

10 Meters Lives! - See page 98



# Amateur Radio

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

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY 2012



Check Out Our Digital Edition- See Page 18

- A Satellite Sextet, p. 13
- Results: 2011 CQ WPX SSB Contest, p. 22
- A Phone Contest Without a Mic? p. 34



**On the Cover:**  
**Jamie Droddy, KI4TXZ,**  
**and Thor Wilson, KI4TXV,**  
**with a model of the**  
**Aubiesat-1 satellite.**  
**See story on page 13**  
**and details on page 4.**

0387  
P058  
964  
095

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

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*S-DIGIT 23117 0387



# Nothing But Performance



Kenwood has essentially redefined HF performance with the TS-590S compact HF transceiver. The TS-590S RX section sports IMD (intermodulation distortion) characteristics that are on par with those "top of the line" transceivers, not to mention having the best dynamic range in its class when handling unwanted, adjacent off-frequency signals.\*

- HF-50MHz 100W
- Digital IF Filters
- Built-in Antenna Tuner
- Advanced DSP from the IF stage forward
- 500Hz and 2.7KHz roofing filters included
- Heavy duty TX section



• 2 Color LCD



Scan with your phone to download TS-590S brochure.



www.kenwoodusa.com



ISO9001 Registered  
Professional Systems Business Division  
JSA-1208 091  
UKAS  
ADS#65211

# KENWOOD

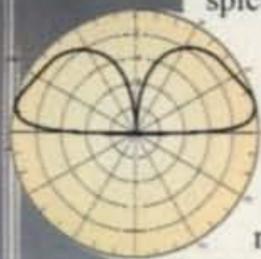
Customer Support: (310) 639-4200  
Fax: (310) 537-8235

\* For 1.8/3.5/7/14/21 MHz Amateur bands, when receiving in CW/FSK/SSB modes, down conversion is automatically selected if the final passband is 2.7KHz or less.

## Cushcraft R8 8-Band Vertical

R-8  
\$539<sup>95</sup>

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



**Covers 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, and 40 Meters!**  
The Cushcraft R8 is recognized as the industry gold standard for multi-band verticals, with thousands in use worldwide. Efficient, rugged, and built to withstand the test of time, the R8's unique ground-independent design has a well-earned reputation for delivering top DX results under tough conditions. Best of all, the R8 is easy to assemble, installs just about anywhere, and blends inconspicuously with urban and country settings alike.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MA-5B 5-Band Beam Small Footprint -- Big Signal

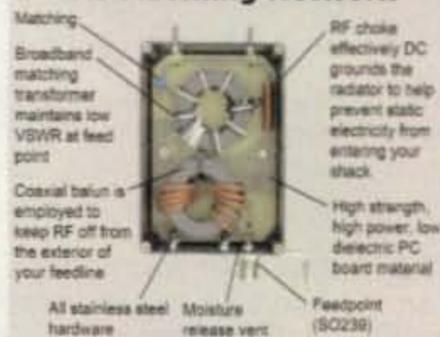


MA-5B  
\$499<sup>95</sup>

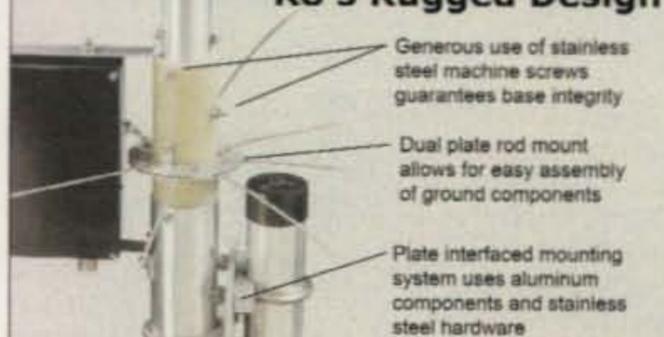
The MA-5B is one of Cushcraft's most popular HF antennas, delivering solid *signal-boosting directivity* in a bantam-weight package. Mounts on roof using standard TV hardware. Perfect for exploring exciting DX without the high cost and heavy lifting of installing a large tower and full-sized array. Its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

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

### R8 Matching Network



### R8's Rugged Design



## Cushcraft 10, 15 & 20 Meter Tribander Beams

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



A-4S  
\$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!

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

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

## Cushcraft Dual Band Yagis

One Yagi for Dual-Band FM Radios



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

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

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



A270-6S  
\$129<sup>95</sup>

## Cushcraft Famous Ringos Compact FM Verticals



AR-2  
\$64<sup>95</sup>



AR-6  
\$99<sup>95</sup>



AR-10  
\$109<sup>95</sup>

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

**Free Cushcraft Catalog**  
and Nearest Dealer . . . 662-323-5803  
Call your dealer for your best price!

**Cushcraft**  
Amateur Radio Antennas

308 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759 USA  
Open: 8-4:30 CST, Mon.-Fri. Add Shipping.

• Sales/Tech: 662-323-5803 • FAX: 662-323-6551  
<http://www.cushcraftamateur.com>

Prices/specifications subject to change without notice/obligation. © Cushcraft, 2010.

Cushcraft . . . Keeping you in touch around the globe!

Visit [www.cushcraftamateur.com](http://www.cushcraftamateur.com)

## Clarification on DXØDX Refunds

Last month, we reported that all donations made to the now-cancelled DXØDX expedition to the Spratly Islands would be refunded in full. This was not entirely accurate. In an e-mail to CQ in response to questions raised by readers, team leader Chris Dimitrijevic, VK3FY, explained that "(t)he extremely high cost of this DXpedition will mean that the team will receive refunds that will amount to less than what was contributed." He said the plan was for all DXØDX assets to be sold, with the proceeds being disbursed as either partial or full refunds. Individual donors were to receive 100% refunds, he said, with club and foundation sponsors being reimbursed for 80% of their donations. The remaining funds were to be divided among team members to help reimburse their major investments in the planned trip, which was cancelled due to safety concerns.

## Hams Respond to Natural Disasters Around the World

Ham radio operators provided varying levels of communications assistance in response to floods in Thailand and Italy, an earthquake in Turkey and a damaging snowstorm in the U.S. Northeast in late October and early November.

"Newsline" reports that the secretary of Thailand's national ham radio association says its members have saved nearly 1000 lives by coordinating rescue communications in the wake of the country's worst flooding in over 60 years.

Hams also responded after a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck eastern Turkey, to floods in Italy and a late October snowstorm that left huge swaths of the northeastern U.S. without power.

## Senators Seek to Block FCC Approval of LightSquared

At least two U.S. Senators have taken action to try to stop the FCC from granting approval for LightSquared to operate a wireless internet service on frequencies adjacent to those used for the Global Positioning System (GPS). Citing potential interference to the satellite direction-finding system "on which our public safety and national security depend so heavily," Kansas Republican Pat Roberts introduced an amendment to an appropriations bill to prevent the FCC from using appropriated funds for approving LightSquared's application until interference concerns have been resolved, according to his website.

In addition, various news sources reported that Senator Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) threatened to block confirmation of President Obama's two nominees to the FCC unless the Commission released documents he requested related to LightSquared. The Senate was scheduled at the end of November to begin the confirmation process for the two nominees, Democrat Jessica Rosenworcel and Republican Ajit Pai.

## FCC Affirms BPL Rules

The FCC has made minor tweaks in its 2004 rules for Broadband over Power Lines (BPL), but adopted neither the changes proposed by the ARRL nor its own original proposal. In a Second Report and Order on the issue, which followed a 2008 federal court ruling that it had made procedural errors in the original proceeding, the FCC changed from 20 dB to 25 dB the amount by which BPL providers need to be able to notch their signals in the event of interference complaints. But it did not go along with the ARRL's request for mandatory notching of ham bands.

BPL is a means of providing high-speed internet access to homes via power lines, using frequencies in the HF and low VHF portions of the spectrum. In test markets, certain types of BPL caused massive interference to close-in amateur stations. So far, the system has not proven to be economically feasible anywhere that it has been tried.

## European Governments Support Longwave Ham Band

The European Council of Post and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has endorsed a proposal to create a worldwide secondary amateur radio allocation between 472 and 480 kHz. According to "Newsline," stations using the new allocation, if approved, would be limited to five watts effective radiated power (ERP). A ham allocation in the neighborhood of 500



The debut of the Portuguese-language edition of CQ drew a large and enthusiastic crowd at Fenarcom, Brazil's largest hamfest, in early November. (Photo courtesy Mick Stwertnik, NCG/Comet Antennas)

## Portuguese Edition of CQ Launched in Brazil

The first edition of *CQ Radioamadorismo*, the Portuguese-language edition of CQ published in Brazil, was introduced at that country's largest hamfest, Fenarcom, on November 5. The issue and cover featured an interview with one of Brazil's best-known amateur satellite enthusiasts, Dr. Junior Torres de Castro, PY2BJO, who developed the DOVE satellite. The new magazine's website is <<http://www.cqmagazine.com.br/>>.

kHz is expected to be taken up at this month's World Radiocommunication Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. For more on WRC-12, see this month's "Washington Readout" column on page 52 of this issue.

## Ham Radio to Join Cast of "Last Man Standing"

Amateur radio will become an ongoing part of the ABC comedy, "Last Man Standing," as of the program's November 22 broadcast. Star Tim Allen will have various pieces of ham gear on his office desk, including rigs provided by ICOM, and an HF antenna from Comet. Scenes from CQ videos will be visible on his large-screen TV and some copies of CQ magazine may show up on his desk as well. His character will be identified as a licensed ham, although the callsign he will use is fictional.

Producer John Amodeo is a ham (NN6JA). He says he feels that ham radio fits right in with the persona of Allen's character, Mike Baxter, who is marketing director for an outdoor/sporting goods company. He also thinks that hams fit right in as part of the show's target audience. Amodeo warns that, at least at first, ham radio's presence will be only visual, and has not yet been worked into any scripts. (See John's article, "Producing Ham Radio," about how he got several of the show's staff members licensed as hams, on p. 30 of the Dec.2011 issue of CQ.)

## Illegal 10-Meter Activity on the Rise

It seems that a large number of taxicabs in Russia have been illegally using the 10-meter band for their communications, but nobody much noticed until now, as the rising sunspot cycle brought about improved propagation on the band. According to "Newsline," most of the cabbies were using channelized FM rigs. Russia's Radio Frequency Service has reportedly promised to crack down on the illegal users.

AM and SSB transmissions by non-amateurs in North America have also been reported. U.S. amateurs hearing illegal activity on 10 meters are encouraged to gather as much information as possible and then get in touch with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

(Continued on pg. 10)

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.

# Download Your Next Radio From FlexRadio Systems

## New RF Tracking Notch Filter Provides Revolutionary Capability!

### Tracking Notch Filter™ (TNF)

FlexRadio Systems has developed a revolutionary new tool in the never ending fight against foreign broadcast carriers, "birdies", narrowband noise sources, and local shack interference: Infinitely adjustable RF Tracking Notch Filters. TNF gives the FlexRadio user the ability to have up to 18 frequency locked notches active in the receiver passband at the same time and the ability to memorize any number of notches across all bands. This includes the MultiRX™ mode second audio passband plus the FLEX-5000's RX2 second receiver.

### How TNF Works

Since FlexRadio Systems' Software Defined Radios (SDRs) are based on software and digital signal processing, the math to create a single fixed audio notch such as "Automatic" notch filters (ANF) is a very simple process. Even fixed DSP radios can do this today. The challenge comes when the radio is tuned to keep a notch tracking the desired frequency. FlexRadio approached this from a different angle by developing a mathematical method to change the IF frequency of the notch as the radio is tuned in real time. Because this method is done in the digital SDR domain away from any analog component variations, notch tracking and repeatability problems are virtually eliminated. Best of all, if one tracking notch filter can be created, it's straightforward to create as many as needed. The result is a virtually unlimited number of stable, frequency locked, tracking notch filters.

### How to Use TNF

The reason TNF works so well is the intuitive graphical user interface for adding, adjusting, and deleting TNF notches. TNF notches are added with a click of the mouse then dragged over the offending signal. A visual TNF ZOOM - TUNE mode allows for precise positioning and bandwidth control of the TNF notch. This combined with instant audio feedback allows you to optimize each TNF to remove just the offender while leaving your wanted signal in the passband. If the offending carrier is too strong for a NORMAL notch, right click the TNF notch and set it to DEEP or VERY DEEP to remove even the strongest

interfering signals. When the TNF notch is properly adjusted you can easily make the TNF permanent. Tune away and come back, the TNF notch is there. Change bands and come back, TNF is on the frequency where you need it. You can even power down the radio and come back next week. Still there!



### When to Use TNF

Some examples of when to use TNF are to remove constant DSL and environmentally generated birdies. Or spend a few minutes on 40 meters to magically remove those annoying AM carriers that appear across the band. Additionally, you can use TNF to temporarily block strong adjacent CW and digital signals.

Remember, you can only get TNF on PowerSDR™ for FlexRadio Systems products. To learn more check out our whitepaper or watch the TNF YouTube™ video. You can find these at <http://www.flexradio.com/TNF>.

### Note to FlexRadio Owners

To download the revolutionary TNF feature for your FLEX-Series radio today, just visit [www.flexradio.com](http://www.flexradio.com) for the latest version of PowerSDR™.

If you are not yet a FlexRadio owner, check out TNF and all the other revolutionary features that make the FlexRadio Systems SDRs the most amazing radios on the air!

4616 W. Howard Lane, Ste. 1-150, Austin, TX 78728  
sales@flexradio.com / 512-535-4713

[www.flexradio.com](http://www.flexradio.com)

**FlexRadio Systems**<sup>®</sup>  
Software Defined Radios

# CQ contents

JANUARY 2012



p. 95

## features

p. 13

Vol. 68 No. 1

- 20 RESULTS OF THE 2011 CQ WW WPX SSB CONTEST**  
By Randy Thompson, K5ZD
- Trophy Winners and Donors .....23
  - World Top Scores .....24
  - Europe Top Scores .....26
  - USA Top Scores .....29
  - All-Time Records .....32
  - Scores .....102
- 34 WHO NEEDS A MICROPHONE FOR A PHONE CONTEST?** Want to set up something where you can call CQ in a contest without a mic? Here's how.  
By Jamie Dupree, NS3T
- 28 ANNOUNCING: The 2012 CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest**
- 48 MATH'S NOTES: The operational amplifier (continued)**  
By Irwin Math, WA2NDM
- 55 ANNOUNCING: 2012 nominations open for the CQ Amateur Radio, DX, and Contest Halls of Fame**
- 56 MAGIC IN THE SKY: Commentary—the battle for hearts, minds ... and logic?**  
By Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR
- 70 THE HAM NOTEBOOK: "5S" in your shack—one way to get organized**  
By Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ
- 74 ANTENNAS: Receiver SWR and some simple antennas for 10 meters**  
By Kent Britain WA5VJB



p.61



p. 22

**ON THE COVER:** Aubiesat-1 Project Managers Jamie Droddy, KI4TXZ, and Thor Wilson, KI4TXV, hold a model of the student-built CubeSat at Auburn University back in 2007. The satellite was launched late in 2011 and is now OSCAR-71. See story on page 13. (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

## departments

- 13 VHF PLUS: Six CubeSats, four universities, one successful launch**  
By Joe Lynch, N6CL
- 52 WASHINGTON READOUT: ITU World radio Conference 2012— amateur radio access to new spectrum around 500 kHz is on the agenda; 60 meters endangered**  
By Frederick O. Maia, W5YI
- 61 PUBLIC SERVICE: Arkansas SKYWARN® lessons in social graces**  
By Richard Fisher, K16SN
- 65 LEARNING CURVE: Safety in the ham shack**  
By Rich Arland, K7SZ
- 68 KIT-BUILDING: "An open and shut case"**  
By Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB
- 81 WHAT'S NEW: New gear for a new year**  
By John Wood, WV5J
- 86 AWARDS: DX grid squares; N4PJ, USA-CA All Counties #1218**  
By Ted Melinosky, K1BV
- 90 DX: Contest/DX expeditions!**  
By Carl Smith, N4AA
- 94 CONTESTING: Tips for contesting during periods of high solar activity**  
By George Tranos, N2GA
- 98 PROPAGATION: Solar Cycle 24 finally active in 2011, plus moderate 2011 CQ WW DX SSB Contest conditions**  
By Tomas Hood, NW7US

- 2 HAM RADIO NEWS
- 8 ZERO BIAS
- 10 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 114 HAM SHOP

# Array Solutions Your Source for Outstanding Radio Products



**Happy Holidays from Array Solutions! Visit us for all your Holiday Gift Giving Solutions: [www.arrayolutions.com](http://www.arrayolutions.com)**



## PowerMaster II

- New Larger, Sharp & Fast LCD Display
- Reduced Energy consumption
- USB and RS-232 interface built-in
- Best accuracy in the ham radio market
- New - Both 3kW and 10kW couplers on one display - switched
- Supports 2 like couplers simultaneously (3kW & 3kW, 3kW & V/UHF, 10kW & 10kW)
- SWR Threshold Protection (with amp PTT bypass)
- Hi / Lo Power Level Monitoring
- Single and Dual Rack Mount available
- New "Power Master Basic" Software - Free!

## AIM uhf Analyzer

- Frequency range from 5 kHz to 1 GHz.
- Data plots include SWR, RL, R + X, series and parallel, magnitude, phase, and more.
- Dual Smith charts with rotation and 20 markers.
- Plots and calibration files can be saved and used anytime in CVS and dynamic formats.
- AIM 4170C is still in production covering 5kHz to 180 MHz.
- New TDR functionality



## ACOM - Outstanding HF Power Products

### ACOM 2000A

The ACOM 2000A Automatic HF Linear Amplifier is the world's most advanced legal-limit HF amplifier designed for amateur use. (160 thru 10m) (2x 4CX800A Tubes)



#### ACOM 1000

160-6m Amplifier  
The world's best value in an amateur HF & 6m amplifier. Delivers 1000 watts output on all bands  
(Single 4CX800A tube)



#### ACOM 1010

160-10m Amplifier  
Economical 800 watt output 160-10m  
(Single 4CX800A Tube)



#### ACOM 1011

160-10m Amplifier  
Fast 30 second warm-up, 700 w output, 160-10m.  
(2x 4CX250B Tubes)

Coming in 2012 ...  
**ACOM 800S Solid State Amplifier**  
160 through 6 M, 800 W from 1.8 to 54 MHz, no time limit  
This Device has NOT been approved by the FCC and may not be offered for sale or lease until approval of the FCC has been obtained.  
The information shown is preliminary and may be subject to change without notice or obligation.



## OptiBeam Antennas

OptiBeam antennas are the best antennas you can buy. Whether it is an array of mono-banders or a multi-monobander antenna, you will more likely be first through a pileup with an OptiBeam. An OptiBeam is...

- Antenna Technology
- Electrical Properties
- Physical Properties
- Avoiding Disadvantages of Other Antenna Systems
- Technical Qualities
- Mechanical Quality Throughout

**OptiBeam**  
We are proud to be the Official North American Dealer of OptiBeam Antenna Technologies

## Vector Network Analyzer Model VNA 2180

Measures impedance magnitude, phase and transmission parameters for antennas, filters, and discrete components - using one or two ports.

- Frequency range is 5KHz to 180MHz.
- Data plots include: impedance, SWR, return loss, S11 and S21.
- Plots can be saved for before and after comparisons.
- New TDR functionality

## AIM 4170C Antenna Lab RF Analyzer

The AIM 4170C antenna analyzer measures the complex impedance (magnitude and phase) at each frequency of interest in the range of 5KHz to 180 MHz. A PC is used to calculate all RF parameters, including R +/-X, Magnitude and Phase, SWR, Return Loss, line loss, and more and plot the results in an easy to read graph and interactive Smith Chart.

- New TDR functionality



## Other Quality Products from Array Solutions...

- |   |  |  |   |   |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <b>ACOM</b><br>Sales and Service for Amplifiers and Accessories | <b>Phillystran, Inc.</b><br>Official Worldwide Phillystran Distributor | <b>RigExpert</b><br>Analyzers and Interfaces | <b>Prosistel Rotators</b><br>Strongest Rotators on the Market | <b>OptiBeam Antennas</b><br>German Engineering means High Performance | <b>Hofi®</b><br>Surge Arrestors & Antenna Switches | <b>SSB Electronics</b><br>VHF, UHF, & SHF Preamps and Switching Systems |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|



**[www.arrayolutions.com](http://www.arrayolutions.com)**

Sunnyvale, Texas USA  
Phone 214-954-7140  
[sales@arrayolutions.com](mailto:sales@arrayolutions.com)  
Fax 214-954-7142

Array Solutions' products are in use at top DX and Contest stations worldwide as well as commercial and governmental installations. We provide RF solutions to the DoD, FEMA, Emcomm, UN, WFO, FAA and the State Dept. for products and installation of antennas systems, antenna selection, filtering, switching and grounding. We also offer RF engineering and PE consulting services.

**The radio... YAESU**  
*Choice of the World's top DX'ers*

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



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

**DMU-2000**  
 Data Management Unit

Photograph shows 100-Watt version. Computer display and keyboard are after-market items, not supplied with the FT-2000.



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

**Options**



**SP-2000**  
 External Speaker  
 with Audio filters

**RF  $\mu$ -Tune Kits**

160m Band  
 RF  $\mu$ -Tune Kits A



80/40m Band  
 RF  $\mu$ -Tune Kits B



30/20m Band  
 RF  $\mu$ -Tune Kits C



- Up to three  $\mu$ -Tune Kits may be connected.
- $\mu$ -Tune Kit is included in purchase price of  $\mu$ -Tune Unit.

For the latest Yaesu news, visit us on the Internet:  
<http://www.vertexstandard.com>

Specifications subject to change without notice. Some accessories and/or options may be standard in some areas. Frequency coverage may differ in some countries. Check with your local Yaesu dealer for specific details.

**YAESU**  
*Choice of the World's top DX'ers™*  
 Vertex Standard  
 US Headquarters  
 10900 Walker Street  
 Cypress, CA 90630 (714)827-7600

# Field Gear That Goes The Distance!

## FT-450D

**HF/50 MHz 100 W Easy to Operate  
All Mode Transceiver**

- Illuminated Key Buttons
- 300Hz / 500Hz / 2.4 kHz CW IF Filter
- Foot Stand
- Classically Designed Main Dial and Knobs
- Dynamic Microphone MH-31 A8J Included



## FT-857D

**The World's Smallest HF/VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver**

- Ultra-Compact Package
- Ideal for Mobile or External Battery Portable Work
- Wide Frequency Coverage
- Optional Remote-Head
- High-Performance Mobile Operation



## FT-897D

**HF/VHF/UHF Portable Operation  
Powerful Transceiver**

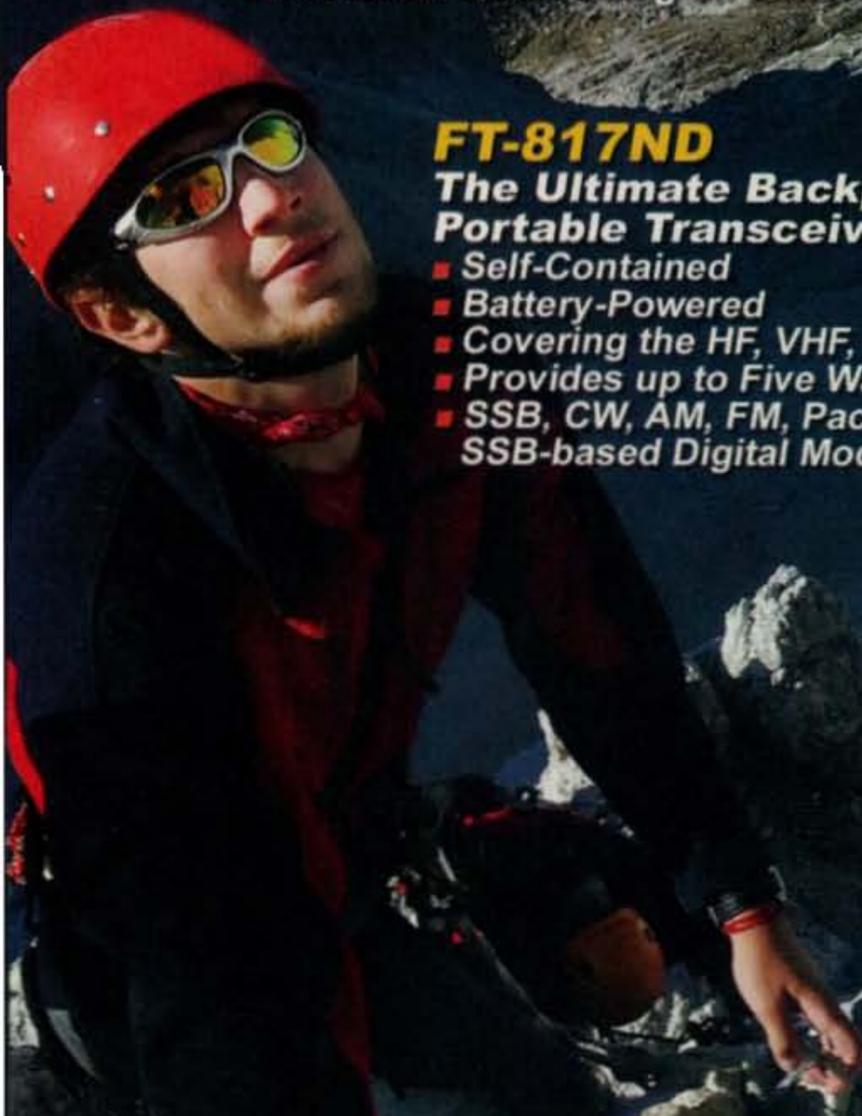
- The Ultimate Emergency Communications Radio
- Rugged, Innovative Multi-Band
- Operates on the SSB, CW, AM, FM, and Digital Modes
- Wide Frequency Coverage
- 20-Watt Portable Operation Using Internal Batteries
- 100 Watts When Using an External 13.8-Volt DC Power Source



## FT-817ND

**The Ultimate Backpack, Multi-Mode  
Portable Transceiver**

- Self-Contained
- Battery-Powered
- Covering the HF, VHF, and UHF Bands
- Provides up to Five Watts of Power Output
- SSB, CW, AM, FM, Packet, or SSB-based Digital Modes like PSK31



 **YAESU**  
Choice of the World's top DX'ers™  
Vertex Standard US Headquarters  
10900 Walker Street Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 827-7600

Vertex Standard US Headquarters  
10900 Walker Street, Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 827-7600

<http://www.vertexstandard.com>

# An Old Friend Returns

**W**e've all probably had this experience at one time or another: We bump into an old friend we haven't seen in years, and after a few minutes of catching up, pick up our relationship as if there'd been no interruption at all. I had that experience during the CQ World Wide SSB Contest at the end of October. You may know my old friend ... its name is 10 meters.

I didn't have a whole lot of operating time this year in the CQWW. Here in the northeast, we'd had a freak October snowstorm that dropped heavy wet snow on trees that still had most or all of their leaves. The damage to limbs, and to power lines, was worse than we've seen here in decades. Fortunately, we didn't lose power at our house, but my in-laws did, so a lot of time was devoted to getting them (and what could be salvaged from their refrigerator) moved into our house for a few days. But I did manage to get in a little operating time on Saturday night and Sunday.

I'd been hearing rumors that the higher sunspot numbers were bringing long-distance propagation back to my long-time favorite band, so on Sunday morning when I got back to the radio, I figured I'd give a listen to 10 meters. I didn't leave for the rest of the day (except for my two final QSOs, but more on them later). Not only was 10 meters open, it was open to Europe and it was packed! With my 100 watts and a vertical, I didn't work anything exotic, but for the first time in at least five years, I was working east-west paths on 10 meters. In the afternoon, I worked Hawaii and Alaska, and heard (but didn't work) several stations in Japan and New Zealand.

One of my favorite things about 10 meters is how you can watch the propagation move as you go through the day. At my location in the northeast, you start out working Europe in the morning, then the Europeans drop out and the US west coast starts to come in, followed by the Pacific and Asia as evening approaches. But you lose that at solar minimum. I looked back over my logs from 2006 to 2010. There were very few 10-meter contacts there at all, compared with other bands, and every one of them was on a north-south path—the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

Don't get me wrong. There's plenty of great DX to be worked in those places. But as anyone who's been on 10 during the peak of a sunspot cycle can tell you, that's not what 10 meters is all about. Ten meters is all about worldwide DX with flea power and a wet noodle for an antenna. My colleague Richard Fisher, KI6SN, was telling me how he'd recently worked Japan from southern California on 10-meter FM simplex with 50 watts and an indoor dipole. That's what 10 meters is all about!

## Something Different

There's something different in this rising sunspot cycle, though, than in the past. This time around, for the first time ever, *every licensed amateur in the United States—700,314 of us as of October 311—has operating privileges on 10 meters, including voice privileges on the hot DXing frequencies of 28.300 to 28.500 MHz.* General Class and higher licensees have the whole band available, but at the risk of repeating myself, for the first time ever, *every U.S. ham is invited to the party!*

Don't let antenna restrictions get in your way. A 10-meter dipole cut for 28.4 MHz (the center of the Tech/Novice phone band) is only 16½ feet long. Put one up in your attic or garage (if you don't have one of those, get creative and find a place) and get on the air. Ten-meter verticals for your car are readily available and today's versions are much more compact than the 108-inch CB whip you may remember. Check our ads or your favorite ham dealer.

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

Predictions are that the peak of this sunspot cycle will be relatively brief. The "official" prediction is for a peak next year, in 2013; CQ Propagation Editor NW7US thinks we've got a little more time than that (see his column on page 98). But regardless of whether the cycle peaks in 2013 or 2014, it won't be with us for long this time around and we don't want you to miss out on all the fun this wonderful band has to offer. Get (or build) a radio that operates on 10 meters. Get (or build) an antenna, and *get on the air!*

Oh yes, about my last two contacts during the CQWW: Ten was still open but I'd worked just about everybody who had a chance of hearing me, so I switched over to 15 meters and the magic of sunspots was obvious there as well... I had time for only two QSOs—and here's one advantage of a vertical antenna—my first one was a ZD8 on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic, followed almost immediately by a VY1 in the Yukon. Ahhh ... the warm glow of sunspots!

## New Friends

As much fun as it was to spend time with my old friend, ten meters, I had just as much fun soon afterward with some new friends—of the human variety. The weekend after the CQ World Wide, I was invited to join the NYC Resistor "maker" group in operating a special event station in the middle of New York City. It was one of several stations operating that weekend to highlight efforts to purchase inventor Nikola Tesla's Long Island laboratory and turn it into a science center (see <<http://www.teslasciencecenter.org/>>).

I'll be writing a full article about it in an upcoming issue, but we were operating as N3Y from a balcony on the 38th floor of the New Yorker Hotel in midtown Manhattan. The NYC Resistor folks tend to be in their 30s, heavily into technology (including ham radio) and enjoy building things. I was one of three older hams in the group and was energized by the enthusiasm of these younger hams as they set up and operated on two HF bands plus satellites. We plan to do more in CQ in the future to help bring together the "maker" and ham radio communities. Stay tuned.

## Doin' Digital

I can't wrap this up without coming back to last month's topic of our new digital editions. When I wrote last month's editorial, the first issue of CQ in digital form had not yet "hit the streets." Well, now it has, and while I really enjoy looking at the magazine on my computer screen, I am totally blown away by reading it on my wife's iPad®. The image quality is incredible and, if small type isn't your thing, a simple swipe of the fingers is all it takes to blow it up to whatever size you'd like. Plus, on all devices, just touching or clicking on the name of an article in the table of contents takes you right to it; likewise any links in articles or ads.

As of now, the features are still pretty basic. But as we, our writers and our advertisers learn more about what we can do with this new medium, I'm sure we'll see more and more enhancements.

And what about print? I still love the look, feel and portability of a printed magazine and probably always will. For me, the digital edition is going to be a valuable *add-on* to the print edition. Each has its distinct benefits and drawbacks, but the combination is unbeatable!

Best wishes from all of us at CQ to you and your families for a happy, healthy, safe, and prosperous new year!

73, W2VU

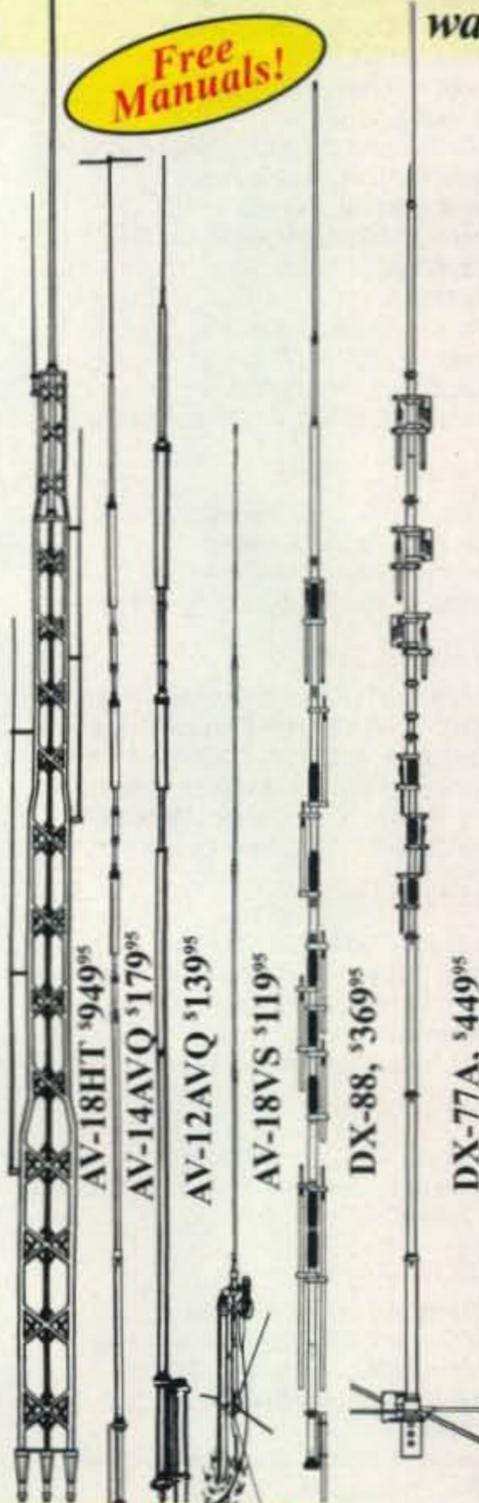
## Note

1. Licensing statistics from <[www.ah0a.org](http://www.ah0a.org)>

# hy-gain<sup>®</sup> HF VERTICALS

Self-supporting -- no guys required . . . Remarkable DX performance -- low angle radiation, omnidirectional . . . Handles 1500 Watts . . . Low SWR . . . Automatic band switching . . . Aircraft quality aluminum tubing . . . Stainless steel hardware . . . Recessed SO-239 connector . . . Two year limited Warranty . . .

Free Manuals!



## hy-gain<sup>®</sup> Classics

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

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

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

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

compression clamps is used for radiators.

Includes all stainless steel hardware.

Recessed SO-239 prevents moisture damage.

Hy-gain verticals go up easily with just hand tools and their cost is surprisingly low.

Two year limited warranty.

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

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

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

The Hy-Gain AV-14AVQ uses the same trap design as the famous Hy-Gain Thunderbird beams. Three separate air dielectric Hy-Q traps with oversize coils give superb stability and 1/4 wave resonance on all bands. Roof mount with Hy-Gain AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

**AV-12AVQ, \$139.95. (10, 15, 20 Meters). 13 ft., 9 lbs.**

AV-12AVQ also uses Thunderbird beam design air dielectric traps for extremely Hy-Q performance. This is the way to go for inexpensive tri-band performance in limited space. Roof mount with AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## hy-gain<sup>®</sup> PATRIOT

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

**No ground or radials needed**

**Effective counterpoise** replaces radials and ground.

**Automatic bandswitching**

**Single coax cable feed.** Each band is individually tunable. Extra wide VSWR bandwidth. End fed with broadband matching unit.

**Sleek and low-profile**

**Low 2.5 sq. ft. wind surface area.** Small area required for mounting. Mounts easily on decks, roofs and patios.

**Full legal limit**

**Handles 1500 Watts** key down continuous for two minutes.

**Built-to-last**

**High wind survival of 80 mph.** Broadband matching unit made from all Teflon<sup>®</sup> insulated wire. Aircraft quality aluminum tubing, stainless steel hardware.

**hy-gain<sup>®</sup> warranty**

**Two year limited warranty.** All replacement parts in stock.

**AV-640, \$449.95. (6,10,12, 15,17,20,30,40 Meters). 25.5 ft., 17.5 lbs.** The AV-640 uses quarter wave stubs on 6, 10, 12 and 17 meters and efficient end loading coil and capacity hats on 15, 20, 30 and 40 meters -- no traps. Resonators are placed in parallel not in series. End loading of the lower HF bands allows efficient operation with a manageable antenna height.

**AV-620, \$349.95.**

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

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



AV-640 \$449<sup>95</sup>

## Free Hy-Gain Catalog

and Nearest Dealer . . . 800-973-6572

Call your dealer for your best price!

# hy-gain<sup>®</sup>

**Antennas, Rotators & Towers**

308 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759 USA

Toll-free Customer Sales Hotline: 800-973-6572

• TECH: 662-323-9538 • FAX: 662-323-6551

<http://www.hy-gain.com>

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice or obligation. © Hy-Gain<sup>®</sup>, 2010.

**PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA** – The Desert Radio Amateur Transmitting Society will hold the **Palm Springs Hamfest** on January 28 from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM at "The Barn." More than 25 commercial vendors plus consignment sales. Activities include how-to demonstrations, seminars, swap meet, and an RV convoy from Quartzfest led by Gordon West, WB6NOA. E-mail: <PalmSprings.hamfest@gmail.com>. Website: <http://desertrats.am>. Talk-in 146.960 (PL 107.2). Special Event Station, **WD6RAT**, will be on the air from 9 AM to 3 PM. Frequencies include 7.251+; 14.251+ (voice); 14.070+ (PSK31); 14.109 to 14.111 (MT-63-1000); and 14.075 to 14.078 (Olivia-500). E-mail: <PalmSprings.hamfest@gmail.com>.

**ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA** – The **Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)** will broadcast special event station **K3Y** from 0000 UTC, January 1 to 2359 UTC, January 31 to honor six years of the organization's growth. Frequencies are 1.820, 3.550, 7.055, 10.120, 14.050, 18.080, 21.050, 24.910, and 50.090 MHz ( $\pm 10$  kHz). For a special QSL, send name, callsign, and address to Dan Rhodes, KA3CTQ, 618 Seminole Drive, Erie, PA 16505. Website: <http://www.skccgroup.com>.

**GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA** – The **Greenwood Hamfest** will be held January 14 at the Piedmont Technical College Multipurpose Building N. Activities include ARRL forums, dealers, flea market, and door prizes. VE Exams walk-in, starting at 10:30 AM. Contact: G.A.R.S., PO Box 2404, Greenwood, SC 29646. Website: <http://www.w4gwd.org>. Talk-in 147.165 (+)/ALT 443.900 + tone 107.2.

**FORT WORTH, TEXAS** – The **Cowtown Hamfest 2012** will be held on January 20 and 21 at the Lockheed Martin Recreational Area. More than 100 tables, an outdoor tailgate flea market, educational programs, and VE testing. Contact David Forbes, KC5UYR, <kc5uyr@compuserve.com>. Talk-in 147.28, Tone 110.9

**WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN** – The **40th Annual Midwinter Ham Radio, Computer and Electronics Swapfest** will be held on Saturday, January 7 from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Waukesha County Expo Center Forum. VE testing 9 AM to 11:15 AM at the AMF Waukesha Lanes. For vendor information and advanced registration (deadline December 28) contact: Phil Gural, W9NAW, 414-425-3649. Website: <http://www.warac.org>.

*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.*



Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML; CQ Contributing Editor Gordon West, WB6NOA, and CQ Advertising Manager Chip Margelli, K7JA, at the Pacifcon banquet in October, where CQ presented Mendelsohn with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

### W2ML Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from CQ

CQ magazine honored Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pacifcon hamfest in October. Mendelsohn, who is fighting pancreatic cancer, has been Communications Director of the New York City Marathon for more than 25 years and served the ARRL as Hudson Division Director and First Vice President. He was also a leader in repeater coordination in the 1970s and 80s. Professionally, as an audio engineer at CBS and then ABC, Steve was press pool broadcast engineer for four presidents during foreign trips, and more recently in charge of all radio communications at Giants Stadium in New Jersey during New York Jets home games.

### 60 Meters Gets New Channel, New Modes & Higher Power

The FCC adopted new rules for the 60-meter (5 MHz) band in mid-November, swapping one frequency for another and permitting greater flexibility in power and operating modes. Currently, hams in the U.S. have a secondary allocation on the band and are limited to upper sideband (USB) with a maximum of 50 watts PEP on five specific frequencies.

In the new rules, amateurs will also be able to use CW and the PSK-31 and Pactor-III digital modes; and the power limit has been doubled to 100 watts PEP. In addition, the current channel centered on 5368 kHz will be replaced by one centered on 5358.5 kHz. Voice and digital users should set their VFOs 1.5 kHz below the center frequency while CW ops should be right on the center frequency. The new rules take effect 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*, which would most likely mean sometime in mid-January.

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Richard S. Moseson, W2VU, Editor  
Gail M. Sheehan, K2RED, Managing Editor

### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Rich Arland, K7SZ, Learning Curve  
Kent Britain, WA5VJB, Antennas  
Brittany Decker, KB1OGL, Kids' Komer  
Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, Kit-Building  
Richard Fisher, K16SN, Public Service  
Cam Hartford, N6GA, QRP  
Tomas Hood, NW7US, Propagation  
Joe Lynch, N6CL, VHF  
Frederick O. Maia, W5YI, FCC Correspondent  
Irwin Math, WA2NDM, Math's Notes  
Ted Melinosky, K1BV, Awards & USA-CA  
Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, Mobile/Radio Magic  
Don Rotolo, N2IRZ, Digital  
Carl Smith, N4AA, DX  
George Tranos, N2GA, Contesting  
Gordon West, WB6NOA, At-Large  
John Wood, WV5J, What's New  
Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ, The Ham Notebook

### AWARD MANAGEMENT

Floyd Gerald, N5FG, WAZ Award  
Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, WPX Award  
Ted Melinosky, K1BV, USA-CA Award  
Keith Gilbertson, K0KG, CQ DX Award

### CONTEST MANAGEMENT

Robert Cox, K3EST, WW DX Contest Director  
John Lindholm, W1XX, VHF Contest Director  
Randy Thompson, K5ZD, WPX Contest Director  
John Sweeney, K9EL, DX Marathon Director  
Andy Blank, N2NT, 160M Contest Director  
Ed Muns, W0YK, RTTY Contest Director

### BUSINESS STAFF

Richard A. Ross, K2MGA, Publisher  
Chip Margelli, K7JA, Advertising Sales & Marketing  
Emily Leary, Sales Coordinator  
Sal Del Grosso, Controller  
Doris Watts, Accounting Department

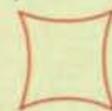
### CIRCULATION STAFF

Melissa Gilligan, Operations Manager  
Cheryl DiLorenzo, Customer Service Manager  
AnnMarie Auer, Customer Service

### PRODUCTION STAFF

Elizabeth Ryan, Art Director  
Barbara McGowan, Associate Art Director  
Dorothy Kehrwieler, Production Director  
Emily Leary, Production Manager  
Hal Keith, Illustrator  
Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI, Staff Photographer  
Rod Somera, Webmaster

A publication of



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

CQ Amateur Radio (ISSN 0007-893X) Volume 68, No. 1. Published monthly by CQ Communications, Inc., 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801, Telephone 516-681-2922. E-mail: cq@cq-amateur-radio.com. Fax 516-681-2926. Web site: www.cq-amateur-radio.com. Periodicals Postage Paid at Hicksville, NY 11801 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription prices (all in U.S. dollars): Domestic-one year \$36.95, two years \$66.95, three years \$96.95; Canada/Mexico-one year \$49.95, two years \$92.95, three years \$135.95; Foreign Air Post-one year \$61.95, two years \$116.95, three years \$171.95. U.S. Government Agencies: Subscriptions to CQ are available to agencies of the United States government including military services, only on a cash with order basis. Requests for quotations, bids, contracts, etc. will be refused and will not be returned or processed. Entire contents copyrighted 2012 by CQ Communications, Inc. CQ does not assume responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts. Allow six weeks for change of address.

Printed in the U.S.A.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
CQ Amateur Radio, 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801

(from pg. 2)

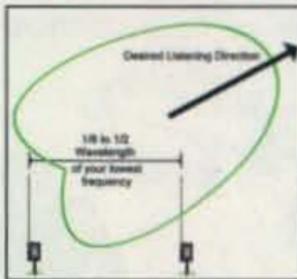
# #1 Rated Cable Assemblies Made in USA!



ARE YOU HEARING THEM ALL?

## Receive Antenna Phasing Controller System

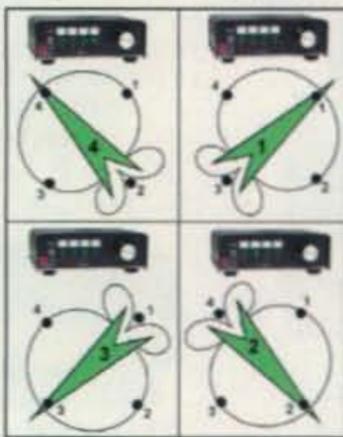
The NCC-1 is a two-channel receiving phasing system. This sophisticated controller allows the user to combine and independently adjust the phase and level of two antenna inputs, creating a fully adjustable phased array from any two antennas.



DXE-NCC-1	Receive Antenna Phasing Controller	\$599.95
DXE-AAPS3-1P	Two Antenna System, electronically rotatable	\$1,099.95

## Receive Four Square Arrays

The patented\* DXE-RFS-SYS-2P uses time delay phasing to produce wider and deeper rear nulls and a narrower main lobe in four selectable directions. The result is greatly reduced levels of noise and undesirable signals for a superior front-to-rear ratio. Use with DX Engineering Active Vertical Antennas for great F/R response over octaves of bandwidth from 100 kHz to 30 MHz with just a 102" whip as the antenna element.



DXE-RFS-SYS-2P	Four Square Controller/Switch Package	\$389.95
DXE-RFS-SYS-3P	160/80/40m Electronics Package	\$799.00
DXE-RFS-SYS-4P	Complete System Package	\$1,650.00

## Receive Eight Circle Switch and Controller Packages

This switchable 8-direction array allows the user to pinpoint the exact direction for maximum receive signal performance. It uses the same time delay phasing technique as the Receive Four Square system to provide excellent bandwidth and pattern control with 102" long active antenna elements.



DXE-RCA88-SYS-2P	Receive Eight Controller/Switch Package	\$449.95
DXE-RCA88-SYS-3P	Electronics Package	\$1,375.00
DXE-RCA88-SYS-4P	Complete System Package	\$2,575.00

## Beverage Antenna Components

DXE-BFS-1	Beverage Antenna System, single direction	\$49.95
DXE-RBSA-1P	Reversible Beverage System, two direction	\$199.95

## Active Receive Antennas w/Internal Disconnect Relay

DXE-ARAV3-1P	Vertical Antenna	\$289.95
DXE-ARAH3-1P	Horizontal Antenna	\$349.95

## Preamplifier

DXE-RPA-1	Receiver Preamplifier, 0.3-35 MHz	\$119.95
-----------	-----------------------------------	----------

## Time Variable Sequencer Unit

DXE-TVSU-1A		\$199.95
-------------	--	----------

Visit [DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com) to see additional Receive Antenna products

## GUARANTEED LOWER PRICES!

### High Quality Cables—Performance Grade

- Heat shrink weatherproofing/strain relief
- All assemblies Hi-Pot high voltage tested
- Silver/Teflon<sup>®</sup> crimped and soldered connectors

#### RG-213/U DXE-213U Cable Assemblies with PL-259 Connectors

DXE-213DU003	3 ft.	\$12.88
DXE-213DU006	6 ft.	\$14.88
DXE-213DU012	12 ft.	\$21.88
DXE-213DU018	18 ft.	\$24.88
DXE-213DU025	25 ft.	\$34.88
DXE-213DU050	50 ft.	\$58.88
DXE-213DU075	75 ft.	\$82.88
DXE-213DU100	100 ft.	\$104.88
DXE-213DU125	125 ft.	\$131.88
DXE-213DU150	150 ft.	\$157.88
DXE-213DU175	175 ft.	\$182.88
DXE-213DU200	200 ft.	\$210.88

FREE SHIPPING ON \$50.00 or more Coax order!

#### RG-8/U DXE-8U Cable Assemblies with PL-259 Connectors

DXE-8UDU002	2 ft.	\$12.88
DXE-8UDU003	3 ft.	\$13.88
DXE-8UDU006	6 ft.	\$16.88
DXE-8UDU009	9 ft.	\$20.88
DXE-8UDU012	12 ft.	\$24.88
DXE-8UDU018	18 ft.	\$31.88
DXE-8UDU025	25 ft.	\$39.88
DXE-8UDU050	50 ft.	\$61.88
DXE-8UDU075	75 ft.	\$85.88
DXE-8UDU100	100 ft.	\$108.88
DXE-8UDU125	125 ft.	\$139.88
DXE-8UDU150	150 ft.	\$159.88
DXE-8UDU175	175 ft.	\$179.88
DXE-8UDU200	200 ft.	\$199.88

FREE SHIPPING ON \$50.00 or more Coax order!

#### RG-8X DXE-8X Cable Assemblies with PL-259 Connectors

DXE-8XDU1.5	1.5 ft.	\$9.88
DXE-8XDU002	2 ft.	\$10.88
DXE-8XDU003	3 ft.	\$11.88
DXE-8XDU006	6 ft.	\$13.88
DXE-8XDU012	12 ft.	\$16.88
DXE-8XDU025	25 ft.	\$23.88
DXE-8XDU050	50 ft.	\$32.88
DXE-8XDU075	75 ft.	\$40.88
DXE-8XDU100	100 ft.	\$47.88
DXE-8XDU150	150 ft.	\$69.88

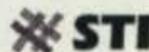
FREE SHIPPING ON \$50.00 or more Coax order!

#### DXE-400MAX Cable Assemblies with PL-259 Connectors

DXE-400MAXDU003	3 ft.	\$13.88
DXE-400MAXDU006	6 ft.	\$15.88
DXE-400MAXDU009	9 ft.	\$19.88
DXE-400MAXDU012	12 ft.	\$24.88
DXE-400MAXDU018	18 ft.	\$31.88
DXE-400MAXDU025	25 ft.	\$39.88
DXE-400MAXDU050	50 ft.	\$61.88
DXE-400MAXDU075	75 ft.	\$85.88
DXE-400MAXDU100	100 ft.	\$104.88
DXE-400MAXDU150	150 ft.	\$159.88
DXE-400MAXDU175	175 ft.	\$179.88
DXE-400MAXDU200	200 ft.	\$199.88

Contact Us for Custom Lengths.

## Rotor Control Cable



Heavy Duty, Highest Quality—Cut to Your Length

DXE-CW8-HD	2 #16, 6 #18 AWG	per ft. \$0.89
		per 100 ft. \$89.00

## Coaxial Cable Prep Tools

- Precision, two-step operation
- No nicks or scratches to conductor
- Premium, long-lasting cutter blades
- For foam or solid dielectric cable preparation

DXE-UT-8213	Cable Stripper for RG-8, RG-213, etc.	\$39.95
DXE-UT-808X	Cable Stripper for RG-8X, 9258, etc.	\$39.95
DXE-UT-80P	PL-259 Assembly Tool	\$22.95
DXE-UT-80N	2-Piece N Connector Tool	\$22.95
DXE-CNL-911	Coax Cable Cutters	\$23.75
DXE-170M	Precision Shear Side Cutters	\$7.95

Now available in cost-saving tool kits with carrying case

DXE-UT-CASE	Molded carrying case only	\$22.95
DXE-UT-KIT1	Basic Coax Cable Prep Kit	\$99.95
DXE-UT-KIT2	Complete Coax Cable Prep Kit	\$174.95

## AMERITRON

AMR-AL-811H  
800 Watt Amplifier

Only \$859.00

Export-only models also in stock!



DX ENGINEERING IS NOW AN AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR!



Products LLC

## Rohn Commercial Towers

DX Engineering is now an Authorized Distributor of Rohn Commercial Tower products and accessories. We have the Rohn products you need to solve your tower structural needs.

Contact us for technical information and availability!

LIMITED TIME OFFER—FREE SHIPPING ON COMTEK BALUNS!



BETTER PERFORMANCE, LOWER PRICES—FROM JUST \$49.95

## COMTEK W2FMI Series Baluns

Design inspired by Jerry Sevick W2FMI and perfected by DX Engineering's balun R&D department.

- High voltage compensating capacitors for unequalled low SWR—a DX Engineering innovation!
- Large fender washers distribute fastener loading to prevent case deformation
- Special coated toroid core handles close coupling without extra stress
- High, consistent common mode impedance across specified bandwidth—provides isolation where most needed
- Special wire sizing and Teflon-insulated wire sleeves for exact impedance matching and better isolation than Thermalz wire
- Typical insertion loss: less than 0.2 dB
- Power handling: 3 kW continuous to 5 kW+ intermittent depending on model
- Silver-plated gasketed SO-239 connectors, stainless hardware, weatherproof NEMA box

### 1:1 Dual Wire/Single Core, 1.8 to 54 MHz

COM-BAL-11130E	3 kW, side eyebolts	\$49.95
COM-BAL-11130ET	3 kW, side and top eyebolts	\$49.95
COM-BAL-11130S	3 kW, side studs/wingnuts	\$49.95
COM-BAL-11130T	3 kW, top studs/wingnuts	\$49.95

### 1:1 Coax/Single Core

COM-BAL-11150E	5 kW, side eyebolts	\$49.95
COM-BAL-11150ET	5 kW, side and top eyebolts	\$49.95
COM-BAL-11150S	5 kW, side studs/wingnuts	\$49.95
COM-BAL-11150T	5 kW, top studs/wingnuts	\$49.95

### 1:1 Dual Wire/Dual Core

COM-BAL-11140T	5 kW, top studs/wingnuts	\$69.95
COM-BAL-11140S	5 kW, side studs/wingnuts	\$69.95

### 1:1 Coax/Dual Core

COM-BAL-11150DS	5 kW, side studs/wingnuts	\$69.95
COM-BAL-11150DT	5 kW, top studs/wingnuts	\$69.95

### 4:1 Dual Wire/Single Core

COM-BAL-41130E	3 kW, side eyebolts	\$59.95
COM-BAL-41130ET	3 kW, side and top eyebolts	\$59.95
COM-BAL-41130T	3 kW, top studs/wingnuts	\$59.95
COM-BAL-41130S	3 kW, side studs/wingnuts	\$59.95

### 4:1 Dual Wire/Dual Core

COM-BAL-41150T	5 kW, top studs/wingnuts	\$89.95
COM-BAL-41150S	5 kW, side studs/wingnuts	\$89.95
COM-BAL-41150E	5 kW, side eyebolts	\$89.95

Contact us for recommendations for your application.

## New Low Pricing on Vertical Antennas!



We Will Beat Any Competitors' Prices! Call us for complete details.

## Thousands More Ham Products at

[DXEngineering.com](http://DXEngineering.com)

1.800.777.0703

Prices good through 2/15/11 Sale Code 1201CQ

# Special Holiday Discounts Off Our Already Low Prices!



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

**ANAHEIM, CA**  
(Near Disneyland)  
933 N. Euclid St., 92801  
(714) 533-7373  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

**BURBANK, CA**  
1525 W. Magnolia Blvd, 91506  
(818) 842-1786  
**(877) 892-1748**  
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.  
Magnolia between  
S. Victory & Buena Vista  
burbank@hamradio.com

**OAKLAND, CA**  
2210 Livingston St., 94606  
(510) 534-5757  
**(877) 892-1745**  
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.  
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp  
oakland@hamradio.com

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123  
(858) 560-4900  
**(877) 520-9623**  
Jerry, N5MCJ, Mgr.  
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa  
sandiego@hamradio.com

**SUNNYVALE, CA**  
510 Lawrence Exp. #102, 94085  
(408) 736-9496  
**(877) 892-1749**  
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.  
So. from Hwy. 101  
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

**NEW CASTLE, DE**  
(Near Philadelphia)  
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720  
(302) 322-7092  
**(800) 644-4476**  
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.  
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295  
newcastle@hamradio.com

**PORTLAND, OR**  
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.  
97223  
(503) 598-0555  
**(800) 765-4267**  
Bill, K7WCE, Mgr.  
Tigard-99W exit  
from Hwy. 5 & 217  
portland@hamradio.com

**DENVER, CO**  
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231  
(303) 745-7373  
**(800) 444-9476**  
John, W0IG, Mgr.  
denver@hamradio.com

**PHOENIX, AZ**  
10613 N. 43rd Ave, 85029  
(602) 242-3515  
**(800) 559-7388**  
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.  
Corner of 43rd Ave & Peoria  
phoenix@hamradio.com

**ATLANTA, GA**  
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340  
(770) 263-0700  
**(800) 444-7927**  
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.  
Doraville,  
1 mi. no. of I-285  
atlanta@hamradio.com

**WOODBIDGE, VA**  
(Near Washington D.C.)  
14803 Build America Dr. 22191  
(703) 643-1063  
**(800) 444-4799**  
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.  
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1  
woodbridge@hamradio.com

**SALEM, NH**  
(Near Boston)  
224 N. Broadway, 03079  
(603) 898-3750  
**(800) 444-0047**  
Peter, K11M, Mgr.  
sales@hamradio.com  
Exit 1, I-93;  
28 mi. No. of Boston  
saalem@hamradio.com

**Check out the latest Cool Winter Specials from YAESU**  
Yaesu coupons expire 1/16/12



**FT-897D** VHF/UHF/HF Transceiver

- HF/6M/2M/70CM • DSP Built-in
- HF 100W (20W battery)
- Optional P.S. + Tuner • TCXO Built-in

**Call Now For Our Low Pricing!**



**FT-950** HF + 6M TCVR

- 100W HF/6M
- Auto Tuner built-in
- 3 roofing filters built-in
- DMU-2000 Compatible

**Call Now For Low Pricing!**



**FT-8800R** 2M/440 Mobile

- V+U/V+U+U operation
- V+U full duplex • Cross Band repeater function
- 50W 2M 35W UHF
- 1000+ Memory channels
- WIRES ready

**Call Now For Low Pricing!**



**FTM-350AR** 2m/440 Dualband

- 50W 2m/440+ - 1 watt 220MHz
- TNC built-in, Bluetooth capable
- Band scope built-in
- 500 Memories



**FTDX5000MP** 200w HF + 6M Transceiver

- Station Monitor SM-5000 Included
- 0.05ppm OCXO included
- 300 Hz Roofing filter included
- 600 Hz Roofing filter included
- 3 kHz Roofing filter included



**VX-7R/VX-7R Black**

- 50/2M/220/440 HT
- Wideband RX - 900 Memories
- 5W TX (300mw 220MHz)
- Li-Ion Battery
- Fully Submersible to 3 ft.
- 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 required)

**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-in
- 500 Memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

**Call Now For Special Pricing**

AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA residents add sales tax. Prices, specifications, descriptions, subject to change without notice.

Look for the HRO Home Page on the World Wide Web  
<http://www.hamradio.com>

**#1 in Customer Service**

**COAST TO COAST FREE SHIPPING**  
UPS - Most Items Over \$100  
Rapid Deliveries From The Store Nearest To You!



# Six CubeSats, Four Universities, One Successful Launch

Launches of student-built CubeSats have been somewhat problematic in the past. For example, in March 2011, three CubeSats were lost when the Taurus rocket carrying NASA's Glory scientific spacecraft and a Poly Picosatellite Orbital Deployer (P-POD) container carrying three university payloads failed to reach the proper altitude. The three CubeSats that were lost included: Hermes from the University of Colorado, KySat-1 from the University of Kentucky, and Explorer-1 [PRIME] from Montana State University.

However, on October 28, 2011, CubeSat launches achieved a major success when, at 2:48 AM PDT, a Delta II carrying a National Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System Preparatory Project (NPP) satellite, also carried three P-PODs and six CubeSats into orbit. All three P-PODs deployed successfully and ground operators around the world are tracking the CubeSats. More information from NASA can be found at this URL: [http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/NPP/main/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/NPP/main/index.html).

Photo 1 shows the liftoff of the rocket. Videos of the launch, deployment, and after launch debriefing can be viewed at the following URLs:

Launch and initial deployment: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fhzXFxrOsg&feature=related> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQYwks8bOhU>.

Deployment of final payloads: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFLmERzduUY>.

## The CubeSats

The six CubeSats and their respective information (from <http://www.cubesat.org>) are as follows (also see photo 2):

Satellite: AubieSat-1  
 Organization: Auburn University  
 Downlink Frequency: 437.475 MHz  
 Transmit Power: 0.708W  
 Protocol: Morse Code  
 Baud Rate: 20wpm  
<http://www.space.auburn.edu/index.htm>

Satellites: DICE (two satellites)  
 Organization: Utah State University  
 Downlink Frequency: 465 MHz  
<http://www.sdl.usu.edu/programs/dice>

Satellite: Explorer-1 [PRIME] Flight Unit 2  
 Organization: Montana State University  
 Downlink Frequency: 437.505 MHz  
 Transmit Power: 0.85W

e-mail: [n6cl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6cl@sbcglobal.net)



Photo 1— Liftoff of the NPP aboard a Delta II rocket at Space Launch Complex-2 at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. (Photo credit: NASA/Bill Ingalls)

## VHF Plus Calendar

Jan. 1	First quarter Moon
Jan. 2	Moon apogee
Jan. 4	<i>Quadrantids</i> meteor shower
Jan. 9	Full Moon
Jan. 16	Last quarter Moon
Jan. 17	Moon perigee
Jan. 23	New Moon
Jan. 30	Moon apogee
Jan. 31	First quarter Moon

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU

Protocol: AX.25 FSK  
Baud Rate: 1200  
<<http://ssel.montana.edu/e1p/>>

Satellite: M-Cubed  
Organization: University of Michigan  
Downlink Frequency: 437.485MHz  
Transmit Power: < 1W  
Protocol: GMSK  
Baud Rate: 9600  
<<http://umcubed.org/>>

Satellite: RAX-2  
Organization: University of Michigan  
Downlink Frequency: 437.345 MHz  
Modulation: GMSK  
Baud Rate: 9600  
<<http://rax.engin.umich.edu/>>

## AubieSat-1

Now known as AO-71, this CubeSat is part of the Auburn University Student Space Program, and AubieSat-1 is the first student-built satellite in the state of Alabama to be accepted by NASA for launch. Now in space, the satellite communicates with Auburn students in Morse code. More information on the telemetry can be found at: <[http://www.space.auburn.edu/Ham\\_Radio.htm](http://www.space.auburn.edu/Ham_Radio.htm)>.

AO-71 is a CubeSat, which is a 4-inch, cube-shaped satellite that is used primarily for research. Its main objective is to test a new ultraviolet (UV) sensor developed by Dr. Minseo Park of the Physics Department.

When it was deployed from the rocket, two antennas emerged, one for receiving signals from Auburn University and one for sending signals back to Auburn. The students built a control center in the Physics Department from which they are giving the satellite commands to execute, as well as receiving data from the satellite such as temperature, battery charge and voltage, and power from the solar cells. The students will ultimately measure the decrease of solar-cell efficiency over time on protected versus non-protected solar panels.

Securing a spot on the rocket for the satellite was a competitive process. AubieSat-1 was selected in July 2010 by NASA and is one of only six CubeSats in the nation that launched on the Delta II rocket.

The program is operated solely by undergraduate students. Approximately one-hundred students have worked on the current satellite, and the goal of the program is to give them a unique experience working in teams on a space experiment and promote workforce development.

Two of those students were Jamie Drodgy, KI4TXZ, and Thor Wilson, KI4TXV. A photo of these two students holding

a model of the CubeSat was used for the month of July 2008 in *CQ's* annual calendar and is on this issue's cover.

"We do things the students do not learn in class," said J-M Wersinger, KI4YAU, professor emeritus in the Department of Physics and director of the Auburn University Student Space Program. "The classwork is extremely important and useful, but it's not the whole story."

"In order to get a job, companies would like people to have skills, like being able to work in teams on projects, understanding what a deadline is, understanding how to work with people, to communicate, and the basics of management and systems engineering. It's not book learning. It's practical learning."

The students designed, built, and tested the satellite, and took it to California for a Mission Readiness Review, which they passed with flying colors. Finally, the satellite underwent some tests before being shipped to California for integration into a P-POD that was placed in the launching rocket with the other CubeSats.

The Auburn University Student Space Program is part of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. AubieSat-1 is sponsored by Auburn University and the Alabama Space Grant Consortium. Information for this piece was derived from this URL: <<http://www.auburn.edu/academic/cosam/news/auburn-university-space-program-to-launch-states-first-student-built-satellite-into-space.htm>>. A YouTube video about the project can be viewed at: <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=vdAiQi9\\_mgo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=vdAiQi9_mgo)>.

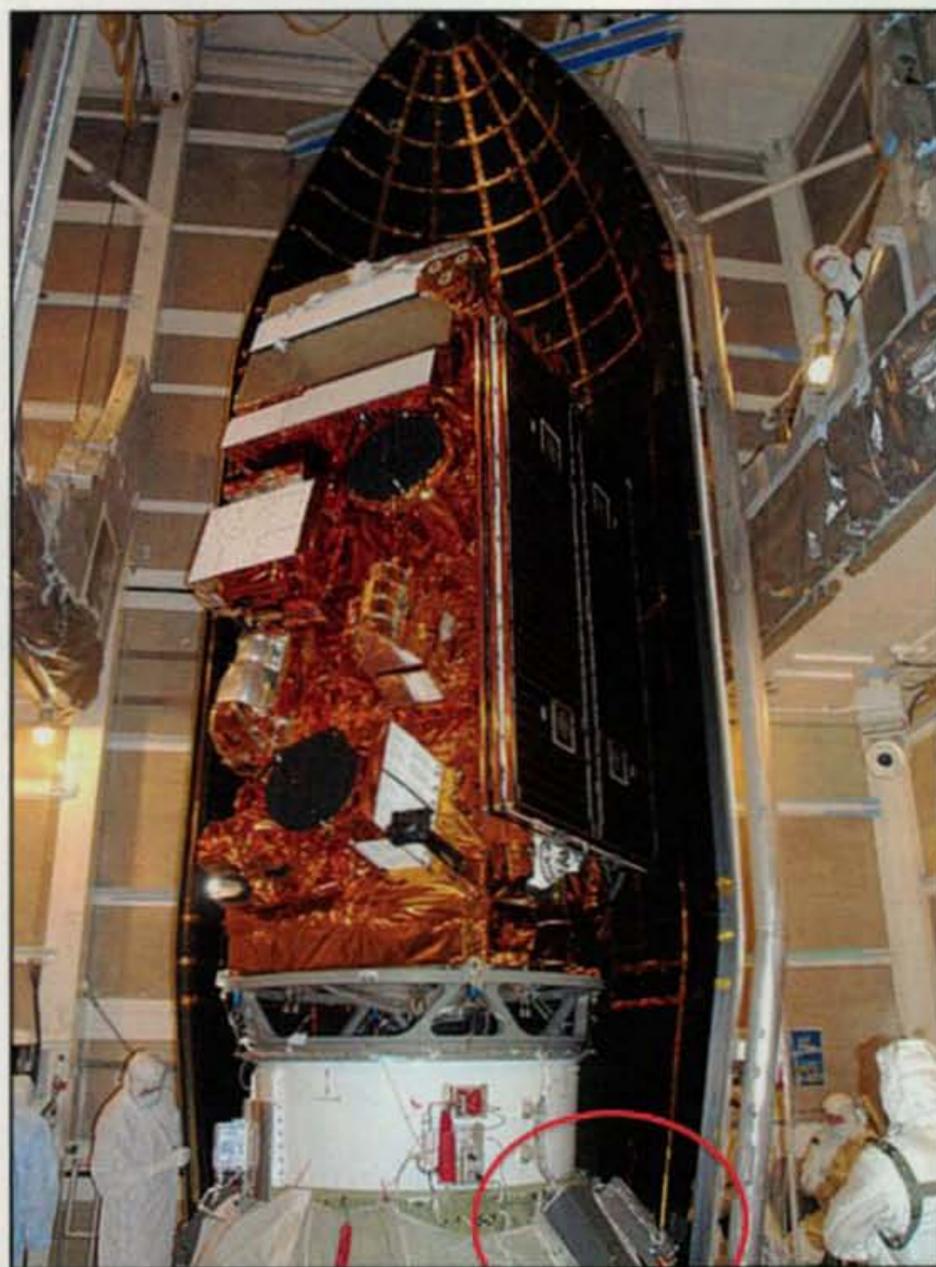


Photo 2— From left to right, AubieSat-1, Explorer 1 [PRIME] Unit 2, and M-Cubed. The three satellites rode together in the P-POD container to the right. (Photo courtesy of Dave Klumpar, KD7MFJ)

## TEN-TEC Makes Radio More Fun

- You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em – TEN-TEC rigs feature legendary receiver performance.
- TEN-TEC means outstanding audio on both receive and transmit.
- You deserve superior service and support. TEN-TEC owners talk directly with hams who design, build and service their radios.
- TEN-TEC radios are easy to use and don't compromise on features or performance.



TEN-TEC EAGLE  
Advanced Signal Reception™  
Beats Rigs Costing Thousands More



TEN-TEC OMNI VII  
Easy-to-Use, Most Internet-ready HF



TEN-TEC ORION II  
Highest-Performance,  
Customizable DSP transceiver

You deserve great value. Save money – buy TEN-TEC factory-direct.  
Building world-class radios in Sevierville, Tennessee since 1968.

**RISK-FREE: 30-day Money-Back Guarantee.** Try it in your shack, using your antennas.  
Ask your friends how your new TEC-TEC sounds. Don't like your new radio?  
Just send it back. No restocking fee. Financing available.

***We've updated our Website!***  
**Check us out – [www.tentec.com](http://www.tentec.com)**



Along with Wersinger, a student, Kyle Owen, KK4ANG, appears in the video. An additional video that shows some of the development and testing of the satellite, as well as the launch of the Delta II rocket and the AubieSat control room, can be viewed at: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnlJ58pABT4>>.

For more information on AubieSat-1, go to: <<http://www.space.auburn.edu/index.htm>>. More information also can be found on AMSAT's AO-71 website: <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/satInfo.php?satID=138&retURL=/satellites/status.php>>.

## DICE

DICE, which is an acronym for Dynamic Ionosphere CubeSat Experiment, will map geomagnetic Storm Enhanced Density (SED) plasma bulge and plume formations in Earth's ionosphere. While it is a non-amateur radio satellite, its mission and experiments have direct applicability to us.

Two identical spinning spacecraft will measure plasma density and electric fields to determine the how and why of variations in ionospheric plasma density that affect the performance of communications, surveillance, and navigation systems on Earth and in space.

A collaborative effort funded by NSF the DICE program, pulls together talent from multiple sources: scientists, engineers, students, and program specialists.

Principal Investigator Geoff Crowley is CEO of ASTRA (Atmospheric & Space Technology Research Associates, LLC, Texas) and a research professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Deputy PI Charles Swenson teaches electrical and computer engineering at Utah State University, where he directs the Center for Space Engineering and is a senior scientist at SDL.

Commenting on these satellites in an email to your editor, Swenson wrote:

The DICE spacecraft are using government bands for communications. The uplink is at 449.97 MHz with a bandwidth of 34.4 kHz and the downlink is at 465.00 MHz with a bandwidth of ~3 MHz. It is a half-duplex system and is only active upon request from the ground station.

We are using an 18 meter DISH at Wallops Flight Facility on the east coast of USA to talk to DICE. At the very least we need 24 to 25 dB gain to get the 0.5 to 2 watt downlink signal and the wallops dish is more like 35 dB. The output power is adjustable and we are keeping the power flux density on the Earth low. The power flux-density produced at the Earth's surface by any space station in this 460-470 MHz band shall not exceed -152 dBW/m<sup>2</sup>/4 kHz according to regulations



Photo 3— P-Pods onboard the Delta II rocket. (Photo courtesy <<http://www.cubesat.org>>)

so our equipment is unique. That said our data downlink is 1.5 mbits/second after accounting for our error correction code.

We did not place a beacon on the satellites. I should have placed an APRS beacon on DICE. I really wish we had done something more with the amateur community.

Co-PI Aroh Barjatya teaches physical sciences at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; he and his students will be calibrating the payload. Utah State University students are spearheading the design, build, and test of the dual satellite system.

DICE students at the Space Dynamics Laboratory (SDL) have taken leading roles in the satellite design, build, test, and integration. Additionally, Kelby Davis, AD7VO designed the antennas and oversaw most of the radio links.

Information for this piece was derived from this URL: <<http://www.sdl.usu.edu/programs/dice>>.

## Explorer-1 [PRIME] Flight Unit 2

As mentioned above, the first Montana State University student-built satellite that was launched in the spring failed to reach orbit as a result of an anomaly with the TAURUS-XL rocket. The twin of that satellite is known as Explorer-1 [PRIME] Unit 2.

This miniature research satellite is called Explorer-1 [Prime] in honor of the first successful U.S. satellite. This CubeSat was a dream of the late Bill Hiscock, AD7SW. The following about Bill, which originally appeared in the July 2009 edition of this column, is from Dave Klumpar, KD7MFJ:

As Director of the Montana Space Grant Consortium, Bill had been an ardent supporter and sponsor of the MSU Space Science and Engineering Laboratory's

(SSEL) hands-on student spaceflight hardware development projects. The SSEL has built two nanosatellites, commonly known as CubeSats, for MSGC. Both satellites utilize UHF and VHF communications in the Ham bands and operate in the Amateur Satellite Service under frequency coordination by the IARU. Both miniature scientific satellites carry radiation detector payloads built upon Geiger counters provided to SSEL by the late James A. Van Allen, discoverer of the Earth's radiation belts. The Montana Earth Orbiting Pico Explorer (MEROPE) was built for MSGC by Montana university students in the SSEL between 2001 and 2006. It was launched on a DNEPR launch vehicle in July 2006. The DNEPR experienced a premature engine shutdown during the first stage ascent, resulting in the loss of MEROPE and 22 other satellites intended for orbit.

The outcome of Hiscock's work is the Explorer-1 [Prime].

MSU students and faculty members watched the launch from Vandenberg Air Force base, as well as from MSU's Space Operations Center in Cobleigh Hall, said Dave Klumpar, director of MSU's Space Science and Engineering Laboratory.

MSU's satellite rode in a container with two other satellites, one from the University of Michigan and one from Auburn University, Klumpar said. All three satellites are aluminum cubes weighing no more than 2.2 pounds and measuring about four inches per side. That standardized size allows university-built satellites, called "CubeSats," to fit into an enclosed container called a P-POD. See photo 3.

"MSU's SSEL has the unique distinction of being the only university to fly a CubeSat on both of NASA's Educational Launch of Nanosatellite (ELaNa) missions," Klumpar said. "No other university in the world has

# The Elecraft K-Line



## A powerful performance you won't want to miss

Elecraft's world-class trio is now complete. It all started with the **K3** transceiver, which tops the charts in nearly every receive category. Then we added an exciting visual dimension with the versatile **P3**, our fast, full-color panadapter. And now, we're proud to introduce the **KPA500**: a 500-watt solid-state amp that's so well-integrated you'll think it's reading your mind.

The KPA500 features 160-6 m coverage, instant RF-based band switching with any radio, alphanumeric status display, bright LED bar graphs, and a rugged, built-in linear supply. The amp's manual band switches can be used to change bands on the K3. The K3 can even select per-band amplifier drive levels automatically when the amp is placed into operate mode, so you'll rarely need to adjust power output.

The K3 already gives you the competitive edge, with its optional high-performance sub receiver, roofing filters as narrow as 200 Hz, new audio peaking filter (APF), and one of the cleanest SSB signals around. Adding the P3 and KPA500 will take you, and your station, to the next level.



[www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com) 831-763-4211  
P.O. Box 69, Aptos, California 95001-0069

flown university-built small satellites on two NASA orbital launches."

Also on the rocket will be a NASA satellite that represents a critical first step in building the next generation of U.S. polar-orbiting climate and weather monitoring spacecraft. The satellite is a bridge between NASA's Earth Observing System satellites and the upcoming Joint Polar Satellite Systems satellites.

Because everything went as planned, MSU's Explorer-1 [Prime] roared into the morning sky on time. Almost two hours later, after the sun had recharged the satellite's batteries, the satellite came alive over the south Atlantic near the bulge of Africa. An antenna that had been coiled inside the cube will spring out to transmit and receive signals.

The satellite was designed to emit a "heartbeat" every 15 seconds, Klumpar said. The signal will allow ham radio operators around the world to detect the satellite and report its progress to MSU. MSU students will monitor the satellite from campus, receiving their strongest signals around 11:45 AM and 11:45 PM daily for at least four months.

The Explorer-1 [Prime] will circle the Earth every 90 minutes in an "eccentric" orbit, which means that the orbit will be elliptical instead of circular, and the distance above Earth will be anywhere from 283 to 503 miles, Klumpar said.

### Explorer-1 [PRIME]

The problem with the rocket carrying the first Explorer-1 [Prime] was that the fairing—a protective covering that works like a clamshell—failed to fall away. As a result, the rocket carried extra weight and couldn't accelerate fast enough to reach orbit. Although MSU's satellite was deployed from the rocket in space, at an altitude of more than 350 miles, the

rocket had not reached sufficient velocity to achieve orbit. The rocket and all four satellites onboard ultimately crashed into the Antarctic Ocean or southern Pacific Ocean.

MSU's satellite was never recovered, but its twin was already built and scheduled for flight. Students in the SSEL commonly build spares and backups, Klumpar said.

"When we started working on the Explorer-1 [Prime] many years ago, it was always the case that we would build a second unit in parallel with the first one," Klumpar said. "It's useful because if the first one had gone into orbit and an anomaly or strange behaviors had come up, we would have been able to use the twin down here to get a feel for what was going on there."

In the past six months, the twin has gone through rigorous testing that "gives us confidence that it was as good as the first one," Klumpar said. The current Explorer-1 [Prime] has been in California since Aug. 25. It was stored in a clean room at San Luis Obispo and double-bagged with nitrogen to keep out dust and moisture. The satellite headed to the Air Force base on Oct. 15 to be bolted to the rocket.

### The Mission

MSU built the Explorer-1 [Prime] to replicate the scientific mission of the Explorer-1 mission which was launched on Jan. 31, 1958, and detected the existence of a band of energetic charged particles held in place by the Earth's magnetic field. The band was named the Van Allen Radiation Belt after the late James Van Allen, who directed the design and creation of instruments on Explorer-1.

Van Allen was head of the physics department when Klumpar was a master's degree student at the University of Iowa. Years later, Van Allen spoke at Klumpar's 40th high

# NEW! Digital Editions

## CQ, CQ VHF & Pop'Comm

While both the print and digital editions will be identical in content, the digital editions will provide readers instant access to the numerous video and audio links noted in feature stories, columns and product reviews and advertiser's websites with a click of the mouse! **Order today!**



### CQ Amateur Radio

Fun to read, interesting from cover to cover, written so you can understand it. That's CQ. Read and enjoyed by thousands of people each month in 116 countries around the world.

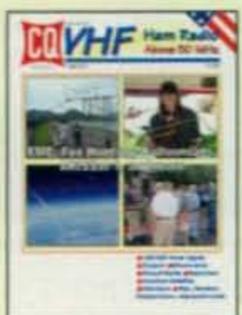
#### Add a Digital Subscription to

your current CQ Print Subscription **\$17.00**

You'll save \$19.95 off the regular rate!

**Digital Only - 1-year CQ Charter Sub \$27.00**

You'll save \$9.95 off the regular rate!



### CQ VHF

A magazine devoted entirely to the VHF and UHF coverage you need and want - published as a quarterly.

#### Add a Digital Subscription to

your current CQ VHF Print Subscription **\$11.00**

You'll save \$15.00 off the regular rate!

**Digital Only 1-year CQ VHF Charter Sub \$18.00**

You'll save \$8.00 off the regular rate!



### Popular Communications

The World's most authoritative monthly magazine for Shortwave Listening and Scanner Monitoring. Read by active listeners world-wide!

#### Add a Digital Subscription to

your current Pop'Comm Print Subscription **\$15.00**

You'll save \$17.95 off the regular rate!

**Digital Only 1-year Pop'Comm Sub \$24.00**

You'll save \$8.95 off the regular rate!

All digital editions will be hosted by Zinio, one of the top names in the e-magazine hosting business. As a digital subscriber, as soon as an issue goes "live" you will receive email notification that a copy has been placed in your Zinio online library - ready to view, print and/or download. Your issues will remain in your Zinio online library indefinitely!

**Please note:** These new Digital Editions will supplement, not replace the Print Editions enjoyed by many of our readers!

### CQ Communications Inc.

25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801

516-681-2922 Fax 516-681-2926

[www.cqcomm.com](http://www.cqcomm.com)

school class reunion, and Klumpar told him about MSU's project. Van Allen suggested naming the satellite the Explorer-1 [Prime]. He later sent Klumpar some Geiger Tube radiation detectors from the Pioneer 10 mission, the first mission to leave the solar system.

One of the detectors rode in the Explorer-1 [Prime] satellite last spring to measure the intensity and variability of the electrons in the Van Allen belts. The intense radiation in the belts can damage space-borne objects and pose a danger to astronauts, making it imperative to understand its variability.

Another tube from Van Allen is in the satellite's twin. The satellite is also carrying solar cells for power, a radio receiver and transmitter, and a computer system to operate the entire device.

The satellite project is sponsored by the Montana Space Grant Consortium based at MSU. More than 125 undergraduate students have worked on the Explorer-1 [Prime] since the summer of 2006.

Dan Schwendtner, KE7SXF, a former SSEL graduate research assistant and now a master's degree student in mechanical engineering, said that he expected to watch the upcoming launch from Bozeman, Montana. He made the vacuum system that tested Explorer-1 [Prime] and said it was the first time that any SSEL satellite had been tested in an SSEL vacuum system. "It was important for me," Schwendtner commented. "It was part of the culmination of four years of work."

Information for this piece was derived from an article by Evelyn Boswell, of Montana State University, and is located at: <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=35029>.

### M-Cubed

One of two CubeSats launched by the University of Michigan, the M-Cubed, is a single CubeSat that has been granted a non-amateur experimental license by the FCC. It is proposing a V/U transceiver using 9k6 AX25 packet. The mission objectives for the Michigan Multipurpose Minisatellite (M-Cubed) are to capture mid-resolution images of the Earth from Low Earth Orbit, perform a technology demonstration for a novel new Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA), and train the next generation of Aerospace Engineers.

Testing the FPGA on a CubeSat platform will provide valuable information as to how it survives Low Earth Orbit and how well it operates when processing real-image data. M-Cubed implements a 2-MP CMOS camera that will transfer the image to the FPGA upon request. To acquire the images on the ground post-processing, M-Cubed will downlink the images and FPGA data via UHF. To receive commands for scheduling picture taking opportunities, M-Cubed will be listening over VHF.

M-Cubed is also an educational project for engineering students at the University of Michigan. M-Cubed provides hands-on experience for students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to build flight hardware for a space mission. The training these students gain by working on this project will better prepare them for work in the aerospace industry after graduation.

As a secondary objective, M-Cubed is implementing storage of RSSI values at various frequencies in its bandwidth. This means M-Cubed can provide an RFI survey inside its band during mission operations. Additionally, M-Cubed is investigating the possibility of allowing open downlink of collected images in the amateur community.

Because of the strict power requirements and longer downlink times (images ~MB and downlink rate 9.6 kbps), this may

not be feasible, particularly not during operation of the FPGA. However, it is still under consideration as a secondary objective. This information can be provided to the IARU upon successful completion of M-Cubed's primary objective and this survey.

When not taking images or downlinking pictures, M-Cubed will be beaconing telemetry over UHF at specified intervals. This will be so that the University of Michigan and other operators in the AMSAT community can help track M-Cubed on orbit.

Information for this piece was derived from the AMSAT piece at this URL: <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/satInfo.php?satID=142&retURL=/satellites/status.php>>. More information on this CubeSat can be found at: <<http://www.umcubed.org/>>.

## Radio Aurora Explorer (RAX-2)

RAX-2 is the second CubeSat of the Radio Aurora Explorer program. The first RAX CubeSat was launched via the Department of Defense Space Test Program aboard a Minotaur-4 vehicle from Kodiak, Alaska, on November 20, 2010 at 01:25 UTC.

The primary objective for the RAX mission is to study the formation of field-aligned irregularities (FAI) in the lower portion of the polar ionosphere. To characterize these anomalies, a ground-based radar transmitter will be used in conjunction with the space-based receiver onboard RAX to measure FAI intensity, altitude distribution, and degree of alignment to the magnetic field.

This ground-based radar (called the Poker Flats Incoherent Scatter Radar, or PFISR) will transmit RF pulses into the ionosphere to be scattered off the FAI structures. See photo 4. The received signal magnitude and phase will be recorded, processed, and downloaded for analysis by the mission science teams. This process will repeat daily for approximately one year of science operations.

In addition to studying FAI, the secondary objective is to use the wide-band science receiver to characterize ambient RF emission levels in the 430-434 MHz and 437-438 MHz portions of the UHF band as a function of position and time over the United States. This information will be of particular benefit to Amateur Satellite Service coordinators who are charged with coordinating frequencies for the numerous amateur spacecraft operating in Low Earth Orbit.

Because of the large ground-coverage area, this information can also be beneficial to terrestrial coordinators.



# BUDDIPOLE

Secure online ordering at:  
[www.buddipole.com](http://www.buddipole.com)



## BUDDIPOLE FEATURES

- > Multi-band design works 9 bands (40 meters thru 2 meters) with one set of adjustable coils!
- > Rated from QRP to 250 watts PEP
- > Modular Design - create dozens of different antennas with interchangeable parts
- > Rotatable/Directional
- > Lightweight, rugged components
- > Rotating Arm Kit allows users to instantly change antenna configurations
- > Used by Emergency Services Groups throughout the world

See our videos  
[www.youtube.com/buddipole](http://www.youtube.com/buddipole)



## WHAT IS THE BUDDIPOLE?

The Buddipole™ Portable Dipole fits in your travel bag and assembles in minutes. The Buddipole is more than an antenna, it's a versatile system for launching your signal. Optimized for transmit power and proven for DX work, the Buddipole is the secret weapon used by HF portable operators all over the world.

## BATTERY PACKS

Custom manufactured A123 Nanophosphate battery packs for all portable radios. These batteries provide unparalleled performance in the field.



3028 SE 59th Court, Suite 600  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

tel: (503) 591 8001  
fax: (503) 214 6802

[info@buddipole.com](mailto:info@buddipole.com)

## ELECTRIC RADIO MAGAZINE



In circulation over 20 years, ER is a monthly publication celebrating classic equipment that was the pride of our shacks just a few years ago. Send \$1 for a sample:

ER, PO Box 242  
Bailey, CO 80421-0242  
720-924-0171

[WWW.ERMAG.COM](http://WWW.ERMAG.COM)

## NH7QH RADIO SUPPLIES, LLC.

Hawaii's Best Radio Store

1-866-620-0127

BAOFENG UV-3R

MARK II (REV. 1.0)  
FCC Certified



Other Radio Accessories

[www.hawairadiosales.com](http://www.hawairadiosales.com)

[sales@nh7qh.com](mailto:sales@nh7qh.com)

Identifying portions of the band with excessive RF noise will help coordinators assign frequencies clear of potentially harmful interference within the Amateur Radio Service.

These measurements will be made at the conclusion of the primary mission with potential to be conducted during breaks in primary mission operations. As with all data collected during this mission (including telemetry and mission science results), the measurements will be published and easily accessed by the amateur radio community at large on the web at <<http://rax.engin.umich.edu/>>. RAX-2 is 3U CubeSat with a coordinated downlink on 437.345 MHz. Also planned for the mission is a spread spectrum transceiver in the 2.4-GHz band.

The objective of the RAX mission is to understand the microphysics that

lead to the formation of magnetic field-aligned plasma irregularities (FAI), an anomaly known to disrupt communications with orbiting spacecraft.

The RAX mission is specifically designed to remotely measure, with extremely high angular resolution, the 3-D k-spectrum (spatial Fourier transform) of ~1 m scale FAI as a function of altitude, in particular measuring the magnetic field alignment of the irregularities.

The RAX mission will use a network of existing ground radars that will scatter signals off the FAI to be measured by a receiver on the RAX spacecraft. The spacecraft will measure "radio aurora," or the Bragg scattering from FAI that are illuminated with a narrow beam incoherent scatter radar (ISR) on the ground. This remote sensing method is based on the powerful mathematical relation that the radio aurora



Photo 4— Incoherent scatter radar at Poker Flats Research Range (PFISR) during high auroral activity. (Photo courtesy the University of Michigan)

intensity is proportional to the irregularity  $k$ -spectrum evaluated at the Bragg wave number.

The proposed ground-to-space bistatic radar experiment highly resolves the  $k$ -spectrum, which means that the sensed volume of plasma is homogeneous and that the received signal contains a pure content of wave vectors, which are important for accurate analysis of wave growth and damping. Moreover, each experiment will be tagged with the convection electric field  $E_c$ , a principal driver of the irregularities, which will be measured (besides altitude profiles of plasma density and temperatures) by the ISR immediately before and after each experiment.

The RAX mission is a unique opportunity to quantify plasma processes in a homogeneously resolved volume of plasma with the driving force and the effect measured effectively simultaneously.

The University of Michigan principal investigator is Professor James Cutler, KF6RFX. Payload Software and Communications is being handled by Kyle Leveque, KG6TXT. Information for this piece was derived from the following: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/satInfo.php?satID=141&retURL=/satellites/status.php> and [http://rax.engin.umich.edu/?page\\_id=13](http://rax.engin.umich.edu/?page_id=13). The RAX mission website is: <http://rax.sri.com/index.html>. More information on the mission and experiments can be found at this URL: <http://rax.engin.umich.edu/>. A home video of the launch can be seen here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=IYLnl4xrTQA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IYLnl4xrTQA).

### AubieSat-1 Gets OSCAR Designator

The following is from the AMSAT News Service:

OSCAR Number Administrator Bill Tynan, W3XO reports that he has advised J. M. Wersinger, PhD, KI4YAU, Professor Emeritus and Director of Auburn University's Student Space Program, that following the successful NASA ELaNa III launch on October 28, 2011 of AubieSat-1, and by the request of the AubieSat-1 team, the new satellite has been assigned an OSCAR number.

Professor Wersinger documented that telemetry has been received from the satellite. The IARU-Sat Website states that AubieSat-1 was fully coordinated with the IARU.

Bill wrote, "Therefore, by the authority vested in me by the AMSAT-NA President, I hereby designate AubieSat-1 as AubieSat Oscar 71 or AO-71 and welcome this newest OSCAR into the Amateur Radio

satellite community. On behalf of AMSAT-NA and the world's amateur radio satellite community, I congratulate Professor Wersinger, Auburn University and all of those responsible for building, testing and launching this new CubeSat. May its mission meet with success."

### AMSAT News Service Runs OSCAR 1 Announcement

For the past couple of months the AMSAT News Service has been re-running the Project OSCAR Newsletters to commemorate the 50th anniversary of OSCAR 1. For details, see: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/news/>.

### Current Contest

The ARRL VHF Sweepstakes is scheduled for the weekend of January 21–23. For ARRL contest rules, see the issue of *QST* prior to the month of the contest or: <http://www.arrl.org>.

### Current Meteor Shower

The *Quadrantids*, or *Quads*, is a brief, but very active meteor shower. The expected peak is around 0720 UTC on 4 January, with approximately 120 meteors per hour at its peaks. The actual peak can occur three hours before or after the predicted peak. The best paths are north-south. Long-duration meteors can be expected about one hour after the predicted peak.

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

### And Finally . . .

Driving these CubeSats' development are many, many students—students from four different universities who have been inspired by peers and mentors to build and do great things. These students are among the future of amateur radio. It is a privilege to be able to report on their work in this column.

If you know of students who are making a difference in our wonderful hobby, please send their information to me at: [n6cl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6cl@sbcglobal.net).

Until next month . . .

73 de Joe, N6CL

**Study with the best!**  
**License Study Materials by**

# Gordon West, WB6NOA & the W5YI Group



## TECHNICIAN CLASS



**Technician Class book** for the 2010-2014 entry level exam! Gordo reorganizes the Q&A into logical topic groups for easy learning! Key words are highlighted in his explanations to help you understand the material for test success. Web addresses for more than 125 helpful, educational sites.

Includes **On The Air CD** demonstrating Tech privileges. **GWTM \$20.95**

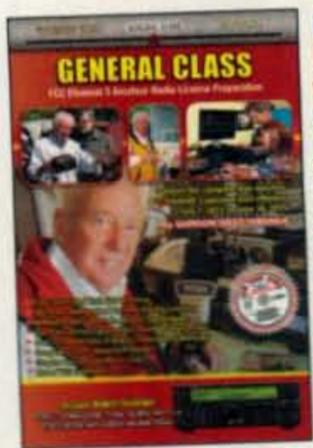
### Tech Book & Software Package

Gordo's book with W5YI software allows you to study at your computer and take practice exams. Explanations from Gordo's book are on the software - answer a question wrong and his explanation appears to reinforce your learning. Includes free Part 97 Rule Book. **NCS \$29.95**

### Tech Audio Course on CD

**Welcome to Gordo's classroom!** Technician audio theory course recorded by Gordo talks you through the Element 2 question pool. Follows the order of his *Technician Class* book, and is full of the sounds of ham radio operating excitement! An excellent study aid if you spend a lot of time in your car or pick-up! On 4 audio CDs. **GWTW \$29.95**

## GENERAL CLASS



**General Class book** Upgrade to the HF bands with Gordo & W5YI! Gordo's manual for 2011-2015 reorganizes all the questions into logical topic groups for easier learning. His explanations include highlighted key words to help you remember the material for test success. Companion CD is full of great operating tips! Available about May 1st. **GWGM \$24.95**

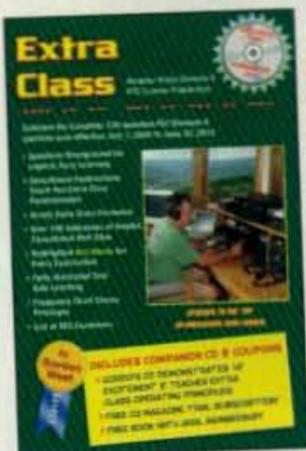
### General Book & Software Package

Study at your computer and take practice exams. Software includes explanations from Gordo's book, scores your results and highlights areas that need further study. Includes free Part 97 Rule Book. **GUS \$34.95**

### General Audio Course on CD

General Theory Course recorded by Gordo is full of the sounds that bring ham radio to life! He talks you through the Element 3 theory to help you understand the material and get you ready for your upcoming exam. On 4 audio CDs. **GWGW \$29.95**

## EXTRA CLASS



**Extra Class book** Go to the top with Gordo! 2008-2012 book includes all Element 4 Q&A reorganized into logical topic groups. Gordo's fun, educational explanations with highlighted keywords, and great memory tricks for those tough theory questions! Wait 'til you meet "Eli the Ice Man!" **GWEM \$24.95**

### Extra Book & Software Package

Study at your computer and take practice exams as the W5YI software scores your results and highlights areas that need further study. Includes explanations from Gordo's book. Free Part 97 Rule Book. **ECS \$39.95**

### Extra Audio Course on CD

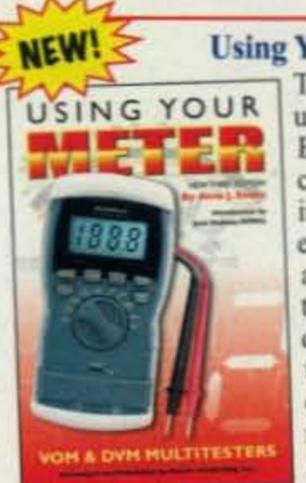
Extra Class Theory Course recorded by Gordo talks you through the difficult Element 4 theory to help you understand the material and get you ready for your upgrade to the top. On 6 audio CDs. **GWEW \$39.95**

### Ham Operator Software has All Exams



**Want to study at your computer without tying up your internet connection?** This value pack includes the Tech, General and Extra class exams (Elements 2, 3, and 4) along with a free Part 97 Rule Book. Software includes Gordo's answer explanations from his books! Everything you need to go all the way to the top!

Software only **HOS \$29.95**  
 Software with all 3 West Books **HOSB \$89.95**



### Using Your Meter

Teach yourself the correct use of your multimeter. Book explains fundamental concepts of electricity including conventional and electron current and series and parallel circuits. It teaches how analog and digital meters work and tells you what the voltage, current and, resistance measurements mean. Then it provides fully-illustrated, step-by-step instruction

on using your meter in practical applications in the home, workshop, automotive and other settings. An excellent learning tool and reference for the hobbyist and ham. **METR \$24.95**

## GROL + RADAR



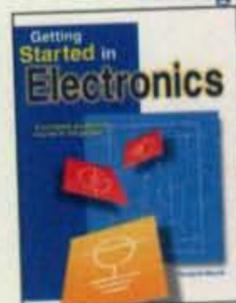
Get your FCC commercial radio licenses and add valuable credentials to your resume! **GROL+RADAR** includes the new FCC Element 1 question pool for the Marine Radio Operator Permit (MROP), the Element 3 pool for the General Radiotelephone

Operator License (GROL), and the Element 8 pool for the RADAR Endorsement. Many employers require these licenses for jobs in marine, aero, safety, and municipal positions. Gordo and his team have written clear explanations for all the Q&A to make studying for these exams educational and fun. If you're an Extra Class ham, many of the technical/math questions will look familiar to you. Fully-illustrated to aid your learning. Book includes a searchable CD-ROM with all FCC Rules for Parts 2, 13, 23, 73, 80 and 87. **GROL \$49.95**

### GROL+RADAR book & software package

Enhance your learning experience using our practice exam software along with the **GROL+RADAR** book. Software includes answer explanations from the book - when you select a wrong answer, the explanation from the book appears to reinforce your learning. **GRSP \$79.95**

### Getting Started in Electronics



by Forrest M. Mims  
 A great introduction for anyone who wants to learn the fundamentals of electronics. Includes 100 projects you can build, and great experiments that demonstrate how electricity works! **GSTD \$19.95**

### Engineer's Mini Notebooks



These Mims classics teach you hands-on electronics! Study and build 100s of practical circuits and fun projects. Each volume contains several of his famous Mini Notebooks. Terrific ideas for science fair projects and a great way to learn about electronics!

Useful reference guides for your workbench!  
**Vol. 1: Timer, Op Amp, & Optoelectronic Circuits & Projects** **MINI-1 \$12.95**  
**Vol. 2: Science & Communications Circuits & Projects** **MINI-2 \$12.95**  
**Vol. 3: Electronic Sensor Circuits & Projects** **MINI-3 \$12.95**  
**Vol. 4: Electronic Formulas, Symbols & Circuits** **MINI-4 \$12.95**

**Order today from W5YI: 800-669-9594 or on-line: www.w5yi.org**

The W5YI Group P.O. Box 200065 Arlington, TX 76006-0065

Mention this ad for a free gift.

# Results of the 2011 CQ WW WPX SSB Contest

BY RANDY THOMPSON,\* K5ZD

**W**here were you when the clock ticked past 0000Z on March 26, 2011? Sitting in California freeway traffic at 4 PM on a Friday afternoon? Taking an afternoon walk at 1 PM on Saturday in New Zealand? Perhaps you were waking up from a pre-contest nap at 2 AM in Moscow? Or enjoying a cool evening at 9 PM in Argentina? Or finishing breakfast at 9 AM in Japan? A global DX competition doesn't wait until you are ready to go. It starts. For thousands of contesters around the world, the start of the 53rd CQ WW WPX SSB Contest was just what they were waiting for.

The clock ticked over and the bands filled with activity and excitement. Thousands of voices strained to be heard. For those at the receiving end of a pile-up the experience was exhilarating. For others, it was all about the thrill of discovering what the next turn of the dial would deliver. K8TE captured his experience this way: "Nice to hear so many stations! QRM is good!"

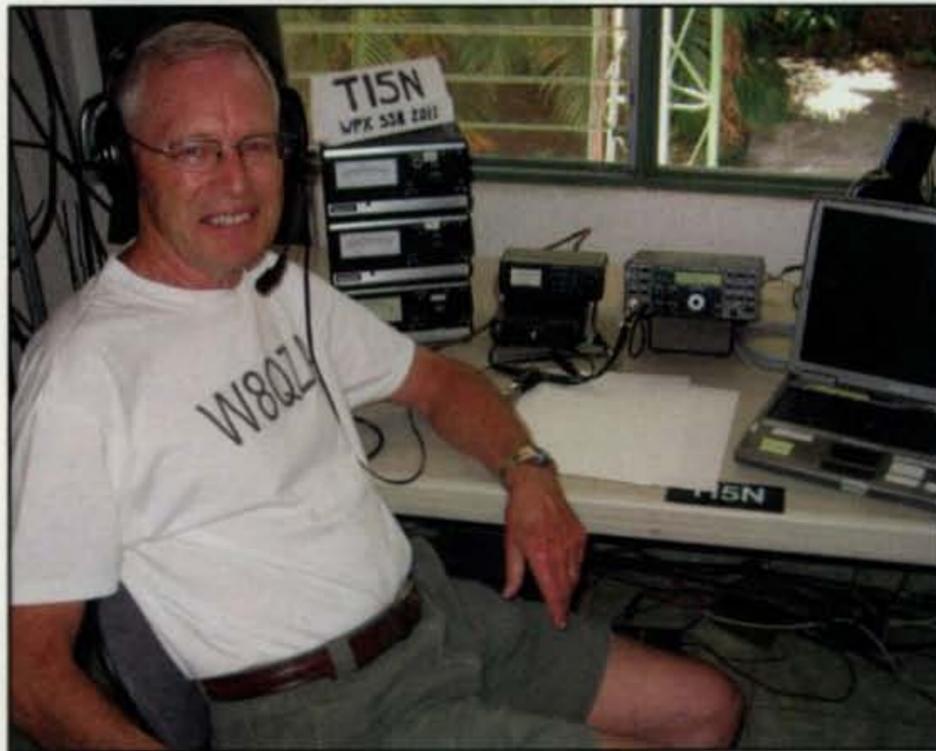
The band that generated the most excitement was 15 meters. Propagation was incredible with openings in what seemed like every direction. Long path, short path, or over the pole, many entrants noted that these were the best conditions they had ever experienced on the band. The scoring record for the single band 15 meter category fell at the World (CN2R), Asia (JA6GCE), Europe (CS2C), North America (VP2EH), and USA (KQ2M/1) levels.

When the 48 hours was over, the bands suddenly seemed empty. Satisfied operators sat back in their chairs, rubbed their tired ears, and sighed with contentment. KØJDD was happy: "First time to reach 1-million points." KG6DX exclaimed, "WOW, great conditions on 15. ... My first time ever breaking 1000 prefixes." AF2O showed why the contest activity keeps growing each year: "This was my first CQ WPX Contest and I can't wait for the next one." A record 5,143 logs were submitted showing contest activity from 208 countries!

One thing that makes the CQ WPX Contest so interesting is the use of callsign prefixes as multipliers. The gang at DR1A logged 1909 prefixes to increase their record count from just a year ago by almost 200! An amazing 217 entries exceeded 1000 prefixes after log checking. The top single operator prefix collector was CN2R, who worked 1443 prefixes (another record) and did it all on—where else?—15 meters! Each year it seems there are more and more interesting prefixes, both from the issuance of new callsign blocks as well as imaginative calls celebrating various events. Special thanks to those stations who provided some of the more interesting prefix multipliers: 3V1A, 4X2ØHC, BQ1ØØ, BV1ØØ, DK15ØRB, DR15ZBAY, HG2Ø11N, L9ØAA, LZ133GO, LZ137ØPRT, OH1ØX, RI1ANC, S52ØSCC, S52ØSLO, TC3C, TM72C, TM9ØLH, TO11A, VQ51V, YM7KA, and ZL5ØGH.

## Single-Operator All Band

Returning to the top spot in the Single Operator All Band High Power category was Tom, W2SC, operating from 8P5A in Barbados. Tom expressed some frustration that the great conditions resulted in more multipliers, but not in a higher score than in 2010. Every continent except Africa was represented in the top 10. Jeff, K1ZM, pushed VY2ZM to world #2. The next three places were all close, with KH7X (op Mike, KH6ND) just beating the Oceania record to take third. Braco, E7DX, destroyed the European record by more than 25%. In only his third single op SSB contest and first in five years, John, W6LD, operated P4ØL from Aruba to fifth place and set a new record for South America. The best score from Asia was made by Anatoly,



Bill, W8QZA, looks very pleased with his world high score in the QRP category operating from T15N. (Photo by T15KD)

RC9O, just ahead of Vladimir, UN9LW, at UPØL. Anatoly missed breaking the Asia record by less than 1%.

Krassy, K1LZ, ran away with the top USA score for Single Op All Band. Paul, K8PO, once again operating as AJ1I, finished second. Mitch, K7RL, borrowed the callsign KW7Y and made an incredible effort from the Pacific Northwest to finish third. NN5J (op Kevin, N5DX) and George, NR5M, had a fierce fight for WRTC qualifying points that ended in a virtual tie.

The most popular category in the contest is Single Op All Band Low Power, this time with 1508 logs submitted. Just as we saw in high power, there was no place like Barbados. Yuri, VE3DZ, stayed away from the beach long enough to pilot 8P3A to the top spot and a new North American record for the category. The top Africa score was by Ashraf, 3V8SS, from Tunisia. Daniel, LW6DG, finished in fourth place and set a new country record for Argentina. The European battle was won by Mitrut, YO3CZW, finishing ahead of Tine, S5ØA. Top Asia score went to the nifty callsign of H22H, operated by Spyros, 5B4MF.

Ed, N1UR, masquerading as NV1N, achieved a personal best score and dominated the USA low power entries with over 4-million points. The real race was for second place, with Ryan, KZ9O, finishing just a few points ahead of Terry, N4TZ, the op at KS9K. Ryan was originally planning to operate from WØAIH, but a snow storm cancelled the trip. He did a great job from his home station instead. Doug, WB8TLI, and Guy, N7ZG, put up a spirited fight for fourth.

## Single-Operator Single Band

Jim, W7EJ, continued his effort to write CN2R into the world records one year and one band at a time. This year the target was 15 meters. Jim now owns the all band record plus each of the single band records from 160 meters to 15 meters. Wonder which band he will operate next? Jim also ended the five year run of 15 meter single band victories by Sergio, PP5JR. Sergio, operating his contest call

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

## TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

### SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

**WORLD:** Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ Trophy. Won by: 8P5A operated by Tom Georgens, W2SC  
**WORLD Low Power:** Caribbean Trophy Consortium Trophy. Won by: 8P3A operated by Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ  
**WORLD QRP:** Phil Krichbaum, N0KE Trophy. Won by: T15N operated by Bill Parker, W8QZA

**USA:** Atilano de Orms, PY5EG Trophy. Won by: Krassimir Petkov, K1LZ  
**USA Low Power:** Terry Zivney, N4TZ Trophy. Won by: NV1N operated by Edward Sawyer, N1UR  
**USA QRP:** Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q Trophy. Won by: Randy Shirbroun, ND8C  
**USA Zone 4 High Power:** Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: NN5J operated by Kevin Stockton, N5DX  
**USA Zone 4 Low Power:** Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: Ryan M. Klavekoske, KZ9O  
**USA Zone 3 High Power:** Lauri "Mac" McCreary, KG7C Trophy. Won by: KW7Y operated by Mitch Mason, K7RL  
**USA Zone 3 Low Power:** Buz Reeves, K2GL Memorial Trophy. Won by: Guy Molinari, N7ZG

**EUROPE High Power:** Jim Hoffman, N5FA Trophy. Won by: E7DX operated by Emir Memic, E77DX  
**EUROPE Low Power:** Ed Sawyer, N1UR Trophy. Won by: Mitrut Marius, YO3CZW  
**EUROPE QRP:** Rick Williams, VE9HF Trophy. Won by: Frank Paulus-Rieth, DL8LR

**AFRICA:** Peter Sprengel, PY5CC Trophy. Won by: ST2AR operated by Robert Kasca, S53R  
**ASIA:** Chris Terkla, N1XS Trophy. Won by: Anatoly Polevik, RC9O  
**NORTH AMERICA:** Albert Crespo, F5VHJ Trophy. Won by: TO5A operated by Albert Crespo, F5VHJ  
**NORTH AMERICA QRP:** Phil Krichbaum, N0KE Trophy. Won by: no entry  
**OCEANIA:** Phillip Frazier, K6ZM Memorial Trophy. Won by: KH7X operated by Michael Gibson, KH6ND  
**SOUTH AMERICA:** Andrew Faber, AE6Y Trophy. Won by: P48L operated by JOHN A. FORE, W6LD

**CANADA High Power:** Todd Bendtsen, VE5MX Trophy. Won by: VY2ZM operated by Jeffrey T. Briggs, K1ZM  
**CANADA Low Power:** Contest Club Ontario Trophy. Won by: Steven Goldberg, VA3SWG  
**JAPAN:** Hamad Alnusif, 9K2HN Trophy. Won by: Akira Minagawa, JA8JHA

### SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

**WORLD:** Steve Merchant, K6AW Trophy. Won by: CN2R operated by James P Sullivan, W7EJ  
**WORLD 28 MHz:** Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: Juan Manuel Morandi, LU1HF  
**WORLD 21 MHz:** Stuart Santelmann KC1F Memorial (W3UA/RA3AA sponsor) Trophy. Won by: VP2EH operated by Gordon Fogg, N5AU  
**WORLD 14 MHz:** Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: Pedro Claver Orozco, HK1X  
**WORLD 7 MHz:** Jorge Taboada, EA9LZ Trophy. Won by: Salim Gechem, HK1T  
**WORLD 7 MHz Low Power:** Neal Campbell, K3NC Trophy. Won by: Valeri Keller, DL2VK  
**WORLD 3.7 MHz:** D4C Contest Team Trophy. Won by: 9A48Y operated by Sasa Pokorni, 9A3LG  
**WORLD 1.8 MHz:** UA2 Contest Club Trophy. Won by: Fabio Piccinini, I4FYF

**USA 28 MHz:** Maurice Schietecatte, N4LZ Trophy. Won by: KZ5MM operated by Chuck Dietz, W5PR  
**USA 21 MHz:** Maurice Schietecatte, N4LZ Trophy. Won by: Robert L. Shohet, KQ2M/1  
**USA 14 MHz:** Charles Wooten, NF4A Trophy. Won by: John Bayne, KK9A/4  
**USA 7 MHz:** Yankee Clipper Contest Club Trophy. Won by: WU3A/1 operated by Eugene Shablygin, W3UA  
**USA 3.7 MHz:** Bernie Welch, W8IMZ Memorial (WB8MRU sponsor) Trophy. Won by: Steven Sussman, W3BGN

**EUROPE 28 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: CR2T operated by Eduardo M. F. S. Machado, CU2AF  
**EUROPE 21 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: CS2C operated by Jiri Pesta, OK1RF  
**EUROPE 14 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: Sigurdur Jakobsson, TF3CW  
**EUROPE 7 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: EI7M operated by Dmitriy Pavlov, EI3JZ  
**EUROPE 3.7 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: 9A8M operated by Igor Ovcin, 9A7DM  
**EUROPE 1.8 MHz High Power:** SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: OG6A operated by Jukka Klemola, OH6LI

### SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED

**WORLD:** Emir-Braco Memic, OE1EMS Trophy. Won by: ER4A operated by Sergey Rebrov, UT5UDX  
**USA:** Alabama Contest Group Trophy. Won by: Rick Davenport, KI1G  
**EUROPE:** Martin Huml, OL5Y Trophy. Won by: LX7I operated by Philippe Luty, DF1LON

### OVERLAY CATEGORIES

**WORLD Tribander/Single-Element:** Helmut Mueller, DF7ZS Trophy. Won by: 3V8SS operated by Ashraf Chaabane, KF5EYY  
**USA Tribander/Single-Element:** Paul Newberry, N4PN Trophy. Won by: KR4Z operated by Paul H. Newberry, Jr., N4PN  
**USA Tribander/Single-Element Low Power:** Al Josza, KG1E Trophy. Won by: Jere Connan, KT4ZB  
**Europe Tribander/Single-Element:** Roger Miner, K1DQV Trophy. Won by: E74HH operated by Vitomir Kregar, S56M  
**WORLD Rookie:** Val Edwards W8KIC Memorial (K3LR sponsor) Trophy. Won by: Abdalla Farmawi, JY5CC

### MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE-TRANSMITTER

**WORLD:** Latvian Contest Club Trophy. Won by: 3V1A operated by YT1AD, YT3M, YT3W, S56A  
**USA:** Steve Bolla, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: AK1W operated by K5ZD, W1UJ  
**AFRICA:** Rhein Ruhr DX Association Trophy. Won by: 6V7D operated by UA8SC, UA8SE, UA8SW, RZ8SR  
**ASIA:** W2MIG Memorial (NX7TT Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: P33W operated by 5B4AIE, RA6LBS, RA3AUU  
**EUROPE:** Tonno Vahk, ES5TV Trophy. Won by: TM6M operated by F1AKK, F4DXW, F8DBF

### MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO-TRANSMITTER

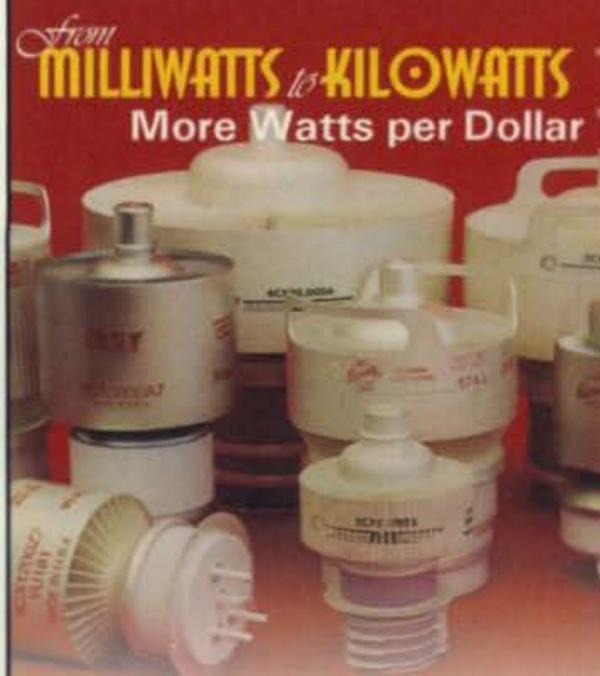
**WORLD:** Ken Adams, K5KA Memorial Trophy. Won by: EB8AH operated by EA5DY, EA5DFV, OH6RX, EA8ZS, EA8AH, EA8CAC  
**USA:** Florida Contest Group Trophy. Won by: KD4D/3 operated by AC6WI, W2CDO, K3RA, KD4D, WB2ZAB  
**AFRICA:** Walter Skudlarek, DJ6QT Trophy. Won by: 5D5A operated by N6KT, IK2SGC, IK2QEI  
**EUROPE:** Bernd Och, DL6FBL Trophy. Won by: OL4A operated by OK1FFU, OK1RI, OK8WW, OM5AW, OM6NM

### MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

**WORLD:** Gail Sheehan, K2RED Trophy. Won by: DR1A operated by DB6JG, DF6JC, DJ7EO, DK6XZ, DL1QQ, DL3BPC, DL3DXX, DL6FBL, DL8DYL, DL8WPX, JK3GAD, PC5A, SV2KBS  
**USA:** Dale Hoppe, K6UA Memorial Trophy. Won by: WX3B operated by WX3B, N8IVN, KB3CS, NY3A, N3YIM, KU1T, N3VOP, N3WZR, N3AFT, KC3VO, K1RH, KA3ITJ, N3SB  
**EUROPE:** Rick Dougherty, NQ4I Trophy. Won by: OT5A operated by Arno, DF3TJ, Dorian, Marleen, ON1GL, ON3AEI, ON3AGM, ON3NG, ON4ADQ, ON4AEO, ON4AID, ON4AMI, ON4AQC, ON4ASB, ON4AWU, ON4ACL, ON4CCM, ON4CDE, ON4CJ, ON4GW, ON4JZ, ON4RK, ON4XB, ON5AEI, ON5CD, ON5CIM, ON5OT, ON5PVH, ON5UE, ON5UM, ON6LK, ON6LUQ, ON6MR, ON6PU, ON6SX, ON6UU, ON6YYY, ON7BRA, ON7JU, ON7NB, ON7SU, ON7USB, ON8MT, ON8TK, ON8UM, ON9CC, PA1BX, Timon

### CONTEST EXPEDITION

**WORLD:** C6APR Memorial (PT7ZZ sponsor) Trophy. Won by: 3D2A operated by OZ1IKY, VK4AN



Taylor  
TUBES

Quality  
Transmitting  
& Audio Tubes

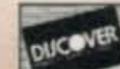
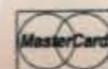
- COMMUNICATIONS
- BROADCAST
- INDUSTRY
- AMATEUR



Immediate Shipment from Stock

3CPX800A7	3CX1000A7	4CX3000A	812A
3CPX5000A7	3CX15000A7	4CX3500A	813
3CW20000A7	3CX20000A7	4CX5000A	833A
3CX100A5	4CX250B	4CX7500A	833C
3CX400A7	4CX250BC	4CX10000A	845
3CX400U7	4CX250BT	4CX15000A	866-SS
3CX800A7	4CX250FG	4X150A	872A-SS
3CX1200A7	4CX250R	YC-130	5867A
3CX1200D7	4CX350A	YU-108	5868
3CX1200Z7	4CX350F	YU-148	6146B
3CX1500A7	4CX400A	572B	7092
3CX2500A3	4CX800A	805	3-500ZG
3CX2500F3	4CX1000A	807	4-400A
3CX3000A7	4CX1500A	810	M382
3CX6000A7	4CX1500B	811A	

- TOO MANY TO LIST ALL -



ORDERS ONLY:  
800-RF-PARTS • 800-737-2787

Se Habla Español • We Export

TECH HELP & DELIVERY INFO: 760-744-0700

FAX: 760-744-1943 or 888-744-1943



An Address to Remember:  
www.rfparts.com

Email:  
rfp@rfparts.com



RF PARTS  
COMPANY



# What's New At SteppIR?



High strength glass filled plastic motor shaft.  
*Made in USA*



High strength glass reinforced plastic 40/30 loop couplers. Secure connection with waterproof seal.  
*Made in USA*



BigIR Mark IV with wind reinforcing kit. The new BigIR version utilizes an aluminum reinforcing plate and saddles to transfer wind force away from EHU.



Molded high strength EHU housing. Made of a proprietary plastic material for added strength and weather resistance.  
*Made in USA*



SteppIR website. At SteppIR, we benefit greatly from many customers that simply want to help us get better. Brian Moran N9ADG spent a considerable amount of time helping us create a new website, which will be a continually growing and evolving means of communication with our customers.



**Introducing:**  
**Adam Blackmer, K7EDX**  
*Operations Manager*

Adam is very high-energy and brings with him 20 years of construction management experience. His attention to detail, coupled with a vision for perfection, has already lead to significant improvement in manufacturing!



High strength extruded solid aluminum saddles, no backing plate required, stainless steel set screws significantly enhance grip torque. 1.75", 2", 2.25", 2.5" and 3" OD sizes.  
*Made in USA*



# MFJ-989D 1500 Watt legal limit Tuner

World's most popular 1500 Watt Legal Limit Tuner just got better -- much better!



New, improved MFJ-989D legal limit antenna tuner gives you better efficiency, lower losses and a new true peak reading meter with no price increase. Easily handles full 1500 Watts SSB/CW over 1.8-30 MHz. New dual 500 pF air variable capacitors give you twice the capaci-

**\$389<sup>95</sup>**

tance for more efficient operation on 160 and 80 Meters.

New, improved *AirCore™* Roller Inductor gives you lower losses, higher Q and handles more power more efficiently.

New *TrueActive™* peak reading Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter lets you read true peak power on all modes.

New high voltage current balun lets you tune balanced lines at high power -- no worries.

New crank knob lets you reset your roller inductor quickly, smoothly and accurately.

New larger 2-inch diameter capacitor knobs with easy-to-see dials

make tuning much easier.

New cabinet maintains components' high-Q. Generous air vents keep components cool. 12<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>Wx6Hx11<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>D inches.

Includes six position ceramic antenna switch, 50 Ohm dummy load, indestructible multi-color Lexan front panel with detailed logging scales and legends.

The MFJ-989D uses the superb time-tested T-Network. It has the widest matching range and is the easiest to use of all matching networks. Now with MFJ's new 500 pF air variable capacitors and new low loss roller inductor, it easily handles higher power much more efficiently.

## MFJ Differential-T™ 1.5kW Tuner



Simple two knob tuning makes antenna tuning foolproof and easier than ever! MFJ-986 Handles 1.5 kW PEP SSB/CW amplifier output, 1.8-30 MHz. *AirCore™* roller inductor, *Differential-T™* capacitor, lighted peak/average Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, Six position antenna switch, balun. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>Wx4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>Hx15D".

**\$349<sup>95</sup>**

## MFJ compact kW Tuner



A few more dollars steps you up to a kW tuner for an amp later. Handles 1.5 kW PEP SSB amplifier input power (800W output). Ideal for Ameritron's AL-811H! *AirCore™* roller inductor, gear-driven turns counter, pk/avg lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter, Six position antenna switch, balun, Lexan front panel, 1.8-30MHz. 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>x4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>x10<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in.

**\$299<sup>95</sup>**

## MFJ Fully Balanced 1.5 kW Tuner



MFJ-976 is a fully balanced wide range (12-2000 Ohms) antenna tuner that gives you superb current balance. Handles full 1.5kW SSB/CW, 1.8-30 MHz. Tunes all balanced lines -- 600 Ohm open wire line, 450/300 Ohm ladder lines, 300/72 Ohm twin lead. Also tunes wires/coax fed antennas. Cross-Needle meter.

**\$499<sup>95</sup>**

# MFJ 2500 Watts ContinuousCarrier™ Tuner

Silver plated Edge-Wound Roller Inductor . . . 1000/500 pF Variable Capacitors . . . Antenna Switch . . . 4-Core Balun . . . true Peak Cross-Needle Meter . . . Dummy Load . . . Extremely Wide Matching Range . . .

The MFJ-9982 ContinuousCarrier™ antenna tuner handles 2500 Watts continuous carrier output on all modes and all HF bands into most unbalanced antennas -- even on 160 Meters where even the best antenna tuners fail!

The MFJ-9982 gives you every feature you'll ever want in a high power tuner -- wide matching range, 1.8 to 30 MHz coverage, 6-position antenna switch, 4-core balun, dummy load, true peak/average lighted SWR/Wattmeter, 6:1 reduction drives with detailed logging scales, 3-digit turns counter, extra large knobs.

**New Components, New Technologies**  
The Heart and Soul of the MFJ-9982 is its roller inductor and variable capacitors.

MFJ's high power, high-Q continuous current *AirCore™* roller inductor is no ordinary roller inductor! It's edge wound from thick .06-inch silver-plated solid copper strap.

It can carry huge circulating RF currents and withstand tremendous heat that'll melt or burn up ordinary roller inductors.

Self-insulating construction reduces stray capacitance -- keeps self-resonant frequencies high and out-of-the-way. Dual, silver-plated compression wheels give ultra low-resistance contacts. New fast-tune crank knob.

High-current, high-capacitance 1000 pF and 500 pF air variable capacitors have low minimum capacitance and are self-insulating.

These newly developed air variable

**\$699<sup>95</sup>**



capacitors give you very high efficiency on 160/80 Meters and MFJ's patent pending innovation gives you extremely wide matching range on 10/12/15 Meters at 2500 Watts -- a feat only the MFJ-9982 has achieved.

### Hi-Voltage/Current Antenna Switch

The antenna switch is completely isolated to handle high-voltage, high impedance antennas. High-current, low impedance antennas are handled by parallel sets of high-current contacts of two ceramic switches.

### New 4-Core Balun

Powerful balun -- Four 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch cores, 12-gauge Teflon™ wire. Run balanced lines at full 2500 Watts SSB/CW continuous, 24/7.

### New Balanced Line Feed-Thru Insulator

Allows massive transmitter currents to flow directly to the antenna without passing through lossy screws or bolts.

### TrueActive™ Peak Reading Circuit

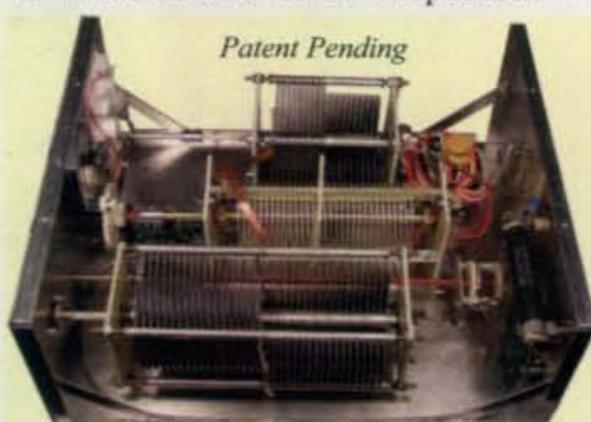
New *TrueActive™* circuit reads true peak or average power on all modes. Cross-Needle meter reads SWR/forward/reflected power.

### 1500 Watt Dummy Load

1500 Watt air-cooled non-inductive 50 Ohm resistor. 100W/10 min., 1.5kW/10 sec.

### New Cabinet maintains high Q

New roomy cabinet maintains high Q. Vent holes. Heavy gauge, .08 inch aluminum braced chassis. Vinyl cover, non-stripping PEM nuts, heavy 10-gauge and copper strap wiring throughout. 13<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>Wx7Dx16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>D inches. 15 pounds.



## Free MFJ Catalog

Visit: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com> or call toll-free 800-647-1800

• 1 Year No Matter What™ warranty • 30 day money back guarantee (less s/h) on orders direct from MFJ

**MFJ** MFJ ENTERPRISES, INC.  
300 Industrial Pk Rd, Starkville, MS 39759 PH: (662) 323-5869  
Tech Help: (662) 323-0549  
FAX: (662) 323-6551 8-4:30 CST, Mon.-Fri. Add shipping. Prices and specifications subject to change. (c) 2009 MFJ Enterprises, Inc.

MFJ . . . The World Leader in Ham Radio Accessories

## HamTestOnline™

### Online courses for the ham exams

- ▶ Quick way to learn — most students pass easily after 10 study hours for Tech, 20 for General, 30 for Extra.
- ▶ Study material, practice exams, and a cyber-tutor, all rolled into one. An intensely effective learning system. Just ask our students!
- ▶ Rated 4.9 out of 5 in 100+ reviews on eHam.net.
- ▶ 100% guaranteed — you pass the exam or get a full refund!
- ▶ Try our free trial!

[www.hamtestonline.com](http://www.hamtestonline.com)

You liked the Logikey. . .  
you'll love the LogiTALKER!



### LogiTALKER!

Let the New Idiom Press LogiTALKER  
Save Your Voice!

**\$120 kit / \$150 assembled**  
See our web site for complete details!

#### Idiom Press

P.O. Box 1015, Merlin, OR 97532-1015  
[www.idiompress.com](http://www.idiompress.com)  
541-956-1297

three-way race between a European and two Asians. The winner was special call 9A40Y operated by Sasa, 9A3LG. Close behind was H2T (Paris, 5B4XF op) and Levan, 4L4CC. Sasa was able to overcome the points per QSO disadvantage by working more contacts and almost 200 more multipliers than the other two. Alfredo, WP3C, had an excellent score to finish fourth. Perennial 75 meter entrant Steve, W3BGN, returned to the top spot for the USA.

With the high bands rocking, the diehard 160 meter operators did the best with what activity they could find. Fabio, I4FYF, claimed the world trophy. Yuri, K3BU, dealt with line noise and QRN to take the top USA spot as NT1E/8. OG6A and LY2OU battled it out for third with logging accuracy making the difference.

### Single-Operator QRP

The contesters who enter WPX SSB running 5 watts or less are a special breed. KP2/NE1RD summed up the magic this way: "I hope I never get so old or jaded that I stop feeling the wonder of working somebody halfway around the world with the power equivalent of a night light!" The world high QRP score was from TI5N with Bill, W8QZA, at the controls. Bill moved up from third place last year. Second place went to Randy, ND0C. This is Randy's second consecutive USA win in the QRP all band category. Frank, DL8LR, took the top European spot ahead of Andrzej, SP2DNI.

Scott, NE1RD, once again packed his



Well-known German contester DL3TD tragically died in a fire at his home only weeks after the contest. Lothar finished his last contest as #8 in the World for Single Op Assisted All Band High Power.

suitcase station off to KP2 for the contest and finished first on 10 meters. Rob, NH6V, borrowed the KH6LC station to win 15 meters and set a new Oceania record. Tadeusz, SP4GFG, made a very nice effort on 40 meters. Gulyas, HA6IAM, used the call HG6C to win on 75 meters.

### Single-Operator Assisted

The Assisted All Band High Power category has become super competitive with five continents represented in the world top 10. The winner, with a big lead, was Sergey, UT5UDX, operating from ER4A. Felipe, NP4Z, used his KP3Z club callsign to finish in second place and set a new North American record score. The next three scores were very close. Yuri, RG9A, took third place just ahead of Philippe, DF1LON, operating from LX7I. Rick, K11G, had the top USA score and almost doubled the existing USA record. ZX2B operated by Wanderly, PY2MNL, put South America in the top 10. Sadly, seventh place finisher Lothar, DL3TD, died tragically in a fire at his home just a few weeks after the contest. His enthusiasm and passion for contesting was well known and will be missed.

The All Band Low Power category was equally competitive, with Alexey, VE2XAA, taking the victory. Alexey became a Silent Key in August. Less than 7000 points separated the next two entries in a race between Hungarian club stations. Karoly, HA4XH, operated from HA3DX, the club station of Paks Nuclear Power Plant, while Istvan, HA3MY, used the Mecsek Radio Klub station HG3A. Karoly moved ahead after the log checking and now owns the European record

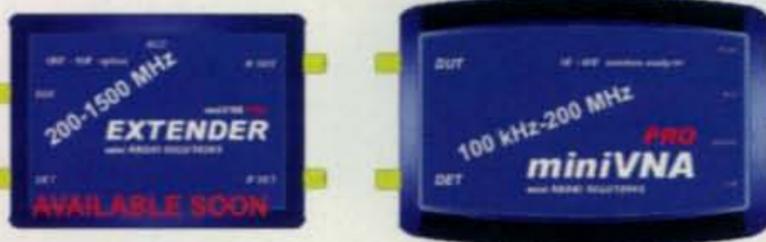
## SUCH A HAM



I remember when you looked at me like that.

**Incredible Software-Defined Antenna Analyzer**

The miniVNA PRO is an extraordinary and unique handheld vector network analyzer that makes available a multitude of new features and capabilities which are perfect for checking antennas and RF circuits for hams and commercial users. Together with your PC/Laptop, you can add to your laboratory the further advantages of having this first-class VNA instrument. This is the world's first wireless analyzer capable of scanning and sending the data using an integrated Bluetooth module to a remote PC/Notebook up to 100 meters from the miniVNA PRO's location.



Excellent software for Windows, MAC, and LINUX (32 & 64-bit)  
Also available is the miniVNA that covers 0.1-180 MHz.  
Software under development to run miniVNA PRO using Symbian S60 3rd ed. PHONE.

**COLLINS MECHANICAL FILTERS**



**DUAL-FILTERS**  
for  
**IC-703 & IC-718**



**300,500 & 2300 Hz Filters**  
FT-817(ND), 857(D) & 897(D)  
FT-2000, IC-703 & IC-718

- Calibration using open-short-load for accurate results
- Range of Z from 1 to 1000 ohm
- Two ports VNA
- I/Q DDS Generator
- Two separate RF output I/Q
- Built in Bluetooth Class 1 for remote measurements
- Internal Battery Li-ion with 1000 mAh (4 hours full- scan operation)
- Built-in battery charger (up to 400 mA)
- SMA save mode
- SMA connectors for better isolation
- Scaled dynamic range up to 90 dB in Transmission & 50 dB in Reflection
- Integrated Smith chart in software

**Desk Top Speaker • Great Mobile Speaker**



Great for Base Station  
**4" Bass Spkr**  
**1" Tweeter**

**OUTSTANDING DSP Noise Cancelling Speakers**

**9-35 dB Noise Reduction**  
in 7 Selectable Levels  
**4-65 dB Tone Reduction**



**volume control**  
**5-1/8" x 5-3/8"**

**bhi 10 W RMS**

W4RT Filters are new Collins filters  
Prices are the best anywhere!



**Z-11 Pro Ultra**  
QRP to QRO;  
8000 Memories to Handle Up to 4 Antennas;  
Includes Batteries, Steel Cover Option Available for Holding Magnetic Paddles, Mics, etc.



**Best All-around Autotuner Available!**



Install Yourself or let W4RT

**Noise Cancelling DSP**  
bhi Ltd. dynamically-adaptive neural-network technology achieves remarkable noise and tone reduction. Fits most radios incl. FT-817, IC-736/738, IC-706MKIIG, TS-50, TS-440, DX-394, FRG-100, FT-897, FT-847, and more

Visit the **W4RT Web Site**  
**www.w4rt.com**  
Easy to Find What You Need & Lots of Helpful Information

Prices & Specifications Subject to Change Without Notice

**USA TOP SCORES**

SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER ALL BAND	
K1LZ	15,921,388
AJ11 (K8PO)	11,615,760
KW7Y (K7RL)	10,838,960
KC3R (LZ4AX)	10,821,048
NN5J (N5DX)	10,812,560
28 MHz	
KZ5MM (W5PR)	737,352
WN1GV/4 (N4BP)	375,648
N8II	323,179
21 MHz	
KQ2M/1	9,591,670
K6ND/1 (N8BD)	6,793,222
WK5T (N2IC)	5,459,874
14 MHz	
KX9A/4	6,403,079
W7WA	6,265,176
KZ7X (W7WW)	968,320
7 MHz	
WU3A/1 (W3UA)	4,731,424
W1XX	1,114,452
KX9DX	310,170
3.7 MHz	
W3BGN	1,211,266
KISXP (W5XZ)	454,553
K9SH	116,800
1.8 MHz	
NT1E/8 (K3BU)	321,043
K1HAP	34,476
K6NDV/1 (K6ND)	10,633
SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER ALL BAND	
*NV19 (N1UR)	4,328,401
*KZ90	1,976,631
*KS9K (N4TZ)	1,962,765
*WB8TLI	1,368,276
*N7ZG	1,335,227
28 MHz	
*W4IX	209,916
*NA4W (K4WI)	61,686
*ND6S	59,451
21 MHz	
*WZAW (N2GM)	1,313,786
*N9TGR	975,730
*NSD0	735,072

14 MHz	
*AD7J (W7FP)	385,170
*N7BK	382,104
*WB2TFM/4	207,399
7 MHz	
*WA7NWL	127,920
*K9SOI	95,700
*K8SM	87,696
3.7 MHz	
*W6HH/5	10,296
*N8BV	7,791
1.8 MHz	
*NX1T	6,840
*W1WBB	2,368
SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED HIGH POWER ALL BAND	
KI1G	13,075,616
NY6OX/2	7,028,320
NS1L/4	5,807,004
NF4A	4,544,232
AB3CX/2	4,447,776
28 MHz	
K1ZZ	281,300
AC6DX	135,216
W2RR (WA2A0G)	68,068
21 MHz	
W4MYA	2,747,654
NQ5K (WSASP)	1,177,274
W6AFA	1,153,977
14 MHz	
WR2G	1,089,774
KI7M	1,086,470
W9EXY	838,380
7 MHz	
W2IRT	1,252,973
K4KZZ	343,640
WJ1R	30,444
3.7 MHz	
NØRQ/5	150
1.8 MHz	
W2MF	93,492
WG5J	660
SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED LOW POWER ALL BAND	
*KT4ZB	1,723,498

28 MHz	
*NR11 (W1NT)	1,555,398
*KA2KON/1	1,446,975
*KØRI	1,445,550
*WV6E	1,398,624
28 MHz	
*K6LE	11,050
*N1VVV	4,770
*N200	4,520
21 MHz	
*W4UAL (K4CWV)	498,190
*KG1E	349,932
*KM4HI	349,182
14 MHz	
*WØDN	247
7 MHz	
*KA9G	93,644
*N7MAL	19,173
3.7 MHz	
*KA3ITJ	6,432
SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ALL BAND	
NØØC	748,572
KA1LMR	476,856
WB2R (W2MFT)	171,600
NT4TS	169,684
K8DRT	132,932
28 MHz	
KIØG/5	13,266
KJ6JNC	105
21 MHz	
W6FGV	41,480
N6HI/7	2,964
WA7LNV	1,500
14 MHz	
WB7OCV/2	71,001
KP2AA	3,196
3.7 MHz	
K3TW/4	10,812
WBØIWG/3	3,060
ROOKIE ALL BAND	
NR7E	1,083,656
NX9G	948,915
KI6GDH	445,725
*AD2AM	286,878
*KB1THU	197,714

28 MHz	
*KE5SNJ	21,672
*K3MAF/4	7,236
*KJ4VWL	5,967
21 MHz	
*KJ6HBY	2,176
14 MHz	
*NØ3U	25,641
*WØGAF	10,153
7 MHz	
*K3DCW	42,160
TRIBANDER/SINGLE ELEMENT HIGH POWER ALL BAND	
KR4Z (N4PN)	6,200,704
NF4A	4,544,232
AB3CX/2	4,447,776
W6TK	3,461,544
K3MD	3,256,878
28 MHz	
KA2LIM	95,976
K7ZD	1,235
21 MHz	
K6ND/1 (N8BD)	6,793,222
KZ5J	730,862
N2EIK	608,697
14 MHz	
KZ7X (W7WW)	968,320
KD8SQ	139,308
W8GOC	39,996
7 MHz	
KX9DX	310,170
K4RDU	56,832
WJ1R	30,444
3.7 MHz	
WN20 (N2GC)	46,107
W8JMF	4,142
NØRQ/5	150
TRIBANDER/SINGLE ELEMENT LOW POWER ALL BAND	
*KZ90	1,976,631
*KT4ZB	1,723,498
*WB8TLI	1,368,276
*N7ZG	1,335,227
*AD1C/Ø	987,525

28 MHz	
*N8PJ	6,336
*KE7DX	1,518
*KD4MXA	351
21 MHz	
*WN4BFZ (K4YA)	535,612
*KG1E	349,932
*KM4HI	349,182
14 MHz	
*KØWHV	85,932
*N8WAV	82,593
*N9LOH	45,108
7 MHz	
*WA7NWL	127,920
*K9SOI	95,700
*K8SM	87,696
3.7 MHz	
*W6HH/5	10,296
*KA3ITJ	6,432
1.8 MHz	
*W1WBB	2,368
MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER	
AK1W	16,567,248
NK7U	13,304,610
KØDU	12,126,541
NR3X/4	10,629,541
AJ9C	5,994,897
MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER	
KD4D/3	21,464,896
WW4LL	16,979,974
WC6H	13,644,735
W7RN	12,408,773
KK700	10,966,914
MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER	
WX3B	19,928,644
NX5M	17,133,200
NR60	14,961,801
NE1C	10,043,890
AK7AZ	5,059,080

\*Low Power

# HRO Holiday Specials For You!



# HAM RADIO OUTLET

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



World's LARGEST HAM RADIO INVENTORY in stock for quick delivery

## DISCOVER THE POWER OF DSP WITH ICOM!

**ANAHEIM, CA**  
(Near Disneyland)  
933 N. Euclid St., 92801  
(714) 533-7373  
**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

**BURBANK, CA**  
1525 W. Magnolia Bl., 91506  
(818) 842-1786  
**(877) 892-1748**  
Eric, K6EJC, Mgr.  
Magnolia between  
S. Victory & Buena Vista  
burbank@hamradio.com

**OAKLAND, CA**  
2210 Livingston St., 94606  
(510) 534-5757  
**(877) 892-1745**  
Mark, W17YN, Mgr.  
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp  
oakland@hamradio.com

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123  
(858) 560-4900  
**(877) 520-9623**  
Jerry, N5MCJ, Mgr.  
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa  
sandiego@hamradio.com

**SUNNYVALE, CA**  
510 Lawrence Exp. #102  
94085  
(408) 736-9496  
**(877) 892-1749**  
Jon, K6WV, Mgr.  
So. from Hwy. 101  
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

**NEW CASTLE, DE**  
(Near Philadelphia)  
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720  
(302) 322-7092  
**(800) 644-4476**  
Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.  
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295  
delaware@hamradio.com

**PORTLAND, OR**  
11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.  
97223  
(503) 598-0555  
**(800) 765-4267**  
Bill, K7WCE, Mgr.  
Tigard-99W exit  
from Hwy. 5 & 217  
portland@hamradio.com

**DENVER, CO**  
8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231  
(303) 745-7373  
**(800) 444-9476**  
John W0IG, Mgr.  
denver@hamradio.com

**PHOENIX, AZ**  
10613 N. 43rd Ave., 85029  
(602) 242-3515  
**(800) 559-7388**  
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.  
Corner of 43rd Ave. & Peoria  
phoenix@hamradio.com

**ATLANTA, GA**  
6071 Buford Hwy., 30340  
(770) 263-0700  
**(800) 444-7927**  
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.  
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285  
atlanta@hamradio.com

**WOODBRIIDGE, VA**  
(Near Washington D.C.)  
14803 Build America Dr.  
22191  
(703) 643-1063  
**(800) 444-4799**  
Steve, W4SHG, Mgr.  
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1  
virginia@hamradio.com

**SALEM, NH**  
(Near Boston)  
224 N. Broadway, 03079  
(603) 898-3750  
**(800) 444-0047**  
Peter, K11M, Mgr.  
Exit 1, I-93;  
28 mi. No. of Boston  
salem@hamradio.com



**\$100 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-9100 The All-Round Transceiver

- HF/50MHz 144/430 (440) MHz and 1200MHz\*\* coverage • 100W on HF/50/144MHz, 75W on 430 (440) MHz, 10W on 1200MHz\*\* • Double superheterodyne with image rejection mixer



**\$100 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-7800 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-6M @ 200W • Four 32 bit IF-DSPs+ 24 bit AD/DA converters • Two completely independent receivers • +40dBm 3rd order intercept point



**\$50 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-PW1 HF + 6M Amplifier

- 1.8-24MHz + 6M Amp • 1KW amplifier • 100% duty cycle • Compact body • Detachable controller • Automatic antenna tuner

### IC-7000 All Mode Transceiver

- 160-10M/6M/2M/70CM
- 2x DSP • Digital IF filters
- Digital voice recorder
- 2.5" color TFT display



**\$25 HRO COUPON!**

SEPARATION KIT PSBK-7000



**\$100 HRO COUPON!**

### 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



**\$20 HRO COUPON!**

### 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 Blanking • USB Port for PC Control



**\$25 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-718 HF Transceiver

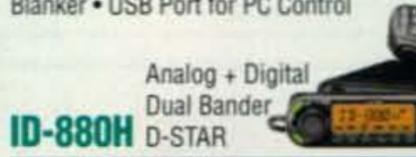
- 160-10M\* @ 100W • 12V operation • Simple to use • CW Keyer Built-in • One touch band switching • Direct frequency input • VOX Built-in • Band stacking register • IF shift • 101 memories



**\$100 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-7700 Transceiver. The Contester's Rig

- HF + 6m operation • +40dBm ultra high intercept point • IF DSP, user defined filters • 200W output power full duty cycle • Digital voice recorder



**\$10 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-880H Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation • One touch reply button (DV mode) • Wideband receiver



**\$10 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-V8000 2M Mobile Transceiver

- 75 watts • Dynamic Memory Scan (DMS) • CTCSS/DCS encode/decode w/tone scan • Weather alert • Weather channel scan • 200 alphanumeric memories



**\$5 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-2200H 2M Mobile Transceiver

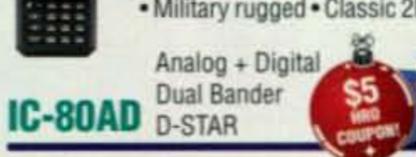
- 65W Output • Optional D-STAR format digital operation & NEMA compatible GPS interface • CTCSS/DTCS encode/decode w/tone scan • 207 alphanumeric memories • Weather alert



**\$5 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-V80 2M Handheld Transceiver

- 2M @ 5.5W • Loud BTL audio output • Military rugged • Classic 2M operation



**\$5 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-80AD Analog + Digital Dual Bander D-STAR

- D-STAR DV mode operation • DR (D-STAR repeater) mode • Free software download • GPS A mode for easy D-PRS operation



**\$10 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-2820H Dual Band FM Transceiver

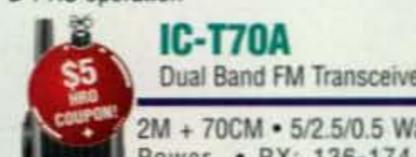
- D-STAR & GPS upgradeable 2M/70CM • 50/15/5W RF output levels • RX: 118-173.995, 375-549.995, 810-999.99 MHz\*\* • Analog/digital voice with GPS (optional UT-123) • 500 alphanumeric memories



**\$10 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-92AD Analog + Digital Dual Bander

- 2M/70CM @ 5W • Wide-band RX 495 kHz - 999.9 MHz\*\* • 1304 alphanumeric memories • Dualwatch capability • IPX7 Submersible\*\*\* • Optional GPS speaker Mic HM-175GPS



**\$5 HRO COUPON!**

### IC-T70A Dual Band FM Transceiver

- 2M + 70CM • 5/2.5/0.5 Watts Output Power • RX: 136-174, 400-479 MHz\*\* • 302 Alphanumeric Memory Channels • 700mW Loud Audio • Ni-MH 7.2V/1400mAh Battery

\*Except 60M Band. \*\*Frequency coverage may vary. Refer to owner's manual for exact specs. \*\*\*Tested to survive after being under 1m of water for 30 minutes. \*\* AA Alkaline batteries not included, radio comes with a AA alkaline battery tray. \*\*For shock and vibration. \*\*Optional UX-9100 required. Contact HRO for promotion details. CO JAN 2012. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc. 20478b

## CALL TOLL FREE

Phone Hours: 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM  
Store Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Closed Sun.

Toll free, incl. Hawaii, Alaska, Canada; call routed to nearest store; all HRO 800-lines can assist you, if the first line you call is busy, you may call another.

West.....800-854-6046  
Mountain.....800-444-9476  
Southeast.....800-444-7927  
Mid-Atlantic...800-444-4799  
Northeast.....800-644-4476  
New England..800-444-0047

Look for the HRO Home Page on the World Wide Web

<http://www.hamradio.com>

**#1 in Customer Service**

**ICOM**

AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA residents add sales tax. Prices, specifications, descriptions, subject to change without notice.

# Send your voice to the world with a mobile radio.

Work a D-STAR repeater and you're tied in to worldwide communications, whether you're using a D-STAR mobile or handheld radio. Enjoy advanced digital communication with D-STAR transceivers.

## IC-2820H

FEATURE-RICH MOBILE + OPTIONAL GPS RECEIVER

### D-STAR **optional**

- 50/15/5 Watt Output
- RX: 118-549.995, 118-173.995, 375-549.999, 810-999.990MHz\*
- 522 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- One Touch Reply Function
- Digital Voice/GPS (Optional UT-123 Required)
- Low Speed Data (Optional OPC-1529R Required)



## ID-880H

GO DIGITAL ON 23cm

### D-STAR **ready**

- 50/15/5 Watt VHF/UHF
- FM, AM (Receive only), DV
- RX: 118-999.99MHz\*
- 1052 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- Free Programming Software!†

† [www.icomamerica.com/amateur/DSTAR](http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/DSTAR)  
for details about free software

## ID-1

GO DIGITAL ON 23cm

### D-STAR **ready**

- 10 Watt on 23cm (FM, DV, DD)
- RX: 1240-1300MHz\*
- 100 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- USB Rig Control, Ethernet Plug for DD
- Black Box Operation
- Remote Control Head, Remote Speaker and Cables Included
- PC Software Included

## IC-80AD

NEXT GENERATION 2M/70CM DUAL BANDER

### D-STAR **ready**

- 5/2.5/0.5/0.1 Watt VHF/UHF
- FM, FM-N, AM (Receive only), WFM (Receive only), DV
- RX: 0.495-999.990MHz\*
- 1052 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- Li-ion Battery
- Free Programming Software†

† [www.icomamerica.com/amateur/DSTAR](http://www.icomamerica.com/amateur/DSTAR)  
for details about free software

## IC-92AD

MILITARY RUGGED AND SUBMERSIBLE

### D-STAR **ready**

- 5/2.5/0.5/0.1 Watt Output
- RX: 0.495-999.990, 118-174, 350-470MHz\*
- 1304 Alphanumeric Memory Channels
- Optional GPS Speaker Mic (HM-175GPS)
- IPX7 Submersible

**NEW ID-31A COMING SOON!**  
D-STAR OPERATION IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND!

### D-STAR **ready**

- FM Analog Voice or D-STAR DV
- Built-in GPS Receiver
- IPX7 Submersible

\*This device has not been approved by the FCC. This device may not be sold or leased, or be offered for sale or lease, until approval by the FCC has been obtained.

\*Frequency specs may vary. Refer to owner's manual for exact frequency specs.

©2012 Icom America Inc. The Icom logo is a registered trademark of Icom Inc.

The D-PRS logo is a trademark of Icom Inc. All specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation. 30697

**ICOM**

for the category. Alexey, RV9UP, beat Yuri, RT9S, to set a new record score for Asia. Top USA score went to Jere, KT4ZB.

## Overlay Categories

The CQ WPX Contest has two overlay categories which act as separate contests within the contest. The Rookie overlay category is for operators who have been licensed for less than three years at the time of the contest. There were 182 entries this year. In his last year of eligibility, Abdalla, JY5CC, won in dramatic fashion with the highest score in the history of the Rookie category. Second place was a race between Robert, KD8MJR, at 6Y1X and Vladimir, RN3DNM, operating

UD3D. Both of them provided welcome multipliers and demonstrated they are fast learners. Another remarkable score was submitted by 15-year-old Sassi, ZL2GQ, who made over 1-million points on 15 meters single band. The top USA Rookie score was made by Jeff, NR7E.

The Tribander/Single-Element (TBSE) overlay category allows stations with similar equipment to compare and compete with one another. The popularity of TBSE keeps growing, with 764 entries this year. Robert, ST2AR, overcame receive problems due to a sticky relay in his transceiver and still dominated the category. Being in a rare country with direct propagation to Europe has its advantages! The second highest overall

score was by Will, N8BO, operating single band 15 meters as K6ND/1. Close behind was a group of all-band scores led by LR4E with Jorge, LW4EU, at the controls. Vitomir, S56M, turned in the top European score from E74HH. KR4Z operated by Paul, N4PN, was the top USA scorer all band.

On low power TBSE, it was 8P3A, 3V8SS, and VE2XAA who led the pack. Cristobal, EA7RU, and Brian, C4Z, had a very close race on 15 meters.

## Multi-Operator

There were 241 entries in the Multi-Operator Single Transmitter category. While many big stations complain about the band-change rule, it has increased the overall popularity of the category and set up some very spirited competition. The winning team was 3V1A operated by YT1AD, YT3M, YT3W, and S56A. The TM6M operating team of F1AKK, F4DXW, and F8DBF made over 6000 contacts on their way to an impressive second place finish and a new European record. PY2NDX, PY2YU, and PY2ZEA pushed PS2T to third place. P33W from Cyprus represented the fourth continent in the top four scores due to a fine job by 5B4AIE, RA6LBS, and RA3AUU.

The most exciting battle of the weekend was the northern Africa Multi-Two shootout among EB8AH, 5D5A, and D4C. Each station made over 10,000 contacts! Each had about 1700 prefixes. In the end, it was the six operators at EB8AH in the Canary Islands who captured the win with the highest score in the history of the contest at 68-million points. Second place was 5D5A from Morocco with a three-operator team that moved up a place due to an extremely accurate log. The three ops at D4C in Capes Verde made the most contacts, but fell to third. Not much sleep at 5D5A or D4C in order to do full 48 hour efforts in Multi-Two with only three operators!

It was a photo finish between PJ2T and PW7T for the South America Multi-Two honors. PJ2T ended up winning by 30K points on a total score of 37 million (that's only 0.08%)! Just one more multiplier would have made the difference. Down under, the team at VK4KW increased the Oceania record by 30%. The top USA score was by KD4D/3 in Maryland.

The Multi-Multi category was won by European powerhouse DR1A. In addition to setting an all-time prefix record, they raised the European record from 47-million to 63-million points! The ten operators from the CT3 Madeira Contest Team pushed CR3A to second place. The boys at LP1H set a goal of 45-million points and made it! The top USA Multi-Multi was a very enthusiastic crew at WX3B.

## Final Thoughts

The WPX SSB Contest occurred less than three weeks after the Japanese tsunami disaster. There were many comments in the logs expressing sympathy and hope for all in the affected areas of Japan. We had 13 logs from JA7 and hope we will see more in the future as the area recovers.

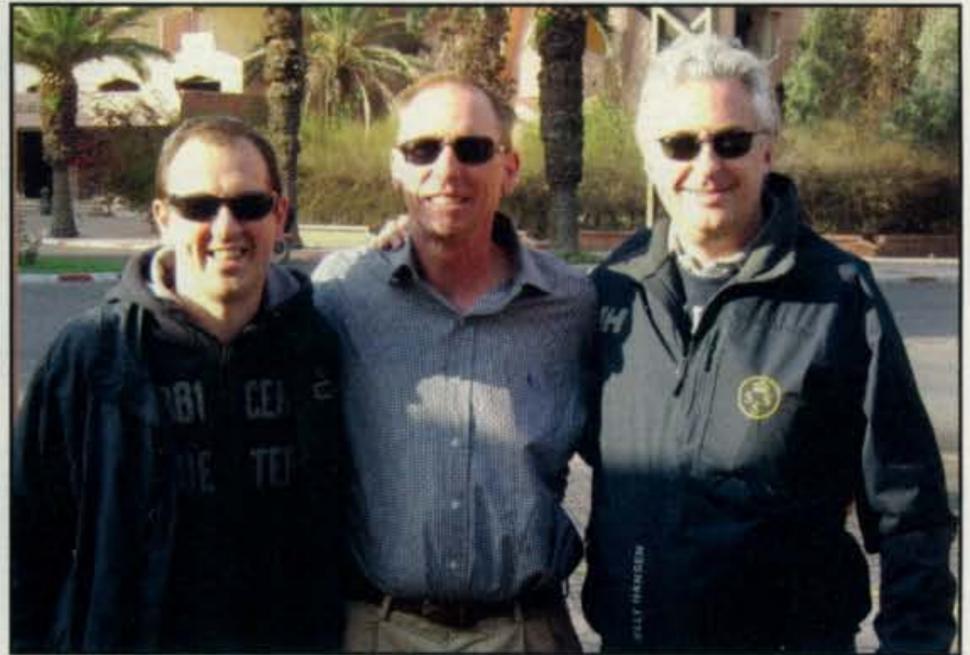
## CQ WW WPX SSB CONTEST ALL-TIME RECORDS

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

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS			U.S.A. RECORD HOLDERS		
Single Operator			Single Operator		
1.8	CN2R('07)	1,613,955 399	1.8	K1ZM('95)	327,712 308
3.5	CN2R('06)	11,849,076 894	3.5	K1UO('10)	2,161,782 602
7.0	CN2R('05)	14,724,696 931	7.0	WU3A/1('11)	4,731,424 796
14	CN2R('08)	15,778,840 1199	14	KQ2M('09)	7,034,082 1082
21	CN2R('11)	20,704,164 1443	21	KQ2M/1('11)	9,591,670 1210
28	D44AC('02)	15,707,401 1123	28	NY4A('00)	6,006,573 877
AB	CN2R('10)	27,059,084 1373	AB	K1LZ('11)	15,921,388 1246
QRP/p	HC8A('94)	7,520,562 714	QRPp	KR2Q('00)	2,688,158 649
Assisted	CQ3L('10)	17,479,764 1206	Assisted	K1IG('11)	13,075,616 1268
Multi-Operator Single Transmitter			Multi-Operator Single Transmitter		
5D5A('10)		36,669,952 1532	AK1W('11)		16,567,248 1343
Multi-Operator Two Transmitter			Multi-Operator Two Transmitter		
EB8AH('11)		68,072,520 1765	K1LZ('10)		30,393,480 1560
Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter			Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter		
EA8AH('10)		66,077,858 1665	KM3T('00)		29,338,460 1355
QRPp RECORD			WPX (Prefix) RECORD		
HC8A('94)		7,520,562	DR1A('11)		1909
CONTINENTAL RECORD HOLDERS					
AFRICA			SOUTH AMERICA		
1.8	CN2R('07)	1,613,955 399	7.0	ZL3A('08)	8,200,800 816
3.5	CN2R('06)	11,849,076 894	14	KH6ND('03)	6,493,727 887
7.0	CN2R('05)	14,724,696 931	21	AH7DX('00)	7,645,990 890
14	CN2R('08)	15,778,840 1199	28	TX0DX('00)	12,049,422 847
21	CN2R('11)	20,704,164 1443	AB	KH7X('11)	20,676,524 1244
28	D44AC('02)	15,707,401 1123			
AB	CN2R('10)	27,059,084 1373			
ASIA					
1.8	*YM0T('05)	486,846 222	1.8	HK1KYR('10)	44,814 77
3.5	H2T('10)	3,067,296 534	3.5	P40A('96)	1,715,076 426
7.0	5B/KC2TIZ('10)	6,761,872 754	7.0	HK1T('11)	11,997,104 952
14	P33W('10)	8,004,130 1030	14	HK1X('11)	13,783,532 1259
21	JA6GCE('11)	7,055,664 996	21	ZX5J('10)	16,746,977 1369
28	H22H('00)	9,092,146 931	28	ZX5J('99)	14,405,820 1095
AB	5B4AII('09)	17,320,771 1093	AB	HC8A('01)	25,180,199 1199
EUROPE					
1.8	SN3R('07)	835,884 434			
3.5	EI7M('10)	3,527,075 731			
7.0	EI7M('11)	10,787,690 1054			
14	TM77M('10)	8,271,768 1046			
21	CS2C('11)	9,479,430 1245			
28	GM7V('00)	8,305,756 982			
AB	E7DX('11)	20,438,120 1322			
NORTH AMERICA					
1.8	VA1A('99)	535,225 271			
3.5	ZF1A('08)	2,269,344 462			
7.0	TI4CF('05)	8,057,479 751			
14	KP2A('95)	7,088,976 912			
21	VP2EH('11)	14,899,185 1305			
28	KP2A('00)	11,385,710 1046			
AB	8P5A('10)	24,245,732 1358			
OCEANIA					
1.8	KH6ND('07)	26,432 59			
3.5	WH7Z('03)	1,208,900 308			



The multi-single team of CB3C gave everyone a new multiplier. Roberto, CE3DOH, on the left, Marco, CE3MMT, in the front, and Esteban, XQ7UP, on the right.



In the Multi-Two category, second place went to 5D5A from Morocco with a three-operator team (IK2QEI, N6KT, IK2SGC) that moved up a place due to an extremely accurate log.

### Log Checking Honor Roll

There were 2,744,917 total QSOs recorded in the 5,143 logs received for the 2011 edition of the WPX SSB Contest. More than 2 million, or 75%, of these contacts could be cross checked against another log. An incredible 95.5% of the cross-checked QSOs were made without errors. That's rather amazing when you consider all of the QRM, QSB, and other distractions a phone contest inflicts. The average score reduction for all logs was 11.4%—not bad when you consider the frequent double hit of losing a contact and a multiplier.

Everyone who submitted a log to the WPX Contest should have received an e-mail with their log-checking report. The report shows all errors found in the log and how the final score was calculated. The reports also show how others may have miscopied your callsign or exchange. They are a great tool for learning how to improve your operating skills. Send an e-mail to <director@cqwp.com> to request your report.

The most accurate log was from Eero, VE3BVA, who made 380 contacts without any score reductions. Other top golden logs (with QSOs made) include SP4GFG (323), DL7URH (319), N6ORB (297), VR2XLN (254), DL4RAT (220), and AI4UN (211). W2MF did 210 error-free QSOs all on 160 meters! There were 328 logs with no reductions.

There were 916 stations that did not cause any errors in the logs of the stations they worked. The top "golden transmitter" was Takayuki, JR0GUY, with 201 QSOs. Others in this elite group included OH1O (199), SP4LVK (181), K0RC (161), and UU5A (153).

The gold medal of accuracy goes to Enda, EI2II, who managed 141 two-way contacts without a single mistake either transmitted or received. The silver medal goes to Elmer, DU1EG, with 135.

Congratulations to all of the accuracy aces!

There were a number of comments after the contest about over-processed audio, poor-quality signals with wide splatter, excess power, and generally rude operating. Contesting is a sport where we all are sharing the same field. It is poor sportsmanship to pollute the bands with poor signals and ruin the fun for everyone else. For 2012, the WPX Contest Committee will establish a group of monitors to listen to the bands during the contest. The committee will reserve the right not to accept logs from stations that demonstrate poor technical practices or sportsmanship. Fair play and quality signals will attract more people to contesting and provide more contacts for everyone.

It takes a team to compile the results of so many logs. We could not do it without the software development efforts of Ken, K1EA. The 58 paper logs received by mail were converted into Cabrillo format by AE6Y, AL1G, DO4HAM, JY5CC, K1PX, K2DSL, K8PO, KN3A, LY4U, N1XS, UA4FER, and W2JU.

Log-checking help was provided by Jim, WI9WI. Thanks to Barry, W5GN, for printing and mailing the more than 1900 certificates that were earned. Doug, K1DG, coordinates the plaque sponsors and distribution.

The 2012 WPX SSB Contest will be held on March 24 and 25. The log deadline has been moved up to April 18. Please read the rules carefully as there are some changes. Rules can be found in the February issue of CQ, on the CQ website <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> (for expanded tables, QRM, and a list of guest operators and ops of multi stations for the 2011 contest, also see the CQ website—ed.), and on the CQ WPX Contest website <www.cqwp.com>. Keep up with the latest news on the CQ WPX Contest by joining our Facebook Fan page (search for wpx). Let's hope for even better conditions in 2012!

73, Randy, K5ZD

(Continued on page 102)

**Remove unwanted noise...  
...With a HEAR IT or bhi  
Noise canceling product!**



**HEAR IT Speaker**  
- New "Quick Adjust" DSP control  
- 8 DSP filter levels 9 - 35dB  
- 3.5mm mono headphone jack  
- On/off audio bypass switch  
- 2.7W Amplified DSP speaker



**HEAR IT ANEM MKII**  
- Compact in-line DSP module  
- 8 filter levels 9 to 35dB  
- Audio bypass mode  
- User friendly control  
- Use with a speaker or headphones  
- 12 to 18V DC (400mA)



**HEAR IT IN-LINE**  
- Amplified DSP module - Use inline with your speaker or headphones  
- Full user control for optimum noise cancellation - User instructions supplied - 12 to 24V DC (500mA)



**DSPKR 10W RMS Audio**  
DSP noise canceling speaker  
- 7 DSP filter levels  
- Simple control in-line  
- Sleep mode - Filter level store function  
- Volume control  
- Input overload LED  
- Mono headphone jack  
- 12 to 16V DC (2A)



**NEDSP1061-KBD**  
- Low level audio module for Yaesu FT-817 etc



**NEDSP1062-KBD**  
- 3W audio output (4ohm)  
- 8 filter levels - Audio bypass - 12 to 18VDC

Available from: **W4RT Electronics** fax: 256 880 3866  
www.w4rt.com  
info@w4rt.com

**Get rid of QRM & QRN!**

Hear-it Available from: **GAP Antenna Products Inc.**  
99 N. Willow St, Fellsmere, FL 32948  
Tel: (772) 571 9922 Fax: (772) 571 9988  
www.gapantenna.com

All products designed and manufactured in the UK by bhi Ltd [www.bhi-ltd.com](http://www.bhi-ltd.com)

*It's been a long time since computers made telegraph keys optional equipment for CW contests. But a phone contest without a microphone?? Read on...*

## Who Needs A Microphone For A Phone Contest?

BY JAMIE DUPREE,\* NS3T

**A**ll week in my job as a radio reporter covering Capitol Hill, I do one thing over and over: I talk into a microphone. That background might make it easier to understand that when it comes to SSB contesting on the weekend, as using a microphone is the last thing I want to do.

Thus, over the last half dozen years I have designed a system of over 17,000 recorded voice files which allows me to call CQ, run stations, move them to a different frequency, search & pounce—you name it—but my microphone stays tucked away in the cabinet while other competitors are losing their voices and yelling themselves hoarse.

All the while my wife and kids hardly even know that I'm on the radio, and that's very good, considering they're just above me as I sit in my basement shack.

Some of my colleagues in the Potomac Valley Radio Club in the Washington, D.C. area know full well that when they hear NS3T calling CQ during an SSB contest, it's not me, but rather it's a recording of my voice:

"QSL, Hal," said one wise guy last year, referring to the computer in the movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

"QSL, Jamie's computer," said another after getting my exchange.

It's all my voice going out over the air, but I get to sit quietly in my shack, just

*The author's station with twin Kenwood TS-2000 transceivers set up for SO2R (Single-Operator, 2 Radios) contesting.*

\*9712 Summit Ave., Kensington, MD 20895

e-mail: <ns3t@arrl.net>

The author also runs a contesting news website at <<http://www.radio-sport.net>>





Closeup of Jamie's number-one radio and computer keyboard. The audio from his computer is fed into the rig's mic jack. Note that the function keys each are labeled for a different segment of contest exchange.

like I'm operating a CW contest, and I don't lose my voice during a contest weekend.

### No Voice Means No Contest

I started fooling around with recorded voice files for contesting in 2003, when my regular voice began to have problems. As a result, I slowly started what I still consider a "very" long-term project for contesting voice files.

Think about how often many of you have had to cut short a contest because your voice was giving out. Maybe you had a cold and it was just killing your voice. Here are just a few of the examples from the 3830 internet reflector after a major SSB contest:

- "Started losing my voice a few hours into the contest which made things tough."
- "Great fun but SSB QSO numbers suffered due to losing my voice."
- "Caught terrible flu two days before the contest and just couldn't make my voice work."
- "Thursday I had a sore throat and by 0230Z, I was losing my voice."

You don't have to suffer like that. There is another option.

### The Happy S&P'er

Let's get started with something simple. How about the nine audio files you need to search & pounce your way around the bands during a contest? That's right, just nine recorded audio files can do the trick and have you making contest con-

tacts with your microphone unplugged from the radio. They are:

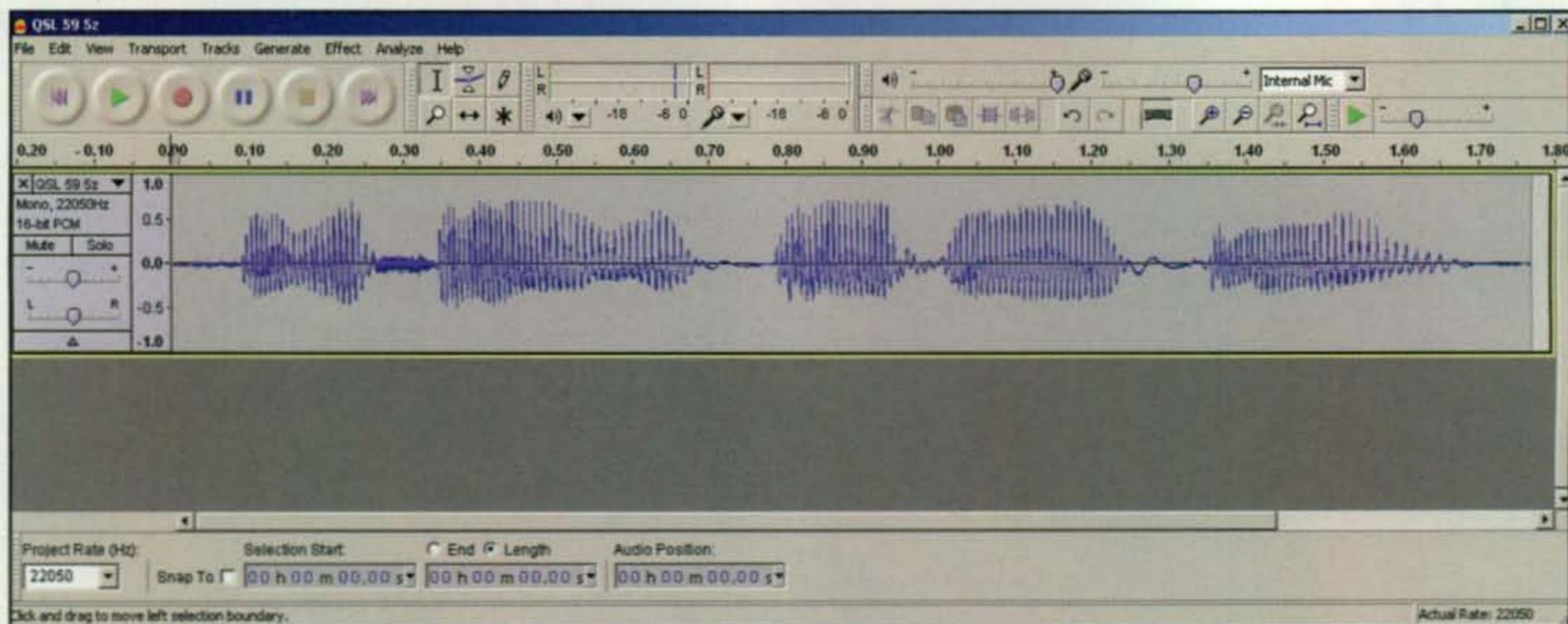
- Two versions of your callsign
- Contest exchange and repeat
- Your suffix and prefix
- Your call area number repeat (one-two-three is mine)
- Thanks or 73
- Roger or QSL

That's your lineup of nine audio files to be what I call "The Happy S&P'er."

Think about it. . . . You don't say very much on the air if you are in search & pounce mode. You give your call, wait for the other guy's exchange, give your info and maybe say 73. If you want to just S&P, things don't have to be too complicated when it comes to audio files. However, maybe you would like to do more with voice files.

The most frequently used application of recorded voice files for contesting is where you use your voice (live) to say the station's callsign, but then you push a button for the exchange. We have seen huge growth in the ARRL November Sweepstakes for this kind of combination of "live" and "taped" messages, in which a competitor will say the callsign and give the serial number, followed by a recorded voice file that has the rest of the information in the lengthy SS exchange.

I wanted to do more, though. I wanted to keep that microphone disconnected from the rig, and I did not want something that sounded like a verbal robot. I wanted my voice on the air, but while my mouth stayed shut. Thus, I started



A sample Audacity recording screen. Here Jamie has recorded "QSL, five-nine, five" for part of the CQ World-Wide DX Contest exchange.

recording. Now I have 17,327 files taking up 1.12 Gigabytes of space in my contest audio folder. (Don't worry; it's copied in several places.)

### A Little Advice

Before you think about recording thousands of voice files, I want to give a couple of warnings: First, this kind of project is not for everyone.

Second, it is very time consuming. It can be very frustrating, and it easily can be screwed up.

Also, every piece of contesting software treats voice files differently. I use Writelog® (see "References" for contact information), because I have found that it is by far the most powerful contest logging software when it comes to recorded voice files. However, don't let that stop you from checking out what your logging software can do with recorded files, because many of you complain on a regular basis about how a contest weekend shreds your voice.

### How to Record

When it comes to recording and editing sound files, I have an edge on most people, since that's what I do every day in my job. It means I can zip my way through recording and editing, a process that might take others some time to master, but it doesn't mean you can't try.

My audio editor of choice is the same one I use for my news work. It is called Audacity, which is freeware that is available on the internet. It's really pretty basic stuff to trim audio off the front and back end by highlighting it with your cur-

sor and pressing the delete key. Once you take some time to master the shortcuts and more, you can also be an audio editing whiz.

Many hams have their rig hooked up to a computer in the shack, so you can start your voice files project right there. I would recommend using the same microphone for recording voice files that you use on the air, especially if you are mixing your own "live" voice with recorded .WAV files, which is certainly the most popular use of recorded audio files in contesting.

This brings up a very interesting part of this process, which is that you need to match not only the sound levels of your live and taped voice, but also—as best as you can—the "urgency" and the "pacing" of a contest environment in your recorded files.

Many of us have heard contesters who furiously give your call, only to then hit the button to fire the .WAV file exchange which sounds like it was recorded while they were asleep, because the pace is so much slower than everything else that they are doing in the contest. I cannot say how many hundreds of files I have recorded and then later deleted, simply because they did not sound good on the air.

How do you figure out the best "pace" for your recorded files? I did something simple: I just turned the tape recorder on during a big contest and recorded lots of different contesters calling CQ and running stations. I also recorded my own sound for a comparison. Then I went through a lot of the recorded contest audio and found stations that had a pace that I liked. I timed the length of

their exchanges and came up with a length and pacing that seemed a comfortable fit for my contesting.

One more note about recording voice files is that you might want to be careful about the size of the file involved as well as what type is supported by your contest logger. All of my .WAV files have a bit rate of 176 kbps, audio sample size of 8 bit, sample rate of 22 kHz, and are recorded in a PCM mono format. The sample rate of 22050 is half of my usual news size of 44100. It does give you a slightly "rougher" sound at 22050, but that's okay. I'm not putting these together for an FM stereo news station. It is SSB, after all, and it saves a good chunk of disk space. You can save more by using .mp3 files, but first make sure your recording software can use them.

### The CQ Machine

If you want to take the big step and set up something where you can call CQ in a contest without a microphone, then you need to record a lot of prefixes and suffixes. However, before I started recording, I thought about who might respond to my CQ. I run low power and have wires in the trees of my suburban backyard, so I'm not a big signal on the air in SSB tests. Because of that, I started by focusing on calls in the U.S. and Canada for domestic contests.

First I broke down the different W/VE prefixes and how many files it would take to record those:

- AA1-AL0 (120 files)
- KA1-KZ0 (260)
- NA1-NA (260)

## New! - PK-232SC with Sound Card, Rig Control, USB - All built-in!



### PK-232SC Multimode Data Controller\*

Sound Card, Rig Control, USB, Pactor, RTTY, CW Packet & more!

100,000 sold - All-time top selling data controller!

- Single USB connection to computer
- USB Sound Card built-in
- 3-Way Rig Control built-in - logic level, RS-232 & USB!
- Computer isolated from radio

**Now Shipping**

**As Always - Upgrade any PK-232 ever made to the PK-232SC!**

Customize your PK-232 with our complete line of upgrades and accessories.

The incredible PK-232SC again expands its role in your radio station. Now it connects to your computer with a single USB cable - no audio cables, no RS-232 cables! It has a built-in USB sound card with isolated audio I/O to your radio to prevent ground loops. The new logic level and RS-232 rig control is optically isolated for your Icom CI-V, Yaesu CAT, Kenwood and other radios. You never have enough downstream USB ports so we even added a pair for that new radio with USB rig control and other accessories.

## Signal Processing, Antenna Analysis, Data & Remote Control



### ■ TZ-900 Antenna Analyzer

*Once you use the TZ-900 - you'll never want to use any other!*

Sweep and analyze antennas in seconds. Zoom, Compare & Store Data. Sunlight-visible color graphics, handheld, rechargeable batteries, no computer required.



### ■ DSP-599zx Audio Signal Processor\*

Noise Reduction, precision highpass, lowpass, bandpass & notch filtering for audio, CW & data.



### ■ ANC-4 Antenna Noise Canceller

Kill Noise before it reaches your receiver! Great for suppressing power line noise, plasma TV noise & many other local electrical noises.

### ■ DSP-232+ Multimode Data Controller\*

Sound card interface, USB, Pactor, 1200/9600 Packet

### ■ PK-96/100 TNC - 1200/9600 Packet\*

Available with USB or RS-232

## HamLink™ Wireless and USB Remote Control & Audio



### ■ HamLinkUSB™ Rig Control Plus

Logic Level plus PTT

### ■ HamLinkBT-BTH+™ Bluetooth® Adaptor

Use a standard cellphone Bluetooth® headset to keep your hands free for driving and operating. Includes USB rig control for your station. Audio, VOX & PTT - Fixed & Mobile.

### ■ PK-232 RS-232-to-USB Adapter\*

Use the PK-232 with new computers!

*\*From the Timewave Fountain of Youth - Upgrades for many of our DSP & PK products. Call Us Now!*

- WA1–WZ (260)
- N, K, W (30)
- VA, VB, VC, VE, VY (50)

Yes, that means I started by recording Alpha-Alpha-One, Alpha-Alpha-Two, Alpha-Alpha-Three, etc. That's 980 files just in the U.S. and Canadian prefixes right there. Along the way, I have added in some foreign prefixes and calls, but for the most part, I have left my focus on North America and some of the Caribbean.

Now comes the fun part—the suffixes! Like anything, when you add another variable into the equation, the range of results becomes larger:

- A–Z (26 files)
- AA–ZZ (676 files)
- AAA–ZZZ (17,576 files)

Even by my standards, recording all of the 17,576 three-letter suffix combinations seemed a bit excessive, so I tried to figure out which ones are most active, and then I sat down and recorded some of those from time to time.

For many calls, the recorded prefixes and suffixes that I developed work together pretty well and sound good on the air, but that does not happen automatically. Because of that, I have recorded hundreds and hundreds of full calls so that it sounds even better on the air, especially when it comes to 2 × 1 calls like my own. For example, if you just use "Norway-Sugar-Three" and "Tango" for my NS3T call, it doesn't sound great. However, if you have "NS3T" already recorded along with a lot of other calls, they roll off the (recorded) tongue on the air much better. It wasn't hard to figure out what calls to record, as I just looked at my logs—3830 listings on the internet and contest results to see what calls are active—and recorded many of them. The downside is obvious, as it could mean a lot of work, but the reward is a recorded sound that hardly anyone can tell is not live.

How does it sound? I am biased. I think it sounds great. Here is a link from a November Sweepstakes contest to show you how it works calling CQ: <<http://www.radio-sport.net/ns3t-2a.mp3>>.

## The Power of Writelog

I also have greatly improved the sound of my contest voice files by using the power of my Writelog contest software, which allows a variety of extras when it comes to recorded files.

Let's say you are calling CQ and NN3W answers. You type NN3W into the log entry box and hit the key that fires your .WAV files exchange (for me that is the apostrophe key, next to "Enter"). Writelog immediately looks in your voice files folder for NN3W.wav. If it's not there, then the search gets shortened to NN3.wav, butted together with W.wav. It goes all the way down to N.wav, N.wav, 3.wav, W.wav if necessary.

However, since I know NN3W, his call is listed in my "Friends" file for SSB contests, where I have calls of people I know, plus their names (NN3W=NAME-RICH). That allows me to use the %H command to check each call for my "Friends" file, and if they are there, Writelog can send the "NAME-RICH" file so that it says "Thanks, Rich" and then goes into my exchange.

The same thing can be used in the NAQP contests, where the name is part of the exchange, as Writelog can read the name entry field (%F2) and will automatically send a greeting based on the name in that field. If I type in "Jack," Writelog will fire off a voice file that says "Thanks, Jack" followed by my exchange.

It took a lot of experimenting, but I also figured out ways to have one key do different things with a voice file, depending on what information is in the log entry window. For example, if the exchange involves a state, province, or section, pushing a certain key can trigger a file that says, "I need your state again" or "I need your section; what's your section?" However, if I have typed something such as "IA" into that specific log entry field, then pushing the same button will send out "Is that Iowa? India Alpha?" I have done the same for serial numbers and other common exchange information.

## I'm Not Wasting Time

I've had a number of people tell me I'm wasting my time with this project, that I could never win a contest with it, etc. While it may not be a match for the fast talkers who can get the rate meter above 500 in an SSB test, there is one area where they are no match for me. My call signs and my exchanges never stumble.

Next time there is a phone contest on the bands, listen for a while—especially on Sunday—and see how many times the big guns are flubbing their lines, stumbling over calls, getting tongue-tied. They are wasting time. Whether the contest period is 10, 12, 24, 36, or 48 hours, there is only so much time that we have on the air, and if you are losing time for any reason, you are losing points.

One area in which this system is very effective is with SO2R (Single Operator, 2 Radios). I'm not using any energy pushing the CQ button, since I use the automatic repeat feature in Writelog. Therefore, while my CQ is being transmitted, I can calmly listen on the other radio and get ready to pounce on another contact. Maybe someday I can take a thumb drive with my voice files to a big station somewhere and see how well it does there.

## The Bottom Line

As you can tell, this isn't the easiest project, but it has enabled me to get on the air at all hours of the day and night during an SSB contest without disturbing anyone in my house. I can play the role of "Happy S&P'er," or I can get on and call CQ, and probably no one realizes that I'm churning out sounds from my hard drive, instead of from my lungs and vocal chords.

Is it worth it? You bet it is. Is it for everyone? Probably not, but it is interesting.

The genesis for this article was a speech that I gave to a group of contesters who were gathered in Orlando, Florida for the 65th Orlando HamCation. I was ready to talk about my contesting website, <[radio-sport.net](http://radio-sport.net)>, or how my job in radio news can be much like contesting (sitting in the chair for hours at a time) or my news work in general, since I had some hams who were actual listeners at the event as well. At one point, tough, I decided to bring up the subject of my voice files project. Suddenly my speech was all about voice files with lots of intrigued hams.

"Who would have thought that would be the focus?" said Dan Street, K1TO, one of the organizers of the event. It reminded me that I did have something different on the hard drive of my shack computer. Thus, if you hear NS3T on the air in a phone contest, you will know that my microphone is not plugged in (it's in the cabinet) and that I'm not yelling myself hoarse.

## References

- Writelog: <<http://www.writelog.com>>
- Audacity: <<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>>

# ALINCO

144/440MHz FM DUAL BAND HANDHELD TRANSCEIVER

# DJ-V57T

**Value, Performance,  
Rugged and Easy!**

**Double Your Radio Fun with this  
Tough Talker Dual Band HT!**

Ergonomically designed to fit in the palm of your hand, this dual band HT is the newest member of the Alinco family and carries on the proud tradition of high quality transceivers that combine leading edge technology with simple operation. The sound quality will amaze you as its large 40mm internal speaker delivers crisp, clean audio.

**Engineered for success, this dual band is packed with features**

- 144/440MHz dual-band hand held transceiver
- Choice of 3 power output levels: High 5W(13.8VDC), Low 0.5W and userselectable Mid-power (1-3W)
- Quick-write memory channel (Uses a single key touch to copy current VFO data to the Lowest number of memory channels available)
- Direct frequency input through illuminated keypad
- High-grade water-resistant materials compatible to IPX7
- Rugged polycarbonate body resists dirt and dust
- Great audio with large 40mm internal speaker
- Easy-to-read backlit alphanumeric display
- 200 Memories, plus one call channel on each band
- VFO, Memory and Scan modes
- 39 CTCSS tone squelch (encode + decode) and 104 DCS
- Ni-MH standard and varieties of optional batteries including Li-ion
- Search-scan (programmed scanning) available on each band
- Tone burst function (1000, 1450, 1750 and 2100Hz)
- Battery-drain function avoids memory effect
- Two-touch repeater-setting access
- Internal VOX
- Wire cloning capability
- SMA antenna port
- 2-level attenuator
- DTMF encode and auto-dialer



Standard Accessories for the T-version

2m/70cm



**GRE**

GRE AMERICA, INC.

425 Harbor Blvd. Belmont, CA 94002

Tel: 650-591-1400 Fax: 650-591-2001

Web: <http://www.greamerica.com>

\* Specifications Subject to Change without notice



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

Our October survey asked about your involvement in amateur radio emergency and public service communications, and not surprisingly, three-quarters of the readers who responded are either currently (54%) or formerly (21%) involved in some way with this vital aspect of ham radio. Plus, nearly two-thirds (61%) of you have helped provide communications during at least one actual emergency, and 75% have helped out with at least one public service event.

Two-thirds of *CQ* readers are members of at least one emergency-communications-related group. Of that number, 73% belong to the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), followed by National Weather Service SKYWARN (64%), RACES (35%), an emcomm-focused radio club (28%), CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)(20%), other (14%), MARS (13%), SATERN (10%), Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (3%) and REACT (also 3%).

That same two-thirds of our readers have completed at least some formal emcomm training. Among them, 68% have taken a SKYWARN course, followed by 55% who have taken a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) course; 43% have miscellaneous other training, and 32% have completed an ARRL online emcomm course. Somewhat surprisingly with this level of activity and training, only 32% have ever held an emcomm leadership position, such as an ARRL Emergency Coordinator or RACES officer (only 10% currently).

Finally, 51% of readers say amateur radio is an active participant in their community's emergency response plan; 24% say they're not sure, 17% say yes, but mostly on paper, and 11% say no.

This month's winner of a free digital *CQ* subscription is Zaro Kovac, E73DU, of Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Reader Survey January 2012

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

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

This month, as we report on good DX returning to the upper HF bands, we'd like to know some more about your HF activities and experiences.

Please answer by circling the appropriate numbers on the reply card or by going to the following web link <[www.surveymonkey.com/s/CQJan12](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CQJan12)> [From the digital edition, just click on the link].

### 1. Are you currently active on HF?

Yes ..... 1  
No ..... 2

### 2. What is the first solar cycle you remember (as a ham or SWL)?

Cycle 17 (1933–1944) or earlier ..... 3  
Cycle 18 (1944–1954) ..... 4  
Cycle 19 (1954–1964) ..... 5  
Cycle 20 (1964–1976) ..... 6  
Cycle 21 (1976–1986) ..... 7  
Cycle 22 (1986–1996) ..... 8  
Cycle 23 (1996–2008) ..... 9  
Cycle 24 (2008–present) ..... 10

### 3. Which HF band is your favorite today?

160 meters (yes, we know it's technically MF) ..... 11  
80/75 meters ..... 12  
60 meters ..... 13  
40 meters ..... 14  
30 meters ..... 15  
20 meters ..... 16  
17 meters ..... 17  
15 meters ..... 18  
12 meters ..... 19  
10 meters ..... 20

### 4. How recently have you been on 10 meters?

Today ..... 21  
Within the past week ..... 22  
Within the past month ..... 23  
Within the past year ..... 24  
1–5 years ago ..... 25  
6–10 years ago ..... 26  
More than 10 years ago ..... 27  
I've never been on 10 meters ..... 28

### 5. If a new ham band is created in the vicinity of 500 kHz, how likely would you be to try to operate there?

Very likely ..... 29  
Somewhat likely ..... 30  
Somewhat unlikely ..... 31  
Very unlikely ..... 32  
Would need to learn more first ..... 33

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

# MFJ Balanced Line Antenna Tuner

Superb balance . . . Very wide matching range . . . Covers 1.8-54 MHz . . .

Cross-Needle SWR Wattmeter . . . Handles 300 Watts . . . Compact size . . .

The MFJ-974HB is a fully balanced true balanced line antenna tuner. It gives you superb current balance.

## Johnson Matchbox

For decades, the Johnson Matchbox has been the standard of comparison for balanced line antenna tuners. But, it had a severely limited matching range and covered only 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters.

The MFJ-974HB is its successor. It meets today's needs and even surpasses the Johnson Matchbox outstanding performance.

## Everything You Need

The MFJ-974HB gives you excellent current balance, very wide matching range (12-2000 Ohms) and covers 1.8 through 54 MHz continuously including all WARC bands, 160 Meters, 6 Meters and the new 60 Meter band. Handles 300 Watts SSB PEP and 150 Watts CW.

Tuning is fast and easy - - just three tuning controls. You can adjust for highly efficient broadband low-Q operation or use higher Q when you encounter extreme loads.

A large three-inch lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter lets you read SWR, peak or average forward and reflected power all at a glance on 300/60 or 30/6 Watt ranges.

A ground post is provided to ground one output terminal so you can also tune random wires and coax fed antennas.

Compact 7½Wx6Hx8D in. fits anywhere.



## Tunes any Balanced Line

The MFJ-974HB tunes any balanced lines including 600 Ohm open wire line, 450/300 Ohm ladder lines, 300/72 Ohm twin lead - - shielded or unshielded.

Superb current balance minimizes feed-line radiation that can cause troublesome TVI /RFI, painful RF bites, mysterious RF feedback problems and radiation pattern distortion.

## Excellent Balance, Excellent Design

The MFJ-974HB is a fully balanced wide range T-Network. Four 1000 Volt air variable capacitors are gear driven. A high-Q air wound tapped inductor is used for 80-10 Meters with separate inductors for 6 and 160 Meters. The tuning components are mounted symmetrically to insure electrical balance.

MFJ-974HB  
**\$209<sup>95</sup>**

A 1:1 current balun is placed on the low impedance 50 Ohm input side to convert the balanced T-

Network to un-balanced operation. An efficient balun is made of 50 ferrite beads on RG-303 Teflon™ coax to give very high isolation. It stays cool even at max power.

## Balanced Line = Extremely Low Loss

Balanced lines give extremely low loss.

Doublet, horizontal loop, vertical loop, quad, double extended Zepp, Lazy H, W8JK antennas all give efficient multi-band operation when fed with balanced lines.

## 6-80 Meter Balanced Line Tuner

MFJ-974B

**\$189<sup>95</sup>**

MFJ-974B, \$189.95. Same as MFJ-974H but for 6-80 Meter operation (no 160 Meters).



## 160-6 Meters All Band Doublet Antenna

MFJ-1777, \$59.95.

102 feet doublet antenna covers 160-6 Meters with balanced line tuner. Super strong custom fiberglass center insulator provides stress relief for 450 Ohm ladder line (100 feet included). Authentic glazed ceramic end insulators. Handles 1500 Watts.



# MFJ 1500 Watt Fully Balanced Antenna Tuner

Fully balanced MFJ-976 handles 1500 Watts legal limit . . . Extra-wide 12-2000 Ohms matching range . . . continuous 1.8 to 30 MHz coverage including all WARC bands . . . Four separate 500 pF in two gangs gives you a total of 2000 pF capacitance . . . Heavy duty 1:1 current balun . . . more!



MFJ-976  
**\$499<sup>95</sup>**

The MFJ-976 is a 1500 Watt Legal Limit fully balanced antenna tuner.

You get superb current balance, very wide matching range (12-2000 Ohms) and continuous 1.8-30 MHz coverage including all WARC bands. Handles full 1500 Watts SSB and CW.

You can tune any balanced lines including 600 Ohm open wire line, 450/300 Ohm ladder lines, 300/72 Ohm twin lead -- shielded or unshielded. Also tunes random wires and coax fed antennas.

MFJ's fully balanced extremely wide-range T-network gives you simple, fast three knob tuning. No complicated switching be-

tween high and low impedance and switching in additional capacitance of L-networks.

Four separate 500 pF in two gangs gives you a total of 2000 pF for highly efficient low loss operation on 160 Meters.

You get superb 10 Meter performance due to MFJ's low minimum capacitance and exclusive Self-Resonance Killer™ high-Q AirCore™ roller inductor with silver plated contacts.

Heavy duty 1:1 current balun gives you superb balance and stays cool even at 1.5kW.

True active peak reading lighted Cross-Needle SWR/Wattmeter lets you read SWR, true peak or average forward and reflected power all at a glance on 300/3000 Watt ranges. 12Wx6Hx15¼D inches.

## Ladder line, Twin lead, Insulators, Copper wire . . .

### Super-strong fiberglass 450 Ohm ladder line insulators

MFJ-16D01, \$8.95. Center insulator. Double weave ladder line stress-relief. Strong wire tie points. Hang hole.

MFJ-16E01, \$9.95. Feedpoint End Insulator. Double weave ladder line stress relief. Built-in SO-239 connector.

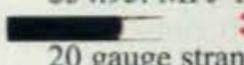
MFJ-16F01, \$8.95. Middle insulator. High-strength coax connection at midpoint with SO-239, quadruple weave-through ladder line stress relief.

MFJ-16C06, \$4.56. Authentic glazed ceramic Insulator, 6-pack.



### 450 Ohm Ladder Line

Extremely low loss, open-frame construction. Heavy duty black polyethylene. Solid 18 gauge wire. MFJ-18H050, 50 Ft., \$19.95. MFJ-18H100, 100 Ft., \$34.95. MFJ-18H250, 250 Ft., \$89.95.



### 300 Ohm Twin-Lead

20 gauge stranded copper wire. Black polyethylene. MFJ-18T050, 50 Ft., \$24.95. MFJ-18T100, 100 Ft., \$44.95. MFJ-18T250, 250 Ft., \$99.95.



### Copper Antenna Wire

Flexible, 7-strand, 14 gauge, hard solid-copper wire. Strong/long-lasting.

MFJ-18G100, 100 Ft., \$24.95. MFJ-18G250, 250 Ft., \$59.95.

## Free MFJ Catalog

Visit: <http://www.mfjenterprises.com>  
or call toll-free 800-647-1800

• 1 Year No Matter What™ warranty • 30 day money back guarantee (less s/h) on orders direct from MFJ

**MFJ** MFJ ENTERPRISES, INC.  
300 Industrial Pk Rd, Starkville,  
MS 39759 PH: (662) 323-5869  
Tech Help: (662) 323-0549

FAX: (662) 323-6551 8-4:30 CST, Mon.-Fri. Add shipping.  
Prices and specifications subject to change. (c) 2010 MFJ Enterprises, Inc.

MFJ . . . The World Leader in Ham Radio Accessories

**Announcing:**

# The 2012 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

## RTTY: February 11–12

**Starts: 0000 GMT Saturday      Ends: 2359 GMT Sunday**

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

**II. Period of Operation:** 48 hours. Single Operator stations may operate 30 of the 48 hours—*off times must be a minimum of 60 minutes* during which no QSO is logged. Multi-operator stations may operate the full 48 hours.

**III. Bands:** Only the 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands may be used. *Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged.*

**IV. Terms of Competition for All Categories:**

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

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

(c) Entrants must not exceed the total output power limit of their entry category on any band. Power is measured at the final output connector of the transmitter.

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

(e) Use of QSO alerting assistance is permitted in all categories.

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

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

**V. Entry Categories:**

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

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

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

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

**B. Single Operator Overlay Categories:** Single Operator entrants may **also** submit their log for **one** of the categories shown below by adding an additional line in the Cabrillo log file header called CATEGORY-OVERLAY. All Overlay entries are grouped into high power and low power in the results.

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

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

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

(a) **Single-Transmitter (MULTI-ONE):** Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time. A maximum of ten (10) band changes may be made in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). For example, a change from 20 meters to 40 meters and then back to 20 meters counts as two band changes. Use a single serial number sequence for the entire log.

(b) **Two-Transmitter (MULTI-TWO):** A maximum of two transmitted signals is permitted at any time on different bands.

Either transmitter may work any and all stations. A station may only be worked once per band regardless of which transmitter is used. **The log must indicate which transmitter made each QSO** (column 81 of CABRILLO QSO template for CQ contests). Each transmitter may make a maximum of eight (8) band changes in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). For example, a change from 20 meters to 40 meters and then back to 20 meters counts as two band changes. Use a separate serial number sequence for each band.

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

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

**VII. Contact Points:**

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

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

(c) Contacts between stations in the same country are worth 1 point on 28, 21, and 14 MHz and two (2) points on 7 and 3.5 MHz.

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

(a) A PREFIX is the letter/numeral combination which forms the first part of the amateur call. Examples: N8, W8, WD8, HG1, HG19, KC2, OE2, OE25, LY1000, etc. Any difference in the numbering, lettering, or order of same shall count as a

separate prefix. A station operating from a DXCC country different from that indicated by its call sign is required to sign portable. The portable prefix must be an authorized prefix of the country/call area of operation. In cases of portable operation, the portable designator will then become the prefix. Example: N8BJQ operating from Wake Island would sign N8BJQ/KH9 or N8BJQ/NH9. KH6XXX operating from Ohio must use an authorized prefix for the U.S. 8th district (/W8, /AD8, etc.). Portable designators without numbers will be assigned a zero (0) after the second letter of the portable designator to form the prefix. Example: PAVN8BJQ would become PAV0. All calls without numbers will be assigned a zero (0) after the first two letters to form the prefix. Example: XEFTJW would count as XE0. Maritime mobile, mobile, /A, /E, /J, /P, or other license class identifiers do not count as prefixes.

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

**IX. Scoring:** A station may be worked once on each band for QSO point credit. Prefix credit may be taken only once.

**(a) Single-Operator:**

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

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

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

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

To be eligible for an award, a Single Operator station must show a minimum of 4 hours of operation. Multi-operator stations must operate a minimum of 12 hours.

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

Only one plaque will be awarded per entry. A station winning a World plaque will not be considered for a sub-area award. That award will be given to the runner-up for that area if the number of entries justifies the award.

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

(i) In every participating country.

# radiosport

headsets  
www.arlancommunications.com



## AT LAST RUGGED - QUIET COMFORTABLE ARTICULATE RS20S

THE PERFECT DX & CONTEST HEADSET

STEREO/DIVERSITY  
LISTEN ONLY \$85

"DREAM" EDITION W/  
EAR GELS &  
CLOTH COVERS \$119

SEE OUR FULL LINE OF USER  
CONFIGURABLE BOOM-MIC  
HEADSETS & ACCESSORIES  
WWW.ARLANCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

TO ORDER CALL NOW  
805-504-3944

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY HEADSETS FOR AMATEUR RADIO

## THE ORIGINAL ULTIMATE PADDLE



- Non-skid feet
- Stainless steel adjustable spring for different fists
- Nylon & stainless self adjusting needle bearings
- Gold plated solid silver contact points
- Large Clear Plastic Handles
- Unmatched Responsiveness

Call For Free Color Brochure!

www.bencher.com  
email:bencher@bencher.com

**BENCHER, INC.**

TEL: 847-838-3195 FAX: 847-838-3479  
241 Depot Street, Antioch, IL 60002

## W2IHY Technologies

Outstanding Transmit Audio  
Is Our Specialty

### 8 Band EQ

W2IHY 8 Band EQ & Noise Gate Thousands of Satisfied Users Worldwide



Add the legendary W2IHY 8 Band Equalizer And Noise Gate to your shack and get ready for great audio reports! From smooth rag-chew audio that makes them ask what you're running ... to penetrating DX/Contest audio that gets results, wide-range adjustability is at your command. Noise Gate reduces background noise for a cleaner, more effective signal. Universal Interface lets you use most any microphone with any radio including classics. I-K-Y selector for plug-n-play with popular brand micro-phones. Switched outputs for 2 radios. Headphone Monitor. RFI protection.

### EQplus By W2IHY

Premium Audio Processing



Did you turn on an amplifier? Your signal is loud and squeaky-clean. EQplus users hear that report all the time. Compressor/Limiter increases talk power without the distortion and restricted frequency response of ordinary speech processors. Dual Band EQ, Downward Expander for noise reduction, Effects for psychoacoustic magic. LED Bar Graph. Front panel controls. Universal Interface matches most all mics, all radios. I-K-Y mic selector. Switched outputs for 3 radios. Headphone Monitor. RFI protection. Powerful stand alone system or combine with W2IHY 8-Band EQ for maximum adjustability.

Products purchased from W2IHY include 30 Day Money Back Guarantee and 3 Year Parts/Labor Warranty. Top-rated Product Quality, Technical Support and Customer Service.



845-889-4253  
email: julius@w2ihy.com  
order online at  
www.w2ihy.com

**W2IHY Technologies Inc.**  
19 Vanessa Lane  
Staatsburg, NY 12580



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

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

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

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

(b) Participation is limited to members residing in or operating from a local geographic area (exception: DXpeditions specially organized for operation in the contest and manned by members).

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

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

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

(b) **Single-band entrants are required to include all contacts made during the contest period, even if on other bands.** Only contacts made on the band specified in the Cabrillo header or summary sheet will be considered for scoring purposes. Logs with contacts only on one band will be classified as single band entries.

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

(d) **E-mail or Web upload is the expected method of log submission.** Logs in CABRILLO format should be sent to <rtty@cqwx.com>. Include only your callsign in the "Subject:" line of your e-mail. Web upload of logs is available on

the CQ WPX Web site at <www.cqwxrtty.com>. All logs received via e-mail will be confirmed via e-mail. A listing of logs received can be found on the CQ WPX RTTY Web Site.

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

(f) **Instructions for paper logs:** All paper logs should be sent to Paper Logs, Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA. Please mark WPX RTTY on the envelope. Each paper log entry must be accompanied by a Summary Sheet listing all scoring information, the category of competition, and the entrant's name and mailing address in BLOCK LETTERS.

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

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

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

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

**XIV. Declaration:** By submitting an entry in the CQ WPX RTTY Contest you agree that: (1) you have read and understood the rules of the contest and agree to be bound by them, (2) you have operated according to all rules and regulations of your country that pertain to amateur radio, (3) your log entry may be made open to the public, and 4) all actions and decisions of the WPX RTTY Contest Committee are official and final.

**XV. Deadline:** All entries must be e-mailed or postmarked NO LATER than March 1, 2012. Logs e-mailed or postmarked after the deadline may be ineligible for any awards.

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

## 2012 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention

in conjunction with



### Yuma Hamfest & Arizona State Convention



### Feb. 17 & 18, 2012

Yuma County Fairgrounds  
2520 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yuma, Arizona

[www.yumahamfest.org](http://www.yumahamfest.org)

Vendors & Exhibitors  
Consignment Sales  
License Testing  
Hourly Door Prizes  
On-site RV Camping  
Famous Buzzard BBQ  
ARRL Forum  
\$5.00 Admission

Tailgating (Swap Meet)  
Full Seminar Schedule  
DXCC Card Checking  
Grand Prizes worth \$10K  
Emergency Preparedness  
iPad 2 Admission Prize  
Hospitality Area  
Antenna Clinic & T-Hunt

# AMERITRON . . . 800 Watts . . . \$949!

More hams use Ameritron AL-811/H amplifiers than any other amplifier in the world!



Only the Ameritron AL-811H gives you four fully neutralized 811A transmitting

AL-811H  
**\$949**  
Suggested Retail  
4-Tubes, 800 Watts

tubes. You get absolute stability and superb performance on higher bands that can't be matched by un-neutralized tubes.

AL-811  
**\$799**  
Suggested Retail  
3-Tubes, 600 Watts

You get a quiet desktop linear that's so compact it'll slide right into your operating position -- you'll hardly know it's there . . . until QRM sets in. And you can conveniently plug it into your nearest 120 VAC outlet -- no special wiring needed.

You get all HF band coverage (with

license) -- including WARC and most MARS bands at 100% rated output. Ameritron's *Adapt-A-Volt*™ hi-silicon core power transformer has a special buck-boost winding that lets you compensate for high/low power line voltages.

You also get efficient full size heavy duty tank coils, slug tuned input coils, operate/standby switch, transmit LED, ALC, dual illuminated meters, QSK with optional QSK-5, pressurized cooling that you can hardly hear, full height computer grade filter capacitors and more. 13 3/4" W x 8" H x 16" D inches.

**AL-811, \$799.** Like AL-811H, but has three 811A tubes and 600 Watts output.

## AMERITRON no tune Solid State Amplifiers

### ALS-500M 500 Watt Mobile Amp



ALS-500M  
**\$899**  
Suggested Retail

500 Watts PEP/400W CW output, 1.5-22 MHz, instant bandswitching, no tuning, no warm-up. SWR, load fault, thermal overload protected. On/Off/Bypass switch. Re-remote on/off control. DC current meter. Ex-tremely quiet fan. 13.8 VDC. 9Wx3 1/2"Hx15D in., 7 lbs. ALS-500RC, \$49, Remote Head.

### ALS-600 Station 600 Watt FET Amp



ALS-600  
**\$1499**  
Suggested Retail

No tuning, no fuss, no worries -- just turn on and operate. 600 Watts PEP/500W CW, 1.5-22 MHz, instant bandswitching, SWR protected, extremely quiet, SWR/Wattmeter, ALC control. 120/220 VAC. Inrush protected. 9 1/2"Wx6"Hx12D in. ALS-600S, \$1599, ALS-600 with 10 lb. switching power supply.

## AMERITRON full legal limit amplifiers

AMERITRON legal limit amps use a super heavy duty Peter Dahl Hypersil™ power transformer capable of 2.5 kW!

### Most powerful -- 3CX1500/8877



AL-1500  
**\$3495**  
Eimac® Tube  
AL-1500F  
**\$3095**  
Suggested Retail Imported tube

Ameritron's most powerful amplifier uses the herculean 3CX1500/8877 ceramic tube. 65 watts drive gives you full legal output -- it's just loafing with a 2500 Watts power supply.

### Toughest -- 3CX1200A7



AL-1200  
**\$3459**  
Suggested Retail  
Get ham radio's toughest tube with the

Ameritron AL-1200 -- the Eimac® 3CX1200A7. It has a 50 Watt control grid dissipation. What makes the Ameritron AL-1200 stand out from other legal limit amplifiers? The answer: A super heavy duty power supply that loafs at full legal power - it can deliver the power of more than 2500 Watts PEP two tone output for a half hour.

### Classic -- Dual 3-500Gs



AL-82  
**\$2745**  
Suggested Retail  
This linear gives you full legal output using a pair

of genuine 3-500Gs. Competing linears using 3-500Gs can't give you 1500 Watts because their lightweight power supplies can't use these tubes to their full potential.

Call your dealer for your best price!

Free Catalog: 800-713-3550

## AMERITRON

. . . the world's high power leader!

116 Willow Road, Starkville, MS 39759  
TECH (662) 323-8211 • FAX (662) 323-6551  
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST Monday - Friday  
For power amplifier components call (662) 323-8211  
<http://www.ameritron.com>

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. ©2010 Ameritron.

AMERITRON . . . the world's high power leader!

Whisper quiet desktop amp plugs into



AL-80B  
**\$1449**  
Suggested Retail

120 VAC to give full kilowatt SSB PEP output. Ameritron's exclusive *DynamicALC*™ doubles average SSB power out and *Instantaneous RF Bias*™ gives cooler operation. All HF bands. 850 Watts CW out, 500 Watts RTTY out, extra heavy duty power supply, 3-500G tube, 70% efficiency, tuned input, Pi/Pi-L output, inrush current protection, dual Cross-Needle meters, QSK compatible, 48 lbs. 14Wx8 1/2"Hx15 1/2"D in. **Two-year warranty.**

### Near Legal Limit™ Amplifier



AL-572  
**\$1695**  
Suggested Retail

New class of *Near Legal Limit*™ amplifier gives you 1300 Watt PEP SSB power output for 60% of price of a full legal limit amp! 4 rugged 572B tubes. Instant 3-second warm-up, plugs into 120 VAC. Compact 14 1/2"W x 8 1/2"H x 15 1/2"D inches fits on desktop. 160-15 Meters. 1000 Watt CW output. Tuned input, instantaneous RF Bias, dynamic ALC, parasitic killer, inrush protection, two lighted cross-needle meters, multi-voltage transformer.

### ALS-1300 Solid State 1200 Watt Amp



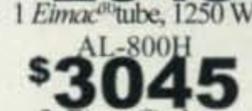
ALS-1300  
**\$2899**  
Suggested Retail

Ameritron's highest power solid state FET no-tune amplifier gives you instant bandswitching, no tuning, no warm-up, no tubes to baby and no fuss! Outstanding reliability is insured by using eight rugged MRF-150 power FET's mounted on the dual heavy duty heat sink. Run up to 1200 Watts of clean SSB output power (just 100 Watts drive gives full rated power) for continuous coverage between 1.5-22 MHz. Compact 10Wx6 1/2"Hx18D in.

### HF Amps with Eimac 3CX800A7



Suggested Retail  
AL-800  
**\$2045**



AL-800H  
**\$3045**  
2 Eimac® tubes, 1.5 kW Plus  
With Imported Tube  
AL-800F, \$1875  
AL-800HF, \$2745

These compact desktop amplifiers with 3CX800A7 tubes cover 160-15 Meters including WARC bands. Adjustable slug tuned input circuit, grid protection, front panel ALC control, vernier reduction drives, heavy duty 32 lb. silicone steel core transformer, high capacitance computer grade filter capacitors. Multi-voltage operation, dual lighted cross-needle meters. 14 1/2"W x 8 1/2"H x 16 1/2"D in.

## Ameritron brings you the finest high power accessories!

### ARB-704 amp-to-rig interface . . . \$59<sup>95</sup>

Protects rig from damage by keying line transients and makes hook-up to your rig easy!

### ADL-1500 Dummy Load with oil . . . \$74<sup>95</sup>

Oil-cooled. 50 Ohms. 1500 Watts/5 minutes. SWR < 1.2 to 30 MHz. Low SWR to 400 MHz.

### ADL-2500 fan-cooled Dry Dummy Load, \$209<sup>95</sup>

Whisper quiet fan, 2.5kW/1 minute on, ten off. 300W continuous. SWR < 1.25 to 30 MHz. < 1.4 to 60 MHz.

### ATP-100 Tuning Pulser . . . \$69<sup>95</sup>

Safely tune up for full power, best linearity. Prevents overheating, tube damage, power supply stress, component failure.

AMERITRON . . . the world's high power leader!

# The Operational Amplifier (continued)

To continue our op amp discussion from last month let us now look at fig. 1. Here we have connected V+in to ground (or 0 volts). As a result V-in will be forced to a value that is within 100 microvolts (in our circuit example) of 0 volts. We have also added two resistors to the V-in terminal. One, called Rin, is connected to our input source, while the other, Rf, is connected to the output of the op-amp.

For this example let us also assume that the values of both resistors are the same. Since V-in must be at zero volts (because V+in is connected to ground), all of the input voltage has to be present across Rin. Remembering what we discussed last month, you will now see that the output voltage must rise to the point where it is essentially equal to the input voltage (for now we will ignore the 100-microvolt offset) since its other end is at V-in (or 0). Also, all of it has to be present across Rf. Furthermore, since the input is connected to V-in, the output must be of the opposite polarity. An input of +1 volt therefore will result in an output of -1 volt.

This is one of the most common conventional

op-amp circuit configurations. You might also immediately realize that if Rf is increased, let us say to 10 times Rin, the output now will have to increase to 10 times the input. This leads us to the simple formula for this circuit, which is  $-V_{out} = V_{in}(R_f/R_{in})$ .

In the event that you do not want the inversion in polarity, fig. 2 shows the same basic circuit but with the input applied to V+in. Now the formula becomes  $V_{out} = V_{in} (R_f/R_{in})$ . Note that in both cases of our example the offset voltage was ignored, as it was only a tiny portion of the actual values. In "real world" examples it may (or may not) be important.

To reiterate, you should remember that the value of V-in (with respect to common) will always be essentially the same as the value of V+in (also with respect to common). Any input to a series resistor will always cause the output to go to a value where the V+in and V-in voltages (including, but not necessarily limited to, 0) are essentially the same. This means that in our example we can connect additional resistors to V-in as shown in fig. 3. The output of the op-amp will then be the sum of all of the voltages applied to these resistors as shown in

\*c/o CQ magazine

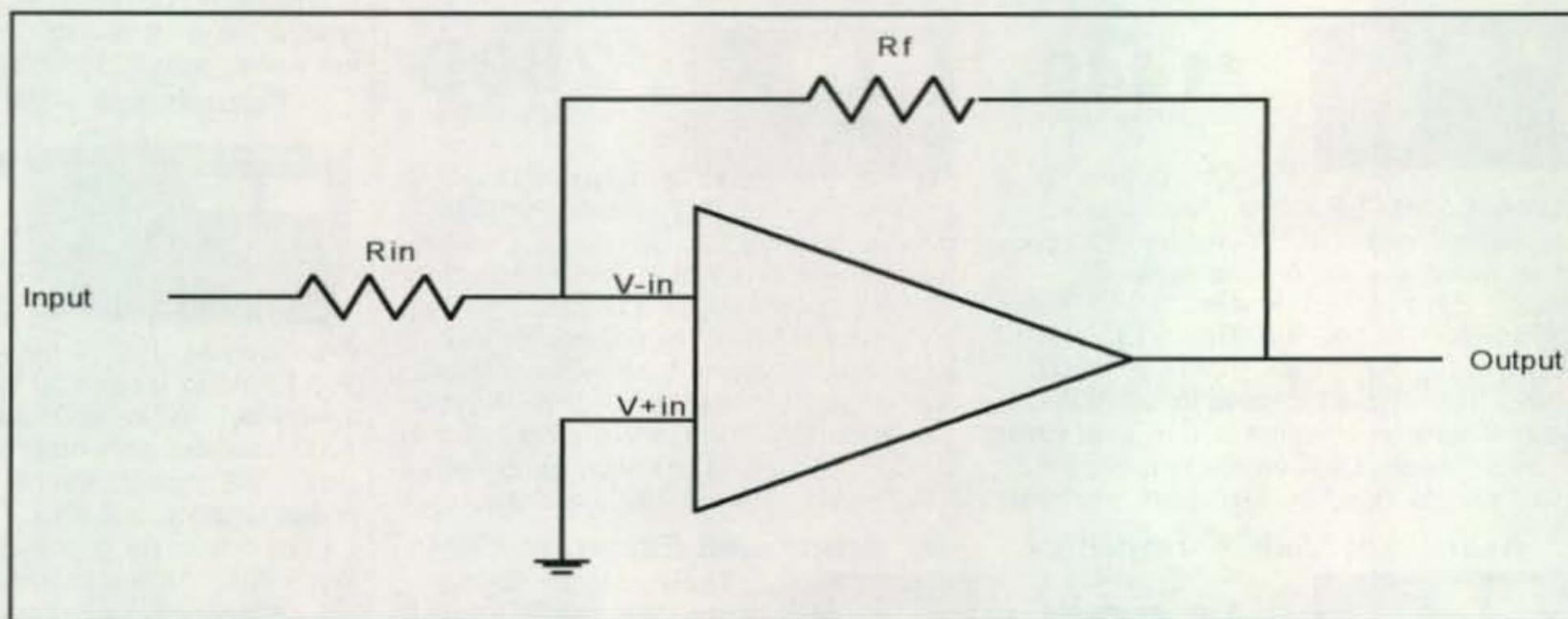


Fig. 1- Common inverting op-amp circuit.

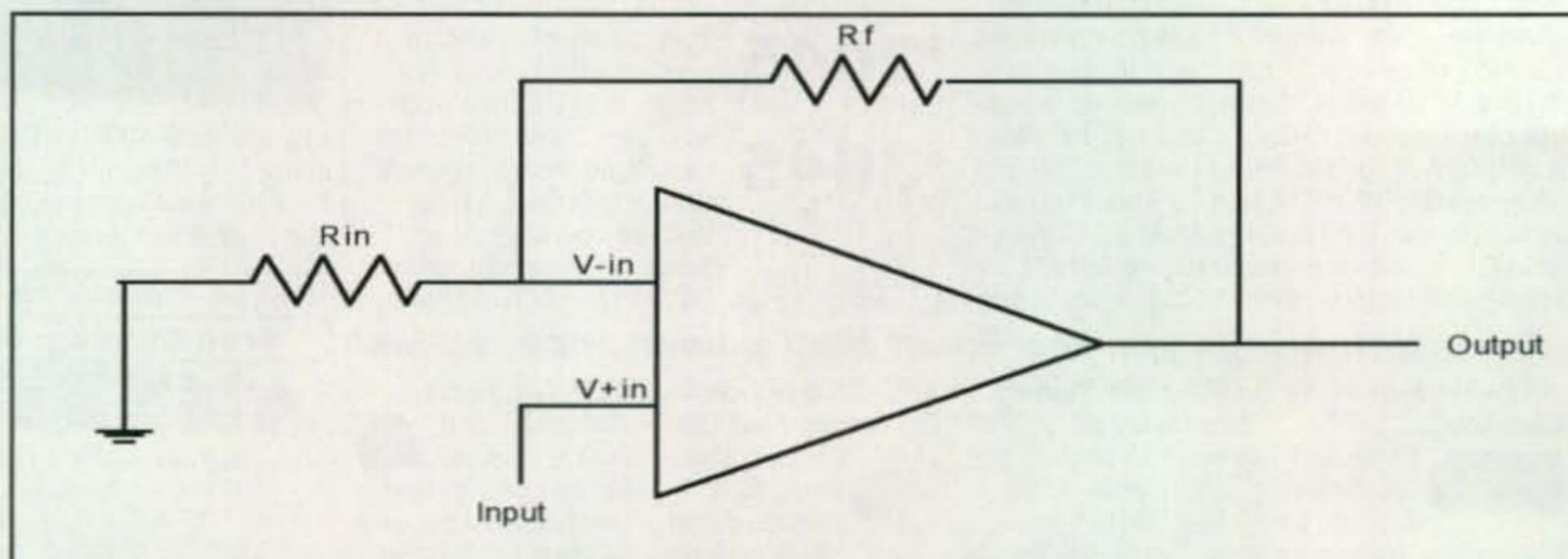


Fig. 2- Common non-inverting op-amp circuit.

# Winter Finds at the CQ Store

FREE shipping on orders of \$100 or more!

## HF Antenna Collection

RSGB 252 pages.



A collection of outstanding articles and short pieces which were published in *Radio Communication* magazine. Includes single- and multi-element, horizontal and vertical antennas, extremely small transceiving and receiving antennas, feeders, tuners and more!

Order: RSHFAC \$33.00

## Backyard Antennas

RSGB 208 pages

Antenna guru Peter Dodd explains how using a variety of simple techniques make it possible to achieve very high performance from a compact antenna.



Order: RSBYA \$33.00

## Virtual Radar Explained



By Mick Richards, G4WNC  
RSGB

The reception and plotting of ADS-B transmissions for aircraft. Great for aviation enthusiasts.

Order: RSVRE \$16.95



## Guide to VHF/UHF Amateur Radio

By Ian Poole, G3YWX  
RSGB 112 pages

Everything you will need to help you enjoy VHF/UHF to the fullest. Choosing the right transmitter, receiver, antenna, utilizing the correct part if each band and more!

Order No. RSGVUAR \$16.00

## HF Antennas For All Locations

by Les Moxon, G6XN



RSGB 322 pages

Details the design and construction of hundreds of amateur antennas. You'll sure to find one antenna in this collection that will work for you!

Order RSHFAAL \$33.50

## Understanding, Building & Using Baluns & Ununs

by Jerry Sevick, W2FMI

The successor to the popular and authoritative Baluns and Ununs. Great deal of new tutorial material, and designs not in previous book, with crystal clear explanations of how and why they work.

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95



## The Short Vertical Antenna and Ground Radial



by Sevick, W2FMI

Small but solid guide walks you through the design and installation of inexpensive, yet effective short HF vertical antennas.

6 X 9 Paperback \$10.00

## Sloper Antennas

By Juergen A. Weigl, OE5CWL

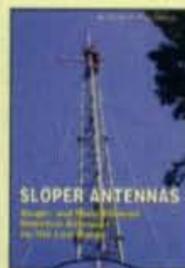
Single- and Multi-Element  
Directive Antennas  
for the Low Bands

With calculations and practical experience, this book shows which basic concepts have to be considered for sloper antennas for the low bands.

6 X 9 Paperback \$24.95

New! CD Version \$18.95

Buy both for only \$36.95



## Reflections III

by Walter Maxwell, W2DU

Includes all the information in Reflections I & II and much, much more! This fully revised and updated, this 424-page, third edition is truly a must have!

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$39.95

New! CD Version \$29.95

Buy both for only \$59.95



## VHF/UHF Handbook

Edited by Andy Barter, G8ATD  
RSGB 320 pages.

Guides you through the theory and practice of VHF/UHF operating and transmission lines. Includes information on getting started, antennas, constructing your own equipment, satellite ops, local nets and specialized modes.



Order: RXVUH \$29.50

## HF Antennas for Everyone



Edited by Giles Rad, G1MFG  
RSGB

No matter the size of your available space - you'll find antenna designs that will help you get your signals in and out!

Order: RSHFAE \$27.95

## HF Amateur Radio

RSGB 2007 Second Edition



This full revised and expanded second edition guides you through setting up an efficient amateur radio station, equipment to choose, installation, the best antenna for your location and MUCH more.

Order: RSHFAR \$23.00

## Collins Radio Repair & Tune-Up DVD Guides

From Hi-Res Communications, Inc., these well-produced, authoritative DVDs cover all the most common repair and tune-up subjects on these classic radios. It's like having an experienced professional right next to you!



**Collins KWM-2**  
2 disc set, 236 minutes  
Order No. C-KWM  
\$89.95



**Collins 75S-3/32S-3**  
2disc set, 226 minutes  
Order No. C-75S  
\$89.95



**Collins 30L-1**  
Single Disc, 61 minutes  
Order No. C-30L  
\$39.95

Shipping & Handling: U.S. add \$7 for the first item, \$3.50 for the second and \$2 for each add'l item. FREE shipping on orders over \$100 to one U.S. address. CN/MX-\$15 for 1st item, \$7 for 2nd and \$3 for each add'l. All Other Countries-\$25 for 1st item, \$10 for 2nd and \$5 for each additional. Buy Both=single item!

CQ Communications, Inc., 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801  
Call: 1-800-853-9797 • Fax: 516-681-2926 • website: www.cq-amateur-radio.com

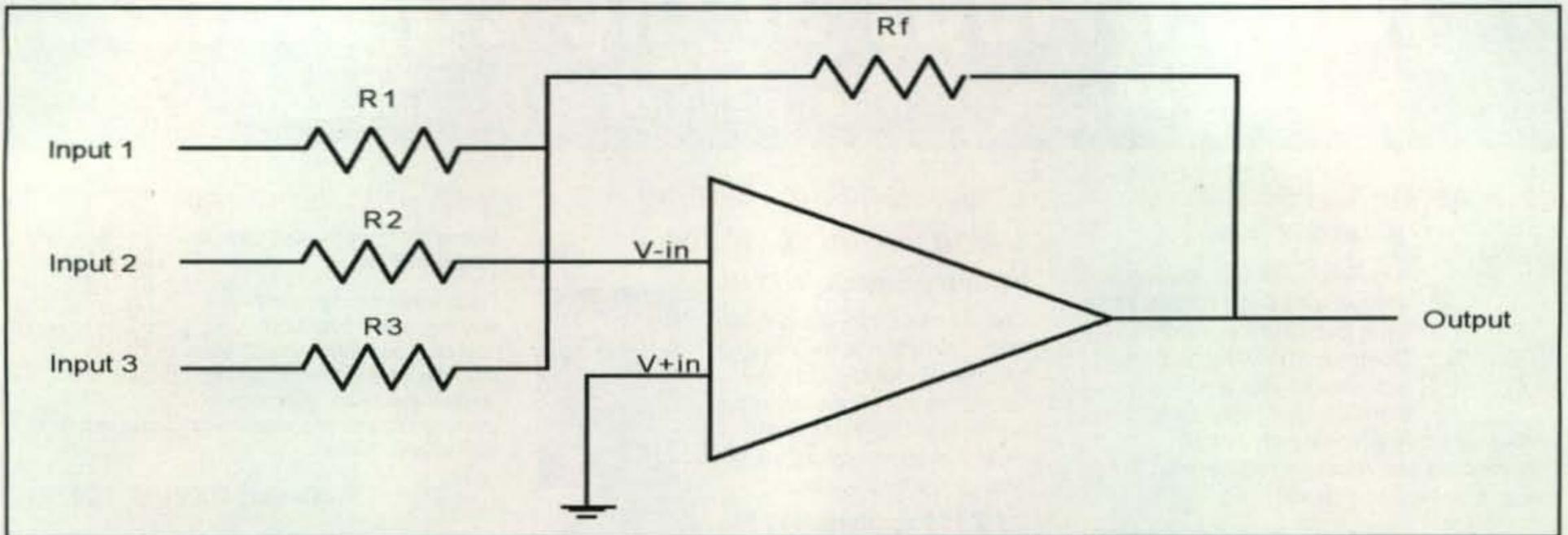


Fig. 3- Common multi-input inverting op-amp circuit.

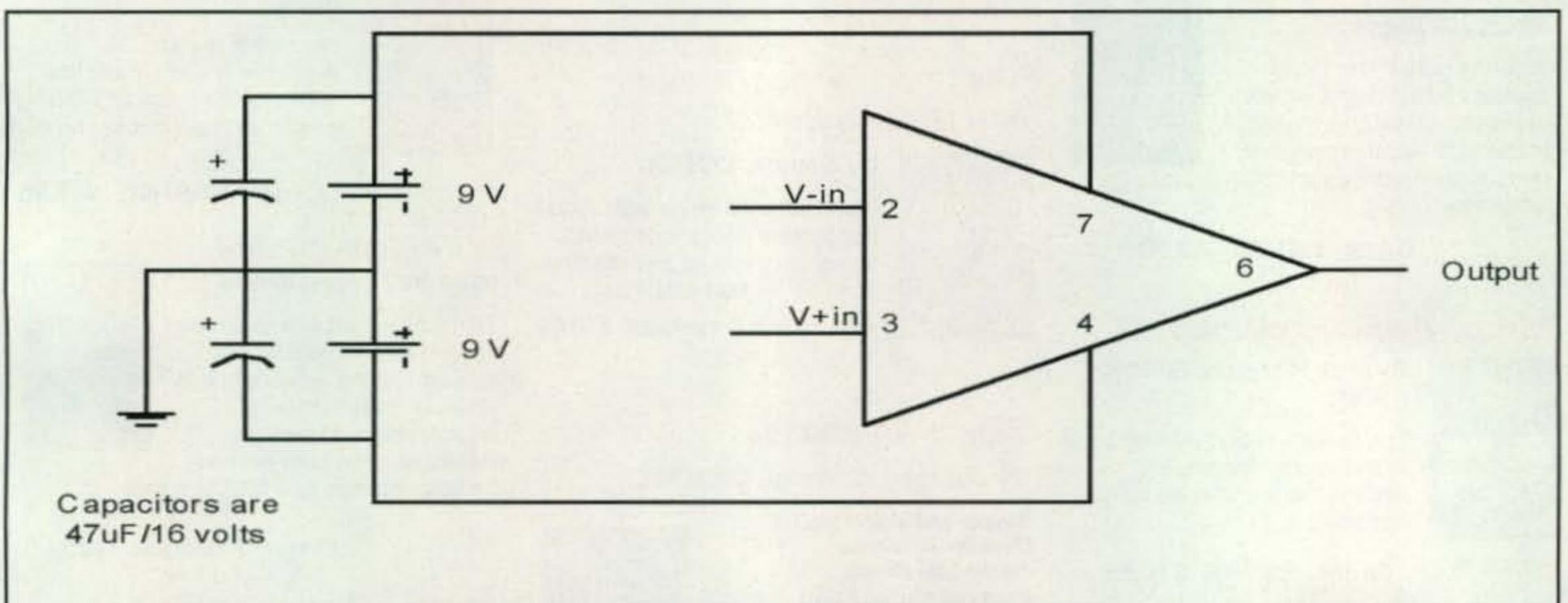


Fig. 4- Simple op-amp test circuit described in text.

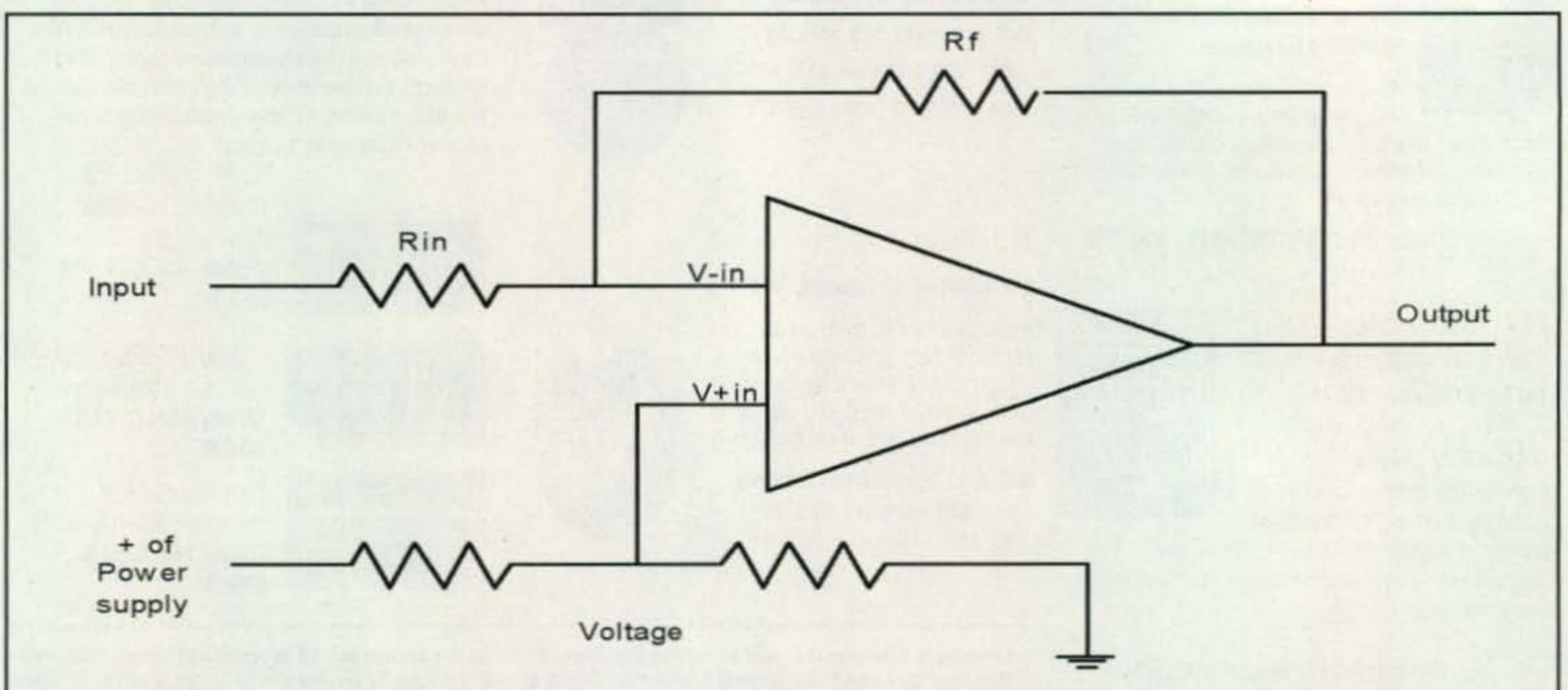


Fig. 5- Using a single power supply to power an op-amp circuit.

the diagram, since the values of V+in and V-in are both 0.

This circuit is an ideal mixer, since one input will not affect any other input. In addition, if the various input resistors were potentiometers, the circuit would be the basis of a good audio (or RF, for that matter) mixer.

At this point we would suggest that you get yourself a couple of inexpensive op-amps (the LM-741 is a good, readily available choice) and build the test circuit of fig. 4. Your power supply will be a couple of 9 volt batteries, and your breadboard can be one of the low-cost so-called "solderless breadboards." These can be used to quickly configure various circuits and will not "break the bank." Since op-amps can be touchy, a couple of electrolytic capacitors should be added between the positive and negative supplies to ground as shown. You should also have a simple power supply for your signal source and a DVM. In a pinch, you can always use a 1.5-volt battery as your signal source.

Before leaving you on your own, I would like to take a moment to discuss power supplies for op-amp circuits. Up to now in our discussion we have used both positive and negative supplies. An op-amp can be run from a single supply, however, by biasing it as shown in fig. 5. Here the V+in terminal is brought to a point that is half of the power supply by means of two resistors. This now means that the "0 point" will be half of the power supply, or 4.5 volts in this example. With no input to the circuit of fig. 1, the output will be +4.5 volts. With a +1 volt input, the output will be +3.5 volts, and with a -1 volt input, the output will be +5.5 volts. You get the idea.

So far we have discussed the very basics of "ideal" op-amps and given some very simple examples. In the real world, however, all of the parameters of each specific op-amp will determine how well a particular device will operate in your application. If you try to repeat the examples given, you will at least quickly see the "real world" results of the device. Then, when you are more familiar with the operation of the device, it would be a good idea to search the internet or even the application notes published by the various semiconductor manufacturers for more elaborate circuits and applications with which to experiment.

The operational amplifier can be a very powerful circuit element that can be used in countless applications way beyond our simple introduction.

Have fun experimenting and a very Happy New Year to all!

73, Irwin, WA2NDM



**GREEN HERON ENGINEERING LLC**

www.greenheronengineering.com

(585) 217-9093

info@greenheronengineering.com



**RT-21 DIGITAL ROTOR CONTROLLER**

**Unmatched Performance for ANY Rotor**

"Point-and-Shoot" preset, USB and RS-232 control, manual push buttons

Effective ramp up/down reduces stress on tower and antennas

Soft Limits support side mount or extended travel with quickest rotate to heading

Master/slave for stacked arrays

Advanced features not found anywhere else

**AMATEUR NET - \$559.00**

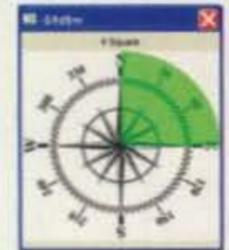


**GH EVERYWARE WIRELESS CABLE**

Allows shared IP access to your rotors, antenna relays and serial devices

Eliminates control boxes and cables to relay and serial devices, up to 1 mile

Create your own on-screen controls using existing computer for display and network routing



Embedded USB eliminates the need for computer RS-232 ports

Reasonably priced base and remote modules allow flexible configurations



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



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

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



**Low Pass Harmonic Filters**  
2 to 30MHz



**HF Broadband RF Transformers**  
2 to 30MHz



**RF Transformers**  
2 to 300MHz  
Type "U"



**HF Power Splitters/Combiners**

- 2 Port:**
  - PSC-2L Set 600W PEP
  - PSC-2H Set 1000W PEP
  - PSC-2H4 Set 4000W PEP
- 4Port:**
  - PSC-4L Set 1200W PEP
  - PSC-4H Set 2000W PEP
  - PSC-4H5 Set 5000W PEP

**CCI Communication Concepts, Inc.**  
508 Millstone Drive Beavercreek, OH 45434-5840  
Email: cci.dayton@pobox.com  
www.communication-concepts.com  
Phone (937) 426-8600 FAX (937) 429-3811

**WorldRadio Online**

- \* DX World
- \* Rules & Regs
- \* DX Predictions
- \* Propagation
- \* Aerials and more!

**A general interest online only ham magazine with a special focus on the human side of amateur radio and on projects and activities accessible to the average ham. Regular topics include DXing, emergency communications and "trail friendly" radio!**

**Charter Subscription Special!**

- 1 year Charter Subscription only \$9.97
- 2 years \$29.95 • 3 years \$39.95

View on your PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android (2.0+)



**WorldRadio Online**

25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801

1-800-853-9797 www.worldradiomagazine.com

# ITU World Radio Conference to be held Jan. 23 to Feb. 17, 2012

## Amateur radio access to new spectrum around 500 kHz is on the agenda; 60 meters endangered

The International Telecommunication Union holds major international meetings, called World Radio Conferences (WRC), every three or four years. The next month-long WRC-12 will be convened at ITU headquarters in Geneva beginning in mid-January. The conference has the very important task of reviewing the international treaty that governs all radiocommunications.

It will be preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly from January 16–20 which will decide the structure, working methods, and schedule of the various study groups that will address each agenda item.

The radio spectrum is a valuable and limited natural resource. Radio waves do not stop at national boundaries, and international coordination is required to eliminate interference between countries. National governments of the world manage their radio services in accordance with the telecommunications regulatory framework established at these World Radio Conferences.

### History of International Radio Regulation

The history of international radio regulation extends back before there was radio, to the formation of the International Telegraph Union in 1865. In 1876, after the invention of the telephone, the ITU drew up international rules governing telephony. The development of radio around the turn of the last century led to the first International Radiotelegraph Conference in Berlin in 1906. The two groups met separately until 1932, when they were merged to form today's International Telecommunication Union. The ITU became a United Nations specialized organization in 1947, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Its stated goal was to extend, improve, and promote all forms of international telecommunications.

Member countries have met periodically over the past century. These gatherings, originally held every ten or twenty years and covering all radio services, used to be called World Administrative Radio Conferences, or WARCs. At the 1979 WARC, three new HF amateur radio bands were established: 30 meters, 17 meters, and 12 meters. That is why today these three bands are often referred to by hams as the "WARC bands."

The ITU was restructured in 1992 and future conferences became known as World Radio



Conferences (WRCs). Because telecommunications technology changes so rapidly and is so important to the global economy, the ITU now holds WRCs more frequently and with limited agendas. The last WRC was held in 2007 and the next, WRC-12, will convene this month. In attendance will be 193 ITU member states. (The most recent member to join the ITU is South Sudan, which became a member on July 14, 2011.) Together they will discuss and vote on possible changes to the International Radio Regulations.

These regulations tend to be very general in scope, thus providing a certain amount of national flexibility and application. These accords have the force of an international treaty once ratified at the national level.

ITU membership is open to governments, which may join the Union as Member States, as well as to private organizations such as carriers, equipment manufacturers, funding bodies, research and development organizations, and international and regional telecommunication organizations, which can join the ITU as Sector Members. At present there are around 700 Sector Members. The International Amateur Radio Union, IARU, has official observer status at the ITU.

All United Nations countries are automatically members of the ITU, and those that are not UN members can be voted in by two-thirds vote. In 1993, the ITU was remodeled into three bureaus, or sectors. They are the Telecom Standardization Sector (commonly referred to as ITU-T), the Telecom Development Sector (ITU-D), and the Radiocommunications Sector (ITU-R). Each of the three ITU bureaus has various advisory and study groups.

According to the ITU, the objective of the Radiocommunication Sector is "...to ensure rational, equitable, efficient, and economical use of the radiofrequency spectrum by all radiocommunication services, including those using satellite orbit,

\*1020 Byron Lane, Arlington, TX 76012  
e-mail: <w5yi@cq-amateur-radio.com>

www.**ALINCO**.com

## Alinco introduces the World's FIRST 222/902MHz Dual-band HT!

Quality. Style. Performance!



**NEW**

222.000-224.995 MHz  
902.000-927.995 MHz  
Dual Band FM  
Handheld Transceiver

# DJ-G29T

### Start working two of the "fastest growing" bands with these great features:

- 5 Watts - 222 MHz / 2.5 Watts - 902 MHz dual-band handheld transceiver
- Selectable full duplex system allows operation of main band and sub-band simultaneously
- Independent dials for main and sub band
- Rugged polycarbonate body resists dirt and dust
- High-grade water-resistant materials compatible to IPX7
- Alinco's unique user-selectable PTT delay option eliminates the annoying squelch tail noise that some repeaters retransmit at the end of receiving non-reverse burst tone-encoded CTCSS signals
- Easy-to-read backlit alphanumeric display
- Large screen full-matrix LCD with easy-to-read icons and battery charge level
- Patented ChannelScope function allows visual monitoring of nearby signals
- "Wild key" lets you quickly change to frequently used setting
- 39 CTCSS tone squelch (encode + decode) and 104 DCS
- Keypad selectable wide / narrow bandwidth and mic gain
- Cloning capability between DJ-G29T units or through PC (optional cable needed)
- Quick-write memory channels
- Direct frequency input through illuminated keypad
- 500 Memories with memory banks
- Automatic repeater-setting function
- Multiple scan functions: VFO, Memory, Program, Tone, DCS & Sweep
- Crossband repeater feature

...Add Our DJ-G7T Tri-band 2M/70cm/23cm HT to Operate Five V/UHF Bands with Only Two Radios!

Distributed in North America by GRE America, Inc., 425 Harbor Blvd. Belmont, CA 94002 USA.  
Ph: (650) 591-1400 Fax: (650) 591-2001 email: alinco-sales@greamerica.com Website: http://www.greamerica.com

Products intended for properly licensed operators. Required products are FCC part 15/IC certified. Permits required for MARS use. CAP use subject to equipment approval. Specification subject to change without notice or obligation. Performance and specifications only apply to amateur bands. Cellular blocked in USA. ALL warranty claims and requests for repair/technical assistance for Alinco products should be sent to GRE America regardless of contact information found on the warranty certificate packed with the product.

and to carry out studies and adopt recommendations on radiocommunication matters."

### Preparing for a WRC

The general scope of WRC agendas is established four to six years in advance, with the final agenda set by the ITU Council two years before the conference, by concurrence of a majority of member states.

Member countries prepare for these conferences by organizing national and regional telecommunications meetings addressing the agenda items. The FCC, NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) and Department of State collaborate to develop the U.S. positions.

Preparations for World Radio Conferences are also conducted by regional groups such as APT (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity), CITEL (Inter-American Telecommunication Commission), CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations), and ERO (the European Radiocommunications Office). There is also an Arab Regional Group.

The ITU's Study Groups represent a major aspect of ITU-R activities. More than 1500 specialists from telecommunication organizations and administrations around the world participate in the work of the Radiocommunication Sector's seven study groups. Terrestrial services (such as amateur radio) are handled by Study Group 5. Each Study Group is further separated into subsidiary "Working Parties" (WP), "Task Groups" (TG), and "Rapporteur (reporting) Groups" (RG). Amateur radio agenda items are considered by Working Party 5A.

The recommendations of each Study Group are then summarized into a consolidated CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting) Report and circulated to the various ITU members about six months before the Conference starts. The CPM

Report represents a consensus of ways to act on each agenda item. The CPM Report for WRC-12 was released on February 25, 2011.

### WRC-12

A major focus of WRC-12 will be on developing a sharing mechanism for radio-frequency spectrum that is being freed up by the move from analog to digital television broadcasting. Additional spectrum will be identified for other radio-communication services related to the environment, meteorology, and climatology, as well as disaster prediction, mitigation, and relief. Also on the agenda is a possible international amateur radio allocation in the area of 500 kHz.

Since early in the 20th century, the radio frequency of 500 kHz has been an international calling and distress frequency for Morse code maritime communications. It was frequently referred to by its equivalent wavelength, 600 meters.

The United States Coast Guard used to maintain 24-hour watches on this frequency. Many SOS calls and medical emergencies at sea were handled on 500 kHz until the late 1980s. Rarely is the frequency now used. Emergency traffic on 500 kHz has been almost completely replaced by the satellite-based Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS).

Most nations now have ended monitoring of maritime transmissions on 500 kHz. The nearby frequencies of 518 kHz and 490 kHz are used for the Navtex (Navigational Telex) component of GMDSS. Navtex is an international automated direct-printing service delivering navigational and meteorological warnings, forecasts, and urgent marine safety information to ships at sea.

There have been proposals to allocate frequencies at or near 500 kHz for amateur radio use. Some countries already allow their radio amateurs to use 500 kHz. Other regions have

## Kanga US

KK7B – microR2, microT2, R2Pro  
6 and 2 meter converters, CW TX's  
Improved microR1, UQRP TX MKII  
**Spectrum Analyzer Kit is back**  
TiCK and CWTouch Keyers/Paddles  
PICEL3 PIC Trainer, AADE L/C Mtr  
Si570 VFO/Sig Gen Project

[www.kangaus.com](http://www.kangaus.com)

PROMOTING THE USE OF TEN METERS SINCE 1962

## Ten-Ten International Net, Inc.

Awards - QSO Parties - Special Events - Paperchasing

NETS DAILY (except Sunday) on 28.380 and 28.800 at 1800z



CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB  
[www.ten-ten.org](http://www.ten-ten.org) / [www.10-10.org](http://www.10-10.org)

1349 Vernon Ter San Mateo CA 94402-3331

## ADVANCED SPECIALTIES INC.

Orders/Quotes 1-800-926-9HAM

[www.advancedspecialties.net](http://www.advancedspecialties.net)

### BIG ONLINE CATALOG



VX-8GR  
Dual-Band  
HT with  
Built-in GPS



FT-7900R  
Dual-Band Mobile  
50/45W Transceiver

AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT &  
ACCESSORIES • SCANNERS  
ANLI • ALINCO • COMET • UNIDEN • YAESU

(201)-VHF-2067

114 Essex Street, Lodi, NJ 07644



Closed Sunday & Monday



## Licensed Before 1987?

QCWA invites you to join with those distinguished amateurs licensed 25 or more years ago. Request an application from:

QCWA, Inc., Dept. C  
PO Box 3247  
Framingham, MA 01705-3247  
USA



granted experimental uses to selected licensees in advance of any international frequency allocation. The FCC granted the American Radio Relay League an experimental license to explore such uses in September 2006.

During the upcoming World Radio Conference, a 15-kHz allocation to the Amateur Radio Service will be "considered on a secondary use basis taking into account the need to protect existing services." The specific frequencies are yet to be determined, but are expected to be between 415 and 526.5 kHz.

The issue is whether to allocate spectrum to the amateur service and how to protect existing services in the band from harmful interference. The band 415 to 526.5 kHz largely is allocated to the maritime mobile and aeronautical radionavigation services. Currently, only radiotelegraphy may be used on the band from 495–505 kHz.

The principal interest of the Amateur Radio Service in this band lies in its unique propagation properties, which are different from those in the 135-kHz and 1800-kHz bands. For example, the band allows for propagation unaffected by ionospheric disturbances and sunspot cycle variations. This characteristic would prove invaluable in the continuing development by radio amateurs of dependable emergency communications.

Worldwide, the amateur service, as a secondary user, successfully shares with the fixed service between 10.100 and 10.150 MHz. In some countries, including the U.S., amateurs utilize specific channels between 5.25 and 5.45 MHz on a secondary basis shared with the primary fixed and mobile services. The primary interference avoidance technique on these bands has been a listen-before-transmit protocol, supplemented by appropriate regulatory power limitations. These techniques have led to successful sharing arrangements. (In an unexpected and unfortunate proposal to WRC-12, the United States has proposed to allocate 5.25–5.45 MHz to the radiolocation service to accommodate HF oceanographic radar. This could adversely impact U.S. amateur service access to the 5 channels in this range since sharing will be difficult.)

In the 500-kHz range, the United States supports the secondary allocation subject to the protection of incumbent radiocommunication services. The U.S. State Department has sent its proposals off to Geneva, including a recommendation for a secondary allocation for the amateur service at 461–469 kHz and 471–478 kHz.

Two possible methods of providing access to amateurs in the 500-kHz range, along with the possibility of there being no change (and therefore no allocation), are set out in the CPM Report, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, attended the CPM as a member of the United States delegation.

What is now called Method "A" envisions an allocation of up to 15 kHz between 472 and 487 kHz. Method "B" calls for allocations of 461–469 kHz and 471–478 kHz. The U.S. supports Method "B," which also has sufficient support among other administrations in the Americas to have become an Inter-American Proposal of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL). But some other administrations support Method "A."

At its meeting from September 26 to 29, the European (CEPT) project team approved a draft proposal for the secondary MF amateur allocation to be an 8-kHz-wide band between 472 and 480 kHz. This is supported by the 48-country European bloc.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "While an 8-kHz allocation does not fully meet our objective of 15 kHz, having a European Common Proposal for an amateur allocation is a major step toward possibly achieving one at WRC-12."

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration notes that "The maritime community also has emerging requirements for globally harmonized interoperable maritime spectrum in support of safety and security requirements in the 415–526.5 kHz band." The NTIA is the White House advisor on telecommunications matters.

A new digital system centered on 500 kHz is being developed by the maritime radio community, and an amateur allocation, even on a secondary, not-to-interfere basis, was found to be incompatible with the planned system.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) opposes any secondary MF allocation to the amateur service at any 600-meter frequency. The IMO's primary purpose is to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping at sea. The IMO believes "based on existing studies" that any such allocation will cause harmful interference to future maritime needs and recommends that the allocation to the amateur service not be made.

We will know the result of the voting on February 17. See you next month.

73, Fred, W5YI

**Announcing:**

## 2012 Nominations Open for the CQ Amateur Radio, DX, and Contest Halls of Fame

**E**ach year CQ recognizes those who have made significant contributions to amateur radio in general, and to DXing and contesting in particular, creating three categories of awards. Nominations are now open and will close on **March 1, 2012 for all three Halls of Fame.**

### CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

Amateur radio operators have been responsible for many advances in communications technology, and entire industries have been built on the foundation of amateur radio experimentation and activity. In an effort to recognize outstanding amateurs and their achievements, and help the public appreciate the far-reaching and long-standing value of amateur radio in our society, we have established the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Nominations for the 2012 "class" are now open. Members of the 2011 "class" were announced last May and appeared in the July issue of CQ.

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

In order to be consistent with the nomination deadline for the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame, the nomination deadline for the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame is March 1. Nominations received after that date will be considered for future selection. Nominations for the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame may be

made by clubs, organizations, or individuals. State your candidate's name, where to contact him/her if still living, for which category you are nominating him/her, and a brief one- to two-paragraph description of this person's accomplishments. Please include your name and contact information as well. E-mail to <hall-of-fame@cq-amateur-radio.com> or mail to CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801. The official nomination form is on the CQ website <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. If you feel someone has earned this recognition, please submit a nomination. Please *don't* assume that someone else will nominate the person you may have in mind.

We will announce this year's selections at the Dayton Hamvention® in May 2012. Please help us recognize these "ham radio heroes" whose contributions have helped shape our hobby, our nation, or our world.

### CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame

Nominations for the CQ DX Hall of Fame and the CQ Contest Hall of Fame recognize those amateurs who have made major contributions to DXing and contesting, respectively. The activities and accomplishments that qualify one for membership in these elite groups involve considerable personal sacrifice and can usually be described by the phrase "above and beyond the call of duty." Nominations for the Contest and DX Halls of Fame are made **by contesting or DX clubs or national organizations**, and must be submitted by **March 1** of each year to be considered.

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

**DIAMOND  
ANTENNA**

*The Standard By Which  
All Others Are Judged*

**MAXIMUM  
PERFORMANCE  
WITHOUT COMPROMISE**

### X510HDN & X510HDM High Power Antenna

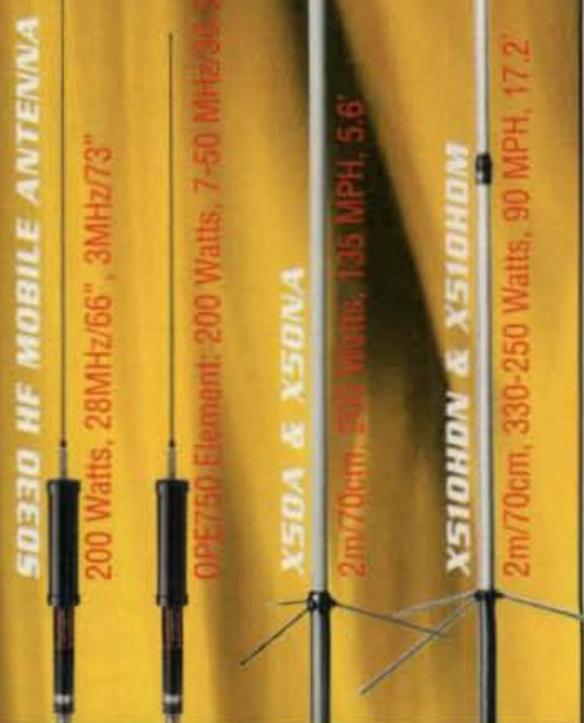
Diamond Antenna's best base antenna. Designed for strength and performance, the X510HD Series is pretuned to achieve maximum gain in both the 2m and 70cm amateur bands.

### X50NA

The X50NA is an excellent choice where ruggedness is required in a medium gain, dual-band, base/repeater application.

### 50330 HF Screwdriver Mobile Antenna

Can be used from 3.5-30 MHz, and 7-50 MHz if element OPE750 is installed. Just loosen one set screw to change the element and it's ready to go!



For detailed specifications on Diamond's Base & Mobile Antennas, please go to [www.diamondantenna.net](http://www.diamondantenna.net)

Available through selected quality dealers.

**770-614-7443**



Diamond Antenna  
Division

## Commentary: The Battle for Hearts, Minds—and Logic?

**A**h, California, sometimes referred to as “the land of fruits and nuts.” It’s home to some 33 million people—including me—and about 98,500 of my fellow residents in America’s most populous state are amateur radio licensees.

Over the last several months, there’s been a very curious (to me, anyway) battle being fought in some corners of the Golden State, and I understand in some other areas of the country, about utility companies using wireless technology to gather meter readings.

Now in the interest of full disclosure, I do work for a utility, which is how I came upon the material in this essay, but listen up: What’s happening “out there” could affect your ability to operate amateur radio equipment.

Utilities around the world, including natural gas, water, and electrical service providers, are converting their meter-reading operations to more efficient methods of gathering customer usage. In the old days, manual entries were made in reading books by workers making their rounds and transposed into billing data by back-office personnel. With the computer age came electronic data entry devices, essentially hand-held units used by field personnel to record meter readings which are downloaded back at the home base.

More recently, Automated Meter Reading and Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMR and AMI) have come along. AMR and AMI units transmit their data via radio. AMR units electronically record metered use, and when queried by a hand-held or drive-by unit, convey their usage data to a collection device by radio. AMI units send their data, usually a few times an hour along what’s called a “mesh network,” passing data from device to device until it reaches a collection point that then forwards the data via the internet or phone links to headquarters, where the information is applied to customer accounts. Mesh networks are self-forming and in case a unit fails, self-healing. They can also report that a unit in that network has gone down.

The main benefit of AMR and AMI is efficiency, in that meter readers can cover more ground or in the case of AMI, not have to read a route at all, as the data is automatically forwarded. In some cases, this allows those personnel to be used for other functions, and yes in some cases it may mean fewer jobs available to meter-readers. In areas where severe winter weather occurs, the radio-read devices are valuable, saving personnel from the hazards of digging out the data and/or driving dangerous routes. However, there are benefits to the customer as well. If an abnormally high usage surfaces, such as a broken water line or a failed washing machine hose, it can send an alert



*An old-fashioned “dumb” electric meter that needs to be read manually by a meter reader.*

to HQ, which can then contact the customer and hopefully minimize losses and property damage.

Electrical utilities are taking things a step further by implementing a “smart grid” concept where time of use billing and interactivity between the meter and certain appliances is being rolled out. Some folks like that and some don’t; others have tried to politicize the practice, but adoption of the “smart grid” system crosses party lines and presidential administrations.

Now the purpose of this tome is not to sing the praises of your local utility or debate the political points of a “smart grid.” I’ll let other folks conduct those discussions.

There are a number of different brands of AMR and AMI units already in use. You may have one or more already in use at your home or business.

Electric utility AMR and AMI units usually are embedded in the meter and draw from the power available from the utility. Gas and water AMR and AMI units are usually battery powered, with—get this—an expected battery life of ten years or more. They usually connect to a meter with an electronic register and may be attached to the meter by a wire, but they can also be embedded in the meter as a single unit.

Many of the units transmit their data in the low end of the 900-MHz band. AMR data bursts are sent only when the meter is queried; the AMR data stream can be up to three seconds long. AMI transmissions usually are a fraction of a second, typically two or three times per hour. Notably, the units transmit at about 250 milliwatts, or for lay persons one quarter of a watt. Remember that figure. Most units encrypt

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

33 ft AIR Tower for HAMS

Christmas Special \$999

\*Enter Coupon Code: CQSpecial

## The World's Most Portable Towers... are Inflatable!

Our revolutionary AIR Towers are in service with departments all over the United States.

- Fast
- Safe
- Simple
- USA

### AIR Towers for Emergency Management & Public Safety

We offer a full line of Towers from 25 - 60 ft to handle all of your payloads

- Antenna
- Lights
- Video
- Sensors



For More Information Call: 877-897-5158 URL: [www.LTAProjects.com](http://www.LTAProjects.com)

the data, which usually contains just the usage and a meter number. All AMR/AMI units must comply with FCC regulations. The low power output is also a factor in achieving the projected ten-year battery life of a unit.

### Protest!

Several months ago, Pacific Gas & Electric rolled out its "smart meter" program in California. At the same time, it raised rates. Following that, customers began to associate the two actions. In some minds, a smart meter meant your bill would increase. This seems to have ignited a brush fire (always a dangerous thing in California) that has seen the demonization of wireless meter technology. If you do an internet search on "smart meters," you will come across some pretty amazing material, and most of it is, uh, *balderdash*.

One of the more frequent contentions is the citation of a World Health Organization study on cell-phone usage. Never mind that when a cell phone is used it is 100-percent duty cycle, held directly against your head, and while power levels may vary in newer phones, it's not out of the question that their output exceeds 300 milliwatts. And, oh yes, the well-publicized cell-phone studies have been pretty much inconclusive.

Also out of the World Health Organization came another claim that *all* radio signals should be classified as a "class 2B carcinogen." You can look it up. That item is frequently quoted by those opposed to AMR/AMI. What most detractors fail to include is that Class 2B is the lowest of those classifications, referring to something that contains items that *might, possibly* have a link to the development of cancer, but not enough is known to make a direct correlation. By the way, other items on the class 2B list include pickled vegetables and coffee.

This material and more has resulted in lines of individuals

spouting these reports at public meetings. Utilities, and in some cases members of the IEEE, have been trying to combat the fear (and in some cases hysteria) with facts, but in these charged venues the factual data is usually shouted down. (See *IEEE Spectrum*, August 2011; *Scientific American*, August 2011.)

People in some surprisingly upscale communities, where you think folks might be better educated, have said some pretty amazing things. No one seems to grasp the illogic that a 250-milliwatt signal on 918 MHz transmitted for one eighth of a second is somehow going to be the end of civilization. Never mind they walked through an automatic door operated by Doppler radar and used a wireless microphone to make their thoughts known at a public meeting in a room where there were dozens of cell phones and Wi-Fi signals present.

Certain folks are now even declaring that they "have a constitutional right" to be free from radio signals. Others claim that regardless of their cell phones, baby monitors, cordless phones (some on 900 MHz or above), microwave ovens, garage-door openers, remote-control video games, in-home Wi-Fi and remote car door lock key-fob, that a 918-MHz 1/4-watt signal is somehow going to affect their lives in its own unique way. Others claim that when they use their cell phone it's "their" choice, but the logic breaks down when you press them by asking, "Does that mean you can use your cell phone when you choose, but are you also saying you have the right to tell me I cannot use my cell phone in your presence?"

While listening to some of these claims, it occurred to me that a ham radio operator could move in next door to many of these folks and legally transmit with 25, 50, 100 watts or more on any number of frequencies above or below 900 MHz and stay within the FCC's power density limitations. Then I began

# LDG

ELECTRONICS

# FREE Balun

with any new LDG tuner or S9V antenna!

Purchase any new LDG Tuner or S9V Antenna between 9/1/11 and 4/15/12 and receive a FREE balun! Log-on to [www.ldgelectronics.com](http://www.ldgelectronics.com) for more information!



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

## NEW! AT-200Pro II

The AT-200ProII now includes LEDs to show antenna position and if the tuner is in bypass. A two position antenna switch stores 2000 memories per switch. Handles up to 250 watts SSB or CW on 1.8 to 30 MHz and 100 watts on 54 MHz. Rugged and easy to read LED bar graphs simultaneously show RF power and SWR. Includes a six foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$259.99**



## Z-11Pro II

Meet the Z-11ProII, 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-11ProII 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 six foot DC power cable.

**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.

**Suggested Price \$129.99.**



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 bar-graph 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 six foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$359.99**



## 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 six foot DC power cable. **Suggested Price \$159.99**

## We have a tuner that will work for you!

We make tuners that will work with any transceiver. Don't know which one is right for you? Give us a call or see the **Tuner Comparison Chart** on our web site for more selection help!

# The #1 Line of Autotuners!

Designed to handle the higher power of the Tokyo Hi Power HL-45B.



## NEW! Z-817H

The ultimate autotuner for QRP radios including the Yaesu FT-817(D) with addition of the Tokyo High Power HL-45B. Interfaces to the CAT port (ACC) on the back of the radio with the provided cable. One button push on the tuner and the Z-817H takes care of the rest. Will also function as a general purpose antenna tuner with other QRP radios or QRP radios with up to 75 watt HF amps. Powered by four AA internal Alkaline batteries (not included). 2000 memories cover 160 through 6 meters.

**Suggested Price \$159.99**



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

## AT-100Pro II

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-100ProII requires just 1 watt for operation, but will handle up to 125 watts. Includes six foot DC power cable.

**Suggested Price \$229.99**



## AT-1000Pro

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

**Suggested Price \$599**

## IT-100

Matched in size to the IC-7000 and IC-706, for either manual or automatic tunes, and status LEDs. 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. For your Icom radio that is AH3 or AH-4 compatible. **Suggested Price \$179.99**



## YT-100

For Yaesu FT-857, FT-897 and FT-100 (and all D models) an integrated tuner, powered by the interface. Press the tune button on the tuner, and everything else happens automatically. **Suggested Price \$199.99**



## KT-100

For AT-300 compatible Kenwood transceivers (except TS-480HX). The KT-100 actually allows you to use the Tune button on the radio. 2,000 memories for instant recall of the tuning parameters for your favorite bands and frequencies. **Suggested Price \$199.99**



## YT-450

Designed for Yaesu's newest 100 watt radios. Interfaces directly with the Yaesu FT-450 and FT-950 radios. Press the tune button on the tuner and the rest happens automatically. 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! Seamless connection to a PC. **Suggested Price \$249.99**



## 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! **Suggested Price \$249.99**



# FREE!

## RBA-1:1 Balun or RU-4:1 Unun

When You Buy A S9V 43', 31' or 18' Multiband Antenna



Purchase an S9V 43', 31' or 18' antenna and fill out the included form. Mail it to LDG Electronics, and we will send you either a 200 watt balun or unun, your choice!



## S9V 43' \$199.99

80-6 meters Fixed Operation

The S9V 43' is a high-performance lightweight telescoping fiberglass vertical. The best value in high-performance 'tall' verticals!

## S9V 31' \$99.99

40-6 meters Fixed or Portable Operation

## S9V 18' \$49.99

20-6 meters Fixed or Portable Operation

The S9V 31' and 18' are tapered, ultra-lightweight fiberglass vertical antennas. Friction-locking sections and high-tech polymer tube rings allow the antenna to be quickly and safely deployed in practically any environment without tools!

## S9RP \$39.99

Aluminum Radial Plate

Includes 20 sets of stainless steel nuts & bolts

Antennas!

**Your Favorite Dealer has these tuners in stock NOW!  
Don't Miss Out - Call or visit them TODAY!**

Visit our website for a complete dealer list [www.ldgelectronics.com](http://www.ldgelectronics.com)

## Oops...

Well, this is a new one ... correcting someone else's mistake! (Normally, we have enough of our own to worry about!) In the November issue in the photo on page 20 of the "Morse Coded Jewelry," while the word "friend" is spelled correctly in Morse code on the necklace, the letter "e" is missing from the code message on the accompanying card. Thanks to all of our eagle-eyed CW readers for catching the error. (*I thought CW was supposed to be an aural language!*—W2VU) Several readers also asked for ordering information. The website is <<http://coatonline.com/jewelry.html>>.

Also in the November issue, we had a mixup in the callsign of author Dain Lones ("Building a 1930s Transmitter in 2011"). His call is KC6WZK, not WCK. Our apologies.

Also, author Gary Geissinger, WA0SPM, informs us that RadioShack no longer sells the isolation transformer he used in his project article "An ICOM to iPad Interface" in our November Technology Special. He says Digi-Key's part # MT7207-ND (<http://bit.ly/vxEjkg>) should be a good substitute (although he had not tested one at press time), and notes that at least one seller on eBay appears to have a stock of the original RadioShack transformers, under NEW RADIOSHACK 1:1 ISOLATION TRANSFORMER 273-1374 (<http://bit.ly/s1tzQU>). The usual caveats apply regarding purchases from eBay vs. an established dealer.

## Good News for the VHF/UHF Enthusiast

The all-time favorite magazine for the VHF/UHF enthusiast, CQ VHF is better than ever and here to serve you!

By taking advantage of our subscription specials you'll save money and have CQ VHF delivered right to your mailbox. Only \$26 for four information-packed quarterly issues. Or better yet, enter a two or three year subscription at these special prices. As always, every subscription comes with our money back guarantee.

**Choose the PRINT Edition or New DIGITAL Edition!**  
**Buy both at a SPECIAL price!**



**DON'T MISS OUT CALL TODAY**

	Print	Digital	Both
1 Year USA	26.00	18.00	37.00
CN/MX	36.00	18.00	46.00
Foreign	39.00	18.00	59.00

Add a Digital subscription to a new or current print subscription for only \$11.00!

Mail your order to:

CQ VHF • 25 Newbridge Road  
Hicksville, NY 11801

Subscribe on line at [www.cq-vhf.com](http://www.cq-vhf.com)

FAX your order to us at 516 681-2926

Call Toll-Free 800-853-9797



This is an AMR (Automated Meter Reading) transponder for a water meter. It transmits usage data via radio when queried by a meter reader walking or driving past.

to wonder how might this uninformed hysteria affect our hobby. Indeed, some hams have already faced such concerns.

It can't be determined which arguments are insincere, specifically the type where folks opposed to an idea throw anything and everything against the wall to see what sticks, or maybe are just plain uninformed. What's apparent is that some of it does stick, revealing people who sit on regulatory bodies who don't have a clue as to the nature of radio waves, and in some cases basic physics. Too often true experts are negated by uninformed speakers who put forth specious claims unsupported by any meaningful or reliable data.

To combat some of this, the California Council on Science & Technology was commissioned by the state to study wireless meters. You can read its report at: <[www.ccst.us/news/2011/20110111smart.php](http://www.ccst.us/news/2011/20110111smart.php)>. Sadly, its findings are casually dismissed by many opponents, and are either not read or not understood by local officials.

It's also apparent there's an outbreak of ignorance in certain areas of our society and it may be spreading. We now have a full generation of people who extensively use technology with fewer and fewer of them aware of exactly what makes their high-tech devices work. Bluetooth, anyone? There's no clue among many of how rapidly signal strength falls off as distance increases. There's no concept of the magnitude of the RF frequency spectrum or any of its characteristics. Sadly, in some cases, to certain devices there are attached mystical properties that simply are just not possible, yet are held as fervent beliefs.

It is understood how some folks can be opposed to certain ideas or concepts. After all, we are entitled to our opinions. Where things go off-track is when disingenuous arguments are made simply to achieve an end, with no thought given to the consequences, or when opinions are formed based on faulty data.

Today the wireless meter, tomorrow your ability to use your cell phone, and the week after that perhaps your ability to operate your ham rig? Could it happen?

As this new year begins, one wonders if ignorance could be the device that takes away the "Magic in The Sky."

73, Jeff, AA6JR

## Arkansas SKYWARN® Lessons in Social Graces:

### How One EmComm Organization is Embracing the Web for the Greater Good

The stampede of internet social networking and streaming audio and video sites, and increasingly reliable cell phone coverage, offers radio amateurs two choices: Either jump on for the ride or get trampled. This inconvenient truth—to steal a phrase from both a documentary and a former vice president—is no more evident than in emergency communications.

"When all else fails, amateur radio," loses some of its zing when all else *doesn't fail*. That's happening more and more. It's a good thing. Better technologies and contingencies in the private commercial sector are keeping cell and internet systems in the game longer and better, even when disaster strikes.

Does this minimize the need for amateur radio's EmComm readiness? *Absolutely not*. If anything, it underscores the need for hams to stay in that discomfort zone, fight complacency, and be trained and ready *when*—not *if*—all other emergency communications go *kablooey*.

Here's one organization that has recognized the internet's social networking and live streaming value and is using it to strengthen amateur radio's position as the best, most reliable and efficient emergency communicators on the planet. It's Arkansas SKYWARN®.

A loving embrace of new technologies and communications channels by this forward-looking organization is making a solid organization of radio amateurs even better and provides a lesson for us all.

#### And So It Began . . .

Danny Straessle, KE5WLR, reports from Little Rock that during its September 2011 training net session, "Arkansas SKYWARN® announced an expanded Internet presence for the organization."

The organization has recognized the value of the Web and social media and, as you'll see, is jumping in with both feet.

"Through a combination of traditional internet resources and the newer social media utilities," he said, "Arkansas SKYWARN® is providing an opportunity for certified amateur radio storm spotters to interact off-air in a non-net environment."

#### On the Web

"Arkansas SKYWARN® is in the process of building a new website that will serve as a resource for



Photo A— Quick links to Arkansas SKYWARN's® Facebook, Twitter, and live RadioReference.com streaming audio sites are lined-up across the bottom of the organization's website: <<http://www.arkskywarn.org>> (Internet screen grab)

safe storm-spotting best practices and will exist as *the place where* ... spotters in Arkansas can reference training material throughout the year." (See photo A.)

Straessle noted that "while severe weather can occur during any month on the calendar, the new website will be particularly useful for training online in the typical off-season. Look for the new site to come online before the 2012 spring storms arrive."

For updates and additional information, check: <<http://www.arkskywarn.org>>.

#### On Facebook

A Facebook page designed for certified amateur radio operator storm spotters to share their "severe weather event experiences, photos, and videos" with others who are interested in storm spotting, including non-amateur radio operators, has been established by Arkansas SKYWARN®, as well (see photo B).

Straessle stressed the Facebook page "is not intended for submitting storm reports to the National Weather Service. It's a conversation about storm spotting in which everyone is eager to hear your story. Where did you deploy? What did you see? What did you report or not report and why?"

\*1940 Wetherly Way, Riverside, CA 92506  
e-mail: <[ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com)>

Photo B— A Facebook page has been designed by Arkansas SKYWARN® for spotters to share their “severe weather event experiences, photos and videos” with others who are interested in storm spotting. See: <<http://www.facebook.com/arkskywarn>>. (Internet screen grab)

These and many other questions “demand answers,” Straessle writes, “and your willingness to share the experience will contribute to a body of knowledge that ultimately will benefit the training of others.”

“Everyone is invited to participate in weather discussions, including events that happen outside the state of Arkansas,” KE5WLR said. “Posts/topics are limited to weather, storm spotting best practices, the National Weather Service—and all of the agency’s products—and amateur radio. All off-topic posts will be deleted.”

By the way, a Facebook account is *not required* to view these discussions. Visit: <<http://www.facebook.com/arkskywarn>>, and get in on the conversation, he commented.

## Twitter

In response to a request from amateur radio operators who “want to be notified when Arkansas SKYWARN® has been



Photo C— Hams who “want to be notified when Arkansas SKYWARN® has been activated by the National Weather Service Little Rock Forecast Office,” are invited to sign up for a Twitter feed . . . “to communicate such information off-air,” KE5WLR said. Visit: <<http://www.twitter.com/arkskywarn>>. (Internet screen grab)



activated by the National Weather Service Little Rock Forecast Office, a Twitter feed has been established to communicate such information off-air,” Straessle said (see photo C).

“Both the Facebook fan page and the Twitter feed have been linked so that end-users can also be notified when the conversation expands and new information has been posted,” he added.

A Twitter account is *not required* to view the feed. “Follow Arkansas SKYWARN® at <<http://www.twitter.com/arkskywarn>> and find out how you, too, can be notified when you don’t have access to a radio or scanner,” KE5WLR said.

## Live Streaming Audio Feed

For more than a year, amateur radio operators and the public-at-large have been able to monitor Arkansas SKYWARN® via the internet through a live audio feed provided by the Central Arkansas Radio Emergency Net (CAREN Club) on RadioReference.com (see <<http://www.RadioReference.com>> and photo D).

“The streaming audio feed meets a high demand for monitoring Arkansas SKYWARN® from those who cannot do so at any given time with a receiver,” KE5WLR said. “People who spend most of their day in an office or are perhaps traveling outside Arkansas for an extended period of time have been able to monitor rapidly changing weather conditions by listening to the net on their computers or smart phones and other devices.” To listen live, visit: <<http://www.arkskywarn.org>>.

When on the link, you’ll be hearing the W5DI repeater in Little Rock on 146.940 MHz.

## Arkansas SKYWARN’s® Word to the Wise

“These expanded Internet presence and social media interactive opportunities are designed only to supplement the training mission of Arkansas SKYWARN®,” the organization warns, “and should not be relied upon as a replacement for monitoring amateur radio frequencies and NOAA Weather

# The Opus of Amateur Radio Knowledge and Lore

Only \$21.95  
+ \$7.00 s/h

Many fine books will tell you *how* to become a Radio Amateur, but precious few will tell you *why*. *The Opus of Amateur Radio Knowledge and Lore* is a tribute to the passion and poetry of Amateur Radio. *Opus* will inform the newcomer and also remind the old timer why we became hams.

We love the smell of ozone, soldering flux, and overheating transformer varnish. We love the sight of a glowing vacuum tube and the vision of a cubical quad antenna twirling in the heavens. We love the still small sound of a barely perceptible Morse Code signal buried in a chorus of static crashes. In other words, we are *lovers* of radio. After reading *The Opus of Amateur Radio Knowledge and Lore*, you will be, too.



**NEW**

**CQ Communications, Inc.**

25 Newbridge Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801

[www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

FAX us at 516 681-2926

Order today! 800-853-9797

## Next Generation from N6BT



Q52 2-Element 5-band (20/17/15/12/10) Yagi

- Instant relay-switched band switching.
- Bi-directional with instant relay switching.
- 16' elements, 3' sections, 9' boom, 9' turn radius.
- Integrated balun and SO-239 connector included.
- 1 KW power rating, weight only 17 pounds.
- 85-99% efficient on all bands (only 0.8 dB below "full size" on 20M, near full size performance on 17 - 10M).



PO Box 1859

Paso Robles, CA 93447

[www.n6bt.com](http://www.n6bt.com)

Radio. Stations with reportable criteria should pass traffic directly to an Arkansas SKYWARN® net control operator or the National Weather Service."

### The Foundation on Which They Build

By way of history, the Arkansas Weather Net was incorporated as a non-profit amateur radio organization in the late 1960s to "provide real-time field reports to the National Weather Service in Little Rock (then located at Adams Field) during significant weather events.

"Nets were conducted over what was then the new 2-meter FM repeater operating on 146.940 MHz, constructed by the Central Arkansas Radio Emergency Net (CAREN Club)," the organization explained.

"A few years later, in the early 1970s, the NWS rolled out its official SKYWARN® program, which collects field reports from volunteer weather spotters to aid forecasters in issuing and verifying severe weather watches and warnings," Arkansas SKYWARN® reported. "It was then (that the) Arkansas Weather Net began operating under the trade name of Arkansas SKYWARN®," and is sponsored by Arkansas Weather Net,

Inc., and operated under the authority of the National Weather Service."

When severe weather threatens, the NWS is the sole authority for making a determination as to whether Arkansas SKYWARN® is activated.

(*IN DEPTH:* For complete information about SKYWARN® and how to become a severe weather spotter, visit: <http://skywarn.org/>.—ed.)

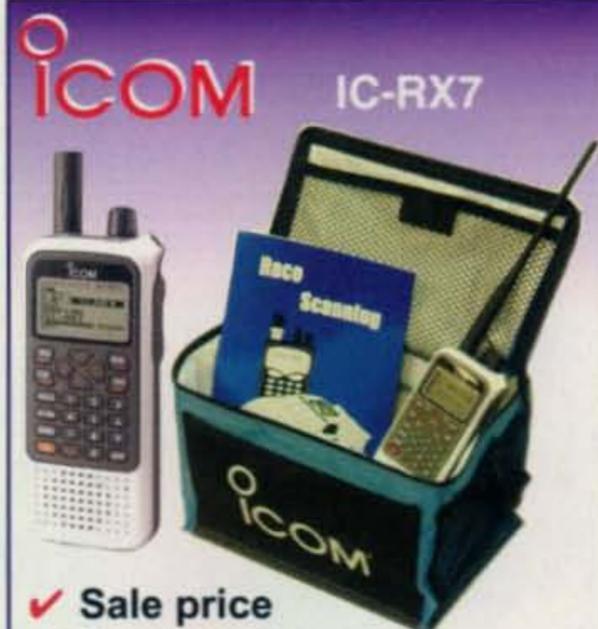
### Share Your Group's Innovative Ideas with CQ Readers

Is your group or organization using social networking, the Internet or cell phone technologies to enhance emergency communications or training? We'd like to hear from you.

Please drop an email to: <ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com>, or write to: Richard Fisher, KI6SN, CQ Public Service, CQ Communications, Inc., 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801. We'll share your innovative ideas and initiatives with other CQ readers.

### North Carolina Hams Feel the Need for Speed

Seven radio amateurs from Orange County Radio Amateurs provided com-



- ✓ Sale price
- ✓ Free Go Bag
- ✓ Free UPS shipping
- ✓ Free Race Scanning book

This is our *best deal* ever on a portable wideband receiver! The stylish Icom IC-RX7-05 receiver tunes from 150 kHz to 1300 MHz (less cellular and gaps), has 1650 memories, CTCSS/DTSC, backlit LCD, RF gain, attenuator and keypad. With Li-Ion battery, BC-149A charger and belt clip. List \$364.00 Regular price \$299.95 **SALE \$199.95**



**Universal Radio**

6830 Americana Pkwy.  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

◆ Orders: 800 431-3939

◆ Info: 614 866-4267

[www.universal-radio.com](http://www.universal-radio.com)



Photo D—Arkansas SKYWARN's® streaming audio feed "meets a high demand for monitoring . . . from those who cannot do so at any given time with a receiver," KE5WLR said. To hear the W5DI Little Rock 146.940 MHz repeater, visit: <<http://www.arkskywarn.org>>. (Internet screen grab)

munications support during the Occonechee Speedway's Fifth Annual Car Show and Racers' Reunion in November 2011 at Hillsborough, North Carolina.

"This was the second year in which (OCRA) had a presence there, which features 50 years' worth of classic automobiles and race cars," writes Woody Woodward, K3VSA. "Some came com-

plete with their original vintage race drivers. Once again, Lad Carrington, W4ORD, led the group providing emergency communication and representing amateur radio at the event." (See photos E and F.)

The Occonechee Speedway at Hillsborough "dates back to the 1948 inauguration of NASCAR and is the last remaining of the famous Southern her-

itage 'dirt tracks,'" Woodward said. (**IN DEPTH:** For more information about the history of Occonechee Speedway at Hillsborough, visit: <<http://www.historicspeedwaygroup.org/>>.—ed.)

"W4ORD manned a booth promoting ham radio and providing emergency communication support through OCRA's W4UNC 442.150-MHz repeater. Other OCRA members and associates who assisted or attended included: Dee Ramm, KU4GC; Karl Ramm, N1XPB; Lenore Ramm, KF4PAB; Vic Merryman, KØOUX; Dewey Thompson, WA4AHR; me; and my daughter, Michaela," K3VSA said. (For more information about OCRA, visit: <<http://ncocra.org/>>.—ed.)

"Fortunately for all concerned, no emergencies occurred, so our participation consisted of being prepared for action and showing the flag for amateur radio," Woodward said.

(**WATCH:** A video of what Occonechee Speedway looks like today and to hear reminiscences of those who were there in its heyday: <<http://bit.ly/sjRbHM>>.—ed.)

For this month, 73, Richard, KI6SN



Photo E—Lad Carrington, W4ORD, gives a short tutorial on amateur radio to Miss Occonechee/Orange Speedway 2011 Michelle Montgomery during the Fifth Annual Car Show and Racers' Reunion in November 2011. (Courtesy of K3VSA)



Photo F—Paint and chrome from a classic 1955 Chevrolet gleam in the sunshine at the 2011 Occonechee Speedway Fifth Annual Car Show and Racers' Reunion, where seven members of Orange County Radio Amateurs provided communications support. (Courtesy of K3VSA)

# Safety in the Ham Shack

**T**his month we are going to focus on safety aspects in and around the radio shack. While we love our hobby and enjoy many hours of pleasure talking around the world, building equipment and erecting antennas, ham radio has a dark side. It relies on electricity ... and electricity can kill you!

Safety should be a primary concern for all ham radio operators. Today's gear primarily is transistorized, so the lethal voltages found in vintage vacuum-tube gear are no longer present (kilowatt linear amplifiers and restored boatanchor gear notwithstanding). However, the unsuspecting amateur radio operator can manage to get into trouble in other ways that may or may not be so obvious.

## Antenna Safety

**Scenario #1:** Antenna parties. We all want the biggest and best antennas that we can afford so our signals will reach farther, whether we are talking about HF wire and/or directional antennas or VHF/UHF Yagis or loop antennas. Bigger and higher are always better, as the old saying goes. However, when it comes to antenna systems there are several major safety areas we need to cover.

First is falling objects! Hard hats are the order of the day whether you are dealing with putting a dipole in a tree or erecting a 100-foot tower with big beams. You *need* head protection. Hard hats are not expensive, and for \$10 or \$15 you literally can save your life should your head become the target of a free-falling wrench or cordless drill dropping from a tall tower or an errant branch falling from a tall tree. Even from 30 feet, that same wrench/drill will hurt like heck and definitely leave a divot in your skull. As some guy named Newton (actually he is a distant cousin of mine!) tells us, things accelerate when falling at a rate of 32 feet per second squared. Obviously, the taller the structure, the more velocity this naughty missile picks up on its way back to Terra Firma. If you happen to be in the glide path (?), well, here's hoping you have a real good medical insurance plan!

The second safety area we need to explore regarding antennas is the proximity of power lines. Every year hams and CBers get killed when the antenna that they are manhandling into place suddenly gets away from them and yaws into a nearby power line. My sage words of advice: Stay as far away as possible from power lines on your property whether they be on power poles or the drop from the "pole-pig" to your house. Keep clear! Period! Should you have no other choice than to erect in an area where your antenna and support structure are in close proximity to power lines, use experienced hams to help you. Extra hands, eyes, and in-depth experience are well worth the effort.

Ensure that your installation will not topple into the power lines by guying with Dacron® cord or



some other non-conductive guy medium. Above all, *be careful!* Close coordination between ground crew and the antenna installers is paramount! Oh, yeah...don't forget your hard hat!

Finally, gloves. Get a good pair of work gloves and wear them! Not only will gloves keep your hands from getting chewed up when handling rope or guy wires, they also will enhance your grip on tools and tower sections. Don't erect antennas without gloves!

**Scenario #2:** Station ground. Wow! There have been volumes written regarding how to properly ground and bond electronic communications equipment starting with the US military and its "MIL-STD-188-124B, Grounding, Bonding and Shielding" series of regulations. First of all, unless your home was constructed recently, the simple fact is you may *not* have a good AC service ground on your electric service where the drop from the "pole-pig" enters your home.

We moved into a 20-year old home in Dacula, Georgia a little over three years ago. Upon inspecting the electrical service, I found that the service ground was not even connected to the drop! Effectively my house was isolated from earth ground, which meant that none of my equipment was "grounded" via the center pin on the wall outlets! Now before you fire up the e-mail, I *know* that the ground pin on an AC receptacle is *not* the place to depend upon for proper grounding of radio gear. That takes a whole separate ground buss that can get quite interesting. The Devil is in the details, as they say.

Providing an adequate station ground for your gear can be an exercise in learning. For instance, true or false: Ground braid makes a good low-resistance path when used as part of the station ground? *False!* Due to the way the braid is constructed, braid does not offer a low-resistance path and is a very *poor* means to ensure your gear is grounded.

A better method is through the use of copper strap or flashing (3-4 inches wide) available at home-improvement stores, ham retailers, or over the internet. We'll discuss this a bit later on in this column.

All of your gear should be connected to the *same* point in the shack which will be attached to

\*770 William St. SE, Dacula, GA 30019  
e-mail: <k7sz@live.com>

# CQ Books



## VHF Propagation

by Neubeck, WB2AMU & West WB6NOA

A comprehensive source-book on VHF propagation by two great authors. Includes: Tropo ducting, Aurora, Meteor Scatter, TEP, Sporadic-E, Combo Modes and more!

6 X 9 Paperback \$15.95

## The NEW Shortwave Propagation Handbook

by W3ASK, N4XX & K6GKU

This authoritative book on shortwave propagation is your source for easy-to-understand information on sunspot activity, propagation predictions, unusual propagation effects and do-it-yourself forecasting tips.



8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

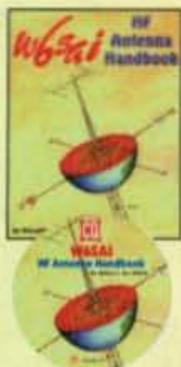
New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95

## W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook

by Bill Orr, W6SAI

W6SAI was known for his easy-to-understand writing style. In keeping with this tradition, this book is a thoroughly readable text for any antenna enthusiast, jam-packed with dozens of inexpensive, practical antenna projects that work!



8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95



## 33 Simple Weekend Projects

by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ

Do-it-yourself electronics projects from the most basic to the fairly sophisticated.

Practical tips and techniques on creating your own projects.

6 X 9 Paperback \$17.95

Shipping & Handling: U.S. add \$7 for the first item, \$3.50 for the second and \$2 for each add'l item. FREE shipping on orders over \$100 to one U.S. address. CN/MX-\$15 for 1st item, \$7 for 2nd and \$3 for each add'l. All Other Countries-\$25 for 1st item, \$10 for 2nd and \$5 for each additional. Buy Both=single item!

## CQ Communications, Inc.

25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801  
Call: 1-800-853-9797 Fax: 516-681-2926 | web-site: [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

a series of ground rods outside the shack to maximize the effects of a ground system. This sounds like a lot of work, and it is. One of the first things I did on my AC service ground was to pull out the old 4-foot ground rod (not within electrical code) and pound in an 8-foot ground rod with the proper clamp on the top end to secure a piece of #4 AWG (that's pretty big!) which was then connected to the AC service. Now, at least, the house was "grounded," but the gear was not. Stick with me, as it gets better.

Unfortunately, my shack is laid out in a fashion that does not lend itself well to adding a ground to the gear without traveling about 15 feet from the gear to the front garden. Along the side of the house where my shack sits is a slab of concrete, so it is not possible to implant a series of ground rods with access through a nearby window. In order to do this correctly, I have to pound the ground rods in the front garden, interconnect them with copper strap, and then route the ground buss into the shack through the wall of the shack. Unfortunately there is no window or door handy, which means I will have to punch a hole in the siding and run the ground buss from the series of ground rods in the front garden into the shack and over to the ops bench. This will make a total ground run of about 15-20 feet. This is a lot longer than I'd like, but in order to do this grounding and bonding thing properly that is the way things shake out.

As far as the ground rods and connecting them together to form a buss, that is fairly straightforward. One 8-foot ground rod is not enough. However, several 8-foot copper-clad steel ground rods driven in full-length and connected together using 3-4-inch wide copper strap will provide adequate protection for your gear. The most cost-effective spacing between rods for normal (grassy) soil is two times the length of a rod. If 8-foot ground rods are used, they should be placed on 16-foot centers and connected using 3- or 4-inch wide copper strap.

Will it withstand a direct lightning hit? Probably not. However, combining the bonded ground rods with gas-discharge lightning arrestors on your coaxial cables will give your gear a good chance at withstanding a close hit. Why not use fuses? Simple: Fuses are too slow to react to the extremely short electrical pulse of a lightning strike. The fact is, the fuse just won't blow quickly enough and will allow the electrical pulse through to your equipment—definitely not a good thing. Gas-discharge lightning arrestors attached to

each coaxial line will quickly bleed off the incoming spike of electricity and protect your gear. DX Engineering (<http://www.dxengineering.com/default.asp?DeptID=19>) and Alpha Delta (<http://www.alphadeltacom.com/>) have exactly what you need to keep your gear safe and your shack properly grounded. A great 11-page PDF document is available (<http://home.comcast.net/~wx2nj/PEN1016.pdf>) that explains quite clearly what steps need to be taken to implement a good station ground that will offer the maximum protection to your gear and shack. At one time, PolyPhaser also published a book that outlined how to deal with lightning (*The Grounds for Lightning Protection*, but it's not clear from its website whether the book is still available.—ed.).

One final thought: Do your own research. Bonding and grounding depends upon many variables: soil conductivity in your area, materials used, local weather patterns, etc. Obtaining and maintaining a good station ground is an ongoing task. Once things are in the ground, they will start to deteriorate. Some well-designed installations will last many years, while others will last only a couple of years, all thanks to the various minerals, acids, and bases that are in the soil. Therefore, keeping on top of your station ground to assure maximum protection for your shack and gear is essential.

Further reading includes the three-part series entitled "Lightning Protection for the Amateur Station" by Ron Block, KB2UYT, and which appeared in the June, July, and August 2002 issues of *QST*. Additional information on lightning protection and the ham shack can be found at: <http://www.arri.org/lightning-protection>.

## Safety in the Shack

Finally, we need to cover safe work practices in the shack. I do a lot of homebrewing and kit building and I am constantly at the workbench, soldering iron in hand. Over the years I have trained myself to conscientiously turn off the soldering iron whenever I get up from the bench, even for a few moments. The iron, a nice Weller WES-51 soldering station, can reach operating temperature quite quickly, so to prevent having a fire start on the workbench in the shack, I turn my iron off every time I leave the workbench area.

Speaking of fires, you do have a small CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguisher in your shack, right? No? Well, don't let fear hold you back! Get one in there pronto. How about a master power disconnect switch? You

know, the type where you hit one big button or toggle switch and it shuts down the entire station. Yeah, I don't either, but it is on my "to do" list and there will be one installed post-haste. How about an intercom so you can communicate with someone else in the house should you need immediate assistance? My intercom is part of our cordless phone system and I am glad we have it. My wife Pat and I use it all the time.

Since working with homebrew gear can get into the realm of metal work, how about looking over your metal shop tools and seeing that they are securely mounted, power cords in good condition, safety goggles handy (nothing like a small bit of aluminum flying into your eye when drilling or polishing a chassis—not!)?

Do you use a standard AC power supply to provide power for your station, or are you like me and depend upon a huge deep-cycle battery to power your radios? I got away from AC supplies a few years ago, deciding to use a big deep-cycle marine dual-duty (whatever that means!) battery by Optima. It is the Blue Top, rated at 55 A/Hr with a 750-A cold cranking capacity. I used a "smart" charger on this battery for several years up until the lightning strike that took out the charger last summer! It also almost drained the Optima battery, but thankfully I was able

to disconnect things before the battery was ruined. Should you use a battery to power your station, I highly recommend a sealed deep-cycle battery. The reason is that there is no chance of coming in contact with either the sulfuric acid electrolyte or the hydrogen (spelled "EXPLOSIVE"! ) gases given off during recharging of lead-acid batteries. If you use wet-cell batteries of the type that you can open the individual cells, I strongly recommend that they be placed in a special battery box outside the shack and the output run into the shack via #4 AWG or larger bus wiring. This will reduce or totally eliminate the chance of a stray spark setting off hydrogen gases vented from a recharged battery.

Well, that's a wrap for this column, gang. I cannot over-stress the idea of taking the safety side of ham radio seriously. The "it'll never happen to me" attitude is an accident waiting to happen. Be safe, be alert, but above all, do your own research and come up with workable solutions to the various safety issues at your own shack.

Next month, me thinks, we'll discuss keys. You know . . . those things that you use to make dots and dashes!

Until next time, have fun and get on the radio!  
Vy 73, Rich K7SZ

# EARN MORE \$\$\$

## Be an FCC Licensed Wireless Technician!

### Earn \$100,000 a year with NO college degree

Learn Wireless Communications and get your "FCC Commercial License" with our proven Home-Study course.

Move to the front of the employment line in Radio-TV, Communications, Avionics, Radar, Maritime & more... even start your own business!

**No previous experience needed!**  
**Learn at home in your spare time!**

**GUARANTEED PASS!** You will get your FCC license or your money will be refunded.

**COMMAND PRODUCTIONS**

Warren Weagant's FCC License Training  
P.O. Box 3000, Dept. 206 • Sausalito, CA 94966

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Call now for **FREE** info:

**800-932-4268** ext 206

Or, email: [fcc@CommandProductions.com](mailto:fcc@CommandProductions.com)

## our readers say

### Useless Machine

The following letter was directed to "Ham Notebook" editor Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ, who wrote about a "useless machine" in his September column:

Dear Wayne,

I read your article last week, and yesterday I went to a British Car show in Norcross, Georgia (<http://www.babg.org/BritishCarFayre.html>). On top of a "Mini something" was a brown box with a switch sticking out the top. I was walking with a neighbor ham and he hadn't seen the article. I immediately recognized what it was. I looked around for the owner to ask permission to work the switch, but he wasn't near. So I told Mike what I thought it was and couldn't resist operating the switch. And guess what? A little hand came out of the box and turned the switch off. Sorry, I didn't get a photo.

73, Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV

*KH6WZ responds:*

Greetings Norm,

I am glad you liked that article. When I saw the thing, I had to laugh out loud. Actually, "fun" boxes like this have been around for a very long time. One config-

uration was an artful wooden box called a "nasty box," and when someone opened the box, a snap-action lever would slap your hand/fingers when you opened it.

When I took junior high school electric shop (sadly, shop classes in junior and high schools out here have gone away years ago), a friend and I were always accused of "knowing more about electronics than the teacher." (Our metal shop teacher doubled as the electric shop teacher back then.)

Anyway, one class project was "electro-magnet." Well, we wanted to show off, and we made "step-up transformer" instead. The secondary winding terminated into the handle used to hold the electromagnet, and so whenever the contacts were pressed, people would get a little tingle. Fun times. 73.

### Ted McElroy's Call Sign?

Editor, *CQ*:

Reading the October issue of *CQ* and reading the part about W1JYN getting a license issued in 1936/1937 made me go look it up. I have a 1939/1940 issue of the *Callbook*. ... It has a map of the call districts, W1 to W9. NO ZEROs back then.

It lists no W1JYN - Ted McElroy - just not there. Blank.

It lists the following:

W1JYL - James H.J. Herrington - 381 Capital Av. - Hartford, Conn.

W1JYM - Omer A. Lizotte - 1543 Slade St. - Fall River, Mass.

W1JYO - M.A. Mackay - 234 W. Newton St. - Boston, Mass

W1JYQ - G.W. Whitney - 30 Pellom Pl. - Stamford, Conn .

This is my third time reading this issue. Who knows why this is blank. But thanks for the great magazine. I also read *World Radio* on the web.

Thomas E Herold, N9BUL

*W2VU responds:*

Thanks for the interesting note, Thomas. There are several internet references to McElroy with the call sign W1JYN, focusing on the 1936 listing. At this point in time, we do not know how long his license was active, or whether perhaps the early *Callbooks* did not include all listings, or withheld listings at a licensee's request.

### Technology Special

Editor, *CQ*:

Tech issue of *CQ* (November 2011) is totally excellent. Congratulations. 73, John Thompson, K3MD

## "An Open and Shut Case"

There are many kits that are provided at a very low cost to the builder, but the bargain is often due to there not being a supplied case for the finished board. A number of great cases that can accommodate most kits are available from many sources at a reasonable cost. There are a large number of smaller kits that are designed to fit inside a standard Altoids® or similar mint tin. Thus, save your mint tins for some great and low-cost cases! I have found a great source for cases is the hamfest flea market. In addition to unbuilt kits, I have found many unused project boxes of all kinds for sale for very little.

When choosing a case, look for one that can easily accommodate the project, including all of the jacks, controls, and other components. Unless the project is designed for a specific case, such as an Altoids® tin, try to use a case bigger than needed in case you want to make additions or modifications. Mint tins require special care when drilling holes in them. There is a variety of methods, including using various metal punches or carefully drilling, using a small block of wood behind the surface to prevent tearing of the thin metal case.

Last month I featured a QRSS beacon kit by Hans Summers, GØUPL, and Steve Farthing, GØXAR. This kit can fit inside a mint tin, but I found old Bud box, which is large enough to hold two of these kits, at a hamfest flea market and I chose that. Since I got both the 30- and 40-meter versions of the same kit, I can place both in the case at the same time and provide for switches to activate one or the other, or both if desired. There is also room to accommodate a receiver board above

\*7133 Yosemite Drive, Lincoln, NE 68507  
e-mail: <k0neb@cq-amateur-radio.com>

the two transmitters if needed. On the bottom there are screw heads that protrude from the bottom of the case. To prevent scratching of the table surface, I used stick-on rubber feet. You often can find sheets of self-stick rubber feet at hamfests or at most RadioShack® stores. Just make sure they are thick enough to allow for sufficient space underneath your case for the screw heads to stay above the surface.

In my QRSS kit case you see a BNC back-panel connector. I often find BNC panel jacks and SO-239 panel jacks for sale at hamfests. I store them in a parts bin so they are available when I am finishing my kits. I try to keep an assortment of RF panel connectors, switches, and other jacks on hand. In this kit I also placed a 1/8-inch jack on the back so that I can hear the output audio from the kit to monitor the keying. The audio output from the QRSS beacon is quite loud, so I do not leave a speaker plugged in all of the time, but it is good to have the output available to listen to without having to open the case.

Another modification I made was that I replaced the hard-wired speed-selection jumpers with a small DIP switch so I can make changes to the speed of the beacon merely by changing the DIP switch settings instead of hard-wiring jumpers. Since there are only three jumpers, the fourth switch is not used.

An interesting note: When showing this kit, I have been asked why I didn't place the LED on the front panel, since normally you would want it to be visible. The LED in this kit is being used for its properties as a low-variability varactor to create the approximately 5-Hz frequency shift and so was chosen as a component over a much more expensive varactor diode. Because it is used as an oscillator component, it doesn't have enough current flowing through it to light up, so it just resides on the board, never to be lit! This, of course, doesn't preclude my placing indicator LEDs on the front panel in the future to indicate which of the two beacons is in use.

The power-supply requirement of this kit is 5 VDC. Since I almost always try to be standard in using 12 VDC for my power supply, I added a 7805 regulator to my case, using the case itself as the heatsink. The cost of adding the 7805 regulator was minimal, including the two electrolytic capacitors needed to use a 7805. I used the simple diagram on the 7805 datasheet for my regulator circuit. Now my kit runs on any DC voltage from 5 VDC up to 15 VDC. This also helps keep the oscillator stable.

I have found that using a small length of RG-174 coax works great for the RF connections from my kits to the output jacks. If the jack is close enough to the board, less than an inch or so, I use just a straight wire. Look for some RG-174 at hamfest flea markets. With kits a little goes a long way, so get a few feet of RG-174 coax to keep on hand. I also find it hard to pass up a spool of hookup wire or enam-



Base view of the QRSS Beacon kit mounted in a Bud box.

eled wire. Having multiple colors and sizes of wire is handy as well when wiring your kit into a case.

Drilling holes in the case can be easier with a small benchtop drill press. I don't have one, but they can be very handy. I often use a small Dremel tool to drill the pilot holes, and then widen them with a Unibit step drill bit in my hand-held power drill. A Unibit allows you to steadily increase the hole size until the desired size is reached with very little burring along the outside. Check your hardware store for the

Unibit #10502 set of three bits or any of the individual bits. Harbor Freight also carries step-drill bits and often has a set of three of them on sale. The three-bit set is available as Harbor Freight #91616 and is available at <http://www.harborfreight.com> .

### Zap!

With the cold weather season at hand it is time to talk a bit about *electro-static discharge*, or *ESD*. Many kits have CMOS or other components that are

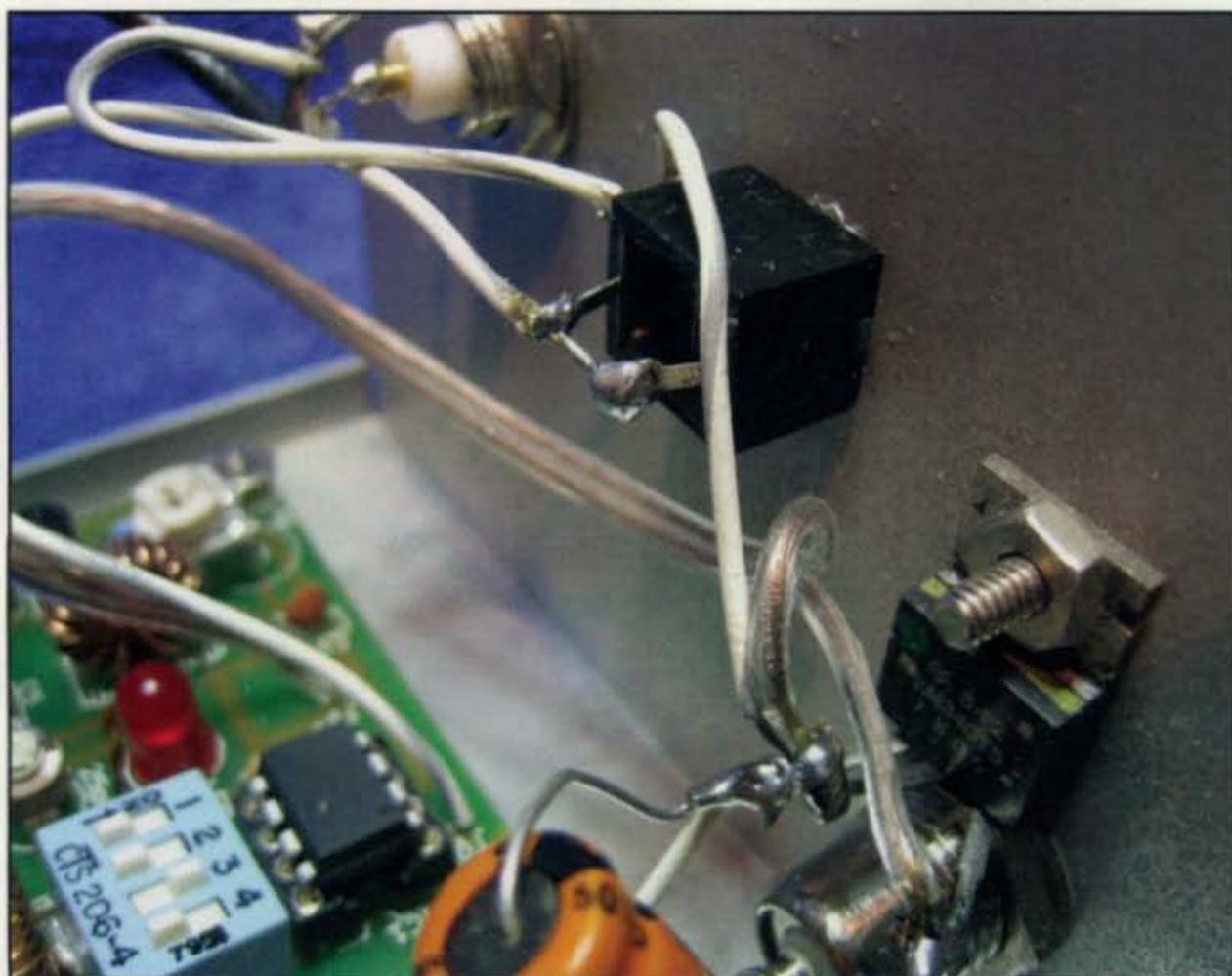
static-sensitive. That annoying "zap" of static electricity that is so common in winter can be deadly to your kits and projects.

Normally, I use a metal cookie sheet to cover my work surface to keep small parts from falling into cracks in the bench or rolling off the work surface. It also doubles as a connecting point for my ESD strap. I also ground the cookie sheet through a 1-Meg resistor, as well as connect my ESD strap to it when working with static-sensitive parts. ESD straps have a 1-Meg resistor in them to prevent the wearer from stray voltages in case the strap comes in contact with them. The resistor is high enough for safety, while allowing the discharge of static charges. Static potentials of as low as 30 volts can cause permanent or hidden damage to CMOS parts. You can't feel that, but it can damage parts.

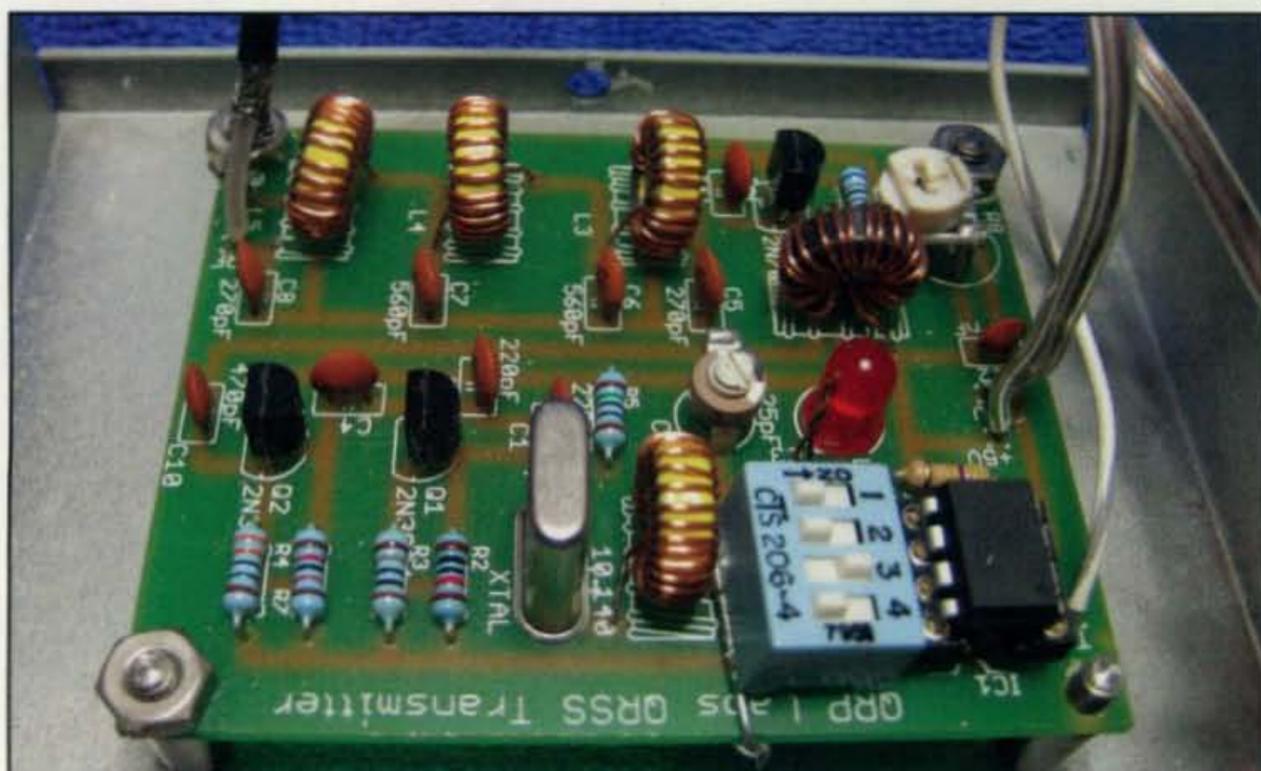
Therefore, especially when indoor humidity is low, or you are working with CMOS parts, be sure to follow ESD precautions. RadioShack has a readily available ESD strap as part #276-2397.

Enjoy the winter months by spending time on the bench building kits!

73 de Joe, KØNEB



View inside the case showing the power jack with 7805 regulator mounted just above, along with a 1/8-inch jack for audio out and BNC RF output.



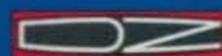
Close-up of QRSS board mounted in the case with the DIP switch mod in the lower right of the board.

### No unintended exhilaration here!



### Build the Sienna HF Transceiver Kit

True Kit - Soldering Required



www.DZKit.com

4321 W. Eisenhower Blvd. • Loveland, CO 80537

1-877-HAM-SHACK

### The NEW EZ HANG Square Shot Kit

www.ezhang.com



Suggestions from thousands of HAM'S and Cable installers around the world, led to a complete redesign of the EZ Hang. Custom designed for YOU, the user in mind. Now safer and easier to use, you will hit your mark every time, with less chance of misfires hitting the yoke.

**OVER 8600 SOLD AROUND THE WORLD!**

\$99.95 + \$9.05 for shipping when paying by check



540-286-0176

www.ezhang.com



**EZ HANG**



32 Princess Gillian Ct.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

# "5S" in Your Shack: One Way to Get Organized

It is late October as I write this installment of "The Ham Notebook." The east coast is being blasted by a "Nor'easter" heavy winter storm and many businesses there are closed today. I am taking advantage of the mild southern California weather and decided to start cleaning out my garage (see photo 1).

I need to clear out my garage to make enough room for my car, my workbench, and a kit car project. I am trying to apply the rules of "5S" in my garage and workspaces in my operating room. This extraordinary amount of organization will be a challenge for me, since I organize things in "piles" and always have multiple projects going at the same time. This may be related to my earliest childhood days, when I would routinely use my crayons to color things outside the lines.

## "5S" Defined

"5S" is a Japanese manufacturing optimization philosophy. The five concepts of 5S are Sort (*Seiri*,

pronounced "say-erie"), Set in Order (*Seiton*, "say-ton"), Shine (*Seiso*, "say-so"), Standardize (*Seiketsu*, "say-ket-sue"), and Sustain (*Shitsuke*, "she-shoo-kay"). These are the most common translations of the five concepts, but there are some other translations. For example, at my company, Set in Order is called Simplify, Shine is Sweep (see photo 2).

5S is related to several other programs such as Six Sigma, Lean, and other manufacturing optimization practices. It is a system or a philosophy of organizing everything in order to recognize when something is out of place. It is sort of an extreme version of having a place for everything, and everything in its place. A common example of this organization is the "shadow board" for tool storage, like what we had in school shop class. Each and every tool had a matching icon in the wall cabinet, so if any item was missing, it was immediately noticed.

**1. Sort:** "Sort" is the first 5S step, and it is exactly what it sounds like. The most-often used items should be stored or arranged so they are close at hand to maximize efficiency. For example, my soldering station includes an iron

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



Photo 1— I really need to clean up my garage and get things organized so I will be able to work more efficiently on my new projects. The 5S rules are needed here.

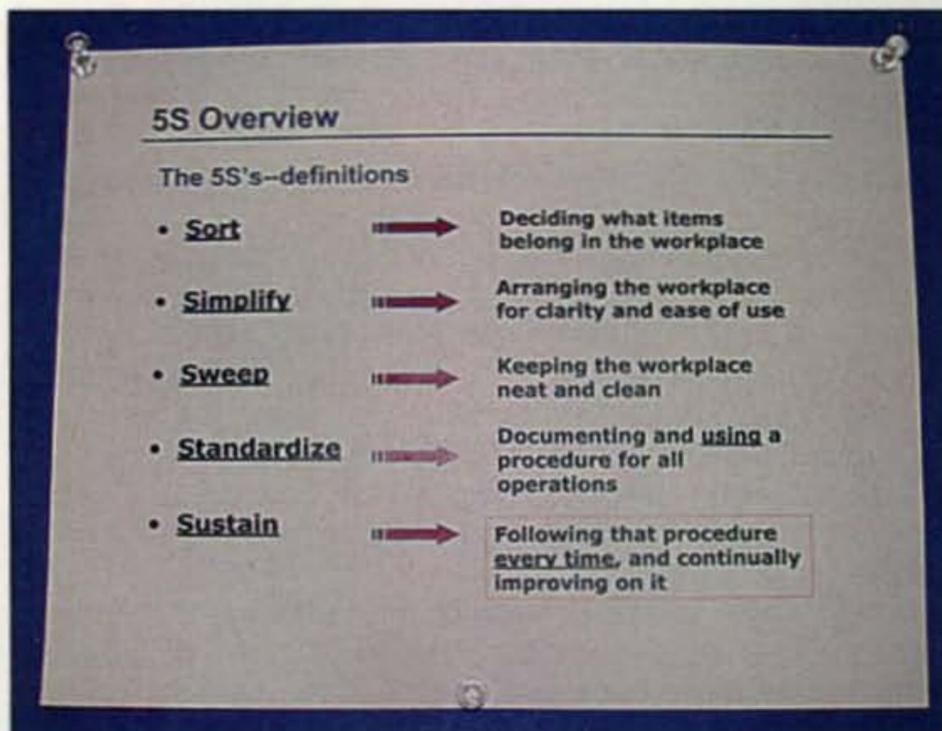


Photo 2— There may be some slight variations in the English translation for the 5S concepts, but they are pretty much the same, action-wise.



Photo 4— An organized and labeled cabinet is an example of "Sustain." Here production test fixtures are in labeled drawers.



Photo 3— These plastic silverware trays are an example of "set in order." Small hand tools are placed in compartments, rather than jumbled into a single tray. An even better solution would be to have each tool fit into its own cut-out within the tray.

tip cleaner, a roll of solder, and solder wick all clustered together in one location.

**2. Set:** "Set" is the second step in this process. After sorting through your items, you need a place to put them and keep them in order. As mentioned previously, a shadow board for tools is a very common helper for this step. In photo 3 you can see the 99-cent plastic silverware trays to organize my rolling cabinet drawers. Labels help organize storage boxes and containers. They also help identify the locations for each storage box to simplify putting the item back into its correct place.

**3. Shine:** "Shine" is a way to remember that you must main-

tain your equipment and tools. It should include making sure measuring instruments are kept in calibration.

**4. Standardize:** "Standardize" procedures and policies to make things easy to maintain and operate. This may not be too important when working in a one-person environment such as your ham station, but think about what can happen to things when you decide to operate a contest with multiple operators. Knowing what goes where and establishing a rule that includes putting things away where they belong (not where they were found) will reduce stress while working stations under pile-up pressure.

**5. Sustain:** "Sustain" is probably the hardest part of the 5S philosophy. It is fairly easy to do a massive cleaning and organizing effort once, but what happens a week, a month, or a year from that point? This process must be continuous and ongoing.

The quality department at the office has been doing this 5S and Lean stuff for several years and even conducts audits for this practice (among other things) on a regular schedule. Photos 4 and 5 show an example of a 5S technique in action in our test fixture storage area. Notice how labels are everywhere. Each item is labeled, its corresponding storage box is labeled, and even the location of the storage box is labeled.

This organization system makes a lot of sense in a manufacturing environment, and if you think about this, it can be applied to just about everything you do around the office, your house, and even your ham station.

### A Nice Rack

I purchased a Broder rack system from Ikea for storing large items and storage containers. Broder is a modular support and shelf system and can be expanded as the need arises. The galvanized steel supports and shelving are strong enough to carry "heavy tires and bags of cement" and should be corrosion-proof. I wanted a shelving system that would be

mounted on the wall, rather than sitting on the floor, for two reasons: First, I wanted to avoid getting anything wet in case of a flood, and second, I wanted my garage shop to accommodate my iRobot Dirt Dog floor sweeper (see photo 6). Sadly, the Dirt Dog has been discontinued, although other vacuuming-type models are available.

### Small Parts Storage

Photo 7 shows how I used to store small parts before I decided to go through the 5S process. One problem with storing many different small items is the number of individual containers, drawers, or bins required. Although this looks somewhat nice and tidy, and every part number has its own stor-



Photo 5— Each test fixture is further organized into an individual storage box within the drawer. Can you see the open space on the bottom left? Each space is marked, so everyone knows “TMRF151G” is in use on the factory floor.



Photo 6— One criterion for my re-organized garage is to have everything off the floor so my DirtDog® can sweep underneath and to prevent or minimize water damage in case of a flood.

age location, a problem arises: As the number of different parts increases, the cost and volume of the storage area must also increase. Considering most of the parts I have were either free or purchased at a low price, it does not make much sense to pay more for the storage system than the parts themselves!

I decided to minimize the cost of storage by using zip-top plastic sandwich bags from the grocery store. This is similar to the way my friend Dave Glawson, WA6CGR, stores his vast inventory of small parts. You can reduce a large amount of space by storing items in envelopes, bags, or other small containers (see photo 8). Then store those packets as a group, as seen in photo 9. This system is especially useful for storing resistors, since there can be over 100 different values.

For example, a plastic storage tub labeled “Capacitors, Except Electrolytic” contains several values and types of ceramic disc, silver mica, and other through-hole capacitors.

Since markings on the plastic bags tend to wear off, instead small slips of paper showing the values and ratings are placed inside the bags. Static-sensitive parts such as transistors and ICs are stored in anti-static, ESD-safe bags and envelopes.

### My Efforts

You may have noticed that I do not have any “after” pictures in this article. This is because I am still working on the “Sort” part of the 5S program. My 5S effort is still in progress, and it is taking much more time than I thought it would. But the idea is there, and once I finally get things organized (uh . . .



Photo 7— These storage bins from the hardware store are handy, but they can become an expensive way to store free parts.



Photo 8— Plastic zipper-top bags can be used to store lots of different small parts, such as transistors and capacitors.



Photo 9. The small packets are then placed in large tubs so they can easily be found.

sorted) using the 5S concept, I will try to sustain this throughout my garage, workshop, station, and even the rest of the house. Getting to 5S is on my list of resolutions for 2012.

73 and Happy New Year,

Wayne, KH6WZ

#### References

A Free 5S Handbook online from Brady Corporation: <<http://bit.ly/vBMc2d>>.

Wikipedia has an entry on 5S: <<http://bit.ly/Soneu>>.

YouTube has many entries on Six Sigma and 5S. Here's one: <<http://bit.ly/dC3nLY>>.

Dilbert's thoughts on Six Sigma, Lean, and 5S: <<http://bit.ly/tkFSkh>> and <<http://bit.ly/v6tIM5>>.

Broder shelving system at Ikea: <[www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com)>.

iRobot® floor cleaning robots: <[www.irobot.com](http://www.irobot.com)>.

## Par EndFedz® Antennas



Above photos VE3MPG

**Stealth Design!**

**No Ground Radials!**

**No Tuners!**

**Base & Portable Deployment**

- \* Mono & Dual Bands
- \* 6 thru 80 Meters
- \* Silver/Teflon SO-238
- \* Stainless Steel Hardware
- \* QRP & up to 300W on most models
- \* Custom #18 Polystealth Copper Clad Radiator



Check out e-ham reviews to hear what others are saying!!

**LNR**  
PRECISION ENDFEDZ®

[www.LNRprecision.com](http://www.LNRprecision.com)

Tel: 336-495-7714

WEST MOUNTAIN  
**RADIO**



- 8 different models to suit your needs
- Handles up to 80 amps total
- Uses Anderson Powerpole® connectors
- Conforms to ARES, RACES, RSGB Standards
- NEW! 4005i for internet based monitoring and control

Order Online Today!  
[westmountainradio.com](http://westmountainradio.com)  
262-522-6503 x 35 sales  
[sales@westmountainradio.com](mailto:sales@westmountainradio.com)

Learn how to build a safety locked power system for your rig. Go to [www.westmountainradio.com/safecq1](http://www.westmountainradio.com/safecq1)

POWERPOLE® is a registered trademark of Anderson Products

## Receiver SWR and Some Simple Antennas for 10 Meters

**T**his time around we will be looking at a variety of antenna topics. We'll start out with a reader e-mail about receivers and loads.

From Clyde, we got an e-mail bringing up an important point: While the impedance and SWR of the antenna may work out to 50 ohms, looking back into a receiver you do not always see a 50-ohm load.

The receiver front end is matched to 50 ohms, but it may not always look like a 50-ohm load. With the typical HF receiver the first RF amp is mainly a voltage amplifier looking at a 50-ohm load. Now if your rig has an attenuator, or a Local/DX switch, then in the Local or -10 dB position, the receiver looks pretty close to 50 ohms. However, the rest of the time the HF receiver front end looks like a very high impedance.

This can get even worse with many GaAs FET preamps. In photo A is a super-duper GaAs FET preamp with a .1- to .15-dB noise figure. Sorry for the poor photo, but I didn't want to take it out of my station. These noise-figure values are well into the uncertainty range of automatic noise-figure meters. Trying to figure out why 10-GHz power GaAs FETs gave such an amazing noise figure at 2 meters, I got access to a fancy network analyzer. The input measured dB *return gain*! Return gain? Imagine you have built an HF amp for your QRP rig and you put an SWR meter between the rig and the amp.

You see 1 watt going into the amp and 2 watts reflected! Fig. 1 shows what this would look like to a directional power meter. Uhhh ... 1 watt in and 1

watt reflected is an SWR of  $\infty$  (infinity), so 2 watts reflected is  $2 \times \infty$ ? Oh, this new math! Of course, this is a condition that SWR just isn't designed to handle, but needless to say, such a system can be a bit interesting to tune up without oscillating.

In recent years there has been considerable RF modeling work to bring down the input impedance of a GaAs FET amp with feedback techniques to make the preamps look more like a 50-ohm load. The families of MMIC amplifiers look pretty much like 50-ohm resistors on their inputs and outputs when powered. As for those amazing noise figures on VHF from  $1/4$ -1 watt GaAs FETs for microwave amps, it turned out to be a matter of impedance. The 12-GHz GaAs FET used in a Satellite LNB can have a 3000-5000-ohm input impedance at 2 meters. The input matching circuit for this much impedance change had a lot of loss. The bigger gate power FETs had a much lower input impedance and thus were easier to match with low-loss matching circuits. While the power FETs had a higher basic noise figure, the lower loss matching circuits more than made up for this.

Another way to get a good 50-ohm match for an amplifier is to use a circulator such as the one in photo B. A circulator is the RF equivalent of a diode, or in hydraulics, a check valve. RF can go in only one direction. Now the antenna sees the receiver front end as a nearly perfect 50-ohm load.

Here is one of those "facts" I have been told, but not able to verify in recent years. Perhaps one of you knows more about this and we can pass it along, but I am told that all the early C-Band satellite LNAs (LNAs were much later) were required to have a circulator on the input as in photo B. The circulator has a very low SWR, or *input return loss*,

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



Photo A— Preamp with an input SWR > infinity!

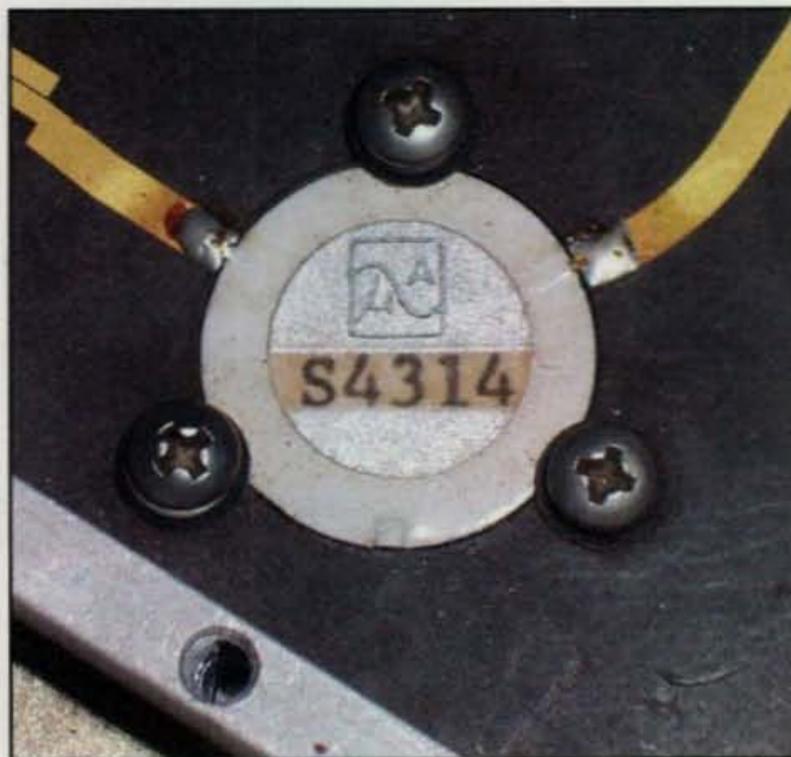


Photo B— Circulator with 50-ohm termination.



# BLAST OFF!

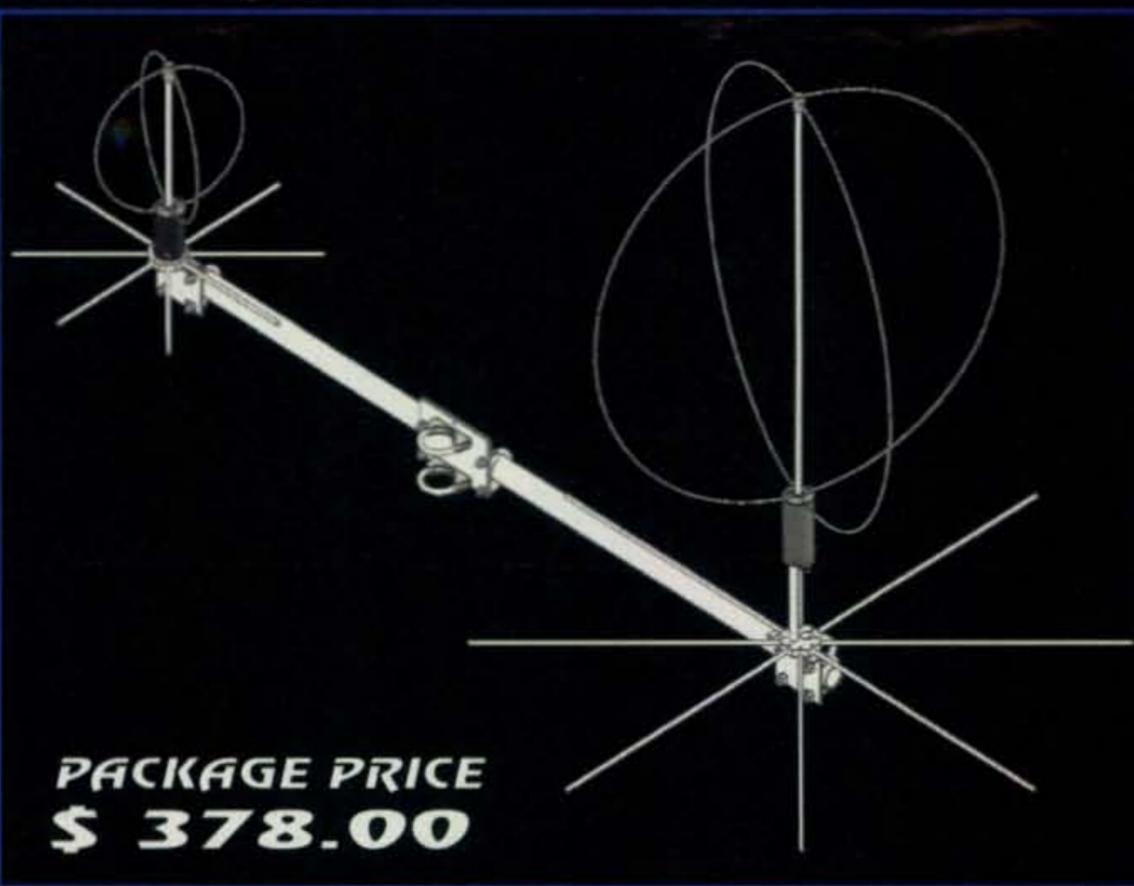
## REACH ORBIT WITH AN M2 SATELLITE PACKAGE

WORLD CLASS PRODUCTS

### SATELLITE PACKAGE 1

*A perfect satellite package to get you up and running on the Low Earth Orbit Satellites.*

Purchase the EB-144 and the EB-432 and get the cross-boom with hardware kit – a \$40.00 value – FREE!



**PACKAGE PRICE  
\$ 378.00**

### PLUS GREAT PACKAGE DEALS FOR THE ADVANCED SATELLITE USER

**PURCHASE THE 2MCPI4 & 436CP30 WITH HD FIBERGLASS BOOM KIT AND SAVE \$50**

**SATELLITE PACKAGE 2  
PACKAGE PRICE  
\$ 647.00**

**PURCHASE THE 2MCP22 & 436CP42UG WITH HD FIBERGLASS BOOM KIT AND SAVE \$50**

**SATELLITE PACKAGE 3  
PACKAGE PRICE  
\$ 821.00**

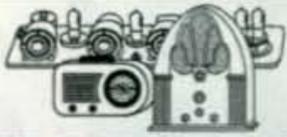


4402 N. Selland Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93722  
Phone (559) 432-8873 Fax (559) 432-3059  
www.m2inc.com

M2 Offers many HF Logs, Monobanders and Multiband products, not to mention our full line of VHF, UHF and Microwave antennas. We are your one stop shop for all of your High Quality Antenna needs. Check us out on the web at [www.m2inc.com](http://www.m2inc.com)

**ANTENNAS    POSITIONERS    ACCESSORIES**

PRICES VALID THROUGH FEBRUARY 15, 2012



# ANTIQUE RADIO CLASSIFIED

Antique Radio's Largest Monthly Magazine – 4,000 Subscribers!

Classifieds - Ads for Parts & Services  
Articles - Auction Prices  
Meet & Flea Market Info.  
Radios, Ham Equip, Telegraph, Hi-Fi  
TV, Books, Art Deco, 40s & 50s Radios

U.S. Rates: 1 year  
\$36 (\$48 by 1st Class)

A.R.C., PO Box 1558  
Port Washington, NY 11050  
Web: [www.antiqueradio.com](http://www.antiqueradio.com)  
Email: [arc@antiqueradio.com](mailto:arc@antiqueradio.com)

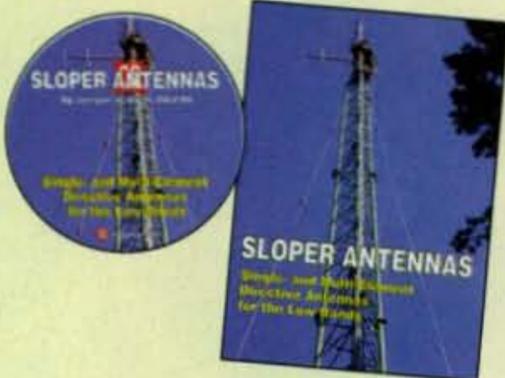
Toll Free: (866) 371-0512 Fax: (516) 883-1077



## 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.

**Also available on CD!**

6 X 9 Paperback **\$24.95**

CD Version **\$18.95**

**Buy both for only \$36.95**

**Shipping & Handling:** US: \$7 for first item, \$3.50 for 2nd, \$2 for each additional. CN/MX \$15 for first item, \$7 for 2nd, \$3.50 each add'l. Other Countries: \$25 for first item, \$10 for 2nd, \$5 each add'l.

**CD Only** - USA \$5 for one \$3 each add'l; CN/MX \$10 for one \$7 each add'l; Other Countries: \$15 for one \$10 each add'l.

**Book & CD to a single address = ONE item!**

**CQ Communications, Inc.**  
25 Newbridge Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801  
[www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

**Order today! 800-853-9797**

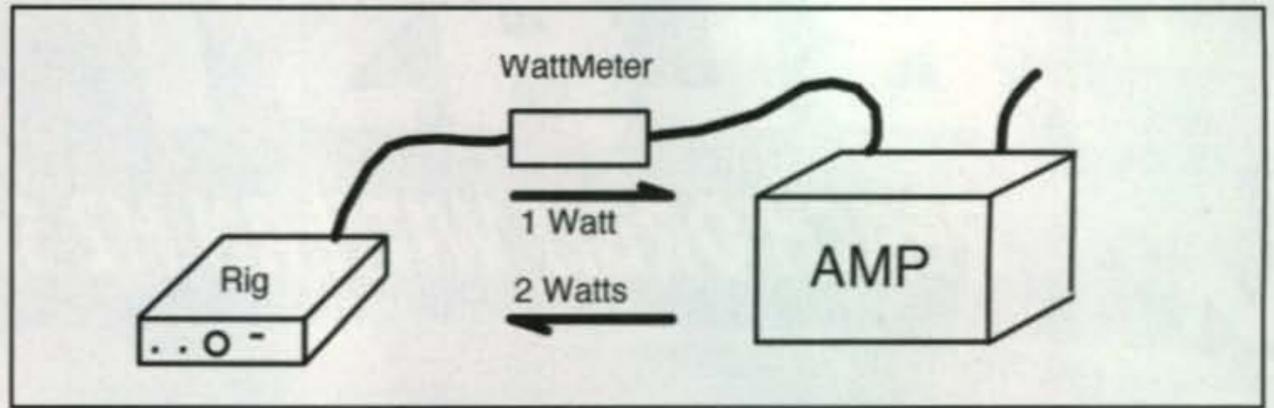


Fig. 1— An amplifier with input return gain.



Photo C— Ten-meter portable dipole made from CB whips.

and any signals generated in the GaAs FET preamp are trapped in the preamp. You might think that the few milliwatts reflected from those poorly matched GaAs FETs, or a spurious oscillation, would not cause a problem, but that noise generator is sitting at the focus of a big dish, and there could be nearly 1 million of these noise generators pointing back at the Galaxy IV satellite. That's quite an opportunity for jamming the satellite! Does anyone know if the input circulators were required or just considered good engineering?

### Sunspots are Back!

Sunspots are back and 10 meters is hopping again. Here are a couple of easy 10-meter construction projects, and a bit of antenna theory as we go along, of course.

At flea markets and garage sales you often see the classic 4-foot CB fiberglass whips pretty cheap. They are not that hard to move to 10 meters once you realize what's going on in there. On 11

meters, a quarter-wave whip is 108 inches long. 108? Why do they usually sell 102-inch whips? They expect you to have a 6-inch spring at the base of that whip.

OK, a quarter wave is 108 inches, but if you take one of the antennas in photo C, cut off the heat shrink, and unwind the wire, you will find about 35 feet of wire. Multiply by 12 and you have 420 inches of wire!

Confused? In fig. 2 you can see the wires are tightly coiled. There is a lot of capacitance between those coils, as so much of the RF is bypassing the coil capacitively. We can take advantage of this . . . more in a moment.

If you have worked with a lot of loaded verticals, you know that it only takes a few turns of coil to load a whip at the base, more turns when the load is in the middle of the whip, and even more turns when the loading coil is at the top of the antenna. A 4-foot top load needs a lot of turns. Therefore, to move that 4-foot whip from 27 MHz to 28.5 MHz you need to remove about 2 feet of wire. Of

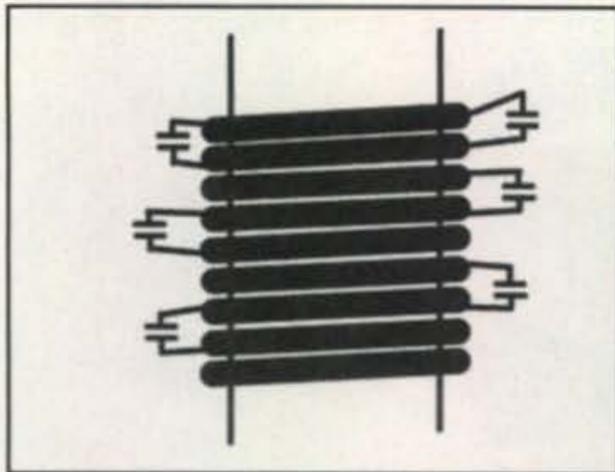


Fig. 2— Capacitive bypassing of the loading coil.



Photo D— 10-meter mag mount.

course, do it a few inches at a time until you see a reasonable SWR at 28.0 MHz and then walk it up to your favorite 10-meter frequency.

In photos C and D, we have two uses for your new 10-meter antennas. The dipole is great hanging off a tower or for portable use. You can mount it vertically or horizontally. I built my base for the dipole out of an old mirror mount. Photo E shows a wire-wound top-loaded vertical.

The dipole will have some RF on the outside of the coax, so you are going to need a balun (photo F). Perhaps the easiest to make is a "noise" balun. Four or five turns of RG-58 in a 6- to 8-inch

A CQ Advertiser  
Since 1947

**VIBROPLEX**® 100% MADE  
IN USA  
All Parts and Assembly



IAMBIC DELUXE



CODE WARRIOR JR.



ORIGINAL DELUXE

Our paddles, bugs, and straight keys have been the standard of comparison for generations of CW operators. Come see our product line of 27 different models. Parts and repair service for older Vibroplex keys also available.

2906 Tazewell Pike, Suite A2B, Knoxville, TN 37918  
1-800-840-8873 • 865-247-6792 • Fax 865-247-6795 • email: support@vibroplex.com  
Mastercard and Visa accepted • Dealers wanted outside the US. email or FAX

See all of our products at [www.vibroplex.com](http://www.vibroplex.com)



**Hobby  
books, cds,  
dvs &  
calendars!**

CQ Communications, Inc. Online Store!  
<http://store.cq-amateur-radio.com>

**POWERPORT Worldpouch**



Designed for the  
Yaesu FT-817,  
but also for Alinco  
VHF/UHF mobiles

831-427-8197 • KC6QLB  
[www.powerportstore.com](http://www.powerportstore.com)

Get Ready For The **2012**  
ORLANDO  
**HamCation**®

ARRL Northern Florida Section Convention  
Amateur Radio & Computer Show

AT THE CENTRAL FLORIDA FAIRGROUNDS  
4603 West Colonial Drive Orlando, Florida 32808

**February 10, 11 & 12**

Fri. 12 noon to 6 pm Sat. 9 am to 5 pm Sun. 9 am to 2 pm  
Advance tickets: \$10.00 (ends January 21, 2012) Tickets at the gate: \$12.00

Please visit our web site at [www.hamcation.com](http://www.hamcation.com), call 407-841-0874.  
Outside Florida 800-214-7541. E-mail us at [Info@hamcation.com](mailto:Info@hamcation.com),  
or write to: HamCation, P.O. Box 547811, Orlando, FL 32854-7811

Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope with mail orders.

**Two Grand Prizes:**

**Aluma Tower T-40 HN & Yaesu FT-950 Transceiver**



- Special Guest Speakers
- Over 150 Commercial Booths
- Over 400 Swap Tables
- Largest Tailgate Area in the Southeast
- Florida Weak Signal Society Meeting
- Testing On Saturday
- Free Parking
- RV Camping On Premises
- Guest Friendly Central Florida Atmosphere
- Theme Parks Nearby
- Fox Hunt
- Courtesy Talk-In On 146.76

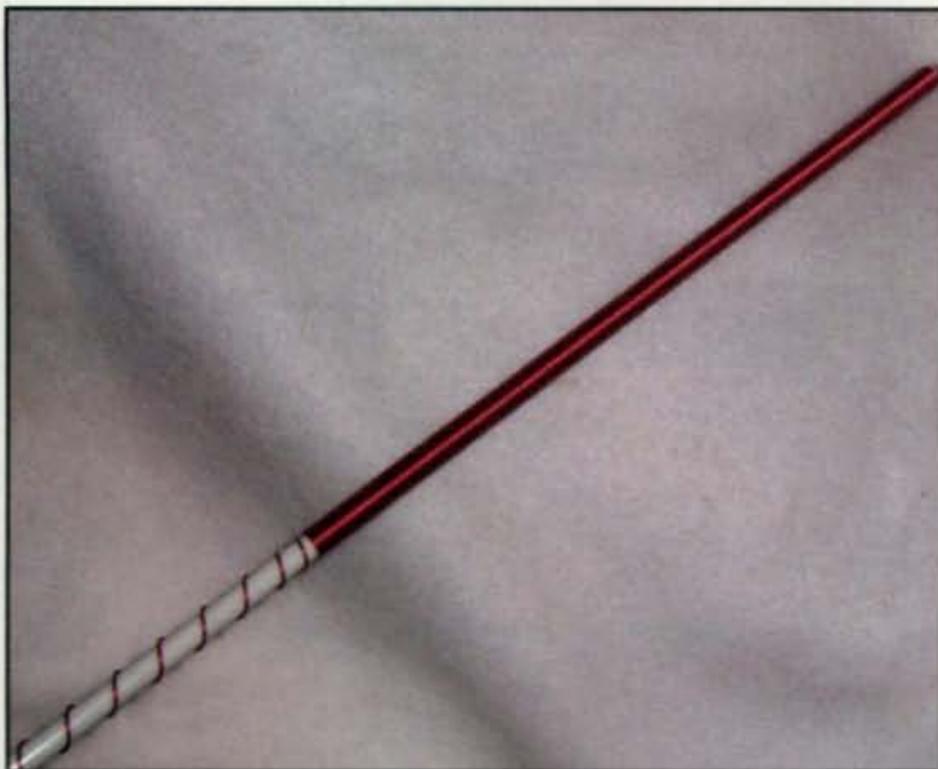


Photo E— Wire-wound top-loaded vertical.

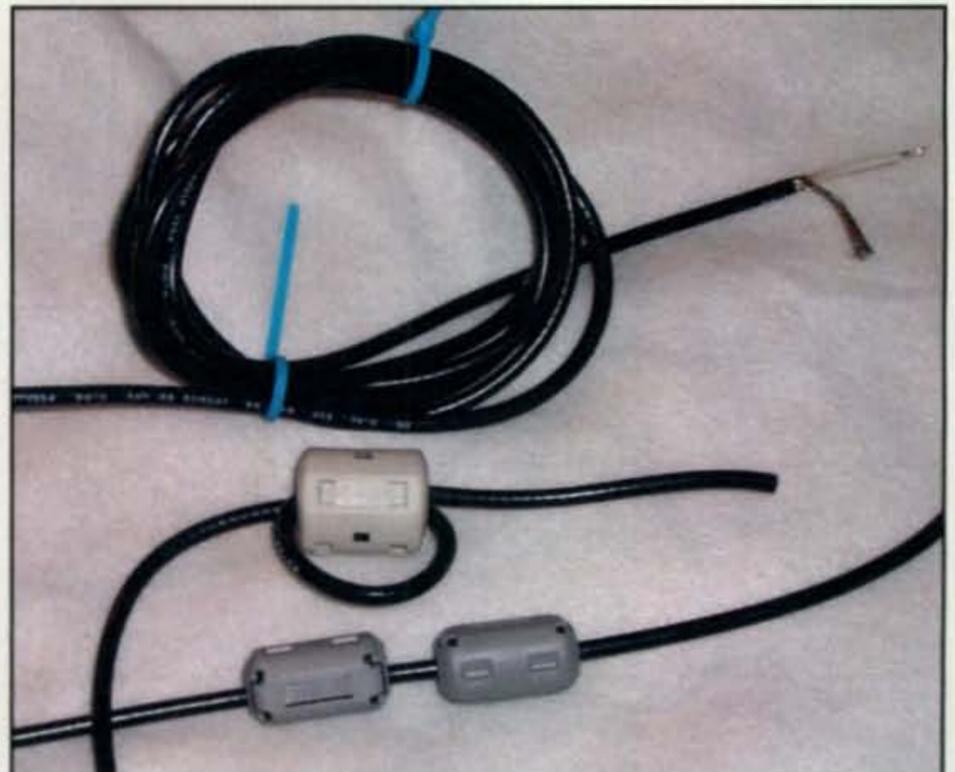


Photo F— A variety of baluns.



Photo G— 160-MHz weather-band trap.

*Listening is only half the fun...*

## POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS

*is the other half!*

The World's most authoritative  
monthly magazine for Shortwave  
Listening and Scanner Monitoring.

Read by more  
active listeners world-wide.

You'll find features on scanner monitoring of police, fire, utility, and aircraft communications; international shortwave listening; CB radio; amateur radio; FRS; GMRS; monitoring radio digital communications including CW, RTTY, SITOR, etc; AM/FM commercial broadcasting; weather and communications satellites; telephone equipment and accessories; radio nostalgia; alternative radio; and military radio.



Choose the PRINT Edition or New DIGITAL Edition!

Buy both at a SPECIAL price!

**Combo Sale!**

1 year	Print	Digital	Both!
USA	\$32.95	\$24.00	\$47.95
CN/MX	\$42.95	\$24.00	\$57.95
Foreign	\$52.95	\$24.00	\$67.95

**Popular Communications**

25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY11801

Phone: 516-681-2922; Fax 516-681-2926

Visit our web site: [www.popular-communications.com](http://www.popular-communications.com)

loop work well, as will a couple of ferrite beads. Several types of baluns are shown in photo F.

Now for the marketing angle. Ever look at the CB antennas at a truck stop or in a CB shop? See them advertise a short whip as  $5/8$ ,  $7/8$ , or even full wave? They are talking about the length of the wire in the short vertical. A  $5/8$ -wave vertical has to be  $5/8$  of a wavelength high. It cannot be shortened and still have the gain of a  $5/8$  vertical. Despite what the advertising says, they all radiate as loaded  $1/4$ -wave verticals.

Next, let's take advantage of the capacitance between the windings of the loading coil.

In photo G, you see a short section of tightly wound coil. Most CB rigs used by truckers also have the NOAA 160-MHz weather band. For some reason, truckers like to monitor weather conditions, especially this time of year. The parasitic capacitance turns that coil into a 160-MHz trap, just like the traps you have in many HF trap verticals. Twenty-six turns will self resonate at 2 meters! Want to build a multiband fiberglass vertical? Come up 15 inches from the base, tightly wind 26 turns of wire, and then make the rest of the antenna.

But isn't a quarter wave on 2 meters 18 inches? Yes, but you have some base hardware and the 146-MHz trap doesn't begin at exactly the first turn of the trap. Take my word for it; about 15 inches is what you want. For two years I have had a  $6/2$ -meter trap vertical on my van and many of you have seen me selling  $2/10$ -meter trap verticals at the Dayton Hamvention®. Sounds like the start of another column.

As always, we welcome your questions and topic suggestions. Just drop a snailmail to my QRZ.com address or an e-mail to [wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com). For other antenna articles and projects, you are welcome to visit the reference section of [www.wa5vjb.com](http://www.wa5vjb.com).

73, Kent, WA5VJB

# New Gear for a New Year

**T**here's nothing like having a new piece of ham gear to get this new year started right. It doesn't matter if it's something you were given for Christmas or it's the piece of gear you didn't get (no matter how many hints you dropped) and now have the fun of buying it for your shack—a.k.a., yourself.

One item that many hams need to acquire on a regular basis is a new handheld transceiver. New models are coming out all the time, some with surprising new features and others with surprising low prices. Handhelds that are owned, used, and loved every day may suffer from rigors such as being dropped in a puddle or bounced on a hard concrete floor. Therefore, it's an item that commonly needs to be replaced.

But what if you could purchase a handie-talkie that has many of the features hams demand these days but also excels in matters of practicality because it sports a tough water-, dirt- and dust-resistant exterior that is ergonomically designed to fit the hand and is priced affordably to limit the bite on the typically tight ham wallet? The HT I have in mind is the new DJ-V57T from Alinco.

## The Alinco DJ-V57T

A year or two ago Alinco came out with a new design for a handful of its single-band HTs when it introduced the DJ-V17T for 2 meters, the DJ-27T for the 222-MHz band, and the DT-47T for the 440-MHz band. But what about the dual bander? For reasons known only to Alinco, until now it continued to market the DJ-596T as its dual-band HT.

Alinco has recently released the DJ-V57T (photo A) which is similar in looks to the trio mentioned above. However, this one covers the VHF and UHF ham bands with three power levels up to 5 watts selectable through the 16-button key pad and all wrapped up in a polycarbonate body that saves weight while also providing strength and enough protection to merit an IPX7 designation for limited waterproofing. This HT is capable of surviving immersion in 1 meter of still water for up to 30 minutes. That means the DJ-57T can hang with you in bad weather or good when you're backpacking, camping, hiking, fishing, or just relaxing around the house.

Earlier, I did mention that this HT is affordable, so let me define that relevant term. For a list price of \$149.95 or a street price of around \$139.95, you get the dual band HT, an EDC-146 wall-wart charger, a belt clip, hand strap, flexible antenna for an SMA male connector, and an EBP-65 7.2-volt, 700-mAh rechargeable nickel-metal-hydride battery pack. After being in the hobby for more than 35 years, I can tell you that's a very competitive price for a brand-new dual-band handheld that will

*Photo A—Introducing the Alinco DJ-V57T, a very practical dual-band handheld that comes with an affordable price tag and some impressive capabilities.*



receive and transmit on the two bands where many ham repeaters live.

Also, if you wish to accessorize, Alinco offers a variety of extras such as lithium-ion battery packs, drop-in chargers, cigarette-lighter adapters, microphones, headsets, a soft case, a clone cable, PC programming capability, earphones, speaker mics, and even a tie-pin mic with VOX.

In actual service, this HT performs well and gets excellent audio and signal reports. It's easy to operate, easy to change frequencies and other settings, and easy to take with you whether you clip it to your belt or stuff it in a pocket. To prevent accidental key presses when you choose the pocket option, it's a good idea to lock the keypad—easy as one, two with a press of the function button and a press of the Scan KL button. In fact, a press of the function button and one button on the keypad allows you to quickly change the frequency step (your choice of 5, 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 25, 30 kHz), frequency shift, alarm function, save frequencies to one of 200 memory positions available, name the memories, activate tone squelch, DCS or VOX, change power output settings (indicated by an L for low, an M for medium, and no letter display for high power) as determined by the battery pack attached, reverse the frequencies while in repeater operation, adjust the receive attenuation, or modify the tone dial memories.

There are more features to adjust in the set mode, such as automatic power off (APO) function, but I'll leave that for you to discover (hold down the function key down for at least two seconds to enter the set menu).

Obviously this HT is feature-rich on two levels, so be sure to explore and read the 72-page user

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

Photo B— Comet Antenna debuts its CHV-5X five-band rotatable dipole that covers 40/20/15/10 and 6 meters and measures less than 13 feet wide and comes in at under six pounds.



manual to get acquainted with all that this radio can do. For more information, visit <[www.alinco.com](http://www.alinco.com)>.

### Skyhooks and Other Related Items

I was told that engineers at Comet Antennas had been busy designing compact skyhooks that appeal to a growing number of hams who need compact antennas that get their signals out but avoid antenna complaints from their neighbors and manage antenna restrictions. However, I had no idea what products that research was leading to until I saw some of the small low-band antennas Comet had on display at its booth at the Dayton Hamvention® in May 2011. One of the ideas that Comet decided to bring to market is the CHA-250B broad-band vertical.

Comet is also releasing its newest rotatable dipole design, the CHV-5X (photo B), which appears to incorporate some of these smaller HF whips. The company tell me it covers the 40-, 20-, 15-, 10-, and 6-meter bands, measures about 13 feet long, weighs in at less than six pounds, and so far has proven to be a very successful product. For details go to: <[www.cometantenna.com](http://www.cometantenna.com)>.

### MFJ QRPocket Tuner

For QRP operators who want to transfer the last milliwatt to the antenna, there's the new MFJ QRPocket Antenna Tuner designated the MFJ-9201 (photo C) from MFJ Enterprises.

This small (4"W x 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"H x 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>"D) performer covers 80 through 10 meters, handles up to 25 watts, and boasts a custom 12-position inductor switch, a tune/bypass switch, BNC connectors, and antenna and transmitter tuning capacitors.



Photo C— MFJ Enterprises of Starkville, MS adds a QRP antenna tuner to its product line and christens it as the QRPocket Tuner, MFJ-9201.

The handy package, priced at \$49.95, works well with the MFJ-9200 QRP transceiver or any other popular QRP rig and fits easily in a ham's go bag or an attache case.

MFJ has also introduced the MFJ-9211, a QRP 4:1 current balun that let's you use your favorite QRP rig with a balanced line antenna. Built in a tough plastic case, the MFJ-9211 has five-way binding posts for balanced line connections and a BNC output to any MFJ QRP rig or other popular rig.

As always, any MFJ item purchased is protected by MFJ's "No Matter What" one-year limited warranty such that should you have a problem, MFJ will repair or replace at its option the MFJ parts for one complete year.

For more information about MFJ products, visit <[www.mfjenterprises.com](http://www.mfjenterprises.com)>, call 1-800-647-1800 or write to MFJ, 300 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759.

### GeoTool Antenna Products

GeoTool is well-known for its patented stake pocket antenna mounts. It has been manufacturing them since 1997 and has increased the line to include five different sizes to fit most pickup trucks.

GeoTool has announced new screwdriver antenna mounts (photo D), and two sizes of Delrin antenna insulators for base-loaded mobile whips. Different top configurations fit HF (3/8"-24), NMO, and SO-239 antenna adaptors.

With the exception of brass NMO connectors, and plated brass SO-239 connectors, GeoTool uses only stainless-steel hardware. In contrast to mounts attached to the sheet metal at the top of the stake pocket, GeoTool says its mounts derive lateral support between the bottom of the stake pocket bracket and the top lip of the sheet-metal top opening. This allows the GeoTool mount to avoid damage from driving under a garage door with the antenna up.

Both of the new mount types attach securely to the standard GeoTool HF mount body. In addition, both mounting systems can be used for marine and fixed-station installations, with several possible applications.

GeoTool's new screwdriver antenna mount is for antennas that attach with a bolt extending up into the base of the antenna. Most antennas have a 3/8"-24 bolt, but the mount can be ordered with other bolt sizes. The Delrin insulator is 1/2" thick and provides a wide gap to reduce the resonant-frequency-raising capacitance between the bottom of the antenna and the mount. The insulator is made in two sizes, 1.5" and 2.0" diameter, and fits many screwdriver antenna systems. The screwdriver antenna mount top hardware is available separately for those who wish to mount antennas on metal railings, vertical masts, or boats.

Also from GeoTool comes new low-capacitance Delrin antenna insulators (photo E), which are available in two sizes, 1.5" x 3.0" and 2.0" x 4.0", or larger upon request. These

# 2012 CQ calendar

15 months of value January 2012 through March 2013

For over a decade CQ has been bringing you The CQ Amateur Radio Operators calendar. This year's calendar is better than ever! Fifteen spectacular color images of some of the biggest, most photogenic shacks, antennas, scenics and personalities from across the country!

Each month includes the dates of important Ham Radio events, major contests and other operating events, meteor showers, phases of the moon, and other astronomical information, plus important and popular holidays. CQ's 15-month calendar (January 2012 through March 2013) is great to look at, truly useful and makes a great gift!

*Order yours today!*



## CQ Communications, Inc.

25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801

Call 1-800-853-9797 or FAX 516-681-2926 • [www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

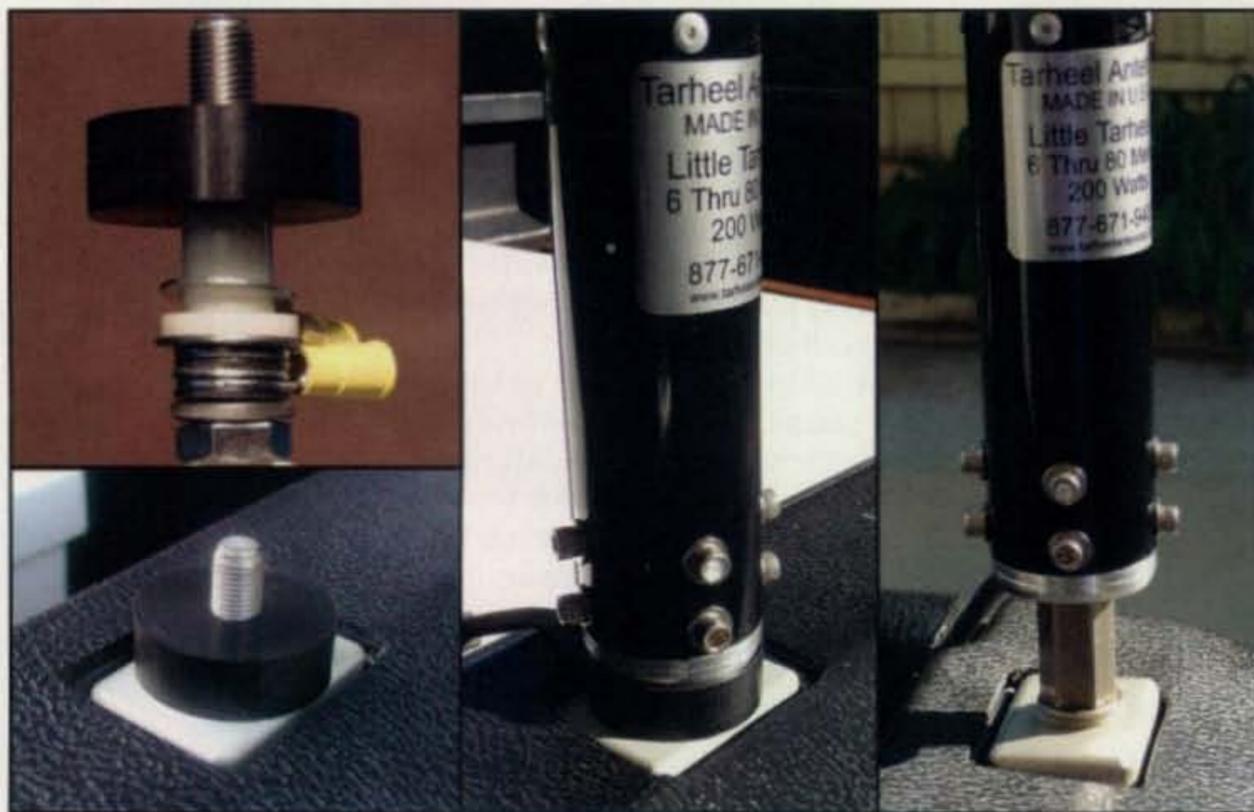


Photo D— GeoTool has announced its new screwdriver antenna mounts that attach securely to the standard GeoTool HF mount body.



Photo E— GeoTool is also bringing to market two new Delrin insulators which provide a wide gap to reduce the resonant-frequency-raising capacitance between the bottom of the antenna and the mount.

insulators were designed as isolated base mounts for use with any brand of remote antenna coupler. The coupler must be mounted near the antenna, and coax is never used to feed the antenna. The insulators use stainless-steel hardware throughout and have internal stainless-steel adapters to provide increased strength without wear and tear on the Delrin

insulator. The heavy-duty model has twice the internal stainless threads and 1.5" to 2.0" between the antenna and base mounting bolts. The standard model has 0.75" to 1.0" between the antenna and base mounting bolts. The insulators have a myriad of other uses.

For more information about GeoTool products, write to the

## Looking Ahead in

Here are some of the articles we're working on for upcoming issues of CQ:

- CQ Market Survey: VHF/UHF Handhelds, by WB6NOA
- The ON4WW Ultimate Beverage Switchbox, by ON5UK
- The Extraordinary Cycle 19, by W4YO
- TeslaGRAM: A Multinational Special Event, by W2VU

Do you have a ham radio story to tell? A possible article for one of our specials? We'd like to hear from you. See our writers' guidelines on the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/guide.html>. Upcoming specials are: QRP (April issue), Take it to the Field (June), Emergency Communications (October), and Technology (November).

## Ham Radio Magazine on CD-ROM

Enjoy quick and easy access to back issues of Ham Radio Magazine!

These sets include high quality black and white scanned pages which are easy to read on your screen or when printed.



**HOT Item!**

**30,000 pages in all!**

Enjoy this enormous stockpile of material including construction projects, theory, antennas, transmitters, receivers, amplifiers, HF through microwave, test equipment, accessories, FM, SSB, CW visual & digital modes. All articles, ads, columns and covers are included!

This collection is broken down into 3 sets - by year.

**Each set includes 4 CD-ROMs: SALE! \$54.95 each**

1968 - 1976 Order No. HRCD1 ~~\$59.95~~

1977 - 1983 Order No. HRCD2 ~~\$59.95~~

1984 - 1990 Order No. HRCD 3 ~~\$59.95~~

**Order all 3 sets and save \$49.90!**

**All 3 Sets - Order No. HRCD Set ~~\$149.95~~ \$129.95**

Shipping & Handling: USA - \$7 for 1st book, \$3.50 for 2nd, \$2 for each additional. CN/MX - \$15 for 1st, \$7 for 2nd, \$3.50 for each additional. All Other Countries - \$25 for 1st, \$10 for 2nd, \$5 for each additional.

CQ Communications, Inc.  
25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801

**Order Today! 1-800-853-9797**



Photo F- Davis Instruments' new Vantage Vue wireless weather station features an easy-to-install system, outdoor sensor array and LCD console.

company at 2375 Elden Ave. A-2, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, call them at 714-403-2026, send them a fax at 949-548-8885, visit the GeoTool website at [www.geotool.com/antmount.htm](http://www.geotool.com/antmount.htm), or e-mail GeoTool at [info@geotool.com](mailto:info@geotool.com).

### Davis Vantage Vue Weather Station

The new Davis Vantage Vue weather station (photo F), from Davis Instruments, combines Davis's legendary accuracy and rugged durability into a compact station that's easy to set up and use. Vantage Vue includes a sleek but tough outdoor sensor array and a distinctive LCD console. Its unique Weather Center function provides additional information on each weather variable. In addition, Davis has made Vantage Vue radio-compatible with its flagship Vantage Pro2 professional stations so you can mix-and-match most components. The station includes an integrated sensor suite including temperature, wind, and rain sensors, the console, and mounting hardware.

The all-important console reports time and date, and the eight phases of the moon from New to Full. It also displays forecast icons that let you know to expect sun, partly sunny, clouds, rain, or snow, the temperature and humidity with updates of the outside temperature every 10 seconds, and inside temperature every minute. In addition, it gives outside humidity updates every 50 seconds and inside humidity every minute. The console can also retransmit or extend range to additional consoles up to 1000 feet away. It also shows barometric pressure and a trend arrow that indicates it's rising, falling, or stable, rain totals, and the rain rate every 20 seconds for the last 25 hours, days, months. There's even a "Change In Weather Since Yesterday" feature that allows comparisons of changes of temperature and barometric pressure from day to day.

In addition, the console is a weather center that provides additional information for each weather variable, such as daily highs and lows, temperature changes by the hour, and barometric value changes. The console even displays astronomical data such as meteor showers and graphs the last 25 hours, days, or months while also providing a view of up to 50 graphs, including temperature, rain, rain rate, wind and barometric pressure, and lots more—all on the console.

For more on the Davis Vantage Vue go to: <[www.vantagevue.com](http://www.vantagevue.com)>.

## Book Corner

There's lots for us to talk about in the Book Corner this month, so we'd better get right to it.

We'll start with one of the biggest and heaviest books I've seen in recent days, the hard-bound 89th edition of *The ARRL Handbook For Radio Communications* (photo G). Almost two inches thick, it's easy to believe that this one book is a single resource for those interested in electronic fundamentals, radio design, and the practical application of analog and digital radio knowledge in creating successful projects.

In this updated reference, the ARRL has included an answer to the question "What is amateur radio?" while also answering questions on fundamental theory, analog and digital basics, RF techniques, power supplies and multiple

chapters on practical design of transmitters and receivers, antenna systems and radio propagation, plus comprehensive information on equipment construction and maintenance and station assembly and management.

For \$59.95, you get this complete chronicle of radio evolution plus an accompanying CD.

There is also a companion book to *The ARRL Handbook For Radio Communications* and it is entitled *The ARRL Antenna Book For Radio Communications* (photo H). It describes antennas for nearly any frequency range and operating application, and that includes everything from antennas for the HF bands all the way through VHF, UHF, and microwave.

The 22nd edition of *The ARRL Antenna Book* lists for \$59.95. You'll find the League has brought each chapter up to date while including complete construction notes on how to build wire and loop antennas, verticals, Yagi beam antennas plus C-pole ground independent HF antennas, patch and Vivaldi antennas, and even a 40-meter Moxon beam. The book is also accompanied by a CD ROM disk that gives you fully searchable text and illustrations.

Both of these books and any other books in the ARRL library can be purchased at <[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)> or by calling 800-594-0200.

## Corrections

I've noticed that when a person does a lot of writing, it seems inevitable that a certain small percentage of what they

write is inadvertently in error. I proved this recently when I wrote about the Baofeng UV-3R handheld and mentioned a stateside dealer where these amazingly small but powerful (2-watt output) amateur HTs could be purchased, NH7QH Radio Supplies in Aiea, Hawaii. I listed the wrong URL and should have instead given you <[www.hawaiiradiosales.com](http://www.hawaiiradiosales.com)>. My apologies to the owner of Hawaii Radio Sales, Chris Colquhoun, NH7QH.

It was also brought to my attention that I was in error in October's "What's New" when I mentioned that Pete Markavage, WA2CWA, was the owner of Nifty Products. Pete tells me that Bernie Lafreniere, N6FN, is the actual owner of Nifty Products. To those gentlemen and my readers, I'm sorry that I got that confused.

## In Closing

Well, I guess that wraps up another look at "What's New" in the world of amateur radio. Until we meet here again next month, take care and enjoy this multifaceted hobby we call "amateur radio."

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.*

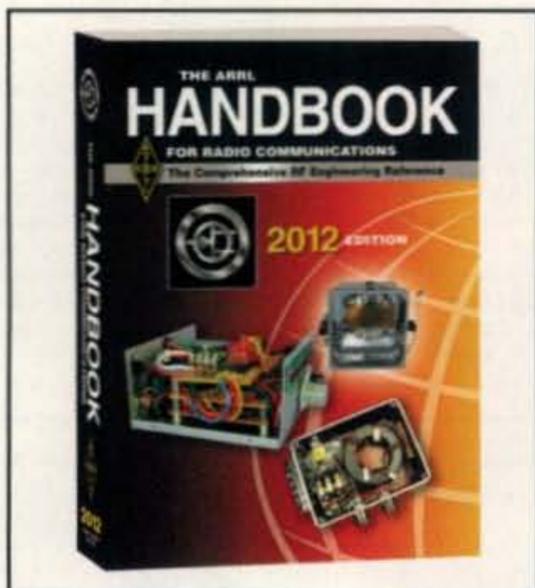


Photo G— The hard-bound 89th edition of *The ARRL Handbook For Radio Communications*. (see text).

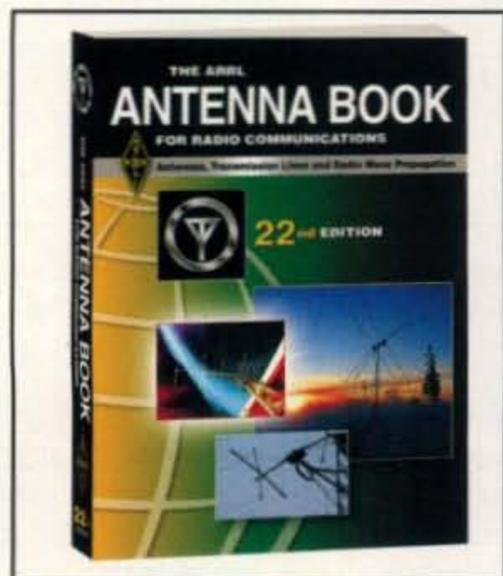


Photo H— The ARRL Antenna Book For Radio Communications. It describes antennas for nearly any frequency range and operating application, and more.

## YOUR COMPLETE BATTERY SOURCE

2-way Radio • Cellular • Digital • Camcorder  
Laptop • Chargers • Analyzers • Cells  
HIGHER CAPACITY • HUGE SAVINGS!



Custom Assembly & Battery Rebuilding for:  
• Handheld Radios • Laptop • Camcorder • Test Equipment



MOTOROLA  
Authorized Dealer  
OEM Battery Packs  
[sales@nicdlady.com](mailto:sales@nicdlady.com)

*NiCd Lady Company*

20585 Camino Del Sol Unit B, Riverside, CA 92508



5000+ Batteries Online

[WWW.NICDLADY.COM](http://WWW.NICDLADY.COM)

Toll Free

800/906-6423

# DX Grid Square Awards

**T**his month we first continue with a couple more questions from county hunters and answers to help them along the path to the USA-CA award. Then we move on to grid square awards from around the world.

**Q:** Percy Ford, KA1JPR, writes that the state of Connecticut doesn't have counties anymore and asks how this might be reflected in the USA-CA rules and list of counties for the award.

**A:** It's true that CT no longer has a county listing. This change took place in 1960, at about the time the USA-CA rules were written by Clif Evans, K6BX, the first awards editor for *CQ* magazine. However, Connecticut judicial districts still follow the old county boundaries, and the eight counties are still widely used for geographical and statistical purposes. While watching local TV weather shows, announcers commonly refer to "heavy thunderstorms in Middlesex County crossing to Tolland [where I live] and Windham Counties." There's no requirement in the USA-CA rules that counties must perform a governmental function, and that's the case in Connecticut.

**Q:** Don Simmonds, N5XG, earned USA-CA a few years ago with a Mixed Mode application. He asks whether it would be possible to change the award to reflect an "ALL CW" status now that he managed to replace all the SSB contacts with CW.

**A:** Yes. While USA-CA is basically a "one time" award, I have no problem receiving your new list of contacts showing that all contacts are of a single mode or made on a single band. I'll provide a small endorsement sticker for you to add to the award certificate. This is treated as an endorsement, with a fee of \$1.25.

## Grid Square Awards

Grid squares are a way of dividing up the surface of the Earth to provide a quick geographical reference. For ham radio purposes, they are an abbreviated way of describing your location anywhere on Earth in a manner that is easy to communicate over the air. The most common system is called the Maidenhead Locator System. The name comes from the town outside London where it was first developed in 1980 by a meeting of European VHF managers.

The basic grid square measures 1° latitude by 2° longitude. A grid square is indicated by two letters (the field) and two numbers (the square), as in FN31, the grid square covering the part of Connecticut where I live.

Sub-squares are further designated by the addition of two letters after the grid square, as in FN31UQ. These are often used in VHF contests and describe territory roughly equal to 3 × 4 miles in the continental U.S.

There are a number of HF awards that use Maidenhead grid squares. *CQ* offers the *CQ DX Field Award*, which covers contacts with all the fields (1st two letters only) on Earth—all 324 of

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

### USA-CA Special Honor Roll

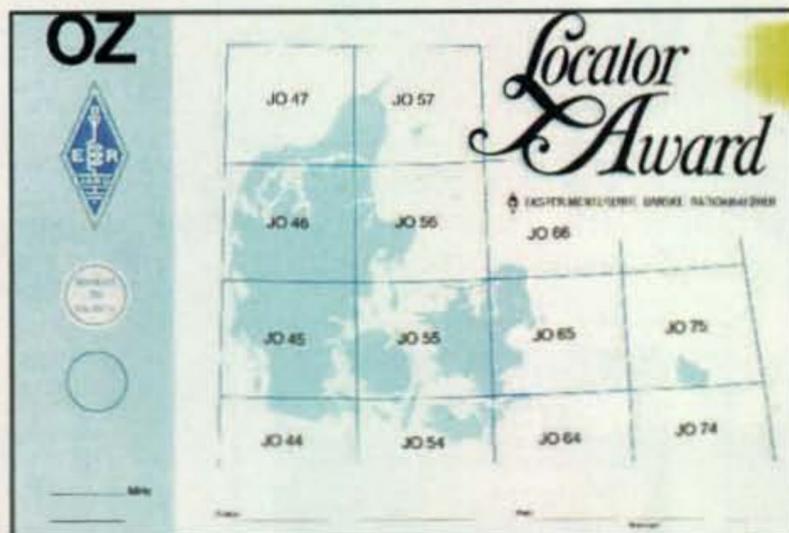
William N. Pedersen, KM1C  
USA-CA 1219  
October 1, 2011

Bill Morgan, KØDEQ  
USA-CA 1220  
October 11, 2011

### USA-CA Honor Roll

<b>500</b>	KØDEQ.....1418
KM1C.....3552	
	<b>2500</b>
<b>1000</b>	KM1C.....1333
KM1C.....1819	KØDEQ.....1334
	<b>3000</b>
<b>1500</b>	KM1C.....1244
M1C.....1529	KØDEQ.....1245
KØDEQ.....1530	
	<b>2000</b>
KM1C.....1417	

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.



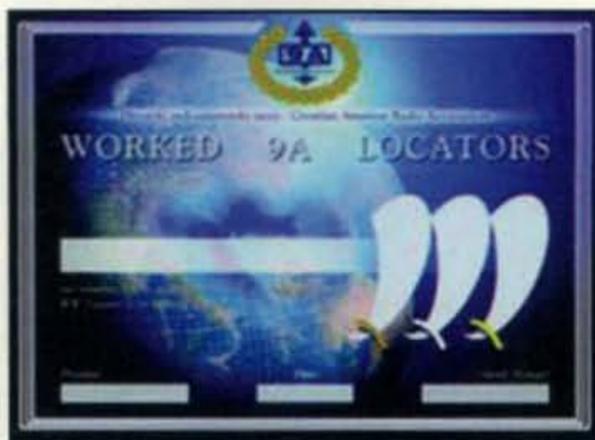
*Denmark OZ Locator Award. For the basic award, contact Danish stations in at least 10 of the grid locator squares in Denmark after 1 January 1985.*

them! Also, there are a number of countries that offer a similar, yet restricted grid square award covering only their country. Since the grid system describes the entire surface of the Earth, and most hams operate from dry land, some isolated areas in these countries can only be activated by special expeditions. Let's look at some of these awards.

**Denmark OZ Locator Award.** For the basic award, contact Danish stations in at least 10 of the grid locator squares in Denmark after 1 January 1985. OZ is covered by the following squares:

JO44, JO45, JO46, JO47, JO54, JO55, JO56, JO57, JO64, JO65, JO66, JO74, and JO75. Contacts via active repeaters do not count, nor do cross-band and crossmode contacts. Phone or CW contacts OK. QSLs must be submitted when applying. Endorsements are available for each additional three squares. Endorsements also are available for: Phone, CW, EME, MS, and Satellite by band. Send GCR list and fee of 20 DKK, \$US4, or 5 IRCs to: Award Manager, Allis Andersen, OZ1ACB, Kagsaavej 34, DK-2730 Herlev, Denmark. Internet: <<http://www.edr.dk/Default.aspx?ID=84>>.

**Italy Worked All Italian Squares.** ARI of Busto Arsizio sponsors this award for working Italian grid squares. The size of each square is 10 ft. of a degree on the parallel and 10 ft. of a degree on the meridian. In each square are eight WWL little squares, two on the parallel and four on the meridian. The geographical coordinates of start and finish on this grid are: from latitude 47°10'N to latitude 35°20'N and from longitude 6°30'E to longitude 18°40'E, for a total of 5183 squares. This grid contains all Italian territory, islands included. To identify the squares, an alpha-numerical code has been used: On the direction of the parallels there is a number from 00 to 72; for the meridians there is a pair of letters coupling the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H with the letters J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R and S, obtaining AJ, AK, AL, AM, AN, AP, AQ, AR, AS, BJ, BK, BL, and so on until the



*The objective of the Croatia Worked 9A Locators Award is to stimulate amateur radio activity from all grid squares in the Republic of Croatia.*

couple HR. Thus the codes of the squares go from AJ00 to HR72. Many squares are in the sea, while some others do not contain an Italian territory and cannot be used. This provides a total of 1488 valid squares.

The basic award requires working 100 such squares on or after 1 January 1994. SWL OK. Endorsements available for each additional 100 squares. You may work fixed or mobile stations in the squares. Contacts via link/repeater are not valid. All contacts must be made from the same country and with your own callsign. The HF award requires using only HF. Endorsements available for monoband, WARC, CW, RTTY, Phone, etc.

Send a GCR list and fee of \$US15 or 10 Euros to: ARI di Busto Arsizio, PO

Box 125, I-21052 Busto Arsizio (VA), Italy. Internet: <<http://www.aribusto.it>>.

**Croatia Worked 9A Locators Award.** The objective of this award is to stimulate amateur radio activity from all grid squares in the Republic of Croatia. Only contacts made on 50 MHz and above are valid for this award and no repeaters allowed. The award can be issued for three different levels, either mixed band or single band:

- 3rd level – 6 grid squares minimum
- 2nd level – 10 grid squares minimum
- 1st level – all 15 grid squares

Grid squares in 9A are: JN 64, 65; JN 72, 73, 74, 75, 76; JN 82, 83, 84, 85, 86; JN 92, 94, 95.

Contacts made on any band after 5 July 1992 count for the award. SWL OK. A submission of the log entries and possession of the QSL cards are required for the award. QSLs may be requested for verification. Award fee is 5 Euros or \$US6, and 3 Euros or \$US4 for different level endorsements. Apply to: Vladimir Pavlica, 9A9R, HRS Diploma Manager, Hrvatski Radioamaterski savez, Dalmatinska 12, P.p. 149, 10002 Zagreb, Croatia. E-mail: <[vladimir.pavlica@ri.htnet.hr](mailto:vladimir.pavlica@ri.htnet.hr)>; internet: <<http://www.hamradio.hr/index.php>>.

**Japan Worked All Squares Award.** Contact at least 100 different grid square locators in Japan (first 4 digits); sticker endorsements are available for each additional 100 squares. Contacts after 1 July 1992 count. All contacts must be made from the same grid

**A.R.I.**  
Associazione Radiomatori Italiani  
Sezione di Busto Arsizio

**W.A.I.S.**  
Worked All Italian Squares Diploma  
VERSION: HF  
Conferred to the Amateur Radio Station:  
**SA1MPL**  
to have worked and confirmed at least 100 Squares  
Busto Arsizio, 01-01-2001 The President *[Signature]*  
Diploma# 1000

ARI of Busto Arsizio sponsors the Italy Worked All Italian Squares award for working Italian grid squares.

**The QSL MAN**  
#1 FOR OVER 30 YEARS  
QSLMAN.COM

1-585-591-8149  
Custom Ham Hats  
Only! \$14.99 + S&H  
Exclusive EMBROIDERER for Amateur Radio Operators!  
[www.pennystitch.com](http://www.pennystitch.com)

**Discount Prices - Great Service - 24 x 7 x 365**

**NEW!** Alinco, ARRL, Arrow Antennas, Comet, Daiwa, GRE, Heil, Jetstream, LDG, S9 Tigertronics, and More **NEW!**

**\$99.95 Dual Band** **New Expanded Showroom** **Alinco DJ-V57T**  
1575 Route 37 W, Unit 4 On Sale  
Toms River, NJ

**wouxun**

**www.CheapHam.com**  
732-716-1600



Contact at least 100 different grid square locators in Japan to earn the Worked All Squares Award.

square in your country. Even if the square of the station that issued a QSL card is not shown clearly, a QSL card showing the longitude and latitude of the station from which its square can be calculated will be valid. In this case, these coordinates should be shown on the QSL card list. No cross-band contacts except by satellite. Endorsement fee is 5 IRCs.

Available in two classes: WASA-V-U-SHF (50 MHz and above) and WASA-HF (28 MHz and below). GCR list must include grid square data. No endorsements for band/mode. SWL OK. Fee is 12 IRCs. All contacts must be made on land within the same call area, or if no call area exists, within the same country. Apply to: Japan Amateur Radio League – Award Desk, 1-14-5 Sugano, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170-8073, Japan. E-mail: <oper@jarl.or.jp>; internet: <[http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4\\_Library/A-4-2\\_Awards/Award\\_Main.htm](http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-2_Awards/Award_Main.htm)>.

We're always on the hunt for new awards to feature in these pages. I invite your e-mails to the address shown elsewhere in this column.  
73, Ted, K1BV

### Arthur Burke, N4PJ USA-CA All Counties #1218, August 12, 2011

My county hunting pursuit gathered significant steam about three years ago. When first licensed in late 1978, I mistakenly assumed one collected the counties in a haphazard, random manner, mostly via contests. After a long absence from the air, in 2004 I returned and my county total was only around 800. Then, around the time I returned to the air, I discovered the County Hunter Nets. My numbers grew moderately fast from that point. They really grew when I discovered the advantage of being retired. That translates to living in front of the radio to the exclusion of everything else one might consider important in life! Between sharp listening, a baby monitor in front of the rig, and permission to be an almost absent husband at times, the quest took on the semblance of an elephant in the room, and the numbers piled up faster and faster.

Having spent most of my amateur "career" as a DXer, the lure of collecting counties at first didn't hold the proverbial candle to DXing. The addiction and passion were both quite stealthy. I initially found it amazing that anyone would be interested in "...doing it again..." after collecting all 3077 counties. Then the affliction seized me as well.

Although the total odyssey has encompassed some 30+ years, slightly more than half the total was garnered in the last three years. During that period of time, I grew to appreciate the mobile community (and became part of it myself) for their dedication and enjoyment of motoring near and far to "run" counties. Marsha and I recently completed a 7,971-mile journey from central Florida to Seattle and back, wandering through 19 states and 268 counties, making almost 5,000 contacts in the process. Thus far, we've accumulated approximately 35,000 miles in the pursuit of collecting/dispersing counties. That might look like a lot of miles, but I'm aware of several other guys who are well in excess of 100,000 miles! Did I say it was addictive?

Often I thought about those 10 years I lived in the Kansas City area. I often wished it was then that I had discovered serious county hunting. I figured living in the middle of the country would make it more or less equidistant to the far corners of the U.S. However, even here in central Florida, I've enjoyed the ability to hear and be heard with a beam at 50 feet, mostly running around 100 watts.

It is sometimes difficult to express the joy of firing off "CHN de N4PJ/M" either in a county or on a county line and being deluged with calls from those afflicted with the same passion for county hunting. My DXCC counts for Mixed, Phone, and CW are all well over 300 (I'm currently three short of the Mixed Honor Roll). I've dabbled in a lot of various contests over the years, but only been serious a very few times. CW has almost always been my first "love." I used to joke that I bought a microphone in self-defense!



Arthur, N4PJ, USA-CA All Counties #1218.

If you think you're bored with your current sub-hobby pursuits, take a peek at <[www.marac.org](http://www.marac.org)> or <[www.countyhunter.com](http://www.countyhunter.com)> to learn more.

I feel like a guy on Oscar night—three minutes to thank everyone responsible and deathly afraid you'll forget the most important ones!

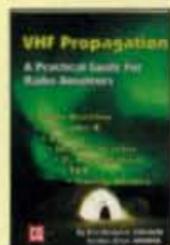
First, a huge thanks to my biggest supporter and booster, my wife Marsha, N4BU, without whom I might still be pursuing this award. There are probably several categories of wives out there: There are some who tolerate their spouse's activities; there are some who support it; and then there's Marsha. She not only tolerates and supports me, she encourages me!

Then there are the guys who not only appear countless times in my log, but who also went "above and beyond" by making special efforts to deliver counties for me: N4CD, K5GE, W4SIG, N4AAT, N0KV, W9MSE, W0GXQ, and N5XG. N4CD is particularly noteworthy, as he's Mr. Ubiquitous—seemingly everywhere, all the time! I also can't forget to thank that awesome father and son duo, K8ZZ and W8JJ. And last, but not least, a guy who also appears in my log a lot, KL1V.

It has been a great adventure, and I thank all of you for the ride.  
—N4PJ

# Winter Finds at the CQ Store

FREE shipping on orders of \$100 or more!



## VHF Propagation

by Neubeck, WB2AMU & West WB6NOA

A comprehensive source-book on VHF propagation by two great authors. Includes: Tropo ducting, Aurora, Meteor Scatter, TEP, Sporadic-E, Combo Modes and more!

6 X 9 Paperback \$15.95

## The NEW Shortwave Propagation Handbook

by W3ASK, N4XX & K6GKU

This authoritative book on shortwave propagation is your source for easy-to-understand information on sunspot activity, propagation predictions, unusual propagation effects and do-it-yourself forecasting tips.



8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95

## W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook

by Bill Orr, W6SAI

W6SAI was known for his easy-to-understand writing style. In keeping with this tradition, this book is a thoroughly readable text for any antenna enthusiast, jam-packed with dozens of inexpensive, practical antenna projects that work!



8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95



## 33 Simple Weekend Projects

by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ

Do-it-yourself electronics projects from the most basic to the fairly sophisticated.

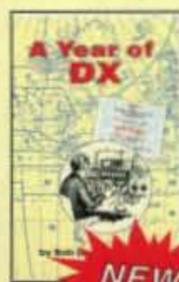
Practical tips and techniques on creating your own projects.

6 X 9 Paperback \$17.95

## A Year of DX

by Bob Locher, W9KNI

Look over the shoulder as the author works country after country, in pursuit of the Holy Grail – winning the CQ DX Marathon.



NEW!

6 X 9 Paperback \$19.95

## "Up Two" by G3SXW

Are you a DX'er? Have you longed to be on the other side of the pile-ups? Do you dream of taking a rig to exotic locations? If your answer to any of the above questions is yes, this book is certain to bring you the vicarious thrills of operating from exotic places.



6 X 9 Paperback \$19.95

## The Complete DXer

Third Edition

The joy of the chase, the agony of defeat, the thrill of victory are the stuff of The Complete DXer, a book that is almost as seductive as the DX chase it describes. It excites, it entertains, it teaches!



6 X 9 Paperback \$19.95

## Nifty E-Z Guide to PSK31 Operation

A Complete PSK31 Operating Guide!

Using DigiPan software as a basis, a detailed step-by-step approach is used for configuring your interface hardware, software and computer system for PSK31 operation. Detailed instructions and computer screen shots are provided for several Windows operating systems.



6 X 9 Paperback \$12.95

## Lew McCoy on Antennas

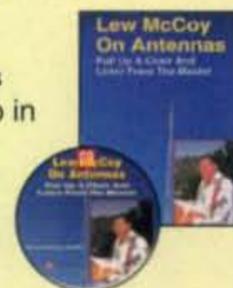
by Lew McCoy, W1ICP

Unlike many technical publications, Lew presents his invaluable antenna info in a casual, non-intimidating way for anyone!

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95



## Reflections III

by Walter Maxwell, W2DU

Includes all the information in Reflections I & II and much, much more! This fully revised and updated, this 424-page, third edition is truly a must have!

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$39.95

New! CD Version \$29.95

Buy both for only \$59.95



## The Quad Antenna

by Bob Haviland, W4MB

Comprehensive guide to the construction, design and performance of Quad Antennas. General Concepts, Circular-Loop & Arrays, Rectangular & Square Loops, Multi-Element Quads and more!

8.5 X 11 Paperback \$19.95

New! CD Version \$14.95

Buy both for only \$29.95



## "Getting Started" DVD Paks

### CQ Ham Radio Welcome Pak

1 DVD contains 3 programs:

Ham Radio Horizons  
Getting Started in Ham Radio  
Getting Started in VHF

Order HAMDVD ~~\$24.95~~ \$18.00



### CQ HF Specialty Pak

1 DVD contains 2 programs:

Getting Started in DXing  
Getting Started in Contesting

Order HFDVD ~~\$24.95~~ \$18.00



### CQ VHF Specialty Pak

1 DVD contains 3 programs:

Getting Started in Satellites  
Getting Started in VHF  
Getting Started in Packet

Order VHFDVD ~~\$24.95~~ \$18.00

Any 2 Paks only \$35.00 3 Paks only \$52.00



Shipping & Handling: U.S. add \$7 for the first item, \$3.50 for the second and \$2 for each add'l item. FREE shipping on orders over \$100 to one U.S. address. CN/MX-\$15 for 1st item, \$7 for 2nd and \$3 for each add'l. All Other Countries-\$25 for 1st item, \$10 for 2nd and \$5 for each additional. Buy Both=single item!

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

Call: 1-800-853-9797 • Fax: 516-681-2926 • website: www.cq-amateur-radio.com

# Contest/DX Expeditions!

**W**ow! Where did all that propagation come from? What a great contest season we're having so far. The CQ WW DX SSB Contest the end of October was the last event prior to this writing, so I can only comment on that one, but what a weekend it was. Conditions on 10 meters were like nothing I've heard in years—long, deep into Asia almost all weekend long and the signals from Europe were S-meter bending. It's been so long since I've heard signals like that ... my ears are still ringing. The "big guns" running multi-multi reported QSO numbers on 10 meters in excess of 3000. When's the last time you saw those kind of numbers? Unreal but thrilling! It wasn't only 10 meters either. The 15-meter numbers were almost as good, if not better, and the old standby—20 meters—well, it was 20 meters.

The QRM on 40 was so bad I had to give up. My ears just couldn't stand it ... hi.

## WW SSB Contest DXpeditions

DXpeditions all over during the week before and after the WW SSB contest made it really fun to be on the air.

The T32C DXpedition had just ended with a record-breaking 213,000 QSOs. Next we had the

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



Working T32C on all 32 of the possible bands/modes was a real challenge. No one actually achieved that level, but Dave, K4SV, tried hard to reach it. He did manage to make 27 of those contacts. Here's his latest antenna project, a SteppIR DB-42 array at around 90 feet. (Photo courtesy of K4SV)

TX operation from French Polynesia and then from Marquesas. South Cook must have had a "brown-out" from all the activity going on down there during the contest. At least three different operations were heard on the air that weekend.

Africa was not to be outdone for contesters. At least 15 operations were on the air from various parts of Africa. Asia was well represented as well, with at least 23 different operations.

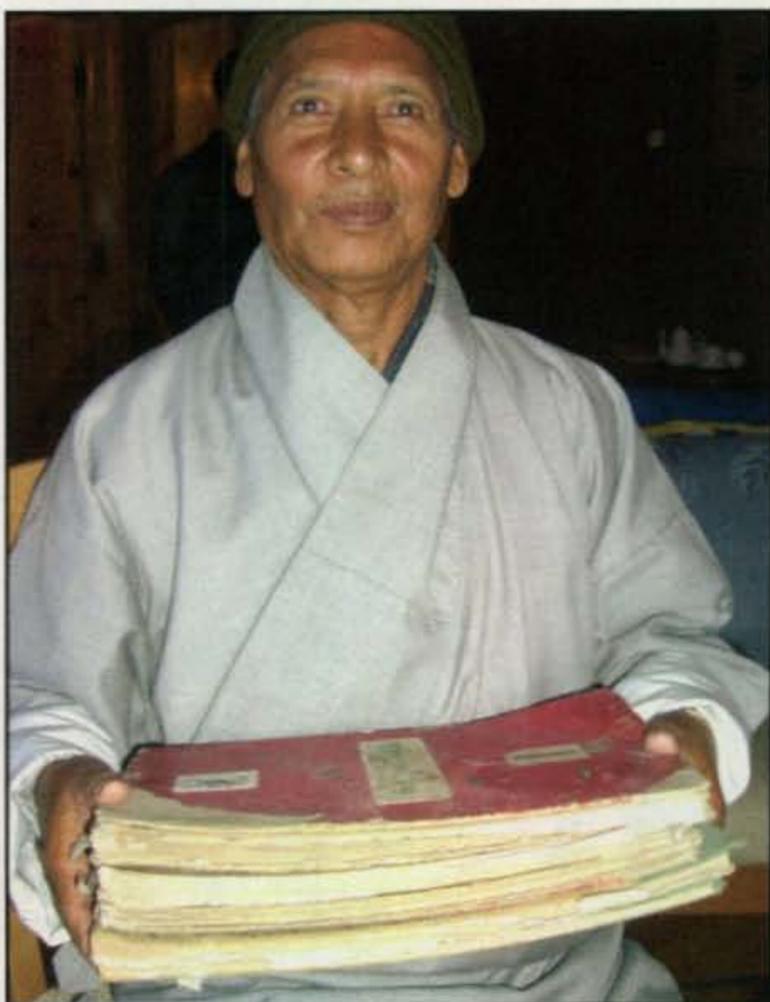
Stations all over Oceania were very active, some 13 announced and a number of others actually heard or worked. Then there were all those Caribbean operations and many South American stations, too.

If you were on the air and didn't add at least a few to your countries (entities) count, well... they were there, unless you've worked them all anyway. It was a lot of fun for most of us for sure. Now for the CW leg of the CQ WW coming up the end of November.

## Upcoming Activities

This is the DX column, so I better continue on with that. We have a number of DXpeditions scheduled for the next few months, and there are always those short ones for the contest weekends all the way to the end of May.

9N7MD—Nepal was ready for action the last two weeks of November by a major DXpedition team.



Pradhan, A51PN, with his paper logs of some 30,000 contacts between 1972 and 1983. Glenn, W0GJ, was in Bhutan the end of October and met Pradhan, who handed over those paper logs to him. (Photo courtesy of W0GJ)

They were scheduled for two weeks of activity.

**CY0-Sable Island** will see another DXpedition December 28, 2011 to January 6, 2012. Murray, WA4DAN, will team up with Ron, AA4VK, and Jeff, N1SNB, for a week. Randy, N0TG, had been planning to go back later in the year, but the opportunity presented itself and Murray and friends will take advantage of it. Randy won't be able to go on this one. Murray said they would make the most of the propagation on 10 meters and have two stations on that band as much as possible.

**ET-Ethiopia** ... A team headed by David, K3LP, is scheduled to be in the country December 8-13. The four-mem-

### 5 Band WAZ

As of November 1, 2011, 857 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1748 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):

N7US, 199 (18)	N8AA, 199 (23)
N4WW, 199 (26)	HB9ALO (1)
W4LI, 199 (26)	IZ1ANU, 199 (1)
K7UR, 199 (34)	IN3ZNR, 199 (1)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	K2FF, 198 (18, 23)
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)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
W3NO, 199 (26)	N2QT, 198 (23, 24)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
N3UN, 199 (18)	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)
EA7GF, 199 (1)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
JA5IU, 199 (2)	F5NBU, 198 (19, 31)
RU3DX, 199 (6)	W9XY, 198 (22, 26)
N4XR, 199 (27)	KZ2I, 198 (24, 26)
HA5AGS, 199 (1)	W9RN, 198 (26, 19 on 40)
N5AW, 199 (17)	W5CWQ, 198 (17, 18)
JH7CFX, 199 (2)	I5KKW, 198 (31&23 on 20)
K7LJ, 199 (37)	UA4LY, 198 (6&2 on 10)
RA6AX, 199 (6 on 10)	IK4CIE, 198 (1, 31)
RX4HZ, 199 (13)	JA7XBG, 198 (2 on 80&10)
S58Q, 199 (31)	80&10)
G3NKC, 199 (31 on 10)	JA3GN, 198 (2 on 80&40)
K8PT, 199 (26)	

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

DS4DRE (156 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

K1BD (191 zones)	K9MM (196 zones)
I5KKW (200 zones)	K6ZZ (196 zones)
N4GG (197 zones)	

\*Please note: Cost of the 5 Band WAZ Plaque is \$100 shipped within the U.S.; \$120 all foreign (sent airmail).

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, Floyd Gerald, N5FG, P.O. Box 449, Wiggins, MS 39577-0449. The processing fee for the 5BWAZ award is \$10.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$15.00 for nonsubscribers. An endorsement fee of \$2.00 for subscribers and \$5.00 for nonsubscribers is charged for each additional 10 zones confirmed. Please make all checks payable to Floyd Gerald. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. N5FG may also be reached via e-mail: <n5fg@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

### The WAZ Program

#### 17 Meters CW

82 .....WD5DBV

#### 160 Meter Updates

WK3N .....40 zones K4IQJ .....38 zones

#### All Band WAZ

##### Mixed

8837 .....WX0V 8839 .....JH0JVA  
8838 .....EA1AR 8840 .....KB0EO

##### SSB

5186 .....IK2RPE 5188 .....EA3CJU  
5187 .....WA7SRZ

##### CW

651 .....JR2BYJ 652 .....ON6KE

##### RTTY

217 .....K3GP

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>.

### CQ DX Awards Program

#### SSB

2571 .....K7CU 2573 .....SV8PKI  
2572 .....JA1RUR 2574 .....K5JMB

#### CW

1124 .....K7CU 1126 .....N3KEM  
1125 .....K6YK

#### RTTY

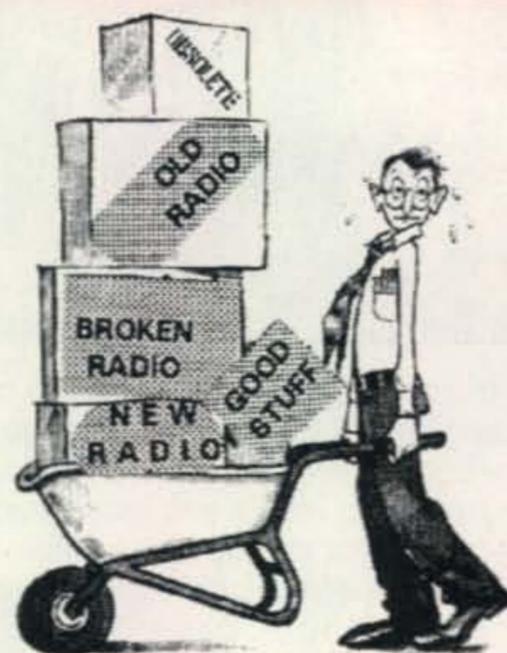
56 .....UT2AB

#### RTTY Endorsement

200 .....YO6HSU

The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$6. For non-subscribers, it is \$12. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00 each plus SASE. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are free. All updates and correspondence must include an SASE. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards may be found on the <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> website, or may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to CQ DX Awards Manager, Please make checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson, Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, K0KG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604. We recognize 342 active countries. 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.

## NEED SOME HELP WITH THAT



## DONATE YOUR RADIO

Turn your excess Ham Radios and related items into a tax break for you and learning tool for kids.

Donate your radio or related gear to an IRS approved 501 (c)(3) charity. Get the tax credit and help a worthy cause.

*Equipment picked up anywhere or shipping arranged.* Radios you can write off - kids you can't.

Call (516) 674-4072  
FAX (516) 674-9600  
e-mail: crew@wb2jkj.org  
www.wb2jkj.org



THE RADIO CLUB OF  
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL 22  
P.O. Box 1052  
New York, NY 10002  
*Bringing Communication to Education Since 1980*



Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, has been to Bhutan several times. He went again in October with this "Minnesota Team." Left to right: Ralph Fedor, K0IR/A51IR; Sandy Fedor; Vivien Johnson, KL7YL; Glenn Johnson, W0GJ/A51B; Gena Cahill; Pat Cahill, W0BM/A51BM. (Photo courtesy of Scott, K0MD)

November issue of CQ magazine. I am glad I had the opportunity to know Daniel and I am equally glad that I sent my write-up of the article to him on October 5."

Last month I mentioned Silent Keys, not knowing I would be talking about it again this month. Daniel was one of those I didn't know other than his call and where he was located. It seems there are a lot out there we only know by their call and where they are. Do we spend too much time with "599 xx" that we don't get to know the other guy? Give that some thought while you're enjoying family and friends over the holidays.

### LoTW

The STØR QSL cards were very popular the end of October and early November. The confirmations were so popular, in fact, that the ARRL's DXCC desk offered a special deal using LoTW (Logbook of The World) to handle the onslaught. Apparently it worked and it helped the staff get through that period without too much difficulty.

In addition, just after the CQ WW SSB Contest weekend so many contesters jumped in to upload their logs to the LoTW that it was on the verge of crashing. The ARRL put out this message: "Due to a large number of radio amateurs uploading their logs to Logbook of

ber team will be operating but also conducting exams to hopefully increase the population of licensed hams in Ethiopia. They will also install and leave behind antennas, a radio, and an amplifier.

**HK0-Malpelo** is going to be "invaded" by a team of DXpeditioners the end of January. An "inspection team" went there for a preliminary check of the island in October just so they would know what they would be facing when the whole team arrived. Plans can now be "tweaked" and solid planning can take place. This one has seen very little CW/digital activity in many years, so we are looking forward to a really serious effort by the team to work those modes.

### CD5546 on The Air

"CQ CQ CQ this is CD5546, over." Would you answer that call on 20 or 15 meters? That's a very strange call to be heard on the ham bands, right? Well, folks, it is legal and here's the story behind it.

It seems that Tony, EA7AQH, retired and moved from Spain to Chile. He

operated for a few years as CE/EA7AQH but then decided as a citizen of Chile he should have a Chile license. When he applied for a license, he got one... a *Novice* license and a *Novice* callsign. Yes, CD5546 is the call he was assigned. So if you should hear this call for the next 1 1/2 years, be assured that it is not a pirate operating on the ham bands. Give Tony a call and enjoy the QSO. He will, for sure.

### VO2FF Silent Key

In the November column I had a story about Mike, KQ0B, and his effort to work someone in Zone 2. He finally made it by working Daniel, VO2FF, back in July. Mike just reported that VO2FF recently became a Silent Key, making that QSO even more memorable. Mike says: "VO2FF passed away last weekend suddenly. I was really shocked when VO2NS contacted me and told me of the news. Daniel is the ham who gave me my last zone on 10 meters (Zone 2). He is the one mentioned in the "DX" column of the

### The CQ DX Field Award Program

#### SSB

73 .....K0KG

#### CW

63 .....PA0QRB

#### MIXED Endorsements

244 .....W1CU

#### SSB Endorsements

224 .....W1CU

#### CW Endorsements

233 .....W1CU 100 .....YO6HSU

#### Digital Endorsements

174 .....W1CU 3.5/7 MHz .....JN3SAC  
100 .....YO6HSU/105

The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$6. For non-subscribers, it is \$12. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00 each plus SASE. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are free. All updates and correspondence must include an SASE. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards may be found on the <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> website, or may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to CQ DX Awards Manager, Keith Gilbertson, K0KG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604 USA. Please make all checks payable to the award manager.

### The WPX Program

#### SSB

3106 .....SM7ZDC 3108 .....WU1U  
3107 .....N0AZZ 3109 .....W4TTO

#### Mixed

2170 .....W4QK 2172 .....NA5DX  
2171 .....WU1U

**CW:** 2750 I0NNY, 5900 K2VV.

**SSB:** 350 W4TTO, 450 WU1U, 600 N3ALN, 650 EA3FYD, 5100 K2VV.

**Mixed:** 500 WU1U, 600 NA5DX, 700 N3ALN, 1750 DL1ECG, 6750 K2VV.

**160 Meters:** DL1ECG

**12 Meters:** JA7OXR

**10 Meters:** JA7OXR

**Award of Excellence Holders:** N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MDD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, WB4SU, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BOY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF20, WB8CNL, W1JR, F9RM, WSUR, CT1FL, WA4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, WD9IC, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, WB8ZRL, WA8YTM, SM6DHU, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, DK4SY, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, I2DMK, SM6CST, VE1NG, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LCL, 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, F1HVB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, I43PVD, CT1YH, ZS8EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE0DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IK4GME, VE9RJ, NN1N, HB9AUT, KC6X, N6IBF, W50DD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, I03NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PXV, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS,

I2EAY, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, K4LQ, K0KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, A6Z, RU3DX, WB9IHH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, KT2C, UA9CGL, AE5B, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, UA0FAI, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3OPL, 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, S58MU, UX1AA, AB1J, DM3FZN, AG4W, UA3QNS, RX3AGD.

**160 Meter Endorsements:** N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF20, 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, H8LCL, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TGH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, N3XX, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, I43PVD, CT1YH, ZS8EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, NN1N, W50DD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, K9XR, JA0SU, I5ZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K0IFL, WT3W, I03NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, 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, 7K3OPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJQ, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI, UR5FEO, N3RC, UT3IZ, RU3ZX, YO9HP, RA3DNC, K8ZT, KE5K, JH8BOE, S58MU, UX1AA, DM3FZN, AG4W, UA3QNS, RX3AGD.

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 DX Store



The DX Store is an authorized ICOM Dealer for factory reconditioned (repacked) and warranted amateur radio equipment and accessories. ICOM equipment sold by The DX Store is covered by a full factory warranty for 90-Days and has been completely reconditioned, tested and calibrated by ICOM factory service Technicians.



We specialize in quality products from quality manufacturers. "You Can't Fix Cheap". The products we carry & the companies that make them share our philosophy on quality.

[sales@dxstore.com](mailto:sales@dxstore.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

6469 .....9A2AA	4229 .....I2MQP	3773 .....IK2ILH	3104 .....K9UQN	2428 .....N6QQ	1862 .....VE9FX	1322 .....AA4FU	723 .....K0DAN	620 .....PI4DHV
6122 .....K2VV	4201 .....KF2O	3762 WB2YQH	3091 .....9A4W	2338 .....I2EAY	1818 .....KX1A	1269 .....K5WAF	707 W1/E74OF	616 .....DL5JH
5784 .....W1CU	4158 .....N6JV	3474 .SM6DHU	3007 .....W2WC	2292 .....AB1J	1727 .....N3RC	1116 .....YU7FW	682 .....AI8P	600 .....IK1RKN
5303 .....9A2NA	4129 .....S58MU	3386 .....N8BJQ	2922 .OZ1ACB	2116 .....AE5B	1667 .....SQ7B	1066 .JA1CKE	662 .....JA7OXR	600 .KB9OWD
5013 .....EA2IA	4101 .WA5VGI	3305 .JH8BOE	2559 .....W3LL	2192 .....N2SS	1655 .SV1DPI	976 .....KM6HB	653 .....KK3Q	
4785 .....N4NO	4078 .....K0DEQ	3238 .....K1BV	2544 .....W6OUL	2106 .....K0KG	1593 .....S55SL	964 .....K8ZEE	650 .....N3YZ	
4399 .....YU1AB	4022 .....N9AF	3231 .....W2OO	2530 .YO9HP	2084 .WD9DZV	1482 .DL4CW	815 .....KL7FAP	649 .....RA9OO	
4344 .....VE3XN	4005 .....W9OP	3207 .....W9IL	2499 .....VE6BF	1971 .....W2FKF	1446 .DF3JO	781 .....V51YJ	647 .PA0QRB	
4290 .....I2PJA	3967 .ON4CAS	3116 .JN3SAC	2493 .....I5RFD	1936 .....AG4W	1383 .IW0HOU	726 .....K5IC	644 .....KW0H	
4250 .....S53EO	3892 .YU7BCD	3105 .KC9ARR	2476 .....K5UR	1905 .....W7CB	1337 .....K6UXO	725 .....WK3N	636 .....ZS2DL	

### SSB

5169 .....I0ZV	3387 .....KF2O	2726 .WA5VGI	2288 .....W3LL	2093 .....W2WC	1782 .....W6OUL	1463 .....I2EAY	1031 .IK8OZP	717 .....K0DAN
4663 .....K2VV	3323 .OE2EGL	2711 .LUBESU	2275 .IK2DZN	2076 .....K2XF	1776 .JN3SAC	1410 .....S55SL	1022 .....NW3H	640 .....UA9YF
4606 .....VE1YX	3259 .CT1AHU	2595 .....EA1JG	2271 .SV3AQR	1986 .DL8AAV	1719 .....K9UQN	1386 .IK4HPU	1012 .....KU4BP	637 .....K5WAF
4584 .....F6DZU	3108 .....I4CSP	2497 .....S58MU	2224 .....N8BJQ	1971 .....W2FKF	1623 .....VE9FX	1377 .....EA3NP	1117 .WD9DZV	600 .WA2BEV
4567 .....OZ5EV	3047 .....K0DEQ	2471 .....I3ZSX	2209 .IK2QPR	1935 .SV1EOS	1612 .....AG4W	1258 .....N1KC	978 .....EA7HY	
4238 .....I2PJA	3022 .....I8KCI	2459 .....W2OO	2201 .....NQ3A	1927 .....AE5B	1611 .....W2ME	1146 .....SQ7B	965 .....VE6BF	
4208 .....9A2NA	2903 .....IN3QCI	2451 .EA3GHZ	2107 .....N6FX	1889 .....N6QQ	1561 .....PT7ZT	1145 .EA3EQT	883 .....WA5UA	
3962 .....I2MQP	2857 .....4X6DK	2417 .SM6DHU	2099 .....KI7AO	1879 .....K3IXD	1534 .AE9DX	1089 .I28FFA	875 .....K7SAM	
3741 .....EA2IA	2779 .YU7BCD	2333 .....W9IL	2098 .....K5UR	1844 .YO9HP	1480 .....AB5C	1083 .....KX1A	758 .....IV3GOW	
3557 .....N4NO	2761 .....KF7RU	2326 .....CX6BZ	2094 .....I8LEL	1825 .....KQ8D	1464 .VE7SMP	1042 .IZ0BNR	724 .....W3TZ	

### CW

5464 .....K9QVB	3750 .....VE7CNE	2914 .SM6DHU	2647 .....I0NNY	2342 .....N6FX	1665 .....YO9HP	1220 .....AA4FU	813 .....VE9FX	600 .....IK2SGV
5452 .WA2HZR	3722 .....9A2NA	2884 .....I7PXV	2632 .....W2ME	2182 .....W9HR	1548 .WD9DZV	1210 .....DL4CW	794 .....LA5MDA	
5428 .....K2VV	3676 .....S58MU	2774 .....N8BJQ	2502 .JA9CWJ	2178 .....I2MQP	1461 .....WO3Z	1160 .....AA5JG	753 .....F5PBL	
4316 .....N4NO	3560 .WA5VGI	2730 .IK3GER	2473 .....OZ5UR	2010 .....K5UR	1445 .EA2CIN	1125 .....I0WOK	749 .....AE5B	
4182 .....N6JV	3379 .....K0DEQ	2723 .EA7AZA	2434 .....W9IL	1990 .....W6OUL	1424 .....N6QQ	1145 .....VE1YX	732 .....SQ7B	
4024 .....LZ1XL	3145 .....W8IQ	2721 .....K9UQN	2424 .....W2WC	1983 .EA7AAW	1336 .WA2VQV	1102 .IT9ELD	695 .....S55SL	
3918 .....VE7DP	3132 .....KF2O	2701 .JN3SAC	2373 .....VE6BF	1848 .....I2EAY	1312 .....K6UXO	1049 .....K5WAF	629 .IV3GOW	
3780 .....EA2IA	3046 .YU7BCD	2692 .....KA7T	2365 .....W2OO	1827 .....AC5K	1223 .....KX1A	821 .....HB9DAX	615 .....JH6JMM	

### DIGITAL

1534 .....W3LL	1133 .....N6QQ	1056 .WD9DZV	1009 .GU8SUP	866 .....SQ7B	800 .....KF2O
1312 .....N8BJQ	1066 .....YO9HP	1049 .....W2OO	894 .....AG4W	836 .....K0DEQ	

The World (LoTW) after last weekend's CQ World-Wide SSB Contest, the ARRL's online QSL verification service is experiencing delays. According to ARRL IT Department Manager Michael Keane, K1MK, there is about a 33 hour wait for logs to be processed."

"Logs are processed in the order in which they were received," he explained. "If you have uploaded your log to LoTW, your log is currently queued for processing. It has not been lost in the system. Uploading your log multiple times will only further delay your log and those of others to be processed."

Thankfully this problem didn't last too long once the word got out and things settled down.

## Bhutan

On the first page of this column there is a photo of Pradhan,



Masao, JE1LGY/ZP7, visited Doug, ZP6CW. Masao is a medical volunteer working in the interior of Paraguay. Masao told Doug that Doug was "very famous in Japan." Masao took many photos of Doug, his shack, and his big log periodic antenna. (Photo courtesy of ZP6CW)



Lot, DJ7ZG, and Babs, DL7AFS, have traveled all over the world and worked many DXers from islands and countries everywhere. Here they proudly hold their respective #1 DXCC Honor Roll plaques. They were on Cocos Keeling as VK9CX as this was written in early November.

A51PN, with his paper logs of some 30,000 contacts between 1972 and 1983. Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, was in Bhutan the end of October and met Pradhan, who handed over those paper logs to him. Glenn says he will be able to answer QSL requests for anyone needing a card for A51PN. Please send your request to the Callbook address of W0GJ, and don't forget the SAE and sufficient postage. Glenn added, "Pradhan has meticulous notes in his logs about QSLs that were returned."

Glenn plans to digitize and upload the logs to LoTW, but it will take a bit of time for 30,000 QSOs.

Until next time, enjoy the chase and do Have Fun!

73, Carl, N4AA

## 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, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, K0KG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604.

### Mixed

K2TQC.....272	W6OAT.....213	NI6T.....193
W1CU.....244	VE3ZZ.....207	N4NX.....192
HA8DU.....240	JN3SAC.....207	ON4CAS.....191
VE7IG.....239	HA5WA.....206	HA9PP.....190
VE3XN.....234	F6HMJ.....206	BA4DW.....188
HA5AGS.....228	KF8UN.....205	HB9DDZ.....188
9A5CY.....227	OK1AOV.....205	K2AU.....183
N8PR.....223	RW4NH.....203	K2SHZ.....182
HA1RW.....220	N4MM.....202	K1NU.....180
HA1AG.....218	W4UM.....202	W5ODD.....177
K0DEQ.....216	IV3GOW.....201	N0FW.....176
K8SIX.....215	K8OOK.....196	

### SSB

W1CU.....224	VE7SMP.....190	JN3SAC.....177
W4ABW.....202	N4MM.....186	N0FW.....176
K0DEQ.....192	W4UM.....184	DL3DXX.....175

### CW

DL6KVA.....233	JN3SAC.....202	N4MM.....179
W1CU.....233	W4UM.....197	N4NX.....177
DL2DXA.....209	OK1AOV.....196	N7WO.....175
K0DEQ.....207	HB9DZZ.....186	
DL3DXX.....203	OK2PO.....184	

## QSL Information

G0ANA via GW0ANA	GB100LP via GW0ANA
G1RCV via G4DFI	GB100SFL via GW0ANA
G1T via M0SCG	GB111HP via G4PLY
G3RCV via G4DFI	GB150VC via G4DFI
G3RCV/P via G4DFI	GB1CPB via G5XW
G3XAQ/6Y5 via G3SWH	GB1DLH via GB6BSR
G4AKC/SV8 via G4AKC	GB1OL via MM5DWW
G5ASE via DL1DA	GB1TT via M0XIG
GA0FGI via GM0FGI	GB1WT via M0XIG
GA0NBM via GM0NBM	GB200HNT via GW0ANA
GA2MP via N3SL	GB200T via G4DFI
GA3YOR via GM3YOR	GB2ADU via GW4XKE
GA3YTS via GM3YTS	GB2BF via G4DFI
GA4FDM via GM4FDM	GB2FB via G4DFI
GA4YMM via GM4YMM	GB2HLB via GM3WUX
GB0BME via G7WAW	GB2MS via M0PAI
GB0GRA via M0JHW	GB2MWT via M0XIG
GB0HDX via M0JHW	GB2OH via M0CNP
GB0MPA via GW0ANA	GB2PBL via G5XW
GB0U via GW0ANA	
GB0YEZ via G4PLY	
GB100BP via GW0ANA	
GB100EGL via GW0ANA	
GB100FI via GW0ANA	

(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>.)

# Tips for Contesting During Periods of High Solar Activity

**W**ith ever-increasing predictions for higher solar activity in sunspot Cycle 24, contesters are adjusting their plans to cope with change. It seemed to take quite a while to rise up from the sunspot minimum. Now that better conditions have arrived, it is important to think of ways to take advantage of the higher solar flux and maximize your score.

"I will be spending lots more time on 10 and 15 meters in order to maximize my QSO and multiplier totals," says Ted Console, K2QMF, from New York. "This, however, requires some additional understanding of propagation and MUF (maximum usable frequency) in order to determine the best times to be on these bands for highest QSO rates."

Other contesters agree that the higher bands will be the place to be. "Clearly, one has to spend more time working on making sure the high-band antennas work," says Dennis McAlpine, K2SX, from South Carolina. McAlpine adds, "However, the contrarian might say that poorer antennas will work better in higher SFI (solar flux indices) as you need less signal if the SFI is up, so the place you need the better signal is the low bands rather than the high bands because you will need more signal to get through."

With more contesters flocking to the high bands, Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, of Brooklyn, New York is thinking of ways to make his signal stand out from the crowd. "Believe it or not, I'm thinking about running high power instead of my usual low power entry," says Lisenco. "You would think that I would be better off the other way around as conditions are better. But to me it seems that the better band conditions will bring more operators to the contest and allow for better DXing. As a result, I think that the added gain of 1KW over 100 watts will allow me to be heard against the increased activity."

Paul Young, K1XM, from Massachusetts says, "I may get on a bit more from home in minor contests, but overall my plans have not changed. I'll still be out of the U.S. for the CQ WW CW, and maybe for CQ WW SSB."

Hams who have lived through the ups and downs of the sunspot cycle realize that band plans will change with activity levels. Higher sunspots will allow ten and fifteen meters to be open longer to many parts of the world. This will allow multiple high bands to be open at one time leading to a choice of frequencies for all operators. With less crowding, people can spread out more over the band, leading to fewer frequency fights and generally

## Calendar of Events

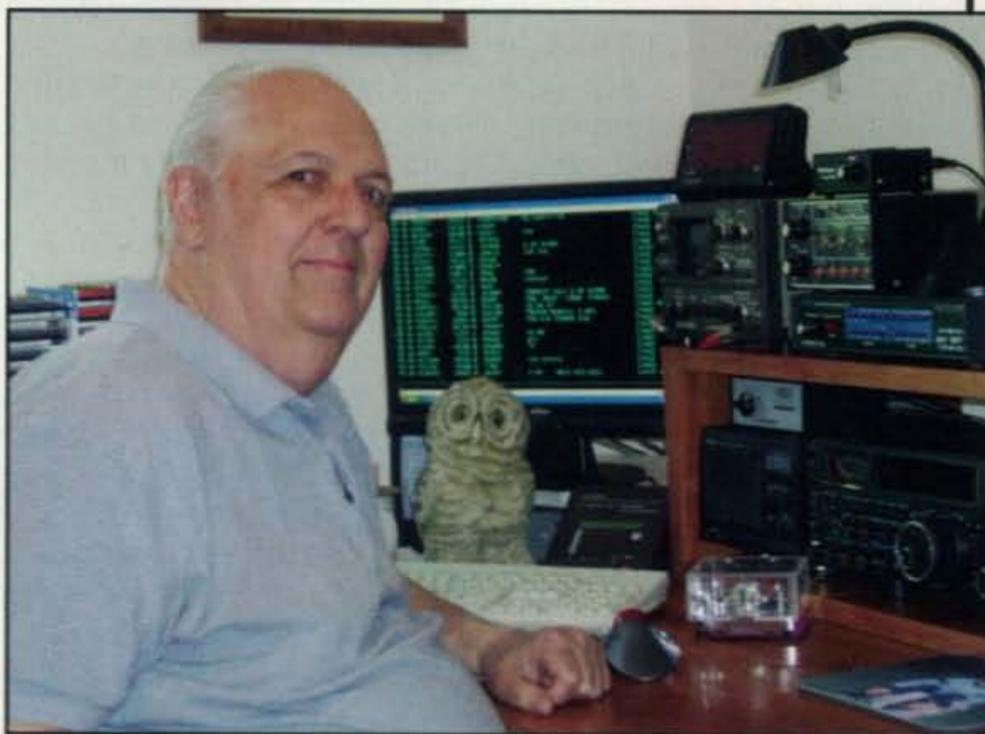
All year	CQ DX Marathon
Jan. 1	SARTG New Year RTTY Contest
Jan. 7-8	ARRL RTTY Roundup
Jan. 8	DARC 10-Meter Contest
Jan. 14-15	Hunting Lions in the Air
Jan. 14-15	North American CW QSO Party
Jan. 21-22	Hungarian DX Contest
Jan. 21	LZ Open Contest
Jan. 21-22	BARTG RTTY Sprint
Jan. 21-22	North American SSB QSO Party
Jan. 27-29	<b>CQ WW 160M CW Contest</b>
Jan. 28-29	REF CW Contest
Jan. 28-29	UBA SSB Contest
Feb. 4	Minnesota QSO Party
Feb. 4-5	Delaware QSO Party
Feb. 5	North American CW Sprint
Feb. 11-12	<b>CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest</b>

For direct links to the rules pages for these contests, see the current issue highlights page on the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

easier signal readability. The result will be higher scores and more fun for all.

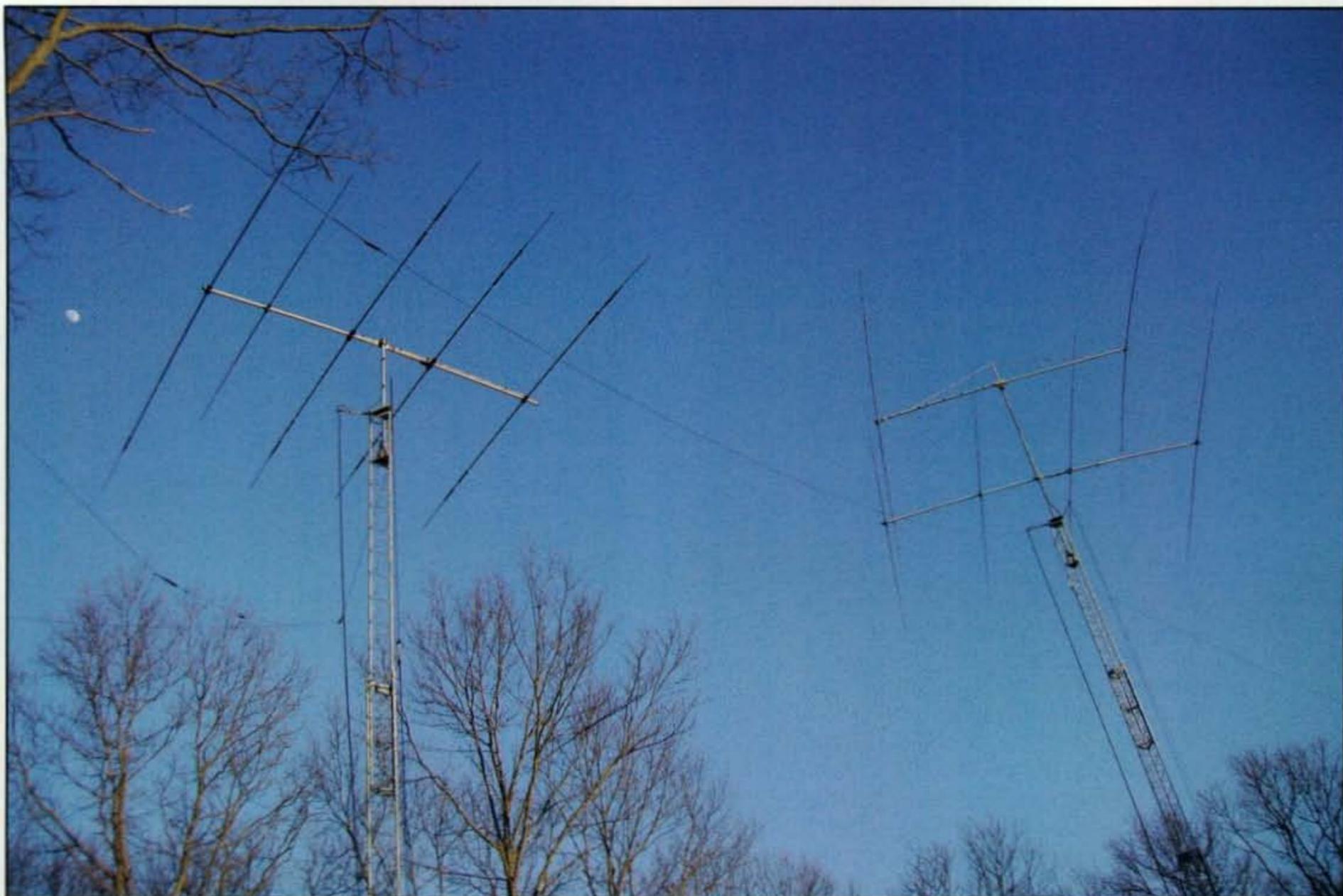
## Good Conditions Last Fall

This past fall's great solar conditions led to greater activity and higher scores in the big contests. The October CQ World-Wide DX SSB Contest was a great example, with 10 meters wide open to many areas of the world. Activity there started at 28.300 MHz and went all the way up to and over 29 MHz!



Ted Console, K2QMF, in his well-equipped shack on Long Island, New York. (Photo courtesy K2QMF)

\*P.O. Box 657, Copiague, NY 11726  
e-mail: <n2ga@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Two towers are part of the K2QMF antenna farm. (Photo courtesy K2QMF)

Many contesters noted that there was no one good spot to be, that anywhere on 10 meters was a good spot. On the east coast of the US, 10 stayed open well after darkness fell with many Japanese, Chinese, and southeast Asian stations worked during that time.

When this column was written, ARRL Sweepstakes CW had just finished with great activity in the U.S. and Canada. Assuming similar conditions, the upcoming CQ WW DX CW Contest shows all indications of possible record-breaking scores and activity. The ARRL 10-Meter contest should also see better results with higher totals all around.

### The Downside of Higher Solar Activity

Higher solar flux can generate coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and solar flares. Solar flares can disrupt communications and even affect electrical systems. These bursts of solar energy occur in active solar regions around sunspots. According to Wikipeda, "Flares are powered by the sudden (timescales of minutes to tens of minutes) release of magnetic energy stored in the corona.

The same energy releases may produce coronal mass ejections (CME). X-rays and UV radiation emitted by solar flares can affect Earth's ionosphere and disrupt long-range radio communications. Direct radio emission at decimetric wavelengths may disturb operation of radars and other devices operating at these frequencies."

Scientists are now predicting the peak of Cycle 24 to be in 2013. Until then we can expect a continuing number of solar flares and CMEs. While ionization of the Earth's atmosphere is necessary for long-range HF communication, disruptions can occur when flares or CMEs affect the Earth's magnetic field. A side effect can be the beautiful "northern lights" or aurora. This natural light display is normally prevalent at higher latitudes but can migrate towards the Earth's equator with higher levels of solar activity and stronger solar storms.

### Propagation Changes

As solar flux goes higher, ten and fifteen meters become the "money bands" during the daytime hours. Look for openings where both ends of the

path are in daylight and especially strong openings along the gray line. Signals tend to appear stronger during twilight as the sun is no longer ionizing the D-layer of the ionosphere closest to the Earth. Since this layer absorbs radio frequency energy, once it begins to disappear it will allow more signals to pass through it. Since the higher E- and F-layers are still being hit by sunlight, these layers continue to refract radio waves during twilight, causing a seeming strengthening of signals. Evening gray line can create strong signals on ten meters from the west causing, for example, Japanese stations to pop out of the noise on the U.S. east coast. Since the MUF is low in the morning, the gray line then normally does not support 10-meter propagation but may work well for 20 meters (or even 15 meters if it is open). Morning gray line also can work well on the lower frequencies such as 40 and 80 meters since the absorption is lower then, as well.

Twenty meters will also be alive with unusual nighttime openings when the solar flux is high. Look for signals over the pole when there are no solar storms. For the U.S. east coast, this means sig-

nals into Siberia, southeast and south Asia. Long-path openings may also be prevalent during these times. A knowledge of propagation at the peak of the sunspot cycle can yield many new multipliers that will go a long way to increasing your contest scores.

### Activity is Good and Bad

With more sunspots comes increased band activity. This may create situations in which pile-ups develop. Try to listen first before calling and do not call if you cannot hear the transmitting station. Also, try to avoid being an alligator with a big mouth and no ears—inconstant calling without listening just creates noise and makes it more difficult for the station working down the pileup to be efficient. Do not send your call again if a partial callsign is sent and it is not part of your call! Considerate operating goes a long way to making it easier for everyone to work the needed multiplier.

Be aware of "contest free" zones and avoid these frequencies. The biggest complaint heard about contests is the disruption that they cause to the bands when they are occurring. This is especially true during the "big" DX contests like CQ World-Wide DX and the ARRL DX contests. While it is true that some people may never be happy, it is important that we are considerate of others who do not share our passion. This includes individual stations looking for casual contacts as well as net opera-

tions. While no one person has the right to any frequency, consider the consequences of politely responding to stations asking for use of a certain frequency at a specific time. You may be able to put a few of those stations in your log if you ask them for a contact in exchange for moving off frequency. When this occurs, everyone gets what they want and you become a goodwill ambassador for contesters everywhere.

Considerate operating also includes listening before calling CQ. Nothing is

more annoying than having someone CQ right on your frequency, interrupting a QSO in progress. Some of the biggest offenders can be big-gun contest stations who should know better. Of course, the heat of battle, fatigue, and confusion can cause mistakes to be made. However, intentionally transmitting without listening first and asking if the frequency is in use is just poor operating practice and can make enemies both inside and outside the contest community.

### Take Advantage of the Great Conditions

Now is the time to get on the bands and make the sunspots work for you. As many an oldtimer has said, "there are no meters like ten meters" and that is so true at the peak of the sunspot cycle. If you are into DX, it's much easier to work it on 10 meters. The band tends to be directional and sometimes you'll only work stations in one small area. This can work to your advantage as you might be the only one who has a strong signal there. If there are multipliers in that area, you'll be in luck and will have an easy pick of them.

The contest season is still mostly ahead of us with the CQ WPX and ARRL DX contests upcoming this winter and early spring. Check solar conditions and get on the air and check out 10 and 15 meters when the solar flux is high. You'll be glad you did.

I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2012! I hope to CU on the air on 10 meters this year!

73, George, N2GA



Congratulations to the VP5H crew (KØMD, WØGJ, and WAØMHJ):

1st Place  
M/S High Power  
in the  
2011 ARRL SSB DX Contest,  
using Force 12 XR-5  
and Delta 240 beams!



940.683.8371 FORCE12INC.COM



Dennis McAlpine, K2SX, at his South Carolina station. (Photo courtesy of K2SX)

# Solar Cycle 24 Finally Active in 2011

## A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

### Sunspots

Observed Monthly, October 2011: 88  
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2011: 42

### 10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, October 2011: 137  
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2011: 100

### Ap Index

Observed Monthly, October 2011: 7  
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2011: 8

## One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

### Sunspots

Observed Monthly, October 2010: 24  
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2010: 14

### 10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, October 2010: 82  
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2010: 78

### Ap Index

Observed Monthly, October 2010: 6  
Twelve-month smoothed, April 2010: 6

## Moderate 2011 CQ WW SSB Contest Conditions

The 2011 CQ World-Wide DX SSB Contest weekend of October 29–30 started off with great geomagnetic activity conditions. Geomagnetic activity was very quiet, making for a very stable ionosphere. Sunspot counts were incredible, though! On the first contest day the sunspot count was 73 (compared to a year ago, when the count was 32 on both days). The 10.7-cm solar flux index was 123 and 127, compared with last year's 85 and 81. All of the HF contest bands were usable, including 10 meters! The contest yielded great results for most every participant, compared with the last several years.

A significant number of sunspot cycle records were made during the second half of 2011 as solar Cycle 24 rapidly increased in sunspot activity. For instance, on August 9, 2011, the most powerful x-ray flare so far recorded during the new cycle was measured at a peak of X6.9, originating from active sunspot region 1263. The movie at <http://g.nw7us.us/vUzvvz> reveals a powerful release of energy that pulses with light. The event released x-ray, extreme ultraviolet, and radio energy that resulted in an R3-level radio blackout, and a Type-II radio burst that was heard on radio receivers.

Table I shows the top ten most powerful x-ray flares so far occurring since the start of Cycle 24. One of these flares, occurring on September 22, peaking at magnitude X1.4, was a stunning show of huge magnetic loops and originated at one of the largest sunspot regions of 2011. You can see this spectacular eruption in various different wavelengths (capturing the Sun and the x-ray flare in various temperatures ranging from 4500 degrees Celsius to more than several million degrees Celsius!) at <http://g.nw7us.us/t8Zcmo>.

The largest active sunspot region of solar Cycle 24 as of press-time (in mid-November) was NOAA Active Region 1339 (which was also the origin of the X1.9-class x-ray flare on November 3, 2011, the fourth largest so far in this cycle), a huge 1400 solar units in size. The active sunspot region 1302,

\*e-mail: [nw7us@nw7us.us](mailto:nw7us@nw7us.us)

## LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for January 2012

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-8, 10-13, 16-20, 24-31	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 9, 21	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 23	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 14-15, 22	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 January 1–8, fair (C) on the 9th, good (B) on the 10–13, 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.

on September 25, was only 1300 solar units in size! The unit of a sunspot area is measured in millionths of the Sun's visible hemisphere; the largest sunspot group on record had an area of 6100 millionths on April 8, 1947.

The highest daily sunspot count so far in the new cycle occurred on November 9, at 208, when the total sunspot area was a huge 2102 solar units, the largest sunspot area yet during this cycle (as of press time). The day with the highest 10.7-cm radio flux reading so far was September 9, 2011, when it reached 190. All of these records come after

roughly eight long years since the Sun had the same level of activity.

## Good Conditions for 2012

There is no mistaking it, now. The new solar cycle is well under way. The autumn season of 2011 was the most exciting DX season in years. This new year, 2012, promises to be alive with opportunity on all HF bands, as the cycle continues to move toward the solar cycle maximum.

Here is an overview of expected propagation conditions on each amateur band between 6 and 160 meters for 2012.

**6 Meters:** The steady increase in solar activity had already given hint of life on the "Magic Band" late last year. We should see action on 6 meters not only during the summer tropo and sporadic-E season, but increasingly as we move into the year we should see an increase in F-region propagation as the 10.7-cm radio flux climbs higher. Of course, aurora will play a role during spring and fall. Meteor-scatter propagation offers an occasional peak in activity, as well. By the end of 2012, we'll see active periods when the F-region becomes the propagation mode for this band.

**10 and 12 Meters:** These bands will finally be players this year, and not just during times of sporadic-E activity. During the first quarter of 2012 these bands will be temperamental. They will become more and more stable and reliable as the cycle moves ever closer to the peak (which is forecast for 2013, but which this columnist expects in 2014 or 2015). Remember, when these bands are open, it does not take a lot of power nor does it take elaborate antenna systems to work DX, because signals are not absorbed by the lower ionospheric regions as much as are signals on lower frequencies, such as on 20 meters, for instance. This year will be exciting for these two bands.

**15 and 17 Meters:** These bands should be major daytime players. They will remain open for DX an hour or two after dark, and open about an hour or two before sunrise, providing DX into most regions of the world, following the Sun throughout the day. Along with 20 meters, these bands will suffer more during x-ray flares than the higher bands such as 12 and 10 meters.

**20 Meters:** This band is going to be the 24-hour workhorse band. Expect reliable conditions during the daylight hours, with DX openings possible to many areas of the world throughout the year. DX conditions on this band tend to peak for a few hours after local sunrise and again during the sunset period, but also provide DX via long path and into various regions of the world even during hours of darkness, when the 10.7-cm radio flux is higher. There will be moderate nighttime openings especially during the spring and autumn DX

seasons. The only caveat is during geomagnetic storms and x-ray flare activity, when this band suffers.

**30 Meters:** With Cycle 24 offering more sunspot activity, conditions on this band offer strong openings, especially a few hours before sunset until a few hours after sunrise. In 2012 thirty meters will be an exciting band for those low-power digital signals. Winter brings longer nights, providing the right mix for exceptional worldwide DX.

**40, 60, 80, and 160 Meters:** These are nighttime DX bands. Great worldwide DX should continue on 40 meters from about

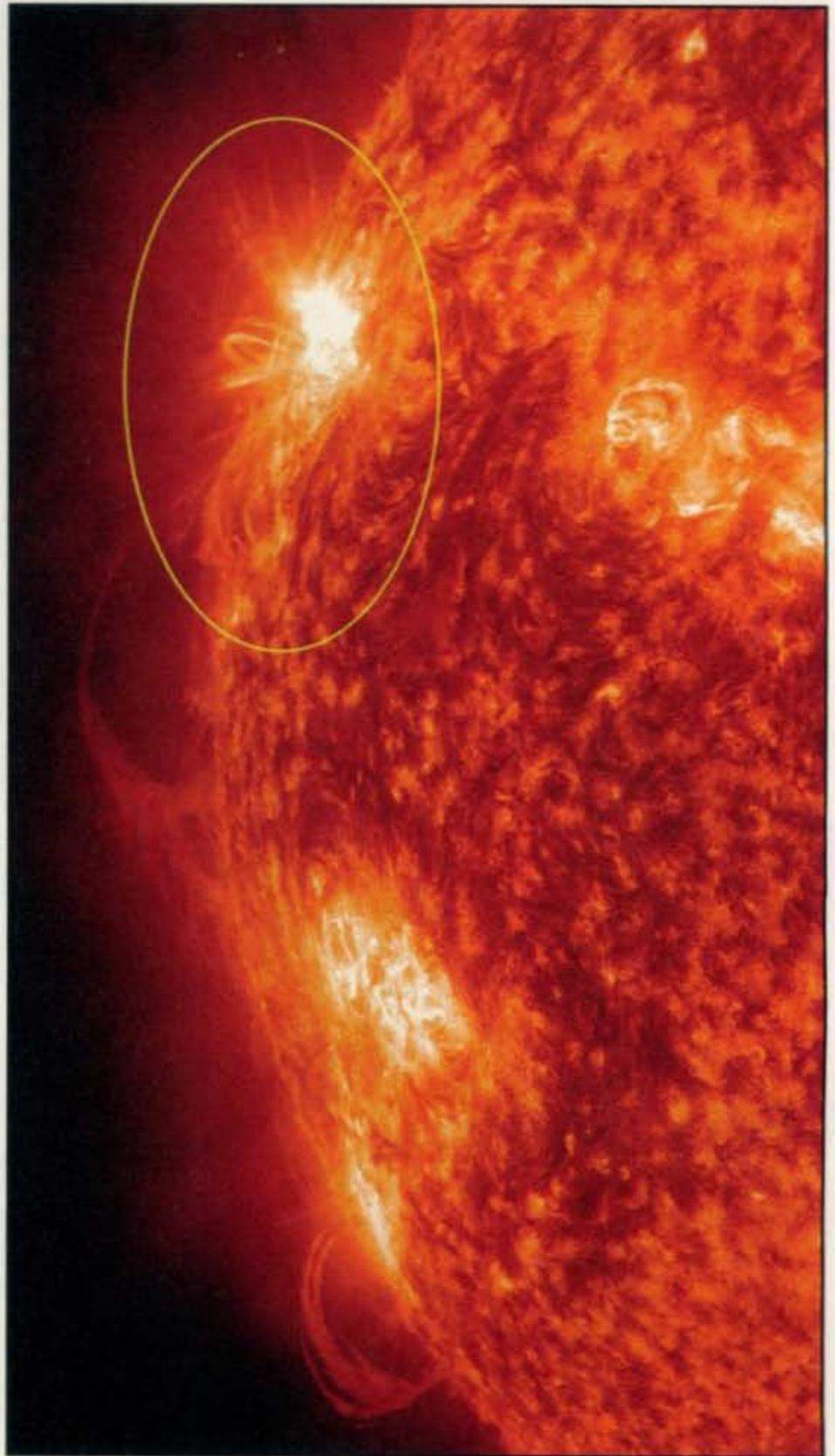


Fig. 1— A magnitude M4.3 x-ray flare is captured by the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) Atmospheric Imaging Assembly (AIA) at 2202 UTC on November 2, 2011. Notice the interaction between the sunspot region where the flare occurs (circled in yellow) and the sunspot region to the south, as seen by a huge arch of solar plasma formed by powerful magnetic field lines. As the final months of 2011 progressed, the Sun unleashed more and more of these M-class flares, and even more smaller, C-class flares, with a few stronger X-class flares thrown in for good measure. (Source: NASA/SDO/AIA)

Class	Date (all in 2011)	NOAA Active Region
X6.9	August 9	1263
X2.2	February 15	1158
X2.1	September 6	1283
X1.9	November 3	1339
X1.9	September 24	1302
X1.8	September 7	1283
X1.5	March 9	1166
X1.4	September 22	1302
M9.3	August 4	1261
M9.3	July 30	1260

Table 1— The top ten most powerful x-ray flares so far occurring since the start of Cycle 24.



Fig. 2— The largest active sunspot region yet in Solar Cycle 24 was measured on November 3, 2011, with NOAA Active Region 1339 measuring a massive 1400 solar units in size (see text)! As the region continued to rotate across the solar disc, it helped keep the high frequencies alive with DX, as the 10.7-cm Radio Flux remained in the mid- to upper 100s, and the background hard x-ray flux remained in the high B- to low C-class. Sunspot regions with large spots are not unusual, though most sunspot regions tend to be smaller, with many of them spread out around the solar disc. (Source: NASA/SDO/Heliioseismic and Magnetic Imager [HMI])

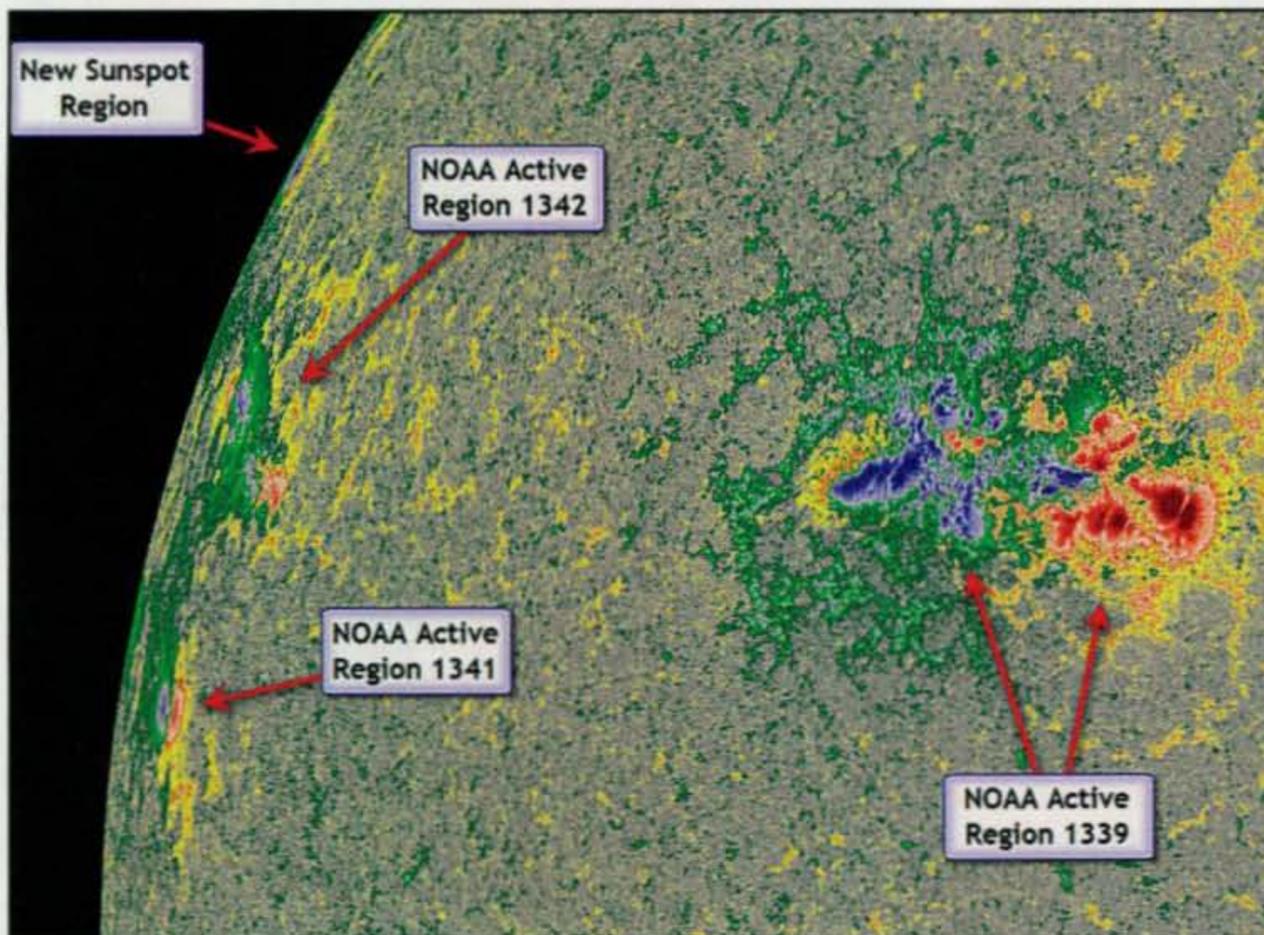


Fig. 3— This is a colorized view of the giant active sunspot region NOAA AR 1339 taken on November 6, 2011. In this HMI Magnetogram, the color red represents a negative magnetic polarity, and blue represents a positive polarity. The colors green and yellow are a discontinuous color gradient showing lower magnetic field strengths either side of zero. As has been explained in previous issues of this column, sunspot regions have magnetic polarity, at least bipolar, though often more complex with multiple poles, as complex magnetic structures punch through the sunspot region from deep within the Sun, out into the corona, and then back into the Sun either nearby in the same sunspot region, or sometimes, farther away in another sunspot region. (Source: NASA/SDO/HMI)

two hours before sunset to approximately two hours after sunrise during all seasons. Expect coast-to-coast DX in 60 meters. DX openings on 80 and 160 should peak during the early spring, late fall, and winter months. Expect somewhat stronger signals than those of last year.

### January Propagation

It should be a toss-up between 17 and 20 meters for some great DX propagation openings during the daylight hours. These bands should open to most areas of the world, often with very strong signals. Seventeen meters may have a slight edge before noon, with 20 meters taking the lead after noon and becoming the optimum DX band during the late afternoon hours. Short-skip openings between distances of about 1200 and 2300 miles should be excellent during the daylight hours. Excellent short-skip openings are expected on 15 and 17 meters from shortly after sunrise through the early evening hours for distances between 1000 and 2300 miles. Twenty meters is expected to be a solid band with openings for both DX and short-skip. DX conditions should peak during a window of an hour or so right after sunrise and again during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Short-skip openings between approximately 1300 and 2300 miles should be possible from just after sunrise to as late as midnight. Shorter distance openings should also be possible from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

The optimum band for DX conditions during the hours of darkness should be 40 meters. Expect openings to most areas of the world from shortly before sundown, through the hours of darkness, and until shortly after sunrise. Signal levels may be exceptionally strong at times. During the daylight hours, short-skip conditions should be optimal for openings between approximately 100 and 600 miles. Skip will lengthen during the late afternoon, and by nightfall short-skip conditions should be optimal for openings between 800 and 2300 miles.

Expect 60 meters to play a significant role in nightly DX across the United States. With very low noise levels this month, the weaker signals of 60 meters will be easy to copy.

Because atmospheric noise levels will be at seasonally minimum levels in the Northern Hemisphere during January, the 80- and 160-meter bands should also be hot. Expect some good openings to many parts of the world on 80 meters

during the hours of darkness and the sunrise period. Short-skip openings between distances of 50 and 250 miles should be optimal on 80 meters during the daylight hours. During the later afternoon and early evening hours short-skip openings should increase to between 250 and 1500 miles, and by nightfall openings up to and beyond 2300 miles should be possible.

Expect some DX openings on the 160-meter band during the hours of darkness. Openings towards Europe and the east should peak at about midnight. Openings towards the South Pacific and in a generally southerly direction may be possible just before daybreak, as well as openings into Asia and North Pacific. Short-skip openings up to 1300 miles should be possible during the hours of darkness, and frequently the skip will extend out as far as 2300 miles. During the daylight hours intense ionospheric absorption will severely limit openings, although some may be possible at times up to 150 miles or so.

### VHF Conditions

Sporadic-E can occur during January, so be on the lookout. This has happened right around New Year's Day and that week. After that, it is rare.

The *Quadrantids* meteor shower is the major meteor shower for January and appears from January 1 to January 5. The maximum should occur on January 3. This shower can sometimes be quite intense, so it may be a good idea to set up some 2- and 6-meter schedules. Morning meteor openings may be the best bet during this month.

Check out *CQ VHF* magazine's "VHF Propagation" column for an in-depth look at propagation on VHF and above.

### Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for October 2011 is 88.0. The lowest daily sunspot value of 48 was recorded for October 8. The highest daily sunspot count was 136 on October 21. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on April 2011 is 41.8. A smoothed sunspot count of 76, give or take about 9 points is expected for January 2012.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 137.2 for October 2011. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on April 2011 is 100.4. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux

for January 2012 is 128, give or take about 9 points.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-index (*A<sub>p</sub>*) for October 2011 is 7, which is quiet. The 12-month smoothed *A<sub>p</sub>* index centered on April 2011 is 7.5. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to be varying greatly between quiet to stormy during January. Refer to the Last-Minute Forecast at the beginning of this column for the outlook on conditions during January 2012.

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://forums.hfradio.org/>>. If you are on Facebook, check out <<http://www.facebook.com/spacewx.hfradio>> and <<http://www.facebook.com/NW7US>>. Speaking of Facebook, check out the *CQ Amateur Radio Magazine* fan page: <<http://www.facebook.com/CQMag>>.

With all the new solar cycle activity, I'll be keeping my ears to the radio, hoping to hear you on the air. Happy DX!  
73, Tomas, NW7US

**N3ZN KEYS**

CUSTOM PADDLES  
Iambic and Single Lever  
handcrafted by Tony Baleno

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE  
[www.n3znkeys.com](http://www.n3znkeys.com)



Model ZN-9A Shown  
(other models available)

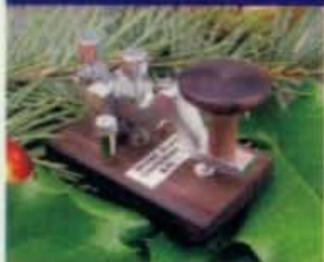
[www.MorseX.com](http://www.MorseX.com)

OAK HILLS RESEARCH MORSE Express AMECO

Everything for the Morse Enthusiast!

<b>KEYS</b> Keyers Parts	<b>PADDLES</b> Kits Accessories	<b>BUGS</b> Tools Books
--------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------

HUGE SELECTION • FREE CATALOG



2011  
*Christmas Key*  
\$89.<sup>99</sup>

Milestone Technologies Inc  
10691 E Bethany Dr Ste 800 Aurora CO 80014

**1-877-DOT-DASH**

**If you enjoy Amateur Radio... you'll enjoy** 

**It's a different kind of ham magazine.**

Fun to read, interesting from cover to cover, written so you can understand it. That's CQ. Read and enjoyed by thousands of people each month in 116 countries around the world.

**It's more than just a magazine. It's an institution.**

CQ also sponsors these world-famous award programs and contests: The CQ World-Wide DX Phone and CW Contests, the CQ WAZ Award, the CQ World-Wide WPX Phone and CW Contests, the CQ World-Wide VHF Contest, the CQ USA-CA Award, the CQ WPX Award, the CQ World-Wide 160 Meter Phone and CW Contests, the CQ World-Wide RTTY Contest, the CQ 5 Band WAZ Award, the CQ DX Award, CQ iDX Award, CQ DX Field Award, CQ DX Marathon and the highly acclaimed CQ DX Hall of Fame. Accept the challenge. Join the fun. Read CQ.

**Print Edition & New Digital Edition Combo Sale!**  
Buy both at a SPECIAL Combo price and save!

1 Year	Print	Digital	Both
USA	\$36.95	\$27.00	\$53.95
CN/MX	\$49.95	\$27.00	\$66.95
Foreign	\$61.95	\$27.00	\$78.95



**CQ The Radio Amateur's Journal**  
25 Newbridge Road • Hicksville, New York 11801  
[www.cq-amateur-radio.com](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)  
Phone 516-681-2922 • FAX 516-681-2926

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.)

**2011 WPX SSB RESULTS  
SINGLE OPERATOR  
NORTH AMERICA**

United States			
Call	Score	QSOs	Prefixes
<b>K1LZ</b>	<b>15,921,388</b>	<b>4088</b>	<b>1246</b>
AJ1I	11,615,760	3526	1095
KK1KW	6,869,520	2307	940
NU10	1,756,516	1067	628
NN1N	1,304,020	903	577
AD1DX	1,129,590	879	495
N1BCL	919,770	775	465
N1SV	845,616	777	446
W1STT	609,030	534	402
NY1H	466,792	489	332
AA10	300,030	382	274
N1KWF	253,236	412	282
NE1H	220,857	314	273
K1YSY	200,613	301	233
AB1BR	139,462	247	206
KZ1M	126,690	250	205
K1VO	68,250	165	150
K1DG	45,859	136	121
W1MSN	42,721	133	119
N1QEH	26,663	104	91
K1SD	23,793	83	77
WC1M	23,736	95	86
K1PTF	10,797	62	59
W1WEF	5,805	47	45
WA10UI	880	22	20
<b>W3EP/1</b>	<b>153,510</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>KQZM/1</b>	<b>9,591,670</b>	<b>3006</b>	<b>1210</b>
K8ND/1	6,793,222	2494	1007
W5WML/1	1,673,769	1111	629
KD2HE/1	97,536	211	192
<b>K1QS</b>	<b>324,720</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>328</b>
AB1EP	123,768	240	216
<b>WU3A/1</b>	<b>4,731,424</b>	<b>1463</b>	<b>796</b>
W1XX	1,114,452	821	459
<b>K1HAP</b>	<b>34,476</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>839</b>
K8NDV/1	10,633	50	49
<b>*NV1N</b>	<b>4,328,481</b>	<b>1925</b>	<b>839</b>
*NM1C	509,517	496	339
*N1JH	400,680	469	318
*KR1A	323,736	447	282
*W1CCE	307,004	419	284
*N1W	277,552	422	304
*WA1DRQ	194,684	324	238
*N1MXD	172,753	263	203
*K1VU	136,305	273	195
*KB1REQ	102,942	192	171
*KB1FRK	98,808	220	184
*KA1C	64,922	184	143
*W1PL	58,290	191	145
*W1TO	53,802	142	122
*W1Y07ARY	53,144	170	146
*K1BBM	50,816	148	128
*KB1TBU	40,182	129	111
*K1LOG	29,952	108	96
*K1GQ	27,468	96	84
*N1NN	21,182	99	89
*KB1P	11,178	72	69
*KK1X	10,833	70	69
*W1BP	10,797	65	59
*W1MJ	8,925	58	51
*K1TR	8,056	56	53
*KE1CY	5,175	48	45
*W1BJ	3,686	40	38
*N1ZN	3,168	34	33
*N1XUQ	2,277	34	33
*KB1UMM	2,146	30	29
*N1EMF	1,750	29	25
*W1KU	1,008	26	24
*KK1W	867	17	17
*NBAGL/1	252	15	14
<b>*AE1P</b>	<b>6,258</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>42</b>
*AB1HD	14	3	2
<b>*N1WRK</b>	<b>50,540</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>*W1K1</b>	<b>15,840</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>*KABHC/1</b>	<b>12,240</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>*NX1T</b>	<b>6,840</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>45</b>
*W1WBB	2,368	34	32
<b>KM20</b>	<b>1,265,680</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>520</b>
W20SR	337,922	406	317
K2BBQ	295,604	406	298
K2FJ	234,950	359	254
K2LE	224,532	302	243
W20Y	198,912	282	256
W25SH	192,816	351	234
K2DLS	165,024	291	216
K3QDV/2	158,152	277	212
W2KLD	108,528	216	168
WC2W	105,456	214	169
W2MC	102,483	217	177
AF20	66,560	163	130
KC2LST	57,456	158	133
N2USM	52,125	146	139
NV2G	49,664	145	128
W2ARP	30,438	115	114
KC2HZW	24,104	109	92
KC2PVM	16,318	88	82
<b>KAZ1M</b>	<b>95,976</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>172</b>
K2XA	9,744	67	58
W25SN	44	4	4
<b>N2MM</b>	<b>2,346,333</b>	<b>1294</b>	<b>733</b>
N2EIK	608,697	660	423
N2NT	25,024	103	92
KA2BXH	2,052	27	27
<b>WN20</b>	<b>46,187</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>109</b>
*WA2JQK	<b>1,182,363</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>497</b>
*NW2K	696,784	723	428
*KU2M	681,720	576	390
*NT2I	630,540	621	372
*K2DSL	466,745	554	337
*WA2MCR	429,135	489	335
*N2JF	401,835	436	301
*W2ML	350,760	418	316
*AB2TC	317,612	397	271
*KX2S	312,900	384	298
*AD2AM	286,878	386	274
*NA2NY	177,888	257	218
*K2JMY	174,930	305	236
*K2RET	134,469	257	201
*W2VU	129,294	254	198
*K2WUF	125,970	251	195
*N2MTG	107,606	245	173
*WA2FBN	105,225	227	183
*K2QJB	89,428	202	158
*N2UZO	58,800	160	140
*K2DMU	46,494	144	126
*W2FUI	45,540	137	115
*WA2NLL	43,400	138	124
*W2TF	39,663	123	113
*N2KPS	30,193	118	109
*AE2NG	27,234	119	102
*K2SNW	25,284	107	96
*N2GKJ	23,490	104	90
*W2MRD	19,662	90	87
*W2ZEX	17,632	88	76
*K2WLO	13,860	70	63
*N3LZG/2	10,863	71	71
*AB2IO	9,454	73	58
*AD2TM	8,058	55	51
*K2DV	7,722	58	54
*K2OVM	7,065	49	45
*K2TFI	6,696	57	54
*WY1H/2	5,123	50	47
*N3UXK/2	3,384	38	36
*WA2CLP	2,944	35	32
*K2JRC	2,294	31	31
*W2QAC	1,890	30	30
*K2JF	1,012	24	23
*KA2IBN	420	15	15
*K2DL	207	9	9
*K2AMP	144	9	9
*W2HCB	36	3	3
<b>*N2SLO</b>	<b>7,155</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53</b>
*K2ZXY	65	5	5
<b>*W2AW</b>	<b>1,313,785</b>	<b>879</b>	<b>601</b>
*N2DD	44,520	140	140
*N2GA	40,680	126	113
*N2JUS	22,968	93	88
*K2ZGI	10,919	64	61
*AA2DS	9,234	57	57
*K2PAL	7,208	54	53
*K2OSR	2,747	41	41
*N2RHL	2,660	35	35
<b>*W2AAB</b>	<b>61,138</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>154</b>
*K2FBV	5,886	54	54
*W2NTV	4,440	42	40
*W2IMY	126	7	6
*N2PQJ	18	3	3
<b>*K2SZ</b>	<b>45,368</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>107</b>
*W2LP	32,980	106	97
<b>KC3R</b>	<b>10,821,048</b>	<b>3290</b>	<b>1148</b>
KB3UHM	4,124,224	1770	832
NG3R	3,724,060	1642	790
K3MD	3,256,878	1669	813
N3UM	1,244,925	811	503
KW3A	575,232	628	384
WB3FZ	293,524	375	308
WR3H	273,020	340	292
W3GNQ	120,239	247	193
NA3F	112,326	238	194
K3MRG	89,318	190	142
KA3HED	66,178	199	163
K3RMB	50,419	164	127
AF3I	22,892	107	97
N3XL	20,640	91	80
W3PVT	20,160	100	84
W6AAN/3	10,788	64	62
<b>W3BGN</b>	<b>1,211,266</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>482</b>
<b>*KB3LIX</b>	<b>771,676</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>412</b>
*K33HN	756,903	661	399
*N3DR	393,072	459	304
*N3DR	197,184	352	237
*K39W/3	163,560	322	232
*WB9KPT/3	128,554	248	199
*K3CWF	121,444	245	194
*K2LNS/3	117,780	243	195
*K3STL	116,688	254	187
*WB3BSA	109,552	203	167
*K3FS	47,125	139	125
*N3RN	42,525	130	105
*N8NA/3	42,435	132	115
*K3T	38,025	133	117
*K3TN	33,488	125	104
*N3CHX	31,672	131	107
*WA3EQJ	30,740	124	106
*K3SI	12,012	76	66
*N3LT	10,985	67	65
*KN3A	6,958	49	49
*KB3OZA	5,568	49	48
*AK3S	5,264	49	47
*KB3RKM	4,173	42	39
*W3RLO	2,640	31	30
*WB3IGR	55	5	5
<b>*N3CR</b>	<b>20,992</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>*W3RC</b>	<b>50,456</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>*N3OU</b>	<b>25,641</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>99</b>
*WA2VQV/3	11,256	69	67
*N3XPD	2,436	30	28
*N3QEH	308	12	11
<b>*K3DCW</b>	<b>42,160</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>124</b>
*KA2BKQ/3	2,970	27	27
*A13G	2,520	40	30
<b>KR4Z</b>	<b>6,200,704</b>	<b>2373</b>	<b>1004</b>
WZ4F	4,332,552	2012	888
K4PV	3,643,200	1910	825
AD4L	1,868,060	1129	620
N4NO	1,097,310	839	474
KA8Q/4	1,039,745	745	427
W20X/4	706,258	681	427
NC4MI	464,800	505	350
AJ4RW	355,473	419	311
WX4US	322,838	413	302
WY6K/4	297,675	427	315
NE4M	278,100	396	270
KU8E/4	274,219	358	257
N4WZ	259,424	388	268
W4KW	251,720	345	248
W04MW	189,772	307	227
W4GHS	178,935	309	237
K4CX	170,544	294	228
WV4CP	165,624	289	201
N4BCB	160,484	279	212
N4JF	133,980	264	210
AH4WU	123,888	216	174
N4CW	107,445	199	195
AH4WW	104,248	213	166
KY4P	97,825	217	175
K4SV	89,265	211	165
WM2Z/4	83,410	266	190
KK9Q/4	72,981	177	159
W20Q/4	64,239	169	147
KD4QMY	62,064	154	144
AE4EC	61,004	191	151



*RUDUA	*	5,220	45	45	JA1IXY	*	30,186	92	86	*JH8CLC/7	*	3	1	1	*OEGU	*	281,019	420	331	OK1FPS	28	95,116	243	172					
*RWBCV	*	2,508	34	33	JP1EWY	*	19,656	86	78	*JATHYS	7	7,216	41	41	*OESYMQ	*	50,160	186	165	OK1XC	21	505,160	539	365					
Asiatic Turkey																													
TA2ZAF	28	24,092	116	76	JA1JYS	*	10,812	63	53	JABDIV	A	152,234	238	206	*OESD	28	22,320	102	80	OL9Z	14	4,926,956	2306	986					
*TC3C	A	2,759,445	1319	585	JA1JOSU	*	936	20	18	JABECS	28	3,496	42	38	(OP: OEGHLF)										OK1NG	*	35,768	144	136
*TA1HZ/2	*	258,664	310	248	JH1EAQ	21	122,521	276	161	JH8SIT	14	45,496	139	121	(OP: OEUZKL)										OLBW	3.7	933,863	794	497
*TA3X	*	148,365	239	189	*JH1FNU	A	326,200	430	280	*JA1GL	*	94,696	293	178	(OP: CU2AF)										(OP: OK1DSZ)				
*TA7EB	*	5,476	38	37	*JA1GCE/1	*	268,324	353	259	*JA1AZR	*	50,808	149	116	(OP: OK2PFZ)										(OP: OK2PFZ)				
*TC8IK	21	34,299	128	103	*JA1KVG	*	137,632	273	184	*JF1KVG	*	49,088	156	104	(OP: OK2BEN)										(OP: OK2BEN)				
*TC2T	14	293,376	405	256	*JF1KVPV	*	45,714	134	114	*JA1AZR	*	49,088	156	104	(OP: OK2KFK)										(OP: OK2KFK)				
*TA4AU	*	30,199	107	101	*JA1DDZ	*	40,115	126	113	*JF1KVPV	*	45,714	134	114	(OP: OK2KHEH)										(OP: OK2KHEH)				
*TB2MYE	7	5,040	30	30	*JA1VGV	*	37,130	114	94	*JA1AZR	*	49,088	156	104	(OP: OK2K1BA)										(OP: OK2K1BA)				
*TA2KN	*	150	5	5	*JP1HUJ	*	33,174	122	97	*JF1KVPV	*	45,714	134	114	(OP: OK2K1MKU)										(OP: OK2K1MKU)				
Azerbaijan																													
*4K9W	A	148,400	248	212	*JA1ATM	*	26,809	120	83	JABJHA	A	13,744,296	3876	1182	(OP: OK2BRX)										(OP: OK2BRX)				
*4K8M	28	10,492	75	61	*JA1FO	*	22,560	96	80	JABGUY	21	189,216	307	219	(OP: OK2WYK)										(OP: OK2WYK)				
*4K8FO	14	351,430	409	311	*JG1LPL	*	9,177	65	57	JABGUY	21	92,400	201	176	(OP: OK2YLL)										(OP: OK2YLL)				
Bhutan																													
AS	A	50,050	266	130	*JG1SWV	*	5,250	56	50	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2PBG)										(OP: OK2PBG)				
China																													
BD4QH	A	1,083,360	884	488	*JG1GCO	*	3,627	42	39	JABGUY	21	3,500	38	35	(OP: OK2MMK)										(OP: OK2MMK)				
BD3OE	*	258,520	478	281	*JA1BZ	*	3,220	35	35	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2MJK)										(OP: OK2MJK)				
BH4RIC	*	1,612	32	31	*JA1LW/1	*	1,272	25	24	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2JNB)										(OP: OK2JNB)				
BD5DML	*	1,148	31	28	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK1CAI)										(OP: OK1CAI)				
BG4GGS	*	990	23	22	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2SW)										(OP: OK2SW)				
BG5DOD	*	70	7	7	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2BTU)										(OP: OK2BTU)				
BABAG	28	62,729	230	149	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2QX)										(OP: OK2QX)				
BG9BUS	21	680	20	20	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK1CLD)										(OP: OK1CLD)				
B7M	14	609,368	671	422	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK1MMN)										(OP: OK1MMN)				
BH7PAZ	*	442,378	556	373	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2ILD)										(OP: OK2ILD)				
BH4SYG	*	6	2	2	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK1IX)										(OP: OK1IX)				
*BD20B/7	A	124,972	255	199	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2BRS)										(OP: OK2BRS)				
*BG5CIC	*	101,742	250	186	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2XKA)										(OP: OK2XKA)				
*BG5FFK	*	95,586	224	178	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK7MT)										(OP: OK7MT)				
*BY4LY	*	66,452	217	148	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK1HFP)										(OP: OK1HFP)				
Denmark																													
*BD4RDU	*	55,998	199	122	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK1KZ)										(OP: OK1KZ)				
*BD4KYA	*	55,970	175	145	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OK2SEV)										(OP: OK2SEV)				
*BD9BU	*	32,736	163	124	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ2BKK)										(OP: OZ2BKK)				
*BG7NFM	*	31,860	132	118	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ7EA)										(OP: OZ7EA)				
*BG8GAM	*	24,852	134	109	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ1HHH)										(OP: OZ1HHH)				
*BH4SCF	*	23,142	107	87	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ2BX)										(OP: OZ2BX)				
*BD2TBJ	*	23,056	102	88	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BH7PFF	*	23,056	102	88	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BH1ERB	*	13,680	92	80	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG5PN	*	12,312	81	72	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG4UZN	*	11,160	74	72	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD4RQ	*	8,236	64	58	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG6JPV	*	7,080	69	60	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG2VIA	*	5,593	54	47	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG5LW	*	5,546	47	47	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG8DMY	*	4,730	63	55	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD1MWH	*	4,680	45	40	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BA4SCP	*	4,452	52	42	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD8EM	*	4,284	60	51	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG8DVM	*	3,444	44	41	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BH4TZM	*	3,430	39	35	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD4SX	*	2,912	34	32	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BH4SRC	*	2,664	41	37	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG4KLA	*	2,409	37	33	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG6ICL	*	2,139	32	31	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD3RQ	*	648	19	18	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG8BIN	*	544	18	17	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BH7PRM	*	315	16	15	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BH7OZG	28	91,520	295	160	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD8ASG	21	255,190	408	302	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG7IEU	*	86,070	229	190	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BA6IV	*	69,888	195	168	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD6JX	*	57,904	194	154	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD5HSV	*	35,424	129	123	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG4TYQ	*	33,579	132	117	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD6JEQ	*	9,152	69	64	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG8KAD	*	680	17	17	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG6IF	*	63	7	7	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG2TBN	*	12	2	2	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BG8AAK	*	9	3	3	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD4WZH	14	70,215	250	155	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD5HST	*	55,100	179	145	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD4TJ	*	3,311	47	43	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD6HG	*	1,590	33	30	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BA4KX	*	1,300	28	26	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
*BD4QA	*	330	16	15	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
Cyprus																													
P33P	A	394,012	386	274	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20	JABGUY	21	2,904	35	33	(OP: OZ8DX)										(OP: OZ8DX)				
C4W	28	730,560	793	320	*JN1CDB	*	1,100	21	20																				



*IZ7DUU	*	924	22	22	*PA3ETC	*	1,917	29	27	*SP3YM	*	6,768	49	47	*MM0BQN	*	392,046	492	361	ED2H	21	990,552	954	596
*IZ7SIA	*	760	20	20	*PA/F8FFV	*	1,593	27	27	*SQ5ABF	*	3,760	48	47	*MM0BLX	*	149,596	332	251	ED2T	3.7	310,896	380	306
<b>Jersey</b>																								
MJ0JZE	A	9,853	67	59	*PA0CYW	*	1,225	25	25	*Q1RMM	*	2,418	32	31	*GM4SQM	*	64,175	176	151					
GJ4OH	28	4,366	41	37	*PD9FER	*	252	9	9	*SQ8MXC	*	1,728	32	32	*GM4UYZ	*	7,752	76	68	*EF2F	A	320,040	603	381
*MH0PMT	A	327,804	483	354	*PA2REH	21	12,792	83	78	*SP5IKO	*	363	11	11	*MM0VTV	*	627	19	19					
*GJ5XW	*	261,792	450	324	*PA5AD	7	6,050	59	55	*SQ3RX	*	216	9	8	*GM3C	14	121,857	314	269					
<b>Northern Ireland</b>																								
					*G14AAM	14	21,204	129	124	*SP9SD	28	50,520	163	120	<b>Serbia</b>									
<b>Norway</b>																								
					LN8W	A	1,930,692	1210	641	*SQ8J	*	24,930	106	90	YT3R	A	503,040	537	384					
					LA3BPA	*	458,750	479	367	*SP6E	*	14,213	79	61	YU5A	21	4,779,000	2187	810					
					LA6KOA	*	327,456	562	379	*SP5TWA	*	5,000	44	40	YU1KX	*	1,061,173	850	487					
					LB9RE	*	122,096	224	208	*SQ9IAU	*	4,840	41	40	YT1A	14	973,268	1002	596					
					LA5HPA	*	12,350	68	65	*SP6A	21	256,452	353	301	YT8A	7	9,174,753	2465	1063					
					LA7SI	*	5,876	48	43	*SQ2NNN	*	160,776	284	231	*YU1JW	A	1,506,048	1112	636					
					LA90SA	*	154	14	14	*SP4ICD	*	73,548	193	162	*YT9M	*	1,371,216	1096	588					
					LA7WCA	14	5,760	47	45	*SP9CLU	*	24,192	106	96	*YT2VP	*	193,778	372	257					
					*LA7GNA	A	426,087	508	387	*SP3JBI	*	23,229	108	89	*YT2N	*	98,049	251	203					
					*LA2HFA	*	237,208	422	298	*SP9EWM	*	7,049	56	53	<b>Shetland and Fair Isle</b>									
					*LA7TN	*	212,415	423	289	*SP1II	*	5,544	47	44	GZ5Y	A	941,215	869	545					
					*LA6CF	*	114,228	228	167	*SQ9GW	*	3,348	37	36	<b>Sicily</b>									
					*LA1VNA	*	36,418	166	131	*SP1APZ	*	1,325	25	25	IT9ZTX	28	251,902	390	266					
					*LA1DSA	*	33,712	124	112	*SP1MAB	*	630	16	15	IT9YVO	21	1,648,625	1337	605					
					*LA1QDA	*	30,360	139	120	*SP3NNH	14	273,371	419	343	IT9WTV	A	453,720	555	398					
					*LA1PHA	*	28,050	124	110	*SP5EOT	*	59,724	210	189	*IF9ZWA	*	184,464	307	252					
					*LA4ESA	*	18,096	116	104	*SP5DRE	*	48,783	176	161	*IT9AJP	*	147,808	297	248					
					*LA7VRA	*	17,458	98	86	*SP8QJM	*	28,006	163	134	*IT9RZU	21	28,702	150	127					
					*LA7CL	*	16,450	104	94	*SQ4RCU	*	11,305	108	95	*IT9AXQ	*	1,053	27	27					
					*LA6NNA	*	15,698	99	94	*SP5LGN	*	3,528	43	42	*IT9LED	14	104,550	388	255					
					*LA4CSA	*	4,760	58	56	*SP5BMU	*	1,452	34	33	*IT9MYI	*	46,458	189	178					
					*LB3NE	*	2,240	36	35	*SQ7OTA	*	15	3	3	*IW9FY	*	43,172	193	172					
					*LA2GTA	*	1,296	24	24	*SQ4G	7	259,811	374	289	*IT9IMJ	*	23,241	137	127					
					*LA1ORA	*	836	22	22	*SP9EML	*	139,284	240	212	*IT9JDH	3.7	17,922	94	87					
					*LA9NM	*	532	19	19	*SP9TTT	*	32,560	120	110	<b>Slovakia</b>									
					*LA2GN	21	3,555	51	45	*SP1FFC	*	25,792	111	104	OM2VL	A	11,983,006	3504	1142					
					*LA3HPA	14	50,320	211	185	*SP7UWL	*	18,122	88	82	OM3IAG	*	534,781	570	403					
					*LB9LE	*	8,480	85	80	*SP2MHC	*	9,490	69	65	OM0WR	*	231,012	399	276					
					*LA6BNA	*	100	10	10	*SP9H	3.7	585,932	668	428	OM55TV	*	152,848	302	233					
					*LA9NSA	3.7	24	4	4	*SP4SHD	*	149,760	291	240	OM8KD	*	52,305	193	165					
										*SQ2HNA	*	142,377	309	237	*OM5X	A	1,103,760	858	540					
										*SN1C	*	97,608	244	196	*OM4DN	*	487,186	618	391					
															*OM1DK	*	216,265	318	259					
															*OM3TL	*	42,742	165	142					
															*OM2DT	*	38,640	144	120					
															*OM2AML	*	20,758	106	97					
															*OM1DI	*	17,762	85	83					
															*OM7LM	*	2,511	31	31					
															*OM8AXU	*	1,891	31	31					
															*OM7JM	*	1,782	29	27					
															*OM3TB	14	55,748	214	181					
															*OM6TX	7	184,064	315	256					
															<b>Slovenia</b>									
															S53MM	A	8,802,092	2804	988					
															S51F	*	5,476,911	2247	957					
															S51Z	*	299,700	391	300					
															S55KZ	*	19,716	104	93					
															S55T	14	6,763,484	2850	1093					
															S50K	*	6,233,838	2721	1047					
															S53M	*	1,390,878	1110	599					
															<b>Spain</b>									
															*S50A	A	3,810,142	1703	833					
															*S58RU	*	179,800	315	248					
															*S57YX	*	46,980	152	135					
															*S57AD	*	41,600	164	128					
															*S51JS	*	39,932	167	149					
															*S58MU	*	18,564	101	91					
															*S57U	14	442,508	577	452					
															*S57DX	3.7	610,136	626	424					
															*S52WW	1.8	121,426	269	218					
															<b>Sweden</b>									
															EC1KR	A	8,267,890	2996	1070					
															EB1IC	*	41,280	131	120					
															EA1BLA	*	1,856	30	29					
															EA1KP	21	2,244,255	1489	677					
															ED1A	*	943,248	849	457					
															<b>Switzerland</b>									
															EA1IR	*	674,310	690	455					
															EA1EY	14	1,329,216	1438	688					
															EB1TR	*	9,672	90	78					
															EA1DZY	1.8	24,024	100	91					
															*EF1W	A	470,148	550	406					
															<b>Switzerland</b>									
															*EA1EA	*	292,810	408	329					
															*EA1JO	*	291,942	444	331					
															*EA1HOE	*	275,520	422	320					
															*EC1AE	*	86,940	235	210					
															*EA1SV	*	49,632	158	132					
															*EA1AW	*	19,402	96	89					
															*ED1J	*	10,695	74	69					
															<b>Switzerland</b>									













# advertisers' index

including website addresses

10-10 International Net, Inc. ....	54	www.10-10.org
Advanced Specialties Inc.....	54	www.advancedspecialties.net
Alinco .....	53	www.alinco.com
Ameritron .....	47	www.ameritron.com
Antique Radio Classified.....	78	www.antiqueradio.com
Arlan Communications.....	45	www.arlancommunications.com
Array Solutions .....	5	www.arrayolutions.com
bhi Ltd .....	33	www.bhi.ltd.com
BATTERIES AMERICA/Mr. Nicd. ...	115	www.batteriesamerica.com
Bencher, Inc.....	45	www.bencher.com
Buddipole Antennas.....	19	www.buddipole.com
CQ Amateur Radio Calendar .....	83	www.cq-amateur-radio.com
CQ Bookshop .....	49,89	www.cq-amateur-radio.com
CheapHam.com.....	87	www.CheapHam.com
Command Productions .....	67	www.LicenseTraining.com
Communication Concepts, Inc.....	51	www.communication-concepts.com
Cushcraft .....	1	www.cushcraftamateur.com
Cutting Edge Enterprises.....	79	www.powerportstore.com
DX Engineering.....	11	www.DXengineering.com
DX Store .....	93	www.dxstore.com
DZ Company.....	69	www.dzkit.com
Diamond Antenna .....	55	www.diamondantenna.net
EZ Hang.....	69	www.ezhang.com
Elecraft.....	17	www.elecraft.com
Electric Radio Magazines .....	19	www.ermag.com
FlexRadio Systems.....	3	www.flex-radio.com
Force 12, Inc.....	97	www.force12inc.com
GRE .....	39	www.greamerica.com
Green Heron Engineering LLC .....	51	www.greenheronengineering.com
Ham Radio Outlet .....	12,30	www.hamradio.com
HamTestOnline .....	28	www.hamtestonline.com
Hy-Gain.....	9	www.hy-gain.com
ICOM America, Inc.....	31	www.icomamerica.com
Idiom Press .....	28	www.idiompres.com
KJI Electronics .....	113	www.kjielelectronics.com
Kanga US .....	54	www.kangaus.com
Kenwood U.S.A. Corporation.. ..Cov. II		www.kenwoodusa.com

## KJI Electronics

Full-line Dealer, Stocking:

Alinco, Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu

Heil, LDG, Comet, Diamond,  
GAP, Palstar, SGC, ARRL, CQ,  
MFJ, Ameritron, Mirage, Nifty,  
Alpha/Delta ...and many more!  
73s, Gene

visit [www.kjielelectronics.com](http://www.kjielelectronics.com)  
or the **KJI Store** • 973-364-1930

### JFET AM CRYSTAL SET KIT

Revisit your youth by building this kit! JFET detector closely simulates HI-Z set performance when coupled with the ANT tuner Kit. JFET preserves coil Q and boosts audio. Build time is about 1 to 1.5 hours; all holes pre-drilled; you supply the solder!



AM CRYSTAL SET  
KIT \$ 59.95.

AM Band ANT Tuner Kit 59.95.

See our web kit page for details.

**Xtal Set Society, Dedicated to building  
& experimenting, 405-517-7347.  
[www.midnightscience.com](http://www.midnightscience.com)**

### NATIONAL RF, INC.

#### Type 2-MQ Portaquad Antenna

A high-gain, full size 2-meter quad antenna designed for portable operations. Visit our Web Site for more information.

[www.nationalrf.com](http://www.nationalrf.com)



#### "Specialist in RF SPEC Connectors and Coax"

Part No.	Description	Price
83-1SP-1050	UHF Male, Amphenol	\$2.50 ea.
	(10 or more)	\$2.40 ea.
PL-259/AGT	UHF Male Silver Teflon, Gold Pin	\$1.50
RFC17-03T	PL-259 Crimp/Solder all RG-8 size cables	\$1.50
RFCUG-1185/9913	N Male Clamp 9913, 9913F, LMR-400	\$4.00
RFCUG-260/8X	BNC Male Clamp RG-9X, LMR-240	\$2.00
SMAM/BNCF	Handheld Adapter	\$3.00
UG-146A/U	N Male to SO-239, Teflon USA	\$10.00
UG-83B/U	N Female to PL-259, Teflon USA	\$8.50

Now Available: X-treme Tape® Self-fusing Silicone Tape.  
Great for Waterproof Connections, \$4.00/10 feet!

Your Phillystran Dealer

The R.F. Connection

213 North Frederick Ave., #11 CQ  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877 • (301) 840-5477  
800-783-2666  
FAX 301-869-3680  
[www.therfc.com](http://www.therfc.com)



Complete Selection Of MIL-SPEC Coax, RF Connectors And Relays

# ham shop

**Advertising Rates:** Non-commercial ads are 20 cents per word including abbreviations and addresses. Commercial and organization ads are \$1.00 per word. Boldface words are \$1.50 each (specify which words). Minimum charge \$2.00. No ad will be printed unless accompanied by full remittance. All ads must be typewritten double-spaced.

**Closing Date:** The 10th day in the third month preceding date of publication (example: Jan. 10th for the March issue). Because the advertisers and equipment contained in Ham Shop have not been investigated, the Publisher of CQ cannot vouch for the merchandise listed therein. The publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement. Direct all correspondence and ad copy to: CQ Ham Shop, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 (fax: 516-681-2926; e-mail: <hamshop@cq-amateur-radio.com>).

**"QRZ DX"**—since 1979: Available as an Adobe PDF file each Wednesday or by regular mail. Your best source for weekly DX information. Send #10 SASE for sample/rates. **"The DX Magazine"**—since 1989: Bi-monthly—Full of DXpedition reports, QSL Information, Awards, DX news, technical articles, and more. Send \$3.00 for sample/rates. DX Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box DX, Leicester, NC 28748-0249. Phone/Fax: 828-683-0709; e-mail: <DX@dxpub.com>; WEB PAGE: <http://www.dxpub.com>.

At [www.HamRadioExpress.com](http://www.HamRadioExpress.com) we know you can't afford to waste time looking for Ham Radio Antennas & Accessories. With over 3,000 products in our four warehouses, you can rely on Ham Radio Express to have the parts you need, in stock, especially those special, hard-to-find parts, fixed station antennas, baluns, mobile antennas, mobile antenna mounts, accessories, and RF connectors. **Custom Built Cable Assemblies** for your Packet TNC/KPC to radio interface devices. We stock interface cables for all amateur radio makes and models: AEA, Kantronics, MFJ, PacComm, and more Packet Controllers. All cables are in stock or can be built in one day. All cable assemblies are double-checked before they are shipped. Toll-Free Order Lines: M-F 9 AM to 4 PM: 1-800-726-2919 or 1-866-300-1969; Fax 1-434-525-4919. **Help and Tech Support:** Not sure what model you need? At [www.HamRadioExpress.com](http://www.HamRadioExpress.com) our Technical Support staff (1-434-509-0617, 9 AM to 4 PM weekdays) can help you decide what you need, and all available for same-day shipment. On-line visit: [www.HamRadioExpress.com](http://www.HamRadioExpress.com)

**CERTIFICATE for proven contacts with all ten American districts.** SASE to W6DDB, 45527 Third Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535-1802.

**MAUI, HAWAII: vacation with a ham.** Since 1990. <[www.seaqmaui.com](http://www.seaqmaui.com)>, telephone 808-572-7914, or <kh6sq@seaqmaui.com>.

**ALUMINUM CHASSIS AND CABINET KITS, UHF-VHF Antenna Parts, Catalog.** On the web: <<http://www.k3iwlk.net>>.

**REAL HAMS DO CODE:** Move up to CW with **CW Mental Block Buster III.** Succeed with hypnosis and NLP. Includes two (2) CDs and Manual. Only \$29.95 plus \$7.00 s/h US. FL add \$2.14 tax. Success Easy, 160 West Camino Real #128, Boca Raton, FL 33432, 561-302-7731, <[www.success-is-easy.com](http://www.success-is-easy.com)>.

**TWO NEW NOVELS involving ham radio:** *Full Circle*, and *Frozen in Time*, by N4XX. Visit <<http://www.theodore-cohen-novels.com/>>.

**QSLing SUPPLIES.** e-mail: <plumdx@msn.com>.

**WWW.PEIDLodge.COM**

**CASH FOR COLLINS, HALLICRAFTERS SX-88, & DRAKE TR-6.** Buy any Collins equipment. Leo, KJ6HI, phone/fax 310-670-6969, e-mail: <radioleo@earthlink.net>.

**www.SecondHandRadio.com**

**MicroLog by WA0H**  
Free download . . . [www.wa0h.com](http://www.wa0h.com)

**LOOKING GREAT** on the wall behind your equipment. <[www.hamradioprints.com](http://www.hamradioprints.com)>

**OVERSEAS AIRMAIL POSTAGE** plus complete line of airmail envelopes. Order directly from our website. James E. Mackey, proprietor. website: <[www.airmailpostage.com](http://www.airmailpostage.com)>

**ARUBA RADIO RENTAL:** [www.p49v.com](http://www.p49v.com)

**RFI Filters** <[www.RFchoke.com](http://www.RFchoke.com)>

**TOWER ACCESSORIES** Gin Pole Kits—stand off brackets—antenna mounts—vehicle radio mounts—for 30 years. IIX Equipment Ltd., 708-337-8172, <<http://www.w9iix.com/>>.

**VORTEX ANTENNA SYSTEMS** specialist in HF and VHF high performance antennas. Yagis and Delta Loops. Linear Loaded 30 and 40m Arrays. OWA Arrays, bespoke individual design solutions. Antenna related hardware. We ship worldwide including North America. <[www.vortexantennas.co.uk/](http://www.vortexantennas.co.uk/)>. or by e-mail to <enquiries@vortexantennas.co.uk>.

**WANTED: HAM EQUIPMENT AND RELATED ITEMS.** Donate your excess gear—new, old, in any condition—to the Radio Club of Junior High School 22, the Nation's only full time non-profit organization working to get Ham Radio into schools around the country as a teaching tool using our EDUCOM—Education Thru Communication—program. Send your radio to school. Your donated material will be picked up ANYWHERE or shipping arranged, and this means a tax deduction to the full extent of the law for you as we are an IRS 501(c)(3) charity in our 31st year of service. It is always easier to donate and usually more financially rewarding, BUT MOST IMPORTANT your gift will mean a whole new world of educational opportunity for children nationwide. Radios you can write off; kids you can't. Make 2011 the year to help a child and yourself. Write, phone, or FAX the WB2JKJ "22 Crew" today: The RC of JHS 22, P.O. Box 1052, New York, NY 10002. Twenty-four hours call 516-674-4072; fax 516-674-9600; or e-mail <crew@wb2jkj.org>. Join us on the WB2JKJ Classroom Net, 7.238 MHz, 1200-1330 UTC daily and 21.395 MHz from 1400 to 2000 UTC.

**IMRA-International Mission Radio Assn.** helps missionaries—equipment loaned; weekday net, 14.280 MHz, 1:00-3:00 PM Eastern. Sr. Noreen Perelli, KE2LT, 2755 Woodhull Ave., Bronx, NY 10469.

**"World of Keys - Keys III"** features highly detailed views and photos of keys, bugs, and paddles like few people have ever seen! It's available on CD (\$16) or as a full-size book (\$18). Also still available, **"Keys II"** (\$16) and **"QRP Romps!"** (\$18), plus **"Your Guide to HF Fun"** (\$16). Available from dealers nationwide. Also please see: <<http://www.k4twj.com/>>.

**PACKET RADIO AND MORE!** Join TAPR, connect with the largest amateur radio digital group in the U.S. Creators of the TNC-2 standard, working on Software Defined Radio technology. Benefits: newsletter, software, discounts on kits and publications. For membership prices see the TAPR website: <<http://www.tapr.org/>>.

**FOR SALE:** CQ/Ham Radio/QST/73 magazines and binders. SASE brings data sheet. W6DDB, 45527 Third Street East, Lancaster, CA 93535-1802.

**WANTED: VACUUM TUBES**—Commercial, industrial, amateur. Radio Daze, LLC, 7620 Omnitech Place, Victor, NY 14506 USA (phone 585-742-2020; fax 800-456-6494; e-mail: <info@radiodaze.com>).

**www.oldqslcards.com**

**HAWAII HAM STATION RENTAL:** Beautiful Big Island location. Brochure: <KD4ML@juno.com>.

**DXPEDITION DVD VIDEOS:** For full description and how to order . . . <[www.k4uee.com/dvd/](http://www.k4uee.com/dvd/)>.

**www.isotronantennas.com** FOR HF. CHECK IT OUT! Telephone: 719-687-0650; <wd0eja@isotronantennas.com>

**NEAT STUFF!** DWM Communications—<<http://qth.com/dwm>>

**HOME BREW!** "Recollections of a Radio Receiver" a 565 page book on HBR homebrew receivers. \$10 delivered (eBook on CD-ROM). Details <[www.w6hht.com](http://www.w6hht.com)>

**SMART BATTERY CHARGERS:** 5A model for larger deep cycle down to 1/4A model for smaller QRP lead acid batteries. <[www.a-engineering.com](http://www.a-engineering.com)>

**ARMS**—Amateur Radio Missionary Net. Christian Fellowship Net, Everyone Welcome. 14.3075 Daily except Sunday 1500-1700Z, -1 Hr DST. Website: [www.qsl.net/arms](http://www.qsl.net/arms)

**HONDURAS DX VACATION:** K3, Alpha 86, SteppIR, Meals, Private Facilities. HR2J, (206) 259-9688.

**DISPLAY YOUR CALL SIGN IN NEON.** To order call 1-401-846-0294, Duncan DeSigns

**YAGIS DESIGNED BY WA3FET/K3LR:** Bust pileups using these proven DX and Contest winning "Ultimate OWA Yagis"! Learn more and request free PDF catalog at [www.SuperBertha.com](http://www.SuperBertha.com) or call 814-881-9258.

**ROTATING MONOPOLE TOWERS:** SuperBertha . . . BudgetBertha . . . No guy wires, Entire pole rotates, Ground level rotor. Stack and rotate all your antennas at optimum heights on one monopole. The Ultimate antenna system! Learn more and request free PDF catalog at [www.SuperBertha.com](http://www.SuperBertha.com) or call 814-881-9258.

**HAWAII DX VACATION: SteppIR antennas, amplifiers. KH6RC,** <[www.leilanibedandbreakfast.com](http://www.leilanibedandbreakfast.com)>.

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

**HY POWER ANTENNA COMPANY** <<http://www.freewebs.com/hypower>> Multiband dipoles, delta loops, half squares and QRP antennas.

**WWW.KM5KG.COM**

**HAM TRAVELERS** Discount travel, tours, cruises, more. [www.GreatExpectationTravel.com](http://www.GreatExpectationTravel.com)

**PROMOTIONAL VIDEO:** 15-minute DVD describes amateur radio's fun and public service. Details: <[www.neoham.org](http://www.neoham.org)>.

**WANTED: OLD QSL CARD COLLECTIONS.** Collector seeks US & DX cards. W2VRK, 9 Laird Terrace, Somerset, NJ 08873; e-mail: <tplrs@comcast.net>.

**TELEGRAPH KEY INFORMATION AND HISTORY MUSEUM:** <<http://w1tp.com>>

**HAM RADIO GIFTS:** <[www.mainestore.com](http://www.mainestore.com)>

**FT243 AND HC6U CRYSTALS:** [www.af4k.com](http://www.af4k.com)

**ROTATING GUYED TOWERS AND ORBITAL RING ROTORS:** Rotating bases, Rotating guy rings, Orbital ring rotors. For 45G, 55G, or Custom. Learn more and request free PDF catalog at [www.SuperBertha.com](http://www.SuperBertha.com) or call 814-881-9258.

**VAIL, COLORADO** mountaintop 40-mile views, 4000-square-foot home. Upscale construction and finishes. Secluded woods but 10 minutes to town. Includes \$75K ham station and other items. Front cover CQ magazine 2004. One of the best ham locations in country. Selling for health reasons. Just dropped price \$300K well below appraisal and construction cost for quick sale. \$895K. [www.w0tm.com](http://www.w0tm.com), phone 913-441-6593.

**FREE 2-meter Repeater Frequencies for Travelers** by Western Trucker: [USREPEATERS.ORG](http://USREPEATERS.ORG)

**CHECK SPOTS:** log contacts; manage QSLs, LoTW with DXtreme Station Log: <<http://www.dxtreme.com/>>.

**DX BOOKS:** "Up Two - Adventures of a DXpeditioner," "Contesting in Africa," "Micro-DXpeditioning Uncovered," "DX Delights - Tales of Travels with my Radio." All informative and fun! Signed by the author, **Roger Western, G3SXW.** Details: <g3sxw@btinternet.com>, \$20 each including postage. PayPal or cash to G3SXW.

# advertiser's index

including website addresses

LDG Electronics, Inc.	58,59	www.ldgelectronics.com
LTA Projects	57	www.ltaprojects.com
LNR Precision, Inc.	73	www.lnrprecision.com
M <sup>2</sup> Antenna Systems, Inc.	77	www.m2inc.com
MFJ Enterprises, Inc.	27,43	www.mfjenterprises.com
Morse Express	101	www.morseX.com
N3ZN Keys, LLC	101	www.n3znkeys.com
N6BT.com	63	www.n6bt.com
NH7QH Radio Supplies LLC	19	www.hawaiiudiosales.com
National RF, Inc.	113	www.NationalRF.com
NiCd Lady, The	85	www.nicdlady.com
ORLANDO HamCation <sup>SM</sup> 2011	79	www.HamCation.org
Penny's Stitch n' Print	87	www.pennystitch.com
PowerPort	79	www.powerportstore.com
QCWA	54	www.qcwa.org
QSLs by W4MPY	87	www.qslman.com
R.F. Connection	113	www.therfc.com
RF Parts Company	23	www.rfparts.com
Radio Club of J.H.S. 22	91	www.wb2jkj.org
SteppIR Antennas Inc.	25	www.steppir.com
TEN-TEC, Inc.	15	www.tentec.com
Ten-Ten International Net, Inc.	57	www.ten-ten.org
XTAL SET SOCIETY	113	www.midnightscience.com
Timewave Technology, Inc.	37	www.timewave.com
TOKYO HY-POWER LABS, INC.-USA Cov III		www.tokyohypower.com
U.S. Tower Corporation	116	www.USTower.com
Universal Radio, Inc.	63	www.universal-radio.com
Vibroplex	79	www.vibroplex.com
W2IHY Technologies	45	www.w2ihy.com
W4RT Electronics	29	www.w4rt.com
W5YI Group	21	www.w5yi.org
West Mountain Radio	73	www.westmountainradio.com
Yaesu	6,7,Cov IV	www.vxstdusa.com
Yuma Hamfest	46	www.yumahamfest.org

Visit our website for direct links to our advertisers!  
Let CQ help you get the most for your advertising dollar.

Contact Chip Margelli, K7JA  
405-ADS-CQCQ (405-237-2727)

e-mail: ads@cq-amateur-radio.com

Please direct editorial and subscription questions to (516) 681-2922

## BATTERIES AMERICA

Jan. 2012 SALE Ph. 800-308-4805 ONLINE:

www.batteriesamerica.com

For YAESU VX-BR, VX-8DR/GR: (Spring-Loaded BELT CLIP \$ 6.95)

FNB-102Li LI-ION batt. 7.4v 2000mAh \$45.95

For YAESU FT-897, 897R, 897D "BackPacker" Radios:

FNB-78 Ni-MH battery 13.2v 4500mAh \$89.95

For YAESU-Vertex VX-5R/s, VX-5R, 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 2100mAh \$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)

FNB-72xe eneloop 9.6v 2100mAh \$49.95

For YAESU-Vertex VX-1R: ( RARE; has custom-designed PCB )

FNB-52Li LI-ION battery 3.7v 750mAh \$29.95

For YAESU-Vertex FT-50R, 40R, 10R; VXA-100: (E-DC-5BA: \$19.95)

FNB-41xs Hi-Watt battery 9.6v 1450mAh \$59.95

For YAESU FT-11R, FT-41R, FT-51R, etc. (HIGH POWER battery):

FNB-38xh Hi-Watt Ni-MH 9.6v 1450mAh \$52.95

For YAESU FT-530, 76, 26, 416, 415, 816: (E-DC-5BA: DC Pwr cord \$9.95)

FNB-26xe ENELoop NiMH 7.2v 2100mAh \$39.95

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)

FNB-12xh Ni-MH batt. 12v 1250mAh \$39.95

FBA-17 6-cell AA Battery Case \$19.95

For ICOM IC-92AD (D-STAR); (CP-11L: DC Pwr/Chg cord \$19.95)

BP-256 Hi-Watt LI-ION batt. 7.4v 1620mAh \$44.95

For ICOM IC-770A/E; IC-V80A/E/SPORT, F3003, F4003, etc:

BP-265L LI-ION batt. 7.2v 2200mAh \$46.95

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

For ICOM IC-V8, V82, U82, F3, F4GS/GT, F30, 40GS/GT, A24, A6, etc

BP-210N Hi-Watt battery 7.2v 2000mAh \$44.95

For ICOM IC-T8A/E/HP; T81A/E; A23, A5: (WC-AIC Wall Chrg \$12.95)

BP-200xL Hi-Watt battery 9.6v 1450mAh \$59.95

BP-197h 6-cell AA Battery case (Hi-Watt) \$29.95

For ICOM IC-W32A/E; T7A/E; T7H, Z1A/E; T22A, T42A, W31A/E:

BP-173x Hi-Watt battery 9.6v 1450mAh \$59.95

BP-170L 6-cell AA Battery case (Hi-Watt) \$25.95

For ICOM IC-2/4SAT, W2A, 24AT, 2/4SRA, R1: (BC-105A: \$22.95)

BP-83xh Long life Ni-MH 7.2v 2200mAh \$39.95

For ICOM IC-2/02/03/04AT, 2/4GAT etc: Radio Shack HTX-202/404:

IC-8 8-cell AA battery case (w/ Charge Jack) \$24.95

BP-202h NiMH - Radio Sh. 7.2v 1800mAh \$34.95

For KENWOOD TH-F6A, TH-F6E, TH-F7: (CP-42L-DC cord: \$9.95)

PB-42L LI-ION battery 7.4v 2000mAh \$44.95

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-2h Long life NiMH batt. 8.4v 1600mAh \$39.95

For KENWOOD TR2500, TR2600: (Wall Charger \$12.95)

PB-25-26h Long life NiMH 8.4v 1600mAh \$39.95

For ALINCO DJ-V5, DJ-V5TH: (CP-46: 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)

EBP-48h Hi-Watt battery 9.6v 2000mAh \$44.95

For ALINCO DJ-G5TD/TH/TY, 190T, 191T/DT/TH: (DC Pwr Cord \$9.95)

EBP-36xh Hi-Watt batt. 9.6v 1450mAh \$52.95

For ALINCO DJ-580/T, DJ-582, DJ-180/T, DJ-280/T, DJ-480 etc:

EDH-11 6-cell AA Battery Case \$22.95

EBP-20x Ni-MH battery 7.2v 2000mAh \$32.95

For ADI AT-600; REALISTIC HTX-204 (Wall Charger is \$12.95):

ADI-600x Hi-Watt battery 12.0v 1200mAh \$44.95

For STANDARD C228, C528, C558; ADI HT-201, HT-401 etc:

CNB-152xs NiMH batt. 12.0v 1800mAh \$49.95

CBP-888 8-cell AA Battery Case (HI-WATT) \$28.95



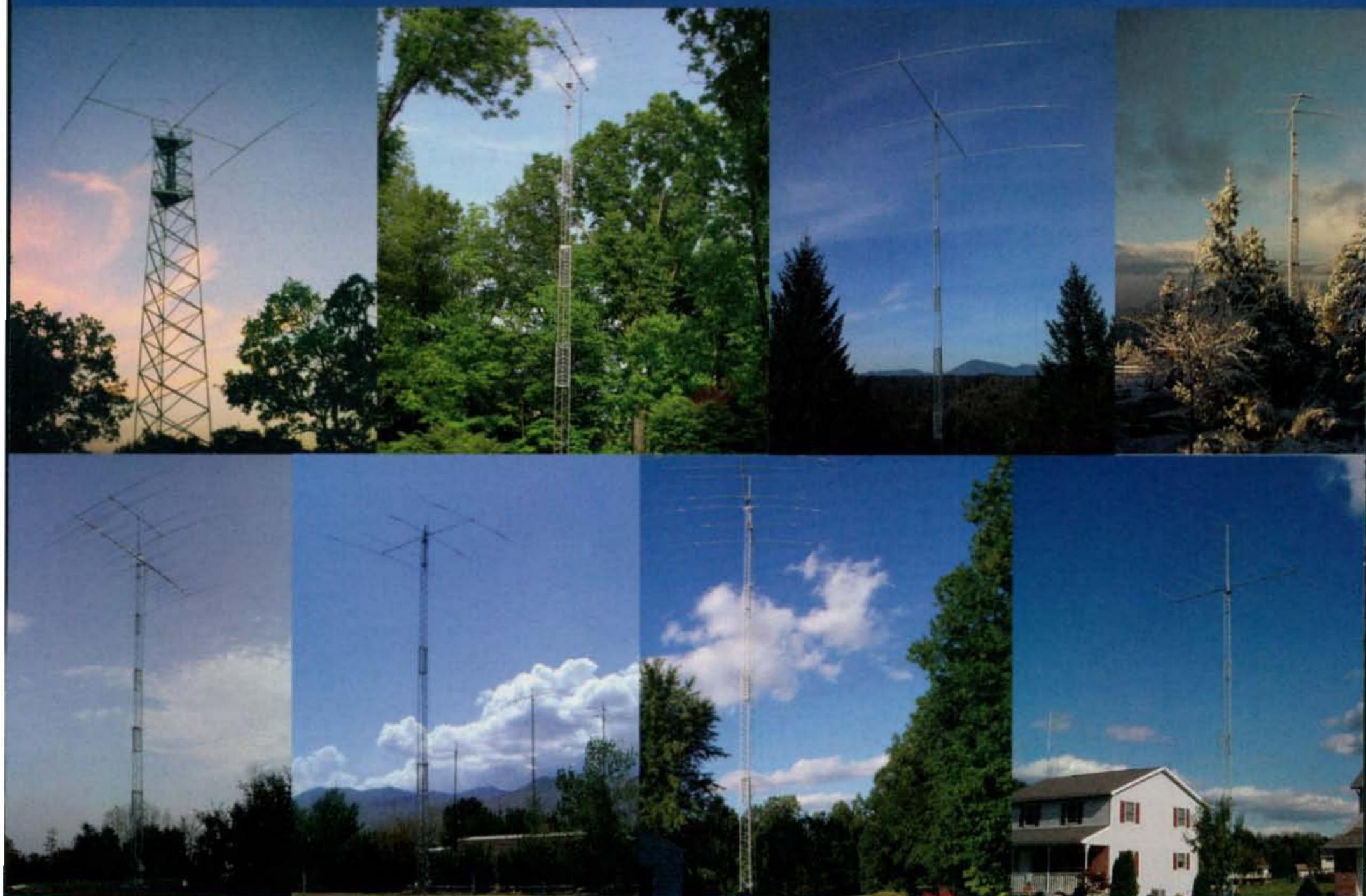
NEW- V-6500 Digital SMART Charger for AA & AAA batteries! \$24.95  
(1) Rapid Charger for 1-4 AA & AAA Ni-MH cells; has 4 separate charging channels!  
(2) Comes with AC power supply AND 12VDC power cord for home & mobile operation.  
(3) Safe, quick 1-2 hr chg w/ auto shut-off.  
(4) Easy-to-read LED charge status indicators.

SANYO eneloop AA cells, PRE-CHARGED \$13.95/pack of 4  
Order Online, Mail, E-mail, Phone, or Fax w/ MC, VISA, DISC, or AMEX  
BATTERIES AMERICA- 8845 S. Greenview #2, Middleton, WI 53562

Order online, or call us at 1-800-308-4805

Fax: 608-831-1082, E-mail: ehyost@chorus.net

**Experts in building today's  
high performance tower systems**



**US Tower systems provide a strong base to broaden your broadcast;  
whether you're tight on space, or have room to grow.**

**1099 W. Ropes Ave. ■ Woodlake, CA 93286 ■ (559) 564-6000 ■ [WWW.USTOWER.COM](http://WWW.USTOWER.COM)**

**TOKYO HY-POWER**



**It only weighs 21 lbs...**

**so don't leave for an expedition  
without the HL-550FX.**



## **HL-550FX**

**Solid-state  
HF/50MHz 550W Linear Power Amplifier  
Auto Select AC Line Compatible World-wide**

**TOKYO HY-POWER**

Visit Our NEW Website:  
[www.tokyohypower.com](http://www.tokyohypower.com)

TOKYO HY-POWER LABS., INC. - USA  
6046 FM2920 Rd. Suite 133  
Spring, Texas 77379-2542  
USA Factory Support Tel: 713-818-4544  
USA Factory Email: [thpsupport@airmail.net](mailto:thpsupport@airmail.net)  
TOKYO HY-POWER LABS., INC. - JAPAN  
1-1 Hatanaka 3chome,  
Niiza Saitama 352-0012  
Phone: +81 (48) 481-1211  
FAX: +81 (48) 479-6949  
e-mail: [info@thp.co.jp](mailto:info@thp.co.jp)

**- Available Exclusively from -**



[www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)

Western US/Canada 1-800-854-6046	Southeast 1-800-444-7927	Northeast 1-800-644-4476
Mountain/Central 1-800-444-9476	Mid-Atlantic 1-800-444-4799	New England/Eastern Canada 1-800-444-0047

The radio **YAESU**...

# The Dawn of a New Era

## Dynamic Range 112 dB/IP3 +40 dBm

### The New Premium HF/50 MHz Transceiver

# FT DX 5000 Series



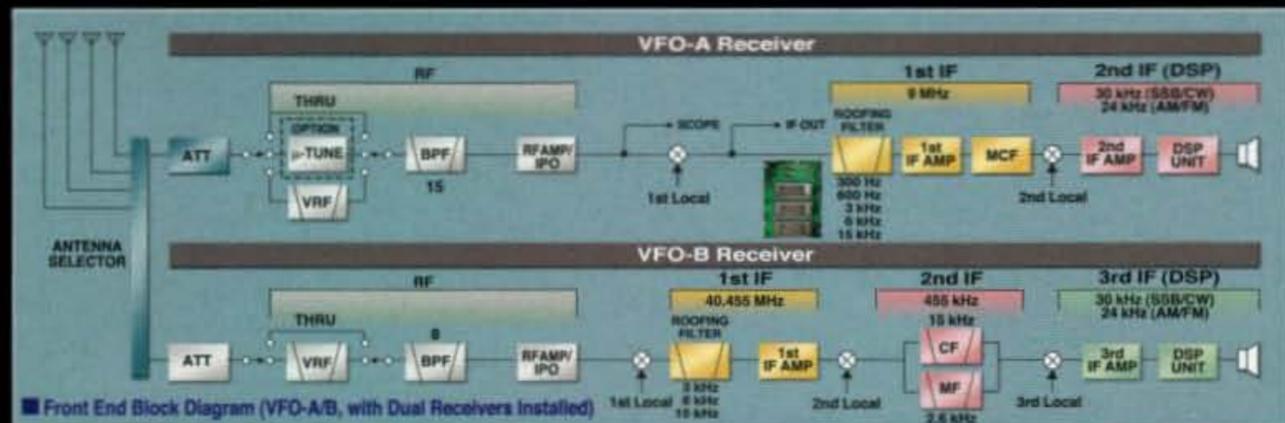
**Two Totally Independent Receivers - The VFO-A/Main Receiver utilizes Super Sharp Roofing filters to give you the highest performance and best flexibility**

The tight shape factor 6 pole crystal filters and D Quad Double Balanced Mixer design afford incredible improvement in 3rd - Order dynamic range and IP3 performance

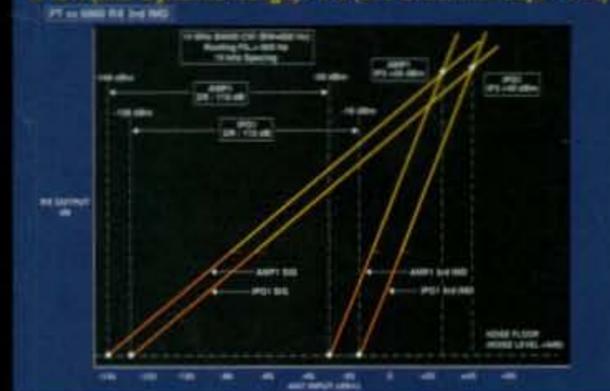


**Superb 3<sup>rd</sup>-Order Dynamic Range and 3<sup>rd</sup>-Order Intercept Point (IP3)**

You will be pleased with the astounding 112 dB dynamic range and superb IP3 + 40 dBm at 10 kHz separation (CW/500 Hz BW). Experience the unmatched close-in dynamic range of 105 dB, IP3 +36 dBm at 2 kHz separation (CW/500 Hz BW)! (VFO-A/Main Receiver, 14 MHz, IPO-1)



■ IDR (IMD Dynamic Range) / IP3 (3rd-Order Intercept Point)



**HF/50 MHz 200 W Transceiver NEW**  
**FT DX 5000MP**

Station Monitor SM-5000 included  
± 0.05ppm OCXO included  
300 Hz Roofing Filter included

**HF/50 MHz 200 W Transceiver NEW**  
**FT DX 5000D**

Station Monitor SM-5000 included  
± 0.5ppm TCXO included  
300 Hz Roofing Filter optional

**HF/50 MHz 200 W Transceiver NEW**  
**FT DX 5000**

Station Monitor SM-5000 optional  
± 0.5ppm TCXO included  
300 Hz Roofing Filter optional

For the latest Yaesu news, visit us on the Internet:  
<http://www.yaesu.com>

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.

**YAESU**  
Choice of the World's top DX'ers<sup>SM</sup>

Vertex Standard US Headquarters  
10900 Walker Street Cypress, CA 90630 (714) 827-7600