



# Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 2011

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>



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MINERAL VA 23117-3425  
 6196 JEFFERSON HWY  
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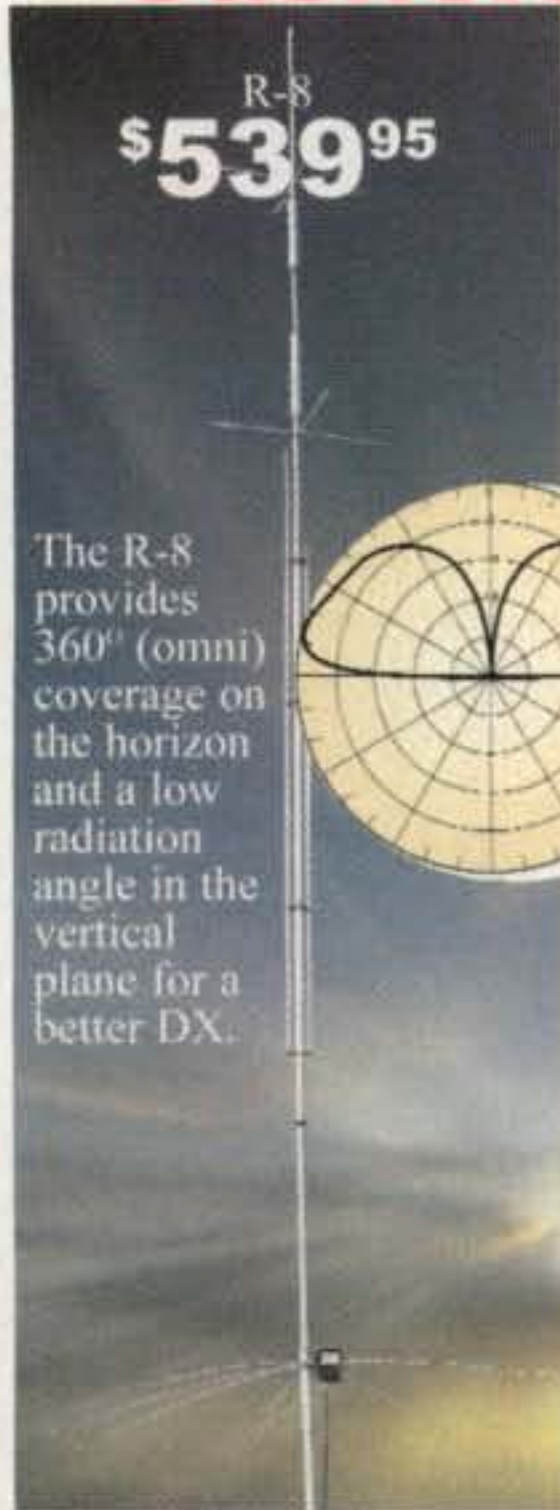
**Rugged Construction:** Thick fiberglass insulators, all-stainless hardware, and 6063 aircraft-aluminum tubing that is double or triple walled at key stress points handle anything Mother Nature can dish out.

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



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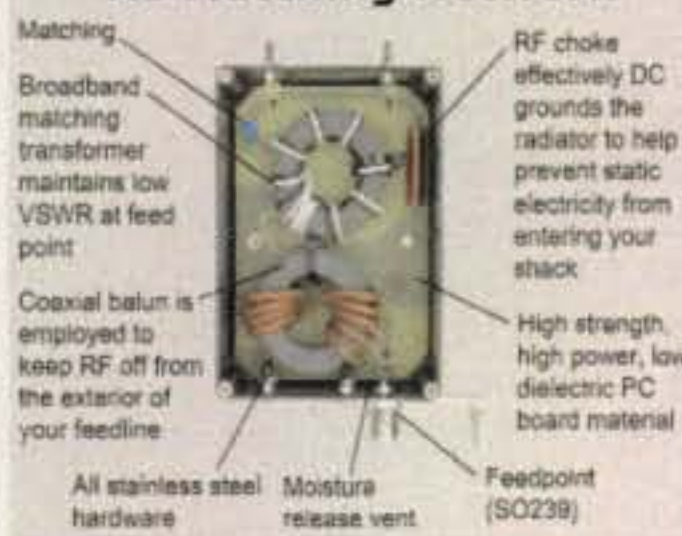


MA-5B  
\$499<sup>95</sup>

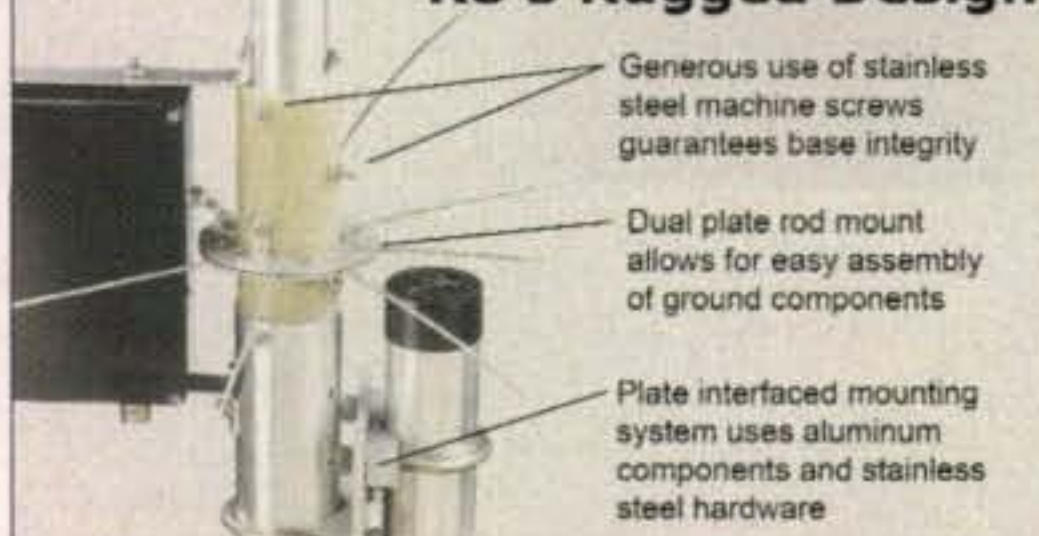
The MA-5B is one of Cushcraft's most popular HF antennas, delivering solid *signal-boosting directivity* in a bantam-weight package. Mounts on roof using standard TV hardware. Perfect for exploring exciting DX without the high cost and heavy lifting of installing a large tower and full-sized array. Its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

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### R8 Matching Network



### R8's Rugged Design



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A-4S  
\$699<sup>95</sup>



A-3S  
\$599<sup>95</sup>

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!

It goes without saying that the World-Ranger lineup is also famous for its rugged construction. In fact, the majority of these antennas sold years ago are still in service today! Conservative mechanical design, rugged over-sized components,

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### Cushcraft Dual Band Yagis One Yagi for Dual-Band FM Radios



A270-10S  
\$169<sup>95</sup>

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A270-6S  
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AR-6  
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## Return of the Woodpecker?

Hams who were active on the HF bands in the 1970s and '80s will likely remember the so-called Russian Woodpecker, an over-the-horizon (OTH) radar signal originating from the Ukraine that caused massive interference across the HF radio spectrum. The woodpecker has been silent since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, but the IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) Monitoring System is now reporting QRM from two OTH radar signals—one originating in Russia and operating on the 40-meter (7-MHz) ham band, and another based in Cyprus that has been obliterating the 30-meter (10-MHz) band in Europe every afternoon. Details are in the IARU Monitoring System's December 2010 newsletter at <http://www.iarums-r1.org/iarums/news2010/news1012.pdf>.

On the topic of QRM in Europe, "Newslines" is reporting that one of three Italian repeaters allegedly causing interference to the ham radio downlink from the International Space Station has voluntarily gone off 2 meters. Owners of the IR2UEF D-STAR repeater noted that they were operating legally but were shutting down their 2-meter port "in the name of cooperation and ham radio spirit."

## DXØDX DXpedition on Long-Term Hold

Organizers of the DXØDX Spratly Island DXpedition say the operation is on indefinite hold due to paperwork and bureaucracy problems. They hope to work things out and get on the air sometime this year. For more information, see this month's "DX" column on page 91.

## New Rates, Formula for ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau

For the first time in four years, the ARRL has raised its rates for sending members' QSL cards to hams around the world. It also refined the formula for determining how much a packet of QSLs bound for the Outgoing QSL Bureau would cost. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the new rates, which took effect January 17, are as follows: \$2 for 10 or fewer cards in one envelope; \$3 for 11–20 cards in one envelope; \$0.75 per ounce for packages containing more than 20 cards.

The ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau is available only to ARRL members.

## NASA Seeks Hams' Help Monitoring Satellite—Gets It Down the Hall

NASA put out a request to hams on January 19th asking them to listen for the 70-centimeter beacon of the just-deployed NanoSail-D nanosatellite. The tiny satellite, whose control team is based at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, was supposed to deploy a solar sail as part of a solar propulsion experiment.

The first hams to report hearing the satellite's 437.270-MHz beacon, according to the Huntsville *Times* newspaper, were members of the Marshall Space Flight Center's own ham radio club. The news was posted on the club's website and immediately passed along to Principal Investigator Dean Alhorn, who had put out the request. According to the website, Alhorn "nearly exploded with joy" and club members "thought we were going to need to scrape Dean off the ceiling."

## Split in IEEE over BPL Standard

There is discontent in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) over the body's recommended standards for testing and measurement of power-line communication equipment (also known as Broadband over Power Lines, or BPL) for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC). According to the *ARRL Letter*, the IEEE EMC Society Standards Development Committee (SDCom) withdrew as a co-sponsor of the new

standard, complaining that its concerns about certain technical content had been ignored by the IEEE Standards Board. Committee member and ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, questioned the value of an IEEE EMC standard that does not have the support of the organization's own EMC Standards Committee.

In other BPL news, the ARRL filed a complaint with the FCC in late December, charging that three BPL systems in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Indiana—all operated by IBEC, are not properly notching out the amateur bands and are causing harmful interference to area hams. The *ARRL Letter* says the League filing called on the FCC to launch an enforcement proceeding against IBEC and to shut the systems down until they are in full compliance with FCC rules.

## Logbook of The World Now Supports Grid-Square Based Awards

The ARRL reports that its online QSO confirmation service, Logbook of The World (LoTW), will now support ARRL awards based on Maidenhead grid squares, including the VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) and the Fred Fish Memorial Award. With this upgrade, LoTW now supports all ARRL awards. CQ is continuing to work with the ARRL to eventually support CQ-sponsored awards.

## FCC Sets K1MAN License Renewal for Hearing

The FCC has formally designated the license renewal application of controversial ham Glenn Baxter, K1MAN, for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge. Baxter's license expired five years ago but has remained valid during enforcement proceedings. The FCC has cited him for multiple instances of alleged interference to ongoing communications, transmitting communications in which he allegedly had a pecuniary interest, and other matters. The Commission now has a case in federal court, trying to collect fines that it assessed but which Baxter has not paid.

Baxter says he is pleased to finally be getting a hearing on his license renewal after five years, but notes that since the matters that will be considered by the Administrative Law Judge are essentially identical to those before the federal court, the FCC will likely have to wait until the court case is completed before proceeding with the hearing. "This is going to be fun," he notes, adding, "This is like a double-header. Your tax money hard at work."

## Ham Radio Study Bill Re-introduced in New Congress

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) has re-introduced the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which passed the Senate during the last Congress but was never taken up by the House of Representatives. According to the ARRL, the bill has the new number of HR 81, and has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The bill calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of amateur radio in emergencies and disasters, and to make recommendations regarding impediments to amateur radio communication, such as the effects of antenna restrictions in private land use regulations. The FCC has said repeatedly that it will not challenge these private regulations, often known as CC&Rs, without a specific mandate from Congress.

*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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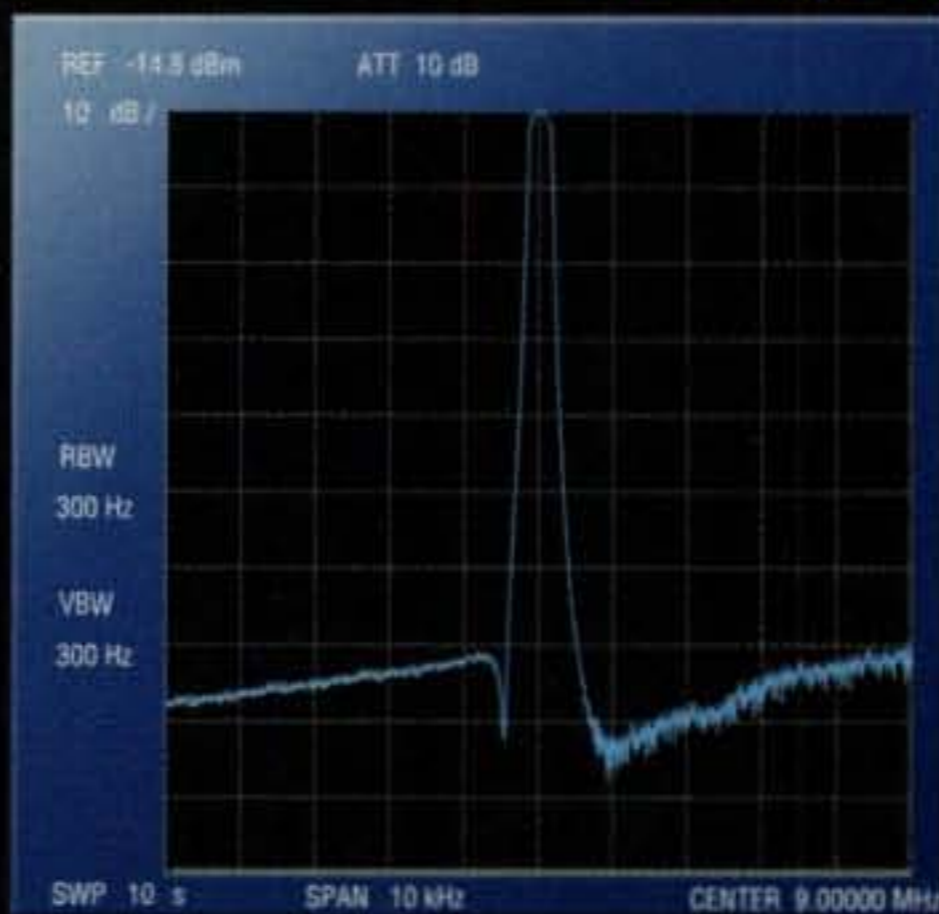
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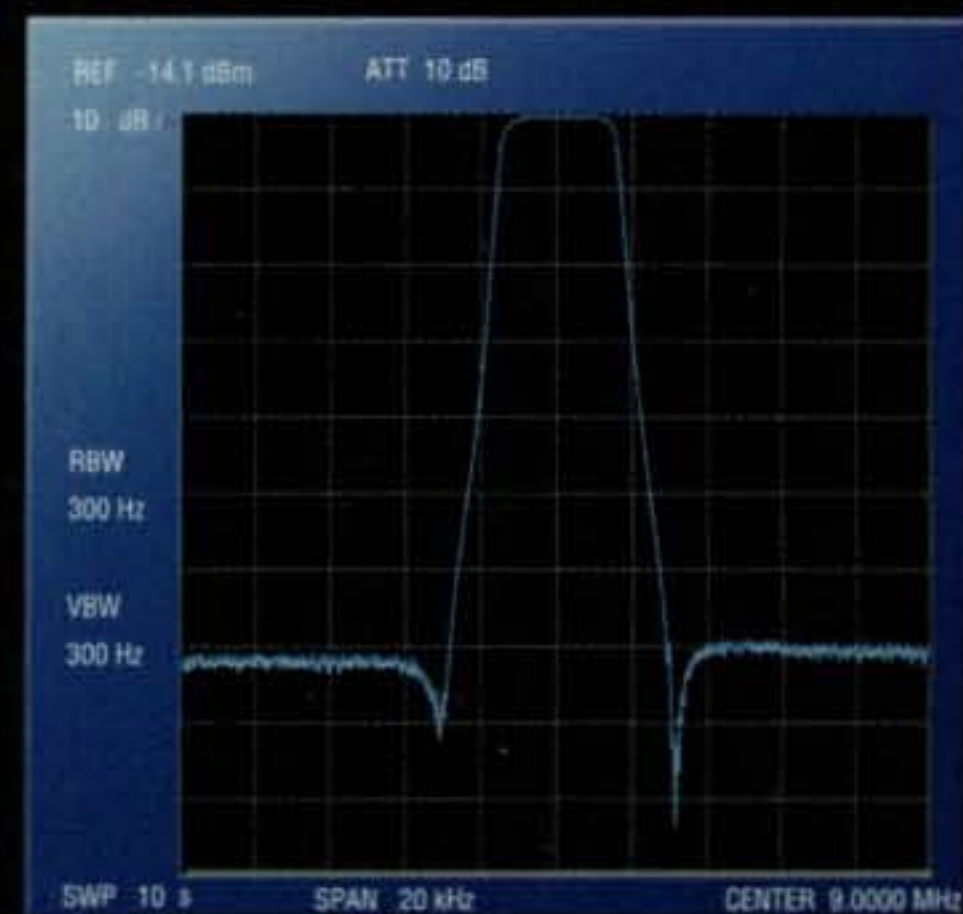
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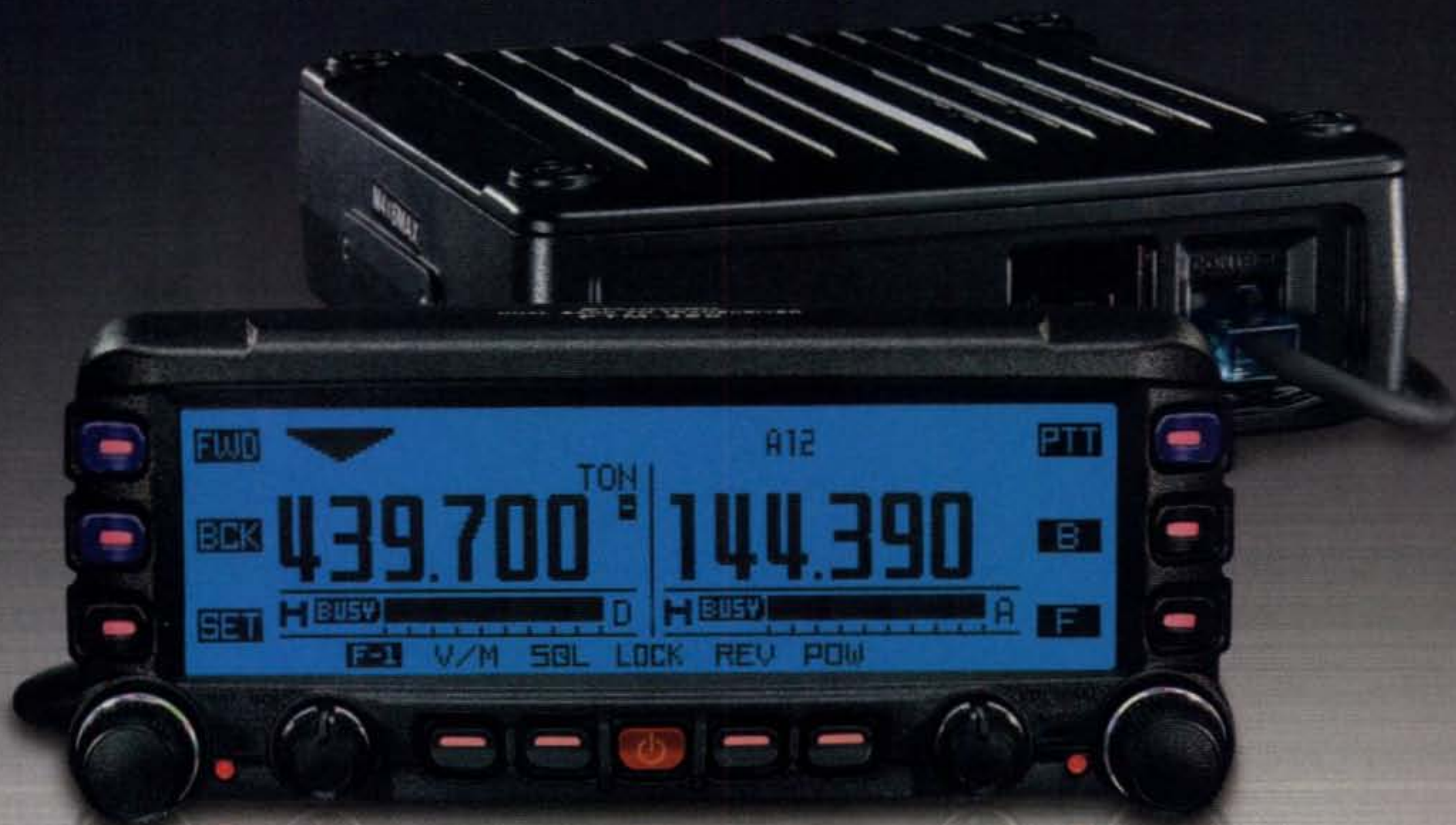
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## Appliance Operators?

Last month in this space, I set out to bust a few ham radio myths, one of which was that “hams don’t build anything anymore.” This belief, I said, is even older than the “ham radio is dying” myth. And indeed, it is a belief that has been addressed in this column before. For example:

It seems that many folks think that amateur radio, as a scientific service, has stagnated, and in support of their beliefs, they bring up the trend toward all-commercial stations, commercial antennas and other accessories. We can’t dispute this trend, but we would rather interpret it a bit differently. We feel that the availability of high quality commercial gear has simply eased the job of the amateur in the development of communications techniques, instead of eliminating it...

The point is this. Amateur radio has come quite a ways from the days of the first commercial equipment, and we must realize that each new technique development has been made possible by that same equipment. To condemn it is foolish. It just isn’t possible to turn back the clock to the days when a good ham built all his equipment, from key to antenna. To encourage this is to negate the progress of 50 years of amateur radio ... and many a new development has come from the shack of an appliance operator.

How long ago was this written? Five years ago? Ten? Well, that last line might give you a hint ... “To encourage this is to negate the progress of 50 years of amateur radio.” Next year will be the centennial of the Radio Act of 1912, which formalized callsigns and licensing, and hams were active for several years before that. So when was this written? Try August 1964, penned by Dick Ross, K2MGA, who is now CQ’s Publisher, but was Editor back then.

Yes, even 47 years ago hams were griping that nobody built anything anymore and that we were becoming a hobby of appliance operators. Yes, even 47 years ago, hams were using the term “appliance operators.” But as Dick pointed out then, and as is just as true today, the advent of commercial gear has not put an end to hams’ innovation; rather it has provided a platform for even greater innovation moving forward.

But what about the underlying assumption, whether in 1964 or 2011, that hams aren’t builders anymore? Well, last October we asked you, our readers, about your own building activities. The results are on page 40 of this issue and frankly, they amazed even us.

Ninety-four percent—yes, 94%—of the readers who responded to the survey said they had built at least one piece of radio equipment! And we’re not talking about building a dipole here ... 58% have built a receiver, 57% a transmitter, and 41% a transceiver. Also, we’re not talking about building a rig a half century ago (or a half century before that!) ... 68% of the respondents said their most recent ham radio project was completed within the past year (30%) or

is in progress right now (38%). Only 14% said it’s been ten years or longer since they’ve built anything.

Now I realize that these surveys are not scientific, but they do provide a reasonable snapshot of our readers’ interests and activities, even if they are off by a few percentage points. Clearly, CQ readers are also builders, and in large numbers, and that’s what really matters.

So what about a half-century of complaints that fewer and fewer hams are building anything? Could it be that the ranks of builders hit bottom and are now on the increase? It’s possible. There’s evidence everywhere that CW usage has been increasing since the FCC eliminated the code test requirement. Perhaps there is a resurgence of building among hams.

It’s also possible that the complaints were just plain wrong, both a half century ago and today. Just like the “ham radio is dying” myth that hams keep retelling. Here we are at our all-time licensing peak—over 696,000 at the end of 2010. Yet, a telling point, a story last weekend in a Chicago newspaper was entitled “Ham Radio Buffs Say Fading Hobby Serves Purpose.” Sometimes, you just can’t win.

### Now It’s Your Turn ...

We know you’re building things, and many of you are building things of your own design (47%, according to the survey). Share! Let’s see some fun, practical, project articles. We don’t have the space to publish long and complex projects at this point, but we’d love to see what you have to offer in the way of practical projects that are fun to build and can be put together in a weekend (kind of like AD5X’s “Weekender” column that ran until Phil needed to step down and KØNEB reconfigured it into our current “Kit-building” column). Take pictures, draw schematics, and write up a brief description of what it is, how it works, why someone else might want to build and use it, and clear, step-by-step instructions for assembling the project. Please read our writers’ guidelines ([www.cq-amateur-radio.com/guide.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/guide.html)), and then send along the article to me at [w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com) or by postal mail to the CQ office. We’ll pick out the best of the best and get them into future issues. Meanwhile, keep those soldering irons warm!

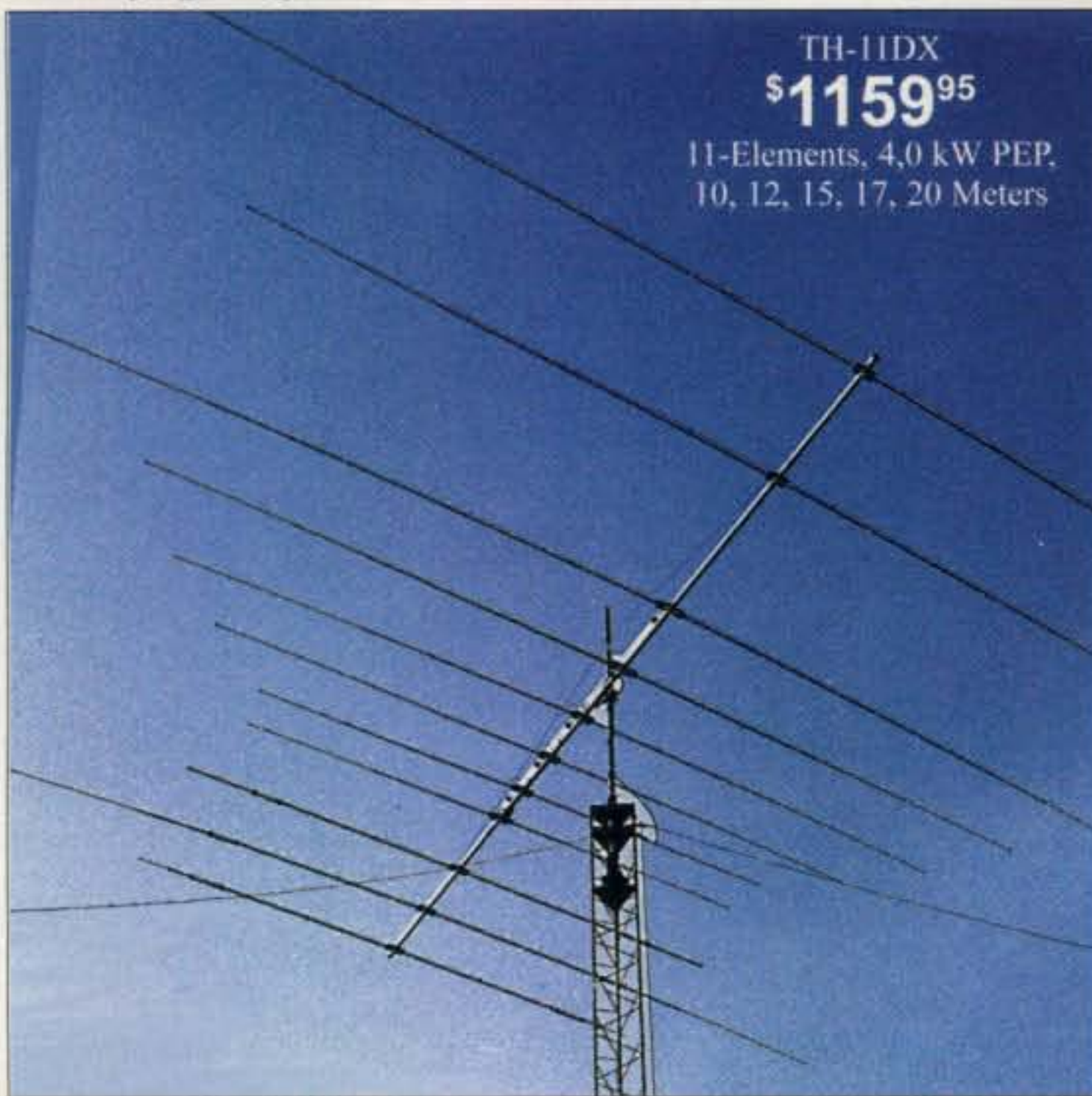
### Welcome, N2GA

I’d like to welcome George Tranos, N2GA, as our new “Contesting” Editor. As we reported last month, John Dorr, K1AR, decided to step aside after nearly 22 years of writing the CQ contesting column. George is an accomplished contester, often putting in top-tier performances from the Caribbean, and is respected for his objectivity, having served as a referee in three World Radio Teamsport Championship (WRTC) competitions. You’ll find a more complete introduction in this month’s “Contesting” column on page 97. Please give George your support and feedback.

\*e-mail: [w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com)

# hy-gain. HF BEAMS...

... are stronger, lighter, have less wind surface and last years longer. Why? Hy-Gain uses durable **tooled** components -- massive boom-to-mast bracket, heavy gauge element-to-boom clamps, thick-wall swaged tubing -- virtually no failures!



TH-11DX  
\$1159<sup>95</sup>

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

## TH-11DX, \$1159.95. 11-element, 4.0 kW PEP, 10,12,15,17,20M

The choice of top DXers. With 11-elements, excellent gain and 5-bands, the super rugged TH-11DX is the "Big Daddy" of all HF beams! Handles 2000 Watts continuous, 4000 Watts PEP. Every part is selected for durability and ruggedness for years of trouble-free service.

## TH-7DX, \$869.95. 7-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

7-Elements gives you the highest average gain of any Hy-Gain tri-bander! Dual driven for broadband operation without compromising gain. SWR less than 2:1 on all bands. Uniquely combining monoband

Features a low loss log-periodic driven array on all bands with monoband reflectors, BN-4000 high power balun, corrosion resistant wire boom support, hot dipped galvanized and stainless steel parts. Stainless steel hardware and clamps are used on all electrical connections.

and trapped parasitic elements give you an excellent F/B ratio. Includes Hy-Gain's diecast aluminum, rugged boom-to-mast clamp, heavy gauge element-to-boom brackets, BN-86 balun. For high power, upgrade to BN-4000.

## TH-5MK2, \$759.95. 5-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

The broadband five element TH5-MK2 gives you outstanding gain.

Separate air dielectric Hy-Q traps let you adjust for maxi-

## TH-3MK4, \$469.95. 3-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

The super popular TH-3MK4 gives you the most gain for your money in a full-power, full-size durable Hy-Gain tri-bander!

You get an impressive average gain and a whopping average front-to-back ratio. Handles a full 1500 Watts PEP. 95 MPH wind survival.

Fits on average size lot with

## TH-2MK3, \$369.95. 2-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

The 2-element TH-2MK3 is Hy-Gain's most economical full power (1.5kW PEP) full size tri-bander.

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

## EXP-14, \$599.95. 4-element, 1.5 kW PEP, 10,15,20 Meters

Revolutionary 4-element compact tri-bander lets you add 40 or 30 Meters! Has 14 foot boom and tight 17.25 feet turning radius. Fits on roof tri-pod, mast or medium duty tower.

Hy-Gain's patented broadbanding Para Sleeve gives you

room to spare -- turning radius is just 15.3 feet. Four piece boom is ideal for DXpeditions. Rotates with CD-45II or HAM-IV rotator.

Also standard is Hy-Gain's exclusive BetaMATCH™, stainless steel hardware and compression clamps and BN-86 balun.

Features Hy-Gain BetaMatch™ for DC ground, full power Hy-Q™ traps, rugged boom-to-mast bracket and mounts on standard 2"O.D. mast. Stainless steel hardware. BN-86 balun recommended.

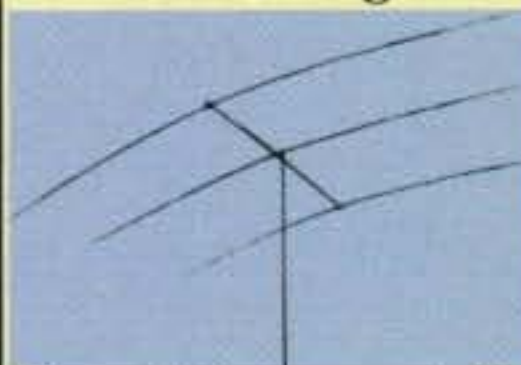
Ruggedly constructed, top-performing, compact 6 foot boom, tight 14.3 foot turning radius. Installs almost anywhere. Rotate with CD-45II or HAM-IV. BN-86 balun recommended.

less than 2:1 VSWR. 1.5kW PEP. BetaMATCH™ provides DC ground to eliminate static. Includes BN-86 balun. Easily assembled. Truly competitive against giant tri-banders at half the cost!

## QK-710, \$179.95. 30/40 Meter option kit for EXP-14.

## Compact 3-element 10, 15, 20 Meter Tri-Bander

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



TH-3JRS, \$359.95. Hy-Gain's most popular 3-element 10, 15, 20 Meter tri-bander fits on most lots! Same top performance as the full power TH3MK4 in a compact 600 watt PEP design.

Excellent gain and F/B ratio let you compete with the "big guns".

Fits on light tower, suitable guyed TV pole, roof tri-pod. Tooled manufacturing gives you Hy-Gain durability with 80 MPH wind survival.

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

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



2. Tooled Boom-to-Element Clamp



3. Thick-wall swaged aluminum tubing



Tooled manufacturing is the difference between Hy-Gain antennas and the others -- they just don't have it (it's expensive!).

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

Hy-Gain antennas feature tooled swaged tubing that is easily and securely clamped in place. All tubing is deburred and cleaned for smooth and easy assembly.

Durable precision injection molded parts. Hy-Gain antennas are stronger, lighter, have less wind surface area, better wind survival, need no adjustments, look professional and last years longer.

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**SWODXA Ohio DX Association Dinner, Dayton Hamvention® 2011** – The annual DX Dinner™ will be held this year On Friday, May 20 at a new location, the Dayton Marriott, 1414 Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409. Details are available at <www.swodxa.org>. They are attempting to honor seating requests (tables for 10), and so please contact (with check or money order & \$40 payable in U.S. funds), Kirk Swallow, W8QID, 3137 Compton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45251 (be sure to include SASE for return ticket).

**SKYWARN CLASSES:** The Lake County ARES, Lake ARA, and National Weather Service will sponsor two SKYWARN classes to become trained weather spotters at the Leesburg Library, Leesburg, FL on March 5. For more information go to: <www.skywarn.org>, <www.k4fc.org>, and <www.n4fla.org>.

• **The following Special Event Stations are scheduled for late February and March:**

**K5B**, from the 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon, Las Cruces, New Mexico; Mesilla Valley Radio Club; March 27 from 1000Z to 2300Z on 3.893, 7.225, 14.330, 21.337 MHz. For QSL, write to: Special Event Station K5B, c/o Mesilla Valley Radio Club, PO Box 1443, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1443. For more information go to: <http://www.n5bl.org/bataan>.

**WS7G**, from celebration of George Washington's birthday, near the town of George in Washington State; 0001Z February 21 through 0400Z February 23 on 14.250, 18.135, 3.880, and 7.230 MHz (±QRM). QSL via WS7G.

**W8FT**, celebrating 90 years of existence of the Findlay Radio Club, Findlay, Ohio; from 1300Z March 20 to 0100Z March 21 on 3.555, 3.855, 7.055, 7.260, 14.055, 14.255, 21.055, and 21.285 MHz. All contacts will receive a special QSL card from the club honoring the event.

• **The following hamfests, etc., are slated for March:**

March 12, **2011 Charlotte (NC) Hamfest**, Cabarrus Arena & Events Center, Concord, North Carolina; sponsored by the Mecklenburg ARS. Contact Tom Hunt, e-mail: <dealers@w4bfb.org>; phone 704-948-7373; <www.w4bfb.org/hamfest>. (Exams) **See us at the CQ Booth.**

March 19, **Charleston, West Virginia Hamfest** (ARRL affiliated), Coonskin Armory, Charleston, West Virginia. For more information and details, contact Jim Damron, N8TMW, <n8tmw@arrl.net> or call 304-965-5349; <http://www.w8gk.org>. (Exams 12:30 PM)

March 26, **Orange County ARC Spring Hamfest**, Town of Wallkill Community Center, Middletown, New York. Contact Neil Shubert, AC2O, e-mail: <cermic7@gmail.com>, cell 914-490-2001 (between 6 and 9 PM). (Talk-in 146.76 PL 100; exams)

March 26, **Columbus (IN) ARC Hamfest**, Bartholomew County 4H Fairgrounds, Community Building, Columbus, Indiana. Contact Russ Holderness, KA9MZV, e-mail: <rholder433@live.com>, phone 812-372-7422, cell 317-692-3345. (Talk-in 146.790/146.190w/PL100; exams 11AM [walk-ins OK] contact Rhonda, WS9H, e-mail: <KS9H@comcast.net>, phone 317-654-0007)

March 26, **HAM-EX™ 2011**, Brampton Fall Fairgrounds, Mississauga, Canada. Contact the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club, VE3MIS. (Talk-in VE3PRC 146.880– [no tone], VE3MIS 145.430– [103.5 tone]; exams for Basic, Advanced, and CW Qualification [see <www.ham-ex.ca>])

*Please submit hamfest and special event announcements at least three months in advance by e-mail to <hamfest@cq-amateur-radio.com> or <specialevent@cq-amateur-radio.com>, or by postal mail to: CQ Magazine, Attn: Hamfests (or Special Events), 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801.*

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#### RF Drive:

65-90W typ. (100W max.)

#### Output Power:

HF: 550W typ., 50MHz: 500W (RTTY, SSTV, FM 250W max.)  
(When set to AC100V-120V, 500W on both HF and 50MHz)

#### Drain Voltage:

44V

#### Drain Current:

30A max.

#### Input Impedance:

50Ω (unbalanced)

#### Output Impedance:

50Ω (unbalanced)

#### Final Transistor:

VRF150 x 4

#### Circuit:

Class AB parallel push-pull

#### Cooling Method:

Forced Air Cooling

#### Multi-meter (F.S.):

Output Power P<sub>r</sub> 1kW  
Reflected Power P<sub>r</sub> 100W  
Drain Voltage V<sub>d</sub> 60V  
Drain Current I<sub>d</sub> 50A

#### Input/Output Connectors:

UHF SO-239 (Type M-J)

#### AC Power:

AC 200-260V, 50/60Hz 7.5A max.  
AC 100-130V, 50/60Hz 15A max.

#### AC Consumption:

1.3kVA max. when TX

#### Dimension:

232 x 145 x 392 mm,  
9.1 x 5.7 x 15.4 inches (WxHxD)

#### Weight:

Approx. 9.2kgs. or 20.3lbs.

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AC Power Cord  
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Users Manual

#### Optional:

Custom-made soft carrying case with shoulder strap. (Will fit in the overhead bin of most aircraft).



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**IC-7600** All Mode Transceiver  
• 100W HF/6m Transceiver, gen cov. receiver • Dual DSP 32 bit • Three roofing filters- 3, 6, 15khz • 5.8 in WQVGA TFT display • Hi-res real time spectrum scope



**IC-7200** HF Transceiver  
• 160-10M • 100W • Simple & tough with IF DSP • AGC Loop Management • Digital IF Filter • Digital Twin PBT • Digital Noise Reduction • Digital Noise Blanker • USB Port for PC Control



**IC-718** HF Transceiver  
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**IC-880H** D-STAR  
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Bill Baker helped shape the landscape of both commercial and public television in America and now teaches at five different universities. He can be found early most mornings on 80 meters.

## *CQ Interviews:*

# TV Executive Bill Baker, W1BKR

BY RICH MOSESON,\* W2VU

**O**kay, everybody, raise your hand if you have your own atomic clock. Keep it raised if you have two or have been to both the North *and* South Poles, or have operated ham radio from Antarctic cruise ships, the *Queen Elizabeth II* and the *USS Intrepid*.

That's what I thought. Bill, you can put your hand down now. ...

Welcome to the latest in *CQ's* series of interviews with chronic ham radio underachievers: Dr. William F. Baker, President Emeritus of WNET.ORG, or as he's better known on 80 meters, Bill, W1BKR.

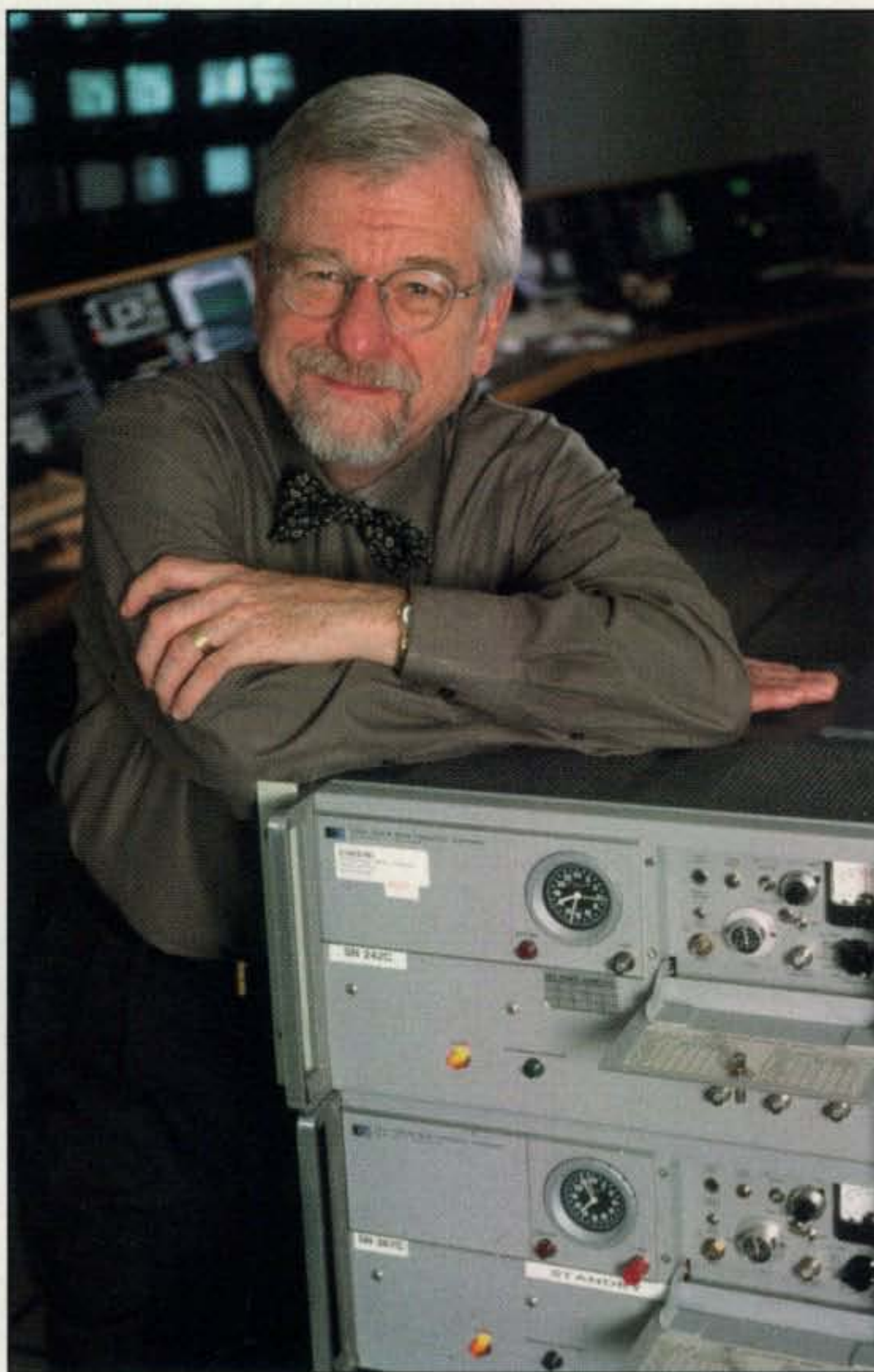
WNET.ORG is the parent company of both WNET-TV, New York City's Channel 13, and WLIW, Long Island public TV channel 21. WNET calls itself the nation's flagship public TV station, says it is the most-watched public television station in America (WLIW is #3), and the most prolific public TV program producer. Bill and I met and talked at the stations' combined studio and production facility in midtown Manhattan.

### Starting with Shortwave

Bill has had a wide-ranging and fascinating career. He is a polar explorer, a broadcast executive who helped shape the modern television industry—both commercial and public—and now, after “retirement,” is an independent TV producer and a college professor. A relative latecomer to ham radio as a licensee, he says he nonetheless has been influenced by hams and ham radio throughout his career.

“I started out interested in shortwave as a kid,” Bill explained, recalling that his parents had taken him to visit a ham in Ohio when he was a young teen. This ham, he said, had a shortwave radio. “I never forgot it, because my parents bought me his radio for Christmas. It was a Hallicrafters S53-A, and that was my first radio when I was about 13 or 14 years old, something like that. I was a shortwave listener well into my adult life.”

Baker's interest in broadcasting began around the same time, starting out “talking into the back of vacuum cleaners when I was 13 years old, pretending they were microphones.” He quickly landed a job as a technician at a radio station in



Bill Baker, W1BKR, in the Master Control room for WNET/WLIW-TV in New York City. Bill is standing with the station's two atomic clocks, whose donation he arranged from the U.S. Naval Observatory. (Photo by Joseph Sinnott, ©WNET.ORG; Courtesy WNET.ORG)

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

### Fund-Raising ... and DXing

Creative fund-raising activities for public television also provided Bill with creative *fun*-raising opportunities for ham radio—namely, DXpeditions!

"When I got into this public television world," Bill explained, "I started lecturing on those expedition ships that make trips to the Antarctic, and we did that as a way to raise money for public television and invite people who could afford a trip like that on a great adventure. It's not like going to the pole, but you get to see the prettier parts of Antarctica. So I took ham radio equipment on those adventures, and ... I had some of the best DXpedition trips ever.

"My family still laughs at me, (recalling my) calling CQ from outside on the back of the ship with the waves crashing around, and I'm wearing gloves so I could barely push the push-to-talk button, and I'm saying, 'We're here in a storm in Antarctica, I don't know how much longer I can transmit. ... I'm hooked up to a battery from one of the Zodiacs.' Meanwhile, they're delivering me a hamburger on a silver tray from the galley of the ship! So you know, I wasn't lying, but it wasn't quite as dramatic as the early polar explorers had it, believe me!

"Then I did the maiden Arctic voyage on the *QEII*, and we went up all through Spitsbergen and Iceland ... north of Norway and then down the Norwegian coast. They had a ham radio on that ship. I remember—it was interesting—a little Kenwood TS-50, and they let me use that in the radio room, which was this monstrous radio room back then, and so I did a DXpedition from the *QEII*, which was a lot of fun, too."

Bill has continued mounting DXpeditions from closer to home as well, including his family's summer home on Henry Island, Nova Scotia, and on board the *U.S.S. Intrepid* museum ship docked in the Hudson River in New York City. "I was on the board for many years, and I had a ham station there," Bill explained, "until the ship had to be moved and they dismantled my ham station. I tried to get a group of hams in there, the group that was kind of moved out of the science museum here in New York (*the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club—ed.*), and we never could make the connection. I'm still not going to give up on that."

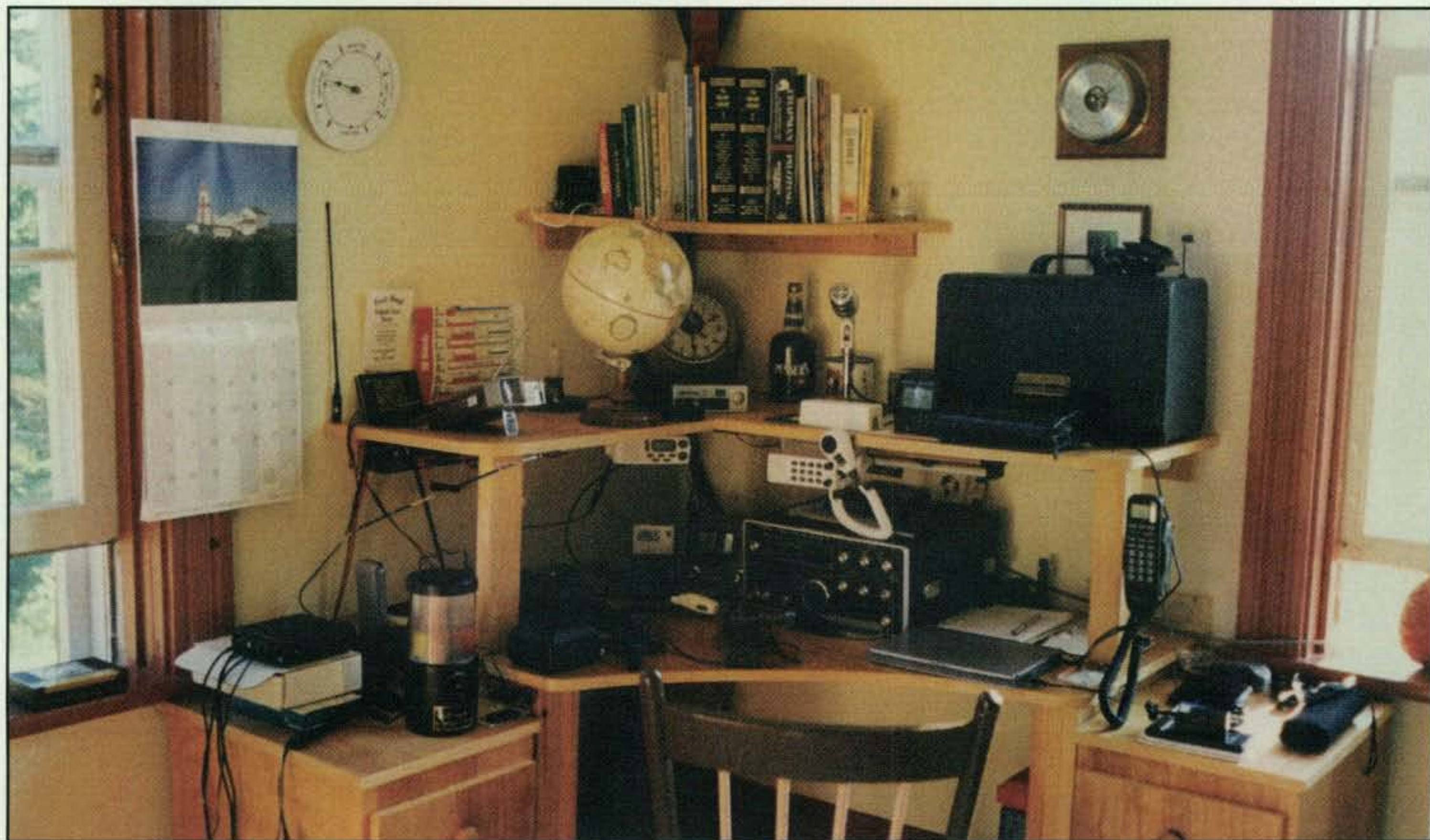
his hometown of Cleveland, and was working there full-time, both behind and in front of the mic, by the time he was in high school.

### Starting a TV Career

That early exposure to the technical side of broadcasting helped direct Bill's college goals, at least in the beginning, at Case Western Reserve University, where he planned to become an electrical engineer. "I got through differential calculus, and that just about broke my pick," he recalled. "I made it through because I had two incredibly smart friends who later went on to become Ph.D. engineers. ... But anyway, I decided kind of halfway through electrical engineering that I really wasn't smart enough to be one, and so I shifted over into communications because I'd already been working in that field. ... So I stayed and got my B.A., but by the time I got my B.A., I was a radio producer of a talk show in Cleveland and doing stuff for NBC radio nationally."

Bill's next move was into television, but he wasn't sure it would last. He kept his TV job but went back to Case for graduate studies. "I've always been interested in psychology and organizational systems," he said, "so I decided to get graduate degrees in industrial psych and organizational behavior. By the time I got my Ph.D., I was already station manager of (the) ABC station in Cleveland, WEWS, and so I just put Ph.D. after my name and kept the job. It didn't seem like I should quit."

Bill was always a hands-on manager. In 1974, he organized and led a TV expedition to Antarctica. Then, when he became manager of the Westinghouse station in Baltimore, became the first manager there to climb up the station's 1000-foot candelabra tower, recalling that you went up in a "teeny little basket" and that he felt very brave ... "until I got about halfway up." Among his other accomplishments there were giving Oprah Winfrey and Maria Shriver their first TV jobs.



Bill's ham station at his family's house on Henry Island, Nova Scotia (from the book, *Lighthouse Island*). (Courtesy W1BKR)



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He later organized an expedition to the North Pole, becoming one of the few people ever to visit both the North and South Poles.

### Going Bicoastal ... and then "Going Public"

After several years in Baltimore, Bill moved up in the Westinghouse organization, eventually becoming president of all of the company's TV stations and chairman of its cable programming businesses. During his tenure, he oversaw the startups of the Discovery Channel, the Disney Channel, and the Travel Channel.

"Then, 20 years ago, (I) was asked by a hero of mine, Dr. Frank Stanton, who was president of CBS, if I would come and be president of public television in New York. I thought, 'Boy, what an honor that is; but does it make sense to take an 80% pay cut?' " he said with a chuckle. "My wife persuaded me that that's what I really *should* be doing. So I thought I would do that for a couple of years and then go back to making money. But ... if you really get into the purposes and the goals of public media, the mission is so high and great that you really can't leave it. So I didn't, and that lasted 20 years and now I'm a professor."

Of course, Bill did manage to accomplish a few things during his two decades at WNET, such as raising more than \$1 billion to support public broadcasting, building the largest endowment in the history of public television, overseeing the merger of Channels 13 and 21, their transition to digital broadcasting, their move to a new state-of-the-art studio and production facility, and the introduction of six new digital channels as well as V-me, the first public TV station in the U.S. aimed at Latino viewers. He has also been Executive Producer and/or on-the-air host of various public TV programs, including Thirteen's most-watched program ever (which he hosted), the July 4, 1992 broadcast of the Tall Ships Parade in New York City.

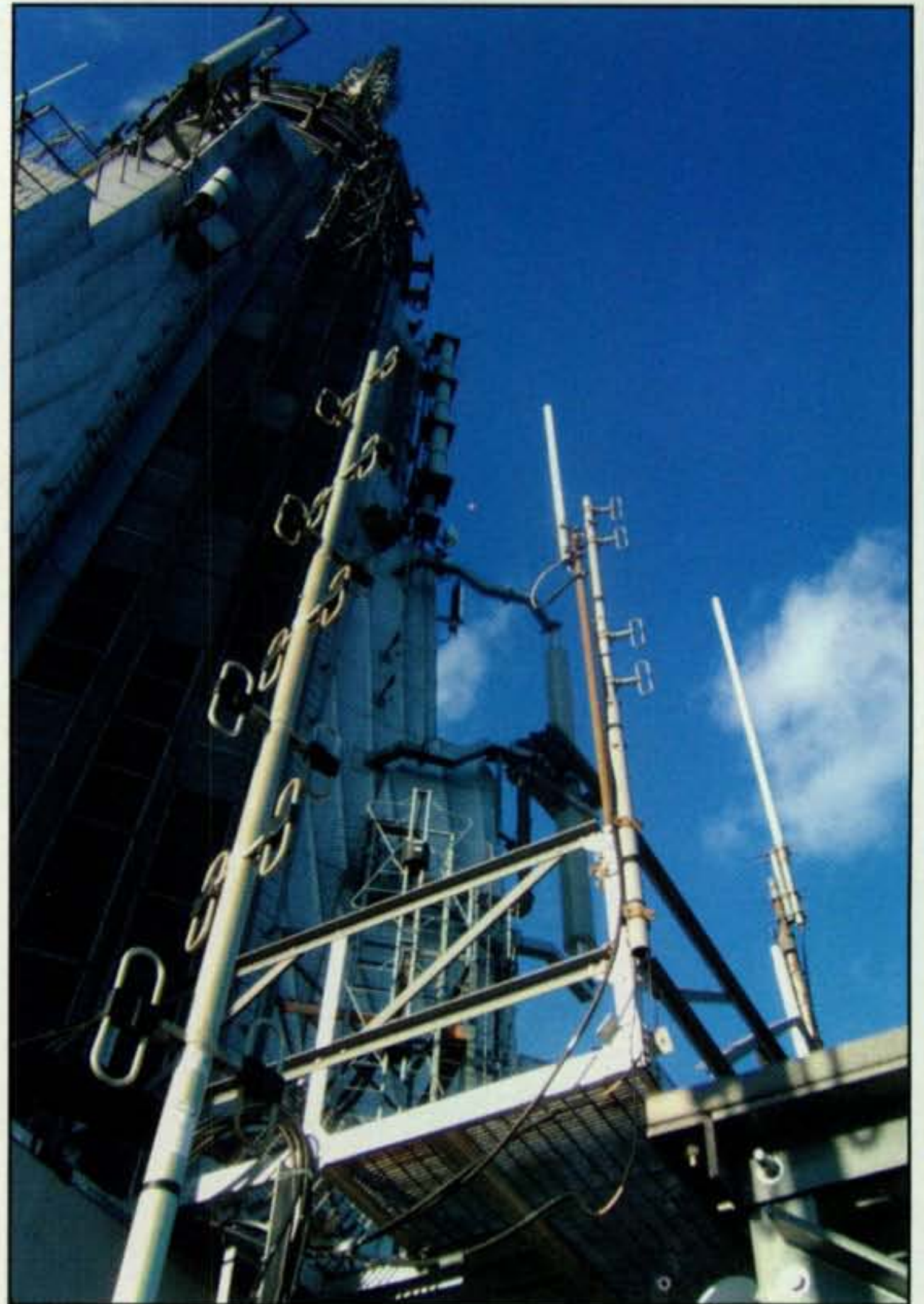
Bill has been honored with various broadcasting awards and is a member of Broadcasting & Cable's Hall of Fame (inducted 2004), the New York State Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame (2005), the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Management Hall of Fame (2007), and even the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame (2009).

### Capstone Achievement

What, I asked Bill, did he consider the highlight of his many-faceted career? His answer might surprise you: "Perhaps the highlight of my career was in many ways at the most frightening and scary time, but it showed the real value of electronic media, and it showed the greater value of the industry rather than any kind of personal achievement, and that was September 11th," he said, referring to the terrorist attacks on New York City. "When it all happened, what I said to my people was, 'Don't worry about money, don't worry about anything ... just think of only one thing—serving the people of our community. Whatever it takes to really do that... and let's be creative about how we can do this.' "

"The commercial media did a brilliant job," Bill continued. "Public television decided we couldn't do the same thing because we didn't have the capacity they had with mobile units and everything, so we decided to put all this in context. We did programs, we had religious leaders from all of the faiths sitting in the studio with Bill Moyers, and I was one of the people, so for me personally, it was quite an experience, interviewing during that time on worldwide television."

There was more that went on behind the scenes: "One of the people in our station said, 'You know, we've got the



*Channel 13's antenna (left foreground) is mounted just above the 87th floor rooftop area of the Empire State Building. (See more photos from the Empire State Building in our web supplement.)*

biggest phone system in New York, because of the telephone pledge drive.' And they said, 'Why don't we make that available to the Red Cross?' So the whole Red Cross and part of the Office of Emergency Management all moved into our facility. We set up tables and everything for them there. It was really quite a moment in my career and I think the career of electronic media—in the *life* of electronic media in America.

All of this, of course, occurred over a background of personal loss. Many people at Channel 13 had relatives or friends who were killed or injured in the attacks, along with one colleague—transmitter engineer Rod Coppola, KA2KET, who was at work that fateful morning at the station's transmitter in one of the World Trade Center towers. He is now memorialized by a plaque in the Channel 13 lobby.

### A Life of Leisure in Retirement (Not)

Retirement has not slowed Bill down in the least. He is currently teaching at five different universities ("I'm finally using my Ph.D. after all these years," he quipped), continuing to work as an independent TV producer and is a tireless advocate for our national parks (he is the former chairman of the National Park Service Advisory Committee.). He also collects microphones and clocks, and has written several books, including *Lighthouse Island* (about the island in Canada that his family owns!). And then, of course, there's ham radio,

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## "Instead of the Junkyard, It Goes to My Office"

In an industry dominated by the clock, it might not be too surprising to know that one of Bill Baker's passions has been collecting clocks—not just any clocks, but specifically electromechanical clocks from broadcast stations. Actually, he says, his fascination with clocks goes back further than he can remember. He says his mother told him that his first words were "light" and "clock."

Bill's most prized acquisition is the old master clock from CBS in Hollywood. "I used to have an office at CBS in Hollywood when I was head of the (Westinghouse) production company there, and I used to go to the big control room and sit there and just kind of drool over this master clock." It is a high-accuracy Favag pendulum clock, he explained, with an escapement, or a special mechanism that regulates its movement and keeps it on time. Later, said Bill, "Westinghouse bought CBS, and ... they wanted to give me a present when they signed our big contract. I said, 'I'd like that master clock that you had in Hollywood.' Luckily for Bill, the clock had been replaced by an atomic clock and the old one, still in storage, ended up in his office. He took it with him wherever he went after that, and recently donated it to the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol, Connecticut.

Now, about those two atomic clocks we mentioned at the beginning of this article. They actually belong to Channel 13 and sit in the master control room, although Bill notes, "I had one at home for a while." Bill had arranged their donation by the U.S. Naval Observatory, for a time giving the public TV station the most accurate time standard of any of the broadcasters in New York City.

Bill also collects broadcast microphones, including a large number of RCA ribbon mics, although he confesses a preference for German-built Neumann microphones and even visited their factory on a trip to Europe.

"It was fun being the boss of these broadcasting companies," recalled Baker with a chuckle, noting that whenever he saw station clocks or microphones being updated, he would tell the staff, "You're not to throw it out. If it's going to go to the junkyard, instead of the junkyard, it goes to my office. So I wound up collecting a nice bunch of things. ..."

really a thing of great joy, and I really started getting into it in a big way."

Bill says he has continued to rely on fellow hams for help and advice. "We could never have gotten on the air out of this new location and we certainly couldn't have kept Channel 21 on the air," noted Bill, "if it weren't for Eric Spiegel." Calling Eric, who is KE2EJ, "a genius ham radio operator and a genius broadcast engineer," Baker continued, "Whenever I would get into trouble ... I would always go to Eric and say, 'Eric, how do we get a satellite hookup from this piece of Antarctica? Or can you invent a piece of equipment to solve this problem? Or why isn't this working?' It was always Eric Spiegel I went to, my ham radio genius, and I mean I really put him in that category, to do that."

Bill also didn't hesitate to tap the expertise of hams outside his organization. He recalled one time, when he was chairman of the industry committee of all the TV stations in New York, the group was having trouble dealing with some very complicated RF issues. "I wound up calling Dick (Knadle), K2RIW, head of TechNet (on the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club repeater)," Bill explained, "because I used to listen to TechNet every week, so I figured Dick knows more than anybody I've ever met in the commercial broadcasting business. I'm going to get the TechNet guys on this problem. He worked up models and tried to solve whatever the problem was for me. So ham radio has been actually, even before I was a ham, always been very much a part of my life."

Still, says Bill, beneath all the technology, ham radio is about people. He says one of the constants of his ham radio life over the past 30+ years has been a daily net on 80 meters. "I still am on that net. I'm on that net nearly seven days a week, at 7 o'clock in the morning," Bill continued. "I love ham radio because the range of people. Even if you've had interesting jobs of the kind I've had over the years and touch a lot of people, you don't touch a wide variety of people, from all walks of life, the way you do in ham radio, and the joys of that are, what you get out of that, is amazing."

## Ham Radio and Young People

I mentioned to Bill that most of our previous interview subjects believe that our country is facing a crisis today in terms of getting young people involved in science and technology, and most of them also believe that activities such as ham radio can play a role in helping to face

which Bill says influenced his career long before he became a ham himself in the late 1980s.

"I always admired hams," says Baker. "At virtually every station that I ran or the broadcasting company that I headed, I always sought out hams and listened to their advice about things that were technical, and always got the best and most honest advice from them ... because they were probably a bit more clever and used to doing things in a non-traditional way. I was never, ever disappointed; never, ever disappointed."

It was one of those hams who finally

persuaded Bill that he could, indeed, become a ham himself. "It took a guy here, when I came to Channel 13, 22 years ago," said Bill, "our chief transmitter operator whose name was Saul Slonim, W2PD [now a Silent Key]. Saul was president of the little ham club they had at the television station, the engineers, and they kind of shamed me into becoming a ham, in the sense of saying, 'Whaddaya mean, you can't pass the test? Why do we want to work for somebody who can't pass the ham test?' ... So he and the guys all helped me, and I passed the test, and that was

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that crisis. I asked Bill—as a technology executive and college professor—for his take on this situation.

"I absolutely agree that that's a major, major issue in this country, and it's a frightening one," he replied. "It's a frightening one for this country. Ham radio can play a role and should play a role, and I don't know why the education

community, the science centers of America, and other places haven't been more embracing to ham radio. It just puzzles the heck out of me. I don't think education departments at schools, other places, have taken full advantage of that. I'm now housed at Fordham in the Graduate School of Education, and one of my goals, not yet even started ...

is to figure out how to bring ham radio into the education of some of these future science teachers who are going to ultimately get the word out.

"But it's a major issue. It's one in which we're clearly behind. ... I've been fortunate enough to get a bunch of honorary doctorate degrees, and you sit up there on the podium and these big schools are issuing doctorates. Almost all of the Ph.Ds in scientific fields are going to non-Americans, usually Asians. What does that say?" He paused, then concluded with a smile, "Unless they're working for Kenwood or ICOM, I'm troubled by that."

### A Transmitter Room with a View...

When I was first arranging our interview with Bill, his assistant called me to work out the details. "And of course, you'll want the transmitter tour?" she asked. It was quite matter-of-fact (as it should be when dealing with a ham!), despite the fact that the WNET-TV transmitter is on the 78th floor of the Empire State Building.

After the studio tour (on which we met several more hams, of course), interview, and lunch, Bill and I walked several blocks to the Empire State Building. We got our visitor passes and headed upstairs, where we were met by Channel 13 transmitter engineer Tom Kotta, KB2UHG. We could see back to the studios through one of the small windows in the transmitter area, which is why most of that window is taken up by a microwave dish on a tripod, the main studio-transmitter link across the unobstructed path. The transmitter room itself is filled with patch panels, scopes, monitors and a rack full of RF power amplifier modules—14 modules ganged together, each producing 200 watts—that feed into a room full of what looks like shiny copper plumbing (it's actually hard line), whose output runs nine stories up to the 87th floor to yet another room full of even more hard line, feeding into combiners and filters that permit multiple TV and FM radio stations to transmit from the same location with causing mutual interference.

"Outside" was the next stop on our tour. We climbed through a little door onto the rooftop, where we were surrounded by various antennas, weather instruments, a pretty small railing for such a height, and probably the best view in all of New York City. Luckily, it wasn't very windy! It was, without question, the highlight of my day. (A more complete photo tour is in our web supplement to this article, "Digging Deeper with Bill Baker, W1BKR," on the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.)

### Relaxation and Inspiration

When all is said and done, the bottom line for Bill is that ham radio has always been, and continues to be, a place to turn for a new perspective or just a break. ... "Ham radio has seemed to follow me," he noted. "I mean, it's such a thing of pleasure and joy. I have a lot of worries in my life. I've always been, for the last 50 years, under a huge amount of pressure in these media jobs, but a source of a great kind of relaxation, and inspiration, has been ham radio and my ham radio buddies."

# Results of the 2010 CQ WW WPX CW Contest

BY RANDY THOMPSON,\* K5ZD

**F**ew things match the hope and optimism present at the beginning of a major DX contest. Participants anxiously watch the seconds tick down. Will the new antennas work? Will conditions be good? Can I win my region or break a record? What contacts or openings will I experience and tell stories about?

For the first 6 hours or so of May 29–30, 2010, the 31st edition of the CQ WPX CW Contest was providing plenty of hope. CR6K in Portugal started the contest running USA stations on 15 meters. At the same time, USA stations were working into Japan and the Pacific. Then a solar event bombarded the ionosphere and the party was over.

To be charitable, conditions for the remainder of the weekend were challenging. Any path over the northern polar region was gone. The Europeans complained of not being able to work North America. The western USA couldn't work Europe. The eastern USA couldn't work Japan. The contest became separate QSO parties where each continent worked the locals, but at a loss of valuable DX QSO points and multipliers.

Yet, sporadic-E on 10 meters provided some entertainment. Europe enjoyed good openings on both days. There were even reports of QSOs from southern Europe to China and the USA. YT2T and 9A1CCY made 1348 and 1273 QSOs, respectively, on the band! The USA also saw E-skip openings. WN1GIV in south Florida made over 700 contacts on 10 meters.

In spite of the terrible conditions, and the usual conflict with the Memorial Day holiday in the USA, the WPX CW event once again broke records for log submissions, with 3649 logs received. To twist a phrase, for many amateur radio operators even a bad day of contesting is better than a good day fishing, or mowing the yard, or any of the other things people do on a weekend in late spring!

A Haiku poetry contest on the CQ WPX fan page on Facebook produced this commentary.

*As I sit in chair  
I admire my iron pants  
So very stylish.*  
—Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

And for those operators with iron pants who were willing to stay in the chair despite the poor conditions, that style was rewarded. There were seven new world or continental records (see records table elsewhere

\*e-mail: <k5zd@cqwpx.com>



The team at CQ3L set a new Africa record in the Multi-Two category. Left to right back: Diethelm, DJ2YE; Joerg, DL3QQ; Norbert, DJ7JC; Wil, PA0BWL; Dieter, DJ8DS; Hape, DL1XW; Uli, DJ9IE. Front: Deti, DK3QZ, and Kai, DL3HAH.

in this issue). Yes, all came from areas south of the major population centers, but it still takes a great deal of effort and skill to set one of these top-level records. Many comments included in the logs pointed to personal best scores or new countries to be found. By the way, there were 160 different countries reported active during the weekend.

Countries are nice, but it's prefixes we want. The multi-multi team at DR1A repeated their accomplishment in the SSB contest by having the highest prefix multiplier in the contest with 1255, not quite up to their record of 1313 prefixes set in 2008. Close behind were LZ9W with 1231 and ZW5B with 1223. The top single operator prefix hunter was EF8M with 1026. In all, there were 28 stations that recorded over 1000 prefix multipliers. Some of the more unusual callsigns that submitted logs included 3Z9TA, 4U10NPT, BX0WPX, CD1R, DL60DARC, HF100HP, HG60VOTT, LZ180FT, OL26LP, PC600P, PD05CW, SP2010CY, TM77M, and V55X.

## Single Operator All Band High Power

The world champion in the Single Operator All Band High Power category was again from the station of EF8M, but this time with Alex, RZ3AZ, at the key. Alex broke the world

record set just a year earlier from the same station. In second place was John, K4BAI, operating from PJ4A. John broke the all time single-op record for South America that has stood since 1994! Andy, UU0JM, once again travelled to 4L0A to take third place. Just a few contacts behind in fourth was Jeff, K1ZM, operating from his VY2ZM station on Prince Edward Island in eastern Canada. Pertti, OH2PM, piloted TC4X to fifth place without making a contact on 160 or 80 meters.

In the USA, it was Alex LZ4AX, taking a break from his advanced studies at Penn State University to operate under the KC3R callsign. How bad were conditions? Alex's winning score this time was 30% below his winning score in 2009. Ouch! Bud, AA3B, took second place by just 15K points over Paul, K8PO, operating as AJ1I. Dick, WC1M, was right behind them in fourth. All of these operators are extremely accurate, and it was log checking that helped settle the final order of finish.

The competition in Europe was intense as always. CR6K, operated by Filipe, CT1ILT, took advantage of his southern location to take the win. Ranko, 4O3A, was only 15 contacts behind in second place. The difference was Felipe's 57 additional multipliers. Continuing the dominance of southern Europe was UW2M in third, operated by Roman, UR0MC. Serge, RA3CW, operating

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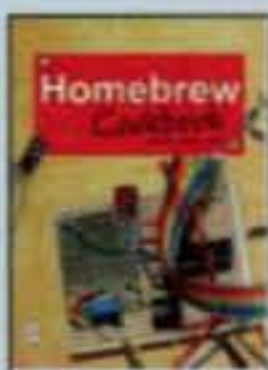
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## TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

### SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

**WORLD:** Steve Bolla, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: **EF8M** operated by Alexandr Gimarov, RZ3AZ  
**WORLD Low Power:** Caribbean Contesting Consortium Trophy. Won by: **P49Y** operated by Andrew L. Faber, AE6Y  
**WORLD QRP:** Bill Parker, W8QZA Trophy. Won by: **TM77M** operated by Laurent Fontaine, F5MUX  
**USA:** Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Trophy. Won by: **KC3R** operated by Alexander Avramov, LZ4AX  
**USA Low Power:** Ken Boasi, N2ZN Trophy. Won by: **NN5J** operated by Kevin Stockton, N5DX  
**USA QRP:** John T. Laney, K4BAJ Trophy. Won by: **Gary Hembree, N7IR**  
**USA Zone 3 High Power:** Northern California Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **KR7X** operated by Denis Pochuev, K7GK  
**USA Zone 3 Low Power:** Arizona Outlaws Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **John Arthurs, K7WP**  
**USA Zone 4 High Power:** Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **NN4US** operated by Erik Martin, N5WR  
**USA Zone 4 Low Power:** Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **KS9K** operated by Terry Zivney, N4TZ  
**EUROPE:** Ivo Pezer, 5B4ADA/9A3A Trophy. Won by: **CR6K** operated by Filipe Monteiro Lopes, CT1ILT  
**EUROPE Low Power:** Vitor Santos, PY2NY Trophy. Won by: **OL6P** operated by Petr Prokop, OK2PP  
**EUROPE QRP:** Julius Fazekas, N2NY Trophy. Awarded to: **Miroslav Vohlidal, OK1DVM**  
**AFRICA:** Chris Terkla, N1XS Trophy. Won by: **ST2AR** operated by Robert Kasca, S53R  
**ASIA:** Rick Tavan, N6XI Trophy. Won by: **4L8A** operated by Andy Kazantsev, UU8JM  
**NORTH AMERICA:** Louisiana Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **V26E** operated by Darrell Neron, AB2E  
**NORTH AMERICA QRP:** Dale Martin, KG5U Trophy. Won by: *no entry*  
**OCEANIA:** Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC Trophy. Won by: **John Loftus, VK4EMM**  
**SOUTH AMERICA:** David Kopacz, KY1V Trophy. Won by: **PJ4A** operated by John T. Laney III, K4BAJ  
**SOUTHERN CONE (CE,CX,LU):** Tom Morton, K6CT Trophy. Won by: **CW5W** operated by Jorge Diez, CX6VM  
**CANADA:** Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Trophy. Won by: **VY2ZM** operated by Jeffrey T. Briggs, K1ZM  
**CANADA Low Power:** Contest Club Ontario Trophy. Won by: **Nick Lekic, VE3EY**  
**JAPAN:** Simone Candotto, IV3NVN Trophy. Won by: **Masaki Okano, JH4UYB**

### SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

**WORLD 28 MHz:** Steve Hodgson, ZC4LI Trophy. Won by: **Juan Morandi, LU1HF**  
**WORLD 21 MHz:** Andrei Stchislenok, NP3D Trophy. Won by: **ZX5J** operated by Rafael Oliveira Martins, PY2NDX  
**WORLD 14 MHz:** Gene Walsh, N2AA Trophy. Won by: **CT1JLZ** operated by Jiri Pesta, OK1RF  
**WORLD 7 MHz:** 6Y1V Contest Station Trophy. Won by: **3V8CB** operated by Dragan Acimovic, YT3W  
**WORLD 7 MHz Low Power:** Neal Campbell, K3NC Trophy. Won by: **Slavko Celarc, S57DX**  
**WORLD 3.5 MHz:** Ranko Boca, 4O3A Trophy. Won by: **Emil Tafro, E71A**  
**WORLD 1.8 MHz:** Dusko Dumanovic, ZL3WW Trophy. Won by: **Vemic Miroslav, YT4A**  
**USA 28 MHz:** Paul Beringer, NG7Z Trophy. Won by: **WN1GIV/4** operated by Bob Patten, N4BP  
**USA 21 MHz:** Charlie Wooten, NF4A Trophy. Won by: **NR5M** operated by Eric Silverthorn, NM5M  
**USA 14 MHz:** Kansas City DX Club Trophy. Won by: **Dave Patton, NN1N**  
**USA 7 MHz:** Darin Divinia, WG5J Trophy. Won by: **Richard Lee, W2EG**  
**USA 3.5 MHz:** Wes Printz, W3SE / ZL3TE Trophy. Won by: **Madison Jones, W5MJ**  
**EUROPE 28 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **9A1CCY** operated by Sasa Pokorni, 9A3NM  
**EUROPE 21 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Vladeta Krkic, YU1KX**  
**EUROPE 14 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Marko Muni, S50K**  
**EUROPE 7 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **YT8A** operated by Ivan Cakarevic, YT1CI  
**EUROPE 3.5 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Awarded to: **Patrick Bittiger, F2DX**  
**EUROPE 1.8 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Awarded to: **Nemeth Nicolae Iuliu, YO5AJR**

### SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED

**WORLD:** D4C Station Trophy. Won by: **KP2M** operated by John L. Bednar, K3TEJ  
**USA:** Ron Sigismonti, N3RS Trophy. Won by: **Gene Shablygin, WU3A/1**  
**EUROPE:** Martin Huml, OL5Y Trophy. Won by: **ER8WW** operated by Sergey Rebrov, UT5UDX

### OVERLAY CATEGORIES

**WORLD Tribander/Single Element:** Helmut Mueller, DF7ZS Trophy. Won by: **TC4X** operated by Pertti Simovaara, OH2PM  
**USA Tribander/Single Element:** Paul Newberry, N4PN Trophy. Won by: **NX8X/4** operated by Paul Newberry, N4PN  
**EUROPE Tribander/Single Element:** WPX Contest Committee Trophy. Won by: **Matija Brodnik, S53MM**  
**WORLD Rookie:** Val Edwards W8KIC Memorial (K3LR sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **OF50RR** operated by Mikko Silvola, OH8FKU  
**NORTH AMERICA Rookie:** Chris Kantarjiev, K6DBG Trophy. Won by: **David Levine, K2DSL**

### MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER

**WORLD:** Steve Miller, N0SM Trophy. Won by: **P33W** operated by RW4WR, RV1AW, RA3AUU  
**USA:** Phil Allardice, KT3Y Trophy. Won by: **NY4A** operated by AA4FU, N4AF  
**AFRICA:** Rhein Ruhr DX Association Trophy. Won by: *no entry*  
**ASIA:** W2MIG Memorial (NX7TT Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **C4N** operated by 5B8AD, RV6LNA, UA6LP, RA6LFO, RW3QC  
**EUROPE:** Andy Ruse, YO3JR/YR1A Trophy. Won by: **RT4F** operated by UA4FMV, UA4FER, RW4FO, RK4FD, RK4FQ, RK4FW, RZ4FA  
**NORTH AMERICA:** Jim George, N3BB Trophy. Won by: *no entry*

### MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER

**WORLD:** UA1DZ Memorial (W3UA Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **C4I** operated by LZ1UK, LZ2HM, LZ3CQ, LZ3NY  
**USA:** Florida Contest Group Trophy. Won by: **K1LZ** operated by K8DXC, K1LZ, KQ2M, K3JO, NU5Y, N8BO, LZ1MS  
**AFRICA:** Walter Skudlarek, DJ6QT Trophy. Won by: **EA8URL** operated by RD3AF, EA8ZS, EA8DP, EA8BQM, EA8AJW, EA8BEX, EA8AGF, EA8CAC, EA8RY, EA8AVK  
**EUROPE:** Tom Georgens, W2SC Trophy. Awarded to: **OM7M** operated by OK2BFN, OM2IB, OM3PA, OM5MF, OM5RM, OM5RW, OM5ZW

### MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

**WORLD:** Steve Merchant, K6AW Trophy. Won by: **CQ3L** operated by DJ2YE, DJ7JC, DJ8DS, DJ9IE, DK3QZ, DL1XW, DL3HAH, DL3QQ, PA8BWL  
**USA:** Jim Reisert, AD1C Trophy. Awarded to: **KM3T/1** operated by KM3T, WA1Z, K1GQ, W1FV, N1KWF  
**EUROPE:** David Robbins, K1TTT Trophy. Won by: **LZ9W** operated by LZ1ZD, LZ1ANA, LZ1GL, LZ1PJ, LZ1PM, LZ1UQ, LZ2CJ, LZ2HQ, LZ2GL, LZ2TU, LZ2UU, LZ2PO, LZ2UZ, LZ3FM, LZ3UM

### CONTEST EXPEDITION

**WORLD:** Phil Goetz, N6ZZ Memorial Trophy. Won by: **Hal Offutt, MJ/W1NN**

### COMBINED SSB/CW

**WORLD Single Operator:** Yuri Blarovich, K3BU Trophy. Won by: **KH7XS/KH7B** operated by Bill Kollenbaum, K4XS  
**USA Single Operator:** Bill Fisher W4AN Memorial (KM3T Sponsor). Won by: **KC3R** operated by Alexander Avramov, LZ4AX  
**WORLD Club Score:** CQ Magazine trophy. Won by: **Bavarian Contest Club**  
*Please contact Doug Grant, K1DG, at <plaques@cqwp.com> if you are interested in sponsoring a trophy.*



RS3A, was the only one from central or northern Europe to crack the European top ten.

### Single Operator All Band Low Power

The poor conditions were not as friendly to the low power operators. There are no new records to brag about, but there were still some great scores! Andy, P49Y (AE6Y), backed up his world high finish on SSB with one on CW. As the contest started for everyone else, the electrical power was out for the whole island of Aruba. When the lights came back on at 0705Z, all Andy could do was push as hard as possible and be happy the rules required everyone to take 12 hours off sometime during the weekend. A remarkable effort to achieve the win! Second place went to Vitor, PY2NY, operating from PS2T. Eric, K9GY, once again travelled to Nicaragua and made his best score ever from YN2GY to finish in third. Bill, K4XS, used the call KH7B and dropped down to low power this year to chase the Oceania record. His 4.4-million points easily surpassed the existing record of 3.3 Meg set back in 2001. Olli, OH0XX, visited the station of TI5N and claimed fifth place.

The top low power score for the USA was made by Kevin, N5DX, operating under the callsign NN5J. Another example of a great op taking advantage of the conditions that seemed to favor stations more to the south. Less than 200K points behind was Maury, W3EF, showing you don't need a rare prefix to do well in the contest. Perennial top ten finisher NV1N (Ed, N1UR op) complained that these were "definitely the worst WPX contest conditions ever experienced from this QTH in Vermont." Another regular was Will, WJ9B, operating from Florida, who finished well behind his score of 2009. Terry, N4TZ, deserves credit for putting in a full effort from KS9K in Indiana to make the top five.

The race for first place low power in Europe came down to log checking. Petr, OK2PP, used the call OL6P. Franco, TK/S59AA, did a DXpedition to Corsica and operated from a camp site using a TH33jr tribander only 30 feet above ground. Franco had more QSOs, while Petr had more multipliers. It was a lower error rate that gave Petr the victory! Of course, we should mention that Franco only operated 30 hours, so a bit more operating time might have made the difference. Very close behind was Nasko, LZ3YY, operating as LZ9R, who lost several hours of operation due to thunderstorms.

### Single Operator Single Band

If one is the loneliest number, then one-sixty is surely the loneliest band in WPX CW. Even so, there are hardy souls who take up the challenge of summertime QRN. The top high power score was made by Mike, YO5AJR. In an unusual twist, the world high score was done with low power by Vemic, YT4A. Richard, K5NA, took the USA honors and broke a 25-year-old record for the W5 call area.

After losing by just a few points on SSB, Emil, E71A, returned to 80 meters for the CW contest and ended up with the world high

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DXE-CBC-008JU125	125 ft.	\$139.88
<b>RG-8X JSC-3060 Cable Assemblies with PL-259 Connectors</b>		
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DXE-CBC-8XJU006	6 ft.	\$13.88
DXE-CBC-8XJU012	12 ft.	\$16.88
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AA3B	5,532,196
AJ1I (K8PO)	5,517,941
WC1M	5,361,419
K3ZO	3,964,797

### 28 MHz

WN1GIV/4 (N4BP)	320,306
K5DU	150,894
AB7E	35,483

### 21 MHz

NR5M (NM5M)	713,094
W4SVO	602,490
K8IA/7	323,360

### 14 MHz

NN1N	2,216,760
NM5M (K5GA)	2,014,517
KT3M	1,548,063

### 7 MHz

NG5A (N1XS)	474,897
W0EWD	431,208
AB9H	400,327

### 3.5 MHz

W5MJ (W5MJ@W5PR)	65,567
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### 1.8 MHz

KT2Z/5 (K5NA)	28,676
KQ8M	12,728

### SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER ALL BAND

*NN5J (N5DX)	2,626,140
*W3EF	2,437,827
*NV1N (N1UR)	2,062,368
*WJ9B/4	1,897,920
*KS9K (N4TZ)	1,474,998

### 28 MHz

*KN4Y	28,350
*NA4W (K4WI)	21,109
*N9TF	2,331

### 21 MHz

*WB4TDH	124,509
*K8AJS	61,770
*WA7NWL	7,504

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*KM6Z	157,530
*NJ3K	130,255
*W2AW (N2GM)	128,594

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*W2EG	841,759
*K9UIY	216,500
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*AB1J	48,000
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### 1.8 MHz

*K4WI	351
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AA1CA	270,458

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N1VVV	80

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W7JI/0	46,359
NT2DR	18,600

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NE6M	50,673
K3TW	32,700
N2JNZ	15,824

### SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED HIGH POWER ALL BAND

WU3A/1	4,139,520
K3WW	3,769,519
WK1Q (K1MK)	3,147,290
NS1S/4 (K1ZZI)	2,492,952
W5MX/4	2,271,132

### 21 MHz

WZ7ZR (W7ZR)	158,063
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### 14 MHz

K0LUZ/4	1,363,716
N2MM	1,233,940
WO4O	1,100,840

### 7 MHz

N3GJ	9,840
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### 3.5 MHz

W4PK	177,946
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### SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED LOW POWER ALL BAND

*W1FA	423,108
*AA4LR	421,935
*NV4B	288,090
*N0SXX	274,596
*N3CZ/4	268,920

### 28 MHz

*ND6S	1,677
*WD4DDU	322

### 21 MHz

*WA7LNW	115,291
---------	---------

### 14 MHz

*NW4V	125,255
*WB2AA	96,555
*K7FA	43,492

### 7 MHz

*N4NX	298,480
*N7MAL	81,065
*KN6VVH/7 (W6NF)	27,700

### 3.5 MHz

*W8AEF/7	44,250
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### TRIBANDER/SINGLE ELEMENT HIGH POWER ALL BAND

NX0X/4 (N4PN)	3,086,655
AB3CX/2	2,067,440
N1WR/3	1,736,640
KR4F	1,404,718
K3MD	1,389,584

### 28 MHz

WN1GIV/4 (N4BP)	320,306
AB7E	35,483

### 21 MHz

WZ7ZR (W7ZR)	158,063
N4NM	16,376

### 14 MHz

W4CU	440,360
W6AEA/7	310,500
NQ5D (K5NZ)	280,908

### 7 MHz

K4XD	10,335
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### TRIBANDER/SINGLE ELEMENT LOW POWER ALL BAND

*NA4K	1,247,076
*KV8Q	798,391
*KW2G/1 (W1WBB)	795,476
*KZ9O (KB9OWD)	646,815
*K2PO/7	562,650

### 28 MHz

*N9TF	2,331
*W5KI	15

### 21 MHz

*WA7LNW	115,291
*WA7NWL	7,504
*W4JHC/5	3

### 14 MHz

*NW4V	125,255
-------	---------

*K7FA	43,492
*NI5L/7	31,624

### 7 MHz

*KS5A/7	182,206
*K0PK	84,796
*N7MAL	81,065

### 3.5 MHz

*AB1J	48,000
*W8AEF/7	44,250
*WW1M	3,395

### ROOKIE LOW POWER ALL BAND

*K2DSL	67,500
*AF6EV	59,840
*K6MEE	28,980
*KF7ADB/4	19,929
*W14R	13,050

### MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER

NY4A	5,841,118
NJ4M	4,844,296
KX7M/6	3,975,669
NG7M	2,391,264
W7VJ	1,918,080

OK1DVM, took the win over fellow countrymen Milan, OK2BYW, and Antonin, OK7CM. Gary, N7IR, took first place in the USA and tenth place overall. Jim, W4QO, finished just 2k points behind Gary.

Arsene, YO8DDP, had an excellent score to finish well ahead of the competition on 10 meters. Gab, HA3JB, operated from the International Police Association club station HG3IPA, to win 15 meters. Twenty meters was led by Francesco, IØUZF. The highest QRP single band score was on 40 meters by Klaus, DL1DQY, who faced strong competition from Vladimir, YU1WC. The biggest score on 80 meters by far was from Vitas, LY5G. Bela, HA8BE, did an amazing job to make 196 contacts in winning 160 meters

### Single-Operator Assisted

If you operated the contest and used any help other than your own two ears to find and work stations, then you must be in the Assisted category. It's a fun category that is enjoyed by casual participants chasing new countries or prefixes, as well as serious competitors who want extra information about what is happening on the bands. The High Power All Band category was a very close race with John, K3TEJ, at KP2M finishing only 20k points ahead of Anatoly, UA9PC. Sergey, UT5UDX, visited ERØWW for third place. It was Gene, WU3A, who backed up his USA win on SSB with one on CW.

The Low Power All Band category was a race between two Asiatic Russians. Yuri,

UA9AM, used his RG9A contest call to set a new world record for the category and finish ahead of Yuri, UA9SP. YT3M, operated by Acim, YU1YV, was the top European score in third place overall. Less than 2000 points separated the top two USA scores. Kirk, W1FA, just got by Bill, AA4LR.

Serge, UR2VA, bested fellow countryman Alex, UR5LO, on 10 meters. Dmytro, UU1AZ, set a new world record in winning 15 meters. Vinko, S53F, took the 20 meter title. Cicero, PY7ZY, set a new South American record, finishing second. Forty meters was dominated by Olof, GØCKV, operating as M5E. Alozyas, LY3CW, was

the champion on 80 meters. Bill, N4NX, set a new USA record on 40 meters and Paul, W8AEF, did the same on 80 meters.

### Overlay Categories

The overlay categories were made available to all single operator entrants this year, and 601 operators took advantage of the opportunity to compete in these separate contests-within-a-contest. For the overlay categories, we combine all entries into high or low power. Winner of the Tribander/Single Element category for high power was Pertti, OH2PM, at TC4X. Matija, S53MM, took second just

### Logging Accuracy

We received a record 3567 logs for the WPX CW contest this year. The poor conditions resulted in a 10% decline in total QSOs to 2,080,844. The log-checking process continues to improve and we were able to cross check 82.5% of all QSOs against another log. It is interesting to note that 58.4% of the unique calls (calls worked by only one station) were found to be errors. Since a broken callsign loses the contact plus a penalty of additional QSO points, it pays to get the calls correct.

It is not always easy for the operators who activate unusual prefixes, as many people do struggle copying their call. The callsigns that caused the most logging errors were LZ65P, OL26LP, and PA44N. Petr, OK1CZ, was the operator at OL26LP and offered this advice: "Do not use a two-figure prefix ending with number 4 or 6, as this can be copied as V or B." Even well-known contest calls such as HG1S and ES9C were often copied incorrectly.

Even with the deep log checking, there were still 143 stations that produced logs with no score reductions. The top "golden" logs (with number of QSOs) were: WT5R (369), RU3VV (222), RA3BT (184), OZ5UR (175), RK6ASY (173), and RAØAY (173).

The average score reduction for all single operator entries was 12.9%. For the top 20 Single Operator All Band scores, the average reduction was 5.8%. Detailed log-checking reports are available for every submitted log and may be requested by sending an e-mail to <k5zd@cqwpx.com>.

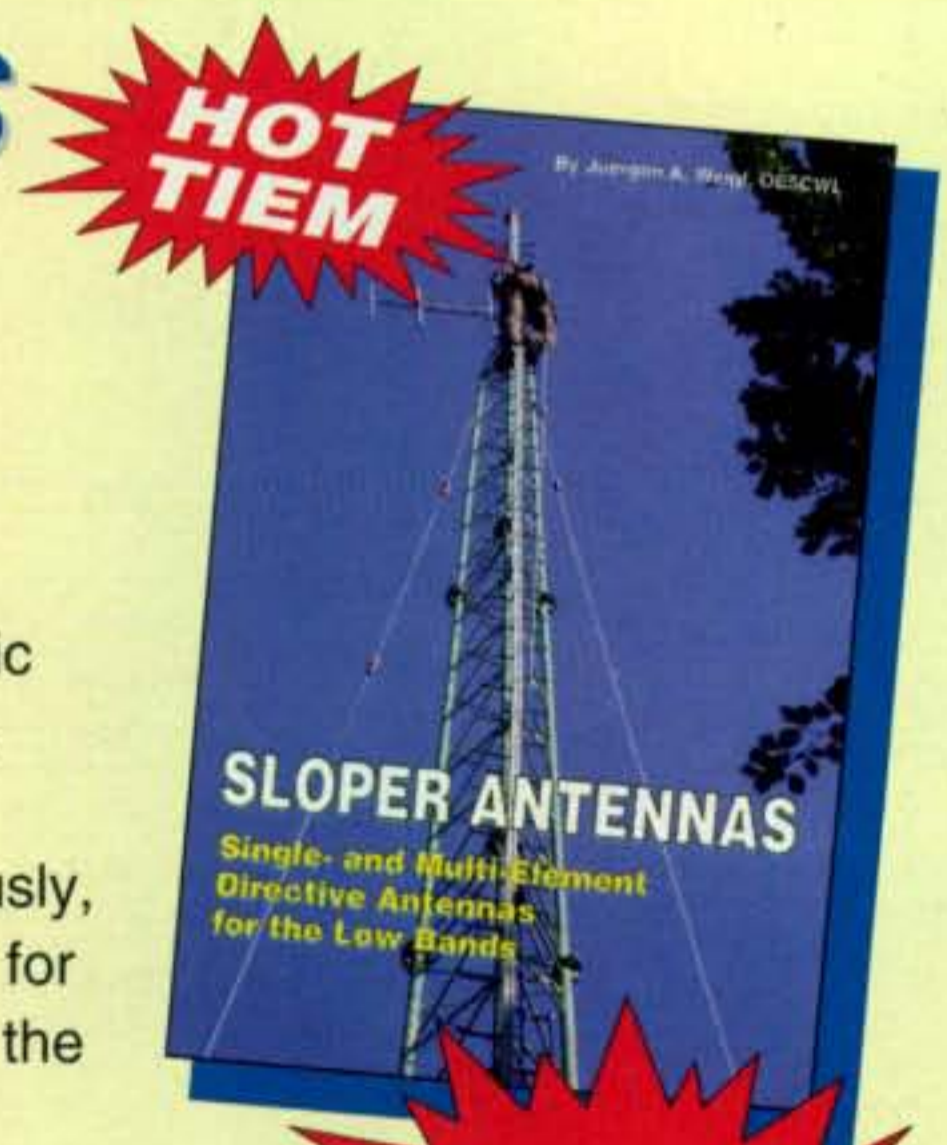
# SLOPER ANTENNAS

By Juergen A. Weigl, OE5CWL

## Single- and Multi-Element Directive Antennas for the Low Bands

With calculations and practical experience, this book shows which basic concepts have to be considered for sloper antennas for the low bands. These fundamentals are supplemented by construction guidelines for directive antennas using a single element or several elements. Previously, gathering all the necessary information to construct an effective sloper for a particular application was tedious and time consuming. You'll find all the information needed for successful home building of the antennas.

**Some of the Topics:** Vertical dipole and sloper in free space, over perfect or real ground • sloper with several elements • feeding sloper antennas • multi-band sloper • W3DZZ and double Zepp as a sloper antenna • multi-element sloper antennas for multi-band operation • special types of halfwave sloper antennas and much more!



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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](http://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](http://www.RFfun.com)

## YAESU

### FT-857D



**FREE** Yaesu orange mug with FT-857D/897D.



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



**FREE** Yaesu canvas urban case with FT-817ND.

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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# Bringing the latest in DSP technology

## NEW IC-7410 HF/50MHz Transceiver

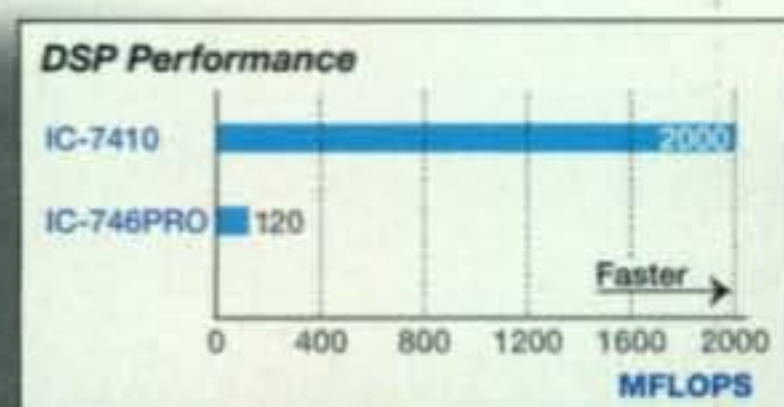


AD/DA Converter  
ADC Signal (Noise+Distortion): 100dB  
ADC Dynamic Range, S/N: 113dB  
DAC Signal (Noise+Distortion): 97dB  
DAC Dynamic Range, S/N: 115dB



DSP Unit  
ADSP-21369  
Internal Clock Speed: 333MHz  
32-bit Floating Point DSP  
Max. Performance: 2000MFLOPS

Icom continues to lead in high performance digital technology. The IC-7410 is a familiar-looking yet new HF/50MHz rig for everyday use that takes advantage of our digital know-how. A high grade DSP unit and double conversion super-heterodyne system developed for our higher grade IC-7800/7700/7600 series are used. In addition, the IC-7410 comes with a built-in 15kHz 1st IF Filter and can accept up to two optional filters (3kHz/6kHz). When used with these 1st IF Filters, narrow mode signals such as the CW and SSB modes are protected from adjacent strong signals. Experience the latest tech in your everyday use!



### Features:

- +30dBm 3rd Order Intercept Point (144MHz)
- Double Conversion Superheterodyne System
- 32-bit Floating Point DSP Unit
- Built-in 15kHz 1st IF Filter (Optional 3kHz/6kHz)
- Large Monochrome LCD Display
- ±0.5ppm Frequency Stability
- Built-in Simple Band Scope
- Built-in Automatic Antenna Tuner
- All Mode (SSB, CW, RTTY, AM, FM)
- Optional RS-BA1 for IP Remote Control



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IC-7800  
The Ultimate Rig



IC-7700  
The Contester's Rig



IC-7600  
The DX'ers Choice

# to your everyday communications.




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Even during long hours of heavy duty use, the IC-7410 provides stable output power.

**USB**  
Control and Audio



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A standard type B USB connector is located on the back panel. Use it to control your IC-7410 via PC.



**IC-7200**   
The Rugged HF Rig



**IC-718**  
The "Get-into-HF" Rig



**IC-7000**  
The "Go Anywhere" Rig

  
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## SSB & CW COMBINED CLUB SCORES

UNITED STATES			
Club	Entries	Score	
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	110	190,075,001	
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	85	151,862,440	
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	101	145,303,572	
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	37	71,880,356	
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	42	67,718,641	
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	77	60,293,481	
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	54	56,496,877	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	40	55,344,263	
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	35	34,262,712	
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	35	32,732,770	
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	43	30,950,589	
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	28	21,602,677	
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	21	20,096,632	
NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	9	19,892,831	
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB	26	18,410,387	
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	26	17,932,306	
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	27	15,245,641	
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	21	11,298,874	
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	66	9,852,537	
NORTH TEXAS CONTEST CLUB	13	8,048,162	
LOUISIANA CONTEST CLUB	13	7,786,625	
SOUTHWEST OHIO DX ASSOCIATION	5	7,503,944	
KANSAS CITY DX CLUB	12	7,106,155	
EMPIRE CONTEST CLUB	4	5,982,375	
SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION	16	5,663,782	
ORDER OF BOILED OWLS OF NEW YORK	8	2,574,901	
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	9	2,568,294	
ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSN	12	1,748,342	
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSN	4	1,377,480	
NORTHERN ARIZONA DX ASSN	5	1,342,363	
IOWA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	1,317,492	
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	8	1,124,496	
TEXAS DX SOCIETY	6	1,033,415	
MISSOURI DX/CONTEST CLUB	4	945,639	
BERGEN ARA	7	927,744	
MOTHER LODE DX/CONTEST CLUB	6	912,670	
ALLEGHENY VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION	4	900,602	
UTAH DX ASSOCIATION	9	857,927	
NORTHERN ROCKIES DX ASSOCIATION	3	840,677	
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	9	744,564	
KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP	5	643,405	
STERLING PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	5	583,372	
MAGNOLIA DX ASSOCIATION	4	533,861	
SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY	7	407,842	
WESTERN NEW YORK DX ASSOCIATION	7	407,474	
GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	4	279,936	
WEST PARK RADIOPS	6	269,260	
MERIDEN ARC	6	262,048	
METRO DX CLUB	3	257,287	
MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	4	256,126	
DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	5	229,440	
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DX/CONTEST CLUB	4	172,669	
DX			
Club	Entries	Score	
BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	197	289,001,968	
RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	150	234,973,333	
ARAUCARIA DX GROUP	43	173,845,851	
LU CONTEST GROUP	51	158,826,567	
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	67	107,583,924	
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	76	100,909,181	
SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB	39	99,389,261	
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	95	89,314,658	
URAL CONTEST GROUP	39	81,963,094	
LZ CONTEST TEAM	3	69,444,551	
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CONTEST CLUB	13	61,151,552	
CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	35	59,476,474	
KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY RADIO CLUB	45	55,021,914	
SP DX CLUB	74	51,466,052	
HUNGARIAN DX CLUB	12	47,782,323	
VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY RADIO CLUB	13	44,120,975	
RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB*	30	43,098,221	
CARIBBEAN CONTESTING CONSORTIUM*	3	38,658,165	
CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	35	38,580,958	
VK CONTEST CLUB*	16	38,198,380	
LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	34	37,779,130	
WEST SERBIA CONTEST CLUB	5	32,843,746	
ALRS ST PETERSBURG	18	29,090,036	
SKY CONTEST CLUB	8	24,663,522	
BRITISH COLUMBIA DX CLUB	12	23,765,853	
LES NOUVELLES DX	11	22,036,471	
CANTAREIRA DX GROUP	17	20,274,696	
LA CONTEST CLUB	9	19,445,456	
YU CONTEST CLUB	18	19,239,437	
UA2 CONTEST CLUB	7	18,123,689	
LITHUANIAN CONTEST GROUP	13	17,731,478	
BELARUS CONTEST CLUB	14	16,570,518	
ARIPIA DX TEAM	3	15,880,714	
CE CONTEST GROUP	7	15,807,221	
AUSTRIAN CONTEST CLUB	7	15,030,244	
MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	18	14,984,644	
RIO DX GROUP	28	14,568,799	
DXCOLOMBIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	6	13,455,822	
WORLD WIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS*	16	12,373,129	
BELOKRANJEC CONTEST CLUB	7	12,057,787	
YO DX CLUB	35	12,030,486	
SOUTH URAL CONTEST CLUB	15	11,166,306	
FOX CONTEST CLUB	8	10,608,470	
CENTRAL SIBERIA DX CLUB	10	10,470,136	
TARTU CONTEST TEAM	3	10,420,261	
CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	11	9,843,765	
ATCC*	13	8,664,000	
RADIOAMPT	3	8,620,145	
ANTWERP CONTEST CLUB	4	8,604,404	
CHILTERN DX CLUB	16	8,591,315	
RADIO CLUB HENARES	5	8,323,224	
GIPANIS CONTEST GROUP	11	7,742,853	
MICHURINSK CONTEST GROUP	6	6,921,989	
VRHNIKA CONTESTERS	15	6,269,682	
GUARA DX GROUP	15	6,106,570	
B1Z CLUB	3	5,864,614	
CS PETROLUL PLOIESTI	5	5,480,911	
BRIMHAM CONTEST GROUP	4	5,077,638	
STAVROPOL REGION CONTEST CLUB	6	5,032,213	
MOSCOW RADIO CLUB	8	4,058,091	
CICEVAC CONTEST CLUB	3	3,767,299	
SP CONTEST CLUB	7	3,757,106	
BASHKORTOSTAN DX CLUB	10	3,602,473	
TEMIRTAU CONTEST CLUB	7	3,591,541	
NICOSIA CONTEST GROUP	3	3,581,957	
CSM CRAIOVA	4	3,413,834	
TOP OF EUROPE CONTESTERS	8	3,252,700	
GRUPO DXXE	7	3,244,847	
SIAM DX GROUP	6	3,218,297	
SAMARA RADIO CLUB	5	3,061,397	
SK70A SWEDISH SOUTHCOAST RADIOAMATEUR SOCIETY	6	3,014,038	
DOMODEDOVO	4	2,897,578	
CSTA BUCURESTI	4	2,844,514	
RADIO CLUB PARMA	6	2,788,596	
LYNX DX GROUP	3	2,623,500	
ORENBURG CONTEST CLUB	4	2,562,335	
FOSHAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	2,546,717	
ARCK	10	2,546,475	
LOMA DEL TORO CONTEST CLUB	3	2,459,641	
BALATON RADIOAMATEUR DX CLUB	3	2,296,620	
VERENIGING VAN RADIO ZEND AMATEURS	4	2,268,915	
IRKUTSK RADIO CLUB	3	2,036,952	
SARATOVSKAYA OBLAST RADIO CLUB	5	1,995,282	
YAROSLAVL CONTEST CLUB	6	1,827,414	
BALKAN CONTEST CLUB	3	1,636,587	
ARKTIKA	6	1,613,265	
DANISH DX GROUP	5	1,602,810	
SK6AW HISINGENS RADIOKLUBB	3	1,543,492	
RU-QRP CLUB	14	1,518,719	
KKKK CONTEST CLUB KRASNODARSKOGO KRAYA	3	1,499,020	
FRO-NORRTELJE	5	1,405,293	
RADIOCLUBUL RADU BRATU	3	1,385,200	
ARGO	6	1,296,052	
DONBASS	9	1,292,275	
SK7DX SOUTHWEST SCANIA RADIOAMATEURS CLUB	8	1,289,157	
INSUBRIA RADIO CLUB	4	1,249,705	
ROSTOV RADIO CLUB	3	1,226,365	
AGB ACTIVITY GROUP OF BELARUS*	3	1,210,036	
599 CONTEST CLUB	7	1,205,955	
NANAIMO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION	3	1,196,734	
MAYCOPSKIY RADIO CLUB	5	1,189,774	
SK5AA VASTERAS RADIOKLUBB	5	1,130,514	
VU CONTEST GROUP	10	1,007,053	
VOLYN CONTEST GROUP	4	993,355	
ZENIT-RADIO	3	958,691	
DNEPR CONTEST GROUP	5	950,342	
UKRAINIAN DX CLUB	3	930,394	
GERMAN DX FOUNDATION	4	910,628	
VLADIMIR RADIO CLUB	10	879,991	
SASKATCHEWAN CONTEST CLUB	4	846,877	
OBNINSK QRU CLUB	5	842,839	
SPEKTR	3	789,532	
CZECH CONTEST CLUB	4	750,741	
NOR NIZHEGORODSKOE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY	3	699,425	
UPPSALA RADIOKLUB	3	698,637	
CSR ISTRITA BUZAU	3	618,544	
MARCONI CONTEST CLUB	3	582,594	
NOVOSIBIRSK CONTEST CLUB	3	567,252	
NOVOKUZNETSK RADIO CLUB	7	545,303	
RTTY CONTESTERS OF JAPAN	4	525,247	
OK QRP KLUB	3	518,948	
SHAKHAN CONTEST CLUB	5	496,330	
FALKOPINGS RADIOKLUB	7	474,573	
IZMAIL RADIO CLUB	4	471,340	
HAROS RADIO CLUB	4	469,061	
ARA AMIGOS RADIO ALTOARAGON	3	440,582	
BEIJING SUNNY HAM CLUB	4	414,182	
VORONEZH RADIO CLUB	3	396,926	
UNION FRANCAISE DES TELEGRAPHISTES	3	378,162	
PALATUL COPILOR SI ELEVILOR ORADEA	4	336,659	
GRIMSBY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY	3	318,032	
SPORT CLUB MIERCUREA-CIUC	3	304,516	
HONDA R AND D HAM CLUB TOCHIGI	3	302,553	
ACTIVITY SMOLENSK GROUP	3	296,352	
RADIOCLUBUL NOSTRU DIN CONSTANTA	3	263,805	
PODOLSK	6	260,524	
RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN GREECE	3	219,437	
BITTERN DX GROUP	3	212,330	
EDIT14	3	196,632	
CSM BAIA MARE	3	184,353	
GRUPO ARGENTINO DE CW	3	162,351	
DL-DX RTTY CONTEST GROUP	3	144,220	
GMDX GROUP	3	141,219	
KALININGRAD RADIO CLUB	5	138,496	
CWJF GROUP*	4	135,420	
WATERLAND	5	135,090	
CS SILVER FOX DEVA	3	134,982	
WAIKIKI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	83,996	
KRIVBASS	3	82,723	
KRISTIANSTADS RADIOAMATORER	3	50,360	
TURKISH SPECIAL WIRELESS ACTIVITY TEAM	3	30,163	

\* Club entry does not meet all rules.

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dling the printing and mailing of over 1400 certificates. K1DG does a great job with the 63 different award plaques that are available. Thanks to Ken, K1EA, for continuing improvements in the log-checking software. We also appreciate the efforts of the CQ WW Contest Committee for their development of new log-checking methods.

For expanded results of the contest, including the QRM, operators of multi stations, and the full tables, go to the CQ website ([www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)).

The 2011 WPX CW Contest will be held on May 28 and 29. There are some small rule changes for the 2011 contest, so please read the rules very carefully (in the February issue of CQ magazine, on the CQ website, and on the WPX Contest website. Visit the frequently asked questions page on the CQ WPX Contest website ([www.cqwp.com](http://www.cqwp.com)). Please submit your WPX CW logs by e-mail to <[cw@cqwp.com](mailto:cw@cqwp.com)> before June 27, 2011.

See you in the next contest!  
 73, Randy, K5ZD

(Continued on page 105)

**CQ WW WPX CW CONTEST ALL-TIME RECORDS**

The contest is held each year on the last full weekend of May. The All-Time Records are updated and published annually. Data shown below is: callsign, year of operation, total score, and number of prefix multipliers.

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS				U.S.A. RECORD HOLDERS			
Single Operator				Single Operator			
1.8	IH9/OL5Y('98)	341,068	182	1.8	K1ZM('95)	40,446	107
3.5	TM5Y('08)	1,983,366	567	3.5	W3BGN('08)	641,092	332
7.0	3V8CB('10)	10,758,020	805	7.0	KG1D('05)	3,594,822	651
14	UP2L('09)	7,928,886	1043	14	N2NC('06)	5,418,630	915
21	ZX5J('05)	7,061,000	920	21	NU5A('99)	4,411,299	789
28	ZX5J('02)	6,787,440	857	28	WW4M('01)	2,547,046	674
AB	EF8M('10)	18,395,154	1026	AB	KC3R('09)	9,597,400	806
Assisted	CN3A('09)	12,900,240	943	Assisted	K3WW('04)	5,997,446	806
Multi-Operator Single Transmitter				Multi-Operator Single Transmitter			
CT9M('08)		24,125,802	1182	K1LZ('09)		10,691,724	964
Multi-Operator Two Transmitters				Multi-Operator Two Transmitters			
EF8M('07)		33,324,192	1256	KM4M('04)		16,283,745	1095
Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter				Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter			
HC8N('99)		54,697,072	1264	WE3C('09)		21,910,252	1274

CLUB RECORD	WPX (Prefix) RECORD	QRP/p RECORD
Northern Calif. Contest Club('02).....253,543,497	DR1A('08).....1313	P4ØW('97).....4,018,208

**CONTINENTAL RECORD HOLDERS**

AFRICA				SOUTH AMERICA			
1.8	IH9/OL5Y('98)	341,068	182	1.8	YV1OB('86)	11,550	35
3.5	7XØRY('08)	1,701,260	407	3.5	YX3A('89)	1,004,060	305
7.0	3V8CB('10)	10,758,020	805	7.0	LU1IV('97)	7,671,456	702
14	6W1SJ('09)	6,755,364	924	14	HK1X('10)	4,667,505	815
21	5X1Z('01)	6,362,352	782	21	ZX5J('05)	7,061,000	920
28	ZS4TX('01)	4,602,028	722	28	ZX5J('02)	6,787,440	857
AB	EF8M('10)	18,395,154	1026	AB	P4A('10)	14,688,993	957
ASIA				MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER			
1.8	4X4NJ('96)	259,420	170	AF	CT9M('08)	24,125,802	1182
3.5	TAØ/Z33F('02)	1,452,552	348	AS	P33W('08)	21,314,175	1145
7.0	ZC4LI('10)	4,770,336	632	EU	RU1A('09)	13,838,256	1236
14	UP2L('09)	7,928,886	1043	NA	8P4A('02)	18,516,960	1056
21	A45XR('99)	6,557,697	843	OC	AH2R('01)	11,541,420	957
28	HZ1AB('02)	3,669,994	659	SA	P49V('01)	19,760,744	1034
AB	4LØA('09)	12,560,363	967	MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER			
EUROPE				AF	EF8M('07)	33,324,192	1256
1.8	SN7Q('08)	339,542	307	AS	C4I('09)	14,632,800	1005
3.5	TM5Y('08)	1,983,366	567	EU	ES9C('08)	18,557,028	1266
7.0	CT1JLZ('09)	6,075,936	816	NA	6Y1V('08)	20,507,972	1108
14	4O3T('06)	5,313,554	986	OC	ZL6QH('05)	13,312,768	952
21	9HØA('02)	5,389,008	933	SA	HC8N('03)	30,928,268	1187
28	9HØA('01)	3,965,315	841	MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER			
AB	CU2X('09)	10,208,016	1066	AF	CQ3L('10)	28,736,154	1173
NORTH AMERICA				AS	A61AJ('02)	42,766,232	1244
1.8	VA1A('99)	103,680	120	EU	DR1A('08)	24,285,248	1313
3.5	FM5BH('97)	833,490	315	NA	6Y2A('02)	38,821,328	1274
7.0	V26BA('97)	6,227,550	659	OC	ZL6QH('04)	16,143,840	1010
14	N2NC('06)	5,418,630	915	SA	HC8N('99)	54,697,072	1264
21	ZF1A('99)	5,330,129	799	OCEANIA			
28	FM5GU('01)	2,849,769	621	1.8	KH6ND('07)	22,100	50
AB	VY2TT('09)	12,878,826	1054	3.5	KH6ND('09)	596,673	231
MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER				7.0	ZM3A('09)	6,437,695	737
AF	CQ3L('10)	28,736,154	1173	14	KH6ND('03)	4,126,690	730
AS	A61AJ('02)	42,766,232	1244	21	KH6ND('99)	6,107,256	813
EU	DR1A('08)	24,285,248	1313	28	KH6ND('00)	1,523,008	424
NA	6Y2A('02)	38,821,328	1274	AB	KH7XS('09)	9,124,899	879
OC	ZL6QH('04)	16,143,840	1010	QRPp			
SA	HC8N('99)	30,928,268	1187	AF	5Y4FO('92)	649,057	311
MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER				AS	ZC4BS('02)	2,515,388	521
AF	CQ3L('10)	28,736,154	1173	EU	LY5A('01)	2,331,414	646
AS	A61AJ('02)	42,766,232	1244	NA	TI5X('01)	2,568,470	615
EU	DR1A('08)	24,285,248	1313	OC	FØ8JP('86)	572,131	259
NA	6Y2A('02)	38,821,328	1274	SA	P4ØW('97)	4,018,208	632
OC	ZL6QH('04)	16,143,840	1010				
SA	HC8N('99)	54,697,072	1264				

## Potpourri

This month we would like to cover a few topics we have been specifically asked for from our various readers. Hopefully these will "ring a bell" with others of you as well.

The first is a way to produce a switch system where two push buttons can produce a latched output, kind of like many industrial controls. For example, pushing an "ON" button will turn a circuit on, and pushing an "OFF" button will turn it off. This is basically a latching relay and the implementation could not be easier. Referring to fig. 1, the "ON" button is a normally open push button. When it is pushed, it connects DC directly to the relay coil. The relay then pulls in and latches itself through the normally open contacts. DC is then available from the same contact for the rest of the circuit. If a multi-contact relay is employed, the other contacts can be used for other functions. To turn off (or "delatch") the relay, simply push the "OFF" button. This breaks the circuit to the relay and it drops out. This scheme can be extended to whatever voltage you have available, including, I might add, AC. Of course, if you do so, you will need an AC relay.

A variation of the above power switch is one where the push of a button energizes a circuit which then turns itself off after a predetermined time inter-

val. Such a circuit, shown in fig. 2, is very handy for portable battery-powered equipment, particularly those that you might normally forget to turn off. In operation, Q1 is biased on by means of R1, but the relay does not pull in because S1 is open and Q2 is cut off so there is no complete circuit. Pressing S1 forces the relay to close and its contacts latch it on. At the same time Vcc is applied to R2. Now C1 slowly charges until its voltage reaches the conduction point of the sum of the diode and base drops of Q2, roughly 1.5 volts. Once this point is reached, Q2 conducts, shorting the base of Q1, which causes Q1 to turn off, dropping out the relay. The time duration is a function of the values of R2 and C1 as well as the drop of D1 and the base of the transistor. Adding additional diodes in series with D1 can lengthen the time interval, as can experimenting with the values of R2 and C1. We have successfully used this circuit for time intervals of a couple of minutes. If the circuit "times out" too quickly, simply push S1 again.

Occasionally, we are asked how to simply implement a balanced or unbalanced audio input without exotic circuitry, usually to add to an existing product. Fig. 3 is a very simple approach. T1 is a 1:1 audio transformer. If you use the windings alone, you have a balanced input. If you ground one side of a winding, you have an unbalanced

\*c/o CQ magazine

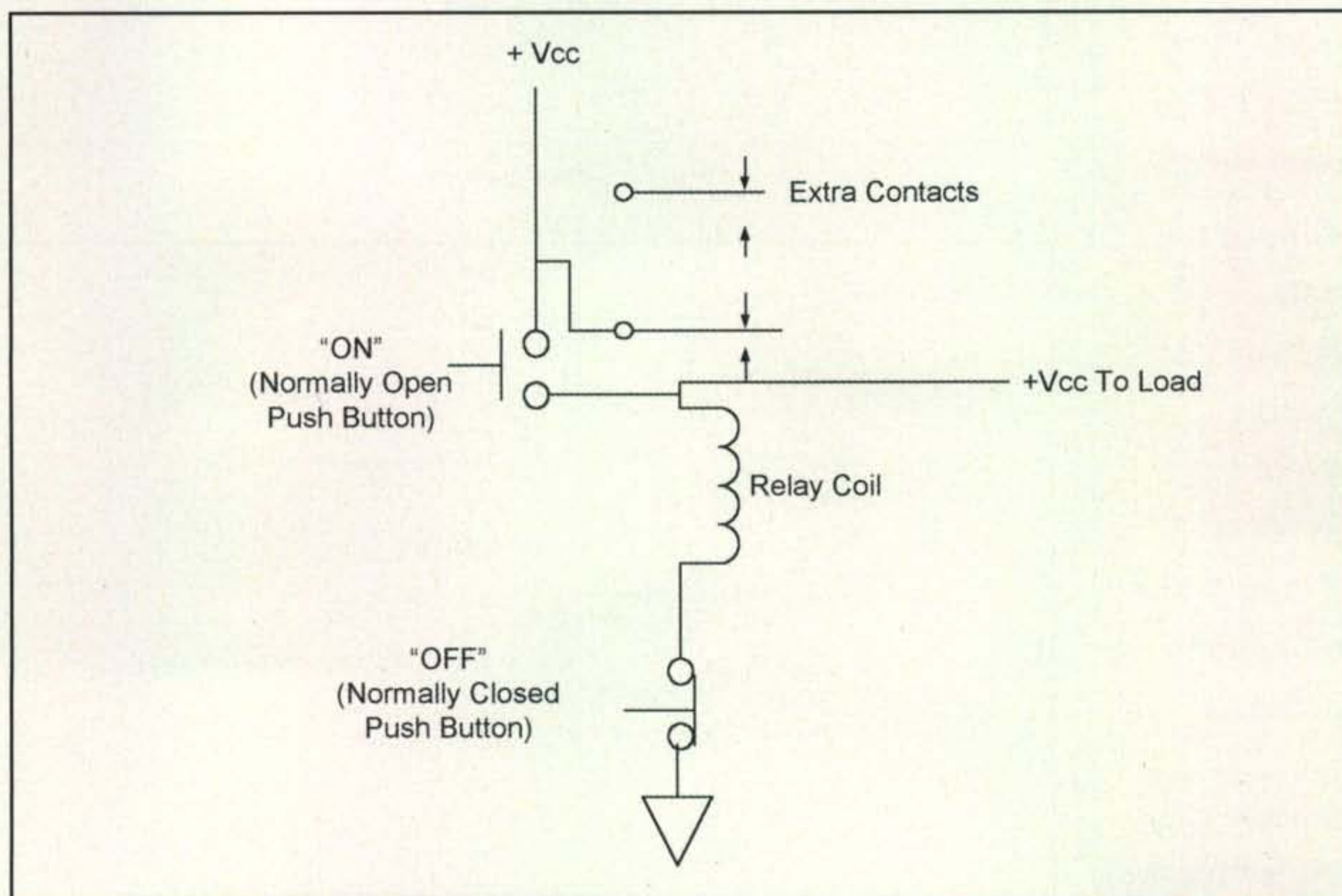
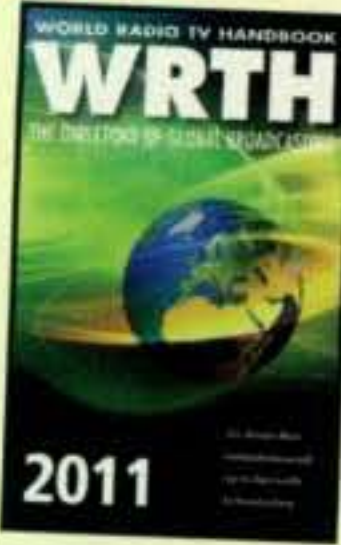


Fig. 1— Latching relay circuit described in the text.

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input. It could not be simpler. The impedance of the transformer should be chosen for the particular application. For a line-level audio system, 600-ohm transformers would be ideal. Mouser Electronics has a range of low-cost audio transformers that would be suit-

able for this application, and a quick visit to its website ([www.mouser.com](http://www.mouser.com)) should enable you to find what you need fairly quickly. Note that this scheme can be used for outputs as well, as long as the power-handling capability of the transformer is considered.

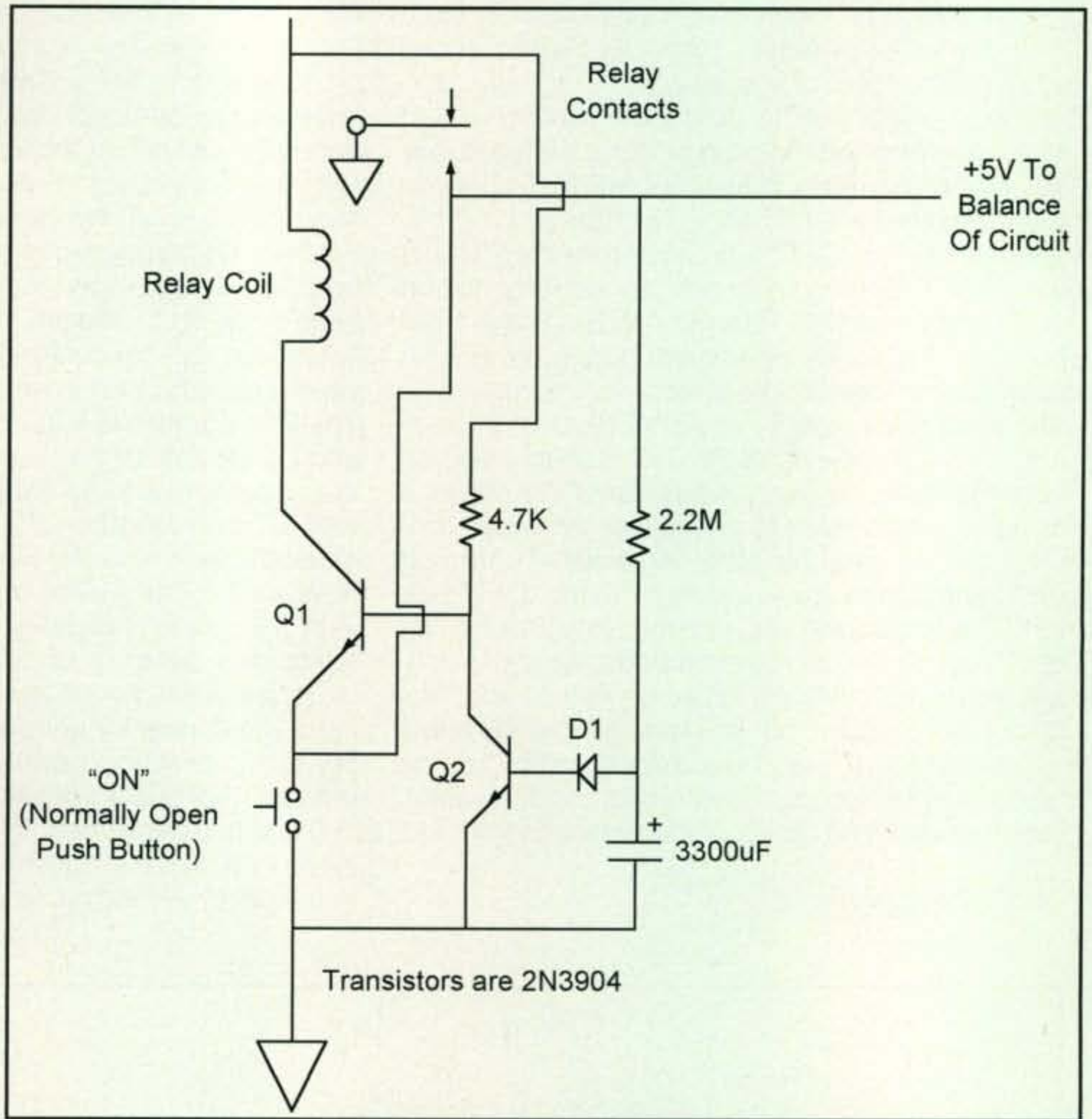


Fig. 2- Timed turn-off circuit.

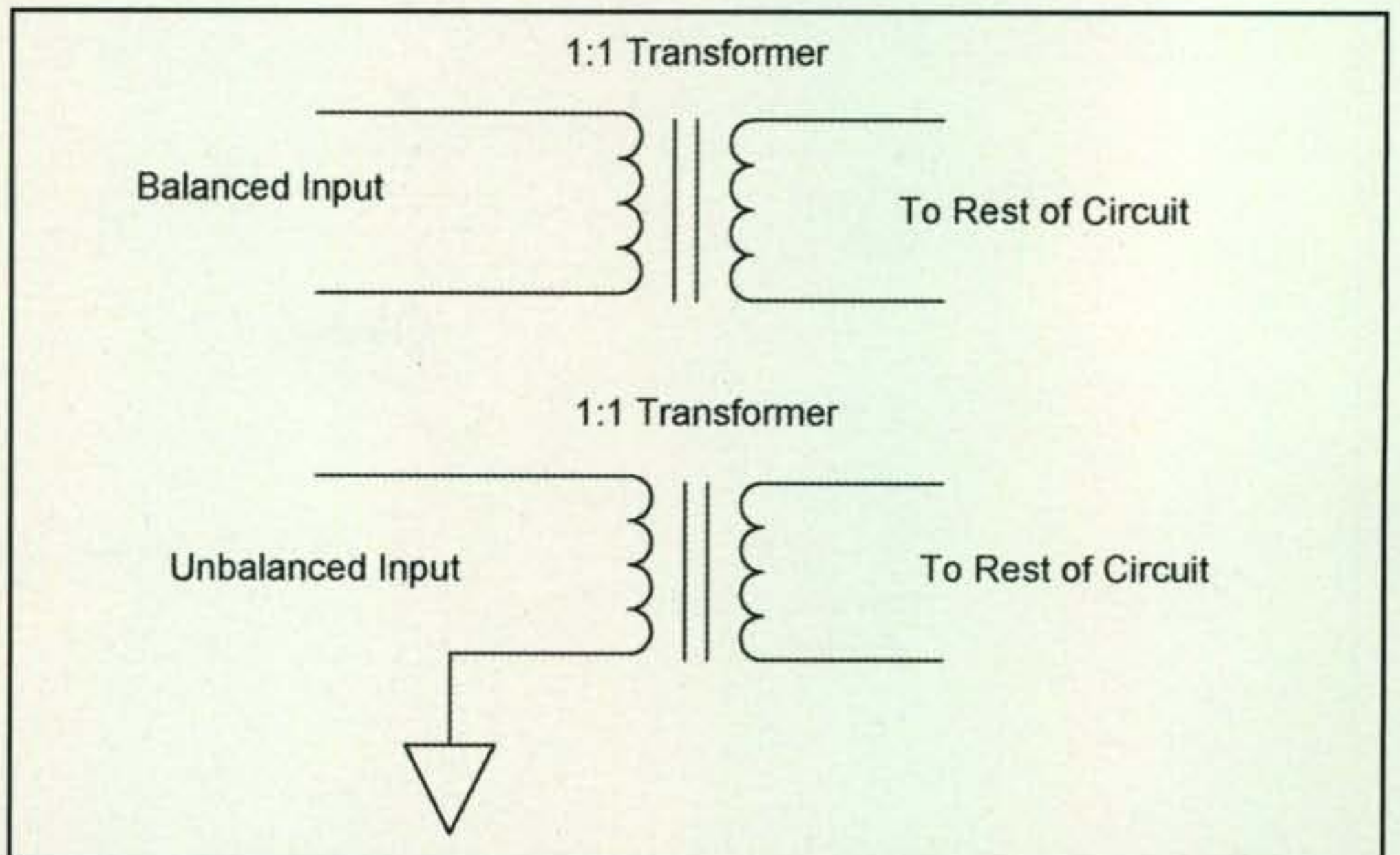
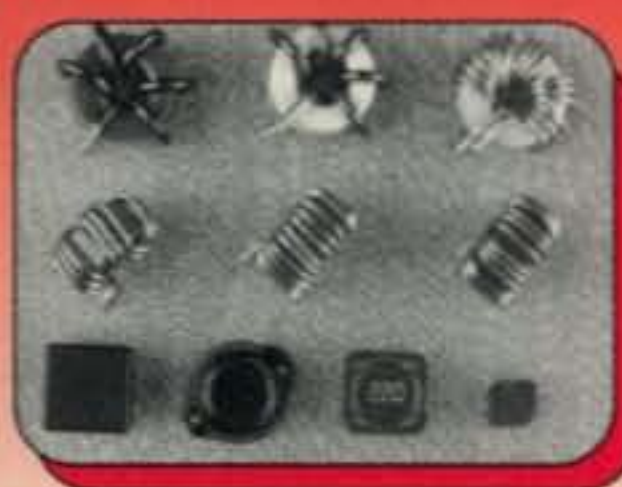


Fig. 3- Simple balanced or unbalanced input/output scheme.

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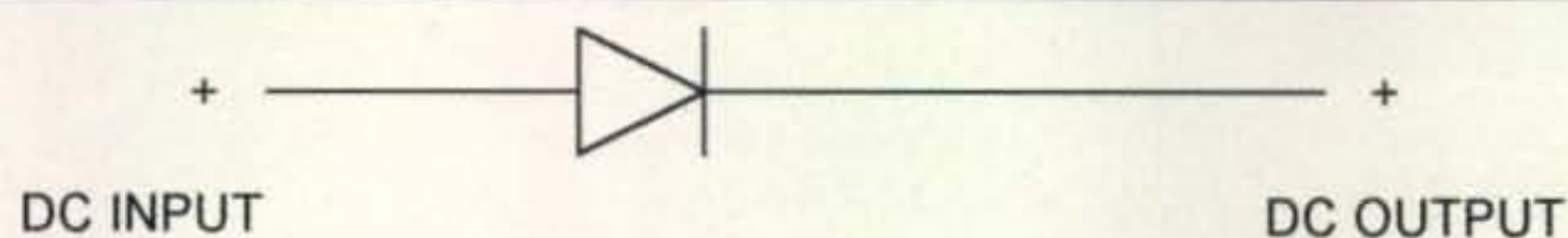
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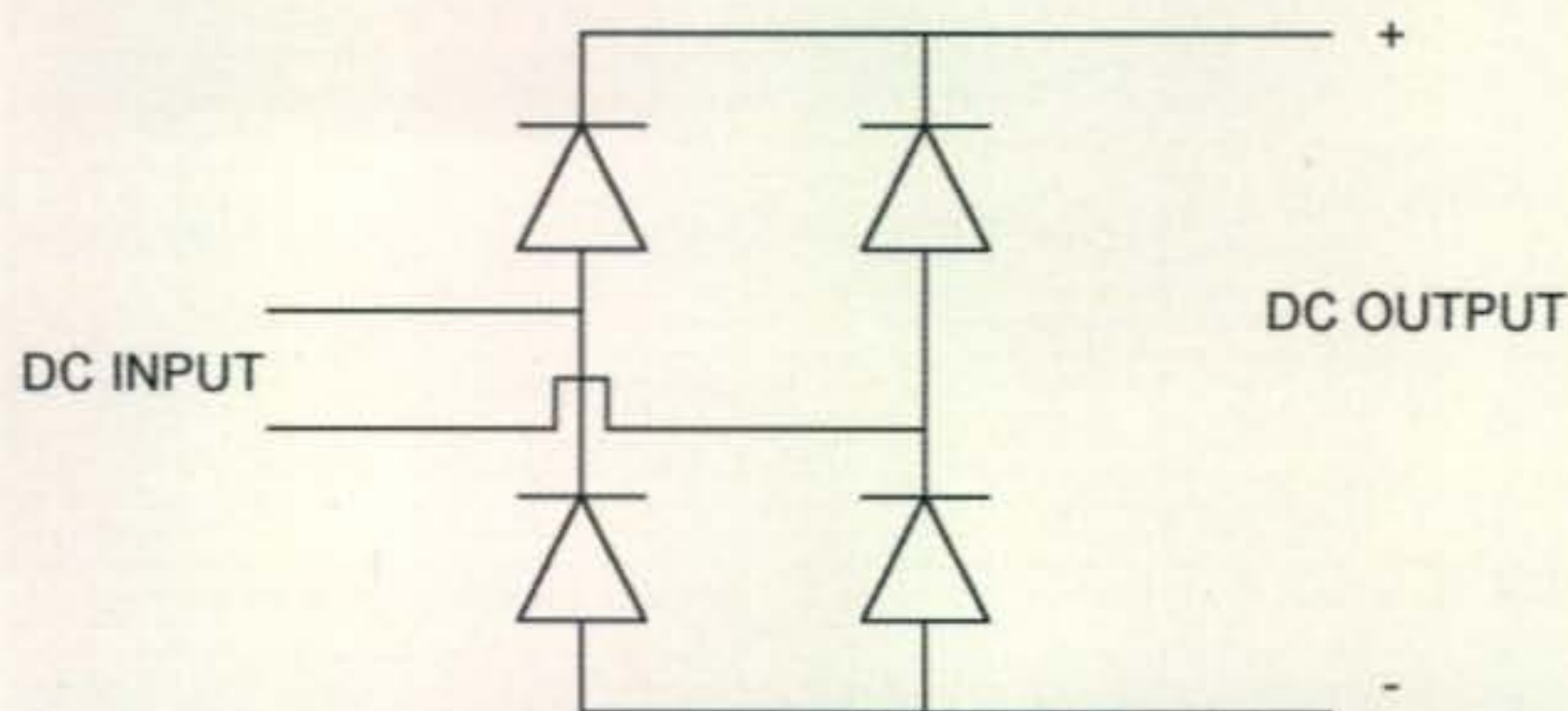
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I hope the above is of interest to you and that you will write to me with your questions. I do take the time to answer them as time permits.

Fig. 4— Use of diodes to protect a DC input.

73, Irwin, WA2NDM

Antenna restrictions almost pushed K4SBZ out of ham radio, for the second time, until he discovered PSK-31.

## PSK-31 in the Attic

BY STAN ZAWROTNY,\* K4SBZ



The author in his shack, where he racks up DX, despite antenna restrictions, using PSK-31 and a dipole in the attic.

Like many amateur radio operators today, I am plagued by the dreaded CC&Rs—covenants, conditions, and restrictions. These restrictive covenants prevent thousands of us from enjoying our hobby to its fullest extent by not allowing us to have antennas visible outside our homes.

Originally licensed in 1959, I had to drop out of the hobby for occupational reasons in 1964. I was relicensed in 2007 as an Extra Class, but was confined to chatting on the local VHF repeaters when I found that I was barely able to get out of my backyard on HF. I was almost ready to drop the hobby again out of frustration.

### PSK-31 to the Rescue

Then, in early 2009, I read an article about PSK-31. The thing that struck me most about it was that because of its narrow bandwidth, this relatively new digital mode was able to get through better than many other modes such as SSB.

The second thing that I noted about PSK-31 is that one of its most popular operating bands is 20 meters. Some quick calculations told me that a 20-meter dipole was only about

\*8383 Ivy Mill Way, Tallahassee, FL 32312  
e-mail: <K4SBZ@arrl.net>

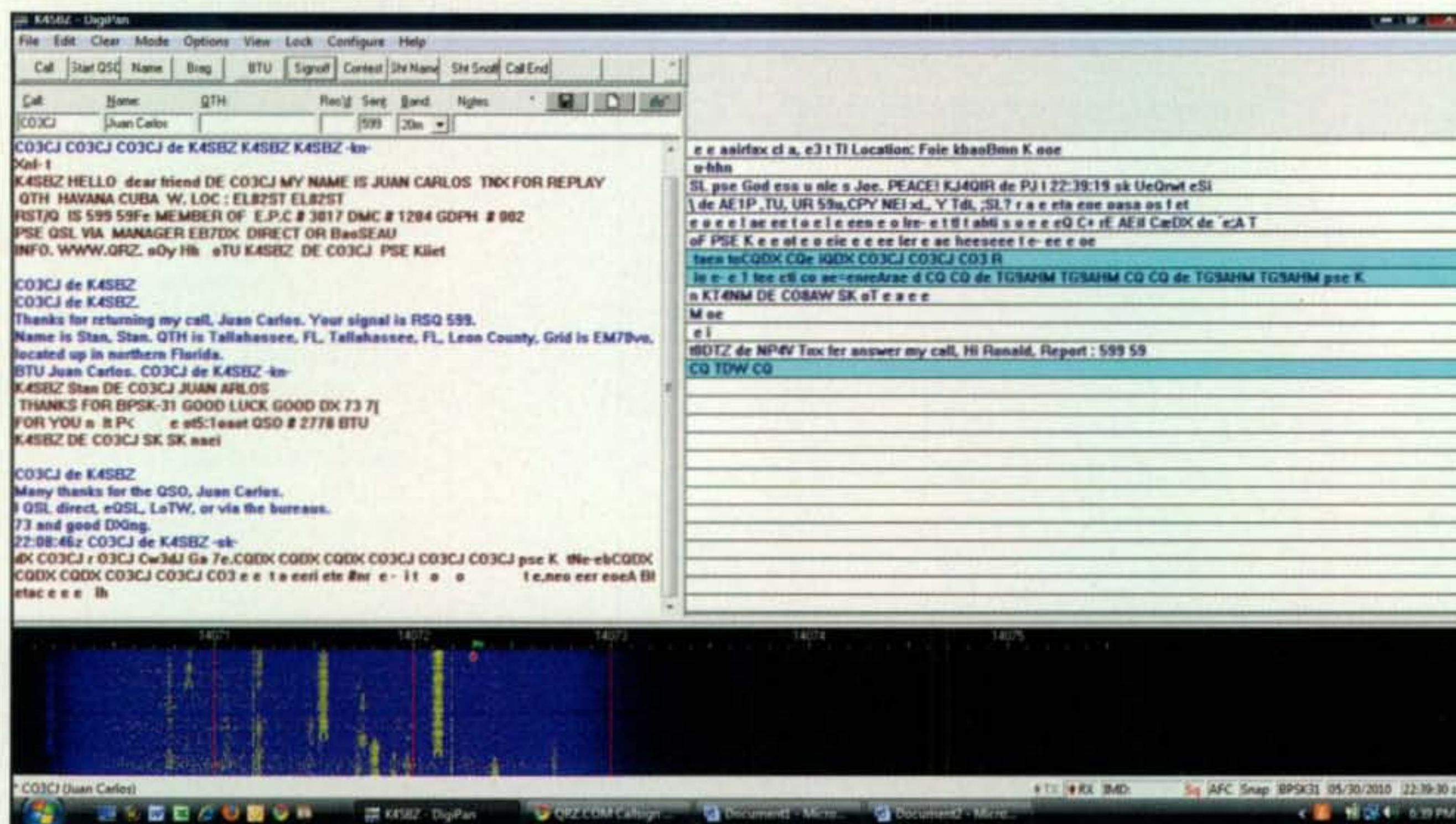


Fig. 1— Typical DigiPan 2.0 QSO. Note CQ calls in blue.



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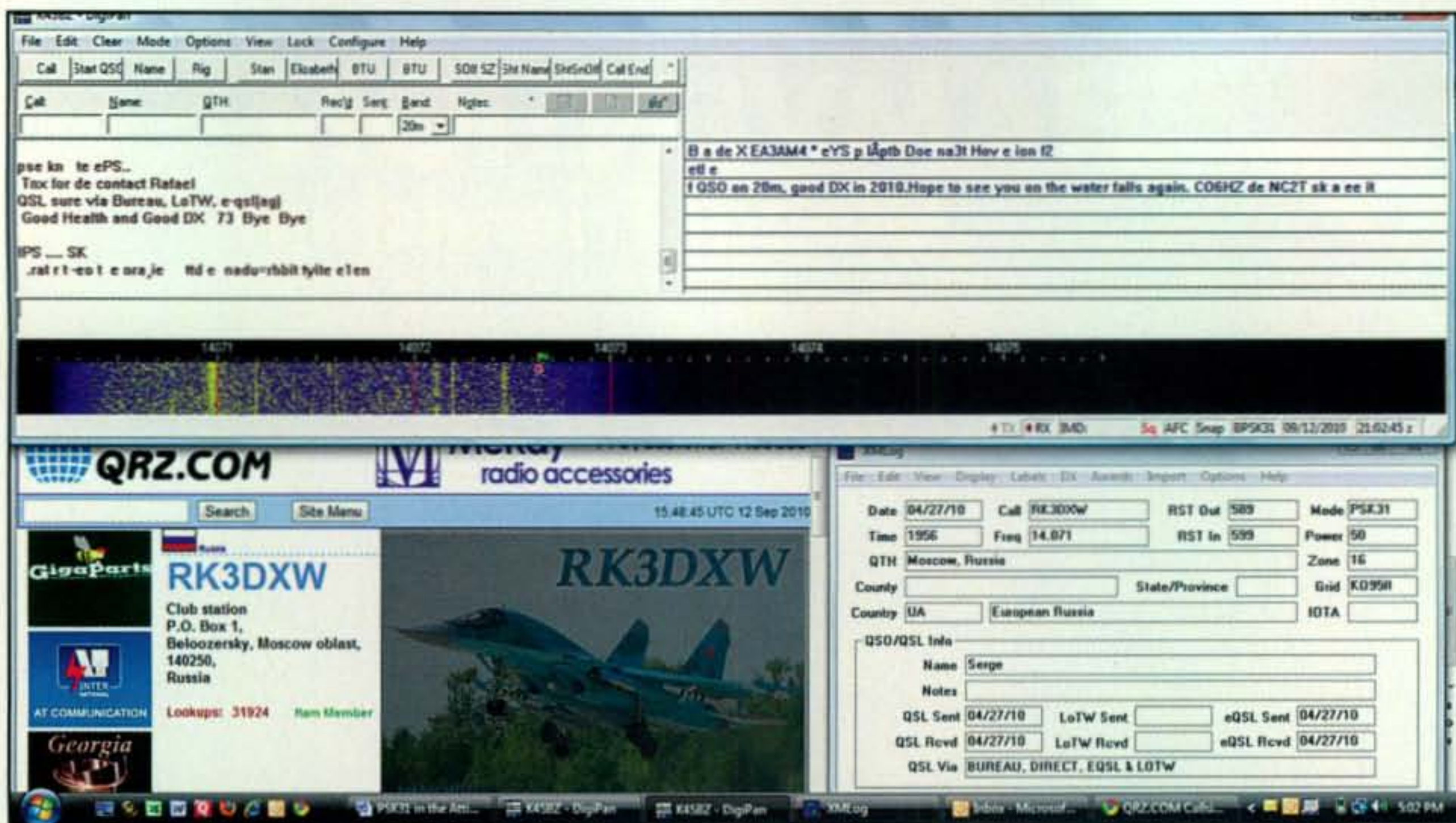


Fig. 2— DigiPan, QRZ.com, and XMLog positioned on the computer screen.

33 feet long and would easily fit in my attic, out of sight of the CC&R police!

After a bit more research, I was able to convince my XYL that the investment was not going to be very substantial. Unlink older digital modes that require an expensive TNC, I

only needed to add a fairly inexpensive soundcard interface (RigBlaster, Signalink, etc.) to my already existing gear, along with the 20-meter dipole.

### Free Software Interface

A substantial savings is that one of the most popular PSK-31 software interfaces, DigiPan 2.0, is downloadable for free. See fig. 1 for a typical PSK-31 QSO using DigiPan. (Some of the other popular Windows® PSK-31 software include

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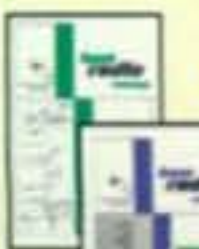
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The attic dipole uses insulated copper wire and a 1:1 balun as the center insulator.





Plastic "egg" insulators secure the ends of the dipole, which kind of snakes its way through the author's attic.

WinPSK, MixW, DM780, Hamscope, MultiPSK, WinWarbler, and Zakanaka.)

I prefer DigiPan because it can simultaneously display multiple channels of conversations in addition to the traditional waterfall display of the spectrum. Using the Multichannel Coloring Effect option in the Color configuration, I color all channels containing CQ blue so that I can spot them immediately. I also color any channel containing my own callsign red so that I don't miss any calls. With DigiPan, all you have to do is click on the line with the text to tune to that frequency. How much easier can it get?

I position DigiPan in the top half of the computer window as shown in fig. 2. With DigiPan, you can click on a callsign in the received text window and it will fill in the Call field. There is a macro available that provides an automatic lookup of the callsign in the Call field using QRZ.com. In the lower left corner, I load QRZ.com (reduced) so that I can quickly identify any stations calling CQ or that respond to my CQ. In the fourth quadrant of the computer screen, I place my logging software, XMLOG.

### A Simple 20-Meter Dipole

Plans for a dipole can be found in just

about any antenna book. However, it's basically two pieces of wire strung in opposite directions from a center insulator. Because the PSK-31 band on 20 meters starts at 14.070 MHz, the specific measurement for the dipole is 32.9 feet total, or 16.45 feet for each leg.

I used insulated copper wire (14 or 16 gauge is fine) for the antenna. This enabled me to route the antenna through the attic without too much concern about touching the rafters, although I also used standard stand-off insulators where possible. My routing was not totally direct. I used whatever worked for me, but it is relatively straight. I used a 1:1 balun for the center insulator, with a run of coax to my rig. I have to admit that the installation was not elegant.

### Elegant Results

Elegant or not, though, my first contact was in Germany (from Florida), running my IC-706MKIIG at less than half power, as you are expected to do with PSK-31. Since then I have worked DX from Moscow to Hawaii, and all ideas of giving up my ticket have long passed. As a matter of fact, my XYL just got her General so that she can join in the fun!

### Sources

Signalink USB: <<http://www.tigertronics.com/>>  
 RigBlaster products: <<http://www.westmountainradio.com/>>  
 DigiPan download page: <<http://www.digipan.net/>>  
 XMLOG: <<http://www.xmllog.com/>>

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3CX400U7	4CX250BT	YC-130	5867A
3CX800A7	4CX250FG	YU-106	5868
3CX1200A7	4CX250R	YU-108	6146B
3CX1200D7	4CX350A	YU-148	7092
3CX1200Z7	4CX350F	572B	3-500ZG
3CX1500A7	4CX1000A	805	4-400A
3CX2500A3	4CX1500A	807	M328/TH328
3CX2500F3	4CX1500B	810	M338/TH338
3CX3000A7	4CX3000A	811A	M347/TH347
3CX6000A7	4CX3500A	812A	M382

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### What You've Told Us...

Our October survey asked about your experience with building your own radio gear, a skill that many hams believe is in sharp decline. Not among *CQ* readers. In fact, 94% of those who responded to October's survey said they have built at least one piece of radio equipment.

Asked to be more specific, 91% have built an antenna, 84% have built a station accessory, and 76% have built cables and boxes for wiring together station equipment. In addition, 58% have built a receiver, 57% a transmitter and 41% a transceiver. Plus, 44% have restored a piece of vintage gear. Ninety-two per cent report having built a project from a kit, while 68% have used published or online plans and 47% have built gear from their own designs.

Types of components used were broad, with 78% building projects using vacuum tubes, 77% with discrete components on a circuit board, 67% with discrete components and *no* circuit board, 57% used ICs or microprocessors, and 32% have built gear using surface-mount components.

Building projects have not been limited to radio gear, as 62% have also built station furniture, 52% have built equipment enclosures, 37% a portable or mobile operating kit and 21% have built another related project.

Finally, we asked our readers how recently they had built a ham radio project. The answers were surprising, as 38% reported that they were working on one now, followed by 30% within the past year, 16% one-to-five years ago; 10% five-to-ten years ago, and 14% more than ten years ago. Only 4% said they'd never built anything.

This month's free subscription winner is Dale Schnuckel, KN7S, of Snohomish, Washington.

## Reader Survey March 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 hams tend to be early adopters of all sorts of new technology, we thought we'd snoop this month about e-readers (tablets) and smart phones.

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

### 1. Do you own an e-reader (tablet) or plan to buy one this year?

- Yes, own .....1
- Yes, plan to buy .....2
- No .....3

### 2. If you answered yes to question 1, what type of e-reader do you own or plan to buy?

- Apple iPad.....4
- Apple iPod Touch.....5
- Amazon Kindle.....6
- Barnes & Noble Nook .....7
- Other .....8
- Undecided.....9

### 3. Do you own a "smart phone" or plan to buy one this year?

- Yes, own .....10
- Yes, plan to buy .....11
- No .....12

### 4. If you answered yes to question 3, what type of smart phone do you own or plan to buy?

- Android.....13
- Blackberry .....14
- iPhone .....15
- Other .....16
- Undecided.....17

### 5. *CQ* will soon introduce a digital edition as well as its traditional print edition. When this happens, would you be likely to subscribe to a digital edition of *CQ*?

- Yes, in addition to my print subscription .....18
- Yes, instead of my print subscription .....19
- Would have to see the details first.....20
- No, I'll stick with print .....21
- Don't know .....22

### 6. If you were to purchase a digital edition of *CQ*, on which type of device would you be *most* interested in being able to read it?

- Computer .....23
- E-reader (Kindle, etc.).....24
- Smart phone (iPhone, etc.) .....25
- Multiple device types.....26
- Don't know .....27

### 7. What is the most you would be willing to pay for a 1-year subscription to a digital edition of *CQ*?

- Under \$15 .....28
- \$15-\$25 .....29
- Over \$25 .....30
- Would not purchase a digital subscription .....31

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

# A Big Birthday for a Ham Radio Legend Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ, Celebrates His 100th Birthday!



An autographed photo of Leo Meyerson, then W9GFQ, from 1943. (Photos courtesy QCWA Chapter 154)

**L**eo Meyerson, W9GFQ and later WØGFQ, owned and operated World Radio Laboratories (WRL) from his factory in Council Bluffs, Iowa. His more famous products included the Globe Scout, Globe Champion, and Globe King lines. For many beginning hams, the Globe Scout was their first transmitter. He was, and still is, respected and beloved by his worldwide customers and competitors alike.

Leo is celebrating his 100th birthday, and a big party at his winter home in Rancho Mirage, California, was scheduled for February 24, 2011. The celebration was to include a special event station, WØG, on 14.260 MHz (±) between 1800Z and 2400Z.

"Leo may not be able to talk to everyone who QSOs, but he will be nearby," said Gene Pentecost, W4IMT, President of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 154, which is sponsoring the special event station. "For the many who have fond memories of Leo and his radios, here's

a chance to give him a shout." QSLs should be sent to the operator you contact, so be sure to make a note of who's behind the mic.

Happy birthday, Leo, from all of us at CQ!

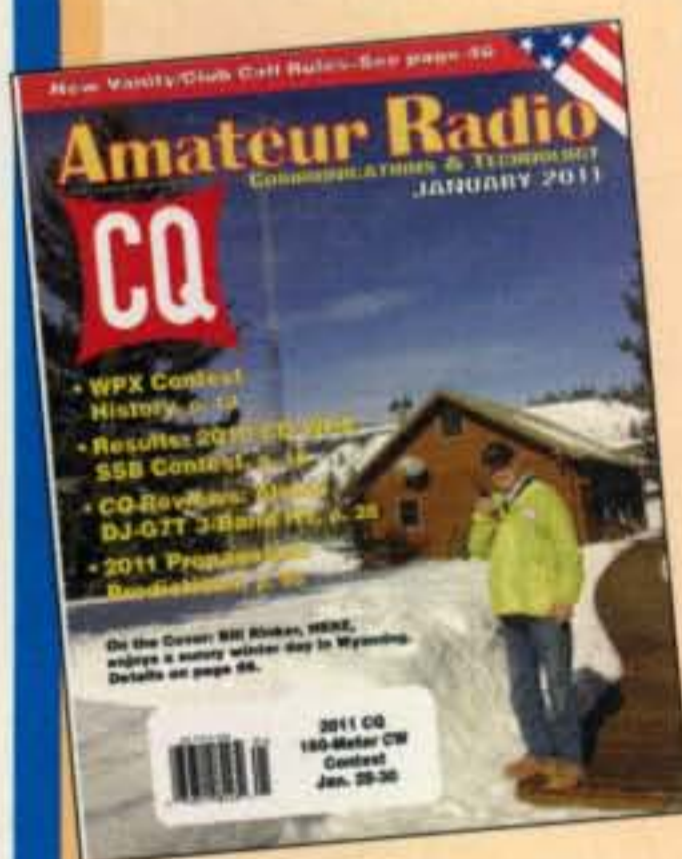


Leo still looks great today, as he approaches his 100th birthday.

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# Getting Started in Amateur Radio:

## What You Need to Know to Get Your License

**F**rom time to time, we get inquiries from individuals asking about amateur radio and how they can become a ham radio operator. We also get questions about the amateur radio licensing system in the United States. This month let's cover the basics of U.S. ham radio and what you need to know, and do, to take part in one of the world's greatest hobbies.

Amateur radio, often called ham radio, is both a hobby and a service in which licensed participants communicate with other radio amateurs for public service, recreation, and self-training. Its origin can be traced to the early 1900s when wireless communication was first developed. Thus, amateur radio is as old as radio itself.

Coordinated by the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union (ITU), amateur radio operation is available to people in just every country in the world. More than two-million people located in all areas of the globe communicate with each other directly or through relay systems and amateur satellites. There are approximately 695,000 licensed amateur radio operators in the United States.

Radio amateurs must be licensed by their respective governments. In the United States, the Federal Radio Commission began regulating Amateur Radio in 1912. The agency, renamed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1934, is charged with regulating all U.S. non-federal government use of the radio.

The term "amateur" does not imply a lack of skill or quality, but rather that ham radio operators are not paid for communicating by radio. It is a non-commercial radio service.

Anyone can be an FCC-licensed amateur radio operator no matter what age, gender, or physical ability. You don't even have to be a U.S. citizen. There are hams under age 8 and seniors over 80. Hams can communicate from anywhere while walking around, from their car, or from their home base station.

Amateur radio is allocated a variety of frequency bands and transmitting modes on which to communicate. These bands, scattered across the radio spectrum, are basically the same in every country, allowing hams to communicate worldwide.

Different frequency bands have different propagation characteristics. Some bands are better for local communications, while others accommodate long-distance (DX) transmissions by "bouncing" signals off the ionosphere (skywave). VHF, UHF, and microwave frequencies pierce the ionosphere, allowing transmissions to be returned from satellites in space.

Although voice transmissions are the most popular mode, many ham radio operators still use Morse code. Hams can even transmit television or

talk through orbiting amateur satellites. There are also many digital modes.

The Amateur Radio Service is appropriately named. In times of disaster, when regular communications methods fail, hams assist with emergency and public-service communications. When tragedy is imminent, ham networks spring into action.

### Getting Started

You must be individually licensed by the FCC to be an amateur radio operator. The purpose of FCC licensing is to be certain that you are aware of the rules and safety concerns of ham radio. There are all sorts of "dos and don'ts" that you need to know. The "on air" privileges of amateur radio are immense and you can get into all sorts of trouble if you don't know what you are doing. You qualify for an amateur radio license by passing an examination consisting of multiple-choice questions that are oriented towards operating a ham station legally and safely.

Most people get into ham radio through the efforts of an already-licensed friend or family member, called an "Elmer." You alone can also learn what you need to know by getting study material from the W5YI Group (see ad in this publication) or the American Radio Relay League. The ARRL is the national association for amateur radio in the United States.

Amateur radio clubs are located all over the U.S., and members are eager to help a newcomer get started. Many offer licensing classes. The ARRL has an online list of over 2000 ham clubs at <<http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>>. Just enter your zip code and the nearest club pops up. There's bound to be one near you.

### Getting Licensed

All amateur radio licenses are granted for a ten-year term. There is an additional two-year "grace period" during which a license may be renewed without having to retake the examinations. Unless you specifically selected your own callsign, there is no cost to renew a license.

There are basically two types of amateur radio licenses: individual and club station. A club station license allows members of an amateur radio club to have a station operating under a club callsign. The license is granted only to the trustee of the club. It conveys no operating privileges.

There are currently three levels of individual amateur radio operator licenses issued by the FCC: Technician, General, and, the top-of-the-line, Amateur Extra Class. Each authorizes varying levels of privileges.

Most new amateur operators start at the Technician Class and then advance to the General Class or Amateur Extra Class operator license. Some newcomers, however, begin at the General

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e-mail: <[w5yi@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:w5yi@cq-amateur-radio.com)>

Class by passing two exams. A few even begin at the Amateur Extra Class.

## Operator License Classes

**Technician:** The privileges of a Technician Class operator license include operating an amateur station that may transmit on channels in any of 17 frequency bands above 50 MHz with up to 1500 watts of power. Technician Class licensees also have operating privileges in four amateur service bands in the worldwide HF range: 10 meter voice plus CW (Morse code) on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

**General:** The General Class operator license requires passage of the Technician test, as well as the General exam. It is the most sought-after license class, since it authorizes privileges in all 27 amateur service bands. Hundreds of digital, analog, pulse, and spread-spectrum emission types may be transmitted. Upon accreditation by a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), a General class ham can help administer Technician Class examinations.

**Amateur Extra:** The Extra Class is the highest amateur radio license you can obtain, and the written test is the most difficult of all the license exams. The privileges of an Amateur Extra Class operator license include additional spectrum in the HF bands. Extra Class hams get all amateur radio frequencies and can apply for the desirable shorter (1-by-2 and 2-by-1) "vanity" station call signs.

**Grandfathered license classes:** Up until a decade ago, there were six operator license classes. However, as of 2000, new Novice, Technician Plus, and Advanced Class licenses are no longer issued by the FCC. There are still some amateurs around who hold these licenses, though, and they may be renewed indefinitely. (Technician Plus class operator licenses were converted to Technician Class licenses when they were renewed.)

## License Examinations

In 2003, the ITU ratified changes to the International Radio Regulations to allow each country to determine whether it would require a person seeking an amateur radio operator license to demonstrate the ability to send and receive Morse code. This revision eliminated the requirement that a ham operator be Morse proficient when transmitting on frequencies below 30 MHz. As of 2007, Morse code examinations are no longer administered to prospective ham operators in the United States.

The class for which each operator is qualified is determined by the degree of knowledge in operating a station demonstrated during a written examination administered by a team of three volunteer examiners (VEs). The efforts of VE teams are supervised by Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) who develop the examination materials and question pools.

Volunteer Examiners (VEs) are General and higher class radio operators (18 years of age or older) who volunteer their time to administer amateur radio operator license examinations. There is a fee (about \$15, determined by the VEC) to take the exam which goes to offset the costs incurred by the examination program.

There are thousands of VE teams, one located in just about every community. You can find ARRL and W5YI VE teams online at <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radiolicense-exam-session> or [http://www.w5yi.org/exam\\_locations\\_ama.php](http://www.w5yi.org/exam_locations_ama.php).

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) maintains a common question pool for each written examination element. Each exam question (and its multiple-choice answers) are taken word-for-word from these pools. There are three written examination elements: Elements 2, 3, and 4. Each pool contains at least ten times the number of questions required for a single examination.

The VEs prepare the written examinations from these question pools according to a selection formula. There are about 400 Technician (Element 2) questions, 500 General (Element 3), and 750 Extra Class (Element 4) questions in the various question banks. All questions and answers are publicly known and widely published. You can find all of these pools, complete with answers, on the NCVEC website at: <http://www.ncvec.org/>.

You must pass Element 2 to qualify for the Technician Class license. The General Class level requires passing an additional Element 3 exam. Elements 2 and 3 are each 35-question multiple-choice tests; passing score is 26 correct answers. The Extra Class exam (Element 4) is 50 questions, and passing score is 37.

Some clubs offer weekend licensing classes and testing. It should take you a couple of weeks to prepare for your exam if you study on your own. Both the ARRL and W5YI Group have excellent license manuals which include software for exam study and practice.

There are also several online practice

exams you can take. They are free and are an excellent method to determine if you're ready for the test. You will find them on the internet at: <http://www.hamtestonline.com>, <http://hamexam.org/>, <http://www.eham.net/exams/>, <http://aa9pw.com/>, and <http://www.qrz.com/testing.html>. Many of the exam questions are about FCC regulations, so be sure to read the Part 97 amateur radio rules (also available on the NCVEC website).

Once you score a passing grade on an exam, the VE team issues the applicant a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) and forwards the session paperwork to its VEC. After screening, the VEC files the application over the internet with the FCC. It normally takes a couple of weeks for your license and call sign to be issued by the FCC. If you fail the test, you can take the test again right away by paying another exam fee.

## Station Call signs

There are three different types of amateur radio station call signs: Sequential, Vanity, and Special Event. Your first call sign will automatically be

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assigned to you by the FCC during the processing of your license. Each initial callsign is sequentially selected from the alphabetized regional-group list based on your license class and mailing address.

A station is always reassigned the same callsign upon renewal or license class upgrade, unless a change to a new sequentially assigned callsign is requested. Once assigned, you are never required to change your station callsign.

Every U.S. ham station callsign has a one-letter prefix (K, N, W) or a two-letter prefix (AA-AL, KA-KZ, NA-NZ, WA-WZ) and a one-, two-, or three-letter suffix separated by a numeral (0-9) indicating the geographic region. Certain combinations of letters are not used. When the callsigns in any regional-group list are exhausted, the selection is made from the next lower group.

There are four different callsign groups: A, B, C, and D. Amateur Extra Class operators qualify for the shortest Group "A" callsigns. Technician and General Class operators qualify for Group "C" (1-by-3) callsigns. Any radio amateur may hold a callsign from a lower group.

Once you pass the Technician or General Class requirement, your first FCC-assigned callsign will be from the Group "D" (2-by-3 format) block with the first character being a "K." This is because all of the "N" prefix (by 3-letter suffix) were allocated and "K" and "W" prefixes are not assigned by the FCC as an initial callsign.

Your 2-by-3 format may later be changed to a 1-by-3 Group "C" call under the Vanity callsign program if you wish. Stations outside the lower 48 states qualify for special prefixes. We covered station callsigns last month, so we won't go into further detail here.

A "Vanity" callsign is one specifically selected by the operator. You must hold an unexpired amateur license grant of the appropriate operator class to request a vanity callsign for your primary station. In other words, a "Vanity" callsign may not be your first station callsign. A vacant callsign is normally assignable two years plus one day following license expiration or callsign cancellation, whichever is sooner.

A "Special Event" callsign is a 1-by-1 format callsign selected by any amateur to commemorate some event of special significance.

## Dos and Don'ts of Ham Radio

There are certain things you can and can't do on the amateur radio bands. Ham operators may transmit two-way communications and messages with other hams worldwide. Unless specifically prohibited, any type of content is permissible.

No amateur station may transmit messages internationally for a third party (i.e., someone other than the sending and receiving ham operator) unless the foreign government has made arrangements with the United States to allow third-party traffic. The FCC periodically issues a Public Notice listing arrangements for international communications.

All amateur radio frequencies are shared and no frequency is assigned for the exclusive use of any amateur station. This applies to all ham radio transmissions, including those of network roundtables and information bulletin stations.

Station control operators must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels to make the most effective use of the frequencies. You may not intentionally interfere with the communications of another station.

Ham stations must identify their transmissions with their station callsign at the end of each communication and at least every 10 minutes during a communication.

Certain one-way communications are permitted, such as beacon stations, Morse code practice, information bulletins, telemetry, and brief transmissions necessary to make adjustments to the station.

You may not transmit secret messages, and all communications must be made in plain language. Communications intended to facilitate a criminal act, indecent or obscene language, or false or deceptive messages, signals, or identification are expressly prohibited.

You also may not transmit (broadcast) to the general public, play music over the ham bands, or transmit communications for compensation. You may, however, notify other amateur operators of the availability for sale or trade of ham radio equipment provided that such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.

## Getting on the Air

Most beginners start with a low-power VHF or UHF handheld or mobile transceiver. This allows them to enjoy clear two-way FM communications using repeaters and to chat with other amateur radio operators in their local area. Cost of these radios can be anywhere from \$100 to \$400 and higher depending on the features.

Desktop, multi-band base-station transceivers are more complicated to operate and cost more—up to \$2000 and higher. However, less-expensive used, older equipment may be available from a local ham radio equipment dealer, another radio amateur or from an internet site. Many ham radio flea markets are held all over the country that sell good used equipment for less as well.

Ham operators may design, construct, modify, and repair their stations if they are qualified to do so. Unlike all other radio services, the FCC equipment authorization program does not generally apply to amateur station transmitters.

## Authority to Operate

Your operating authority begins when your license information appears in the Amateur Radio Service's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database located on the FCC's website. ULS is a (free to use) consolidated licensing system that handles all FCC applications, not just those of the Amateur Radio Service.

You need a PC to access ULS at <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls>>. (Click on the "Licenses" button, select "By Name" from the drop-down box, and enter your name, last name first, then a comma, and then your first name. Or you can enter your callsign if you already know what it is.) Your FCC license record will be displayed. Click on your callsign for additional information. You can update your address and other information and renew or get a replacement license using ULS.

In order to access ULS, you need your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and FCC password. New amateurs are usually automatically registered in the Commission Registration System (CORES) by the VEC as part of the licensing process. The FCC sends every new ham a letter indicating their FRN and ULS password by mail shortly after they are licensed.

Once your license application is processed, the FCC will send you a hard (paper) copy of your license. There is no requirement that you actually have the license document in your possession before you begin operating. You are fully licensed and may begin operating on the ham bands once your name, callsign, and license class are listed in ULS.

73, Fred, W5YI

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MFJ-1129, \$114.95. 10 outlets each fused, 40 Amp total. 3 high-current outlets for rigs -- 2 PowerPoles® and one 5-way binding post. 7 switched outlets for accessories

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# Smooth Sailing on SKYWARN Recognition Day

**W**eather watchers were raining down from around the world on a wide swath of frequencies in December 2010 to commemorate SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD), with radio amateurs operating from more than a hundred National Weather Service offices across the United States. It was the 12th year of the annual event which “celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN™ radio operators make to the National Weather Service,” the organizations said.

Providing data on conditions from hail size, rainfall amounts and tornado activity, to snow depth, ice accumulation, and damage assessment during major storms, radio amateurs have played an important role in supporting the NWS with real-time weather reporting. The depth of their value was demonstrated, for example, when a deadly EF4 intensity tornado touched down last June in northwestern Ohio. SKYWARN™ operators from across the region quickly stepped forward to provide vital weather and damage information. (See “In the Darkness, Ohio EmComm Operators Face Tornado Terror,” CQ “Public Service,” August 2010—ed.)

SRD 2010 had a lot less intensity than a real-life emergency, but no less drama. Many hundreds of weather-report exchanges were made, reuniting old friends, kindling new friendships, and

giving newcomers a taste of what SKYWARN™ is all about.

## SRD Overview: WX4NC

A snapshot of activities involving Central Carolina SKYWARN™ (CCS), and the Raleigh National Weather Service office using the callsign WX4NC captures the atmosphere and magnitude of the two-day multi-band, multi-mode operation.

According to Virginia Enzor, NC4VA, CCS Emergency Coordinator, the radio amateurs “enthusiastically teamed up with the Raleigh NWS . . . operating from 7 to 9 PM Friday and from 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday” on North Carolina State University’s Centennial campus. There are more than 5,000 trained weather spotters in Central North Carolina, 750 of whom are radio amateurs.

At WX4NC, “We divided up the coordination of duties to make things go efficiently,” Enzor said. “Dave Roy, W4DNA, supervised the temporary antenna setup and an HF (high frequency) rig. Bob Woodson, WX4MMM, oversaw the IRLP station and Scott Lewis, KJ4BPV, was in charge of the NWS HF radio operation.” Enzor managed operations of another HF rig and coordinated overall SRD activities.

“For VHF/UHF we used two permanently installed dual-band Kenwood TM-D7 radios with Diamond dual-band vertical antennas that are mounted on the roof of the building housing the National Weather Service.”

“There were three HF radios,” she said. “First was the NWS radio—a Kenwood TS-570S. With it we used a brand new Moxon antenna specially designed and permanently installed this year by Tom Brown, N4TAB. This was the first real work-out of this antenna, and it performed like a champ. We also used Dave Roy’s Yaesu FT-897 and LDG AT-897 tuner with a Carolina Windom 80 antenna and my Alinco DX-70 with an inverted-V antenna on 20 meters,” Enzor reported.

For logging, the WX4NC team used paper and N3FJP logging software. Operators found the logging software quick to learn and easy to use, she said.

“On Friday night, NWS forecasters predicted the possibility of light snow on Saturday with some uncertainty as to when it might start,” Enzor said. “I predicted it would be snowing at 5 PM, because that is when we would take down our temporary antennas.

“In my recollection of the past seven SRDs, it often has rained during antenna installation or take down,” she recalled. “Sure enough, it began snowing in the afternoon and was still lightly snowing when we took down the antennas.

“We Southerners get excited at the first flake. Several of us immediately trotted outside to take some photos. Back inside, we delighted in chang-

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



Elizabeth St. Vincent, K4KTG, “made a bunch of HF contacts during the event,” according to SKYWARN™ officials at K4OHX in the NWS office in Old Hickory, Tennessee. (Courtesy of K4OHX)





Michael Kelley, KJ4YDX, seated, joins Julio Ripoll, WD4R, during SKYWARN™ Recognition Day at WX4NHC from the National Hurricane Center. (Courtesy of WD4R)

ing our weather report from cloudy to light snow during the SRD exchange. The snow increased our contacts locally as excited folks wanted to share their weather reports. In fact, 69 of our SRD contacts were from local spotters. Snowfall accumulations ranged from a trace to up to 3 inches across central North Carolina."

A breakdown of WX4NC's 164 SRD 2010 contacts included 37 QSOs combined on 80, 40, and 20 meters; 60 QSOs on VHF; 9 on UHF; and 58 via EchoLink.

"We made contacts with 33 NWS offices," Enzor said, "earning us the Whole Gale Certificate." Thirty-seven states were contacted. WX4NC's longest range contacts were with

Puerto Rico, "where it was a sunny 86 degrees (Fahrenheit), and Estonia where it was a bitter minus 5.9 degrees Celsius (21.4° F). What a contrast!"

Raleigh NWS set up a grill and treated the SKYWARN™ team to lunch.

"Plans for next year include different antenna placement and expanded hours of operation on Friday night," Enzor said. "We want to look at ways to decrease the amount of time spent on putting up antennas and increase the amount of time on the air. The opportunity to get on the air, the companionship of friends, good food, and the first snow of the season . . . it doesn't get any better than that for SRD in the South."

To close the event, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock,



From a workman's basket atop a portable support, G5RV and New Carolina Windom antennas were put up at WX9IWX for operations during SRD 2010. (Courtesy of KA9RSL)

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KI4KKX, expressed his appreciation: "It was really a great day and everyone worked so hard. I cannot tell you how incredible it is to have such great volunteers such as yourselves who all work so hard. Thanks again, and here is looking forward to next year."

Other WX4NC volunteers during SRD 2010 included CCS Net Control Jim McRight, KB4BZ; CCS Net Control and NCSU meteorology student Kevin Smith, K4BGM; and spotters Chris Benson, KJ4LKE; Cassie Mentha, KJ4GKP; and Kristina Benson, who is "not a ham, at least yet," Enzor said.

### SRD Snapshot: WX4NHC

Julio Ripoll, WD4R, reported the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida, WX4NHC, "had another successful SKYWARN™ Recognition Day," with operators on duty "for nine hours on Saturday.

"We made contacts with many NWS stations and SKYWARN™ operators from around the continental United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, and even as far as Estonia." WX4NHC's lowest temperature report was 20° F from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, while the highest was 83° F from Kailua, Hawaii.

"We especially enjoyed the well-organized support from the EchoLink Hurricane Net with Rob Macedo, KD1CY, and his dedicated SKYWARN™ group from the Taunton NWS office in Massachusetts," Ripoll said.

"Our VIP (very important person) operator was Mike Kelley, KJ4YDX, Vice Chairman of Administration for University of Miami Medical and Chief Operating Officer of the UM/Medishare Haiti Field Hospital," he reported. "Mike got to see first-hand in Haiti what ham radio communications can do after a major natural disaster, where we were one of the reliable communications links between Haiti, the U.S. Navy ship *Comfort*, University of Miami, and the rest of the world for many weeks following the earthquake," Ripoll said. "Mike recently got his Tech license and is now studying for his General Class and plans to become one of our regular WX4NHC operators by next season."

Robert Molleda, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist, "had a very well-attended SKYWARN™ Educational tour, of which almost half were hams," WD4R added. "Some drove from as far as Naples, Florida to attend his conference and tour."

"This year's hurricane season completes our 30th year of volunteering at



*The SRD 2010 team at WX4NC in Raleigh, North Carolina included (first row): Raleigh NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock, KI4KKX; CCS AEC Scott Lewis, KJ4BPV; and CCS EC Virginia Enzor, NC4VA. Second row: Kristina Benson, and Kevin Smith, K4BGM. Third row: ARES NC SEC Tom Brown, N4TAB; Cassie Mentha, KJ4GKP; CCS AEC Dave Roy, W4DNA; Jim McRight, KB4BZ; AEC Bob Woodson, WX4MMM; and Chris Benson, KJ4LKE. (Courtesy of Mike Money Penny)*

NHC," Ripoll said. "We are grateful for the opportunity given to us by NHC to help those in need."

### SRD Snapshot: K4OHX

Beginning at 6 PM on Friday, December 3, 2010, and continuing non-stop for 24 hours, a team of radio amateurs from around middle Tennessee, 28 strong, came to the NWS office in Old Hickory to participate in SRD 2010.

According to an NWS web report, "The Dickson County, Davidson County, Robertson/Sumner County, Heart of Tennessee ARES®, Hickman County, and Nashville Amateur Radio Club groups all were represented."

Using the NWS Old Hickory callsign K4OHX, "a total 49 NWS offices were contacted." The SRD log showed contacts with 46 states and three countries. "Thirty-nine counties in Tennessee were also worked."

The NWS web page for SKYWARN™ Recognition Day can be found at: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

### SRD Snapshot: WX9IWX

Sometimes, weather can throw a wrench into SRD, as Patrick Murphy, WX9PAT, learned. "I am sorry, but with the lake effect snow I have not had a chance to review the logs closely," he

said when asked how WX9IWX's SRD 2010 went in northern Indiana. As lead meteorologist of NWS Northern Indiana, he subsequently reported more than 170 contacts made "that will be sent in for certificates."

In Field Day spirit, a couple of HF antennas were erected from a portable workman's tower in the NWS office parking lot. "At the top was a G5RV cut for 80 through 10 meters. The lower antenna was a New Carolina Windom <<http://bit.ly/exytlh>> for 40 through 10 meters," according to a report from Keith Miller, KA9RSL. "The G5RV that we used for SSB was hung at about 42 feet. The Windom used for PSK-31 was about 10 feet below the G5RV."

"By the way, the 100-foot permanent tower [in the background of the accompanying photograph] includes several antennas: a NOAA Weather Radio WWG-45 162.500-MHz transmit, 800-MHz State of Ohio DHS, three 2-meter Diamond F22A omnis (two for voice SKYWARN™; one for packet), and a 2-meter/70-cm Cushcraft three-element A2706S beam for voice SKYWARN™."

Miller added that "our office is on a continental divide but at a little over 900-feet msl (mean sea level). The Saint Lawrence Continental divide is just not as impressive as the Rockies <<http://bit.ly/hVkkXM>>."



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Don Whiteman, KK9H, sets up the 220 MHz link to net control for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. (Photos courtesy of K9RST)

Visit NWS Northern Indiana: <<http://weather.gov/iwx>>.

## Ham Radio Supports 38,000 Runners in Chicago Marathon

More than 100 radio amateurs were among the 1,000+ volunteers supporting 38,000 runners in the 2010 Bank of America Chicago Marathon late last year. A dozen area radio clubs helped provide communications for field medical and medical transport teams in 21 aid stations along the 26.2-mile route.

"The Bank of America Chicago Marathon is one of the five World Marathon Majors, setting the standard for global marathon competitions," said Rob Orr, K9RST, president of the North Shore Radio Club. "Runners from all 50 states and more than 100 countries set out each fall to achieve their personal goals." Other cities on the World Marathon Majors circuit include Berlin, Boston, London, and New York City.

Some of the amateur radio organizations taking part were North Shore Radio Club, York Radio Club, Bolingbrook Radio Club, Chicago FM Club, Wheaton Ham Club, Suburban Amateur Radio Club, ARES® teams from Peoria and Milwaukee, the Salvation Army, Palatine Emergency Management Agency, Lake County RACES, and NORA Repeater Club, he reported.

The operators "provided information to assist emergency dispatch and medical logistic information, helping coordinate transportation for runners who may have become ill or dropped out prior to reaching the finish line," K9RST said.

Two 2-meter repeaters were used course-wide for medical emergency communications, Orr said. Three 440 MHz repeaters were designated for non-emergency transportation and to supply dispatch for different sections of the course—north, west, south, and back-ups—and for tracking runners who dropped out of the race and needed a ride back to Grant Park.

Communication around the Event Command area was via 220-MHz FM simplex, "and to our remote headquarters set up outside of Grant Park in case something happened to the Event Command area. Then we would be able to maintain communication with the

other stations through this remote base. They were set up on the near west side of Chicago at an aid station APRS for lead runners and course end car," K9RST said. "During large scale public events, a marathon runners, as well as spectators, may experience medical issues," he said. "In order to provide timely aid (in Chicago) medical tents are located every one to two miles along the marathon route."

"Each tent has a licensed physician, multiple nurses, and other medical staff present, including ambulance service," Orr said. "Participants in need are either treated in the on-course medical tents or are transported by ambulance to the marathon's central medical location, or to a local hospital."

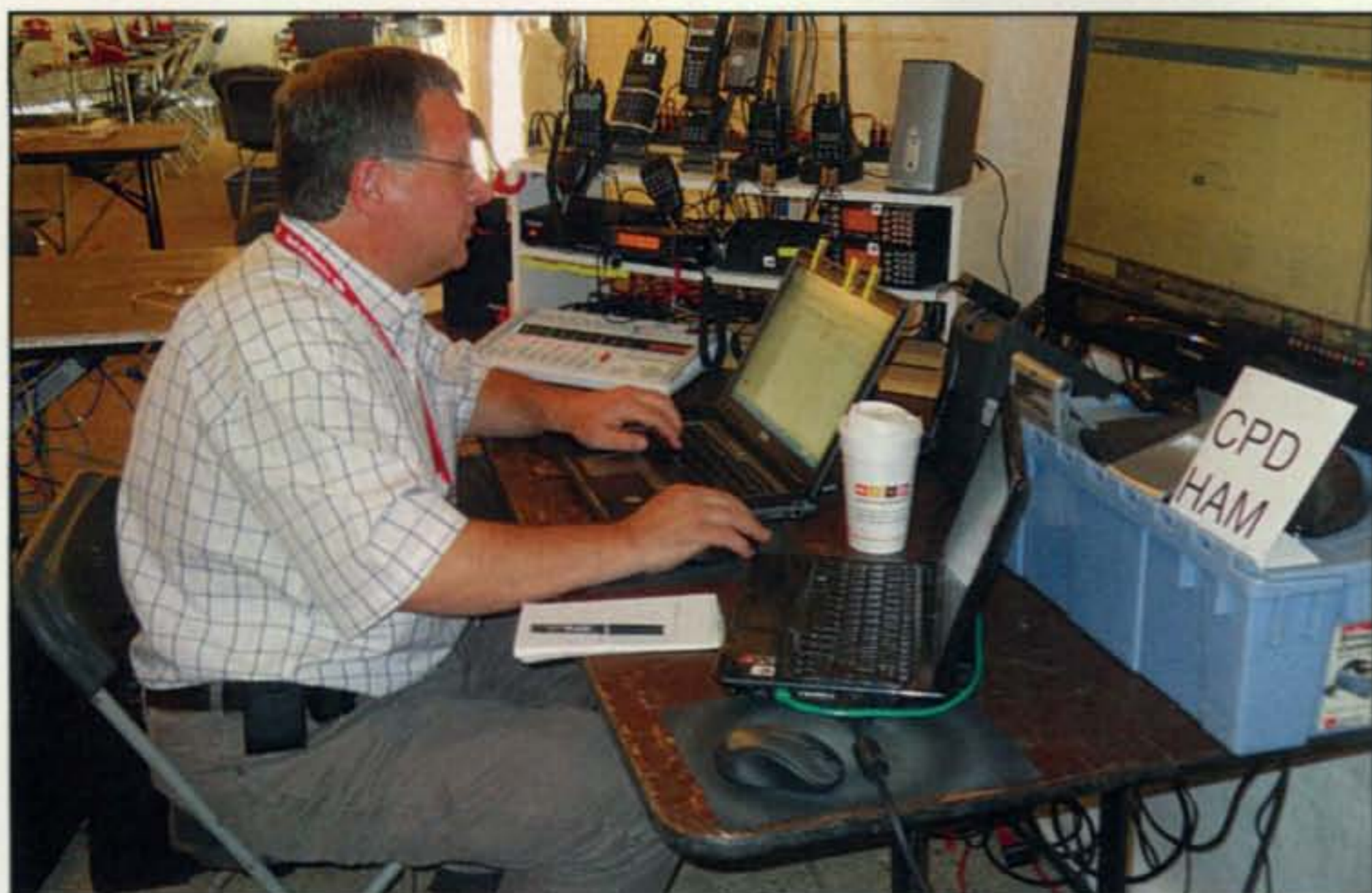
The radio amateur volunteers "are seated immediately adjacent to ambulance dispatchers and are paired with medical staff in and outside the tents," K9RST said. "They communicate requests and status reports to the central medical location in Grant Park using up to seven radio networks to ensure complete course coverage and redundancy in case of equipment problems. Hams also reported on the status of runners who dropped out of the event, and required transportation back to Grant Park."

Orr said the radio amateurs' support "is critical, but we are part of a large overlapping network. The ham radio operators support the 800 medical support volunteers set up throughout the course."

"Yes, several ambulances were dispatched through our network and we did help many dropped runners find trans-



Fritz Bock, WD9FMB, and the team get ready to handle traffic at Aid Station No. 10.



During the marathon, Craig Dieckman, KC9HWK, served as amateur radio liaison to the Chicago fire and police departments.

portation through the bus network that the Event Management runs for this purpose," Orr said. "This year, because of the heat, the EMS people were looking for us to provide a real-time measure of how the medical teams in the 21 aid station were keeping up with responses."

"We found ourselves having to report medical response conditions at the last five aid stations of the course: How

many patients, how many dropped runners? Are more ambulances or supplies needed? They used this information to stage more ambulances for the back half of the course," K9RST said.

"Of course, there are many heroics that have nothing to do with radio," Orr reported. "We had hams who solved problems. One aid station ran out of lancets for testing blood and a couple of the hams ran across the course to a closing aid station

to get their medical supplies. When one of the medical doctors ran down the street to attend to a fallen runner, one of our ham radio operators followed with him and provided radio support.

"Hams were dispatched to change the Emergency Action signs—colored flags (green, yellow, red) placed along the entire course to inform runners about course conditions. Because of the hams, we could change the flags along the entire course within minutes."

Orr said it was important for radio amateurs "to keep lines of communication open between doctors in the field and the medical director at the main hospital at Grant Park. We also dispatched ambulances and helped to manage the number of runners who drop out of the event for medical reasons. At one critical point, we had our top doctor talk directly over the radio to his colleague in the field to discuss adjustments that might be needed for the changing conditions."

"Mostly, we were prepared for the extraordinary," K9RST said. "Contingency plans were prepared for an alternative race route if needed and event emergency shelters if required.

"We had our back-up headquarters ready to roll if needed," Orr said. "Frankly, we do our job best when people don't know we are there!"

### Additional Photos on the Web

More photos of radio amateurs in action from 2010 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day and the Chicago Marathon are posted on the CQ Public Service website: <http://www.CQPublicService.blogspot.com>

### EmComm in Action: Send Us Your Stories

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day 2010 and radio amateurs' support of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon are great examples of how seriously radio amateurs take their obligations as public servants. Do you know of other organizations or operators who have taken action in the EmComm arena? Let us know, and we'll feature their stories in an upcoming column.

Please drop an e-mail to: [ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com).

73, Richard, KI5SN



Matt Mason, N2ZQO, left, and Dan Elekman, AA9NK (now WD9E), work at Aid Station No. 5 during the race.

### Correction

In the section of December's Public Service column headlined "North Carolina Amateurs Help Program Weather Radios," Mike Hamby, KG4SRW's, name was misspelled.

## Soldering Iron Tips

**M**any kit builders do not own a variable-heat soldering station, which can be quite useful. By being able to control the heat your soldering iron produces, you can avoid overheating and damaging your board and components. In addition, the tip on your soldering iron will last a lot longer if it is not allowed to overheat. Lack of temperature control is the biggest drawback to using inexpensive soldering irons. However, most builders start out with an iron of this type, so this time I am presenting a way to utilize your soldering iron and get the best results for low cost.

A visit to RadioShack will reveal a number of affordable soldering irons along with replacement tips, with many of the irons under \$15. If choosing an iron of this type, find one that also has spare tips available at the store for easy replacement. It is always a good idea to buy a spare or two. For about \$7 you can make a simple way to adjust the heat of your soldering iron.

Soldering irons are basically similar to incandescent light bulbs in that they have an element that uses its resistance to current flow to generate heat. This heat is conducted to the tip, where it is used to melt the solder. In more expensive soldering stations, mechanical or digital means are used to sense the tip temperature and regulate the heat. In our circuit, we will use a simple incandescent-lamp dimmer to do almost the same thing. Since we have no way to measure and respond to

changes in the tip temperature, we simply will vary the current available to the iron to produce varying levels of heat, just like dimming a light bulb.

The interesting thing about using this circuit is that if you measure the output voltage with a digital meter, you might be surprised to see little if any change in the AC output voltage as measured by the meter while adjusting the dimmer. The reason is that most modern light-dimmer circuits vary the duty cycle of the AC voltage, leaving the voltage intact. Just the amount of time the AC voltage reaches its peak is changed, thus reducing the energy available to light the bulb or heat your soldering iron. Plugging an incandescent lamp into it will reveal the varying power available. Because this process can sometimes produce some unwanted RF noise, many dimmers are now also equipped with built-in RFI filtering. If the RF is still an issue, there are other ways to deal with it as well.

### A Fun Project

The fun part of this little project is that it is not only a good beginner's project, it also can be assembled quickly, is very affordable and useful, and teaches the builder about the standards used in household electrical wiring.

As a group, the Midwest Home Brewers and QRP group built this helpful gadget at a recent meeting and this really makes for a great club project. The parts for the project are easily found at any hardware store, "big box" home improvement store, and many discount stores. You can spend more if you want to use different parts, but the result will be the same.

The first part of this project is a quad electrical box. It can be made of plastic or metal. Either kind has numerous holes that can be knocked out to allow the power cord into the box.

The second part is a plastic or metal faceplate. This needs to have a single switch hole on one side and standard duplex AC outlet holes on the other side to accommodate the two electrical parts, the dimmer switch and a standard duplex AC outlet. The outlets usually sell for as low as 39 cents, and the dimmers for about \$4, making this an affordable project indeed! The dimmer switch often comes with two or three wire nuts which will be used to tie together this whole project, as well as a knob or two if you want to choose the color. Choose a dimmer switch that is for a single-switch configuration, not a two-way. They also come in versions designed for places where you have more than one switch, but we won't be using those versions. In household wiring, connections are never made by soldering. They are made by twisting wires together inside a cone-shaped wire nut.

Finally, an electrical cord is needed, and so we turned to the three-prong common power cord used with most personal computers. Many people have a few of these cords lying around (never throw one away!), making them perfect for this application. I customarily cut off the computer end of the

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Here are the parts needed to build the soldering iron controller.

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*I've been using SN3 for about six weeks now. No processors or digital read-outs, but very easy to use and it puts out 1200 watts on most bands with no problem. I have been operating QSK as the internal relays are plenty fast enough. AD5X*

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### Inside the ALS-1300 Solid State Amplifier



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*The dimmer and the outlet with wires prepared.*

cord leaving the rest of the wire and the three-prong wall plug.

Carefully stripping the insulation from the outside of this cord reveals three colored wires. They are green, black, and white. In American house wiring, the green is the ground wire, the white is the AC neutral, and the black is the AC hot lead. The dimmer usually has a green wire as well as two black wires. The wall outlet has terminals for a green, white, and black wire. In addition, there is a quick modification you can make to the outlet to allow for an unswitched undimmed outlet to be available on your bench at the same time, a great convenience when building kits.

Assembling this project usually takes less than 30 minutes and utilizes a screwdriver, wire cutters, and strippers. If there is an electrician in your club, he can be of great help.

The first thing to do is to unpack all of the parts and then poke out a knockout hole in the outlet box. Often a stout screwdriver will do the trick. Then pass the cut end of the power cord through the hole into the box and pull enough cord through to give enough to work with. Strip the outer jacket of the power cord about 7 inches down and then cut the exposed wires to have a 4-inch piece of each wire plus 3 inches left on the cord. Then strip the insulation off each end of the 4-inch wires as well as the remaining 3-inch wires on the end of the cord, exposing about 1/2 inch of bare wire on all leads. Then wrap one end of the 4-inch green wire around the green screw on the outlet and tighten it. Take the green wires from the outlet, the dimmer, and the power cord and twist the three wires together and place a wire nut

over that and tighten it snugly. Now we have the grounds all connected.

Next take the white wire from the power cord and screw it onto the outlet terminal that has the silver screws. Take the black wire from the power cord and twist it together with one of the two black wires coming from the dimmer. Connect the other black dimmer wire to the outlet on the side that has the gold screws. Save the spare 4-inch black and white wires for a later modification that will give you a second outlet that is always on. Screw the dimmer and outlet into the box using the two screws attached to each one, and then place the switch cover plate over the dimmer and outlet

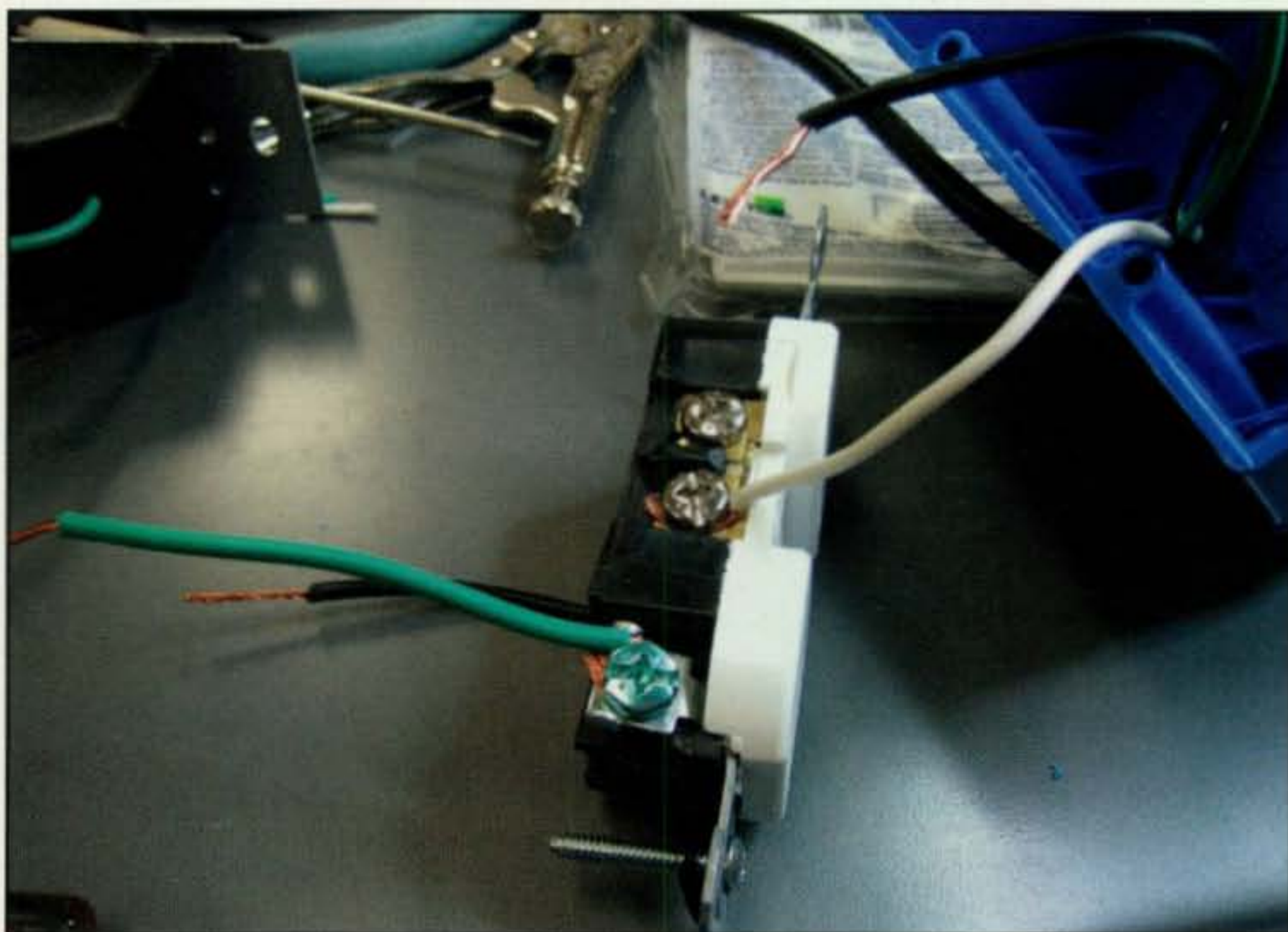
and attach it with the screws provided with the plate.

Part of the beauty of this project is that the extra parts, such as the screws and wire nuts, are already provided with the main parts. Be sure to double-check your wiring before placing the cover over your assembly. Also, some of the plastic outlet boxes have "dog ears" with nails so that the box can be attached to wall studs. Those can easily be removed with a hacksaw or rotary tool.

To use it is simple. Just plug in your assembled project and then plug your soldering iron into the wall outlet next to the dimmer and turn the dimmer up all the way to give it maximum power. Then, after your iron warms up, dial the dimmer down so that it does not overheat when not in use, and turn it up when soldering. Feel free to use a pencil or marker to put marks on the faceplate to show where your ideal dial positions are after trying it out. Be sure to keep your soldering-iron tip clean and enjoy your new adjustable soldering iron!

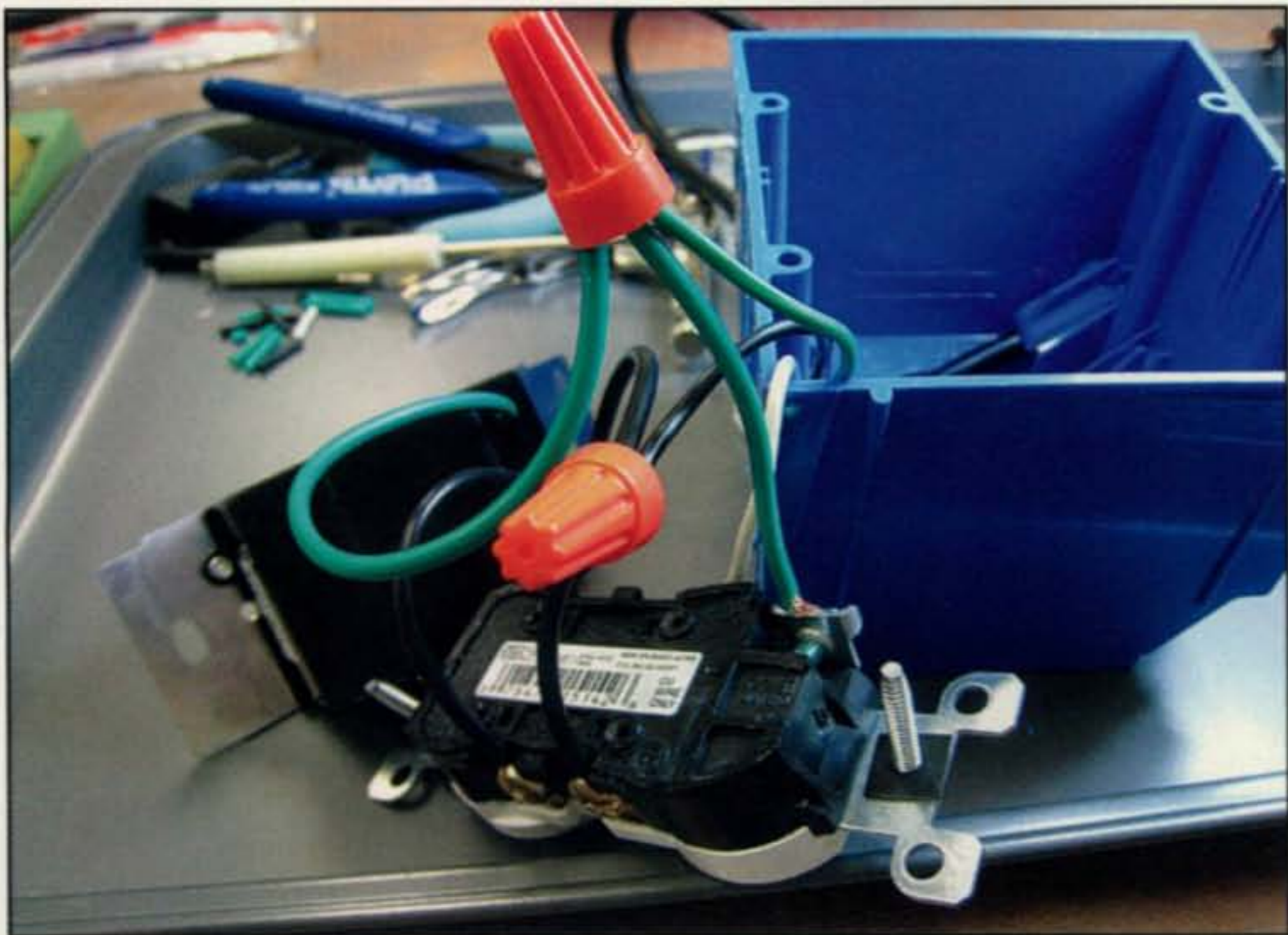
### A Modification

An easy modification to this useful device is to break the copper link between the two gold screws on the side of the outlet where you have attached the black wire. It usually breaks quite easily using pliers to bend it. This separates the hot side of the two outlets. Now attach one end of a 4-inch black wire to the unused screw terminal next to the one that already has the black



*Outlet with ground, neutral, and hot wires attached.*





*Dimmer and outlet completely wired to power cord using only two wire nuts and wired to allow for one unswitched outlet.*

wire. Then attach the other end of the 4-inch black wire to the wire nut connection that has the black wire that comes from the power cord and connects to one of the black dimmer wires, making a connection of three black wires in the wire nut. Now you have one outlet that is variable and another which is always hot at full power no matter the setting of the dimmer switch. This can be useful to connect test equipment, a desoldering tool, or the finished kit you

are working on if it requires AC power. Be sure to label your two outlets so you can remember which one is variable and which is always hot!

I want to thank Ray McNally, N5SEZ, for putting together the kits we used at our HBQRP meeting and for doing the legwork to put this nice project together for HBQRP and the 4-State QRP group. Until next time . . .

73 de Joe, KØNEB



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### 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**

- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed



radio not included

### 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**



### AT-600Pro

The AT-600Pro handles up to 600 watts SSB and CW, 300 on RTTY (1.8 – 30 MHz), and 250 watts on 54 MHz. Matches virtually any kind of coax-fed antenna and will typically match a 10:1 SWR down to 1.5:1 in just a few seconds. You can also use it with longwires, random wires and antennas fed with ladder line just by adding a balun. Two antenna ports with a front-panel indicator, and separate memory banks for each antenna. LED bargraph meters shows RF power, SWR and tuner status, tactile feedback control buttons and an LED bypass indicator. Operates from 11 – 16 volts DC at 750 mA. Includes Icom interface cable, DC power cable and coax jumper. **Suggested Price \$359.99**



### 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**



radio not included

### 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.**



### 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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- 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**



## 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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**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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## More on Ground Radials plus Log Periodics

This month the column might be used as evidence of ADD (attention deficit disorder) in this columnist, but we are going to be visiting a variety of topics.

The letter in the last column about ground radials brought up a whole new batch of comments and questions. First was the concept of a  $1/4$ -wave radial. A  $1/4$ -wave radial is a lot harder to determine than some of our readers seem to think. As an example, let's start with a  $1/4$ -wave radial at 7.1 MHz. Seems simple enough. At 7.1 MHz a radio wave is 299,792,458 meters/sec., or 7,100,000 cycles/sec., or 42.224 meters.

At this point I wish to apologize to any long-time readers. I hate taking math to this level and think anyone who published that their antenna elements should be measured to .0001 inch needs to have his or her scientific calculator taken away and whacked firmly over the head with a pocket slide rule! I had planned to get out there with my TDR (time domain reflectometer) and actually measure some ground radials, but I wimped out in the freezing weather. Heck, the dielectric constant of water changes from  $\epsilon_r = 80$  to  $\epsilon_r = 9$  when it freezes. How about that for an excuse?

So does my  $1/4$ -wave radial or antenna element need to be  $42.224/4$ , or 10.55 meters long? No! A thin wire has inductance, and this inductance along even a straight wire slows down the wave. This slowing down, or velocity factor of the wire, varies with the gauge of the wire, but is about 95%. If you have ever tried to work out the classic equation for a half-wave dipole using your high school physics

book, that  $468/\text{MHz}$  equation doesn't quite work out. That 95% fudge factor is already calculated in, and even the 468 is just an approximation.

The classic formula will get you close, but again, the gauge of the wire, insulation on the wire, and mounting height will change the final frequency. That's why we have SWR meters and can tweak the antenna for our favorite frequency.

However, now back to our 10.55-meter long,  $1/4$ -wave radial at 7.1 MHz.

At this point I want to apologize for the diagrams. The only program I had that would do a good job of looking at a buried radial as a transmission line is written in DOS and thinks it is outputting to a dot matrix printer.

Fig. 1 shows a network analyzer response for an elevated radial 10.55 meters long and 2 feet off the ground. It is a tuned radial with a nice resonance at 7.1 MHz.

In fig. 2, the radial is lying on top of the ground. Can you imagine a section of coax using dirt as the center insulator as shown in fig. 3? What are the conductivity, dielectric constant, and loss tangent of this coax separator? Also, the electrical properties of dirt vary wildly across the U.S. and even vary with the seasons. The dielectric properties of the dirt has changed the velocity factor of the wire from .95 to about .80, and the resonant frequency of the radial is now down near 6 MHz just by lowering the wire to the ground. Also note the width of the low SWR curve—quite a lot of bandwidth.

Here's why the idea of resonant buried radials really doesn't matter! In fig. 4, the radial is buried two inches underground. Now the velocity factor of this very dirty transmission line is about .6 and the same 10.55-meter radial is now sort of reso-

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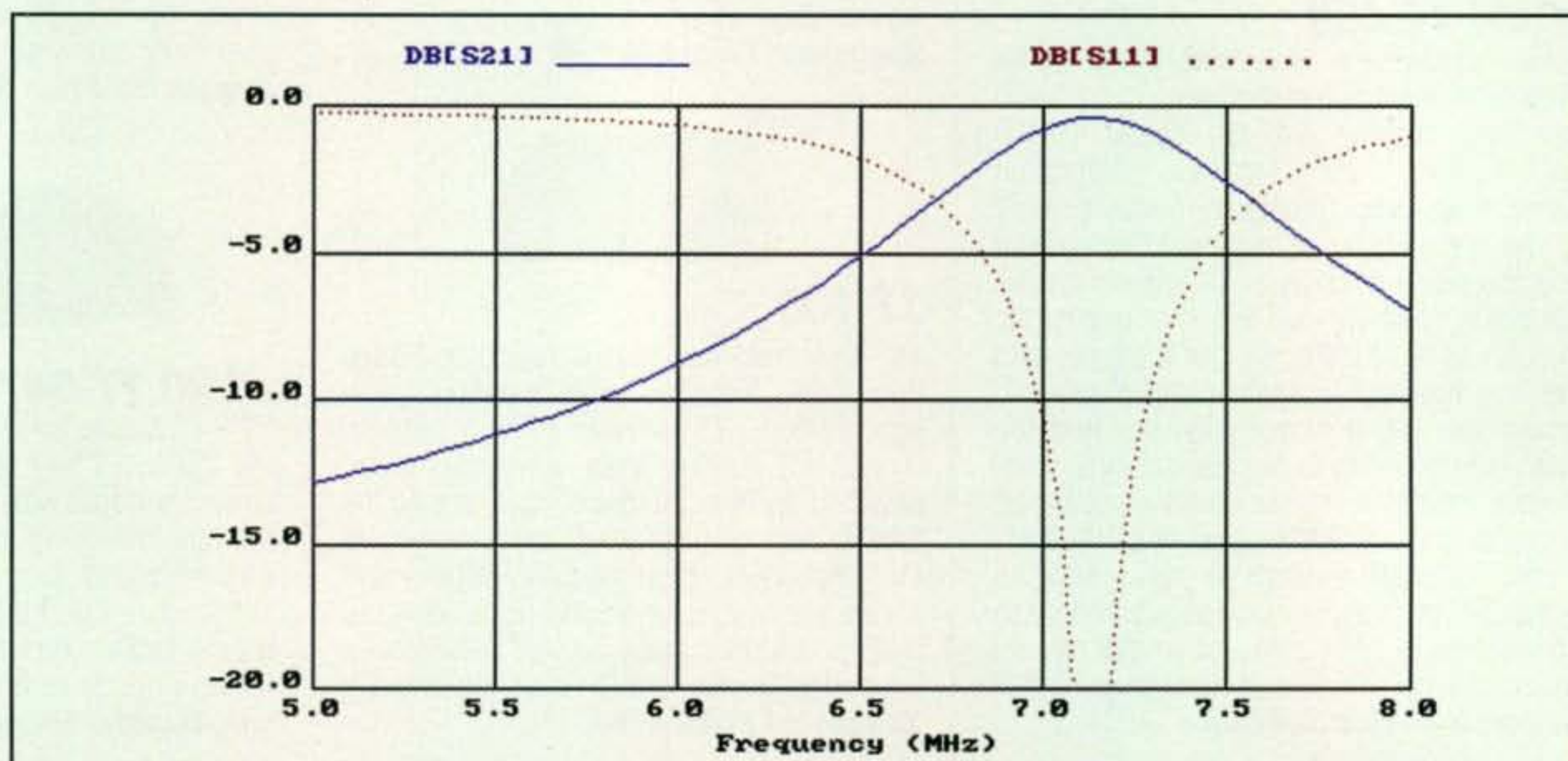


Fig. 1—Tuned radial response (for an elevated radial).

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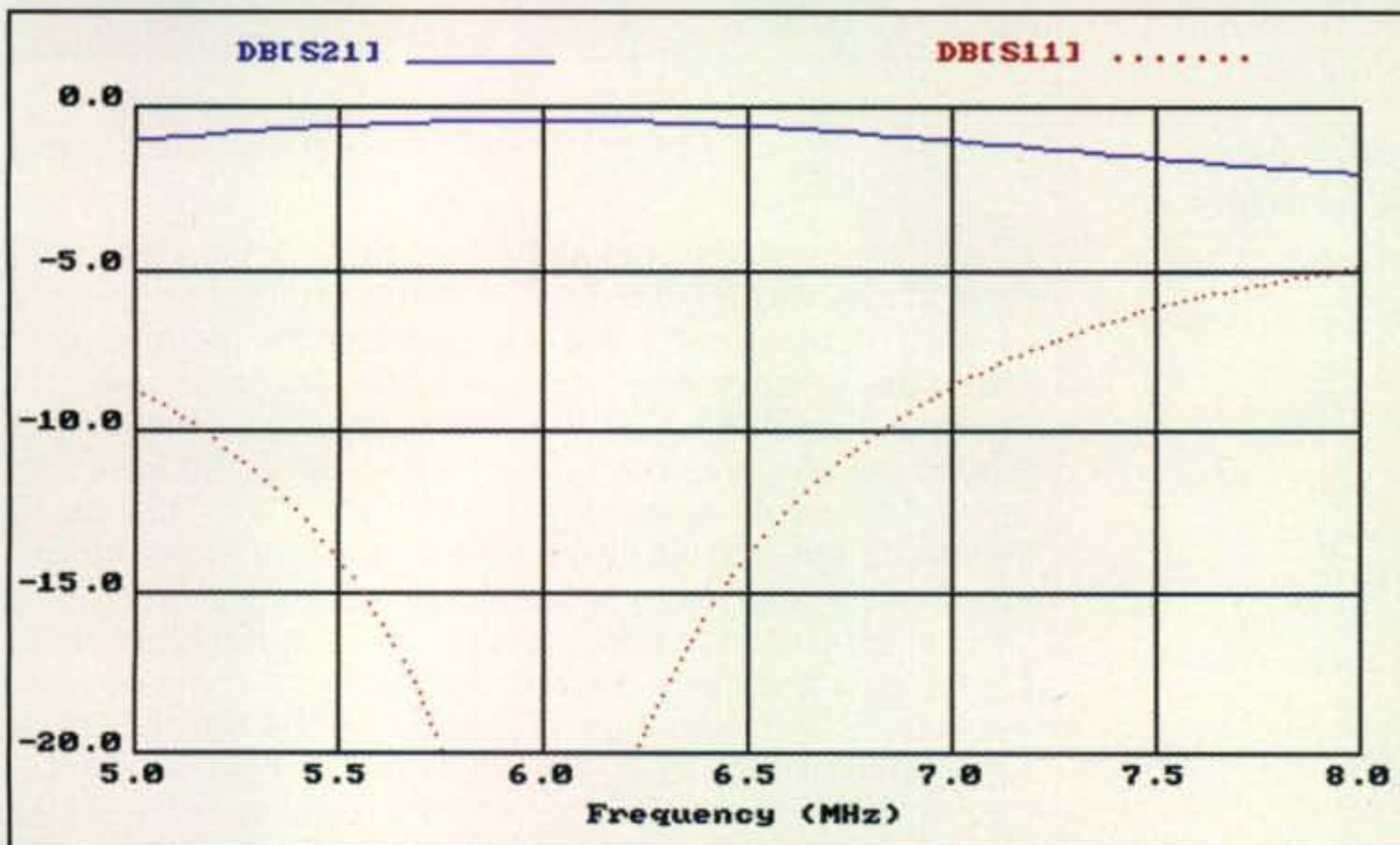


Fig. 2— Response of a ground radial on the dirt.

nant at 5 MHz. However, look at the resonance curve; there really just isn't any.

The radial is so lossy that it has no chance to build up a resonance. Like putting your 2-meter antenna at the end of 500 feet of RG-58, it always has a good SWR no matter what you do to the antenna.

In the AM broadcast community, I have never heard the idea of resonant

earth radials ever mentioned or tested for. At one AM station I worked for, we did have some water sprinklers out there and had been known to turn on the water until the antenna current meter came up to full power.

A modest number of buried radials close to 1/4-wave on the lowest band you plan to work will also work fine on all the higher bands. More radials are

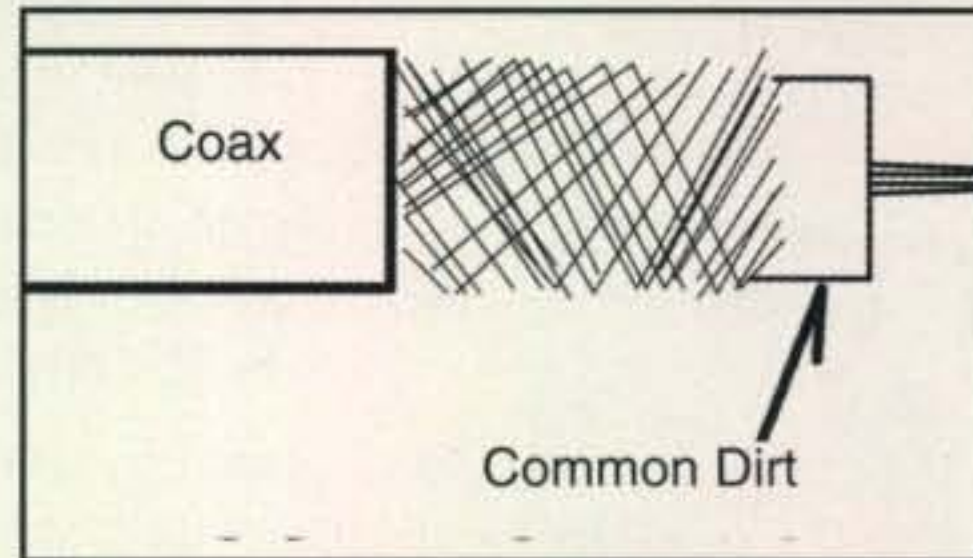


Fig. 3— Dirty coax.

better, longer is better, but their exact length is not important.

## Grounds and Resonant Frequency

Some years ago, I ran a 75-meter net and really got carried away adding radials to my vertical. I ended up with somewhere between 300 and 400 radials out there. Most were short, but at least two were 200 feet long. As I added more ground radials, I noticed that the SWR dip of the vertical would move down in frequency several kHz. Have others seen this as well?

## Metallic Ions

As ground wires age in the soil, there are two factors at work. First is the metallic ion migration from the wire into

the soil as shown in fig. 5. Over a period of years this migration improves the conductivity of the soil. At the same time, though, oxides form on the wire, reducing the conductivity between the wire and the soil. Most of my ground radials are insulated. Insulated wire works just fine.

There is a lot of capacitance between the wire and the soil, so RF-wise, the wires all are grounded. I do believe in having a few non-insulated wires just to give the vertical a good DC ground for static and lightning issues.

### Log Periodics and the 4-meter Band in Europe

I got a pretty good deal last week on a used 90–1500 MHz log-periodic antenna ... and a whole bunch of material for more columns.

With a log periodic, and a Yagi for that matter, the phase of the RF current reverses in each element as shown in fig. 6. It's not exactly 180 degrees, but close. How well this current and its phase are controlled in the elements is how modern computer programs can calculate gain and patterns. Adjusting these factors is how the gain or pattern of an antenna can be optimized.

In the antenna books, the connections between log-periodic elements often are drawn as shown in fig. 7 to make this phase reversal between elements very clear. While the back elements were correctly assembled on my "good deal" antenna, the front elements are shown in photo A. To put it politely, this antenna had never worked above 400 MHz or so. Well, it has "worked," but more as a bent coat hanger than a beam antenna. I mention this because I have seen this assembly

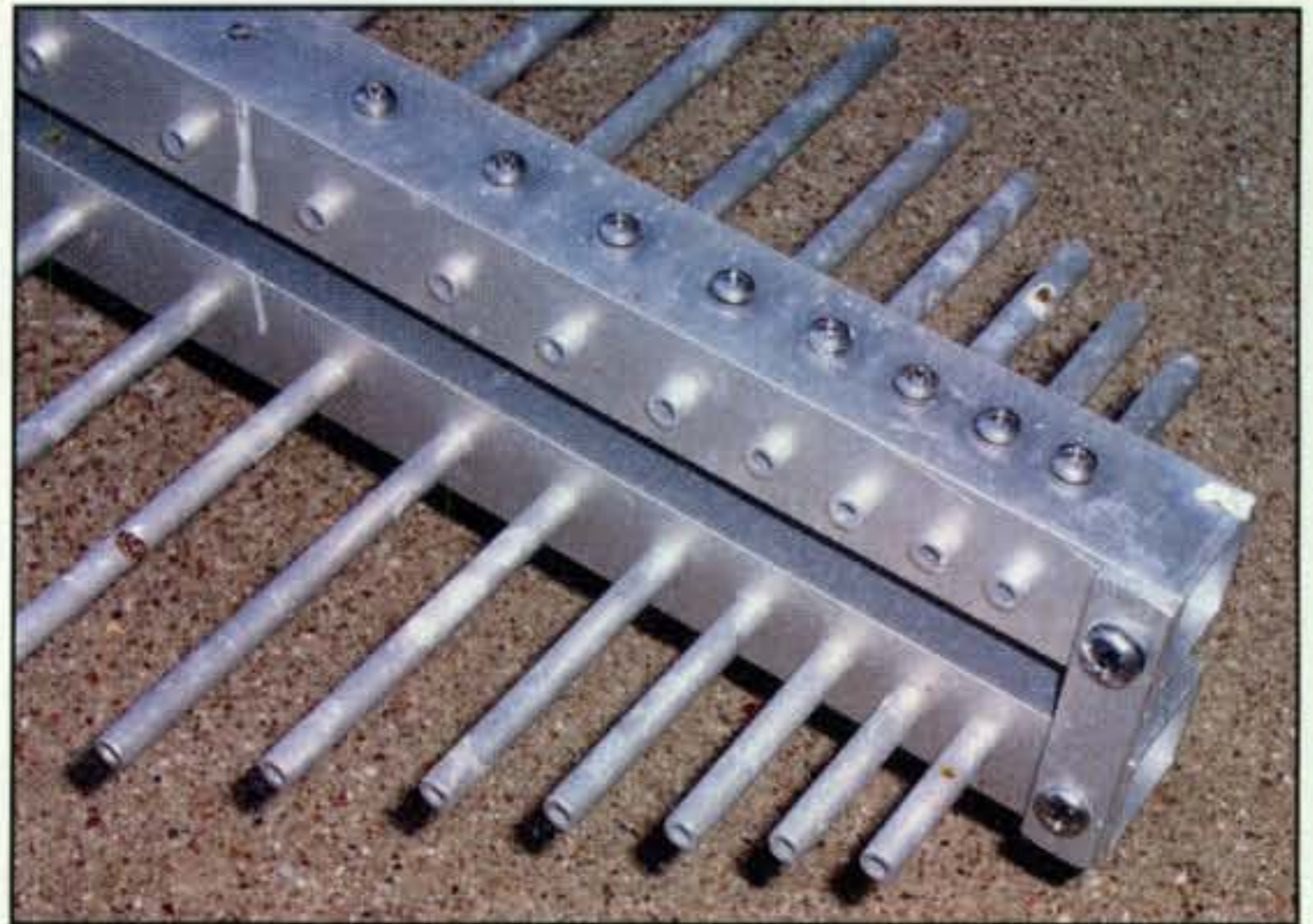


Photo A— "Good deal" log-periodic elements.



Photo B— Properly phased log-periodic elements.

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mistake several times before. For log periodics, the elements have to alternate phase, like the one in photo B.

While on the subject, with log periodics the center booms are a parallel transmission line, much like 300-ohm twin lead, but typically with a 100–120-ohm impedance. In this case, if the log periodic was being used at 146 MHz, the lower frequency elements between 200 MHz and 1500 MHz would look capacitive and the elements would bring the boom/transmission line down from 120 ohms to 50 ohms.

Now, my plan is to add a few elements to the back of this log periodic and move it down to 70 MHz for some possible 4-meter F-layer openings to Europe as the sunspot cycle picks up. Using my 2E0VAA call, I have worked 4 meters in the UK, but 2E0VAA/W5 on 70.1 MHz might raise a few eyebrows at the FCC—then again, maybe not. There is a big push to allow "unused" TV channels to become data services. These are known as "white spaces." Depending on how the FCC rules are written, it may be possible for hams to share TV Channel 4 in areas that do not have a TV Channel 4. This would be very similar to our shared use of the 902-, 2400-, and 5800-MHz bands with RFID, WiFi, and other data services.

I was involved in some early tests putting TV antennas inside laptop computers to pick up HDTV, and the results were very poor. The computers were jamming the TV signals, *but they pass FCC testing!* FCC compliance testing says that the emissions from the device will not unduly interfere

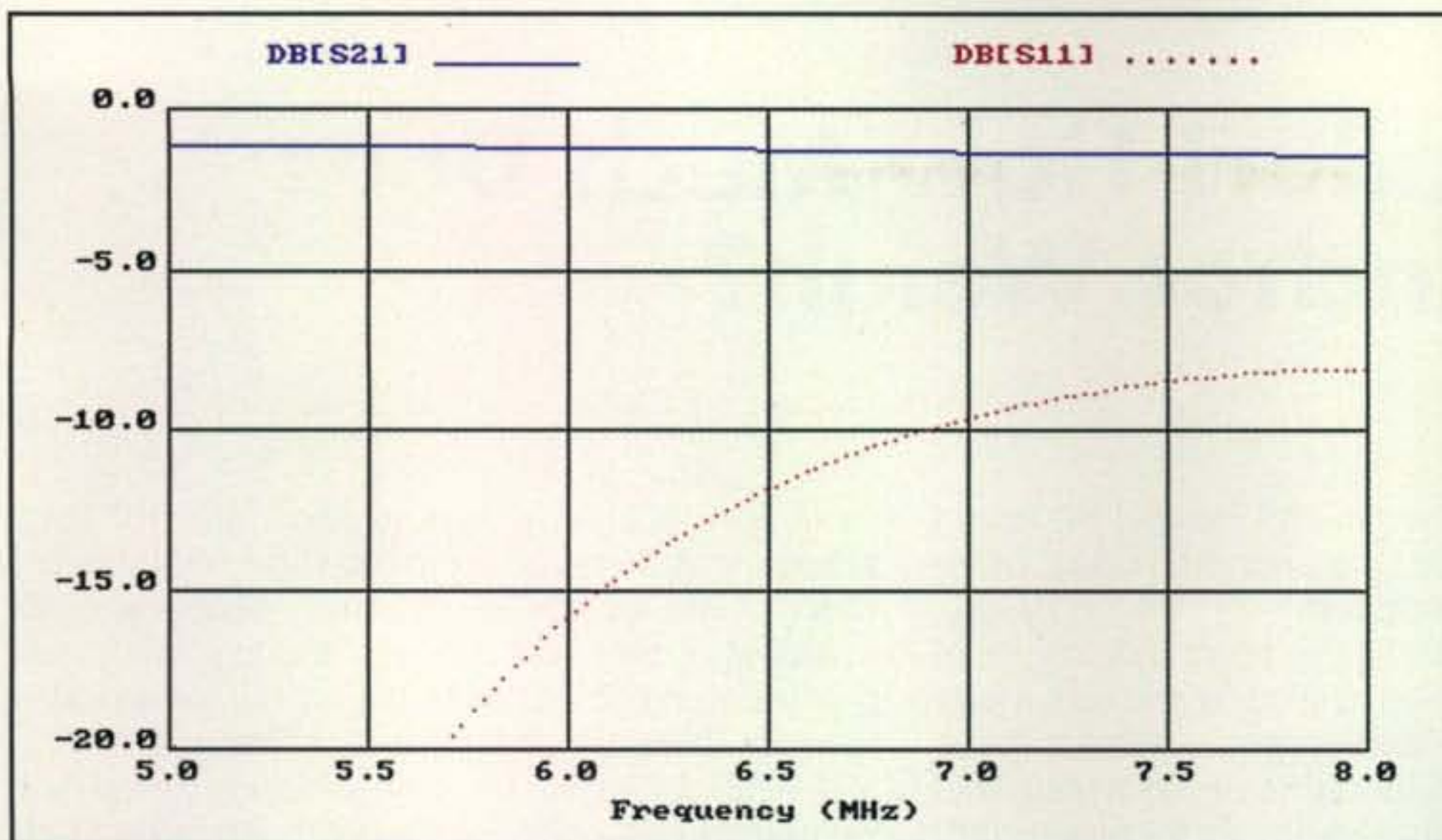


Fig. 4— Response of a buried ground radial.

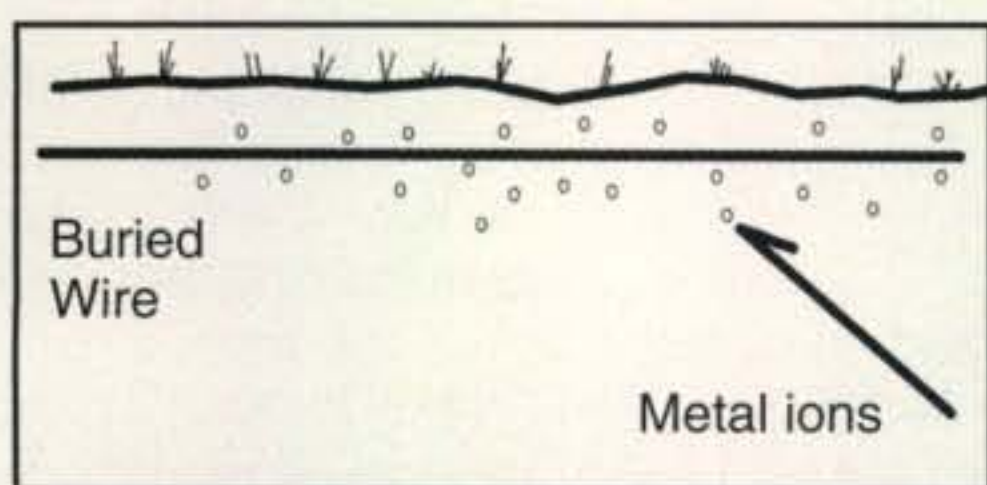


Fig. 5— Metallic-ion migration.

with a TV set 3 meters away. The problem is very different when the TV antenna is inside the computer.

You have lots of clock oscillators with spurs all over the place. However, the big culprit is the RAM memory, with billions and billions of little capacitors that are constantly being refreshed. The result is broadband white noise from 400 MHz to 1000 MHz.

In short, the laptop computers can't tell if there is a TV transmitter on that frequency or not. It looks like users will have to use a geographical lookup table with their white-space data services.

### Back to the Mailbag...

From Everett, we received a question about using an ohmmeter to find water in coax.

Yes, pure water is an insulator that does not conduct electricity, but it is very difficult to find water that pure in the world. Any time water comes in contact with air, it picks up a little bit of CO<sub>2</sub>. Now you have a weak solution of carbonic acid that will conduct electricity. If you have a coaxial cable with a solid extruded insulation, such as RG-8 or RG-58, there is very little conductivity between the shield and the center conductor, even when wet. The weak link is at the connectors, which is where the

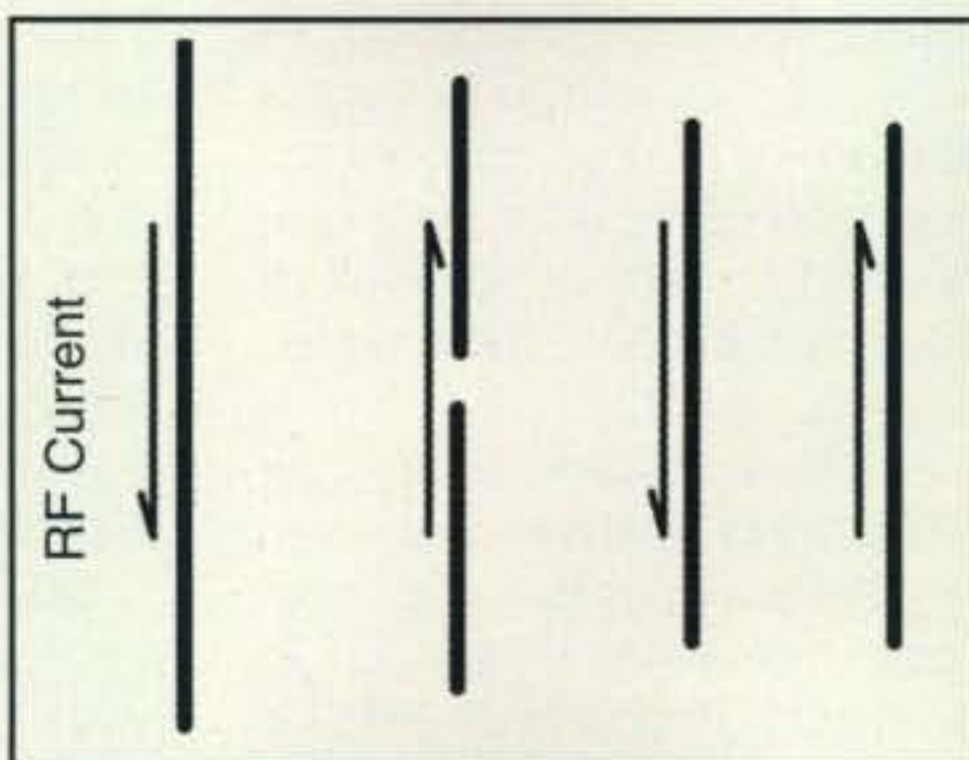


Fig. 6— Current phase-reversal in log periodic and Yagi elements.

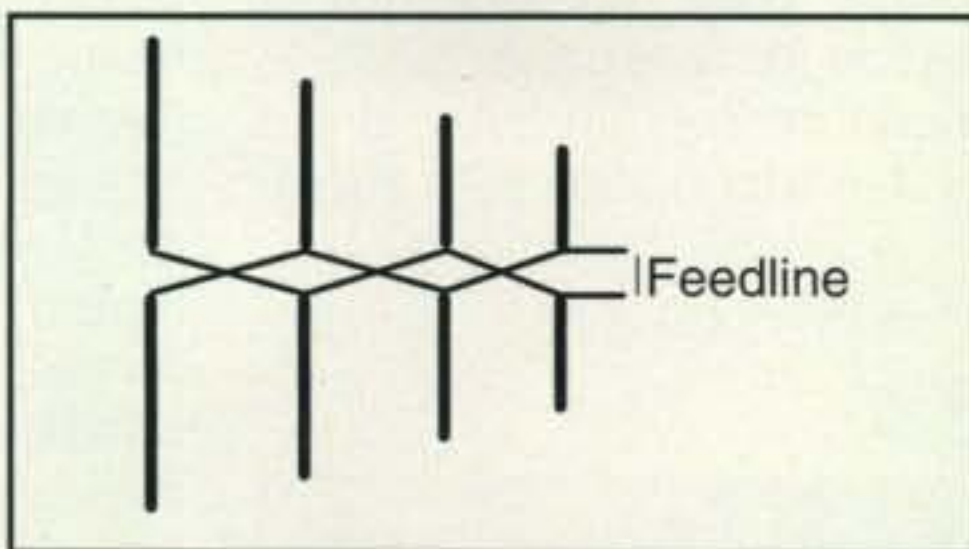


Fig. 7— Log-periodic elements.

water can get between two metallic conductors. That weak solution of acid will show conductivity with an ohmmeter.

As always we welcome your questions and topic suggestions. Just drop a snail mail to my QRZ.com address or an e-mail to <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com>. As for that loading-coil suggestion from California, it looks like we will need to wait until room-temperature superconducting wire is available. For other antenna articles and projects you are welcome to visit <www.wa5vjb.com>.

73, Kent, WA5VJB

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## Hey, Sailor! How Much Does Your Anchor Weigh?

**A**h, a nautical theme, eh? Hardly! Welcome to the world of *boatanchors* (BAs), more accurately described as *really* heavy, tube-type radio gear. That's right; this series of columns will cover the mystical world and allure of antique communications gear. I actually have been having second thoughts about writing this column. After all, who wants to receive death threats from a radio aficionado's mate! Seriously, what we are about to embark upon is a boatanchor restoration project (actually several BA restorations), and while it is fun, let me forewarn you that collecting, restoring, and using boatanchors can be extremely addictive, ultimately culminating in a garage or basement (attic?) full of old, rusty radios awaiting restoration. It happens. . . . Don't say I didn't warn you!

Over the last 15 to 20 years there has been an upsurge in collecting, restoring, and using antique radio gear from the bygone era of early radio communications. What cost hundreds of dollars in 1963 can be found for mere pennies on the dollar today. As hams upgrade their equipment, the older vacuum-tube or early transistor pieces of radio gear many times find their way to hamfest flea-markets or to internet auction houses. Today it is possible to gather the gear to replicate a 1950s–60s Novice station for well under \$200!

Many of us “old pharts” who have been in the hobby for a long time have a love affair with equip-

ment from our early days in ham radio/SWLing. When I was first starting in the radio hobby until I was well into my 40s, discretionary income was not available at the Arland household to allow me to procure some of the “treasures” of my radio past—the gear that I lusted for but could never afford.

In 1963, the year I became a Novice class ham, we ham radio newbies were relegated to very narrow slices of 80, 40, and 15 meters, and 2 meters. Our gear could not generate more than 75 watts of input power and had to be crystal (xtal) controlled plus CW only on HF and CW/AM phone on 2 meters. Commercial equipment manufacturers such as E.F. Johnson, Heathkit, World Radio Labs, Eico, etc., offered several transmitters that fit the bill and, of course, receivers galore.

Being a frugal (read that “broke”) young lad of 16, I started out with a borrowed BC-453 (ARC-5 Command Set) receiver loaned to me by Mel Sims, W7CIS, one of the local Elmers in my home town of Palouse, Washington. The BC-453 was a military aircraft receiver that was powered by a dynamotor (to get high voltages for the vacuum tubes) from a DC input. A dynamotor was basically a motor/generator device that took a 12- or 24-VDC input and provided several hundred volts of DC on the output to power the vacuum tubes inside the ARC-5 receiver. There is a certain tantalizing ambiance regarding the sound of dynamotors spinning and CW spilling from the speaker of a BC-453. Mom didn't think radios should have motors . . . little did she know! This 80-meter ARC-5 receiver gave way to a Heathkit HR-10 ham-bands-only receiver, which I built during Christmas break in 1963. The HR-10 was my first real communications receiver and I was really proud of it. After all, I'd built it myself!

I don't know what happened to my original HR-10. I went off to college after high school and then on to the USAF for 20 years, so the original rig got lost. However, I had the good fortune to find one in very good shape on a table at a ham radio flea-market about 15 years ago. The price, \$30, was right, so the old gal came home with me to a place of honor inside my shack!

Before we get into the actual restoration of this rig, let's go over some of the basics fundamentals of receivers. After all, that is what this column is all about—learning about the radio hobby. First, a little history:

A 24-year-old Columbia University undergrad by the name of Ed was the first person to take the Lee DeForest Audion tube and make it do something useful. Although DeForest “invented” the triode tube in 1906, he had really no idea what to

\*770 William St. SE, Dacula, GA 30019  
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*The Heathkit HR-10 is a nice-looking receiver and, for the time, a good value for the money. This single-conversion superhet was a mainstay for Novice class operators in the mid 1960s.*



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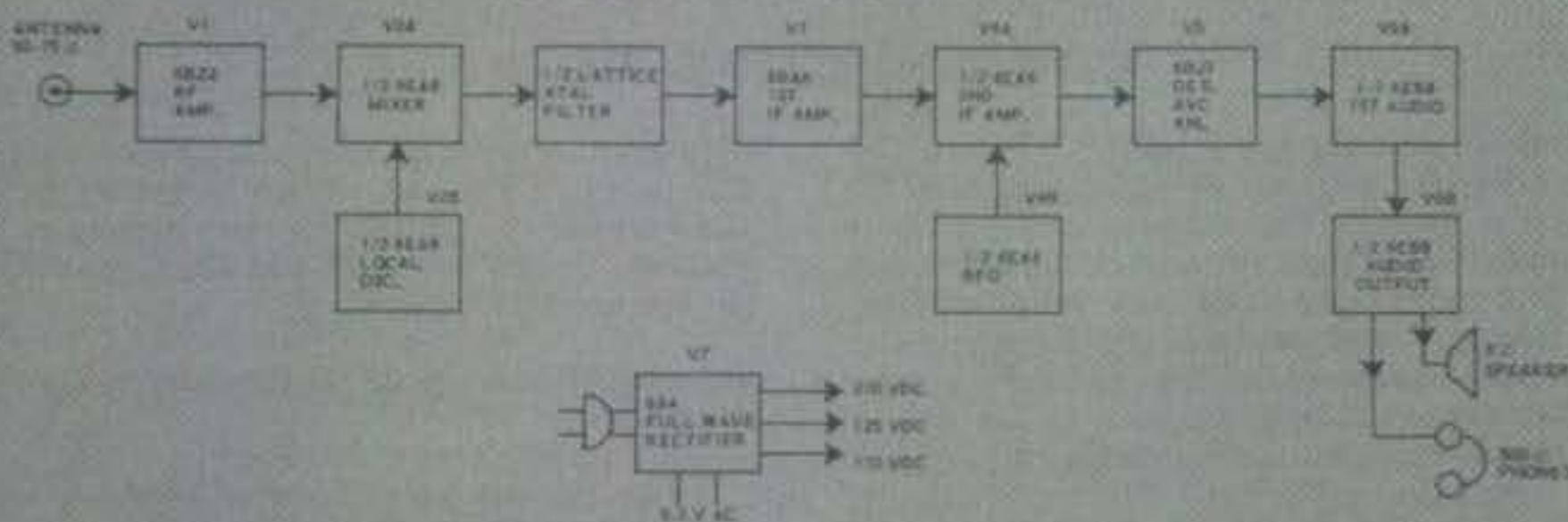
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Receiver features a signal strength "S" meter, a front panel dial calibration control operates in conjunction with the 100 kc crystal calibrator provisions, a tuned RF ampli-

Refer to the "Kit Builders Guide" for complete information on unpacking, parts identification, tools, wiring, soldering, and step-by-step assembly procedures.

### CIRCUIT DESCRIPTION



assist you in understanding the following circuit Description, we suggest that you refer frequently to the Schematic and Block Diagrams. As the BAND switch is quite complex, its circuit will be discussed with the switch in the 80 meter position.

#### AMPLIFIER - MIXER OSCILLATOR

coils and capacitors are used in conjunction with V2B in the oscillator circuit. These coils and capacitors, including the MAIN TUNING capacitor, are used to set the oscillator frequency 1681 kc higher than the desired radio station frequency. The difference frequency of 1681 kc is called the intermediate frequency or IF signal.

When the Receiver is used on 10 and 15 meters.

The block diagram of the HR-10 receiver. Go to the text for a brief description of each stage.

use it for. Enter Ed; one of the founding fathers of modern radio. The young college student had his "lab" set up in his bedroom, and one evening while experimenting with the Audion triode, he managed to stumble upon a feedback

circuit that took power from the output of the tube and fed it back in phase into the input of the tube, which made the tube oscillate! This increased the gain of the tube by several thousand times and became the basis for the regener-

ative receiver. Here you have a kid, working in his bedroom, making a discovery that ranks right up there with that of the wheel! As he grew older, Ed continued to experiment and gave us the following: the regenerative receiver (1914), the super-regenerative receiver (1922), mixers, superheterodyne receivers (1918), and the real biggie: *frequency modulation* (1933)! Ed's full name was Edwin Howard Armstrong (1890-1954), Major, U.S. Army. Ed worked with David Sarnoff, President of RCA, over the intervening years and produced many valuable patents for that company while simultaneously advancing the state of electronic communications.

We owe a lot to Ed. Even today, virtually every receiver in use from the lowly AM/FM unit in your automobile to satellite and microwave receivers is most certainly a superheterodyne (superhet) receiver. Talk about a lasting legacy.

### Superhet Receiver Stages

Before we delve into the lexicon of terms regarding receivers, we need to list the various receiver stages and describe how they work together. There are at least five major receiver stages in a

superhet radio: a radio frequency (RF) stage, mixer/IF stage(s), local oscillator (LO) stage(s), demodulator stage, and finally an audio frequency (AF) stage. If the receiver is a communications receiver, then there is another stage added: a beat frequency oscillator (BFO) stage. We will examine each of these receiver building blocks as we proceed.

## Superhet Stages and What They Do

Radio signals from the antenna are fed via the coaxial cable or feed line into the first receiver stage; the RF amplifier. The RF stage is tuned to the desired input signal and does a couple of things: It amplifies the desired signals and it rejects the ones you don't want to hear. Keeping this stage as a low-noise stage is critical, since noise injected by the RF amp itself will be amplified all along the mixer/IF chain and ultimately by the audio (AF) amp. Low noise: good. High noise: bad! Your main tuning dial is directly connected to the RF stage. Twirl the dial and you change the input frequency to which the RF amp is tuned.

The output of the RF stage is fed into the first mixer stage. Mixers are just that—a stage, be it a vacuum tube, transistor, FET, diode-ring, or integrated circuit (IC), that takes two signals, combines them, and produces an output. The second signal, in this case, is generated by the radio's local oscillator circuit specifically to mix with the incoming RF signal. The really neat thing is that the output consists of the original two input signals and the sum and difference of these two signals. It is very important to remember at this point that all four of these output signals are identical to the original RF input signal; it's just that they are at different frequencies. By careful filtering (crystal, ceramic, or software-defined) you can pick the output you want and amplify it in the IF chain. This is the basis of every superhet receiver in existence.

IF stages can easily be lumped in with the mixer stage since the two are an integral part of the receiving system. The IF amplifiers are designed for medium to high gain at a given frequency and are very linear (the output is exactly like the input signal).

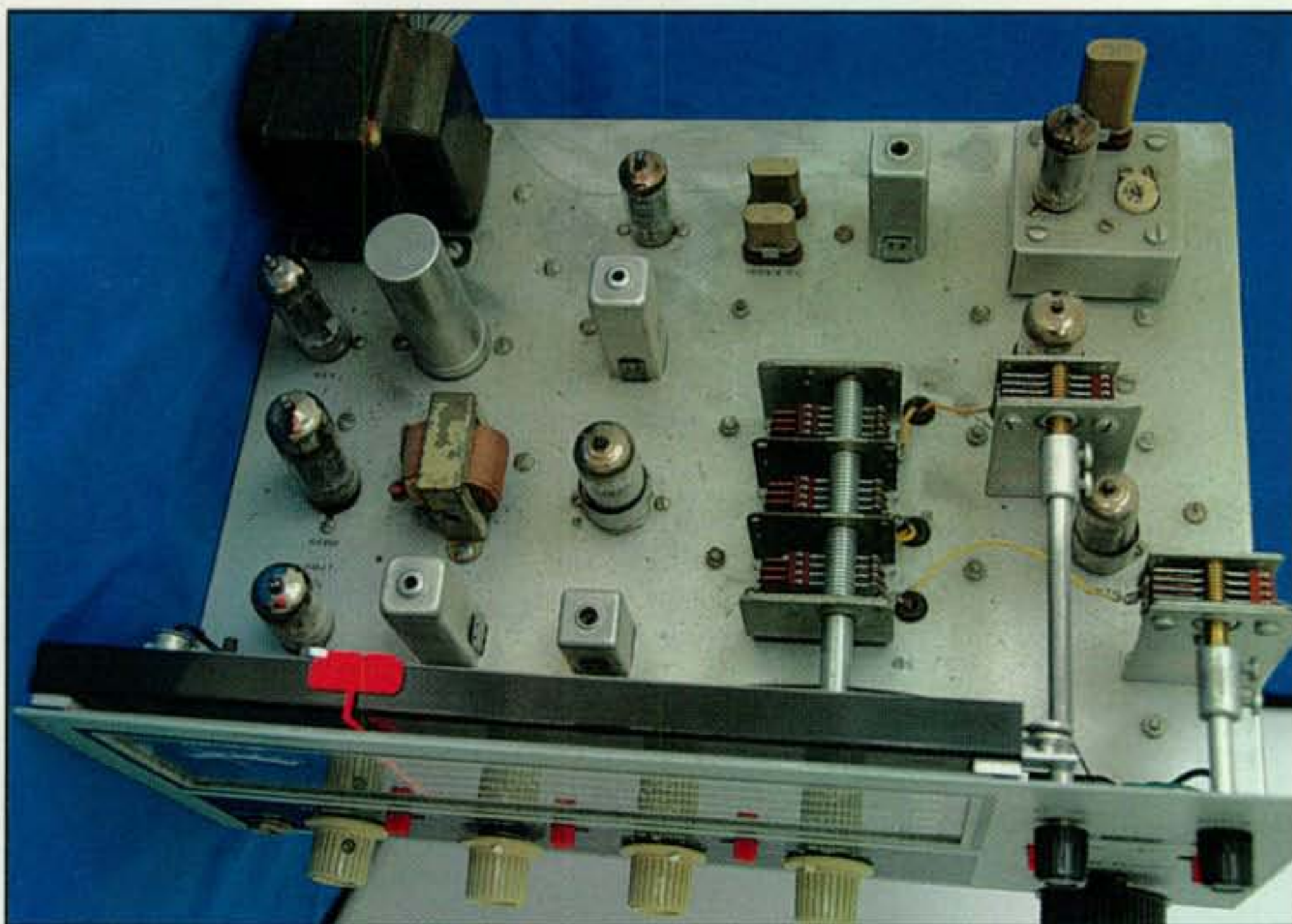
If a receiver has a single mixer it is termed a *single-conversion* superhet, like what is found in the simple all-American five-tube AM radios of the 1940s and '50s along with the low-end entry-level communications receivers on the market in the mid '60s.

If the receiver has two stages of mix-

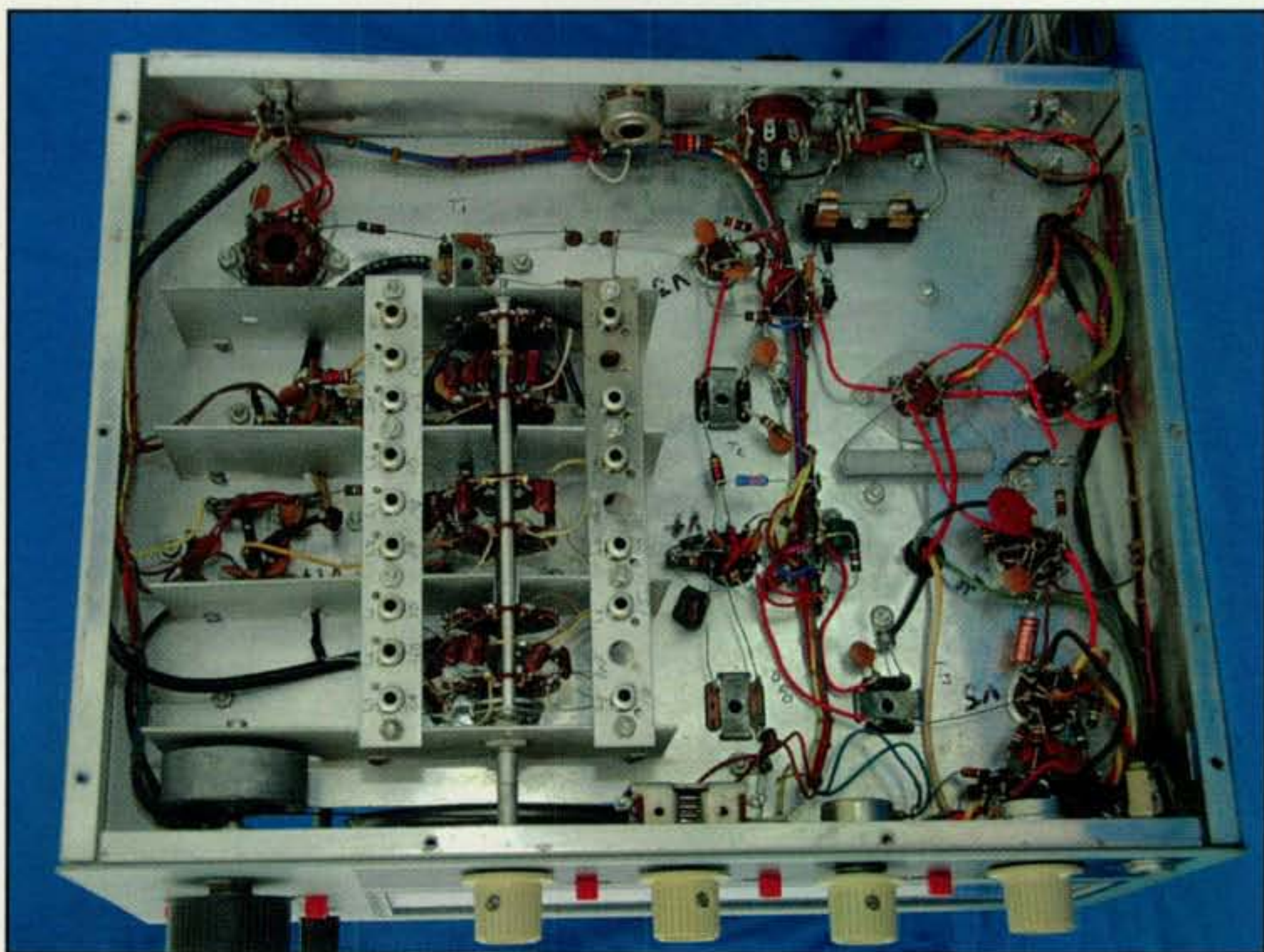
ers and IF amplifiers, it is then called a *dual-conversion* superhet. Add a third mixing/IF stage and you have a *triple-conversion* receiver. Most of the good receivers on today's market are dual- or triple-conversion units specifically designed to keep the mixing schemes out of the target passband of the receiver. This can sometimes be a lot more difficult than it sounds.

From here the amplified output of the IF stage is fed into the demodulator

stage where the information (intelligence?) is retrieved. It is here, also, that the BFO injection is added to receive CW and SSB signals. Since the same intelligence exists on the original RF input signal and the down (or up-converted) IF signal, it is a rather simple process to remove this intelligence so we can understand what is being transmitted. The demod circuitry can be something as simple as a single diode and as complicated as a quadrature



The topside of the HR-10 chassis is uncluttered and well laid out. This receiver is a pleasure to work on.



The underside of the HR-10 shows a clean chassis with a lot of space for modifications and additions.

detector used in FM (yes, superhet receivers are also used in FM modes). Once the demodulation process is done, what is left is audio.

From the output of the demod, the audio signal is fed into the AF amplifier where it is increased to sufficient volume to drive a speaker or headphones. The AF amps are designed for linear operation so minimal distortion is present in the recovered signal.

See, that wasn't too hard to understand, now, was it? Receivers are at the heart of the radio hobby. Designing a good one is complicated. Designing a really good one is very complicated. All these "mixing products" (the signals at the output of each mixer in a receiver) have to be carefully chosen so as not to inject an interfering signal onto the desired band you want to use. So there you have it, the down and dirty on how a superhet works.

There are a number of good texts around on the subject of superhet receivers, so don't be shy, dig in and learn something! Now, on with our Heathkit HR-10 restoration.

### The HR-10 Saga Continues

My newly acquired HR-10 was in good cosmetic shape. All the knobs were original, the switches all worked, the radio had the coveted optional 100-kc (kHz) crystal calibrator, the dial cord was still properly strung, and the dial pointer moved freely. All the tubes checked good except one, and I had a replacement on hand from a previous vacuum-tube project.

A good overall cleanup was followed by disassembling the entire receiver, pulling all the tubes, removing the knobs, etc. Once fully cleaned (I use a wash of Simple Green and water, which works in about 90% of the cases), it was time to start putting things back together. However, before reassembly, I wanted to do a visual inspection of the underside of the chassis, paying particular attention to bad/poor solder connections, any discolored components, especially resistors, and any bulging electrolytic capacitors, burnt wiring, etc. Often a simple visual inspection using a magnifying glass and a high-intensity lamp can reveal problems that wouldn't be apparent until you powered up the rig. Now is the time to find these anomalies, *not after* you see sparks flying when you flip the switch to the "ON" position!

### Carbon Dating, Anyone?

This vintage receiver used carbon-composition resistors which are notori-

ous for going out of tolerance over time. While carbon-comps were the industry standard 50 years ago, they have been virtually eliminated by the carbon-film resistors we use today. This HR-10 was no different, and I ended up replacing several suspect resistors.

To further elaborate on this point, a few years ago I had a Hallicrafters SX-71 SW/ham bands receiver on my bench. The SX-71 was a favorite of mine from the SW radio heyday of the 1950s, and this one had seen some hard use over the years. While the SX-

71 was working, it was not working well.

In checking the old carbon-composition resistors with a digital multi-meter, I noticed that fully 95% of them were way out of tolerance! This necessitated removing each offending resistor and installing a new carbon-film resistor in its place. As you can imagine, this took quite a while, but when I fired up the receiver and put it on the HP test generator, the alignment was almost perfect without touching a single adjustment! That is what a little work can do. I was totally amazed at how accurate

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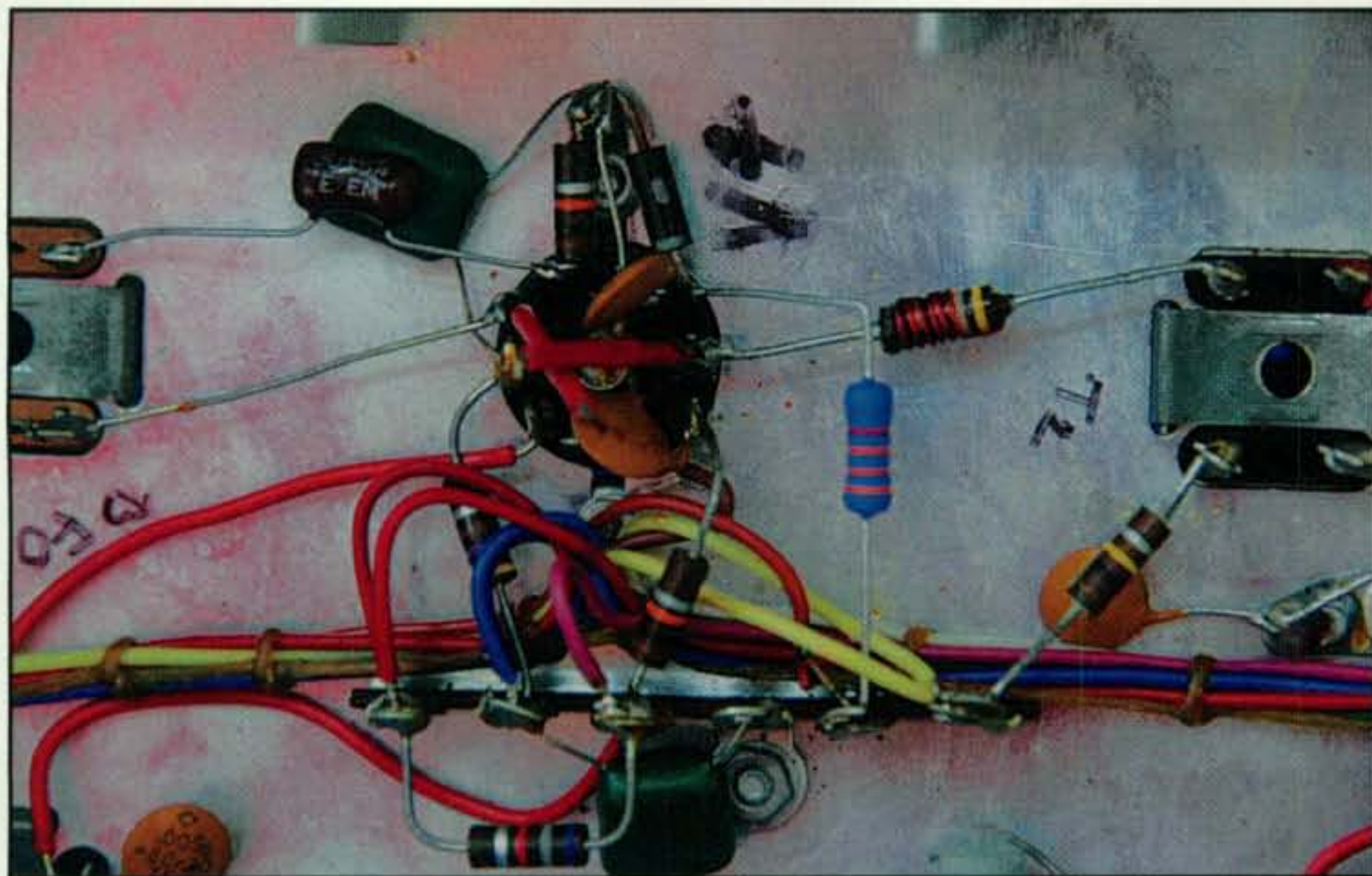
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The underside of tube V4 shows the Zener diode in place to regulate the B+ voltage.

the 60-year-old SX-71 dial was without any alignment. I love it when a plan comes together!

The HR-10, being a low-end, entry-level radio, suffered from some "warts." Then, as now, there is always a trade-off—performance vs. cost. One of the biggest problems was tuning in a

CW/SSB signal accurately without the receiver "blocking" or "pulling" (moving off frequency). Since these old tube rigs are prone to drifting, a little preventive maintenance was in order. I ordered some Zener diodes (these are voltage-stabilization devices) and soldered them into the HV PSU (high-voltage

power-supply unit) B+ line to ground to keep the plate and screen voltages from varying and causing the receiver to drift. In my instance I used a 125V/5W Zener to stabilize the B+ line. A 30V/5W Zener was soldered from the cathode (pin 1) of V4 (IF amp/BFO) to ground. In addition, R39 (the BFO plate load resistor) was changed to a 33K-ohm/1W resistor which tamed the BFO circuitry. This worked great! All these remedies, by the way, are well-documented on this particular radio and are available in an internet search. The improvement in performance was quite noticeable. Another trick to improved CW and SSB performance is to turn off the automatic volume control (AVC) or automatic gain control (AGC) and back down the RF gain control from maximum to about 3/4 scale. This prevents strong incoming CW/SSB signals from pulling the receiver off frequency. It also makes listening to CW and SSB signals a lot easier.

You'll lose the S-meter reading, but who cares? You can "guestimate" the received signal for the other station's RST report without consulting your S-meter. Setting the audio (AF) gain control and using the RF gain control to actually control the volume of the receiver is another old-timer trick from the days before stable BFOs and product detectors.

The BFO should be very stable, but some of the early low-end radios were plagued by low BFO injection voltage, and the Heathkit HR-10 is no exception. Increasing the injection of the BFO in order to properly demodulate the CW/SSB signals can be done a number of ways, but the most expedient is to tack-solder a small, 3pF-to-10pF disc ceramic capacitor from the output of the BFO to the input of the final IF amplifier stage (between pins 2 and 9 of V4 on the HR-10). This will ensure that enough BFO signal is present to properly demodulate the target signal. Selecting the value of this small capacitor is done via trial-and-error, so you might end up with a larger value than I used in some cases. All that really matters is that there is ample BFO injection voltage available to do the job of demodulating the CW/SSB intelligence.

That is a wrap for this time, gang. Next month we will take an in-depth look at the Heathkit HR-10 ham bands receiver circa 1963 and provide some tips on restoring it or any other vintage boatanchor receiver.

Vy 73, Rich, K7SZ

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If it wasn't for our mutual intolerance for each other, Stan, your ham radio hobby would never have worked out.

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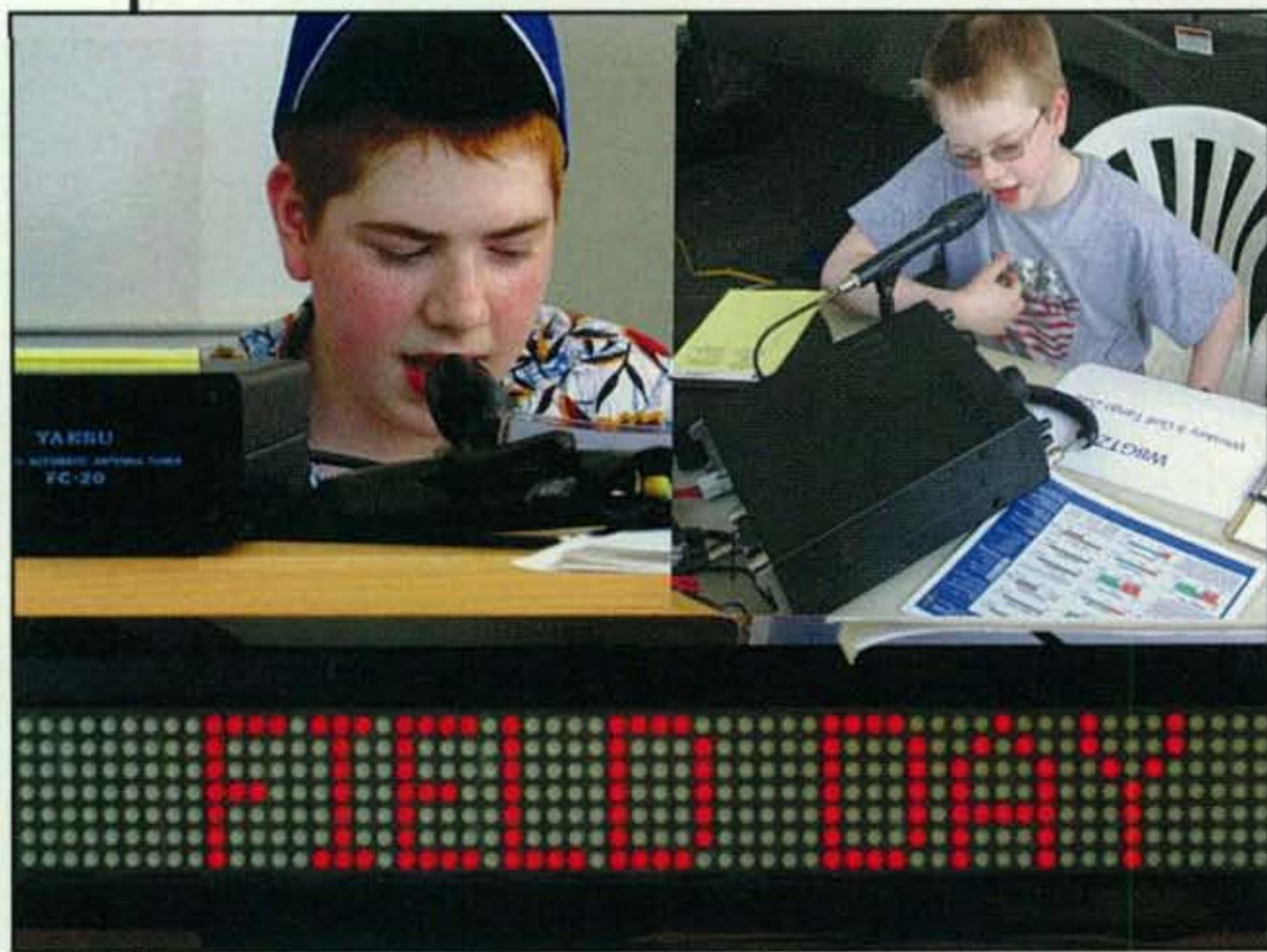
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## Introducing the WK1RK Kids Club

To kick off the first “Kids’ Korner” column of 2011, I thought I’d take a look at a different kind of amateur radio club. In the past, I’ve looked into various clubs—scouting clubs, kids’ clubs that reach internationally, and clubs that are prospering and growing in membership. However, I thought it would be interesting to look at how a club, especially a kids’ club, grows into being many members strong and well-known, such as the YACHT Club. The WK1RK Kids Club is only three months old. For a club in its earliest stages, I was really taken by surprise at the great ideas that they have.

Phillip Nichols, N8AYE, an experienced and devoted amateur radio operator, is the founder of the WK1RK club. Phillip, being introduced to radio by a friend of his when he was young but not taking interest, didn’t get his start in radio until he had his first child. He had always been interested in radio and computers, too, but didn’t get the drive to get his license until that time. He set out to get his Tech Plus, which led to his General, to his Advanced, and with the inspiration of his son, he got his Extra as well. Not only is Phillip licensed, but his four kids are, too! It is immediately apparent how he got them all interested: Ham radio has been present for his enjoyment right when he needs it!

\*c/o CQ magazine



The two youngest Nichols boys, 14-year-old Joseph, KD8NYC (left), and 11-year-old Michael, KD8OEV (right), operating Field Day last June.

“Well, in the winter of 1996 when my second son was born, we needed extra income,” Phillip explained. “I had already spent years working at a dealership as a mechanic and driver, and later on a CDL (commercial driver’s license) allowed me to drive a school bus. I like driving for relaxation and entertainment. I got a temporary job driving for a transport company until my main job resumed. I had a Yaesu FT-11 and a mag-mount antenna. These went with me from Detroit to Lansing to Ypsilanti—five days a week. I set up a string of repeaters and passed away the hours making friends. It made those hours of constant driving in winter wonderland enjoyable!”

“My favorite was once in the summer of 1996 (before the previous story) when two friends from church invited me to the Michigan International Speedway for some major event. My oldest son Joshua (now KD8GOF) was with me. He was five years old and thought cars were just cool! I had no cell phone in those days (most of us did not) and so my HT plus phone patch was my casual and emergency communication. I enjoyed my radio for scanning as well as communication. I always have a string of public-safety frequencies in memory and added racing as well on this day. I have not been a Scout in a long time, but “Be Prepared” is just in my nature! I programmed repeaters along the way and brought a repeater directory in the shoulder bag with all those goodies required by a 5-year-old on a day trip. Good thing, because my friends got *lost!* (Not that they would admit it. They knew where *they* were but not where the speedway was.) APRS would have been handy. I reached out with the mag mount and called the local repeater. Someone answered my call and gave great directions to the speedway, and we had a good time of it there.”

Not only has Phillip formed his own ham family, but his four kids—Joshua, KD8GOF (18); Joseph, KD8NYC (14); Michael, KD8OEV (12); and Kathleen, KD8OTM (10)—have helped to form the WK1RK Kids Club. They had been talking to their local club and on local repeaters with parents who began to wish that their own children enjoyed radio as much as Phillip’s children did. They decided that a kids’ net would really help to generate interest in local kids, and a kids’ club would do even better! With the right kind of support, they could start getting all kinds of young people interested in radio. Phillip began to form the WK1RK Kids Club the traditional way, by writing a mission statement, and later asking anyone and everyone for donations and spreading the news about the club and the nets. He finds that it is a challenge getting people on board so far, but is still hopeful.

“I spent many quarters at arcades while they last-

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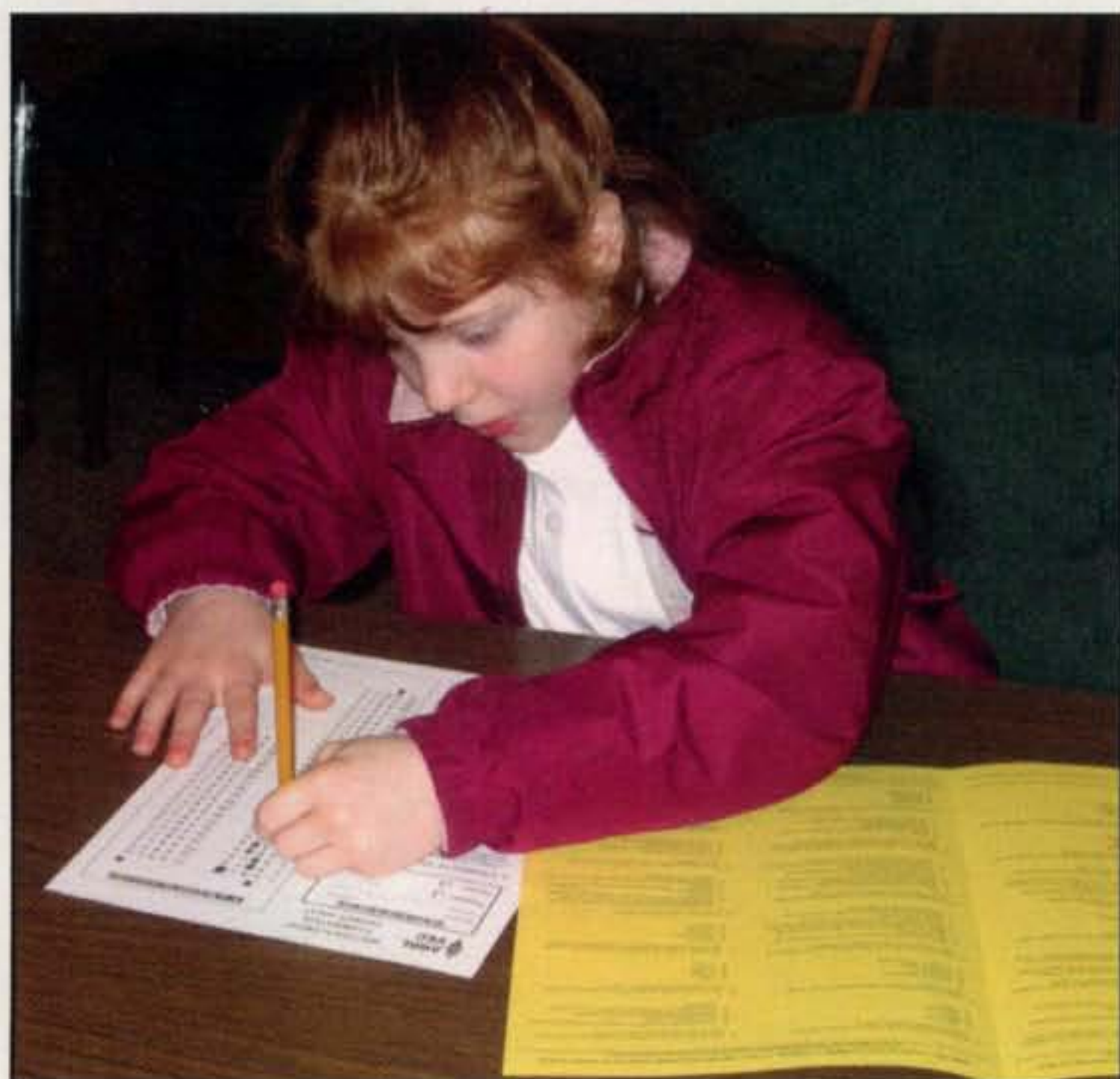
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Phillip Nichols' daughter Kathleen, then age 9, taking her Technician exam last September. She is now KD8OTM.

ed, but never something this big," Phillip said. "That is where children change things. I have sent more e-mails of requests and ads for the kids and their net. I have even called the major radio companies (no help there). All I want is to give these kids

and those who follow an alternative to (as my kids put it) videos games and prepackaged media."

Phillip has already begun molding the club with activities and traditions that make each club unique. Within the club, kid members are called Hamlets. The Hamlets are encouraged to help form their own Hamilies—ham radio families. As far as activities, the club already has its own 2-meter repeater net and a global net using IRLP and Echolink.

To help the club grow, Phillip has a few new ideas. The idea that I found the most innovative is one of not only a traditional library of books, but an actual radio library. Members of the WK1RK Kids Club who recently got their licenses may find themselves without money—as kids—and therefore without radios. With generous or humble donations of radios from hams with equipment to spare, the WK1RK Kids Club could lend out these radios to the kids so they could get some on-air experience.

"There are hams out there with unused equipment, such as mobile or HT radios and even ones with APRS ability, and they are not even using them!" exclaims Phillip. "Why not donate them to some kids who would?"

The WK1RK club started with a distinct belief and purpose. Its mission statement says it all: They wish to provide a fun and safe environment for kids to interact socially. They also strongly believe that there needs to be an alternative to the omnipresent "instant" media. Even the members of the WK1RK club agree that their friends are way too interested in the self-focused technology of today (i.e., iPods, Xbox, Nintendo d.s.) to find it interesting to talk to people from other parts of the world. Amateur radio is such a different technology from the current novelties in that it allows you to connect and learn about other people, cultures, and from my experi-

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Talk about operating portable, here is Phillip's home setup tied to a chair for easy transport!

ences, languages. An iPod or Xbox will most likely not allow you to talk to someone from Romania and learn that "salut" means "hello" in Romanian. An iPod could never give you a scratchy, vintage-sounding Indian radio show late at night. These are the things that the WK1RK wants to show kids.

In order for the WK1RK Kids Club to grow, it needs a lot of support. The question of how to get more kids involved in amateur radio always comes up, and now, right in front of us, is the opportunity to do something to help. With donations or even support by referring kids to the club or checking into the net yourself or with your own kids, the WK1RK Kids Club could make a lifelong impression of amateur radio on a young ham. Young amateurs who get a good experience as kids are more likely to carry it into their adult lives as a cherished hobby and hopefully pass it on to their own children. As Phillip puts it, "Kids are the future of ham radio!"

To support the WK1RK kids club, contact Phillip Nichols by e-mail at: <wk1rk@cmrk.net> or by snail mail at: WK1RK, c/o Phillip Nichols, 15240 Marlow St., Oak Park, MI 48237. For more information about nets, visit the club website at: <[www.cmrk.net/wk1rk](http://www.cmrk.net/wk1rk)>.

73, Brittany, KB1OGL



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## A Look at Portable Station Operation: A VHF/UHF Rover

One of the most enjoyable aspects of ham radio is our ability to operate our stations just about anywhere we want to go. This is especially useful when your home installation is limited because of antenna restrictions, unfriendly neighbors, or other reasons. The upcoming VHF-and-up contest season combines the interesting propagation modes found on VHF and UHF with nice weather in the spring and summer months. Right now is an excellent time to consider operating VHF and above while out and about.

Recognizing this challenge, and to encourage participation, many VHF radio contests include a mobile, portable, or roving category. For example, the CQ World-Wide VHF Contest in mid-July includes a "rover" and a "hilltopper" category. A rover station is manned by no more than two operators, travels to more than one grid square location, and signs "Rover" or "/R" with just one call-

sign. The hilltopper is a single operator, low-power portable category for an all-band entry that operates for a maximum of six hours. The ARRL has several VHF and above contests from June through September.

Operating a roving station can be an enjoyable challenge, and many hams take this to the limit. Photo 1 is a picture of a serious roving VHF contest station from Southern California.

### The Very First Rule

I have a basic and universal rule for doing projects: Everything that is created or set up must be taken down and put away later. A great example of this rule in action is the yearly display of Christmas lights and decorations that seem to pop up immediately after Thanksgiving and sometimes as early as just after Halloween. I enjoy watching my neighbors go crazy each year as they set up very elaborate lights and special effects in front of their homes for everyone to enjoy. Although I also decorate my house for the holiday

\*28181 Rubicon Court, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
e-mail: <kh6wz@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo 1— Dave Glenn, N6TEB, likes to operate VHF contests in the rover category. The large vehicle is capable of operating on all bands from 6 meters to 10 GHz. (Photo by Glenn Allen KE6HPZ)



Photo 2— Cramped but efficient, here is the operating position at N6TEB/R. This console is located in the mid-section of the SUV and is usually operated while safely parked on a hilltop. A platform is made from plywood, and is supported by plumbing hardware.

season, I have developed a fast but nice display that takes less than ten minutes to set up and even less to take down and put away.

Therefore, applying the first rule to portable operation equipment, the proper transceiver would maximize the number of bands in one unit. Thus, one of the modern multi-mode, multi-band transceivers that receive and transmit from 160 meters to 70 cm would be an ideal main rig for roving stations. These units usually have enough power to drive an external power amplifier. As a bonus,

just about all of these multi-band wonder boxes are amazingly compact and operate from a 12-volt power supply.

Speaking of amplifiers, and our quest to simplify things, we may want to consider amplifiers as optional equipment, best left at home (or at the store). Instead, I suggest that a better investment for nomadic operation would be to get a bigger antenna with higher gain. Remember, an amplifier boosts your transmit capability, but a bigger antenna improves both receive and transmit capability.



Photo 3— This is a rear view of the operating console. Wires and radios, radios and wires, oh my. The units are securely strapped down to each other and to the seat.

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While a lot of roving stations use rotators for their vehicle-mounted antennas, an equal number of stations just point their vehicles in the desired signal direction. However, sometimes turning the vehicle is not always safe or practical, so rotating the antennas by hand should always be an option.

## Safety First!

Moving antennas by hand takes us to the second rule for portable operation: Safety considerations. Many times, a desirable grid square can be found in precarious locations, such as along a busy highway or a steep cliff. Although it is tempting to make a few more points from places like this, don't be stupid. Stop and think about the difference between one or two points in the contest versus getting injured or getting a traffic ticket. It really should be a no-brainer decision.

Which brings us to another safety factor: Bring a partner to help you while roving. Roving with a partner is safer and more enjoyable.

It is much safer when you have someone in place to guard your equipment while you respond to a "nature call" and must run to the nearest tree or other suitable place. Having a person to navigate while you drive the vehicle is another asset, even if you have a GPS unit by your side.

## Station Setups in Compact Quarters

Even when using a multi-mode, multi-band transceiver, there are plenty of other bands to operate during a contest. This means additional equipment, usually in the form of transverters to enable operations on the "even higher" bands past 70 cm.

Take a look at photos 2 and 3, showing views of the N6TEB roving station equipment setup. Small but efficient, there is an operating platform built from pipes and lumber in the mid-section of Dave's vehicle. Almost all of the contacts from the N6TEB roving station are done when safely parked on a hilltop or other location, but sometimes the station can be operated while in motion, when a "co-pilot" is in the vehicle.

Roving stations must also deal with the problem of powering all the equipment safely and must also have a system reliable enough to prevent killing the vehicle starting battery. Many stations bring portable gasoline generators, some use auxiliary automotive batteries, and some guys who like to gamble take power from their vehicles.

## The "What Are We Doing?" Hand-Out

An electronic copy of the "What Are We Doing?" hand-out is posted on the San Bernardino Microwave Society (SBMS) website: <<http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/>>

### What Are We Doing?

Thank you for your interest in our operation. We are radio communications experimenters participating in a nationwide competition on the microwave Amateur Radio (ham) frequencies.

### Who are we?

We are licensed amateur radio operators ("hams") and members of the San Bernardino Microwave Society (SBMS). The goal of this contest is to talk to as many other ham radio stations with similar equipment as far away as possible.

### Is this legal?

Yes. The Amateur Radio service was created to encourage development of radio communication technology and establish a public service communications force at no charge to citizens or the government.

### Is this like CB?

Yes and no. Ham radio is similar in that we use two-way radios and antennas to talk with each other, but hams can communicate using Morse code and computers in addition to voice, and we even have our own satellites. Ham radio requires a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and licensees are required to successfully pass a written test involving electronics theory, radio regulations and operating procedures.

### How far can you talk?

We can communicate with other ham

stations around the corner or across the globe, depending on a variety of factors that affect the way radio waves travel. The equipment we are using here operates on frequencies that generally follow line-of-sight paths. However, through experimentation, we find that signals can be reflected against objects such as buildings, trees, islands and mountains, to extend the range. Using these techniques, we are able to contact other stations hundreds of miles away.

### What kind of radios are you using?

We are builders and experimenters in microwave radio communications. No commercially-built, "off-the-shelf" equipment for these frequencies exists, so we must build our own equipment, or modify commercially-made equipment meant for other communications services, such as cell phone and long-distance telephone.

### How much does this equipment cost?

Like any other hobby, people spend as much or as little as they can afford. Most people involved in ham radio spend as much as any serious stereo enthusiast, amateur photographer or woodworker.

### Where can I get more information?

More information on ham radio is available from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL): <http://www.arrl.org>

If you are a licensed ham operator already, and want to try a new challenge, visit the San Bernardino Microwave Society (SBMS). Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month in Corona, California. For more SBMS information, go to: <http://www.ham-radio.com/sbms/>

I know several rovers who use vehicle power, and they usually run their vehicle continuously when operating the radio gear. I do not recommend this practice, since running the engine at idle for long periods of time will affect the catalytic converter. I have done this in the past, at the expense of replacing the catalytic converter in my car.

Regardless of how you get power for your rigs, it is a good practice to keep an extra starting battery on hand in case something bad happens. Most rare grid squares are in remote places (that's why they're rare!), and you do not want to divert your contest operating time (or someone else's time) to rescue you or jump-start your vehicle during a contest.

## Hey Man, What's All that Stuff on Your Truck?

A roving contest station looks like a storm-chasing vehicle, which may or may not be a bad thing. Attracting atten-

tion while doing a contest can become a chance to let people know more about ham radio. It can also be an irritating distraction, taking your attention away from the task at hand: Making contest points. Wearing a pair of headphones helps you concentrate and can also help you to ignore the curious on-lookers.

I have mentioned this idea before when discussing operating ham radio in public view, but it is a piece of timeless advice. I always carry a hand-out of printed information on ham radio and what we are doing. This can save a lot of time and is a polite way of moving people away while operating. See the sidebar for a copy of the hand-out. You should change it to include the name and contact information of your radio club.

Keep a copy of your ham license with you along with the hand-out, as well as copies of the rules or even a few copies of your favorite ham radio magazine so you can show it to the local law-enforcement officer when he or she makes an

appearance at your operating site. Make sure you are legally parked, you are not in violation of trespassing or other posted signage, and you are in a safe place well away from traffic. Many cops happen to be hams, too, so don't be surprised if they come to visit you just because they want to know more about your equipment and the contest. *(If a permit is required for using your operating location, be sure to take care of all that well in advance.—ed.)*

Most antenna farms on roving vehicles look like Dave's installation. Basically, there are a lot of antennas in a small bit of space. Mind your local vehicle codes regarding overhead clearance and obstructions. Make double-sure that all of your vehicle head-lights and tail-lights and indicators are in working condition. Obey all traffic laws, including the "basic speed law," which in many locations means that you must drive below, and not at, the posted speed limit.

As seen in photo 4, the antenna support frame is made of very sturdy steel Uni-Strut and various other masts and fittings. Dave reports that his frame is very sturdy and does not wobble too much at highway speeds, but it takes about eight hours to set up.

In the same photo, part of Paul St. John, N6DN's vehicle can be seen. Paul's antenna support frame is made of Schedule 40 PVC pipe and fittings. While not as sturdy as Dave's all-steel assembly, Paul's setup stays fully assembled in his garage. When it is time to go roving, the entire unit is lifted and put into place on the vehicle roof. It takes only a few minutes to get the antenna system up and ready. Another advantage is the cost and availability of replacement parts; most hardware stores have the proper PVC connectors and pipes for a quick repair. One disadvantage, however, is its inability to survive a contact with low-hanging tree branches.

I hope I have inspired you to consider participating in a VHF contest as a rover. With the upcoming better weather months ahead, this gives you enough time to find a partner, make your plans, and organize your equipment for a fresh ham radio adventure.

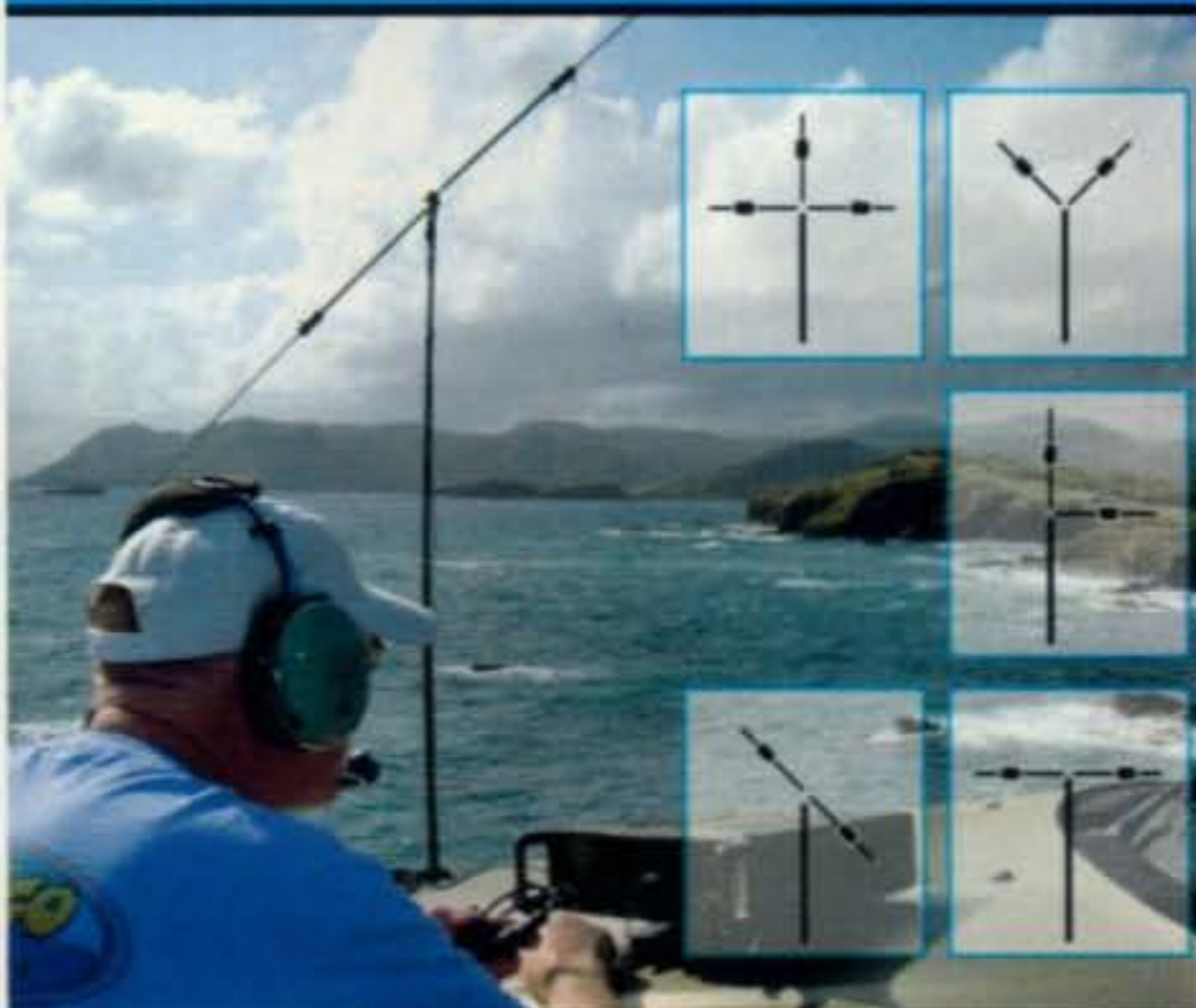
73, Wayne, KH6WZ

*Photo 4— Dave Glenn, N6TEB, is on the left setting up something on the tripod. Behind him is his rover station, showing the steel antenna support frame. To the right is Paul St. John, N6DN, and his rover antenna system and frame made with PVC plumbing parts.*



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# New Products for Outdoors and Indoors

**W**hat's New for March includes a look at a variety of new ham gear, so as always, this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere begs the question indoors or outdoors? Do you brave the wind chill and head outside to build antennas or take to the hiking trails or sit inside your nice warm ham shack and update your operating position while sipping hot chocolate? Take your choice, but first take a look at "What's New" and some of the indoor and outdoor ham gear that's now available.

## Kenwood TH-D72A

First shown as a prototype at the 2010 Dayton Hamvention®, Kenwood has now officially released its TH-D72A amateur handie-talkie (photo A), but in the interim since May, has added to the HT a few cosmetic changes and a load of technology.

The list of electronic features starts with a SiRFstar III high-performance GPS receiver that makes Kenwood's TH-D72A dual-band transceiver compatible with APRS® data communications. Offering position and weather information,



the TH-D72A seems tailored for the outdoor enthusiast who enjoys activities such as hiking and trekking.

Additional features of the TH-D72A include: APRS® firmware equipped as standard, USB (Mini-B) port (USB PC programming cable included), Kenwood MCP-4A PC programming software that converts log data to KML file format, Kenwood Sky Command System II compatibility, 5-watt output, compatibility with the ARRL's Travel Plus for Repeaters PC application, simple node access with EchoLink® memory, DX cluster tune (packet cluster), built-in 1200/9600 bps TNC compliant with AX.25 protocol, long operating hours thanks to a high-capacity 1800-mAh lithium-

*Photo A— The Kenwood TH-D72A dual-band (2 meter and 440 MHz) transceiver is now on the market, and it's loaded with technology.*

\*1870 Alder Branch Lane, Germantown, TN 38139  
e-mail: <wv5j@cq-amateur-radio.com>

ion rechargeable battery (PB-45L), 1000 memory channels, a stand-alone digipeater, enhanced operating ease and visibility, MIL-STD810 and IP54 weatherproofing, weather alert/RX (US only), power-on message, and cross-tone.

This advanced package from Kenwood also comes with the option of a GPS-only mode that turns off the transceiver functions and enables the GPS and logging functions to be used for up to 35 hours. It also can save track data in three ways: interval, travel distance, or APRS beacon.

Selling for under \$500, you can get a look at the new TH-D72A, its features, and the downloads available from the manufacturer with a visit to <www.kenwoodusa.com>.

## New SWR/Wattmeter from Daiwa

Daiwa is now marketing a new 1.8- to 200-MHz cross-needle SWR/power meter that is just as comfortable at a repeater, Field Day, or DXpedition site as it is in the home ham shack. Made to travel and look good doing it is the Daiwa CN-801 HP3 meter (photo B) which can measure average and true PEP readings of up to 3 kilowatts of forward power on a large, easy-to-read mirrored scale while all the time being surrounded and protected by rubber edge guards that are incorporated into its design.

The Daiwa CN-801 HP3 also comes with SO-239 connectors, a power selector (30 watts, 300 watts, and 3 kW), an LED light with on/off switch, and an average or PEP selector switch. This new meter is expected to be available through your favorite ham radio dealer beginning March 1st and its suggested retail price is \$209.

## Vortex Antennas

Amateurs located around the world, and especially those in the United Kingdom, have a new source for



*Photo B— Front view of the new Daiwa CN-801 HP3, a 1.8- to 200-MHz cross-needle SWP/power meter.*



Photo C— Here are a couple of photos of Vortex Antennas Whirlwind series—a two-element delta loop for 10 meters, and a wide spaced, three-element delta loop for 6 meters.



HF antennas in 2011 with the announcement that Vortex Antennas has officially started retail sales of its multi-band and monoband antennas and antenna hardware.

Vortex Antennas is owned and operated by Islands On The Air (IOTA) enthusiast Steve Lawman, G0UIH, VK1IAY, and 3D2FI, with an assist from

Steve's wife Gail. The antenna products will originate from Steve's workshop near Peterborough, England, and be available on the web at <[www.vortex-antennas.co.uk](http://www.vortex-antennas.co.uk)>.

"Following an extended period of R&D, we're very proud to announce the launch of Vortex Antenna Systems to the radio community," Lawman told CQ.

"At Vortex, we've set out to produce a line-up that will stand the test of time. We've searched many hundreds of potential suppliers and products in the quest for premium-quality hardware and components, which, when combined, are the building blocks of antennas and antenna parts that you can be proud of."

# 2011-2012 calendar

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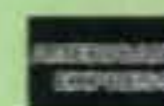
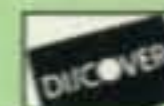
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Initially, Lawman plans to produce two main antenna types, the Tornado Yagi and the Whirlwind delta loop (photo C), both in heavy-duty versions. He also hopes to produce some higher frequency models soon and make them available as lightweight versions.

For now, though, the majority of systems will be monobanders from 4 to 30 meters, along with a small selection of multi-band models. Lawman also hopes to expand the multi-band offerings during the next few months.

Lawman further plans to sell his select antenna hardware parts and accessories as a service to hams who like to build their own antennas. His 18-month search for sources of quality materials has enabled him to make available five different diameters of aluminum tubing "that exceed the strength of high-end, aircraft-quality aluminum but still retain excellent corrosion resistance," Lawman said. He added that element clamps have been selected from parts used in the oil and gas industry, and that other clamps—element-to-boom clamps, u-bolts, and saddles—are all Vortex designs made of stainless steel.

For additional information about Vortex Antennas, call Steve Lawman at 07943 871 893, drop him an e-mail at <enquiries@vortexantennas.co.uk>, or visit <www.vortexantennas.co.uk>, where you can also view photos of some of Lawman's current creations.

## Aether 1.5 is Now Available

Impatient Mac OS X hams can breathe a sigh of relief, as Open Reel Software has announced that Aether 1.5 logging

software for Mac OS X (photo D) is now available.

According to Andrew Madsen, owner and founder of Open Reel Software, the company is dedicated to making Mac applications that provide a great user experience.

"We think software should not only be useful but also a pleasure to use," Madsen told CQ. "With our first application, Aether, we have given ham radio operators a logging application with a clean, intuitive interface and features to make logging their contacts convenient and easy without sacrificing power."

Madsen calls Aether 1.5 a major update to its popular ham radio logging software for Mac OS X. The application reportedly helps amateur radio operators quickly and easily log contacts while on the air, as well as organize, search, and track contacts later. Aether features an attractive, easy-to-use interface with a number of logging and operating features. Notable new features in Aether 1.5 include LoTW (Logbook of The World) and eQSL.cc integration, and awards tracking. Version 1.5 also sports major new features including the ability to send and receive online QSL cards via LoTW and eQSL.cc with just one click. Also new are features to help operators keep track of their progress towards operating awards and the ability to export a Google Earth KML file to easily view a 3-D map of all the other stations they've contacted on the air.

New QSL management features are also a highlight of Aether 1.5 as well as the instant search of logbooks, automatic callbook lookup, RS-232 based

rig control, QSL label printing, full ADIF and Cabrillo import/export support, Google Maps and QRZ.com integration, auto dupe checking, distance and beam-heading calculation and spotlight, mail, address book, and AppleScript support.

Aether 1.5 is designed to function properly on a Mac computer with a G4, G5, or Intel CPU and running Mac OS X version 10.4 Tiger or higher. A serial rig control requires a USB-to-serial adapter.

Aether 1.5 is a free update for existing customers. New licenses are \$39 and may be purchased at <www.aetherlog.com>. A fully functional, free demo version of Aether is also available at <www.aetherlog.com>.

## The Coherer

At some point, I feel I may regret opening this can of worms, but where my readers are concerned, I'll brave high RF fields, large hamfests, and even occasional editing dilemmas.

So here is the most recent dilemma: If you read the December 2010, "What's New" column, you may have seen a segment where I discussed Piero Begali's coherer (photo E). The segment included a photo. Okay, it was the wrong photo. Glenn Geist, N4HO, called it to my attention in an e-mail (sorry, no prize Glenn for being the first, hi) and CQ Editor Rich Moseson accepted the blame.

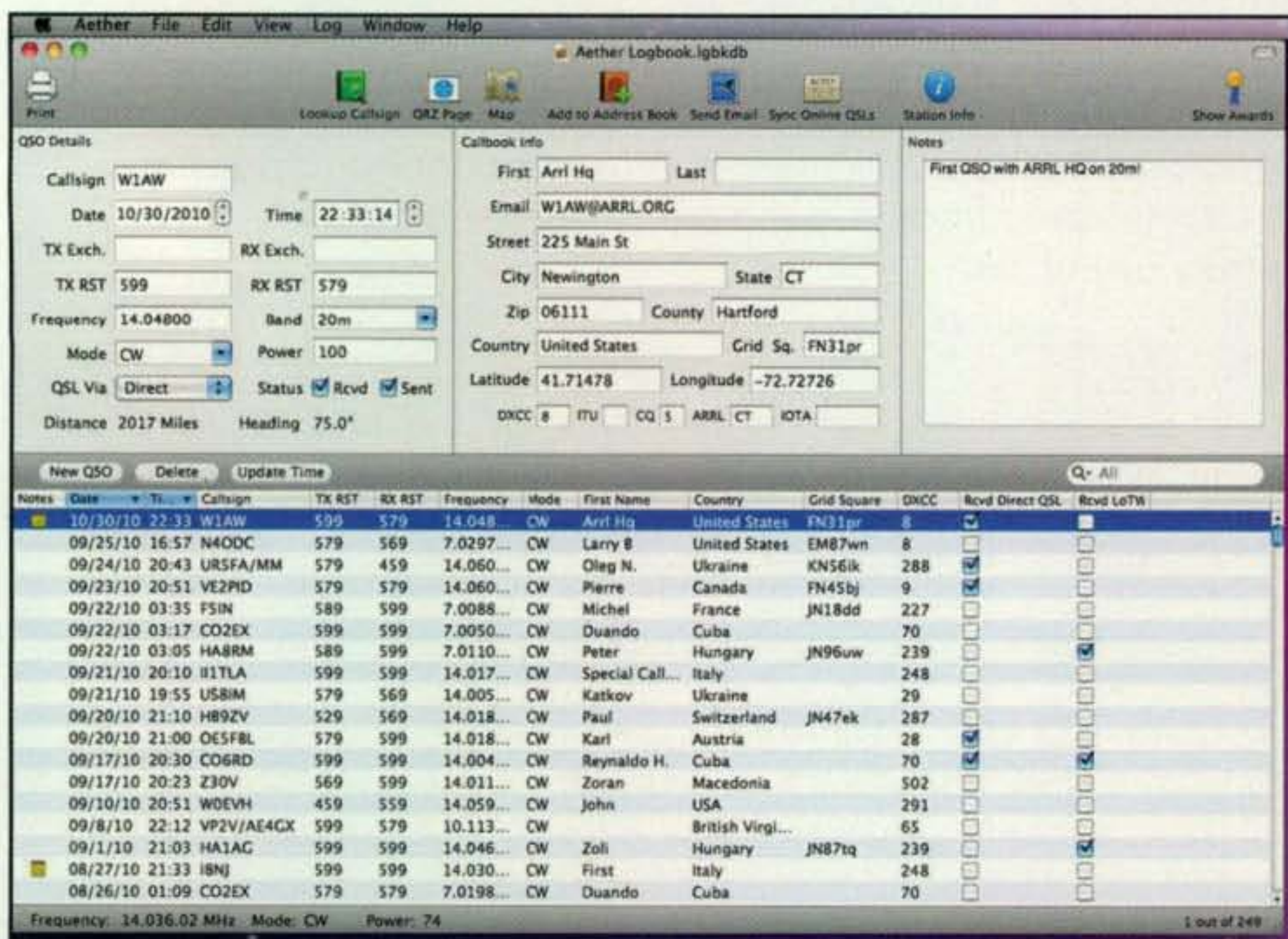
Then Rich suggested that a portion of a future "What's New" could be used to expound on this little-known device. That was obviously a subtle device that smart editors use to indirectly assign someone, in this case me, to write such a segment.

Okay, Rich, here is what I have been able to determine about the coherer.

As per Glenn Geist's e-mail and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the first coherer was invented by a French electrical engineer, Edouard Branly, in 1890, and later improved by Englishman Oliver Lodge before Guglielmo Marconi came up with the idea to use a version of the coherer to, among other things, prove the existence of invisible radio waves to a doubting public.

Now Piero Begali is making a contemporary version of Branly's coherer available to hams and the public through his website at <www.i2rtf.com>. The latter was basically all I was

*Photo D— Here is a screen shot of Aether, a logging software product from Open Reel Software for Mac OS X users. Open Reel is making its new Aether 1.5 upgrade available through its website at <www.aetherlog.com>.*





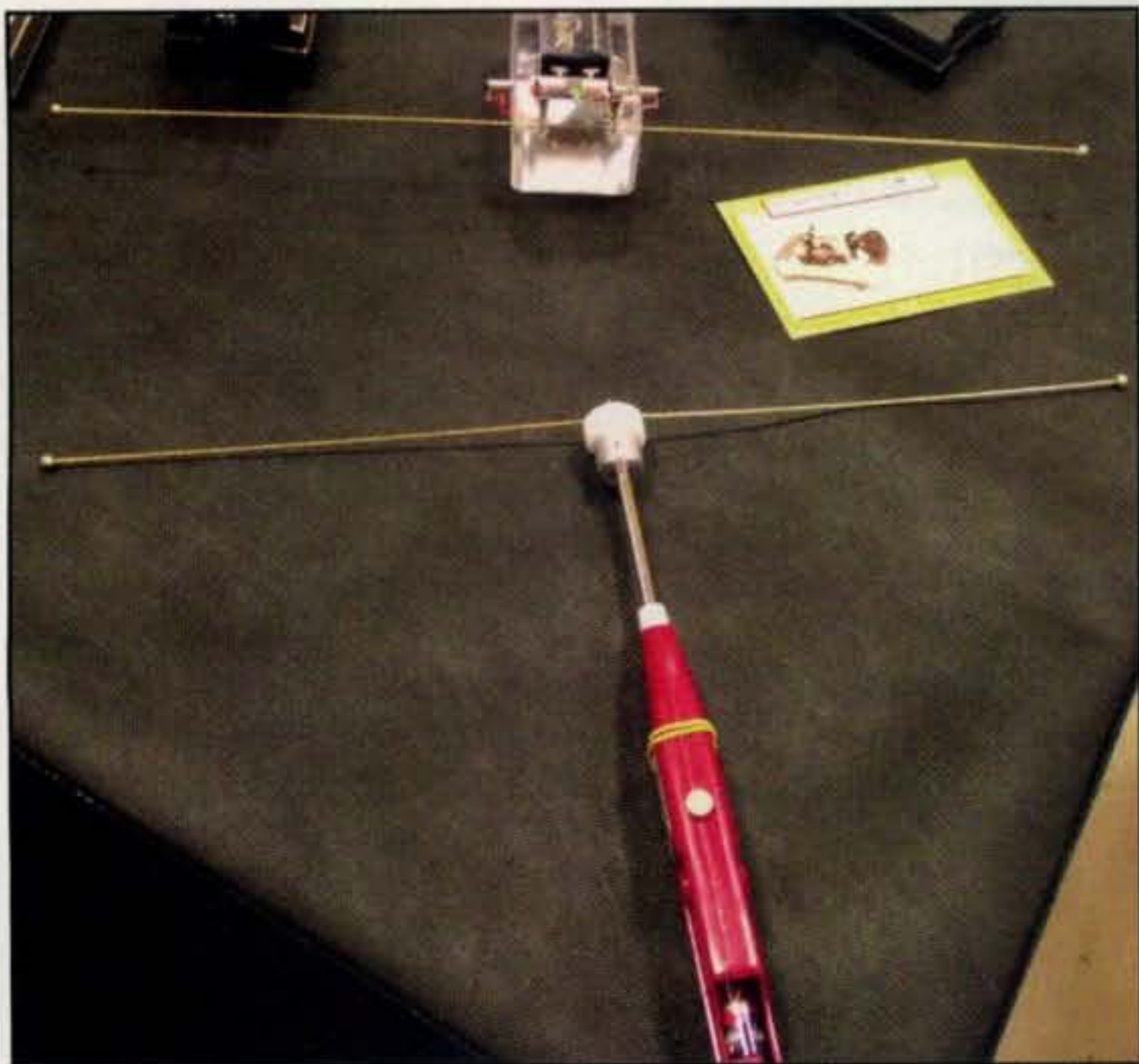


Photo E— CQ Editor W2VU captured this image of Piero Begali's version of the Coherer at the 2010 Dayton Hamvention®. See text for the full story.

attempting to convey to the readers of "What's New." So if now you are at all curious about the coherer and what it looks like, visit the Begali website <[www.i2rtf.com](http://www.i2rtf.com)> and click on "Accessories" and also see the correct photo included here with this column (above). Rich, thank you for your help. And to Glenn, N4HO, thanks for your e-mail and for being a reader of "What's New."

### One More Thing To Do

Before wrapping up this edition of "What's New," I need to address an e-mail from George Varvitsiotes, K6SV, and vice president of Ham Radio Outlet.

We honored HRO's new website, <[www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)>, as Website of the Month in our January edition of this column, but gave the wrong web address for the new site in the subhead for the segment. With this, I hope we have corrected that error and just to make sure, we'll honor <[www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)> again and declare it to be our Website of the Month for March. When you get a spare moment, you should definitely check out this website.

### Closing Thoughts

That should do it for this March edition of "What's New." Keep in mind that better weather should be on the way soon, which means conditions should be favorable for repairing or installing ham antennas. If you have antenna projects in mind, please be careful and be sure to enlist some help from a ham buddy or two. And don't forget, *safety first*. That way you'll be around to read my next edition of this column in April. Until then, thanks and . . .

73, John, WV5J

**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.

# REFLECTIONS III

## Transmission Lines and Antennas

by M. Walter Maxwell, W2DU

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# Thunderstorm Sporadic-E Connection Mystery Solved?

**F**or nearly as long as sporadic-E has been known as a mode of propagation, there have been hams declaring that thunderstorms cause sporadic-E propagation. While some critics have declared that there is no evidence to support such a hypothesis, others have been equally adamant about their experiences of having worked sporadic-E during an intense thunderstorm. Maybe the missing link has been unwittingly discovered.

Astrophysicists working with NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope discovered that some of the high-energy gamma-ray photons from the terrestrial gamma-ray flashes (TGFs) were being converted into pairs of electrons and positrons. While their focus is on the antimatter that is being produced during thunderstorms, the resultant electron/positron beam reaches tremendous altitudes. It is my hypothesis that this beam may be what ionizes the ionosphere and results in the highly localized sporadic-E propagation.

I am coming to believe that there is more than one source of sporadic-E propagation. Even so, this discovery of TGFs may be the key that unlocks the door to the thunderstorm sporadic-E connec-

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

## VHF Plus Calendar

March 4	New Moon
March 6	Moon apogee
March 12	First quarter Moon
March 12-13	First weekend of DUBUS EME contest
March 19	Full Moon
March 19	Moon perigee
March 26	Last quarter Moon

tion. For more information on the antimatter story, see: <[http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2010/11jan\\_antimatter/](http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2010/11jan_antimatter/)>.

## OK1DFC 1296-MHz Meteor-Scatter Experiment and Comments

Earlier this year Zdenek Samek, OK1DFC, ran an experiment with Fedyun Nikolaj, RW6AG, concerning the potential for meteor-scatter (M/S) propagation on 1296 MHz. The following is from Zdenek Samek, OK1DFC:

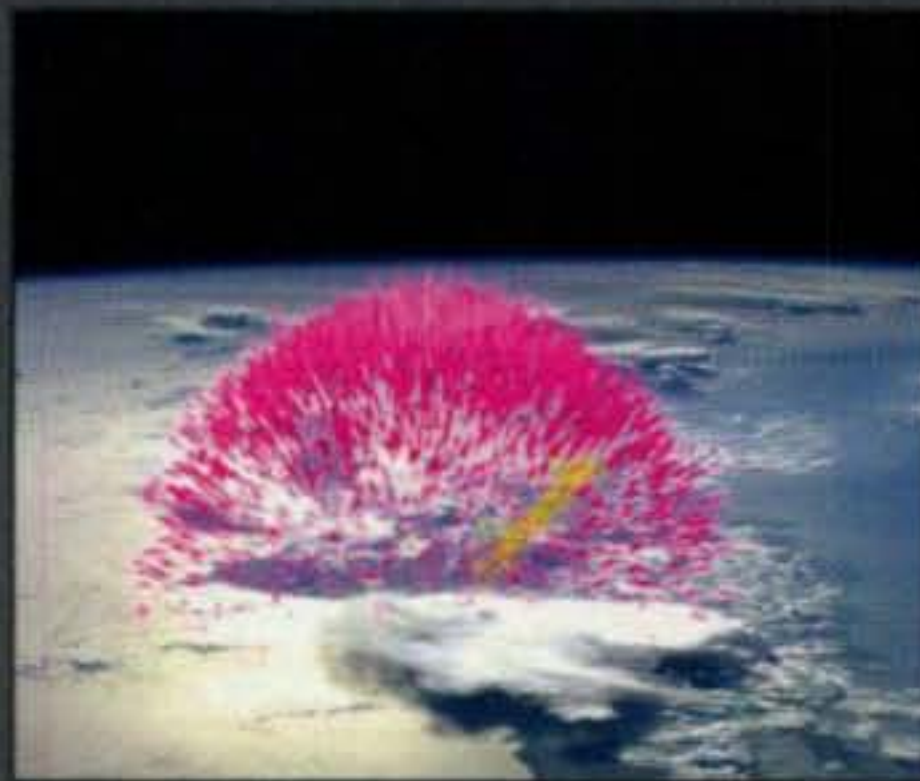
I have tested WSJT9. FSK441 today with RW7A (RW6AG, Nikolaj) on M/S. Looks that between two big

## How thunderstorms launch particle beams into space



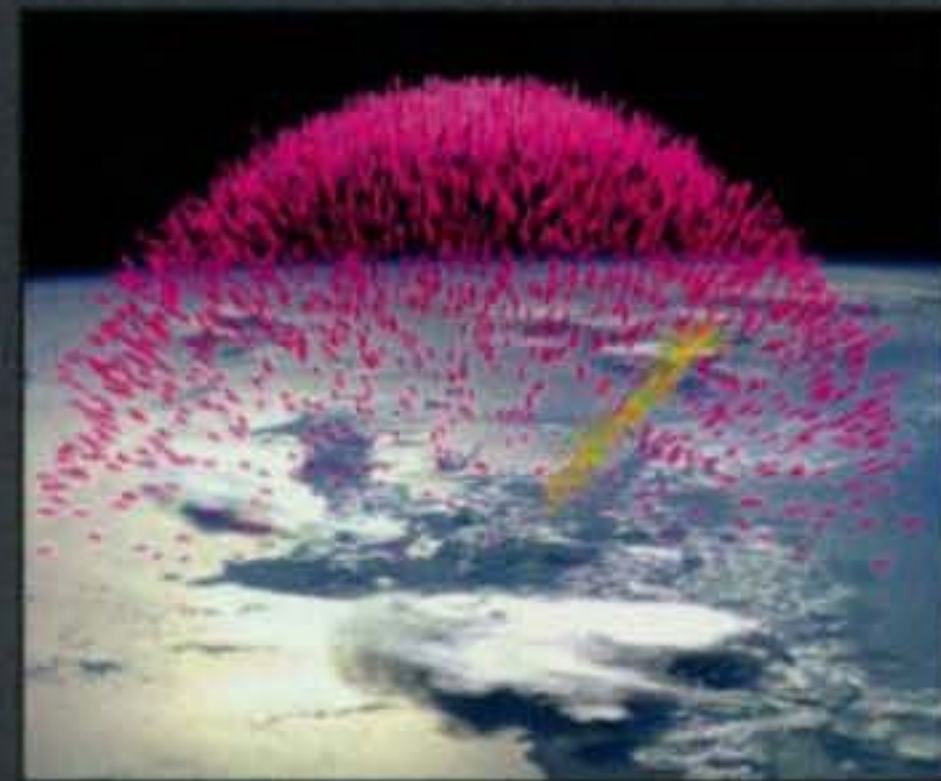
1. Electric fields near the top of the storm create an upward-moving avalanche of **electrons**. When their paths are deflected by molecules in the air, these electrons emit **gamma rays**, the highest-energy form of light.

These images are based on a TGF simulation by Joseph Dwyer at the Florida Institute of Technology. This frame tracks the gamma rays and particles from a 0.2-millisecond-old TGF that began at an altitude of 9.3 miles (15 km).



2. When gamma-ray energy collides with electrons, they accelerate to near the speed of light. Some gamma rays pass near the nuclei of atoms. When this happens, the gamma ray transforms into an electron and its antiparticle, a **positron**.

These high-energy electrons and positrons escape into space by spiraling along Earth's magnetic field. In this frame, the TGF is 1.4 milliseconds old.



3. Here the TGF is 1.98 milliseconds old, and its electron/positron beam is reaching altitudes where it may intercept spacecraft, such as NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

Fermi's Gamma-ray Burst Monitor detected a signal characteristic of positron annihilation. When a positron collided with an electron on the spacecraft, the two particles transformed into gamma rays.

Credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/J. Dwyer, Florida Inst. of Technology

This sidebar from the NASA article cited in the text illustrates how the electrons are related upward and downward. (Courtesy of NASA)

guns will be possible M/S on 1296 MHz that works. RW7A has 300W and a 3-meter dish, while I was running 1.5kW and 10-meter dish. We did not work during the peak, because Nick was busy with skeds on 432 MHz. But there we tested short tests with approximately 15 minutes, and he had 160/1 ping, I had twice 40/1 pings and one 60/1 ping. Necessary is setup on exactly the date and work in the peak of shower.

So I hope to find in the next M/S window any station for testing. I have measured today also Sun noise during an eclipse. With proximately 80% of Moon shadow on the dish I had drop down 5.5 dB. More details soon on my website, because Franta, OK1CA, measured the same time on 2320 MHz.

The following is from Hannes, OE5JFL:

Many years ago I made a test with EA3UM on 1296 during the *Perseids*, but with NIL reflections on both sides. It was also very interesting for me to read about your results about the Sun noise drop during the partial eclipse today morning. It is comparable to the measurements OE5EYM and I made back in 1999 during a total eclipse: <<http://www.qsl.net/oe5jfl/eclipse.htm>>. So 80% coverage resulted in a 5.5-dB drop and 100% coverage in a 10-dB drop. I look forward to see what OK1CA measured on 13 cm, probably even a deeper dip.

This is from Vladimir Petrzilka, OK1VPZ:

MS QSO on 23 cm would be feasible, I think. Even if it was already the second time, when such MS pings were detected in OK on 23 cm. The first was OK2POI, when he tested MS QSO with F6FHP (QRB 1487 km) last August. On both sides a few hundred watts and about 2-meter dishes with LNA. See: <[http://www.ok2kkw.com/ok2poi\\_f6fhp\\_23cm\\_pers2010.png](http://www.ok2kkw.com/ok2poi_f6fhp_23cm_pers2010.png)>.

Congrats to Zdenek for such brilliant success. More info about MS reflections on UHF and SHF can be read here: <[http://www.ll.mit.edu/publications/journal/pdf/vol12\\_no1/12\\_1meteorshower.pdf](http://www.ll.mit.edu/publications/journal/pdf/vol12_no1/12_1meteorshower.pdf)>. Really mysterious 70 cm QSO (albeit uncompleted) was reported between OK1AIY and ZS6LW (8653 km QRB) in 1981. Pavel, OK1AIY, listened about 20 seconds and heard quite loudly ZS6LW on SSB, then the sigs fell down into noise. ZS6LW sigs were as well detected by OK1MWD some 30 km away. The QRB to ZS is even too far for satellite reflection. ... It was probably not TEP propagation, because no typical distortion was observed and it did not happen within sunset time.

The following is from Steve Gross, N4PZ:

I had a 432-MHz MS contact with KØRZ 15 years ago with 20/9 signals on SSB that lasted 45 seconds. The more I think about it the more I think it was not a meteor at all but maybe satellite reflection. 1500 km is way

The screenshot shows the WSJT 9.02 interface. At the top, there's a menu bar with File, Setup, View, Mode, Decode, Save, Band, and Help. Below that is a waterfall plot and a frequency display showing 10.5600 MHz. A table below the plot shows QSO log entries with columns for FileID, T, Width, dB, Rpt, DF, and Freq (kHz). The main log entry is for RW7A OK1DFC. Below the log is a control panel with buttons for Log QSO, Stop, Monitor, Decode, Erase, and TxStop. There are also input fields for To radio (RW7A), Grid (KN95na), Az (97), El (1), and a distance of 1921 km. A date and time display shows 2011 Jan 04 10:56:40. At the bottom, there are status indicators for 1.0002 0.9999, FSK441, Freeze DF: 0, Rx noise: 0 dB, T/R Period: 30 s, and Txing: RW7A OK1DFC.

Screen shot of WSJT showing OK1DFC copying the RW7A callsign.

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too far for aircraft scatter. All other 432 MS bursts I have ever heard were no more than pings or very short bursts. Anybody interested in 432 MS schedules on SSB or CW? I have 1500W and 4 big Yagis. That OK-ZS 70-cm propagation almost had to be TEP (*transequatorial propagation—ed.*) unless it's some unknown means of propagation. Don't laugh. We didn't discover TEP on 144 and 432 until about 30 years ago. Nobody would have ever predicted that either.

## Microwave Update 2010 A Success!

The following is excerpted from Gordon West, WB6NOA's article in the Winter 2011 issue of *CQ VHF* magazine:

Last year's MUD (Microwave Update) was held in Cerritos, CA, with well-known microwave enthusiast Pat Coker, N6RMJ. "What a success. More than four countries were represented, 300+ registered attendees, and two days of action-packed seminars in our spacious hotel facility," commented Pat.

The banquet's guest speaker was newly licensed ham Dr. Kate Hutton, K6HTN, with the California Institute of Technology, along with Dr. Peter Lyman, K6PTL, former JPL Director of Interplanetary Communications Group. This was a fitting time for Dr. Hutton's talk, since during daytime that Saturday, Southern California presented its yearly

earthquake preparation drill, the Great ShakeOut.

The Don Hilliard Award went to Will, W0OEM, for technical achievement. A second Hilliard Award went to Dick Kolbly, K6HIJ (SK), who was the local legend in helping microwave experts and beginners (like me) over the years. Dick's award was received by Phyllis and Kenneth Kolbly. Phyllis, who performed the huge job of on-site registration, was standing strong and tall, greeting each and every ham when they first hit the registration table. Thanks to Linda and Judy for also being those smiling faces when hams came up to get their registration SBMS badges.

One of the best parts of the Microwave Update for me was to meet the folks I had only heard at the other end of a 10-Gigahertz circuit. The Sunday parking lot trials also gave us all a close look at why certain signals were always so loud over some fairly long paths! Just when you think you may have the ideal microwave setup, looking at some of the other homebrew arrangements leads to some great ideas.

The 216 page *Proceedings* of Microwave Update 2010 is available from the American Radio Relay League. Nearly every page is illustrated, along with almost every single page containing with detailed photographs.

"A special thanks to the ladies for putting on the family programs, and thanks to everyone, including SBMS and the San Diego Microwave group, for making this 25th year MUD as successful as it was," said Pat, still looking good after multiple days of working the conference.

## Calls for Papers

Calls for papers are issued in advance of forthcoming conferences either for presenters to be speakers, or for papers to be published in the conferences' *Proceedings*, or both. For more information, questions about format, media, hardcopy, e-mail, etc., please contact the person listed with the announcement. The following organizations and/or conference organizers have announced calls for papers for their forthcoming conferences:

**Southeastern VHF Society Conference:** Technical papers are solicited for the 15th annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference to be held in Huntsville, Alabama on April 29-30, 2011. Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF, and microwave weak-signal amateur radio. In general, papers and presentations on non-weak-signal related topics such as FM repeaters and packet will not be accepted, but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak signal. For example, a paper or presentation on the use of APRS to track rovers during contests would be considered.

The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is March 11, 2011. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or alternatively Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files. Pages should be 8 1/2 by 11 inches with a 1-inch margin on the bottom and 1/4-inch margin on the other three sides. All text, drawings, photos, etc., should be black and white only (no color). Submissions for presentation at the conference should be in PowerPoint (.ppt) format, and delivered on either a USB memory stick or CDROM or posted for download on a website of your choice.

Please indicate when you submit your paper or presentation if you plan to attend the conference and present there or if you are submitting just for publication. Papers and presentations will be published in the conference *Proceedings*. Send all questions, comments to the program co-chair, Robin Midgett, K4IDC, via <K4IDC@comcast.net>. Send all presentations to Steve Kostro, N2CEI via <SVHFS2011@downeastmicrowave.com>. For further information about the conference please, see the society's website: <<http://www.svhfs.org>>.

**Central States VHF Society Conference:** Technical papers are solicited for the 45th annual Central States VHF Society Conference to be held in the Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas area. For more information please see the society's website: <<http://www.csvhfs.org>>.

## Current Meteor Showers

The  $\gamma$ -Normids shower is expected to peak on March 14. For more information on the above meteor shower predictions please see Tomas Hood, NW7US's "VHF Propagation" column elsewhere in this issue, as well as visit the International Meteor Organization's website: <<http://www.imo.net>>.

## And Finally . . .

Well, we are now looking towards spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Make sure you get on the VHF-plus bands, look into working sporadic-E, meteor-scatter, and all the other many aspects of our wonderful hobby. The weather will be more conducive to working on your antennas, satellites dishes, etc.

Also, whenever you can, be sure to involve young people. They are our future, and being a mentor, a teacher, or just reaching out to them in any way you can will help ensure the future of our hobby.

Until next time . . .

73 de Joe, N6CL

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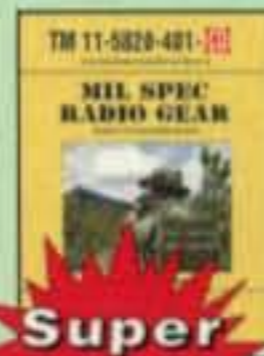
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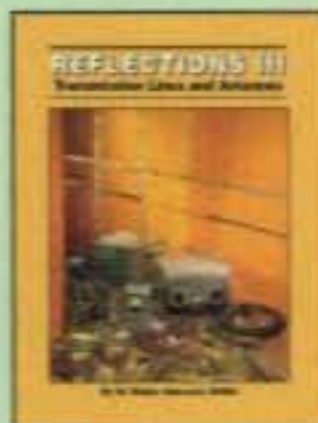
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# Short-Term and Urainian Awards

In mid-December, I was very happy to receive a USA-CA All Counties award application from Antonin Blaha, OK1APV, who is the first station from the Czech Republic to complete and apply for the highest level USA-CA award. His first application was sent in 31 years ago, in 1980, for the 500 and 1000 levels. In 1982, 1984, and 1985 he brought that up to 2500 counties. After a few sunspot cycles, Antonin finally submitted the 3000 and 3077 list to finish. Congratulations!

## Short Term Award

This following award publicizes the 150th anniversary of the Italian Navy. Yes, for centuries Italy has been a naval power in the Mediterranean, but this award celebrates its navy in the modern era.

**150th Anniversary of the Italian Navy (1861-2011).** The award is sponsored by the ARMI, a group of amateurs supporting the Italian Navy. The diploma is available to all licensed amateurs and SWLs of the world.

1. Period: The diploma period began 1 January 2011 at 0800(UTC and will conclude on 31 December 2011 at 2300 UTC.

2. Stations: The following special stations will be active using suffixes dedicated to the Italian Navy and will be valid for the award:

IA7MM via IZ7AUH  
IU3MM via IZ3DBA  
IP1NAVY via IZ1GJK  
IQ9MQ via IT9MRM

3. Modes: CW, SSB, PSK-31, RTTY

4. Bands: HF bands 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 meters, excluding the WARC bands, according to the IARU Band Plan.

5. Points per QSO:

- All special stations listed above = 10 points.
  - QSOs (HRD) with all the stations pertaining to ARMI members = 4 points (CW).
  - QSOs (HRD) with all the stations pertaining to the ARMI members = 3 points (PSK-31/RTTY).
  - QSOs (HRD) with all the stations pertaining to ARMI members = 2 points (SSB).
  - QSOs (HRD) with all other stations supporting navy interests = 1 point (CW/PSK-31/RTTY/SSB).
6. All the special stations and all stations ARMI/navy may be contacted only once for each band and mode.

7. Points required:

- Italian stations: 50 points;
- Other European stations: 30 points;
- Extra European stations: 15 points.

8. Call: Look for stations calling as follows:

- CW/PSK-31/RTTY: CQ CQ DE IQ9MQ 150 anniversary Italian Navy K
- SSB/FM: CQ CQ from IQ9MQ—called for the diploma for the 150 anniversary of the Italian Navy

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

## USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Don Lefavour, WA8OWR  
USA-CA All Counties #1209  
December 3, 2010

Antonin Blaha, OK1APV  
USA-CA All Counties #1210  
December 17, 2010

Kirby Giampa, W8DCD  
USA-CA All Counties #1211  
December 21, 2010

## USA-CA Honor Roll

500		2000	
WA8OWR.....	3525	WA8OWR.....	1406
OZ5NJ.....	3526	W8DCD.....	1407
KK7AC.....	352		
W8DCD.....	3528	2500	
		WA8OWR.....	1323
		W8DCD.....	1324
1000		3000	
WA8OWR.....	1807	WA8OWR.....	1234
W8DCD.....	1808	OK1APV.....	1235
		W8DCD.....	1236
1500			
WA8OWR.....	1518		
W8DCD.....	1519		

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.



This short-term award publicizes the 150th anniversary of the Italian Navy and is sponsored by the ARMI.

The award will be issued in PDF format to all participants. Logs must be sent in digital format or excel spreadsheet. Apply to: IT9MRM, Alberto Mattei, Via and. Millo, 20, I-96011 Augusta (SR), Italy. Award fee is 10 Euros through POSTEPAY no. 4023 6005 7341 7690 registered to Mattei Alberto, or through PayPal to the following address of credit: <alberto.mattei@libero.it>. All applications must be submitted on or before 15 February 2012. E-mail: <it9mrm@gmail.com>; internet: <http://ia7mm.iz7auh.net/>.

## Awards from the Ukraine

The Ukraine is just about as large as the State of Texas, and through much of its turbulent history has been tied to other countries which controlled its agricultural and mineral resources. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine resumed its current status as an independent country. Any amateur station who participates in HF communication, especially contesting, knows that the country is teeming with ham radio activity. This month we feature some of the top awards sponsored by the Ukrainian Amateur Radio League (UARL). There are four principal awards offered by the UARL, and they rank among the most beautiful certificates in the world. The certificates reflect the bright peasant art and love of colorful details, including regional coats of arms and frames for

the borders, which are both beautiful and complex.

**General Requirements:** SWL OK. Fee for each award for Ukrainian stations is UAH 15, for amateurs of the CIS countries \$5, and for all others \$US10, and should be sent to the award manager of the UARL together with a certified GCR list of the needed contacts: Vladimir A. Stepanenko, UZ1RR, PO Box 1928, Chernihiv-postamt, 14000, Ukraine. While the fee is somewhat high, the UARL promises to send the certificates via Registered Mail for the greatest security and safety.

Internet: <http://uarl.com.ua/index.htm>. This site allows the user to choose pages to view in 32 different languages. However, the translation form used is not perfect. E-mail: <uz1rr@ukr.net> or <uz1rr@mail.ru>.

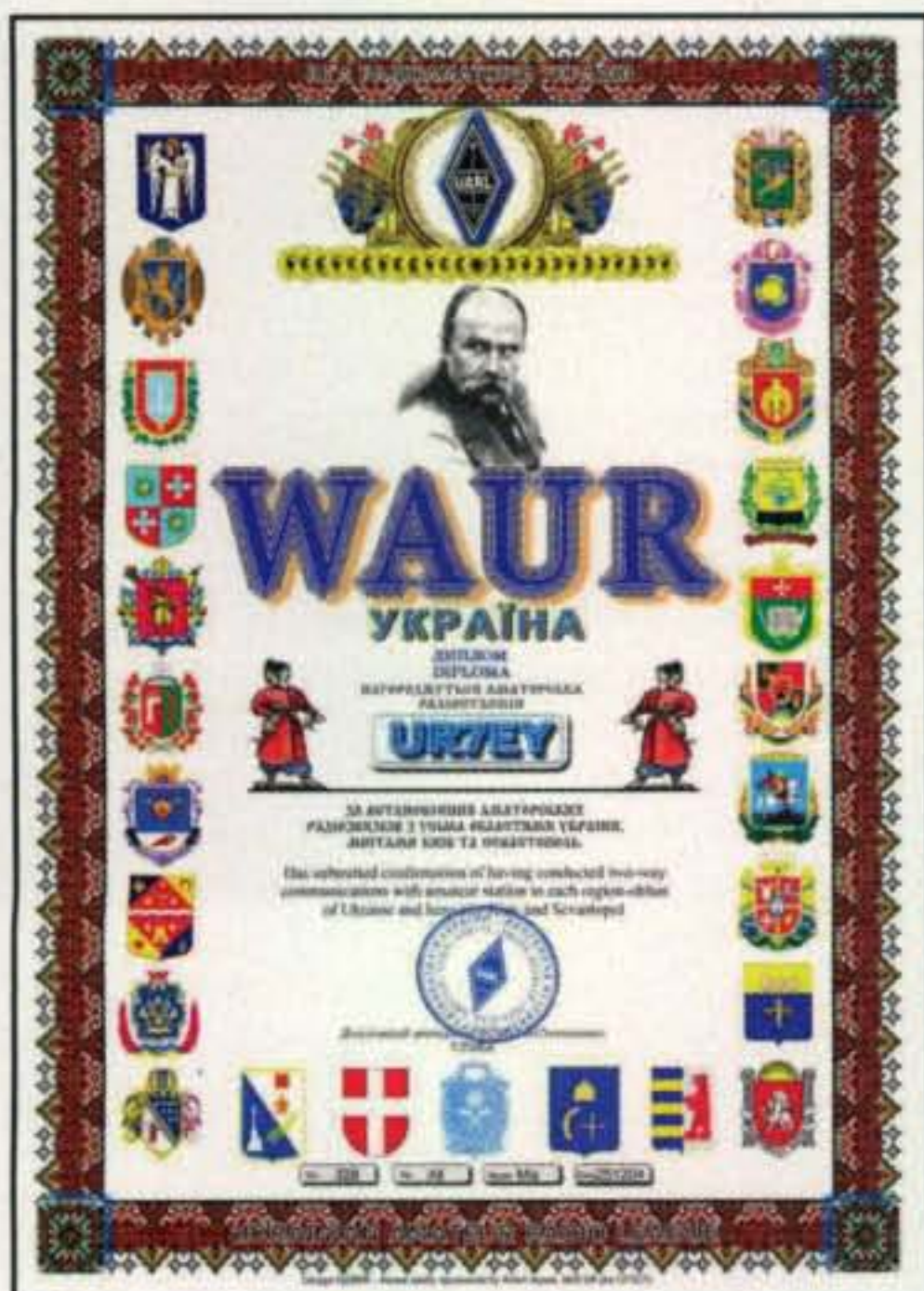
**Worked All Ukrainian Regions (WAUR).** The Ukraine is divided into 24 regions, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Kyiv, and Sevastopol for a total of 27 large units. They are identified as

per the URDA Listing. The first letter of the suffix of the station identifies the region except for Crimea, Kyiv, and Sevastopol cities with expanded identifiers. A Sumy, P Volyn, B Ternopil, Q Zaporizhzhia, C Cherkasy, R Chernihiv, D Zakarpatska, S Ivano-Frankivs'k, E Dnipropetrovs'k, T Khmel'nyts'kyi, F Odesa, U Kyiv, G Kherson, V Kirovohrad, H Poltava, W Lviv, I Donets'k, X Zhytomyr, K Rivne, Y Chernivtsil, L Kharkiv, Z Mykolayiv, M Luhans'k, UU1-Ø Crimean Republic, N Vinnytsia, UU9 Sevastopol City, UR5U Kyiv City.

Contact each of the regions, Crimean Republic, and cities of Sevastopol and Kyiv.

The award may be endorsed for any one band or mode.

**Ukrainian District Award (URDA).** The 27 units mentioned above are further sub-divided into 758 "administrative areas," generally encompassing the boundaries of a city or town within the district. The basic certificate is awarded for proving contact with 100 of



The Worked All Ukrainian Regions Award is for contacting the 24 regions of the Ukraine, plus the Republic of Crimea and the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol.

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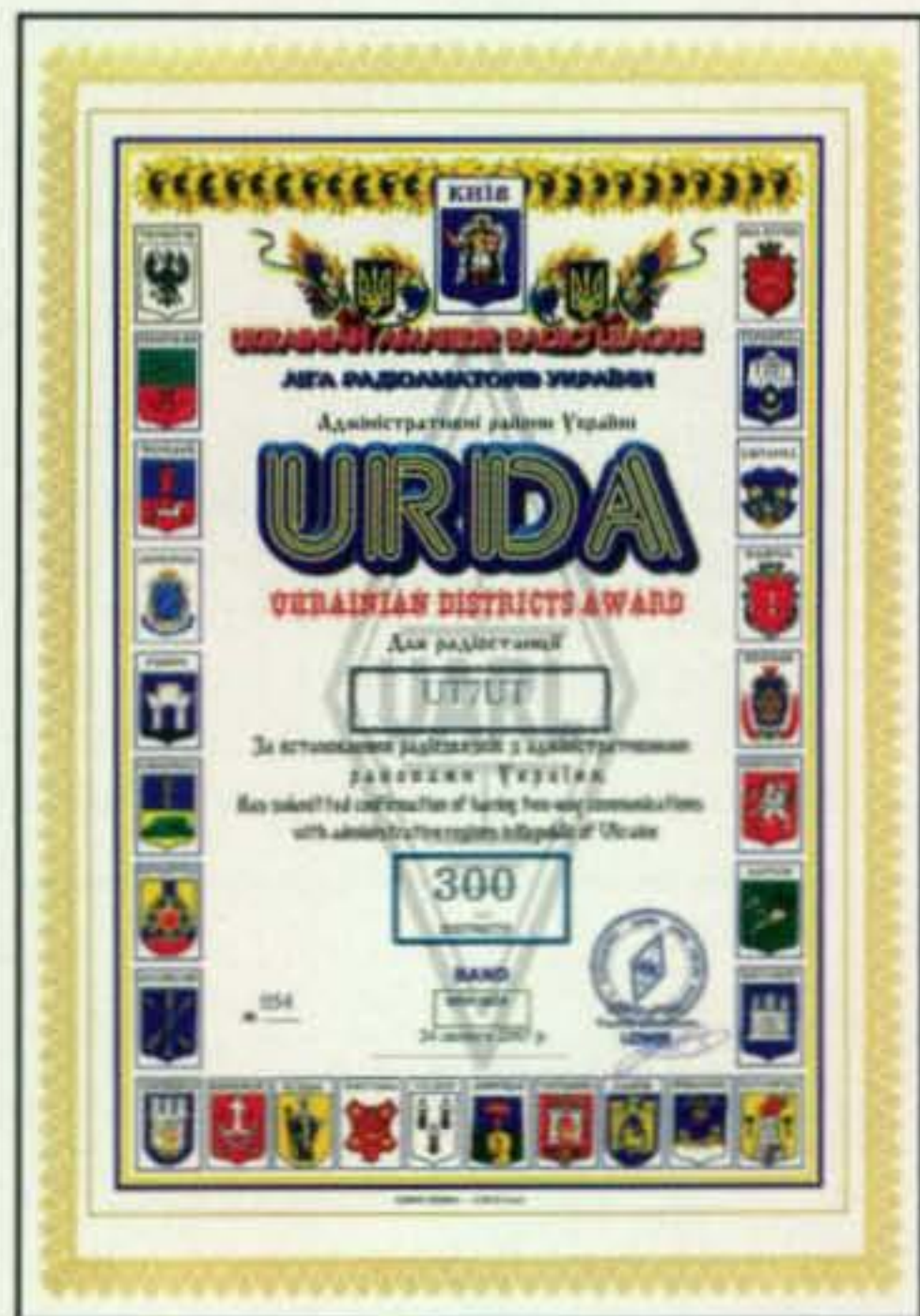
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these districts. There are awards for contacting 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700 districts, and a special plaque for all of them.

Contacts must be made on or after 24 August 1991. Endorsements are also available if all of the contacts are made using one mode or band. A list of the districts is available on the website (<http://uarl.com.ua/index.htm>), which you can download for recordkeeping.



The Ukrainian District Award is given on several levels for contacting the "administrative areas" of the Ukraine.



For the Worked All Ukrainian Cities Award you must contact at least 100 cities of the Ukraine.

**Worked Ukrainian Cities Award (WURCA).** The basic award requires that you contact at least 100 cities of the Ukraine. Separate awards are available at the 200, 300, and 400 cities levels. A plaque is awarded to those who contact all 458 cities in the Ukraine. A list of the cities is also available on the website.

**Worked Members of the UARL.** Contact members of the UARL. The basic award is offered for proving con-

tact with 25 members, and there are separate certificates for 50, 100, and even 500 members. A list of members is on the UARL website.

We're always looking for new awards from your group or club. Feel free to contact me via e-mail at [k1bv@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:k1bv@cq-amateur-radio.com).

73, Ted, K1BV

### H. Stephen Miller, NØSM USA-CA All Counties #1207, November 15, 2010

Ham radio has to be *the* single most fascinating hobby, with so many facets one can never hope to enjoy all of them. I still find myself like a kid in a toy store and enjoy contesting, DXing, traffic handling, VHF work, QRP, building both kits and from-scratch, and I've had a ball county hunting. Chasing counties is more an exercise of persistence than of great skill. Nevertheless, you have to keep on top of who is going where, when they'll be there, and have everything ready. Missing a rare and needed county often means a long wait for someone else to go there.

The earliest memory I have of an interest in radio was when I was in the fifth grade. My dad had brought home a couple of military handhelds (huge things), and my brother and I had fun running down the batteries talking from one end of the house to the other. In ninth grade, I had changed schools and the father of a new friend was a ham and later became my Elmer. Orris Wise, KØMVR, led me into the Novice Class license and then built a two-tube transmitter to go along with the Hallicrafters S-38E that I had purchased at my dad's summer camp PX after working as a civilian orderly cleaning officers' barracks half days for two weeks.

I didn't upgrade to General until the fall of 1967, after I was married. My wife wanted me to stay home. Well what else could I do that would have me at home and be away at the same time but amateur radio?

I can't tell you the exact date I began hunting counties, but it was in the very early 1970s. My wife had gotten Hodgkin's Disease, and I was making regular trips from Ottumwa, Iowa, to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, to visit her each weekend. If memory serves me right, we were on 3945 kHz during that time, and I was running a Galaxy V Mark II with Hustler antennas.

One of the members of our local club was Loren (Mac) McGinnis, WAØJCE, and either his wife or his brother would go on wild trips all over everywhere running counties, and had told me about it. I don't know how many counties I put out on those trips, but I worked all over the U.S. and had a ball. It was a real blessing and made the trip times fly by.

After a time, my wife recovered and I was no longer on the road. Occasionally, I would work a few counties, but my family came

along and my radio time was severely limited. I'd had a lot of fun but gave no thought to working 3000+ counties at the time.

In the late 90s, I started working counties in earnest, but still with little thought to really ever working all of them. Primarily, there were two things that drew me to county hunting: (1) What a great and thoughtful group of hams who would go the limit to help anybody. Their enjoyment of it was infectious. (2) The other thing that fascinated me was propagation. I've always enjoyed following propagation across the U.S. while chasing DX, and that was still a draw. But more interesting were the close-in contacts I was making on 20 meters. My little Iowa station was working stations in Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and even Iowa. No, the signals weren't very strong, but they were hearing me as well as my hearing them. That's definitely changed now with the low sunspot count, but there are still days when propagation defies understanding.

Around 2002, I began to feel that it might be possible to work all counties. Going through my QSL cards, I found around 700 counties confirmed. Next I looked at the software to see where I stood and found I was close to the 2000 mark in contacts. The rest is pretty much history. I retired in 2005 and spent a great deal of time chasing counties that summer and fall. I got down to 500 needed and figured it would take forever to finish up, but it wasn't long until that number was 400, then 300, and eventually I finished up when WAØJCE, my mentor, delivered Kearney County, Nebraska.

The story only begins there. It took nearly three years to get the cards checked. One ham was called back to work, another had a serious bout with depression, and a third had a heart blockage. Finally, WAØITP and NØJL performed the card checking and I prepared the cards K1BV had requested. In late August of 2010, I posted the booklet with signatures, check, and cards to Ted. After not hearing from him for almost a month and a half, I contacted Ted only to learn that the post office had temporarily lost the package.

I want to thank all of the county hunters for their patience, for all of the counties, and for the fine job they've done as net controls. These folks are all first-class operators and I admire each and every one of them. They made this possible.—NØSM



# Spratly and More DX News

Last month, I mentioned it was snowing as I wrote the column. Well, it's doing it again as I write this one in almost mid-January, but this time it's a lot more than it was before. Now some folks would consider a snow depth of 8 to 10 inches nothing to worry about. Those folks don't

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



Enjoying a night out, we find (left to right) Roberto Marcos, HC2GT; Alberto Pincay, HC2AQ; and Alfredo Solines, HC2SL (otherwise known as "Sapo Loco—The Crazy Frog"). (Photo courtesy of Rick, NE8Z/HC1MD)



The Southern Cross DX Net meets daily at 1230Z on 14238.5 kHz. This picture was taken during a visit to the U.S. by Neville Green, VK6JDW, at a luncheon held in his honor and hosted by Al Moe, K4AWM. Bottom row: N4RZP, Russell; W1FDY, Jack (primary net control); W4DPL, Dan. Middle row: VK6JDW, Neville; W4VES, Larry (alternate net control). Top row: W2GNC, Al; W4FZ, Will; K4AWM, Al Moe (alternate net control); and K3LEN, Carl. (Photo courtesy of Will, W4FZ)

live in the southern parts of the United States, where we usually just don't see these kind of snow depths very often. So, I'm just going to sit here for the next week until the sun finally shows up and maybe the temperature will rise enough to get rid of all this stuff so I can get out of my own driveway! Until that happens, and as long as the power doesn't fail us, I'll be happy to play radio or play solitaire on the computer ... you know, anything to pass the time.

Now let's get on with the purpose of this column—DXing!

## Spratly DXpedition

The much-anticipated operation from Spratly hit a snag. The operation was cancelled/postponed with all of the team in the Philippines ready to board the airplane. Here is the official announcement:

### DXØDX Postponement January 12, 2011, 0506 GMT

To the DX Community at large, it's with regret that as Team Leader, I have to announce the postponement of the DXØDX Spratly Islands DXpedition 2011, due to circumstances beyond the control of the DXØDX Team.

Our situation began when our original mode of transport by ship was terminally damaged back in late October 2010. We then went to our contingency plan, which was to fly in, as there were no ships available deemed to be safe and provided facilities for safe passage to Pag-Asa.

We had landing permission and booked the correct-size aircraft and with the security-cleared pilots. To simplify it, there were conflicting agreements and hence the aircraft could not get approval of its flight plan.



These keys are on the desk at W6SL. John identifies them as follows (left to right): Scheunemann Dirigent Morsetasten Iambic; Begali Iambic; Kent Single Paddle; Vibroplex 1963 Single Paddle; Kent KT1 Straight Key; Wm. Nye straight key (discontinued); Chinese Army Key D-117. The straight keys are hooked in parallel. All of the paddles go to a Daiwa D-210 keyer. (Photo courtesy of John, W6SL)

## On the Cover:



## The OM7M Contest Station

It all started in March 1949 when a radio club was set up in the small industrial town of Partizanske in the middle of Czechoslovakia. Four years later, the callsign OK3KAP was assigned and true radio activity commenced. Radio clubs in the Soviet bloc were often sponsored by state-owned factories and were encouraged to use VHF.

In 1993, Czechoslovakia was peacefully divided into two countries and the OM prefix is used in Slovakia, the eastern part of the former republic. The spirit of radio contesting is very strong in Eastern Europe and many groups continue as private clubs. The team of OM3KAP found an excellent location in the outskirts of town and started building a competitive short-wave station in the 1990s, emphasizing the low bands. In 1995, they acquired a shorter callsign, OM7M, and an adequate name—The Low Bands Contest Club.

The guardian angel of the club is Peter, OM3PA. Peter keeps the archives of the club, spanning over 60 years, with records of activities by well over 200 members. He has been in the club for *only* some 50 years. Today the core group consists of around 10 persons. Then, there are always a few guest operators, and a small bunch of apprentices—young members.

The OM7M station is located on a hill with a small cabin and impressive towers with huge, homemade antennas. The club has a website at <[www.om7m.org](http://www.om7m.org)> where contest results of the past decade are proudly displayed.

(Cover photo and "On the Cover" by Henryk Kotowski, SM0JHF)

## The WPX Program

**CW**  
3255.....KZ8E 3257.....IV3GOW  
3256.....RN3QQ 3258.....SP5EOT

**SSB**  
3082.....AD2AM 3086.....IV3GOW  
3083.....KZ8E 3087.....SP5EOT  
3084.....KB8UUZ 3088.....S58MU  
3085.....N2HO

**Mixed**  
2132.....N2HO 2134.....W5QP  
2133.....K7LV 2135.....SP5EOT

**Digital**  
49.....IV3GOW

**CW:** 350 RN3QQ, 600 JA7OXR, IV3GOW, 650 KZ8E, 750 JH6JMM, SP5EOT, 1100 IT9ELD, 2800 S51NR, 3100 W8IQ, 3900 S58MU, 4550 N6JV.

**SSB:** 600 JA7OXR, 700 KZ8E, 750 KB8UUZ, IV3GOW, W8KNO, 800 IK4THK, 1050 IZ8FFA, 2250 W3LL, 2600 S58MU.

**Mixed:** 500 K7LV, 550 N2HO, 850 SP5EOT, 1000 JA7OXR, 1100 KZ8E, 1700 W9BOK, 2550 W3LL, 4500 S58MU.

**Digital:** 650 EA2IA, 800 K0DEQ, 1535 W3LL.

**160 meters:** KZ8E, KB8UUZ, SP5EOT, S58MU  
**80 meters:** KZ8E, JA7OXR, SP5EOT, S58MU  
**40 meters:** KZ8E, JA7OXR, IZ8FFA, SP5EOT, S58MU  
**30 meters:** JA7OXR  
**20 meters:** KB8UUZ, JA7OXR, IZ8FFA, SP5EOT, S58MU  
**17 meters:** JA7OXR  
**15 meters:** KZ8E, JA7OXR, IZ8FFA, SP5EOT, S58MU  
**10 meters:** KZ8E, KB8UUZ, S58MU

**Asia:** SP5EOT  
**Africa:** KZ8E, S58MU  
**Europe:** KB8UUZ, SP5EOT  
**Oceania:** S58MU  
**N. America:** KB8UUZ, S58MU  
**S. America:** KB8UUZ, S58MU

**Award of Excellence Holders:** N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MDD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SIJ, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BQY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, WB8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IIC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, WB8ZRL, WA8YTM, SM6DHU, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, 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, YB0TK, K9QFR, 9A2NA, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I6DQE, I1EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWP, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE0DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IK4GME, VE9RJ, NN1N, HB9AUT, KC6X, N6IBF, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HJM, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PXV, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU0A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, K4LQ, K0KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, AI6Z, RU3DX, WB9IHH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, KT2C, UA9CGL, AE5B, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI, UT9FJ, UT4EK, K9UQN, UR5FEO, LY2MM, N3RC, OH3MKH, RA3CQ, UT3IZ, S55SL, RU3ZX, YO9HP, RA3DNC, K8ZT, KE5K, JH8BOE, TF8GX.

**160 Meter Endorsements:** N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8ILC, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TQH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, N3XX, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, NN1N, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HJM, HB9DDZ, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU0A, VR2UW, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLD, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, S51U, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX, WB9IHH, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, UA9CGL, SM6DHU, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI, 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.

The bottom line is this: We have a licence, we have authority to land via ship, hence when the ship becomes available in the near future, it is my intention to activate this entity in 2011.

The team has worked tirelessly to remove the hurdles that were placed before the team at the last minute.

As time was running out for this window of opportunity, and before more operators became stuck here in Palawan, the decision was made to postpone the activation.

A call was placed to PARA advising them that a postponement of the activation would be sought to a date in the near future, where the activation will look at again taking place.

All equipment will need to be exported out of the Philippines to comply with the current Philippine Customs Law in which it was brought into the country.

The plan is to be re-assessed so the current operators have the first opportunity to be on this future trip.

Once more information is at hand, I will advise the DX Community.

Regards, Chris, VK3FY, Team Leader  
DX0DX"

## The "PJ" Story Continues

Remember those New Ones we all worked back in October—the "PJ" story? Well, hopefully by the time you

## The CQ DX Field Award Program

### Mixed

115.....K9OHI

### CW

61.....YO6HSU

### Mixed Endorsements

200.....K8SIX/215 200.....W4UM/202  
200.....RW4NH/203

### SSB Endorsements

175.....W4UM/184

### CW Endorsements

150.....N7WO/175 200.....W4UM/197

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](http://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. Please make all checks payable to the award manager.

## CQ DX Awards Program

### SSB

2561.....N0AZZ

### SSB Endorsements

340.....N4JF/341      320.....F6HMJ/329  
330.....N7BK/338      200.....N0AZZ/201  
330.....WK3N/337

### CW Endorsements

340.....N4JF/340      330.....WK3N/336  
330.....F3TH/336      320.....F6HMJ/326

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](http://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 341 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.

read this, the ARRL will have wrapped up all the year-end work that occurs when so many DXers submit their applications at the last minute to meet the December 31st deadline. An announcement came in response to questions about when the LoTW confirmations would be issued for all those new PJ calls. Here's what they had to say on January 4th:

At this time, there will be no new PJ certificates or credits being accepted for the new PJ DXCC entities by LoTW. This is due to the large backlog of DXCC applications that were received for the December 31, 2010 deadline.

It is anticipated that the backlog should be completed by mid to late February.

We should be accepting new PJ certificates and credits for LoTW by March 1, 2011.

We understand the anticipation for certificates and credits for the new PJ DXCC entities and are working hard to make this available as soon as possible.

73, Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, LoTW Specialist

## Activities for DXers

There are lots of other activities to keep us busy, and contests abound. There was the ARRL RTTY Roundup, NA QSO Party on CW & SSB, ARRL

# The DX Store

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**C-31XR**

**3 Bands, 20 -15 -10  
3 elements on 20m  
4 elements on 15m  
7 elements on 10m  
Boom length: 31 ft.**



940.683.8371 [FORCE12INC.COM](http://FORCE12INC.COM)

## THE WPX HONOR ROLL

The WPX Honor Roll is based on the current confirmed prefixes which are submitted by separate application in strict conformance with the CQ Master Prefix list. Scores are based on the current prefix total, regardless of an operator's all-time count. Honor Roll must be updated annually by addition to, or confirmation of, present total. If no up-date, files will be made inactive.

### MIXED

6315.....9A2AA	4182.....N6JV	3775...YU7BCD	3007.....W2WC	2499...KC9ARR	1936.....AG4W	1463.....N3RC	815.....KL7FAP	644.....KW0H
5890.....K2VV	4136.....S53EO	3737...WB2YQH	3003...JN3SAC	2499.....VE6BF	1905.....W7CB	1446.....DF3JO	781.....V51YJ	636.....ZS2DL
5610.....W1CU	4129.....S58MU	3693.....W9OP	3001.....K1BV	2440.....K5UR	1891.....VE9FX	1337.....K6UXO	726.....K5IC	616.....DL5JH
5013.....EA2IA	4092.....K0DEQ	3474...SM6DHU	2965...OZ1ACB	2428.....N6QQ	1820.....KX1A	1322.....AA4FU	723.....K0DAN	600.....IK1RKN
5012.....9A2NA	4069.....I2MQP	3305...JH8BOE	2873.....W2ME	2338.....I2EAY	1741.....AB5C	1269.....K5WAF	707...W1/E74OF	600...KB9OWD
4989.....W2FXA	4034.....N9AF	3227.....K9BG	2724.....W2OO	2233.....AB1J	1705.....W2EZ	1116.....YU7FW	682.....AI8P	
4701.....N4NO	4006...WA5VGI	3207.....W9IL	2704.....K2XF	2116.....AE5B	1662...SV1DPI	1016...RA1AOB	662...JA7OXR	
4414.....YU1AB	3990...ON4CAS	3195.....N8BJQ	2559.....W3LL	2192.....N2SS	1643.....N1KC	982...IW0HOU	653.....KK3Q	
4361.....VE3XN	3908.....KF2O	3104...K9UQN	2530...YO9HP	2001.....K0KG	1593...S55SL	976...KM6HB	650.....N3YZ	
4211.....I2PJA	3798.....IK2ILH	3091.....9A4W	2511...W6OUL	1971...W2FKF	1512...WD9DZV	964.....K8ZEE	649.....RA9OO	

### SSB

5122.....I0ZV	3323...OE2EGL	2711...LU8ESU	2288.....W3LL	2072.....K5UR	1758...W6OUL	1463.....I2EAY	1031...IK8OZP	637.....K5WAF
4520.....K2VV	3229...CT1AHU	2677...WA5VGI	2210...SV3AQR	2021...N8BJQ	1719...K9UQN	1410...S55SL	1022...NW3H	600...WA2BEV
4505...VE1YX	3196.....KF2O	2595.....EA1JG	2209...IK2QPR	1986...DL8AAV	1714...IK2DZN	1395...PT7ZT	1012...KU4BP	
4422...OZ5EV	3108.....I4CSP	2497...S58MU	2201...NQ3A	1971...W2FKF	1711...JN3SAC	1386...IK4HPU	978...EA7HY	
4371...F6DZU	3047...K0DEQ	2471...I3ZSX	2157...W2OO	1935...SV1EOS	1623...VE9FX	1377...EA3NP	965...VE6BF	
4171...I2PJA	3022...I8KCI	2451...EA3GHZ	2107...N6FX	1927...AE5B	1612...AG4W	1258...N1KC	883...WA5UA	
4003...9A2NA	2903...IN3QCI	2431...G4UOL	2099...K17AO	1889...N6QQ	1611...W2ME	1145...EA3EQT	875...K7SAM	
3843...I2MQP	2857...4X6DK	2417...SM6DHU	2094...I8LEL	1879...K3IXD	1534...AE9DX	1089...I28FFA	758...IV3GOW	
3741...EA2IA	2761...KF7RU	2333...W9IL	2093...W2WC	1844...YO9HP	1480...AB5C	1083...KX1A	741...WD9DZV	
3536...N4NO	2734...YU7BCD	2326...CX6BZ	2076...K2XF	1825...KQ8D	1464...VE7SMP	1042...IZ0BNR	717...K0DAN	

### CW

5413...WA2HZR	3750...VE7CNE	2914...SM6DHU	2529...IK3GER	2101...I2MQP	1769...AC5K	1223...KX1A	915...N1KC	615...JH6JMM
5353...K9QVB	3676...S58MU	2884...I7PXV	2503...I0NNY	2101...W9HR	1665...YO9HP	1220...AA4FU	824...VE9FX	608...IK2SGV
5242...K2VV	3506...9A2NA	2723...EA7AZA	2502...JA9CWJ	2089...K2XF	1445...EA2CIN	1147...WD9DZV	821...HB9DAX	
4215...N4NO	3464...WA5VGI	2721...K9UQN	2473...OZ5UR	1979...K5UR	1429...WO3Z	1125...I0WOK	794...LA5MDA	
4182...N6JV	3379...K0DEQ	2670...KA7T	2434...W9IL	1961...W6OUL	1424...N6QQ	1109...VE1YX	753...F5PBL	
4024...LZ1XL	2971...W8IQ	2632...W2ME	2415...W2WC	1918...W2OO	1344...WA2VQV	1102...IT9ELD	749...AE5B	
3918...VE7DP	2923...KF2O	2617...JN3SAC	2373...VE6BF	1848...I2EAY	1334...RU0LL	1053...K5WAF	695...S55SL	
3780...EA2IA	2923...YU7BCD	2599...N8BJQ	2342...N6FX	1804...EA7AAW	1317...K6UXO	1030...AA5JG	629...IV3GOW	

### DIGITAL

1534...W3LL	1262...N8BJQ	1133...N6QQ	1066...YO9HP	1009...GU0SUP	894...AG4W	836...K0DEQ	692...WD9DZV	629...W2OO
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January VHF Sweepstakes, CQ WW 160 CW contest the end of January, CQ WPX RTTY Contest, ARRL DX Contest on CW (the SSB leg is March 4-6), CQ WW 160 Contest on SSB the end of February, and the list goes on. Surely you found something in that list that caught your interest. There also are more contests and activities coming up soon.

I'm not trying to steal any "thunder" from our Contesting editor, just commenting that there's a lot of "stuff" going on while we wait for these DXpeditions to come on the air. There's always something to do—RTTY, PSK-31 or 63, or some other digital mode to try. I know, as I've been trying them myself and it can be a lot of fun and educational as well.

### DXpeditions and More

I can't say much more about the South Orkney DXpedition, since it isn't due until the end of January, but I'm sure we'll have a great time working that team. There are some others coming up as well. The three-times postponed operation from Sable Island will try again in March; an operation from

Cocos Keeling, VK9C, is due in late February to early March; operations from other Pacific islands are scheduled for later in the year.

A team made up of mostly French ops from the Provins ARC (F6KOP) will be going to Cameroon February 10 to the 20. Some American ops will be going too, including my friends Dave, K4SV; Bill, N2WB; and Bob, N6OX. Also included are Michel, FM5CD; Eric, ON7RN; and Gabriele, I2VGW. Their

announced target is 80,000 QSOs with emphasis on working the low bands.

March 5 to 15, ON4AFU will be in Cambodia as XU7AFU.

Frosty, K5LBU, will be heading up another group going to Africa. This time it will be Lesotho (7P) March 11-20.

From March 15 to April 4 a group of op from the Netherlands will be going to Sierra Leone to operate as 9L5MS.

There will be lots of contest operations during the month of March, too,

### QSL Information

**DA0CA** via DL1REM  
**DA0GF** via DL3OCH  
**DA0HQ** via DL5AXX  
**DA0MF** via DL3OCH  
**DA1AD** via DL1DA  
**DA2009LH** via DH3WO  
**DD0D** via DK5AN  
**DF0HQ** via DL5AXX  
**DF0IT** via DG7TG  
**DK1CE/H44** via DJ9ZB  
**DK1CE/KH900** via DJ9ZB  
**DK5LM/HI7** via DK5LM  
**DL/A61B** via A61B  
**DL/HA0HW** via HA0HW  
**DL/HB9LH** via HB9DLO  
**DL/OE3CHC** via OE3CHC  
**DL/OE3MDC** via OE3MDC

**DL/OK2QA/P** via OK2QA  
**DL0OMR** via DL2DN  
**DL1AGH** via JL1AGH  
**DL1DA/TI7** via DL1DA  
**DL1DAA** via DL1DA  
**DL3VNL** via DM2NL  
**DL4/HB9LH** via HB9LH  
**DL50DRA** via DF6LI  
**DL60CHILD** via DL5SE  
**DL6UCW** via DM3CW  
**DL75ERL** via DL4NN  
**DL9SEP/P** via DL9SEP  
**DM50BER** via DL2BWO  
**DP3D** via DK3KD  
**DP3SSKW** via DK7FK  
**DQ0A** via DJ5BWD  
**DQ0Q** via DL5AXX

**DQ11APOLLO** via DF3JO  
**DQ750UEM** via DL2VC  
**DQ80IARU** via DL5AXX  
**DR09ANT** via DL5MHQ  
**DR12IAA** via DL7AHF  
**DR20DLY** via DL1AB  
**DR3M/LH** via DG7TG  
**DR400PG** via DM3ZF  
**DR60GER** via DK3DM  
**DR775TMG** via DJ8QP  
**DR800GRZ** via DL1ARJ

*(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/>.)*

## 5 Band WAZ

As of January 1 1, 2011, 832 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1705 stations have attained the 150 zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones confirmed:  
None

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

N4WW, 199 (26)	K9OW, 199 (34 on 10)
W4LI, 199 (26)	G3NKC, 199 (31 on 10)
K7UR, 199 (34)	K8PT, 199 (26)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	IN3ZNR, 199 (1)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40)	EA5BCX, 198 (27, 39)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	JA1DM, 198 (2, 40)
KZ4V, 199 (26)	9A5I, 198 (1, 16)
W6DN, 199 (17)	K4CN, 198 (23, 26)
W3NO, 199 (26)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	N2QT, 198 (23, 24)
N3UN, 199 (18)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
W1JZ, 199 (24)	W4UM, 198 (18, 23)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	US7MM, 198 (2, 6)
SM7BIP, 199 (31)	K2TK, 198 (23, 24)
N4NX, 199 (26)	K3JGJ, 198 (24, 26)
N4MM, 199 (26)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
EA7GF, 199 (1)	F5NBU, 198 (19, 31)
N6HR/7, 199 (37)	W9XY, 198 (22, 26)
JA5IU, 199 (2)	KZ2I, 198 (24, 26)
RU3DX, 199 (6)	W7VJ, 198 (34, 37)
N4XR, 199 (27)	W9RN, 198 (26, 19 on 40)
HA5AGS, 199 (1)	W5CWQ, 198 (17, 18)
VE3XN, 199 (26)	I5KKW, 198 (31&23 on 20)
N5AW, 199 (17)	IV3MUC, 198 (1&31 on 40)
JH7CFX, 199 (2)	UA4LY, 198 (6&2 on 10)
K7LJ, 199 (37)	IK4CIE, 198 (1, 31)
RA6AX, 199 (6 on 10m)	JA7XBG, 198 (2 on 80&10)
RX4HZ, 199 (13)	HB9ALO, 198 (1, 31)
K0GM, 199 (17)	JA3GN, 198 (2 on 80&40)
S58Q, 199 (31)	
KQ0B, 199 (2 on 10)	

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

JA7OXR (150 zones)      W0DJC (192 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

N2NL (200 zones)      K6FG (197 zones)  
WC5M (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>.

with the ARRL SSB Contest March 5-6 and the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest March 26-27.

In April, there are several operations announced for places in the Pacific such as Papua New Guinea (P29), and a large group will be going to Central Kiribati (T31), too.

In May, an operation is scheduled to take place from Afghanistan (T6PSE), but the dates won't be announced early for security concerns.

In early July an operation is scheduled for Rotuma (3D2R) by a group of Australian DXers.

Looking further down the calendar,

## The WAZ Program

### 17 Meters CW

75 .....WB6RSE

### 30 Meters CW

98 .....WB6RSE

### 160 Meters

363.....SP7GAQ (30 zones)      365.....K9EL (32 zones)  
364 .....WB6RSE (34 zones)      366 .....K6FG (30 zones)

### All Band WAZ

#### Diamond Jubilee

082 .....K5VIP	088.....K4YMQ
083 .....K0MD	079 .....N6MA
084 .....DJ9ZB	090 .....W1JR
085 .....M0NDZ	091 .....AA6K
086 .....K6YKJ	092 .....JA7DOT
087 .....N15W	

#### Mixed

8759 .....UR7FM	8765 .....ON6KE
8760 .....WA6KHK	8766 .....SV1GYG
8761 .....PA9JO	8767 .....SV9AHZ
8762 .....N7FF	8768 .....K0NO
8763 .....OZ1IKY	8769 .....W0DJC
8764 .....RX3AGD	

#### SSB

5149 .....EB3CW      5150 .....PA9JO

#### CW

616 .....N7FF

#### RTTY

213 .....S55ZZ

#### EME

005 .....DL9MS (40 zones)

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>.

the FIVE STAR DXers will be going to East Kiribati (T32) the end of September for a whole month. They always do a super job no matter where they go.

In October Hrane, YT1AD, will head up a group operating from Conway Reef for about ten days.

Therefore, fellow DXers, you can see there is a lot of planning going on for the months ahead of us. With these, plus the usual run of contests, there won't be a lack of operations to keep us occupied this year.

### DXpedition Funding

I mentioned last month about the funding for DXpeditions. Here are some details from just a few of the major organizations:

INDEXA provided significant funding for the following in 2010: YI9PSE, Iraq in April; E4X, Palestine in May; T31X, Canton Is. and ZK3X Tokelau in June; 3C0A, Annobon & 3C9B Eq. Guinea in

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## Looking Ahead in



Here are some of the articles we're working on for upcoming issues of CQ:

- Professor Heisseluft's annual visit
- Ham Friendships, Ham Hospitality
- A Multimedia Social Net
- Hunting for Foxes, Ham Radio-Style

Do you have a ham radio story to tell? See our writers' guidelines on the CQ website at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/guide.html>>.

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PO Box 3247  
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USA



June; 5V7TT, Togo in October; PJ7E, St. Maartin in October; and ZL8X, Kermadec in November.

For 2011 they are funding VP8O, S. Orkney in January; DXØDX, Spratly Is. (pending); CYØ, Sable Island in March 2011 (carried over from 2009); and T6, Afghanistan in May.

See the INDEXA website: <<http://www.indexa.org/>>.

NCDXF has provided funding for 3D20CR, Conway Reef; T31A, Central Kiribati, April 2011; E44M, Palestine; FT5GA, Glorioso; FW5RE, Wallis & Fortuna; K4M, Midway; K5D, Desecheo; S04R, Western Sahara; TY1MS, Benin; VK9LA, Lord Howe Island; XV4D, Vietnam; VK9XX, Christmas Island; ZYØT, Trindade; VK9C, Cocos Keeling; DXØDX, Spratly; VP8O, South Orkney; CYØ, Sable Island; ZL8X, Kermadec; VK9N, Norfolk Island; 9UØA, Burundi; ZK2A, Niue; 9XØSP, Rwanda; 5V7TT, Togo; PJ7E, St. Maarten; 3CØC, Annobon Island; E4X, Palestine; T31X, Pacific Islands; and YI9PSE, Iraq.

See the NCDXF website: <<http://www.ncdxf.org/>>.

All of the above amounts to a lot of money. Where do these organizations get all that money?

From us .... Yes, you and I are the ones who make it possible for INDEXA and NCDXF to provide the funding for groups to go these places and make it possible for you and me to make the contacts and confirm them. Have you made any effort to help these organizations? Some of you make donations directly to the DXpeditions, either before they go, or you make a donation "on line," which is fine and I know they appreciate all of the \$5, \$10, or perhaps even \$100 donations. These add up, but not to the level required for many of these DXpeditions, especially those to the Antarctic regions. These trips cost tens of thousands of dollars, and the organizers look to the major DX foundations for much of that cost.



A significant financial contribution was made to NCDXF from the estate of W4AI. See the story elsewhere in this column. Left to right: Fred, K4LQ; John, W4AI (SK); and Dale, W4QM. the photo was taken in September 2004. (From the NCDXF website)

Here's part of an announcement I saw recently from NCDXF. John Beck, W4AI, passed away in February 2008 at the age of 89. NCDXF received a very substantial contribution from the estate, made possible through the efforts of Mr. Beck's executor, Dale Strieter, W4QM.

I'm told there are a number of ways for you to leave a portion of your estate to these organizations. However, you should contact a knowledgeable person to determine just how that can be done.

That's beyond my expertise, and I wouldn't even attempt to try to tell you how to do it.

That's a wrap for this month. Enjoy the weather (good or bad, as we can't change it). Enjoy whatever on-the-air activity you like, but please remember it should be FUN!

73, Carl, N4AA

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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	K8SIX.....215	N4NX.....192
HA8DU.....240	W8OAT.....212	ON4CAS.....191
VE7IG.....237	VE3ZZ.....207	HA9PP.....190
W1CU.....235	HA5WA.....206	BA4DW.....188
VE3XN.....234	F6HMJ.....206	HB9DDZ.....188
HA5AGS.....228	JN3SAC.....206	IV3GOW.....184
N8PR.....223	KF8UN.....205	K2SHZ.....182
HA1RW.....220	OK1AOV.....205	K1NU.....180
9A5CY.....219	N4MM.....202	W5ODD.....177
HA1AG.....218	W4UM.....200	NØFW.....176
KØDEQ.....216	K8OOK.....195	

### SSB

W1CU.....213	VE7SMP.....190	NØFW.....176
W4ABW.....202	N4MM.....186	DL3DXX.....175
KØDEQ.....192	W4UM.....183	JN3SAC.....175

### CW

DL6KVA.....233	JN3SAC.....200	N4MM.....179
W1CU.....229	OK1AOV.....196	N4NX.....177
DL2DXA.....209	W4UM.....195	N7WO.....175
KØDEQ.....207	HB9DZZ.....186	
DL3DXX.....203	OK2PO.....184	

# A Wire and a Dream

BY GEORGE TRANOS, N2GA

# Contesting

## Introducing George Tranos, N2GA



*From the editor:* As noted in this space last month, John Dorr, K1AR, has decided to hand over the reins of this column after a run of nearly 22 years. This month, I would like to introduce CQ's new Contest Editor, George Tranos, N2GA.

George has been an active contester for two decades, operating—and often winning—a variety of contests from both stateside and DX (mostly Caribbean) locations. He has also been a referee at three World Radio Teamsport Championship (WRTC) competitions, in 2000, 2006, and 2010, and is a member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club as well as the New York-based Order of Boiled Owls. He is also a committee member and past chairman of Ham Radio University, former ARRL Section Manager for New York City/Long Island, and past president of the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club.

Professionally, George is president of a software and management consulting firm, vice president of a school for professional motorcycle riders, and a freelance journalist. He lives in Copiague, New York, with his wife, Diane Ortiz, K2DO, who is also an accomplished contester.

I am confident that George will uphold the high standards for this column established by K1AR and will bring to it his own perspective. Welcome aboard, George!

—73, W2VU

**T**uning the bands one weekend, you come across a cacophony of sound. Not knowing what it is, you listen harder. Many signals are crammed into a small amount of spectrum. The clatter comes in rapid bursts and is gone just as quickly as it starts. You've never heard the radio so alive and full of callsigns. You've just encountered your first contest.

Isn't it amazing how different the airwaves can be in the space of just a few hours or even minutes? Once a contest starts, activity levels rise quickly, sometimes overwhelming a group of frequencies. It becomes difficult to find a clear spot with no other callers. For the casual ham radio operator, contests can seem a bit overwhelming at first.

There is a rhyme and reason, however, and it can be learned, improved upon, and sometimes mastered, if only for a short time. One of the greatest aspects of contesting is that everyone starts off fresh every time. Each contest stands on its own, is unique in a specific way, and begins anew in every instance. Last time you may have done poorly, but this time you have another chance!

When operating casually, there is no pressure of time. You can tune around and listen for something that sounds interesting and then call or join

### All year

Feb. 25–27

Feb. 26–27

Feb. 26–27

Feb. 26–27

Mar. 1

Mar. 5–6

Mar. 12

Mar. 12–13

Mar. 12–13

Mar. 13

Mar. 13

Mar. 19

Mar. 19–20

Mar. 19–21

Mar. 26–27

Mar 28

Apr. 2–3

Apr. 2–3

May 28–29

### Calendar of Events

**CQ DX Marathon**

**CQ 160M SSB Contest**

North American RTTY QSO Party

REF SSB Contest /

UBA CW DX Contest

AGCW YL-CW QSO Party

ARRL SSB DX Contest

AGCW QRP Contest

EA PSK31 Contest

RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest

North American RTTY Sprint

Wisconsin QSO Party

10-10 Mobile QSO Party

Russian DX Contest

BARTG HF RTTY Contest

**CQ WW WPX SSB Contest**

QRP Homebrewer Sprint

SP DX Contest

Missouri QSO Party

**CQ WW WPX CW Contest**

in if you want. Contesting adds time limits by implementing an operating period with start and end times. Its purpose is to work as many stations in as many different places as quickly as possible. The best contesters establish and maintain a quick rate, sometimes making three or more contacts a minute over a long period of time. While this may be difficult to achieve for the new contester or even a more experienced contester operating at a small station, a top-notch operator can run and hold a frequency for hours.

## Reasons for Contesting

Even if you don't have a big station, there are many reasons to give contesting a try. First and foremost is that it is fun. The information that is exchanged is formatted and normally quite brief. For each contact, you might only have to transmit a signal report and your state, for example. Of course, each contest is different and you need to read the rules to know what the "exchange" is.

There are other reasons to participate as well. Competitive operating events allow you to build your own personal operating skills, make lots of contacts, and test your station. You will learn a lot about propagation and what bands and modes work best for you. You'll have a chance to learn and experiment with antennas. You can compete against yourself and your friends and even earn awards.

What do you need to get started? For most people, whatever you currently have in the way of radios and equipment is enough to participate. Like any other sport, as you improve you will want better equipment, but you can have fun right away with what you have now. You don't need a monster antenna, linear amplifier, or one of the latest and greatest transceivers with all of the newest bells and whistles. All you need is a wire and a dream.

You do need a radio, microphone or key, and antenna. A license to operate the specific contest

\*P.O. Box 657, Copiague, NY 11726  
e-mail: <n2ga@cq-amateur-radio.com>

band is required, or you could operate with a friend who has such a license. A computer with contest logging software is helpful and many hams have one. The most important ingredient you should supply is enthusiasm.

### Preparation and Planning

The best way to get started is to prepare in advance. Read the contest rules and learn the basics—the contest start and end dates and times, objective, bands and modes, information to be exchanged, entry classes, scoring, and log submission. All contest sponsors today have websites with this information. Read this before the contest starts!

Have a plan for the contest. If you know how much time you have, plan your operating time around your station's strengths and the propagation prediction. If you only have one antenna and it works best on 15 meters, plan on being on when 15 meters is open and you will be productive. This will maximize your potential score and increase the fun factor.

As you become more serious about contesting, you can become more precise in your planning. You may want to develop a band plan to predict which bands you want to operate at what

times. Try planning your sleep periods so you can be off at minimum activity times. Take a look at your log from last year or prior years to see if you can spot any specific things that you did well. This will help you be in the right place at the right time for that rare opening or peak-rate timeframe.

Before the contest, you should operate your radio and test your antennas and your computer logging program. Get on the bands and get a feel for propagation in the days leading up to the contest. When does a specific band open? Where are the signals coming from that are strongest on that band? If you have a directional antenna, try rotating it and determine the correct beam headings for the major population centers of Europe, North America, South America, Japan, and others.

### Strategy Choices

Try to be on at the start of the contest. Many operators have their best rates right at the beginning. Be prepared to make lots of contacts quickly!

Your first choice is to determine your operating strategy. Do you want to search the bands and pounce on the stations you hear? This strategy may yield the most contest multipliers. Multipliers


are what create the need for operating strategy. Without multipliers, every contest would simply be a competition to see who could make the most contacts. With multipliers, it's possible for one station with more multipliers to outscore another station with more contacts.

You could sit on one frequency and "run" stations. This may yield a great number of QSOs but not many multipliers. Conversely, you could do a lot of searching and work only new multipliers, but your QSO total may suffer. A good strategy might be to try to run when you can and search when your rates get low. Of course, it depends on your station, antennas, power level, location, operating skill, and mindset.

Most contests are scored by taking your total number of QSOs and multiplying by a factor (sometimes based on power level) to determine your QSO points. Often, your total score is determined by taking QSO points times your total multipliers. Sometimes multipliers can be once for the entire contest (such as sections in ARRL Sweepstakes) or once per band and/or mode (such as countries in CQ World-Wide DX). Read and know the rules and hunt for multipliers to increase your score.

Many logging programs can help you determine the "worth" of a multiplier in QSOs. They might have a value such as "minutes per multiplier" or QSOs per multiplier. Either way, you'll have an idea of how long you should wait in a pile-up to work the multiplier. Note that some multipliers may be easy to work, while others are much harder. The great thing about contest operating is that every multiplier is worth the same! Therefore, try not to get distracted by the rarity of the multiplier, especially if other multipliers are available quickly. You may find that if you save the more difficult to get multipliers in memory and then come back to them later, they will be easier to work as propagation changes or their pile-up fades.

Today a logging program is almost a necessity. Sure you can get by without one, but then you would have to keep track of every QSO by writing down its date and time, station worked, band, mode, and exchange. This way would be much harder to keep track of multipliers worked and needed and calculate the total score. Computers can make things a lot easier. They will automatically record the date and time of the contact and can track the band, exact frequency, and mode with a simple computer-to-radio interface. Then all you have to do is make contacts and record the unique information for each QSO.



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The logging program does the rest. It will log your QSO, determine if the station you are working is a multiplier, or if you've already worked it (and it's a DUPE, or duplicate station with no points). The computer will tally your multipliers and help you determine which multipliers you still have not worked and are needed on a specific band (or overall). The logging program will keep a running score, track your rate, and help you determine if it's time to change bands. The program can control radios and antennas, and show beam headings, country names, prior exchanged information when working a station on another band, and help with partial callsigns. Computers can also act as CW memory or voice keyers. For RTTY operators, a computer and associated sound card with RTTY demodulating software can be used as the RTTY modem.

### Flying Solo or Getting Help

A computer and packet cluster interface can link you to other users who will "spot" stations that they hear. This spotting assistance may help you work more stations and identify needed multipliers, but it may also put you into a different category (depending on the rules; in CQ contests, for example, using spots would put a single-operator station into the "Assisted" category). For many people, using spots is a boon to their operating, and with the appropriate computer/radio interface allows "point and click" operating. Spotting can also be a bane to operating, though, as sometimes the spots contain incorrect callsigns or can lead to huge "packet pile-ups," when everyone clicks on a newly spotted station. In many contests, single operators *not* using spotting assistance sometimes submit the highest scores! This is because spotting may be more of a distraction at times than assistance. Of course, your mileage may vary.

Computers can also help create your output log file to submit to the contest sponsor. This log can also be used to interface to your general logging software or to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) to QSL for awards such as DXCC or Worked All States. Computers can also provide useful post-contest analysis, such as rates per hour, number of stations per multiplier, QSOs per band, etc.

Contesting aids are helpful and some may seem necessary, but none of them is a substitute for smart and considerate operating. Listen before you call. Make sure the frequency is not in use before trying to call CQ. Avoid frequency fights

or anything that will give ham radio in general or contesting specifically a bad name. Remember, a ham is considerate and can and should positively contribute to international goodwill.

When operating, keep your exchange short and direct. Avoid excessive words and don't repeat the other station's exchange unless you need a fill or need to confirm something. Give the exchange information in the correct order; if it's signal report, name, and state then give it that way. Use standard international phonetics and don't use "cute" names. "Albany" doesn't work as well as "Alpha" as a substitute for the letter "A." Don't spend time waiting to work the "big guns"; they most likely will be there at the end of the contest and will probably come looking for you when they run out of other stations to work. Use your operating time wisely: Be in the right place at the right time on the right band.

No matter the size of your log, make sure to submit it! Even if you don't think your score will be "competitive," your

log will help verify the scores of the stations you contacted. Besides, you never know ...

Most logs today are sent via e-mail or through a website and use something called the "Cabrillo" format. Most logging programs output this format, or there are other programs available that can convert your log into it. More contest results are being published on the web and are often available there before they are printed on paper in a magazine. Log-submission deadlines are getting shorter because of this. Make sure you read the contest rules to determine the submission deadlines and where and how to submit your log. Regardless of your score, it's always nice to see your callsign listed and you will have something to shoot for the next time you operate.

So the next time you tune across the bands and hear someone calling "CQ Contest," you can jump in and join the fun. You'll be glad you did.

73, George, N2GA

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<input type="checkbox"/>	TOP 10	051	50
<input type="checkbox"/>	LOW 10	051	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	SOUTH 10	160	0

# Where's the New Sunspot Cycle?

## A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

### Sunspots

Observed Monthly, December 2010: 15  
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2010: 16

### 10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, December 2010: 84  
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2010: 80

### Ap Index

Observed Monthly, December 2010: 3  
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2010: 6

## One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

### Sunspots

Observed Monthly, December 2009: 11  
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2009: 3

### 10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, December 2009: 77  
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2009: 70

### Ap Index

Observed Monthly, December 2009: 1  
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2009: 4

**S**unspot activity over the last year has been slowly increasing, but much more slowly than hoped for. Certainly, the solar cycle minimum between sunspot Cycle 23 and the new Cycle 24 is one of the longest since the early 1900s. A great deal of speculation still circulates amongst the amateur radio community. Generally, most months in 2010 saw a rise in sunspot activity. On the other hand, some of the dips were pretty steep. An example is the December 2010 dip from November's smoothed observed sunspot count of 21.6 down to 14.5. That was the lowest since June 2010. However, don't let these dips cause you to speculate that the new cycle is fizzling out. While this cycle is unusual from our limited perspective of a decade or two of personal observation (or maybe you have observed a few more than two), it is not unheard of when you look at the record spanning the last 400-some years of sunspot data.

An interesting observation of sunspot Cycle 24 during 2010 has been the stability and relative "calm" of the new sunspots emerging. Past sunspot cycles do indicate that the very beginning of a cycle presents many sunspots that are not very "energetic." As a cycle progresses and sunspots drift toward the solar equator, they tend to become more complex and energetic, unleashing flares

\*e-mail: <nw7us@sunspotwatch.org>

## LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for March 2011

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1, 12-16, 18-19, 21, 24-5, 28	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 2, 4-11, 17, 22-23, 26-27, 29, 31	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 3, 20, 30	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: N/A	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: N/A	C-D	D	E	E

Where expected signal quality is:

- A—Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9.
- B—Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9, with little fading or noise.
- C—Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S6, with some fading and noise.
- D—Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, with considerable fading and noise.
- E—No opening expected.

## HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Find the *propagation index* associated with the particular path opening from the Propagation Charts appearing in *The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by George Jacobs, W3ASK; Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX; and Robert B. Rose, K6GKU.

2. With the *propagation index*, use the above table to find the expected signal quality associated with the path opening for any given day of the month. For example, an opening shown in the Propagation Charts with a *propagation index* of 2 will be good (B) on March 1st, fair (C) on the 2nd, poor (D) to fair (C) on the 3rd, 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.

and space weather. What is nice during these calmer events is that we're not seeing total blockage on the shortwave bands due to sudden ionospheric disturbances.

Such quiet geomagnetic conditions, coupled with rather stable ionospheric conditions, lead to reliable DX on those paths that open up via the F-regions. If a band is open, it typically offers reliable and consistent results. Once the sunspots become more complex and energetic, the conditions will become much more variable.

## Gray-line Propagation

March is one of the optimal DX months. As the Spring Equinox approaches, the gray-line begins to run straight north and south. With the return of sunlight to the polar north, north to south openings on the higher shortwave frequencies (20 through 10 meters) are improving. With low sunspot energy, openings on east/west paths on higher frequencies continue to be short and weak, if they occur at all. The good news is that this year we are seeing an increase in the 10.7-cm radio flux levels (and even more significantly, we're seeing the background X-ray flux increasing more and more

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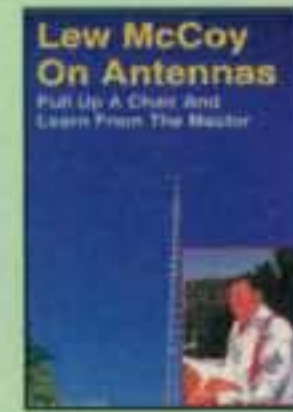
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by Lew McCoy, W1ICP

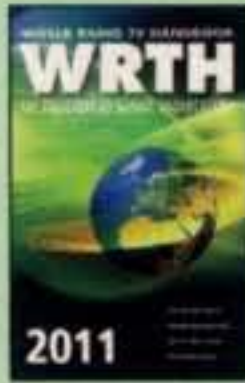
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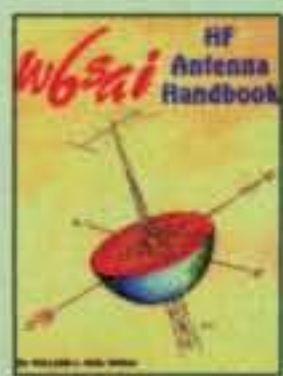


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into the B-range), which could strengthen these openings, affording an opportunity to catch some longer-range DX.

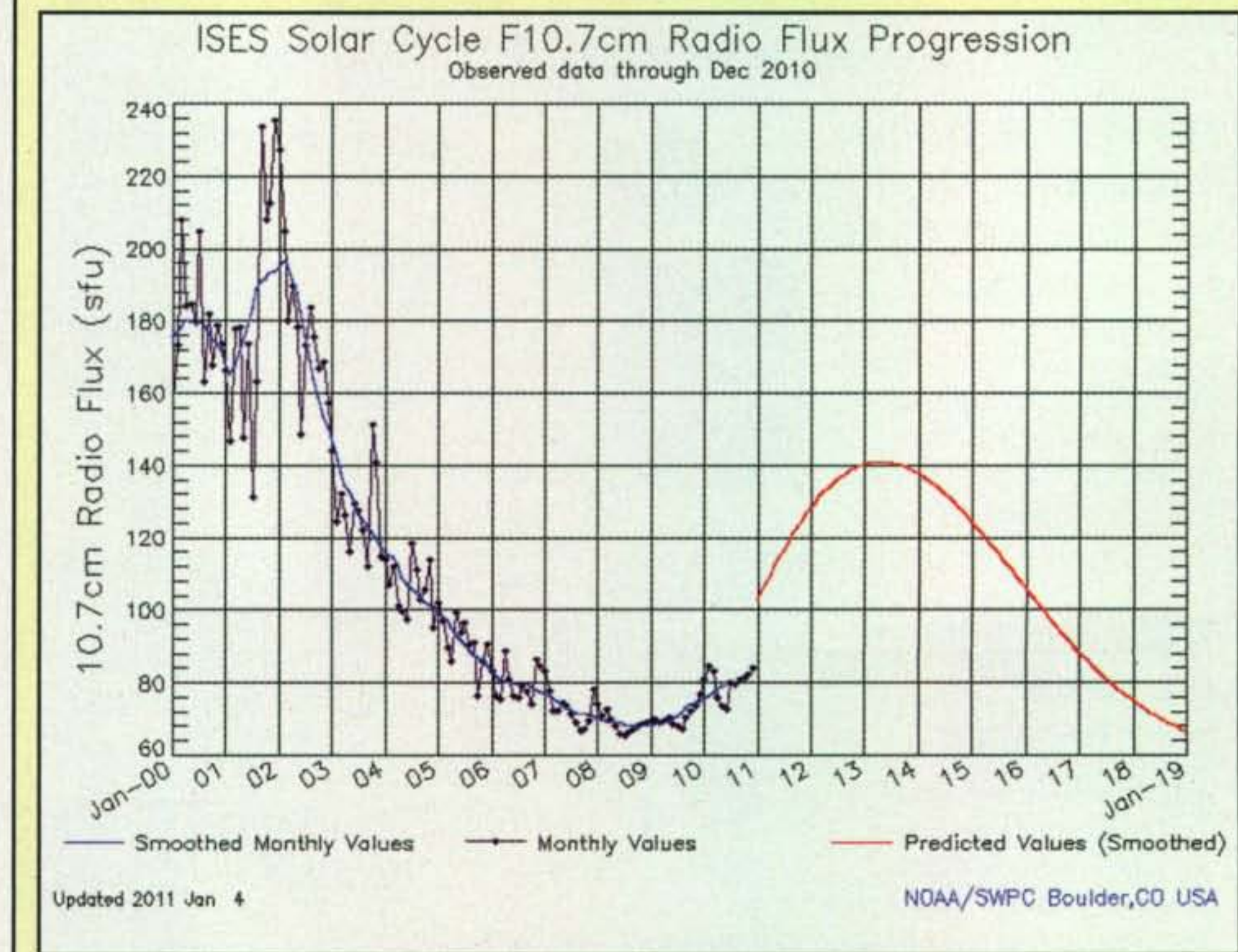
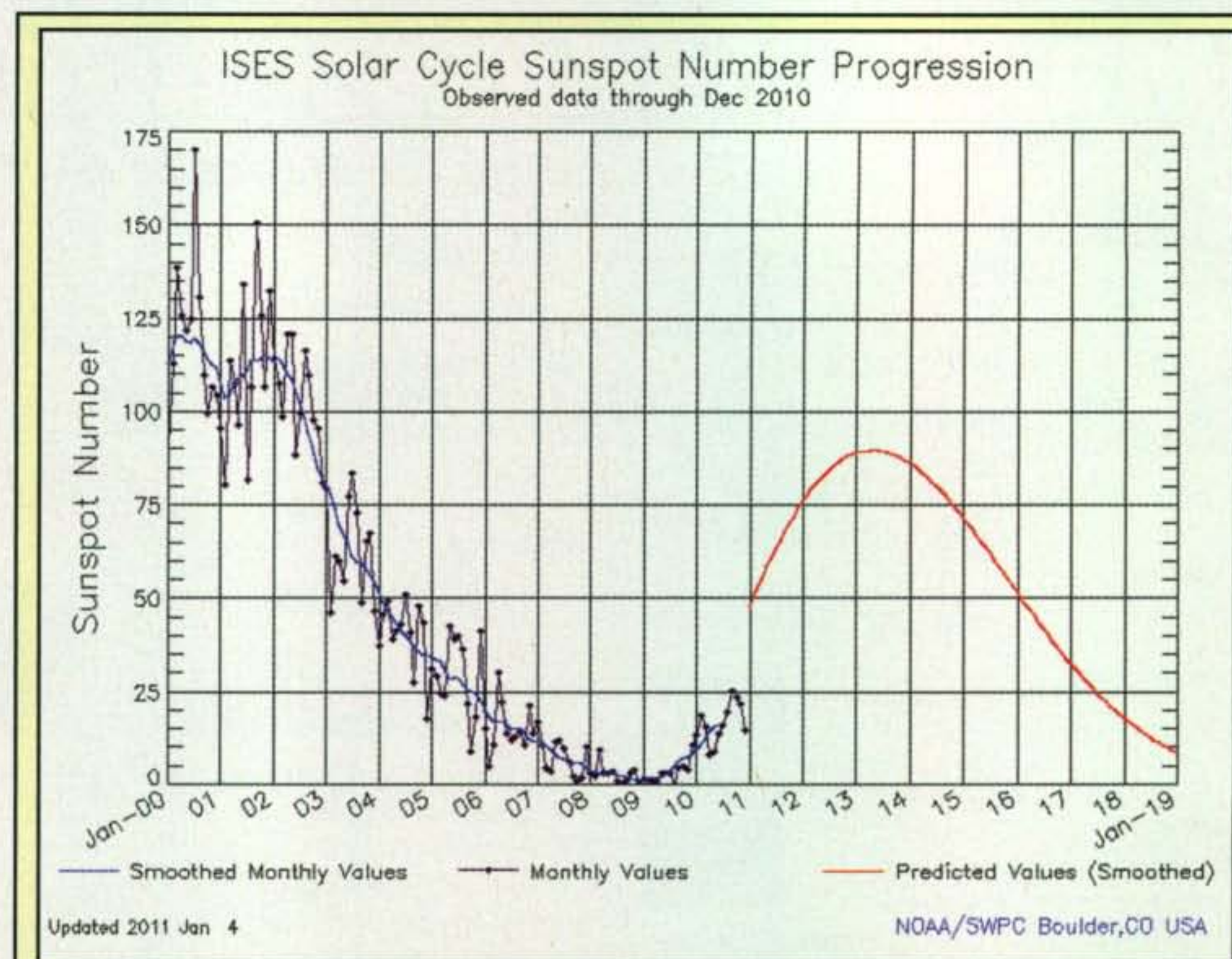
During the daylight hours, the energy from the Sun ionizes our upper atmosphere, causing distinct layers of ionized gas to form. These layers form what we call "the ionosphere." The layer closest to the Earth is called the "D-layer" or "D-region." This layer of ionized gases generally absorbs some of the energy of an HF (high-frequency; those frequencies below 30 MHz) radio wave, and hence the D-region is often called the "absorption layer."

As a radio signal travels through the D-region, it gets attenuated. How much a radio wave is attenuated depends on how energized the D-region has become, the frequency of the radio wave, and the angle at which the radio wave enters the D-region.

When the end of daylight occurs at our radio shack and sunset ends the direct exposure of the ionosphere above us to sunlight, solar radiation no longer strikes the ionosphere and ionization stops. Without this solar radiation, the layers of ionization decrease in density by a process called "recombination." This causes the maximum usable frequency (MUF) to become lower as well, which is why by total darkness the highest HF bands close down. Those frequencies do not get refracted, but continue on out into space.

The D-region is the first layer where ionization stops. Since it is closest to the ground, sunlight no longer reaches it, while higher levels of the atmosphere remain in sunlight. Think about how you can see a passing satellite by the sunlight reflected on its surface, while you are standing in darkness; it's dark on the ground, but the satellite is still being illuminated. As the D-region goes into recombination, the electron density goes down, and the absorption does down.

During the twilight hours the D-region rapidly loses its ionization and does not absorb radio signals passing through it, while the E- and F- regions are still being ionized by sunlight. This makes for about 45 to 60 minutes of stronger signal propagation on a wide range of HF frequencies. As the ionization decreases, lower and lower frequencies start to punch through the D-region with almost no signal attenuation. Yet the MUF is still high, allowing long-distance skip propagation. Then, when the Sun is blocked from illuminating the E- and F- regions, the MUF can drop dramatically and very quickly (within minutes). This twilight zone, where the Sun is exactly 12 degrees



below the horizon, is called the "gray line," or in astronomical terms, the "terminator." The same principles apply at sunrise; the upper ionosphere begins to become ionized, while the D-region is still dark and low in density, offering free passage of very low HF signals, even microwave signals.

Signals that are aimed along a path that stays within the gray line often experience significant improvements in propagation. This is what we refer to as "gray-line propagation," and is a very

exciting way to hear exotic DX signals. These signals may be coming in from the long path as well as the short path, but always along this gray line.

There is an excellent article regarding gray-line propagation at the web page of Steve Nichols, GØKYA: <<http://www.qsl.net/g0kya/radcom.html>>. Steve, a member of the Radio Society of Great Britain's Propagation Studies Committee, believes that propagation around sunrise and sunset is not fully understood. His article outlines the

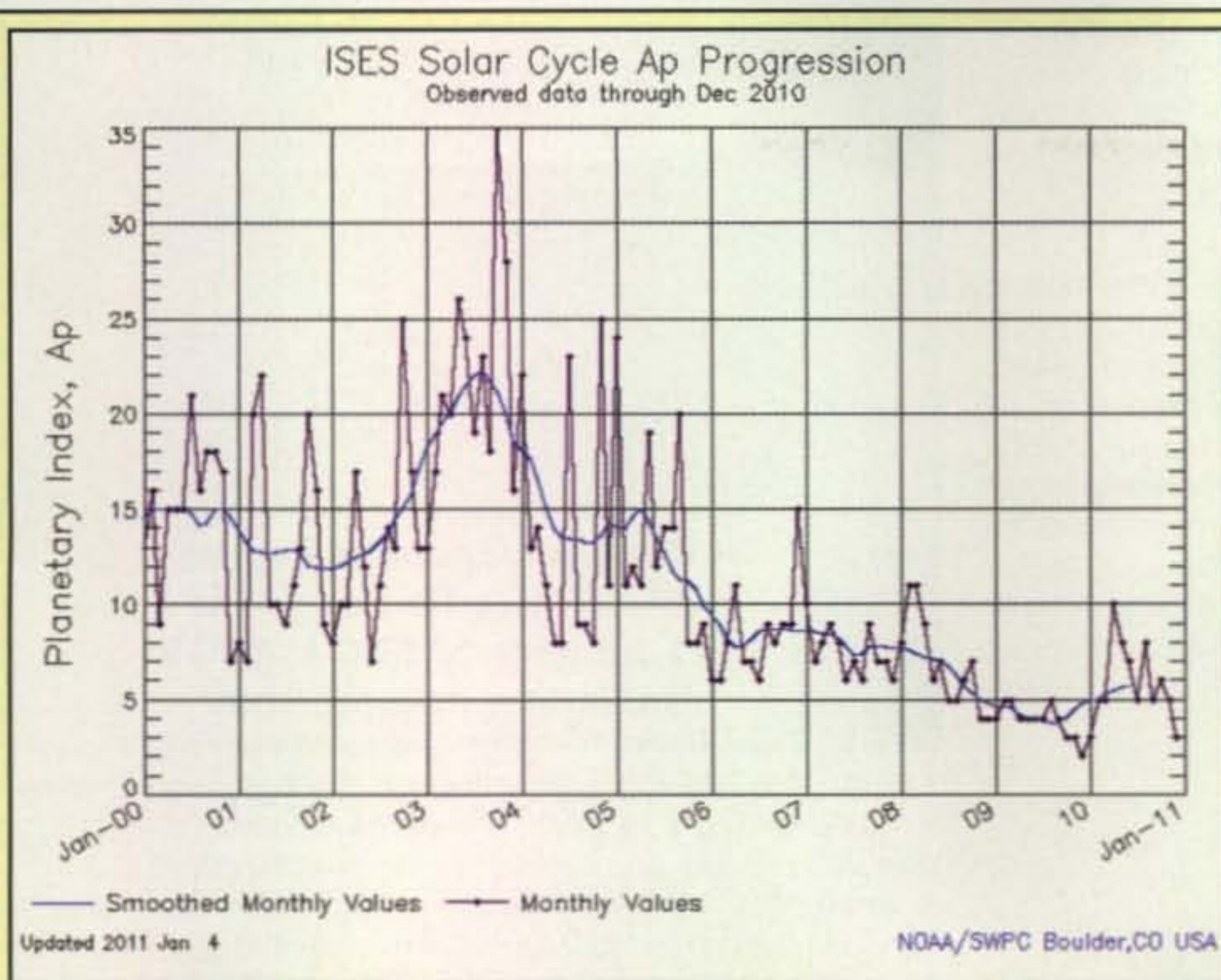


Fig. 1— Sunspot Cycle 24 progression charts showing the variable nature of month sunspot counts. December 2010 shows a rather sharp dip. However, the overall energy of the sunspots during December was higher than the previous few months, as indicated by the slow yet steady rise in the 10.7-cm monthly observed indices. While there is a definite and continuing upward trend, it is typical to see months when the count moves lower than previous months. As can be seen by the geomagnetic progression chart (Ap), conditions were very favorable for stable HF propagation, as the geomagnetic field was very quiet. This results in some very stable, reliable communications when a DX opening is present on a given ionospheric path. (Source: Space Weather Prediction Center [SWPC]/The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA])

mechanisms behind gray-line and other twilight propagation modes, and also explains a research project designed to better understand these modes.

As we are right at the start of solar Cycle 24, gray-line propagation will bring exciting DX. Tune around the lower amateur radio HF bands about an hour before sunrise, and again right before sunset, and look for these long-distance signals. Of course, gray-line DX will occur on most of the HF spectrum, but is quite noticeable on these

lower shortwave bands, since DX signals on these bands are rare.

### March Propagation

At this time, the ionosphere is not being energized enough to support much propagation on the highest HF bands via the F-regions. This is because the solar energy is not yet at a consistently high enough level to ionize the F-regions sufficiently for refracting these higher frequencies. With the reduced energy level of the ionosphere, even 20-

meter propagation suffers with short openings, and limited distances. Overall, signals are generally weaker over many radio circuits during this part of the solar cycle.

Ten meters will be spotty, with the most reliable propagation along north/south paths, and mostly over shorter distances. I've been following the revealing reports from the PropNET propagation research group <<http://www.propnet.org/>>. They conduct daily propagation tests on 10 meters. The reports confirm that even during the lowest phase of the solar cycle, 10 meters does have life. You won't know it, though, if you are not on the band trying. When the 10.7-cm radio flux rose above 90 several times this past year, there were reports of two-way (non-sporadic-E) Morse Code contacts successfully made on 10 meters.

Fifteen meters will be somewhat more usable than 10. We will find 15 opening up to more areas and for somewhat longer periods into the evenings. Those daytime paths that do open up (certainly much less often than during the peak solar cycle years) will not degrade much until midsummer. You will see these openings mostly from regions close to the equator, as the current solar activity is not supporting the propagation of these higher frequencies via the F-region of the ionosphere.

Seventeen and 20 meters will remain in good shape. Both short- and long-path circuits are reliable and solid. All nighttime paths are wide open during March. Primetime evening hours in the United States are sunrise hours across Russia, Africa, and both the Near and Far East. Expect a lot of short- and long-path DX into these areas of the world. The daytime band of choice will be 20 meters, as has been proven in contests during past solar cycle minimums.

Between sunset and midnight, expect DX openings on all bands between 20 and 160 meters, with occasional openings on 15 and 17 when conditions are High or Above Normal. Conditions on 30, 40, 60, 80, and 160 meters should favor openings to the east and south. These bands should peak for openings to Europe and Africa near midnight.

From midnight to sunrise, expect optimum DX conditions on 30, 40, 60, 80, and occasionally 160 meters. Conditions should favor openings toward the west and south. Some rather good 20-meter openings should also be possible toward the south and west during this time.

The seasonal drop of daytime maximum usable frequencies continues,

and the geomagnetic activity as reported by the planetary A-index ( $A_p$ ) is on its seasonal rise. Take advantage of the current excellent conditions and work the world before the summer conditions create greater challenges.

## VHF Conditions

The possibilities for ionospheric openings on the VHF bands usually improve during March and the spring months as more auroras occur close to the equinoctial period. There is a slight but fair chance for an increase in widespread auroral activity during March, but definitely by April, since we will continue to experience coronal-hole activity and possible solar flares during this new solar cycle. These auroras could be accompanied by auroral-scatter-type openings on 6 and 2 meters. Check the Last-Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column for those days in March expected to be Below Normal or Disturbed. These are days on which auroral activity is most likely to occur.

Conditions should be optimal during March for trans-equatorial scatter propagation between the southern tier states and countries deep in South America. The best time for TE openings should be between 8 and 11 PM local time. Don't forget to check out *CQ VHF* magazine for more details on VHF propagation and conditions.

## Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for December 2010 is 14.5, quite a dip from November's 21.6. Remember, it is typical to see such swings between months during a sunspot cycle. The lowest daily sunspot value of zero (0) was recorded for

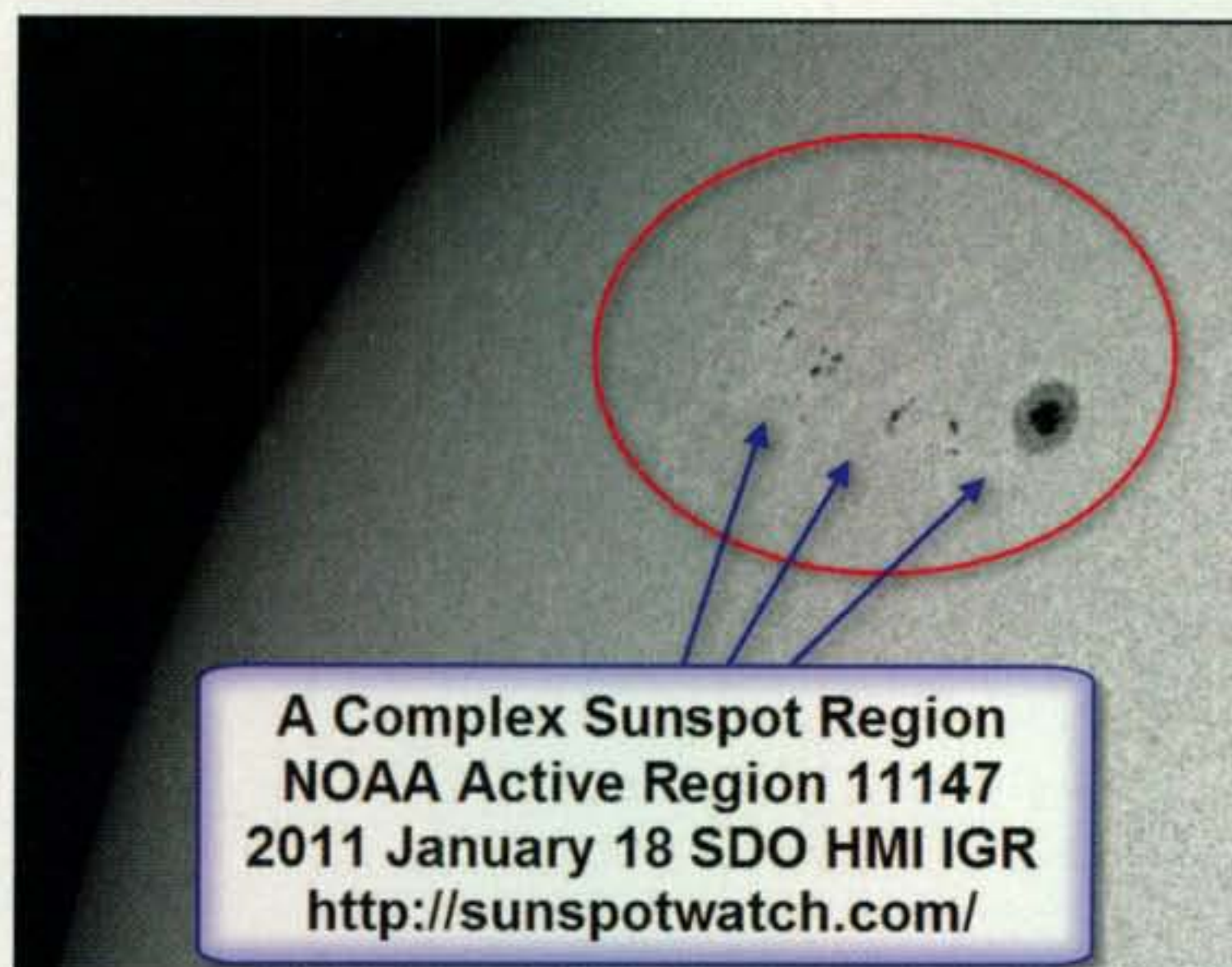


Fig. 2— The intensitygram view of the active sunspot region 11147 on January 18, 2011. The leading sunspot group is large and well-defined, and not overly complex (therefore, not highly energetic). However, there are numerous other smaller sunspots trailing, and these make the entire region moderately complex and energetic, unleashing B- and C-class X-ray flares. In turn, these sunspots caused the background X-ray flux to rise, as well as pushing the 10.7-cm radio flux into the 80s. (Source: Solar Dynamics Observatory/NASA)

December 18 through 21. The highest daily sunspot count was 31 on December 4. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on June 2010 is 16.4, up a point from May's 15.5. A smoothed sunspot count of 38, give or take about 9 points, is expected for March 2011.

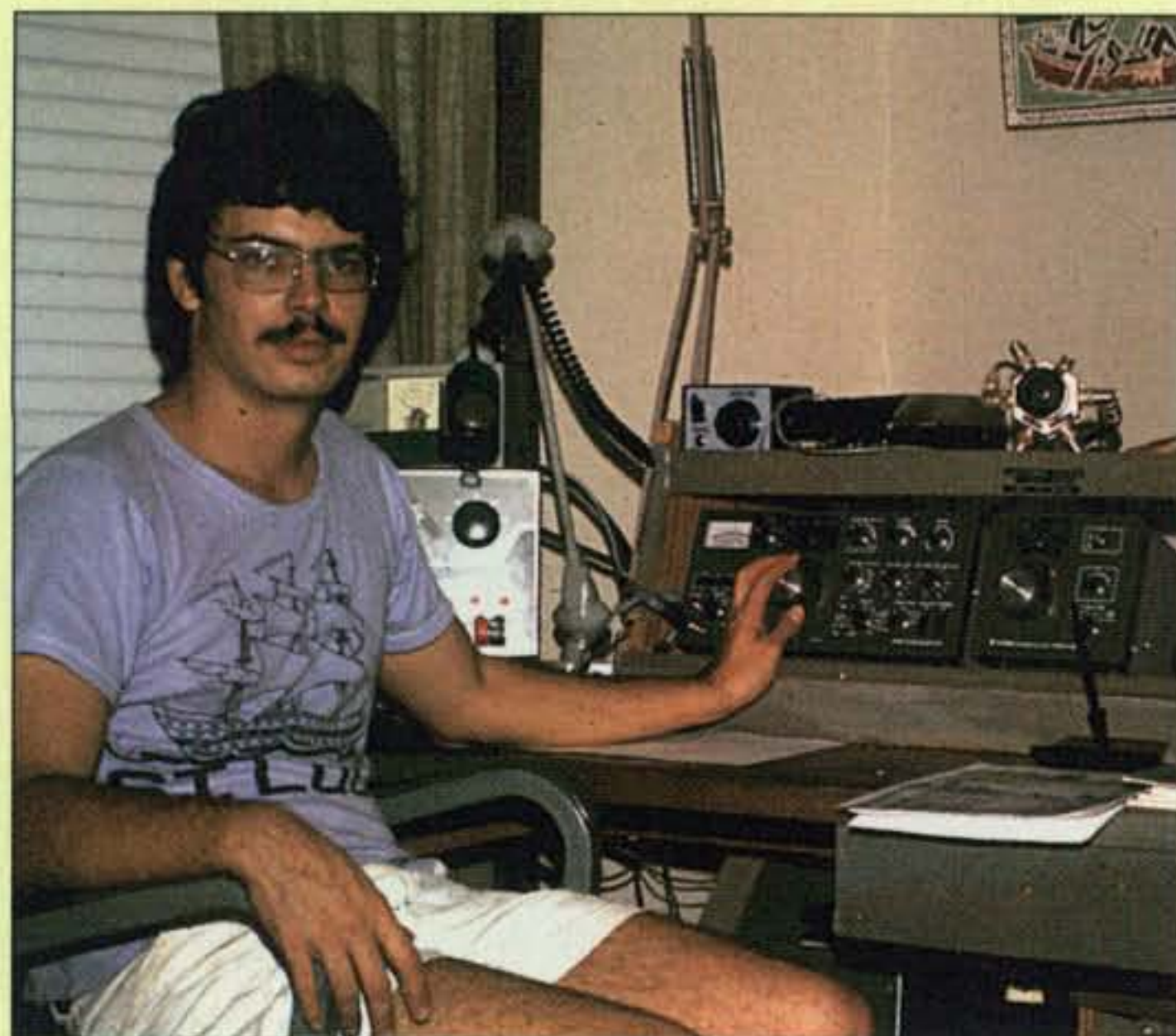
The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 84.3 for December 2010, up a few points from November's 82.5. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on June 2010 is 79.9, about a point up from May's 79.0. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for March 2011 is 100, give or take about 9 points. If we do see this high a flux in March, expect some openings on 10 and 12 meters, and a good amount of activity on 15 meters.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-index ( $A_p$ ) for December 2010 is 3, a bit more quiet than November (5), and still very quiet. The 12-month smoothed  $A_p$  index centered on June 2010 is 5.8, about the same as for May. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to be varying greatly between quiet to minor storm level during March; expect more geomagnetic activity as we continue into the new sunspot cycle. Refer to the Last-Minute Forecast for the outlook on conditions during this month.

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, Tomas, NW7US



## Oops...

From the geographically-challenged department: In January's article on the history of the CQ WPX Contest, the caption for the photo of Chip Margelli, K7JA, operating from KG6SW in 1979, said that the station was in Guam. Not so. Chip informs us that he was actually operating from Saipan, at the shack of Dr. Len Kaufer. Guess we need an extended visit to the South Pacific to get our islands straight!!

Number groups after call letters denote following: Band (A = all), Final Score, Number of QSOs, and Prefixes. An asterisk (\*) before a call indicates low power. Certificate winners are listed in bold-face. (Note that the country names and groupings reflect the DXCC list at the time of the contest.)

**2010 WPX CW RESULTS  
SINGLE OPERATOR  
NORTH AMERICA**

United States		2342	821
AJ1I	A	5,517,941	(OP: KBPO)
WC1M		5,361,419	2134 797
W5MPC/1		750,060	771 405
K1AR		666,490	636 365
NW1E		644,170	687 370
NM1JY		403,848	599 316
K5ZD/1		377,405	355 263
AE1T		338,955	463 295
KQ2M/1		279,792	412 268
KD2HE/1		161,916	366 206
W1UJ		146,010	249 186
W1BYH		109,760	202 160
W1FM		7,626	65 62
<b>NN1N</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,216,760</b>	<b>1438 735</b>
K1NEF	7	81,000	146 125
<b>*NV1N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>2,062,368</b>	<b>1476 594</b>
			(OP: N1UR)
*KW2G/1		795,476	772 404
			(OP: W1WBB)
*W1CCE		504,234	623 327
*KS1J		327,456	478 288
*NJ1T		225,272	301 232
*N1QY		156,325	277 185
*W1TO		98,325	222 171
*N1IW		94,250	171 145
*K1PU		89,194	239 161
*AA1AR		83,070	238 195
*W1Y07ARY		75,992	269 161
*K1SND		53,156	170 137
*K1QD		38,236	151 121
*KX1E		32,107	118 97
*N1NN		27,417	124 111
*N1GN		26,976	122 96
*AB1HL		15,318	80 69
*WB1FJH		13,651	88 73
*WA1ESO		5,830	58 55
*W1MAW		5,472	39 38
*W1OHM		4,928	69 56
*N1YX		3,969	57 49
*KA1RI		2,556	39 36
			(OP: W1XX)
*W1CT1AGF	14	24	4 4
<b>*AB1J</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>162 125</b>
*WW1M		3,395	41 35
<b>NT2A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>892,143</b>	<b>879 441</b>
NX2X		738,815	786 385
WN2O		618,372	635 356
			(OP: N2GC)
K2FU		616,834	662 358
KM2O		375,154	501 307
			(OP: K2XA)
W2FUI		82,346	230 173
K2YR		52,374	176 129
N2EIK		21,730	107 82
<b>W2RR</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>48 45</b>
			(OP: WA2AOG)
<b>KR2AA</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>253,154</b>	<b>495 311</b>
<b>WA2JQK</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7,336</b>	<b>70 56</b>
<b>*K2UF</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>830,070</b>	<b>775 401</b>
*K1TN/2		556,830	608 345
*K2DB		140,015	284 205
*KR2D		121,264	228 176
*WA2MCR		98,645	228 181
*N2SO		70,684	243 164
*NA2M		42,340	141 116
*N2NC		38,868	157 123
*KR2D		30,282	134 98
*AE2T		27,368	116 88
*NV2G		18,832	107 88
			(OP: N2ZN)
*KA2FHN		14,596	113 82
*AG2T		5,304	59 51
*KV2X		3,198	47 39
<b>*W2AW</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>128,594</b>	<b>294 226</b>
			(OP: N2GM)
*WB2REM		35,108	187 131
*KD2MX		12,876	96 87
*WW2P		7,245	80 63
<b>*W2EG</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>841,759</b>	<b>591 379</b>
<b>KC3R</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>6,532,302</b>	<b>2674 903</b>
			(OP: LZ4AX)
AA3B		5,532,196	2476 802
K3ZD		3,964,797	1865 733
N1WR/3		1,736,640	1254 540
K3MD		1,389,584	1326 532
N3UM		1,258,136	909 493
WM3T		967,200	690 400
			(OP: N3KS)
N3XL		148,932	281 197
K3RMB		103,530	274 174
N3INJ		54,720	123 114
W3FV		32,800	99 82
K3JA		5,202	56 51
<b>KT3M</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1,548,963</b>	<b>1221 827</b>
<b>AD8J/3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>55,414</b>	<b>108 103</b>
<b>*W3EF</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>2,437,827</b>	<b>1347 609</b>
*WA1LWS/3		492,586	692 326
*KB3LIX		295,872	492 268
*W3DQN		246,515	453 235
*AD3PA		240,250	404 250
			(OP: K3MSB)
*N3QE		221,350	328 233
*NA3F		121,290	257 195
*K3TN		85,332	212 156
*WC3O		82,852	247 154
*NN3Q		68,850	235 150
*WA2VQV/3		61,985	230 161
*N3NZ		43,554	193 119
*ND3R		43,008	166 128
*KB3CTX		42,336	196 126
*K3RWN		29,610	138 105
*KA3QLF		21,888	143 114
*KE3X		11,454	98 83
K4DJ		338,580	518 297
K7CS/4		324,000	486 270
NE4M		296,928	634 288
A14WW		245,364	426 254
KM4M		236,500	396 275
			(OP: W3BP)
KJ8E/4		212,880	386 240
W4BOF		132,276	390 219
N3JT/4		124,729	292 187
K4HAL		124,179	323 213
WJ2D/4		115,080	216 160
KY4P		104,232	257 172
WR1Q/4		97,512	293 204
WX4G		97,005	158 145
NN3RP/4		89,964	313 196
N4IR		73,743	199 141
K3CQ/4		69,158	205 151
W4VIC		64,779	193 143
NA4C		50,456	208 136
WY4Y		41,844	180 132
			(OP: NS3Q)
NE8J/4		30,012	186 123
N4GI		29,120	108 80
AJ4FM		26,016	114 96
KJ4CBN		15,106	93 83
AB4GG		14,504	98 74
K4RFE		13,674	118 86
AE4EC		8,290	89 72
<b>WN1GIV/4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>320,396</b>	<b>709 334</b>
			(OP: N4BP)
N3UA/4		3,735	45 45
*AC6NN/4		75,696	204 152
*K4FTO		74,550	236 150
*K4AMC		68,982	303 154
*W4UAL		49,786	204 146
			(OP: K4CWW)
*NX4N		48,471	210 151
*K4CWW		41,088	181 128
*N4ARD		40,067	122 103
*KQ4Y		33,491	167 107
*W4BK		27,951	165 121
*N5V/4		23,715	90 85
*NA4BW		23,088	142 104
*AA4KD		21,714	139 94
*WA8QJ/4		15,753	115 89
*N4CU		14,190	122 86
*N4DXI		13,608	102 84
*KJ4WB		13,050	103 87
*W4R		12,960	101 72
*KJ4AOM		12,208	69 56
*N4AU		12,194	102 91
*K4GSS		9,135	78 63
*KJ4EZZ		6,858	58 54
*WB4ZPF		5,564	62 52
*A14UN		3,360	42 40
*WU4B		2,747	46 41
*KJ4WD		2,418	29 26
*K4AGT		2,040	31 30
*N4DE		1,880	45 40
*K4CQW		768	18 16
*K3MZ/4		28,358	184 126
<b>*KN4Y</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21,109</b>	<b>140 101</b>
*NA4W		21,109	140 101
*WB4TDH	21	124,509	345 231
*KC4ABC		4,704	48 48
<b>*WA2ASQ/4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33,777</b>	<b>182 139</b>
*K4FX		25,740	137 117
*N4MM		3,528	38 36
<b>*N3GD/4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>171,072</b>	<b>250 198</b>
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WC5T		2,247,315	2066 595
			(OP: K5PI)
K7IA/5		574,500	933 383
AASAJ		320,229	535 299
NQ5K		313,500	860 300
			(OP: W5ASP)
AISM		235,197	597 281
WB5AAR		209,085	510 263
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N5VU		150,936	397 228
NK5Z		136,656	368 208
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*K5ME		74,880	254 156
*KX5A		71,495	291 181
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*W5JBO		44,671	192 131
*WA5ZKO		40,592	161 118
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*N6NG		135,864	381 222
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*UA1CUR	472,472	735	364	*BV4VR	10,812	81	68	
*US2IZ	445,885	718	335	*YL2IP	10,584	97	84	
*RA6YBW	432,588	826	354	*LA5MDA	10,512	100	73	
*RV6LCI	429,088	691	368	*IT9ORA	10,480	100	80	
*BD1TCC	417,600	673	288	*DS1RJ	9,891	94	63	
*SQ9E	389,752	583	344	*DC3HB	8,140	84	74	
*UA1TGO	388,833	646	339	*JF1DAJ	5,830	64	53	
*YL3DX	387,599	708	347	*US5EEK	5,742	62	58	
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*DL4JYT	377,650	648	350	*JA2KCY	4,884	49	44	
*JA6DIJ	337,155	492	285	*DV1UBY	3,776	39	32	
*G3LIK	326,874	584	347	*PR7AYE	3,625	31	29	
*PA3DBS	326,874	661	347	*J11UDD	2,772	36	28	
*DL4HRM	320,787	643	327	*ZSAJAN	2,610	31	30	
*NP2L	320,408	375	242	*EN7U	2,440	40	40	
*EF7A	299,628	576	348	*E18FH	1,947	33	33	
*VE3UZ	297,430	416	245	*DL8ZAJ	1,872	37	36	
*VE7WEB	285,750	494	225	*JR1AHP	363	11	11	
*SN30J	275,728	576	304	*DL6BP	24	4	2	
*LY2DV	272,310	580	290	*UT8EU	28	179,655	441	295
*DL0NG	267,509	458	293	*UA3QG	168,128	425	284	
*UR5ZVJ	266,970	600	330	*RU3PU	34,020	182	140	
*OR6C	266,430	504	321	*YU9DX	30,654	196	131	
*9A6AR	262,626	403	273	*EA3ND	24,318	173	126	
*DJ8OG	254,752	492	304	*IT9IZY	22,784	191	128	
*VE3TW	254,371	393	221	*GM4UBJ	4,818	75	66	
*JH0NEC	253,952	449	256	*EA7GV	3,996	66	54	
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*UA6HO	162,911	397	259	*VA1CHP	129,684	271	202	
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*SM3X	154,878	420	249	*HA5NB	13,332	110	101	
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*G4DDX	141,235	338	235	*YL2KF	140	12	10	
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*LA4RT	97,394	336	209	*SN5Q	3.5	300,196	483	299
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*DK4LX	88,201	216	193					
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*KH2/JJ1LRD	74,044	222	107					
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*VK4TT	66,464	181	124					
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*IK2CZQ	63,540	189	180					
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*OK1TD	60,605	181	155					
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*PA0WKI	33,579	169	123					
*PY2IAX	33,229	134	101					
*JE1SCJ	33,060	142	95					
*VE6SQ	32,660	141	92					
*YU40FN	31,842	142	122					
*VE7BGP	29,694	127	98					
*G7TMMU	28,396	156	124					
*DF6RI	27,216	146	112					
*YV6BXN	26,640	98	80					
*RSACQ	26,334	150	114					
*PA75HV	23,328	134	108					
*F5IYJ	21,462	107	98					
*SO8O	21,210	111	101					
*OZ8A	21,182	156	119					
*G0AZH	21,168	137	108					
*RX6LD	19,240	121	104					
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E7DX	8,917,915	4058	1055				
E73M	8,564,307	3961	1041				
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LZ10RF	4,178,430	2783	765				
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RK3DXZ	2,530,974	2042	678				
RK3QWM	1,082,808	1368	486				
UE4CAC	998,280	1289	472				
RK4HYT	487,396	753	364				
RZ1AWZ	135,924	524	241				
UA6YW	73,986	222	177				
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CERTIFICATE for proven contacts with all ten American districts. SASE to W6DDB, 45527 Third Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535-1802.

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ALUMINUM CHASSIS AND CABINET KITS, UHF-VHF Antenna Parts, Catalog. E-mail: <[k3iwk@flash.net](mailto:k3iwk@flash.net)> or <<http://www.flash.net/~k3iwk>>.

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**NEAT STUFF!** DWM Communications — <<http://qth.com/dwm>>

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**TELEGRAPH KEY INFORMATION AND HISTORY MUSEUM:** <<http://w1tp.com>> **ARUBA RADIO RENTAL:** [www.p49v.com](http://www.p49v.com)

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**HAM RADIO GIFTS:** <[www.mainestore.com](http://www.mainestore.com)>

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FOR SALE: DRAKE TR-7/TR-7A/R-7/R-7a Service kit. Includes 13 Extender Boards and Digital Jumper Card. \$64.95 includes postage. See <<http://wb4hfn.com/Services/W7AVK/tr7ext2.htm>>. Bob, W7AVK, 5581 Panorama Drive, Moses Lake, WA 98837, <[w7avk@arrl.net](mailto:w7avk@arrl.net)>, 509-750-7589.

**WANTED:** Revell (yes, the model company) Regen, 2-transistor, 4-band, Shortwave Radio circa 1962. All or part or manual. WB6UHQ@arrl.net



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For YAESU-Vertex VX-5R/s, VX-6R, VX-7R/b, VX-7Rb, VXA-700:

FNB-80Li LI-ION battery 7.4v 1600mAh \$44.95

E-DC-5BA DC Power & Charge cord (NEW) \$19.95

NC-72BA AC-DC Power / Battery Charger \$17.95

For YAESU-Vertex FT-60R,250,270R; VX-110,120,150,170,177,180,210

FNB-83xe eneloop 7.2v 2000mAh \$49.95

NC-88BA AC-DC Wall Charger (NEW) \$17.95

For YAESU-Vertex FT-817 (PRE-CHARGED); (E-DC-5BA DC cord \$19.95)

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For YAESU FT-11R, FT-41R, FT-51R, etc. (HIGH POWER battery):

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For YAESU FT-530,76,26,416,415,816; (E-DC-5BA: DC Pwr cord \$9.95)

FNB-25x Ni-MH battery 7.2v 1200mAh \$32.95

FBA-12 6-cell AA Battery Case \$22.95

FBA-12h 10-cell AA Battery Case (5W) \$28.95

For YAESU FT-411, 470, 73R, 33R, 23R etc.; (WC-12 wall charger \$12.95)

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FBA-17 6-cell AA Battery Case \$19.95

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For ICOM IC-T70A/E; IC-V80A/E, IC-V80 SPORT, etc.:

BP-264 ICOM NIMH batt. 7.2v 1400mAh \$32.95

For ICOM IC-T90A/E; IC-91A, IC-91AD, IC-80AD (D-STAR), etc.:

BP-217 5W LI-ION battery 7.4v 1600mAh \$44.95

CP-11L DC Power & Charge Cord (fits IC-92AD too) \$22.95

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For ICOM IC-T8A/E/HP, T81A/E; A23, A5; (WC-AIC Wall Chrg \$12.95)

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BP-197h 6-cell AA Battery case (Hi-Watt) \$29.95

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BP-170L 6-cell AA Battery case (Hi-Watt) \$25.95

For ICOM IC-2/3/4SAT, W2A, 24AT, 2/4SRA, R1; (BC-105A: \$22.95)

BP-83h Ni-Cd battery 7.2v 1100mAh \$29.95

For ICOM IC-2/02/03/04AT, 2/4GAT etc; Radio Shack HTX-202/404:

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BP-202h NIMH - Radio Sh. 7.2v 1800mAh \$34.95

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PB-42XL LI-ION battery 7.4v 4000mAh \$59.95

EMS-42K Desktop Rapid Charger for PB-42L/XL \$49.95

For KENWOOD TH-G71/K, TH-D7A/AG/E; (CP-39: DC Pwr cord \$9.95)

PB-39h Hi-Watt Ni-MH batt. 9.6v 1450mAh \$54.95

BT-11h 6-cell AA Battery Case (Hi-W) \$24.95

For KENWOOD TH-79A/E, 22A/E, 42A/E etc; (CP-79: DC cord \$9.95)

PB-34xh Hi-Watt NIMH batt. 9.6v 1200mAh \$39.95

For KENWOOD TH-78A/E, 48A/E, 28A/E, 27A/E; (CP-17: DC cord \$9.95)

BT-8 6-cell AA Battery Case \$14.95

PB-13xh Ni-MH battery 7.2v 1800mAh \$39.95

For KENWOOD TH-77A/E, 75A/E, 55A/E, 46A/E, 45AT, 26A/E, 25A/E:

PB-6x Long Life Ni-MH battery 7.2v 1600mAh \$36.95

For KENWOOD TH-205A/E, 215A/E, 225A, 315A; (Wall Charger \$12.95)

PB-2 Std. Ni-Cd batt. 8.4v 800mAh \$29.95

For KENWOOD TR2500, TR2600; (Wall Charger \$12.95)

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For ALINCO DJ-V5, DJ-V5TH; (CP-48: DC Pwr/Chg Cord \$9.95)

EBP-46xh Ni-MH batt. 9.6v 1450mAh \$52.95

For ALINCO DJ-195/HP/R, 193, 196, 446, 493, 496, 596; (DC cord \$9.95)

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For ALINCO DJ-G5TD/TH/TY; 190T, 191T/TD/TH; (DC Pwr Cord \$9.95)

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- Built-in CTCSS/DCS
- Internet WIRES compatible

**Now available in Black!**

### VX-6R

2M/220/440HT

- wideband RX - 900 memories
- 5W 2/440, 1.5W 220 MHz TX
- LI-ION Battery - EAI system
- Fully submersible to 3 ft.
- CW trainer built-in

**NEW Low Price!**



### VX-8DR/VX-8GR

50/144/220/440 (VX-8DR)  
2m/440 w/ Built-in GPS (VX-8GR)

- 5w (1w 222 Mhz VX-8DR only)
- Bluetooth optional (VX-8DR only)
- waterproof/submersible 3 ft 30 mins
- GPS/APRS operation optional
- Li-ion Hi-capacity battery
- wide band Rx



### FT-857D

Ultra compact HF, VHF, UHF

- 100w HF/6M, 50w 2M, 20w UHF
- DSP included • 32 color display
- 200 mems • Detachable front panel (YSK-857 reqd)

**Call for Low Price!**



### FT-7900R 2M/440 Mobile

- 50w 2m, 45w on 440mhz
- Weather Alert
- 1000+ Mems
- WIRES Capability
- Wideband Receiver (Cell Blocked)

**Call Now For Your Low Price!**



### FT-2000/FT2000D HF + 6M tcvr

- 100 W w/ auto tuner • built-in Power supply
- DSP filters / Voice memory recorder
- 200W (FT-2000D)
- 3 Band Parametric Mic EQ • 3 IF roofing filters

**Call For Low Pricing!**



### FT-450D HF + 6M TCVR

- 100W HF/6M • Auto Tuner built-in • DSP Built
- 500 Memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

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## Introducing the Ten-Tec Eagle – the world's first Advanced Signal Reception™ Down Conversion HF Transceiver

**ASR opens up the airwaves for you**  
Advanced Signal Reception™ [ASR™] will change forever your ham radio experience. You'll hear more stations, more clearly. You'll have more reliable communications. And your ham radio hobby will be more rewarding than ever.

**High performance in a compact package**  
The new Ten-Tec Eagle is a high-performance HF +6 transceiver with a host of features. The Eagle's small 2.9 x 8.5 x 10.25-inch case (HxWxD) makes it the perfect multi-use radio – use it at home or take it on the road in your car or RV. State-of-the-art Digital Signal Processing chips and proprietary circuits insure maximum transmit and receive performance. According to many reviewers, the Eagle can outperform transceivers costing two to three times as much. See our web site for specifications.

### HDTV, Blu-Ray, & ASR

You've seen the improvement HDTV brought to television, you've seen the improvement Blu-Ray brought to DVDs – now it's time to take a look at what Advanced Signal Reception is bringing to ham radio.

### Fly with the Eagle risk-free for 30 days

The good news is that it couldn't be easier to be the first on the block to test fly the Eagle ASR transceiver. Here's what to do. Order the Eagle (financing available). Test it for 30 days in your home, shack, car, or club. Compare it to any other amateur radio you or your friends have used. If you do not agree that the Eagle ASR transceiver enables you to hear more stations, more clearly than ever before, simply return the Eagle to us for a full refund of your purchase price. And there's more good news for you "early birds".

### The Eagle Early Bird Special

When you order your new Eagle Advanced Signal Reception transceiver, we will include at no additional charge a new Ten-Tec Model 709A desk microphone & stand. **(Our supplies of the microphones are limited, so you will want to order early.)** The microphone and stand are yours to keep – even if you decide to return the radio.

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# NEW COMPACT HF TRANSCEIVER WITH IF DSP

A superb, compact HF/50 MHz radio with state-of-the-art IF DSP technology, configured to provide YAESU World-Class Performance in an easy to operate package. New licensees, casual operators, DX chasers, contesters, portable/field enthusiasts, and emergency service providers- YAESU FT-450D...This Radio is for YOU!



Compact size: 9" X 3.3" X 8.8" and Light weight: 7.9 lb

HF/50 MHz 100 W All Mode Transceiver

## FT-450D

With Built-in Automatic Antenna Tuner

**NEW** Illuminated Key buttons

**NEW** 300 Hz/500 Hz/2.4 kHz CW IF Filters

- Large informative Front Panel Display, convenient Control knobs and Switches
- The IF DSP guarantees quiet and enjoyable high performance HF/50 MHz operation



Handy Front Panel Control of Important Features including:

- CONTOUR Control Operation**  
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**NEW** Foot stand

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**NEW** Dynamic Microphone MH-31A8J Included

- Digital Noise Reduction (DNR)**  
Dramatically reduces random noise found on the HF and 50 MHz bands.
- IF WIDTH**  
The DSP IF WIDTH tuning system provides selectable IF passband width to fight QRM.  
SSB - 1.8/2.4/3.0 kHz, CW - 300 Hz/500 Hz/2.4 kHz
- Digital Microphone Equalizer**  
Custom set your rig to match your voice characteristics for maximum power and punch on the band.
- Fast IF SHIFT Control**  
Vary the IF SHIFT higher or lower for effective interference reduction / elimination.

### More features to support your HF operation

- 10 kHz Roofing filter
- 20 dB ATT/IPO
- Built-in TCXO for incredible  $\pm 1$  ppm/hour (@+77°F, after warm-up) stability
- CAT System (D-sub9 pin): Computer programming and Cloning capability
- Large, Easy-to-See digital S-meter with peak hold function
- Speech Processor
- QUICK SPLIT to automatically Offset transmit frequency (+5 kHz default)
- TXW to monitor the transmit frequency when split frequency operation is engaged
- Clarifier
- Built-In Electronic Keyer
- CW Beacon (Up to 118 characters using the CW message keyer's 3 memory banks)
- CW Pitch Adjustment (from 400 to 800 Hz, in 100 Hz steps)
- CW Spotting (Zero-Beating)
- CW Training Feature
- CW Keying using the Up/Down keys on the microphone
- Two Voice Memories (SSB/AM/FM), store up to 10

Specifications subject to change without notice. Some accessories and/or options may be standard in certain areas. Frequency coverage may differ in some countries. Check with your local Yaesu Dealer for specific details.

The rugged FT-450D aluminum die-cast chassis, with its quiet, thermostatically controlled cooling fan provides a solid foundation for the power amplifier during long hours of field or home contesting use.



MOS FET RD100HFF1



seconds each

- 20 second Digital Voice Recorder
- Dedicated Data Jack for FSK- RTTY operation
- Versatile Memory System, up to 500 memory channels that may be separated into as many as 13 Memory Groups
- CTCSS Operation (FM)
- My Band / My Mode functions, to recall your favorite operating set-ups
- Lock Function
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