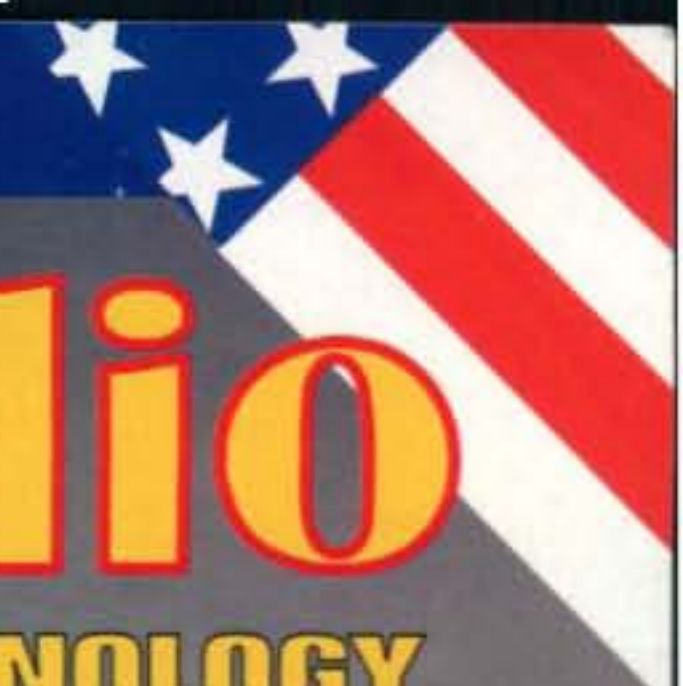


New "Maker" Column, p. 54



Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 2012

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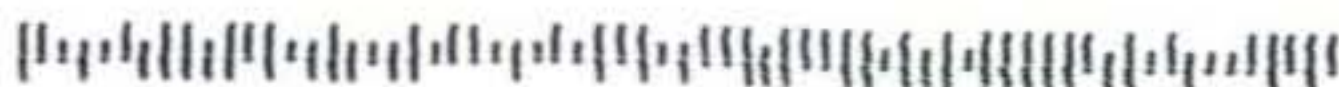
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On the Cover: Wayne Mills, N7NG, of Jackson, Wyoming. Details on page 90.

0387 PD43 733 683

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ADS#00812

Cushcraft R8 8-Band Vertical

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.

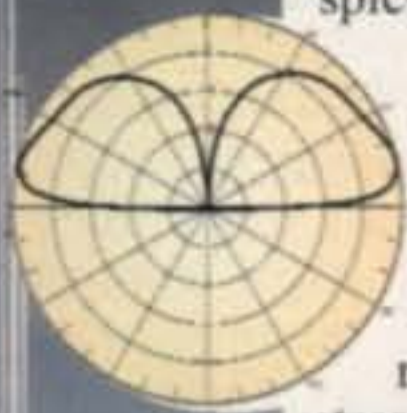
Legal-Limit Power: Heavy-duty components are contest-proven to handle all the power your amplifier can legally deliver and radiating it as RF rather than heat.

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!

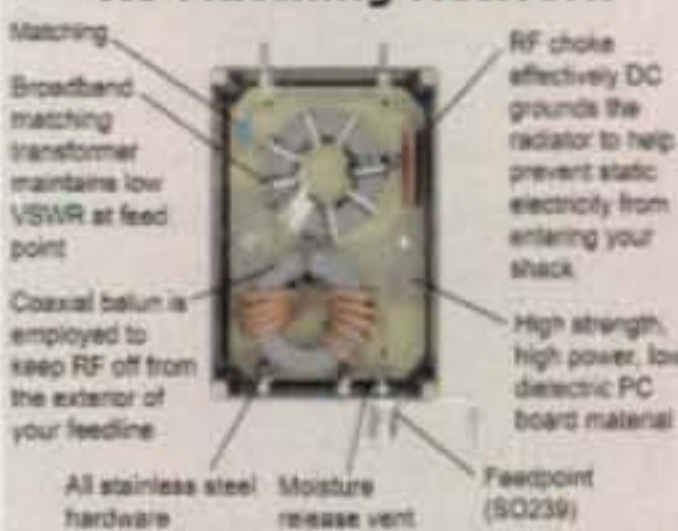
R-8GK, \$56.95. R-8 three-point guy kit for high winds.

R-8
\$539⁹⁵

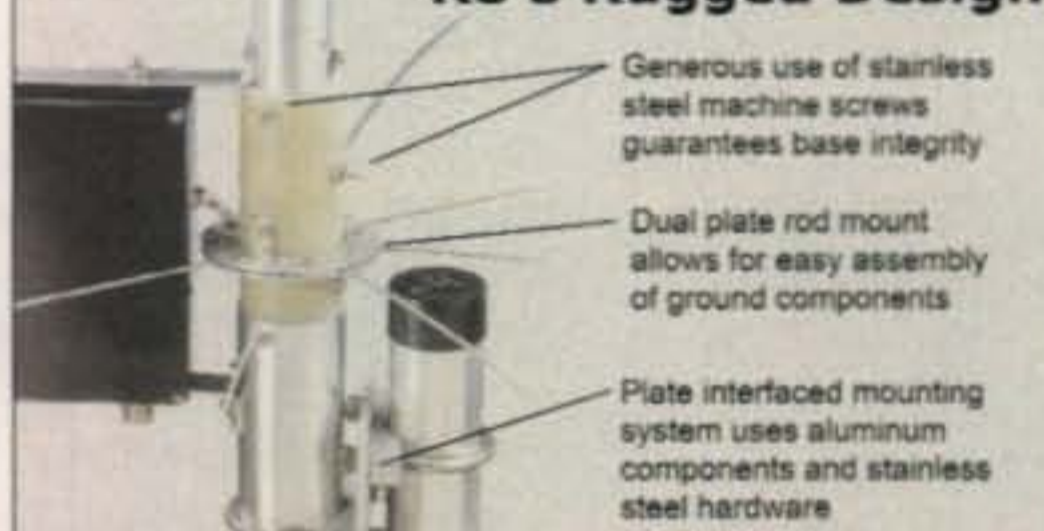
The R-8 provides 360° (omni) coverage on the horizon and a low radiation angle in the vertical plane for a better DX.



R8 Matching Network



R8's Rugged Design



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



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

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

Cushcraft 10, 15 & 20 Meter Tribander Beams

Only the best tri-band antennas become DX classics, which is why the Cushcraft World-Ranger A4S, A3S, and A3WS go to the head of the class. For more than 30 years, these pace-setting performers have taken on the world's most demanding operating conditions and proven themselves every time.

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



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

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

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.



Cushcraft Famous Ringos Compact FM Verticals



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

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ARRL to Permit Use of LoTW for CQ Awards

Applicants for CQ's WPX award will soon be able to use ARRL Logbook of the World (LoTW) credits in their applications, under an agreement between CQ and the ARRL announced on January 24. Previously, ARRL had prohibited the use of its LoTW system by any outside organization. The target date for starting WPX support on LoTW is April 1, 2012. Support for additional CQ awards will follow, although no timetable has been set.

CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, said he is looking forward to making it easier for hams to apply for CQ awards. "We have had excellent results with electronic confirmation support from eQSL for several years," he said, "and I am glad that we are now able to begin expanding that convenience to those participants in our award programs who use Logbook of the World. We look forward to a smooth launch for WPX, and to the expansion of LoTW support to include the rest of our award programs as well."

Standard CQ award fees and ARRL LoTW credit fees will apply, and will be collected separately.

Major Solar Storm Hits Earth

The largest solar radiation storm since 2005 struck the Earth in late January, touching off radio blackouts, geomagnetic storms and aurora displays in upper latitudes. According to CQ Propagation Editor Tomas Hood, NW7US, a long-duration magnitude M8.7 (M9-class) X-ray flare erupted in NOAA Active Sunspot Region (AR) 1402 on January 23, peaking at 0359 UTC. This flare triggered a proton event, resulting in an S3 (Strong) Radiation (Proton) Storm and a Polar Cap Absorption (PCA) event over the polar regions. This PCA event caused a complete radio blackout over high-latitude and polar regions. This results in any trans-polar radio paths to become as dead as a rock. This solar proton radiation storm is the strongest of the current solar cycle.

In addition, NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center said plasma from an associated coronal mass ejection was expected to arrive on January 24, with storm conditions extending into the 25th. At this writing, the specific effects of this solar storm were not yet known.

ARISSat-1 a Silent Key

ARISSat-1, the amateur radio satellite hand-launched from the International Space Station last August, re-entered the Earth's atmosphere and burned up on January 4. The satellite represented several "firsts" for the amateur satellite program. For details, see this month's "VHF-Plus" column, beginning on page 82.

Yaesu Reorganizes, Announces Entry into Digital Voice/Data Market

Yaesu amateur radio equipment is once again being manufactured independently after four years as a subsidiary of Motorola. In a reorganization that took effect on January 1, Motorola took full control of the company's land mobile radio (LMR) line, while a newly-formed Yaesu Musen Co. began to manufacture Yaesu amateur gear and Standard-Horizon air and marine radios. The new company is wholly owned by members of the Hasegawa family, the founders of Yaesu.

Meanwhile, Yaesu announced its plans to enter the digital voice and data segment of the amateur market, introducing a new brochure on its website, titled "A Digital Communications Guide for Amateur Radio Operators." According to the brochure, Yaesu plans to introduce a handheld and a mobile radio later this year that will use

the APCO-standard C4FM (4-level FSK) FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) data format. This is *not* compatible with the D-STAR digital format. Yaesu's digital communications guide may be downloaded in PDF form at <<http://bit.ly/tl86hj>>.

Pop'Comm Launches Monitor Station Registration Program

Popular Communications magazine has launched the Pop'Comm Monitoring Station Program, reminiscent of the *Popular Electronics* WPE program dating to 50 years ago. Registrants receive monitoring station IDs beginning with WPC or KPC (in the US), followed by a digit and a two-to-three-letter suffix. If you're interested in learning about the program and for information on how to join, obtain a station ID sign and a Certificate of Registration, visit: <<http://www.PopCommMonitors.blogspot.com/>>.

ARRL Seeks Input on 60-Meter Band Plan

With the coming changes in FCC rules for 60 meters (which may have taken effect by the time you read this; but no date had been announced at press time), the ARRL is seeking input on a new 5-MHz band plan. Until now, only upper sideband had been permitted on the five specified channels in the band. The new rules will permit data, RTTY and CW as well as USB phone. They will also swap one channel for another and will increase maximum permitted power from 50 watts to 100 watts. With activity expected to increase after the new rules take effect, the *ARRL Letter* says the League is looking for user feedback on what modes and activities should be recommended for each of the band's five channels. Suggestions should be e-mailed to <hf-band-plan@arrl.org>.

FAR Seeks Scholarship Applicants

Amateurs pursuing higher education may be eligible for one or more of the 50 scholarships administered by the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR). Awards range from \$300 to \$5000 and may give preference to students from certain geographic areas or in certain courses of study. The application deadline for most awards is April 15, although a few have a May 15 deadline. Details and downloadable applications may be found on the FAR website at <www.farweb.org>. You may also request an application package by sending a letter or QSL card to: FAR Scholarships, P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044-0911.

Ham Radio Embracing "DIY" Community

A multi-pronged effort is under way to promote greater cooperation and closer relations between hams and do-it-yourselfers, also known as "makers." While launched independently, these efforts dovetail with each other.

CQ is launching a new "Makers" column as of this issue (see p. 54); the ARRL has released a "suite" of promotional materials aimed at introducing DIYers/makers to ham radio, according to the *ARRL Letter*, including a new video called "The DIY Magic of Amateur Radio." And the AMSAT News Service reports that Diane Bruce, VA3DB, has started a "ham radio-builder" e-mail list, on which members will be encouraged to contribute simple projects, with lots of photos and good instructions. Interested hams may sign up for the list at <<http://diana.db.net/mailman/listinfo/hamradio-builder>>.

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.

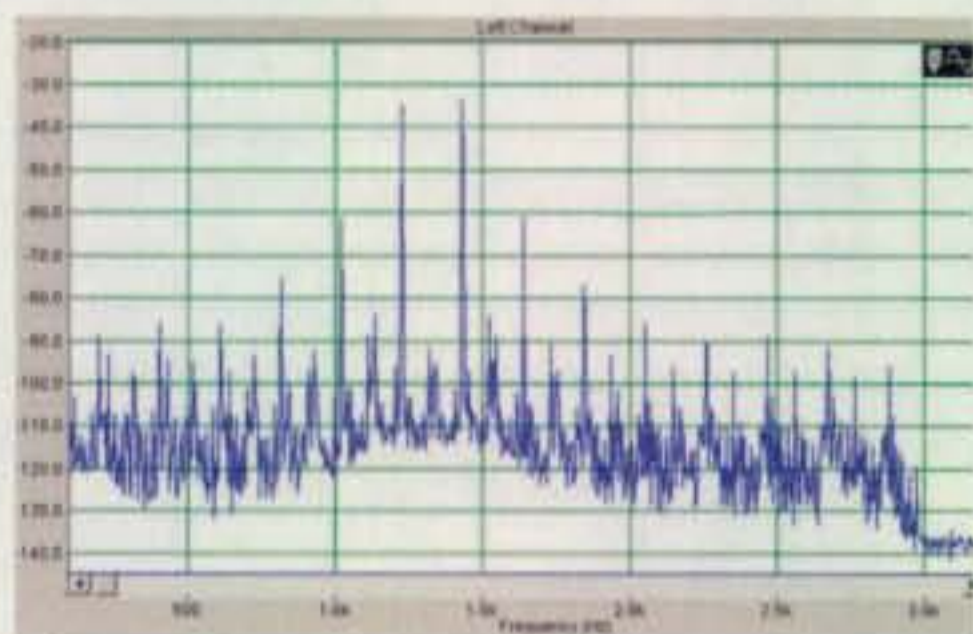
Noise Performance Characteristics of Direct Conversion Receivers

FlexRadio Systems PowerSDR™ Advantage

The Superheterodyne has been the staple of most receiver designs for the last 90 years due largely to challenges in implementing a direct conversion receiver. But today's technology can be used to exploit the advantages of a direct conversion design.

Superheterodyne Receivers

In a superheterodyne receiver, the desired RF signal is mixed together with local oscillators to create intermediate frequency stages (IF) before being demodulated to audio. Every mix creates both wanted and unwanted frequencies plus unwanted noise and distortion products. This outgoing noise can be seen in a two-tone intermodulation (IMD) test of a popular, respected amateur receiver shown in the figure below. Recently, expensive crystal "Roofing Filters" have been added to reduce IF noise but they too actually add to the overall distortion.

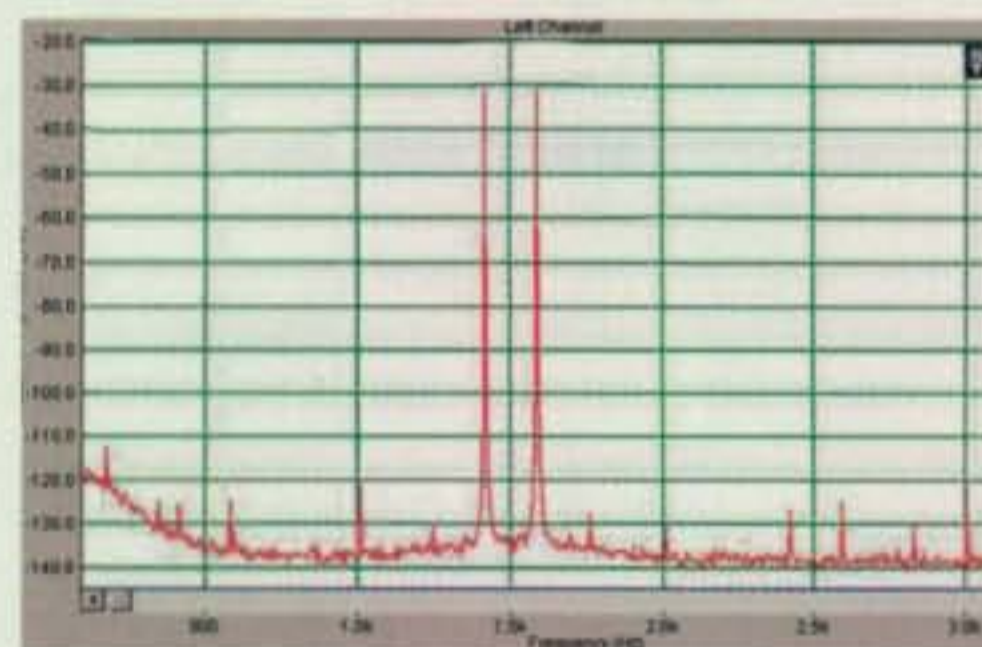


Direct Conversion Receivers

Direct conversion receivers avoid the cumulative non-linear effects that plague superheterodyne receivers by performing a single conversion from RF to baseband audio. No IF means no additional distortion from components and filters. It also means a wide range of signal levels must be handled in a single conversion stage. Previously this was a significant technical challenge, but the advent of HI-FI Analog to Digital Converters (ADCs) has made it possible to discern both strong and weak signals at the same time -- in other words, these ADCs have a very high dynamic range. The FLEX-5000 for example, uses a 192kHz 24-Bit sigma-delta ADC with a dynamic range of 123dB removing the need for roofing filters and the distortion they create.

The PowerSDR Advantage

Another difficult problem for direct conversion receivers is a conversion image that appears close to the desired frequency. FlexRadio solves this in three ways: First, an I/Q Quadrature Sampling Detector (QSD) is used instead of a traditional mixer or detector. The QSD acts like a mixer, but has natural image suppression better than -40dBc or 40dB below any carrier that would produce an image. Secondly, FlexRadio's PowerSDR™ software adjusts the QSD in real time resulting in image suppression exceeding 100dB, moving images to the noise floor. Finally, PowerSDR employs a unique Automatic Gain Control Threshold (AGC-T) scheme that intelligently controls gain without amplifying unwanted noise. The results of a direct conversion receiver driven by PowerSDR can be seen in the IMD test on a FLEX-5000 receiver shown below. Notice how the distortion caused by the mixing of signals is significantly reduced as compared to the superheterodyne receiver shown in the first figure.



Summary

FlexRadio Systems QSD implementation provides superior noise performance to a superheterodyne receiver by reducing opportunities for mixing noise. Combined with the ability to easily lower the remaining background noise using the AGC Threshold (AGC-T) control, FlexRadio Systems receivers achieve a noise level that is significantly lower than that of the traditional superheterodyne resulting in less operator fatigue.

For more information or to download the full white paper on Direct Conversion Receivers, visit www.flexradio.com/DCRX

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Economical 800 watt output 160-10m

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Fast 30 second warm-up, 700 w output, 160-10m.

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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.



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- 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



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FT-2000 and FT-2000D

This rugged DX hunter has power and performance to spare. The FT-2000 provides a full 100 Watts RF output on 160 through 6 meters with an internal power supply, but the FT-2000D version doubles down with 200 Watts and an external supply. The impressive feature list for both versions includes dual receive capability for effortless split frequency operation; a receiver front-end VRF (Variable RF Tuning) preselector; 1st IF roofing filters (3/6/15 kHz) for superb dynamic range; variable IF bandwidth and IF Shift; receiver DSP with Auto-Notch, Manual Notch, Digital Noise Reduction; and a continuously-variable passband contour control.

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FT DX 5000MP

Station Monitor SM-5000 included; 0.05 ppm OCXO included; 300 Hz Roofing Filter included

FT DX 5000D

Station Monitor SM-5000 included; 0.5 ppm TCXO included; 300 Hz Roofing Filter optional

FT DX 5000

Station Monitor SM-5000 optional; 0.5 ppm TCXO included; 300 Hz Roofing Filter optional

FT-950



Whether you're a serious or casual DXer, the Yaesu FT-950 should be at the top of your list. The FT-950 packs a 100 watt punch on 160 through 6 meters and includes a built-in antenna tuner; triple-conversion superheterodyne receiver; three factory-installed 1st IF roofing filters; variable IF bandwidth and IF shift, manual IF notch filter, an Automatic Digital Notch Filter (DNF) and many other expanded features available with optional DMU-2000 Data Management Unit.

FT-450D



This easy-to-pack radio is a DXpeditioner's dream come true - a lightweight, high performance transceiver spanning 160 through 6 meters with 100 Watts RF output. When it's time to wade into the pileups, you'll appreciate the FT-450D's 10 kHz bandwidth roofing filter in the 68 MHz first IF, right after the first mixer. This filter provides outstanding selectivity when the going gets rough - a feature rarely found in rigs in this price range!

Reaching for Our Roots

Later this year, we will be observing the centennial of amateur licensing in the United States, so over the course of the year, I plan to look at some of the traditions that serve as foundations of our hobby and how they remain relevant today. We actually started last month, reviewing the ongoing (and apparently growing) interest in CW, five years after the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam as an amateur licensing requirement. This month, I'd like to revisit CW—although from a personal perspective rather than a statistical one—as well as two other “foundational” traditions: building and mentoring.

First, on CW, I'm one of those people whom Nancy Kott, WZ8C, of FISTS described in this space last month. I learned the code well enough to pass my exams, but have never felt comfortable enough with it on the air to get much real enjoyment out of operating CW. On the other hand, I have always felt compelled to periodically give it another shot, precisely because it is such an important part of our heritage. Over the years, I've looked for different ways to make it more fun for me, from various code “readers” to help fill in the spots that I've missed to trying to make some CW contacts in low-pressure contests, such as state QSO parties. Any success was short-lived.

But over the past couple of years, the more I've read of N6GA's QRP column here in *CQ* and KI6SN's “Trail-Friendly Radio” column in our sister magazine, *WorldRadio Online*, the more I've been thinking that something like this might be the answer to my CW conundrum ... if I can wrap ham radio, and especially CW, into something *different* that I also enjoy, such as hiking or bicycling, then maybe I'll learn to enjoy CW more because I'll associate it with other pleasurable activities.

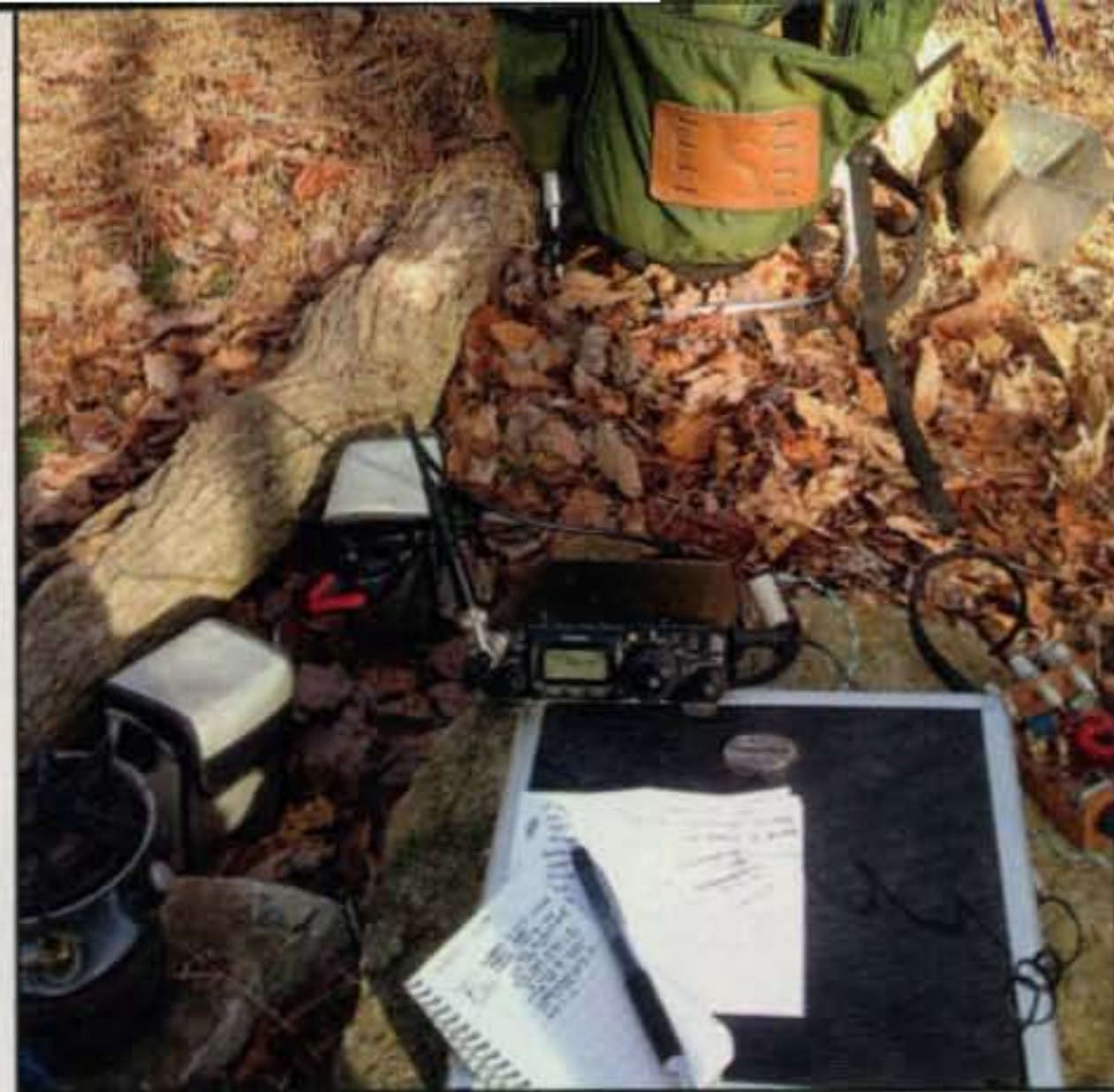
Over the holidays, an MFJ-9200 portable QRP CW rig managed to materialize in front of the fireplace and guess what? I'm having a ball, even from inside! I'm still no code whiz, and on a recent CW contest weekend, I quickly plugged in the 17-meter module in order to head to a “no-contesting” zone and stick with folks at my speed level. But for the first time in 40+ years as a ham, I can honestly say that I'm having fun on CW! Plus, especially at my proficiency level, working CW forces me to slow down, focus and put everything else out of my mind for the time being. It's very relaxing overall.

Another one of my self-perceived weak areas is building, yet another foundation of our hobby. It's not that I'm so bad at it; it just hasn't come easily. And I never seem to find the time. For example, about five years ago, I built a “Tuna Tin Two” QRP CW transmitter from QRP Maine. I could hear the signals in my “real” transceiver so I knew it worked. And then I put it aside, waiting to use it until I got a matching receiver. That happened about a year later ... but the “Sudden Storm” receiver kit sat in a box in my ham shack until about three months ago! That tug of our “roots” is strong, though ... I finally built it (and had a surprisingly good time doing it ... there I go, having fun again!) and now have a field-portable two-tunatin QRP station, and I've even been able to prove to myself that it really works by making (so far) one real, random, contact with a half-watt of output.

The best part of that was that the station I contacted, K3NG, was himself operating QRP-portable in the hills of Pennsylvania, activating a “Summits on the Air” (SOTA) hilltop (see photo). I've since worked Goody on a different hilltop (using the MFJ rig) and I'm afraid he's gotten me interested in SOTA-hunting. And who knows, maybe when the weather is warmer, I'll head out and become one of the hunted instead!

The third ham radio tradition I would put at the base of our hobby is the spirit of helping each other, or “Elmering” as we often call it. This is probably the most important of them all, since it helps support all the others. Example: when I finished building the Sudden Storm receiver kit, it didn't work. I called up my colleague, Richard Fisher, KI6SN, and he spent close to an hour on the phone with me, making suggestions and offering tips. Nothing worked, but we had a good time just working together to try to figure it out. I finally dropped an e-mail to kit designer Rex Harper, W1REX, who asked me if I

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



The Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) portable station with which Anthony “Goody” Good, K3NG, contacted W2VU, who was putting out a half-watt from a “Tuna Tin Two” transmitter. (Photo courtesy K3NG)

had done a modification that was in the manual ... but that I thought didn't apply to me. “Do the mod,” wrote Rex, “and it will work fine.” So I did ... and it does!

Now, making contacts with a half a watt isn't always easy, and to make sure the Tuna Tin Two was getting out farther than the antenna port on my receiver, I again turned to Richard for help. Being in California, he was a little too far away to tune in a 1/2-watt signal from New Jersey on 40 meters in the middle of the day, so he spent another hour or so, spread across a couple of days, listening for me on several internet-accessible receivers along the US east coast. He finally found me, and that gave me enough confidence in the rig's ability to be heard that I stuck with it and was eventually able to contact K3NG. I've got to tell you that there is nothing quite like making a contact with a radio that you've built yourself, especially at flea-power.

Doing it yourself, or DIY as it's often called today, is a tradition that's as old as ham radio itself, and the satisfaction it can bring is being discovered by a new generation of tech-savvy young people who are rebelling against the trend in consumer electronics toward sealed cases and “no user-serviceable parts inside.” Many of them have gotten together under the banner of “makers” and “hackers” and have put together cooperative workshops called “hackerspaces” for building and experimenting. Amateur radio is a perfect fit for “makers” who are interested in electronics and wireless communications, but many of them are not familiar with ham radio, just as many hams are not familiar with maker groups and hackerspaces. They need our century of experience with building radios, and we need their youthful enthusiasm and 21st-century technical knowledge to strengthen the technical side of ham radio for the next generation.

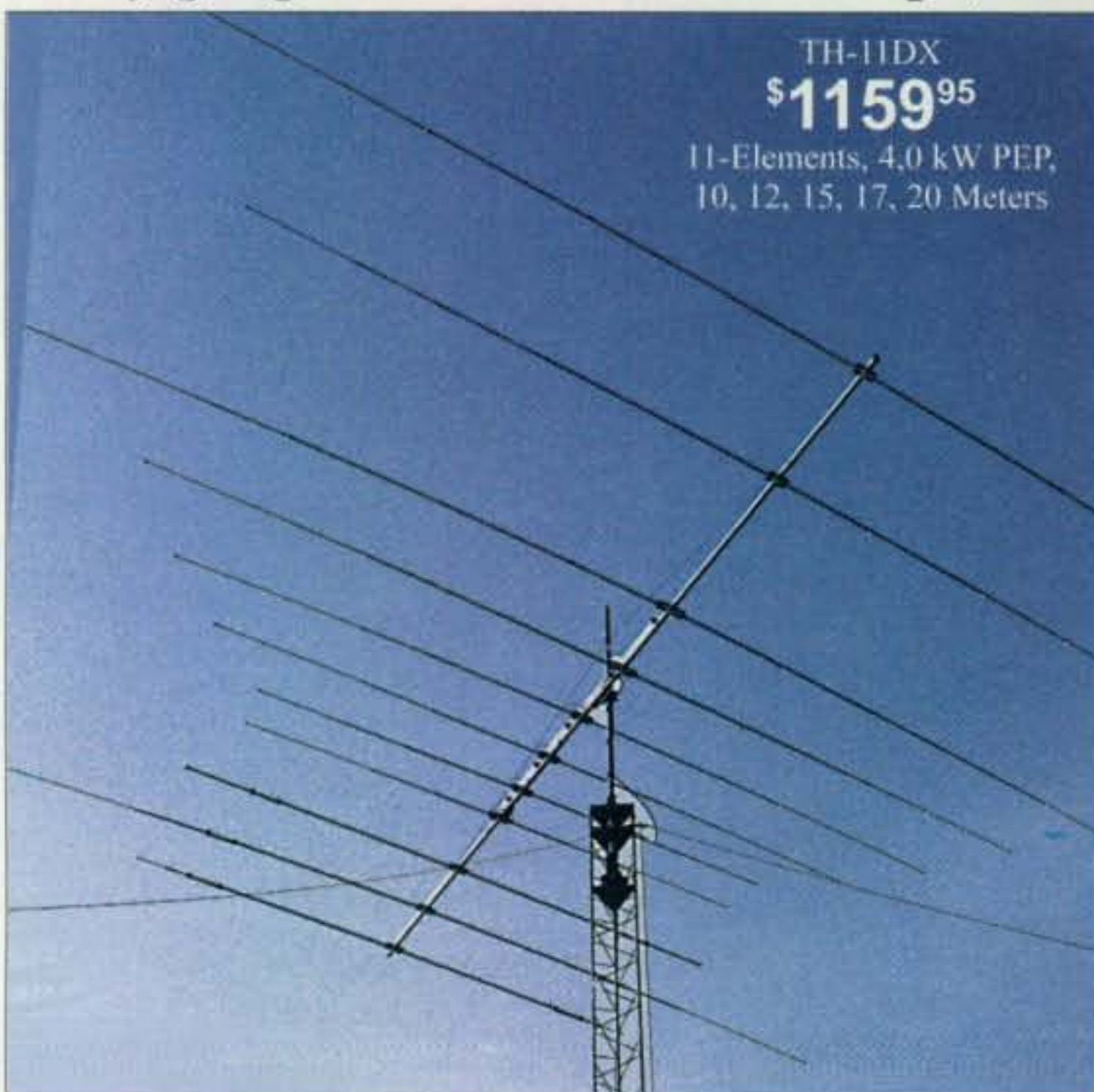
There is a multi-pronged effort going on to try to bring the two groups closer together. The ARRL has just released a new DIY video (featuring our own Kit-Building Editor K0NEB) focused on introducing makers to ham radio, and here in *CQ*, we are introducing with this issue a “Makers” column to get hams better acquainted with the maker/hacker community (see page 54). We welcome maker columnist Matt Stultz, KB3TAN, to our staff. His column, along with our already-established kit-building and QRP columns, will continue to strengthen *CQ*'s commitment to promoting building as a major part of our hobby's present and future as well as its past.

Bottom line: If you haven't built anything lately, get out that soldering iron! If you've never built anything, find a fellow ham—or a maker group—and get some mentoring. If you haven't operated CW lately, spin that dial toward the bottom of the band. You'll find plenty of people happy to slow down to whatever speed is comfortable for you. If you've never learned code, find a fellow ham to teach you, or check your local club for code classes. You just might be surprised at how much fun you find yourself having with these old-but-still-new ham radio traditions.

73, Rich W2VU

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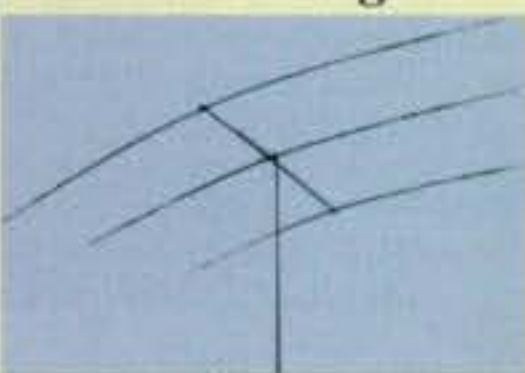
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TH-11DX	11	For Gain and F/B ratio--See...		4000	10,12,15,17,20	12.5	100	24	37	22	88	1.9-2.5	T2X	\$1159.95
TH-7DX	7			1500	10, 15, 20	9.4	100	24	31	20	75	1.5-2.5	HAM-IV	\$869.95
TH-5MK2	5	www.hy-gain.com Hy-Gain catalog Call toll-free 800-973-6572		1500	10, 15, 20	7.4	100	19	31.5	18.42	57	1.5-2.5	HAM-IV	\$759.95
TH-3MK4	3			1500	10, 15, 20	4.6	95	14	27.42	15.33	35	1.9-2.5	CD-45II	\$469.95
TH-3JRS	3			600	10, 15, 20	3.35	80	12	27.25	14.75	21	1.25-2.0	CD-45II	\$359.95
TH-2MK3	2			1500	10, 15, 20	3.25	80	6	27.3	14.25	20	1.9-2.5	CD-45II	\$369.95
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•The following Special Event Stations will be on the air in March (also see the hamfest-associated stations noted below):

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA — The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will air commemorative **Special Event Station NG4**, from 1200 UTC, Saturday, March 17, to 2200 UTC, Sunday, March 18, to commemorate The Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781. Frequencies: 14.315, 7.231, 21.315, and 3.900. QSL to: N4G — Special Event Station, P.O. Box 7054, Greensboro, NC 27417. Contact: David Macchiarolo, phone 336-420-9424; e-mail: <aj4tf@arrl.net>; <http://www.n4g-gch.org>.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs will air Special Event Station, **W9RH**, from 1500 UTC to 2100 UTC Saturday, March 31 in honor of its 95th anniversary. Certificates will be available by e-mail. Detail and frequencies are available at: <http://www.w9rh.org>.

• These hamfests are scheduled for March:

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA — The Birmingham Amateur Radio Club will hold the **BirminghamHamfest 2012** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, **March 3**, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, at the Zamora Shrine Temple, 3521 Ratliff Road. Contact: Bob Thomas, KC4AF, phone 205-283-4000; e-mail: <kc4af@arrl.net>. (Exams)

CAVE CITY, KENTUCKY — The Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club will hold the **36th Annual Cave City Hamfest** on Saturday **March 3**, starting at 7:30 AM, at the Cave City Convention Center. Contact: Larry Brumett, KN4IV, phone 270-651-2363; e-mail: <lbrumett@glasgow-ky.com>; <http://www.ky4x.org/activities/hamfest/>. (Talk-in 146.34/94 no tone; exams 9 a.m.)

ROSENBERG, TEXAS — The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Greater Houston Hamfest** and host the **ARRL South Texas Section Convention** from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, **March 3**, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. Activities include **Special Event Station W5H**. Contact: John Chauvin, K5IZO, e-mail: <k5izo@yahoo.com>, or Rick Hiller, W5RH, e-mail: <rhillr@sdicgm.com>; <http://www.houstonhamfest.org>. (Talk-in 146.940 [167.9 Hz]; exams)

LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK — The Long Island Mobile ARC will hold the **Long Island Hamfair & Electronics Show** from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, **March 4**, at Levittown Hall. Contact: LIMARC, P.O. Box 392, Levittown, NY 11756-0392; e-mail: <hamfest@limarc.org>.

IRVING, TEXAS — The Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will hold its **10th Annual Hamfest** Saturday, **March 10**, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Betcha Bingo Hall. Contact: Coleta Taylor, KD5QFH, e-mail: <coleta_mt@verizon.net> or James Comer, KB5FVS, e-mail: <kb5fvs@gmail.com>; <http://www.irvingarc.org/iarchamfest.html>. (Talk-in 146.72-110.9; exams)

RAYNE, LOUISIANA — The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association will hold the **52nd Annual 2012 Acadiana Hamfest and ARRL Louisiana State Convention** on **March 9 & 10**, at the Rayne Civic Center. Contact: Acadiana Hamfest, P.O. Box 51174, Lafayette, LA 70505-1174; <http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/>.

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA — The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will hold the **2012 Charlotte Hamfest™ and ARRL Roanoke Division Convention** from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, **March 10** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Sunday, **March 11** at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center. Contact: Mecklenburg ARS, phone 704-948-7373; <http://bit.ly/xEAvn>. (Talk-in 146.655 [-600kHz], no tone; exams)

CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA — Green Country Hamfest Inc., will hold the **Green Country Hamfest** on Friday, **March 9**, and Saturday, **March 10**, at the Claremont Expo Center. Doors open from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Includes the **ARRL Oklahoma Section Convention**. Contact: Green Country Hamfest, P.O. Box 470132, Tulsa, OK 74147-0132; e-mail: <tickets@greencountryhamfest.org>; <http://www.greencountryhamfest.org>. (Talk-in 147.090 [+600] no PL; exams)

MARIETTA, GEORGIA — The Kennehoochee Amateur Radio Club will hold the **59th Annual Kennehoochee Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, **March 17**, at Jim R. Miller Park. Contact: Don Heppie, W5LGK, <w5lgk@bellsouth.net>. (Talk-in 146.880 [PL 100 Hz]; exams)

LINCOLN NEBRASKA — The Lincoln Amateur Radio Club will host the **End of Winter Hamfest** and the **ARRL Nebraska State Convention** from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, **March 17**, at the Lancaster County Event Center. Contact: LARC, 402-770-9157; <http://www.lincolnhamfest.org>. (Exams; CW certification)

MIDLAND, TEXAS — The Midland Amateur Radio Club will hold its **57th Annual Saint Patrick's Day Hamfest and ARRL West Texas Section Convention** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, **March 17**, at the Midland Lions Club. Contact: Randy Karch, N5OVH, phone 432-683-7328; <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org/>. (Talk-in 147.300 [no tone]; WAS & VUCC card checking, DXCC card checking, exams)

TOLEDO, OHIO — The Toledo Mobile Radio Association will hold the **Toledo Radio/Computer/Electronics Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, **March 18**, at Owens Community College — Student Health and Activity Center. Contact: TMRA, P.O. Box 9673, Toledo, OH 43697-9673; <http://www.tmrhamradio.org>. (Exams)

BRAMPTON, CANADA — The Mississauga ARC and Peel ARC will hold **Ham-Ex 2012** on Saturday, **March 24** from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brampton Fall Fair Grounds. Activities include a flea market, exhibits and demonstrations. **Special Event Station VE3XR** will broadcast 1300 UTC to 1800 UTC on 3.75, 7.269, and 14.265 MHz (±QRM). E-mail: <info@ham-ex.ca>; <http://www.ham-ex.ca>. (Talk-in 146.880 [no tone] or 145.430 [103.5 Hz]; DXCC card checking and Industry Canada Basic, Advanced, and CW Exams)

QUEBEC, CANADA — The Club Radio Amateur Laval-Laurentides Hamfest will be held on Saturday, **March 24**, at Ecole Polyvalente Georges-Vanier. For more information call 514-708-8033; e-mail: <crall@ve2crl.qc.ca>. (Talk in 147.315+)

COLUMBUS, INDIANA — The Columbus (Indiana) Amateur Radio Club's **29th Annual Hamfest** will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, **March 31**, at the Bartholomew County 4H Fairgrounds. Contact: Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN, 812-342-4670; e-mail: <mlw467@gmail.com>. (Talk-in 146.790 [PL 100 Hz]; exams 11 a.m.)

TIMONIUM, MARYLAND — The Baltimore Amateur Radio Club Inc. will hold **The Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest** from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, **March 31**, at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. Contact: BARC, GBHC, P.O. Box 120, Reisterstown, MD 21136; phone: 443-590-1444; e-mail: <w3ft67@yahoo.com>. (Talk-in 146.67 [PL 107.2 Hz]; WAS and VUCC card checking from 9 a.m. to noon; exams)

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

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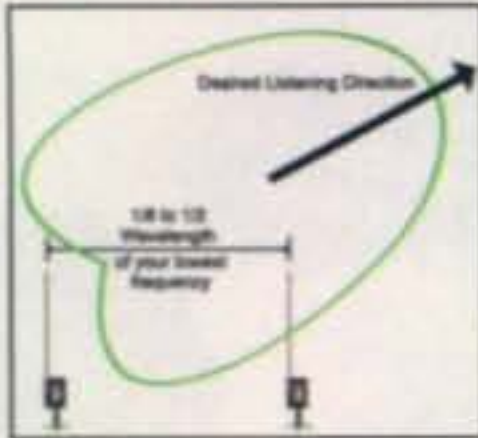
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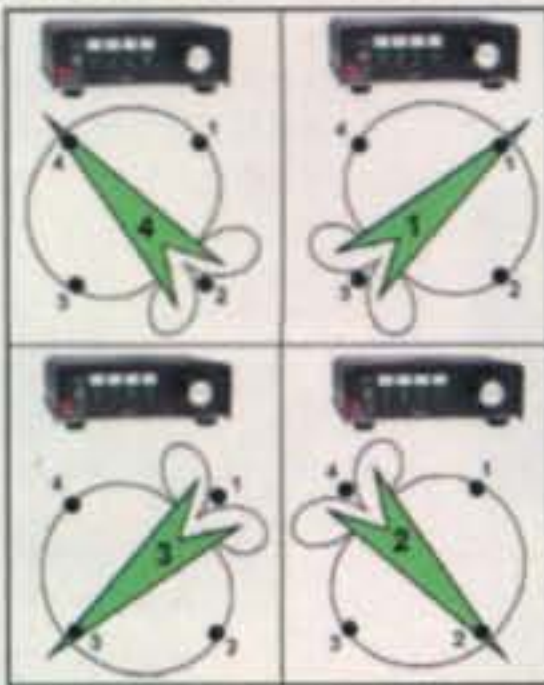
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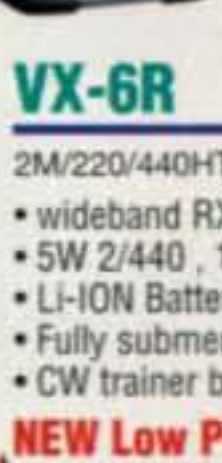
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Readers responding to our November issue survey about the articles in our Technology Special found the cover story on Radio Arcala to be the most interesting of them all. Here is some background on the 160- and 80-meter Yagis shown on November's cover, an engineering story that's nearly as massive as the resulting antennas.

Building Radio Arcala's Monster Yagis

BY TONI LINDEN,* OH2UA

Building a three-element Yagi for 160 meters and a five-element Yagi for 75/80 meters is not an everyday project. Even though it may not be something that would fit in your backyard (photo A), we hope that you'll find this article interesting, since it's a good example of amateur radio operators doing something extraordinary—something not seen before. Here, Radio Arcala took on the task at 65 degrees north latitude.

The Background of the Project

Operating low bands at 65 degrees north is somewhat challenging, especially when there is aurora blocking the frequencies. Even during the days when the A-index is low, Radio Arcala is still next to Arctic Circle and the aurora. The bands are often just a quiet hiss, and even stations from Central Europe are hard to copy, to say nothing about North America.

However, the main reason for building such a large antenna array as a 3-element Yagi for 160 meters and a 5-element Yagi for 75/80 meters was not only to experience fancy DXing or break through pile-ups. We wanted to see if, after designing and simulating this complex system, we could also implement it mechanically and electrically in such a robust way that would perform in practice as planned. Therefore, verification of the antenna's performance after implementation was an essential part of the project. We also wanted to share all our learning with the amateur radio and scientific communities.

We believe that amateur radio oper-

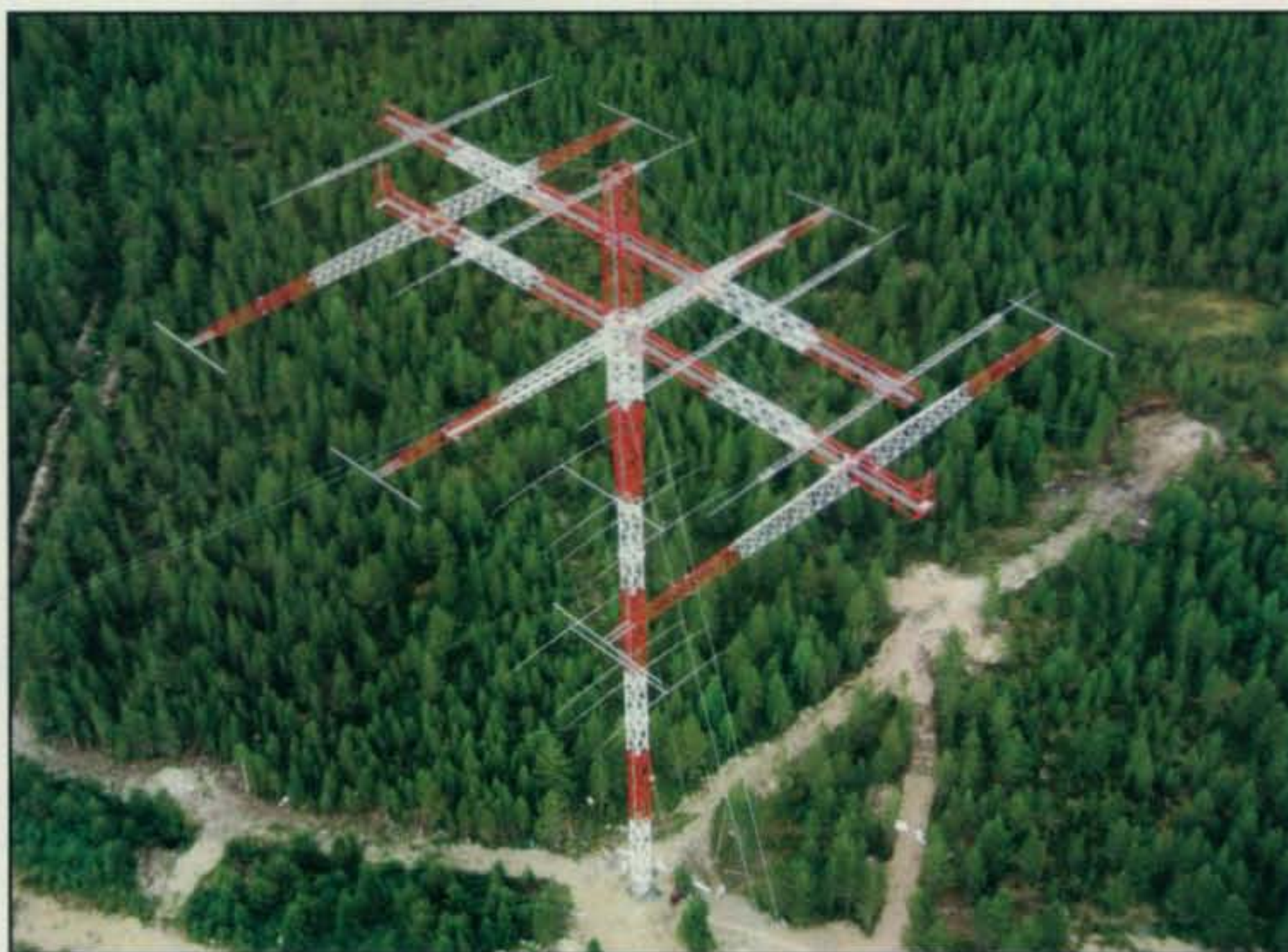


Photo A— Aerial view of 80- and 160-meter Yagis atop the 100-meter (330-foot) tower at Radio Arcala, OH8X, in Arcala, Finland. (All photos courtesy Radio Arcala)

ators are still able to provide new technical innovations and push the limits, even on high frequencies. Truly speaking, as well, in this project we were able to show the amateur radio community that although many of the technical details of antenna design are already well known, there are still new aspects to discover.

Early Planning Phase

As in every Radio Arcala project, we wanted to take the professional approach from the very beginning. It was clear that antennas this big cannot be made without detailed planning and responsibilities assigned to different people. The first step was to determine

if it would even be mechanically possible to make such antennas to stay up with ice, snow, and high winds. It also would be necessary to understand if it would be possible to design the mechanical structures in a way that would accommodate the electrical design parameters. After numerous simulations with steel-structure design software, converting the results into the antenna simulation software, and tuning the structure, we ended up with a simulated prototype of the antenna.

The idea was to have straight elements on both 160 and 75/80 meters. Both antennas would have part of the elements made of lattice structure and the remainder made of tubes. On 160

*e-mail: <oh2ua@oh2u.com>

About Radio Arcala

Radio Arcala, OH8X, is a team of serious hams dedicating their efforts to interesting and novel areas of amateur radio. The group is a mixture of seasoned amateurs and those of more recent vintage, representing a range of expertise and many walks of life. They push issues to the extreme, and their contest team, "Arcala Xtremes," is used as the test lab to verify the results. Radio Arcala's executive offices are located at 65 degrees north latitude in the village of Arcala, Finland.



Radio Arcala contest team Arcala Xtremes members at the contest superstation. From left: OH6KN, OH2BH, OH8NC, OH2MM, OH7EA, OH1WZ, author OH2UA, and OH6UM.

meters the length of the elements would be about 89 meters (290 feet), and on 75/80 meters, 42 meters (140 feet). Both antennas should have a boom length of 60 meters (200 feet). The layout was designed for a 100-meter (330-foot) tall tower.

This was the first go/no-go point to keep on going or stop the project. We carefully considered whether the performance of the antenna and the mechanical design would make any sense: The simulated electrical performance, definitely yes. For the mechanical structure, maybe, but it would



Photo B— A major milestone in the project was when a local steel factory began to make the steel parts of the antenna array. It took six months. The total weight of the steel parts of the antenna array was 39 tons (80,000 lb.) and it took 600 liters (120 gallons) of paint for the tower and elements. Transporting the 12-meter (40-foot) long parts took seven trucks.

be huge. After long discussions, we made a decision: If we looked at the design only as an antenna, it wouldn't make any sense. If we thought of it as an interesting exercise, it would be the only one of its kind and definitely worth doing.

Prototype Elements

Building the prototype elements was based on the software design. We wanted to make the prototype elements first to validate both antenna and mechanical simulations and fine-tune the elements before making the actual parts of the antenna. We knew that no NEC-based simulation tool could

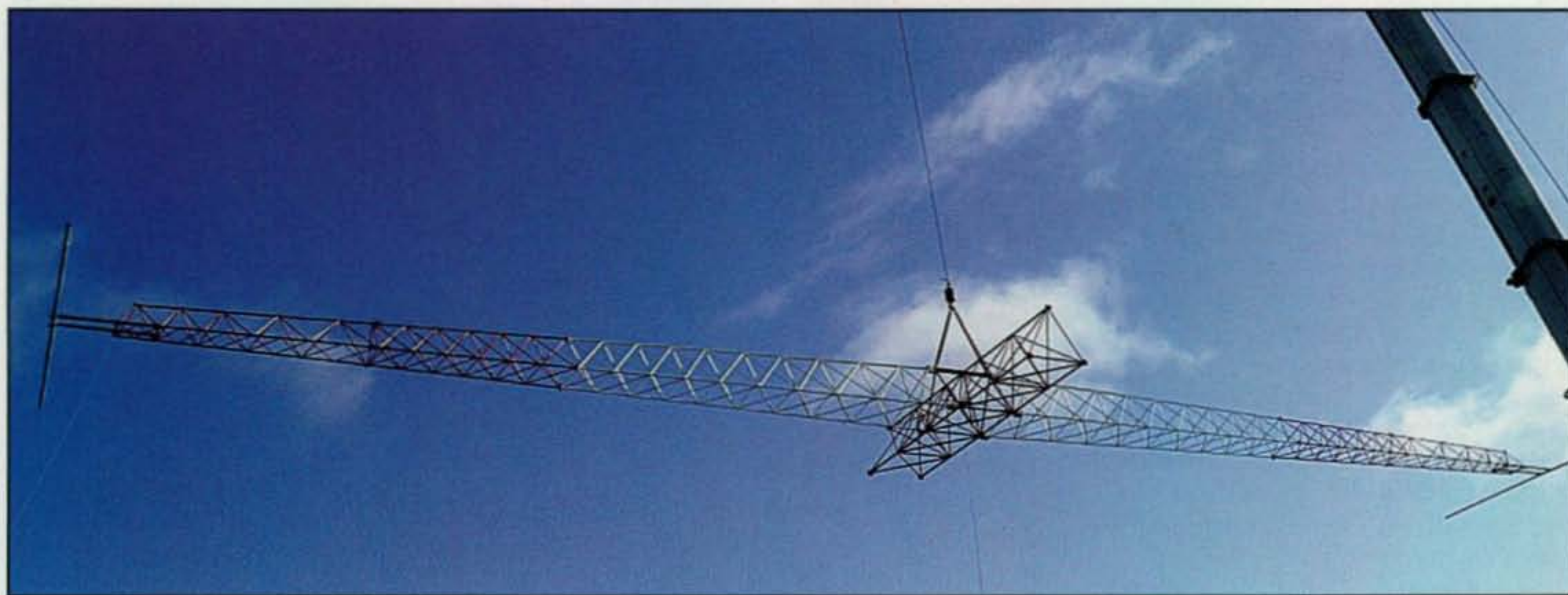


Photo C— A crane took each of the different elements up to 60 meters (200 feet), and we measured the reactance of the element with a VNA (vector network analyzer) just as was done with the prototype elements. We had the desired reactances on each target frequency and we were able to tune the elements exactly to the right value.

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Tower & Antenna Specifications Height and Weight of the System

Tower height: 100 m/330 ft
80m beam: 90 m/300 ft
160m beam: 80 m/270 ft
Total weight: 39,600 kg/80,000 lbs

Elements, gain and take off angles

160m: 3 elements, 12.9 dBi, 26
80m: 5 elements, 15.7dBi, 12

Front-to-Back ratio

160m: 20 dB
80m: 20 dB

Operating frequencies

1810–1845, 1845–1880 kHz
3500–3560 kHz, 3700–3800 kHz

160m elements

Weight: 1600 kg/3800 lbs each
Length: 59 m/190 ft
All elements: 12 m/36 ft
capacitive hats
Each use 700 m/2100 ft of tubing
Relay switches for turning the
antenna 180°

80m elements

Length: 46 m/140 ft, longest
Max windload: 70m/s (160 mph)

Boom dimensions

160 m (length): 71 m/215 ft
80 m (length): 60 m/200 ft
The triangular 160 m boom: 2.2 m/7.3 ft

Turning gear

Weight: 2000 kg/6000 lb
11-kW motor
Inverter-driven soft start/stop

Largest guy-ring bearing

Weight: 3300 kg/7300 lbs
Ring diameter: 3.8 m/13 ft

Guy wires

Total length: 2300 m/6900 ft
Phillystran/element guys:
1150 m/3450 ft

Final touch

600 liters/120 gallons of paint

Antenna design

160m: Pekka, OH1TV
80m: Olavi, OH5BR
Switching Systems: Lauri, OH8LK

Additional Arcala team members working on the project:

Juha, OH8NC
Veijo, OH6KN
Martti, OH2BH
Toni, OH2UA

correctly simulate the lattice structure of the elements. Therefore, our aim was also to match the simulation with real element behavior in order to make the final element design as accurate as possible.

It was an exciting moment to see the 89-meter (290-foot) long 160-meter full-size element for the first time. The element was lying in a big field waiting for the measurements to begin. A crane took the element up with the vector network analyzer connected to coax. With shaking hands, the first scan over the frequency range was started. The curves were seen on the display just as we had hoped. However, when the frequency reached the design resonant frequency, we noticed that everything was not as it should have been.

What a disappointment it was to realize that the prototype element did not correlate with the simulations, as we had hoped. The problem was that the reactance of the element didn't reach the positive (inductive) side at all. Normally, with half-wavelength elements at the resonant frequency, the reactance does come from the negative to positive side, but with our element it stayed on the negative side. In other words, our element wasn't resonating.

After all the simulations and planning, we couldn't make a half-wave dipole resonate. It would be impossible to

make a Yagi antenna with such elements. For some reason, the element was acting like there was a big capacitor at the feed point. The same problems were noticed on the prototype 75/80-meter element as well, but not as clearly as on the 160-meter element. Back to the drawing board we went.

Soon after analyzing the prototype element measurement data, playing around with antenna simulation models, and going to the literature, we came up with a theory: There was not only one, but two different issues causing the elements to act as they were. The first was that the ends of the lattice sections were closely spaced at the feed point. This is not an issue with normal Yagi elements, but in our case the base of the element is a 2-meter (6.5-foot) sideways "tower," and therefore it could be seen as a large capacitor. The other issue was that the diameter of the element was constantly changing, making the impedance of the element change as well. The same effect is well known with normal Yagi elements made of different-size tubes. However, in our case we had a big jump in element impedance when going from lattice structure to the tubing. These discontinuities caused too many reflections and appeared as increased capacitive reactance at the feedpoint.

After understanding the reasons for

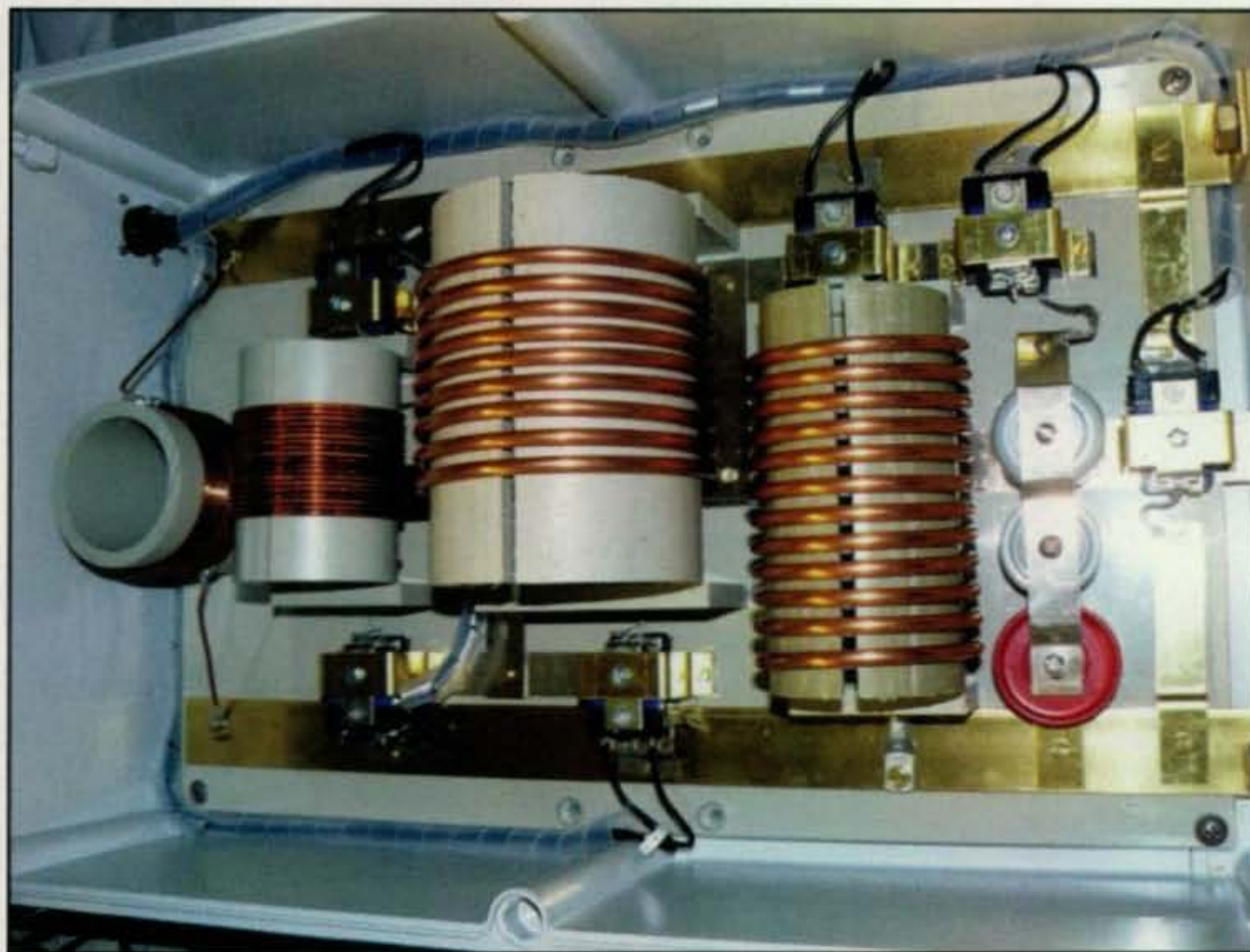


Photo D— Interior view of the 160-meter tuning unit. Managing all of the resonances of the matching units and making all the desired functions once again required hours of simulations. Also, the mechanical issues needed to be taken into account. These boxes would be mounted up on the tower where the ice load can easily be 1 ton per meter (2000 lb per 3 ft).

the odd behavior of the prototype element, it was time for some modifications. On 75/80 meters the fix was easy, since the size of the lattice part of the element is rather small and therefore the element was already close. On 160 meters, though, we had to move the central point of the elements farther away to reduce the capacitive loading of the feedpoint. We also had to make the lattice section of the elements a bit longer and change the last part of the elements from straight tube to capacitive loading with T-hats.

Changing the structure of the 160-meter element was actually a very good change for the mechanics. Instead of having 17 meters (55 feet) of straight tube at the end of element, we used much shorter tubes, making the element more stable. Also, using the capacitive loading made the current of the passive elements higher, making the Yagi actually per-

form better in simulations. With these modifications we could make the prototype elements correlate with the simulation model, and thus we were ready for the final design.

Building the Elements

This was our last chance to back away from the project. However, since we all were sure, based on experience from the prototype elements, that the antennas were doable both mechanically and electronically, we began the last phase of the project—making the antennas and towers.

Modifications to the element-to-boom mountings were made necessary by the capacitance issue. The lattice parts of the 160-meter elements were then stretched by 6 meters (20 feet) to match with T-loading instead of straight elements.

So How Well Does it Work?

On 160 meters the gain is 12 db, which is 1dB less than in simulations, and we're 7dB short of predicted front-to-back ratio, giving us 16dB of F/B (see fig. 1). The take-off angle of the 160-meter Yagi is 26 degrees.

In the target modeling, it was assumed that the antenna material would be aluminum, but the actual antenna was built of steel, which has both ohmic and ferromagnetic losses. This is the main reason for the missing gain.

The main reason for reduced F/B is that currents running in passive elements are lower than expected. Target modeling showed that extended boom length can be used and still have 50% current in parasitic elements. However, measurements show that it is not the case, but currents are about 40% of driven element current. This is the main reason for missing front-to-back attenuation. The solution would be shortening the boom, but for 7dB it

may not make sense. Another option could be redesigning the feed system and changing the reflector and director to be active-fed as well. This can be done, since all the elements are mechanically the same.

The 75/80-meter Yagi works close to predictions, having a gain of 15 dB and 20-dB F/B (fig. 2). On 75/80 meters the maximum radiation is achieved at 12 degrees. Average deviations from the simulation model of current amplitudes were 6.6% and phase 13 deg. That is the reason for differences in radiation patterns.

Root causes for differences are difficulties in modeling lattice structures of this scale and the above-referenced change in material definition. We also noticed that detuning the 160-meter antenna has a significant influence on the performance of the 75/80-meter Yagi. Without detuning, the 75/80-meter Yagi performs much worse than when 160-meter detuning is active.

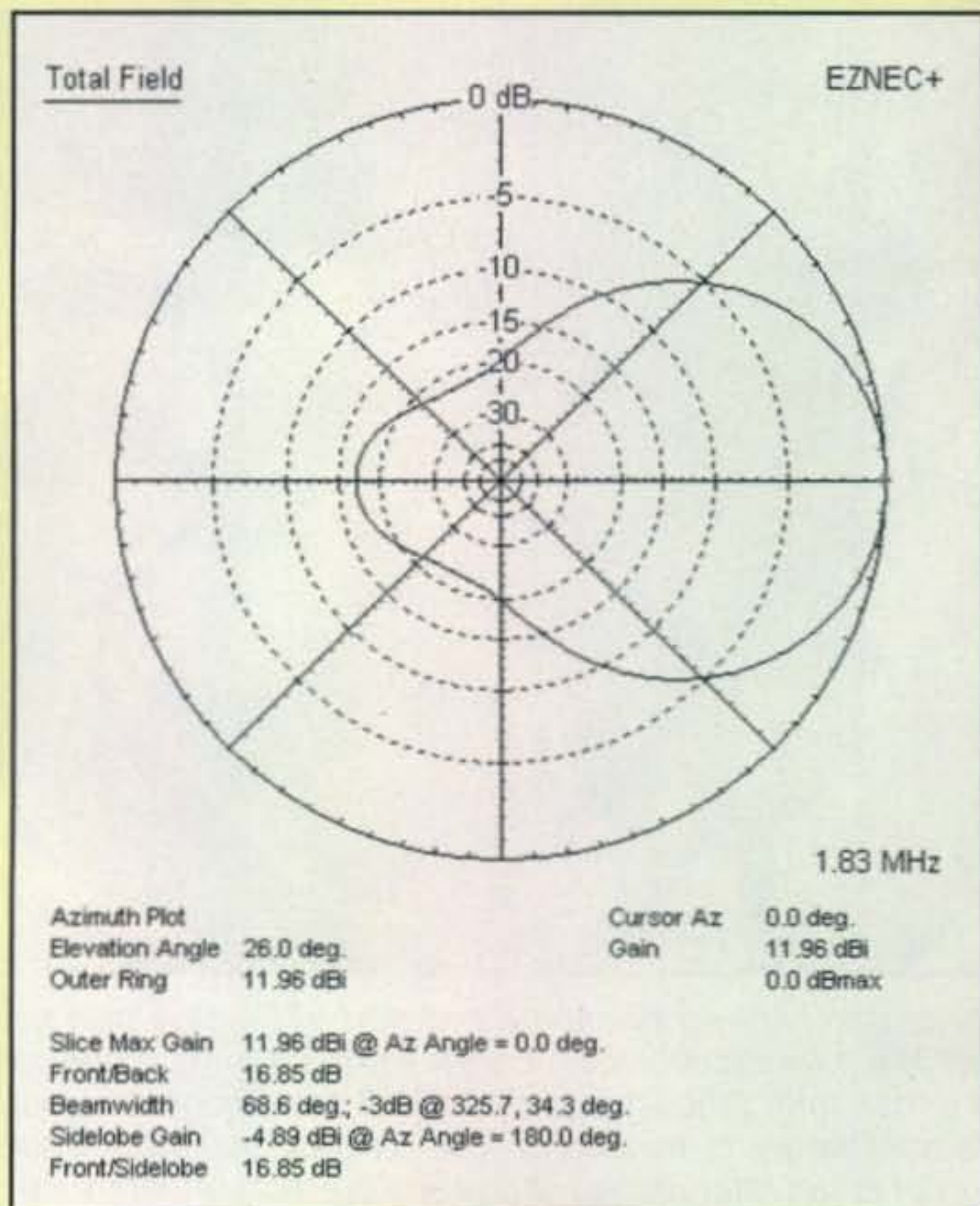


Fig. 1—Azimuth plot of measured radiation pattern of the 3-element 160-meter Yagi at OH8X.

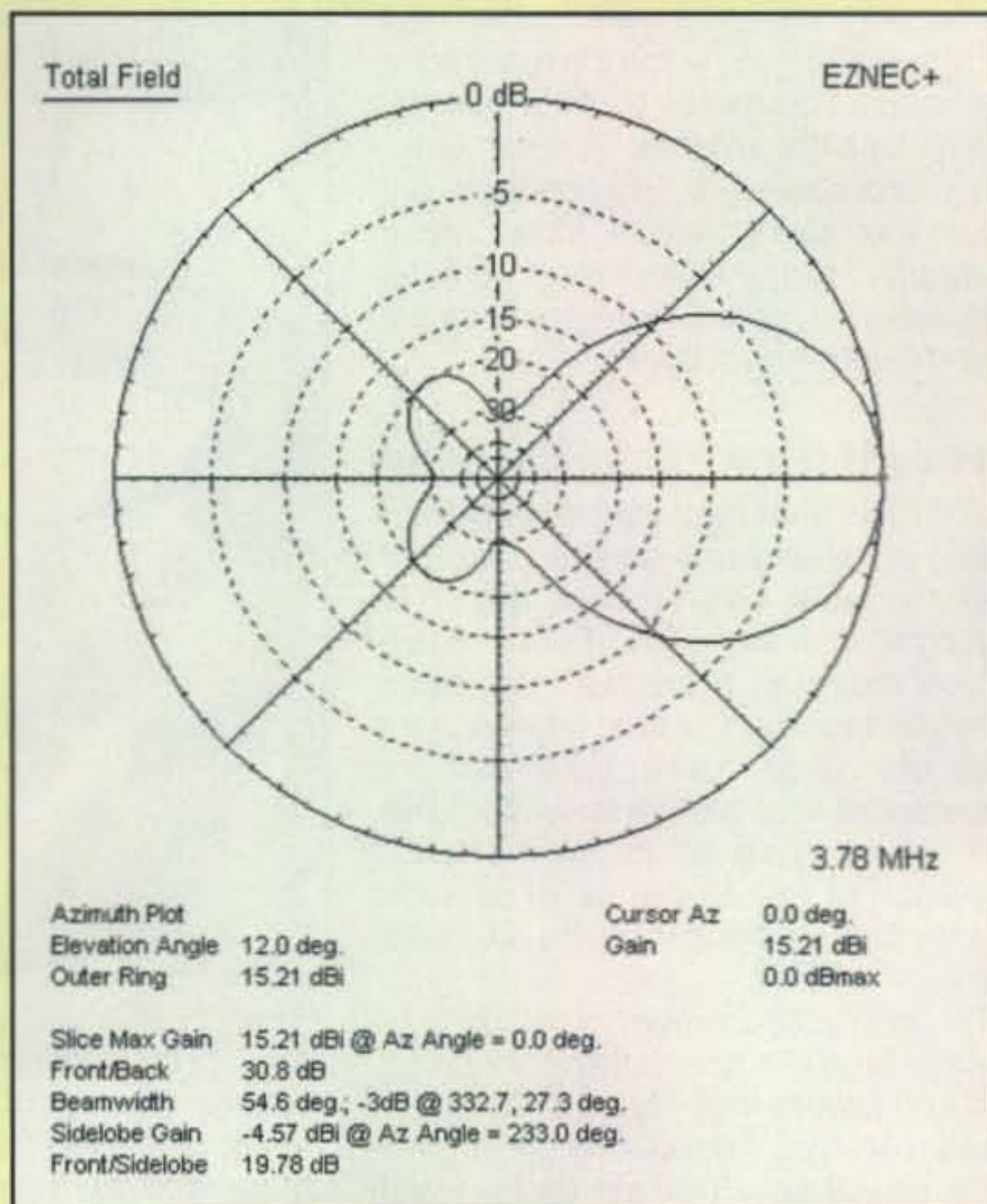


Fig. 2—Azimuth plot of measured radiation pattern of the 5-element 75/80-meter Yagi at OH8X.



Photo E— Building the tower and antennas took some three weeks, using two cranes. The smaller crane fed the parts to the bigger crane, which then lifted the parts to the men up on the tower, who mounted the pieces together. Photo on left shows the tower base being lifted into place, while photo on right shows upper section being moved into place.

Some small changes were made to element spacing, etc., since the more accurate simulation model made it possible to fine-tune the antenna. The same iterative process—with mechanical and electronic design—was done again (photo B). Since everything interacted with everything else, many more design rounds were needed.

Measuring the Actual Elements

Before the final installation, one more round of measurements was done with real elements. Even though the simulation model was matched with the prototype element, there were so many small changes in the final design that it was crucial to make sure that the behavior of final elements was known. We would need to know the exact behavior of the elements in order to design the matching units for each element.

These measurements couldn't be done in Arcala, since all the other antennas and towers might have affected the measurements. Fortunately, we found a large field 8 km (5 miles) away, which was more than a mile away from the closest manmade buildings, power lines, etc. On 160 meters all three ele-



Photo F— For actual measurements we needed a two-port VNA. One port was feeding the antenna just like a transmitter would normally do. To the other port we'd connect a current transformer (shown in photo) and that transformer would be connected to the element we were measuring. The first measurement would be for feed element in order to get reference of phase and current. After this we'd measure all the other elements, normalize those values to driven element values, and compare normalized results with simulated ones. Measuring the antennas this way seems to be quite novel.

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ments were similar, so only one element with one short section of boom was built. On 75/80meters all the elements were different, so all five elements were built and measured (photo C).

Then measurements were again compared to the simulation model and the model was fine-tuned to match the real elements. The values from the simulation model were still needed as an input for matching network design work. At this point, we were not interested in actual physical dimensions of modeled elements, since we already had the elements done. It was only important to match the reactance curves of the model and real elements.

Design and Production of the Matching Network

After learning the final behavior of the elements, it was time to design the matching networks (photo D). The 160-meter Yagi was designed with symmetrical construction so we could swap the radiation pattern of antenna 180 degrees by changing the reflector to director and vice versa. We also wanted to have two frequency bands on 160 meters, one for CW and one for SSB. Of course, it was also desirable to have a direct 50-ohm feed to the antenna.

The distance between the 75/80-meter and 160-meter Yagis is only 10 meters (30 feet). Simulations clearly showed that the 160-meter antenna would affect the performance of the 75/80-meter antenna. Therefore, the 160-meter antenna needed to be detuned to 1.6 MHz while not in use. Also, placing antennas on a 100-meter (330-foot) high tower could make them good targets for lightning and static, so all the elements had to be DC grounded.

On 160 meters the passive elements actually are too long to work as directors, so we needed to "shorten" each element with capacitors when acting as the driven element and lengthen it with a coil for use as a reflector. On the 75/80-meter Yagi, the matching network would only make the CW/SSB switching and DC grounding for elements. Additional inductive reactance for the reflector would be generated with help of a coil.

Building the Tower and Antennas

Building the tower and antennas mainly was done in November when sun barely rises above the horizon, and the length of a day is about five hours (photo E). The temperature is mostly below freezing, but our iron men stood strong.

The most exciting day was when clouds were hanging on at 50 meters (160 feet) and the crane had to operate without visibility to the top of the tower at 100 meters (330 feet). The men on the tower were giving orders by walkie-talkie, and the crane operator was operating "blind." Quite bit of teamwork!

Validating the Antenna

From the very beginning of the project, it was clear that the performance of the real antenna should be validated and compared to simulation results. The first idea was to make the radiation pattern measurements by using a helicopter as a signal source and plotting received signal strength of the antenna. However, this method would only determine the radiation pattern. It would not determine the actual gain, and if there was no correlation with simulated patterns, it would be impossible to figure out why the antenna was not behaving as simulated.

After more research, we ended up measuring the phase and current of each element (photo F). Once the phase and current of each element were known, we could enter the measured values into the simulation model and calculate the real radiation pattern. The advantage of this method was that if there were differences between the simulated model and the real antenna, it would be possible to determine the reasons for those differences.

The first measurement session was not successful. The results were not correlating at all, and we were confused, not knowing if the antenna was somehow broken or if there was something wrong with the measurements. The measurement location was on the 160-meter boom at 80 meters (270 feet) above ground level. After 11 hours up on the tower, it was time to give up and come down with all the equipment (photo G).

There was some RF current on the shield of the coaxial cable we were using for measurements and we suspected that was the reason for the incorrect results. We added some ferrite cores on the coax to prevent current on the shield, and we were back in business for a couple more days of measurements. Finally, everything was behaving as it should be.

On the Air

On 160 meters, there was 1 dB less gain and 7 dB of missing front-to-back ratio compared with the simulations. The main reason for the differences is that



Photo G— Author OH2UA walking through one of the antenna elements with measurement gear. The first day of measurements took 11 hours and did not produce satisfactory results. See text for details.

the simulations were made assuming the lattice parts of the elements to be aluminum, but in fact, steel was used. That made currents in the parasitic elements run about 20% lower than expected. This could be fixed two ways—either shortening the boom or changing the feed system. Shortening the boom would not make any sense for a couple of dB. However, changing the feed system to a version in which all the elements were fed by coaxial cable would have the same effect, and the currents and phases would be easy to manage. This could be done, since all the elements were physically equal. The plans for changing the 160-meter feed system were already made, but not yet implemented as of this writing.

At OH8X there is also a 160-meter 4-square antenna. When comparing these two antennas, the three-element Yagi is better most of the time. On very low-angle signals, though, the 4SQ generally performs better than Yagi. These two antennas (three-element and 4SQ) make a very good pair, and both of them are needed. In summary, though, it can be said that the three-element 160-meter Yagi works, and one can get a feeling of operating with a Yagi, just as on higher frequencies.

On 75/80 meters the five-element Yagi is outstanding, and it works very close to simulations. It's almost always

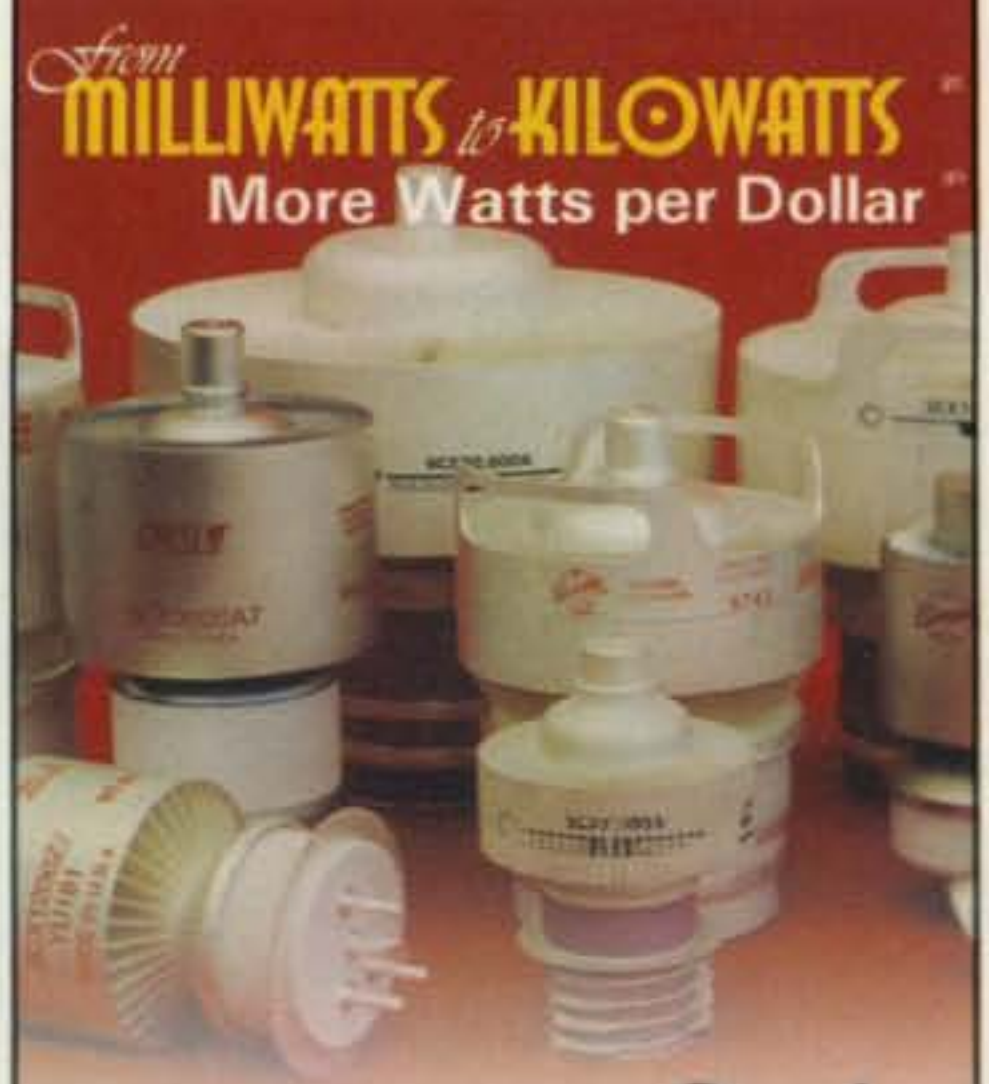
better than the other Yagi array (two over two) at Arcala. The radiation pattern of the 75/80-meter Yagi is very clearly making its own long path to California at sunset! With this antenna one really has the feeling of hearing and being able to work everything on the band—as long as no aurora appears which, unfortunately, it does for more days than not.

More information as well as Eznec files of the antennas are available on Radio Arcala's web page: <www.radioarcala.com>. Also see the sidebar "So How Does it Work?"

Conclusions

In this project it was shown that three-element 160-meter and 5-element 75/80-meter Yagis are doable, and the performance of the actual antennas meets simulations. This might not be a first 160-meter antenna project for someone to build, but Radio Arcala has opened the game and now we're waiting to see who will be the first to build stacked Yagis on 160!

There has been great interest in this antenna, so the next step at Radio Arcala might be building an elevator on the tower and have a fully featured sauna on the boom of the 160-meter Yagi. When that happens, we'll let you know how to book your trip. . . .



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3CX1200D7	4CX350A	YU-108	5868
3CX1200Z7	4CX350F	YU-148	6146B
3CX1500A7	4CX400A	572B	7092
3CX2500A3	4CX800A	805	3-500ZG
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Results of the 2011 CQ WW WPX CW Contest

BY RANDY THOMPSON,* K5ZD

"Who ever said that contesting is for wimps? I am simply amazed at the willingness of my fellow CW contesters to sit [through] the extremely challenging conditions this weekend and I am proud to be a part of this brotherhood."

— Andy, DL3YM

The 32nd edition of the CQ WW WPX CW Contest was held on May 28–29, 2011. This was just 60 days after the fantastic propagation experienced in the SSB event. In the battle between man and technology vs. nature, things don't always work out the way we want. For the second year in a row, WPX CW had some bad luck.

After a week of great conditions leading up to the contest, it was frustrating to have the solar storms begin just a few hours after the start. The poor conditions caused operators to revise their operating plans. Mike, KH6ND, operating at KH7X commented, "Seriously bad conditions from this part of the world. I was forced to take many hours of off time during what are usually our highest rate times of the day." Carol, N2MM, made the ultimate statement of rejection by a serious contester: "Things were so bad on Saturday morning that I [stopped] to mow the lawn." Other ops mentioned taking time off to attend holiday parties or watch the Formula One race or the Indianapolis 500.

Even so, there was still opportunity for those who stayed in the chair. Victor, VA2WDQ, focused on the positive: "I've improved my last-year result by 20%." Mike, VE3GFN, was happy: "My first WPX and it was amazing how the score rose to astronomical heights." John, VK4CT, was also pleased: "I enjoyed good competition and band conditions to reach a personal best." Steve, N2IC, found a nugget of propagation gold: "Outstanding propagation to VK and JA on 80 meters Saturday morning during the hours before sunrise—maybe the best I have ever heard."

In spite of the challenges, many stations reported scores equal to or better than 2011. One reason was the increase in multipliers. The LZ9W multi-multi entry set a new record for prefix multipliers, with 1365. They made this observation about where the multipliers come from: "Thanks to new Russian calls there were a good number of prefixes available from east. ... USA once again was the main source of multipliers. For example, prefixes we worked from Russia, Ukraine, and Japan counted together still does not match the number of USA prefixes worked."

We thank the following stations that helped provide some unusual call signs and exciting multipliers in our logs: 8J4VLP, 8N3A/3, CD3A, D73A, DK150RB, DR11BUGA, DR40AGCW, HF800Z, HG15IPA, IP7U, JU1F, LZ2011KM, LZ855SRKM, OM50CDN, OM75IHWC, SD40JZ, SO100MSC, YR30DP, Z330F, and Z350MM. OM2011IHF was a special event call for the 2011 Ice Hockey World Championship in Slovakia.

Single-Op All Band High Power

Valery, RD3A, once again returned to EF8M to set the top score for the Single Operator category. There was a South America shootout between John, W2GD, operating from P40W, and John, K4BAI, operating from PJ4A. W2GD had the experience advantage with over 25 years of contesting from Aruba. K4BAI was the defending record holder. It was an extra 200 contacts on 40 meters for PJ4A that provided the winning edge. Two travelling Russians faced off for fourth place, with Harry, RA3AUU, operating from P33W coming out ahead of Vlad, RK4FF/6W.

It was a very close race for top score in Europe. Pertti, OH2PM, piloted the Arkala station CR2X to first in Europe and 7th overall. Close behind was Sebastien, F8DBF, operating from TM6M. Stations to the south dominated the European Top Ten. IR4X, operated by Matteo, IZ3EYZ, and



Jorge, CX6VM, received help from his 11-month-old Francisco while operating as CW5W.

Ranko, 4O3A, finished third and fourth. Hrvole, 9A6XX, in fifth, led a close pack of stations all with over 6-million points.

As usual, most of the top USA scores came from the Northeast. The winner this year was Krassy, K1LZ. Just a few extra prefixes made the difference over second place finisher Scott, K0DQ, operating from the well-equipped station of WW1WW. Paul, K8PO, used the call AJ1I to place third. In fifth, Alex, LZ4AX, lost some momentum at KC3R when the 40-meter beam failed on Saturday afternoon. The best scores from out West were Steve, N2IC, operating as WK5T, and Chris, KL9A, operating NK7U. Both were rewarded for their perseverance as Steve took home the plaque for high score in Zone 4 and Chris earned the plaque for high score in Zone 3.

Single-Op All-Band Low Power

For the second year in a row, the winner of the Low Power category was P49Y operated by Andy, AE6Y. His score is a new world record replacing a score set by CT3EE back in 2003. Talk about being in the right place at the right time to take advantage of the poor conditions! Second place was taken by 3V8SS in Tunisia operated by Ash, KF5EYY. Southern Europe was the place to be as IR1Y (op. Carlo, IK1HJS) finished just ahead of Mladen, YT6W, Andy, UU4JMG, and Milan, YU8A. Carlo made most of his contacts on 15 meters, while the others had a more even distribution across all bands.

The battle for top USA score also favored stations to the south and was extremely close. Merrill, WK2G/4, in Florida, finished just 4000 points ahead of Marv, N5AW, in Texas; that's less than three DX contacts! This was Marv's first serious entry in WPX and he did very well, in spite of having to take a few hours off on Saturday afternoon to attend a holiday party. Another Floridian, Will, WJ9B/4, was just a few points back in third. Terry, N4TZ, operating from KS9K in Indiana, was the best of the northerners, just ahead of David, K3EL/2 in New Jersey, and neighbor K9QVB in Illinois.

Single-Operator Single Band

The top Single Band score in the contest was made by Pedro, HK1X, on 20 meters. Two-hundred more multipliers helped increase his score

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2011 CQ WW WPX CW TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

WORLD: Steve Bolla, N8BJQ Trophy. Won by: **EF8M** operated by Valery Komarov, RD3A
WORLD Low Power: Caribbean Contesting Consortium Trophy. Won by: **P49Y** operated by Andrew L. Faber, AE6Y
WORLD QRP: Bill Parker, W8QZA Trophy. Won by: **Joseph Presman, UU2CW**
USA: Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV Trophy. Won by: **Krassimir Petkov, K1LZ**
USA Low Power: Ken Boasi, N2ZN Trophy. Won by: **Merrill Brown, WK2G/4**
USA QRP: John T. Laney, K4BAI Trophy. Won by: **Julius Fazekas, N2WN/4**
USA Zone 3 High Power: Northern California Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **NK7U** operated by Chris Hurlbut, KL9A
USA Zone 3 Low Power: Arizona Outlaws Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **AD7JP** operated by BILL CONWELL, K2PO
USA Zone 4 High Power: Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **WK5T** operated by Steve London, N2IC
USA Zone 4 Low Power: Society of Midwest Contesters Trophy. Won by: **Marvin Bloomquist, N5AW**
USA Zone 5 High Power: Paul Obert, K8PO Trophy. Awarded to: **WW1WW** operated by Scott Redm, K8DQ
EUROPE: Ivo Pezer, 5B4ADA/9A3A Trophy. Won by: **CR2X** operated by Pertti Simovaara, OH2PM
EUROPE Low Power: Vitor Santos, PY2NY Trophy. Won by: **IR1Y** operated by Carlo De Mari, IK1HJS
EUROPE QRP: Julius Fazekas, N2WN Trophy. Awarded to: **OK3C** operated by Ludek Odehnal, OK2ZC
AFRICA: Chris Terkla, N1XS Trophy. Awarded to: **Vlad Zaitsev, 6W/RK4FF**
ASIA: Rick Tavan, N6XI Trophy. Won by: **P33W** operated by Igor Booklan, RA3AAU
NORTH AMERICA: Louisiana Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Felipe Hernandez, NP4Z**
NORTH AMERICA QRP: Dale Martin, KG5U Trophy. Won by: *no entry*
OCEANIA: Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC Trophy. Won by: **KH7X** operated by Michael Gibson, KH6ND
OCEANIA Low Power: Pacific DXers Trophy. Won by: **P29CW** operated by Allan Bernard Mason, VK2GR
SOUTH AMERICA: David Kopacz, KY1V Trophy. Won by: **PJ4A** operated by John T. Laney III, K4BAI
SOUTHERN CONE (CE,CX,LU): Tom Morton, K6CT Trophy. Won by: **CW5W** operated by Jorge Diez, CX6VM
CANADA: Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Trophy. Won by: **VY2ZM** operated by Jeffrey T. Briggs, K1ZM
CANADA Low Power: Contest Club Ontario Trophy. Won by: **Bruce Wade, VE1NB**
JAPAN: Simone Candotto, IV3NVN Trophy. Won by: **Masaki Okano, JH4UYB**

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

WORLD 28 MHz: Steve Hodgson, ZC4LI Trophy. Won by: **PW2D** operated by Thomas Carlsson, PY2ZXU
WORLD 28 MHz Low Power: Six Stars Contest Station LS1D Trophy. Won by: **Dale Green, CE2/VE7SV**
WORLD 21 MHz: Andrei Stchislenok, NP3D Trophy. Won by: **Jorge Luis Prieto, HK1R**
WORLD 14 MHz: Gene Walsh, N2AA Trophy. Won by: **Pedro Claver Orozco, HK1X**
WORLD 7 MHz: 6Y1V Contest Station Trophy. Won by: **Ivan Mastilovic, YU1LA**
WORLD 7 MHz Low Power: Neal Campbell, K3NC Trophy. Won by: **Eugeniusz Moroz, SP4JQC**
WORLD 3.5 MHz: Ranko Boca, 4O3A Trophy. Won by: **9A40Y** operated by Sasa Pokorni, 9A3NM
WORLD 1.8 MHz: Dusko Dumanovic, ZL3WW Trophy. Won by: **Tomislav Polak, 9A2AJ**
USA 28 MHz: Paul Beringer, NG7Z Trophy. Won by: **Pat Whelton, KZ5J**
USA 21 MHz: Charlie Wooten, NF4A Trophy. Won by: **WN1GIV/4** operated by Bob Patten, N4BP
USA 14 MHz: Kansas City DX Club Trophy. Won by: **NR5M** operated by Bill Bradford, K5GA
USA 7 MHz: Darin Divinia, WG5J Trophy. Won by: **NG5A** operated by CHRISTOPHER TERKLA, N1XS
USA 3.5 MHz: Wes High, W3SE / ZL3TE Trophy. Won by: **Victor A. Shields, K9UIY**
EUROPE 28 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Won by: **Slaven Galic, E77A**
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: **E73W** operated by Ivica Matkic, E73O
EUROPE 7 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Awarded to: **Saulius Zalnerauskas, LY5W**
EUROPE 3.5 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Awarded to: **Igor Plugatarev, RW3WA**
EUROPE 1.8 MHz High Power: SKY Contest Club Trophy. Awarded to: **IR4E** operated by Filippo Fragni, IK4ZHH

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED

WORLD: D4C Station Trophy. Won by: **TO8A** operated by Valery Petrov, R5GA
USA: Ron Sigismonti, N3RS Trophy. Won by: **WU3A/1** operated by Gene Shablygin, W3UA
EUROPE: Martin Huml, OL5Y Trophy. Won by: **EF5Y** operated by Yuri Sakalouski, EA5GTQ
Canada: Anthony Ratajczak, VE1ZA Trophy. Won by: **VA2WA** operated by Victor Androssov, VA2WDQ

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: **WS2T/4** operated by Paul Newberry, N4PN
EUROPE Tribander/Single Element: WPX Contest Committee Trophy. Won by: **T70A** operated by Ivo Pezer, 9A3A
WORLD Rookie: Val Edwards W8KIC Memorial (K3LR sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **OH8R** operated by Mikko Silvola, OH8FKU
NORTH AMERICA Rookie: Chris Kantarjiev, K6DBG Trophy. Won by: **Michael Moran, K2CYE**

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Steve Miller, N0SM Trophy. Won by: **CQ3A** operated by OE1DIA, OM3GI, OM3RM, OM7JG
USA: Phil Allardice, KT3Y Trophy. Won by: **NY4A** operated by AA4FU, N4AF
AFRICA: Rhein Ruhr DX Association Trophy. Awarded to: **J25DXA** operated by J28AA, J28AP, J28JV, J28RO, J28WR
ASIA: W2MIG Memorial (NX7TT Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **C4N** operated by 5B8AD, 5B4AGM, RV6LNA, RA6LFO, R7LV, R7LP, UA9CDV
EUROPE: Andy Ruse, YO3JR/YR1A Trophy. Won by: **E7DX** operated by 9A5K, E70R, E70T, E74IW, E76C, E77DX, E77E, E77WM
NORTH AMERICA: Jim George, N3BB Trophy. Won by: **KP2M** operated by KT3Y, K9VV

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: UA1DZ Memorial (W3UA Sponsor) Trophy. Won by: **FR3L** operated by DJ2YE, DJ8DS, DJ9IE, DK3QZ, DL1XW, PA0R
USA: Florida Contest Group Trophy. Won by: **KD4D/3** operated by KD4D, NN3W, K3RA, K3WI, W2CDO, W3KX, K3MM
AFRICA: Walter Skudlarek, DJ6QT Trophy. Won by: *no entry*
EUROPE: Tom Georgens, W2SC Trophy. Awarded to: **II9T** operated by IT9GSF, LY2IJ, YL2KL, YL3DW

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

WORLD: Steve Merchant, K6AW Trophy. Won by: **LZ9W** operated by LZ1ZD, LZ1ANA, LZ1FG, LZ1GL, LZ1PJ, LZ1PM, LZ1UQ, LZ2BE, LZ2CJ, LZ2HQ, LZ2GL, LZ2PL, LZ2TU, LZ2UU, LZ2PO, LZ2UZ, LZ3FM, LZ3UM, OK1FDR
USA: Jim Reiser, AD1C Trophy. Awarded to: **NR4M** operated by KE3X, K4EC, K4GM, K4ZW, KC4D, K7SV, N2YO, N3UA, NR4M, WK3W, W4PRO
EUROPE: David Robbins, K1TTT Trophy. Awarded to: **DR1A** operated by DB6JG, DF6JC, DJ7EO, DJ7WW, DK2CX, DK9IF, DL3DXX, DL5CW, DL5LYM, DL6FBL, DL8DYL, DL8LAS, DL8WPX, DL9DRA, DL9EE, SV2KBS, JK3GAD, PC5A

CONTEST EXPEDITION

WORLD: Phil Goetz N6ZZ Memorial Trophy. Won by: **Franc Bogataj, ZA/S59AA**

COMBINED SSB/CW

WORLD Single Operator Total Score: Yuri Blarovich, K3BU Trophy. Won by: **Jeffrey T. Briggs, K1ZM**
USA Single Operator Total Score: Bill Fisher W4AN Memorial (KM3T Sponsor). Won by: **Krassimir Petkov, K1LZ**
WORLD Single Operator Total Prefixes: Norm Koch, WN5N Memorial by Gail Sheehan, K2RED Trophy. Won by: **Ranko Boca, 4O3A (2327 total)**
WORLD Club Score: CQ Magazine trophy. Won by: **Bavarian Contest Club**

from last year by over 40% to set a new record for South America. Second place on 20 meters went to YW4D, operated by Paolo, YV1DIG. Steve, ZC4LI, showed that fighting cancer was not going to slow down his contesting with a fine fourth place finish. In Europe, it was E73OW (op Ivica, E73O) just getting by Ivo, S57AL, for the win. The top 20-meter score in the USA was by Bill, K5GA, operating from NR5M.

The experience on 10 meters varied greatly depending on where you were. The top score was from PW2D operated by Thomas, PY2ZXU, with over 2-million points. Rene, LU7HN, was second with 1.4 million. As usual, WPX CW served up some interesting sporadic-E in Europe. Slaven, E77A, made over 1100 contacts to win Europe and place third overall. Alex, RU7A, was close behind. The top North American score was by Joe, W5ASP, at the controls of ZF1A. There was only one entry from the USA, by Pat, KZ5J.

Continuing the theme of winners from South America was Jorge, HK1R, on 15 meters. He finished ahead of the 15-meter powerhouse ZX5J operated by Carl, A16V. Jiri, OK1RF, operated from Portugal as CS2C to finish third. The top USA score was made by Bob, N4BP, using his old Novice call WN1GIV/4. Very close second was from Eric, NM5M, sharing the NR5M station.

Ivan, YU1LA, enjoyed his favorite band and took the win on 40 meters. Second and third place were from the north, with Sam, LY5W, just getting ahead of Dmitri, UA2FB operating UA2F. The world top ten was dominated by European stations except for the top two USA scores. Chris, N1XS, operated from NR5M using the call NG5A to take first in the USA and number 7 in the world. Just 40k points behind was Andy, K2LE, using the call KW2O. Dealing with summer static and the strange conditions, it was logging accuracy that determined the order of finish between Chris and Andy.

The champion on 80 meters was Sasa, 9A3NM, operating from the 9A1CCY club station under the call 9A40Y. There were many thunderstorms in southeastern Europe to deal with on the first night. Second place went to Victor, R9TV, with a nice score far from the population centers of Europe and a new UA9 record. Igor, RW3WA, also had a nice score to finish in third. The USA winner was NC6CC operated by Bill, N6ZFO.

It was a close race for the top position on 160 meters. Tom, 9A2AJ, and Filippo, IK4ZHH at IR4E, ended up only 3 QSOs and 6 multipliers apart! Tom got the win due to his extra prefixes. Bolmar, HK1MW, put in a valiant effort to break the South American record that had been set by YV1OB back in 1986! The USA winner was Charlie, N0TT.

Single-Op Single Band Low Power

The highest Low Power Single Band score was made on 15 meters by Martin, OK1FUA, operating from KV4FZ using the call NP2/OL5Y. Second went to Cesar, LU5FR. Milovan, YU1AU, represented the best from Europe and was third. Andy, WB4TDH, was well ahead in the race for top USA score on the band.

The winner on 10 meters was a call that had some participants scratching their head. Dale, VE7SV, operated 10 meters single band from Chile as CE2/VE7SV. At the same time, his station back in British Columbia was active as a multi-op using the call VE7SV. Second on 10



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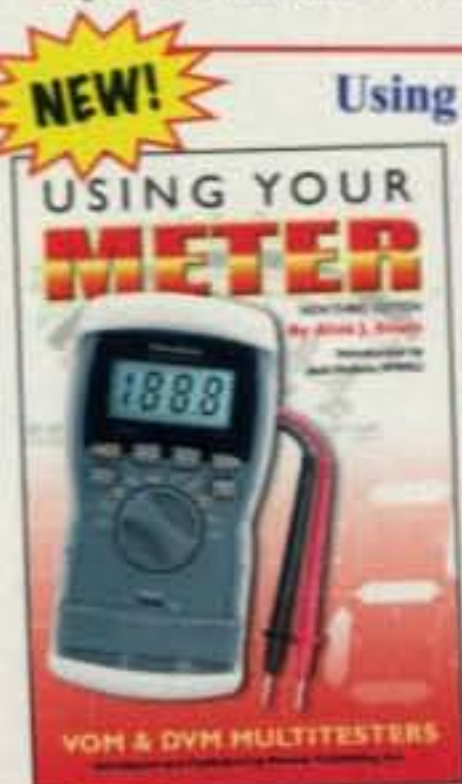
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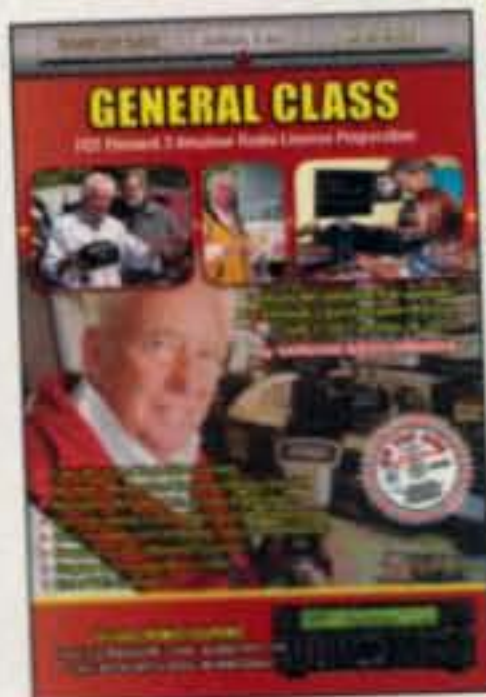
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Multi-Operator

The top Multi-Operator Single-Transmitter score was also one of the few World records set this year. CQ3A from the island of Madeira was driven by the operating team of OE1DIA, OM3GI, OM3RM, and OM7JG to over 5200

contacts in 48 hours! Repeating their second place finish from a year ago was the 7-operator team at C4N in Cyprus. The competition for top score in Europe was fierce, with three scores just over 10-million points. The winner was E7DX, followed closely by RU1A and HG6N. RU1A had 400 more contacts than the others, but could not match the multiplier or DX QSOs of the stations farther south. In the USA, it was NY4A repeating as the champi-

ons over a valiant effort from NY6N out on the West Coast.

The Multi-Operator Two-Transmitter competition was a worldwide affair with the top four scores coming from four different continents! It was the German team operating CR3L that earned the victory. They were interviewed during the contest by the local TV station! Second place went to the short call J7A, a field day style DXpedition to the island of Dominica. A band-

2011 CQ WW WPX SSB & CW COMBINED CLUB SCORES

UNITED STATES			DX		
Club	Entries	Score	Club	Entries	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	102	213,570,606	BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	180	300,426,671
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	113	154,720,033	LU CONTEST GROUP	80	210,296,769
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	70	142,548,771	RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	137	194,937,849
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	50	72,055,206	ARAUCARIA DX GROUP	45	177,720,383
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	36	70,594,037	CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	51	138,412,799
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	27	68,614,803	SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB	39	131,953,952
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	48	59,385,250	URAL CONTEST GROUP	35	131,694,253
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	43	51,560,700	UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	107	120,550,475
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	56	44,004,618	RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB	66	118,893,196
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB	34	38,851,484	CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	66	107,535,564
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	45	35,548,739	CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	40	77,000,666
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	69	34,401,827	KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY RADIO CLUB	50	63,562,094
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	23	27,537,807	HUNGARIAN DX CLUB	14	61,953,621
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	13	26,040,785	BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	82	61,163,110
NORTH TEXAS CONTEST CLUB	12	23,404,666	VK CONTEST CLUB	18	56,478,948
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	25	21,876,346	LES NOUVELLES DX	16	56,169,454
NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	11	21,488,007	FORTALEZA DX GROUP	5	56,070,283
OKLAHOMA DX ASSOCIATION	3	20,085,493	DXARC DX COLOMBIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	11	53,974,850
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	29	18,343,859	LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	31	50,800,697
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	31	17,390,719	WEST SERBIA CONTEST CLUB	8	46,743,214
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	24	13,748,411	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA CONTEST CLUB	11	41,819,044
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	44	13,451,649	SOUTH URAL CONTEST CLUB	16	38,519,086
IOWA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	9,139,530	ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	16	37,672,078
ORDER OF BOILED OWLS OF NEW YORK	11	6,278,800	LITHUANIAN CONTEST GROUP	10	31,473,995
ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSN	9	5,938,078	YU CONTEST CLUB	24	30,786,019
LOUISIANA CONTEST CLUB	8	5,460,847	RIO DX GROUP	22	27,889,756
KANSAS CITY CONTEST CLUB	4	4,212,711	BELARUS CONTEST CLUB	19	27,541,950
NORTHERN ROCKIES DX ASSOCIATION	5	4,030,120	SKY CONTEST CLUB	8	27,350,960
SOUTHWEST OHIO DX ASSOCIATION	5	3,332,774	TARTU CONTEST TEAM	5	26,954,186
BERGEN ARA	11	2,583,828	BELOKRANJEC CONTEST CLUB	8	26,783,950
SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION	13	2,520,748	WORLDWIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS	19	26,130,047
NORTHERN ARIZONA DX ASSN	5	2,284,975	CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	15	21,558,637
DELARA CONTEST TEAM	8	2,112,710	CHILTERN DX CLUB	10	21,202,926
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DX/CONTEST CLUB	8	1,287,291	CANTAREIRA DX GROUP	13	19,585,785
ALLEGHENY VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION	3	1,282,747	IRKUTSK RADIO CLUB	5	19,404,755
NORTH CAROLINA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	4	1,246,780	LA CONTEST CLUB	6	19,009,809
NASHOBA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	6	1,241,900	BRITISH COLUMBIA DX CLUB	6	18,565,994
EASTERN IOWA DX ASSOCIATION	4	1,218,658	SP DX CLUB	68	16,592,759
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSN	3	1,186,685			
BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	10	1,062,735			
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	9	1,058,033			
MERIDEN ARC	5	1,027,700			
HILLTOP TRANSMITTING ASSOCIATION	4	956,169			
DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	936,392			
TEXAS DX SOCIETY	3	899,679			
MISSOURI DX/CONTEST CLUB	5	865,044			
STERLING PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	7	843,208			
UTAH DX ASSOCIATION	7	807,723			
WEST PARK RADIOPS	10	573,612			
METRO DX CLUB	7	498,933			
SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY	7	470,036			
WESTERN NEW YORK DX ASSOCIATION	7	456,489			
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	7	410,983			
CENTRAL OREGON DX CLUB	3	400,619			
CENTRAL ARIZONA DX ASSOCIATION	3	374,754			
KANSAS CITY DX CLUB	6	338,665			
GREAT SOUTH BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	301,526			
LOW COUNTRY CONTEST CLUB	5	274,377			
SOUTH JERSEY DX ASSOCIATION	4	214,795			
RARITAN BAY RADIO AMATEURS	3	181,386			
CHESAPEAKE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE INC	3	2,836			
RADIO CLUB HENARES	11	14,779,871			
CE CONTEST GROUP	13	14,682,295			
FOX CONTEST CLUB	5	14,121,488			
MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	15	11,531,862			
VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY RADIO CLUB	13	9,925,171			
CS PETROLUL PLOIESTI	9	9,228,157			
ARA AMIGOS RADIO ALTOARAGON	3	8,990,920			
BESSARABIAN CONTEST CLUB	16	8,736,404			
RADIOCLUBUL RADU BRATU	4	8,712,811			
CENTRAL SIBERIA DX CLUB	8	8,302,541			
CE DX GROUP	3	7,590,495			
YO DX CLUB	24	7,132,823			
ALRS ST PETERSBURG	13	6,743,435			
TEMIRTAU CONTEST CLUB	9	5,977,420			
ARCK	20	5,948,823			
ATCC	7	5,757,925			
NICOSIA CONTEST GROUP	3	5,509,282			
SHAKHAN CONTEST CLUB	8	4,894,534			
RADIO CLUB VENEZOLANO	7	4,875,029			
CSTA BUCURESTI	4	4,817,853			
LOMA DEL TORO CONTEST CLUB	3	4,712,050			
ARIMI DX TEAM	3	4,702,862			
YAROSLAVL CONTEST CLUB	7	4,345,536			
UA2 CONTEST CLUB	7	4,246,386			
SP CONTEST CLUB	7	4,111,816			
GUARA DX GROUP	11	4,098,000			
Z37M CONTEST TEAM	5	4,009,615			
STAVROPOL REGION CONTEST CLUB	6	3,906,825			
RU-QRP CLUB	11	3,607,480			
VERENIGING VAN RADIO ZENDE AMATEURS	5	3,563,034			
TRANSILVANIA CONNECTION	5	3,359,388			
SK7OA SWEDISH SOUTHCOAST RADIOAMATEUR SOCIETY	3	3,211,272			
YAMAL RADIO CLUB	5	2,752,801			
DANISH DX GROUP	9	2,742,374			
ARGO	6	2,726,506			
SARATOVSKAYA OBLAST RADIO CLUB	6	2,701,498			
NOVOKUZNETSK RADIO CLUB	14	2,655,170			
RUSSIAN CW CLUB	13	2,613,902			
SERPUKHOV RADIO CLUB	5	2,364,111			
DONBASS	9	2,363,033			
CZECH CONTEST CLUB	4	2,286,722			
SK8AW HISSINGENS RADIOKLUBB	4	2,262,661			
GIPANIS CONTEST GROUP	7	2,224,320			
OREL RADIO CLUB	3	2,204,052			
LOW LAND CRAZY CONTESTERS	3	2,175,240			
FALKOPINGS RADIOKLUBB	6	2,170,268			
ORENBURG CONTEST CLUB	4	1,978,270			
GRUPO DXXE	6	1,922,224			
SAMARA RADIO CLUB	6	1,900,622			
CDR GROUP - HORNET DX TEAM	5	1,844,317			
VRHNIKA CONTESTERS	10	1,790,863			
TOP OF EUROPE CONTESTERS	6	1,689,317			
VLADIMIR RADIO CLUB	12	1,596,354			
ANTWERP CONTEST CLUB	3	1,580,570			
RTTK CONTESTERS OF JAPAN	3	1,495,923			
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SAO PAULO CONTEST GROUP	3	1,409,728			
MOSCOW RADIO CLUB	9	1,379,978			
OBNINSK QRU CLUB	8	1,321,512			
DNEPR CONTEST GROUP	5	1,293,027			
SASKATCHEWAN CONTEST CLUB	4	1,242,354			
CSM BAIA MARE	8	1,172,358			
GMDX GROUP	3	1,165,322			
SIAM DX GROUP	4	1,087,243			
EAST COAST CONTESTERS	3	1,082,226			
BASHKORTOSTAN DX CLUB	8	945,995			
OMSK RADIO CLUB	4	942,505			
KEMEROVO RADIO CLUB	6	875,904			
HAROS RADIO CLUB	4	864,061			
IVANOVO DX CLUB	4	849,020			
SPORT CLUB MIERCUREA-CIUC	6	809,360			
599 CONTEST CLUB	4	794,277			
PODOLSK	7	712,819			
SK6LK BORAS RADIOAMATORER	3	672,931			
VERON HOOGVEEN A-26	3	669,696			
UPPSALA RADIOKLUBB	3	595,878			
BEEMSTER CONTEST CLUB	4	569,599			
TURKISH SPECIAL WIRELESS ACTIVITY TEAM	4	561,580			
SK0QO SODERTORNS RADIOAMATORER	3	524,704			
VOLYN CONTEST GROUP	6	516,857			
GERMAN DX FOUNDATION	4	492,340			
NOVOSIBIRSK CONTEST CLUB	6	487,526			
KIEV RADIO CLUB	3	469,853			
ACTIVITY SMOLENSK GROUP	3	454,917			
MAYCOPSKIJ RADIO CLUB	5	448,248			
KALININGRAD RADIO CLUB	3	444,158			
CLUB DE RADIO EXPERIMENTADORES DE OCCIDENTE	4	437,301			
ARI LA SPEZIA	3	404,969			
VERON TWENTE	3	313,680			
CWJF GROUP	5	307,524			
MICHURINSK CONTEST GROUP	3	298,167			
R4F-DX-G	5	277,361			
CS AEROSTAR BACAU	3	268,114			
UR-QRP-CLUB	4	252,475			
CS SILVER FOX DEVA	5	247,455			
LKK LIVIV SHORTWAVE CLUB	6	234,457			
VU CONTEST GROUP	5	231,843			
STRUMBLE HEAD DX AND CONTEST GROUP	3	226,655			
EDIT14	4	214,982			
ARJ ARAD	4	189,462			
WYTHALL RADIO CLUB	3	131,601			
VORONEZH RADIO CLUB	4	61,219			
RADIOCLUBUL OSO BANAT TIMISOARA	3	15,686			

change error during a very high rate period cost PW7T valuable points and moved them down into third. Fourth place and the top Europe score came down to I19T in Sicily over 9A1A in Croatia. An extra 500 QSOs for I19T on 10 and 15 meters was too much for the 9A1A team to overcome. The USA winner was KD4D/3 operating from the station of N3HBX. These guys always do a great job in the WPX on both modes.

The Multi-Multi category features operating teams attempting to extract every point available from the bands. This year it was the team

at LZ9W that won the world over their friendly rival DR1A. The members of the Radio Club Rosario in Argentina did a great job reactivating LU4FM and achieving third place. NR4M dodged thunderstorms and NQ4I worked with only six operators in their battle for top USA score. This year it was NR4M getting the bragging rights.

Club Competition

The overall winner of the club competition was the Bavarian Contest Club from Germany.

CQ WW WPX CW CONTEST ALL-TIME RECORDS

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

WORLD RECORD HOLDERS Single Operator

1.8	IH9/OL5Y('98)	341,068	182
3.5	TM5Y('08)	1,983,366	567
7.0	3V8CB('10)	10,758,020	805
14	UP2L('09)	7,928,886	1043
21	ZX5J('05)	7,061,000	920
28	ZX5J('02)	6,787,440	857
AB	EF8M('10)	18,395,154	1026
Assisted	CN3A('09)	12,900,240	943
Multi-Operator Single Transmitter			
CQ3A('11)		26,093,210	1285
Multi-Operator Two Transmitters			
EF8M('07)		33,324,192	1256
Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter			
HC8N('99)		54,697,072	1264

U.S.A. RECORD HOLDERS Single Operator

1.8	K1ZM('95)	40,446	107
3.5	W3BGN('08)	641,092	332
7.0	KG1D('05)	3,594,822	651
14	N2NC('06)	5,418,630	915
21	NU5A('99)	4,411,299	789
28	WW4M('01)	2,547,046	674
AB	KC3R('09)	9,597,400	806
Assisted	K3WW('04)	5,997,446	806
Multi-Operator Single Transmitter			
K1LZ('09)		10,691,724	964
Multi-Operator Two Transmitters			
KM4M('04)		16,283,745	1095
Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter			
WE3C('09)		21,910,252	1274

CLUB RECORD

Bavarian Contest Club('11).....300,426,671

WPX (Prefix) RECORD

LZ9W('11).....1365

QRP/p RECORD

P40W('97).....4,018,208

CONTINENTAL RECORD HOLDERS

AFRICA

1.8	IH9/OL5Y('98)	341,068	182
3.5	7X0RY('08)	1,701,260	407
7.0	3V8CB('10)	10,758,020	805
14	6W1SJ('09)	6,755,364	924
21	5X1Z('01)	6,362,352	782
28	ZS4TX('01)	4,602,028	722
AB	EF8M('10)	18,395,154	1026

SOUTH AMERICA

1.8	HK1MW('11)	18,300	50
3.5	YX3A('89)	1,004,060	305
7.0	LU1IV('97)	7,671,456	702
14	HK1X('11)	7,254,266	1006
21	ZX5J('05)	7,061,000	920
28	ZX5J('02)	6,787,440	857
AB	PJ4A('11)	16,272,730	1018

ASIA

1.8	4X4NJ('96)	259,420	170
3.5	TA0/Z33F('02)	1,452,552	348
7.0	ZC4LI('10)	4,770,336	632
14	UP2L('09)	7,928,886	1043
21	A45XR('99)	6,557,697	843
28	HZ1AB('02)	3,669,994	659
AB	4L0A('09)	12,560,363	967

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

AF	CQ3A('11)	26,093,210	1285
AS	P33W('08)	21,314,175	1145
EU	RU1A('09)	13,838,256	1236
NA	8P4A('02)	18,516,960	1056
OC	AH2R('01)	11,541,420	957
SA	P49V('01)	19,760,744	1034

EUROPE

1.8	SN7Q('08)	339,542	307
3.5	TM5Y('08)	1,983,366	567
7.0	CT1JLZ('09)	6,075,936	816
14	4O3T('06)	5,313,554	986
21	9H0A('02)	5,389,008	933
28	9H0A('01)	3,965,315	841
AB	CR2X('11)	10,498,800	1040

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

AF	EF8M('07)	33,324,192	1256
AS	C4I('09)	14,632,800	1005
EU	ES9C('08)	18,557,028	1266
NA	6Y1V('08)	20,507,972	1108
OC	ZL6QH('05)	13,312,768	952
SA	HC8N('03)	30,928,268	1187

NORTH AMERICA

1.8	VA1A('99)	103,680	120
3.5	FM5BH('97)	833,490	315
7.0	V26BA('97)	6,227,550	659
14	N2NC('06)	5,418,630	915
21	ZF1A('99)	5,330,129	799
28	FM5GU('01)	2,849,769	621
AB	VY2TT('09)	12,878,826	1054

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

AF	CQ3L('10)	28,736,154	1173
AS	A61AJ('02)	42,766,232	1244
EU	DR1A('08)	24,285,248	1313
NA	6Y2A('02)	38,821,328	1274
OC	ZL6QH('04)	16,143,840	1010
SA	HC8N('99)	54,697,072	1264

OCEANIA

1.8	KH6ND('07)	22,100	50
3.5	KH6ND('09)	596,673	231
7.0	ZM3A('09)	6,437,695	737
14	KH6ND('03)	4,126,690	730
21	KH6ND('99)	6,107,256	813
28	KH6ND('00)	1,523,008	424
AB	KH7XS('09)	9,124,899	879

QRPp

AF	5Y4FO('92)	649,057	311
AS	ZC4BS('02)	2,515,388	521
EU	LY5A('01)	2,331,414	646
NA	TI5X('01)	2,568,470	615
OC	FO8JP('86)	572,131	259
SA	P40W('97)	4,018,208	632

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Their 180 entries set a new all-time club score record with over 300-million points. The LU Contest Group continues to grow and moved up into second place. The Potomac Valley Radio Club pulled together 102 entries to take the top USA club spot. The Northern California Contest Club conducted some intra-club competitions to motivate their members and finished second. Of the 106 USA clubs that appeared in the logs, 45 did not meet the minimum of 3 entries to be listed in the results. Think about using the WPX as an activity project for your club to get people on the air and having fun.

Final Thoughts

The WPX Contest Committee is not pleased to issue so many yellow and red cards. With the rules available on the website in all major languages, there really is no excuse for participants not to know and understand the rules. If you aren't sure about something, please ask! Fair play and following the rules is in everyone's best interest.

There are many people who work to help make the WPX contest such a success. Thanks to DO4HAM, JH5GHM, K1PX, KN3A, VA3UG, and W2JU for their help in typing all of the paper logs. Ken, K1EA, keeps implementing improvements in the log checking software. F6BEE maintains the club name database. Jim, WI9WI, provided many hours of invaluable log-checking assistance. Thanks to Barry, W5GN, for handling the printing and mailing of over 1500 certificates.

Doug, K1DG, does a great job managing the award plaques. There were 65 plaques on offer for the WPX CW contest. The Assisted categories continue to grow in participation and popularity, but we only have four plaques available for these categories. Please contact Doug (k1dg@cqwp.com) if you are interested in sponsoring a plaque.

Not everyone enjoys dancing with the e-mail robot to submit their contest log. Tzetzto, LZ2FQ, helped create a new web page that provides a friendlier alternative for uploading and checking your log. Try it at <<http://www.cqwp.com/logcheck/>>. There is also a web page to convert your ADIF format log into the proper file for submitting as a contest log. Expanded results of the contest are at <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. Rules for the 2012 contest are also there, and in the Feb. issue.

The 2012 WPX CW Contest will be held on May 26 and 27. There are some small rule changes for the 2012 contest so please read the rules very carefully and also visit the frequently asked questions page on the CQ WPX Contest website (www.cqwp.com). The log deadline is June 20, 2012. Submit your log through the upload page on the website or by e-mail to <cw@cqwp.com>. Let's hope for better conditions in 2012!

73, Randy, K5ZD

(Continued on page 104)

Logging Accuracy

We received a record 3,869 logs for WPX CW 2011 containing 2,243,673 total QSOs. The log checking software very patiently cross-checked each callsign and exchange in every log against the other received logs. An amazing 84.2% of all QSOs were able to be cross-checked with 95.6% of those being confirmed as good calls and exchanges. That's an amazing level of accuracy by everyone!

There were 17,177 QSOs with unique callsigns. A unique call is one that appears in only one log. History has shown that many of these callsigns are the result of copying errors. Between the computer checking and some manual investigation by the log checking team, we were able to confirm 73.9% of these were indeed errors. This extra level of checking definitely rewarded those stations that copy and log information accurately.

Even with this high level of checking, 1080 entries, or about 30%, experienced score reductions of 5% or less. The median score reduction is 8.4%. Everyone who submitted a log should have received an e-mail with their log-checking report. If not, please send a request to <director@cqwp.com>.

There were 162 stations that produced logs with no score reductions. The top "golden" logs (with number of QSOs) were: KØRC (473), RA3FD (357), RO9O (303), JE2UFF (231), and HA5LZ (229).

It was a little more difficult on the transmitting side. Stations that caused no errors in other logs were: K8VUS (76), N3JNX (74), LA5HPA (53), DL7UXG (46), and DJ1CW (35).

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Dima, UA3AGW (center), attended the Dayton Hamvention® and then went on to operate WPX CW from Alaska using the call KL3/AB8CK. He is joined here by Frank, WL7O (left), and Randy, KL7Z.

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ALS-600 Amp with Switching Power Supply New! ALS-600S, \$1599. ALS-600 amplifier with 10 lb. ALS-600SPS switching power supply combo.



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From QST Magazine, March, 2005

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A television sound stage is a pretend world. Production designers create fake homes and offices in which fictitious characters live and work. So it's all the more unusual—and interesting for our hobby—that the ham shack on the set of ABC-TV's "Last Man Standing" is a real, functioning station.



Photo by Billy McLellan, KJ6RVA

Fake Office, Real Ham Station

Building a Working Amateur Station on a TV Sound Stage

BY JOHN AMODEO,* NN6JA

I've been a ham for about 40 years and a TV producer living in Los Angeles for about the last 20. We television producers are a nomadic bunch, moving from show to show as they are launched and eventually cancelled. When I had the chance to produce "Last Man Standing," the new Tim Allen comedy about a "man's man" in a house full of women, I jumped at it.

A "Man's Man" ... and a Ham

Early in the development of "Last Man Standing," we discussed Tim Allen's character, "Mike Baxter," as a "man's man." Mike is well-versed in camping, hunting, fishing, boating, and all the technology that now goes with these activities. I asked, "What about ham radio?" Tim said, "Absolutely." Tim is a very smart guy and knows a lot about a lot of things. He's fascinated by all kinds of technology and loves radio.

Once we decided that Mike would be a ham (photo A), I knew it would give us the opportunity to show the hobby in

a positive and accurate way. Although the ham radio thread would only be a small part of Mike's character profile, I wanted to make it interesting for our ham fans.

To assist our set-dressing department, I set out to design and build a station for the show. Because I have a love for radio, and there are eight other licensed amateurs on the show, I thought it would be fun if the station could be "practical," which is to say actually work. As far as I know, this has never been done on a TV show.

A Variety of Challenges

We were faced with several obstacles from the very beginning of the ham radio station project:

First, there was no budget for radio equipment!

Second, there was the potential of interference. "Last Man Standing" is produced by 20th Century Fox Television for the ABC Television Network, but we shoot it on Stage 9 at CBS Studio Center in Studio City, California. (This is the legendary "Seinfeld" stage, a fantastic 22,000-square-foot stage.) FOX, ABC and CBS all are federally licensed broadcasters. Our stage is close to the CBS broadcast center from which all of

*Producer, "Last Man Standing"
e-mail: <JAmodeo.TV@gmail.com>

the network's West Coast transmissions originate. Also problematic, there are many other shows shooting on the lot. Each show has its own multiple communications frequencies, wireless microphones, wireless video feeds, etc. Strict compliance with FCC rules would be necessary and no RF interference could be tolerated.

Third, "Last Man Standing" is a family comedy, not a ham radio drama. The story lines would be about Mike at home with his family and Mike at work with co-workers. How would we wedge ham radio into it?

Overcoming the Obstacles

To solve the budget complication, Billy, KJ6RVA, who works in our production office, contacted several amateur radio equipment manufacturers to see if any of them could help us. This was harder than you would think, and it took a while for us to establish relationships between our TV show and the amateur radio manufacturing community.

In time, Ray Novak, N9JA, from ICOM America came to our aid by loaning us an IC-9100 transceiver. In addition to HF, the IC-9100 includes 2 meters and 70 centimeters, and has D-STAR and 23-centimeter capability. That's a lot of bands in one radio! ICOM also contributed an IC-92AD handheld, also with D-STAR capability.

Mick Stwertnik, KB6JVT, from NCG Companies helped us out with a Comet CHV-5X rotatable dipole that covers 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters and a Comet GP-1 base antenna to cover 2 meters and 70 centimeters. NCG also loaned us a CAA-500 antenna analyzer and a Daiwa CN-801 SWR/Power meter.

I already owned an Arrow Antennas GP146 2-meter ground plane, and Tim Chapman, KB7MDF, from Arrow made us a custom GP435, 70-centimeter ground plane. There are four antenna outputs on the IC-9100, and I wanted an antenna for the IC-92AD as well.

Ham viewers wanted the "shack" to have both a straight key and paddles, so the show found a few dollars to purchase the final bits and pieces. I raided my garage and found an old rotator and a bunch of coax and a few other necessities, too.

Building the Station

Within a few weeks we had the equipment we needed to build our station. What fun opening the boxes, and then assembling and testing the equipment. We built the antennas in our production office and did a full tuning pass. Once



Photo A— "Last Man Standing" star Tim Allen, as fictional ham Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, tunes the ICOM IC-9100 that is the centerpiece of his on-set ham station. (Photo courtesy ABC-TV)

tuned, we moved them up into "the perms." (On a sound stage, a lot of the pipes and wooden beams are movable so the stage can be reconfigured. The wooden beams at the highest part of the stage are structural and permanent, therefore "perms.")

This is a tough place for an antenna to live. There are a lot of metal pipes, chains, air-conditioning ducts, and such up there (see photo B). Of course, we retuned all the antennas once they were installed in their new home. Ultimately, we achieved near flat SWR across all our bands.

The world of "Last Man Standing" consists mostly of Mike's house and "Outdoor Man," his workplace. I knew the gear would be seen more frequent-

ly if I put it in Mike's workplace. We rarely shoot in Mike's home office or basement set. After enlarging Mike's Outdoor Man office set, we took over the rear corner of his office for the radio gear (photo C).

To gain approval to transmit from the lot, I enlisted the help of Tim Holly, N6QJ. Tim is a long-time friend and just happens to be a member of the CBS Studio City sound department. Most importantly, he is the lot frequency coordinator.

We went through the station to test for spurious emissions, harmonics, and the like. Working for a major broadcaster, Tim has a lot of cool test equipment, including a few things I'd never seen before.



Photo B— The Comet CHV-5X rotatable dipole shares space in the rafters of Studio City Stage 9 with pipes, ducts, and other antenna-unfriendly objects, but it still works! (Photo by John Amodeo, NN6JA)



Photo C— The back corner of Mike Baxter's "office" has been set up as his ham shack. (Photo by Billy McLellan, KJ6RVA)



Photo E— Local ham Naomi Goodkin, WB6PHW, operating from the "Last Man Standing" ham station. (Photo by Brian Corpuz, KJ6RVB)



Photo D— Local hams were invited to put the "Last Man Standing" ham station on the air. From left, CBS Frequency Coordinator Tim Holly, N6QJ, Sound Mixer Laura King (future ham), Producer and author John Amodeo, NN6JA, event coordinator Norm Goodkin, K6YXH, and event participant Elly Levenson, KG6GMQ, discuss the operation behind the scenes on Stage 9. (Photo by Brian Corpuz, KJ6RVB)

Like any good station, the goal is to run as little power as needed. An added challenge to transmitting from the set is that the stage is shielded for RF interference. There's a fine metallic mesh from the floor up to about 20 feet, making a Faraday Cage. Luckily, the mesh becomes more like chicken wire as you get above 20 feet. Our antennas are between 45 and 50 feet above the stage floor, but still inside the stage.

In a short time we gained permission to transmit from our stage as long as we didn't interfere with any other production.

A Fake License for a Fictitious Ham

To give the station a real look, in addition to the radio gear our art department created a replica Extra Class license for Mike Baxter as KA0XTT. Both CQ and the ARRL provided very cool certificates and publications.

Maybe the most fun part of the process was that we asked hams to send us their QSL cards and they did. We displayed

as many cards as we could fit on the wall behind Mike's radio gear. We had KA0XTT QSL cards printed so we could return the favor to anyone who sent one to us.

With everything in place, all radios on, frequencies dialed in, and antennas connected, there was a big smile from Tim the first time he saw it. We even brought in hams from the community to put it on the air (see photos D and E; additional photos on our Facebook page—see below).

The Biggest Challenge

The real challenge actually will be getting radio story content into the scripts. A half-hour TV comedy is actually about 21 minutes long once you subtract the commercial breaks, so every second that ticks by is precious.

Remember: family comedy, not a ham radio show!

It occurred to me that what would get the studio, the network, and our writers interested in Mike's "radio hobby" would be if it could actually affect our ratings. There are about 700,000 licensed hams in the U.S., and we'll need to demonstrate that some of them are actually watching our show. You can help us with this one.

Recently we established a Facebook page for Mike's ham station at <<http://www.facebook.com/KA0XTT>>. Hopefully you'll check it out, maybe even hit the "like" button on our page. If you send Mike your QSL card, we'll send you his in return. Here's the address: Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, Last Man Standing – Bungalow 17, 4024 Radford Ave., Studio City, CA 91604.

Tune in to ABC some Tuesday night at 8:00 PM Eastern or Pacific and give the show a chance. I hope we can entertain you and show amateur radio in a positive way. Maybe we can interest some more people in radio. Maybe we can get a few to get their licenses.

More importantly, I hope we get more hams to watch the show. After all, I'm not just a ham, I'm also a producer.

References

For more on author NN6JA's TV career, visit: <<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0025127/>>.

The "Last Man Standing" website is at <<http://beta.abc.go.com/shows/last-man-standing>>.

More about CBS Studio City may be found at <<http://www.cbssc.com/index.htm>>.

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“Wi-Fi and the Bad Boys of Radio: Dawn of a Wireless Technology”

By Alex Hills, AL7K

REVIEWED BY BILL KLYKYLO,* WA8FOZ

This fine book, the memoir of a pioneer in the development of Wi-Fi, will interest a wide variety of readers: hams, technogeeks and students of the history of technology, fans of rural and public broadcasting, and anyone in search of a good read. Alex Hills, AL7K, a ham since 1957 when he became KN2ZMO, is a highly-honored academic (Distinguished Service Professor at Carnegie Mellon University) who has been a broadcast engineer, researcher, teacher, consultant, and entrepreneur. He is able to speak about technology and its applications to a broad audience, and this book demonstrates that talent. He writes beautifully, with an appealing style of clarity and authority. He is also humble, eschewing the title of inventor of Wi-Fi that some have given him. However, he has much to be proud of.

The first chapter, “Discovering Radio,” is a remembrance of life as a teenage Novice in northern New Jersey. This chapter alone will be worth the price of the book to those of us of a certain vintage, and I commend it to our newbies. What we are is determined in considerable part by what we have been. In this chapter, as in the rest of the book, Hills demonstrates his ability to weave in explanations of technology that are accessible to lay readers, while pleasing in their elegance to those in the know. This book is a tutorial of how to talk to others about what we do.

The next chapter, “Broadcasting to Eskimos,” describes the author’s experiences as an engineer, announcer, technician, and general factotum at a public radio station in Kotzebue, Alaska. He also led a bush telephone field crew, charged with establishing VHF telephone service in isolated villages. Here Hills began to grapple with the “bad boys” of space wave propagation: shadowing, diffraction, scattering, reflection, and refraction. This experi-

ence presaged his efforts in the 1990s to expand then-embryonic wireless LAN technology into a campus-wide wireless network at Carnegie Mellon, the first of its kind in the world.

Hills’s achievement required a wide array of skills: assessment of existing technology, including hardware and software; team-building, management, and public relations; communication with national and international colleagues; and practical engineering. When it became obvious that theoretical models could not predict propagation patterns within buildings, Hills sent out technicians with transmitters and field strength meters to roam the halls! I believe that Hills’ experience as a ham enhanced all these skills.

At one time, possessing an amateur radio license was tantamount to being ready for state-of-the-art technology. While this is no longer the case, amateur radio still provides a basis for a career in technology. Hills’ achievements illustrate that experience as a ham can also yield other assets. I had the pleasure of a conversation with Alex, in which his acuity and amiability were both apparent. He stated that he sees ham radio as providing a foundation in at least three areas: technology, certainly; service, the attitude that our skills and privileges should be used in the public interest; and professionalism. The last of these may not be so obvious, but shows up in many ways: the management skills of leading a club, running a net, or coordinating a RACES activity; personal enhancement through license advancement and self-education; developing colleagues through “Elmering,” the mentorship that is essential to our hobby, through writing, or by teaching classes; skill in communication; and teamwork, necessary in so many things we do on and off the air.

I have been a ham for nearly fifty years and a professional for thirty five. I find myself looking back at what I have done, and considering what made it possible. While I am in a profession that

Wi-Fi and the Bad Boys of Radio



Dawn of a Wireless Technology

Alex Hills

is not visibly connected to radio, I can see many things that were enhanced by my identity and experience as a ham. This book has clarified this examination for me. It should help readers appreciate what they have done and might yet do, and how being a ham could help.

The final chapter of the book, “Wi-Fi Finds the Frontier,” describes Hills’ recent experience in a small town, Palmer, Alaska, where, as in so much of the country, Wi-Fi is everywhere. There is a well-deserved tone of satisfaction in this section that is balanced at the very end by an account of the Wi-Fi overload and system failure when the late Steve Jobs introduced the iPhone4 at a 2010 event. The very last paragraph recounts the antenna problems of the first iteration of that device, and the themes return: propagation and antennas; what we have done and what we yet might do.

Wi-Fi and the Bad Boys of Radio: Dawn of a Wireless Technology was published in 2011 by Dog Ear Publishing in Indianapolis, ISBN 978-145750-560-7. List price is \$16.95 and it may be ordered through Hills’ website at <<http://www.dralexhills.com/>>.

*e-mail: <klykylo1@cs.com>

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What You've Told Us...

Our December survey asked about our new digital editions (November was the first issue of *CQ* to be available in digital form, so these numbers are very preliminary and are mostly from readers who had yet to see a digital edition). Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the readers who responded to the survey were already aware that we had launched a digital edition; 63% of them had read about it in *CQ*, 27% had been notified by an e-mail from us, and the remainder were split between the *CQ* website, the *CQ* Facebook page, non-*CQ* websites, on-air news reports and hearing about it from friends.

Eighty-six per cent of survey respondents were reading the print edition, although among those responding to our survey online, 53% were reading the print edition, 25% were reading the digital edition and 22% were responding to the survey without having the magazine in front of them.

The vast majority of respondents received the December issue by mail subscription (86%) with the remainder divided among digital subscribers and single-issue purchasers. Asked how likely you would be to buy a digital subscription, 54% said they would consider it (and among online respondents, that figure was 74%); and nearly one in ten already had a digital subscription.

The chief potential benefits our respondents see from a digital subscription are extra storage space from not having to collect back issues in paper form, greater flexibility in how they read each issue, and reduced delivery issues vs. postal delivery. This month's free subscription winner is Martin Huyett, K0BXB, of Burlington, Wisconsin.

Reader Survey March 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 issue introduces our new "Maker" column (p. 54), so we'd like to find out more about you and "making" stuff.

Please answer by circling the appropriate numbers on the reply card or by going to the following web link <www.surveymonkey.com/s/CQMar12> [From the digital edition, just click on the link].

1. Do you consider yourself a "maker" (someone who designs, builds, modifies and/or fixes things)?
 - Yes 1
 - No 2
2. What sort(s) of things do you "make"? (Check all that apply)
 - Ham radio gear & electronic accessories 3
 - Non-electronic ham shack accessories (e.g., shelf units, furniture) 4
 - Computer-related projects (hardware or software) 5
 - Robotics 6
 - Other electronic projects 7
 - Crafts 8
 - Woodworking 9
 - Other 10
 - None 11
3. How recently have you designed, built, modified and/or fixed something?
 - Within the past week 12
 - Within the past 6 months 13
 - Within the past year 14
 - 1-5 years ago 15
 - More than 5 years ago 16
 - Never 17
4. Do you agree that hams and makers have a lot to offer each other and that both groups could benefit by working together?
 - Yes 18
 - No 19
 - Not sure 20
 - No opinion 21
5. Are you aware of a maker/hacker organization in your community?
 - Yes, and I am a member 22
 - Yes, and I have visited but am not a member 23
 - Yes, but I have not visited/joined 24
 - No 25
6. Has your ham radio club made efforts to work with any maker/hacker groups in your community?
 - Yes, and we have established a relationship 26
 - Yes, but only initial contacts at this point 27
 - Yes, but the maker group wasn't interested 28
 - No, ham club wasn't interested 29
 - No, not aware of maker/hacker group in my community 30
 - Don't know 31
 - Don't belong to a ham radio club 32

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

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tery damage from over-discharging. RF sense turns MFJ-4416B off during receive to save power and increase efficiency. Adjustable 12 to 13.8 VDC output pass-through voltage improves efficiency and lets transceiver run cooler. Has output over-voltage crowbar protection. Anderson PowerPoles® and high-current 5-way binding posts for DC input, regulated output. 7 1/4Wx4Hx2 1/2D inches.

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The Optical Communications Domain

In the past we have described various means of communicating through the use of optical wavelengths, and this month we thought it would be a good idea to give you a "feel" for where all of this lies. Many of us are familiar with the "standard" frequencies that constitute the 160-meter through 2-meter amateur bands (roughly 1.8 MHz to 150 MHz). We also are familiar with the terms used to describe the various regions, such as 80 meters, 40 meters, 10 meters, and 2 meters (which basically apply to wavelength). Many of us are aware of the much higher UHF and microwave regions. Well, optical communications is quite a bit higher in frequency (or shorter in wavelength) than all of that!

The one we are talking about is in the THz region. You might think that 1 GHz (1000 MHz) is a high frequency, but 1 THz is equal to 1000 GHz! The frequencies in this region are so high that they are almost always referred to in terms of wavelength. While 1 GHz (as a point of reference) is equal to a wavelength of 300 millimeters, 1 THz has a wavelength of 300 microns (0.3 millimeters). If you are wondering what a micron is, it is one millionth of a meter. The visible light range begins at deep red, which has a wavelength of 700 nanometers (0.7 microns) and a frequency of 428 THz, and ends at violet, which has a wavelength of 400 nanometers (0.4 microns) and a frequency of 750 THz. Obviously, the electromagnetic spectrum extends below (all the way down to DC) and above (??) this region. Fiber-optic communication systems normally use wavelengths of 850 nanometers (350 THz), 1300 nanometers (230 THz), and 1550 nanometers (200 THz). These are much lower in frequency than visible light, but of course are still extremely high.

In optical communication systems we usually turn a laser diode or LED on and off for digital signals or vary its intensity (AM) for analog signals. This actually is not unlike the spark transmitters of the early days of radio. At that time huge bands of frequencies, produced by the spark, were turned on and off. With lasers and LEDs, even larger bands of frequencies are manipulated. Although a laser can produce an output of a so-called "single wavelength," the bandwidth of the "single frequency" is actually 1–2 nanometers wide. This, in terms of frequency, is hundreds or even thousands of MHz in width. When the time comes to obtain true stable FM (which could be thought of as "color modulation" in the visible light range), optical communications will really come of age. Imagine how much information could be transmitted on carefully controlled narrow-bandwidth THz carriers!

Working with optical signals is a whole different story from working with conventional RF. Because the wavelengths are so small, conventional wires and even waveguides do not work. Lenses, mirrors, and fiber-optic conductors are used. In fact, fiber-optic conductors are often called "optical waveguides." The only place that conventional electronics play a part is in the driving circuitry for the optical light source and to process the electrical output of the optical detector.

In an optical communications system the light source, as we have stated, is usually a laser diode or LED. The output from this emitter is then either coupled to an optical fiber for transmission to another part of the circuit or to a lens/mirror arrangement for transmission through free space. At the receiving end, the incoming light is directed to a photodiode that converts it back into an electrical signal. Keep in mind that the photodiode receives the entire block of frequencies transmitted from the emitter and detects it much like the chunk of galena (or lead sulfide) did years ago in a simple crystal radio. The only "tuning," as such, in this region is special optical filters or gratings which can be manufactured to pass narrow wavelengths on the order of a micron or so. These are usually placed in front of the photodiode. Certain crystals, such as lithium niobate, exist which have non-linear response to certain optical wavelengths, and these can be used as optical mixers. As a result, super-heterodyne circuitry is certainly possible, but the laser-driven local oscillators that would be needed really are not yet stable enough for routine use.

This entire THz (and above) region seems to me to be a great area for experimentation, as in some ways it is very similar to the days of the spark system, as we have already mentioned. Many types of emitters are readily available (lasers, LEDs, etc.) to the experimenter, and detectors (photodiodes, photo transistors, etc.) also are readily available. Even lenses, mirrors, and fiber-optic conductors are relatively easy to find. Sophisticated detector crystals, variable tuning methods, stable light sources, and the like are areas that remain to be developed and improved upon. Perhaps simple existing crystals such as quartz, various precious and semi-precious stones, or even old-fashioned galena have potential. These all are unique interesting areas for experimentation.

Those of you who think such endeavors are only possible in large, well-equipped research labs should consider what was available in the days of spark. Quite often the unknown, ground-breaking component was discovered by experimentation (or even accident). Remember, the vacuum tube easily could have been built by Thomas Edison well before Fleming and DeForrest (and, in fact, was), but it was not applied to radio because he was looking for a way to make his lamp more efficient. Early pioneers had various sorts of ways to achieve wireless communications (look up Mahlon Loomis), but Marconi experimented, developed, and eventually popularized radio as we now know it. Also, remember that in those early days the frequencies (or wavelengths below 200 meters) were considered useless until the amateurs and experimenters of the day demonstrated the propagation that was possible. Who knows what unknown propagation modes exist in the areas beyond the visible wavelengths? Someone will eventually find out, that is for certain!

If you keep an open mind and think "outside of the box," perhaps you, too, can be one of those pioneers who comes up with groundbreaking results.

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Getting Information about the Amateur Radio Service:



Available Online and Here's Where to Find It

It appears that most radio amateurs would rather ask someone about an FCC policy, rule, or procedure than get their answer from the FCC's Amateur Section or other websites. This month let's talk about where to get the answers to your questions by consulting the various information web pages located online.

Amateur Radio is one of the radio services handled by the FCC's Wireless Telecommunication Bureau. The primary objective of the WTB is to develop the regulations and procedures for fast licensing of all of the wireless radio services.

The bureau oversees nearly two-million licenses in more than fifty radio services. Rick Kaplan is its bureau chief. The bureau is further broken down into several divisions with the various licensed and unlicensed radio services falling under the Mobility Division. Roger Noel is the Division Chief.

The Mobility Division oversees all of the wireless mobile communication services. These include amateur and commercial radio; cellular radio telephone, paging, aviation, and maritime radio; personal radio (citizens band, radio control, general mobile, and family radio); and the Part 90

Industrial and Business land-mobile radio services. Part 90 radio includes hospitals, churches, film/video production, forestry, motor carriers, construction, manufacturers, petroleum, power, railroad, taxicabs ... and many other two-way radio users. As you can see, wireless communications is a very big category.

You can find a list of links to all the wireless services by entering <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/> into a web browser. *Bookmark this link*, because it is your starting point to getting information about any of the FCC's mobile radio services, including ham radio.

You will notice that the eighth one down on the list is the Amateur Radio Service. Click on this link. On the left side you will find a list of links explaining amateur radio; the various operator classes; domestic, international, and reciprocal licensing arrangements; the call sign systems; club stations; common filing tasks; and the license examination system. Accessing these links will get you the answer to just about any amateur radio policy or procedure question you might have.

Most of the questions we get from readers involve Amateur Rules and Licensing, including using the Universal Licensing System (ULS)—the various call sign systems and license examinations. Also, almost all could have been answered

*1020 Byron Lane, Arlington, TX 76012
e-mail: <w5yi@cq-amateur-radio.com>

Amateur Radio Service Subparts

Subpart A. General Provisions: Contains fifteen sections, numbered 97.1–29.

Defines a number of terms relevant to amateur radio and establishes the amateur service as a "voluntary, non-commercial communications service." It also covers amateur licensing and limitations on station equipment and power output.

Subpart B. Station Operating Standards: Contains eleven sections, numbered 97.101–121.

Details the standards of communication conduct, including the types of transmissions authorized and prohibited by the FCC, limitations pertaining to third-party and international communications, and the on-air station identification requirements.

Subpart C. Special Operations: Contains eleven sections, numbered 97.201–221.

Covers the rules pertaining to auxiliary and repeater stations, message forwarding, earth/space communications, telecommand, telemetry, and automatic station control.

Subpart D. Technical Standards: Contains nine sections, numbered 97.301–317.

Covers amateur radio frequency allocations, the emission modes allowed, and the technical standards according to which they may be used.

Subpart E. Emergency Communications: Contains four sections, numbered 97.401–407.

Covers basic standard operating procedures to use in case of an emergency. It also establishes the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), a civil defense communications service intended for activation in times of war or threat to national security.

Subpart F. Qualifying Examination Systems: Contains twelve sections, numbered 97.501–527.

Details the examination system whereby amateur radio operators are licensed. This includes the structure and conduct of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) and volunteer examiners (VEs) who administer test elements to prospective licensees.

Part 97 also has two appendices: **Appendix 1**—Places where the Amateur Service is Regulated by the FCC, and **Appendix 2**—a list of the 13 VEC Regions.

Table I—The Part 97 Amateur Radio Service subparts.

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by accessing the FCC's online Amateur Section web pages. Following are some of the highlights of how ham radio works administratively. They cover most of the inquiries we get, but to get the full story you need to read the entire section.

Part 97 Rules

The actual Amateur Radio regulations can be found by entering "FCC Part 97 Rules & Regulations" into any search engine. Part 97 contains the FCC rules that pertain to amateur radio and the conduct and activity of ham radio operators. It consists of six subparts (A through F) and two appendices (see Table I). Part 97 is a part of "Title 47 Telecommunication" of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and has the force of law. *Bookmark these rules.*

Amateur Licensing

Operation of an amateur station requires an amateur operator to be granted a license from the FCC. Before receiving a license grant, you must pass one or more examinations administered by a team of three volunteer examiners (VEs). The VEs determine the license operator class for which you are qualified through the testing of your skills and abilities in operating an amateur station. You can contact a VE team in your community to make arrangements for being administered the examination elements you need.

If you need assistance in finding a VE team in your area, contact a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. A VEC organizes the activities of its VE teams. The two largest are the ARRL-VEC (American Radio Relay League, Newington, CT; tel: 860-594-0300; e-mail: <vec@arrl.org>) and the W5YI-VEC

(Dallas, TX; tel: 800-669-9594; e-mail: <NB5X@w5yi.org>).

After you successfully complete the exam, the VEC collects your license application and paperwork from your VE team and forwards the information to the FCC for processing. If the applicant does not have an FRN (FCC Registration Number), the VEC will automatically register an examinee with the FCC and an FRN is assigned. Every licensee is required to have a 10-digit identifying FRN.

Your operating authority begins when your licensing information appears in the amateur service licensee database of the Universal Licensing System. ULS is another very important link that you need to bookmark. This is the site you will use to manage your licenses and applications. You will find it at <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>.

Call Sign Systems

Sequential Call Sign System. A unique call sign is assigned to each amateur station during the processing of its first license application. Each new radio amateur is assigned a Group D (2-by-3 format) call sign in order using the sequential call sign system, which is based on the alphabetized regional-group list for the licensee's operator class and mailing address.

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

Canceling the Call Sign of Deceased Licensee New rules eliminate use of the SSDI

The license of a deceased amateur must show a status of expired or cancelled in the licensee database before it can be reassigned. See Section 97.31(a). This is accomplished by submitting a request to the FCC that includes a death certificate, a dated obituary, and up until recently, data from the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) that shows the licensee has died.

This documentation is sent to: FCC, Amateur Section; 1270 Fairfield Road; Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245 so that the call sign may be cancelled. The information for cancellation of a call sign must be submitted prior to filing the vanity application.

By far, the most common documentation used to prove a radio amateur's death is the SSDI. Up until December, it had been found online on the Rootsweb Ancestry.com website: <<http://searches.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ssdi.html>>. However, this website, and others like it, no longer publishes the Social Security Number (SSN) on its SSDI records.

Social Security Death Index

The Social Security Death Index is a database of death records created from the U.S. Social Security Administration's (SSA) Death Master File (DMF). Most persons who have died since 1962 who had a Social Security Number (SSN) and whose death has been reported to the Social Security Administration are listed in the SSDI.

Unlike the Death Master File, the SSDI is available free online and is a popular tool among genealogists because it contains valuable biographical data. Among the information included is the name of the deceased, the date of birth and death, and (until recently) the Social Security Number (SSN) held. The FCC matches the data up

with the SSN it had on record to confirm the death of the licensee.

The records held by the Social Security Administration are public government records that are disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Financial institutions also use the SSDI to prevent fraud so that no one can steal the identity of a dead person. However, the data is also used by ID thieves and therein lies the problem.

Although the SSDI is not available online from Social Security, the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service (NTIS) offers a subscription service containing public death information for online queries. The SSDI data posted on these private websites is not endorsed by Social Security, nor can Social Security confirm that the information is up-to-date or accurate with SSA death data.

Recently, Rep. Sam Johnson (R-Texas) introduced the "Keeping IDs Safe Act of 2011," (also known as the KIDS Act). Rep. Johnson claims that thieves have been using the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) "to access Social Security numbers, file bogus tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service, and collect refunds."

By closing the Death Master File (SSDI) to the public, Johnson claims that thieves will no longer be able to steal the identity of deceased children and claim them as dependents on tax returns.

Private SSDI websites still exist, such as <<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi/>>, but it is no longer listing the SSN on deceased records, leaving the FCC with no way to confirm that a radio amateur has indeed died. Effective, December 19, 2011, the FCC will only accept a death certificate or a dated obituary to cancel the call sign of a deceased radio amateur.

The call sign groupings are Group A: (Extra Class, 4-character call signs with a one- or two-letter prefix and a two- or one-letter suffix, or a two-letter prefix with first letter A.) Group B: (Advanced Class call signs contain a two-letter prefix and two-letter suffix.) Group C: (Technician and General Class call signs contain a one-letter prefix and a three-letter suffix.) And Group D: Call signs are issued to first-time licensed radio amateurs and clubs. Any amateur may hold a call sign from a lower group.

The station is reassigned its same call sign upon renewal or modification of its license, unless the licensee specifical-

ly applies for a change to a new sequentially assigned or vanity call sign. There is no charge to obtain a new sequential call sign—that is, the next call sign in alphabetical order.

Vanity Call Sign System. The vanity call sign system offers you the opportunity to request a specific call sign for your primary station and for your club station. A vanity call sign is selected by the FCC's computer from a list of call signs requested by the station licensee or club trustee.

There are all sorts of complex rules that apply when selecting a vanity call sign. For example, you can select an available call sign or one you formerly held that is appropriate for your license class. You may also obtain the call sign of a close relative now deceased. Clubs can obtain the call sign of a deceased former holder "In Memoriam." Vanity call signs may be selected from any geographical region.

A vacant call sign normally is assignable two years plus one day following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set-aside, cancellation, or death of the grantee. Special cancellation rules applying to the call sign of an amateur deceased more than two years took effect last November. Former holders and close relatives do not have to wait the two-year period.

Special Event Call Sign System.

When transmitting in conjunction with an event of special significance, an amateur station may temporarily transmit the identification announcement using a special event call sign. These one-by-one call signs contain one letter (K, N, or W), a numeral 0–9 and one-letter suffix (except X). There are 750 of them and you don't have to hold any specific license class to use one.

Substituting a special event call sign may help call attention "on-air" to a station's participation in the special event and to the unique opportunity for the amateur radio community to exchange greetings with the station.

The above information on sequential, vanity, and special event call signs is very basic. There are a lot more rules that apply than are stated here. Consult the FCC's Amateur Radio Service section for more details. It is more complicated than you think.

Common Filing Tasks

Once initially licensed, individual radio amateurs may perform many standard filing tasks in the ULS, including changing an address, checking your license and application status, renewing or replacing a license, or obtaining a vanity call sign. Except for obtaining a vanity call sign, there is no cost to complete these filings.

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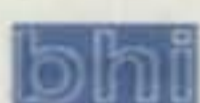


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This is accomplished by using your computer to log into the Universal Licensing System with your FRN and password. (An FRN and password are provided to every licensee by separate FCC letter soon after being licensed.)

It is especially important that you keep your address up to date. Revocation of your license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because you failed to provide the correct mailing address.

Clubs must use a Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA) to establish, modify, or renew a club station license. A CSCSA is a volunteer amateur radio organization that has agreed to process applications for clubs.

License Examinations

Operation of an amateur station requires an amateur operator license from the FCC. There are three license classes, each authorizing privileges corresponding to the qualifications required.

The classes of license from lowest to highest are: Technician Class, General Class, and Amateur Extra Class. Before being granted a license, you must pass a multiple-choice examination administered by a team of three volunteer examiners (VEs) who have been accredited by a VEC. These exams are administered by VEs scattered across the U.S. and in several foreign countries.

There are three written-examination elements; Elements 2, 3, and 4. (Element 1, Morse code tests, were discontinued five years ago.)

The beginning Technician (Element 2) exam contains 35 multiple-choice questions. (26 correct passes). The General license requires that applicants additionally pass Element 3—again, 26 correct out of 35 passes. The Amateur Extra license

requires that you pass all three tests: Elements 2, 3, and 4. There are 50 questions in Element 4 (37 passes).

Each set of exams is taken verbatim from pools of questions maintained by the VECs' Question Pool Committee. Each pool contains at least ten times the number of questions required for a single examination. These pools are revised and updated every four years to incorporate the latest rules, new technology, and interests of the Amateur Radio Service community. A new Element 4 (Extra Class) question pool takes effect on July 1 of this year.

The VEC collects your exam results from your VE team, and after screening, electronically forwards the information directly into the FCC's computer so that an Amateur Service operator/station license may be granted by the FCC.

You can begin using your new privileges once the FCC's ULS database shows the new license information. Since it already has a station call sign, upgrading licensees may begin using new privileges without waiting for the information to appear in the database. This immediate operating authority is granted based on a CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination) issued by the VE team.

Your VE team may charge you a re-imbusement fee for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering, or coordinating your examination.

Summary

There you have it, a capsule run-down of the Amateur Radio Service and how it works. However, you need to carefully review the Part 97 regulations, the FCC's online Amateur Section, and the write-up on the Universal Licensing System to learn all of the details and gain a better understanding of ham radio's legal and administrative side. 73, Fred, W5YI

Why HF Really Matters in Emergency Situations

"It's a good thing you had that radio. Otherwise we would have found you in the spring. Nobody comes up here this time of year."

—Mono Lake Sheriff's Office official

It was 10 PM and Henry Schleichkorn, K9KDE, was reaching for his transceiver's power button to call it a night. Then, a faint call. "Someone was lost and needed help," he said. "Naturally, I would stick around to hear more. After all, this is one of those rare moments many hams live for."

As the drama unfolded, Schleichkorn learned that Ron Jones, KB6UF, from Kentwood, Louisiana, was not only lost in the Sierra Nevada mountains of central California, but his truck was stuck, as well.

"While driving alone from Louisiana to California to visit his grandkids for the Thanksgiving holiday, the 68-year-old missed the exit where he was scheduled to stay at a hotel," K9KDE wrote. "So he turned to his GPS (navigation system)."

*1940 Wetherly Way, Riverside, CA 92506
e-mail: <ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo A—From his Chicago, Illinois, amateur radio station, Henry Schleichkorn, K9KDE, was one of a group of 40-meter phone operators who came to the rescue of Ron Jones, KB6UF, who was lost and stuck in a ditch on the side of the road in California's Sierra Nevada mountains in late November. (Courtesy of Aaron Schleichkorn)

"It instructed Ron to turn here and go there," Schleichkorn said, noting that a GPS "is not always perfect." (**IN DEPTH:** For more information about Global Positioning Satellite navigation, visit: <<http://bit.ly/znqQr1>>.—ed.)

The road turned to gravel. Jones knew something was wrong. "Ron felt like he was going in circles." As it turned out, KB6UF was eight miles from the main road.

"It was pitch black and there were no street lights for miles," K9KDE wrote. "Ron hit a ditch. The front wheels of his small truck were in the air and it was clear he was going nowhere fast. He checked his cell phone." There was no access.

KB6UF's truck has a 2-meter radio in it, but there were "no answers on any local repeaters. He turned to 40 meters, remembering there is usually a bunch of hams on 7.195 MHz."

Schleichkorn reported that within minutes, "multiple hams were offering advice: Use the low gear . . . Fill in the hole with brush and sand . . . Rock the truck back and forth."

"Somebody asked if Ron's GPS was working," K9KDE wrote. "It was. Ron gave out his coordinates over the air. Now as many as 100 hams monitoring the frequency knew Ron's exact location: in the hills near Mono Lake, near the Nevada-California border."

Dave Leath, N5SDO, of Bloomfield, New Mexico, "stepped up and became net control," Schleichkorn said. "Everyone, including Ron, could hear Dave. Dave assessed Ron's predicament by asking pertinent questions: Are you alone? How much fuel do you have? Do you have food or water? Is there somebody we can call for you?"

KB6UF gave N5SDO an 800 number to the Mono Lake Sheriff's office. Dave tried the 800 number, but it wasn't working.

"I thought about that non-working 800 number for a second," Schleichkorn recalled. "Maybe the Sheriff's office discontinued the 800 service due to budget cuts. So I Googled the 800 number and found the local dispatch number to Mono Lake Sheriff's office. I called it."

(**OVERVIEW:** To learn more about the Mono Lake region of California, visit: <<http://bit.ly/wRpdjK>>.—ed.)

"I had to explain I'm a ham radio operator in Chicago and I'm monitoring a man stranded and lost in hills near Mono Lake. The dispatcher said she would bring this info to her sergeant. Ten minutes later the sergeant returned my call. I quickly explained what had been happening over the past 90 minutes."

The sheriff asked Schleichkorn if Jones needed "a tow or is this a search and rescue?"

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NEW! AT-1000Proll

Building on the success of the AT-1000Pro, LDG Electronics has refined and expanded its flagship 1KW tuner with optional external 4.5" analog meter. The new AT-1000Proll keeps many of the same features of the previous model, but simplifies the operation. With the two-position antenna switch, there are 2,000 memories that store tuning parameters for almost instantaneous memory recall whenever you transmit on or near a frequency you've used before. Includes six-foot DC power cable. **Suggested Price \$539.99; Optional M-1000 external analog meter \$129.99**

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**



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

AT-100Proll

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



- RF Sensing
- Tunes Automatically
- No Interface Cables Needed

AT-200Proll

The AT-200Proll now includes LEDs to show antenna position and if the tuner is in bypass. A two-position antenna switch stores 2,000 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-100Plus



Small and simple to use, the Z-100Plus sports 2,000 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**



Z-11Proll

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 through 6 meters. The Z-11Proll uses LDG's state-of-the-art, processor-controlled, Switched-L tuning network. It will match dipoles, verticals, inverted-Vs, or virtually any coax-fed antenna. With an optional LDG balun, it will also match longwires or antennas fed with ladder-line. Includes six-foot DC power cable. **Suggested Price \$179.99**



Z-817

The ultimate autotuner for QRP radios including the Yaesu FT-817(D). 2,000 memories cover 160 through 6 meters. Also functions 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**

Designed to handle the higher power of the Tokyo Hi Power HL-45B.



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). 2,000 memories cover 160 through 6 meters. **Suggested Price \$159.99**



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**

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Photo B— The region around Mono Lake, California, in the eastern foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, east of Yosemite National Park, can be desolate and forbidding, especially for a radio amateur stuck in a ditch in the dark of night. (Courtesy of Ron Reiring via Wikimedia Commons)

"I relayed the question to Dave, who then asked Ron. Ron said he was requesting an officer. As soon as the sheriff heard 'requesting an officer,' he said someone will be there in 30 minutes.

"When Ron announced on the radio he could see the lights of the sheriff's car approaching," Schleichkorn recalled, "many hams monitoring the frequency cheered on air." The sheriff and Jones doubled a nylon rope the

sheriff had "in an attempt to pull Ron's small truck out of the ditch. The rope snapped. Luckily, there was a piece long enough to triple fold the line and that proved strong enough to pull Ron's vehicle free. Again, hams cheered on the air as Ron was following the sheriff back to town."

"It's a good thing you had that radio," the sheriff said. "Otherwise we would have found you in the spring. Nobody comes up here this time of year."

High-frequency radio "was the only way Ron was able to get help," Schleichkorn wrote. "Thank goodness he had a good HF mobile or he might have been out there for days—or much longer.

Schleichkorn said that following the night's rescue drama, several operators said: "That does it. I was thinking about putting an HF rig in the mobile, but now I'm convinced and going to do it."

"Thanks to all the hams who helped a fellow ham in need," K9KDE said. Especially Dave Leath, N5SDO, in New Mexico; Nick Ashley, W9ZXT, of Geneseo, Illinois; Jerry Kaspar, NØVXE, of Salida, Colorado; and Dave Smith, W7DBS, of Boulder City, Nevada, "and, of course, the Mono Lake Sheriff's office."

EmComm Scholarship Offered to Hams in Illinois

Named for the team founder and first Emergency Coordinator (EC) of



Photo C— Map courtesy of U.S. Forest Service.

DuPage County, Illinois, The R. Kent TeVault Scholarship In Emergency Communications has been established "to further emergency communications within amateur radio," according to Michael J. Schulz, W9MJS, EC of DuPage County Amateur Radio Emergency Service®.

The grant "has been designed to offer a scholarship to encourage EmComm training in general, and for the benefit of the DuPage County ARES® team specifically."

This scholarship will reimburse "selected amateur radio operators who take and successfully pass the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications Course (EC-001)."

For more information and to obtain an application, visit: <<http://bit.ly/wjAt0c>>.

Radio Amateurs Honored at Public Safety Awards Program

Four southern California radio amateurs were honored for their volunteerism and communications skills at the 2011 Public Safety Awards ceremonies at the Regional Conference Center in San Bernardino. Certificates in recognition of "communications expertise and volunteerism" were presented by California 62nd District Assemblywoman Wilmer Amina Carter to:

- Jim Eason, AD6IJ, for volunteer work with San Bernardino County Fire Department. He is president of the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC).

- Jon Montgomery, K6FZZ, CBARC treasurer, for volunteer work with San Bernardino County Fire Department.

- Louis Johnson, K6UMX, volunteer with the Fontana Police Department. He is an ARRL Volunteer Examiner and is affiliated with the Fontana (CA) Amateur Radio Club.

- Joe Martinez, NJ6OE, volunteer with the Rialto (CA) Fire Department, and President of the Rialto (CA) ARC, as well as webmaster for K6RIA.net, and an ARRL VE.

- Carl Gardenias, WU6D, ARRL Orange Section Manager, praised the radio operators for service to their communities.

This month we highlighted only some of those who have contributed to the public service part of amateur radio. If you have a story to tell, please e-mail me at <ki6sn@cq-amateur-radio.com>. "When all else fails" . . . amateur radio comes through.

73, Richard, KI6SN


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CQ "Maker" columnist Matt Stultz, KB3TAN, at the 2010 Dayton Hamvention®. (Photo by Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB)

Introducing a New Column and a New Columnist

We are proud to introduce the "Makers" column as of this issue, as well as columnist Matt Stultz, KB3TAN.

The "maker" movement is a growing do-it-yourself (DIY) phenomenon among mostly younger, tech-savvy individuals who enjoy hands-on tinkering and experimenting with electronics, crafts, and similar projects. Many "makers" are not familiar with amateur radio, even though hams have been "makers" since the dawn of radio. It is the goal of this column to help build and strengthen bridges between the ham radio and "maker" communities. It will appear quarterly, in the March, June, September, and December issues.

Matt Stultz, KB3TAN, is the founder of "HackPittsburgh," a "hackerspace" or community workshop for makers in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has been a ham since 2009 and has integrated amateur radio into many of HackPittsburgh's activities. He recently moved to Rhode Island to begin a new job as a web developer for Makerbot Industries. Matt can be reached via e-mail at <kb3tan@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

—W2VU

Amateur radio has had a long tradition of members in the community tinkering and designing equipment and systems to further the hobby. In the early days of amateur radio, great engineers (*and non-engineers—ed.*) designed and built their own receivers and transmitters. Later, companies such as Heathkit came around, offering well-documented kits for those interested in learning about electronics and radio by building their own.

*3567 West Shore Rd., Warwick, RI 02886
e-mail: <kb3tan@cq-amateur-radio.com>

A word about the word hacker. To some people, the term instantly brings to mind the images often portrayed in the media of evil computer hackers trying to steal your credit cards, but we take the hacker name from where it started, an amateur or tinkerer trying to seek out knowledge through often nontraditional means.

Even today, with the high quality of commercial equipment available there are thousands of amateur radio kits and designs available on the internet. This helps continue to encourage hams to build their own gear and teach the fundamentals to new amateurs getting their feet wet in the hobby.

Beyond the creative aspect of learning electronics through building your own equipment, amateur radio is also one of the few resources available to those who want to experiment with RF. Most other radio services, even if unlicensed, require the use of unmodified FCC-approved devices. Hams are not only permitted, but encouraged to design, build, and modify gear for on-air use.

This combination of a history of creating tools to help others learn about RF electronics and the legal "sandbox" to play in throughout the years have attracted many a "maker" to the hobby, long before that term existed in its current use. Today, a new breed of makers, hackers, citizen scientists, and amateur engineers are coming together to create a DIY (Do It Yourself) revolution.

New kit makers such as Adafruit Industries (<http://adafruit.com/>) and Wayne and Layne (<http://www.wayneandlayne.com/>), among many others, create easy-to-build kits, with fantastic documentation, that teach their customers the basics of working with electronics and programming microcontrollers. Another member of this family of kit creators is MakerBot Industries (<http://makerbot.com/>), which makes a kit allowing customers to build a 3D printer capable of creating objects out of plastic (You can find my own design for a Yaesu FT-817 cranker knob at <<http://www.thingiverse.com/thing:5752>>).

These companies have followed in the footsteps of the open-source software movement and created all of their projects as open-source hardware. As part of this, they release all of the details to allow anyone to create these products on their own. This includes schematics, board layouts, parts lists, and any source code that might be needed for the software side of things. Despite essentially giving away their products, many of these companies are hugely successful, with customers preferring to buy kits from these makers instead of copying their work. The high quality of kits that they produce, and the level of support they provide for their customers, encourages repeat business and customer loyalty.



Photo A— Teaching students to solder at HackPGH by building a clone of the low-cost Arduino microcontroller board. (Photo courtesy Marty McGuire)

The real heart of the maker movement, though, is hackerspaces. Hackerspaces are independently run workshops in many cities throughout the world. Members share the cost of rent and utilities, along with tools, test equipment, and other materials needed for members' projects. The website

<http://Hackerspaces.org> contains a map listing many of the hackerspaces and where they can be found (see http://hackerspaces.org/wiki/List_of_Hacker_Spaces). In these spaces, members collaborate to work on the fun and unique projects that they dream up. While some of these workshops spe-

The big thing I realized at Dayton was how much the hacker/maker movement was similar to the amateur radio hobby—and how much we owe the amateur radio community for leading the way.

cialize in what they work on, such as DIY biology or software development, most of them generalize. This generalization creates an atmosphere in which members' diverse backgrounds and talents create projects that reflect these different skills.

“Hackers on a Plane”

Hackerspaces are nothing new in Europe, and there were a few shops like them in the U.S. in the past. They really took off in the U.S. in 2007, after a group of makers and hackers from around the states flew to Europe for the Chaos Communications Camp. While there, they went to see some of the European hackerspaces. This trip was dubbed “Hackers on a Plane” and has

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been followed up with numerous other trips around the world, with more in the works. When this original troop of makers arrived home, they knew they had to form their own hackerspaces in the US. Soon spaces sprang up in Washington DC, New York City, San Francisco, and other cities. These shops helped inspire others to create their own spaces, and the movement continues growing today.

A word about the word hacker. To some people, the term instantly brings to mind the images often portrayed in the media of evil computer hackers trying to steal your credit cards, but we take the hacker name from where it started, an amateur or tinkerer trying to seek out knowledge through often non-traditional means.

Starting My Own Space

My experience with hackerspaces began in 2009, when I co-founded HackPittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. HackPittsburgh has a workshop conveniently located near downtown and many of Pittsburgh's universities. The space is split up into areas for storage, relaxing, sewing and

crafting, cooking, work tables, and a tool shop. The shop is an eclectic mix of recycled parts from old electronics, reference books, storage for raw materials, and tools that allow members to build the projects on which they are working (see photo A).

Long before I was licensed, I had an interest in amateur radio. My curiosity was piqued in 2003, when I began tinkering with my own WiFi antennas. I decided to go to a hamfest that I discovered was going on near my home at the time in Florida. I stopped in to try to find antenna parts: coax cable, SMA connectors, TNC connectors. What I found was a home for my tinkering heart. Vendors were selling an assortment of components and tools that before I had only read about on the linternet. As I walked by booths beeping out tones of receivers picking up CW signals I was enthralled. I knew one day I was going to have to sit down, study, and become a licensed amateur radio operator.

After I formed HackPittsburgh, I decided to go to the Dayton Hamvention®. I had heard of the plethora of vendors selling any component you could ever want, and from Pittsburgh it

was an easy drive. I once again fell in love with the hobby and decided I shouldn't wait anymore. When I got home, I started studying right away. Soon afterward, I had my first license. The big thing I realized at Dayton was how much the hacker/maker movement was similar to the amateur radio hobby—and how much we owe the amateur radio community for leading the way.

I decided that it would be great to try to get the members of HackPittsburgh involved with amateur radio. I started telling everyone about what I had seen at Dayton and some of the things you could do with amateur radio. Many of them were already interested from having experiences similar to mine, or had friends and family already involved.

The idea of building radios that fit inside Altoids® tins, but could still connect with others around the world, excited some of the other members of the group. Enhancing WiFi equipment with high-speed multimedia capabilities piqued more interest from our friends. It was not long before I began running study sessions to help members get their licenses. Soon we had over 15

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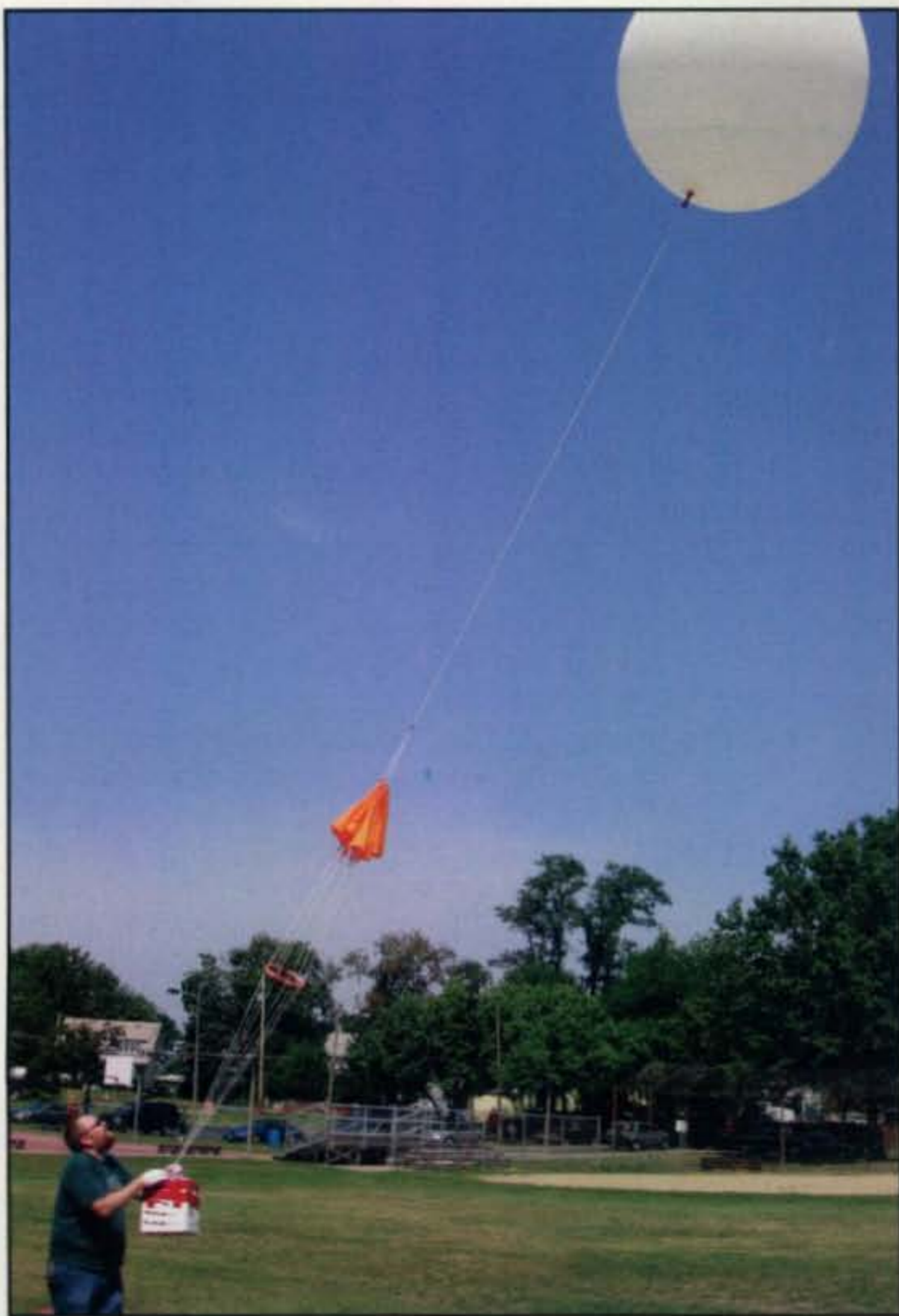


Photo B— Moments before release of HackPittsburgh's A2 balloon, our entry into the "Hackerspaces in Space" competition. This activity cemented ham radio's role in our maker group. (Ballooning photos by and courtesy of Jonathan Speicher)

licensed amateurs in the club, and many of us were going on for our General and Extra Class licenses.

With so many members now licensed, we began thinking of fun things to work on that involved ham radio. Some of us began building Softrock SDR kit radios; others worked on Yagi antennas for contacting satellites. We invited experienced amateurs such as Harry Bloomberg, W3YJ, and Bill Kristoff, N3BPB, to teach us about digital modes and Morse code.

Building Bridges

When we went out to a Makerfaire, or other meet-ups where makers tend to gather, we would run into people from other spaces who were also getting involved with amateur radio. Often, though, we would also meet people in the community who just didn't get what the draw was. Even within our group, many members just didn't see what the appeal of amateur radio was for those of us already in the hobby.

Finally, a challenge came along that really made being a ham useful. Another hackerspace, Workshop 88 in Chicago, Illinois, created a competition for hackerspaces around the globe—"Hackerspaces in Space." The competition consisted of each workshop building a weather-balloon system, launching it into the upper atmosphere, taking pictures of the curvature of the Earth, and successfully recovering the payload. The team that could do it the lightest, the fastest, and the cheapest was the winner. Knowing that other radio amateurs had done projects like this in the past, we set off to learn what they had done. We soon became engrossed in APRS and AX.25 protocols, building low-power transmitters for trackers, learning how to get high-altitude GPS units, and building parachutes that would bring the whole thing home safely. Working on this project, more than any other, helped to convince some of the remaining unlicensed members of the group (such as my wife) that there was fun to be had in the amateur radio hobby. (See photos B, C, D, and E.)

After doing well in the Hackerspaces in Space competition (we came in fourth), we began showing off the high-altitude balloon work we were doing at some of our local hamfests.

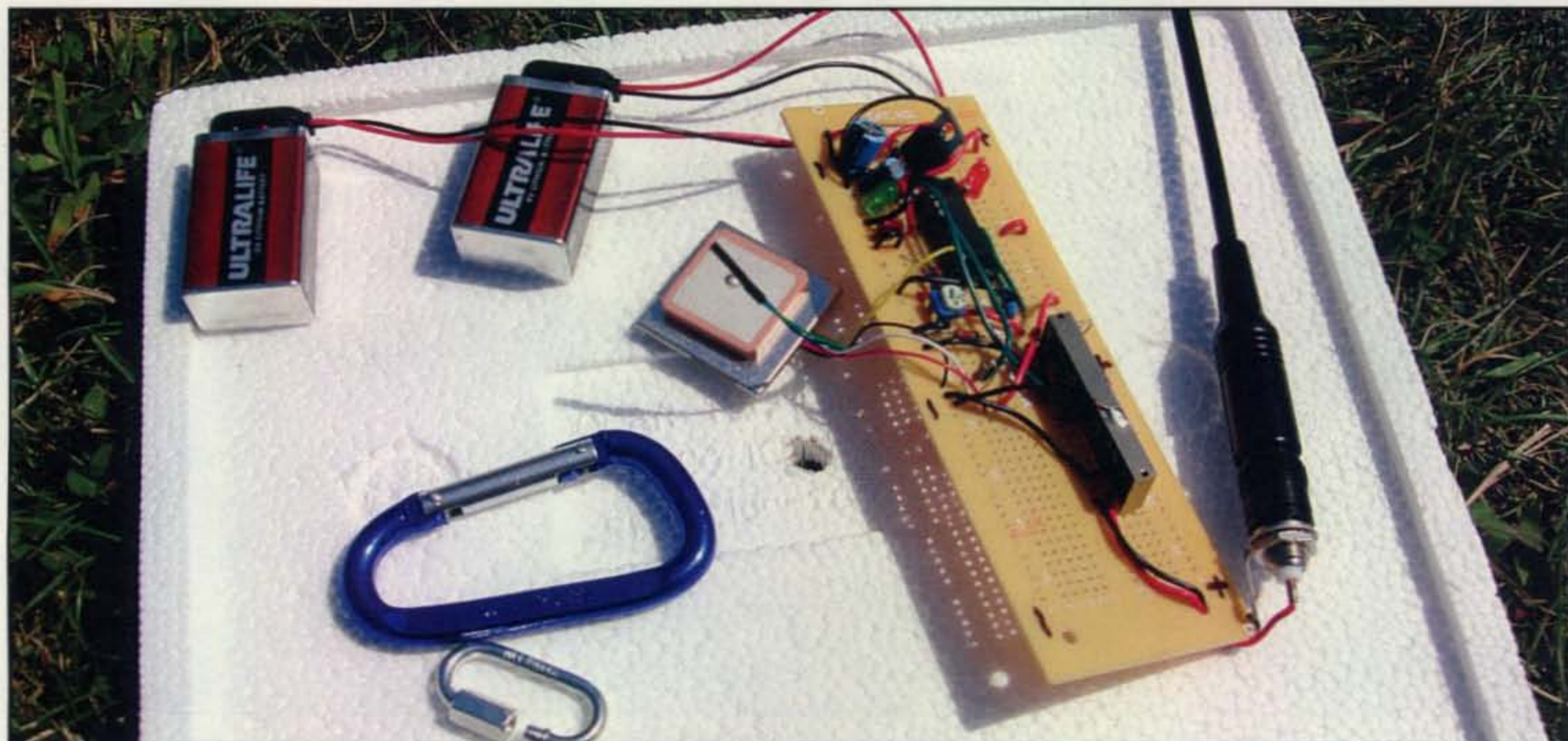


Photo C— The low-cost homebrew APRS tracker in the A2 and successive HackPGH balloon launches.

Here we ran into experienced hams who had never heard of our organization, but really enjoyed seeing what we did with the balloons. When we tried to explain to them some of the other projects and activities in which our shop participated, though, many of them became confused.

Why would we make an LED sign that automatically showed Twitter messages sent to the shop from the outside world (photo F)? Why would we modify a children's toy car into a racing vehicle to take on other hackerspaces in a silly race that looks like something out of a video game or a movie from the 1970s? I've often heard the expression "One man's junk is another man's treasure" used to describe items, but the same goes for hobbies.

I think the high-altitude balloon project is a great example for skeptics in both groups. Other maker groups have tried launching their balloons with cellphones that let them know where the balloon was when it landed, but they could not communicate through the entire flight. We took advantage of

our group's amateur radio skills to use an APRS tracker that allowed us to follow our balloon through its entire flight. Being able to follow the balloon in real time led us to have the fastest time from launch to recovery in the competition. Our hacking skills also came into play, allowing us to modify the firmware of an off-the-shelf camera to take the required time-lapse photos inexpensively and without special equipment. We also were able to modify our APRS tracker to help bring down the cost and weight. We now have successfully test-flown a new tracker that is based on the Arduino open-source hardware project that will further diminish the cost and weight.

While we have encountered some skepticism from both hams and makers, it is not present across the board for both groups. Obviously, as mentioned, HackPittsburgh is heavily involved in amateur radio, as are many of the other groups that competed in the balloon competition. HackPittsburgh's friends at Interlock in Rochester, New York, have also run study sessions to help encourage their members to join the hobby. Many experienced hams have also seen the possibilities in hackerspaces and have helped our space and some of our friends' workshops go further in their endeavors by mentoring us along the way.

These collaborations are an amazing thing, and I think we all would benefit by continuing them further. Amateur radio needs to continue to bring younger generations into in the hobby. The young hackers are looking for knowledge and expertise. The diverse backgrounds of many seasoned members of the amateur radio community, as well as the hobby's helping culture, can readily provide that assistance.

It has also been argued that many hams could benefit from getting back to their DIY roots. Learning more about electronics and how your system works will only make you a better operator. Building your own gear is fun and often a great economical solution compared to off-the-shelf equipment. Many of the new digital fabrication techniques being used by members of the maker community enable users to create their own parts with ease.

Getting Involved

How can hams get more involved with the maker community to help expand these collaborations? My first suggestion is to find a hackerspace near you. If you live anywhere near a major city, there is very likely a chance that there is one there. See what its open hours are and visit it to see how you



Photo D— Tracking the A1 balloon launch with our homebrew 2-meter tape-measure antenna.



Photo E— An image of the Earth taken by the A2 balloon launched by HackPittsburgh on August 8, 2010. (Photo by HackPittsburgh)

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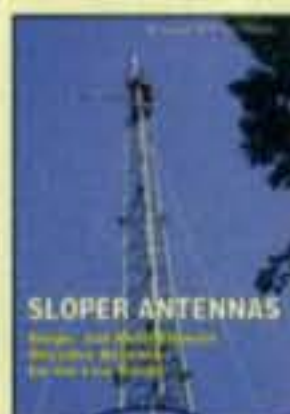
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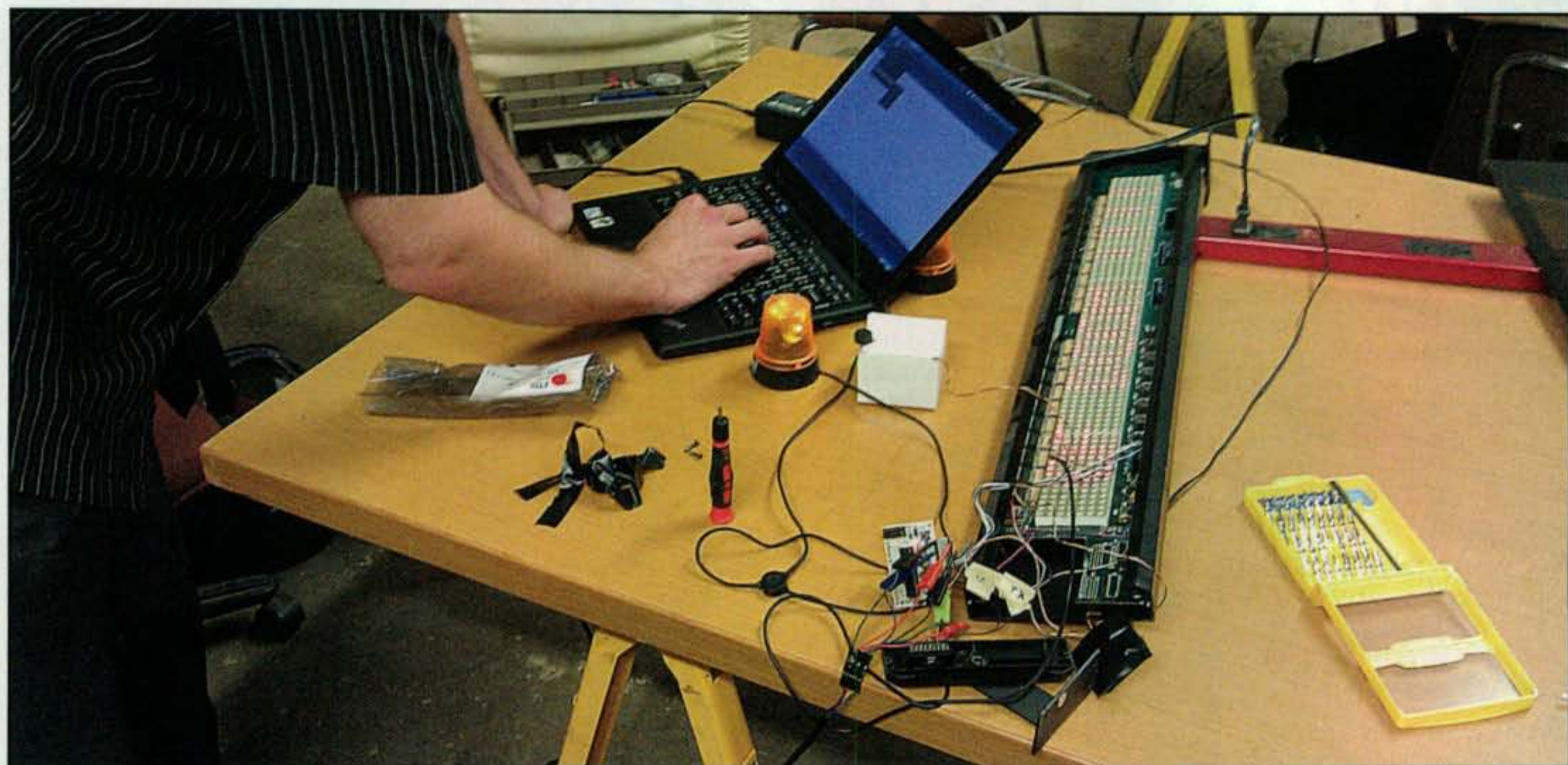


Photo F— HackPGH members working on another shop project, the conversion of a 20-year-old LED sign to display Twitter messages sent to HackPGH. (Photo by Matt, KB3TAN)

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can get involved like other members, or if they specifically need licensed amateurs to help them. Most hackerspaces are open to anyone with an interest to join. Some require some kind of sponsorship from an existing member or a trial membership time, but if you come with an open mind you quickly will be embraced into the community.

If you live too far away to get involved with a hackerspace, you can still get involved with some of the maker community's big festivals. Makerfaires, like hackerspaces, are popping up all over the world. They are a combination of a classic science fair, an off-the-wall art bazaar, and a modern craft festival. There are currently three large official Makerfaires, one in the San Francisco Bay area, one in Detroit, and one in New York City. There are also many smaller, unofficial faires, with new ones being added every year. Going to one makes a great family trip (there are almost always kids' activities), and nearly all have an amateur radio presence that could either use your help or could be expanded if you have something great to show off.

Of course, in today's world you also can participate virtually. Websites such as the Make Blog (<http://blog.makezine.com>) and Hack A Day (www.hackaday.com) often feature ham radio projects submitted by their readers. These sites have a great penetration into the maker world, and the more amateur radio projects they can show, the better the exposure for the amateur radio world.

Shared Traits

The maker movement and the amateur radio community share many of the same traits, often just working toward different end goals. We all are makers, both hackers and hams. The more we work together and learn from each other, the better we can make both of our communities for the future.

Is your radio club involved with a local maker group? Do you have project nights in which non-hams might be able to participate? I'd like to hear about your activities and share them with the readers of CQ. Please contact me by e-mail at <kb3tan@cq-amateur-radio.com>. 73, Matt, KB3TAN

"Opening a Fortune Cookie"

Building the Chinese KN-Q7A Transceiver

The last fortune cookie I opened said, "You will begin a new project." How prophetic that cookie was! I have made kits that hail from places such as Singapore, Hong Kong, the UK, Finland, and of course, the USA.

My first kit from China is the KN-Q7A, a 10-watt, 40-meter SSB transceiver from CRKits.com (photo A). This kit is assembled using the stage-by-stage method, allowing the builder to test each stage before the final assembly. The KN-Q7A is packed with a matching case and knobs, and you can order an optional microphone to go with it or wire it for your favorite mic. Like most kits, you will need an external speaker and a 12-VDC power supply.

The supplied PC board is a high-quality, double-sided board with components marked on the board. The unusual thing about the board markings is the lack of the usual component nomenclature. Instead of C1, C2, R7, Q3, etc., for parts identification, the actual component values are printed on the board. There is a big exception to this, however, and that is the .1- μ F capacitors, which are by far the most numerous part in the kit. Those simply are marked with the capacitor symbol with no value next to the marking. The 1N4148 diodes also are simply marked with the diode symbol on the board with no value shown.

The other difference from most other kits I have assembled is that the resistors supplied with this kit have five color bands instead of the usual four. The parts list has the color codes listed for each resistor. The extra band on the resistors allows for an extra significant digit in the component value. There are also three rectangular holes in the PC board (see photo B). These holes are for mounting transistors with higher power dissipation, utilizing the case for a heat sink.

To prepare the case, a drilling template is available for downloading and printing. I used my Dremel® rotary tool to start each hole to be sure it was close to the exact position needed, and then enlarged the holes using my regular drill. There are also four holes for mounting the rubber feet, a nice touch when most other kits use adhesive rubber feet. The PC board simply slides into the case and is held in place by the front and back panels. The front and back panels are made from PC board material and replace the plain plates that cover the ends of the case when it is shipped. When building this kit, you should be sure that you have trimmed all of the leads below the board to be sure they are as short as possible. There is not much clearance between the board and the bottom of the case, but there is more than adequate space as long as you keep the bottom leads trimmed closely.

For alignment, be sure you have a good insulated tuning tool with a small regular straight blade, along with a signal generator or a good antenna, and a wattmeter and dummy load. The frequency coverage of this kit is a 20–25 kHz segment of the 40-meter phone band, but it can be widened. You can order the kit with a choice of segments. My kit covers the top part of the 40-meter phone band. The directions caution that if the VXO is adjusted for wider coverage, it may come at the cost of less stability in the VXO. Therefore, try experimenting with the bandwidth of the VXO for optimum bandwidth versus stability, and be sure you calibrate your tuning knob so you do not transmit over the band edge. Without a signal generator, it still is possible to align the receiver using a known receiver and comparing what is received in each. I have found by turning down the RF attenuator pot, it is easier to peak the bandpass filters for best receive performance. The audio gain is adjusted by the front-panel IF gain control. The design of this kit has the audio amplifier with a fixed output, but varying the gain of the IF controls the audio volume as well as the sensitivity.

Technical support is provided via a Yahoo! Groups page as well as by directly e-mailing the kit manufacturer. I found both resources to be quite responsive and very helpful with suggestions.

The most often talked about modification for this kit is an internal speaker, which, if carefully positioned, will fit inside the case. A few things I might add include a power switch and maybe an LED to



Photo A— The KN-Q7A 40-meter transceiver kit from CRKits.com in China may be ordered directly or from a U.S. distributor.

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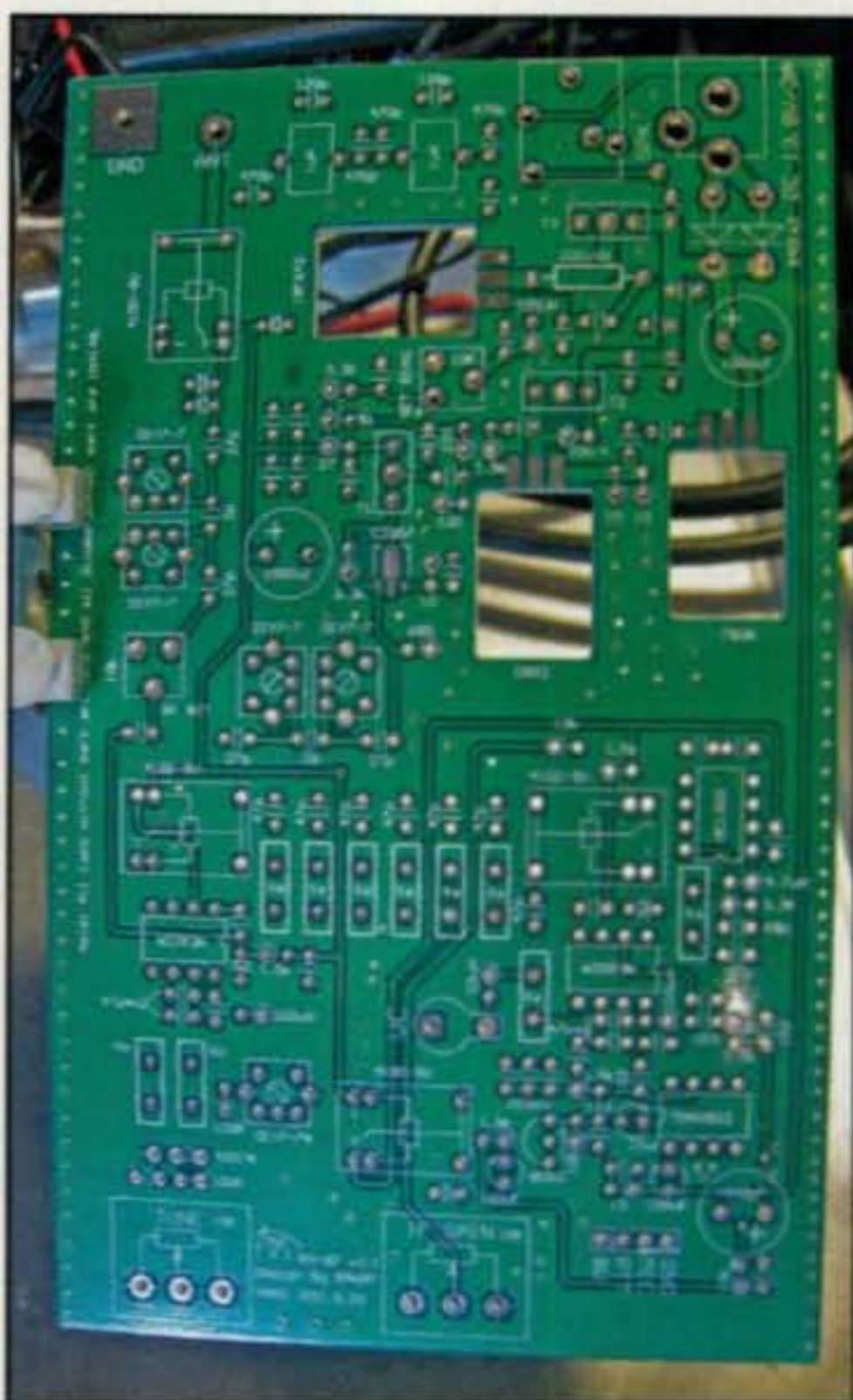


Photo B—KN-Q7A board ready to begin. Note the holes for mounting high-power-dissipation transistors. See text for details.

indicate when it is in the transmit mode, although you can easily hear it change modes. The KN-Q7A has four relays to change from receive to transmit, so during the transition you will hear four relays click when you key the PTT.

Assembly time for this kit is a couple of afternoons, and taking it slowly will assure you of the best chance of success. The completed kit is shown in photo C. Check out <http://www.crk-its.com> to order this or other kits by Adam Rong, BD6CR. In addition, these kits are now being distributed in the U.S. by QRVTronics (see <http://www.QRVTronics.com/HAM-Radio>).

The QSYer

Another kit that caught my eye is the QSYer (photo D). As I have mentioned before, sometimes the only way to make an affordable item for the amateur radio market is to bring it out in kit form. The QSYer fits this description perfectly. The QSYer looks just like a telephone keypad, but is a lot more. This kit allows the user to add direct-frequency entry to a number of popular HF radios that do not come with this capa-

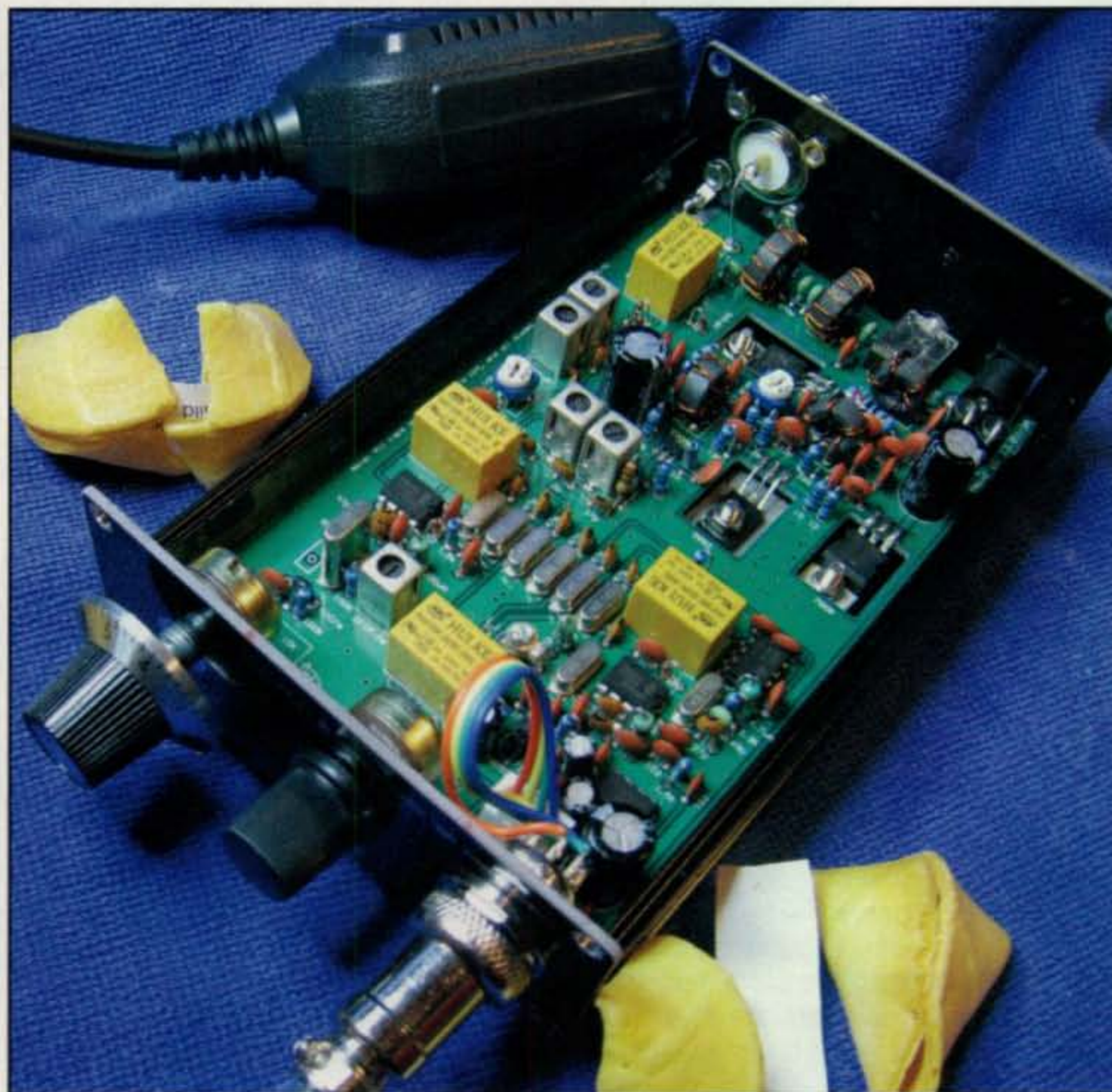


Photo C - The completed KN-Q7A kit. Fortune cookies are for size comparison.

Photo D – The QSYer by W2FS allows direct frequency entry on many rigs that do not offer this as a standard feature.

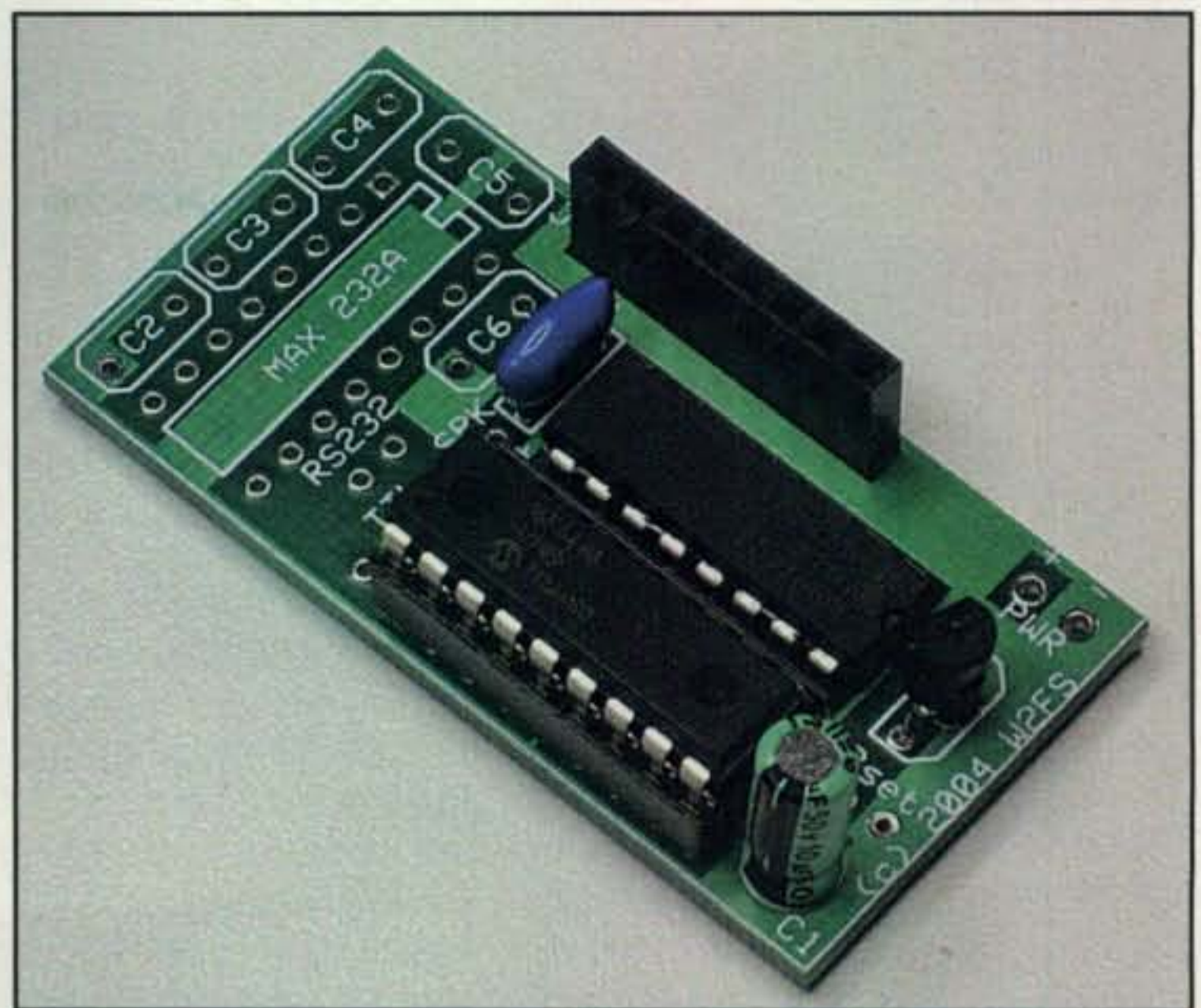


Photo E – QSYer board with all parts stuffed before wires and battery holder are added.

bility. Most notably, this kit works with the popular Yaesu FT-817, which has room for very few front-panel controls. By simply entering the desired frequency, the radio will change to the desired frequency! A lot of smaller HF rigs do not have this capability, a feature reserved for larger-size radios with room for a keypad on the front panel. The QSYer is programmable to change its output, so it is compatible with several different radios. All you need to do is enter the correct code for the new radio and plug it in. The parts count is a grand total of six board-mounted components (photo E) in addition to the needed wires and battery connector. There is space for an RS-232 interface chip to be added to the board for possible future expansion in the firmware to accommodate radios that can be controlled via the serial port.

Assembly of the QSYer is easily possible in less than an

hour, making it a great first-time kit as well as a great group kit-building experience. Make sure you have a hot-glue gun handy, such as those often found in craft stores. The hot glue is used to secure the PC board in the keypad case. John Hansen, W2FS, is the creator of the QSYer, and you can order it at <<http://www.qsyer.com>>.

Until next time . . .

73 de KØNEB

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No use sitting around sulking while I'm in the shack, Mavis.

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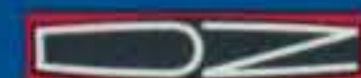
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Sea-Double-You: The Original Digital Mode

I haven't quite figured it out as yet, but I have a lot of fun with Straight Key Night (SKN) every New Year's Eve. SKN is not a contest, but an operating event, with the main idea being to get on the air using a straight key (a hand key, no paddles or electronic keyers allowed) and leisurely work other SKN participants for about 24 hours. All in all, it is a great time to be a ham! There is a certain excitement involved when using an original piece of telegraph/CW apparatus like a straight key. Some SKN aficionados even go so far as to drag out old vacuum-tube gear (lovingly referred to as "boatanchors") and use these radio relics in conjunction with their straight keys during this operating event.

This year's SKN event found me in Tampa at our daughter's home celebrating the New Year. Thankfully, Gwen's yard contains a couple of palm trees of the proper height that I have utilized on more than one occasion to support a multi-band dipole antenna. It took about 45 minutes to erect the 40–15 meter dipole and set up the station.

Originally I had planned to use my 1960s vintage Drake 2B receiver (with the 2B-Q speaker/Q-multiplier accessory) and a clone of the Ameco AC-1 two-tube, crystal-controlled transmitter for SKN this year (photo A). With the revelation that we would be traveling over 400 miles south to Gwen's place in Tampa, I had to rapidly change

my plans regarding radio gear for SKN 2012. Having procured an HB-1A tri-band (40-30-20 meters) CW QRP transceiver earlier in 2011, I quickly decided to take that radio and my Bencher RJ-2 straight key on our journey south (photo B).

My SKN operations were split between on-air time and family time. After nearly 50 years in this hobby, I have learned (sometimes the hard way) that you don't put your hobby ahead of your family. Using the HB-1A and the dipole antenna, I first worked a German station on 40 meters. I followed this with half a dozen stateside SKN QSOs, each lasting well over 30 minutes. This is one of the things that draw hams to operate SKN—an unhurried contact with a fellow CW operator. Code speeds vary, but seldom are they over 15 words per minute (wpm), which makes for some very leisurely, interesting, and informative QSOs. Speed is *not* a factor. Having a comfortable, enjoyable QSO and honing your basic CW skills are the main ideas behind SKN.

A few years ago a group of enterprising hams got the idea that SKN should not be limited to just once per year. Therefore, they founded the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC): <<http://www.skccgroup.com/>>. The SKCC has several thousand members who regularly gather on the air to swap membership numbers, work towards a rather interesting series of awards, and promote ham radio through the use of straight keys and bugs—*no*, not those kinds of bugs, semi-automatic CW sending devices. We'll cover bugs a bit later.

*770 William St. SE, Dacula, GA 30019
e-mail: <k7sz@live.com>



Photo A—The Drake 2B receiver (circa 1960) on the far right hooked to my clone of the Ameco AC-1 two-tube crystal-controlled transmitter (middle) was my first choice to operate on SKN 2012. The Drake 2B-Q-speaker/Q-multiplier is the black box on the extreme left of the picture. However, plans changed and I ended up using the gear seen in photo B.



Photo B— Shown here is the HB-1A 40/30/20-meter CW Trail Friendly Radio (TFR) that I took to Tampa for SKN 2012. The Bencher RJ-2 chrome straight key is shown on the right. This rig and key garnered several SKN contacts, including one European DX QSO!

So, with all this emphasis on low-speed CW contacts and the use of straight keys, have I whetted your appetite yet? Whaddaya mean? You don't know Sea-Double-You?! We'll talk about learning CW in a minute, so relax and get ready to have some fun; real fun, right out of the days of ham radio yesteryear!

We have mentioned straight keys several times in the previous paragraphs. What is a "straight key"? Simply put, a straight key is a communications device dating back to the very beginning of electronic/electrical communications that is used to make dots and dashes in the form of Morse code, first on land-line telegraph then later over radio circuits. The key is what makes the dots and dashes used in code (CW) transmissions. When we refer to a key used with radio equipment, we are actually talking about a switch, of sorts, that turns the transmitter on and off in step with the dots and dashes we send to form a message. Looking at a basic straight key you can see that one contact is connected to the transmitter keying circuit and the other contact is "grounded." When the key is depressed, it completes a circuit within the transmitter and produces RF output. In short, it "keys" the transmitter.

In the days of yore, when we used vacuum-tube transmitters, it was common practice to key the transmitter's final-amplifier cathode circuit to pro-

duce this output. It was simple to implement and normally didn't have any nasty habits such as chirps or clicks on the output. The down side: Full transmitter output current was present at the key terminals, so one had to be very careful not to come in contact with the terminals where the key was tied to the transmitter. The results were somewhat startling, if not downright scary, to those who "forgot" or got careless and managed to contact the key terminals!

Thankfully, solid-state transmitters don't have that problem, so you can put your hands anywhere on the key without incurring any electrical shocks or RF burns. That's called progress!

Many hams, especially CW aficionados, collect keys and all sorts of telegraph/CW accessories (photo C). Keys that people couldn't give away at ham-fests 20 years ago are bringing top dollar today on internet auction sites! Go figure. My advice on selecting a straight key: Stay with models from well-recognized manufacturers such as the J-37, J-38, & J-44 military keys; the Bencher RJ-1 or 2; J.H. Bunnell straight keys; Nye Viking Speed X key; the Ham Key HK-3; and the Vibroplex straight keys. There are also a large number of imported keys hitting the market. The Chinese heavy-duty K4 and K5 models, as well as British and Canadian military keys, can regularly be found on internet auction sites. One of my "go to guys" when I need a key, some CW accessories, or

just want to chat about CW is Marshall Emm, N1FN, who owns Morse Express (<http://www.mtechnologies.com/>), a CW emporium of galactic proportions! Marshall is a great guy, and he is always available to answer questions regarding CW, keys, bugs, paddles, and accessories. He maintains a great selection of domestic and imported CW keys for sale. Hit Marshall's site and check out the "CW eye candy"; you'll be glad you did!

We've talked a lot about straight keys, and I am sure that provided you are observant you've noticed several adjustments on these keys. So exactly how does one adjust a plain-vanilla straight key? It's pretty simple, actually. Rather than spend the time and column space on detailing how to adjust a straight key, go to: <http://www.mtechnologies.com/misc/keyadj.htm#Straight> and follow the excellent instructions outlined there courtesy of N1FN. Once there, you'll notice that there are also sections devoted to adjusting a paddle set and semi-automatic CW keys, more fondly called "bugs."

Get the insecticide, Martha! We're infested with BUGS!

We'll devote the majority of another column to keyers and paddles for CW. I'd like to wrap up this column talking about semi-automatic keys, or "bugs," and my thoughts on learning the code.



Photo C— I don't collect keys or paddle sets. . . . Well, OK, maybe I have a small collection! Shown here are my three straight keys left to right: HamKey HK-3, WW II British key, and the Bencher RJ-2. All perform well and are a blast to use.

Probably the best known “bug” manufacturer is Vibroplex, which has been around the telecommunications industry for almost 100 years. Why would someone want or need a bug? Good question, so hang on and we'll talk about that.

Vibroplex got its start in land-line telegraphy way back around the turn of the century. Commercial message-traffic handlers, military operators, and press telegraphers routinely handled hundreds of messages a day. One figure I recently heard was 20,000 *characters* per shift, per operator! That's a lot of “brass pounding,” which ultimately led to a condition called “glass arm.” Today we call it carpal tunnel syndrome. Remember, this was all done with straight keys (see example in photo D). That up/down “pump handle” motion took a toll on telegraphers, and not in a good way.

In order to reduce the workload placed on telegraph operators, in 1904 Horace G. Martin patented a device that would allow dots to be made automatically while the dashes were made manually. Thus was born the Vibroplex! In 1915 Vibroplex was incorporated and has been a main stay in amateur radio and the telecommunications industry for a long time!

Now before you run right out and buy a Vibroplex bug, there are a couple of things you need to know. First, they are not cheap. Vibroplex is still in business turning out several models of their bugs along with paddle sets and straight keys. The prices start around \$200 for the “Original Standard” model. Secondly, bugs are not easy to learn how

to use to send good CW. How do you get to Carnegie Hall? You practice, practice, practice. This goes double for learning how to use a bug correctly. It takes a lot of practice, and many people just don't want to devote the time. Third, bugs are “buggers” to adjust. True, Marshall Emm has furnished detailed instructions on his website as to how to properly adjust a bug, but nevertheless it is a time-consuming process. Of course, with Edsel Murphy hanging around the shack, it takes only one inquisitive child or grandchild playing with the bug to ruin a great alignment! Finally, bugs don't work the same

way paddle sets do. I use a model PJ-6 single-lever paddle set (http://www.k8ra.com/index_025.htm) from Jerry Pittenger, K8RA, who makes some stunningly beautiful paddles. Dots and dashes are made automatically depending upon which side you push the paddle lever toward. Not so on a bug. Normally your thumb presses the dot paddle while your index finger presses the dash paddle. Learning to utilize both a keyer with paddle set *and* a bug can result in a pretty steep learning curve. It's best to utilize a code practice oscillator while learning how to correctly form letters and numbers in



Photo D— Recently I decided I needed a bit of turn-of-the-century nostalgia for the front room (my wife Pat says I can!), so I purchased an antique J.H. Bunnell telegraph sounder with straight key. This device was used in the days of land-line telegraph to transmit Continental Morse code (different from the International Morse we use in ham radio). In place of a tone in a receiver the operator copied “clicks” produced by the sounder. This one works; a 9V transistor radio battery is all that is needed to sample what it must have been like in the “old days.”

Morse code with your new bug *before* you hit the airwaves and embarrass yourself beyond redemption! I know. . . I've been there!

If you want to procure a bug for your shack, whether or not you really intend to use it on the air, try the internet auction sites. Don't forget ham radio flea markets, swap meets, or your local ham club. Of course, there is always the option of buying a new one from Vibroplex (<http://www.vibroplex.com/>) or some other manufacturer. I picked up a nice Vibroplex Champion, circa 1944, with case for \$70 on eBay a few years ago. I procured it primarily to go with my vintage military ham station consisting of some ARC-5 command sets. The excellent condition of this bug coupled with what I felt was a good price led me to bid and win that auction. Just don't get sucked into a bidding war for a piece of CW history that you can live without!

We've pretty well covered the hardware end of CW (keyers and paddles notwithstanding), so let's close out the column with information on how to learn the International Morse code and increase our speed.

Learning the Code

In talking with my editor at CQ, Rich Moseson, W2VU, I was apprised of the fact that there has been a terrific upsurge in hams wanting to learn CW! It's only been a few years since the FCC dropped the CW requirement for obtaining a ham radio license, so I think it's amazing that now, since it is no longer a hurdle to cross, people are flocking to CW as a mode of communications. Who woulda' thunk it?

Learning the International Morse code takes practice, practice, and more practice. It has been my experience that women learn CW more quickly than men. Ditto with people who are musically inclined. There are many programs on the internet that will teach you the International Morse code. There are all manner of "systems" designed to help you not only learn the code from scratch, but to dramatically increase your code speed once you have the alphabet and numbers down pat. My advice is to find the CW operators in our local ham club, tell them you want to become CW proficient, and ask for their suggestions and help in attaining your goal. Be prepared for some diverse feedback. It would be best if you could actually try several CW learning programs before spending any money. There are some freeware CW tutorial programs out there on the net. Find one that works for you and stick with it. One

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thing for sure, CW is *not* easy; anyway, it certainly wasn't for me. I struggled to crack 10 wpm for what seemed like years (actually about six months), but I finally made it. If I can do it, anyone can!

Chuck Adams, K7QO, is a CW icon. He is one of my "Ham Radio Heroes," to be sure. Chuck is a blindingly fast CW op who copies in excess of 80 wpm! He holds several records for his ability to copy Morse and is on a one-man crusade to ensure that CW does not perish in this day of digital everything. Chuck partnered with FISTS, a worldwide CW operators organization (<http://www.fists.org/>) that's been around since 1985. Chuck produced a complete code tutorial that not only instructs you on learning the International Morse code, but works to increase your speed quickly to become a better CW operator. In this way you can rapidly start enjoying this wonderful mode of communications. Chuck's code course is on the FISTS site and is available for download or on CD. Check the site for details.

As long as we are talking about FISTS, I'd like to emphasize the group's unofficial motto: "accuracy transcends speed." What does that mean? It basically means chop the throttle, hit the speed brakes, crank in full flaps, and lift the nose . . . in other words, *slow down!*

Unlike voice or "phone" contacts, CW QSOs take more time, and if you have to keep repeating the same information over and over again because you are sending fast but inaccurate CW, what's the point? Slow down, spend the time sending perfect CW, and you'll be doing everyone a favor. Don't forget, most hams will come back to you at the same speed you initially contacted them. If you start transmitting machine-gun-like CW at twice the speed you can comfortably copy, don't be surprised if the other station comes back at you using the same speed. Should you ever find yourself in that predicament, remember these six CW characters: PSE QRS. I know, as I've been there, too!

That's all for this segment, gang. Next month I get to pontificate about one of my all-time favorite facets of ham radio—QRP! What's QRP? You are just going to have to read next month's "Learning Curve" column to find out. Until then, get a CW program, start learning the code, and look for me around 7030 or 3560 kHz at night. When I am working in the shack, I normally have the K3 turned on and set on one of those two frequencies, so lets' get together and have a CW QSO!

73, Rich, K7SZ



Dick Bentley, K2UFT, regularly demonstrates Morse code at hamfests and technical gatherings. This photo was taken on January 14th at the Atlanta area Tech Fest, which draws hams and non-hams alike. Dick's display includes telegraph sounders (I furnished my new sounder/key; see photo D) along with straight keys, Cootie keys, and bugs. Everything is hooked up to a code practice oscillator (CPO) for people to give telegraphy a try.

GPS at the Hip

Kenwood, ICOM, and Yaesu all have handhelds with GPS receivers and patch antennas as part of the package. Each manufacturer builds the GPS receive antenna into the top of the HT, with ICOM and Yaesu also offering the GPS receiver and antenna on the top of the speaker/mic. This makes good sense for the least body attenuation at 1575 MHz getting the antenna "in the clear." Not to say hams are chubby . . .

Thus, our classroom students did some testing among the Kenwood D-72, the new ICOM ID-31, and the Yaesu VX-8GR, all three units with an internally mounted GPS engine and patch antenna. We tested them against the ICOM IC-92AD with the optional GPS speaker-microphone and the Yaesu VX-8DR with the optional GPS antenna unit in the mic.

How big a difference would there be between a GPS antenna on an external mic and a built-in one hanging on a belt?

We found no noticeable degradation of GPS reception when hanging on the belt, in the clear as well as under trees. Never did we find we had to take an HT off our belts and hold it skyward for better GPS reception.

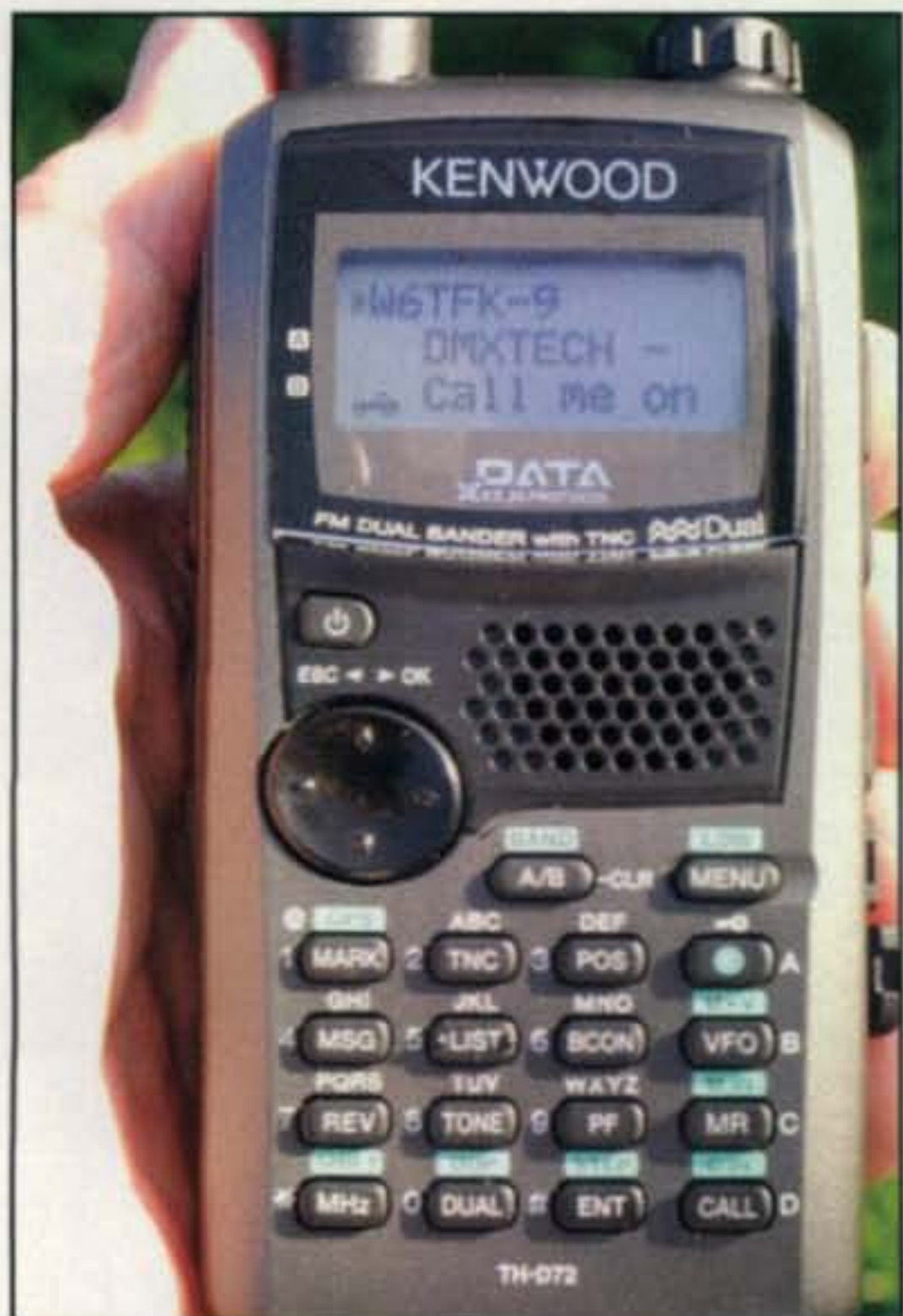
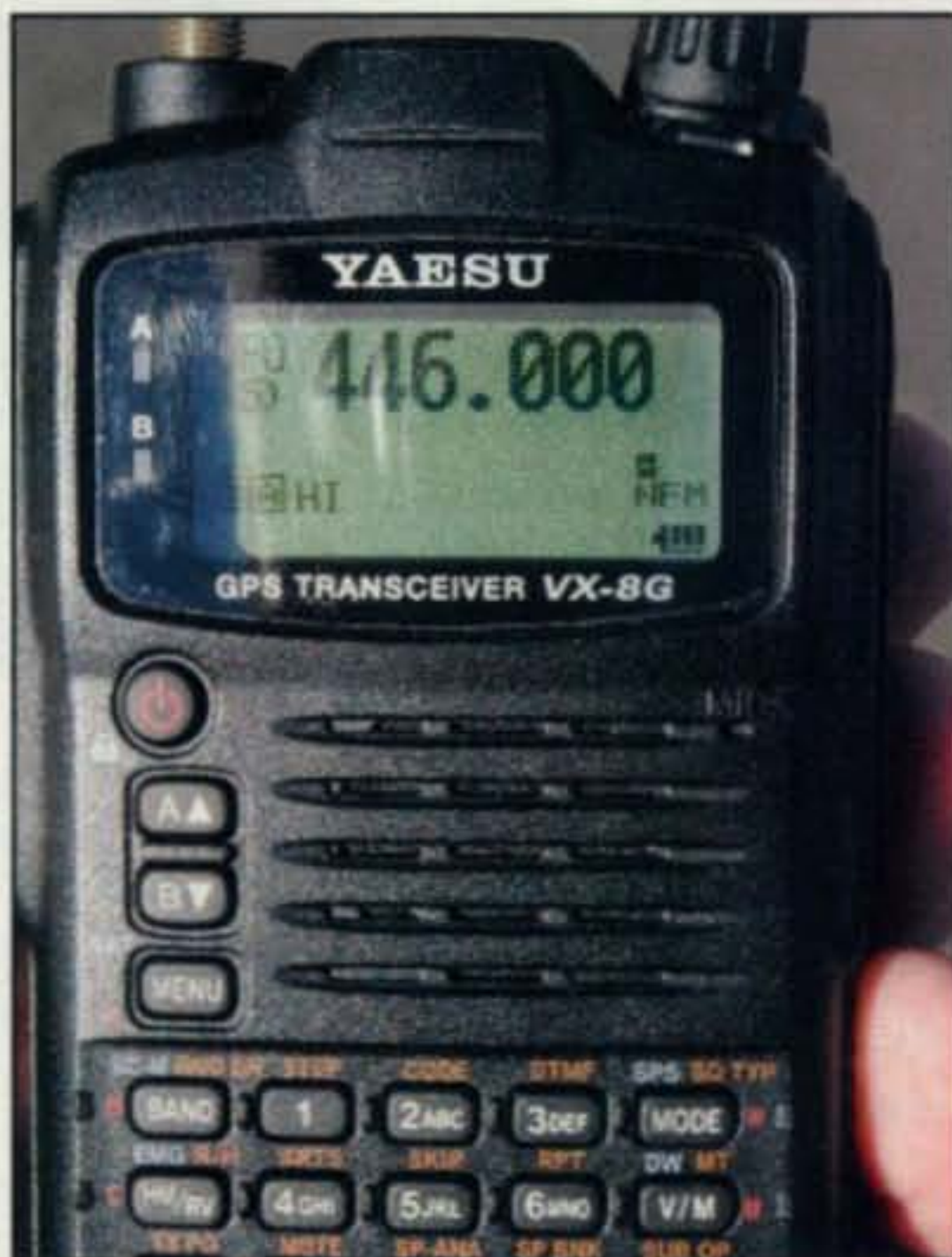
However, the tendency to rest one's hand on the top of a handheld with internal GPS reception

indeed caused our GPS lock-on to drop out. Therefore, if you have a new HT with the GPS receiver and antenna unit built in to the top of the unit, the issue of some of your body blocking some of the GPS incoming signals may be no issue as long as you are moving around, giving that HT a shot at seeing a different portion of the sky. Luckily, GPS signals come in from a wide variety of direc-

BY GORDON WEST, WB6NOA

gordo's short circuits

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



The Kenwood D-72 builds the GPS engine and antenna into the tip top of the HT. We found no loss of GPS signals from these HTs worn on the belt vs. those with external GPS antennas, as long as you keep your hand off the top of the radio!

The new Yaesu VX-8GR (top) builds the GPS engine and antenna into the top of the hand held; the older VX-8DR offers an external GPS unit that can be plugged into the top of the unit or matched into an external microphone.

An antenna trap offers high impedance to the frequency that is not allowed to travel farther down the antenna aluminum or wire.



This trap is defective from the manufacturer, which did not scrape off the outside shellac. This results in an open circuit between the coil wire and the riveted element. A simple visual inspection and an ohm meter check is all it takes to find obviously bad antenna traps. If the trap was burned up, you could see it and smell it!



This coil is what's underneath the outer trap cover. It develops a high-impedance LC circuit for signals at certain frequencies.



Here is where traps fail. The simple hose-clamp connection between elements develops high resistance.

the slip-in connection. If you treated the connection with black conductive goo, give it a re-lube and then check with an ohmmeter for *no* resistance.

Many times, aluminum telescopic sections mysteriously go to open rather than closed. Sometimes just servicing these slip-joints and redoing a stubborn hose clamp for a nice tight connection will get the job done.

At the end of the elements, that little tiny hose clamp may not be enough compression to squeeze closed the tip element. Clean up everything and go with a new pair of stainless-steel tiny hose clamps to get the job done.

Inspect the feed point to ensure moisture has not crept down the coax, and if everything looks good on the SWR analyzer, reconnect the coax that leads down to the shack. Now, down at the shack again sweep your multiband antenna for resonance on each band and note the SWR in your logbook.

If you're running barefoot, the chance of the actual trap arcing over or just "going bad" is remote. A simple multi-meter check will confirm continuity of the internal coil and continuity at one end of the capacitive sleeve that covers the coil.

Always wear safety equipment aloft, including hardhat, safety glasses, and fall-preventing harness. Also make sure the coax is disconnected at the transceiver so no one accidentally keys up



Make sure the black trap boots are in place and are not cracked. They keep out insects! Replacement boots are easy to change.

tions and elevations, so the new ham equipment with internal GPS, along with older gear with an external GPS antenna in the mic, will work well on something such as a parade route. Just keep your hand off the top of the HT if the GPS antenna is built-in.

Work Those Traps

Beams and vertical antennas with LC traps sometimes may need some simple spring maintenance. Take your battery-operated SWR analyzer up to the roof and sweep for antenna resonance. If 10 meters and 20 meters "drop in" with low SWR on the band, but 15 meters is whacko, suspect the second trap out from the feed point as your first area for inspection. On the beam are the rain drain holes pointed down? If there is water in the trap, or a gaggle of critters, blow out everything with an air hose.

If the trap boots (which seal out varmints) are in place, and the trap innards are dry as a bone, loosen up the hose clamp and inspect for corrosion at

when you're on the business end of antenna maintenance.

The Big Not-Good Pulse

My visit to Christmas Island, T32GW, offered an up-close look at atmospheric atomic testing equipment used during the Cold War. Stories of old tube radio sets mysteriously dying after the high-altitude testing were heard many times by the local residents.

The nuclear EMP (electromagnetic pulse) at high altitudes emits Gamma rays that interact with Earth's magnetic field, zapping nearly anything electronic down here on our planet.

As we approach the peak of solar Cycle 24 in 2013 or 2014, a huge coronal mass ejection (CME), like the one in 1859, has the potential of wiping out our power grid. If it is plugged in, it could be toast! (*It should be noted that such a huge CME, directed at Earth, is theoretically possible but highly unlikely—ed.*)

Should the worst happen, our spare ham gear could end up as the last working communications devices if they have been properly protected from an EMP. You could build your own Faraday Cage out of copper or aluminum or stainless steel, making sure that this enclosure is well grounded, too, to dissipate any EMP currents trying to get through to your gear. On the inside, I would use an old dry rubber wetsuit to wrap up my HT and alkaline battery pack (NOT connected), a shortwave receiver, and a separate alkaline battery set, and maybe an old HF radio with some lantern batteries. Button up the enclosure and keep it in a dry place, well grounded. Every few months exercise the gear inside the enclosure. Don't expect any repeaters to survive an EMP, so start your own simplex net with fellow hams in preparation for the unimaginable. I'll meet you on 20 meters, 14.300 MHz!

Young Cloner

Sixteen-year-old Elijah Derryberry, WA6EMD, one of the regular radio ops aboard the *Queen Mary*, W6RO, delights in radio programming.

His favorite radios are the complicated-to-hand-program Wouxun, TYT, and Baofeng. This young ham entrepreneur is also a source for this Chinese gear, and pre-programs a new ham's local repeaters, simplex, weather, and public-safety (receive) frequencies in new or customer-supplied HTs.

He is a kid-whiz at loading in the hot channels for anywhere in the



Elijah Derryberry, WA6EMD, has a side business of programming the new Chinese hand held transceivers... after he completes his school work.

country. His e-mail address is <Elijah@wouxun.us>.

Yaesu Adding Digital

Yaesu's President/CEO Jun Hasegawa has announced the reorganization of the company to better serve the amateur, marine, and air-band business. "After four years of joint venture with Motorola, we have decided to transfer the Vertex Standard land mobile radio business to Motorola and focus on amateur, marine radio, and air-band equipment," comments Hasegawa.

The newly independent company is now named Yaesu Musen Co., Ltd., and the U.S. subsidiary is Yaesu USA, Incorporated, wholly owned by the founder's family. The new company's logo will be YAESU, and in smaller print below it, "The radio." The marine division will remain Standard Horizon, and I am proud to be the early employee of Standard who dreamed up the product name "Horizon," based on VHF line-of-sight to the HORIZON!

Dennis Motschenbacher, in charge of amateur radio sales for Yaesu, has announced the company's entry into digital communications for the amateur radio market.

"Our 4 level FSK (Frequency Shift Keying) circuit is called 'C4FM modulation,' comments Motschenbacher, citing APCO P-25 using this modulation, as well as European and Asian markets using the same modulation as DMR (Digital Mobile Radio). A 15-page super-illustrated document, "A Digital Communications Guide for Amateur Radio Operators," is found on the Yaesu website, along with the announcement that the company plans to release new C4FM amateur radio handhelds as well as a C4FM mobile transceiver later this year, with a likely preview at the Dayton Hamvention™.

The new Yaesu digital system requires twice the bandwidth (12.5 kHz) as the ICOM D-STAR digital modulation at 6.25 kHz, with the wider bandwidth purported to double transmitted data speeds. Digitally speaking, it will be interesting to see how these individual non-compatible modes will frequency-fit on our ham bands.

See you at Dayton!

73, Gordo, WB6NOA

THE NEW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP!
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A Most Sensitive Topic and the Pre-Estate Sale Idea

One of the hardest things to think about for all of us is what to do with all of our possessions when we die. It isn't a nice subject to think about, but, after going through some problems and arguments with relatives because of those who passed away without a will, I decided to make my "final plan documents" to decrease stress and provide guidance for my family, since it is a very difficult and time-consuming task to sort through and distribute or dispose of someone else's things.

I thought about friends and relatives who have either passed away or are octogenarians and older. Some of them are hams and many are not, but all of them had or have storage rooms full of "stuff"—various things that had some kind of value (monetary or sentimental) to them.

As far as ham equipment is concerned, some questions immediately come to mind: Who would want any of these items? What is any given piece of equipment worth? Should it be sold, given away, or donated, and to whom? Since electronic stuff is often considered "hazardous waste," where can we dump it? Would it be a good idea to sell the items to raise money, rather than give them away, in order to help settle any tax, debt, or legal obligations?

These thoughts became more important to me as I started a massive clean-up effort around my house, sorting through over 35 years of ham gear,

test equipment, parts, magazines, and books. At the moment, stacks of stuff are stored in my garage, spare rooms, and closets. I am slowly decreasing the amount of items in and around my shack, rather than making more space or rearranging space to put things in (see **photo 1**).

I call this concept of reduction rather than storage a "pre-estate sale." The term "sale" is used loosely, since many of the things I have can be given away or donated to local charity organizations. Some items can be recycled at the scrap-metal yard. But the basic idea is to find new homes for the "good" items, where they will be used and enjoyed by someone, rather than being hidden away in a storage location, doing nothing except gathering dust. For example, I am giving away old magazines to new hams, or leaving them in waiting rooms at my various doctors' offices. The local library refuses to take them due to a lack of storage space. The final alternative is to place them into the recycle paper bin, but to me, magazines are information resources that should be read and shared.

I realize there are many collectors of these items, and I think it is very acceptable to sell or give stuff to these collector-people. Remember, the basic idea is to eliminate the items, or at least designate a final resting place for an item. Of course, soon after an item is sold or given away, an immediate need for that same item will certainly come up. When this happens, the solution is simple: Find another one.

Larger or more expensive items such as the HF transceiver and microwave radio systems are

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



Photo 1—What's going to happen to all this stuff after I am gone?



Photo 2— Sorting by a component's first significant digit is a good way of storing, sorting, and selling multiple values of similar items. Here is box "5" of one-quarter-watt resistors. Values go from one-half ohm to 5.6 megohms.

another matter. Some day a lucky and deserving individual will receive these items.

What About the Small Stuff?

For some reason, every ham radio person I know has accumulated a collection of various electronic and electro-mechanical parts. Even those who are not really into building their own projects have at least one box of parts stashed somewhere. Whether they are spare parts that may eventually go bad, or some internal or external accessory to the main radio, there is always something stashed away in a closet space, garage, attic, or basement. Vacuum tubes, dial cords, pilot lights, spare battery packs, filters, or a spare microphone are typical examples. How many of these "just in case items" never failed during the owner's lifetime? Judging from the amount of "new old stock" items that appear everywhere equipment is sold, many of these spares were never needed.

A good idea for getting rid of lots of small parts is to group them into kits or assortments. Label the containers or bags to make it easy to find a particular value. For example, resistors can be sorted by their first significant digit and then sub-divided into their specific values (see photo 2). Establish a reason-

able value, such as ten dollars for entire sections or assortments of values.

By the way, size is not necessarily a good way to estimate the value of something. For example, small-wavelength (higher frequency) microwave and millimeter-wave components are tiny compared to their HF counterparts, and yet are many times more expensive. Since you know the value of such specialty items, you must establish what you think is a fair "estate sale price" rather than making your executor guess or make up some arbitrary value. This is a good reason to include notations for the value of each item.

The Good and the Bad

I have seen some great bargains at estate sales. For example, a mid-end all-solid-state HF transceiver with general-coverage receiver, in good operating condition, recently sold for under \$100. The original price was in the \$1500 range and eBay auctions show winning bids as high as the \$600 range. This makes me happy and sad at the same time—happy because it is a great deal for someone and because the unit will be put to good use. On the other hand, these sales make me sad because there often is a lot of emotional pain associated with the previous owner's family, and they may not be

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Item No.	Manufacturer	Model No.	Description	Condition: Excellent/ Good/Poor/ Not Working	Purchase Date	Price Paid	Value/ Value Range	Notes
1	Motorola	Spectra	FM mobile, 900MHz	Not Working, low power output	July 2008	\$50	Give away	1. Keep as a complete set – control panel, microphone, mounting bracket, main radio unit 2. Special frequencies are programmed – to be sold only to a local club member
2	American Optical	None visible. Property tag number 0009878934	Stereo inspection microscope	Excellent	June 2004	\$195	\$150	Make sure eye pieces are in place
3	Weller	WTCPT	Soldering station	Good	1985	Don't recall	Give away	Include spare Weller tips and parts in storage cabinet 3
4	Various	None	1/2W resistors	Excellent, new, unused	Unknown	Don't recall	\$10 for 1,000 assorted values	Sell components in batches. \$10 for 1,000 assorted values. Accept any offer over \$30 for "entire lot" in storage cabinet 1
5	KH6WZ	None	Home made 12V power supply with meters	Good	Unknown	None	\$20	Home made unit, heavy duty, works

Table I— Here is an example of a list of ham station and related equipment. It would be a good idea to update the document at regular intervals or as needed as you acquire and sell items.

receiving the true monetary value of the unit. This happens many times, especially if the family members are not interested in ham radio and the equipment and are under pressure to get rid of all the "junk."

A Legal Document for Everyone

Important note: I am not qualified to offer any legal assistance and cannot answer any questions for your particular situation. These are very general guidelines based on my limited personal experience with this situation. In any case, even if you are not ready to do anything along these lines, it would be a good thing to consider doing someday soon.

First, make your wishes known for all of your belongings—including your ham gear—in a will or a living trust. This is a legal document that will be the guide for everyone to follow. Sometimes a death in the family can be very destructive to family relationships.

Make a list of all of your equipment and its condition, including a description of what it is and how to identify a particular item, such as model number and serial number. Include purchase price and a reasonable value for the item. Equipment values can be established using various resources, such as completed online auctions and ham radio classified ads.

It would be a good idea to have an electronic file of this list, in either a word-processing or spreadsheet format. Don't forget the antenna system and tower if there are one or several. Antennas are usually the hardest things to dispose of, since they may be hazardous to people and property (especially the act of taking them down and disassembling them). Refer to Table I. This list would also be very useful for your homeowners' or ham station equipment insurance.

Print a copy as a backup and update the record when you buy or sell anything on the list. Values may be reviewed once a year or so. Pictures or even a video of the equipment would be excellent supplemental documentation, since images show much more than words can.

References and Resources

A website to help you create your own legal documents, including wills and living trusts, advertises on the broadcast AM stations in my area. It might be a good reference for anyone looking into making their will or living trust. I have not used their services, nor do I endorse this company in any way: Legal Zoom, Corporate Headquarters, 101 N. Brand Blvd., 11th Floor, Glendale, CA 91203; telephone 323-962-8600; <<http://www.legalzoom.com>>.

A now-closed discussion called "Managing Ham Radio Estate Sales" started by Jack Ritter, W0UCE, appeared several years ago on the eHam.net website. Go to the following link to see some opinions about ham radio estate sales: <<http://www.eham.net/articles/22548>>

Summary

This column is a departure from my usual topics, being more of a personal nature. However, it touches on a very sensitive topic that I hope everyone considers adding to the "must do" list.

73, Wayne, KH6WZ

March Signals Start of Antenna Weather

Yes, April showers can bring all the May flowers they want, but March heralds the arrival of spring and with it the antenna weather we've been longing for all winter. Clear days and warmer temperatures are all the excuses most of us hams need to get outside and tune up our skyhooks or install the new antenna that was purchased months ago and has been waiting in the corner for those freezing temps to break.

Light Beam Antennas

If you have to deal with covenants, height restrictions, or complaining neighbors, you may find a solution for your situation when you review and evaluate the products of Light Beam Antenna and Apparatus, LLC of Canandaigua, New York. Light Beam Antenna offers a line of antenna products that are compact, lightweight, and designed to operate at the height of 30 feet (photo A).

The Light Beam and Light Beam Plus antenna products are designed for high performance in the amateur radio band from 20 to 10 meters, depending on the model. They are very compact with a very short turning radius and a low surface area. Comparing antennas designed for a given ham band, the Light Beam antennas are said to be a fourth of the width of a normal dipole or Yagi and are half the size of a full-wave quad antenna.

Depending on the band you select, Light Beam antennas are small and light enough to easily be mounted on a rooftop tripod or can even be positioned within an attic space. A simple pole structure can also be used to support the antenna at the optimum 30 feet. No heavy-duty tower is required. Flexible mounting methods, combined with Light Beam's design of an extremely strong and lightweight support structure, result in an antenna system with the high efficiency you need to work DX but low visual impact that should delight your neighbors.

To learn more about Light Beam Antenna and its products, visit www.LightBeamAntenna.com, call toll free 1-855-349-6442, or e-mail Wayne Freiert at WFreiert@LightBeamAntenna.com.

DXE-ATSA-1 Stealth Antenna

If you enjoy having a selection of stealth antennas to pick from, please consider this new stealth antenna from DX Engineering designated as the DXE-ATSA-1. DX Engineering says that this new antenna allows amateur radio operators living in antenna-restricted neighborhoods to get on the air easily with a short, nearly invisible 26-foot wire and

operate on all bands 40 meters and up. A 45-foot wire will extend coverage to 80 meters. This complete system includes an autotuner, ATSA MatchBoxx™, stainless-steel radial plate, antenna wire, bias tee, two insulators, radial wire, and all hardware.

The low-profile remote tuning unit (photo B) is designed to be hidden in the bushes or in a garden. Just "plant" it in the bushes or shrubs with supplied spikes, says DX Engineering, and lay out the minimum length radials. You can further camouflage the controller with a plastic boulder or other items available at most landscaping stores.

The ATSA-1 contains 20,000 non-volatile memories. It features an L-network with wide matching capability, 1.8- to 30-MHz coverage, heavy-duty 10-amp/1000-volt relays, and is rated at 200 watts SSB/CW. The included bias tee is used to insert 12 VDC from a user-supplied power source on the coaxial cable to the remote tuner.

DX Engineering includes the ATSA MatchBoxx™ module, which allows use of almost any length of wire you choose—no more "forbidden" lengths as with other end-fed systems. An optional DXE-SA80-AOK add-on coil kit allows for the



Photo A – Light Beam Antenna is particularly proud of its Light Beam and Light Beam Plus designs which can operate on 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters at a height of 30 feet while still providing a low surface area.

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



Photo B— The key to the effectiveness of DX Engineering's low-profile remote tuning unit is that it can easily be hidden in bushes with only a 26-foot piece of wire that extends vertically and is practically invisible but allows you to operate on the 40-meter band and up.

adjustment of feedpoint impedance to achieve the lowest SWR on the 80-meter band without affecting operation on the higher frequency bands.

Price of this stealthy wonder? \$459.95 and for the optional DXE-SA80-AOK 80-meter coil kit, \$49.95. For more information or to order, visit <www.dxengineering.com>.

Organize Those QSL Cards

Despite the arrival of the month of March, it still may be a little too cold in your region to go outside to work on your antennas. If that is the case, it might be a good idea to tackle an indoor project that you may have been putting off, such as organizing your QSL card collection.

If that is the case, you'll be happy to hear that the good people at DX Engineering are now offering the DXE QSL Scanning Kit, and it's able to store your cards and display them in rotation on an attractive, compact screen display. The kit consists of one compact digital scanner, a 7-inch LCD digital picture-frame screen, plug-in power supplies, and a 2-MB SD card.

To operate, feed QSL cards individually through the scanner. A slider guide adjusts easily to accommodate non-standard QSL sizes. The scanner accepts card sizes from 2 by 2 inches to a maximum of 4 by 6 inches, and images are saved in JPEG format. A PC is not required for the scanning process.

To view the QSLs, simply plug the SD memory card into the digital picture frame. It's great for the ham shack, living room, or office.

Now you can easily reminisce with friends about your past QSOs or simply show off your collection to fellow hams or future hams. Up to 2000 QSL card images can be stored on the included SD card—more with larger capacity memory cards. The DXE QSL Scanning Kit lets you reclaim the ham shack wall space that you may be devoting to QSLs collected in your pursuit of WAZ, DXCC, WAS, or other certificates. Price for the DXE QSL Scanning Kit is \$89.95.

Comtek W2FMI Series Baluns

Here's another product from DX Engineering that might persuade you to improve and upgrade your antennas. It's the Comtek W2FMI Series baluns (photo C), which are engineered to provide an efficient match between unbalanced coax and balanced antennas. The baluns are inspired by designs from antenna expert Jerry Sevick, W2MFI (SK), with modern improvements by DX Engineering's balun R&D department.

Comtek current baluns force equal current to flow through your antenna and prevent high values of common mode feedline current, eliminating pattern distortion, unpredictable performance, RFI, and noise pickup from nearby sources such as TV sets and computers.

Typical insertion loss is less than 0.2 dB, with power handling ranging from 3 kW continuous to 5 kW+ intermittent from 1.8 to 54 MHz, and reduced power ratings at 54 MHz.

Comtek baluns are sealed in a weatherproof 4" x 4" x 2" NEMA box. They're



Photo C— Comtek is debuting a line of W2FMI series baluns that handle 3 KW continuous power ((and 5 KW intermittent) from 1.8–54 MHz. Various case styles are available.

constructed with durable stainless-steel hardware, including 1/4-inch studs, star washers for lasting electrical connections, and large fender washers which distribute fastener loading to preserve case integrity. SO-239 connectors are silver-plated, with Teflon® insulation.

The baluns are available in 1:1 and 4:1 versions with several different configurations: side studs, top studs, side eyebolts, plus side and top eyebolts. An optional DXE-BMB-4P bracket lets you mount the balun on a boom or pipe.

The baluns are priced in the range of \$49.95 to \$69.95. For more information about DXE QSL Organizing Kit, the Comtek baluns or any other DXE product, contact DX Engineering by mail at P.O. Box 1491, Akron, OH 44309, or call 1-800-777-0730. You may also visit DX Engineering on the web at <www.dxengineering.com>.

Antenna Work from Inside

If sunny skies and gentle breezes are not enough to tempt you to venture outdoors to at least perform some maintenance on your existing antennas, you can stay indoors and check them out via coax with one of the new YouKits FG-01 antenna analyzers now available through their exclusive U.S. distributor, Ten-Tec, your old friend from Sevierville, Tennessee (photo D).

Measuring less than four inches high, with the ability to take power from either its wall-mounted power supply or an optional internal lithium battery pack, the FG-01 is an easy-to-use, easy-to-carry, antenna testing solution.

Using the latest advances in SMT technology, the FG-01 provides a lightweight, rugged, tool for amateurs at home or in the field. The FG-01's color graphics display provides SWR and impedance information for any antenna under test from 1 to 60 MHz, taking the guesswork out of antenna design and adjustment, and providing the amateur with maximum performance and efficiency under any operating circumstance. The YouKits FG-01 is competitively priced at \$249.00.

YouKits QRP Transceiver

Ten-Tec also wants you to know about another YouKits product designated as the HB-1B, Ten-Tec nomenclature for its new four-band CW QRP transceiver (photo D). Following up on the success of the popular R4020 and R4030 two-band CW QRP transceivers, Ten-Tec has become the exclusive U.S. distributor of the YouKits HB-1B Four Band CW QRP transceiver that is priced at

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\$299. Using the latest advances in SMT (surface mount technology) and DDS (digital direct synthesis) technology, the HB-1B provides 80-, 40-, 30- and 20-meter CW transmitting with 3.2 through 16 MHz general-coverage receive capability, all in a rugged, lightweight package.

Features include a variable four-pole crystal filter, receiver incremental tuning (RIT), 30-frequency memory storage, and an automatic CQ and callsign sending function. Power consumption is only 60 mA on receive and 800 mA on transmit. The HB-1B can operate from an external 12- to 14-VDC regulated power source or an optional internal lithium battery pack. Weighing just 14 oz., the HB-1B is advertised as an

excellent "go to" radio for amateurs interested in taking their operation out of the home and into the field.

For more on the YouKits FG-01 antenna analyzer or HB-1B QRP transceiver, or to order, visit Ten-Tec online at <www.tentec.com>, or call 1-800-883-7373.

A Ham App for Your iPhone

Looking for new ham radio apps for your iPhone? How about a link to a new ham radio oriented iPhone application that calculates the grid square and enables you to tag the location with your own definable category? Yes, it does exist, and its name is MtagIt (photo E). To see for yourself, click on <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/mtagit/id482471632?ls=1&mt=8>.

Want to Reach New Heights?

For all of the rovers out there seeking a new source for pneumatic masts, you might want to take a look at China's PHT Manufacturing, found easily on the internet at <www.phtmfg.com>. PHT is particularly proud of its Series 9 telescoping mast that can elevate to 30 meters, has an automatic locking-collar style, and supports a maximum head load of 500 kilograms, or over 1000 pounds. Air pressure on the mast can be removed after full elevation. PHT also offers Series 7 and Series 8 telescoping masts

Photo D- Ten-Tec of Sevierville, Tennessee, is now offering a wider variety of amateur radio products with the introduction of an antenna analyzer and a QRP radio made by YouKits of Canada and distributed in the U.S.

← by Ten-Tec. ↓

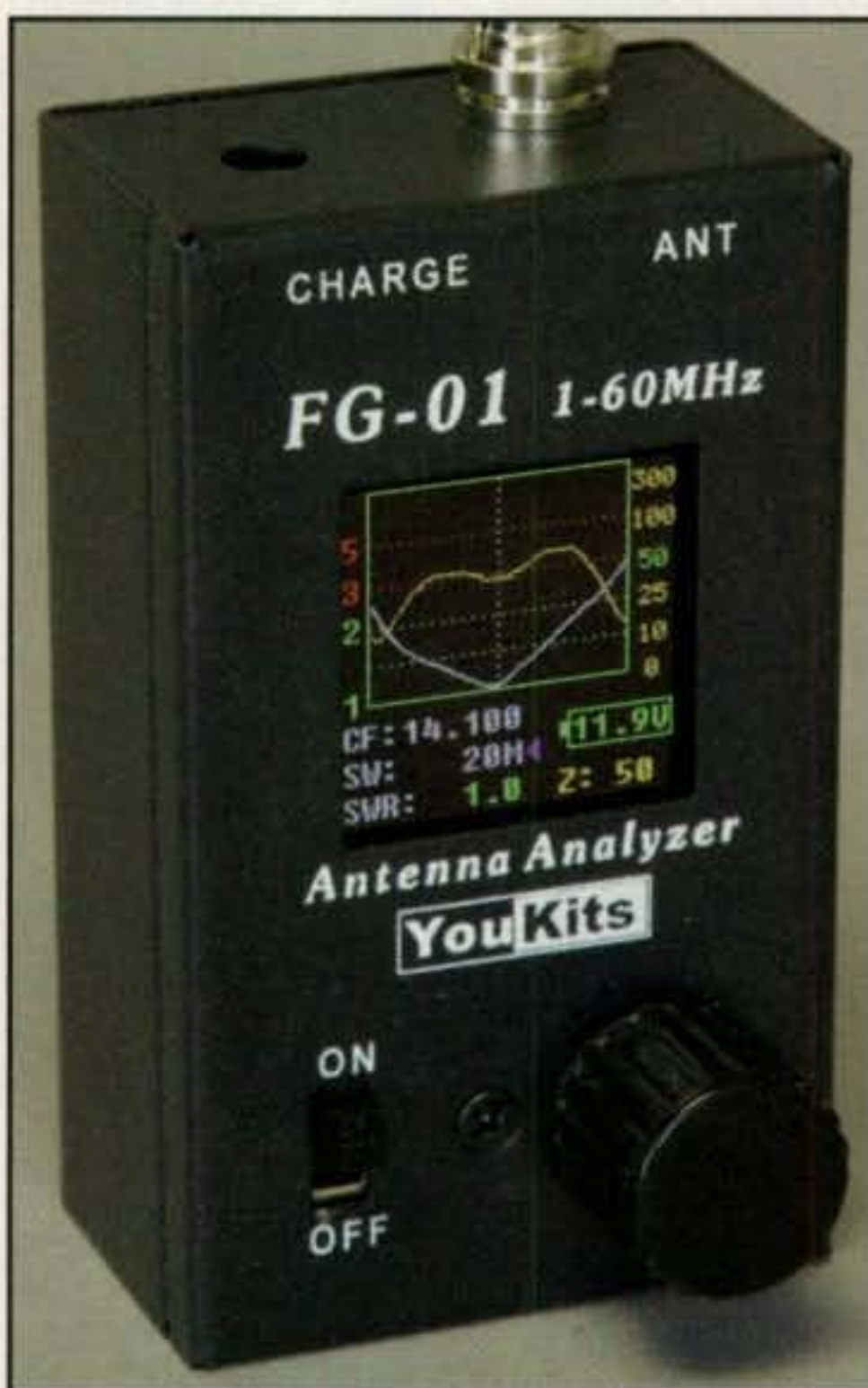




Photo E— MtagIt is the name of a new ham app for your iPhone. It calculates your grid square and enables you to tag the location with your own definable category.

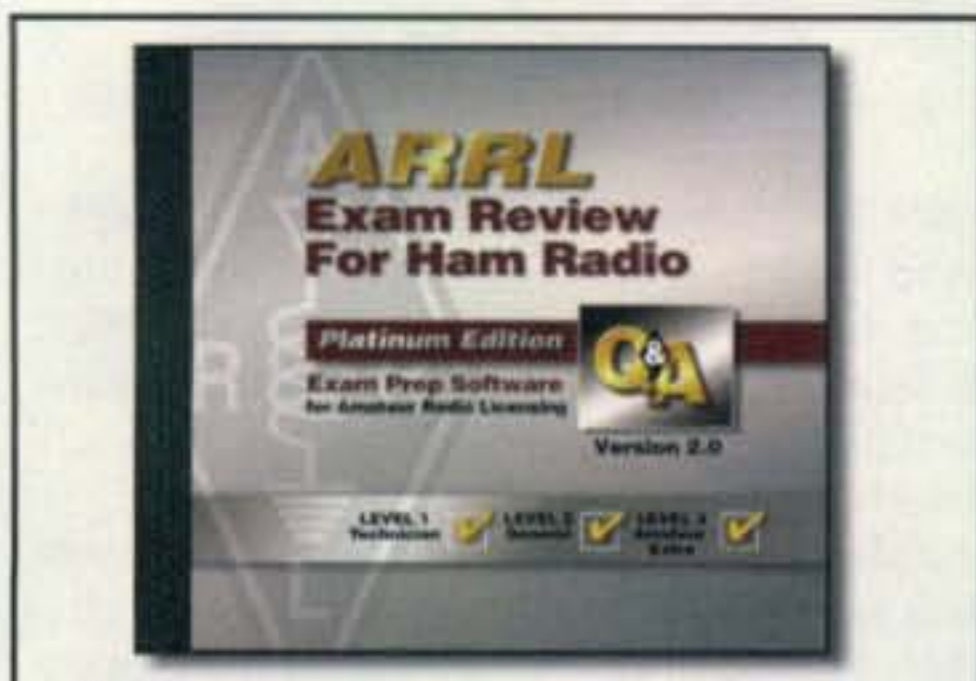


Photo F— The "ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio" Platinum Edition on CD.

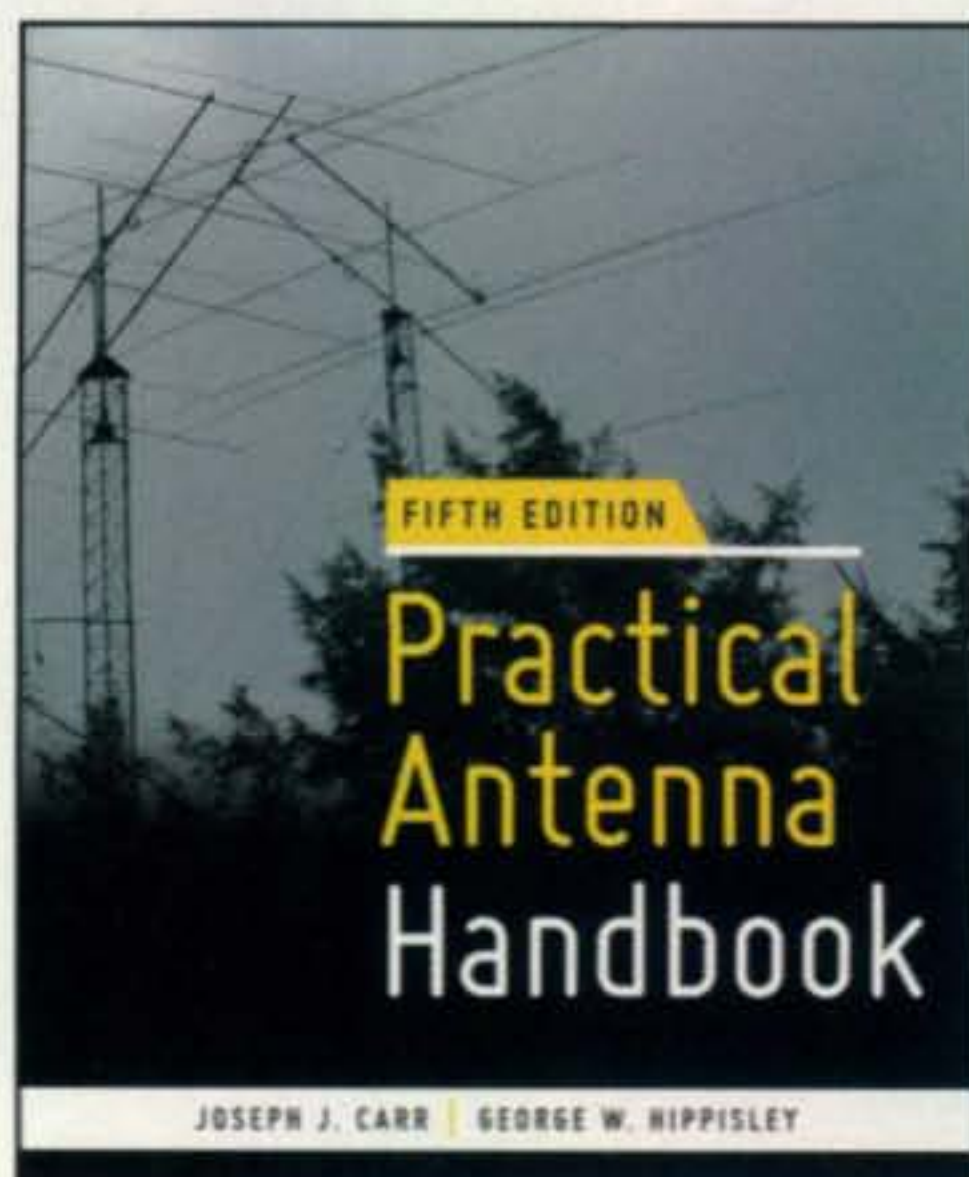


Photo G— The Practical Antenna Handbook. (See text for details.)

and a vehicle roof-mounted pneumatic-mast lighting system. If you don't have internet access but are okay with an international phone call, you may also call PHT's headquarters in China at 0086-512-8999-2286.

Book Corner

ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio. When you attend a VE session in hopes of earning a higher class amateur radio license, you want to be as prepared as possible for whatever test is presented to you. One of the best ways to do that is to practice with the "ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio" Platinum Edition on CD (photo F).

The "ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio" is a software tool you can use to prepare for all three amateur radio license examination levels: Technician, General, and Amateur Extra. The CD includes review questions, answers, and short explanations to help make sure you understand the answers given. Set up this CD on your computer to generate practice tests from the actual examination question pool so that on test day you'll be prepared for whatever awaits you.

To order your copy of the "ARRL Exam Review for Ham Radio" on CD, priced at \$39.95, visit <www.arrl.org> or order by phone by calling 860-594-0200.

Practical Antenna Handbook. If you want to design and build your own antennas, you might want to have available a copy of the Practical Antenna Handbook (photo G). This fifth edition has been updated and revised to provide clear answers to antenna questions frequently asked by hobbyists and electronic technicians.

Described as the definitive antenna reference, this edition covers a wide variety of antennas—including dipoles and inverted-V wire antennas; quads, deltas, and NVIS loops; wire arrays, including bobtail curtains, half-square and rhombic, verticals and shunt-fed tower antennas; rotatable Yagi beams; MF and HF receiving antennas including flags, pennant, K9AY, and Beverage, mobile and portable antennas; VHF/UHF/microwave antennas; and many more.

For more information about this fifth edition of the Practical Antenna Handbook, which is priced at \$50, visit <www.MNProfessional.com>, where you can order a copy of the book, read the author's blog, view additional photographs and schematics, access tables of worldwide geographic coordinates and antenna dimensions versus frequency, and follow links to tutorials and specialized calculators.

That's "What's New" for this month. If you have a product you would like to see featured in this monthly column in CQ, please e-mail me at <wv5j@cq-amateur-radio.com>. You'll be glad you did!
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.

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ARISSat-1 Silent Key

To begin this month's column, the following piece is from the Winter issue of *CQ VHF* magazine's "Amateur Radio Satellites" column by Keith Pugh, W5IU:

As ARISSat-1 approached its fifth month of service, it continued to perform very well. The pre-launch predictions of two to three months of service proved to be pessimistic. With its better than expected life, predictions began to turn optimistic, forecasting a re-entry in late January or sometime in February 2012.

After discovering that the broken 70-cm antenna was still long enough to be usable and that full operation in sunlight was still possible after the battery failure, operation settled down to a routine. The only major casualty was the Russian Kursk Experiment. To be successful, Kursk needed whole orbit data, and this was no longer possible with the satellite shutting down when in eclipse.

Unfortunately, however, hopes for that optimistic extended life expectancy began to dim in mid-December. By December 21, 2011, from its initial altitude of about 380 km, the satellite's perigee had deteriorated to 270 km and was sinking fast. As the satellite encountered denser atmosphere, the rate of decay increased until the inevitable occurred. On January 4, 2011, AMSAT News Service issued the dreaded special bulletin: "ARISSat-1/KEDR Goes Silent." Here are some of its contents:

Reception reports indicate that ARISSat-1/KEDR has stopped transmitting on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. The last full telemetry captured and reported to the ARISSatTLM web site at 06:02:14 UTC on January 4 was received from ground stations as the satellite passed over Japan. . . .

Telemetry reports showed that the temperature aboard ARISSat-1/KEDR had been rising as atmospheric drag began to affect the satellite. . . .

Konstantin, RN3ZF sent a reception report of his copy of the 0842 UTC pass that indicated that "the telemetry was absent, voice messages were not legible, very silent and interrupted. Most likely, I saw last minutes in the life of the satellite." Dee, NB2F reported, "Nothing heard from ARISSat-1/KEDR on any frequency during the first USA pass at 16:00 UTC, January 4."

ARISSat-1's life was now over.

The satellite was deployed from the International Space Station on August 3, 2011 during EVA-29 on by Cosmonaut/Flight Engineers Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS, and Alexander Samokutyaev. It lasted five months and part of one day. Here is more from that special bulletin:

Excerpt specs

The satellite carried a student experiment from Kursk State University in Russia which measured atmospheric density. Students from around the world provided the voices for the FM voice announcements.

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

VHF Plus Calendar

March 1	First quarter Moon
March 3-4	First Weekend of DUBUS EME Contest.
March 8	Full Moon
March 10	Moon perigee
March 15	Last quarter Moon
March 22	New Moon
March 26	Moon apogee
March 30	First quarter Moon
March 31-April 1	Second Weekend of DUBUS EME Contest.

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU

The amateur radio payload aboard ARISSat-1/KEDR achieved many "firsts" for amateur radio in space:

- First flight test of AMSAT Software Defined Transponder which transmitted simultaneous:
 - * FM voice downlink cycling between student messages, spoken telemetry and SSTV from cameras on the spaceframe.
 - * 16 kHz bandwidth linear transponder,
 - * CW beacon with telemetry and call signs of radio amateurs noting their significant contributions to amateur radio in space.
 - * Robust, forward error corrected 1K rate BPSK downlink with satellite telemetry and Kursk experiment telemetry.
 - * Development and release of the ARISSatTLM software for PC and Mac platforms enabled amateur stations worldwide with reliable reception of the BPSK telemetry, CW telemetry, display on the station's computer, and automatic upload of received data via the internet to the ARISSat engineering team.
 - * A new Integrated Housekeeping Unit was developed and successfully flown.
 - * A new Power Management System was developed and successfully flown.

AMSAT President Barry Baines, WD4ASW, noted: "ARISSat-1/KEDR marked a new type of satellite which has captured the attention of the national space agencies around the world for the unique educational opportunity we have been able to design, launch, and operate. By designing an educational mission aligned with NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) goals, amateur radio operators around the world have been able to enjoy a new satellite in orbit."

ARISSat-1/KEDR Project Manager, Gould Smith, WA4SXM stated: "Dozens of amateur radio volunteers, AMSAT, ARRL, NASA, and Energia teamed up for this successful mission to bring you the most unique and innovative amateur radio satellite mission. Congratulations to all who made ARISSat-1 successful!"

Amateur radio operators and non-ham students, and other listeners, continued to use ARISSat-1 to the greatest extent possible while it was with us. After a rough start, ARISSat-1 turned out to be a "Star Performer."

The telemetry system continued to work very well. Thanks to over 70 telemetry contributors in over 41 countries, and Douglas Quagliana, KA2UPW/5's software and servers, it was possi-

ble to easily look at near real time telemetry on one's iPhone, notebook, or home computer at any time.

Now that ARISSat-1 has reached the end of its life, amateur radio operators who received telemetry from ARISSat-1 at any time over the last few months are urged to forward all .CSV telemetry files to the telemetry website: <<http://arissatlm.org>>.

Summary Results of the K5N Winter DXpedition

The following is from Marshall Williams, K5QE, via the FFMA list:

The K5N Winter DXpedition is now history. Operators were George de Montrond, NR5M, Bill Musa, K5YG, Bill Simpson, N5YA, and myself, K5QE. In addition, we had helping us Warren Watkinson, W4FN, and our local host, Alex Dula, KE5PWJ. Both were a big help, especially during setup and tear down.

Here is a summary of the results of the K5N Winter DXpedition to the DL99-DM90 grid line:

The total number of QSOs was 254. There were a few duplicates in there, as people made "insurance" contacts with us when nothing much was happening. We also had a few duplicates with people who were helping us test out the system and correct the problems. Thanks there go to Bill Tynan, W3XO/5, and to Danny Cristina, N5OMG. We had five CW contacts, including one made with a guy running 50 watts in Hempstead, Texas. We had one "pseudo-EME" contact. That occurred when we were running JT65B and pointed SW, but worked a W4 on backscatter. We had 248 QSOs on meteor scatter and SSB.

The entire group arrived on site at about 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 27. We were set up and running before noon. It was pretty cold, but we got down to business and started running on meteor scatter. Our first EME slot was 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday. People were hearing us in the -22 to -25 range, but we did not hear anyone. After that, I took the all-night session running meteor scatter.

Things were pretty slow and only a few contacts were to be had. In the early morning hours of Wednesday, Dec. 28, things improved quite a bit. Beginning about 3 a.m. and ending at 6:57 a.m. I ran with Robert Brown, KR7O, a distance of 1241 miles. I believe that was the longest contact made. After logging Robert, several QSOs were made in short order during the morning meteor peak.

We kept slugging away until our next EME slot, which was 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. local time on Wednesday. Again, folks were hearing us well and we were hearing nothing. We had one signal report of -19! That is pretty good considering the smallish antenna we were running. I ran meteors that night until 2:30 a.m., completing two 1100+ mile contacts. Then I died and went to bed at the motel. The next morning, the two Bills ran some

meteor scatter and made a few CW contacts.

Finally, all agreed that we needed to re-configure the system—we just were not hearing well. We came down to a single antenna (we found out that one of the antennas had an SWR of 3:1) and a single amp. This cut out the splitter and the combiner, which is where we "think" the problem was located. Things improved significantly from then on.

Some of the improvement was in the equipment, but the band also decided to cooperate and we got a really nice *Es* opening that lasted for 10-12 hours!! We continued running until 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec 30. At that time, we broke camp, packed up all the gear and antennas, and drove out for home.

We did have some equipment problems, but in true ham fashion, we worked around them. We will be sure that we have a "tower mounted" pre-amp with a separate RX line the next time we go out. That arrangement will eliminate the problem of the RX going through the combiner/splitter/amplifiers.

I want to make a special mention of all the

assistance given by our on-location host, Alex Dula, KE5PWJ. He gave us invaluable assistance throughout this adventure. Alex was able to secure permission from the landowner for us to be right on the DL99-DM90 line. This was really a big deal, as finding a suitable spot otherwise would have been nigh impossible. He helped us set up and tear down. He was there every day and brought us some home-baked goodies that his wife had made up. Those were really good eating. He provided us a BBQ beef lunch from one of his own cows—also very good eating. We owe Alex a lot. So, a very big *thank you* goes out to Alex.

Remember that Joey Fiero, W5TFW, is our QSL Manager. Send him an SASE together with your card and he will return our QSL card right away. Remember, too, that it will take us several weeks to get the cards designed and printed up. Please do *not* send QSL requests to the traveling members of the group, as we will not have blank cards to return. JD Dupuy, NØIRS, of Grid Bandit fame, is in charge of the card design and web activities.

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Thanks to everyone who worked us and to those who tried so hard, but were not successful. It is pretty lonely out there without someone on the other end, so give yourself a pat on the back.

73 de Marshall, K5QE. Member: K5N Grid Activation Group, a Grid Bandits DXpedition. For more information on the Grid Bandits, see: <http://www.kcvhfgridbandits.com/kcvhfgrid_bandits_042.htm>.

Student D-STAR Satellite to Launch Late this Year

The following is from Southgate Amateur Radio News:

Students at the Université de Liège are hoping their D-Star GMSK satellite OUFTI-1 will be launched towards the end of this year. An update on the satellite is published in the January 2012 issue of the OUFTI-1 newsletter at: <<http://www.leodium.ulg.ac.be/cmsms/uploads/OUFTI-1%20Newsletter%204.pdf>>.

From the Nanosatellite Project website is the following:

The objective of the nanosatellite project is to provide hands-on experience to students in the design, construction, and control of complete satellite systems that will ultimately serve as the basis for a variety of space experiments. The first satellite in the series is called OUFTI-1: it is a CubeSat, which is a cube with a size of 10 x 10 x 10 cm and a weight of at most one kilogram. It will be launched in late 2012.

The key, innovative feature of OUFTI-1 is the use of the D-STAR amateur-radio digital-communication protocol. This means of radio-communication will be made available to ham-radio operators worldwide. In the future, it will also be used to control space experiments. The telecommands and telemetry will be sent to the satellite with the AX.25 amateur radio protocol. In case of the AX.25 system won't work properly a reliable telegraphy beacon should still be functional.

This project is a student project. Students are thus warmly encouraged to join the project! Please contact us for further information at: <<http://www.leodium.ulg.ac.be/cmsms/index.php?page=contact>>.

Current Contests

The European Worldwide EME Contest 2012: Sponsored by DUBUS and REF, the EU WW EME contest is intended to encourage worldwide activity on moonbounce. Information for this contest is available at the following website: <<http://www.marsport.org.uk/dubus/>>.

Calls for Papers

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

Southeastern VHF Society Conference. Technical papers are solicited for the 16th annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 20–21, 2012. Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF, and Microwave weak-signal amateur radio. In general, papers and presentations on non-weak-signal related topics such as FM repeaters and packet will not be accepted but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak signal. For example, a paper or presentation on the use of APRS to track rovers during contests would be considered. For further information about the conference *Proceedings* deadline, see the society's website: <<http://www.svhfs.org>>.

Central States VHF Society Conference. Technical

papers are solicited for the 46th annual Central States VHF Society Conference to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. For more information please see the society's website: <<http://www.csvhfs.org>>.

Current Meteor Showers

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

And Finally . . .

The short-lived ARISSat-1 satellite provided lots of excitement and learning opportunities. One of the exciting parts was watching the launch of the satellite live on NASA TV. Viewers wondered if the satellite would ever leave the International Space Station (ISS). Viewers also worried about the effects of the missing 70 cm antenna. All was well, however, when the first tests proved that many of the satellite's features would be operational for the time that it would be in orbit.

Among the learning opportunities were missed opportunities. In particular, the education component was a failure. The anticipated penetration into the classroom did not materialize when there was little curriculum available for use for the targeted student population.

Now, AMSAT is rolling out Fox-1 with the following bullet-ed features on its website (www.amsat.org):

- Fox-1 is designed to operate in sunlight without batteries once the battery system fails. This applies lessons learned from AO-51 and ARISSat-1 operations.
- In case of IHU failure Fox-1 will continue to operate its FM repeater in a basic, 'zombie sat' mode, so that the repeater remains on-the-air.
- Fox-1 is designed as the immediate replacement for AO-51. Its U/V (Mode B) transponder will make it even easier to work with modest equipment.
- From the ground user's perspective, the same FM amateur radio equipment used for AO-51 may be used for Fox-1.
- Extending the design, Fox-2 will benefit from the development work of Fox-1 by adding more sophisticated power management and Software Defined Transponder (SDX) communications systems.

Hopefully, curriculum will be developed before its launch so as to not miss another opportunity. Again, according the AMSAT website:

On November 15, 2011, AMSAT submitted a proposal to NASA for its CubeSat Launch Initiative, known as the "Educational Launch of NanoSat" (ELaNa) program...

AMSAT, working with ARRL, highlighted the educational merit of the project including the incorporation of Fox-1 into the ARRL Teacher Institute seminars. ARRL also provided a letter of support for the project that was a key component of our proposal.

The Clay Center for Science and Technology at the Dexter and Southfield schools in Brookline, MA, also provided a letter of support that was an important part of our proposal. The Clay Center noted that they use AMSAT satellites such as ARISSat-1 in their educational activities for K-12 students and that they look forward to making use of Fox-1.

NASA was expected to select its winners by January 30, 2012. Hopefully, with the above backing, AMSAT should have a great opportunity ahead of itself in Fox-1.

Thank you again for your ongoing support for this, your column. Until next month . . .

73 de Joe, N6CL

Addendum to Previous Columns, plus DG5JFY Awards

USA-CA Honor Roll

500		1500	
LY3W.....	3556	DK2OY	1532
RA1AOB.....	3557		

The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America Counties Award is 3077. The basic award fee for subscribers is \$6.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$12.00. To qualify for the special subscriber rate, please send a recent CQ mailing label with your application. Initial application may be submitted in the USA-CA Record Book, which may be obtained from CQ Magazine, 25 Newbridge Road, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA for \$2.50, or by a PC-printed computer listing which is in alphabetical order by state and county within the state. To be eligible for the USA-CA Award, applicants must comply with the rules of the program as set forth in the revised USA-CA Rules and Program dated June 1, 2000. A complete copy of the rules may be obtained by sending an SASE to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 12 Wells Woods Road, Columbia, CT 06237 USA. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.

This time we start out with some additions and corrections to previous columns. Then we move on to an interesting awards series sponsored by DG5JFY.

Additions and Corrections

Bob Hallock, K7TM, completed USA-CA Mixed Modes way back in December 1979. He was awarded the ALL CW endorsement November 25, 2011. USA-CA is basically a one-time award, but we are always willing to recognize special achievement for those who finally work all counties on one mode or band.

In the October 2011 issue of CQ, we featured the Worked U.S. Territories award. One minor change is that if you are at the top of the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll, you automatically qualify for the award without having to send copies of QSL cards. You must write "Top of The DXCC Honor Roll in QST August (current year)" on the application.

Next, David Greene, WWØW, writes that due to the nature of his job, he frequently moves within the USA. He asks whether many awards require all contacts used in an application have to be made within the same location, state, or country.

Answer: In my experience of having reviewed the rules of several thousand awards, I would say that

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

very, very few contain a restriction requiring all contacts be made from the same location, or even the same country. A quick review of CQ awards shows that the WAZ and WPX Awards require all contacts be made from the same "entity" (country). DXCC is the same, although years ago, there was a mileage restriction for all contacts. In fact, for the past few years I don't recall even one new set of award rules limiting valid contacts to a specific location, area, state, or country. Just read the rules, and if there is any question, it's usually very easy to send the sponsor an e-mail inquiry. This has the added benefit of ensuring that an answer will likely confirm the fact that the award is still valid, as well.

DG5JFY Awards Series

The awards whose rules I include in this column have almost always been sponsored by national organizations and clubs. This month, I found an interesting award series created by Victor, DG5JFY. His awards are interesting because the certificates reveal something of the interests of the sponsor, who enjoys fine art, history, religion, and car racing. It's an interesting combination, indeed.

The latest in this series pictures the likely portrait of Lisa Gherardini, wife of Francesco del Giocondo, also known as the Mona Lisa painted by Leonardo da Vinci, completed in the early 16th century and on permanent display at the Musée du Louvre in Paris. Even a DXer of modest achievement should be able to earn most of the awards.

General Requirements. All bands and modes OK. No time limitations for the contacts. SWL OK. Send GCR list plus fee as noted below in the individual rules (IRCs are not desired). Apply to: Victor Ganin, DG5JFY, A-Kivi-Str. 17, D-18106 Rostock, Germany. E-mail: <dg5jfy@gmx.de>; Internet: <http://dg5jfy-awards.narod.ru/>.

Eternal Cities Award. This award may be earned by amateurs and SWLs for contacting cities that were established before the time of Christ. The requirements are to earn 50 points for Europe and Asia, all others 25. A city founded 100 years or one century before Christ = 1 point, 200 years = 2 points, 300 years = 3 points, etc. All bands and modes OK. No date limitations. Send GCR list and fee of 5

Athens SV 15	Delhi VU 10	Marseille F 6	Rome I 8
Ankara TA 7	Feodosia UB 6	Milan I 5	Samarkand UK 4
Beirut OD 17	Geneva HB 1	Malaga EA 11	Sparta SV 7
Bologna I 6	Istanbul TA 7	Nicosia 5B 7	Tunis 3V 10
Barcelona EA 3	Jerusalem 4X 2	Piraeus SV 15	Tashkent 1
Belgrade YU 5	Kerch UB 6	Paris F 1	Valencia EA 2
Koln DL 1	Lisbon CT 2	Peking BY 15	Eriwan 4L 8
Damascus YK 11	Lyon F 1	Plovdiv LZ 4	Zaragoza EA 27

Table 1— List of the most ancient cities of the world, country prefix and their award values for the Eternal Cities Award.



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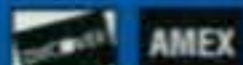
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See Table I for a list of the most ancient cities of the world, country prefix and their award values.

Formula 1 Award. Issued for confirmed contacts with at least 20 of the following list of 22 countries in which the Formula 1 races have been held since 1980. All contacts must have been made after 1 January 1980. Each of the countries may be worked only one time.

Formula 1 Racing Sponsor Countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Portugal, San Marino, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, USA.

Send GCR list plus award fee of 10 Euros or \$US12.

The Mona Lisa Award. The award is issued for confirmed contacts from stations located in cities or specific areas where Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa was painted, stored, or displayed in museums. The following are the locations and contacts required:

1. Italy—one station in each of these cities: Florence, Rome, and Milan.



The Eternal Cities Award, sponsored by DG5JFY, may be earned by amateurs and SWLs for contacting cities that were established before the time of Christ.



The Formula 1 Award is issued for confirmed contacts with at least 20 of the 22 countries in which the Formula 1 races have been held since 1980.

2. France—Departments 12, 37, 75, 77, 78, and 82. The department identifier may be found on French QSLs as the first two digits of the Postal Code.

3. Japan—Tokyo.

4. Russia—Moscow.

5. USA—New York City and Washington, D.C.

A total of 13 contacts is needed. Send GCR list plus fee of 10 Euros for Europeans and \$12 for all others.

Travels of the Apostle Paul. This award is sponsored in commemoration of Paul the Apostle's three Christian missionary journeys. It is issued for confirmed contacts with the following countries and cities which Paul the Apostle visited during his journeys: Crete (SV9), Cyprus (5B4), Damascus (YK), Greece (SV), Jerusalem (4X), Lebanon (OD), Malta (9H), Rome (I), Sicily (IT), Turkey (TA).

Ten QSOs are required, one from each of the listed countries/cities. Award fee is 5 Euros for Europe or \$US10 for all others.

We are always interested in learning of new awards for publication in this column. Please contact me with details and a sample of the certificate. 73, Ted, K1BV



The Mona Lisa Award is issued for confirmed contacts from stations located in cities or specific areas where Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa was painted, stored, or displayed in museums.



The Travels of the Apostle Paul Award is sponsored in commemoration of Paul the Apostle's three Christian missionary journeys. It is issued for confirmed contacts with countries and cities that Paul the Apostle visited during his journeys (see text for list).

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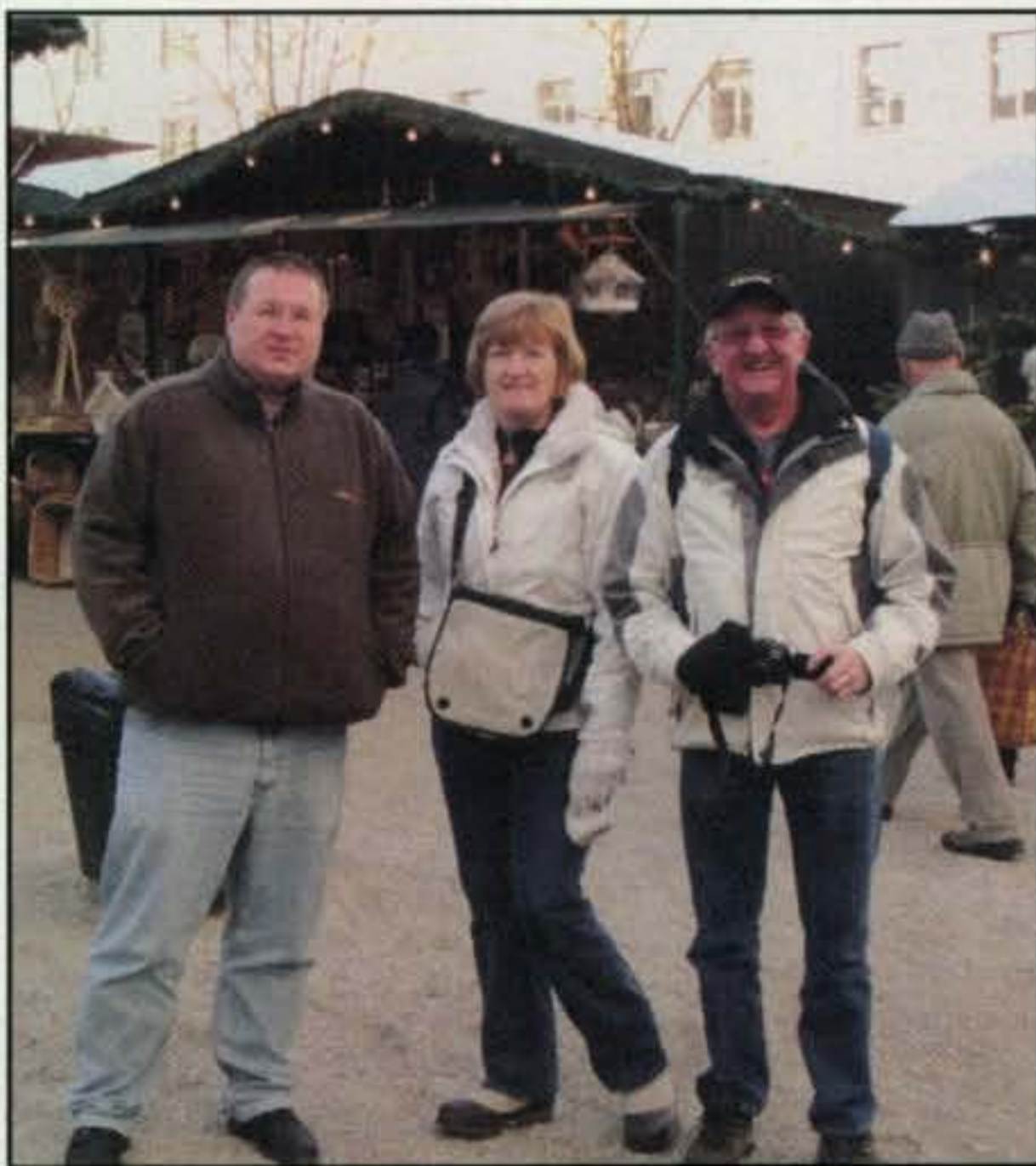
Well, now, what's happening? As I write this in early January, the holidays are over and we are into a new year. Obviously, as you read this column, things may be much different, but here's what been happening in the world of DXing and what should have occurred by now.

DX Operations

We will already have seen the **Malpelo, HK0NA** operations come and go. I hope you worked them on all the bands/modes you needed them. I will have been in there looking for some CW contacts on a few bands and some digital contacts on a lot of bands. If history is any indication, and it usually is, the next major operation from Malpelo will be at least ten years in the future.

The relatively short operation from **Sable Island, CY0** should also have come and gone by now, and I hope you were able to work them as well. There have been several operations from Sable, but it is a difficult place to get into and out of. Also, there's always the possibility that access to the island could become more difficult as gov-

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



Joe, W8GEX (right), and his wife Janet, W8CAA (center), love to travel. Here they are shown with Markus, DL9RCF (left), at the Christmas market of Passau in Bavaria last December. (Photo courtesy of Markus, DL9RCF)

ernment regulations restrict those who can come and go to places like this.

Frosty, K5LBU, is off on another of his African safari trips. He is going to take a group to **Botswana** in March and usually arranges a side trip to the Kruger wildlife park. I'm told that is always a highlight of his trips.

Guinea Bissau, J5. The Verona Section of the Italian Radioamateurs Association is organizing a group with humanitarian and ham radio purposes to go to Guinea Bissau in late March. It is one of poorest countries on Earth, and for DXers it is needed on RTTY/CW and has never been activated on EME. The group plans to be on the air from March 24 to April 6 operating from Cumura. Their website is showing "on-line log" and more. Check it out at: <<http://www.ari.verona.it/veronadxteam/en/index.htm>>.

Congo, TN2T will see action "sometime" in 2012. The website given was still under construction the end of December, so not much is known at this time. Check the website: <<http://www.tn2t.be>>.

Trevor, VK0TH, is on **Macquarie Island** until the end of April and promised to be "very active" until his departure. He works SSB, Hellschreiber, PSK-31, and RTTY at various times and on various bands, so keep listening and/or watching the cluster for spots.

60 Meters News

There has been a lot of interest in 60 meters by hams in general and DXers in particular, as it can be very challenging, especially with the limited power regulations and all. In late December the FCC indicated it was looking at expanding 60 meters to allow CW and RTTY. Joe Pater, W8GEX, is always on top of things relating to 60 meters and he released the following:

With the anticipated announcement of FCC approval of CW and RTTY on 60 meters, the ARRL has formed a committee to look at a gentlemen's agreement for a band plan. Hopefully that plan will be out in a few weeks. With only five channels and soon three modes, we will need every operator's cooperation in following this plan.

I received the following from Bruce K0BJ from the ARRL:

A story will go on the ARRL Web probably some time next week. It will explain the R&O, effective dates, etc. Then it will publicize the email address to submit essay. It will also have a URL to the Zoomerang survey.

If you could put a link to the ARRL news story on (<http://60meters.net/>) once it appears, it would help in getting serious users, and CW/Digi contemplators, directed to submit their input.'

DX worldwide has been on Channel 5 since we were given the band in June of 2003. As far as I know, every

country on the band has allocated 5.403.5 as one of its frequencies. This channel is the only one common to all of us, and why the DX is there.

In the future, it would be most helpful if we don't have long conversations at night on that channel and leave it for DXing. Over the years of issuing the "60m DX Newsletter," all of the complaints I received are about rag chewing on Channel 5. As you know, DXpeditions are about QSO rates, and if they hear Ch 5 busy, they just leave and sometimes never come back. Being thousands of miles away, the DX station can't break the conversations.

May I ask your help in only calling the DX on Ch. 5, and if you hear rag chewing, kindly ask the operators to relinquish the channel to the DX. If this is done in a nice courteous way, I would hope you would be successful.

I don't think most of the offenders are getting my newsletter and are not DXers, so passing the word to them of the forthcoming band plan is very important.

HS0AC, Thailand

For news of the devastating flooding that took place in Thailand, take a look at the RAST website: <<http://www.net/rast>>. The pictures are heart-breaking to anyone seeing the condition of the equipment that was destroyed. For two months the club station in Bangkok was flooded with water up to seven feet deep. The club's towers and antennas survived, but there are no surviving



Luis, XE1L, stands at the grave of Father Moran, 9N1MM, at St. Xavier's cemetery, Godavari, Kathmandu, Nepal. Luis is wearing the hat Father Moran gave him when he visited Mexico City many years ago. (Photo courtesy of Luis, XE1L, and Rick, NE8Z)

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radios/amplifiers or accessory items. Ironically, while the club station was under water, RAST members provided extensive disaster communications assistance and food packet deliveries, using their own personal 2-meter radios, vehicles, and boats. All possible sources, official and voluntary, will be approached for donations, as well as radio manufacturers and dealers world-

wide. Anyone with contacts that might help, and all donations, will be warmly welcomed.

A New ARRL DXCC Award

If you haven't heard about this yet, here's the story from the ARRL website:

2012 is the 75th anniversary of the

The WPX Program

CW	
3272.....IS0UWX	
SSB	
3111.....K2OAK	3113.....IS0EBO
3112.....IK2RPE	
Mixed	
2176.....NK5O	2179.....GI4DOH
2177.....K8LE	2180.....W5NYC
2178.....IS0EBO	
Digital	
68.....FG4NO	70.....IS0EBO
69.....IS0BZR	

CW: 900 JH6JMM, 2850 S51NR, 3200 I7PXV, 5950 K2VV, 6150 K9QVB.
SSB: 1150 MU0GSY, 1550 IK2RPE, 2400 W6AFA, 2800 I3ZSX.
Mixed: 450 IS0EBO, 500 K9OHI, 700 IS0EBO, GI4DOH, 1900 G3OCA, 2500 AB1J, NF0N, 3500 KC9ARR, 4250 WA5VGI, 6800 K2VV.
Digital: 350 K9OHI, 400 IS0EBO, 600 FG4NO.

20 Meters: K9OHI, IS0UWX
17 Meters: HA2ESM
15 Meters: IS0UWX
12 Meters: HA2ESM
10 Meters: K3JHT, HA2ESM

11EEW, I8RFD, I3CRW, VE3MS, NE4F, KC8PG, F1HWB, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, KC7EM, YU1AB, IK2ILH, DE8DAQ, I1WXY, LU1DOW, N1IR, IK4GME, VE9RJ, NN1N, HB9AUT, KC6X, N6IBF, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MOP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA8SU, ISZJK, I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PXV, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU8A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JSW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SG, WA3GNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA0FU, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY3BA, K1NU, W1TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, I25BAM, K4LO, K0KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, AI6Z, RU3DX, WB9IHH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, KT2C, UA9CGL, AE5B, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, UA0FAI, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3OPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJO, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI, UT9FJ, UT4EK, K9UON, UR5FEO, LY2MM, N3RC, OH3MKH, RA3CO, UT3JZ, 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, W4BOY, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CNL, W1JR, W5UR, W8ILC, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, LU3YL/W4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6OUL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE8DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H8LC, KA5W, K3UA, K7LJ, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2POF, IT9TOH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, N3XX, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF1SD, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, WB4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, IV3PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, IK4GME, NN1N, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MOP, F6HMJ, HB9DDZ, K9XR, JA8SU, ISZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, 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, I25BAM, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX, WB9IHH, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, UA9CGL, SM6DHU, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3OPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJO, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VGI, UR5FEO, N3RC, UT3JZ, 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.



On the Cover

CQ DX Hall of Fame member Wayne Mills, N7NG, "home on the range" outside Jackson, Wyoming. A dedicated DXer since getting his General Class license in 1956, Wayne has been on too many DXpeditions to count and spent over six years as the ARRL's Membership Services Manager, during which time he oversaw the development and deployment of the League's Logbook of the World (LoTW) electronic confirmation system.

Back in Wyoming for the past five years, Wayne has focused most of his energy on DXing, especially on 160 meters, for which he has installed a vertical (for 160 and 80) and a full-size radial field. He also has a 4-square receiving antenna for top-band (as well as 80 meters). His investment in antennas has allowed him to earn 160-meter DXCC from Wyoming in just three years.

The antennas you see behind Wayne in the cover photo are his TH-6DX and Moseley 40-2 CD on a 55-foot U.S. Towers tower, which also supports an 80-meter dipole. The mountains behind him - about 15 miles away, are in Grand Teton National Park.

Inside, Wayne has a new Yaesu FT-DX 5000 as well as a long-serving FT-1000D and an Alpha 89 amplifier that he purchased after using it on a DXpedition to Burma in 1985. When asked what one ham radio experience stood out for him, Wayne answered without hesitation, "Albania," referring to the 1991 ZA1A operation which brought amateur radio back to that country after decades of being banned under a Communist dictatorship. Even better than operating the radio, he said, was helping to create a structure for amateur licensing in the country and the ability to "sit and talk world politics" with the Albanians and to hear their different perspectives. "I haven't run into anything yet that can beat that," he said.

(Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)

ARRL's DXCC Award. The world's preeminent DXing award continues to be DXCC, so reaching the "Diamond milestone" is an event that we all want to celebrate. Going back to the roots of the award, and specifically reading the 1937 DXCC List (January, 1937 QST pages 52-3) to learn what countries were counted at the onset led us to create the Diamond DXCC Challenge.

The country list we will use for the Diamond DXCC Challenge is based upon the list of 231 places shown in 1937. We tried to find corresponding entities today that would represent the places listed in 1937, but there are four places (Baluchistan, British Cameroons, Canal Zone, Hejas) which were on the oldest list that just don't exist today in a form that could even loosely be represented by someplace current. The

Diamond DXCC List represents 227 of the 231 1937 "countries." The list is fascinating and leads us to learn more about world history and how geopolitics has changed leading up to today.

The Diamond DXCC Challenge is an "Honor Award" and will not require acquisition or inspection of QSLs or proof of confirmation, although it still will be fun and useful to seek out cards or LoTW confirmations. We will provide forms online to use at your operating position to track what you have worked and forms for applying for awards and endorsements.

The Diamond DXCC certificate will be available for working 100 of the 226 entities, and will be endorsable at 5 levels: 125, 150, 175, 200 and 225. If anyone works all 226, there will be a special award for that remarkable achievement!

See the Diamond DXCC web page for the rules on the Diamond DXCC Challenge and more information and to read updates during 2012.

QSL Manager of the Year

The Golist QSL Manager Data Service is reviving its QSL Manager of the Year

5 Band WAZ

As of January 1, 2012, 865 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1755 stations have attained the 150 zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones confirmed:
UT7UJ W4II

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)	IK4CIE, 199 (1)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40)	K2FF, 198 (18, 23)
IK1AOD, 199 (1)	EA5BCX, 198 (27, 39)
VO1FB, 199 (19)	G3KDB, 198 (1, 12)
KZ4V, 199 (26)	JA1DM, 198 (2, 40)
W6DN, 199 (17)	9A5I, 198 (1, 16)
W3NO, 199 (26)	G3KMQ, 198 (1, 27)
RU3FM, 199 (1)	N2QT, 198 (23, 24)
N3UN, 199 (18)	OK1DWC, 198 (6, 31)
W1FZ, 199 (26)	W4UM, 198 (18, 23)
SM7BIP, 199 (31)	US7MM, 198 (2, 6)
N4NX, 199 (26)	K2TK, 198 (23, 24)
EA7GF, 199 (1)	K3JGJ, 198 (24, 26)
JA5IU, 199 (2)	W4DC, 198 (24, 26)
RU3DX, 199 (6)	F5NBU, 198 (19, 31)
N4XR, 199 (27)	W9XY, 198 (22, 26)
HA5AGS, 199 (1)	KZ2I, 198 (24, 26)
N5AW, 199 (17)	W9RN, 198 (26, 19 on 40)
JH7CFX, 199 (2)	W5CWQ, 198 (17, 18)
K7LJ, 199 (37)	UA4LY, 198 (6&2 on 10)
RA6AX, 199 (6 on 10)	JA7XBG, 198 (2 on 80&10)
RX4HZ, 199 (13)	JA3GN, 198 (2 on 80&40)
S58Q, 199 (31)	
G3NKC, 199 (31 on 10)	
K8PT, 199 (26)	

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

F8DHE (151 zones) HA1ZH (170 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

K3XA (180 zones) K5EK (200 zones)
DK0PM (200 zones) K9CT (200 zones)
WB5JID (200 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

6 Meters

108.....PE5T (26 zones)

10 Meters SSB

595.....WC6DX

12 Meters SSB

42.....WA5VGI 43.....S54E..

15 Meters SSB

652.....W6AEA

12 Meters CW

58.....WB6RSE 59.....K2FF

15 Meters CW

344.....JH1RNI 345.....W6AEA

30 Meters CW

103.....K8VFF

80 Meters CW

90.....W2LO

160 Meters

393.....SP3IBS (40 zones) 394...YO3APJ (40 zones)

160 Meter Updates

WB6RSE.....(40 zones) NX4D.....(40 zones)

All Band WAZ Mixed

8849.....N5KAE 8860.....KA2NBB
8850.....ZS2CR 8861.....W3NJ
8851.....ZS2DK 8862.....SP7OMS
8852.....VA7JW 8863.....SP3DV
8853.....K0NW 8864.....SP3CFM
8854.....OE8TLK 8865.....DK1AX
8855.....W9FFC 8866.....G8DX
8856.....RN3QQ 8867.....IK6GQC
8857.....HB9DHG 8868.....SP6DNZ
8858.....G0MTN 8869.....W8HMK
8859.....W5VY 8870.....VK2HV

SSB

5192.....N6BM 5193.....K9EZZ

CW

654.....JF1QQK 656.....N1WQ
655.....JH2GSW 657.....DL99MDW

RTTY

222.....K6FW

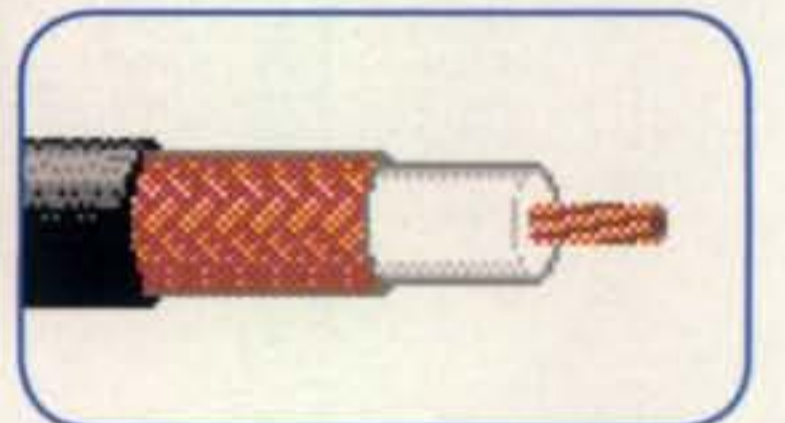
Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, Floyd Gerald, N5FG, P.O. Box 449, Wiggins, MS 39577-0449. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$6.00 for subscribers (please include your 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>.

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CQ DX Awards Program

CW

1129K8ME

SSB

2575W4TTO 2578FG4NO
 2576VK2HV 2579K8ME
 2577K2HJM

Endorsements

28 MHzN3RC
 28 MHzK2HJB
 1.8 MHzK8ME

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.

Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize the service of QSL Managers worldwide for the service they provide to the worldwide DX Community. Nominations for this award will be

The CQ DX Field Award Program

Digital

21N4MM

MIXED Endorsements

200N16T

Digital Endorsements

100JN3SAC

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 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	4201KF2O	3628.....SM6DHU	2922OZ1ACB	2192N2SS	1593S55SL	964K8ZEE	662.....JA7OXR	600.....IK1RKN
6177.....K2VV	4187K0DEQ	3540KC9ARR	2716W3LL	2106K0KG	1463NE6I	815KL7FAP	653KK3Q	600.....KB9OWD
5797W1CU	4158N6JV	3475N8BJQ	2544W8OUL	2084WD9DZV	1462DL4CW	808W6PN	650N3YZ	
53039A2NA	4129S58MU	3305JH8BOE	2530YO9HP	2004W2FKF	1446DF3JO	781V51YJ	649RA9OO	
5013EA2IA	4129WA5VGI	3238K1BV	2499VE6BF	1954W7CB	1383IW0HOU	726K5IC	647PA0QRB	
4785N4NO	4022N9AF	3231W2OO	2493I5RFD	1936AG4W	1337K6UXO	725WK3N	644KW0H	
4407S53EO	4005W9OP	3207W9IL	2476K5UR	1862VE9FX	1322AA4FU	723K0DAN	636ZS2DL	
4399YU1AB	3967ON4CAS	3116JN3SAC	2445AB1J	1818KX1A	1269K5WAF	712IS0EBO	634UA3LNR	
4344VE3XN	3892YU7BCD	3104K9UQN	2428N6QQ	1727N3RC	1116YU7FW	707W1E74OF	634UA3LNR	
4290I2PJA	3813WB2YQH	30919A4W	2338I2EAY	1667SQ7B	1066JA1CKE	684FG4NO	620PI4DHV	
4229I2MQP	3773IK2ILH	3007W2WC	2116AE5B	1655SV1DPI	976KM6HB	682A1BP	616DL5JH	

SSB

5169I0ZV	3387KF2O	2741WA5VGI	2326CX6BZ	2093W2WC	1782W6OUL	1464VE7SMP	1042IZ0BNR	758IV3GOW
4663K2VV	3323OE2EGL	2711LU8ESU	2310K17AO	2076K2XF	1776JN3SAC	1463I2EAY	1031IK8OZP	724W3TZ
4606VE1YX	3259CT1AHU	2652I3ZSX	2294N8BJQ	1986DL8AAV	1719K9UQN	1410S55SL	1022NW3H	717K0DAN
4584F6DZU	3108I4CSP	2595EA1JG	2275IK2DZN	1971W2FKF	1623VE9FX	1386IK4HPU	1012KU4BP	690W6PN
4567OZ5EV	3101K0DEQ	2497S58MU	2271SV3AQR	1935SV1EOS	1612AG4W	1377EA3NP	1117WD9DZV	640UA9YF
4238I2PJA	3022I8KCI	2459W2OO	2209IK2QPR	1927AE5B	1611W2ME	1258N1KC	978EA7HY	637K5WAF
42089A2NA	2903IN3QCI	2451EA3GHZ	2201NQ3A	1889N6QQ	1561PT7ZT	1146SQ7B	976NE6I	600WA2BEV
3962I2MQP	28574X6DK	2449SM6DHU	2107N6FX	1879K3IXD	1550IK2RPE	1145EA3EQT	965VE6BF	
3741EA2IA	2779YU7BCD	2416W3LL	2098K5UR	1844YO9HP	1534AE9DX	1089IZ8FFA	883WA5UA	
3557N4NO	2761KF7RU	2333W9IL	2094I8LEL	1825KQ8D	1480AB5C	1083KX1A	875K7SAM	

CW

5752K9QVB	3750VE7CNE	3042I7PXV	2647I0NNY	2342N6FX	1665YO9HP	1220AA4FU	813VE9FX	600IK2SGV
5522WA2HZR	37229A2NA	3025SM6DHU	2632W2ME	2245W9HR	1548WD9DZV	1210DL4CW	794LA5MDA	
5483K2VV	3676S58MU	2843N8BJQ	2502JA9CWJ	2178I2MQP	1461WO3Z	1160AA5JG	753F5PBL	
4316N4NO	3587WA5VGI	2730IK3GER	2473OZ5UR	2010K5UR	1445EA2CIN	1125I0WOK	749AE5B	
4182N6JV	3471K0DEQ	2723EA7AZA	2434W9IL	1990W6OUL	1424N6QQ	1145VE1YX	732SQ7B	
4024LZ1XL	3145W8IQ	2721K9UQN	2424W2WC	1983EA7AAW	1336WA2VQV	1102IT9ELD	695S55SL	
3918VE7DP	3132KF2O	2701JN3SAC	2373VE6BF	1848I2EAY	1312K6UXO	1049K5WAF	629IV3GOW	
3780EA2IA	3046YU7BCD	2692KA7T	2365W2OO	1827AC5K	1223KX1A	821HB9DAX	615JH6JMM	

DIGITAL

1700W3LL	1133N6QQ	1056WD9DZV	1009GU0SVP	886K0DEQ	800KF2O
1408N8BJQ	1066YO9HP	1049W2OO	894AG4W	866SQ7B	



They call it "wireless," but you can't do without "wire." Here we find the coaxial "delay lines" for both a 4-Square and an 8 Circle array at the QTH of Dave, K4SV. He says both are very directional and are "hearing" well. (Photo courtesy of Dave, K4SV)

accepted by the Golist from DX and contest clubs, worldwide, for the year of 2012. Each DX club and contest club is encouraged to poll its members for their nominations for the top five QSL Managers for 2012.

The definition of a QSL Manager for this award is any person who confirms contacts via printed QSL card for any station other than their primary callsign.

Each club should tabulate the votes of its members and submit to the Golist the top five vote getters, as voted by members of their club. Votes should be tabulated and sent to the Golist by August 1, 2012, to be eligible for the QSL Manager of the Year award. Each club worldwide may only send one submission for voting purposes. Records of submission will be maintained by the Golist.

A plaque, donated by DX Publishing, Inc., publisher of QRZ-DX and *The DX Magazine*, will be awarded to the QSL Manager of the Year selected at the W4DXCC Convention held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in September 2012.

The recognized format for your club's submission is as follows:

Club Name; Club Officer (Name, Call Sign, club office, and e-mail address); Top 5 QSL Manager Nominees (list name and callsign). In the subject line of your official email: "QSL Manager of the Year-2012" and send to: <golist@gmail.com>. The ending date is August 1, 2012.

That's the DX news for now, with much more to come this year. Until next time, enjoy the chase and all means Have Fun!
73, Carl, N4AA

QSL Information

GM0B via MM0BHX
GM3PYE/P via G4HUN
GM3VLB/P via GM3VLB
GM5XW via G5XW
GM7TJV via VR2XMT
GP4BRS via GW0ANA
GQ6YB via G3SWH
GR5MS via G4PLY
GS3PYE/P via G4HUN
GT4BRS via GW0ANA
GT6BRC via GW0ANA
GT6BRS via GW0ANA
GU/DJ6QT via DJ6QT
GU0VNK via DJ8NK
GU1OCN via G5XW
GU3HFN via DJ6QT
GU5XW via G5XW
GU6YB via G3SWH
GV2CJCG4PLY
GW0GRC via G0RC
GW0VNK via DJ8NK
GW2L via G8ATD
GW4BRS via GW0ANA

GW4VXE via G3SWH
GW5XW via G5XW
GW6WRW/P via GW6WRW
GW6YB via G3SWH
GW7K via GW0ANA
GW7X via GW3SQX
GW8K via GW0ANA
GX4KPT/P via M0DOL
H27T via YU1FW
H2E via 5B4AGE
H40AT via IZ8CCW
H40FK via DG1FK
H40FN via HA8FW
H40MS via DL2GAC
H44AT via IZ8CCW
H44GC via K2PF
H44KA via K2PF

(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>.)

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	K8OOK.....196
W1CU.....244	VE3ZZ.....207	N4NX.....192
H8BDU.....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	N16T.....200	

SSB

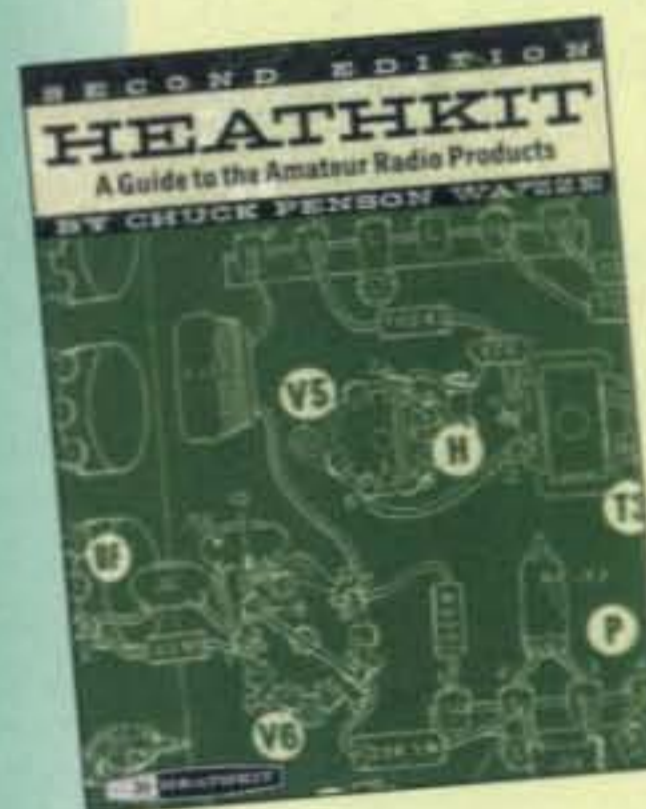
W1CU.....224	VE7SMP.....190	JN3SAC.....177
W4ABW.....202	N4MM.....186	N0FW.....176
K0DEQ.....192	W4UM.....184	DL3DXX.....175

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	

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Most Influential Mentor

Many contesters from around the world feel strongly about their mentors, or as we hams tend to call them, our "Elmers." As in other areas of amateur radio and life, these contesters feel it is important to have someone to "show you the ropes." These are some of their stories.

SV2KBS and N2OO

Victoria Panagiotou, SV2KBS, met her mentor, Bob Schenck, N2OO, while at the VK9LA Lord Howe DXpedition in 2009. He turned out to be "the Elmer that would shift me to the higher gear in my beloved hobby!" Panagiotou is from Serres, a small town in northern Greece, while Schenck, N2OO, is from New Jersey. "My history with the code wasn't the brightest; in 2005 I failed my first 5-wpm exam. I managed to pass it half a year later with the maximum number of errors allowed, so although I really admired the guys around who could whistle the code, I never really believed that I could become one of them and enjoy CW over the air," SV2KBS said. "However, Bob had a different opinion. I spent most of my off-shift times with Bob, listening to what he listened to while on the radio, watching him as he was working the pile-ups. When the pile-up got thin, he'd even let me type in what I could hear and he'd fill the gaps; his positive and supporting attitude had an incredible effect on my confidence. Ever since, I have been hooked with daily CW practice, and it didn't take long until I became literally addicted to it. Now thanks to Bob's generosity and kindness, CW has become not only my preferred mode of operation, but something much deeper than a regular hobby. QRQ (high-speed) CW is endless, since there's always room for improvement. Last but not least, what I would like to share with you is that CW is a wonderful mode of operation that absolutely anybody [can] learn provided that he/she will stick with a consistent practice routine for a few weeks. After that, once you master the code, only then you will realize what you were missing while you were hesitant to touch a CW key!"

KH6LC and WA6UZA

Some hams meet their mentors on the air, such as Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC, from Keaau on the Big Island in Hawaii. "I met my most influential mentor, Dave Rowley, WA6UZA, then N6RZ (now a SK), on the air in 1972," Cabral said. "I'd just moved to Santa

*P.O. Box 657, Copaque, NY 11726
e-mail: <n2ga@cq-amateur-radio.com>

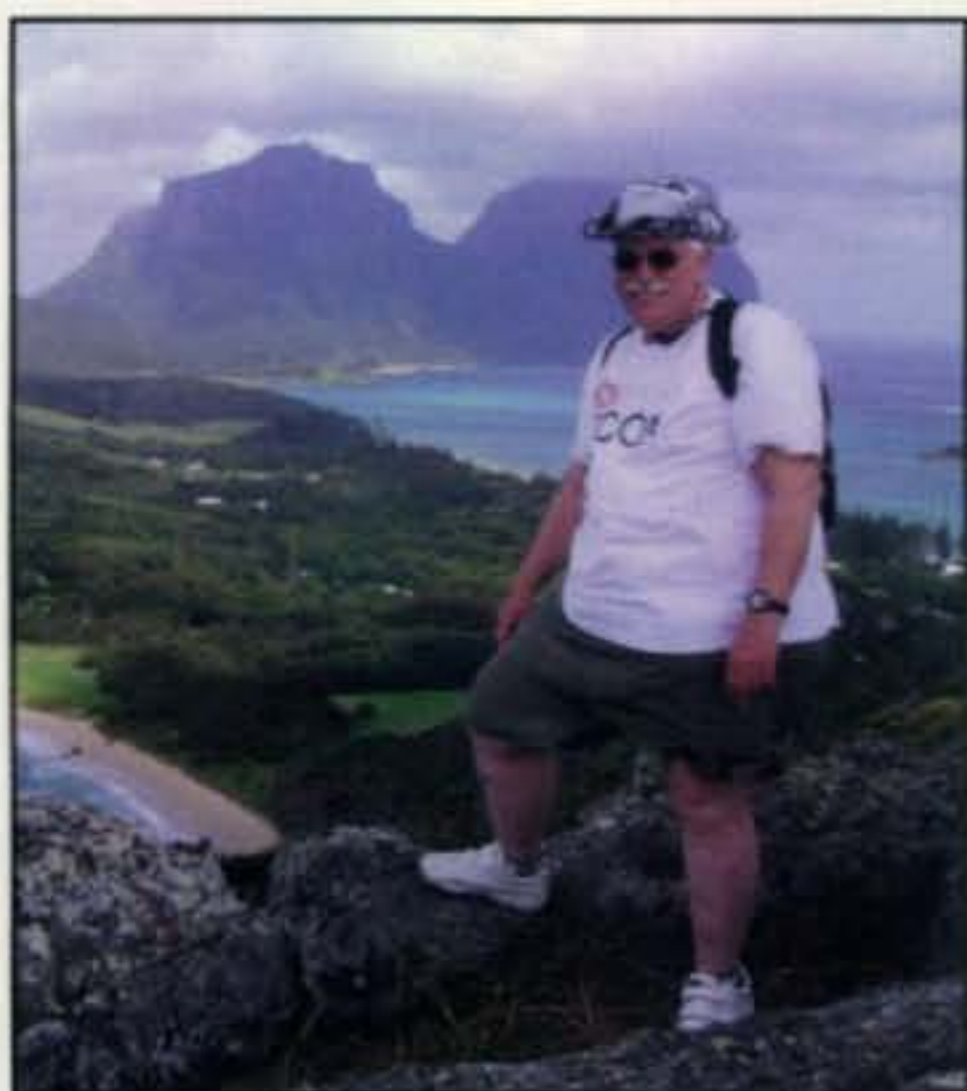
Calendar of Events

All Year	CQ DX Marathon (http://bit.ly/vEKMWD)
Feb. 24-26	CQ 160M SSB Contest (http://bit.ly/uB0wFb)
Feb. 25-26	North American RTTY QSO Party (http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php)
Feb. 25-26	REF SSB Contest (http://concours.ref-union.org/contest/?page_id=2)
Feb. 25-26	UBA CW DX Contest (http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/uba-dx-contest-rules)
Mar. 3-4	ARRL SSB DX Contest (http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx)
Mar. 6	AGCW YL-CW QSO Party (http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:YL-CW-Party)
Mar. 10	AGCW QRP Contest (http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:QRP-Contest)
Mar. 10-11	EA PSK63 Contest (http://bit.ly/4XliX1)
Mar. 10-11	RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest (http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2012/rberu.shtml)
Mar. 11	North American RTTY Sprint (http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php)
Mar. 11	Wisconsin QSO Party (http://www.warac.org/wqp/wiqp_rules.htm)
Mar. 17	10-10 Mobile QSO Party (http://bit.ly/cWgCpa)
Mar. 17-18	Russian DX Contest (http://www.rdx.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp)
Mar. 17-19	BARTG HF RTTY Contest (http://www.bartg.org.uk/hfrttycontest.asp)
Mar. 24-25	CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (http://bit.ly/hKqJjG)
Mar. 26	QRP Homebrewer Sprint (http://www.njqr.org/data/qrphomebrewersprint.html)
Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Missouri QSO Party (http://www.w0ma.org/mo_qso_party.htm)
Apr. 7-8	SP DX Contest (http://www.spdxcontest.info/reg/reg_g.html)
May 26-27	CQ WW WPX CW Contest (http://bit.ly/hKqJjG)

Cruz, California for a job, I'd purchased my first home and was finally able to put up antennas again. Dave was a great operator, very active and about my age. We hit it off well and became close friends. At the time, Dave had to be one of the most intense people I'd ever met and this carried over to his operating. He took it all very seriously. I can well remember him telling me: 'If you want to contest with us, you need to get proficient in CW.' If there was one thing Dave did for me, it was to introduce me to the Northern California Contest Club. In the early 1970s, the NCCC was about the most fun I've ever experienced in ham radio. It was a bunch of the most friendly, enthusiastic individuals you could ever want to meet. The meetings were so much fun and so informative you didn't want to miss one . . . did I mention the pizza and beer? Making the mid-week Bay Area meetings was always tough from geographically challenged Santa Cruz County. What's interesting is that most



Victoria Panagiotou, SV2KBS, at the station of her friend, SV2BFN. (Photo courtesy of SV2KBS)



Bob Schenck, N200, at Lord Howe. Bob is the mentor of Victoria Panagiotou, SV2KBS. (Courtesy SV2KBS)



Dave Rowley, N6RZ, during a 1988 trip to the Galapagos Islands for the CQWW CW Contest. Dave was mentor to Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC. (Photo courtesy of KH6LC)



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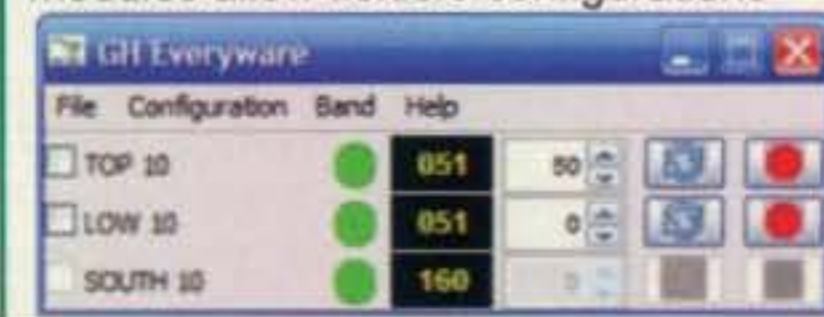
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of the active guys then are still very much in the game today."

LU5DX and LU6EBY

Martin Monsalvo, LU5DX, was born and raised in Lujan, a small town near Buenos Aires in Argentina. His most influential mentor in contesting is his father, Carlos Alberto Monsalvo, LU6EBY. Martin said, "I discovered both ham radio and contesting through him when I was 14 years old. He helped me get started and allowed me to enter several contests from his station, which is still located at his workshop. After a couple of CQ WW DX and CQ WPX CW tests people started to invite me to operate from their stations, including LU4FM, ZP0Y, etc., back in the early 1990s, all the way through LT1F, ZW5B, LP1H, CW5W, LR4E, LU4DX, etc. He also helped me get ready for the two WRTC's I entered as a competitor (Slovenia 2000 and Brazil 2006). In 1989, he introduced me to Jorge Bozzo, LU8DQ (SK), who by then, and to this day, was the most renowned contesteer in LU. A most important influence is the fact that he also helped me get started with CW, which turned out to be my mode of preference. He is mainly active on SSB, so this year we both entered our first contest together as Multi Single in the ARRL 10 Meter contest. He's 70 years old now and I really had a blast seeing his enthusiasm and passion for the hobby remains the same. I really

doubt I would have developed the love I feel for our hobby if it was not for his support and help. My father also mentored several other hams in my hometown. Some of them developed a preference for DXing, some others for electronics."

W0MU and K0RF/K0GU

Mike Fatchett, W0MU, of Castle Rock, Colorado, said that there was no way he could limit this to just one person and lists Chuck Cullian, K0RF, of Longmont, CO, and Jay Kesterson, K0GU, of Wellington, CO, as his two main influences. Fatchett said, "My first exposure to big-time contesting was when Chuck, K0RF, invited me up to his station to operate in one of the big DX contests. We got together a number of times ahead of the contest to get familiar with the station and maintain, build and fix various antennas and pieces of equipment. I was probably around 16 or 17 at the time. I was driving, as I remember, filling my car with all my gear. This would have been in the early 1980s. I was first licensed in 1978. When I arrived for the contest, I was paired with George, W0UA, on the 15m station. I chased mults while he ran. I also got to meet K0GU, N2IC, W0ZV (now W4ZV), and W0YK while contesting at Chuck's. The amount of knowledge, guidance, and teaching I received was mind boggling!" W0MU continued: "Jay, K0GU, and I would later team up and operate



1988 Galapagos Islands contest team (left to right): Lloyd Cabral, KH6LC (then AA6T), DL7AV, W6NV, N6TU, N6RZ, NH6V (then WB6SHD). They finished fifth in the world in the Multi-Multi class. This location was on a knoll adjacent to where HC8N is located today. (Courtesy of KH6LC)

the ARRL DX contests from St. Kitts as VP2KBU and V47M in the 1980s. Jay and I have never operated together again in a contest, but we have always stayed in touch. Jay probably provided me with the most help over the years with software, computer, and antenna designs, explaining why certain things would not work or why they would. I can still remember practicing with the Doctor DX trying to improve our CW as we were phone guys and discussing it on 2 meters."

AA4NU and N4KG

Billy Cox, AA4NU, from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, lists Thomas Russell, N4KG, of Harvest, Alabama as his mentor. According to Cox, they first met "[a]round 1980 or so, in Alabama, on 2 meters, and then I stopped by Tom's QTH when I was in the area." Cox was already active in contesting, but connected with Russell because of common ideas. Cox said that what drew them together was "contesting, antenna theory debates (and) operating strategies." Cox said his biggest influence was that his mentor was a great sounding board on new ways and testing out those ideas.

KU5B and NX5M

"I met Bob Pack, NX5M, in July of 2004 (at the age of 16) after I had sent an e-mail to the local contesting reflector inquiring if any local stations needed ops for the IARU HF contest," said Colin Jenkins, KU5B, of Houston, Texas. Jenkins said, "Bob answered the e-mail and asked me to come out to the NX5M station in Somerville, TX. I gladly accepted the offer and had a blast operating with a good group of guys over the weekend. I've now been contesting from the NX5M station for seven years. The majority of the station is homemade (antennas, phasing boxes, interfaces), and I can still tell that even after almost 15 years of the station's existence, he's still proud of the homemade equipment. Bob has taught me quite a lot in those seven years, both about contest operating and station maintenance. Although I was an Extra when I first ventured up to Somerville, I'd had very little electronic and homebrewing experience. Bob has shown me how to fix and create countless antennas, phasing boxes, and sound-card interfaces and my knowledge of electronics has grown immensely. Additionally, Bob has offered the station to me for many single-op as well as multi-op efforts, and I've done very well thanks to his hard work in keeping the station going and moti-



Carlos Alberto Monsalvo, LU6EBY, flanked by his two sons, Martin, LU5DX, and Carlos, LU2DJY. (Photo courtesy of LU5DX)



Mike Fatchett, W0MU, operating from St. Lucia as J6M. (Courtesy of W0MU)

vation during the contests. He's taught me quite a lot about propagation in general, and specifically 10m propagation. He's helped me along many times in my contesting career, pushing me to keep going during a contest when I'd all but given up. The amount of contest-oriented knowledge I've gained over that time is immense. I feel a lot more comfortable about making decisions during a contest because of watching Bob and the other operators during my early years at the station. Bob has not only become a contesting mentor but a great friend. I've gotten to know his wife and two daughters (the youngest I've known since she was just a couple of months old), and they've become a second family to me. Throughout the course of coming up to Somerville, I'd also discovered that Bob shared the same passion for severe weather that I'd had since I was in elementary school. We've now chased storms together in the heart of Tornado Alley for the last two years with great success."

W3TX and K4VX/K3LR

Scott Johns, W3TX, of Fairview, Pennsylvania, lists Lew Gordon, K4VX, and Tim Duffy, K3LR, as his mentors. Johns said, "When I was in my teens I was drawn to contesting. There was no internet back then. K4VX's station was doing



Thomas Russell, N4KG, at Bill Cox's Murfreesboro, Tennessee QTH. (Courtesy of AA4NU)



Colin Jenkins, KU5B, and Bob Pack, NX5M, in front of the Tornado Intercept Vehicle in Austin, TX. They operated the Texas QSO Party mobile from this vehicle! (Courtesy of KU5B)



Back row: Ken Wolff, K1EA; Duke Brown, W1ZA; Stu Santelmann, KC1F (SK). Front: Jim Idelson, K1IR; Fred Hopengarten, K1VR. (Courtesy of K1IR)



Bill Cox, AA4NU, from Murfreesboro, Tennessee. (Courtesy of AA4NU)

very well and was churning out exceptional operators. I'd listen to them operate to learn new techniques. One year I wrote to Lew for advice. He actually wrote back. That started many years of letters and phone calls back and forth that definitely cemented my interest in contesting—station building in particular, which is my ultimate radio passion! I had lost my station my sophomore year of college to a vandal who cut the guy wires on my tower at home. Then and there, amongst the rubble, I vowed to rebuild a station with a tower that could not be cut down. My Bertha dream was born. I built my first SuperBertha in 1999, the culmination of years of personal research and engineering. Soon

I was contacted by K3LR, who visited my station and then asked me to speak at the Dayton Hamvention® Antenna forum. We became fast friends! Tim has mentored me for many years, helping me raise the bar of station engineering and building. Because of this association I've had the opportunity to build many stations for individuals centered upon the SuperBertha towers and K3LR/WA3FET OWA Yagis. Along the way, Tim has provided me the opportunity to serve the contesting community by helping him with Contest University, the Dayton Contest Dinner, and contest-related events at Hamvention®. I've also had the privilege of operating at K3LR on 80m daytime SSB during CQWW—not a very easy appointment, but an important contribution to the entire team!"

K1IR and Four Elmers

Jim Idelson, K1IR, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, also lists multiple mentors. "I claim all of these guys—Ken Wolff, K1EA; Duke Brown, W1ZA; Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, and Stu Santelmann, KC1F (SK)—as my most influential mentors!" Idelson said, "I met Kenny, K1EA, when I was in high school around 1974. He was living in Harvard Square Cambridge, winning CD Parties from a pieced-together station connected to a few wires. We did a couple of multi-op efforts in SS from that location. Kenny also became a professional mentor as I worked my way through college and early career pursuits. I learned from Kenny that great technology (CT, antennas, and a station that really works) can give a great op a serious competitive leg-up in contesting."

Of Duke Brown, W1ZA, Idelson said, "Duke invited me to participate in his DX

contest multi-op efforts in the late 1970s. I learned from Duke about the pleasures of building a technically complex station capable of dominating the bands in a DX contest. He also showed me what it meant to assemble and lead a winning team. Duke's mentoring has lasted. It has led me to become a devoted multi-op station builder and team leader."

K1IR says of Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, "I met Fred at the first general-interest radio club I ever attended in 1972. Fred was the only ham in that club who was into 'big-time' ham radio—contesting and DXing—and listening to him speak had me hooked! We've been doing contesting-related stuff together ever since."

Lastly, K1IR mentioned Stu Santelmann, KC1F (SK). "Stu Santelmann set my standard for operating and ethical excellence. Dominating a run frequency or scanning a band for multipliers, Stu did it with ease. Stu defined the term 'nice guy.' He didn't know the meaning of 'frequency fight' or 'rubber clock.' He was a pure op. There was no one you would rather spend a contest weekend with than Stu."

Summary

Our mentors help us become the people and contesters we are meant to be. Ham radio would not be the same without them. They merit our appreciation and respect. Have you considered being a mentor to another ham? There is nothing better than helping others for the satisfaction it provides. By doing so, you will do your part to continue the tradition of Elmering and fellowship in amateur radio.

73, George, N2GA

Chaotic Space Weather

A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, December 2011: 73
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2011: 53

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, December 2011: 141
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2011: 111

Ap Index

Observed Monthly, December 2011: 2
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2011: 7

One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots

Observed Monthly, December 2010: 15
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2010: 16

10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, December 2010: 84
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2010: 80

Ap Index

Observed Monthly, December 2010: 3
Twelve-month smoothed, June 2010: 6

As solar activity continues to rise during this current phase in Cycle 24, space weather becomes more chaotic, with an increasing number of X-ray flares, coronal mass ejections, filament eruptions, and other solar phenomenon such as coronal holes. This causes a rise in the occurrence of geomagnetic storms and ionospheric disturbances, making for rapidly changing propagation conditions. While the ionizing energy of the Sun is increasing, improving radio signal propagation on higher shortwave frequencies, these storms and disturbances make DXing challenging at times. How is it that the Sun has so much influence on the geomagnetic field that it can degrade HF communications so significantly?

The Sun and the Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF)

The Sun, and each planet, has a magnetic structure. The Earth has a north pole and a south pole, much like the familiar bar magnets we learned with in school. Magnetic field lines run from pole to pole, forming a donut shape of magnetic flux energy (fig. 1). The Sun has a magnetic structure, as well. It can become quite complex, with several intertwined poles. The Sun even reverses its north and south pole each solar cycle.

The Sun's magnetic field permeates the entire solar system, and beyond. This region that stretches from the Sun outward past the end of the solar system is called the *heliosphere*. The magnetic

*e-mail: <nw7us@nw7us.us>

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for March 2012

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 14, 17-18	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, 12-13, 15-16, 19, 22-24, 26-30	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 4, 8, 11, 20-21, 25, 31	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: N/A	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: N/A	C-D	D	E	E

Where expected signal quality is:

- A—Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9.
- B—Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9, with little fading or noise.
- C—Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S6, with some fading and noise.
- D—Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, with considerable fading and noise.
- E—No opening expected.

HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Find the *propagation index* associated with the particular path opening from the Propagation Charts appearing in *The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by George Jacobs, W3ASK; Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX; and Robert B. Rose, K6GKU.

2. With the *propagation index*, use the above table to find the expected signal quality associated with the path opening for any given day of the month. For example, an opening shown in the Propagation Charts with a *propagation index* of 2 will be fair on March 1-3, poor to fair on March 4, fair on March 5-7, 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.

field that originates in the Sun and stretches out through the heliosphere is called the *Interplanetary Magnetic Field* (IMF). The IMF interacts with the Earth and is a primary cause of space weather.

The IMF sprawls out away from the Sun in the form of a huge 'current sheet,' a vast expanding surface where complex magnetic field lines run from one solar pole far out into the solar system, arching back again along this sheet to return to the sun's other pole. These magnetic field lines therefore have polarities that change from north (plus) to south (minus). An IMF flux line that is oriented "northward" is one oriented toward the Sun, while one oriented "southward" is one directed away from the Sun. The huge solar current sheet that expands away from the sun is 10,000 km thick and extends past the orbit of Pluto. The entire heliosphere is organized around this giant sheet, which carries an electrical current that is about sixteen orders of magnitude less than that of the current carried in an ordinary light bulb.

Ordinarily, the current sheet circles the Sun's equator, spreading out in a wavy sheet that might resemble a dancer's skirt that flies up while the dancer is spinning around (fig. 2). As Earth orbits the Sun, it dips in and out of the main structure of this wavy current sheet. On one side of this sheet, the Sun's magnetic field lines point northward, or

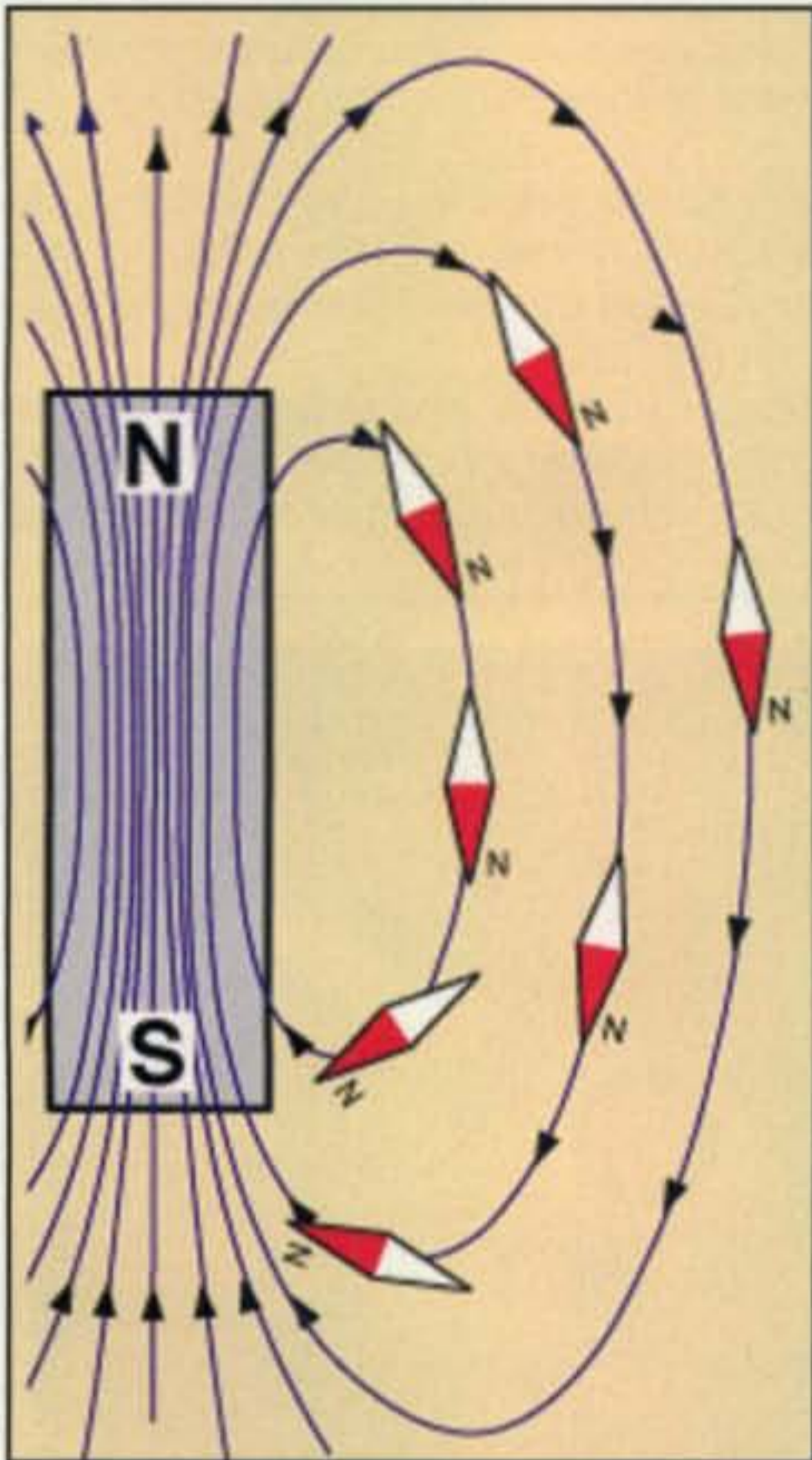
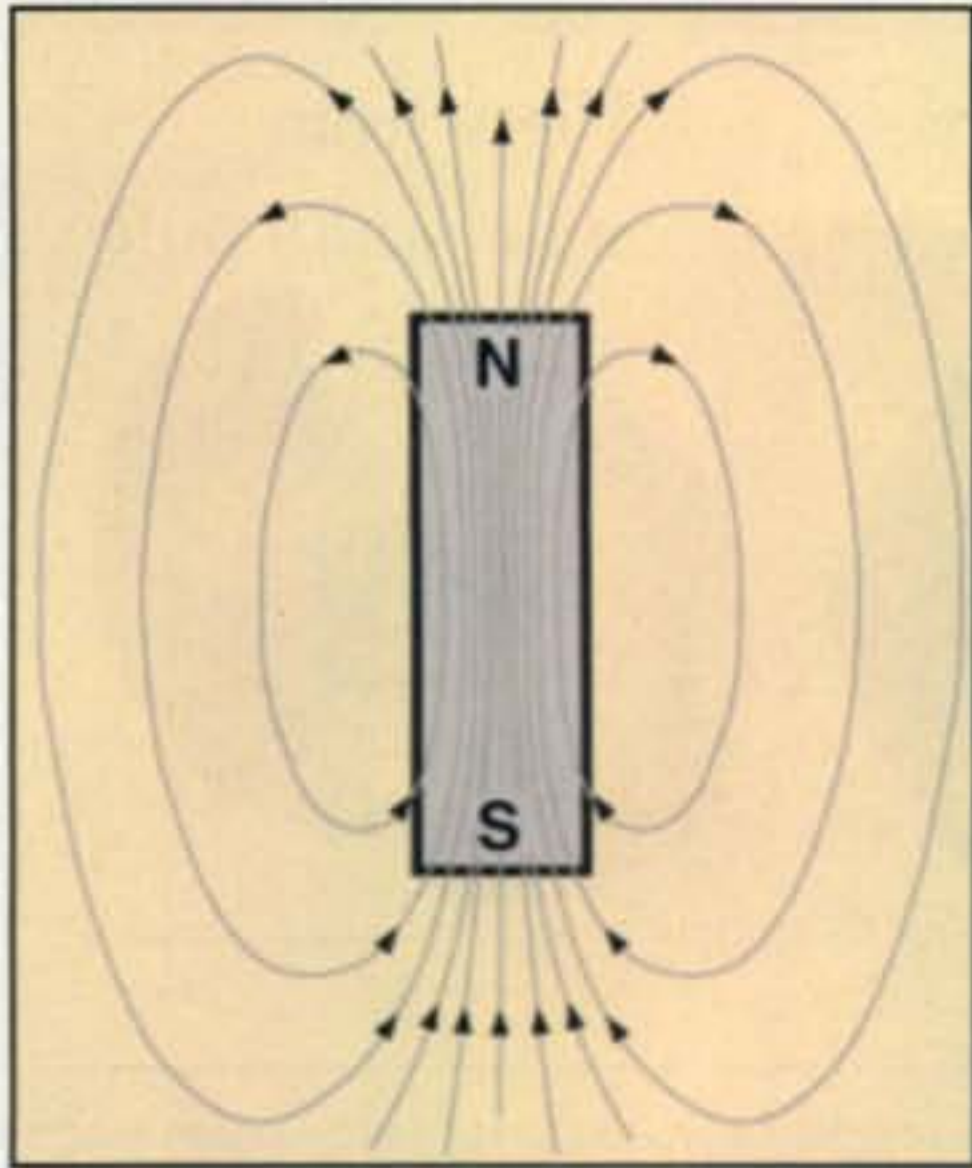


Fig. 1— The lines of magnetic field from a bar magnet (top) form closed lines. By convention, the field direction is taken to be outward from the north pole and into the south pole of the magnet. The magnetic field lines of a bar magnet can be traced out with the use of a compass (bottom). The north pole of a magnet will tend to line up with the magnetic field, so a suspended compass needle will rotate until it lines up with the magnetic field. Unlike magnetic poles attract, so the north indicator of the compass will point toward the south pole of a magnet. In response to the Earth's magnetic field, the compass will point toward the geographic North Pole of the Earth because it is in fact a magnetic south pole. The magnetic field lines of the Earth enter the Earth near the geographic North Pole. (Source: Georgia State University)

toward the Sun. On the other side they point southward, or away from the Sun.

South-pointing solar magnetic field flux lines tend to connect with Earth's own magnetic field (think of holding two bar magnets together, one bar magnet's north pole against the other bar's south pole). Solar wind energy can then penetrate the local space around our planet and fuel geomagnetic storms. (We report IMF orientation using the B_z ("B sub Z") index. When the B_z is negative, it indicates a southerly-oriented IMF).

Solar Wind

Riding the IMF is the solar wind. The Sun is a huge ball of energy. The solar wind is always streaming away from the Sun because the Sun is always releasing that energy out away from the Sun through various events and mechanisms. Erupting filaments and prominences, coronal mass ejections, and coronal holes are just some examples of the release of energy and material from the Sun out into the heliosphere (fig. 3).

Scientists observe the solar wind and the IMF using special instruments like the Solar Wind Ion Composition Spectrometer (SWICS) and the Solar Wind Ions Mass Spectrometer (SWIMS) instruments on board the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) satellite <<http://www.srl.caltech.edu/ACE/>>. These instruments are optimized for measurements of the chemical and isotopic composition of solar and interstellar matter. Both instruments are time-of-flight mass spectrometers with electrostatic analyzers, though each is optimized for different measurements. This data provides us with the orientation of the IMF, the wind speed and density, and more.

Coronal Holes and Coronal Mass Ejections

The atmosphere above the Sun's surface is divided into layers (much like Earth's atmosphere has a troposphere and so on). One of the sun's layers is called the corona, under which is the chromosphere and the photosphere (the photosphere is where sunspots exist).

Coronal holes are regions where the corona is dark, and exist where the solar magnetic structure is weaker than the surrounding area. It is not a real "hole" as in a dip in some surface (fig. 4). The corona is not part of the Sun's surface; it is part of the sun's atmosphere (like our troposphere, stratosphere, and so on). Coronal holes are associated with "open" magnetic field lines and are often

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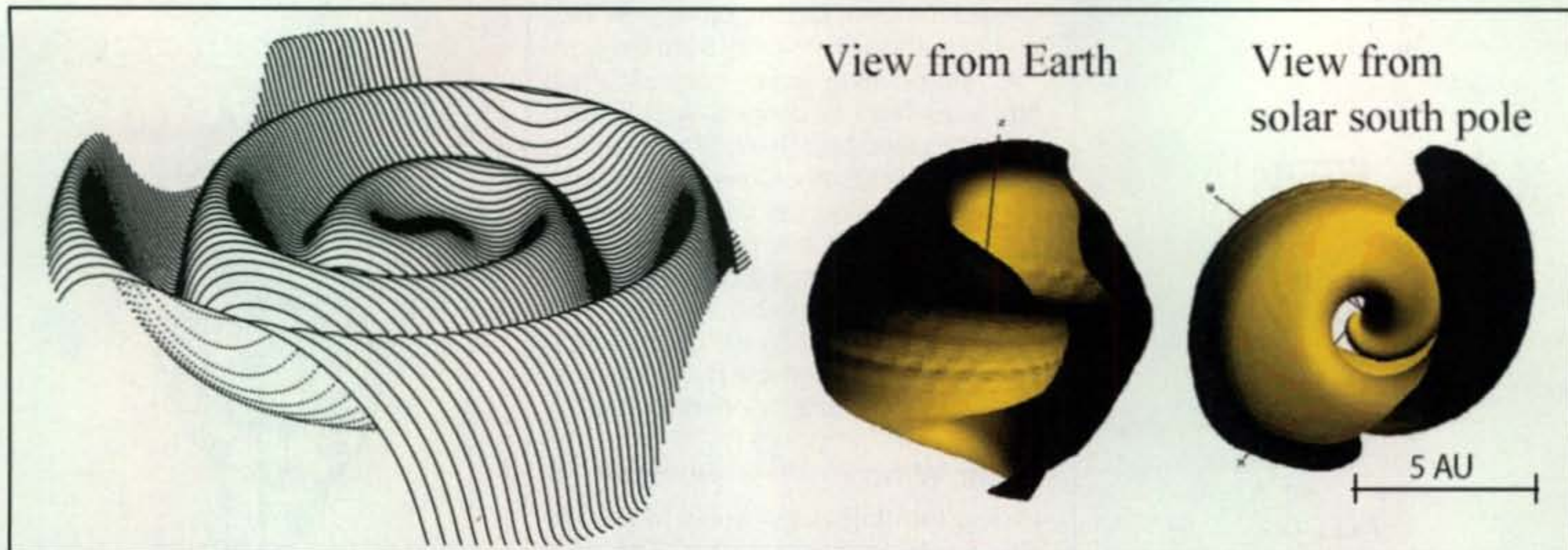


Fig. 2- (Left): The heliospheric current sheet is shaped like a ballerina's skirt. The heliospheric current sheet extends to the outer reaches of the solar system, resulting from the influence of the Sun's rotating magnetic field on the plasma in the interplanetary medium. On this sheet rides the solar winds (see text). (Credit: J. R. Jokipii, University of Arizona) (Right): The shape of the heliospheric current sheet in March 2000 as calculated by the Blue Horizon supercomputer using data from several space craft. (Source: NASA)

found at the Sun's poles. Because of this weaker magnetic area, coronal plasma escapes the Sun's gravity, no longer held by the Sun's strong magnetic fields. This plasma streams out away from the Sun and enhances the solar wind by increasing its wind speed, density, and even temperature.

A coronal mass ejection (CME) is created by one of several complex and dramatic events. Often, coronal mass ejections

are created by the huge breaking up of the magnetic structures above active sunspot regions. When these magnetic fields snap, a huge cloud of solar plasma spews outward away from the Sun (fig. 5).

Coronal mass ejections can occur at any time during the solar cycle, but their occurrence rate increases with increasing solar activity and peaks around solar maximum. Coronal

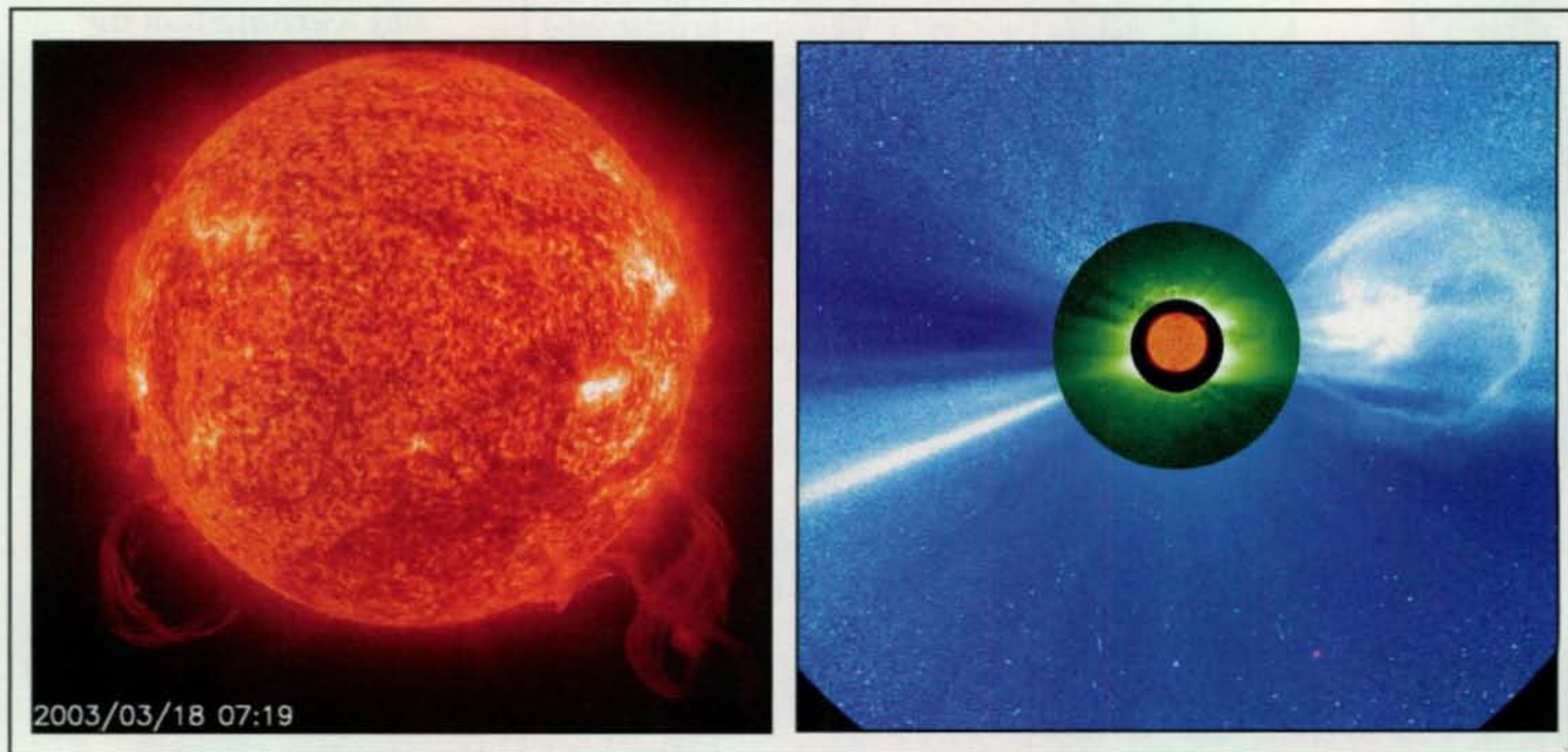


Fig. 3- (Left): This image captures two large solar prominences in extreme ultraviolet light (ionized helium at 304 Angstroms) roughly the same size but quite different in structure that appeared on the Sun on March 18, 2003. The observation of two large prominences in one image makes this one of the most spectacular images captured. Prominences are large clouds of relatively cool, dense plasma suspended in the Sun's hot, tenuous corona. (When these structures are seen with the Sun as a backdrop, they are called filaments; they are the exact same type of structure as a prominence). Magnetic fields built up enormous forces that propelled particles out beyond the Sun's surface. The one on the right, and possibly both, was associated with a flare and a CME that blasted away from the Sun at about the time of this image. The twisting nature of the one on the right is of interest to some solar physicists who believe that eruptive events like this are the Sun's way of getting rid of magnetic fields that are twisted up too tightly. For a sense of scale, the prominences extend about 20 Earths out from the Sun. They both had disappeared by the time the next image was taken 6 hours later. (Right): A CME observed by STEREO on December 12, 2008. The CME is the white "cloud" of plasma ejected away from the Sun's corona. A CME takes anywhere from two to four days to arrive at the Earth, if it is directed toward us. Using the STEREO Ahead and Behind spacecraft, scientists can analyze these plasma clouds and how they move through interplanetary space. As this plasma rides the solar wind away from the Sun, some of it arrives at Earth. Special instruments aboard scientific research spacecraft record the passage (see text). (Source: NASA/STEREO/SDO/AIA)

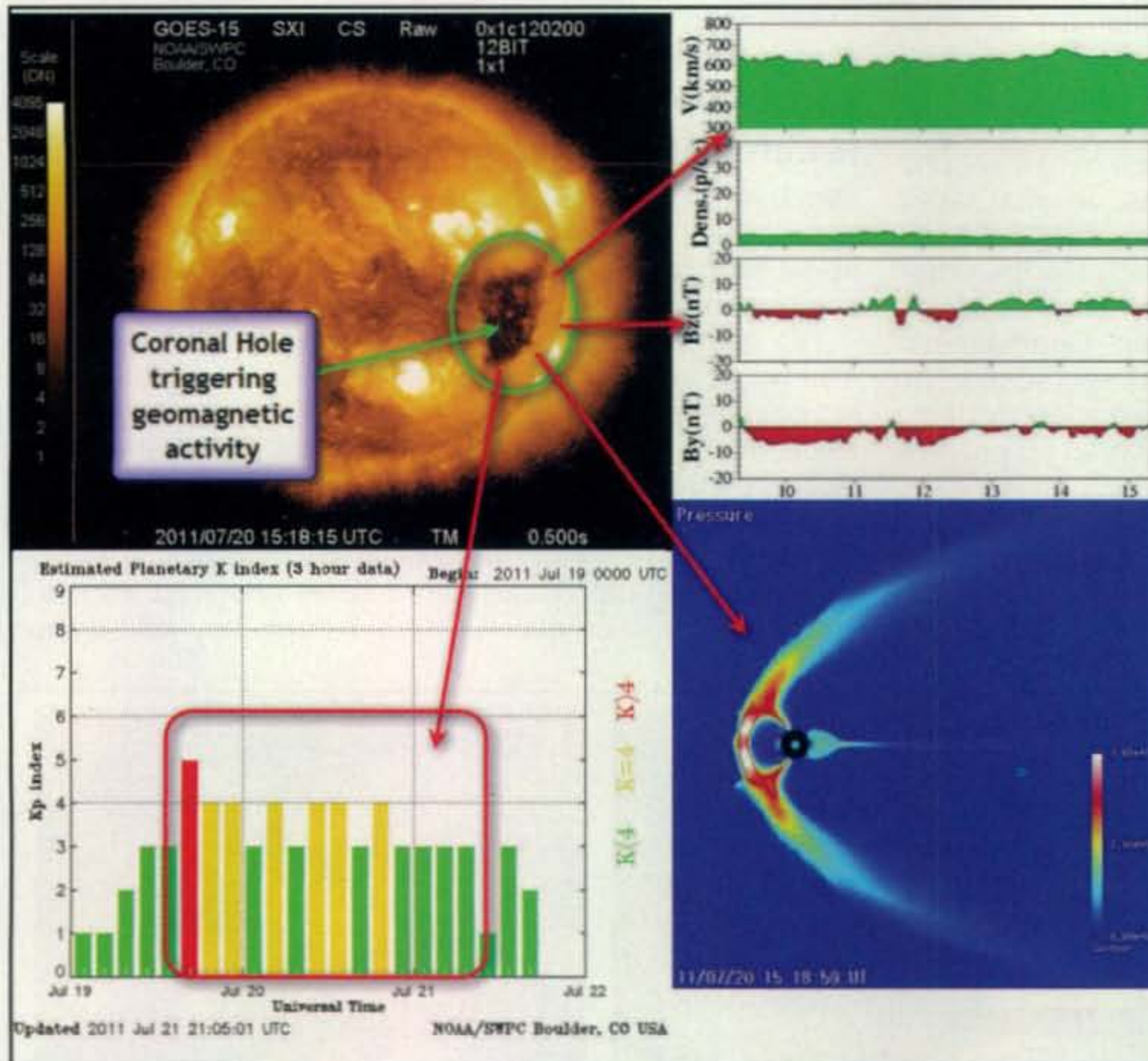


Fig. 4— At the 193-Angstrom wavelength, the Solar Dynamics Observatory's Atmospheric Imaging Assembly filters capture a coronal hole on July 18, 2011. A coronal hole is an area of weaker magnetic structure in the Sun's corona, where the solar plasma escapes the gravitational pull of the Sun and escapes out away, riding on the ever-present solar wind. Because of the weaker magnetic "hole", the solar wind streams away from this hole at a higher speed than from the rest of the corona. When such a hole is in just the right position, as is this one, it has a "connection" with the Earth and can influence geomagnetic activity. This coronal hole is said to be "geo-effective" because it has rotated into the region where its streaming solar wind and plasma material is lined up to intersect with the Earth. Sure enough, it triggered geomagnetic activity for about two days, causing a degradation in shortwave communications. Expect this type of solar weather during October, too. (Credit: Source: Solar Dynamics Observatory [SDO]/Atmospheric Imaging Assembly [AIA])

holes also increase in number and migrate more toward the equator as the solar cycle approaches its maximum phase.

Since the Sun completes a full rotation every 27 to 28 days, the same coronal hole may rotate into view roughly every month. Additionally, since active sunspot regions can last more than a month, when such a long-duration active region rotates back into view, any flaring activity will once again affect radio propagation.

While the exact processes involved in the release of CMEs are still being explored to gain a better understanding, we know a lot about how they affect the Earth. The result of a well-placed CME is a bombardment of plasma into our magnetosphere (the magnetic force field that in part protects us from lethal

doses of solar energy), as well as an increase in the density, power level, and speed of the solar wind.

When the solar wind, which contains magnetic field lines, reaches the magnetosphere, one of two things may happen. If the magnetic lines in the solar wind are oriented just right, or in a southerly orientation, they will combine in a way that nullifies the magnetosphere at that point, causing a "window" to open, allowing solar plasma to enter our atmosphere. If the magnetic lines in the solar wind are not oriented this way, they will combine with the magnetosphere in a way that enhances the magnetosphere, strengthening the force field. When plasma does make it through, the geomagnetic fields as well as the ionosphere become highly disturbed (and you will see higher Ap and

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Kp readings). When the plasma and radiation are blocked, we have quieter geomagnetic conditions (Kp readings less than 4).

As the reader knows, geomagnetic storms cause a degradation of radio signal propagation as a result of ionospheric recombination. This recombination is similar to what takes place during the hours of darkness, with a lowering of the frequencies each ionospheric layer can refract. On the other hand, a stormy geomagnetic field can spark auroras, which can support Aurora-mode VHF propagation. Geomagnetic storms can cause long-term (hours to days) degradation, or depression, of the maximum usable frequencies (MUFs), reducing the critical frequencies by as much as 50 percent of normal.

March and April are months when the passage of high speed solar wind and the bombardment of coronal mass ejections cause a greater degree of change in the geomagnetic field. This is because of the Earth's position in relation to the Sun.

Expect an increase in the number of geomagnetic storms and periods of degradation on HF propagation.

March HF Propagation

March is one of the optimal DX months. As the Spring Equinox approaches, the grayline begins to run straight north and south. With the return of sunlight to the polar north, north to south openings on 10 through 20 meters are again improving.

Ten and 15 meters will still stay open into the evenings. You will occasionally find 15 meters open all night long into regions in the other hemisphere. Daytime paths will not significantly degrade until midsummer. You will experience early closures if you live closer to the North Pole, if any openings occur at your latitude.

Twenty and 17 meters will remain in excellent shape. Both short- and long-path circuits are reliable and solid. All nighttime paths are open during March, though they will be short

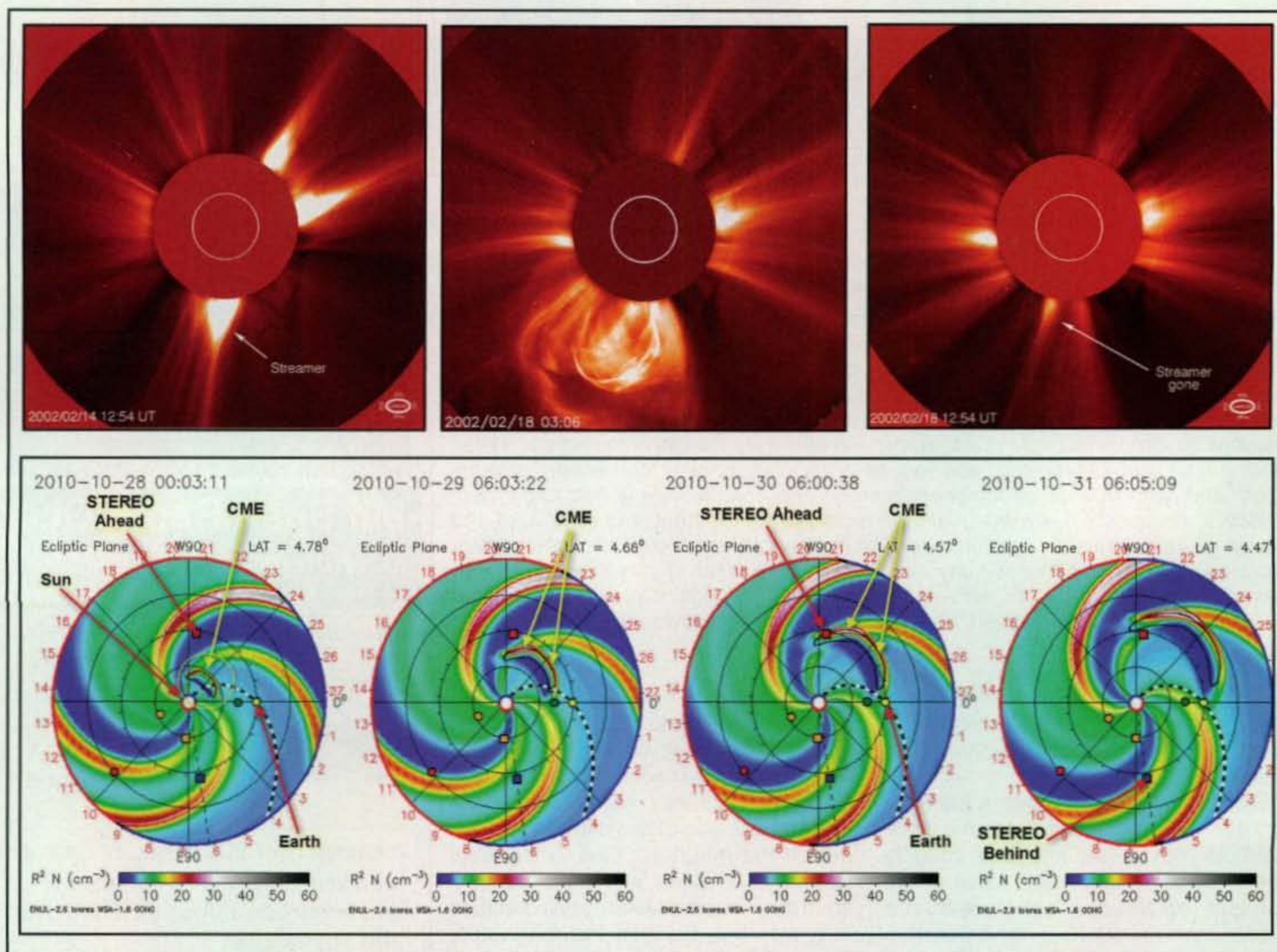


Fig. 5— Top: Three images showing a coronal mass ejection in progress. The first image (left) shows a streamer of solar plasma escaping the Sun on February 14, 2002. On February 18 (center), this area erupted as magnetic fields broke down, releasing a huge CME cloud of solar plasma. After this powerful release, the streamer is gone (right). The CME is 'shot' out away from the Sun and rides the Interplanetary Magnetic Field and solar wind, and when the Earth is in the way of its passage, it affects radio signal propagation (see text). Bottom: A series of snapshots of the special modeling analysis tool that allows scientists to predict the passage of an interplanetary coronal mass ejection. These snapshots are from the perspective of STEREO-A (the "Ahead" spacecraft). Starting in the left-most frame, we see a plasma "cloud", the coronal mass ejection (CME), leaving the Sun on October 28, 2010. As we move left to right from frame to frame, we can see how the CME just glances the Earth. Such a glancing blow typically causes only minor geomagnetic disturbances. But, if a CME were to fully "hit" the Earth, it would cause major geomagnetic storms, and trigger aurora. (Source: SOHO/STEREO/NASA/SDO/AIA/SWPC)

and weak. The prime evening hours in the United States are sunrise hours across Russia, Africa, and both the Near East and Far East. Expect occasional short- and long-path DX from these areas of the world.

Between sunset and midnight, expect occasional DX openings on all bands between 15 and 40 meters. Conditions should favor openings from the east and south. These bands should peak for openings from Europe and Africa near midnight.

From midnight to sunrise, expect optimum DX conditions on 30 through 80 meters, and occasionally, 160 meters. Conditions should favor openings from the west and south. Some rather good openings on 17 and 20 meters should also be possible from the south and west during this time.

Noise levels are slowly increasing as we move toward the Spring season. Geomagnetic storms will increase, disrupting the mid- and high-latitude ionosphere. During the spring equinox, Earth's magnetic field is sufficiently perturbed by solar wind particles flowing into the auroral zone (between 50 and 70 degrees north geographic latitude) to cause the ionosphere to be depleted. During days of high solar activity (coronal mass ejections, high-speed solar winds, flares, and so on), an increase in aurora and geomagnetic storms will shut down many paths, while VHF openings off of the auroral zone may increase.

Daytime MUFs continue their seasonal drop (due to Earth's position in relation to the Sun) and the planetary A index (Ap) is on the rise, so take advantage of the current conditions, and hunt for those weaker signals. Look for grayline DX in the mornings and evenings on lower frequencies. Transequatorial propagation will be more likely toward sunset during days of high solar flux and a disturbed geomagnetic field (look for days with an Ap greater than 15, or a planetary K index (Kp) greater than 3). Sporadic-E openings should be increasing, for shorter-range openings.

VHF and Above

Check for low-VHF short-skip openings during the daylight hours. Some short-skip openings over distances of about 1200 to 2300 miles may occur. The best times for such openings are during the afternoon hours.

Auroral activity often occurs during periods of radio storminess on the HF bands. Look for days where the Ap is climbing, when the Kp reaches 4 or higher. These are the days on which VHF auroral-type openings are most likely to occur.

Check out the *CQ VHF* magazine "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 December 2011 is 73.0, down from November's 96.7. This is a sharp decline from the steadily rising activity over the previous three months, but is typical of the fluctuation expected during the rise of any solar cycle. The lowest daily sunspot value of 38 was recorded for December 15. The highest daily sunspot count was 108 on December 4. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on June 2011 is 53.2, up from May's 47.6. A smoothed sunspot count of 82, give or take about 9 points is expected for March 2012.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 141.2 for December 2011, down from November's 153.1. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on June 2011 is 110.9, up from May's 105.6. The

predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for March 2012 is 136, give or take about 9 points.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-Index (Ap) for December 2011 is 2, and for November 2011 is 3 (adjusted down from the reported 4 as published, last month). The 12-month smoothed Ap index centered on June 2011 is 7.3, much the same as the previous few months. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to be varying greatly between quiet to stormy during March; refer to the Last-Minute Forecast for the outlook on conditions during this month.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding this fascinating science of propagation. You may e-mail me, write me a letter, or catch me on the HF amateur bands. Please come and participate in my online propagation discussion forum at <<http://forums.hfradio.org/>>.

Remember, "Like" *CQ Magazine* on Facebook at <<http://www.facebook.com/CQMag>>. For space weather and radio propagation information on Facebook, please "Like" this columnist's dedicated page at <<http://www.facebook.com/spacewx.hfradio>>.

Also, be sure to follow this this columnist's Twitter account. By doing so, you will receive educational space weather and propagation information, as well as a fair amount of other informative "tweets." Of course, you can also interact with me and ask questions, which might become a topic of discussion in this column. Additionally, you can follow @hfradio-spacewx for hourly "tweets" of space weather and radio propagation data like the 10.7-cm radio flux and so on.

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

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2011 WPX CW RESULTS SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA

United States			
K1LZ	A	7,448,658	2633 938
WW1WW		7,020,783	2630 921
			(OP: K8DQ)
AJ1I		6,922,242	2559 894
			(OP: K8PO)
WC1M		6,601,546	2356 907
AK1W		5,409,150	2237 864
			(OP: K5ZD)
NW7R/1		5,059,015	2195 845
			(OP: K1ZS)
W1UJ		784,287	792 419
NM1JY		548,250	670 375
K1NEF		449,980	490 298
KM1W		217,617	307 251
			(OP: W1KM)
W1RM		185,194	252 206
KQ2M/1		144,759	292 219
KB1000		54,144	180 144
W5WU/1	21	341,506	553 361
W10HM	14	6,903	63 59
KW20/1	7	1,469,354	814 502
			(OP: K2LE)
*W2JU/1	A	420,078	521 318
*W1CCE		391,716	569 324
*K1PU		274,050	439 270
*N1NN		118,000	290 200
*NM1J		66,080	181 140
*W1EJ		40,817	140 119
*AA10		32,856	148 111
*W1TO		31,290	118 105
*AB1HL		29,484	141 108
*W1N1HV		2,640	40 37
*K1N1AGF	14	240	16 15
*AB1J	7	267,264	371 261
			(OP: W1MO)
NV2G	A	4,832,406	2298 821
			(OP: K2TJ)
WN20		306,912	435 276
			(OP: N2GC)
K2NV		190,670	294 230
K2PZ		153,573	302 213
KD2HE		87,936	262 192
K2YR		81,567	210 171
W2FUJ		32,409	142 117
N2MM	14	1,806,230	1214 662
KR2AA		608,844	740 451
WS9M/2		137,852	285 241
KC2RG		22,791	136 107
W2AJGK	7	53,841	143 131
*K3EL/2	A	1,569,482	1122 554
*K2UF		960,190	851 430
*NW2K		200,340	434 265
*K2XE		85,462	226 173
*N2SO		66,742	200 151
*KD2MX		43,188	163 122
*KM20		42,840	146 126
			(OP: K2XA)
*WA2MCR		36,716	164 134
*N2KPS		5,712	56 51
*WA2CLP		3,608	45 44
*KV2X		3,337	53 47
*K1SXD/2		3,052	30 28
*WA2BMH		1,120	20 20
*K2JF		24	3 3
*W2AW	21	91,260	239 195
			(OP: N2GM)
*W2AAB	14	213,150	371 294
*N2JL		11,154	78 78
*W2EG	7	831,432	629 404
*NE2C		37,800	109 105
*WB2AIV		319	12 11
			(OP: LZ4AX)
KC3R	A	6,339,496	2723 929
			(OP: LZ4AX)
AA3B		6,201,900	2547 900
K3Z0		3,409,568	1552 752
N1WR/3		2,245,446	1376 639
N3UJ		1,280,933	911 499
KB3UHN		870,200	889 458
NJ3I		174,400	296 218
NK3RP		162,480	384 240
NA3F		143,144	338 232
K3RMB		74,889	225 159
KW3A		64,584	208 156
WB4PWZ/3		45,990	146 125
KD3TB		15,484	99 79
*K3BLX	A	504,113	604 331
*W3DON		341,052	491 291
*W3CQB		269,576	415 248
*K3STL		119,660	291 193
*WA3YUR		107,010	284 205
*AB3IC		83,680	247 180
*ND3R		78,387	200 159
*WA2VQV/3		66,248	200 169
*K3NK		63,591	169 123
*W3IUU		63,344	192 148
*AF3I		43,692	169 132
*N3NZ		34,968	152 124
*N3JNX		9,179	74 67
*K3UJ		7,820	57 46
*K3GW		7,100	53 50
*K3FH		3,640	40 35
*KB3MXM		3,388	48 44
*K2PS/3	28	18,392	195 88
*NJ3K	14	106,848	355 224
*W03Z	7	214,137	281 231
*A13G		4,488	53 47
			(OP: N5WR)
NN4US	A	3,496,424	2130 799
			(OP: N5WR)
K4RO		3,253,500	2143 750
KM9P/4		2,694,514	1812 734
			(OP: K0EJ)
WS2T/4		2,603,720	1786 680
			(OP: N4PN)
KM4MK		2,206,344	1767 644
			(OP: N4UU)
NA4K		2,004,695	1533 635
			(OP: N3BB)
WZ4F		1,870,268	1524 667
			(OP: K4AB)
K4PV		1,496,508	1371 543
N4NO		1,453,683	1184 539
WW4R		1,091,679	1129 501
			(OP: N4ZZ)
NN4MM		941,655	803 439
			(OP: K9MUG)
K7CS/4		764,820	777 420
K4PB		357,714	469 306
K4HAL		353,934	515 318
K4DJ		342,168	495 318
W2YE/4		281,936	402 263
NS3Q/4		220,585	467 281
W4NZ		181,249	329 211
AD4EB		159,462	413 247
W200/4		120,467	233 179
W9W1/4		112,815	291 207
AD4L		83,496	230 168
W4XD		78,368	214 158
K4EU		72,660	173 173
K70M/4		64,800	216 160
N3KN/4		60,384	197 148
KG4CUY		52,578	171 127
N4AAI		49,876	175 148
NEB/4		48,422	213 142
NA4C		37,146	165 123
N4GI		28,420	162 116
N4DXI		21,534	113 97
A14WW		12,460	79 70
WN1GIV/4	21	1,133,900	1213 580
			(OP: N4BP)
W4SVO		549,504	802 432
AC4TT		236,236	453 308
			(OP: W1MO)
K4FJ		139,062	271 231
KU8E/4	7	990,776	800 457
*WK2G/4	A	2,335,581	1608 621
*WJ9B/4		2,277,864	1592 612
*N4PSE		996,363	794 447
*NJ4I		962,880	1085 472
			(OP: K4LTA)
*WD4AHZ		720,632	915 431
*W4YE		707,130	617 405
*N3GD/4		506,176	591 362
*N4XL		458,104	672 346
*KN4DD		376,740	474 315
*N44B		353,455	519 317
*K4ORD		337,851	485 291
*W80DG/4		273,745	411 265
*K40SO		271,890	411 265
*N9CM/4		259,974	446 286
*KE4KY		253,953	435 261
*AE40		211,404	377 237
*W4GDG		198,324	422 252
*NB4M		171,938	336 221
*K4PG		165,418	322 206
*WFTT/4		143,376	315 206
*K4NC		127,032	336 201
*KN5S/4		117,303	273 182
*W1BO/4		88,938	235 163
*N4TB		84,420	314 180
*WC4E		80,600	209 155
*W3SA/4		71,176	219 164
*AA4KD		59,909	205 139
*K4FJW		59,784	223 159
*K4NP		59,566	208 158
*NM2L/4		55,062	210 161
*K4EDI		52,836	189 148
*K3M2/4		49,168	145 112
*ND1Y/4		48,782	164 126
*W4BCU		48,024	160 138
*KM4JA		47,816	184 139
*W6UB/4		41,796	163 129
*W3WW/4		38,857	113 91
*KI4CBN		36,360	134 120
*N3TG/4		34,556	127 106
*AB4G		31,030	134 107
*KS4L		30,303	132 111
*AE4Y		29,580	164 116
*AC6NN/4		29,106	127 99
*AA4N		23,129	130 101
*K8LF/4		23,085	114 95
*ND4V		22,578	119 106
*KA4R		21,762	105 93
*KD4Y		20,293	107 91
*WB4SQ		16,730	84 70
*A14UN		14,432	120 88
*K14EZC		13,912	102 94
*K130/4		11,730	89 69
*W4BCG		10,585	92 73
*WB8POH/4		10,143	81 63
*N4MM		9,720	82 60
*N4TL		6,600	69 60
*WA4MIY		6,216	59 56
*AD8J/4		5,814	63 57
*AA4H		4,512	49 48
*N4AU		4,120	41 40
*W4EBA		3,318	43 42
*W4BK		1,800	34 30
*N4FY		476	14 14
*N4SR		32	4 4
*KN4Y	28	23,625	136 105
*WB4TDH	21	445,612	676 404
*W4UJL		145,167	335 249
			(OP: K4CWW)
*K4ABC		8,694	60 54
*K4SV	7	122,949	199 171
*ND4K		1,258	17 17
*K4FT	3.5	3,968	48 44
*NA4W	1.8	1,696	34 32
			(OP: K4WI)
WK5T	A	5,633,212	2792 853
			(OP: N2IC)
KT2Z/5		4,086,636	2552 764
			(OP: K5NA)
KT5J		3,399,432	2295 719
			(OP: K5OT)
KZ5D		1,773,070	1605 593
WQ5L		897,961	959 443
K7IA/5		767,312	1007 442
WS1L/5		594,277	854 409
N40GV/5		331,884	430 315
N5VU		247,884	571 273
NM50		145,848	396 206
			(OP: K5ME)
KD5JAA		112,515	382 195
KM5PS		100,240	282 179
KM4DR/5		88,433	432 191
NT5C		75,440	296 184
			(OP: N3BB)
WA5LFD		61,830	184 135
KE1R/5		2,775	41 37
KZ5J	28	34,928	184 118
NM5M	21	1,071,036	1149 564
NR5M	14	2,486,866	1684 809
			(OP: K5GA)
WB5AAR		1,622,092	1416 677
			(OP: N5RZ)
NG5A	7	1,505,172	1019 516
			(OP: N1XS)
*NSAW	A	2,331,771	1772 663
*W5RYA		773,352	1046 414
*AESX		392,955	706 345
*W5ID		251,870	476 283
*W5DK		247,456	449 304
*W5YT		189,185	442 241
*KFGEO/5		140,698	400

9A04JB	*	4,034,099	2305	881	*G4RKO	*	46,816	223	176	*UA3H	*	70,272	214	183	European Turkey			*DL5CL	*	203,310	350	270		
9A8CW	*	404,736	589	384	*G0OKF	*	36,860	183	159	*RN3AAB	*	33,153	140	129	A	6,030	72	67	*DL8DWW	*	198,144	380	288	
9A30R	*	140,148	306	229	*G2H0R	*	24,897	150	129	*RL2A	*	31,030	136	107	(OP: TA10X)				*DL30V	*	190,743	353	293	
9A4W	28	83,763	387	227	*G4HBI	*	21,182	148	119	*UA3UHZ	*	22,149	114	107					*DM2RN	*	187,803	387	271	
9A3IH	14	240,828	420	282	*G4DBX	*	9,869	77	71	*R33MM	*	21,186	118	107					*DJ3XD	*	175,440	370	258	
9A4BY	3.5	1,898,728	949	504	*G3PND	*	9,440	100	80	*R3UYBYU	*	20,412	91	81					*DL7UGO	*	173,118	373	258	
					*G0WHO	*	1,127	23	23	*RU3MMW	*	20,099	110	101					*DL1NUX	*	170,910	423	270	
					*G7TAT	*	18	3	3	*UA3VLO	*	17,679	86	83					*DFSLW	*	170,154	401	274	
9A2AJ	1.8	205,403	378	263	*MSP3CW	14	479,822	710	473	*RW3VA	*	14,550	98	75					*DM2FDO	*	135,456	351	249	
*9A2VR	A	891,478	896	518	*MXBTWC	7	513,383	498	391	*RA3IS	*	10,764	76	69					*DL6NWA	*	129,528	343	252	
*9A4A	*	224,064	429	288						*R2A	*	8,178	64	58					*DC9MA	*	127,508	361	254	
*9A4AS	*	105,317	311	241	*G4ZOB	*	468,660	458	365	*UA3XAG	*	4,800	63	60					*DF1LX	*	125,236	296	239	
					*M0MCV	*	15,862	87	77	*UA3UAP	*	3,266	50	46					*DL1TPX	*	121,756	323	244	
										*RW3PF	*	2,250	32	30					*DF5BX	*	102,342	293	222	
*9A6Z	*	31,992	145	129						*R23AUL	*	684	18	18					*DL2ZL	*	101,990	290	217	
*9A2GA	*	15,675	107	95						*R3BQ3	*	660	20	20					*DL1VJA	*	97,716	271	204	
*9A3VM	28	272,691	626	369						*R3DAU	*	561	12	11					*DD3PM	*	78,171	262	213	
*9A5T	*	87,193	290	223						*R03UT	*	35	15	14					*DK3WW	*	76,540	211	172	
*9A8W	21	327,936	573	384						*R050	28	305,882	207	154					*DP4M	*	75,992	271	184	
*9A4MF	*	40,755	181	165						*R3BB	*	28,290	181	131										
*9A4R	7	35,164	168	149						*UA3EDQ	*	21,780	158	121										
*9A2VX	14	48,672	167	144						*RT3D	*	16,206	135	111										
*9A2XW	*	1,050	26	25						*R3LA	*	7,896	95	84										
										*UA3ABJ	21	385,810	593	410										
										*UA3AO	*	140,968	361	268										
										*UA3OR	*	23,650	119	110										
										*RN3DKE	*	10,880	90	85										
										*UA3UAG	14	467,006	646	478										
										*UA3VUB	*	407,644	640	446										
										*RL3T	*	68,060	249	205										
										*RW3WX	*	46,494	192	162										
										*RM5P	7	518,967	538	387										
										*UA3DCM	*	106,506	217	194										
										*RD3FP	*	97,196	232	188										
										*RM5Z	1.8	39,116	154	127										
										UA4W	A	4,714,248	2537	924										
										RK4S	*	736,848	920	476										
										RT4F	*	690,408	746	446										
										RA4D	*	424,152	728	387										
										RQ4N	*	390,951	494	363										
										RV4LC	*	247,561	340	281										
										RG4F	*	207,350	437	319										
										UA4HGX	*	135,991	320	239										
										UA4AAC	*	125,123	298	211										
										UA4AC	*	8,184	72	66										
										UA4NC	*	2,583	42	41										
										UA4CO	*	1,184	42	41										
										UA4CC	28	51,442	244	178										
										UA4WKK	21	179,760	366	280										
										RA4AS	7	278,369	392	299										
										UA4SO	A	1,201,536	1137	576										
										RA4SS	*	1,000,712	1138	536										
										RA4AC	*	772,620	888	474										
										UA4AGO	*	503,750	754	403										
										RD4CAQ	*	347,574	589	318										
										RA4I	*	318,546	537	347										
										RU4LM	*	284,540	495	347										
										UA4HP	*	235,790	413	323										
										UA4QK	*	178,740	361	270										
										RA4CA	*	140,448	317	231										
										RA4M	*	133,518	317	238										
										UA4FDL	*	127,368	316	232										
										RA4WT	*	91,374	264	194										
										RA4CU	*	62,046	200	162										
										RA4DR	*	36,015	196	147										
										RA4FW	*	28,224	168	126										
										UA4CNZ	*	25,610	161	130										
										RU4SW	*	11,929	88	79										
										RZ4WZ	*	7,378	64	62										
										RA4DZ	*	6,105	58	55										
										RA4UAT	*	4,949	53	49										
										UA4AMT	*	4,368	45	42										
										UA4CNJ	*	1,860	24	20										
										UA4PAQ	*	384	12	12										
										RZ4AG	14	753,642	895	562										
										RX4W	*	368,900	590	434										
										RA4SC	*	150,094	368	302										
										UA4PL	*	99,840	298	260										
										RK4R	*	67,308	248	213										
										UA4NE	*	38,232	177	162										
										RW4LQ	*	2,233	29	29										
										RU4CR	*	1,911	39	39										
										RG6G	A	4,359,663	2702	891										
										RV6F	*	2,754,399	2077	789										
										RM6YB	*	770,250	936	474										
										RT6F	*	626,400	728	435										
										RX6AM	*	414,685	697	421										
										RA6GW	*	398,209	473	349										
										UA6G	*	335,552	635	392										
										R6BMR	*	131,075	318	245										
										RTA0	*	56,880	268	180										

Hong Kong				Bulgaria				UA4FCO				*DF1HF				*LYST			
*VR2KW	21	137,214	347 242	LZ10NK	A	207,680	431 295	*UA4ALJ	A	1,492,784	1445 632	*DL6NDW	*	370,062	504 378	*LY2TS	*	21,266	115 98
Israel				Crete				*RV4AB				*DL6NDW				*LY2TS			
4Z5TK	A	2,383,722	1210 594	LZ1QZ	14	17,538	114 111	*R24PWL	*	1,438,178	1203 602	*DJ3QC	*	304,320	475 317	*LY1G	3.5	329,832	459 324
Japan				Croatia				*R24PWL				*DL6NDW				*LY1G			
JM1LPN	A	156,136	348 232	*LZ4AE	A	337,755	519 345	*RN4ZT	*	311,330	511 326	*DL5GAC	*	240,810	507 349	Luxembourg			
JR1GJP	*	70,818	172 134	*LZ5XQ	14	1,229,146	1237 706	*RD4AA	*	(OP: RW4PL)		*DF8UO	*	224,924	391 277	Macedonia			
JH10VY	*	39,330	128 115	*LZ1QV	7	311,122	408 313	*RU4SS	*	292,758	483 354	*DL2YCA	*	223,641	481 297	Z35G			
JN1KWR	*	25,428	124 78	*LZ2SC	3.5	196,091	331 257	*RX4CD	*	211,932	366 252	*DJ3HW	*	204,592	415 304	Z35X			
JA1XUJ	*	9,494	50 47	J49XF	14	15,042	117 109	*R24AA	*	83,600	213 176	*DL3HWM	*	199,675	320 245	Moldova			
JA1PTJ	*	4,760	41 40	*SV8XBZ/9	28	401,305	764 415	*R44WC	28	69,147	234 197	*DK3DUA	*	188,932	424 298	ER4A			
JG1SXP	*	1,431	28 27	(OP: SV8XBN)				*RY4W	14	27,348	143 129	*DL5SAJ	*	182,585	433 265	(OP: UT5UOX)			
JA1OGT	28	1,230	31 30	(OP: YL2VW)				*RA4HP1	*	2,000	29 25	*DL5SWS	*	134,550	302 225	(OP: ER1LW)			
JH1ACA	14	50,895	159 145	Czech Republic				UC7A				*DMSDX				*ER2RM			
*JA1ST	A	195,582	345 239	9A1AA	A	4,348,464	2291 876	UC7A	A	2,247,102	1893 702	*DL1SVA	*	15,759	113 103	*ER5A			
*JE1SGH	*	140,070	325 210	9A4WY	*	925,089	984 561	UN7F	*	1,679,552	1376 644	*DL1SVA	*	15,759	113 103	(OP: PA3EYV)			
*JH1DGO	*	106,575	208 147	9A2U	28	189,275	585 335	UA6AA	*	986,493	730 493	*DL2SWN	*	665	19 19	Netherlands			
*JH1FSF	*	35,405	105 97	9A5D	21	1,357,401	1313 669	RF5F	*	141,450	322 246	*DL2SWN	*	665	19 19	PASKT			
*JH1DYV	*	12,529	70 67	9A5T	3.5	11,315	73 73	RW5AN	*	82,536	199 152	*DL2SWN	*	665	19 19	PAGLOU			
*7L2OHM	28	45	5 5	*9A5B	A	2,410,107	1456 731	UA6XDX	*	16,992	104 96	*DL2SWN	*	665	19 19	PA1CW			
*J51FK	21	157,784	340 242	9A3ST	*	3,080	36 35	RC7A	14	1,685,120	1464 760	*DL4FN	14	641,334	766 534	PABCYW			
*J11BDQ	*	8,905	66 65	9A4KW	14	333,572	525 356	RQ7M	3.5	350,124	479 326	*DL5KW	7	7,336	58 56	PA1T			
*JH3LFL/1	14	34,117	140 109	9A5MT	7	3,272,107	1503 751	RY6Y	*	53,940	179 145	PI4DX							
*JM1NKT	7	137,256	252 168	9A5TO	3.5	11,315	73 73	*RL6M	A	9,425	73 65	PB2JJ							
JA2FSM	A	86,445	212 153	*9A1CMA	14	26,666	170 134	*R6YJ	*	1,426	25 23	*PG7V							
*JK2VOC	A	85,824	259 149	OK7Y	A	2,258,280	1597 697	*UA6LCN	28	143,910	349 270	*PD7BZ							
*JF2IAB	*	2,673	40 33	OK1AOV	*	283,470	415 330	*R7NA	21	118,080	279 240	*PA4PS							
*JE2HXL	21	11,218	87 79	OK1DUT	*	31,488	143 128	*RV6LCI	14	417,902	628 446	*PADW							
*JR2AAN/2	*	3,344	47 44	OK7K	21	741,480	835 555	*UA6LJO	*	359,898	545 418	*PA3HGF							
*JA2KPV	14	5,700	55 50	OK6Y	A	2,103,514	1478 694	*RN6MA	3.5	133,021	284 217	*PC3H							
JG1EIQ/3	A	200,925	332 225	OK1JOC	*	1,586,835	1430 591	*RA7Y	3.5	133,021	284 217	*PDMIR							
JN3SAC	*	140,160	265 192	*OK2BXE	*	974,400	940 525	Faroe Islands				Greece							
*JA3PYC	A	140,976	283 198	*OL100VP	*	808,220	897 502	OY1CT	A	1,733,990	1945 634	SV1ENG							
*JG3FEA	*	117,782	202 179	OK6DJ	14	214,848	393 288	OY/PA2A	A	540,176	689 424	SZ6P							
*JF3SAD	*	75,405	219 165	OK7MT	7	775,536	613 453	OY6A	21	89,535	329 235	SV2BOH							
*JG3SVP	*	68,200	242 155	*OK6Y	A	2,103,514	1478 694	Finland				SV2HWR							
*JA3VUI	*	35,088	137 102	OK1JOC	*	1,586,835	1430 591	OG73X	A	3,226,125	1988 875	HG3A							
JH4CFV	A	39,795	139 105	*OK2BXE	*	974,400	940 525	OG6N	*	2,458,638	1766 819	HA1TNX							
JH4JTP	*	23,690	136 103	*OL100VP	*	808,220	897 502	OG4T	*	2,212,185	1602 695	HA3OU							
JH4MMO	28	3,015	52 45	OK1TD	*	259,160	402 310	OH5DA	*	332,976	510 336	HA9PP							
*JH4WUZ	A	274,455	511 285	*OK2BFN	*	171,216	326 246	OH6OS	*	138,306	341 267	HA8RH							
JA6BZI	7	658,438	438 346	*OK1EV	*	76,800	263 200	OH2KW	*	109,691	287 229	HA3DX							
*JA6DJ	A	668,886	665 393	*OK2PCL	*	32,438	116 98	OH2XX	*	96,180	301 210	HG1A							
JA7ZP	A	62,823	167 129	*OK2NA	*	9,164	92 79	OG4X	*	23,205	142 119	HG9X							
JP7AWQ	*	4,136	49 44	*OK3R	7	1,537,290	877 589	OH4MDY	28	14,852	113 94	HG2011EU							
JA7OWD	28	9,576	86 72	OK1UG	*	1,085,568	786 528	OH5RE	14	120,096	281 278	HA3LI							
*J70ED/7	14	200	10 18	SP5L	A	1,976,940	1738 630	OH2BN	*	725	25 25	*HASAGS							
JH8SLS	A	318,816	452 288	*OZ6DM	28	342	19 19	OHSTS	*	24	4 4	*HAGNL							
JF9JTS	A	7,480	65 55	*SP3A	21	2,028	41 39	OH6M	7	1,362,525	989 555	*HABCO							
JR9GMS	*	7,473	53 53	G4HY	A	342,432	491 348	OH6KY	*	197,376	302 256	*HA2QW							
JABFVU	A	1,365,552	1057 522	G6T	A	172,040	324 253	OH6MW	3.5	717,220	735 436	*HGBR							
JADGSS	*	2,484	49 36	M4U	14	34,200	179 150	*OH8R	A	1,604,665	1359 659	*HASOO							
JJ8MPI	21	1,100	28 25	G3XTT	3.5	488,300	576 380	Ireland				*HG8C							
*JABBJY	A	31,020	127 110	*G4WGE	A	257,397	496 309	EI2CN	14	2,224,128	1981 768	HG1X							
Kazakhstan				England				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
UP5P	A	1,578,320	1010 545	G6T	A	172,040	324 253	F5VKT	A	922,950	870 525	IR2C				MD2C			
UN4PG	21	784,836	829 466	G4HY	A	342,432	491 348	FBIDR	*	187,985	476 287	IR3W				IP7U			
UN2E	14	1,081,075	785 521	G6T	A	172,040	324 253	F5VML	*	23,280	143 120	I3VJW				IR3W			
*UN8GV	21	907,092	770 454	G6T	A	172,040	324 253	F5JFU	28	1,995	35 35	I03X				IR3W			
*UP2F	*	15	3 3	G6T	A	172,040	324 253	F8BDQ	21	18,928	121 104	I3VJW				IR4B			
*UN9LU	3.5	130,650	175 150	G6T	A	172,040	324 253	F5IN	14	1,756,440	1381 738	I3VJW				IR4B			
Kuwait				Estonia				Germany				Ireland				Isle of Man			
9K2RA	28	1,384,560	1011 540	ES4RX	A	687,582	904 459	DA2MORSE	A	2,913,543	2103 783	EI2CN				MD2C			
Saudi Arabia				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
HZ1FI	A	1,927,275	1099 525	ES4RD	21	175,134	440 303	DL6KVA	*	2,291,744	1477 787	EI2JD				MD2C			
South Korea				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
DS50ND	A	128,520	386 168	ES6Q	A	2,824,877	1999 781	DAB1	*	1,978,076	1501 684	EI7KD				MD2C			
HL1/WX8C	14	748	26 22	*ES2BH	*	37,506	171 141	DJ9MH	*	1,940,120	1369 676	EI7KD				MD2C			
Tajikistan				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
*EY7BJ	21	78,288	197 168	RD1A	A	2,358,542	1707 698	DL8WEM	*	1,693,762	1383 674	EI7KD				MD2C			
United Arab Emirates				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
A65CA	A	2,957,248	1527 656	RA1QD	*	1,200,465	1075 555	DH8GHU	*	1,681,553	1184 647	EI7KD				MD2C			
Uzbekistan				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
*UK8AR	21	1,994,460	890 510	*UA1AFT	14	794,561	825 589	DK150RB	*	1,641,171	1491 651	EI7KD				MD2C			
Vietnam				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
XV1X	A	334,880	610 322	*R01B	3.5	90,909	226 189	DL1LOD	*	1,003,555	976 541	EI7KD				MD2C			
West Malaysia				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
9M2ADX	A	349,479	466 309	UA5A	A	5,705,232	3153 984	DJ6GT	*	731,346	724 462	EI7KD				MD2C			
EUROPE				European Russia				France				Italy				Isle of Man			
OG8Z	A	3,458,308	2562 812	RT3T	*	3,448,600	2187 860	DJ8WEM	*	1,693,762	1383 674	EI7KD				MD2C			
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OE3GCU	A	66,220	191 172	R3ZV	*	884,368	1016 496	DH8GHU	*	1,681,553	1184 647	EI7KD				MD2C			
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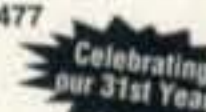
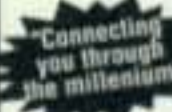
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