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Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

APRIL 2018

CQ

SSB Results: 2017 CQWW DX Contest, p. 10

DOCUMENTO
DIGITALIZADO

- **CQ Reviews: Elecraft KPA1500 Amplifier, p. 28**
- **First Look: MFJ/Xiegu X5105 Transceiver, p. 41**
- **QRP: Winter Field Day , p. 62**

On the Cover: QRP Editor KA8SMA's Winter Field Day setup in Traverse City, Michigan. Details in his column on page 62.

DOCUMENTO DIGITALIZADO

**DOCUMENTO
DIGITALIZADO**



Este documento se ha digitalizado en Zaragoza (España), con el objetivo de poder recuperar viejos libros y revistas de temática de ELECTRONICA y RADIOAFICION y que hoy en día son difíciles de encontrar y poder comprar en kioscos.

Cada revista suele costar escanearla una hora de tiempo, incluso una hora y media, por lo que podeis calcular el tiempo que se ha dedicado a su digitalización así como el de muchas revistas como la conocida RADIORAMA. Espero de que el esfuerzo haya valido la pena y que puedas disfrutar igual que yo de la lectura y puedas aprovechar los esquemas electrónicos.

Las revistas que he puesto a vuestra disposición son revistas antiguas y que ya no se comercializan en ningún kiosco o internet yo no digitalizo revistas actuales, dichas revistas hay que comprarlas. Recordar que el objetivo es recuperar nuestro pasado de nuestra afición

Todos los documentos digitalizados llevan el sello en rojo de documento digitalizado, se han digitalizado mas de 700 revistas de temática de electrónica y radioafición de los años 70 y 80 y viejos libros de lámparas. Agradezco la donación de estas revistas por parte de dos radioaficionados, uno de ellos falleció recientemente nos ha donado un precioso material y algunas revistas son difíciles de localizar. Gracias a estos dos radioaficionados a los cuales les estoy enormemente agradecido y la atención y ayuda por parte de amigos de diferentes ciudades de España , les doy las gracias desde esta hoja añadida a este documento.

Espero de que no se olvide estos años de los 70 y 80 en el cual no existía internet y nuestra fuente de información y de aprendizaje era las revistas y libros. Hasta pronto

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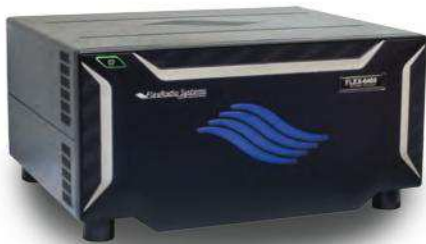
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APRIL

BRANSON, MISSOURI — The 4State QRP Group will hold the **OzarkCon QRP Conference** on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7 at the Stone Castle Hotel & Conference Center, 3050 Green Mountain Drive. Website: <www.ozarkcon.com>.

BELTON, TEXAS — The **Temple Amateur Radio Club** will hold **HamEXPO, The Belton Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the Bell County Expo Center, 301 West loop 121. Email: <hamexpo@tarc.org>. Website: <www.beltonhamfest.org>. Talk-in 146.820- (PL 123).

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA — The **Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **Brainerd Area Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the Brainerd National Guard Armory, 1115 Wright Street. Contact: BAARC, 33247 East Shamaineau Drive, Motley, MN 56466. Website: <www.brainerdham.org>. Talk-in 147.225+. VE exams, card checking.

COLUMBUS, INDIANA — The **Columbus Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **35th Annual Columbus Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the Bartholomew County Fairgrounds Community Building, 750 W. County Road 200S. Contact: Mathew Bruner, KC9BWO, 325 Robbin Street, Hope, IN 47246. Phone (812) 375-4860. Email: <kc9bwo@att.net>. Website: <www.carcnet.net>. Talk-in 146.79- (PL 103.5). VE exams.

FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA — The **Fort Pierce Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **Fort Pierce Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at Indian River State College, 3209 Virginia Avenue. Website: <http://fparc.org>. Talk-in 147.345 (PL 107.2). VE exams, DXCC card checking.

FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS — The **Fort Smith Area Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **Hanging Judge Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the Sebastian County Emergency Communications & Training Facility, 8400 South Zero Street. Contact: Mike Cole, W5TMC, (918) 427-1431. Website: <http://hangingjudgehamfest.com>. VE exams.

LONGMONT, COLORADO — The **Longmont Amateur Radio Club** will hold **LARCfest 2018** on Saturday, April 7 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, 9595 Nelson Road. Contact: Jerry, <larcradio@w0eno.org>. Website: <www.w0eno.org>. VE exams.

NOBLE, ILLINOIS — The **Clay County Area Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **8th Annual April Fools' Fest** on Saturday, April 7 at the West Richland Center, 320 East North Avenue. Email: <claycountyradio@gmail.com>. Website: <http://claycountyradio.webs.com>. Talk-in 146.760- (PL 94.8). VE exams.

SHERIDAN, WYOMING — The **Cloud Park Radio & Electronics Group** will hold the **Sheridan Swapfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the Masonic Lodge Building, 109 S. Gould Street. Website: <http://cloudpeakradio.org>. VE exams.

STOUGHTON, WISCONSIN — The **Madison Area Repeater Association** will hold the **46th Annual Madison Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt Parkway. Contact: Paul Toussaint, (608) 205-1994. Email: <w9hsy@execpc.com>. Website: <www.qsl.net/mara>. Talk-in 147.150+ (PL 123). VE exams.

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON — The **Yakima Amateur Radio Club** will hold its annual **Hamfest** on Saturday, April 7 at the State Fair Park-Modern Living Building, 1301 South Fair Avenue. Contact: Deanna Sanchez (509) 901-3175. Email: <27aqtreasurer@gmail.com>. Talk-in 146.660 (PL 123). VE exams, bunny hunt.

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS — The **Framingham Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **Framingham Flea** on Sunday, April 8 at Keeffe Tech School, 750 Winter Street. Contact: Andy, KC1DMN, (508) 310-5913. Email: <tables@fara.org>. Website: <http://fara.org>. Talk-in 147.15. VE exams.

BOSTON, PENNSYLVANIA — The **Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club** will hold its **47th Annual Hamfest / Computer Show** on Sunday, April 8 at The Boston Spectrum, 6001 Smithfield Street. Phone: (412) 398-1092. Email: <spetersondt@verizon.net>. Website: <www.trarc.net>. Talk-in 146.73. VE exams.

CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA — The **Green Country Hamfest Inc.** will hold the **Green Country Hamfest and 2018 ARRL Oklahoma State Convention** on Friday, April 13 and Saturday, April 14 at the Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Parkway. Contact: John Harwell, KD5NAQ, (918) 379-0950. Email: <info@greencountryhamfest.org>. Website: <www.greencountryhamfest.org>. Talk-in 147.09+ (PL 88.5). VE exams.

BARTLETT, TENNESSEE — The **Mid-South Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **Memphis FreeFest** on Saturday, April 14 at the Bartlett Station Municipal Center, 5868 Stage Road. Contact: Art Barnett, WA4PSS, (901) 619-5573. Email: <wa4pss@gmail.com>. Talk-in 147.03+ (PL 107.2). VE exams.

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO — The **Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club** will hold its **64th Annual Hamfest** on Saturday, April 14 at the Emidio and Sons Party Center, 48 E. Bath Road. Contact: Mike Luoma, K9MAL, (234) 206-0270. Email: <hamfest@cfarc.org>. Website: <www.cfarc.org>.

MOBILE, ALABAMA — The **Mobile Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **Mobile Hamfest** on Saturday, April 14 at the Abba Shrine Center, 7701 Hitt Road. Contact: David, (251) 802-6588 or L.J., (251) 635-2327. Email: <mobilehamfest@outlook.com>. Website: <www.w4iax.net>. VE exams.

TAMPA, FLORIDA — The **Tampa Amateur Radio Club** will hold **TARCFest Hamfest XLI** on Saturday, April 14 at the TARC Clubhouse, 7801 N. 22nd Street. Phone: (813) 301-7209. Website: <http://hamclub.org>. VE exams, fox hunt.

GALES FERRY, CONNECTICUT — The **Radio Amateur Society of Norwich** will hold the **RASON Auction 2018** on Saturday, April 21 at the Gales Ferry Fire House, 1722 Route #12. Contact: Larry, N1LFG, <lfgarvin@comcast.net>. Website: <www.rason.org>. Talk-in 146.730- (PL 156.7).

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE — The **Sussex Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **Delmarva Amateur Radio & Electronic Expo** on Saturday, April 21 at the Cheer Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Road. Contact: Vic, KC3BUI, (302) 628-3060. Website: <www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>. Talk-in 147.090 (PL 156.7). VE exams, card checking.

GODFREY, ILLINOIS — The **Lewis and Clark Radio Club** will hold its **2018 Hamfest** on Saturday, April 21 at the River Bend Arena-Lewis & Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road. Contact: Jacques, KN9O, (618) 401-5558. Email: <hamfest@k9ham.org>. Website: <www.k9ham.org>. Talk-in 145.230- (PL 97.9). VE exams.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI — The **Ararat Shrine Amateur Radio Club** will hold **Hambash 2018** on Saturday, April 21 at the Ararat Shrine, 5100 Ararat Drive. Website: <www.hambash.com>. Talk-in 145.13. VE exams.

MORGANTON, NORTH CAROLINA — The **Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, McDowell Amateur Radio Club, and Western Piedmont Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **21st Annual Catawba Valley Hamfest** on Saturday, April 21 at the Burke County Fairgrounds, 145 Bost Road. Phone: (828) 437-2787. Website: <www.cvhhamfest.org>. Talk-in 145.210+ (PL 94.8). VE exams, DXCC / VUCC / WAS card checking.

PALMYRA, NEW YORK — The **Drumlins Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **32nd Annual Drumlins Hamfest** on Saturday, April 21 at the Palmyra VFW Post 6778, 4306 Route 31. Contact: Rich Hamill, KC2TJN, (315) 986-8589. Email: <hamfest@drumlinsarc.us>. Website: <www.drumlinsarc.us>. Talk-in 146.745 (PL 71.9). VE exams.

SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE — The **470 Amateur Radio Group** will hold the **Sevierville Meet/Greet & Boneyard** on Saturday, April 21 behind the King Family Library, 550 Eastgate Road. Contact: Rick Sawaya, Sr., N4JTC, (865) 446-4535. Email: <n4jtc@live.com>. Talk-in 146.940. VE exams.

WALDO, FLORIDA — The **Gainesville Amateur Radio Society** will hold the **Second Annual Gainesville Hamfest** on Saturday, April 21 at the First Baptist Church of Waldo, 14370 Kennard Street (SR-24). Phone: (352) 317-2820. Email: <hamfestinfo@gars.club>. Website: <http://gars.club>. Talk-in 146.82-. VE exams.

WEST MONROE, LOUISIANA — The **NorthEast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **NELA Hamfest 2018** on Saturday, April 21 at the West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Avenue. Contact: NELARC, P.O. Box 1871, West Monroe, MA 71294. Email: <hamfest@nelarc.org>. Website: <http://nelarc.org>. Talk-in 146.85. VE exams.

SUCCASUNNA, NEW JERSEY — The **Splitrock Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **2018 North Jersey Hamfest** on Sunday, April 22 at the Roxbury Senior Center, 72 Elyand Avenue. Contact: Splitrock ARA, P.O. Box 610, Rockaway, NJ 07866. Phone: (866) 457-6687. Email: <hamfest2017@splitrockara.org>. Website: <www.splitrockara.org>. Talk-in 146.985- (PL 131.8). VE exams, DXCC card checking.

CHASSELL, MICHIGAN — The **Keweenaw County Repeater Association** will hold its **Hamfest 2018** on Saturday, April 28 at the Chassell VFW Post 6507, 42103 Wilson Memorial Drive. Contact: Jeff, W9GY, (906) 337-4158. Email: <jeffw9gy@pasty.net>. Talk-in 146.880 (PL 100).

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ARRL Seeks More HF Privileges for Techs

The ARRL has petitioned the FCC for expanded HF voice, RTTY, and digital privileges for Technician Class licensees. The League says current growth rates in licensing are insufficient to sustain the amateur service in the long run, and points out the long-standing problem that many Technician licensees never get on the air or become active members of the broader amateur radio community. The entry-level license, says the ARRL petition, must “provide sufficient, relevant, operating privileges to allow these individuals to find value in Amateur Radio and to build in a strong incentive to upgrade to the next license class by a culture of involvement among new licensees.”

Specifically, the League’s February 28 petition asks for RTTY and other digital-mode privileges on current Technician CW subbands on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters; plus new voice privileges on 3.900-4.000, 7.225-7.300 and 21.350-21.450 MHz. Maximum power output would be 200 watts PEP. At press time, the FCC had not yet given the petition a rulemaking number or requested public comment.

Much Ado About Bouvet

You can’t get there from here ... or much of anyplace else, it seems. The long-planned 3YØZ DXpedition to Bouvet Island had to be cancelled at the last minute — with the island in sight — due to a combination of bad weather and engine trouble on the team’s ship. See this month’s DX column for details.

In the wake of the 3YØZ cancellation, the organizers of the Polish-led 3YØI DXpedition renewed plans to travel to the island, most likely this coming winter (summer in the southern hemisphere). According to the *ARRL Letter*, the 3YØI group had deferred its plans at the request of the 3YØZ group, to avoid having two major DXpeditions to the same place within weeks of each other. The 3YØI group says it has chartered a vessel specially outfitted for severe weather and experienced with landing troops on Bouvet, which is a Norwegian dependency. The group said it also plans to conduct video-documented explorations of the island and its glacier, and to leave behind a time capsule at the glacier’s peak.

ARRL Calls for FCC Antenna Action

Responding to reports that Congress is unlikely to pass *any* telecommunications legislation this term, including the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA/S.1534) now pending before the Senate Commerce Committee, the ARRL said in FCC comments that the Commission must “take the action on its own initiative that would be called for by this legislation.” According to the *ARRL Letter*, the comments — in response to a public notice seeking input on the communications industry’s response to last year’s hurricanes — noted amateur radio’s role in providing communications in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and said action is needed to require homeowners associations (HOAs) to permit effective outdoor antennas. “It is critical,” the League noted, “to have

stations located at one’s residence in order to regularly participate in disaster preparedness training exercises and drills.”

Commenting separately in the same proceeding in response to the ARRL filing, attorney Jim Talens, N3JT, who has written here and elsewhere about his serious concerns that the language of S.1534 will make it more difficult, not less, for hams to put up antennas in HOA-regulated areas, warned that the FCC “should not be deceived by ARRL into believing that moving forward on ARPA will help American emergency preparedness.” Talens called on the FCC to adopt rules and procedures for amateur antennas in HOA-regulated areas that more closely parallel rules already in effect under the FCC’s Over the Air Reception Devices (OTARD) rule for TV antennas and satellite dishes. The full text of both comments may be found on the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System website under ET Docket number 17-344.

ARRL to FCC: Time to Legalize PACTOR 4

Commenting in the same proceeding as noted in the previous story, the ARRL also urged the FCC to act on its 2013 petition to eliminate the current restrictions on “symbol rate” for data transmissions below 29.7 MHz. That petition also called for allowing HF data signals to occupy up to 2.8 kHz of bandwidth, the same as a single sideband signal. The League’s main goal in this petition is to get the FCC to legalize the use on HF of PACTOR-4, the mode that is at the heart of the WinLink data transmission system. The FCC granted a temporary waiver to permit its use last fall in connection with hurricane relief efforts in the Caribbean.

There is some controversy about the use of WinLink on the amateur bands, as some critics claim it is used by boaters to send and receive email which may include business communications. In addition, the system relies on automatically-controlled relay stations, which some claim will cause interference because they are unable to listen before transmitting to be sure a frequency is not already in use.

FT8 To Add “Fox and Hounds” DXpedition Mode

The developers of the FT8 digital mode say they’re working on an enhanced version of the mode specifically designed for DXpeditions. The *ARRL Letter* reports that the goal is to allow high-volume operators to make FT8 contacts at the highest possible rate, with as little as a single transmission per contact and the ability to make up to five contacts at one time, offering a potential rate of up to 600 QSOs per hour! The developers are tentatively referring to DXpedition mode as “fox and hounds,” with the DXpedition station being the fox and all the stations “hunting” for it labeled as “hounds.” The WSJT-X Development Team says the mode will be included in an upcoming release of a new version of WSJT-X, with hopes for a field test during this summer’s scheduled KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island.

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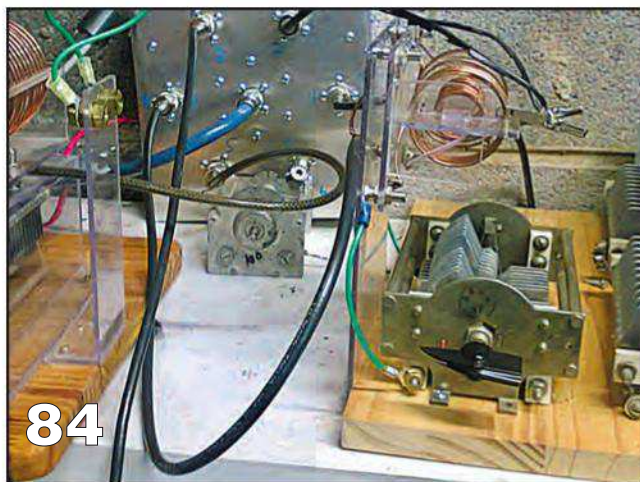
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On the Cover: Spring is finally here, but outdoor hamming doesn't have to be restricted to warm-weather months. This issue's cover photo shows QRP Editor Scott Rought's outdoor setup for Winter Field Day at the end of January. See his column on page 62 for details. (Cover photo by Helen Rought)

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Conductor (Wind Tunnel)**

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Operation**

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(Actual Size)

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C4FM
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“Tear Down That Wall”

ARRL Proposes Full Integration of Technician Class with the Rest of Ham Radio

President Ronald Reagan, in 1987, famously stood at the Berlin Wall and called on Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to “tear down this wall.” Today, the ARRL is proposing to tear down a metaphorical wall that has separated Technician Class hams from the rest of their fellow hams for nearly 70 years. In a petition to the FCC filed on February 28, the League is calling for full integration of Technicians with mainstream (read HF-active) ham radio with a broad expansion of Tech voice and digital privileges on HF. While we have a few quibbles with the League’s reasoning, we strongly support the proposal.

To fully understand its significance, though, we need to look at a little history. When the Technician license was created in 1951 (along with the Novice license), its purpose was to provide “experimenters” with slow-code access to the ham bands to explore and discover whatever might await on the frequencies above 220 MHz. They were to be a “different breed” of ham, a distinction that the FCC and ARRL persisted in making for decades to follow. The point of entry to “real” ham radio would be the one-year, non-renewable, Novice license.

By the time the mid-1980s rolled around, Novice licenses were renewable and privileges included only Morse code, at no more than 250 watts, on limited portions of the 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter bands. No voice, anywhere (the Novice was sometimes sarcastically referred to as the “No voice” license); no VHF or UHF privileges — at the peak of repeater popularity; and no digital modes at the peak of packet radio’s popularity¹.

Many hams at the time were worried that the entry-level (Novice) license didn’t offer enough “meat” to get new hams active and involved, and eventually to upgrade to higher-level licenses. They worried about the hobby’s future. The amateur community responded with something called “Novice Enhancement,” which the FCC adopted in 1987. It provided limited voice privileges on 10 meters and access to portions of the 220-MHz and 1296-MHz bands, at reduced power levels. It was remarkably successful, at least on HF, with activity levels and purchases of new HF gear soaring. It gave the hobby and the industry a huge boost, which lasted until the next “sky is falling” moment in the early 2000s. That resulted in restructuring and the phase-out of Morse code as a licensing requirement. These changes provided yet another big boost, and made the Technician license the “standard” entry-level ham license², as the FCC stopped issuing new Novice licenses as part of the whole package.

Today, just like a generation ago, many hams are worried that the entry-level (Technician) license doesn’t offer enough “meat” to get new hams active and involved, and eventually to upgrade to higher-

level licenses. They worry about the hobby’s future. They are concerned that, once again, the privileges that come with the entry-level license are out of step with today’s popular activities and technology. A perfect example is FT8, the hot new digital mode that started on VHF but quickly became popular on HF as well — in fact, the WSJT team is working on a DXpedition version that could permit up to 600 QSOs per hour for DXpeditioners. Yet, Technicians have no digital mode privileges on HF, and their HF voice privileges are limited to 10 meters, which will be mostly a local band for the next several years. It is time for another boost, and the ARRL’s proposal is a good start.

Technician Enhancement

Here are the basics of what the League is proposing:

- Phone privileges for Technicians on 3.900-4.000, 7.225-7.300, and 21.350-21.450 MHz, in addition to the existing 10-meter phone allocation at 28.3-28.5 MHz. These suggested subbands are big enough to be significant, yet small enough to provide an incentive to upgrade and get additional frequencies.
- RTTY/digital mode privileges on the current Novice/Tech CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters. This will allow Techs to enjoy keyboard modes such as RTTY, PSK31 and others, as well as more automated modes such as JT9 and FT8.
- Maximum power levels for Technicians on HF would continue to be 200 watts PEP.

All in all, the proposed changes would give Techs the incentive to get on HF and get a taste of DXing, contesting and digital modes, as well as CW (which, despite ARRL assertions in the FCC petition, continues to grow in popularity). There would still be plenty of *unavailable* spectrum to encourage upgrading, such as the entire 2200, 630, 160, 60, 30, 20, 17, and 12-meter bands, and additional space and power on 80, 40, 15, and 10.

We would encourage the FCC to consider opening up the entire 10-meter band to Techs, to permit them to make use of FM repeaters at the top end of the band. But otherwise, we think the ARRL proposal is on the mark and worthy of serious consideration.

Perhaps most importantly, however, this proposal would finally “tear down that wall” between HF and VHF privileges that, for nearly seven decades, has resulted in Technicians being treated by their HF-focused peers as second-class citizens of the ham bands, even though Technicians today make up a majority of U.S. hams. Adoption of the ARRL’s proposal would fully integrate all hams with significant operating privileges on both the HF and VHF/UHF bands. It’s about time.

Quibble points: The League petition says license growth is essentially stagnant, relying for its assertion on overall numbers of licensees. What it ignores

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



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is the attrition rate of hams who become Silent Keys or who allow their licenses to expire without renewing them. The numbers of new hams joining our ranks each year continue to be healthy and impressive.

According to FCC data, 32,196 new amateur licenses were issued in 2017, on a par with the 32,552 new hams who joined our ranks in 2016 and 32,077 new licensees in 2015. That's nearly 100,000 new hams in the past three years. Recruitment is not the main problem. Retention is.

We need to focus on ways to make sure that newly-licensed hams are welcomed into the community, encouraged to get on the air and to discover which parts of this multi-faceted hobby catch their interest. It could be public service, building, QRP, backwoods hiking/hamming, moonbounce, or who knows what else. We need to put more energy into making sure they can try a little bit of everything and find what works for them right now and in the future. The League's proposal is one good step in that direction.

In This Issue: Contest Results and More

Our highlight this month is the SSB results of last year's CQ World Wide DX Contest, which featured the highest-ever number of logs received, despite propagation issues resulting from declining sunspot numbers. You'll find this year's results article a bit different than previous ones. Rather than simply running down the winners in each category, co-director Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q, offers quite a bit of analysis, looking at such things as QSO distribution by band, geographic distribution of logs (Quick: Which continent accounts for the greatest number of CQWW SSB logs?), hours operated and more. In addition, Doug looks at some very close "horse races" and muses about whether future results articles need

to focus more on the locations and categories that account for the greatest amount of activity. If you're a contester, we'd like to hear your thoughts on the topic (but read the article first, please). If you're not a contester, we've got an article by VK4QS on all the benefits you can find by operating in the CQWW DX contests.

We've also got a look at two new pieces of station equipment — at both ends of the power spectrum. On the high-power side of things, W9KNI reviews Elecraft's new KPA1500 solid-state legal-limit amplifier, and at the QRP end of the scale, WB6NOA takes a "first look" at the MFJ-distributed Xiegu X5105 portable 5-watt transceiver. And speaking of QRP, our cover story this month is QRP Editor KA8SMA's account of his chilly experience operating low-power outdoors in late January for Winter Field Day. Plus, MF/LF Editor KB5NJD shares the story of how a condo-dwelling ham in Ohio is operating on 630 meters despite a very small amount of available antenna space.

Spring has sprung! Get outside ... do some antenna work or take your rig out for some exercise in the great outdoors!

— 73, Rich, W2VU

Notes:

1. Novice privileges have varied through the years. In the 1950s and '60s, Novices had voice privileges on 2 meters; those were revoked as part of the incentive licensing decision in 1967. The license was originally issued for one year and was not renewable; it later became 2 years, still non-renewable, and later still became renewable and ran for the standard license term. Novices were originally limited to 75 watts and crystal control, restrictions that were eased in the 1970s.

2. Technician privileges have varied through the years as well. Techs were initially limited to VHF and UHF only, first gaining Novice HF privileges in 1978. When the code test for Technician was eliminated, only those Techs who had passed a code test retained those privileges. Once all code tests were eliminated, all Techs regained Novice HF privileges.

Results of the 2017 CQWW DX SSB Contest

DOCUMENTO
DIGITALIZADO

“An all-time record number of logs received”

BY DOUG ZWIEBEL*, KR2Q

What a great statement about the biggest (and greatest) contest the amateur radio world has ever known. And it is still the biggest and it is still getting bigger. How satisfying. If you like numbers, 8,606 logs were submitted on phone, a more than 13% increase over last year, and 124 more logs than the prior all-time record reached in 2013, despite the big decline in sunspots since that time.

As we think about the massive, worldwide participation in the CQWW contest, as of presstime, we are reading disappointing news about the Bouvet expedition, cut short just a few miles away; so close they could almost touch it (see *this month's DX column for details – ed.*). As testers, we are so lucky that no matter what, the contest goes on. It is an event we count on, look forward to with growing anticipation, and in which we do our best regardless of conditions because we just love the game, not to mention working the annual regulars and engaging in the competition. We love to just be a part of it. And anybody and everybody *can* be a part of it.

*c/o CQ Magazine

By the numbers, things were better than last year, especially for 15 meters. Ten meters continues to decline. (See charts below.)

CQWW Horse Racing: Photo Finishes

Right after the contest, lots of folks compare their claimed scores. Later, CQWW publishes RAW scores. These scores are based on the submitted log that are scored using a common (shared) methodology, and before any log checking. There is always big interest in those, too. But the only scores that really matter are the final scores, for which we all wait impatiently.

Hidden away, except for those who are looking closely at their own scores, are the super-close horse races — the competitions that seem to be too close to believe. And there are lots of them. Example: For 2017 phone, there were 3,021 scores, on a world ranking basis, that were within a half percent (0.5%) of each other. That's not 5%; it is one half of 1%. This is one of the main elements that makes contesting in CQWW so exciting. No, we won't go over all

QSO counts, distribution by band over the last 10 years

SSB	160	80	40	20	15	10	ALL
2017	87,025	364,827	663,891	1,089,839	1,076,617	249,281	3,531,480
2016	91,565	323,282	632,075	1,096,164	863,060	311,831	3,317,977
2015	75,892	297,933	607,356	1,089,102	1,333,440	1,280,820	4,684,543
2014	63,036	250,233	519,013	962,368	1,243,444	1,993,426	5,031,520
2013	80,157	290,961	583,674	1,070,449	1,290,113	2,008,877	5,324,231
2012	62,979	265,410	551,288	1,029,949	1,282,127	1,913,136	5,104,889
2011	86,450	288,365	571,517	985,590	1,196,006	1,873,553	5,001,481
2010	107,526	379,646	690,794	1,053,292	1,243,421	257,080	3,731,759
2009	94,519	332,631	661,030	1,087,242	1,058,864	290,898	3,525,184
2008	112,568	373,386	494,645	1,106,757	678,156	52,391	2,817,903

QSO percentage distribution, by band, per year

SSB	160	80	40	20	15	10
2017	2.5%	10.3%	18.8%	30.9%	30.5%	7.1%
2016	2.8%	9.7%	19.1%	33.0%	26.0%	9.4%
2015	1.6%	6.4%	13.0%	23.2%	28.5%	27.3%
2014	1.3%	5.0%	10.3%	19.1%	24.7%	39.6%
2013	1.5%	5.5%	11.0%	20.1%	24.2%	37.7%
2012	1.2%	5.2%	10.8%	20.2%	25.1%	37.5%
2011	1.7%	5.8%	11.4%	19.7%	23.9%	37.5%
2010	2.9%	10.2%	18.5%	28.2%	33.3%	6.9%
2009	2.7%	9.4%	18.8%	30.8%	30.0%	8.3%
2008	4.0%	13.3%	17.6%	39.3%	24.1%	1.9%

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3,000 of them, but here are some highlights for scores that were super-close.

On 80-meter low-power/unassisted (LP-U), LY2BMX, #2 world, edged out F5BEG, #3 world, by 45 hundredths of 1% (0.45%). On 80-meter low-power/assisted (LP-A), HGØR, #2 world, edged out EU2EU, #3 world, by 33 hundredths of 1% (0.33%). In Europe multi-multi, #1 M6T slid by #2 DFØHQ by 0.32%. Again in Europe, #3 multi-single/high power (MSH) IR4M squeaked ahead of #4 IR4X by 0.30%. Back on the world stage for 10-meter LP-U, LW5DPG took #4 by 0.27%, while LU6DU took #5. And IF9A, #3 world competing in the 20-meter LP-A category, managed an extra 0.26% over #4, IT9STX. In the U.S., K5ZD, #1 all-band/high power/assisted (AB-H-A), maintained a buffer of 0.25% over rival K3WW. And out west, N6RV #4 USA all-band/low power/unassisted

(AB-L-U), sneaked past #5, N7IR by 0.12%. And in the closest race of all, SP5DDJ, #3 world in the 15-meter QRP unassisted category, beat out JR2EKD, #4, by 0.09%. Wow!

How to Make a Big Score: More QSOs and Multipliers Are Not Enough. Accuracy Still Counts!

One of the fun things to do is to compare a station's raw score with its final score. They rarely match. As you can imagine, most that do match are "small" logs. We found 1,085 logs with no change from Raw to Final score. The "winner" is K8PGJ, who had the highest score and a "golden log." He was #2 in Michigan in the AB-H-U category. Congratulations!

But accuracy stretches far beyond the domain of "golden logs." Many entrants are able to "move up a slot" in the rank-

2017 CQWW DX SSB TROPHY WINNERS AND DONORS

SINGLE OPERATOR

World

8P5A (Opr.: Tom Georgens, W2SC)
Donor: Southern California DX Club

World – Low Power

H13T (Opr.: Ted Jimenez, H13TEJ)
Donor: Slovenian Contest Club

World – QRP

Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q
Donor: Jeff Steinman, N5TJ

World – Assisted

P33W (Opr.: Andrey Sachkov, LZ2HM)
Donor: Glenn Johnson, WØGJ

World – Assisted Low Power

P4ØW (Opr.: John Crovelli, W2GD)
Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

U.S.A.

Doug Grant, K1DG
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club – KC8C Memorial

U.S.A. – Low Power

John Vogel, N1PGA
Donor: North Coast Contesters

U.S.A. – QRP

Bob Jacobson, K2YGM*
Donor: Pat Collins, N8VV

U.S.A. – Assisted

Randy Thompson, K5ZD
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – Assisted Low Power

Jim Bowman, K51J
Donor: LA9Z/LN9Z Leia Contest Club

U.S.A. – Zone 3

Bob Wolbert, K6XX
Donor: Northern California Contest Club

U.S.A. – Zone 4

Mike Wetzel, W9RE
Donor: Kansas City DX Club

Europe

TK9R (Opr.: Salvatore Farina, IK8UND)
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club – W4BVV Memorial

Europe – Low Power

E11A (Opr.: Olivier Vandenbalck, EI8GQB)
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR

Europe – QRP

HG8U (Opr.: Gukyas Imre, HA8EK)
Donor: Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C

Europe – Assisted

Bernd Och, DL6FBL
Donor: Martin Huml, OL5Y

Europe – Assisted Low Power

TM3Z (Opr.: Dimitri Cosson, F4DSK)
Donor: Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ

Africa

Mario Xavier Laporte, FR4QT
Donor: Chris Terkla, N1XS

Asia

Gia Gvaladze, 4LØA
Donor: Nodir Tursun-Zade, EY8MM

Caribbean/Central America – High Power

ZF9CW (Opr.: Stan Stockton, K5GO)*
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Caribbean/Central America – Low Power

C6ARW (Opr.: Rich Westereberg, NØHJZ)
Donor: Albert Crespo, NH7A

Oceania

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

South America

P4ØT (Opr.: Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ)
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club

Canada

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

Russia

Yuri Kotelnikov, RT9S
Donor: Roman Thomas, R5AA

Indonesia

Yana Koryana, YB1AR
Donor: Karsono Suyanto, YBØNDT

Japan

Masaki Masa Okano, JH4UYB
Donor: Rush Drake, W7RM Memorial

Japan – Low Power

Nob Watanabe, JH1EAQ
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

Southern Cone (CE CX LU) – Assisted

Pablo Moretti, LU7MT
Donor: LU Contest Group

ASEAN (XZ HS XW XU 3W 9M 9V V8 YB DU)

Tony Waltham, HSØZDX
Donor: YB Land DX Club

ASEAN (XZ HS XW XU 3W 9M 9V V8 YB DU) – Low Power

Wayyu "Yun" Ningrat, YC1CWK
Donor: Bob Kupps, N6BK

SINGLE OPERATOR, SINGLE BAND

World – 28 MHz

CW5W (Opr.: Jorge Diez Furest, CX6VM)
Donor: Joel Chalmers, KG6DX

World – 21 MHz

D4Z (Opr.: Poitr Majchrzak, SQ9D)
Donor: Robert Naumann, W5OV

World – 14 MHz

E17M (Opr.: Dmitriy Pavlov, EI3JZ)
Donor: North Jersey DX Assn. – K2HLB Memorial

World – 7 MHz

RU1A (Opr.: Andrey Karpov, RV1AW)
Donor: Fred Laun, K3ZO – K7ZZ Memorial

World – 3.7 MHz

Vlado Lesjak, E7ØT
Donor: Fred Capossela, K6SSS

World – 1.8 MHz

HG8R (Opr.: Pal Vrbovski, HA8JV)
Donor: OL7M Contest Group, QRO.cz, RemoteQTH.com

U.S.A. – 28 MHz

Chuck Dietz, W5PR
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – 21 MHz

Peter Bizlewicz, KU2M
Donor: 11PM Dayton Pizza Gang

U.S.A. – 14 MHz

Rich Di Donna, NN3W
Donor: Yankee Clipper Contest Club – KC1F Memorial

U.S.A. – 7 MHz

Dan Handa, W7WA
Donor: Chuck Dietz, W5PR

U.S.A. – 3.7 MHz

Ken Claerbout, K4ZW
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – 1.8 MHz

Stephen Werner, AG4W
Donor: South Texas DX & Contest Club (STDXCC)

Europe – 28 MHz

Tine Brajnik, S5ØA
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Europe – 21 MHz

Antonio Rui Sousa Santos, CR6T
Donor: Tine Brajnik, S5ØA

Europe – 14 MHz

Frederic Lallemand, F8ARK*
Donor: Charles Wooten, NF4A

Europe – 7 MHz

LZ8A (Opr.: Mincho Petkoff, LZ2DF)*
Donor: Central Texas DX and Contest Club – NT5C Memorial

Europe – 3.7 MHz

Valery Sintsov, YL3CW*
Donor: Ted Demopoulos, KT1V

Europe – 1.8 MHz

G4L (Opr.: Tony Bettley, G4LDL)*
Donor: Robert Kasca, S53R

Caribbean/Central America (14 MHz)

Dean St. Hill, 8P2K
Donor: Nate Moreschi, N4YDU

Oceania (14 MHz)

Club Station ZL1AM
Donor: Bruce D. Lee, KD6WW

Asia (14 MHz)

Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M
Donor: Dallas/Fort Worth Contest Group – W5PG memorial

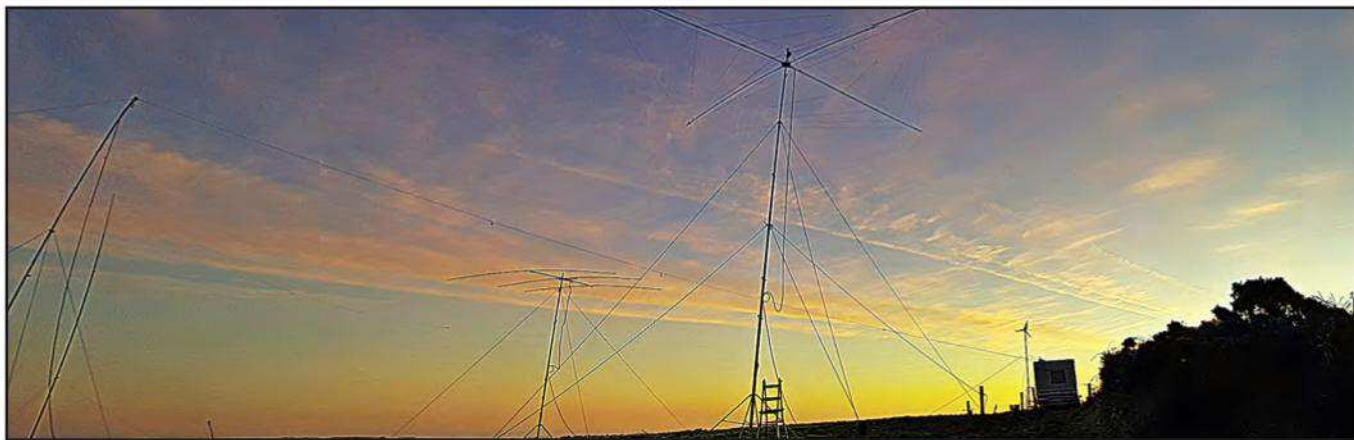
OVERLAY CATEGORIES

World – Classic

P49Y (Opr.: Andy Faber, AE6Y)
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

U.S.A. – Classic

Bob Shohet, KQ2M
Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)



The antenna farm is ready at EI1A.

Europe – Classic
Manfred Wolf, DJ5MW
 Donor: Steve Cole, GW4BLE Memorial

World – Rookie
Cyril Colom, TK4RB
 Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR – N8SM Memorial

U.S.A. – Rookie
Don Gladwell, W4BBT
 Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR – K3TUP Memorial

Europe – Rookie
Roland Roeder, DK5RL*
 Donor: EA Contest Club

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE TRANSMITTER

World
 EF8R (Oprs.: EA8RM, HA1AG, YO3JR, RA5A, UA3DJX, UA4WW, UA5C, R4FO, RW4WR, UA4FER, RA3AUU)
 Donor: So. Calif. DX Club – W6AM Memorial

World – Low Power
 ED9E (Oprs.: EA9CD, EA9FY, EA9ABC, EA9ABE, EA9ABV, EA9ACD, EA9ACE, EA9ACF, EA9ACL, EA7KI)
 Donor: Rex Turvin, NR6M

U.S.A.
 W1NA (Oprs.: W1NA, I8ULL, IC8WIC, I8QLS, N5NHJ)
 Donor: Carolina DX Assoc. – Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF & Ken Boyd, K4DXA Memorial

Canada
 VE3EJ (Oprs.: VE3EJ, VE3EK, VE3EY, VE3MM)
 Donor: John Sluymmer, VE3EJ

Africa
 CN2AA (Oprs.: R3DCX, RA3ATX, RA3CO, RA9USU, RC0F, RK3AD, RK4FW, RL3FT, RN5M, RU3RQ, RU9I, RX3APM, UA3ASZ, UA4Z, VE3LA)*
 Donor: World Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF)

Asia
 UP2L (Oprs.: R8AA, R9IR, RA9Y, RM9I, SM6LRR, UA9BA, UN4L, UN6LN, UN9LG)
 Donor: Edward L. Campbell, NW4DX – AA6BB and KA6V Memorial

Europe
 TM6M (Oprs.: F1AKK, F4DXW, F8DBF, F8FKJ)
 Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

Europe – Low Power
 IB9T (Oprs.: IT9APL, IT9BLB, IT9CLN, IT9DBF, IT9MBZ, IT9VDQ, IT9WQU, IT9ZMX, IT9ZRZU)
 Donor: EA Contest Club

Oceania
 AH2R (Oprs.: JI3ERV/NH2C, JR7OMD/WI3O, JG3RPL/N1BJ, KH2JU, JE6HIB/AH2EG, JH1ASG/W3FO)
 Donor: Junichi Tanaka, JH4RHF

South America
 FY5KE (Oprs.: F1HAR, F4CWN, F5HRY, F5UII, F6FVY, FY5FY)
 Donor: Victor Burns, K16IM – The Cuba Libre Contest Club

Caribbean/Central America
 6Y1LZ (Oprs.: 6Y5GC, 9A5K, K1LZ, K2SSS, K3JO, S55M)
 Donor: Bob Raymond, WA1Z

Japan
 JA7ZFN (Oprs.: JA7ACM, JH7XMO, JI7GBI, JP7DKQ, JR7UOL)
 Donor: Arizona Outlaws Contest Club

ASEAN (XZ HS XW XU 3W 9M 9V V8 YB DU) – Low Power
 E28AI (Oprs.: E24NQN, HS0KQR, HS5NFP, HS9YBR, E23GLG, E23WQD, E23WWT)
 Donor: Bob Kupps, N6BK

MULTI-OPERATOR, TWO TRANSMITTERS

World
 CN2R (Oprs.: OK1DO, OK1FFU, OK1JKT, OK1RI, OK1VVT, OK6NM, W7EJ)
 Donor: Array Solutions

U.S.A.
 KC1XX (Oprs.: JJ5GMJ, K1CC, K1QX, KC1XX, W1FV, WA1Z, KM3T, WP3A)
 Donor: Kimmo Chun, KH7U & Mike Gibson, KH6ND Dan Robbins, KL7Y Memorial

Europe
 ES9C (Oprs.: ES1OX, ES2ADO, ES2MC, ES2TI, ES4NY, ES5GP, ES5JR, ES5QA, ES5RY, ES5TV, ES6QC, ES7GM, YL1XN, YL3AD, YL3AJA, YL3DW)
 Donor: Aki Nagi, JA5DQH

Japan
 JA1YPA (Oprs.: JA1PEJ, JE1PMQ, JG4KZE)
 Donor: Coconut Wireless Contest Club

ASEAN (XZ HS XW XU 3W 9M 9V V8 YB DU)
 HS0AC (Oprs.: HS1FVL, HS1FU, E20ZFD, HS5NMF, E29BUQ, E23NHL, E24XUR, E24PNG, JJ1DQR, E20EHQ, E23NEZ, HS0KRM, E21FYK, HS7BHK, E21SP, E25AHH, HS7JPW, E24VRK, JA1WCV, E24MMV, HS1GAB, HS5VLE, E24PQG, E24VRP, E21GJC, E24XUS)
 Donor: Champ C. Muangamphun, E21EIC – Siam DX Group

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

World
 CN3A (Oprs.: IK2QEI, IK2SGC, IK2LFF, IZ2ZOZ, IK3STG, E77DX, LY4A, 9A6A, 9A5BWW)
 Donor: Dave Leeson, W6NL & Barb Leeson, K6BL

U.S.A.
 K3LR (Oprs.: AA4WJ, K1AR, K3LA, K3UA, K3LR, KL9A, LU7DW, N2NC, N2NT, N3GJ, N3SD, N5UM, N6MJ, W2RQ, WM2H)
 Donor: Jim Lawson, W2PV Memorial

Europe
 M6T (Oprs.: G0AEV, G0VJG, G0WCW, G2NF, G4BUO, G4PIQ, G7TWC, M0BCT, M0CLW, M0HKB, M0MDR, M0SDV, M0TGV, M1ACB, PT2FM)
 Donor: Finnish Amateur Radio League

CONTEST EXPEDITIONS

World Single Operator
 T8ED (Opr.: Tetsuya Sakabe, JA7XBG)
 Donor: National Capitol DX Association - Stuart Meyer, W2GHK Memorial

World Multi-Op
 VK9CZ (Oprs.: GM3WOJ, GM4YXI)
 Donor: Gail Sheehan, K2RED

*Awarded to second place finisher



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3 star	2
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1 star	0

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ing because their log was more accurate. In other words, these entrants “came from behind.” While they had an initial rank of X using their RAW score, they ended up in position X-1 when ranked by the final score. On a world score basis, 3,347 entrants improved their final ranking due to a more accurate log than their competitors. And 26 of them were in the World Top 5 by their category of entry. Here is the listing of these impressive entrants.

Call	Category	World Rank	Final Score
K3LR	MM	3	19,187,946
ES9C	M2	4	14,124,964
VA3DF	AB-L-A	4	1,899,235
C6ARW	AB-L-U	2	1,897,350
S57DX	20M-H-A	5	1,079,190
CF7RR	20M-H-U	3	923,580
RT5K	20M-H-U	5	814,320
CO6LC	15M-L-U	5	382,145
IF9A	20M-L-A	3	334,050
IT9STX	20M-L-A	4	333,168
S56A	40M-L-A	4	164,724
SV9GPV	10M-L-A	4	121,968
G3Y	20M-L-U	5	108,014
LW5DPG	10M-L-U	4	86,190
CO8ZZ	40M-L-U	4	68,931
OK2VWB	40M-Q-U	3	27,056
GW2X	160M-H-U	3	23,313
JM1NKT	20M-Q-A	5	20,475
RW3AI	20M-Q-U	5	18,023
YL2PP	160M-H-U	5	15,176
RD3K	160M-L-A	3	14,112
OK1JOK	160M-L-U	4	9,776
HA7I	160M-Q-A	2	5,547
9A4AA	15M-Q-A	1	3,973
3G3O	10M-Q-A	5	1,159
YC3PPD	40M-Q-A	5	336

All About You, the Entrant

Ever wonder where the logs come from or what the numbers by category look like? We do! By far, the largest number of logs are from Europe.

All Categories of Logs		
Continent	# of logs	% of all
AF	85	1.0%
AS	1,079	12.5%
EU	4,157	48.3%
NA	2,437	28.3%
OC	394	4.6%
SA	456	5.3%
ALL	8,608	100%

As for category of entry, you may be surprised. Most entrants are Single-Operator, all-band (SOAB). Second are Single-Band entrants. With limited time and sunspots, that makes sense. The rest (not including check logs or other actions by the committee logs), are shown below. One might wonder why Multi-Multi (MM) gets so much coverage in the write up, since they are a very tiny group of logs. There are more than 5 times as many QRP logs as there are MM logs. Maybe we need more focus on Low Power and more on Europe and SOAB categories. Hmmm?

Type	Count	Percent
SOAB	5,259	61.1%
Single Band	2,277	26.5%
MS (Multi-Single)	428	5.0%
QRP	298	3.5%
M2 (Multi-Two)	107	1.2%
MM (Multi-Multi)	56	0.7%

Continent	Power Analysis			Grand Total
	HIGH	LOW	QRP	
AF	33	31		64
AS	363	555	38	956
EU	1,264	2,064	188	3,516
NA	1,103	1,102	37	2,242
OC	106	227	18	351
SA	110	280	17	407
Grand Total	2,979	4,259	298	7,536

Assisted Analysis: includes Single-Op Only		
Continent	ASSISTED	NON-ASSISTED
AF	21	43
AS	323	633
EU	1,435	2,081
NA	1,003	1,239
OC	110	241
SA	189	218
Grand Total	3,081	4,455

Assisted Analysis %, includes Single-Op Only		
Continent	ASSISTED	NON-ASSISTED
AF	32.8%	67.2%
AS	33.8%	66.2%
EU	40.8%	59.2%
NA	44.7%	55.3%
OC	31.3%	68.7%
SA	46.4%	53.6%
Grand Total	40.9%	59.1%

Time Study

A lot of folks gripe about not being able to stay awake all those hours. Well, it's true; it's difficult to stay awake, and relatively very few entrants make it past 40 hours. Doing the math, 25% of entrants operate less than 4.5 hours; 50% operate less than 9.3 hours; and 75% operate less than 17.2 hours. Operating more than 40 hours really puts you up into the rarified strata. So don't worry about how many hours you can operate. Just get on, have some fun, and remember to send us your log.

Hours	# of Logs	% of all	cum %
0-5	1433	27.7%	27.7%
5.1-10	1291	25.0%	52.7%
10.1-15	865	16.8%	69.5%
15.1-20	578	11.2%	80.7%
20.1-25	427	8.3%	89.0%
25.1-30	255	4.9%	93.9%
30.1-35	173	3.4%	97.3%
35.1-40	79	1.5%	98.8%
up to 41	14	0.3%	99.1%
up to 42	11	0.2%	99.3%
up to 43	9	0.2%	99.4%
up to 44	7	0.1%	99.6%
up to 45	7	0.1%	99.7%
up to 46	6	0.1%	99.8%
up to 47	1	0.0%	99.8%
up to 48	8	0.2%	100.0%

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

<p>Zone 3</p> <p>K6XX1,995,490 W6TK834,912 N7ZG748,880 W6AFA636,350 NX1P604,920</p>	<p>Zone 5</p> <p>VY2ZM8,514,880 K1DG6,769,048 W2RE6,692,379 NR3X5,905,782 N5DX5,825,913</p>	<p>Zone 15</p> <p>TK9R5,839,788 ES6RW2,956,115 IO2X2,733,805 YL2GD1,856,778 *HA3NU1,418,480</p>	<p>Zone 20</p> <p>H2T3,572,603 YPØC3,398,771 4Z5LY1,675,320 YO3VU727,659 YO3RU443,552</p>
<p>Zone 4</p> <p>XL3T7,343,728 W9RE3,925,128 N9RV2,481,972 KØEJ2,310,120 N2IC1,955,766</p>	<p>Zone 14</p> <p>EA5DFV3,117,768 DJ5MW3,047,198 *EI1A1,797,582 DL7BC1,177,908 DL1WA1,057,680</p>	<p>Zone 16</p> <p>US5D (UT7DX)....2,538,200 RT9S2,325,724 R8WF1,508,420 RM4HZ1,085,077 RM2U1,073,550</p>	<p>Zone 25</p> <p>JH4UYB3,479,617 JE6RPM1,823,290 JA7NVF1,167,790 JH3CUL737,704 JR1GSE693,528</p>

*Low Power

Border Control Report

Adhering to the band edge is important. Last year (2016 contest), we removed a lot of QSOs that were Out-Of-Band (OOB) contacts. You only knew about it if you looked carefully at your individual log analysis. In composing the 2017 rules, we added a notation for ITU Region 1 (ITU R1 is the same as IARU R1). And now we make it very clear in your individual reports. And obviously, we are focusing attention on it here.

For 2017 SSB, we found and removed 601 OOB QSOs from entrant logs. They came from 300 separate logs. Approximately, 65% of the 300 made just one OOB contact while 14.3% made two such contacts. Remarkably, five folks made 10 or more OOB Qs. It might be time to set some additional penalties for “excessive” OOB QSOs.

When identifying OOB contacts, we did not rely on the frequency in the submitted logs. Every OOB QSO was *confirmed* via audio using our global SDR system files. Yes, it



The team at 3V8SS during the 2017 CQWW DX SSB Contest.



The shack at LY7Z.



D4Z and D4C have an excellent view for the 2017 CQWW DX SSB Contest.

2017 CQWW DX SSB TOP SCORES

<p>WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>8P5A 13,794,654 P40T 10,358,145 VY2ZM 8,514,880 XL3T 7,343,728 K1DG 6,769,048 W2RE 6,692,379 ZF9CW 6,564,075 NR3X 5,905,782 TK9R 5,839,788 N5DX 5,825,913</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>CW5W 1,178,376 LW7DX 650,670 CE2AWW 420,954</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>D4Z 2,954,982 CR6T 1,356,736 CV7S 1,134,296</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>E17M 1,388,640 F8ARK 1,210,440 CF7RR 923,580</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>RU1A 671,974 4X2M 632,392 LZ8A 579,810</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>E70T 280,245 OK8WW 199,662 K4ZW 128,594</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>HG8R 95,459 G4L 24,750 GW2X 23,313</p> <p>LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>H13T 3,303,664 C6ARW 1,897,350 E11A 1,797,582 V3A 1,547,808 HA3NU 1,418,480 N1PGA 1,036,480 N8II 1,009,896 UX1UX 896,080 VE9HF 683,880 M1U (M0UTD) 621,569</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>EA8TX 400,710 CB3LR 142,926 LW5DPG 86,190</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>9Y4D 1,195,122 YV4YC 1,101,992 CO6HLP 600,210</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>MI0M 257,504 RA3XM 127,800 OM6DN 126,636</p>	<p>7 MHz</p> <p>EA7RM 139,776 LA2AB 114,466 HS0ZIA 73,854</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>PA2TMS 86,240 LY2BMX 61,965 F5BEG 61,688</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>SN0R 33,062 SQ5GVY 18,468 SP5CJY 13,395</p> <p>QRP All Band</p> <p>KR2Q 644,160 HG6C 427,785 JR4DAH 266,104 G4CWH 250,756 JH10GC 224,301 UT5EOX 195,027 UA30Q 161,100 SP4LVK 112,714 UX2MF 105,090 PW5T 86,412</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>LU7VCH 32,096 J5KAP 17,263 R7NA 12,772</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>HG3C 43,952 K8ZT 24,820 SP5DDJ 20,826 JR2EKD 20,808</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>TG9ADQ 131,824 IZ1ANK 42,585 CT1BXT 30,952</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>KP3LR 64,676 LY5G 36,260 OK2VWB 27,056</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>SQ8MFB 10,296 CR5M 6,578 DO4HZ 5,136</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>HA5NB 3,680 SQ2BXI 3,535 VA3XO 2,431</p> <p>ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>P33W 13,936,272 ZX5J 10,324,320 DL6FBL 9,525,360 S57AL 5,654,932 LY7Z 5,520,064 S53M 5,162,560 K5ZD 4,570,185 K3WW 4,558,642 ZZZT 4,377,347 W3UA 4,341,753</p>	<p>28 MHz</p> <p>LU7HN 461,010 CT9/DJ2YA 434,343 IT9BUN 128,934</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>CX2DK 1,896,412 CQ3W 1,603,296 9A9A 1,495,239</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>D4C 2,327,904 KH7XS 1,623,645 S50K 1,297,405</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>UP0L 1,018,720 OK7K 796,854 SN3A 762,125</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>OM2VL 398,130 9A8M 306,652 UA2F 279,744</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>5B4AIF 117,180 S530 82,998 EU4A 80,388</p> <p>ASSISTED LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>P40W 5,077,050 TM3Z 2,356,263 HA4XH 2,047,222 SP5DF 1,899,235 UW6E 1,867,020 RA3Y 1,376,000 EW1P 1,200,870 RL6M 1,196,848 YO7SR 1,180,848 KS1J 1,115,926</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>LU9DDJ 220,214 PU2SDX 160,378 HZ1SK 135,622</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>PY2UD 512,080 BD7BM 486,286 I18M 401,301</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>UR3GU 473,628 S520T 402,744 IF9A 334,050</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>9A5Y 286,800 YT5X 239,496 OL9R 198,648</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>UK9AA 120,951 HG0R 95,056 EU2EU 94,738</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>E74R 43,200</p>	<p>LZ2JE 34,050 RD3K 14,112</p> <p>ASSISTED QRP All Band</p> <p>OK2FD 391,710 RT4W 247,086 YU1LM 108,000 IZ0FUW 102,816 IK1ZOF 69,520 PE2K 38,478 IZ8JFL 32,660 DO8YX 28,215 JK1TCV 27,768 HA5BA 27,000</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>PY2ZA 17,934 PU2RTO 6,042 SP5EWX 2,709</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>9A4AA 3,973 E1E (E15KF) 3,731 YC2VOC 3,204</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>UZ7M 91,800 YP8W 56,232 TA3AER 40,755</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>IT9GAK 34,040 LX/G1TPA/P 28,842 ES40 2,652</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>OZ60M 15,892 UT5WAA 2,013 HA8V 1,943</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>YO9FLD 5,841 HA7I (HA7JTR) 5,547 EU1AA 5,375</p> <p>MULTI-OP SINGLE TRANSMITTER High Power</p> <p>EF8R 31,451,984 CN2AA 27,771,275 CR3A 20,170,863 FY5KE 18,259,920 TM6M 13,676,145 LX7I 13,415,550 UP2L 13,011,399 IR4M 12,836,928 IR4X 12,798,432 9K2HN 12,730,971</p> <p>Low Power</p> <p>ED9E 4,485,280 3V8SS 3,172,500 I9BT 3,082,500 IQ3RK 2,630,880 ZW8T 2,158,650 YP7P 1,898,397 A61FK 1,584,740 PR1T 1,493,172 EA3CI 1,399,658 IZ8XXE 1,155,807</p>	<p>MULTI-OP TWO TRANSMITTER</p> <p>CN2R 26,206,313 PZ5K 23,541,502 PJ4G 17,801,244 ES9C 14,124,964 PX2A 13,941,148 PJ4Q 13,356,636 KC1XX 13,350,755 9A7A 13,087,800 LT1F 12,425,000 EC2DX 12,330,400</p> <p>MULTI-OP MULTI-TRANSMITTER</p> <p>CN3A 34,131,377 A73A 19,654,817 K3LR 19,187,946 PU2T 18,646,320 A44A 16,487,691 V26B 14,638,603 W3LPL 14,193,245 M6T 13,456,575 DF0HQ 13,414,101 LZ9W 12,984,558</p> <p>ROOKIE High Power</p> <p>LB1AH 773,816 DK6MP 642,200 TK4RB 631,736 F4HRM 359,060 M0VCB 304,794 K4AKK 289,712 C93PA 235,620 DK5RL 209,884 EA8DET 186,202 W3XOX 132,111</p> <p>ROOKIE Low Power</p> <p>EW7BA 267,850 PA9S 242,795 KM4SII 222,642 OH1XFE 176,484 OH5Y 143,060 SP5WIT 137,313 IU4HMY 133,749 M0TWB 121,326 W2XK 114,774 EA4GSL 111,735</p> <p>CLASSIC High Power</p> <p>P49Y 5,370,008 4L0A 3,920,940 H2T 3,572,603 DJ5MMW 3,047,198 VA2WA 3,021,744 ES6RW 2,943,738 KQ2M 2,367,480 RT9S 2,325,724 N2IC 1,955,766 YL2GD 1,856,778</p> <p>CLASSIC Low Power</p> <p>HA3NU 1,418,480 N8II 1,009,896 V3A 914,628 M1U 621,569 US0HZ 545,445 RU9AC 483,531</p>	<p>K1HT 353,438 MM1E 330,544 UA3BL 320,736 N2GA 320,320</p> <p>UNITED STATES SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>K1DG 6,769,048 W2RE 6,692,379 NR3X 5,905,782 N5DX 5,825,913 N1UR 4,848,096 W9RE 3,925,128 AA1K 3,715,191 N9RV 2,481,972 KQ2M 2,367,480 K0EJ 2,310,120</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>W5PR 32,760 K4WI 19,812 W4DD 18,241</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>KU2M 591,840 N4OX 303,298 WD5K 124,200</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>NN3W 591,680 N5CR 184,800 K2YY/6 154,810</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>W7WA 251,505 W1XX 119,068 KM5VI 29,842</p> <p>3.7 MHz</p> <p>K4ZW 128,594 W3BGN 88,032 W4QNW 22,536</p> <p>1.8 MHz</p> <p>AG4W 5,838 W2VO 3,636</p> <p>LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>N1PGA 1,036,480 N8II 1,009,896 AC0W 513,264 N6RV 457,056 N7IR 456,494 K5FUV 415,584 K7ACZ 365,638 K1HT 353,438 N2GA 320,320 K3SU 295,456</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>NV4B 4,896 KA3MZR 1,800 N2VIG 1,680</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>W2AW (N2GM) 124,956 K5KJ 111,531 K0BBB 67,288</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>N5JJ 69,720</p>
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was a lot of work for us and we hope that you get the message. When you make an OOB QSO, you are wasting your time because it **will be removed**. Even worse, some of you attempted to "hide" what you did by changing the discrete frequency in your log. Come on guys, you think we don't know where the QSO actually took place? Working an OOB contact is most likely an error; changing the frequency in your log to hide it is *cheating*.

Somewhat surprising to us is that we found more U.S. entrants operating OOB than ITU R1 entrants. Everybody worldwide needs to know where the band-edge is, for their country and their license class. Sure, some folks get caught up in the excitement of the contest. It happens and most of us have done it at least once. If you only do it once or twice, you have not wasted a lot of time. If the guy you worked OOB was a mult and you didn't try to work "another one" that was not OOB, then you lost that mult. Just wait until the mult comes up/down into "your part" of the band before you attempt to make a QSO.

We did further analysis on the OOB QSOs. We think that, especially for Europe, contesters are just clicking on DXCluster spots and not bothering to check the frequency. Check out the table below.

Tracking who works OOB QSOs		
QTH	ASSISTED	UNASSISTED
USA count	230	151
DX count	190	30
Total Count	420	181
USA %	60.4%	39.6%
DX %	86.4%	13.6%

Speaking of Assisted

The world of "assisted" continues to morph. Sure, it is fun to just click, click, click and work guys. A big problem is that

K3SWZ56,352
N7FLT51,980

7 MHz

W2AAB10,914
WA7NWL2,700
KE4KVC2,370

3.7 MHz

W4PGM1,288

QRP All Band

KR2Q644,160
K2YGM78,110
W6QU70,007
ND0C44,880
W6VH5,043
K8CN3,225
W59V2,432
W4TTZ1,530

28 MHz

N4IHS468

21 MHz

K8ZT24,820

14 MHz

K2GMY5,265
KZ3I4,914

ASSISTED HIGH POWER All Band

K5ZD4,570,185
K3WW4,558,642
W3UA4,341,753
AB3CX3,924,195
AA3B3,771,632
K1ZZ3,346,460
N3RS3,326,904
N2RJ3,168,662
N2SR2,838,112
N2MM2,683,652

28 MHz

N6SS23,952
K4YYL3,900
W3IP2,523

21 MHz

N6WM191,280
K2UR143,374
WA3C/899,036

14 MHz

N2PP522,668
N7DD495,680
N4PN475,244

7 MHz

K3EST242,296
K3MA124,084
K2RD102,360

3.7 MHz

W3NO68,706
K1KNQ49,588
KM2G12,155

1.8 MHz

W2MF10,835
N4RJ4,404

ASSISTED LOW POWER All Band

KS1J1,115,926
W3KB957,600
N2SQW765,360
K7WP497,777
W4ZAO481,901
W1AEC456,672
N1API438,212
K8LY422,406
AA0AI369,642
AA4R299,450

21 MHz

W9ILY53,865
N3TD48,208
N9TF46,812

14 MHz

N4IJ144,988
N9TGR93,360
WK9U78,600

7 MHz

WA1FCN43,022
KB3LIX9,024

3.7 MHz

AB4B26,714
KK4BZ3,876
NM9P2,349

1.8 MHz

N4OC1,403

ASSISTED QRP All Band

K4SSE690

14 MHz

K7HBN828

1.8 MHz

K3TW276

MULTI-OP SINGLE TRANSMITTER High Power

W1NA6,411,252
K1XM5,329,986
K5TR4,429,061
K8AZ4,383,540
N4WW4,052,724
NV9L4,004,079
N1MM3,211,747
AA9A3,086,366
WX1S1,835,541
W3MF1,823,481

Low Power

WK1DS306,772
WA1F141,588
N8YXR116,382
W8AJT52,700
K7JAN36,166
W6BHZ35,640
W6NJB27,136
ND6U4,560
N5XXD3,456

MULTI-OP TWO TRANSMITTER

KC1XX13,350,755

K2LE5,316,135
WWALL5,096,979
K9CT4,207,896
N7AT2,606,752
K2AX2,274,171
WA3EKL2,063,000
W2CG1,749,956
K7ZS1,389,214
WB2P1,373,625

MULTI-OP MULTI-TRANSMITTER

K3LR19,187,946
W3LPL14,193,245
K1TTT8,799,840
K1KI4,399,488
K1KP3,314,400
W0AIH3,193,344
N5AA2,340,700
NE3F2,099,512
W1CSM1,156,965
K0BBC286,612

ROOKIE High Power

K4AKK289,712
W3XOX132,111
KD2IWW126,100
K2RYD92,184
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NN2T102,510
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K2MV35,310
AA5DX31,242
NQ5M27,192
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W3LL1,767,768
AA1K1,692,288
KD2RD1,513,673
N5AW1,282,424
W1WEF921,633
NX1P604,920
W4KW537,230
K3TC511,280

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K1HT353,438
N2GA320,320
K1BX274,950
W3MMM252,572
K1VSJ208,832
AC2RL193,536
K4SXT161,352
KC4TEO159,399
W0ETT146,306

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many "clickers" are not waiting to copy the callsign of the person they just worked. That's a big mistake. As a QRPer (often waiting in line), I cannot tell you how many times I am waiting for the DX to give his call, when I hear a string of cluster users stop by in rapid succession. They throw their call in, make a QSO, and instantly QSY. Hey wait a minute. How did you get his call? Sure, you just trusted the DX spot. It is startling to see how many bad calls (-B) there are because of that. Yes, we can, and do, listen to some of those QSOs (or should we say "QSOs" because they really are not valid QSOs).

In the old days, contesters used spotting networks as a source of additional information; a potential new-one to work. Increasingly, "spots" are being used as method of communication from someone trying to establish contact with the person they want to contact. That is not good. That is using non-amateur means to arrange a QSO. What's next? Will we see spot comments such as "Good QSO, you are in my log"

2017 CQWW 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	158/11/30	658/18/74	2134/29/108	2059/35/104	3034/32/116	991/21/64
P40T	38/8/18	222/16/42	1996/30/109	1280/31/104	2427/31/111	529/16/49
VY2ZM	334/14/61	731/20/81	1227/25/100	1784/31/111	1398/22/99	35/8/18
XL3T	178/9/18	784/18/69	976/23/74	1999/32/116	1668/27/110	38/10/26
K1DG	101/12/44	333/19/78	525/24/81	1364/31/108	1979/25/109	87/12/29

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K1DG	101/12/44	333/19/78	525/24/81	1364/31/108	1979/25/109	87/12/29
W2RE	77/9/31	245/16/67	771/25/87	1371/29/104	2017/26/105	68/8/22
NR3X	29/7/14	241/16/69	610/23/91	1180/33/105	1864/24/110	142/11/28
N5DX	62/13/34	243/18/75	776/22/97	1042/32/114	1407/23/105	91/10/28
N1UR	29/8/14	321/17/74	505/23/92	1226/33/103	1183/25/97	128/11/31

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
P33W	182/11/59	426/18/80	1056/30/106	1636/38/137	2320/37/142	797/25/94
ZX5J	33/9/19	194/22/65	566/28/89	1271/38/110	2162/36/137	1339/26/106
DL6FBL	209/11/62	601/16/89	1096/34/122	1994/38/132	1390/37/143	237/22/74
S57AL	161/9/56	756/18/81	1075/31/113	1513/35/121	718/37/132	71/20/50
LY7Z	408/9/63	792/19/82	845/30/113	1573/36/123	865/34/128	189/17/50

USA SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K5ZD	31/9/17	155/16/67	217/23/78	1029/33/121	1321/27/119	117/12/35
K3WVW	54/10/29	238/18/79	231/23/87	854/30/118	1313/24/117	130/13/39
W3UA	45/9/28	152/16/70	395/24/90	940/31/113	1184/23/113	138/12/30
AB3CX	34/8/17	233/16/74	214/24/86	826/30/117	988/25/118	185/12/34
AA3B	49/10/27	161/15/69	275/23/90	859/27/111	1026/25/113	108/11/33

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
EF8R	290/17/80	1054/25/105	2524/35/131	3030/39/153	3060/39/160	1738/31/126
CN2AA	237/18/80	976/26/106	2463/35/127	3272/39/151	3227/39/155	531/29/120
CR3A	213/15/65	1071/23/96	1046/32/110	1707/37/136	3246/39/141	1059/28/115
FY5KE	62/11/35	636/25/87	1167/35/123	1469/39/147	2422/37/151	2045/30/120
TM6M	196/11/64	766/21/94	1547/36/129	2548/36/133	2422/38/153	108/22/72

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
W1NA	28/9/27	324/17/81	606/28/102	1305/35/123	1606/30/125	93/13/38
K1XM	40/10/32	344/19/81	628/27/107	1132/34/130	1137/27/124	45/13/43
K5TR	27/12/24	102/22/66	964/34/113	744/34/122	1324/31/129	56/15/35
K8AZ	32/12/29	204/19/72	361/31/102	840/37/130	1111/27/125	42/14/41
N4WW	37/11/35	157/18/78	782/32/113	983/32/118	655/30/119	58/13/27

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
CN2R	136/11/44	1475/25/97	2587/32/121	2704/35/128	3862/38/136	975/26/94
PZ5K	188/13/47	755/22/83	2421/33/110	2083/36/121	3590/34/132	1919/27/120
PJ4G	110/14/33	807/22/83	1638/31/116	2457/34/124	3067/34/127	1103/24/66
ES9C	539/14/76	1516/23/103	2070/33/135	3199/39/149	2249/37/164	207/22/73
PX2A	6/6/5	52/14/41	721/31/104	1596/37/125	3593/35/136	1637/27/115

USA MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

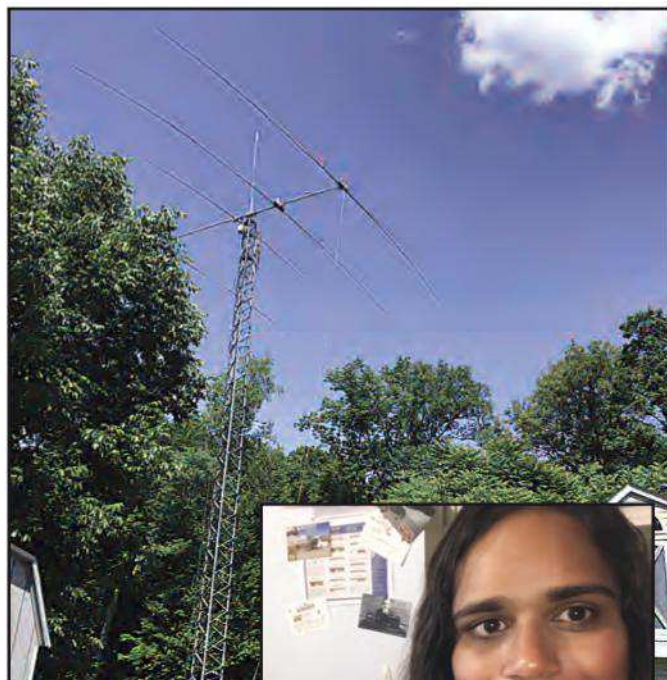
Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
KC1XX	67/13/35	509/25/97	992/28/115	2107/33/139	961/27/114	224/21/60
K9CT	65/11/21	177/21/59	645/29/90	628/27/107	1132/34/130	501/28/90
N7AT	12/5/5	265/24/44	695/29/72	523/29/75	661/29/74	142/16/38
KA1ZD	31/9/18	95/15/47	222/23/82	410/27/109	336/26/91	189/19/55
W2CG	24/7/17	98/19/54	215/25/74	445/29/105	358/26/88	211/17/50

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
CN3A	418/14/68	1535/22/104	3431/33/130	2770/38/135	3822/39/148	1896/30/128
A73A	211/10/52	613/20/76	1981/31/120	2473/38/145	2924/36/137	1238/29/103
K3LR	536/18/59	808/27/101	2062/36/135	2812/39/156	2915/33/146	367/21/51
PJ2T	96/12/25	602/22/79	2282/29/103	2975/37/123	3503/30/121	1133/19/60
A44A	332/10/56	583/18/75	1388/31/115	1985/37/135	2795/33/137	1311/29/105

USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
K3LR	536/18/59	808/27/101	2062/36/135	2812/39/156	2915/33/146	367/21/51
W3LPL	407/17/59	663/21/93	1798/34/127	2363/36/138	1811/30/135	426/18/47
K1TTT	158/11/37	584/22/84	940/30/108	2070/36/131	1314/28/126	346/19/47
K1KI	47/10/27	251/17/77	723/32/111	804/31/119	810/24/113	78/13/34
K1KP	31/8/7	219/16/63	431/23/87	1014/31/103	992/23/108	6/5/6



N2RJ's antenna.

N2RJ poses for a selfie in front of her Flex Maestro.

hoping that the other end will reciprocate by logging him if the QSO was shaky, or worse, non-existent? We see that often for DXing, but not for contesting. Don't do it. DX spotting is supposed to be used as a resource for gathering DX data; it is not supposed to be a substitute for your radio. Things are getting out of hand (if not there already).

With the "assisted" category moving farther beyond past practices, and more and more functioning as a social media mode of ancillary communication, I am becoming convinced that this category should never be "merged" in any way, shape, or form with the minority of vocal operators (that gets smaller every year) who shout, "keep single-op unassisted separate!"

Closing Remarks

We would like to thank the many contesters out there who continue to send us suggestions on where to look to identify potential unsportsmanlike behavior that they have observed or suspect. We check every one of them out; keep 'em coming! The CQWW Contest is the biggest and best contest going (always has been) and appreciate everyone's input to keep it that way.

At this time, we enthusiastically look forward to seeing all of you again on October 27, 28 on Phone and on November 24, 25 on CW in 2018.

And finally, many thanks to the members of the CQWW Contest Committee, whose help, suggestions, expertise, and even criticism, make the contest the huge success that it is: CT1BOH, José Nunes; EA4KD, Pedro Vadillo; ES5TV, Tonno Vahk; F6BEE, Jacques Saget; GØMTN, Lee Volante; HA1AG, Zoli Pitman; IK2QEI, Stefano Brioschi; JH5GHM,

what's new

EUROPE TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	160	80	40	20	15	10
TK9R	322/8/48	617/14/67	785/22/90	1979/31/96	1393/30/106	190/15/55
YP0C	141/7/33	514/11/55	1134/27/83	1141/27/80	1327/28/90	128/18/44
EA5DFV	62/7/34	251/8/48	737/25/83	854/19/61	1869/25/96	138/8/30
DJ5MW	93/6/37	275/11/48	522/23/78	1290/30/84	570/32/102	120/16/50
ES6RW	146/8/43	394/15/59	467/28/78	1041/31/82	805/32/99	225/17/59

EUROPE SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

DL6FBL	209/11/62	601/16/89	1096/34/122	1994/38/132	1390/37/143	237/22/74
S57AL	161/9/56	756/18/81	1075/31/113	1513/35/121	718/37/132	71/20/50
LY7Z	408/9/63	792/19/82	845/30/113	1573/36/123	865/34/128	189/17/50
S53M	102/10/51	596/15/78	652/31/99	1090/37/115	1101/35/128	169/20/61
YL2SM	202/13/64	427/18/82	568/29/102	934/36/118	747/35/135	142/22/63

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

TM6M	196/11/64	766/21/94	1547/36/129	2548/36/133	2422/38/153	108/22/72
LX7I	299/13/71	924/22/98	1967/34/126	2380/38/145	2059/38/149	149/23/93
IR4M	73/13/71	619/20/95	1773/34/123	2675/38/145	1769/37/150	103/25/81
IR4X	140/13/72	524/20/96	1547/36/132	2622/39/147	1842/39/154	130/24/92
OM7M	126/13/69	826/26/98	1534/35/134	2541/39/146	1499/38/150	84/25/84

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

ES9C	539/14/76	1516/23/103	2070/33/135	3199/39/149	2249/37/164	207/22/73
9A7A	184/12/63	1094/21/92	2011/34/134	2564/39/141	2148/38/149	172/26/76
EC2DX	229/12/65	1240/24/103	1530/32/115	2940/36/132	2585/38/144	146/23/76
HG7T	302/12/66	1302/24/98	1771/32/131	2408/39/133	1612/38/153	339/25/87
YT5A	205/12/60	1116/22/91	1663/33/112	2311/38/133	1379/36/138	133/25/81

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

M6T	919/11/67	1964/23/98	3003/36/137	2145/37/138	1453/34/128	543/21/95
DF0HQ	906/13/74	1442/21/98	2974/32/142	2137/39/151	1246/38/145	521/28/106
LZ9W	753/12/74	1645/25/103	2193/33/131	3158/37/137	1727/38/146	463/26/89
CU4DX	232/12/49	1048/17/86	1487/27/97	2516/32/107	2966/30/99	1130/24/96
OT5A	756/13/64	1320/15/74	2677/36/135	1430/36/104	1113/34/120	355/20/66

Katsuhiko (Don) Kondou; K1AR, John Dorr; K1DG, Doug Grant; K3LR, Tim Duffy; K3WW, Charles Fulp; K3ZO, Alfred A. (Fred) Laun, III; K5ZD, Randy Thompson; KR2Q, Doug Zwiebel; LU5DX, Martin Monsalvo; N8BJQ, Steve Bolia; OH6LI, Jukka Klemola; PA3AAV, Gert Meinen; RA3AUU, Igor (Harry) Booklan; S5ØA, Tine Brajnik; S5ØXX, Kristjan Kodermac; UA9CDC, Igor Sokolov; VE3EJ, John Sluymmer; VK2IA, Bernd Laenger; W4PA, Scott Robbins; W5OV, Bob Naumann; YO3JR, Andrei (Andy) Ruse; YU1EW, Zoran Mladenovic.

(Continued on page 94)



The team of the Red Forest Contest Station, SV1DPI.

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Did you ever want a full-fledged CW QRP transmitter that can fit on your keychain that actually works? Well QuirkyQRP Ham Radios has the solution for you with its micro-sized CW ham radios that are small enough to keep attached to your car keys.

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A non-contester looks at the very many reasons that he, and other hams like him, can benefit from being on the air during a major contest like the CQ World Wide.

The CQ World Wide DX Contest: What's In It For Me?

A Look at the CQWW SSB DX Contest by a Non-Contester

BY MICHAEL J. CHARTERIS,* VK4QS, VK4XQM

Hi, I'm Mike Charteris, VK4QS, and in my humble opinion, one of the best radio contests each year is the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest, which takes place annually on the last full weekend of October. This is said as a non-contester, who, like many other radio amateurs, ask myself, "What's really in it for me?" Or for that matter, for you?

October 30th 2017, the clock has just passed 00:00 UTC, and it's 10 o'clock Monday morning here in Australia. The annual CQ World Wide DX Contest has finally concluded as sharply as it began two days before. Now the bands have fallen eerily silent, despite the propagation that still exists. And all who participated begin the task of scoring and evaluation of this global amateur radio event.

For many of the amateur radio fraternity throughout the world, "contests" generally are a right royal pain in the neck, and considered as lost radio weekends. These events see the HF spectrum enveloped by thousands of determined operators seeking contacts worldwide with other enthusiasts just as keen, if not as mad, as themselves. For the rest of us, it does not get any worse, with the bands being full of foreign signals that somehow interfere with our version of the hobby. A full weekend of garbled "Duck-talk" cacophony that fills the bands like some biblical plague of swarming locusts from earlier times. Here then, for two days, the Propagation Gods amuse themselves listening to the "big guns" along with all and sundry who take the time to be part of this global radio event.

Now, before I paint too harsh a portrait of contests and those who pursue them, let's consider who some of these people are and what actually drives them. Let it also be said that in the end, contests are in fact two-way streets with much to offer everyone who makes an effort to participate. Many have made the effort to save their pennies for a year or more to travel to exotic locations and activate seldom-heard DX entities. This is not only for the contesters' benefit, but for all us seeking to work them, perhaps for the very first time. Then there are the other operators who are distinctly more financially well-heeled than most of us. They have dedicated a lifetime to perfecting their stations for the purposes of contesting and DXing. Such investments have seen many tens of thousands of dollars go into establishing so called "con-

test stations" for the original form of social media, "amateur radio." These radio mega structures and their operators seek to somehow defy the "Propagation Gods" through their hardware, software, and radio knowledge. Their sole purpose and mission is to be heard despite any adverse conditions Mother Nature or the universe can throw at them.

So where does that leave the rest of us who are caught in the crossfire with a comparatively standard station setup at our various QTHs across the world? We, who are "the many," playing the game in other ways with different goals and agendas across a broad field of options within the hobby. We are neither classed as "contesters" nor described as "diehard amateur radio operators." Alas, we come from both ends of the spectrum and everywhere in between.

You may be an avid QRP station using basic wire antennas whose achievements every day are most commendable with low power. Maybe you operate radios with just standard output power and a vertical you homebrewed due to space restrictions. For you, just being in the game is enough of a challenge daily. Or perhaps you're the veteran DXer with most of the preferred options such as a tower, a Yagi and the "full gallon" kilowatt. You indeed hold a couple of aces to make life on the HF bands more manageable when it comes to directing RF around the globe.

Having said that, we all have our place and our views as to what the hobby should be for each and every one of us. But in effect, and by consequence, "we" are all in fact both the audience and the appreciation for the efforts of those contesters, their megastations, and the exotic locations from which they operate. With this as a primary fact, you and I are as much a needed entity as anyone else from a world zone point of view. Thus, regardless of how you feel, do not underestimate the importance of your role on the world stage that is the CQWW DX Contest. For if it was not for "us" of the many, the contesters themselves would only hear the rest of their tribe working each other while "we" turned our backs and delivered them bands of silence.

But ironically, how else are we of the "average tribe" to hear and potentially contact rare DX from exotic locations across the vastness of the globe, if not by way of the opportunities such a contest presents? Some rare stations at exotic locations only get on the air for contests. So the question remains, "What's in it for me?" the so-called "non-contester," when it comes to the CQ World Wide DX Contest?

* email: mikevk4qs@gmail.com



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Well my friends, the answer is plenty, but it all depends on how you look at it. From this point forward, I can offer you my own approach to this particular radio event. I hope that you may take away a few good points and perhaps slightly alter your views on such events that constantly enlighten our worldwide interactive hobby.

Set Goals for Yourself

The CQ World Wide DX Contest sees the world broken up into 40 zones, with many participation options on offer. I decided a few years ago to set myself a couple of goals of my own based on that I would never win any part of the contest. Once you adopt this outlook, then any contacts you make are a bonus towards your own DXing goals. I chose to utilize this weekend of RF hysteria to challenge myself and my station, and to assess where improvements could be made with the following eight goals as a guide.

1) To work as many zones as possible out of the 40 up for grabs, propagation pending;

2) To work only one or possibly two stations from each zone if they became available;

3) To work as many exotic DX stations as possible within a zone, even if it overrules Goal No. 2;

4) To increase my overall country count worldwide for DX awards across the 40 zones (see *Photo A*).

5) To QSL those exotic DX stations that would do so, after a confirming email reply.

6) To plot and understand how well or poorly my antennas worked to certain areas.

7) To learn to LISTEN more and talk less, thus waiting for the right moment to strike.

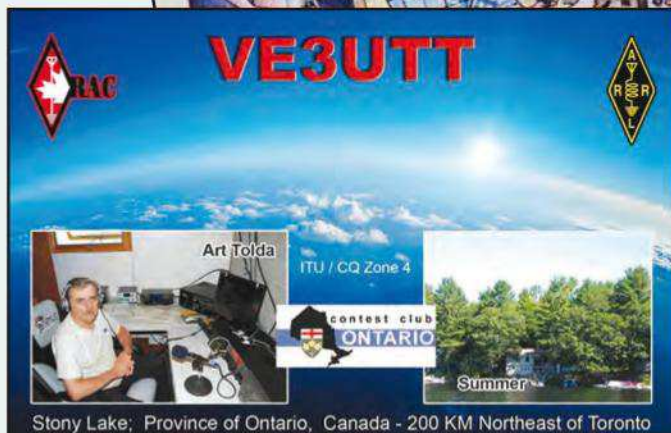
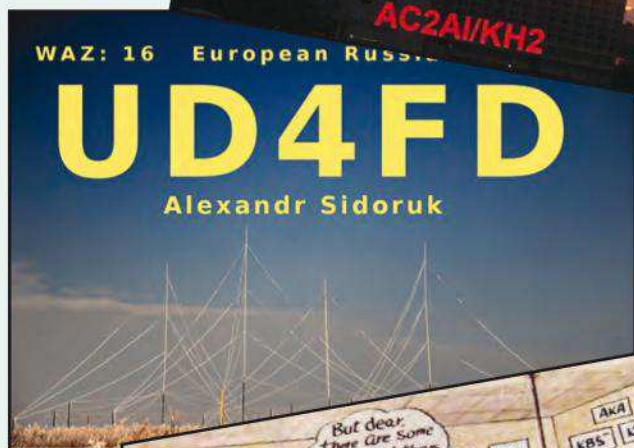
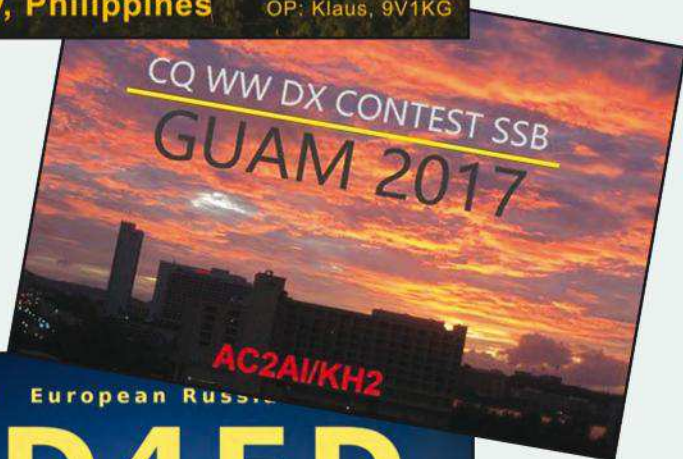
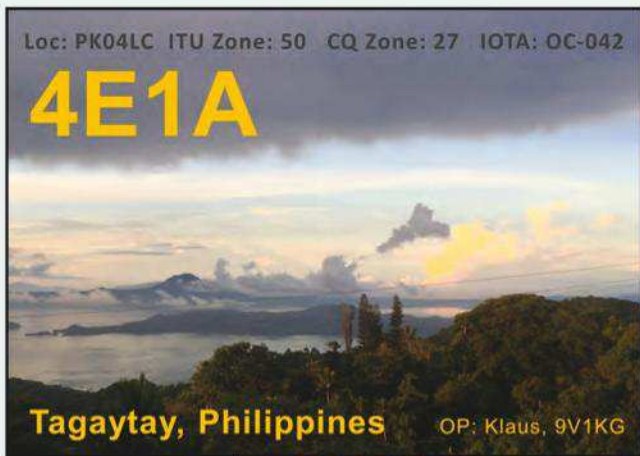
8) To try new antennas and assess their DX qualities compared to my current ones.

Chasing My Own Goals

I use a transceiver with a power output of 200 watts into my homemade 5/8th-wave vertical for 20 meters, plus an antenna tuner. At 12.5 meters (41 feet) long with a coil at the base and radials, plus three 10-meter top hat wires, this particular antenna offers a good many gifts for those willing to build one as an all-band DX vertical. What do you get for your money?

Well for one, it has not cost you an arm and a leg in the form of a tower, rotator, and a Yagi. True, you do not have all the benefits of such a wonderful beam setup, but there are always at least two ways to skin a cat (with apologies to cat lovers). Upon building a 5/8th-wave vertical, you will have invariably applied both physics and earth science to achieve a take-off angle in the order of 16°, some 3 dB of gain and reduced reception of high angle radiation. Now that 3 dB equates to a two times multiplication of the power, which sees my 200 watts input effectively become 400 watts.

By comparison, a quarter-wave vertical for 20 meters at five meters (16-1/2 feet) in length will have a main radiation lobe in the order of 60° and an effective mean takeoff angle of 30° to the horizon. Now compare this to our 5/8th vertical which, in comparison, will have a main radiation lobe of just 30° and a mean takeoff angle of approximately 15° and you can see everything has been halved. The gain factor and the lower angle of radiation of the signal to the horizon now work to your advantage for DX by a power factor of two. Another way of looking at it is to imagine it as a beam of light whereby the quarter-wave is fairly broad at 60°, but it is then sharply



refocused to be just 15° by way of the 5/8th wavelength vertical. You can now see how the intensity of the radiated light increases dramatically in the dark. This same antenna with a 40-turn base coil and three 10-meter-long top hat radials will work very well across 160 through 10 meters, with an antenna tuner, of course. So invariably you have managed to kill a few birds with one stone, and you have also put all your eggs in one basket, for better or for worse.

We all know, of course, that there are many factors over which we have no control, regardless of our towers and linear amps or basic verticals, dipoles, loops and a few hundred watts, if not just QRP watts. If the Weather Gods chuck a tantrum and the next minute, the Sun vomits a CME (coronal mass ejection), it's curtains for us all. Plus, as the sunspot cycle declines ever-more rapidly, we must endure fewer occasions of 59-plus signals from DX stations across the globe. Conversely, what you will find during such contests is that radio amateurs are indeed prepared to listen more intently and to dig your signal out of the noise to work you for your zone and the mutual points. Whereas normally you might scream till you are blue in the face, now it seems that even at signal strength one and readability 3 to 5, that there is a contact made after a few attempts and everyone is happy.

Many will also tell you of times past and perhaps more recently, when with just a few watts they worked across the planet for a 59 report that amazed everyone. This, of course, is one of the great joys of unpredictable propagation that is visited upon our stations from time to time. And then when it seems that across the world that the bands are dead, they magically come to life when a contest takes over the airwaves and electrifies the ionosphere.

So, do not underestimate the capabilities of your station when it comes to the power of propagation. For even the megastations suffer the fate of the many if the Gods dictate. And small so-called QRP stations can often roar like lions when conditions are favorable for everyone.

Strategy

I can tell you that I am not one for calling "CQ Contest" ad nauseam for two

Photo A. Operating a contest like the CQWW gives you the opportunity to add new countries and uncommon prefixes to your DX award totals on a variety of bands.



C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band 5W
Digital Transceiver

FT-70DR

« 700 mW Loud and Clear audio,
Commercial Grade Specifications »

New



C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band 5 W
Digital Transceiver

FT2DR

« Improved 66 ch GPS receiver included »

System Fusion II

C4FM Digital
Pursuing Advanced Communications



C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band 50 W
Digital Transceiver

FTM-100DR

« Improved 66 ch GPS receiver included »



C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz
Dual Band Dual Receive Digital Repeater

DR-2X

New



C4FM/FM 144/430 MHz Dual Band 50 W
Digital Transceiver

FTM-400XDR

« Improved 66 ch GPS receiver included »



C4FM/FM 144 MHz 65 W
Digital Transceiver

FTM-3200DR

« Genuine 65 Watts High Power »



CW/SSB/AM/FM/C4FM
HF/50/144/430 MHz Wide-Coverage
100 W All Mode Transceiver (144/430 MHz: 50 W)

FT-991A

« Real-Time Spectrum Scope included »



C4FM/FM 430 MHz 55 W
Digital Transceiver

FTM-3207DR

« Heavy Duty 55 Watts High Power »

New

System Fusion II Supports All C4FM Portables and Mobiles

• Firmware updates will enable System Fusion II compatibility with all existing C4FM products.

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

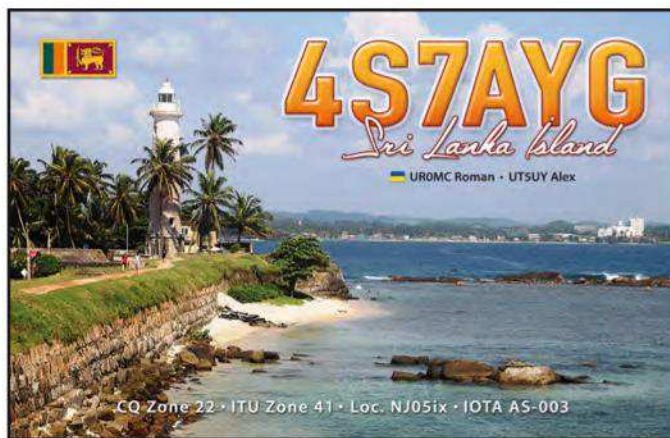


Photo B. A group of Ukrainian contesters invested a lot of time and money to travel to Sri Lanka for the contest, not only for their benefit but for that of others — including non-contesters like me — who'd like to put a rare DX entity in their logbooks.

whole days. But rather, I like to work up and down the bands for the best contacts at the time as propagation presents them. Then, by the time I get to the band's end, the conditions have changed just slightly and a few more new stations have emerged from the ether.

My operating is, of course, based on the spare time I have available in between everything else going on over the course of the weekend. Thus, I am not a slave to the contest itself, but rather enjoy it at my own pace as time permits each day. The other side of the coin, of course, is the critical balance between our families and the event. Our radio time shouldn't cause a rift between the hobby and our loved ones.

My 2017 Experience

I started chasing stations in the 2017 CQWW DX SSB Contest on Saturday afternoon on the normally quiet 15-meter band, then in full swing. The countries and zones I initially worked by way of my eight golden rules were as follow: Japan, zone 25; Hawaii, zone 31; New Zealand, zone 32; Indonesia zone 28; Papua New Guinea zone 28; China, zone 24; Thailand, zone 26, and Guam, zone 27. Now the signals into my QTH were not all 5x9 needle-busters by any stretch, with many in the order of just S3 to 5 at R3 to 5. Some rolled in here quite strong indeed, but despite being 5x9, they could for some unapparent reason not hear me at all.

Some of the real highlights for me were as follows: A contact with D4Z way out on Cape Verde in zone 35, a distance of 18,911 kilometers (11,751 miles), which I have proudly achieved for the past three years. I also enjoyed working ZF9CW in the Cayman Islands being zone 8 at 14,454 kilometers (8,981 miles) as a first. Two definite standouts were my contacts with KL7RA, the North Pole Contest Group in zone 1, at a distance of 10,919 kilometers (6,785 miles), and VE3EJ in Ontario in zone 4 at 14,913 kilometers (9,266 miles). Then, by contrast, I was fortunate enough to work XQ6OA from Osorno, Chile, at 11,265 kilometers (7,000 miles) in zone 12, a great contact with JT5DX from Mongolia at 9,351 kilometers (5,810 miles) in zone 23, and finally RWØA from the Central Siberia DX Club at 10,664 kilometers (6,626 miles) in zone 18. Another highlight was AHØK, the Mariana Intrepid Contest Club. They are located on Tinian Island, 4,570 kilometers (2,951 miles) away as a drop in the ocean out in zone 27, and it was another first for me.

Factors such as the state of the ionosphere, space weather, and a myriad of factors in nature all play a role in the quality of our contacts with each other.

And just to emphasize one of my opening points about contesters saving up to visit exotic locations, there was 4S7AYG in Sri Lanka, zone 22 (*Photo B*), which I happily worked. This was actually run by a group of Ukrainian DXpeditioners. No doubt they would have saved up for many months to come all the way out to nice hot Sri Lanka to provide us all with the opportunity to add this DX entity to our logbooks. In total, for the time spent across the weekend, I managed to work 50 DX stations for a total of 26 zones out of the 40, even though Africa was not heard at this QTH. Then despite signals from Oman, the UAE, and Aruba booming into my QTH at 5x9, they could not hear me.

Just for the sake of curiosity, once you have made your contacts for the weekend, go to Google (or another search engine of your choice), and type in: "How far is it from (your QTH) to (the location of the DX station as listed on QRZ.com)?" It also makes for interesting analysis to combine an amateur radio 40-zone map of the world, as well as plotting your frequency, times, and antenna used for each contact.

Science Experiments

We often seem to forget that every time we key the microphone or send Morse code, we are undertaking an experiment with Mother Nature herself. Factors such as the state of the ionosphere, space weather, and a myriad of factors in nature all play a role in the quality of our contacts with each other.

Somehow for me, even after being licensed for 33 years the magic of amateur radio still permeates my soul. The sense of accomplishment in rolling your own antennas and participating firsthand in the achievement of a contact across the globe still gives me a buzz. Far more indeed than email, Facebook, and other forms of socially transmitted 1s & 0s that have sought to render our hobby as old hat and Neanderthal. It's now up to you to decide if you feel like tackling the CQWW DX Contest head on. Or perhaps just utilizing the opportunity to achieve some DX goals of your own.

Whatever you decide to do, please consider sending in a log, even if it's just 50 stations or less, as it all really helps with the "cross-checking." My best effort to date has been to work 30 of the 40 zones in one weekend, and that's with just a 5/8th vertical for 20 meters and 200 watts.

Australia Calling...

It often seems to me and a few other VKs that a lot of the efforts in the CQ World Wide DX Contests and other similar events are directed between the U.S., Canada, Europe, and a splash of Africa. Here's a clue for anyone chasing great contacts and good multipliers. Consider pointing your "RF" down to the bottom of the world where potentially *hundreds* of VKs are listening for and calling *you*, especially so the average non-Big Gun stations like me.

I look forward to working you on air one day in the future all the way from "Down-Under."

A version of this article was published previously in the Wireless Institute of Australia's Amateur Radio magazine and is republished here by permission.

Professor Emil Heisseluft reveals a plan by a national amateur radio organization to introduce the “Mother of all Awards” ... Worked All Rivers and Tributaries (WART)

A CQ Exclusive:

Worked All Rivers and Tributaries

New Award to Kick Off with Challenge to Work all Tributaries of the Missouri River

BY PROFESSOR EMIL HEISSELUFT*
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There is no end to the number of awards available to the amateur radio community. At CQ, for example, we take great pride in our Worked All Zones (WAZ) DX award, not to mention our Worked All Prefixes (WPX), CQ DX/DX Field, and United States of America Counties (USA-CA) awards as well as the great trophies and certificates we present to those who excel in our many contests throughout the year. The same can be said of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), which is well-known for such awards as those associated with the organization’s DX Century Club (DXCC). In the last few years, however, a new ARRL award program has caught the attention of many amateurs; it is the League’s National Parks On the Air (NPOTA) event, spurring participants to both activate and work stations in all of the nation’s national parks. This year, the League has upped the ante with its International Grid Chase competition.

Now, in a move to provide the ultimate challenge, a national amateur radio organization is about to kick off the “Mother of all Awards”: Worked All Rivers and Tributaries (WART). The first phase of this award, which eventually will be expanded internationally, will require participants to confirm contacts with marine mobile stations on all 81 tributaries of the Missouri River plus the river itself, from St. Louis to the headwaters in Montana. Our intrepid Professor Heisseluft has caught up with the sponsors for this exclusive report. –W2VU

Oh, dear readers, what an interesting hobby you have! I learned long ago from my mentor, Dr. Jerzy Ostermond-Tor, ex YM4XR¹, that radio amateurs will participate in virtually any on-air competition at the drop of a hat! This addiction, if it can be called that — and I’ve written many times about the psychoses^{2,3} attendant to those who are particularly involved with DX — is not easily sated. (By the way, in response to an overwhelming demand by our readers for a photograph of Professor Heisseluft, we provide one in

* Professor Heisseluft currently is in St. Louis, Missouri, planning for the launch of a marine mobile station that will sail up the Missouri River from St. Louis for this summer’s WART effort. Mail may be conveniently sent to the professor c/o CQ Magazine, 17 West John Street, Hicksville, NY 11801.



Photo A: Professor Heisseluft shown in a moment of contemplation as he awaits other members of the Missouri River Expedition to begin planning for their 2018 effort. (Photo: Igor Stepovik, Big Stock Photo)

Photo A. –ed.) It’s bad enough that people are chasing U.S. states and counties, countries of the world, worldwide prefixes, and even U.S. national parks, but throw in a good dose of competition such as that found in the CQ and ARRL DX contests, and you’d think the entire world has gone crazy!

The above notwithstanding, there are those who have worked just about every state, county, country, prefix, and national park. Alas, what are they going to do now? Sit on 20 meters and work the same DXpedition over and over again, depriving the poor QRPer the one, last contact he needs to complete WAZ? (Gott im Himmel, are there really people like that?)

Get Ready for WART

It is with these poor, competition-starved operators in mind that a major national amateur radio organization has con-

River and Tributary (RAT) Major Achievement Levels

Number of Waterways	Designation
50	Novice
1,000	Good Start
10,000	Spongeworthy
50,000	Get a Life
100,000	Meshuga

Figure 1. The major River and Tributary (RAT) Achievement Levels for WART competition are above and beyond anything known today in amateur radio.

ceived of a new award program: *Worked All Rivers and Tributaries* (WART). The competition involves working marine-mobile stations on all tens of thousands of rivers and their tributaries worldwide⁴, with the various major award levels shown in *Figure 1*. Now you see why some are calling this the Mother of All Awards!

To get things kicked off this year, the first challenge will be to work marine-mobile stations traversing the 81 tributaries

of the Missouri River from St. Louis to its headwaters in Montana (see *Figure 2*).

Trial Run of the Aprilscherz

Immediately upon the announcement of the WART award, the Lauton Institute was in receipt of an urgent message from the Missouri Valley DX Association (MVDXA), asking for assistance in mounting the first Missouri River WART Expedition. The boat they offered for this effort, which was to be renamed the Aprilscherz in honor of the Institute, had just been raised from the bottom of the harbor in Kansas City. Still, it was deemed “seaworthy” enough for this expedition. A photo of the Aprilscherz, taken last year at sunset just before it sank for the fourth time, is shown in *Photo B*.

Two full weeks of on-river trials under all weather conditions will be conducted this May by Institute graduate students so as not to endanger either members of the MVDXA or the professional staff of the Lauton Institute. Then, we will set out on the river and its tributaries to work amateurs around the world. As seen in *Photo B*, the antenna we will use is a single multi-band vertical. Two multiband transceivers (one operational, one on standby) will provide coverage of the bands from 40-10 meters. Power will be provided by a sin-



Photo B: The Aprilscherz, just before it sank in Kansas City in 2016. The boat now has been raised for the first WART expedition, and trials will soon be under way. (Photo: michelealfieri, Big Stock Photo)

gle gasoline generator (though a spare will be carried). The callsign has yet to be assigned, but we have applied for KMØWART ... /mm, of course.

Summary

The Lauton Institute, working with MVDXA, will mount a WART expedition this summer, providing amateur radio operators worldwide with the opportunity to work a marine-mobile station on all of the 81 tributaries of the Missouri River and the river itself from St. Louis to its headwaters in Montana. Don't miss this opportunity not only to kick off this effort, but to put a WART certificate on your wall by the end of the year!

Notes:

1. J. Ostermond-Tor, Ex-YM4XR, Special Subscriber Service: The Telephone Company's Answer to Amateur Radio, CQ, April, 1967
2. Heisselluft, E., *Psychological Testing of Amateur Radio Applicants ... The Cure for Spectrum Rage*, CQ, April 2005
3. Heisselluft, E., "Lauton Institute's Center for Research of Abnormal Personalities Offers Explanations for On-Air Misbehavior by Radio Amateurs," CQ, April 2014
4. <http://bit.ly/2nL1oIP>

Tributaries of the Missouri River

A	Arrow Creek (Fergus County, Montana)	
B	Bad River (South Dakota)	Belle Fourche River
	Belt Creek (Montana)	Big Muddy Creek (Missouri River)
	Big Piney River	Big Sioux River
	Blackwater River (Missouri)	Blue River (Missouri River)
	Boyer River	Brush Creek (Blue River)
C	Cannonball River	Chariton River
	Cheyenne River	Cow Creek (Montana)
	Cracon du Nez (Montana)	Crooked River (Missouri)
D	Dearborn River	
F	Firehole River	Fishing River
	Floyd River	
G	Gallatin River	Gasconade River
	Gibbon River	Grand River (Missouri)
	Grand River (South Dakota)	Grandglaize Creek
H	Heart River (North Dakota)	
J	James River (Dakotas)	Jefferson River
	Judith River	
K	Kansas River	Knife River
L	Lamine River	Little Blue River (Missouri)
	Little Missouri River (North Dakota)	Little Muddy Creek (North Dakota)
	Little Niangua River	Little Osage River
	Little Sioux River	Loutre River
M	Madison River	Marais des Cygnes River
	Marias River	Marmaton River Milk River (Alberta–Montana)
	Moreau River (South Dakota)	Mosquito Creek (Iowa)
	Musselshell River	
N	Niangua River	Niobrara River
	Nishnabotna River	Nodaway River
O	One Hundred and Two River	Osage River
P	Papillion Creek	Perry Creek (Missouri River)
	Platte River	Platte River (Iowa and Missouri)
	Pomme de Terre River (Missouri)	Ponca Creek (Missouri River)
	Poplar River (Montana–Saskatchewan)	
R	Redwater River	Roe River
S	Sac River	Sixteen Mile Creek (Montana)
	Smith River (Montana)	Soldier River
	South Fork Grand River (South Dakota)	Sun River
T	Tarkio River	Teton River (Montana)
	Thompson River (Missouri)	Tobacco Garden Creek
	Turkey Creek (Kansas)	
V	Vermillion River (South Dakota)	
W	West Fork of the Little Sioux River	White Earth River (North Dakota)
	White River (Missouri River)	Wolf River (Kansas)
Y	Yellowstone River	

Figure 2: The 81 tributaries of the Missouri River that will count for the newly announced Worked All Rivers and Tributaries (WART) award. (Source: Wikipedia)

W9KNI says connecting Elecraft's new KPA1500 amplifier to a K3 effectively turns the K3 into a 1,500-watt, solid-state transceiver. And he thinks it may mark the beginning of the end for tube-based amplifiers. Here's his review.

CQ Reviews:

Elecraft KPA1500 Solid-State Amplifier

DOCUMENTO
DIGITALIZADO

BY BOB LOCHER,* W9KNI

For someone who has been a ham — and a committed DXer — for over 60 years, an effective, reliable solid-state amplifier has long been a dream. For over 30 years, a solid-state legal-limit linear has been “right around the corner.” Finally, in the last five years, that dream has started to become a serious reality.

The Elecraft KPA1500 amplifier is truly one fulfillment of that dream. This is an outstanding product. Simply put, it converts my transceiver, an Elecraft K3 — into a 1,500-watt output transceiver. No tune up! No three-minute wait. And a lot less noise!

I was selected to be a field tester for the amplifier, and received the last of the field test units. Although there are still a few firmware tweaks coming, I have been assured that my amplifier is in every way a full production model. Elecraft has informed me that shipment of regular orders was expected to start by the end of January 2018, so by the time you read this review, it is likely there will be quite a few production units already shipped and on the air.

Opening the Carton

My amplifier arrived beautifully and carefully packed, always a good start to receiving a new piece of gear. There are two major components — a switching power supply that weighs 17 pounds, and the amplifier itself (Photo A), which weighs 22 pounds. Like most other Elecraft desktop products, both



Photo A. The Elecraft KPA1500 amplifier comes in two packages, the RF deck (seen here) and a separate 220-volt power supply. (Photos by the author)

the power supply and the RF unit feature carry handles (Photo B). Both units also include a tilt-up bail that folds underneath if not desired.

What is really a surprise when you first see it is the size of the RF deck. It is really quite small for the powerhouse that it is. I remember the olden days, when an amplifier capable of 600 watts output was built in a 6-foot panel rack. Instead, this little box can put out well in excess of 1,500 watts.

Taking a Tour

The amplifier offers a clean panel layout — and there are NO KNOBS! No tuning required or even possible in the

traditional sense. There are no meters either ... A light bar (Photo C) shows power output, with green bars to 1,500 watts, then red bars for output over 1,500 watts. There is also another light bar showing SWR. There are pushbuttons for each band (Photo D), plus pushbuttons for other amplifier controls, such as accessing and entering menu items, antenna port selection, ATU control etc.

The power cable supplied with the amplifier is terminated in a NEMA 6-20P plug. The high voltage cable (50 volts at 60 amps) between power supply and RF deck is 5 feet 6 inches (1.6 meters) of VERY heavy wire, and uses heavy-

* email: <W9KNI@thelochers.net>



Photo B. Both the RF deck and the power supply feature carrying handles, making the units easy to lift and transport.

duty Anderson Power Pole connectors. The connectors give a very firm “click” when seated properly, assuring good contact. Additionally, there is a control circuit cable that runs between the power supply and the RF deck, also five feet six inches long.

My unit also came with the Elecraft KPAK3AUX Optional KPA1500 to K3 AUX Cable Set, which closely integrates the K3 with the KPA1500 (more on that in a moment). The amplifier requires a service supply of 220-240 volts AC at 20 amps. The power supply for the amplifier is well enclosed and can safely be put on the floor near the amplifier or even in the next room with the cables through the wall.

Integration With the K3 and Other Transceivers

For owners of Elecraft K3 transceivers, integration between rig and amplifier is extremely tight. With the optional KPAK3AUX cable attached, when you change bands on the K3 the amplifier automatically follows. Similarly, if you change bands on the KPA-1500, the K3 automatically follows. The K3 allows the user to set precise drive levels for each band and, once set, to lock them. Truly, the KPA1500 turns the K3 into a 1,500-watt transceiver. A feature I think is really neat is that when the amplifier is switched to standby, the K3 can go automatically to a different preset power setting, typically to the 100-watt level.

The KPA1500 is almost as versatile with non-Elecraft transceivers. Virtually

any of today’s transceivers offers several different formats of frequency data output, all of which are readily compatible with the KPA1500. As long as the user connects an appropriate cable to the amplifier supplying that data, the KPA1500 will track the transceiver from band to band. The amp’s manual includes information on making appropriate cables for non-Elecraft transceivers. Also, the amplifier includes an RF sensor, so even without data information from the transceiver, the ampli-

fier will sense a drive signal and put itself on the correct band and antenna, albeit with a very brief startup delay.

The amplifier includes a 12-volt input RCA jack. Most modern transceivers include a switched 12-volt output. Running a cable from that point to the KPA1500 will automatically turn on the amplifier whenever you turn on the transceiver. This is a real benefit for people using remote rig locations, simplifying control. Indeed, once the home system is set up and dialed in, the amplifier can be run remotely with no additional control software required.

The amplifier offers two different antenna output connectors (*Photo E*), which can be selected by a button push on the front panel. Once an output is selected for a given band, the amplifier will go to that output whenever the selected band is in use. Other options for disabling or selecting an output connector on a given band are available from the menu system.

The amplifier uses PIN diodes for QSK (full break-in keying). A note here — PIN diodes started being used in high-power amplifiers in the late 1980s — and quickly acquired a bad reputation for expensive failures, requiring shipping a heavy amplifier back to the manufacturer for a costly repair and an expensive two-way freight bill. But that was literally more than 30 years ago. The diodes used in this amp are a far cry from those of yesteryear; and are well known in RF engineering circles to be rugged and extremely reliable. QSK with the amp



Photo C. The KPA features LED light bars to show both power out and SWR. Note that all controls are via pushbuttons.

is blessedly free from loud clicking noises in the shack as you key.

Permit me a confession here — I have trouble walking and chewing gum at the same time, so I operated CW all my life in semi-break-in mode. When I put the KPA1500 online, I decided to give QSK a serious try. At first, I was a bit nonplussed. Sending sounded strange in my headset. The CW monitor note was there, of course, but so were lots of burbles and other odd noises. I almost gave it up. Then, a couple days later, I was testing on a dead band — and miraculously the CW sending in QSK was clean and pleasant. It did not take me long to figure it out — what I was hearing earlier was my own signal, complete with Doppler shift, coming from backscatter reflections or even around-the-world paths. I further discovered that the burbles I was hearing represented an open path, at least far enough to get to an ionospheric F_2 region supporting backscatter, indicating that the band was at least partially open.

Simple Setup

Setting up the amplifier proved extremely simple. I set the RF deck on the amplifier table next to my operating position and placed the power supply on the floor behind it, of course making sure that there was adequate room for ventilation. I plugged in the heavy voltage cable from the power supply, hearing the satisfying “click” from the large Anderson Power Pole connectors when properly seated. The included power supply control cable was next. This is a data cable that allows communication between power supply and amplifier. I attached the drive cable from the transceiver to the amplifier input, followed by the output coax, which I connected to the #1 antenna output. Next, I connected the data cable between the transceiver and the amplifier, and I ran an RCA cable from the switched 12-volt output of the transceiver to the matching plug on the amplifier so that the amp would power up automatically whenever the transceiver was turned on. Last step was to plug in the power cord. I was good to go.

Show Time!

OhhKay. Show time, girls and boys. Queue the drum roll. I turned on the K3, and ... nothing happened with the amp (kill the drum roll). Oh yeah ... I pressed the “On” button on the front of the RF deck. Still nothing. Wait. Yes. OK. I reached down to the power supply and threw its rocker switch to “ON.” Still nothing happened.

I turned the K3 off, then turned it on again. Bingo! The amp now turned on. Several relays clicked. The K3 was set on 20 meters. I looked at the LCD display on the amp — yup, it was on 20 meters. I tried switching the K3 to 40 meters. Several relays in the amp clicked, and the amp was on 40 meters (see *Photo D* again). Neat! It retrospect, it is obvious that when the +12 volts DC is applied to the “remote” RCA connector, this takes over control of the off/on function. I later confirmed that by temporarily removing the 12-volt RCA cable.

I turned my K3 power output all the way down, found an empty frequency on 20 meters, then keyed the radio. I started adding power — ah — Yesss! The green bars on the amp started illuminating, marching to the right as I added power. At 32 watts drive, I had 1,500 watts output, as shown on my LP-100 wattmeter. Yeah, 1,500 watts — and no power transformer grunt, no apparent strain on anything.

My antennas are all fairly flat, with SWRs below 1.4:1 on all frequencies on which I operate. I typically operate 40-



Photo D. Pushbuttons are used to select the operating band. If used with the K3 transceiver and optional KPAK3AUX connecting cable, switching the band on either unit changes the settings on both.

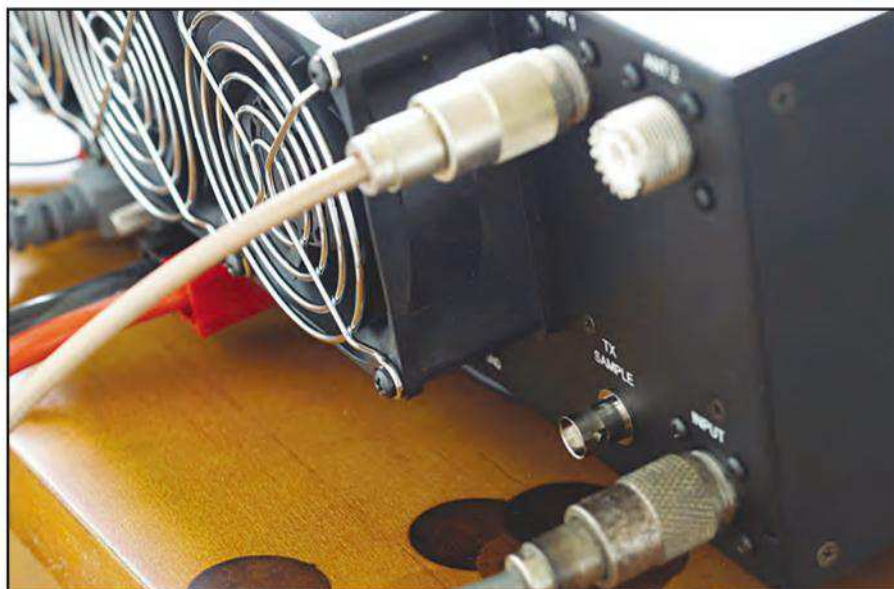


Photo E. The rear of the KPA1500 includes two antenna jacks, cooling fans, and heavy-duty power cable with Anderson Power Pole connectors.

15 meters, plus 12 and 10 meters if they ever open. I walked through the bands, setting drive power for each band, which the K-3 memorized. I was happy to see that the KPA1500 easily delivered legal power on my bands. A good friend also has a KPA1500, and he operates 80 and 160 meters, as well as 6 meters, which I don't, and don't have antennas for. He assures me the amp is equally effective on those bands.

Since my antennas are essentially flat, I can operate bypassing the amplifier's built in antenna tuner (ATU). Nonetheless, I thought I would check out the tuner. The ATU will tune antennas up to a 3:1 SWR at full power output. When the amplifier is in standby mode, the antenna tuner remains in the circuit, so that you can run barefoot though the amp into a mismatched antenna, as long as the amplifier is powered up and in standby mode.

The procedure for setting up the antenna is well described in the manual, and can be done in less than a minute for most bands. Tuner settings for each frequency segment are memorized, so when the amp returns to such a frequency, the ATU automatically is ready to transmit. In situations where the SWR will change a lot as frequency changes, typical of some low-band antennas, the antenna tuner tracks frequency and, for example, on 160 meters, can call up a different tuning solution every 10 kilohertz.

Operationally, the amplifier is a joy to use. Once set up as described above, the operator need rarely give a thought to the amp. It just sits there and pumps out power — exactly what I wanted it to do. A fair amount of customization can be done using the menu system, such as control of the cooling fans, antenna selections, etc., but most operators will never need to even try the menu system, which, however, is well documented in the manual.

When I press the turn-on button on the K3, it takes the whole station about three seconds to be fully operational and ready to transmit. In normal use, many operators will rarely hear the fans. In my case, the fans only run when I get into a long CW transmission, or when calling in a high duty cycle pile-up. The amp really looks after itself.

Elecraft will occasionally introduce new firmware for the amplifier. Updating is very easy, using PCs, Macs, or Linux computers. The user downloads an update utility from the Elecraft site, runs it, hooks the amplifier to the computer using a supplied USB cable, and in a matter of a minute or so, the amplifier is updated. The user should occasionally check the Elecraft website to see that the latest downloadable version of firmware is installed.

Beginning of the End for Tube Amps?

The operational success of this amplifier and of other solid-state amplifiers as well begs the question: Are we seeing the twilight of conventional tube amplifiers? I think there can be little question that this is so. If power at the absolute lowest cost is the criteria, there will be some tube amplifiers around for a while yet. Good amplifiers up to about the 800-watt output level using glass tubes still offer excellent value, if much reduced convenience. But past that power level, the costs are tilting towards solid-state, especially considering the added utility and convenience. Consider power dissipation. Even the least expensive imported quality power tubes cost at least 40 cents per watt of dissipation. The new family of LDMOS (laterally-diffused MOSFET) power chips cost less than \$.10 per watt. Tube amplifiers can be slightly more efficient in linear service — typically around 60%. Solid-state amps are closer to 50%.

Tube amplifiers will absorb considerably more punishment before catastrophic failure than will solid-state devices, but additional circuitry and clever engineering make the solid-state amps virtually bulletproof. In a proof of that, I accidentally drove my KPA1500 into a dead short on the output. I got a rather annoyed beep from the amplifier enunciator, and the amp tripped off line. I discovered my grounding relay for lightning protection had failed to release when I turned on the equipment, leaving a short across the antenna. I corrected that problem, pushed the reset button on the amplifier, then put it back to Operate mode from Standby, and all was well. Believe me, that gave me a nice feeling of relief.

(Not) Feeling the Heat

Dealing with heat in any legal-limit amplifier is always a significant design issue. Whether tube or solid-state, an amplifier operating at 1,500 watts output must dissipate somewhere about 1,200 to 1,500 watts of heat when transmitting. Although there are other ways to carry off the heat, virtually every legal-limit amplifier in the amateur radio service uses air cooling.

Tube amps typically use tube chimneys and blowers that run continuously, and to be effective tend to be loud. Even at idle, the tube is generating somewhere between 25 and 200 watts of filament heat. Solid-state amps, on the other hand, generate no heat until they begin transmitting, so cooling is not required until then. So, the cooling fans do not start up until a heat threshold is reached. However, in the case of the KPA1500, the switching power supply has its own fan, which runs quietly whenever the amp is turned on.

The two LDMOS RF power devices in the KPA1500 each have about a square inch of contact surface to the heat sinks, so this means that somewhere around 750 watts per device has to be pulled away — FAST — from the devices when operating at full legal output. The most efficient affordable metal for this is copper — lots of copper. So the KPA1500 has a huge copper plate that is coupled to aluminum fins for fan cooling. This sheet of copper contributes a good deal of the weight in the RF deck.

The design of the KPA1500 is, in these respects, quite conservative. While it is readily possible these days to build a legal-limit amplifier using a single LDMOS device, using a pair of them offers huge design dividends in terms of reliability, cooling, and overall ruggedness, at — of course — slightly higher cost and more weight. However, running LDMOS devices at temperatures well below their maximum specification exponentially extends their lives. The aggressive cooling regime of the KPA1500 surely fulfills these terms. The payback is a rugged amplifier that runs cooler and quieter and should give years of faithful service.

Cost vs. Value

A quality legal-limit tube amplifier can be purchased today starting at about \$2,800. Such an amp is not automatic, includes no antenna tuner, has constant loud cooling fans, and requires tune-up for each band. (But please! Please! NOT on the DX station's frequency!) By comparison, the introductory price for the KPA1500 is \$5995, including the built in antenna tuner.

Do you get value for the added money? That is your choice. I made mine and I am delighted with it.

(Very) Narrow Bandwidth Modulation



Many of you may be aware that there is, and has always been, a continuing effort to discover ways to use as little bandwidth as possible for the transmission of a signal. This month, I would like to describe a method that — for some reason — has not been explored to any great degree. As you will see, this scheme can radically reduce the

space required and I would like to present a brief description of this now, especially in April, as it is not only food for thought but the perfect time of year to review what to experiment with in our spare time as the warm weather approaches. The approach presented here will hopefully spark the interest of the technically-inclined among us.

Figure 1 is a block diagram of the system, which consists of a pulse-width modulator that takes a standard audio signal and varies the width of a square

*c/o CQ magazine

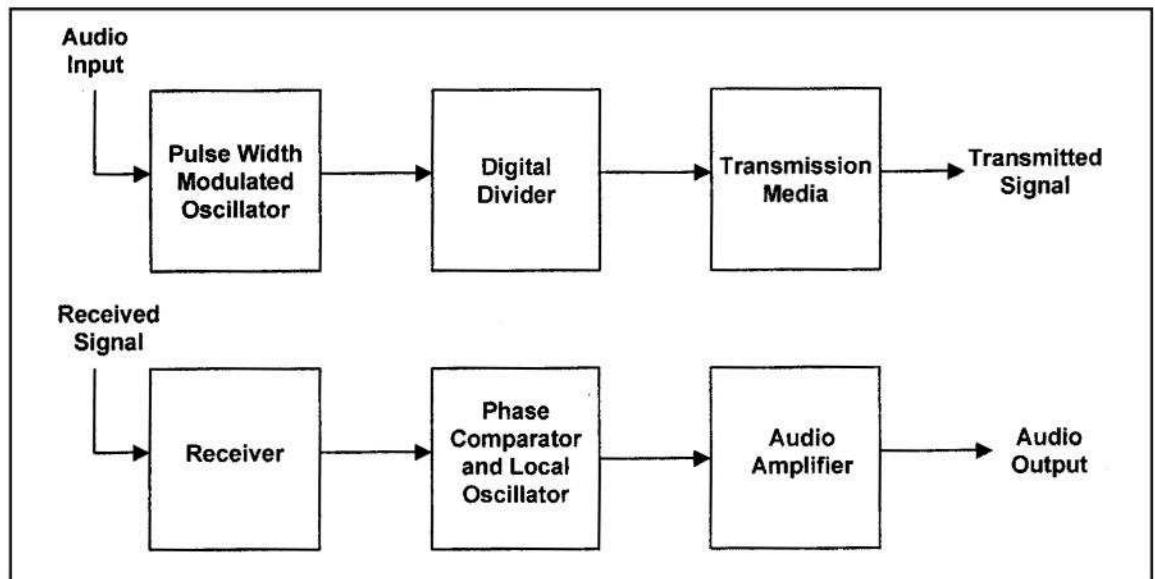


Figure 1. Block diagram of Very Low Bandwidth System

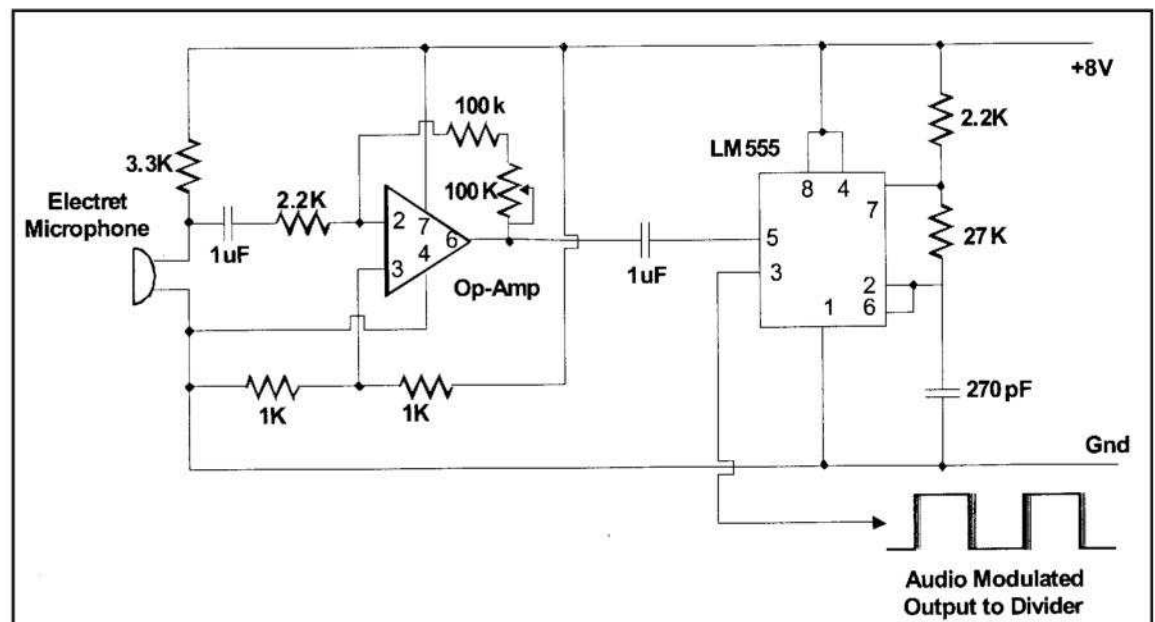


Figure 2. Basic FM Modulator

wave produced by a simple oscillator in step with the applied audio signal. This signal is then applied to a divider chain. The divided signal is then transmitted by standard means. When received (also by standard means), the signal is applied to a phase comparator, detected, and the resulting audio is fed to an amplifier that reproduces the original audio signal.

Figure 2 shows just how simple the transmitter portion can be. The pulse-width modulation is actually accomplished with a common and inexpensive LM555 IC. The LM555 is configured as a voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) in which the control voltage is the audio signal from a microphone. The op-amp in the schematic simply allows the level of the audio to be controlled so that it does not overmodulate the oscillator. The particular frequency chosen here is around 100 kHz (although this is not critical) and Figure 2 also shows what the modulated oscillator output looks like on a scope. So far, all is pretty much direct.

The oscillator output is now fed to a two-stage standard digital divider chain comprised of standard CD4017 TTL chips, which drops the frequency by a factor of 100 to 1 kHz. Note that, although the “carrier” frequency is much lower, the modulation is still there. The result is a 1-kHz signal with all of the audio still present and the output wave shape will still look like Figure 2 (only the frequency will be lower). The details of the digital divider stage are not shown but can be easily found on the internet and there are many digital divider ICs, in addition to the CD4017, that can be used. This can then be transmitted by normal means.

At the receiver, the received pulse-width modulated output signal is applied to a phase detector (such as a common CD4070 exclusive OR gate TTL chip) where it is compared to a stable 1-kHz local oscillator signal as shown in Figure 3. The output of the CD4070 is the difference between the input-modulated 1-kHz signal and the input non-modulated 1-kHz signal which, by the way, is the original audio! This is then filtered to eliminate the basic carrier and applied to a simple audio amplifier, and you are done!

As part of the investigation it would be interesting to see just how low in frequency you could actually go. Another divide-by-10 at the transmitter and a 100-Hz reference at the receiver (for example) would reduce the carrier bandwidth to 100 Hz. This month, as in past Aprils, I leave the rest up to you!

– 73, Irwin, WA2NDM

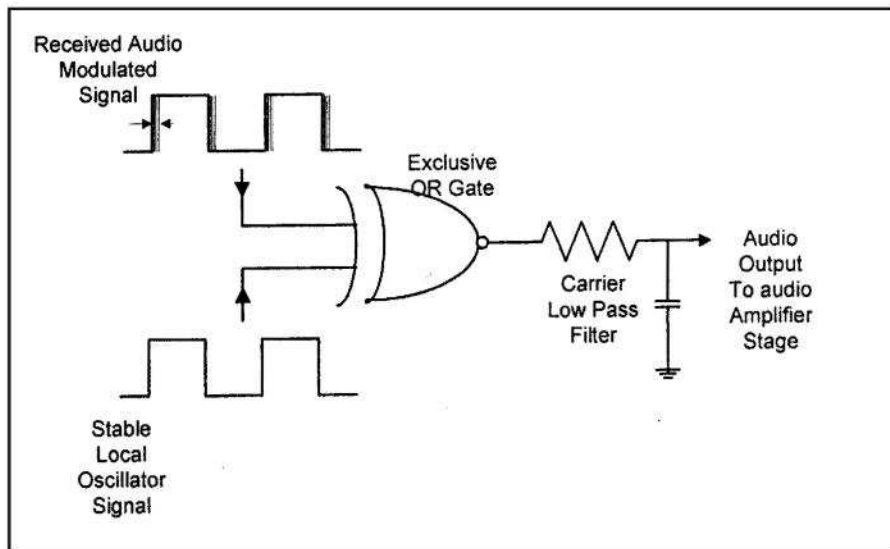


Figure 3. Details of Modulated Signal and Phase Detector

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WBCQ May Have Big Plans for the Future

Also Brother Stair is Finally Silenced

April showers bring still more shortwave wave-lets:

~ WBCQ must have BIG plans for the future. It has placed an order for a giant Ampegon rotatable antenna system, which will be the first in North America and looks as though it might be revolutionary in its design and its ability to quickly direct a 500-kilowatt signal to any target around the world. It will withstand extreme weather conditions and allow WBCQ to operate on any frequency between 6 and 26 MHz, all computer-controlled and monitored. WMLK in Pennsylvania also has a contract for a rotatable antenna from Ampegon.

~ It seems WBCQ had a transmitter fire that burned out and destroyed one of its main (50-kilowatt) transmitters. The station had no insurance and needs at least \$20,000 to acquire a used unit. (The piggybank must be empty after buying that big antenna. —ed)

~ That strange, very annoying, Brother Stair is off shortwave due to his legal problems resulting from accusations of his sexual misconduct involving children. That means some five U.S. shortwave broadcasters have been hit in the pocketbook recently. Unfortunate for them, but likely beneficial for our aural sensibilities!

~ A new opposition broadcaster has opened — The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) began

broadcasts in early January using 15110 kHz from 1800-1900 UTC.

~ It seems the Caribbean Beacon has returned to the air from Anguilla on 11775 kHz, in addition to 6090 kHz, which came back a couple of months ago.

~ Once again, it's noted that the elusive Radio Bahrain operates 24 hours on 9745 kHz, all in Arabic. With 60 kilowatts, it's odd that Bahrain isn't more frequently heard.

~ China Radio International's English broadcasts may be operating under a new name: "China Plus" or "News Plus," although the CRI tag is also still used sometimes.

~ Radio Alvorada, Parintins, Brazil, (4965 kHz) has apparently been reactivated.

~ Opposition broadcaster Denge Kurdistan, which airs in favor of Kurdish independence and largely against Turkey, has also begun using 4810 kHz.

~ Cuba's Arnie Coro says he plans to put at least one Cuban station on 90 meters sometime yet this year. Oh, goodie!

~ All India Radio's outlet at Gangtok (Sikkim) is noted on new 4836 kHz, which is slightly off their usual 4835 kHz.

~ Saudi Arabia's new broadcaster Al Azm Radio is seemingly running 24 hours on 11745 kHz from

*c/o CQ magazine



Radio Nacional Angola uses all Portuguese on 4950 kHz. (Courtesy of Rich D'Angelo)

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either the Jeddah or Riyadh site. I hope you speak Arabic because that is the only language it broadcasts.

~ Lastly, I'm sorry to report the passing earlier this year of Tom Taylor, founder of pirate European Music Radio. RIP.

Leading Logs

Remember, your shortwave broadcast station logs are always welcome. But please ensure to double or triple space between the items, list each logging according to the station's

home country and include your last name and state abbreviation after each. Also needed are spare QSLs, station schedules, brochures, pennants, station photos, and anything else you think would be of interest. The same holds for you amateur radio operators who also listen to or chase shortwave broadcasters. You, too, are most welcome to contribute!

Here are this month's leading logs. All times are in UTC. If no language is mentioned English is assumed. After you've read the printed logs, you'll find more online at <<http://cqplus-listeningpost.blogspot.com>>.



Radio Taiwan International celebrated 88 years with this commemorative QSL sent to Rich D'Angelo

ANGOLA—Radio Nacional, 4949, Mulvenos at 0003 with male announcer in Portuguese and Afropops. (Taylor, WI)

AUSTRALIA—4KZ, Innisfail, 5055, just getting bits of men talking and music at 1259-1310, (Valko, PA)

OZY Radio, Glenmore Park, 5045 at 1424 poor with pop songs and male announcer. (Sellers, BC)

BHUTAN—Bhutan Broadcasting Service, 6035 mixing with Yunnan at 1200 until the latter went off at 1201, then man apparently reading the news. (Valko, PA)

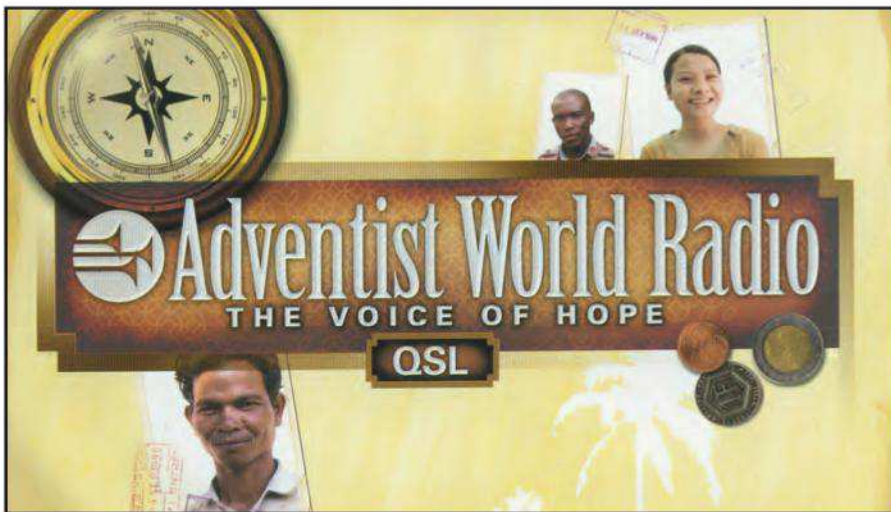
ERITREA—Voice of the Broad Masses, Asmara, 7181 (INTRUDER) with tone at 0258, into HOA music at 0301 and male announcer. (Valko, PA)

LIBERIA—ELWA, Monrovia, 6050 at 2150 with religious phone-in program, short ID at 2200, then into next religious program but blasted by WHRI slop. Another ID at 2230. Also had QRM from HCJB. (Valko, PA)

MYANMAR—Myanmar Radio, 5985 with woman talking in Burmese at 1401 with slop from WEWN. 7200 at 1140 with Asian pops and male announcer, later man reading possible news. (Valko, PA)



RTI's QSL also shows this woodlands view



Adventist World Radio is always leading the way in a race to produce the most QSL designs



The Soviet Union's Radio Peace and Progress QSL from about 1990

RUSSIA—Kamchatskoye Radio/RadioRussii, 5940 at 2151 barely heard under Algeria via France, also slop from Voz Missionaria. (Valko, PA)

SURINAME—Radio Apinte, 4990, Paramaibo at 0949 in Sranan Tongo, into canned announcements and ads at 0952, man shouting, ID, singing and shouting "Radio Apinte – the happy station" ID by woman at 0955. (Valko, PA)

TAJIKISTAN—Radio Tajikistan, 4765 at 1256 with woman speaking in apparent Tajik. (Valko, PA)

Richard A. D'Angelo

Thank you for your reception report

Broadcaster: Channel Africa
 Date: 12 December 2016
 Time: 17:00 – 17:25 UTC
 Frequency: 15235 kHz
 Language: English

We are happy to verify these details. The transmitter is a 250-kW Brown Boveri located at the Meyerton Transmitting Station in South Africa.

Sikander Hoosen
 High Frequency Coverage Planner
 Sentech SOC Ltd.

Channel Africa sent Rich D'Angelo this view of the Sentech transmitter site at Meyerton

ZAMBIA—Zambia National Broadcasting, 5915 at 0238 with fish eagle IS. Needed LSB to avoid WHRI slop. (Valko, PA) Really thumping in at 0512. (Perry, IL)

The rest of this month's logs are at:
<<http://cqpluslisteningpost.blogspot.com>>

QSL Quests

~ Radio Free Asia has announced the release of the 60th version in its QSL series. This one commemorates the Olympic Games in Seoul and will be issued for all reports through April.

~ Ralph Perry (IL) reports a long-awaited QSL from Thazin Radio in Myanmar (7345) which he's been "hammering" with reports since 2014. That reinforces what I always say: "Never, never give up!"

~ Ralph also reports a couple of unusual ones: SuperClan Radio, which began in the 1980s as a Dutch pirate, now uses this new name and is temporarily relayed by WINB. Its website is <www.surfradio.nl>. The next in this off-beat duo is RCW-Radio Compania Worldwide, based in Chile using 6925 kHz irregularly from 2200-0000 UTC.

~ Rich D'Angelo steps in to report answers from Radio Nacional, Angola on 4949 kHz from Joseph Kanzuela <josela.mami@hotmail.com>. Rich also had answers from Radio Taiwan International via France on 11955 kHz and Channel Africa on 15325 kHz.

Who Goes There?

Steven C. Wood (MA) found a puzzle on 6041.68 kHz at 0136 UTC with western-style music. Unfortunately, the QRN level was so high it was impossible to get a fix on the language.

Back in the Day

La Voz del Napo, Tena, Ecuador, with its domestic service in Spanish on 3280 at 0258 with 2.5 kilowatts on October 2, 1996.

Just Sayin'

I really am not fond of doing this; but again, I feel I must, to wit: I do not print pirate logs labeled "unidentified." Pirates, by their very nature, play mostly rock or "prock" (pop-rock). So there is little programming there to isolate it from the rest. In short, it's a case of "what's the point?" The poor pirates who don't fit that format have to have their better intentions thrown out with the bath water.

Thanks For Your Logs

High fives, end zone dances, back slaps,

etc. go to the following good guys who came through this time: Harold Sellers, Vernon, BC; Ralph Perry, Wheaton, IL; Rich D'Angelo, Wyomissing, PA; Dave Valko, Dunlo, PA; Mark Taylor, Madison, WI; William Hassig, Mt. Pleasant, IL;

Richard Parker, Pennsburg, PA; Bob Brossell, Pewaukee, WI; and Steven C. Wood, Harwich, MA. Thanks to each of you!

Until next month ... Keep on keepin' on! ... and Celebrate Shortwave!

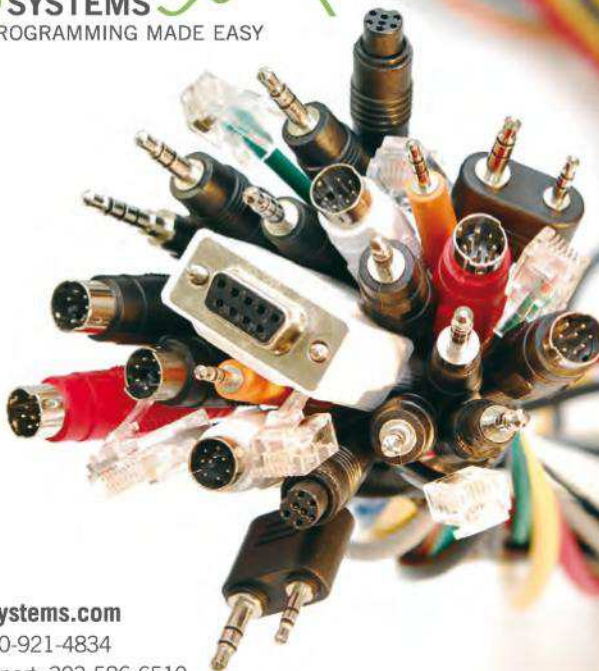
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Homeland Security begins with Hometown Security

"It's a simple idea, but a powerful one: Homeland security begins with hometown security. And when we equip local law enforcement, citizens, and communities to understand and combat violent extremism, we make our home towns — and our nation — safer." —Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, August 2010.

It makes sense ... the federal government is responsible for high-profile areas, such as borders, transportation, infrastructure, large gatherings, high-profile public places, and high security areas. State governments identify threats and protect people and places within their borders, and local governments look after threats to the populations of cities and towns. But let's drill down one more level to neighbors, blocks, and street-level hometown security.

As amateur radio operators, we are the "eyes on the street" when deployed to the various events we generally work, such as picnics, parades, marathons, large attendance events and gatherings. But unfortunately, while on station, our observations are often too late to stop a terroristic event that has been planned. Weeks of thought and planning have taken place prior to an individual or group executing their attack. A part of our jobs — every day — is to keep a keen and vigilant eye for clues that are out of the norm for our hometowns. And as the saying goes, "If you see something, say something."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides a wealth of information on its website about threats to our security and recommended ways to respond to them. We have collected and combined some of the highlights here, with a focus on situations that may be faced by hams. According to DHS, the most common threats Americans face today are:

Active Shooter

An active shooter is an individual or group actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearms(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly. Typically, the immediate deployment of law enforcement is required to stop the shooting and mitigate harm to victims. Because active shooter situations are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

Good practices for coping with an active shooter situation – flee, hide, or fight

- Be aware of your environment and any possible dangers
- Take note of the two nearest exits in any facility you visit
- If you are in an office, stay there and secure the door
- If you are in a hallway, get into a room and secure the door
- As a last resort, attempt to take down the active shooter. When the shooter is at close range and you cannot flee, your chance of survival is much greater if you try to incapacitate him/her.

How to respond when law enforcement arrives:

Law enforcement's primary purpose in this type of situation is to stop the active shooter as soon as possible. Officers will proceed directly to the area in which the last shots were heard.

- Officers usually arrive in teams of four (4)
- Officers may wear regular patrol uniforms or external bulletproof vests, Kevlar helmets, and other tactical equipment
- Officers may be armed with rifles, shotguns, handguns or a combination
- Officers may use pepper spray or tear gas to control the situation
- Officers may shout commands, and may push individuals to the ground for their safety

How to react when law enforcement arrives:

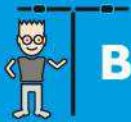
- Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
- Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets, portable radios, cellular telephones, etc.)
- Immediately raise your hands and spread your fingers
- Keep your hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or directions when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises or in which you are directed

Information to provide to law enforcement or 911 operator:

- Location of the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter(s)
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter(s)
- Number of potential victims at the location

The first officers to arrive to the scene will not stop to help injured persons. Expect rescue teams com-

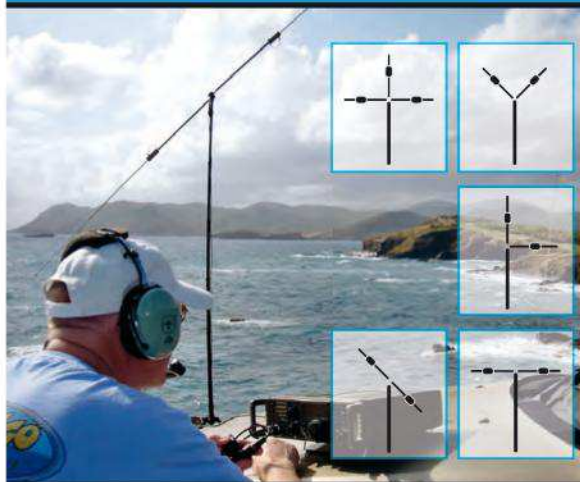
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"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."
As quoted in *The Life Of Lord Courtney (1920)*
by G. P. Gooch.

prised of additional officers and emergency medical personnel to follow the initial officers. These rescue teams will treat and remove any injured persons. They may also call upon able-bodied individuals to assist in removing the wounded from the premises. Once you have reached a safe location or an assembly point, you will likely be held in that area by law enforcement until the situation is under control, and all witnesses have been identified and questioned. Do not leave until law enforcement authorities have instructed you to do so.

Improvised Explosive Device (IED)

An improvised explosive device (IED) attack is the use of a "homemade" bomb and/or destructive device to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract. IEDs are used by criminals, vandals, terrorists, suicide bombers, and insurgents. Because they are improvised, IEDs can come in many forms, ranging from a small pipe bomb to a sophisticated device capable of causing massive damage and significant loss of life. IEDs can be carried or delivered in a vehicle; carried, placed, or thrown by a person; delivered in a package; or concealed on the roadside. The term IED came into common usage during the Iraq War that began in 2003.

Elements of an IED

IEDs consist of a variety of components that include an initiator, switch, main charge, power source, and a con-

tainer. IEDs may be surrounded by or packed with additional materials or "enhancements" such as nails, glass, or metal fragments designed to increase the amount of shrapnel propelled by the explosion. Enhancements may also include other elements such as hazardous materials. An IED can be initiated by a variety of methods, depending on the intended target.

Materials Used as Explosives

Explosives in IEDs may be made from many commonly available materials, such as fertilizer, gunpowder, and hydrogen peroxide. Explosives must contain a fuel and an oxidizer, which provides the oxygen needed to sustain the reaction. A common example is ANFo, a mixture of ammonium nitrate, which acts as the oxidizer, and fuel oil (the fuel source). Concern about the use of explosives created from liquid components that can be transported in a stable form and mixed at the site of attack is the reason that in 2006 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security restricted the amount of liquids that passengers may carry on commercial aircraft.

Mowing Machine Attacks

This is the terrorist attack pattern that has left more than 100 people dead and hundreds more wounded in Nice, Berlin, London, Stockholm, Miami, New York City, and Ohio State University—a terrorist takes a van or truck and plows through innocent pedestrians on a crowded thoroughfare, turning the vehicle into "a mowing machine, not to mow grass but mow down the enemies of Allah."

Those words come from an article called "The Ultimate Mowing Machine" in the 2010 edition of the glossy online al-Qaeda magazine *Inspire*, which provided detailed instruc-

tions on how to carry out vehicular attacks, urging would-be terrorists to “pick up as much speed as you can while still retaining good control ... to strike as many people as possible in your first run.”

Edged Weapons

A common practice following a mowing machine attack is use of edged weapons. Attackers will exit their vehicles brandishing knives, machetes or

other edged weapons to further inflict injury and death.

Bomb Threats

Bomb threats or suspicious items should always be taken seriously. How quickly and safely you react to a bomb threat could save lives, including your own. What should you do? If you see something that is suspicious, out of place, or doesn't look right, *say something*. A **suspicious item** is any item

(e.g., bag, package, vehicle, etc.) that is reasonably believed to possibly contain explosives, an improvised explosive device (IED), or other hazardous material that requires a bomb technician and/or specialized equipment to further evaluate it. Examples that could indicate a bomb include unexplainable wires or electronics, other visible bomb-like components; unusual sounds, vapors, mists, or odors. Generally speaking, anything that is **Hidden**, **Obviously suspicious**, and not **Typical (HOT)** should be deemed suspicious. In addition, potential indicators for a bomb are threats, placement, and proximity of the item to people and valuable assets.

Not all items are suspicious. An unattended item is an item (e.g., bag, package, vehicle, etc.) of unknown origin and content but for which there are no obvious signs of being suspicious. Area search, lock-down, or evacuation is not necessary unless the item is determined to be suspicious.

You may encounter a suspicious item unexpectedly or while conducting a routine search of your assigned area. If it appears to be a suspicious item, follow these procedures:

- Remain calm
- Do **NOT** touch, tamper with, or move the package, bag, or item
- Notify authorities immediately:
 - Notify your supervisor, such as a net control station, operator, or administrator
 - Call 9-1-1 or your local law enforcement if no supervisor is available
 - Explain why it appears suspicious
 - Follow instructions. Supervisors and/or law enforcement will assess the situation and provide guidance regarding shelter-in-place or evacuation.
 - If no guidance is provided and you feel you are in immediate danger, calmly evacuate the area. Distance and protective cover are the best ways to reduce injury from a bomb.
 - Be aware. There could be other threats or suspicious items.

If your local or regional EmComm group has not received training or attended lectures on Hometown Security, I recommend that you ask your leadership to contact your state's homeland security office, state police, or emergency management agency director. And when you do arrange for these lectures or training, don't forget to invite other local groups, such as CERT, Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, neighborhood security watches, etc. We're all out there working together to protect our hometowns!

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First Look: MFJ/Xiegu X5105 Portable HF Transceiver

Plus ... New Tech Question Pool, Fixing Problem Traps, and Portable Power

MFJ Enterprises is teaming up with the Xiegu Technology Co. of China to market Xiegu's "X5105" 160- to 6-meter, 5-watt, 2-pound portable transceiver (*Photo A*), with a built-in 3.8-Ah, 12-volt Lithium Ion battery. It also works on external 12 volts, with about a half-amp draw on receive. We measured 2.5 amps on SSB transmit peaks. Yes, the internal Lithium Ion battery safely recharges automatically on an external 12-volt connection. The rig also has a built-in mic and speaker, like a Rambo-style handheld.

We took our demo unit to Quartzfest, the annual ARRL ham/RV special operating event, and put it through its paces, with several hams saying the unit was indeed "unique," and making contacts both locally and via 40- and 20-meter skywave, with reports of "great transmit audio." These reports were from both the built-in mic and the included plug-in microphone.

This is a heavyweight, self-contained transceiver, weighing in at 2 pounds. The way it was designed could lead to a QRP operator affixing a lightweight tunable HF single-band whip to the sturdy BNC antenna jack (*Photo B*), and operating it on the trail like the WWII military PR pack sets. The fast built-in antenna tuner will match nearly any type of single-band whip resonated for the band selected. The very heavy aluminum chassis and

heat sink form the other side of the antenna circuit ground plane.

The X5105 can transmit up to 5 watts SSB/CW with adjustable power down to 1/2-watt, and even works FM up on the 29.6 MHz portion of the 10-meter band. CTCSS will likely be added in the production units for 10-meter FM repeater operation.

The dimmable LCD display offers a light blue background, with blue letters and numbers. Internal battery voltage reads out, too.

The LCD volume bar, just below the S-meter (*Photo C*), shows how you have set the volume control. Everyone was looking for how to turn it off, mistaking it for RF gain, not volume control gain. I am still reading the preliminary Chinese instruction manual for that option.

The S-meter bar automatically turns into SWR on transmit. This was nice. For CW ops, this unit also has three menu settings for CW messages, and the internal keyer circuit has several adjustments. We understand that full break-in may be included on regular production units.

The external mic is backlit, but again, the unit operates with a built-in mic and speaker for on-the-trail ops with a portable whip resonant close to the frequency of operation.

The LCD display also has a graph function, to see an SWR plot of the antenna, or see a graph of band activity (*Photo D*), sweeping left to right. It is a scanning type of readout, not live from edge to edge, nor with waterfall capabilities.

For the serious backpacker wanting to play Radio Rambo in the forest, this rig will be unique. At

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Photo A. The Xiegu X5105 portable HF/6-meter transceiver from China is marketed exclusively in the United States by MFJ Enterprises.



Photo B. The X5105 includes a built-in microphone and speaker for hand-held use, along with a single-band whip antenna, for self-contained portable operation. A plug-in mic is also supplied with the rig.

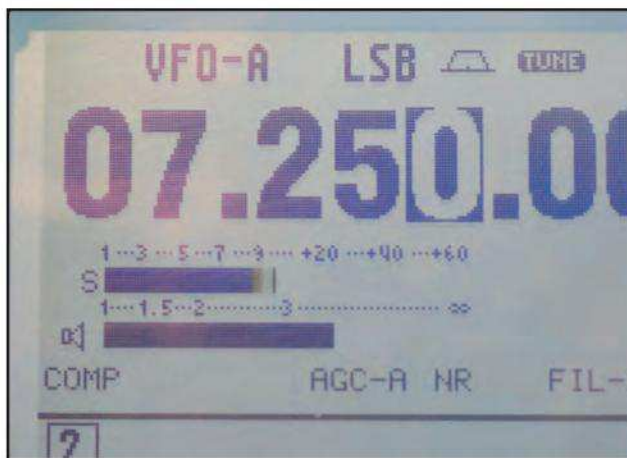


Photo C. One of the features of the LCD display on the X5105 is an indicator of where your volume control is set, just below the S-meter graph. On transmit, the S-meter automatically switches to reading SWR.



Photo D. The blue LCD display also features a graph function that can show you band activity or the SWR plot of your antenna.

Quartzfest, it did well in bucking all the QRM around us, pulling out stations from local QRM like a pro.

MFJ is working up a host of added software mods and features to be included with this unit, when the final version will begin to ship this summer. It will sell in the \$670 range. For more details, see <<http://bit.ly/2C0wXDB>>.

New Technician Class Exam Pool Released

The new Technician Class element 2 question pool has been released to publishers and the public for Technician exams beginning this July 1st. The current pool remains unchanged until June 30, as do the current training materials.

The new Technician Class question pool has about the same number of questions as the current pool, 424 total, from which 35 appear on the test. Fifty-five new questions were added, taking the place of 61 which were deleted. In addition, a host of current questions were slightly modified, such as capitalizing Amateur Radio Service, adding a comma, or changing distractor (wrong) answers to be *more* wrong.

The segments on rules and regulations, operating procedures, and non-voice operation each added about a dozen new questions, but technical top-

ics like formulas and equations were simply re-warmed with few changes.

The question pool committee *did* add four DMR-type questions, such as “what is DMR?,” “talk groups,” and Mesh networks using old routers. But only four DMR questions for the Technician Class operator? I would have liked to see a dozen more questions on DMR operation, code plugs, and transceiver operation on DMR. New hams are likely to find this mode appealing and it’s important for them to know how to properly operate with it.

Also, a very few questions were added on how a new Tech operator goes on the air for the first time. Yet this new pool asks about voltage and currents in parallel and series circuits, which few new hams will encounter straight out of the chute.

There was no major change in direction on how the pool would address the

new ham entering our hobby, so work with potential hams taking your club’s courses, and let them know this test will get them set for the *real* learning about ham radio, which means passing the test on the first try, and then immediately getting on the air and making contacts! Here is where the real learning begins — on the air, at club meetings, hamfests, and Field Day.

Next year, General Class will undergo the update procedure.

Check Your “Bad” Trap

Some popular multi-band verticals and beams use high-Q parallel LC traps to block a specific frequency from traveling farther out to the lower band sections (*Photo E*). Same with popular tri band beams — many will use high-Q traps to “resonate” the signal to just the correct portion of the band you select.



Photo E. Traps are common elements of many multiband antennas. Long-term exposure to weather extremes can cause them to become intermittent, but the fix is often quite simple.

The popular Cushcraft traps, and the Hustler 5 BTV traps, for example, feature a big KW coil, surrounded by an outside aluminum sleeve, screwed in place at one end. Both ends of the trap have a black boot, which hides this pesky loose screw setup.

The trap is an LC parallel-tuned circuit, with the highest band trap, say 10 meters, the first one the signal sees as a high impedance “stop here” signal in a network. If you’re operating on the 15-meter band, the signal passes through the 10-meter trap, with a bit of loading for 15 meters. The 15-meter trap then stops the signal from going any farther out the antenna length. On 20 meters, the first trap for 10 meters looks like a small amount of inductive loading, the 15-meter trap looks like a little more inductive loading, and the 20-meter signal uses the entire length of the radiator and the slightly inductive traps for 20-meter resonance.

Trap coils, inside the outer aluminum sleeve, seldom go bad. The coils are heavy-gauge solid copper wire, wound on a form, covered with varnish, so they stay shiny clean. But if the trap was mounted on the beam without the drain holes pointing down, water will detune the coil. Dry it out, set the drain holes down, and you are back on the air.

But wait! The biggest trap “failure” is the outside surrounding capacitive sleeve — This is the Xc component of the resonant circuit, and the sleeve may have only a single sheet metal screw holding one end in place to each of the elements.

Does this outer sleeve easily turn when you gently twist it? If so, you likely have an intermittent connection on that particular band. But where is the screw to tighten it?

The screw is factory “sealed” under the brittle black boot, with one end attaching the outside sleeve to the ele-

Photo F. A single sheet-metal screw — generally hidden under a rubber boot — connects the trap to the antenna element. Tightening this screw and restoring water / critter protection to the junction can often resolve a “bad trap” issue.



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Photo G. The BioennoPower 20-ah Lithium Iron Phosphate battery ran this gear all day long at Quartzfest.

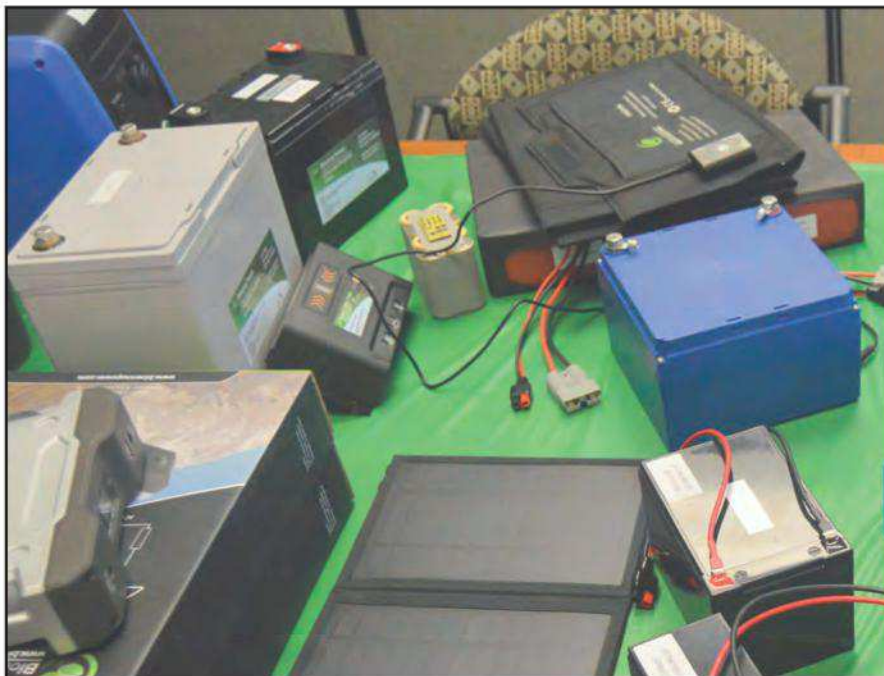


Photo H. A selection of Bioenno power options, from small portable batteries and folding solar panels to high-capacity RV "house batteries."

ment. You will need to remove the black sleeves at both ends to spot the one end with the sheet metal screw that is loose (Photo F).

Tighten it, brush on some LockTite™, and now cover up both ends of the coil and outer shell with a non-conductive dielectric goo, to seal out moisture and varmints from nesting on the inside. Or, contact the manufacturer, and order some replacement black boots. Their only role is to keep the innards clean and free of creatures, and the boots don't last

very long in the hot summer months out here in hot California. I imagine they freeze and break away out east.

After a long winter with lots of wind and vibration, the outside capacitive sleeves work loose, and need to be tightened. Once you find it, a couple of turns of a single sheet metal screw does the job, and Presto, your "bad" trap is now fixed.

Remember, only one end of the trap's outer capacity cover is physically attached by the screw. The other end is

left as an open circuit, to form the correct LC resonant circuit.

Bioenno Big Boy Batteries

Hams across the U.S. love the lightweight 20-amp-hour and 40-amp-hour Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries marketed by BioennoPower <www.bioennopower.com/>. They are rugged, run rigs for at least a day, as we did at Quartzfest (Photo G), and hold their 13.2-VDC voltage during HF transceiver transmitting. They also recharge quickly.

With so many ham RVers at Quartzfest, many asked whether BioennoPower also has RV "house batteries," in 100-, 150- and 200-amp-hour capacities. House batteries maintain all the operation of electronics within an RV or communications van. They are independent of the starting battery, and of any need for outside alternating current.

Yes, Bioenno does offer these high-capacity batteries (Photo H) but this technology needs a higher charging voltage, between 13.8 and 14.8 volts, for a good charge from the RV's main alternator system.

So check both your RV house battery AC battery charger system voltage, then double-check that your RV alternator can build a charge up to 14.8 volts, the ideal to voltage for BioennoPower Lithium Iron Phosphate technology. You will need a blocking diode isolator package to prevent the regular RV lead acid batteries, which rest about 12.8 VDC, from pulling down the BioennoPower Lithium Iron Phosphate battery, which rests at a normal 13.4 volts after a good charge.

Announcing:
**2018 CQ World Wide
 Foxhunting Weekend –
 May 12-13**

Now is the time to plan for this year's CQ World Wide Foxhunting Weekend, which will be May 12-13 — or another date in the spring if it works better for your group. Mobile or on-foot, one transmitter or many, a radio foxhunt is sure to stir up activity in your ham club. CQ doesn't impose any rules or offer any awards for Foxhunting Weekend. That's up to you and the hams in your hometown. Your hunt can be for mobiles or all on foot. Use the international rules or make up your own.

For many clubs, CQWW Foxhunting Weekend kicks off a season of regular transmitter hunts. For others, it's a special once-a-year event, like Field Day. Since the primary objective is lots of hunt participation, we don't insist that your event be on that particular weekend. Any time in the spring is fine with us!

If your club has always had one kind of hunt on Foxhunting Weekend, why not try something different this year? Some hams prefer the formalities of carefully-crafted boundaries, specifications for signal parameters, time limits, and so forth. Others are content just to have one or more signals to hunt. No need for any regulations, they say. Talk it up on the local repeater and social media to find out what your friends have in mind.

Foxhunting teaches an important skill — the ability to find the source of signals from afar. Radio Direction Finding (RDF) is useful for public service and volunteer enforcement. It can even save lives. Most of all, it's fun. Give it a try, but ensure your group has *safe* fun. See to it that no one can be injured by your hidden transmitter or by trying to get to it. That goes for the public as well as your club members.

Don't let the excitement of the hunt make you an unsafe runner or driver. Make sure that all transmitting and receiving antennas are eye-safe. Always be mindful of your own physical limitations and never take chances behind the wheel or in the forest.

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

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

I am eager to read your reports of this year's foxhunting activities and the new ideas that you come up with. Happy hunting!
 –KØOV

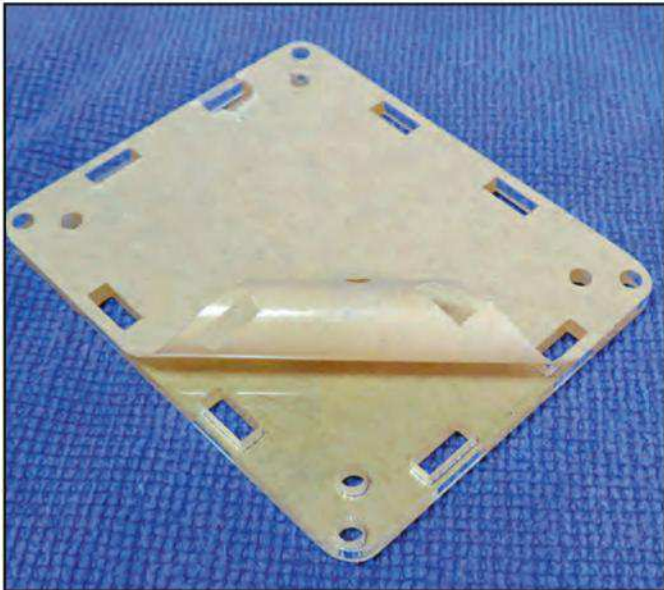
*Joe Moell, KØOV
 CQWW Foxhunting Weekend Moderator
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 Web: <www.homingin.com>

SPURIOUS SIGNALS

By Jason Togyer KB3CNM



The things you find at truck stops... Kit-Building Editor Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB, came across this display of CB antennas recently at a truck stop in Arizona. The marketing pitch on the center one, with the blue packaging and loading coil, caught his eye. Take a close look: "Air Cooled High Tech Helix Design for Maximum VSWR." Um, yeah, that's what we all want for our antennas ... maximum VSWR! And it's good to know what antenna coils are really for ... cooling down your hot RF! (KØNEB photo)



Peeling away the adhesive coating reveals the clear plastic that makes up the case parts.



Completed crystal tester measuring a 20-meter crystal.

off and having to be removed separately.

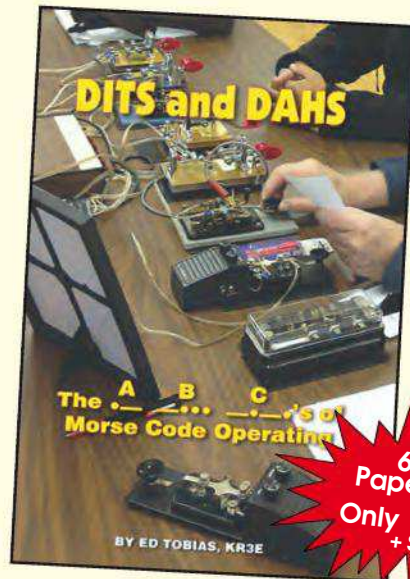
The next problem I encountered was that the holes in the plastic case parts had burrs, making it difficult to press-fit everything together. I used a tiny file and a Dremel® tool to fix this issue. I am not perfect when it comes to assembling things, and with this kit, my biggest problem was the plastic piece that is on the side of the coaxial power jack. It didn't seem to line up exactly with the power jack, and cracked when I tried to assemble it. Moral of the story ... gently test each part as you assemble it and use a file or Dremel tool to make any corrections needed to make everything fit. The problem in this case was that the holes where the jack went into the PC board were slightly larger than needed, and the

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Dremel 7300 all charged up and ready to go!

jack was not exactly in the center of them when soldered into place. This made it difficult for that edge panel to fit correctly and broke it when assembled.

Using the Kit

I suggest using a 9-volt battery or other source of 5 to 9 volts DC to power this kit, as using 12 volts gets it too hot. A cell phone / USB charger or a 9-VDC source will work just fine. This is a very good reason to have a metered variable-voltage power supply. If using this for a digital display, follow the directions in the special document available online to choose either a custom offset, or to choose one of the standard IF offsets provided, such as 455 kHz, 10.7 MHz, etc. The crystal is inserted into the outer two machine pins on the lower part of the board and the power connected to perform the measurement. The button is only for setting offset frequencies. I found this Geekcreit® crystal tester/digital display kit at Banggood.com <<http://bit.ly/2BjEHUp>> for about \$8.50 including the case.

Get Yourself a Dremel (or Similar) Tool

The Dremel® tool I used to fix the case parts is a model 7300. The Dremel 7300 is commonly available at many hardware and home improvement stores for about \$26. Watch for it to be featured in

sale ads. There is also a set of extra accessories for it that is highly recommended as it will give you a good supply of all the different types of bits needed. There are cutting wheels, grinding bits, drill bits, sanding and polishing bits, so any kit builder will find whatever he/she needs. The accessory kits are usually around \$20 and sometimes less when on sale. With its light weight, the Dremel 7300 makes a nice addition to my portable fixit tool bag.

I also have used my previous cordless Dremel tools to fix bad spots on aluminum antennas during assembly. Often, burrs get in the way of easy antenna assembly, and a cordless rotary tool does the trick outdoors. I even used it to create a slot in aluminum tubing that was not present as it should have been, and it did the job easily. The 7300 has a lithium-ion type battery, making it a lot lighter than previous versions, and charges much more quickly than the older battery types. The Dremel 7300 has two speeds, 6,500 RPM and 13,000 RPM. The high-speed mode sounds kind of like a dental drill, so if you have a phobia about those, well, be aware.

Non-Kit Kits

There are a lot of new low-cost “non-kit kits” out there that I will cover soon. These radios do not come with cases, and that is the part each builder takes on as a challenge. I have a µBITX on its way from India that should be interesting. The µBITX is a multi-band transceiver that does CW and SSB, with 10 watts output, making it ideal for FT8 or other digital modes as well. It covers from 3 to 30 MHz continuously, making it also useful as a general coverage receiver. It comes as a pre-assembled main board that is tested and aligned, but just needs the plugs and jacks and display attached, which are all supplied. W8TEE provided a “first look” at the µBITX in last month’s issue. I’ll add my take on it as soon as mine arrives.

Finally, April is time for Ozarkcon in Branson, Missouri. This is where QRP fans gather to enjoy a weekend in the Ozarks entertainment capital, and take part in a group kit-build as well as seminars, and just a great time talking with fellow QRP ops and kit builders. Visit Ozarkcon at <www.ozarkcon.com>. I hope to see you there in April, and at Dayton in May!

– Until next time, 73 de KØNEB

Power to the People

This month, let's explore a topic vital to every ham shack: Power to the people! Don't fret and please don't turn the page quite just yet. This isn't going to be an analysis of free market economies, political science, or sociological revolutionary trends. Rather, let's take a closer look at electrical power in the shack; namely, converting the alternating current voltage (VAC) in your wall socket to the direct current voltage (VDC) which is used to power much of the gear in our ham shacks.

AC Versus DC

You're probably familiar with the term, "power grid," and even if you aren't, you depend upon it daily. The grid is a term used to describe the nation's electrical power distribution system. Power plants generate AC (alternating current) voltages that are stepped down to the 220-VAC levels that service most residential homes. In our homes, the 220 VAC is divided into household circuits utilizing 110 VAC, which powers most of our appliances such as televisions, stereos, computers, clocks, etc.

AC is used because it is more easily transferred over long distances. DC (direct current) doesn't travel nearly as far without a degradation of power. For example, connect a four-foot wire pair to your 13.8 VDC power supply and measure the voltage at the far end. Now, do the same thing and use a 30-foot wire pair and measure the difference. Wire length and size (gauge) and consequent resistance per foot makes a big difference. That's why Nikola Tesla's AC power distribution scheme combined with George Westinghouse's resources

became the industry standard for long-haul power distribution, also known as "the grid."

However, let's not rule out DC. DC does have its good points. Since the current in DC isn't alternating, it isn't producing unwanted frequencies that can prove to be noisy to radio receivers. Moreover, DC is used by electrical engineers to power semiconductors, which are the heart of modern electronics. Consequently, household AC voltage is converted to DC voltage to power such household electronics as televisions, home entertainment systems, computers, and ham radios.

Power Supply Parameters

Converting household 110 VAC to 13.8 VDC is accomplished with the *power supply*. Frequently, I hear hams ask, "What power supply do I need to work with my radio?" To answer that question, one must ascertain a few radio parameters. Since most HF (high frequency) rigs and dual-band VHF/UHF (very-high and ultra-high frequency) mobile rigs operate on 13.8 VDC, the first parameter to determine is the maximum current drawn by the radio when operating on high power. It essential to know the current draw of a transmitter because, if it is working correctly, it will draw much more current than the receiver.

If you don't have any technical specs handy, the power equation $P = E \times I$ will work nicely. Take the rig's output power and divide it by the voltage (13.8 VDC) to get the current value. For example, if a dual band rig's highest output is 70 watts, then 70 watts divided by 13.8 VDC will give us a current draw of 5.072 amps DC. So, we'll need a power supply that can deliver 13.8 VDC at 5 amps. But, not so fast, let's wait a minute! A good, general, rule of thumb to remember is that semiconductor rigs can be up to 50% efficient, so we will need to

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Photo A. The Astron RS-70M analog power supply provides filtered, regulated 13.8-volt DC power at 57 continuous amps for my operating desk.





Photo B. The MFJ-4225MV switching power supply (top) is my primary workbench DC supply. It offers 22 continuous amps and variable voltage settings. Below it is an Astron RS-12 A analog power supply (without meters).

compensate for the 50% efficiency by doubling our current draw from 5 amps to 10 amps. In other words, our 70-watt radio will need at least 10 amps from the power supply to deliver full power out. Of course, that is assuming 50% efficiency and that doesn't leave wiggle room very much for error. My preference is to have a power supply that will deliver more amps than I actually need. That way, while the power supply is under load, it is not being taxed too heavily and it can just "loaf along."

Continuous Duty Cycle

Once the current draw is known, we are almost ready to match the rig to a power supply. A power supply delivers a voltage and a specific amount of current. The power supply's DC current will have a peak value and a continuous value. The continuous rating is the one most useful when considering a power supply. It's a good idea, when purchasing a power supply, to know its continuous duty rating cycle. For example, a power supply may proclaim 13.8 VDC at 25 amps. But that 25 amps may be only on peaks and for only a short duration. Typically, that power supply may only deliver 22 amps continuously. If a transceiver needs 25 amps continuously to deliver full power out, then our 25 peak-amp supply is going to fall short. It could still be used in a pinch, but the rig's output power will need to be reduced. Don't expect the rig to put out full power if the power supply is going to come up short with the required amperage. When using a power supply, ensure its peak and its continuous amperage rating.

Regulated Power Supplies

Most commercially-built power supplies are regulated. A regulated power supply will deliver a constant DC output voltage; 13.8 VDC is typical for most amateur radio applications.

Some bench supplies offer variable regulated voltages. This can be handy when powering up circuits with different voltage requirements. For example, you may need a 9-VDC source for a circuit. The best quality of a regulated power supply is that it will provide a constant voltage when connected to a rig. This is important because you will need 13.8 VDC not only when the rig is turned on, but when it is transmitting as well. This is called voltage under load. Varying voltages under different load conditions can cause all types of transmitted distortion. It's best to have a well-regulated power supply for optimum rig performance.

Analog Versus Switching

In addition to voltage regulation and continuous amperage output, another power supply consideration is whether to use an analog or a switching power supply. Analog power supplies use a heavy-duty transformer to step down 110 AC household voltage to a lower value, such as 13.8 volts. After the transformer, stage, a rectifier converts the AC to DC; then, filter and regulator circuits produce the final 13.8 VDC for our rigs. Analog power supplies tend to be heavy, somewhat bulky and pricey. Switching power supplies are becoming common because they are lighter and less expensive. Switching power supplies have more components to them, but are considerably lighter and smaller. A switching power supply bypasses the bigger, heavier, transformer by first rectifying an AC voltage to a DC voltage and then converting it to a high-frequency square wave before converting it back to a lower DC voltage that is rectified. These supplies are remarkably lightweight and less expensive than analog power supplies. Unfortunately, early switching power supplies tended to emit a lot of RF noise, making them a source of RFI (radio frequency interference) in the shack. Better design and filtering contin-

ue to make switching power supplies far less noisy, but it's not a bad idea to check beforehand about the RFI potential of a switching power supply by consulting with fellow hams, checking the internet, or talking with a knowledgeable salesperson.

Meters?

I like to monitor what is going on in my shack and that includes my power supplies. I don't mind spending the extra money for a power supply that, with a glance of the eye, will tell me the operating voltage and current draw. Metering isn't necessary; a digital multimeter (DMM) will tell you those parameters as well. However, I find it more convenient to have the meters installed in the supply, constantly giving me feedback and freeing up my DMM for bench work.

How Many Amps?

How many amps your power supply needs to deliver depends on the total amount of current required to power up your radio shack. I prefer to have one big power supply that powers all my radios through a distribution system on my operating desk. I have an Astron RS-70M (*Photo A*). The M stands for metered, which gives me constant feedback for voltage and amperage. Although this amp is rated for 70 amps, its continuous amperage is closer to 57 amps. I've had this amp for many years. On my workbench (*Photo B*), I have an Astron RS-12 A (with no metering), as well as a MFJ 4225MV switching power supply — with meters — which provides a variable DC voltage output and 22 continuous amps. It is very lightweight and I've used it at club outings such as Field Day.

Protection

In addition to a fused AC line, many power supplies offer over-voltage and over-current protection circuits. These are great features. If there's a rig component failure or a short circuit, the power supply will limit the voltage and current output, a great safety feature.

Power On

I hope this article has shed a little light on power supplies. Like most things in life, there are compromises. We know what we'd like to have, but we also know what we can afford. It pays to shop around, but before you do, have a good understanding of your power needs. Inform yourself before making a purchase.

Thank you for reading CQ magazine and I hope to hear you on the air!

— 73, GL de Ron, KOØZ

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With thanks to the OMs who encourage and support us.

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Smart Listening

With the rapid advance of voice activated speakers, I've been testing voice activation. I'd like to share some of the things I've been thinking about as I did this. I'd also like to hear from all of you how it's working on your end of the radio spectrum and an update on the trends in radio listening. More on that later.

Millions and Millions...

The recent holiday selling season saw record-breaking sales of voice activated devices such as Google Home and Amazon Dot. By some estimates, they are now in 12% to 14% of American homes. More and more devices have the technology built-in, too.

A few ham and SWL radios have had limited voice commands, originally intended for those with visual or other disabilities. However, this did not extend to the everyday radio user, often was limited to a few average and frequently required the purchase of added hardware. With the rapid advances in technology, it would be surprising if a more complete suite of voice commands was not built into the next generation of ham and scanner radios. (I'm going to leave shortwave listening out of this for the moment as few SWL radios are in current development.) The necessary hardware and software are now widely available to the hobbyist. Wouldn't it make sense that the manufacturers are at least thinking about it?

Expectations

The question facing a hobbyist is: What do we expect? With voice activation, do we want simple commands? Or are we expecting integration with the other devices that are in our home? For example, if you have a Sonos or other home audio system, would you like that system to be able to pick up the audio from your scanner in any room? Do you want to be able to initiate a 2-meter contact via voice command to the nearest smart speaker and then to your station? This would almost certainly require the hardware to be able to communicate over Wi-Fi and the internet without the user doing any more than entering network passwords and linking to appropriate online apps or "skills." Some of this capability is already present in many radios and SDRs.

Would these features fundamentally change an essentially solitary hobby? It may be that we don't want those features in our radios now. I wonder, though, if the next generation might view it differently if they grow up in a mostly voice-activated world? This goes to one unknown that even the programmers at Amazon can't answer: Just how much voice control do we want and what things should never be voice activated?

While hams have been communicating over internet links for decades now, the radios haven't fully caught up. We can tune and listen to radios over the net; we can download an incredible amount of data related to our hobby. In some

cases, we can update the firmware on our radio to fix issues or get new features. With SDRs, we can practically create whole new radios. There are already great apps out there for remotely-controlling radios, so it would make sense that these could easily become voice-activated.

If you already do this, I would be interested in hearing what works and what doesn't and what tools you are using to accomplish it.

Research Summary

I want to share some interesting numbers that were recently published from several research sources on the trends in audio consumption. I think that the numbers will provide a picture of how quickly streamed audio and smart speakers are changing the audio landscape. I've compiled this data as part of a more detailed presentation I will be giving at several radio meetings soon. CQ readers get an early peek.

Jacobs Media conducted research¹ on public radio listeners across the U.S. last year. (Keep in mind that the Jacobs Media numbers are 12 months old. You can extrapolate to where we are now, considering the advance of smart speakers and voice technology. You should also take note that this was not a truly random sample and consisted of the most serious public radio listeners and looked at their total audio consumption, not just public radio).

- 17% had increased their total listening in the previous year, only 10% had decreased
- The biggest turnoffs were excess commercials and music repetition
- 21% listened to podcasts daily or weekly and, among the so-called millennials, that jumped to 33%
- Smartphones account for more than half of podcast listening
- 20% use voice activated commands with smart speakers frequently, and another 25% do so occasionally
- Smart speaker ownership among this group was already 11% at that time (for the general population it was at 7% a year ago². More recent data from NuVoodoo Media Services³ suggests the number has jumped to 15% for the broader population.)
- The most important car features were access to AM/FM radio and Bluetooth. (Surveys since that time suggest that Android Auto/Apple CarPlay are rising rapidly. Reports from car dealers suggest the same trend.)
- 64% of millennials connect their phones to the car audio in some fashion
- 63% of all surveyed now stream audio from some source weekly and that rises to 81% among the youngest in the survey
- Twice as many people now wake up to their phones than to traditional bedside radios
- Listening patterns among women and men were more alike than different

Another more recent research study by NuVoodoo Media Services³ offered up these tidbits:

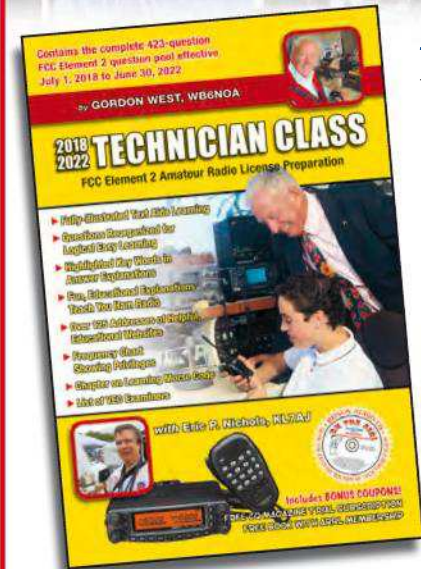
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• Among all radio listeners using a smart speaker, the most common audio choices were weather (50%), AM/FM radio (46%), streaming audio services (45%) Spotify, Pandora (43%), news (41%), audiobooks (27%), talk shows (18%) and podcasts (14%)

Pandora sponsored an Edison Research study⁴ with similar numbers:

• 58% of smart speaker owners listen to music, weather (46%) jokes (42%), general question (40%), a timer (27%), interact with other smart devices (26%), and access a broadcast radio station stream (11%)

The Pandora study⁵ also produced some remarkable numbers on listening in cars among new car owners:

• AM/FM listening in cars has declined to 54% of the in-car audio. This is consistent with other studies

In another study last summer of Canadian podcast listeners done by Ulster Media and Audience Insights⁶, the trends in Canada are similar to the U.S. but lagging a little behind. There were also some differences:

- 15% listen to a podcast daily or weekly
- Listening among young men at least once a month was 31% but jumped to 46% among women. Similar trends were seen in every age group
- Nearly half of all podcast listeners had started listening in the previous 12 months
- Most listening was at home or in the car

Finally, the folks at Nielsen who do the ratings for local radio and TV across the U.S., published this startling trend^{7,8}. Time spent listening to AM/FM radio among generations (hours and minutes per day):

- Gen Z: 1:08

- Millennials: 1:37
- Gen X: 1:59
- Boomers: 2:03

What can we take from these numbers? In a broad sense, the trends toward using online sources for audio are continuing and traditional radio continues to see a very gradual decline. The decline, however, grows dramatically among younger listeners. As an audio source, broadcast radio is declining in importance but if it continues to expand into the streaming world through smart speakers, Android Auto, and other methods, it can remain relevant. In less than another generation, the RF side will no longer be the most important method of distribution.

What's On Your Mind?

As always, I am happy to receive your comments, suggestions, and ideas. Feel free to reach out to me and share what you are thinking.

Notes:

- 1 "Navigating The New Media Landscape", Jacobs Media Tech Survey, <www.jacobsmedia.com>, 2017
2. <<http://bit.ly/2GupUpd>>
3. <<http://bit.ly/2o kecGh>>
4. Op cit., #2
5. <<http://bit.ly/2ysLfiJ>>
6. "The Canadian Podcast Listener: A Landscape Study", Summary Report, October 2017, Jeff Vidler, Audience Insights Inc. and Jeff Ulster, Ulster Media.
7. <<http://bit.ly/2gaaNXh>>
8. <<http://bit.ly/2vkaKOP>>

Canadian Amateur Radio Organizations Seek Collaboration While Australian Hams May Seek Power Increases

New hams on-the-air from Cuba, Ontario extends distracted driving law exemption, Australia holds 60th anniversary hamfest, Germany says “nein” to new entry-level license, and more

RAC and RAQI Cooperate and Consolidate in Canada

Representatives from the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and Radioamateur du Québec (RAQI) met in October to discuss how the two organizations could work together for mutual advantage. Since both agencies operate a QSL bureau for their members, a first step will be to combine the QSL card services with RAC's Outgoing QSL Bureau becoming Canada's sole outgoing bureau for QSL cards. RAQI's outgoing bureau will serve as a branch of the larger RAC bureau, continuing to receive cards from RAQI members, sort them and then forward the cards to the RAC Bureau. RAQI will pay RAC an amount based on the volume of RAQI cards processed. The organizations agree that with postal rates rising, this makes good sense for fewer QSL cards being sent. The new arrangement was set to commence on January 1, 2018.

In another collaboration, RAC agreed to promote outside of Quebec an online amateur radio course offered by RAQI. This will give all Canadians an opportunity to take advantage of this online resource, particularly if they are unable to attend courses offered by local clubs. RAC will receive a portion of the registration fees for all those outside of Quebec who register for this course.

[RAC]

Distracted-Driving Law Exemption Extended In Ontario

In Canada, distracted driving regulations can vary considerably from province to province. In Ontario, RAC Directors Allan Boyd, VE3AJB, and Phil McBride, VA3QR, have been working hard on this issue, and while the hoped-for permanent exemption for hams was not achieved, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) announced on December 15, 2017 that the current two-way radio exemption for “Amateur Radio operators and specified commercial, public transit, and public function drivers” will be extended for an additional three years, effective until January 1, 2021.

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Email: <aa6ts@cq-amateur-radio.com>

The RAC announced that it would continue to press for a permanent exemption going forward.
[RAC]

“The South’s” Biggest Hamfest Marks 60 Years

As I am writing this in January, Australia's Central Coast Amateur Radio Club (CCARC), which celebrated its 60th anniversary last year, is putting the finishing touches on preparations for what will be the 60th anniversary of the Wyong “Field Day.” Although it is called a Field Day, it is actually more of a hamfest. Alex Stewart, VK2PSF, from the Waverley Amateur Radio Society, explained to me last year that the concept is essentially a carryover from its use in the farming industry where a field day literally means a farmer opens up a field and all the different tractor or agricultural suppliers bring their products for all the district farmers to check out in actual conditions. The Wyong Field Day applies this concept to the amateur radio hobby.

This event, the largest meeting of radio amateurs in the Southern Hemisphere, was held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the Wyong Racecourse on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

For more information, see <<http://fieldday.org.au>>.
[CCARC, Amateur Radio Newsline]

Australian Hams Consider Seeking Power Increases

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) is soliciting comments from the membership before submitting a request to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to increase maximum power levels for all three license classes to 50 watts for Foundation licensees, 200 watts for Standard licensees, and 1,500 watts for Advanced licensees.

Current HF power limits are 10 watts PEP on SSB (or 3 watts on CW, AM, or FM) for Foundation licensees while Standard licensees have a 100 watt PEP HF power limit (SSB) or 30 watts for constant-carrier modes and Advanced users may run up to 400 watts HF power limit (120 watts on constant-carrier modes).

The ACMA feels that the limits put Australian hams at a disadvantage, especially during contests

Photo A. Some of the proud license recipients after a license exam session in Cuba. (Courtesy of the Federacion de Radioaficionados de Cuba) →



Photo B. Do you remember when this was you in the hot seat? License candidates in Cuba take exams for new or upgraded ham licenses (Courtesy of the Federacion de Radioaficionados de Cuba) ↓



in which other countries permit 1 kilowatt or more. An 18-month trial that allowed participating Advanced licensees to run up to 1 kilowatt on HF ended in 2013.

[ARRL News]

Cuba Welcomes 103 New Hams

On December 16, Cuba welcomed 103 new hams as 98% of the applicants passed the exam for the “Third” (entry-level) category (CL prefix) while about 100 more moved up to the top license categories with CM and CO callsigns (Photos A & B). This is about 8% higher than the first half of 2017.

Two of the goals of the Cuban Radio Federation (FRC) are to increase its presence in mountainous and inaccessible localities, and to increase the number of women and young people among its members.

[FRC Facebook page]

New Zealand 60 Meters Trial

The New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART) reports that it has negotiated with government authorities to obtain a license to allow limited operation on the 60-meter band on a one year trial basis.

The approval calls for single sideband and low power and on a secondary basis only. Hams will need to download and submit a completed form to NZART to establish a sub-license which sets out the terms of operation for band usage.

Once NZART acknowledges receipt of this form, New Zealand hams can begin operation on 5353 kHz and 5362-5364 kHz with a maximum output of 10 dBW EIRP (effective isotropic radiated power)

This trial will determine whether 60-meter transmissions are feasible for amateurs without interfering with primary users. [NZART]

Allocation Changes for Iceland

Southgate Amateur Radio News reports that Icelandic amateurs have gained the new WRC-15 60-meter 15-kHz-wide allocation of 5351.5-5366.5 kHz, limited to 15 watts; but lost the 150-kHz-wide allocation between 5260 and 5410 kHz, which permitted 100 watts EIRP and had been available by special permit.

[Southgate Amateur Radio News]

Germany Tables New Entry Level License but Keeps 6 Meters

German radio enthusiasts who were hopeful for a new entry-level “klasse K” license will have to wait indefinitely. An article in the Southgate Amateur Radio News states that a meeting between the amateur radio round table (RTA) and the German Federal Network Agency (BNetzA) on November 24, 2017 presented the reason as “... because it cannot be ruled out that such an introduction could restrict the self-construction privilege of amateur radio operators.”

Amateur radio licenses in Germany peaked in 2002 at 80,000 licensed amateurs, and slipped to 67,349 in 2015. In recent years, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) has been promoting amateur radio and offering a free online training course. While figures show an increase in the numbers of applicants taking license exams, there is no entry-level category for new radio operators to get started in the hobby.

In other news from Germany, access to the 6-meter band, which was on a temporary basis and was due to expire, has been extended at least another year. Additionally, Class E (Novice) licensees are now to be able to use the 13- and 6-centimeter bands at a maximum of 5 watts PEP until the end of 2018.

The allowable power on 160 meters (between 1850 and 1890xKHz) has been increased from 75 to 100 watts PEP. Contests are also now allowed on weekends, but only in the frequency range of 1890 to 2000 KHz.

[Southgate Amateur Radio News, Amateur Radio Newslines]

In Closing

We appreciate hearing from you. Keep the stories and photos coming! Email your ham radio news and high-resolution photos to <aa6ts@cq-amateur-radio.com>. Thank you!

—73 de AA6TS

When you're ready to get on HF,
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In 1865 physicist James Clerk Maxwell mathematically predicted electromagnetic waves, and in 1888 experimenter Heinrich Hertz confirmed their existence. From that moment on it was a race to see who could build a practical wireless telegraph and telephone system based on this new science. Pioneers like Tesla, Fleming, de Forest, Armstrong, Marconi and Fessenden all made critical contributions to the development of radio as a practical communications medium, and by the 1920s radio spanned the world.

Hams were there from the beginning, building their own spark gap transmitters and coherer receivers, adding to radio science and engineering. Skywave propagation, which makes direct long distance communications possible, was entirely an amateur discovery made after the government relegated hams to wavelengths below 200 meters. These were thought to be useless but hams proved them wrong, ushering in the shortwave era.

In my humble opinion HF is the heart and soul of ham radio; it's where it all started. Sure I'm on two meters and 440, but for me the magic happens when I talk to another ham on the other side of the world, direct from my station to his. Even though most new hams get their start on VHF these days, there are millions of hams in nearly every country of the world just waiting to talk on HF.

Back in the day HF equipment was expensive, and not very capable. Today it's a bargain, and modern radios offer a fantastic array of functions. Most even include a built-in antenna tuner, although they're quite limited in capacity and can handle SWRs of only 3:1 at most, insufficient for many real-world antennas.

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Optional M-600 external analog meter \$129.99

AT-600Proll

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The AT-200Proll now includes LEDs to show antenna position and if the tuner is in bypass. A two position antenna switch stores 2000 memories per switch. Handles up to 250 watts SSB or CW on 1.8 to 30 MHz and 100 watts on 54 MHz. Rugged and easy to read LED bar graphs simultaneously show RF power and SWR.

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The “Play’s” The Thing

With apologies to Bill (OK, William) Shakespeare and his character Hamlet, which was at times pretty serious subject matter, April seems to be an appropriate month to explore the notions of play and playfulness. Take just a moment to explore the many different interpretations of the word “play” and let’s explore a few ways to add enjoyment to this wonderful pastime we call ham radio.

Learning Through Play

Play is fun, oftentimes combined with learning. Our earliest memories are often associated with play and as adults, we derive enjoyment watching children at play. When you play, you can be anything you want to be, from Superman to Mighty Mouse. While it may start “foolishly,” April is the month when the words “play ball” echo across the stadiums of America. Every youthful ballplayer has imagined stepping up to the plate in the bottom of the ninth inning in the seventh game of the World Series, down three runs with two outs and the bases loaded. Later on, we pay to watch athletes “play” at a sport that is very serious business to many of them (and no doubt, their agents and team owners). Happily, there are many successful pros who never lose their love, or respect, for *playing* a game.

Play is an essential gift. In my yard, we often watch wild rabbits bounding over one another. Most dogs love to play, especially with their pet humans. Show a cat a string, a ball of yarn, or a laser pointer. They

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

play — and they learn because learning is always more fun when combined with play.

Don’t Tell Me What I Can’t Do!

Very few of us are gifted with the ability to clobber a baseball 450 feet, drive the fairway at Augusta, or hoist the trophy at Wimbledon. But as hams, we do have abilities that are pretty darn awesome. I can’t heave a football 40 yards to a streaking tight end, but I can throw an intelligible signal halfway around the world. I can’t play shortstop in the major leagues, but I have the ability to string together some wire and snare a “line drive” signal from a ham in another state or country.

And with my radio, I can play among the stars. My signals can easily reach the orbits of satellites or the International Space Station; maybe even bounce off the Moon and back to Earth. Some of my signals are now zipping across space at light speed, bound for who knows where? (Several millennia from now, I hope some faraway life form finds my comments entertaining, if nothing else.)

Along with the ability to play comes playfulness in many forms. Take Elon Musk, for example. An immigrant from South Africa, he has amassed significant accomplishments and fortunes in the worlds of data, finance, clean energy, automotive transportation, and spaceflight. But with all that “serious” stuff going on and literally billions of dollars on the table, there’s a strong strand of playfulness, as in placing a sports car into orbit with a dummy astronaut (*Photo A*) and a nav screen that reads “Don’t Panic!” (homage to the *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*) (*Photo B*). Now if that ain’t



Photo A. (Very) high-level playfulness — space entrepreneur Elon Musk is sending one of his Tesla sportscars to the asteroid belt, complete with a dummy astronaut behind the wheel. (Photos courtesy SpaceX)

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Photo B. The asteroid-bound sportscar also sports a navigation screen with perhaps the best-known quote of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy's* Ford Prefect: "Don't Panic!"

playful, what is? What's the connection? Imagination. Folks like Edison, Tesla, Disney, the Wright Brothers, and others could play out their imaginations and connect them to tangible realities that are now commonplace.

Caution – Hams At Play

So this month's visit is an invitation to rediscover your own sense of playfulness. Go back to those days of your youth

and touch on the happiness of playing a game and winning, waking up on the first day of summer vacation, of saying "checkmate" for the first time, of catching the fastest kid in the neighborhood by tagging him and making him "it," or dancing to the music like you don't care who's watching.

Get back in touch with the great feeling of passing your licensing test, making that first contact, or completing a goal like Worked All States. Maybe it's the thrill of turning on a pro-

announcements (from page 2)

GLENWOOD, IOWA — The Heartland Hams Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Hamfest-2018** on Saturday, April 28 at the American Legion Hall, 104 N. Vine Street. Contact: Don Brown, (712) 520-7942 or Sharon Sullivan, (402) 551-1673. Website: <www.heartlandhams.org>. Talk-in 145.290.

HASTINGS, NEBRASKA — The Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska will hold the **3rd Annual Greater Midwest Radio Show** on Saturday, April 28 at the Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S. Baltimore Avenue. Website: <http://greatermidwestradio.org>. VE exams.

PERU, INDIANA — The Cass County, Grant County, Miami County, and Kokomo Amateur Radio Clubs will hold the **14th Annual North Central Indiana Hamfest** on Saturday, April 28 at the Miami County 4H Fairgrounds, 1029 W. 200 North. Contact: Steve Shepler, P.O. Box 824, Marion, IN 46952. Email: <shepler1@gmail.com>. Talk-in 147.345+ (PL 131.8). VE exams.

PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA — The Twin City FM Club will hold the **2018 Spring Tailgate Swap Meet** on Saturday, April 28 at the West Medicine Lake Community Club, 1705 Forestview Lane North. Phone: (612) 718-4718. Email: <trustee.tcfmc@gmail.com>. Talk-in 146.76.

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA — The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Annual Hamfest** on Saturday, April 28 at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First Street West. Website: <http://vomarc.org>. Talk-in 145.350 (PL 88.5). VE exams, fox hunt.

SPRING GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA — The York Hamfest Foundation will hold the **2018 York Hamfest** on Saturday, April 28 at Elicker's Grove Park, 511 Roth Church Road. Email: <duane.sterner@yahoo.com>. Website: <www.yorkhamfest.org>. Talk-in 147.330+ (PL 123). VE exams, DXCC / WAS / VUCC / WAC card checking.

ATHENS, OHIO — The Athens County Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Athens Hamfest** on Sunday, April 29 at the Athens Community Center, 701 East State Street. Contact: Carl Denbow, N8VZ, (740) 591-8471. Email: <carl@n8vz.com>. Contact: Eric McFadden, WD8RIF, (740) 593-7176. Email: <william@mcfaddenphoto.com>. Website: <www.ac-ara.org>. Talk-in 145.15. VE exams.

MADISON HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN — The General Motors Amateur Radio Club will hold its **First Annual Swap & Shop** on Sunday, April 29 at the UFCW Local 876, 876 Horace Brown Drive. Contact: Mike Carelli, W8MJC, (248) 835-9545. Email: <swap@gmarc.org>. Website: <www.gmarc.org>. Talk-in 443.075+ (PL 123). VE exams.

MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK — The Orange County Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Spring Hamfest** on Sunday, April 29 at the Town of Walkill Community Center, 2 Wes Warren Drive. Phone: (845) 391-3620. Website: <www.ocarcny.org>. Talk-in 146.76 PL 100). VE exams.

THOMPSON, CONNECTICUT — The Eastern Connecticut Amateur Radio Association will hold its **Amateur Radio Flea Market** on Sunday, April 29 at the Raceway Restaurant at Thompson Speedway, 205 East Thompson Road. Contact: John, KA1MPG, (508) 943-4467. Email: <jonas217@verizon.net>. Website: <www.ecara.net>. Talk-in 147.225 (PL 156.7). VE exams.

MAY

CADILLAC, MICHIGAN — The Wexauke Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Cadillac Amateur Radio and Computer Swap** on Saturday, May 5 at Cadillac Junior High School, 500 Chestnut Street. Contact: Duane, KD8ULW, (231) 824-9813. Email: <kd8ulw@arrl.net>. Website: <www.wexaukeearc.org>. Talk-in 146.98. ARRL card checking.

GRAND FORKS, MINNESOTA — The FORX Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Grand Forks Area Amateur Radio & Electronics Fest** on Saturday, May 5 at Heritage Village, 219 20th Street, NE. Contact: Brian Fedje, KDØUXO, (701) 373-5321. Email: <kd0uxo@outlook.com>. Website: <www.wa0jxt.org>. Talk-in 146.940- (PL 123). VE exams.

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA — The Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Society will hold the **2018 Upstate Hamfest** on Saturday, May 5 at the Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds, 575 Fairgrounds Road. Email: <wr8rw@arrl.net>. Website: <http://brars.cc>. Talk-in 146.610 or 146.870. VE exams.

SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN — The Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club will hold **HAM FEST!** on Saturday, May 5 at the Head of the Lakes Fairgrounds-Multi-Purpose Building, 4700 Tower Avenue. Contact: Robert Schultz, KCØNFB, 115 Eden Lane Duluth, MN 55805-1533. Phone: (218) 481-7458. Email: <arac_hamfest@charter.net>. Website: <www.thearac.org>. Talk-in 146.940- (PL 103.5), 147.000- (PL 103.5), or 146.940- (PL 114.8). VE exams, card checking.

SANDWICH, ILLINOIS — The Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club will hold **The DEKALB Hamfest** on Sunday, May 6 at the Sandwich Fairgrounds, 1401 Sunydam Road. Contact: Bob Yurs, W9ICU, (815) 757-3219. Email: <w9icu@arrl.net>. Website: <www.karc-club.org>. Talk-in 146.730- (PL 100).

BOONE, IOWA — The 3900 Club will hold its **Hamboree 2018** on Saturday, May 12 at the Boone County Fairgrounds-Community Building, 1601 Industrial Park Road. Contact: Clay Conard, WØFS, (515) 838-2285. Email: <hamboree@3900club.com>. Website: <www.3900club.com>. Talk-in 146.850- VE exams, DXCC card checking.

REIDSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA — The Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club will hold the **14th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest** on Saturday, May 12 at the Community Baptist Church, 509 Triangle Road. Contact: Paul Patterson, 125 Woodstone Drive, Stoneville, NC 27048. Website: <www.n4iv.org>. Talk-in 147.345 (PL 103.5).

STANWOOD, WASHINGTON — The Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club will hold the **SCARC 27th Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest** on Saturday, May 12 at Stanwood Middle School, 9405 271st Street NW. Contact: Fred Laun, N7KRN, (360) 387-0624. Email: <w7pig@arrl.net>. Website: <www.scarcwa.org>. Talk-in 145.19. VE exams.

XENIA, OHIO — The Dayton Amateur Radio Association will hold the **2018 Dayton Hamvention** on Friday, May 18 through Sunday, May 20 at the Greene County Fairgrounds, 210 Fairground Road. Phone: (937) 276-6930. Email: <info@hamvention.org>. Website: <http://hamvention.org>. Talk-in 146.94- (PL 123). VE exams; card checking; special event station, W8BI.

GOSHEN, CONNECTICUT — The Southern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club will hold its **27th Annual Hamfest** on Saturday, May 19 at the Goshen Fair Grounds, 116 Old Middle Street. Contact: Steve, W2VID, (518) 369-2863 or Lee, K1LEE, (860) 435-0051. Website: <www.sberk.org>. Talk-in 147.285+ (PL 77). VE exams.

PINELLAS PARK, FLORIDA — The Glorious Society of the Wormhole will hold its **2018 Wormfest** on Saturday, May 26 at Freedom Lake Park, 9990 46th Street, North. Contact: Mike Scott (727) 492-6454. Email: <jemke@jemke.com>. Talk-in 146.850 (PL 146.2).

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, NEW JERSEY — The Bergen Amateur Radio Association will hold the **BARA Spring Hamfest** on Saturday, May 26 at Westwood Regional High School. Contact: Jim Joyce, K2ZO, (201) 664-6725. Email: <k2zo@arrl.net>. Website: <www.bara.org>. Talk-in 146.19+ (PL 141.3). VE exams, DXCC card checking.

WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND — The Maryland FM Association will hold its annual **Memorial Day Hamfest** on Sunday, May 27 at the Howard County Fair Grounds, 2210 Fairgrounds Road. Contact: Maryland FM Association, P.O. Box 351, Hanover, MD 21076. Phone: (301) 641-5313 (6-10 p.m.). Email: <marylandfm@verizon.net>. Website: <www.marylandfm.org>. Talk-in 146.16+ (PL 107.2), 223.16+ (PL 107.2), or 449.0- (PL 107.2). VE exams.

ject you built or repaired and seeing it work as envisioned. One of the great characteristics of ham radio is that it takes others to make the magic complete. After all, if I transmit and no one responds, the loop is open. Satisfaction only sets in when a response comes back. That's where playfulness can make an entrance.

Some of the best exchanges I have had on the radio are with other hams who have shared interesting stories. Descriptions of travel to exotic locations, recommendations of sights to see or restaurants to enjoy in faraway places, accomplishments like living "off the grid," hobbies like Habitat for Humanity or Engineers Without Borders, and more.

I had a contact with a member of the crew at the South Pole who made me feel as though I was visiting that location in person. I once had a conversation with a ham in Samoa who had to take a break to chase the wild pigs out of his hut.

Special event stations commemorating occasions large (Pearl Harbor Day) and small (Oil Heritage Week, Venango County, PA) are a hoot — I have certificates from both. I love history and it's always fun to make contact and get a certificate, but it's even more fun to put an event station on the air and celebrate *something*.

A Headache With Pictures

My daughter Jessica, KD6ARA, once broke us up by defining the term "idea" as a "headache with pictures." When you stop to think about it, so much of our playfulness and enjoyment in conversation comes from the images we create when communicating with others, or being creative in our own thoughts. Imagination is one of the great advantages of radio. If you ever listened to the old radio programs that featured sound effects like opening and closing doors, or the crackling fire created by squishing a ball of cellophane, you were drawn into the "theater of the mind." Orson Welles took that to an apex with his radio production of *War of the Worlds*. You can make your contacts enjoyable and memorable by adding color to routine descriptions. For example, instead of just saying the weather is warm, I heard one person say, "It's so hot here I saw a dog chasing a cat and they were both walking..." Maybe not sidesplitting humor, but colorful — and it conjures up great images.

Escape the Box

So "thinking outside the box" challenges us to break out of our conventions and in some instances, our comfort zones. Yeah, it's easy to exchange a signal report, state your location, and give a weather report. But you'll really get my attention when you tell me about the old car you're restoring, the cross-country trip you're planning in your RV, or the interesting distinguished speaker you listened to last night. Pique my interest. Challenge my imagination. Teach me something. I'll try to do the same for you.

Fun Doesn't Require a License

"If you go back a few hundred years what we take for granted today would seem like magic — being able to talk to people over long distances, to transmit images, flying, the ability to access vast amounts of data like an oracle. These are all things that would have been considered magic a few hundred years ago." —Elon Musk

I believe our hobby is a boundless playground that's alive with potential for fun and fulfillment every minute of every day, powered by the millions of radio operators around the world. So let's play — by putting a little more *Magic In The Sky*.

Spring is in the Air...

Lew McCoy on Antennas

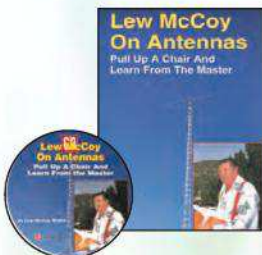
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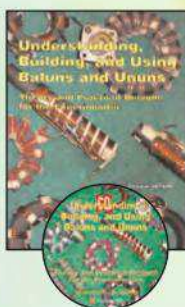
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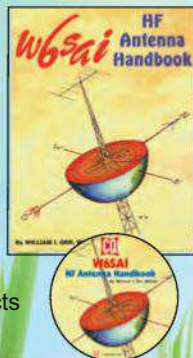
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Winter Field Day 2018... QRP-Style!

Welcome to the April QRP column. This month we delve into Winter Field Day (WFD) ... no April tomfoolery here, WFD is an actual event and it occurs each year on the last full weekend in January. The purpose of WFD is simple ... to set up emergency communications, make as many contacts as possible during the 24-hour event period, and have some wintertime FUN! For me, WFD is just what the doctor ordered to help beat those northern Michigan wintertime blues that often linger until spring thaw. WFD offers something for every ham, but for the QRP operator it is a winter's dream since it focuses on making contacts from a portable location (preferably from the field) with an alternative power source and simple antennas.

This annual event is sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA)¹, not the American Radio Relay League, as some may believe. The WFDA (Figure 1) is a group of hams who believe that preparing and maintaining your emergency communications gear and skills should not be limited to just summertime or fair-weather conditions, but rather all types of weather. WFD helps to further prepare and sharpen each ham's operating skills for a professional and timely response in the event that local, state, or federal agencies put out a call for help, whenever that call may come. With freezing temperatures and snow-covered ground in the northern tier of the country and cooler tem-

peratures for those residing in the south, much of the country is affected by less than favorable outdoor conditions when this event is held each January. It is important for all to remember that natural disasters and emergencies can occur anytime and seldom occur during periods of favorable weather.

Those who have participated in this event in the past may recall the first WFD was held in 2007 and was initially sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR). The first WFD had 28 logs submitted, containing nearly 1,600 contacts covering every corner of the United States and Canada and spanning 33 countries. Since then, the event has grown significantly and is now sponsored by the WFDA. According to WFDA Event Manager Tom Phelps, WD8MBE, the event currently has over 2,000 followers on Facebook and more than 500 logs were submitted for WFD 2017. For 2018, WFDA anticipates receiving over 800 logs — a growing event indeed. WD8MBE indicates a fair share of each year's entries are strictly QRP and that the actual number of participants is much higher than the number of logs submitted.

My First Winter Field Day

After several years of making excuses why I should not operate from the field in the dead of winter, I decided that 2018 would be the year I would pack up my gear and set up a portable operation in the great outdoors. Living in northern Michigan and lacking a pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis, I knew that hiking a trail during winter could be difficult so I set my eyes on a local operation. After some deliberation, I opted for the Traverse City State Park, a state-run campground that is open year-round and not far from my QTH. To keep in the spirit of WFD, I decided to pack light and take only those items that would be readily available to me if I were operating during an emergency. Since I was planning to only operate Saturday afternoon/evening and be home in time for a late dinner, packing did not take long.

My first job upon arrival at the campground, after choosing a site for my operation was to load up a fire ring with firewood and start a fire to keep warm. I had the run of the campground (not too many winter campers in northern Michigan in January, HI HI). I moved a picnic table near the fire and then put my eyes toward the sky in search of a tree limb to support my inverted-V antenna. The inverted-V is my preferred antenna for portable operation as it is an effective radiator and needs only one support. I used a slingshot to loop my antenna support line over a limb about 50 feet above ground. After the antenna was in the air, I draped the wires down-

* <ka8sma@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Figure 1. The Winter Field Day Association's polar bear on skis logo symbolizes the spirit of WFD ... Get outdoors and have some fun!

ward and tied them off using masonry line and wooden stakes that were pounded into the ground. Since there would be no hiking for this venture, I brought my homebrew open wire/ladder line for my feedline. It was heavier and more cumbersome than twinlead, window line, or coaxial cable, but I thought I would try something different for this operation ... after all, the event is about being prepared in the event of an emergency and I had never tried ladder line in the field.

My portable station consisted of a Yaesu FT-817 transceiver, MFJ 971 antenna tuner, external speaker, hand mic, and straight key. For power, I used a 9-amp gel cell in line with the Buddipole POWERmini portable DC power management system with built-in solar controller and a PowerFilm Solar 20-watt foldable solar panel. Total time to set up camp, hang my antenna and hook up the radio gear was about 45 minutes, not too bad for my first WFD adventure. I will admit, had there been an appreciable amount of snow to contend with, my setup time would have been much longer.

To stay warm outdoors, I wore several layers of clothing (the temperature at the start of WFD was 35° Fahrenheit with wind gusts up to 10 mph). My attire consisted of two pairs of socks, long johns, blue jeans, T-shirt and sweatshirt, boots, coat, hat, and a pair of heavy winter gloves. To keep my fingers warm while operating the radio, I wore a pair of disposable nitrile gloves under my winter gloves. The nitrile gloves enabled me to remove my hands from the winter gloves to tune the radio and press the tiny buttons to activate the radio's menu while maintaining an extra layer of skin (insulation) over my hand. These gloves also protect your skin from wet conditions ... I knew it would be "all over" if my hands got wet while operating ... cold temperatures and wet hands can quickly spoil any outdoor fun (been there, done that). I have used latex gloves under my winter gloves when working outdoors, but find nitrile to be more durable and more resistant to ripping than latex.

An item I debated about taking was clear plastic sheeting (visqueen). I was not sure if I would have a use for the plastic, but thought it would be a good idea to have it on hand. I was glad I packed the plastic when I discovered the picnic table at the campground was wet from melting snow. I cut a section about 5 feet wide by 8 feet long and covered the wet

table with the plastic to provide a dry operating surface (*Photo A*). Since I was not using the entire table, I kept the loose end of plastic available for folding over my radio gear in the event of a sudden snow squall, or worse yet, a bout of freezing rain.

On the Air

I pushed the power switch on my trusty FT-817 around 1930 UTC (2:30 p.m. eastern) and 20 meters came to life with a slew of WFD stations on the air. I scanned the SSB portion of the band and contacted a few of the louder stations before switching to CW and logging a few more contacts. After a bit of operating, I headed to the campfire to put a few more logs on the fire and enjoy a hot cup of coffee. Nothing beats a cup of coffee brewed over an open campfire while listening to the music of dits and dahs in the background. After my warm-up, I tried my luck on 40 meters and logged several more stations on CW and SSB right out of the gate. Forty meters appeared to be in much better shape than 20, where I'd been battling QSB, weak signals, and multiple repeats of exchanges. For this reason, 40 meters became my band of choice for the remainder of my operation.

My portable station performed flawlessly. The open wire/ladder line was a bit bulky for a field operation, but the antenna performed well and I received many excellent signal reports. The Buddipole charge controller, in concert with the foldable solar panel, hit the mark for my power needs. I have used both products for the past several months (see the December 2017 issue of *CQ²* for product reviews of the Buddipole POWERmini and PowerFilm Solar foldable panels) and can firmly say these are great products. The solar panel did a remarkable job in turning the sun's rays into energy ... even under cloudy conditions and well into the evening (until sunset), it was producing enough juice to charge my battery!

Around 2130 UTC (4:30 p.m. eastern), a posse of unexpected visitors showed up at the campsite. My XYL, our daughter and a few of her friends, and several foreign exchange students (my XYL is a coordinator for a foreign exchange agency) showed up with hot dogs, chips, and S'more makings — all the fixings for a true campfire dinner. This was a nice surprise as I had only packed coffee, trail



Photo A. My outdoor Winter Field Day operation on a cold winter day at Traverse City State Park. The plastic sheet kept the gear dry on a table that was damp from melting snow.



Photo B. Good eats while on the air. Nothing beats a hot dog roasted over an open campfire ... even in the middle of winter!

mix, and a bag of pretzels. Although all the activity prevented me from making contacts (my log has a huge hole in it from the time everyone arrived until they left), the food was excellent (skin-on hot dogs roasted over an open fire topped with mustard ... better than those at the ball stadium! (See *Photo B*) and I talked-up amateur radio to the students and demonstrated how it can assist during an emergency — a fair trade off in my opinion.

Next Year, I Will...

Despite what my XYL may say, next year I'm taking her laptop into the field to log contacts — my ham shack computer is an old desktop. Knowing my XYL would not be happy if I took her

laptop outdoors, I logged with pen and paper at the campsite. After I returned home, I reentered all my contacts into the computer since WFD entries must be in Cabrillo format. N3FJP³ offers a logging program specifically designed for WFD! The program is easy to use, checks for dupes, tracks contacts and multipliers, and when finished, generates a WFD log file in Cabrillo format that can be attached to an email for submittal to the WFDA. Since I use N3FJP logging software for my regular station and contesting needs, I downloaded the WFD log and added it to my library of contest logging software.

Gloves with a longer wrist are on my packing list for next year. I discovered that when I send code with my straight key, my coat sleeve rides up my arm, exposing my wrist to the elements. A cold wrist equals cold fingers ... a less-than-comfortable feeling when pounding brass. I tried bending my arm and adjusting my coat sleeve, but no luck. Another option would be a shirt with sleeves long enough to protect my wrist from frigid temperatures.

Looking Ahead in



Here are some of the articles we're working on for upcoming issues of **CQ**:

- CW Results, 2017 CQ WW DX Contest
- TKOC - Between Fishing and Table Tennis "Landing Whales on Wet String"

Plus...

- Make Your Own Remote Base

Upcoming Special Issues

June: Take it to the Field

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Do you have a hobby radio story to tell? Something for one of our specials? **CQ** now covers listening and personal two-way services in addition to amateur radio. See writers' guidelines on the **CQ** website at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_writers_guide/cq_writers_guide.html.

WFD Rules, Categories, and General Information

WFD is the last full weekend in January and next year's event is scheduled for January 26 and 27, 2019, the weekend before Super Bowl Sunday. Be sure to review the WFD rules for operating class designation (based on operating location), multipliers, bonus points, etc., before the contest. Knowing how multipliers and bonus points affect your overall score will help you decide how to operate the event (hint — you will gain the most points operating QRP!). Below is an overview of the WFD rules. Visit the WFD website at www.winterfieldday.com for a complete list of the rules and log submittal information.

Bands and Modes: All amateur bands are fair game except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. Any mode, except FT8 (not an allowable WFD mode) may also be used. A list of suggested frequencies to make it easier for participants to find one

another is located on the Winter Field Day website.

Categories: There are three entry categories, Indoor, Outdoor, and Home. "Indoor" is defined as working from inside a remote structure (i.e. cabin, community center, etc.) that does not typically house an amateur radio station. The "Outdoor" category is reserved for those who operate from someplace at least 30 feet away from their normal operating location and not using a previously erected antenna system (operation from a backyard deck or tent, campground, park pavilion, etc.). Obviously, it must also be outdoors. "Home" is defined as operation from inside a house or from another structure attached to a house that is the usual location of an amateur radio station. Home stations may use previously erected antennas.

The Magic QRP Multiplier: Points are earned for each contact. SSB contacts are worth 1 point each and CW/Digital contacts are worth 2 points. Like magic, though, QSO points are multiplied by a factor of 4 if you operate QRP-style (defined as 5 watts or less for CW and 10 watts or less for SSB). Hams who use up to 100 watts receive a multiplier of 2, and those who use 100 watts or more receive no multiplier.

Bonus points can also be claimed for those who use no commercial mains to power radio equipment (1,500 points), are operating from the outdoors (1,500 points), or not operating from their QTH (1,500 points). A 1,500-point bonus is also available if a contact is made via a satellite. Based on the bonus point program, the QRP operator working from the field should be able to claim 4,500 points, and perhaps an additional 1,500, if a satellite QSO is made.

Looking Forward to WFD 2019

After each field excursion, I ask myself whether I would have done anything differently. My answer for WFD 2018 is no, except that I wish I would have prayed a little harder to the ham gods for a few more sunspots. I stayed warm, made contacts that helped polish my emergency communications skills, prepared S'mores and hot dogs over an open fire, and most of all, had FUN! Packing up the gear for a winter's afternoon away from the QTH was exactly what the doctor ordered to cure my wintertime blues.

Will I be on the air for WFD 2019? Absolutely! Will I have a fix for my cold wrist next year? You betcha! Will I work you during next year's WFD? I hope so! If you begin planning now, there is no excuse why you should not be on the air for next year's event. *Until June, 73*

Notes:

1. <www.winterfeldday.com>
2. <<http://bit.ly/2FzYkIb>>; see pages 28-35
3. <www.n3fjp.com>

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630 Meters From a Condo? W8ARE Made it a Reality!

... Plus: Retrofitting an HF station in San Francisco; first-ever 2200-meter JT9 QSO and first 630-meter transatlantic JT9 QSO under Part 97 rules; why resonant systems and RF don't always mix, and a very successful beginning to 2018.

Before we get down to the business of the goings-on at MF and LF over the past few months, I want to be clear and emphatically state that *nothing* in this month's column is an April Fool's joke in spite of appearing in the April edition. Some may look at the title as pure fantasy, but I assure you that every bit of it is true. Now, let's get started!

630 and the Condo Dweller

Some time ago, I was approached by Terry Meredith, W8ARE, a condo dweller in Ohio who was interested in operating on 630 meters. In spite of his living situation, he had devised a vertical antenna solution in the woods behind his condo that was amenable to all parties involved, not the least of which was his homeowners' association. The antenna, a 40-meter quarter-wave vertical that was retrofitted with base and top loading for 630 meters, brought Terry quite a bit of enjoyment and success using JT9 until a storm caused a tree to fall on the installation, resulting in irreparable damage.

Terry was not deterred, however, instead deciding to rebuild using a more direct approach, locating his antenna on the patio of his condo, right out in the open (*Photo A*). The height would no longer be 33 feet as was the original antenna, instead settling for a 19-foot tall structure with multiple top-loading spokes attached to an improvised mount that complemented his base loading. Surely the HOA would say something eventually, but at this height, at least it would not be visible from the street.

For RF safety, Terry built the structure from a telescoping fiberglass mast with a 10-gauge wire running down the center as the radiator. As part of his ruse, Terry added a bird feeder and squirrel skirt to the mix (*Photo B*). The top-loading spokes actually look like bird perches and many of us expected that the HOA wouldn't say a word under the circumstances.

Terry rebuilt the base loading coil because the original was too small to cancel his increased capacitive reactance and located it in a camouflaged cabinet hidden in his shrubs on the patio (also visible in *Photo B*). His radials also had to



Photo A. The 19-foot, 630-meter antenna at W8ARE, complete with bird feeder and top loading spokes that resemble bird perches. (Courtesy of W8ARE)

** 827 Middle Run Ct.
Duncanville, TX 75137
<kb5njd@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo B. This is W8ARE's fiberglass radiator support, showing the bird feeder and squirrel skirt in addition to the camouflaged ATU cabinet. (Courtesy of W8ARE)

change due to limited space; he used 14 wires, each 16 feet long and spanning 205° around the patio. This physical antenna arrangement is a far cry from his original system but, judging from his early results, it seems to work well, as Terry indicates that, "From Dec 3, 2017 through Dec 19, made 35 JT9 QSOs, over 10 states..." ranging from Oklahoma to Florida to Vermont using just 40 watts applied to the antenna, equating to probably a few hundred milliwatts EIRP (Effective Isotropic Radiates Power).

An Antenna by the Bay

A transmit antenna with similar limitation was retrofitted by Ben Gelb, N1VF, located in San Francisco. Ben already had an inverted-L that he used for HF that was 30-feet tall and supported by a tree with a 30-foot horizontal section that used a fishing pole to support the far end. It was coupled to the transmitter via a remote autotuner. Knowing that he would use the same system for 630 meters, Ben wound a coil on a bucket and made switching between HF and 630 meters quick and easy by using Powerpole connectors (Photo C).

Fed against about 10 radials ranging in length from 10 to 35 feet and concentrated over roughly 90° in his backyard, Ben has had a very successful start to his medium-wave career. He reports JT9 contacts with 22 unique stations since October, including Alaska, Hawaii and Pennsylvania, operating at an estimated 5 watts EIRP.

Seeking Contacts, Not Perfection

These success stories are a small sampling of accomplishments achieved by operators on these new bands thus far, and they illustrate the very important fact that a bit of ingenuity and a desire to be successful can go a long way in meeting the goal of getting an effective signal on the air. I often hear prospective operators lamenting how they don't have room for antennas at these frequencies, but I think what they really mean is that they don't have room for the *perfect* antenna. Let me fill you in on something: *NO ONE* has a perfect antenna at these frequencies, not even the professionals.

It doesn't take a tremendous amount of power to find success on these bands

either. Recently Keith Ericson, KØKE, in Colorado, reported a failure with his main power amplifier, which brought him up to the legal limit. He thought he was going to be off of 630 meters until he could source replacement parts but, instead of shutting down, he rerouted the driver output to the antenna matching network and got on the air "barefoot." He was amazed to receive WSPR reports from VE6JY at -26 dB S/N using just 2 mW total power out (TPO), which probably amounted to microwatts of actual radiated power. Subsequently, Keith has gone on to complete JT9 contacts using only milliwatts to the antenna. On quiet nights, which the winter often provides, 630 meters can behave like 6 meters, which may explain why we get so many VHF and UHF converts. Don't let yourself think that you can't get on the air for whatever the reason may be. Someone else with similar limitations has likely already done it and done it well.

First 2200-Meter JT9 Contact

Shortly after the opening of the MF and LF bands under Part 97 rules, Doug Allen, K4LY, and Rob Renoud, K3RWR, completed the first two-way JT9 contact on 2200 meters using just a fraction of a watt radiated from each antenna (Photo D). A bit of S/N headroom remained for signal fading, so the pair decided to try an FT8 contact, but they were unsuccessful at the time. It's not known at this time whether subsequent FT8 attempts resulted in a successful QSO using that mode. No additional contacts on 2200 meters had been reported as I wrote this in late January.

Rob also experienced another success during the winter, receiving what is believed to be the first 2200-meter reception of a North American station in Europe using WSPR. Mike Dennison, G3XDV, reported on the RSGB-LF reflector on December 28, 2017 that "...The 0352 and 0356 transmissions from K3RWR were decoded with a SNR of -27 and -26dB at 5920 km." Mike added that the path between 2EØILY and N1BUG was also open during December, but the path was not reciprocal. While two-way contacts have been completed in the past on 2200 meters using very slow modes like QRSS-60, it seems that the vigil for a two-way transatlantic JT9 contact on 2200 meters will continue.

First Transatlantic JT9 Contact on 630 Meters

At the beginning of December 2017, David Bowman, GØMRF, reported that



Photo C. The feed point of N1VF's 'tree' inverted-L, showing the ICOM autotuner for HF, the bucket coil for 630 meters, ground rod with radials and matching transformer for the 630-meter coil. Ben uses a Powerpole connector for the radiator to facilitate rapid spectrum changes between HF and 630 meters. (Courtesy of N1VF)

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
2359	Tx		1420 @	K3RHR K4LY EM85
0009	Tx		1470 @	WE4X K4LY EM85
0011	Tx		1470 @	K3RHR K4LY EM85
0013	Tx		1470 @	K3RHR K4LY EM85
0027	Tx		1500 @	K3RWR K4LY EM85
0029	Tx		1500 @	K3RWR K4LY EM85
0029	Tx		1500 @	K3RWR K4LY EM85
0048	-24	0.1	1461 @	K4LY K3RWR FM18
0049	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0051	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0053	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0053	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0055	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0057	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0059	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0101	Tx		1461 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0103	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0105	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0107	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY -24
0108	-24	0.0	1496 @	K4LY K3RWR R-26
0109	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY R-24
0109	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY RRR
0110	-23	0.1	1496 @	TU ES 73
0111	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY 73
0113	Tx		1498 @	K3RWR K4LY 73

Photo D. K3RWR and K4LY completed the first-ever 2200-meter JT9 QSO shortly after the band opened to amateurs. (Courtesy of K4LY)

he would be installing a remotely-operated station and antenna at a favorable location that was quieter than conditions at his home in London in order to operate JT9 remotely (via Teamviewer) in hopes of accomplishing a two-way QSO with North American stations over the span of weeks or months (Photo E). It didn't take long for stations like NO3M, KA1R, and AA1A, all located in the northeastern U.S., to begin reporting David's signal during the early evening on number of nights. Hearing David was not the main problem; rather transmitting AND receiving the necessary exchanges to call the contact good was the challenge.

On the evening of December 23rd and after several attempts, the historic first transatlantic QSO under Part 97 rules was finally accomplished when AA1A and GØMRF successfully exchanged reports using JT9 (Photo F). This is only the beginning and we hope to see many other stations in Europe and North America accept the challenge of very long haul communications below the broadcast band. It's not an easy undertaking, but it can be very rewarding.

When RF and Resonant Antenna Systems DON'T Mix

Laurence Howell, KL7L, was recently testing a short portable vertical for 630 meters that was about 30 feet tall with a loading coil at the base and a gullwing-style top loading element that was 6 feet long. This resonant antenna, located adjacent to his home, had a meager ground system but nevertheless it worked for his testing purposes. During these tests, he was using a Hans Summers Ultimate 3S beacon transmitter generating very low-power WSPR signals. The plan was for this antenna, along with a small transmitter and/or transceiver, to ultimately travel with Laurence to a number of destinations that he frequents in the course of his employment where he has already submitted notification to the UTC of his intent to operate (and 30 days have elapsed).

Laurence's station in Alaska is well equipped for both MF and LF and he has a complement of nice transmit and receive antennas for both bands. His main 630-meter antenna is a Marconi-T that is less than 100 feet tall and has multiple horizontal, parallel, top loading wires to improve on-air performance. The system is on the order of 150 feet away from the house, located in the woods and relatively safe from intruders and wildlife most of the time. Like its smaller, portable counterpart, the main antenna is carefully resonated and matched for optimal power transfer and maximum antenna current.

When Laurence originally told me about his testing, it didn't occur to me that he was going to be on the air simultaneously with both the main antenna and the portable antenna, but that's exactly what happened and the results were pronounced. His test ended almost as quickly as it began with something smelling hot in his garage, which was where he had temporarily located the Ultimate 3S that fed the antenna tuning unit connected to his portable antenna. Upon examination, it was obvious that the Ultimate 3S was no match for the voltage that was being generated at the short antenna from signals received from the main antenna which was operating at considerably higher power levels. As seen in Photo G, the BS-170's FETs, located on the RF board, as well as other control circuitry, simply vaporized. Remember, these antennas were only about 150 feet away from one another, but even if they had been a mile apart that may have still been too close, depending on what piece of equipment was coupled to the coax and how much power was applied to the main antenna.

What happened in this case was exactly what led Heinrich Hertz in the 1880s to his discovery that electromagnetic waves can couple between two physically separated tuned circuits.



Photo E. David, GØMRF, installed a remotely-controlled station for JT9 and WSPR in a quiet location that allowed him to successfully complete the first transatlantic QSO on 630 meters using JT9. His antenna is 114 feet tall. (Courtesy of GØMRF)

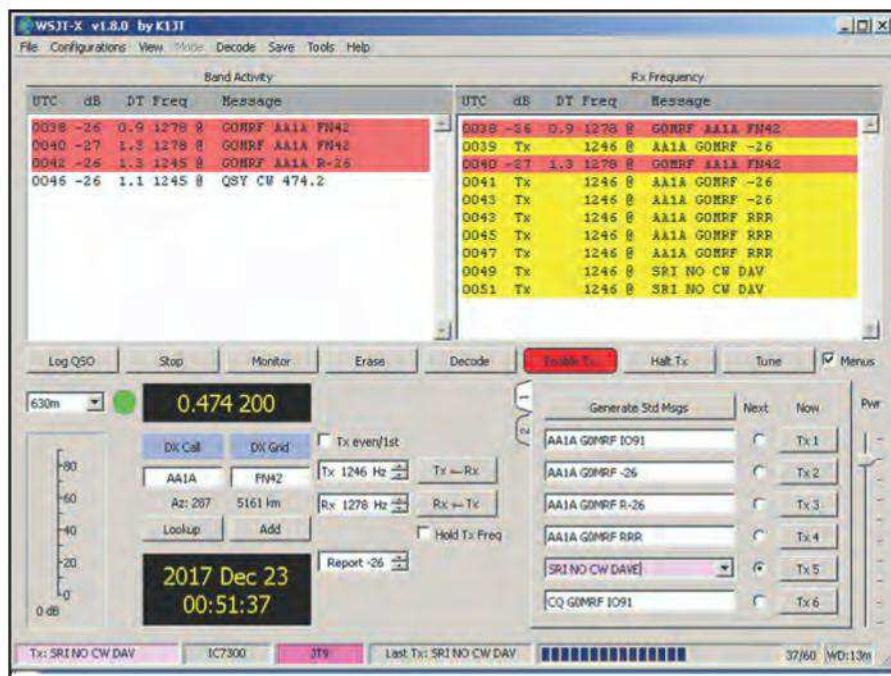


Photo F. Details of the first transatlantic JT9 QSO between AA1A and GØMRF. (Courtesy of GØMRF)

In the Hertz experiment, the received signals manifested themselves as sparks between a gap in a loop of wire that was resonated to the same frequency as his short, capacitively loaded dipole that was coupled to his crude spark gap transmitter. The voltages that the RF and control section of Laurence's Ultimate 3S experienced were likely very significant. Thankfully, his unit can be replaced without considerable expense.

The "Take Home" Message

Every conductor near an energized antenna likely has some RF current

flowing on it while you are transmitting, whether or not it is resonant on the transmit frequency. This is particularly true for "backyard" MF or LF antenna systems that are often located on small suburban plots of land close to other structures. Be mindful of other antennas located in the near field of an energized antenna that are resonant on the same band, as dangerous voltages may be developed at the feed point of the unenergized antenna. I have resonant receive loops located within about 100 feet of my MF and LF transmit antenna. When transmitting, relays across the tuned circuits of these receive loops are

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3CX1200D7	4CX10000A	845
3CX1200Z7	4CX15000A	6146B
3CX1500A7	4CX20000B	3-500ZG
3CX3000A7	4CX20000C	3-1000Z
3CX6000A7	4CX20000D	4-400A
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closed, shorting out the circuit so that power from the transmit antenna doesn't couple into my receive antenna buss, potentially damaging preamplifiers and receivers. Similarly, be careful with antenna analyzers that are coupled to antennas in the near field of an energized antenna, regardless of band. I recall one time when I was about two miles away from home, helping another amateur with his 630-meter antenna system, and I had forgotten that WSPR was running at my station, transmitting at predetermined intervals. Needless to say, data from the analyzer were bizarre until I realized that my signal a few miles away had burned out the detector diodes. Oops. It doesn't take much field strength to "let the smoke out," so let's be careful out there. If you live in populated areas with lots of MF and LF activity (like the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia!), it may be worthwhile to coordinate with other local operators if you have antenna work to accomplish.

Where Do We Go in 2018?

The new year (still new as I write this in late January) is off to an amazing start. Every week we are seeing a few more stations on the air for the first time. This is not a trivial accomplishment and often requires skill sets be developed that are taken for granted when operating HF. My hope for 2018 is that amateurs will continue to step outside of their comfort zones, learning more about the MF and LF arts and improving their stations, in particular receiving capabilities, as well as operating skills.

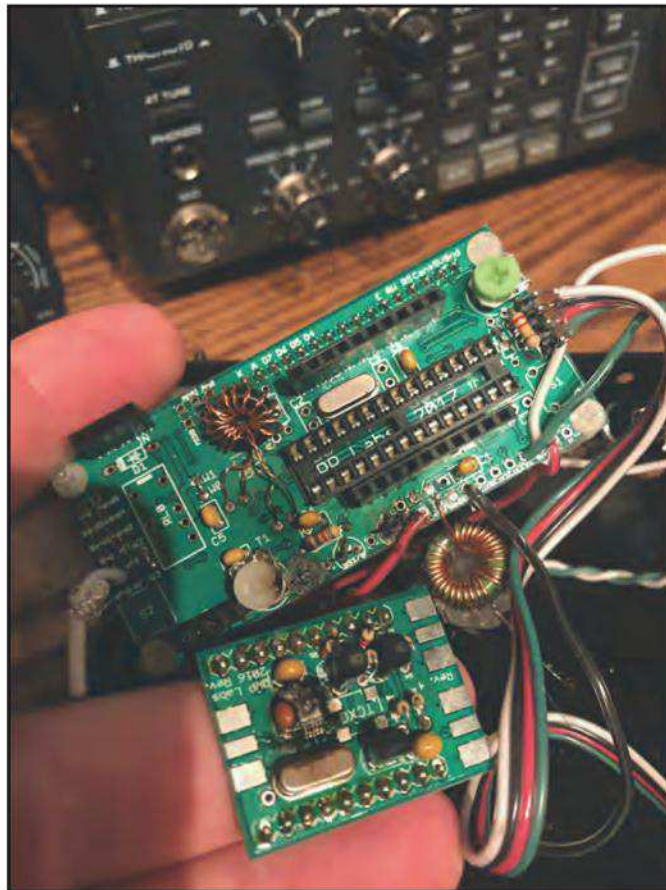


Photo G. Watch out for what you connect to your antenna in a cramped RF environment. KL7L unintentionally back-fed RF from his main transmit antenna into a small test antenna located across his yard that was attached to an Ultimate-3S WSPR beacon transmitter. Needless to say, the main transmit antenna won. (Courtesy of KL7L)

The 2018 Grid Chase¹ event is off to a good start and there is plenty of room for many more stations to become active and make a few contacts. If you ever wanted to be the center of a pile up, this event may offer you the chance. Regardless of what you may think of Logbook of the World (LoTW)², please be sure to upload your MF and LF contact logs to the LoTW system as this is the only way that participating stations can receive credit for their on-air efforts. I prefer traditional QSL cards but I upload every grid that I work on CW or digital modes to LoTW. If you are not familiar with LoTW there is a link to details located in the notes to help you get up to speed. The process is significantly easier than it used to be.

Opportunities at MF and LF are limited only by your imagination and, as has been shown, massive stations are not necessary to find success. Make it a point to get a station on the air in 2018 and make a few contacts. See you in the pile up!

Notes

1. 2018 Grid Chase activity: <<https://tinyurl.com/y9h8tkb9>>

2. Logbook of the world: <<https://tinyurl.com/33grj3u>>

For your convenience, these links plus additional bonus material can be found at <<http://njdtechnologies.net/cq/>>.

Questions? Comments? Contact me: <KB5NJD@gmail.com>.

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What You've Told Us...

Our July survey was all about propagation, a topic that clearly is of great importance to those of you who responded. In fact, that was our first question — how important is it for you to understand the mechanics by which radio signals travel from place to place? — 44% of you responded “very important,” followed by 42% saying “extremely important,” 10% somewhat important, and 2% each not very important or not important at all.

We next asked the extent to which your knowledge of propagation affects your decisions on operating times and frequencies, to which 65% of you answered that it's a major influence, followed by minor influence at 25%, don't know enough for it to have an impact at 8% and finally, 2% who don't consider propagation at all in their operating decisions.

Our monthly propagation column is a helpful tool to many of you, with 37% responding that it's either very important or extremely important, followed by somewhat important at 38%, not very important at 21% and not important at all to 4%.

We next asked about which HF propagation modes you have knowingly used for making contacts. The big winner there was gray-line at 71%, followed by F₂ layer “sky-wave” and groundwave at 60% each, sporadic-E at 46%, long-path at 44%, and near vertical incidence skywave (NVIS) at 40%. Next came “other known propagation modes” such as skewed path, meteor scatter, and transequatorial propagation (TEP) at 10%, “don't know” at 10% and “other unknown propagation modes” at 4%.

The same question about VHF propagation modes produced responses of 72% for ground-wave/line-of-sight, 53% sporadic-E, 51% tropospheric ducting, and 32% F₂ layer “skywave.” Others included meteor scatter (17%), aurora (15%), troposcatter and TEP (13% each), airplane scatter and “don't know” (11% each), auroral-E (9%), Earth-Moon-Earth (6%), and rain scatter (2%).

Finally, we asked about your interest in articles about new and different influences on propagation — 48% of you are very interested, 40% are somewhat interested, 12% are not very interested and nobody said “not at all interested.”

Thank you for your responses. Our free subscription winner this time is digital subscriber **Dave Weinstein**.

April 2018 Reader Survey

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/CQApr18> [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 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. Spring is finally here, and with it come thoughts (we hope) of outdoor hamming. We'd like to get an idea of what you may have planned for this year.

1. Are you planning on any ham-related outdoor activities this year?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

2. If you answered yes to question 1, what sorts of activities do you have in mind?

(Answer all that apply)

Antenna work	4
Backyard/local park operating	5
Bike-in or hike-in portable operating	6
DXpedition operating	7
Field Day	8
HF contesting from outdoor location	9
Island, summit, grid square or similar “OTA” activation	10
Portable operating from vacation QTH	11
Public service activity	12
QRP operating event	13
VHF contesting from outdoor location	14
Winter Field Day	15
Other outdoor operating (what?)	16

3. If you enjoy portable/outdoor operating, what are the main aspects that attract you to it? (Answer all that apply)

Exercise from hiking/biking to an operating location	17
Operating “off the grid”	18
Operating in a low-noise environment	19
Opportunity to enjoy ham radio and being outdoors	20
Other (what?)	21
Do not operate portable/outdoors	22

4. If you answered no to question 1, why not?

Age/health	23
No time	24
No interest	25
No portable gear	26
Other (what?)	27

Thank you for your responses. We'll have more questions next time.



Survey Response for Issue: April 2018

Name _____ Call Sign _____

Address _____

City _____ St/Prov _____ Zip/PC _____

Country _____

E-mail _____

You may have heard it before ... "The band was so good he could use a wet noodle for an antenna!" WA2KBZ put the theory to the test on an early April campout.

QRP Pasta

Ham Ingenuity Boils Over for Makeshift Antenna

WA5VJB was up to his reflector in real work for his day job this month, so we pasta baton for this issue to Guest Columnist Karl Schulte, WA2KBZ, who shares this story of really using his noodle to get a station on the air. – W2VU

I sat in disbelief, as I stared at my QRP KX1, with an Elecraft AT1 tuner and CW key. I was all set for some outdoor QRP operation, but it had just sunk in that I had no antenna. How could such a silly thing happen? I had placed the antenna and a light rope in a small fanny pack right by the door, where I could not possibly forget it. It was still there, on the other side of the state. The trip had gotten off to a late start, due a last-minute meeting at work. I was off to a National Guard weekend drill in southeastern Missouri, and that was a 4-hour drive. In the rush, I had gone off without the antenna and a few accessories.

Now it was Saturday evening in (very) early April at a beautiful state park/campground, but unattended at night by any rangers. It had been a long hike up the trail to a lookout area with a few picnic tables, and here was where I had planned to set up my rig. I was ready for some all-night ham fun.

After realizing my antenna was still at home, I started looking around the area, including a park trashcan, for some wire to use as a makeshift antenna. No luck. Nothing but used bottles, food wrappers

and an old hose, which some ranger or camper had discarded, I supposed, as it had a tear near one end. So much for hamming that night, I thought.

But at least the weather was warm and the view was great, so all was not lost. It was time to set up my camp and start supper before it got dark. There was a small light by the covered tables, but no AC outlet, and it was not much use in setting up a tent nearby. I had a small pup tent (fiberglass rods, no metal). My gear included a small backpacker gas stove, fuel, and my dinner fixings, besides an emergency Army MRE meal pack. My meal was to be spaghetti, for which I had a box of pasta, salt, sauce in small squeeze bottle, and a small pot. Water was available at a park pump. I had wanted to try camp/QRP fun for myself, as several club members had told me what a blast it was, using camping/backpacking lifestyle and QRP ham radio at the same time. Having been a Scouter for a few decades, camp gear was no problem. So I packed up my little QRP rig, key, small gel-cell battery and a 12-volt solar trickle charger in a waterproof container. I had everything I needed ... except the antenna, which was still safely waiting by my back door.

The Proverbial Wet Noodle

As I began cooking the spaghetti, an idea hit me. There was an old joke, when I was a Novice back in 1959, about a weak signal sounding like someone was using a wet noodle for an antenna. Then a picture popped into my head of a line of wet, salty spaghetti for an antenna. Could it work? Well, salty

* <wa2kbz@gmail.com>

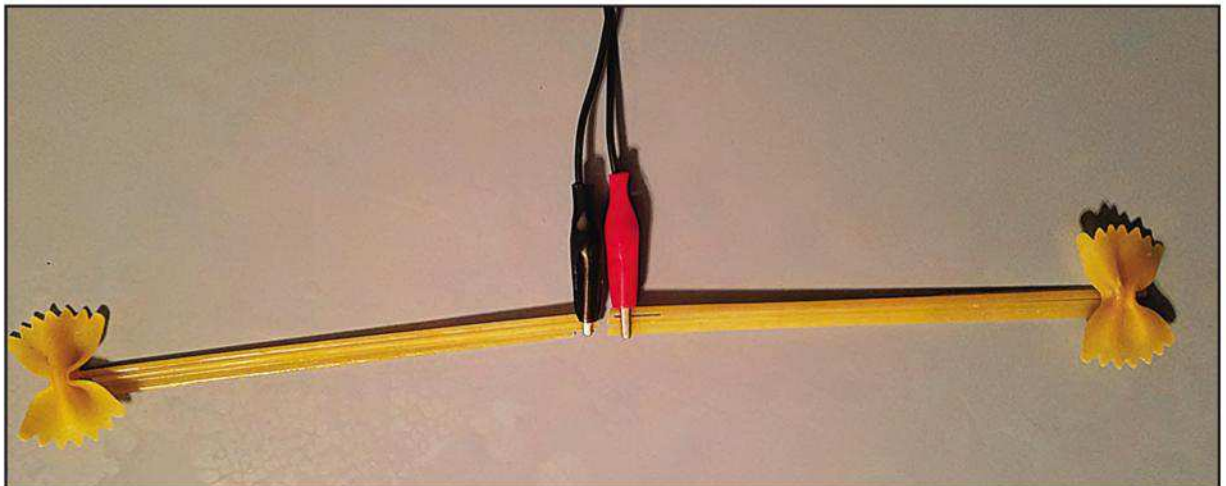


Photo A. Prototype of version 2 of WA2KBZ's pasta dipole ... this one with bowties at the end for extra (carb) loading.



Photo B. The secret is in the salt ... keeping the spaghetti antenna wet and salty allowed it to be a conductor for RF!

water does conduct electricity, and soft, wet, salty noodles mashed together in a row might do so as well. But how could I hold them in a straight (ish) line? I need at least 34 feet, not lying on the dirt. Hey, that hose was about 20 feet long, hmm...

In a few minutes, I had the hose stretched out, sliced lengthwise to make two 20-foot-long channels, like mini-aqueducts, and held off the ground by three wooden park tables I had rearranged. The hose halves were held straight by rocks. Each end was closed by a bottle cap, to keep in as much moisture as I could. For a connection to the tuner, I had a short coax jumper with alligator clips on the end (Photo A), normally packed with the tuner (lucky for me!).

Next, I carefully placed strands of cooked, very salty (Photo B), pasta down along the hose. As I had a full box, there was enough for three "strands" alongside each other, 33 feet long in total. I squished the joints together to form a connection, then poured a little extra super salty water over each hose half to keep the pasta antenna wet. I had a sort of 20-meter dipole!

The Ultimate Test

First, I used my finger on the end of my RG174 coax jumper and heard faint sig-

nals in a couple of spots, so I knew the radio was working. Now for the "Ronconi antenna!" I clipped a skinny coax jumper to each half and turned on the radio. I pressed down the key and adjusted the antenna tuner. It tuned. How about that!

Wow! I heard 20-meter CW as I tuned the receiver; some signals were strong, to my surprise, coming in around 579. Some SSB too, but that was of little interest to me as this was a CW rig. So I tuned in the strongest station I heard calling CQ and answered him. And do you know what? He did not answer. Tried again with the same result. But the third try was the charm; I was amazed when I got a response. Well, it was not much of a report, but it was a memorable one, with 579/329 reports exchanged (do I have to tell you which

report was mine?). The main thing is that I had made a QSO using a wet noodle! In fact, I got two more that night, but soon the antenna dried out and adding more water seemed to wash away a lot of the salt as reception got poorer and I had no more responses and then the band faded.

Hungry for QSOs

Of course, 40 and 80 were out of the question (no more salt or spaghetti), although I did hear a few faint stations while I ate my MRE. Still, it was a very neat experience for sure. I soon hit the sack, wondering if the next time I would try lasagna ... (might it be more broadbanded? – ed)

The moral of the story is to remember, the next time you go portable QRP, to EAT the pasta and bring an antenna!

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Sprinting Into Spring

VHF Plus Calendar

144 MHz Spring Sprint:	April 9 th 7-11 p.m. local
222 MHz Spring Sprint:	April 17 th 7-11 p.m. local
N.E.W.S. VHF Conference:	April 20 th – 22 nd Manchester, CT
DUBUS EME Contest 1296 MHz:	April 21 st & 22 nd
Lyrids meteor shower: Predicted peak	April 22 nd & 23 rd
SEVHF Conference:	April 26 th – April 29 th Valdosta, GA
432 MHz: Spring Sprint:	April 25 th @ 7-11 p.m. local
Microwave Sprint – 902 MHz & Up:	May 5 th 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. local
50 MHz Sprint:	2300z May 12 th – 0300z May 13 th
Dayton (Xenia) Hamvention	
VHF/UHF/Microwave Forum:	May 19 th
ARRL VHF Contest:	June 9 th and 10 th
DUBUS EME Contest 10 GHz:	June 15 th & 16 th

The results of the 2017 Fall Sprints, sponsored by the Southeastern VHF Society, have been scored by Bruce Randall, NT4RT. See *Table 1* for the results. Participation remained at about the same levels as 2016, but with a slight decrease in the 50 MHz Sprint based on log submittals. The 144 MHz Sprint remains the most popular of the four hour-long Sprints, followed closely by the 432 MHz and the 222 MHz Sprints. *Table 2* is a comparison by band over the past five years of Fall Sprint activity¹. In general, log entries have for the most part remained constant.

c/o CQ magazine
email: <k8zr@cq-amateur-radio.com>

Though the Spring and Fall Sprints are competitive events, they are a bit more casual than the weekend-long VHF contests. The Spring Sprints this month, sponsored by the Central States VHF Society <www.csvhfs.org/>, give you a good reason to get on the air, make a few contacts (or more), say hello to old friends, try a new mode, and have fun. The Spring Sprints are a good warm-up to the ARRL June VHF Contest and the CQ World Wide VHF Contest in July. Why wait until the week before those two contests to determine if your antennas, feedlines, and rotor have survived the winter?

Scores are reported by the participants to the 3830scores.com website. See: <www.3830scores.com/>. Contests are listed in the left-hand column

50 MHz 2017 Fall Sprint

Single Op Callsign	QSOs	Grids	Score
WZ1V	28	15	420
K1RZ	30	13	390
WA2VNV	24	13	312

Rover	QSOs	Grids	Score
WW7D/R	62	14	868
N2RJ/R	33	26	858
K0BAK/R	20	13	260

144 MHz 2017 Fall Sprint

Single Op Callsign	QSOs	Grids	Score
K1TEO	105	28	2,940
KA2LIM	73	28	2,044
W2KV	80	25	2,000

Rover	QSOs	Grids	Score
K0BAK/R	77	34	2,618
WW7D/R	82	23	1,886
K9JK/R	48	21	1,008

222 MHz 2017 Fall Sprint

Single Op Callsign	QSOs	Grids	Score
K1RZ	55	30	1,650
K1TEO	57	25	1,425
N2NT	50	22	1,100

Rover

K0BAK/R	50	22	1,100
WW7D/R	53	15	795
VE3CRU/R	18	18	324

432 MHz 2017 Fall Sprint

Single Op Callsign	QSOs	Grids	Score
K1TEO	72	26	1,872
K3TUF	64	27	1,728
K1RZ	66	23	1,518

Rover	QSOs	Grids	Score
K0BAK/R	48	26	1,248
WW7D/R	59	20	1,180
K2WZ/R	45	26	1,170

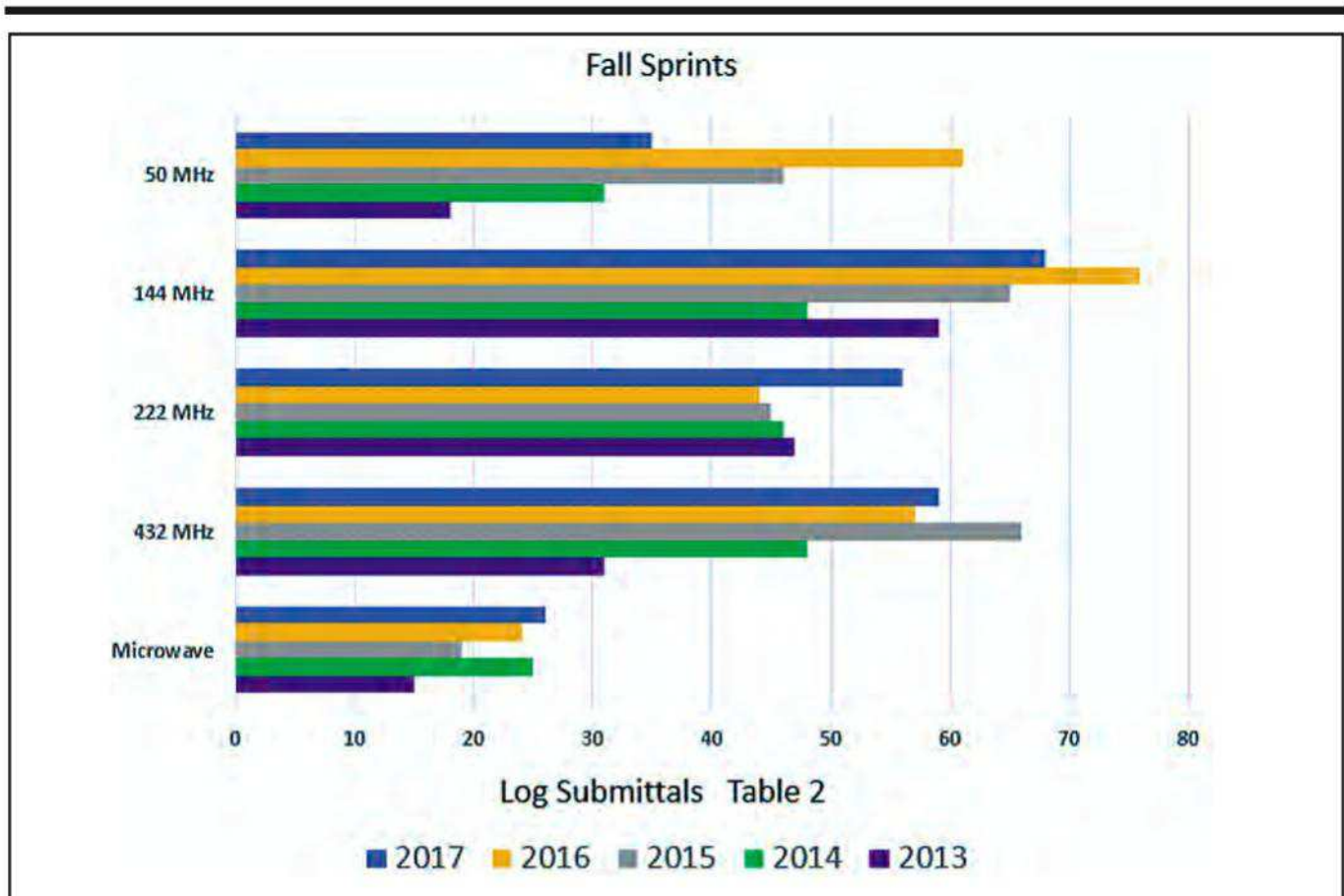
Microwave 2017 Falls Sprint

Single Op Callsign	Score*
AC7MD	2,945
VE3DS	1,662
W9SZ	1,550

Rover	Score
KF2MR/R	4,485
VE3CRU/R	4,004
WW7D/R	3,151

*The Microwave Sprint is accumulative distance scoring with 1 point per km worked.

Table 1. Scores of the 2017 Fall Sprints



of the home page. Selected the appropriate Sprint and you will be prompted for the required summary information. Note that submission of your full log with times, stations worked, etc. is not required. The Sprint scoring committee will request logs from the top scorers in each category for review once the submittal deadline has passed. There is really no excuse for not submitting your Sprint score.

To help facilitate QSOs during the Sprints, the use of the internet is permitted and encouraged. The most popular site is the ON4KST website. See <www.on4kst.com/chat/start.php>.

Note that there is a separate page for 50 MHz, labeled as “[Enter into the 50 MHz IARU Region 2 chat here](#),” and, though labeled as the 144 MHz & 432 MHz chat page, “[Enter into the 144 & 432 MHz IARU Region 2 chat here](#),” this page is also used during the 222 MHz Sprint, Microwave Sprint, VHF contests, and band openings to coordinate activity on 144 MHz and higher bands. In case you are curious, IARU Region 2 is North and South America.

Microwave Update 2018

The Midwest VHF/UHF Society is hosting Microwave Update (MUD) 2018 in Fairborn, Ohio — near Dayton and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. MUD is recognized as the premier microwave amateur radio event of the year and this year’s event will certainly live up to its reputation as Tom Holmes, N8ZM, General Chairman, along with the other members of the Society have been hard at work assembling a first-rate program. In addition to the usual technical presentations, noise figure measurement, test and measurement bench, flea market and vendor area, tours are planned for Voice of America Museum, the U.S. Air Force Museum, and the Carillon Historical Park.

At first blush, the 900 MHz and above bands may seem to

be a bit intimidating, but you will find a wealth of experience at MUD and, more importantly, a universal enthusiasm for assisting others to become QRV on the nosebleed bands. If you would like to learn about the microwave bands, then head to Fairborn, Ohio, the second weekend in October. For additional information see: <www.MicrowaveUpdate.org>.

Hamvention VHF/UHF/Microwave Forum

The presentation schedule for the VHF/UHF/Microwave forum at the Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio, is almost finalized. To date, the presentations will include: *Inexpensive and readily available test equipment* by Michael Davis, KB1JEY; John Ackermann, N8UR, will present *The VHF Reverse Beacon Network*; ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, will review the 1st ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest as well as discuss other topics related to ARRL VHF contests; and Mark Kerhlikar, WD9HBF, will share his experiences as newcomer to VHF roving. Check the Hamvention website or Hamvention program for the forum time and location.

Beacons

The advantages of beacons on the VHF, UHF and microwave bands have been well documented. As a reminder, Ron Klimas, WZ1V, maintains the VHF/UHF/Microwave beacon list at <www.newsvhf.com/beacons2.html>. Equally important as advising Ron of a new beacon is notifying him if there has been a callsign change, changes to the beacon’s power, antenna, etc., or if a beacon is no longer QRV. Ron can be contacted at <wz1v@arrl.net>.

– 73 & CU on the bands, Tony, K8ZR

Notes:

1. Courtesy of the Southeastern VHF Society.

Denmark Updates Award Program

Allis Andersen has been associated with Danish awards for as long as I can remember. In January, I read that she had updated some of the rules and I was pleased to re-acquaint my association. Here is a nice selection of the available awards, and you will be able to find all of the others at <www.ddxg.dk/award.htm>.

Danish Island Award

This award is sponsored by Danish DX Group (DDXG) and is available to all licensed radio amateurs and shortwave listeners who provide proof of contact (or SWL) QSOs with Danish Islands. All QSOs after January 1, 1997 are valid. You may use all bands or modes. A QSO via a repeater does not count. The award is issued in three classes.

- A. Basic-award: You must have confirmed QSO or SWL with five island-groups.
- B. Junior-award: You must have confirmed QSOs with 10 different islands in all six island-groups.
- C. Master-award: You must have confirmed QSOs with 25 different islands in all six island-groups.

*12 Wells Woods Rd.
Columbia, CT 06237
E-Mail: <k1bv12@charter.net>



The certificate for the Danish Island Award.

USA-CA Honor Roll

500		1000	
WK3V3732	KF7ZN1895
WA3ONY3733		
KF7ZN3734		

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 a SASE to Ted Melinosky, K1BV, 12 Wells Woods Road, Columbia, CT 06237 USA. DX stations must include extra postage for airmail reply.

The islands of Denmark can be divided into six groups, of which some have status as Islands on the Air (IOTA) islands.

- EU-029 Sjaelland Archipelago
- EU-030 Islands in the Baltic Sea
- EU-088 Islands in the northern part of Kattegat
- EU-125 Islands in the North Sea
- EU-171 Nordjylland and the islands in Limfjorden
- EU-172 Jylland East and Fyn group

The basic award can be upgraded with stickers to Junior or Master class. To apply, send your GCR list and payment to award manager OZ1ACB by email to <oz1acb@wiland.dk> or at the address below. The price for the award is 50 DKK, or \$7 U.S.; endorsements cost 25 DKK, or \$3 U.S. To get an extensive listing of all the islands that count for the award, visit <<http://bit.ly/2E5vddU>>.

OZ-Prefix-Award

On its 50th anniversary, The Copenhagen Division of Eksperimenterende Danske Radioamatører (EDR) began the OZ-Prefix-Award, which is available to hams and SWLs. To qualify for the award, Danish stations need 3 stations with each prefix, OZ1 to OZ9 (27 QSLs). The rest of Europe needs 2



The OZ prefix award is granted for making contacts with a different callsign prefixes in Denmark.

stations with each prefix (18 QSLs), and the rest of the world needs 1 station with each prefix (9 QSLs). Note that a QSL from the club station OZ5EDR can act as a "joker" to replace one missing QSL. All amateur bands and modes are allowed. There are endorsements for CW, 2x SSB, RTTY, or single band. You do not send QSL cards, but send a GCR-list with the fee of \$6 U.S. to: Allis Andersen, OZ1ACB, Kagsaavej 34, DK-2860 Soeborg, Denmark.

The Copenhagen Award

The Copenhagen section of EDR commissioned the Copenhagen Award for the 80th anniversary of the Dutch capital in 1967 and has grown in stature to become a symbol of the entire nation of Denmark. The certificate bears a mermaid that is located in a small park, sitting about 20 to 30 feet into a protected bay, and is surprisingly small. It is usually mobbed with tourists who like to take pictures.

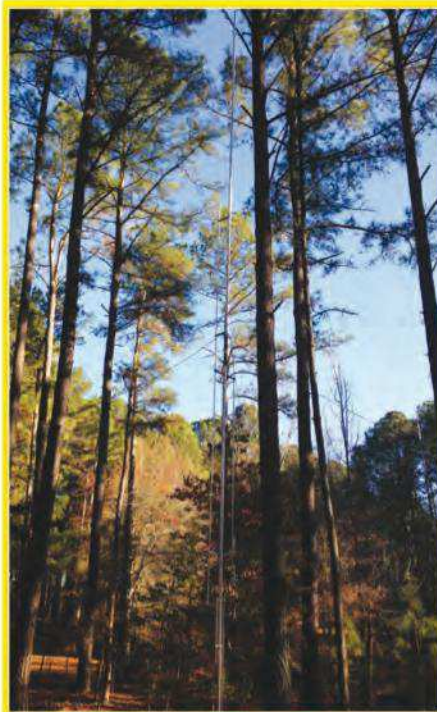
The table below shows the required numbers of contacts with stations located within the city of Copenhagen. You can check your Danish QSLs to see if you qualify. The best way to do this is to examine the address shown on your QSLs. Look at the postal code and see if the numbers lie between 1000 and 2999.

	HF	VHF	UHF
Scandinavian stations:	15	10	5
Other European stations:	10	5	3
DX stations:	5	2	1

The award may be endorsed for phone, CW, or mixed mode; and by single or mixed bands. To apply, send your log, which will need to be certified by two other amateurs, and a \$5 U.S. fee to Allis Andersen.

Danish Lighthouse Award

The award is issued by the Danish Lighthouse Society and managed by OZ1ACB. To qualify, you must contact Danish



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lighthouses on or after 1 January 1996. Contacts with Danish lightships do not count for this award. The QSL (or SWL) of each lighthouse station must reflect their QTH and clearly show a photo or rubber stamp on the QSL to identify the lighthouse. QSL cards are not needed, except at the specific request of the award custodian. Send a GCR list showing full details of the contacts, which need to be certified by the award manager of your national society. The fee for the award is \$9 U.S., 50 DKK or 8€. This price includes shipping by first class mail. The award manager is OZ1ACB.

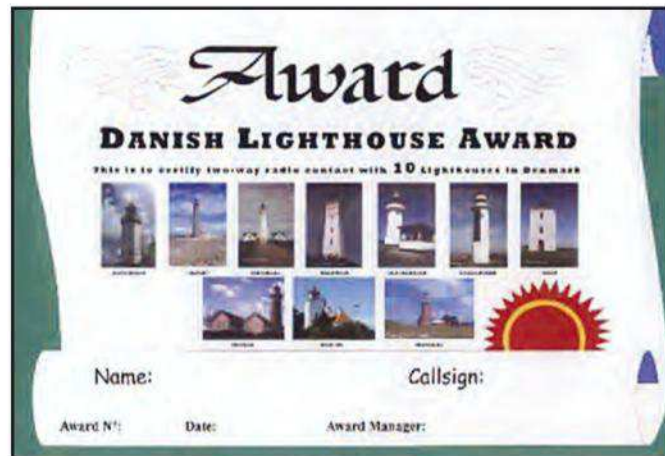
Requirements:

- Award 1: For confirmed QSOs with 5 lighthouses
- Award 2: For confirmed QSOs with 10 lighthouses
- Award 3: For confirmed QSOs with 15 lighthouses

We're always interested in the discovery of new awards, whether they be by your club or by those you've run across while exploring the internet. Send me the URL and I'll take it from there.



The Copenhagen award bears the statue of a mermaid, which is a famous part of park in Copenhagen.



The Danish Lighthouse Award is given to hams who make contacts with Danish lighthouses.

Remembering Neville Cheadle, G3NUG (SK)

This month's DX Column is dedicated to a memorial to Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, who became a Silent Key suddenly this past January. I asked his good friend, Chris Duckling, G3SVL, to write something for our readers. Chris was joined by International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 President Don Beattie, G3BJ, in preparing the following. Thanks to both of you.

With the recent loss of David Collingham K3LP, this makes two DX and DXpedition icons that we have unexpectedly and suddenly lost recently. The staff at CQ extends its sincere condolences to the families of both of these very special DXers. RIP Neville and David. Both of you will be missed. – N200

**BY CHRIS DUCKLING#, G3SVL,
AND DON BEATTIE%, G3BJ**

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG (Photo A) passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on January 14, 2018. He was 77 years old. Licensed for almost 60 years, his contributions to amateur radio will be a fitting legacy of a great DXer, DXpeditioner, and mentor.

*Email: <n200@comcast.net>

Chairman, CDXC, <chris@g3svl.com>
% President, IARU Region 1, <don@g3bj.com>

Neville was born in Disley, Cheshire, UK to a family heavily involved in the newspaper industry. His father was knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his services to the newspaper industry and for his charitable work for the Stroke Association. The family moved to Mill Hill in London

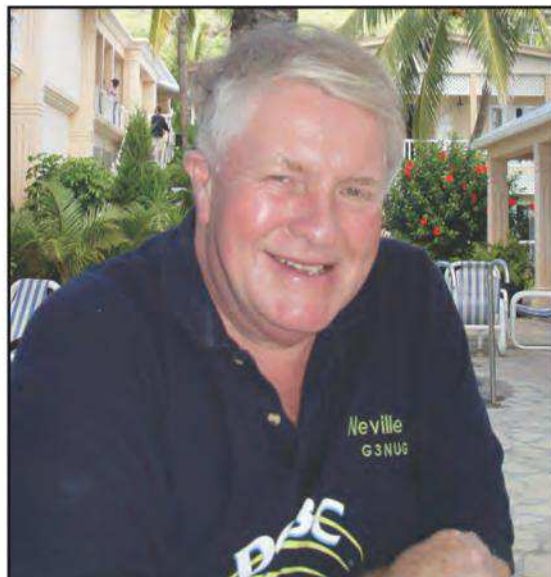


Photo A. Neville Cheadle, G3NUG (SK) (G4JKS photo)



Photo B. Typical antenna set-up for a Five Star DXpedition. This was at 3B7C on St Brandon Island. (G4JKS photo)

where Neville attended Mill Hill School, whose alumni include Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the DNA molecule. Mill Hill School had also been the site of '2SZ,' the school radio station where Cecil Goyder made the first amateur radio G – ZL contact. That inspired Neville to follow the hobby that would become one of his life's passions.

Like most of his generation, Neville juggled a career, a family, and a hobby, but once he took early retirement at the age of 50 from a major international consultancy company, he concentrated on DXing from his impressive station located just north of London. He was a single-mode operator, achieving all of his successes and awards on SSB. Those include over 370 DXCC entities and 1,025 IOTA islands confirmed.

The DXpedition Bug

But working DX was not enough and Neville started to think about putting on DXpeditions himself. He activated a few Malaysian Islands as 9M2/G3NUG and the bug started to bite. By this time, Neville was also heavily involved with CDXC: The UK DX Foundation, which

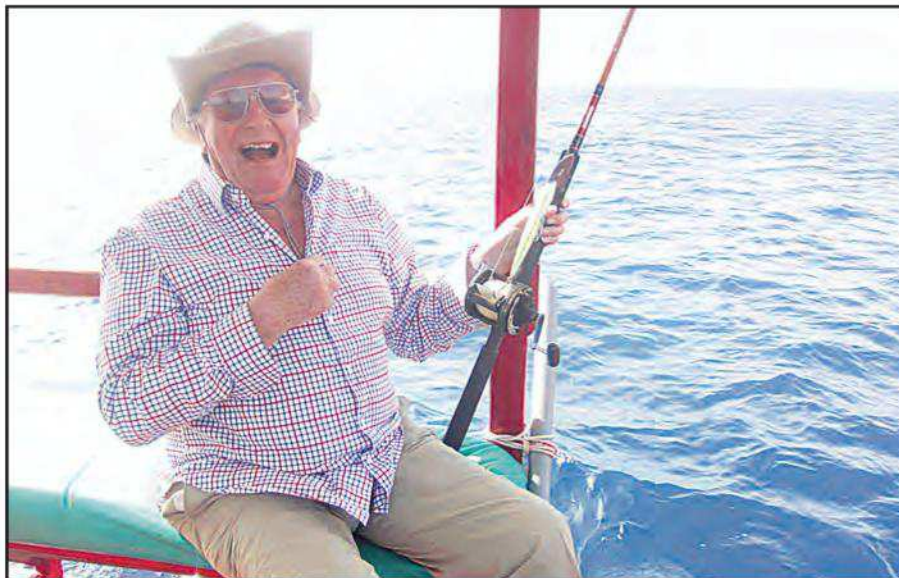


Photo C. Neville was able to take some time out for sea fishing while on the T32C DXpedition to Christmas Island (G2NF photo)

meant that he was in regular contact with many of the UK's top DXers. A plan started to form and in 1998, he and 12 others put on the 9MØC DXpedition to the Spratly Islands. By his own admis-

sion, it was a learning curve — but it was also a huge success, making 65,511 QSOs over 14 days of operating.

The success of that first adventure led Neville to form the Five Star DXers

The WAZ Program

ALL BAND WAZ

CW

842F6KOP 844W8TU
843AK7O

Mixed

9404TF5B 9405ISØEBO

RTTY

267TF5B 268VU2LBW

SSB

5360F6KOP

SINGLE BAND WAZ

15 Meter SSB

671JA5ALE

20 Meter CW

631VU2PTT

160 Meters

492SV1A0Z, 40 Zones

160 Meter Updates

465F4GTB, 40 Zones 369ØZ8BZ, 40 Zones

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, John Bergman, KC5LK, 125 Deer Trail, Brandon, MS 39042-9409. 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>.

The WPX Program

CW

3846LA6OP 3849YL2HX
3847ØK1RO 3850ØZ3SM
3848G8GHD

SSB

4104LA6OP 4109G4IDF
4105KG5LRP 4110ØZ7S
4106K5LGX 4111XE1ZTW
4107K8JTD 4112ØE3TWA
4108IU8DSP 4113KJ7M

Mixed

3551K2MFW 3566RA4PQ
3552W3OKC 3567WW7B
3553LA6OP 3568JA7FVA
3554KG5LRP 3569N6BO
3555DK1LRS 35707K3OZQ
3556VA2WT 3571K4CU
3557AC2QH 3572ØZ3SM
3558IØØTV 3573W5IO
3559ØN7MIC 3574NC4RY
3560K8JTD 3575WN2J
3561W6KF 3576JA1PWK
3562KF7ZN 3577XE1ZTW
3563IU4DTT 3578KEØGHU
3564VE2ZWA 3579WF2F
3565KT3L

Digital

740K6FD 754K4CU
741DØ3GE 755R1BBE
742KG5LRP 756NC4RY
743W8RDZ 757W6APH
744ØN7MIC 758KEØHZX
745KM4FTK 759WD8KND
746K8JTD 760WA4DYD
747KØ4XL 761AB4KJ
748KF7ZN 762GM6MQP
749W7DMC 763KB7IVK
750KT3L 764W5BR
751JA7FVA 765WF2F
752N6BO 766WA9ØNY/KH6
753AA9AW 767PY2APK

CW: 350: LA6OP, KJ7M. 550: K4OY. 650: JA7FVA. 700: AB4KJ. 800: ØK1RO, W4GE, JH9AUB. 1400: RA4PQ. 1450: ØZ3SM. 1800: N3RC. 2050: W3LL. 4150: JN3SAC.

SSB: 350: VE6NS, VK2AAH, G4IDF, WØCLA. 400: LA6OP. 450: XE1ZTW. 500: IØØTV, K8JTD. 550: K1HG. 600: MMØRYP, W4GE. 650: G8GHD. 700: EA3IAA, A18P, W9HBH. 1500: IK4LZH. 2050: N3RC. 2550: JN3SAC. 2650: HA9PP.

Mixed: 450: W8RDZ, ØN7MIC, KØ4XL. 500: K2MFW, DØ3GE, KG5LRP, IØØTV, KF7ZN, W8RDZ. 550: NA5WH, VE6NS, VE2SYQ, K1HG. 600: NA5WH, KJ7M. 650: AL4Y, LA6OP, KN4BBC, KT3L, JA1PWK, XE1ZTW. 700: N4JJS, WF2F. 750: GØHEU, W6WF. 800: AC2QH, JA7FVA, WD8KND, N6DBF. 850: NC4RY. 900: K8JTD, AB4KJ. 1000: DK1LRS. 1050: VA2WT, EA3IAA. 1100: JH9AUB. 1150: G8GHD, W9HBH. 1400: RA4PQ. 1500: ØZ3SM. 1550: W4GE. 1600: IØØFUW. 1700: TF5B. 1800: JA7FFN, N7ZO. 2800: N3RC. 3750: W3LL. 3950: HA9PP. 4800: JN3SAC.

Digital: 350: DØ3GE, KG5LRP, KF7ZN, GØHEU, K4CU, W8RDZ. 400: VE2ZWA, WA4DYD. 450: AL4Y, JF2ØHQ. 500: VE2SYQ, AL4Y. 550: NA5WH, K8JTD, EA3IAA, KT3L, N6DBF. 600: KN4BBC, NA5WH. 650: NC4RY, JA1PWK, IØØFUW, K4OY. 700: N4JJS, WF2F. 705: G8GHD. 1050: KH6SAT. 1150: N7ZO. 1350: N3RC. 1750: JN3SAC. 2500: W3LL.

160 Meters: LA6OP, EA3IAA, RA4PQ, NC4RY, WA4DYD, NØRQV
80 Meters: AL4Y, DØ3GE, EA3IAA, RA4PQ, NC4RY, A18P, AB4KJ
40 Meters: AL4Y, KG5LRP, RA4PQ, G8GHD, JA7FVA, JN3SAC, NC4RY, A18P, GM6MQP, WF2F

20 Meters: K2MFW, KG5LRP, IØØTV, KF7ZN, VE6NS, VE2ZWA, RA4PQ, JN3SAC, A18P, W8RDZ, AB4KJ, NA5WH, KEØGHU, AL4Y, WF2F, WA9ØNY/KH6, KJ7M

17 Meters: JA7FVA

15 Meters: EA3IAA, RA4PQ, JA7FVA, JN3SAC

10 Meters: RA4PQ, JN3SAC, XE1ZTW

Asia: LA6OP, HA9PP, RA4PQ, G8GHD, JA7FVA, JN3SAC, PG9HF
Europe: K2MFW, DØ3GE, LA6OP, IØØTV, ØN7MIC, AB2DP, IU4DTT, KT3L, RA4PQ, G8GHD, JA7FVA, JN3SAC, G4IDF, R1BBE, NC4RY, A18P, GM6MQP, XE1ZTW, K1HG, ØE3TWA, KJ7M
Oceania: HA9PP, RA4PQ, JA7FVA, JN3SAC, KJ7M
North America: K2MFW, K6FD, KG5LRP, K5LGX, W8RDZ, KM4FTK, KØ4XL, KF7ZN, W7DMC, VE2ZWA, KT3L, AA9AW, JN3SAC, NC4RY, A18P, WN2J, W6APH, WA4DYD, XE1ZTW, KB7IVK, W5BR, KEØGHU, WF2F, WA9ØNY/KH6

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.



Photo D. CDXC Summer Social at Lower Withers Barns (G4JKS photo)

Association. Planning started almost immediately for the next DXpedition, and this was to Comoros in 2001. The team was enlarged and the antenna farm increased. Indeed, the amount of kit needed was such that a 20-foot shipping container was used to transport the equipment ahead of time to Moroni. With a team of 26 operators, D68C made 168,695 QSOs in a three-week period and introduced new modes for a major DXpedition of PSK, FM, and MFSK16. Six-meter equipment was also taken and successfully used to provide over 400 QSOs on the Magic Band.

It was clear that Neville's managerial and organizational skills were producing great results and the third DXpedition, to Rodrigues Island as 3B9C in 2004, proved that a team could consistently produce 10,000 QSOs a day. A particular driver for Neville was always the number of unique callsigns that were worked. Of 3B9C's 153,016 QSOs, just under a quarter were uniques.

For D68C and 3B9C Neville had pioneered a system by which operators could participate for the full duration or just the first or second half of the trip. The beauty of this was that those who were in full-time employment and those with young families could experience DXpeditioning without being away for too long. It also reduced the cost for those participants. Further, it provided places for more operators and allowed

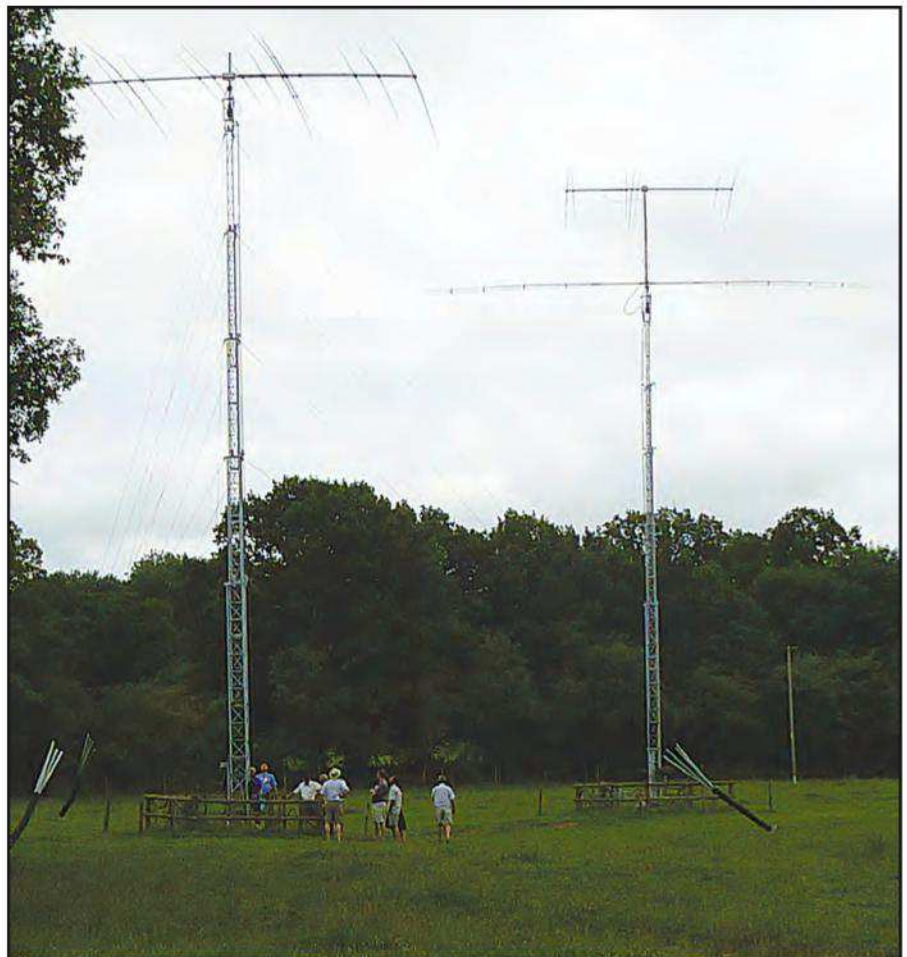


Photo E. Towers at Lower Withers Barns (G4JKS photo)

5 Band WAZ

As of February 15, 2018

1966 stations have attained at least the 150 Zone level, and

968 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

As of February 15, 2018

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	W3NO	199	26
H44MS	199	34	W4DC	199	24
HA5AGS	199	1	W4LI	199	26
I5REA	199	31	W6DN	199	17
IKØFVC	199	1	W9XY	199	22
IKØXBX	199	19 on 10M	W07R	199	21
IK1AOD	199	1	9A5I	198	1, 16
IK8BQE	199	31	AK8A	198	17, 22
IZ3ZNR	199	1	DK2LO	198	2, 19
JA1CMD	199	2	DM5EE	198	1, 31
JA5IU	199	2	EA5BCX	198	27, 39
JA7XBG	199	2	F5NBU	198	19, 31
JH7CFX	199	2	G3KDG	198	1, 12
JK1BSM	199	2	G3KMQ	198	1, 27
K1LI	199	24	JA1DM	198	2, 40
K4XP	199	23	JA3GN	198	2 on 80 & 40
K7UR	199	34	K2EP	198	23, 24
K9KU	199	22 on 15	K2TK	198	23, 24
KBØEO	199	23	K3JGJ	198	24, 26
KZ4V	199	26	K4HB	198	24, 26
N3UN	199	18	K4JLD	198	18, 24
N4NX	199	26	K5FUV	198	18, 23
N4WW	199	26	K6FG	198	17, 18
N4XR	199	27	KZ2I	198	24, 26
N8AA	199	23	N2QT	198	23, 24
RA6AX	199	6 on 10M	N4GG	198	18, 24
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	W4UM	198	18, 23
S58Q	199	31	W5CWQ	198	17, 18
SM7BIP	199	31	W6OUL	198	37, 40
VE2T2T	199	23	W9RN	198	26, 19 on 40
VO1FB	199	19	WA2BCK	198	23, 24
W1FJ	199	24	WC5N	198	22, 26
W1FZ	199	26	WL7E	198	34, 37
W2LK	199	23	ZL2AL	198	36, 37

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

5BWAZ #	Callsign	Date	# Zones
1963	K5LFY	2018-01-20	196
1964	TF3DC	2018-01-22	165
1965	VUPTT	2018-02-08	183
1966	VU2LBW	2018-02-13	163

Updates to the 5BWAZ list of stations:

5BWAZ #	Callsign	# Zones
1934	W5GDY	190
1962	IKØXBX	199

New recipients of 5 Band WAZ with all 200 Zones confirmed:

5BWAZ #	Callsign	Date	All 200 #
none			

*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, KC5LTK, 125 Deer Trail, Brandon, MS 39042-9409. 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 checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. KC5LTK may also be reached via e-mail: <kc5lk@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

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newcomers to dip their toes into DXpeditioning to see if they liked it. Finally, it created an opportunity for first-timers to learn from the more experienced DXpeditioners on the team.

With a pattern developing of a DXpedition every three years, the Five Star DXers took a slightly different approach for their 2007 trip to St. Brandon Island, 3B7C. The only way to get to the island was by chartering a boat and sailing 30 hours from Mauritius — and taking all supplies and support staff with you. The maximum team size was set at 20 operators. Many would need to camp under canvas and all would need to stay for the entire duration. A boat was hired and a “recce” (reconnaissance) trip planned. As the time approached for the recce trip, Neville was diagnosed with lymphoma and had to undergo chemotherapy. The treatment

worked and nine months later, he was off to 3B7C to lead the DXpedition (*Photo B*). With a team of 20 operators on an uninhabited island and zero sunspots throughout the entire DXpedition, 137,484 QSOs were made with, once again, a quarter of those being uniques.

The final (as it turned out to be) Five Star DXers Association outing was to be the big one: A trip to the Pacific in 2011 to mount the T32C DXpedition to Christmas Island. Being a ‘fly-in’ location, the system of operator change-over was used once again, allowing a total of 37 operators to participate. As is well known from the write-ups, the container full of equipment got stranded in Tarawa as ship after ship ran late or broke down. With the DXpedition at risk, Neville’s persuasive powers and organisational skills came to the fore. The entire



Photo A1. So close and yet so far ... the 3YØZ DXpedition team arrived off Bouvet Island on January 31 but was never able to go ashore due to bad weather, heavy seas, and engine trouble aboard their ship. The ship’s captain aborted the expedition on February 3 due to safety concerns. (Photo via bouvetdx.org website)

Bouvet DXpedition Cancelled

The planned 3YØZ DXpedition to Bouvet Island was cancelled for safety reasons by the captain of the ship transporting the team and its gear to the remote sub-Antarctic island. The team had arrived offshore (see *Photo A1*) on January 31, but landing was hampered by high winds and high seas that made helicopter operations impossible. Over the next several days, the bad weather continued and showed no signs of improving, according to updates posted on the BouvetDX.org website. Then, on February 2, the ship developed engine troubles and the following day, “the captain of the vessel declared it unsafe to continue with our project and aborted the DXpedition,” organizers K4UEE, KØIR, and LA6VM reported on the group’s website.

Original plans to return to the departure location of Punta Arenas, Chile, were changed to head for the closer port of Cape Town, South Africa, “in the interest of safety and expediency.” The ship arrived in Cape Town on February 17, greeted by a contingent of ZS hams on a 37-foot ketch (see *Photo A2*)! Team members quickly cleared customs and were hosted to a reception by local hams before splitting up to head home. Co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, said there would be future updates “as we begin to unravel this attempt and plan our subsequent strategy.”

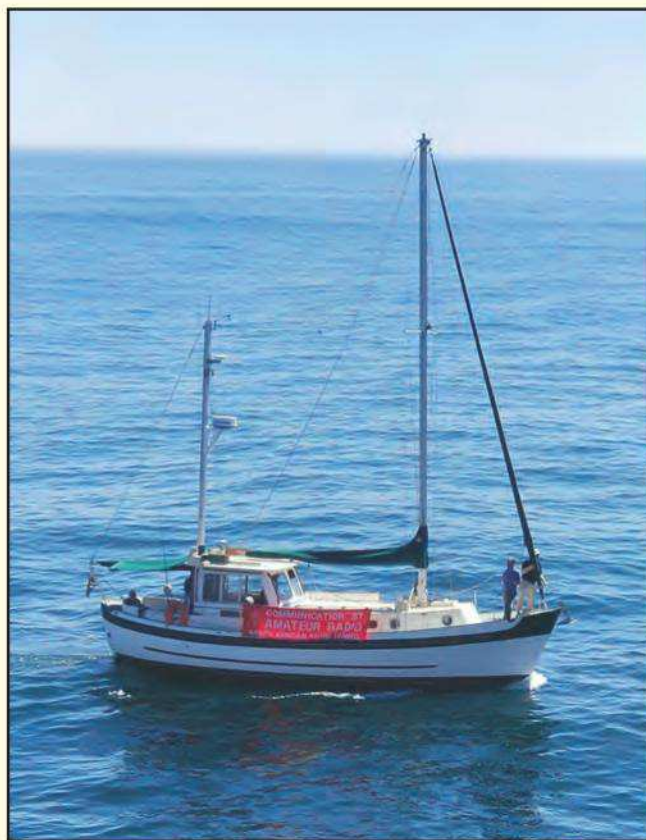


Photo A2. The 3YØZ team was welcomed to Cape Town Harbor by a delegation from the South African Radio League (see banner) aboard a 37-foot ketch, sending “CQ” on the boat’s horn! (Photo by 3YØZ team member George Nicholson, N4GRN)

DXpedition was re-planned 10 days before the start and a complete set of equipment for 12 stations was hand-carried by air to the island. The total of 213,022 QSOs — with the now-familiar high level of uniques — set a world record for a DXpedition that still stands today. Indeed at the end of the DXpedition 11 world records had been broken, seven of which still stand today. There was even time for a little non-radio fun, as seen in *Photo C*.

Ambitions Achieved

If any proof were needed that Neville achieved his ambitions as a DXpedition organizer, one needs only to look at GDXF's DXpedition Honor Roll, where the Five Star DXpeditions occupy positions 1, 5, 7, and 10 in terms of QSO totals, and still hold the world record for uniques worked on a DXpedition. Over 100 different operators have been on a Five Star DXpedition and many earned their spurs with Neville.

Much of the experience gained in setting up and running these trips is documented in the DXpeditioning manual he co-authored, *DXpeditioning Behind the Scenes*, which is still in print.

When not organizing or being on DXpeditions, Neville was Chairman of CDXC: The UK DX Foundation. He served in that role for seven years, followed by 14 years

as President. He stood down in 2015, whereupon he was made an Honorary Life Member of the club. During his time on the committee, Neville grew CDXC into the internationally-recognized organization that it now is.

Neville and his wife, Trish, hosted the AGM (annual general meeting) and Summer Social for eight years at their home, 'Lower Withers Barns' in the Herefordshire countryside (*Photos D and E*), and prior to that, at their previous home in Hertfordshire. Many have recalled those great garden parties and the superb hospitality provided by Trish.

As if all of this was not enough, Neville was a Director of IREF, a member of RSGB, ARRL, INDEXA, NCDXF, and RRC; and held honorary memberships of the Southern California DX Club and the Southeastern DX Club. He was a former member of RSGB Council and RSGB Management Committee, former Chairman of RSGB HF Committee and organised the HF Convention in its "Beaumont days." In recognition of his contributions to amateur radio DXing, Neville was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in 2009.

Neville and Trish sold Lower Withers Barns last year and moved to a new home in the South Hams region of Devon, where Neville intended to take up sea fishing, travel more widely, and watch cricket. Alas, it was not to be. He is survived by Trish and his three sons.

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 340 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 an SASE if confirmation of total is required. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. (Stickers for the 340 level and Honor Roll are available.) Please make checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, KØKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604 USA.

CW

DL3DXX339	K3UA.....339	N5ZM339	WØJLC.....339	JA7XBG.....335	K6LEB331	N7W0.....324	RA1A0B.....313	YU1Y0295
HB9DDZ339	K4CN.....339	N7FU339	YU1AB.....339	F6HMJ.....334	N7W0.....331	YT1VM322	WA4D0U.....312	WA2VQV290
K4IQJ339	K4JLD339	N7RO339	K8LJG338	K1FK334	K6YK329	4Z5SG321	Y09HP312	K7CU282
K9MM339	K4MQG339	NØFW339	KA7T338	K9OW334	W9IL329	N2LM321	W6WF309	PP7LL282
N4MM339	K5RT339	OK1MP339	WA5VGI338	PY2YP334	IKØADY328	ON4CAS321	KT2C307	WR7Q282
WB4UBD339	K7LAY339	W3GH339	W1DF338	WG5G/334	OZ5UR328	HB9DAX/319	W4ABW306	N2VW280
WS9V339	K7VV339	W4ØEL339	W9RPM338	QRPP334	AB4IQ326	QRPP319	K7ZM305	K4EQ280
EA2IA339	K8SIX339	W5BOS339	G3KMQ337	WD9DZV334	K6CU326	HA1ZH318	K8IHQ301	WB5STV277
F3TH339	N4AH339	W7CNL339	W7IIT337	K2OWE333	KE3A326	N6PEQ318	HA5LQ301	Y06HSU275
K2FL339	N4CH339	W7ØM339	K8ME336	K5UO333	EA5BY325	W6YQ318	RN3AKK300	
K2TQC339	N4JF339	W8XD339	KØKG336	N6AW333	KA3S325	CT1YH316	WA9PIE298	
K3JGJ339	N4NX339	WK3N339	W6ØUL336	W4MPY333	N3RC324	EA3ALV315	K4IE295	

SSB

AB4IQ340	K5TVC340	VE3MR340	W4UNP339	F6HMJ335	WD9DZV333	N2LM328	W1DF318	4X6DK298
DJ9ZB340	K6YRA340	VE3MRS340	K3UA338	HB9DQD335	AA1VX332	AE9DX327	XE1RBV317	K2HJB295
DL3DXX340	K7VV340	VE3XN340	K7LAY338	IKØAZG335	KE3A332	K7HG327	IV3GOW312	F5MSB293
DU9RG340	K8SIX340	W3AZD340	K9HQM338	IW3YGW335	N2VW332	K6GFJ326	N8SHZ312	W9ACE291
EA2IA340	K9MM340	W3GH340	N4NX338	OE2EGL335	N5YY332	KE4SCY326	KU4BP310	N3KV289
EA4DO340	KE5K340	W4ABW340	W9RPM338	VK2HV335	K5UO331	KF4NEF325	W6NW310	W6MAC289
HB9DDZ340	K2ZP340	W5BOS340	YU1AB338	W4WX335	KC2Q331	W6WF325	I3ZSX309	K7CU287
I8KCI340	N4CH340	W6BCQ340	4Z4DX338	WB3D335	SV3AQR331	W9GD325	G3KMQ308	I21JLG282
IK1GPG340	N4JF340	W6DPD340	K1UO338	AA4S334	WØROB331	WØULU324	KA1LMR308	WA9PIE282
IN3DEI340	N4MM340	W7BJN340	K8LJG338	EA5BY334	W6ØUL331	VE7EDZ324	RA1A0B308	WD8ØEL281
I8KCI340	K9MM340	W7ØM340	N7WR338	K9OW334	XE1MEX331	F6BFI323	XE1MEX308	IWØHOU277
K2TQC340	N7BK340	W8ILC340	WA5VGI338	PY2YP334	KD5ZD330	ON4CAS323	IK5ZUK307	N5KAE276
K3JGJ340	N7RO340	W9SS340	W2CC338	VK4LC334	WA4WTG330	VE6MRT323	IØYKN306	WA5UA276
K4CN340	NØFW340	WB4UBD340	W2FKF338	W8AXI334	WØYDB330	W5GT323	XE1MW305	NØAZZ275
K4IQJ340	OK1MP340	WK3N340	W7FP338	XE1J334	ZL1BOQ330	N6PEQ322	K4IE304	SQ7B275
K4JLD340	OZ3SK340	WS9V340	W9IL338	CT3BM333	AD7J329	W4MPY322	K4ZZR304	
K4MQG340	OZ5EV340	XE1AE340	IØZV336	IK8CNT333	N3RC329	K8IHQ321	K7ZM303	
K4MZU340	VE1YX340	YU3AA340	K3LC336	K8LJG333	VE7SMP329	KW3W320	4Z5FL/M302	
K5ØVC340	VE2GHZ340	JA7XBG339	K8ME336	N6AW333	CT1AHU328	TI8II320	K7SAM301	
K5RT340	VE2PJ340	KØKG339	EA3BMT335	OE3WBB333	N1ALR328	Y09HP320	KA8YYZ301	

RTTY

N14H 338	WK3N 338	OK1MP 337	K8SIX 333	K3UA 332	K4WW 323	K4IQJ 290	K8ME 278
WB4UBD ... 338	N5ZM 338	K4CN 334	W3GH 333	W9RPM 330	AB4IQ 317	N4MM 290	IN3YGW 275

Spring Contest Activities and Contest Success with Wire Antennas

This month, we shine the CQ spotlight on the CQWW WPX CW, ARI, and CQ-M International DX Contests; European Youth Contest Program Continues in May at ES5TV and 9A1A; Hams in Japan Begin Youth Initiatives; IARU Reg. 1 YOTA "Summer" Camp Next August heads to South Africa for a "Winter" Camp; What's Up With "4U" Stations; and Contest Success With Wire Antennas

April signifies spring, and for the active tester, spring signals the start of less intense contest operating time inside and more maintenance and new construction time outside.

Spring also is a time to gather with fellow testers face-to-face and perhaps exchange contest

email: <k3zj@cq-amateur-radio.com>

stories and gather new ideas. The first big meeting is in Visalia on the weekend of April 20. This is followed by Dayton on the weekend of May 18. Details of contest-related activities at both venues were in last month's column.

The only major contest on the calendar is the CQWW WPX CW on Memorial Day weekend in the U.S., May 26-27. But there are multiple minor con-

Calendar of Events

All Year	CQ DX Marathon	http://bit.ly/vEKMWD
Mar. 24-25	CQWW WPX SSB Contest	http://www.cqwpw.com/
Mar. 28	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	http://bit.ly/2cv97YF
Mar. 31- Apr. 1	Russian WW MultiMode Contest	http://bit.ly/2CMbWOM
Apr. 1	RSGB RoLo SSB Contest	www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2018/rolo.shtml
Apr. 4	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	http://bit.ly/2cv97YF
Apr. 5	SARL 80m QSO Party	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
Apr. 7	LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest	www.lzopen.com/
Apr. 8	North American SSB Sprint	http://ssbsprint.com/rules/
Apr. 7-8	EA RTTY Contest	http://concursos.ure.es/en/earthy/bases/
Apr. 7-8	Mississippi QSO Party	www.arrlmiss.org/
Apr. 7-8	Missouri QSO Party	www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party
Apr. 7-8	SP DX Contest	www.spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl/reg/reg_g.html
April 14	QRP Spring QSO Party	www.qrparci.org/contests
Apr. 14-15	New Mexico QSO Party	www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp/
Apr. 14-15	JIDX CW Contest	www.jidx.org
Apr. 14-15	Georgia QSO Party	http://georgiaqsoparty.org
Apr. 15	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Apr. 15	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	http://hskc.ha8kux.com/
Apr. 20-21	Holyland DX Contest	www.iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest
Apr. 21	ES Open HF Championship	http://bit.ly/2jXaIqs
Apr. 21-22	Michigan QSO Party	www.miqp.org/index.html
Apr. 21-22	Ontario QSO Party	www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm
Apr. 21-22	YU DX Contest	http://yudx.yu1srs.org/rs/
Apr. 21-22	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	www.cqmmdx.com/rules/
Apr. 21-22	Nebraska QSO Party	www.qcwa.org/chapter025.htm
Apr. 25	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	http://bit.ly/2cv97YF
Apr. 28-29	SP DX RTTY Contest	www.pkrvg.org/strona,spdxrttyen.html
Apr. 28-29	10-10 Spring Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
Apr. 28-29	Helvetia Contest	http://bit.ly/2lR2L8v
Apr. 28-29	Florida QSO Party	http://www.floridaqsoparty.org/
May 1	AGCW QRP/QRP Party	http://bit.ly/1gnVDX0
May 5	FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint	http://fistsna.org/operating.html
May 5-6	7th Area QSO Party	http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?content=rules
May 5-6	10-10 Spring CW Contest	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
May 5-6	ARI DX Contest	www.ari.it/
May 5-6	Delaware QSO Party	www.fsarc.org/index.htm
May 5-6	Indiana QSO Party	www.hdxcc.org/inqp/rules.html
May 5-6	New England QSO Party	www.neqp.org/rules.html
May 12	FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint	http://fistsna.org/operating.html
May 12-13	Arkansas QSO Party	http://www.arkqp.com/operating-aids/
May 12-13	CQWW Foxhunting Weekend	www.homingin.com/joek0ov/nfw.html
May 12-13	CQ-M International DX Contest	http://bit.ly/2EB4lgC
May 12-13	MARAC USA QSO Party	www.marac.org/contestrules.htm
May 12-13	Volta WW RTTY Contest	www.contestvolta.it/
May 19-20	His Majesty King of Spain CW Contest	http://concursos.ure.es/en/
May 19-20	Baltic Contest	www.lrsf.it/bcontest/english/rules_html.htm
May 19-20	EU PSK DX Contest	www.eupsk.com/
May 26-27	CQWW WPX CW Contest	www.cqwpw.com/
May 27	QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint	www.qrparci.org/contests

tests, several of which are notable. We focus below on the two for which the IARU Region 1 Youth Contest Program (YCP) in Europe is sponsoring youngsters at “superstations.” These are the ARI International DX Contest on May 5-6 and the CQ-M International DX Contest on May 12-13.

Recently there has been some confusion in contests about the multiplier status and location of amateur stations licensed by the United Nations (U.N.). Don’t let the U.N. stations throw you off your game in a contest. The contest sponsors know how these stations count and will score your log correctly. If in doubt about the location of a “4U” station, work it and let the contest sponsor’s log checking software calculate your correct score. The sponsor checks multipliers anyway, so don’t sweat it.

This month, we also focus on two operators who regularly participate in contests and accomplish very respectable scores with modest stations and only zero-gain wire antennas. It might surprise you that one of them wrote this column for 25+ years, is a familiar face on the contest scene, and is a two-time WRTC medal winner. The other operator is a newer face on the contest scene, but one who has honed his skills with many hours on the air with his modest station and single wire antenna on a small suburban lot.

ARI International DX Contest

The annual Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) International DX Contest will be found on the bands from 1200 UTC on Saturday, May 5, through 1159 UTC on Sunday, May 6. This contest tends to be fast-moving when the bands are open to Europe. Everyone can work everyone outside one’s own country for points, not just Italian stations. Only 80-10 meters are employed, no 160 meters (also no 60, 30, 17 or 12 meters). Each station may be worked on each band in three contest modes — SSB, CW, and RTTY — for a total of 15 possible contacts with each station.

Italian stations send their province as the exchange, including IT9 (Sicily) and ISØ (Sardinia). Stations located outside Italy send a consecutive serial number. Multipliers consist of DXCC countries worked plus Italian provinces worked on each band. Note that although the same station may be worked in each mode on the same band, multipliers are calculated by band only, not mode.

Entry categories include single modes and mixed mode. Each contact with an Italian station counts 10 points. Each contact with a non-Italian station on a different continent than that of the entrant counts 3 points. And each contact with a station in a different country but on the same continent as the entrant counts 1 point. Thankfully, contest logging programs figure all this out for us! Logs are due no later than 5 days after the contest ends. Information is at <<http://bit.ly/2BDRelY>>.

Look for the youth contesters who are expected to be operating from ES5TV in this contest and say “hi.”

CQ-M International DX Contest

This will be the 62nd running of the CQ-M International DX Contest, organized by the Russian association Soyuz Radiolyubiteley Rossii (SRR). (This contest is not to be confused with the CQMM contest based in Brazil that runs in April.) Some of the websites associated with this contest were not functional as of early February, but hopefully they will be fixed. The contest has been held every year since 1957.

The contest period runs from 1200 UTC on Saturday, May 12 through 1159 UTC on Sunday, May 13. Each station may be contacted twice on each band, once using CW and once using SSB. Consecutive serial numbers are exchanged.

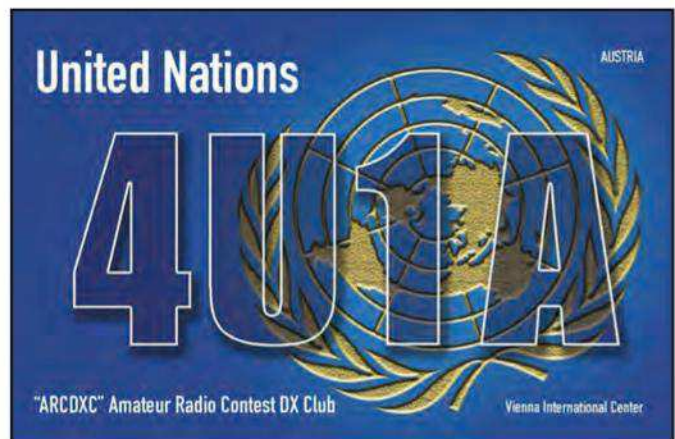
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CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHz	RST	2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				

73, _____
Station Operator



Photos A and B. The 4U prefix designates a United Nations station. DXCC lists 4U1ITU and 4U1UN as separate DXCC entities. All other U.N. stations count for the DXCC country in which they are located. Depicted are QSLs from 4U1WB at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. and 4U1A at the Vienna International Center in Vienna, Austria. Both stations entered this year’s CQ WPX RTTY contest. Despite being in two different DXCC countries, they count for the same “4U1” multiplier for WPX purposes.

Multipliers are the DXCC list plus the R5-150-C list. Multipliers are counted once per band regardless of mode. Don’t panic. Your logging software will figure it out, and the sponsors run your final log through their software so that everyone’s multipliers derive from the same database.

Youth participants in the YCP program are expected to be on the air from 9A1A for this contest, so look for them. Contest details are at <<http://bit.ly/2EB4Igc>>.

Young Contesting Program (YCP) Continues in IARU Region 1

Lisa Leanders, PA2LS, announced that the Young Contesters Program (YCP) will continue as an IARU Region 1-sponsored program in 2018. Youth are invited to apply to operate one of the four selected contests. As noted above, two of the four are in May: The ARI International DX Contest (May 5-6) and the CQ-M International DX Contest (May 12-13).

During the ARI contest, youth operators will be invited to operate at ES5TV. The next weekend, up to six young operators also will be selected to operate at 9A1A during the CQ-M competition. As we have written in previous columns, these two stations have hosted youth teams in past years.

Two past YCP contest weekend participants, Tomi, HA8RT, and Philipp, DK6SP, will be competing in Germany at this summer's WRTC2018 as youth team operators. They both also are alumni of the Region 1 YOTA (Youth On The Air) summer camps. See January 2018 CQ magazine at p.103 for pictures of the youngest participants at WRTC2018.

Japan Initiates Youth Activities

The successful summer camps conducted in Europe for young operators have been noted in past columns. IARU Region 1 now sponsors the YOTA camps as well as the YCP program discussed above, and in 2016 and 2017, several youth participants from Regions 2 and 3 were invited to attend. Now a similar youth initiative is being undertaken in Japan. It appears from the new YOTA Japan website that a youth contesting program similar to the YCP in Region 1 will be a component in the Japanese effort in addition to a YOTA camp. Well-known contester and DXer Tack, JE1CKA, is among the listed organizers. See more at <<http://jouban.jp/yota-ja/>>.

2019 YOTA Camp in South Africa

As noted above, since 2014, the "Youth on the Air" (YOTA) camps in Europe have been sponsored annually by Region 1 of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). Next

Behind the Bylines...

...a little bit about some of the authors whose articles appear in this issue...

Doug Zwiebel, KR2Q (SSB Results, 2017 CQWW DX Contest, p. 10) is one of three co-directors of the CQ World Wide DX Contest. A member of the CQWW Contest Committee since 1979, Doug is a world-class QRP contester, having multiple first-place world, North America and U.S. finishes to his credit, stretching back to 1988. Professionally, he is an administrator at New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City.

Mike Charteris, VK4QS ("The CQ World Wide DX Contest: What's In It For Me?" p. 20), has a varied background that extends from managing a Tandy Electronics (the Australian version of RadioShack) store, to working in electronic warfare in the Royal Australian Navy (for which he was awarded the Australian Defence Medal) and serving as an electrician for the Queensland Railway. An amateur since 1985, Mike has been very active in the Wireless Institute of Australia (the VK national ham radio society) and wrote the VK4 News column for WIA's Amateur Radio magazine for two years. His perspective on operating the CQWW SSB Contest as a non-contester will be followed next month by a discussion of his experiences during the CQWW CW weekend.

Bob Locher, W9KNI ("CQ Reviews: Elecraft KPA1500 Solid-State Amplifier," p. 28), is an accomplished DXer and ham radio institution. A co-founder of Bencher (manufacturer of paddles and antennas) and former owner of Butternut Antennas, as well as founder of Idiom Press, Bob has also written two books, *The Complete DXer and A Year of DX*, which chronicles his successful quest to win the CQ DX Marathon, for which he provided major inspiration. Bob lives (and chases DX) in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Professor Emil Heisselluft of the Lauton Institute in Grossmaul-an Der Donau, Austria ("Worked All Rivers and Tributaries," p. 25), has contributed to the April issue of CQ for 33 of the past 42 years. He has, among other notable achievements, successfully predicted the advent of stealth technology and cloak- ing techniques, which were the subject of a recent patent.

year, for the first time, the annual camp will be held outside of Europe. It will be hosted by the South African Radio League (SARL) in South Africa, so it will be the first "Winter" YOTA camp! It should be quite an adventure for the youngsters lucky enough to attend, and may attract more African participants as well.

United Nations Amateur Stations

Recently Masa, AJ3M, and long-time operator at 4U1WB at the World Bank in Washington, D.C., ran into some difficulties when a close look at the rules of several contests seemed to indicate that his license must be issued by the country from which he is operating and his callsign reflect that country. However, The United Nations (U.N.) considers the whole world to be its "country" and assigns 4U callsigns anywhere, so what to do? The World Bank is a U.N. agency, so 4U1WB is a U.N. station located in the United States.

Of course, this problem is an unforeseen circumstance, and after some backs-and-forths — including initial DQs from CQ's own WPX contests — the matter was straightened out. The CQ WPX rules were amended and the DQs reversed. The ARRL contest desk now also has clarified that its analogous rule was not meant to apply to U.N. amateur stations. Everything has returned to normal.

In this process it became apparent that many competitors are not aware that the U.N. can (and does) exercise licensing authority for amateur stations in areas that it controls.

U.N. headquarters in New York (4U1UN and its related callsigns) and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland (4U1ITU and its related callsigns) were granted DXCC status based on earlier DXCC rules and grandfathered when the rules were changed. As a consequence of the rules change, today U.N. stations not located at the U.N. headquarters or ITU in Geneva simply count the same as other stations within their host DXCC country.

One location, the Vienna (Austria) International Center (VIC) (4U1VIC and other related callsigns) has unique status. It is NOT on the DXCC list, but IS on the German Worked All Europe (WAE) country list. So stations at that location count as a multiplier in the WAE contests (and in the CQ World Wide contests because CQ uses the DXCC list plus the WAE list for counting multipliers, plus IG9/IH9, which are located in a different CQ zone than Italy proper) for counting multipliers.

In early February in the CQ WPX RTTY contest, operators at both 4U1WB in Washington, D.C. and 4U1A at the VIC participated and submitted entries. This demonstrates an exception to the rule that a prefix denotes the country of operation. In this case both stations have the same prefix and are counted as the same multiplier in the WPX contest notwithstanding that they are located in different DXCC countries separated by the Atlantic Ocean and a lot of land.

A minor difficulty may arise in contests focused on working only certain countries, such as during the ARRL DX and the DARC WAE contests. It helps if you know that 4U1WB is in the U.S., so no points are gained by working it from state-side in either contest; but 4U1A is at the VIC and should be worked for points in both contests. 4U1A counts as Austria in the ARRL DX and as 4U1V for the WAE.

In addition to 4U1WB and 4U1A, U.N. stations actively on the air in the last six months include 4UØR at the VIC and 4U1GSC in Italy. 4U1VIC also sometimes is active. Historically, there also have been 4U stations operated "4U portable" by members of U.N. peacekeeping forces or staff, although I haven't heard such stations on the air recently.

The website maintained by the U.N. Amateur Radio Contest Club has a lot of historical information on “4U” stations and scheduled future operations using special prefixes. It is at <www.cqdx.ru/4u1a/>.

If in the heat of a contest you hear a 4U prefix but don't know where the U.N. station is located, just work it. The operators of these stations more likely than not are well acquainted with other operators' confusion and used to dealing with it. Many logging software programs correctly account for the known U.N. stations, so usually such stations will be accounted for correctly on your screen score. But if not, it still is no problem. You can be sure that the contest organizer will know of any such operation and that their software will handle your log correctly.

Finally, in addition to the “4U” prefix, there are two other prefixes assigned by the ITU to U.N. agencies. C7 is the prefix for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and 4Y is the prefix assigned to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Both C7A and 4Y1A have been active on the ham bands from the VIC, and therefore count for WAE but not for DXCC.

These prefixes used for amateur stations are identical to those used for other communications purposes. They also form the basis for, but may not exactly match, aircraft registration identifiers.

Contest Success With Wire Antennas

An oft-asked question is “what is the most important element for contest success?” Many competitors focus (obsess?) on having the latest and best transceiver with the highest numbers in laboratory testing, a large array of multiple beam antennas at varying heights in order to cover all the propagation angles, or a carefully-selected location such as an oceanside cliff or mountaintop.

I suggest that it is most important to get on the air and hone skills with whatever equipment and antennas you have available. Not only does operating improve your skills, but it also may keep you interested long enough to acquire that new SDR, towers and antennas, and new location that will rival Marconi's out on Cape Cod. A second suggestion is to join some more experienced competitors in a multi-operator effort for at least a few contests. You might express your interest to a member of an existing group that might welcome some help, or you might invite several operators to your station.

Bigger and better antennas, improved equipment, and ideal locations will improve bottom line results. But it is a BIG mistake to put off competing until you have an ideal station that may or may not ever materialize. If and when you finally attain your dream QTH, equipment, and antennas, suddenly you'll realize that others easily are beating you. Do not underestimate the importance of skill. It is just too easy to not get on the air because “I could only put up a dipole” or “the new radio hasn't arrived yet,” or “I can't beat so-and-so.”

This month we focus on two operators who regularly get on and accomplish very respectable scores with modest stations and only wire antennas and a tuner. On paper, if you have a tribander at your station, you already have more firepower. But try to beat these guys.

It might surprise you that one of these guys wrote this column for over 25 years, is a familiar face on the contest scene, and a two-time WRTC medal winner. The other is a newer contest operator who has honed his skills with many hours on the air using his single wire antenna and modest station on a small suburban lot. The similarity between the two is that it is very difficult to beat either one of them, even with much better stations.



Photo C. John Dorr, K1AR (standing) and visitor Sandy Raeker, DL1QQ, at John's station in Windham, New Hampshire. (Courtesy of K1AR)

Meet John Dorr, K1AR (*Photo C*). You probably have heard of him and maybe even met him. CQ Contest Hall of Fame member, four-time WRTC participant with two WRTC medals to show for it, holder of multiple contest records, and many more ham radio contest accomplishments.

What many may not know is that when John moved to New Hampshire, he dispensed with all of his “gain” antennas. For years, when operating from home, it has been with his trusty Drake MN2000 tuner and a couple of wires in the trees. Specifically, John has three wire antennas: An inverted-L for 160 meters; an inverted-V for 40 meters at 70 feet; and a dipole for 80 meters at 60 feet that he uses with his MN2000 for 10, 15, and 20 meters as well. The equipment in the shack is an ICOM 781 transceiver and Ameritron AL-1200 amplifier. Are you impressed? I didn't think so. But you will be.

Being in New Hampshire at a good location is helpful, but John has employed this rather basic station (by today's contest standards) for CQWW CW every year since 2011 to go up against the beams and wire arrays that abound in New England and elsewhere.

Not to over-emphasize John's success, but since 2011, except for 2016, he has placed in the top 10 for North America in the single-operator all band assisted category every year. John was number 3 in North America and 8th in the world the first time he used his wire antennas at home. I would add that, in some of those years, power outages took hours off his operating time.

The piece of John's advice that sticks with me as underappreciated wisdom comes from comments he made right after the first time he used his wire antennas in a major contest, the 2011 CQWW CW. “I'm now convinced that much of the small station behavior is in the operator's head.”

What does that mean? Act like you have a big station, even if you don't. Call CQ a lot, trying to get runs going, and sometimes that will be very successful. Use all your skills when trying a break a pile-up; don't just assume you can't break it.

Appreciate that your dipole will detect signals from directions that your beam would exclude.

John has kept his “big station” mojo by doing regular stints at K3LR. My advice to anyone with a small station is to gain experience at a bigger station with top operators. If you do this, you will learn many tricks even if all you do is help out at one of multiplier stations. I had a similar experience in the 1970s at W3AU, then one of the largest multi-multis in the world. My scores miraculously increased when I operated at my tribander-and-wires little club station. Inevitably I had acquired some new operating skills while at the W3AU superstation.

Looking South

Can someone outside New England also have success? Success should be measured against your peers in your own geographic area. Having just wires to take on the beams and wire arrays in your vicinity may seem to be a losing proposition, but it isn't if you develop sufficient skill.

Tim Shoppa, N3QE (*Photo D*), operates from his Bethesda, Maryland, home with just one single wire in the trees at his suburban lot. It is a 130-foot doublet hung between some trees at 80 feet high and fed through tuners and ladder line from his basement (*Photo E*). His station equipment, like that of K1AR, is modest. He uses two Ten-Tec Eagle transceivers feeding an Ameritron AL-1500 amplifier. His tuners are home brew and switched through a homebrew relay matrix so that he doesn't have to adjust the tuners each time he changes bands.

Like John, Tim also puts in operating time at superstations. In his case, some contest weekends he operates at W3LPL and N3HBX. As a newer contestee located in suburban Maryland just outside of Washington, D.C., Tim has been constantly increasing his scores against stations equipped with beams and phased arrays. In the CQ WPX RTTY con-

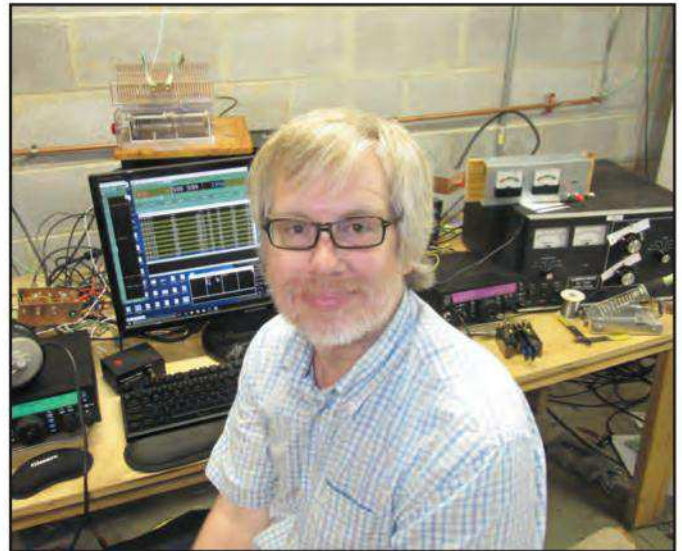


Photo D. Tim Shoppa, N3QE, at his station in Bethesda, Maryland. (Courtesy of N3QE)

test, with the single wire doublet in the trees, he has climbed from number 11 in North America in 2015 to number 8 in 2017 in the competitive single-operator high-power category. In the just-completed 2018 contest he had an even higher score than in previous years. Not bad for 130 feet of wire and some ladder line!

John and Tim are getting their money's worth out of their copper wire. For us, their operating accomplishments demonstrate how well one can do with a simple wire antenna and modest station equipment. Now it's your turn!

—Until next month, 73, Dave, K3ZJ

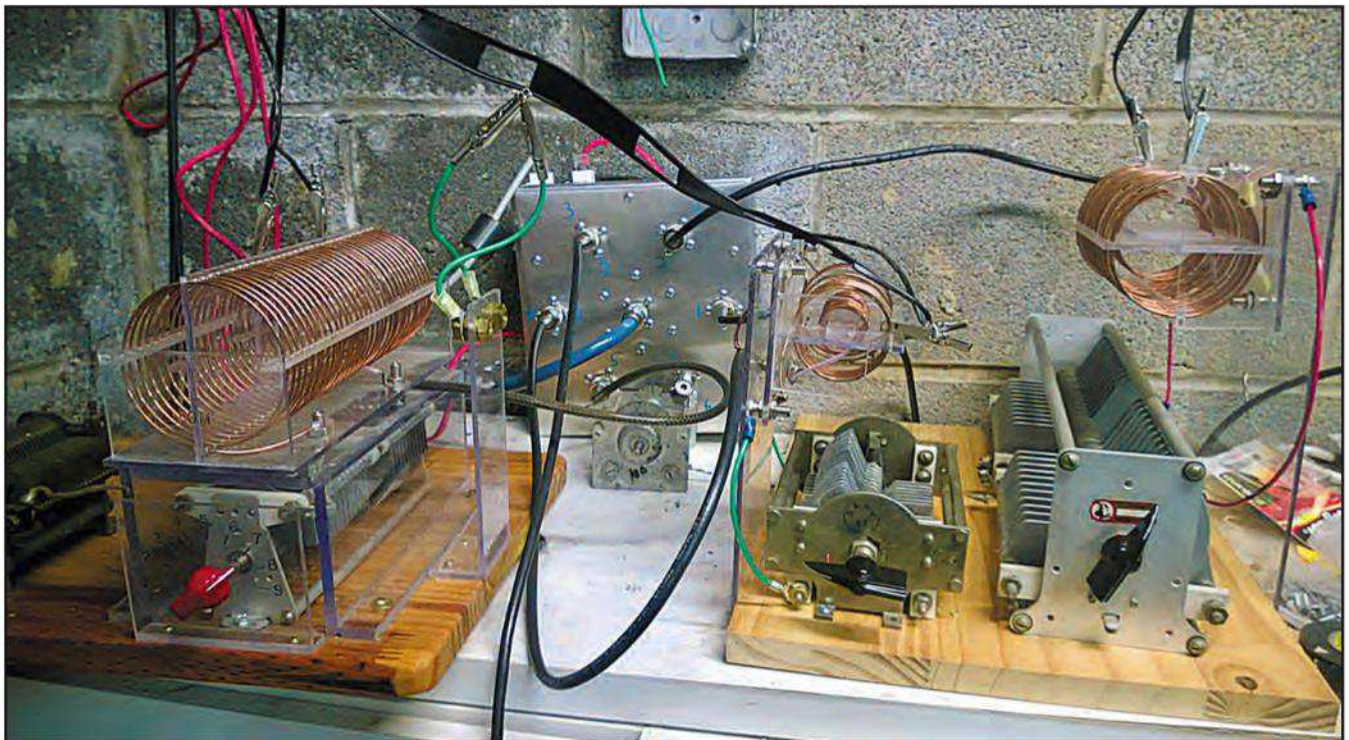


Photo E. N3QE uses multiple matching networks to load his single 130-foot Windom antenna on 160-10 meters. On 160 meters, the ladder line is shorted at the end and fed against ground to form a “Tee” radiator. (Courtesy of N3QE)

NASA Detects Solar Flare Pulses at Sun and Earth

A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, January 2018: 4
12-month smoothed, July 2017: 13

10.7 cm Flux (current):

Observed Monthly, January 2018: 70
12-month smoothed, July 2017: 77

A_p Index:

Observed Monthly, January 2018: 6
12-month smoothed, July 2017: 11

One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, January 2017: 16
12-month smoothed, July 2016: 23

10.7 cm Flux (current):

Observed Monthly, January 2017: 77
12-month smoothed, July 2016: 88

A_p Index:

Observed Monthly, January 2017: 10
12-month smoothed, July 2016: 11

In past editions of this column, I discussed the difference in the numbers of terrestrial weather sensors and of space weather-sensing instruments. There are thousands upon thousands of terrestrial weather-sensing instruments all over the Earth, oceans, and even in the sky. Monitoring space weather, on the other hand, is limited to a very small number of spacecraft armed with instruments capable of monitoring the Sun-Earth connection, from the Sun to the Magnetosphere and the Earth's geomagnetic environment.

When huge explosions, or solar flares, erupt on the Sun, we have observed their impact throughout the solar system as well as near Earth. But those observations are limited in scope because of the difficulty in deploying capable monitoring equipment in any significant numbers. If we could have the same vast number of space-weather monitors between the Sun and Earth, and throughout the solar system, we would better learn and model how space weather works.

We are slowly improving our data points, as new space-weather research spacecraft are engineered and deployed. During the last decade, some very capable payloads were sent into space and have provided huge amounts of new data, much of it in real time.

Two recent studies utilizing the data from two such space weather observatories show how solar flares exhibit pulses or oscillations in the amounts of energy emitted. This kind of new research provides new and valuable insight on the origins of solar flares as well as the space weather it creates.

One of these two studies unexpectedly revealed oscillations in the measurements of the Sun's total output of extreme ultraviolet (EUV, or XUM) energy — invisible to the unaided eye — during a very powerful flare.

On February 15, 2011, an X-class solar flare exploded from the Sun. X-class flares are the most powerful kind of solar flares. Since multiple instruments observed the event, researchers were able to track the flare's radiation oscillations happening simultaneously in several different sets of observations.

"Any type of oscillation on the Sun can tell us a lot about the environment the oscillations are taking

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for April 2018

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-10, 12-13, 15-30	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 11, 14	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: n/a	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: n/a	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: na	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.

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 through April 10, fair on April 11, then good on April 12 and 13, then fair on April 14, 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.

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place in, or about the physical mechanism responsible for driving changes in emission,” said Ryan Milligan, lead author of this first study, and a solar physicist at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center and the University of Glasgow in Scotland. During this flare under study, the regular pulses of extreme ultraviolet light indicated disturbances were rippling through the chromosphere, the base of the Sun’s outer atmosphere. These chromospheric ripples are like earthquake waves that spread out away from a quake’s epicenter.

What surprised Milligan about the oscillations was the fact that they were observed first in EUV data from NOAA’s Geostationary Operation Environmental Satellite (GOES; see <www.nasa.gov/content/goes/>). GOES is positioned to orbit in near-Earth space. The mission collects X-ray and extreme ultraviolet irradiance data from the perspective of Earth, allowing scientists to study the total amount of the Sun’s energy that reaches Earth’s atmosphere over time.

The GOES measurements and observations of the February 2011 flare were not a typical data set for Milligan. While the satellite helps monitor the effects of solar eruptions in Earth’s space environment (what we call space weather), the initial design of the satellite wasn’t to detect fine details like these oscillations.

Typically, Milligan studies solar flares using high-resolution data on a specific active sunspot region in the Sun’s atmosphere to research the physical processes involved in solar flares. If scientists don’t zoom in on the area involved in a flare event, the measurements can easily be obscured by the Sun’s constant, intense radiation coming from the entire observable solar disc.

“Flares themselves are very localized, so for the oscillations to be detected above the background noise of the Sun’s regular emissions and show up in the irradiance data was very striking,” Milligan said.

There have been previous reports of oscillations in GOES X-ray data coming from the Sun’s upper atmosphere, called

the corona, during solar flares. What’s unique in this case is that the pulses were observed in extreme ultraviolet emission at frequencies that show they originated lower, in the chromosphere, providing more information about how a flare’s energy travels through the Sun’s atmosphere.

Milligan and his colleagues checked corresponding data from other Sun-observing instruments on board NASA’s Solar Dynamics Observatory spacecraft (SDO; see <<http://g.nw7us.us/2BDRb9u>>), just to make sure that the oscillations revealed by the GOES data were really happening. One instrument aboard SDO collects EUV irradiance data just like GOES. Another SDO instrument captures images of the corona in different wavelengths of light. The research group found the exact same pulses in those data sets, confirming that these oscillations were a phenomenon with its source at the Sun. Their findings are summarized in a paper published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* on October 9, 2017 (see, <<http://g.nw7us.us/2BB9Se9>>).

These oscillations interest the scientists because they may be the result of a mechanism by which flares emit energy into space — a process we don’t yet fully understand. Additionally, that the oscillations appeared in data sets typically used to monitor larger space patterns suggests they could play a role in driving space weather effects.

In the second study, scientists investigated a connection between solar flares and activity in Earth’s atmosphere. The team discovered that pulses in the ionosphere mirrored X-ray oscillations during a July 24, 2016, C-class flare. C-class flares are of mid-to-low intensity, and about 100 times weaker than X-class flares.

Stretching from roughly 30 to 600 miles above Earth’s surface, the ionosphere is an ever-changing region of the atmosphere that reacts to changes from geomagnetic activity as well as terrestrial weather from below and space weather from above. It becomes energized in response to incoming solar radiation, which ionizes atmospheric gases; it expands

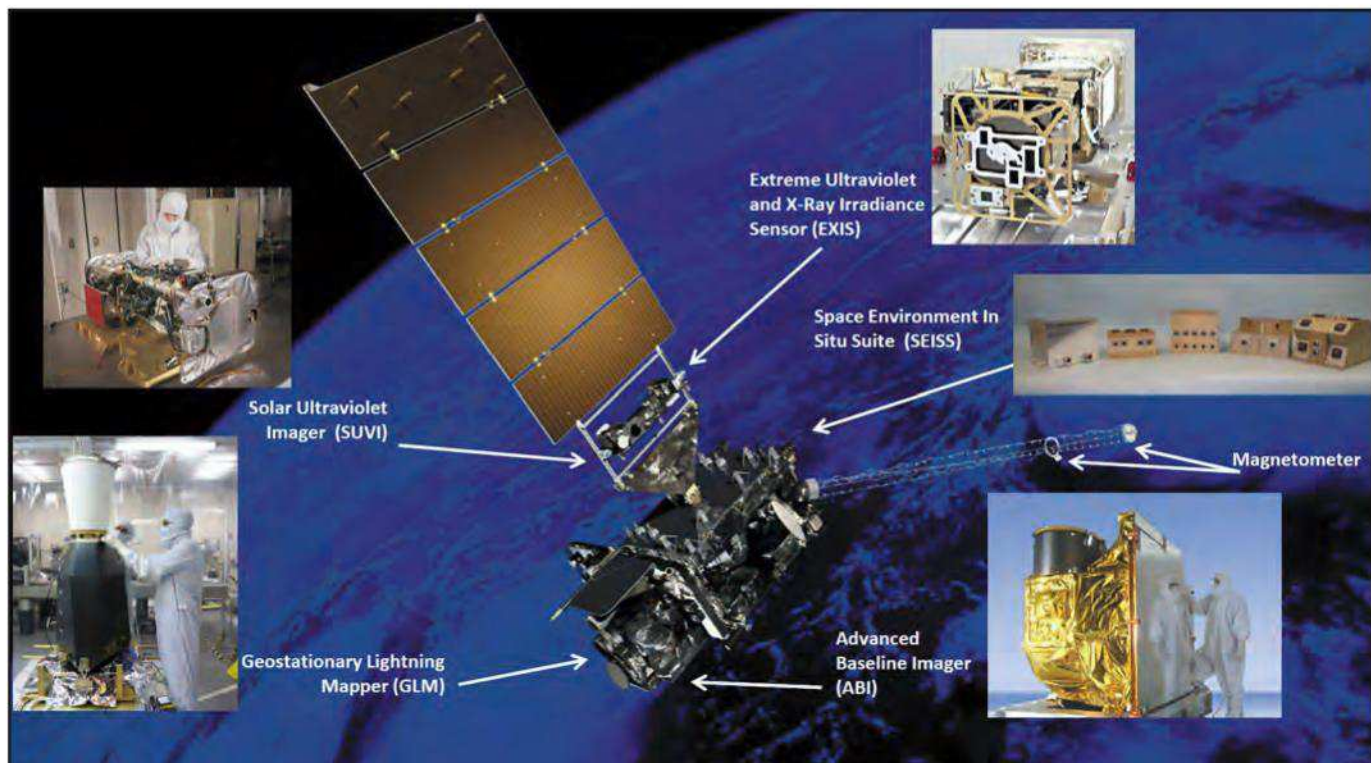


Figure 1. GOES-R Project.

when heated by solar radiation, and then deenergizes and contracts at night as the charged particles gradually recombine and the layers cool without the solar radiation.

In this second study, a team of scientists led by Laura Hayes, a solar physicist who splits her time between NASA Goddard and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and her thesis adviser Peter Gallagher, investigated how the lowest layer of the ionosphere, the D-region, responded to pulsations in a solar flare.

“This is the region of the ionosphere that affects high-frequency communications and navigation signals,” Hayes said. “Signals travel through the D-region, and changes in the electron density affect whether the signal is absorbed or degraded.”

The scientists used data from very low frequency, or VLF, radio signals to probe the flare’s effects on the D-region. These were standard communication signals transmitted from Maine and received in Ireland. The denser the ionosphere, the more likely these signals are to run into charged particles along their way from a signal transmitter to its receiver. By monitoring how the VLF signals propagate from one end of a path to the other, scientists can map out changes in electron density.

Pooling the VLF data with X-ray and extreme ultraviolet observations from GOES and SDO, the team found the D-region’s electron density was pulsing in concert with X-ray pulses on the Sun. They published their results in the *Journal of Geophysical Research* on October 17, 2017 (see, <<http://g.nw7us.us/2C9py9w>>).

“X-rays impinge on the ionosphere and because the amount of X-ray radiation coming in is changing, the amount of ionization in the ionosphere changes, too,” said Jack Ireland, a co-author on both studies and a Goddard solar physicist. “We’ve seen X-ray oscillations before, but the oscillating ionosphere response hasn’t been detected in the past.”

Hayes and her colleagues used a model to determine just how much the electron density changed during the flare. In

response to incoming radiation, they discovered the density increased as much as 100 times in just 20 minutes during the pulses! This is an exciting observation for the scientists who didn’t expect oscillating signals in a flare would have such a noticeable effect in the ionosphere. With further study, the team hopes to understand how the ionosphere responds to X-ray oscillations at different timescales, and whether other solar flares induce this response.

“This is an exciting result, showing Earth’s atmosphere is more closely linked to solar X-ray variability than previously thought,” Hayes said. “Now we plan to further explore this dynamic relationship between the Sun and Earth’s atmosphere.”

As you can see, these two studies were possible only because we are increasingly able to track solar activity and space weather from many vantage points — and the more spacecraft deployed to various locations in the space between and around the Sun and Earth, with sensors trained on space weather, the better we can analyze and research the Sun-Earth connection. Understanding the space weather that affects us at Earth requires understanding a dynamic system that stretches from the Sun all the way to our upper atmosphere. [Editor’s note: Along similar lines, the concept of building a home space weather station was a major topic of February’s “HamSci” workshop at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, on which we’ll be reporting in an upcoming issue. – W2VU]

HF Propagation

As we move into spring in the Northern Hemisphere, we experience great DX openings from around the world on HF. This

Oops...

The 2018-2019 CQ Amateur Radio Calendar shows incorrect dates for the CQ World Wide RTTY DX Contest, which is the last full weekend in September, not the fourth full weekend (September has five full weekends this year). The correct dates for the CQWW RTTY DX Contest are **September 29-30, 2018**. We apologize for any confusion.

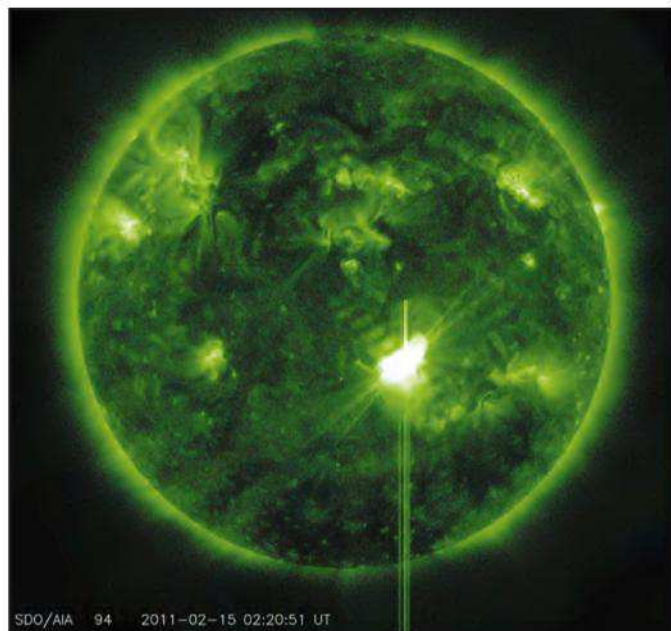


Figure 2. A massively-strong X-class x-ray flare erupted on February 15, 2011, and was a focus of studies by scientists interested in space weather (see text). (Courtesy of SDO AIA/NASA)

A Different Kind of Tap Shoe



Work boots that are also two-way radios of sorts. The BBC report explains. (Screenshot from BBC website)

Antennas Editor WA5VJB passed this along to us — the BBC had a report from the 2018 Mobile World Congress in Barcelona about a “smart” work boot that allows a worker to send or receive basic safety alerts by using a Morse-inspired code and either tapping his/her toe on the front of the boot or pressing a “key” pad in the back. The boot includes a SIM card and wireless card. The report is online at <<http://bbc.in/2oDkMHU>>. Bonus points for copying the real Morse code at the beginning of the piece.

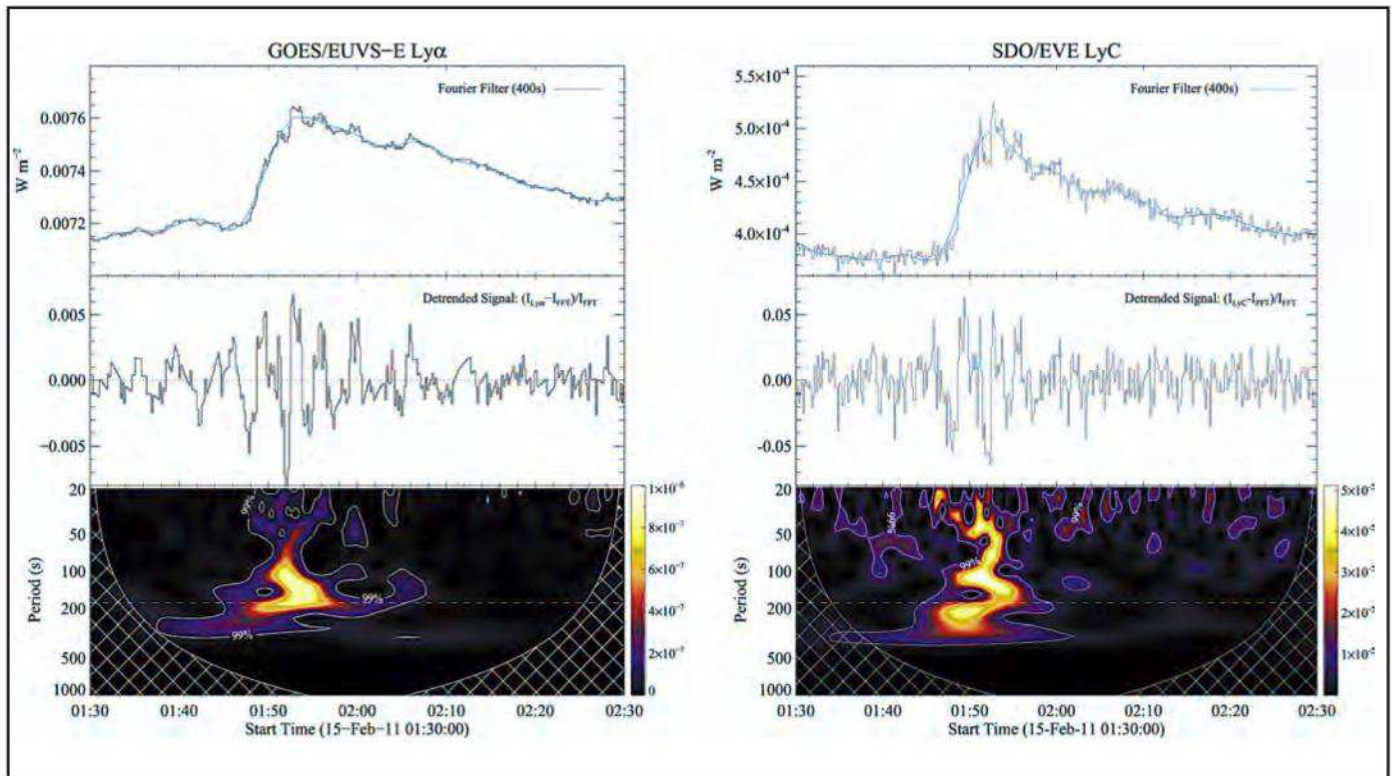


Figure 3. Analysis of the Lya (left) and LyC (right) emission during the 2011 February 15 flare. Top panels: Full-disk irradiance lightcurves with a 400-second FFT high-pass filter overlaid in cyan. Middle panels: The detrended time profiles after subtracting the filtered profiles. Bottom panels: Wavelet spectra (power per unit time) of the detrended profiles with 99% significance levels overlaid. The horizontal dashed white line denotes a period of 180 seconds. (Courtesy of Ryan O. Milligan, Bernhard Fleck, Jack Ireland, Lyndsay Fletcher, and Brian R. Dennis / <<http://g.nw7us.us/2BB9Se9>>)

is because the sun is mostly overhead above the equator, creating equal day and night periods in both hemispheres. An improvement in propagation is most noticeable on long circuits between the northern and southern hemispheres. During this season, conditions are optimum 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. 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 20 and 15 meters (14 and 21 MHz) 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, 20, and 17 meters are expected to be 24-hour DX bands for most of the month between mid- to low-latitude regions. 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 30, 40, and 60 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 40 and 75/80 meters during the hours of darkness. Propagation patterns on 75 and 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.

Bottom line? Check both long- and short-path openings during the sunrise and sunset periods on all bands between 10 and 80 meters for all paths between the northern and southern hemispheres.

For short-skip openings up to approximately 250 miles, check 75 and 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 sundown to midnight, and 75/80 meters from midnight to sunrise. For openings between distances of 750 and 1,300 miles, try 20 and 30 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 sundown

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.

VHF Ionospheric Openings

The Lyrids, a major meteor shower, should 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 (if we get 30 to 60 good-sized meteors entering the atmosphere every hour), expect great meteor-scatter type openings on the VHF bands.

Widespread auroral displays can occur during April, 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 of 5 or higher) and A (A_p of 20 or higher) figures.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium, the world's official keeper of sunspot records, reports a monthly mean sunspot number of 4.0 for January 2018. The highest daily sunspot count was 22 on January 10, while the lowest was 0 (zero) on January 1-3, 12-13, and 20-29 (a total of 12 days with zero sunspots). The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on July 2017 is 12.6, down from 13.3 for June. Following the curve of the 13-month running smoothed values, a smoothed sunspot level of 11 is expected for April 2018, plus or minus 14 points.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 70.0 for January 2018. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on July 2017 is 76.8. A smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux of about 72 is predicted for April 2018.

The geomagnetic activity as measured by the Planetary-A index (A_p) for January 2018 is 6, continuing a downward trend since September 2017. The 12-month smoothed A_p index centered on July 2017 is 11.0. Geomagnetic activity this month should be mostly quiet with fair to good propagation conditions. Refer to the Last-Minute Forecast for the outlook on what days that this might occur (remember that you can get an up-to-the-day Last-Minute Forecast at <<http://sunspot-watch.com>> on the main page).

Don't forget to check out this columnist's educational tweets on Twitter.com; you can follow @hfradiospacewx <<https://Twitter.com/hfradiospacewx>> for hourly updates that include the K index numbers, as well as @NW7US <<https://Twitter.com/nw7us>> which will provide the daily dose of educational tidbits about the Sun and propagation. You can also check <<http://SunSpotWatch.com>> for the latest numbers.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding this fascinating science of propagation. You may email me, write me a letter, or catch me on the HF amateur bands. If you are on Facebook, check out <www.facebook.com/spacewx.hfradio> and <www.facebook.com/NW7US>. Speaking of Facebook — check out the CQ Amateur Radio Magazine fan page at <www.facebook.com/CQMag>.

I'll be keeping my ears to the radio, hoping to hear you on the air. Happy DX!

— 73, Tomas, NW7US

ham radio news (from page 3)

Milestones: KA1FZQ Named President of Harvard; VK3PC SK

Longtime educator and radio amateur Lawrence S. Bacow, KA1FZQ, has been named as the next president of Harvard University. The *ARRL Letter* reports that Bacow grew up building Heathkits and reading ham magazines (his late father was also a ham). Currently the Hauser Leader-in-Residence at Harvard's Center for Public Leadership, Bacow was previously president of Tufts University and chancellor of MIT, where he was also a professor. He begins his new job on July 1.

Jim Linton, VK3PC, became a Silent Key in late February after a battle with thyroid cancer. He was best-known in the amateur radio community as the chairman of the Disaster Communications Committee for Region 3 of the International Amateur Radio Union and a well-regarded source of news and information about amateur radio activities in response to disasters in the Region 3 coverage area of Asia and Oceania. According to the *ARRL Letter*, he was also heavily involved in leadership of various activities of the Wireless Institute of Australia, which awarded him its highest honor in 2011.

ARRL Introduces Mobile DXCC Award

Coupled with a warning to avoid distracted driving, the ARRL in February announced a new Mobile DXCC Award, issued for making confirmed contacts with at least 100 DXCC entities while operating "from a working vehicle, with antennas and power source capable of operating while in motion." According to the *ARRL Letter*, the mobile DXCC is a one-time award, is not endorsable, and is available only for contacts made from land-based vehicles. Contacts made from boats or aircraft do not count. The League's announcement reminded amateurs to always put safety first and said "we hope all mobile operators exercise care when operating from a moving vehicle."

Unlike the standard DXCC award, one does not have to be an ARRL member to qualify. Certificates are \$16. Complete rules are on the ARRL website at <www.arrl.org/mobile-dxcc>.

HamSci Workshop Brings Together Amateurs, Scientists

Radio amateurs and scientists from across the U.S. and beyond met to compare notes in late February at a workshop sponsored by HamSci, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Initiative. Held at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, where HamSci coordinator Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, works as a research professor, the workshop brought together some 60 hams and ionospheric scientists for two days of presentations. Last summer's solar eclipse was the focus of the first day, with members of both groups (which sometimes overlapped) sharing their findings about propagation changes resulting from the temporary lack of solar energy in the ionosphere. Most of the findings were consistent with each other and with predictions. However, one unexpected — and as yet unexplained — observation was that propagation seemed to recover after the eclipse much more quickly than it had declined as the eclipse began. The second day focused on building personal space weather stations to help provide ionospheric scientists with many more points of observation from which to collect and analyze data. CQ attended the conference and will report on it in more detail in an upcoming issue.

Number groups after call letters denote following: B (D = 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 and logs not eligible for an award are listed in italics. (All country terminology reflects the DXCC list at the time of the contest.)

2017 CQWW DX SSB RESULTS

SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA

United States

District 1

K1DG	A	6,769,048	4389	123	448
W2RE		6,682,379	4548	113	448
NR3X		5,905,782	4066	114	417
(OP:N4YDU)					
N1UR		4,848,096	3392	117	411
K02M		2,367,480	2498	82	280
W1WFE		921,633	976	84	277
W3EP		617,050	786	70	231
K1RM		421,223	596	63	194
A41SU		253,761	400	29	189
K1CN		232,624	407	49	168
K1LU		207,835	383	48	163
W1KM		199,800	325	57	168
W1AO		151,096	297	46	141
K7GM		137,280	254	49	143
K1VLB		64,183	168	40	133
N1SEP		61,608	172	42	109
KB1WXM		48,761	102	29	82
W1MAW		44,805	183	18	69
W1MFM		40,293	182	24	75
K1GFM		33,630	130	21	74
W1QW		23,463	101	28	71
W1GKZ		15,433	87	17	44
KE1Q		12,480	70	21	43
W1KMA		4,250	30	22	28
N1JZJ		43,443	175	17	72
K1DVL	14	2,668	39	20	20
W1WX	7	119,068	433	22	81
N1PGA	A	1,036,480	980	85	310
K1KHT		353,438	485	64	198
K1BX		274,950	422	50	185
K1KVS		208,832	363	48	160
W1UJ		185,370	324	61	161
N1DC		126,040	266	54	130
K1KX		118,161	273	46	125
W1DAD		89,324	203	47	116
W1AT		54,576	155	43	101
K1GTV		48,732	147	39	92
K1CYS		23,142	109	22	65
N1STN		21,855	110	20	63
KB1WLB		21,144	102	16	63
N1TTP		20,550	102	16	63
W1UQM		19,838	121	32	77
K1JSM		19,425	96	19	56
AB1NS		19,404	99	25	59
K8G6CH		19,256	92	27	56
AB1BX		16,192	91	33	59
AB1YK		10,880	70	19	45
*K1ARR		10,000	57	23	67
*K1WCC		8,540	36	21	40
W1AOTZ		8,509	56	22	45
W1AIN		6,731	50	16	37
*N1YTH		5,400	47	19	31
K1C1RS		4,465	39	16	31
*K1FRK		3,800	34	10	28
K1TR		3,705	34	15	24
W1MLJ		3,626	38	14	23
W1CRK		2,961	41	17	30
*K1UN		2,911	29	17	24
K1MTD		2,604	32	9	22
*N1DM		2,555	26	12	23
K1X5		2,542	25	16	25
N1GSA		2,170	32	12	23
*W1FD		1,820	22	9	19
*K1RY		1,792	18	11	17
*W1VCM		480	11	9	11
(OP:N1WKO)					
*KD1O		408	11	8	9
W4FEB		176	15	11	11
W3SM	21	51,796	200	19	73
W1OHM		2,604	34	8	23
K1G0J		2,072	32	9	19
W1ADZ		1,122	12	7	12
N1KWF	14	8,268	61	14	39
W1LEM		1,342	25	5	17
*K1MVM		336	11	7	7
W1FEB		322	11	5	9
*K1CFY		7	135	5	4
K5ZD	AA	4,570,185	2870	120	437
W3UA		4,341,753	2854	115	444
K1ZZ		3,346,463	1925	121	481
W1NT		2,608,398	1993	108	363
W1GD		2,533,960	1722	109	411
AA10N		2,018,856	1503	103	385
W1CTN		1,537,445	1244	92	363
K1KA		1,136,646	1019	89	345
N9NC		817,278	788	73	309
K1RX		687,488	1102	64	192
W1KI		689,864	471	68	271
K1ESE		667,212	728	79	259
K1YJ		580,242	608	85	261
NF1O		572,600	607	77	273
K410R		539,010	575	76	263
NB1N		536,364	692	59	223
AB1XX		486,717	577	65	236
K42KN		461,390	584	62	228
K1RV		462,592	431	66	232
W1ZZ		324,937	412	69	224
K1RO		318,330	423	65	205
W1HS		277,728	445	59	204
NV1Q		272,844	460	53	181
W1ASB		249,550	481	54	163
AA1V		230,822	315	62	200
W1D9D		220,527	385	46	182
N1MD		220,704	426	56	86
K41EKR		192,400	349	47	161
NE1F		181,629	303	53	164
W1NG		127,730	205	56	185
W2JU		115,736	231	38	146
W1NK		114,192	220	49	134
W1M		112,133	221	47	146
W8TOM		100,035	229	46	125

W1UK		99,134	194	48	146
W1DX		92,232	223	42	126
(OP:K1F1U)					
K1SM		91,656	229	37	115
K1GJY		87,412	254	44	120
K1OX		66,767	138	47	132
W1VW		49,640	220	14	66
W1VEM		44,981	146	32	89
K1DBO		44,352	140	33	79
NC1I		35,816	147	20	68
WMACH		35,168	126	29	83
KAJ1		31,860	115	28	80
W01N		31,779	114	31	67
KB1WJ		26,520	107	17	72
W1RM		20,670	74	16	66
K1TH		20,368	98	20	56
K1NOK		17,710	96	24	53
N2GZ		10,350	52	30	45
W1ZYX		8,533	59	15	38
K1KQC		8,151	54	15	42
N1UG		6,384	44	17	39
N1FA		4,576	39	18	34
W1ZR		3,523	30	15	27
KX1X		2,494	29	8	21
W1PFF		572	13	11	11
W1BEI	7A	24,409	131	16	61
K1JR		15,680	87	16	54
K2BB	3.7A	52,668	265	16	68
*KS1J	AA	1,115,926	1045	82	304
*W1AEC		456,672	338	41	110
(OP:WABYX)					
*N1API		438,212	564	59	225
*K1DJ		256,560	392	63	175
*AE1EZ		226,499	374	58	189
*W1ARY		222,600	404	52	160
*W1DYJ		180,405	332	54	157
N1SV		141,904	292	38	143
*AK1T		49,981	124	11	40
*N1IT		37,414	138	46	111
*N1FI		38,376	147	38	79
*K1C1ELF		22,698	86	29	68
*K1TWW		22,560	98	23	57
*K1FUG		16,185	78	28	55
*AB1NG		14,432	76	30	52
*K1FCU		12,692	63	23	51
*K1ERS		9,749	49	12	42
*NE1B		7,260	54	17	38
*W1AKI		6,210	53	18	36
*K1DYV		2,898	32	15	27
*W01H		2,301	25	16	23
*KGV4		2,277	26	15	18
(OP:N19N)					
*AE1T		2,268	26	9	19
*AB1YH		1,500	15	10	13
*W1UR		660	19	16	14
*AB1WV		24	2	2	2
*AB1J	21A	19,912	99	16	60
*N1WRX		6,235	51	11	32
*N1HEV		4,859	54	11	32
*W1VP		967	7	3	5
*K1GK	14A	39,100	167	20	65
District 2					
N5DX	A	5,825,913	3621	118	453
K2DRD		1,513,673	1490	79	282
K2ZJ		1,055,548	1010	90	293
NX2Z		648,128	730	73	255
K2XA		581,856	624	88	264
W2BWP		217,568	397	48	160
W2LU		215,138	380	68	186
N2JJ		190,688	350	44	158
W5SM		162,384	328	54	150
K2B2FM		147,840	281	52	178
KO2E		146,560	255	56	153
N2ZN		121,776	261	47	125
W2BZGH		58,794	174	30	93
N2Z		36,400	106	23	68
KD2NE		28,820	116	22	62
W2BZFL		26,235	105	34	65
N2ZNN		26,125	117	22	73
N2YB		22,533	96	27	60
W3PR		15,960	67	25	59
N1DM		15,810	76	32	53
K2DN2KM		8,307	73	23	48
K2CZJ		5,684	44	23	35
W2AGS		5,046	44	21	34
AC2MT		3,999	36	16	27
W2FB		1,848	27	8	16
K2DLM		1,410	37	17	30
N1Y9A		57	10	9	9
W2RR	2B	16,317	174	12	25
(OP:WAZAG)					
KU2M	28	591,840	261	118	418
W2VO	1.8	3,636	44	10	26
*N2GA	A	320,320	524	46	174
*AC2RL		193,536	326	58	163
*K1PTP		171,678	330	60	156
*W2A0AU</					

*AE4M	32.012	124	33	73	W4EEY	567,536	678	77	239	*K4LDC	33,480	119	41	79	*K5DSM	220	14	10	12	*K6VUN	12,880	79	31	39	
*K840L	29,853	119	32	75	K3CD	566,040	679	72	246	*N20HP	32,450	121	35	75	*K5FHU	130	8	5	5	*NJ6W	9,943	63	23	38	
*K840L	28,188	113	40	76	N4MM	536,256	627	74	262	*AA4DD	30,281	122	32	75	*K5SUBX	1,071	22	5	12	*KE6WC	8,268	55	25	28	
*K4F70	27,499	125	32	77	W4VVC	513,300	679	67	233	*AJ4VE	28,028	113	23	68	*K5JK	111,531	386	25	88	*W6SFI	5,546	45	24	23	
*K4YCR	26,967	104	29	72	K4C4E	510,380	617	78	260	*K4MRKT	23,072	96	37	66	*N5OCO	7,875	62	14	31	*K0GES	5,335	36	25	30	
*K4DRD	26,214	104	38	64	K4MH1	493,608	595	81	233	*W9DSMK	20,970	97	25	65	*NSJ1	69,720	261	26	79	*K0EJ	5,217	45	21	26	
*W4EY	26,100	115	21	64	N4K4M	457,276	608	77	226	*W5GMD	13,776	68	27	66	*AD5AD	1,584	45	7	12	*W4WVS	4,435	38	27	27	
*K4JA0M	25,056	106	31	65	AJ4A	445,500	469	98	250	*K4TJ1P	13,680	70	26	50	*K5TXU	738	18	6	12	*W6BGET	3,036	37	21	23	
*K44WX	24,465	117	36	69	N4GG	427,851	471	85	262	*K4M4SE	10,530	58	19	46	K5LLA	1,197,243	1060	103	308	*K16UDZ	2,484	40	17	19	
*A4IWR	23,715	103	33	60	W54WW	409,955	579	64	201	*W4JUU	9,711	67	31	52	N5HC	703,704	792	89	338	*K6SDW	2,120	34	19	21	
*K4G0P	23,712	109	29	75	K4NCP	356,624	588	55	193	*K09V	8,448	48	24	40	N5XJ	502,945	583	78	227	*N6REK	2,006	28	15	19	
*K4VBM	23,157	111	35	58	K4P1	341,033	418	72	223	*K63V	8,296	53	20	41	N7SV	434,186	524	74	224	*W6LU	1,748	32	17	21	
*K4V4Y	22,946	109	21	56	K4B8H	325,680	484	71	205	*A6GV1	7,869	52	22	39	N5VU	406,146	617	62	192	*W6VXP	1,075	17	10	15	
*W7TTO	18,732	91	29	55	N7DJ	323,403	465	77	252	*K4M2MW	7,546	48	30	47	N5G1	327,900	442	77	223	*N5UY	1,029	21	10	11	
*W6VS	18,737	87	28	54	N4B8C	298,520	456	75	238	N4B8C	7,228	55	16	26	N5VU	271,988	511	18	168	*A19N	989	21	11	11	
*AD4X	17,982	109	30	51	K4AKK	289,712	419	77	227	*N4JBN	7,128	48	20	34	W2GS	187,055	327	52	157	*K6GA	792	15	11	11	
*W4X1PU	16,848	131	27	51	W2YE	247,312	492	57	175	*K4ACG	7,020	53	14	40	W5HTH	120,213	268	49	122	(OP:KZNL)					
*W4HCW	16,405	70	26	59	N4UK	242,865	346	59	206	*W4BTA	6,417	48	30	39	N5WNG	49,125	163	41	84	*W6DLK	684	13	9	9	
*K8BAJ	16,290	72	29	61	N09E	235,450	325	71	198	*W4HRL	6,344	49	19	33	W54LF	48,034	167	52	94	*W2WG	680	23	16	18	
*K4MEV1	15,870	86	19	50	K4C4N	227,454	370	59	168	*W4D70	5,846	63	26	48	K5E0G	38,675	129	43	76	*K6B5A	672	14	10	11	
*K4M0D5	15,738	72	27	59	N40S	223,421	395	52	157	*K4AYYS	5,777	40	16	37	W5VY	28,449	124	42	67	*W6E0J	800	33	14	16	
*K4M1FX	15,288	66	29	59	N4KC	215,050	321	65	188	N4F4T	4,900	40	20	28	K5JTH	14,204	76	23	44	*K6BUI	503	13	50	9	
*K4MFLU	11,771	111	37	71	N4L7T	206,994	309	62	179	*N2R2	3,876	30	19	28	N5LD	11,022	62	28	46	*AIGLU	442	16	13	13	
*AE4T1	13,728	86	27	51	N4AK	200,994	309	62	179	*N2R2	3,854	31	20	28	K5JTH	11,026	62	28	46	*N9DK	224	13	4	4	
*K4LPQ	12,775	77	25	48	N4RM	191,100	358	43	152	*N3UA	3,584	38	9	23	K5C1	7,344	55	19	35	*K6GVZ1	216	18	10	8	
*W4APKL	11,765	98	19	46	W4X0	184,158	312	54	180	*AA4LR	2,920	36	14	26	K6RFD	6,549	89	21	38	*K0E6N	189	21	14	13	
*K4J4E1	11,152	64	24	44	K4F5	181,074	310	55	151	*W4WNT	2,840	31	15	25	N3XK	5,778	43	22	32	*NAGNA	160	10	5	5	
*AK4D	10,626	96	22	47	K2SD	176,754	381	41	137	*W4T7M	2,788	31	13	21	W5JDF	4,752	35	20	34	*W6BDX	156	6	6	6	
*K4M1	9,450	63	19	44	K4F4WSN	157,298	303	52	150	*W40EP	2,535	24	17	22	AB5J	4,368	67	32	59	*AAGMU	8	5	4	4	
*K4M1	8,568	52	19	45	N4X3	136,510	210	61	158	*N4C4R	2,438	30	19	19	N5YB	3,180	47	21	32	*W4B7NM/6 21	56,079	217	27	54	
*K4M1	8,324	52	20	45	K4M4J	131,364	242	42	120	*W4J16	2,142	23	15	21	W2ZZ	1,412	24	15	24	*W6ZL	31,575	201	21	54	
*K4M1	8,182	71	26	36	K4Y4A	130,200	302	39	111	*W1MKW	1,665	23	14	23	AF5CC	9,519	70	19	38	*K7XE	27,761	150	21	50	
*W4GFI	7,564	54	23	39	(OP:K4Y1)					*K4F4V	1,230	21	12	18	K5QR	7,200	55	10	30	*AE6YB	13,038	111	17	36	
*W4WVH	7,280	62	23	33	W4KY	127,330	229	50	164	*K85YU	1,219	18	8	15	K6RAH	2,880	34	10	22	*N6GP	6,811	49	18	31	
*K4M1TV	7,232	61	22	42	KE4YOG	120,780	237	51	141	*N7BU	1,120	18	12	16	W5GZ	2,317	418	62	165	*AE6XC	2,280	39	14	26	
*N4T4	7,208	50	17	36	W3BT	114,835	234	51	142	*W1R7R	1,058	18	8	15	N5AJ	150,750	269	55	146	*K6B0C	7,656	75	17	27	
*W4BRG	6,762	50	12	34	W4M4MSU	113,520	237	53	123	*W4MDF	836	14	8	14	N5BNX	115,993	249	56	137	N6BHX	3,069	48	13	18	
*W4YD	6,684	41	22	40	N4B2C	105,468	210	61	127	*K4GVO	750	30	19	19	N5YB	56,474	141	21	103	*K6BUI	52	17	8	7	
*K4C0CM	6,527	47	22	39	K2SX	97,744	248	47	117	*W4LAN	480	16	10	14	*W4RZT	43,860	160	26	66	*N5SAC	338	17	6	7	
*W7CSA	6,432	44	27	40	N4FA	93,600	218	46	114	*N4BFR	480	11	9	11	*N4B7H	36,418	120	46	85	*N6PS	187	17	6	5	
*N4JRP	6,327	50	21	36	AD4ES	89,414	187	61	120	*K4KGM	289	10	7	10	*K5VW	36,176	116	43	90	*K6GVZ	160	8	5	5	
*K3NP	5,928	56	22	30	N4KH	88,872	222	49	112	*N1SER	42	18	8	6	N05V	28,028	121	35	63	*AG6JA	144	8	3	3	
*K4C2D	5,922	39	27	36	K3KO	82,498	195	42	125	*W4LC	54,435	208	22	73	*N05M	27,192	135	30	58	*K6GAK	117	7	4	5	
*N3J	5,876	47	21	31	N04J	81,732	178	53	143	*N3R3N	1,197	22	4	17	*N5PD	25,752	110	41	70	*K6VUG	50	12	5	3	
*K4M4J	5,150	38	19	31	W4G4	78,147	187	49	122	*K4C0L	989	19	5	18	*N5NS	18,396	85	33	52	*K6KOV	42	4	3	3	
*W5D5A	5,140	40	19	32	K44U	76,714	182	47	114	*K4M0J	468	11	5	11	(OP:K5M0)					*K6BUI	48	13	9	9	
*N0DM	5,063	45	22	39	K4M4E0G	71,500	209	35	108	*K4KVA	18	2	1	2	*W5PAA	15,072	79	40	86	*K6EGF	7	693	14	9	
*W4M4M	4,732	42	22	30	W4J2T	71,230	178	46	124	*W4FCN	7A	43,022	194	24	74					(OP:K5GTG)		54	3	3	
*N4NRB	4,370	37	18	28	N4UEZ	50,160	142	38	94	*W24K	200	7	4	6	*K5SKRZ	14,720	73	29	51	W6PH	1,296,867	1132	113	316	
*K4CGA	4,305	59	15	26	W4NZ	48,020	122	44	96	*K4EUM	90	12	7	8	*K5LGX	11,398	73	35	47	NW6P	474,888	828	80	202	
*AJ5E	3,960	41	15	29	AD4IE	46,440	166	27	81	*AB4E	3.7A	26,714	141	16	58	*W5R1R	9,717	73	32	47	(OP:W9KK)				
*N4YCH	3,696	32	15	25	N4TL	44,253	152	23	76	*K4BZ	3,876	53	9	25	*K5OW	8,625	48	22	47	N6VUN	414,137	528	85	204	
*K4M4SW	3,432	33	17	27	K1Z1W	44,187	125	44	99						*W5ANE	6,556	66	22	40	W6Y1	281,748	352	84	234	
*K4G9E	3,384	28	21	26	K44U	37,654	105	32	102						*K5JVV	8,109	61	22	31	*K6RSD	304	231	84	197	
*K4RPD	3,000	31	14	26	N4XZY	35,860	139	35	75						*W5SHUF	7,630	54	26	44	NJ6G	21,358	355	67	150	
*K4IDT	2,960	48	12	25	A14WU	35,017	132	28	69						*N5T5M	7,140	53	21	30	K6SRZ	209,764	363	70	159	
*K4Z4M	2,508	35	17	27	KJ4FX	34,013	121	37	96						*N5OF	6,136	52	26	33	N5ZO	204,530	334	70	156	
*W5DRR	2,432	34	16	22	K4S8Z	33,495	101	49	96						*N5MNT	5,568	45	24	34	N6QQ	186,381	316	74	169	
*W4G0T	2,318	28	16	22	K4SPE	33,408	137	40	88						*N0IPW	5,406	45	18	33	N6ED	184,338	261	71	195	
*W4CWM	2,268	37	16	26	N4VLK	31,124	139	43	81						*N5TI	3,636	36	11	25	N6WS	181,832	273	63	175	
*K4M4I2	1,961	26	14	23	N4D2O	30,186	104	34	83			</													

A07XG	99,372	247	51	105	W7ZR	1,256,346	1237	114	299	*N8TPC	6,042	52	14	39	*WB9LRK	6,144	51	15	33	NOOK	21	48,875	212	21	64	
B07BBO	97,361	235	59	108	WATLNW	567,333	604	104	269	*WBLDR	5,252	45	17	35	*WB9BWP	5,850	45	17	33	NOBRK		13,975	102	20	45	
K2VAB	96,696	234	59	99	WATAN	359,015	411	103	269	*K8BTK	5,208	45	19	31	*K8BQ	5,593	50	18	27	K0ZY		5,805	50	17	28	
K85A	93,884	235	46	77						*W0S	5,184	45	19	33	*W0S	2,949	46	19	21	K0ZL		2,949	46	19	21	
K87AZ	73,154	193	52	106	K7XC	350,354	466	87	196	*K8WAY	4,750	43	19	31	*N9LYL	3,276	40	19	23	K8SRL		51,975	218	22	83	
W8AWZG	62,440	222	57	83	K7UT	350,280	560	67	185	*W8EUPJ	4,000	44	22	28	*K490	3,240	32	16	29	W0SHL		3,298	47	9	25	
K6UM	44,928	131	47	81	K7AR	337,144	474	79	189	*AC8AZ	3,570	34	17	25	*W9SUN	2,849	34	14	23	W0PPF		1,176	44	13	29	
W7WDX	43,660	146	44	74	K7GCO	322,260	474	77	185	*AC8FG	3,384	35	18	29	*K9ZTY	2,520	27	15	21	W0V0		30	3	3	3	
NK7L	40,986	157	46	92	K7PCO	306,540	455	78	184	*AC8NP	3,315	38	13	26	*WB9N00	2,520	30	17	28	W0C0		6,800	73	18	50	
N7XGZ	40,293	142	38	73	K7FU	302,175	501	68	169	*K8PJK	3,157	38	17	24	*N8HWG	1,998	36	15	22	K0TT	3.7	14,336	151	12	44	
AK7MG	30,709	116	37	61	K6KR	245,232	392	68	166	*W8IDM	2,730	34	15	20	*W8AT	1,248	19	9	15	K0ZV	1.8	500	58	5	5	
W7C0R	30,661	146	34	53	AK7VA	213,420	391	149	218	*W8CZU	2,340	26	12	16	*K8COW	1,938	26	12	16	AC0W	A	513,669	106	73	217	
W6ANFJ	27,224	118	34	49	N7VF	195,936	389	60	148	*K8D0NV	2,080	31	15	25	*K9WVPV	462	13	9	13	*W0ETT		146,306	310	62	129	
K7S1D	24,948	97	38	61	N9NA	190,944	336	82	152	*W8DFW	1,312	24	13	19	*N9AFU	456	14	9	10	*NG0T		70,664	178	43	103	
W7GTF	23,406	112	34	60	K17M	167,388	363	77	145	*W8AHT	988	19	11	15	*K9HMX	198	7	5	6	*N6JRL		34,884	156	35	81	
K17DG	20,584	104	25	58	W7MEM	146,028	320	52	120	*W8AYL	936	14	10	14	*K9PKF	8	2	2	2	*W0LJM		32,644	142	32	60	
WG7X	20,250	97	32	58	NA7DX	110,704	230	53	134	*N8NFE	748	19	9	13	*W9EAU	21	3,293	35	13	24	W0EJ0		24,934	101	38	53
K7HPT	18,788	109	29	48	K7JQ	101,486	249	50	104	*K8BWE	697	14	5	12	*W9GKY	14	9,858	82	15	38	*K0NR		24,722	100	30	64
W7PV	18,826	75	32	62	W7YED	95,424	283	46	96	*N8SH	494	11	21	33	*K9VYX	5,236	52	12	32	*W0BRX		23,562	84	35	64	
K8J0D	15,884	106	27	49	W7OX	83,681	201	45	112	*K8STF	425	10	7	10	*K9VYX	2,66	20	9	10	*K0CJW		22,110	116	28	48	
K67JWD	10,740	67	21	39	K7VIT	76,845	200	55	86	*N8SB	330	13	10	12	*A9L	266	20	9	10	*K9JRW		18,031	120	22	51	
KH6VM	10,710	82	26	44	K2P0	74,980	169	50	113	*N8BGR	256	8	5	8	*N9WKU	30	5	2	3	*AF0Z		14,430	92	31	47	
W87S	10,440	63	29	43	W7WVV	65,661	198	35	94	*K8EAS	168	8	5	7	W9PA	AA	1,796,505	1347	118	405	*KE0ITC		14,080	85	31	57
W7WVW	7,938	51	23	40	K7NK	60,776	250	37	100	*N8FM	156	8	3	6	N2BJ	1,385,270	1255	94	321	*KJ5CI		11,346	70	23	39	
KF7CZG	5,767	88	32	41	K7STO	57,023	192	41	86	*K8CBB	30	4	3	6	AG9S	1,100,745	1001	91	310	*K0S0		9,344	54	29	44	
N7DK	5,720	45	25	27	K7S3	50,268	176	40	78	*N80VY	14	4	3	4	N9MV	797,616	791	88	294	*K0DFZ		9,272	77	29	47	
W7ZJW	5,632	45	25	27	K7S3	42,202	159	35	87	21	12,934	86	14	24	K810	740,828	740,828	740,828	740,828	*K0DCAZ		3,792	39	22	36	
N20ML	5,074	57	25	34	K7BVT	27,126	119	38	61	*K80H	2,048	26	11	21	K9MM	667,704	749	89	255	*K0T2		7,296	56	19	38	
K0IP	4,028	36	16	22	K7EP	18,960	99	28	52	*AF8C	14	20,850	126	20	55	N9ZM	569,400	639	84	241	*W8U0		5,782	48	21	28
K9JUS	3,567	48	18	23	K7CF	18,360	95	20	62	*K8AJS	5,304	49	8	31	AC9S	534,300	665	79	221	*K0JFZ		4,998	51	18	33	
N7LR	1,210	22	10	12	K7Y7T	17,160	93	27	51	*ABXU	425	10	8	9	W9IU	412,383	505	67	236	*W3ZYF		4,794	40	22	25	
W7AUM	828	22	11	12	NG7M	15,801	87	33	36	*N8YRE	7	8	2	2	K9KE	397,670	496	80	219	*K0UA		4,455	45	17	28	
N7OS	690	17	7	8	K17G	13,580	74	26	44	N8BI	AA	1,108,233	985	99	342	W90Z	387,195	472	86	225	*N0EMU		4,320	78	25	35
W60LA	648	16	11	13	K7AHF	11,692	94	28	46	N4RA	1,089,440	928	100	340	K93WAV	308,646	452	54	180	*W0B0Y		4,320	42	16	32	
K8H1	28	7	6	12	K7ZJN	9,100	59	26	37	N8CWL	910,750	822	78	243	W90Z	307,458	419	69	210	*K0RSC		3,192	39	12	20	
K7WKN	21	26,491	173	19	40	W76DK	4,680	35	26	34	W8MJ	503,004	555	72	262	W79U	281,415	431	71	186	*W0H8H		3,666	35	14	24
K7MY	20,945	126	20	51	K7HI	2,958	46	22	29	N8DL	457,065	542	73	242	N99RB	272,916	385	72	194	*K0WAV		3,375	25	18	27	
NE7D	20,064	113	20	46	NA2U	2,109	25	17	20	K8D0D	302,775	405	66	209	NT9E	190,442	374	61	162	*W0JSL		3,256	62	17	20	
N5CR	14	184,800	549	31	101	KC700	2,016	29	14	K8ROX	298,650	336	79	251	KC9K	182,584	324	62	170	*A0C0W		2,860	40	16	28	
W7IL	36,646	202	19	54	AD7BI	1,767	52	26	31	W8HPJ	298,278	499	52	167	K9EYX	134,048	251	59	177	*W0LIF		2,440	28	17	23	
W7PU	21,440	159	21	59	W8BC	1,764	24	16	20	W8BY	276,393	435	66	181	N8RP	115,596	267	39	130	*W0LIF		2,418	35	16	23	
K7CZK	10,920	74	20	40	W7YM	1,054	10	5	9	W8GNM	225,225	360	61	170	N9LO	100,254	206	57	129	*W0MFS		1,862	26	17	21	
W8U1	1,403	27	8	17	N8ZM	28A	23,950	183	34	K83J	172,000	82	78	243	K9YK	93,822	282	38	111	*KE00R		1,792	39	12	20	
K7C7Z	861	46	18	23	N7CW	21A	44,700	165	25	K8BZ	171,580	263	62	168	W9YK	90,882	202	60	127	*KE0JY		1,708	22	8	20	
W7CKW	56	6	4	4	N7DD	14A	495,680	1227	36	N8LCU	154,224	321	43	146	K9MMS	82,593	192	55	116	*K8G0E		1,519	22	15	16	
W7WA	7	251,505	703	35	100	K7R1	219,105	644	30	105	N8HP	118,668	257	47	127	K9PY	82,050	213	49	101	*K8MNC		1,296	26	11	16
N7FE	11,532	81	23	39						W8VI	96,534	217	45	128	NO9A	41,511	144	24	77	*AE0DM		1,248	31	11	15	
N7RK	4,158	41	17	25	K7ABL	53,251	214	25	78	K8BYVP	69,958	207	40	93	K9RE	37,500	136	42	83	*AD0SZ		1,225	18	11	14	
AL7HF	3.8	5,439	60	18	31	K68BI	23,688	103	24	W8UF	61,612	168	39	107	K9BVG	34,191	140	40	91	*K8BYU		1,200	21	14	16	
W7FEH	1,127	27	9	14	W7WVH	4,173	37	12	27	N8GAS	24,864	103	34	77	K9E00	31,122	116	35	82	*N0UK		1,026	17	11	16	
K7CV	582	22	8	17	W70PC	40	19	40	19	K83J	172,000	82	78	243	W9YK	93,822	282	38	111	*N90JS		1,708	22	8	20	
N7AU	273	49	7	6	K2RD	7A	102,360	356	33	K9L	11,466	59	24	54	K9JDT	25,347	99	45	74	*N2SRK		684	19	9	10	
*N7IR	A	456,494	568	88	205	W82BFW	3,813	57	19	22	K8ZCH	10,744	57	26	53	N9AJ	24,976	84	34	78	*K0C0VZ		1,648	20	12	12
*K7ACZ	365,638	482	86	201	*K7WP	AA	497,777	592	92	237	N8XCO	5,586	43	21	28	N9MS	13,203	69	31	50	*K0D0VZ		576	12	8	10
*W2BT7	272,748	503	65	139	*W70M		176,928	361	63	131	K8YE	3,888	37	23	31	N9NBC	8,646	62								

*F1MLN	16,430	126	19	34	DL7NV	23,072	184	29	83	*DD1TT	6,438	73	23	51	DK5D0	227,448	291	97	254	*DH1TST	26,474	118	34	88		
*F6ARC	14,444	64	34	58	DF8RI	20,336	197	20	82	*DL6KVB/P	5,700	102	15	45	DL1NE0	224,826	424	76	227	*DM2XM	24,190	190	27	91		
*F4FHV	13,300	96	34	61	DJ8QA	18,216	130	27	72	*DL1FW	5,402	83	20	54	DL45KF	213,993	493	69	210	*DO7FE	25,766	174	26	76		
*F5ROW	96	13	16	32	DL754	17,654	132	21	72	*DL3HE	5,346	109	13	43	DL29X	192,979	239	60	180	*DQ3RF	23,712	132	28	70		
*F8DEG	10,512	94	22	50	DL9CP	17,336	96	30	58	*DK90S	5,280	76	16	50	DJ6TB	172,939	400	68	183	*DQ2BH	22,386	149	25	66		
*F1GYX	8,220	92	16	44	DG7FB	14,430	127	23	55	*DK4VF	5,246	63	20	41	DK7ZT	168,795	415	66	213	*DL1SO	21,318	139	26	61		
*F4GYM	6,272	64	21	35	DL4LT	13,667	115	22	57	*DL1XA	5,104	80	18	40	DJ5LA	161,044	350	59	188	*DQ3ME	20,967	177	26	61		
*F5MA	5,994	70	12	25	DLB1W	12,298	127	22	64	*DL9HC	4,964	78	18	50	DL5AXX	159,285	242	84	175	*DL5JAG	20,790	130	26	64		
*F8PCA	5,152	50	22	34	DLZ2B0	9,240	98	22	48	*DL9NAI	4,949	44	22	27	DL7AA	152,685	299	80	181	*DL8RB	19,840	125	29	99		
*F5SG	5,076	67	15	39	DL6PO	5,772	93	20	54	*DL6DJ	4,675	89	12	43	DG7JB	152,390	454	50	195	*DK1FT	19,012	156	24	73		
*F5D4	5,444	98	19	33	DL9HJ	5,016	56	20	37	*DQ9DH	4,656	45	18	30	DL6AH	146,292	399	56	163	*DG0ERS	12,320	78	31	57		
*F4TRB	4,940	51	19	33	*DK9FG	4,828	52	20	48	*DL7AL	4,500	48	12	28	DL9BBE	142,122	381	42	124	*F5BAP	18,120	104	24	71		
*F6CHF	4,794	43	21	30	DL20B	4,212	38	14	25	*D05AL	3,960	48	17	28	DM5TI	139,748	294	72	145	*DG0QJ	11,613	99	25	54		
*F80YD	3,901	46	14	33	DM9JM	3,920	50	15	41	*DL3ND	3,729	42	11	22	DL1CG	138,480	399	58	182	*DL2ART	11,172	99	21	55		
*F1PVN	3,864	63	16	40	DL5RD0	1,710	28	13	25	*DM4DS	3,526	52	13	28	DR7B	121,440	531	44	140	*DL1TS	8,547	64	27	50		
*F5BTH	3,483	44	18	25	DF9RD	1,050	21	12	13	*DL9GT	3,504	64	14	34	DM5TS	119,992	450	55	157	*DL2VCD	8,500	58	26	42		
*F1TZM	3,479	63	15	34	DL9NC	660	11	9	11	*DM6HK	3,486	50	14	28	DJ5WJ	108,000	323	53	172	*DD7BW	7,490	99	14	56		
*F4G1Y	810	19	12	15	DL3BZ	638	25	10	19	*DL4JG	3,440	63	12	31	DL5NEB	97,079	234	49	144	*DD1UM	6,942	80	25	53		
*F1LUP	780	23	11	19	DK9M7	414	17	9	14	*DL0BV	3,081	112	6	33	DL5NEB	95,735	266	54	151	*DM6GS	6,784	62	21	32		
*F4HXC	640	12	10	10	DL2R5A	361	15	7	12	(OP,DJ30)					DB4MM	85,333	295	56	123	*DL05FB	6,438	52	20	38		
*F4GMW	552	18	11	12	DO1RGI	328	58	9	32	*DK9MOS	3,080	59	19	51	DC4AA	94,323	295	56	123	*DD1HS	5,406	70	13	40		
*F5OHH	464	23	9	20	DJ6TK	21	58,315	284	27	82	*DL1BDU/P	2,964	76	9	43	(OP,DL4NAC)					(OP,DO8DF)					
*F4HQ0	400	14	5	5	DF6PB	28,923	134	26	67	*DC8SP	2,898	61	13	33	DL2VM	93,720	227	67	153	*DL7AOS	5,382	82	11	35		
*F6BXZ	247	12	9	10	DL9LM	14	19,170	238	15	56	*DM2AJK	2,320	41	13	27	DL1L0D	78,764	226	51	143	*DL9IM	4,959	42	23	34	
*F1IWH	77	10	4	7	DL8DAW	15,219	235	10	47	*DL7ET	2,193	57	8	35	DL5NAM	70,560	203	43	125	*DO1KUB	4,896	90	12	39		
*F5DPR	70	10	7	7	DG2SPJ	703	27	14	14	*DG1RPJ	2,132	31	19	22	DL2QE	70,080	201	50	110	*DL10NI	3,660	20	25	39		
28	78	18	16	16	7	35,699	337	17	7	*DQ9DH	2,482	29	15	23	DL20E	64,900	276	39	103	*F4BRG	3,200	20	50	50		
*F5VMN	71	76,736	458	26	83	DL6MFK	47	13	25	*DO7DOC	1,800	80	8	37	DH4JQ	64,738	240	49	130	*DF5CJ	3,660	55	21	40		
*F8CGL	45,198	233	26	67	DL1BA	3.7	9,405	153	9	48	*DO3GE	1,720	35	12	28	DF8XC	61,605	150	61	124	*DO1MPR	3,166	76	23	59	
*F4EIH	21	68,894	305	16	70	DL6D0	1.8	1,836	52	6	28	*DL0RO	1,666	19	16	18	DR1E	56,700	239	36	104	*DL1NKP	2,656	47	10	22
*F5PWC	28,361	189	20	59	*DL1MAJ	A	503,076	743	82	289	(OP,DL035AT)										*DK7NC	2,397	33	18	29	
*F6WXX	18,504	185	14	58	*DG2JA	802	67	256													*DC2CL	2,352	59	12	30	
*F1MQJ	11,322	186	9	42	*DL4ZA	358,360	810	65	245	*DL1JPF	1,632	40	11	23	DK1AX	55,942	230	44	122	*DB9WL	2,349	30	13	16		
*F6YXZ	1,464	31	10	18	*DL1ATZ	354,576	743	73	259	*DL2ADV	1,485	27	11	16	DK2MC	49,491	262	31	86	*DK2DQ	1,833	32	13	26		
*F4ZML	7	3,034	100	35	DL4PK	265,122	540	71	215	*DL4PK	1,482	29	15	23	DK2XZ	48,100	202	39	103	*DF2AP	1,479	25	12	17		
*F4E1I	2,052	55	9	29	*DG5MLA	210,140	488	66	200	*DL2DYJ	1,290	19	12	28	DG2MEL	43,520	177	42	86	*DG0LJ	1,458	20	11	16		
*F4FSB	580	35	3	17	*DK2WU	206,245	555	58	189	*DO1RWY	1,280	40	8	24	DK4MT	40,836	138	44	79	*DL8JDX	1,350	18	11	16		
*F5BEG	3.7	61,688	593	14	74	*DF3IS	205,860	559	58	177	*DL1PF	1,131	34	10	19	DM2AA	32,132	114	42	74	*DK6WA	1,176	20	10	11	
*F80HE	8,413	149	10	37	*DK3WN	188,082	528	57	201	*DO2JX	1,122	20	15	18	DL5RD0	31,640	149	37	76	*DJ2FR	1,156	35	11	20		
FD0ZU	AA	941,744	1669	69	215	*DF5BM	173,753	531	49	190	*DF2GL	1,107	38	10	17	DL1CBQ	31,070	150	39	91	*DG5BRE	1,040	20	12	14	
F5RAG	496,926	847	74	268	*DF5FR	168,448	396	64	192	*DM1MA	1,088	34	10	22	DL1DBR	30,420	164	35	95	*DL6MPR	800	15	10	15		
F5PHW	426,123	495	104	312	*DM5BB	160,328	494	45	151	*DL7LZ	968	17	10	12	DM1MF	28,634	122	44	95	*DL9NE	754	13	13	13		
F4HRM	359,064	706	6	189	*DL9HJ	155,122	540	71	215	*DK2MB	940	17	10	12	DK2XZ	27,500	102	39	103	*DF2AP	1,479	25	12	17		
F1NCZ	329,272	337	72	244	*DL8L0	151,680	538	47	190	*DM1HR	870	18	14	16	DC1HR	26,536	31	43	81	*DG8MG	462	16	13	9		
FBEE	206,124	393	74	193	*DG1IU	149,002	523	46	157	*DK7AC	775	25	7	24	DG2NMH	25,610	136	35	95	*DC2CT	320	9	8	8		
F1UIJ	146,583	394	54	129	*DK6OW	147,256	362	56	177	*DH4RJ	750	31	6	24	DK1NMH	24,648	129	24	55	*DG1UAE	255	9	8	1		
F4EUG	115,934	437	37	61	*DL9GW	125,268	447	46	173	*DL9PS	672	12	10	11	DF3NM	20,003	97	28	55	*DL7FP	204	13	6	11		
F5JFU	95,598	247	58	168	*DL5J5	118,494	423	40	134	*DL1LX2L	638	24	9	20	DL1MEV	17,675	70	44	57	*DL90HA	168	7	7	7		
F8VNU	95,460	310	42	143	*DM2GG	118,080	338	56	150	*DL5KUA	627	17	11	16	DF8YJ	14,418	93	31	58	*DO4TE	8,220	74	16	35		
F8VNU	82,665	238	45	122	*DL4MFR	117,208	400	45	151	*DG5AAP	546	25	19	19	DJ8YJ	14,344	104	29	59	*DD1PT	1,800	53	17	31		
F4GFB	70,070	329	130	121	*DL5HJ	108,454	397	51	174	*DL5HJ	114	10	11	10	DM3MR	12,597	117	47	68	*F57NF	14A	12,711	17	46		
F6BLP	6,579	60	15	28	*DJ6HR	104,520	356	42	153	*DG1FN	494	18	10	16	DL1ST	11,375	80	25	66	*DF4JM	1,025	91	6	29		
F1ULQ	5,832	70	19	35	*DF6OC	94,512	451	37	142	*DL8ME	464	23	4	12	DJ5T0	11,360	88	27	53	*DK8XX	4,891	42	9	22		
F2FZ	418	11	11	11	*DL0GH	94,488	440	42	144	*DL2LMS	456	11	10	9	DL7L1N	9,984	74	23	29							
F1EBN	28A	32,025	168	19	56	(OP,DL2PDL)				*DL1LSW	441	17	7	14	DF1LON	9,563	106	18	55							
TMAQ	21A	616,056	1649	34	134	*DH4PFS	92,796	322	50	159	*DL6AAO	429	19	6	5	DK3WE	7,584	62	19	29	*ZB2TT	AA	771,540	2051	64	244
F4GGQ	512,736	1342	36	132	*DH7FA	82,665	349	41	126	*DL8NF	306	11	7	10	DR4W	6,104	80	14	42							
F4CPF	6,914	60	12	23	*DL2MH0	77,770	239	48	154	*DL3MH0	300	15	11	11	(OP,DL4NAC)											
F4FNK	14A	537,901	1760	38	123	*DL9RD	70,588	431	24	83	*DM3BR	231	7	12	17	DM5EE	5,928	28	16	43	SV2BXA	A	6,280	235	59	130
F4FFZ	343,980	1336	34	113	*DL0H0	67,402	257	44	90	*DH7MO	231	7	12	17	DJ80P	5,192	58	16	43	SV2BRX	A	6,470	46	21	39	
F4HUA	8,624</																									

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180 W7MRF 322,877 509 75 186 W7VJ 316,880 492 65 168 W7TVC 310,452 503 75 171 AB7H 42 11 4 10 *K7JAN 36,166 143 43 64 K8AZ 4,383,820 2500 140 499 W8PR 1,586,709 1210 117 396 W8AT 891,921 908 90 291 K8ZGL 209,466 363 64 179 W8DC 186,840 408 57 159 W8CVOA 69,732 209 48 108 *N8YXR 116,382 264 46 117 *W8AJT 52,700 163 47 108 *W8EDU 14,615 89 25 54 N9VL 4,004,079 2476 132 465 AA9A 3,086,366 2114 125 438 *K9IU 15,222 89 29 57 K0UH 11,620 67 29 41 N5KB 8,927 73 27 52 *K0LZES 3,360 44 19 29 K0LTC 304 22 8 8 Alaska 1,872 50 9 9 *K1RST Canada 3,525,755 938 52 143 District 1 741,418 822 76 282 LZ8U 19,370 230 11 54 (OP: LZ2TU) 16,560 184 13 59 2,201 35 14 12 1,508 50 5 23 864 35 5 19 828 26 6 6 775 30 9 16 646 14 6 11 493 34 4 13 90 9 5 5 *VE3S0 39,100 205 37 78 *VE3AYR 18,225 105 19 62 District 3 9,823,765 5449 154 553 VE3EJ 144,401 341 55 142 *VE3S0 39,100 205 37 78 *VE3AYR 18,225 105 19 62 District 4 461,812 1400 45 121 VE4JB District 5 3,364,632 3439 116 328 VE6S 121,180 866 33 40 District 6 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10,120 100 36 59 *N5XXD 3,456 36 18 30 N0KQ 298,352 473 69 163 NX6T 119,340 333 53 103 W6CFD 52,578 161 46 321 W6KA 41,895 177 52 81 W6RFL 35,825 143 26 69 *W6BHZ 35,640 154 41 58 *N6DU 4,560 52 19 21 K7YM 1,732,750 1903 123 355 W6RRC 1,474,438 1495 116 321 K7E 689,577 689 73 180 W7MRF 322,877 509 75 186 W7VJ 316,880 492 65 168 W7TVC 310,452 503 75 171 AB7H 42 11 4 10 *K7JAN 36,166 143 43 64 K8AZ 4,383,820 2500 140 499 W8PR 1,586,709 1210 117 396 W8AT 891,921 908 90 291 K8ZGL 209,466 363 64 179 W8DC 186,840 408 57 159 W8CVOA 69,732 209 48 108 *N8YXR 116,382 264 46 117 *W8AJT 52,700 163 47 108 *W8EDU 14,615 89 25 54 N9VL 4,004,079 2476 132 465 AA9A 3,086,366 2114 125 438 *K9IU 15,222 89 29 57 K0UH 11,620 67 29 41 N5KB 8,927 73 27 52 *K0LZES 3,360 44 19 29 K0LTC 304 22 8 8 Alaska 1,872 50 9 9 *K1RST Canada 3,525,755 938 52 143 District 1 741,418 822 76 282 LZ8U 19,370 230 11 54 (OP: LZ2TU) 16,560 184 13 59 2,201 35 14 12 1,508 50 5 23 864 35 5 19 828 26 6 6 775 30 9 16 646 14 6 11 493 34 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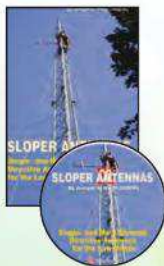
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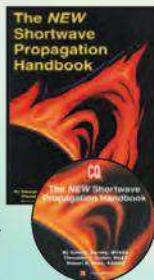


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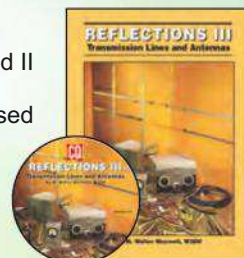


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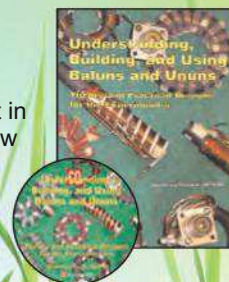
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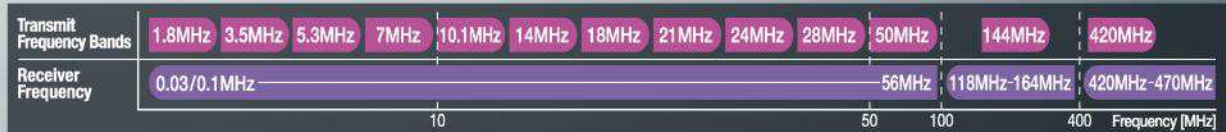
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