

Dayton Preview Issue!

# Amateur Radio

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COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

MAY 2012

# CQ

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- **Results:**  
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**Join Us at Dayton-**  
**5/18-20**  
**CQ WPX CW**  
**Contest-5/26-27**

**On the Cover:**  
**Jeff Lynch, WA1VQY,**  
**of Tiverton, Rhode Island.**  
**Details on page 70.**

# KENWOOD

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TRANSCEIVER AT  
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KENWOOD

Dates: May 18th - 20th, 2012 Venue: Hara Arena (Dayton, Ohio)



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ADS#11912

## 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!

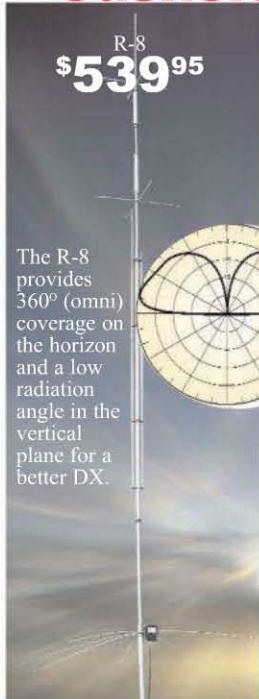
**Rugged Construction:** Thick fiberglass insulators, all-stainless hardware, and 6063 aircraft-aluminum tubing that is double or triple walled at key stress points handle anything Mother Nature can dish out.

**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.

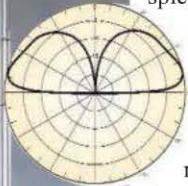
**Legal-Limit Power:** Heavy-duty components are contest-proven to handle all the power your amplifier can legally deliver and radiating it as RF rather than heat.

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.



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



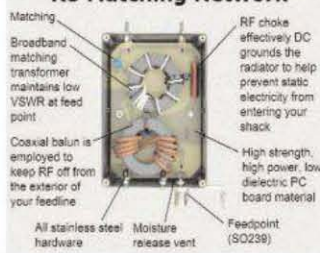
## MA-5B 5-Band Beam Small Footprint -- Big Signal



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](http://cushcraftamateur.com) for gain figures.

### R8 Matching Network



**Matching:** Broadband matching transformer maintains low VSWR at feed point. Coaxial balun is employed to keep RF off from the exterior of your feedline. All stainless steel hardware. Moisture release vent. Feedpoint (SQ239).

**RF choke effectively DC grounds the radiator to help prevent static electricity from entering your shack.**

**High strength, high power, low dielectric PC board material.**

### R8's Rugged Design



**Generous use of stainless steel machine screws guarantees base integrity.**

**Dual plate rod mount allows for easy assembly of ground components.**

**Plate interfaced mounting system uses aluminum components and stainless steel hardware.**

## 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



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

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

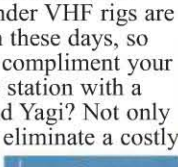
The 3-element A3S/A3WS and 4-element A4S are world-famous for powerhouse gain and super performance. **A-3WS, \$499.95, 12/17 M. 30/40 Meter add-on kits available.**

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!

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



## Cushcraft Famous Ringos Compact FM Verticals



W1BX's famous Ringo antenna has been around for a long time and remains unbeaten for solid reliability. The Ringo is broad-banded, lightning protected, extremely rugged, economical, electrically bullet-proof, low-angle, and more -- but mainly, it just plain works! To discover why hams and commercial two-way installers around the world still love this antenna, order yours now!

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

## Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas

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## Dayton 2012 Award Winners Announced

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has named S. Suri, VU2MY, as the 2012 winner of the Dayton Hamvention® Radio Amateur of the Year award. Suri, of Hyderabad, India, is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio and has been responsible for amateur radio's role in responding to many natural disasters, most notably the 2004 tsunami that struck countries around the Indian Ocean. Suri is only the second non-US amateur to receive this honor from the association. The first was DXer and DXpeditioner Martti Laine, OH2BH, in 2000.

This year's Technical Achievement award goes to the ARRL's Joel Hallas, W1ZR, of Westport, Connecticut. Hallas is a prolific author best known for his "The Doctor is In" column in *QST*.

Dayton's 2012 Special Achievement award goes to Steven Betza, WZ2V, of Endicott, New York. He was recognized for his efforts to promote electronics engineering programs in college and high school, most notably his "Blue Horizon" project which set the world record for the highest amateur balloon flight and resulted in the licensing of 38 new hams.

Finally, this year's club award goes to Germany's national amateur radio association, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC). All of the awards will be presented at the Dayton Hamvention® later this month.

## ARRL Restructures DXCC Fees

The ARRL has announced a new fee structure for its popular DX Century Club (DXCC) program. It establishes a single fee per application, although those will vary depending on whether they are submitted on paper, online or via Logbook of the World (LoTW). Some fees are now higher, others lower. The new fee structure took effect on April 2. A full explanation is available online at <http://bit.ly/ysrIFb>; a PDF file containing a chart with all the different fees is at <http://bit.ly/GB5lat>.

## ARRL Publishes Guidelines for New 60-Meter Privileges

New FCC rules granting amateurs additional mode and power privileges on the 5-MHz band, along with one frequency swap, took effect on March 5. The new rules are complicated, though, and the ARRL has published a guide to keeping legal on the band. A summary of the guidelines appears in a sidebar to this month's "Washington Readout" column (see page 46 of this issue). ARRL members may also find a detailed explanation in the April issue of *QST*.

## Brazil Bans Hams from PYØS

The St. Peter and St. Paul archipelago in the mid-Atlantic Ocean is now off-limits to amateur radio DXpeditions. The islands currently sit at #16 on *The DX Magazine's* "Most Wanted" list. According to a report on Southgate Amateur Radio News, the government of Brazil, which owns the islands, issued the new restrictions in an announcement on the website of the country's Secretariat of the Interministerial Commission for Sea Resources (SERCIM). At press time, Brazil's national amateur radio association, as well as several Brazilian DX groups, were working with federal lawmakers to try to overturn the ruling.

## "Man on a Mission" Movie to be on DVD

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, has produced a documentary titled "Man on a Mission" which follows his quest to follow his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, into space and become the first second-generation American in

space. The elder Garriott was the first radio amateur to operate from space, back in 1983. According to *Newsline*, the documentary is already available via video-on-demand, and a DVD version is expected to be released this month. More information is available on the First Run Features website at <http://bit.ly/wla0oi>.

## "Ice Goat 1" on APRS

A buoy designed to monitor and report weather in the Arctic seas was deployed in March by students from the U.S. Naval Academy and is beaconing its location via APRS, the Automatic Packet Reporting System. According to the AMSAT News Service, the buoy was dubbed "Ice Goat 1" and was transported to an area of Arctic ice off the coast of Point Barrow, Alaska, that was expected to melt in the spring. The scientific data will be transmitted back to the Naval Academy on an Iridium satellite link, but it will be transmitting position information via APRS on 145.825 MHz with hopes that its signals will be relayed to the worldwide APRS network by the digipeater aboard the International Space Station.

## New "Topic Channels" on IRLP

IRLP, the Internet Radio Linking Project, has added a new dimension to the links it offers. In addition to linking individual repeaters around the world and providing "reflectors" that can bring together multiple repeaters, *Newsline* reports that IRLP has now added "topic channels." These are special-interest reflectors, each devoted to a different topic, from DXing to sports, food and politics. For details, see <http://www.irlptopics.net/>.

## Six Meters Comes to Senegal

Hams in Senegal will soon have access to the six-meter band, just in time for the transatlantic DX that is often found on the band during solar cycle peaks. According to *Newsline*, the 50–51 MHz allocation will become effective when new international regulations approved at WRC-12 earlier this year become official, probably around the beginning of 2013. Meanwhile, though, Southgate Amateur Radio News reports that authorities in Senegal have given approval for members of the Saly Amateur Radio Club in Mbour to operate their club station on six with the special callsign 6V7SIX. Club members will be monitoring the intercontinental calling frequency of 5.110 MHz as well as the French calling frequency at 50.210 MHz. As of now, 6V7SIX is the *only* Senegalese station authorized to operate on six meters.

## Success for Cubesat's Science Mission

Controllers of RAX-2, the Radio Auroral Explorer 2 cubesat, report that the satellite's science mission has been a success, with the help of the amateur radio community. According to Southgate Amateur Radio News, the mission is to study the formation of a plasma anomaly that is known to cause scintillation of radio signals in UHF and higher frequency bands. Matt Bennett, KF6RTB, reported on March 9 that after three years in orbit, the satellite had finally detected the long-sought anomaly, using its space-based receiver to monitor signals from a high-powered radar transmitter in Alaska. More information is available at <http://rax.engin.umich.edu>.

*Additional and updated news is available on the Ham Radio News page of the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>. For breaking news stories, plus info on additional items of interest, sign up for CQ's free online newsletter service. Just click on "CQ Newsletter" on the home page of our website.*



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- Transverter Interface
- 5 Watts PEP Output
- Only 1.2 Pounds



### FLEX-3000

- >93db Dynamic Range Receiver
- 96 KHz Receive Bandwidth
- Built in Auto Tuner
- 100 Watts Output



### FLEX-5000

- 99db Dynamic Range Receiver
- 192 KHz Receive Bandwidth
- Optional VHF/UHF Module
- Optional 2nd Receiver
- Optional Auto Tuner
- 100 Watts Output



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# AMERITRON mobile no tune Solid State Amp

500 Watts, Instant bandswitching, no tuning, no warm-up, SWR protected, 1.5-22 MHz...  
**NEW! ARI-500 Amplifier Radio Interface reads transceiver band data -- automatically bandswitches ALS-500M amp... NEW! ALS-500RC Remote Head gives total remote control!**



ALS-500M comes as needed. Excellent harmonic suppression, push-pull output, DC current meter. 13.8 VDC/80 Amps. 3 1/2 x 9 x 15 inches. 7 lbs.

**\$849** Suggested Retail

Choose ARI-500 for fully automatic bandswitching or ALS-500RC for manual remote control.

ALS-500MR, \$879, ALS-500M mobile amp plus ALS-500RC Remote Head.

ARF-500K, \$179.95, Remote kit for older ALS-500M mobile amps with serial # below 13049. Includes filter/relay board for ALS-500M, ALS-500RC Remote Head, cables, hardware, instructions.

ARF-500K2, \$289.95. Includes ARF-500K Remote kit for older ALS-500Ms plus ARI-500 Amplifier Radio Interface below.

Just turn on and operate -- no warm-up, no tuning, instant bandswitching. Compact.

Ameritron's ALS-500M solid state mobile amp gives you 500 Watts PEP SSB or 400 Watts CW output! Covers 1.5-22 MHz, (10/12 Meters with MOD-10M, \$29.95 kit, requires FCC license).

Virtually indestructible! Load Fault Protection eliminates amplifier damage due to operator error, antenna hitting tree branches, 18-wheeler passing by. Thermal Overload Protection disables/bypasses amp if temperature is excessively high. Auto resets.

Typically 60-70 watts in gives full output. ON/OFF switch bypasses amplifier for "barefoot" operation. Extremely quiet fan

New ARI-500, \$119.95, Amplifier Radio Interface reads band data from your transceiver so you can automatically bandswitch your ALS-500M amplifier. See right inset.



New ALS-500RC, \$49.95, Remote Head lets you mount ALS-500M amplifier anywhere and gives you full manual remote control. Select desired band, turn On/Off and monitor current draw on its DC Current Meter. Power, transmit and overload LEDs. RJ-45 cables plug into Amplifier/ Remote Head. Works with serial numbers above 13049 (below 13049 requires the ARF-500K, see below).

ALS-500M, \$849, 500 Watt mobile amp.

## Let your rig auto bandswitch your ALS-500M Amplifier



ARI-500 The Ameritron Ship Code A ARI-500

Amplifier Radio Interface reads band data from your Icom, Yaesu, Kenwood or Alinco transceiver so they can remotely and automatically bandswitch your ALS-500M amp. Lets you mount your ALS-500M out-of-the-way in your trunk. Works with serial numbers above 13049 (below 13049 requires the ARF-500K, see above). You can add the ALS-500RC for manual bandswitching and data monitoring, etc, see left description.

## Programmable Screwdriver Antenna Controller

10 Memories... Super Accurate... AutoPark™... StallProtector™... Super bright LEDs

Tuning your mobile screwdriver antenna couldn't be easier or more reliable!

The SDC-102 lets you save 10 of your favorite screwdriver antenna positions in memory -- that's more than enough for all HF bands. Then, with a push of a button, you can quickly return to any saved position.

Up/Down buttons let you manually move the antenna to any desired position. A 4-digit turns counter gives you precise antenna position -- you can see its super bright LEDs even in direct sunlight!

Returning to a position from memory is extremely accurate for three reasons...

A. The antenna always moves to its desired position from the bottom, insuring that the motor is always loaded the same.

B. Ameritron's exclusive AutoPark™ feature automatically bottoms your antenna for parking in your garage and resets and calibrates your counter each time to elimi-

nate antenna slippage and turns count errors.

C. The momentum of the moving antenna causes it to overshoot its stop point.

Ameritron's exclusive Dead-OnSTOP™ feature automatically reverses the motor briefly just before it stops to eliminate overshoot and come to a precise stop.

Ameritron's exclusive StallProtector™ feature prevents your expensive motor from burning out. Automatically detects motor stall and completely shuts off power to motor.

Monitor motor current on LEDs for signs of trouble and to determine stall current.

If you wire the motor backwards, you can reverse its direction from the SDC-102 front panel so the UP button is always up and the DOWN button is always down.

Compatible with single and dual magnetic turns sensors. Requires 12 VDC.

SDC-102  
**\$129.95**  
 Suggested Retail



3 1/2 W x 3 1/4 H x 1 1/4 D inches.

SRS-100, \$29.95. Magnetic sensor kit for High Sierra antennas to use SDC-102.

SRS-1001, \$9.95. Magnetic sensor kit for Hi-Q Antennas to use SDC-102.

## 1.2 kW Screwdriver Antenna Flat Mobile Wattmeter Digital Screwdriver Controller



SDA-100  
**\$409**  
 Suggested Retail

SDA-100 lets you operate 3.5 to 30 MHz continuous with six foot whip at full 1200 Watts PEP.

World's most rugged screwdriver antenna features... super heavy-duty commercial Pittman 12 Volt gear motor... stainless steel/ aircraft aluminum CNC machined components... 2-inch machine groove fiberglass coil form with 14-gauge wire wound at 8 turns per inch... built-in magnetic sensors... super durable Lexan cover...

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 SDM-100, \$99. Stainless steel mount.  
 Saves \$16.85! SDA-110, \$509.95. Includes SDA-100, SDC-100, SWP-100.



AWM-35  
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Wattmeter flat mounts on your dashboard wall or shelf for easy viewing. Lighted Cross-Needle meter and active electronics let you read true peak or average power in 3000/300 Watt ranges 1.8-30 MHz. "High SWR" LED. 5 W x 3 1/4 H x 1 5/8 D inches. Remote sensor with 25 feet thin, flexible cable is 3 1/2 W x 2 3/4 H x 2 3/4 D inches. Use 9V battery or 12 VDC.

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## FT-857D

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

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- Wide Frequency Coverage
- Optional Remote-Head
- High-Performance Mobile Operation



## FT-897D

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



## FT-817ND

The Ultimate Backpack, Multi-Mode  
Portable Transceiver

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



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Portable Operations**

# FT-897D

**100 W All Mode Transceiver  
HF/50/146/440 MHz**



## When it's crunch time... the Ultimate Emergency Communications Radio

### **Rugged**

- SSB/CW/FM modes on all the Bands you need during an Emergency

### **Portable**

- Rugged Construction...right down to the Carrying Handle
- DC 13.8V Mobile Operation

### **Reliable**

- Optional Internal Batteries for walk-around convenience when you need it

### **Proven**

- AC switching power supply accessory that fits inside the radio
- Optional External Antenna Tuner

### **Manpack**

- Built-in DSP for Reliable Receiver Performance under tough conditions

*The FT-897D is a rugged, innovative, multiband, multimode portable transceiver for the amateur radio MF/HF/VHF/UHF bands.*

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## May Madness

As I write this in mid-March, college basketball—along with its millions of fans—is in the midst of “March Madness,” the NCAA championship tournament also referred to as “the Big Dance.” Ham radio’s “big dance” comes later this month in southwestern Ohio. Between the 17th and 20th of May, more than 20,000 radio amateurs from around the world will converge on the somewhat rundown (what some may call “shabby chic” ... minus the “chic”) Hara Arena for the 61st annual Dayton Hamvention®.

It is three days (four, if you count setup day on Thursday) of controlled chaos, with packed exhibit halls, a monster flea market, non-stop forums, nearly-all-night hospitality suites and about 40,000 very tired feet. I’ve been there at least 25 times and it remains at the top of my ham radio agenda each year. Even though it’s virtually guaranteed that something will go wrong (last year, it took me nine hours to get there from New Jersey—by air!), something will break (hopefully, not the sewage line again), something won’t be where it’s supposed to be when it’s supposed to be there, I still wouldn’t miss it.

Somehow, every year, everything works out, it all comes together and 20+ thousand of us all have a great time mingling and shopping and swapping stories. If you’ve never been to Dayton, getting there at least once should be on your “bucket list” (things to do before you “kick the bucket”); if you’ve been there before, then you’re probably trying to figure out how you can get there again ... if you don’t already have your reservations made.

For the uninitiated, the exhibit area consists of nearly 500 booths spread across five exhibition halls and one corridor (“Audio Alley”), to be occupied by more than 250 different vendors showcasing and/or selling the latest and greatest in just about anything remotely related to amateur radio. The huge outdoor flea market has more than 2200 booths and as of mid-March, more than 750 different vendors were signed up to wheel and deal and socialize, as long as it isn’t raining or snowing or hailing ... too hard. It’s said that if you can’t find what you’re looking for in the Dayton flea market, it likely doesn’t exist! Then, there are the multiple simultaneous forums, spread across all three days, featuring leaders and top experts in virtually every phase of amateur radio; dinners and special events for various sub-hobbies within amateur radio, and even whole sub-events such as Contest University and the Four Days in May QRP gathering. If it’s happening in ham radio, Dayton is the place to find the people who are making it happen.

Ah yes, the people. To me, that’s the best part of going to Dayton. True, there’s all sorts of great gear to drool over (and hopefully take home with you), and all sorts of great activities to learn about; but at the base of it all—like everything else in ham radio—is the people.

Ham radio is often perceived and portrayed as a technical hobby. And there’s no question that everything we do has some basis in technology. But the reality is that this is a *people* hobby. We develop, modify, improve and use all that technology in pursuit of one overriding goal—making contact with other people. It’s what differentiates us from just about every other hobby there is. You can collect stamps by yourself. You can go sailing or hiking or biking on your own. Same with hunting or fishing. Of course, there are social aspects to these other hobbies, but they’re not essential. It’s very hard to

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

do ham radio completely by yourself. You *need* to contact other people, even if it’s just to prove that your latest engineering marvel actually works.

And our people tend to be some of the most wonderful, caring and fascinating people you could hope to have as your friends. You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to be a ham, but there are plenty of rocket scientists who *are* hams. Add in the occasional Nobel Prize winner, admiral, ambassador and, well, you get the picture. But the best part is that, regardless of their status or position in “real life,” when they’re at some ham radio event (such as Dayton), they’re just plain hams. We’re all on a first-name basis, and our conversations revolve more around ham radio activities than the concerns of our professional lives.

To me, the best part of Dayton is that we get to meet and greet so many of these wonderful people, especially our fellow hams from around the world. The FCC tells us that one of the reasons ham radio exists is “to enhance international goodwill.” Every day of the year, we get the opportunity to do that on the radio; at Dayton we have the chance to do it in person. Each of us gets to be a personal ambassador, not only for amateur radio, but for our nation and our culture.

On an international scale, ham radio really is a form of cultural exchange. Think of the QSL cards you have in your collection. Probably the most interesting ones tell you something about the place where the other ham lives. Same with your most interesting QSOs. And when you get to meet a ham from another country, or another culture, in person at a place like Dayton, you have an opportunity to exchange more than a signal report and a QSL card. You really have the chance to get to know the person a little better.

I was reminded of this a few days ago at a more traditional type of cultural exchange—a concert. It was called Celtic Appalachia and was actually half concert and half history lesson. It focused on the Gaelic (primarily Irish and Scottish), African and Native American roots of “all-American” bluegrass and country music. Organized by the Irish Arts Center in New York City, it featured traditional Irish (and New York Irish) musicians, a bluegrass band from Virginia, and a West African “griot” (historian and storyteller) who played guitar like no one else I’ve ever heard, as well as gourd-based instruments that are the precursors of the modern banjo.

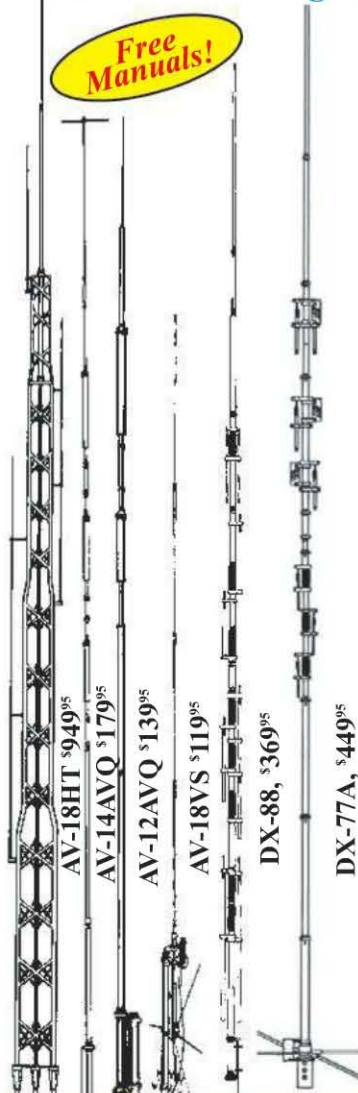
It made me think of ham radio. No, I mean it. There on the stage was a group about as diverse as any I’ve seen anywhere ... except at Dayton or on a multinational DXpedition. The bulk of the performers were Irish and Irish-American, mostly Catholics. The bluegrass band was descended from Scots-Irish Protestants who had settled in Northern Ireland, and then came to America because they couldn’t get along with the Irish-Irish. Plus you had the griot from Mali, who had no cultural connection to either of the other groups ... except through music. And there they all were, making beautiful music together ... just as groups of hams from different cultures regularly make music together on the ham bands (that’s not just an analogy; CW has a musical cadence, which is why musicians often have an easier time learning code than non-musical people).

Ham radio, like music, can help build bridges between different cultures in a way that no government can. It is our special contribution to making the world a slightly better place. And there’s no better place to start than in Dayton. Hope to see you at Hara for May Madness!

—73, Rich W2VU

# hy-gain<sup>®</sup> HF VERTICALS

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



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

**AV-14AVQ, \$179.95. (10,15,20,40 Meters). 18 ft., 9 lbs.** The Hy-Gain AV-14AVQ uses the same trap design as the famous Hy-Gain Thunderbird beams. Three separate air dielectric Hy-Q traps with oversize coils give superb stability and 1/4 wave resonance on all bands. Roof mount with Hy-Gain AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

**AV-12AVQ, \$139.95. (10, 15, 20 Meters). 13 ft., 9 lbs.** AV-12AVQ also uses Thunderbird beam design air dielectric traps for extremely Hy-Q performance. This is the way to go for inexpensive tri-band performance in limited space. Roof mount with AV-14RMQ kit, \$89.95.

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

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

## Hy-Gain 160-6 Meters Self-Supporting Vertical

Full 1500 Watts, 43 feet, includes base mount

**New!** AV-6160 Operate all bands 160-6 Meters at full 1500 Watt with this self-supporting, 43 feet high performance vertical!  
**\$399.95** UPS SHIPPABLE

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

### Exceptional Performance

The entire length radiates to provide exceptional low angle radiation 160-20 Meters and very good performance on 17-6 Meters. You can shorten it by telescoping it down for more effective low angle radiation on higher bands.

### Just talk with automatic tuner!

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

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

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

**CADILLAC, MICHIGAN:** **Wexauke Amateur Radio Club 50th Annual Cadillac Swap** on May 5 at the Cadillac Junior High School. Contact: Alton McConnell, (231) 867-3774, P.O. Box 163, Cadillac, MI 49601. E-mail: <nu81@yahoo.com>. (Talk in 146.98 [no PL])

**CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN:** **The Ozaukee Radio Club Inc. 34th Annual Indoor Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer Spring Swapfest, May 5** at the Circle B Recreation Center Contact: Tom Nawrot, AA9XX, (262) 242-1029. (Talk in 146.97- [PL 127.3])

**GREENSBURG, KANSAS:** **Salvation Army Emergency Radio Network** special event station, **KS0SA**, 1600 to 2100 UTC **May 5** to honor the fifth anniversary of the Greensburg Kansas Tornado. Frequencies 10.115, 18.135, 7.255, and 14.040. Certificate and QSL available by sending a 9- by 12-inch SASE to SATERN, KS0SA, Greensburg Special Event, c/o The Salvation Army EDS, P.O. Box 412577, Kansas City, MO 64141.

**HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND:** **Antietam Radio Association The Great Hagerstown Hamfest, May 5** at the Washington County Agricultural Center. Contact: Antietam Radio Association, PO Box 52, Hagerstown, MD 21741. Website: <http://www.w3cwc.org/HamFests.html>. (Talk in 147.090; exams 12:30 PM).

**PITT MEADOWS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA:** **Maple Ridge Amateur Radio Club annual Maple Ridge Swap Meet, May 6**, 12460 Harris Road. Contact: Nick (604) 465-9476. E-mail: <ve7te@mrarc.net>. Website: <http://www.mrarc.ca>. (Talk in 146.800-600 [tone 156.7]).

**WRIGHTSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA:** **Warminster Amateur Radio Club Hamfest 2012, May 6**, Middletown Grange Fair Grounds. Contact: Stew Leabman (215) 794-1360. E-mail: <hamfest12@k3dn.org>. Website: <http://www.k3dn.org/hamfest.htm>. (Talk in 147.09- (131.8)/443.95; exams 10 AM).

**BYRON, GEORGIA:** **Middle Georgia Radio Association, Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club, Inc., and KG4BMS, Heart of Georgia Hamfest, May 12** at the Byron Middle School. Contact: Dave Stewart, KN4DS, (478) 335-2852. E-mail: <kn4ds@arrl.net>. Website: <http://www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com>. (Talk in 146.850-600; exams 9 AM to noon)

**FAIRMONT, WEST VIRGINIA:** **Mountaineer ARA** special event station, **W8SP**, from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC, **May 12** to commemorate the first official observance of Mother's Day at the International Mother's Day Shrine in Grafton, WV. Bottom portion of the General 80-, 40-, 20-, and 15-meter phone and CW bands, and Novice 10-meter phone sub-band. For a certificate, send QSL and 9 by 12 inch SASE to Charles T. McClain, K8UQU, RT. 4, Box 161, Grafton, WV 26354.

**REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA:** **Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club Inc. 8th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest, May 12** at the Calvary Baptist Church. Contact RCARC Swapfest, c/o George Brewer, WN4LTY, 5190 NC Hwy 700, Eden, NC 27288. Website: <http://www.rcarc.com>. (Talk in 146.850 [PL 103.5]).

**STANWOOD, WASHINGTON:** **The Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club 21st Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest, May 12** at the Stanwood Middle School. Contact: Jim Ruble, KE7MHF, (360) 629-4713. E-mail: <ke7mhf@arrl.net>; <http://www.scarcwa.org>. Talk in 145.19-; exams)

**TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY:** **Garden State Amateur Radio Assn Fifth Semi-Annual Hamfest, May 12** at the MOESC, 100 Tornillo Way. Contact: (732) 493-4236. E-mail: <w2kq@arrl.net>. Website: <http://www.gardenstateara.org>. (Talk in 147.045-600 [PL 67.0] or NJ Link System; exams 10 AM)

**SUMISWAL, EMMENTAL, SWITZERLAND:** **Mennonitischer Europaischer Regional Konferenz (Mennonite European Regional Conference), Special Event Station HB9MERK, 0900 UTC May 17** to 1900 UTC May 20 on 80, 40, 15, 10 propagation permitting. (Ops: HB9ARL, HB9ELZ, PA0HEL, plus). QSL via: PA0HEL, Almelo, Netherlands (no eQSL, only paper).

**Norwich, New York:** **UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital 100th Anniversary Special Event Station NN2C, 1600 UTC May 18-20**, 2200 all bands, all modes. QSL to Tony Masi, N2GVB, <amasi-jr@sathy.rr.com>.

**DAYTON, OHIO:** **Dayton Amateur Radio Association Dayton Hamvention® May 18-20**. Hara Arena. (VISIT: <http://bit.ly/zli5Uu> to purchase tickets online). Contact: (937) 276-6930. E-mail: <info@hamvention.org>. Website: <http://hamvention.org>. See us at the **CQ Booth**.

**DAYTON, OHIO:** **SouthWest Ohio DX Association 27th Annual DX Dinner® Friday, May 18** at the Dayton Marriott, 1414 South Patterson Boulevard. The dinner will include prizes and speakers. Tickets are \$42. Website: <http://www.swodxa.org>.

**PINELLAS PARK, FLORIDA:** **Glorious Society 2012 Wormfest, May 26** at Freedom Lake Park. Website: <http://www.thewormholesociety.org>.

**WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY:** **Bergen Amateur Radio Association B.A.R.A. Spring Hamfest, May 26** at the Westwood Regional High School. Contact: Jim Joyce, K2ZO, (201) 664-6725. E-mail: <k2zo@arrl.net>. Website: <http://www.bara.org>. Talk in 146.19/79 [PL 141.3]; exams 8 AM).

**WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND:** **The Maryland FM Association, Inc. Memorial Weekend Hamfest, May 27** at the Howard County Fair Grounds. AContact: Maryland F.M. Association, Inc., PO Box 351, Hanover, MD 21076. E-mail: <wa3mnn@verizon.net>. Website: <http://www.marylandfma.org>. (Talk in 146.16/146.76, 223.16/224.76, 449.0/444.0 [PL 107.2]; exams 8:30 AM).

**SEASIDE, OREGON:** **SEAPZAC NORTHWESTERN DIVISION CONVENTION, June 1-3**, contact Will Sheffield, N7THL, (503) 642-7314, e-mail: <n7thl@arrl.net>; website: <www.seapac.org>. See us at the **CQ Booth**.

**ATLANTA, GEORGIA:** **The Atlanta Radio Club and the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society Atlanta Hamfest and ARRL Georgia Section Convention, June 2** at Jim Miller ParkContact John Talipsky, N3ACK, 385 Madison Chase Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045. E-mail: <n3ack@atlantaradioclub.org>. Website: <http://www.atlantahamfest.com>. (Talk in 146.820- [PL 146.2]; exams)

**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND:** **Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum (K3NEM) special event station W2W, 1200 to 2200 UTC June 2-6** to commemorate the role of electronics in World War II. Frequencies: 7.240, 14.270, 21.270. QSL to W2W - Special Event Station, Box 1693, MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. Certificate available via SASE. Website: <http://ww-2.us>.

**HUDSONVILLE, MICHIGAN:** **Independent Repeater Association, Inc. 2012 Annual Hamfest, June 2** at the Hudsonville FairgroundContact Don, (616) 532-7769 after 4 PM. E-mail: <ira-hamfest@w8ira.org>. (Talk in 147.160 [PL 94.8]; exams 9- 10:30 AM).

**MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO, CANADA:** **Mississauga Amateur Radio Club** a special event station from 1400 to 2000 UTC, Saturday, **June 2** and Sunday, **June 3** at the Annual Bread and Honey Festival. Frequencies: 14.240 and 7.230. For a certificate, contact MARC, c/o Michael Brickell, VE3TKI, 2801 Bucklepost Cres., Mississauga, ON, Canada L5L 1M6. Include \$2 USA. for postage. Website: <http://www.marc.on.ca>.

**SHOW LOW, ARIZONA:** **Kachina Amateur Radio Club White Mountain Hamfest, June 2** at the Show Low City HallContact Jim Mortensen, <w7azy@arrl.net>. Website: <http://www.kachina-arc.org>. (Talk in 145.310 [PL 110.9]; exams)

**ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA:** **South East Metro Amateur Radio Club** special event station **W0M** to commemorate the Battle of Midway from 1300 to 0000 UTC **June 2** at Fleming Field Airport. Frequencies: 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, and 28.460. QSL with an 8.5- by 11-inch SASE to W0CGM Special Event, 1655 - 68th Street West, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077. Contact Skip Jackson, KS0J, (651) 260-4330. Email: <ks0j@arrl.org>. Website: <http://www.semarc.org>.

**TEDROE, OHIO:** **Fulton County Amateur Radio Club Outdoor Flea Market and Hamfest, June 2** at the Roth Family Woodlot, 105 Hill Avenue. Website: <http://www.k8bxq.org>. (Talk in 147.195+)

**TOPEKA, KANSAS:** **Special event station W0VFW 1500 to 2350 UTC June 2** to honor the 92nd Annual State Convention of the VFW Department of Kansas. Frequencies include 21.240, 18.140, and 14.240 SSB. QSL to: Dwight Holtzen, 795 N. McComas Street, Wichita, KS 67203.

**CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO, CANADA:** **Guelph and the Kitchener-Waterloo Amateur Radio Clubs 38th Annual Central Ontario Amateur Radio Fleamarket and Hamfest, June 3** at the Waterloo Regional Police Association Recreation Centre. Contact: Nick, VA3NNW, weekends and nights only (519) 884-3760. E-mail: <info@hamfest.on.ca>. Website: <http://www.hamfest.on.ca>. (Talk in 146.970- [tone 131.8] or 146.529 simplex)

**PRINCETON, ILLINOIS:** **The Starved Rock Radio Club Amateur Radio Hobbyist and Collectors Show, June 3** at the Bureau County Fairgrounds. Contact with a SASE: Matthew Weaver, KB9VZH, 319 Desoto Street, Ottawa, IL 61350. Phone: (815) 313-5924. E-mail: <starvedrockhamfest@hotmail.com>. Website: <http://www.qsl.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm>. (Talk in 146.955-103.5; 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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- 2:1 bandwidth up to 500 kHz
- DX Engineering structural design + high strength tubing manufactured to rigid specifications = **Highest Wind Ratings**
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- Specially manufactured stainless steel and aluminum saddle clamps, stainless steel bolts, and precision machining = **Reliability Second to None**
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DXE-7580FS-VA-1	Vertical Antenna, standard HD, 2 inch OD base section.....	<b>\$379.50</b>
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### DXE-VRW-1 Manual Winch



A great option, this winch allows one person to easily raise or lower a VA-2 or VA-3 vertical antenna.  
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### 65 Ft. Telescoping Antenna Kit

- Eleven telescoping sections from 2" to 7 7/8" O.D.
- Stainless steel element clamps

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- Includes DX Engineering Stainless Steel Element Clamps
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# Results of the 2011 CQ WW RTTY DX Contest

BY ED MUNS,\* WØYK

The 25th annual running of the world's largest RTTY competition kicked off the CQ WW season on a memorable propagation weekend. The MUF was almost too high, with the SFI peaking at 169, enabling 10 and 15 meters to reach virtually anywhere worldwide with modest power and antennas. During the day, 20 meters was effectively blacked out with the solar flux so high. At mid-day, there were hardly any signals visible on the 20 meter bandscope. Accordingly, 80 and 40 meters were much more challenging this time than they have been in the recent years of the solar minimum.

Participation in RTTY contests continues its ascent, and all-time highs were set in this event. 14,403 callsigns were present—an 18% increase over the prior year. Submitted logs rose 25% from the previous high of 2681 in 2010 to 3373 in 2011. A portion of this increase was due to a more aggressive pursuit of log submissions from casual participants who operate for reasons other than score. There were QSOs with 214 countries and all 40 zones.

UZ2M captured the most accumulated zones at 145, with ES9C and EF8M tied at 143, and RL3A in fourth with 141. Country accumulation was led by ES9C with 453, followed by EF8M with 447, UZ2M with 419, and CN3A with 419. The top NA country totals came from the east coast, where K11G had 403 and K1SFA had 400. Further down the country standings was P49X in 14th place with 382.

VE/US multipliers were readily available on all bands, with P49X logging 264. W6YX and EF8M tied for second with 260. K1SFA was third with 252. As intended by the founders of this contest, this third multiplier that subdivides North America better levels the playing field with Europe's access to many more countries on the low bands.

Twelve new world records were established, while 62 new continental records were set, 44% of the total world and continental records possible! From the following table, it is clear how the MUF affected propagation with the records heavily weighted on 10 and 15 meters:

	World		Continent	
	New	Avail.	New	Avail.
SO10	4	4	17	20
SO15	3	4	13	20
SO20	1	4	3	20
SO40	1	4	2	20
SO80	1	4	5	20
SOAB	1	4	14	20
MS	1	2	3	10
M2		1	3	5
MM		1	2	5
Total	12	28	62	140

(Assisted and unassisted categories combined)

This is the result of optimal 10–15 meter propagation coinciding with record participation.

## Single-Op High Power (725 logs)

**Single-Op All Band High Power (550).** Top honors go to Arunas, LY5E (LY2U), who set a new European record with 6.3M points. Dennis, 6Y6U (W1UE) took second place, while establishing the new North America record with 6.0M. Filipe, CR6K (CT1ILT), was close in third place with 5.8M. John, K1FWE, grabbed the new USA record with 5.0M. In all, 36 of the top 50 all-time slots in this category are now occupied by participants in the 2011 contest!

**Single-Op 80 Meters High Power (12).** Daniel, VE2SB, won with 92K and set the new NA record. Mauro, IN3QBR, was second and led Europe with 82K. Waldir, PY2WC, set the SA record with just ZZ points, so there are still lots of record opportunities available!

**Single-Op 40 Meters High Power (21).** Paolo, YW4D (YV1DIG), won this category with 471K. The next four places were in Europe (YT8A, 9A3AAX, S36W, and S51CK), followed by three USA stations (W0GJ, K7WP, and W1TY/2).

**Single-Op 20 Meters High Power (33).** Gennadiy, UN1L, made 667K from Asia to win, while SO4M took second place with 642K and John,

KK9A/4, took third with 614K, short of his NA record set in 2010. Matteo, T77NM, took fourth with 608K.

**Single-Op 15 Meters High Power (44).** Robert, ST2AR, blasted this world record by 31% with a score of 1.1M, and Juan, YW5T (YV5JBI), took second place with 744K. Leo, S50R, set a new European record with 695K for third place world, and Yuri, EY0A (UA4LCQ), set a new Asia record for fourth place.

**Single-Op 10 Meters High Power (65).** Rene, LU7HN, set the new world record with 844K and Max, KH6ZM, took second place with a new Oceania record. Third place world was Yasu, JA6WJL, with 447K and the new Asia record. Fourth place Erik, PI4DX (PD1DX), won Europe with 385K.



Nuno, CT1EEK, had "incredible fun" on a revived 10-meter band and took third place Europe in 10 Meters Low Power.



The 400-year-old (adding all their ages!) CR3L Multi-Multi team—(left to right) DJ6QT, DK4QT, DJ6XV, DM3BJ, DL6TK, and DL1YFF—narrowly surpassed the youthful K1SFA competitors for first place.

\*e-mail: <w0yk@cqwrrtty.com>

## 2011 CQ WW RTTY CONTEST PLAQUE WINNERS AND SPONSORS



This fine ED1R team took third place in Multi-Two. Left to right: EC1KR, EB7ABJ, EC4DX, EC7AKV, and EA4AOC.

### Single Operator Low Power (1589)

**Single-Op All Band Low Power (1238).** Fabi, VA2UP, was first place world with a new NA record and 4.0M, and Mohamed, 5C5W (CN8KD), was second with a new Africa record and 3.9M. Don, AA5AU, took third with 2.7M and Enrico, 6V7X (IK2FIL), took fourth with 2.5M. Ted, HI3TEJ, was fifth with 2.4M.

**Single-Op 80 Meters Low Power (14).** Gyorgy, HA1WD, was first with 71K. Gordon, NQ4K, set a new NA record with 9K.

**Single-Op 40 Meters Low Power (39).** Tomek, SP3VSE, took first place with 211K, Jan, SP6IHE, was second with 156K, and Andris, YL3CU, was third with 141K. Nori, JL3TMH, set a new Asia record with 35K.

**Single-Op 20 Meters Low Power (85).** Gennady, EU1DX, had the first-place finish of 351K and Melnikov, RM2M, took second with 336K. Costantino, IC8TEM, was a close third with 335K and Iacopo, IK5AWB, took fourth with 318K.

**Single-Op 15 Meters Low Power (84).** Ion, YO3JF, made 382K for first place and Andrei, UZ7HO, took second with 378K. Third-place Dimitry, 4Z5CP, set a new Asia record with 340K and in fifth place Bill, VY2LI, set a new NA record with 265K.

**Single-Op 10 Meters Low Power (129).** This category set all new world and continent records. Augusto, PY2EB, was first with 423K and Sulaiman, 7Z1SJ, was second with 395K and a new Asia record. Francisco, EA7ISH, took fourth with 325K and the new Europe record, while Nicolas, FG4NO, took sixth with 265K and the new NA record. Fifteenth-place Duarte, CT3HF, set the new Africa record with 130K.

### Single-Op Assisted High Power (373)

**Single-Op Assisted All Band High Power (288).** Rick, K11G, was first place world with 6.4M and the new NA record. Yuri, RG9A, was close behind with 6.2M, and third-place Boyan, LZ8E (LZ2BE), had 5.5M for a new Europe record. Bud, AA3B, took fourth with 4.9M.

**Single-Op Assisted 80 meters High Power (7).** The first five places came from Europe: Mario, IZ0KBR, with 116K, Silvio, IZ5DIY, with 110K, Alajos, HA3LI, with 94K, Alex, UX1UX, with 75K, and Francesco, IK0XBX, with 50K. Sixth place Vit, RX0AT, set the new Asia record with 17K.

**Single-Op Assisted 40 meters High Power (11).** The first ten places were in Europe: Marco, I4LXV, was first with 458K, Vladan, YT1VP, was second with 410K, Vlad, UW4I, was third with 294K, Andrey, RW4PL, was fourth with 291K, and Bengt, SM6FUD, was fifth with 165K.

**Single-Op Assisted 20 meters High Power (13).** Nine of the first ten places were also from Europe on this band, which behaved more like a "low band" than a "high band." Fulvio, IK4MGP, was first with 857K, Jose, CT3KY, was second with 683K, Ruslan, EO3Q (UR3QCW), was third with 679K, Sekcja, SN2K (SP2DWG), was fourth with 578K, and Ryszard, SP8ONZ, was fifth with 305K.

**Single-Op Assisted 15 meters High Power (22).** Antonio, CT3EN, set a new world record with 985K, while second-place Stephane, TM6M, set a new Europe record with 908K. Vlad, R7LV, took third with 735K and fourth place Joel, VE6WQ, set a new NA record with 628K.

**Single-Op Assisted 10 meters High Power (32).** The top 12 finishers all broke the prior world record, which shows the opportunity in some of these categories. Joel, KG6DX, set a new world record from Oceania with 733K, more than doubling the score of second-place Braco, 9A7R, who set the new Europe record with 327K. Fifth place Julio, PU4LOG, set a new SA record with 267K, and sixth place Masa, JO1WKO, set a new Asia record with 263K. Eighth place Alejandro, XE1EE, broke the NA record with 253K.

### Single Operator High Power Unassisted

World: Sponsored by John Orton, W5JBO. Winner: LY5E (op: Arunas Vaglys, LY2JJ)

Asia: Sponsored by Alex Panoiu, YO9HP. Winner: Masaki Okano, JH4UYB  
Canada: Sponsored by Contest Group du Quebec. Winner: Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ

USA: Sponsored by Charles Anderson, KK5OQ. Winner: John Webster, K1FWE

### Single Operator Low Power Unassisted

World: Sponsored by Don Hill, AA5AU. Winner: Fabi Bertolotto, VA2UP  
Asia: Sponsored by Jim Reisert, AD1C. Winner: Peter Saunders, HZ1PS

Europe: Sponsored by Tyler Stewart, K3MM. Winner: Aleksander Wiecek, SQ9UM

North America: Sponsored by Joseph Young, W6RLL. Winner: Don Hill, AA5AU

South America: Sponsored by Trey Garlough, N5KO. Winner: Vitor Luis Aidar Dos Santos, PY2NY

Canada: Sponsored by Bob Loranger, VE2AXO. Winner: Bob Loranger, VE2AXO

### Single Operator Assisted High Power

World: Sponsored by Mike Sims, K4GMH. Winner: Rick Davenport, K11G

Asia: Sponsored by Lakshman "Lucky" Bijanki, VU2LBW. Winner: Yuri Kurinyi, RG9A

North America: Sponsored by Jamie Tolbert, Jr., WW3S and Ray Fallen, Jr., ND8L. Winner: Bud Trench, AA3B

### Single Operator Assisted Low Power

World: Jim Barron, WB5AAA. Winner: Fabi Bertolotto, VA2UP

North America: George Marzloff, K4GM. Winner: Don Hill, AA5AU

### Single Operator Single Band

World 28 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Steve Hodgson, ZC4LI. Winner: Rene Giorda, LU7HN

World 28 MHz Low Power: Wray Dudley, AB4SF. Winner: Augusto Reis, PY2EB

World 21 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C. Winner: Robert Kasca, ST2AR

World 14 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Kenneth Young, AB4GG. Winner: Gennadiy Gleizer, UN1L

Europe 14 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Bob Raymond, WA1Z. Winner: SO4M (op: Miroslaw Razny, SP4MPG)

North America 14 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Patrick W. Soileau, ND5C. Winner: John Bayne, KK9A/4

USA 14 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Jamie Punderson, W2QO. Winner: Steve Sawyer, KT0DX

World 7 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Abraham Neal Software by K3NC. Winner: YW4D (op: Paolo Stradiotto, YV1DIG)

North America 7 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Don Reed, K2OGD. Winner: Glenn Johnson, W0GJ

World 3.5 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Glenn Vinson, W6OTC. Winner: Daniel Richer, VE2SB

World 3.5 MHz High Power Assisted: Sponsored by Mario Lamanna, IZ0KBR. Winner: Mario Lamanna, IZ0KBR

### Multi-Op Single Transmitter Low Power

North America: Sponsored by Dennis Conklin, A18P. Winner: VP9I (ND8L, WW3S)

### Multi-Op Single Transmitter High Power

World: Sponsored by Kevin Rowett, K6TD. Winner: EF8M (ops: RD3A, UA5C, EA8CAC, EA8AH)

Europe: Tartu Contest Team, ES5Q, Winner: UZ2M (ops: RA4LW, RW4LE, UX3MZ, UX3MR, UR5MID, UR0MC, UT3MD)

North America: Sponsored by Steve Jarrett, K4FJ. Winner: K4FJ (ops: K3KG, K4FJ)

### Multi-Op Two Transmitter

World: Sponsored by Ed Muns, W0YK. Winner: P49X (ops: W0YK, N4RR, K6AW, W6OTC)

Europe: Sponsored by CT3 Madeira Contest Team CR3A/CQ9K. Winner: ES9C (ops: YL2KF, YL1ZF, YL3DW, ES5RY, ES5TV, ES2DW, ES5GP, ES5NH, ES2MA, ES2NA, ES5JR, ES5QX)

North America: Sponsored by Steve Merchant, K6AW. Winner: NR4M (ops: NR4M, K4EC, K7SV, N3ZV, W4MYA, K14UDF)

USA: Sponsored by Abraham Neal Software by K3NC. Winner: K0IR (ops: K0IR, WA0MHJ, N0KK, N0AT, N0HJZ, W0ELT)

### Multi-Op Multi-Transmitter

World: Sponsored by KA4RRU RTTY Team. Winner: CR3L (DJ6QT, DJ6XV, DK4QT, DL1YFF, DL6TK, DM3BJ)

Europe: DX Old Timers Club – Silvano Amenta, KB5GL/IT9SEZ Memorial.

Winner: IT9BLB (op: IK3QAR, IT9BLB, IT9MBZ, IT9MUO, IT9PAD, IT9RBW, IT9RGY, IT9VDQ, IT9ZGY, IT9ZMX)

### Club Competition

World: Sponsored by Potomac Valley Radio Club. Winner: Bavarian Contest Club

North America: Sponsored by Northern California Contest Club. Winner: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

(Plaque sponsors as of publication date. Additional plaques may be sponsored.)



### Single-Op Assisted Low Power (287)

This category is new, bringing RTTY in line with the other modes of CQ WW. Therefore all of this year's top scores also establish the category record.

**Single-Op Assisted All Band Low Power (222).** Robert, S57AW, set the new world and Europe records with 3.5M. Mark, N2QT, took second with 2.6M for the new NA record. John, GW4SKA, took third and Alex, PY2SEX, took fourth with 2.0M establishing the SA record. Eighth place Romeo, RW9C, set the new Asia record with 1.4M.

**Single-Op Assisted 80 meters Low Power (4).** The four entries were all from Europe. Fucelli, IK0XB, set the new world record of 50K.

**Single-Op Assisted 40 meters Low Power (6).** The six entries here were also from Europe. Robby, DM6DX, set the new world record, 87K.

**Single-Op Assisted 20 meters Low Power (12).** Out of the five Europeans in the top slots Krstov, Z35X, won this category with a new world record of 274K. Sixth place Dan, KF6A, set the NA record with 22K and eighth place Batbayar, JT1BE, set the Asia record with 11K.

**Single-Op Assisted 15 meters Low Power (12).** Ludek, OK3C, won with the world record score of 300K and Yuri, UA9AFS, set the Asia record for second place with 186K. Ninth place

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YWST	744,315
SS0R	694,785

14 MHz	
UN1L	667,290
SO4M	642,497
KK9A/4	614,100

7 MHz	
YW4D	471,314
YT8A	420,050
9A3AAX	282,720

3.5 MHz	
VE2SB	92,180
IN30BR	81,750
DL1SWB	62,136

LOW POWER All Band	
*VA2UP	3,977,680
*505W	3,864,324
*AA5AU	2,713,962
*6V7X	2,478,894
*H13TEJ	2,436,352

28 MHz	
*PY2EB	422,688
*7Z1SJ	394,896
*5K3R	392,496

21 MHz	
*Y03JF	382,382
*UZ7HO	377,739
*4Z5CP	340,136

14 MHz	
*EU1DX	350,625
*RM2M	335,556
*IC8TEM	335,100

7 MHz	
*SP3VSE	210,870
*SP6IHE	155,703
*YL3CU	141,105

3.5 MHz	
*HA1WD	71,355
*UA2FL	41,361
*UT4EK	35,970

ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band	
K11G	6,416,744
RG9A	6,174,350
LZ8E	5,455,800
AA3B	4,924,996
UA5F	3,971,645

28 MHz	
KG6DX	732,828
9A7R	326,970
LZ9A	297,440

21 MHz	
CT3EN	984,987
TM6M	908,205
R7LV	734,760

14 MHz	
IK4MGP	856,753
CT3KY	682,689
EO30	679,328

7 MHz	
II4LXV	458,040
YT1VP	409,770
UW4I	294,060

3.5 MHz	
IZ0KBR	116,100
IZ5DIY	110,016
HA3LI	93,832

LOW POWER All Band	
*S57AW	3,500,924
*N20T/4	2,640,352
*GW4SKA	2,575,170
*PY2SEX	2,007,440
*LZ9R	1,853,556

28 MHz	
*PU4LOG	266,754
*PY2DN	239,320
*PA1CC	215,760

21 MHz	
*OK3C	300,004
*UA9AFS	186,480
*IZ4AFW	168,818

14 MHz	
*Z35X	273,762
*E74AA	175,260
*ED2Y	163,737

7 MHz	
*DM6DX	87,163
*R2SA	68,040
*IK0LNN	63,812

3.5 MHz	
*IK0XB	49,650
*YU7U	13,923
*E72MM	6,660

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER	
EF8M	12,197,500
CN3A	10,612,800
UZ2M	6,690,831
RL3A	4,841,200
OL7M	4,528,359

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER LOW POWER	
*VP9I	3,438,541
*LZ5R	2,041,560
*WW4LL	1,954,310
*YT3M	1,814,274
*CS5CRE	1,228,392

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER	
P49X	14,161,441
ES9C	11,095,980
ED1R	7,146,396
IO1RY	6,512,454
EF7R	6,390,258

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER	
CR3L	10,080,564
K1SFA	10,002,562
IT9BLB	9,790,016
LX7I	7,813,069
ED5CEF	6,417,450

UNITED STATES SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band	
K1FWE	5,008,245
K1LZ	3,361,750
W3LL	3,093,408
W4PK	2,580,550
W7RN	2,492,952

28 MHz	
WA7LNV	165,977
N4ZZ	136,620
N4TB	118,156

21 MHz	
N2WK	505,689
K9OM	453,407
WB4YDL	293,168

14 MHz	
KK9A/4	614,100
KT0DX	148,000
W7PU	84,189

7 MHz	
W0GJ	160,016
K7WP	149,193
W1TY/2	118,300

3.5 MHz	
K8I8B	23,828
W6WRT	16,932
N2EIK	4,753

LOW POWER All Band	
*AA5AU	2,713,962
*WA1FCN/4	1,294,475
*NZZAK	1,232,607
*WB2RHM/4	997,890
*NT0F	871,579

28 MHz	
*N2WN/4	84,882
*K4WJ	82,368
*N1IX	49,248

21 MHz	
*AB1J/9	221,650
*K2EN	121,568
*WB5NMZ/4	78,008

14 MHz	
*N2YBB	123,015
*WMSDX	121,296
*W4LC	116,145

7 MHz	
*W9KVR	40,018
*AB0YM	6,944
*K4LHP	3,784

3.5 MHz	
*N04K	9,006
*K0IDT	5,141

ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band	
K11G	6,416,744
AA3B	4,924,996
A19T	3,155,349

W3FV	
W3FV	3,133,682
W0LSD	2,824,225

28 MHz	
K0PK	126,429
K6TA	118,692
N6ML	114,328

21 MHz	
K6LL/7	461,390
WJ2D/4	429,444
N7AT	427,800

14 MHz	
KC4HW	107,725
WA8RPK	3,572

7 MHz	
K8CPA	648

LOW POWER All Band	
*N2QT/4	2,640,352
*K0KY	1,452,550
*K4ZD	1,232,415
*K5J1	1,224,546
*N2FF	1,121,523

28 MHz	
*K00EB	58,432
*NF3C/4	14,229
*KF0IQ	9,261

21 MHz	
*N4RA	16,974

14 MHz	
*KF6A/8	21,945
*W6RKC	1,632

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER	
K4FJ	4,234,705
AA7A	2,276,784
K7BTW	1,673,592
AA4HP	1,626,570
N2B/J/9	1,160,783

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER LOW POWER	
*WW4LL	1,954,310
*NSL4H	1,144,150
*WJ4H	899,248
*KUYL/O	873,681
*W9TIT	407,259

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER	
NR4M	6,363,236
K0IR	5,724,545
W6YX	4,015,335
W1DX	2,727,207
ND2W	2,658,575

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER	
K1SFA	10,002,562
K4ARRU	4,451,840
AK7AZ	873,794

EUROPE SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band	
LYSE	6,319,620
CR6K	5,835,904
ER4A	5,026,543
SN7Q	4,520,880

21 MHz	
TM6M	908,205
R7LV	734,760
DJ3IV	600,600

14 MHz	
9A7R	326,970
LZ9A	297,440
9A6B	295,812

ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band	
LZ8E	5,455,800
UA5F	3,971,645
U07J	2,961,798
UW8I	2,679,600
Y09HP	2,508,288

28 MHz	
9A7R	326,970
LZ9A	297,440
9A6B	295,812

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER	
UZ2M	6,690,831
RL3A	4,841,200
OL7M	4,528,359
OH8A	4,124,061
SS0W	3,894,905

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER LOW POWER	
*LZ5R	2,041,560
*YT3M	1,814,274
*CS5CRE	1,228,392
*DD1A	838,299
*SP9KDA	746,856

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER	
ES9C	11,095,980
ED1R	7,146,396
IO1RY	6,512,454
EF7R	6,390,258
S50XX	6,173,958

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER	
IT9BLB	9,790,016
LX7I	7,813,069
ED5CEF	6,417,450
HG1S	6,227,145
EA3CCN	5,757,056

21 MHz	
II4LXV	458,040
YT1VP	409,770
UW4I	294,060

7 MHz	
IZ0KBR	116,100
IZ5DIY	110,016
HA3LI	93,832

LOW POWER All Band	
*S57AW	3,500,924
*GW4SKA	2,575,170
*LZ9R	1,853,556

28 MHz	
*PA1CC	215,760
*F4FDA	178,205
*LZ2G	133,920

21 MHz	
*OK3C	300,004
*IZ4AFW	168,818
*IK0EIE	135,240

14 MHz	
*Z35X	273,762
*E74AA	175,260
*ED2Y	163,737

7 MHz	
*DM6DX	87,163
*R2SA	68,040
*IK0LNN	63,812

3.5 MHz	
*IK0XB	49,650
*YU7U	13,923
*E72MM	6,660

# SteppIR Antenna Selection Guide

## Antenna Specification Sheet

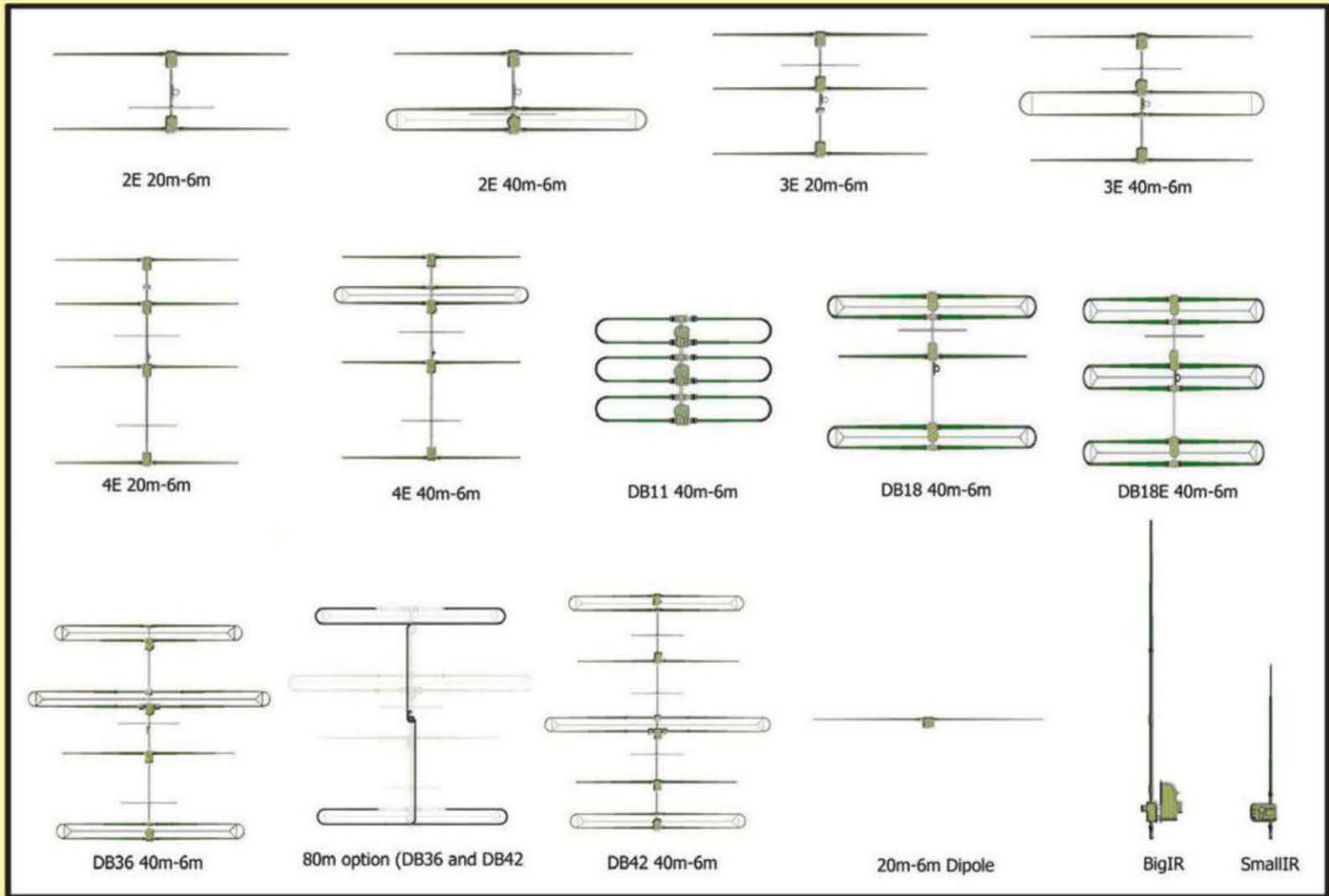
Item	Dipole 20m-6m	2 element Yagi	3 element Yagi	4 element Yagi	DB11 Yagi	DB18 Yagi	DB18E Yagi	DB36 Yagi	DB42 Yagi MonstIR PRO	40m - 30m Dipole Option	BigIR III Vertical	Small IR Vertical
Weight	15 lb 6.80 kg	30 lb 13.6 kg	51 lb 23.1 kg	99 lb 45.0 kg	63 lb 28.57 kg	96 lb 43.5 kg	110 lb 50 kg	160 lb 72.8 kg	238 lb 108 kg	15 lb 6.80kg	15 lb 6.8 kg	12 lb 5.4 kg
Max. Wind Surface Area	1.9 sq ft 0.17 sq m	4.0 sq ft 0.37 sq m	6.1 sq ft 0.57 sq m	9.7 sq ft 0.90 sq m	5.9 sq ft 0.54 sq m	10.1 sq ft 0.93 sq m	12.1 sq f 1.12 sq m	17.5 sq ft 1.63 sq m	19.9 sq ft 1.85 sq m	2.0 sq ft 0.19 sq m	1.9 sq ft 0.17 sq m	1.0 sq ft 0.9 sq m
Wind Rating	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	100 MPH 160 KPH	50-MPH *100MPH w/2 guys	100 MPH 160 KPH
Longest Element	36 ft 10.97 m	36 ft 10.97 m	36 ft 10.97 m	36 ft 10.97 m	19 ft 5.79 m	39 ft 11.9m	39 ft 11.9 m	49 ft 14.9 m	49 ft 14.9 m	39 ft 11.9 m	33 ft 10.05 m	18 ft 5.49 m
Power Rating	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts *1500 w w/80m opt.	3000 Watts *1500 w w/80m opt.	3000 Watts	3000 Watts	3000 Watts
Boom Length	—	57 in 1.44 m	16 ft 4.87 m	32 ft 9.75 m	11 ft 3.35 m	19 ft 5.79m	19 ft 5.79 m	36 ft	42 ft 8 in 13.0 m	—	—	—
Boom Diameter	—	1.75 in 4.45 cm	1.75 in 4.45 cm	1.75—2.50 in 4.45—6.35cm	1.75 in 4.45 cm	1.75—2.0 in 4.45—5.08cm	1.75—2.0 in 4.45—5.08cm	1.75— 2.5 in 4.45—6.35cm	1.75 - 3 in 4.45—7.62cm	—	—	—
Mast Diameter	2.0 in 4.45 cm	2.0 in 5.08 cm	2.0 in 5.08 cm	2.0 in 5.08 cm	1.75 - 3 in 4.4-7.6 cm	1.75 - 3 in 4.4-7.6 cm	1.75 - 3 in 4.4-7.6 cm	1.75 - 3 in 4.4-7.6 cm	1.75 - 3 in 4.4-7.6 cm	—	1.5 in 3.81 cm	1.5 in / 3.81 cm
Frequency Coverage	13.8—54.0 MHz	13.8—54.0 MHz *40/30 opt. avail.	13.8—54.0 MHz *40/30 opt. avail.	13.8—54.0 MHz *40/30 opt. avail.	13.9—54.0 MHz	6.8—54.0 MHz (2E on 30m)	6.8—54.0 MHz (3E on 30m)	6.8—54.0 MHz *80m opt. available	6.8—54.0 MHz *80m opt. available	6.8—13.8 MHz	6.8—54.0 MHz *80m coil opt. avail. (1500w)	13.8—54.0 MHz *80/40/30 & 40/30 coils avail
Turning Radius	18 ft 5.48 m	18.15 ft 5.53 m	19.7 ft 6.0 m	24.1 ft 7.35 m	10.5 ft 3.20m	21.58 ft 6.57 m	21.58 ft 6.57 m	26 ft 8.0 m	29 ft 8.8 m	NA Option for 2, 3, & 4E Yagi	—	—
Cable Re- quirements (shielded)	4 Wire 22 AWG	12 Wire 22 AWG	12 Wire 22 AWG	16 Wire 22 AWG	16 Wire 22 AWG	16 Wire 22 AWG	16 Wire 22 AWG	*16 Wire 22 AWG	24 Wire 22 AWG	—	4 Wire 22 AWG	4 Wire 22 AWG
Balun In- cluded?	No (optional)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (optional)	No (optional)

**SteppIR has Auto-Tune Yagi, Dipole, and Vertical Antennas to fit any lot size and any budget.**

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# SteppIR

# BAND-BY-BAND BREAKDOWN—TOP ALL BAND SCORES

Number groups indicate: QSOs, Countries, Zones, US/VE on each band

WORLD					USA						
TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND					SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND						
Station	80	40	20	15	10	K1FWE	268/37/12/45	590/64/20/46	917/72/25/49	1062/81/27/46	529/68/23/20
LY5E	306/47/10/6	499/66/23/41	1086/97/33/49	1171/92/35/53	513/80/31/42	K1LZ	278/40/15/51	739/66/21/50	385/55/26/47	841/75/24/38	402/54/17/16
6Y6U	125/26/11/36	735/62/20/51	569/69/24/53	1251/76/24/53	1099/61/18/54	W3LL	250/35/11/45	364/53/15/44	368/60/24/36	560/64/24/32	754/66/23/20
CR6K	137/52/13/23	463/61/19/43	583/82/28/55	1031/89/29/58	1000/83/29/54	*AA5AU	263/17/10/50	311/60/19/42	473/53/21/48	823/78/25/49	489/71/24/30
ER4A	287/43/11/8	493/61/20/29	941/82/28/48	1245/94/32/57	392/67/30/37	W4PK	143/24/12/34	357/48/15/45	389/58/24/40	712/63/17/30	564/55/19/21
K1FWE	268/37/12/45	590/64/20/46	917/72/25/49	1062/81/27/46	529/68/23/20						
SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND					SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND						
K1G	249/41/12/50	614/74/24/50	689/94/32/52	992/103/35/51	838/91/30/37	K1G	249/41/12/50	614/74/24/50	689/94/32/52	992/103/35/51	838/91/30/37
RG9A	275/52/9/0	584/78/23/17	891/96/32/39	1048/106/33/43	743/84/30/8	AA3B	235/38/11/42	574/66/21/49	729/81/27/48	808/76/24/33	815/69/19/18
LZ8E	274/48/11/6	668/76/25/35	792/85/31/43	939/89/32/55	624/84/34/46	A19T	155/12/9/47	420/59/20/50	477/77/24/45	563/80/27/28	711/74/22/17
AA3B	235/38/11/42	574/66/21/49	729/81/27/48	808/76/24/33	815/69/19/18	W3FV	113/27/11/38	502/62/19/47	351/63/24/35	651/71/25/28	633/69/22/16
UA5F	221/47/10/9	599/80/25/31	575/95/32/44	869/97/31/50	319/70/30/32	W0LSD	109/15/11/44	632/68/25/49	470/75/27/51	658/85/28/48	291/74/24/29
MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER					MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER						
EF8M	289/58/16/42	771/76/24/50	775/101/32/55	1253/105/35/55	1867/107/36/58	K4FJ	153/28/10/42	436/63/19/45	464/85/28/46	772/92/30/40	833/80/23/22
CN3A	270/54/15/36	796/69/21/51	948/94/32/56	1103/102/35/52	1400/100/32/55	AA7A	97/10/8/38	488/43/18/48	277/55/23/52	599/80/31/48	493/70/25/33
UJ2M	216/56/16/10	582/82/24/41	980/102/35/52	1238/106/35/53	661/93/35/39	WW4LL	128/20/10/39	424/61/18/47	254/72/21/43	318/79/29/34	495/75/23/15
RL3A	227/53/13/7	515/76/26/37	710/100/35/45	1061/103/36/53	366/83/31/30	K7BTW	130/11/10/42	485/49/22/49	333/47/23/51	369/70/26/43	408/46/20/39
OL7M	220/48/10/11	369/69/21/41	595/89/30/48	1024/101/36/55	420/78/31/43	AA4HP	18/7/7/11	251/40/13/35	372/59/21/37	442/58/21/40	472/73/23/20
MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER					MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER						
P49X	211/39/13/45	875/71/24/52	1360/89/33/55	2023/97/34/57	1907/87/28/55	NR4M	328/39/12/49	718/72/21/51	799/88/31/53	1098/95/31/44	918/85/30/23
ES9C	506/56/15/12	1035/84/25/49	1652/106/34/55	1630/110/35/57	843/97/34/43	K0IR	377/23/11/52	850/65/22/51	682/79/28/51	1327/95/33/49	774/82/28/16
ED1R	208/45/10/11	769/67/21/47	969/93/31/53	1237/82/27/55	1057/86/33/55	W6YX	320/17/12/51	721/66/25/53	531/72/26/54	817/88/30/55	634/72/25/47
IQ1RY	317/44/10/12	610/64/20/43	957/90/31/46	968/89/33/57	966/75/33/55	W1DX	176/34/10/36	399/52/15/43	342/78/26/48	487/74/24/36	626/73/22/22
EF7R	221/50/12/9	602/63/20/45	961/88/29/51	1199/81/28/54	1151/85/30/54	ND2W	168/16/11/42	468/55/15/43	523/67/26/44	797/67/25/35	516/63/22/20
MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER					MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER						
CR3L	276/47/14/34	898/72/23/48	1032/81/27/51	1294/81/28/56	1352/80/26/54	K1SFA	577/47/14/55	1157/79/25/56	1344/94/33/56	1474/95/32/52	1062/85/26/33
K1SFA	577/47/14/55	1157/79/25/56	1344/94/33/56	1474/95/32/52	1062/85/26/33	KA4RRU	290/15/9/52	669/59/17/56	705/79/31/52	871/76/26/38	928/77/26/27
IT9BLB	463/55/13/15	971/75/25/47	1467/101/32/51	1272/98/33/54	1190/88/32/57	AK7AZ	101/5/6/36	242/27/15/45	219/30/18/43	494/56/23/47	154/38/20/24
LX7I	460/49/11/18	785/65/18/52	827/82/29/50	1287/93/33/57	1090/85/31/54						
ED5CEF	288/39/9/10	801/68/25/43	1292/77/28/54	1131/70/27/55	943/68/29/48						

## TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

<b>Zone 3</b>	K1LZ.....3,361,750	RG3K.....3,755,400
W7RN.....2,492,952		UW1M.....2,970,973
N6QQ.....1,301,966	<b>Zone 14</b>	UU7J.....2,961,798
KR7X.....1,258,530	CR6K.....5,835,904	
K2PO/7.....1,057,588	LM9L40Y 3,593,400	<b>Zone 20</b>
W7PP.....998,130	TM0T.....3,473,526	LZ8E.....5,455,800
	DL1IAO.....2,955,216	YO9HP.....2,508,288
<b>Zone 4</b>	EA1AKS.....2,596,556	LZ9R.....1,853,556
A19T.....3,155,349		YO3CZW.....1,577,107
W0LSD.....2,824,225	<b>Zone 15</b>	YO3APJ.....1,134,060
*AA5AU.....2,713,962	LY5E.....6,319,620	
VE3DZ.....2,585,024	SN7Q.....4,520,880	<b>Zone 25</b>
K5DU.....2,433,042	S57AW.....3,500,924	JH4UYB.....2,869,920
	OH8X.....3,374,920	JM1XCW.....2,335,464
<b>Zone 5</b>	OH4A.....3,038,165	JQ1BVI.....1,563,088
K1G.....6,416,744		JA1OVD.....1,535,314
K1FWE.....5,008,245	<b>Zone 16</b>	JH4UTP.....1,213,025
AA3B.....4,924,996	ER4A.....5,026,543	
*VA2UP.....3,977,680	UA5F.....3,971,645	

\*Low Power

Carlos, PY4XX, set the SA record with 51K and eleventh place Richard, N4RA set the NA record with 17K.

**Single-Op Assisted 10 meters Low Power (31).** Julio ,PU4LOG, is the new world record holder with 267K while Roberto , PY2DN, took second with 239K. Ton, PA1CC, in third, set the new Europe record with 216K and Huang, BD7IS, took fourth with the new Asia record of 182K. John, KC0DEB, set the NA record with 58K.

**Multi-Operator (141) Multi-Single Low Power (31).** Last year's NA winner VP9I (ND8L, WW3S) moved up from fourth place world to win in 2011 and set a new NA record with 3.4M points. Second place was LZ5R (LZ1UK, LZ3RR) with 2.0M, and the WW4LL (WW4LL, K1ZZI, K9MUG, WF4W, W4KTR, KB4KBS) team took third with 2.0M.

**Multi-Single High Power (64).** The EF8M team of RD3A, UA5C, EA8CAC, and EA8AH captured another category world record with 12.2M. Second place CN3A (IK2QEI, IK3STG, IW3IFJ, IZ4GWE, CN8WW, CN8WK) made 10.6M, and third place UJ2M (RA4LW, RW4LE, UX3MZ, UX3MR, UR5MID, UR0MC, UT3MD) set a new Europe record with 6.7M.

**Multi-Two (29).** The P49X team of W6OTC, K6AW, W0YK, and N4RR took first place and racked up 14.2M for a new SA record, while ES9C (YL2KF, YL1ZF, YL3DW, ES5RY, ES5TV, ES2DW, ES5GP, ES5NHC, ES2MA, ES2NA, ES5JR, ES5QX) took second place and a new European record with 11.6M. Third place was nailed by ED1R (EA1CJ, EC1KR, EA4TD, EA4AOC, EA4GBV, EA4GEL, EC4DX, EC7AKV, EB7ABJ) with 7.1M points.

## Important Online Resources

CQ WW RTTY website: <http://www.cqwwrtty.com/>  
 CQ website: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>  
 Cabrillo log file spec: <http://www.cqwwrtty.com/logs.htm>  
 Club name list: <http://www.cqwwrtty.com/clubnames.htm>  
 List of logs received: [http://www.cqwwrtty.com/logs\\_received.shtml](http://www.cqwwrtty.com/logs_received.shtml)

Log submissions: [rtty@cqww.com](mailto:rtty@cqww.com)  
 All other correspondence: [w0yk@cqwwrtty.com](mailto:w0yk@cqwwrtty.com)

## EUROPE

### SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

LY5E	306/47/10/6	499/66/23/41	1086/97/33/49	1171/92/35/53	513/80/31/42
CR6K	137/52/13/23	463/61/19/43	583/82/28/55	1031/89/29/58	1000/83/29/54
ER4A	287/43/11/8	493/61/20/29	941/82/28/48	1245/94/32/57	392/67/30/37
SN7Q	249/47/11/16	467/54/21/43	549/65/26/41	886/81/33/56	699/71/28/51
RG3K	195/36/7/1	465/67/21/29	853/74/26/38	1168/78/30/55	367/51/24/13

### SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

LZ8E	274/48/11/6	668/76/25/35	792/85/31/43	939/89/32/55	624/84/34/46
UA5F	221/47/10/9	599/80/25/31	575/95/32/44	869/97/31/50	319/70/30/32
S57AW	249/52/12/12	362/68/23/39	475/87/28/43	577/85/31/55	438/70/29/45
UU7J	180/41/12/7	269/54/18/26	418/70/27/30	803/75/29/43	590/77/32/41
UW8I	178/45/11/3	342/64/20/29	658/83/28/44	759/86/29/48	171/53/27/10

### MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

UZ2M	216/56/16/10	582/82/24/41	980/102/35/52	1238/106/35/53	661/93/35/39
RL3A	227/53/13/7	515/76/26/37	710/100/35/45	1061/103/36/53	366/83/31/30
OL7M	220/48/10/11	369/69/21/41	595/89/30/48	1024/101/36/55	420/78/31/43
OH8A	225/50/12/1	368/69/23/16	888/94/33/51	886/92/32/48	373/84/32/30
S50W	245/44/11/9	475/65/21/42	536/83/30/44	612/77/30/55	549/72/30/52

### MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

ES9C	506/56/15/12	1035/84/25/49	1652/106/34/55	1630/110/35/57	843/97/34/43
ED1R	208/45/10/11	769/67/21/47	969/93/31/53	1237/82/27/55	1057/86/33/55
IQ1RY	317/44/10/12	610/64/20/43	957/90/31/46	968/89/33/57	966/75/33/55
EF7R	221/50/12/9	602/63/20/45	961/88/29/51	1199/81/28/54	1151/85/30/54
S50XX	504/57/14/23	645/67/22/39	716/94/32/43	1067/89/33/55	748/68/28/50

### MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

IT9BLB	463/55/13/15	971/75/25/47	1467/101/32/51	1272/98/33/54	1190/88/32/57
LX7I	460/49/11/18	785/65/18/52	827/82/29/50	1287/93/33/57	1090/85/31/54
ED5CEF	288/39/9/10	801/68/25/43	1292/77/28/54	1131/70/27/55	943/68/29/48
HG1S	508/56/14/17	700/72/24/46	856/96/33/38	1160/89/32/55	596/61/31/53
EA3CCN	330/50/10/12	717/61/22/40	1221/77/28/51	944/86/31/58	641/58/22/50

\*Low Power



Kenny, VP9GE's son, was running the VP9I pile-up while WW3S and ND8L sat on the porch for a break. waving waved at the cruise ships.

**Multi-Multi (17).** A three-continent race for top honors in this category came down to final log checking. CR3L (DJ6QT, DJ6XV, DK4QT, DL1YFF, DL6TK, DM3BJ) came out on top with 10.1M; K1SFA (K1MK, K1SFA, K1TTT, KB1SUA, N1FJ, N2WQ, NW2Q, W1EQO, W1TO @K1TTT) took a very close second and the new NA record with 10.0M; and IT9BLB (IK3QAR, IT9BLB, IT9MBZ, IT9MUO, IT9PAD, IT9RBW, IT9RGY, IT9VDQ, IT9ZGY, IT9ZMX) took third with 9.8M for a new Europe record.

## Clubs

**United States.** With the fewest logs (30), the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) won this year with 35.9M. Second-place Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) accumulated 33.2M points with 50 logs, and third-place Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) had 27.1M from 38 logs.

**Europe.** The same three clubs finished in the same order as last year,

## CLUB SCORES

### UNITED STATES

Club	# Entrants	Score
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	30	35,892,636
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	50	33,185,072
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	38	27,100,477
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	49	20,695,177
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	12	14,419,708
CTRI CONTEST GROUP	8	10,985,921
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	18	9,633,038
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	16	9,257,080
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	26	8,619,725
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	13	6,886,231
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	21	6,080,793
LOUISIANA CONTEST CLUB	3	4,229,222
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	15	3,623,725
NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	4	3,623,388
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	14	3,442,362
ORDER OF BOILED OWLS OF NEW YORK	9	3,185,963
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB	8	3,007,336
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	8	2,976,128
BERGEN ARA	6	2,714,837
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	5	2,561,858
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	10	2,073,753
MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	6	1,972,139
SOUTHWEST OHIO DX ASSOCIATION	3	1,835,333
KANSAS CITY DX CLUB	4	1,713,123
SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION	6	1,538,680
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DX/CONTEST CLUB	3	1,519,108
METRO DX CLUB	5	1,512,030
CAROLINA SHINE	4	1,423,931
ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSN	6	1,282,561
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	4	1,158,550
DELAWARE LEHIGH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	1,017,576
ALLEGHENY VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION	3	895,081
STERLING PARK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	786,548
SKY CONTEST CLUB	3	602,161
DELARA CONTEST TEAM	3	601,044
SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY	5	568,709
NORTH CAROLINA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	3	446,994
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	4	442,125
LOW COUNTRY CONTEST CLUB	3	378,218
BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	4	314,318
KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP	3	138,376

### DX

BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	73	48,894,090
RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	69	46,746,808
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	38	33,036,364
SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB	9	15,823,538
CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	10	11,347,843
BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB	31	9,150,023
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	20	9,036,661
ARAUCARIA DX GROUP	12	8,632,597
LU CONTEST GROUP	14	8,429,734
HA-DX-CLUB	3	8,269,700
SOUTH URAL CONTEST CLUB	4	7,892,431
CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	9	7,608,026
DL-DX RTTY CONTEST GROUP	12	6,807,422
RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB	16	6,575,093
LITHUANIAN CONTEST GROUP	4	6,540,949
BRITISH COLUMBIA DX CLUB	3	5,960,786
TEMIRTAU CONTEST CLUB	4	5,447,280
ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	5	4,683,693
BESSARABIAN CONTEST CLUB	11	3,514,082
LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	7	3,436,718
GRUPO DXXE	6	3,098,072
CHILTERN DX CLUB	5	2,915,717
BRITISH AMATEUR RADIO TELEDATA GROUP	3	2,901,105
VK CONTEST CLUB	6	2,831,940
RTTY CONTESTERS OF JAPAN	6	2,782,936
BELARUS CONTEST CLUB	3	2,756,051
SP DX CLUB	17	2,749,402
CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	15	2,538,220
RIO DX GROUP	4	2,347,366
KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY RADIO CLUB	3	2,210,655
SASKATCHEWAN CONTEST CLUB	3	2,048,790
YO DX CLUB	6	1,951,357
VU CONTEST GROUP	4	1,935,972
GRIMSBY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY	3	1,910,706
TALL TREES CONTEST GROUP	3	1,882,436
599 CONTEST CLUB	3	1,839,532
MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	6	1,439,509
DXARC DX COLOMBIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3	1,424,986
Z37M CONTEST TEAM	5	1,208,181
FALKOPINGS RADIOCLUB	3	1,148,304
LES NOUVELLES DX	3	1,136,823
ARCK	4	670,618
BALATON RADIOAMATEUR DX CLUB	3	640,219
TOP OF EUROPE CONTESTERS	4	594,146
KOREA CONTEST CLUB	3	579,469
WORLD WIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS	4	551,246
GIPANIS CONTEST GROUP	3	527,854
MOSCOW RADIO CLUB	4	515,762
VRHNIKA CONTESTERS	3	501,610
PERUGIA CONTEST CLUB	7	496,413
UA2 CONTEST CLUB	6	421,738
HAROS RADIO CLUB	3	370,397
CLIPPERTON DX CLUB	3	335,051
CANTAREIRA DX GROUP	3	292,065
NANAIMO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION	3	269,972
GERMAN DX FOUNDATION	3	174,016

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**DX AND CONTEST PROVEN**



Khrystyne, K1SFA, running a good rate on 20 meters with her Multi-Multi team at K1TTT.

with the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC) winning with 73 logs and 48.9M. The Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA) took second with 69 logs and 46.7M. The Ukrainian Contest Club (UCC) made 33.0M with its 38 logs.

**World.** The top two US teams (YCCC and PVRC) got by the UCC for third and fourth place world.

### Logs

Thanks to more participation and more logs from non-contesters, over 85% of all QSOs in the logs were cross-checked for accuracy, an increase of 7% over 2010. A large part of this increase was the willingness of casual operators to contribute their logs to the checking process. Nearly 97% of all cross-checked QSOs were good, another increase from 2010. At the same time, the log-checking software has improved in its ability to catch busted call signs and exchanges. So, it appears that logging accuracy has improved, which is a good thing. Busted calls came down from 1.4% to 1.1%, busted exchanges were up from 0.6% to 0.9%, and NILs (Not-In-Log) were down from 1.6 to 1.1%. You can compare these averages with your individual statistics by obtaining your LCR (Log Check Report) from <w0yk@cqwrrty.com>.

### Website

The contest website <www.cqwrrty.com> is a valuable source of information to help prepare for the contest, submit logs after the contest, and access results and records spanning the entire history of CQ WW RTTY. Be sure to visit it when you have questions and take a minute to examine what is there.

### Thanks

Thanks to all participants for making this a fun event. Thanks also to the team of volunteers behind the scene who make it all possible:

- Gail, K2RED, of CQ magazine expertly edits and assembles the output from log checking into this published article, as she does for all CQ contests.
- Ken, K1EA, provides the log check software and consulting during log check.
- Mark, K6UFO, laboriously typed in paper logs and fixed problem logs.
- Bob, KØRC, prototyped a simple system for us to send e-mail requests for missing logs.
- Mike, K4GMH, manages the CQ RTTY contest plaque program.
- Barry, W5GN, manages the certificate printing and mailing.
- Randy, K5ZD, set up the original website and continues to consult on its evolution as well as the searchable scores database that he set up with Don, AA5AU.

For expanded results of the contest, including QRM, operators of multi stations, and plaque information, and more, go to <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> and <cqwrrty.com>.

See you in the 2012 contest! 73, Ed, WØYK

(Scores on page 106)

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### SUCH A HAM



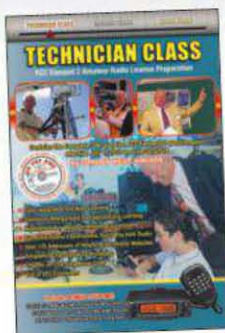
Just running a bit of coax through, Mavis.

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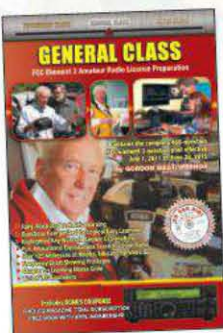
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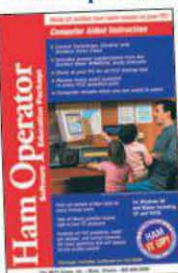
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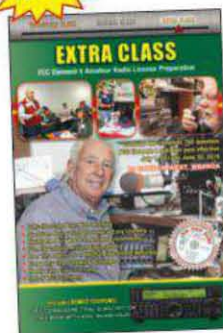
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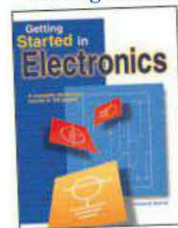
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**Vol. 4: Electronic Formulas, Symbols & Circuits** **MINI-4 \$12.95/**

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Mention this ad for a free gift.

With great DX finally returning to the upper HF bands as solar Cycle 24 heats up, we thought this would be a good time to bring you W4YO's recollections of the granddaddy of all sunspot cycles back in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

## The Extraordinary Solar Cycle 19 Fond Memories of One Who Lived It

BY EDMUN B. RICHMOND,\* W4YO

**O**n the cover of the March 1956 issue of *CQ* magazine there is a photograph of the solar disk with a large group of sunspots clearly visible. Over this photo are emblazoned the words in large, capital letters, "ONCE in a LIFETIME CONDITIONS" (see fig. 1). In an article beginning on page 28, then-Propagation Editor George Jacobs, W3ASK, penned, Cycle 19 "will be one of outstanding intensity with the maximum likely to surpass all others hitherto observed." Further, he prophetically wrote, "shortwave conditions during the next few years may be *better than they have ever been in the history of radio.*" (italics, his)<sup>1</sup>

Little did we know how true these pronouncements would become. Cycle 19 was the best! It was the mother of all sunspot cycles! It was also my first solar cycle as a licensed amateur (what a way to begin). It lasted 10.5 years, running from April 1954 until October 1964. It produced a record yearly smoothed sunspot number of 201 in 1957 (see fig. 2), and of the 20 largest monthly sunspot totals of all times, Cycle 19 contributed 15 (see Table I), with October 1957 ranking the highest month on record with 253.8 sunspots!

I had received my Novice license in January 1956, just in time to catch the upswing of this record event. During that year, I was a senior in college and living with my parents in Lakeland, Florida. I was in my last semester, busy trying to keep my grades up and make sure I had all of my graduation requirements, while actively chasing DX on the

15-meter Novice band and diligently studying for the General Class examination. It was quite a balancing act, and in retrospect, I think DXing probably won out even though I did indeed graduate. In April, I drove to the FCC field office in Tampa, passed the General exam, and received my upgraded license and call in May. As a result, I began my journey into Cycle 19 and was on the air on 10, 15, and 20 meters, phone and CW, while these remarkable conditions progressed.

My first ham station was rather ordinary for the time. It consisted of a Johnson Viking II transmitter, with 180 watts on CW and 135 watts on AM phone (SSB was in its infancy in those days). My receiver was a Hallicrafters SX-24, and my antenna was a 40-meter dipole.

After receiving my General Class license, I gradually refined my antenna system. I built a two-element cubical quad for 20 meters and mounted it on a 50-foot crank-up tower which I bought from a local ham. In the fall of that year, I built a 2-element 10-meter beam. Then in the spring of 1957, I bought some aluminum tubing and fashioned a three-element Yagi for 15 meters. Both of these antennas were mounted on 30-foot TV towers that I was able to scrounge at local appliance store scrap heaps.

Later I traded my SX-24 with Leo Meyerson, at World Radio Laboratories, for a used Collins 75A2 (you're a real old-timer if you remember Leo at WRL).<sup>2</sup> I also added a specially ordered left-handed Vibroplex Bug, which I still use. I worked most of Cycle 19 with that station.

In 1963, I moved to Miami to begin what was to be a 34-year teaching career. The following year, I retired my

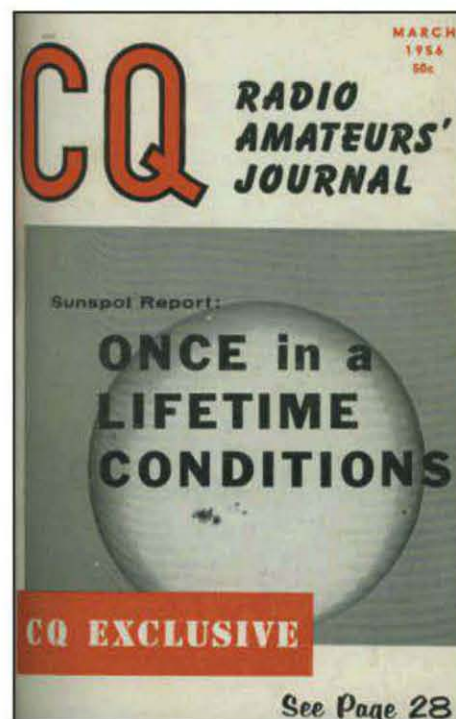


Fig. 1—The special nature of solar Cycle 19 was obvious well before it reached its peak, as evidenced by this *CQ* cover from March 1956.

Viking and purchased a used Hallicrafters HT-32 transmitter, which I used as an exciter with the linear amplifier I built with four 811As. I also put up a three-band quad, which helped me work some more DX toward the end of Cycle 19 and beyond.

### Logbook Memories

The delight of hamming during Cycle 19 is probably best illustrated by the entries in my logbooks. I decided to delve into my old logs for this period just to relive

\*11 Ocean Marsh Lane, Harbor Island, SC 29920-5002  
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3 Roofing Filters  
Selectable, "Build Your Own"  
IF Filter Shapes



### IC-7700

200 Watt Output (50W AM),  
Built-in Power Supply  
RX: 0.030–60.000MHz\*  
Two 32 Bit IF-DSPs + 24 Bit  
AD/DA Converters  
Single Receive  
+40dBm 3rd Order Intercept Point  
3 Roofing Filters  
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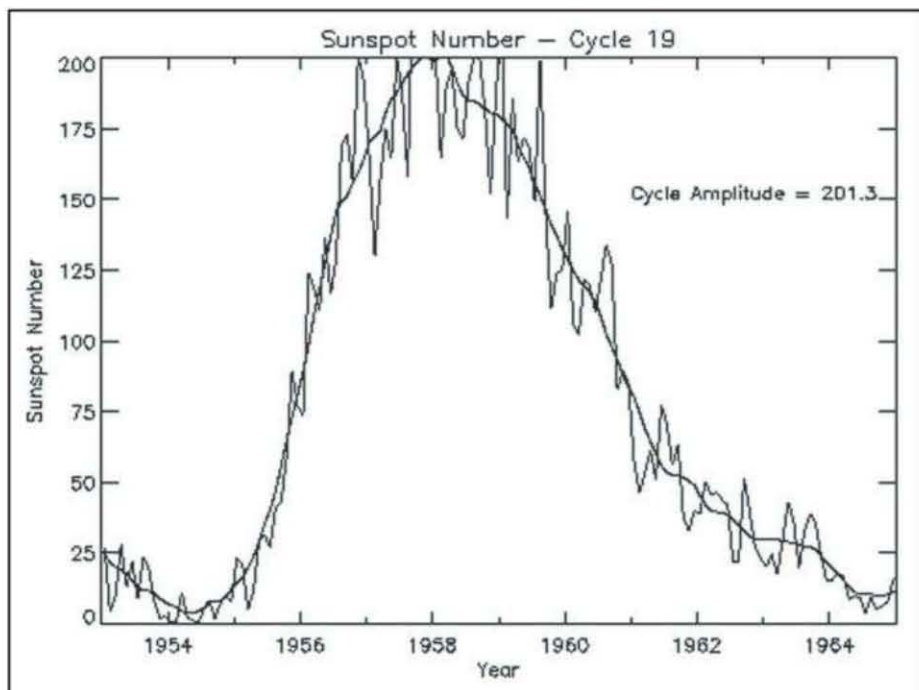


Fig. 2— Graph of sunspot numbers during Cycle 19. The heavy (less variable) line is the running smoothed sunspot number, which shows the general variation of the solar cycle. The lighter (more variable) line is the monthly averaged sunspot number, which shows bursts of activity within the cycle. (Courtesy IPS Radio and Space Service © Commonwealth of Australia 2011)

how good conditions were, based on what I was working.

My primary interest in ham radio has always been DXing, and that is the reference point from which I will always remember Cycle 19. I filled a total of 14 ARRL logbooks from my first ham QSO on January 18, 1956 until September 30, 1964. In that time, with my limited power, I worked a mixed total of 278 countries, CW and phone, and 208 countries on AM phone.<sup>3</sup> My only activity during Cycle 19 was on 10, 15, and 20 meters. I didn't become interested in DXing on the lower frequencies until many years later, so I cannot comment on Cycle 19's effect on 40, 80, and 160 meters.

Twenty meters was open all day and all night to some part of the globe. Fifteen meters was not far behind, remaining open to the Pacific and the Far East well after sunset, and sometimes until the approach of local midnight. Ten meters was its typical self, a daylight band, but beginning earlier in the mornings and remaining open through sunset and many hours thereafter. Conditions were so fabulous, and the MUF (maximum usable frequency) was so high, that occasionally certain long-haul paths to Southeast Asia, which normally were worked on 20 meters at only fair signal strength at my QTH, were worked on 15 meters at hours when no equivalent openings

were available on 20. In addition, those openings produced stronger signal strength than normally was heard on 20 meters. My log in 1961 shows working stations in XZ (Burma), VS1 (Singapore), and 9M2 (Malaya) in mid-morning on 15-meter AM phone with solid S9+ signals. If I only didn't have to eat,

sleep, or go to work, I thought, I could devote much more time to DXing!

Although probably not intentionally planned for Cycle 19, the 10.5-year period saw an increase in amateur radio DXpeditions in order to put countries on the air from far-flung locations, which were sometimes difficult to reach.<sup>4</sup> The earliest of these were the 1955–1963 Yasme DXpeditions of Danny Weil, VP2VB, which took place fully within the Cycle 19 span. The two other main ongoing DXpeditions of the time were by Gus Browning, W4BPD, from 1960 through 1981, and Don Miller, W9WNV, from 1962–1967. Their activity just caught the final years of Cycle 19, and continued for many years thereafter. With the conditions of Cycle 19, many DXers were made extremely happy by these intrepid hams' exploits and were able to add several new countries to their totals.

Conditions were so good that it really didn't matter if you had a high-power station with a large antenna farm or a modest station with dipoles. Everyone had a chance to get through, and if the DX remained active in one location long enough, chances were good that you would be able to work them on one band or another before they moved on, and you'd have another "New One" in the log.

## A Changing World Map

During Cycle 19, the geopolitical make-up of the world was changing. New countries were being born and some old

Monthly Sunspot Totals—Top 20			
Ranking	Month/Year	Solar Cycle	Sunspot Number
1	<b>October 1957</b>	19	253.8
2	<b>December 1957</b>	19	239.4
3	<b>September 1957</b>	19	235.8
4	<b>January 1959</b>	19	217.4
5	<b>November 1957</b>	19	210.9
6	<b>January 1958</b>	19	202.5
7	<b>November 1956</b>	19	201.3
8	May 1947	18	201.3
9	<b>September 1958</b>	19	201.2
10	<b>June 1957</b>	19	200.7
11	<b>August 1958</b>	19	200.2
12	August 1990	22	199.9
13	<b>August 1959</b>	19	199.6
14	June 1989	22	196.0
15	<b>April 1958</b>	19	196.0
16	<b>December 1956</b>	19	192.1
17	<b>July 1958</b>	19	191.4
18	<b>March 1958</b>	19	190.7
19	April 1948	18	189.7
20	August 1947	18	188.8

Table 1— The top 20 months of all time (during which sunspots have been counted) for monthly sunspot totals. Fifteen of the 20 were during Cycle 19 (in bold), including #1, October, 1957. (Courtesy IPS Radio and Space Service © Commonwealth of Australia 2011)



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countries ceased to exist. The early 1960s brought the most change. To paraphrase Harold MacMillan, the then-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, a new wind was blowing across the face of Africa, which created new countries out of former British and French colonies. Asia quickly followed. This presented a multitude of new countries to be added to the DXCC list, as well as several countries which no longer existed and therefore were deleted. Geopolitical entities continued to be created throughout the 1960s, which gave us hams new possibilities to add to our country totals. However, scarcity of activity in these new countries became a problem. As most of the European hams left their former colonies, there were few or no licensed local hams to replace them. As a result, several of those new countries became quite rare.

With those high sunspot numbers and correspondingly high MUF, one would contact other hams around the world who were using simple, low-power transmitters, especially on 10 and 15 meters. Many hams jokingly spoke about working the world with a couple of watts and a wet noodle for an antenna, or loading up a mattress spring. My

logbooks and QSL cards from the period show many stations running less than 100 watts, and a good number running less than 50 watts. One day I worked FQ8AF, in French Equatorial Africa, on 10 meters CW while he was running 10 watts. On several occasions I thought I would try a little QRP. I reduced my output power to a few watts and would call CQ on 10 and 15 phone. One EA8 (Canary Islands) station who came back to me gave me a 5x9+ report and wouldn't believe I was running 10 watts.

Back in the mid-1960s, there was a popular TV program called "That Was the Week that Was." When speaking of Cycle 19, the amateur community could truly say, "That Was the Cycle that Was." Every ham who was on the air during Cycle 19 will surely praise its memory. To have been active and have experienced propagation during that cycle was something extraordinary. In other years and in other cycles, sunspot numbers came close to the records produced by Cycle 19, but none surpassed it. The pronouncement on the cover of the March 1956 issue of *CQ* magazine certainly seems to be coming true, even after all these years.

It makes one wonder. ...Will it ever happen again in our lifetimes? You younger hams might have a chance to experience it. We old-timers probably don't have many sunspot cycles left. But who knows? Maybe the propagation gods will smile upon us and we'll get lucky again. One can only hope ... and dream!

## Notes

1. George Jacobs, W3ASK, "The Sunspot Story: Cycle 19 (Once in a Lifetime Conditions)", *CQ Radio Amateurs' Journal*, vol. 12, no. 3 (March 1956), p. 28.

2. In the 1950s and 1960s, there were several mail-order houses devoted to the sale of ham equipment. World Radio Laboratories was one, and was owned by Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ. If you wanted to trade a piece of equipment, you wrote directly to Leo and you always received a personal answer with an offer. Leo was a real gentleman. He recently passed away, soon after his 100th birthday.

3. In those days, DX entities, as they are known today, were called countries.

4. For an excellent description and history of DXpeditions, see the website: <www.deltadxnet/ABCDx/Sections/DXpeds.htm>.

Have you ever dreamed of combining amateur radio with a voyage on a cruise ship ... hamming on the high seas? K6CUK offers some practical guidelines to help you make that dream a reality.

## Hamming on the High Seas

### Operating Maritime Mobile on Cruise Ships

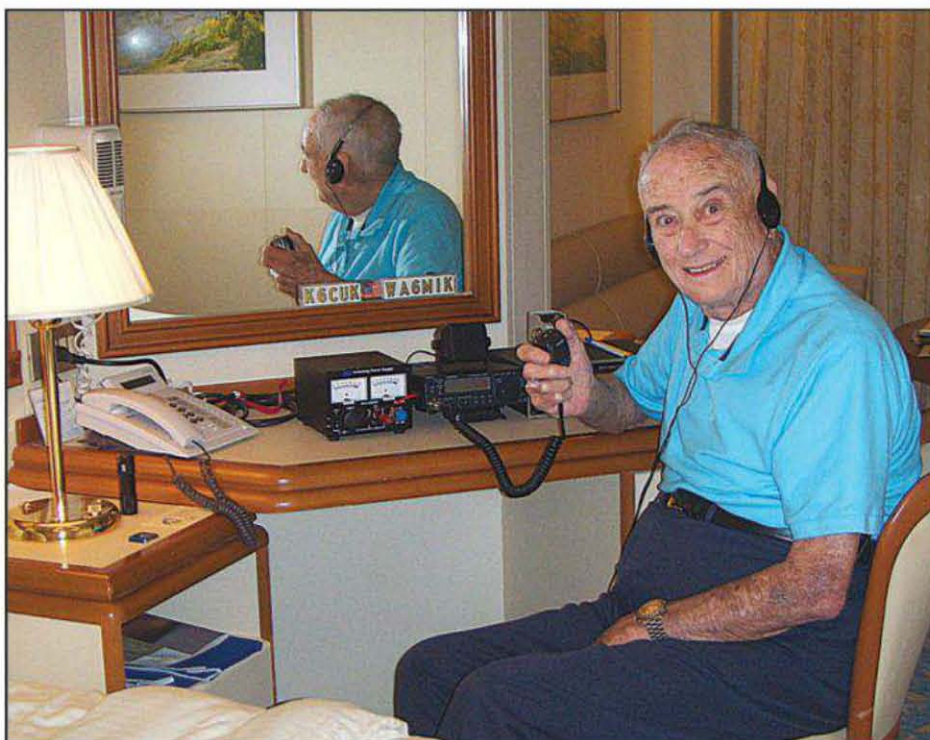
BY ROBERT HAYOS,\* K6CUK

**D**uring some sixty years of hamming I have had many opportunities to operate portable and mobile on both aircraft and on small boats. Frequently, I had wondered about the possibility of using my ham gear aboard a cruise ship. Several friends who had served as radio officers aboard commercial cargo ships offered encouragement to investigate such a possibility. Having a ham wife (Norma, WA6MIK) with a love of travel, a desire to visit faraway destinations, and the ability to participate in our common hobby surely encouraged me further to search out such venues.

Generally, we found that all radio communications aboard commercial vessels are conducted under cruise company policies and authority. As such, each company can set its own regulations about allowing itinerant operators any on-board privileges—i.e., ham operations.

A few years ago a cruise aboard a delightful passenger ship from London through the Baltic Sea to St. Petersburg, Russia, provided my first opportunity to explore the possibility of successful maritime mobile operation. More recently, my wife set her sights on a two-week cruise from Los Angeles to Hawaii and back, a perfect chance to “ham it up” again while also enjoying the multitude of activities to be found while savoring the pleasures of cruising at sea.

The first consideration for such a trip is meeting the ham operator licensing requirements of the country in which the ship is registered. This is important, because the ship’s country of registry may be different than either your point of departure or destination. This licens-



Bob, K6CUK, at his stateroom “shack” aboard the Golden Princess cruise ship.

ing authority must involve the country of ship’s registry and, of course, any concerned country licensing requirements.<sup>1</sup> Today this requirement can often (but not always) be circumvented because of the Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT) rules for participating countries.

#### Seeking Permission

Once licensing rules have been met, the actual operating authority generally is granted by the cruise line’s policies. As such, each company can set its own regulations about allowing itinerant operators any on-board radio privi-

leges. The approval of the vessel’s Master (Captain) and his Electro Technical Officer or Radio Officer, if any, is then requested. The preliminary communications for such a request must include the following items:

1. A carefully worded letter to the cruise line’s customer assistance personnel requesting permission to operate on the cruise ship. Included should be your date of sailing, the ship’s name, and your reservation information (with possible level of priority).

2. A clear description of your FCC amateur radio license authority (with a copy) and your radio communications experience level.

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3. A description of equipment to be used, international amateur frequencies, power requirements, and antenna installation (everything to be portable and non ship-invasive).

4. A requirement for a small, secluded space for operating, preferably on an upper deck or from your stateroom balcony without any ship structural overhang (a clear shot for antennas).

5. Assurance of non-interference with normal ship communications and operations.

6. A statement promising complete cooperation with ship personnel and passengers.

A careful assessment of all specific components of the radio package and the means of transportation together with any required support tools, etc., will be most helpful. The actual radio package for this trip<sup>2</sup> included a small Kenwood TS-50 100-watt transmitter, a small MFJ switching power supply (115V to 12 VDC), and a small MFJ antenna tuner. The antenna itself was a former loaded mobile whip fastened to an aluminum channel and was to be strapped to the ship's external railing on our balcony. Antenna return grounding was by means of two 7-foot lengths of copper braid connected by alligator clips to the railing frame.

### Final Approval

With all equipment in place prior to actual operations, the ship's Electro-Technical Communications Officer was called for a final go-ahead. His main concerns, of course, were that there not be any interference with ship communications and the location of the ham antenna.



Bob's XYL Norma, WA6MIK, at the balcony railing with vertical antenna.

The first call at sea on 20 meters was made on the popular MM (maritime-mobile) frequency of 14.300 MHz as the ship was departing the Los Angeles lighthouse. It was answered almost immediately by a plethora of most welcome calls. During the next two weeks of the cruise, over 40 contacts were logged, with stations as far away as OX3KQ in Greenland.

All in all a very satisfying end to a fine adventure!

### Notes

1. For more information on international licensing rules, see <<http://www.arrl.org/international-1>>.

2. The cruise line for the trip described in this article was Princess Lines of Santa Clarita, CA. The ships were the Royal Princess and the Golden Princess. Not all cruise lines will permit on-board ham radio operations by passengers. It is really a matter of company policy.

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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**

## 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**

## AT-600Pro



The AT-600Pro handles up to 600 watts SSB and CW, 300 on RTTY (1.8-30 MHz), and 250 watts on 54 MHz. Matches virtually any kind of coax-fed antenna and will typically match a 10:1 SWR down to 1.5:1 in just a few seconds. You can also use it with longwires,

random wires, and antennas fed with ladder line just by adding a balun. Two antenna ports with a front-panel indicator, and separate memory banks for each antenna. LED bar-graph meters shows RF power, SWR and tuner status, tactile feedback control buttons and an LED bypass indicator. Operates from 11-16 volts DC at 750 mA. Includes six-foot DC power cable. **Suggested Price \$359.99**

## Z-817



radio not included

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**



- 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**

## IT-100



Matched in size to the IC-7000 and IC-706, for either manual or automatic tunes, and status LEDs. Control the IT-100 and its 2,000 memories from either its own button or the Tune button on your IC-7000 or other Icom rigs. For your Icom radio that is AH3 or AH-4 compatible. **Suggested Price \$179.99**

## AT-897Plus for the Yaesu FT-897



radio not included

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

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Whether you're searching or hiding, nothing beats the excitement and intrigue of foxhunting. Participate in CQ's Foxhunting Weekend and find out for yourself.

## Results of the 2011 CQ WW Foxhunting Weekend

BY JOE MOELL,\* KØOV

In last month's issue of CQ I asked what a lawn-sprinkler pipe, a power-pole transformer, and a baby carriage have in common. The answer was that they all have been used as places to put transmitters for ham radio hidden transmitter hunts, also called foxhunts, bunny hunts, and T-hunts. Now you can add a snow bank, a tree limb, and a wheelbarrow full of manure to the list. They all were employed by clever and devious huntmasters during 2011.

One of the reasons that ham radio foxhunting becomes more popular every year is that it's an opportunity to unleash creativity, both for the hider and the hunters. Hiders are always on the lookout for clever places to put transmitters and ways to "bounce" VHF signals so that they appear to be coming from the wrong direction. Hunters are constantly seeking out new techniques and technologies so that they can win hunts by arriving first or having the lowest vehicle mileage, depending on the rules of the hunt.

For many ham radio clubs around the country, the kickoff of a warm-weather season of transmitter hunting is the CQ World-Wide Foxhunting Weekend. This year, it is May 12–13. Each group sets its own rules and no two groups do it exactly the same way.

As always, last year's Foxhunting Weekend announcement brought a big batch of reports about hams having fun. Most hunts were on 2 meters, where most hams have receiving equipment. A directional antenna and an RF attenuation system are all that it takes to join in. Both are easy to build or inexpensive to buy.

Some clubs are so eager that they don't wait for Foxhunting Weekend, or

even for winter to end. In Manchester, Connecticut it's a tradition to have a mobile foxhunt on New Year's Day. Hunters drive their vehicles full of radio direction finding (RDF) gear to a local school. A 1 PM the hider's signal appears on the input frequency of the club's 2-meter repeater. The hunters take off, hoping to find the hider within the 2-hour time limit. Participants and non-participants are encouraged to get on the repeater and share signal levels and other helpful information, but hunters are to observe radio silence once they find the hiders and the tail-gate party that they have prepared.

A little precipitation might deter many hams from seeking hidden transmitters on foot, but that wasn't the case in

Eatonville, Washington, near Tacoma. Rich Patrick, KR7W, reported on a foxhunting session last November that was made more interesting by an unexpected snowstorm with accumulations of up to two feet. Bob Heselberg, K7MXE, put out five transmitters in a snow-covered cow pasture and wooded terrain in the hills above Alder Lake. He also put out some decoy markers and fooled at least one hunter into punching in at a decoy instead of the actual transmitter nearby. According to KR7W, "It's hard to keep on-bearing when the terrain looks the same every which way you look."

A foot of new snow made foxhunting interesting at the annual Utah VHF Society meeting and swapmeet in Salt Lake City during February 2011. Larry



Falling snow didn't deter the intrepid on-foot transmitter hunters in Eatonville, Washington last November. Hunters Chuck Kemmer, AC7QN (left), and Rich Patrick, KR7W (center), are in a heated discussion with huntmaster Bob Heselberg, K7MXE, about Bob's decoy transmitter marker. (Photo courtesy KR7W)

\*Moderator, CQ WW Foxhunting Weekend  
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It's easy to tune because adjusting one band has minimum effect on the resonant frequencies of other bands.

Self-supporting and just 20 feet tall, the MFJ-1798 mounts easily from ground level to tower top -- small lots, backyards, apartments, condos, roofs, tower mounts.

Separate full size quarter wave radiators

are used on 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 2 Meters. On 6 Meters, the 17 Meter radiator becomes a 3/4 wave radiator.

The active radiator works as a stub to decouple everything beyond it. In phase antenna current flows in all parallel radiators. This forms a very large equivalent radiator and gives you incredible bandwidths. Radiator stubs provide automatic bandswitching -- absolutely no loss due to loading coils or traps.

On 30, 40, 75/80 Meters, end loading -- the most efficient form of loading -- gives you highly efficient performance, excellent bandwidth, low angle radiation and automatic bandswitching.

MFJ's unique *Frequency Adaptive L-Network™* provides automatic impedance matching for lowest SWR on these low bands. Tuning to your favorite part of these bands is simple and is done at the bottom of the antenna.

You don't need a ground or radials because an effective counterpoise that's 12 feet across gives you excellent ground isolation. You can mount it from ground level to roof top and get awesome performance.

The feedline is decoupled and isolated from the antenna with MFJ's exclusive *AirCore™* high power current balun. It's wound with *Teflon™* coax and can't saturate, no matter how high your power.

Incredibly strong solid fiberglass rod

and large diameter 6061 T-6 aircraft strength aluminum tubing is in the main structure.

Efficient high-Q coils are wound on tough low loss fiberglass forms using highly weather resistant *Teflon™* covered wire.

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MFJ-1796 is only 12 feet high and has a tiny 24 inch footprint! Mount anywhere -- ground level to tower top -- apartments, small lots, trailers. Perfect for field day, DXpeditions, camping.

Efficient end-loading, no lossy traps. Entire length always radiating. Full size halfwave on 2/6 Meters. High power air-wound choke balun eliminates feedline radiation. Adjusting one band has minimum effect on other bands.

MFJ-1796W, \$229.95.

WARC band version for 12, 17, 30, 60 Meters only.

MFJ-1792, \$189.95. Full size 1/4 wave radiator for 40 Meters. 33 ft., handles 1500 Watts PEP. Requires guying and radials.

MFJ-1793, \$209.95. Like MFJ-1792 but has full size 20 Meter 1/4 wave also.



MFJ-1796  
\$229<sup>95</sup>

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Each HF band uses a separate, efficient end-loading coil wound on fiberglass forms with *Teflon™* wire, and capacitance hats at each end (no lossy traps). 6 and 2 meters are full-length halfwave dipoles.

Built-to-last -- incredibly strong solid rod fiberglass center insulator and 6063 T-6 aircraft strength aluminum tubing radiator. Assembles in an afternoon. Adjusting one band has little effect on other bands.

MFJ-1775W, \$249.95. WARC band version for 12, 17, 30, 60 Meters only.

## MFJ 80/40/20 Meter Rotatable Dipole



MFJ-1785  
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Now you can operate the low bands on 80, 40, and 20 Meters with a true rotatable dipole that'll blend in with the sky! Take advantage of excellent low band propagation during this low sunspot cycle. Handles 1500 Watts SSB/CW. 80/40 meter end-loading coils are wound on fiberglass forms with *Teflon™* wire, and resonated with capacitance hats to ensure extremely low-losses. Full-size on 20 Meters gives incredible DX. Balun included! 33 foot low-profile, inconspicuous. Easily rotatable with a medium duty rotator like Hy-gain's AR-40.



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## MFJ's Super High-Q Loop™ Antennas



MFJ-1786  
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MFJ's tiny 36 inch diameter loop antenna lets you operate 10 through 30 MHz continuously -- including the WARC bands!

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*Sure you can have a foxhunt in the snow! Just protect the transmitters from moisture like Larry Jacobs, WA7ZBO, did for this Utah VHF Society event last February. (Photo by WA7ZBO)*

Jacobs, WA7ZBO, organized the hunt as part of an open-house event. To protect his five transmitters, he put them in disposable plastic food containers. Nine attendees were successful in finding them.

WA7ZBO is a tireless promoter of hidden transmitter hunting in central Utah. In March he set up an unattended transmitter on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley behind a church. It stayed on the air for a full week, sending beeps, a CW ID, and voice promptings from an MP3 player. Hunters could use it to practice RDF skills at their leisure.

### RDF for Public Service

Year after year, the hams of Daytona Beach, Florida have had monthly mobile transmitter hunts to see who is speediest at finding the “bunny,” as they call the hider. Maybe they’re in such a hurry because the hunt ends at a restaurant or ice cream parlor and they don’t want to miss out on the goodies. For Foxhunting Weekend last year in Daytona, Bob Ledford, WA4IDI, reported that it was a quick drive to find a transmitter at a sewer plant, followed by a gathering at the Dairy Queen.

All that practice paid off for these Daytona Beach hams when a carrier appeared on marine calling channel 16 in August. Their cooperative RDF efforts led them to within a few blocks of the source when it went off the air. A few days later it was back and Frank Haas, KB4T, resumed the search, assisted by Joe Daley, N2GBT.

All bearings pointed to the local marina, so Frank went to security and obtained a key that would get them into any of the docks there. The signal would occasionally go away or change power, but they persevered. A few minutes later their antennas were pointing at an 18-foot inboard/outboard runabout. Inside they could see an old, corroded marine radio, set to channel 16 and locked in transmit. Marina management, the Coast Guard, and the FCC were notified and the problem was solved. Good work!

Mike Brost, WA9FTS, is a long-time transmitter chaser in the Chicago area. He wrote: “We still take foxhunting seriously here with hunts every Saturday night. On March 26, Patty, wife of Matt Sanderson, KC9SEM, showed up to hunt, even though she was very pregnant and having some contractions. Matt and Patty won the hunt, and at the restaurant afterwards, her contractions were more numerous. I left them at 11 PM and the next day I found out that their new son had arrived at 4:40 AM.

“Patty came home a couple of days later from the hospital,” Mike continued. “On April 2, Matt and Patty showed up to hunt with 6-day-old Jacob. Patty was in the back of the Ford F-150 ready to turn the beam with her right hand and hold Jacob in her arm.”

Hider Tony Levand, AA9CC, told the story of that hunt: “We decided to find a water tower to illuminate with RF from beneath. We did it by pointing the 10-element beam straight up from the base of the tower. All of the hunters heard the 5-watt signal except for WA9FTS. Mike reported not hearing it when he started, but somehow he won the hunt nonetheless. This setup got out so well that I suggested humorously that our repeater be set up this way.”

Hams in the Grand Rapids area reported on a mobile hunt at the Independent Repeater Association hamfest/swapfest at the Hudsonville fairgrounds. These Michigan foxhunters were so eager to do well at this event that they held two evening practice sessions beforehand. Scoring was by odometer mileage, lowest wins. The transmitter for one was six miles away and the results were so close that the top three teams came in with odometer readings within 0.3 miles of each other.

The Grand Rapids hunt on Foxhunting Weekend was organized by Sheila Bosscher, K8AJ, who proudly refers to herself as the “vixen” (a female fox). Michel Hill, W8DER, reported, “The hunt started at 10:00 AM and the rains came. But not one ham remembers if the rain continued or stopped after her first transmission. She was weak, but definitely at a bearing of 57 degrees. We all thought this was going to be a cake walk, because the Grand River was only 3 miles away and she certainly wouldn’t be on the other side. The only bridge is too far away and besides, there was a big run going on over there.

“Sheila’s instructions stated that she would be located in a car on publicly accessible land or water,” Michel continued. “That must have been a clue! Maybe she was in a boat, but



*Doppler RDF sets are preferred by many foxhunters in the Daytona Beach area. Most Dopplers can be installed quickly on almost any car, truck, or van. Front to back are Fred Villers, K8FV, and Glenn Karel, WB4WHN. (Photo by Hugh Royal, W4AND)*

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certainly not on the other side of the river. An hour and a half later, we were still going up and down every road to the river looking for a vehicle floating on a raft. We finally hung our heads and crossed the river.

"Sheila had given us another clue at the start of the hunt: 'Don't jump to conclusions.' Just on the other side of the bridge is Johnson Park on the side of a hill. That was too obvious, so we drove on up the hill. We thought the signal was coming from up the hill past that water storage tank because each bearing pointed to the tank. However, we couldn't hear the fox once we were in front of the tank.

"Finally we found K8AJ at the dead end of a road behind the water storage tank. Time was up, but we didn't get skunked. What a blast! It was still raining, but I hadn't noticed. We shared stories at the local Wendy's and started looking forward to the next hunt."

## Is Fibbing OK?

In southern California the longstanding mantra is "Never trust anything said by another T-hunter." Deception and trickery are part of the game. Elsewhere, members of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club in southeastern Pennsylvania got a taste of that during their May 14 event, as reported by Bill Hewitt, KB3UHK. The format of PAARC's monthly sessions is a mobile hunt on 146.51 MHz, followed by an on-foot search for little transmitters on 146.40 and 146.565 MHz.

"The fox's den was aptly named," Bill wrote. "It was the Fox Pavilion at Victory Park in Royersford, about 12 miles from the start. Although there were plenty of reflections, everyone

got there in less than 15 miles. Ron Donovan, WA8YIH, had placed one foxbox about eight feet up in the crook of a tree, while Bob Rex, K3DBD, had hidden the other under the decking of a foot bridge.

"Jim Toth, K3CHJ, asked Bob if his fox was under the bridge, and Bob said no. He justified it later by saying that the fox was actually under the decking of the bridge, not the bridge itself. This caused a friendly discussion which is still going on at our weekly breakfast meetings, where Jim can be heard repeating, 'If something is under the decking, then it is under the bridge.' For us, the moral of the story is not to listen to any advice from the fox. It is designed to mislead you. The radio equipment doesn't lie."

From Denver, Rick von Glahn, NØKKZ, reported on a May 15 hunt that had a similar format to the one in Pottstown: "Dan Meyer, NØPUF, was the fox. He is one of the top mechanics at a local car dealer and it was his job to test drive a car and see if he could make it fault to aid in diagnosing a problem. Instead of just driving up and down the city streets, he decided to combine the search for a good hiding place with his checkout of the ailing car."

Rick continued, "While driving past the South Platte, Dan found his spot. His drive-to beacon was along the banks of the South Platte. Two on-foot transmitters were close by, one on the east and one on the west bank of the river. Fortunately, there was a walking bridge that made the river crossing quick and easy."

Foxhunting and camping were combined for some when Neil Robin, WA7NBF, and Paul Voorhees, W7PV, put on an



*This is Blue, who had a great time hunting radio foxes with her dad, Byon Garrabrant, N6BG, at the 2011 Yuma (Arizona) Hamfest in February. Then in November, Byon put on a well-attended five-fox on-foot hunt at Papago Park in Phoenix. (Photo by Joe Moell, K0OV)*

## CQ WW Foxhunting Weekend May 12-13, 2012

CQ magazine has designated May 12–13, 2012 as the CQ World-Wide Foxhunting Weekend and is encouraging all hams and radio clubs to hold hidden transmitter hunts. Since the primary objective is more hunt participation, we don't insist that your event be on that weekend. Any time in the spring is fine with us!

CQ doesn't impose any rules or offer any awards for the World-Wide Foxhunting Weekend. It's all up to you and the hams in your hometown. For many clubs, Foxhunting Weekend kicks off a season of regular transmitter hunts. For others, it's a special once-a-year event, like Field Day.

Some hams prefer formal transmitter hunts with carefully crafted boundaries, specifications for signal parameters, time limits, and so forth. Others are content just having at least one signal to hunt. No need for any more regulations, they say.

Make your Foxhunting Weekend activities into a magnet for every club member. Better yet, include the whole community, especially young people. Invite a Scout troop to experience on-foot transmitter tracking or to ride along with the mobile hunters. Look for opportunities to incorporate foxhunting into Scout activities such as Camporees, Scout-O-Ramas, and Jamboree-On-The-Air. Seek out other youth groups that might be interested, as well.

Whatever your club's RDF contesting style, be sure to keep safety in mind. Don't put transmitters where someone might be injured getting to them. Make sure that all transmitting and receiving antennas are eye-safe. Always be mindful of your own physical limitations and never take chances behind the wheel.

Afterwards, write up the results and send them to me. The list of information in a complete CQ Foxhunting Weekend report is posted at <[www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com)>. Besides the details of date, location, hiders, and winners, CQ's readers also want to know what was unique about your hunt and what lessons (positive and negative) you learned from it. Don't forget to include some sharp action photos. The higher the resolution, the better.

*Joe Moell, K0OV  
Foxhunt Weekend Moderator*

informal session at 784-acre Fort Flagler State Park on Marrowstone Island in Puget Sound, about forty miles northwest of Seattle. According to Neal, "It is an outstanding salt water marine park with 3.5 miles of beach and fine camping. It has old gun emplacements and many bunkers to explore. Four transmitters were out for folks to find. The location of one on a bluff edge made for some interesting bearings."

## Hamfests and Conventions

The annual AES Superfest foxhunt in Milwaukee was organized by Paul Gruettner, WB9ODQ. He placed six little transmitters on the AES property in unlikely places, including beneath a discarded basketball backboard and under a pile of trash. It took Brian Jansen, KC9GMW, just 34 minutes to find all of them.

It has become a tradition to have an on-foot transmitter hunt at Fort MacArthur in San Pedro, California whenever the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention is in the Los Angeles area. For the 2011 convention in September, I went for a personal record by hiding sixteen 2-meter transmitters, plus a few non-transmitting decoys, in the 130 acres of the fort and surrounding park. Most were concealed in the old fortifications and bunkers that had protected the City of Angels from air attack in World War II.

Before the hunt Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, conducted a workshop for building measuring-tape antennas and offset attenuators<sup>1</sup> from kits that he brought along. This was all they needed for a very effective direction finding with their own handie-talkies and scanners. For several of the

participants, this would be their first attempt at RDF, but not their last.

Hunters were given a list of frequencies of the transmitters and some clues as to what they would sound like. Then they were told to find as many as they could in 90 minutes. Each transmitter or its antenna had a tag with a three-digit number on it, to be written onto the clue sheet. Hunters had to pay careful attention, because if they incorrectly marked the number of a decoy, they might lose points. When the final whistle sounded, the team of Byon and Lara Garrabrant (N6BG and KD6AYO) of Chandler, Arizona had found eight of them, more than anyone else. The hunt was a success because everyone, even the first-timers, found at least one.

Sixteen is a lot of transmitters, but it doesn't come close to the 40 little foxes that were set out for attendees of the Dayton Hamvention® to locate. That's probably a world record, and it was a fitting way to make up for several years without a foxhunt at the nation's biggest ham radio gathering. The hunt-masters were Hamvention® Foxhunting Forum hosts Bob Frey, WA6EZV; Dick Arnett, WB4SUV; and Brian DeYoung, K4BRI, with help from Phil Smith, KG8AP.

The site was Sinclair Park, less than two miles from Hara Arena, the site of the yearly Hamvention®. WA6EZV wrote, "It is a lovely, wooded setting surrounded by a jogging/walking track. A single road leads into the center of the park and a lodge. There are picnic areas, ball fields, and plenty of other places to stash transmitters."

The hunt format was similar to my convention hunt in California, but the hunters had only an hour to search. With so many transmitters in a mere 10-acre site, they had to pay very

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*Ted Luebbers, K1AYZ, added some PVC pipe to his 2-meter measuring-tape Yagi to give it a nice handle that balances the antenna and keeps his hand from affecting the directional pattern. He used it on the first Foxhunting Weekend event of the Royal Harbor Amateur Radio Club in Tavares, Florida. (Photo courtesy K1AYZ)*



*The 80-meter band is excellent for foxhunting, especially for beginners. Equipment is small and easy to carry. Confusing signal reflections from buildings and hills don't exist on that band. Kuon Hunt, KB7WRG, is showing her 80-meter RDF set to Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, at a training session before last year's USA ARDF Championships. (Photo by Joe Moell, K0OV)*

close attention and do close-in "sniffing" to be sure that they found the correct transmitters. "Not only did you need to keep track of the frequency," wrote Bob, "but also if it was a solid carrier or intermittent with tones, warbles, CW, AM, or FM. With such a large number of transmitters in a small area, it was not uncommon for someone to come upon one by accident and incorrectly tag it as the one being hunted.

"It's no easy task trying to assemble 40 transmitters for a foxhunt," Bob continued. "Most of the units were handmade by WB4SUV with contributions from the other hosts and Matthew Robbins, AA9YH. Fifteen of them were pad-to-pad soldered from a design on WB2HOL's website.<sup>2</sup> Besides all the 2-meter rigs, there were eight 80-meter QRP transmitters.<sup>3</sup> Powers ranged from 5 milliwatts to 1 watt. The largest transmitters were nearly 12 inches long and 4 inches wide, while the smallest were only 1 inch by 2 inches.

"For those with no RDF gear, there was a good selection of loaner sets for both 2 meters and 80 meters. Newcomers needing assistance were given a short training session prior to the actual hunt. Officially, we logged results for 21 hunters representing 14 teams, and there were a few more latecomers who were unofficial. The winner was Addison Bosley, KJ4VCV. At age 13, he is already well-experienced, having won medals at the USA ARDF Championships in 2009 and 2010."

Hiding 40 transmitters was outrageous, and so was one of the hiding spots for a hunt in the San Diego area last August, put on by Joe Coronas, N6SZO, and Greg Spaulding, KD6YQR. "This was an attempt to draw the hunters to Blossom Valley by bouncing a signal off the south face of the El Monte and San Diego River gorge just west of El Capitan, which is north of Glen Oaks," Joe wrote. "I talked my friend Lisa into the use of her horse ranch and training facility, which is off El Monte Rd. It is private property which is against the rules unless you have permission and somehow advertise that fact. We did it by putting up two magnetic T-hunt signs, one on the gate to the ranch and one covering the PRIVATE sign in the front yard."

N6SZO continued, "The main fox used an 11-element

beam in the back of Greg's pickup, pointed at the top of Blossom Valley and running 5 watts. A second transmitter, running just 15 milliwatts, was carefully wrapped in a heavy-duty Ziploc® bag down in a wheelbarrow of horse manure. From our observation post in the yard, we could see the wheelbarrow.

"One hunter noted that the wheelbarrow looked 'awfully suspicious' but we reminded him that he had to actually identify the T. This was a case where RF 'sniffers' really come in handy. And really, a wheelbarrow of manure on a horse ranch? Why would that be suspicious?"

### What Will Your Club Do?

Thanks to everyone who sent stories and photos of their hunts on Foxhunting Weekend and throughout the year. There were far too many to put in this article, so I have put up a page<sup>4</sup> with more of them at my website.

This year promises to be even better. Now is the time for your club to make plans for 2012. If there has never been a hunt in your area, or if it has been a while, make it simple to get maximum interest and participation. If RDF is already a regular activity, try something new and encourage members who have not participated before.

Be sure to get together after the event to share stories with fellow hunters. Then gather the results plus everyone's photos and send them to me for the report in *CQ* magazine next year. Report forms and more information can be found at my website.<sup>5</sup> I am eager to read your reports of 2012 foxhunting activities and the new ideas that you come up with. Happy hunting!

### Notes

1. <http://www.homingin.com/equipment.html>
2. <http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/rdf.htm>
3. <http://www.homingin.com/joemoell/80intro.html>
4. <http://www.homingin.com/fw11pix.html>
5. <http://www.homingin.com>

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# A Wideband Field Strength Meter

One of the more common pieces of equipment that many amateur operators use is the field strength meter. Various versions of this device have been around almost since the beginning of the amateur radio hobby. Most typically consist of a diode detector (often germanium for sensitivity), followed by a micro-ammeter, and usually are limited to frequencies in the HF region, although some VHF and even UHF versions do exist. In addition to measuring the output of a transmitter, the field strength meter is also useful for antenna radiation pattern measurements, hidden transmitter locations (such as in a fox hunt), and general RF detection.

This month we would like to introduce you to a more modern version of the field strength meter, one that covers the range from 10 kHz to over 1 GHz (1000 MHz) and is almost as simple to build as its many predecessors.

Our circuit uses the Linear Technology LTC5507, which is described by the company as an "RF Power Detector." It consists of a Schottky diode peak detector and gain of 2 buffer amplifier all contained in a tiny SOT type surface mount package. The chip operates from 2.7 to 6 volts DC and therefore can

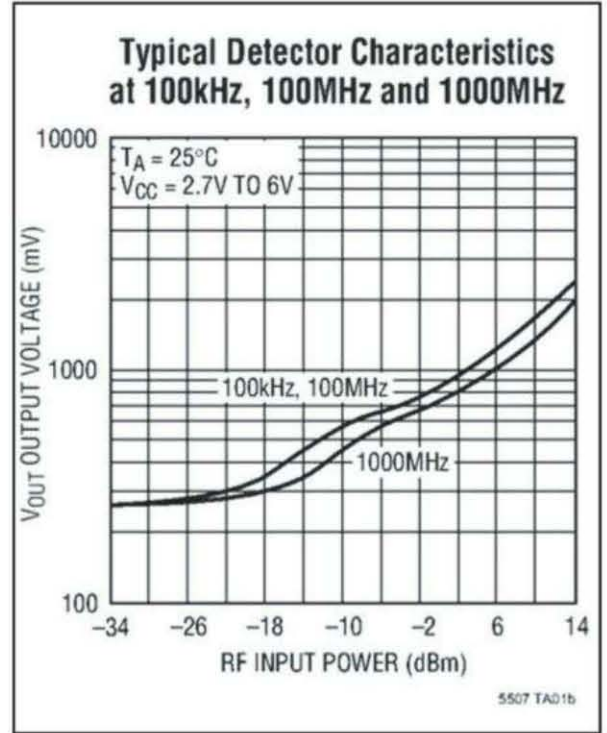


Fig. 1— Frequency response of LTC5507.

\*c/o CQ magazine

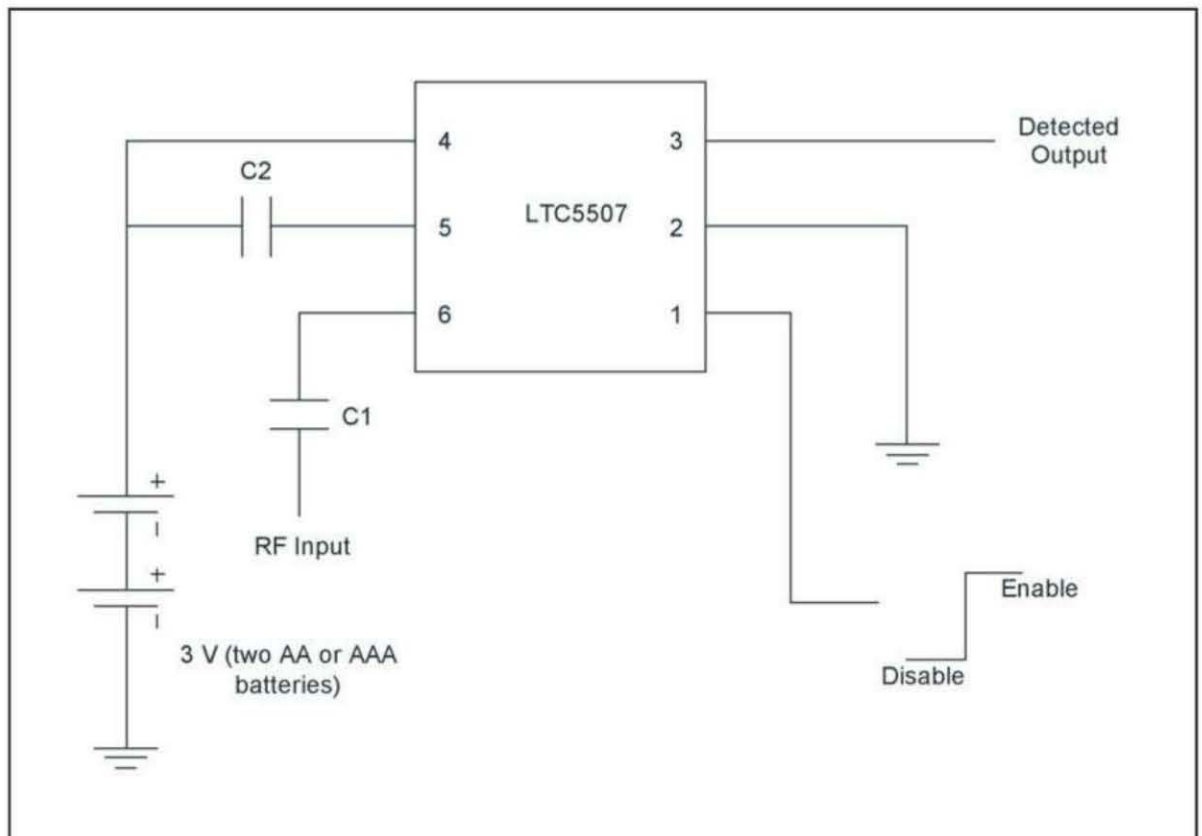


Fig. 2— Basic LTC5507 circuit.



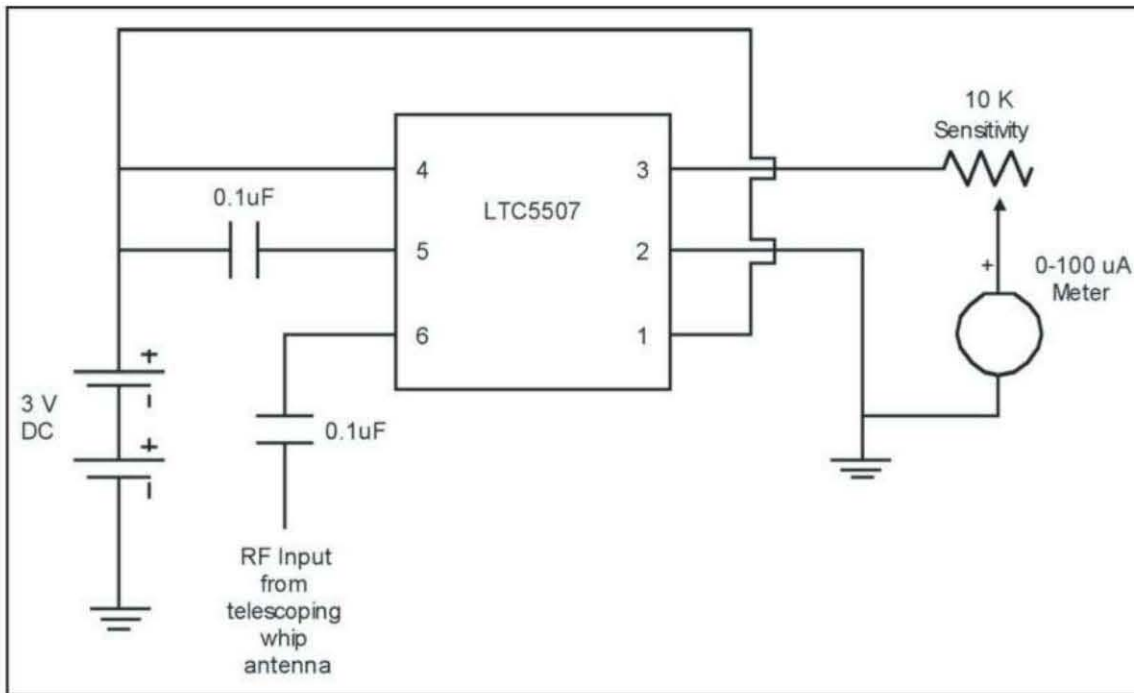


Fig. 3—LTC5507 field strength meter circuit.

be powered from a couple of AA batteries. The sensitivity of the circuit extends from  $-34$  dBm (about  $1/2$  microwatt) to  $+14$  dBm (about 20 milliwatts) over the entire frequency range. The resulting DC output has a frequency response of DC up to about 1.5 MHz, so it can even be used as a wide-band AM detector, if you wish. Fig. 1 is a graph showing the input power vs. output DC level (in millivolts) over the entire range of the chip. While not particularly linear, the range is quite impressive.

Fig. 2 is the basic operating schematic of the LTC5507. C1 couples the input to the chip and should be chosen for the frequency range desired. It should be a ceramic type for best results, and you must be careful of self-resonances, particularly at high frequencies. Remember, if you use a  $0.1 \mu\text{F}$ , for example, it does not take much lead length to resonate above a few tens of MHz. As a result, it is not a good idea to use any sort of electrolytic capacitor, since the internal winding of the foil elements in the capacitor package is inductive and will certainly resonate at some frequency over the wide range of the device. C2 is the filter capacitor for the output of the peak detector and will affect the speed of response of the output. As a rule of thumb, both C1 and C2 should be selected according to the following guidelines suggested by Linear Technology:

$$C1 = C2 = 1/30 \times F$$

F is the lowest frequency desired in MHz, and both C1 and C2 are in  $\mu\text{F}$ .

Of course, you can always experiment with these values to meet your specific needs, so don't be afraid to "play."

Fig. 3 is the schematic of a complete field strength meter covering the entire 10-kHz to 1-GHz range using the LTC5507. You will note that we have coupled the input to an adjustable telescoping whip antenna and the output to a 100-microampere panel meter along with a variable "sensitivity" control. Power is provided by a couple of AA or AAA batteries, and the entire device is mounted in a small aluminum enclosure. Power drain is very low, and the batteries will last for many hours of measurements. Due to the small size of the

components and the frequencies involved, try to keep all input leads as short as possible. Also, don't be afraid to solder directly to the pins of the chip. Use a soldering iron with a tiny tip and a single strand of wire from common twisted conductor wire to connect to the chip. We routinely use individual strands from common #16 stranded house wire, and they are perfect for the task. A free 1-foot "sample" from a local home center will provide enough jumpers for numerous experiments. Finally, be sure to download the data sheet from the Linear Technology website for more information.

73, Irwin, WA2NDM

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

The first thing we noticed in looking at the responses to February's survey about CW activity five years after the FCC ended its code-testing requirement is that it no longer seems to be the emotional issue it once was. In the past, any survey on Morse code caused a big spike in the number of responses. This month's numbers were thoroughly average.

Among our respondents, 71% said that they currently operate CW. The majority (56%) said there has been no change in their level of on-air CW activity in the past five years, but 18% said their CW activity had increased, while only 2% said it had decreased. In addition, 5% said they were licensed after the code test was dropped and 21% said they're not active on CW at all. Your perceptions of the general level of CW activity is in line with everything else we've been hearing. While 43% said activity levels were about the same now as they were five years ago, 26% said there seems to be more, and only 9% said there is less. Another 22% said they don't know.

Nineteen percent of our respondents identified themselves as relatively new to CW operating. Of that group, 42% said people they contact on CW generally are patient with them, 33% said they find plenty of people to contact at slow speeds, and 27% have gotten help and advice from other hams on CW operating. On the flip side, 18% are having trouble finding people to contact at slow speeds, 11% say they haven't received CW-related help from other hams, and 2% say other hams are not patient with them.

Among our experienced CW operators (63% of the total), 71% said they've slowed down to accommodate newer, slower, operators; 40% have offers help and advice to new CW ops and 38% have gone out of their way to contact newer operators.

Finally, 27% of the respondents said that they have purchased a new telegraph key in the past year. Of that group, 65% bought new keyer paddles, 29% bought a hand key and 16% bought a semiautomatic "bug."

This month's free subscription winner is Joel Clements, N7SIY, of Cedar City, Utah.

## Reader Survey May 2012

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

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

This month's issue covers some of the more specialized areas of ham radio, such as foxhunting, RTTY, and amateur satellites. So we'd like to ask a few questions about your interest and activity levels in some of those areas.

**Please answer by circling the appropriate numbers on the reply card or by going to the following web link <[www.surveymonkey.com/s/CQMay12](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CQMay12)> [From the digital edition, just click on the link].**

### 1. Which statement best describes your participation in hidden-transmitter hunts (also called foxhunts, bunny hunts, T-hunts and radio direction-finding, or RDF)?

- A regular part of my ham radio activities.....1
- Do it occasionally, but not regularly .....2
- Tried it once; would like to do it again.....3
- Tried it once; didn't like it .....4
- Never tried it, but I'd like to someday .....5
- Never tried it, and I'm not interested .....6

### 2. Which statement best describes your participation in amateur satellite communications?

- A regular part of my ham radio activities.....7
- Do it occasionally, but not regularly .....8
- Tried it once; would like to do it again.....9
- Tried it once; didn't like it .....10
- Never tried it, but I'd like to someday .....11
- Never tried it, and I'm not interested .....12

### 3. Which statement best describes your activity in RTTY (radioteletype) or other digital keyboard modes?

- A regular part of my ham radio activities.....13
- Do it occasionally, but not regularly .....14
- Tried it once; would like to do it again.....15
- Tried it once; didn't like it .....16
- Never tried it, but I'd like to someday .....17
- Never tried it, and I'm not interested .....18

### 4. Which statement best describes your activity on 60 meters?

- A regular part of my ham radio activities.....19
- Do it occasionally, but not regularly .....20
- Tried it once; would like to do it again.....21
- Tried it once; didn't like it .....22
- Never tried it, but I'd like to someday .....23
- Never tried it, and I'm not interested .....24

### 5. Which statement best describes your activity in VHF/UHF "weak-signal" communications?

- A regular part of my ham radio activities.....25
- Do it occasionally, but not regularly .....26
- Tried it once; would like to do it again.....27
- Tried it once; didn't like it .....28
- Never tried it, but I'd like to someday .....29
- Never tried it, and I'm not interested .....30

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

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MHz. Can handle 100 Watts for ten minutes or 1500 Watts for ten seconds. Comes with power derating curve.

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# New Worldwide 600-meter Ham Band Awarded at WRC-12

*Delegates approve secondary 472-479 kHz frequency allocation to the Amateur Radio Service.*

*The best guess is that it will be five years before 472-479 kHz becomes available to U.S. radio amateurs.*

The World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) is held every three or four years by the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to review, and, as necessary, revise the international Radio Regulations (for background, see sidebar “About the ITU and the Radio Regulations”).



## WRC-12, Geneva

The 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from January 23 to February 17, 2012. There were more than 3000 participants representing 150 out of the International Telecommunication Union’s 193 member states.

The WRC was preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) from January 16-20, 2012. The Radiocommunication Assembly is responsible for the structure and approval of radiocommunication studies and assigns conference preparatory work and other questions to various study groups.

About 100 observers, including the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), also were in attendance. Created in Paris, France in 1925, the IARU is an international confederation of national amateur radio societies from around the world. The IARU represents the interests of amateur radio at international meetings.

WRC-12 ended in Geneva on Friday, February 17 after several all-night sessions in its final week where delegates worked hard to reach a consen-

sus on an updated worldwide framework for use of the radio spectrum.

## Agenda Item 1.23

One of the items on the agenda was consideration of a possible secondary allocation to the Amateur Service of about 15 kHz somewhere between 415 and 526.5 kHz.

Since early in the 20th century, the radio frequency of 500 kHz has been an international calling and distress frequency for Morse code maritime communication. Many SOS calls and medical emergencies at sea were handled on that frequency until the late 1980s. However, because of the near disappearance of the commercial use of Morse code, the frequency is now rarely used.

Emergency traffic on 500 kHz has been replaced by the Global Maritime Distress Safety System (GMDSS). This system, which the world’s maritime nations, including the United States, have implemented, is based upon a combination of satellite and terrestrial radio services and has changed international distress communications from being primarily ship-to-ship based to primarily ship-to-shore.

Beginning in the late 1990s, most nations ended monitoring of transmissions on 500 kHz. The nearby frequencies of 518 kHz and 490 kHz are used for the Navtex component of GMDSS.

## Maritime Mobile Service, 495-505 kHz

Agenda Item 1.10 called for the conference to examine the frequency allocation requirements with regard to operation of safety systems for ships and ports and associated regulatory provisions, in accordance with Resolution 357 (WRC-07).

Toward that end, WRC-12 delegates approved a worldwide exclusive allocation to the Maritime Mobile Service from 495-505 kHz. An amateur allocation on these frequencies, even on a secondary, not-to-interfere basis, was found to be incompatible with a new digital navigation system being planned for this spectrum.

## Amateur Radio Service, 472-479 kHz

The ITU allocation plan divides the world into three geographical regions. Region 1 includes Europe the Middle East, Northern Asia, and Africa; Region 2 is North, Central, and South America; and Region 3 includes China, India, Asia, Australia, and the South Pacific.

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Except for some Middle Eastern countries and the Russian Federation, a global 7-kilohertz segment from 472–479 kHz was identified as agreeable as an Amateur Service allocation for all three ITU Regions. Access to this spectrum will be on a secondary basis to the Maritime Mobile Service using narrow band modes.

These frequencies are very close to those originally promoted by CEPT, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations. CEPT's proposal was for a 600-meter Amateur Service allocation from 472–480 kHz.

CEPT is one of the regional organizations recognized by the ITU in its WRC preparations. It is a collaboration of 48 countries across Europe that work together to coordinate telecommunications for their mutual benefit.

On February 14, 2012, the delegates at WRC-12 formally approved allocating 472–479 kHz to the Amateur Radio Service with a power limit of 1 W EIRP (effective isotropically radiated power). A special provision allows countries to permit up to 5 W EIRP under certain circumstances.

### About the ITU and the Radio Regulations

The ITU is an international organization established to standardize and regulate international radio and telecommunications. It was founded as the International Telegraph Union in Paris on May 17, 1865, and today is the world's oldest international organization. It became a United Nations agency in 1947.

Although its first area of expertise was the telegraph, the work of the ITU now covers everything from digital broadcasting to the internet, and from mobile technologies to 3D TV. An organization of public-private partnership since its inception, the ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and some 700 private-sector entities. The ITU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has twelve regional and area offices around the world.

The ITU has three main areas of activity which are organized in "Sectors." Amateur radio regulations are handled by the ITU's Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R)

Revisions to the Radio Regulations are made on the basis of an agenda determined by its governing body, the ITU Council, which takes into account recommendations made by previous world radiocommunication conferences.

The general scope of the agenda of world radiocommunication conferences is established four to six years in advance, with the final agenda set by the ITU Council two years before the conference with the concurrence of a majority of member states.

The Radio Regulations are an intergovernmental treaty which, among other things, defines the allocation of different frequency bands to different radio services, including the Amateur Radio Service.



## ARRL Issues Recommendations for New 60-Meter Privileges

Expanded amateur privileges on the 5-MHz (60-meter) band became effective on March 5, 2012. These include one new frequency (swapped with another), increased maximum power limits, and permission to operate CW and some digital modes in addition to upper sideband (USB) voice. However, there continue to be very specific rules and restrictions regarding amateur operation on this band, which is secondary to federal government users in the United States.

The ARRL has published a “recommended practices” guide to our new privileges on 60 meters, and we urge every current or potential user of the band to read it carefully and abide by its recommendations. Here is a summary:

### Power

Amateurs are now permitted to use up to 100 watts ERP, relative to a half-wave dipole. If you are using a dipole, you may run up to 100 watts output. But if you are using a beam with 3 dB gain over a dipole (dBd), then you may put out only 50 watts (50w + 3dB = 100w ERP). (Read more specifics in the ARRL guide.)

### Frequencies

Sixty meters continues to be a channelized band, with amateur signals restricted to five specific frequencies. Table 1 contains the frequencies to which you should tune your transceiver for USB or digital modes (these take into account the offset of a USB signal from the center frequency). Table 2 contains the center frequencies for each channel. These should be used for CW operation and must be on the exact frequency. However, see note below in CW section.

Channel 1	5330.5 kHz
Channel 2	5346.5 kHz
Channel 3	5357.0 kHz
Channel 4	5371.5 kHz
Channel 5	5403.5 kHz

Table 1. “Suppressed carrier” frequencies for the five 60-meter amateur channels. Tune your rig to one of these exact frequencies for **USB** or **digital mode** operation (see text for additional detail).

Channel 1	5332.0 kHz
Channel 2	5348.0 kHz
Channel 3	5358.5 kHz
Channel 4	5373.0 kHz
Channel 5	5405.0 kHz

Table 2. Center carrier frequencies for the five 60-meter amateur channels. Tune your rig to one of these exact frequencies for **CW** operation (see text for additional detail).

### Modes

There is no change in the requirements for operating **USB voice**. Just tune to one of the frequencies in Table 1 and operate, making sure you are in compliance with power limits and that your signal is not more than 2.8 kHz wide.

**CW** operation is also pretty straightforward, using the frequencies in Table 2. However, many transceivers offset the CW frequencies from what is on the display by several hundred Hertz (typically 600–700 Hz) in order to produce a pleasing tone in your headset. If your rig does this, you must compensate to make sure you are transmitting on

the exact frequency specified in Table 2. See your user manual, use a frequency counter, or contact your manufacturer.

**Digital modes** are subject to a 60-Hz bandwidth limitation, so traditional Baudot RTTY will be too wide to be permitted (even though the FCC’s Report and Order refers to RTTY). The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which coordinates federal government radio operations, has requested that amateur digital communications on 60 meters be limited to PSK-31 and PACTOR-III only. The ARRL strongly recommends compliance with this request.

To operate PSK-31 on 60 meters, you must be transmitting on the center channel. However, the League guide says the easiest way to comply with this rule is by putting your rig in USB mode and tuning to one of the USB frequencies in Table 1. Then, using the audio frequency setting on your waterfall display, click the mouse to place the cursor at the 1500-Hz mark. This will compensate for the offset and put you right on frequency. *You may not vary from this specific setting.*

For PACTOR-III, the guide says you simply put the rig in USB mode and tune to one of the Table 1 frequencies. It notes that automatic PACTOR operation is not permitted, only live keyboard-to-keyboard QSOs.

### Additional Tips

The ARRL guide also includes tips on avoiding interference to primary users, and suggested operating practices beyond the legal requirements. The complete guide (a 5-page PDF document) may be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/y04J7h>, a shortened link directly to the guide on the ARRL website.

These countries include administrations whose territory is beyond 800 kilometers (about 500 miles) from the borders of the following countries: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, the Russian Federation, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Syrian Arab Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Ukraine, and Yemen. (Most of the United States is more than 500 miles from any of these countries, so it is possible that any eventual U.S. amateur privileges on 600 meters will permit up to 5 watts EIRP, except in parts of Alaska.) The change becomes effective with the adoption of the Final Acts of the Conference.

The new band at 600 meters represents the return of all amateurs to the medium waves. This is an area of spectrum to which U.S. hams have not had access—except for an experimental license—since the earliest days of radio. In recent years, some limited amateur radio operation has also been allowed in the region of 500 kHz in the UK, Germany, and Sweden.

In September 2006, the FCC’s Office of Engineering and Technology did grant an experimental license, WD2XSH, to

the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs who were interested in investigating spectrum from 505–510 kHz using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP) using CW and PSK31.

### Propagation at 500 kHz

Medium frequency (MF) refers to radio frequencies (RF) in the range of 300 kHz to 3 MHz. Part of this band includes the medium-wave AM broadcast band. In North America this extends from 535 kHz to 1705 kHz.

Propagation at MF is primarily via ground waves. Ground-wave propagation at these frequencies follows the curvature of the Earth over conductive surfaces such as the sea and damp earth. At sea, MF communications typically can be heard over several hundred miles.

MF skywave propagation depends on the various layers in the ionosphere as the signal is refracted back down to Earth. Late at night, especially in winter months and at times of low solar activity, the lower ionospheric D-layer can virtually disappear. When this happens, MF radio waves can easily be received hundreds or even thousands of miles away, as the

signal will be refracted by the remaining F-layer. This can be very useful for long-distance communication on a quiet frequency.

## Hurry Up and Wait

Don't plan on getting a 600-meter station on the air anytime soon. The new allocation will not take effect until it is entered into the ITU's Radio Regulations, which is unlikely to be earlier than January 1, 2013.

Once that happens, each country's telecommunications regulations will need to be revised to implement the allocation to radio amateurs on a country-by-country basis. Each administration around the world must determine what modes and bandwidths will be used and when and which operators in that country will have access to the spectrum.

This could take a few years of rule-making. (It took four years for U.S. amateurs to reap the no-code benefits of WRC-2003.)

Here in the United States, the Final Acts of WRC-12 must be ratified (approved) by Congress. Each time Congress enacts a law affecting telecommunications, the FCC develops rules to implement the new regulations. The Commission takes a series of steps to develop these rules. These steps offer consumers an opportunity to submit both comments and reply comments to the FCC. It is all very time consuming, since all comments must be read and considered.

The first step is generally a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) issued by the FCC. An NPRM contains proposed changes to the Commission's rules and seeks public comments and reply comments on these proposals.

After reviewing the comments, a *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (FNPRM) could be issued (and more comments) ... or the FCC could go directly to a *Report and Order* (R&O).

The R&O states the new rules and a summary of the R&O is published in the Federal Register. The Federal Register summary will tell you when a rule change will become effective.

Those having an objection to the R&O can file a Petition for Reconsideration within 30 days from the date the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

A Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) is issued in response to the Petition for Reconsideration affirming the new allocation regulations, or an

Order on Reconsideration amending the new rules or stating that the rules will not be changed could be issued.

Each of these rulemaking steps can take months (or longer) to implement. The best guess is that it will be five years before 472–479 kHz becomes available to U.S. radio amateurs.

There is also an effort under way to place an amateur radio item on the agenda for the next WRC, which will take place in 2015. CEPT is working on an allocation at 700 MHz, since additional TV spectrum is expected to be released

in Europe. The next WRC will also consider a possible worldwide amateur allocation at 5 MHz (60 meters). This band is currently available only in certain countries (including the U.S.). Amateurs in the U.S. recently were given new privileges on 60 meters, as well as one frequency that was nearly always in use by the band's primary user exchanged for one that should be available for hams to use more frequently. For more on the new rules, see the sidebar "ARRL Issues Recommendations for New 60-Meter Privileges." 73, Fred, W5YI

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## Indiana Ham Puts His Radio, and Life, On The Line when Tornado Strikes

The tornado outbreak that brought March 2012 “roaring in like a lion” across the Tennessee and Ohio valleys and parts of the southern United States was one as remarkable as it was tragic:

- Thirteen tornadoes with an intensity of EF-3 (136 to 165 mph winds) or higher were confirmed in seven states: Alabama, Kentucky Georgia, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.
- Thirty-nine people were killed.
- The most severe tornado, an EF-4 (166 to 200 mph) on March 2, touched down in Henryville, Indiana, where top winds were clocked at 170 mph—of such intensity that a factory building was leveled to its foundation “with anchoring bolts bent in the direction of storm.”
- Dr. Greg Forbes, severe storm expert for The Weather Channel, reported that 71 tornadoes touched down March 2, significantly eclipsing the March 31, 1990 record-setting 59 tornadoes for a single day in March.
- A total of 1063 severe weather reports were made, the most since May 25, 2011.

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

Radio amateurs from across this massive tornado-ravaged region were called to service and stepped up in a selfless and mighty way.

This month we’ll focus on reports from Indiana, where 13 people were killed and many millions of dollars in damage are being reported. Other chapters of this amazing story from other regions and other states will be told in subsequent editions of “Public Service.”

### Tornado on the ground! Call it in to the county!

By Delbert Felix, WY9L

The Ripley County ARES® (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) team was deployed to do severe weather spotting at mid-afternoon on Friday, March 2. While I was traveling west on Highway 50, I spotted heavy rotation in the clouds. (**IN DEPTH:** For information on Ripley County, Indiana, visit: <<http://www.ripleycounty.com/>>.—ed.)

As I proceeded toward the town of Holton, a funnel cloud began to develop and was dropping toward the ground. I pulled my truck across Highway 50 to block vehicles that were headed into the path of the tornado.

I was screaming into the amateur radio rig: “Tornado on the ground! . . . Tornado on the ground! Call it in to the county!”



Radio amateurs who provided vital communications when tornadoes ravaged Indiana included, back from left: Johnathon Stemann, KC9PXV; James Meyer, KB9UVF; Floyd Whitham, W9VR; Randy Baugh, KB9NZE; Dave Mayer, WD8NMZ; Ken Courtney, W9BLA; John Ryle, American Red Cross Southeastern Indiana Chapter Executive Director; and George Long, Red Cross Regional Assistant Disaster Director. In the front row, from left, are: Delbert Felix, WY9L; Judy Baugh, KC9OJE; and Gene Dolgner, KC9RLC. (Courtesy of WY9L)





*The force of the winds sheared off trees and damaged homes across Ripley County, Indiana. (Courtesy of KC9RLC)*

I tried to get a couple of people out of their vehicles to safety in a basement of one of the houses that was nearby, but people were too interested in taking photos.

As I tried to get back to my vehicle, I was blown down and could not get back up due to high winds, so I crawled to a nearby mailbox post and held on until the tornado passed. It seemed like forever, but was actually over in just a few minutes. When it passed, I got up and checked on the people sitting in their vehicles. Everyone was fine.

I was experiencing severe back pain from my tumble, but managed to get back into my truck to drive about 200 feet to the edge of town and blocked traffic once again.

The town had exploded with debris everywhere. Many power lines were down and rubble from homes littered the streets. I called American Red Cross Southeastern Indiana Chapter Executive Director John Ryle to advise him that we needed shelter set up immediately at one of the two schools owned by the South Ripley School Corporation in Versailles, Indiana. I recommended deploying the American Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team (DAT). I also serve as the Ripley County

DAT leader. So I started wearing two hats at once for this disaster.

My wife, Donna, KC9RGI, is from Holton. The first thing I noticed was a mobile home belonging to my daughter's godfather had disintegrated. Moments later, the fire department, EMS personnel, and law enforcement began arriving from all agencies around Holton. At this time, I was relieved by the fire chief of Versailles and I started getting ARES members organized to assist the Red Cross with communications, as well as labor for its shelter.

I arrived at the Red Cross office and the ARES team was already in motion loading cots and equipment for the Red Cross.

Once the supplies arrived at the school, Red Cross personnel had arrived and they worked along with ARES to get the shelter set up immediately. I traveled between the shelter, Red Cross office, and Ripley County EOC (emergency operations center) many times in the hours that followed.

I would like to thank the Ripley County Repeater Association <<http://rcrepeater.tripod.com/>> for allowing us to use its amateur radio repeater. Ours was down for repair.

David Rayner, AI9D, did an excellent

#### **Preliminary Findings: NWS Storm Survey Teams**

- Two separate super-cell thunderstorms were tracked over southern Indiana and into Kentucky with each producing a tornado along their path.
- Between the towns of Pekin and Henryville the storms followed essentially the same path and were separated by approximately 10 minutes.
- The first storm was the more powerful of the two, producing an EF-4 tornado (166 to 200 mph winds) which damaged homes and a large junior-senior high school in Henryville.
- Further EF-4 damage was found near Chelsea in Jefferson County.
- Near Pekin in Washington County EF-3 (136 to 165 mph winds) damage was found.
- EF-2 tornado (111 to 135 mph winds) was preliminarily identified in Posey County.
- EF-3 tornado was preliminarily identified in Ripley County.

*(Note: Findings are preliminary and are complicated by the long distances and overlapping tracks the storms and tornadoes traveled, according to the NWS and Indiana Department of Homeland Security.—ed.)*



*A piece of wood, propelled by tornado-force wind, impaled the roof of this house in Holton, Indiana. (Courtesy of KC9RLC)*

job as Weather Net control station. It seems as if the net control is never recognized when people ask about the storm spotters. Without his service many lives would not have been spared; we have quite a list of scanner listeners on both the 146.805-MHz machine and our machine (Ripley County Amateur

Radio Club) on 441.775 MHz (<http://rcarc.ripleycounty.net/>).

The saying “When all else fails . . . amateur radio” certainly applied to the ARES team of Ripley County. It served our citizens remarkably well in March 2012 as it has for the four years it has been in operation.

### **Indiana: County-By-County Death Toll**

Ripley: 2 fatalities from the Holton area  
 Clark: 1 fatality in Henryville  
 Jefferson: 4 fatalities in Saluda Township near Chelsea  
 Scott: 1 fatality in Lexington Township (southeast Scott County)  
 Washington: 5 fatalities in New Pekin

I am extremely pleased with the response of ARES members and their performance. There is always room for improvement, and I feel the ARES numbers will grow and continue to do good things in the future for the residence of Ripley County and its surrounding counties. We give our thanks, as well, to all the agencies—public and private—that assisted in response to the Holton tornado.

*Delbert Felix, WY9L, is ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for District 9; and S.E.I. American Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) Leader, Ripley County office.*

### **Standing Tall and Ready in Decatur County**

*By Mike Caster, K9MDC*

About 1:30 PM local time, Shawn Fields, KD9UDC, Decatur County



*Debris piled in the aftermath of the severe weather outbreak in Indiana was a common sight in the Holton area. Houses, cars, trucks, and motorhomes all took the brunt of the storms. (Courtesy of KC9RLC)*

# How Does Your Antenna Measure Up?

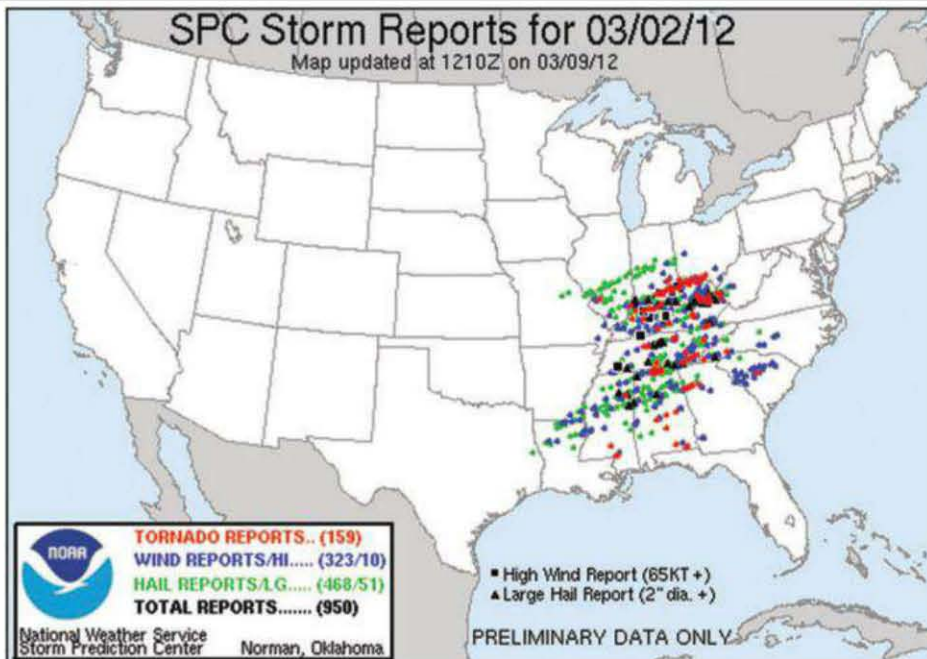
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In this National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration map of the severe weather outbreak on March 2 red dots are tornadoes, blue are high winds; and green indicate hail. Black boxes are reports of 65+ knot winds (75 mph); black triangles indicate 2+ inch diameter hail. (Courtesy of NOAA)

ARES AEC in charge of SKYWARN® activities, called me to discuss communications strategies for the approaching dangerous weather. I decided to implement and test our phone tree plan. (IN

**DEPTH:** For information on Decatur County, Indiana visit: <<http://www.decaturcounty.in.gov/>>.—ed.)

An e-mail was sent to KC9UDC, and Mike McCoy, KC9ELU, the other AEC.

It included instructions, phone numbers, and whom to call. I then called Shawn and Mike with the directive to implement the phone tree and advise all ARES members to prepare for SKYWARN® activation.

Shawn called and reached his assigned members. Mike was working, however, so I called his half of the list.

It appears, with the exception of one, all members responded to the calls. We left a message for her. I believe she was at work.

At 3:45 PM NWS Indianapolis activated a SKYWARN® net. Decatur County called a net and stayed in net mode for an hour and 20 minutes. Six mobile operators and three base stations participated. Decatur County did not experience any severe weather. The net stood down at 5:05 PM.

Mike Caster, K9MDC, is Decatur County ARRL EC.

## More to Come . . .

That's it for this month. In coming months we'll be heralding the heroics of other radio amateurs who played such an important role in emergency communications during the March 2012 tornado outbreak.

73, Richard, K16SN

## Working “The Birds”

One facet of the ham radio hobby that absolutely intrigues me is satellite communications, or SATCOM. I grew up with the space program. I can remember Alan Shepard’s suborbital flight aboard Freedom 7 on May 5, 1961. I watched on a rather snowy TV picture as Shepard was fired into a sub-orbital spaceflight by a Redstone launch vehicle. I was 15 years old. I can visualize that flight like it was yesterday. Friendship 7 carried John Glenn on February 20, 1962 for three orbits, putting America’s first astronaut in Earth orbit. Glenn’s launch vehicle was a converted Atlas ICBM. By the end of the Mercury program in 1963, we had launched six American astronauts into space and recovered them all successfully! America’s space program was on the move: Next stop, the MOON!

Gemini and then Apollo followed Project Mercury, each program pushing our fledgling space agenda further and further ahead, culminating in our landing of two astronauts on the surface of the moon in 1969. On that stifling July day I was on my way via the Japanese train system to work at the Fuchu Tech Control facility just north of Tokyo. Although we were discouraged from wearing our military uniforms while off-base, I was truly glad I had worn mine that day. I think I shook

hands with every Japanese person on Honshu! They were not greeting me, but they were showing their love of America and the fact we had done something that had never been done in the entire history of mankind: putting humans on another planetary body. Even today, thinking back on this event and my train ride from Nishi-Tachikawa to Fuchu, I feel humbled by what Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong accomplished. It was a great day to be an American!

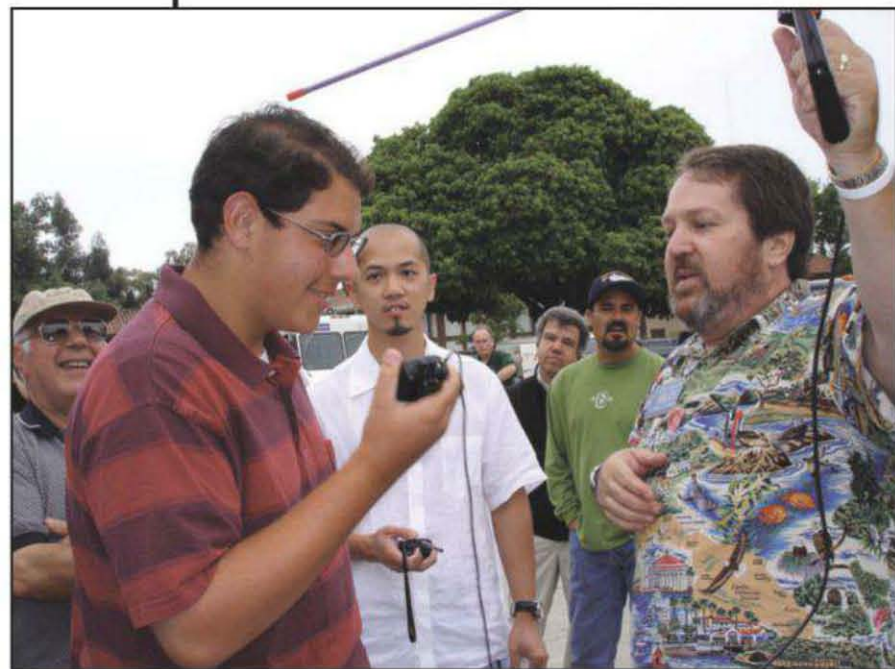
Around the time that Alan Shepard flew in Freedom 7, a group of dedicated hams fabricated a small transmitter package and approached NASA and the USAF to find a ride into orbit for what soon became OSCAR-1. OSCAR stands for **O**rbiting **S**atellite **C**arrying **A**mateur **R**adio, and ham radio’s first attempt to orbit a small transmitter into space was a success. Lofted into orbit on December 12, 1961, OSCAR-1 made ham radio history! Many heard the “HI” sent in CW by OSCAR-1 during the following 22 days that the bird was in orbit, including one 15-year-old soon-to-be licensed amateur radio operator, yours truly.

I never lost my interest in SATCOM. It wasn’t until the early 1980s when I got really bitten by the SATCOM bug while stationed in England with the Air Force (ours, not theirs!). Sitting on my workbench was a 23-channel CB rig that I had just converted for 10-meter FM. I kept hearing something trying to break the squelch, so I opened the squelch and heard some CW! I had not calibrated the dial at that time, so all I knew for sure was that the rig was on 10 meters, somewhere around 29 MHz. The noise bursts (which are exactly what CW sounds like when being received on an FM receiver) were readable and eventually I pulled a call sign out of the mess: AO-7! AMSAT-OSCAR 7! Wow! Who woulda’ thunk it?? To top it all off, the only antenna I had on the converted CB rig was a 5-foot piece of hook-up wire. You gotta love this hobby!

This extremely crude experiment led me to start actively listening for the downlink beacons on several of the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, also called “birds.” It was fun. It was exciting. It was *different!* But most of all, it was habit forming. I was hooked.

Unfortunately, the days of the 1980s and ’90s are long gone and with them the majority of the LEO birds that offered an inexpensive and relatively easy way to play in the SATCOM arena. Most of these satellites had on-board transponders in what was then called “Mode A,” which was a 2-meter uplink and a 10-meter downlink. This was easy to do with a good HF receiver and a simple 2-meter CW or SSB rig as a transmitter. Antennas were not a big problem, and I utilized omnidirectional verticals on both 2 and 10 meters

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



Clint Bradford, K6LCS (on right), at the Santa Barbara, California, hamfest a couple of years ago, helping a newly-licensed amateur (in striped shirt) make his first-ever ham radio contacts via satellite. (K6LCS photo)

for many years to work these SATs. Over the years, these satellites fell victim to air molecules (yes, there are air molecules in low Earth orbit), which produce a drag on the satellite, causing it to eventually slow down enough to fall out of orbit and re-enter the Earth's atmosphere. In short, the bird dies.

Not all is lost, however, as there are several LEO birds that carry equipment that make it possible to communicate through the satellites via V/UHF FM! Now *that* is cool!

Before we go any further, let's take a closer look at the lexicon of terms you'll encounter in the amateur satellite communications arena.

Our first acronym is **LEO**, short for **Low Earth Orbit** satellites. From the Earth's surface outward, between 160 to 2000 km, is referred to as low earth orbit. Anything in orbit above that 2000-km distance is considered a middle or high Earth orbit. Currently there are several LEO birds available for today's budding amateur SATCOM enthusiast who has a dual-band VHF/UHF handheld. At these distances the signals from the satellite coming back to Earth are relatively strong and easily picked up by most radios of today.

Another couple of unique SATCOM terms are **uplink** and **downlink**. The uplink is a block of frequencies from your Earth station that you transmit on to get "up" to the satellite. Obviously, downlink is a block of frequencies that are used from the satellite "down" to your Earth station. Often you will see these chunks of frequency spectrum expressed as **Modes**. Instead of saying "2-meter uplink and 70-centimeter downlink," many SATCOM ops refer to this particular grouping as **Mode V/U**, as in VHF uplink and UHF downlink. Since the actual up and downlink frequencies are well published, when you say **Mode V/U** you are automatically talking about 2 meters up and 70 cms down. Mode U/V would be the reverse of Mode V/U: 70 cms up and 2 meters down. Pretty easy!

**Orbital period** is yet another SATCOM unique term. This is the time that it takes for the satellite to circle the Earth. LEO birds have an orbital period of around 90 minutes. This is calculated once the orbit of the satellite has been established and is part of the unique set of numbers, called **KEPS**, (short for **Keplerian Elements**), that is used to compute the time the satellite will appear at your local horizon (called **Acquisition of Signal**, or **AOS**) and when it will drop below your local hori-

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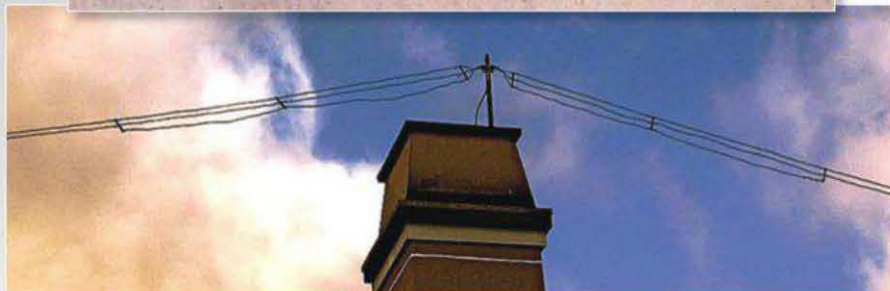
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zon (called **Loss of Signal**, or **LOS**). These two sets of times are critical in establishing contacts on a LEO sat. The closer the “pass” is to being directly overhead between AOS and LOS, the longer talk time you will have.

One cardinal rule regarding SATCOM: always, *always* use just enough power on your uplink transmission to hit the satellite reliably. Anything over and

above that is wasting power. Also, using large amounts of uplink RF can block other stations from accessing the satellite and limit your number of potential contacts.

You’ll also encounter **apogee** and **perigee**: the high point and low point, respectively, in the satellite’s orbit. This isn’t all that critical when we speak of LEO birds, but there are other satellites

out there that have highly elliptical orbits called **Molniya** orbits which have a very low perigee and an extremely high apogee, allowing many hours of access time when they are above your local horizon.

Thanks to Clint Bradford, K6LCS, Area Coordinator for AMSAT and keeper of the <[www.work-sat.com](http://www.work-sat.com)> website, for graciously offering the accompany-

### Work Satellites with your HT!

By Clint Bradford, K6LCS, Area Coordinator for AMSAT

Most hams already have the necessary equipment to work FM amateur satellites. This guide offers all the information you need to “work the birds.” All cited resources—and a lot more info—are available to you at: <<http://www.work-sat.com>>

If you have 2M and 440 capabilities (either “split frequencies” in one HT, or two radios), you can work FM amateur satellites! For example, for satellite SO-50’s VHF/UHF (V/U) mode, the UPLINK frequency (to SO-50) for FM voice is 145.850 MHz.\* The Downlink freq (from SO-50) is 436.795 MHz.

First, you need to know WHEN and WHERE the satellite will be passing over your location. There are several commercial computer programs that will tell you. In the home office, I use MacDoppler. Outside, though, I use PocketSat on my Palm PDA or iPod touch/iPhone. On my netbook, Nova for Windows and SatPC32 are amazing. But free of charge info is also available online at <[www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org)> or <<http://heavens-above.com>>.

Plug in your longitude and latitude coordinates on either or both of these sites, and you can access amateur satellite pass information.

The one “absolute” for success is to open up your squelch. We are talking about “weak signals” from 500+ miles away, so don’t expect the satellite to be strong enough to break squelch like your local repeater. Sure, it’s a little noisy, but that’s part of the process: That noise is an aid in locating the satellite. When the frequency starts to exhibit quieting, that’s a sign that you are capturing the satellite’s signal.

Improve your HT’s stock antenna (most are rated at NEGATIVE 2–3 dBi!). For BNC connectors, Pryme’s AL-800 will make the difference. For SMA, the Diamond SRH-320a or Smiley 270A are better performers. Using an Arrow dual-band Yagi or Elk log-periodic is better. If you prefer to homebrew your antenna, go to the work-sat.com Web site’s ANTENNAS page for construction article links. A fun project is the tape measure beam—for about \$20 in parts!

Set up your radio to tune for the Doppler Effect on the downlink. Start listening above the center frequency; you will acquire the satellite sooner and clearer. When the downlink gets scratchy or fuzzy, tune down 5 kHz at a time and reception should be clearer. Only transmit when you can clearly hear the satellite. Follow the signal down in frequency as the pass continues (*but continue transmitting on the same frequency—ed.*). Tables 1 and 2 show how I have programmed my HT for working the AO-27 and SO-50 satellites, respectively.

Ch #	Name	TX Freq	CTCSS	RX Freq	CTCSS
101	27 +2	145.850	None	436.805	None
102	27 +1	145.850	None	436.800	None
103	27 MID	145.850	None	436.795	None
104	27 -1	145.850	None	436.790	None
105	27 -2	145.850	None	436.785	None

Table 1. Here’s how K6LCS has programmed his radios for AO-27. No CTCSS required. Successfully working AO-27 takes an “extra step” in planning, as you need to check its operating schedule to make sure it will be ON for your chosen pass. Links to that scheduling program are on the worksat.com site. Note that only the receive frequency changes.

Ch #	Name	TX Freq	CTCSS	RX Freq	CTCSS
201	50 +4	145.850	67.0	436.815	None
202	50 +3	145.850	67.0	436.810	None
203	50 +2	145.850	67.0	436.805	None
204	50 +1	145.850	67.0	436.800	None
205	50 74	145.850	74.4	436.795	None
206	50 MID	145.850	67.0	436.795	None
207	50 -1	145.850	67.0	436.790	None
208	50 -2	145.850	67.0	436.785	None
209	50 -3	145.850	67.0	436.780	None

Table 2. Here’s how Clint has programmed his handheld radios for SO-50. SO-50 does require a tone of 67.0 on the uplink. If you KNOW the satellite is there, but you do not hear anyone else, then you might need to turn its ten-minute timer ON by sending it a couple seconds of 74.4 Hz on your uplink! (Channel 205 above is Clint’s “wake-up” frequency.)

Don’t hold your whip antenna upright. Held in a vertical position, your transmitted signal is hitting land-based receivers. You need to tilt your HT’s antenna so that it is perpendicular to the airborne satellite. Very few of the ham satellites are land-based (grin), so you must TILT your antenna about the same amount as the satellite’s ELEVATION. You’ll quickly get the hang of it and hear the difference! You’ll have better results with a modest beam or Yagi.

Ideally, we should all be working the satellites in full duplex mode, where we can simultaneously listen to the downlink as we are transmitting. Although this method is preferred, it is not mandatory: Carefully monitor the downlink, and wait for a break in the conversations to announce yourself. You might find it helpful to record your sessions for later review and logging. Even if you don’t make a contact during a pass, a recording can help you recognize the callsigns and voices of other operators. Pocket recorders or smartphone apps are great for this. If working full-duplex, use an earpiece or headphones to monitor the downlink.

Knowing your grid square—and having a grid square map—is a quick way of identifying locations of what you will hear. The ARRL and Icom have grid square maps. Icom’s is free and available at many ham radio stores.

It just takes a little preparation and planning for working amateur satellites. Not every pass is workable with an HT; don’t go after the sub-10° elevation passes as you start “working the birds.” Choose your passes wisely: Working higher elevation passes will give you better results and longer “talk time.” When you clearly hear others, listen for a break in the action and use the ITU approved phonetics to announce your callsign, grid square, and op mode: “KILLO-SIX-LIMA-CHARLIE-SIERRA, DELTA-MIKE - ONE-THREE, handheld.”

Check work-sat.com for the satellites’ home Web pages to make sure the sat is in the mode you can work with your setup!

Ask questions! Find an elmer in your club for support, or use the Work-Sat.com Yahoo Group for any questions and join AMSAT-NA! Membership isn’t that expensive, and members are entitled to discounts on satellite tracking software and publications. Support the sats by supporting AMSAT!

Access this Web site for all citations, links, resources, and updates: <<http://www.work-sat.com>>.





A handheld radio and a handheld beam antenna are all you need to work some FM satellites. This antenna is a homebrew "Cheap Yagi" designed by CQ Antennas Editor Kent Britain, WA5VJB. Here Dave Clausen, W2VV, and Bill Ward, KD4ISF, try to work SO-50 from a hotel balcony in New York City. Note the angle of the antenna, as described in the text. (W2VU photo)

ing sidebar information on working the FM satellites for the neophyte SATCOM operator for inclusion in this column. Clint can be reached at: <www.worksat.com> or via e-mail at: <clint@clintbradford.com>. Also, to answer the most often-posed question: "Yes, it really is that easy!"

That's a wrap for this month. I hope Clint and I have stirred your interest and you'll take advantage of the opportunities to put your handheld rigs to use as SATCOM Earth stations. Next month: Hittin' the bush with K7SZ! Be there or be square (I always wanted to use that!)  
73, Rich, K7SZ



This photo is on K6LCS's QSL card. It was shot at the Los Angeles County fair while working three countries (US, Canada, and Mexico) on a single pass of an FM satellite. Power out was just 2 watts. (K6LCS photo)

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3CX3000A7	4CX20000C	3-1000Z
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# THE HISTORY OF M2 ANTENNA SYSTEMS, INC.

M2 Antenna Systems, Inc is a woman owned business that started in 1984 as a small typesetting business. It was originally a partnership between Myrna, K6MYM and Mike, K6MYC (hence the M2 name). When "desktop publishing" came along, Myrna decided it was time to sell the antiquated photographic and word processing equipment. (good thing!). At that time Mike and other owners of KLM Electronics had sold KLM and Mike was consulting. Soon an opportunity came along to "get back into the antenna business". A 150 foot dish project launched the Staal team of Mike, Matt and Kenny back to what they do best. Soon a huge project came along to provide the Trucking industry with instantaneous communication and location data using Meteor scatter techniques. Rapid growth motivated the company to move from the high dollar Silicon Valley to business friendly Fresno California and M2 was off and running.

Mike, the M of KLM has been designing and building antennas since 1971. He became a ham in 1956 and always had a great interest in antennas. He began moon bouncing as a pioneer in 1964 and has been active ever since.

M2 Antenna Systems Inc. uses this background of technical expertise and real world experience to understand and to accommodate your antenna and related equipment requirements. Now with over 41 years of experience designing and building antennas and systems we can satisfy your ever expanding communications needs.

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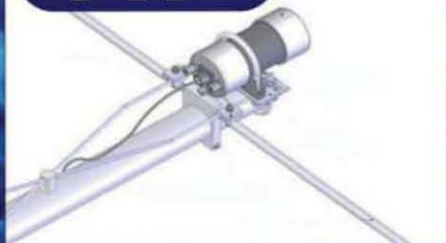
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# The Wonderful World of Surplus

Online auction sites such as eBay and CraigsList, as well as local surplus outlets and industrial supply stores (and quite often, your ham friends), can be a very useful and economical source for radio-related (RF) test equipment, components, and even complete radios. Our hobby is rich with old and new stories about finding, converting, and using surplus electronics in our personal communication stations. A “true ham” is at least aware of this tradition of converting or adapting and using non-ham gear for the ham bands. The FCC acknowledges the value of this experimentation, and amateur radio is the only radio service allowed to put homemade

equipment on the air (FCC Basis and Purpose rules for Amateur Radio, 97.1 (b) and (c)).

When purchasing surplus gear, make sure you know what you are buying. If a seller does not post a photo of the item for sale, one must wonder whether or not there is something to hide. Be careful where you spend your money and make sure you understand the return or exchange policies—if any—before you complete the sale. Ask questions if you are not sure of anything. If possible, test the unit before purchasing it to make sure it is functioning, or at least that it matches the description and condition from the seller.

I must add one more thing that I feel very strongly about: If your purchase turns out to be defective, please do not sell it to someone else without disclosing its true condition. Sometimes a non-functioning piece of gear is exactly what the buyer wants or needs, especially if the item is rare and difficult to find. An example of this would be a collector of a certain radio who may be looking for a single part or two and not a complete and functioning unit.

Let’s take a look at some of the extraordinary treasures I have found over the years. There’s usually a great story behind each discovery.

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



Photo 1— Classic tube gear from the 1970s and earlier is still alive and well in many ham shacks today. Here is a very clean Heathkit SB-100 transceiver recently seen at a local swap meet.

## Going on a Surplus Safari: Wonderful Old Radio Sets and Components

As a first example, as equipment technology evolves and advances, finished products become obsolete and are scrapped or disposed of in another way and are replaced with new systems. Equipment from the 1970s and earlier, for example, includes many vacuum tubes rather than solid state devices inside their cabinets. Some of the advanced sets were a hybrid combination of tubes and solid state devices. Since many hams tend to keep their equipment for many years, it is not uncommon to see tube gear of some sort, even among the most modern station equipment.

The Heathkit transceiver in photo 1 is a good example of a nicely restored tube-based HF transceiver seen at a local ham radio swap meet (also known as tag sale, flea market, or rally, depending on where you are from). The classic rigs and test gear contain many tubes and no transistors or microprocessors at all.

Some people say that vacuum tubes are difficult to find, but any surplus hunter will tell you this is not true. The box full of tubes seen in photo 2 appeared at the same swap meet as the Heathkit radio mentioned above. The fellow selling these tubes has been coming to the same location every month for many years. I think 50 cents for an untested tube and a dollar for a tested and working tube are fairly good prices for replacement parts that may get those classic rigs going again.

Speaking of tubes, you may want to invest in a good tube tester, if you have many tubes in your collection. I purchased the military TV-7/U tube tester in photo 3 on eBay several years ago.

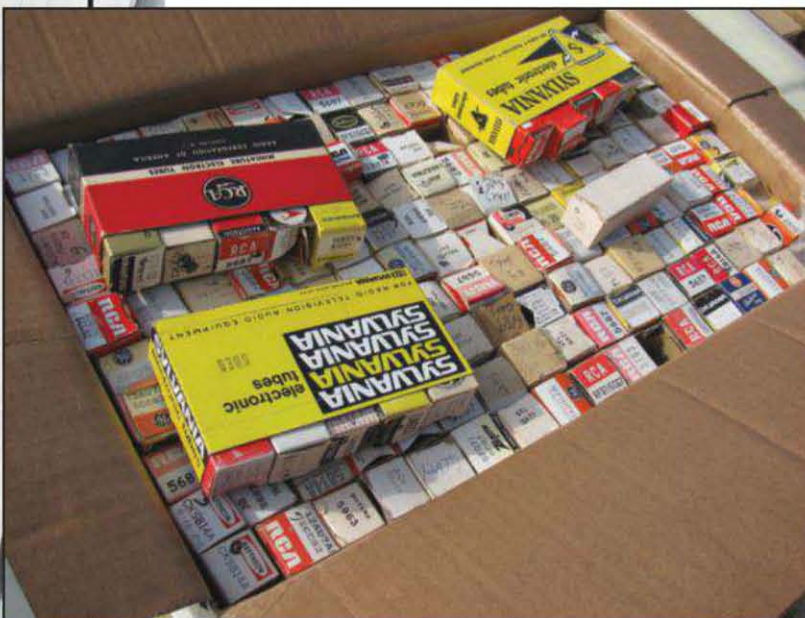
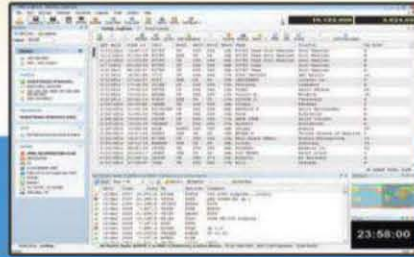
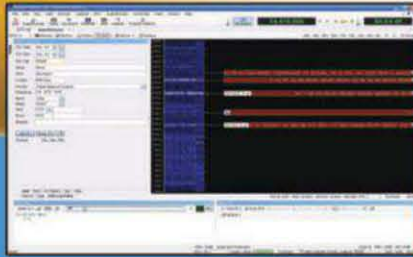
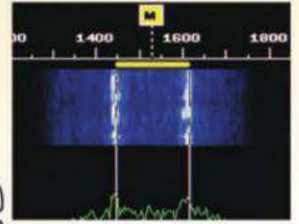


Photo 2— Vacuum tubes are still available in abundance, if you know where to look.

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Photo 3— A US Army TV-7/U tube tester, purchased on eBay, is a great tool for testing old tubes.

Although I do not use it often, a tube tester is the only tool that can test vacuum tubes. Other tube testers are available; check the websites mentioned in the “References” section for useful information.

Large air- or vacuum-variable capacitors and inductors, and multi-way, ceramic insulator wafer switches—all very useful for high-power RF amplifiers and antenna tuners—are also frequently available as surplus, either as “new old stock” (NOS) or used. Many modern versions of these components just are not the same as these precision devices. These units are easily inspected, since a “bad” one would show visible signs of arcing or corrosion.

A capacitor tester, such as the one shown in photo 4, can verify capacitor and inductor operation, and an ohmmeter can verify whether or not switch contacts are working. I use an ultrasonic cleaner, filled with a weak solution of Krud-Kutter® and water, to make parts sparkle like new. Other cleaning detergents can be used, but avoid using corrosive cleaning agents when washing electronic parts and aluminum pieces in the ultrasonic cleaner.

In photo 5 you see a fairly modern commercial mobile radio, used on the



Photo 4— A capacitor and inductor tester, such as this item available in kit form, should be in your collection if you build and test your own gear.



Photo 5— The Motorola Spectra is one example of a great commercial radio unit that can be easily reprogrammed for the 902–928 MHz ham band.

900-MHz commercial radio band. With the proper programming, this unit can be used for a portion of the 902–928 MHz amateur radio band. Other land-mobile radios and even repeaters can also be reprogrammed or slightly modified to operate on various ham bands.

### Amazingly Exotic Items

In some cases, converting surplus equipment is the only way to get on the air, such as microwave- and millimeter-wave station gear. Although kits and finished products to access these bands are available, they are not complete stations that can be put on the air right out of the box. Additional modules are necessary, such as transmit-receive change-over relays, reference frequency oscillators, and other assemblies. In addition, parts for these bands are extremely expensive if purchased new, if they can be found at all, in small (one each) quantities.

Low-loss cable assemblies and specialized connectors, RF relays, waveguide and waveguide assemblies are just a few types of components needed to construct a microwave ham radio station. See photo 6.

Once one establishes a viable microwave-band station at the 1-watt level, a reasonable station upgrade would be to increase power. This requires transmit-receive sequencing, and a waveguide (rather than a coax cable) type relay. Just like vacuum tubes, some folks say waveguide relays are difficult to find, but a good microwave surplus hunter can find them at reasonable prices.

The 24-GHz solid-state amplifier shown in photo 7 is one of my best surplus-derived items. Several years ago,

these were simply unavailable, even as surplus. Today, however, solid-state microwave amplifiers in the 1W to 10W or more range are becoming available on the surplus market worldwide. This will definitely improve microwave-frequency contest scores as hams discover and integrate high power into their systems.

Now take a look at photo 8. I found this large and heavy piece of surplus test gear at a local industrial surplus store near my office one day. The price tag indicated it was \$350. As you can see, the front panel is labeled “Microwave Noise Test Set” and drew my attention immediately. To me, \$350 is a lot of money to spend on something in an unknown condition, and with a

nothing-back guarantee. I peeked inside the cabinet, and to my surprise and delight I saw that the unit was not only very clean, it contained a whole lot of 10-GHz parts and assemblies. This was the first, and so far only, time I violated my rule about buying an item I did not fully understand. However, in this case I actually inspected the item and assessed what I could identify, and it was a great deal. While there are several sub-assemblies that I still do not understand, I estimated the actual value of the unit to be in the over \$600 range.

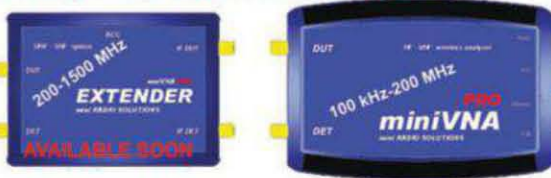
I asked a store employee about the unit, and he said it had just come in, and the \$350 was just a suggested selling price. Trying to contain my excitement



Photo 6— One of the best places to find various microwave cables, connectors, and waveguides is the surplus market. These very-low-loss components are must-have pieces to complete a high-performance microwave system.

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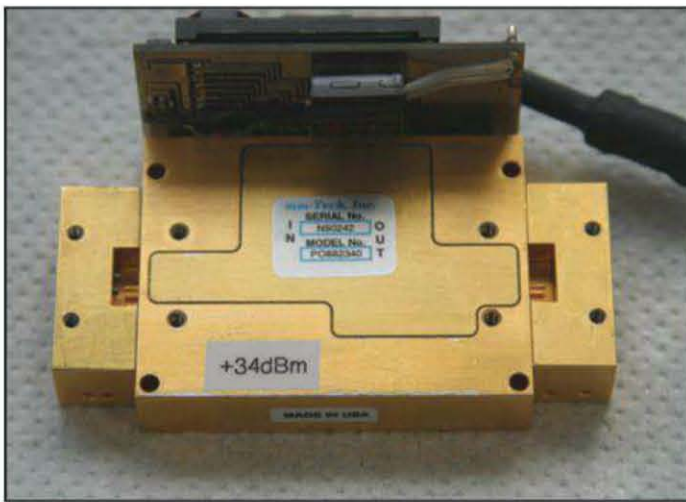


Photo 7- This 24-GHz solid-state amplifier is another example of a great surplus find.

as best as I could, I offered \$200 for the item, and he accepted the deal. He even accepted my payment by credit card. A truly incredible find. Of course, the next step was to figure out how to get it home in my small coupe. I dragged the giant box out of the store, placed it on the passenger seat, and used the safety belt to secure it in place.

After examining my new Microwave Noise Test Set and admiring the construction, I began to take it apart. The unit included Simpson panel meters, a 110-VAC input, two microwave detector assemblies, a multi-voltage power supply, six waveguide relays, and many cable and waveguide pieces.



Photo 8- This "Microwave Noise Test Set," filled with dozens of 10-GHz components and assemblies, is another one of my most amazing surplus discoveries.



Photo 9— Specialized RF test instruments are a great value and can be found as surplus in many cities, as well as on eBay. Most of the test gear shown here is rated for the UHF and into the microwave frequency region.

Everything, including the cabinet, will keep me busy with parts for new 10-GHz projects for a long time.

## Test Equipment

Surplus is not limited to parts. Perhaps the best deals in electronic surplus are the test instruments used for RF work, such as reference frequency standards, spectrum analyzers, signal generators, and frequency counters, especially units rated for use in the micro- and millimeter wave region. Other test instruments such as oscilloscopes and function generators are also great values on the surplus and used equipment market. See photo 9.

Here is a simple but often overlooked thing to check for just about all frequency-related test instruments. Many instruments have a switch on the rear panel to select either an internal or external frequency reference source. If the "INT/EXT" switch is in the "EXT" position, the unit will not function properly. Flipping the switch to the "INT" position may "fix" a non-operating unit.

I have one friend who saw this on a very nice frequency counter, but the seller was not able to make the unit work, so he was selling the unit in "Powers up, but as-is, no guarantees, non-functioning." The price was very good, especially since the unit was not working when the seller plugged it in.

When he got the unit home, he flipped the switch to the "INT" position, and the unit was fully functional!

As communications and radio technology advances in the commercial and other markets, including government and military services, hams have a great opportunity to obtain, convert, and adapt such equipment for use on the ham bands. This is one of ham radio's oldest and greatest traditions, and it is great to see this materiel going into ham shacks rather than the landfill.

73, Wayne, KH6WZ

## References

### Vacuum Tube Test Sets

The Idiot's Guide to Tube Testers: This is a website for vintage guitar amplifiers, but contains very good information on various makes and models of tube testers.

<[http://tone-lizard.com/Tube\\_Testers.html](http://tone-lizard.com/Tube_Testers.html)>

All Tube Testers.com

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Torrance, CA 90503

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

### Capacitor and Inductor Testers

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

Some multi-testers have test capability for capacitors as well as transistors and diodes.

### 900-MHz Equipment for the Ham Bands

The Repeater Builders Technical Information Page

Kevin Custer, W3KKC

<<http://www.repeater-builder.com>>

Southern California Repeater Builders

<[http://www.ham-radio.com/repeaterbuilder/rprtr\\_bldr.html](http://www.ham-radio.com/repeaterbuilder/rprtr_bldr.html)>

Exploring 900 MHz – Radios for 900 MHz/33 Centimeters & Their Modifications

<<http://www.qsl.net/kb9mwr/projects/>>



# Making a Quarter-Wave Antenna Really Work

*A quarter-wave antenna is a horrible, virtually non-functioning, antenna!*

**T**hat should have gotten your attention. To be a bit more precise, a  $1/4$ -wavelength antenna without its counterpoise, or a ground plane, is a horrible antenna.

This month's column comes from a question poised by Ed, W8MFS. As an avid model R/C (radio-control) boat builder, Ed had a  $1/4$ -wave antenna on his 50.8-MHz transmitter. Range was poor and he was looking for ways to improve his signal.

In photo A, I have a classic  $1/4$ -wavelength VHF whip on the roof of a car. A  $1/4$ -wave antenna is a horrible antenna at 50 ohms, but luckily there is 3000 lbs. of sheet metal under that  $1/4$  wave to act

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

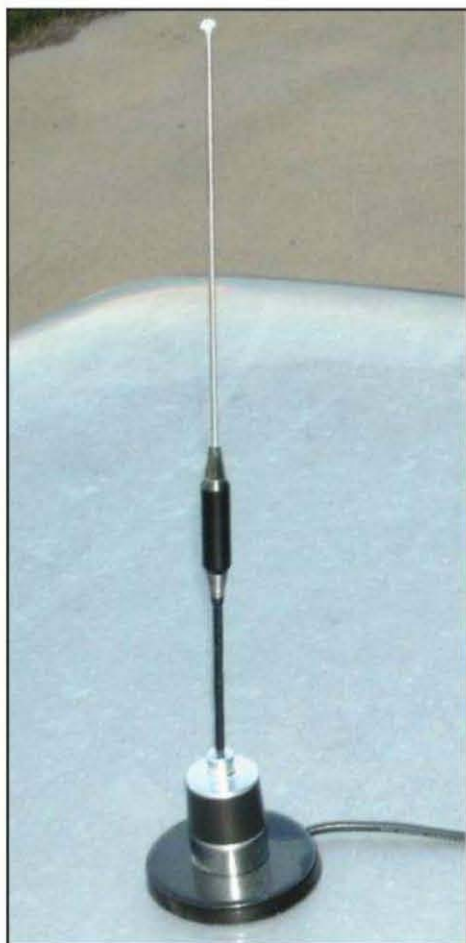


Photo A— Mag-mount  $1/4$ -wave whip.

as a ground plane. Therefore, the mag-mount  $1/4$  wavelength and the sheet metal in the van form an antenna that is electrically  $1/2$  wavelength long.

A  $1/4$ -wavelength antenna has to have some kind of ground plane or radial system to function as a low-SWR antenna in a 50-ohm system. Three, sometimes four, radials are used. If only one radial is used, I'm going to argue that you really have a bent dipole.

Here is where I have seen many wireless developers go wrong. In photo B we have a wireless product with a  $1/4$ -wavelength antenna. I can assure you it's working pretty badly on the design frequency. Worse yet, it is working pretty well on the harmonics. An antenna that radiates harmonics is a bummer when you go in for FCC Part 15 testing.

Many a wireless developer thinks that a tiny PCB with a tiny battery is somehow the ground plane for a 315-MHz or 434-MHz transmitter. The next length for a resonant antenna is a  $1/2$ -wave element. If you put  $1/2$  wave of wire on a small transmitter, the system looks like an end-fed  $1/2$ -wave. But the  $1/2$ -wave end fed antenna has about a 1000-ohm impedance, a real challenge to impedance-match to a RF chip that is expecting a 50-ohm load.

OK, a  $1/4$ -wave doesn't work and the transmitter doesn't like a  $1/2$ -wave. What's left? For the small wireless product, I am afraid I haven't come up with a better way of finding that compromise between an impedance that the transmitter can deal with and a whip long enough to radiate other than by experiment. Spectrum analyzers are great for this. Field strength meters will also work, or even a broadband receiver with an S-meter. Just start with a really long whip and some wire cutters, and start trimming a little bit at a time while watching signal

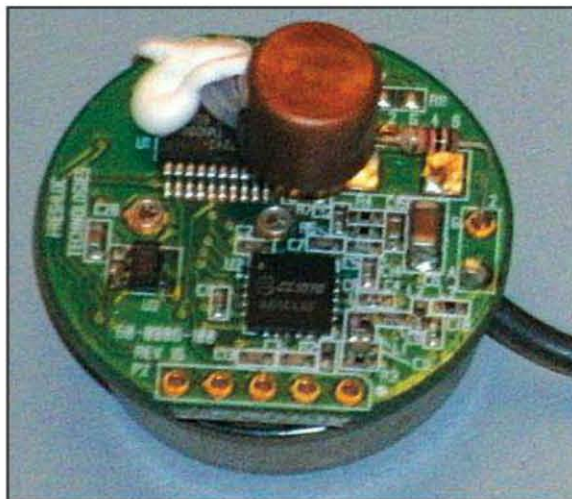


Photo B— Miniature wireless sensor with non-functional  $1/4$ -wave antenna.

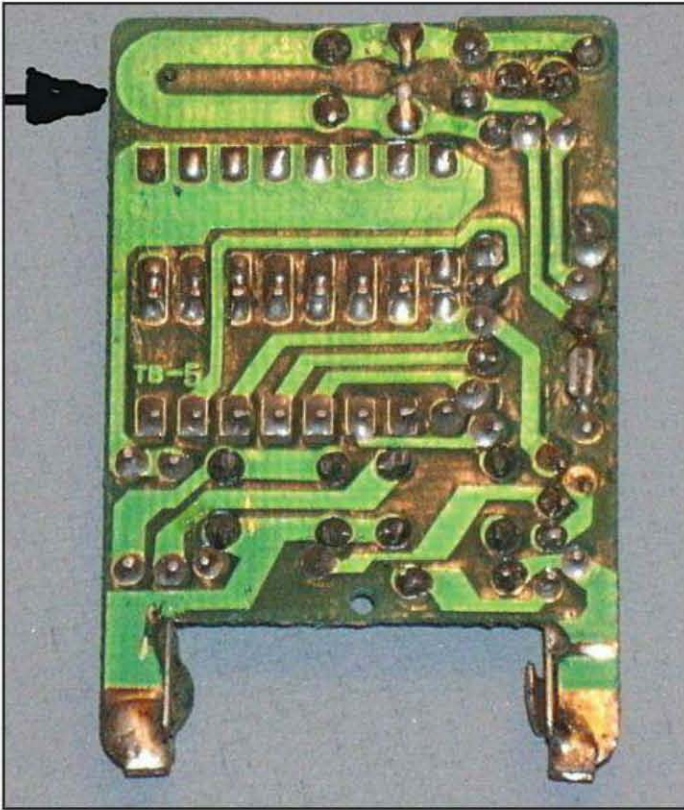


Photo C— Miniature 434-MHz transmitter with loop antenna.



Photo D— Ground radial or counterpoise for small transmitters.

strength. The best results are usually with a whip about .4 wavelengths long. You are forming an offset-fed dipole much like a Windom antenna. This also goes for the telemetry transmitters in model rockets, beacons on helium balloons, and even that handheld talkie.

Another way is to make a loop antenna like the miniature 434-MHz transmit antenna shown in photo C. If you don't have room for a proper whip, and the radio is too small to be a ground plane, a loop antenna works better than a non-resonant whip antenna.

Back to Ed's problem. The R/C transmitter is operating without a ground plane, and for radio waves nearly 20 feet long that handheld transmitter is too small to be a ground plane. My suggestion is a counterpoise. In this case you add one ground radial to the transmitter like the counterpoise in photo D. In simple terms, you are making a short whip into a  $1/2$ -wavelength dipole. Some years ago these were sold under the name "Tiger Tail." (Another manufacturer sold the same accessory as a "Rat Tail."—ed.)

You will be amazed at how much stronger the signal from that talkie will be when you operate the radio with a resonant

antenna system. Yes, that dangling wire is a problem, and you need a good electrical ground connection at the base of the antenna, but this will give you some extra dBs when you really need them. Ed wrote back that the counterpoise did indeed help the range of his RC boats.

### Antenna Matching Tips

Here is an antenna matching technique KF5N showed me some years ago. In photo E are microstrip transmission lines. Different widths are different impedances—30, 50, 70, 100 ohms, etc. By adding in a section of transmission line with a different impedance and of a certain length, most any SWR can be matched.

Photo F shows another microwave tuning technique called "snowflaking" in which small pieces of copper foil are moved to different spots until the tech finds a good SWR/return loss. Well, snowflaking a length of coax is a bit tricky, but adding the lengths of transmission line of a different impedance is not.

The idea is to make up a variety of coax jumpers of 75-ohm coax—RG-59, RG-11, RG-6, etc.—and a supply of bar-

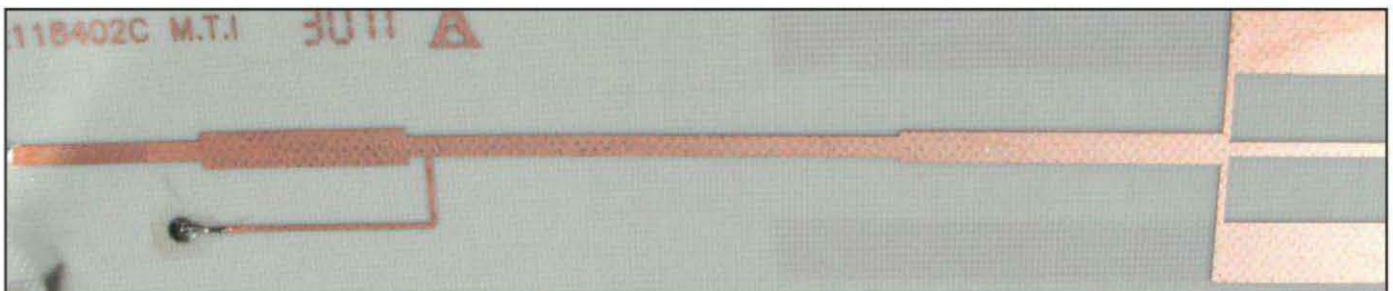


Photo E— Striplines of difference impedances.

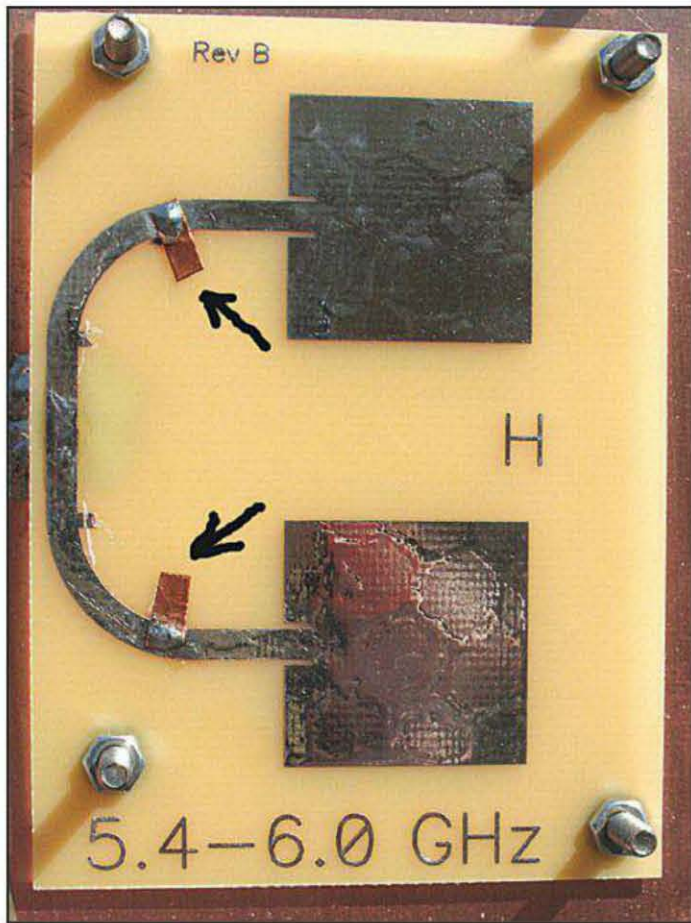


Photo F— Snowflaking (see text for details).

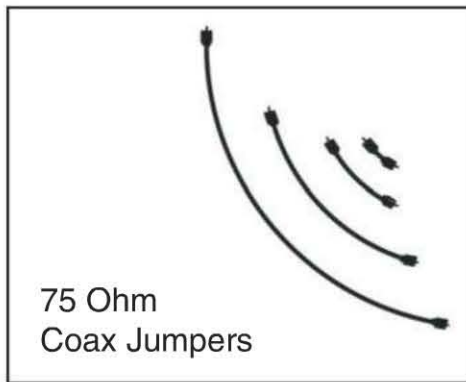


Fig. 1— Different lengths of 75-ohm coax.

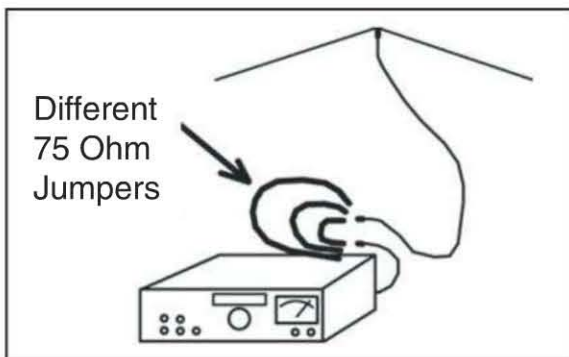


Fig. 2— Experimenting with 75-ohm sections.

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rel connectors as shown in fig. 1. Add one of the jumpers to your feedline either at the rig end or at the antenna end, whichever is easier to get to (see fig. 2). Start with a short jumper, add another, take out a long jumper, and put in a shorter one. By experimenting with different lengths of 75-ohm coax you often can get a better SWR out of your 50-ohm system without using an antenna tuner, or as in my case, at least make the SWR warning light on my 6-meter rig stop flashing at me. Using a 75-ohm antenna system? I have several antennas configured as 75-ohm systems since the coax was cheaper! Now you can SWR-match the 75-ohm system with 50-ohm coax. This technique is probably more practical at 6, 10, and 15 meters than it is for 160 meters, but details like that never slowed down the typically ingenious ham.

### Looking Ahead

I had intended to talk more about circuits where the reflected power off the input was greater than the input power. Sort of an  $SWR = > \infty$  condition. That's only because SWR is not a very good measuring system for parametric amplifiers. A state-of-the-art low-noise amplifier with 30 dB of gain, and the same connector is both the input and the output. One connector? Both input and output? 30 dB gain? Yep. More in the next column.

As always, we welcome antenna questions and column suggestions from our readers. Many column topics have been suggested by you. E-mail to <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com> or <wa5vjb@amsat.org>. Also, for several dozen other antenna projects, you are welcome to visit <www.wa5vjb.com> and look in the Reference section.

73, Kent, WA5VJB

# New Rigs and Antennas, plus Tips for On The Road Operating

For totally selfish reasons, I love the May issue of *CQ* which carries with it the affirmation that spring is really here and mobile operations are a lot easier. It is also a great time to inspect and “upgrade” your mobile; be sure to read this issue from cover to cover, including the ads, to catch up on some of the great tips on the latest rigs and antennas.

In previous May issues over the years, we’ve chronicled some of the differences between the mobile operators of yesterday and today, as well as the stark differences between modern rigs and

those sometimes cantankerous “hollow state” rigs of yesteryear that could fill (and warm) a good portion of the trunk.

There was another aspect to operating mobile in those days of long ago. Some of the grizzled operators might remember the need to identify your rig as “mobile,” and there were strict rules mandating you identify that you were operating from a call area other than your “home” call area when giving your ID. For a time, you also had to file a “flight plan” with the FCC letting them know you intended to stray from your home “territory.” And let’s not forget the regulations that applied to keeping a paper log, which would be a challenge under the most favorable circumstances, even if you were fortunate enough to have a “co-pilot”

*\*5904 Lake Lindero Drive, Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
 e-mail: <aa6jr@cq-amateur-radio.com>*



*Sometimes you just have to make the commitment to a great antenna system. (AA6JR photo)*

doing the paperwork. Fortunately, the rules have changed to catch up with technology, making today's mobile operations a very casual activity.

### So What's New?

I seldom pick up news releases, but the piece below caught my attention in that it seems to provide an answer to the age-old dilemma of operating different rigs and changing a rig from one car to another, or when upgrading to a new rig, often making it necessary to tear apart the car to route new cables. Like they say in the infomercials, "There has to be a better way..." In the interest of full disclosure, I have no connections with the company or its owners, and I have not tried the product but it looks pretty interesting:

"After many years of frustrating mobile radio installations, Bill Jordan, AE4S, believed there must be a better way than routing multiple cables from trunk-mounted radios to dash-located controls, microphones, and speakers. He developed and builds SwapMyRigs, which standardizes single-cable installations of mobile radios with remotable control. So you can swap radios without reinstalling cables. By routing all connections through a common cable, any radio with industry standard RJ jacks can be installed or replaced without using manufacturers' proprietary multi-cable separation kits.

"SwapMyRigs consists of two small field-configurable, powder-coated steel boxes called SMRs; one is at the transceiver and the other is at the remote location, connected by a standard computer VGA cable. The transceiver's microphone, control, and speaker jacks are connected to corresponding jacks in the co-located SMR, which translates the radio's conductors to those of a VGA cable. At the remote location, an identical SMR maps the VGA conductors back to the transceiver's connections. The microphone, control, and speaker plug into the SMR's jacks as if they were connected directly to the radio.

"By changing the SMR's jumpers, different radios can be used in the same car, or one transceiver can be used in different cars by running VGA cables in both of them. Replacement radios are installed simply by changing SMR jumper settings.

"The patented SMRs are sold in pairs for \$79.95, preset and with radio interface cables for any RJ-compatible radio. High-quality five-meter VGA cables are also available. All prices include free shipping in the continental

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US and a money-back guarantee. See: <<http://www.swapmyrigs.com/>>.”

## The Skyhook

May also finds many hams receiving the spring catalogs from ham retailers eager to take orders on all the new goodies. These catalogs are chock-full of new information, especially antennas. If your mobile skyhook has been on the car or truck for more than two years, this would be a good time to give it a good “checkup.” Months of temperature extremes, rain, sun, ice, and wind can take a toll on even the best-made antennas and feed lines. You may not have noticed the performance of your system falling off, because in many cases it’s a gradual process. Remem-

ber the old adage “A dime spent on an antenna is worth a dollar spent on a radio.” This applies to mobile rigs as well. Your radio may be perfectly fine, but its performance could be limited by antenna and coax that are past their prime.

While cruising through the pages of the latest catalogs, I also noticed there are many new and clever mounting devices that work well with today’s cars and trucks; many of the new designs don’t require a hole to be drilled in the vehicle’s body, yet they offer a sturdy and reliable mount for antennas from HF up through UHF frequencies.

## Think Big

You might remember our previous col-

umn on hill-topping and the versatility a well-designed van can offer the serious operator who wants to head into the field or simply to Field Day. A “bare bones” new or used van can often be acquired for relatively little money and can serve “double duty” as an every-day vehicle if necessary.

One problem with a “bare bones” vehicle is that it’s basically a steel box, which can be noisy and at times irritating while on the road because it seems to amplify every sound. In other words, you can feel like you’re sitting inside a drum. We received a note from an experienced operator who has owned many such vans and he shares this bit of wisdom:

*Tim, K3HX, writes—*

“While not a hilltopper per se, I have operated van mobile/portable for many years. Here’s a tip for reducing noise inside the van on the way to your destination.

“To reduce the ‘riding inside an oil drum’ racket, run down to your dollar store and get a number of rubber ‘sink mats’ and use silicone adhesive (I have found General Electric RTV to give good service) to hold them to the panels where the windows would go if the van had windows. Also do this inside the side and rear doors and on the inside surface of the roof. These sink mats are about 12 inches by 14 inches and have a multitude of little suction cups on one side. Use the adhesive on the non-suction-cup side and hold the mat in place with duct tape until the adhesive cures. You may need padded ‘dead men’ sticks to hold the sink mats to the ceiling, in addition to the duct tape, while the RTV cures. Be sure the panels and mats dry and are free of grease.

“I’ve found this method to be the most cost-effective in dampening the racket. I tried the auto parts store ‘sound deadening’ mats, but the self-adhesive failed in the summer heat. Also, they were very pricey. The sink-mat method has been in use since my third van.

“To further reduce noise both on the road and when operating, you might consider automotive headliner material on the walls and ceiling. The stuff I use came from JC Whitney and was glued onto panels of ‘luan floor underlayment’ from the local home improvement store. I used 3M ‘77’ spray adhesive. The fabric-covered panels were then screwed into the ribs of the body with self-drilling screws.

“I put in a layer of ordinary house fiberglass between the fabric-covered panels and the body of the van. This adds



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## On the Cover

Tiverton, Rhode Island, sits between two of the Ocean State’s many bays, so perhaps it’s no surprise that Jeff Lynch, WA1VQY, likes to collect boatanchors. Of course, we’re talking about the radio variety here—classic American-made tube rigs from the ‘50s and ‘60s which have earned the nickname because they’re big enough and heavy enough that they just might work for that purpose as well! Jeff says he has well over 50 boatanchors in his collection—three of the four walls in his 15x15-foot shack each have three shelves worth of gear on them—and anything that’s on a shelf works (restoring boatanchors is another part of his addiction!).

Jeff has been a ham since 1975 (original call WN1VQY) and is part of a multigenerational radio family ... his grandfather (now an SK) was WA1CXF, his father was a long-time scanner and shortwave enthusiast (but never a ham), and his son is KB1OAL. Back when Jeff was 15, he went into an electronics repair shop looking for a CB rig. The owner, John King, WA1ABI, suggested that ham radio might be a better way to go.

“He hooked up a rig and made a CW contact with Michigan or someplace,” Jeff recalled. “I was hooked. Three weeks later, I took the Novice test in his shop ...” John has also become a lifelong friend and mentor, still helping Jeff to this day on restoration projects.

Jeff is mostly active on CW and loves to ragchew, although he loves the sound quality of AM phone on those old tube rigs. And by the way, the red can on the floor contains fuel for the kerosene heater that keeps his shack warm. Don’t worry, though, Jeff is the fire chief in the nearby town of Portsmouth, so he makes sure everything is done safely. And his cap is from the International Association of Arson Investigators, “one of the many hats you have to wear,” he says, “as the chief of a small fire department.” (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)



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some thermal and sound insulation. I used about half the thickness (1.5 inches) of the standard roll. I held it in place over the sink mats with 3M 77 spray adhesive. Use lots of ventilation with the spray adhesive."

Thanks, Tim for those "sound" suggestions. If any of you have an idea or tip to pass along, please drop me a note at the e-mail address shown on the first page of this column. Please also send photos of your mobile rig, and right now my inventory of good mobile photos is lower than a gopher hole in Death Valley.

### Mobile Operations— Staying Legal

This year a few more state legislatures have taken up the cause of trying to decrease accidents caused by distracted drivers. Sadly, a significant number of avoidable tragedies have been caused by drivers who were phoning, texting, adjusting their in-vehicle entertainment systems, and more, instead of driving properly. This point was driven home when I recently saw an SUV with a sign on its rear window stating the owner's daughter had been killed by a driver who was texting. I can't begin to imagine the grief of that parent.

While many jurisdictions have restrictions on using mobile phones, hams have been fortunate in "getting a pass" on many of those laws. However, we have the responsibility to use our radios wisely and in a manner that does not create problems, or we surely will feel the full force of those same laws that restrict phone use. Some common-sense tips include pulling over to engage in a detailed QSO or to write down that rare DX call you just bagged. Having someone else drive while you operate the radio seems like a simple solution when another driver is present. Of course, too, putting down the radio when driving during adverse weather or even in the hours of darkness could make the difference between a happy trip and an adverse outcome.

Remember, a great rig and a high-quality antenna are but two elements that make for an enjoyable mobile radio experience. A highly skilled, attentive, experienced, and *safely operating* ham is the most vital component that completes that picture. So when you're on the road, please keep in mind you're one of the few lucky people able to use the privileges of two licenses at exactly the same time. Happy Mobiling!

73, Jeff, AA6JR

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# “The Annual Pilgrimage”

Like the swallows that return to Capistrano each May, the hams return to Dayton, Ohio, and Hara Arena for the Dayton Hamvention®. This gathering brings the most hams to one single place than any other hamfest. This year is my 33rd trek to Dayton, and I look forward to it all year long. There are always a number of new kits released at Hamvention®, so let’s get started with a few previews of what is in store this year!

## 2012 Hamvention® Preview

**Hendricks Kits.** Hendricks Kits has introduced seven new kits since last year. A couple of kits, such as the SOTA Tuner and the Red Hot Radio transceiver, have been mentioned on these pages in previous issues of *CQ*. The popular low-cost Tayloe SWR indicator kit has now been matched with a case (photos A and B), making it one of the smallest QRP SWR devices yet! This kit provides a load for the transmitter regardless of the antenna being measured. That feature allows for tuning the antenna or using an antenna tuner without damaging the finals of a QRP transmitter, as many low-power transmitters have no SWR protection. Assembly time is less than an hour, and it goes together easily. This kit with the new case is sold for \$25 and is available from Hendricks Kits at <<http://www.qrpkits.com>>.

Also, Hendricks Kits is introducing its very first

\*7133 Yosemite Drive, Lincoln, NE 68507  
e-mail: <[k0neb@cq-amateur-radio.com](mailto:k0neb@cq-amateur-radio.com)>



Photo A– Front view of Hendricks Kits QRP SWR kit (photo courtesy of KI6DS)

160-meter rig, the Ft. Tuthill 160M CW transceiver kit. Based on the successful 15-meter CW transceiver kit of the same name, the Ft. Tuthill 160 brings the same CW performance to the 160-meter band.

A 41-dB step attenuator (photo C) is another addition to the Hendricks lineup. It is useful for test-

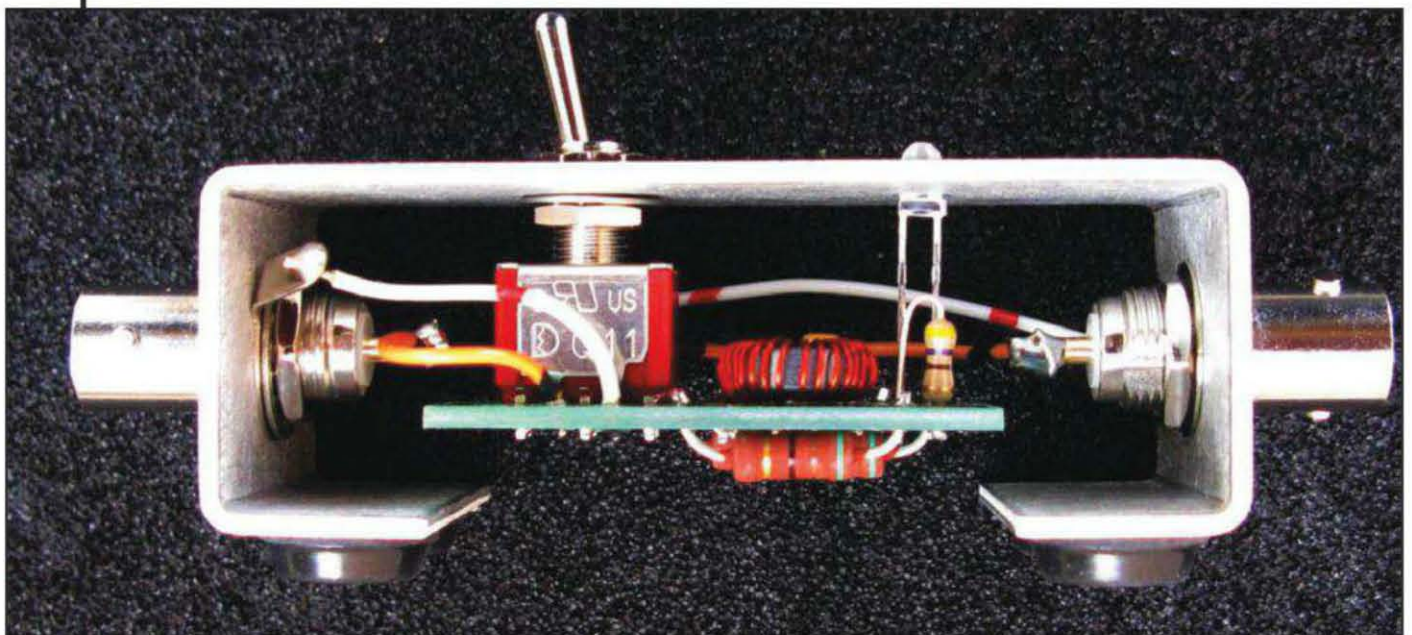


Photo B– Side view of assembled QRP SWR kit. (Photo courtesy of KI6DS)



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Photo C—Hendricks 41dB attenuator kit. The kit comes with case and BNC connectors. (Photo courtesy of KI6DS)

ing low-power transmitters and achieving a specific low-power output. The kit is easy and quick to build with its matching case and has no toroids to wind and no SMT parts.

Rounding out the lineup of new Hendricks Kits is the Weber tri-band CW transceiver kit. A follow-up to the Weber dual bander, this kit allows you to choose from any three amateur bands between 80 and 15 meters.

Look for Hendricks Kits this year in a new location in the Ballarena across from the ARRL Expo area at Hamvention®.

**Elecraft.** Elecraft returns this year with the hit of Hamvention® 2011, the KX3. The KX3 is a full-featured,

SDR-based, low-power portable transceiver that does not need a computer to operate. It operates for hours on a built-in battery pack for portable operation. The KX3 requires no soldering, as it is a modular kit. As with its predecessors, even the case requires assembly, and it goes together easily. The boards come pre-assembled, so assembly is straightforward.

Also look for Elecraft's new amplifier kit, the KPA-500. This 500W HF amplifier kit is similar to the K3 and KX-3 modular kits, requiring no soldering for assembly. Elecraft also has a line of mini-module kits that are easy to assemble.

See Elecraft in the North Hall at Dayton or at <http://www.elecraft.com>.

**Four Days in May.** QRPARCI's Four Days in May will host a buildathon as part of its program at Dayton. For \$45 the builders will get pizza to start the evening and a kit to build. This year's FDIM buildathon theme will be "Tools and Techniques" and will be led by Rex Harper, W1REX, as well as your columnist and other volunteers. As of this writing, the specific kit has not yet been named, but it is sure to be a fun time! In addition, on Thursday and Friday evenings at 8 PM, FDIM hosts a vendor night where a lot of kits can be purchased. For more information on FDIM, check out <http://www.fdim.qrparci.org>.

### Kits Return to the Shack!

A recent trip to a local RadioShack store revealed the presence of new kits! Real kits are now available at RadioShack. In addition to now carrying the Arduino, Propeller, and Basic Stamp boards, RadioShack stores carry a small selection of

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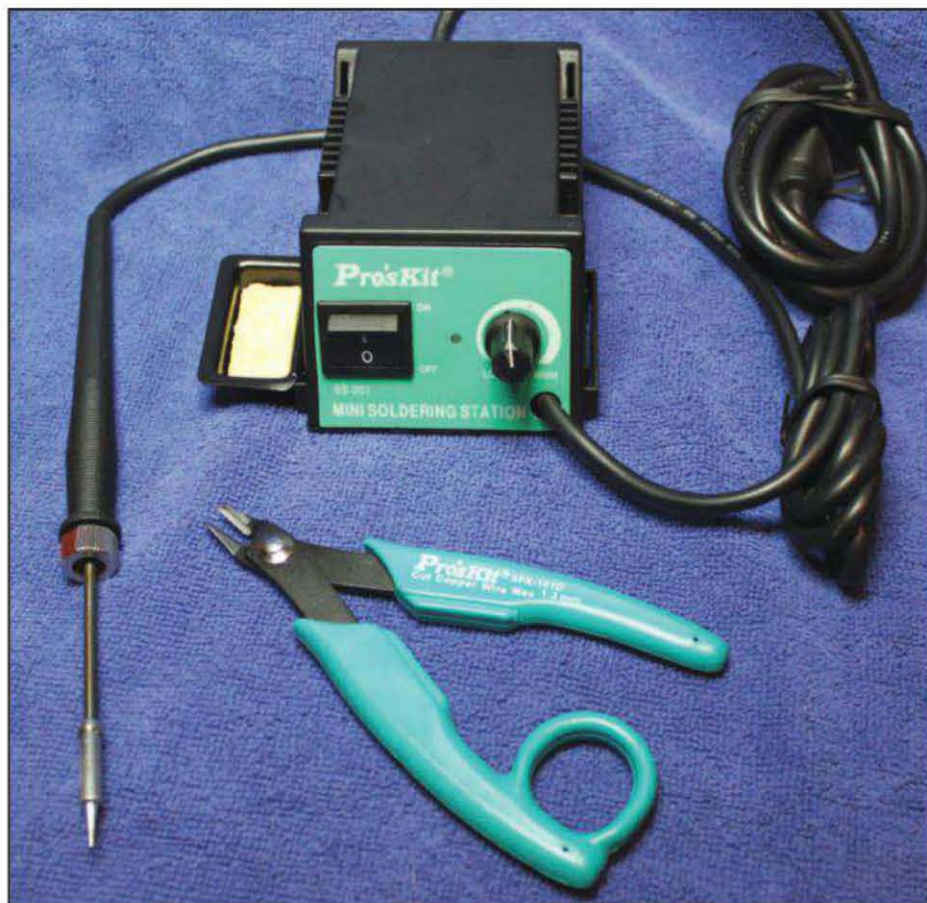


Photo D— Pro'sKit SS-201 soldering station and Pro'sKit 8PK-101D flush cutters.

the popular Velleman kits. These kits include simple beginner's kits such as a lighted heart and a chirping cricket, as well as an FM broadcast receiver kit. It also carries a Velleman audio amp kit as well as a power supply kit and a USB interface kit. There are lots of new kits to try and available locally in most RadioShack stores ... a welcome development! I have also found many of the same Velleman kits at Fry's Electronics.

## This 'n That

During a recent visit to a hamfest, I discovered the Pro'sKit SS-201 soldering station (photo D). This compact soldering station has variable heat, a very fine tip, and a very light handle. It is ideal for soldering boards with tighter spacing and surface-mount components. It sells for about \$40–45 at various vendors and does a great job! One of the vendors carrying the Pro'sKit line of soldering gear is AC&DC Electronics. Pro'sKit also makes a line of flush cutters, and I have found its 8PK-101D to be a great buy for \$7. AC&DC carries a variety of insulated tuning tools, a must-have for kit builders, and other useful items such as multimeters and scope probes. AC&DC's website is: <<http://acdcelectronics.net>>. You can

also find AC&DC Electronics in the flea market in Dayton.

Many of the vendors selling soldering tools also sell tiny cans of tip tinning material. Simply rolling your hot tip in this material rejuvenates the tinning on your tip and makes for much better solder flow. When looking for soldering tools, you might find small jars of paste flux also useful, especially when trying to solder thicker wire such as antenna wire or the braid on coax cables. Use it sparingly, but coat the areas you want to solder. You will be amazed at how much easier it is to solder heavy wires and braid as well as PL-259 connectors when you add a little paste flux. Be sure to use enough heat to adequately bond the solder to the wires.

## See You at Dayton!

As always, I'll be at the Dayton Hamvention® and will be presenting the Kit Building Forum on Friday at 1145, as well as other presentations. You might also see me taking photos of the latest kits! It is great to meet my readers in person, so look for the "Cat in the Hat" at Dayton and be sure to say hi!

73 de Joe, KØNEB

# Catching Up for Dayton

**A**s anyone who has attended the Dayton Hamvention® knows, there are a lot of items of interest to hams that become available at the world's largest hamfest in May. Realizing that the start of this great 61-year-old hamfest tradition is only days away, it is my intent to examine and review some of the ham radio accessories that have been made available so far in 2012 so that you be caught up by the time Hamvention® gets under way on May 18, 19, and 20, plus there will be many new products released at the 2012 big ham party in Dayton, Ohio.

## Bliley Zeus Series OCVCXO

Over at Bliley Technologies they've been working hard to introduce the second product in the Olympian family of oscillators, the Zeus Series OCVCXO (Oven Controlled Voltage Controlled Crystal Oscillators). See photo A.

According to a company press release, the Zeus Series offers customer-specified output frequencies between 30 MHz and 130 MHz with phase noise performance down to  $-178\text{dBc}/\text{Hz}$  at 100 kHz offset. The company reports that this series has exceptional performance with optional frequency stability versus temperature from  $\pm 500$  ppb down to  $\pm 50$  ppb. Excellent long-term aging is typically  $\pm 1.50$  ppm after 20 years. The package comes with an SMA female output and EMI feed throughs on all DC inputs. A RoHS-compatible version is available as the NVG108C, while the standard unit's part number is NV108C.

Bliley believes the Zeus family of OCVCXOs is ideal for phase-locked microwave signal sources such as DROs, low-noise test equipment, synthesizers, microwave communication systems, and radar applications. Hi-rec versions are available.

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



Photo A— Bliley has reason to be proud of its newest product, the Zeus Series OCVZXO oscillators which can perform as phase-locked microwave signal sources in applications such as DROs, low-noise test equipment, synthesizers, microwave communication systems, and radar applications.

For more information, contact Bliley Stocking Distributor, RFMW, Ltd., 90 Great Oaks Blvd. #107, San Jose, CA 95119. Bliley is available by phone at 408-414-1450, or by e-mail at <info@rfmw.com>.

## Nifty Guides Now Available for Alinco Radios

Nifty Ham Accessories, known for its series of ham radio guides, has recently added operating and programming guides for Alinco radios to its line of amateur radio products (photo B).

Nifty Guides for the following Alinco radios have been developed and are now available from the Nifty Ham Accessories web page and from many of the ham radio dealers carrying Alinco products: DJ-G7, DJ-G29, DJ-V57, DR-135, DR-235, DR-435 DR-635, and DX-SR8.

Nifty Guides are designed to simplify set-up and operating operations and ideal for learning about a new radio, or as a memory jogger for procedures that may have been forgotten. Guides are fully laminated for durability and are color-coded and indexed to quickly locate needed information. The new Alinco guides join the many guides that Nifty Ham Accessories has produced for Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu, and Elecraft transceivers plus other accessory equipment.

For the latest list of available Nifty Guides, books, and other accessories visit <www.niftyaccessories.com>.

## British InnovAntennas Now Available at R&L

British InnovAntennas has honored R&L Electronics as its first American dealer. This means that the full line of high-performance HF, VHF, and UHF

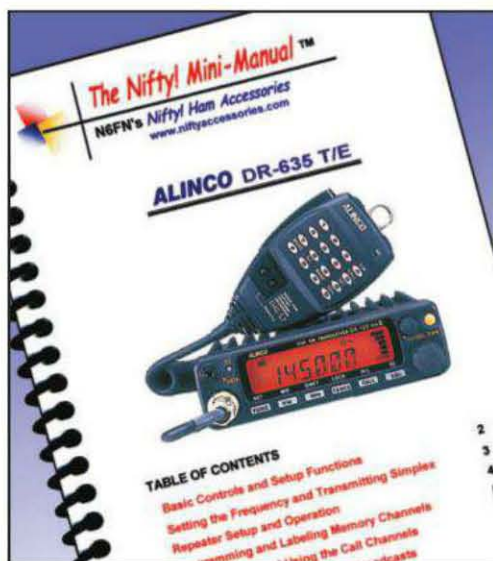


Photo B— Nifty Accessories has now added Alinco ham radios to its library of helpful booklets with the publication of Mini-Manuals about each of the models in the Alinco amateur line.

amateur radio antennas from fast-growing British company InnovAntennas are now available to customers across the United States via Hamilton, Ohio's R&L Electronics.

"Our customers have been hearing about the outstanding performance of InnovAntennas designs from their amateur radio friends overseas, reading about them in European journals such as *DUBUS* and from a handful of 'early adopter' American hams who couldn't wait and purchased InnovAntennas products direct from the UK," said R&L Electronics' Roger Smallwood. "We are proud to be the first American retailer to represent this exciting new brand.

InnovAntennas was launched in 2011 by Justin Johnson, GØKSC, after his hobby of designing antennas for his personal use led to a flood of requests to "make one for me" from amateur radio operators who recognized that Johnson's designs seemed to outperform the ones they could buy in a store. Today InnovAntennas is building antennas at a former boat factory in Canvey Island, England, and selling its products directly via <[www.InnovAntennas.com](http://www.InnovAntennas.com)> and via a network of dealers in Europe, Australia, and now, the United States.

InnovAntennas designs include LFA (loop fed array) and OP-DES (opposing-phase driven-element system) Yagis. Performance of GØKSC designs routinely top the charts in their boom-length class on the survey of moonbounce antennas compiled by VE7BQH and available online. (EMEers are among the ham world's most demanding operators.)

InnovAntennas America's William Hein said, "We selected R&L as our first American dealer due to its commitment to customer service, deep inventory, high order fill rate, great history, product knowledge, and enthusiasm for InnovAntennas' approach to design and construction. We look forward to a long, productive relationship with the gang from HAMilton, OH."

For more information, contact William Hein, AA7XT, at InnovAntennas America, Inc., 479 South 16 Rd., Glade Park, CO 81523; phone 888-998-8541 ext. 104, e-mail at <[Bill@InnovAntennas.com](mailto:Bill@InnovAntennas.com)>. You can also reach out to Roger Smallwood at R&L Electronics, 1315 Maple Ave., Hamilton, OH 45011, e-mail <[sales@RandL.com](mailto:sales@RandL.com)>, or by phone at 800-221-7735. More information about InnovAntennas can be found at <[www.InnovAntennas.com](http://www.InnovAntennas.com)> or <[www.RandL.com](http://www.RandL.com)>.

## MFJ: "For Top Portable Performance, Carry a Big Stick!"

Backpackers will be happy to hear that MFJ is now producing a portable mono-pole antenna that features a rugged 17-foot stainless-steel collapsible whip paired with an adjustable high-Q air-wound coil that can be disassembled to a length of 28 inches in just a few seconds. (See photo C.)

Also, when it comes to antenna efficiency, MFJ says this new antenna—the MFJ-2286 priced at \$99.95—stands head and shoulders above shorter backpack antennas.

This Big Stick eight-band vertical antenna features true backpack portability and fits into most any size packs, weighing just over 2 lbs. It's versatile, as well. It includes MFJ-342T pipe mount to quickly and easily attach to a 1/4-inch or 1/2-inch pipe or mast and offers general coverage from 7 to 55 MHz without gaps thanks to its tapped loading coil—great for ham bands and image-free shortwave broadcasts.

The MFJ-2286 is built to withstand the rigors of travel with its all-aluminum, stainless-steel construction that's rated to handle a full killowatt. With its counterpoise kit, it can also ensure low SWR, high efficiency, and maximum site safety.

The MFJ-2286 is protected by MFJ's famous NoMatterWhat™ one-year limited warranty. MFJ will repair

or replace (at its option) your MFJ antenna no matter what for one complete year.

To order, receive a free catalog, or for your nearest dealer, call 1-800-647-1800; fax 1-662-323-6551; write to MFJ, 300 Industrial Park Road, Starkville, MS 39759; or go online: <<http://www.mfjenterprises.com>>.

## DXE-UT-KIT2-D Complete Coax Cable Prep Tool Kit

From our "Always One More Thing To Write About" department comes some big help if you're the one who spends a lot of time preparing coax cables for ham radio applications. DX Engineering has put together this time-saving kit which provides all seven of the company's popular cable tools and accessories in a convenient carrying case (photo D). It features a rugged, lockable enclosure fitted with a precut foam insert location for each tool and spare connectors.

Included cable strippers prepare RG-8X, Belden 9258, LMR-240, RG-8, RG-213, 9913F7, and LMR-400 (not LMR-400UF). Spare blades for both cable prep tools are provided. Price of the complete kit is \$174.95. For more information or to order, visit <[www.dxengineering.com](http://www.dxengineering.com)>.

## Ham Radio Deluxe Version 5.11

The first software item we're going to look at in this column is the new 5.11 version of Ham Radio Deluxe and the features added by HRD Software LLC.

Ham Radio Deluxe has been around quite a while now in its various versions and has established itself as somewhat of a standard for hams who like to team a computer with ham radio in a number of communication disciplines. This latest version follows the release of version 5.1 on February 3, 2012 and is another step in the continuing project of the company to eliminate outstanding issues found in previous versions of HRD.

Rick Ruhl, W4PC, co-owner and lead programmer, tells us, "We'll continue to update the 5.1x releases with 'bug fixes' as the development of enhancements for the 6.0 release continues. Ruhl added that the company has plans to facilitate both bug fixes and enhancements to Ham Radio Deluxe by moving the development team and the program source code from the obsolete Visual C++ 6.0 development environment to the current Visual Studio 2010 development environment. He

*Photo C—MFJ's Big Stick vertical is a backpacker's dream antenna that can be set up as an 17-foot antenna or disassembled to a length of 28 inches in just a few seconds.*



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believes this major step enables a more straightforward, bug-free development process and better program integration using the more powerful VS 2010 and its support tools for enhancements to HRD. The 5.x releases of HRD are free.

HRD Software LLC has direct paid support available via phone and e-mail for the 5.1x products for an introductory price of \$59.95. This pricing plan includes version 6.0 at no additional charge. The introductory price expires upon release of Ham Radio Deluxe 6.0.

In keeping with the tradition of debuting new products at Dayton, the scheduled release of Ham Radio Deluxe 6.0 is May 18, 2012 at Hamvention® and online. The MSRP for Ham Radio Deluxe 6.0 with support will be \$79.95 when it is released. To download HRD products, visit <<http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/>>. You also can take part in the HRD Forum by going to <<http://forums.hrdsoftwarellc.com/>>.

### Amateur Contact Log 3.2 is Now Available!

Scott Davis, N3FJP, told us that ever since he released Amateur Contact Log 3.1, he's had lots of great feedback with one recurring theme—compliments on the new text and display enhancements. Now he says if he could only make the DX List bigger, his software would be just about perfect. Therefore, he's been working on that feature and now you can specify the percentage of the screen that the DX Spotting window uses, as well as its font size and color. The DX List size has been 10% up until now, but you can enter any percentage you like by clicking Settings > Appearance > DX Spotting List Size. Change the font by clicking Settings > Appearance > DX Spotting List Font and the color by clicking Settings > Appearance > Color.

In addition, he's simplified the downloading of Jim, AD1C's

latest country files from AC Log's menu options; click File > Download Country Files. This will download the country files to your N3FJP Software\Shared folder, which is where AC Log first checks for the latest country files. He says he is in the process of updating the contesting software to also first check in the shared directory for country files, so once that is complete, by using AC Log (or manually downloading the country files to your shared directory), HRD users should see it instantly and be able to update the country files for all programs.

He has also modified AC Log's eQSL upload sequence so that users have the opportunity to change their login info before the upload occurs. This is important to folks with multiple callsigns.

Finally, he's added a way for you to display your own 1000 x 568 splash screen graphic on the splash screen. He says you simply place a file named splash.jpg in the N3FJP Software\Shared directory in your Documents and Settings folder, but I'm going to have to test that first thing.

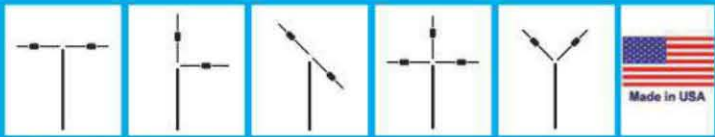
Jim adds that upgrading from version 3.1 to 3.2 is a pretty easy. Just download the latest from <[www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com)>, let it install in its own default working directory, and you will be all set. You'll find directions for upgrading from earlier versions on the website.

### RFinder for Apple iPhone/iPad/iPod

For all of you iPhone, iPod, and iPad hams who have envied those Android owners and their app called RFinder, your life may now be a little easier. RFinder has now been released for the iOS and is available at the Apple App Store. Just look for RFinder – The Worldwide Repeater Directory (WWRD) for iOS! RFinder already runs on the Android platform, open source via CHIRP on Windows/Linux/Mac, and the World



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Photo D– DX Engineering seems to have thought of everything you might need if cable preparation is your job at the next Field Day operation. The kit, complete with tools, is designed to make preparing cable easy.

Wide Web. Bob Greenberg says his people are working diligently with RTSystems to incorporate the Worldwide Repeater Directory (WWRD) into the suite of radio programming software. "We have opened up the directory so anyone with a Windows application can request our API toolkit to incorporate the WWRD into their applications," Bob added. "Your annual subscription to the WWRD works on all platforms. Just use the same user/password combination on any WWRD enabled application and you are ready to go!"

Bob says the software has been enhanced with callsign lookup and improved data for Italy, France, and Israel. In the future, he says the RFinder crew is "improving the back end" to support D-STAR and working to automatically synchronize D-STAR data.

Bob left me with this hint of what we might find in RFinder in the future (make of it what you will): "Satellite data with footprint visualizations!"

Well, that pretty well wraps it up for another month. Until next time, enjoy attending the Dayton Hamvention® May 18, 19, and 20 if that's in your plans for the month, and if not, watch it thanks to Tom Medlin, W5KUB, at <[www.W5KUB.com](http://www.W5KUB.com)> and his Helmet Cam. And, oh yeah, thanks for reading "What's New"!

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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# USA-CA and LoTW, plus Awards from the URC in France

In early January, the ARRL signed a formal agreement with CQ Communications to provide support for CQ awards with data from the Logbook of The World system. The first of the CQ award programs to be worked on is WPX. The other CQ awards, including USA-CA, will be worked on later in 2012. Just as with eQSL, there will be provision for either all LoTW or split applications, partly your QSL card data and partly the LoTW data.

Many questions remain to be answered, but the good news is that the long-awaited process is finally under way. Most importantly, please keep in mind that using LoTW is entirely voluntary. This is a tool that will be offered as an alternative to your physical possession of the QSLs/MRCs. Even today, with the availability of eQSL confirmation, only about 30% of USA-CA applications that arrive at my QTH make partial or full use of eQSL electronic confirmations. I suspect that the new option offered by the ARRL's LoTW will help control QSLing costs, but will not replace paper QSLs.

## The National Union of Amateurs and Radioclubs (URC) Award Series

In 1981, when I started collecting awards information, all of the information I gathered came via traditional (snail) mail. Since the early 1990s the internet has quickly replaced a large portion of receiving award information.

Recently, though, I received an envelope from France via snail mail with prints of a web page from the French group The National Union of Amateurs and Radioclubs Award Series (l'Union Nationale des Radioamateurs et Radioclubs). This group apparently broke away from the R.E.F. (the principal group representing French amateurs) over 40 years ago. The URC was founded in 1968 by F9AA who, unhappy with the decisions taken by the bureau of the R.E.F., the French IARU member, wanted to create an alternative association to balance its power, especially vis à vis administration of French amateur radio operators. While not systematic opponents to the French R.E.F., they chose to take a different path in representation of French amateurs. Since its creation, the URC has put the emphasis on technical skill.

The URC offers an interesting group of awards, some of which parallel the R.E.F. awards and others which recognize club and SWL interests. The awards are colorful, modestly priced, and are broken into classes which allow you to earn them with a modest QSL collection.

**General Requirements:** Awards are available to amateurs, radio clubs, and SWLs. Send GCR list with fee of 10 Euros or 8 IRCs. Apply to: URC, BP 40148, F-42012 Saint Etienne Cedex 2, France. Internet: <<http://www.urb.asso.fr>>.

**Departments of France.** Contact different departments of France on or after April 1968. The award may be earned by amateur radio operators, radio clubs, and SWLs. All HF bands and all modes are allowed. (Remember that the Department number is usually the first two digits of the postal code shown on the QSL.)

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

### USA-CA Special Honor Roll

Heikki Tamminen, OH3JF  
USA-CA All Counties #1221  
February 23, 2012

### USA-CA Honor Roll

500	2000
DC4A.....3563	OH3JF.....1420
DF7EF.....3564	
	2500
	OH3JF.....1336
1000	
LA9SN.....1823	
DF7EF.....1824	
	3000
	OH3JF.....1247
1500	
LA9SN.....1533	
OH3JF.....1534	

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 non-subscribers 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.

The award is available in four classes:

- Class 1: 15 departments
- Class 2: 35 departments
- Class 3: 55 departments
- Excellence: 99 departments

A list of French Departments can be found at: <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Departments\\_of\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Departments_of_France)>.

**Regions of France Award.** Contact/SWL French regions on or after April 1968. Any bands and modes may be used. The award is available in four classes:

- Class 1: 10 regions
- Class 2: 15 regions
- Class 3: 22 regions
- Excellence: 27 regions



To earn the National Union of Amateurs and Radioclubs (URC) Departments of France Award, contact different departments of France on or after April 1968.





The Regions of France Award may be achieved by contacting (SWL OK) French regions on or after April 1968. Any bands and modes may be used.

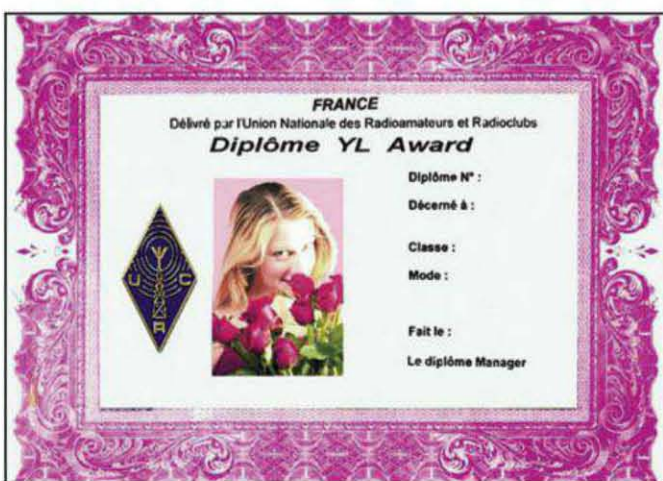


The Diplome Ecouteur SWL – Ecouteur Radio is issued in three classes for providing proof of receiving SWL cards (see text for details).

- Diplome of URC des SWL.** Available in three categories:
- A. SWLs: must have received cards from 25 different countries plus 10 French Departments. (Total of 35 cards.)
  - B. Radioclubs: must have received at least 50 QSLs including cards from 20 different countries.
  - C. Amateurs: must have received at least 30 QSLs including cards from 10 different French Departments.

We are always interested in learning of new awards for publication in this column. Please contact me at the address on the first page of this column with details and a sample.

73, Ted, K1BV



To earn the Diplome YL Award, contact/SWL YL operators. The award is available in three classes. Use of any bands and modes is accepted.

A list of the regions of France can be found at at: <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions\\_of\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_France)>.

**Diplome YL Award.** Contact/SWL YL operators. The award is available in three classes using any bands and modes:

Class 1: 15 French YLs

Class 2: 15 French YLs plus 10 YL of foreign countries

Eccellence: 20 French YLs plus 15 YLs of foreign countries.

**Diplome URC des Radioclubs.** The award is issued in three classes:

Class 1: Spell out the name "Union of Amateur Radioclubs" using the first letter or last letter of the callsign of stations contacted. The list of stations should represent at least three countries in each of the six continents.

Class 2: Spell out the same name as above but only using the last letter of the suffix of the stations contacted. The list of stations should include all six continents.

Class 3: Same as Class 1, except it must include at least five stations confirming an SWL report.

The following two awards are aimed at SWLs, but may be also earned by licensed amateur radio stations.

**Diplome Ecouteur SWL – Ecouteur Radio.** Issued in three classes for providing proof of receiving SWL cards as follows:

Class 1: 15 French SWL cards

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Eccellence: 20 SWL cards plus 15 French SWL cards plus 1 YL SWL card. (A total of 36 cards.)

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# “Rampart” and a New Cubesat

“Rampart” is among the words in the U.S. national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*, whose definition is not well known—unless you are military. A rampart is a broad elevation or mound of earth raised as a fortification around a place and usually capped with a stone or earth parapet. If you did not previously understand the words “O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming” from *The Star Spangled Banner*, you should be able to see that Francis Scott Key had to look over the rampart to see that the U.S. flag was “still streaming.”

At this point in reading my column, you may be asking, “What does Rampart have to do with amateur radio?”

One of the cubesat missions listed on the Morehead State University’s Space Science Center website (<http://ssc.moreheadstate.edu/missions/>) is named RAMPART. Now you may ask, “What does a cubesat have to do with rampart?” I have a couple of segues to go through in order to get to the answers.

Here is the first segue: Thanks to Rampart Hydro Services, which is located in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, rampart has acquired a bit of a new meaning. Rampart (the company) has used ultra-high pressure water to provide rubber and paint removal services for a variety of customers for almost twenty years.

Here is the second segue: Morehead State’s RAMPART mission is intended to certify warm gas propulsion subsystems and magnetic stabilization for cubesat orbital altitude adjustment. Those are fancy words that state that RAMPART CUBESAT will have a specially developed propulsion system that is designed to raise the cubesat’s apogee orbit from 500 km to 1200 km.

The cubesat will also be testing rapid prototyping methods of building one-piece satellite structures, propellant tanks, printed-circuit-board cages, erectable solar panels, antenna deployment mechanisms, etc., at a fraction of the cost of current methods.

That mission statement is a mouthful of goals for a two-unit cubesat.

Several students who are in degree programs at the Ronald G. Eaglin Space Science Center at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky, are building this two-unit cubesat with that special propulsion system. The extended acronym for the satellite is RAMPART CUBESAT, which stands for RAPidprototyped Mems Propulsion And Radiation Test CUBEflow SATellite. The university plans to launch the satellite on a Minotaur from Vandenberg in June 2013.

A paper authored by Gilbert Moore, N7YTK, et al., and entitled “3D Printing and MEMS Propulsion for the RAMPART 2U CUBESAT” unpacks the various components that will be in this cubesat. This paper was presented at the 24th Annual AIAA/USU Conference on Small Satellites, which took place August 9, 2010. The full version of that paper can

e-mail: <n6cl@sbcglobal.net>

## VHF Plus Calendar

The following is a list of important dates VHF Plus enthusiasts:

May 5	η Aquarids meteor shower peak
May 6	Full Moon
May 6	Moon perigee
May 12	Last quarter Moon
May 18–20	Dayton Hamvention®
May 19	Moon apogee
May 20	New Moon and a Solar eclipse
May 26–27	Fourth Weekend of DUBUS EME Contest
May 28	First quarter Moon

—EME conditions courtesy W5LUU

be downloaded at: <<http://ssc.moreheadstate.edu/missions/rampart/rampart.pdf>>. Below are excerpts from that paper that are reprinted here with Moore’s permission.

## Satellite Description

In its stowed configuration, the RAMPART satellite is a 2U (10cm × 10cm × 20cm) Cubesat that can share space with a separate 1U Cubesat in a standard 3U Poly Picosat Orbital Deployer (PPOD). Its total weight, including 0.6kg of propellant, is 2 kg.

The satellite’s bus structure is a 3D-printed and nickel-plated card cage into which are inserted a battery card, four printed circuit boards, and a multiple-antenna deployment system. The 3Dprinted battery card contains eight Sanyo HR-4/3AAUP Nickel Metal Hydride (NMH) batteries.

The first printed circuit board contains a data-handling and electrical power control system (DH/EPS) provided by Jim White, WD0E, of Colorado Satellite Services. He presented his design in a paper entitled “CSS Bus for Rampart” at the 2010 Spring Cubesat Developers Workshop at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in May 2010. The paper can be downloaded here: <[http://www.cubesat.org/images/cubesat/presentations/DevelopersWorkshop2010/3\\_0900\\_pcbsat-rampart.pdf](http://www.cubesat.org/images/cubesat/presentations/DevelopersWorkshop2010/3_0900_pcbsat-rampart.pdf)>.

This board also contains a 34mm × 68mm × 12.5mm experiment provided by Dr. James Lyke of the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles Directorate (AFRL/RV) to gather radiation performance statistics on three different types of plug-and-play modules—a radiation-hardened SPA-1 Applique Sensor Interface Module (ASIM) made in the U.S., a rad-hard SPA-1 ASIM made in Sweden, and a commercial U.S. PIC.

The second board contains an energetic particle measurement experiment, named DAVE, provided by Dr. David Klumpar, KD7MFJ, and his graduate students at Montana State University. Mounted on this board is a Geiger-Mueller tube identical to those flown by Dr. James A. Van Allen in 1958 in Explorers 1 and 3 to discover a belt of trapped energy particles around the Earth. The board also contains a 12.5mm diameter, 10cm long Neodymium permanent magnet with a field-strength of 703 Gauss at a distance of 10cm that will continually align RAMPART’s longitudinal axis with the Earth’s magnetic field.

The third board contains an AstroDev Be-1 2.4 GHz BPSK telemetry transmitter. The fourth board contains an AstroDev He-100 FSK/GMSK 437MHz/145.8MHz telemetry transceiver.

The somewhat soft electronic devices in this satellite have been protected by tantalum wafers to extend their lifetimes to the greatest possible extent in the enhanced

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Here are some of the articles we're working on for upcoming issues of CQ:

**"Take it to the Field" Special in June!**

- Flight of the QRP Bird...
- Operate Digital Modes Without a Computer
- Taking it to the Field in New York City
- The Tacoma Truck-Tenna

Upcoming specials: Emergency Communications (October), Technology (November).

Do you have a ham radio story to tell? Something for one of our specials? See our writers' guidelines on the CQ website at <<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/guide.html>>.

radiation environment to which they will be subjected during apogee passes.

Two sets of measuring-tape quarter-wave dipole UHF and VHF antennas and one monopole S-band antenna are also coiled up inside the bus. The telemetry boards and antennas are being provided by Professor Bob Twiggs, KE6QMD, of Morehead State University, and Nathan Fite, KJ4HVH, formerly of Morehead State University, now at Montana State University.

Attached to the front end of the satellite bus structure are four geared, double-sided, erectable 3D-printed solar panels on which are mounted a total of 32 SpectroLab triple-junction 26% efficient solar cells, covered by a combination of conventional and experimental cover glasses. The solar cells and cover glasses are being provided by David Wilt of AFRL/RV and mounted to the panels by Nathan Fite with guidance from AFRL. These panels are erected by an electric motor which has been previously flown in space on many occasions to actuate Planetary Systems Lightband deployment systems.

Bonded to an external face of the bus is another experiment provided by David Wilt to evaluate the long-term performance of advanced photovoltaic technologies, including a 4-junction 33% efficient Inverted Metamorphic Multijunction (IMM) solar cell, in a high-radiation environment. A 2cm x 2cm IMM cell is mounted next to a conventional 2cm x 2cm triple junction cell on a common circuit card for comparison purposes.

Attached to the back of the satellite bus structure is a warm gas (resistojet) propulsion system that was developed for RAMPART by Dr. Adam Huang and his graduate students in the University of Arkansas Department of Mechanical Engineering, using rapid prototyping and MEMS technologies. The RPS is contained in a 1U Cubesat that is attached to a 1U Bus that contains the remaining components of the satellite. It is based on a warm-gas (resistojet) configuration that raises the baseline vacuum specific impulse, Isp, of its propellant from 67s to 90s by adding heat energy to the propellant prior to its conversion to kinetic energy at the nozzle. The propellant of choice for the RPS is the pharmaceutical grade of DuPont™ Dymel®-134a (1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane or R-134a refrigerant), which is approved by the FDA as a propellant due to its inertness.

The propellant has zero potential of flammability, is non-toxic, and does not leave residual contaminants that would affect other surrounding systems in case of leaks or bursts. A key feature of the propellant is that it is a compressed fluid, which differs from a cryogenic fluid in that its molecular weight is relatively high (i.e., 102 g/mol) which translates to a high boiling point of 247 K. Operationally, this means the fluid is self-pressurizing at the design RAMPART satellite temperature range, effectively eliminating pumps in the system by using temperature to control the pressure.

Have I whetted your appetite for more about this ambitious project? If so, then please look for an expanded version of this digest in the Spring or Summer 2012 issue of CQ VHF magazine.

## Radio Amateur Encourages Engineering as a Career

The following is from *Southgate Amateur Radio News*:

Ali Guarneros Luna, KJ6TVO, has been involved in the development of the amateur radio CubeSat TechEdSat. In this video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=playerembedded&v=2vVzxL4bvcg>) she talks to teenagers at a careers night about her aspiration to become an engineer.

Ali was born in Mexico City and now lives in San Jose, California. She received her BS in Aerospace Engineering at San Jose State University in 2010 and will complete her MS in Aerospace Engineering from San Jose State University in 2012.

She currently works with the Edison Program, Small Spacecraft Payload and Technologies (SSPT) and SPHERES National Lab at NASA Ames Research Center. Under the Edison Program, Ali works on development of CubeSat projects, including TechEdSat, as the System Engineering, Mission and Ground Operations, and Launch Vehicle Service expert.

Under the Small Spacecraft Payload and Technologies Program, Ali works as Engineering Support for different missions, most currently in NLAS.

At SPHERES National Lab, Ali works as Engineer support for Ground Lab and Operation Support.

## Education and Amateur Radio

The following is also from *Southgate Amateur Radio News*:

The Villages Amateur Radio Club, K4VRC (<http://k4vrc.club.officelive.com/default.aspx>) in The Villages, Florida, has taken ham radio into school by teaching amateur radio and electronics as part of the after-school program.

Their work in the intermediate and middle schools has attracted the interest of the media including the *Daily Sun* and MSNBC.

This report (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=playerembedded&v=ePVPY57WTdU>) features 5th grader Cody Saucier, KK4GMQ, who achieved a 91% pass mark in his amateur radio exam.

## W4FF Silent Key

Frank Fugle, W4FF, longtime weak-signal operator, became a Silent Key earlier this year. Arnie Coro, CO2KK, wrote: "W4FF, our good friend in Florida, will be missed by us Cuban VHF operators. Whenever there was an opening on 6 meters Frank was there." Samuel Horton, KD4ESV, wrote: "Rest in peace, Frank. I first talked to Frank back in 1992. He will be missed by many. He was a great man."

## "The 50 MHz DX Bulletin" Ends Publication

"The 50 MHz DX Bulletin" has published its last bulletin, January 2012, Volume 23 Issue 1. It was originally founded by Harry Schools, K3HS, and later edited and published by Victor Frank, K6FV. Mark Moulding, KU7Z, wrote of its demise: "It was a great tool for knowing who was on and active from countries all over. Though the internet has taken over and supplies more immediate information, it will be missed."

## Current Contests

**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/>>.

**Spring Sprints:** These short-duration (usually four hours) VHF+ contests are held on various dates (for each band) during the months of April and May. Please check <<http://www.svhfs.org>> for a future announcement.

**2 GHz and Up World Wide Club Contest:** Sponsored by the San Bernardino Microwave Society, this contest runs the

second weekend of May. Rules are available at the following URL: <<http://www.hamradio.com/sbms/>>.

### Convention

**Dayton Hamvention®:** The Dayton Hamvention® will be held as usual at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio on May 18–20. For more information, see the website: <<http://www.hamvention.org>>.

### Calls for Papers

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

**Central States VHF Society Conference:** The Central States VHF Society is soliciting papers, presentations, and poster displays for the 46th annual conference on July 26–28, 2012. All aspects of weak-signal work on amateur radio bands of 50 MHz and above are sought. The papers will be published in the conference *Proceedings* and available at the conference. You do not have to attend the conference nor present the paper to have it published in the *Proceedings*. Poster's describing your project will be displayed during the two-day conference.

Presentations and posters at the conference may be technical or non-technical but will cover the full breadth of amateur weak-signal VHF/UHF activities. The presentations generally vary from 15 to 45 minutes, covering the highlights with details in the *Proceedings* paper.

If you would like to contribute a paper, presentation, or poster, please contact Rod Blocksome, KØDAS, CSVHF Conference Program Chairman, as soon as possible with the title and a short description. You can reach Rod at <[k0das@arrl.net](mailto:k0das@arrl.net)> or 690 Eastview Dr., Robins, Iowa 52328. Author guidelines and other details are available at <[www.csvhfs.org](http://www.csvhfs.org)>.

**Microwave Update:** The following is from Mike Lavelle, K6ML: The 50 MHz and Up Group is hosting this year's Microwave Update conference from October 18 to 21 in Santa Clara, CA, (near San Jose and San Francisco). See <<http://www.microwaveupdate.org>> for more info on the conference schedule, location, and hotel info. This is the first call for conference papers, presentations, and/or workshops on technical

and operational aspects of microwave weak-signal amateur radio in the centimeter, millimeter, and submillimeter to light wavelengths. Papers can be short notes to full-length technical papers, original work, or just handy hints and tips; new designs or surplus conversion tips, professionally engineered, or hacked on a shoestring budget. Tutorials and overviews are also welcome to summarize current know-how and to help and encourage newcomers. Papers will be published in the *Proceedings* and may also be selected for presentation at the conference. Some topics may be organized and presented as workshops (for example, construction and measurement techniques).

Questions, papers, or ideas for papers should be sent to the following e-mail address: <[mud2012papers@gmail.com](mailto:mud2012papers@gmail.com)>.

### Meteor Showers

May minor showers include the following and their possible radio peaks: *η-Aquariids*, May 6; *η-Lyrids*, May 9; *ε-Arietids*, May 9; *May Arietids*, May 16; and *o-Cetids*, May 20.

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

### And Finally . . .

It turns out that Jim White, WDØE, lives on Rampart Road in Parker, Colorado. Too bad that he does not live on South Rampart Street, a street in New Orleans that was made popular by the Crosby Boys and the Andrew Sisters in their Big Band hit *South Rampart Street Parade*. The street gets its name from the wall, or "rampart" (rempart in French) that was built on the north side of the street in the city's early years to fortify the French colonial city. I was made aware of this song by my wife, Carol, W6CL, who is a Big Band fan, as part of our discussion of the meaning of rampart.

Now what does all of this business about rampart have to do with VHF? I am sure that there are other Big Band aficionados who read this column, including Dave Sublette, K4TO, who happens to live in Kentucky—which brings us back to Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky, the home of the now under development RAMPART CUBESAT.

If you have something to share in this column, which may or may not be rife with ironies, please contact me at: <[n6cl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:n6cl@sbcglobal.net)>.

Until next month... 73 de Joe, N6CL

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# March Huge Solar Flare plus DX Around the World

**A**s I sit here this morning writing my column, and it is almost mid-March, I'm waiting to hear more about the *huge* solar flare rushing toward Earth at a reported 4 million mph. Is that right? *Four million mph*? It is being called the largest flare in five years, and there was not only one, but *two* of them. Right now we have no idea what will happen, although the news media is cautiously telling us it could affect our power grids, GPS signals, and radio/TV signals. It will be a few more hours before the effects are upon us, so I hope I'm able to finish this writing before that happens. (*Obviously, it was possible!—ed.*)

## Around-the-World Operations

By now many of you know that **T2T** did a really fine job of putting **Tuvalu** in logs around the world. The team ended up with 42,060 QSOs with 16,215 unique calls. They reported 29,130 on CW; 9,343 on SSB; and 3,587 on digital modes. QSL cards were printed and the mailing was expected to begin in mid-March by Bill, VK4FW.

**HKØNA** from **Malpelo** was a great operation, although pretty rough on the team. Not many DXpeditions have to climb mountains to get back and forth to an operating site, but these folks did. The final tally for this team was 195,356 QSOs with 91,791 on CW, 87,228 on SSB, and a whopping 16,337 on digital modes. That was quite a feat considering the environment they had to endure on the island.

In February we got the opportunity to work **Somalia** when Darko, J28AA/E76A, got permission to operate from the Hawane Resort for eight days as **6O3A**. Operating alone, he managed to put 8,657 CW QSOs in the log, including 523 in



*Mike Mraz, N6MZ, visited some friends in Europe. Here he is in the shack of Franz, DJ9ZB. Mike likes to go on DXpeditions, and you'll see his call listed in the logs of some of the biggest ones. (Photo courtesy of Franz, DJ9ZB)*

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

the ARRL CW contest, and added another 101 Qs on SSB. He operated on 40 through 10 meters.

In early March DXers got another opportunity to work a "rare one" when Elmo, EA5BYP, and Javier, EA5KM, got to **Equatorial Guinea** to operate as **3C6A** for several days. The transportation delayed their departure from there to **Annobon Island**, but they did get there to operate as **3CØE**. Unfortunately, a number of pirate stations were noted, making it difficult for DXers to know if they worked them or not.

The **Republic of South Sudan** finally got an "official" callsign allocation from the ITU. Henceforth any operations from this new country will use a prefix from the block "**Z8A through Z8Z**."

## Senegal Allocated 6 Meters

In late February, François Normant, 6W7RT, President of ADRASEC Senegal & IARU R1 National EmComm Coordinator for Senegal reported:

"ADRASEC Senegal is proud to announce that following its application to the Regulatory Agency for Telecommunications and Posts (ARTP), the band 50–51 MHz has just been officially allocated at WRC-12 to the amateur service on a primary basis in Senegal. ADRASEC Senegal takes this opportunity to thank ARTP for their unconditional support.

"This allocation will only be effective when the new ITU Radio Regulations come into force and therefore all contacts made on 6m before that date have to be considered as unauthorized."

He shortly followed up with an announcement: "As of March 1, 2012, the Saly Amateur Radio Club station (ADRASEC Senegal) will be allowed to operate with the callsign 6V7SIX on the band. 5051 MHz. This is a temporary authorization valid until the new ITU Radio Regulations (WRC-12) come into force, normally by the end of 2012. A dual watch of 50.110 MHz (intercontinental calling frequency) and 50.210 MHz (French calling frequency) will be performed by the Radio Club operators.

"Watch for the next opening on the Magic Band and call us!"

## Kilowatts for Australia

Starting March 1, 2012, the ACMA will accept applications from amateur Advanced licensees to use transmitter output power of up to 1,000 watts PEP from nominated fixed locations. The bands listed include 80 CW, 75 SSB, 40, 20, 17, 15, 12 & 10 meters. (160 meters is NOT included.)

For the entire story, go to: <[http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC\\_410285#](http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_410285#)>.

## PYØS, St. Peter & St. Paul

The Southgate Amateur Radio News has reported that the Brazilian government has banned ama-

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74.....K9AAN	

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**Asia:** KF2O

**Award of Excellence Holders:** N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, K2VV, VE3XN, DL1MDD, DJ7CX, DL3RK, W84SU, DL7AA, ON4QX, 9A2AA, OK3EA, OK1MP, N4NO, ZL3GO, W4BQY, I0JX, WA1JMP, K0JN, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CENL, W1JR, F9RM, W5UR, CT1FL, W4QMQ, W8ILC, VE7DP, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, N3ED, LU3YLW4, NN4Q, KA3A, VE7WJ, VE7IG, N2AC, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, W9DII, W3ARK, LA7JO, VK4SS, I8YRK, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6UL, W8ZRL, WA8YTM, SM6DHU, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, DK4SY, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, I2DMK, SM6CST, VE1NG, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H1BLG, KA5W, K3UA, HA8UB, HA8X, K7LJ, SM3EVR, K2SHZ, UP1BZZ, EA7OH, K2POA, N6JV, W2HG, ONL-4003, W5AWT, N3XX, HB9CSA, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF15D, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, W4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, I43PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, I4K4GME, VE9RJ, NN1N, HB9AUT, KC6S, N6IBF, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, H9BDZ, W0ULU, K9XR, JA0SU, ISZJK.

I2EOW, IK2MRZ, KS4S, KA1CLV, WZ1R, CT4UW, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, OE1EMN, W9IL, I7PVX, S53EO, DF7GK, S57J, EA5BM, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU0A, VE2UW, 9A9R, UA0FZ, DJ3JISW, OE6CLE, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, RW9SC, WA3QNW, S51U, W4MS, I2EAY, RA0FL, CT4NH, EA7TV, W9IAL, LY9BA, K1NU, W5TE, UA3AP, EA5AT, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, K4LQ, K0KG, DL6ATM, VE9FX, DL2CHN, W2OO, A1Z, RU3DX, WB9HH, CT1EEN, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, KT2C, UA9CGL, A5B, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, UA0FAI, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJU, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VG, UT9FJ, UT4EK, K9UQN, UR5FEQ, LY2MM, N3RC, OH3MKH, RA3CQ, UT3IZ, S55SL, RU3ZX, YO9HP, RA3DNC, K8ZT, KE5K, JH8BOE, TF8GQ, S58MU, UX1AA, AB1J, DM3FZN, AG4W, UA3QNS, RX3AGD, W5BJD, LY3W.

**160 Meter Endorsements:** N4MM, W4CRW, K5UR, VE3XN, DL3RK, OK1MP, N4NO, W4BQY, W4VQ, KF2O, W8CENL, W1JR, W5UR, W8ILC, K9BG, W1CU, G4BUE, LU3YLW4, NN4Q, VE7WJ, VE7IG, W9NUF, N4NX, SM0DJZ, DK5AD, W3ARK, LA7JO, SM0AJU, N5TV, W6UL, N4KE, I2UIY, I4EAT, VK9NS, DE0DXM, UR2QD, AB9O, FM5WD, SM6CST, I1JQJ, PY2DBU, H1BLG, KA5W, K3UA, K7LU, SM3EVR, UP1BZZ, K2P0F, I9TQH, N6JV, ONL-4003, W5AWT, N3XX, F6BVB, YU7SF, DF15D, K7CU, I1POR, K9LJN, YB0TK, K9QFR, W4UW, NX0I, W4RUA, I1EEW, ZP5JCY, KA5RNH, I43PVD, CT1YH, ZS6EZ, YU1AB, I4K4GME, NN1N, W5ODD, I0RIZ, I2MQP, F6HMJ, H9BDZ, K9XR, JA0SU, ISZJK, I2EOW, KS4S, KA1CLV, K0IFL, WT3W, IN3NJB, S50A, IK1GPG, AA6WJ, W3AP, S53EO, S57J, DL1EY, DJ1YH, KU0A, VR2UW, UA0FZ, DJ3JISW, OE6CLD, HB9BIN, N1KC, SM5DAC, S51U, RA0FL, CT4NH, EA7TV, LY3BA, K1NU, W5TE, UA3AP, OK1DWC, KX1A, IZ5BAM, DL6ATM, W2OO, RU3DX, WB9HH, G4PWA, OK1FED, EU1TT, S53MJ, DL2KQ, RA1A0B, UA9CGL, SM6DHU, K0DEQ, DK0PM, SV1EOS, N4GG, UA4RZ, 7K3QPL, EW1CQ, UA4LY, RZ3DX, UA3AIO, UA4RC, N8BJU, UA3BS, UA9FGR, UT3UY, WA5VG, UR5FEQ, N3RC, UT3IZ, RU3ZX, YO9HP, RA3DNC, K8ZT, KE5K, JH8BOE, S58MU, UX1AA, DM3FZN, AG4W, UA3QNS, RX3AGD, LY3W.

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 bands for the Award of Excellence are \$6.50 each.

## The WAZ Program

6 Meters	
109.....PEST	
15 Meters SSB	
653.....K2MHE	654.....K3PT
20 Meters SSB	
1204.....K3PT	1205.....WB6UQT
12 Meters CW	
60.....IK4WMA	61.....K9EU
17 Meters CW	
83.....K9UP	84.....IK4WMA
30 Meters CW	
104.....IK4WMA	
40 Meters CW	
285.....JG3LGD	
80 Meters CW	
91.....HB9ALO	
160 Meters	
395.....W0DD (31 zones)	396KH2/N2NL (33 zones)
160 Meter Updates	
W2YC.....(40 zones)	UT7EC.....(40 zones)
All Band WAZ Mixed	
8886.....W8MET	8889.....JA1DEU
8887.....DL5XJ	8890.....DJ9BX
8888.....SQ9OH	
SSB	
5199.....W8MET	5203.....VE3TMG
5200.....N3NBT	5204.....OZ8RH
5201.....VE1VN	5205.....JA1II
5202.....SV8PKI	
CW	
665.....SM2LKW	670.....W1CDC
666.....JA2FGE	671.....JE1TRF
667.....W8MET	672.....OZ4CG
668.....N4ARO	673.....G3LPU
669.....MJ0ASP	
RTTY	
227.....W2LO	228.....WK3N

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 CO awards is \$6.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CO mailing label or a copy) and \$12.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to Floyd Gerald. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQcheckpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. N5FG may also be reached via e-mail: <n5fg@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

teur radio operations from this archipelago. The Brazilian Amateur Radio League and other DX groups have begun a major mobilization among government representatives to try to reverse the decision. Stay tuned for the "rest of the story."

## Ron Wright, ZL1AMO, SK

*(A number of tributes were posted and here is only one of them...)*

"It is with great sadness that I report the passing of the legendary DXpeditioner ZL1AMO, Ron Wright, on March 6, 2012. He was 75. Ron was admitted to North Shore Hospital last week after he had a collapsed lung and was in stable condition at the time. He became a Silent Key earlier today.

"Ron was a serious CW op and would visit the U.S. Novice bands late in his DXpeditions. He had probably well over one-hundred DXpeditions throughout the Pacific, including 3D2RW, 3D2RW/R, 5W1CW, A35EA, C21/ZL1AMO, FW0BX, H44RW, T28RW, T28RW, T30BH, VR6HI, YJ0RW, ZK1CQ (South), ZK1CQ, (North), ZK1MB (North), ZK2RW, ZK3RW, ZL7AMO, ZL8AMO, and ZL9AMO, just to name a few! Many of these locations he visited multiple times between the late 1970s and 2002."

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of this DXing legend.

## Nepal

Mentioned last month, now I have more news of the new licensees in Nepal.



Satish, 9N1AA, reports that nine of the 21 who passed the test have obtained their licenses and were assigned the following calls: OM Sanjeev Pandey, 9N1SP; YL Nisha Shrestha, 9N1NS; OM Ganesh Gimi, 9N1GJ; YL Niva Upretre, 9N1NU; OM Pravin Joshi, 9N1KK; OM Khagd Sen Oli, 9N1KS; OM Surya Shrestha, 9N1SS; YL Kampana Pokharel, 9N1MM; and OM Tara Neupane, 9N1TN. (Note that most of suffixes of the above calls are the "initials" of the operator.)

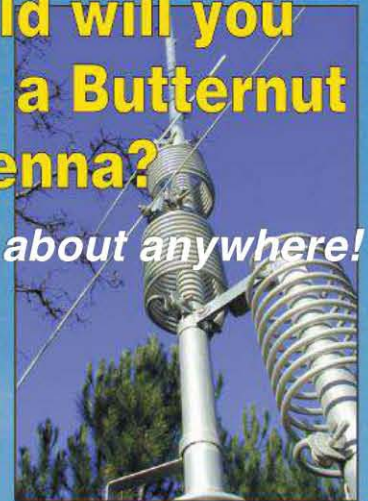
Satish, 9N1AA, is following up with the other 12 who have not yet applied for their licenses. Here is more from Satish: "A TS-570S has been donated to the club station by some "American

friends." My XYL Kalpana has started setting up a club station in Matatirtha, on the outskirts of Kathmandu. She is trying to get permission for a club license with the call 9N0MM for the Moran Memorial Station. This would be a common place for any 9N ham to operate from a good station. A Force 12 4C antenna is already there and a 60-foot tower is erected. Several dipoles and a rhombic for 3.5 MHz directed toward the U.S. east coast is planned. 9N1MM should be functional by the end of March, and by June we expect the 9N0MM callsign." (QSL Manager for 9N1MM and 9N0MM will be N4AA.)

In response to questions about 6-meter operation, Satish says, "I have

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## 5 Band WAZ

As of March 1, 2012, 872 stations have attained the 200 zone level and 1761 stations have attained the 150 zone level.

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 zones confirmed:  
G4IRN

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

N7US, 199 (18)	K8PT, 199 (26)
N4WW, 199 (26)	N8AA, 199 (23)
W4LI, 199 (26)	IZ1ANU, 199 (1)
K7UR, 199 (34)	IN3ZNR, 199 (1)
IK8BQE, 199 (31)	IK4CIE, 199 (1)
JA2IVK, 199 (34 on 40)	JK1BSM, 199 (2)
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)	K2ZL, 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)	

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

EA5GA (170 zones)      W8MET (170 zones)

5 Band WAZ updates:

K2FF (200 zones)	UA3TCJ (200 zones)
K6FW (184 zones)	SV1PL (200 zones)
NN6UK (183 zones)	JK1BSM (199 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>.

## CQ DX Awards Program

### SSB

2582.....N5KE

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.

## The CQ DX Field Award Program

### Mixed

122.....N5KE      123.....FG4NO

### Mixed Endorsements

OK1RD.....      HB9CQL.....100  
150, 1.8 MHz & 50 MHz      N5KE.....100  
KO6LU.....100

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.

operated on 6 meters with my IC-7000 with only a dipole, working Indonesia, China, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and Thailand."

## Cluster Spotting

I've been getting a lot of comments recently about the poor practice of spotting DX call signs on the various DX clusters.

Folks, if you can't copy the signal well enough to be *absolutely* sure of what it is, *please* don't put it on the cluster. This is not good practice and only causes problems for the DX station and many DXers around the world. Here's a specific case of my own on 40 CW a while back: JY5HX was on the low end and his signal wasn't all that loud. However, I saw at least two different variations of his call posted on the cluster.



The team that brought you TN2T, January 22–31, 2012, from the Republic of Congo. They logged 50,570 QSOs: 25,000 on SSB, 23,000 on CW, and over 2,400 on RTTY. (See the photos and stats at: <<http://www.tn2t.be/>> (Photo courtesy of the TN2T website)



Left to right: Minister of Post and Telecommunication; Director of Communications; and Darko, J28AA/E70A. Darko holds his license to operate as 6O3A. (Photo from the BHCC website: <<http://bhcc.ba>>)

## THE WPX HONOR ROLL

The WPX Honor Roll is based on the current confirmed prefixes which are submitted by separate application in strict conformance with the CQ Master Prefix list. Scores are based on the current prefix total, regardless of an operator's all-time count. Honor Roll must be updated annually by addition to, or confirmation of, present total. If no up-date, files will be made inactive.

### MIXED

6469 .....9A2AA	4229 .....I2MQP	3628 ..SM6DHU	2922 ...OZ1ACB	2116 .....AE5B	1667 .....SQ7B	1066 .....JA1CKE	684 .....FG4NO	620 .....PI4DHV
6177 .....K2VV	4228 .....N6JV	3540 ...KC9ARR	2716 .....W3LL	2192 .....N2SS	1655 .....SV1DPI	976 .....KM6HB	682 .....A18P	616 .....DL5JH
5797 .....W1CU	4187 .....K0DEQ	3475 .....N8BJQ	2544 .....W6OUL	2106 .....K0KG	1593 .....S55SL	964 .....K8ZEE	662 .....JA7OXR	600 .....IK1RKN
5303 .....9A2NA	4129 .....S58MU	3305 ...JH8BOE	2530 ...YO9HP	2084 ...WD9DZV	1463 .....NE6I	815 .....KL7FAP	653 .....KK3Q	600 .....KB9OWD
5142 .....EA2IA	4129 ...WA5VGI	3238 .....K1BV	2499 .....VE6BF	2004 ...W2FKF	1462 ...DL4CW	808 .....W6PN	650 .....N3YZ	
4785 .....N4NO	4074 ...YU7BCD	3231 .....W2OO	2493 .....I5RFD	1954 .....W7CB	1446 .....DF3JO	781 .....V51YJ	649 .....RA9OO	
4722 ...YU1AB	4022 .....N9AF	3207 .....W9IL	2476 .....K5UR	1936 .....AG4W	1383 ...IW0HOU	726 .....K5IC	647 ...PA0QRB	
4413 .....KF2O	4005 .....W9OP	3180 ...K9UQN	2445 .....AB1J	1862 .....VE9FX	1337 ...K6UXO	725 .....WK3N	644 .....KW0H	
4407 .....S53EO	3967 ...ON4CAS	3116 ...JN3SAC	2428 .....N6QQ	1818 .....KX1A	1322 ...AA4FU	723 ...K0DAN	636 .....ZS2DL	
4344 ...VE3XN	3813 ...WB2YQH	3091 .....9A4W	2338 .....I2EAY	1727 .....N3RC	1269 ...K5WAF	712 .....IS0EBO	634 .....	
4290 .....I2PJA	3773 .....IK2ILH	3007 .....W2WC	2304 .....N3XX	1722 ...VE6BMX	1116 ...YU7FW	707 ...W1E74OF	UA3LMR/QRP	

### SSB

5169 .....I0ZV	3557 .....N4NO	2741 ...WA5VGI	2326 ...CX6BZ	2094 .....I8LEL	1805 .....EA3NP	1480 .....AB5C	1089 ...IZ8FFA	883 .....WA5UA
4663 .....K2VV	3323 ...OE2EGL	2711 ...LU8ESU	2315 ...SV3AQR	2093 .....W2WC	1782 ...W6OUL	1464 ...VE7SMP	1083 ...KX1A	875 .....K7SAM
4632 ...OZ5EV	3259 ...CT1AHU	2652 .....I3ZSX	2310 ...K17AO	2076 .....K2XF	1776 ...JN3SAC	1463 ...I2EAY	1042 ...IZ0BNR	758 ...IV3GOW
4606 ...VE1YX	3108 .....I4CSP	2595 .....EA1JG	2294 ...N8BJQ	1971 ...W2FKF	1719 ...K9UQN	1410 ...S55SL	1031 ...IK8OZP	724 .....W3TZ
4584 ...F6DZU	3101 .....K0DEQ	2497 ...S58MU	2275 ...IK2DZIN	1935 ...SV1EOS	1623 ...VE9FX	1386 ...IK4HPU	1022 ...NW3H	717 ...K0DAN
4238 ...I2PJA	3022 .....I8KCI	2459 ...W2OO	2209 ...IK2QPR	1927 .....AE5B	1612 ...AG4W	1282 ...N3XX	1012 ...KU4BP	690 ...W6PN
4208 ...9A2NA	2903 ...IN3QCI	2451 ...EA3GHZ	2201 ...NQ3A	1889 ...N6QQ	1611 ...W2ME	1258 ...N1KC	1007 ...VE6BMX	640 ...UA9YF
3962 ...I2MQP	2877 ...YU7BCD	2449 ...SM6DHU	2159 ...DL8AAV	1879 ...K3IXD	1561 ...PT7ZT	1146 ...SQ7B	978 .....EA7HY	637 ...K5WAF
3825 .....EA2IA	2857 ...4X6DK	2416 .....W3LL	2131 .....N6FX	1844 ...YO9HP	1550 ...IK2RPE	1145 ...EA3EQT	976 .....NE6I	600 ...WA2BEV
3593 .....KF2O	2761 .....KF7RU	2333 .....W9IL	2098 .....K5UR	1825 ...KQ8D	1534 ...EA9DX	1117 ...WD9DZV	965 .....VE6BF	

### CW

5752 .....K9QVB	3750 ...VE7CNE	3042 ...I7P XV	2692 .....KA7T	2365 .....W2OO	1827 .....AC5K	1223 .....KX1A	1049 ...K5WAF	629 ...IV3GOW
5522 ...WA2HZR	3722 .....9A2NA	3025 ...SM6DHU	2632 .....W2ME	2245 ...W9HR	1665 ...YO9HP	1220 ...AA4FU	821 ...HB9DAX	615 ...JH6JMM
5483 .....K2VV	3676 ...S58MU	2843 ...N8BJQ	2502 ...JA9CWJ	2178 ...I2MQP	1548 ...WD9DZV	1210 ...DL4CW	813 ...VE9FX	600 ...IK2SGV
4316 .....N4NO	3587 ...WA5VGI	2804 ...K9UQN	2473 ...OZ5UR	2010 .....K5UR	1461 .....WO3Z	1165 ...VE6BMX	794 ...LA5MDA	
4228 .....N6JV	3471 ...K0DEQ	2730 ...IK3GER	2434 .....W9IL	1990 ...W6OUL	1445 ...EA2CIN	1160 ...AA5JG	753 .....F5PBL	
4024 ...LZ1XL	3347 .....KF2O	2723 ...EA7AZA	2424 ...W2WC	1983 ...EA7AAW	1424 ...N6QQ	1125 ...I0WOK	749 .....AE5B	
3918 ...VE7DP	3226 ...YU7BCD	2701 ...JN3SAC	2381 .....N6FX	1945 .....N3XX	1336 ...WA2VQV	1145 ...VE1YX	732 .....SQ7B	
3864 .....EA2IA	3223 .....W8IQ	2697 .....I0NNY	2373 ...VE6BF	1848 .....I2EAY	1312 ...K6UXO	1102 ...IT9ELD	695 .....S55SL	

### DIGITAL

1700 .....W3LL	1133 .....N6QQ	1056 ...WD9DZV	1049 .....W2OO	894 .....AG4W	866 .....SQ7B	643 .....K9AAN
1408 ...N8BJQ	1066 ...YO9HP	1054 .....KF2O	1009 ...GU0SUP	886 ...K0DEQ	685 .....EA2IA	

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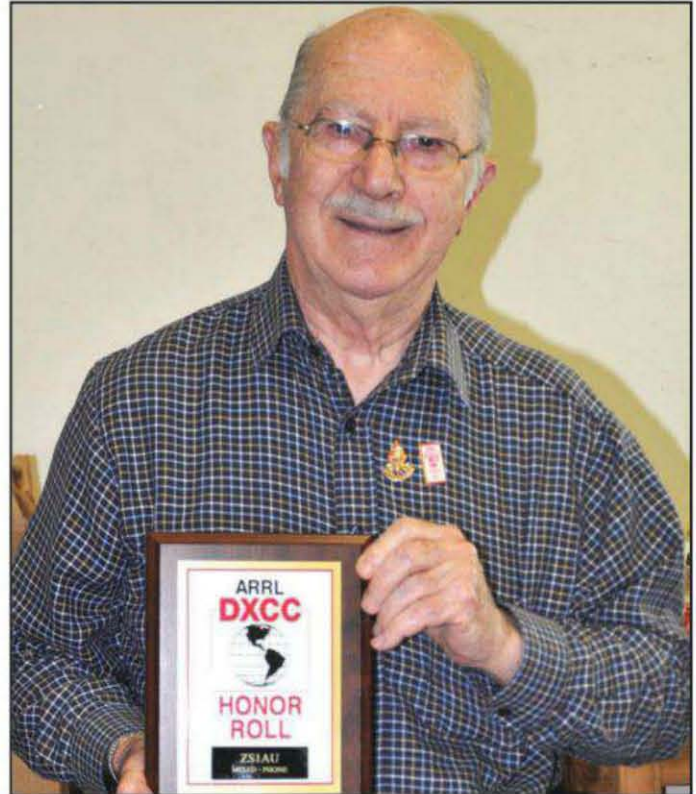


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www.dxstore.com



Nikolay, UX0FF, recently asked about rules for a WAZ via EME! He told Floyd, N5FG, CQ's WAZ Award Manager, "I'm active via moon bounce with new antenna. I now have 150 QSOs with 34 countries. I now plan to make WAZ on 2 meters. Now it's really possible ..." (Photo courtesy of Nikolay, UX0FF)



The ARRL DXCC Honor Roll is not the easiest award to qualify for from many parts of the world, let alone from South Africa. Dennis, ZS1AU, proudly shows his new Honor Roll plaque. Many years, many cards, but now it is his. Congratulations, Dennis! (Photo courtesy of ZS1AU)

Unfortunately, there was a lot of QRM on his frequency with many stations calling him constantly... *bad practice*. My patience was wearing thin, but I stuck with it until I could definitely confirm the callsign, and I worked him through all of the very bad behavior. Let me say it again... and again.... *If you don't hear it yourself, with a high degree of confidence, don't post it.* For those watching the cluster spots... *Look, Listen, Confirm* before you put it in the log.

Until next time, enjoy the chase and Have Fun!

73, Carl, N4AA

### CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll

The CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 175 or more grid fields. Honor Roll listing is automatic upon approval of an application for 175 or more grid fields. To remain on the CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll, annual updates are required. Updates must be accompanied by an SASE if confirmation is desired. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, K0KG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604.

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### QSL Information

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HB0/OK2QA/P via OK2QA	HE8CSA via HB9CSA
HB0/ON4DN via ON4DN	HE8CXZ via HB9CXZ
HB0/T93Y via E73Y	HE8DAX via HB9DAX
HB0/T96Q via E73Y	HE8FAP via HB9FAP
HB0/VU2PAI via VU2PAI	HE8ICE via HB9BHY
HB0BOE via DJ9ZB	HE8IPA via HB9IPA
HB0LL via via DJ9ZB	HE8XC via HB9XC
HB0XSV via DJ6QT	HE8XC/P via HB9DLO
HB9/HA0HW via HA0HW	HF100ZHP via SP6ZDA
HB9AV via HB9DUR	HF100ZO via SP2PTU
HB9EHJ via DL3OCH	HF128GWS via SP9PDG
HB9SPACE via HB9ACA	HF12HAITI via SP2FAP
HB9TK via DJ3FY	HF150LZ via SP4YPB
HB9VELO via HB9OCR	HF15PB via SP9YGD
HB9XGQ via DL1DA	HF1759BPK via SP3PJW
HC1MD/HC4 via K8LJG	HF18WOSP via SP5PWK
HC2SA via HC2S	
HC5AI via HC5NAI	
HC6JB via DJ9ZB	
HC8/DF8AN via DF8AN	
HE8BHY via HB9BHY	

(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>.)

# The YL Advantage— Perception or Reality?

**D**o female operators have an advantage when operating a contest? Opinion varies, but many feel they do. While young ladies (YLs) are still a small percentage of the hobby, their ranks are growing and there seem to be many more women on the air today than ever before. Some of the leading YLs from around the world had varying opinions on this topic:

“A YL voice stands out in pile-ups,” according to **Ann Santos, WA1S**, of Sharpsburg, Georgia. “I can’t remember how many times I heard in a pile-up, ‘The YL only.’” Santos, a ham for 33 years, is considered one of the best YL contesters in the world. She took first place in 1996, 1997, and 1998 in the single-operator low-power category in the CQ World-Wide DX CW contest. WA1S says, “I think more YLs should participate [in contests]. Contesting has always been predominately men, and there are many women who are intimidated by this. Women can be just as good as men.”

**Anela Karacic, E70YL**, of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, agrees. “I do not know of any disadvantages for YLs in contests!” Karacic says. “I think that YLs have some advantages because of the female voice, and especially YLs from countries where YLs are a rarity. Some OMs respect YLs and take a female callsign first in a pile-up. If you have a callsign with ‘YL’ in it, as I have in E70YL, it can be one more thing that can be to your advantage. My new callsign helps me a lot in pile-ups and when I am calling CQ in a contest or at any other time.” She continues, “I will tell you what I have experienced during my time in this hobby. Some of my friends who are not hams have asked me several times what I am doing in this hobby that is, as they say, exclusively for men. That is the reason why ladies need to be more active and stronger in this. Luckily I have very good friends who encourage me to be on the air.”

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



*Ann Santos, WA1S, at the controls of her PJ7/WA1S contest station in St. Maarten. (All photos courtesy of the subjects)*

Calendar of Events	
<b>All year</b>	<b>CQ DX Marathon</b> ( <a href="http://bit.ly/vEKMWD">http://bit.ly/vEKMWD</a> )
May 5-6	7th Area QSO Party ( <a href="http://bit.ly/yJJlqw">http://bit.ly/yJJlqw</a> )
May 5-6	New England QSO Party ( <a href="http://www.neqp.org/rules.html">http://www.neqp.org/rules.html</a> )
May 5-6	ARI DX Contest ( <a href="http://bit.ly/5tzdKp">http://bit.ly/5tzdKp</a> )
May 5-6	Indiana QSO Party ( <a href="http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html">http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html</a> )
May 5-6	10-10 Spring CW Contest ( <a href="http://bit.ly/TsaDk">http://bit.ly/TsaDk</a> )
May 12-13	CQ-M Int'l DX Contest ( <a href="http://cq-m.andys.ru/rules_eng.php">http://cq-m.andys.ru/rules_eng.php</a> )
May 12-13	Volta WW RTTY Contest ( <a href="http://www.contestvolta.com/volta45th.pdf">http://www.contestvolta.com/volta45th.pdf</a> )
<b>May 12-13</b>	<b>CQ WW Foxhunting Weekend</b> ( <a href="http://bit.ly/zBuff9">http://bit.ly/zBuff9</a> )
May 19-20	King of Spain CW Contest ( <a href="http://bit.ly/PE5ul">http://bit.ly/PE5ul</a> )
<b>May 26-27</b>	<b>CQ WW WPX CW Contest</b> ( <a href="http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm</a> )
Jun. 2-3	Alabama QSO Party ( <a href="http://bit.ly/AhHgus">http://bit.ly/AhHgus</a> )
Jun. 2-3	SEANET Contest ( <a href="http://2012sea.net/mambo/content/view/5/10/">http://2012sea.net/mambo/content/view/5/10/</a> )
Jun. 2-3	10-10 PSK Contest ( <a href="http://www.ten-ten.org/oseason/oseason.html">http://www.ten-ten.org/oseason/oseason.html</a> )

“YLs have a definite advantage when searching and pouncing in SSB contests,” according to **Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L**, of Wheatland, Wisconsin. “My friend once told me that we get an automatic 10 dB gain with our voices and it’s so true. I can’t speak for all YLs, but my only disadvantage is my inability to be a bit more cutthroat.” According to Hotzfeld, “I would love to see more YLs active in contesting as well as all other aspects of amateur radio. I think we bring a different dimension to this hobby.” She goes on to say, “Since I am new to contesting, I am soaking up every bit of information that I can to better my scores in hopes that someday soon you’ll see NV9L at or near the top



*Anela Karacic, E70YL (ex-E74EE and ex-T95LKA) from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

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73s, Gene

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Valerie Hotzfeld, NV9L, from Wheatland, Wisconsin.

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Rebecca Kimoto, VA7BEC, at the controls of her contest station in Delta, British Columbia, Canada.



Dawn Williams, KC9LQS, of Batavia, Illinois.

of the leader boards.” NV9L says, “I love the competitive aspect of contesting; competing against others in my contest club, the 9-landers, everyone in zone 4, and the U.S. But more importantly, I contest to better my score and QSOs-per-hour rate. That’s because my dream is to one day go on a ‘most wanted’ DXpedition. Contesting is also a fantastic way to quickly add a lot of new band countries to my log. Lastly, contesting pushes me to better my station, and in that category my enthusiasm most definitely exceeds my equipment.”

**Rebecca Kimoto, VA7BEC**, of Delta, British Columbia, Canada, thinks, “A YL voice seems to get through when OMs are having trouble being heard. In a pile-up situation, taking the YL is probably just one way of sweeping the pile, like taking ‘Kilo only’ or ‘DX station come again’. But I sense also that since YLs are few and far between in contests, the OMs are happy for the Q because it’s kind of rare.” Kimoto, a ham for nine years, continues, “There are no disadvantages to speak of. I like the fast pace of a contest, the challenge of picking out a call from the noise or amid a pile-up, and the opportunity for DX contacts and the chance to expand my DXCC wallpaper.” VA7BEC says, “A welcoming environment for all radio amateurs that encourages more people to get involved and have fun in contests is the most important thing.”

**Dawn Williams, KC9LQS**, of Batavia, Illinois, sees both advantages and disadvantages to being a female



Janet Robidoux, KØJE, and Janice Robidoux, KØJA, of Coon Rapids, Minnesota.



Donna Hinshaw, AG6V, of Petaluma, California, says, "YLs run the same gamut as OMs relative to skills, knowledge, dedication, and expenditures of money and time."

contester. "YLs do have a few advantages in contests. The pitch of the female voice provides a degree of gain that often helps in pile-ups. Less scientific but still significant, a YL's voice is often noticed simply because it is rare in contests. On the other hand, I find that being a YL has disadvantages as well. Primarily, women are often the primary caregivers to children and managers of the home. The 24/7 nature of those responsibilities sometimes makes it difficult to immerse myself as completely in contesting as I would like. With my youngest now in her teens, however, it's becoming a little easier. Another disadvantage some YLs face is that many of us came to the hobby later in life than a lot of our male peers. That means we enter the playing field with far less experience from which to draw, and in some cases, far less background in the sciences to support our new knowledge base. (Obviously, this applies equally to men who joined the hobby later in life.) Personally, I was fortunate to have been befriended by a number of male hams who are more than generous with their time and knowledge, and supportive of my growth in the hobby. But for a new



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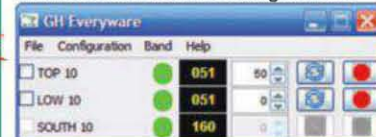
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ham without that kind of support from one's peers, mastering radio science is a much slower road." Williams continues, "In the five years that I've been licensed, I have never heard more than a handful of YLs participating in a given contest, and I'd like to see this change. More than any other operating activity, contesting creates challenging conditions that hone your operating skills, improve your listening capabilities, and increase your efficacy. To succeed as a contester, you must draw on everything you've learned, every instinct you possess, and every strength you've developed. The fast pace of the exchange coupled with QRM, fluctuating band conditions, and the unique operating challenges inherent in any given contest force you to think on your feet and trust in your ability. Once you can perform well and comfortably enough to call yourself a good contester, you've developed the skill to be a great operator under normal conditions."

Twin sisters **Janet Robidoux, KØJE**, and **Janice Robidoux, KØJA**, of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, have been active hams for 59 years. According to KØJE, what keeps them operating is the "mental and technical challenge; Janice is the technical guru. We do all our own station hardware and software set up, logging, and reporting. (Janet climbs the tower, but we had a professional install the Pro 67 antenna.) We consult with our MWA contest club members for technical advice." Robidoux feels that "There may be a small edge in phone pile-ups" for YLs. She continues, "YLs should participate if they enjoy doing so. However, YLs who work and have families find it virtually impossible to spend



*Susan M. King, K5DU, of Austin, Texas, participates in contests for "the thrill of victory and the agony of dupes. Contesting is fun!"*

valuable weekend time at the rig." Both women say, "We like articles that tell how to improve our station for contesting. Perhaps you could feature a YL who does all her own technical support rather than depending on the OM, to encourage other YLs to do so."

**Donna Hinshaw, AG6V**, of Petaluma, California, was licensed in June 2009 and operates CW almost exclusively. Hinshaw says she enjoys contesting because "you can really experience the propagation. With a contest there are so many stations on from around the world or around the USA that I can watch the propagation change and affect the ability to make contacts easily. Also, I enjoy the thrill of hearing someone in a faraway place send my callsign and the mental challenge of figuring out how to get my call answered within a pile-up from a little pistol station." Of the YL advantage, AG6V thinks "In CW/digital contests, I don't think so. In SSB contests, there may possibly be an advantage since



*Victoria Panagiotou, SV2KBS, in Serres, Greece*



*Cheryl Muhr, NØWBV, operating from Svalbard as JW/NØWBV.*

higher pitched voices carry differently and some OMs may choose not to respond." She continues, "On one hand, I don't think the distinction of YL or OM participation in contesting makes any difference; the contest is just about people out on the bands doing what they enjoy. On the other hand, I *do* think it is important for YLs to participate in contests, as well as in club activities, to let our participation be seen. YLs run the same gamut as OMs relative to skills, knowledge, dedication, and expenditures of money and time."

"In SSB there is a bit of 'Who is the YL calling?' but RTTY and CW are level playing fields," according to **Susan King, K5DU**, of Austin, Texas. A ham for 32 years, King participates in "mostly major RTTY contests, but I have participated in almost every other contest." She enjoys contesting for "the thrill of victory and the agony of dupes. Contesting is fun!" K5DU is one of a very few hams who "met my mentor on the radio and married him—K5NA." King says, "Contesting is the future of ham radio. We need more YLs participating in contesting." An unusual topic she would like to see covered is "the search for headphones made to fit on YL-size heads."

**Victoria Panagiotou, SV2KBS**, of Serres, Greece, has been a ham since

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2005. Panagiotou says, "I think being a YL contester is sort of a double-edged sword. YLs are really encouraged to get into it and actually have better opportunities than OMs—well, when on CW, you can't tell if it's a YL or OM operating—but if a woman makes a mistake and doesn't do as well, I think she's in an inferior position compared to a man. I think you really have to be a little bit better than the guys to prove yourself. And I like that!" SV2KBS continues, "Contesting is a hobby. According to 'N1FN's second law of hobby economics,' you can't make people want to do something. Therefore, as long as contesting is an activity that is dear to one's heart, giving joy and satisfaction to someone, namely a YL, then it's important for *her* own self to get on the air and devote the time to enjoy as much contest-RF as possible."

**Cheryl Muhr, N0WBV**, of Littleton, Colorado, has been a ham for 19 years. She likes operating in "all types (of contests) from Sprints to QSO Parties, Phone, RTTY, DX and local, YL, Field Day, and more!" Muhr says, "I like the challenge to improve myself. I am also a paper chaser and contesting helps me find countries/states/items I might not find otherwise." As far as YLs having an advantage, N0WBV says, "I think it could be either way depending on the contest. In many contests that use phone, the YL voice (or youth voice) is often used to pick out a station. It can get through better in a pile-up. During the YL-OM contests it is an advantage because OMs are looking for the YLs, but in the YL to YL contests, it can be hard to find/hear other YLs!" She adds, "It is important for the YL to participate in contesting just as it is important to get families and youth involved. It is a great way for YLs to get used to getting on the air because they have a 'set script' with the contest exchange and it is often less frightening than just calling CQ. We need every contester we can get!"

**Kay Craigie, N3KN**, of Blacksburg, Virginia, is the current president of the American Radio Relay League and an avid contester. A ham for 29 years, Craigie says, "The advantage is in phone contesting, where a YL's voice stands out in the bedlam. Even so, I like CW contesting better than phone contesting! When I can figure out how to take that 10 dB YL voice advantage down to the CW band, I'm going to knock people's socks off." She continues, "Contesting keeps my skills sharp. I enjoy working on improving my performance from one year to the next. I enjoy the intensity of contests. Because of my



*ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN, of Blacksburg, Virginia, says, "I think anyone who wants to improve operating skills, learn about propagation, and be stimulated to improve the performance of his or her station should try contesting. This is true regardless of age, gender, or other personal characteristics."*

ARRL responsibilities I don't have a whole lot of time to operate, so being able to knock out a boatload of QSOs in a weekend keeps me grounded in the real world of amateur radio." N3KN continues, "I think anyone who wants to improve operating skills, learn about propagation, and be stimulated to improve the performance of his or her station should try contesting. This is true regardless of age, gender, or other personal characteristics. I think it's important to identify and mentor the next generation of contest operators. Many outstanding contesters have gone to considerable effort to do this. They can see beyond their own personal glory and invite beginners to get in the chair and start learning how to compete. You don't have to be one of those big guns to mentor newbies. Last year, a Technician who hasn't been on the air much operated the ARRL 10 Meter Contest from the modest station at my house. It was her first contest and everyone agreed she could become a good contester if she wants to. Her OM is an excellent contester, so she will have good coaching, and I have a General class study manual with her name on it."

While female operators may still be a rarity in contesting, the perceived advantage that they have appears to be at least partially real, especially when operating voice contests. The ranks of YLs are growing, and some of the best operators in the world are women. Women also have a unique voice in amateur radio, with a perspective that may be different from men. For our hobby and contesting to grow and thrive, the opinions of all contesters should be listened to regardless of gender. 73, George, N2GA

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### Sunspots

Observed Monthly, February 2012: 33  
Twelve-month smoothed, August 2011: 59

### 10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, February 2012: 107  
Twelve-month smoothed, August 2011: 118

### Ap Index

Observed Monthly, February 2012: 7  
Twelve-month smoothed, August 2011: 7

## One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

### Sunspots

Observed Monthly, February 2011: 29  
Twelve-month smoothed, August 2010: 17

### 10.7 cm Flux

Observed Monthly, February 2011: 95  
Twelve-month smoothed, August 2010: 81

### Ap Index

Observed Monthly, February 2011: 5  
Twelve-month smoothed, August 2010: 6

Anyone who has operated on the HF (short-wave) bands knows how variable the ionosphere can be. Even without considering the other system factors of transmitter power, receiver sensitivity, noise, frequency, and so forth, the varying ionosphere is always with us, creating ever-changing propagation conditions that can make our DX hunting or evening listening to a favorite station a challenging experience.

When we listen on HF radio and hear those elusive signals coming and going, chances are that the changing ionosphere is the cause. Most of the time, HF signals are stronger at night and become weaker during the daytime. Those diurnal effects are easy to understand, because when the sun shines on the upper atmosphere, more of the gaseous atoms are converted to ions, and those charged particles multiply and expand the ionosphere to lower altitudes. At night sunlight is gone, so the masses of charged particles tend to dissipate and the ionosphere's reflection height is said to rise.

However, even when a radio circuit is entirely in daytime or nighttime, the signals still vary because the ionosphere is non-uniform. I've never seen the ionosphere, but I suspect it would look like undulating cloud layers, and here in the Omaha, Nebraska area I've seen lots of those!

With all that going on, how in the world do we answer that age-old question "When will good propagation occur?" The solution is to use a prop-

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## LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for May 2012

Propagation Index.....	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 9, 10, 15	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 5-8, 13-14, 16-18, 20-27	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 4, 11-12, 19, 31	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 1-3, 28-20	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 3 will be poor to fair (D-C) on May 1st through the 3rd, fair to good (C-B) on the 4th, and then good (B) from the 5th through the 8th, 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.

agation prediction program. Modern HF propagation models assume that HF signals "bounce" off a reflection layer of the ionosphere, and models such as VOACAP include elaborate ionospheric profiles that describe electron and ion density as a function of height. The profiles vary with day and night and are applied by the model according to each circuit's geometry. A long circuit may have several ionospheric reflection points—usually called *control points*—and the profiles may be different at each point. It takes a sophisticated computer model to keep track of all that.

Nevertheless, such models are based on average, or ambient, ionospheres. So how do they account for the undulating ionosphere that might vary from the average? The answer is that the models use a statistical computation to account for a range of ionospheric (and other system parameter) variability. And in HF system computations, those variabilities are expressed as *reliability*.

In the world of HF, *reliability* means *time availability*. For example, if our model predicts a reliability of 50%, it means that the prediction will be as computed or better during 15 days of a 30-day month. If we want a more conservative prediction, we could specify a *required reliability* of 90%. The

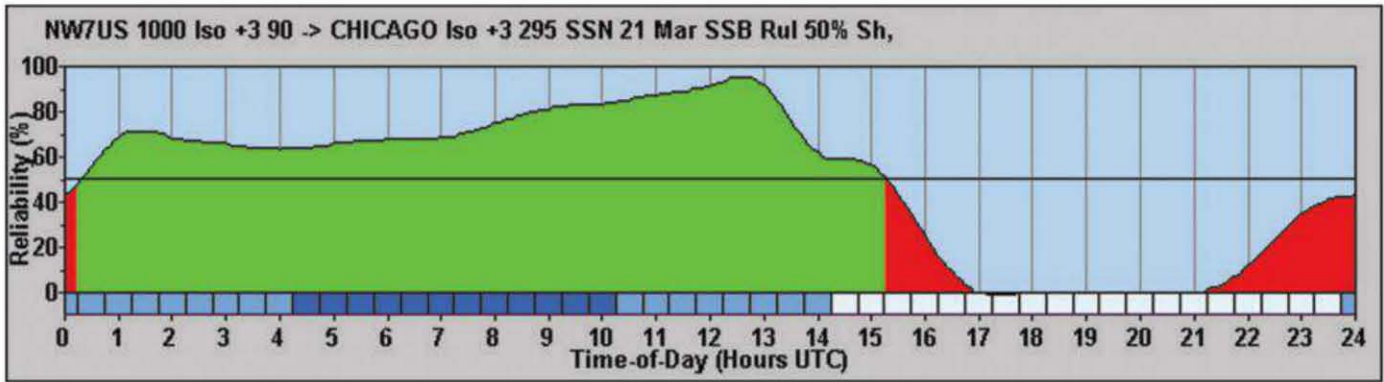


Fig. 1– The Reliability vs. Time-of-Day chart that graphs the path condition between a station in Washington State and Chicago, Illinois on 40 meters, where the horizontal black line at the 50% reliability illustrates an opening starting at about 0030 UTC and ending just after 1500 UTC. The signal is well into the green during this opening (see text for explanation). (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro <<http://hfradio.org/ace-hf>>)

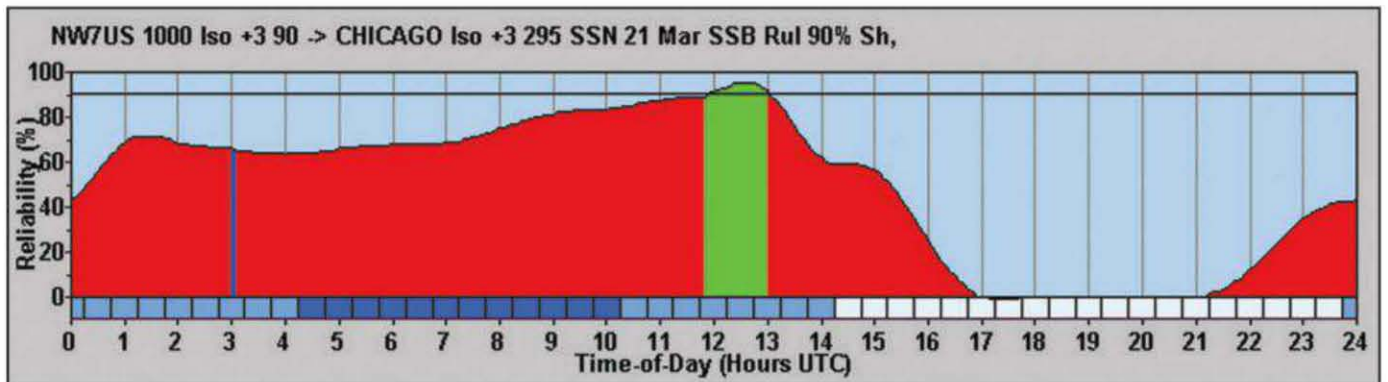


Fig. 2– The Reliability vs. Time-of-Day chart graphing the path condition between the same stations on 40 meters, where the horizontal black line at the 90% reliability illustrates a much more limited window during which the stations will have a reliable QSO. This is the window that will most likely occur during 90% of the month in question (see text). (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro)

predicted reliabilities that equal or exceed 90% are those which would exist during 27 days of a 30-day month. If we set our required reliability at only 10%, then the predictions would be less accurate, because they would show the conditions that would exist during only three days of a 30-day month.

In ham radio operation, most users set required reliability at a median value of 50%. However, for military HF systems, 90% is used. The military wants to know what connectivity will exist most of the time; they don't care what will happen only some of the time. A DXpedition will wish to use the same 90% value, as the team will want to know with a high degree of certainty when and where to direct their efforts.

Using ACE-HF (<http://hfradio.org/ace-hf>), I modeled a circuit from a ham station in Washington to one in Chicago, and first specified a required reliability of 50%. Fig. 1 shows that the Reliability vs. Time-of-Day chart is well in the green most of the time in the 40-meter band (7.1 MHz). That is, the predicted reliabilities are above the 50% black line of the chart.

I wondered what would happen if I used the more conservative required reliability of 90%? With one click I changed to 90% and saw the chart of fig. 2. Oh, oh. My nice circuit has turned to mud! Except for the daytime hours when even 50% wouldn't work (remember that lowered ionosphere), the predicted reliability is now below 90% most of the time. What to do?

Well, maybe I could increase power, but I was already using a 1000-watt power amplifier. I had specified isotropic anten-

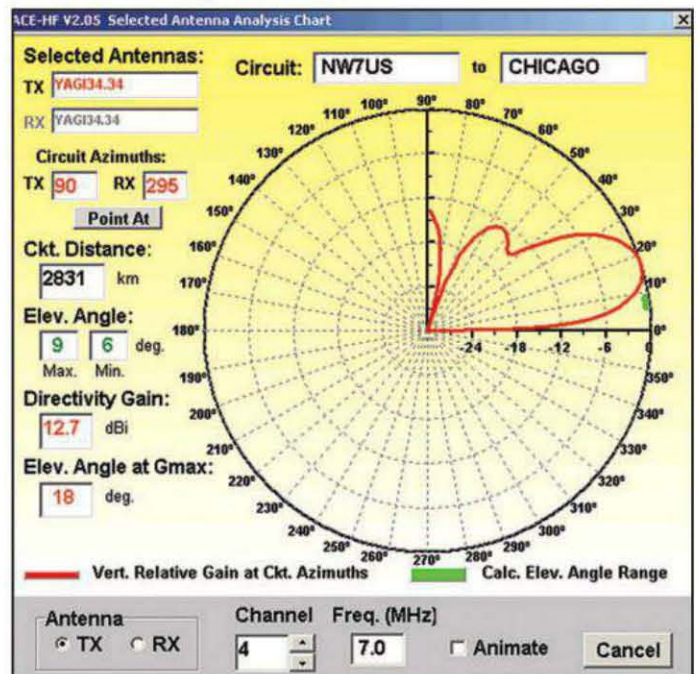


Fig. 3– A plot of the radiation pattern of a typical Yagi antenna designed for 40 meters, with a gain of 12.7 dBi. (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro)

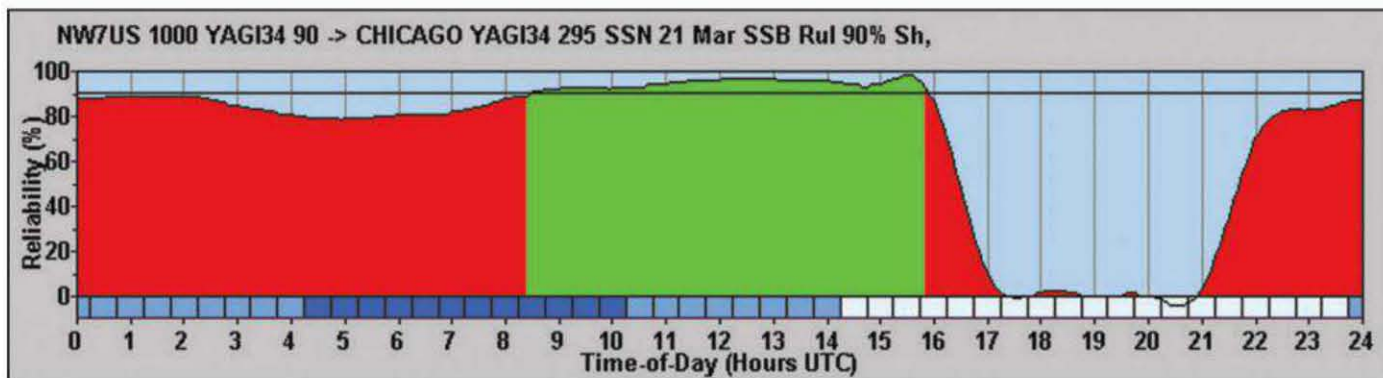


Fig. 4— Using a typical Yagi antenna designed for 40 meters, with a gain of 12.7 dBi, the reliability of 90% is more encouraging; the same 40-meter circuit between Washington State and Illinois is open for a much longer period of time than when using a lower-gain antenna. (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro)

nas with a gain of +3 dBi at both ends of the circuit, so perhaps I could achieve more power by using directional antennas. Using ACE-HF's antenna analysis capability, I learned that a typical Yagi antenna has a gain of +12.7 dB at 40 meters, as shown in fig. 3. That should work!

Sure enough, when I specified Yagi antennas at both ends of the circuit, I could enjoy 90% reliability over a much longer period of time, as seen in fig. 4. The band was still dead during most of the daytime hours, but it was nearly in the green the rest of the time.

But wait! Why is it that when I added 12.7 dBi of power gain at both ends of the circuit, 25.4 dB in all, the reliability didn't jump to 100%? After all, that much gain is like increasing my transmitter power level to more than 100,000 watts. The answer is that *reliability is non-linear*.

Just for fun, I did some testing, varying antenna gain by different amounts to see what would happen to predicted reliability. Starting with my original isotropic antennas, I produced the curve shown in fig. 5. Even with an equivalent power level of more than 100,000 watts, the predicted reliability almost never reaches 100%. In contrast, a similar graph of signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) would be linear; predicted SNR increases dB for dB as transmitter power and/or antenna gain increases.

Now here's where statistics come in. ACE-HF (using VOA-CAP) computes reliability as a function of SNR distribution, which in turn is based on the specified required reliability. If you specify 90% required reliability, then the model computes SNR at 90% as:

$$\text{SNR}_{90} = \text{SNR} - \text{SNR}_{\text{LW}}$$

where: SNR is the monthly median SNR

$$\text{and } \text{SNR}_{\text{LW}} = (\text{SIG}_{\text{LW}}^2 + N_{\text{up}})^{0.5}$$

where  $\text{SNR}_{\text{LW}}$  and  $\text{SIG}_{\text{LW}}$  are the lower decile values of SNR and signal, respectively,

and  $N_{\text{up}}$  is the upper decile value of total noise power.

These statistical factors are based on many years of field measurements in which distributions of signal and noise power were gathered during a wide range of ionospheric variation. Thus, when one specifies a higher required reliability factor, such as 90%, the statistical factors come into play and effectively reduce the predicted SNR and predicted reliability from their 50% median values.

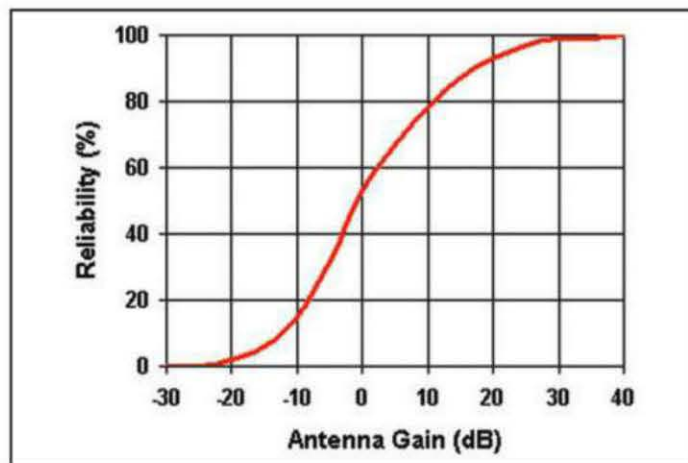


Fig. 5— A plot of reliability vs. the combined antenna gain between the two example stations. Clearly, using antennas with higher gain improves the reliability of the propagation in this 40-meter circuit (see text). (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro)

Getting back to my example circuit, I wondered what would happen to predicted reliability in the other ham bands. Again using ACE-HF, I created a Summary REL chart to determine reliability over the frequency range. Fig. 6 shows the result, where the green areas are for reliabilities of 90% or more and the yellow areas are for reliabilities of from 50% to 90%. The figure shows that the lower bands are favorable at night, but as daylight approaches the path, 20 meters and higher become preferred.

One other ACE-HF tool is useful for understanding the effects of higher reliability settings. As shown in fig. 7, I created an area coverage display around my example station and selected the combined reliability setting of 50% and 90%. In this case, I returned to the original isotropic antennas with +3 dBi gain each, and selected 80 meters for my frequency.

The resulting display clearly shows that higher required reliabilities result in more conservative connectivity predictions. In the figure the inner curve bounds the area in which reception with 90% reliability or more can be obtained. The outer, 50%, curve shows that we can be assured of much greater coverage if we don't mind that it may not be available on half the days of the month.

This month we have explored the effects on HF communications of the *reliability*, or *time availability*, of our prediction and have shown how variable ionospheric conditions are

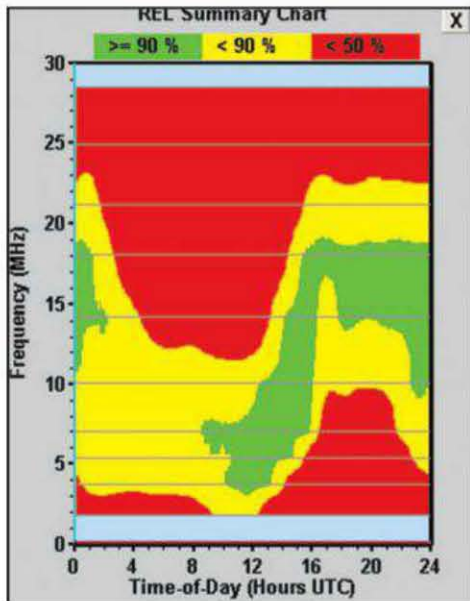


Fig. 6— Another way of looking at the reliability of the path between the two example stations. The green area reveals the time and frequency of an opening during 90% of the month, while the yellow area reveals openings between 50% and 90% of the month. Red indicates reliability below 50% of the month (see text). (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro)

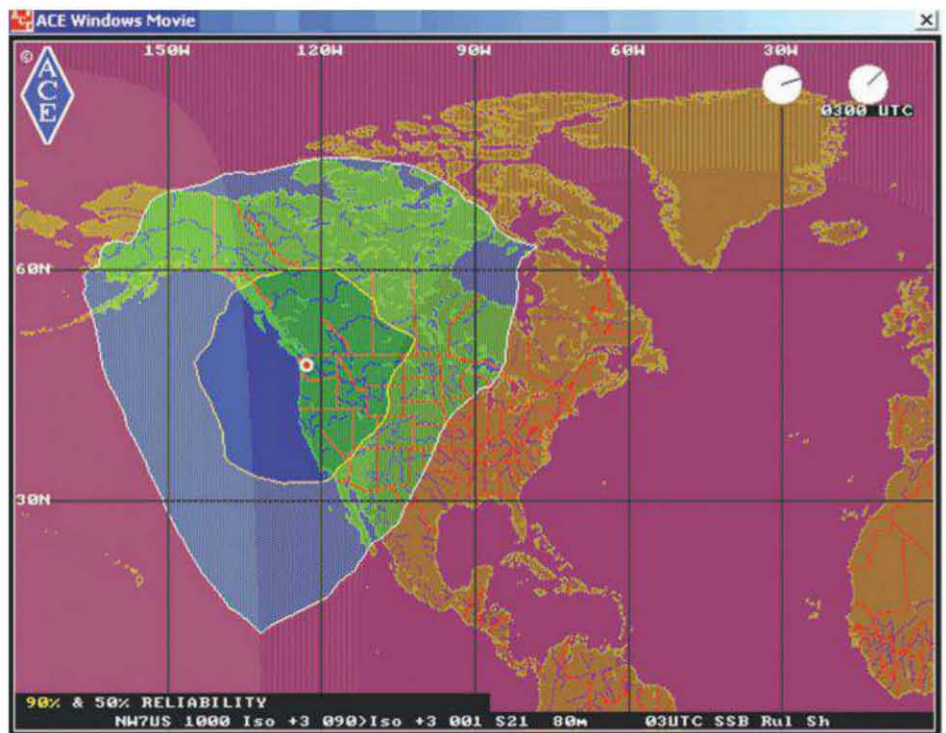


Fig. 7— The area coverage map produced by ACE-HF Pro for the 80-meter band, with a transmitted power of 1000 watts using isotropic antennas. The smaller, solid-blue footprint illustrates the area of likely coverage during 90% of the month, while the larger area is the likely area of coverage during half of the month (see text). (Credit: NW7US, using ACE-HF Pro)

accounted for by the statistical nature of modern propagation prediction models. As one might expect, the amount of power we focus on the ionosphere is paramount in determining the reliability of our circuit, and that power is a result of both transmitter power rating and antenna gain.

We'll continue diving into the science of the ionosphere and space weather, as well as using computer software tools that aid in understanding, analyzing, and predicting radio signal propagation. Stay tuned each month!

### May HF Propagation

As we move away from the winter shortwave conditions into the longer days of summer, the overall trend in HF propagation is the opening up of the higher frequencies into many areas of the world. Some of these openings will be longer in duration than during the winter season. However, the openings occurring on the highest frequencies on a given path can be highly variable in strength. These openings are subject to fading and could be short-lived. The cause of this change is complex. The length of daylight over a region of the ionosphere, the intensity of the solar radiation, and the density and height of the various layers of the ionosphere all

affect the propagation of the shortwave frequencies we're interested in. Winter daytime propagation over a given path may support higher frequencies than the same path during the summer daytime, while the summer nighttime frequencies will be higher than the winter nighttime frequencies on that same path (partly due to the proximity of the Earth to the sun, and partly because of the change in density of the ionospheric regions due to changes in the average temperatures).

On the higher HF frequencies (17 through 10 meters), fairly good daytime openings should be possible on paths running north and south during May. Fifteen meters will certainly be the best bet of the higher bands, with plenty of propagation also on 17 meters. Twelve meters will be alive on the days of the month when the flux is highest, and those days will also create openings on 10 meters, although the lower of the two will provide the most stability and openings. Another blessing this month is the

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addition of sporadic-*E* propagation to the *F*-region openings. This creates opportunities to make two-way communications between closer regions as well as worldwide DX.

Most DX signals, and the most stable paths, will be found on the middle and lower HF bands. Look for peaks in signals around the hours of sunrise, and again just before sunset and into the late evening. Daytime paths are best when they terminate in areas where it is night. This enhances propagation to remote parts of the world and lengthens the DX window. Twenty meters will be a great band, especially on north-south paths. Check this band around the hours of local sunrise and sunset.

Thirty meters becomes one of the great DX bands this month for those who enjoy CW and digital modes. Look for Europe and Africa early in the morning through late morning, then north-south openings during the day if the solar activity is lower. As sunset approaches, look for the South Pacific, then Asia as the sun sets.

Beginning in the late afternoon, and all through the night, 40 and 60 meters should provide good openings both on short paths, but also from Europe, Africa, and the east. Some DX should be possible on 75/80 meters, and even on 160 meters during the nighttime hours, but signals are expected to be mainly weak and covered by seasonal noise. Static levels also increase noticeably during May, and signals may sound weaker on DX openings during the daylight hours.

## VHF Ionospheric Openings

Possible occasional sporadic-*E* propagation will keep the VHF enthusiast happy. Sporadic-*E* ionization is expected to increase considerably during May, and fairly frequent VHF meteor-scatter short-skip openings should be possible. These are likely to occur over distances of approximately 1000 to 1400 miles. Although sporadic-*E* openings can take place at just about any time, the best time to check is between 10 AM and 2 PM and again between 6 and 10 PM local daylight time.

A seasonal decline in transequatorial (TE) propagation is expected during May. An occasional opening may still be possible on VHF. The best time to check for VHF TE openings is between 9 and 11 PM local daylight time. These TE openings will be north-south paths that cross the geomagnetic equator at an approximate right angle.

Auroral activity is generally lower now than during March and April due to the

change in the orientation and position of the Earth and magnetosphere in relation to the solar wind. Watch for *Kp* values above 6, which occur on days when we see coronal holes affecting space weather or the arrival of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) a few days after a major solar flare.

One meteor shower, the *Eta Aquarids*, will occur in May. The *Eta Aquarids* is a light shower, probably producing about ten strong meteors per hour. This shower has a good number of much smaller meteors that are not great visually, but can provide ionization off which you can ping a VHF signal. The shower starts around the end of April, but peaks between May 4 and May 8.

An interesting event will occur on May 20—an annular solar eclipse. The path of annularity will begin in southern China and move east through Japan, the northern Pacific Ocean, and into the western United States. A partial eclipse will be visible throughout parts of eastern Asia and most of North America (see <http://g.nw7us.us/ygGUCH>). This will create some interesting changes in the ionosphere, possibly affecting not only HF propagation, but any propagation of VHF that is occurring in the *E*- and *F*-regions.

## Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for February 2012 is 33.1, a significant drop from January's 58.3 and December's 73.0. This continues a three-month sharp decline from the steadily rising activity over the previous three months. Don't fret, however, because as of the time we go to print, our local star is bursting with new activity. As mentioned before and in last month's column, it is typical of the fluctuation expected during the rise of any solar cycle. The lowest daily sunspot value of 9 was recorded for February 8. The highest daily sunspot count was 61 on February 1. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on August 2011 is 59.0, up from July's 57.3 (we reported 57.2, last month; the keepers of the records sometimes make minor adjustments after a careful review). A smoothed sunspot count of 70, give or take about 9 points, is expected for May 2012. Note how this prediction is significantly less than what was expected for April (see last month's column). However, these predicted monthly figures are based on a mathematical model that is influenced by the overall trend; it cannot possibly take into consideration the dynamic nature of our

Sun. This cycle has proven to defy all predictions. It is this author's opinion that we're still in the rise of the cycle, and we'll see higher numbers again.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 106.7 for February 2012, down a bit from January's 133.1 and December's 141.2. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on August 2011 is 117.9, slightly up from July's 115.4 and March's 110.9. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for May 2012 is 134, give or take about 9 points. Note again that this is lower than the predicted figure for April.

The observed monthly mean planetary *A*-index (*Ap*) for February 2012 is 7, a slight increase over January's 6. The 12-month smoothed *Ap* index centered on August 2011 is 7.4, while July's was adjusted to 7.3. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to vary greatly between quiet to stormy during May, much like April; refer to the Last-Minute Forecast for the outlook on conditions during this month.

## In Closing for This Month . . .

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding this fascinating science of propagation. You may e-mail me or catch me on the HF amateur bands. Also, please come and participate in my online propagation discussion forum at <http://forums.hfradio.org/>.

Remember, *CQ* magazine is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/CQMag>. For space weather and radio propagation information on Facebook, please join this columnist's dedicated page at <http://www.facebook.com/spacewx.hfradio>.

Also, be sure to follow my Facebook as well as Twitter accounts. This will allow you to interact with me and directly ask about space weather and radio propagation. You can find the links to each account on my main web page at <http://NW7US.us>. Additionally, you can "follow" @hfradiospacewx for hourly "tweets" of space weather and radio propagation data such as the 10.7-cm radio flux and so on.

At the time of writing this column, I have moved from Montana to Omaha, Nebraska. This is the same area in which *CQ*'s "Kit Building" columnist Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB, resides. QRP kit building and portable operations are now being enjoyed, which in turn will inspire some upcoming discussions of propagation and QRP activity. Happy DXing!

73, Tomas, NW7US



*A9K	28,448	124	45	34	33	*VE3AJ	134,907	273	99	42	52	Senegal	JATAYO	543,932	619	179	85	59						
*K9WMS	26,790	106	60	25	10	*VE3GVL	121,952	251	101	43	62	*6V7X	A 2,478,894	2016	197	69	160	(OP: IK2F1L)	JF10PL	318,008	454	107	59	88
*N9VX	10,568	103	53	33	10	*VE3KAO	109,040	241	77	46	65	South Africa	JAT1V	214,146	371	133	61	53	JAT1V	318,008	454	107	59	88
*K9EMG	20,400	81	37	32	17	*VE3EK	62,775	192	66	29	40	*K9AKQ	221,325	407	107	47	46	J01VRV	140,611	278	116	55	26	
*K9CIL	16,416	70	47	32	17	*VE3MCF	22,052	125	39	13	22	ZSERJ	A 18,320	92	56	24	0	JL1DLQ	137,735	294	88	45	36	
*AF9J	14,220	84	36	23	31	*VE3RCN	12,000	64	32	23	41	*ZS1JY	A 24,929	89	43	27	27	JL1SGH	35,728	117	61	37	18	
*N9SB	13,244	95	27	23	36	*VE3WA	10,125	54	32	29	0	Sudan	JA1RTX	32,011	97	45	40	34						
*N9MSG	8,710	56	37	18	12	*VA3TPV	9,216	62	33	17	22	JA1KJW	26,093	114	45	32	0							
*AA9UF	5,326	55	16	11	14	*VA3FZ	3,384	34	18	17	12	J01KMS	23,290	108	54	27	4							
*KY9V	2,604	35	21	7	34	*VA3RJR	112	5	4	3	1	J1K1SB	2,263	25	21	10	0							
*AB1J9	21	221,650	631	82	27	34	VE4ER	A 1,089,786	978	215	84	148	J1FLX	28	272,745	680	28	45						
*W9VQ	659,698	258	64	21	18	VE5PCU	14	23,100	194	11	45	Asia	JL1SAM	109,595	366	57	25	33						
*K9PY	34,358	155	66	16	10	*V4SLF	A 484,410	625	133	67	135	Armenia	J1HGY	55,392	205	57	24	15						
*K9CIR0	7,729	47	14	4	4	*V4SRI	17,523	79	35	27	37	J1N1ROV	11,220	75	32	12	7							
*W9KVR	7	40,018	208	50	16	41	*V4SU0	4,524	47	15	16	21	J1DMY	21	38,130	149	50	21	22					
N0KE	A 1,652,820	1500	228	101	178	VE6RR	A 23,072	97	37	32	43	JR1HUA	14	21,666	114	42	15	12						
K0RC	1,552,629	1300	271	95	167	*V6BSQ	A 292,410	535	79	51	40	JR1LZK	A 1,039,218	990	183	85	111							
AB0RX	1,308,526	1394	189	82	162	*V6AAX	163,905	301	84	55	84	*JA1BUJ	996,450	969	212	96	82							
AC0C	1,066,968	1407	205	71	166	*V6EMO	48,786	167	46	37	58	*7N2UQC	495,112	602	163	82	66							
AB0LR	919,240	1006	242	92	156	*V6ESKY	7,812	72	11	12	40	*JA1HFY	251,520	408	136	79	47							
K16DY0	824,356	1093	178	60	144	*V6EJUT	2,898	31	9	14	19	*JA1FRO	199,520	342	112	68	52							
K0JWR	616,938	731	197	68	132	VA7HZ	A 30,723	118	34	40	59	*JA1JZ	191,178	308	124	60	50							
K0JPL	609,880	734	181	83	122	*V7HBS	14	36,087	272	11	10	48	*JA1EMQ	191,130	320	122	66	42						
N0BUI	494,845	796	139	54	106	*V7B7C	A 463,526	627	80	60	153	*JF1LMB	151,844	274	107	57	39							
WB0KGN	393,452	542	171	64	99	*V7ST	449,268	712	110	67	171	*JA1AZR	115,940	241	89	63	35							
K0FKX	348,268	510	171	80	81	*CF7AM	414,128	744	73	47	166	*J1L1AT	80,500	184	79	48	34							
K0WB	341,952	549	134	64	114	*V7B5M	211,250	416	81	51	118	*JA1IE	73,632	191	79	48	28							
K0RH	276,210	408	144	71	82	*V7FCO	50,362	154	54	33	62	*JF1MAD	71,012	164	84	50	30							
W0EIM	226,566	674	104	42	100	*V7PCP	24,415	127	25	23	47	*JA1MG	57,440	137	78	47	35							
K10F	162,792	300	125	53	60	*V7DXC	22,230	120	21	23	49	*JA1MFK	37,940	129	56	44	40							
W0SHL	122,008	249	121	45	36	*V7BGP	8,360	53	24	24	28	*JA1RRR	36,828	128	58	33	17							
K0MD	109,620	329	83	49	71	*V7MM	9,676	79	20	15	24	*JA1SKK	27,810	110	41	28	21							
K0LDS	64,248	160	65	40	36	CG9HF	A 222,456	415	104	50	94	*7K2PZG	25,960	91	71	40	7							
N0KBD	42,048	196	56	34	54	(OP: V9HF)						*7M400S	23,940	133	41	16	13							
K0RET	37,660	147	55	32	53	*T1ZWMP	14	1,032	19	17	7	0	*JA1OHP	23,900	90	48	37	15						
K0FYA	33,909	113	91	34	2	*T1ZKAC	7	4,961	49	27	9	5	*7M400Q	23,900	90	48	37	15						
K0HIA	32,520	101	64	48	13	Cuba						*7M400R	23,900	90	48	37	15							
K0BTZ	11,869	65	23	20	20	C02QM	A 15,604	101	39	22	33	*7M1MCMY	21,216	91	50	32	14							
KADVXK	4,675	49	20	18	17	*C03JN	A 890,668	896	211	72	145	*J1V1RU	20,944	93	42	27	19							
K0LD	588	14	10	4	0	*C02NO	615,986	855	146	47	129	*JA1PTO	11,180	64	37	21	7							
W5AP/0	21	40,000	192	51	22	27	*C02RP	540,973	700	171	62	114	*JF1DAJ	11,026	60	36	26	12						
N0KO	10,440	84	28	15	15	*C02MS	226,460	402	124	44	92	*J1PHUJ	9,632	68	30	14	12							
KT0DX	14	148,000	640	68	28	52	*C02CML	181,420	400	94	36	63	*JA1CJZ	7,296	49	20	15	22						
W0GJ	7	160,016	707	62	21	54	*C02VE	156,114	375	87	26	76	*JA1CZC	6,276	48	22	19	14						
*N10F	A 871,579	1054	197	67	145	*C02GJ	87,132	290	93	40	79	*JA1KBC	4,236	34	20	15	11							
*K0MPH	463,996	664	164	63	113	*C02Z	56,834	163	80	37	40	*JA1KE	3,652	32	18	15	11							
*K0AD	254,811	575	149	108	108	*C02ZK	38,907	132	62	33	36	*JA1KLB	2,788	33	23	16	2							
*N10L	226,825	426	123	49	43	*C02H	25,900	148	64	36	48	*J1L1RT	2,196	22	15	12	9							
*WX0J	197,358	410	123	58	78	*C02GL	21,432	120	33	18	43	*JA1PY	1,485	20	17	10	0							
*K0BJ	183,456	320	126	63	63	*C02W	19,588	129	50	34	34	*JA5IN/1	1,363	25	16	13	0							
*W0TUP	175,436	408	100	47	97	*C08TW	28	56,551	267	40	16	41	*J01EOL	1,353	27	20	12	1						
*K50T	139,037	321	104	50	103	*C02CW	14	55,224	243	55	22	40	*7K30ZD	1,033	11	6	4	3						
*K1ING/0	138,992	355	96	47	95	*C02EC	17	17,056	105	43	15	24	*J1H1XZ	51,243	205	53	24	25						
*W0RK	129,408	277	105	50	37	*C02Y	7	50,217	267	46	15	43	*J1H1WOC	22,052	108	42	22	10						
*N0MK	124,712	267	105	57	36	*C02KY	23,463	152	43	12	24	*J1H1FJ	10,494	79	28	19	6							
*W0ALJ	105,600	250	81	40	34	*C02X	22,848	121	40	13	31	*J1K1NSR	65,624	231	59	24	21							
*W0OVM	88,862	229	111	46	0	*C02XP	6,032	65	33	11	14	*J1P1PJ	28,336	128	35	19	23							
*K0OB	73,616	228	72	42	58	*C02OR0	4,216	78	34	12	16	*J1K1OM	15,975	99	19	13	0							
*W0GM	71,708	303	47	32	103	*C02RR	2,268	130	40	14	30	*J1B1BN	14,616	98	40	15	3							
*W0AGUD	69,006	210	89	45	25	Dominican Republic						*J1K1M	4,970	52	28	7	0							
*W0OQL	66,584	199	77	35	52	H18PJ	14	79,686	321	55	18	41	*J1EWD	4,536	48	22	13	7						
*K7RE/0	58,078	345	47	25	70	*H18TE	A 2,436,352	2060	225	83	188	*J1TEU	14	13,920	80	34	25	7						
*K0WA	40,950	135	72	34	52	*H18PLE/7	28	20,345	119	33	13	17	*J1RRK	6,890	80	32	17	6						
*N0DLJ	38,766	154	56	34	52	(OP: H18PLE/7)						*J1RU0M	1,755	23	13	13	3							
*K0A0C	35,557	144	47	37	47	*H18TT	14	38,016	186	40	19	37	*J1G1ZB	925	22	10	11	4						
*W0PC	19,647	99	37	35	39	Guadeloupe						*J1K1LY	66	6	0	0	0							
*W0VB	18,139	83	56	31	10	H18JLA	21	188,110	593	62	21	47	*J1APZ	7	28,914	138	42	23	14					
*K10B	16,617	72	48	26	13	*FG4NO	28	265,275	796	60	21	50	Asia											
*K0REN	16,585	101	34	30	43	Guatemala						Azerbaijan												
*W0OULX	16,450	79	40	27	27	TG9SM	14	25,080	197	23	14	39	*4K9W	A 82,315	325	80	19	2						
*N0SO	14,758	87	42	27	25	TG9AD	10	20,769	154	14	10	45	China											
*K0W1J	13,428	85	30	22	37	*TG9ANF	14	238,149	789	61	24	56	BD4QH	A 273,764	649	106	51	21						
*K0NHW	13,355	97	31	22	34	Jamaica						B4TB	12,859	65	43	29	5							
*K0WY	8,412	64	20	13	3	6Y6U	A 6,010,598	3779	294	97	247	BA1RB	3,219	37	21	15	1							
*K10G	8,004	96	26	19	37	Martinique						B7C7K	28	136,285	557	60	25	12						
*K0FBV	8,772	72	36	18	14	*FM1HN	21	100,224	394	59	19	38	BD71MD	14	72,819	374	58	24	4					
*K0YO	8,379	50	40	20	3	Mexico						*B0DR0	14	141,120	388	101	48	11						
*W0MRM																								











*OH8KA	191,274	431	148	52	13
*OH8FKU	9,858	73	26	17	10
<b>France</b>					
FAERS	2,253,682	1856	263	98	177
FAEIZ	2,814	23	22	19	1
<b>TM6M</b>					
21	908,205	1848	99	35	57
<b>(OP: F4DXW)</b>					
*F4GD1	567,464	684	189	78	89
*F8CRS	422,646	496	177	65	105
*F4FDL	178,205	474	73	28	44
*F4BKV	528	15	9	6	1

<b>Germany</b>					
DD2ML	1,972,860	1526	261	100	163
DD1JN	1,844,376	1427	292	97	147
DK3GI	1,737,736	1300	279	100	160
DJ80G	1,657,656	1229	285	110	157
DL1QW	1,649,010	1168	312	106	152
DJ3UG	1,090,930	1116	200	77	134
DH0GHU	1,056,428	1014	235	81	120
DL80H	876,525	1010	199	86	118
DL7VEE	838,128	752	216	97	143
DL2IAN	729,495	870	212	73	92
DL6DCD	588,665	656	216	79	90
DL8SCG	554,048	653	164	85	103
DJ9RR	489,223	647	166	65	98
DL1HEW	483,075	629	195	65	79
DL8EW	478,423	589	191	67	83
DL9NCR	475,310	716	162	66	70
DL5YM	332,028	526	151	64	61
DK1KC	318,164	432	167	66	75
DF2LH	288,544	429	141	64	79
DK5MB	258,635	363	165	67	67
DL6NCY	220,848	367	136	59	63
DL9NDV	183,580	299	157	59	52
DM2GG	166,659	341	120	52	47
DL8JL	128,553	248	97	57	65
DL2RTL	102,249	207	92	47	50
DF2OZ	88,536	213	105	45	36
DJ0TP	71,340	170	72	38	54
DL5XL	56,536	150	81	43	24
DJ9MH	50,750	133	56	41	48
DL5KUT	47,495	168	52	21	42
DJ1AA	45,288	149	79	31	26
DK0AE	44,744	148	79	26	26
<b>(OP: DJ1AA)</b>					
DM5DX	36,207	99	75	56	18
DL8AWK	28,120	159	69	26	0
DL8YR	11,020	60	44	30	2
DL9HK	8,816	53	31	27	0
DL1LH	251,262	574	83	31	48
DM3VL	8,432	51	30	18	14
DJ3JW	600,600	1208	103	34	58
DF9PZ	464,894	963	101	36	54
DK4WA	53,286	207	57	25	25
DO4DXA	9,071	108	34	6	7
*DL9AJ	1,502,720	1258	276	106	130
*DL3ANK	542,430	773	171	62	82
*DJ3AA	347,139	459	159	71	69
*DL5ARM	346,104	591	164	51	61
*DK4VY	254,610	413	148	60	62
*DF1JC	226,941	379	146	60	47
*DL6MHW	188,034	371	90	61	61
*DJ2YA	138,020	215	151	58	59
*DJ7JC	129,554	285	125	50	36
*DK3WW	124,944	230	120	55	53
*DL7URH	123,310	274	95	47	48
*DL8ZVG	114,624	297	119	47	26
*DF1HF	110,124	255	115	51	41
*DL9MKN	108,086	267	119	46	22
*DL4KW	93,150	223	82	48	32
*DJ5JD	76,212	206	71	46	29
*DJ2MX	56,434	149	49	32	58
*DF8UO	48,246	135	50	36	43
*DL3ZH	32,526	106	57	37	23
*DL6UAA	29,972	89	46	36	32
*DM2RM	26,136	103	40	27	36
*DL5WS	18,177	113	52	23	8
*DL1AON	9,600	100	36	12	2
*DF2AJ	1,872	24	15	15	6
*DJ8ES	72,705	241	58	24	28
*DJ2XC	16,510	94	33	19	13
*DO5WW	100,368	299	64	26	46
*DM6DX	87,163	415	54	14	33

<b>Italy</b>					
I26TSA	2,382,660	1632	321	115	174
IV3JCC	1,687,920	1238	273	109	159
IK2SND	989,945	946	210	96	133
IK8JND	713,658	829	188	75	100
IK3ORD	464,780	554	179	82	79
I3VJW	372,520	510	116	65	87
IK2SOF	363,346	576	103	52	123
I21JLN	294,920	462	170	67	55
IK5FKF	269,360	474	154	63	43
IK2GZU	41,396	135	63	41	27
I7CSB	10,494	62	20	18	28
IW1RAX	10,395	57	43	26	8
IK1TAZ	10,206	53	47	34	8
IW0GYC	7,344	57	30	24	0
IK4ZHH	4,440	51	21	16	0
I28DVD	31,929	153	45	23	19
IK0TUM	1,650	25	2	4	16
IW3TMM	580,970	1132	112	37	56

<b>Greece</b>					
SV8RX	202,477	388	140	62	31
*SV1HKD	13,608	76	49	26	6
*SV1DPP	9,856	49	33	27	17

<b>Hungary</b>					
HA8IE	1,971,200	1492	309	116	135
HA3HZ	480,675	658	199	71	55
HA0MS	338,289	591	162	62	43
HG3FMZ	65,712	246	46	31	34
HA3LI	93,832	641	54	11	9
*HA8GK	233,618	405	163	61	35
*HA5PT	22,194	101	45	29	7
*HG8C	103,090	314	60	27	35
<b>(OP: HA8EC)</b>					
*HA8BE	73,800	219	59	26	38

<b>Iceland</b>					
TF3AO	689,274	1083	164	55	79
TF3IG	41,402	190	77	31	19
*TF3PPN	676,506	1187	145	47	82

<b>Ireland</b>					
EI2GLB	1,261,620	1165	206	75	149
EI7KD	266,288	874	69	21	46
*EI9ES	47,422	145	62	33	36

<b>Portugal</b>					
YO9HP	2,508,288	1929	311	102	139
YO6A	1,119,503	995	266	94	109
YO7DAA	56,277	288	64	27	26
YR5T	123,192	488	74	24	18
<b>(OP: YO6BHN)</b>					
YO5REU	3,200	62	26	6	9
*YO6HSU	458,556	687	187	71	51
*YO8WM	331,401	499	167	72	62
*YO3FFW	314,096	467	156	71	66
*YO8DDP	29,526	155	38	25	11
*YO8CWY	90,307	431	69	21	7

<b>Romania</b>					
GM0FGI	1,292,304	1338	249	82	105
MM0GPZ	158,288	315	117	44	47

<b>Northern Ireland</b>					
*G4JSQ	174,876	355	126	58	44

<b>Norway</b>					
LA9TY	332,555	447	174	71	48

<b>Poland</b>					
SP7IIT	59,436	130	82	59	15
SQ8JX	49,140	253	73	23	9
SQ8J	9,966	54	25	23	18
SP3GXH	351,726	732	97	35	51
SN2K	578,476	1355	101	34	46
<b>(OP: SP2DWG)</b>					
SP8ONZ	304,722	830	91	30	41
*SN9P	576,081	652	195	69	99
<b>(OP: SQ9GAI)</b>					

<b>Lithuania</b>					
LY1R	1,822,499	1507	273	102	122
LY775D	362,070	605	166	59	45
*LY2SA	378,531	543	190	73	44
*LY2CV	22,692	144	56	21	16

<b>Macedonia</b>					
*Z35X	273,762	919	75	25	34

<b>Moldova</b>					
*ER3DX	129,990	242	112	58	40
*ER3MM	19,600	100	38	24	18

<b>Netherlands</b>					
PA3S	433,045	497	149	72	116

IK8YFU	14,204	92	36	14	17
IK4MGP	856,753	1783	107	34	56
I4LXV	458,040	1221	86	28	51
<b>(OP: I4IKW)</b>					
I2OKBR	116,100	644	57	13	20
I2SDIY	110,016	557	58	13	25
*I2JUT	142,214	287	118	50	43
*I21MHY	109,926	217	88	48	61
*I2N3FE	84,390	175	106	49	39
*IK1SOW	34,632	126	58	35	24
*I2W3AS	9,280	59	33	20	11
*I24AFW	168,818	449	77	26	48
*IK0EIE	135,240	375	70	26	44
*IK0LNN	63,812	279	58	17	31
*I2OEHL	7,788	95	36	8	0
*IK0BXL	49,650	338	52	9	14

PI4CG	100,646	336	94	34	30
<b>(OP: PD2PKM)</b>					
PA0VHA	15,576	195	36	7	1
PA1T	3,360	30	13	12	17
PA50	34,944	156	37	24	23
*PD7BZ	390,998	621	151	53	70
*PD5T	244,623	504	121	45	53
*PA3FYG	211,671	391	152	64	45
*PE1FTV	180,407	337	116	56	51
*PA3FYX	74,090	243	94	42	19
*PD3BVI	32,079	111	47	32	32
*PA2GR	23,867	140	79	38	4
*PA3HGF	28,355	108	45	30	32
*PA1CC	215,760	522	77	31	47
*PE4BAS	5,382	47	21	14	11
*PE1PKR	14,080	128	38	12	5

*S08MXN	174,840	355	144	58	33
*SP6JZP	174,528	356	125	57	34
*SM7S	164,501	473	99	46	34
*SQ5OLD	132,220	259	112	59	49
*SQ5JLP	54,416	164	92	42	18
*SQ3RX	37,742	147	61	34	18
*SP5OJX	32,946	138	65	28	21
*SP3CGK	6,405	41	26	22	13
*SP2OOT	19,404	101	34	23	20
*SQ1K	3,060	38	12	12	12
*SP1MIW	2,768	29	24	17	0
<b>(OP: S01EIX)</b>					
*SP1MHZ	125,994	358	69	25	44

<b>Portugal</b>					
*CT2IOV	42,640	253	44	15	23

<b>Romania</b>					
YO9HP	2,508,288	1929	311	102	139
YO6A	1,119,503	995	266	94	109
YO7DAA	56,277	288	64	27	26
YR5T	123,192	488	74	24	18
<b>(OP: YO6CBX)</b>					
YO5REU	3,200	62	26	6	9
*YO6HSU	458,556	687	187	71	51
*YO8WM	331,401	499	167	72	62
*YO3FFW	314,096	467	156	71	66
*YO8DDP	29,526	155	38	25	11
*YO8CWY	90,307	431	69	21	7

<b>Scotland</b>					
GM0FGI	1,292,304	1338	249	82	105
MM0GPZ	158,288	315	117	44	47

Serbia						
Y1VNP	7	409,770	1120	83	30	44
*YUBNU	A	1,221	18	17	15	1
*YU7U	3.5	13,923	145	41	8	2
Sicily						
IW9FRA	A	1,848	23	15	15	3
IT9FGA	"	858	13	11	11	0
*IT9SGN	A	936	23	18	8	0
*IT9INJ	7	3,648	67	28	4	0

Slovak Republic						
*OM7RC	A	119,867	254	91	50	46
*OM3ZBG	"	42,558	209	79	28	16

Slovenia						
S57DX	A	436,356	593	155	64	87
*S57AW	A	3,500,924	2101	362	123	194
*S55VM	"	588,401	705	206	75	78
*S57EA	14	79,686	323	71	21	22

Spain						
EE3R	A	655,962	780	187	78	89
ED3A	"	308,236	528	134	57	72
EA5FV	"	254,058	396	143	57	63
EB1C	"	111,954	310	50	35	56
EF1A	"	86,994	205	96	50	33
EA7RU	"	86,553	221	84	37	42
EA4KD	28	259,442	696	67	27	52
EA7ZY	21	263,128	973	59	17	48
*EA5DKU	A	991,380	1113	231	74	105
*EA2DCF	"	33,579	106	52	34	37
*EA3OP	28	9,324	116	22	14	0
*ED2Y	14	163,737	706	63	18	32
*EF7W	3.5	4,788	67	32	6	4

Swalbard						
JW7QIA	A	610,793	820	168	68	87

Sweden						
SK2T	A	2,107,200	1437	344	107	149
SM6GKT	"	160,083	329	133	56	42
SM3VAC	"	151,184	310	57	36	63
SF0D	"	41,844	155	76	37	19
8S0C	"	17,115	66	61	44	0
SM5CZD	"	7,748	53	26	21	5
SM6FD	7	164,875	595	72	22	31
*SM5D	A	499,768	632	204	60	65
*SM7BHM	"	88,893	273	98	32	23
*SA3V	"	61,292	192	92	40	22

Switzerland						
HB9CRV	A	411,474	678	164	64	63
HB9RML	"	3,393	29	10	10	19
HB9LCW	14	24,806	139	50	16	13
HB9DHG	7	55,821	405	48	12	9

Ukraine						
UU7J	A	2,961,798	2260	317	118	147
UW8I	"	2,679,600	2108	331	115	134
UX0FF	"	2,086,920	1760	286	106	135
UT1AA	"	385,050	617	187	65	56
UR5MBA	"	319,704	551	181	57	26
UT4HZ	"	154,889	346	135	52	16
UT4ZX	"	87,768	188	130	64	18
UT4ZG	28	61,272	210	61	28	22
EQ3Q	14	679,328	1554	99	35	50
UW4I	7	294,060	1035	83	26	36
UX1UX	3.5	75,190	538	52	11	10
UT5ZA	"	8,325	143	30	7	0
*US4LPY	A	1,213,470	1385	242	95	90
*UT8EL	"	1,011,285	1216	265	81	59
*UX1IL	"	631,690	791	234	80	48
*UY7C	"	589,572	877	191	66	52
*UR5EPV	"	155,419	406	140	41	18
*UU4JIM	"	141,204	245	148	64	34
*UT9FJ	"	117,847	267	123	47	21
*UR5XMM	"	39,424	135	65	39	24
*UX1AA	"	13,024	68	24	20	30
*UT2AB	21	19,050	106	39	19	17

Wales						
GW4RYT	A	144,536	293	97	44	62
*GW4SKA	A	2,575,170	1829	303	109	173

OCEANIA						
Australia						
VK2CA	A	123,272	297	95	57	0
*VK8PDX	A	83,144	210	104	48	0
*VK6GOM	"	39,480	134	62	35	8

Guam						
KG6DX	28	732,828	1455	90	32	51

Indonesia						
*YB0JIV	A	38,512	173	46	23	14

SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina						
LU6ETB	A	336,570	621	75	39	81
LV5V	"	82,797	203	62	31	50
*LU8EOT	28	120,227	399	43	20	46

Brazil						
ZX2B	A	3,808,317	2316	275	105	189
PY7ZY	"	98,670	245	67	32	44
PT7CG	28	158,627	470	59	17	43
ZY2C	"	107,321	364	47	20	40
*PY2SEX	A	2,007,440	1537	226	91	143
*ZW7B	"	1,160,683	1027	213	81	140
*PIJ4LOG	28	266,754	688	65	23	50
*PY2DN	"	239,320	659	55	20	49
*PY2Z	"	22,494	128	21	15	33
*PY4XX	21	50,505	194	53	19	33

Chile						
CE3PG	A	529,976	776	107	47	94

Colombia						
*HK3JUB	A	41,496	150	66	29	38

Uruguay						
CX5TR	A	4,032	50	22	12	2

Venezuela						
YW4V	28	85,250	289	53	21	36
					(OP: YV4DYJ)	

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United States						
K30Q		110,880	329	81	33	66
K4FJ		4,234,705	2658	348	110	195
AA4HP		1,626,570	1555	237	85	143
N4RI		455,694	652	164	55	99
K4PKB		283,682	538	125	63	134
K6MMM		966,960	1152	154	91	163
A47A		2,276,784	1954	258	105	219
K7BTW		1,673,592	1725	203	101	224
WY7SS		1,155,680	1800	183	83	200
KK7PR		1,004,980	1309	161	86	189
N2BJ9		1,180,783	1270	204	80	125
VE3FBJ		1,842,536	1704	221	74	141
VE6AO		435,070	749	80	56	142
OX40K		1,979,740	2017	195	68	132

### AFRICA

Canary Islands						
EF8M		12,197,500	4955	447	143	260

Morocco						
CN3A		10,612,800	4517	419	135	250

### ASIA

Kazakhstan						
UN8LWF		2,375,325	2178	266	92	47

### EUROPE

Austria						
OE9R		734,045	981	130	52	117

Czech Republic						
OL7M		4,528,359	2628	385	128	198
OL3A		2,085,440	1604	280	101	151
OK1KSL		1,954,511	1571	277	95	161
OL7C		1,893,664	1727	217	91	164
OL2X		961,488	1039	217	85	94

Denmark						
OZ2AR		595,080	790	214	88	46

England						
G7BRC		848,625	1053	201	67	97

European Russia						
RL3A		4,841,200	2879	415	141	172
RK3DXW		1,385,296	1349	264	95	104

Finland						
OH8A		4,124,061	2740	389	132	146
OH3I		2,289,696	1786	313	110	129

France						
TM4P		2,731,545	2280	234	83	188

Germany						
DF5MA		2,395,632	1756	305	105	154
KF7ZT		1,304,774	1245	260	95	127
DF7ZS		1,230,188	1263	241	85	132
DL/K9EJ		693,260	894	157	60	123
DG3FAW		404,982	612	158	65	75

Greece						
SZ1A		1,456,272	1548	258	85	89

Italy						
IV3HYD		2,623,885	1730	315	115	175
IQ2LS		459,797	599	147	65	101
IQ3GO		162,800	358	118	61	56

Luxembourg						
LX8M		2,790,791	2122	298	103	162

Market Reef						
OJ0X		3,180,546	2572	281	99	142

Netherlands						
PA6Y		165,228	422	117	45	34

Norway						
LA1UKA		75,900	290	90	35	13

Poland						
SP4YPB		1,640,768	1484	274	100	122

Portugal						
CR5D		2,371,040	2004	263	91	157

Serbia						
YT2T		3,522,364	2237	357	124	187
YT7W		1,909,474	1708	245	101	151

Sicily						
IT9HBT		1,696,968	1503	271	113	134

Slovak Republic						
OM5M		3,688,088	2414	340	120	172
OM3RRC		1,777,457	1677	227	82	154

Slovenia						
S50W		3,894,905	2417	341	122	202

Spain						
EA2K		2,108,754	1898	249	91	146
EA2T		2,042,965	1910	233	84	170
ED2V		1,629,520	1734	250	86	148

Ukraine						
UZ2M		6,690,831	3677	439	145	195
UT7L		2,139,000	1545	336	117	147
UW0L		157,759	331	136	47	34

### OCEANIA

Fiji						
3D2EG		348,684	652	104	60	32

### SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina						
LT0H		2,690,142	1862	242	93	172
LT5X		114,080	302	103	43	9

Brazil						
PX2V		1,429,341	1436	178	77	138
ZV2K		938,100	1029	167	70	117

Chile						
CE1TT		740,116	868	147	64	120

Uruguay						
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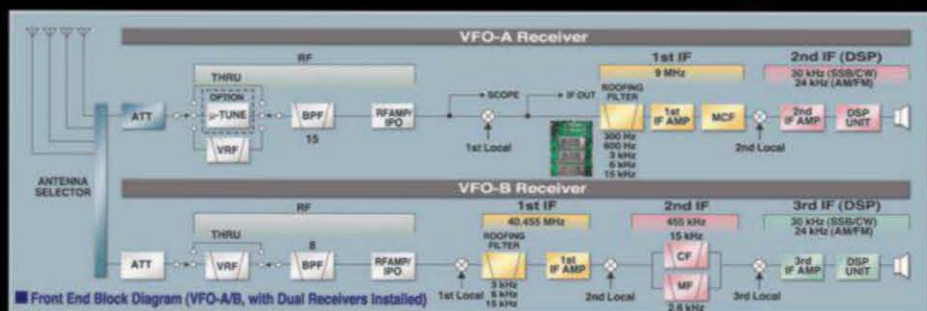
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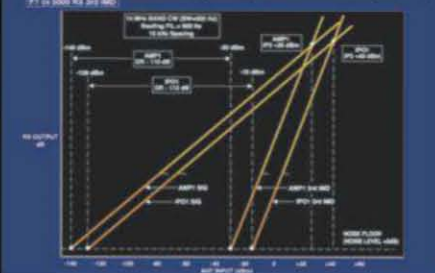
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