dominance in the CW contest (see sidebar), until LY2CY brought back the title to D4. Various "ones" (K5ZD as AK1W, WC1M, K1TO, and

K1ZM) took turns winning U.S. CW honors. In 2007, K5ZD took over management of the contest and began to use the latest communication media such as blogs and Twitter.

This year marks the 55th running of the CQ WPX Contest, far more complex, sophisticated, and popular today than at its start in the late 1950s. If you enjoy contesting, collecting prefixes, or just getting on and "working some new ones," this is a great way to spend all or part of a spring weekend (or two)!

Sources:

CQ magazine's HamCall archives
K1DG writeup
Phone discussion with N8BJQ

DX Perspective: Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD

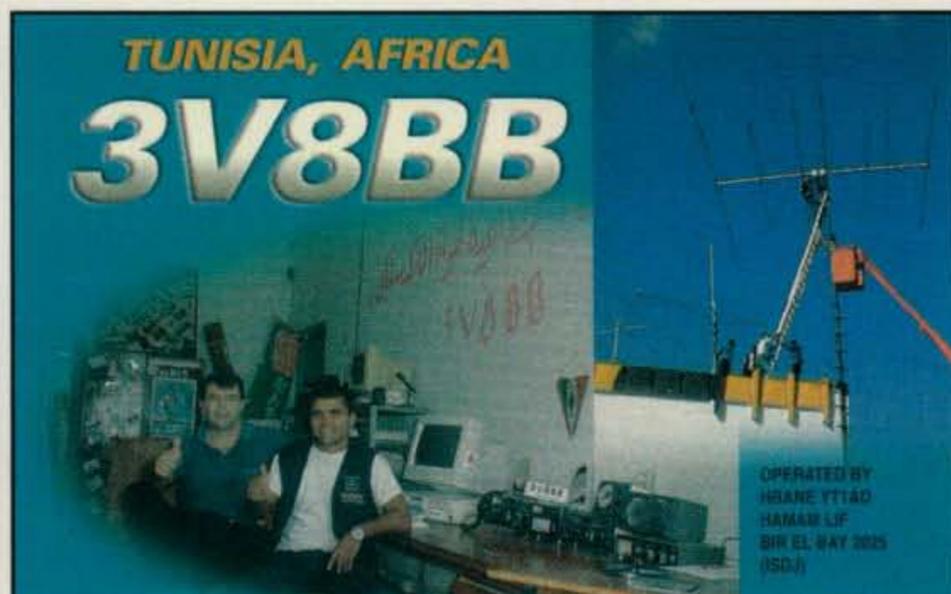
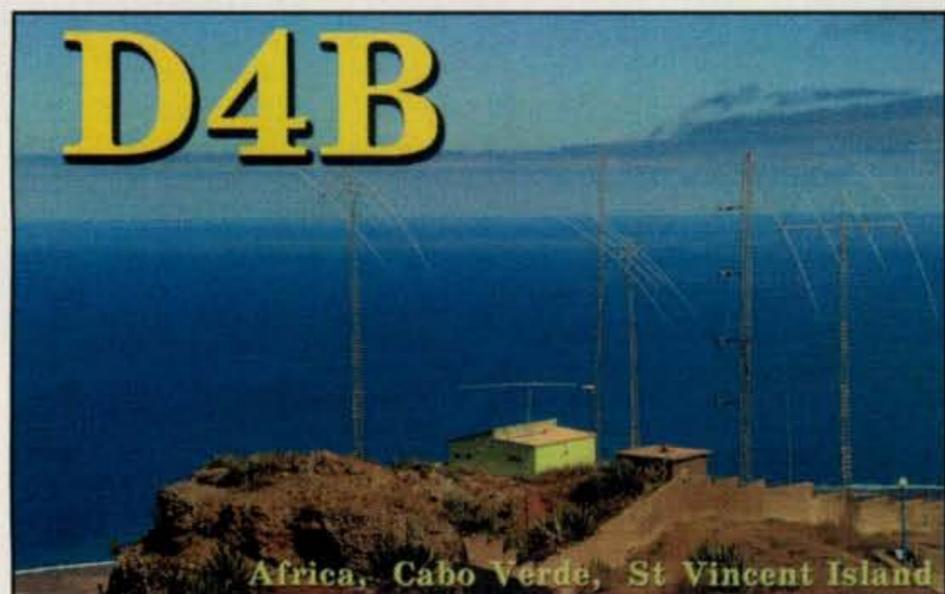
I've been operating CQ WW and CQ WPX contests for close to 40 years, doing more than 60 contests from 3V (Tunisia) over that time. I like all contests, but CQ WPX is a more humane contest; now that I am 50 years old I like the 12 hours of required off time!

I have won both CQ WW and CQ WPX from 3V, and while the WW and the WPX are two very different contests, my strategies are not that much different. In all contests you have to run (*staying on one frequency and calling CQ—ed.*) as much as possible and not use up too much time searching for multipliers. In WW, you have to make decisions about which bands to be on to maximize those zone and country multipliers per band. In WPX, you have to make decisions about which bands to be on to maximize rates and the multipliers come to you. One year, I came in second because I spent too much time searching for multipliers.

The knowledge of propagation and conditions is very important. Knowing which bands will be open at what times under what conditions to which parts of the world is a very important strategy. I have been operating from 3V since 1995 and have much experience with the propagation paths to make the best choices. I have made over 350,000 QSOs from 3V by focusing on just maximizing rate at all times in all contests.

I love ham radio and contesting and have spent a lot of time and too many dollars not to have fun. Since Tunisia is a new DXCC country for many, I enjoy working everyone, especially in a "humane" contest such as WPX! There is always much discussion about the negative behaviors in contesting, but if everyone follows the spirit of ham radio and contesting, it is very enjoyable.

—73, Hrane YT1AD



In the mid-2000s, D4B (4L5A op.) and 3V8BB (YT1AD op.) generally ended up in the logbooks of even the most casual WPX contesters, as they dominated the worldwide competition. (QSLs courtesy W2VU, a most casual WPX contester)

Results of the 2010 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

BY RANDY THOMPSON,* K5ZD

The sun came up on the new solar cycle and gave participants in the 52nd edition of the CQ WPX SSB Contest a taste of better conditions to come. Fred, K3ZO, put it this way: "Just when you think conditions couldn't possibly get any better, they do." Sunspot group 1057 helped keep the flux "elevated" at 86 to 88 and produced some excellent openings. Fred, KH7Y, commented, "15 meters was fantastic all weekend long, with long path into Europe both nights." Even 10 meters showed some life, with KU5B working three JAs and one European. Thirteen stations made over 1000 QSOs on 10 meters.

Some "cloudy" space weather moved in on Sunday to disrupt the bands for awhile, but many stations still reported unusual or interesting openings on 10 and 15 meters. Of course, as the high bands went down, the crowds on 20 and 40 meters returned. The QRM was fierce, with stations stacked three or four deep at times. There is little you can do but tighten up those filters and listen harder.

Log submissions were up for the sixth year in a row, with 4759 logs received. Single Operator Low Power remains the largest category, with 2160 entries. There were 900 entries in the Assisted category, showing the continuing integration of the internet and DX cluster into contesting and DX chasing. Having so many categories to choose from is part of what makes WPX so much fun.

You want special prefixes? We have them. The WPX SSB Contest had more prefixes active this year than ever before. The multi-multi operation at DR1A set a new prefix record with 1747—a big jump over the 10-year old record of 1528 held by OT0A. In the single-operator category, it was CN2R with 1373, followed closely by ZX5J (1369) and 8P5A (1358). Some of the more unusual call signs that submitted logs included 3Z80PZK, 8N5A, BX0WPX, DR775TMG, HA100KONE, L60DK, LY11MM, OF50RR, PI65BRD, SN50SPP, SP80PZK, TC2010CCI, TM57M, VP50V, YP1WFF, YU40MM, and ZS10WCS.

Single-Op All Band High Power

The top three scorers in the Single Operator All Band High Power category all finished in identical order as in 2009. The repeat winner and new world record holder was CN2R, operated by Jim, W7EJ. Jim now owns five world records in the WPX SSB contest. Tom, W2SC, operated 8P5A to a new North American record. Tom had a fantastic start with 332 contacts in the first hour! (Move 8P5A just 200 miles south into South America and it would have added 5-million points to Tom's final score. Such is the challenge of continent-based scoring.) In third place, and far from any continental boundary, was Bill, KH7XS, who increased his Oceania record by nearly 3-million points. Bill had some competition from Mike, KH6ND, operating as WH6V. John, VE3EJ, had a very impressive score in sixth place.

Kamal, N3KS, once again visited WY3P to take the top spot in the USA and set a new all-time record. Alex, LZ4AX, who piloted KC3R to second place, didn't intend to operate the whole contest, but changed his mind after the first million points were in the log. The next two spots belonged to the middle of the coun-



Rytis, LY4U, and Gintaras, LY2NI, operating LY2W to over 10 million points in the Multi-Two category.

try, with Jerry, WB9Z, in Illinois just getting by George, NR5M, in Texas. Paul, K8PO, operated as AJ1I to round out the top five. John, N7TT, was the sole West Coast representative in the USA Top Ten.

Braco, E77DX, operated as E7DX to make the world Top Ten and break the European record set back in 2001. Braco did antenna repair work all day on Friday before the contest and it paid off with the win. Last year's European champion Chris, MI0LLL, operating GI5K, had his attempt to repeat fall short, despite increasing his score by 30%! Ranko, 4O3A, finished third just 100k points ahead of LX7I (op. DJ8OG).

Single-Op All Band Low Power

The P40A winning streak of six years ended with a new P4 station at the top of the low power standings. Andy, AE6Y, operated P49Y to a commanding lead while finding the switch to low power to be a humbling experience: "A big difference with low power is that it is harder to keep a frequency, particularly on 40 and 80." He enjoyed the improved conditions by starting the contest on 10 meters with 157 QSOs. Two North Americans were next. Ted, HI3TEJ, finished second, with most of his contacts on 20 and 15 meters. Dave, W5CW, operated VP50V to give everyone a multiplier. New contesteer JY5CC did a great job to finish fourth in only his third international contest.

Competition for top USA score was another episode in the low power rivalry between Art, K1BX, and Ed, N1UR. Art used KR5X for his first full WPX effort. Ed used NV1N and made his highest score ever, but it was not enough and he came in second. Third place came from out west, with John, K6AM, enjoying the good conditions from NX6T. Jere, KT4ZB, and Doug, WB8TLI, were first time visitors to the USA Top Ten.

As in 2009, the top two low power scores in Europe came from Gedas, LY9A, ahead of Vlad, RW1CW. Vlad was much closer

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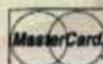
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TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

WORLD: Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ Trophy. Won by: **CN2R** operated by James P Sullivan, W7EJ
WORLD Low Power: Caribbean Contesting Consortium Trophy. Won by: **P49Y** operated by Andrew Faber, AE6Y
WORLD QRP: Phil Krichbaum, N0KE Trophy. Won by: **YW2LV** operated by Ymanol Caires Zubicaray, YV5YMA
USA: Atilano de Oms, PY5EG Trophy. Won by: **WY3P** operated by Kamal Sirageldin, N3KS
USA Low Power: Terry Zivney, N4TZ Trophy. Won by: **KR5X/1** operated by Art Hambleton, K1BX
USA QRP: Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q Trophy. Won by: **Randy Shirbroun, ND0C**
USA Zone 4 High Power: Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z**
USA Zone 4 Low Power: Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **Doug Friend, WB8TLI**
USA Zone 3: Lauri "Mac" McCreary, KG7C Trophy. Won by: **John Gohndrone, N7TT**
EUROPE High Power: Jim Hoffman, N5FA Trophy. Won by: **E7DX** operated by Emir Memic, E77DX
EUROPE Low Power: Ed Sawyer, N1UR Trophy. Won by: **Gediminas Lucinskas, LY9A**
AFRICA: Peter Sprengel, PY5CC Trophy. Won by: **ST2AR** operated by Robert Kasca, S53R
ASIA: Chris Terkla, N1XS Trophy. Won by: **Masaki Okano, JH4UYB**
NORTH AMERICA: Albert Crespo, F5VHJ Trophy. Won by: **8P5A** operated by Tom Georgens, W2SC
NORTH AMERICA QRP: Phil Krichbaum, N0KE Trophy. Won by: **TI5N** operated by Bill Parker, W8QZA
OCEANIA: Phillip Frazier, K6ZM Memorial Trophy. Won by: **Bill Kollenbaum, KH7XS**
SOUTH AMERICA: Andrew Faber, AE6Y Trophy. Won by: **P41M** operated by Stefan Giehle, DK1MM
CANADA High Power: Todd Bendtsen, VE5MX Trophy. Won by: **John Sluymer, VE3EJ**
CANADA Low Power: Contest Club Ontario Trophy. Won by: **Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ**
JAPAN: Hamad Alnusif, 9K2HN Trophy. Won by: **Fumiaki Ogasawara, JA7BME**

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

WORLD: Steve Merchant, K6AW Trophy. Won by: **ZX5J** operated by Sergio Lima De Almeida, PP5JR
WORLD 28 MHz: Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: **PW5G** operated by Walter Gomes Filho, PP5WG
WORLD 21 MHz: Stuart Santelmann KC1F Memorial (W3UA/RA3AA sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **LP2F** operated by Ezequiel Reinaldi, LU1FDU
WORLD 14 MHz: Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: **TM77M** operated by Fontaine Laurent, F5MUX
WORLD 7 MHz: Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: **YT8A** operated by Dusan Ceha, YU1EA
WORLD 7 MHz Low Power: Neal Campbell, K3NC Trophy. Won by: **Slavko Celarc, S57DX**
WORLD 3.7 MHz: D4C Contest Team Trophy. Won by: **EI7M** operated by Dmitrij Pavlov, LY3MM
WORLD 1.8 MHz: UA2 Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Dmitri Gorshkov, RW2F**
USA 28 MHz: Maurice Schietecatte, N4LZ Trophy. Won by: **Colin Jenkins, KU5B**
USA 21 MHz: Maurice Schietecatte, N4LZ Trophy. Won by: **WK5T** operated by Steve London, N2IC
USA 14 MHz: Charles Wooten, NF4A Trophy. Won by: **John Bayne, KK9A**
USA 7 MHz: Yankee Clipper Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **John F. Bagno, KD2RD**
USA 3.7 MHz: Bernie Welch, W8IMZ Memorial (WB8MRU sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **Larry Emery, K1UO**
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: **9A1P** operated by Davor Kucelin, 9A1UN
EUROPE 14 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **SN7Q** operated by Krzysztof Sobon, SP7GIQ
EUROPE 7 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Remigijus Vaicius, LY8O**
EUROPE 3.7 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Emil Tafro, E71A**
EUROPE 1.8 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Fabio Piccinini, I4FYF**

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED

WORLD: Emir-Braco Memic, OE1EMS Trophy. Won by: **CQ3L** operated by Helmut Mueller, DF7ZS
USA: Alabama Contest Group Trophy. Won by: **WU3A/1** operated by Gene Shablygin, W3UA
EUROPE: Martin Huml, OL5Y Trophy. Won by: **OE3K** operated by Ivan Dobrocky, OE3DIA

OVERLAY CATEGORIES

WORLD Tribander/Single-Element: Helmut Mueller, DF7ZS Trophy. Won by: **Pál Vrbovszki, HA8JV**
USA Tribander/Single-Element: Paul Newberry, N4PN Trophy. Won by: **NX0X/4** operated by Paul H. Newberry, Jr., N4PN
Europe Tribander/Single-Element: Roger Miner, K1DQV Trophy. Won by: **YL0Y** operated by Andris A. Blums, YL2GQT
WORLD Rookie: Val Edwards W8KIC Memorial (K3LR sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **Abdalla Farmawi, JY5CC**

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Latvian Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **5D5A** operated by IK2QEI, IK2SGC
USA: Steve Bolia, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: **NG3R** operated by AA5B, N3DXX, K9RS
AFRICA: Rhein Ruhr DX Association Trophy. Won by: **6V7M** operated by DL4JS, DL2JRM
ASIA: W2MIG Memorial (NX7TT Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **UP0L** operated by UN9LW, RN4WA
EUROPE: Tonno Vahk, ES5TV Trophy. Won by: **CQ8X** operated by CU2CE, CU2DX, DL6LAU, N6RC, OH1TV, OH2BH, OH2UA, OH6KN, OH6RM, OH8NC

MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Ken Adams, K5KA Memorial Trophy. Won by: **HC8GR** operated by K1TO, K6NA
USA: Florida Contest Group Trophy. Won by: **K1LZ** operated by K1LZ, W1UE, K3JO, NU5Y, N8BO
AFRICA: Walter Skudlarek, DJ6QT Trophy. Won by: **CR3A** operated by CT3BD, CT3DL, CT3DZ, CT3EE, CT3EN, CT3KU, CT3KY
EUROPE: Bernd Och, DL6FBL Trophy. Won by: **OL4A** operated by OK1DO, OK1FFU, OK1RI, OK8WW, OM6NM

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Gail M. Sheehan, K2RED Trophy. Won by: **EB8AH** operated by EA5DFV, EA5DY, EA8AH, EA8CAC, EA8ZS, ES2RR, OH6RX
USA: Dale Hoppe, K6UA Memorial Trophy. Won by: **NQ4I** operated by W4SVO, W4LT, W4IX, K4NV, KD3P, K4PK, VE7ZO, K0EJ, I4LEC, K4BAI, K4TD, W4DD, W4IR, NQ4I, K4ST
EUROPE: Rick Dougherty, NQ4I Trophy. Won by: **HG1S** operated by HA1TJ, HA1DAC, HA1DAI, HA6NF, HA1DAE

CONTEST EXPEDITION

WORLD: C6APR Memorial (PT7ZZ sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **V25Y** operated by RV1CC, RA1AGL

this year, but Gedas successfully defended his title. Cliff, SV1JG/SV8, was close behind in third. Fourth and fifth were almost a tie, with YO3CZW beating RV6LFE by only 220 points—that's 0.01%!

Single-Operator Single Band

Fifteen meters produced the world high score for a single band entry. Once again it was by ZX5J with Sergio, PP5JR, at the helm. Sergio's 4200 contacts and 1369 prefix multipliers helped set a new all-time record. The closest challenger was LP2F operated by Ezequiel, LU1FDU. In the USA, it was Steve, N2IC, operating as WK5T who outpaced Bob, KQ2M, for the top score on 15 meters. 9A1P (Davor, 9A1UN op.) finished well ahead of S53MM for European honors.

On 10 meters, LU1HF was unavailable to claim his sixth consecutive title. This left the door open for Walter, PP5WG, operating from the PP5JR super station and using his contest call PW5G, to grab the top spot. Victor, LU3HS, made a strong second-place effort from LQ5H. The top USA score was made by Colin, KU5B, in Texas, followed by Bob, WN1GIV (aka N4BP) in Florida. It was a very close race in Europe, with Aleksander, S57S, just getting by IR9W (Tommaso, IW0HBY).

Twenty meters offered the most QRM and some of the most interesting competition. The winner was TM77M, operated by Laurent, F5MUX, from the F6KHM club station. Laurent is now the proud owner of the European record. Second place was P33W operated by Harry, RA3AUU. It was Harry's first-ever single band entry. George, UN9LG, activated UP2L for third place. We may have missed John, KK9A, doing his usual P40A thing, but he was still a winner with the top USA score on 20 meters. It was quite an accomplishment to beat 20-meter ace Dan, W7WA, who finished only 40 contacts behind.

If you take away ZX5J and LP2F on 15 meters, the next highest single band score was on 40 meters by YT8A (Dusan, YU1EA op.). After two years of second-place finishes, Dusan finally has his chance to hold a trophy. Alexander, RW4WR, had to deal with the long call-sign of 5B/KC2TIZ for his second-place finish. Akira, JA0JHA, did a very nice job far from the population centers of Europe and North America to finish in third place. Two Canadians battled for fourth place, with Dave, VX3OI, just 200k points ahead of Tom, VX3CX. There was a race for second place in Europe between Remi, LY8O, and TM0T (Gildas, F/TU5KG). In the USA, it was John, KD2RD, with a big lead over Jeff, KU8E.

The closest race of all was on 80 meters, where EI7M (Dan, LY3MM op.), and Emil, E71A, fought for top world and European positions. Their claimed scores were very close and each had very accu-

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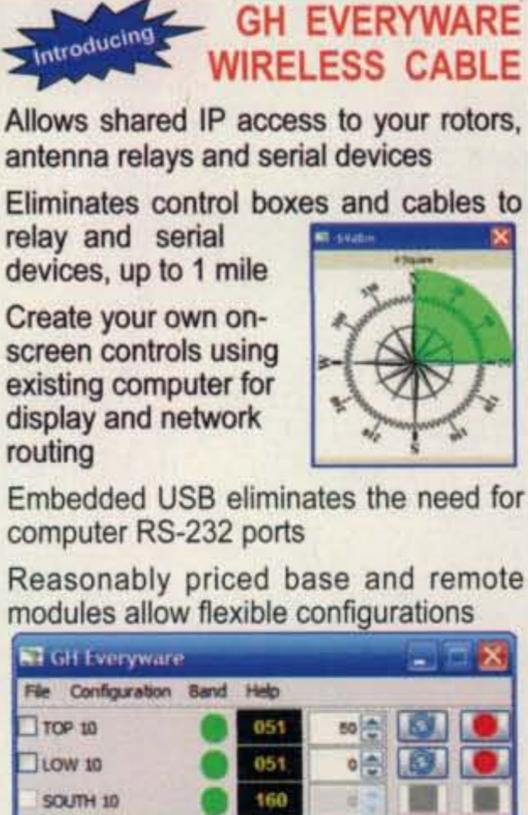
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rate logs. In the end, it was Dan who earned the victory and a new European record. Paris, 5B4XF, used the callsign H2T to finish third. Larry, K1UO, started the contest a few hours late, but finished fourth in the world and first (with a new record) in the USA.

The prior year's 80-meter champion moved down to 160 meters for the 2010 contest. RW2F, operated by Dmitri, UA2FB, made 667 contacts on Top band to win the world. Second place was captured by Fabio, I4FYF.

The top low power single band score was also on 15 meters and made by Peter, 6W2SC. He was followed closely by Seppo, PJ2/OH1VR, and Mauricio, ZV2C. CE2WZ got by HC2AQ for top low power score on 10 meters. VE1ZA battled the 20-meter QRM to break 1-million points. S57DX cruised to the win on 40 meters. S53EA took the 80-meter title ahead of T70A operated by IK7HZR. Low

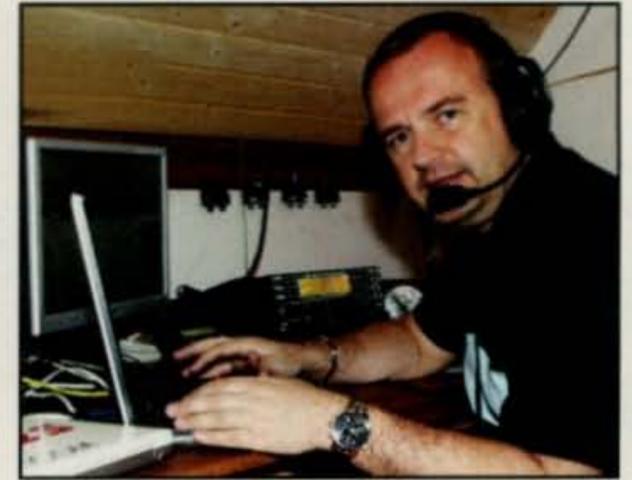
power can work on 160 meters, with E71GJK having the top score.

Single Operator QRP

Randy, ND0C, said it best: "You don't have to be crazy to run QRP ... but it helps!" There was a close three-way race across three continents for top QRP score in the all band category. Ymanol, YV5YMA, used the special call YW2LV to take first, followed by H22H (Spyros, 5B4MF op.) and QRP regular Bill, W8QZA, at TI5N. Each of them made more than 1000 QSOs running 5 watts or less—that's impressive! The top USA QRP score was made by Randy, ND0C, with Julius, N2WN, close behind. There was a close race in Europe with Milan, OK2BYW, just ahead of Dmitry, RX1CQ, and Antonin, OK7CM.

Scott, KP2/NE1RD, operated a suitcase station from the U.S. Virgin Islands to have the highest single band score (15

meters). Other noteworthy QRP efforts include Mario, TG9ADQ, winning 20 meters with 476 contacts in just 10 hours of operation. VR2ZQZ took advantage of his location south of Japan and China to make 295 contacts on 10 meters. The



Helmut, DF7ZS, driving CQ3L to World High in the Single Operator Assisted category.

WORLD TOP SCORES

SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER ALL BAND

CN2R	27,059,084
8P5A (W2SC)	24,245,732
KH7XS	20,461,584
T07A (UT5UGR)	18,065,686
WH7V (KH6ND)	17,096,958

PW5G	4,673,802
LQ5H (LU3HS)	3,180,192
CX4DX	1,528,520

ZX5J (PP5JR)	16,746,977
LP2F (LU1FDU)	10,238,718
6W1SJ (E78A)	7,186,869

TM77M (F5MUX)	8,271,768
P33W (RA3AUU)	8,004,130
UP2L (UN9LG)	6,576,639

YT8A (YU1EA)	8,977,007
5B/KC2TIZ (RW4WR)	6,761,872
JAOJHA	5,204,060

EI7M (LY3MM)	3,527,075
E71A	3,501,450
H2T (5B4XF)	3,067,296

RW2F (UA2FB)	571,130
I4FYF	443,223
9A2EU	264,028

SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER ALL BAND

*P49Y (AE6Y)	13,037,382
*HI3TEJ	8,032,675
*VP50V (W5CW)	6,798,793
*JY5CC	5,322,240
*CN2BC (DL7BC)	4,416,000

*CE2WZ	1,295,442
*HC2AQ	1,145,700
*LU6FOV	988,189

*6W2SC (HA3AU1)	4,377,510
*PJ2/OH1VR	3,684,951
*ZV2C (PY2CX)	3,155,178

*VE1ZA	1,193,486
*NN5Z (K5PX)	802,602
*HI3CC	774,219

*S57DX	2,263,800
*HI3K	1,506,516
*S06V (SP6DVP)	1,279,850

*S53EA	1,146,334
*T70A (IZ7KHR)	921,564
*HK1NK	579,348

*E71GJK	156,720
*DL1ET	82,593
*UT4EK	55,200

YW2LV (YV5YMA)	1,647,512
H22H (5B4MF)	1,525,591
TI5N (W8QZA)	1,467,531
OK2BYW	984,966
RX1CQ	926,144

VR2ZQZ	71,749
PU5ATX	68,295
LU3HFA	17,928

KP2/NE1RD	639,086
JH7RTQ	233,104
I0UZF	167,124

TG9ADQ	254,430
YO8SSB	189,685
YT1CS	76,960

HA6IAM	255,187
S57T	177,840
N1TM	174,270

SP2QOT	151,765
SP80LM	51,491
OM7SM	17,978

DD9WG	1,400
OK1DF	703

CQ3L (DF7ZS)	17,479,764
OE3K (OE3DIA)	13,587,608
UA9PC	13,462,592
ZX2B (PY2MNL)	11,664,450
E73M	9,583,980

LR2F (LU2FA)	3,776,384
S56P	101,516
9A2U (9A3ZA)	90,080

5B4KH	4,092,606
HQ2T (NP3D)	3,390,453
S50G (S57AW)	3,093,912

RZ9HG	6,680,100
E03Q (UR3QCW)	4,942,887
DK2OY	3,960,455

IR1Y (IK1HJS)	5,720,400
EA7LL	5,195,448
YT2AAA	3,524,724

LY5W	1,258,075
G8DYT	1,176,240
KG1E	525,594

S57M	392,958
DF0UM (DL3BQA)	289,332
F6IIT	269,808

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED LOW POWER ALL BAND

*LU5FF	5,415,475
*3V8SS (KF5EYY)	3,895,380
*PY2SEX	3,791,616
*PX2T (PY2DN)	2,542,869
*RN9CM	1,963,521

*PY2OE	1,276,941
*LU7YZ	485,716
*PP5BZ	303,255

*PW2B	3,015,375
*PY2TIM	1,563,704
*BA7IN	628,082

*RV9CP	2,331,758
*K4MDX	849,852
*DM2A (DH2UHF)	777,033

*SN3X	1,579,347
*IT9RWB	576,444
*Y050HO	545,688

*SQ80UM (SQ9UM)	668,964
*S05A (SP5LS)	505,422
*LY4Q	442,860

*SP8LBK	85,932
*DL3KZA	59,285
*AM1Q (EA1QA)	50,184

ST2AR (S53R)	15,353,520
HA8JV	9,125,040
NX0X/4 (N4PN)	8,023,947

W5MX/4	6,147,336
YL0Y (YL2GQT)	4,283,304

WN1GIV/4 (N4BP)	199,789
S56P	101,516
VK3DXI/6 (VK6DXI)	73,502

JN1NDY	1,174,380
UA9FGJ	1,074,964
WZ7ZR (W7ZR)	984,024

JH7XMO	1,343,760
WD5K	1,323,875
W6AEA/7	1,264,200

S51CK	2,259,406
ON6NL	690,986
KU8E/4	686,913

LY5W	1,258,075
EA4KD	993,446
KG1E	525,594

S57M	392,958
DF0UM (DL3BQA)	289,332

TRIBANDER/SINGLE ELEMENT LOW POWER ALL BAND

*LU5FF	5,415,475
*CN2BC (DL7BC)	4,416,000
*LO7H (LU7HW)	3,234,458
*SV8/SV1JG	2,012,680
*VE3DZ	1,974,378

*PP5BZ	303,255
*PU2KLM	140,805
*EA7GV	16,170

*UN4PG	444,705
*RA4WC	319,088
*IZ5CML	269,348

*NN5Z (K5PX)	802,602
*S57U	240,036
*N7FLT	223,852

*KG4W	599,060
*LY11MM (LY2MM)	385,776
*IZ1DGG	188,856

*VE3EDY	49,068
*EA3AKA	35,178

ROOKIE ALL BAND

*JY5CC	5,322,240
KH0UA	3,368,263
E7/S56AA	2,248,248
EA4ETW	1,396,200
*EH2R (EA2A00)	672,204

*WH0/WH7ZJ	270,750
*PU2SDX	161,460
*PU8TEP	70,810

*EE1E (EA1GFP)	490,000
*PY2BRA	437,844
PY5RB	340,676

G2FM (2E0WKZ)	1,146,872
*ES5TF	421,514
*LA8NRA	32,568

IZ4MJP	495,520
*OK1LX	413,848
*S57LR	327,600

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

5D5A	36,669,952
P40V	23,038,064
CQ8X	20,882,307
UP0L	19,925,262
RT4F	17,902,720

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER

HC8GR	52,450,389
ZY7C	40,235,350
CR3A	39,914,050
PJ2T	38,322,900
OL4A	33,393,180

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

EB8AH	62,470,800
DR1A	47,783,944
PY5GA	32,547,588
HG1S	26,977,131
LZ9W	24,780,945

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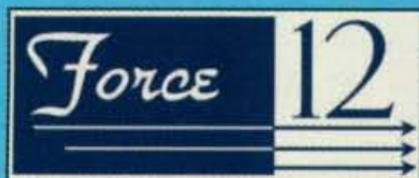
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a new European score record in finishing second. DR1A had more QSOs and multipliers than EB8AH, but couldn't overcome the Africa scoring advantage. PY5GA was a special effort from the station of Oms, PY5EG, to honor the memory of SK Olavo, PY5GA, "and to say one last time a great 'Thank You' for a great friend and ham radio operator."

Final Thoughts

The project to build an online database of all WPX SSB scores for the past 25+ years has been completed and is now available on the WPX Contest website: <www.cqwp.com>. You can search by callsign, category, or geography to see how your score stacks up to past efforts. A number of entrants commented on how this increased their motivation to set a new record for their call area or country.



Nine-year-old Yoshiki, KH0UA, says contesting is more "Cooooool than Nintendo-DS or Pokemon!"

We intend to follow the lead of the CQ WW DX Contest in making logs public on the website.

There are a growing number of entries and a large number of categories in the WPX Contest. Please check the 2011 rules in the February issue and on the CQ WPX and CQ websites for a full explanation of eligibility for awards.

It would be almost impossible to handle the record number of logs without the software development efforts of Ken, K1EA. All paper logs were converted to Cabrillo format by a team of 41 volunteers. Barry, W5GN, did a great job of producing the more than 1700 certificates that

were earned in the 2010 contest. Doug, K1DG, coordinates the plaque sponsors and distribution.

The 2011 WPX SSB Contest will be held on March 26 and 27. Please read the rules carefully. 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>. Keep up with the latest news on the CQ WPX Contest by joining our Facebook Fan page (search for wp).

Let's hope for two days of great conditions in 2011 instead of only one!

73, Randy, K5ZD

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			U.S.A. RECORD HOLDERS		
Single Operator			Single Operator		
1.8	CN2R('07)	1,613,955 399	1.8	K1ZM('95)	327,712 308
3.5	CN2R('06)	11,849,076 894	3.5	K1UO('10)	2,161,782 602
7.0	CN2R('05)	14,724,696 931	7.0	NN5J('09)	2,936,156 692
14	CN2R('08)	15,778,840 1199	14	KQ2M('09)	7,034,082 1082
21	ZD8Z('05)	17,129,112 1196	21	KX8R('00)	7,556,250 930
28	D44AC('02)	15,707,401 1123	28	NY4A('00)	6,006,573 877
AB	CN2R('10)	27,059,084 1373	AB	WY3P('10)	12,504,474 1179
QRP/p	HC8A('94)	7,520,562 714	QRPp	KR2Q('00)	2,688,158 649
Assisted	CQ3L('10)	17,479,764 1206	Assisted	NB1B('01)	7,463,666 1022
Multi-Operator Single Transmitter			Multi-Operator Single Transmitter		
5D5A('10)		36,669,952 1532	K1LZ('09)		16,007,975 1273
Multi-Operator Two Transmitter			Multi-Operator Two Transmitter		
HC8GR('10)		52,450,389 1497	K1LZ('10)		30,393,480 1560
Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter			Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter		
EA8AH('10)		66,077,858 1665	KM3T('00)		29,338,460 1355
CLUB RECORD			QRPp RECORD		
Contest Club Finland('00)		250,320,141	HC8A('94)		7,520,562
			WPX (Prefix) RECORD		
			DR1A('10)		1747

CONTINENTAL RECORD HOLDERS

AFRICA			SOUTH AMERICA		
1.8	CN2R('07)	1,613,955 399	7.0	ZL3A('08)	8,200,800 816
3.5	CN2R('06)	11,849,076 894	14	KH6ND('03)	6,493,727 887
7.0	CN2R('05)	14,724,696 931	21	AH7DX('00)	7,645,990 890
14	CN2R('08)	15,778,840 1199	28	TX0DX('00)	12,049,422 847
21	ZD8Z('05)	17,129,112 1196	AB	KH7SX('10)	20,461,584 1084
28	D44AC('02)	15,707,401 1123			
AB	CN2R('10)	27,059,084 1373			
ASIA			MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER		
1.8	*YM0T('05)	486,846 222	AF	5D5A('10)	36,669,952 1532
3.5	H2T('10)	3,067,296 534	AS	5B/AJ2O('05)	28,966,272 1252
7.0	5B/KC2TIZ('10)	6,761,872 754	EU	CQ8X('10)	20,882,307 1343
14	P33W('10)	8,004,130 1030	NA	VP2EC('92)	24,409,580 1115
21	7L1GVE('92)	6,848,136 838	OC	T33RD('99)	17,778,372 998
28	H22H('00)	9,092,146 931	SA	HC8A('93)	32,502,677 1107
AB	5B4All('09)	17,320,771 1093			
EUROPE			MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER		
1.8	SN3R('07)	835,884 434	AF	AN8A('07)	47,019,528 1444
3.5	EI7M('10)	3,527,075 731	AS	A61AJ('04)	30,157,650 1255
7.0	YT8A('10)	8,977,007 1027	EU	OL4A('10)	33,393,180 1590
14	TM77M('10)	8,271,768 1046	NA	K1LZ('10)	30,393,480 15660
21	CQ1BOP('00)	6,989,997 1029	OC	KH7X('05)	20,910,656 1066
28	GM7V('00)	8,305,756 982	SA	HC8GR('10)	52,450,389 1497
AB	E7DX('10)	16,114,191 1227			
NORTH AMERICA			MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER		
1.8	VA1A('99)	535,225 271	AF	EB8AH('10)	66,077,858 1665
3.5	ZF1A('08)	2,269,344 462	AS	P3A('00)	53,554,592 1456
7.0	T14CF('05)	8,057,479 751	EU	DR1A('10)	47,783,944 1747
14	KP2A('95)	7,088,976 912	NA	WL7E('00)	42,013,215 1395
21	WP3R('98)	10,167,632 986	OC	KH7R('02)	32,806,032 1304
28	KP2A('00)	11,385,710 1046	SA	HC8N('03)	60,703,452 1476
AB	8P5A('10)	24,245,732 1358			
OCEANIA					
1.8	KH6ND('07)	26,432 59			
3.5	WH7Z('03)	1,208,900 308			

(Scores on page 103)

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FM amateur satellites are basically orbiting dual-band repeaters and have been dubbed "EasySats." But finding an HT designed to work them has not been easy—until now.

CQ Reviews:

Alinco DJ-G7T Handheld

A Full-Duplex Tri-Band HT for Working "EasySats"

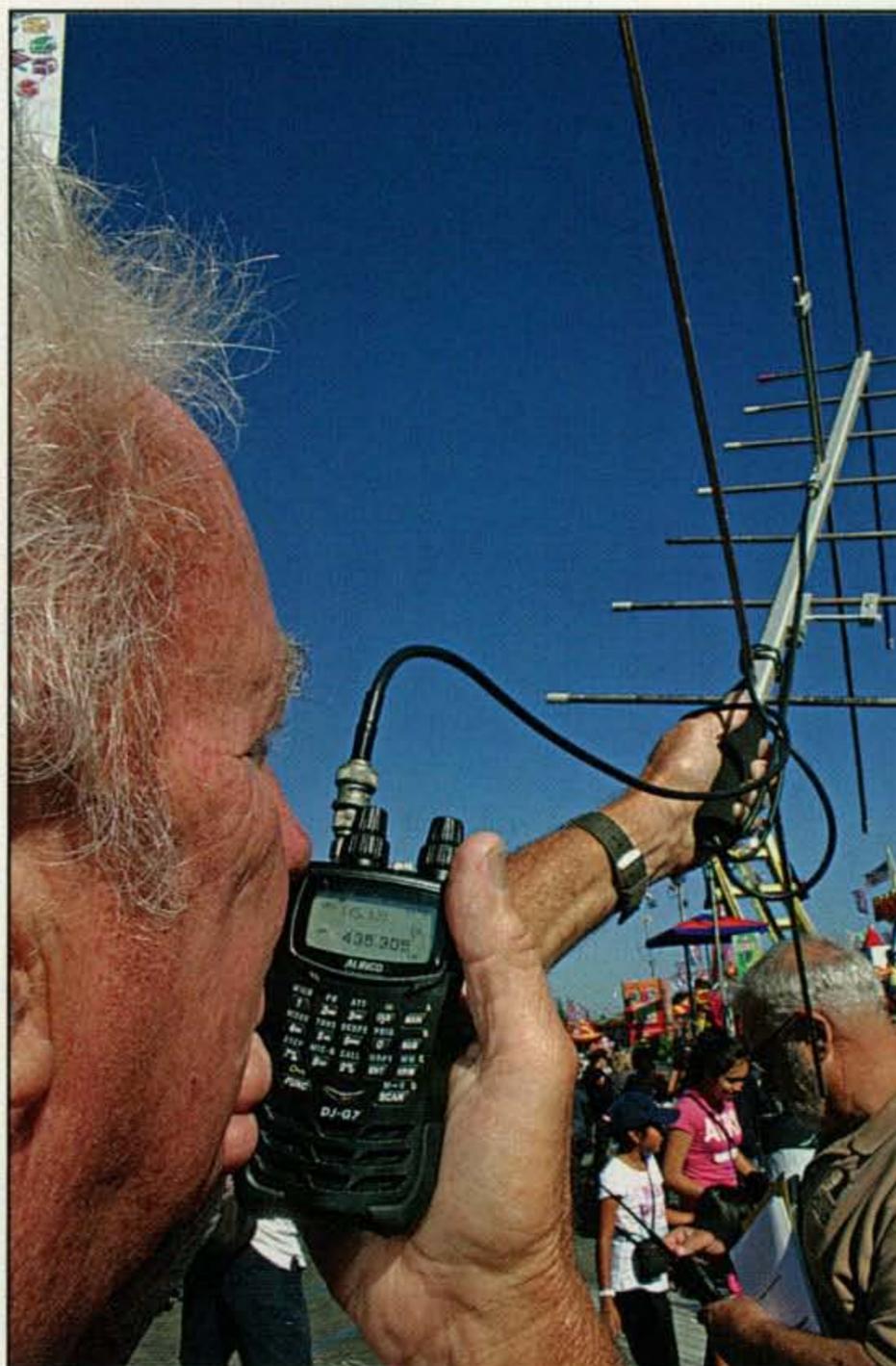
BY GORDON WEST,* WB6NOA

Of the many amateur radio satellites currently in orbit, three of them—AO-27, SO-50, and AO-51—are so-called "EasySats," orbiting FM repeaters with uplinks (where you transmit) on 2 meters and downlinks (where you listen) on 70 centimeters. AMSAT suggests using full-duplex when working these satellites with a handheld, but full-duplex dual-band HTs have been hard to come by. Alinco's DJ-G7T, a *tri-band* handheld, fills that bill. This radio is actually about a-year-and-a-half old, but the company (with a new U.S. distributor) is only now beginning to promote its unique capabilities as a satellite rig.

The DJ-G7T offers full-duplex transmit and receive on 2 meters, 70 cm, and 1270 MHz. (Full-duplex is like a phone call, with simultaneous transmit and receive, generally on different bands; typical ham QSOs are half-duplex, with the receiver muted while the transmitter is on). Transceive on these ham bands takes place on the VFO "A" MAIN band, with automatic repeater offsets as shown in Table I. You can overwrite these automatic offsets, if you wish. Transmissions are the current "wide" normal FM mode, with capabilities to transmit narrow-band FM when the Amateur Radio Service ultimately makes the migration!

Band	Freq. Range	Auto Rptr. Offset
2 m	145.200–145.495 MHz	– .6 MHz
2 m	146.610–146.995 MHz	– .6 MHz
2 m	147.000–147.395 MHz	+ .6 MHz
70 cm	442.000–444.995 MHz	+ 5 MHz
70 cm	447.000–449.995 MHz	– 5 MHz
23 cm	1270.000–1275.995 MHz	+ 12 MHz
23 cm	1282.000–1287.995 MHz	– 12 MHz
23 cm	1291.000–1292.995 MHz	– 20 MHz

Table I—Transmit/receive frequency ranges for the Alinco DJ-G7T handheld shown with default settings for automatic repeater offsets.



Gordo uses the Alinco DJ-G7T full-duplex, tri-band handheld and an Arrow antenna to work the OSCAR-51 FM satellite.

*CQ Contributing Editor, 2414 College Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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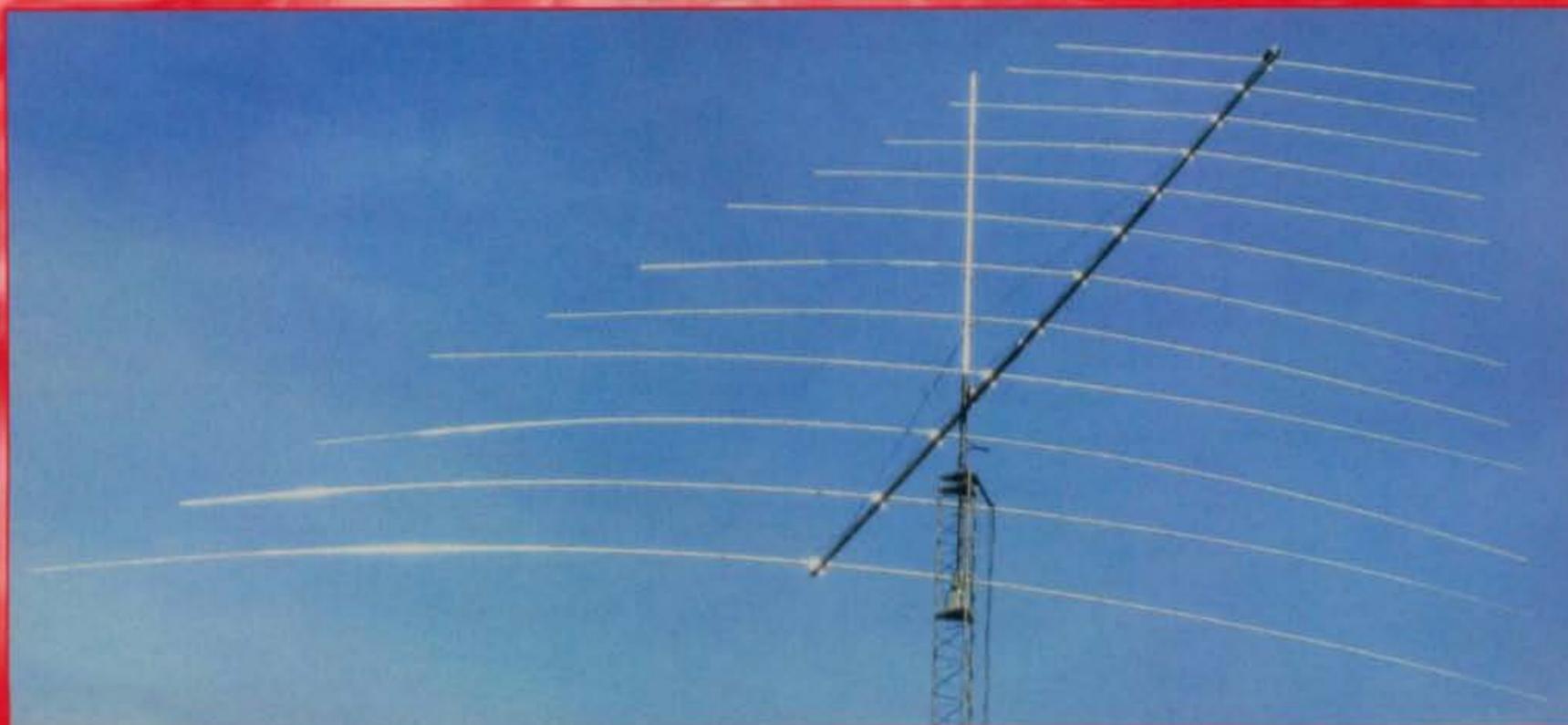
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The 6M-1000 represents the culmination of many years of solid state amplifiers designed by Ken Holladay, K6HCP (KLM, Mirage and RF Concepts). Physical size and weight are the smallest ever for this kW amp. When combined with a lightweight switching power supply at 7-10 lbs, the 6M-1000 is perfect for DXpeditions and field day operations. It will make a great addition to any home station as well. EME and Meteor scatter usage are capable with either CW or the very popular JT6M & JT65A. Full power output of 1 kW for 50 seconds using JT65A should be possible for hours. Two temperature controlled whisper fans cool the finned heat sink and will cycle on and off as needed. If external preamp and relays are used, the amp supplies 12VDC and also sequences a N.O. key line.

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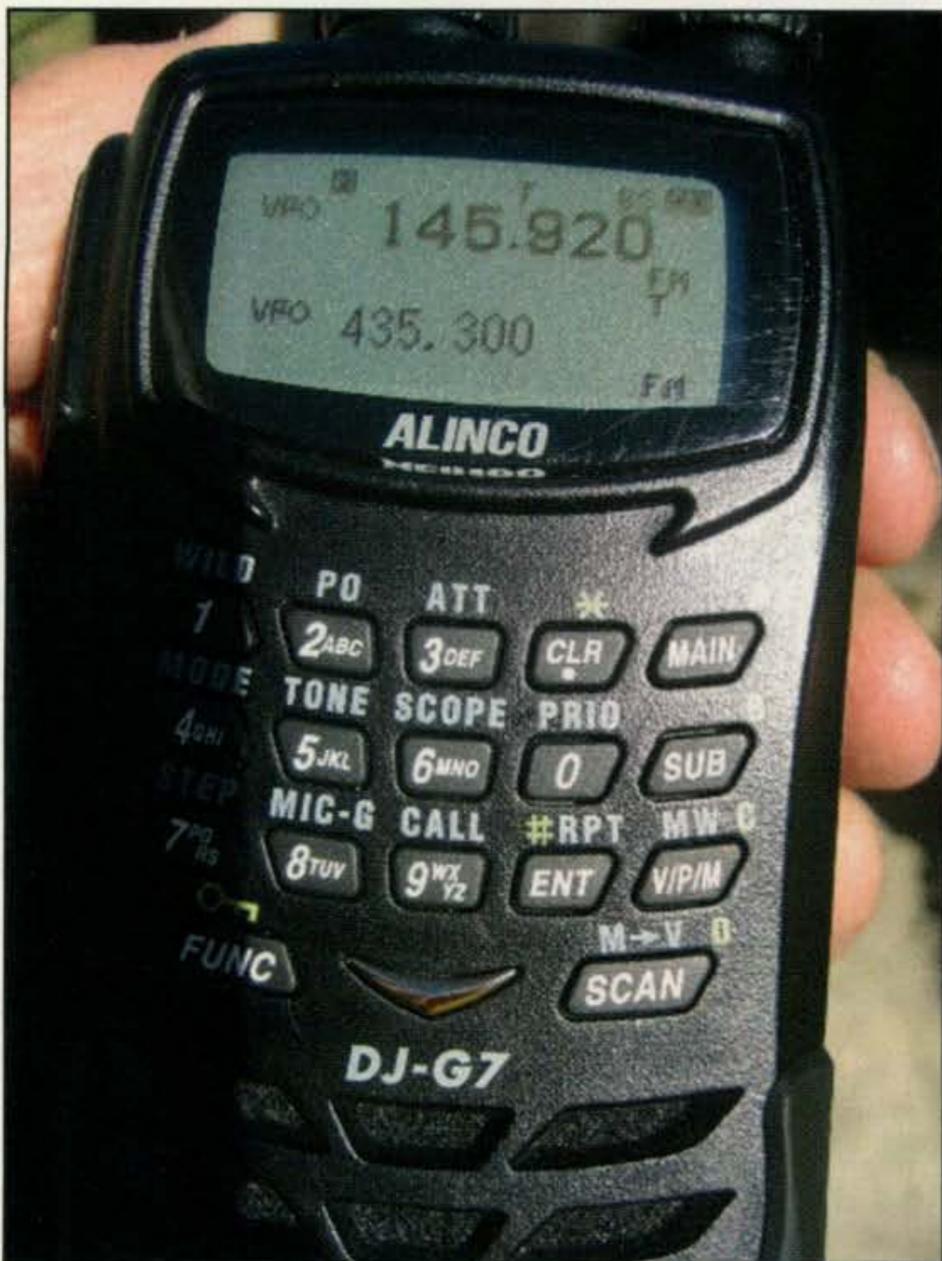
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Freq. Range	Mode	Notes
530-1700 kHz	AM	AM broadcast reception, built-in ferrite bar antenna (with provision to switch to outside antenna)
1700 kHz-29 MHz	AM	Shortwave reception (AM only)
29-50 MHz	Narrow FM	—
50-51 MHz	AM	—
51-60 MHz	Narrow FM	—
60-108 MHz	Wide FM	FM broadcast
108-143 MHz	AM	Aeronautical band
144-178 MHz	Narrow FM	—
180-215 MHz	Wide FM	Old TV
216-430 MHz	AM	—
430-475 MHz	Narrow FM	—
476-806 MHz	Wide FM	Old UHF TV
806-960 MHz	Narrow FM	—
960-1240 MHz	Wide FM	—
1240-1300 MHz	Narrow FM	—

Table II— Receive-only bands on the DJ-G7T. These bands are tunable only on the sub-VFO.

Satellite	Uplink/Downlink Frequency
AO-51	145.920 TX /435.300 RX
SO-50 and AO-27	145.850 TX/436.800 RX

Table III— The main purpose of the Alinco DJ-G7T is to work the FM "EasySats," whose downlinks are on 70 cm.



The DJ-G7T is a compact, yet feature-filled handheld covering 2 meters, 70 cm, and 23 cm (1270 MHz).

Receive-only takes place on the sub-band, VFO "B," as I will call it. The receive bands are shown in Table II. While there is capability to switch reception modes on the sub-band, wide FM assignments above 480 MHz seemed set, likely to receive any holdout analog TV audio.

We also noticed that, for an unknown reason, sub-band reception from 50 MHz to 136 MHz attenuated 2-meter reception on the main VFO by four S-units! If you're trying to tune in a weak repeater, just make sure your sub-band is not showing a frequency between 50 MHz and 136 MHz. Likely, some oscillator sharing takes place in this region. This was not a problem for us, because the main purpose of this tri-band full-duplex transceiver is to work the FM "EasySats" (see Table III), whose downlinks are on 70 cm.

Major Features

There are seven memory banks in the DJ-G7T, with the first bank holding up to 1000 channels! Other bank options include the following:

- Program scan
- Dual frequency memory (great for satellite work)
- Priority bank
- Call channel
- Search pass memory
- Transmitter detecting
- Bug-device detecting

I worked mainly with the bank for dual frequency memory, allowing me to recall the main band and sub-band simultaneously, with up to 100 frequency pairs in memory, ready for any kind of satellite pass!

You could also enter up to 16 characters per channel for memory names, but in our ham classes I encourage the students to identify their memory channels by frequency and keep character names off the display. There's nothing worse than asking a ham to switch over to 146.520, national simplex, but not remembering the name that stands for that particular frequency on the display.

This handheld is also ready for the inevitable narrow-band FM changeover, sometime late in my lifetime. It also offers DCS, channel scope, channel-step changes, priority, cross-band repeat, a gazillion scanning modes, and a set menu that can even let you choose the font size on the display. I tried the bold fonts and wished they had an extra, extra bold for my aging eyes!

The menu even has a bug detector, allowing you to scan and alert to frequencies that may be used by bugging devices. As I recall, Alinco had an earlier radio that boasted an ultrasonic mosquito repeller option, too. Drove my cats nuts!

However, it was the satellite mode that most interested me, and it did reasonably well on strong satellite passes. On the low-elevation passes, I tried several dual-band directional and non-directional antenna systems to minimize an approximate 3-dB drop in satellite receive signal strength I encountered as soon as I began to transmit. After much testing with an external antenna duplexer, the problem persisted, leading me to think that the desensitization was occurring inside the handheld RF stages, rather than within the antenna itself. Although the drop in satellite receive strength was not a huge deal, the low-level passes made my voice sound weak to our receiver, yet the other stations indicated I was coming through loud and clear.

My programming computer gurus are working up hundreds of channels for my enjoyment. They indicate they need to

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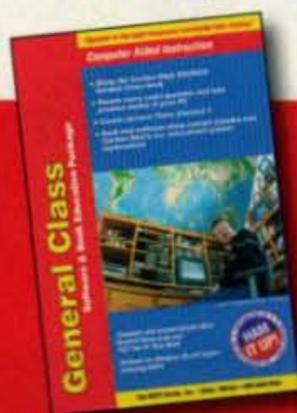
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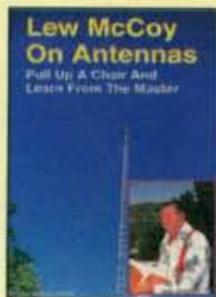


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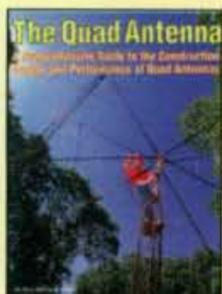


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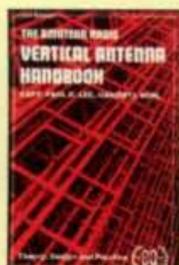


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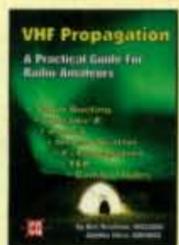


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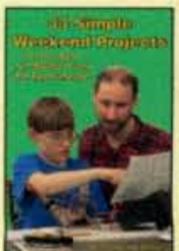


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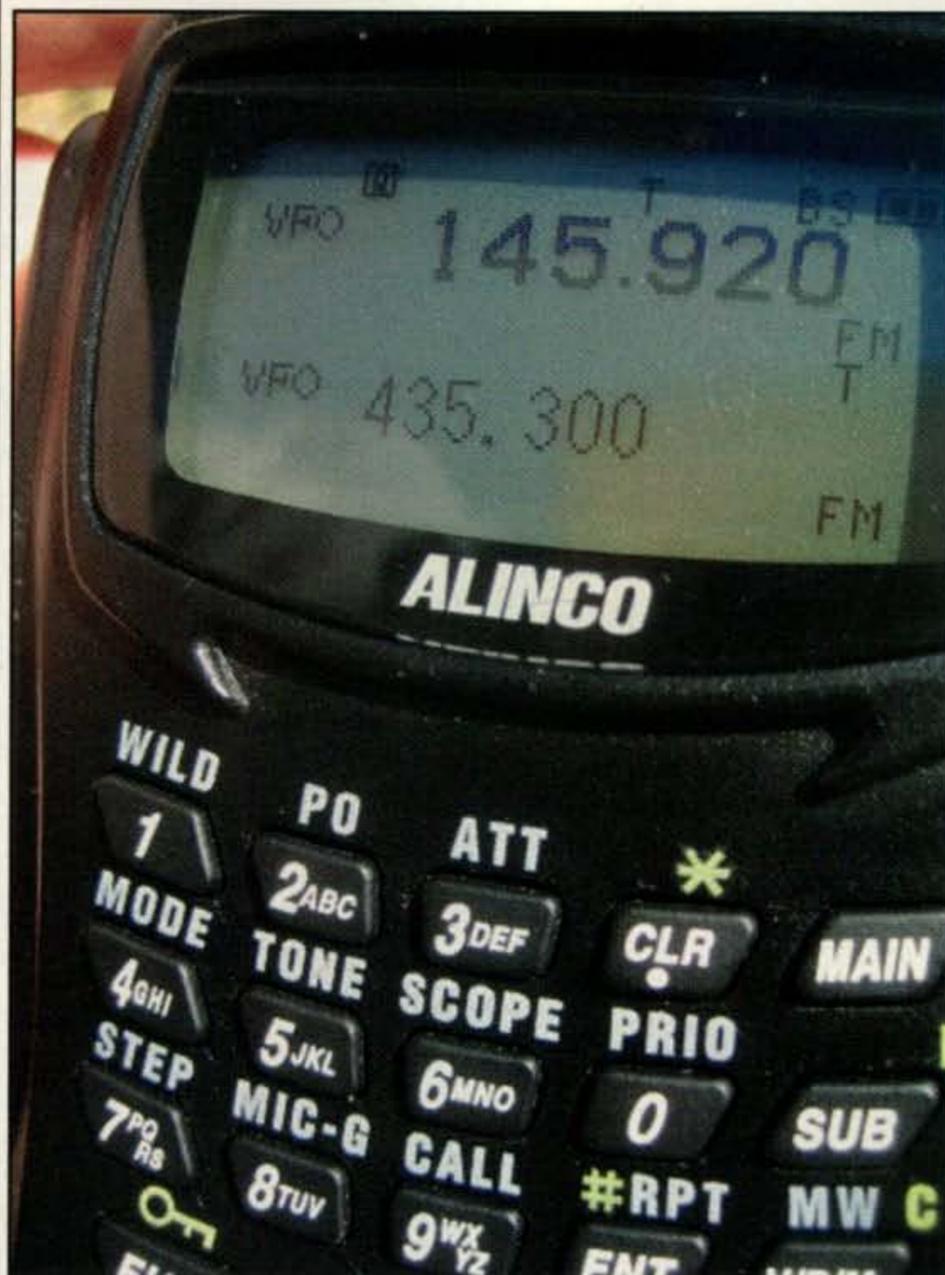
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The LCD display shows the dual-frequency memory set up for making a full-duplex contact on the AO-51 FM satellite.

store them in short loads, rather than all the channels at once. They are continuing to uncover all the neat things that programming software from Alinco can do.

On a nearly overhead SO-50 satellite pass I barely noticed a drop in receiver sensitivity when I started calling through the satellite. Many of the operators hundreds of miles away commented on the clean, crisp audio on my transmit.

Working the EasySats

SO-50 may require a 74.4-Hz CTCSS tone to activate the repeater, if it comes up over your horizon non-activated. SO-50 also needs 67.0-Hz CTCSS for normal "repeater in the sky" operation.

"The (benefit) of operating a full-duplex handheld is hearing your own audio coming back down from the satellite," comments Clint Bradford, K6LCS, an active AMSAT "road show" volunteer who frequents many club meetings and conventions on the west coast, and *always* presents a lively 8-minute contact.

"It has been several years from the good old days of the ICOM 32 AT, and the Yaesu FT-470 with full-duplex ability, so I'm interested in how well the new full-duplex radio will work the FM 'EasySats,'" adds Clint, using an Arrow antenna and a small antenna-mounted amplified speaker for everyone around to hear the other stations coming back to his demo. (An external speaker or headphones is an absolute requirement for full-duplex operation or all you will hear is feedback howl!)

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Since these satellites are in low Earth orbits (LEO), there is no noticeable delay or echo. However, there is Doppler shift. Your transmit frequency on the "A" band, on 2 meters, does not change during a pass. However, you will need to adjust the receive frequency on the Alinco's VFO or memory channels to compensate for Doppler shift. General practice is to begin receiving 10 kHz higher than the posted downlink frequency, and then 5 kHz higher as the satellite gets higher up in the sky approaching you, then on frequency as it passes overhead, and then 5 and 10 kHz lower, respectively, as the satellite moves away from you. This Doppler-shift compensation was easy to accomplish on the DJ-G7T and made a significant difference to keep reception clear.

Pre-setting the FM satellite uplink and downlink frequencies is straightforward *after* you have read the instruction book, and gotten the "feel" of some of the concentric knobs and buttons.

The DJ-G7T offers an incredible 13 optional speaker/microphone arrangements, giving you lots of options on how to work the FM "easy satellites." I also discovered that several Yaesu audio port accessories are compatible with

the Alinco, but the very common, inexpensive, Yaesu speaker/mic *with the earphone/speaker jack on the mic* won't work, because the Yaesu product terminates to a 90-degree bend, and the Alinco handheld can only accept the *straight* screw-in speaker/microphone assembly.

Once I had the correct speaker/microphone setup, I could rig the mic to transmit while picking off external speaker audio to hear my own signal coming back through the satellite. This makes it exciting for classroom demonstrations, with everyone listening to both sides of the conversation coming out of the separated external speaker.

One other benefit to full-duplex operation: If you do emergency work at a shelter with crossband repeaters, the rig's full-duplex capability can give you a positive indication that you are holding up the crossband link, because you can hear your own audio coming through your earphone and see the crossband repeat output S-unit display simultaneously as you are transmitting.

A New U.S. Home for Alinco

GRE America, in Belmont, California, is Alinco's new U.S. distributor. Well-respected ham radio operator and

industry leader Wayne Wilson, WR5S, is its lead marketing man, widely knowledgeable from his many years at Heathkit and RadioShack. Wayne indicates a busy show schedule for Alinco, giving its technical staff a good chance to meet up with hams in the field, and better understand how this equipment is put through its paces.

"I actually owned the Alinco DJ-G7T tri-band handheld before I officially joined Alinco," comments Wayne.

"It was easy getting familiar with the radio—very intuitive. I hardly read the manual. I became quite proficient in making AO-51 contacts," adds Wayne, still able to stay in radio touch with the AMSAT repeaters in the sky.

"And a year later, GRE took over distributorship for Alinco in North America, so when anyone asks me about the DJ-G7T," says Wayne, "I can give them firsthand knowledge because I purchased mine before I started to work for GRE/Alinco!"

Wayne is correct. It doesn't take much manual reading to get proficient in working the FM satellites.

For more information on the DJ-G7T, go to: <<http://www.GREAmerica.com>>. The "street price" for the DJ-G7T is around \$350.

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Announcing:

2011 Nominations Open for the CQ Amateur Radio, DX, and Contest Halls of Fame

Each year CQ recognizes those who have made significant contributions to amateur radio in general, and to DXing and contesting in particular, creating three categories of awards. Nominations are now open and will close on **March 1, 2011 for all three Halls of Fame.**

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 2011 "class" are now open. Members of the 2010 "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.

In order to be consistent with the nomination deadline for the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame, the nomination deadline for the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame has been backed up to **March 1**, effective this year. Nominations received after that date will be considered for future selection. Nominations for the

Amateur Radio Hall of Fame may be made by clubs, organizations, or individuals. State your candidate's name, where to contact him/her if still living, for which category you are nominating him/her, and a brief 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. The official nomination form is on the CQ website <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. 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 will announce this year's selections at the Dayton Hamvention® in May 2011. Please help us recognize these "ham radio heroes" whose contributions have helped shape our hobby, our nation, or our world.

CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame

Nominations for the CQ DX Hall of Fame and the CQ Contest Hall of Fame 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 (DX and contest) 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>.

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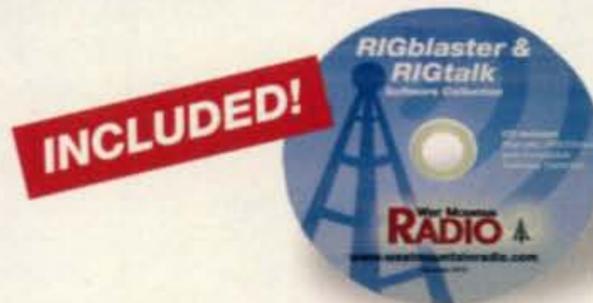
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Announcing:

The 2011 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest RTTY: February 12-13

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) 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) Self-spotting or asking other stations to spot you is not allowed.

(e) QSO alerting assistance is permitted in ALL categories. QSO alerting assistance is the use of any technology or outside method that provides callsign and frequency information regarding any other station to the operator. It includes, but is not limited to, use of DX cluster, packet, local or remote call and frequency decoding technology (e.g., Skimmer), internet chat rooms or websites, operating arrangements involving other individuals.

(f) 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 trans-

mitters and receivers used by the entrant.

(g) 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: All operating and logging functions are performed by one person (the operator). Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time.

(a) **Single Operator High (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed **1500 watts.**

(b) **Single Operator Low (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed **100 watts.**

(c) **Single Operator QRP (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed **5 watts.**

B. Single Operator Overlay Categories: Single Operator entrants may also submit their log for *one* of the categories shown below by adding an additional line in the Cabrillo log file header called CATEGORY-OVERLAY.

(a) **Tribander/Single Element (TB-WIRES):** During the contest an entrant shall use only one (1) tribander (any type, with a single feed line from the transmitter to the antenna) for 10, 15, and 20 meters and single-element antennas on 40 and 80 meters.

(b) **Rookie (ROOKIE):** To enter this category the operator must have been licensed as a radio amateur three (3) years or less on the date of the contest. Indicate the date first licensed in the SOAPBOX field.

C. Multi-Operator Categories (All Band, High power only): More than one person can contribute to the final score during the official contest period. Select category based on number of transmitted signals. **Total output power of each transmitted signal must not exceed 1500 watts.**

(a) Single-Transmitter (MULTI-ONE):

Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time. A maximum of 10 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. Use a single serial number sequence for the entire log.

(b) Two-Transmitter (MULTI-TWO):

A maximum of two transmitted signals at any time on different bands. Either transmitter 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 transmitted signal made each QSO** (column 81 of Cabrillo QSO template for CQ contests). Each transmitted signal may make a maximum of 10 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.

(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.

VI. Exchange: RST report plus a progressive contact serial number starting with 001 for the first contact. Note: Multi-Two 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 one (1) point on

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YAESU FTM-350AR



The Yaesu FTM-350AR dual band mobile transceiver provides a full 50 watts of reliable power on both 2 meters and 440. It has two separate receivers with dual speakers on the rear of the control head. On the left receiver enjoy the AM, FM and stereo FM broadcast bands with extended receive: 0.5-1.7, 76-108, 108-250, 300-1000 MHz (less cellular). The right receiver covers 108-250, 300-1000 MHz (less cellular). There is a total of 1000 channel memories plus 9 DTMF memories. The radio even has stereo line inputs. This radio is APRS® compatible with optional FGPS-1 GPS unit. The front panel is easily remoteable with supplied cable. This latest "A" version adds: GPS standard format NMEA ready, way point data out, new MMB-98 vacuum bracket, APRS® will operate in the background, on single band, additional voice alert function, reallocated keys for easier operation, ability to program direct APRS® onto programmable key on the DTMF microphone.

YAESU VR-5000



The Yaesu VR-5000 provides sophisticated wideband reception. Coverage is from 100 kHz to 2600 MHz (2.6 GHz) less cellular, in AM, FM-N, FM-W, LSB, USB and CW. This radio features a real-time bandscope that can display: 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 2.5, 5.0 or 10.0 MHz of spectrum and you get 2000 alphanumeric memories grouped into 100 banks. Optional aids such as a DSP unit and digital voice recorder are available. Jacks on the back panel include: mute, 13.8 VDC input, external speaker, 10.7 MHz IF output, antenna input A (SO-239 50 ohm) & B (Hi Z 450 ohm), CAT interface jack (4800/9600/57600 bps). The VR-5000 comes with the PA28B 117 VAC adapter and a DC power cord. This radio is only 7.1 x 2.75 x 8 inches 4.2 Lbs.

Please visit www.universal-radio.com for specifications, color photos, accessories and price.

YAESU VX-8DR/GR



The Yaesu VX-8DR HT provides 5 watts FM on 50/144/430 MHz plus 1.5 watts on 222 MHz. It supports Blue Tooth hands-free operation with the optional BU-1 and BH-1A or BH-2A accessories. There is also an optional GPS unit and antenna with loads of features. This radio supports APRS® 1200/9600 bps data communication (B band only) and is WIRES compatible. In fact, this latest "D" version adds these APRS enhancements:

- ✓ Smart Beacons™ Function,
- ✓ Station List memories raised from 40 to 50.
- ✓ APRS® Msg mems raised from 20 to 30.
- ✓ New DIGI-PATH route indication function.
- ✓ Heads up compass display.
- ✓ Msg LED flashing rate is selectable.
- ✓ DIGI-PATH route settings raised to 7.

The VX-8DR is submersible to IPX57 specs. A 7.4 V 1100 mAh Li-Ion battery is included. It supports simultaneous independent 2-signal dual receive function with both V+V or U+U. It has weather alert and a barometric sensor is included. The dot matrix LCD provides memory tags (to 16 characters). You even get a high-resolution spectrum analyzer with ±60 channels indication with wave monitoring of received/modulated signal! DCS and CTCSS encode/decode are standard. 2.36 x 3.74 x 0.92".

The Yaesu VX-8GR HT provides 5 watts FM on 144/430 MHz. Receive is 108-999 MHz in NFM/FM modes. Unlike the VX-8DR, this radio is not BlueTooth capable, does not have the SU-1 built in and is not submersible. It is however APRS capable (B band only) and even has a GPS built-in. Details at www.RFfun.com

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FT-857D



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The Yaesu FT-857D is the world's smallest HF/VHF/UHF multimode amateur transceiver covering 160 m to 70 cm with 100 watts on HF. Now with 60 meters and DSP2 built-in.

FT-897D



The Yaesu FT-897D is a multi-mode high-power base/mobile transceiver covering 160 m to 70 cm including 60 meters. Now with TCXO.

FT-817ND



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The Yaesu FT-817ND is an improved, deluxe version of the hugely popular FT-817. It includes 60 meter coverage plus the new high capacity FNB-85 battery. This radio has an excellent shortwave receiver built-in and is a fully self-contained, battery-powered, low power amateur MF/HF/VHF/UHF QRP transceiver.

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28, 21, and 14 MHz and two (2) points on 7 and 3.5 MHz.

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, LY1000, 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: A station may be worked once on each band for QSO point credit. Prefix credit may be taken only once.

(a) Single Operator:

(i) All-Band score is total contact points from all bands multiplied by the number of different prefixes worked.

(ii) Single-Band score is total contact points on the band entered multiplied by the number of different prefixes worked on that band only.

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

X. Awards: Only logs submitted in electronic format are eligible for awards. A single-band log will be eligible for a single-band award only.

(a) Plaques are awarded to recognize top performance in a number of categories. View the current list of plaques and sponsors at <<http://www.cqwprrty.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.

(b) Certificates will be awarded to the highest scoring station in each category listed under Section V . . .

(i) In every participating country.

(ii) In each call area of the United States, Canada, Australia, Russia, Spain, and Japan.

(iii) At the discretion of the contest director second- and third-place awards may be made.

XI. Club Competition: A plaque will be awarded each year to the club that has the highest aggregate score from logs submitted by its members. To be listed in the results, a minimum of three logs must be received from a club.

(a) The club must be a local group and not a national organization (e.g., ARRL or DARC).

(b) Participation is limited to members residing in or operating from a local geographic area defined as within a 275-km radius circle from center of club area (exception: DXpeditions specially organized for operation in the contest and manned by members).

(c) Single-operator entries can only contribute to one club. Multi-operator scores are allocated as indicated with the entry. Please spell out the full club name in your entry.

XII. Instructions for Submission of Logs: 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.

(a) The log MUST show the following for each contact: Correct time in GMT, frequency (or band), call, serial number sent, and serial number received. A log without all required information may be reclassified to checklog.

(b) Single band entrants are required to include all contacts made during the contest period, even if on other bands. Only contacts made on the band specified in the Cabrillo header or summary sheet will be considered for scoring purposes.

(c) The CABRILLO file format is the standard for logs. For detailed instructions on filling out the CABRILLO file header, see the WPX RTTY Contest website <[cqwprrty.com](http://www.cqwprrty.com)>. Failure to fill out the header correctly may result in your entry being placed in the wrong category or reclassified as a checklog. Note: U.S. stations must indicate the location of where you operated from in the CABRILLO header (e.g., LOCATION: OH).

(d) E-mail is the expected method of log submission. Logs in CABRILLO format should be sent to <cqwprrty.com>. Include only your callsign in the "Subject:" line of your e-mail. 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 at <www.cqwprrty.com>.

(e) Instructions for NON-CABRILLO electronic logs: If you are not able to submit a CABRILLO format log, please contact the Contest Director for assistance with submitting another format.

(f) Instructions for paper logs: Paper logs may be mailed to CQ WPX RTTY Contest, P.O. Box 1877, Los Gatos, CA 95031-1877 USA. 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 RTTY on your envelope.

XIII. Rule Violations: Violation of amateur radio regulations or the rules of the contest; unsportsmanlike conduct; taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or multipliers; use of any non-amateur means of communication to SOLICIT, ARRANGE, or CONFIRM any contacts during or after the contest will be deemed sufficient cause for disqualification.

An entrant whose log is deemed by the Contest Committee to contain rule violations may be issued a Yellow or Red card depending on the seriousness of the infraction. If the entry is in a multi-operator category, all listed operators are so affected.

YELLOW card: Any entrant or operator issued a yellow card is not eligible for an award and will be listed at the end of the published results.

RED card: Any entrant or operator issued a red card is not eligible for an award, will be listed at the end of the published results, and will be ineligible for any CQ-sponsored contest award for a period of one year beginning with the publication of the violation in CQ magazine.

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, (2) you have operated according to all rules and regulations of your country that pertain to amateur radio, (3) your log entry may be made open to the public, and (4) all actions and decisions of the WPX RTTY Contest Committee are official and final.

XVI. Deadline: All entries must be postmarked NO LATER than March 1, 2011. All logs, including e-mail entries, are subject to the deadline. Logs postmarked after the deadline may be ineligible for any awards.

E-mail logs to <rtty@cqwprrty.com> and review the response e-mail from the robot. Make any corrections and resubmit the log.

Questions pertaining to the CQ WPX RTTY Contest may be e-mailed to the Contest Director, Ed Muns, W0YK, at <w0yk@cqwprrty.com>.

MFJ 160-6 Meter Antenna

Self-supporting 43 foot vertical -- no guy wires required . . . 1500 Watts . . . exceptional performance . . . low-profile . . . includes base mount and legal limit balun . . . assembles in an hour . . .

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Operate all bands 160 through 6 Meters at full 1500 Watt with this self-supporting, 43 feet high performance vertical! It assembles in less than an hour and its low-profile blends in with the sky and trees -- you can barely see it from across the street.

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With an automatic antenna tuner there's no fuss -- just talk!

A wide-range automatic or manual antenna tuner at your rig easily matches this antenna for all bands 160-6 Meters. There's no physical tuning adjustments on the antenna -- you simply put it up!

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Fully self-supporting, Extremely low wind loading, Very low visibility . . .

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Weighs just 20 pounds -- you can easily put it up by yourself because its corrosion resistant 6063 aircraft aluminum tubing and stainless steel construction make it light and super-strong.

Assembles in an hour

You can easily assemble it in an hour! Ground mounting lets you com-

pletely hide its antenna base in shrubbery. Includes ATB-65 high-strength antenna mount. Requires ground system -- at least one radial. More extensive ground system will give much better performance.

Great for Stealth Operation in antenna restricted areas

This very low-profile antenna is perfect for stealth operation in antenna restricted areas. Hide it behind trees, fences, buildings, bushes. Use it as a flagpole. Telescope it down during the day. Put it up at night and take it down in the morning before the neighbors even notice!

Quick and easy installation makes it great for DXpeditions, field day and other portable and temporary operations.



MFJ-2990 includes this base mount and legal limit balun!!!

MFJ Automatic Tuners



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\$699⁹⁵

For legal limit 1500 Watt SSB/CW amplifiers. Auto-ranging LCD and Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, antenna switch, amp bypass, matches 12-1600 Ohms, 1.8-30 MHz.



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Dual power range -- 300 Watt range matches 6-1600 Ohms. 150 Watt/6-3200 Ohms. Auto-ranging LCD and Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, antenna switch, 1.8-30 MHz.

MFJ Manual Tuners



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1500 Watts SSB/CW, 1.8-30 MHz. Active peak-reading

Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, balun, dummy load, antenna switch, aircore roller inductor.



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Window Feedthru

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What You've Told Us...

Our August survey asked about your participation in CQ-sponsored contests and about our results reporting. Nearly 7 in 10 readers responding to the survey operate in CQ contests either regularly (30%) or occasionally (39%), even though only 46% of you identify yourselves as contesters in our demographic questions. Among those who do, nearly half (49%) say a major motivation for operating is fun and camaraderie, followed by building up DX totals (46%), competing with your own past performances (27%), competing with other hams (14%), and other (2%). Also among those who operate in CQ contests, the majority (57%) submit logs at least sometimes (30% always; 27% sometimes), while 41% say they do not send in logs even though they participate.

Nearly three quarters of the hams responding (72%) read the contest results published in CQ, with 36% always reading them, 33% sometimes and 3% only if they have submitted a log. Just more than one-third of you read the expanded results on our website, and among those, 68% read them sometimes, 14% always and 12% only if you've submitted a log. Among those who read the contest results, 33% say the main contest article is most important to them, followed by all segments (31%), line scores (16%), their own score (13%), top scores boxes (11%), participant comments (10%) and the trophies box (0%, 1 reply).

This month's free subscription winner is Pete Crasher, W9DRB, of Chrisney, Indiana.

Reader Survey January 2011

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

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

Since many respondents to last August's survey on contesting said their main motivation in contest operating was to build up their DX totals, we thought we'd ask some questions this month about operating awards and you.

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

1. Which statement most closely describes how you feel about amateur radio operating awards?

- I actively chase awards1
- I track award progress but do not actively pursue them2
- I used to chase awards but do not anymore3
- I have no interest in operating awards4

2. How familiar are you with the various operating awards offered by CQ (CQ DX Award, CQ DX Field Award, USA Counties Award, Worked All Zones, WPX)?

- Very familiar with all5
- Familiar with some but not all6
- Know only a little bit about each7
- Don't know anything about any of them8

3. Do you hold at least the basic level of any of these awards? Please circle the number of all that apply.

- CQ DX Award9
- CQ DX Field Award10
- DX Century Club (DXCC)11
- Islands on the Air (IOTA)12
- USA Counties Award (USA-CA)13
- VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC)14
- Worked All Continents (WAC)15
- Worked All States (WAS)16
- Worked All Zones (WAZ)17
- WPX Award18

4. What is your typical course of action after qualifying for a new award or a new level of an award?

- Apply immediately for the award/upgrade19
- Apply for the award/upgrade when I have time to deal with the paperwork...20
- I often don't apply at all; the accomplishment is more important to me than the "wallpaper"21

5. What sources do you use to exchange confirmations of on-air contacts (circle all that apply)?

- eQSL.cc22
- Logbook of the World (LoTW)23
- Printed QSL cards24
- QRZ.com logbook25
- None26

6. How good a job does CQ do of promoting its award programs?

- Excellent27
- Good28
- Needs improvement29
- No opinion30

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

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Easily handles 1500 Watts continuous carrier even on 160 Meters . . . High-current edge-wound silver plated Roller Inductor . . . Two 500 pf high capacitance tuning capacitors with 6:1 vernier reduction drives . . . 3 core choke balun . . . Six position antenna switch . . . True peak reading Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter . . .

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\$599⁹⁵

Suggested Retail

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AMERITRON's ATR-30 True Legal Limit™ roller inductor antenna tuner is ham radio's toughest! It'll handle 1500 Watts continuous carrier output on all modes and all HF bands into most antennas -- even on 160 Meters where most antenna tuners fail.

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You'll see Ameritron's new super high current air core roller inductor. It's edge wound from a thick solid copper strip and silver plated. This produces a large surface area and a massive conductor. It can carry huge circulating RF currents and withstand

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A 6 position antenna switch lets you select your desired operating antenna.

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AL-1500F

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Imported tube
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AL-1200
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Suggested Retail
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Desktop Kilowatt with classic 3-500G tube



AL-80B, \$1495. Gives you full kilowatt SSB PEP output (85 Watts in) from a whisper quiet compact desk-top linear. 14Wx8 1/2 Hx 15 1/2 D inches. Plugs into 120 VAC outlet. Graphite plate genuine 3-500G tube. Nearly 70% efficiency. Weighs 48 lbs.

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Gordo uncovers a common problem with Anderson Powerpole® connectors, and finds a product that solves it!

Bonded Anderson Powerpoles®

Keeping Your Contacts in Contact

BY GORDON WEST, * WB6NOA

One of my well-seasoned students dropped by with a mobile transceiver mystery. On receive the 40-watt dual-band mobile worked great, but on transmit the radio growled through its mobile speaker, with the display intermittently dimming. On low power, the problem was not as bad, but on high power, it was easy to see the brown-out conditions.

First check was of the wiring directly to the 12-volt battery. I expected to see a corroded battery connection, but it was squeaky clean! I carefully inspected the wiring run, including a great job of getting the wiring through the firewall, and everything looked shipshape.

The next step was the bench check. I unplugged the ARES®-ready radio system from his multi-Anderson Powerpole® outlet and took the equipment to the test bench. When connected to my 12-volt Andersons, there was absolutely no problem of low voltage.

Then it was back to the vehicle, with a close inspection of the 12-volt DC supply output Anderson Powerpoles. I found the problem!

The red and black pair of Andersons was not perfectly aligned, and the red battery-positive Anderson Powerpole was recessed so slightly that a quick glance would miss the misalignment (see photo). The red Powerpole had slid back just enough to create an intermittent connection on high-power transmit and the radio would cut out. Sound familiar, Powerpole users?

As soon as I aligned the red and black Andersons, the problem was solved.

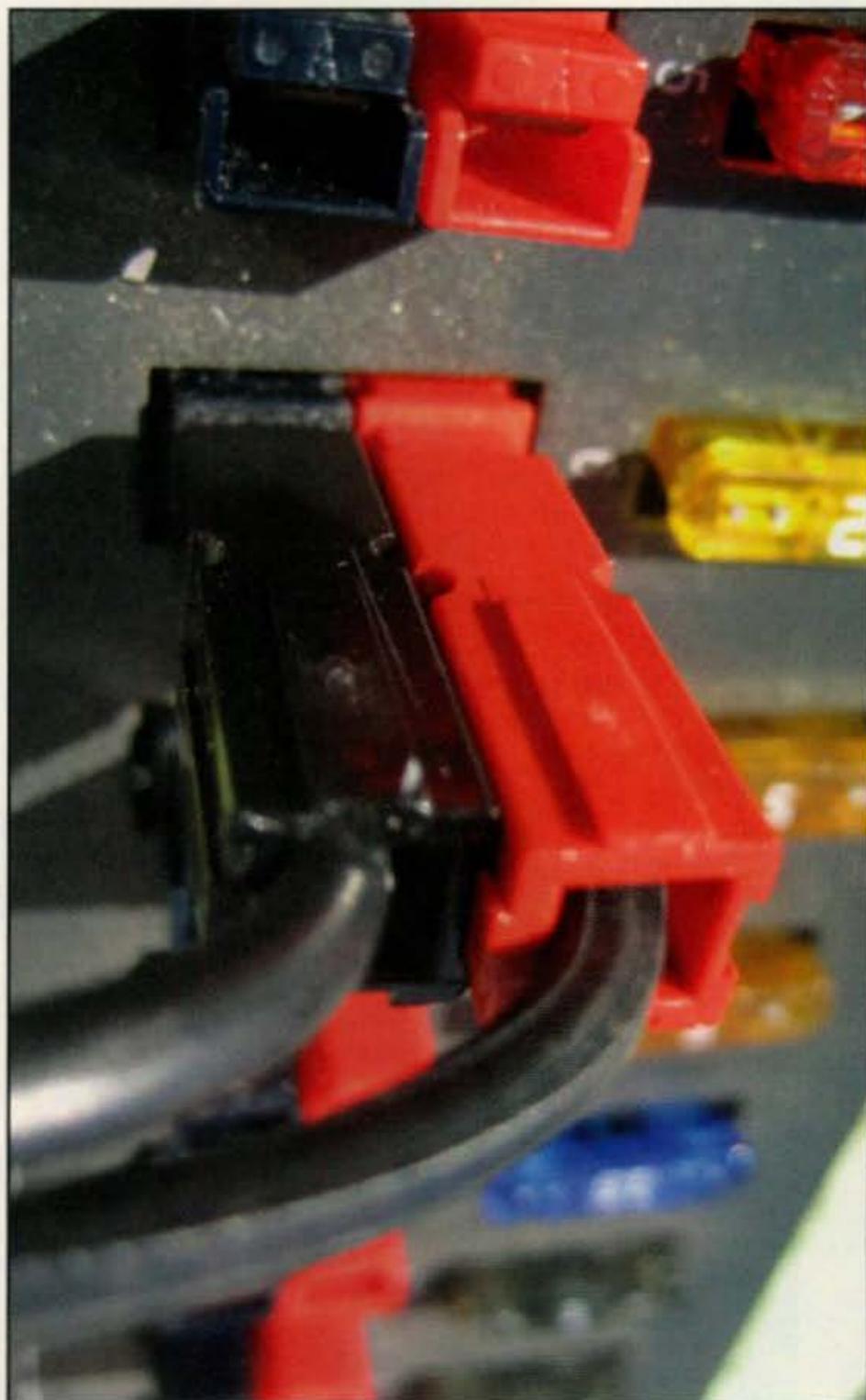
How many times have we had red and black paired Andersons wiggle out of perfect alignment? Sure, the little black pin initially may achieve perfect alignment, but sometimes that pin drops out, or sometimes the pin is not included with the connectors and just pressure alone, on red and black Andersons, may alter alignment.

Problem Solved!

PowerWerx now offers permanently bonded red/black Anderson Powerpole sets. "Our bonded PowerPole sets are ultrasonically welded to guarantee correct configuration and the elimination of the need of that roll pin to keep them perfectly aligned," was the comment from PowerWerx. I can put away my hot-glue gun!

Just remember to keep **Red on the Right** when viewed from the **Rear (RRR)**, and you are set to go!

The PowerWerx bonded connectors start at \$11.99 for a set of 10. See <<http://www.powerwerx.com>>.



A typical pair of Anderson Powerpole® connectors. However, note that the positive (red) plug is slightly out of alignment, enough to cause problems at high current levels.

*CQ Contributing Editor, 2414 College Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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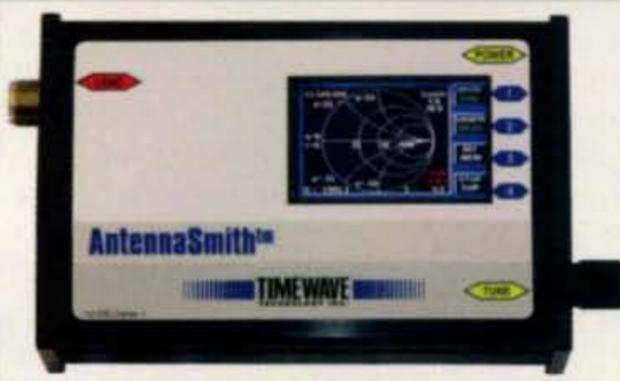


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FCC Adopts New Vanity and Club Call Sign Rules

The Federal Communications Commission released a 20-page Report and Order (R&O) on November 8, 2010, entitled "Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules Governing Vanity and Club Station Call Signs." A vanity call sign is a specific available station call sign selected by the licensee.

The R&O, which makes both major and minor changes to the vanity and club call sign programs, finalized a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (WT Docket 09-209) issued a year ago.

The primary objective of the NPRM was to amend and clarify the vanity call sign application and assignment procedures and to make them more fair, equitable, and transparent to individual radio amateurs and clubs wishing to change their station call signs.

The NPRM made recommendations on and asked for comments on:

- A proposal to make the knowledge and availability of call signs issued to deceased hams more readily available to the general amateur community.
- A redefinition of the term "close relative."
- Incorporating into the Part 97 rules certain longstanding vanity call sign policies.
- Limiting club stations to holding only one license grant and one station call sign.
- New club station trustee requirements, including allowing Novice Class licensees to serve as trustees.
- The FCC also invited additional proposals for other amendments to the rules applying to the vanity call sign system and club station licensing.

License Cancellation Procedure

The station call sign of a deceased radio amateur remains active in the FCC's amateur service database and unavailable for reassignment to another station until the FCC staff learns of the licensee's death and cancels the license.

When the FCC receives proper documentation of an amateur radio operator's death, the license is canceled as of the *date of death*. Acceptable documentation includes a copy of the death certificate, an obituary, or data from the Social Security Death Index. The SSDI is a database of death records created from the Social Security Administration's Death Master File.

The FCC proposed in the NPRM to codify these longstanding cancellation procedures in the rules. A new Section §97.31 specifying the documentation needed to cancel a deceased amateur's license has now been added to Part 97.

Availability of a Deceased Licensee's Call Sign

Section §97.19(c)(3) provides that an expired or canceled call sign is routinely available for reas-

signment under the vanity call sign system two years plus one day after expiration or cancellation whichever is sooner.

The FCC proposed in the NPRM to provide that, for purposes of the availability of a deceased licensee's call sign, the cancellation of a license more than two years after the licensee's death (or within thirty days before the second anniversary of the licensee's death) should not take effect until thirty days after the licensing database is updated by the FCC staff.

This thirty-day waiting period is intended to prevent a person from submitting a cancellation request and then immediately filing an application for the deceased's call sign before other licensees know that the call sign is about to become available for reassignment.

The FCC believes it is more equitable to provide a waiting period after the cancellation request is processed so that other interested licensees have an opportunity to apply for the call sign. Not all commenters agreed with the FCC proposal.

The FCC said it believed that establishing a thirty-day waiting period is warranted and disagreed with those who argued that the waiting period would eliminate the incentive to conduct the necessary research to inform the Commission that a licensee had passed away. The ARRL agreed with the FCC, saying that the waiting period "...creates a fair and transparent system for call sign assignment."

"Other licensees should have an opportunity to learn of the availability of a desirable call sign and the opportunity to apply for the call sign when we cancel a license," the FCC said. "Potential applicants already have this opportunity with respect to call signs associated with expired or surrendered licenses, because the relevant information is publicly available in our licensing database."

"We conclude, based on the above, that the call sign shown on a license that is canceled due to the death of a licensee more than two years earlier, or within thirty days before the second anniversary of the licensee's death, should remain unavailable to the vanity call sign system for thirty days following the date the staff takes action to cancel the license." Section §97.19 of the rules was amended accordingly.

Exceptions to the Two-Year Waiting Period

There are certain instances in which a licensee is exempt from the general rule that a call sign shown on an expired, surrendered, revoked, set aside, canceled, or voided license is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years. These exceptions allow certain licensees to apply for a call sign ahead of others. The policies appear on the FCC's amateur service website but have never been stated in the Part 97 Rules.

These exceptions apply to former holders of a call sign, close relatives of a deceased former hold-

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

er of a call sign, and club stations requesting the call sign of a deceased member when the club station trustee has the written consent of a close relative of the deceased.

The Commission had previously defined "close relatives" to include, among others, an "in-law" of the deceased former holder, but did not specifically define which in-laws were eligible under this exception. The FCC has amended Section §97.3(a)(27) to define the term "in-law" to include only a parent, stepparent, or sibling of a licensee's spouse; and the spouse of a licensee's sibling, child, or stepchild, or of a licensee's spouse's sibling. (A sibling is an individual having one or both parents in common—a brother or sister.)

The FCC said these exceptions have been in effect since 1996 and are supported by the amateur service community. New Section §97.19(c)(3)(i),(ii) and (iii) has been added to Part 97 to state them in the rules.

Ineligible Applicants

When a vanity call sign application is granted, the call sign currently assigned to the licensee's station is surrendered, and is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years plus one day. Three different exceptions apply:

There have been several instances where an applicant obtains a call sign by erroneously or fraudulently indicating that he or she is eligible under an exception to the two-year waiting period. Then, after a question is raised regarding the applicant's eligibility, he/she applies for and is assigned another call sign. Under the previous rules, the improperly obtained call sign would not be available to the vanity call sign system for another two years.

This additional delay is unfair to prospective applicants who expected the call sign to become assignable at the end of the original two-year waiting period. The FCC's policy has been, "Where a vanity call sign for which the most recent recipient was ineligible is surrendered, cancelled, revoked, or voided, the two-year requirement does not apply."

This policy, however, has never been implemented or stated in the rules. New Section 97.19(c)(2)(i) has now been added to provide that a new two-year period does not begin when the most recent recipient acknowledges, or the Commission determines, that the recipient was not eligible to be assigned the call sign.

The improperly issued call sign will, however, not be available to the vanity

ARRL June VHF Contest New 6M Score Record for Team W5ZN!



W5ZN at his 6M station. Congratulations on a job well done, Team W5ZN.

"The IC-7700's proven contest lineage enabled Team W5ZN to achieve a new record of grids worked in the Limited Multi-op category in the 2010 ARRL June VHF Contest, achieving the highest 6 meter score in the category.

Most HF equipment manufacturers build their radios and add 6 meters simply as a novelty add-on, relying on preamplifiers and filtering designed for HF. Icom chose to take the initiative to engineer and implement components specifically for 50MHz in the IC-7700 making it a clear choice for HF and VHF operators alike."

— Joel Harrison, W5ZN



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call sign system for thirty days after information regarding the acknowledgment or determination of ineligibility is posted to the license data in the Commission's licensing system.

Club Station Trustees

A club, for purposes of obtaining an amateur service club station license, is defined by the FCC as a group of at least four persons that has a name, a document of organization, management, and a primary purpose devoted to amateur service activities consistent with Part §97.5(b)(2).

The club station license is granted to the person who is designated by an officer of the club to be the license trustee. At present, the trustee must be a person who holds an Amateur Extra, Advanced, General or Technician Class operator license.

Applications for new or modified club station licenses must be presented to a Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA), which then submits the information to the Commission. Currently, an application to modify a club station license to change the trustee can be submitted to the CSCSA without the knowledge or support of club officers or the current trustee.

Protests of improperly changing a club's trustee sometimes bring the dispute before the Commission to sort out the identity of a club's legitimate trustee. The FCC proposed in the NPRM an amendment to Section §95.21(b)(1) in order to avoid FCC involvement in internal club disputes, and to ensure that an application changing the trustee reflects the club's intent.

Applications requesting a change in a club's trustee must now include documentation signed by an officer of the club when the application is submitted to the CSCSA. This will "prevent a departing trustee from making off with the club license and call sign, or refusing to agree to a change in trustee" and "address instances in which a trustee becomes incapacitated."

Section §97.21(a)(1) has also been amended to provide that other applications on behalf of the club may only be submitted to the CSCSA by the trustee listed in the FCC's licensing database. Amended Section §97.5(b)(2) now permits all licensees, including the Novice Class, to serve as club station trustees.

Limits on Club Station Licenses

Individual amateur radio operators may only hold one operator/primary station

license grant and one station call sign. The FCC noted that club stations frequently have legitimate reasons for using multiple call signs. Thus, there is no similar limit on how many license grants or call signs a club may hold, or on the number of clubs for which a licensee may serve as trustee.

The downside to this policy is that it allows club station trustees to control multiple call signs, frequently reducing the pool of preferential vanity call signs available to individuals and other club stations.

The FCC initially proposed to limit club stations to one call sign, but not to limit the number of clubs for which a licensee may serve as trustee. Clubs currently holding more than one call sign would be permitted to renew or modify their existing station license grants, but would not be able to obtain any more call signs. The Commission has now concluded that its proposal in the NPRM was "both too broad and too narrow."

It has now decided to limit club stations to only one vanity call sign but with no limit on the number of sequentially assigned call signs. This will prevent club stations from obtaining an unfair share of desirable call signs. Club stations currently holding more than one vanity call sign may renew or modify their existing station license grants, but will not be able to obtain any additional vanity call signs.

The FCC acknowledged that some amateur radio operations do require more than one call sign. However, this need can also be addressed by appending self-assigned identifiers to the licensee's call sign to create multiple unique call signs.

A number of commenters argued that clubs with multiple call signs should be required to give up all but one. The FCC believes that requiring clubs to surrender call signs that they obtained properly under the rules at the time they were assigned would be inappropriate.

The Commission was persuaded by the comments to reconsider the question of whether to limit the number of clubs for which a licensee may serve as trustee. The commenters argued that limiting the number of vanity call signs that a club can obtain will accomplish nothing if an individual can bypass the rule simply by creating multiple clubs.

"There is little difference between one club with a dozen station call signs and a dozen 'ghost' clubs with the same or different trustees formed by the same management each with a different preferential call sign."

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ing the intent of the rule change, an individual may now be trustee for only one club station. Individuals who currently serve as trustee for more than one club may continue to serve as trustee of those clubs, but may not be designated the trustee of any additional clubs.

Available Call Signs

Only call signs that are available in the sequential call sign system may be requested as vanity call signs. Approximately 15-million of these call signs are presently available. The ARRL asked that certain additional call signs available to, but not currently used by, the sequential call sign system be made available to the vanity call sign system, arguing that this would permit the assignment of additional desirable call signs.

Specifically, the League wanted to expand the pool of available Group A call signs. Group A call signs are call signs that start with the letter(s) K, N, W, or AA-AL, followed by a numeral and one or two letters. These call signs are generally available only to Amateur Extra Class licensees. There are approximately 43,000 Group A call signs, and over 120,000 Amateur Extra Class licensees eligible to request them.

The ARRL requested that the pool of available Group A call signs be increased "by permitting the first character of a two-character Group A call sign suffix to be a numeral as well as a letter (for example, W23A)." The ARRL also suggested that two-by-three call signs (i.e., two letters, followed by a numeral, followed by three letters) beginning with the letter N and three-letter suffix call signs with the prefixes WC, WK, WM, WR, and WT be made available. The sequential call sign system does not currently use these combinations. The League also wanted call sign blocks assigned to offshore areas that do not have United States Postal Service mail delivery (specifically, the AH/KH/NH/WH and KP/NP/WP prefix call sign blocks) to be made available to licensees in other areas.

The Commission declined to make additional call signs available to the sequential call sign system, since millions of call signs are presently available to amateur stations. It believes that a sufficient number of call signs is available for an amateur service licensee to obtain a vanity call sign that is acceptable to him or her. Furthermore, these additions "would not substantially increase the availability of call signs of one-by-two call signs that experience has shown to be



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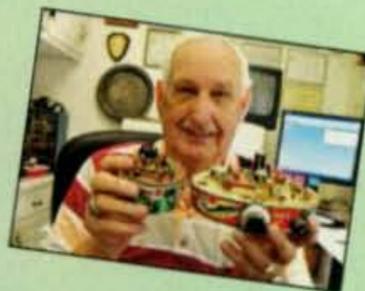
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most desired by amateur radio operators," the FCC said in the R&O.

Restrictions on Call Sign Availability

Under the sequential call sign system, the FCC assigns the station a call sign from an alphabetized list corresponding to the licensee's license class and the geographic region of the licensee's mailing address.

Some amateurs wanted to limit applicants for vanity call signs to requesting call signs assigned only to the applicant's region (i.e., W1 call signs would be issued only to stations in the first call area, New England). Also, the ARRL asked that Group A vanity call signs be assigned only to United States citizens.

The Commission noted that these same requests were made when the vanity call sign system was implemented. The proposal for geographic limits on call sign assignment was rejected because "the applicant's choice of vanity call signs would be reduced to ten percent or less of the call signs that would otherwise be assignable to the station," and "a limitation based upon the person's place of residence . . . could easily be circumvented by using a mailing address in another call sign region."

In addition, the FCC said, section §97.17(a) provides that any qualified person is eligible to apply for an operator/primary station license grant. U.S. citizenship is not a requirement to hold an FCC-issued amateur license or to be eligible for the privileges associated with such a license, including applying for a vanity call sign. Thus, the rule changes suggested by the ARRL were denied.

Fee for Renewing a Vanity Call Sign

Amateur licensees with sequentially assigned call signs are not assessed a fee to obtain or renew a license. However, the Commission does assess a fee when a licensee applies for a new vanity call sign or applies to renew a vanity call sign. Many radio amateurs wanted to eliminate the fee to renew a license with a vanity call sign.

The FCC addressed this request before. Section 9(g) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, requires that the Commission assess and collect a regulatory fee for a new or renewed vanity call sign. Therefore, "under the Communications Act, we cannot provide a one-time fee for pro-

cessing vanity call sign applications," the FCC said.

Conforming Rule Changes

Some minor, non-substantive amendments to the amateur service rules were also included in the R&O. When the Commission simplified the amateur service's operator license structure in 2000, it decided to renew Technician Plus Class operator licenses as Technician Class operator licenses. All Technician Plus Class operator licenses have now either expired or been renewed as Technician Class operator licenses.

The FCC also decided in 2000 not to renew Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) station licenses and the last RACES station license has also expired. Part 97 has now been revised to remove references to Technician Plus Class operator licenses and RACES station licenses.

Section §97.21 was also revised to reference Section §1.949, which requires that renewal license applications be filed no sooner than ninety days prior to expiration of the license.

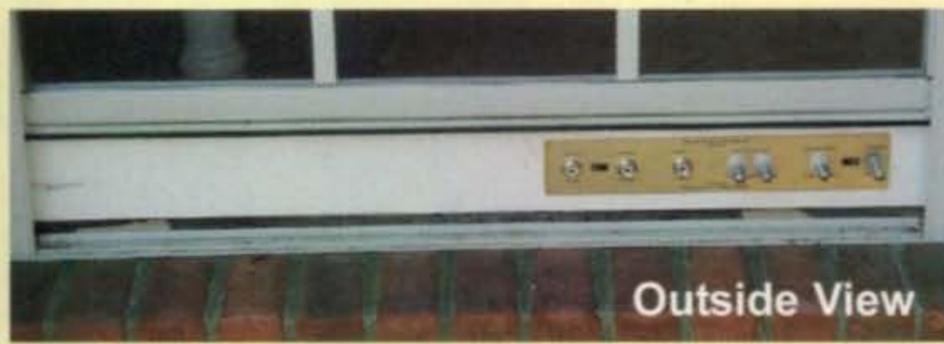
New rules are effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register... about the end of January.73, Fred, W5YI

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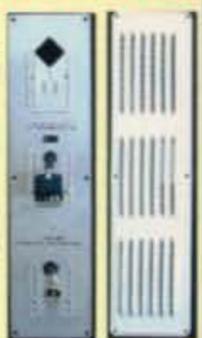
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ESD Considerations and Protection Methods

Many of us are aware (or should be aware) of the problems that can occur with our equipment from a nearby lightning strike, and as a result should always use some type of surge-suppression device, especially on antennas, antenna supports, and long outdoor transmission-line runs (including coax). These devices usually consist of various types of lightning arrestors, which are actually small spark gaps or gas discharge tubes that conduct very quickly and clamp the dangerous induced voltages to some manageable level. Other than a direct strike (the effects of which nothing can eliminate), when these surge suppressors are used properly there is usually very little, if any, resulting damage.

What we may not be so aware of, however, is the effect of so-called electro-static discharges (ESD) on delicate portions of our equipment caused by induced currents from even distant lightning strikes or, for that matter, locally induced discharges that may not be the result of lightning at all. For example, when a person rubs his or her feet on a rug during a dry winter day, it is fairly common to draw a spark from one's fingertips to a nearby grounded surface. This spark can have the potential of many thousands of volts but to a human being, a short, unpleasant "shock" is the only real result. This is a gross effect, to be sure, but equally dangerous ESD discharges can occur even in so-called "normal" (non-sparking) environments. That is why ESD workbench pads and grounded wrist straps are manufactured (and

used), and why many semiconductors and ICs are shipped in conductive plastic bags with conductive foam inserts.

The following is a brief discussion as to why these ESD discharges are dangerous and what we can do to try to prevent or at least reduce their effects to less dangerous levels. Homebrewers who routinely handle semiconductor devices should pay particular attention. We will use the field effect transistor (FET) as an example in our discussion, but the same procedures apply to many other high-impedance devices.

As you may know the gate of most FETs is made of a tiny microscopic layer of material within the transistor. This results in an extremely high impedance that can be in the hundreds of megohms. As a result, it only takes microamperes of current to produce enough energy to damage this delicate structure. What is even worse, however, is when the gate is not destroyed but only damaged. This produces a long-term effect that can result in the failure of the device weeks, months, or in some cases even years later—just, of course, when you don't want it to happen!

A very simple solution is simply to connect a high-value resistor (100K to 1 megohm) from gate to ground as shown in fig. 1. This shunts the high impedance without affecting the rest of the circuit. As an alternative, a bias resistor network from gate to ground can perform the same task.

Another solution is shown in fig. 2. Here a zener diode, with a voltage rating somewhat above the normal gate voltage, is connected from the gate to ground. Negative voltages are clamped, and voltages above the zener threshold are also clamped.

*c/o CQ magazine

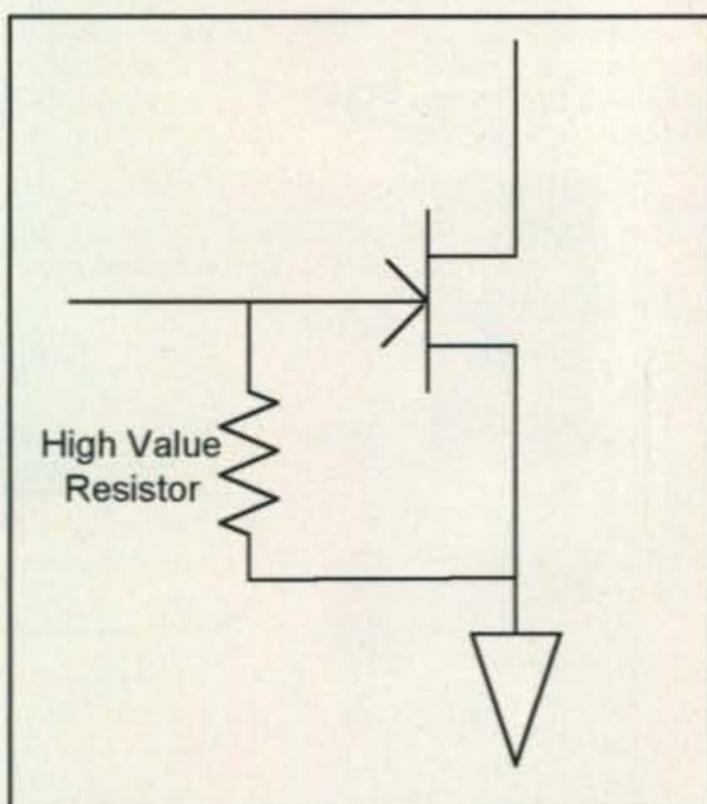


Fig. 1— Resistor protection.

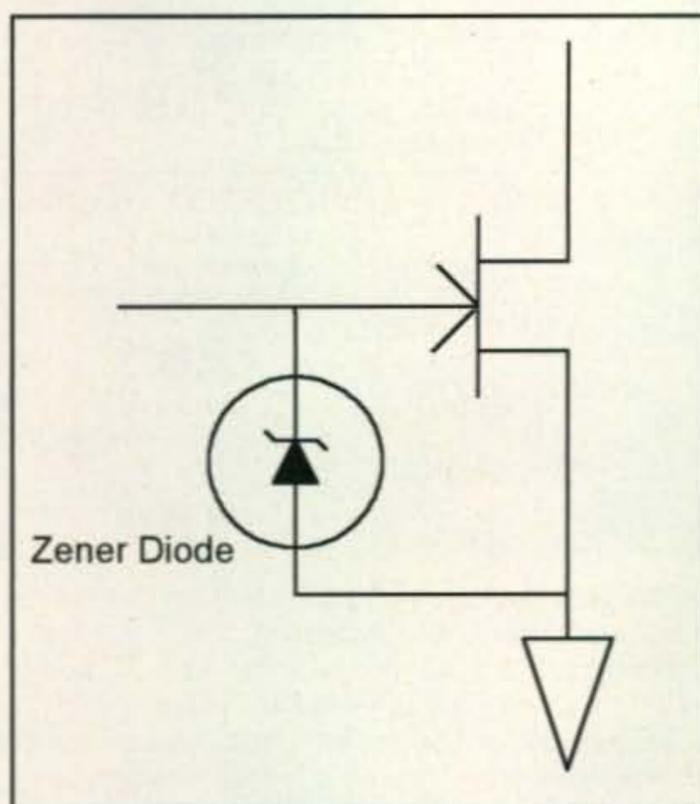
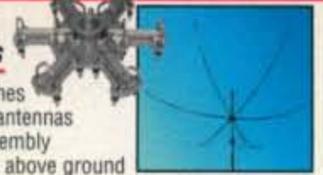


Fig. 2— Zener diode protection.

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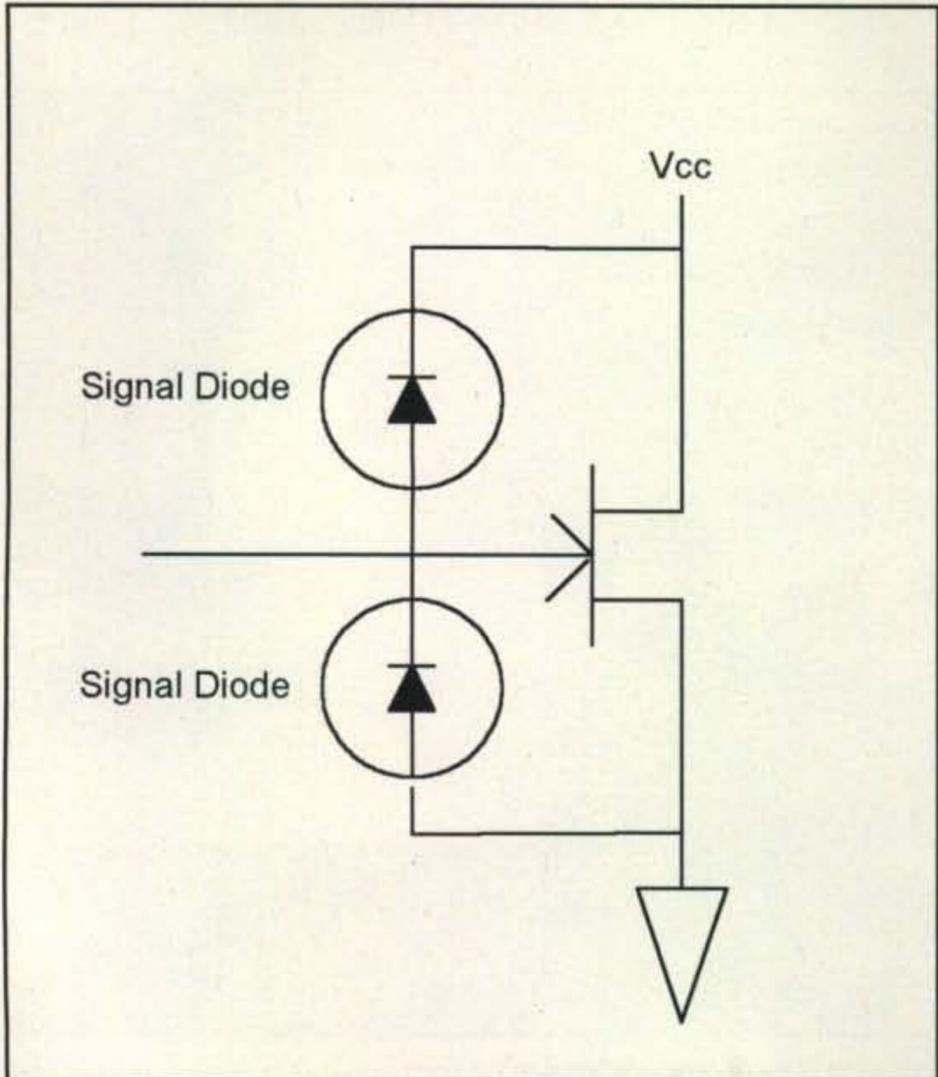


Fig. 3— Signal diode protection.

One drawback with this scheme, however, is the extra capacitance added by the diode.

Fig. 3 is another method using high-speed signal or switching diodes. Again, negative voltages are clamped by the lower diode, and voltages above the Vcc value are clamped by the upper diode. Diode capacitance is still there, however, but if you choose the diodes carefully you may be able to include this added capacitance in the tuned circuit capacitance required for an RF application.

There are other methods for protecting against ESD effects using MOVs, transorbs, etc., and a search through the data sheets and on the internet will turn up other methods that may directly apply to your application.

While FETs are particularly susceptible to ESD damage, many bi-polar transistors can also be affected. Keep in mind, too, that many ICs, especially CMOS and MOS devices, also have high-impedance inputs and should be treated carefully. To be really safe when handling any semiconductor devices you should always wear a wrist strap (available at low cost from many suppliers) that is grounded to a metallic panel on your workbench, or at the very least use the conductive foam that is provided with many components to hold the part. You also should always use a grounded soldering iron. These relatively simple steps can make a significant difference in your final results.

I want to wish all of you a very Happy New Year and hope that all of your hopes and dreams come true in 2011.

73, Irwin, WA2NDM

In EmComm, Never Take Being *There* for Granted

Although there's probably lots of room for discussion, as Woody Allen said, "Eighty percent of success is showing up." In amateur radio public service, that's far from a given. As we know, effective EmComm requires a tremendous amount of recruiting, training, and planning. However, being able to count on our teams to *be there* when duty calls is where the proverbial rubber hits the road.

This month we have two examples underscoring how highly skilled and dedicated radio amateurs selflessly *showing up* has been a key ingredient in their resounding success. They add new meaning to "safety in numbers."

Superstorm: Connecting the Dots in Indiana

In late October 2010, hundreds of radio amateurs rushed to play a crucial communications role when a wave of extremely powerful storms ripped through a broad swath of the United States. According to published reports, the operators "were part of the NWS (National Weather Service) Skywarn® program and provided eyewitness reports of ground conditions and verification of radar assessments"

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e-mail: <ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com>

and "quickly turned their hobby into radio networks allowing emergency responders to have accurate information of conditions."

"We were more than a little busy," said Mike Corey, W5MPC, Emergency Preparedness Manager for the American Radio Relay League. "There was great activity and need for the hams with Skywarn®, especially around Indiana," he said. "Giving the NWS real-time, ground-level confirmations is definitely appreciated."

Regional reports relayed to CQ's "Public Service" columnist by ARRL Indiana Section Manager John Poindexter, W3ML, of Knox, illustrate the coordination and teamwork his state's EmComm operators exhibited in supporting local authorities and assessing damage from the massive and destructive system.

County-by-county snapshots from Indiana underscore the value of their work beginning October 26. Not only did they step forward in numbers, but provided vital communications in an exemplary manner, reflecting positively upon themselves and the entire amateur radio community. As you'll see, even when a weather system's bark exceeds its bite in some areas, having EmComm operators on the scene is vital. Here's a mosaic of how radio amateurs in Indiana took on their mission to help local authorities keep a lid on a dangerous and sometimes chaotic situation.



High winds and torrential downpours took their toll on a broad swath of Indiana farm country last fall as one of the most severe storms on record moved across the region. Amateur radio operators were out in force providing EmComm support to local agencies. (Courtesy of W9LW)

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Monroe County. In Monroe County, ARES[®] and a Skywarn[®] net were activated from about 8:30 to 10:30 AM. There were 27 check-ins to the net—19 base stations and eight mobiles,

according to Corey Shields, KB9JHU, of Bloomington, who served as National Weather Service liaison.

Christopher Rollins, KC9MTG, and Mike Enyeart, K9IUB, both of Bloomington,

assisted with the EmComm coordination. Carl Zager, KB9RVB, is EMA RACES Radio Officer and ARES[®] Emergency Coordinator for Monroe County.



Power lines and utility poles teeter along a debris-strewn road in Wayne County, Indiana after "superstorms" pummeled the area last October. Radio amateurs from across the Indiana Section provided condition reports and disaster communications as the dangerous weather moved through. (Courtesy of W9LW)

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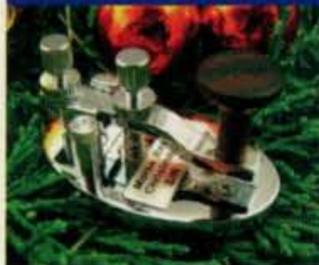
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"We covered a severe thunderstorm warning . . . and a tornado warning in the southern portion of the county," KB9JHU wrote. "Moderate, straight-line wind reports and one damage report, a small shed was blown over, were received. Thankfully, it was a pretty uneventful net weatherwise."

Shields noted, "One thing worth mentioning is that as the storm blew in, Bloomington South High School lost power. One of our check-ins, teacher Neil Rapp, WB9VPG, was able to keep track of things through the amateur radio net while the students and staff were secured."

"We had a similar check-in from a school staffer in northeast Lawrence County. Kevin Pauley, KB9WVI, of Bloomington, also mentioned that knowing what was coming, they were able to calmly get their preschool children secured long before the sirens came on, making it a less stressful situation for everyone involved there."

Adams County. "We activated a Skywarn® net for the storms," reported Derek Augsburger, AB9SO, Adams County ARES® Emergency Coordinator from Decatur. "We had seven amateurs check-in and do some spotting. The net lasted about an hour."

One incidence of 70-mph wind speed was reported. "Areas lost power, but there was no significant damage in Adams County, just small limbs down and one report of (damage to) an old grain bin in the middle of a field," AB9SO said.

Augsburger learned from the NWS that during the storms a "record was set

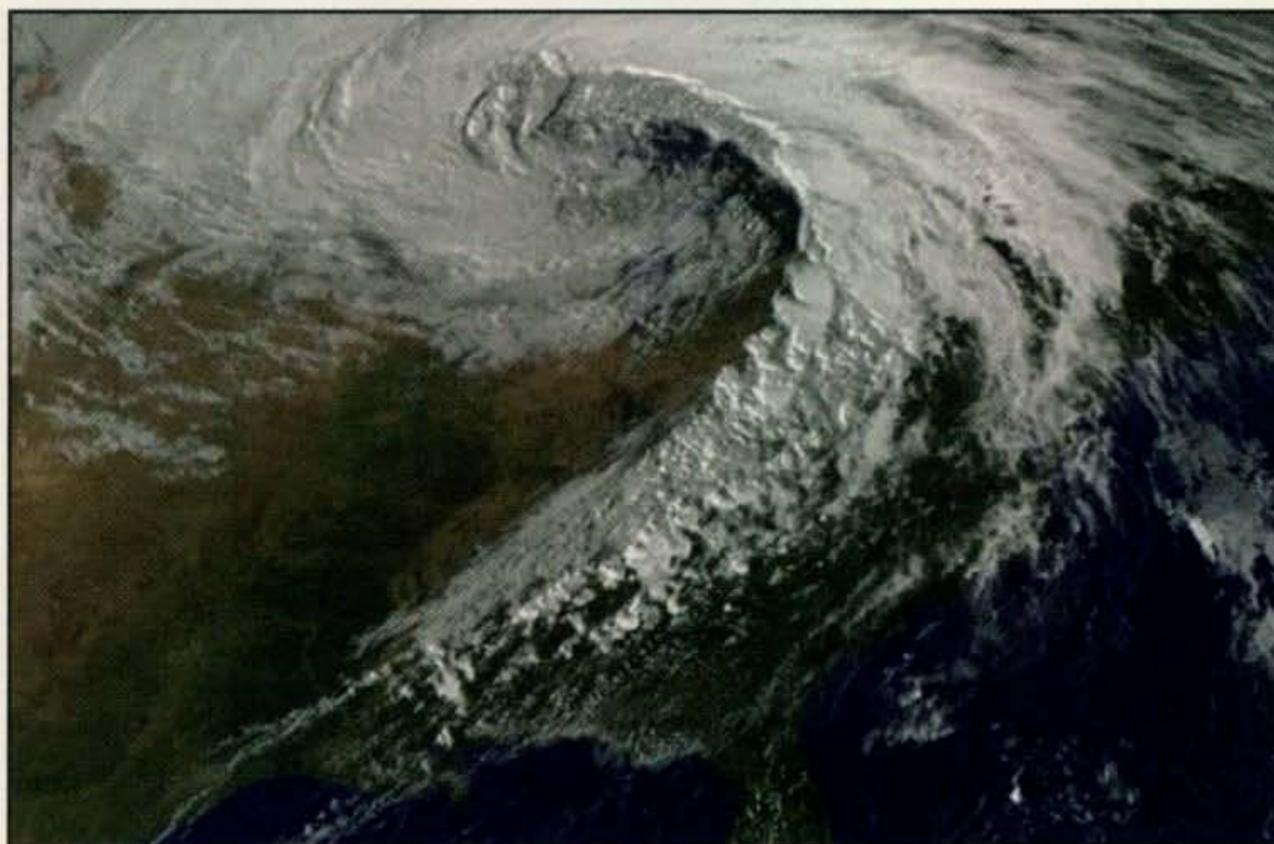
for the lowest pressure in a non-tropical storm in the mainland U.S. According to the weather service, "The massive storm system barreling across the central U.S. had a minimum central pressure of 28.24," or 956 mb, equivalent to the minimum pressure of a Category 3 hurricane. This breaks the old record of 28.28" (958 mb), set on January 26, 1978 during the Blizzard of 1978. . . . This is also lower than the March 1993 'Storm of the Century,' or the 'Witch of November' storm that sank the *Edmund Fitzgerald* in 1975, or even the Columbus Day storm of October 1962."

Augsburger "recorded a low pressure of 28.21" in northwest Adams County."

Dearborn/Ohio Counties. "We had one sighting by a police officer of a tornado touchdown in Dearborn County, one mile north of Greendale near IN-1," Ken Courtney, W9BLA, wrote from Lawrenceburg. "I heard no further reports at all about this touchdown. We had several incidents of power lines down and trees into power lines, probably less than six."

The fire department was dispatched to help "a lady trapped in her underground shelter," he added. "There was no EMA, ARES® or Red Cross activity of any kind here and none reported in Ohio County." W9BLA relied on the Dearborn County fire frequency, the county EMA office, and the Ohio County Sheriff/911 dispatch to gather storm-damage information.

"W9YL (Chick Factor International) told me on the air only that there were similar and minor incidents in Ripley County," Courtney said.



A satellite image shows the massive "superstorm" moving across the United States on October 26, 2010. (Courtesy of NASA/GSFC)

Allen County. "Allen County Skywarn® for Quadrant 2 was active from 10 to 11:30 AM," said Brian Jenks, W9BGJ, of Fort Wayne. Reports of varying degrees of severe weather for Allen and some other counties in the quadrant were relayed to the National Weather Service Office at North Webster.

Harrison/Crawford Counties. "I activated the Skywarn® net today (following) severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings in Harrison/Crawford counties," reported David McKim, W9WXN, Harrison County ARES®/Skywarn® Emergency Coordinator and Official Emergency Station. He lives in Corydon. "There was not much damage locally other than a few power outages, a few treetops snapped off, and 50- to 55-mph winds, McKim reported. The Skywarn® net had eight check-ins and lasted about two-and-one-half hours.

Starke County. Section Emergency Coordinator Tony Langer, W9AL, of North Judson, activated an EmComm net in Starke County. However, there were no reports of damage in the area.

ShakeOut: California Operators Drill Hard For "The Big One"

In preparation for the inevitable, "The Great California ShakeOut," has become an annual disaster drill across the state, believed to be the largest earthquake preparedness drill in the world. At 10:21 AM on October 21, 2010, millions of state residents "ducked and covered" as agencies dealt with simulated mass casualties, evacuations, and destroyed infrastructure, all prompting the need to rely on emergency communications.

The Hermosa Beach Amateur Radio Association, one of the ham organizations supporting the exercise, is an excellent example of how trained operators can play critical roles in plugging communications gaps during a disaster—even simulated ones. It's yet another example of the importance of *showing up*.

"Since the ShakeOut drill was on a weekday during business hours, not all of our members could participate," said HBARA's Ken Hartley, K6KAH. "(But) we did have eight radio operators participating in the drill, and one observer."

Hermosa Beach's participation was organized by Lt. Tom Thompson of Hermosa Beach Police Department and involved: Senior city staff; the chiefs of the police and fire departments; Public Works; View School; Valley School; Our Lady of Guadalupe School; the U.S. Coast Guard, and Lt. Cmdr. Liz

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Z-11Proll

Meet the Z-11Proll, everything you always wanted in a small, portable tuner. Designed from the ground up for battery operation. Only 5" x 7.7" x 1.5", and weighing only 1.5 pounds, it handles 0.1 to 125 watts, making it ideal for both QRP and standard 100 watt transceivers from 160 - 6 meters. The Z-11Proll uses LDG's state-of-the-art processor-controlled Switched-L tuning network. It will match dipoles, verticals, inverted-Vs or virtually any coax-fed antenna. With an optional LDG balun, it will also match longwires or antennas fed with ladder-line. Includes Icom interface cable, DC power cable and coax jumper. **Suggested Price \$179.99**



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Z-817

The ultimate autotuner for QRP radios including the Yaesu FT-817(D). Tuning is simple; one button push on the tuner is all that is needed - the Z-817 takes care of the rest. It will switch to PKT mode, transmit a carrier, tune the tuner, then restore the radio to the previous mode! 2000 memories cover 160 through 6 meters. The Z-817 will also function as a general purpose antenna tuner with other QRP radios. Just transmit a carrier and press the tune button on the tuner. Powered by four AA internal Alkaline batteries (not included), so there are no additional cables required. A coax jumper cable is also included for fast hook up. **Suggested Price \$129.99.**



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AT-897Plus for the Yaesu FT-897

If you own a Yaesu FT-897 and want a broad range automatic antenna tuner, look no further! The AT-897Plus Autotuner mounts on the side of your FT-897 just like the original equipment and takes power directly from the CAT port of the FT-897 and provides a second CAT port on the back of the tuner so hooking up another CAT device couldn't be easier. **Suggested Price \$199.99**



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

AT-100Proll

This desktop tuner covers all frequencies from 1.8 – 54 MHz (including 6 meters), and will automatically match your antenna in no time. It features a two-position antenna switch with LEDs, allowing you to switch instantly between two antennas. The AT-100Proll requires just 1 watt for operation, but will handle up to 125 watts. Includes Icom interface cable, DC power cable and coax jumper. **Suggested Price \$229.99**



Z-100Plus

Small and simple to use, the Z-100Plus sports 2000 memories that store both frequency and tuning parameters. It will run on any voltage source from 7 to 18 volts; six AA batteries will run it for a year of normal use. Current draw while tuning is less than 100ma. The Z-100Plus now includes an internal frequency counter so the operating frequency is stored with tuning parameters to make memory tunes a blazingly fast 0.1 seconds; full tunes take an average of only 6 seconds. Includes Icom interface cable, DC power cable and coax jumper. **Suggested Price \$159.99**

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AT-1000Pro

The AT-1000Pro has an Automode that automatically starts a tuning cycle when the SWR exceeds a limit you set. Operates at any power level between 5 and 1,000 watts peak. RF Relay protection software prevents tuning at greater than 125 watts. Tunes from 1.8 to 54.0 MHz (inc. 6 meters), with tuning time usually under 4 seconds, transmitting near a frequency with stored tuning parameters, under 0.2 seconds. 2000 memories. 2 Antenna connections. Includes Icom interface cable, DC power cable and coax jumper. **Suggested Price \$599**



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

AT-200Pro

The AT-200Pro 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. Includes Icom interface cable, DC power cable and coax jumper. **Suggested Price \$249**



NEW! YT-450

LDG's newest tuner is specially designed for Yaesu's newest 100 watt radios. The YT-450 interfaces directly with the Yaesu FT-450 and FT-950 radios, making integration easier than ever. Simply connect the tuner to the radio with the supplied cables and you are ready to operate. DC power and all control is done through the interface cable. Just press the tune button on the tuner and the rest happens automatically: mode and power are set, a tune cycle runs and the radio is returned to its original settings. It will quickly match nearly any kind of coax fed antenna with an SWR of up to 10:1. 2000 memories recall settings in an instant! An extra CAT port on the back allows seamless connection to a PC. You have the newest radio, now get the newest tuner to go with it! **Suggested Price \$249.99**

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IT-100

Matched in size to the IC-7000 and IC-706, the new IT-100 sports a front panel push-button for either manual or automatic tunes, and status LEDs so you'll know what's going on inside. You can control the IT-100 and its 2000 memories from either its own button or the Tune button on your IC-7000 or other Icom rigs. It's the perfect complement to your Icom radio that is AH3 or AH-4 compatible. **Suggested Price \$179.99**



KT-100

LDG's first dedicated autotuner for Kenwood Amateur transceivers. Easy to use - just right for an AT-300 compatible Kenwood transceiver (except TS-480HX). The KT-100 actually allows you to use the Tune button on the radio. The LEDs on the front panel indicate tuning status, and will show a match in seconds, or even less of you've tuned on or near that frequency before. 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**



YT-100

An autotuner for several popular Yaesu Radios. An included cable interfaces with your FT-857, FT-897 and FT-100 (and all D models) making it an integrated tuner, powered by the interface. Just press the tune button on the tuner, and everything else happens automatically: mode and power are set, a tune cycle runs, and the radio is returned to its original settings. It's the perfect complement to your Yaesu radio. **Suggested Price \$199.99**

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FTL Meter For Yaesu FT-857(D) and FT-897(D). 4.5" face with calibrated scales for signal strength, discriminator reading on receive, and power output, SWR, modulation, ALC action and supply voltage on transmit, all selectable from the radio's menu. **Suggested Price \$79.99**



NEW! M-7600 For IC-7600. It will display S-meter on receive, or power out, SWR, ALC level or supply voltages, all selectable from the radio's menu. What's more, the M-7700 and the virtual meter on your radio can work together. **Suggested Price \$79.99**



NEW! YT-847

YT-847 Autotuner is an integrated tuner for the Yaesu FT-847. An included CAT/Power cable interfaces with your FT-847. Just press the tune button on the tuner and everything else happens automatically! The mode is set to carrier and the RF power is reduced, a tune cycle runs and the radio is returned to the original settings. Also includes coax jumper cable. **Suggested Price \$249.99**

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Booker, Los Angeles County Lifeguard; Los Angeles County Disaster Communication Service (DCS, Lomita Station); Area G Disaster Coordinator Mike Martinet, Hermosa Beach Neighborhood Watch; communication consultant Joy Matlack; and Hermosa Beach Amateur Radio Association.

For a general interest YouTube video showing a part of 2010's "ShakeOut," visit: <<http://bit.ly/9nRneF>>.

Making It All Work. "We use the Palm Tree repeater on 440, which is owned by one of our members, and 220 from the EOC to county DCS EOC," Hartley said. "In the club room/EOC we have 2-meter, 220-MHz, 440-MHz, high-frequency, and PACTOR capabilities, as well as a 25-kw generator.

"Once our EOC was activated," he said, "we took roll call of who was on frequency and then, based on their location in the city, deployed a ham radio operator to each school to meet with the superintendent or principal and shadow them.

"Other ham radio operators passed traffic of what was happening in their immediate area and stood by for orders to deploy to area Neighborhood Watch block captains to get other updates from around the city," Hartley said.

"City staff then began to give us information to pass along to operators to share with residents, such as turning off their water because we had a (simulated) main break and sewer problem," he said. "City staff also gave us information to pass along to Los Angeles County, which we did via 220 to the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service out of the Lomita Station.

"The USCG did fly over the city twice and gave reports directly into the EOC. The HBARA has a great working relationship with Hermosa Beach staff, and it was very easy to work with them. That being said, There were some flaws."

Lessons Learned. K6KAH noted that "there was a lack of Incident Command System (ICS) forms which caused orders to be written on various sizes of regular paper.

"As the net control operator," he said, "I didn't know who handed me the message or where it was to be sent. This caused a delay, because we had to go back and find who gave us the message, where it was going, the time it was written, and so on. Since then, the EOC has been stocked with ICS forms and this will not happen again.

"This was the first time Hermosa Beach has had a drill to activate an EOC," Hartley said, "and overall it was very helpful. The Emergency Pre-

Florida Hams Support Two-Wheeled Riders in Lake County

The Lake County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (LCARES) provided radio communications for the 36th Annual Mount Dora Bicycle Festival in Central Florida last fall, a nationally-recognized event that attracts thousands of riders.

"The mobile communications trailer was set up in downtown Mount Dora adjacent to the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce office," reported Ted Luebbers, K1AYZ. "The net control station, located in the trailer, maintains radio contact with 25 LCARES operator-volunteers at rest stops and in mobile communications vehicles patrolling the bike routes for the safety of the riders."

The team used the call sign N4FLA for the event. Strait Hollis, KT4YA, is LCARES director.

"Events such as these help the volunteer radio operators train for deployment during a time of natural disaster such as hurricanes or tornados, which are not uncommon in this area," Luebbers said. "These amateur radio operators get the experience of running radio communication nets and exercising their portable equipment to make sure everything will run smoothly if and when they are called upon during an emergency."



Stephen Flynn, WA2ENT, takes the net control microphone with other members in the Lake County Amateur Radio Emergency Service communications trailer for the 2010 Mount Dora Bicycle Festival in Central Florida. (Courtesy of LCARES)



Strait Hollis, KT4YA, LCARES director, opens the communications trailer in downtown Mount Dora for the city's 36th annual bicycle festival last fall. (Courtesy of LCARES)

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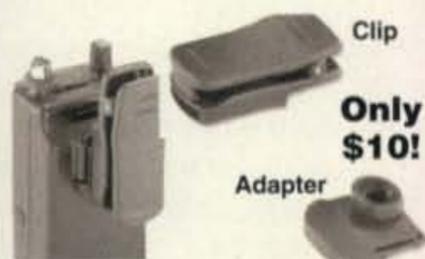
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paredness Advisory Commission has put forth a subcommittee that will help organize next year's drill, which will involve almost all city staffers, and be done at night on generator power."

HBARA was recently awarded the 2010 California Emergency Services Association (CESA) "Special Recognition" in outstanding service to the field of Emergency Management. "This was because the volunteers from HBARA were the driving force for getting an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) constructed in Hermosa Beach," Hartley said. "After three years of mostly volunteer efforts, the EOC had its grand opening on August 11, 2010 with about 75 people in attendance. The room is 28-by-48 (feet) and serves as the HBARA club room, training room for anything public-safety related, and the EOC."

(A comprehensive look at how HBARA initiated, planned, built, and supplied its new Emergency Operations Center will be the focus of an upcoming "Public Service" column—ed.)

Amateurs Help in Indonesian Disaster Relief Effort

An earthquake triggering a tsunami and a volcanic eruption prompted radio amateurs in the Indonesian archipelago to take a major role in relief efforts following the twin disasters.

According to ORARI (Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia) International Affairs Coordinator Wisnu Widjaja, YBØAZ, the organization's Communication and Rescue Task Force joined the team of the Disaster Management of Directorate General Post and Telecommunications, Ministry of Communication and Informatics Republic of Indonesia in the emergency response. The radio amateurs "have been operating in the field and providing communications support to the government and communities" in affected areas.

According to published reports, the death toll climbed into the hundreds, most as victims of the tsunami set off by a 7.7-magnitude offshore earthquake that struck the Mentawai Islands off the west coast of Sumatra. Many more people were missing.

Some distance away, on the island of Java, 29 were killed when "Mount Merapi erupted, releasing clouds of hot gas, rocks and lava into the air," according to reports from Jim Linton, VK3PC, Chairman of the IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee, with help from CNN.

"Almost 42,000 people had fled to temporary shelters around the nearby city of Yogyakarta as the area (was) covered in volcanic ash. The remoteness of the affected areas, poor communications, and the ongoing disaster response and relief efforts are likely to see the ORARI Communication and Rescue Task Force involved for some time," the VK3PC report noted.

Zimpfer Memorial Fund Underwrites EmComm in Ohio

The Lancaster and Fairfield County (Ohio) Amateur Radio Club received a \$5,219.86 grant from the George and Dollie L. Zimpfer Memorial Fund, administered through the Fairfield County Foundation, according to the Lancaster (Ohio) *Eagle-Gazette* newspaper. The grant allowed the organization to buy EmComm radios and accessories "that can be transported and used at all special needs community events, local emergencies, natural disasters, and during other times used for membership training and simulated emergency drills," the paper reported. "This equipment will also be used to supplement emergency responders and provide education and training to volunteers who will assist those responders."

73, Richard, KI6SN

Happy New Year!

If you've recently earned your ham radio license, say in the last five years or so, chances are good that you see your operating privileges as part of the overall mix that electronic devices play in your everyday life. Just like the cordless phone, the TV, DVR, and PC, amateur radio has its place in your life.

If you've been licensed longer, up through 10, 20, or even more years of experience, you have seen a "coming of age" in consumer electronics that seems to continue, accelerating with no end in sight. In the consumer electronics world alone, the baby-boom generation has witnessed an astounding explosion in technology that graduated from AM radio and black-and-white TV to today's hi-def (and even 3D) video, digital audio, and evolving refinement in home audio. In the past, the latter would often take the form of a "component" stereo with monster speakers and a room full of records, tapes, or CDs. Now all that media

can be stored in your shirt pocket; my iPhone currently carries just under 4,000 audio selections that would take over a week to play sequentially. That same device allows me to surf the web, make a phone call, check the financial markets, navigate via GPS, find a restaurant, and carry my "electronic Rolodex" wherever I travel. It does more, but you get the idea.

Have We Created a New Age?

As electronics hobbyists, we have had a significant role in creating today's devices that keep information and communication in all its forms literally at our fingertips. It's relatively easy to "connect the dots" of ham radio's beginnings and advancements from demonstrating new technologies and modes up through popularizing FM, repeater operations, telephone patches, worldwide packet radio text messaging, satellite communications, APRS geolocation, and blending technologies to create new, exciting applications. Some of the advancements came directly from ham experimenters, while others came about from smart manufacturers who actually listened to imaginative hams at conferences and events such as the Dayton Hamvention®, where someone like you or me could start a sentence with those wonderful words, "What if . . . ?"

As a self-appointed observer of the human condition, I sometimes take the opportunity to watch how people interact with today's technology and wonder what—and where—the next advancement will be.

As this is written, Microsoft has commenced a clever advertising campaign promoting its "next greatest thing" by showing everyday people whose lives now revolve around their handheld communicator, including a bride walking down the aisle. While it may not have come to that yet, we're not very far away. I get to spend a lot of time at airports and it's amazing to watch the people walking, eating, and even (ahem), using the rest room while glued to the latest information on their 3-inch by 2-inch screen. A group of kids can be seated together but not an audible word is said; instead, fingers are busily texting away. The moment a plane lands, there's a rush for the pocket or purse to reactivate the device around which many lives now revolve.

To an extent, I'm guilty of some of the behavior listed above, but I have established some limits. This came about partially through the following experience: One evening I was enjoying a restaurant dinner with my XYL and noticed the couple seated at the next table. From the time they were seated, she was working her phone, he was working his iPad, and other than a quick comment when ordering from the waitress, I don't think they interacted with each other (verbally) through the whole

*5904 Lake Lindero Drive, Agoura Hills, CA 91301
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dining experience. Who knows? They may have been sending love poems to each other, but sadly, I'd be willing to bet they weren't.

I Know You're There; I Can Hear You Breathing

I have attended meetings in conference rooms large and small where the speaker must compete for the attention of those present. It is common to see folks working their electronics at houses of worship during services. (Perhaps they're paying unwitting tribute to the ancient gods, Hermes or Mercury?) Are there limits on fractionally dividing our attention? What happens to the missed details? How would you feel if your doctor was texting while discussing your prognosis in a serious medical situation?

A local school superintendent informed me that some of his teachers interact with their students using their cell phones. You can't beat 'em so why not join 'em?

Here's your homework assignment via text message. What's the answer to this question? Text me A, B, C, or D. That raises the ante on another problem, specifically the gap felt by those economically disadvantaged. What happens if you can't afford a high-tech phone?

Smelling the Roses

Recently while driving along California's magnificent coastal highway, I passed an SUV with the rear passenger kids glued to the cartoons showing on the screens in front of them. Meanwhile, just to their right, was a shoreline that people travel around the world to see. I'm not saying what they were doing was wrong, but I wonder if they may later lament the missed opportunity to take in nature's magnificence. Perhaps they can go home and someday Google some photos of California Highway 1 and see those images on a 2-inch by 3-inch screen, which begs the question, "Is the virtual reality the *new* reality?"

He Wrote the Book

Marshall McLuhan is best known for his prescient and enduring take on communications: "*the medium is the message.*" You can read and re-read that quote and come up with many different interpretations, but after truncation, it brings you back to the original statement: genius. But let's dig a bit deeper. From that same paper, McLuhan went on . . . "the wheel is an extension of the

foot, the book is an extension of the eye, clothing an extension of the skin, electric circuitry, an extension of the central nervous system."

The medium, or process, of our time—electric technology—is reshaping and restructuring patterns of social interdependence and every aspect of our personal life. It is forcing us to reconsider and re-evaluate practically every thought, every action, and every institution formerly taken for granted. Everything is changing—you, your family, your education, your neighborhood, your job, your government, your relation to 'the others.' And they're changing dramatically." (*Dear reader, this was written in the mid-1960s!*—AA6JR)

McLuhan's work was diverse but always stimulating. Perhaps his Canadian perch gave him a wry perspective on the frenetic activity south of his border. In the past, this column has paid homage to those scientists, experimenters, and technicians who made our communications hobby (and industry) what it is today. Against the cast of those pioneers, I might place Marshall McLuhan as the "Tesla" of his time; interweaving our human characteristics with the continuing advancements in communications technology.

McLuhan died on December 31, 1980, just prior to the introduction of the cell phone and many other devices that today we consider "necessities." It would be wonderful to get his take on how we find ourselves interacting with electronics in the intervening 30 years, not even an eye-blink against the backdrop of the cosmic time continuum.

Are You Ready to Write the Next Chapter?

As we embark on a new year, the point of this tome is to take some inspiration

of the Roman god Janus, for whom the first month is named. If you recall your mythology, he had two faces, one looking ahead, one behind. He was often fittingly depicted at doorways. So here we are beginning a new year and establishing the tempo of this new decade, where a year-old communications device is considered "old-tech." Like Janus, I will choose to select those new, incoming elements that suit my purpose. I prefer items that have utility over those that are new just for the sake of being the "latest and greatest." I will also look back and keep those things I value: I like SSB, CW, analog FM, and the occasional item I can build or repair.

"What Hath God Wrought?"

Indeed! As Samuel F. B. Morse tapped those famous words across a few miles of wire, a new world opened and the old way of communicating began to slip away. He may not have foreseen geosynchronous satellites and the 24-hour news cycle, but he literally pressed the button that started the sequence.

This new year will offer you many opportunities to enjoy this magnificent calling in communications that we share. Be it the art of conversation with a new friend, a hurried contest contact, a commuter round table, or the rush of storm spotting, be sure to take a moment to reflect for just a moment on the true miracle that radio communications represents.

Remember, too, that behind all that technology there's a real, live human being; the same one you see in the mirror each morning.

Okay, I think I'm now ready for another year of adding to the "Magic In The Sky."
73, Jeff, AA6JR

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Hi-Ho, Hi-Ho, It's Off to Work I Go . . .

Over the last few weeks I have been ruminating about doing a column on setting up a ham radio workbench. To the uninitiated this might sound somewhat mundane. After all, what's to know? You get a bench and you pull up a chair and go to work, right? However, there is much more to assembling a good, ergonomically sound workbench area than first meets the eye. There are a lot of considerations: How much space do you need? What type of test gear do you need to procure? Ditto on tools. How about lighting? What's a workbench without a "junk box" of parts? How do you assemble a "junk box"? And you thought this was going to be simple, didn't you?

For most of us, choosing a work/test-bench surface is a matter of finding an old table and stuffing it into a corner of the basement or the shack, provided your shack has the necessary space. Over the years I have used a piece of 3/4-inch plywood suspended across a bunch of cement blocks acting as bench legs, a door from a closet set atop two pull-drawer filing cabinets, the same door affixed to a 2 x 4 frame with legs bolted to a wall of the shack, and about everything in between. It doesn't take all that much space to provide a good work area for troubleshooting and/or building electronic projects. What takes up the space is the myriad equipment that you will acquire to aid in your efforts to troubleshoot and build. This is something we'll cover a bit later. For now, suffice it to say that the cheapest part of your workbench will be your workbench!

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Your workbench will reflect your personality, much the same way as your shack operating position does. A military co-worker of mine was always fond of saying, "A clean desk is the sign of a sick mind!" That being the case, I am very well-adjusted! You will notice that in the pictures of my workbench there is some clutter; suffice it to say that I had cleaned up the mess before taking the photographs. Don't worry, it's back to being cluttered; I'm sane!

Hand Tools

The most common denominator in any workbench is a good selection of hand tools. We are talking about screwdrivers, nut drivers, needle-nose and chain-nose pliers, side-cutters (also called diagonal cutters or "dykes"), flush cutters, etc., etc. The list goes on, seemingly forever!

One thought I'd like to impart regarding hand tools: Buy the best grade of tools that you can afford. You won't be sorry. Case in point: Most of the Xcelite nut drivers, screw drivers, and pliers that I procured as a student in college I still have on my workbench. Putting this in perspective, I graduated college in 1967! In the long run, money spent on good hand tools will save you dollars and frustration later on down the road. (Photo A shows a very small portion of my hand tools; additional photos show other "bench" items that may or may not be discussed in the text.)

Meter, Meter on the Wall . . .

Many hams discount the hand tools and focus on the "goodies," more appropriately called the "fun



Photo A— This is an extremely small overview of the hand tools I have at K7SZ. Buy quality tools and you'll be dollars ahead. Keep them clean and well stored and you will be using them for years.

stuff," on the workbench. Meters certainly occupy a dominant place on the workbench. Since the market is flooded with all forms of both analog and digital meters, which ones do you procure?

To be truthful, there is a place for both styles of meters on today's workbench. A good digital multimeter (DMM) can cost between \$35 and \$150, depending upon brand and model. Alternatively, there are adequate, less-expensive digital meters for sale at places such as "The Shack," Frys, and Harbor Freight that will perform a multitude of functions at a fraction of the price of a high-end Fluke or HP. The choice is yours. Depending upon how deep your pockets are and how critical your voltage, current, and resistance measurements need to be, there is, quite literally, something out there for everyone.

The same goes for analog meters (photo B). There are hundreds of analog multimeters on the market, so it is a matter of finding one or two that fill your requirements and buying it/them. One word of warning regarding analog multimeters: There are some inexpensive units out there that, due to their construction, will "load down" the circuit under test (more on this below). These are normally labeled as a VOM (Volt/Ohm/ Milliammeter) and are inexpensive. However, even these cheapies have a place in your tool bag or on your test bench.

Meters 101

Let's take a minute and discuss how analog VOMs work. One thing to remember: Every analog meter functions in virtually the same way. A current is picked up via the probes, placed across the internal circuitry of the meter, and, depending upon the mode of operation (volts, current, or resistance), the proper internal circuitry is selected and the results are displayed on the meter. It's up to you, the technician, to read the proper scale on the meter and make sense of the reading. True, analog meters have a bit of a "guess factor" when it comes to a super-accurate reading, but the margin of error won't make any difference in about 99% of the work you are going to do on your test bench.

Problems arise when you use an inexpensive analog meter that does not have a high input impedance. These meters will "load down" the circuit under test, because the internal resistance of the test gear is relatively low compared to the circuit under test. Therefore, the meter becomes a part of the circuit as

opposed to a piece of test gear that monitors the parameters of the circuit.

Virtually all of the digital meters have an extremely high ohms-per-volt rating, normally in the area of 10 meg-ohms per volt. Digital meters are easy to read.

(You are reading actual numbers, not a needle swinging against a background of meter scales.)

It is easy to assume that a digital meter would be inherently more accurate than an analog VOM. This is not

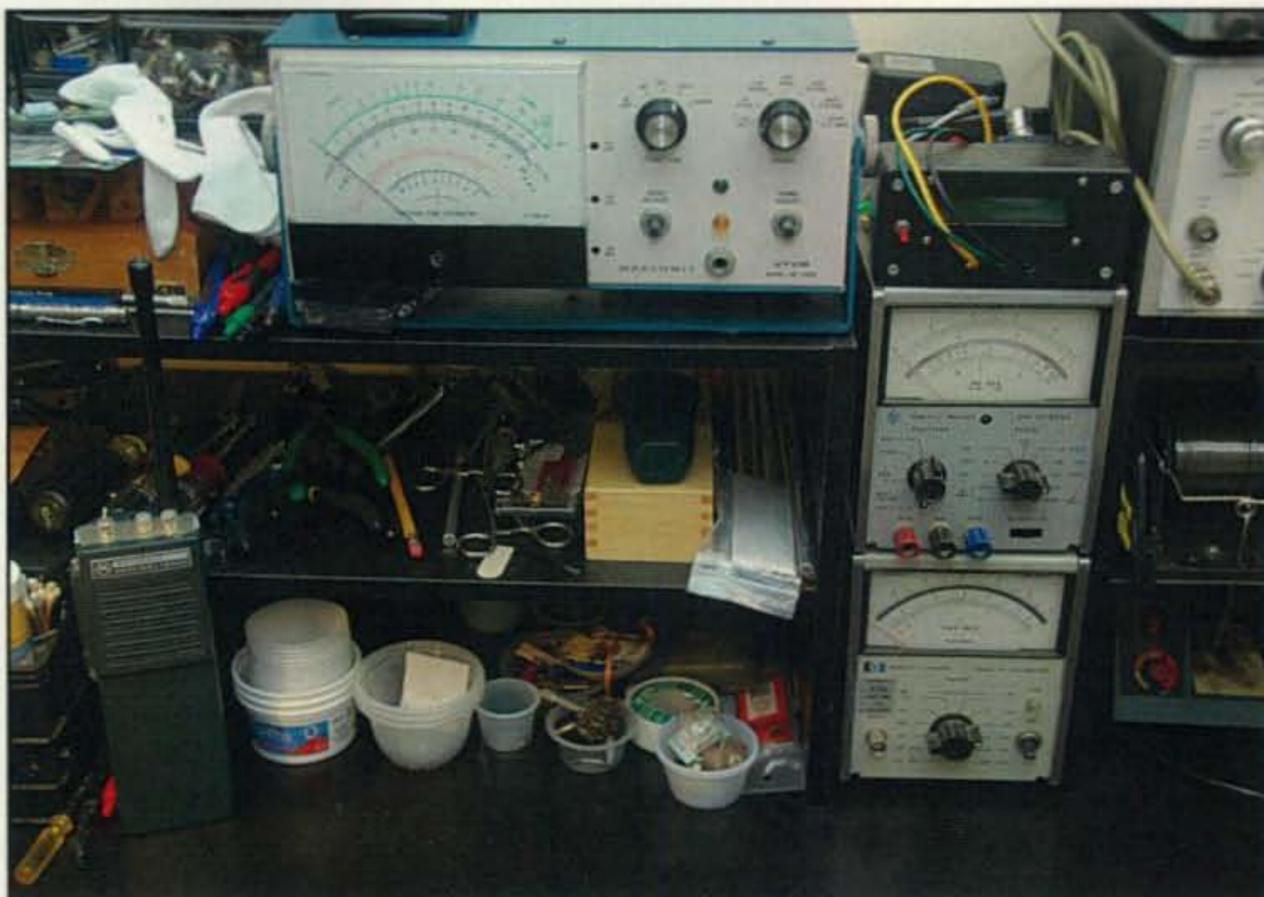


Photo B— Analog test meters. I have an affinity for analog meters, especially when I can get HP meters for \$5 each! The top meter is a HP Model 427A VOM and the lower meter is an HP Model 400 AC Voltmeter. These two meters, along with the Heathkit IM-5228 VTVM (Vacuum Tube Volt Meter, \$15 at auction on the internet) give me a tremendous latitude in troubleshooting and building gear.

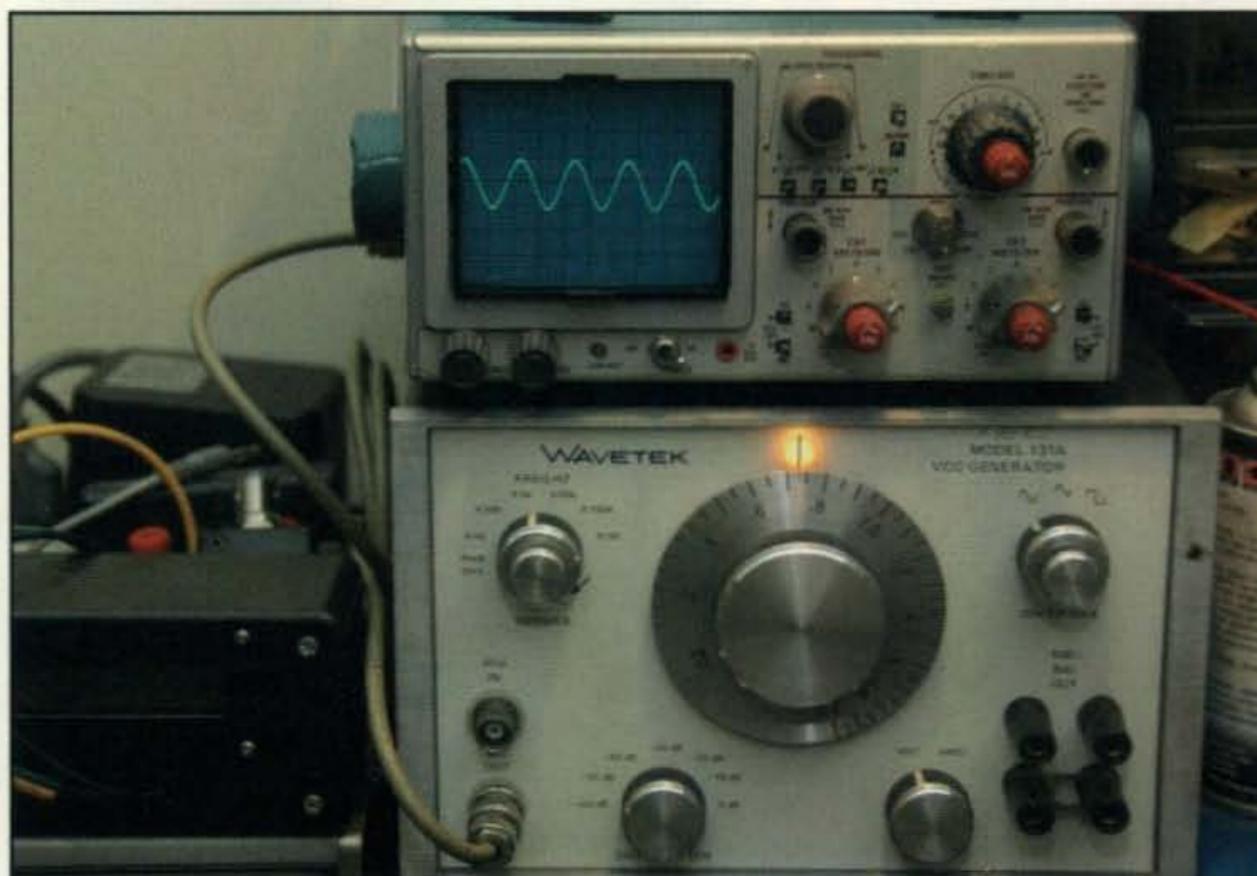


Photo C— This tiny Tektronix Model 326 5-MHz dual-trace oscilloscope (top) is a nice fit for my tiny workbench area (\$115 from Bob Garcia, KD4JRT, "The Scope Man," at 770-977-5701). It replaces a full-size .5-inch, 25-MHz dual-trace scope! The Wavetek Model 131A function generator provides sine, square, and triangle waveform outputs to aid in troubleshooting and aligning equipment (\$18 at auction on the internet).

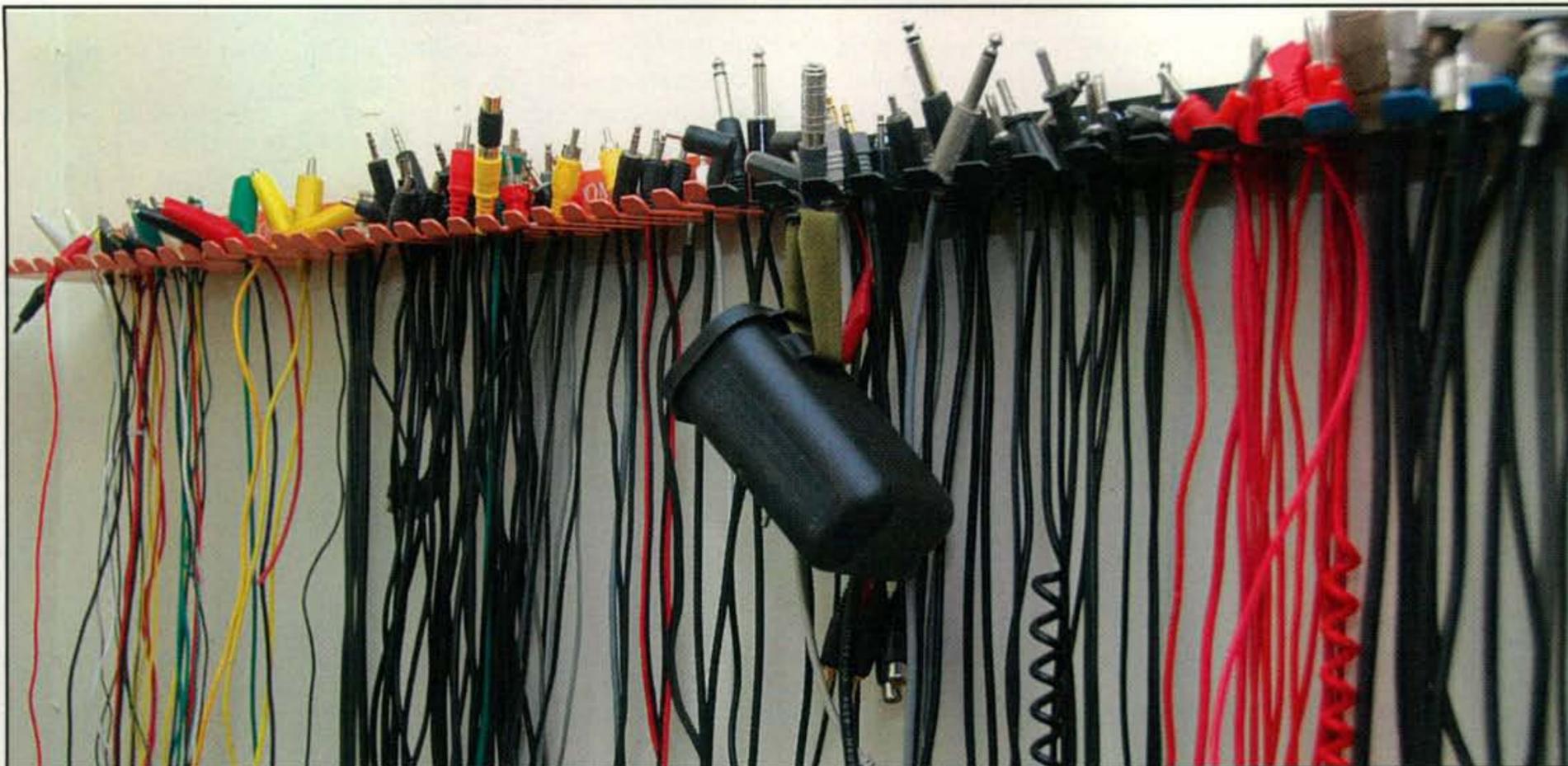


Photo D— One thing that you will end up with plenty of is patch cords, test leads, and coaxial jumpers. Pomona (<http://www.pomonaelectronics.com/>) makes various-size hangers (as well as all sorts of “tweenies” and connectors) that work well for keeping the tangle of these cords to a minimum.

On the Cover

Bill Rinker, NE9Z, of Moran, Wyoming is a big-time DXer with a big-time station. However, it hasn't always been that way. “Before buying my first (manufactured) transceiver,” Bill tells us, “I had a Heathkit HW-8 QRP CW rig and made over 500 QSOs with it. ... I remember on 15 CW, with two watts and a wire antenna outside my house in Fort Wayne, working my first DX, a guy in Brazil. That was the beginning of my chasing DX.”

That HW-8 still sits in Bill's shack (top shelf in inside photo), but these days he most commonly uses his Yaesu FT-1000MP and Ameritron AL-1500 amp, along with an all-band Heathkit tuner, to feed the two antennas on his 72-foot tower, a Hy-Gain Explorer 14 with the 40-meter add-on and a Cushcraft A3WS 12/17-meter beam with the 30-meter add-on.

Bill's primary ham radio love is chasing DX, something he's done very well. He has worked all 338 countries on the 2010 DXCC list, as well as the four “new ones” created last October by the breakup of the Netherlands Antilles. He says he has qualified for DXCC on all nine HF bands, although he hasn't applied for the certificates. A ham since the end of 1979, he and his wife have lived in Wyoming since 1990, when he retired from a career as an electrical engineer in the motor division of General Electric in Fort Wayne, Indiana (the origin of the “9” call). Bill says he also tries to operate regularly in the CQ World-Wide SSB and CW contests, as well as the ARRL DX CW contest. And while he works both phone and code, Bill says, simply, “I like CW.”

(Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)



necessarily so, as the accuracy of the digital meter depends upon the input impedance of the unit along with its internal circuitry. What makes a Fluke digital multimeter outperform an inexpensive unit from “The Shack” or Harbor Freight is the internal circuitry and how the analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion is done within that circuitry.

The next hurdle to cross is where you are going to procure these meters. There are always retail sales at stores such as Frys, “The Shack,” or Harbor Freight. However, the internet also offers some really great sites from which to choose. To get a feeling for just how many internet-based companies sell new and used analog and digital multimeters, do a search on those two topics and then stand back! I have successfully used an internet auction house to procure a Wavetek function generator, several analog meters, and a Heathkit frequency counter at well below market prices. All of these units work great, and I have managed to acquire some much-needed test gear at a fraction of the cost of buying new.

Another source is your local ham radio club. Members often have excess test gear that is gathering dust, so watch the club newsletter for a bargain. Let's not forget hamfest flea markets. This is another great avenue to explore. Often big-name test gear such as HP, Fluke, and Tektronics can be garnered for pennies on the dollar.



Photo E— I am at a total loss without these two pieces of test gear: the MFJ model 886 frequency counter and the Model 269B antenna analyzer/counter. These two devices, a quality digital multimeter, and some hand tools are a great start on work/test-bench equipment.

One thing that I need to stress at this point is to do your homework. Before you jump in and buy a piece of used test gear, be sure you know what you are buying! If possible, try it out beforehand, or, if that is not in the cards, get some kind of guarantee from the seller that if it does not work or is not accurately calibrated, you can either get a refund or return it for an exchange. The internet can provide a wealth of information on all sorts of test gear.

Scopes, Sig Gens, and Other "Stuff"

This is one area in which you really need to do your homework before you can make an intelligent decision about what to buy. Everybody wants an oscilloscope. Most people don't need one! A 'scope is your window into the AC world. It provides a real-time graphic display of what you are troubleshooting and can greatly speed up the process of fixing a piece of gear. However, unless you are doing a lot of troubleshooting or homebrewing, you will seldom need an oscilloscope.

There are a number of parameters surrounding scopes: bandwidth, single/dual trace, storage capability, DMM display, etc. The adage "go big or go home" does not apply to scopes. Most test benches do not need a 100-MHz oscilloscope. As a matter of fact, I traded in my 25-MHz scope for an ultra-small Tek 5-MHz dual-trace scope that

works on batteries (photo C) simply because I didn't need the extra bandwidth *and* I had limited room on my bench to park a scope. The *ARRL Handbook* has featured a circuit to extend the range of any scope for the last 15 years or more. This simple add-on is nothing more than an oscillator and mixer circuit. Your signal is fed into the magic box and heterodyned against the internal oscillator, which has an output in the 5-MHz range, so your scope can accurately display the signal. It's a very inexpensive way to extend the limited range of an inexpensive scope!

Signal generators abound on the used market. An old Heathkit, Knightkit, Sencore, or a military unit (such as the URM-25D), and a used frequency counter will enable you to align about anything you can drag onto your test bench. The prices of these units are very reasonable. You can procure a used Heathkit sig-gen for around \$25–35. Add a used counter (about \$25–50) and you end up with a sig-gen that can serve you well for years without spending gobs of money.

It's a Wrap for This Month

Well, that is a wrap for this column. Remember, this is your column, so don't hesitate to drop me an e-mail or snail-mail with your comments and things you'd like me to cover. Until next time, have fun with our hobby and hope to work you on the bands. 73, Rich, K7SZ

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Tools for Kit-Builders

Happy New Year! With the coming of the new year, it is probably a good idea to look again at some useful things for a kit-builder.

Multi-function Multimeters

I noticed that the cost of a simple digital multimeter has dropped dramatically. There's one on sale for \$2.99 at Harbor Freight that even includes a transistor tester function. However, there is a whole new crop of meters that are affordable, yet have a number of extra functions that might be useful, including capacitance- and inductance-measuring ranges as well as even thermometer func-

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Photo A— This inexpensive multimeter has a transistor tester as well as a thermal probe and capacitance meter. It is sold by Tower Electronics at <<http://www.pl-259.com>>.

tions (photo A). Why would a thermometer-probe function be helpful? Measuring the heat produced by a component can be a window into how close you have reached to the operating limitations of that component.

Many semiconductors that require a heat sink have published specifications that often can be downloaded from the internet. These specifications include maximum frequency range, noise figures, voltage and current limitations, as well as operating-temperature ranges. Keep in mind that some components designed to use a heat sink can get too hot to touch and yet be working normally. Look in the component specifications to see what the nominal operating temperature range is. A good example would be an output amplifier transistor that is designed to run at no more than 120° Celsius and you observe it operating close to that level even when not under load. That would be a reason to look at the parts that connect in that section of the circuit to see if the proper values of resistors, diodes, and capacitors were used. If the part runs hot, you might be looking at a problem where it may be oscillating or biased or driven incorrectly, causing spurious signals and thus heating the part beyond normal.

A capacitance meter is also useful in identifying capacitors that for one reason or another have their value markings rubbed off or blurred. It can also identify capacitors that may not be suitable by being shorted or open, or not the right range of value. For the same reason, inductance-measuring capability is also useful to test chokes and coils. Check your local RadioShack and Sears stores for a variety of meters with these extra capabilities. My experience is that Sears has the largest variety of meters in all price ranges, including high-end models by Fluke.

Another useful meter is the M-Cubed LCRZ Meter kit. This kit measures a wide range of inductors, capacitors, and resistors, and calculates impedance as well. The kit has some SMD parts, but they are already mounted on the board, so all the builder has to assemble are the through-hole parts. This is by far the most comprehensive I have seen in kit form for measuring components and circuits. It is available at <<http://www.m3electronix.com>>. I have not built one yet, but it looks to be not a very difficult kit to assemble.

Soldering Tools

Soldering irons are essential to a kit-builder, and from time to time I have found that my work as a field engineer as well as in amateur radio places me in situations where AC power is not readily available, or the item to be soldered, such as antenna wire, is too heavy to be soldered with a small pencil-type iron. That is when I turn to a portable



Photo B— RadioShack 64-2188 butane-powered soldering iron.

soldering tool powered by butane gas. This is the same fuel used for butane-powered cigarette lighters and is widely available in pressurized cans at most stores where they sell smoking needs.

These gas-powered irons often have the capability of rapidly producing large amounts of heat, enabling soldering outdoors on antenna wires. I recently used a RadioShack #64-2188 butane-powered iron (photo B) to solder the wire on my new 160-meter top-fed sloper. This iron can melt solder in as little as 20 seconds after it is lit and the catalytic converter glows red. I have also used this iron to activate heat-shrink tubing once the solder connection is made.

I did, however, experience a problem with this iron while using it. While soldering an antenna wire outdoors, I felt my hand getting ice cold, something unusual on a warm day. It turned out that my iron had a fuel leak, and the expansion of the leaking pressurized fuel resulted in a very frosty experience.

A call to RadioShack customer service resulted in the defective iron being replaced with a new one sent to me. I was assured that the original tool was deemed safe for them to continue selling, but was given a different tool to replace it (photo C). I no longer find this model in the RadioShack stores or on the website, but they do sell two other butane-powered irons only on the internet and not in stores.

Should your butane-powered iron of any type or source develop a fuel leak, discontinue using it at once and call the customer-service number provided with your product. I was assured by RadioShack customer service that if anyone has a safety issue with his/her tools that they would promptly take care of the problem.

Butane irons are wonderful tools and great to have on Field Day or a picnic-table kit-building session, and being vigilant about their safe use is recommended.



Photo C— Replacement butane soldering iron made by Weller, provided by RadioShack. This iron features a piezo ignition system and larger fuel capacity than the older RadioShack tool.

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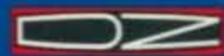
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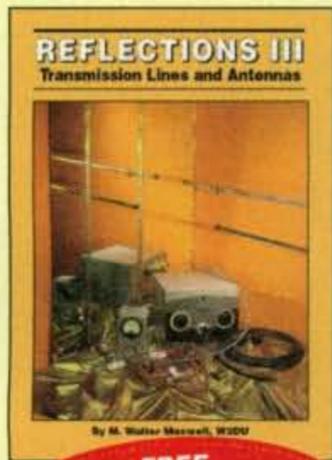
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With this being the middle of the long winter season in North America, it is time to remind kit-builders to be sure to use something such as a cookie sheet to protect your building surface from soldering-iron burns and scratches. The cookie sheet will also help you keep parts from disappearing.

For those who like to wear a magnifying lens instead of using a desk-mounted one, Harbor Freight now sells one for \$9.99 with a built-in LED light. It is stock number 95890. This type of magnifier is especially good when working on boards with higher component density or those that have SMD parts. Another good idea is to use a small fan, such as a PC chip cooler, to keep the solder smoke away from your eyes. The smoke can be very irritating if allowed to accumulate. I use a small 12-VDC fan fed with 6-9 VDC to move the air without causing parts and instruction sheets to fly away in the breeze! A variable-voltage power supply works best, or you can roll your own regulated supply using a 12-V source and a regulator IC, for example a 7809, for 9-VDC output. Since the room in which I build kits is shared by a clothes washer and dryer as well as my furnace, plenty of air gets circulated as well.

Winter is a great time to dig into that unbuilt kit box and have fun! I try to keep a variety of kits ready to build, with the kit chosen to fit the amount of time I have available to assemble it.

4-40 (Hardware, Not the Band)

I have previously addressed the subject of mounting your kits in custom-made or standard-sized cases, but neglected to mention the size of hardware needed to properly mount your boards. Most circuit boards in kits have the holes drilled for using 4-40 type hardware. It is a very good idea to buy 4-40 screws and nuts and washers as well as threaded and non-threaded standoffs in various sizes to allow for variations in case design as well as board placement. I have found that by using threaded standoffs, I am also able to stack boards in one case. When at the Dayton Hamvention®, I often have found this hardware very reasonably priced by the pound at the Mendelson's tent. Check your local hamfests for 4-40 hardware as well. If you are fortunate enough to be able to buy this in bulk, use a parts storage unit to sort them out by size and type so that you always have the right hardware when you are ready to mount the board in a case.

Until next time . . . 73 de KØNEB

Testing, Testing . . . Check Everything Before Declaring the Death of Your Radio

The story you are about to read is true. The names of the people and the companies involved in this story have been removed to protect the innocent and the inexperienced. This anecdote is not meant to make fun of anyone, but it is a good reminder that one should try to verify the basics before going through much confusion, stress, and frustration. And, as I always say, if you don't understand something, seek the advice of your "go-to" friend at your radio club!

I received a call for help from a friend having some trouble operating a newly purchased, used all-band transceiver. She did read through the operating manual and followed the directions step-by-step. However, the rig just did not work like the book said. Since I was not familiar with the particular rig in question, I did a quick internet search to see if I could find an operating manual for the unit.

On the Trail to Assist—and a Detour

During my search, I came across a YouTube video featuring a frustrated owner of the same make and model radio that my friend had. The poor chap

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

said his rig had been sent back to the factory for service several times, and it still didn't work right, even though the service tag said the problem could not be duplicated. (That is a nice phrase service centers use when they cannot find anything wrong with the unit.) The general description of the problem—low power output.

In the video, the station owner describes what is happening, but does not show the complete station setup and does not describe the antenna nor any test instruments hooked up to show how he tested his rig. However, he does spend a lot of time describing for how long he was not able to use his brand-new radio, and how many times he sent it back to the factory for repairs. He really seems frustrated with this whole thing, and I know how he must feel.

Finally, after several minutes, he turns on the rig and shows the meter indicating about mid- or three-quarters of full scale steadily when he keys the microphone. He believes the meter should show 100 watts, which is the transmitter power output specification and is mentioned in the colorful brochure.

But wait. . . I get this funny feeling at the back of my neck. You know, sort of like that creepy, tingly feeling you get (or at least I get) as the state



If you have trouble operating a mobile rig, remove it from the vehicle and run it on a bench power supply in the house. In this case, the outside temperature was 80-plus degrees, with the full noon sun beating down on the car. Operating the rig in an air-conditioned house with refreshments made learning much more fun. The coax runs outside to the mobile antenna on the vehicle.

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RSGB, 1st Ed., 1993, 346 pages
A collection of popular 'Technical Topics' published in RadCom. Info, ideas, mods and tips for amateurs.



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IOTA Directory



Edited by Roger Ballister, G3KMA

RSGB, 2007 Ed..
Fully updated, lists all islands that qualify for IOTA, grouped by continent, and indexed by prefix. Award rules and includes application forms.

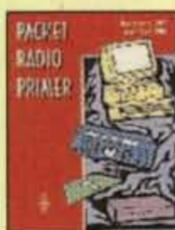
Order: RSIOTA **\$18.00**

Packet Radio Primer

By Dave Coomber, G8UYZ & Martin Croft, G8NZU

RSGB, 2nd Ed., 1995, 266 pages
Detailed practical advice for beginners. Completely revised and greatly expanded to cover developments in this field and beyond bare basics into advanced areas such as satellite operations.

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Microwave Projects 2

By Andy Barter, G8ATD

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If you're interested in building equipment for the amateur radio microwave bands, the designs in this book are sure to please! Projects have been selected from international authors and all projects use modern techniques and up-to-date components. Details on how to obtain ready-made boards are included with most projects.



Order: RSMP2 **\$28.50**

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By Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV

RSGB, 2003 Edition, 208 pages
How to get the best results from a QRP station whether from home or outdoors. Explains how to construct your own station, including complete transmitters, receivers and some accessories. Other sections include toroidal coils, construction techniques and equipping a workshop. You'll also find a listing of QRP contests and awards.

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By John Clarricoats, G6CL

RSGB, 1st Edition, 307 pages
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HF Amateur Radio

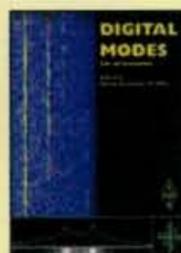
RSGB, 2007 Second Ed.

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Digital Modes for All Occasion



By Murray Greenman, ZL1PBPU

RSGB, 2002 Edition, 208 pages
Simply the most "complete" book on Digital Modes available. Over 100 illustrations!

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trooper approaches you from behind while you are exceeding the speed limit.

After about five seconds of watching the video, I think the radio manufacturer is correct, and the rig is functioning normally. I am only 99.999% sure of my assessment, but not 100% sure, so I am not able to accuse the video author of having a "short between the headphones," as a good friend sometimes says about people on the radio. This is my friend's way of saying the radio operator's brain is defective; he is not thinking correctly and does not know how to use his equipment.

I usually try to be a bit more polite, and have to ask some questions. By asking questions, I am forcing the confused radio operator to carefully examine every operational step. This helps the person, because this process eventually leads him or her to discover the path to correct something wrong. A psychologist might call this a path to "self-discovery."

Too bad the video is no longer posted (it was "removed by author"). It was a great example of how frustrated people can become if they don't go over the basics. I hope the fellow didn't sell the rig to someone at a discounted price. It was probably a perfectly working unit.

Back on the Track

Let's get back to my friend with her problem. It really helps—no, I must insist—that the radio in question is plugged into a power supply and turned on as these steps are performed. Also, if you are the "helper," make sure the person doing all the knob-twisting and button-pushing is the person having the problems. The "learner" must perform these steps in order for this process to work correctly.

If the transceiver is installed in a vehicle, take it out, bring it into the house, and plug it into a bench power supply. You will be much more comfortable learning the radio when you are in the house, since you can take frequent breaks and rest. Learning how to operate a rig requires some concentration (see photo). It's too late now, but you (or your friend) probably should have done all this testing before installing, right?

Here is what we did one afternoon:

1. Check the front-panel controls. What are the settings of each knob, button, and dial?

2. Check the frequency on the display and all the frequency-related controls and menu settings. Checking all menu functions is important, because just

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about all modern transceivers have "soft buttons" that are software, rather than hardware, driven. This is where most people goof when setting up a new radio. Since this is an HF through UHF transceiver, look for something called "split operation" where the transmit frequency and the receive frequency are different. Make sure this feature is turned off, and make sure all variable frequency oscillators (there are usually two VFOs) are tuned to the same frequency.

3. Go through the set-up and operational sections of the manual. When I say "go through," I mean perform each step on the powered-up rig. This will take some time. Relax. Take frequent breaks when fatigue begins. Take a walk or enjoy a beverage. If this means taking another day, make the time to do it later.

As we did this, even I became frustrated, and we took a long break away from the radio. When we were relaxing, I asked some other questions about the rig, and how and why she obtained it. Among a lot of other things, I remembered something that became the key to solving the mystery called "This radio does not do what the book says."

I smiled because I knew I could resolve this whole mess in an instant, and I would be a hero, since she had been trying to understand how to operate the radio for several months.

I asked my friend to verify something.

Me: "This is a used radio, right?"

Her: "Yes. The guy I bought it from spent a lot of time on the HF bands. The radio was working perfectly for him for a long time."

Me: "Let me see the radio again. Look in the book for something for me."

Her: "What do you want me to look for?"

Me: "Something about microprocessor reset, or restore to factory default, something like that."

Her: "OK, here it is. . . ."

Me: "OK, before we do this, do you have any frequencies or settings stored in the radio's memory? Because if you do, and we do a 'reset,' all those settings will be erased."

Her: "Memory? Uh, no, I don't think so."

Me: "OK, now press and hold. . . ."

As she performed the microprocessor reset, the radio made some interesting noises and—did nothing. This was actually a good thing in this case. We went through the steps again, and the radio now behaved exactly like the book said. It turns out that the previous owner spent a lot of time on HF nets,

and probably some time on 6-meter and 10-meter repeaters, and had many custom settings for frequency splits and all sorts of things that my friend did not want or need.

When all that "memorized junk" was deleted by resetting the radio's microprocessor, the rig worked exactly as expected. She now enjoys the HF bands on her daily commute to and from work.

Back to the Video Guy

I am sure you are wondering about that video guy. I still do, too. My first guess (remember, he did not show us any of the settings or operating conditions of his station) is that the rig is in either the FM or AM mode. Here are the clues that might lead our video guy to solve his mystery.

Most solid-state HF and HF/VHF multi-mode transceivers have reduced power on AM or FM. In fact, the following specifications of this transceiver indicate this, even though the rig is advertised as a 100-watt transceiver.

Power Output: 160–6m, 100 watts
(25 watts AM carrier)

2 m: 50 watts (12.5 watts AM carrier)

70 cm: 20 watts (5 watts AM carrier)

Next, the needle on the front-panel meter goes to some point and holds steady when he clicks and holds the push-to-talk button on the microphone. This probably means the mode switch is not on SSB, because if it were, the needle would "dance" up and down with voice peaks. This is as far as I can go from the small amount of clues in the background of the video.

This is the point of this month's installment of "The Ham Notebook": Always verify and double-check everything against the operating manual before declaring something is wrong. Make sure your measurements or assessments follow any operating or testing conditions stated in the specifications table, such as operating temperatures, supply voltages, mode settings. Verify everything and do not assume anything. Is your power supply really supplying the required voltage? During both receive and transmit?

This can reduce the down time of the new radio to zero hours, and may also save money if a service center charges a fee to evaluate the unit. Perhaps most important, this can prevent you or your friends from selling or giving away a perfectly working rig at a discounted price.

73, Wayne, KH6WZ

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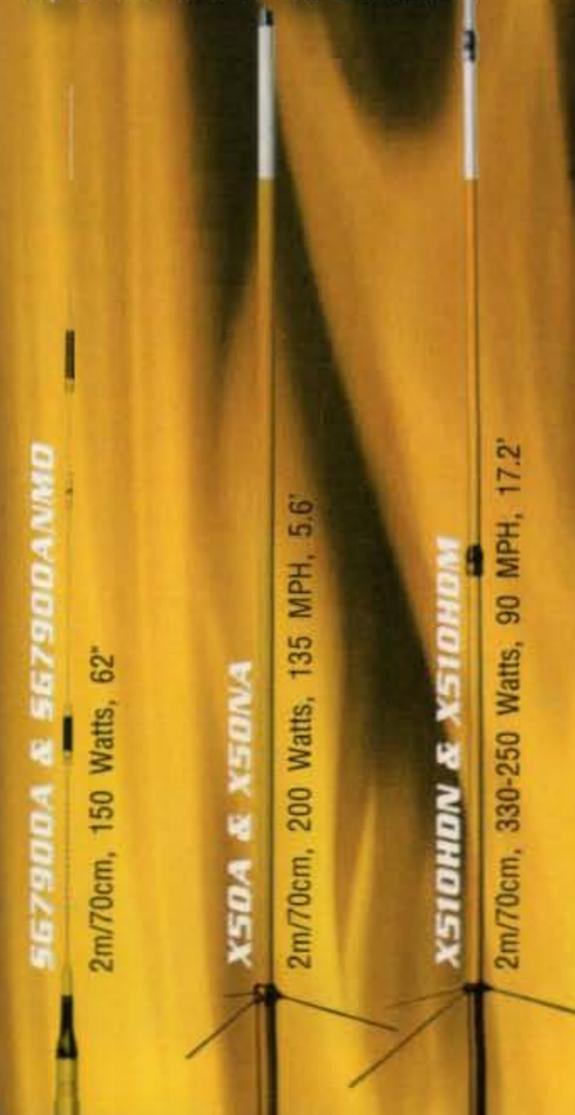
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The Benefits of Stainless-Steel Hardware

Last winter, I lost my 2-meter EME array after nearly 30 years of service (and a 2-meter Worked All States award). The array has been taken apart and put back up as a far more modest antenna. What I want to point out are the advantages of using stainless-steel hardware.

There is a big difference between taking off a tight nut and taking off a frozen nut, especially when hanging off the side of a tower. Yes, stainless-steel U-bolts are kind of hard to find. However, even putting stainless-steel nuts on a regular U-bolt is much better than the original steel nuts. In photo A, I have a stainless-steel U-bolt and a steel U-bolt with stainless-steel nuts. On the left side of the photo I have one of the 30-year-old steel U-bolts, but it has stainless-steel nuts and lock washers. A bit of a struggle and a few drops of penetrating oil helped, but the nuts came off. I'd like to show you the 30-year-old steel U-bolt with steel nuts, but we had to hacksaw off that one in pieces and the pieces are hiding in my grass!

Yes, stainless-steel hardware can be more difficult to find, and stainless steel costs a bit more, but years from now, you will be oh so glad you took the time to round up that stainless-steel hardware.

Letters, We Get Letters

From Ruddy, we have a question about a single 50-ohm feedline, dual-band antenna for 6 and 2 meters, and he mentions the dual-band antennas built by Finco and Hy-Gain in the 1960s.

*1626 Vineyard, Grand Prairie, TX 75052
e-mail: <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com>

Ruddy, you do bring back some memories for me. In my early VHF days, I had a Polycom 6N2 that ran both 6- and 2-meter AM and a Hy-Gain 6 and 2 beam. I may even be the only person to have stacked a pair of those antennas—a fun phasing harness, to put it mildly. The configuration of the antennas we are talking about is shown in fig. 1. Expanded out a bit, you can see in fig. 2 that on 6 meters you have a dipole-fed 4-element Yagi. On the Hy-Gain, the coax went directly to the driven element, but a noise balun, or choke on the coax at the feedpoint, was recommended to keep RF off the outside of the coax. The Finco used a folded driven-element design. On 2 meters, the driven

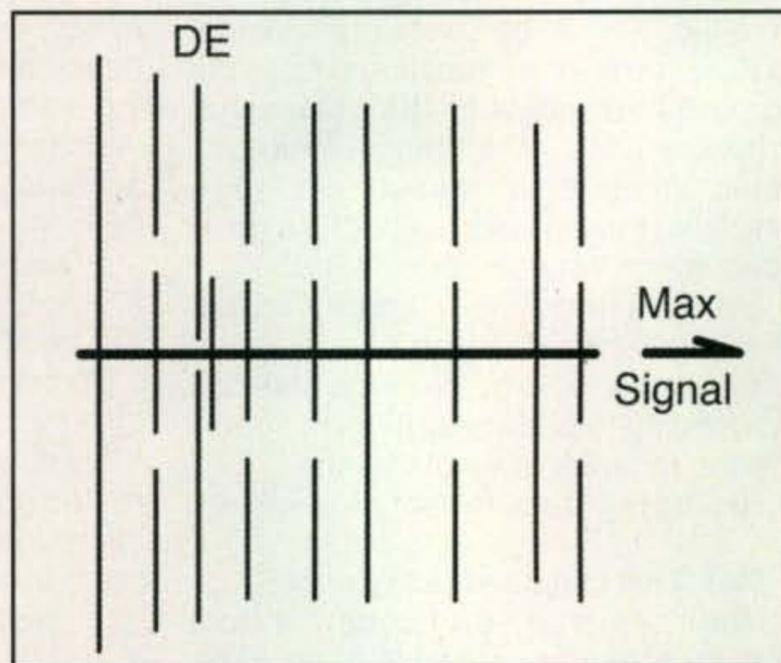


Fig. 1— Element layout of the old Hy-Gain 6- and 2-meter beam.



Photo A— Some 30-year-old steel and stainless steel hardware. See text for details.

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element is resonant in the $1\frac{1}{2}$ waves. With the decoupling stub, the driven element is exciting three close-spaced, 6-element Yagis on 2 meters. An interesting antenna, and using pieces of three of the Hy-Gains, I kept one in the air for many years, but the insulating spacers between the 2-meter elements kept breaking and I just ran out of pieces.

Now a question for our readers. I have several 6-meter antenna designs in the file folder, and even a way of making a 6N2 version. However, what has held me back is a good place to get 6-meter elements. That reflector element is going to be nearly 10 feet long, so welding rod for ground-rod wire is not going to work. Yes, many of us have some tubing in our junk pile, but what I need is something that almost anyone can easily pick up at one of the building-supply mega stores. Your suggestions are invited.

Also, the last column (November issue) really stirred up some issues on HF ground radials. There was some confusion between buried radials and elevated radials. RF-wise, elevated and buried radials have some very different

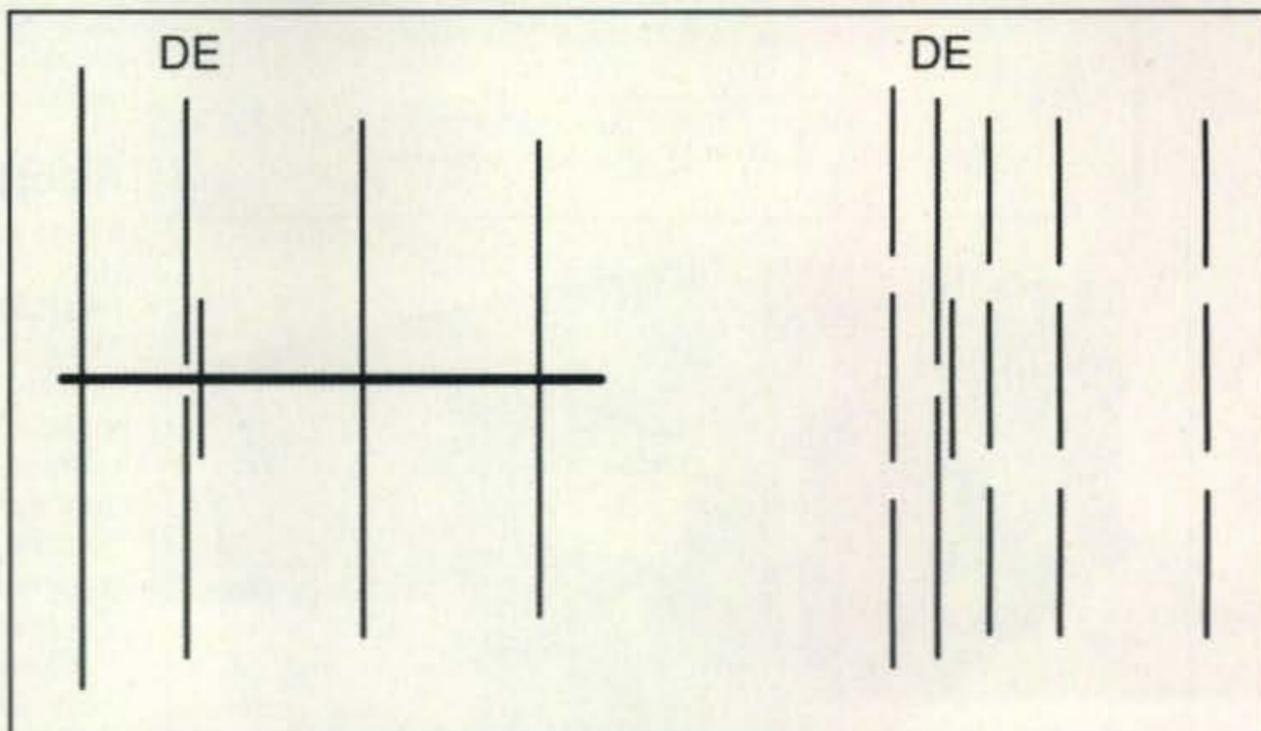


Fig. 2— Six- and 2-meter elements shown separately.

electrical properties. Let's see what I can put together for the next column (March issue).

As always, we welcome your questions and topic suggestions. Just drop a snail mail to my QRZ.com address or an email to [wa5vjb@cq-amateur-](mailto:wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com)

radio.com>. As for that construction project suggestion we received from a ham in Washington State, it looks like we will need to wait until room-temperature super-conducting wire is available. For other antenna articles and projects, you are welcome to visit www.wa5vjb.com. 73, Kent, WA5VJB

Post-Holiday Items for the Shack

Allow me to start off this edition of "What's New" by saying I hope everyone had a great holiday and a Happy New Year. I trust that for Christmas Santa and his elves brought you what you asked for and that maybe some of those items were ones you read about in "What's New." However, what if you didn't get everything that was on your list? Or maybe you received a gift card and are faced with the difficult decision of what to buy with the card. For me, that's always a tough one, so even though the gift-giving season for 2010 is over, let me make a few suggestions that could make excellent, albeit belated, presents for you, the ham who is still faced with finding the answer to the recurring question: What do I want to add to my great hobby of ham radio?

Tokyo Hy-Power HL-550FX

What if you could give yourself something that might enhance the capabilities of your trusty, reliable HF radio? Maybe your favorite rig could use some help when you're behind the microphone or key trying to get the attention of that rare DX station that seems to be just out of reach. I mean, you can hear him so well, and yet he seems deaf to your signal. Maybe some extra power could make the difference—the extra power that can be provided by Tokyo Hy-Power's newest solid-state linear amplifier, the HL-550FX (photo A).

Designed to be the perfect complement to your modern 100-watt HF and 6-meter transceiver, the HL-550FX from Tokyo Hy-Power can give you the extra power, in this case 550 watts extra or up to

*1870 Alder Branch Lane, Germantown, TN 38139
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Photo A— Just the right size for your next DXpedition to Madagascar or to your back-yard patio, Tokyo Hy-Power introduces its newest linear amplifier, the HL-550FX. Compact (9.2 kgs., or 20.3 lbs.) but ready for work, the HL-550FX can take the 100-watt output of your modern HF plus 6-meter rig and easily increase it to 550 watts, which can make the difference between a contact and no response.

1.2 kW input power, that can help you get the attention of those far-off stations that on many occasions simply seem to be ignoring your calls.

This lightweight (20.3 lbs.), compact unit from Tokyo Hy-Power seems to be ideal for home use, camping, Field Day, or for taking on your next DXpedition, since it uses four high-power MOSFET VRF-150s to send 550 watts to the antenna on HF or 6 meters and requires no additional tuning once the operating band has been chosen, thanks to its broadband characteristics.

Tokyo Hy-Power has a unique duct structure built into the HL-550FX amp to keep it running cool and has added a number of sophisticated protection circuits to keep things from getting too hot. The protection circuits can also tell you if your HF rig is overdriving the amp or if it getting too much current, too much reflected power, or receiving too much voltage. Another highlight is the Frequency Detector Unit, which senses the frequency of the drive power from the transceiver. Should a frequency beyond the operating band (26 to 28 MHz amateur bands) of the HL-550FX be detected, the amp protects itself by shutting down output.

The HL-550FX from Tokyo Hy-Power is an impressive package that can be of benefit to numerous hams, while also enhancing the capabilities of ham shacks everywhere. The HL-550FX is priced at approximately \$2850 (please check the website) and is expected to be in stock at most ham stores by the end of January 2011. Also, if you'd like more information about Tokyo Hy-Power's HL-550FX, watch for a product review on this unit in a future issue of CQ, or visit the Tokyo Hy-Power website located at <www.tokyohypower.com>.

Rigblaster Plus II

What sounds like an ideal addition to go with that new HF rig you got for the holidays? It's the new Rigblaster Plus II sound-card interface from West Mountain Radio (photo B).

West Mountain Radio tells us this new Rigblaster incorporates several user-requested enhancements—including a plug-and-play USB port for connection to PC and power, instant setup connectors for microphone configuration, front-panel-mounted transmit power-level knob, and a CAT/CI-V rig-control interface.

Those familiar with the original Rigblasters may appreciate the new plug-and-play USB port on the Rigblaster Plus II, since it eliminates the need for special USB-to-serial cables required to interface with today's computers. The Rigblaster Plus II also receives power through the USB port, which eliminates the need for an AC adapter.

West Mountain Radio also includes with the Rigblaster Plus II Microsoft® certified USB drivers on a CD that are also available on the West Mountain Radio website. The company uses rewired microphone jumper blocks called Instant Setup Connectors (ISCs) that let users universally match these different wiring schemes. Six ISCs are provided (for three round-metal and three RJ45

modular-mic connectors) to cover today's most popular HF radios from ICOM, Yaesu, Kenwood, JRC, Alinco, SGC, and Elecraft, while unusual or older radios can usually be wired up with individual jumpers.

Other improvements include the moving of the manual transmit-power-level adjustment from a potentiometer accessed through the rear panel to a front-panel-mounted knob to make it easier to adjust transmit power levels on the fly without having to adjust the output volume in the PC's sound-card software.

The CAT/CI-V rig control interface, a feature previously found only on West Mountain Radio's higher end Rigblaster Pro and Rigblaster Duo, has been added to the Rigblaster Plus II. It may be used with any CAT or CI-V controlled radio that requires an RS232-to-TTL level converter, including most ICOM, Ten-Tec (CIV), and smaller or older Yaesu (CAT) radios.

Best of all, all of these features have been added without passing the costs to customers. The Rigblaster Plus II is priced the same as the original Rigblaster Plus it replaces at \$159.95. For that you get the Rigblaster Plus II package, which includes USB and microphone cables, audio cables, and a CD loaded with free sound-card software. It's available for immediate shipment from West Mountain Radio or may be ordered from any authorized West Mountain Radio dealer. For complete product details, go to <www.westmountainradio.com/PLUS2PR>.

Heil Sound Connection

In early November, Chip Margelli, K7JA, vice president of amateur radio sales and marketing for Heil Sound, Ltd., told us that Heil Sound now has live chat support available during business hours for anyone who may have a question about Heil Sound or its products.

You may reach the live chat link by going on the internet to <www.heilsound.com/amateur> and by clicking on the "Have A Question?" icon, which will connect you to the Heil Sound support line. According to Chip, "Heil Sound is pleased to provide this new service to our dealers and customers."

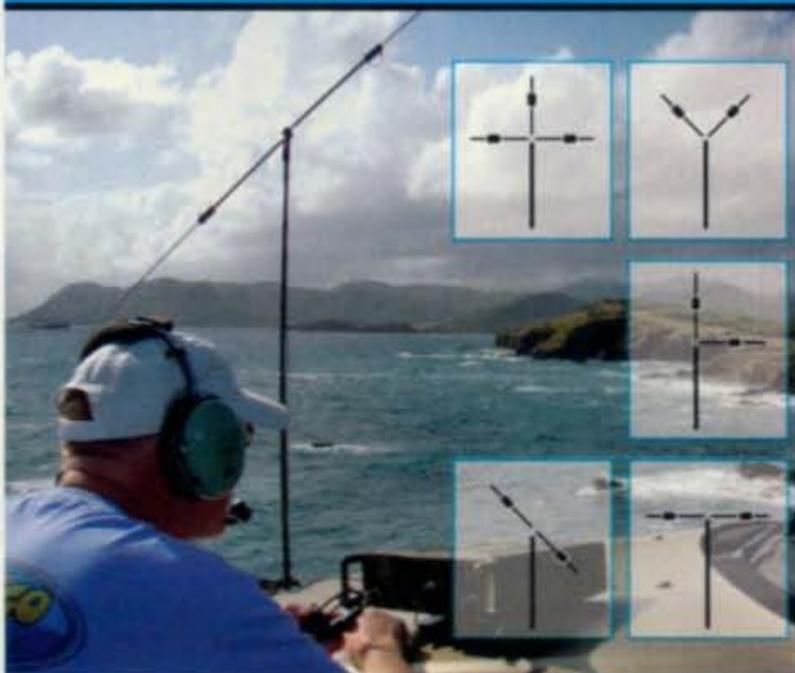
New GPS Module from Round Solutions

A new GPS module from Round Solutions seems to be offering what the electronics world is seeking these days—smaller dimensions, lighter weight, and longer battery running time.



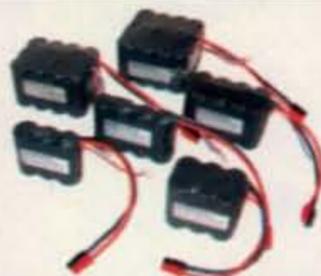
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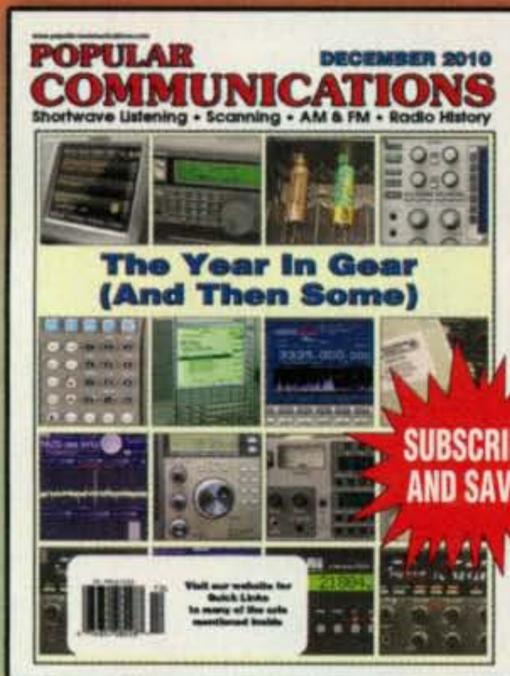
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Photo B— The RIGblaster Plus II from West Mountain Radio replaces serial connectors with USB connectors while including other upgrades that make for a simple interface of this new unit to your modern HF/VHF/UHF rig.

Based on the brand-new SiRF IV chipset, the ORG4472 GPS module (photo C) is now available as a fully automotive- and industrial-compliant module. Measuring only 7 × 7 × 1.4 mm, Round Solutions claims it's the smallest GPS module in the world. Round Solutions is an internationally active supplier of products, services, and concepts for industrial users of electronic components.

"This new SiRFstar IV chipset of the module provides higher sensitivity and consumes less power than previous GPS systems," explains Olaf Schaefer, technical director at Round Solutions. "This extends battery life is especially for small handheld devices, because now passive GPS antennas can be used without losing performance," he adds.

The ORG4472 uses surface-mount technology. There is no cost for RF connectors or cables, and no manual work is needed in production. Its integrated interface for accelerometers, gyrome-

ters, or other sensors makes "Dead Reckoning" easy. Using "Dead Reckoning" tracking can be continued even without sight to satellites—for example, in tunnels.

Free access to the test server can be had at <www.track4less.com> and <www.track4free.com>, which facilitates the use of geodata.

"With these servers, working proof of concepts can be realized within days," explains Schaefer, with reference to features of public-domain software such as OpenStreetMaps and Openlayers.

Further information is available at <www.roundsolutions.com>.

Go-Baggage for Hams?

Still looking for a "Go Bag" for your radios and essentials? Skooba Design of Rochester, New York, has introduced the Checkthrough® Executive Brief (photo D), the latest addition to the company's collection of patent-pending checkpoint-friendly laptop bags that

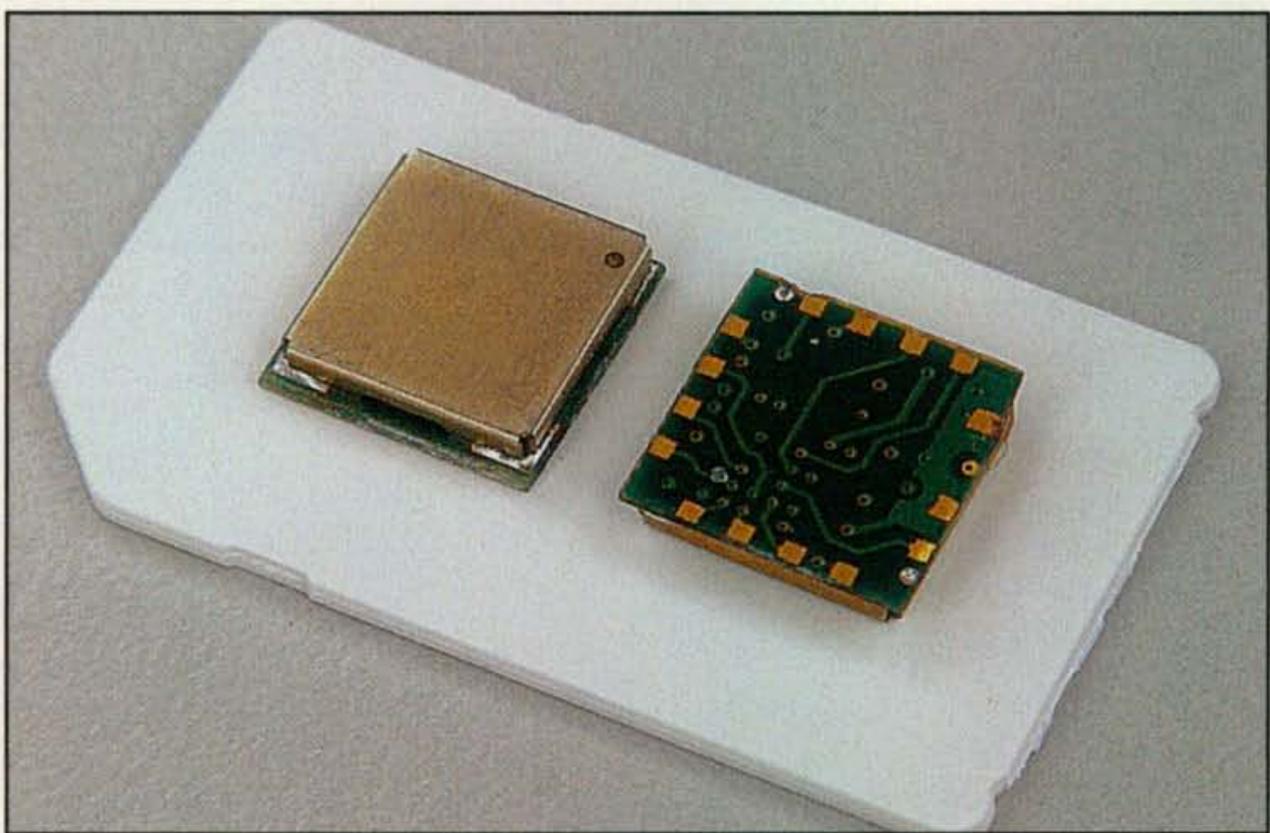


Photo C— Coming in a 7 × 7 × 1.4 mm, Round Solutions claims it makes the smallest GPS module in the world, and it's even automotive and industrial compliant. Watch for the ORG4472 coming soon to a PCB near you.



Photo D— Whether you call it a Grab Bag or a Go Bag, this new piece of luggage from Skooba Design of Rochester, NY, called the Checkthrough® Executive Brief, might be a good way to fill your needs for an easy way to carry all your essentials.

may be an option for travelling hams or hams who are packing Go-Bags for emergency purposes.

Checkpoint-friendly bags comply with TSA requirements and specifications which allow them to be sent through airport screening with the laptop left inside. Aside from the obvious convenience of not having to remove the laptop, checkpoint-friendly bags help prevent damage and minimize the chances that the laptop will be one of the tens of thousands lost or stolen in airports in a typical year.

The new Executive Brief is a sleek, smoothly contoured and tailored case that offers about two dozen pockets and compartments for storage, including a Doc Pocket™ ticket/passport organizer, divided file section, key ring, USB thumb drive caddy, and more. Despite the high capacity and abundance of compartments and features, the bags are ultra-lightweight and designed for serious-but-comfortable road-warrior travel. The Executive Brief is available in small (for typical 15-inch laptops and smaller) and large (up to 17-inch laptop) sizes.

The small and large Check-Through Executive Briefs list for \$149.95 and \$159.95, respectively. Full specs and dealer/ordering information are available at <www.skoobadesign.com>.

Website of the Month: HRO.com

HRO Inc., better known by amateur operators as Ham Radio Outlet and self-described as the world's largest retailer of amateur radio products and accessories, has removed the wraps on a new state-of-the-art E-commerce web presence at <www.hamradio.com>. The development and release of <[radio.com> is predicted to change the way information, pricing, and technical details are delivered via the internet.](http://www.ham-</p>
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Steve Gilmore, national sales manager for HRO Inc., says, "The modification of Ham Radio Outlet's current web presence will geographically change the way our customers buy, research, and collect information concerning amateur radio products and accessories.

"Utilizing state-of-the-art technology and with the integration of our new web presence to our current point-of-sale application platform, we will deliver extremely expedient and accurate data concerning product availability, product pricing, and product information to our customers on a near real-time basis."

HRO Inc. is family owned and headquartered in Danville, California. Founded in 1971 by Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, today HRO has 12 retail stores located throughout the United States, as well as its newly enhanced website.

Book Corner

The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications – 2011 Edition. If you've been looking for "the most comprehensive guide to radio electronics and experimentation," you need look no further than the *ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications – 2011 Edition* (photo E), available at <www.arrl.org>.

This nearly two-inch thick book that seems to weigh a ton (actually it comes in at a hefty 5 lbs.) is filled with the practical treatments of basic electronic fundamentals, RF design, digital and software radio technology, and antenna construction. It's also part reference book and part applied theory, delivering

RF Amplifiers, RF Transistors, Chip Caps, Metal Clad Micacs & Hard to Find Parts

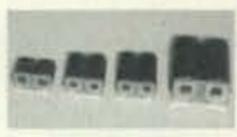


HF Amplifiers
PC board and complete parts list for HF amplifiers described in the Motorola Application Notes and Engineering Bulletins:

AN779H (20W)	AN758 (300W)
AN779L (20W)	AR313 (300W)
AN762 (140W)	EB27A (300W)
EB63 (140W)	EB104 (600W)
AR305 (300W)	AR347 (1000W)



Low Pass Harmonic Filters
2 to 30MHz



HF Broadband RF Transformers
2 to 30MHz



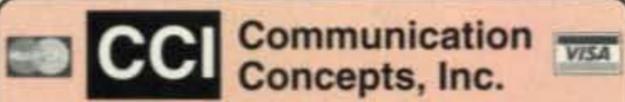
RF Transformers
2 to 300MHz
Type "U"



HF Power Splitters/Combiners

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PSC-2L Set 600W PEP
PSC-2H Set 1000W PEP
PSC-2H4 Set 4000W PEP

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PSC-4H Set 2000W PEP
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And if the big book is not enough, the ARRL also includes a CD that makes this comprehensive RF engineering reference—along with companion soft-

ware, PC board templates, and other support files—completely available through your PC.

For the latest in fundamental radio theory, practical design and principles, antenna systems and propagation, equipment construction and maintenance, and ham radio station assembly and management, order your copy of the 2011 edition of the *ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications*, the 88th edition in the series, from the ARRL website at <www.arrl.org>.

End Game: Irrational Acts, Tragic Consequences. Amateur radio operator and author Theodore (Ted) J. Cohen, has done it again—written yet another book that is entitled *End Game: Irrational Acts, Tragic Consequences* (photo F) in an effort to answer all of the questions raised in the first two books of his trilogy, *Frozen In Time: Murder at the Bottom of The World* and *Unfinished Business: Pursuit of an Antarctic Killer*.

Better known to the ham radio community as N4XX, Cohen tells me that this third book in the series should satisfy the curiosity of the readers of the first two books, even though he says that "Given that my novels are post-modern, there always will be something that the readers will have to figure out for themselves."

End Game: Irrational Acts, Tragic Consequences, as well as the other two books in this thriller trilogy are available for order at AuthorHouse.com, Borders.com, Amazon.com, Target.com, Books-a-million.com, and BarnesandNoble.com. Cohen's novels are also available in eBook format for Kindle® and for Nook® and other eReaders who take the EPUB format.

That's it for this month, so look forward to the February issue for more exciting products for the ham radio operator who just can't stay away from looking at an perhaps buying great products for our hobby. And by the way, if you ask questions of the company or order any of its products, remember to say you read about it in *CQ* magazine!

73, John, WV5J

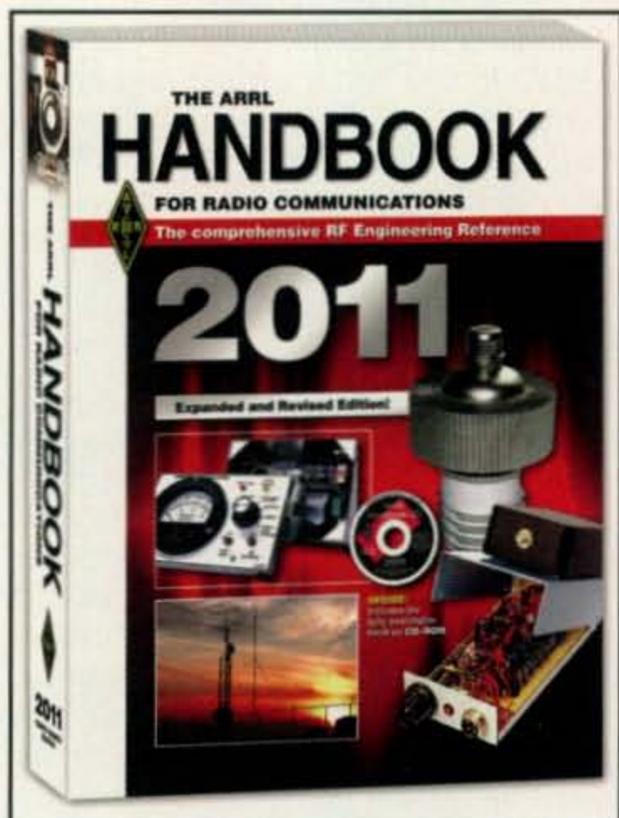


Photo E— The ARRL recently released its ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications – 2011 edition, and considering its large size and weight, it must be crammed with almost everything you'll ever want to know about ham radio.

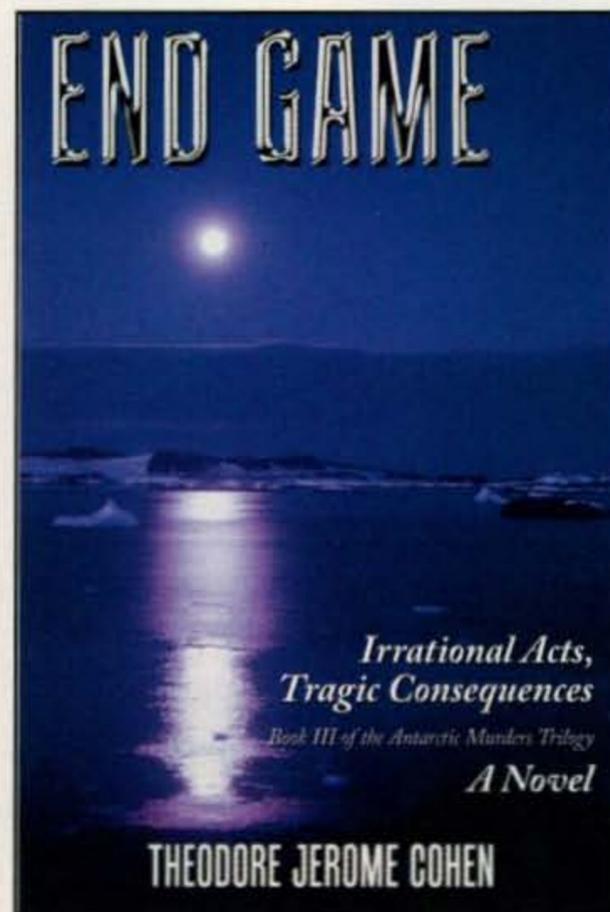


Photo F— Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX, has tied the ribbons on his thriller trilogy with the recent publication of *End Game: Irrational Acts, Tragic Consequences*, which is now available at most book marts on the web and in eBook format for Kindle® and Nook® and other eReaders that take the EPUB format.

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.

SUCH A HAM



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My resolution is to spend more time on the air.
As a matter a fact that's all I intend to do this year.

The THEMIS and ARTEMIS Projects

In my September and October 2008 columns, I wrote the third and fourth installments of a series about my hypothesis concerning dust storms on the Moon. I also reported on the THEMIS Project, a mission that was tasked with studying space weather. The mission began with the launch of five identical satellites on February 15, 2007. Among the mission's discoveries was how aurora substorms (known as the Northern Lights in the northern latitudes) are powered.

I have since published the essence of my first two articles in the Fall 2010 issue of *CQ VHF* magazine. In this issue of *CQ* I will recap the results of the February 26, 2008 aurora substorm observation and report on the beginning of the subsequent ARTEMIS project.

The THEMIS Project's Aurora Discovery

Given the acronym THEMIS (which stands for Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms), the project was

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

VHF Plus Calendar

Jan. 4	Quadrantids meteor shower. New Moon. Partial eclipse of the Sun.
Jan. 10	Moon apogee.
Jan. 12	First quarter Moon.
Jan. 19	Full Moon.
Jan. 22	Moon perigee.
Jan. 22-24	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes.
Jan. 26	Last quarter Moon.

named after the Greek goddess Themis, who embodied divine order, law, and custom. Essentially, the project's mission was to find the trigger point of geomagnetic substorms.

After launch, each of the satellites was placed into an elliptical orbit according to the five stages of the mission. See <<http://themis.ssl.berkeley.edu/orbits.html>> for an explanation of each of the stages. In mid-October 2008 the mission concluded Stage 5, which was the Dayside Science Phase.

A little more than a year after the project's launch, the five identical washing-machine-size satellites were used to observe the February 26, 2008 aurora substorm, with profound results. The satellites

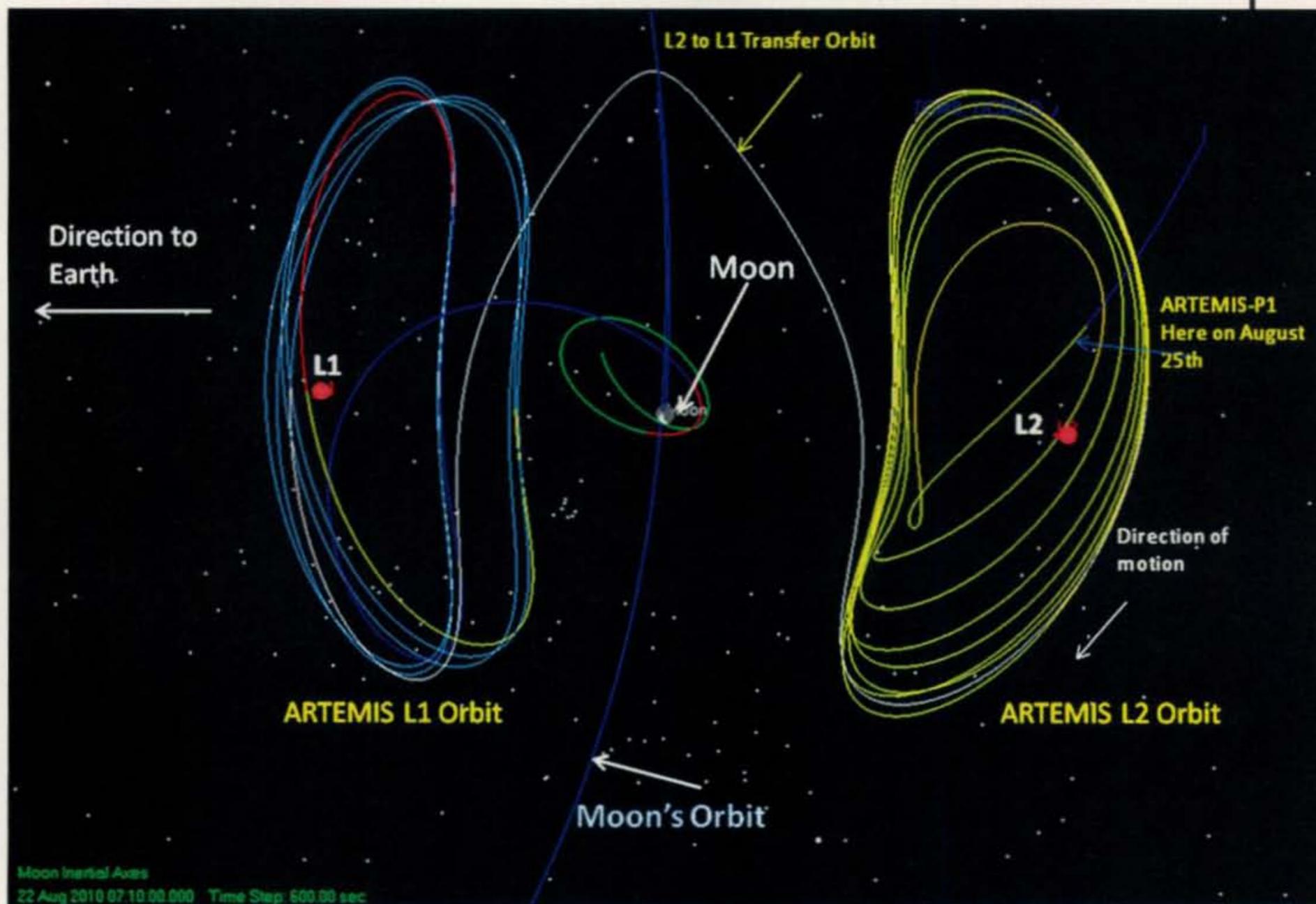


Fig. 1— Illustration of ARTEMIS-P1 libration orbit. (Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Center)

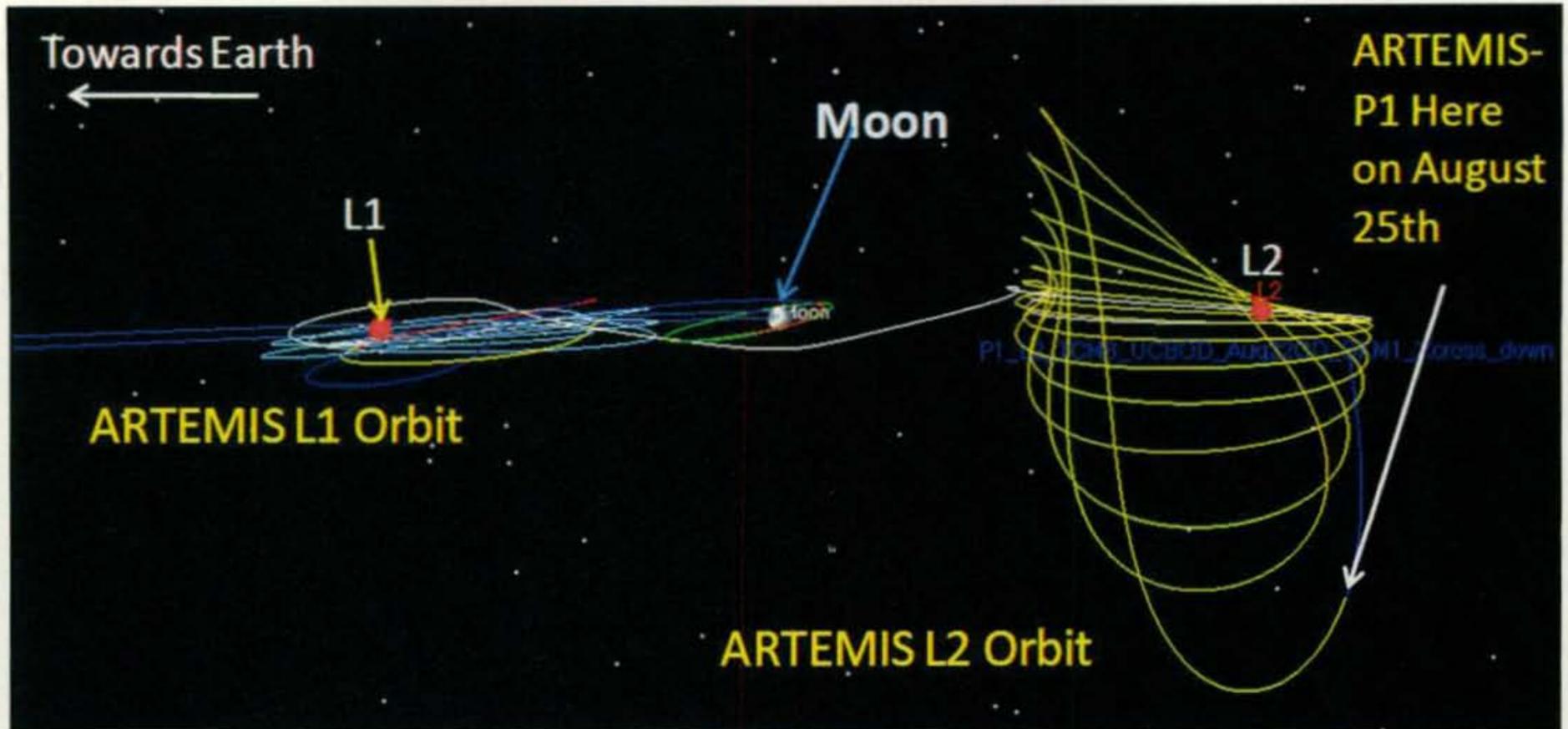


Fig. 2— Illustration of ARTEMIS-P1 librations, side, or ecliptic, view. (Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Center)

were positioned to test a theory concerning the onset of aurora substorms. The theory was that when two of the magnetic field lines of the Earth's magnetotail come close to each other, there is a moment when a critical limit is reached and they short together.

This shorting, or reconnecting, causes the magnetic energy to be transformed into kinetic energy and heat. The resul-

tant energy is released, causing the plasma to be accelerated and thus producing accelerated electrons. The theory postulated that the reconnection takes place approximately one-third of the way from Earth to the Moon. The sequential observations of the first three satellites, P1-P3, provided support for the theory that the effects of the reconnection on each satellite are in a sequential order, with auroral intensification

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beginning between the registration of effects on P2 and P3.

The ARTEMIS Project: Mission to the Moon

In May 2008 NASA headquarters announced that because of the overall success of the mission, it would be extended until fiscal year 2012. Additionally, the principal researchers received approval to explore the possibility of using the remaining propellant of the two outermost satellites (see satellites 1 and 2 in fig. 1, and also fig. 2) to move them out to the Moon.

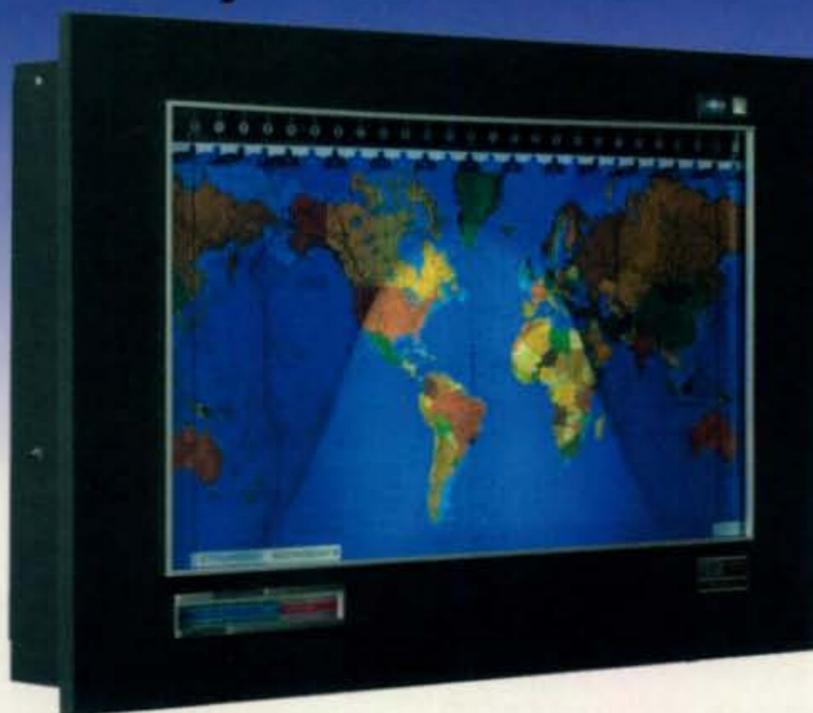
Named ARTEMIS (which stands for Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence, and Electrodynamics of the Moon's Interaction with the Sun), these two satellites have been peeled away from the other three THEMIS satellites and placed at Lagrange points on the Moon. One of the satellites, L2, was placed at the Lagrange point on the far side of the Moon on August 25, 2010. The other satellite, L1, was placed at the Lagrange point on the Earth side of the Moon. According to Vassilis Angelopoulos of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLAS), principal investigator of the THEMIS mission, "ARTEMIS will provide a unique two-point view of the Moon's under-explored space environment." He adds, "These two spacecraft are headed for an incredible new adventure."

The Lagrange points are the five positions in an orbital configuration where a small object affected only by gravity theoretically can be stationary relative to two larger objects (in this case the former THEMIS satellites with respect to the Earth and Moon). The Lagrange points are positions where the combined gravitational pull of the two large masses provides the precise centripetal force required to rotate with them. They are analogous to geostationary orbits in that they allow an object to be in a "fixed" position in space rather than an orbit in which the relative position changes continuously. The purpose of using the Lagrange points to position the ARTEMIS satellites is to get them into lunar orbit while at the same time preserving the remaining fuel onboard the satellites. (Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lagrange_point>)

Two very fascinating videos have been posted on the ARTEMIS Project website (http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/artemis/). The first video, "ARTEMIS Orbits Magnetic Moon" (http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?collection_id=21591&media_id=21969931), gives an

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explanation as to how the two satellites eventually settle into lunar orbit using the Lagrange points' gravitational influence. The second video, "ARTEMIS Orbiting Lagrange Point" (http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media_id=21971251), illustrates how the lunar orbits eventually will be achieved. While these spacecraft are being positioned they will collect data on solar wind and the Earth's magnetosphere.

Once these satellites are in their lunar-orbit positions, they will study the vacuum that the Moon creates in the solar wind and what fills the lunar wake. They will also see how the solar wind

affects the Moon's surface and the Earth's magnetotail. In particular, they will observe how particles are accelerated when magnetic field lines of the magnetotail reconnect. For more information concerning the proposed research, please see the paper entitled "The ARTEMIS Mission" that Angelopoulos (mentioned above) has prepared, which can be downloaded from this website: <http://www.igpp.ucla.edu/public/THEMIS/SCI/Pubs/artemis/The_ARTEMIS_Mission_SSR_accepted.pdf>.

I am very interested in the ionizing effects on the lunar dust because I believe that the ionization of the dust

may be the explanation for the incredible disturbances that the lunar seismometers detected during June 20–30, 1975. I believe that the instruments onboard the ARTEMIS could be useful in providing the final piece of the puzzle of my hypothesis that the lunar disturbances were dust storms and not meteoroid events.

Current research indicates a relationship exists between the Earth's magnetotail, substorms and some forms of *F2* propagation. I believe that the more we can learn about the magnetotail, the more that we will be able to understand and take advantage of *F2* propagation. I hope to have a more comprehensive article on the THEMIS and ARTEMIS projects published in a future issue of *CQ VHF* magazine.

FASTRAC in Orbit

Scheduled for launch on November 19, 2010 aboard a Minotaur IV rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska, the FASTRAC (Formation Autonomy Spacecraft with Thrust, Relnav, Attitude, and Crosslink) is a pair of nanosatellites that were developed and built by students at the University of Texas, Austin. The project is part of a program sponsored by the Air Force Research Laboratory with the goal of leading the development of affordable space technology. It is the first student-developed satellite mission that incorporates an on-orbit, real-time relative-navigation, on-orbit real-time attitude determination using a single GPS antenna and a micro-discharge plasma thruster. The mission is intended to demonstrate that reduced launch, hardware, and integration costs are a present-day reality.

Amateur radio involvement has been encouraged via the project's website: <<http://fastrac.ae.utexas.edu/>>. Once at this website click on the "for Radio Operators" link. Two phases of participation are requested. The first phase is the science portion. Amateur radio operators are encouraged to collect data that are generated by the firing of the micro-discharge plasma thruster.

The second phase will begin when the satellites are reconfigured for use by the Amateur Radio Service after the primary mission has concluded. Using the Kantronics KPC9612-Plus TNC, the satellites will be reconfigured so that they can serve the APRS network.

Current Contests

The ARRL VHF Sweepstakes is scheduled for the weekend of January 22–24. 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 up to 40 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 prediction, see Tomas Hood, NW7US's "Propagation" column elsewhere in this issue. Also visit the International Meteor Organization's website: <<http://www.imo.net>>.

Silent Keys

John Champa, K8OCL: For a number of years John served on the ARRL's HSMM Working group, providing excellent input into HSMM applications to the amateur radio service. A few years ago I recruited John to write the "HSMM" column for *CQ VHF* magazine, which he did admirably for as long as his health held out. About a year ago John was diagnosed with cancer of the optic nerve. Knowing that he would not be able to recover from the cancer, John bravely faced its ultimate outcome. John valiantly continued his research work until the cancer prevented him from doing so. He succumbed to the effects of the cancer on November 12, 2010.

Bill Butler, W6BFA: The following is

from Robert Russell, KD6JOU, as posted on QRZ.com: "William R. Butler, W6BFA, of Simi Valley, California has passed away of natural causes. Born in 1919, Bill was a pioneer of VLF communications for use with the submariner fleet; a veteran of WW II, United States Navy; and an avid designer and builder of high-gain VHF and UHF antenna arrays. He leaves a son, also a radio amateur, and a daughter, grandkids, and many loving friends, this writer fortunate to be among them. May God bless your new and continuing adventure, Bill."

And Finally . . .

As we begin a new year, I am very optimistic about the potential for advances in the understanding of some of the mysteries of our niche in the Amateur Radio Service. I believe that the work of the THEMIS and ARTEMIS missions could open the door to further understanding of the many effects of the Earth's magnetotail on Earth and the Moon. I also believe that there will be advances in cubesat and nanosat design and development that will make them more accessible to student involvement.

While I applaud the many college student projects around the world, it is my personal goal to see extensive student involvement take place at the common-school (K–12) level. We here in the U.S. are woefully behind in our training of our future engineers. With STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs that incorporate aerospace becoming a part of the common-school curriculum, I believe that we have a fighting chance at holding on to our lead in worldwide technological development.

What do you think? If you have some thoughts about the future of our space program and our VHF niche in the hobby, please let me hear from you at: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>.

My best wishes go to all of you for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Until next month . . .

73 de Joe, N6CL

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Whoa . . . I'm writing this for the New Year! Time certainly does seem to fly by. Since you will be reading this column in early January, I'll just take a moment to wish you and your families a very happy New Year. For those who celebrate in a different way, my best wishes to you as well. Watch out for those New Year's resolutions, though, as many times they fall by the wayside within a few weeks. Try to keep to them!

More on the Former Netherlands Antilles

This is being written not long after all of the "PJ" activity from the former Netherlands Antilles. Right now, not totally officially, we can say that *four* new countries (entities) replace the two that were added to the "deleted" list. Thus, Curacao (PJ2) and St. Maarten (PJ6-8) are "gone," added to the deleted list and removed from the DXCC list, as of October 10, 2010 at 0359Z. As of 0400Z, October 10, 2010, Curacao (PJ2); Bonaire (PJ4); Saba & St.

Eustatius (PJ5-PJ6), and St. Maarten (PJ7) were added to the DXCC list. October 10 is the effective date for all four of the new ones, although the ARRL will not be accepting cards or LoTW (Logbook of The World) for credit until January 1, 2011.

So, let's get this straight: The DXCC list of *current* countries count as of October 9, 2010 was 338. On October 10, *two* were deleted, but *four* were added. Doing the math, it now means that we have a *current* count of 340. I should also mention here that the *deleted* list count was 58, and now

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



Team 1 of the PJ6A crew who brought us the new one, Saba. Left to right: KØIR, W4GKF, N4NX, W6IZT, K4SSU, K4UEE, VE7CT, N4HH (K8EAB was not available). (Photo courtesy of Bob Allphin, K4UEE)

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If you worked PJ7E in late October, you worked one of the above ops. This is the entire crew of PJ7E. It isn't possible to ID each one in this space. Watch for the full story in The DX Magazine. (Photo courtesy of Joe and Janet, W8GEX/W8CAA)

The WPX Program

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Mixed	
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Digital	
46.....JN3SAC	47.....K4PBY

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SSB: 500 W8KNO, 750 KE6FQC, 4950 K2VV.
Mixed: 700 W1E74OF, 1500 N3RC, 4050 ON4CAS, 6500 K2VV.
Digital: 450 JN3SAC.

160 meters: LY3BY
40 meters: JN3SAC
30 meters: JN3SAC
17 meters: JN3SAC
12 meters: JN3SAC
10 meters: LY3BY

Africa: LY3BY
Europe: OK5JM

Award of Excellence Holders: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MDD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BQY, I8JX, WA1JMP, K8JN, W4VQ, KF2O, WB8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM8DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IC, 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, N3XX, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, Y80TK, K9QFR, 9A2NA, W4UW, NX8I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE8DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IK4GME, VE9RJ, NN1N, HB9AUT, KC6X, N6IBF, W5ODD, I8RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W8ULU,

K9XR, J8SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K8IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PXV, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, K4LQ, K8KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, A16Z, RU3DX, WB9IHH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1AOB, KT2C, UA9CGL, AE5B, K8DEQ, DK8PM, SV1EOS, UA0FAI, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VG, UT9FJ, UT4EK, K9UQN, UR5FEO, LY2MM, N3RC, OH3MKH, RA3CQ, UT3IZ, S55SL, RU3ZX, YO9HP, RA3DNC, K8ZT, KE5K, JH8BOE.

160 Meter Endorsements: N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, WB8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8ILC, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM8DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM8AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE8DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TQH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, N3XX, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, Y80TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX8I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, NN1N, W5ODD, I8RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, K9XR, J8SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K8IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, VR2UW, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, S51U, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX, WB9IHH, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1AOB, UA9CGL, SM6DHU, K8DEQ, DK8PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VG, UR5FEO, N3RC, UT3IZ, RU3ZX, YO9HP, RA3DNC, K8ZT, KE5K, JH8BOE.

Complete rules and application forms may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope (foreign stations send extra postage for airmail) to "CQ WPX Awards," P.O. Box 355, New Carlisle, OH 45344 USA. Note: WPX will now accept prefixes/calls which have been confirmed by eQSL.cc. Other electronic QSL confirmation means are not accepted.

*Please Note: The price of the 160, 30, 17, 12, 6, and Digital bars for the Award of Excellence are \$6.50 each.

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB

2556.....W5JBO	2559.....AD2AM
2557.....K8ABC	2560.....NW3H
2558.....N3KV	

CW

1113.....W5JBO	1115.....N3KV
1114.....K8ABC	1116.....K8ME

RTTY

50.....W5JBO	52.....N3KV
51.....K8ABC	53.....KW3W

SSB Endorsements

330.....CT1AHU/330	250.....N3KV/260
320.....KE4SCY/328	Mobile.....NW3H
310.....N2LM/312	

CW Endorsements

300.....N2LM/300	150.....K8ABC/162
200.....PP7LL/205	

RTTY Endorsements

150.....N3KV/152

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. As of October 12, we recognize 337 active countries, pending a final decision on the former Netherlands Antilles. Please make all checks payable to the award manager. Photocopies of documentation issued by recognized national Amateur Radio associations that sponsor international awards may be acceptable for CQ DX award credit in lieu of having QSL cards checked. Documentation must list (itemize) countries that have been credited to an applicant. Screen printouts from eQSL.cc that list countries confirmed through their system are also acceptable. Screen printouts listing countries credited to an applicant through an electronic logging system offered by a national Amateur Radio organization also may be acceptable. Contact the CQ DX Award Manager for specific details.

becomes 60 with the *old* Curacao and St. Maarten being added to that list.

Is this confusing? A lot of folks seem to think so, and I can only hope I have explained it sufficiently. Some say: "I already worked Curacao and St. Maarten. Why should I have to work them again?" To put it simply, because that is the way the rules work when things like this happen. I could go on for pages and pages trying to explain all of the background and politics involved, but please just accept it as this is the way it works. These islands are popular vacation spots and there will be plenty of activity from them in the months and years ahead. You won't have any trouble working or confirming them.

CY0 - Sable Island

On again, off again! Randy, N0TG, and his group had Mr. Murphy on their backs in October. Just as they started to depart for the island, a major safety issue was discovered with the charter aircraft that required repair before it could fly. Parts were not readily available, and it was estimated that acquiring parts and completing the repairs would extend as much as three weeks or longer. Thus, the team returned home to "regroup" and reschedule a return for another try.

Whoa! No sooner had they gotten home when I got an e-mail from Randy saying: "As it has turned out, finalizing just yesterday (November 1), all details and coordination points have come together to permit us to reschedule. The new date is 6-13 December. We are *thrilled* and excited about this. Another wonderful matter is that Murray (WA4DAN) and Ron (AA4VK) have been able to rejoin the team. So ... Sable Lives!" Obviously at this writing in early November, I cannot know if it all worked out, but we certainly hope it does. I should have more to report on this next month.

There is also a silver lining to the Sable Island story. Randy apparently had been talking up ham radio with one of the employees on the island, and now Alan Wilson, VE1AWW, has set up a station on Sable. From QRZ.com, Alan tells us: "The rig is a Kenwood TS-690S with the AT running a maximum of 100W through a Hy-Gain AV-18VS vertical. I am a government employee at the Sable Island station and am on Sable Island (CY0) until 29 December 2010 (more or less). I am on 80-6 meters SSB. I still have to cook up an antenna for 160 meters that doesn't need an external tuner (the tuner in my rig does not function on 160 or 6 meters). I am a new operator, licensed since July 2010. It was Randy, N0TG, of

the CY0 DXpedition, who made the suggestion that I give amateur radio a try—my thanks to him! I work here on the island 5-6 days a week. I am not on the air 11-19Z (12-20Z once Canada switches from daylight savings to standard time) Mon.-Fri., and sometimes Mon.-Sat. As you might imagine, I don't stay up late, as I have to run the station and look out for my staff; medical care is measured in hours or days away. I will do my best to operate at different times on the weekends so as many different areas as possible get an opportunity.

"While I am a fan of the lower frequencies, there is a lightning hotspot southwest of Sable Island. I am often affected by static crashes and the like, especially on 80 meters."

Several stations have already reported working Alan. Special thanks to

5 Band WAZ

As of November 1, 2010, 830 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1700 stations have attained the 150 zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones confirmed:

9A2EU UR5EDU

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (zones needed, 80 or 40 meters):

N4WW, 199 (26)	KQ0B, 199 (2 on 10)
W4LI, 199 (26)	K9OW, 199 (34 on 10)
K7UR, 199 (34)	G3NKC, 199 (31 on 10)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	K8PT, 199 (26)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40)	IN3ZNR, 199 (1)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	EA5BCX, 198 (27, 39)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
KZ4V, 199 (26)	JA1DM, 198 (2, 40)
W6DN, 199 (17)	9A5I, 198 (1, 16)
W3NO, 199 (26)	K4CN, 198 (23, 26)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
N3UN, 199 (18)	N2OT, 198 (23, 24)
W1JZ, 199 (24)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	W4UM, 198 (18, 23)
SM7BIP, 199 (31)	US7MM, 198 (2, 6)
N4NX, 199 (26)	K2TK, 198 (23, 24)
N4MM, 199 (26)	K3JGJ, 198 (24, 26)
EA7GF, 199 (1)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
N6HR/7, 199 (37)	F5NBU, 198 (19, 31)
JA5IU, 199 (2)	W9XY, 198 (22, 26)
RU3DX, 199 (6)	KZ2I, 198 (24, 26)
N4XR, 199 (27)	W7VJ, 198 (34, 37)
HA5AGS, 199 (1)	W9RN, 198 (26, 19 on 40)
VE3XN, 199 (26)	W5CWQ, 198 (17, 18)
N5AW, 199 (17)	I5KKW, 198 (31&23 on 20)
JH7CFX, 199 (2)	IV3MUC, 198 (1&31 on 40)
K7LJ, 199 (37)	UA4LY, 198 (6&2 on 10)
RA6AX, 199 (6 on 10m)	IK4CIE, 198 (1, 31)
RX4HZ, 199 (13)	JA7XBG, 198 (2 on 80&10)
K0GM, 199 (17)	HB9ALO, 198 (1, 31)
S58Q, 199 (31)	JA3GNN, 198 (2 on 80&40)

The following have qualified for the basic 5 Band WAZ Award:

AA4XA (150 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

ES1FB (200 zones) KJ6P (170 zones)
AC0X (170 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, P.O. Box 449, Wiggins, MS 39577-0449. 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>.

The WAZ Program

10 Meters SSB

590.....UR5EDU

15 Meters SSB

645.....UR5EDU

20 Meters SSB

1196.....UR5EDU 1197.....W1JGS

40 Meters SSB

110.....UR5EDU

80 Meters SSB

96.....UR5EDU 97.....IT9PKO

10 Meters CW

200.....9A2EU

15 Meters CW

340.....9A2EU

20 Meters CW

600.....9A2EU 601.....RA4UVK

160 Meters

358.....RA4UVK (36 zones) 359.....UR5EDU (40 zones)

All Band WAZ Diamond Jubilee

063.....VK2MWG 066.....DL8CKL
064.....ON4CAS 067.....K2FL
065.....F6HMJ

Mixed

8746.....W7NP 8750.....N6VNI
8747.....J7SSI 8751.....K9BQL
8748.....LA9DFA 8752.....KF7P
8749.....UR5EDU 8753.....WA3GFB

SSB

5145.....HB9BOI

CW

613.....IT9KCD

RTTY

211.....IT9KCD

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, P.O. Box 449, Wiggins, MS 39577-0449. 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>.

Randy for his work in getting Alan licensed and on the air.

DX0DX - Spratly

January 6 to 24, 2011: Information is available on the website <<http://www.dx0dx.net/>>.

VK9 - Cocos Keeling

VK9 will see some action in February and March of 2011. Just announced by Phil, G3SWH, and Jim, G3RTE, they will be active February 22 to March 5. They will operate only CW on 80-10 meters. Propagation permitting, they plan to have two stations on the air as many hours of the day as possible. Phil did add this: "We are happy to meet the costs of

transport to and from the islands, but we are seeking sponsorship and donations from individuals, DX clubs, and organizations towards our living expenses on the island, printing QSLs and the like." Further information can be found at the website: <<http://www.g3swh.org.uk/vk9c-g6ay.html>>."

VP8ORK - South Orkney

January 27 to February 8, 2011: A group is going to put a heavy effort in providing the low bands to all those who want/need it. Here are excerpts from Press Release #3, James Brooks, 9V1YC:

"Many have been asking about our low-band plans for the upcoming VP8ORK South Orkney DXpedition in

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	(10 or more)	\$2.40 ea.
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	Fits UG-21 D/U & UG-21 B/UN's	1.50
UG-21D/9913	N Male for RG-8 with 9913 Pin	5.00
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MIXED

63159A2AA	4146N6JV	3737 ..WB2YQH	3003 ..JN3SAC	2440K5UR	1891VE9FX	1446DF3JO	781V51YJ	636ZS2DL
5890K2VV	4136S53EO	3693W9OP	3001K1BV	2428N6QQ	1820KX1A	1337K6UXO	726K5IC	600IK1RKN
5610W1CU	4069I2MQP	3474 ..SM6DHU	2965 ..OZ1ACB	2378W3LL	1761AG4W	1322AA4FU	723K8DAN	600KB9OWD
50129A2NA	4034N9AF	3305 ..JH8BOE	2873W2ME	2338I2EAY	1741AB5C	1269K5WAF	707 ..W1/E74OF	
4989W2FXA	4001K0DEQ	3227K9BG	2724W2OO	2233AB1J	1705W2EZ	1116YU7FW	682AI8P	
4758EA2IA	3990 ..ON4CAS	3207W9IL	2704K2XF	2116AE5B	1662 ..SV1DPI	1016 ..RA1AOB	662JA7OXR	
4701N4NO	3964 ..WA5VGI	3175N8BJQ	2530YO9HP	2192N2SS	1643N1KC	982IW0HOU	653KK3ZQ	
4414YU1AB	3908KF2O	3104K9UQN	2511W6OUL	2001K0KSG	1593S55SL	976KM6HB	650N3YZ	
4361VE3XN	3798IK2ILH	30919A4W	2499 ..KC9ARR	1930W2FKF	1512 ..WD9DZV	964K8ZEE	649RA9OO	
4211I2PJA	3775 ..YU7BCD	3007W2WC	2444VE6BF	1905W7CB	1463N3RC	815KL7FAP	644KW0H	

SSB

5122I0ZV	3536N4NO	2761KF7RU	2333W9IL	2093W2WC	1879K3IXD	1611W2ME	1377EA3NP	883WA5UA
4520K2VV	3323 ..OE2EGL	2734 ..YU7BCD	2326CX6BZ	2076K2XF	1891W2FKF	1505AG4W	1258N1KC	875K7SAM
4505VE1YX	3229 ..CT1AHU	2711 ..LU8ESU	2210 ..SV3AQR	2072K5UR	1844YO9HP	1480AB5C	1145 ..EA3EQT	826NW3H
4371F6DZU	3196KF2O	2662 ..WA5VGI	2209 ..IK2QPR	2007N8BJQ	1825K08D	1464 ..VE7SMP	1083KX1A	741 ..WD9DZV
4307OZ5EV	3108I4CSP	2595EA1JG	2201NQ3A	1986 ..DL8AAV	1758W6OUL	1463I2EAY	1042 ..IZ0BNR	717K8DAN
4171I2PJA	3022I8KCI	2471I3ZSX	2157W2OO	1945K17AO	1719K9UQN	1410S55SL	1031 ..IK8OZP	637K5WAF
40039A2NA	2957K0DEQ	2451 ..EA3GHZ	2142W3LL	1935 ..SV1EOS	1714 ..IK2DZN	1395PT7ZT	1012 ..KU4BP	600WA2BEV
3843I2MQP	2903 ..IN3QCI	2431G4UOL	2107N6FX	1927AE5B	1711 ..JN3SAC	1386 ..IK4HPU	978EA7HY	
3658EA2IA	28574X6DK	2417 ..SM6DHU	2094I8LEL	1889N6QQ	1623VE9FX	1385AE9DX	965VE6BF	

CW

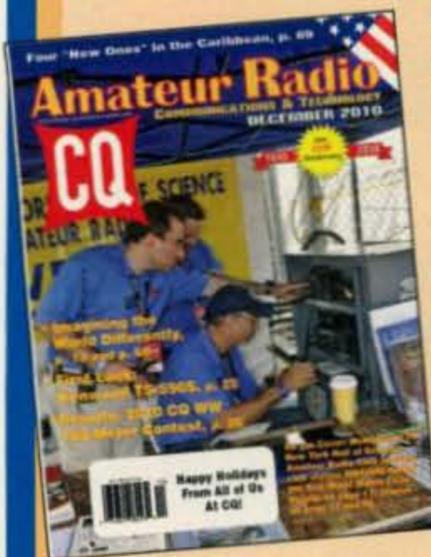
5413 ..WA2HZR	3687EA2IA	2838I7PXV	2503I0NNY	2101W9HR	1665YO9HP	1223KX1A	900IT9ELD	608IK2SGV
5353K9QVB	35069A2NA	2723 ..EA7AZA	2502 ..JA9CWX	2089K2XF	1445 ..EA2CIN	1220AA4FU	824VE9FX	
5242K2VV	3427 ..WA5VGI	2721K9UQN	2473OZ5UR	1979K5UR	1429W03Z	1147 ..WD9DZV	821HB9DAX	
4215N4NO	3308K0DEQ	2670KA7T	2434W9IL	1961W6OUL	1424N6QQ	1125 ..I0WOK	794LA5MDA	
4146N6JV	2926W8IQ	2632W2ME	2415W2WC	1918W2OO	1403AG4W	1109VE1YX	753F5PBL	
4024LZ1XL	2923KF2O	2617 ..JN3SAC	2342N6FX	1848I2EAY	1344 ..WA2VQV	1053 ..K5WAF	749AE5B	
3918VE7DP	2923 ..YU7BCD	2588N8BJQ	2278VE6BF	1804 ..EA7AAW	1334 ..RU0LL	1030AA5JG	695S55SL	
3750 ..VE7CNE	2914 ..SM6DHU	2529 ..IK3GER	2101I2MQP	1769AC5K	1317K6UXO	915N1KC	615JH6JMM	

DIGITAL

1284W3LL	1258N8BJQ	1133N6QQ	1066YO9HP	1009 ..GU0SUP	772K0DEQ	769AG4W	692 ..WD9DZV	629W2OO
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CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll

The CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 175 or more grid fields. Honor Roll listing is automatic upon approval of an application for 175 or more grid fields. To remain on the CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll, annual updates are required. Updates must be accompanied by an SASE if confirmation is desired. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager, Billy F. Williams. Mail all updates to P.O. Box 9673, Jacksonville, FL 32208.

Mixed

K2TQC.....265	W6OAT.....212	ON4CAS.....191
HA8DU.....240	VE3ZZ.....207	HA9PP.....190
VE7IG.....237	HA5WA.....206	BA4DW.....188
W1CU.....235	F6HMJ.....206	HB9DDZ.....188
VE3XN.....234	JN3SAC.....206	RW4NH.....187
HA5AGS.....228	KF8UN.....205	IV3GOW.....184
N8PR.....223	OK1AOV.....205	K2SHZ.....182
HA1RW.....220	N4MM.....202	K1NU.....180
9A5CY.....219	W4UM.....200	W5ODD.....177
HA1AG.....218	K8OOK.....195	N8FW.....176
K0DEQ.....216	N4NX.....192	

SSB

W1CU.....213	VE7SMP.....190	N8FW.....176
W4ABW.....202	N4MM.....186	DL3DXX.....175
K0DEQ.....192	W4UM.....183	JN3SAC.....175

CW

DL6KVA.....233	DL3DXX.....203	HB9DZZ.....186
W1CU.....229	JN3SAC.....200	OK2PO.....184
DL2DXA.....209	OK1AOV.....196	N4MM.....179
K0DEQ.....207	W4UM.....195	N4NX.....177

QSL Information

CT/DL2MEK via DL2MEK	CT7/M0BLF via M0BLF
CT/LZ3ND via LZ3ND	CT7/M0HSW via M0HSW
CT1/DL1DA via DL1DA	CT7/M0RLM via M0RLM
CT1A via CT1GFK	CT7/M0TJH via M0TJH
CT1EGW via W3HNK	CT7A via CT1GFK
CT1FFF via CT1GFK	CT7FFC via CT1GFK
CT1HZE via DL8HCZ	CT7FFE via CT1IUA
CT1LHM via CT1GFK	CT7FFF via CT1GFK
CT2GLO via W3HNK	CT7FFG via CT1GFK
CT3/DJ6QT via DJ6QT	CT7FFM via CT1IUA
CT3/DJ8NK via DJ8NK	CT7FFT via CT1GFK
CT3/DL1DA via DL1DA	CT7IOV via CT2IOV
CT3/DL3KWF via DL3KWF	CT7LHA via CT1GFK
CT3/DL5AXX via DL5AXX	CT7LHF via CT1GFK
CT3/OM3RM via CT3EE	CT7LHM via CT1GFK
CT3AF via W3HNK	CT7LHP via CT1GFK
CT3E via CT3EE	CT7LHR via CT1GFK
CT3M via DJ6QT	CT7LHV via CT1GFK
CT3MAW via CT3EE	CT7LHZ via CT1GFK
CT5VYV via CT1GFK	CT8/DK5FT via DK5FT
CT7/CU8AT via CT1GFK	
CT7/DC2CT via DC2CT	
CT7/DK1VI via DK1VI	
CT7/DL4IAL via DL4IAL	
CT7/DM3FG via DM3FG	
CT7/G3SED via G3SED	
CT7/G3ZAY via G3ZAY	
CT7/IW2NVT via IW2NVT	
CT7/LZ3ND via LZ1NK	

(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/>.)



Don, W4TO (right) demonstrates how he controls his remote station to Ted, W4VHF (left) at the W4DXCC/SEDCO Convention in late September 2010. This is the way to go if you live in one of those antenna restricted areas. (Photo courtesy of David, K4PZT)



A surprise visitor to the dinner meeting of the North Carolina DX & Contesting Club the end of October. No, it isn't really Pierre. It's Carl, N4AA, displaying his ZS8M hat. Here's the story behind the hat: During the PJ frenzy a few weeks earlier I saw a late-night cluster spot for ZS8M on 40 meters. Upon checking, I heard Pierre, called him, and made the contact for country #300 on 40 meters. A special thanks to Dennis, ZS1AU, and Pierre for making it possible for me to have this souvenir of a milestone in my DXCC chase. (Photo courtesy of Dave, K4SV)

new band-modes, and newcomers a chance at climbing the Honor Roll.

"Antennas will consist of:

- The Battle Creek Special (160 main): 85-foot vertical wire supported by Spiderbeam telescoping pole (160; backup)
- 80 transmit: SteppIR vertical with 80-meter coil (CW, 80m); 60-foot vertical wire supported by Spiderbeam telescoping pole (75m); 60-foot vertical wire

supported by second Spiderbeam telescoping pole (backup)

- 160/80 receive: DX Engineering 4-square with DX Engineering preamp and DX Engineering 160 transmit: Splitters to feed three low-band radios. Two RX beverages as an option to 4-square dependent on circumstances encountered on site.

"Team: EY8MM, K9ZO, ND2T, 9V1YC, KØIR, N1DG, W3WL, K6AW,

N6MZ, N4GRN, WB9Z, W7EW, and VE3EJ. I'm sure most of you recognize these calls. This team brings with it an unprecedented amount of experience in Antarctic DXpeditioning, contesting, and low-band knowledge to ensure that all bands are covered from start to finish.

"We're extremely grateful to have major DX foundations such as the NCDXF, INDEXA, and the ARRL funding us with large donations. We're also thankful to have support from many worldwide DX clubs and commercial equipment sponsors such as Elecraft, Acom, DX Engineering, and SteppIR. But even with all of that, and each team member contributing over \$12,000, it still doesn't even come close to covering the massive expense of a polar expedition. We need financial support from all of you who can.

"If you haven't sent in a donation yet, we hope you will consider joining those who have already stepped up to help. Our website <www.vp8o.com> gives full details of our trip, and is where you can contribute at whatever level you feel comfortable.

"We look forward to working you on all bands!"

All in all, we have a very busy schedule of activities over the next few months: contests plus DXpeditions to some much needed, if not *most* needed, spots to keep our interest the end of 2010 and the beginning of this year.

Enjoy the chase, and Have Fun!

73, Carl, N4AA



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Awards from Italy

BY TED MELINOSKY, K1BV

awards

This month's column features some of the many awards issued by Italian clubs and interest groups. Italians can draw on dramatic history going back over 2000 years—famous inventors such as Marconi, explorers such as Columbus, talented artists, thousands of castles and fortifications, and scenic mountains—all of which make Italian awards well worth collecting and displaying. Most operators should have a good collection of QSLs from Italy. Italian stations are quite active in just about every contest.

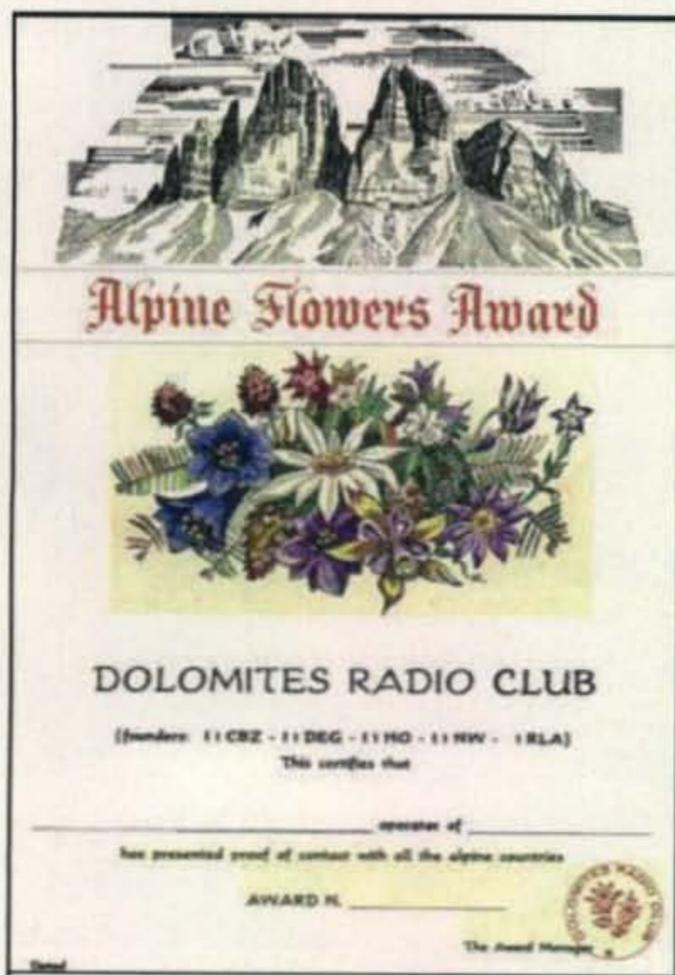
While the national organization ARI (Associazione Radiotecnica Italiana) sponsors an interesting series of certificates, the awards in this column are offered principally by ARI-affiliated clubs, not the national organization itself.

Alpine Flowers Award

This award is sponsored by the Dolomites Radio Club to promote the region. The Dolomites are a section of the Alps located primarily in northeastern Italy. The mountains are famous for skiing during the winter months and mountain-climbing and hiking during the summer. In August 2009 the Dolomites were declared a natural heritage site by UNESCO.

Europeans need seven confirmed QSOs, one QSO with a Dolomites Radio Club member plus six more contacts with different Alpine countries as

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



This award is sponsored by the Dolomites Radio Club to promote the region. The Dolomites are a section of the Alps located primarily in northeastern Italy.

USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Jim Watkins, VA3XOV/VO1SF
USA-CA All Counties #1204
September 29, 2010

Kerry Long, W4SIG
USA-CA All Counties #1205
October 11, 2010

Paul Milward, NU4C
USA-CA All Counties #1206
October 22, 2010

USA-CA Honor Roll

500		NU4C.....1404
W4SIG.....3518		
IK3GER.....3519	2500	
UR9IDX.....3520	VA3XOV.....1319	
	W4SIG.....1320	
1000		NU4C.....1321
W4SIG.....1804		
1500		3000
W4SIG.....1515	VA3XOV.....1230	
	W4SIG.....1231	
	NU4C.....1232	
2000		
W4SIG.....1403		

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.

shown in the list below. DX stations need six Alpine countries.

- Italian stations with the prefix of I1,2,3 IK1,2,3 IN3 IV3 IX1 IW1,2,3
- France
- Switzerland or Liechtenstein
- Germany DOK A, C, T or U (The DOK identifier is usually shown on DL QSL cards, for example: A01, C22, etc.)
- Austria OE2, OE3, OE6-9
- Slovenia

SWL OK. Contacts after 1 January 1966 count for the award. Send GCR list and fee of \$US5, 5 Euros, or 10 IRCs to: Dolomites Radio Club, Galileo, Galileo Strasse 3, 39031 Bruneck (BZ) Italy (or directly to the manager: Josef Feichter, IN3ZWF, Beikircher-Allee, 4 I-39032 MÄhlen in Taufers SÄdtirol (BZ), Italy).

Cassino Peace Town Award (CDXA)

The Monte Cassino monastery dates back to the early 500s when it was first built as a temple to Apollo. Over the years it has been destroyed and rebuilt numerous times. The latest destruction took place in 1944, when German defenders occupied this ancient abbey which strategically blocked Allied troops from advancing northward toward



Sponsored by Radio Club of Cassino, this award commemorates the 50th anniversary of the WW II destruction of the town of Cassino and the famed Monte Cassino Abbey.

Rome. A series of bombing strikes almost completely destroyed the abbey, which was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 1964.

The award is sponsored by Radio Club of Cassino to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the WW II destruction of the town and the famed Monte Cassino Abbey. Troops of 30 nations were involved in this famous battle. For the award you must contact stations from 20 of these countries plus one member of the Cassino RC since 1 January 1993 on HF. The countries are: I, F, ON, PY, TA, 6W, 4X, 4S, W, SP, VK, VU, 7X, EL, JA, S2, G, DL, ZL, UA, CN, TU, 9N, VE, OE, ZS, EI,

Replacement Certificate Policy for CQ Awards

There are two reasons why replacement certificates are requested for CQ's awards. One is that the original has been lost, damaged, or destroyed, such as in a fire or flood. (I've had two of these requests over the past ten years.) The second is because of a callsign change occasioned by license upgrade or acquisition of a vanity call.

In order to present a common procedure for such requests for all its awards, CQ has established a policy that permits replacement of those certificates that were lost, damaged, or destroyed, but not for those who have acquired a new callsign. The rationale is that the award was originally issued using the callsign held at the time the award was earned. Updates that result in a new certificate being issued may, of course, reflect the new callsign (the one held when the upgraded award was earned).

For USA-CA awards earned by USA and Canadian stations, the charge will be the cost of an endorsement (\$1.25). For those located outside of the USA, the cost will vary according to postal rates.

For other CQ awards, specifics can be found in the award rules on the CQ website at: <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

SU, 5N, and SV. VHF and higher award—confirm 20 stations from Cassino, Anzio Nettuno, Caserta, Isernia, and Latina, where the German, English, Polish, American, Italian, and French war cemeteries are located. All HF bands and modes except repeater contacts allowed. SWL OK. The award may be endorsed for single band. (Honor Roll—contact all 30 plus Cassino RC).

Send GCR list and fee of 10 Euros or \$US10 to: Umberto Picano, IØNZK, Via Montello 22, I-03043 Cassino (FR), Italy. E-mail: <umbertopicano@virgilio.it>; internet:<<http://www.aricassino.it/diplomi>>.

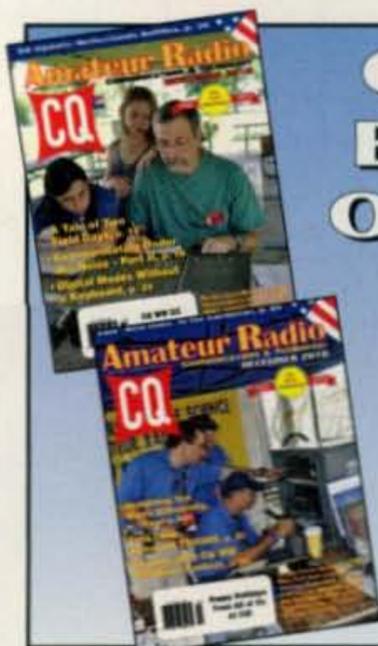
Diploma dei Castelli Campani

One official listing for the Diploma Castles of Italy (DCI) shows the highest endorsement for this award is for proving contact with an amazing 7000 castles and fortifications. Accordingly, it has become possible for many clubs to sponsor their own castle award.

Section Sezione A.R.I. di Salerno sponsors this award for contacts with castles in the region Campania after 1 January 2005. Campania includes several provinces, and the award sponsor provides a link to a master listing of castles that are valid for the award. By the way, this official listing of Italian



Section Sezione A.R.I. di Salerno sponsors this award for contacts with castles in the region Campania, which includes five provinces.



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Looking Ahead in



Here are some of the articles we're working on for upcoming issues of CQ:

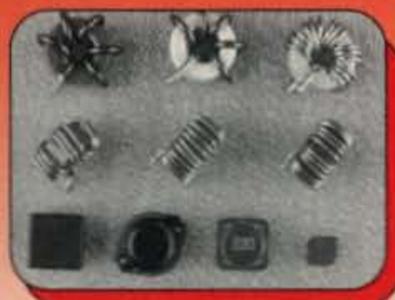
- CQ Interviews: Dr. Bill Baker, W1BKR
- CQ Market Survey: HF Transceivers
- Using Propagation Prediction Programs
- Protecting Capacitors in Series

Do you have a ham radio story to tell? See our writers' guidelines on the CQ website at:

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castles tells us that there are an amazing 549 of them in the 5 provinces! Wow!

Requirements: work castles in the Campania region. (SWL OK.)

On HF, Italians work 20 castles in at least 3 provinces. On VHF, 5 castles in at least 2 provinces. All others need 10 castles in at least 2 provinces.

Honor Roll—Italian stations need 100 castles on HF or 30 on VHF.

The provinces are: AV Avellino, BN Benevento, CE Caserta, NA Napoli, and SA Salerno. A list of valid castles is on the DCI web page (<http://www.dcia.it/>). All bands may be used. Valid modes are SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31, and SSTV. Contacts via repeater, crossband, or crossmode are not valid. Cost for the award is 10 Euros, and for the Honor Roll 20 Euros. Send a GCR list with the reference number of the castles plus a copy of the QSLs and the listed fee to: Autilia Lenza, IZ8FFQ, Via J.F. Kennedy 69, I-84015 Nocera Superiore (SA), Italy. E-mail: iz8ffq@arisa.it; internet: <http://www.arisa.it/>.

Tridentum Award

Italy has 110 provinces which are roughly equivalent in size to a U.S. county, although typically with a larger population. Several Italian awards, such as this one, are based on contacts made with provinces, and when the rules provide a key as to the postal code for some required areas, your job becomes a lot easier. In Italy, the first two digits of the "zip" code are the code for the province, and the other three digits are for individual cities in the province.

Contact stations in the city and province of Trento since 1 January 1968 count for the award. SWL OK. Postal codes for the province start with 38XXX. City of Trento = 38100. No

DIPLOMA TRIDENTUM



Rilasciato dalla
sezione A.R.I. di
Trento - Italia
I2CN Danilo Briani
al **S**ignor

titolare della
stazione radio

Il presidente

The Tridentum Award is based on contacts made with stations in the city and province Trento.

repeaters, e-link, or transponder contacts count. Stations of Trentino/Alto Adige need 25 different stations of which at least 5 are located in Trento city. Italians need 15 with 4 from Trento; other Europeans 10 with 3 in Trento City; and all others need 5, and 2 must be in Trento City. The same station can be counted only once.

Send GCR list and fee of 10 Euros or equivalent in \$US or IRCs to: ARI Sezione di Trento, Casella Postale 286, I-38100 Trento, Italy. Internet: <http://www.aritn.it/>.

Find any interesting awards online, or does your club sponsor an award that can use some publicity? Let's hear from you at the e-mail address shown on the first page of this column.

73, Ted, K1BV

Improving Your Contest Operating

January's Contest Tip

When using SSB close to a band edge, it is important to keep all of your signal inside the band. The frequency displayed by your radio is the *carrier* frequency, so your sidebands extend above (USB) or below (LSB) that frequency. How far do they extend? The FCC considers an SSB signal's bandwidth to be between the points at which the sidebands are 26 dB below the signal's average power. For contest-grade signals, that is anywhere from 2.5 to 3 kHz—assuming your signal is clean and not distorted, which increases bandwidth. So let's just say it's safe to assume you have a 3-kHz-wide signal and should stay 3 kHz above the band edge on LSB and 3 kHz below the band edge on USB. For example, 14.347 kHz and 7.128 kHz would be the highest and lowest displayed frequencies Extra Class operators should use on 20 and 40 meters phone, respectively. Also, DX stations please call for U.S. stations inside our bands if you want to get the highest rate!

Let's be honest with ourselves and admit that nothing improves a contest score more than good old-fashioned experience and outstanding station hardware. Despite that reality, there is still hope for those of us who want to improve, with or without the above. Many of the ways we can enhance our results have nothing to do with the size of our antennas or the number of years we have been contesting. Hopefully, you will gain something from this month's suggestions.

I have broken down my thoughts into several categories that include preparation, physical considerations, operating, station design, food/drink, and other. As you read on, consider your own tricks that have been picked up over the years. At the risk of letting a few secrets out (even though we know there really aren't any!), your insight may help your fellow contester—if you only share!

Preparation

Being properly prepared for a contest is the single most important contribution to improving your contest score. Successful marathon runners don't just show up for a race. Rather, they prepare for months and years. A contest is not unlike a marathon. Although everyone isn't a winner, successful participants excel based on their mental *and* physical preparation. The contesters who strive to improve their scores can:

- Prepare so that all you need to do at the beginning of a contest is sit down and operate.
- Understand propagation before and during the contest.
- Work the bands vigorously during the week before the contest to understand who's on and their game plans. Review internet summaries of same.
- Have a plan for spare equipment (including PCs) if something fails during the contest.
- Plan the contest as if you were attempting to run the Boston Marathon.

*2 Mitchell Pond Road, Windham, NH 03087
e-mail: <K1AR@contesting.com>

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon
Dec. 18	RAC Winter Contest
Dec. 18	OK DX RTTY Contest
Dec. 18–19	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Dec. 18–19	Croatian CW Contest
Dec. 19	ARRL Rookie Roundup
Jan. 1	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest
Jan. 8–9	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan. 8–9	Hunting Lions in the Air
Jan. 8–9	North American CW QSO Party
Jan. 9	DARC 10 Meter Contest
Jan. 15	LZ Open Contest
Jan. 15–16	Hungarian DX Contest
Jan. 22–23	BARTG RTTY Sprint
Jan. 28–30	CQ WW 160M CW Contest
Jan. 29–30	REF CW Contest
Jan. 29–30	UBA SSB Contest
Feb. 5	Minnesota QSO Party
Feb. 5–6	Vermont QSO Party
Feb. 5–7	Delaware QSO Party
Feb. 6	North American CW Sprint
Feb. 12–13	CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
Feb. 19–20	ARRL CW DX Contest
Feb. 25–27	CQ WW 160M SSB Contest
Mar. 26–27	CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

- Use two alarm clocks set 5 minutes apart as a backup during rest periods, especially if you are prone to oversleeping.
- Use alarms that are battery powered to avoid the impact from power disruptions.
- Have a good understanding of the prior year's efforts, especially when you made good band decisions.
- Set goals for yourself and try to exceed them. Remember, not everyone wins!
- Excel at band changing in your station.
- Know the rules inside and out (e.g., 10-minute rule, multiplier credits, etc.).
- Practice various operating scenarios with your radio (setting up a "quick" split on 80 meters, doing an A=B with your VFOs to tell an operator the frequency is busy, etc.).

Physical

There are few specialties in amateur radio more physically grueling than slugging it out for 48 hours in a major DX contest. Serious contesters don't take physical preparation lightly and consider this aspect to be as important as the station itself. For example:

- Be sure to get a good nap on , for example, Friday afternoon before the contest starts.
- Try operating while standing for short stretches during the contest.
- Don't be afraid to take short breaks. Try going for a 5-minute walk to clear your head.
- Wear loose/comfortable clothing. Dress enough to stay warm, but *not* hot.
- Change into fresh clothes periodically.
- If practical, open the windows from time to time to get some fresh air.

- Take one or more showers during the weekend, which may revitalize you.

Operating

While there is some merit to the concept that operating ability is partly natural, the truth is that the majority of good operators have learned their skills through experience. Operating ability is more than being able to copy the information you are being asked to receive. It's also a function of aggressiveness and operating with common sense. For example:

- Don't listen to/worry about your competition.
- Transmit the minimum amount of data necessary to complete the QSO. Don't be a chatty contester!
- Use your RIT, especially on CW, but make sure that station you hear is calling/working you!
- Dig for weak signals; sometimes poor copy is just QSB.
- Split your operating into different parts of the band. Don't get stuck in a narrow frequency range for the entire contest.
- Consider special frequencies—slightly up from nets (while not QRM-ing them!), way up into bands, especially if you're not operating at a superstation.

• Don't get stuck trying to run guys when you can't. Search and pounce can produce good rates.

• Track your QSO/Mult ratios. This can be a guide in determining the time you should spend calling in pile-ups. Learn to cut your losses

• Be aggressive when operating without being obnoxious. Don't build a reputation as someone who calls without listening first, doesn't know when to stand-by, and is a generally a poor operator.

• Don't be caught "DXing" when you should be running guys.

• Never miss easy multipliers. Always be aware of what you have and what you need.

• Use your VFO memories and/or your logging software to store sked frequencies, pile-ups, etc.

• Operate where others aren't from time to time.

• Don't be afraid to start moving needed multipliers to other bands in the beginning of the contest. There is no perfect time to start.

Station Layout and Design

The old adage is that the internal layout of your station plays an incredible role in reducing Sunday afternoon fatigue. For example, why compromise the advantage of phased verticals by label-



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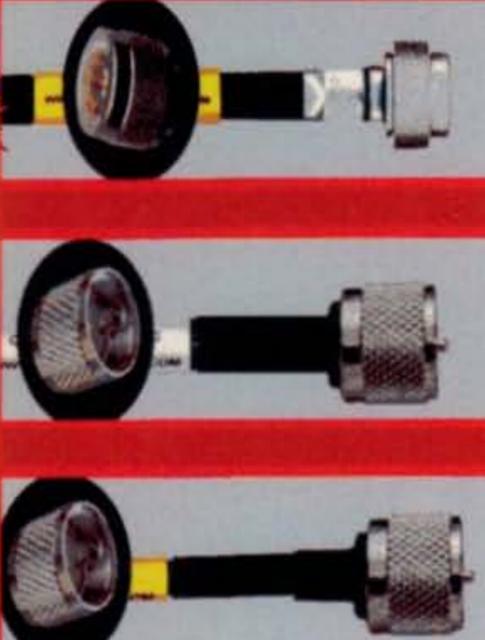
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ing them poorly? You should not have to hop into your car to get to your antenna switch. And, there are others:

- Label everything in your shack (e.g., antenna switches, remote switches, etc.)
- Label your amplifier settings per band.
- Review your station setup. Everything should be positioned for maximum comfort and reduced back strain.
- Use a comfortable operating chair (but not *too* comfortable!).
- Ensure good lighting.
- Evaluate your headphones before the contest. They can ruin the advantage of a good receiver.
- Use a boom microphone/headset.
- Clean up your shack for psychological advantages.

Food/Drink

The choice of food and drink during a contest is largely one of personal choice. The advantage comes from developing a plan. In most cases:

- Avoid a big meal right before the contest starts.
- Coffee, caffeinated energy drinks ... choose your weapon.
- Consider your meal plan for the weekend. Focus on high-energy foods.
- No alcohol!
- Drink lots of fluids during the contest.
- Consider food choices that are quick

to prepare. Crockpot dishes (e.g., stew, soups) are good choices, as are microwave dinners and sandwiches. A handy box of munchies works well, too.

Other

There are countless other thoughts about improving your contest score, and some of them are:

- Record your operation and listen for areas of improvement for the next time.
- Operate in small contests during the year to develop your skills for the big ones.
- Try to find a friend to operate with; exchange ideas from time to time.
- Try to identify and fix potential TVI/RFI problems *before* the contest.
- Have a plan established to deal with possible problems (e.g., pre-made power cords with toroids).
- Answer QSL requests from all sources—paper and electronic. DX stations *really do* remember.

Final Comments

When you actually stop and think about it, it's amazing what you can do to prepare for a contest that has little to do with the size of your antennas or how much power you're running. Give it some thought. I guarantee it will make you an improved contester!

See you in the next contest!

73, John, K1AR

Good Conditions Predicted for 2011

Moderate 2010 CQ WW SSB Contest Conditions

The 2010 CQ World-Wide DX SSB Contest weekend of October 30–31 started off with great geomagnetic activity conditions. Geomagnetic activity was very quiet, making for a very stable ionosphere. Sunspot counts were incredible, though! On both contest days, the sunspot count was 32 (compared to a year ago when the count was 16 and 19). The 10.7-cm solar flux index was 85 and 81, compared to last year's 76. All of the HF contest bands were usable, including 10 meters! The contest yielded great results for almost every participant, compared with the last several years.

The new solar cycle, Cycle 24, is picking up energy. Sunspots are not little specks; sunspots are typically large, while not yet overly complex. Complex magnetic structures in a sunspot region tend to trigger strong X-ray flares and often release coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The recent sunspots are not that complex and only weak to moderate flaring is occurring. This will change, however, as the cycle continues forward.

Flux readings during November 2010 rose above 90. We are no longer seeing long periods without sunspots. While there are still days with zero spots, they are fewer and fewer.

Here is an overview of expected propagation conditions for each amateur band between 6 and 160 meters for 2011.

6 Meters: While we are seeing a slow and steady increase in solar activity, it is not yet enough to wake up 6 meters via *F*-layer propagation. We should see action on 6 meters 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. By the end of 2011, however, we may see occasional periods (short lived) when the *F*-region plays a role on this band.

10 and 12 Meters: These bands will be poor to good, except during times of sporadic-*E* activity. Expect most DX openings to be generally on north and south paths, although by fall, solar activity may well be high enough to support a great DX season on 10 meters. Most of the time the solar activity will not support propagation at 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. Occasional worldwide openings will occur during the daylight hours of all seasons. Later in the year, as solar activity increases, this band will become a hot daytime activity center for most latitudes. Generally, though, openings during the first half of the year will be short, except for the strong and frequent north-south path openings. By the end of 2011, we should be in a more rapid climb

*e-mail: <nw7us@sunspotwatch.org>

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for January 2011

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-4, 8-12, 15, 17-31	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 7, 14, 16	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 5-6	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 13	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 through the 4th, poor (D) to fair (C) on the 5th and 6th, fair (C) on the 7th, 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.

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: Twenty is again going to be the main player during the year. Expect good 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. There will be moderate nighttime openings during the spring and fall seasons.

30 Meters: As Cycle 24 begins to offer more sunspot activity, conditions on this band will offer strong openings, especially a few hours before sunset until a few hours after sunrise. In 2011, 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 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

A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, October 2010: 24
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2010: 14

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, October 2010: 82
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2010: 78

Ap Index

Observed Monthly, October 2010: 6
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2010: 6

edge before noon, with 20 meters taking the lead after noon and becoming the optimum DX band during the late afternoon hours. Short-skip openings between distances of about 1200 and 2300 miles should be excellent during the daylight hours. Great 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.

One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, October 2009: 5
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2009: 2

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, October 2009: 72
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2009: 69

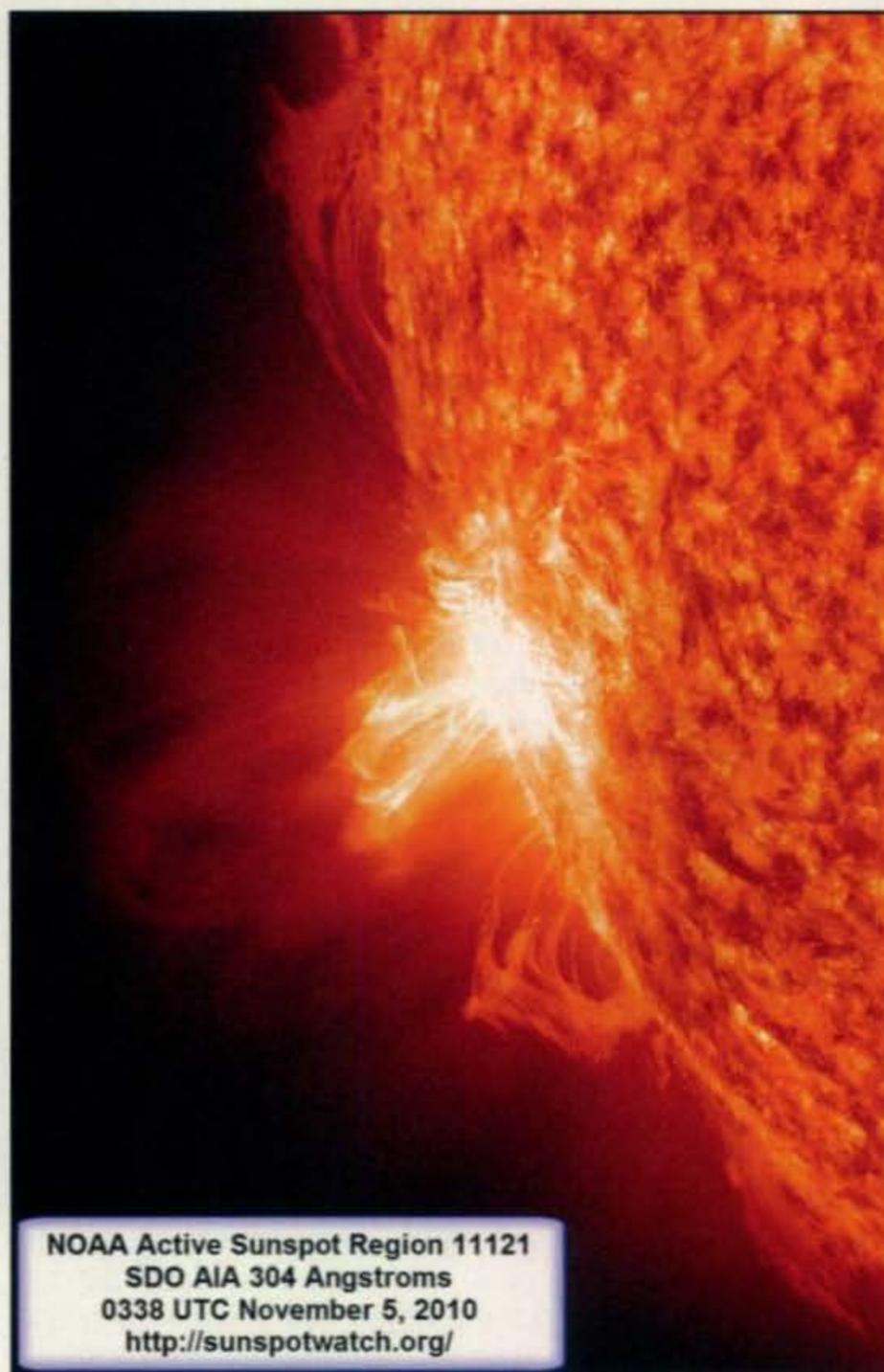
Ap Index

Observed Monthly, October 2009: 3
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2009: 4



NOAA Active Region 11121
SDO AIA 171 Angstroms
0338 UTC November 5, 2010
<http://sunspotwatch.org/>

Fig. 1—Active sunspot region NOAA AR 11121 (short, 1121) rotating into view on November 5, 2010 (as seen at the 171-Angstrom wavelength). The sunspot region was very active, with moderately complex magnetic structures, seen by the bright yellow loops that indicate magnetic field lines as plasma is pulled out away from the Sun's corona above the sunspots. As the sunspot continued to rotate around the visible solar disc, it unleashed X-ray flares with energy levels ranging from tiny to moderate. (Source: NASA/Solar Dynamics Observatory [SDO])



NOAA Active Sunspot Region 11121
SDO AIA 304 Angstroms
0338 UTC November 5, 2010
<http://sunspotwatch.org/>

Fig. 2—NOAA Active Region 1121 unleashed many X-ray flares. This view at the 304-Angstrom wavelength on November 5, 2010 reveals the intense and huge plasma filaments (caused by the magnetic field lines punching through the sunspots, pulling the plasma out away from the Sun's corona). (Source: NASA/SDO)



Fig. 3— As can be seen by this “Intensitygram” captured by SDO, there were several sunspot regions (the dark spots in this image, representing the cooler area on the Sun where sunspots have formed) during November. (Source: NASA/SDO)

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 nighttime 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, 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 toward Europe and the east should peak at about midnight. Openings toward the South Pacific and in a generally southerly direction, as well as openings into Asia and North Pacific, may be possible just before

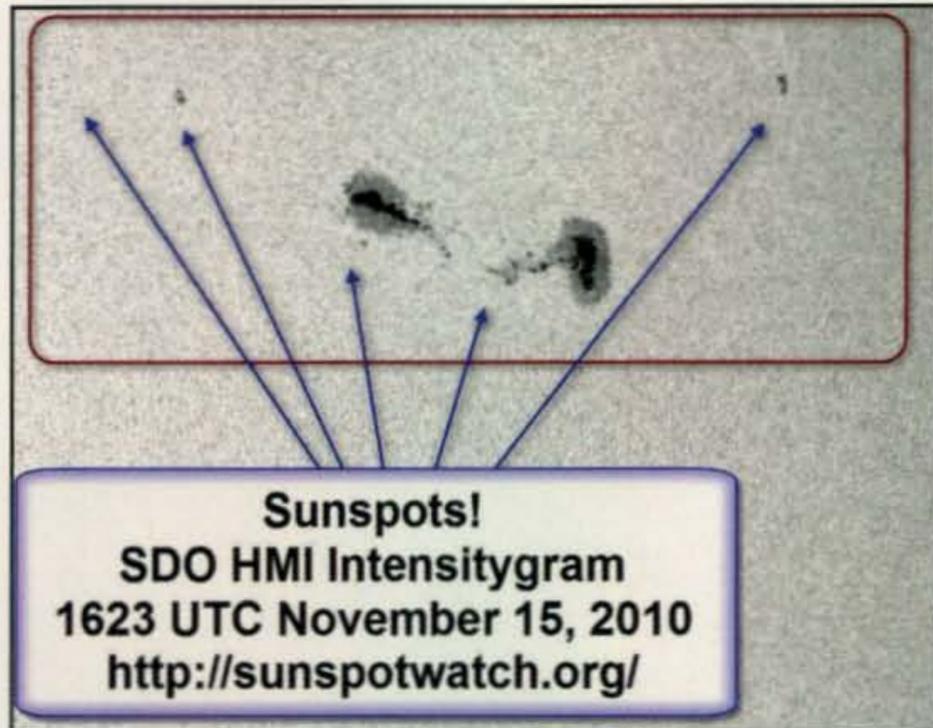


Fig. 4— A close-up of sunspot regions NOAA AR 1124 and 1125 showing large and well-formed sunspot groups. (Source: NASA/SDO)

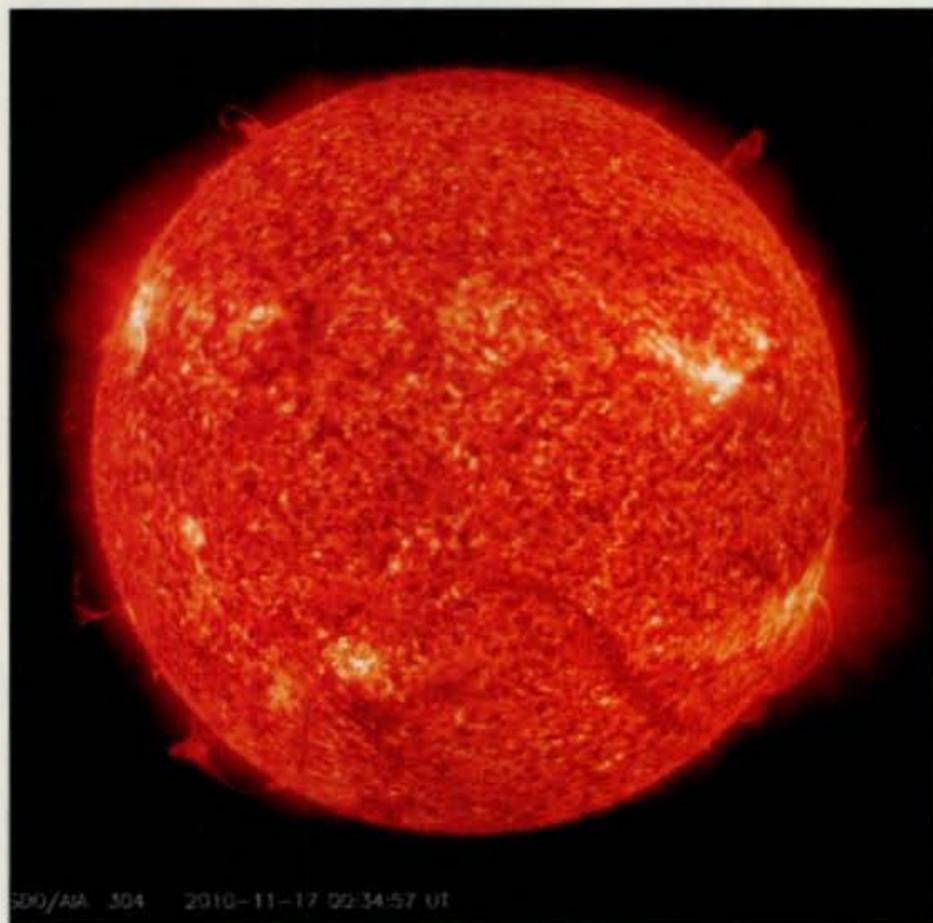


Fig. 5— A view of the Sun on November 17, 2010 at the 304-Angstrom wavelength. Notice in the lower right quarter of the solar disc, the long wavy “finger” (the darker curved line); this is a huge plasma filament stretching across the corona. Just to the right is the bright sunspot region. (Source: NASA/Solar SDO)

daybreak. 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 and appears from January 1 to January 5. The maximum should occur on January 3. This shower can sometimes be quite intense, so it may be a good idea to set up some 2- and 6-meter schedules. Morning meteor openings may be the best bet during this month.

Check out the *CQ VHF* magazine propagation column for an in-depth look at propagation on VHF and above.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for October 2010 is 23.5. The lowest daily sunspot value of zero (0) was recorded for October 6, 7, and 8. The highest daily sunspot count was 47 on October 25. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on April 2010 is 14.0. A smoothed sunspot count of 44, give or take about 9 points, is expected for January 2011.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 81.6 for October 2010. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on April 2010 is 78.3. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for January 2011 is 99, give or take about 9 points.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-index (*A_p*) for October 2010 is 6, which is still very quiet. The 12-month smoothed *A_p* index centered on April 2010 is 5.5. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to vary greatly between quiet to active during most days in January. Refer to the Last-Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column for the outlook on conditions during January.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding this 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/>. If you are on Facebook, check out <http://tinyurl.com/fbswx> and <http://tinyurl.com/fb-nw7us>. Speaking of Facebook, check out the *CQ* Amateur Radio Magazine fan page at <http://tinyurl.com/fb-cqm>.

Now that the new solar cycle is active, I'll be keeping my ears to the radio, hoping to hear you on the air. Happy DX!

73 de Tomas, NW7US

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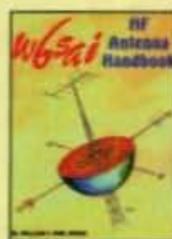


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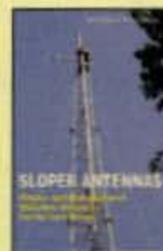
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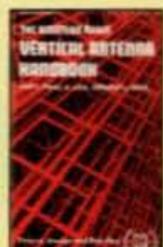


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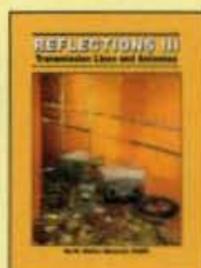
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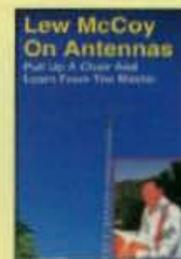
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**2010 WPX SSB RESULTS
SINGLE OPERATOR
NORTH AMERICA**

United States		2987 1022	
AJ1I	A	8,734,012	(OP: K8PO)
AK1W	*	2,520,478	1241 698 (OP: K5ZD)
K1HI	*	1,794,824	1295 628
W1BYH	*	794,313	690 403
N1BCL	*	698,400	632 400
K1AR	*	626,868	598 396
K1DG	*	596,712	527 376
WX7T/1	*	471,680	498 335 (OP: K1RM)
AD1DX	*	459,918	544 334
N1KON	*	458,280	546 342
K01G	*	307,904	426 283
W1FM	*	250,120	387 260
WA1Z	*	171,521	298 229
WA1YZN	*	100,400	293 200
K1SEZ	*	53,544	159 138
KM1W	*	51,975	151 135 (OP: W1KM)
WA1OUI	*	30,302	120 109
W1WEF	*	19,400	102 97
N1ZN	*	18,942	88 77
N1SXL	*	4,140	48 45
K1VSJ	*	2,480	32 31
K1GQ	*	1,672	24 22
W3EP/1	28	61,053	188 141
KQ2M/1	21	2,901,948	1571 772
KK1KW	14	1,714,308	1156 780
WJ1R	7	52,784	131 122
K1UO	3.7	2,161,782	1118 682
NX1T	1.8	1,827	33 29
*KRSX/1	A	4,352,355	1952 861 (OP: K1BX)
*NV1N	*	3,509,752	1710 788 (OP: N1UR)
*NE1H	*	536,190	525 366
*W1CCE	*	449,190	529 345
*KA1GEU	*	376,295	471 323
*WA1DRQ	*	271,616	418 256
*W1WBB	*	259,347	392 271
*W1TO	*	133,700	239 191
*KB1JUF	*	108,297	217 191
*NJ1H	*	101,200	231 176
*K1MMV	*	90,650	203 175
*K1VU	*	80,135	209 155
*KA1VMG	*	77,854	193 166
*W1FA	*	68,034	174 138
*KB1TOC	*	58,672	163 152
*W2JU/1	*	58,658	174 139
*KB1FRK	*	51,830	175 146
*W1BJ	*	51,435	155 135
*AA1O	*	48,620	166 130
*K1WCC	*	39,176	141 118
*KB1NHV	*	35,256	138 113
*K1PU	*	27,772	122 106
*KSGMT/1	*	27,359	120 109
*NJ1Q	*	27,195	133 105
*KK1W	*	26,950	111 98
*K1NPT	*	23,324	115 98
*W1GXZ	*	22,962	99 86
*W1OHM	*	22,700	115 100
*KA1C	*	21,032	98 88
*KG1V	*	18,920	98 86
*W1SKB	*	18,576	95 86
*N1NN	*	18,530	96 85
*K1OK	*	10,269	69 63
*K1YM	*	8,468	58 58
*KF1D	*	7,930	69 61
*WW1N	*	7,020	56 52
*N7PYQ/1	*	6,048	56 54
*W1MJ	*	3,168	39 36
*W1SRB	*	2,760	45 40
*NX1Y	*	1,728	25 24
*W1PLM	*	1,220	20 20
*K1QED	*	77	7 7
*N1WRK	21	32,340	118 110
*K1ALL	14	280	10 10
*K1ZR	7	507,418	655 384
*AB1JU	*	520	14 13
KM2O	A	1,496,820	929 570
NT2A	*	1,461,834	935 621
WK1Q/2	*	763,000	652 436 (OP: K2WR)
N2NC	*	429,693	456 319
NJ1F/2	*	284,900	388 259
K2BBO	*	267,655	397 269
N2NT	*	253,696	381 256
K2NV	*	120,508	225 188
W2FUJ	*	118,695	228 193
KG2V	*	67,425	192 145
KM2L	*	37,089	123 117
K2XA	*	22,673	85 79
KC2TF/1	*	5,292	49 49
KV2K	*	3,120	40 39
W2BSN	*	56	5 4
W2RR	28	19,908	96 79 (OP: WA2AG)
KA2BXH	21	585	15 15
WB2KLD	14	47,214	137 129
KD2RD	7	2,093,750	1506 625 (OP: N2GC)
WN2O	3.7	314,004	404 274
*K2DSL	A	553,125	661 375
*W0BCB/2	*	405,806	481 331
*K2S2	*	373,230	441 330
*WA2JQK	*	353,690	431 313
*AB2IO	*	303,303	346 273
*N2YBB	*	289,710	394 270
*W2OSR	*	282,000	410 300
*AB2TC	*	272,430	373 270
*WA2MCR	*	163,936	310 218
*K9CHP/2	*	141,668	301 214
*N2MTG	*	119,121	279 177
*K2JIMY	*	104,910	231 195
*NC2T	*	87,096	208 152
*K2QY	*	83,880	203 180
*K2QJB	*	82,995	204 165
*W2VU	*	73,625	204 155
*WA2FBN	*	47,388	174 132
*WB2SXY	*	33,108	150 124
*WB2ZEX	*	28,119	107 91
*K2DEN	*	24,786	115 102
*WA2NLL	*	23,230	104 101
*WA2OG	*	15,326	89 79
*W2HIY	*	10,640	77 70
*K2SNNW	*	9,060	64 60
*W2HCB	*	7,695	60 57
*K2PAL	*	5,453	42 41
*WY1H/2	*	5,040	47 45
*KD2MU	*	4,601	44 43
*WA2PNI	*	4,462	47 46
*WB2RIS	*	3,864	45 42
*N4NY/2	*	2,607	33 33
*K2VUP	*	2,479	39 37
*K2AMP	*	990	22 22
*K2DL	*	459	17 17
*W2ARP	*	36	4 4
*K2AWX	28	32	4 4
*AA2DS	21	37,080	130 120
*K2JRO	*	1,200	24 24
*WA2ZSK	14	38,481	145 127
*N3CHX	*	85,280	209 164
*W03P	*	82,593	195 171
*KB3WV	*	76,858	199 166
*W3LL	*	64,678	172 146
*NV3V	*	55,890	176 138
*K3FS	*	38,164	146 116
*N3KUD	*	37,422	160 126
*K3GMT	*	33,411	129 111
*WA3ERQ	*	31,692	119 114
*N3CR	*	29,735	109 95
*N3XPD	*	28,280	112 101
*N0MSB/3	*	24,304	121 98
*KCSGTS/3	*	20,169	98 83
*KB3EJ	*	16,380	97 90
*K3GEN	*	16,132	90 74
*N3JNX	*	5,472	51 48
*W3EDP	*	5,292	59 54
*N8NA/3	*	2,852	33 31
*WZ3K	*	406	16 14
*KA3JOI	*	338	13 13
*AD3PA	28	7,854	56 51 (OP: N3JDO)
*WA2VQV/3	14	14,220	83 79
*K3LAB	*	4,320	51 48
*W03C	7	113,296	236 194
K4SKB	*	31,860	128 108
K4YMO	*	24,453	111 99
N3KXM/4	*	23,920	101 92
WB2VJ/4	*	23,422	108 98
N4DJ	*	14,342	78 71
AF4DX	*	11,346	70 61
K4FW	*	4,576	46 44
W4JHU	*	2,625	36 35
KG4CUY	*	2,592	35 32
K5TVT/4	*	2,550	30 30
W4ATL	*	2,108	41 34
W4RVN	*	1,830	30 30
WN1GIV/4	28	199,789	453 241 (OP: N4BP)
N3UA/4	*	20,020	95 77
W4CYS	*	1,403	23 23
KY5R/4	21	2,113,163	1335 689
KV4T	*	1,296,126	1111 573
WB4SLM	*	280,135	398 313
W4PV	*	236,640	482 272
KI4VWJ	14	272,291	496 277
W4YKF	*	2,848	32 32
KU8E/4	7	686,913	792 481
KZ1A/4	*	90,825	310 173
AA4D	*	71,446	160 139
*KJ4KNW	*	49,206	188 139
*NW4V	*	46,440	142 129
*NDRZT/4	*	45,720	146 127
*K4YD	*	42,350	146 121
*KJ4JEY	*	42,312	175 123
*N4DTF	*	42,130	134 110
*NY4D	*	41,005	144 139
*N4DF	*	39,078	123 117
*K4GDP	*	37,884	148 123
*AA4KD	*	32,200	143 115
*K04Y	*	30,858	124 111
*W0VOM/4	*	30,552	151 114
*N4LKE	*	27,819	117 99
*AK4NC	*	22,116	110 97
*N4RTD	*	21,182	101 89
*KJ4GDW	*	20,424	108 92
*KA4TEU	*	19,598	99 82
*N4APR	*	19,264	89 86
*KJ4WD	*	19,200	97 80
*K4DMH	*	18,868	94 89
*KX4O	*	18,444	101 87
*KDRRP/4	*	16,236	85 82
*WA2EJ/4	*	14,823	86 81
*W4BK	*	14,678	107 82
*WA4JA	*	14,544	76 72
*AJ4GL	*	13,320	82 74
*KDSAKC/4	*	10,080	65 63
*N4VAN	*	9,720	56 54
*K4KFW	*	7,923	65 57
*K4RAY	*	7,644	55 52
*NN1L/4	*	7,564	65 62
*K04OL	*	6,985	61 55
*KE4RQ	*	5,148	53 52
*K4KAY	*	4,437	57 51
*KT4OO	*	4,142	43 38
*K2EUH/4	*	4,080	35 30
*KF4RC	*	3,936	46 41
*K4HHK	*	3,325	40 35
*AI4G	*	2,665	46 41
*K4RSL	*	2,627	41 37
*K4EEY	*	1,664	33 32
*K4ZDR	*	1,620	32 27
*K4GRE	*	1,612	32 31
*K4GDW	*	1,566	28 27
*KS4L	*	1,536	24 24
*KJ4WXX	*	861	21 21
*KY2E/4	*	666	19 18
*KJ4G/4	*	663	17 17
*KJ4UCJ	*	324	12 12
*W1BP/4	*	294	14 14
*KE4VEK	*	228	12 12
*K4GDB	*	4	2 2
*NA4W	28	206,257	389 239 (OP: K4WI)
*K9OM/4	*	78,210	244 158
*W6SAI/4	*	11,020	69 58
*K3MAF/4	*	2,688	33 32
*KI4LTO	*	494	13 13
*W4UAL	21	205,824	388 268 (OP: K4CWW)
*KM4HI	*	196,308	310 266
*N04K	*	21,168	112 98
*KV1P/4	*	14,025	80 75
*AJ4CU	*	8,732	61 59
*WB2TFM/4	14	160,446	295 242
*KJ4GK	*	11,280	83 80
*N4MM	*	8,118	48 46
*WA2BKX/4	*	1,450	29 29
*K4MTX	*	126	9 9
*AJ4RI	*	104	9 8
*K4W	7	599,060	777 389
*N4NX	*	582,435	645 387
*K03Q/4	*	101,728	217 176
*KABQ/4	*	72,136	157 142
*K4KCS	*	4,000	33 32
*K4YZ	*	2,618	34 34
*KU4BP	3.7	409,344	592 328
*K4WI	1.8	20,544	152 96
NR5M	A	9,027,888	3654 1083
N800/5	*	7,650,864	3221 1072
K5TR	*	6,050,630	3109 941
WSWZ	*	1,544,130	1497 602
K5ER	*		

*AK5DX	32,860	153	106	NC6X/7	*AK5DX	644,245	672	395	KD8SQ	14	161,538	282	247	WDYV	43,566	185	137	*VE3BVA	255,519	298	261	
*NM5H	28,392	117	91	NR7DX	637,824	755	453	WB0HM	30,240	110	105	110	105	KB0L	5,194	55	53	*VE3RCN	205,110	303	215	
*AASLA	12,040	83	70	W7PU	488,017	774	401	WB0JMF	7	30,099	81	79	79	79	NA0BR	4,680	53	52	*VA3JWR	110,840	207	163
*KISF	7,552	69	64	AD7YT	472,632	804	376	*WB8TLI	A	1,205,298	851	522	522	522	K5MCA/0	4,664	45	44	*VA3GD	75,300	179	150
*WASRHG	7,203	52	49	W17N	398,128	515	334	*K8BL	461,153	564	371	371	371	K0PFZ	2,765	37	35	*VE3OM	63,140	165	140	
*NSLTM	4,753	52	49	W7TSQ	370,818	466	327	*NR8I	454,678	584	329	329	329	AB0YM	864	24	24	*VE3KKQ	31,710	115	105	
*K1JHS/5	3,680	46	46	K17AD	339,586	354	353	*WB8KNO	337,744	504	304	304	304	KG0F	14	4,058,835	2228	935	*VE3AJ	22,550	94	82
*KBSDRJ	1,829	36	31	NW7ZZ	335,524	596	322	*W7BE	311,535	489	315	315	315	KSYYT/0	115,577	232	209	*VA3WV	8,466	58	51	
*AISG	1,760	38	32	AC7GP	332,304	435	322	*K880CP	296,460	425	270	270	270	WDPPF	32,469	148	137	*VE3RHD	102,827	210	189	
*WMSR	858	28	26	NU7J	322,390	464	313	*WS6K/8	281,688	451	291	291	291	*K0CN	A	950,915	1824	505	*VA3GUY	50,141	146	133
*WSRAW	760	21	19	NU7J	322,390	464	313	*N800Q	172,438	338	218	218	218	*NX0I	661,626	851	413	*VE3MCF	9,858	64	62	
*W4JHC/5	330	15	15	NG7Z	321,408	523	324	*WB8JUI	170,709	337	231	231	231	*WADL	501,960	583	356	*VA3FN	336	12	12	
*WB5SGN	297	11	11	WG7X	261,370	522	295	*WB8MK	162,900	313	225	225	225	*AABNK	401,984	505	352	*VE3RJ	275	11	11	
*AD5LU	253	13	11	KF7IQ	260,934	435	277	*W8GOC	151,368	300	212	212	212	*K0FX	378,092	372	372	*VE3IAE	7	36,312	98	89
*AESNO	160	10	10	NF7E	248,270	505	305	*WB7M	143,472	246	168	168	168	*WB0TSR	274,800	441	300	*VE3EDY	1.8	49,868	142	94
*K05J	28	8,619	59	51	KE2VB/7	247,896	507	264	*N8DE	129,116	222	169	169	*WY0B	263,520	511	270	*VE4YU	A	84,845	200	165
*KESSNJ	243	9	9	KG7C	247,355	538	305	*K08HHG	103,296	274	192	192	192	*KK0SD	167,760	354	233	*VE4RA	A	66,893	158	151
*NSD0	21	598,970	708	445	KD7MSC	231,540	442	255	*KJ80	100,902	284	201	201	*WADLJM	139,725	300	225	VE5FX	14	1,387,200	934	578
*NSD1T	33,988	120	116	WR5G/7	201,678	378	254	*N8HP	98,604	218	198	198	198	*WB7JIT	101,871	221	189	VE5ZC	A	1,377	28	27
*K3TD/5	28,997	127	107	KG7P	199,810	376	265	*N6JRL/8	87,039	227	171	171	171	*W7KJ/0	98,208	262	176	*VE5ZC	A	592,264	561	404
*NM5M	1,484	30	28	N6TW/7	194,034	301	219	*N2OPW/8	62,468	161	161	161	161	*K0LAF	81,950	215	149	*VE5BCS	A	44,608	151	136
*NNSZ	14	802,602	916	501	K7UN	150,280	296	221	*W8DW	42,757	171	143	143	*K0SIX	73,616	217	172	*VASLF	A	30,883	111	89
*AESMM	48,216	166	147	W7CAR	120,224	321	208	*WJBE	32,660	140	115	115	115	*KK0A	53,376	186	128	*VESDLM	A	2,550	34	34
*KSKVN	324	12	12	K6PJ/7	107,198	235	182	*WCSB/8	32,568	154	118	118	118	*W0ETT	52,852	167	146	VA6UK	A	568,058	572	347
W6TK	A	2,393,716	1654	676	N7NJ0	100,425	212	195	*N3TOL/8	29,046	122	103	103	*N0GOS	52,850	207	151	VE6SF	14	698,400	683	450
KC6X	1,625,472	1202	576	W7VJ	97,344	293	208	*NABSA	23,275	119	95	95	95	*K0HNC	47,730	170	129	*VE6DJT	A	77,280	212	140
W6GKH	1,058,904	1018	504	KN7K	89,094	264	186	*W8ASA	21,620	120	94	94	94	*K0JFY	42,636	163	132	*VE6LE	A	50,344	144	124
KE1B/6	506,196	705	387	W7ABC	86,152	221	178	*W8IDM	18,343	99	83	83	83	*K00CVZ	38,822	144	118	VX7CC	A	8,397,108	2861	972
K6TU	474,720	633	368	AB7E	66,744	234	162	*N8BDM	17,424	107	88	88	88	*N0EOP	34,884	149	114	(OP: VE7CC)				
N6NF	326,922	620	309	K7DNH	45,260	150	124	*N8BDM	17,424	107	88	88	88	*N0EOP	34,884	149	114	VA7ST	A	1,971,944	1162	566
K6LRN	322,452	445	318	WA7LK	42,051	163	131	*NX8G	17,202	104	94	94	94	*AG0A	31,510	137	115	VA7IR	A	630,763	767	359
WT6G	310,170	484	294	N7LR	19,090	109	83	*KABN/UE	16,716	88	84	84	84	*AJ0W	30,580	132	110	VA7DZ	A	54,900	174	150
WT6TT	287,938	416	314	WY7LL	18,060	99	86	*K8BUEY	12,264	88	73	73	73	*K0AIZ	29,274	109	102	VA7RN	A	29,561	118	103
KT6YL	262,704	525	312	KX7CG	12,798	99	79	*K0BFD0	8,910	62	66	66	66	*N0GMT	22,155	133	105	VE7FX	21	640,683	758	389
KJ6RA	221,925	354	269	K7HPT	10,868	91	76	*W3GEG/8	7,434	67	59	59	59	*K7CPM/0	19,236	105	84	VA7JW	A	253,470	536	238
WABST	189,750	444	253	K7P	9,342	60	54	*K0BGRG	6,328	61	56	56	56	*W0GAG	18,444	98	87	*VA7BC	A	1,094,930	986	446
AD6KA	166,980	347	230	N6SS/7	6,578	47	46	*AEBU	5,618	54	53	53	53	*W0NFS	14,141	90	79	*VX7BC	A	610,218	668	334
KI6QDH	164,640	355	224	AD7HL	3,458	38	38	*K0BJAM	5,016	44	44	44	44	*AB0TO	10,570	77	70	(OP: VE7BC)				
N5K0/6	132,310	259	202	K7HP	35,700	147	102	*AB0F	4,050	53	45	45	45	*N0KK	9,145	67	59	*VA7CRZ	A	420,444	459	306
K6RJP	127,635	281	201	K7XC	8,635	58	55	*N8N	3,034	39	37	37	37	*K0UUT	4,840	50	44	*VE7AX	A	170,178	307	226
WW60	122,640	280	210	N7RQ	1,207,810	1354	538	*N8RLG	1,975	26	25	25	25	*K0JUE	2,886	43	37	*VE7YJ	A	61,908	178	132
K6KAL	106,191	284	207	WZ7ZR	984,024	1136	519	*AF8C	1,953	39	31	31	31	*K0S/JAG/0	2,812	40	38	*VE7BSM	A	646	18	17
K6SGH	101,094	226	174	KZ7X	313,938	672	321	*W8RID	720	20	20	20	20	*KIDF	2,625	36	35	*VE7NS	21	59,360	170	140
K6UD	100,419	286	179	WE7K	85,842	195	171	*WB8LCD	442	13	13	13	13	*W0DHB	2,407	31	29	YY1E1	14	700,128	743	416
WT6K	60,632	218	143	K7ZD	22,656	110	96	*K888MR	117	9	9	9	9	*W0GLA	2,079	35	33	VE8DW	A	62,486	163	157
W7CB/6	44,912	154	112	W7WA	5,117,384	2488	1028	*W8IDW	35	5	5	5	5	*W0GUY	1,620	31	30	*VE8GER	A	136,107	244	213
N06X	42,693	147	133	W6AEA/7	1,264,200	989	602	*KN8D	21	15,456	92	84	84	*K0DION	988	26	26	Cayman Islands				
W6BT	34,917	150	103	W7UT	853,830	638	537	*N7BK	3	1	1	1	1	*K0LDS	796	19	19	ZF2AH	3.7	1,812,645	896	463
K6HII	34,299	147	111	N7GTW	34,404	137	122	*K888MR	117	9	9	9	9	*W7THY/0	792	27	24	Costa Rica				
W6RKC	28,583	136	101	K7WP	6,254	55	53	*W8IDW	35	5	5	5	5	*K0DUE	144	9	9	*TIBI	A	1,654,960	1385	548
AC6DX	23,760	117	90	*K7JE	613,054	692	442	*W800H	7	134,400	361	210	210	*K0BRQH	6,713	65	49	*TE2M	A	205,758	467	213
K6BA	18,225	105	81	*W7FYW	319,370	449	293	*N8BV	56,032	167	136	136	136	*N0AX	6,435	65	55	Cuba				
W6ONV	14,760	88	82	*N07R	199,617	406	263	W99Z	A	9,505,685	3427	1085	1085	*K0YHU	6,600	65	60	*CO7PH	A	855,104	775	431
W6TLG	14,527	75	73	*WADWW/7	198,768	346	246	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*WASSW/0	4,717	58	53	*CM5FZ	A	140,264	268	178
N6TCZ	12,462	79	67	*N7UR	189,728	362	242	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*K0LFG	99	10	9	*COSWAL	28	7,290	57	45
KI6CDF	11,232	79	72	*N7RV	175,791	299	231	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*KJ0P	1	1	1	*C0SAW	21	39,552	160	128
W6SX	5,356	61	52	*N7VM	173,038	347	241	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*NY0T	55,748	154	154	*C08CY	14	244,992	445	264
AF6NI	5,187	48	39	*K7AWB	162,624	370	231	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*K0EFPY	16,468	130	92	Dominican Republic				
KZ5OM/6	4,361	49	49	*W7KAM	132,220	297	220	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*K0EFPY	16,468	130	92	*H8PJP	28	26,576	112	88
W6ELI	4,116	48	42	*N7VS	121,790	270	190	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*K0EFPY	16,468	130	92	*H8TEJ	A	8,832,675	2951	985
NY6U	3,888	51	48	*NE7D	113,405	240	185	W90P	567,342	577	387	387	387	*K0EFPY	16,468	130	92	*H8JCC	14	774,219	841	421
KN6OP	874	19	19	*W6EZ/7	110,980	307	179	W90P														

*EA3DUR	3,230	45	38	USSR	A	4,429,835	1906	871	VK2ACC	44,308	119	106	*L07H	A	3,234,458	1570	709	Colombia	A	11,322	55	51
*EBCML	2,044	29	28	UW1M	2,358,138	1453	758	VK2WAR	28,500	88	76	*LW1DTZ	1,951,274	1170	598	HK3Q	A	11,322	55	51		
*EA3FHP	1,334	30	29	UW1G	1,153,866	1114	581	*VK2H8G	10,502	66	59	*LW6DG	823,446	735	414	HK1YR	1.8	44,814	103	77		
*EA3G00	3	1	1	U20U	1,039,806	925	549	*VK2WTT	3,220	38	35	*LUGOR	751,026	692	398	*HK1NK	3.7	579,348	386	266		
*A03K	28	19,099	100	71	UW8SM	917,188	840	491	VK310	589,356	461	306	*L600K	517,470	568	367	Ecuador	HC2GF	21	1,497,948	1087	516
*EC3PL	21	1,040	28	26	UT6EE	717,991	708	437	VK31DX	511,056	486	312	*LW4EF	98,384	214	176	*HC2AQ	28	1,145,700	1007	402	
*EA3EG8	3.7	130,505	246	215	UR7EQ	642,180	692	420	VK31Z	63,707	162	133	*LW800	94,428	222	183	*HC7AE	21	11,288	79	68	
*EA3AKA	1.8	35,178	138	123	UR5RP	519,904	692	422	*VK31M	39,168	110	102	*LW800	81,774	211	154	Netherlands Antilles	*PJ2/OH1VR	21	3,684,951	1675	747
EA4EER	A	1,660,714	1191	638	UR5RP	253,428	423	294	*VK3MDX	31,720	111	104	*LW800	81,486	206	162	Paraguay	*ZP8VAO	21	652,360	602	376
EA4ETW	1,396,200	1081	600	UR5RP	197,820	285	252	*VK3VTH	54,614	109	94	*LW800	66,495	208	155	Suriname	PZ5RA	A	7,150,616	2491	913	
EA4E	170,275	324	245	UR5RP	141,648	338	227	*VK3ZGP	6	1	1	*LW800	45,264	156	123	Uruguay	CX40X	28	1,528,520	1053	515	
EA4KD	3.7	993,446	727	479	UR5RP	86,478	218	174	VK4GH	A	73,580	160	130	*LW800	26,300	127	100	*CX1AV	14	253,626	391	248
EA4EJR	A	95,348	241	197	UR5RP	71,231	196	163	VK4ZD	28	57,360	174	120	*LW800	2,250	35	30	*CX9AU	A	29,670	104	86
EA4DTV	7,760	49	40	UR5RP	59,782	198	142	*VK4ATH	A	169,740	251	207	*LW800	2,250	35	30	*CX2CC	7	121,635	167	153	
EA4CU	1,680	29	28	UR5RP	20,806	102	92	*VK4XES	A	156,800	249	180	*LW800	597,688	610	364	Venezuela	YV5AMH	A	5,875,518	2016	734
*A04Y	14	43,068	156	148	UR5RP	17,136	96	84	*VK4HEC	A	62,500	142	125	*LW800	501,067	578	329	4MSIR	A	3,120,548	1342	645
*EA4IS	14,006	99	94	U25Q	1,254	20	19	*VK4JF	21	330,561	412	297	*LW800	463,188	534	319	YV5MSG	3.7	232,047	240	171	
*AN4A	4,554	49	46	U25Q	1,155	22	21	*VK4EJ	28	168,639	309	201	*LW800	129,886	269	202	YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA4SG	7	31,878	101	99	U25Q	250,588	409	316	VK3DXI/6	28	73,502	175	143	*LW800	52,668	171	114	*YV5T	A	244,575	381	225
*EA5FWW	A	160,284	284	222	U25Q	225,446	396	299	VK3DXI/6	3.7	4,557	39	31	*LW800	33,813	141	117	*YV5M	28	95,885	255	151
*EE50	66,370	193	159	U25Q	184,194	312	243	VK3DXI/6	1.8	60	10	4	*LW800	14,742	85	78	*YV5M	3.7	232,047	240	171	
*EA5FHC	67,320	238	187	U25Q	119,998	70	62	VK6FDX	A	56,375	179	125	*LW800	7,616	62	56	YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EBSNC	66,132	200	167	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*VK7ZE	A	3,635,620	1638	740	*LW800	13,797	75	63	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*AN5W	23,300	108	100	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*VK7AD	7	12,600	50	45	*LW800	6,468	51	49	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA5AX	21,988	100	92	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*VK8PDX	A	625,975	602	343	*LW800	4,095	41	39	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA5XA	6,302	48	46	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V85TX	A	203,792	378	188	*LW800	656	19	16	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EBSGIV	48	5	4	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V85ZX	14	31,525	139	97	*LW800	28,530	130	90	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA5HJO	21	75,359	202	179	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	17,778	83	82	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*EE5N	14	6,840	72	72	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*EA5EOR	7	309,228	360	292	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*EE5W	188	188	168	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EBSSEK	3.7	9,150	62	61	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
EB7CIN	A	167,013	311	241	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
EC7AKV	14	621,264	907	516	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
EA7ATX	7	676,324	563	418	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*EE7R	A	1,008,458	837	506	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*AM7C	227	177	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77		
*AN7HE	57,300	190	150	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA7CWA	8,680	57	56	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA7LU	5,805	51	45	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EC7DDZ	2,331	38	37	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA7VJ	48	4	4	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA7GV	28	16,170	86	70	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*EA7BK	1,020	20	17	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EFT7A	21	130,188	303	228	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*A07T	102,335	255	211	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
*EA7EPF	14	9,035	66	65	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
SM6BGG	A	1,158,066	944	546	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
SE6Y	547,872	674	416	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SM6FJY	391,716	503	351	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SM6BDS	259,050	417	314	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SM7DQV	146,250	300	234	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SL0W	104,954	240	194	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
S13A	66,394	226	178	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SD3A	4,576	45	44	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SA7AUW	2,133	27	27	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	
SA1A	28	126	7	6	U25Q	549,822	743	494	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
SM5CEU	21	113,775	239	205	U25Q	100,570	284	226	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
SM6AHU	14	6,344	65	61	U25Q	45,633	201	159	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*SM3C	A	606,582	681	423	U25Q	24,200	116	100	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77
*7S5S	550,630	684	410	U25Q	2,743,612	1963	838	*V88AVE	A	28,530	130	90	*LW800	16,120	72	65	*YV4V	A	34,650	81	77	

WVWV	3,871	64	49	WGSJ	2,542,510	1599	710	K1JB	12,312	88	72	Guatemala	JH8CXW	38,480	118	104		
EA1TI	3,360	43	40	N2BJ/9	2,514,028	1631	748	K17M	1,598,855	1381	655	A	JH10VY	9,486	63	62		
KF7FGN	2,550	31	30	N6WIN	2,266,582	1722	679	WR2G	584,786	528	437	A	JAT1HY	3,248	33	28		
A19I	1,830	34	30	W3KL	2,203,080	1157	660	N2RJ	513,258	520	393	A	7K1NUJ/8	1,943	31	29		
OK1DMP	1,690	26	24	N6QQ	1,895,712	1230	672	NG6S	291,992	372	323	A	J04CFV	1,898	29	26		
ES1WST	1,652	32	28	W7UJ	1,797,336	1145	636	W9HIX	229,400	334	296	Honduras	J04CTB	2,550	38	34		
I2DMTF	1,350	31	30	WD4DDU	1,672,263	1035	639	WBCEM	140,940	283	243	HQ2T	21	171,072	305	243		
RA3WCG	891	28	27	K8KX	1,587,350	907	599	N6BM	77,468	190	181	A	J01WKO	144,480	289	224		
M3ZJO	759	25	23	NF4A	1,505,168	1124	604	K7EIQ	39,300	146	131	A	J01RYU	83,960	210	180		
IV35GJ	300	12	12	AA3B	1,385,736	836	543	W8MIW	11,786	74	71	A	JF1RYU	236,138	264	202		
N8QE	280	14	14	N9NC/1	1,319,760	924	564	W19WI	640	20	20	Mexico	J01WKO	16,610	57	55		
IK3XTY	144	10	9	N2SQW	1,290,949	901	517	W2IRT	840,336	816	427	A	JA6SRB	3,050	25	25		
VR2ZQZ	28	71,749	295	NM6G	1,272,106	1000	583	K4KZZ	358,488	444	312	A	*JR5XPG	292,500	375	250		
PUSATX	88,295	177	157	W9JA	1,238,640	904	520	N8UU	93,784	168	152	A	*JA6DIJ	256,271	388	251		
LU3HFA	17,928	95	83	AD5VJ	1,217,560	1024	499	WASPFJ	18,135	116	93	A	*JG2REJ	122,111	255	187		
ISKAP	15,276	82	67	K8LUZ/4	1,209,806	803	494	K7ZO	13,875	90	75	U.S. Virgin Islands	*JK2VOC	72,292	234	124		
W8GMT/5	3,924	39	36	K2DB	926,045	752	445	KD7DCR	12,600	65	63	A	*JF20ZH	48,158	163	121		
JA2MWV	2,914	42	31	N11BM/2	922,760	691	472	KG1E	525,594	475	349	A	*JA1M2M	45,548	147	118		
Y04ATW	2,850	34	30	K7HC	827,712	734	479	KK9V	80,678	197	162	A	*JL3RDC	35,148	153	101		
LZ2UW	2,610	32	30	K3QG	798,690	793	474	W2MF	146,335	289	185	A	*JGSUWK	8,008	63	56		
VU2LYX	2,320	34	29	N4ZZ	778,392	775	456	N4RA	4,012	38	34	A	*JRBBLU	1,254	29	22		
CT9/MBBCT	2,184	29	26	W3FW	742,644	618	421	*N4F	1,425,363	1022	557	Canary Islands	*JL3VUL/3	21	171,602	300	239	
JE1RZR	1,782	31	27	N3RD	728,992	569	352	*WV3S	1,084,192	888	544	A	*JM1MF	34,574	125	118		
PU1KVA	500	23	20	W7VO	726,546	903	419	*NR1I	928,715	778	445	A	*JAAQR	11,520	65	64		
EC4AA	408	12	12	N6WK	628,485	645	429	*W4KTR	926,148	798	452	A	*J1ALP	4,838	42	41		
Y05OHY	396	12	11	N8ODK	615,756	627	388	*K2PO/7	805,030	832	446	A	*JHJJD	720	18	18		
7N1QMC	3	1	1	WM4RM	614,385	552	369	*K5G	587,328	615	399	A	*J70IP	351	13	13		
KP2/NE1RD	21	639,086	778	382	ND8L	603,980	637	404	*AD2AM	553,875	522	375	A	*JL20HM	14	1,512	25	24
JH7RTO	233,104	361	272	K1FWE	595,095	550	409	*K2SD	577,906	589	283	A	*JM1NKT	3.7	6,200	49	40	
IBUZF	167,124	289	228	KR4F	594,558	496	402	*W0VX/5	481,170	558	373	Namibia	UN7MMM	A	2,773,596	1314	636	
FM5FJ	63,448	155	154	N3MX	506,908	502	353	*N3ALN	454,080	629	352	A	UP4L	14	3,384,712	1522	808	
Y08DDP	58,185	183	135	NM2O	470,883	610	357	*NV4B	451,505	527	365	A						
IV3AOL	53,975	150	127	W27M	452,790	647	351	*WKSX/4	422,500	542	338	A						
SP2EWQ	36,297	119	111	K2DWR/4	421,466	483	359	*NESLL	384,948	720	333	Asia	*EX7ML	21	113,088	247	192	
7N4WPPY	35,100	135	117	K3FT	391,170	427	295	*K2DBK	377,031	509	327	Asiatic Russia						
JR1NKN	34,048	139	112	W3TZ/5	381,974	449	331	*KC0DEB	361,608	476	312	A	UA9PC	A	13,462,582	3594	1144	
UN8PT	31,694	128	106	NY3DX	377,384	446	293	*W7SO	335,038	438	314	A	RXBAW	3,733,374	1670	753		
WASFGV	27,140	144	115	NC4KW	367,048	528	344	*W9R	277,906	589	283	A	RW9TR	2,679,840	1396	720		
K4XD	17,880	98	85	N2MUN	353,976	450	301	*KXSA	254,585	498	295	A	RX9WN	1,301,944	845	536		
SO9AOR	10,860	66	60	W6SA/7	343,072	555	284	*W4EE/3	239,825	353	265	A	RK9UE	1,222,326	858	534		
VU2PTT	10,335	66	65	W9GIG	341,348	382	334	*AE4CW	236,895	395	255	A	RU9AC	1,046,502	818	423		
SN7P	9,802	59	58	W4KY4	339,359	584	337	*WB4MSG	211,085	350	259	A	UA9QCZ	533,903	506	331		
PY2IAX	7,830	59	58	W6XR/2	338,240	434	302	*N3XRU/7	189,410	375	235	A	RO90	412,757	492	331		
KC9AMM	5,141	57	53	KQ3F	324,678	434	318	*K14TZU	168,960	335	220	A						
OK1AJJ	5,084	50	41	W4AS	317,504	338	328	*KA9MOM	167,440	328	230	A						
EI4GXB	5,080	46	40	N4DWK	286,760	322	268	*K20BN	148,074	279	222	A						
7K1CPT	3,096	40	36	W5GN	279,554	371	262	*K8GT	145,110	256	210	A						
JK1TCV	2,574	36	33	NY6N	270,000	368	270	*N1IUN	140,182	252	217	A						
RA9MU	2,550	34	30	K7VT	263,725	489	275	*K8AD	135,135	311	231	A						
XX9LQ	2,449	38	31	W4RRE	255,796	321	267	*AD1C/D	126,776	307	212	A						
OM8JP	2,366	36	26	W8RHM/9	255,769	359	251	*K5BZH	125,064	322	193	A						
RK4PA	2,100	42	42	AB2ZY	253,916	360	257	*N2FF	120,840	220	190	A						
WC5C	1,770	33	30	KV1J	247,480	404	269	*N2NOM	119,592	291	198	A						
JG2CNS/3	1,300	26	25	K6JAT	233,934	414	254	*N4JK	112,905	257	195	A						
VX3CW	1,113	25	21	W4JAM	231,608	324	262	*WB1ED1	111,333	250	177	A						
J07FGZ/1	312	13	13	N8KQ	231,546	397	259	*K6GEP	91,896	270	168	A						
D07XP	15	3	3	NA3M	218,601	290	227	*N9UA	71,862	180	177	A						
KD8MBI	12	3	3	WA3G	208,500	317	250	*AE5PW	70,970	224	151	A						
TG9ADQ	14	254,430	476	257	W4RK/0	208,206	392	269	*K4OMG	67,044	174	151	A					
Y08SSB	189,685	395	295	W84IVH	194,555	313	233	*K40MG	65,475	163	135	A						
Y11CS	76,960	268	208	WB4MAK	194,544	294	252	*WA1ZYX	63,928	174	131	A						
RC4AA	69,696	237	192	W9B0N	187,885	303	265	*WM6A	63,928	174	131	A						
SP4FGG	64,529	232	173	AB2DE	185,130	262	242	*NE1F	59,983	180	133	A						
UA1CE	59,946	230	194	W44ASJ	184,011	323	249	*W2RT	57,200	159	143	A						
3M6CRM	52,668	200	171	K6RIM	176,528	293	236	*NU6T	51,660	209	140	A						
K3TW	41,667	132	129	WV1M	174,244	345	254	*ND4V	42,210	140	126	A						
SP3DRM	36,315	171	135	KM9M	173,038	432	241	*AG3R/9	34,001	136	121	A						
I25HN	25,960	134	118	K9MMS	172,730	261	230	*W4WNT	22,962	103	89	A						
RK4FB	22,017	137	123	N2NS/6	170,914	273	194	*W4KPG	20,554	94	86	A						
GW8VSW	18,997	138	121	N3FP/4	160,666	293	218	*W8RUR/5	18,490	96	86	A						
SN2I	17,802	95	86	K12W/4	158,025	263	215	*W3AG	18,278	95	74	A						
HABGK	17,751	118	97	N4FY	153,440	289	224	*KE5OG	16,984	94	88	A						
I22QKG	16,650	128	111	AE1T	147,430	272	230	*K9TRV/8	11,859	60	59	A						
I21PKV	12,672	98	96	K17MT	144,595	347	239	*N1API	11,570	72	65	A						
LY3G	12,635	101	95	K5NZ	132,568	359	227	*AA2MF	10,660	81	65	A						
M0JBA	12,348	112	98	NW7E	126,725	201	185	*N5RMS	10,430	73	70	A						
W0NV/6	7,006	73	62	K7LV	119,040	276	192	*N6MWX/2	9,520	76	68	A						
W0MRZ	5,270	72	62	N80C	111,136	239	184	*K9LIF	9,313	71	67	A						
VU2UR	4,400	49	44	K7TG	110,016	240	192	*N8BN/7	7,380	73	60	A						
9A8MM	4,293	59	53	K4IU/B	106,769	257	191	*W4GKA	5,978	56	49	A						
SO30GP	3,619	53	47	W1RPG	106,020	206	155	*KDGWKY	5,969	47	47	A						
HR2/NP3D	931	20	19	N4JOW	103,774	230	178	*N7HT	5,424	52	48	A						
ON3AD	812	28	28	W7SW	102,500	211	164	*N8VZ	3,320	44	40	A						
XX9LB	510	18	17	K4JRA	99,280	196	170	*NN2W	3,255	38	35	A						

Estonia				European Russia				Northern Ireland				Norway				Poland				Portugal				Romania				Scotland				Serbia				Sicily				Slovakia				Slovenia				Spain				Sweden				Switzerland				Ukraine				Wales				OCEANIA				New Zealand				SOUTH AMERICA																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
ES7GM	A	3,187,184	1789	912	UA6GP	A	4,414,914	2455	947	DL2SWN	*	6,956	50	47	*PE4BAS	*	170,565	317	249	EF1A	*	1,543,887	1044	633	EE3R	*	444,610	482	346	EA5EV	*	291,306	399	282	ED4A	*	286,425	476	335	EE5J	*	245,244	424	321	EE5G	*	129,168	292	234	EHSJ	*	46,060	159	140	EA3CEC	*	28,896	119	112	EA5FID	*	4,896	36	32	A07K	28	34,038	133	93	EC2DX	21	2,022,387	1327	669	EA5GS	*	546,056	562	392	EA4FSL	*	530,400	624	400	ANSE	*	179,520	379	272	EB1EWE	*	7,672	59	56	EH7Z	14	449,792	786	448	EB1TR	*	660	26	22	EA7LL	7	5,195,448	1680	804	AM3M	*	1,228,992	832	519	ED1K	*	190,311	281	237	EA1DR	1.8	36,108	137	118	*EF1W	A	1,825,968	1317	698	*EA5RM	*	170,605	282	229	*EA2WD	*	105,060	251	204	*EA1HLL	*	85,752	310	216	*EB3FLY	*	80,178	197	166	*EA3GYK	*	27,440	128	112	*EA1JK	*	24,139	116	101	*EA1GPL	*	14,527	80	73	*EA3NO	21	55,890	147	138	*AM1Q	1.8	50,184	158	136	SM6U	A	1,242,435	988	565	SM8R	A	521,160	583	404	SF7WT	*	69,750	183	150	8S0C	14	1,636,722	1241	711	*SMSD	A	440,793	572	387	*SM7E	*	393,840	525	360	*SE5E	*	237,432	400	312	*SM7GIB	*	148,960	292	245	*SK6HD	*	142,800	315	238	*SA3V	*	109,414	288	227	*SM6MVE	*	63,700	200	175	*SK7A	*	33,880	146	121	*SM6FM	*	22,785	105	93	*SA7AOI	*	3,952	40	38	*SM8OGQ	21	7,049	71	53	*SM8Q	14	70,350	262	210	*SC3A	3.7	11,248	78	74	*SM7TZK	*	160	8	8	HB9OCR	A	1,489,831	1110	643	HB9CVM	A	896,313	818	471	*HB9EMS	A	3,060	36	36	UW5U	A	3,093,810	1728	843	UX1UF	*	2,569,380	1649	748	URSAS	*	2,055,579	1371	713	UY4F	*	614,496	673	444	UTSERV	*	263,412	457	324	UR7EP	*	131,320	259	196	UJ2LQ	*	85,208	201	193	US2JW	*	60,228	171	126	US6IKV	*	27,816	144	122	UR6F	28	49,776	161	122	UT1IA	*	260	10	10	ED3Q	14	4,942,887	2635	1047	UW8I	*	3,237,007	2062	877	UV8M	*	2,384,656	1993	824	US0ZK	3.7	72	9	9	UJ9CW	A	16	2	2	*UT2UU	A	1,023,555	920	543	*UW7LM	*	125,209	269	217	*US7CM	*	53,625	177	143	*UX8VA	28	7,085	71	65	*UT5ERP	28	1,080	20	18	*UR2VA	21	11,748	77	66	*US8YW	14	55,444	190	167	GW9T	A	5,382,612	2158	999	GW40H	21	169,880	331	248	*MW8MAU	A	2,950	52	50	VK6HZ	A	791,056	675	392	VK2CA	*	534,360	615	292	VK2BCQ	21	275	12	11	*VK4VSP	21	2,640	34	33	KH7BB	A	2,194,720	1344	473	AH6RR	14	1,154,160	878	458	*AH6NF	A	56,196	161	126	*NH7FY	21	60,620	167	140	*YB8NFI	A	582,760	543	340	*YB1TJ	*	126,148	252	188	*YB8COX	21	69,762	169	151	*YB8BCU	14	13,510	84	70	*YB2ECG	*	8,798	61	53	ZL1T	A	23,885	105	85	ZM4G	21	843,200	756	400	ZM3T	14	1,150,128	825	504	AY8A	A	2,313,249	1371	601	LU3DX	*	2,028,885	1193	615	LU2VC	*	80,514	211	162	LR2F	28	3,776,384	2022	652	LU6OI	7	300	10	10	*LUSFF	A	5,415,475	2169	877	*LR4E	*	1,889,440	1177	560	*LU7YJ	28	485,716	563	332	*LU3JVO	*	70,413	186	147	ZX2B	A	11,664,450	3445	1227	PW2P	*	4,114,572	1775	803	PY2MTV	*	4,026,610	1764	805	PT9PA	*	354,585	400	307	PV8DR	*	4,655	37	35	PY1CJ	*	760	21	20	PY5RB	21	340,676	387	322	PY5QW	14	1,805,700	786	445	PV2P	7	822,464	454	362	*PY2SEX	A	3,791,616	1572	768	*PX2T	*	2,542,869	1330	669	*PY2VZ	*	565,704	573	388	*PY2MR	*	200,265	342	237	*PY7ZY	*	90,882	212	153	*PY2DEZ	*	22,968	121	99	*PY5K	*	15,228	99	81	*PY2ASC	*	14,110	113	83	*PY2AC	*	9,352	67	56	*PY1PDF	*	7,564	76	61	*PR7AF	*	1,325	26	26	*PY2OE	28	1,276,941	939	499	*PP5BZ	*	303,255	391	293	*PU9OSB	*	294,758	418	293	*PU1KGG	*	235,949	365	259	*PU2SDX	*	161,460	289	230	*PY2LUC	*	16,740	97	90	*PW2B	21	3,015,375	1426	731	*PY2TIM	*	1,563,704	964	568	*PY4XX	*	29,318	117	107	XR3P	A	1,814,256	1138	586	CW7T	A	536,670	493	402	YV68XN	3.7	64,251	119	99	*YV5EAM	A	618,744	606	348	*YV1FM	*	130,848	215	174	*YV5LI	7	300,687	241	219	NX8X/4	A	8,023,947	3077	1083	WZ4F	*	3,229,096	1845	793	W6TK	*	2,393,716	1654	676	K3MD	*	2,186,330	1433	703	N1WR/3	*	2,006,320	1144	620	K1HI	*	1,794,824	1295	628	N12A	*	1,461,834	935	621	N3UM	*	1,376,204	846	538	NK50	*	879,980	1007	460	W1BYH	*	794,313	690	403	KV7DX	*	757,809	1108	459	N1BCL	*	698,400	632	400	K8KY	*	666,000	679	400	N06X/7	*	644,245	672	395	KW3A	*	585,327	725	391	NJ2F/4	*	516,574	575	362	K4IE	*	497,673	533	363	K6TU	*	474,720	633	368	N1KON	*	458,280	546	342	N2NC	*	429,693	456	319	AB5C	*	348,540	490	314	AC7GP	*	332,304	435	322	W8GG	*	299,624	385	262	NJ1F/2	*	284,900	388	259	K7BYL	*	262,704	528	312	WG7X	*	261,370	522	295	KF7IO	*	260,934	435	277	W1FM	*	250,120	387	260	WR5G/7	*	201,676	378	254	NY11/0	*	200,123	357	253	AD4L	*	188,160	340	240	N09Z	*	182,250	333	243	N0OST	*	157,320	309	230	K8GAS	*	152,250	339	250	K5YM	*	148,392	310	229	N5KO/6	*	132,310	259	202	K6RJP	*	127,635	281	201	N04MI	*	103,592	220	184	K6ZV	*	67,425	192	145	K6IIL	*	34,299	147	111	N7LR	*	19,090	109	83	K6BA	*	18,225	105	81	4U1WB/3	*	14,691	104	83	WA6TLG	*	14,527	75	73	W6SX	*	5,356	61	52	K25OM/6	*	4,361	49	49	N1SXL	*	4,140	48	45	NY6U	*	3,888	51	48	AD7HL	*	3,458	38	38	AB0YM	*	864	24	24	WN1GIV/4	28	199,789	453	241	K7HP	*	35,700	147	102	W4CVS	*	1,403	23	23	WZ7ZR	21	984,024	1136	519	K25J	*	393,484	821	364	K7ZD	*	22,656	110	96

WDSK	14	1,323,875	1177	623	*K4KCS	4,000	33	32	*P43E	1,796,250	1311	479	*DP5X	43,365	177	147	*RA4WC	319,088	589	392		
W6EA/7		1,264,200	989	602	*N2AET	3.7	1,344	25	24	*V55X	1,758,174	1069	561	*G4DDL	40,350	173	150	*IZSCML	269,348	373	289	
WD8SQ		161,538	282	247													*A01B	264,579	426	293		
W0PPF		32,469	148	137																	(OP: EA1YB)	
W4YKF		2,848	32	32	ST2AR	A	15,353,520	4233	1110	*S51F	1,613,372	1058	596	*VA2WQ	38,872	128	113	*Y2ZB	243,095	376	265	
K0BE/4	7	686,913	792	401	L21D		4,118,794	1751	782	*Y03APJ	1,554,333	1074	627	*SS2Q	37,403	172	113	*EH1K	181,832	331	258	
K21A/4		90,825	310	173						*E80M	1,280,769	824	497	*IK2IKW	36,808	152	143	*VK4EJ	168,639	309	201	
AA4D		71,446	160	139						*SC2P	1,197,004	833	493	*E2SS	33,500	152	125	*UA3VVB	164,472	335	267	
WJ1R		52,784	131	122	DL4MCF		4,090,342	2034	827	*EN7U	1,078,350	950	553	*B04JZY	33,060	142	114	*YC28BY	126,000	266	168	
WBJMF		30,099	81	79	VK7ZE		3,635,620	1638	740					*SM0HBV	32,912	156	136	*MUBGSY	75,985	237	167	
WN20	3.7	314,004	404	274	LU7MCJ		3,483,648	1621	768	*E7R	1,008,458	837	506	*K07N	29,400	113	100	*VE7NS	59,360	170	140	
					EW5A		3,450,536	1673	856	*G3ZQ	990,996	916	538	*PA3ANN	28,968	161	136	*SM6FKF	16,387	97	81	
*NX6T	A	1,623,725	1484	607	KG6DX		3,162,870	1693	622	*VE3TW	852,845	673	413	*IK2YSJ	27,940	130	110	*JA2VSU	15,405	84	79	
					4M5IR		3,120,548	1342	634	*UA1CUR	838,729	877	479	*RA3DAD	26,448	128	116	*JF1GZZ	11,690	73	70	
*KT4ZB		1,514,436	1119	596	UA9QA		3,036,132	1463	612	*F5LW	830,620	747	476	*RX6LD	23,712	132	114	*S6AIN	9,204	71	59	
*WB8TLI		1,205,298	851	522	L33M		2,991,021	1508	699	*LW6DG	823,446	735	414	*RABWHE	22,659	98	83	*LW5EE	6,468	51	49	
*AC50		1,142,270	961	515						*DR4G	797,498	724	481	*G8NE	20,680	125	94	*Z56ELI	4,095	40	39	
*K0CN		950,915	1024	505	VK2APG		2,827,968	1378	618	*EW1IP	726,077	760	443	*IZ0MJE	20,094	108	102	*IZ8JPV	3,922	39	37	
*K83LIX		583,906	587	362	VE3CR		2,514,113	1123	629	*BD1TCC	703,664	824	388	*KP4JFR	19,040	92	80	*XV4TUJ	900	21	20	
*WB4JFS		569,088	607	384	RU9CK		2,435,335	1347	595	*H21PS	673,360	579	380	*IW5ECP	17,052	106	98	*IK3POG	75	5	5	
*KS4X		536,176	550	376	EA3RR		2,186,748	1360	684	*EA1EA	668,640	625	420	*IV3NVB	16,835	93	91	*S57U	14	240,036	418	332
*W4DL		501,960	583	356	4H1T		2,056,968	1260	428	*VX7BC	610,218	668	334	*DL8ZAJ	16,683	102	83	*IW9FI	172,463	433	313	
*NR3X/4		474,220	545	362						*SM3C	606,582	681	423	*G4FFN	15,486	90	89	*UN9PQ	168,012	279	234	
					HA1TNX		1,863,736	1140	644					*PY7GK	14,625	78	75	*IZ2JOP	127,626	282	239	
*K8BL		461,153	564	371	TA2DS		1,838,832	1025	464					*RV4CO	13,172	96	89	*OH3P	112,585	344	253	
*W4NBS		454,990	557	346	EX2X		1,611,936	1093	579					*EA2TA	11,799	74	69	*DL9LM	102,828	256	209	
*W08CGR/2		405,886	481	331	KH2JU		1,493,163	1163	411					*G8GBY	10,956	95	83	*F1FPL	97,867	238	217	
*A0BNK		401,984	505	352	Y01KVT		1,490,816	879	544									*G1FON	88,476	258	219	
*KA1GEU		376,295	471	323	OE6MDF		1,324,293	981	573									*DU1JI	86,360	229	136	
*K8JE		344,318	443	323	MDWLF		1,263,024	960	537									*RV6ACC	69,715	229	191	
*WT8E		311,535	489	315	DL9GWD		1,212,152	891	554									*DL4JYT	46,971	185	153	
*K3FV/6		307,190	480	278	F40SK		1,171,242	949	558									*CT1EEK	31,020	137	132	
*KB80CP		296,460	425	270	LY2TS		1,069,200	940	540									*DM6DL	26,432	133	112	
*N2YBB		289,710	394	270	UW8SM		917,188	840	491									*PABCGB	21,312	117	111	
*WN6K		286,650	591	315	JM1UTT		846,945	740	435									*RV6BK	17,572	93	92	
*WB0TSR		274,800	441	300	EW4AA		748,960	698	496									*JA3DAY	15,111	80	73	
*WA1DRQ		271,616	418	256	JA7C0I		695,976	657	376									*SA7J	9,794	91	83	
*WY0B		263,520	511	270	MW1LCR		674,352	714	446												(OP: SM7XGG)	
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	VA7IR		630,763	767	359												(OP: EA4CW)	
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	TF8GX		601,869	874	457												(OP: LY2MM)	
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	PA1NL		474,154	628	383													
*N2YBB		252,757	452	251	SP9GTS		399,595	516	343													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	DJ3LE		381,617	502	359													
*WB0TSR		249,989	372	257	KP4JRS		380,528	554	272													
*WA1DRQ		248,520	511	270	IR9Z		369,402	684	386													
*WY0B		247,800	441	300	MSA		345,347	533	367													
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	AN2K		340,442	421	323													
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	JR2PMT		330,328	391	263													
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	DL5JS		314,901	427	327													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	IZ1JLN		310,275	423	315													
*WB0TSR		249,989	372	257	9A3TA		300,144	403	296													
*WA1DRQ		248,520	511	270	IW8GTA		298,596	457	334													
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	YT700		246,528	447	288													
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	Y04AUP		227,305	390	269													
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	DF6RI		216,213	395	291													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	RU3UR		211,665	463	309													
*WB0TSR		249,989	372	257	DK0SU		196,669	290	209													
*WA1DRQ		248,520	511	270	G1MIE		186,930	332	279													
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	JJ2CJB		169,644	291	211													
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	DJ6TB		136,038	326	237													
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	EI7JQ		117,448	286	212													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	Y07CWP		115,761	243	141													
*WB0TSR		249,989	372	257	VE3KPP		112,404	280	228													
*WA1DRQ		248,520	511	270	IK3SSJ		99,624	232	168													
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	JA3ETD		98,959	219	211													
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	EW7BR		96,015	239	185													
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	DK8EY		82,460	151	133													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	P33P																	
*WB0TSR		249,989	372	257	ZL4IG		77,616	142	126													
*WA1DRQ		248,520	511	270	VK3TZ		63,787	162	133													
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	ZW5V		56,942	155	142													
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	VA7DZ		54,900	174	150													
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	RA1TV		41,230	140	133													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	RA6AR		29,337	145	127													
*WB0TSR		249,989	372	257	VE3FTM		27,720	105	99													
*WA1DRQ		248,520	511	270	RZ90W		27,714	121	93													
*W1WBB		259,347	392	271	JATIXY		19,968	76	64													
*N8MPX/4		256,424	393	266	XE2YOM		14,580	88	81													
*K5DHY		253,400	367	280	S21RC		7,685	66	53													
*W6K		251,110	405	245	CE2WWF		3,159	43	39													
*WB0TSR		249,989	372																			

*JL3MCM	*	19,734	73	66
*JH1ROU	*	216	6	6
*IV3BCA	*	198	10	11
*VK3ZGP	*	6	1	1
*HK1NK	3.7	579,348	386	266
*UA3LHL	*	113,955	266	213
*SNSQ	*	63,896	203	163
(OP: S05RDX)				
*SM6NJK	*	51,340	166	151
*OR2A	*	32,754	121	103
(OP: ON7YX)				
*VE2JMK	*	28,798	94	77
*PA2REH	*	18,200	96	91
*EBSEKT	*	9,150	62	81
*VE3EDY	1.8	49,068	142	94
*EA3AKA	*	35,178	138	123

ROOKIE

United States

AD7YT	A	472,632	804	376
KI6QDH	*	164,640	355	224
K7DNH	*	45,260	150	124
K8KXN	*	3,510	39	39
*K2DSL	A	553,125	661	375
*K6FI	*	152,292	345	222
*AB4G	*	139,520	283	218
*NC2T	*	87,096	208	152
*K6MEE	*	80,688	243	164
*KJ4BX	*	67,160	209	146
*K81TOC	*	58,672	163	152
*AK4IK	*	56,541	192	141
*NV3V	*	55,890	176	138
*KJ4ERZ	*	50,625	174	135
*KJ4KNW	*	49,206	188	139
*WE7P	*	48,138	186	142
*K9LQS	*	42,900	161	130
*KJ4JEY	*	42,312	175	123
*K3GMT	*	33,411	129	111
*K2DEN	*	24,786	115	102
*KJ4GDW	*	20,424	108	92
*AG6MB	*	19,170	105	90
*W1SKB	*	18,576	95	86
*N6VDR	*	16,576	92	74
*K3EOJ	*	16,380	97	90
*K3GEN	*	16,132	90	74
*KJ4BOS/7	*	15,745	86	67
*WA2CG	*	15,326	89	79
*K81PWF/7	*	12,629	79	73
*W6WVF	*	11,120	95	80
*K6WCI	*	9,380	77	67
*K2SNW	*	9,060	64	60
*KE7ZDZ	*	8,094	81	71
*K4RAY	*	7,844	55	52
*WW1N	*	7,020	56	52
*W3EDP	*	5,292	59	54
*NS6T	*	3,724	42	38
*K1JHS/5	*	3,680	46	46
*K2VUP	*	2,479	39	37
*N8RLG	*	1,975	26	25
*KJ4ZDR	*	1,620	32	27
*W6SO	*	1,104	25	24
*W8IDW	*	35	5	5
*KE1BYL/8	28	3,811	40	37
*K5SNJ	*	243	9	9
*KE9YA	14	3,834	42	41
*K6UMO	*	1,551	33	33
*KE7PNF	*	144	12	12
*K4MTX	*	126	9	9
*AB1JU	7	520	14	13

DX

KH0UA	A	3,368,263	1866	551
ET/556AA	*	2,248,248	1535	678
(OP: S56AA)				
EA4ETW	*	1,396,200	1081	600
DN1CS	*	215,745	394	285
6Y1X	*	121,638	269	194
(OP: K08MJR)				
VE5ZC	14	1,377	28	27
PJ7MF	7	110,400	164	138
VK2WAR	*	28,500	88	76
*JY5CC	A	5,322,240	2006	768
*EH2R	*	672,204	639	417
(OP: EA2A00)				
*VK8PDX	*	625,975	602	343
*VA3GKO	*	507,100	496	275
*O6HLF	*	394,830	515	369
*POBHM	*	311,259	481	347
*PD1TV	*	140,579	320	257
*I2NZZ	*	116,841	242	237
*MM8VTV	*	114,056	296	212
*2E0CPT	*	111,612	275	213
*2WBXTP	*	74,753	211	181
*M6APA	*	63,135	215	183
*PD1RP	*	57,669	188	141
*I2BPPJ	*	52,548	173	151
*2E0WAW	*	52,500	203	175
*DJ4PK	*	48,848	162	142
*EA20NR	*	45,820	190	158
*SAB8JL	*	39,732	177	154
*M03YLX	*	37,401	156	137
*PD0MNF	*	33,276	135	118
*PY1CX	*	26,312	133	104
*DB1RL	*	15,224	99	88
*JS3E0E	*	14,272	92	64
*PD0ME	*	13,330	88	86
*EW4PA	*	13,026	82	78
*PUSUAI	*	12,996	88	76
*UR0EG	*	11,315	81	73
*BH4RDU	*	8,758	89	58
*BG5HSC	*	8,540	87	61
*DL7TJ	*	6,572	55	53
*ON3MT	*	6,565	72	65
*LA10RA	*	5,723	63	59
*M6LJK	*	4,720	64	59
*BH1LEJ	*	3,663	42	37
*BH4RDB	*	3,402	50	42
*SV2HWR	*	3,136	51	49
*IZ1MLS	*	3,132	37	36
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*BG8GGT	*	1,664	36	32
*BH4RCI	*	1,140	33	30
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*Y05CZ	*	630	22	10
*BH1IA	*	442	20	17
*Y09ICT	*	330	10	10
*F4PWN	*	140	7	7
*E85GIV	*	48	5	4
*EA3G0D	*	3	1	1
*WH0/WH7ZJ	28	270,750	621	150
*PU8TEP	*	70,810	194	146
*YY1OKR	*	59,396	200	124
*PU2TEA	*	46,609	159	127

*NP3SI	*	8,632	59	52
*PU1LND	*	5,616	65	54
*EA2CTB	*	1,044	20	18
*J03RCK	*	75	5	5
*9W2ESM	*	60	7	6
*EE1E	21	490,000	593	392
(OP: EA1GFP)				
*PY2BRA	*	437,844	478	321
*OH7FKV	*	84,960	231	180
*BH7LMD	*	62,266	211	163
*TA4AU	*	36,358	134	106
*IT9IMJ	*	28,441	135	119
*DW1VKT	*	19,007	98	83
*BA4IO	*	9,324	66	63
*EY8BG	*	9,240	63	56
*EY8BI	*	8,910	63	54
*JR2AAN/2	*	7,452	57	54
*BD4EXL	*	1,643	33	31
*BH1HSX	*	4	2	2
*IZ8NWA	14	26,964	141	128
*ON3HVH	*	1,247	29	29
*PO8MD	*	504	21	21
*IT9AXQ	*	432	18	18
*OK1LX	7	413,848	546	358
*S57LR	*	327,600	432	315
*SQ2NNN	*	314,901	437	327
*VK3VTH	*	54,614	109	94
*Y02MJZ	*	35,910	123	114
*IZ1NBX	*	28,260	96	90
*D06JAN	3.7	190	10	10

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KVBK	6,619,538	3100	953
AJ9C	6,563,520	2772	1032
WU2X	5,953,220	2137	910
KD9ST	4,685,949	2466	879
WC5T	3,616,873	2368	793
NO4U	3,254,931	1761	783
W08CC	2,970,624	1712	768
KA1IOR	2,124,544	1195	688
KQ7W	2,088,416	1637	698
WX7P	2,042,442	1626	694
W7EB	1,948,640	1707	608
N0MA	1,925,758	1392	662
K5UA	1,913,301	1257	621
NC7M	1,796,067	1428	663
W06X	1,682,174	1461	598
AJ5M	1,470,744	1343	619
N8AJN/0	792,527	765	443
N7VF	672,878	651	401
N6MI	607,969	805	419
WV2ZOW	490,428	576	342
W6KA	388,008	557	306
W3LJ	339,568	428	304
NO2J	193,688	343	248
KD0S	141,026	430	214
NE6M	101,421	293	177
W8BI	84,320	189	155
K0BYJO	53,911	195	143
KJ4BIW	24,158	106	94
N2NGW	18,673	73	71
KI6UAP	1,716	26	26

Antigua & Barbuda

V25Y	14,801,966	3787	1138
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Canada

VE7GL	10,196,445	2877	1083
VC6R	8,087,360	2865	995
VX6AO	2,841,625	1959	635
VA2TG	1,802,227	977	553
VC7C	1,166,394	903	438
VE7NSR	43,673	159	119

Mexico

XE2AUD	593,370	754	342
XE1CRG	65,286	140	117

AFRICA

Morocco	36,669,952	6300	1532
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Senegal

6V7M	12,640,095	3593	1105
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ASIA

Asiatic Russia	2,739,686	1310	646
RZ0SZZ	2,821,760	1170	576
R29WXX	1,312,416	814	441
RK9CWW	509,439	453	357

China

B1Z	3,211,270	1760	730
BY5CD	2,142,270	1506	585
BY8DX	1,623,272	1178	574
BY4QA	1,575,968	1290	544
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P39P	1,973,906	1027	506
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VR2C	3,046,320	2078	720
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Japan

JJ2ZJS	4,465,430	1854	743
JJ2ZEY	2,658,222	1365	578
JA1ZGP	252,324	396	258
JA4YHX	109,686	250	181

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XV2RZ	2,439,618	1892	659
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Azores

CQ8X	20,882,307	5864	1343
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Belarus

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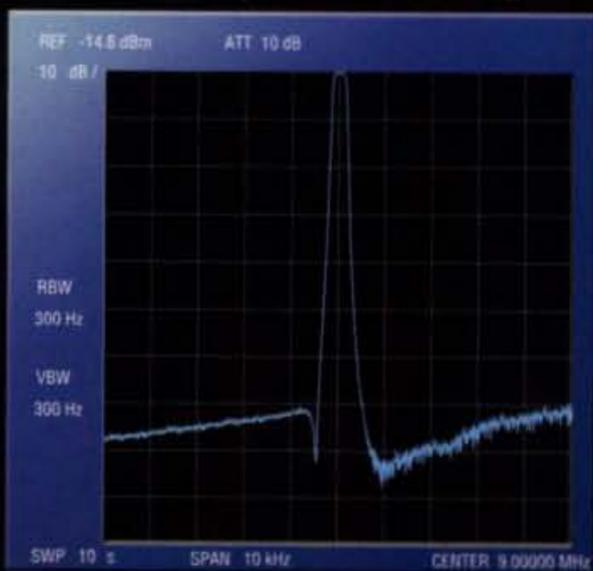
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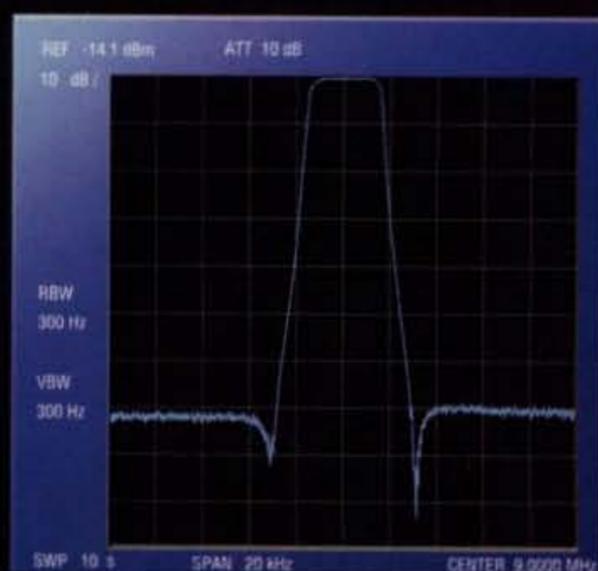
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