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Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

APRIL 2016

CQ

The 2015 CQWW DX Contest

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- ...SSB Results, p. 16
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On the Cover: The T42US team celebrated improved US/Cuban relations with a joint operation during the 2015 CQWW SSB Contest. Details on page 4; story on page 10.

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APRIL

BRANSON, MISSOURI — The 4 State QRP Group will hold the **OxarkCon QRP Conference** Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 at the Stone Castle Hotel and Conference Center. Contact: Tom Brown, W0MFQ, P.O. Box 627, St. Charles, MO 63302. Website: <http://www.ozarkcon.com>.

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS — The Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Hanging Judge Hamfest and 2016 ARRL Delta Division Convention** Saturday, April 2 at Columbus Acres. Contact: Mike Cole, W5TMC, 124 Grant Street, Roland, OK 74954. Phone: (918) 427-1431. Website: <http://www.hangingjudgehamfest.com>. VE exams.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA — The Northern Florida Amateur Radio Society will hold the **14th Jacksonville Radio Free Flea** Saturday, April 2 at the Terry Parker Baptist Church Parking Lot. Website: <http://nofars.net>.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA — The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will hold the **44th Annual RARSfest and 2016 ARRL North Carolina State Convention** Saturday, April 2 at the Jim Graham Building State Fairgrounds. Contact: Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, (919) 362-4787. Email: <jwittich@nc.rr.com>. Website: <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>. Talk-in 146.64. VE exams and card checking.

WELLBORN, FLORIDA — The Suwannee Amateur Radio Club will hold its **4th Annual Tailgate** Saturday, April 2 at 1504 4th Avenue in Downtown Wellborn. Contact: SARC (386) 249-3260. Email: <rustypreen@aol.com>. Website: <http://www.suwanneearc.org>. Talk-in 145.270 (PL 123). VE exams.

CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA — Green Country Hamfest Inc. will hold the **Green Country Hamfest and 2016 ARRL Oklahoma State Convention** Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9 at the Claremore Expo Center. Contact: John Harwell, KD5NAQ, (918) 379-0950. Email: <info@greencountryhamfest.org>. Website: <http://www.greencountryhamfest.org>. Talk-in 147.09+ (PL 88.5). VE exams.

COLUMBUS, INDIANA — The Columbus Amateur Radio Club will hold the **33rd Annual Columbus Hamfest** Saturday, April 9 at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds. Contact: Matthew Bruner, KC9BWO, 325 Robbins Street, Hope, IN 47246. Phone: (812) 375-4860. Email: <kc9bwo@att.net>. Website: <http://www.carcnet.net>. Talk-in 146.79- (PL 103.5). VE exams.

CULPEPER, VIRGINIA — The Culpeper Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Culpeper Amateur Radio Swapfest** Saturday, April 9 at the Culpeper Agricultural Enterprise. Contact: Bob Stohman, K4RCG. Email: <bobstohman@gmail.com>. Website: <http://w4cul.org>. Talk-in 147.120+ (PL 146.2).

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO — The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will hold its **62nd Annual Hamfest** Saturday, April 9 at the Emidio and Sons Party Center. Contact: Ted Sarah, W8TTS, (234) 206-0270. Email: <hamfest2016@cgarc.org>. Website: <http://www.cfarc.org>.

HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE — The Port City Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market** Saturday, April 9 at the St. James Masonic Lodge. Contact: Mark Pride, K1RX, (603) 775-0220 or Dick Cooper, W1MSN, (603) 474-2373. Email: <fleamarket@w1wqm.org>. Website: <http://www.w1wqm.org>. VE exams.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE — The Mid-South Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Memphis FreeFest** Saturday, April 9 at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center. Contact: Tony Brignole, WA4KHN, (901) 216-3263. Email: <abrigno@comcast.net>. Website: <http://sites.google.com/a/maraonline.org>. Talk-in 147.03+ (PL 107.2). VE exams.

MOBILE, ALABAMA — The Mobile Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Mobile Hamfest** Saturday, April 9 at the Abba Shrine Center. Contact: L J. Early, W4LJE, (251) 635-2327. Email: <mobilhamfest@hotmail.com>. Website: <http://w4iax.net>. Talk-in 146.94 or 146.82. VE exams.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA — The Arizona Amateur Radio Club and the Amateur Radio Council of Arizona will hold the **April Hamfest** at DeVry Saturday, April 9 at DeVry University. Contact: Gary Hamman (602) 996-8148. Email: <k7gh@arri.net>. Talk-in 147.060+. VE exams and card checking.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON — The Communications Academy will be held Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10 at the South Seattle Community College-Jerry Brockey Center and Olympic Hall. Website: <http://www.commacademy.org>.

SELAH, WASHINGTON — The Yakima Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Yakima Hamfest** Saturday, April 9 at the Selah Civic Center. Contact: Bob Dameron, KE7HLK, (509) 452-3877. Email: <bigiron9@msn.com>. Website: <http://www.w7aq.com>. Talk-in 146.660 (PL 123). VE exams.

SPRING GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA — The York Hamfest Foundation will hold the **2016 York Hamfest** Saturday, April 9 at Elicker's Grove Park. Email: <duane.sterner@yahoo.com>. Website: <http://www.yorkhamfest.com>. Talk-in 147.330+ (PL 123) or 146.52. VE exams and DXCC/WAS/VUC/WAC card checking.

TAMPA, FLORIDA — The Tampa Amateur Radio Club will hold **TARCFest Hamfest XXXVI** Saturday, April 9 at their clubhouse, 7801 North 22nd Street. Contact: Bill Bode, N4WEB. Email: <n4web@hamclub.org>. Website: <http://hamclub.org>. VE exams.

CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA — The Chesapeake Amateur Radio Service will hold its **SpringFest 2016** Sunday, April 10 at the Moose Lodge #898. Contact: CARs, 120 Afton Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23505. Website: <http://w4car.org>. Talk-in 146.820 (PL 162.2) or 444.000 VE exams.

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS — The Framingham Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Framingham Flea** Sunday, April 10 at Keefe Technical School. Contact: Eric Taylor, KB1PJJ, (508) 310-5913 (before 10 p.m.). Email: <tables@fara.org>. Website: <http://fara.org>. Talk-in 147.15. VE exams.

STERLING, VIRGINIA — The VHF Super Conference will be held Friday, April 15 through Sunday, April 17 at the Holiday Inn Washington Dulles Intl. Airport. Website: <http://vhfsuperconference.com>.

VISALIA, CALIFORNIA — The Southern California DX Club and the Northern California DX Club will hold the **International DX Convention** Friday, April 15 through Sunday, April 17 at the Visalia Convention Center. Contact: Cathy Gardenias, K6VC, or Doug Miller, K6JEY. Email: <info@dxconvention.org>. Website: <http://www.dxconvention.org>. DXCC/WAZ/WAS/VUCC card checking.

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA — The Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Brainerd Area Hamfest** Saturday, April 16 at the Brainerd National Guard Armory. Contact: BAARC, 33247 East Shamaineau Drive, Motley, MN 56466. Website: <http://www.brainerdham.org>. Talk-in 147.225+. VE exams and card checking.

DES MOINES, IOWA — The Des Moines Radio Amateur Association will hold the

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Amateur Radio Parity Act Moves Ahead

A bill in Congress that would hold private land use agreements regarding amateur radio antennas to the same standards that already apply to municipalities, is now another step closer to a vote in the House of Representatives. The House Energy and Commerce Committee's subcommittee on communications and technology, which held hearings on H.R. 1301 in January, sent the bill to the full committee on February 11 with a favorable recommendation. The bill, also known as the Amateur Radio Parity Act, would require that homeowners' associations and restrictive covenants (CC&Rs) "reasonably accommodate" amateur radio operation, the same rule that has applied to state and local governments since 1985. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the bill currently has over 100 co-sponsors and a companion bill in the U.S. Senate, S. 1685, was approved last year by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

In a related story, the Missouri state legislature is considering an identical measure to H.R. 1301, which would implement its requirements on a state level. The effort is being spearheaded by Larry Scantlan, KE0KZ, who says the Missouri bill can serve as a template for similar actions in other states. Several states have already incorporated the "reasonable accommodation" rule into their laws as they apply to state, county, and local governments.

China Continues Building Facilities on Spratlys

There may or may not be any DXpeditions in the near future from the Spratlys. But there is a chance that the island chain in the South China Sea may become a source of HF interference. The *Washington Post* reports that China is building what may be a powerful HF radar installation on one of the islands, possibly to monitor ships and aircraft in the South China Sea and the Strait of Malacca, one of the world's most important shipping lanes. Construction of this facility — whatever it may be — is part of a major effort by China to build up the islands and develop facilities there, which it claims are primarily for civilian purposes but the U.S. and others believe are mostly military.

The Spratlys are claimed, in whole or in part, by six different countries, and hams have mounted several DXpeditions there in the past 50 years, despite considerable danger. In 1983, two German hams were killed when the Vietnamese Navy attacked and sank their boat. Last year, evacuation of a sick ham on a DXpedition there was delayed several days after Chinese forces fired on a Philippine Navy plane sent to fly him out for medical care.

ARRL, Red Cross, Sign New Agreement

The ARRL and the American Red Cross have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to govern their relationship over the next five years. It lays out the framework for cooperation between the Red Cross and the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) on national, state, and local levels. A summary of the agreement in the *ARRL Letter* says it also clarifies that ARES members working with the Red Cross but not registered as volunteers with the aid organization do not need to undergo the background checks required of Red Cross volunteers.

Petitions Could Impact 80 Meters, License Terms

The FCC is reviewing initial public comments as well as a pair of petitions that could shift the boundary between the 80-meter CW/RTTY band and the 75-meter phone band, and do away with amateur radio license renewals.

The 80-meter petition, submitted by the ARRL (RM-11759), seeks to shrink the 75-meter phone band by 50 kHz in order to provide more spectrum for RTTY (radioteletype) and other data modes. According to the League, the FCC took away too much spectrum from the RTTY/data portion of the band when it expanded the 75-meter phone band by 150 kHz a decade ago. The ARRL seeks to move the bottom of the phone band up to 3650 kHz and shift the segment for automatically controlled digital stations from its current 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz.

The license term petition (RM-11760), was submitted by Mark Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona. It seeks to have amateur licenses issued on a lifetime basis, rather than needing to be renewed every 10 years. Krotz claims it would reduce the FCC's workload and costs. The FCC has already granted lifetime credit for certain amateur examination elements (but not for others).

The Commission opened both petitions for 30-day public comment periods in late February. Those comments will be used to help determine whether to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM). There will be additional opportunities for comment when and if an NPRM is issued.

Space Station "Ham TV" System Used for First Time

The digital amateur television (DATV) station aboard the International Space Station — dubbed "Ham TV" — was used for the first time in mid-February during a scheduled contact with the Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth, England. The downlink-only system allowed British astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI, to transmit live video on 2.4 GHz along with two-way audio on 2 meters during the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact, according to the *ARRL Letter*. The TV signal was received by a ham in Italy and relayed to the school in England.

Schools or other educational organizations wishing to schedule future ARISS contacts have until April 15 to apply for slots in the first half of 2017. According to the *ARRL Letter*, schools/groups with the best shot at being selected will be those that can attract large numbers of participants and integrate the 10-minute voice contact into a well-developed educational plan.

Popular Science Archive Online

Popular Science magazine has placed its entire 140-year archive online with free access browsing, according to *Southgate Amateur Radio News*. The magazine worked with Google to make the entire collection searchable. A search on "ham radio" returned 380 results (a search on "amateur radio" returned 190, with considerable duplication). The earliest is from 1916 and the most recent is from 2008.

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On the Cover: The joint U.S./Cuban T42US team operated the CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB weekend from outside Havana. From left to right (see names on page 15): CO2PTE, WB0TKL, WX3K, USA Team Leader WB2REM, CM2OY, WC3W, Federacion de Radioaficionados Cuba President CO2RP, CL2TV, Cuban Team Leader CM2KL, K9DIG, CO2JD, KC4BAB, CO2AME, CO2XK, KK4SHF, and CO2IL. T42US story on page 10; CQWW SSB results on page 16. (Cover photo by Karile Michel Garcia-Pola Grandito)

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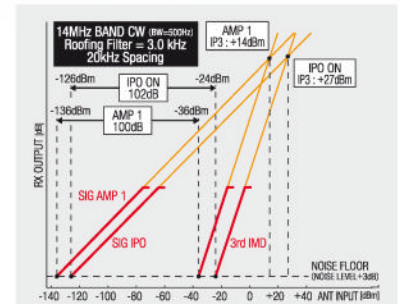
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Meeting New Hams Where They Are

Exactly what is it that qualifies one as a “real” ham? I got a letter in response to my February editorial (“How Old Are You Now?”) which raised some very interesting points about how we view hams and ham radio, and how we perceive those members of our community whose interests may not be in line with those of the “traditional” ham. The letter read, in part:

“I received my Technician license in February 2009. The room was filled with people waiting to take the exam. I thought to myself, ‘Wow, this is great.’ I had no idea so many people were interested in amateur radio. Prior to administering the exam, one of the VEs asked for a show of hands for people upgrading to General — two hands went up. Then he asked if anyone was upgrading to Extra — one hand went up. Then he asked how many people were taking the Technician exam to fulfill a requirement to gain credit for a radio-controlled balloon class. The remaining hands were raised except for mine and two other people’s. After the exam, I had the opportunity to talk to several of individuals taking the exam for the balloon class. None expressed a desire to get into amateur radio.”

Of course, they *were* getting into amateur radio by virtue of taking their license exams. What the writer meant, I believe, was getting into ham radio as a hobby in and of itself, rather than as part of a different hobby.

But let’s take a quick look at what’s involved in a typical balloon flight using amateur radio (there’s enough of this activity in the hobby that it has an “official” acronym — ARHAB, or amateur radio high altitude ballooning): The balloon’s payload will likely be transmitting telemetry on altitude, speed, temperature, and GPS location data; an APRS signal for tracking; and possibly live video via amateur television or digital stills via one data mode or another. The members of the ground crew will need to be equipped and trained to receive these transmissions and make use of the information. In addition, once the balloon bursts and the payload parachutes back to earth, the chase team will likely use ARDF (amateur radio direction finding) techniques to locate it, and if more than one vehicle is involved, will probably coordinate via 2-meter or 70-centimeter FM. That’s pretty active hamming in my book, even if it is all in connection with a different primary activity.

The writer goes on to say that when he went back to take his General exam a month later, the VEs asked the candidates the same questions, and that the answers were pretty much the same, except that several members of this group identified themselves as “preppers,” who saw ham radio as “their lifeline to survival when and if the apocalypse came.” Well, here’s the deal on that: If you’re really going to be prepared, and ready to make use of your ham license in the aftermath of “the big one” (whichever “big one” that may be), that won’t be the time to start setting up your station, learning how to use the gear and learning the ins and outs of effective ham radio communications. No, the time to do all that is *now*, by getting on the air and learning about different operating modes, antennas, propagation, QRP, etc., and keeping your skills sharp with regular practice, so that you’re not starting from zero once you’ve wiped the you-know-what off the fan that it’s hit. A serious prepper won’t keep his or her ham gear locked up in a closet, but will use it regularly.

I consider myself to be a fairly active ham, and I love ham radio as a hobby in and of itself. But if you look at my HF logbook for the first two months of 2016, you would find it to be empty. That’s right. Zero contacts. I got a bunch of little radio kits at Christmastime and I’ve been spend-

ing my “radio time” over the past couple of months building. I’ve still got a ways to go. It wouldn’t be completely incorrect to describe me right now as a “maker” who is using ham radio projects in pursuit of a building hobby.

My local astronomy club here in New Jersey — whose advisor is a ham — is doing a program this month on EME (Earth-Moon-Earth, or Moonbounce). Perhaps some amateur astronomers will find that amateur radio can add a new dimension to their astronomy hobby. With talk of sending a ham radio satellite to Mars, we’ll need astronomy skills to track it and tune it in if the project succeeds. Let’s not forget that it was an amateur astronomer and amateur radio operator, Grote Reber, who is considered the father of radio astronomy.

All this brings us back to the age-old question of what constitutes a “real ham.” Do you have to enjoy only traditional ham radio activities, such as DXing, contesting, or ragchewing? Do you have to operate HF? Do you need to know and use Morse code? Or are you a “real ham” if you hold an FCC amateur radio license and make use of the privileges that it confers, whether as ends unto themselves or as part of another activity, such as ballooning, building, hiking, biking, or being prepared for an uncertain future? Our vote is for the latter.

Here’s a radical idea: Instead of lamenting new hams’ lack of interest in traditional ham radio activities, how about if we “meet them where they are?” Let’s invite the folks from the ballooning course to make a presentation at a club meeting about how they make use of ham radio. Let’s invite local “makers” who are combining ham radio with other “making” activities to show them off at a club meeting. Who knows? You might just find yourself tagging along on the next balloon launch, joining the makers’ group or setting up a telescope alongside your antenna. And if these non-traditional hams are made to feel welcome at your club meetings (and not pressured to conform to someone else’s view of what constitutes “real” ham radio), maybe they’ll discover additional aspects of the hobby and broaden their interests as well. But even if they don’t, so what? How we make use of our privileges on the airwaves is a personal choice, and there is no “right” or “wrong” way to “do” ham radio.

Issue Notes

A couple of quick notes relating to this month’s issue: First of all, we have a different sort of Professor Heisselluft feature for you this April. It has been 40 years since the sage of Grossmaul-an Der Danau penned his first article for CQ, and to commemorate that anniversary, we have persuaded him to sit down for an interview with Ted Cohen, N4XX. Longtime readers will recall that Ted conducted a great number of “CQ Interviews...” with leading figures in amateur radio and the FCC back in the 1970s and ’80s, so he is certainly well-qualified to chat with the good professor. You’ll find Ted’s interview beginning on page 28.

Much of this issue is dedicated to the results of the 2015 CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB weekend. We’ve brought back complete score listings after exiling them to the Internet for a few years. We also have two contest-related features, our cover story on the joint U.S./Cuban contest expedition from T42US and the story of how WB3D didn’t let low power and a stealth antenna keep him from having a good time in the contest ... and winning his category! But there’s plenty more as well, even if contesting isn’t your thing. Maybe ballooning? Enjoy the issue ... and don’t let the SWRs bite! (p. 54)

– 73, Rich, W2VU

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To mark the thaw in relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments, a group of U.S. hams headed to Cuba last October to join several Cuban counterparts in a bi-national DXpedition wrapped around the SSB weekend of the 2015 CQ World Wide DX Contest (see results in this issue). Here's the story of T42US.

T42US Joint Cuban/U.S. DXpedition

Operation Centered on CQWW SSB DX Contest

BY RUTH SWEIGART,* KC4BAB

The T42US Joint Cuban/US DXpedition was a multi-purpose event held in Cuba from October 21-28, 2015. It included a radio exhibition, presentations of ham radio information, demonstrations of ham radio to Cuban kids and teens, administration of U.S. FCC amateur radio exams to Cuban operators, participation as a team (*Photo A*) in the CQ Worldwide DX SSB Contest, and a banquet for the operators and their families. The following is a journal from that trip.

Wednesday 10/21/15: Travel and Set-Up

We left Miami bright and early on Wednesday morning. The airline required us to be at the airport four hours ahead of our departure — mainly due to the large number of people fly-

ing (nine of us) and the large amount of luggage being transported. We carried a lot of equipment with us, despite each passenger being limited to 66 pounds of checked luggage. The luggage weight limitations caused us to separate our radio equipment up between our entire team in order to avoid paying an extra \$2 a pound for amounts over 44 pounds on top of the \$20 luggage fee.

We tried to bring as much as we could because it is hard to get wires, cables, or any kind of radio equipment in Cuba. We brought along two identical ICOM radios — one to be donated — along with supporting accessories like cabling, tuners, and antenna analyzers. Bringing this equipment into the country required approval from the Cuban government — it is normally not allowed. We had left a list with the Cuban radio group team leader to give to customs ahead of time. When we arrived at customs, they initially rejected some of the equipment as

* c/o CQ magazine



Photo A. Members of the T42US joint U.S./Cuban expedition team on the beach (Photos courtesy of T42US team)

contraband. After showing them the license issued by the Cuban FRC (Federacion de Radioaficionados Cuba — Cuba’s national amateur radio association) along with another letter, we were then allowed to be checked in. All of the equipment had to be specifically identified and checked off from the list. We spent about two hours getting through immigration and customs.

Stepping Into the 1950s

The Havana airport is a throwback to the 1950s. The airplane was met by a bus that took us to the terminal. The terminal itself was no-frills. The roof leaked in places. There were a lot of people waiting outside, as there is no waiting area inside the terminal. The first thing

you notice on exiting the terminal is all of the old classic American cars (*Photo B*) and the smell of exhaust.

Our Cuban team leader, Roberto, CM2KL, and Mr. Pedro Rodriguez, CO2RP, president of the FRC, met us outside the airport terminal. Roberto had arranged a bus to take all nine of us to the Iberostar Parque Central Hotel in the center of Old Havana. The hotel was very elegant — Titanic done Caribbean style — with majestic stairways, ceilings, skylight-lit interior, lush plants, great bar, and lots of hotel staff very willing to help you with anything — a beautiful place. Every night in the hotel, people would gather and drink, smoke cigars, and listen to a varying array of musical groups.

We arrived very early at the hotel and needed to wait for our rooms. We left our luggage in the lobby and took a walk up the boulevard to D’Linos restaurant. We had traditional Cuban fare — lechon, roast chicken and, of course, we all wanted to try a traditional mojito. What a wonderful start to our expedition. After lunch, we got our rooms and immediately set out for “the shack.”

The shack was a rented house on Guanabo Beach, about 15 miles east of Havana. The house was about 100 yards from the beach and had a large open lot around it (*Photo C*). In between setting up and contesting, it was nice to take a walk on one of the most beautiful beaches in Cuba.

We arranged for a taxi driver to cart us back and forth between the beach and our hotel in his old green ’56 Chevy BelAir. Karile, our driver, spoke absolutely no English. Luckily, some of us spoke some Spanish or had a dictionary to figure out words. It cost us 15 pesos (about \$15 U.S.) per trip. Roads were generally in good shape. One day, we got stuck in the tunnel under the Havana harbor because of a bus-car accident. We thought we were going to die from the fumes. Those beautiful old cars run mostly on diesel and aren’t exactly EPA rated. The accident was cleared very quickly, a testament to the Cubans’ efficiency.

Antenna installation was in its beginning stages when we arrived. The antennas were lying on the ground in pieces. The two element 40-meter beam was not assembled. The 3-element and 5-element tribanders were assembled but were lying on the ground. Then a van from Radio Cuba showed up with five Cuban operators



Photo B. Classic U.S. cars on the streets of Havana are featured on the T42US QSL card.



Photo C. The station was set up in a rented house with a large open area in front for antennas. A shortage of tower sections limited antenna height; beams were turned by hand, using ropes.



Photo D. The group's 4-element, 6-meter beam held up for tuning prior to installation by, from left, Mark, WC3W; Juan, CM2OY; Roberto, CM2KL; Amed, CO2AME; Alexi, CO2XK; and Michel, CL2TV.



Photo E. The two U.S. stations, all set up and waiting for power.

inside. Jorge, CO2II, was the technical brain of the Cuban team — funny and smart. Roberto, CM2KL, helped pull things together.

Our antenna specialist, Stephanie Koles, WX3K, started whipping things into shape. We had to reset the elements and made numerous attempts to retune the antennas — the 3-element tribander suffered some SWR issues because of corrosion and poor maintenance. It was like tuning a piece of wet pasta in the air. Luckily, John, KK4SHF, brought an antenna analyzer.

Our antennas consisted of the two tribanders and 40-meter monobander mentioned above; a vertical; a 4-element, 6-meter beam (*Photo D*); and a

longwire. Due to problems acquiring tower sections, the maximum height of any of the rotatable antennas was no more than 5 meters (16.4 feet) and they were turned by ropes attached to them. A third station was set up for the WARC bands, digital modes and 60 meters. This was the first time the Cuban government had given permission for hams to operate on the 60-meter band, thus offering many 60-meter enthusiasts a new country.

Thursday, 10/22: More Setup

We returned early Thursday morning to continue setting up the stations. One room was dedicated to a U.S. radio setup. The Cubans had another room

for their gear. The stations included two ICOM 706MK2Gs and two Yaesu kilowatt amplifiers. We had brought bandpass filters so we didn't interfere with each other. We had arranged for a generator to be on hand in case of power outages and were hoping for Internet, but that was not a viable option. Internet access in Cuba is limited, with most availability from cyber cafes and within hotels. DSL access was talked about in the shack area, but was not a real option.

We decided to put the two U.S. stations in the front bedroom. We moved the furniture to another room and set up two tables near the windows (*Photo E*). We were a little concerned about only having one 115-amp circuit in the room. The lack of electrical outlets was a small hurdle. We changed power configurations at least two or three times because we didn't have enough power coming out of the one outlet available in the room for two radios and two amplifiers. We needed to rewire an outlet with exposed, frayed wiring. No one thought to bring a power strip. That would have been wonderful. We played musical chairs with power cords as needed. The power went out just as the generator was delivered so we had to run a cable out of the window and plug into the generator. The electricity eventually came back on and we operated without further power interruption.

Luckily, our radio room had a small air conditioner as conditions were brutal

with a fierce sun, 80° to 90° temperatures, and high humidity. Drinking water was a top priority. However, we needed to drink only bottled water to avoid “the Caribbean chas.” Also, food was limited to hotels and good restaurants and “no ice” was no fun but necessary.

Friday, 10/23: On the Air

On Friday, one of the amplifiers kept cutting out, and the antenna switch wasn't working correctly. Everything eventually got fixed. We hooked up the WinKeyer, interfaced it to N1MM software and hooked up paddles so we'd have a CW-capable station available for after the SSB contest weekend.

John, KK4SHF, worked on the internal network to get N1MM on two laptops to talk to each other. The time was

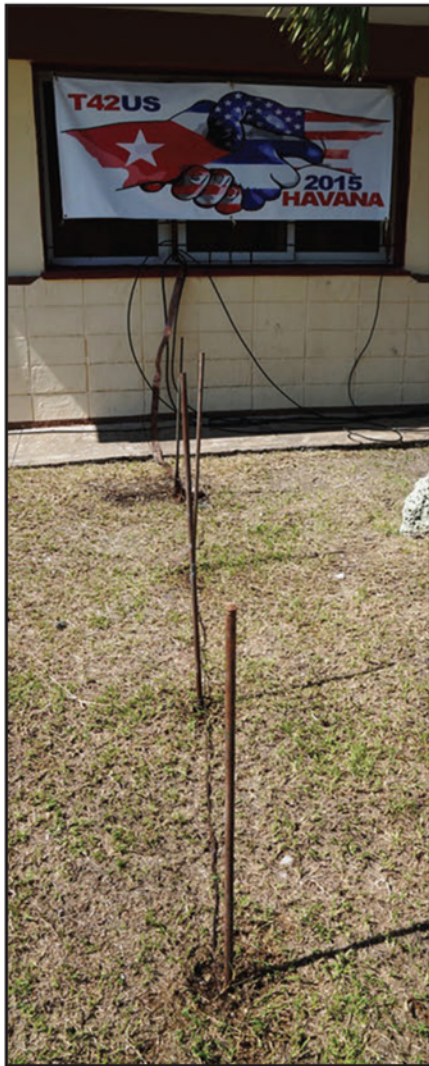


Photo F. Noise problems initially plagued the U.S. group's station, but the Cuban group members installed a makeshift 4-rod grounding system over which they poured salt water ... which solved the problem.

off on the laptops, which caused a problem trying to synch, and we discovered that the two laptops had different versions of the software. Luckily we had copies of the program with us and were able to install the same version on both laptops. After some Ethernet port configuration changes, both laptops synched. One was set up as the master and the databases shared information. And we still had no Internet.

As we began testing and making contacts, Stephanie noticed a lot of noise. To help improve this issue, the Cubans created a large 4-rod ground with a large copper strap (*Photo F*). This reduced the noise significantly. Then they poured saltwater on the ground rods to make them more conductive. That cleared up the noise.

The contest started at 8 p.m. Friday with Jim and Nancy from our team working the radios to start.

Saturday, 10/24: Contesting and Presentations

On Saturday, we worked in shifts of approximately two to four hours each (*Photos G & H*). Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound, had loaned us two headsets and we found them extremely helpful in screening out ambient noise. Excellent audio quality was reported.

There was a noise source early in the morning that caused a total lack of communication for about two hours. When the noise mysteriously cleared, 15 meters was wide open to the world. No noise but lots of QRM — wall to wall stations trying to make contact — contest bedlam. Overall, the competition was a huge success from a technical and logistical standpoint, as well as accomplishing our goal of working as a united Cuban/U.S. team.

We had many visitors, including officials from the FRC and extended family of the Cuban hams in our group, as well as other local Cuban hams. In between contesting, presentations were made as part of our exhibition. One of the slide presentations was on RFI by Stephanie. Jim, WB2REM, did a slide presentation on remote linking. Nancy, K9DIG, demonstrated amateur radio to Cuban children. They got to wear headsets and try the radios. Nancy also provided a taste of Alaska by showing a presentation of her Iditarod competition and explained how she worked with the dogs. The images of snow went over well in the sweltering heat. Cuban coffee and pizza were served. Cuban coffee is made with sugar and espresso and served in little cups — that's all you need! Zing!

Sunday, 10/25 and Monday, 10/26: Testing and More Talking

Sunday and Monday, we had our volunteer examiners give FCC license exams to seven of the Cuban operators. It was the first time that U.S. amateur radio exams had been given on Cuban soil. The Cuban operators spoke little English but had great technical skills. With a lot of studying, they overcame the language barrier and all passed the Technician exams on Monday. Bob, CM2KL, took all three exams and was able to pass his Extra.

On Monday, we returned to the shack for some personal time on the radios. We all had a chance to make contacts on SSB and CW. The Cuban radio was also set up for PSK and RTTY. The Cuban operators used that when not in the contest.

To end our expedition, there was a

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Photo G. Stephanie Koles, WX3K, and Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W, operate the CQWW SSB DX Contest on Saturday, October 24. When this photo was taken, they were averaging six contacts per minute!



Photo H. Author Ruth Sweigart, KC4BAB, on the air from T42US.

The T42US Team

US Operators:

Jim Millner, WB2REM, Co-Leader; John Sweigart, KK4SHF; Nancy Yoshida, K9DIG; Stephanie Koles, WX3K; Ruth Sweigart, KC4BAB; Gordon Blumenfeld, WBØTKL; and Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W.

Cuban Operators:

Roberto Ibarra, CM2KL, Co-Leader; Jorge Novoa, CO2II; Osmani Mambuca Juan, CM2OY; Amed Santana Gonzalez, CO2AME; Juan Carlos Molina, CO2JD; Michel Gomez, CL2TV; Alexei Joaquin Morejon Cohen, CO2XK; Jorge Luis Gonzalez, CM2PTE; Pedro Rodriguez, CO2RP, FRC President; and Jorge Rodriguez, CO2RK.

banquet held at a nearby restaurant for operators and guests. FRC President Pedro Rodriguez was our host. Mr. Rodriguez was instrumental in getting us approval to operate in Cuba and threw a great party for us. Large amounts of food, including whole cooked snapper, baked chicken, and pulled beef were served. There was some drinking, dancing, and lots of camaraderie and laughter. Toasts from both sides of the team were heartfelt and a great closing to our expedition.

After the banquet, most of the operators returned to the shack to tear down and grab personal gear before heading back to the hotel in Havana. Monday night was spent relaxing and exploring some local hot spots. Hotel Engleterre had music at its rooftop restaurant. Once again the moon was full and the steamy breeze was blowing. Stephanie was able to play the band's fretless bass, a unique opportunity for her as she normally plays regular bass in a local band at home.

Tuesday, 10/27 – Tourist Time

This was our one free day to explore Havana. Some of us did some shopping on Obispo Street, in Habana Vieja. We took rides on the little Cocos — which are motorcycle powered with a little round shell for passengers (Coco means coconut, and they look like one). Some of us took taxis and explored Havana. We saw the American Embassy — which is now open. The Malecon — which is the Havana seafront — was also great to walk. There are many well-known pictures of the waves crashing on the seafront. We visited for sunset — a beautiful sight over the city.

Wednesday, 10/28 – Heading Home

Time to return to the U.S. Once again, bright and early to the airport. We were checked at the airport to make sure we were returning with all of the equipment we had checked in with — minus the radio we donated to the Cuban operators. It was a short flight back from Havana to Miami.

It was a great experience for all involved and as amateur radio operators, we hope we have helped in our own way to improve relations between our two countries and possibly open the door to future joint Cuban/U.S. radio operations.

Many thanks to our team leaders, Jim Millner, WB2REM, and Roberto Ibarra, CM2KL, who struggled over an 8-month period to get permission, visas, and licenses to allow us to have this great opportunity.

Roberto hopes to host other U.S. amateur radio operators in Cuba. If you and your family are interested in coming to Cuba and visiting the FRC, meeting other Cuban hams and seeing the sights, contact Bob at <cm2kl@frcuba.co.cu>.

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Results of the 2015 CQWW DX SSB Contest

It's this kind of unexpected opening ... that makes the game of radiosport so fascinating.

BY RANDY THOMPSON,* K5ZD

The 68th running of the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest dished out its share of QRM, heartache, and triumph for those who packed the bands over 48 hours during the last weekend of October 2015. The story of the contest can be summed up in three words: Expectations, Coronal Mass Ejection (CME), and noise!

There is nothing more hopeful than preparing for a contest. We watch the bands 27 days in advance to see if the sun will be offering tricks or treats. We carefully plan our strategy — not only for which band to be on at what time, but also to make sure the family knows to give us time in the chair. For those who travel, it's a frantic rush to find and pack all of the gear. And we work on antennas. A contest like the CQ WW provides all the motivation needed to make last minute adjustments in the hope of a better score.

Conditions over the summer and in the months leading up to the contest had lowered all expectations for 10 meters. Lots of energy was going into low-band antennas. Two weeks before the contest, the solar flux went up and 10 meters started to open. The week leading up to the contest sounded great and expectations started to rise. Could we sneak one more year out of our favorite band with room for everyone?

The solar flux was up to 124 two days before the contest and we were not only seeing encouraging 10 meter conditions, but the low bands were looking promising as well. Hope and expectations were on the rise.

What a difference a few days can make. The flux was dropping as the contest began — down to 106 both days. Even worse, a CME arrived earlier than expected and spewed unwelcome particles into the ionosphere during the middle portion of the contest. The low bands were highly absorbed and not good at all. The high bands opened well, but not with the length of openings we have come to enjoy over the past few years. More than one multi-op team had visions of a record score after the first 24 hours, only to see it slip away due to slow QSO rates on Sunday. To tease us with what might have been, conditions improved dramatically during the last few hours of the contest. Perhaps it is the sun's way of offering some encouragement to try again next year.

The CMEs weren't all bad news. In a twist from the usual, the CMEs did not cause an aurora and radio blackout for the northern latitudes. Instead, stations in northern Europe enjoyed a rare late night polar opening on 20 meters into North America. It's this kind of unexpected surprise — where stations in the far north gained an unexpected advantage



The team behind the multi-single entry of YS1YS in El Salvador. From left to right: Mario, YS1MAE; Roberto, YS1RS; and Mario, YS1GMV. (Courtesy of YS1GMV)

over those in the south — that make the game of radiosport so fascinating.

As if weak signal levels on the low bands weren't enough, static seemed to be everywhere. The remnants of Hurricane Patricia were moving through Texas, bringing rain and lightning. Big thunderstorms in the Caribbean made it difficult to hear anything on the low bands. Even stations in the Mediterranean complained of high static levels. Those who had invested their antenna building efforts on receiving antennas were rewarded.

A recurring theme in the post-contest comments was another kind of noise — QRM. Without 10 meters, all 40,000 stations active in CQ WW were crammed into less than 300 kHz on each band. It was almost impossible to find a clear frequency, which meant stations in different parts of the world were sharing three deep, causing lots of confusion and some not-in-log penalties. If you stopped talking even for a moment, it seemed someone would try to muscle in on the frequency. This was not helped by those selfish operators with over-processed audio and splatter well beyond the limits of a normal SSB signal.

* k5zd@cqww.com

2015 WW DX SSB TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR

World
8P5A (Op: Tom Georgens, W2SC)
Donor: Southern California DX Club

World – Low Power
TO2A (Op.: Rich Smith, N6KT)
Donor: Slovenian Contest Club

World – QRP
Ron Schwartz, VE3VN
Donor: Jeff Steinman, N5TJ

World Assisted
TM6M (Op.: Sebastien Le Gall, F8DBF)
Donor: Glenn Johnson, W0GJ

World – Assisted Low Power
P40W (Op.: John Crovelli, W2GD)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

U.S.A.
Krassimir Petkov, K1LZ
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club – KC8C Memorial

U.S.A. – Low Power
K3CR (Op.: Alex Avramov, LZ4AX)
Donor: North Coast Contesters

U.S.A. – QRP
Anthony Luscre, K8ZT
Donor: Pat Collins, N8VV

U.S.A. – Assisted
Charles D Fulp Jr, K3WW
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – Assisted Low Power
Dennis Egan, W1UE
Donor: LA9Z/LN9Z Leia Contest Club

U.S.A. Zone 3
Mitch Mason, K7RL
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

U.S.A. Zone 4
Kevin Stockton, N5DX
Donor: Dave Pruett, K8CC & Greg Surma, K8GL

Europe
Tonno Vahk, ES5TV
Donor: Potomac Valley R.C. – W4BVV Memorial

Europe – Low Power
ED5N (Op.: Raul Blasco, EA5KA)
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR

Europe – QRP
Pit Schmidt, DK3WE
Donor: Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C

Europe – Assisted
OH0X (Op.: Kim Ostman, OH6KZP)*
Donor: Martin Huml, OL5Y

Europe – Assisted Low Power
Imanol Antonanzas, EC2DX
Donor: Alex Goncharov, R3ZZ

Africa
EF8U (Op.: Jeff Kinzli, N6GQ)
Donor: Chris Terkla, N1XS

Asia
UP0L (Op.: Vladimir Vinichenko, UN9LW)
Donor: Nodir Tursun-Zade, EY8MM

Caribbean/Central America – High Power
YN5Z (Op.: Scott Tutthill, K7ZO)
Donor: Alex M. Kasevich, 8R1A

Caribbean/Central America – Low Power
Felipe Hernandez, KP3Z
Donor: Albert Crespo, NH7A

Oceania
KH7M (Op.: Jim Neiger, N6TJ)
Donor: Barbara Yasson, AC7UH

South America
YW4D (Op.: Paolo Stradiotto, YV1DIG)
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Canada
Jeff Briggs, VY2ZM
Donor: Contest Club Ontario – VE3WT Memorial

Russia
Anatoly Polevik, RC9O
Donor: Roman Thomas, R5AA

Japan – High Power
Masaki Masa Okano, JH4UYB
Donor: Rush Drake, W7RM, Memorial

Japan – Low Power
Yuichi Yamazaki, JJ1VRO
Donor: Western Washington DX Club

Southern Cone (CE CX LU) – Low Power
CW5W (Op.: Jorge Diez Furest, CX6VM)
Donor: LU Contest Group

ASEAN (XZ HS XW XU 3W 9M 9V V8 YB DU)
XW1IC (Op.: Champ Muangamphun, E21E1C)
Donor: YB Land DX Club

ASEAN (XZ HS XW XU 3W 9M 9V V8 YB DU)
– Low Power
Nikhorn Deesai, HS5NMF
Donor: Bob Kupps, N6BK

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

World – 28 MHz
D4Z (Op.: Massimo Cortesi, IZ4DPV)
Donor: Joel Chalmers, KG6DX

World – 21 MHz
ED8X (Op.: Alexey Mikhailov, RA1A1P)
Donor: Robert Naumann, W5OV

World – 14 MHz
CR5C (Op.: Pavel Prihoda, OK4PA)
Donor: North Jersey DX Assn. – K2HLB Memorial

World – 7 MHz
D4C (Op.: Andrea Bianchi, HB9DUR)
Donor: Fred Laun, K3ZO – K7ZZ Memorial

World – 3.7 MHz
CR2X (Op.: Marti Laine, OH2BH)
Donor: Fred Capossela, K6SSS

World – 1.8 MHz
IH9A (Op.: Gianfranco Di Maio, IT9SPB)
Donor: Martin Monsalvo, LU5DX & Carlos Monsalvo, LU6EBY – LU8DQ Memorial

U.S.A. – 28 MHz
Jay Camac, N4OX
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

U.S.A. – 21 MHz
Peter Bizlewicz, KU2M
Donor: 11PM Dayton Pizza Gang

U.S.A. – 14 MHz
Conrad Romberg, N5CR/7
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club – KC1F Memorial

U.S.A. – 7 MHz
Dan Handa, W7WA
Donor: Stanley Cohen, W8QDQ

U.S.A. – 3.7 MHz
Joe Gagliardi, AA1BU
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – 1.8 MHz
Ronald McClain, W2VO
Donor: South Texas DX & Contest Club (STDXCC)

Caribbean/Central America (14 MHz)
Gil Joachim, FM5FJ
Donor: Nate Moreschi, N4YDU

Oceania (14 MHz)
E51EAQ (Op.: Jacek Marczewski, SP5EAQ)
Donor: Bruce D. Lee, KD6WW

Asia (21 MHz)
Shinya Hatakenaka, JA5FDJ
Donor: Dallas/Fort. Worth Contest Group W5PG Memorial

Europe – 28 MHz
EE3A (Op.: Jordi Bueno, EA3ATM)
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Europe – 21 MHz
OH8X (Op.: Pasi Luoma-Aho, OH6UM)
Donor: Tine Brajnik, S50A

Europe – 14 MHz
OZ7X (Op.: Kristian Soeholm, OZ5KF)*
Donor: Charles Wooten, NF4A

Europe – 7 MHz
TM0T (Op.: Gildas Balanec, TU5KG)
Donor: Central Texas DX and Contest Club – NT5C Memorial

Europe – 3.7 MHz
OK5D (Op.: David Lunak, OK1DTP)*
Donor: Ted Demopoulos, KT1V

Europe – 1.8 MHz
Max Elleby, OZ4MD
Donor: Robert Kasca, S53R

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER

World
EF8R (Ops.: R2AA, UA5C, RA5A, RT9T, EA8RM, LY4A, OH1RY, RN3QO, RW3QNZ)
Donor: So. Calif. DX Club – W6AM Memorial

World – Low Power
FY5KE (Ops.: FY5FY, F1HAR, F5HRY, F5UII, F6FVY)
Donor: Rex Turvin, NR6M

U.S.A.
K6ND/1 (Ops.: W1VE, KE1J, K6ND, K3JO)
Donor: Carolina DX Association – Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF & Ken Boyd, K4DXA Memorial

Canada
VE3JM (Ops.: VE3EK, VE3EY, VE3JM)
Donor: John Sluymmer, VE3EJ – Paul Hudson, VE3TA Memorial

Caribbean/Central America
V47T (Ops: K1DG, N2NT, KM3T)
Donor: Bob Raymond, WA1Z

Africa
CR3A (Ops.: CT1BOH, CT1FUU, CT3BD, CT3DL, CT3DZ, CT3EE, OM3GI, OM3RM)
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

Asia
P33W (Ops.: UR5MID, LZ2HM, LZ3FN, LY4AA, 5B4AIE, R4FO, UA4FER, RW4WR, RA3AUU)
Donor: Edward L. Campbell, NX7TT – AA6BSB and KA6V Memorial

Japan
JR5YCE (Ops: JM1UWB, JR2GRX, JJ5GMJ, JH5FIS, JH5RXS)
Donor: Arizona Outlaws Contest Club

Europe
EI7M (Ops.: EI8IR, EI3JE, EI3JZ, EI3KD, EI7IG, GOCKV, EI7KD, G4CLA)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

Europe – Low Power
EF7X Ops.: (EA7AKK, EA7FUN, EA7KW, EA7PP, EA7RM)
Donor: EA Contest Club

Oceania
VK4NM (Ops: VK4NM, VK4LAT)
Donor: Junichi Tanaka, JH4RHF

South America
PJ4X (Ops: K2NG, NA2AA, PJ4LS, JH5GHM)
Donor: Victor Burns, K16IM – The Cuba Libre Contest Club

MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTERS

CN2AA (Ops: R3DCX, RA3CO, RC6U, RK3AD, R3FA, RK7A, RL3FT, RM2U, RM9I, RM2FA, RU9I, RV3MA, RW7K, RX3APM, UA2FM, UA3AB, UA3ASZ, UA4Z, UB7K)
Donor: Dave Leeson, W6NL & Barb Leeson, K6BL

U.S.A.
K3LR (Ops: K3LR, N2NC, N5UM, W3CDG, W2RQ, WM2H, W5OV, K3LA, K1AR, N6MJ, N3SD, K3UA, DL6LAU, N3GJ, LU7DW)
Donor: Jim Lawson, W2PV Memorial

Europe
DF0HQ (Ops: DG1ATN, DJ1TH, DJ9AO, DK5KMA, DK7YY, DL1AUZ, DL4UNY, DL5ANT, DL5GA, DL5MLO, DL6SAK, DL7CH, DL7FER, DL7VOA, DL8BH, DM8HH)
Donor: Finnish Amateur Radio League

Oceania
KH6J (Ops: AH6S, AH6NF, KH6NX, KH6U, KH7U, KH6WG, KH6XL, N2NL, W6WR, WOCN)
Donor: Tack Kumagai, JE1CKA – JR2GMC and JA9SSY Memorial

CONTEST EXPEDITIONS

World Single Operator
ZD7W (Op: Oliver Sweningsen III, W6NV)
Donor: National Capital DX Association - Stuart Meyer, W2GHK Memorial

World Multi-Op
TO4K (Ops: G4XUM, GM4AFF, M5RIC, N0VD)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

OVERLAY CATEGORIES

World – Classic
P49Y (Op.: Andrew Faber, AE6Y)
Donor: Pete Smith, N4ZR

U.S.A. – Classic
Jon Zaines, AA1K/3
Donor: Tom Horton, KS1ID

World – Rookie
Valery Zhitkovich, EW6W
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR – N8SM Memorial

U.S.A. – Rookie
Tucker McGuire, W4FS
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR – K3TUP Memorial

*Second place

	Single Operator				Assisted			
	High	Low	QRP	Total	High	Low	QRP	Total
All Bands	844	1979	110	2933	1126	912	30	2068
10m	85	357	28	470	131	175	18	324
15m	98	224	35	357	108	99	13	220
20m	71	191	24	286	85	72	9	166
40m	59	86	15	160	56	44	14	114
75m	31	29	8	68	35	28	4	67
160m	28	20	4	52	21	13	3	37
Multi-One					260	121		381
Multi-Two					104			104
Multi-Multi					54			54
Totals				4326				3535

Table 1. Number of Entries by Category



The men behind the voices at Signal Point, PJ2T. Back row (from left to right): Jack, N4RV; Rick, NØYY; Andrea, IK7YTT; and Dave, VA7AM. Front: Heiko, DK3DM; Geoff, WØCG/PJ2DX; Uli, DL8OBQ; John, N4QQ; and Adam, W1ASB. (Courtesy of WØCG)

There is QRM, and then there is QRM on 40 meters. It seemed like every high-powered multi-op was fighting for space between 7125 and 7200. Franki, OQ5M, summed it up this way, “if SSB is ‘like pulling teeth’ — on 40 it’s without anesthesia.” Karel, OK1CF, noted, “it is a great pity that many of us have forgotten how to work split. Between the terrible splatters here in [the] middle part of Europe, it is simply not possible to listen to weak signals.”

The pressure to find a frequency was so great that some stations sought refuge by operating slightly outside of the amateur radio bands. We used our SDR recordings to identify stations that were running on 14350 and 21450. Sorry guys, but that puts a lot of your signal outside the limit. We removed these QSOs when we found them. Stations in ITU region 1 also need to remember that they may not work above 7200 kHz.

Radiosport is a game played regardless of the conditions. When the starting bell for CQ WW sounds, the bands explode with activity and the race is on.

Conditions were good enough that over 5 million QSOs were reported in the received logs, including contacts with 223 different country multipliers. Even some QRP stations accomplished DXCC in a weekend. Nineteen stations were able to work all 40 CQ Zones on 15 meters, three did it on 20 meters, and one did it on 10 meters.

What words would describe your experiences in CQ WW SSB 2015?

Single Operator All Bands

The top overall Single Operator All Bands (SOAB) score was a repeat victory by Tom, W2SC, operating from his usual spot in Barbados as 8P5A. Tom logged exactly 400 contacts in the first 60 minutes of the contest on his way to a total of 10,220 after log checking! His only moment of concern was losing a homebrew solid-state amplifier 26 hours into the contest. After the contest, Tom reported, “the high bands were great but the low bands had very high noise levels. The first night it was even hard to work other Caribbean stations on 160.”



Installing radials directly in the saltwater at A73A were (red shirt) Alex, OZ7AM and (white shirt) Romeo, S59. (Courtesy of S59M)

Tonno, ES5TV, was thrilled with his second place overall finish calling it “... probably the most memorable contest experience I have ever had.” Tonno was watching the online scoreboard at cqcontest.net and saw that Kim, OHØX, was ahead on multipliers. Tonno used that as motivation, saying, “I literally pushed like never before. Without a single break for 48 hours other than a quick jump or two into the bathroom.” What Tonno didn’t realize was that Kim was in the Assisted category. “Had I known that I was competing only against myself and without any ambition for top Europe, I would have certainly taken a short nap or relaxed.” Taking advantage of the incredible late night opening on 20 meters to North America, Tonno finished far ahead of all other European scores.

There were four continents represented among the top five SOAB scores. Jeff, N6GQ, overcame a killer travel schedule to place fourth from EF8U in his first time operating from Africa. Vladimir, UN9LW, represented Asia with a big score from UPØL in Kazakhstan.

The USA Top Ten for SOAB featured stations from across the country. Krassy, K1LZ, in Massachusetts nailed down the top spot with Kevin, N5DX,

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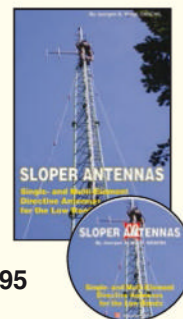
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2015 CQ WW DX SSB TOP SCORES

<p>WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>8P5A (W2SC)16,911,600 ES5TV13,177,813 VY2ZM (K1ZM)11,665,566 EF8U (N6GQ)9,956,860 UP0L (UN9LW)9,666,524 CF3A (VE3AT)9,618,125 9A1P (9A1UN)9,316,256 RC908,963,178 P3F (5B4AGN)8,666,580 UW2M (UR0MC)8,424,752</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>D4Z (I4ZDPV)3,252,670 CX2DK2,325,162 ZY2B1,502,904</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>ED8X (RA1A)2,069,516 OH8X (OH6UM)1,797,696 CR6T (CT1ESV)1,512,368</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>CR5C (OK4PA)1,403,061 OZ7X (OZ5FS)1,367,688 G9W (M0DXR)1,352,575</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>D4C (HB9DUR)1,436,064 TM0T798,532 RK4FD750,547</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>CR2X (OH2BH)453,248 OK5D (OK1DTP)201,178 EW8Y163,464</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>IH9A (IT9SPB)267,736 OZ4MD42,280 G4L (G4LDL)37,417</p> <p>LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>T02A (N6KT)7,035,756 3V8SS (KF5EY)6,408,158 KP3Z6,138,341 VE3DZ5,727,392 NP2X5,452,457 ED5N (EA5KA)3,808,761 OK7Z (OK2ZI)3,728,718 K3CR (LZ4AX)3,568,956 EP2A (EA20T)3,542,272 LY5R (LY9A)3,531,635</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>EA8TX1,122,680 ZP6DYA514,856 VR2ZQZ458,590</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>S0S (EA2CNU)876,555 JF3BFS374,267 LZ2JA241,280</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>9Y4D1,275,340 CO6LC388,326 RZ90Q239,085</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>RC7KY163,114 YV8ER157,080 SO7NSN108,150</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>F5BEG55,242 SP4SHD33,672 VE3BR30,108</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>SO9IAU23,265 OK1JOK13,886 YO8RZJ12,528</p> <p>QRP All Band</p> <p>VE3VN677,340 DK3WE642,208 JR4DAH500,678 JH10GC485,010 UX2MF425,548 K8ZT340,075 G4CWH290,418 IZ1ANK287,328 W6QU (W8QZA)236,610 ND0C235,554</p>	<p>28 MHz</p> <p>PU1MHZ122,910 I5KAP54,431 WA6FGV43,758</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>YT7Z (YU7SK)103,740 SP5DDJ83,520 GJ3YHU52,917</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>SQ5NBE58,290 IN3HUU11,780 R2ABT11,286</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>CT1BXT37,570 UT5UUV12,264 I2ZJPN11,456</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>OL4W (OK1IF)13,872 SQ8MFB6,020 RA4FWA3,936</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>HA1TI2,883</p> <p>ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>TM6M (F8DBF)14,263,470 OH0X (OH6KZP)11,790,240 PX5E (PP5JR)11,073,697 TO2M (VE3LA)9,460,955 6Y9X (K1XM)8,245,664 P40A (KK9A)8,176,630 SQ2O (SQ2GXO)8,168,004 VA2WA7,674,189 LP1H (LU5HM)7,318,072 EU1A7,185,879</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>CQ3L (DF7ZS)2,157,246 LR1E (LW6DG)1,906,736 OK7K (OK1BN)1,216,885</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>DL2ARD1,685,103 YV4NN1,542,240 9Y4W1,495,224</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>4L8A1,606,648 OL9A (OK2ZAW)1,516,482 OH8L (OH2LW)1,503,712</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>SN3A (SP3GEM)772,740 TM7G575,127 9A2L (9A3AG)519,224</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>HA8A (HA8DZ)279,672 M5B (G3WVG)257,370 OQ5M (ON5ZO)181,450</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>IO4C (I4ZAW)76,440 EF8S (OH2BYS)70,824 OK1W69,388</p> <p>ASSISTED LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>P40W (W2GD)8,641,514 EC2DX5,377,401 HI3TEJ4,665,692 LY7Z4,394,565 W1UE4,143,150 9A5Y (9A7DX)4,088,268 KE3X3,701,388 K5WA2,583,819 VE2IDX (VE3ZF)2,569,899 VA3DF2,438,257</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>ED80 (EC5AN)1,035,709 SV9GPV805,304 IR9W (IW0HBY)739,576</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>YV1KK1,229,658 EA8MT1,012,860 UK9AA867,232</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>GI6K (GI0KOW)638,880 UR2Y (US0YW)619,362 YO9HP439,200</p>	<p>7 MHz</p> <p>CQ7X (EA7JX)235,480 PD1D62,084 HI8KW59,600</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>E74063,492 OK1AY59,625 YU0U56,628</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>ES5RY32,154 Z35T28,644 LY2OU21,122</p> <p>ASSISTED QRP All Band</p> <p>RT4W678,300 I28JFL/1444,087 RA4AAT417,125 I23NVR358,474 DD5FM334,196 OK2FD221,112 YU1LM195,337 SP9RQH141,949 UR5XMM89,180 LZ7H74,036</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>SP5EWX162,960 JR3RWB117,645 R7NA96,480</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>OH2BV178,416 II3W (I3VFJ)165,240 BD9XE73,440</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>MW0JRX201,720 YT4T71,536 I20FUW43,344</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>IQ3KU (I23IBL)23,400 SV3GKU13,662 I21DGG10,761</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>EW1IP24,640 ES7RX4,536 9A4AA3,465</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>YP8A3,116 SP60JK1,710</p> <p>MULTI-OP SINGLE TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>EF8R30,859,830 CR3A26,524,220 P33W25,506,000 V47T23,721,177 UP2L19,342,103 PJ4X18,425,844 EI7M16,988,367 9K2HN16,026,408 IR4X14,857,570 E7DX14,454,180</p> <p>Low Power</p> <p>FY5KE14,118,480 VP9I6,784,064 EF7X5,370,786 KP4BD4,309,425 HI3K3,988,962 ED1B3,910,548 PR1T3,841,830 SZ1A2,942,055 OE2S2,863,344 9A3B2,493,120</p> <p>MULTI-OP TWO TRANSMITTER SINGLE TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>CN2R36,582,798 CN3A34,973,452 PJ4Q23,660,020 C4A20,307,184 T04K19,705,908 A73A19,171,206 V26B18,635,988 KC1XX18,105,815 PX2A16,904,300 ED9K16,893,920</p> <p>MULTI-OP MULTI-TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>CN2AA69,993,040 K3LR31,602,915</p>	<p>HK1NA30,132,705 PJ2T27,166,178 W3LPL23,637,570 DF0HQ23,497,428 9A1A23,148,840 ZW5B21,068,295 WE3C19,324,062 LZ9W18,088,200</p> <p>ROOKIE High Power</p> <p>EW6W3,240,975 W4FS2,813,866 A92AA853,160 KG5CIK364,212 ND7J/4355,320 LB7ZG258,995 VE3TCV224,576 W7CYL211,640 YU2DBZ184,496 YU1USA150,290</p> <p>ROOKIE Low Power</p> <p>YY1YLY692,886 BG2CTX639,840 8P9EH419,152 OH5CZ391,575 KF5VDX363,090 YTSIVN327,137 ED3T (EA3HSO)319,770 M4P (M0PMV)315,248 R0AEE297,297 PA9IGB294,572</p> <p>CLASSIC High Power</p> <p>P49Y (A6GY)6,930,818 4L0A (4L4WW)5,500,828 OH0V (OH6LI)3,050,431 HG3R2,883,540 A65BP2,882,180 AA1K/32,653,530 SP9LJD2,527,448 G5W (5B4WN)2,456,904 GM2V (GM3WOJ)2,450,760 OA4SS2,355,792</p> <p>CLASSIC Low Power</p> <p>VE3DZ3,526,202 OE6Z (OE6MBG)2,402,244 V3A (V31MA)1,918,290 K1BX1,538,685 TY4AB925,344 LY6A814,618 US0HZ786,210 K1HT738,360 SO6H (SQ6PLH)686,700 OK1TA649,020</p> <p>UNITED STATES SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>K1LZ8,223,696 N5DX7,336,080 N1UR7,172,642 W9RE5,584,410 N9RV/75,573,344</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>N40X504,900 K8MFO441,188 W4SLT120,078 KC9WAV115,230 NI0G92,514</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>KU2M1,118,340 W3EP/1363,485 K2YY/6284,532</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>N5CR/7260,865 AB1WR113,436 K1RX96,652</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>W7WA532,024 W1XX212,864 N7AU48,500</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>AA1BU101,222 W4QNW28,392 W2XL27,000</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>W2VO4,440</p>	<p>N7GP (N5IA)4,200 WB4WXE2,400</p> <p>LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>K3CR (LZ4AX)3,568,956 AD4Z2,495,871 N5AW2,226,978 NA8V1,949,815 N4TZ/91,887,472</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>K2PS/4137,826 K3MSB96,250 WE6EZ/591,258</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>K0BBB151,065 W3SM/1122,752 K5FUV113,704</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>KJ4OHL66,926 KF5CYZ32,851 KX2S/326,325</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>KB3LIX29,484 KD5LNO16,660 W9QL4,329</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>W8JGU7,498 K4CC6,223</p> <p>QRP All Band</p> <p>K8ZT340,075 W6QU (W8QZA)236,610 ND0C235,554 W1JCW/5223,965 KA8SMA151,891</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>WA6FGV43,758 KM4VR9,464 KI0G/53,120 N8XX1,200</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>N3UR16,464</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>WB3D/46,624</p> <p>ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>K3WW6,889,155 K5TR5,839,540 NN1SS5,456,136 N3RS5,158,964 AA3B4,647,250</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>W5PR615,038 K2SSS480,048 W7ZR222,162</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>K3EST/6931,245 N7DD884,256 AB4B773,245</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>WA3C/8329,556 N2NS/663,245 KJ7NL27,730</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>W9RN71,027 W2TA/468,794 W6RW/749,312</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>W3NO59,247 N6RO18,590 W1ZZ11,221</p> <p>ASSISTED LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>W1UE4,143,150 KE3X3,701,388 K5WA2,583,819 W9PA2,272,050 KS1J1,806,060</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>N1DG220,500 N4I/5199,955 KE5SNJ135,250</p>	<p>21 MHz</p> <p>A10L339,438 W2AW (N2GM)256,122 N9TGR240,099</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>N4DL73,401 NW4V10,176 N2GA1,456</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>WK9U34,452 KC0MCK/44,180</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>K3TW/48,195 WB40MM2,607</p> <p>ASSISTED QRP 28 MHz</p> <p>KB2HSH11,232</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>N0UR20,808 W9SUN17,871 N8HP16,614</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>N9NBC19,512</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>N9NBC19,512</p> <p>MULTI-OP SINGLE TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>K6ND/18,571,060 K8AZ8,447,173 NV9L7,142,818 W2FU6,447,080 WW4LL6,141,788</p> <p>Low Power</p> <p>NM1C1,667,925 KT4ZB1,423,148 WA1F/41,503,440 K4RC401,790 W3HAC260,848</p> <p>MULTI-OP TWO TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>KC1XX18,105,815 K9CT11,482,330 N04I10,526,440 N0NI6,898,755 K4TCG5,673,734</p> <p>MULTI-OP MULTI-TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>K3LR31,602,915 W3LPL23,637,570 WE3C19,324,062 WK1Q12,144,725 W4RM10,249,351</p> <p>ROOKIE High Power</p> <p>W4FS2,813,586 KG5CIK364,212 ND7J/4355,320 W7CYL211,640 KG5CIJ98,306</p> <p>Low Power</p> <p>KF5VDX363,090 KC1BOH205,425 KE0CRP187,543 AE0EE165,000 AC8XI161,138</p> <p>CLASSIC High Power</p> <p>AA1K/32,653,530 NN1N1,729,920 N8II1,609,685 W1WEF1,424,280 K9JF/71,060,618</p> <p>Low Power</p> <p>K1BX1,538,685 K1HT738,360 NA1DX/3367,319 KK4RV347,706 K1IX315,268</p>
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Gary, KF5VDX, set up this vertical array on the beach and worked 94 countries — five for all time new ones! (Courtesy of KF5VDX)



Rich, N6KT, operating as TO2A. (Courtesy of N6KT)

doing a great job to finish second from Arkansas. Mike, W9RE, did his usual strong effort from Indiana in fourth. Pat, N9RV/7, in Montana outdueled Mitch, K7RL, in Washington for the top score out west.

SOAB Low Power was the most popular category in the contest with 1,979 entries (see *Table 1*). The top score was a real Field Day style operation by Rich, N6KT, operating as TO2A in French Guiana. Rich worked from a tent with generator power and no antennas more than 10 meters high. This was Rich's 11th world high score in CQ WW Phone. Ashraf, KF5EYY, operated 3V8SS to second place just ahead of three North

American entries KP3Z, VE3DZ, and NP2X. The top European score was ED5N operated by Raul, EA5KA. Long time high-power competitor Alex, LZ4AX, drove the K3CR station in low power for the top USA score, followed by Julio, AD4Z, and Marv, N5AW.

Single Operator All Bands Assisted

The Assisted categories continue to grow in popularity. The SOAB Assisted High Power category had 1,126 entries. The winner was TM6M in Western France operated by Sebastien, F8DBF. Sebastien had the second highest single-operator score in the contest behind only 8P5A. Kim, OH6KZP, operated OHØX to the highest multiplier of any single operator to finish second. Sergio, PP5JR, piloted PX5E to third with one of the few big scores from the Southern Hemisphere in a year where all the action was up north.

The winner of the SOAB Assisted Low Power category was John, W2GD, operating from P4ØW in Aruba. John's score would have placed him fifth in the High-Power category. The contest had a special meaning for John, "Nine months ago the doctors told me I had cancer and my prognosis was limited. But, after six months of treatment with a new immuno-therapy drug (and the loving prayers of thousands), last month I achieved the miracle of complete remission ... the cancer is currently gone. Unfortunately there is no permanent cure for this, but I'm enjoying every extra day I have."



SOTabeams Redesigns Popular Portable Log Pad

SOTabeams has redesigned its popular portable log pad. The changes were suggested by users and include a new page format together with revised columns for easier use. The pad uses A6 paper, which is 105 x 148 mm (approx. 4 x 6 inches) and is made up of 80 g/sqm white paper that is not waterproof. It is glued to the 750-micron grayboard backing along the long edge, which makes it easy to tear off individual sheets. There are 50 sheets per pad with 13 QSO lines per sheet.

The Log Pad is available now and has a retail price of \$2.12 with a special price on 10 or more pads. For more information, contact: SOTabeams, 2nd Floor, Paradise Mill, Park Lane, Macclesfield, SK11 6TL U.K. Phone: +44 (0) 7976 688359. Website: <<http://www.sotabeams.co.uk>>.

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2015 CQ WW DX SSB BAND-BY-BAND BREAKDOWN—TOP ALL BAND SCORES

Number groups indicate: QSOs/Zones/Countries on each band

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
8P5A	67/7/23	533/18/77	1621/28/101	1996/33/108	2744/31/113	3259/30/111
ES5TV	235/12/54	562/19/73	982/31/107	2243/36/127	3017/38/132	781/35/117
VY2ZM	251/18/68	361/21/74	937/27/94	2006/34/117	1298/35/116	1088/29/105
EF8U	20/3/16	230/15/44	420/19/80	942/30/100	1778/35/110	2492/28/100
UPL	68/7/19	326/11/50	1300/28/95	1666/34/99	1183/31/99	1442/27/96

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
TM6M	148/11/49	606/19/86	1287/31/115	1601/34/131	1872/37/135	1543/36/151
OH0X	180/9/52	515/17/85	965/35/126	1572/38/149	2457/39/151	605/36/143
PX5E	8/5/7	150/16/60	246/29/89	1028/34/124	1240/37/129	2888/35/136
T02M	24/4/16	268/19/60	888/28/96	1434/35/120	1005/29/102	2819/32/124
*P40W	21/4/18	155/16/57	439/26/90	1060/34/121	995/33/113	1919/31/115

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
EF8R	85/11/54	632/21/92	1615/37/125	2365/38/156	2083/39/154	4814/38/162
CR3A	96/13/56	648/23/95	850/32/113	2364/38/147	2155/37/149	4168/38/154
P33W	179/9/56	451/20/84	1249/34/123	2628/38/155	2296/39/151	3299/37/154
V47T	87/11/47	417/19/84	1824/33/118	2206/37/140	3421/38/145	3700/34/137
UP2L	151/8/51	564/18/78	1798/37/129	2417/38/152	2363/37/150	965/32/129

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
CN2R	246/10/49	1497/27/107	2031/33/121	2086/37/150	4086/38/153	3960/38/154
CN3A	62/8/45	887/21/92	2115/34/121	3043/38/149	3627/38/152	4068/37/158
PJ4Q	63/11/30	498/19/76	1539/28/108	2305/34/130	3272/32/118	3423/31/123
C4A	93/8/42	481/14/71	1396/32/114	2051/37/146	2202/38/135	2555/37/155
T04K	84/6/20	650/17/72	1902/28/95	2557/33/125	3900/31/113	3392/29/118

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
CN2AA	872/20/84	2284/31/117	3537/37/140	5710/38/162	5518/39/168	5423/40/164
K3LR	466/19/61	841/27/99	2350/36/137	3353/39/174	3188/40/168	2260/34/147
HK1NA	268/16/52	596/21/78	2017/31/116	3349/37/140	3199/36/132	3888/32/120
PJ2T	175/13/28	644/20/79	1823/30/108	2816/36/136	3631/33/124	3794/30/124
W3LPL	275/14/42	750/26/99	1844/34/130	1931/39/158	3051/40/157	2001/34/140

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K1LZ	79/10/38	329/21/70	714/20/81	897/31/100	1658/33/104	1114/23/93
N5DX	17/8/11	176/20/63	793/31/99	691/35/120	1622/37/126	780/32/108
N1UR	42/9/26	349/17/69	555/24/89	842/31/107	1141/33/115	1088/27/100
W9RE	33/9/15	171/18/63	450/30/95	643/34/111	979/35/113	897/26/96
N9RV7	12/5/5	101/21/39	747/32/73	735/32/107	1667/37/113	533/27/65

USA SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K3WW	40/8/25	199/20/74	243/26/96	1312/35/134	756/33/129	898/29/112
K5TR	23/10/17	90/20/60	563/30/109	367/36/122	1342/37/140	827/32/129
NN1SS	13/7/8	165/19/75	238/26/96	1071/37/130	713/33/118	603/29/113
N3RS	5/4/3	160/16/67	283/23/85	674/36/130	789/34/122	817/29/119
AA3B	16/6/15	170/14/64	332/25/91	659/32/116	598/31/114	798/26/107

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K6ND/1	42/11/32	374/19/82	535/27/102	823/37/135	1210/33/135	1210/30/122
K8AZ	21/9/18	76/20/73	523/29/105	1107/38/137	1313/37/138	958/33/126
NV9L	30/11/29	73/21/68	536/31/114	753/38/141	1129/38/140	902/31/116
W2FU	26/9/24	246/21/81	247/28/101	907/38/140	838/36/130	831/32/120
WW4LL	14/8/13	128/21/74	516/31/113	656/36/134	1040/38/140	726/32/126

USA MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
KC1XX	36/11/29	595/23/91	1297/32/119	1601/39/147	2408/40/151	1876/31/132
K9CT	32/8/18	232/23/75	699/33/115	1156/38/140	1888/37/140	1537/32/128
NQ4I	36/10/21	231/17/72	865/31/115	1071/37/138	1425/37/140	1521/30/128
NN0I	28/10/19	184/21/68	563/30/106	1165/37/131	1168/36/138	660/33/114
K4TCG	23/8/14	173/19/63	425/27/89	503/32/110	1146/35/109	1070/28/104

USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K3LR	466/19/61	841/27/99	2350/36/137	3353/39/174	3188/40/168	2260/34/147
W3LPL	275/14/42	750/26/99	1844/34/130	1931/39/158	3051/40/157	2001/34/140
WE3C	180/15/48	639/24/91	1222/33/123	2285/39/159	2491/40/153	1385/33/140
WK1Q	229/12/40	605/24/91	1021/27/110	916/38/145	1271/36/134	1230/30/124
W4RM	26/8/15	387/20/76	959/28/110	1405/36/132	1730/37/131	669/26/112

EC2DX put up a very nice score to finish first in Europe. Dennis, W1UE, was the top USA finisher and fifth overall.

Single Operator Single Band

With the D4C contest station not fully ready for a multi-operator effort due to the reconstruction activities after Hurricane Fred (2015), two single-band entries were planned. Max, IZ4DPV, selected 10 meters and the callsign D4Z. Andrea, HB9DUR, joined Max on the trip with the intention of operating 20 meters. After two days of work trying to prevent interference from 20 meters to 10 meters, it was decided that Andrea would do 40 meters. The D4C mountaintop location is fantastic and resulted in two dominating first place scores.

No surprise that 10 meters was the most popular single-band entry category. It was nice to have plenty of room to spread out with signals from 28300 to above 28700. Marcelo, CX2DK, made a valiant effort in finishing in second place. The 10-meter scores dropped dramatically as you headed north. Jay, N4OX, had the top USA score on 10, with Don, K8MFO, close on his heels.

The top score on 15 meters was by Alexey, RA1A, testing out a new location in the Canary Islands as ED8X. It was tough going with the band packed from 21100 to the top. Pasi, OH6UM, made a last minute decision to switch from his usual 20-meter, single-band effort to 15 meters. Not only did he finish second in the world, he broke the Finland record (OH5BM, 1988) that had stood for 27 years! He ended up only 30K points from capturing the European record. Peter, KU2M, cruised to a dominant victory among USA scores.

The championship of 20 meters was between three Europeans: north, central, and south. The winner by a narrow margin was Pavel, OK4PA, operating as CR5C from the

QTH owned by OK1RF. Kristian, OZ5KF, operated OZ7X to second place over Mark, MØDXR, at G9W. All three managed to put in about 40 hours of operation. It was 10 extra country multipliers by CR5C that made the difference. Sigi, TF3CW, deserves an honorable mention for his fourth place score and for handing out the zone 40 multiplier.



Will, AA4NC, enjoying the pileups from Fernando de Noronha as PYØF/AA4NC. (Courtesy of AA4NC)

EUROPE TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
ES5TV	235/12/54	562/19/73	982/31/107	2243/36/127	3017/38/132	781/35/117
9A1P	146/9/55	320/14/66	832/26/92	1025/33/102	1354/35/103	2253/35/124
UW2M	97/8/44	411/15/65	1156/29/101	1140/35/107	2049/35/123	1544/33/108
4O3A	270/12/53	400/17/68	1246/28/100	1185/36/112	1508/35/126	1264/32/110
OE3K	177/8/46	567/14/62	1159/28/97	1003/28/91	1103/33/101	994/30/96

EUROPE SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

TM6M	148/11/49	606/19/86	1287/31/115	1601/34/131	1872/37/135	1543/36/151
OH0X	180/9/52	515/17/85	965/35/126	1572/38/149	2457/39/151	605/36/143
SO2O	116/9/53	174/19/82	1054/34/114	1144/37/124	1390/37/127	399/35/135
EU1A	39/6/30	129/13/58	1000/33/112	1069/37/125	1180/36/127	1034/36/140
DJ80G	115/9/52	419/17/83	354/34/111	1068/37/130	1068/37/130	711/37/143

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

E17M	102/11/52	597/17/88	1776/36/119	1804/38/146	2407/38/145	2037/36/151
IR4X	118/12/61	498/20/93	1486/37/127	1512/38/147	1809/38/148	1576/37/152
E7DX	84/10/56	631/24/99	1356/35/124	1429/38/151	2151/40/154	1918/36/156
RU1A	51/9/51	145/16/72	1243/35/127	2948/40/156	2552/40/150	602/35/144
OM7M	150/12/64	240/19/86	1607/37/133	1659/38/145	1600/39/151	1595/38/160

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

ED1R	254/13/62	1108/22/98	1773/29/113	1769/38/150	2672/40/147	1984/37/142
HG1S	187/7/46	1113/20/90	1312/31/113	1619/38/145	2713/39/149	1672/36/150
PI4DX	261/10/53	1023/18/87	1288/35/116	1772/38/132	1525/38/135	2124/36/135
IB9T	302/11/60	833/19/84	1152/28/104	1997/38/149	1942/36/134	2150/38/156
HG7T	231/11/55	1125/26/97	1388/35/125	1299/37/144	1840/40/147	1551/39/152

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

DFHQ	688/10/61	1815/26/100	3186/38/141	3329/40/163	2002/40/161	1538/38/160
9A1A	983/16/72	1970/20/98	2477/34/128	3163/38/145	2958/40/149	1856/37/146
LZ9W	620/12/62	1683/31/110	2275/39/132	2979/38/146	2057/38/143	1767/36/149
OT5A	778/12/61	1490/17/75	2126/28/117	1802/39/133	2204/39/140	1582/34/141
C37N	442/9/54	1438/19/83	2355/27/104	2823/31/115	2119/27/107	1457/25/98

Martti, OH2BH, operated on 75 meters as CR2X from his place in Madeira to a big lead over David, OK1DTP, as OK5D. Each made more than 1,600 QSOs on the band. The top USA score was by 75-meter regular Joe, AA1BU.

How can you operate from Italy and enjoy the extra QSO point advantage of being in Africa? Pantelleria Island is just across the continental boundary so it counts as a separate CQWW multiplier called African Italy. Gianfranco, IT9SPB, operated there as IH9A and finished far ahead of everyone on Top Band. Max, OZ4MD, was the top European. Scores were much lower in the USA where an east vs. west battle saw Ronald, W2VO, in western New York sneak ahead of Milt, N5IA, operating as N7GP in Arizona, by just 240 points!

QRP

It takes a special kind of determination to enter the QRM of CQ WW SSB with only 5 watts. Scores were only about half of what they were in the previous two years reflecting the shorter openings on 10 meters. Ron, VE3VN, took the top score for the world followed closely by Pit, DK3WE. Both are regulars in the QRP category. Mike, RT4W, made over 1,100 contacts on his way to the top Assisted score.

Overlay Categories

The Classic Overlay is open to single operator entries that use only one radio, no DX cluster, and counts only the first 24 hours of operation for the score. We had 856 Classic entries this year. The high-power winner was by Andy, AE6Y, vacationing in Aruba as P49Y. Andy explained his choice to focus on the Classic Overlay. "This year I was by myself, but the idea of celebrating one's 70th birthday (Sunday) alone is

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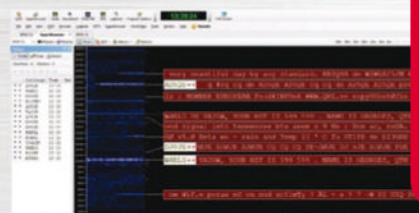


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bad enough without the concomitant hallucinations and fatigue that go with a full-blown effort in this contest." Giving part-time efforts a chance to compete is one of the main reasons for the Classic Overlay. Yuri, VE3DZ, did a full-time effort, but his first 24 hours were enough to win the low-power class.

The Rookie Overlay is for operators who have been licensed less than 3 years at the time of the contest. The 315 Rookie entries were the highest number ever and indicate a bright future for CQWW. There were two big scores in the high-power class with both licensed in September 2014. Valery, EW6W, finished ahead of 17-year-old Tucker, W4FS. It was a very close race on low power between Grecia, YY1YLY, in Venezuela and Wuyi, BG2CTX, in China. Grecia is a 19-year-old YL who has now won the Rookie category in both CQ WPX and CQ WW SSB! Wuyi has only had a ham radio license for 2 months. Keep an eye out for all of these great operators in the future!

Multi-Ops

The most exciting multi-operator category was Two Transmitter. Six of the top 10 entries were contest expeditions. The top spot was a shootout between CN2R and CN3A in Morocco. CN2R won on the basis of a few more multipliers and lower error rate. PJ4Q was a combination of local and visiting operators who enjoyed the luxury of having a swimming pool included in the QTH. The guys at TO4K also enjoyed some relaxing time in their pool overlooking the Caribbean on their way to the top North American score.

While KC1XX won the USA title for multi-two, it was the spirited competition between K9CT and NQ4I that demonstrated how much fun it can be to use the cqcontest.ru live



Pasternack Announces a New and Improved Version of The Cable Creator™

Pasternack has released an improved version of its popular online tool called The Cable Creator™. This new iteration allows users to not only design and customize special cable configurations online, but also purchase their designs without the need to wait for a quote from the company's sales team.

With a modernized look and feel, Pasternack's Cable Creator enables engineers and buyers to quickly and easily create customized RF cable assemblies that meet their specifications from any combination of compatible connectors and cables offered by the company. Designers can choose from over 1,300 connector types and 115 different coaxial cables to construct a cable solution for their specific applications. The Creator can also be used to locate any of the company's existing 40,000+ cable assemblies.

This new version of the Pasternack Cable Creator builds a unique product page on the fly, which provides customers a part number, pricing, a build-of-materials (BOM) datasheet, and the ability to enter the desired length of the assembly. The users can then add their special designs to the online shopping cart and purchase their assemblies like any other products. The engineer or buyer can then use the newly created part number to reorder the same assembly again in the future. You can use Pasternack's new Cable Creator™ at <http://www.pasternack.com/t-cable-creator.aspx>.

Note: "What's New" is not a product review and does not constitute a product endorsement by CQ. Information is primarily provided by manufacturers/vendors and has not necessarily been independently verified.



Ivo, 9A3A, operating from the well-equipped station of 4O3A in Montenegro. (Courtesy of 4O3A)

score reporting site. According to Craig, K9CT, "our team was totally focused on the horse race ... It was a marathon and neither team was ever in the lead or behind very long. I can tell you that it kept our team in the chair and chasing every multi and QSO possible."

The biggest score of the contest was by multi-multi entry CN2AA. This team of Russian contesters has perfected the logistics to assemble a large station at a beachfront hotel just for the contest. The antennas are grouped in three sites, all within a 400-meter circle; The Beach (sandy beach by the Atlantic Ocean), The Cliff (30-meter-high cliff above the ocean) and The Rock (50-meter-high hill near the ocean). There were 51,052 total QSOs logged by CN2R, CN3A, and CN2AA. No one should have missed the CN multiplier!

Second place in multi-multi went to K3LR, just ahead of HK1NA. The K3LR station had upgraded to new Icom IC-7851 radios at all RUN positions on the way to an 11th consecutive USA victory. DFØHQ was the top European score, only 1% ahead of 9A1A. This was the first time in many years that WØAIH was not entered in the multi-multi category.

The multi-single category has become the category of choice for intense competition among Russian teams using very sophisticated in-band run and multiplier station combinations. This year, the winning team was EF8R on the strength of fantastic QSO numbers on 40 and 10 meters. CR3A in second place showed that a traditional single run and multiplier station could still be competitive. EI7M overcame losing their 80-meter dipole three hours into the contest on their way to the top European score. As always, it was a close race for the top USA plaque with K6ND/1 finishing just a few points above K8AZ. FY5KE tried the multi-single low-power category and more than doubled the world record.

Final Thoughts

Once again, the CQ WW Contest Committee pored over the logs and recordings to validate the results. In addition to the usual checking for transmissions out of band and unclaimed use of DX spotting assistance, we looked more closely into self-spotting. Spotting yourself or asking someone to spot you is prohibited by the rules. We detected a number of stations that were spotting themselves using other calls (sometimes fake calls) to hide their identity. We have developed new techniques to detect this and it resulted in 28 disqualifications. We ask everyone to please read the rules carefully and follow them.

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After many years of contributions by individuals, the cost of producing and mailing certificates is no longer viable. As a result, CQ magazine has decided it will no longer provide paper certificates. All entries that were received by the log deadline may download their own certificates in electronic form from the cqww.com website. It is easy to use this file to print your own certificate.

The CQ WW contest lost a close friend and supporter shortly after the contest when Rich, KL7RA, unexpectedly passed away. Rich had built multi-multi capable stations at three different locations in Alaska over the past 30 years. His call was the zone 1 multiplier in many logs. We will miss his sharp wit and passion for ham radio contesting.

Thanks to the many people who work behind the scenes to administer the CQ WW DX Contest. Log checking was

improved this year through the donation of a new server by the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF). There is a small group of people who spend many hours of their time checking the logs and investigating suspected violations all with the goal of protecting the integrity of the competition.

We have added a new feature to the cqww.com website. You can now see the highest QSO rates by category and continent at <<http://www.cqww.com/rates/>>. Everyone loves high rates and it is fun to see how your best stacks up to others in your area.

We look forward to seeing everyone again later this year for the CQ WW DX SSB Contest on October 29-30, 2016. Full rules, all-time records, electronic certificates, and other information are available on the Web at <www.cqww.com>.

(Continued on page 93 for scores)

CQ WW SSB on the Web

Quadcopter Overview of Signal Point PJ2T: <<https://youtu.be/vpGCzBwRcHY>>
 The Story Behind VP5DX: <<http://www.nfdxa.com/CQWW%20@%20VP5DX.pdf>>
 VK2GGC in CQWW 2015: <<https://youtu.be/1Mf8VIPyii8>>
 ED9K Expedition (Spanish): <<https://www.facebook.com/ed9kTeam/videos/1134691346559622/>>
 Highest QSO Rates in CQ WW: <<http://www.cqww.com/rates/>>
 9K2HN CQWW SSB 2015 effort By 9K2ID: <<https://youtu.be/eQ-EtaX2eaU>>
 Oscar Mery Seven Mery (OM7M): <<https://youtu.be/NJlkaODZoso>>
 CQ WW DX Contest, SSB 2015 From Loma del Toro (HI3K): <<https://youtu.be/BLkvrQB8LbA>>
 JH5GHM Running Stations at PJ4X: <<https://youtu.be/6nJWI1tUbWI>>
 E2A CQ WW SSB CONTEST 2015: <<https://youtu.be/1GVREbMzVBI>>
 IO9A CQ WW SSB 2015: <<https://youtu.be/hUVVWHK5Ezwk>>
 CQWW SSB 2015 at SN7D: <<https://youtu.be/NQROOIGJTJc>>
 RT4D team in CQWW 2015 Contest: <<https://youtu.be/UPriybuTNoU>>

Earning a certificate in the CQ World Wide DX Contest is difficult, regardless of your station setup. But with 5 watts and a stealth longwire antenna? WB3D tells us how he did it.

A QRP “Newbie” Takes on the CQWW SSB DX Contest

BY MEL MANNING,* WB3D



Photo A. The author at his operating position with his Youkits TJ2B handheld HF rig, tuner, and switching power supply. Would the little rig's 5 watts power him through the CQ WW DX Contest?

When considering participation in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest in October 2015, I decided to try using a Youkits TJ2B 5-watt handheld transceiver that I had just bought (Photo A). The radio acquisition was to provide HF capability on some of my planned travels aboard cruise ships and in other circumstances in which weight and size restrictions prohibited the use of my larger portable rigs. The contest was an opportunity to fulfill two goals: One, to test the small handheld HF rig and, two, to have fun in the contest. I was essentially new to QRP and I had my doubts as to whether I would make any contacts at all from my Florida QTH which is the fourth floor of a condo next to the Intracoastal Waterway on the Gulf of Mexico west of Tampa (Photo B).

Single-Band QRP Classic

The category I entered was Single Band (20 meters), QRP (5 watts is the output of the TJ2B), Classic Overlay (use only one

* e-mail: <mel3d@tampabay.rr.com>



Photo B. The view from the shack with the Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico in the distance. The stealth wire antenna is terminated in the palm tree to the right of the U.S. Flag and is unseen.

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radio, no QSO-finding assistance, and may operate up to 24 of the 48 hours).

The operational setup included the N1MM Logger, a very small switching power supply, a stealth 33-foot end-fed (22 gauge) wire antenna that was just the right length to have the terminal end reach the top of a palm tree out the condo window, a 16-foot counterpoise lying on the floor and an antenna tuner with a built-in artificial ground tuning circuit (*Photo C*).

Re-Learning Patience

I was on the air at the beginning of the contest on October 24 and made my first contact at 00:16 with TO2M on Martinique Island. It very quickly became clear that relearning the science of patience was an essential element of QRP operating. My last contact was with VE3VEE at 23:37 on the 25th. In between, I operated less than 17 hours with the longest stretch being six hours. I had an absolute ball, not to mention a fantastic learning experience. The little radio performed beyond expectations and gave me a comfort level for it as a future traveling companion.

The end result was a claimed score of 8,379, based on 61 QSOs, 171 points, 14 zones and 35 countries. I'd



Photo C. Close-up of the TJ2B and MFJ-934 antenna tuner with artificial ground circuit.

worked Europe (including Russia), North America, South America, and numerous islands. After submitting my log to CQ, the raw score placed WB3D/4 in QRP 20 meters: World: #5, Continent: #1 and Country (K): #1.

I am delighted with the equipment and

the contest results. I hope the final score does not vary much from the raw score. (*WB3D's final score turned out to be 6,624, placing him in 6th World, first in North America and in the U.S. for 20-meter QRP. – ed.*) By the way, I have been infected by the QRP bug.

In Honor of his 40th Anniversary with CQ Magazine, *CQ Interviews:* Professor Emil Heisseluft*

Lauton Institute, Grossmaul-an Der Donau, Austria
Interview Conducted By Theodore J. (Ted) Cohen, N4XX**

For 40 years, and always in an April issue, CQ magazine has carried intriguing amateur-related articles written by someone using the pen name "Professor Emil Heisseluft." Generally instructive, at times infuriating — one screed he penned so enflamed the amateur radio community that our readers tied up the phone lines complaining to CQ, the ARRL, and the FCC for three days — but always engaging, Professor Heisseluft has provided millions of our readers over the last 40 years with more than a few laughs in a month known for its absurd tricks. My predecessor, Alan Dorhoffer, K2EEK (SK), once remarked: "A Heisseluft piece isn't worth a tinker's dam unless at least five people cancel their subscriptions." Alas, on that basis, the good professor struck gold more often than not.

Given the interest Professor Heisseluft's articles always generate, we repeatedly asked him to "sit" an interview with CQ's Ted Cohen, N4XX, a man who through the years has interviewed many of the movers and shakers in the communications/electronics industries as well as in our federal government. Though reluctant to take the time, Heisseluft finally acceded to our wishes. So, it is with great pleasure that we present this exclusive CQ interview with the Lauton Institute's Professor Emil Heisseluft, an interview conducted early in 2016 when Ted caught up with Emil in Cruz Bay, St. John, the U.S. Virgin Islands. — W2VU.

CQ: Professor, thank you for taking the time to meet with me today. We at CQ have wanted to do this interview with you for many, many years, but we *do* understand your reluctance to engage 'the real world,' even in this type of venue.

Heisseluft: You're welcome, Ted. Please remember, however, that I am doing this as a favor to your publisher and editor and on the proviso that neither you nor anyone else reveals my true identity.

CQ: Agreed. To kick things off, please tell us a little about how you came to write April Fools articles for CQ.

Heisseluft: As your readers probably know, "Professor Emil Heisseluft" is not the only author of CQ's famous April Fools articles. Before me there was "Jerzy Ostermond-Tor,"

whose articles date back to the mid-1960s. Your own former Propagation Editor, George Jacobs, W3ASK, wrote the Ostermond-Tor series, as he admitted in your 50th Anniversary issue some years ago¹. These articles were brilliant in many respects, even foretelling the creation of what we now know as the Internet in 1967². Then, in 1965, an April Fools article appeared under the pen name "Professor Emil Heisseluft." The article, "Developing a DX Voice³," created quite a stir among what you radio operators call DXers. Some years later, in 1975, I had an idea for an April Fools article of my own. I wondered if it were possible to use Heisseluft's name. Al Dorhoffer, who was the editor of CQ at the time, suggested I contact George to see if the author — whoever he or she was — might have objections to my doing so. Imagine my surprise when George told me that *he* had written that Heisseluft article, which he said was inspired by a good friend of his, a distinguished Austrian engineer-diplomat. It was in this phone conversation that he encouraged me to begin a series of Heisseluft articles that continues to this day. By the way, so many DXers were taken in by Heisseluft's piece on developing a DX voice that George often heard DXers in the 20-meter phone band going through the voice exercises prescribed by that article. I guess there always have been some readers who just don't "get it!"

CQ: When did your first Heisseluft article appear?

Heisseluft: The first April Fools article I authored appeared in the April 1976 issue of CQ⁴. The article basically postulated that we were in for a long sunspot drought, something that was on the mind of many people, scientists, and radio amateurs alike, at that time. It never came to pass, however, but a lot of people had trouble knowing whether or not the piece in CQ was real or a joke.

CQ: What was it *intended* to be?

Heisseluft: Actually, both. The science, in large part, was credible, with numerous references to the archival literature. But, as I am wont to do in all Heisseluft articles, the science was carried to a ridiculous extreme. In this case, the sources I cited contained roughly 225 years of sunspot data to make projections that called for a prolonged sunspot minimum between 1976 and 2005. This would have been similar to the Maunder Minimum that apparently occurred in the 1300s⁵. Now, the Sun is 11 billion years old, so it's a bit arrogant for scientists to think that a mere 225 years of data can be used to predict future sunspot activity. As it turned out, the predictions of another Maunder Minimum were totally wrong. But the

* Professor Heisseluft left for Austria immediately following this interview. Correspondence to the professor may conveniently be directed c/o CQ, 17 West John Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

** Media-Tech, 122 Shady Brook Drive, Langhorne, PA 19047



Photo A. The stealth aircraft on its last test flight to Tel Aviv, Israel⁶.

April Fools article became quite a focal point for conversation in those days, both on and off the air.

CQ: So let me get this right. For the most part, you take a valid scientific principle or fact, and by extension, twist it to produce a totally ridiculous outcome?

Heisseluft: Yes. And unless readers understand this basic premise, they will be fooled.

CQ: I'm not sure I understand exactly what you mean.

Heisseluft: If readers think the underlying science is valid, some are apt to "buy" into the conclusion, in which case they are fooled. If readers dismiss the science because they find the conclusions invalid, then they, too, are fooled. Only those who recognize the validity of the science *and* the foolishness of the article's conclusions truly understand what I am trying to accomplish.

CQ: Didn't that often result in a few readers, upon finding out that they had been taken in, becoming so angry that they cancelled their subscriptions to *CQ*?

Heisseluft: No question about it! Readers often get very angry when they find out how gullible they have been. But as Al Dorhoffer often told me, he didn't consider one of my articles to be really good unless at least five readers cancelled their subscriptions because of it.

CQ: Can you cite other examples from the pages of *CQ* where you took scientific principles to ridiculous ends?

Heisseluft: Of course. In fact, I prepared for this interview by creating a table for you (*next 2 pages—ed.*). As you can

see, I have authored 31 articles over the last 40 years, each of which begins with a discussion of some scientific, pseudo-scientific, or engineering principle. I've also treated matters pertaining to such things as amateur tests and licensing. My presentation then launches into an illogical extension of what facts are being discussed. For example, in the April 1994 issue of *CQ*, the article began with a dis-

ussion regarding the existence of an ionosphere on Mars that was capable of propagating high-frequency (HF) signals. Everything I said there was based on valid data acquired by NASA, the U.S. military, and various university researchers; this can be confirmed by a review of the scientific literature, which, by the way, was cited at the end of the article. However, the idea that the United

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Year	Title	Scientific or Engineering Principal	Ridiculous Applications (and some not so ridiculous)
1976	The Prolonged Sunspot Minimum and its Implications With Respect to Future Sunspot Activity	Sunspot cycles; solar activity; sunspot cycle prediction	Prolonged period of sunspot activity between 1976 and 2005
1977	Broadcasters Threaten Takeover of Amateur ULF Band at WARC '79	Radiowave propagation at ULF	Amateur extrasensory perception (ESP) experimentation
1978	Selection of Contest Operators Using Biorhythm Charts	Human physiology	Selection of contest operators based on biorhythms
1979	Wideband Modulation (WBM) Techniques	Spread-spectrum modulation (direct sequence and frequency hopping)	Spread-spectrum applications in the amateur radio service
1980	Floating Mirrors And Their Use in Radio Communications	Space travel using metallic-film sails and solar radiation pressure; floating satellite mirrors using microwaves	Use of floating mirrors at E-layer altitudes for amateur radio communications
1981	Applications Of Stealth Technology To The Design of Invisible Antennas	Reflections from plane-parallel films; coated optical surfaces	Invisible antennas; stealth aircraft
1982	The Threat to Molecular Electronics From Microbes Produced By Genetic Engineering	Genetic engineering; molecular biology	Killer germs that destroy bioelectronic switches and eat molecular computer components
1983	All-Night Ionospheric Illumination Through The Use of Large Reflecting Satellites	Star Wars technology; large mirrors in space	Proposal by DXers and contesters to create an artificial ionosphere at critical geographical locations favorable for them; staggering physiological and biological implications; early tests in 1938, which went awry, were covered up by a broadcast of War of the Worlds
1984	Fluid-Logic Circuits and Their Early Applications to Amateur Radio	Fluid logic for device control	Catastrophic floods resulting from inability to control the world's first fluidic computer
1985	Amateur Radio's New Frontier: The Bands Below 30 kHz	Tethered satellites; Space Shuttle applications	Amateurs confined to bands below 30 kHz; all amateurs must be recertified for code proficiency, which is the only mode available
1994*	Ionospheric Propagation Possible On Mars	Mars' ionosphere	Amateur communications on Mars using proxy stations and licenses issued by lottery
1995	Secrets of Famous DXer Revealed ... Amateurs Worldwide Stunned by Simplicity of New Scheduling Aide	Human physiology	Developing the ability to wake up within 10 minutes of any predetermined time during the night by drinking a precisely measured amount of water
1996	How To Stay At The Top Of The DXCC Honor Roll Until You Reach At Least Age 100	Genetic engineering; telomere shedding	Development of drugs for telomere retention and the subsequent prolonging of human life
1997	Little LEO's Dirty Secret	Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites	Potential for catastrophic collisions among LEOs, creating a chain reaction that would result in the complete destruction of all satellites in low-Earth orbit.
1998	Interference on Trans-Atlantic ESP Paths	Strongly electric fish; wave fish	Wave fish are burying ESP signals generated by hams in Europe and east-central Asia, making it difficult for 160-meter operators to complete ESP contacts
1999	No article		
2000	Electronic Sniffers For Amateur Radio Equipment	Electronic "sniffers" (noses)	Use of sensors in amateur radio equipment to determine if a piece of equipment had been used by a smoker
2001	New HF-Angle, Single-Site Emission-Locator (HASSEL) Stations Ready to Cleanse Ham Bands	High-frequency direction finding (HFDF); two-angle single-site emission locators (TASSELs)	FCC now using a new HFDF system now capable of locating an amateur radio station within 0.05-second of the mike being keyed
2002	The Impact of Solar Storms on World Economies and the Birth of a New Commodities Trading Technique	Interactions of high-energy solar particles with the North American power grid	Introduction of a fool-proof technique for trading electrical power futures on the commodities exchanges
2003	The Use of Pringles Containers to Enhance Network Security	3 GHz cavity resonators	Use of unique cavity resonator to sniff out holes in wireless network security
2004	Self-Propelled Swimmers for the Sensing and Transmission of Oceanic Data	Global environmental micro-electro-mechanics (MEMS) sensors (GEMS)	Development of tiny, buoyant, self-propelled probes that employ extremely small motors for maneuverability and miniaturized electronics for gathering, storing, and transmitting ocean data to satellite-borne receivers

Year	Title	Scientific or Engineering Principal	Ridiculous Applications (and some not so ridiculous)
2005	Psychological Testing of Amateur Radio Applicants ... The Cure for Spectrum Rage	Human physiology; Psychological Stress Tests	New FCC rules would require applicants for new amateur licenses, as well as current licensees seeking to renew their licenses, to undergo psychological exams. The test results will be used for the purpose of determining a person's psychological profile and fitness for accessing the airwaves
2006	The Next Generation "Heathkit®": Biologically Based Self-Assembly Kits For The Radio Amateur	Genetic engineering; use of viruses to create crystalline semiconductor sheaths and to locate and bridge electrodes	Use of viruses to create field-effect transistors to be used in a self-constructing radio transmitter soon to be sold as a kit
2007	Communications in the Infrared Band Using a Digital Music Playback Device, a Griffon IR Converter, and Today's Top Ham Radio Songs	Unique communication techniques; digital music playback devices, together with Griffon technology, are used to communicate in the infrared (IR) band.	Radio amateurs can use this technology for line-of-sight communications, providing their playback system is loaded with a collection of canned songs for ham radio QSOs. The titles for the Top 25 such C&W/Western songs was provided in the article
2008	A Cray-Based Internet Protocol HF CW DX Contest Simulator	Computer simulations of CW contacts	By the year 2014, it should be possible for all HF CW contesting to be conducted over the Internet, leaving the HF CW bands open full time to those who wish to use them for ragchewing, traffic handling, and just plain experimentation
2009	The Use of Invisibility Shields to Hide Entire Contest Station Antenna Farms (see, also, 1981)	Microscopically thin films of metamaterial or plasmonic material are used to create invisibility zones or "cloaks"	New advances in cloaking technology employing concentric rings created in a thin, transparent acrylic plastic layer on a gold film have been demonstrated to completely hide an entire antenna farm of a major East Coast amateur contest station
2010	Reading the Mind: Taking Contesting to the Next Level (see, also, 1977)	Mind-reading applied to the operation of contest stations	Professor Heisselluft, under a grant from UW-M's Badger Amateur Radio Society (BARS) now is moving ahead aggressively to produce a mind-reading contest interface that should be ready for its debut in the CQ Worldwide CW Contest scheduled for October 2016
2011	Amateurs Licensed in the Contiguous Forty-Eight States Face Draconian On-Air Operating Restrictions	With U.S. government facing deficits unparalleled in nation's history, Congress has no choice but to make cuts — drastic cuts — in the FY2012 Federal Budget	Professor Heisselluft uncovers secret congressional proposal to cut U.S. budget deficits, gut FCC Enforcement Division staff, and impose even-odd day restrictions on amateur radio on-air activities
2012	Vanity4Hams, LLC Guarantees You Any Vanity Call Sign Currently Held By An Individual, Bar None, In Just Over 2 Years	For a payment of U.S. \$10,000 cash in unmarked \$20 bills, Vanity4Hams will submit a vanity call application to the FCC on behalf of the applicant for the specific vanity call sign requested. "Bada-bing bada-boom, no questions asked. Success is guaranteed."	The FCC Rules and Regulations pertaining to vanity call signs are addressed in US Title 47 CFR §1.948(g). Professor Heisselluft has uncovered a new corporation based in New Jersey that now takes the administrative burden usually associated with obtaining such a call off a radio amateur's shoulders
2013	Signals Detected from Outer Space by the Lauton Institute's Center for Research on Alien Populations	The Lauton Institute has detected the first coherent signal from outer space comprising four notes transmitted in a seven-tone sequence — G-C-F-E-G-F-E — with the sequence repeated every 30 minutes. The signals appear to be coming from the area of Ankaa in the constellation Phoenix	Today, you will find SETI programs conducted by the Radio Astronomy Laboratory at UC Berkeley, the Harvard-Smithsonian group, which is working with Princeton University, and MIT Haystack Observatory. Scientists at Princeton University are even investigating whether extraterrestrials might be manipulating the light coming from stars
2014	Lauton Institute's Center for Research of Abnormal Personalities Offers Explanations for On-Air Misbehavior by Radio Amateurs	Six reasons for the deterioration in behavior among hams were identified as the root causes for many of the on-air problems heard today. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Intolerance of divergent views2. A general lack of operating experience3. Feelings of station inferiority4. Group diffused inappropriate behavior5. Operating under the influence6. Acts by truly emotionally sick individuals	Professor Heisselluft asked the former director of the Lauton Institute's Center for Research on Abnormal Personalities, Professor Hannah Blücher, to identify the problems she could identify in recordings made during both CQ and ARRL DX contests. Frau Blücher quickly diagnosed many of the operators she heard from off-the-air recordings as suffering from one of more of the following: Tourette Syndrome, attention deficit disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, auditory hallucinations, and delusions. She wasn't at all surprised to learn that after these contests, some operators have been found in catatonic states
2015	Operation Quiet Fear: FCC's New Initiative to Increase the Complexity of All Amateur Radio Written Exams	The United States is falling behind many countries of the world in the educational capabilities of its citizens. Recent results using standardized, international exams, for example, show that while U.S. teenagers scored average in reading and science, their scores in math were below average when compared to those for students in 64 other countries	Operation Quiet Fear is a secret initiative within the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that is intended to address this brutal truth by upgrading the complexity of all amateur radio written exams. This will ensure all licensees are better qualified to participate in the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services as operators and experimenters

* No articles written in the period 1986-1993

States government would conduct a lottery for the issuance of amateur radio licenses to be used for proxy contacts between two Mars Landers equipped for HF communications, and further, that it would sponsor awards for achieving a two-way contact was, frankly, outrageous. Or is it?

Thirty-one articles by Professor Emil Heisseluft have appeared in the pages of CQ since 1976; strangely, each can be found in an April issue.

CQ: Why do I get the feeling that you're pulling my leg?! In any event, of all the April Fools articles you've written, which one caused even you to laugh out loud as you wrote it?

Heisseluft: That's an easy question to answer, Ted. The April 1981 issue of *CQ* carried an article on stealth antennas. The article began with a discussion on the use of optical coatings to cancel light reflected off of objects in certain portions of the visible spectrum. A practical example of this is the coating used on eyeglasses to cancel glare. [These coatings result in treated glasses having a bluish tint. – *Ed.*] To demonstrate how the military was putting this technology to use, the article presented a photograph (*Photo A*)⁶ of an Israeli jet that, it was alleged, had its surfaces treated to cancel light. The picture, of course, contained nothing but clouds, which caused quite a stir in the *CQ* Art Department because when your artists were preparing the April issue, they thought they had lost the picture containing the aircraft. To further tease your readers, the article stated the aircraft had been lost on the ground in Tel Aviv when mechanics failed to keep track of it after it landed there.

CQ: That must have elicited a few responses from our readers.

Heisseluft: Indeed! One even wrote to me, via *CQ*, and asked that the plane be outlined so that he could see it.

CQ: And the application of the technology to stealth antennas ... how did you demonstrate *that* use?

Heisseluft: Well, I included a picture of an apartment building that ostensibly had a large tower topped by a Yagi-Uda array on its roof. The only object in the picture, of course, was the building; the tower and antenna didn't exist. I wrote an updated version of this article, cloud picture and all, based on a more advanced technology known as "cloaking;" it was published in the April 2009 issue of *CQ*.

CQ: I've heard mumblings to the effect that the smash hit *Gravity*⁷ was based on your 1997 article, "Little LEO's Dirty Secret⁸." Is there any truth to that?

Heisseluft: Well, I can't speak to that, but the potential for a cataclysmic event in the Low Earth Orbit (LEO), where the Hubble Space Telescope and the International Space Station reside, is always with us.

CQ: By the way, Professor, I've noticed you always seem to be on the move. What's that all about?

Heisseluft: [Laughs] Staying on the move, as you say, is really a way to prevent readers from contacting me directly. I'm sure you've noticed, however, that every article carries a note to the effect that readers can conveniently address their correspondence to me via *CQ* magazine.

CQ: And have readers responded?

Heisseluft: Oh, my, yes! You wouldn't believe some of the letters Al Dorhoffer, Gail Sheehan [K2RED; former *CQ*



Photo B. The Lauton Institute's Center for Research of Abnormal Personalities, which, among other things, studies DXers, is located in this forested setting just outside Grossmaul-an der Donau, Austria¹¹. The facility currently is treating five radio amateurs who recently formed a DX contesting club. The members anticipate erecting a rotating tower with Yagis for 160 through 6 meters at the peak of the mountain. Doctors and nurses will be in attendance during all contests.

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E & O.E.

Managing Editor. – Ed.], and Rich Moseson have forwarded to me. For example, in 1977, a man wrote that he was very disturbed by the broadcasters' threat to take over the ULF band. However, he also noted that he was taken aback when his wife pointed out that Professor Heisseluft translates to "Professor Hot Air" and that Grossmaul-an Der Donau translates to "Big Mouth on the Danube." I wrote back, via *CQ*, of course, that his wife was correct and that he owed her dinner. On another occasion, this time regarding my 1983 article in which the broadcast *War of the Worlds* was cited as having been used by the government to cover up the destruction caused by an errant space mirror, a man wrote that he was astounded by this revelation and awaited my immediate reply as to the details of the tragedy. Still another reader was incensed by the possibility that amateurs were going to have to have their CW skills recertified before they would be allowed to use the new bands below 30 kHz; he even went so far as to comb the FCC's files for any rulemaking activity on the subject.

CQ: How about other examples?

Heisseluft: Well, there was a letter from a professor at a prestigious university in southern California who berated me and *CQ* — he was outraged, actually — for the lack of "scientific control" used in the biorhythm studies I described in my 1978 article. This letter, and a number of others I have received from PhDs and MDs in response to my various articles, only point out that the more educated your readers are, the harder they fall! My 2002 article on a fool-proof technique for trading electrical power futures brought several letters from commodity traders who were interested in using the method to increase their profits. And finally, the letters received follow-

ing the publication of my article on spectrum rage in 2005 created an unbelievable response from readers⁹. Some who "got it" applauded the move on the part of the FCC to require psychological tests of all radio amateurs; others, who apparently didn't see the humor in the article, called the FCC, and upon learning that it was a hoax, cancelled their subscriptions to *CQ*. Al Dorhoffer would have been proud!

CQ: Actually, I'm told the switchboard at *CQ* was tied up for three days by irate subscribers. During that period, Dick Ross, the publisher, and Rich Moseson, the editor, spent most of their time attempting to calm them down. I also understand the situation was much worse over at the ARRL and the FCC, two places where people still may not have forgiven the staff at *CQ* ... and you!

Heisseluft: [laughs] *Gott in Himmel!* Can't anyone take a joke anymore? I hope *CQ*'s readers weren't too upset when we revisited the same topic in 2014¹⁰.

CQ: No, you were a little more obvious that time. On another note, the material in your articles seems, at times, to foretell coming events in the world of technology. In some cases, it's almost uncanny how you have predicted the future. Would you comment on this?

Heisseluft: Well, it sometimes doesn't take too much imagination to see how applications involving certain technologies will evolve. For example, in the early 1980s, the engineering community in your country was abuzz with talk of a major space-based defense system. I knew that lasers would play a major role here, and further, that directing laser energy towards a target would require the use of orbiting mirrors. This led me

DMRAA Hamfest Saturday, April 16 at the Elwell Family Center in the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Website: <<http://dmraa.com>>. VE exams.

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE — The Sussex Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronics EXPO** and **2016 ARRL Delaware State Convention** Saturday, April 16 at Sussex Tech High School. Contact: Vic, KC3BUI, (302) 628-3060. Website: <<http://www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>>. Talk-in 147.090 (PL 156.7). VE exams and card checking.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI — The Ararat Shrine Radio Club will hold its **Hambash** Saturday, April 16 at the Ararat Shrine Temple. Contact: David Hinkley, KA0SOG, 1221 SE 11th Street, Lee's Summit, MO 64081. Phone: (816) 525-4826. Email: <pudding.boy@sbcglobal.net>.

MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA — The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, McDowell Amateur Radio Club, and the Western Piedmont Amateur Radio Club will hold the **19th Annual Catawaba Valley Hamfest** Saturday, April 16 at the Burke County Fairgrounds. Contact: Michael Fox, KF4MWX, (828) 437-2787. Email: <kf4mwx@gmail.com>. Website: <<http://cvhamfest.com>>. Talk-in 147.150+. VE exams.

PERU, INDIANA — The Kokomo Amateur Radio Club, Cass County Amateur Radio Club, Miami County Amateur Radio Club, and Grant County Amateur Radio Club will hold the **11th Annual North Central Indiana Hamfest** Saturday, April 16 at the Miami County 4H Fairgrounds. Contact: Steve Shepler, Box 824, Marion, IN 46952. Email: <shepler1@gmail.com>. Website: <<http://www.nci-hamfest.net>>. Talk-in 147.345+. VE exams.

SHERIDAN, WYOMING — The Cloud Peak Radio and Electronics Group will hold the **Sheridan Swapfest 2016** Saturday, April 16 at the Masonic Lodge Building. Contact: Chris, (307) 251-9992. Email: <nx0e@arrl.net>. Website: <<http://www.cloudpeakradio.org>>. Talk-in 146.52 or 449.85- (PL 100). VE exams.

SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE — The Portland Amateur Radio Wireless Association will hold the **PAWA Hamfest** Saturday, April 16 at the Stewart Morrill American Legion Post #35. Contact: Bryce Romery, K1GAX, (207) 415-0498. Email: <k1gax@juno.com>. Talk-in 146.73- (PL 100). VE exams.

SUCCASUNNA, NEW JERSEY — The Splitrock Amateur Radio Association will hold its **Annual Hamfest** on Saturday, April 16 at the Roxbury Township Senior Center. Contact: Mike Greenfeld, K8BQ, Splitrock ARA, P.O. Box 610, Rockaway, NJ 07866. Phone: (866) 457-6687. Email: <k8bq@arrl.net>. Website: <<http://www.splitrockara.org>>. Talk-in: 146.985- (PL 131.8).

CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS — The WCC Amateur Radio Association will air special event station, **WA1WCC**, from 1400 UTC, Sunday, April 17 through 2359 UTC Monday, April 18. QSL to WCC ARA. Website: <<http://www.qrz.com/db/wa1wcc>>.

GALVA, ILLINOIS — The Area Amateur Radio Operators will hold its annual **Hamfest** Sunday, April 17 at the Galva American Legion. Contact: Bill Anderson, WA9BA, 30 Wallace Street, Galva, IL 61434. Phone (303) 525-0061. Email: <wa9ba@arr.net>. Talk-in 145.490- (PL 225.7).

BOISE, IDAHO — The Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club will host the **2016 ARRL Idaho State Convention** Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24 at the Boise Hotel and Conference Center. Contact: VIARC, P.O. Box 812, Boise, ID 83701. Email: <info@idahostateconvention.com>. Website: <<http://idahostateconvention.com>>. VE exams.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA — The Lincoln Amateur Radio Club will hold the **End of Winter Hamfest** and **2016 ARRL Nebraska State Convention** Saturday, April 23 at the Lancaster Event Center. Contact: Reynolds Davis, KØGND, (402) 488-3706. Website: <<http://lincolnhamfest.org>>. Talk-in 146.16+. VE exams.

OAKLAND PARK, FLORIDA — The Broward Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Cy Harris W4MAQ Memorial Free Flea** Saturday, April 23 at the Collins Center. Contact: Tony Becker, KK4GUU, (954) 612-9303. Email: <tony@mcrcs.com>. Talk-in 146.910- (PL 110.9) or 146.790- (PL 88.5). VE exams and card checking.

PALMYRA, NEW YORK — The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club will hold the **30th Annual Drumlins Hamfest** Saturday, April 23 at the Palmyra VFW Post 6778. Contact: Joe King, KS2JEK, (585) 785-0036. Email: <hamfest@drumlinsarc.org>. Website: <<http://www.drumlinsarc.us>>. Talk-in 146.58 (PL 71.9). VE exams.

WAYNESBORO, GEORGIA — The Waynesboro GA SwapFest will be held Saturday, April 23 at the American Legion Post 120. Contact: John McDonald, K4BR, (706) 466-5646. Website: <<http://waynesboroswapfest.com>>. VE exams.

WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA — The Northern Lights Radio Society will hold **Aurora '16** Saturday, April 23 at the First Lutheran Church. Website: <<http://www.nlrs.org>>. Card checking.

BOSTON, PENNSYLVANIA — The Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club will hold its **44th Annual Hamfest** Sunday, April 24 at The Spectrum. Contact: N3LQC, (724) 242-5347. Email: <n3lqc@comcast.net>. Talk-in 146.73. VE exams.

MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK — The Orange County Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Spring Hamfest** Sunday, April 24 at the Town of Wallkill Community Center. Phone: (845) 391-3620. Website: <<http://www.ocarc-ny.org>>. VE exams.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA — The Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society and the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club will hold **2016 ARRL Nevada State Convention** Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1 at the Eastside Cannery Casino-Hotel. Contact: LVARC Inc., P.O. Box 27342, Las Vegas, NV 89126-1342. Email: <info@nvcon.org>. Website: <<http://nvcon.org>>. VE exams.

(Continued on page 84)

to write the 1983 article on all-night ionospheric illumination. The fact that President Reagan announced his Star Wars program two weeks *after* the April 1983 issue of *CQ* reached your subscribers [which actually was in mid-March. – *Ed.*] unnerved a few people, but frankly, the signposts were there for all to see. Looking back on the articles I have written, I still think we'll live to see the increasing use of electronic sensors to detect odors from a variety of sources, including cigarettes and cigars. And you may still see HF communications used on Mars for low-data-rate communications on over-the-horizon paths between and among Mars landers.

CQ: Professor, I am constantly amazed at the breadth and depth of your scientific and technical knowledge. In reading your articles I see that you apparently have studied or have performed work in molecular biology, genetic engineering, ichthyology, optics, radiowave propagation, digital signal processing, electronic sensors, advanced modulation schema, fluid dynamics, space physics, orbital mechanics, space vehicle propulsion systems, human physiology, commodities trading, and other equally daunting fields. What was there in your educational background that not only stimulated your

interest in such a broad range of scientific endeavors, but also, that exposed you to these many fields?

Heisseluft: Well, dear friend, you know from reading my articles that as a student at the Lauton Institute (*Photo B*)¹¹, I studied under one of the greatest minds of our times, Dr. Jerzy Ostermond-Tor, ex-YM4XR. It was he who encouraged me to broaden my worldly experience, and who, even to this day, remains a close personal friend and mentor.

CQ: So, as we draw this interview to a close, where are you off to now?

Heisseluft: No place exotic, that's for sure. I must return to the Lauton Institute within the next few days to deliver the seminal lecture derived from my work on the use of viruses to create crystalline semiconductor sheaths and to locate and bridge electrodes. My research in this area demonstrates unequivocally that we have the ability to create entire solid-state devices that self-assemble. But I hope to return to the pages of *CQ* at some future point with yet another tale of science run amok!

CQ: Thank you, professor!

Heisseluft: *Auf Wiedersehen*, Ted.

Notes:

1. Jacobs, G, 50th Anniversary issue, *CQ*, January, 1995
2. J. Ostermond-Tor, Ex-YM4XR, Special Subscriber Service: The Telephone Company's Answer to Amateur Radio, *CQ*, April, 1967
3. Heisseluft, E., "Developing a DX Voice," *CQ*, April, 1965
4. Heisseluft, E., "The Prolonged Sunspot Minimum and its Implications With Respect to Future Sunspot Activity," *CQ*, April, 1976
5. Maunder, E.W., Monthly Notices Royal Astronomy Society, Vol. 50, 1890
6. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Above_the_Clouds.jpg
7. <http://gravitymovie.warnerbros.com/>
8. Heisseluft, E., "Little LEO's Dirty Secret," *CQ*, April 1997
9. Heisseluft, E., "Psychological Testing of Amateur Radio Applicants ... The Cure for Spectrum Rage," *CQ*, April 2005
10. Heisseluft, E., "Lauton Institute's Center for Research of Abnormal Personalities Offers Explanations for On-Air Misbehavior by Radio Amateurs," *CQ*, April, 2014
11. Castle Hochosterwitz, By Johann Jaritz - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0 at <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1266270>

Grab those loops, beams, and Doppler sets. It's almost time for a weekend of fun and adventure tracking hidden transmitters, either in your car, on foot, or both!

Get Ready for Hidden Transmitter Fun on CQWW Foxhunting Weekend

2016 CQ WW Foxhunting Weekend – May 14-15

BY JOE MOELL,* KØOV

When accidental or deliberate interference strikes your favorite repeater, will you be ready to quickly track down the source? If you have experience with your own radio direction finding (RDF) equipment, you can be confident and prepared. A great way to get that practice and have lots of fun at the same time is by participating in competitive hidden transmitter hunts, usually referred to as “foxhunts.”

No foxhunting in your hometown? Why not plan one during the annual CQ World Wide Foxhunting Weekend? It's a great activity for any ham club. Radio foxhunting can be a technical challenge, a fitness builder, a source of intrigue and adventure, plus great ham camaraderie all rolled into one activity.

There are no formal requirements for Foxhunting Weekend, which is May 14-15, 2016. If there is a conflict on that weekend, any time in the spring will do. You are free to hold any kind of RDF contest. Be as creative as you wish with the hunt rules. Need some ideas? Read the February 2016 issue of *CQ* for stories of Foxhunting Weekend 2015.

Mobile T-Hunting

Many clubs prefer mobile “T-hunting,” a form of ham contesting that goes back to the days of Packards and local tubes. The 75- and 10-meter bands were preferred back then, but 2 meters is the prime T-hunting band nowadays. Equipment ranges from simple Yagis and quads to Dopplers and automatic bearing plotting on computer screens.

Your mobile foxhunts don't have to be fancy — at least not at first. Appoint someone to go out and transmit from an undisclosed location. A little-used simplex frequency is best for long hunts, but the input of the local repeater is OK for short fox transmissions as the club gets started. Hunters can listen to the repeater output to tell when the fox is on air and then flip to the input to get bearings. If hunters have



A special Foxhunting Weekend cake baked by April Moell, WA6OPS, awaited finishers at an on-foot transmitter hunt in Fullerton, California last year. A workshop for building measuring-tape antennas and offset attenuators preceded this hunt. (Photos by Joe Moell, KØOV)

problems getting their gear working, the hider can offer some clues. Give everyone a chance to find the fox, then debrief and make future plans at the end point or a nearby restaurant.

A good time for these practice foxhunts is just after your club's net on the repeater, when listenership is high. Why not start having mini-hunts like this right away, so the group will be ready for something more ambitious during Foxhunting Weekend? Encourage ride-alongs, so more people can participate.

Foxhunting for Medals on Foot

If your club's membership includes lots of students and Scouts, an on-foot foxhunt in a local park would be an ideal way to combine radio technology and good exercise. Remember that a ham license isn't required for anyone who is just receiving and tracking.

What better way to get young people interested in ham radio fun? Scatter a few low-power transmitters in a woody park. Encourage everyone to track them down with measuring-tape beams¹ or just with their handi-talkies and scanners. Have everyone bring some food and turn it into a mini-hamfest.

*P.O. Box 2508, Fullerton, CA 92837
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Web: <www.homingin.com>

Joe Moell, KØOV is ARRL's ARDF Coordinator and Moderator of the annual CQ Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend. He also writes the "Homing In" columns on radio direction finding topics in *CQ*. His website <www.homingin.com> is full of information and ideas about RDF equipment and techniques.



It's not difficult to mount a rotatable two-meter beam onto a vehicle to get bearings in motion. Both Yagis and cubical quads are popular for mobile T-hunting in southern California.

After a couple of romps like this, try on-foot hunting with international rules. In championship foxhunts, competitors carry a card or an “e-stick²” to register at each of the five fox transmitters required by the rules. Their goal is to find them all and get to the finish line within a set time period, usually about two hours.

This form of all-on-foot foxhunting has become an international sport, with national and world championships³. It goes by several names, including foxtailing, radio-orienting, and ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding). Maybe there's a future medal winner in your local club, just waiting to be discovered.

With practice and perseverance, you could win ARDF medals and other honors, no matter what your age. National championships take place annually in about two dozen countries around the world. America's will be in Texas this month (see sidebar). Don't be afraid to try these championship courses just because you haven't done much ARDF. Our national championships are open to anyone who can run or walk through the forest for five to 10 kilometers (3-6 miles) while carrying RDF gear. It's normal for a high percentage of attendees each year to be newcomers. They are always welcomed and encouraged.

Once you have experienced USA's ARDF Championships, you may want to take on the world. Last September, three stateside radio-orienters traveled to Gunma, Japan for the

Champion and Beginner Foxhunters Head for Texas This Month

The Texas ARDF Group will host the 16th annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding from April 6 through 10, 2016, in Killeen, Texas, about halfway between Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio. Radio-orienters from all over the country plus visitors from abroad are expected to attend. The competitive courses are open to anyone of any age, with or without an amateur radio license. Medals will be awarded in six age categories for males and five for females, in accordance with rules of the International Amateur Radio Union.

The fun gets under way on Wednesday, April 6 with optional practice courses. Thursday will be devoted to *foxoring*, a sport that combines RDF and classic orienteering. The sprint event takes place on Friday. Saturday is the day of the classic two-meter ARDF competition with an awards banquet to follow in the evening. Then the classic 80-meter ARDF competition gets off to an early start on Sunday morning, followed by lunch and the closing awards ceremony, concluding in time for those who must catch evening flights home.

The USA Championships will be just in time for final selection of ARDF Team USA 2016 members, who will travel to Albena, a resort in Bulgaria, for the 18th ARDF World Championships from September 3 through 9 of this year. USA's team positions will be filled based on the best individual performances in these and last year's national championships.

To find out what it's like to participate in the USA ARDF Championships and get an overview of the IARU rules, read “RDF in the Rockies: The 2015 USA ARDF Championships” in the November 2015 issue of *CQ Magazine*. Then register by going to <www.homingin.com> and following a link to the official championships' website. You may also subscribe to a group email list for updates and discussions of plans for the USA and World ARDF Championships.

IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships. They competed against 100 of the best from five other nations and brought home a total of 10 medals.

Then in December, four ARDF enthusiasts from the U.S. went to the city of Guangzhou in southern China for the 2015 China International ARDF Championships. In their suitcases for the return trip were 10 more medals.

Begin Planning Now

It's time to start talking up foxhunting around your club and in repeater ragchews, and to plan a local Foxhunting Weekend event. It should be appropriate for the skill level of the members, be they experts or complete beginners. Make sure it's well promoted, fun, and fair for all. Above all, make it as safe for everyone as possible. All transmitting and receiving antennas should be eye-safe. Always be mindful of your own physical limitations and never take chances behind the wheel or in the forest.

Share Your Stories

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. Make your activities into a magnet for every club member. Better yet, include the whole community, especially young people.



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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. This Scout is getting a direction-finding lesson from Tom Gaccione, WB2LRH, at the Cabrillo Youth Center in San Pedro, California.

Afterwards, write up the results and send them to me so that I can share them with *CQ* readers. Tell me the date of the hunt, what kind of hunt (mobile or on foot), number and frequency of transmitters, how the hunt was scored to determine the winners, plus the callsigns of the hiderees and the winners. Don't forget to include the name of your club and the city or area it serves. Readers also want to know what was unique about your hunt and what lessons (positive and negative) you learned from it.

The list of items to report is posted at my website <www.homingin.com>, so you can copy it into your word processor and insert the information. Or if the report in your club's newsletter includes all the information, just send me a copy by electronic or postal mail. Photo files are welcome and should be as high resolution as possible.

If your group has more than one Foxhunting Weekend event, please send a separate report for each one. Add other facts if they are important, such as the distance of each fox from the start, whether the transmitters were continuous or intermittent, attended or unattended, and other technical features. I also welcome first-person reports from both the hiderees' and the hunters' perspectives.

Let's make this the biggest Foxhunting Weekend ever. Spread the word and encourage other clubs in your area to try it. I'll be waiting for your report. Happy hunting!

Notes:

1. <http://www.homingin.com/equipment>
2. <http://www.homingin.com/epunch>
3. <http://www.homingin.com/intlfox>

Unusual Optical Communications

As those of you who read this column regularly know, we are involved with fiber-optic communications systems professionally but are also very interested in optical communications as it relates to amateur radio and have written several columns in that regard in the past. As a result, when we have time, we like to experiment with various schemes to achieve free space communications. When we do, *Figure 1* is a basic schematic of the type of optical receiver that we use. For a transmitter, we usually use amplitude modulation or a pulse frequency modulation scheme for a laser diode.

As you can see from the receiver schematic, a photodiode is used to collect light from the transmitter and convert it into a tiny current. This current is then amplified many thousands of times by an amplifier to a level that can then be processed further. The amplifiers used are typical op-amps for signals in the amateur HF region (up to 30 MHz or so) as shown in the schematic, and special purpose wideband monolithic type amplifiers for use at higher frequencies.

Using this type of detector and a companion transmitter, we have been able to achieve fairly decent point-to-point communications of several miles under optimum conditions and spotty communications over much greater distances. These basic systems all used simple lens arrangements to gather and focus light at the transmitting optics and onto the photodiode at the receiver.

Last year, we were fortunate to obtain the use of a high-quality, 8-inch reflecting telescope as well as some 10-GHz photodiodes and matching extremely low-noise high-gain amplifiers. The telescope would result in a very high-gain optical collector due to the large size of its mirror. Needless to say, in line with common amateur radio courtesy, we decided to first search to see if there were any signals that

we could pick up, possibly from others doing similar experiments, before transmitting.

Since optical communications is normally line of sight, we needed a way to search a wide area, well beyond a line-of-sight path from our location. In the past, we have had heard of some experimenters in this area actually receiving some very erratic and spotty success bouncing signals off the moon, particularly with borrowed high powered laser diodes, beam collimators, and ultra high gain receivers with narrow band optical filters that were AC coupled to eliminate the normal continuous light from the moon and only pass the wavelength of the lasers used. In addition, narrow-band electrical filters were employed to pass only the specific modulation frequencies we were experimenting with. Although we do plan to experiment with that technique in the future, this time we were not transmitting but only listening, and without the optical filters.

Since the moon was only visible at dusk and dawn last April when we started to search, we hooked up everything as shown in *Figure 2* and set the astronomical tracking mount on the scope to locate and follow the moon, which it did quite accurately after a few seconds. We immediately received several signals that sounded like noise while pointed at the moon, but as these were not really recognizable or decodable and very sporadic using what we had on hand, we were ready to give up and call it a night after just a couple of hours.

When starting to pack up the equipment, however, we turned off the telescope-tracking mount, which moved the scope off the moon and we suddenly received a strong digitally encoded signal, or so it seemed. Wow, I wondered! Who could produce such a signal, or was it just some sort of military satellite using lasers for communications? We had read of such optical communications experiments but were surprised that we could actually tap into one. We started to record the data but as quickly as we found the signal, that is how quickly it disappeared. With the tracking unit turned off, we

*c/o CQ magazine

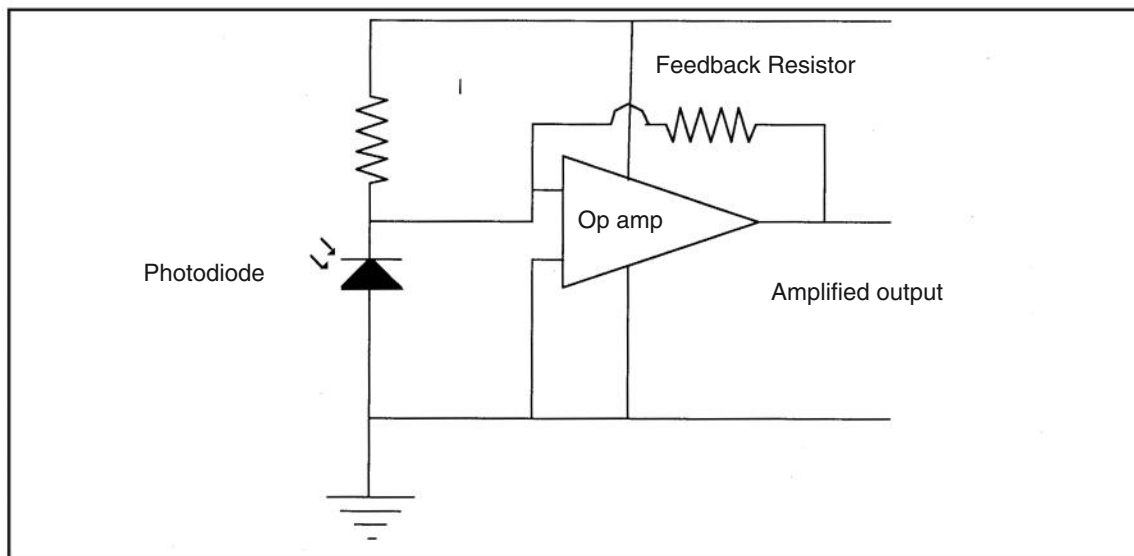


Figure 1. Basic optical receiver circuit.

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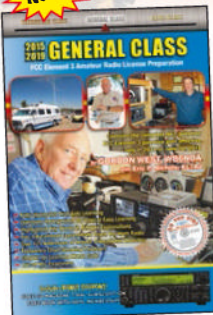
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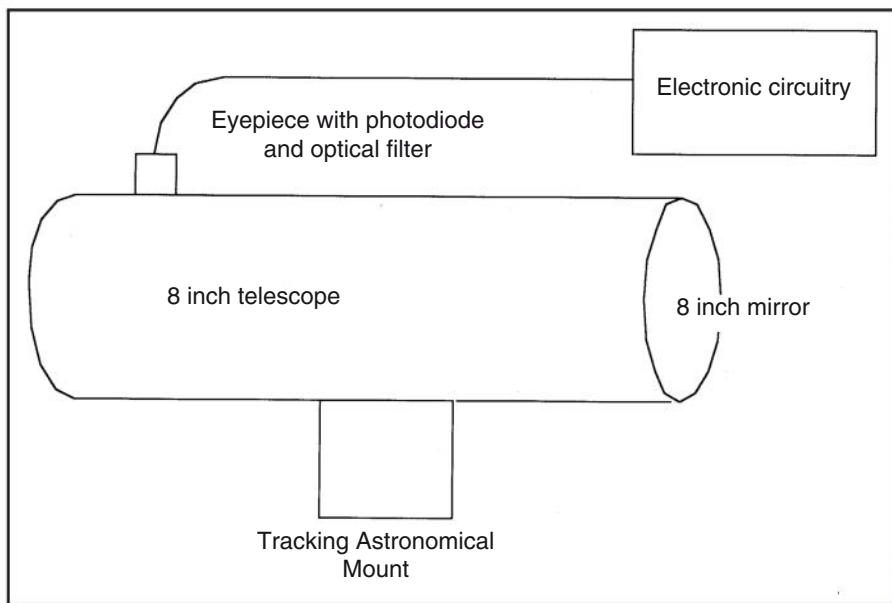


Figure 2. "Antenna" for receiving optical signals off the moon.

immediately manually scanned the entire area but could find nothing more. We had recorded only a second or two of data, however, so we attempted to try to decipher what little we had. After packing up all of the equipment and returning home, we began to examine the little data we had. The frequency of

the carrier was found to be very close to 1420.5 MHz and the signal itself was pulsed just like a CW signal might look. CW at 1420 MHz, however, was certainly not standard amateur work.

Further research turned up the fact that the resonant frequency of hydrogen gas, the most common element in

the universe, was at 1420.40575 MHz, very close to what we measured. Our equipment had nowhere near the accuracy required to be certain that the exact frequency of what we measured either was or was not the actual hydrogen frequency. The few seconds of data seemed to also be in some sort of code, but you could easily tell that it was not random (nor Morse, for that matter). The CW pulses were also strange in that it seemed that they were more than just simple on-off signals. They seemed to have an additional layer of data as there seemed to be sort of jitter in the rise and fall times of the pulses, but it was beyond our ability to try to decode anything. I had read of experimental pulse modulation techniques to squeeze more information onto a single pulse, but if this was in use, there was no way I could determine what it was.

In conclusion I am really not sure exactly what we picked up last April but you can bet that this April we will be out again with the exact same setup, and this time we will monitor the whole night. We also have a 10-inch telescope this time around, so who knows what kind of DX will turn up. We will be sure to let you know next April.

– 73, Irwin, WA2NDM

BY GERRY DEXTER,*

ISIS Off the Air

Let's get going and check out a few short-wave-lets:

~ Voice of the Caliphate Radio, mentioned last month, was blown off the air (read "destroyed") by U.S. warplanes back in early February.

~ Seldom reported is the country of Armenia, which transmits what it labels as an "international service" from Gavar, mostly in odd languages at inopportune hours. The latest alignment offers no hope, either: The schedule runs from 1500 to 1845 UTC on 4810 in a series of tongues, of which Greek, Turkish, Arabic, and Kurdish are the most Rosetta Stone-friendly. You'd feel about as helpless trying to hear this one as a cherry-flavored snow cone would, struggling to tie up to the Macapa docks!

~ It appears that "Radio Sana'a" is the correct name for that new Yemeni-based opposition broadcast on 11860 as intense monitoring by Ralph Perry and others has turned up nothing to the contrary. The current schedule seems to be 0400-0900 UTC

and 1800-2300 UTC (other sources say the Sana'a broadcast runs 24 hours). It seems the Arabic broadcasts are in support of deposed Yemeni president Hadi who now hangs out in friendlier Saudi Arabia.

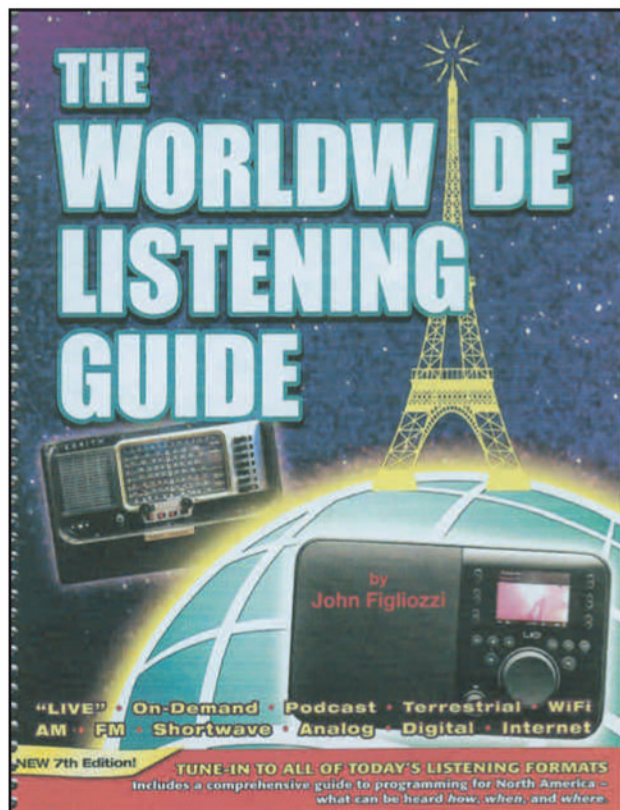
~ Poor Deutsche Welle. The former Voice of Germany now seems to be aired only from Talata (Madagascar), Dhabbaya (UAE), and Issoudun (France). Nicht Deutschland rundfunks! (At least for DW)

~ Indonesia is again showing signs of some domestic shortwave life. The reported actives include: Palangkaraya (Kalimantan), on 3325; Ternate (Malaku), on 3345; Merauke (Papua), on 3905; and Makassar (Sulawesi), on 4750. All of them are domestic Radio Republik Indonesia outlets.

~ Radio Gaucha in Puerto Alegre, Brazil, was returned to the air on 6020. What's with all these PY stations? They seem to come on and go off like a flock of fluttering fluorescents.

~ The seldom reported Italian station Radio Marconi International is running occasional low-

*c/o CQ magazine



John Figliozzi's Worldwide Listening Guide is available now from the usual book ordering sources.

The following lists classify programs into popular topic areas to provide you with a handy cross-reference to the information in the Consolidated Program Listing. Within each classification, the programs are arranged alphabetically by program title. Then each listing shows the day of week and time of day in UTC that they are broadcast, and finally showing the Station/Network that carries the program.

Arts, Culture & History Programs				Arts, Culture & History Programs continued			
Program Title	Day(s)	UTC Start	Station/Network	Program Title	Day(s)	UTC Start	Station/Network
It's in the Spotlight	3	1500	CRB-C2	In the Spotlight	4	0230	CRB-AM
It's in the Spotlight	3	2100	CRB-C2	In the Spotlight	4	0400	CRB-SP
A Good Read	3	1530	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	4	0400	CRB-AM
A Good Read	6	2300	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	4	0630	CRB-AM
Arts	2-6	0800	RTE-81	In the Spotlight	4	0830	CRB-AM
Arts Matters	6	1900	CRB-C2	In the Spotlight	4	1030	CRB-AM
Arts or Culture feature or series	2	1900	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	4	1200	CRB-SP
Arts Tonight	2	2100	RTE-81	In the Spotlight	3	1830	CRB-AM
At the Movies	1	0111	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	2200	CRB-AM
At the Movies	5	0700	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2	0900	CRB-AM
At the Movies	1	1700	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	1230	CRB-AM
CRB Arts Hour	7	0800	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	2000	CRB-AM
Best of Ireland	2	0730	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2	1130	CRB-AM
Books and Arts	7	0900	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2	0300	CRB-AM
Books and Arts Daily	2-6	0300	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2	1300	CRB-AM
Books and Arts Daily	2-6	1800	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2	1630	CRB-AM
Books and Arts Daily	1-4	2300	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	5	0500	CRB-AM
Books and Arts Daily	3	2300	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	5	1030	CRB-AM
Books Plus	1	0400	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	5	1200	CRB-AM
Books Plus	1	1400	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	5	1400	CRB-AM
Books Plus	7	0600	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	5	1600	CRB-AM
Culture	3	0800	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	0945	CRB-AM
Culture	4	0400	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	0945	CRB-AM
Culture	7	0500	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	0945	CRB-AM
Culture	5	0600	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	1145	CRB-AM
Culture	6	1400	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	1245	CRB-AM
Culture	1	1900	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	1345	CRB-AM
Culture	6	1800	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	1445	CRB-AM
Culture (Alternate 24)	6	0400	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	2045	CRB-AM
Culture (Alternate 24)	6	0600	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	2115	CRB-AM
Culture (Alternate 24)	6	0800	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	3	2345	CRB-AM
Culture (Alternate 24)	6	0700	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2-6	0200	CRB-AM
Culture and Arts	6	0800	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	1	0800	CRB-AM
Culture and Arts	5	1915	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	5	0725	CRB-AM
Culture and Arts	3	1530	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	1	0800	CRB-AM
Focus	6	0500	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	1100	CRB-AM
Focus	6	0700	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	1200	CRB-AM
Focus	2-6	1340	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	2	1230	CRB-AM
Focus	5	1900	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	0100	CRB-AM
Focus	5	2240	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	0330	CRB-AM
Front Row	2-6	1815	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	6	0400	CRB-AM
High Note	3	0340	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	6	1700	CRB-AM
High Note	3	0740	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	1	0500	CRB-AM
High Note	3	1340	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	1	1700	CRB-AM
High Note	2	1840	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	1	1900	CRB-AM
High Note	2	2240	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	0830	CRB-AM
History Matters	3	1230	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	0800	CRB-AM
History Matters	4	1000	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	1000	CRB-AM
History Matters	3	1600	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	1100	CRB-AM
History Matters	2-6	1100	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	1200	CRB-AM
Home Front Dispatch	6	2000	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	1	0000	CRB-AM
Hong Kong Heritage	1	1015	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	2000	CRB-AM
Hong Kong Heritage	6	2405	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	2000	CRB-AM
In the Spotlight	4	0500	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	0205	CRB-AM
In the Spotlight	4	0600	CRB-AM	In the Spotlight	7	0315	CRB-AM

A sample page from The Listening Guide.

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power tests on 11390 and they are anxious to receive reception reports (!) So far they've heard from at least 13 countries, all in Europe. Reports from the U.S. are as unseen as that "Swiffer" delivery person who's never seen on the TV commercials. I guess that's understandable, given that they list their power as "about" 30 watts and the time frame used is from 0900-1300 UTC. I'd be too blurry to stumble my way to the receiver at those hours!

~ In Papua New Guinea, NBC at Bougainville has returned to the air on 3325. Your best shot at this one is in the spring around 1100-1200 UTC.

~ Reach Beyond Australia (formerly called HCJB) is about to install a third 100-kilowatt transmitter at Kununurra. They are hoping to have the new unit in service in time for the B-16 season, which goes into effect at the end of October.

~ Florida's WRMI has replaced 7455 and now uses 7730.

~ The Latin American DX Survey has been released by Australian DXer Rob

Wagner. The survey is available as a free download from: <http://bit.ly/1RmiEOS>.

~ And the *Worldwide Listening Guide*, by John Figliozzi (mentioned a couple of months back) is out. It's a great source for programming lists over any medium

and is available from Amazon, Universal Radio, and a bunch of other online book sellers. It's more than worth the price.

Remember, your shortwave broadcast station logs are always welcome. But *please* be sure to double or triple



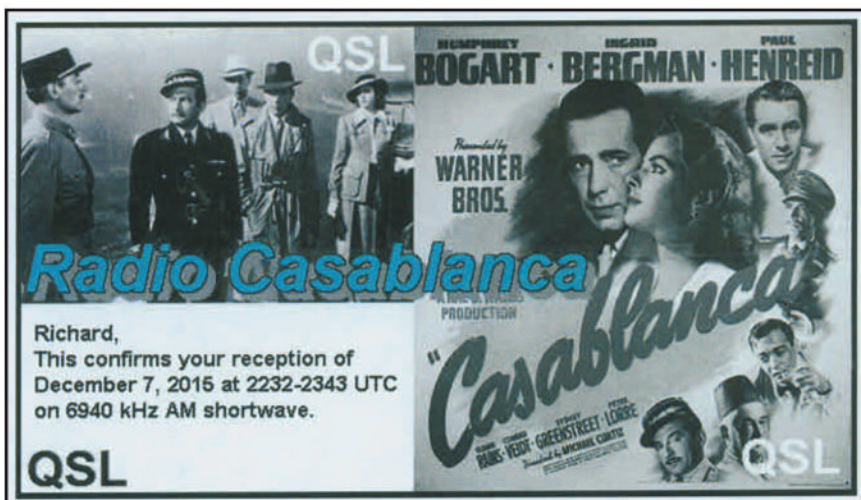
Rich Parker sent this QSL from the Rhein Main Radio Club saluting 2015's EDXC Conference in St. Petersburg.



Radio New Zealand's transmitter building at Rangitaiki.



An assignment editor shown in the VOA newsroom on this QSL for the Tinian (Northern Marianas Relay QSL). (Thanks D'Angelo)



Pirate Radio Casablanca named after one of our favorite movies. (Thanks D'Angelo)

space between them, list each log according to the station's *home* country, and include your last name and state abbreviation after each. Also needed are spare QSLs or good copies of station schedules, brochures, pennants, station photos, and anything else you think would be of interest. If you are an amateur radio operator who is also an SWL you are also most welcome! Join KB2DMD and N9OVQ and let's hear from you!

Leading Logs

Here are this month's logs. Additional logs are posted online <<http://cqplus.listeningpost.blogspot.com>>. All times are in UTC. Double capital letters are language abbreviations (SS = Spanish, RR = Russian, AA = Arabic, etc.). If no language is mentioned English (EE) is assumed.

CANADA—CFVP, Calgary, 6030 at 2228 with comedienne Gilda Radner, "Funny 10-60" ID, then Larry the Cable Guy. (Sellers, BC)

CONGO (Rep.)—Radio Congo, (t) 6115-Brazzaville from 0605 tune in. Seemed to be a "morning reflections" type pgm; almost religious-sounding with M and FF anmts, African choral mx. At 0620 xylophone-type repeated like an IS, then more FF anmts. (Perry, IL) (A *testosterone* log – GLD)

ETHIOPIA—Radio Fana, 6110 at 0311 in Amharic with M and HOA music. (Taylor, WI) 0415 with M, W hosting percussion-driven music. This was a superb African opening. (N9OVQ, IL)

GUYANA—Voice of Guyana, Georgetown, 3290 at 0220-0410 with a lot of music; news at 0400. (D' Angelo, PA) 0440 carrying BBC news then original pgm at 0530 with multiple W doing news. 100% readable; the strongest I've heard them since reactivation. (N9OVQ, IL)

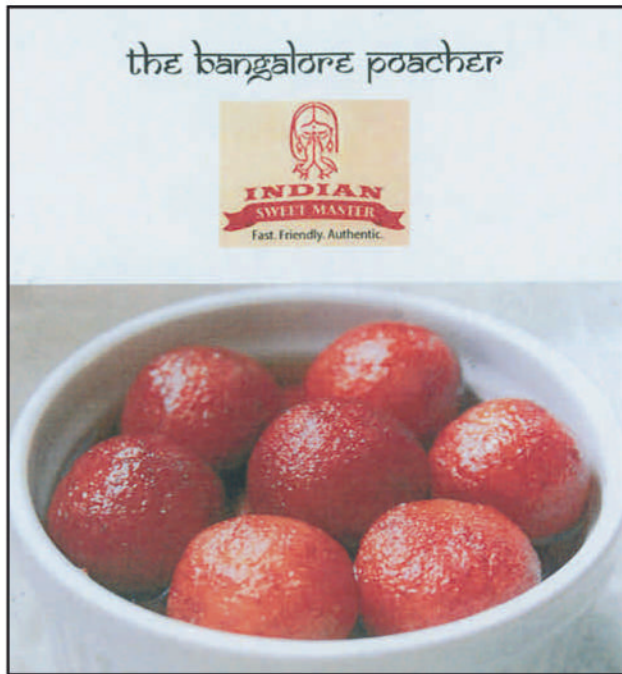
HAWAII—WWVH National Bureau of Standards, 15000 at 2212, W gave time just prior to the stronger WWV anmt. (Sellers, BC)

MALAYSIA—RTM, Sarawak FM, 9835-Kajang at 1105 with M/W in Malay. (Brossell, WI)

MYANMAR—Myanmar Radio, 7200-Yangon at 1353 mixing with CNR-1 from 1400 until CNR closed at 1400 leaving Myanmar in the clear until they went off suddenly at 1402. (Perry, IL)

NIGERIA—Radio Kaduna, 6090 good at 2202, with Caribbean Beacon attempting to get on the air, creating a strong het. (Wood, MA)

NORTH KOREA—Korean Central



Rich D'Angelo also got this QSL from pirate Bangalore Poacher.

Broadcasting Station, 15180-Kujang with martial/victory music at 1108. (Brossell, WI)

OPPOSITION—Denge Kurdistane, 9400 (via Grigoriopol to Turkey), in Kurdish at 1355. (Perry, IL)

Radio Sana'a (p), (p Saudi Arabia to Yemen), 11860 at 1351-1412 with M and long talk in AA. No top-of-hour break, so no ID noted. (D'Angelo, PA)

Que Me Radio, (via Palau to Vietnam), 9530 with talks in VV at 1207. (Brossell, WI)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA—NBC, 6075 via Brandon (Australia) at 1106 with talks in Tok Pisin. (Brossell, WI)

Wantok Radio Light, 7325-Port Moresby at 0415 with religion. (Padazopulos, Greece)

SINGAPORE—BBC Far East Relay Station, 15510 at 1135 with news headlines. (Brossell, WI)

SUDAN—Sudan Radio, 7305 at 0224 with AA talks. (Brossell, WI)

ZAMBIA—NBC Radio One, 5915 strong at 0405 with great local music and M in Swahili. Went from no signal at 0350 to a strong level at 0405. (N9OVQ, IL)

ZANZIBAR—Radio Television Zanzibar, 6015-Dole at 0320 with HOA music and W hosting. Nice to hear this one after many months of trying. (N9OVQ, IL) 11735 at 1959-2017 with time pips on the hour, W with ID f/by brief news in Swahili. (D'Angelo, PA) 2002 with M in Swahili and domestic music. (Taylor, WI)

~ More loggings are posted online at <<http://cqpluslisteningpost.blogspot.com>>.

QSL Quests

If you send reception reports to All India Radio. AIR would prefer you give the reception times in stated in Indian Standard Time, which is 5 and a half hours ahead of GMT/UTC. Further, you can forget about using the SINPO or SIO codes; they'll be happy with a simple description of the reception quality (strong, fair, weak). Reports may be sent to: Spectrum Management and Synergy, Directorate

General, Room Number 204, All India Radio, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110001, India. Email to: <spectrummanager@air.org.in>. (Use email if you can't fit that long postal address on the envelope!) And BTW, they say you do not need to include return postage, (which will make it a bit cheaper to handle all the follow-ups you'll probably need to send, (especially if you're reporting to the often unresponsive regional outlets). Source: *The New Zealand DX Times*. (Parenthetical comments are mine)

Rich D'Angelo reports replies from the VOA for its Tinian relay, and the pirates Radio Casablanca and Bangalore Poacher.

Who Goes There?

~ 5910 strong in EE at 0320-0359 when they abruptly pulled the plug. Most of the news was about Ugandan politics. (N9OVQ, IL)

~ 6930 pirate at 0030 with patriotic music and a movie soundtrack. (Hassig, IL)

~ 6940 at 2235. Weak, with a long talk. (Hassig, IL)

Just Sayin'

"On air" people (and, for that matter, people everywhere) murder the pronunciation of "W." It comes out douba-ya, or something close to that. Examine the letter: It's actually two you's; a "double you" oddly that's not how it comes out of the mouths of all too many!

Back in the Day

Radio Mar, YNTP, Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, on 9581 airing its domestic service in Spanish at 1405 on December 16, 1972.

SPURIOUS SIGNALS

By Jason Togyer KB3CNM
spuriouscomic.blogspot.com



“Potpourri”

How well did you weather the weather this past winter? As April showers bring May flowers, we may not want to look back at the long cold winter, but it deserves some reflections.

Going back and forth between South Jersey (just below the Mason-Dixon Line) and Southwestern PA (just above the Mason-Dixon Line) I can certainly say I had my fill of winter within a week of the start of the new year. December was unusually warm in the area — a wonderful feeling that elicited short sleeve polo shirts on many days — but quickly seemed cruel as there was a sudden drop into “deep freeze” temperatures.

Many cars suddenly didn’t start, as batteries that were a bit “long in the tooth” could not produce the needed cranking amps. January brought about more frigid temperatures — made only to seem worse, if measured in Celsius — that caused some issues with black ice and a general feeling of depression, as many longed for the warm and sunny days of December.

Late January brought some snow, with a major storm hitting on the 22nd though the 24th of the month. I had planned to go to Yaesu Day at DX Engineering in Tallmadge, Ohio on Saturday. Alas, the nearly 30 inches of snow (plus drifts and even higher ridge left by a certain plow driver’s questionable technique) meant I couldn’t get my SUV out of the driveway until too late in the day. Still, I have little reason to complain, as there were an estimated 500+ drivers, associated families, and one university basketball team of note — all stranded on a section of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

I’m sure that as you read this, there are still after-action studies going on and continued posturing about what went wrong and what they’ll do better next time and still more finger pointing — but the bottom line is that people were held captive in their cars. I trust you keep some sort of Go Bag (not just radios) in your vehicle. But if you were stuck in heavy snow and rather cold temperatures for over 24 hours, just how prepared are you for that?

Hopefully, you have a sufficient supply of bottled water for an average number of passengers and a like-minded quantity of energy bars (that aren’t left over from the last Bush administration) plus blankets, dry socks and the like, some inflatable pillows, and playing cards or games to help pass the time. Hopefully, you keep your fuel tank as full as possible and could keep cycling your engine for heat and to charge your battery. I hope you also know to get out of the car periodically to keep the exhaust pipe clear and avoid inhaling carbon monoxide.

Sound like a lot to keep in the car? Maybe so, maybe not — I think it’s all a matter of perspective. Sit in it for a day and a half and then let me know. If you have a station wagon or SUV, then it

should be an easy matter to get to this Go Bag. If you’re driving a sedan and it’s in the trunk, give some thought as to how quickly you’d want to decide to go out and bring it inside the passenger compartment — or if the trunk is accessible through a fold-down seat back.

There’s another set of concerns that may have come to your mind — the lack of a restroom in your vehicle. I’m not sure how detailed the esteemed editor or publisher of this fine periodical would like me to be, but let’s just say you are going to need some sort of improvised or disposable resource to handle those needs, as well. Search the Infobahn for terms like “disposable toilet,” “lady j adapter,” “absorbent bedpan liner,” “kitty litter” and so on for some ideas. That last item might also be usable for helping you get out of some trench your tires have dug into, as well as some sort of high-traction boards.

Of course, toilet paper, paper towels, hand sanitizer and the like will be important, as well. If you’ve never considered all of this, but drive distances in winter weather, then expand your mind for a few moments and give some thought to those preparations, as well.

Shelter in Place With a Radio

About two weeks before this storm, there was another one that seriously affected traffic in West Virginia (yes, just below the Mason-Dixon Line). This one brought in much less snow, but with wind and some ice, it brought traffic to a standstill throughout the area. School buses — on the road since mid-afternoon — didn’t get many children home until well after midnight. While most commercial buses have some sort of restroom facilities, school buses don’t. Suffice it to say those unfortunate children were fairly miserable and traumatized by the time they got to their families.

Smarter-thinking (or perhaps just “thinking”) principals and staff kept their students at school. Here, they had electricity, heat, bathrooms, gym mats, food, etc. and wisely chose to shelter in place. These kids had an “adventure,” while others did not. Their parents experienced fewer worries, as well. If you are driving into a storm with steadily deteriorating conditions, perhaps taking advantage of the restaurant or motel at the next exit ramp wouldn’t be such a bad idea, after all.

As we should touch on radios for a bit, having a 2-meter rig sitting on 146.52 MHz is a good idea. Having a weather alert feature is valuable. So is having a CB radio. As I’ve learned while driving through western Maryland at night, there is very spotty cell service for me between Cumberland and the West Virginia line, which means text messaging capabilities are non-existent.

I won’t raise many fellow hams at midnight or 2 a.m., but there are enough truck drivers still on the road to give me someone to talk to on CB — casu-

*e-mail: <wa3uvv@gmail.com>

ally or when there's some "non-good" event in play. Having it on, while monitoring channel 9 and/or 19 — with the squelch set at a quiet threshold — really is a good idea.

If the highway you're on is turning into a parking lot, a CB might be the best way to know what's ahead, what the cause is, and how to avoid it. It might also aid you in helping someone near you in need, such as providing a candy bar to a diabetic or making use of your CPR and other first-aid training — in the field.

Along with this, having a radio that can operate on MURS (no license required) or GMRS (license required) can also be helpful. Likewise, an FRS radio sitting on channel 1 may come in handy to communicate with others in your immediate area. Making friends with the folks in the RV next to you could come in handy, as well. (See previous paragraphs)

Using CERT to Recruit

CERT team members — who are out in force in many areas during snowstorms and in place afterwards — use all of these "non-ham" radio services to stay in touch. CERT - an acronym for Community Emergency Response Team - is a great way to recruit more (especially EmComm minded) people into amateur radio. Acting as an instructor or guest speaker during a class is an excellent way to introduce yourself as an Emcomm participant or leader, plus show off your Go Box or Go Bag and talk about the value of ham radio and its use during and following a crisis.

In fact, your Go Box can also be a very significant tool for PR purposes at different gatherings or to assist you in creating one of your own. Something outfitted with HF and VHF/UHF capabilities can give your audience a basic idea of what we are capable of doing.

Be sure to cover some of the non-verbal modes we use to communicate, as well. Fldigi, Winlink, and APRS are good ways to introduce the concept of moving data around — especially ICS and HICS forms. In my introductory CERT class of a few years ago, there were just under 20 students who were deaf or hard of hearing. Voice modes have little use to them, but keyboard-to-keyboard digital is of significant interest. Amateur radio is a pursuit open to many, without age or most physical requirements. Including the deaf and HOH community members is something that benefits everyone.

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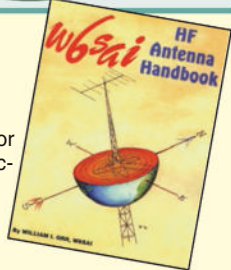
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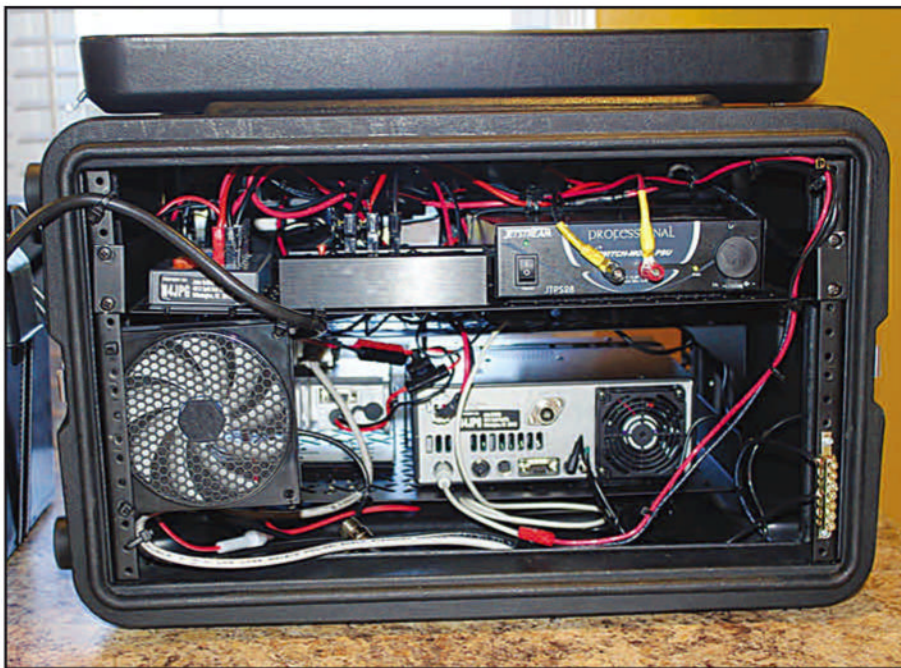
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Rear and front views of N4JPG's work reveals a Go Box with HF, digital voice, and conventional analog coverage, plus support for keyboard digital modes. Of particular interest are the shelves (see text and next photo for details).

of astronomy. Some years back, a program to bring the appreciation of astronomy to the people in an everyday setting was co-founded by John Dobson. Amateur astronomers may recognize his name as associated with the popular Dobsonian telescope mount.

The concept of "Sidewalk Astronomy" has spread to many locales. Essentially, someone sets up a telescope and invites people to look at the moon, planets, and stars. Visit www.sidewalkastronomers.us for more details. Even though light pollution attenuates what one can normally see in an open field out in the coun-

try, it's certainly more than the naked eye and — if nothing else — gives someone an opportunity to think about celestial bodies and astronomy. Some walk by and don't want to try it out, some participate and move on and a smaller percentage have their imaginations inspired and become interested in learning more — to eventually become astronomers themselves.

In a parallel endeavor, Sidewalk Amateur Radio (or whatever you might prefer to call it) is an opportunity to set up an impromptu station (Go Box) with some take-away propaganda about

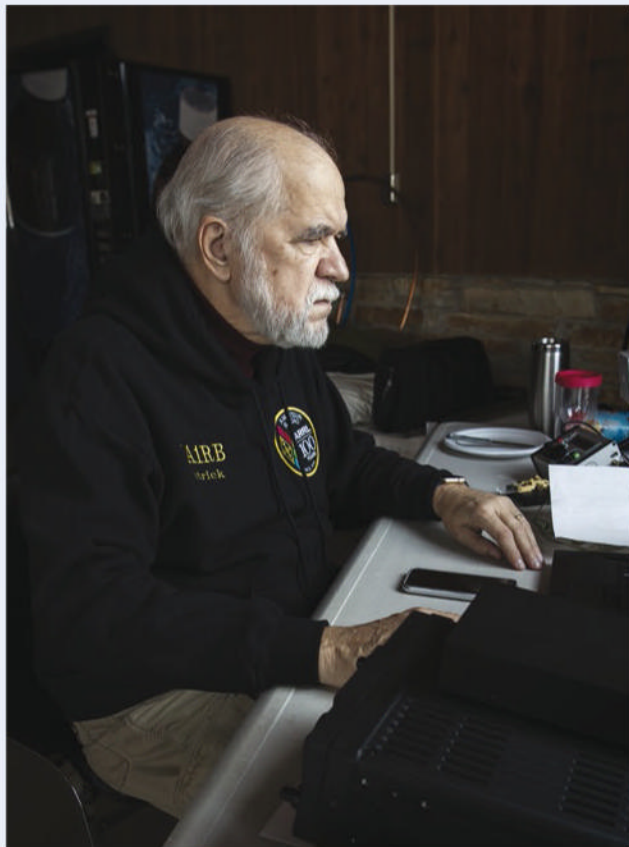
ham radio and your contact information. Any antenna you set up will be less than perfect, but it should be able to generate some interest. Maybe a pair of participants — one operating the radio and another inviting people over and holding some supporting conversations — is best.

You'll get those who walk by disinterested, those who experience the fun and learn more (but move on), and those who are your "real" audience — learning more, participating, and subsequently becoming hams themselves.

Don't let Emcomm be your only focus. Especially with young people, touch on all of the things that amateur radio can do to support education (without actually mentioning the dreaded word) and open one's mind — as kids are usually accompanied by their parents. Just as McDonald's made a conscious decision to market to kids, who get their parents to bring them there (with their parents' money)— you need

Winter Field Day

As illustrated in this month's column, emergencies requiring communications assistance don't always wait for warm weather, and neither should our preparedness exercises. That's the idea behind "Winter Field Day," sponsored (appropriately enough) by the Winter Field Day Association. The 24-hour event is held annually on the fourth full weekend of January, with bonus points for operating outside, away from home and/or without commercial power. For complete details, see <<http://www.winterfieldday.com/index.html>>.



Patrick Moretti, KA1RB, operating the PSK31 station at the 2016 Winter Field Day operation of the Black Diamond Group, WI9BD, at Menominee Falls, Wisconsin. (Photo by Leroy Skalstad, WD9HOT)

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to excite the parents to support the more involved interests of their kids and know why ham radio is such a worthwhile activity. For the kids, it can just be — fun!

Above all else, offer everyone an opportunity to talk on the air. Even if cell phones and instant text messaging have jaded you, there's still nothing like the thrill of holding a microphone and talking on the radio. Especially when it's the first time.

If you are a regular reader of this column, then you might remember that I've covered PR opportunities and alternate forms of two-way radio before. As there are many ways to use these in furthering the growth of your Emcomm group and efforts, plus provide service to your community, I'll be continuing to do that and hope that you let me know of different ways that you have exploited such opportunities.

Quoting from former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau: "Be ready when opportunity comes ... Luck is the time when preparation and opportunity meet."

PA Turnpike Revisited

Revisiting the January debacle on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, I want to recognize the rescue and public service efforts of many of the people of Bedford County, Pennsylvania. As some who lived near the affected area learned of what was happening (and not happening) on the turnpike, they left the comfort of their homes and brought supplies and comfort to those in need.

Using access ways, overpasses, and ultimately by foot, they delivered water, food, and other items. By and large, there was no centrally-controlled, practiced, or otherwise coordinated response

— but there were pocketed responses — coming in advance of and in addition to anything "official."

Special recognition goes out to these hardy souls as well as anyone who rendered aid weeks earlier in West Virginia. Not only did they demonstrate the charity, good citizenship, and empathy of many in this country — they did so simply because they recognized a need and stepped out of their comfort zones (literally, as well as figuratively) to do "something" to help others. They did this without waiting for their tax dollars to go into action. They just did it because it needed to be done and they knew they could provide some of that help. Good for them.

One more quote — this time from American President Theodore Roosevelt: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Go Kit of the Month

Now let's change things up a bit and take a look at a Go Kit from John Patrick, N4JPG, as shared on the Ham Radio Go Kits Facebook page — a good place to share ideas. Using a Gator box, John has stuffed this 4RU enclosure with HF, VHF/UHF analog, and DMR transceivers, as well as external speakers, digital mode interface, ventilation, and some nicely laid-out cabling.

One of the things I like in this design is John's choice of rack shelf. The Middle Atlantic Products UTR1 has a "universal" hole pattern throughout the bottom. This makes it easier to mount a variety of transceivers and accessories — through the use of mounting screws and holes laid out in the equipment for feet. Lining up the existing holes for use in securing your

gear can eliminate the need for mounting brackets and requires less vertical space.

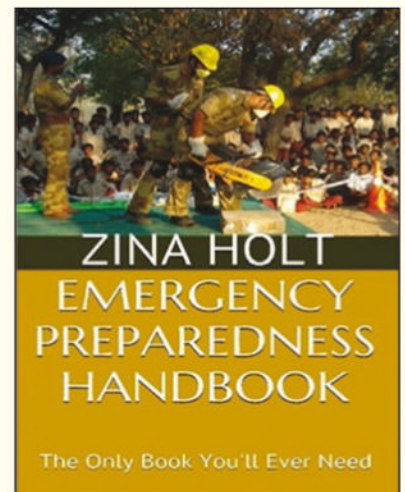
Many already use this technique, but end up pulling off case bottoms and lining up holes to drill. That works, but the UTR1's "X" pattern speeds up the process and involves substantially less effort to rearrange items later on. They're available through online sources like <www.sweetwater.com> or <www.markertek.com> plus local musicians retail stores.

While I do get to see a nice mix of more elaborate Go Kit and Go Box designs, I don't see much posted in the way of simpler setups or soft case — Go Bag — layouts, if you will. Perhaps your Emcomm needs are very simple and just a basic portable and accessories are enough for the kinds of responses you prepare for. Well, I think readers would like to see those, too. So — please email some pictures to me with a short description of what you have and the idea behind it.

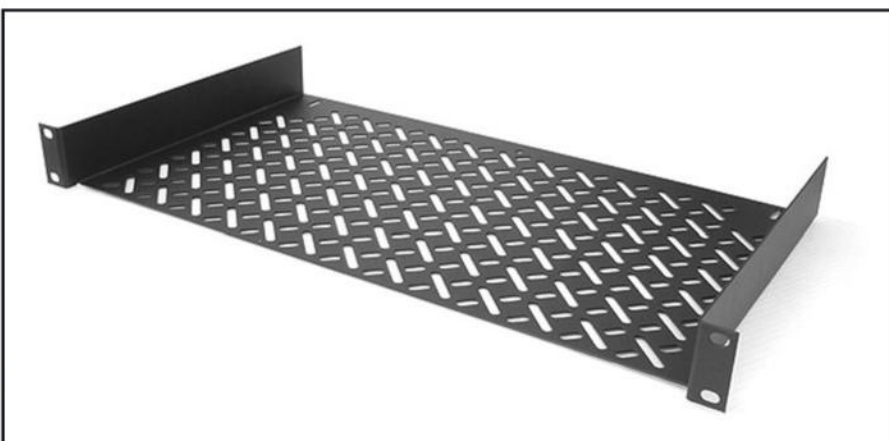
Book of the Month

Last, but not least, our Book of the Month is *Emergency Preparedness Handbook: The Only Book You'll Ever Need*, by Zina Holt. I'm not sure about it being the "only" book, but it is a good read and it's available online for an attractive price. If you're still not sure of all the things you want to have lined up at home and for your family, this is a good place to get started.

Until next time — Stay safe and look for the opportunities that are out there.



Our Book of the Month entry is available as an ebook, for a reasonable price. It's a good starting point or remedial reference for experienced hams.



This closeup of the Middle Atlantic Products UTR1 shelf gives you a better idea of the cutout pattern. It should be able to accommodate a variety of gear, without the need for additional holes or brackets for your equipment.



What You've Told Us...

Our November survey asked about how you respond to people who ask you about ham radio. An overwhelming majority of the respondents (95%) said they'd been asked at least once what hams do. Your responses (thankfully) are overwhelmingly positive (77%), while 11% say your answer depends on the person and circumstances involved, 9% give a matter-of-fact response, 3% said "I don't talk about the hobby" and nobody admitted responding negatively.

Asked what ham radio activities you talk about with non-hams, the majority of you (56%) said you discuss a variety of activities, and 9% said it depends on who's asking. Specific activities included DXing (11%), emergency communications (7%), the people you meet on the air (4%), building/experimenting (3%), contesting (3%), repeaters (3%) and "off the grid" operating (1%).

Most of you enjoy explaining ham radio to others, with 50% responding "happy to explain what we do" and another 43% who are "excited to share something about the hobby." Four percent said they are nervous that they might say the wrong thing and 1% answered "like I want to crawl under the nearest table."

Finally, we asked if the way you answer people's questions about ham radio is influenced by the articles and projects described in *CQ*. A gratifying 41% of you answered yes, while 31% said no and the remaining 28% weren't sure.

This month's free subscription winner is **Michael Di Persio**, KC2Q, of Davenport, Florida.

Reader Survey April 2016

We'd like to know more about you ... and especially what's important to you in ham radio and how we at *CQ* can help serve you better. There are two ways to respond to this survey:
 * **Respond online** at <www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQApr16> [From the digital edition, just click on the link].

- OR -

* **Cut out or photocopy** this page

* **Circle the numbers** that correspond to your answers

* **Mail your completed survey to:** April 2016 Reader Survey, *CQ* magazine, 17 West John St., Hicksville, NY 11801.

We will continue to select one respondent to each survey to receive a free one-year subscription (or extension) to *CQ*. This month, we'd like to hear about some of your ham radio plans and goals for the new year.

It's the start of another hamfest season, so this month, we'd like to hear about hamfests and you.

1. Approximately how many hamfests do you attend each year?

None	1
1	2
2-5	3
6-10	4
More than 10	5

2. When you attend a hamfest, are you generally there primarily as a ...

... buyer	6
... seller	7
... volunteer	8
... other (what?)	9

3. What is the *main* thing that draws you to a hamfest? (Choose one)

Flea-market	10
Forums	11
New equipment sales	12
Socializing with fellow hams	13
Other (what?)	14

4. In general, what is the greatest distance you are willing to travel to attend a hamfest?

Up to 10 miles	15
Up to 50 miles	16
Up to 100 miles	17
More than 100 miles	18
Do not attend hamfests	19

5. Please indicate whether each of the following will make you more likely to attend a particular hamfest, less likely or have no influence.

..... More Likely Less Likely No Influence	
Flea market	20	21	22
Forums	23	24	25
New equipment dealers	26	27	28
ARRL approval	29	30	31
ARRL convention	32	33	34

6. Have you attended or do you plan to attend any of the following this year? (Select all that apply)

Local hamfest	35
Regional hamfest/ARRL Division Convention	36
Major hamfest (e.g., Orlando or Dayton)	37
Specialty Conference	38
None	39

Thank you for your responses. We'll be back with more questions in upcoming issues.



Survey Response for Issue: April 2016

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ St/Prov _____ Zip/PC _____

Country _____

E-mail

“Curiously Strong”

The Altoids® mint tin has become the de facto standard case for a whole host of QRP and kit projects. Its universal availability, low cost, light weight, and convenient size make it ideal for an enclosure. Circuit boards for a lot of kits and other projects are intentionally sized to fit inside. You can thank the British for their marketing genius that created both the mints and the tins, and thank them again for this kit as well!

Kanga FOXX-3

Drilling larger holes in an Altoids tin for jacks and connectors and switches can be a problem due to the very thin metal used in the tin. The Kanga FOXX-3 CW transceiver kit (*Photo A*) makes this process a lot easier, by requiring only four 1/8-inch holes to be drilled in the base. The Kanga FOXX-3 is a kit that has been around for about 15 years, yet still remains popular. The popularity of this kit is due to the ease in which it mounts in the Altoids tin, as well as the step-by-step method of assembly. This method prevents a lot of problems that

can be hard to track down once a kit is assembled.

A step-by-step kit usually begins at the power supply and audio amp stages and moves on from there. Each stage is built in order and tested before moving on to the next, allowing for complete troubleshooting before it becomes a lot more difficult. The Kanga FOXX-3 has the parts for each stage enclosed in its own bag (*Photo B*). Each of these bags holds smaller ones separately containing the resistors, capacitors, and assorted other parts. It is so well done, that I did not need to use my normal “cat-proof” tray for my parts. Just open it a bag at a time as you follow the steps. Once you complete a stage, you perform the recommended tests and then move on to the next stage. The directions for the Kanga FOXX-3 were very clear and easy to follow, along with a schematic of each stage you are building and a parts pictorial for that stage.

There are three options for connecting a telegraph key: a 1/8-inch jack, a two-pin plug and cable, or using a button (supplied!) to act as your key. I chose to install the jack, so I could either connect a straight key or the output of a keyer. Because this kit comes with all of the optional parts, you may end up with a few spare parts. Since there are many kits for which a two-pin plug with matching jack and

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Photo A. The Kanga FOXX-3 transceiver kit mounted in an Altoids® tin.



Photo B. A bag containing the crystal oscillator stage parts for the 40-meter FOXX-3. Each stage has its own bag.

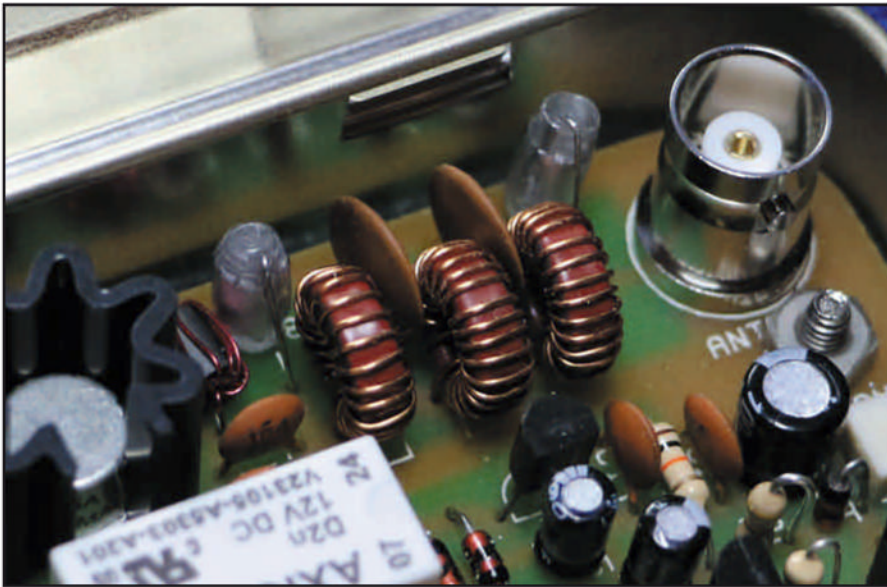


Photo C. A close up of the FOXX-3 output stage filtering. If you encounter broadcast interference, putting an antenna tuner in line might help. So might W8TEE's "Cheap and Easy BCI Filter" project elsewhere in this issue.

wire would be useful, I'll keep these in my parts bin for future use. The only issue I had was that the holes in the PC board were just a bit tight to fit the two pins needed for the resistor that determines the RF power output. Using a tiny drill bit by hand quickly cleared up the problem.

Connecting the FOXX-3 directly to an antenna revealed a small bit of shortwave and local AM broadcast interference. But when I connected my antenna tuner to the FOXX-3, it pretty much eliminated the outside interference. An antenna tuner is really a kind of band-pass filter, and can be quite helpful. The

output filtering in the kit (Photo C) only provides harmonic filtering above the frequency band of operation. The receiver sensitivity was not quite as good as the RockMite [I wrote about last month, but still hears plenty of signals.

You can buy the FOXX-3 kit from Kanga US (\$45, if in stock) at <<http://www.kangaus.com>> or from Kanga UK at <<http://www.kanga-products.co.uk>> for £29.95 (\$43.70 U.S. at this writing), plus shipping. The FOXX-3 is available in versions for 20, 30, 40, 60, and 80 meters.

1960s-Era Chinese Radio Kits

When looking at kits for teaching radio principles, I have found a number of educational kits that assemble things like an AM or FM broadcast radio on a board that has a schematic diagram printed on the board itself. I also came across a unique kit that is a replica of a kit popular in China in the 1960s. During that time, China was a very closed society, so those of us on the outside had little idea what was going on there in the realm of radio. With things being quite expensive for the Chinese consumer in that era, DIY kits were quite popular. China at the time produced a lot of components, but fewer assembled products than it does today.

The most popular Chinese radio kits

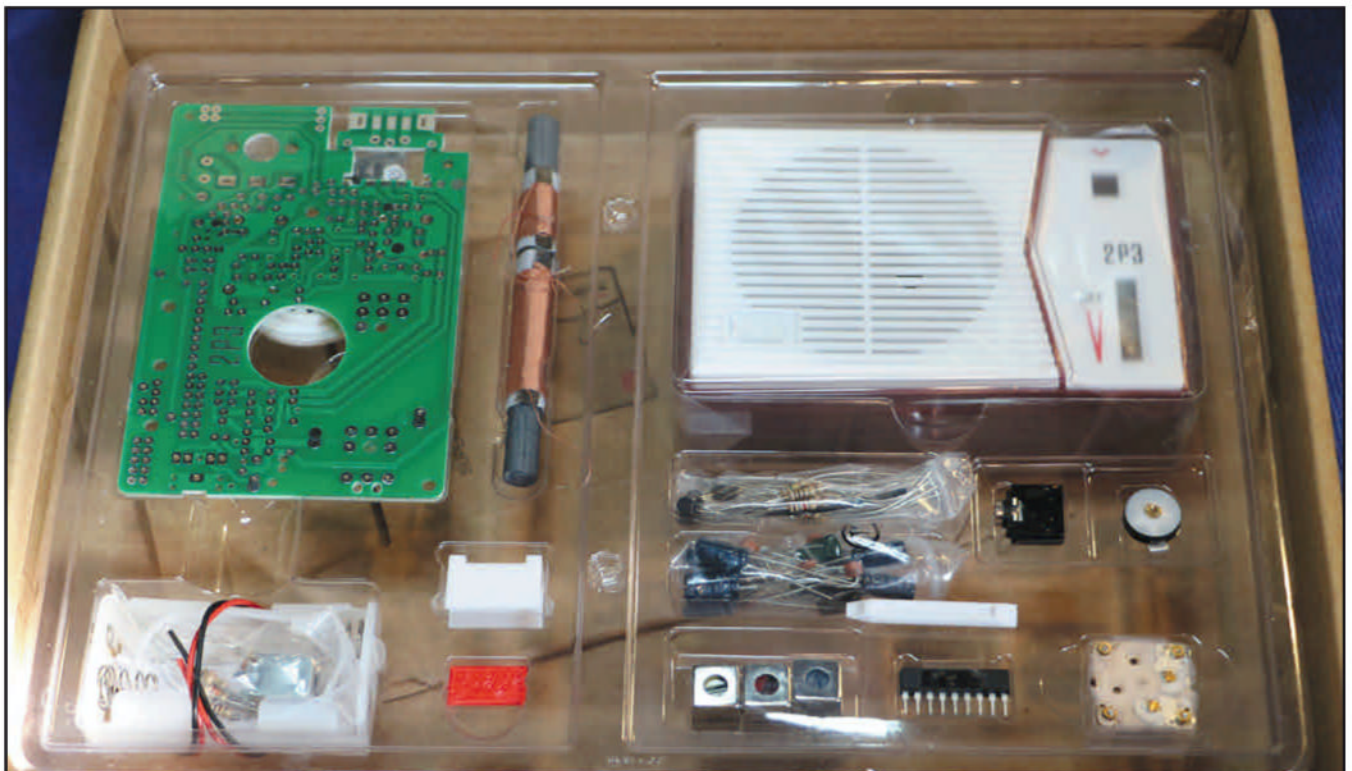


Photo D. The Tecsun 2P3 replica kit box showing all of the parts neatly packed inside.

were based on a plastic case called the 2P3. These cases were sold to builders, along with a variety of parts and boards (Photo D), depending on how complex a kit the builder wanted to assemble. The beauty of it was that there were a number of kits made to construct an AM broadcast radio that all fit into the 2P3 case, thus the legend of the 2P3 radio kits. Tecsun has come up with a well-designed radio kit (Photo D) that comes with a reproduction of the 2P3 case (Photo E). The box the kit comes in (Photo F) even has a sketch of a Chinese schoolboy wearing the typical uniform of the period and even a portrait of Mao on the wall! The instructions have plentiful diagrams, but are still written in a Chinese-English manner.

The diagram is very clearly illustrated with color photos of the parts and a large schematic and block diagram to make this truly educational. The similarities with the original 1960s design only extend to the three transistors in the RF and IF section, then go more modern with an IC-based audio output amplifier. As with many Chinese kits, there are a few details left out of the manual. It mentions you can build this kit stage by stage, but doesn't give instructions how to do that, leaving it up to the builder to read and understand the schematic. A lot of things are unclear, so, for example, you might find yourself unsoldering the wires from the speaker to get it mounted in the case after you test and align the radio.

The alignment procedure is pretty easy and is well written. It actually first requires you to check the current draw of the three transistor stages before activating them by shorting a gap with solder. If the current draw is outside the parameters for each on the diagram, there is a bag of resistors supplied to use to bring the values of current draw more in line with acceptable limits. My kit needed no changes in the resistors to produce the desired current draw for each of those three stages. Once the alignment is complete, the board is mounted in the case and the speaker wires reattached (Photo G). A diagram of what case screws and parts go where is part of the large printed manual sheet, as are detailed drawings of special assemblies, like the volume control.

Most typical AM radio kits suffer greatly in the areas of sensitivity and selectivity, but this kit is an exception. It picks up all of my local signals as well as a large number of much weaker signals with reasonably good quality audio, and plen-

ty of volume. The kind of Art Deco appearance of the case is typical of pocket AM radios of that era and makes for a nice looking final product. I found my 2P3 kit for \$25.95 on Amazon.com at this link: <<http://amzn.to/1Qned3z>>.

73 to Ramsey Kits

Finally, a name long known for a large variety of kits has left the marketplace. Ramsey Electronics, known for kits aimed at beginners, hams, and fans of very low power broadcasting, will no longer be producing anything in kit form. The company has decided to continue only its test equipment offerings, leaving the huge variety of kits it produced for 40 years by the wayside. Ramsey kits (Photo H) were known for their extremely detailed printed manuals that always included a lengthy description of the theory of the circuit involved, stage by stage, making every kit a learning experience. Each stage was built one at a time to enable troubleshooting as you went along. The PC boards in their QRP kits were single-sided and had the parts spaced quite a distance apart, making them ideal for first time builders. Ramsey also produced a large number of mini-kits of extremely simple design for beginning builders as well as more sophisticated kits.

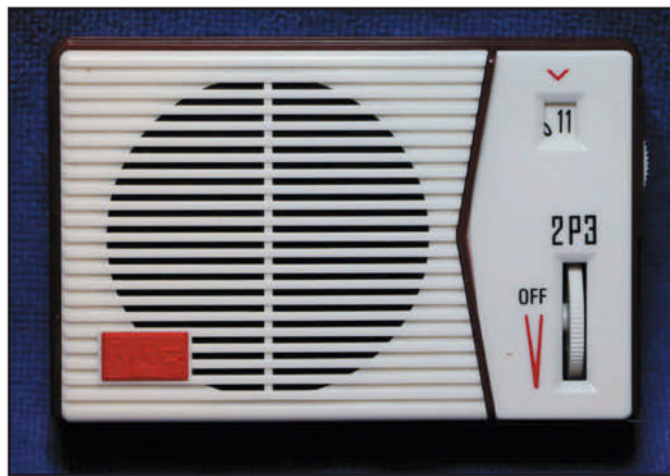


Photo E. The classic 2P3 case (see text for details).



Photo F. The box for the 2P3 AM radio kit, featuring a period sketch of a Chinese student building it with a portrait of Mao overlooking the scene.

what's new

N3FJP Beginning API Development

N3FJP Software has begun Application Program Interface (API) development to interface other digital or logging programs with N3FJP's logging software.

As of presstime, the work completed will not be evident until other programmers add connectivity to N3FJP's software to their programs. N3FJP called on users who have a program that they wish to see interfaced with N3FJP's software, to contact the developer(s) and refer them to this site: <<http://www.n3fjp.com/help/api.html>>.

For more information, contact: Scott, N3FJP. Website: <<http://www.n3fjp.com>>.

Note: "What's New" is not a product review and does not constitute a product endorsement by CQ. Information is primarily provided by manufacturers/vendors and has not necessarily been independently verified.

A hallmark of most Ramsey kits was the use of the same sized PC board and case for a wide variety of kits. This made them all styled alike and stackable. Having an easy-to-assemble case made the final steps a breeze.

At one time, Ramsey had three different booth locations at the Dayton Hamvention®, two inside the exhibit halls and one outside in the flea market, so nobody could miss their products. I, for one, never left for home without at least one of their kits when I saw them at Dayton. Along with Heathkits, my

Ramsey kits helped me gain the skills I have building kits today. The good news is that their remaining stock is now available on amazon.com by searching for Ramsey, and Ramsey will honor the warranty on kits sold until the end of 2016 (*That is, kits sold through the end of 2015 will be covered by Ramsey's warranty until the end of 2016. Kits purchased through Amazon during 2016 will not.* – ed.). Although Ramsey is now gone, new kits appear all of the time, and I'll keep bringing them to you here.

– Until next time, 73 de KØNEB

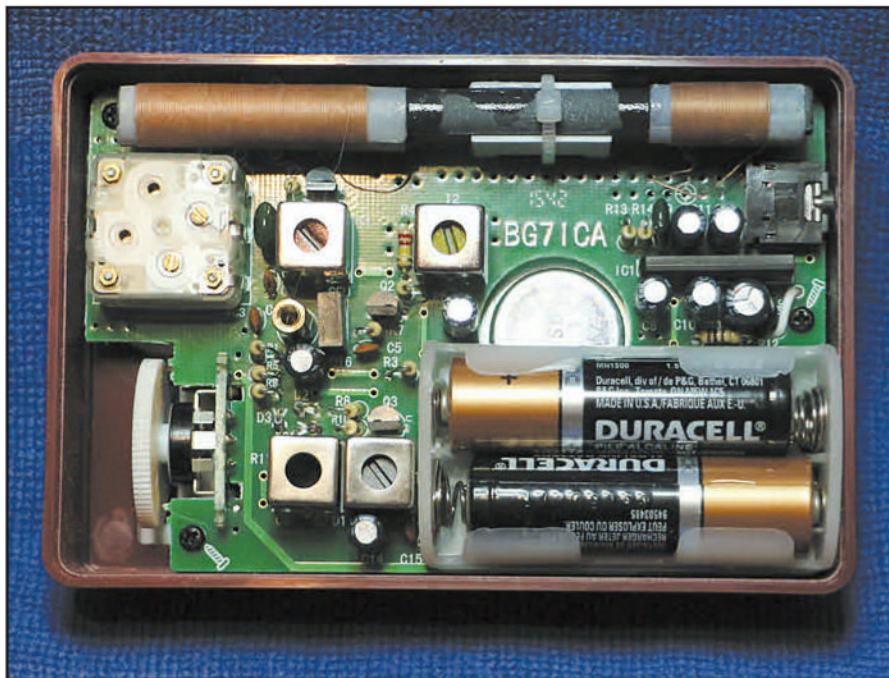


Photo G. The finished 2P3 AM radio, all aligned and ready to play!



Photo H. My trusty Ramsey active antenna kit, still working after more than 20 years!



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FLASH! EPA Declares the SWR an Endangered Species!



Those adorable little 8-legged arachnids that inhabit our antennas and feedlines (*Figure 1*) are now an endangered species.

According to a spokesman for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "It is a classic case of habitat destruction." With all the modern antennas and antenna tuners taking our SWR counts down to 1, not to mention growing restrictions on antennas altogether, the poor little critters simply have no opportunity to breed. But there is hope. Continuing work by Mr. Smith and Dr. Chart on an antenna with an infinite SWR, if successful, will be able to provide a home for all the SWRs in the universe. Meanwhile, it is essential that we all take good care of the SWRs inhabiting our stations. Government officials warn of significant fines and other sanctions (including pins in coax) for amateurs caught eliminating SWRs beyond permissible reduction levels.

Proper care and feeding of SWRs has been discussed previously in this column, most recently in May 2014 (*because the Antennas column didn't run in the April issue that year - ed.*). SWRs, we explained, "do not necessarily put all eight legs on the ground (or your feedline) at the same time. What you need to do is get those radio waves going up and down the antenna very fast, and it burns their little feet like walking on hot asphalt. Therefore, they

lift up one, then two, then more feet. Finally, they are standing on one foot with the other seven legs up in the air as shown in *Figure 1*. Now your SWR reading is 1 and you get out best because the other seven legs radiate the radio waves."

You Can Help!

Just as the National Audubon Society conducts its Great Backyard Bird Count each year, CQ is now conducting an annual Wild SWR Tally. Each April 1, amateurs are encouraged to take portable SWR-detection devices (similar to the one shown in *Photo A*), and count the number of SWRs registered in the vicinity of their antennas. Remember that SWRs may be dormant or active depending on the frequencies in use and the resonance of associated antennas. We will tally your results and report on them the following April.

— 73, Kent, WA5VJB

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email: <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com>

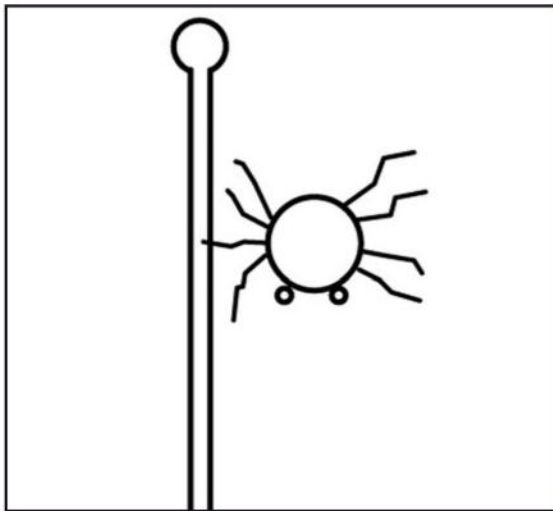


Figure 1. Artist's conception of an SWR on an antenna (the real ones are not visible to the naked eye). RF currents burn their feet, and your signal gets out best when only one foot is in contact with your antenna, as the other seven radiate RF energy.



Photo A. A typical handheld SWR field detector such as this one may be used to participate in CQ's new Wild SWR Tally, conducted each April 1. The meter in this photo reads zero, indicative of the declining SWR population that has prompted the Environmental Protection Agency to declare SWRs as an endangered species.

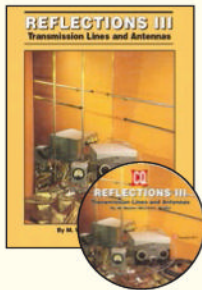
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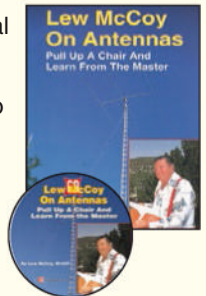


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33 Simple Weekend Projects

by Dave Ingram, K4TWJ



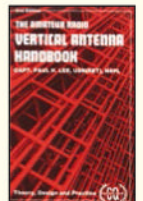
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Common Amateur Radio Antenna Connectors

BNC, F, RCA, N, PL-259, SO-239, SMA ... To an amateur radio newcomer, these connector designations can easily look like “alphabet soup” and sound equally confusing. Hams throw around these common connector names as readily as they do callsigns. At first, these names may seem daunting, but with a little explanation they will become just as easy to digest as, well, alphabet soup.

Ubiquitous PL-259/SO-239

The connectors that hams will encounter the most have to be the PL-259 and SO-239 antenna plug and jack (*Photo A*). In *Photo A*, the left connector

*e-mail: <k00z@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo A. UHF connectors, the PL-259 (male) is on the left and the SO-239 (female) is on the right. These connectors are found in most HF applications. Typically found on RG-8U coax. (All photos by KOØZ)



Photo B. A true Amphenol Teflon® PL-259 is on the left and an imitation Teflon connector is in the middle. The PL-259 on the right uses Bakelite as an insulator; these are great connectors, but increasingly difficult to find at hamfests.

is a male PL-259 (“PL” for “plug”) and the one on the right is its female counterpart, the SO-239 (“SO” for “socket”). These connectors are commonly referred to as UHF connectors, but generally should be avoided above 6 meters. They were designed during World War II when UHF frequencies were considered to be anything above 30 MHz. These connectors are listed as providing a reliable 50-Ω impedance over a frequency range of 0.60 KHz to 300 MHz. However, there is a lot of data to suggest that the PL-259 offers increasing insertion loss at frequencies over 100 MHz. Most likely, a PL-259/SO-239 combination would be fine for 2 meters, but you would be better served by using “N” connectors on the 144 MHz bands and higher. One explanation for this is that, unfortunately, not all PL-259/SO-239 connectors are made equally.

The quality varies tremendously. Amphenol makes good connectors, but they cost around \$5 each. Less expensive versions vary in quality. Some of the so-called Teflon® PL-259 connectors are not really made out of Teflon; rather, they are made from far less expensive polypropylene. This can be a problem because the polypropylene surrounding the PL-259’s center pin does not handle heat well and it will melt very easily during soldering. Melted polypropylene will render the connector useless.

In *Photo B*, there are three PL-259s of varying quality. The left connector is a genuine Amphenol Teflon PL-259. The one next to it is one of the “Teflon look alike” connectors commonly found at hamfests and these need to be treated with care. The third connector has a Bakelite dielectric surrounding the center pin. They’re good but are becoming harder to find at hamfests in favor of the less expensive, Teflon look-alike connectors.

PL-259s are popular with hams because they are robust, can handle a wide range of coaxial cable types, are inexpensive, and are relatively easy to install (*and because most commercial HF and VHF radios are built using SO-239 sockets - ed.*). Typically, PL-259 connectors are attached to RG-8U coax. For newcomers, installing a PL-259 may appear to be a bit confusing, but there are a number of good resources available to assist you. KØBG has a very good website that offers great explanations of what to look for in a good quality connector <<http://www.k0bg.com/coax.html>>. He also offers some very nice tips on how to solder connectors and is well worth your time to look it over. Another resource is from well-known DXer and contester Tim Duffy, K3LR, at <<http://www.k3lr.com/engineering/pl259/>>.

Reducers

RG-8U is the most commonly found coaxial cable in most ham installations. Smaller-diameter versions, such as RG-8X or RG-58, are also used

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Photo C. PL-259 reducers are used to connect smaller diameter coax to a PL-259. The UG-175 (left) is used for RG-58U and a UG-176 (on the right) is used for the slightly larger diameter RG-8X coax. One can never have too many of these on hand.

quite a bit. In order to use a PL-259 connector with these smaller diameter coaxial cables, a reducer is needed (*Photo C*).

A reducer mates the smaller diameter coax with a PL-259 connector by sliding over the smaller diameter coax and screwing into the PL-259 body. UG-175 reducers are used for RG-58 coax and the UG-176 is used for the slightly larger RG-8X coaxial cable. In *Photo C*, the reducer on the left is a UG-175 and next to it is a UG-176. Notice that the UG-176 has a bigger hole to accommodate the larger diameter RG-8X coax. One can never have too many reducers in the workbench parts box, so it's a good idea to keep them in stock along with PL-259s.

BNC Connectors

Before amateur radio manufacturers switched handhelds to SMA connectors (more on these later), the BNC (Bay-

onet Neill-Concelman) connector was the predominant connector (*Photo D*). The BNC is popular because it offers low loss and constant impedance up to 3 GHz, and it will tolerate voltages up to 500 VDC. *Photo D* shows the male BNC on the left and the female on the right.

This connector offers a bayonet twist-on connection for a secure, yet easy to get on and off connection. Originally designed by Paul Neill of Bell Labs and Carl Concelman of Amphenol Corporation, the BNC makes switching coax/antennas very easy and quick to accomplish, which is very handy while operating out in the field. Hence the BNC's popularity. This connector works well with 50- and 75- Ω impedance coaxial cable.

The N Connector

When I was still a young ham operator, mere mention of the N connector meant "serious" business. N connectors were mostly found only on serious, directional VHF (Very-High Frequency, 50-222 MHz), UHF (Ultra-High Frequency, 420-902 MHz) and SHF (Super-High Frequency 1200 MHz and higher) antennas. *Photo E* shows an outside, mast-mounted UHF pre-amp with two female N connectors. The center connector in *Photo E* is an SO-239 connector.

An N connector costs more than a PL-259 and installing one seems a lot more involved. Actually, in many ways, putting an N connector on coax is easier than working with a PL-259. Paul Neill of Bell Labs invented the N connector in the 1940s to work with 50- and 75- Ω feedlines. *Photo F* pictures a male N connector on the left and its female counterpart on the right. The major advantage of the N connector is that it provides constant impedance up to 11 GHz and has

low insertion loss. Another major advantage of this connector is that it offers a waterproof connection.

A Brief Word on Waterproofing

Properly installed N connectors claim to be waterproof and be that as it may, I am a firm believer in Murphy's Law (Whatever can go wrong, will go wrong, in direct proportion to how badly you don't want it to go wrong), so I always use plenty of electrical tape and coax seal around all my outside coaxial connections. A little bit of extra "insurance" goes a long way. After all, Dr. Benjamin Franklin quipped, "An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure."

F Connectors

Perhaps the easiest connector to install, the F connector is used mostly with video applications. Occasionally, it can be found with some older ham rigs or accessories. The F male connector is pictured on the left and the female on the right in *Photo G*. This connector was invented by Eric Winston during the 1950s during the development of cable television. Typically, this connector is used with 75- Ω coax, such as RG-59.

RCA Connectors

As the connector's name implies (*Photo H*), Radio Corporation of America invented this connector in the 1940s for radio-phonograph applications. Commonly known as AV (Audio-Video) connectors or Phono connectors, the RCA connector passes AF (Audio Frequency) through HF (High Frequency) frequencies. Literature states that the RCA will handle up to 100 watts at HF frequencies. Some older Heathkit gear and some current QRP (low power) radios use these connectors.



Photo D. BNC connectors: On the left is a male BNC and a chassis mount, female BNC is on the right.

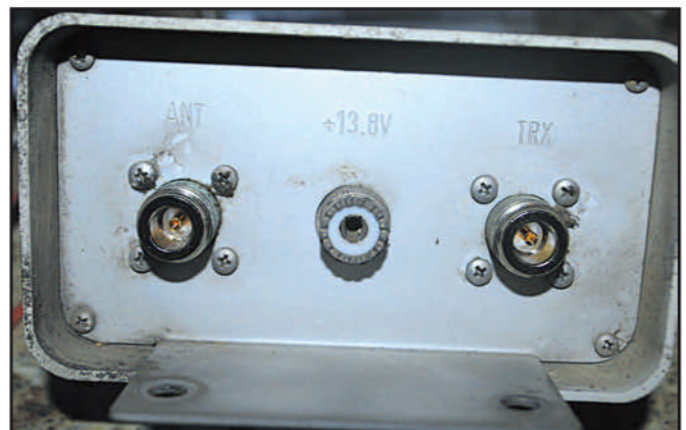


Photo E. A 432-MHz, mast-mounted single sideband pre-amp. Notice the antenna and the TRX (coax back to the transmitter) connectors are female N.



Photo F. For serious weak-signal UHF and above work, N connectors are used. On the left is a male N connector and on the right is a female, barrel N connector.



Photo G. F connectors are mostly used in video work, but they are occasionally found in ham radio applications. On the left is a male F connector with a slightly bent center pin and on the right is a female F.



Photo H. RCA connectors can be found on older ham radio equipment and some current QRP kits. Today they are mostly used for audio-visual applications. On the left is a male RCA connector and on the right is a female.

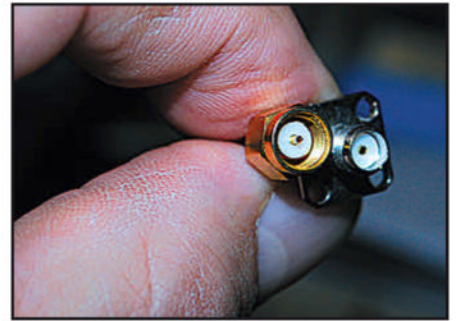


Photo I. SMA connectors are frequently found on ham radio HTs and on microwave equipment. The gold SMA on the left is a male connector and to its right is a female SMA.

RCA connectors are mostly used to connect audio cables from audio amps to speakers. They are also used to make composite video connections. A composite RCA connection consists of a wire bundle with three RCA connectors. The yellow RCA is used for video, the white RCA carries left channel audio and the red RCA is for right channel audio. Photo H shows a male RCA plug on the left and a female RCA jack on the right.

SMA Connectors

SMA stands for Sub Miniature type A (Photo I). This connector, for the most part, has replaced the BNC connector on amateur radio HTs. SMAs are rated from DC to 18 GHz and can handle a few hundred watts at microwave frequencies which is very impressive, when you think about the small surface area of the SMA.

Most amateur radio microwave components above 5 GHz employ SMA connectors. Southwest Microwave has a very useful chart indicating various RF connectors and their RF power capabilities at various microwave frequencies. Photo I contains a male SMA on the left and a female SMA on the right.

Adapters

The topic of adapters could, in itself, become an entire column. If you get into any serious antenna work, you'll soon discover that having a wide assortment of RF adapters in your parts box will go a long way to aid with antenna testing or connecting coax cables together during an event. A ham can never have too many or too varied RF adapters. However, let's save a lengthier description of adapters for next month's column. Thank you for reading CQ magazine and I hope to "see you" on the air!

— 73 and GL de Ron, KO0Z

It's Showtime!

California's Spanish mission town of San Juan Capistrano celebrates the return of the swallows every spring. Somehow these little birds have an accurate calendar or natural mechanism that tells them it's time to head for that historic Orange County enclave to the delight of tourists and innkeepers alike. If you're so inclined to visit, you don't have to wait 'til next March — that particular location is blessed with a delightful climate that's suitable for visiting just about anytime.

For us hams, spring is "showtime." From Orlando to Yuma, there are gatherings of geeks (and I use the term respectfully) that have us perusing catalogs, inspecting swap meet offerings, and searching for that next purchase that will bring each of us one step closer to ham radio nirvana.

And why not? As a species, we humans are unequalled at accumulating "stuff" because, in some form or another, it brings us a degree of happiness. There's decorative stuff, like art, glassware, figurines, or baubles; there's "collectible" stuff like stamps, coins, baseball cards, or certain antiques. And there's functional stuff like cars, bicycles, shop tools, and yes, radio gear. This latter group tends to take up a bit more space but I'll opine that most newer radio gear is pretty compact. And if you have an antenna collection that includes a few box quads and a Sterba Curtain or two, you're in another league, because if you gather those things, you've also collected a good chunk of real estate.

In any event, every spring I kind of take inventory of the radio stuff I have and think of some of the things I might like to acquire. Note that I didn't say "need," because I really don't "need" more gear. So I go through the "go kit" to see if everything still works, note which items are obsolete, worn out, or unreliable and create a shopping list of sorts. There's the "I can justify buying that" shopping list and then there's the intangible, "only in my head," shopping list of items that fall into the "hey, that's really cool, I think I'll buy it" group of impulse purchase items that varies with the amount of available disposable income.

Some of these purchases have been good, like my Timewave DSP-599zx purchased at Dayton many years ago. While I never updated the updateable firmware, it still provides great service. In the so-so list I have a mobile DSP box that I rated a four on a scale of 10; an overpriced custom HT holder for mobile use that's completely worthless since I no longer have the HT and a "stick" HF antenna mount that clamps onto a railing. While traveling, I used it twice with mediocre results, but it may not be the mount's fault so much as it was the operator's or perhaps the whimsy of the propagation gods.

But even with the occasional "klunk," buying stuff at shows and swap meets is an adventure and you don't always know what you're going to get. With

used gear, that may be where your negotiating skills kick in but there's no substitute for seeing the item work ... unless you have an unquenchable faith in mankind and older technology or perhaps excellent technical skills where it comes to repairs.

Accessorizing

When I think about ham radio conventions, conferences, or expos, I tend to think of the booths and displays put forth by the big manufacturers. At locations like Dayton and elsewhere, their presence includes factory reps who can answer questions and allow you to explore the features of the new hardware they have on display. So during last year's spring purchasing season, I bought a new HF+VHF+UHF transceiver for the field and I have to say I'm pretty impressed with the unit; it's done all I've asked it to do.

After the initial purchase, I added an LDG external auto tuner as an accessory and it has also performed well. Then, some programming software was purchased. I have to admit, I'm a sucker for accessories. Show me something that can reportedly take a good thing and make it better, and I'm interested. I blame this trait on having somehow acquired a J.C. Whitney car accessory catalog when I was about eight years old. I would flip through the pages and imagine a fully tricked-out J.C. Whitney car, most likely a slammed and chopped '49 Mercury with the fake tear drop spotlights drilled into its fenders to the stuffed cat with blinking eyes sitting on the rear parcel shelf and the blue dot tail lights impressing those eating your dust. Let's not forget the fender-mounted chrome horns that play a tune, hub cap spinners and wire curb feelers jutting from the right side fenders. Fortunately, I acquired some sense of taste before I reached purchasing age, but to this day, I still wonder two things. One: Who really bought that stuff? And two: Somewhere is there still a warehouse full of those items, just waiting to be shipped?

Fortunately, ham radio accessorizing tends to be a bit more practical and in many cases, dare I say functional? My Heil microphone was a step in the right direction of better transmitted audio, Bose noise-reducing headphones are a plus at a busy multi-station Field Day site (and on airplanes with crying babies), the MFJ electronic keyer attached to a Bencher paddle accelerated my interest in CW operations and the early Rigblaster unit I purchased is still delivering dutiful service when I choose to operate HF digital modes. The various battery rejuvenators I have purchased have delivered mixed results but I think that's more a function of the individual battery pack than the charging device. Having acquired many different HTs over the years, it's tough to keep batteries interested in performing when called upon. I guess they get bored.

At last year's ARRL Southwestern Division gathering in Torrance, California, there was an exhibitor displaying antennas that were also sculptures. I tried taking photos to share with you but they didn't

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e-mail: <aa6jr@cq-amateur-radio.com>

(from page 3)

Milestones: Tropical Hamboree Co-Founder Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR, SK

ARRL Honorary Vice President Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR, became a Silent Key on January 31, just days before her 87th birthday. Best-known as co-founder of the Miami Tropical Hamboree hamfest and its chair for 45 years, Gauzens was also a longtime ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director, and was active in a variety of other organizations, including the amateur radio group at the National Hurricane Center. Gauzens was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2012.

ARRL, RFinder, Join Forces

The ARRL has formed a partnership with online repeater database RFinder in which RFinder will become the League's primary source of data for its annual *Repeater Directory* and subscriptions to RFinder will replace the ARRL's current "TravelPlus for Repeaters" software and online apps. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the ARRL will receive a portion of each \$9.99 annual subscription to RFinder. The printed *Repeater Directory* will continue to be published.

Ham Radio in the Mainstream Media

Amateur radio was featured in a recent podcast by radio technology reporter Kim Komando. According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Director Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the 15-minute segment focused on the value of ham radio during emergencies. And the technology blog, *Hackaday*, recently featured a profile of Rufus Turner, W3LF (SK), said to be the first African-American radio amateur in the United States. The *ARRL Letter* says Turner helped develop the venerable 1N34A diode and wrote a 1949 article in *Radio-Electronics* magazine in which he explained how to build your own transistor before they were commercially available.

New Extra Class Question Pool Released

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released the updated question pool that will be used for Amateur Extra Class license exams between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2020. Committee chair Rol Anders, K3RA, told the *ARRL Letter* that the new pool "place(s) more emphasis on digital communications, digital test equipment, software defined radios, and propagation/space weather." The new questions also cover some additional topics, including antenna types commonly used by amateurs. The new question pool may be downloaded from <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=365>.

AMSAT's Fox-1E Likely to Get a Lift from NASA

NASA has accepted the Fox-1E cubesat — a joint effort between AMSAT and Vanderbilt University — to be part of its CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI) program. The satellite, also known as RadFxSat-2, will carry a radiation effects experiment developed by Vanderbilt as well as a 30-kHz-wide amateur radio linear transponder with an uplink on 2 meters and a downlink on 70 centimeters. This will be in place of the FM repeater carried by most amateur cubesats. The project received a #1 priority out of 20 accepted proposals and has been offered a launch date by NASA. This is the second collaboration between AMSAT and Vanderbilt. The first — RadFxSat/Fox-1B — is also part of NASA's CSLI program and is scheduled for launch next January.

come out so well. Nevertheless, they were interesting designs but I have no idea how they perform as antennas. But after 20-some years of attending swap meets and conventions, I have to say it is refreshing to see a new interpretation.

And let's not forget that there may be some "snake oil" out there. One of the better "products" I've seen was (hopefully a joke) offered to newbie operators — "SWR Reducing Spray" — an aerosol intended to be applied to your antenna that claimed to reduce standing waves and enhance the radiation of your signal. No, I didn't buy one.

But Wait, There's More ...

From self-setting "atomic" clocks for the shack to devices that let you remotely control your shack from the convenience of your smart phone, "screwdriver" antennas for mobile rigs, antenna analyzers of all types that seem to be getting more sophisticated, weather stations, amplifiers that will help your signal bounce around the world or beyond, antenna rotators, aftermarket HT speaker-mic combos, replacement HT battery packs and components for assembling your own creation. Each booth or stall at a ham gathering has something to offer that's at least entertaining and at best, a useful addition to your collection of "stuff." The fun part of accessory shopping is that you can spend a little or a lot and still come away with something that adds to your enjoyment.

What's Your Club Up To?

I'm lucky to be affiliated with a very active club. There are monthly meetings that attract more than 50 attendees, special operating events like T-hunts, Winter Field Day, the regular June Field Day, social events like a holiday party, August picnic, licensing classes, VE sessions, and more.

Sadly, I've recently learned of a few longer-established clubs fading out of existence. One disbanded because no one wanted to run for any of the officer positions. Another long-established club stopped collecting dues because they had more money in the treasury than they knew what to do with; which is very sad when you think of the activities that could be funded, like radios that might be purchased for young hams or scholarships that could be awarded for students pursuing higher education in electronics or computer science.

Before any more clubs fade away, I hope the members have a serious discussion with one another about all the good things a club can do — from the items mentioned above to offering entertaining and engaging speakers, teaming up with scouting organizations, working with a school district to arrange a contact with the International Space Station ... the opportunities seem endless. All it takes is a spark and a few people joining forces. Next thing you know, good things start to happen. Friendships can be made with disaster relief organizations; groups like Skywarn can always use additional communicators and partnerships with public safety agencies can result in new purpose and renewed energy.

Social media outlets offer new means to reach into the community. If your club has not become active in this area, it should be considered. Not only is it the key to updating your community on club activities, it's a way to communicate with a younger audience that's already computer-savvy. That's a ready-made readership your club can "mine" for new, active, tech-hungry recruits into our hobby.

With all that we have to offer, I have faith in the notion there are many thousands of young people waiting for the thrill of placing some Magic In The Sky.

Even QRP Fanatics Sometimes Cheat

I was on 20 meters and the band was hot. My FlexRadio 1500 panadapter screen revealed a huge pile-up at 14.025. It was an IOTA island that I really, really wanted to work. I grabbed for the key and jumped into the fray. “DE W4DNN QRP, QRP, QRP.” That last string often can entice a DX station. Sort of like picking the right fishing lure to catch the big fish. If all goes right, the op will come back, “The QRP station, the QRP station only,” and I snag the contact. But this time, it didn’t work. Noise levels were high, the pile-up was huge, and after 10 tries, I still couldn’t break through. It was time to cheat.

I rotated the antenna switch, putting my trusty Yaesu FT-100 online (*Photo A*). I tuned in the station and gave it a few more tries at 100 watts. Still no luck. The big guns were taking me out. All is fair in love, war and DX chasing. The 100-watt rig was feeding RF through a venerable Heathkit SB-200 linear amp (*Photo B*). Flipping another switch allowed me to try it again, this time at 600 watts. I nailed the contact! It’s not the same thrill as QRP, but the end result was a QSL card from a rare one.

QRP success often depends more on band conditions and the operator at the other end of the circuit than on the actual power output of the transmitter. At times, during a QRP rag chew, I have asked a station to give me an S meter reading at 5, 100, and 600 watts. The results often are amazing. Given a quiet band, the difference in intelligibility of the contact is usually negligible. In actual radio communication it’s not really the S meter reading that counts.

Success Often is on the Receiving End

I like to point out, with gratitude, that a QRP contact is more likely to be successful due not so much to the transmitting station’s signal but to the receiving station’s equipment and operator. Sometimes this can be due to an operator’s persistence, good hearing, mental processing, or motivation to make the contact. Other times it depends on the receiving station’s noise level, antenna, and receiver.

Not long ago, I was trying to work stations in the South Carolina QSO Party. I needed a SC station confirmed on LOTW to complete my LOTW WAS. Running 5 watts out to a ground mounted vertical, I was gratified to get immediate comebacks from higher power stations who were nearly buried in my noise floor. How is this possible?

My noise level on 40 meters (especially during frequent summer lightning storms in the southern states) is often above S8. It would take close to an S9 signal to get through. But if the receiving station, at higher elevation with a low noise antenna

and environment, had an ambient QRN of 2, my QRP signal would be very easy copy. Sometimes band conditions also are exceptional in one direction. I gave a station running high power a report of S7 and was amazed to get a report of S7 in return ... with only two watts.

S Meter Secrets

S meters (*Photo C*) are not all that accurate, the best being those of SDR radios because they determine S meter readings by direct measurement of RF signal amplitude. Most S meters, however, are part of the AGC (automatic gain control) circuit and there is little correlation between S units and actual dBs.



Photo A. Stepping up from the 5-watt Flex to the 100-watt Yaesu can often bag the DX.

* <w4dnn@cq-amateur-radio.com>

But even with the best receiver, the S meter is measuring the strength of the signal at the 50-ohm input of the receiver, not at the antenna. Losses between antenna and receiver go unseen. Still, it gives the operator a good idea of relative signal strengths. The IARU standards specify that one S unit corresponds to a difference of 6 decibels (dB) or a four times increase in power.

In a very informative online post by Don, KB9UMT, in the Copper Electronics forum, he provides the formulas for calculating dB. He also compares many combinations of S meter signal strength for various SSB transmitting systems at low takeoff angles on 14 MHz. His data show that if you double your transmitted power, you will get a 3-dB increase in signal strength at the receiver. A 4X-power increase will result in a 6-dB increase and 20X equals an increase of 13 dB. Increasing transmitter output power from 5 watts to 100 watts gives you only a 14-dB increase in received signal strength or just over two S units.

The Antenna Makes the Difference

Don shows that, over a typical communication signal path, 100 watts radiated by a triband beam, which yields effective radiated power (ERP) of 400 watts, will result in an S7 at the receiving end. Five watts with a high dipole will yield 5 watts ERP and arrive as an S2 at the receiver. Five watts with a backpack whip will result in an ERP of only one watt and an S1 signal at the receiver. A loaded backpack whip is considered to be a 6-dB loss as compared to a high dipole. "If given the choice between higher power and a better (higher gain) antenna, I'd go with the better antenna every time," says Don. "Added antenna gain increases not only the transmit side of the equation but also the receive."

Power and antenna gain are important considerations, but probably more so are band conditions, location, operator skills, and, of course, the receiving operator's motivation to pull that weak QRP signal out of the noise.

How QRP Gear and "The Code" Helped Bring Victory in WWII

As readers of my past columns know, XYL Ruthie, K4KLQ, and I often travel the back roads of America as avid RVers. Wherever the journey leads, our eyes are always open for ham radio events, stations, fests, and bargains. So a highlight of our recent trip across the



Photo B. When necessary, major QRO with Heathkit SB-200 can make the difference.



Photo C. S-meters are usually part of the AGC circuit and not all that accurate.

Southwest was the discovery, in Gallup, New Mexico, of a giant mural and a small museum depicting the QRP rigs and their heroic operators who helped to win World War II in the Pacific¹.

It was not long after the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor by the forces of the Empire of Japan, "a day that will live in infamy," that our communication codes were broken. As war spread across the Pacific, Japanese intelligence experts were able to decipher every code the U.S. used to communicate combat messages. The Japanese knew the time, place, and direction that the American attack forces would be deployed.

Early in the war, in England, at a place called Bletchley Park, cryptographers were hard at work, desperately trying to decipher the coded messages sent by the Nazis using their ingenious "Enigma" machines. The U.S. had little exper-

ience in cryptography as it was drawn into war both in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. Our soldiers and sailors suffered for it. But one man, Philip Johnson, had an idea.

The son of a missionary to the Navajo Indian Nation, Johnson was one of the few non-Navajos who spoke their language fluently. A World War I veteran, he knew of the military's search for a code that would withstand all attempts to decipher it. He also knew that Native American languages, notably Choctaw, had been used in that war to encode messages.

Johnston believed the Navajo language answered the military requirement for an undecipherable code because it is an unwritten language of extreme complexity. Its syntax and tonal qualities, not to mention dialects, make it unintelligible to anyone without extensive exposure and training. It has



Photo D. In addition to a rifle, ammo, water, and rations, Code Talkers packed the TBY-2, vibrator power supply, batteries, generator, and accessories. (Code Talker photos courtesy of www.navy-radio.com and vrhistory.com; used by permission.)

no alphabet or symbols, and is spoken only on the Navajo lands of the American Southwest. One estimate indicates that fewer than 30 non-Navajos, none of them Japanese, could understand the language at the outbreak of World War II.

Early in 1942, Johnston met with Major General Clayton B. Vogel, the commanding general of Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and his staff to convince them of the Navajo language's value as code. Johnston staged tests under simulated combat conditions, demonstrat-

ing that Navajos could encode, transmit, and decode a three-line English message in 20 seconds. Machines of the time required 30 minutes to perform the same job. Convinced, Vogel recommended to the Commandant of the Marine Corps that the Marines recruit 200 Navajos.

The Navajo Code Talkers (Wind Talkers) are Deployed

In May 1942, the first 29 Navajo recruits attended boot camp. Then, at Camp

The Japanese, who were skilled code breakers, remained baffled by the Navajo language.

Pendleton, Oceanside, California, this first group created the Navajo code. They developed a dictionary and numerous words for military terms. The dictionary and all code words had to be memorized during training.

Once a Navajo code talker completed his training, he was sent to a Marine unit deployed in the Pacific theater. A code talker's primary job was to transmit information on tactics and troop movements, orders, and other vital battlefield communications over telephones and radios. They also acted as messengers and performed general Marine duties.

Praise for their skill, speed, and accuracy accrued throughout the war. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, declared, "were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. Those six sent and received over 800 messages, all without error.

The Japanese, who were skilled code breakers, remained baffled by the Navajo language. The Japanese chief of intelligence, Lieutenant General Seizo Arisue, said that while they were able to decipher the codes used by the U.S. Army and Army Air Corps, they never cracked the code used by the



Photo E. The TBY-2 and later TBY-8 had a tuning chart and key mounted to the top, although most code talking was phone.

Photo F. Code Talkers operated their equipment despite the humidity of the jungles of the South Pacific.



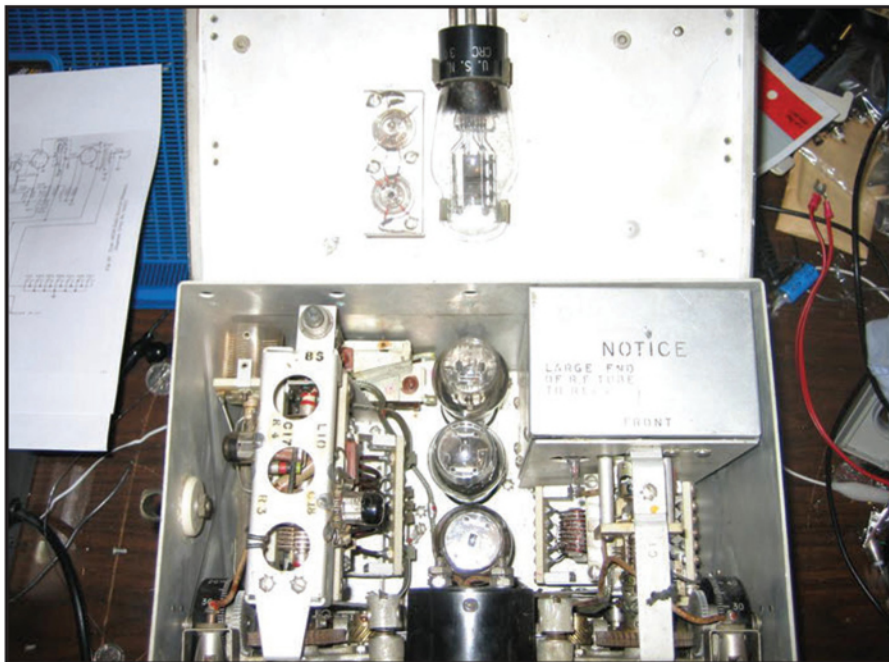


Photo G. Although water resistant, this rig did not fare well in the jungle environment.

Marines. The Navajo code talkers even stymied a Navajo soldier taken prisoner at Bataan (About 20 Navajos served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines). That soldier, forced to listen to the jumbled words of talker transmissions, said to a code talker after the war, "I never figured out what you guys who got me into all that trouble were saying."

Long unrecognized because of the continued value of their language as a security classified code, the Navajo code talkers of World War II were not honored for their contributions to defense until Sept. 17, 1992, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

The Navajo Code Talker's Dictionary

When a Navajo code talker received a message, what he heard was a string of seemingly unrelated Navajo words. The code talker first had to translate each Navajo word into its English equivalent. Then he used only the first letter of the English equivalent in spelling an English word.

Thus, the Navajo words "wol-la-chee" (ant), "be-la-sana" (apple) and "tse-nill" (axe) all stood for the letter "a." One way to say the word "Navy" in Navajo code would be "tsah (needle) wol-la-chee (ant) ah-keh-di-glini (victor) tsah-ah-dzoh (yucca)."

Most letters had more than one Navajo word representing them. Not all words had to be spelled out letter by letter. The developers of the original code

assigned Navajo words to represent about 450 frequently used military terms that did not exist in the Navajo language. Several examples: "besh-lo" (iron fish) meant "submarine," "dah-he-tih-hi" (hummingbird) meant "fighter plane" and "debeh-li-zine" (black street) meant "squad."

The 1/2-Watt Radios that Made it Possible

While nothing can surpass the skills and courage of the Navajo themselves, the radio they used, the TBY-2 (first manufactured in 1941), and later the TBY-8, provided the code talkers the ability to operate right on the front lines.

Described in the Westinghouse Electric manual as "Ultra High Frequency Transmitting-Receiving Equipment, it was described by its later manufacturer, Colonial Radio Corporation, as "Ultra Portable." With three men needed to handle the radio, batteries or man-powered generator, antenna, and accessories (*Photo D*), that designation is a stretch.

The radio covered 28 to 80 MHz in four bands with an output of one-half watt on CW and AM. The transmitter is a modulated oscillator matched up with a regenerative receiver. In the top cover was a frequency calibration book and a telegraph key (for MCW) and the transmit switch (*Photo E*). While the transmitter's stability was not great, the receiver was wide enough not to mind.

The TBY ran on +1.5, +3, -7.5, and

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The Code Talkers were among 44,000 Native Americans who wore the uniform in World War II.

+150 Volts DC and was powered by batteries with a vibrator power supply or a hand-operated generator power supply. The front panel meter was switched to measure filament voltage, which could be adjusted to compensate for dying batteries.

Many of us old timers out there will recognize the tube lineup which consisted of a type 30 triode transmit oscillator and receive audio preamp, a type 1E7G dual pentode transmit modulator and receiver audio output, two type 158A acorn triodes as a push-pull modulated Hartley oscillator in the transmitter. A 959 acorn pentode was the receive RF preamp and another 958A acorn triode was the super-regenerative detector. Last was another type 30 triode, which was the 5-MHz crystal oscillator for receiver calibration.

To facilitate carrying this “compact” rig through jungle mud and undergrowth (*Photo F*), the radio was packed into a canvas backpack which, although “splash proof,” was not up to protecting the rig from Pacific island humidity and swamp exposure (*Photo G*). It was up to the operators to protect and maintain their gear as best they could².

Not a Walk in the Park

The story of the young Navajos who served throughout the Pacific Theater would not be complete without emphasizing their sacrifices. Some were very young, like Albert Smith, who joined the Marines at age 15. At least one Code Talker was over-age. On active duty, their value was so great that and their mission so sensitive, that they were closely guarded. By war’s end, some 400 Navajos had served as Code Talkers. Thirteen were killed in action.

Late in his life, Albert Smith explained, “The word for America was, ‘Our Mother.’ Our Mother stood for freedom, our religion, our way of life, and that’s why we went to war.” The Code Talkers were among 44,000 Native Americans who wore the uniform in World War II.

And Now For My Final

I close this month’s column with a little humor and a reminder. If you have an interesting or unique QRP story to tell, please email it to me. I’ll be happy to get it into a future issue.

Three hams met in line before a hamfest ticket booth.

The first ham asked, “Hey, How’s it going?”

The second ham whispered, “Sorry, I can’t speak loudly, I’ve got laryngitis.”

“What?” asked the first ham.

“I’ve got laryngitis,” the second ham whispered.

“I can’t hear you, speak up man!!!”

The third ham stepped in, “You’ve got to listen harder, OM, the guy’s running QRP!”

Remember ... The QRP kilowatt is located between the receiving ham’s ears.

Real hams wear headphones.

Notes:

1. Portions of this column are from a history prepared by the Navy & Marine Corps WWII Commemorative Committee, published by the Naval History and Heritage Command.

2. Some information from Dave Ross, N7EPI, <www.hypertools.com/#tby>. Also from N6CC, Navy 6 Combat Coms, <www.N6CC.com>.

My First QRP Rig

BY BARRY FLUXE, W4LSV

My first QRP story occurred back in 1980 when I was WB8LSV. The sunspot cycle was up. Sears was selling off its CB radios at reduced prices. I bought a Sears Road Talker 40 sideband transceiver (see photo) and converted it to 10 meters. By adding a Variac diode (I think) to the RIT circuit and a DPDT switch, I was able to tune most of the 10-meter band.

I bought a cheap magnetic mount CB antenna and chopped off a few inches and put it on the roof of my Ford pickup. Not a quality high-tech installation by any means. Every day during my 30-minute drive to work at a power plant in Shippingport, Pennsylvania, I would listen on 10 meters. I would make a few CQs and maybe work a couple of stations.

One day in September 1980, I heard W6RO, the ham station on the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, calling CQ. I thought my chances of getting a reply were slim to none as I was driving along the Ohio River with hills on both sides of me. I answered them anyway and was shocked when I got an S5 report for my 5-watt mobile signal. The operator on the other end was more excited than I was when I told him what equipment I was running. I could hear him telling all the others in the radio room about my setup. The “foot long” W6RO QSL card I received is still one of my prized possessions. Isn’t QRP great?



The Sears Road Talker 4, along with RadioShack and Midland CBs, were often converted to 10 meters. (Courtesy www.cbmuseum.net)

“Look! Up in the Sky!”

This month we look at a variety of ham radio activities and accomplishments, ranging from contacts from North Korea for the first time in 13 years to a successful maker fair in Germany. But first, we take to the air up in the air (or above it) with an exciting story about a “first” for Nepal — their first ever amateur radio contact between students and the International Space Station.

Nepal Students Enjoy First ARISS Contact

ARISS — the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program — is making it possible for students all around the world to speak over amateur radio to crewmembers aboard the International Space Station. On January 20, Nepal enjoyed that country’s first ARISS contact, when students attending Brihaspati Vidhyasadan School (BVS) in Kathmandu spoke via ham radio

with ISS crew member and U.K. Astronaut Tim Peake, KG5BVI. Astronaut Peake answered 17 questions from the students.

Through a program known as the Principia Mission, Peake is devoting part of his scheduled time in space to educational activities for youngsters on Earth.

In preparation for the ARISS contact, the school organized a week-long program and exhibition related to space travel and technology, including support from the Nepal Amateur Radio Operators’ Society. Hams from Nepal and India had used a building at the school to provide emergency communications assistance during the recent Nepal earthquake.

Three-hundred people including the British Ambassador to Nepal, the Cultural Affairs Officer from the U.S. Embassy, a member of the National Human Rights Commission, and a former Minister for Science and Technology, were on-hand to witness the event. You can see the contact video on <<https://youtu.be/Asaa1xb6fGo>>.

[ARISS, Principia Mission and the Amateur Radio Newsline]

*17986 Highway 94, Dulzura, CA 91917
e-mail: <aa6ts@cq-amateur-radio.com>



A crowd of about 300 people were on hand for Nepal’s first-ever ham radio contact with the International Space Station. (Courtesy of Pravin Raj Joshi)



The participants in the ARISS contact pose for a photo. (Courtesy of Pravin Raj Joshi)

While we are looking skyward, if you like to track balloons carrying amateur radio payloads, here's the latest ...

Australia Amateur Radio Balloon Experiments

A tiny (pico) balloon named "PS-58" was launched on December 29 from Melbourne, Australia and at last report had passed between Cuba and Haiti. The balloon carried a tiny 30-meter-band amateur radio transmitter emitting a signal on WSPR JT9, allowing hams such as Ken, ZS6KN, in Pretoria, South Africa; Jim, W8AC, in Ohio; and John, AT4AT, of Virginia, to track its progress.

A second balloon launch by The Southern Hemisphere Space Studies Program in conjunction with the Amateur Radio Experimenters Group (AREG) was scheduled for January 26, 2016, which was the date for "Australia Day" in that country. The ham transmitter broadcast on 434.450 MHz using 100-bps RTTY (7N2) under the AX5ARG-1 callsign. This callsign is significant because the AX prefix is something that Australian amateurs may only use for Australia Day. The AREG is offering a special QSL card to confirm reception of the balloon telemetry.

[picospace.net and AREG]

Here was an unusual opportunity to log a contact with North Korea, a country that has been silent on the ham bands for 13 years. I hope you were one of the lucky ones who heard Dom calling CQ! He'll be back later this year — read on ...

A Surprise from North Korea

After 13 years of ham radio silence, Polish amateur radio operator Dom Gryzb, 3Z9DX, made the first of what was to

become a few hundred QSOs from North Korea on December 20 and 21, 2015.

Dom had been meeting with North Korean officials, working out details to operate from the country in January and February of 2016. Dom informs that the project has been postponed to the end of the summer in 2016.

Constantly surrounded by government officials, Dom worked about 780 stations as a demonstration of what they can expect from the planned late-summer DXpedition. His operation was totally unexpected by hams.

Operating as P5/3Z9DX, Dom worked 20 meters and 15 meters SSB in spite of a noise level of 59+10 on 15 meters and 59+30 on 20 meters, mostly due to geomagnetic storms.

Photos from Dom's trip can be found at his website at <<http://k38dom0.wix.com/3z9dx>>.

[DX-World.net and various news sources]

You may have read about NIAR in this column before. It appears they are still very busy promoting amateur radio in India.

NIAR Promotes Ham Radio in India

The National Institute of Amateur Radio in India (NIAR) has been busy promoting amateur radio to communities there.

Last December at the Applied Electromagnetics Conference in Assam, India, NIAR's Executive Vice Chairman and Director, S. Ram Mohan, VU2MYH, led a panel discussion on establishing communications during major disasters that knock out conventional communications. VU2MYH later joined Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, at the Indian Institute of Technology to demonstrate ham radio to students and staff of the school, as well as delegates from throughout India.

These demonstrations were followed by an amateur radio awareness program for law enforcement officials at the Assam Police Radio Organization Training School in Guwahati, Assam, where NIAR hams demonstrated HF as well as Pactor communications. Operators and technicians who work for the police department are to receive amateur radio training, including Morse Code.

[Amateur Radio Newsline]

Here is a continuation of a story we started last month about a team of hams visiting India's disaster-stricken state of Bengal. This month, the team makes recommendations to increase ham radio capability.

Disaster Team Recommends Establishing Amateur Radio Communications

After an earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale hit the heavily populated city of Kolkata in India's Bengal state, disaster experts became concerned that the city doesn't have an integrated ham radio network that can be used for communication when landlines and cellular networks fail.

Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary of the West Bengal Radio Club said: "It is difficult to conduct rescue operations without a proper ham radio infrastructure. Each block should have such a network to locate people in distress."

A National Disaster Management Authority team visited the city in November to take stock of the city's disaster preparedness and recommended setting up such a network.

This area was also ravaged by cyclone Aila in May 2009. [The Times of India]

Records on the microwave bands continue to be set and broken ...

134 GHz record broken in U.K.

A CW contact of 35.6 kilometers (a little over 22 miles) on the 134-GHz band between Chute Causeway near Andover and Cheesefoot Head near Winchester bests the previous U.K. record of 19.2 kilometers set by G8KQW and G8ACE on September 20, 2015.

Ian Lamb, G8KQW, and John Hazell, G8ACE, are claiming this new record for CW on 134 GHz utilizing a line-of-sight path.

[Amateur Radio Newsline and Southgate Amateur Radio News]

A club in the U.K. is holding an interesting event that runs all year ...

U.K. Club Hosts a Year of "British Scientists" Special Events

During 2016, the Phoenix (U.K.) Amateur Radio Club will be on air at various times to commemorate the work of over 40 British scientists throughout history. These many events, which will occur roughly at two-week intervals, will be of short duration, usually on a date connected with each person.

The special events began on January 8, marking the birthday of Stephen Hawking, and will end December 25 with a celebration of Sir Isaac Newton.

Three classes of awards are available: Bronze (5 contacts), Silver (10 contacts), and Gold (15 contacts).

As each commemoration approaches, PARC will publish information on its website at <<https://sites.google.com/site/phoenixradiouk/home>> and on the MØPHX and YHARG Twitter pages.

[PARC]

The 3rd edition of a popular maker fair in Germany was held in January.

Munich Maker Fair

On January 16-17, more than 7,500 people attended a two-day hobbyist fair known as "Make Munich." The event attracted people who like to tinker with things and use their hands to build and create new technology. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) was present, representing amateur radio. In the early days of ham radio, hams created their own equipment out of necessity. This concept is enjoying a resurgence worldwide and the Munich maker fair was proof that it is fun to "DIY!"

Make Munich, which began in 2013, is southern Germany's biggest Maker and DIY Festival.

[Amateur Radio Newsline and Make-Munich]

In Closing ...

I am excited as I write this because my favorite local hamfest will be happening in just two weeks. I always enjoy going to the ARRL Southwest Division Convention in Yuma, Arizona every February.

I'd like to hear more about hamfests and other events in your country, as well as any other amateur radio news. I would also like to hear your thoughts and comments about the column and your suggestions on how we can contact more countries to share their ham radio news and happenings. Please email me at <aa6ts@cq-amateur-radio.com> and keep us up to date so we can share your excitement with the rest of the world!

– 73 de AA6TS



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What's In Your Toolbox?

Internet Chat Pages For Weak-Signal Ops

VHF Plus Calendar

Microwave Activity Day (MAD)
144 MHz Spring Sprint
222 MHz Spring Sprint
2016 VHF Super Conference Sterling, VA
DUBUS EME Contest 3.4 GHz
Lyrids Meteor Shower
432 MHz Spring Sprint
Microwave Sprint (902 MHz and up)
50 MHz Sprint
Dayton Hamvention™ VHF+ Forum

Saturday April 2nd 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. local.
Monday April 11th 7 - 11 p.m. local.
Tuesday April 19th 7 - 11 p.m. local.
April 15th to 17th <http://vhfsuperconference.com>
April 16th & 17th.
April 22nd & 23rd.
Wednesday April 27th 7 - 11 p.m. local.
Saturday May 7th 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. local.
Saturday May 14th 2300Z until 0300Z Sunday May 15th.
Saturday May 21st.

The Internet has made available a vast number of tools for just about every aspect of amateur radio, including those of interest to the weak signal VHF/UHF/microwave operator. This month's column will explore one of the more popular tools/websites, the ON4SKT chat pages.

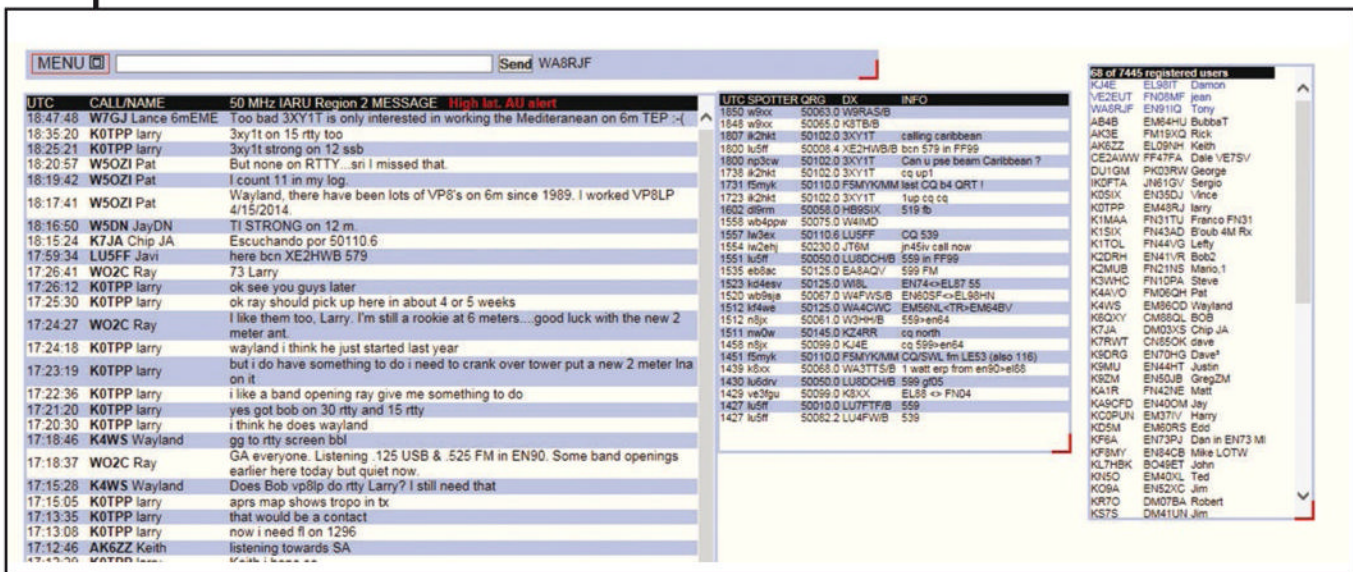
How to Coordinate Activity

Unlike HF operation where one can simply find a clear frequency and call CQ or tune the band looking for someone else calling CQ, the nature of VHF/UHF/microwave operation is such that unless the band is open, the odds of working a DX station can be rather low. Of course that has never deterred the VHF operator. Using a schedule is a time-tested method to overcome that obstacle. Two stations

simply agree on a time and frequency and give it a go. Prior to the Internet, schedules for such things as meteor showers or EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) were made by telephone, VHF newsletters, VHF nets, and even via the mail. Of course that has all changed as the Internet makes real-time scheduling possible.

Another challenge that presents itself to those interested in working the higher bands is how to let the other station know to QSY to a new band, usually up in frequency. In general, the higher the frequency, the more difficult the contact becomes. Typically, stations move from 2 meters to 222 MHz or 432 MHz without too much difficulty, but at 432 MHz and above, the coordination can be a bit dicey. The communications path may be tenuous at best, and trying to convey the next higher operating frequency to your QSO partner on the liaison frequency in marginal conditions can be problematic. "Was that QSY to 432.110 or was that 432.120

c/o CQ magazine
e-mail: <wa8rjf@cq-amateur-radio.com>



This screenshot provides an example of what you can expect to see on the ON4KST chat pages.

MHz?" The Internet can eliminate that uncertainty.

To facilitate schedules and promote activity, a number of Internet chat pages have been developed. For general VHF+ QSO scheduling and coordination the ON4KST chat pages are probably the most popular. Alain Stievenart, ON4KST, notes that he started a 50 MHz chat page in June 2001 as a service to the amateur radio community. Today he boasts over 15,000 registered users. The service is free and is without advertisements, cookies, or nefarious software sometimes found on other chat pages or websites. Based on its success and requests from many amateurs worldwide, the chat pages were expanded to include Low Band, 50/70 MHz, 144/432 MHz, microwave, and EME chat pages. See <<http://www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php>>.

Using the ON4KST chat pages could not be easier. Users must first register, but the process is simple, requiring an email address, callsign, grid locator plus a few other details, and choosing a password.

Once registered, select the band of interest for your particular IARU region. IARU region 2 is North and South America. In North America, the two most used pages are the 50- and the 144- & 432-MHz chat pages. Even though there is a separate microwave chat page, the 144- & 432-MHz chat page is where microwave coordination takes place in the U.S. & Canada.

The chat page in its simplest form includes the chat section, a link to Gabriel Sampol, EA6VQ's, very popular DX Maps website <<http://www.dxmaps.com/spots/map.php>> so that the recent Internet QSO posts are displayed and a section that lists all the current users. The users section is helpful as it includes the callsigns, names, and six character grid square for each station listed. Clicking on a station listed in that section will result in the beam headings and the distance between you and the selected station being displayed as a posting to the text area.

A nice feature of all the ON4KST chat pages is the ability to format the page to your particular needs or interests. The menu tab can be used to change settings, set up alarms, include ionospheric data, and the solar indices, to name just a few. *Figure 1* is a screen shot of the 50 MHz ON4KST chat page with a minimum of options selected.

To broadcast/send a message to all users currently logged onto the page, simply enter the text and click send. During contest or band opening, there

can be considerable traffic on the page. If you happen to be focusing on a QSO or band opening and turned away from the computer, a message intended for you may scroll off the screen before catching your eye. The ON4KST pages includes a feature that permits the sender of a message to attract the attention of the intended recipient. If the message entered is preceded by the call-sign of the target station in parenthesis, an audio tone called a "meep" will be sent to attract the attention of the specified station. Additionally the line of text will be highlighted in a different color to also attract the other station's attention. Example: (WA8SRA) Dale meet me on 902.100 CW. You call me.

Chat Page Etiquette

All public forums are better served if the users abide by a level of etiquette appropriate for the forum. No need to discuss the obvious and my experience has been that the users of the chat pages frequented by the VHF+ community conduct themselves in an appropriate fashion. However, when discussing coordination of QSOs on any chat pages, it is necessary to review the rules of what information can be exchanged during a QSO attempt.

A valid QSO on VHF and on higher bands requires that both stations mutually identify each other with callsigns, exchange a report and receive confirmation that the report has been received by the QSO partner¹. The report is typically the grid square but can be a signal report or any other mutually agreed upon piece of information. Nothing new here.

A QSO's validity can be questioned if any part of the information exchanged is divulged on the chat page prior to completion of the QSO. Examples of chat page posts or exchanges that invalidate a QSO include: "I am hearing you. Please send your grid." or "Got your grid but did not receive your rogers." An example of a permissible exchange during the QSO attempt is: "Let's start 1 minute sequencing — you even minute." When in doubt, don't post a message or, if you feel you must post a message that may question the integrity of the QSO, then reset and start the QSO attempt from the beginning.

— CU on the Bands, 73 Tony

Notes

1. The definition of a HF QSO at times seems to be a bit less rigorous in my opinion.



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Alaska's Judicial Districts and Awards of the CQCW.RU Club

Alaska — Why does the USA-CA program use Judicial Districts instead of counties? This subject is raised from time to time, the latest coming from Ernie, VK3FM.

The USA-CA was developed in the early 1960s, not too long after the Territory of Alaska was granted statehood. The Alaska Statehood Act was signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on July 7, 1958, allowing Alaska to become the 49th U.S. state on January 3, 1959.

As a territory, Alaska never had counties. The closest administrative governmental unit was the Judicial District, the land area which defined the territory over which federal judges had jurisdiction. There were four of them. As time went by, boroughs (not counties) were established in 16 of the more populated areas of the state. Very large parts of the state were left as “unorganized boroughs” which were collectively governed by the state capital.

The originator of the USA-CA program, Clif Evans, K6BX, probably made the decision to use the Judicial Districts in lieu of counties. I suspect he did this because the award would have been rendered almost impossible to complete if boroughs and unorganized boroughs were required. Why? Even today, some of the unorganized boroughs have a population density of just under 0.5 persons per square mile.

I have several times asked that an Alaskan club issue an award for contacting Alaskan boroughs. No luck so far. This website provides an excellent quality but large (4MB PDF download) Alaskan map showing Judicial Districts <<http://www.courts.alaska.gov/rules/venuemap.pdf>>.

The Award Program of the CQCW.RU Club

This club is not a traditional type with monthly meetings and a wide spread of interests. There are no meetings and everyone who joins has a love of CW. The president, R6CN, lives in Russia; the “Graphics Guy” lives in Canada; the “Idea Guy” lives in Ukraine, the “Translator” lives in Norway and the “Tech Companion” hails from the Netherlands. The job titles are unique, and correct.

There are 410 members on their rolls, five from the U.S. The website is written in Russian and English, so you should have no problem with navigation. Actually, you will have a small problem, but that is caused by the presence of 114 awards, in a number of interesting categories, all in full color, all

USA-CA Honor Roll

500	1500
JA1WWO3693	W7OLY.....1569
1000	
W7OLY.....1876	

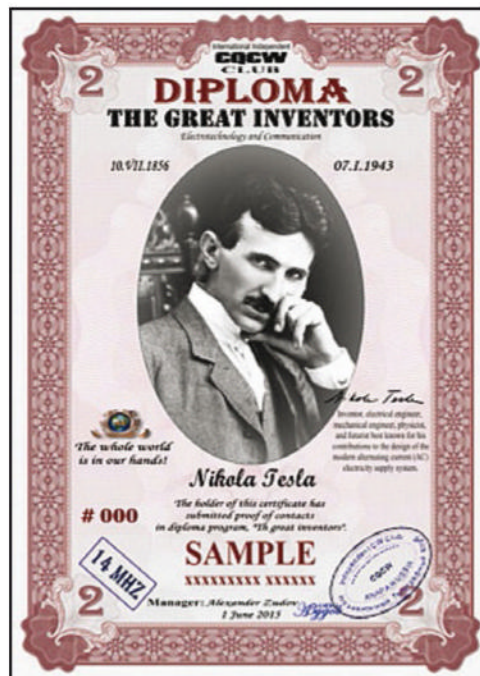
The total number of counties for credit for the United States of America Counties Award is 3077. The basic award fee for subscribers is \$6.00. For nonsubscribers it is \$12.00. To qualify for the special subscriber rate, please send a recent CQ mailing label with your application. Initial application may be submitted 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.

available for **free** as digital downloads, with some very interesting categories. The only time money is requested is if you have a commercial interest, and want to use their blog to advertise a product.

I am showing five of the awards, which is just scratching the surface. And while writing this article, I note on their home page, that they've just added two more awards.

Russia CQCW Club

General Requirements: Rules of the awards are the same for stations located all over the world. For



Part of the Great Inventors Series of Awards offered by the CQCW.RU Club is this award featuring Nikola Tesla. To earn it, spell T E S L A using callsign suffixes and rack up points.

*12 Wells Woods Rd., Columbia, CT 06237
e-mail: <k1bv@charter.net



Spend one week on the air contacting 10 stations in 10 ITU Zones and this certificate is yours.

SWL, the rules are the same as for licensed amateur stations. Each award is available for one or any band, and each award has its own specific conditions. Repeated QSOs on different bands will count for different QSOs to meet the award requirements. (for MIX and WARC). Contest QSOs OK.

All contacts must be made in the CW mode. Review the rules to determine the starting date and for the correct award manager, as there have been changes since their 2013 inception. You can apply with a log extract of the QSOs needed.

Apply to email address of the club: <cq73@ya.ru> or <ux2ij@mail.ru>
Internet: <http://www.cqcw.ru>

Great Inventors Series – Nikola Tesla

During a one-day (GMT/UTC) period, collect a total of 10 points using the suffixes of stations you contact to spell the five letters T E S L A. The points are tied to how many of the needed letters are in each QSO. Only callsigns composed of all the needed letters can be used.

- A contact which has one letter in the suffix which is a T E S L or A counts for 1 point. (YU3T)
- A contact which has two letters in the suffix which is T E S L or A, counts for 2 points. (F2SA)
- A contact which has three letters in the suffix which is T E S L or A, counts for 3 points (W1ATL)

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One Week ITU

Within a one-week period (0000z Monday to Sunday 2359z), contact 10 stations in each of 10 different ITU zones. A total of 100 contacts is needed. There are three awards in this little series, with the second one requiring 10 contacts in each of 20 zones, and the third requiring 10 contacts in each of 30 zones. The award can be customized if earned (1) on not less than 3 HF bands, all on WARC bands, and all on only one HF band.

Arctic and Antarctic

Earn a total of 50 points by contacting islands of the Arctic, located within the Arctic Circle, and with Antarctic Territories, which are located south of 60 degrees south latitude. Each contact counts for 10 points. In Greenland, only QSO with radio stations located north of 66.6° North latitude. You must have at least one QSO each with Arctic and Antarctic stations.

Missing points may be obtained for QSOs with stations located in the continental Arctic regions of Alaska, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Each of these missing contacts count as one point. All QSOs must be made with different stations. Apply to <ux2ij@mail.ru>.

Blue Lakes

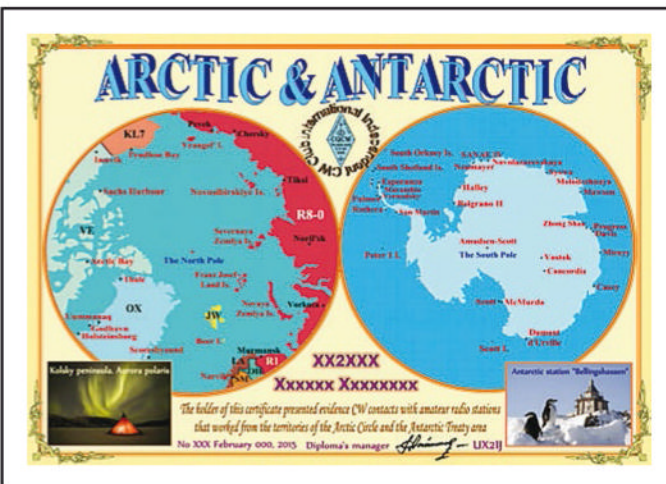
There are three levels to this award, which requires contacts with countries and areas that contain the largest lakes in the world. A link is provided on their website which calls up an Excel spreadsheet listing (1) the name of the lake, (2) the specific callsign prefix identifying valid stations near that lake, and (3) the area of the lake which produces your score to earn the award.

There are three classes of the award, each with a different point requirement. You must work stations giving you the points for the level you wish. All QSOs must be with different stations near different lakes so use the spreadsheet, it will be very helpful. Apply to <ux2ij@mail.ru>.

Bronze "Pontos Euxinus" (Black Sea)

There are four levels to the award, this is the first. You must make six contacts with each of the six Black Sea countries and another six operating from different main harbors of the Black Sea.

The countries bordering on the Black Sea are: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.



Collect QSOs from Arctic countries and Antarctica to earn the 50 points necessary to win this award.

The principal harbors of the Black Sea are:

Adler	Alushta	Anapa
Balaklava	Batumi	Bilhorod-Dnistrovkiy
Burgas	Varna	Gagra
Gelendzhik	Gudauta	Yevpatoria
Illichivsk	Port Kavkaz	Kerch
Constanta	Port Krym	Kulevi
Novorossiysk	Midia-Navodari	Odessa
Ochakov	Poti	Zonguldak
Sevastopol	Samsun	Sinop
Sulina	Sochi	Sukhumi
Taman	Trabzon	Tuapse
Feodosiya	Chernomorsk	Yuzhne
Yalta	Mangalia	

Let us know of any new certificates or awards programs that might be used in future columns. A URL (Internet address) is all we need to start the process.



The Blue Lakes award features a pleasant photo of a lake and mountains. To hang this award on your wall, make contact with hams who live near the largest lakes of the world. There is an Excel spreadsheet that will aid in your quest.



The Bronze Award has two levels. First you need to make contacts with all of the countries that border the Black Sea. The next level requires you to QSO six port cities along the coast.



DX Engineering Now Exclusive Low Band Systems Distributor

As contesting and Field Day popularity grow, multi-operator ham radio stations are becoming common. Running multiple radios, which requires multiple antennas quickly introduces significant installation and RF interference issues.

With that in mind, Low Band Systems and its line of multiplexers and band-pass filters are now exclusively being offered by DX Engineering. Operators can use Low Band Systems' multiplexers to connect multiple radios to a single multi-band antenna, allowing different radios to operate on different bands simultaneously. Not only does that reduce equipment installation hassles, it can save money since there's no need for extra antennas and coax cable.

Insertion loss for Low Band Systems' multiplexers is less than 0.2 dB — and each radio will receive 35 dB of rejection from out-of-band signals. The multiplexers provide a VSWR less than 1.2:1 and work with 50-Ω feedlines.

It's important to note that these multiplexers split the RF signal, so an appropriate band-pass filter is also required. Low Band Systems multi-stage band-pass filters limit the RF to a single band, effectively eliminating the RF interference issues multi-radio operators experience when using dedicated monoband stations. The filters deliver the critical isolation demanded by each multiplexer's band input. Installed in optimal conditions, users can experience up to 80 dB of isolation between all connected transceivers, regardless of the operating band.

Low Band Systems multiplexers and band pass filters are available now with retail prices ranging from \$159.95 to \$289.95 for the multiplexers and from \$119.95 to \$174.95 for the band-pass filters. For more information, contact: DX Engineering, 1200 Southeast Avenue, Tallmadge, OH 44278. Phone: (800) 777-0703. Website: <www.DXEngineering.com>.

Old Contester

Editor, *CQ*:

Your editorial covering the reported age of contesters (February *CQ*) was very enlightening.

I have been trying to fill in the gaps of the Triple Play Award by participating in contests. Once I have completed the award, I won't participate in contests again. Licensed over 56 years ago, I "grew up" with CW but I was inactive for quite a while. After retirement, I became active again but my code speed has dropped to about 10 WPM.

CW contesters send at 25 WPM or more and seem to enjoy calling "CQ TEST" more than actually working stations because they do it so much. Calling at high speeds deters and discourages people like myself and younger hams who are trying their hand at CW. When the youngsters are faced with high speed CW, I'm sure they hurry back to their digital and phone modes.

As the high-speed CW ops die off, so will CW contesting. If you want to encourage young people to get into CW contesting, encourage them by sending at 10 WPM or even slower.

Having certain CW contests limited to 10 WPM or, at least, devoting certain time periods to them or extra points for slower speeds should encourage younger people to get into them. Might also encourage them to get into phone contesting and contesting in general.

John Majka, K9AAN

"97.1" Editorial

Editor, *CQ*:

I particularly enjoyed your editorial in the Jan. 2016 issue of *CQ* magazine. When I have talked about ham radio to new people or when I teach tech classes, I usually start with the five fundamental purposes, partly because so many hams seem to limit their interests to just one aspect.

In recent years, for political reasons and because it is more understandable to a lay public, emphasis has been disproportionately on the emergency aspects. I fear that overplaying that hand will one day backfire. I think technical experimentation (homegrown science) is an equally important justification for the RF spectrum that we occupy. DXing may look to the public like hams having fun (which they should be), but you make a great case for international goodwill which is in such short supply.

Also, like you, I have used the word "magic" when asked for the elevator summary.

In the future, I plan to make copies of your editorial to give to people who ask me about ham radio. Thank you.

*73 de KK7FM, George Noble
Portland, OR*

Listening

W4DNN got quite a few favorable comments for his "Parting Thought" in his December column, in which he quoted a Bible verse and noted that "God's instructions to you are often sent in QRP. Be still and listen carefully ..."

Dennis,

It took me awhile to read the December issue of *CQ*. But when I read your article I must say that first, I was impressed with your writing and, second, your parting thought was worth the many years of ham radio and all its joys.

Thank you for sharing God's QRP blessings and your good writing. He does speak; we must listen.

Neil Obright, K6UIP

YF1AR/8 IOTA Tour

BY BUDI SANTOSO, YF1AR
EDITED BY W2FB & N200

(N200 turns over the keyboard this month to Budi, YF1AR, to share the story of his multi-island IOTA expedition in Indonesia. – W2VU)

This crazy idea was meant to be a tribute to my beloved motherland Indonesia. The chosen destination was the Mollucas (Maluku) Islands chain, which is a haven for IOTAs (Islands on the Air¹). Specifically, I chose southwestern Mollucas (*Photo A*) because this area is relatively isolated and comprises many most-wanted IOTA islands. The original idea was to activate all 10 IOTAs in the Mollucas in four months. I activated four of them during the first stage of my tour in two months (*Photo B*). Seven islands saw its first activation² and I visited five of the small outermost islands of Indonesia, bordering Timor Leste (4W). The tour was interrupted partly because of a family obligation, my second son's wedding, and due to a religious obligation, Umrah pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. In addition, my budget for the expedition



unexpectedly tripled due to high costs of just about everything in these remote places.

KISAR OC-272 15-20 October 2015

My first destination was Kisar Islan (OC272), to which I traveled from Jakarta via Ambon, Surabaya. I was met there by YD8VNZ and stayed

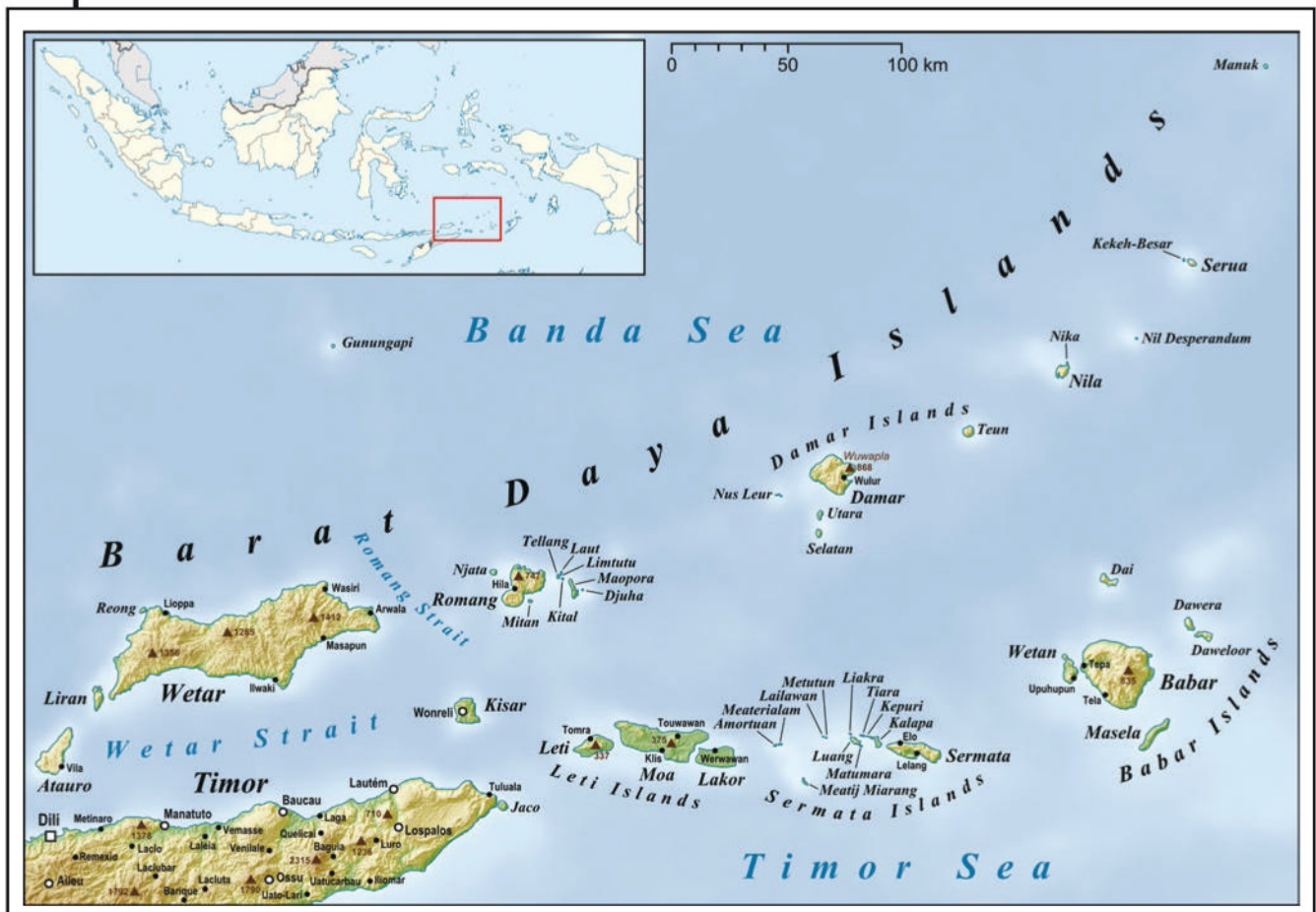


Photo A. This is a map of the area visited by Budi.



Photo B. Budi, YF1AR, typically set up his radio in whatever space was available, usually on the floor. Here he is on Masela Island (OC-271). (Photos courtesy of YF1AR)

near the seaport. That evening we had a gathering with local amateurs and had a nice eyeball QSO with the president of the local ORARI³ chapter, YC8VLZ. After an overnight stay in Ambon, I boarded a light aircraft to Kisar Island to begin my IOTA tour.

While in Ambon, I made an acquaintance with an anthropologist from

Patimura University in Ambon who was on the same flight to Kisar. After a 1-hour flight, we arrived in Kisar and I was allowed to use his vehicle during my stay. I immediately drove to the main port, Nama, which is located on the western part of the island and was the QTH for YF1AR/8 in 2013 when I activated Kisar for the first time as OC-272.

However, the area was being renovated and there was a lot of construction. I ended up operating from the ferry seaport (Photo C), which is next to the main port. After obtaining a permit to operate from the harbormaster, I installed my vertical antenna on top of the water tower and my radio was set up in the waiting area for ferry passengers. I was only able to operate for 19 hours a day because between noon and 5 p.m. local time, there is no electricity. I used this time to rest. Cell signals were available near the port only for voice and SMS (text messages) but no data. After consulting with local residents, I decided to go next to Arwala on Wetar Island using a wooden boat. I was informed ahead of time that electricity would be available for 24 hours using batteries and solar cells.

Wetar Island OC-272 21-28 October 2015

The trip to Wetar² took place in the middle of the night around 2200 local time. I was wrongly informed that the trip would only take 2-3 hours. It turned out that the dangerous journey took 6 hours, crossing the Strait of Kisar with high waves, and clearly the boat was substandard and unsafe. At one point, the boat almost capsized from the high waves and we all screamed. Arriving in

The WPX Program

CW

3708 JH1OGT 3710 N4XFA
3709 NØKV

SSB

3825 K6KNS 3832 NØKV
3826 JP1EWY 3833 YBØVB
3827 K4JO 3834 N7AU
3828 W4GZX 3835 KF5ZWS
3829 JH1OGT 3836 PT7CB
3830 WD9T 3837 IT9YOZ
3831 KX7L 3838 K1HG

Mixed

3160 K6KNS 3171 NØKV
3161 DL7XT 3172 W4NE
3162 JH00XS 3173 K1SET
3163 IK2HTY 3174 YB6HAI
3164 W4GZX 3175 W6WVF
3165 JH1OGT 3176 K8ZSWG
3166 K7JAN 3177 N4XFA
3167 W4LVH 3178 N7AU
3168 MMØIEL 3179 K13F
3169 N1HO 3180 K6VHF
3170 K5RCR 3181 EA2DVR

Digital

498 YB1BML 500 JH1OGT
499 IK2HTY 501 KT4EP

CW: 500 KA1SAW, 600 NH6T/W4, 650 JR3UIC, 700 HK3W, 750 NZ30, 900 NØKV, 1450 JH1OGT, 7650 K9QVB

SSB: 350 WA3QWA, K1HG, 400 W4GZX, WA3QWA, 500 K6KNS, 550 NW3U, 600 N7AU, 750 KX7L, 800 AE4WG, OM7CA, 850 EC4KW, NZ30, PT7CB, 1150 JH1OGT, 1200 HK3W, 1300 NØKV, 2700 W6AFA, 5850 HA5DA

Mixed: 450 KM4CQG, W4GZX, K7JAN, YB4HAI, N4XFA, 500 W4NE,

W4ALF, 550 K6KNS, NW3U, 600 N7AU, K13F, 750 KA1SAW, 1150 K8YAH, 1200 EC4KW, NZ30, 1250 AC7JM, JR3UIC, 1400 KX7L, 1550 NØKV, 1850 OM7CA, 1900 JH1OGT, 2000 HK3W

Digital: 400 AE4WG, NØVVV, 450 K9UNL, 500 KX7L, 600 JH1OGT, K8YAH, K13F, 900 AC7JM, JR3UIC, 1100 W2/JR1AQN, 1450 HK3W

160 Meters: OM7CA, K5RCR, NØKV, W4NE, N7AU, HK3W

80 Meters: OM7CA, K6FG, NØKV

40 Meters: OM7CA, NØKV, NZ30, YB6HAI, JR3UIC, HK3W

30 Meters: OM7CA, NØKV, JR3UIC

20 Meters: OM7CA, NØKV

17 Meters: OM7CA, NØKV, AC7JM

15 Meters: OM7CA, K6FG, NØKV, AC7JM, KA1SAW, HK3W

12 Meters: K6FG, NØKV, JR3UIC

10 Meters: OM7CA, NØKV, KA1SAW, HK3W

6 Meters: NØKV

Africa: OM7CA, K6FG, NØKV, NZ30, HK3W

Asia: OM7CA, K6FG, NØKV, AC7JM, YB6HAI, HK3W

Europe: OM7CA, NØKV, YB6HAI, N4XFA, W4ALF, K13F, PT7CB

Oceania: OM7CA, NØKV, NZ30, HK3W

North America: OM7CA, W4GZX, NØKV, W4NE, N4XFA, N7AU, K13F,

PT7CB, K1HG, K6VHF

South America: OM7CA, K6FG, NH6T/W4, K8YAH, NØKV, NZ30, HK3W

Award of Excellence with 160 Bar: NØKV, OM7CA

160M Bar: HK3W, OM7CA

30M Bar: NØKV, OM7CA, RA3DNC

17M Bar: NØKV, OM7CA, RA3DNC

12M Bar: NØKV, RA3DNC

6M Bar: NØKV

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. and the ARRL Logbook of The World (LoTW).

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

The WAZ Program

ALL BAND WAZ

Mixed

9288 SQ5EBM 9291 TA2AD
9289 IT9DVZ 9292 W5UHQ
9290 W4ALF

CW

806 N6VNO

SINGLE BAND WAZ

15 CW

361 WC6DX

160 Meter

471 JA7QV1, 39 zones

160 Meter Updates

F4GTB, 37 zones

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, John Bergman, KC5LK, P.O. Box 792, Brandon, MS 39043-0792. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$6.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$12.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to John Bergman. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. KC5LK may also be reached via e-mail: <kc5lk@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

Arwala — which has no port — we had to take a dinghy (with only enough space for two) to land. I waited for my ride and witnessed a beautiful sunrise on a pristine beach with white sands. What an unforgettable sight.

After I arrived at my host family, I found out that the battery and solar cell could

5 Band WAZ

As of February 1, 2016

1929 stations have attained at least the 150 zone level, and 947 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

As of January 1, 2016

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (zones needed on 80 or other if indicated):

CHANGES shown in **BOLD**

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed	Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
EA7GF	199	1	9A5I	198	1, 16
HA5AGS	199	1	AK8A	198	17, 22
I5REA	199	31	EA5BCX	198	27, 39
IK1AOD	199	1	F5NBU	198	19, 31
IK8BQE	199	31	G3KDG	198	1, 12
IZ1ANU	199	1	G3KMQ	198	1, 27
IZ3ZNR	199	1	IK0FVC	198	1, 31
JA1CMD	199	2	JA1DM	198	2, 40
JA5IU	199	2	JA3GN	198	2 on 80 & 40
JH7CFX	199	2	JA7XBG	198	2 on 80 & 10
JK1BSM	199	2	K2EP	198	23, 24
K1LI	199	24	K2TK	198	23, 24
K3JGJ	199	24	K3JGJ	198	24, 26
K7JR	199	34	K4HB	198	24, 26
K8PT	199	26	K4JLD	198	18, 24
KZ4V	199	26	K6FG	198	17, 18
N3UN	199	18	KB0EO	198	22, 23
N4NX	199	26	KZ2I	198	24, 26
N4WW	199	26	N2QT	198	23, 24
N4XR	199	27	N4GG	198	18, 24
N8AA	199	23	N8LJ	198	17, 24
RA6AX	199	6 on 10M	NS6C	198	17, 22
RU3DX	199	6	OK1DWC	198	6, 31
RW0LT	199	2 on 40M	UA4LY	198	6 & 2 on 10
RX4HZ	199	13	US7MM	198	2, 6
RZ3EC	199	1 on 40M	VE2TZT	198	23, 24
S58Q	199	31	W4UM	198	18, 23
SM7BIP	199	31	W5CWQ	198	17, 18
VO1FB	199	19	W6OUL	198	37, 40
W1FJ	199	24	W9RN	198	26, 19 on 40
W1FZ	199	26	W9XY	198	22, 26
W2LK	199	23	WA2BCK	198	23, 24
W3NO	199	26	WC5N	198	22, 26
W4DC	199	24	WL7E	198	34, 37
W4LI	199	26	ZL2AL	198	36, 37
W6DN	199	17			

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

946 DJ9BX 947 RU3FM

New updates to the 5BWAZ list of stations:

1927 IK0VFC, 198 zones 1180 RU3FM, 200 zones
1571 K8YC, 195 zones

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

1928 NY4G, 154 zones 1929 DJ9BX, 200 zones

***Please note: Cost of the 5 Band WAZ Plaque is \$100 shipped within the U.S.; \$120 all foreign (sent airmail).**

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, John Bergman, KC5LK, P.O. Box 792, Brandon, MS 39043-0792. 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 John Bergman. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ check-point or the Award Manager must include return postage. KC5LK may also be reached via e-mail: <kc5lk@cq-amateur-radio.com>.



Photo C. Budi used ferries like this one on Wetar Island (OC-272) to travel between some of the islands.

only be used for two hours a day. I was utterly disappointed but what could I do? I was not about to swim back to Kisar and, with no cell reception, I was cut off from the rest of the world. I managed to find a location for my activity right by the beach. My host was very gracious and provided me with lodging, food, and generator power. I made new friends with the local residents, all of whom were very hospitable.

Liran Island OC-272 Oct 30- Nov 6, 2015

I continued on to Liran². Aboard the ship during the 10-hour journey, I met the harbormaster at Liran, and I stayed at the harbormaster's rental residence. I visited the lighthouse at Manoha to get a cell signal from Timor Leste. There was no signal from the Indonesian cell provider. I was able to operate from Liran without much difficulty.

Leti Island OC-246 Nov 8-Nov 12, 2015

The next destination was to Leti Island² via Kisar and Damar islands. The 12-hour trip was uneventful and I immediately visited the harbormaster office in Tomra and got permission to operate. I installed the antenna on top of the lighthouse at approximately 20 meters above ground (Photo D). My operating position was right on the beach with 12 hours of electricity between 1800 and 0600 local time. I had good cell signal with SMS (but no Internet) from Leti. I also paid a visit to the village head in Tomra.



Photo D. On Leti Island (OC-246), the local lighthouse became an excellent antenna support!

Sermata Island OC-246 Nov 14-Nov18, 2015

I left for another 12-hour trip, this time to Sermata Island, with transit on Moa and Lakor Islands. My host in Sermata was the former village head and my operating position again was right on the beach (Photo E). I met a legislator from southwest Mollucas, who is a native of Sermata Island and he gave his full support to my activity, even donating fuel for the generator. Electricity was available using the generator from 1700-0100 local time. Due to the limited supply of fuel and the high price locally, my operation was somewhat sporadic. During my off-air time, I built a two-wheeled wooden car. No cell signal for voice or SMS, let alone Internet.

Luang Island OC-246 Nov 19-Nov 24, 2015

I missed the scheduled ferry to Luang² due to misinformation. The ferry had left at dawn and there I was waiting for the ferry at noon. I ended up taking a charter boat that took three hours. The first night, I stayed at the multipurpose building near the beach. The following night I moved to the house of the village head, farther inland. Due to limited electricity from 1700-0500 local time, my radio activity was sparse. No cell reception here, either. My host was very kind and had prepared my room for my radio activity.

Babar OC-271 Nov 25-Nov 28, 2015

The journey to Babar Island took 12 hours. I was offered a place to stay in the middle of the town. I visited the village head and reported my activity to the local police. The village head and the local police chief stopped by and observed my radio activity. My plan to go to Wetang Island was cancelled due to lack of information regarding the ferry schedule. Electricity was available between 1700-0600 local time. Cell signals were adequate for voice and SMS and there was limited Internet availability.

Masela Island OC-271 Dec 1- Dec 3, 2015

I arrived in Masela² after a 12-hour voyage. On the ship I met the local village head at Dawelor and school principal, Mr. Agus. Upon arrival, Mr. Agus took me to the village head in Uiwily who hosted my stay. My radio was set up in the living room. I spent some time at the beach and watched local children enjoy the waves (Photo F). Electricity was

available with a generator between 1700-0100 and again from 0700-0900.

Banda Besar Island OC-157 Dec 8-Dec 10, 2015

From Babar, I continued my journey to Yamdena Island aboard a cargo ship, which took 14 hours. I spent two days and three nights on the ship while waiting for the next ship going to Banda Neira. The long trip was uneventful and I arrived in Banda Neira safely. Since this island had been activated before, I decided to go to Banda Besar, a new island for Nusantara Award. The trip took 30 minutes and I met the village

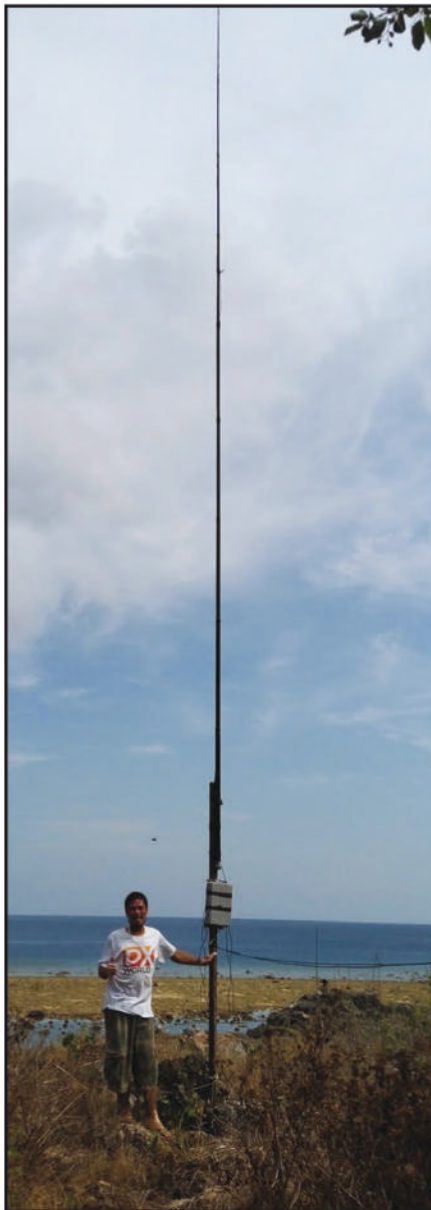


Photo E. On Sermata Island (OC-246), the antenna support was lower but right on the beach.

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73s, Gene

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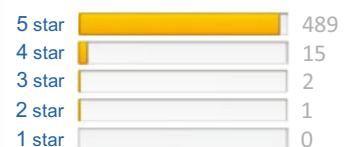
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head. My operating position was again ... you guessed it ... right at the beach. Electricity was available between 1700-0800, with good cell reception for voice, SMS, and Internet. A strong earthquake hit the area while I was there. I went sightseeing to Fort Belgica, a 17th century Dutch fort in the southwestern part of Banda Neira.

Banda Api Island OC-157 Dec 10 2015

Another new island for Nusantara Award, Banda Api² is only 15 minutes away from Banda Neira using a small boat (*Photo G*). I spent only one night here and operated for only 10 hours because the next day at dawn I had to leave to return to Ambon. I arrived in Ambon in the wee hours and rode a bus to the airport. I took the first flight to Jakarta at 0700 local time and arrived

in the afternoon safely. My lovely wife and grandchildren waited for me anxiously at Soekarno-Hatta Airport. At last, home sweet home.

Acknowledgements

I want to thank GDXF, Clipperton DX, and personal donors. Thank you also to Steve Busono, W2FB, my editor, and Bob Schenck, N2OO, my QSL manager. This trip was one of the longest IOTA expeditions on record and certainly is the longest so far in Indonesia. Thank you for support and for calling me.

Postscript

This IOTA tour has changed me in many ways but most of all it has transformed me to become more appreciative of my life in Java. I gained much wisdom during this long and costly trip. These life lessons are priceless. I traveled many

CQ DX Awards Program

SSB Award

YB0UB2640

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 USA. We recognize 341 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.

CQ DX Honor Roll

The CQ DX Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 275 or more ACTIVE countries. With few exceptions, the ARRL DXCC Countries List is used as the country standard. The CQ DX Award currently recognizes 341 countries. Honor Roll listing is automatic when an application is received and approved for 275 or more active countries. Deleted countries do not count and all totals are adjusted as deletions occur. To remain on the CQ DX Honor Roll, annual updates are required. All updates must be accompanied by a SASE if confirmation of total is required. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. (Stickers for the 340 level are available.) 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 USA.

CW

OH2BN.....341	K9BWQ.....340	W4OEL.....340	N4CH.....339	K8ME.....336	WD9DZV.....331	EA5BY.....325	EA3ALV.....316	YU1YO.....295
DL3DX.....340	K9MM.....340	W5BOS.....340	N4NX.....339	W6OUL.....336	WG5G/.....331	KA3S.....325	RA1AOB.....314	WA2VQV.....290
EA2A.....340	N4AH.....340	W7CNL.....340	YU1AB.....339	K1FK.....334	QRPP.....331	N7W0.....324	WA4DOU.....313	WA9PIE.....289
F3TH.....340	N4JF.....340	W7OM.....340	WS9V.....339	K9OW.....334	K0KG.....330	YT1VM.....323	Y09HP.....313	K7CU.....282
K2FL.....340	N4MM.....340	W8XD.....340	K8LJG.....338	PY2YP.....334	JA7XBG.....329	4Z5SG.....322	AB4IQ.....310	PP7LL.....282
K2TQC.....340	N5FG.....340	WB4UBD.....340	KA7T.....338	F6HMJ.....333	K6YK.....329	ON4CAS.....322	N3RC.....308	N2VW.....280
K3JGJ.....340	N5ZM.....340	WK3N.....340	WA5VGI.....338	K20WE.....333	W9IL.....329	HB9DAX/.....320	KT2C.....306	K4EQ.....280
K3UA.....340	N7FU.....340	W0JLC.....340	W1DF.....338	K5UO.....333	IK0ADY.....328	QRPP.....320	K7ZM.....304	WB5STV.....277
K4CN.....340	N7RO.....340	HB9DDZ.....339	W9RPM.....338	N6AW.....333	K0YK.....328	W6YQ.....319	HA5LQ.....301	Y0GHSU.....275
K4IQJ.....340	N0FW.....340	K4JLD.....339	G3KMQ.....337	W4MPY.....333	OZ5UR.....328	HA1ZH.....318	K8IHQ.....301	
K4MQG.....340	OK1MP.....340	K7LAY.....339	K8SIX.....337	K6LEB.....331	K6CU.....326	N2LM.....318	RN3AKK.....300	
K5RT.....340	W3GH.....340	K7VV.....339	W7IIT.....337	N7W0.....331	KE3A.....326	CT1YH.....317	K4IE.....295	

SSB

AB4IQ.....341	K6YRA.....341	VE3MR.....341	K7LAY.....340	EA3BMT.....336	KE3A.....333	K6GFJ.....327	KU4BP.....311	N3KV.....289
DJ9ZB.....341	K7VV.....341	VE3MRS.....341	K9HQM.....340	IK0AZG.....336	N2VW.....333	KE4SCY.....327	W6NW.....311	W6MAC.....289
DL3DXX.....341	K8SIX.....341	VE3XN.....341	K0KG.....340	IW3YGW.....336	N5YY.....333	N2LM.....327	I3ZSX.....310	K7CU.....287
DU9RG.....341	K9MM.....341	W3AZD.....341	N4NX.....340	OE2EGL.....336	K5UO.....332	KF4NEF.....326	G3KMQ.....309	IZ1JLG.....282
EA2IA.....341	KE5K.....341	W3GH.....341	W4UNP.....340	VK2HV.....336	SV3AQR.....332	W9GD.....326	KA1LMR.....309	WD8EOL.....281
EA4DO.....341	KZ2P.....341	W4ABW.....341	W9RPM.....340	W4WV.....336	W0ROB.....332	VE7EDZ.....325	RA1AOB.....309	IW0HOU.....277
HB9DDZ.....341	N4CH.....341	W5BOS.....341	YU1AB.....340	AA4S.....335	W6OUL.....332	AE9DX.....324	XE1MEX.....309	N5KAE.....276
I8KCI.....341	N4JF.....341	W6BCQ.....341	4Z4DX.....339	EA5BY.....335	XE1MEX.....332	F6BF1.....324	I0YKN.....307	WA5UA.....276
IK1GPG.....341	N4MM.....341	W6DPD.....341	F6HMJ.....339	K9OW.....335	KD5ZD.....331	ON4CAS.....324	XE1MW.....306	N0AZZ.....275
IN3DEI.....341	N5FG.....341	W7BJN.....341	K1UO.....339	PY2YP.....335	WA4WTG.....331	W5GT.....324	K4IE.....305	SQ7B.....275
K2TQC.....341	N5ZM.....341	W7OM.....341	K8LJG.....339	VK4LC.....335	W0YDB.....331	W4MPY.....323	K4ZZR.....305	WA9PIE.....275
K3JGJ.....341	N7BK.....341	W8ILC.....341	N7WR.....339	W8AXI.....335	ZL1BOQ.....331	KW3W.....321	N3RC.....305	
K4CN.....341	N7RO.....341	W9SS.....341	WA5VGI.....339	XE1J.....335	AD7J.....330	TI8II.....321	K7ZM.....304	
K4IQJ.....341	N0FW.....341	WB4UBD.....341	W2CC.....339	CT3BM.....334	VE7SMP.....330	Y09HP.....321	4Z5FL/M.....303	
K4JLD.....341	OK1MP.....341	WK3N.....341	W2FKF.....339	IK8CNT.....334	CT1AHU.....329	K8IHQ.....320	K7SAM.....302	
K4MQG.....341	OZ3SK.....341	WS9V.....341	W7FP.....339	K8LJG.....334	N1ALR.....329	W1DF.....319	KA8YYZ.....302	
K4MZU.....341	OZ5EV.....341	XE1AE.....341	W9IL.....339	N6AW.....334	K7HG.....328	XE1RBV.....318	4X6DK.....298	
K5OVC.....341	VE1YX.....341	YU3AA.....341	I0ZV.....337	OE3WVB.....334	N2LM.....328	VE6MRT.....317	K2HJB.....295	
K5RT.....341	VE2GHZ.....341	K2FL.....340	K3LC.....337	AA1VX.....333	WD9DZV.....328	IV3GOW.....313	IK5ZUK.....293	
K5TVC.....341	VE2PJ.....341	K3UA.....340	K8ME.....337	JA7XBG.....333	HB9DQD.....327	N8SHZ.....313	W9ACE.....291	

RTTY

NI4H.....339	WK3N.....339	N5FG.....337	K4CN.....334	K3UA.....332	K8SIX.....325	K8ME.....278
WB4UBD...339	N5ZM.....338	OK1MP...337	W3GH.....333	W9RPM...330	AB4IQ.....295	IN3YGV...275



Photo F. Budi hangs out at the beach with some of the children on Masela Island. (OC-271)



Photo G. Budi arriving by boat at Banda Api Island. (OC-157)

kilometers; I was away from my family; propagation was not that great; I had to make do with limited electricity in unfamiliar surroundings. I ate turtle meat, fish, and instant noodles. I witnessed an earthquake while in Banda, as well as a small-scale tsunami ... quite scary.

I was also interrogated while on Luang Island. Being an outsider and of a differ-

ent faith from most of the residents, officials thought I belonged to ISIS and was communicating to them via CW. There were moments of solitude, but the radio was always there. The calming ocean waves greeted me every morning and treated me to countless beautiful sunrises. I love YB land, my homeland, the largest archipelago in the world.

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Notes:

1. Islands on the Air (IOTA) is a program of the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). See <<http://www.rsgbiota.org/>>
2. New islands for Nusantara Award (Work All Indonesian Islands)
3. ORARI is Indonesia's national ham radio society

Youth in Ham Radio, CQ WW Director Resigns, Convention News, and WRTC2018 Happenings

This month we look at some interesting activities in Europe, including a mock WRTC conducted in virtual reality and establishment of a new Youth Contesting Program that is bringing young contesters from Europe and Africa to some of Europe's "Top-Gun" superstations. We also lament the resignation of the CQ World Wide DX Contest Director, K5ZD; recognize two conventions being held this month where contesters will gather; and review the latest WRTC preparations in Germany to welcome the competitors in 2018.

Youth in Contesting Moves to Virtual Reality and Superstations

European competitors are ramping up efforts to interest and retain youngsters interested in ham radio. We can all look to work some of these young-

sters when they take over some of Europe's best-known "Top-Gun" stations.

Activities Increase in Europe to Welcome Youth

Regular readers will remember that back in February's Contesting column I discussed the findings of Part 1 of the CQ WW Contest Committee's September, 2015 survey. In the course of the discussion one of my conclusions was that, based on the survey's results, "[n]ot only are we old, we are bordering on extinction," said that this conclusion will form the basis of further discussion, and asked what you think can be done. This month we look at youth radiosport activities in Europe.

The demographics of radiosport competitors continue to tilt against us, whether or not it represents our generally aging population. Despite the multiple good efforts to interest youth in ham radio

k3zj@cq-amateur-radio.com

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon	http://bit.ly/1QCtHmu
Mar. 26-27	CQ WW WPX SSB Contest	http://www.cqwp.com/
Apr. 2	LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest	http://www.lzopen.com/lzocc40/indexF.htm
Apr. 2-3	EA RTTY Contest	http://concursos.ure.es/en/earthy/bases/
Apr. 2-3	Mississippi QSO Party	http://www.arrlmiss.org/
Apr. 2-3	Missouri QSO Party	http://bit.ly/1L6aw3o
Apr. 2-3	SP DX Contest	http://bit.ly/U7iXkx
April 2-3	QRP Spring QSO Party	http://www.qrparci.org/contests
Apr. 6	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	http://bit.ly/1LOtyeE
Apr. 7	SARL 80m QSO Party	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
Apr. 9-10	JIDX CW Contest	http://jidx.org/jidxrule-e.html
Apr. 9-10	Georgia QSO Party	http://georgiaqsoparty.org
Apr. 10	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	http://hskc.ha8kux.com/
Apr. 15-16	Holyland DX Contest	http://bit.ly/20QxRrK
Apr. 16	ES Open HF Championship	http://bit.ly/24mp1GV
Apr. 16	TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest	http://bit.ly/1TvwpdK
Apr. 16-17	Michigan QSO Party	http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
Apr. 16-17	Ontario QSO Party	http://www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm
Apr. 16-17	YU DX Contest	http://www.yudx.yu1srs.org.rs/2015/rules.html
Apr. 16-17	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	http://www.cqmmdx.com/rules/
Apr. 16-17	Nebraska QSO Party	http://www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm
Apr. 17	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Apr. 23-24	10-10 Spring Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/22dn4vg
Apr. 23-24	SP DX RTTY Contest	http://bit.ly/1oxHDCM
Apr. 23-24	Helvetia Contest	http://bit.ly/1yYxmng
Apr. 23-24	Florida QSO Party	http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/rules.html
Apr. 27	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	http://bit.ly/1LOtyeE
Apr. 30-May 1	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	http://bit.ly/1RQ9Gdq
May 1	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	http://bit.ly/1gnVDX0
May 7	FISTS Slow Speed Sprint	http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html
May 7-8	7th Area QSO Party	http://bit.ly/1WDXaMy
May 7-8	10-10 Spring CW Contest	http://bit.ly/22dn4vg
May 7-8	ARI DX Contest	http://bit.ly/1OCIIIG
May 7-8	Delaware QSO Party	http://www.fsarc.org/index.htm
May 7-8	Indiana QSO Party	http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html
May 7-8	New England QSO Party	http://www.neqp.org/rules.html
May 28-29	CQ WW WPX CW CONTEST	http://www.cqwp.com/

This information also appears monthly on the CQ website.

referred to by Rich, W2VU, in his February editorial *Zero Bias*, and those of many others including in classrooms around the country and at the Youth Forum at the Dayton Hamvention®, there is a noticeable lack of teenagers and 20-somethings in ham radio generally and radiosport specifically. Continuing and intensifying efforts to interest the younger generation is justified by the numbers. And anyway, it would be fun for us older contesters to meet some bright youngsters and share their enthusiasm, wouldn't it? This is what 4O3A, ES5TV, the teams at 9A1A and SK3W, and others are starting to do under an organized youth program in Europe.

Semantics aside, I think that W2VU and I agree on the need for efforts to teach our youth about ham radio. From my viewpoint, a radiosport-specific focus not only would help contesting, but also more likely would attract and retain the interest of youth more generally in the wonders of ham radio. After all, contests have a lot in common with video games that are so popular with youngsters today. It seems to me that efforts to expand youth interest in gaming to include radiosporting are means that we should pursue. But how does one successfully do this? Some of our fellow contesters in Europe already are doing so and may give us some ideas here in North America.

Radio Arcala, OH8X, and Youth in Amateur Radio

In Europe, a number of initiatives have been taken to attract youth to radiosport, including (but not limited to) virtual reality and operating opportunities at some of Europe's biggest stations. We'll discuss these below.

I think it's fair to suggest that one of the contributors to this European focus on youth in amateur radio was the paper initiated by our fellow contesters at Radio Arcala, OH8X. The paper, published in 2010 by Radio Arcala & Oulu University Center for Wireless Communications, is titled "Extending Amateur Radio to Augmented Reality."

The authors laid out the case and it is worth the time to read the short summary below.

"Amateur Radio (AR) as a beneficial passion with a valuable role in society has reached an alarming crossroads. According to a recent study and based on the demographics of a membership survey, it was concluded that the global AR population will diminish in the course of the next 20 years to the point where its existence is in jeopardy in terms of reaching a critical mass need-

ed to conduct meaningful activities on the level assumed by this global pursuit... The current influx of new members is not expected to secure the continuation of this valuable activity. The initial drivers — radio waves, radio communication over long distances at no cost and related theories and electronics as such — do not sufficiently attract today's youth. A new strategy is needed for renewal.

"This paper lays down some elements and seeks new attractions that can potentially bring a new lease on life to amateur radio together with young people, while honoring the past and providing the current aging population with ways to lead and be part of a proposed transition. At the same time, it is

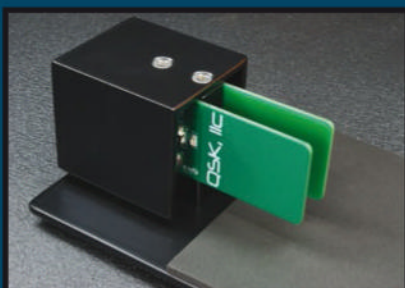
designed to help the elder generation gain further knowledge of new technologies and continue their enjoyment by coexisting in harmony with the youth of today.

"Amateur Radio's future is on the agenda wherever several ham radio operators meet. There exists a high degree of consensus that a new strategy and some readjustment will be necessary. Actually, work on that new strategy is already overdue with a high sense of urgency. It is now up to the amateur radio community to determine how much of these traditions should be modified to gear this valuable hobby to the interest level of today's youth.

"Looking to the future has always been more challenging than reviewing the

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LINVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA — Special event station “**Mile High Radio**” will be aired from 1900 UTC, Friday, April 29 through 1900 UTC, Sunday, May 1 to honor the Mile High Bridge. Frequencies include 3.865, 7.265, 14.265, 21.365 for SSB and 3.065, 7.110, 7.120, 14.065, and 21.065 for CW. QSL to Butch, WS4H.

CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN — The **Ozaukee Radio Club** will hold its **38th Annual Spring Swapfest** Saturday, April 30 at Columbia St. Mary’s Center. Contact: Loren Jentz, N9ENR, 1213 Woodridge Dr., Apt. 1, Grafton, WI 53024. Phone (262) 377-7941. Website: <<http://www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>>. Talk-in 146.91- (PL 127.3).

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA — The **Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club** will hold its **Hamfest** Saturday, April 30 at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building. Website: <<http://vomarc.org>>. Talk-in 145.350 (88.5). VE exams.

MAY

SANDWICH, ILLINOIS — The **Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **DeKalb Hamfest** Sunday, May 1 at the Sandwich Fairgrounds. Contact: Bob Yurs, W9ICU, (815) 895-7584. Email: <w9icu@arrl.net>. Website: <<http://www.karc-club.org>>. Talk-in 146.730- (PL 100).

CADILLAC, MICHIGAN — The **Wexauke Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **54th Annual Cadillac Amateur Radio and Computer Swap** Saturday, May 7 at the Cadillac Junior High School. Contact: Alton McConnell, (231) 862-3774. Email: <nu81@yahoo.com>. Talk-in 146.98. VE exams and card checking.

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND — The **Antietam Radio Association** will hold **The Great Hagerstown Hamfest** Saturday, May 7 at the Washington County Agricultural Center. Contact: Herman Niedzielski, K2AVA, (301) 791-5841. Email: <k2ava@myactv.net>. Website: <<http://w3wcw.org>>. Talk-in 147.090+ (PL 100) or 146.940-. VE exams and card checking.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN — The **Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club** will hold its **HAM FEST!** Saturday, May 7 at the Head of the Lakes Fairgrounds-Multipurpose Building. Contact: Robert Schulz, KC0NFB, 115 Eden Lane, Duluth, MN 55805-1533. Phone: (218) 481-7458. Email: <arac_hamfest@charter.net>. Website: <<http://www.thearac.org>>. Talk-in 146.940- (PL 103.5), 147.000- (PL 103.5), or 146.940- (PL 114.8). VE exams and card checking.

KEYSTONE, COLORADO — **Rocky Mountain Ham Radio** will hold **Hamcon 2016** and the **2016 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention**, Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15 at the Keystone Conference Center. Contact: Hamcon 2016, 9975 Wadsworth Parkway K2-275, Westminster, CO 80021. Website: <<http://hamconcolorado.org>>.

ZANESVILLE, OHIO — The **Muskingum Valley Council Radio Club** will air a special event station from 2000 UTC Friday, May 13 through 0000 UTC, Saturday, May 14 to salute Scoutfest 2016. Frequencies include 7.280 and 14.290. QSL to M4VCRC, 734 Moorehead Avenue, Zanesville, OH 43701. Contact: Matthew Murphy, KC8BEW. Email: <matt.kc8bew@gmail.com>. Phone: (740) 704-8836. Website: <<http://m4vcbsa.org>>.

EAST GREENBUSH, NEW YORK — The **East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association** will hold its **13th Annual Hamfest** Saturday, May 14 at the East Greenbush Fire Company. Contact: Tom, KC2FCP, <kc2fcp@nycap.rr.com>. Website: <<http://w2egb.org>>. Talk-in 147.270+ (PL 94.8).

GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT — The **Southern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club** will hold its **25th Annual Hamfest** Saturday, May 21 at the Goshen Connecticut Fairgrounds. Contact: Stan, W2VID, (518) 398-7003 or Lee, K1LEE, (860) 435-0051. Email: <info@w1baa.org>. Website: <<http://www.w1baa.org>>. Talk-in 147.285+ (PL 77). VE exams.

TINTON FALLS, NEW JERSEY — The **Garden State Amateur Radio Association** will hold its **Hamfest** Sunday, May 15 at the MOESC parking lot. Contact: Rem Hunnewell, K2REM, (732) 889-6692. Email: <hamfest@gardenstateara.org>. Website: <<http://www.gardenstateara.org>>. Talk-in 147.045+ (PL 67). VE exams.

DAYTON, OHIO — The **Dayton Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **2016 Dayton Hamvention** Friday, May 20 through Sunday, May 22 at the Hara Arena and Convention Center. Website: <<http://hamvention.org>>. VE exams and card checking.

WALL TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY — The **Ocean-Monmouth Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **OMARC Taiigate Hamfest** Saturday, May 21 at Diana Site, 2300 Marconi Road. Contact: Jeff Harshman, N2LXM, (732) 996-0637. Email: <jharshman@n2mo.org>. Website: <<http://www.n2mo.org>>. Talk-in 145.110- (PL 127.3). VE exams and card checking.

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA — The **Durham FM Association** will hold the **42nd DurHamFest** Saturday, May 28 at the Durham Public Schools Staff Development Center M-1. Contact: Durhamfest chair, (919) 732-7616. Email: <durhamfest@dfma.org>. Website: <<http://dfma.org>>. VE exams.

PINELLAS PARK, FLORIDA — The **Glorious Society of the Wormhole** will hold its **2016 Hamfest** Saturday, May 28 at Freedom Lake State Park. Contact: Mike Scott, (727) 492-6454. Email: <jemke1@jemke.com>. Talk-in 146.850- (PL 146.2).

TOWN OF WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY — The **Bergen Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **BARA Spring Hamfest** Saturday, May 28 at Westwood Regional High School. Contact: Jim Joyce, K2ZO, (201) 664-6725. Email: <k2zo@arrl.net>. Website: <<http://www.bara.org>>. Talk-in 146.19+ (PL 141.3). VE exams and card checking.

WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND — The **Maryland FM Association Inc.** will hold its **Annual Memorial Day Hamfest** Sunday, May 29 at the Howard County Fair Grounds. Contact: Maryland FM Association Inc., P.O. Box 351, Hanover, MD 21076. Phone (301) 641-5313 (btw. 6 and 10 p.m.). Email: <marylandfm@verizon.net>. Website: <<http://www.marylandfm.org>>. Talk-in 146.16+ (PL 107.2), 223.16+ (PL 107.2), or 449.000- (PL 107.2). VE exams.

past. That is exactly what the team at Radio Arcala is trying to do through this project. While sitting around the fireworks under the blazing skies of Lapland’s Aurora Borealis, the light suddenly came to them. The message came loud and clear — this valuable passion needs to be enhanced and taken to the youth on their terms.”

The entire paper is at <<http://bit.ly/1oxD23z>>.

There are multiple serious efforts in Europe to take ham radio and radiosporting “to the youth on their terms.” A leader of these efforts that most contesters know, or know of, is Martti Laine, OH2BH/CU2KG (op. CR2X, etc.). Martti helps lead at Radio Arcala and was a member of the Project Task Force for the above-quoted paper. Whether or not due specifically to anything in the Radio Arcala paper, since it was published there has been a new emphasis on recruiting youth into ham radio and contesting.

Virtual Reality Mock WRTC for Youth Held in Finland

At WRTC2014, I discussed with Martti youth efforts in ham radio, and in radiosport in particular. We discussed the efforts to attract youth that originated in Finland with Radio Arcala (OH8X), as well as those undertaken in Europe generally under the auspices of the Youth Working Group of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1¹. The Youngsters on the Air (YOTA) program² operates in each country under the auspices of its national association’s youth coordinator and IARU Region 1.

YOTA summer camps were initiated in 2011 by Florin, YO9CNU, who serves as the IARU Region 1 Youth Coordinator for Romania. Summer camps are a tradition throughout Europe and quite popular. The first summer camp in Romania was a success and summer camps have been held every year since. They have been filled to capacity with teams composed of five youngsters from as many as 15 different countries residing within IARU Region 1. Teams consist of four youths ages 15-25 and one leader aged 18-30. Team members are recommended by their national amateur radio association. The second YOTA summer camp was held in Belgium and the Netherlands in 2012; the third in Estonia in 2013; the fourth in Finland in 2014; the fifth in Italy in 2015; and the sixth will be held in Austria (south of Salzburg) this July.

During that conversation at WRTC2014, Martti told me about the YOTA summer camp in Finland the following week, where a youth “mock WRTC” event would be conducted. Virtual reality would be employed to replicate realistic contest conditions, QRM, and propagation anomalies included. “Virtual reality” in this case was enabled by HamSphere, a web-based amateur radio simulation site for licensed radio amateurs and non-hams alike wishing to experience amateur radio without going on the air. HamSphere provides ham-radio like communications capability worldwide over the Web, complete with a virtual ionosphere based on actual sunspot numbers and solar flux values. Virtual Yagi, quad, vertical, and wire antennas all are available for selection for the various bands, and the interface simulates a ham transceiver. There is a regular schedule of contests, including SSB, CW, and VHF/UHF3.

For the 2014 YOTA event, Martti and gang arranged for the “European Radio Team Championship” (ERTC) to be held on HamSphere for a 6-hour period. Campers competed under realistic conditions in multi-single teams. A video of the actual operation taken by a Spanish participant can be viewed at <<http://bit.ly/1QxbOH0>>.



The mock WRTC was successful despite a power failure immediately before the event. Gold was earned by OK2SVA, OK1NOR, and OK1JD, from the Czech Republic. Silver went to IT9RGY, IZ6TSA and IT9DBF, representing Italy. Bronze was earned by ES6AXS, ES5HTA, and ES1XQ from Estonia. Presiding as Chief Judge was Hans, PB2T/NB2T, an active contester and then President of IARU Region 1. And yes, judging was completed within 24 hours⁴.

Youth Contesting Program at “Top-Gun” Stations

Another great idea is an organized Youth Contesting Program (YCP) that arranges for a team of youth competitors to take over a large contest station and operate an actual contest. Senior experienced contesters provide supervision and mentoring before and during the contest.

The first event was held at 4O3A for the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest in September. Nine operators from five countries operated multi-two from Ranko’s Montenegro superstation: S57BM, IT9RGY, IZ6TSA, YU3VIP, E7ØRA, E75DCE, E79AA, 4O9IT, and 4O9TT. Some of these young hams had participated in the mock WRTC in Finland. The trial run at 4O3A was judged to be a great success, and Ranko already has agreed to host again for the 2016 CQ WW RTTY. A video commemorating this first YCP operation can be viewed at <<http://bit.ly/1Q5S7At>>.

A second YCP event was held in October in conjunction with the SAC Phone contest. This time, 9A1A was the host station, which also operates regularly with local youth contesters under the callsign 9A1RBZ. 9A1RBZ was used for the international youth group during the SAC phone contest in accord with its regular practice. On the team were young contesters OE3FTA, HA8RT, 9A7MIM, 9A5CPP, 9A7CDZ, 9A5AEV, 9A5CMM, and Hungarian beginner Gabor. The team placed second out of 16 entries in the multi-one category for Europe.

Three additional “Top-Gun” station events have been scheduled under the program. A youth team will be driving ES5TV in the CQ-M International DX Contest next month (May 14-15). This time, four youth operators will join a local youth contingent, including the first from Africa (which also is in Region 1 of the IARU). Tsegaye, KB3WWJ, and YL Dagi,

KB3WWY, help oversee club station ET3AA at Addis Ababa University, Institute of Technology⁵. They are sure to take back a wealth of knowledge that can be put to use at ET3AA. The other two participants traveling to ES5TV for the contest are Peter, SA2BLV; and Hendrik, DD5HT.

Similar YCP operations on the calendar are SK3W/SK9HQ during the IARU HF Championship July 9-10, 2016, and 4O3A in the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest September 24-25, 2016. We look forward to working these operations and hearing about many more in the future.

Conventions

The all-day Contesting Academy that has been run for the past several years at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California by the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) has been canceled this year. The Convention otherwise will continue as usual on April 15-17, including DX University. Notwithstanding the absence of the Contesting Academy program, Visalia, equidistant between Los Angeles and San Francisco, is a great place to get to know many contesters who also double as DXers. Many of our West Coast brethren do not regularly make the May trek to Dayton. It is to be noted that Contest University at Dayton is not affiliated with NCCC’s Contesting Academy at Visalia and the Dayton event will be held on schedule on May 19. See last month’s column for information on it and other Dayton radiosport activities.

On the same April 15-17 weekend as Visalia, but on the East Coast, VHF/UHF contesters and aficionados will gather in Sterling, Virginia (near Dulles International Airport in suburban Washington, DC) for the first-ever VHF Super Conference. This gathering is hosted by the Grid Pirates Contest Group (K8GP) and Directive Systems and Engineering, and also is sponsored by the Southeastern VHF Society, North East Weak Signal Group, and the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club. Information is at <<http://vhfsuperconference.com>>.

Randy Thompson, K5ZD, Stepping Down as CQ WW Contest Director

Randy, K5ZD, announced his intention to step down as Director of the CQ WW Contest as soon as a replacement is found. The CQ WW DX Contest Director is responsible for appointing the members of the CQ WW Contest Committee

and organizing their work to develop the rules, log checking, and production of the contest results. In a blog posting on the CQ WW website Randy explains that his decision is due to increasing responsibilities in his professional career.

Randy has done an outstanding job as contest director, first for the WPX contests and then for the CQ WW contests. Under his oversight, log submission deadlines were shortened and a web tool implemented for submitting scores. Final published contest results moved up not by the one month gained by the shorter submission deadline, but by four months — from August back to April for Phone results and September back to May for CW results. Even more impressive, under Randy's stewardship it has become routine to publish on the website a complete list of raw scores and claimed high scores just seven or eight days after the contest ends.

Under his leadership, the CQ WW Committee improved the log checking process. Contest integrity was enhanced through enforcement actions against rule violations, as discussed in this column last October. In addition, under Randy's oversight and John, N2NC's leadership, a searchable historical database with all scores since 1948 was constructed and resides on the CQ WW website for all to use at <http://www.cqww.com/score_db.htm>. In addition to N2NC, the database team included AA4NU, AD1C, JK3GAD, K1EA, KB9OWD, N3RD, N5DX, NO5W, OH6NIO, ON7SS, PD2R, and W2JU.

Randy served as CQ WPX Director from 2008 until his appointment as CQ WW Director in 2012. Randy said that he has "enjoyed working on the CQ contests and hopes to stay involved with the websites and log checking. The demands of a new job are preventing me from dedicating the time that the role deserves. With WPX, WW, and WRTC2014 activities over the past eight years, I am ready for a break. I am very proud of the work the Committee has done in enforcing the rules and feel that contesting results are now more accurate than ever. I look forward to working with the new Director."

WRTC2018 Happenings

Preparations for WRTC2018 are steadily progressing. As of April 1, there were only 832 days remaining before opening ceremonies on July 12, 2018.

WRTC2018 Antenna Chosen

WRTC2018 announced that Spiderbeam has been chosen to provide the WRTC2018 competition antennas. The selection was made after a thorough technical evaluation of proposed antennas and a competitive bidding process among multiple antenna suppliers. The list of preferred attributes for the competition antenna included light weight, good perfor-

mance, competitive price, and sufficient experience within the helper team. Several antennas met the requirements, and Spiderbeam came out on top.

WRTC2018 said that Spiderbeam proposed an antenna that addressed the electrical and mechanical performance sought and also provided the option of adding a rotatable dipole for 40 meters. "Antennas are a critical component to the success of WRTC," said Andreas Paulick, DL5CW, leader of the WRTC2018 station committee. "With about 65 stations to build in less than two days, we wanted antennas that could be easy to store and transport and deliver the performance expected by the competitors. Spiderbeam was the best fit for our requirements." The Spiderbeam setup also includes the mast and rotor support.

WRTC2018 Test Stations to Participate in 2016 IARU Contest in July

As in New England for WRTC2014, the WRTC2018 Committee will conduct training sessions and station tests during the 2016 IARU HF Championship on July 9-10. There should be some interesting stations to work and reverse-beacon signals to compare. More details are expected to be released closer to the event.

WRTC2018 Sponsorships and Donations Accelerate

Recently DX Engineering and Vibroplex signed on as corporate bronze sponsors, joining OM Power (amplifiers), Mastrant (synthetic guy ropes), SaxPrint (QSL cards), and Funktechnik-Dathe (German ham radio equipment retailer). Above them, Funk Amateur (German amateur radio magazine and parts supplier) is a silver sponsor and Spiderbeam (WRTC2018 antenna supplier) reigns as a gold sponsor and looking at amateur organizational support, the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) is THE major donor with platinum level position. Following at the gold level, from this side of the Atlantic are the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC), Frankford Radio Club (FRC), YASME, and Contest Club Ontario (CCO).

They join Germany's Bavarian Contest Club (BCCC), Rhein Ruhr DX Association (RRDXA), and German DX Foundation (GDXF).

As mentioned in the February column, a club donation competition is in progress. Individual donations by amateurs also can be credited to their club. As of mid-February, the three top clubs are the BCC, RRDXA, and the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC). Joining PVRC from North America are the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) at 7th place and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) at 16th.⁶



Notes:

1. See <<http://bit.ly/1oXTlr4>>. IARU Region 1 encompasses the national amateur radio associations of Europe, Africa, Middle East, and Northern Asia.
2. The YOTA website is at <<http://www.ham-yota.com>>.
3. See <<http://hamsphere.com>>. Thousands of hams are members of HamSphere under their regular callsign, although, of course, a license is not required.
4. An account of the 2014 YOTA camp by Ward Silver, NØAX, was published in the December 2014 *QST*: "Youngsters On The Air – YOTA 2014."
5. Individual licenses and callsigns are not yet issued in Ethiopia despite many efforts. Students have taken the RSGB International Examination to qualify as operators, and more recently 57 students passed the FCC examination when a VEC team was at ET3AA. More on ET3AA and the licensing situation is in an article by Ken, K4ZW, in "Contesting from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – ET3AA," *National Contest Journal*, January/February 2014: <<http://bit.ly/1Qxhq3X>>; and in "the ET3AA Story," December 2015, *CQ DX* column by Bob Schenck, N2OO (p. 88).
6. Standings as of February 15, 2016. For the latest, see <<http://bit.ly/24moV1T>>

The Season of Lights

BY TOMAS HOOD,* NW7US

propagation

A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, January 2016: 34
Twelve-month smoothed, July 2015: 41

10.7 cm Flux (current):

Observed Monthly, January 2016: 104
Twelve-month smoothed, July 2015: 1160

A_p Index:

Observed Monthly, January 2016: 10
Twelve-month smoothed, July 2015: 13

One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, January 2015: 67
Twelve-month smoothed, July 2014: 79

10.7 cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, January 2015: 142
Twelve-month smoothed, July 2014: 145

A_p Index:

Observed Monthly, January 2015: 10
Twelve-month smoothed, July 2014: 9

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for April 2016

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-2,4-5,8-9,16-24,26,28-29	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 3,6-7,10,13-15,25,27,30	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 11	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 12	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: n/a	C-D	D	E	E

Where expected signal quality is:

A--Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9

B--Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9, with little fading or noise.

C--Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S6, with some fading and noise.

D--Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, with considerable fading and noise.

E--No opening expected.

HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Find the *propagation index* associated with the particular path opening from the Propagation Charts appearing in *The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by George Jacobs, W3ASK; Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX; and Robert B. Rose, K6GKU.

2. With the propagation index, use the above table to find the expected signal quality associated with the path opening for any given day of the month. For example, an opening shown in the Propagation Charts with a propagation index of 2 will be good on April 1 and 2, fair on April 3, and so forth.

3. Alternatively, 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 supported ionospherically.

One man's garbage is another's treasure. Space weather and the state of Earth's geomagnetic field might be thought of in the same way. That which degrades the propagation of radio waves in the HF (high frequency) spectrum might create conditions for useful VHF (very high frequency) radio propagation. During times of minor to severe geomagnetic activity, the ionosphere loses its ability to refract HF radio signals. At the same time, however, high geomagnetic activity may occur with auroral substorms that create areas of ionization capable of reflecting VHF signals.

Auroral observations over the last 100 or so years reveal that peak periods of radio aurora occur close to the equinoxes — that is, during the months of March and April, and again during September and October. Of these two yearly peaks, the greater peak — in terms of the number of amateur radio VHF contacts reported — occurs during October. However, don't discount April's activity, some of which can be very strong (when the geomagnetic field activity is said to be at moderate to strong storm levels). The minimum activity annually occurs during the months of June and July, with a lesser minimum during December.

Just What Are Those Lights?

Aurora is a direct result of solar plasma interacting

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@hfradiospacewx

with gases in the upper atmosphere. Geomagnetic storms develop when strong gusts of solar wind carrying clouds of solar plasma buffet the magnetosphere around the Earth, or during the passage of a coronal mass ejection (CME) which collides with the Earth's magnetosphere.

The magnetosphere is filled with electrons and protons that are normally trapped by lines of magnetic force that prevent them from escaping to space or descending to the planet below. The impact of a CME breaks loose some of those trapped particles, causing them to rain down on the atmosphere.

Gases in the atmosphere start to glow under the impact of these particles. Different gases give out various colors. Think of a neon sign and how the plasma inside the glass tube, when excited, glows with a bright color.

These precipitating particles mostly follow the magnetic field lines that run from Earth's magnetic poles, and are concentrated in circular regions around the magnetic poles called "auroral ovals." These bands expand away from the poles during magnetic storms. The stronger the storm, the farther these ovals will expand. Sometimes they grow so large that people at middle latitudes, like California, can see these "Northern Lights."

When active aurora is seen in the auroral zone, a strong magnetic disturbance is usually also observed there. These disturbed magnetic fields



Figure 1. The first Norwegian 200 kroner note portrays Kristian Birkeland (1867-1917), magnetism researcher, inventor, and co-founder of Norsk Hydro against a stylized pattern of the aurora borealis and a very large snowflake. The back of the 200 kroner note shows a map of the north polar regions including Scandinavia to the right and northern Canada to the left. A ring encircling the magnetic dip pole (located near Resolute, Canada) symbolizes the location of auroral phenomena including the satellite-determined statistical location of Birkeland currents. Birkeland's original depiction of field-aligned currents published in 1908 is shown in the lower right corner. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)



Figure 2. Portrait of Kristian Olaf Bernhard Birkeland. (Courtesy of Wikipedia)

often are much stronger than those of a geomagnetic storm but are strictly local, fading away quickly as one moves toward the equator. This suggests that the currents that disturb the magnetic fields flows somewhere nearby — probably near the auroral arcs.

Curious Science

Norwegian physicist Kristian Birkeland (whose portrait appears on Norwegian currency), carefully observed auroral disturbances and concluded that the currents flow parallel to the ground, along the auroral formation. Because electrical currents must flow in a closed circuit, and because these magnetic disturbances seemed to be caused by processes taking place in distant space, Birkeland proposed that the currents came down from space at one end of an arc and returned to space at another end.

In 1910, Birkeland performed a series of experiments to reproduce many of the characteristics of the aurora that he observed during his expeditions. He placed an electromagnetic sphere, coated with fluorescent paint, inside a vacuum chamber and projected a beam of electrons at the sphere. This enabled him to view the trajectories of streaming electrons. Birkeland was able to accurately reproduce how solar wind would make its way into the Earth's magnetic poles, and was able to simulate the auroral ovals near the Earth's magnetic poles.

It wasn't until 1954 that auroral electrons were actually observed by sensors aboard a rocket launched into an aurora by Meredith, Gottlieb, and Van Allen, of Van Allen's team at the University of Iowa. The Van Allen team discovered Earth's radiation belts, now called the Van Allen Belts.

Continual research has revealed that aurora is caused by the large-scale interaction between the earth's magnetic field and the solar wind. The magnetic field around the Earth, the magnetosphere, is distorted by a flow of charged particles, mainly protons and electrons, which flow away from the sun. This flow is called the solar wind, which also contains magnetic field lines.

The Big Force Field Around Earth

On the windward side of Earth, the side mostly facing the sun, a bow shock is formed in the magnetosphere, while on the leeward, opposite side, the magnetosphere is dragged out into a long tail. As this happens, the magnetosphere acts as a giant shield around the earth, blocking solar wind particles.

However, there are distinct regions in the magnetosphere where solar wind particles may enter the earth's upper atmosphere. Solar wind particles can enter directly via the dayside cusps or, having been trapped in the plasma sheet around the Earth, they can enter via the enclosed magnetic field lines at the polar auroral oval on the night side.

In 1961, Dr. Jim Dungey of the Imperial College, United Kingdom, predicted that cracks might form in the magnetosphere when the solar wind contained a magnetic field that was oriented in the opposite direction to a portion of the Earth's field. He postulated that the two magnetic fields would interconnect through a process known as "magnetic reconnection" and form a crack in the shield through which the electrically charged particles of the solar wind could flow.

In 1979, Dr. Goetz Paschmann, of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Germany, detected these cracks using the International Sun Earth Explorer (ISEE) spacecraft. Recently, the Imager for Magnetopause to Aurora Global Exploration (IMAGE) satellite, along with the 4-satellite Cluster constellation that flies far above IMAGE, revealed the

direct correlation between a proton aurora (non-visible) and the flow of ions through these cracks.

All of this takes place within the area known as the auroral oval. These are rings with a radius of roughly 1,500 miles, centered on the Earth's geo-

magnetic poles (not on the geographical pole, nor even magnetic poles). The geographic North Pole is located at 90 degrees north latitude and is the point where the lines of longitude converge. The magnetic North Pole is located roughly at 73.5 degrees north latitude

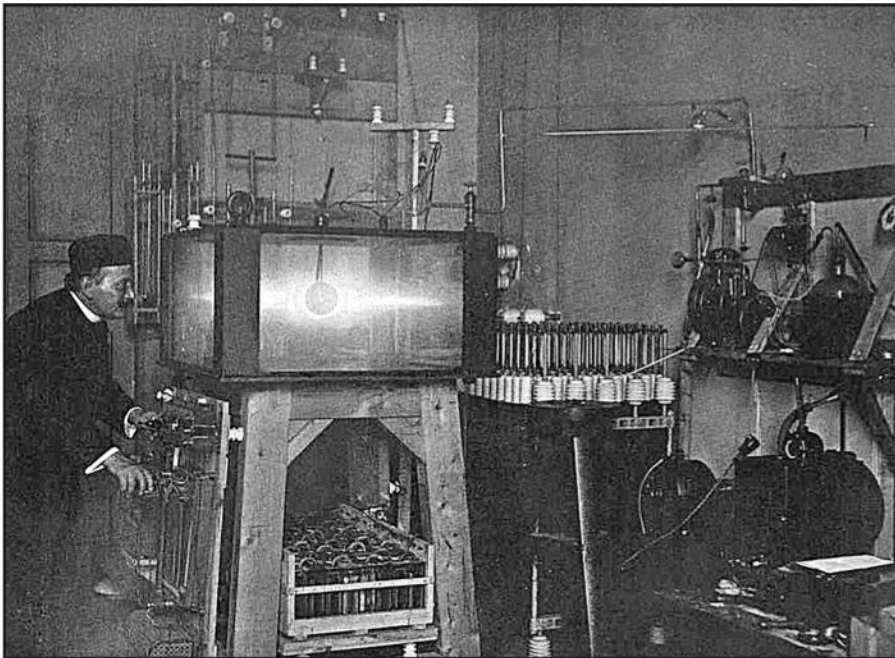


Figure 3. Kristian Birkeland and his terrella experiment, which shows the "zodiacal-light ring." It requires little magnetizing of the globe but a great discharge-current. (Courtesy of <<http://www.catastrophism.com/texts/birkeland/>>)

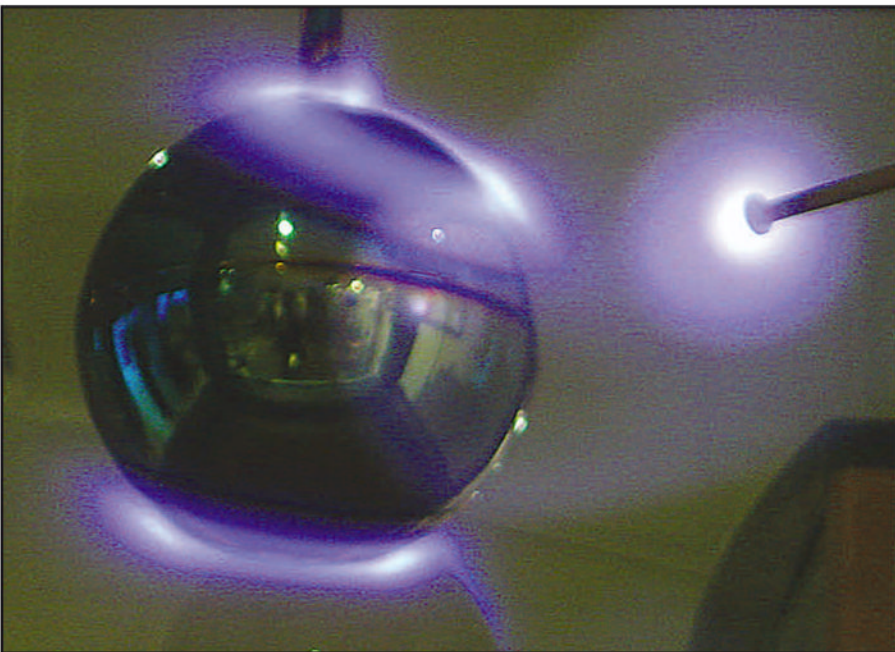


Figure 4. A terrella (Latin of "little earth") is a small magnetized model ball representing the Earth. Terrellas had been used up until the late 20th century to attempt to simulate the Earth's magnetosphere, but have now been replaced by computer simulations. (Courtesy of Wikipedia/Universite Paris-Sud (Orsay) – Journes de la Science, 2005)

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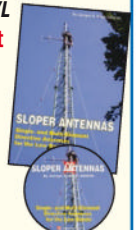
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and 100 degrees west longitude, near Resolute Bay, Canada. This is the point where magnetic meridians converge. The geomagnetic pole, however, which is the center of the auroral oval, is located at the northwest tip of Greenland at 78.5 degrees north latitude and 69 degrees west longitude. It is the northern axis of the mathematical field of closest fit to the actual magnetic field of the Earth. Using this geomagnetic pole, we define a set of latitude and longitude coordinates, known as the geomagnetic coordinates. During average solar activity, the auroral oval lies in a ring between about 70 and 75 degrees north geomagnetic latitude. It can grow during geomagnetic storms and shrink during very quiet geomagnetic activity periods, and extends farther south on the nightside of Earth than on the dayside. That means that as the Earth rotates beneath the aurora, a given location will be nearer the oval at night than during the day.

In the early 1970s, scientists recognized a connection between the component of the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) that lies along Earth's magnetic axis (known as " B_z ") and Earth's changing seasons: The average size of B_z is greatest each year in early spring and autumn. So why do these storms increase in strength and number during spring and autumn?

As the Sun rotates (one full rotation occurs about every 27 days), the plasma spewing out from the Sun forms into a spiral shape known as the "Parker Spiral" (named after the scientist who first described it). This solar wind carries with it an interplanetary magnetic field, which ever expands away from the sun in this spiral. Think of one of those rotating lawn sprinklers with jets of water shooting away from the center. You can see a bending or curving of the water lines. As the Earth moves around the Sun, these spiraling solar winds sweep into Earth's magnetosphere. How the magnetic field lines (IMF) in the solar wind interact with the magnetic field lines of the magnetosphere is the key to geomagnetic storms and aurora.

At the magnetopause, the part of our planet's magnetosphere that fends off the solar wind, Earth's magnetic field points north. If the IMF tilts south (i.e., B_z becomes large and negative), it can partially cancel Earth's magnetic field at the point of contact. This causes the two magnetic fields (Earth's and the IMF) to link (think of how two magnets link with one magnet's south pole connecting with the other's north pole), creating a magnetic field line from Earth directly

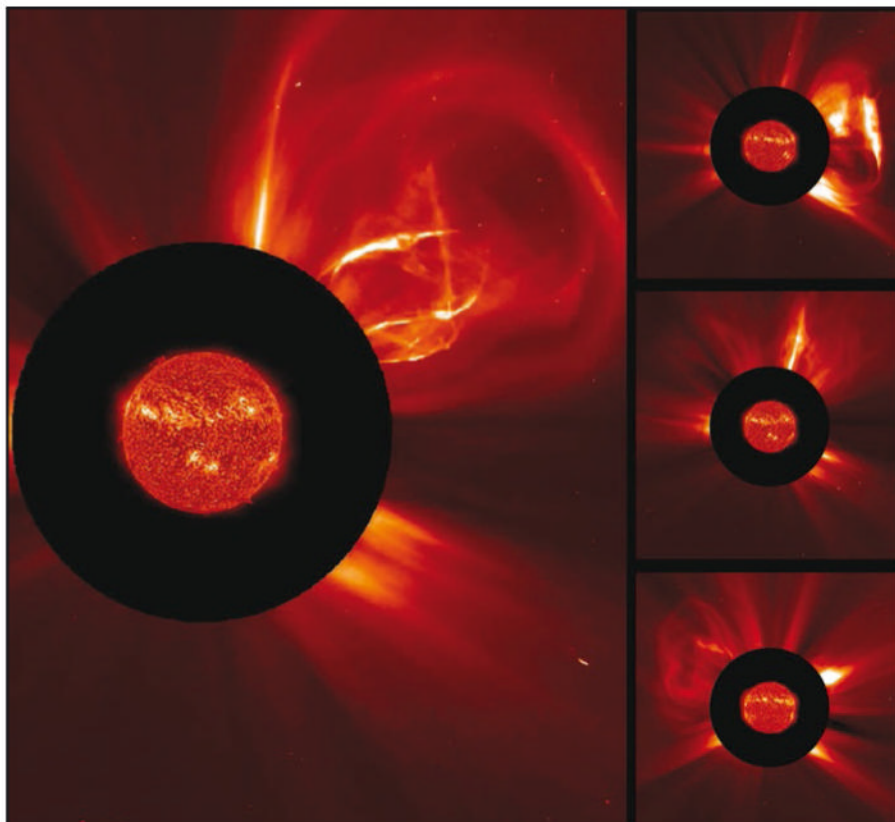


Figure 5. The Sun produced about a dozen coronal mass ejections (CMEs) in eight days between November 22 and 28, 2011. The SOHO C2 coronagraph shows the storms (both large and small) blasting out in different directions. The Sun itself taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory in extreme UV light was scaled appropriately and superimposed on the coronagraph. This image shows a composite of some of the larger CMEs. The times of the three stacked LASCO C2 images featured in the still are (top to bottom): 11/26/2011 at 07:48:06 UTC; 11/23/2011 at 10:48:06 UTC; and 11/29/2011 at 08:00:05 UTC. (Courtesy of NASA/SOHO/SDO)

into the solar wind. A south-pointing B_z opens a window, through which plasma from the solar wind and CME can reach Earth's inner magnetosphere, bombarding the gases of the upper atmosphere.

Earth's magnetic dipole axis is most closely aligned with the Parker spiral in April and October. As a result, southward (and northward) excursions of B_z are greatest then. This is why aurora is most likely and strongest during the equinoctial months. When we are in the peak of a solar cycle and in the year or so after a peak, solar activity is very high. The amount of solar wind and plasma is large at this point in the cycle, causing very dramatic and spectacular auroral light shows.

When the molecules and atoms are struck by solar wind particles, the stripping of one or more of their electrons ionizes them to such an extent that the ionized area is capable of reflecting radio signals at very high frequencies. This ionization occurs at an altitude of

about 70 miles, very near the E-layer of the ionosphere. The level of ionization depends on the energy and number of solar wind particles able to enter the atmosphere.

While a correlation exist between visible and radio aurora, radio aurora can exist without visual aurora. Statistically, a diurnal variation of the frequency of radio aurora contacts has been identified that suggests two strong peaks, one near 6 p.m. and the second around midnight, local time.

VHF auroral echoes, or reflections, are most effective when the angle of incidence of the signal from the transmitter, with the geomagnetic field line, equals the angle of reflection from the field line to the receiver. Radio aurora is observed almost exclusively in a sector centered on magnetic north. The strength of signals reflected from the aurora is dependent on the wavelength when equivalent power levels are employed. Six-meter reflections can be

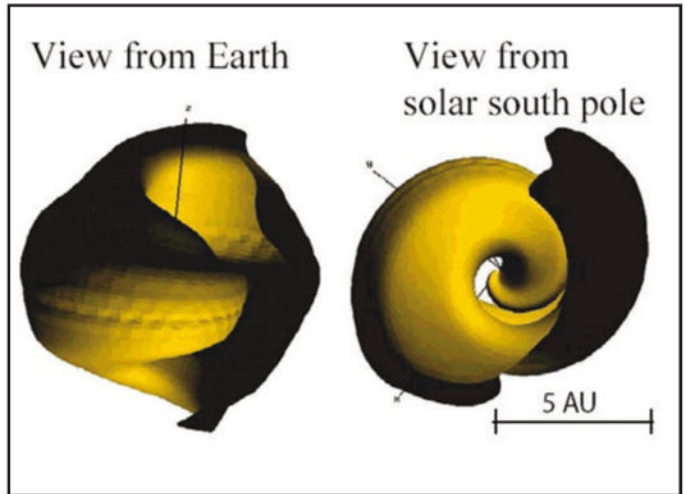
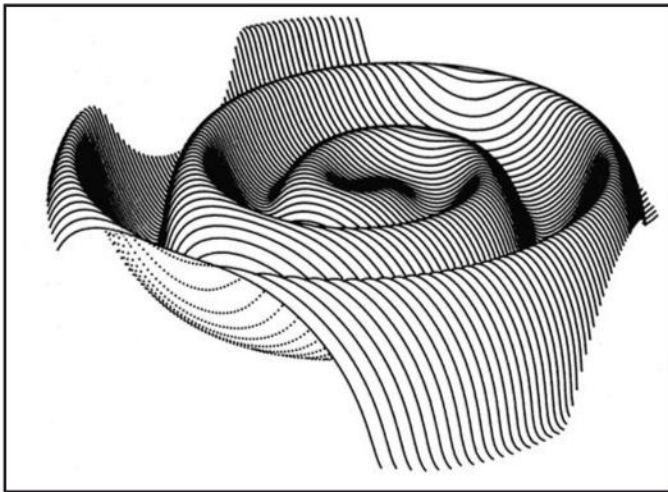


Figure 6 (Left). The heliospheric current sheet is shaped like a ballerina's skirt and extends to the outer reaches of the Solar System, resulting from the influence of the Sun's rotating magnetic field on the plasma in the interplanetary medium. (Courtesy of J. R. Jokipii, University of Arizona)

Figure 6 (Right). The shape of the heliospheric current sheet in March 2000 as calculated by the Blue Horizon super-computer using data from several spacecraft. (Courtesy of NASA)

expected to be much stronger than 2-meter reflections for the same transmitter output power. The polarization of the reflected signals is nearly the same as that of the transmitted signal.

The K index is a good indicator of the expansion of the auroral oval, and the possible intensity of the aurora. When the K index is higher than 5, most readers in the northern states and in Canada can expect favorable aurora conditions. If the K index reached 8 or 9, it is highly possible for radio aurora to be observed by stations as far south as California and Florida.

Look for aurora-mode propagation when the planetary- K_p rises above 4, and look for visual aurora after dark when the K_p rises above 5. The higher the K_p , the more likely you may see the visual lights. But you don't have to see them to hear their influence on propagation. Listen for stations from over the poles that sound raspy or fluttery on frequencies above 28 MHz, possibly up as high as 440 MHz. Sometimes aurora will enhance a path at certain frequencies, other times it will degrade the signals. Sometimes signals will fade quickly, and then come back with great strength. The reason for this is that the radio signal is being refracted off of the more highly ionized areas that are lit up. These ionized areas ebb and flow, so the ability to refract changes, sometimes quickly. I've observed the effect of aurora and associated geomagnetic storminess even on lower HF frequencies.

Expect an increase in geomagnetic storms, and auroral activity, as we move through March and into April. I have an aurora watch page at <http://aurora.sunspotwatch.com/> that provides up-to-the-minute aurora information and data.

April Propagation

As we move into spring in the Northern Hemisphere, we experience great DX openings from around the world on HF. This is because the sun is most directly over the equator, creating equal day and night periods in both hemispheres. The Vernal Equinox, which will occur on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 04:30 UTC, marks the day when the hours of daylight and darkness are about equal around the equator.

This creates an ionosphere of similar characteristics throughout more of the world than is possible during other times when it is summer in one hemisphere and winter in the other, and there are extreme differences in the ionosphere. This equalization of the ionosphere, which takes place during the equinoctial periods (autumn and spring) is responsible for optimum DX conditions, starts late in February and lasts through late April.

The improvement in propagation is most noticeable on long circuits between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. During this season, conditions are also optimal for long-path as well as short-path openings, and during gray-line twilight periods associated with sunrise and sunset.

Expect fewer openings on the higher shortwave frequencies compared to the openings seen during the winter months. However, with the sunspot cycle in the neighborhood of a smoothed sunspot number of 30 or so, the frequencies from 15 to 10 meters will have sparse openings, with 15 meters being the most active of these upper-frequency bands. If openings occur on these higher bands, expect good DX openings from most areas of the world during the hours of daylight. While normal seasonal changes in propagation will result in fewer east-west openings, conditions towards southern and tropical areas are expected to hold up very well. Look for peak signal levels to most areas of the world during the late afternoon hours.

Expect 17 and 20 meters to be the best bands for daylight DX during April. These bands should be reasonably active with DX signals from just after sunrise to well beyond sunset. Signals should be strongest to most areas of the world during the afternoon hours, but look for good, solid openings towards the southern and tropical areas well into the early evening hours.

Thirty meters is expected to be open longer than 20 meters, with DX through most of the month. Strongest signals, with DX openings to just about every area of the world, should occur during a two-hour window after local sunrise and again during the late afternoon and through the evening hours to as late as midnight.

Shorter hours of darkness and increasing static levels in the northern hemisphere will result in somewhat poorer DX conditions on the mid to low shortwave bands as we move closer to summer. Nevertheless, strong, stable signals should be possible to many areas of the world on 40 meters during the hours of darkness. Signals should peak from an easterly direction about an hour or two before midnight and from most other directions about an hour or so before local sunrise at the U.S. end of the path.

Some fairly good DX should also be possible on 60 and 75/80 meters during the hours of darkness. Propagation patterns on 75/80 meters should be similar to those observed on 40 meters, but openings will be weaker and noisier.

There is a chance for some DX openings on 160 meters during the hours of darkness, but expect to encounter increasingly high static levels. Thunderstorm activity is expected to increase during April in the Northern Hemisphere, and this should add to the static levels on all HF bands, but especially on 40 through 160 meters.

Check both long- and short-path openings during the sunrise and sunset periods on all bands, for all paths between the northern and southern hemispheres.

For short-skip openings of approximately 250 miles, check 75/80 meters during the day and 160 meters at night. For distances between 250 and 750 miles, 30 and 40 meters should be the best during the day, 40 and 75/80 meters from sunset to midnight, and 75 meters from midnight to sunrise.

For openings between distances of 750 and 1,300 miles, try 20 meters during the day, with 30, 40, 60, and 75/80 meters best during the hours of darkness. Between 1,300 and 2,300 miles check 15, 17, and 20 meters during the day; 20, 30, and 40 meters from sunset to midnight; and 40 meters from midnight to sunrise. Short-skip openings beyond 1,300 miles may also be possible on 10 and 12 meters during most of the afternoon hours, if solar activity is higher.

A seasonal increase in sporadic-E ionization usually begins during April and continues through the spring and summer months. Expect an increase in short-skip openings on frequencies from 15 to 10 meters during April, as well as a possible occasional opening on 6 meters. While sporadic-E openings may occur at any time, they tend to peak between 8 a.m. and noon and again between 5 and 9 p.m. local time.

VHF Ionospheric Openings

Lyrids, a major meteor shower, will take place mid to late April. The unpredictability of the shower in any given year always makes the Lyrids worth watching, since we cannot say when the next unusual return may occur. If this year's event is average or better (30 to 60 good-sized meteors entering the atmosphere every hour), this should make possible meteor-scatter type openings on the VHF bands.

Widespread auroral displays can occur during April, as explained above, bringing with them unusual ionospheric short-skip openings on the VHF bands. Best times for these to occur are during periods of radio storminess on the HF bands. Look for days with high planetary-K (K_p) and planetary-A (A_p) figures.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for January 2016 was 34.0. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on July 2015 is 40.9. A smoothed sunspot count of 42, give or take about 10 points, is expected for April 2016.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, reports the observed radio flux for January 2016 was 103.5. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on July 2015 is 116.0. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for April 2016 is 102, give or take about 14 points.

The observed monthly mean planetary A-Index (A_p) for January 2016 was 10. The 12-month smoothed A_p index centered on July 2015 is 13.1. Expect the overall geomagnetic activity to be varying greatly between quiet and active during most days in April, with storm-level activity improbable.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding this fascinating science of propagation. Please check out the space weather and radio propagation self-study course that this columnist is offering at <<http://NW7US.us/swc>>.

You may email me, write me a letter, or catch me on the HF amateur bands. If you are on Facebook, check out <<http://www.facebook.com/spacewx.hfradio>> and <<http://www.facebook.com/NW7US>>. Speaking of Facebook — check out the *CQ Amateur Radio Magazine* fan page at <<http://www.facebook.com/CQMag>>. Finally, check out my space weather videos on my YouTube channel: <<https://YouTube.com/NW7US>>.

I'll be keeping my ears to the radio, hoping to hear you on the air. Happy DX!

— 73, Tomas, NW7US

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CQ WW DX SSB Contest (from page 25)

Number groups after call letters denote following: Band (A = all), Final Score, Number of QSOs, Zones, and Countries. An asterisk (*) before a call indicates low power. An A after the band indicates an Assisted category. Certificate winners are listed in bold. Late logs are listed in italics. (All country terminology reflects the DXCC list at the time of the contest.)

2015 CQ WW DX SSB RESULTS SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA United States-District 1

Table listing contest results for District 1, including call letters, scores, and various call signs like K1LZ, N1OR, N1WJ, etc.

Table listing contest results for District 2, including call letters, scores, and various call signs like K1W2, W2WDO/3, K3I5H, etc.

Table listing contest results for District 3, including call letters, scores, and various call signs like W2WDO/3, K3I5H, A1Q3, etc.

Table listing contest results for District 4, including call letters, scores, and various call signs like K4AB, K4JPD, K2Z1A, etc.

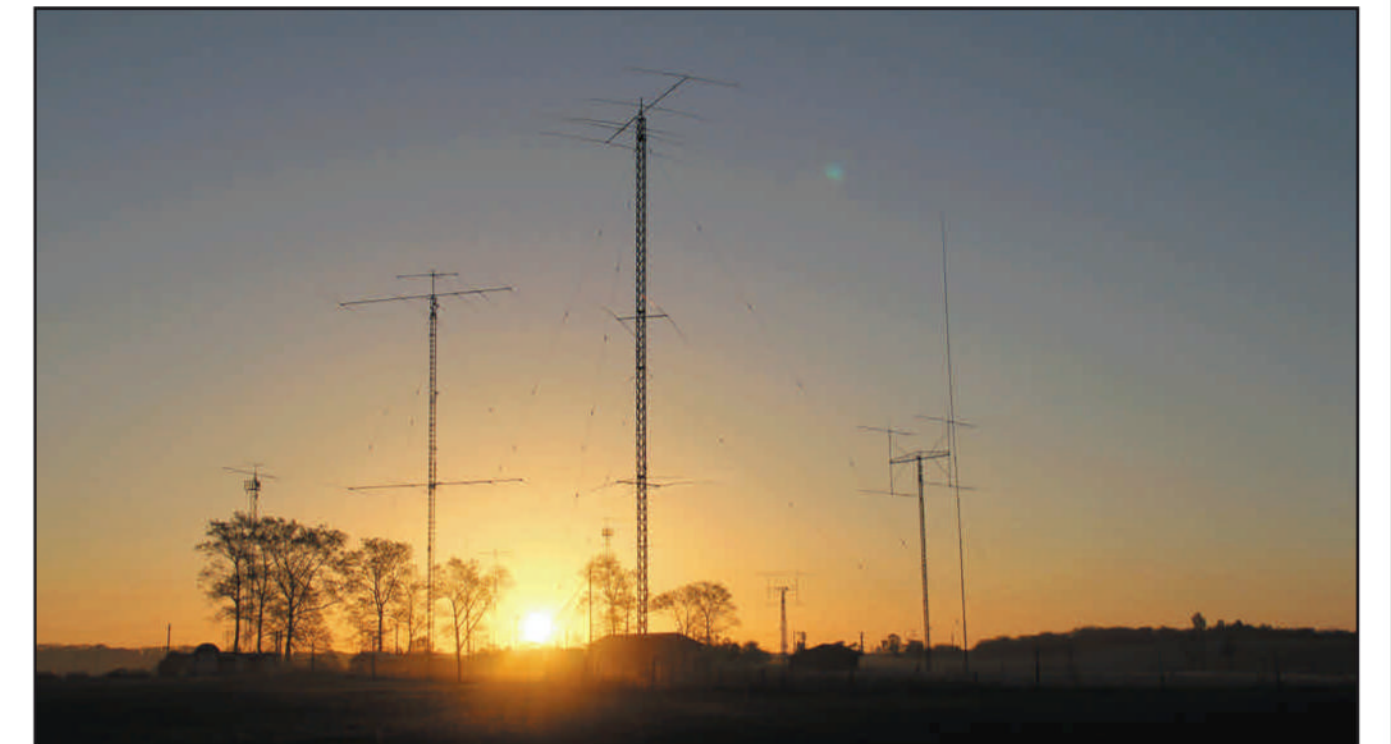
Table listing contest results for District 4, including call letters, scores, and various call signs like K4AB, K4JPD, K2Z1A, etc.

Table with columns for Country, Call Sign, and Frequency. Rows are grouped by country (Azerbaijan, Bahrain, China, Israel, Japan, Korea, etc.) and include various call signs and their corresponding frequencies in MHz, kHz, and MHz.

Table with columns for country/region, call sign, frequency, power, and other technical details. Includes sections for Slovenia, Spain, Wales, and Oceania/Australia.

HG6ITU *H6SA *H6SP	971,652 475,410 296,245	1971 873 680	84 83 48	290 262 234	*ED3D *EBZE5S	531,380 72,450	1082 286	77 48	249 127	Z4ZUS VE6FI *VE5CC COBCT T15M KPA4Q	2,305,210 1,466,718 1,381,818 847,550 712,950 351,050	2986 2228 99 1568 97 263	82 214 215 197 149 182	C37N EASCCN PIACG LY7A E19E GM9N P14M OM0M P14D IR6A G5N G3V MDHFC M03P Q0BWF 9A7B	12,537,963 9,597,732 9,434,192 8,830,170 8,054,120 5,090,490 5,060,588 4,253,845 1,307,826 1,053,948 823,991 253,422 224,700 103,684 3,402 1,776	10634 6919 182 7558 6418 4820 5145 3349 114 114 1589 564 613 406 34 61	138 607 634 584 592 355 489 418 372 408 286 196 162 150 16 27	561 807 834 594 584 555 125 518 372 408 186 196 150 16 16 16	*KCSZJ *K9BBQ *K08PQ *W3ZAPY *K09DE9 *K9SGB	78,870 3,818 2,898 1,560 360 240	184 36 34 11 11 10	47 19 27 19 9 9	118 27 24 9 9 9	District 0 3,323 167,540 185,000 165,000 16,434 2,664 1,408 567 49	126 36 319 303 63 32 19 14 4	62 82 163 137 51 21 19 12 4	Alaska 67,716	257 52	56	Barbados 419,152	1294 33	103	Bermuda 2,280	27 10	20	Canada 224,576 58,506 12 54,412 38,787 15,447 3,649 2,178	353 164 3 201 187 62 17 13 26	177 106 1 82 62 60 28 23	Mexico 2,394	62 9	10	Puerto Rico 102,860	285 37	102	U.S. Virgin Islands 9,384	62 27	42	Asiatic Russia 112,578 297,297 113,568 50,897 475	276 663 19 56 16	45 129 138 65 9	Asiatic Turkey 14,399 6,897 70 42	92 57 4 3	22 37 3 3	Bahrain 853,160	1037 69	239	China 639,840 85,754 65,667 48,929 32,240 22,400 6,830 7,938 1,740	1014 258 22 38 75 119 24 15 65	88 222 78 98 75 73 38 43 34 16	India 180,096 22,600 12,516 8,030 6,809 1,500 1,440	377 54 32 68 78 10 15 11	138 68 30 54 38 43 15 21	Japan 880 43,008 27,354 6,555 3,200	16 11 11 46 24	11 66 57 34	Kazakhstan 65,600 532	166 10	52 12	Saudi Arabia 2,372,356	2205 88	298	Thailand 152,500 8,883	542 68	31 91	United Arab Emirates 227,879	491 54	127	West Malaysia 80	4 4	4	Austria 19,740 1,680	131 48	27 11	Belarus 3,240,975 279,695 16,194 74,106 15,244	3133 125 611 422 28	122 42 194 137 46	Belgium 50,862 15,260	248 244	35 8	112 62	Bosnia-Herzegovina 460	30 5	18	Bulgaria 5,796	95 16	53	Croatia 14,579 6,786	156 17	46 18	Denmark 63,961	233 44	123
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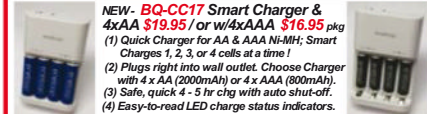
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