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Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 2023

CQ

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- **Results, 2022 CQ WW DX RTTY Contest, p. 14**
- **Two Antennas... pgs. 33, 38 ...and Two Tuners, p. 59**

On the Cover: Herb Krumich, K2LNS, of Bear Creek, Pennsylvania (seen here in shadow only) lowers his 20-meter Yagi on a tram line from the 60-foot level of his tower. Details on page 78.

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announcements

MARCH

ROSENBERG, TEXAS — The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Greater Houston Hamfest and 2023 ARRL Texas State Convention** on Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, 4310 Texas 36. Phone: (713) 826-6917 or (713) 569-8799. Website: <www.houstonhamfest.org>. Talk-in 146.94 (PL 167.9). VE exams.

TRUSSVILLE, ALABAMA — The Birmingham Amateur Radio Club will hold the **BirminghamHAMfest 2023 and 2023 ARRL Alabama Section Convention** from 4-7 p.m., Friday, March 3 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 4 at the Trussville Civic Center, 5381 Trussville-Clay Road. Contact: Rosalind Fazel, KD4ZGO, (205) 853-3220. Email: <rfazel.rf9@gmail.com>. Website: <www.birminghamfest.org>. Talk-in 146.88 (PL 88.5). VE exams.

CAVE CITY, KENTUCKY — The Mammoth Cave Amateur Radio Club will hold the **47th Annual Cave City Hamfest** beginning 7:30 a.m., Saturday March 4 at the Cave City Convention Center, 502 Mammoth Cave Street. Contact: Larry Brumett, KN4IV, (270) 651-2363 or (270) 308-1417 (cell). Email: <lbrumett@glasgow-ky.com>. Website: <http://ky4x.org>. Talk-in 146.35+. VE exams.

CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS — The Mount Tom Amateur Repeater Association will hold its **34th Annual Amateur Radio & Electronics Hamfest** beginning 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 4 at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive. Contact: Brian Mullarney, N1FI, (860) 478-6790. Email: <n1fi@arrl.net>. Website: <www.mtara.org>. Talk-in 146.94 (PL 127.3). Free VE exams.

DARDANELLE, ARKANSAS — The Arkansas River Valley Amateur Radio Foundation will hold the **Arkansas River Valley Hamfest** beginning 8:30 a.m., Saturday, March 4 at the Dardanelle Community Center, 2059-2099 State Highway 22. Email: <arvhamfest@gmail.com>. Website: <https://tinyurl.com/4pppp59>. VE exams.

IRVING, TEXAS — The Irving Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Irving Hamfest 2023** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 4 at the Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W. Irving Boulevard. Email: <president@irvingarc.org>. Website: <www.irvingarc.org/hamfest>. Talk-in 146.720- (PL 110.9). VE exams.

MCCLELLAND, IOWA — The South West Amateur Radio Club will hold the **SWIARC Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 4 at 117 Main Street. Email: <hamfest@swiradio.org>. Website: <www.swiradio.org>.

WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE — The New England Vintage Electronics Club will hold the **New England Vintage Electronics Expo 6** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, March 5 at the Castleton, 58 Enterprise Drive. Website: <www.nevec.org>.

CONCORD, NORTH CAROLINA — The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society will hold the **Charlotte Hamfest** from 3-7 p.m., Friday, March 10 and from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, March 11 at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center-Gold Hall, 4551 Old Airport Road. Phone: (704) 948-7373. Website: <www.charlottehamfest.org>. Talk-in 146.655 or 146.940 (PL 118.8).

ANNANDALE, NEW JERSEY — The Cherryville Repeater Association will hold its **Hamfest and Technology Expo 2023** beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, March 11 at the North Hunterdon Regional High School, 1445 Route 31. Contact Tony Ploski, W2HWW, (908) 256-9568. Email: <aploski@comcast.net> or <w2hww@arrl.net>. Website: <www.w2cra.org>. Talk-in 147.375+ (PL 151.4). VE exams.

BOONVILLE, MISSOURI — The Boonville Amateur Radio Club will hold its Hamfest from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 11 at the Zion Lutheran Church, 9171 B Highway. Contact Tom, WA0E, (660) 841-5287 or Dwight, N0QOK, (660) 621-1265. Email: <wa0e@arrl.net> or <dmeyer009@hotmail.com>. Website: <www.w0brc.org>.

GODFREY, ILLINOIS — The Lewis and Clark Radio Club will hold its **2023 Hamfest** from 7 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 11 at the Lewis & Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road. Email: <hamfest@k9ham.org>. Website: <www.k9ham.org>. Talk-in 145.230- (PL 79.7). VE exams.

KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN — The Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society will hold the **61st Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest & Radio Swap** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 11 at the Wings Event Center, 3600 Vanrick Drive. Phone: (269) 815-8007. Email: <smarshamfest@gmail.com>. Website: <www.w8df.com/hamfest>. Talk-in 147.000+ (PL 94.8). VE exams.

PUYALLUP, WASHINGTON — The Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club will hold the **41st Annual Mike and Key Electronics Show & Swap Meet** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday March 11 at the Pavilion Exhibition Hall, Washington State Fairgrounds, 110 9th Avenue SW. Phone: (253) 631-3756. Email: <n7wa@arrl.net>. Website: <www.mikeandkey.org>. Talk-in 146.82- (PL 103.5). VE exams.

RAYNE, LOUISIANA — The Acadiana DX Association will hold its **Hamfest & Swapmeet** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 11 at the Rayne Civic Center, 210 Frog Festival Drive. Contact: James Romero, K5CNU, (337) 319-6414. Email: <k5cnu@att.net>. Website: <http://kn5grk.com>. Talk-in 145.410 (PL 123). VE exams.

TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE — The Middle Tennessee Amateur Radio Society will hold the **MTARS Tullahoma Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 11 at the First United Methodist Church, 208 West Lauderdale Street. Contact: Larry Cagle, K4WLO, (251) 680-3250. Email: <k4wlo@arrl.net>. Website: <www.mtars-ham.org>. Talk-in 146.700- (PL 114.8) or 443.950+ (PL 107.2). VE exams.

ELYRIA, OHIO — The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society will hold the **NOARS Winter Hamfest and Computer Show** from 9 a.m. to noon, Sunday, March 12 at the Lorain County Community College-John A. Spitzer Conference Center, 1005 N. Abbe Road. Contact: Carl Rimmer, W8KRF, (216) 256-9624 (before 9 p.m.). Email: <winterhamfest@noars.net>. Website: <www.noars.net>. Talk-in 146.70- (PL 110.9).

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA — The Playground Amateur Radio Club will hold its **53rd Annual Hamfest** from 4-7 p.m., Friday, March 17 and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18

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3Y0J On the Air From Bouvet

As we went to press in mid-February, the 3Y0J DXpedition team had landed on Bouvet Island and gotten several stations on the air. Team co-leader Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, reported to media officer Steve Hass, NA2J, that this is “the most extreme expedition I’ve been to,” adding that “Activating Bouvet is not like activating an island in the Caribbean. It is really windy, cold and exhausting to bring equipment up here.” Opskar added that the only way to get on shore was by floating 50 feet from the boat in survival suits while holding onto a line attached to a buoy; and that the equipment had to be floated in as well, then carried 800 feet up to the camp.

Early pileups were intense and Facebook was filled with reports of jamming and other bad on-air behavior making it difficult for hams to even hear the team’s 100-watt signals. Bouvet Island is a dot of land in the far southern Atlantic Ocean, roughly halfway between South Africa and Antarctica. It is #2 on the DX most-wanted list (North Korea is #1).

Hams Respond to Turkish Earthquake

Early reports following the massive earthquake that rocked Turkey and Syria in early February indicate that ham radio operators there are actively involved in the emergency response efforts. At this writing, the death toll from the quake exceeded 11,000. According to the ARRL, IARU Region 1 (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mosup, G0DUB, and others reported that most amateur communications related to the earthquake response in Turkey were on VHF, but that some Turkish transmissions were also heard on 28.540 MHz. According to the IARU Region 1 website, 3.777 and 7.092 MHz are also designated emergency frequencies in Turkey, and IARU Region 2 (the Americas) Emergency Coordinator CO2JC asked hams in the Americas at the time to protect these frequencies while also keeping an ear on them in case assistance can be provided to hams in Turkey. The ARRL report also noted that there is no information on any possible quake-related amateur communications in Syria, as there are very few hams active in the country at this time.

HRO Closes San Diego Store

Ham Radio Outlet has closed its store in San Diego, California. According to a post on its website, the building’s landlord informed the company in late 2022 that its lease would not be renewed. “Since that time,” said the announcement, “we have been searching the surrounding area for a new location. However, recent extreme increases in rent and non-business friendly policies by the state, county and city governments have made locating and affording a viable location all but impossible.” The San Diego store closed permanently on February 25.

Winter Field Day Heats Up the Airwaves

Another Winter Field Day is in the books, the 16th annual running of the event held on the last weekend in January. The purpose of the activity, according to *Newsline*, is similar to that of ARRL Field Day in June, but with the added challenge of practicing portable emergency communication skills in generally less-friendly winter weather. New for this year were a mobile/stationary mobile entry category and a 100-watt power limit for all participants. In 2022, more than 2500 logs were submitted (including those from home stations contacting portable or mobile stations). As of a week and a half

after the 2023 event, more than 1900 logs had been submitted from over 1100 locations, with additional logs being accepted through March 1. For more information, visit the WFD website at <www.winterfieldday.com>.

Youth DX Adventure Heading to Curacao Again

Moving ahead to summer, the Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure program will again activate call sign PJ2Y from the Curacao QTH of Geoff Howard, PJ2T, this coming July. Participation is open to licensed hams between the ages of 12 and 17; a parent or guardian must also attend. Most trip-related expenses for participants are paid through donations to the YDXA program. The application deadline is May 1. Additional information and application forms are available at <<http://qsl.net/n6jrl>>.

DXpedition Boot Camp

Keep your ears open later this month for activity from VK9/Norfolk Island, site of the upcoming DXpedition Boot Camp. According to *Newsline*, budding DXpeditioners will get the opportunity to learn from and operate with more experienced ops from an exotic locale between March 17 and 31. The camp, coordinated by Chris Chapman, VK3QB, plans to have stations on the air from 160 through 6 meters, operating CW, SSB and FT8. There will also be an opportunity for a SOTA (Summits on the Air) activation from nearby Mt. Bates. The camp itself is free, but participants have to pay their own travel and lodging expenses. At press time, there was no word on the call sign(s) to be used. For more information as the time grows closer, visit <<http://dexpeditionbootcamp.net>>.

Morse Makes a Splash on the BBC

The continued popularity of Morse code among hams was the subject of two different programs recently on two different BBC stations in the United Kingdom. *Newsline* reports that the current affairs program “PM on BBC Radio 4” featured Long Island CW Club co-founder Howard Bernstein, WB2UZE, discussing the ongoing appeal of Morse and his club’s instruction programs, which are available for free worldwide.

In addition, Mervyn Foster, G4KLE, a volunteer at the Radio Society of Great Britain’s National Radio Centre, spoke with BBC Three Counties Radio morning host Andy Collins about the resurgence of interest in Morse in the UK, both within and beyond amateur radio. At press time, both interviews were available online (but it’s uncertain how long they’ll remain posted). Howard’s is at <<https://tinyurl.com/326n479a>>, and Mervyn’s is at <<https://tinyurl.com/h9ny9dsp>>.

HAARP Thanks Hams for Help With Asteroid-Bounce Experiment

The University of Alaska Fairbanks’s High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) has thanked amateur radio operators and amateur astronomers for help with its asteroid-bounce experiment in late December. Signals were sent up to an asteroid passing near Earth’s orbit.

Over 300 reception reports were submitted to HAARP researchers, according to the ARRL. The goal was not two-way contacts as hams make off the Moon or streaking meteors, but rather efforts to study near-Earth objects and defend our planet from large asteroids with the potential to cause significant damage.

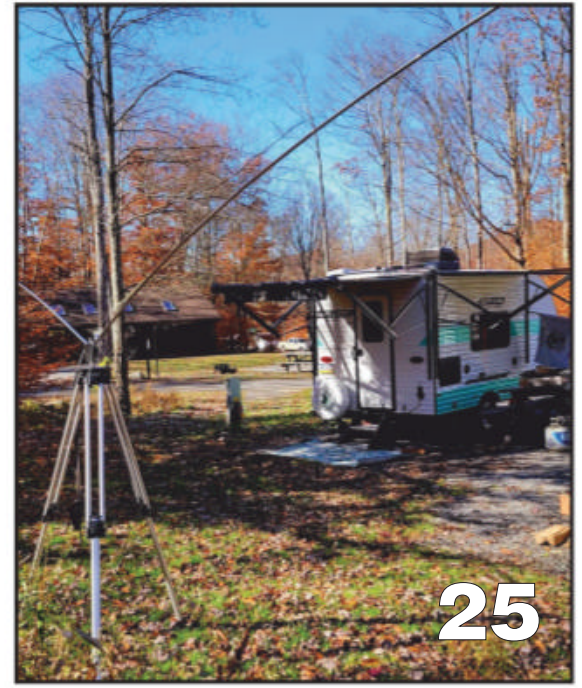
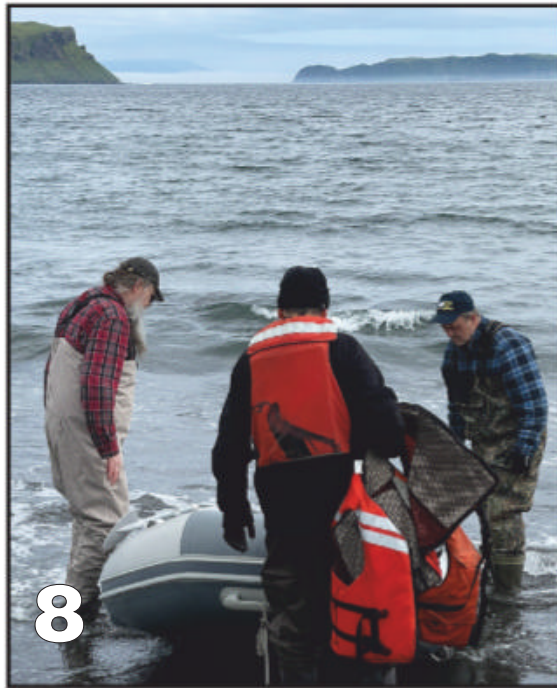
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ON THE COVER

Getting a beam's-eye view! Herb Krumich, K2LNS, of Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, snapped this photo from the 60-foot level of his tower as he lowered his 4-element 20-meter beam on a tram line. Details on page 78. (Cover photo by Herb Krumich, K2LNS)



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FOCUS ON: Spring is almost here, so it's time to start planning outdoor ham activities, from taking your scanner on the road (p. 22) to local POTA expeditions (p. 25) or the ends of the Earth (p. 8). Still outdoors, we've got more antennas for you (pgs. 33, 38 and 59), plus CQWW RTTY DX Contest results (p. 14) and trips from one end of the ham spectrum to the other (MF/LF column on p. 63, Learning Curve on p. 74 and VHF/UHF on p. 80). Have fun on the air, wherever you are!

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zero bias: a cq editorial

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

Beyond the Radio

Recently, I had an experience that reminded me of a “hidden” benefit of ham radio that goes beyond the radio. I was in Florida with my wife and son (who’s also a ham) to celebrate my mom’s 100th (!) birthday. We didn’t have time to do any ham radio stuff but we were able to do some bird- and butterfly-watching at a couple of the state’s many nature preserves. My son, among other things, is an excellent wildlife photographer and has a lens on his camera that extends halfway to the moon. While walking through one of the preserves just before sunset, we encountered another photographer with his camera on a tripod and a lens that extended well beyond the moon!

We made our way over to find out what he was looking for and arrived in time to hear him saying something to another visitor about “the antennas on my truck.” The other gentleman said he had seen them and asked, “Are you an amateur radio operator?” “Yes,” the man with the big lens replied, “I’m (callsign).” “I’m a ham, too,” said the second person, and introduced himself as well. After giving them a couple of minutes to tell each other about their ham radio interests, Dan and I decided to join the QSO. “We couldn’t help overhearing you talking about amateur radio. We’re both hams, too,” and introduced ourselves. We all spent the next half hour (as it got progressively darker) talking about ham radio, nature photography, and why the man with the big lens had driven an hour and a half to this particular spot (he was looking for a bobcat mom and her cubs who had been sighted there recently). It turns out that when he isn’t looking for bobcats, he’s a professor at Florida International University and the faculty sponsor for the National Hurricane Center Amateur Radio Club, WX4HNC (The National Hurricane Center and its ham station are located on the FIU campus, and all clubs need a faculty sponsor). You never know who you’re going to meet through ham radio.

Oh, and at my mom’s birthday party, while most of the guests were her friends or neighbors, the list also included a ham friend of mine who I first met at age 15 in our high school radio club. We’ve stayed in touch ever since and make a point of getting together whenever I’m down there visiting my mom.

My main point here is that not all memorable ham radio contacts depend on the ionosphere or repeaters, or even radios. Ham radio brings together people of diverse backgrounds and interests, and even overlapping interests (such as birding and wildlife photography) who might not otherwise meet or get to know each other. And some of the friendships that originate in a ham club or on the air can last a lifetime. It is one of the lesser-appreciated benefits to our hobby. We talk a lot about ham radio’s value in emergency communications, in promoting and supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers, and in providing a “sandbox” for experimenting in electronics and RF engineering. But we don’t talk as much about the person-to-person aspect of amateur radio and the bridges

My main point here is that not all memorable ham radio contacts depend on the ionosphere or repeaters, or even radios. Ham radio brings together people of diverse backgrounds and interests, and even overlapping interests...who might not otherwise meet or get to know each other.

it creates that can take people from being strangers to immediate friends.

To me, one of the most interesting parts about the QSO described above is that such contacts are not at all uncommon among hams. As we were leaving the nature preserve (in the dark), my son said to me, “What are the chances of two hams randomly encountering two other hams in a place that has no connection to ham radio?” My response was, “Excellent. It’s happened too many times to count.” Over the years, I have gotten involved with many, many, interesting people and activities simply by virtue of being a ham, even if there was no radio in sight! These contacts can help with off-air networking as well. I know lots of people (myself included) who have advanced their careers through the contacts they’ve made in ham radio, both on and off the air.

So yes, let’s promote amateur radio’s value for advancing technology, providing emergency communications, and promoting international goodwill through the contacts we make on the air, but let’s not forget the value of the contacts we make off the air as well. (And Happy Birthday again, Mom! I know you’re reading this!)

In This Issue

This month’s *CQ* offers an eclectic mix of articles that showcase the breadth of our hobby while, at the same time, sticking close to our core interests of DX, contests, Morse code, and antennas. We start off with a DXpedition to Kiska Island in Alaska’s Aleutians, halfway across the Pacific Ocean and part of the dividing line between the Pacific and the Bering Sea. As you’ll read in the article, Kiska was one of two Aleutian islands occupied by Japan in World War II.

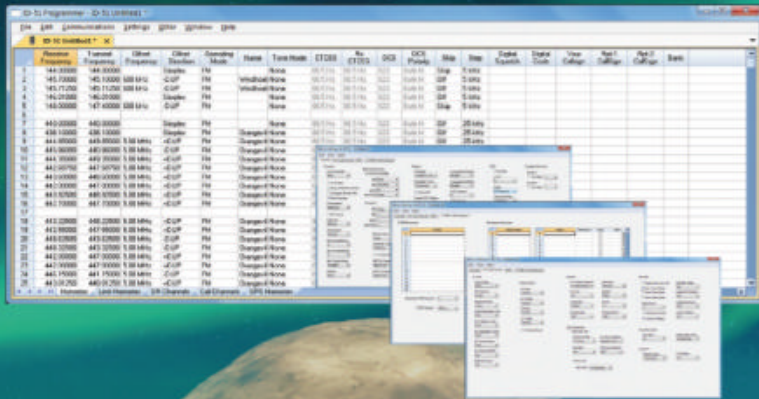
We’ve also got the results of the 2022 CQ World Wide RTTY DX Contest and a guide to ensuring you’ve got the right contest exchange copied; two antenna articles and a look at two antenna tuners; an introduction to Morse code “Instant Character Recognition” (ICR), and much more.

March heralds the arrival of equinoctial propagation on the HF bands, and VHF Editor N4DTF reminds us that it won’t be long before sporadic-E season begins on 6 meters ... and with a quickly rising sunspot cycle, there’s no telling what magic the Magic Band may have in store for us this year. Enjoy the approach of spring warmth, and don’t forget the CQWW WPX SSB Contest at the end of this month!

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

– 73, Rich, W2VU

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Host Sought for 2026 WRTC

The World Radiosport Team Championship Sanctioning Committee is seeking proposals for hosting the 2026 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) event.

The WRTC is an on-site amateur radio competition, usually held every four years. Previous WRTCs — dating back to 1990 — have been held in the U.S. (three times), Slovenia, Finland, Brazil, Russia, and Germany. WRTC2022, delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is scheduled to be held this summer in Bologna, Italy.

Teams of two operators representing a geographical region of the world come to the host site to compete using similar antennas and locations, overseen by on-site referees. According to the sanctioning committee, the WRTC competition has typically been held as a contest-within-a-contest coincident with the IARU World HF Championship to capitalize on the high activity of a popular worldwide operating event.

Groups interested in hosting WRTC2026 should submit a Letter of Intent, with a summary proposal. This should include the following items:

- ~ Committee organization, identifying each of the principals involved and any relevant organizational and amateur radio experience especially in contesting / radiosport.
- ~ Competition description, including planned number of teams, geographic location of operating sites, and competitor selection process.



- ~ Social aspects, including approximate schedule, travel, and housing arrangements for participants.
- ~ Financing, including an outline of the budget and fundraising approach. A detailed budget is not required at this time.
- ~ Expected assistance and involvement from local and regional amateur radio organizations and regulatory authorities.
- ~ Public exposure, including plans to publicize and promote the event locally and worldwide.

March 31 Deadline

Letters of Intent must be submitted no later than March 31, 2023 at 2359 UTC. The WRTC Sanctioning Committee will review all proposals received and will respond by April 30, 2023. Additional information may be requested.

It is the goal of the WRTC-SC to announce the venue for the WRTC2026 at the close of WRTC2022 in Bologna in July 2023. Letters of Intent should be submitted directly to the chairman of the WRTC Sanctioning Committee, Tine Brajnik, S50A, via email to <tine.brajnik@gmail.com>.

More information about WRTC is available at <<https://wrtc.info>>; specific info about this summer's competition may be found at <<https://wrtc2022.it>>.

K7K: DXpedition from the Edge of Alaska

BY ADRIAN CIUPERCA,# KO8SCA, WITH YURI SUSHKIN, N3QQ, AND HAL TURLEY, W8HC

This month, I have turned over the keyboard to Adrian, KO8SCA, with assists from Yuri, N3QQ, and Hal, W8HC, to tell the story of their recent DXpedition to Kiska Island, K7K. Their adventure was a special one, visiting a place that is extremely remote in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. I hope that you will enjoy their story! – Bob, N200

“Trust your heart if the seas catch fire, live by love though the stars walk backward.” – e.e. cummings

At the far western edge of the State of Alaska lies a group of islands, spread like a string of pearls spanning a distance greater than 1,000 miles. These are the Aleutian Islands.

* Email: <n200@comcast.net>

Email: <ciup@yahoo.com>

For a few days during July 2022, a team of six operators sailed out into the Aleutians in what was a third DXpedition attempt to activate the rare IOTA group (IOTANA-070, POTA K-0143) called Kiska Island, a desolate and inhospitable place within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

The Aleutians

Alaska is such a large state and it is hard to comprehend some distances unless one uses geographic comparisons. So here is one: The distance from Alaska’s eastern to western border is greater than the distance between New York and San Francisco. In fact, Kiska Island is closer to Tokyo than it is to San Francisco.

The Aleutian Islands consist of 72 islands born out of the volcanic eruptions 55 million years ago. They are located at the juncture of the northern edge of the warm waters of the Pacific Ocean and the southern reaches of the extremely cold and hostile waters of the Bering Sea, creating some of



A view of Kiska Island (All photos courtesy of the K7K team)

the most violent weather conditions in the Northern Hemisphere. Most of the far western Aleutian Islands, including Kiska, are uninhabited.

Kiska Island

The island is only 5 miles wide and 22 miles long. It is desolate and uninhabited, covered by volcanic sand and tall grass. There are no trees or animals except some rats that are said to have roamed the island since the first explorers brought them there on their sailing boats. At the far end of the island, there is a 4,000-foot-tall active volcano. The weather is harsh, with only eight clear days a year amidst an average of 250 days of rain, powerful winds, and 100 days of bitter cold darkness. That pretty much describes a place that probably should be avoided by humans.

Kiska's Role in WWII

Visiting Kiska Island requires close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). If you plan an IOTA expedition to Alaska, you will need to contact U.S. FWS in Homer first and begin the coordination process. Many of Alaska's islands are managed by U.S. FWS and access to some have unique requirements. Access to Kiska is closed for general population visits. One of the reasons for such difficulty is because some of these islands, including Kiska, are littered with unexploded ordnance (UXO) ... remnants of World War II. The year 2022 marked 80 years from the start of the Aleutian campaign of WWII, also known as the "1,000-mile war," an event in history which was also commemorated by our K7K DXpedition.

During WWII, Japanese forces were eyeing the capture and occupation of Midway Island, a tiny speck of land and a U.S. possession in the Pacific. Midway served as an important refueling stop for the U.S. bombers intending to reach Japan. Militarily, Japanese forces needed a ruse in order to draw the U.S. Pacific Fleet away from Midway. The Aleutians Islands fit perfectly into that strategic scenario.

Luckily however, U.S. intelligence services had broken the Japanese naval codes. The Japanese plans were revealed and now known to the U.S. forces. Nevertheless, this remote region became a fiercely contested battleground with Japanese forces capturing two of the islands in the Aleutian archipelago — Attu and Kiska.

Some 6,800 Japanese soldiers occupied Kiska Island for nearly two years, and to survive they built multiple struc-

tures, resembling a small town ... living quarters, underground tunnels, water towers, telegraph poles, unpaved roads, a submarine base, and multiple military installations. Some of these structures are still standing today.

In the end, the fiercest enemy of both

the Japanese and Allied combatants fighting in the 1,000-mile-long Aleutian campaign was the weather. Following the Japanese loss and 2,300 casualties suffered during an intense 19-day battle at Attu that ended July 28, 1943, Allied forces shifted their attention to



Our boat, the April Lane, docked in Adak, Alaska.



Boat captain Rick



One of the World War II anti-aircraft guns still in place on Kiska Island, along with unexploded ordnance that makes it mandatory to get special permission to land there.



Landing and departing the island were the most difficult moments of the DXpedition.

retaking Kiska. Fearing similar defeat, the Japanese commander at Kiska realized he was in a no-win position and took advantage of the weather. With dense fog and harsh winds blowing sideways, 5,000 Japanese troops boarded vessels and left Kiska Island undetected by Allied command. On August 15th, Allied U.S. and Canadian forces invaded the island still not aware that the enemy had left. Attacking from two sides of the island in dense fog, there were many servicemen killed or wounded by “friendly fire.” All of the Aleutian Islands were now back in the hands of the U.S. Command.

IOTA

The Islands on the Air (IOTA) program was established in 1967 and aims to recognize and certify ham operators for contacting islands around the world. For IOTA purposes, open sea islands of the world are grouped in 1,200 references.

The starting point in the program is having confirmed the first 100 references and being awarded the IOTA 100 certificate. Improving the score is a steady pursuit, and can take many years of effort, making IOTA both challenging and rewarding.

Many of the world’s islands are uninhabited and very remote, often requiring special permission to land on and operate from. These are all reasons why some IOTA references are rarely activated, and some perhaps for only a few days every five, 10, or even 20 years or so. More details about the IOTA program are available at <www.iota-world.org>.

Kiska Island — Third Time is the Charm

The 2022 K7K IOTA expedition was actually attempt number three to reach Kiska Island. In 2020, the pandemic curtailed our travel plans and forced the cancellation of the KL7RRC expedition after equipment and supplies had already been staged in Dutch Harbor, Alaska.

In 2021, one of the crew members of our chartered, prepaid vessel suffered a medical emergency prior to picking up our eight totes of gear at Dutch. The original plan called for team member Tim, NL8F, to help load the gear onto the boat and sail out to Adak Island (NA-039) where he would meet up with the other five members who would be flying into Adak from Anchorage. Tim was able to locate a vessel to take the totes to Adak and thought there was a good possibility we could locate another char-



Team members Alex, KL5CX; Adrian, KO8SCA; James, KB2FMH; Tim, NL8F; Yuri, N3QQ (team leader); and Hal, W8HC.

ter from there. Unfortunately, Murphy struck again and another vessel was not available ... BUT the KL7RRC team, consisting of Tim, NL8F; Walt, N6XG; Hal, W8HC; Rob, N7QT; and Yuri, N3QQ, made the most of their time as they operated for eight days from Adak Island. They logged over 10,300 QSOs with 102 different DXCC entities, many stations making their first-ever QSO with NA-039. During the operation, the group also experienced several great sporadic-E (E_s) openings on 6 meters with 820 QSOs in the log on the "magic band." Some of the members of the team left Adak Island hoping for another chance at elusive Kiska the following year.

In 2022, the K7K Kiska IOTA Expedition team was made up of six operators: Alex, KL5CX; Adrian, KO8SCA; Hal, W8HC; James, KB2FMH; Tim, NL8F; and Yuri, N3QQ. Yuri was the team leader and is a passionate and experienced DXpeditioner who has activated many rare IOTA entities. He has been the main organizer, proponent, and decision-maker in getting this tough project off the ground and his perseverance certainly paid off.

Tim, NL8F, a native Alaskan, was instrumental in finding the boat, the key to the success of our DXpedition. He is a mechanic by trade and owns a vessel repair business in Dutch Harbor. To say, "his mechanical repair skills came to



K7K tents and antennas

the rescue multiple times during our stay on Kiska,” is an understatement!

Hal, W8HC, is a veteran DXpeditioner and INDEXA officer. His DXpedition experience is impressive, as he has been a member of many DXpeditions to top 20 entities. His experience was welcomed by our team and we all enjoyed listening to his stories from his past DXpeditions to some of the most remote places on Earth.

Alex, KL5CX (also born in Alaska), our youngest team member, works as a commercial pilot for one of the major airlines. His youthful energy was envied by the whole team. This was Alex’s first DXpedition and others on the team are hopeful this will be the first of many in his future. Among other duties, he was assigned the difficult task of piloting the Zodiac inflatable landing boat during our excursions to and from the island. His skills were cheered by the entire team, especially when he was able to navigate the Zodiac in some very difficult conditions that we encountered.

James, KB2FMH, is a passionate POTA (Parks on the Air) activator and one can often hear him on the air from one of the myriad of parks around the New York area. This was James’ first DXpedition and one could easily see his excitement along the way. He was the first one to ask, “Where do we go next?” even before the K7K DXpedition had concluded. He would describe himself as someone who likes to talk and so he became the voice behind most of our SSB QSOs.

Adrian, KO8SCA (your author), notes that “K7K was DXpedition #29 for me. I love traveling and blending that with ham radio is the perfect recipe for a great trip. K7K was no exception to this rule. Furthermore, the tough environment encountered on Kiska allowed me to test some of the gear that I plan to bring in my upcoming 3YØJ DXpedition to Bouvet Island in January 2023.”

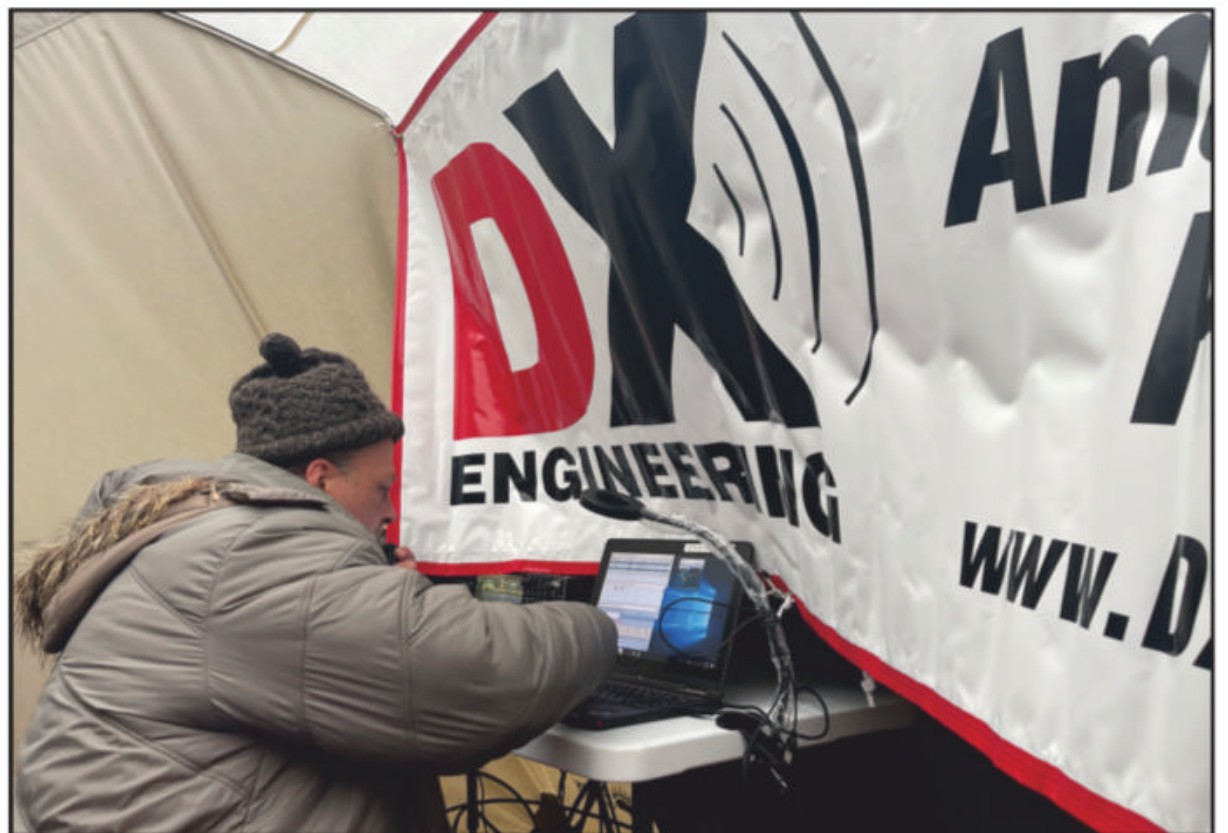
Bringing two DXpedition first-timers, Alex and James, as members of K7K was a refreshing idea and the team was really excited about that. It is probably one of the most successful ways to bring younger people into our hobby and into DXpeditioning in general.

Our Vessel and Able Captain

Our DXpedition had a budget of about \$50,000, most of which was used to pay for the boat, its captain, and fuel. Our chartered boat for the July 2022 K7K trip to Kiska Island was the “April Lane,” a 56-foot fishing boat based out of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Navigating the treach-



Hal, W8HC, preparing a meal.



Yuri, N3QQ, operating CW.

erous waters of the Bering Sea requires an appropriate boat and the 88-ton April Lane did the job perfectly.

Alaska king crab fishing season normally opens in the fall and runs through the early winter months, usually between October and January. This timeframe allowed us to find and secure this particular fishing boat for our trip in the month of July. Having a suitable vessel is one thing, but having someone who knows what they are doing with it is another. Fortunately for us, we had

Captain Rick Fehst. Captain Rick, a jovial and experienced sailor of the Aleutians, entertained us with lots of stories and was a great companion during our voyage. We learned that his skills as a seaman and unique personal charm actually enabled him to become somewhat of a TV celebrity. Rick was one of the featured captains in Season 5 of the very successful “Deadliest Catch,” a reality television series that started in 2005 on the Discovery Channel and has enjoyed an

extended run on the television for 18 seasons. If you are not familiar with the show, it follows crab fishermen in the Bering Sea during the Alaskan king crab and snow crab fishing seasons. Crab fishing is listed by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) as the deadliest job in Alaska and the show gives the viewer a glimpse of the tough conditions in the Bering Sea and the intense physical labor associated with this type of job. Needless to say, our team felt quite comfortable and safe knowing that we had such a nautical veteran of some of the most treacherous waters on earth.

Rick had told us on the voyage out that he was looking forward to the possibility of going onshore at Kiska when we were there. He was quite familiar with the island from his time fishing the Aleutians. Obviously, he could not take time away from fishing work to go ashore. But he was especially interested in seeing the rusting military remnants from WWII, the Japanese mini-sub subs rusting on the beach, the sunken ship in Kiska Harbor, and the anti-aircraft guns placed strategically around the island. Unfortunately, between the weather conditions and our operating schedule, we were unable to send someone over to the April Lane anchored in the harbor and relieve Rick so he could make the 300-meter Zodiac trip to the island. Captain Rick will have to put this on his bucket list if he ever wants to go out into the Aleutian extremes in order to set foot on Kiska.

Preparing for Departure

All of the totes of gear that had been shipped to Adak in 2021 had been returned to Dutch Harbor through Tim's Alaskan shipping connections. Tim also provided warehouse space in his business to store all of the gear. The plan was basically the same as 2021 with Tim loading the vessel and traveling onboard the April Lane from Dutch to Adak where the other members of the team would be flying in to meet him. Tim asked if anyone from the team could possibly come to Dutch early and join him in all the preparations, ensuring everything was accounted for, in proper working order, and then help him load everything onto the boat. Hal volunteered to go up early to assist Tim had arranged his travel plans making the long flight to Dutch Harbor from Charleston, West Virginia and arriving on July 17th. Tim and Hal had three days to ensure everything was accounted for, functional, and ready to be loaded onto the boat. There were generators, tents,



James, KB2FMH, operating SSB.

tables, chairs, fuel, water (there is no drinkable water on Kiska), food, antennas, coax, cots, etc. Keep in mind that the six members of our team would be living on an uninhabited island for a week. We would be building a "city" on Kiska and we definitely did not want to forget anything! The nearest Wal-Mart was almost 1,400 miles away.

Time to Set Sail

Captain Rick and his two-member crew of Tim and Hal finished loading the boat in Dutch on July 21st with the first order of business to position the vessel at the fueling dock where Rick topped off the fuel tanks. By early afternoon, they were on their way to Adak Island, a three-day westward sail where they would pick up four additional members of the DXpedition team: Yuri, Alex, James, and Adrian. These additional four members were able to fly directly into Adak. Even though Adak Island has a population of about 50 people, it has an airport with a large runway allowing large jetliners to land on the island. Adak Island used to house a significant US military installation until about 20 years ago and that's the reason behind the existence of the large runway. Today, it is mostly a "ghost town" with abandoned buildings, many in states of disrepair due to the violent weather there. As you arrive at the airport and depart, you are greeted by a sign on the terminal, "Welcome to Adak, birthplace of Winds," a fitting tribute to a location that will regularly experience 120 mile-per-hour wind squalls!

The April Lane arrived late at night and as soon as we were boarded, each with our own gear and equipment, we were under way. Our voyage from Adak to Kiska was about 36 hours long and the six DXpedition members spent time discussing operating details and activating rare grids maritime mobile on 6 meters.

In retrospect, we all agreed that the boat and its captain were the key to our successful DXpedition.

The Equipment

We had five antennas installed right on the beach. That, of course, is the biggest advantage of operating from an island. And using mainly vertical antennas, light and easy to assemble, allowed us to hear signals from all directions and to repair them quickly. The 17-meter VDA provided by Walt, N6XG, was our workhorse, a simple antenna that really does wonders and which put a significant number of the QSOs in the log. The CrankLR that Tim took down and brought from his QTH proved to be extremely convenient as it allowed us to easily operate in multiple bands with its simple and reliable mechanics.

Of course, the weather was a factor in choosing our antennas. As expected, heavy winds forced us to make daily equipment repairs. We had cold, wind, and rain all the time and at the same time, except for one sunny day when we took pictures and explored the island.

(Continued on page 84)

Results of the 2022 CQWW RTTY DX Contest

BY CHRIS TATE,* N6WM

Recovery from pandemic travel restrictions, the emergence of solar cycle 25, and return of DX on the 10-meter band, along with additional improvements in propagation, helped ring in the 36th annual running of the CQ Worldwide RTTY DX contest.

Overall reports were of good conditions from most points around the world, with the exception of some stations in Asia that were affected by inclement weather. Participation was relatively unaffected by the easing of the pandemic; in fact, peak log submission was in 2020 at over 3,600 logs, but we were down a few hundred logs from last year at 3,190 logs. Many of the regular top players were back at their DX QTHs. Despite improved conditions, no records of note were broken in 2022, but the new Explorer category set some new baselines.

Above and beyond printing certificates and checking contest dates, the CQWW RTTY website is very comprehensive and full of interesting data and specifics. Check it out at <http://cqwwrtty.com> and look at results, records, resources, and more!

Let's take a deeper dive into the contest itself and see how it went!

Single-Op Categories

Single-Operator High Power (SOHP) All Band

Ed, P49X (op. WØYK), was back in Aruba after an extended pandemic QRX. He regained his SOHP world title. Ed bested LZ5R by over a million (mega) points to solidly maintain the top position. The top U.S. position was achieved by Randy, K5ZD, with a very respectable score of about 4.2 megapoints. There are serious competitors in all categories, but this one is of note, good performances from well-known contest stations like W7RN (op. WK6I) out west, and JH4UYB are a couple of stations that found themselves in the world top 10.

Single-Operator High Power All Band Assisted

The assisted category had a slightly different demographic, with the win

going to Cyprus station P3X (op. 5B4AMM). In the U.S., Bud, AA3B, a powerhouse in contesting on all modes, was able to take the honors by besting challenger K1LZ (op. LU9ESD) by about half a megapoint.

Single-Operator Low Power All Band

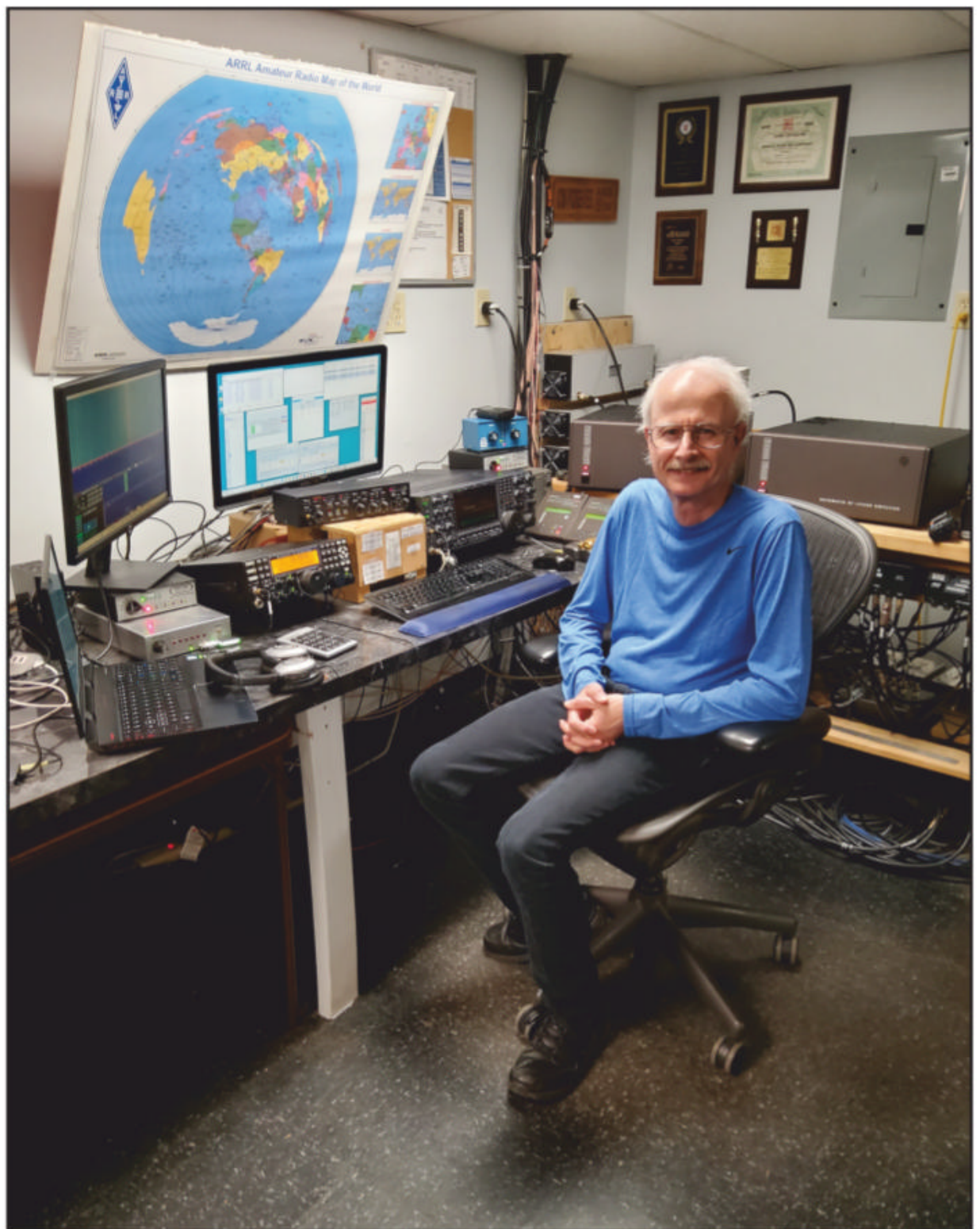
Yuri, VE3DZ, managed to edge out CX2DK by a half megapoint. ZF2WB (op. Mariano, LU8EOT) managed to best CR5O (op. CT7AGL)

Single-Operator Low Power Assisted All Band

TM3Z (op. F4DSK) managed to solidly win the top spot in Low Power by besting SV2AEL and JA6CGE, respectively. Don, AA5AU, took top honors in the U.S. with KI1G hot on his heels. That was a close one.

Single-Operator QRP All Band

It takes a special kind of patience to do a worldwide contest using QRP, but



Bud, AA3B, pauses from contesting to smile for the camera. (Courtesy of AA3B)

Email: n6wm@largeradio.org

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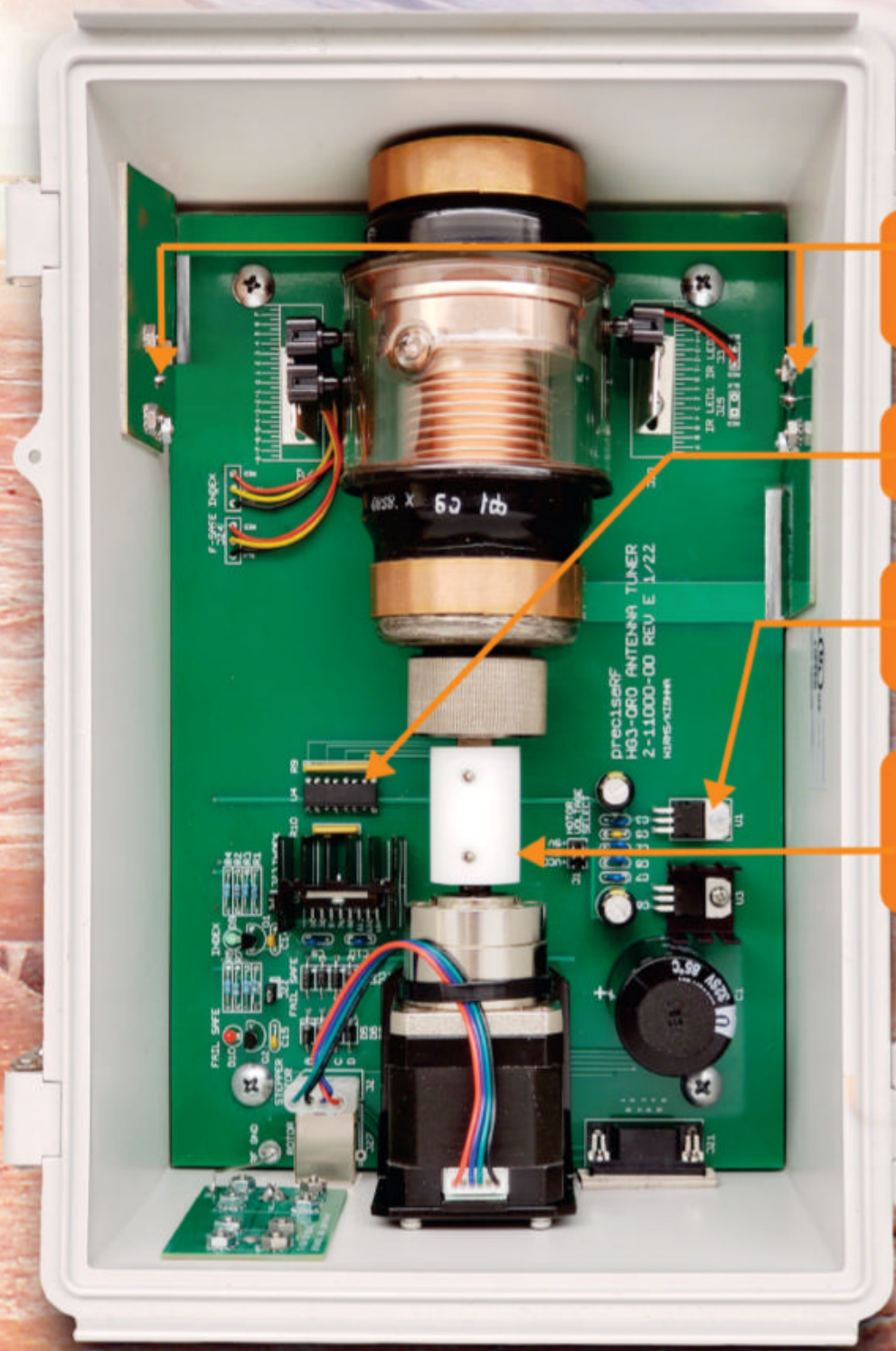
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Dave, K2YG, persevered and took the world QRP title. His 375,000-point QRP effort was enough to beat the others in the top five that were all European stations. Congratulations, Dave!

Single-Operator QRP Assisted All Band

ON6NL turned in an impressive half-million-point score in the assisted QRP category, easily besting DL6ZBM and others. K2AL had the high score in the U.S.

Single-Operator Single-Band Categories

One of the great things about this worldwide RTTY DX contest is the plethora of categories that can be entered. The single-band categories give opportunities for titles that may be out of reach to some locations, or for some participants that are crunched for time. They are available in all three power levels as well as assisted or not. Sometimes there are some fierce battles with these and I encourage all readers to dive into the line scores and check them out.

Multi-Op Categories

Multi-Operator Single Transmitter High Power

The team at IQ4FC managed to narrowly beat an equally great effort by the Moravian Contest Group, OK5Z, in this

very popular category. Competition is generally quite fierce and this battle did not disappoint.

Multi-Operator Single Transmitter Low Power

In an interesting turn of events, the KP2B team took top honors. They were originally slated to operate at WP3C but that operation was scuttled due to the effects of Hurricane Fiona. Jim, WP3A, loaned the team his KP2B station and relocated the operation to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Apparently, this worked out well as they enjoy being in the winners' circle with a solid megapoint-lead over the second-place team at EA8DED.

Multi-Operator Two Transmitter

The team at CR3DX solidly took this category with nearly double the score of the top U.S. team at K9CT, which managed to take first place in the U.S. and second place in the world. Of note is the up-and-coming NJ4P contest team run by WV4P, which settled into second place in the U.S., and fourth place overall. This new contest powerhouse station is really starting to make a dent out there. A great job by all.

Multi-Operator Multi-Transmitter

I have a sweet spot for the fun and camaraderie of Multi-

TOP SCORES

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER ALL BAND		SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ALL BAND		ASSISTED LOW POWER ALL BAND		MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER		MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER LOW POWER		CLASSIC LOW POWER		28 MHz	
P49X (WØYK)	5,619,984	K2YG	375,760	TM3Z (F4DSK)	3,610,698	IQ4FC	5,815,600	KP2B	3,868,931	ON4CT	897,773	K4WI	20,658
LZ5R (LZ5DB)	4,458,540	CT1BXT	325,304	SV2AEL	1,495,350	OK5Z	5,047,174	EA8DED	2,882,547	HH2AA (K6DTT)	875,538	W8AKS	11,275
K5ZD	4,273,200	SP2UUU	285,108	JA6GCE	1,330,755	SP8R	4,393,440	IT9BLB	2,683,868	D2UY	774,613	W8JGU	3,531
PW2L (PY2MNL)	3,140,436	HG6C (HA6IAM)	241,080	SP2R	1,227,534	SZ1A	3,763,900	IQ3RK	2,154,300	KH6CJJ	695,824	KD5ILA	3,528
LN8W (LB8IB)	2,512,260	EA1GT	232,170	YL1ZF	1,204,330	NV9L	3,313,125	LY5W	1,987,335	EA3CI	684,080		
28 MHz		28 MHz		28 MHz		MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER		MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER		YOUTH HIGH POWER		21 MHz	
5W1SA	174,070	PP1WW	111,562	AZ1D (LU1DX)	206,460	CR3DX	13,848,120	CR3W	12,368,664	9A2ZI	2,743,698	W1QK	123,684
W5PR	81,730	TIØRC (TI2YO)	102,060	PY4XX	83,268	K9CT	6,869,018	9A1A	10,482,053	DM7XX	2,437,018	WA1FCN	111,531
WO4O	75,786	3G3R (XQ3SK)	24,320	4F3BZ	76,518	EC2DX	5,968,494	K1SFA	6,166,216	9A1CAL (9A3LET)	41,870	NY1E	49,162
21 MHz		21 MHz		21 MHz		MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-OPERATOR		EXPLORER MULTI-TRANSMITTER		YOUTH LOW POWER		14 MHz	
OM2VL	659,932	JA6VZB	49,896	ED7O (EA7EU)	361,257	IV3RYP	6,955	EI8KW	122,484	9A2ZJ	2,743,698	W4LC	99,712
9A5X	634,550	KD9MS	49,000	EE5K (EA5DF)	307,648	MØORY	5,624	IU4FNO	110,547	DM7XX	2,437,018	KB3AAY	91,375
CR6T (CT1ESV)	512,141	CO2AJ	36,582	JA6WFM	194,688			BD4VGZ	76,752	9A1CAL	41,870	K8VT	49,980
								E7ØAW	74,692				
								SP8BRT	5,513				
14 MHz		14 MHz		14 MHz		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		UNITED STATES SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER ALL BAND		7 MHz		3.5 MHz	
N8OO	527,823	YU1NR	74,445	IK6VXO	477,118	IV3RYP	6,955	K5ZD	4,273,200	N8CWU	52,767	WZ6ZZ	49,452
KU2M	384,122	PD8DX	53,802	T7ØA	362,710	MØORY	5,624	W7RN (WK6I)	2,321,738	WA3FAE	52,392		
MD7C (M5RIC)	344,201	SV3IBQ	51,170	IT9XTP	274,736			KØZR	2,295,756	W8TOM	50,544		
								KU1CW	1,100,608				
								W7YAQ	1,060,665				
7 MHz		7 MHz		7 MHz		EXPLORER MULTI-TRANSMITTER		ROOKIE HIGH POWER		28 MHz		SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ALL BAND	
4L2M	153,549	ES2MC	57,333	IK4ZIF	189,336	VE2CQ	1,575,808	EI6LA	835,752	WE6EZ	16,254	K2YG	375,760
OG4W (OH4KZM)	111,132	YO4BEW	13,091	G4N (G4ZVB)	144,643	NA5NN	478,946	KD2UBH	278,460	W6QU (W8QZA)	111,666	W6QU (W8QZA)	111,666
I5WNN	84,537	SV1CDN	7,920	YT9VM	119,616	W5NN	193,200	N3AML	264,888	WA3LXD	87,236	AA5KD	65,048
								VA3OGG	231,068	WDØBGZ	26,660		
								W9DCT	211,671				
3.5 MHz		3.5 MHz		3.5 MHz		ROOKIE LOW POWER		CLASSIC HIGH POWER		28 MHz		21 MHz	
YL2CI	56,606	ON3DI	29,302	DF1MM	74,880	K3AK	233,856	WØZW	7,280	WE6EZ	16,254	KD9MS	49,000
OK2SFP	29,792	SNØE (SO8OO)	9,504	S51ZJ	67,968	KI2D	168,910	K3RWN	6,490				
LZ5XQ	22,572	HG5O (HA5OB)	3,164	S53NW	49,472	F4ITQ	152,520	W3LL	2,640				
LOW POWER ALL BAND		ASSISTED HIGH POWER ALL BAND		SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ASSISTED ALL BAND		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		ROOKIE LOW POWER		21 MHz		14 MHz	
VE3DZ	2,417,672	P3X (5B4AMM)	5,823,924	ON6NL	596,520	IV3RYP	6,955	K3AK	233,856	NT6X	208,172	KO1H	43,022
CX2DK	1,800,201	AA3B	5,452,090	DL6ZBN	319,770	MØORY	5,624	KI2D	168,910	N7GP	187,070	W1IE	22,632
ZF2WB (LU8EOT)	1,652,876	IZ4BOY (IT9RGY)	5,243,463	YU1LM	201,188			F4ITQ	152,520			W4ER	1,020
CR5O (CT7AJL)	1,425,060	K1LZ (LU9ESD)	4,929,804	JA4XHF/3	144,918			EA5JDN	142,680				
GØMTN	1,134,566	SN7Q (SP7GIQ)	4,627,395	K2AL	94,800			MØLKW	140,292				
28 MHz		28 MHz		28 MHz		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		ROOKIE LOW POWER		14 MHz		7 MHz	
4M1W (YV1SW)	209,670	LT6M (LU8MHL)	458,134	EA5Y	17,028	IV3RYP	6,955	K3AK	233,856	NT6X	208,172	KEØL	12,462
CX2AQ	114,540	LU7HN	369,083	WB4OMM	7,248	MØORY	5,624	KI2D	168,910	N7GP	187,070		
PU2WDX	113,940	VK4SN	120,768	IT9RJE	5,106			F4ITQ	152,520				
								EA5JDN	142,680				
								W9DCT	211,671				
21 MHz		21 MHz		21 MHz		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		ROOKIE LOW POWER		3.5 MHz		21 MHz	
S5ØA	310,707	HG1S (HA1DAE)	713,200	JM1NKT	94,887	IV3RYP	6,955	K3AK	233,856	WØZW	7,280	K4EA	454,140
PY2QT	208,290	9A5Y (9A7DX)	677,200	E7AA (E73AA)	54,514	MØORY	5,624	KI2D	168,910	K3RWN	6,490	WW4LL	385,616
IR9D	196,812	CX7SS	660,813	YC1LJT	28,908			F4ITQ	152,520	W3LL	2,640	N7AT (K8IA)	349,475
								EA5JDN	142,680				
								MØLKW	140,292				
14 MHz		14 MHz		14 MHz		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		ROOKIE LOW POWER		7 MHz		14 MHz	
CO2AME	339,888	S53M (S51FB)	742,050	QO4B (ON4BHQ)	37,584	IV3RYP	6,955	K3AK	233,856	NT6X	208,172	W9ILY	231,530
PY2NY	303,750	HG5D (HA8QZ)	621,680	N8URE	30,438	MØORY	5,624	KI2D	168,910	N7GP	187,070		
DL4FN	216,986	YT3X	593,110	W7RY	27,540			F4ITQ	152,520				
								EA5JDN	142,680				
								MØLKW	140,292				
7 MHz		7 MHz		7 MHz		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		CLASSIC HIGH POWER		3.5 MHz		7 MHz	
OK1WCF	363,474	S52X	558,386	9A6TT	8,360	IV3RYP	6,955	RW1A	1,274,511	WØZW	7,280	K9OM	239,936
DM6DX	340,535	9A3K	445,704			MØORY	5,624	YT3D	1,161,303	K3RWN	6,490		
IKØREP	144,958	YU5R (YT2AAA)	427,094							W3LL	2,640		
3.5 MHz		3.5 MHz		3.5 MHz		EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR		CLASSIC HIGH POWER		28 MHz		21 MHz	
E79D	77,274	HA1TJ	160,928	OL6D (OK1DWQ)	21,805	IV3RYP	6,955	RW1A	1,274,511	WE6EZ	16,254	KD9MS	49,000
F5BEG	66,150	S53X	138,838	SP3EMA	14,736	MØORY	5,624	YT3D	1,161,303				
WZ6ZZ	49,452	I4AVG	109,560										

Multi contesting. The Multi-op crew at the Santana RRDXA Contest Team, CR3W, took top honors this year by besting a large team at K1SFA, who activated the K1TTT superstation for the event. Your author was a member of the N6WM team in W6, activating the N6RO superstation. Worldwide contesting from the U.S. West Coast is always a challenge, and the team did a good job settling into second place in the U.S.

Overlay Categories That Keep Things Interesting

These overlays give more opportunities for participants to compete. The overlay categories are comprised of Classic, Rookie, Youth, and Explorer, and are further subdivided into high- and low-power options. More information on these overlays can be found in the contest rules, as well as the <cqww rty.com> website.

Classic mode, in which operators are limited to a single radio and operate 24 hours, is becoming a very popular and competitive entry option.

Classic

Vladmir, RW1A, took the high-power top spot worldwide, but it was a close race with Serbian operator Brane,

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

Zone 3		Zone 15	
W7RN (WK6I)	2,321,738	YT3D	1,161,303
KU1CW	1,210,968	I4JED	1,124,003
W7YAQ	1,060,665	*IT9RBW	905,519
AJ6V	681,126	I1NVU	700,560
WQ6Q	482,090	OM2VL	659,932
Zone 4		Zone 16	
*VE3DZ	2,417,672	RW1A	1,288,687
AD5XD	993,960	EW8DX	826,529
WQ5L	794,313	RC5Z	476,320
VE3TW	666,391	*R3AQ	466,368
WØMB	630,992	UA6CE	272,090
Zone 5		Zone 20	
K5ZD	4,273,200	LZ5R (LZ5DB).....	4,458,540
KØZR	2,295,756	*TA7I	984,096
NG1M	986,232	4Z5LY	803,136
AE1P	981,848	*4X6FR	523,004
AC8Y	835,052	*LZ2ZY	400,920
Zone 14		Zone 25	
LN8W (LB8IB).....	2,512,260	JH4UYB	2,340,110
GWØA (GW4SKA)...	2,089,494	JA1OVD	982,928
*CR5O (CT7AJL)	1,425,060	JH7QXJ	762,604
*GØMTN	1,134,566	HL2WA	638,362
*M5W (MØHMJ).....	1,111,110	JA7IC	599,242
		<i>*Low Power</i>	

NA3M

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

K9CT

9A5X

14 MHz

MD7C (M5RIC)

3.5 MHz

W7MRF (KW7MM)

ASSISTED

LOW POWER ALL BAND

AA5AU

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

K1SFA

7 MHz

OG4W (OH4KZM)

28 MHz

AB9YC

EXPLORER MULTI-TRANSMITTER

NA5NN

3.5 MHz

YL2CI

21 MHz

N3UA

ROOKIE HIGH POWER

KD2UBH

LOW POWER ALL BAND

CR5O (CT7AJL)

14 MHz

KA4RRU

ROOKIE LOW POWER

K3AK

28 MHz

EF7W (EC7KW)

7 MHz

K3JSJ

CLASSIC HIGH POWER

KU1CW

21 MHz

S5ØA

SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ASSISTED ALL BAND

K2AL

CLASSIC LOW POWER

N7IR

7 MHz

OK1WCF

28 MHz

WB4OMM

14 MHz

N8URE

EUROPE SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER ALL BAND

LZ5R (LZ5DB)

SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ALL BAND

CT1BXT

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER

NV9L

28 MHz

DL3BQA

28 MHz

TA1BM

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER LOW POWER

NY6DX

21 MHz

OM2VL

21 MHz

SP4NKJ

21 MHz

ED7O (EA7EU)

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

EC2DX

14 MHz

YU1NR

14 MHz

IK6VXO

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

9A1A

7 MHz

ES2MC

7 MHz

IK4ZIF

3.5 MHz

ON3DI

3.5 MHz

DF1MM

EXPLORER SINGLE-OPERATOR

IV3RYP

ASSISTED HIGH POWER ALL BAND

IZ4BOY (I9RGY).....

SINGLE OPERATOR QRP ASSISTED ALL BAND

ON6NL

ROOKIE HIGH POWER

EI6LA

28 MHz

G8X (G4FJK)

28 MHz

EA5Y

ROOKIE LOW POWER

F4ITQ

21 MHz

HG1S (HA1DAE)

21 MHz

E7AA (E73AA)

CLASSIC HIGH POWER

RW1A

14 MHz

S53M (S51FB)

14 MHz

OQ4B (ON4BHQ)

7 MHz

S52X

7 MHz

9A6TT

CLASSIC LOW POWER

ON4CT

3.5 MHz

HA1TJ

3.5 MHz

OL6D (OK1DWQ)

YOUTH HIGH POWER

9A2ZI

ASSISTED LOW POWER ALL BAND

TM3Z (F4DSK)

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER LOW POWER

IT9BLB

YOUTH LOW POWER

EI8KW



Ron, WV4P, shared this collage of his CQWW DX RTTY team behind the rapidly improving and growing NJ4P superstation.

BAND-BY-BAND BREAKDOWN—TOP ALL BAND SCORES

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

WORLD						USA					
TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND						SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND					
Station	80	40	20	15	10	Station	80	40	20	15	10
P49X	121/8/19/33	669/20/59/49	844/24/65/53	1001/20/63/51	751/19/41/49	K5ZD	284/13/38/48	642/18/63/50	1142/28/80/50	916/24/78/44	118/17/30/19
LZ5R	324/10/45/15	563/21/65/38	1232/30/72/46	1016/28/74/51	171/20/43/12	W7RN	233/8/9/46	592/22/43/53	744/21/52/52	837/26/58/51	326/14/18/41
K5ZD	284/13/38/48	642/18/63/50	1142/28/80/50	916/24/78/44	118/17/30/19	KØZR	206/7/20/47	548/21/64/49	796/22/67/44	413/22/69/33	109/15/23/19
PW2L	6/4/2/5	234/16/43/34	489/20/53/46	677/22/66/47	825/19/67/47	KU1CW	61/9/9/28	439/25/59/50	287/23/43/44	495/25/52/50	92/17/21/29
LN8W	299/8/45/9	577/21/67/36	669/27/67/45	504/25/69/40	66/16/35/0	W7YAQ	99/6/5/36	233/22/32/42	324/22/48/48	393/26/61/41	170/15/24/37
SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND						SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND					
P3X	298/9/52/7	502/28/82/33	940/30/97/44	1176/29/90/47	341/22/56/8	AA3B	351/15/52/51	861/24/84/55	1113/30/93/54	855/27/88/49	195/19/44/25
AA3B	351/15/52/51	861/24/84/55	1113/30/93/54	855/27/88/49	195/19/44/25	K1LZ	373/14/53/47	705/24/80/50	922/31/95/51	790/28/90/50	166/18/47/30
IZ4BOY	311/11/57/147	95/31/98/47	898/31/92/55	791/33/96/51	197/27/64/24	K3MM	279/12/41/46	603/25/83/50	665/29/87/52	492/28/82/44	178/19/46/31
K1LZ	373/14/53/47	705/24/80/50	922/31/95/51	790/28/90/50	166/18/47/30	N3QE	264/12/41/47	618/22/73/54	612/23/79/55	406/25/80/30	83/17/28/21
SN7Q	367/13/54/20	699/28/90/45	856/31/88/48	737/33/100/46	147/25/55/5	KØMD	170/11/21/43	433/17/51/52	754/26/76/51	478/24/73/22	106/17/29/15
MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER						MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER					
IQ4FC	231/14/57/19	877/31/100/51	960/34/104/55	843/33/105/55	185/27/73/17	NV9L	148/10/28/36	427/23/70/48	746/29/82/51	805/26/82/42	176/22/43/33
OK5Z	276/14/58/21	771/30/100/51	719/32/99/51	826/34/108/53	118/27/68/20	K3AJ	179/11/29/43	435/24/75/49	747/26/81/48	539/27/87/43	89/19/30/18
SP8R	216/12/55/8	565/28/92/43	786/34/101/51	816/32/112/51	138/26/67/8	WA7AN	172/11/13/49	590/27/67/54	623/30/82/55	681/27/83/58	121/19/35/40
*KP2B	51/9/10/29	442/21/68/52	619/28/80/54	672/27/84/58	733/18/55/50	K5RZA	118/10/10/42	469/25/69/53	614/29/75/54	801/26/80/54	84/21/44/32
SZ1A	190/12/54/7	818/28/94/40	684/29/96/40	615/31/94/39	190/27/59/15	AG4TT	152/10/24/41	448/19/60/50	872/23/78/49	335/25/76/33	104/17/46/13
MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER						MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER					
CR3DX	348/13/51/38	1219/28/89/54	1548/32/93/52	1895/32/101/57	1005/25/80/47	K9CT	387/16/42/54	1024/28/86/55	1424/30/94/56	1203/33/99/54	240/21/45/44
K9CT	387/16/42/54	1024/28/86/55	1424/30/94/56	1203/33/99/54	240/21/45/44	NJ4P	304/14/31/53	829/26/82/53	945/29/87/55	1097/29/97/55	406/23/65/36
EC2DX	369/13/56/24	1008/29/88/49	1175/30/94/54	1051/32/91/52	239/21/50/24	KT7E	135/6/5/41	525/25/52/49	664/26/63/50	717/27/65/49	329/13/22/39
NJ4P	304/14/31/53	829/26/82/53	945/29/87/55	1097/29/97/55	406/23/65/36	K7BTW	255/9/8/50	564/26/48/51	717/27/58/54	686/23/67/50	258/12/20/37
IQ9RG	297/12/53/15	769/29/94/50	1103/32/89/50	1123/32/90/54	204/28/62/19	NA4DA	37/8/10/19	370/18/59/50	562/23/69/48	789/23/67/46	193/18/42/16
MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER						MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER					
CR3W	427/12/54/30	1104/30/96/54	1456/30/94/53	1638/33/101/57	746/29/80/39	K1SFA	423/16/51/51	926/24/79/55	1311/30/93/53	926/29/98/55	379/19/41/45
9A1A	827/15/63/22	1515/31/102/49	1606/36/108/54	1255/34/108/54	368/25/71/15	N6WM	366/11/14/54	761/28/66/54	805/30/76/52	1078/28/81/56	426/19/30/42
K1SFA	423/16/51/51	926/24/79/55	1311/30/93/53	926/29/98/55	379/19/41/45	W3GH	333/11/35/48	915/22/72/54	858/25/78/49	415/21/67/33	159/13/22/28
DM4X	448/10/55/19	697/28/92/42	867/32/97/52	355/30/75/44	248/26/62/20						
N6WM	366/11/14/54	761/28/66/54	805/30/76/52	1078/28/81/56	426/19/30/42						

YT3D.* Alex, KU1CW, was hot on the tail of YT3D claiming the first-place spot in the U.S. Dirk, ON4CT, takes top low-power honors in a very tight race with the HH2AA remote station operated by Alan, K6DTT.

Rookie

A big high-power score out of Irish rookie Rafal, EI6LA, who had been licensed just shy of a year before the contest, was enough to win this overlay. In North America, basically a four-way race was won by Erik, KD2UBH, in New York, who returned to ham radio in 2020. In the low-power arena, Steve, K3AK, managed to best second place Sebastian, KI2D, by almost double the score. Great job to all the Rookies and welcome to CQWW RTTY contesting.

Youth

It's fantastic that we offer a category for younger operators to enjoy some competitive radiosport. There was a solid battle for first place, which was won by Ivan, 9A2ZI. But Robert, DM7XX, did a great job keeping pace and put up a good fight and secured second place in an exciting race.

Explorer Category

The new Explorer category had a couple of entries. This category recognizes innovation in station design, operating strategies, and technology and was put in place to allow experimentation in a contest environment. The most common application has been a distributed multi-op in which several contesters get together from their home stations to produce a multi-op effort.

The three-person team at VE2CQ was able to do this very effectively and produce a respectable score of over a mega-

(*YT3D is the winner of this category, in accordance with CQ policy following Russia's invasion of Ukraine,)

CLUB SCORES

UNITED STATES

Club	# Entrants	Score
Potomac Valley Radio Club	62	24,121,156
Yankee Clipper Contest Club	29	22,496,076
Frankford Radio Club	37	19,119,816
Northern California Contest Club	29	15,613,242
Society Of Midwest Contesters	35	15,578,655
Minnesota Wireless Assn.	53	12,714,316
Willamette Valley DX Club	17	8,551,821
Arizona Outlaws Contest Club	24	7,990,305
Florida Contest Group	8	3,429,125
DFW Contest Group	12	3,165,798
Skyview Radio Society	5	3,076,755
Tennessee Contest Group	14	2,675,532
Central Texas DX And Contest Club	4	2,571,698
Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Contest Society	12	1,838,940
Swamp Fox Contest Group	7	1,663,949
South East Contest Club	11	1,633,683
Kentucky Contest Group	8	1,488,829
CTRI Contest Group	4	1,316,414
Alabama Contest Group	9	1,269,823
Niagara Frontier Radiosport	8	1,160,871
Grand Mesa Contesters Of Colorado	7	1,155,617
Hudson Valley Contesters And DXers	4	1,113,773
Spokane DX Association	6	1,093,741
Southern California Contest Club	11	1,022,347
Carolina DX Association	5	650,517
Metro DX Club	4	467,992
Western Washington DX Club	7	444,111
Mad River Radio Club	4	217,988
North Coast Contesters	4	128,946

DX

Bavarian Contest Club	101	51,493,817
Italian Contest Club	95	42,108,139
Interest Group RTTY	28	22,522,975
Rhein Ruhr DX Association	44	20,309,680
Croatian Contest Club	11	17,194,385
EA Contest Club	25	12,915,638
Ukrainian Contest Club	9	12,213,605
Araucaria DX Group	17	12,147,380
Contest Club Ontario	19	8,776,317
Contest Club Finland	7	7,686,794
Contest Club Serbia	8	4,285,352
Radio Amateur Association Of Western Greece	4	4,073,622
Slovenia Contest Club	9	4,060,486
Clipperton DX Club	6	3,870,359
RTTY Contesters Of Japan	13	3,764,755
YB-Land Dxing Passion Is	89	3,424,405
LA Contest Club	5	3,398,988
599 Contest Club	6	3,045,441
Okayama DX Club	6	2,476,692
Belarus Contest Club	4	2,307,147
Siam DX Group	5	2,172,540
Cabreuva DX	11	1,909,141
Rio DX Group	15	1,685,092
SP DX Club	13	1,637,901
Latvian Contest Club	4	1,564,614
5NNDXCC	17	1,555,932
LU Contest Group	10	1,511,558
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GMDX Group	4	1,309,644
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Danish DX Group	6	964,838
Czech Contest Club	5	958,654
VK Contest Club	6	948,484
Russian Digital Radio Club	10	929,061
SK5AA Vasteras Radioklubb	4	907,346
Contest Club Belgium	8	730,521
YB Land DX Club	12	575,324
Radioclubul Radu Bratu	4	552,536
7A DX-Contest Club	13	336,182
World Wide Young Contesters	4	308,236
Grupo DXXE	5	184,933
ARCK	4	178,555
YB6 DX Community	4	173,042
CDR Group	4	90,827
Oldhouseradioclub	6	60,739
Radio Club Eternautas	4	60,422
Orari Lokal Kediri	4	32,673

Club scores with 4 or more entries.

EUROPE SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	80	40	20	15	10
LZ5R	324/10/45/15	563/21/65/38	1232/30/72/46	1016/28/74/51	171/20/43/12
LN8W	299/8/45/9	577/21/67/36	669/27/67/45	504/25/69/40	66/16/35/0
GWØA	246/7/44/8	491/17/67/36	525/26/70/43	430/26/83/45	55/15/30/2
*CR5O	43/4/20/0	247/10/48/24	609/19/65/40	667/21/63/40	73/9/27/0
RW1A	148/8/37/3	279/24/61/32	308/19/45/33	453/27/67/35	82/19/33/0

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED ALL BAND

IZ4BOY	311/11/57/14	795/31/98/47	898/31/92/55	791/33/96/51	197/27/64/24
SN7Q	367/13/54/20	699/28/90/45	856/31/88/48	737/33/100/46	147/25/55/5
UR5MW	279/6/48/6	809/26/85/31	1072/28/89/37	1091/29/91/38	151/23/51/3
G7C	347/11/51/21	740/22/72/37	868/31/88/48	631/25/79/46	90/14/39/5
*TM3Z	306/10/54/24	802/29/95/47	573/33/101/54	359/31/96/48	100/24/52/16

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

IQ4FC	231/14/57/19	877/31/100/51	960/34/104/55	843/33/105/55	185/27/73/17
OK5Z	276/14/58/21	771/30/100/51	719/32/99/51	826/34/108/53	118/27/68/20
SP8R	216/12/55/8	565/28/92/43	786/34/101/51	816/32/112/51	138/26/67/8
SZ1A	190/12/54/7	818/28/94/40	684/29/96/40	615/31/94/39	190/27/59/15
DP6A	314/16/60/23	441/29/94/46	761/32/101/51	330/31/97/47	75/22/49/2

MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

EC2DX	369/13/56/24	1008/29/88/49	1175/30/94/54	1051/32/91/52	239/21/50/24
IQ9RG	297/12/53/15	769/29/94/50	1103/32/89/50	1123/32/90/54	204/28/62/19
PI4COM	421/10/55/13	847/31/97/45	983/33/105/54	799/31/93/49	143/20/48/10
S5ØW	446/11/52/18	866/30/87/45	1081/32/93/52	864/31/86/51	129/24/56/15
DP7D	371/10/55/15	833/29/93/47	807/31/94/49	763/31/92/47	200/25/69/8

MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

9A1A	827/15/63/22	1515/31/102/49	1606/36/108/54	1255/34/108/54	368/25/71/15
DM4X	448/10/55/19	697/28/92/42	867/32/97/52	355/30/75/44	248/26/62/20
PI4CC	311/7/42/8	550/19/63/17	761/30/82/49	492/27/82/39	157/23/53/4
I3VRD	256/7/44/3	577/25/77/39	627/27/89/44	543/30/81/42	83/21/35/4
SP9KDA	102/6/34/3	167/11/41/7	234/17/50/22	117/19/46/23	20/14/16/0

*Low Power

point. We would love to hear more from operators producing efforts in the category. It keeps things fresh and interesting. The full explorer rules can be found at the main CQWW contest website <<https://cqww.com/explorer.htm>>.

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Plaque sponsorship is a great way to recognize local or zone competitions and efforts. Rich, N1IXF, can be very helpful in assisting your selection of a plaque to sponsor. The entire CQWW RTTY management team appreciates these invaluable sponsorship opportunities. Look at the plaque winners tables, and if there is a category or region you would like to sponsor, let us know or contact N1IXF directly <n1ixf@att.net>.

In Closing

On behalf of the CQWW RTTY contesting team, we would like to congratulate all winners and participants. With band conditions improving rapidly, and pandemic restrictions waning, the next running in September 2023 should prove another fun and interesting event for all. 73 and looking forward to working you in the next one.

— Chris, N6WM; Ed, WØYK; &
Rich, N1IXF

(Scores on page 102)

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Europe: Sponsored by ARI – Italian Radioamateur Association in memory of Franco Fanti, I4LCF, Winner: **LZ5R (op: Milen Dimov, LZ5DB) New Bulgaria & Zone 20 Record**
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USA – 7th Call Area: Sponsored by Hank Lonberg, KR7X, Winner: Alex Tkatch, KU1CW
South America: Sponsored by John Lockhart, WØDC, Winner: **PW2L (op: Wanderly Ferreira Gomes, PY2MNL)**
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Japan: Sponsored by Hajime Kato, JO1RUR, Winner: **Taisuke Kishi, JA1OVD**

SINGLE OPERATOR LOW POWER UNASSISTED

World: Sponsored by Rich Cady, N1IXF, Winner: **Yuri Onipko, VE3DZ New Canada (Ontario) Record**
Europe: Sponsored by Jeff Demers, N1SNB, Winner: **CR5O (op: Helder Mendes, CT7AJL)**
USA: Sponsored by Scott Wright, KØMD, Winner: **Jim Lageson, NØUR**

SINGLE OPERATOR QRP UNASSISTED

World: Sponsored by Kevin der Kinderen, N4TT, Winner: **Dave Barr, K2YG**
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SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED HIGH POWER

World: Sponsored by IGRY – Interest Group RTTY, Winner: **P3X (op: Sergiy Rebrov, 5B4AMM)**
Europe: Sponsored by Dimitri Cosson, F4DSK, Winner: **I24BOY (op: Gabry Iuliani, IT9RGY) New Italy Record**
North America (All): Sponsored by John Webster, NN1SS, Winner: **Bud Trench, AA3B**
USA: Sponsored by Bud Governale, W3LL, Winner: **K1LZ (op: Emmanuel Siebert, LU9ESD)**
Asia: Sponsored by Lakshman “Lucky” Bijanki, VU2LBW, Winner: **Harumi Kukita, JR4OZR**

SINGLE OPERATOR ASSISTED LOW POWER

World: Sponsored In Memory of Jim Barron, WB5AAA, Winner: **TM3Z (op: Dimitri Cosson, F4DSK)**
Europe: Sponsored by Pat Moyer, W3RGA, Winner: **Savvas Pavlidis, SV2AEL New Greece Record**
South America: Sponsored by Pat Moyer, W3RGA, Winner: **L73H (op: Luis Rogelio Galina, LU4HK)**

SINGLE OPERATOR SINGLE BAND

World 28 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Shelley Parker, KØMKL, Winner: **Atsuo Sakuma, 5W1SA New Samoa & Zone 32 Record**
World 28 MHz Assisted High Power: Sponsored by Los Idóneos, Winner: **LT6M (op: Sebastian Galeazzi, LU8MHL)**
World 21 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Steve “Sid” Caesar, NH7C, Winner: **Laszlo Vegh, OM2VL New Slovakia Record**
World 21 MHz Assisted High Power: Sponsored by Los Idóneos, Winner: **HG1S (op: Zugo Tibor, HA1DAE) New Hungary Record**
World 14 MHz High Power: Sponsored by Standa Kostal, OK7W, Winner: **Victor Petcherkin, N8OO**
North America 14 MHz Low Power: Sponsored by Patrick W. Soileau, ND5C, Winner: **Amed Santana Gonzalez, CO2AME New NA & Zone 8 Record**
World 7 MHz High Power: Sponsored by John Webster, NN1SS, Winner: **Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M New Georgia Record**
Europe 7 MHz Low Power: Sponsored by John Webster, NN1SS, Winner: **Martin Bohadlo, OK1WCF New Europe & Zone 15 Record**

OVERLAY CATEGORY

Rookie – Europe: Sponsored by Bavarian Contest Club, Winner: **Rafal Lukawiecki, E16LA**
Youth – World: Sponsored by IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group, Winner: **Ivan Zivcic, 9A2ZI**
Youth – Europe: Sponsored by IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group, Winner: **Robert Stieber, DM7XX**
Youth – Africa: Sponsored by IARU Region 1 Youth Working Group, Winner: **No Entrant**
Youth – North America (All): Sponsored by Youth On The Air Camp Americas, Winner: **No Entrant**
Youth – South America: Sponsored by Tim Duffy, K3LR, Winner: **No Entrant**
Youth – Asia: Sponsored by Tim Duffy, K3LR, Winner: **Jian’ang Zhu, BD4VGZ**
Youth – Oceania: Sponsored by Tim Duffy, K3LR, Winner: **No Entrant**

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE-TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER

World: Sponsored by PL259 Contest Club courtesy of K6TD, Winner: **IQ4FC (ops: I4EWH, I4IFL, IK4DCW, IK4HVR, IK4MGP, IK4MGX, IU4OMO, IW3FVZ, IW3GST, IZ4NIC)**
USA: Sponsored by Neal Campbell, K3NC, Winner: **NV9L (ops: NV9L, WB9Z) New W9 Record**

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE-TRANSMITTER LOW POWER

USA: Sponsored by 599 DX Association, Winner: **NY6DX (ops: K2XR, NY6DX) New W2 Record**
Africa: Sponsored by Bavarian Contest Club, Winner: **EA8DED (ops: OH2PQ, OH9GIT, YL2KF, OH2BP)**

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TWO

World: Sponsored by Ed Muns, WØYK, Winner: **CR3DX (ops: CT3EN, CT3DZ, IC8SQS, OM2KW, OM3RG, OM3RM) New Madeira Islands Record**

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

World: Sponsored by Mike Trowbridge, KA4RRU, Winner: **CR3W (ops: DK4QT, DJ7JC, DL6TK, DJ8NK, DF7EE, DM2RM, DJ9RR)**
USA: Sponsored by Brian Moran, N9ADG, Winner: **K1SFA @ K1TTT (ops: W1TO, K1SFA, WA2BOT, K2IW, K1MK, WT2P, K1NZ, K5TRP, KJØD, K1TTT)**
USA – Zone 3 High Score: Sponsored by Livermore Amateur Radio Group Endeavors (K6LRG), Winner: **N6WM @ N6RO (ops: N6WM, N6RO, K3EST, K6AW, DL9DRA, WU6P, KK6PXT) New W6 Record**

CLUB COMPETITION

World: Sponsored by Potomac Valley Radio Club, Winner: **Bavarian Contest Club**
USA: Sponsored by Northern California Contest Club, Winner: **Potomac Valley Radio Club**

(Plaque sponsors as of publication date. Additional plaques may be sponsored. NA plaques may now be sponsored as “All NA” (K, VE, & other) or “Non-K/VE NA”)

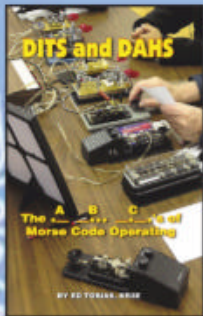
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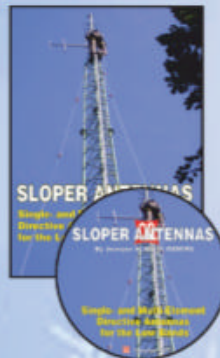
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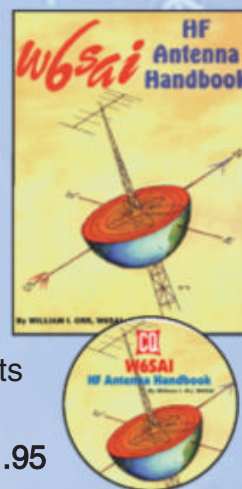
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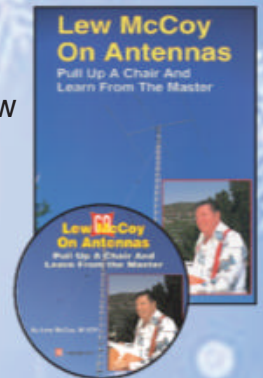
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WB9YBM concludes his three-part series on getting the most out of your scanner and/or scanning VHF/UHF ham rig. This segment focuses on taking your radio along on your travels.

Going Portable with Scanners and Ham Radio Handhelds

BY KLAUS SPIES,* WB9YBM

If going portable near home with either your scanner or ham handie-talkie (HT), it's as easy as clipping the radio and maybe a spare battery to your belt and that's it. If you realize later that you need a battery charger or other accessory, you're close enough to home to conveniently take care of whatever you missed the first time you walked out the door.

It's not so easy when you're going a bit farther from home — like a day's outing, Field Day, hamfest, or vacation — since we can't conveniently return home to grab what we forgot. How do we ensure we take along everything we need without missing anything?

The easiest thing to do is create a checklist — ensure it covers everything you'll need. Relying only on one's memory is not always that reliable, especially when under the stress of planning and packing for a trip.

If you've got enough spare nooks and crannies available in your luggage, you might not need much more than a checklist. Just be aware that there are sensitive items like the keyboard on the front of the radio and inflexible gain antennas that will most likely require padding and should probably be packed between some soft items — between the shirts, for example.

Personally, I prefer having my radio equipment in its own carrying case. That way I don't need to rely on finding spare room in an uncertain source — plus this approach will make it easier to just grab and go when I'm not taking along luggage like during a day trip. There are a few options for this: Some of the places selling electronic components for the home hobbyist also sell generic carrying cases for test equipment. The hard foam inside of these carrying cases can be custom tailored by the user for any equipment they want to carry. These cases are pretty rugged,



Photo A. It's a good idea to lay out all of your gear on a table before buying a carrying bag (or case) to see how much space you'll need. This photo shows the author's portable scanner and accessories.

* Email: <wb9ybm1@yahoo.com>

look professional, and are customizable. If you think your handheld will be exposed to rough service like a DXpedition, this approach is worth considering, although due to the expense this option might be considered overkill for less severe use. For a gentler approach, my go-to method is to visit a photography supply store. It will have a variety of nice-looking carrying cases for cameras and camera equipment in multiple sizes, making it easy to select a carrying bag of the right capacity. These cases come complete with carrying handles, are made from several different materials including vinyl and fake or real leather, and have at least a modicum of built-in padding. The price range can vary quite a bit, depending upon size and quality. For average use, the cheap end of the spectrum will work although if you'd like something that lasts longer without showing wear and tear or you'd like to show off with something fancier, the higher end approach (possibly all leather) might be worth considering. Even the fancier photo bags come with a caveat: If it looks too fancy and is left in plain sight, it might be seen as tempting by would-be thieves.

Before buying a carrying case, I'd suggest laying out everything you need to take along on the kitchen table to get an idea of how big of a case you need (*Photos A and B*). It's better to go slightly larger than needed instead of getting the bare minimum. This will allow for additional padding to be inserted (should you think it necessary), and of course inevitably there will always be a few items that get added as an afterthought (like a spare note pad or pen). This will also allow for certain safety: Batteries need to be stored in a way that, should they shift during transport, metal objects (like a gain antenna) will not cause a short of the terminals. A spare pocket in the case dedicated to batteries would be the safest option instead of storing these in the main compartment (I've also clipped them to the carrying handle, although there they need watching so they don't accidentally get knocked off).

While a scanner will stand reasonably well on its own, this is not the case with a ham HT when it's used with a speaker-microphone. While using a speaker-mic is not mandatory, I like to use one especially during longer contacts as the HT will get warm. First of all, this will allow better air circulation around the radio, and secondly, I'm not adding body heat to a radio that's already generating its own heat. Since this requires some type of mount, I decided to make



Photo B. The author has a separate bag for his portable ham gear, including a mini-logbook for keeping track of contacts while away from a logging computer.

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use of the belt clip by taking a piece of scrap sheet metal and putting a bend in it — this also makes for convenient bookends in my radio room. Scrap sheet metal can be found at work (depending upon where you work) by rummaging through scrap in the machine shop, or at a heating / air-conditioning place that has scrap metal in their shop (*Photo C*). This stand, though, is needed only if you're operating with the antenna on the radio in order to maintain vertical polarization. On the other hand, if you're taking along a magnetic mount either one with an antenna already on it or a mag mount with a BNC connector that will accept almost any scanner or H.T. antenna used on your radio (*Photo D*), this stand will not be needed. As an alternative — if you're concerned about scratching your car's paint or the effect of repeatedly slamming a car door on coax cable — the window mount in *Photo E* might be an option.

Speaking of using antennas not installed directly on the radio itself: In the majority of applications using the antenna

on the radio itself works reasonably well. On the other hand, if you're using your radio equipment while at the family picnic and are lounging near your car — maybe even using your car battery as your power supply, — there are definite advantages to using a mobile antenna — or at least using your radio's antenna on a mag-mount base on the car (preferably on the roof) to make use of the car's ground-plane.

Conclusion

The objective here has been to make portable work as painless as possible: Having everything easily transportable while minimizing the risk of missing a vital piece of equipment. Not only does this make operating easier but will also (hopefully!) minimize any negative experiences during radio operation *and*, in so doing, also minimizes the chances of upsetting traveling companions by imposing any "radio headaches" on them! Happy operating!



Photo C. A bent piece of scrap sheet metal can serve as a lightweight and portable stand for a handheld, especially when using it with a speaker-mic.



Photo D. A magnetic mount with a BNC connector can accommodate just about any antenna that also works with your handheld radio.



Photo E. An antenna window mount can come in handy if you're concerned about a magnet mount scratching the paint on your car's roof or trunk lid.

Quick setup and teardown, along with reliable power, are essential elements of a portable HF station, whether for emergency / disaster use or for just plain fun, such as Parks On The Air activations. K3SKS updates us on improvements that he and his wife have made in their mobile setup since he first wrote about it last January.

Persistent Practice Produces Positive POTA Progress

One Ham's Journey in Portable Operations Continues

BY STEVEN K. SMITH,* K3SKS

This is a follow up to my article, "One Ham's Journey in Portable Operations," that appeared in the January 2022 edition of *CQ* magazine. The initial article's intent was to explain the need for continuous practice and improvement of portable operations so that, in the event of an actual emergency, you, your equipment, and your operating practices will have the best chance for success.

Since that article appeared, my wife, Judy, KC3JAS, has 71 new POTA (Parks On The Air) park activations, made 10,928 POTA QSOs in three different states, and I continue my role as the station engineer / pack mule. Four main areas in our operation have been improved this past year; batteries, headphone system, equipment packaging, and a small camper. Here's an update.

Batteries

Initially, we used a 70-Amp-hour (Ah) deep draw marine battery as the primary power source for the Kenwood TS-590SG transceiver. Using a new battery, KC3JAS could operate for 4 hours running 100 watts on SSB making 60-100 QSOs per hour when the bands were agreeable. One mistake we made was to run the battery until the radio would drop out on transmit (TX), then do a quick change to the Bioenno 15-Ah LFP battery, using power pole connectors.

One adverse consequence of discharging the lead-acid battery to less than the recommended 50%, we

* Email: <s_k_smith_75@yahoo.com>



Photo A. The new power pack consists of three Bioenno 15-Ah LFP batteries.

learned after replacing one after a year, was the battery's capacity after recharge would decrease over time and the battery swap had to be made earlier in the activation. Discharging a lead-acid battery should not exceed 50% of its Ah rating, which greatly reduces the effective capacity and usefulness of a lead-acid battery as an emergency power source.

Since we already had a Bioenno 15-Ah LFP battery as a backup, I opted to replace the lead-acid battery with two more of the same batteries, giving us three in total (Photo A). What this

enables us to do is discharge the initial battery until it has supplied 15 Ah, performing real-time measurement with a PowerWerk Power Monitor, then quickly swap out the battery with a fully charged one. With three batteries, we carry 9 hours of pretty heavy-duty SSB capacity, and if we have access to 120-volts AC (camping, picnic pavilion, or generator), the first discharged battery can be recharged before it is needed while the second one is running, making the third battery a redundant backup.

If the 70-Ah lead-acid battery is limited to 50% discharge, the safe avail-

able capacity is 35 Ah, whereas the three Bioenno 15-Ah LFP batteries can safely supply 45 Ah at about half the total weight of the lead-acid battery. Seems like a no-brainer decision, but in my defense, I am considered to be a bit “frugal” (three Bioenno 15-Ah LFP batteries cost about \$450, the lead-acid battery ran about \$125) and thought I might have been able to get away exceeding the recommended operating parameters of a lead-acid battery. Once again, Mother Nature won.

Headphone System

Judy uses Heil Pro 7 headphones for her activations and has some hearing loss in one of her ears. Although the Pro 7 has a left side balance adjustment, this proved ineffective to supply the sound levels she requires for good, balanced audio. To address this problem, I added a PreSonus HP4 4-channel headphone amplifier with a TalentCell Rechargeable 12-volt 6,000-mAh / 5-volt 12,000-mAh DC output lithium-ion battery pack (Figure 1). The small battery pack was selected so that no peripheral equipment would consume power from the primary radio battery.

In addition to providing independent adjustable left and right audio levels to the headphones, a second operator can plug their headset into the amplifier to monitor the audio from the radio. This works great for two operator contact / logging functions on Field Day.

Equipment Packaging

Photo B shows our packed-up equipment from the setup in the original article. While Station 1 is packaged very efficiently, individual components (radio, battery, headphones, headphone amplifier, amplifier battery, foot switch, logging computer, etc.) need to be unpacked, placed on a table, and interconnected — then disconnected and repacked when we go QRT.

This results in several potential problems; connection errors, connection wear, especially the radio power connection, cable wear due to repeated winding and securing, and the sense of urgency KC3JAS has when we are setting up.

To improve on our setup and teardown process, Station 1 has been repackaged using a Gator 19-inch rack container. Equipment is mounted on the rack tray, with fixed intercon-



Figure 1. Headphone amplifier connection diagram



Photo B. Two portable HF stations, three antennas, as described in January 2022 article.

nection wiring and a minimum of external connections at the front and back of the open rack. The connection diagrams (*Photos C and D*) show the necessary connections that need to be made (red circles) during setup and teardown.

The transceiver is secured to the rack tray using the mobile bracket supplied by Kenwood and the stereo amplifier, and wiring harnesses are secured to the tray using Velcro® pads for easy removal, if needed. A sliding drawer is included in the rack to hold notebooks, pens, and reference information (band plan, considerate operator frequencies, etc.).

The battery is to be placed beside the rack and connected using the Power-Pole connections. Not placing the battery inside the rack was done to keep the weight lower (completed rack weight is 45.7 pounds) and to make it easier to change the battery. All batteries and chargers fit nicely in a repurposed CPAP machine bag shown in *Photo A*.

Setup requires placing the rack on a table and removing the front and back covers. At the side of the rack, the Bioenno battery connects to the radio, the antenna is connected to the rear of the TS-590SG and the small battery pack is plugged into the headphone

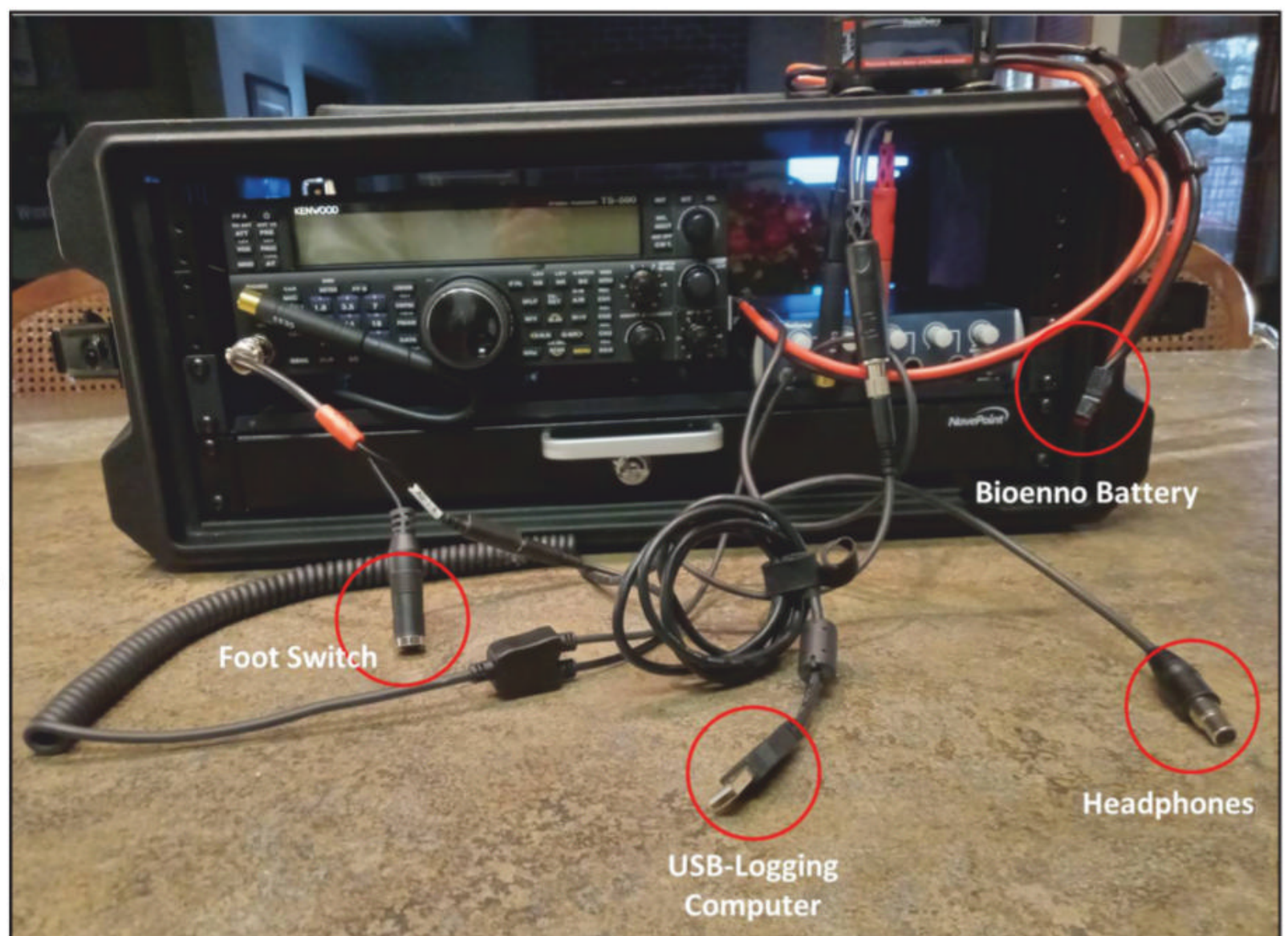


Photo C. Station 1 repackaged in a 19-inch Gator case, with circles showing the minimal number of external connections required.

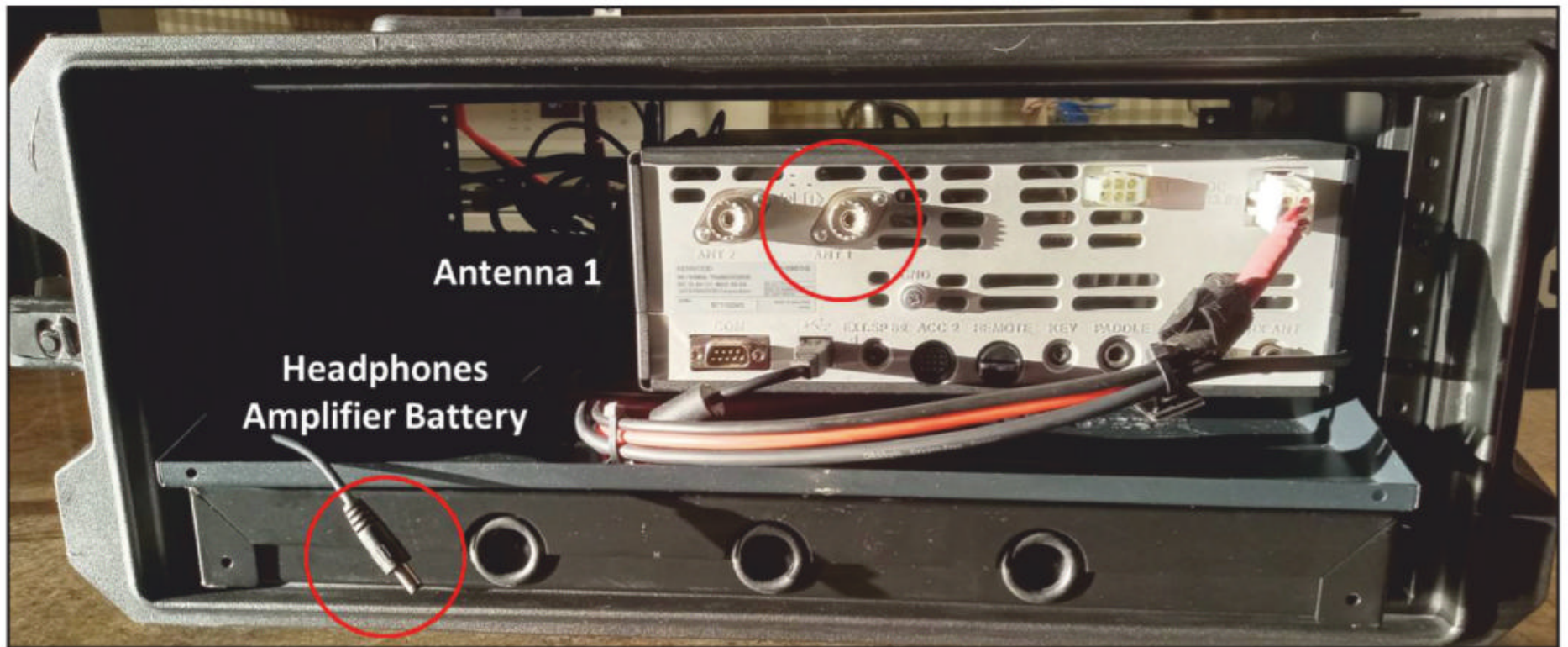


Photo D. Rear view of the Gator case, again with interconnections circled.

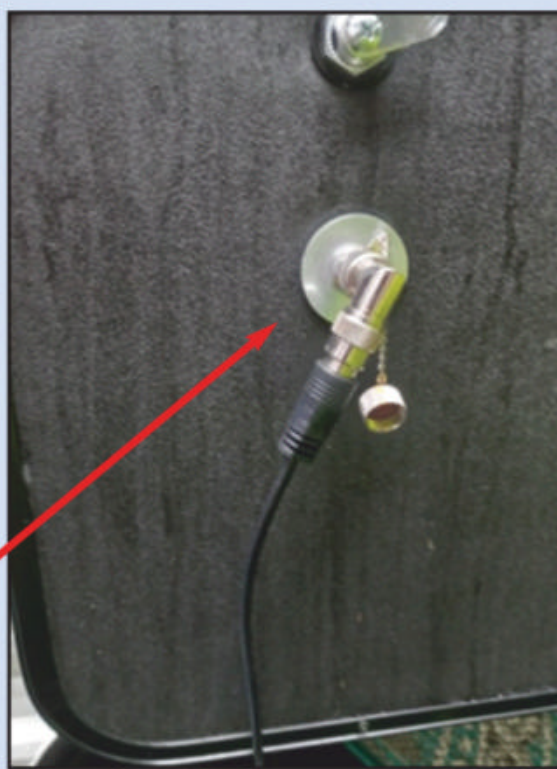


Photo E. POTA activation at Parker Dam State Park, Pennsylvania.

Antenna Cable Entrance



Front Right Access Door PL259 Connector with Threaded Cap



Inside Access Door



Thru Holes drilled through seat and wall. Cable reaches radio on table.

Photo F. Routing the feedline from the outside antenna into the dinette area of the camper.



Camper 12 VDC Tie in using PowerWerx Panel Mount Connector

Photo G. Power cable into dinette area terminates in a PowerWerx DC connector.

amplifier power connector in the rear and set inside the rack. The front connections are for the foot switch, the headphones, and the USB cable to the logging computer and then we're ready for power up.

Camper

The most significant change to our POTA activations was the addition of a

small "couple's camper" so we could extend our daytime operations to overnight trips in the state parks. The camper specification was for a unit that could be towed with our existing vehicle, could sustain standalone operation ("boondocking") for two nights, and have all the comforts of home. We didn't bust our fannies for over 50 years to rough it.

The Sun Set 16BH (Photo E) ideally suited our needs. After I set up the camper for inside operating by tapping into the two on-board batteries, using the existing fuse panel, and an outside connection for our antennas that brings the feedline into the dinette area in the camper (Photos F and G), we were ready to go.

To Be Continued

I thought about closing with a "Conclusion" section, but if you truly are serious about continuing to improve your systems, you never reach a conclusion; you just keep getting better and better. Looking forward, I think my big challenge this year is going to be antenna setup improvements. I am pretty sure, once KC3JAS uses her new rig setup and is ready almost in the blink of an eye, I had better have the antenna ready to go at about the same time or I'm going to hear about it. It could be a long summer.

– 73, K3SKS

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The More Things Change ...

It's said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. That is certainly true of one aspect of ham radio — DXing and DXpeditioning. Over the last several months, our DX column has been featuring DXpeditions to various parts of the globe, and January's cover story was on a DXpedition to the Vatican. So, when we took a look back exactly 50 years to what CQ was reporting on in March 1973, what else would we find but a DXpedition? This one was to Mt. Athos, a place more remote in time than in distance. So, without further ado, here is this month's CQ Classic, "SY1MA: Mt. Athos DXpedition," from the March 1973 issue of CQ, for you to see what details of DXing have and haven't changed in 50 years. — W2VU



SY1MA: Mt. Athos DXpedition

BY VINCENT S. DANIELS,* WB4USR/SVØWJJ

As is usual with anything I do, the trip got off to a late start from Athens on the night of October 12, 1972, on our way to the first amateur radio operation from Mount Athos. Mount Athos has been recognized as a new amateur country, and is probably the last one that will be found in Europe. After catching a couple of hours of sleep in the Greek city of Salonica, we set out over the twisty road to coastal village Uranopolis, a small village port which provides the only route to Mount Athos. Our arrival at the village, behind schedule of course, occurred just as the small boat to Mount Athos was about to leave. With all haste we loaded the 1500 watt Honda generator, the Yaesu FT 101, antennas and all the other paraphernalia onto the skiff and jumped aboard.

Our first sight of the monks of Mount Athos came to us on board this small shuttleboat. Bearded, dressed in black robes and with ages of wisdom written on their faces, the monks cast a majestic image. The little boat wound its way along the coast, stopping at each monastery along the way to pick up or discharge passengers, food, mail, or whatever.

After docking in Dafni, the port village of Mount Athos, we passed under the wary eye of the customs official and made our way to the 1950, (give or take a few years), Mercedes 4-wheel-drive diesel bus which is the only mechanized public transportation in the country. It resembled a left over WW II armored personnel carrier. We should have known right then that to turn back would be the smart thing, but I was never one for letting evil omens bother me. For instance, the fact that the DXpedition started operating on Friday the 13th had no effect on my morale whatsoever. After some amount of discussion we loaded the



gear aboard the bus and started our trip over the mountain ridge to the administrative center of Mount Athos, the monastic village of Karyes. The "road" was no more than a wide donkey trail, gutted by rain and always precariously close to the edge of a cliff, which dropped directly into the sea. Din, SV1DB, got seasick—on the bus—not on the boat, but we held on and made it over the mountain, and finally descended into the village of Karyes.

Upon exiting the bus, we entered the Middle Ages. Modern times do not exist in Mount Athos. There are practically no vehicles, no motors, no noise, no electricity. All cooking is done on large wood burning stoves, such as the one in the inn in which we stayed. Oil lamps supply light during the night time hours, and everyone is usually sound asleep by 8 P.M.

One other very noticeable item is lacking from Mount Athos: females! The country is a mans' world and females are not allowed to enter its boundaries. The rule is not

Mount Athos, The Holy Mountain

Mount Athos is a small religious country which occupies a peninsula on the northern coast of Greece. Since the time of the Byzantine empire in the 10th Century, Mount Athos has enjoyed self government and the area is administered by a Greek Orthodox monastic council, and this autonomous form of rule has been officially recognized by the Greek government since 1926. The population of Mount Athos is composed almost entirely of monks and religious hermits, of whom most live in the 20 monasteries and 12 hermitages which grace the coastline and mountains of Mount Athos.



The weather was bad as we welcomed Bill to Mount Athos. It would get worse.



We went searching the mountain for a suitable QTH. Notice the FB weather.



Bill and Din pause at the new SY1MA QTH high in the clouds of Mount Athos.



Our first attempt at a tent, with Din hammering, did not fare so well through the thunder storms.



The generator gave problems, but thanks to SV1DB and SVOWJJ things were soon back in order.



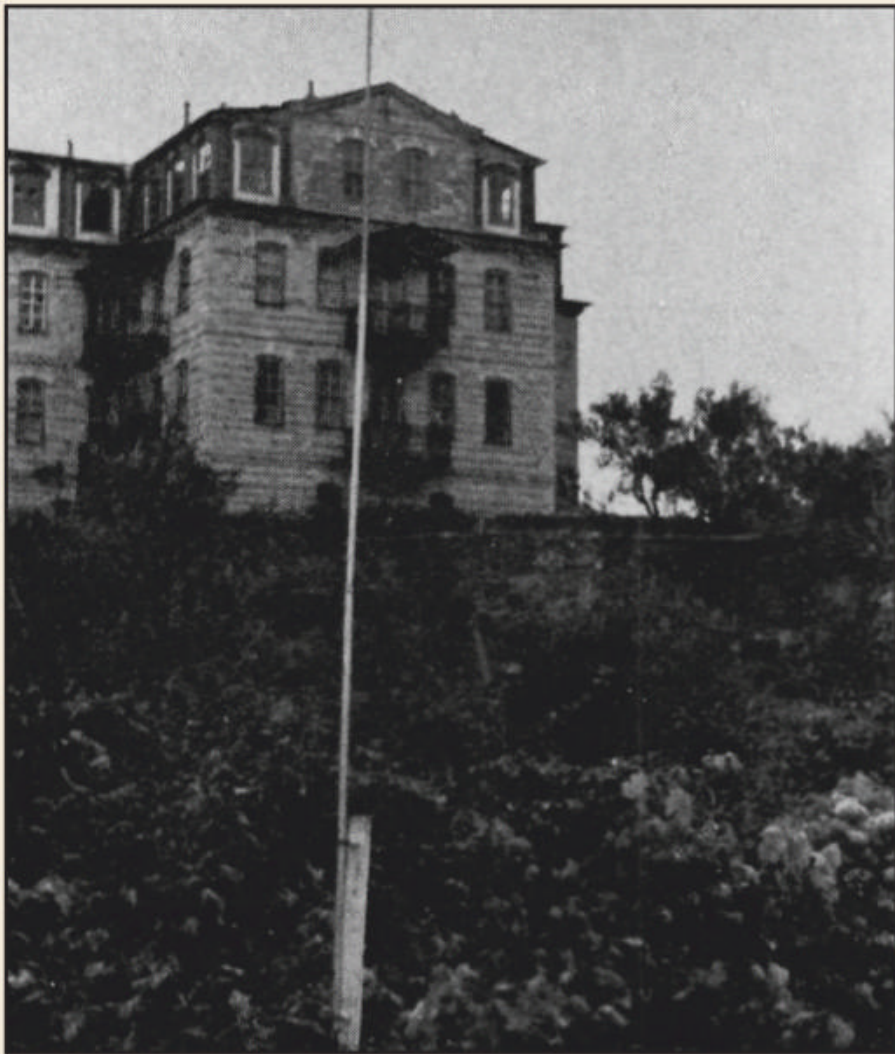
Dampened in body, but not in spirit, Vince and Bill operate SY1MA from within their plastic tent.



Roads were washed out; mule train was the only way out over the mountains.



After 1500 QSO's opening up a new DX CC country, the DXpeditioners depart from Dafni.



Our first antenna location was too low to be very good, and the generator and QSO noise disturbed the very rigid living conditions of the monks. The building in the background is one of the many monasteries in Karyes.

limited to the human species—no female animals are permitted to enter into the male sanctuary of Mount Athos. So do not count on a contact from here for the YL-DXCC.

After settling in the local inn, we took care of the administrative chores and got right to setting up the generator. We converted the inn to our operation center, and installed our antennas—three verticals—in the back yard garden. We rented two beds upstairs, prepared everything, turned on the generator and went to work on 20 m. The pileup was great and JAs and locals were pounding in. We took turns working and even managed a few Ws before the band went dead at about 2000 hours. We felt defeated. Either propagation or our QTH was miserable. We went to bed with hopes of a better day in the morning. One of the problems did improve the next day—propagation was better. But then another problem came up, and at about 1200 hours we were told we would have to shut down because we were disturbing the very strict regimen of the monks with our QSO, and generator. By this time Bill, SW0WII/WA6BWB, had arrived with a second FT-101, and we were ready for the pileups, but we needed a new QTH far from the monasteries.

The weather the next morning was terrible: cold and verging on rain, but this couldn't deter us because we're hard core DX'ers. We took the 8 A.M. bus up the mountain as high as it went and then hoofed it to the top of the ridge. We walked through the clouds on the way up, but we did manage to find a fantastic location on the edge of a cliff, with a tree right there to facilitate the building of a tent. (You may be asking yourself right now where we

managed to come up with tent material. Simple! We brought a 15 meter roll of 1¹/₂ meter wide, double ply, heavy duty plastic.) We started construction of a plastic tent strung over the branches. Bill, an ex-Boy Scout called it a "faceria," meaning, "it ain't gonna work," and we saw just how true this statement was when, two minutes later, we were hit with a ferocious thunder storm. Our plastic tent became an above ground pool, then collapsed, getting us soaked to the skin, but fortunately the equipment was dry. Under Bill's expert guidance we started anew. By suspending a large branch between two trees, and draping the plastic over this support, a secure tent was completed. Folding the plastic on the uphill side back around under us for a floor, we managed to construct a good sized, sturdy, and reasonably dry tent. The rain continued, but we couldn't get any wetter so we continued to work installing antennas, positioning the generator, and improving on the usability of our temporary home.

At noon we were back on the air, soaking wet, freezing cold and nearly starving. Din and I hung our clothes on wires inside the tent to dry, but Bill just kept his clothes on. As usual his Boy Scout know-how prevailed, and when his clothes had dried from his body heat, ours were still wet and cold, so finally we followed suit, and suited up. We operated for twelve solid hours on the 15th until finally the band went dead, and we weren't too far from that state ourselves. Breaking down whatever gear was inside the tent, we packed it in plastic bags, but left the antennas and the generator outside. At 11:30 P.M. we started down the side of the ridge for the town. Try to imagine walking on a donkey path down a mountain, with only two cheap flashlights, in the middle of a fog and with rain falling all around you, and add to all this the fact that the place you are looking for has no lights to guide you in, and you will have some idea of our discomfort when we realized we were lost.

But through some miracle—it is a holy land, remember—we did eventually find our way back to Karyes for a few hours sleep before boarding the 0800 bus back to Dafni. This was our plan at any rate. We would take the bus to the top of the mountain, have it wait while we gathered our gear, and then ride it in to Dafni. That was our plan. The fact that the road between the towns was washed out tended to wash out our plans as well. We were stranded in Karyes and we had to be back to work the next morning. What could we do. Simple! We would hire mules to take us over the mountain.

Angelos, the local mule owner is quite a nice fellow, and he owns four sturdy mules which we hired, with him as guide, for only \$6.00 each. With no other mode of transportation available, the price was a steal so we accepted it, and climbed on the mules. Up at the QTH we found the tent still intact and the gear dry, so we loaded everything up on the beasts of burden and started over the mountain. After about three hours of riding we reached Dafni and had a wonderful bowl of hot bean soup, our first hot food in over 36 hours, and with it some local retsina wine. A feast!

Mount Athos had been conquered: over 1,500 QSO's. And we look forward to many future DXpeditions to this new country now that it has been opened to the world of amateur radio.

Here's a VHF/UHF (and maybe a piece of HF) antenna you can build with most parts readily available at your typical hardware / big-box store. Depending on how you build it, it can be mounted permanently or easily broken down for use in portable / remote locations.

A Collapsible Tri-Band Antenna for 6 Meters, 2 Meters, and 70 Centimeters with a 10-Meter Option

BY BOB HERKLOTZ,* K4HRK

This is an easy-to-build tri-band fan antenna with excellent performance on our most popular VHF / UHF bands. It has horizontal elements for 6 meters and vertical elements for 2 meters and 70 centimeters (*Photo A*). It's fabricated with 14-gauge THNN wire and electrical PVC tubing to support the wire. Also, a 10-meter option can be easily added.

The antenna breaks down into 2-foot-plus sections for easy transport to the field (*Photo B*) or can be permanently mounted, either suspended from a tree or mounted to a mast. A 1:1 balun and PL-259 connector are built into a quarter-wave standoff to separate the coax from the lower vertical element.

This antenna can also be configured for other bands without the 2-meter / 70-centimeter elements, such as a 6- and 10-meter horizontal fan dipole with radials 90° apart.

The electrical PVC is a good supporting structure for the radiating elements and doesn't affect performance. Other electrical PVC benefits include a good strength-to-weight ratio, junction boxes, ultraviolet protection, good blending with the environment, and it's easily replaceable if the antenna is damaged. In addition, the PVC will insulate the elements from wet tree branches. This antenna does require an A/B switch, patch box, or duplexer if you're using two radios for the different bands.

The Build Procedure

Begin by purchasing the supplies in the accompanying parts list. Then refer to *Photo C* for the following steps:

* 1142 Roseland Drive
Columbia, TN 38401
Email: <robherk@gmail.com>

~ Drill a 1-3/8-inch hole centered in the bottom of the Carlon hex box and a 7/8-inch hole centered in the box cover and de-burr the holes. Hole saws are best for this job. Clamp the work securely to prevent the pieces from spinning and causing injury.

~ Knock out two of the box "knock-outs" where the horizontal wires will exit the box, or just drill a clearance hole through the knockouts for the wires to pass through.

~ Solder the horizontal and vertical elements and the feed coax to their



Photo A. The 6-meter / 2-meter / 70-centimeter antenna suspended



Photo B. The 10-meter / 6-meter / 2-meter / 70-centimeter antenna field ready

respective solder lugs on the terminal strip as shown in *Photo B*. A larger soldering gun will work best here. Keep in mind; this is a horizontal / vertical fan dipole, so position the wires and coax accordingly.

Note: the terminal strip is mounted on the adaptor before mounting the assembly in the box.

~ Knock out the box hole 90° from the horizontal elements where the coax will pass through.

~ Mount the half-inch male terminal adaptor into the top of the box cover and thread the half-inch female terminal adaptor onto the threads exiting the bottom of the cover. Tighten securely.

~ Cut a half-inch off the nut end of the 1-inch male terminal adaptor. There should be about a half inch of material remaining from the shoulder to the end of the nut. Position the terminal strip flat against the nut end of the adaptor as shown in *Photo B*, spot the hole and drill a 3/32-inch pilot hole for the #6 screw.

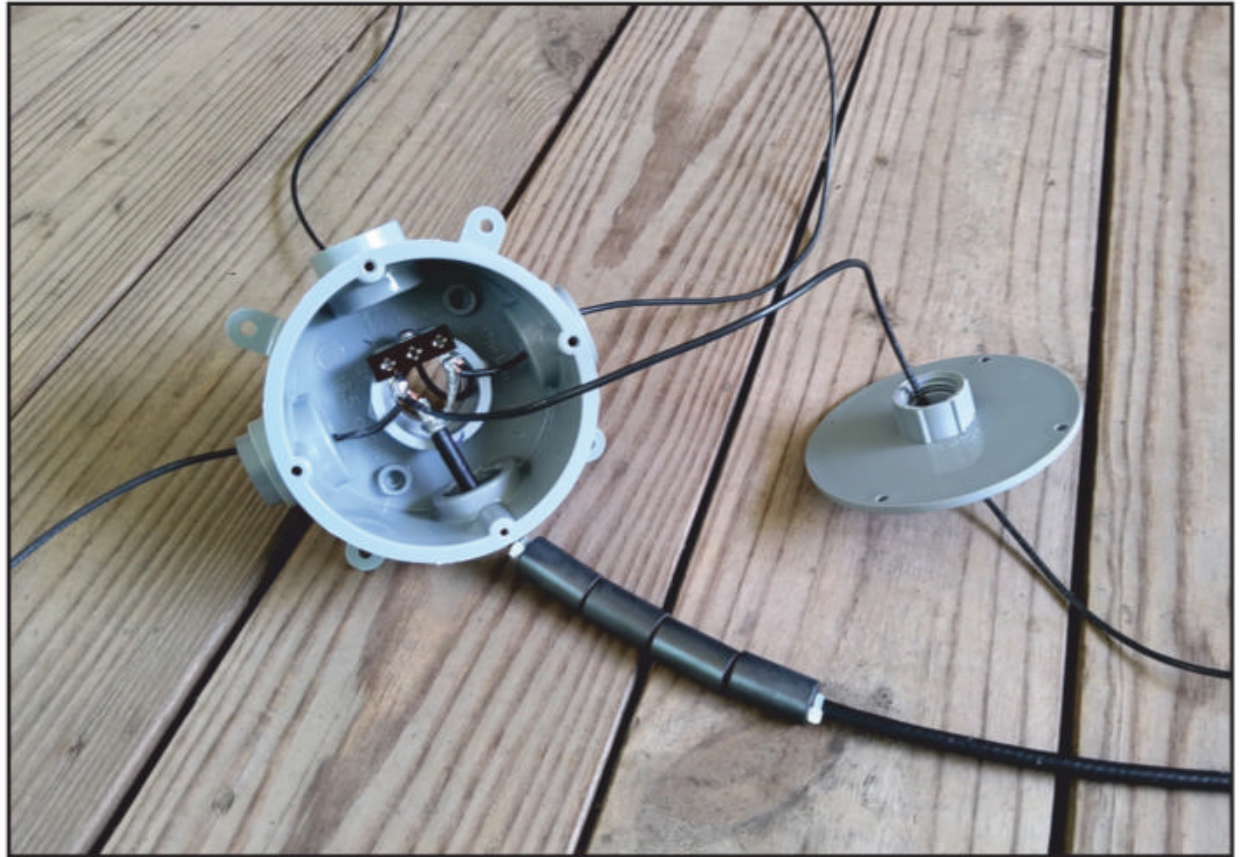


Photo C. The antenna junction box and balun detail



Photo D. The assembled antenna with the standoff

~ Slide the bottom 2-meter / 70-centimeter wire through the adaptor, then mount the terminal strip with the attached elements to the adaptor.

~ Mount the adaptor into the hole at the bottom of the box, sliding and pulling the wires and coax through its respective ports in the box and cover when lowering into position. Screw the 1-inch female terminal adaptor onto the threads exiting the box and tighten securely.

To Glue or Not to Glue ...

If you're using this antenna for portable or field deployment, you'll want easy assembly and takedown, so use PVC

adhesive to glue only those pieces specified in the steps below. If this is a base station antenna, glue all the PVC pieces during assembly. This will bond the joints, resulting in no wobble and more security.

~ Apply PVC cement to two of the 3/4-inch to half-inch tubing reducers supplied with the box and push them tightly into the box holes from which the 6-meter radials exit.

~ Secure the cover to the box with the supplied rubber seal and screws.

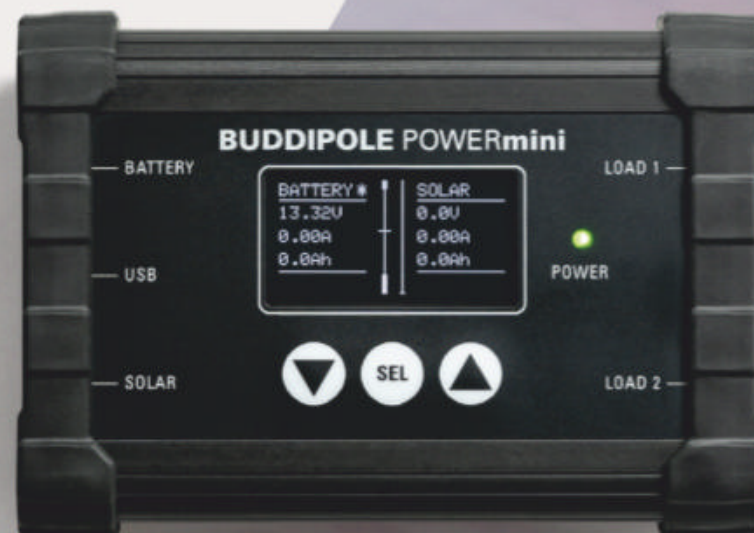
~ Slide the four ferrite cores onto the coax. Butt them against the box port opening and capture them in that loca-

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tion with a plastic wire tie at the other end. This completes the box build.

Building the Balun, 2-Meter / 70-Centimeter Standoff and Connector Assembly

Note: Refer to *Photos D* and *E* for the standoff build.

~ Apply PVC cement to the joints and slide the straight 3/4-inch PVC tubing over the coax and push it into the box.



Photo E. The SO-239 connector mounted on the standoff

~ Apply cement to the end of this tubing and push on the 3/4-inch coupling, then glue and push the 90° radius tubing into the coupling, taking care to align the vertical portion of the bend facing the ground when the antenna is mounted.

~ Apply cement and push a 3/4-inch to half-inch adaptor into the 90° bend hole.

~ Trim the coax exiting the adaptor about an inch from the adaptor. Strip the coax and separate the shield and center conductor, then solder the leads to the SO-239 bulkhead connector.

~ Push the coax and connector into the adaptor and align the holes with the adaptor “ears.”

~ Spot and drill pilot holes for the #4 sheet metal screws, then secure the connector.

~ Seal the connector where it mates the adaptor with RTV or weatherproof caulking.

~ Remove any kinks or bends in the wire elements and push two of the 6-meter and the 2-meter / 70-centimeter PVC support tubes into their respective element sockets. Then slide on the half-inch couplings and the other 6-meter PVC tubes.

Note: if this is a base station build and you don't need a “breakdown” antenna, you can just use one appropriate length tube on each side. This completes the initial build.

Tuning Procedure

~ Remove the vertical and end horizontal tubes and use a VNA (vector network analyzer) or antenna analyzer to trim your elements for 1:1 SWR on the part of the bands where you want the best resonance. I settled for the middle of each band. If you're a CW and digital fan, consider the lower end of the bands. Trim about a half-inch each time and a quar-



Photo F. The mast-mounted 6-meter / 2-meter / 70-centimeter tri-bander

ter-inch when you get closer. It's better to trim just a little each time than to add wire if you've missed your mark.

~ As you tune, the other tuned band elements may detune slightly, so check for this. This did not happen for me. Also, the tuned elements are shorter than typical dipole lengths. I attribute that to the PVC and the insulation on the wires.

~ The vertical elements may also be cut for other bands, such as 222 MHz, marine, or the aviation band.

~ When the elements are tuned, trim the PVC tubing to match the element lengths and glue on the caps. Don't glue the caps if you're extending the PVC tubes for other bands (see below). Also, don't trim the lower vertical 1-inch tubing if this antenna will be mounted on a mast. You'll want vertical clearance between the mast and mounting hardware and the element.

Other Band Builds

If you build this antenna with 6-meter horizontal elements, these elements can be easily extended for 10 meters. Just add a "Molex"-type quick disconnect at the end of the 6-meter elements, with a mating disconnect on the 10-meter "extension" wire. Add a set of PVC couplings and tubes to accommodate the additional length and you've changed bands. Be sure to tune the elements with the connectors in place. The 10-meter elements will droop, approaching an inverted-V, but performance won't be affected. Consider using PVC cement when assembling these elements for a secure connection.

If you don't need the 2-meter or 70-centimeter bands, consider using separate 6- and 10-meter horizontal elements mounted on the box, 90° apart. You won't need the coax offset and top vertical tube, so use the bottom vertical tube for the coax feed and capture the ferrite there. Follow the procedure listed above for mounting the SO-239 connector at the bottom of the tube, but use both a 1-inch and 3/4-inch reducer in tandem to accept the connector.

Mounting the Antenna

This antenna can be mounted on a mast (*Photo F*) or suspended (*Photo A*). If mast mounted, use the mounting kit in the parts list. Be sure to use enough separation between the metal hardware and the lower vertical element (if used).

If the antenna is suspended (*Photo A*) and the vertical elements are used, mount the tubing clamp (in the parts list) on the standoff about 1 inch from the box, thread and tie the lifting line through the hole in the clamp and raise the antenna with the coax attached to the desired height. The clamp will probably need to slide laterally on the standoff, depending on the weight of the coax. Adjust the clamp to balance the antenna so the vertical elements are truly vertical, then capture the clamp with tape or wire ties on the tubing. A heavy-duty wire tie can substitute for the clamp. With the antenna suspended, the coax can be used to orient the antenna.

If the antenna is suspended without the vertical elements, standoff and tubing clamp, the mounting "ears" on the box

can be used to fabricate a cross support point — no balancing necessary.

Performance

Using my VNA, these are my standing wave ratios on different bands:

- ~ 10 meters – 1:1 center of band and 6:1 at the edges
- ~ 6 meters – 1:1 center of the band and 9:1 at the edges
- ~ 2 meters – 3:1 flat across the band
- ~ 70 centimeters – 1:1 flat across the band

Propagation is excellent on 10 meters, 2 meters, and 70 centimeters, hitting all the local repeaters with full quieting on 2/70 and QSLs and beacon contacts all over the globe on 10 meters. I'm sure propagation is comparable on 6 meters, but the band was closed whenever I tested. I did hit beacons 67 and 53 miles away, so I know the 6-meter elements radiate.

You should find this antenna is easy to build, portable, versatile, and a good performer with many band options. With both mast and tree mounting capability, it will serve you well in both a base and field environment.

Parts List

Note: All PVC parts are standard electrical (gray) tubing, fittings, wire, and screws are available at most hardware stores. Also, wire and tubing lengths are longer than needed to allow for tuning.

Carlson 3/4-inch PVC junction box, type X, with cover and reducers, model #E970CDE-CTN, Home Depot

- 1/2-inch male terminal adaptor
- 1/2-inch female terminal adaptor
- 1-inch male terminal adaptor
- 1-inch female terminal adaptor
- 2 lug terminal strip
- 1 pc. #6 stainless steel sheet metal screw, 3/8-inch long
- 14-gauge THNN wire: 2-meter elements – 2 pcs., 21 inches long; 6-meter elements – 2 pcs, 26 inches long
- 4 pcs. 1/2-inch tubing, 26 inches long
- 1 pc. 1/2-inch tubing, 22 inches long
- 2 pcs. 1/2-inch standard coupling
- 1 pc. 3/4-inch electrical PVC tubing, 16.5 inches long
- 1 pc. 1-inch electrical PVC tubing, 32 inches long
- 3 pcs. standard end cap
- 1 pc. 1-inch standard end cap
- 1 pc. 3/4-inch electrical PVC 90° elbow, standard radius with belled end
- 1 pc. 3/4-inch standard coupling
- SO-239 chassis coax connector
- 4 pcs. ferrite sleeves, #FB43-5621, Digi-Key #1934-2643625102-ND
- 4 pcs. #4 stainless steel sheet metal screws, 3/8-inch long
- RG8X coax, 32 inches long
- 3.4-inch Tubing snap strap
- Miscellaneous: wire ties, caulk, PVC cement, 3/4-inch PVC support strap — Carlson E978ECR or similar, Slinkdsco double antenna mast clamp (2 sets, Amazon — If you mast-mount this antenna).**

If you build the 10-meter extension elements:
14-gauge THNN wire: 2 pcs. 46 inches long
2 pcs. 1/2-inch tubing, 46 inches long
2 pcs. 1/2-inch standard coupling



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N2EWS wraps up his tale of getting back on the air after a many-year absence, and operating from an antenna-restricted housing development.

The Continuing Anticlimactic Adventures of the Perverted V (Part 3)

BY NICHOLAS PETRELEY,* N2EWS

This is Part 3 of a story that started with an antenna I call a “Perverted V.” It is a freakishly disfigured inverted-V in which the center is only 20 feet high, attached to a flagpole in the corner of the yard. The two legs of the antenna are at right angles to each other, and one leg bends at the corner of the fence and runs a bit parallel to the other leg (*Photo A*). Not ideal, to say the least, but so far it has fooled the homeowners’ association (HOA).

As promised in the previous installment, let me tell you about the weird behavior with and without the 4:1 balun. I attached coax directly to the 450-ohm ladder line. It worked fine. When I added the 4:1 balun, it didn’t tune very well, which is odd, since a 4:1 balun is recommended for this kind of antenna.

My setup was configured like this:

Transceiver -> Tuner -> Diamond SX-100 power meter -> Antenna

I changed the coax patch cords for an entirely different reason, but inadvertently changed the setup to:

Transceiver -> Power Meter -> Tuner -> Antenna

Suddenly I couldn’t get a reasonable SWR on any of the bands. So, I added the recommended 4:1 balun, and everything works fine. It’s almost as if putting the power meter between the tuner and the antenna tricked the tuner into working without the balun. I have a feeling that’s not a good thing.

Speaking of tuners, I didn’t have much luck with the eBay sourced automatic antenna tuners I tried. This time, however, I purchased a new MFJ-939Y automatic antenna tuner from Giga-

parts. This tuner knocks my socks off and makes them dance around the room. The first time I transmitted, it went clickety-clickety-click-ping, and the SWR is 1:1 or close. I changed bands to a spot I visited previously, and ping, it’s 1:1 again. As God is my witness, I shall never go manual tuning again.

However, I’m still stuck with my insufficient “Perverted V” antenna. Short of building a magnetic loop, the “Perverted V” is all that will prevent my HOA from complaining.

But I accidentally discovered a way to get around its limitations, at least when it comes to reception. When I connect this abomination of an antenna to a \$30 RTL-SDR software-defined radio USB dongle and listen to ham bands via the SDR-Sharp software on the computer, signals come through very clearly. Software-defined radio seems to overcome some of the limitations of my antenna. So, I decided to bite the bullet and shell out what it takes to upgrade to a hybrid transceiver that includes an



Photo A. The “Perverted V” as seen from the front yard. Looks like the flag needs replacing.

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Round Rock, TX 78665
Email: <nicholas@petreley.com>



Photo B. My station with the SDR radio installed.

SDR. It won't make my transmitted signal any stronger, but it should help with what I receive.

The Yaesu FTDX10 goes for more than I want to pay, but I commit and snag the FTDX10 from DX Engineering (Photo B). The FTDX10 has a DVI output and USB ports for a keyboard and mouse. A unidirectional DVI to HDMI cable should work very well to operate the rig using my PC monitor. If you get such a cable, make sure it's unidirectional. You don't want HDMI sending things in the other direction as it is wont to do.

If you don't want to mess with a cable and a keyboard and mouse for the FTDX10, Ham Radio Deluxe lets you operate your rig from your computer and its keyboard and mouse. In fact, allow me a couple nitpicks with the FTDX10 as compared to Ham Radio Deluxe. I have a USB switch that lets you use one keyboard and mouse for multiple devices. You can't do that with the FTDX10. It doesn't know how to deal with the USB switch. I need to dedicate a keyboard and mouse to the rig. Furthermore, you can't change frequencies on the FTDX10 with the mouse scroll wheel.

In contrast, Ham Radio Deluxe is a PC application, so there's no need for a USB switch. And the interface lets you increase and decrease the frequency with the mouse scroll wheel.

So, Yaesu, if you're listening (or, rather, reading), how about updating

the firmware to allow a USB switch, and make it possible to tune with the mouse scroll wheel?

Speaking of tuning, the frequency tuning method on the FTDX10 is one area where I immediately miss my previous (non-SDR) IC-7410. With the IC-7410, I press one button and tune in 1-kHz steps. Press it again, and I'm back to fine tuning. People transmit on an even 1-kHz frequency so often that I find that feature to be extremely useful. From what I understand, with the IC-7300, you touch the kHz section of the display, and you tune in 1-kHz steps. Touch it again, and you go back

to the default. Same feature, different activation / deactivation methods.

The FTDX10 works almost the same way. Almost. You touch the kHz section on the display, and it tunes in 1-kHz steps. Then it goes back to the default tuning steps after you stop tuning around. I want to set it on or off. I don't want it switching off on its own. Worse, my fat fingers often hit the outer dial while tuning the 1-kHz steps (there are two tuning dials on the rig — the main dial and an outer ring). Touching the ring cancels the 1-kHz steps.

I dig deeper into the Yaesu settings and, lo and behold, I see that I can set the rig so that when I press the STEP/MCH button, it tunes 1 kHz at a time using the outer ring. I can still use the main dial for finer tuning. That's a game changer for me. In case you have a different preference, you can configure the button to change the outer tuning ring to a variety of different steps, up to 10 kHz.

In the end, I'm very pleased with the FTDX10. I can pull signals out from under the noise, especially when I invoke the digital noise reduction button.

So how is my new gear for transmitting? I still don't get great signal reports. But I can check into various nets and almost always get heard. And remember, I logged only three FT8 contacts over the entire Field Day weekend with my former gear. With these shiny new items, I've logged over 300 contacts using FT8 at 10 watts, including 40+ countries. Now, whether the difference is the equipment or it not being Field Day is anyone's guess. But I'm one happy camper now.

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Learning Morse code is one thing, but learning to copy comfortably — hearing whole words instead of individual characters — is something else entirely. WØFN has tips on upping your skill level by learning “sound shapes” to make CW QSOs a pleasure.

Learning Morse Code Instant Character Recognition (ICR)

BY TOM WEAVER,* WØFN

Instant Character Recognition requires knowing your Morse code ABC's. That's all. Morse code comprehension isn't complicated, but it does take time, diligence, and study. By comprehension, I mean listening to Morse code, not writing letter-by-letter, then reading it later to see what was said.

Have someone quickly spell a common 4- or 5-letter word out loud to you. Like HELLO or GREEN. Did you recognize each letter? Did you “get” the word? Was it difficult? Probably not. You've experienced Instant Character Recognition and “word building” because you already have ICR with the spoken alphabet.

Did understanding a spelled word require a special technique? Nope — all it took was knowing your ABC's and a little spelling. When Morse code sounds are synonymous with their spoken letter sounds, you've achieved ICR. However, truly knowing your Morse code ABC's isn't like “remembering” them, it isn't decoding them, and it isn't a conscious process; they are too slow.

Your subconscious handles spoken letter ICR. You aren't “remembering” or consciously “decoding” spoken letters; you know them. You could think of it as having 26 finely tuned

high-Q receptors that automatically “resonate” to the sound of one spoken letter each. These tuned sound receptors free your conscious mind to focus on what's being spelled instead of needing to work on recognition. Spoken letter recognition feels effortless, allowing you to build words, “go with the flow,” and follow the train of thought as sentences are being spelled. Morse code ICR will feel the same.

Building and recognizing words as you listen to Morse code letters arriving in rapid succession creates a sudden need for 26 tuned high-Q receptors. It surprises students who feel confident they know the alphabet because they've been decoding dits and dahs successfully. Individual character practice will remain foundational throughout the ICR learning journey — that's why we continue to practice alphabetic ICR with ever-shorter recognition times even as we begin learning new skills. However, word building presents a much more rapid-fire recognition challenge — the necessity to deal with “character flow.”

Building Words and Recognizing Cars

My group of childhood friends decided to get good at identifying as many makes and models of cars as possible. To improve my “make & model” recognition skills and (hopeful-

* Email: <tom.w0fn@gmail.com>

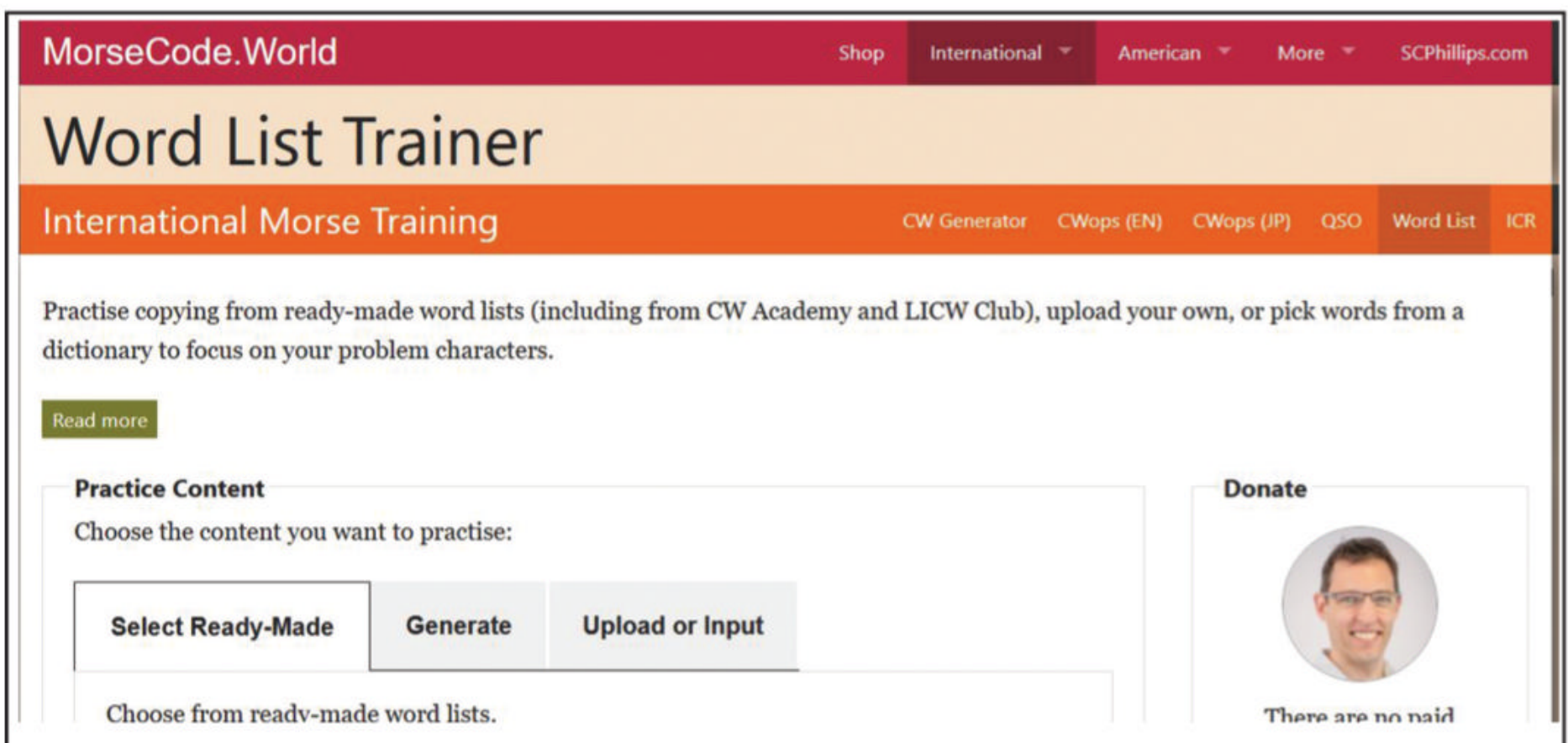


Photo A. The Word List Trainer at MorseCode.world is a good tool for learning instant character recognition.

ly) impress my friends, I studied parked cars and many magazine pictures of cars, one at a time.

Eventually, we were standing beside busy streets competing with each other as we tried to identify as many cars as possible as they whizzed by. Cars were moving fast and each one I missed really bothered me. There were some makes and models I wasn't very good with, so I focused extra hard on those in an all-out effort to win the game. At that age, it was very important to win. I kept losing — no fun!

I finally realized by concentrating on one car to ensure I got it, I missed even seeing other cars that were right behind it. I began to think that perhaps I should closely “glance” at every car as they went by and not visually follow any one car down the road. I clearly remember that risky feeling when I abandoned “trying to make sure.” I decided I had to accept the ones that got past me and just see what happened. Hmmm — I started winning the game!

Tools for Practicing ICR

So, how to practice ICR? I like using *Word List Trainer* (<<https://tinyurl.com/3dw6knmk>> and *Photo A*) to build sound-to-letter associations. Select A-Z, make the Board and Text visible, and set the Character Speed between 25 and 35 words per minute (wpm).

Click on each letter in any order you wish or in groups of five letters and listen very carefully to each sound rhythm: Its unique and characteristic Morse code “sound shape.” Rinse and repeat in three to four 5- to 10-minute sessions per day. Also click on each letter several times in a row and focus on associating that sound to that letter. Faster character speeds make hearing “sound shapes” easier. Look at the letter, click the letter, hear the code, and speak the letter. Your goal isn't to “decode,” it's to make the Morse sound *be* the letter in your mind — just like the spoken letter. You're creating 26 high-Q sound receptors, and that takes time, patience, and practice. Speaking the letter immediately after hearing its code sound helps create those tuned receptors.

NOTE: If you're a beginner and you'd like to double your fun by learning Morse code twice, that's easy! Start with a slow character speed of 10-12 wpm. Then later when you're ready to learn Morse code again, set the character speed between 25 and 35 wpm and learn the alphabet a second time — by “sound shapes” instead of by dits and dahs. Be warned though; escaping from counting dits and dahs once you've learned it that

way is tough. Creating high-Q sound receptors as you listen at fast character speeds, and then slowing down later is easier than learning by counting dits and dahs at 10-12 wpm and then trying to speed up.

After studying Morse code letter sounds via many short practice sessions per day for at least a week, add recognition into the game. Set Morse Count = 1, Enable “Repeat,” enable “Random,” enable “Speech” in Show and Say After, and set the Recognition Time between 1000-1500 ms (1 to 1.5 seconds). Click “Play” and try to “Beat the Computer” by speaking the letter before the computer does. Keep it fun and keep your practice sessions under 10-15 minutes.

You always want to miss some — adjust the Recognition Time up or down to stay in or near the “Learning Zone” where you miss about 40% and get about 60%. Missing isn't failure in this game; it's essential practice. You won't become proficient at recovering instantly from missing if you don't practice it. Recognition and non-recognition are

two sides of the same coin; ICR with Morse code requires mastery (and acceptance) of both outcomes.

As you improve, drive your letter Recognition Time down — to 100 ms or less. Spend extra time on troublesome characters. Even a few slow-to-recognize letters can derail your comprehension. As you improve and Recognition Time shortens, you're transitioning from slow conscious “decoding” to the faster and nearly effortless recognition enabled by your newly created 26 tuned sound receptors. Be patient. Their “tuning” will continue to improve with time and practice!

On-Air Practice

Get on the air as soon as you know the alphabet reasonably well (assuming you have your amateur radio license) and have practiced enough with numbers to recognize most of them. Get an HF radio, a straight key, or a dual lever paddle, and put up a simple wire antenna. Being on the air supercharges the ICR learning process. In fact, achieving ICR without being on the air is virtually



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Learn to Follow Letter-by-Letter:

ICR (Instant Character Recognition) is not enough to learn to head copy sentences. It also requires developing the mental dynamics to follow letter-by-letter to form words and then build up sentences and infer meaning.

It is common for people to learn ICR at the same time as they develop the mental dynamics necessary to follow a ragchew. The approach is similar to learning to keyboard-copy while learning to touch type. While many have successfully learned both skills simultaneously, you may benefit from studying each in isolation before bringing the two skills together.

The following practice sets will help you learn the mental dynamics of head copy without using Morse Code. Additionally, these practice sets can be used as a warm-up before practicing Morse code. Try practicing for 5 minutes before jumping into your regular practice. (If copying individual words from the Top 1000 Words is easy, try copying sentences.)

You may also use these practice sets as a diagnostic tool. If one's ICR is too slow or consumes mental/conscious bandwidth, then there is not enough room to determine words, sentences, and meaning. One indication of this problem is what I call Word

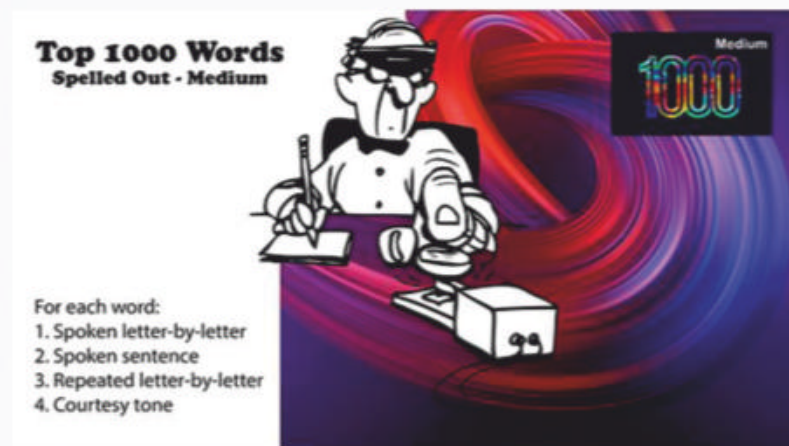


Photo B. The Letter-by-Letter section of the morsecode.ninja webpage discusses the next steps in Morse code “head copy,” whole words and sentences.

impossible. As Glenn Norman, W4YES, says, “don’t wait to get good to get on the air, get on the air to get good.” Find a code buddy at or near your level and schedule regular on-air QSOs. Laugh about mistakes and mess up together with reckless abandon. As Dr. Seuss would say, “If you never did you should. These things are fun, and fun is good.”

Variability plays an important role in mastering complex skills. Being on the air exposes you to a variety of Morse code signals at different speeds and tempos. Some good, some bad, but all are good practice. Don’t worry about mistakes or not understanding what’s being sent to you in a QSO; resist the temptation to write letter-by-letter — that eliminates comprehension. Just close your eyes and listen; you’ll get better, and nobody cares about mistakes. Don’t be the only one who cares; it will really hold you back.

Achieving Morse code ICR will begin to feel like someone is spelling words to you in English. The temptation to jump into word practice once you think you know the Morse code alphabet and leave letter-by-letter practice behind is strong. That’s OK — go ahead and give it a try. You’ll soon learn that word and phrase practice quickly reveal poorly tuned sound receptors and weak sound-to-letter associations. Continue working on your alphabetic ICR every day. Be patient with yourself; get on the air, and practice consistently with several short 10- to 15-minute sessions per day. Keep it fun, no self-judgement allowed.

So, the initial value of word practice is a quick check on the strength of your “alphabetic ICR” skill level. Being unable to comprehend 4- or 5-letter words as letters arrive indicates “decoding,” a slow and laborious conscious process. Words longer than three letters will be very difficult, and short phrases will make your head explode. You may think you know the Morse code alphabet, but you really don’t. Building words as letters arrive and following a train of thought require finely tuned “high Q” Morse code sound receptors that bypass the need for conscious recognition.

See <<https://tinyurl.com/2hebb46a>> (*Photo B*) to see what I mean about listening to spelled-out words, phrases, and

sentences. Major thanks to Stephen Phillips for creating Morsecode.world and to Kurt Zoglmann for creating Morsecode.ninja. Sincere appreciation to both of you!

The path to ICR requires building new high-Q sound receptors and/or strong sound-to-letter associations every day in addition to practicing with words and phrases and being on the air.

As you approach alphabetic and numeric ICR, your conscious mind is freed from recognition duties and on-air QSOs become more fun and less scary. Your mind will build words as the letters arrive and follow trains of thought. It begins to feel like a spoken language. ICR is a foundational skill that benefits all aspects of the art; it frees you to experience and enjoy the gratification of communicating with Morse code around the world. Sending conversational CW will feel like musical instrument mastery; it’s addictive, rhythmic, and very gratifying.

Morse code comprehension using ICR on the air with other CW operators and soon-to-be friends around the world can occasionally put you “in the flow;” an amazing feeling normally reserved for world-class athletes and musicians. That rare feeling is something you permit to happen; you can’t make it happen. When it does, it feels spooky it’s so effortless.

Additional Resources

The Long Island CW Club <<https://longislandcwclub.org>> and CWops <<https://cwops.org>> are both great places to learn Morse code. CWops offers the well-known CW Academy and the Long Island CW Club is a large welcoming community that offers approximately 70 open classes on every aspect of ham radio and Morse code imaginable. The Long Island CW Club hosts an Introduction to ICR class by Glenn, W4YES, and me on Wednesday evenings, with perhaps other ICR classes to come in 2023. If you’re a member of the Long Island CW Club, stop by sometime; we’d enjoy seeing you.

Achieving instant character recognition with Morse code is worth the effort. It’s simpler than you think, it’s a remarkably rewarding learning journey, and it’s a great cognitive exercise.

the listening post

BY GERRY DEXTER

RFE/RL in the News

Editor's note: Gerry has been under the weather recently and was not able to complete this month's column, so we're filling in with a relevant news item and one set of loggings that crossed our desk and didn't go directly to Gerry. We hope he'll be back at the Listening Post (and keyboard) by next month. – W2VU



RadioFreeEurope
RadioLiberty

The war in Ukraine and Russia's attempts to limit objective news from reaching its citizens have brought renewed media attention to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). The two stations are operated by the U.S. Agency for Global Media (formerly the U.S. Information Agency) but are guaranteed editorial independence by law.

Recent RFE/RL efforts to reach listeners in Russia, Ukraine and other areas with news and information have been the subject of reports on CBS News's "60 Minutes" (January 1), the *New York Times* (January 24) and *RadioWorld* (January 12). The *RadioWorld* story was about the opening of new RFE/RL offices and studios in Vilnius, Lithuania and Riga, Latvia, after being forced to suspend its operations in Moscow and Minsk, Belarus. The *Times* and "60 Minutes" stories focused on the resurgence in interest in Radio Free Europe and its programming aimed at Russia and former Soviet republics.

Curiously, and perhaps in a sign of the times, however, none of the reports paid much if any attention to the "radio" part of Radio Free Europe. The focus was almost exclusively on RFE's internet streams, which seems counterintuitive, considering the ability of hostile governments to block internet access and control what is available to their citizens. Blocking radio waves is much more difficult, although jamming is a long-standing tradition in Russia and elsewhere.

Even more curiously, even the RFE/RL website makes it difficult to find the stations' on-air broadcast schedules. We had to go to <http://short-wave.info> to find RFE/RL's shortwave frequencies ... which are: 5880, 7475, 9490, 9940, 11965, 12045, 12105, and 15490 kHz.

Listener Logs

Our only loggings for this month come from Allen McBroom, AG5ND, of Starkville, Mississippi, whose reports to Gerry were routed through the CQ email server. We apologize to our regular reporters for not having access to their loggings for this month. Here's what Allen has been hearing:

ALGERIA — Radio Algerienne on 15410 at 1841. Man talking in Arabic, lots of QRN, making it difficult to hear.

CUBA — Radio Havana on 15140 at 1831. Man talking in Spanish.

UNITED STATES — Supreme Master TV heard on 15770 at 1842, broadcast from WRMI in Florida. Woman talking in English about "large animal people" and veganism.

*c/o CQ magazine

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math's notes

BY IRWIN MATH,* WA2NDM

Simple Testers (Continued)

As a continuation of last month's topic, we will once again present a couple of simple, easy-to-build, circuits that we have used from time to time.

Before proceeding, however, I want to point out some facts about the RF power meter we described last month. You may remember that to calibrate the unit, we applied a 10-volt DC signal to calibrate 1 watt of power at full scale of the meter on the device. A 1-watt CW RF signal is composed of a 20-volt peak-to-peak sine wave voltage or " V_{pp} ". After it passes through the rectifier diode, which cuts it in half, the result is a 10-volt pp signal or " V_{pp} ". This must then be further converted to " V_{rms} " (by multiplying it by the square root of 2 or 0.7071), which now truly represents 1 watt and can be used for conventional power conversions. Therefore the 7.071-volts DC that remains is what actually corresponds to 1 watt (across 50 ohms) and that is what the meter is reading. Note that we did not include the forward diode voltage drop (about 0.25 volts) at this point as it's low enough to ignore for now.

When you calibrate the meter to read full scale, it will actually be displaying 7.071 volts, which you have adjusted to "100" on the meter with the calibration control so the meter reads 1 watt (but without the diode drop which we ignored). So far, so good. Now, however, let's see what happens when the input power decreases to, say, a quarter watt. The V_{rms} value also decreases, as does the meter reading. The V_{rms} reading for quarter watt is about 3.54 volts, so you would assume that the meter would read a quarter of the scale, but it doesn't.

Why?

Because in both cases we ignored the forward voltage of the diode. As the input power gets lower and lower, the forward voltage drop of the diode becomes a more and more significant factor in the DC reading and the accuracy of the meter gets worse and worse, so at lower power levels, the diode drop really has to be considered. As you lower the value of your DC calibrating voltage (V_{rms}), you will see the error caused by this and how this affects the readings. Therefore, if you need more

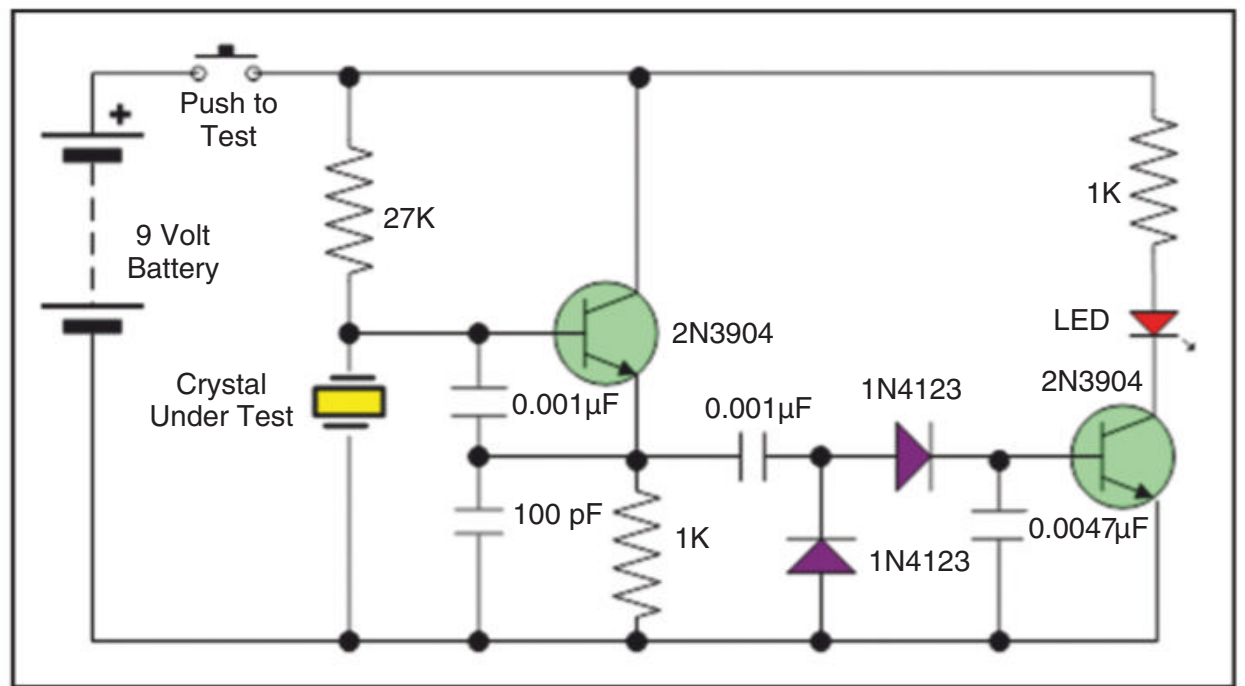


Figure 1. Quartz crystal tester

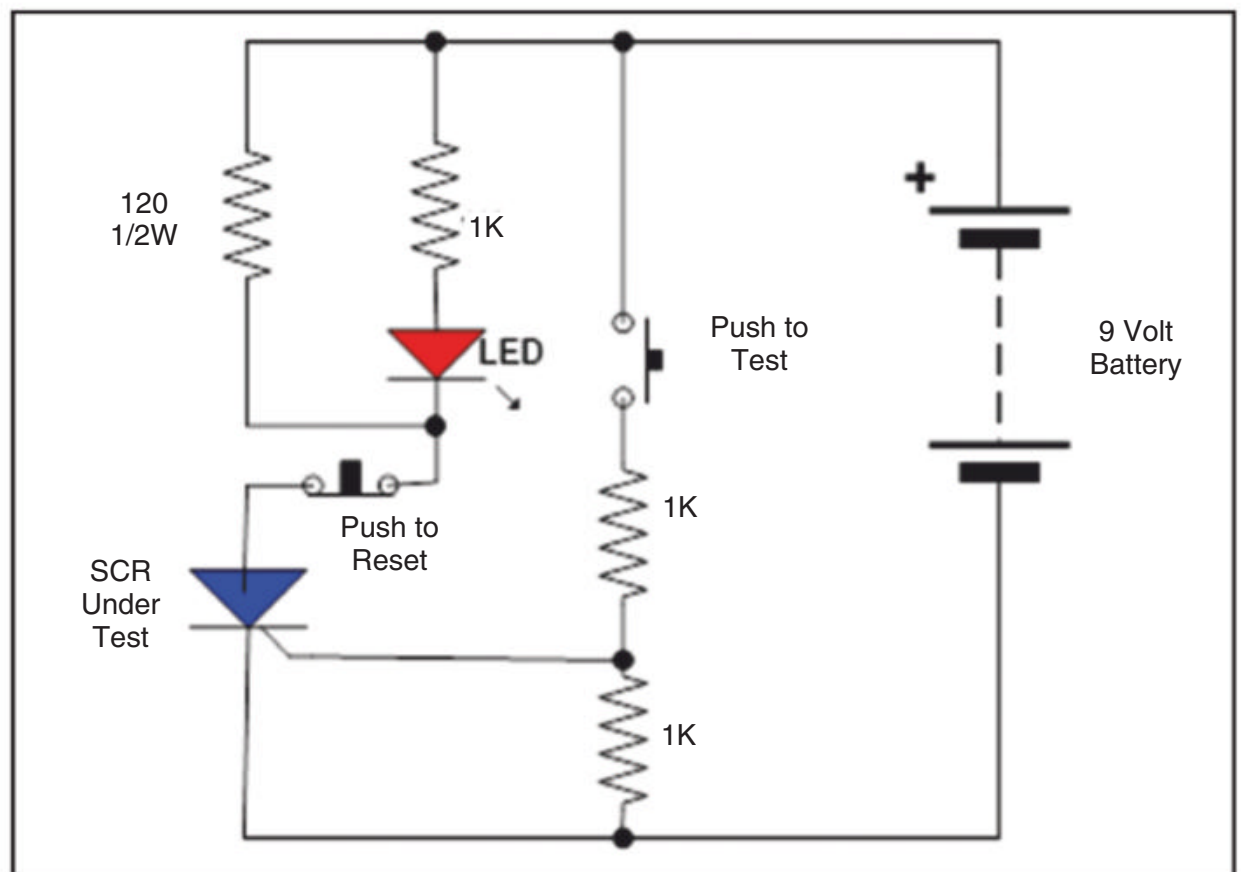


Figure 2. SCR / Triac tester

exact readings, you should always calculate the actual V_{rms} voltage at the specific power level you are interested in and then readjust the meter reading accordingly (including the diode drop). My sincere apologies to those who have (or intend to) question all of this. Now on to the rest of the column.

Crystal Tester

First, Figure 1 is a simple crystal tester for those "old timers" and QRP opera-

tors who still use them. I remember that, in the past, there were literally bins full of these crystals in the surplus houses I frequented in New York City. In those days, Novices were required to be crystal-controlled and with the modification of surplus WWII transmitters and receivers that were popular at the time, these were what was used.

As you can see, the circuit is basically an untuned Colpitts oscillator that oscillates at the frequency of the crys-

*c/o CQ magazine

tal being tested. It will work with most quartz crystals from around 1 MHz to as high as 30 MHz or so. The RF produced in the emitter circuit of the actual oscillator stage is then rectified by a diode doubler, which then drives a second transistor that will turn on an LED to indicate that the crystal is working. If you happen to have a frequency counter with a high impedance probe available, you can also check the actual frequency of the crystal by measuring it across the 1K emitter resistor of the oscillator. Power is from a 9-volt battery and the push-button assures long battery life. Although the transistors and diodes labeled on the schematic are commonly available, they are not too critical and similar equivalents may be used. However, you may have to change the bias resistor in the oscillator.

Figure 2 shows a tester that is normally not too common. It is used to test SCRs (silicon-controlled rectifiers) or Triacs and will be useful for those working with these devices. This circuit tests a device by actually switching it to light an LED.

In operation, the device to be tested is connected as shown and if it is OK, the LED will not light at first. When the push-to-test button is pressed, however, the voltage applied to the gate will trigger (and latch) the device and the LED will go on and once lit, it will stay on. When the push-to-reset button is pressed, the voltage to the device will be interrupted and the LED will turn off. If these actions occur, then the device is OK. However, if the LED comes on when the SCR or Triac is first connected, before the push-to-test test button is pressed, then it is shorted and defective. Since operation of this tester is with a 9-volt battery, when the SCR or Triac is conducting, approximately 100 ma will be drawn from the battery so do not keep it on for too long or the battery life will suffer. When the LED is off, however, there will be no significant drain. Note that this tester will require a minimum so-called "holding current" to operate properly in this circuit, but it should be fine for the popular C106 and equivalent series devices.

I hope these two testers will be of interest to some. In the future, I will try to come up with additional devices of this type that may interest you. I also appreciate the kind comments sent by the experimenters in our midst who used some of the test equipment I have presented in the past.

– Regards, Irwin, WA2NDM

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emergency communications

BY JOHN FERGUSON,* K3PFW

My (New) Station

The QTH here has been undergoing renovation for the last two-plus years. Finally, in the last months we have been able to get some of the “pretty work” done to please the XYL, and now I get to start on the rehab / rebuild of my station. This will be the third iteration of the process over the 30-plus years that I’ve lived here, and I’m incorporating some lessons learned from the previous efforts. The rebuilds to date have been cumulative, building on what was there before. Three additional antennas are being contemplated for this rebuild, and a possible larger antenna project in six months or so. Other than those items, no major changes or additions are planned. In keeping with my desire to cause you, the readers, to think a bit; I’m going to use the opportunity of rebuilding the station to drag you along and share my decision-making process. Maybe some of the issues here will help you make your own decisions down the road as you work through building your station.

First and foremost, this column is about emergency and disaster communication and if your station cannot be safely operated under most weather conditions, you’re probably not going to be much help during weather-related disasters. But you say, “oh, but I have to disconnect my antennas during a thunderstorm.”

No, you don’t!

If you have proper grounding and surge protection and install it correctly, you should be able to safely operate under all but the most severe weather conditions. Do you think that public safety agencies, law enforcement, and the military stop operating during nasty weather? Again, with proper design and installation, safe operating will prevail. The ARRL publishes an excellent book, *Grounding and Bonding for the Amateur Radio Operator*, which is available through its bookstore <<https://tinyurl.com/4sd9j5n3>>. Common sense on your part must prevail, however. It is you

and you alone who is ultimately responsible for your safety, and the safety of those around you.

Starting Outside

The process of rehabbing my station started with a survey and inspection of the external parts of the station: Antennas, tower, pole, feedlines, etc. I listed all the items I looked at, with a

brief note as to the condition of each and whether a repair or replacement was necessary. The list was relatively short for replacement, and only a couple of items needed repair. Then, I did a careful inspection of the external grounding, where some issues were noted. There was definitely some “wear and tear” from Mother Nature. Then, Bill Saunders, N3ID, came by with his net-



Photo A. Former windmill tower. All joints bolted like a large erector set. (All photos by K3PFW)

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work analyzer and we checked antennas and feedlines. I was pleasantly surprised that there were few issues. The analyzer showed that all the antennas were resonant about where they should be. The testing was done at the output end of the surge protectors, which kept the outside of the coax grounded. We found that if we were checking from the end of the feedline to the antenna, particularly the wire antennas, our hand capacitance and movement of the feedline caused changes in the displayed data of the analyzer.

Then onto the physical inspection of the surge protection for the feedlines, which checked out OK. All installations will require periodic maintenance. Unfortunately, I have not been as diligent as I should have been over the last several years. Although nothing major or unsafe was found, given a few more years, that might not have been the case. When was the last time you gave the external part of your station a careful and thorough inspection? This is something you shouldn't put off.

The primary feature of the antenna farm is a former 80-foot windmill tower with a nice high-frequency (HF) tri-band beam. Twenty feet of 2-inch pipe out of the rotor supports the beam and a commercial 2-meter antenna that's at an elevation of 100 feet (*Photo A*). Each leg of the tower is tied to a 10-foot ground rod where some issues were found during the inspection, probably the result of overzealous yard mowing, and will be reworked. Reworking the beam and 2-meter antenna on the tower will be left to a contractor. Climbing, let alone working after I get up there, is not currently something I want to consider.

At the base of the tower is an enclosure that provides protection for connections between the coax from the antennas and the coax to the station. These cables run underground through conduit to the surge protection enclosure (*Photo C*) on the wall of the house outside the room where the shack is. Breaking feedlines at the base of the tower allows for testing to isolate where issues might be and is certainly a help when working on the antennas themselves. You might think running your feedlines, control lines, etc., through conduit is overkill. After all, there's coax rated for direct burial, isn't there? My philosophy is to dig once and add an extra empty conduit to the run. Conduit is cheap compared to labor and equipment rental, even if you are doing it yourself. Replacement when needed is quick and easy. Expansion of facilities is a snap.

There is also a 32-foot pole with a pipe extension, done somewhat like a ship's mast (*Photo B*), that supports one end of an OCF (off-center-fed) dipole at 50 feet; the other end is supported by the tower. A tri-band U/VHF vertical adorns the top. The "conduit" from the pole to the surge protection enclosure is 1-inch vinyl pipe. It's cheap and easy to work with. A B&W folded dipole (all band) is hung at approximately 30 feet between trees behind the house.

From the surge protection enclosure, jumpers are run to the antenna patch panel in the closet adjacent to the station (*Photo D*). Just back from its trip to the shop for refurbishing, labels will be


added to identify the antennas. Jumpers to the individual pieces of equipment will go through the wall, with a nice cover plate for the hole, and into the concealed wiring trough of the station desk. A clean, neat, and uncluttered look gets points from the XYL. The closet, after all, is where she stores her office supplies.

The desk is also homebrew; the material was an anniversary gift when the second station was being assembled. Existing equipment will be added as it is cleaned and checked out in the shop. I'm taking this rebuild step by step, one level at a time, trying to avoid mistakes and oversights.

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SPURIOUS SIGNALS

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Photo B. Pole and extension with "backstays" like a ship mast.

Surge protection on feedlines and attention to grounding has been a major consideration here from rebuild two. Note I say "surge protection," not "lightning arrestor." Lightning, the visible bolt that we see, is an ionized column of air, literally a conductor, with thousands of amperes flowing through it. Current flow produces magnetic lines of force around the "conductor" which propagate outward. Lines of magnetic force cutting across a conductor induce a voltage proportional to the strength of the magnetic field. Your antenna, wire, beam, vertical, etc., can have enough voltage induced to cause arcing from the center conductor to the shell of a PL-259, or SO-239, the common male and female coax connectors we use. So, do you really want to disconnect your coax and lay it on the floor? Better you throw it out of the window. I have seen unterminated connectors on antenna patch panels flash over during lightning storms. It's both fascinating and scary. Again, the ARRL's *Grounding and Bonding for the Amateur Radio Operator* is an excellent starting point for learning how to ground your station. You will be well advised to read that first.

How Will You Use Your Station?

Once you put together your station, what are you going to do with it? What is your style of operating? Do you need to monitor multiple frequencies at the same time, or is a simple one-antenna, one-transceiver setup more your style. Operating

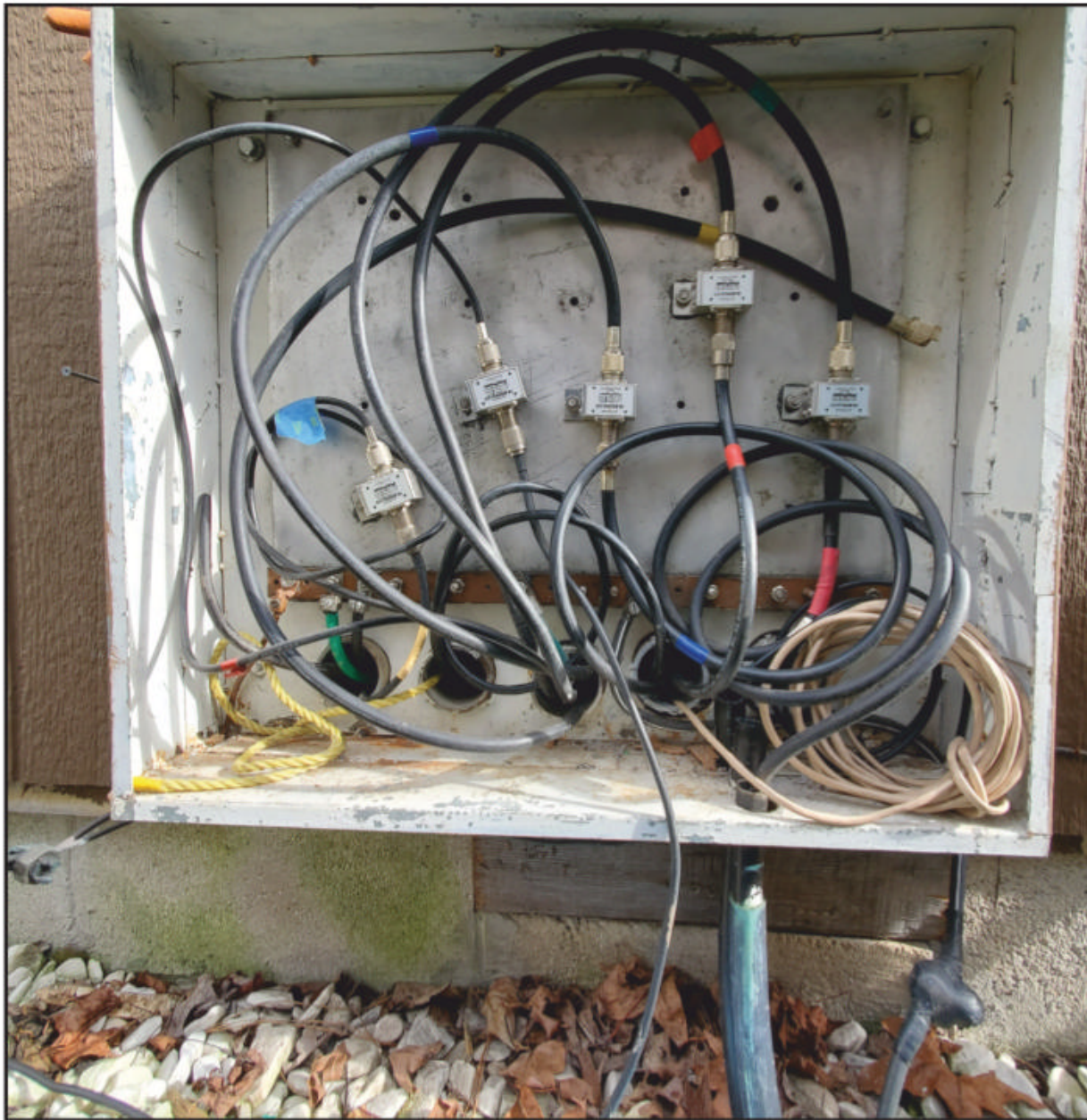


Photo C. Surge protection panel with cover removed.



Photo D. Antenna patch panel makes swapping antennas and rigs easy.

under disaster conditions puts an added strain on you, the operator. Think about what would make things easier for you. Comfortable placement of equipment will reduce fatigue.

Considering what I do, what I like to do, and what I've learned about operating from the home QTH led to the comment at the beginning of this article of adding more antennas. Three new antennas are being considered. Number one is an inverted-L for 160 meters, which is a band I have wanted to get back onto for a while. The inverted-L design is the most cost-effective way to get on 160 meters as it's relatively simple to make, and will fit on smaller real estate. A weatherproof "auto tuner" at the feed point makes matching "automatic" and will allow use on other bands, too. The inverted-L will replace the missing doublet that formerly ran from the top of the pipe extension on the pole to a tree on the other edge of the property. That will return to what was the original design, the two "backstays" balancing two antennas running in the opposite direction, providing a more robust structure, with a symmetrical support. Also, there is some interesting work on using groundwave for digital to link emergency operations facilities. This will provide a test antenna for trying that.

Number two will be a low-gain, dual-band vertical placed not too high for local repeater use. There are at least seven repeaters within 16 miles of the QTH. Being in Delaware, coastal ducting is a fact of life; fine if you want to talk to Connecticut with your handheld (HT) and a rubber duck antenna. I'm trying to reduce incoming interference, and not interfere with distant repeaters. The low height of the dual-band VHF antenna will put it at approximately 6 feet, sort of like a mobile in your side yard.

Number three will be a magnetic receiving loop to try and beat the increasing noise floor we live in with our modern society. The ability of this type of antenna to reject manmade noise is incredible. We installed one about two years ago at WS3EOC, the amateur radio station at the Sussex County Emergency Operations Center. Signals nearly unreadable on the transmitting antenna were "Q5" on the loop. Most of the noise comes from the multitude of energy-efficient outdoor lighting at that location.

Power for the station equipment will be provided by a modest 20-amp DC supply through a West Mountain PWRgate, which maintains the charge on two 100-amp-hour sealed lead-acid batteries, immediately switching over on a power failure. I'm old school and lead-acid technology is a bit more forgiving of mistreatment than lithium products. Weight in this situation is not a concern. The batteries are housed in polyethylene battery boxes for safety, both accidental contact with exposed terminals and acid spills, which shouldn't occur, but if they do, will be contained within the boxes. This is the same system that was used in the previous rebuild of the station. The 20-amp supply is sufficient as this is a single-operator station. The 600-watt linear amplifier will be line powered.

I'm looking forward to getting back on the air; it's been a while. Progress is important. It takes time, effort, and resources, but in the end, there is a better and safer station for you that enhances your operating style.

I also look forward to the questions and comments you, the readers, send in. Use the K3PFW email address at the bottom of the first page of the article.

kit building

BY JOE EISENBERG,* K0NEB

Ham Radio Solutions CW Hotline: A March Forward

When learning Morse code, the most common tools used are a simple code practice oscillator and a straight key. In these pages I have shown many of these, from very simple kits such as the Four State QRP Group SSCPO kit up to the very complex Morserino32. This time we take a look at a simple code practice kit to build that offers some interesting features.

The Ham Radio Solutions CW Hotline is a code practice kit that allows the builder to choose between a built-in straight key or a paddle. The CW Hotline also gives the option of plugging in a straight key or paddle so it leaves the door open to using either type of key. There are also outputs that connect to an external audio amplifier, which is helpful in teach-

ing code classes, as well as a keying output. The keying output allows this kit to key most solid-state CW rigs.

What makes this kit even more interesting is that it has networking capabilities. The CW Hotline can connect to another CW Hotline on the same Wi-Fi network using its built-in Wi-Fi and has the capability of participating in one-on-one or group code practice via the web. The CW Hotline is powered by normal 5-volts DC USB power, which can be supplied by most inexpensive USB cellphone chargers or USB power banks. The supplied cable plugs into the USB Micro jack on the back. It allows two different Wi-Fi configurations to be set in it to allow, for example, connection to your home Wi-Fi network, or your cell phone's Wi-Fi "tethering" function.

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Hamfest Hotline #5855

Building the CW Hotline

Building the CW Hotline is relatively easy. The low parts count makes for assembly time of about an hour or so. Be sure to mount all parts carefully. A method I found helpful in dealing



All parts, including the plastic case, for the CW Hotline kit.



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with the three jacks is to simply to solder the center pin of the jack on each one. Then, using a finger underneath a jack, I reheat that center pin while pressing on the jack until I feel it settle into place flush with the PC board. Once I am satisfied that each jack is flush with the board, I solder the remaining four back pins on each jack. It is very important to be sure that the jacks are flush so that the case fits properly.

Care must also be taken when soldering the rows of pins that connect to the Wi-Fi board to ensure that they are all perpendicular to the main board. There are many methods to achieve this. One method that I have seen success with is to solder just one pin on each, then reheat it while holding any unheated pins and moving it until it is straight. Once both rows of pins are straight, you can test it by placing the Wi-Fi board over the pins to see if it fits correctly. It is a lot easier to make position adjustments at that point than it is after all the pins are soldered. Some have had success using a small solderless protoboard placed over the pins and pressed onto them to hold them straight and parallel.

The included plastic case requires careful drilling, using a PDF file tem-

plate that can be downloaded, printed, and taped to the plastic case. There is another option for the case, and that is to 3-D print a case using the STL files linked to on the web page of the CW Hotline kit. I used the W7HLO design,

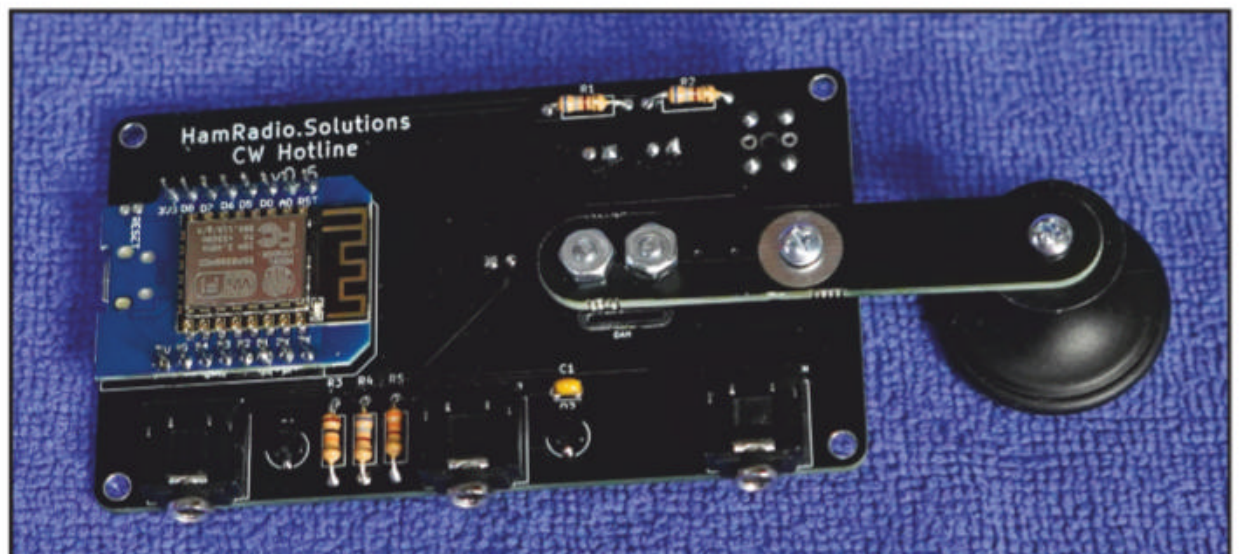
with which — if the case is printed exactly to size — the snap-on lid for the bottom of the black supplied case fits perfectly on the bottom of the completed 3-D printed case. The result is a case in which the holes fit exactly and the



The 3-D printed main part of the case fits exactly the same as the supplied case, without having to drill any holes. There is an option to print either with or without the opening for the key / paddles. The built-in keying choices are optional with any key or paddle being also able to plug into the CW Hotline directly.



The top of the finished CW hotline includes the two status LEDs as well as the control button.



The bottom of the board holds the jacks as well and most of the other components, including the pre-assembled Wi-Fi board.

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The finished CW Hotline in the 3-D printed case is assembled with the straight key option. A paddle still can be plugged in to the kit as well.

case fits the kit. The kit comes with a front panel label sticker that can be used with either the supplied case or a 3-D printed one.

Configuration

Once completed, the configuration of the kit is done by connecting it directly to a computer via USB and then going to the CW Hotline web page and following the steps in the operation manual. Configuration consists of setting the parameters, including the Wi-Fi access,

by filling in blanks on the web page. Once completed, you can save those to your kit. Each kit comes with its own passcode that gives access to the website. Do not lose this code. It is on a sticker in the box as well as inside the case. The website also allows you to join different channels to talk with others using CW. An interesting feature of the CW Hotline is the ability to use a second kit to connect to the CW key input of your rig and remotely key your radio. This is a very important reason to not divulge

the passcode that is supplied with your kit as it also provides security for your remote keying option.

You can order the CW Hotline kit for \$55 including USA shipping from Ham Radio Solutions at <https://hamradio.solutions>. The Super Simple CPO kit mentioned in the beginning of this column is available from the Four State QRP Group at www.4sqrp.com. The Morserino32 is also still available at www.morserino.info.

With hamfest season getting under way, it is time to remember to register for Ozarkcon to be held in Branson, Missouri, on March 31/April 1st. Ozarkcon is put on by the Four State QRP Group. There will be a live kit-building experience at which we will be assembling the Four States QRP surface-mount dummy load kit. We will offer both the solder paste and direct soldering methods of dealing with the surface-mount parts. I also plan on attending the Green Country Hamfest in Claremore, Oklahoma; the Shriners Hambash in Kansas City, and the International DX Convention in Visalia, California for my very first time. All of these events are in April.

– Until next time, 73 de KØNEB

the ham notebook

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY WAYNE YOSHIDA*, KH6WZ

Let's Get Back to Normal



Photo A. CES® is one of the most interesting and exciting tradeshow and conventions for consumer electronics technology. (Courtesy of Consumer Technology Association)

As I write this installment of “The Ham Notebook,” I am hunkered down in my home office trying to keep warm and hoping my shingled roof stays in place. It is windy and raining outside. We do need the rain since most of the southwest U.S. has been in a severe drought for the last several years.

My day-job company continues its temporary COVID-inspired, hybrid work-from-home / work-from-office policy to minimize contact and yet increase collaboration by meeting in person on certain days. If this sounds a bit strange, I agree. But I suppose it is better to be safe than sorry.

We are beginning to slowly get back to allowing local (no international) business travel, so this is a good sign of things getting back to normal.

My mind is wandering, as I think about my recent business trip to CES® 2023 in Las Vegas (Photo A). The Consumer Electronic Show is said to be “... the most influential tech event in the world — the proving ground for breakthrough

technologies and global innovators.” Too bad there are no ham radio displays at CES.

But I did have booth duty showcasing my day job’s company’s parts (Photo B). And yes, some ham radio transceivers use parts from the company I work for.

Meanwhile, when I finally had some time to walk around the exhibits, I noticed some very interesting things as well as some things that I thought were almost totally useless, and I often asked myself, “why would anyone want something like that?” several times.

In addition to the latest products for home entertainment electronics, computing, computer networking, gaming, and eSports, there were plenty of other places where “electronics” entered into places previously not known for electronics applications.

I recall CES when the “next greatest thing” was computer gaming. Multiple buildings (not booths) were devoted to one company’s video games.

This seems to have shifted, and the big thing at CES this year was artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous vehicles. Those products reminded me of many science fiction

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Photo B. An interactive display showing various RF, switching, and timing components for hybrid and electric vehicles at CES. (Photos B-O by KH6WZ)



Photo D. The Lightyear solar car has a range of over 620 miles between charges. It is in production and available in Europe. The car on display is not a prototype or concept vehicle. It is a customer's car, on loan for the show.



Photo C. A robot cat available from a company called Elephant Robotics. No need to feed it or clean the litter box. But it is too strange for me.

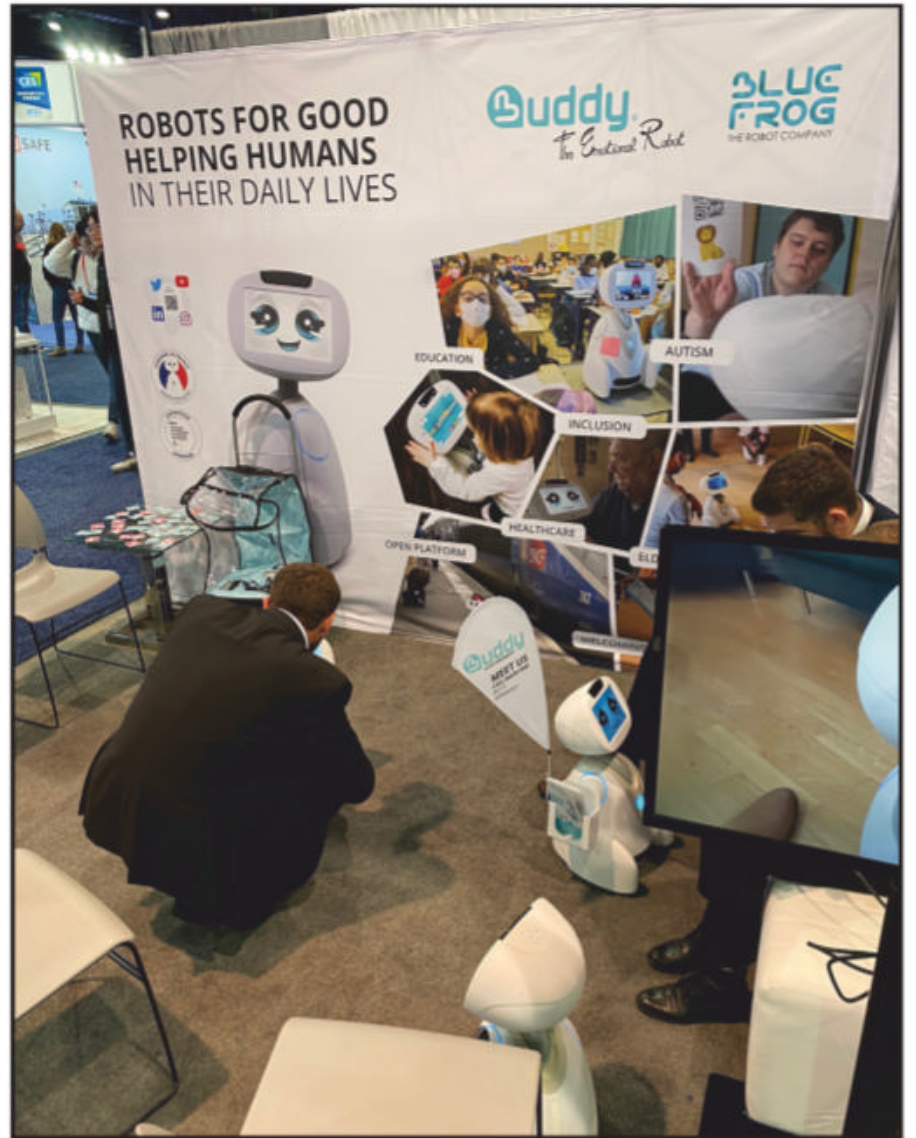


Photo E. "Buddy, the Emotional Robot" is deployed in thousands of schools in France. It is an "emotional AI companion" from Blue Frog Robotics.



Photo F. One of the Indy Autonomous Challenge race cars. Looks just like an “ordinary” race car, but if you look closely, there is no driver seat (see sidebar for more).



Photo G. If you go to your local ham radio convention, you will be tempted to open your wallet and spend some money on something.



Photo H. All ham conventions are great places to socialize with other human beings with similar interests.



Photo I. If you time things right, you might be lucky enough to see some live, on-the-air demonstrations, like this one in which Clint Bradford, K6LCS, shows everyone how easy it is to make satellite contacts.

stories and movies, and a “Twilight Zone” episode or two, like the 1959 episode called “The Brain Center at Whipple’s,” in which machines replaced humans in a manufacturing plant. You can see some of these items in *Photos C, D, E, and F*.

Back on track for this column, and blending the CES experience with ham radio products, I am glad there is not too much “glitz” and “useless gadgetry” in the products we use to communicate.

“Our” Conventions and Trade Shows

For ham radio equipment, our biggest shows include the Dayton Hamvention® in the U.S., the JAIA Ham Fair in Japan, and Friedrichshafen International Amateur Radio Exhibition in Germany.

There are a ton of ham radio conventions in the U.S., but



Photo J. One of the main reasons I like going to ham radio conventions is the swapmeet aspect. I have found very useful and often difficult to find parts and gadgets over the years.



Photo M. Where else can you see a real Collins service van, fully restored and equipped with working vintage Collins gear?



Photo K. Hands-on learning events, like learn to solder and build-a-thons, are another great feature of many ham radio shows.



Photo N. One excellent side benefit of going to in-person ham radio events is learning from other hams. Here is an example of this “guerilla technique” as applied to learning new things. Brian Yee, W6BY, was selling some items at a recent radio gathering. Although I did not see anything that interested me, I did notice how he mounted an HF antenna to the back of his Toyota Prius.



Photo L. It is always great to see examples of CQ magazine’s history, represented by antique original magazines from the past.

here are some of my favorites, in random order: Orlando HamCation, Dayton Hamvention, Ham-Com in Dallas (*Ham-Com is no longer being run. –ed.*), and Pacificon, which is also the ARRL Pacific Division convention. There are many other events that I have heard about and are on my list to go to someday.

These gatherings are excellent ways to meet others, to learn new things and to see the latest products from the equipment manufacturers and dealers. Many events include a swap meet (flea market) so you can participate as a seller as well as a buyer of new and used gear of all kinds. You can see what you are missing in *Photos G-N*.

After over two years of limited travel and human-to-human contact, I am glad to experience the beginnings of

getting back to normal. Although I am an introvert by nature and enjoy solitude, I also miss seeing my friends and making new ones, as well as traveling to other places to do things.

I am looking forward to traveling and visiting and learning and doing new things in my ham radio — as well as my other — worlds and personal interests.
– 73, Wayne, KH6WZ

References

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<<https://tinyurl.com/2p95k6rd>>
- ~ Clint Bradford, K6LCS, Amateur Radio Satellite Mentor
<<http://k6lcs.com/Home.html>>
- ~ Visit the CQ website to see Hamfests and Events announcements in your area.
<<https://tinyurl.com/47986enj>>
- ~ Dayton Hamvention® (USA)
<<https://hamvention.org>>
- ~ Friedrichshafen International Amateur Radio Exhibition (Germany)
<www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.com>
- ~ Ham Fair (Japan, 2022 information)
<<https://tinyurl.com/3j4zwvz5>>

The Indy Autonomous Challenge (IAC)

Although not directly related to ham radio, the Indy Autonomous Challenge (IAC) is a great opportunity for career development for university students around the world. Certainly, ham radio’s hands-on experience with electronics and building and integrating hardware can be an asset and possible advantage to any college curriculum.

A primary goal of the IAC is to advance the technology for fully autonomous vehicles and advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS). The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) competition is to program the autonomous-modified racecars and compete in a series of increasingly challenging competitions.

In other words, the competition is not to build a race car, but to program the software to run the vehicle. It looks like an excellent opportunity for students to experience real-world hands-on practice to collaborate, design, and achieve a goal.

Each self-driving vehicle is capable of speeds of over 170 mph and is based on a Dallara AV-21 Indy Lights chassis, equipped with a 2-liter, inline 4-cylinder, turbocharged engine. A small supercomputer occupies the driver cockpit (*Photo O*).

The autonomous system electronics includes the following:

LIDAR: Three sensors to judge distance between other vehicles and obstacles on the track.

RADAR: Three systems used to calculate relative position and speed of other cars and obstacles.

Cameras: Six cameras allow the remote “drivers” to visually see other cars and the track.

GPS: Four systems, with accuracy to 1 or 2 centimeters.

The cars also include various other sensors for real-time feedback on all aspects of the vehicle condition such as tire temperature, engine data, and other telemetry.

The 2023 IAC winner was team PoliMOVE from *Politecnico di Milano* (Italy), and the University of Alabama, reaching maximum speeds of 180 mph, a new racetrack autonomous speed world record.

More information, as well as videos on this unique and exciting opportunity can be found on the IAC website <www.indyautonomouschallenge.com>.



Photo O. The driver cockpit in an Indy Autonomous Challenge (IAC) racecar is filled with electronics. There is no room (nor need) for a human driver.

gordo's short circuits

BY GORDON WEST, * WB6NOA

Two HF Tuner Considerations

Comet / NCG CAT-300 and LDG Z-100A

For those high-frequency operators looking for increased compact manual antenna tuner performance, I tested the new Comet / NCG Company CAT-300 manual tuner, with great success.

Increased RF output performance is achieved from a slightly larger internal inductance coil, along with large(er) high(er) quality variable capacitors. The Comet CAT-300 can easily handle up to 300 watts, once you tune it up at a more reasonable level, like 50 watts. Don't tune on high power CW and rotate the inductance click-click switch on *any* manual tuner. This could arc the coil contacts.

First tune up on RECEIVE! Yes, *listen* for your rig's background band noise to increase at resonance.

Step one is to set the inductance switch to the band you wish to tune, again listening for your transceiver's background noise to slightly increase. Now quickly rotate both TR and X variable capacitor knobs for maximum receiver noise, and work them back and forth rapidly to get the most white noise possible. This puts you close to resonance. All this done on receive.

Then, find a nearby clear frequency, give your callsign on transmit SSB, and say "FOOOUUUUURRRRRR" while watching the SWR needle to take a big dip, and power output needle jump up, as you final-adjust both capacitor knobs for minimum SWR and max power out. Then, give your callsign, release push-to-talk on the mic, and write down the knob settings for that band. Do each band with this technique that the pros use. Remember, first tune on RECEIVE.

Small tuners this size can handle impedance loads from 10 ohms through 600 ohms, but for me, anything over 4:1 SWR requires more antenna work, even though the tuner can handle this. Any antenna that is so far off resonance will create return currents on the coax

braid, and the last thing you want from any manual tuner is returned RF, just inches away from your operating position and smiling face.

You can fool your rig into thinking that a match has been found, but a mis-

matched antenna can pose an RF hazard in your shack from the coax, with power first going out and up to the antenna, and then reflected energy coming back down to the tuner on the braid of the coax.

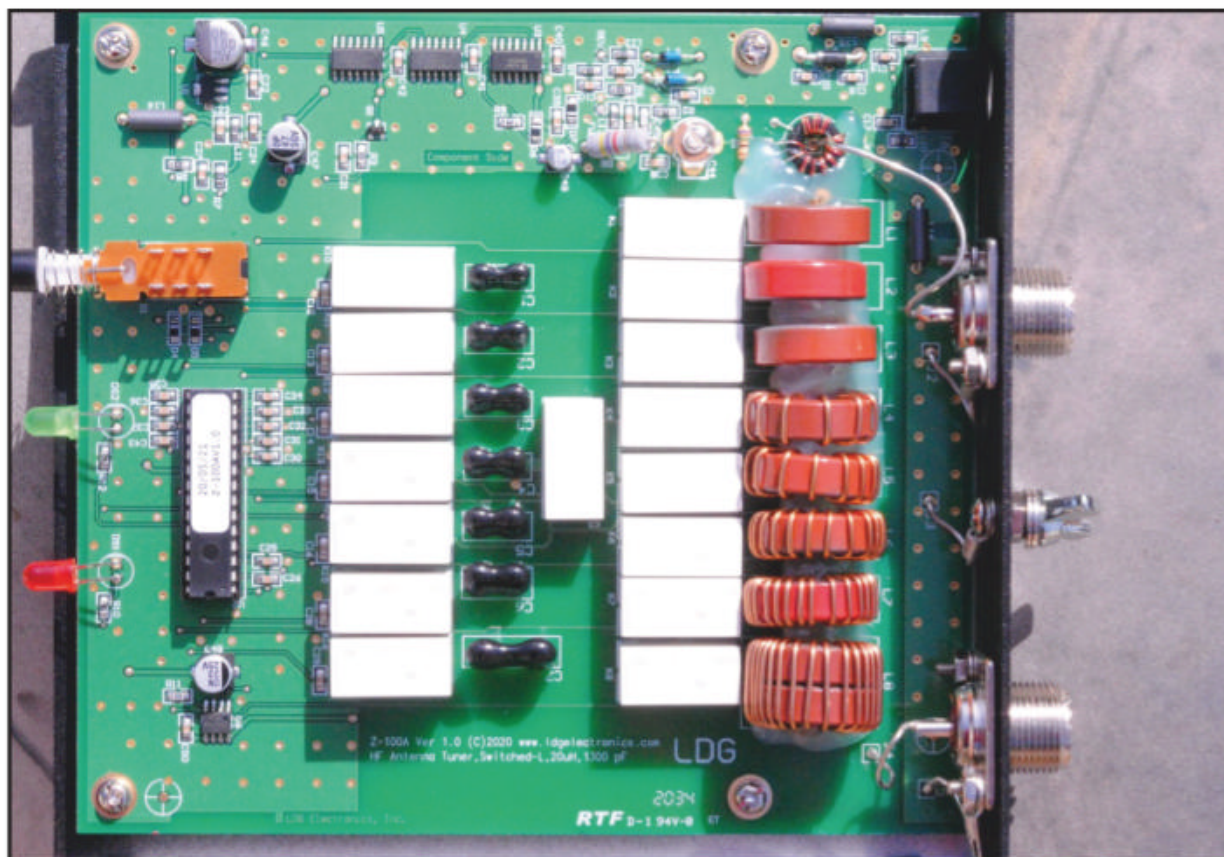


The Comet CAT-300 manual tuner easily tunes from 1.8 to 29.9 MHz and all in between.

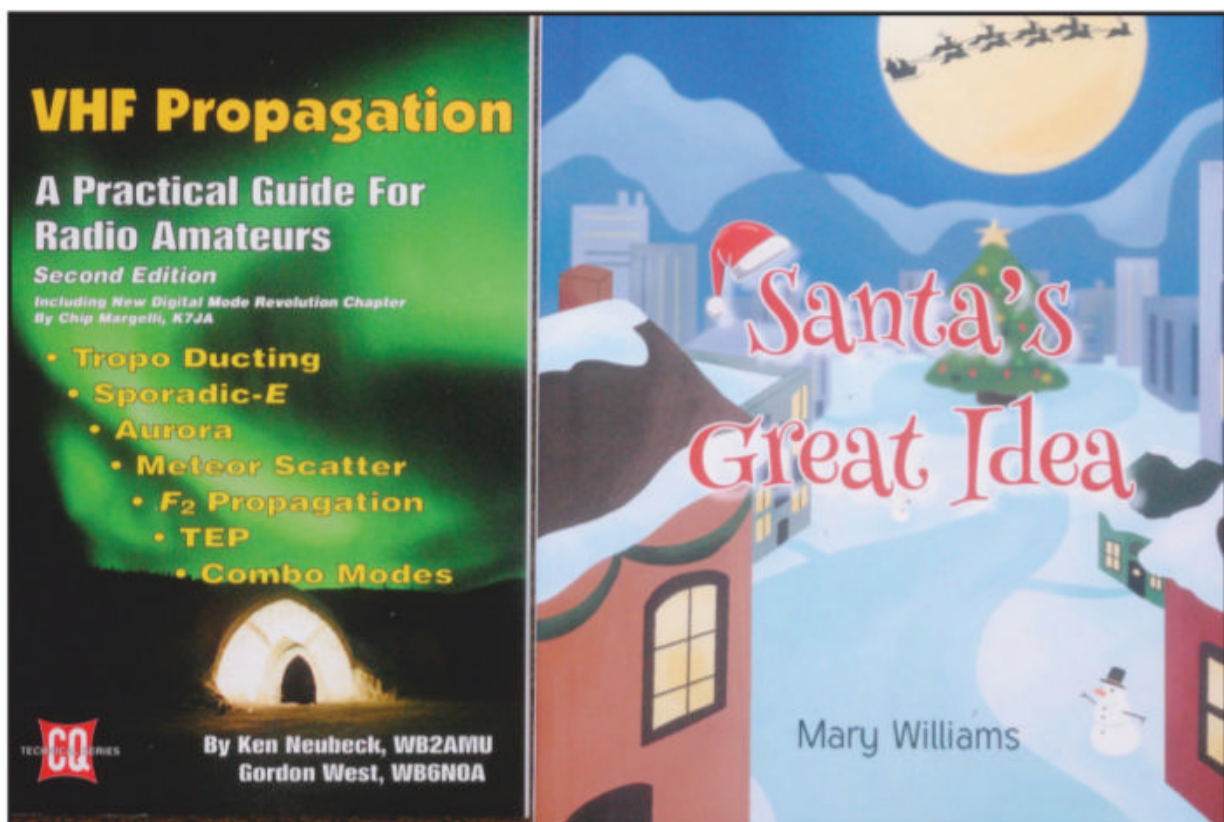


The LDG Z-100A has a coax output only to a balanced antenna system..

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email: <wb6noa@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Self-latching relays keep the LDG tuned with no power needed to keep them set.



Two great books for ham radio operators.

A band selector switch gets you set for 160 through 6 meters, and will easily tune 60 meters and any 5-MHz channel on the 7-MHz band setting; plus my 4-MHz Coast Guard NTIA channels on the 3.8-MHz band setting. So for MARS, CAP, and authorized users of government channels, this tuner can handle it.

The tuner has a large cross needle SWR meter, backlit with LEDs. The meter has a white background seen during the day, with black needles. Easy to see in ambient light, but backlit at night, the background goes to dark grey, with black needles nearly unseen,

keeps us guessing what the power and SWR are without a closer look.

The PEP average button gives the operator a good feel for working power output and drive levels for voice and digital operation. It also has a two-position push switch for two different antenna selections for the two antenna jacks on the rear.

For more information, visit <www.natcommgroup.com>. The CAT-300 is about \$250 at ham stores.

LDG Autotuner

For automatic tuners, when going mountaintop portable, the LDG Z-100A

has a unique function of battery-saving latching relays. This feature minimizes the need to have the automatic tuner constantly ON, drawing current, after you tune up. Once the auto tuner finds resonance, you can drop the 12 volts and the relays stay latched for full power out on your portable rig. Save battery power on the peak.

The Z-100A has a 50-ohm coax cable input and output and tunes dipoles that are not quite resonant for their own perfect match. Off-centered 80- through 10-meter dipoles, 10-ohms Z to 400-ohms Z, were easily auto-tuned with a typical tune-up time of 1 or 2 seconds.

But this is not a longwire waterproof reactance-feed tuner for loading up a cactus or a rain gutter. This tuner sits by the portable or home rig, and with the correct rig custom LDG cable kit, tunes up automatically in a flash, great for Summits On The Air ops. But the antenna you are using up on the peak must be “balanced” with a common center feed point — this will help minimize return currents on the coax.

LDG offers its own pre-assembled radio-specific cable kits, with matching plugs for most manufacturers’ ham rigs. The Z-100A can also be tuned by a push button on the tuner itself if you have a rig for which LDG doesn’t have a matching cable kit.

An SWR LED on the tuner lets you know the tuner has matched the antenna you are tuning.

The tuner will memorize up to 2,000 tune ups, and it can return to a tuned position within milliseconds.

If your SOTA and POTA (Parks On The Air) HF gear does not have a *built-in* tuner, the LDG Z-100A will give you that perfect match! Plus, it’s made in the USA.

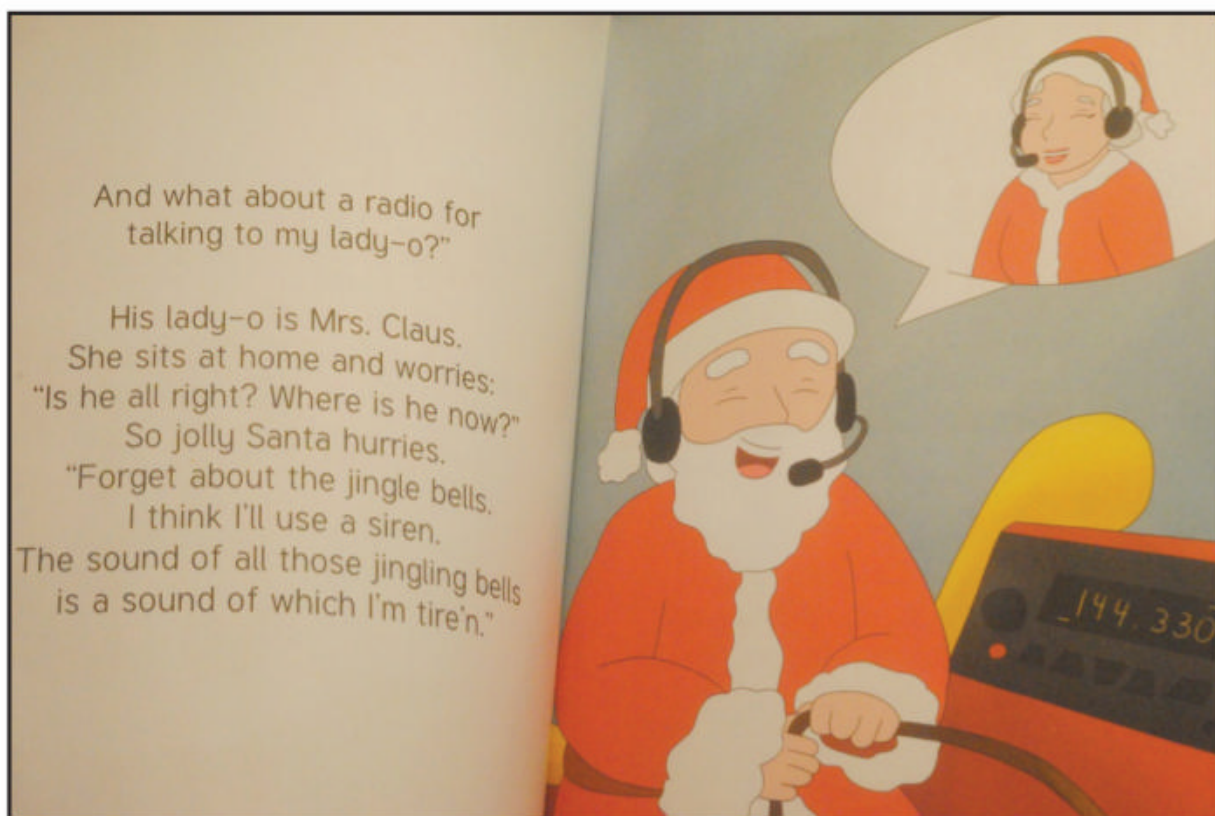
Learn more at <<https://ldgelectronics.com>>. It retails for \$199 at ham dealers.

Second Edition Of Our CQ VHF Propagation Book

Six meter legend Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU, “Mr. 6-Meter Magic Band,” has worked up for CQ magazine the second edition of our book on VHF / UHF propagation, with my updated chapters on how to work tropospheric ducting, and fun with sporadic-E (E_s).

Ken continues to include charts, graphs, and photos, and his fun writing style leads to a greater understanding on how exactly VHF and UHF radio waves many times go well beyond line of sight! Ken writes with a smile.

Added to our second edition is famed DXer Chip Margelli, K7JA, with a full



A children's book about Santa and his radio.

chapter on working digital modes, like FT8, from 6 meters on up. Who would believe moon bounce reception on a single Yagi on 2 meters would be possible in the Q65 and MSK144 weak signal digital modes? Chip tells all.

Our new book is sized 6- x 9-inches, 148 illustrated pages, and ships direct from the publisher, our own CQ Communications! It's \$21.95 plus shipping, phone (516) 681-2922, or visit <www.cq-amateur-radio.com>.

With Solar Cycle 25 looking great for 6-meter skywave as conditions continue to improve, learn some new tricks in working E_s openings, hours before the rest of the local hams know the band is opening. And when 6 meters goes short, jump up to 2 meters, and enjoy short-lived skywave contacts up to 1,000 miles away.

Speaking of books ... If you have very young children who you want to introduce to wireless radio, a child's hard-back book shows, in rhyme, how Ham Operator Santa, during this past holiday season, stays on course, giving Rudolph some time off, with an HT and other modern electronics in his sleigh, and comms with Mrs. Claus. But alas, his elves ran down the batteries, so Rudolph gets back in action!

Written by Mary Williams, AB6CZ, it's called *Santa's Great Idea*, at most bookstores, Newman Springs Publishing.

Sea Water Nearby? A Big River Nearby?

Most maritime ship chandleries are ultra knowledgeable on used boating things like cleats, anchors, sailboat

masts, sails, engines, switch panels, mooring chains, and generators, but not so tuned in to radio stuff, like long-range marine single-sideband (SSB) radios.

Many mariners throw in the marine electronics and SSB radio with the boat they are selling, and the new owners usually scrap out these big bulky boxes at the navigation station for the more modern satellite communications systems.

Luckily, the crystal-controlled dynamotor tube medium frequency 2- to 4-

MHz AM rigs are long gone. Now showing up are these "big clunker" 2 MHz to 29.9 MHz marine radios for pennies on the dollar.

Even though the marine high-frequency radios are pre-channelized for ITU upper-sideband (USB) marine frequencies, they can be front panel switched to the open tuning RX mode for upper *and* lower sideband, from 2 MHz to near 30 MHz, in tuning steps down to 0.1 kHz.

Instead of a smooth dialing VHF knob, they have a big knob that goes click-click-click in the selected tuning steps or use the keypad for dialing in any ham channel.

Nearly all the marine / ham transceivers use common 12-volts DC, they are synthesized with solid-state circuitry, 150-watts output, and provisions for automatic external long-wire antenna couplers.

Icom America continues to be the leading manufacturer of marine SSB synthesized rigs, and many solo ham sailors have an Icom marine SSB rig that will play on HF ham bands as well as ship-to-ship and Coast Guard marine channels legally with a ship station marine radio license.

The Icom M700s, M800s, and M802 are showing up at boater swap meets and used gear markets, and make excellent ham rigs, Some sellers think they are just a big CB radio, and will literally give them away.

SEA and SGC rigs are also seen going for a couple hundred bucks with



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Z-100A

VHF Propagation

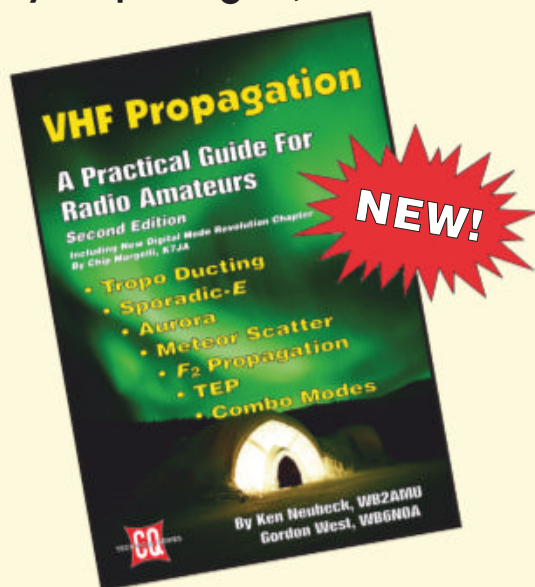
A Practical Guide for Radio Amateurs

Second Edition

By Ken Neubeck, WB2AMU,
Gordon West, WB6NOA

With New Digital Mode
Revolution Chapter

By Chip Margelli, K7JA



New from CQ—the *VHF Propagation Handbook—Second Edition*, written by three of Amateur Radio’s well-known authors: WB2AMU, WB6NOA and K7JA!

Just about all radio amateurs in the United States, as well as those in many other areas of the world, have access to VHF radio frequencies, regardless of their license class. And, the propagation modes that are often seen on these frequencies make for some pretty incredible operating conditions.

You will find a wealth of information within this book – beginning with Chapter 1: *Introduction to the Troposphere and Ionosphere* to Chapter 12: *New Digital Mode Revolution in VHF+ DXing*. Chapter 12 will bring you up-to-speed on the revolution in tools and techniques for VHF+ DXing. This new found-knowledge will certainly add to your enjoyment of the hobby!

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All marine SSB radios can also receive and transmit on ham bands.



Gordo's portable SSB pack with a marine SSB on bottom working 14.300-MHz USB.

a matching external antenna tuner for a little extra ... like \$50. Even a Kenwood TKM-707 marine SSB was seen at the local boater swap meet, going for \$250, including the matching long-wire antenna tuner.

All these rigs usually transmit outside the marine bands with no internal modifications needed. Some will tune ham bands on receive, but won't transmit until you read the manual, or call the factory, for the front panel "TX unlock" pro-

cedure. (73# ... 2 mode TX ...) They all unlock for ham.

These marine radios must NOT be used to transmit on ITU maritime radio channels ashore — *monitor only*. However, licensed hams may use any type of commercial radios on our ham bands.

So, if you have boat shops selling used gear and marine electronics, there likely will be some of the "big CBs" sitting on their shelf, looking for a new ham radio home.

mf/lf operating: Life Below the AM Broadcast Band

BY JOHN LANGRIDGE, * KB5NJD

Let's Review Some of the Basics of MF and LF Amateur Radio!

Plus ... an Update on Murphy at W3TS and a New World Record on 2200 Meters

In April 2017 when I wrote my first CQ column about 630 and 2200 meters, even before amateurs had spectrum access, it was a daunting task to prioritize just what topics were most important to present first. At the time, rumors from conversations with FCC staff in the Office of Engineering and Technology suggested that the bands would be opening under Part-97 rules sometime in fall 2017. Time was short so a lot of information was presented in those first few articles so that operators not already on the air as Part-5 experimental stations could be ready for the inaugural season.

Now that nearly six years have elapsed, it's probably a good time to rehash some of those early topics associated with station-building for both bands. As I write this article, there have been recent online discussions that suggest a new crop of prospective operators is beginning to seriously consider the possibilities of their own activity on 630 and 2200 meters. A few updates may help avoid reinventing the wheel.

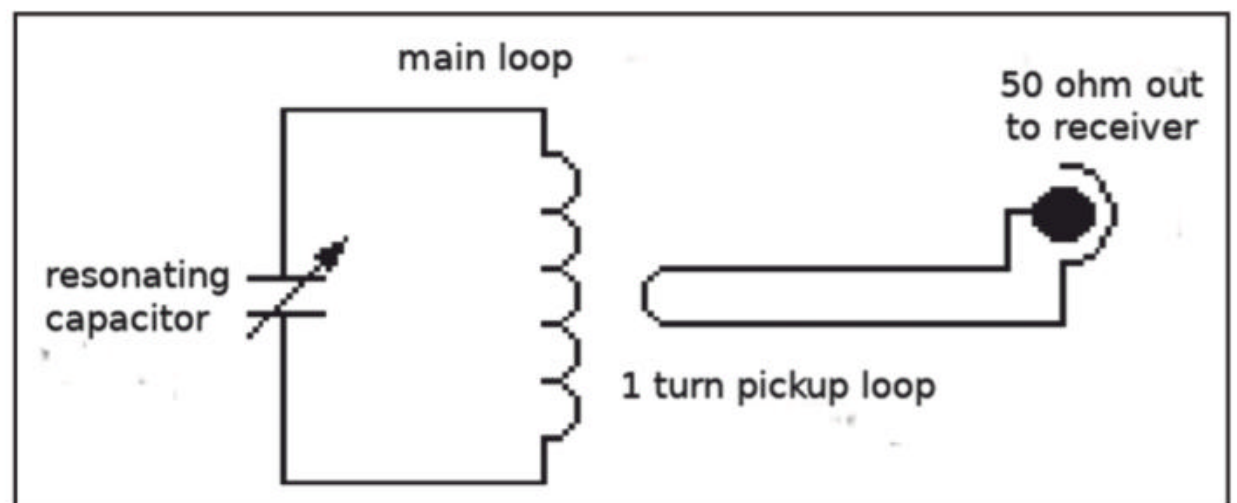
The very first thing I would recommend to a prospective operator is to submit your obligatory notification to the Utilities Technology Council (UTC)¹ that you intend to operate on 630 or 2200 meters or both. The agreement with the UTC stated that amateurs' intent on operating on these bands would submit notification 30 days prior to beginning their operation from a location. You only have to complete the process once for each operating location. As far as I am concerned, and as it's written, you are not prohibited from submitting notification for as many sites as you want. I've submitted notification for almost 100 locations from which I have either operated already or might one day.

Within the 30-day period following notification, UTC can raise an objection regarding operation at the location over

concerns with proximity to power line carrier (PLC) systems used for power transmission, switching and monitoring. It's important to note that this matter only covers power transmission lines that contain PLC signals, not power delivery to your home so smart meters and other communications technologies that use power lines will not prohibit your operation from a regulatory standpoint. Those services have no protections afforded

them, but they might generate noise that complicates your operation. If your antenna is closer than 1 kilometer to an active PLC system, UTC can raise an objection to your operation.

The good news is that several engineers that have worked with these systems have come forward over the last 10 years indicating that, in general, there are no active PLC systems above 300 kHz in the lower-48 states at this



The resonant receive loop design described by VE7SL is common for both small transmit and receive loops in use today. Resonating the loop is simple, by way of a variable capacitor. At KB5NJD, I also include a relay that allows me to select a secondary capacitor bank for 2200 meters in addition to a separate relay across the capacitor that detunes the resonant circuit while I am transmitting in order to avoid high voltage circulating in the loop due to near-field radiation of the transmit antenna. (Courtesy of VE7SL)



Here are the replacement standoff insulators that had been in use for just a few months before failing. The arcing appears worse than what was reported from the previous incident. Mike notes that thinner insulation on the RG8X used for the dipole feeder as well as the Marconi vertical element are likely the cause of this most recent failure. (Courtesy of W3TS)

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<kb5njd@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Plastic standoff insulators now replace the metallic insulators. A clamp holds the end of the insulator to the mast while the coax is tie-wrapped to the other end. These insulators only maintain spacing and do not have to support the weight as the main support is at the top of the mast. (Courtesy of W3TS)

time. This bodes well for 630 meters but could still be problematic for some 2200-meter operators below that frequency boundary. In fact, one prominent and long-time experimental operator on 2200 meters located in the Northeast was notified that an objection was raised for his activity on 2200 meters under Part-97 rules even after operating on the band at higher power levels for years prior with no problems under Part-5 experimental rules. I suspect that this situation was a clerical error with record keeping but the station in question chose to “do other things” rather than pursue the matter further. Don’t let this scenario keep you awake at night. Make your notification with the understanding that it is very unlikely there will be issues. Very few have actually claimed to have been prohibited from operating from their desired location.

This first step is also important because by submitting notification for your site, you prohibit future coordination of these frequencies for PLC use within 1 kilometer. You might be helping someone else in the future even if you have no intention of operating on these bands in the near term.

I mentioned a few paragraphs back that existing power infrastructure and general “noisemakers” from the neighborhood could make listening a challenge so evaluating your receive capabilities is a very good thing to do early in this process during the 30-day period following your UTC notification. After all, if you are unable to hear others

because of local noise, making two-way contacts may be a problem. Listening with existing HF antennas is one strategy but likely will not offer the level of performance necessary for success on these bands due to poor impedance matching at frequencies for which the antenna was not designed. Those stations with existing low-band receive antenna systems will find these tests more revealing. If using broadcast-band filtering, don’t forget to remove it from the receive chain. That has happened more than once to operators who were evaluating their systems.

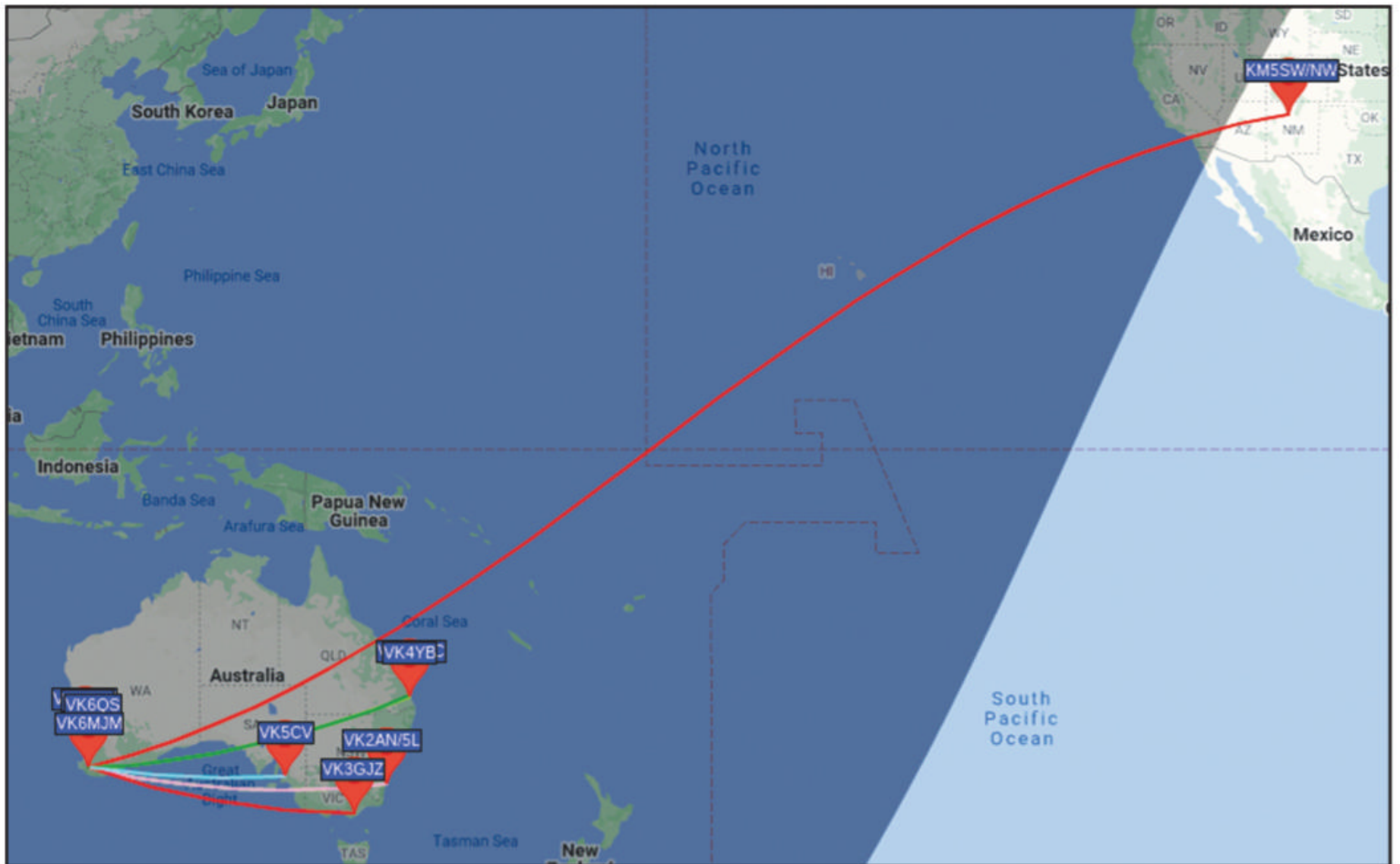
For those without existing low-band receive antenna systems, a rotatable multi-turn loop that has been resonated on the band of choice can offer considerable performance. The receive loop that I use at my station, which is remotely switchable for 630 and 2200 meters, is probably my best receive antenna out of the six that I regularly use on the low bands. There are many versions of this loop found on the internet but the one I use was originally based on a description² by Steve McDonald, VE7SL, of Mayne, British Columbia, Canada. It uses multiple turns on a frame and is then resonated by a capacitor for the band of interest. A pickup wire loop mounted adjacent to the multiple turns of the antenna wire connects to the coax. At my stations I went a step further, adding a step-up transformer between the pickup loop and the coax, allowing a bit more signal down the feed line from better impedance matching as

well as a bit of additional common mode protection due to isolated windings.

This last statement deserves a bit more discussion in broader terms. It’s very commonly heard that people try receive antennas on 630 or 2200 meters (or even 160 meters) only to report that they did not see any improvement in receive performance. A red flag always goes up when I hear someone say this because it probably says something about their station grounding configuration and component isolation. It is so easy to completely ruin an otherwise perfectly good receive system because of poor grounding and isolation. There is a much greater awareness of the impact of ground loops these days because of the proliferation of digital modes and interfaces between computers, external sound devices, and transceivers.

Ground currents flowing on the shields of coax and other interconnects can become part of the antenna system, masking desired directivity, and making the receive passband sound like noise that can never be nulled. Because of this, I use isolation transformers between receive antenna feed lines and the receive antenna signal buss. Because the receive antenna ports on most transceivers are not isolated from transceiver ground, loops can occur, so I also use isolation transformers between the feed line and the receive-only ports of my transceivers. In all, I probably have 20 isolation transformers in my receive antenna system and while this may seem excessive, all of my receive antennas retain their directivity and are effective.

So how are these transformers built? Very simply put, transformers used here are made with Type-75 binocular cores with five turns on the primary and five turns on the secondary. Of course, a variety of other split-winding options can also be found on the internet. Be careful when mounting transformers in metal boxes, however, because these are *isolation* transformers and should not connect to a common ground on the enclosure. Instead, only one side (primary or secondary — you choose) should connect to the enclosure while the other side should have a floating shield. There are many varieties of chassis connectors that are outfitted with insulation to accomplish ground isolation. If you hate dealing with connectors, an alternative approach is to directly solder the transformer to coaxial pigtailed with some type of strain relief in the enclosure, avoiding the need for additional ground-isolated connectors in the receive antenna chain. Mouser



The 16,164-kilometer (10,064-mile) path between VK6MJM and KM5SW was particularly challenging due to a significant amount of distance that the signal had to traverse over land early in the trip. (Courtesy of VK6HP)

and Digikey both carry ground-isolated BNC connectors.

Many modern transceivers work on these bands “out of the box,” receiving well and generating a low-level signal much like a signal generator with all of the features of transmit / receive switching built in. This month we will stick to a discussion on receiving, exploring transmitting options next time. The Kenwood 590SG / 890 / 990 lines have native receive at 630 and 2200 meters, meaning that the receivers perform similarly to how one might expect them to perform at higher, more traditional amateur frequencies. These offer far better performance than a general coverage receiver contained in many older transceivers, in my opinion. A broadcast attenuator is jumper-selectable but the location of that jumper seems to vary by serial number so keep that in mind if you decide to make that modification. Details are available from the in-depth manuals on the Kenwood site.

Other transceivers like those from Elecraft also work very well when optioned for operation below 160 meters with respect to band-pass filtering. Several transceivers from Icom are also reported to be very good performers,

although I am not certain that all of them have been firmware-modified at this point to generate signals below 160 meters. Those questions should be directed to their respective manufacturers. The Icom 7300 seems to be a favorite of many. Perhaps someday a definitive side-by-side evaluation of all of the current transceivers can be undertaken. In general, transceivers with general coverage receivers tend to perform poorly with respect to sensitivity below the AM broadcast band. Just because a transceiver says it will tune to 50 or 100 kHz does not mean that it will work well there, particularly when coupled to a poor receive antenna, so keep that in mind.

Vintage gear is not uncommon, particularly on CW. Use with digital modes, however, tends to be a bit more difficult, if even impossible, due to frequency resolution, stability, and accuracy. I think many of us have been spoiled by seemingly unlimited DSP capabilities available with modern transceivers that make many otherwise impossible low-power QSOs from the past become reality. If you are using a vintage receiver, patience and a robust receive antenna will offer you the best possibility for

success. This may seem obvious but there have been individuals who have complained about not hearing anything, only to report that their receive antenna was an 11-meter CB “ground plane.” That’s a true story. Dumb luck antennas do exist but they are usually the exception and not the rule.

We will delve deeper into generating a signal as well as transmitting antennas, what works best, and approaches to implementing existing antennas on 630 and 2200 meters in coming columns.

Did the Antenna Repair “Hold” at W3TS?

In last quarter’s column, I reported on a visit from Murphy at the station of Mike Michael, W3TS, of Halifax, Pennsylvania. Since the 1990s, Mike has used 40- and 80-meter dipoles that are insulated from his tower as a T-top Marconi vertical on 160 meters and 630 meters as well when the band opened to amateurs. It worked fine until the late summer of 2022 when arcing became a problem. Mike repaired the system that had worked well on 630 meters for several years and on 160 meters for much longer. Sadly, the fix



Sunset at the remote VK6MJM outpost. (Courtesy of VK6HP)

did *not* continue to work and Mike was forced to climb the tower again in late November to replace the work he had done just months earlier.

Mike attributes the arcing this time to thinner outer insulation on the RG8X coax that he is using to feed the dipoles and subsequently functioning as the vertical element on 160 and 630 meters. Since he could not really control the insulation thickness, his repair involved removing the twin lead stand-off assemblies that had been in place for so long, replacing them with a more robust insulator material that should be hard pressed to fail from arcing again. I will report back if these new stand-off insulators fail by some other method. As stated in the previous column, be careful assuming that what has worked in the past will continue to work into perpetuity. Stuff ages and breaks down, like all of us, and the quality of replacements may not be up to the standards of the past. As they say: They don't make 'em like they used to!

New World Record on 2200 Meters

Beginning in 2022, the Western Australian Low Frequency Experimenter's Group (WALFEG), affiliated with the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA), began operating a remote digital-mode beacon on 2200 meters with the callsign VK6MJM. Peter Hall, VK6HP, of Manjimup, Western Australia, reported in April that the reclamation of an abandoned non-directional beacon (NDB) used for aviation had been a success and the site showed some promise for evaluating long-haul openings on both 630 and 2200 meters.

Initially, 630 meters was the target band, resulting in over 5,000 WSPR reports within the JA, VK, and ZL corridor. The system proved to work well, so plans were made during the Southern Hemisphere winter of 2022 to make modifications so that 2200 meters could also be explored. The modified

system was first tested on the air in September, using both WSPR and FST4W-300, the latter being the FST4 beacon variant that uses a 5-minute transmission. Results were mixed with reports around Australia and as far away as Japan. However, the final goal is to be heard in North America or Europe.

November 2022 brought more testing at the remote site using 2200 meters FST4W-300 and while transitioning to summer propagation in the Southern Hemisphere, the Northern Hemisphere was becoming quieter as summer thunderstorms began to subside. A lucky break was found on November 21, 2022 when Paul Johnson, KM5SW, of Jemez Springs, New Mexico, reported the VK6MJM beacon three times at -36, -37, and -37 dB S/N at 1320, 1350, and 1405 UTC, respectively. It was reported a few hours later by Alex Lesnichy, R7NT, of Tagnarog, Russia, that the 16,164-kilometer (10,044 miles) path was the longest recorded 2200-meter reception between Oceania and North America ever reported. Alex is the keeper of the "Around the World on LF" (AWLF) record site which was not accessible at the time that this article was prepared.

Peter noted that the record was accomplished using just 0.8-watt EIRP despite the WSPR data that indicated 1.0-watt EIRP. Peter rushed to leave the site before dark where travel can be treacherous on severely compromised roads, so the entry was an error. Congrats to all involved and hopefully this is just the beginning of amazing things from this remote outpost on 2200 meters.

That's all for this month. If you have questions or comments, please contact me by email at <KB5NJD@gmail.com>.

Notes:

1. UTC Notification: <<https://tinyurl.com/4fs2m6eu>>
2. VE7SL: <<https://tinyurl.com/mr38c2n7>>

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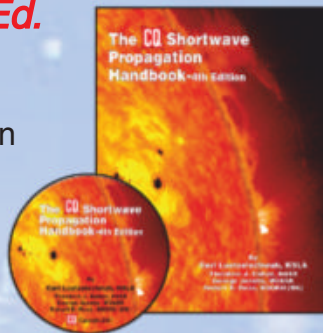
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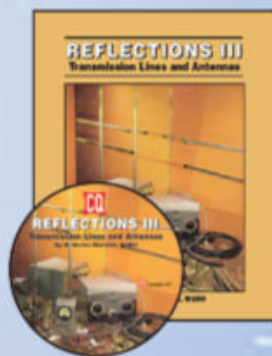
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ham radio explorer

BY ANTHONY A. LUSCRE*, K8ZT

Multiple Radio Activities with One Starting Point

Two-for-one ... I love it when activities complement each other, like that well-planned trip that accomplishes multiple errands in the shortest time and the least amount of driving. It is often called "... killing two birds with one stone." Solving two or more problems with a single action. There are so many aspects of amateur radio to explore that start with one project and accomplish multiple ends.

Sound Card Modes

Many new radio communication modes have been developed in recent years. Most of these can be lumped into the *sound card modes* (SCM) category. They depend on various tones for transmission via radio. FT8 and FT4 (*Photo A*) are part of the WSJT-X suite. WSJT-X also includes other SCMs used for spe-

cific activities such as meteor scatter and EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contacts.

Typically, there are four parts to a station capable of SCM communication: a radio capable of SSB transceive, a sound card interface, a computer, and appropriate software (*Figure 1*). For most purposes, the radio acts the same as it would during SSB transmissions, sending and receiving signals with multiple tones and amplitudes.

The sound card is simply a way to take the incoming audio of the radio's receiver and input it into the computer's incoming audio channel (often referred to as a microphone or recorder input). Conversely, the sound card takes the encoded audio output of the computer and feeds it into the radio's microphone jack to be sent out by the radio's transmitter. The "magic" of these modes actually takes place, not in the sound card, but in the software running on the computer. These programs encode information inputted via a computer

keyboard (or recorded macros) into an audio signal to be sent to the radio via the sound card. On receive, the software decodes the incoming audio signals from the radio via the sound card and converts them into the text we can read on the display monitor.

A Sound Card-Equipped Radio is the Starting Point

Many current radios have built-in sound card interfaces. You can easily add an external sound card interface for radios that do not have one built-in. Several popular commercial models of interfaces are under \$200 (*Table 1*).

Once you have a radio with a built-in sound card or external interface with cabling, you are ready for many new modes and projects. Follow these steps to get started with a Microsoft Windows™ computer:

1. If your radio requires driver software for the computer interface, install the current version of that software before connecting your radio to the computer with an interface cable — see the manual for information on drivers and check the manufacturer's website for driver software. After installing, note the Com port that the radio interface has been given in Device Manager.

2. If you are using an external sound card, attach all cables to the radio and USB cable from the interface to your computer.

3. You should see a new sound card in your list (probably with the word CODEC in the name).

4. You will need to set the mode to DATA or USB, depending on your specific radio model.

5. You may also have to make changes to the radio's settings — turn off DSP and DNR, set filter to widest setting, etc. These settings may vary, depending on the specific SCM you are running. There are a lot of how-to videos for different radio models on the internet and YouTube.

6. Install software for the specific SCMs that you want to run.

Install Sound Card Mode Software Programs

You can add dozens of new modes to your amateur radio repertoire by choos-

*Email: <k8zt@arrl.net>, website <www.k8zt.com>

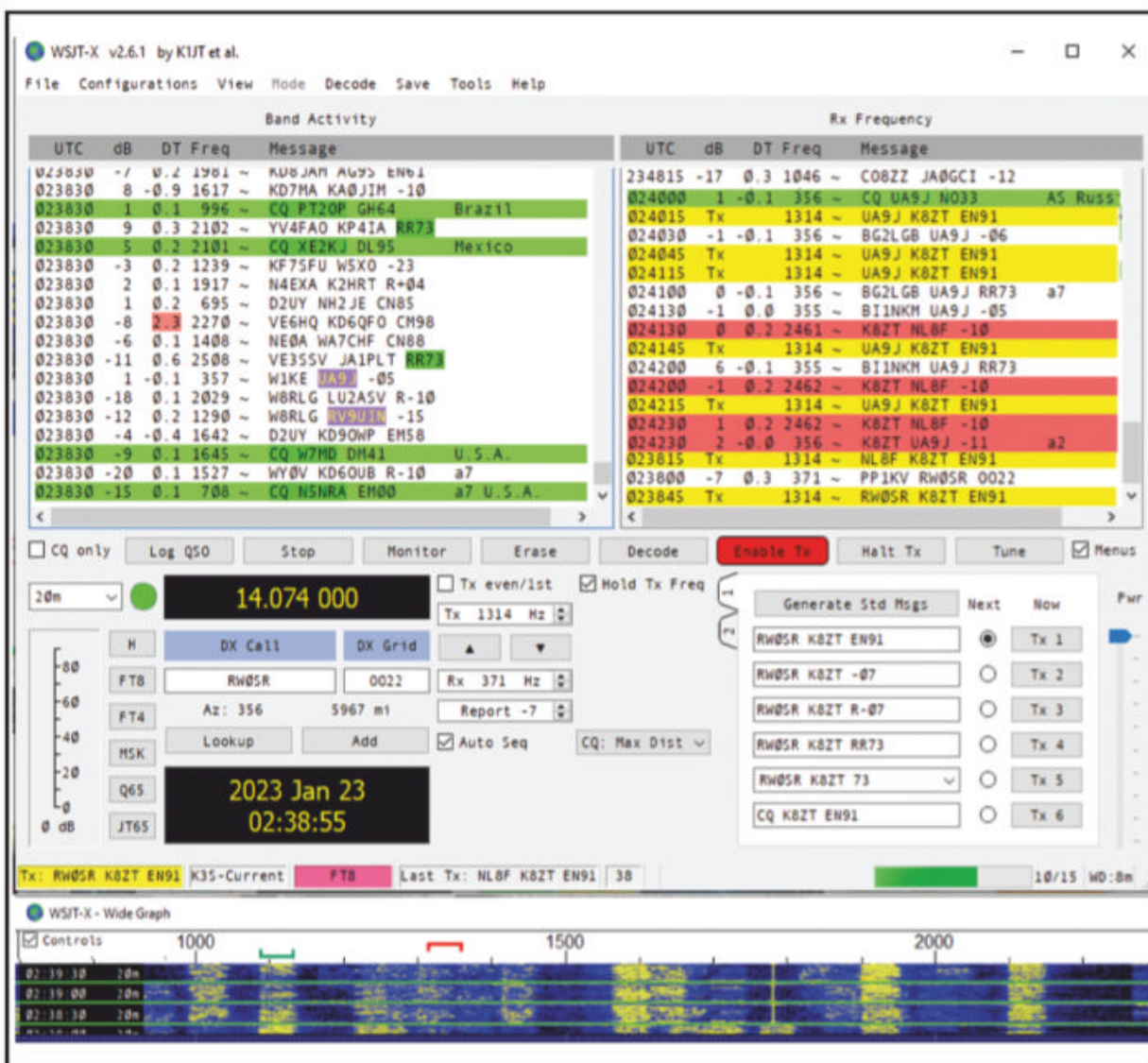


Photo A. Author working Asiatic Russia and Alaska with 5 watts on popular sound card mode FT8.

ing different software. Two of the most popular modes are FT8 and FT4. These are part of the **WSJT-X Suite** (for more information, see my slideshow <tiny.cc/ft8ft4>). WSJT-X can also provide you many other weak-signal modes for meteor scatter, EME, etc. Installing **FLDIGI** software <www.w1hkj.com> gives you a large number of SCMs, including PSK (and its many versions), Hellschreiber, DominoEX, etc., plus sound card versions of RTTY, CW, and WEFAX. There are a number of other

programs with SCM, including Ham Radio Deluxe's "Digital Master, formerly DM-780, an all-purpose ham radio digital modes communications package."

An Additional Step to Run Winlink, VARA AC, etc.

Pactor, a mode popular a few years ago for digital communication and email forwarding, required a rather expensive hardware modem. Much of Pactor activity has been replaced by VARA, a high-performance HF software-based

modem based on OFDM modulation. If you would like to run Winlink or other related modes, you will need to install the EA5HVK weak-signal software which can be found at <<https://rosmodem.wordpress.com>>. There is a lot of information on the software at the site, which I will not be able to cover in this article. After downloading and installing, you will need to register your software and pay a small registration fee.

Even More

Just like in the late-night TV commercials — "wait, there is even more!" Once you have your radio and sound card interfaced, you can easily record on-air audio with your favorite software, transmit SSB exchanges in contests as macros, and more. We have just scratched the surface of current SCMs, and new ones are always on the horizon, so this month's exploration can continue indefinitely.

That's it for this month. If you are interested in some of my recent ham radio presentations to radio clubs via Zoom, visit <tiny.cc/k8zt-p>. Remember, I am always looking for information on your new activities, ideas for future columns, and feedback from this column, so please email me at <k8zt@arrl.net>.

Table 1. A chart showing some common commercial sound card interfaces. (Table by author)

Sound Card Interfaces	
Manufacturer	Model
Tigertronics	Signalink
Digirig	Digirig Mobile
MFJ	MFJ-1204
DigiLink	Nano
Xggcomms	Digimode-4-(Manufacturer)
RigExpert	TI-3000
ZLP Electronics	DigiMaster MiniProSC
Master Communication	DRA Series
Yaesu	SCU-17 USB Interface

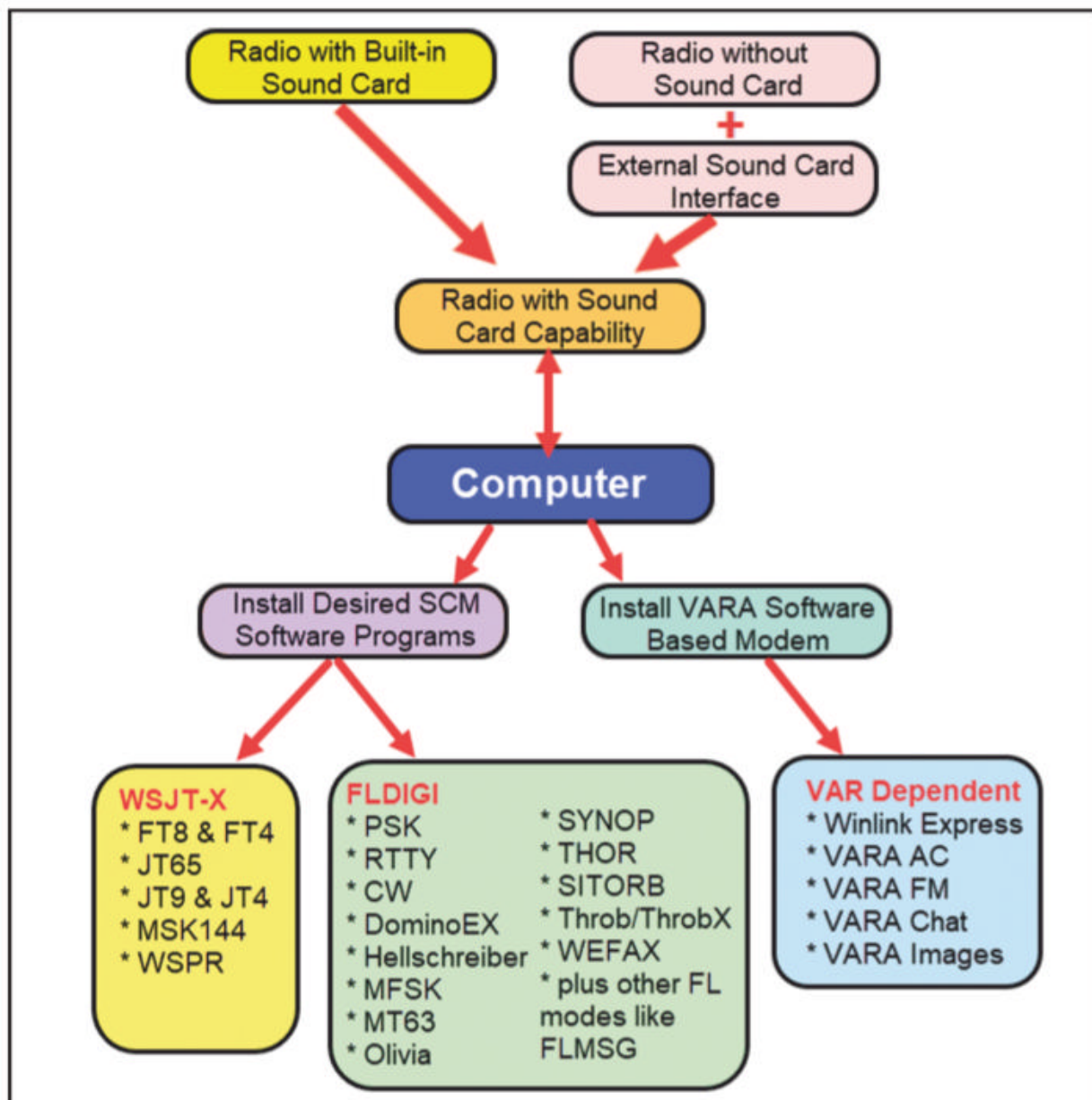


Figure 1. An overview of what you can do with sound card modes, a properly configured radio, a computer, and some software.

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With thanks to the OMs who encourage and support us.

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digital connection

BY DON ROTOLO,* N2IRZ

Boxing Days

TARPN Nodes and Their Containers

I've written many times about the TARPN packet networking project <tarpn.net>, and this month we'll have another look at a related project. I presume that most CQ readers know enough about packet to know whether they'd enjoy it or not, so there's no attempt here at conversion. After all, CW enthusiasts don't do it because it's state of

*c/o CQ magazine

Email : <N2IRZ@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo A. A prototype TaddBox, designed to hold a complete three-port TARPN node (less antennas, of course). On top is the Raspberry Pi computer, and below are three radios and their associated KISS TNCs. There are some parts missing here, such as cables, power supply and backup battery (these sit on the very bottom shelf), and the Pi power supply and fuse box.

the art, but because they find it fun. As it is with packet. Its value as a learning tool cannot be overstated and the chat feature in TARPN Home is a fun way to unite the local packet community.

If you want to gain traction in the promotion of (something), it is often a good idea to minimize the level of effort required to get started. Efforts for most anything include publicity, funding, sourcing bits and pieces, clear instructions on what to do and how to do it, as well as a support system for when things go cattywampus [*this is a new word for me -ed*].

TARPN has seen a reasonable level of success by focusing on these points and delivering reasonably good and readily available "products." But one of the key elements, as I've learned through my efforts in Atlanta, is having an effective advocate and promoter. From first hearing about a project to visiting someone to see things in action to active participation, there needs to be a central contact where anyone and everyone can find out what they need to know.

Another key element is making the important components available, ideally at a reasonable price, or at least identifying a reliable source. A Raspberry Pi is a full-blown computer and can be purchased for approximately \$55, serving as the core of a TARPN node. Well, since the pandemic they're harder to find, but not impossibly so. The TARPN software is free, installation and configuration are mostly automated and very well documented. The NinoTNC is a very capable

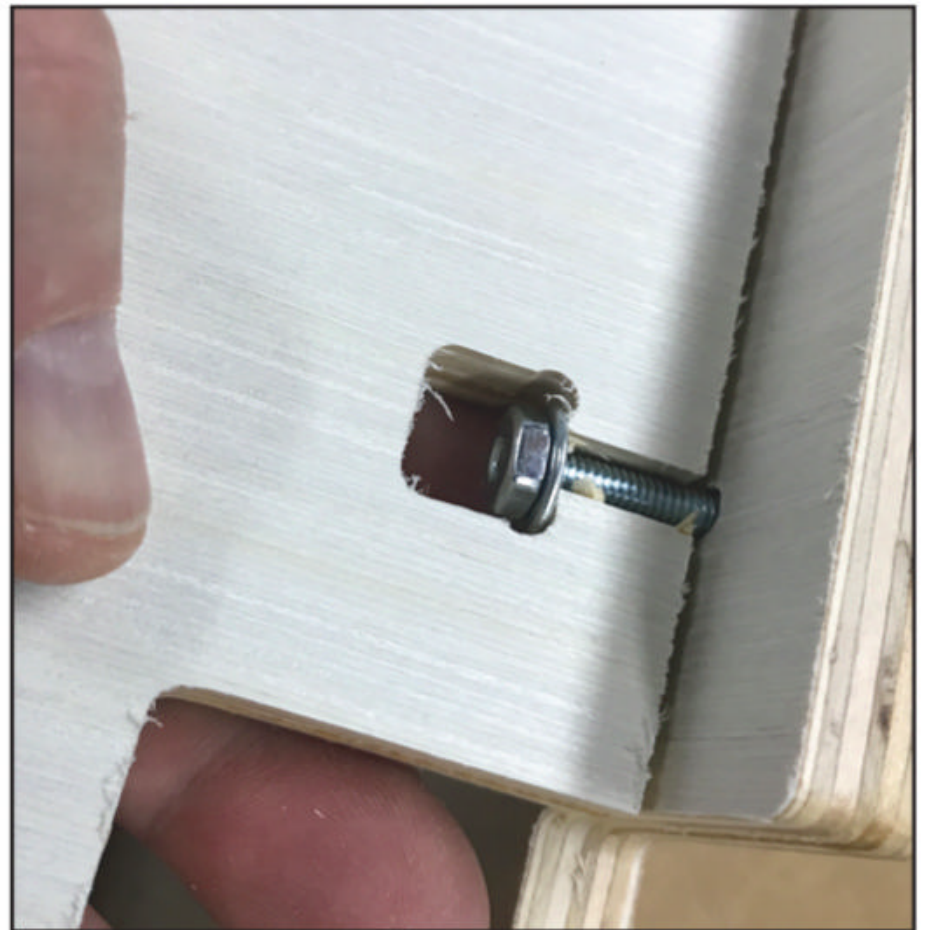


Photo B. Using a CNC router makes easy-to-assemble joints like this a trivial matter. Tightening the screw makes a strong joint that can easily be disassembled if needed.

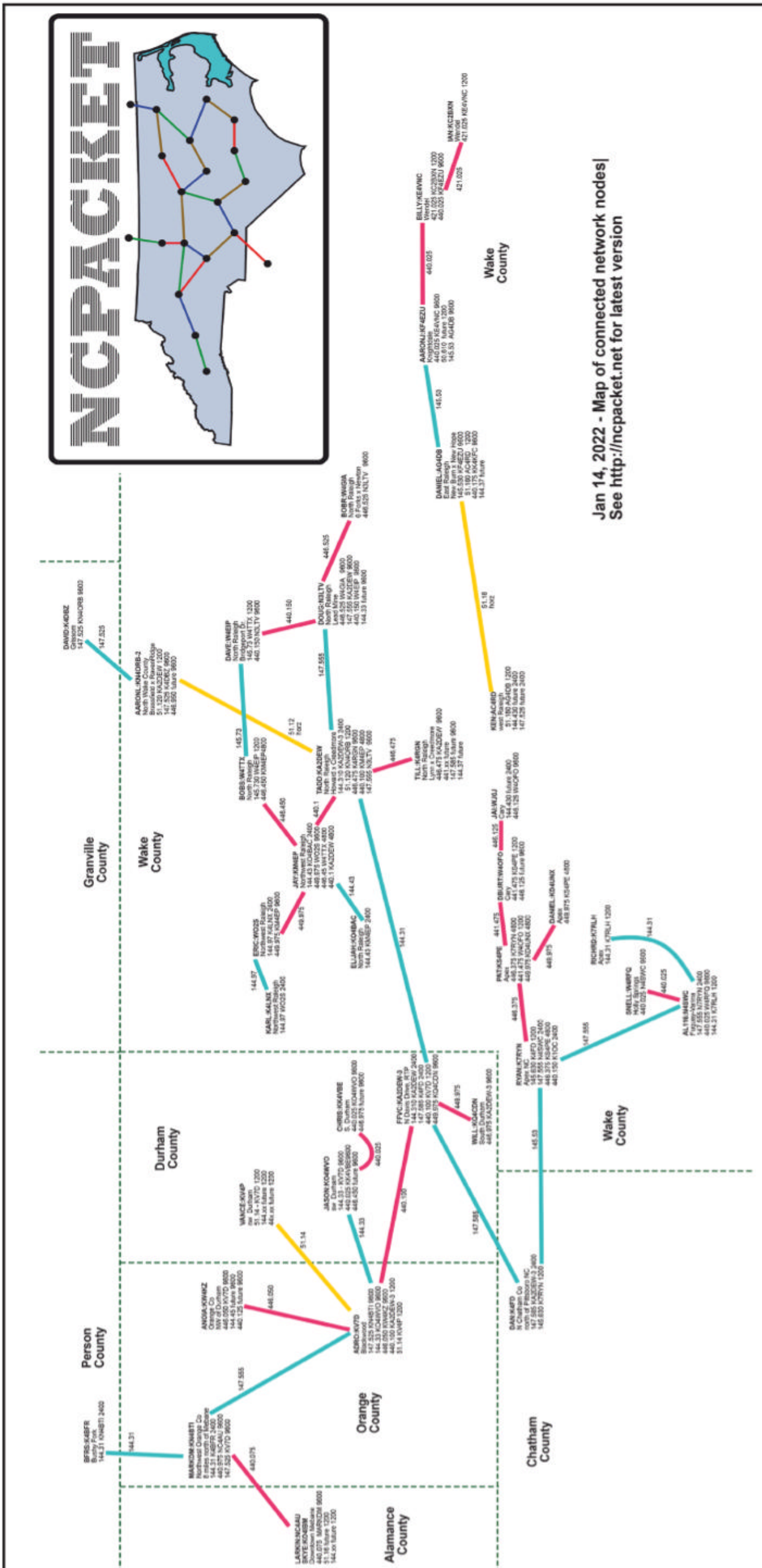


Figure 1. The North Carolina TARP Network as of mid-January 2023. The latest version of the network map can be found at ncpacket.net. (Courtesy of Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW)

KISS Modem that can be had as a kit for about \$45, and a pre-assembled SMT version is in the works. Having these key components readily available from reliable sources eases the burden on the potential participant. The rest of the various parts are much the same: Some from DigiKey or Mouser, some off Amazon, and so on.

Once you get all this stuff, you must put it somewhere. Leaving it all strewn about on a shelf or table is inviting catastrophe: There are many bits and pieces that can and will throw sparks and smoke if something conductive hits them just right. While the TARP Network builder pages show some examples of simple plywood or wooden IKEA boxes that have been used, I wanted something a little better.

The goals for building the TARP Network node enclosure included a reasonable cost, extremely easy assembly, shippable in a USPS Priority Mail Flat Rate® Medium Box, durability, room for a three-port node with radios, TNCs, the Raspberry Pi, and power for everything. As it turns out, shipping is about a third of the cost, since half-inch plywood isn't light as a feather, and lumber prices are higher now than almost ever. One can certainly build a box, but this one is fairly ideal for the purpose.

My purpose this month is not to create a market for these boxes. Frankly, it isn't a business I want to be in. Instead, I want to document what it is, offering the G-Code and part outlines so almost anyone can make their own if they so desire (write me if you are interested). In an ideal world, someone with access to a CNC router would start a small business and supply the world — with my blessings.

Aye, there's the rub: A CNC router. Not everyone has one in their basement. But if you search around, this is a standard fixture — as common as a table saw — in virtually every makerspace around. And, not sure you've noticed, there are a lot of makerspaces around.

One box can be cut from a 24-inch square of half-inch plywood, and the three shelves and Pi support from another 24-inch square of quarter-inch plywood with a bit left over. The 9- x 9-inch top cover can be either half-inch (recommended), or quarter-inch ply-

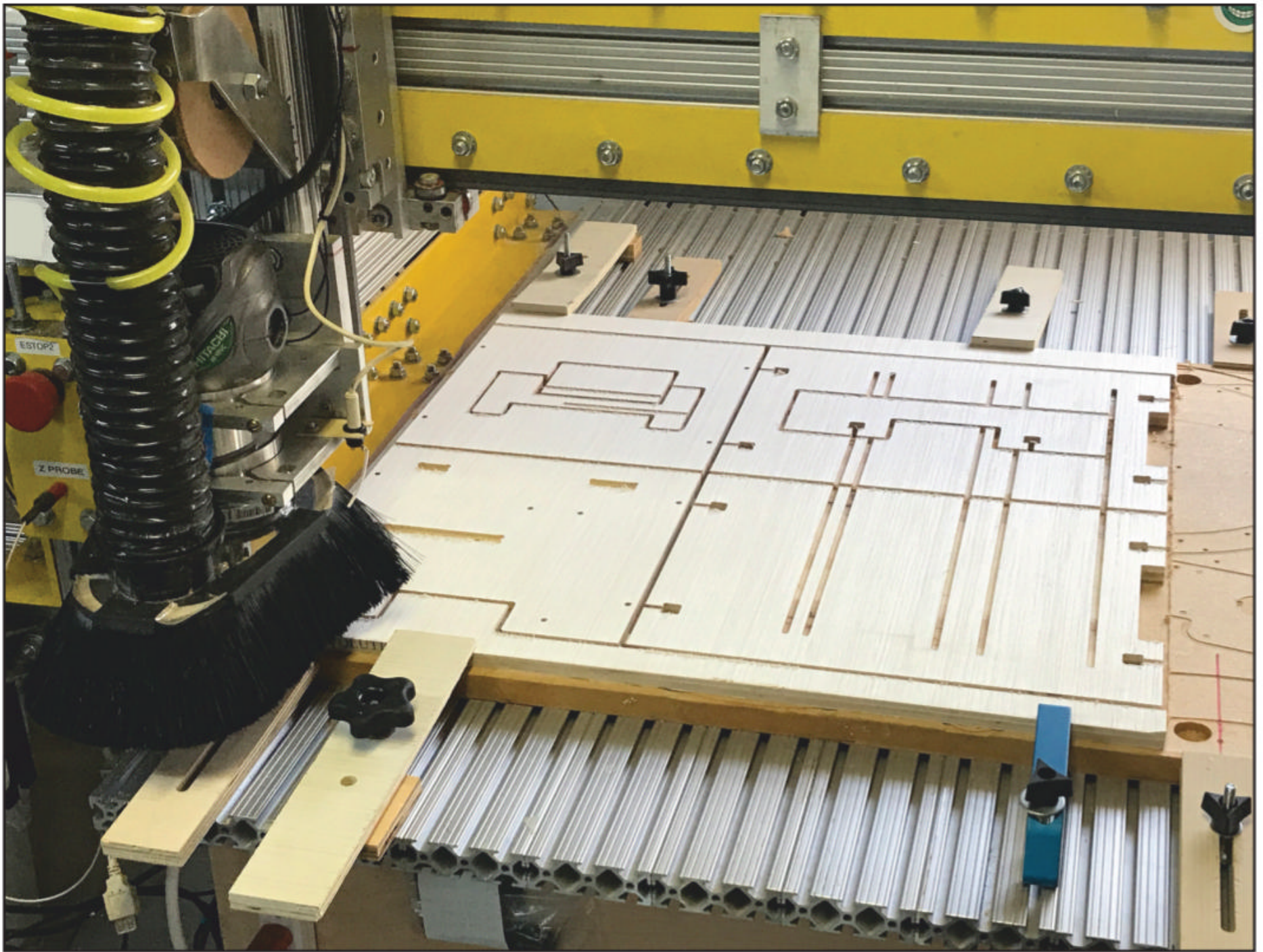
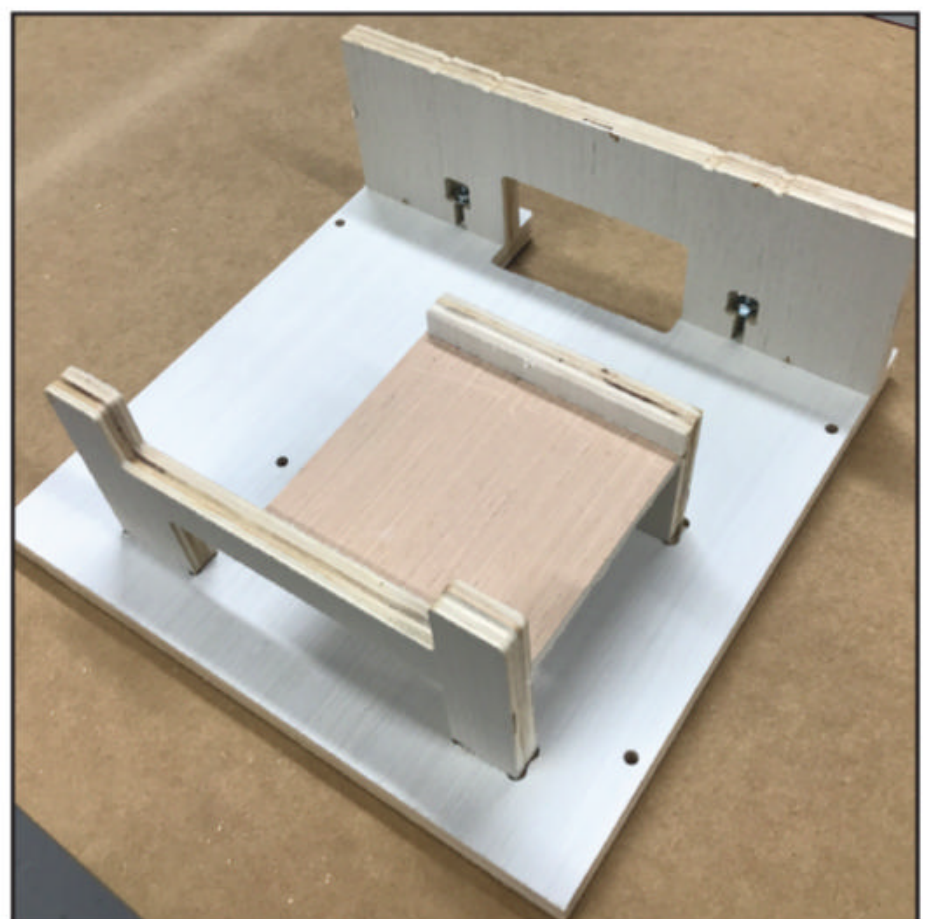


Photo C. The major parts of the TaddBox are cut from a 24-inch square of half-inch plywood using a CNC router. Note the brackets that are cut from the insides of the bottom and one side, saving material, weight, and cost.

wood if you want to use the leftover from the shelves. Assembly uses screwdrivers and an optional hammer-like object — in case something needs persuasion. The box is strong enough to support me (200 pounds) but reasonably lightweight, and disassembles and knocks down flat quickly and easily for shipping or storage.

We start with two sides, a bottom and a top. These form a box, held together with #8 machine screws and nuts as seen in the photos. We insert the Pi supports into the top and hold them in place with wood screws. The shelves slide into the machined slots, as does the Pi support plate, all held in by friction. The top cover is hinged, protecting the Raspberry Pi and some of the power supply items from falling objects yet allowing easy access. There's room in the back for cables.

Photo D. A close-up of the top, showing the details of the shelf for the Raspberry Pi and the rear bracket for the hinged cover. The Pi support brackets are set into routed pockets on the top, then held in place with a wood screw from beneath. The front bracket supports the front of the hinged cover and provides a place for installing the Node Control Panel from Larry, W8NP. This is a prototype — I anticipate moving things around a little to gain further efficiencies.



Everything is readily accessible. Disconnect the antenna cables and power supply cord and the whole thing is portable. At about 15 x 10 x 10 inches, the enclosure fits in smaller spaces. The open shelf design allows for heat dissipation. For use in high humidity, or for aesthetics, it can be painted. By the time you read this in early March, I expect that the TARPEN builder pages will explain how to get one of these enclosures if you decide not to build one yourself.

Hamvention

Before we close for this issue, some brief comments on Hamvention®. Held in Xenia, Ohio it is the largest gathering of radio amateurs in the world. This year it will run from Friday May 19th through Sunday May 21st. If you haven't made plans to attend, or especially if you've never been, you should try this year if you can. Certainly, if you're within driving distance (which, for me, is about 10 hours), but even if you have to fly in to Dayton (DAY), Cincinnati (CVG), or even Columbus (CMH), it is worth the trip. Find a hotel now, as they tend to fill up around now. It's not unusual to stay 20 or 30 miles away — traffic is rarely an issue (unlike in Atlanta) so travel times are reasonable. I'm staying in Fairborn, Ohio, just 10 miles away and right around the corner from the Wright-Patterson

Air Force Museum. Indeed, the museum alone is a day's effort, and really worth it.

The Hamvention flea market takes more than a day to thoroughly examine, and the several hundred organizations and vendors (many with "show specials") could easily consume the rest of your time and cash. Food galore — almost none of it healthy [*but delicious —ed.*] — and a virtual guarantee of rain and/or thunderstorms — bring your rain gear. A small backpack is a great idea.

It is true: If you can't find one at Hamvention, it doesn't exist. And, if you seek bargains — and who doesn't — that's what you'll find. The educational value alone (hey, what's this thing?) is worth the entire expense. I don't care who you are, I guarantee there will be at least one thing at Hamvention that you don't know what it is. And sometimes, the seller doesn't know, but *you* do — the makings of a supreme bargain indeed.

That's all I have this time. As you may have guessed, I'll be at Hamvention. You can find me in my bright yellow FRC Robot Inspector cap, poking around the bargain bins and looking for things to write about.

By the way, if you have any suggestions for that, let me know.

— Until next time, 73 de N2IRZ

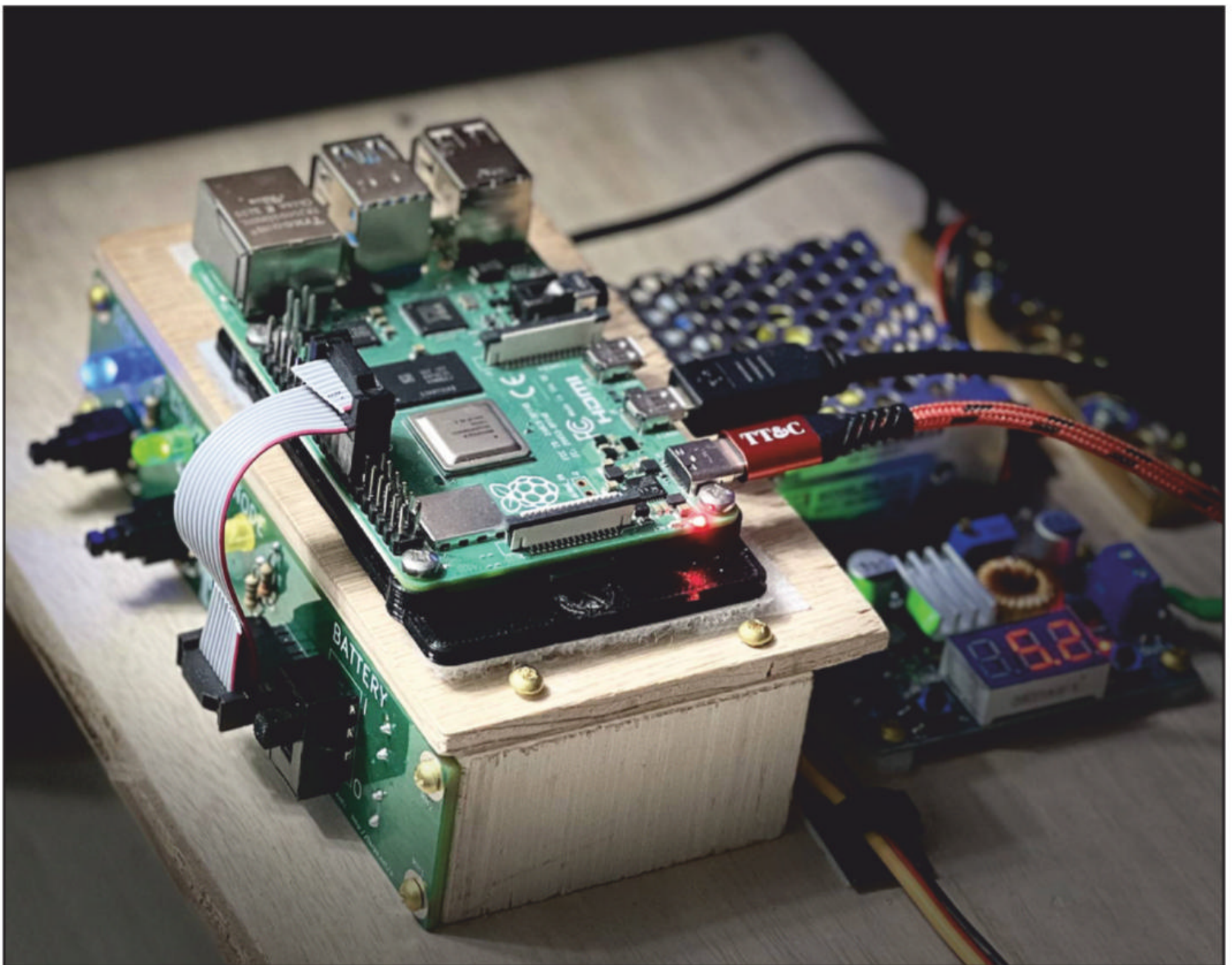


Photo E. An early prototype showing the equipment that is mounted to the top: Raspberry Pi, Node Control Board, Pi power supply, and DC-DC converter. The fuses and some other bits are beneath the Pi. (Courtesy of Tadd Torborg, KA2DEW)

learning curve

BY RON OCHU, KOØZ

Activating Grids

It's still wintertime and it's cold and rainy as I compose this article. I'm taking a short break from working the WRTC (World Radiosport Team Championship) stations and the Congo TN8K DXpedition to compose my thoughts for this March article. The higher solar flux, along with nice A and K indices, makes taking time away from my transceiver to write just a bit harder. And just think, Solar Cycle 25 is ramping up and we have many more years of increased ionospheric activity which translates into long-distance (DX) contacts. Also on the brighter side, when you read this, it will be transitioning from winter to spring, so it's time to start planning outdoor ham radio activities.

Would You Consider?

May I suggest seriously considering participating in an upcoming VHF (very high frequency) contest or two? There are many of them sponsored by CQ and the ARRL. In June, there is the ARRL VHF contest. CQ's VHF contest is in mid-July. September is another ARRL VHF contest, followed by yet another in January. Various VHF groups and societies sponsor VHF and higher *sprints*. Sprints are shorter duration contests usually conducted on weeknights. They can be a lot

of fun to participate in, but weekend contests tend to bring out more activity.

VHF Contests, You Say?

Newly minted ham radio operators participating in VHF contests? Are you serious? Perhaps, as a newcomer to ham radio and to ham radio contesting (radiosport), your VHF contesting "arsenal" consists of a dual-band handi-talkie (HT) and a rubber duck antenna. You don't have a multiband VHF / UHF (ultra high frequency) multimode (SSB and CW) transceiver and directional antennas. Not yet anyway. So, mister CQ writer, try that one on for size.

Okay, let's try!

Commitment

The first thing we need to do is to check out the rules for the VHF contests to get a feel for the "lay of the land." Are you aware some VHF contests have a category designated just for FM (frequency modulation) in addition to single sideband (SSB) and digital? Other important considerations include: When is the contest? What is the contest exchange (information exchanged in a contact; see below)? What category should my friends and I enter? Categories include fixed (operating from your location), rover (driving to various grids), single operator, multi operator, etc.

*Email: <ko0z@cq-amateur-radio.com>

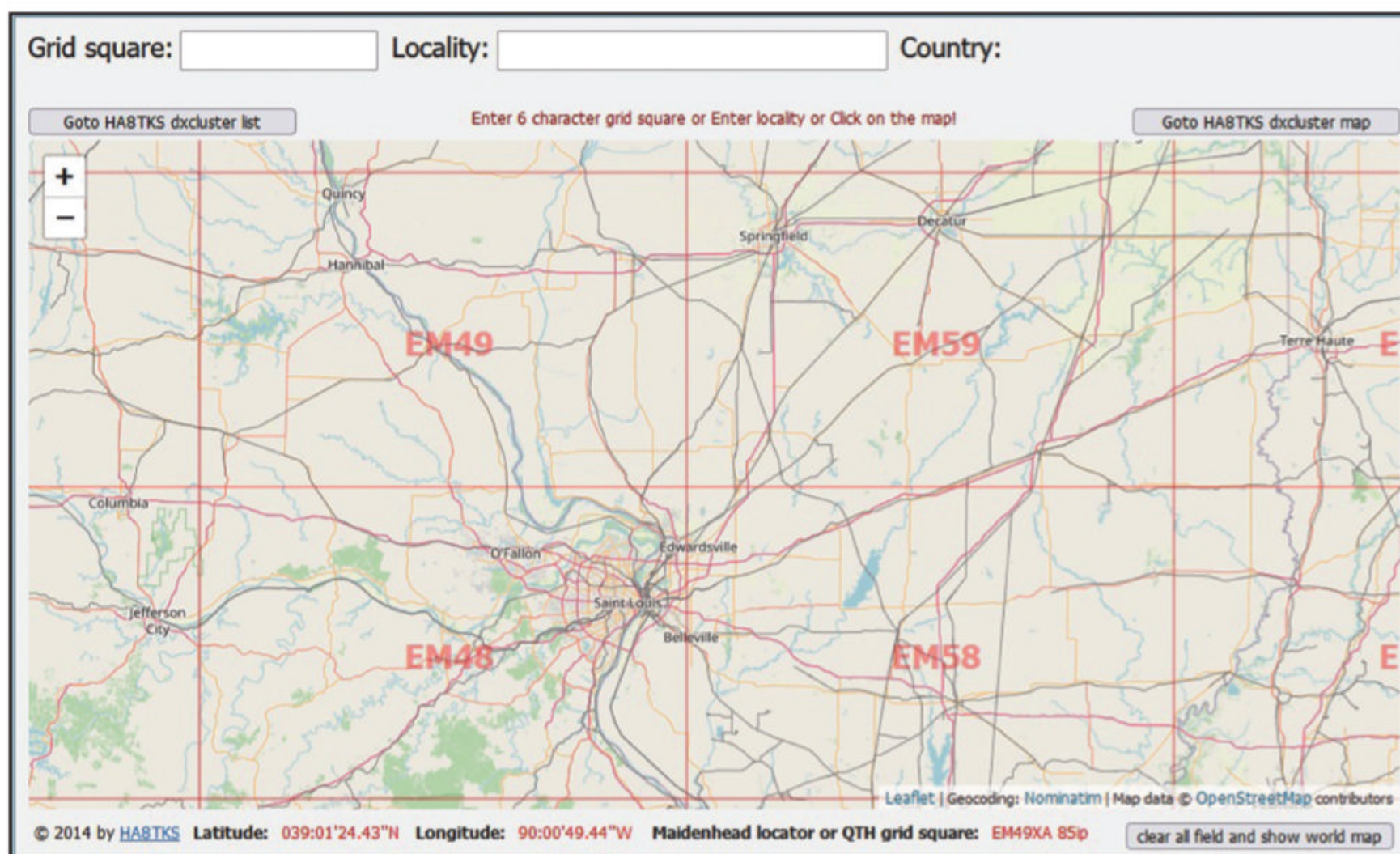


Photo A. Screenshot of four grid squares: EM48, EM58, EM49, EM59. Going to where four grid squares come together can make for a fun VHF DXpedition and a nice way to accumulate multiplier points. (Photos by KOØZ, except as noted)

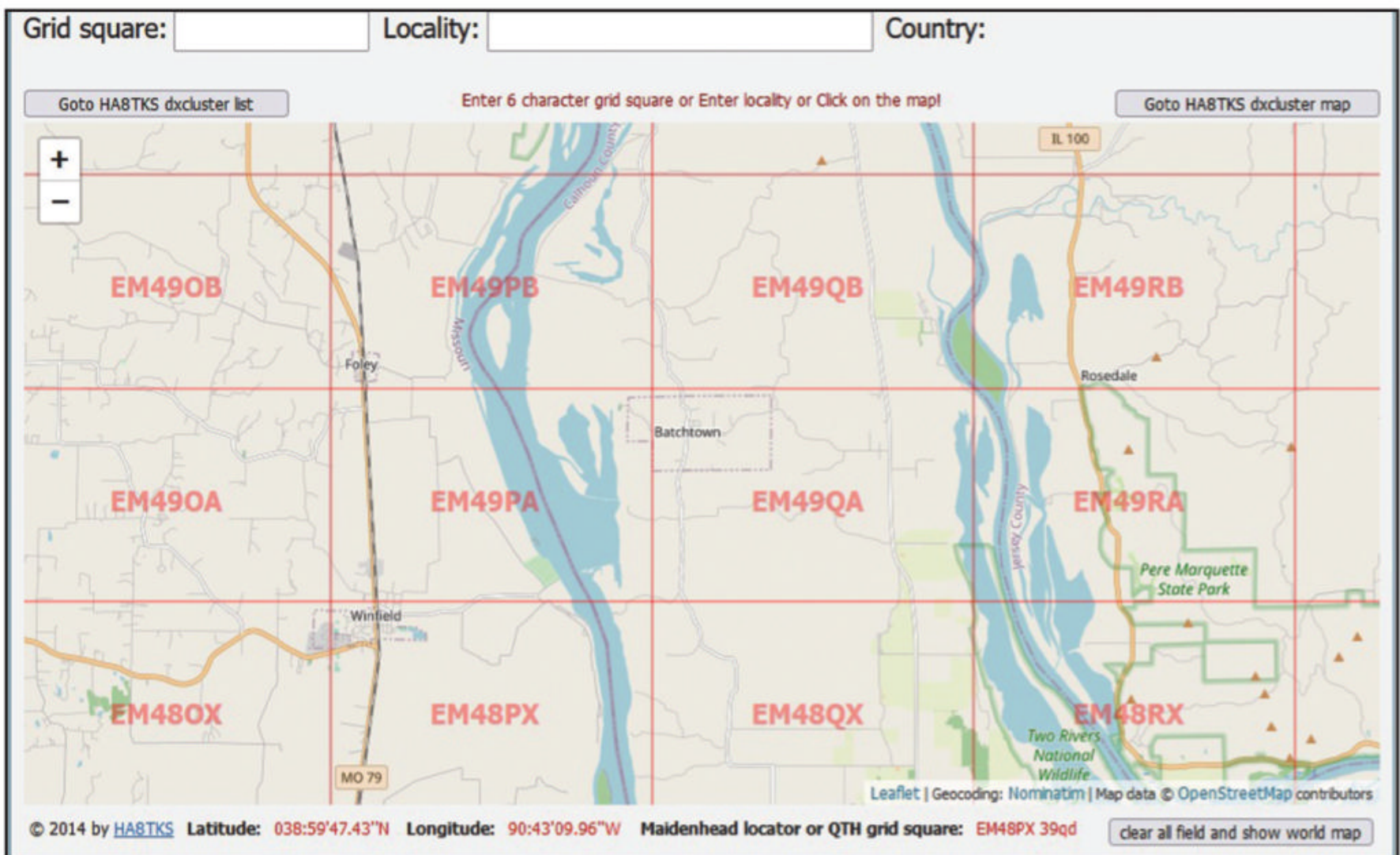


Photo B. Screenshot of grid squares EM49pa and EM48px. Where these two grids come together is a short drive for Herbert, AF4JF; Ron, KOØZ; and Harry, WAØCNS. A mile either north or south puts us in one or the other grid squares. Not as much of a challenge to overcome for VHF contacts, but it is a great way to get “radioactive” and to have fun doing it.



Photo C. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Lock and Dam 25 is in grid square EM49pa and just a mile or south of that location, we are in the next grid square EM48px. It's a great place to start the contest. It's also a great place to see bald eagles during the winter time.

The next item of business is to get a few friends in on the idea. You don't have to feel like you are trying to take on the whole radiosport community and win the big prize (which generally is nothing more than a plaque and bragging rights). Maybe the closing scene of *Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid*, facing down the entire Bolivian army, may be coming to mind. Why not start off among friends and see what happens? Contesters are always looking for more participants. Finally, commit yourselves to participating in one of the contests. Even if it's only for a few hours on just one afternoon. I'll bet you'll be surprised as to how much fun you and your friends can have in a single afternoon.

Grid Squares and Exchanges

Baseball has diamonds, football has a gridiron, soccer has a pitch, and VHF/UHF contests are played on grid squares. What is a grid square? The entire world is divided into grid squares. Grid squares in the Maidenhead Locator System are actually rectangles, approximately 70 x 100 miles (*Photo A*). There are a number of good grid square websites. One of my favorites is the HA8TKS website <<https://tinyurl.com/yw7vm8rw>>. This website allows you to



Photo D. A tow boat on the Mississippi River near Lock and Dam 25. Actually, tow boats push barges rather than tow them.

focus on the grid squares near your location (QTH).

Grid squares have a two-letter designator along with two numerals. For example, my QTH of St. Peters, Missouri is located in grid square EM48. HA8TKS's website even narrows the resolution down to an additional two letters, so my QTH is EM48qs. The extra letters can prove to be useful for refining azimuth headings between grids. Major roads and towns are included with this computer-generated grid square map. For determining my grid square while I am out and about, I use my Android cell phone and free apps such as Ham GPS, Easy QTH Locator, and QTH Locator.

Most grid square calculating programs allow users to not only find their exact location in the Maidenhead Locator System, but will also calculate the azimuth (beam heading) and distance to another grid location, a very useful feature... especially when figuring out location headings and distances using directional antennas and a compass.

VHF/UHF contests require your on-the-air exchange to include callsigns



Photo E. My dual-band loop antenna with magnetic mount. This antenna has a single feedpoint, and it covers 2 meters and 70 centimeters. It is horizontally polarized.



Photo F. Harry, WAØCNS, in his rover van. Note his roof-mounted 144-, 222- and 440-MHz Yagis. Harry uses a rotor to aim his Yagis when he is stationary. (Photo by Herbert Ullmann, AF4JF)

and grid square location. For example, I may be contacting Herbert, AF4JF, on the air and my report may sound like, “AF4JF this is KOØZ in EM48qs, do you copy?” Herbert then would reply with his callsign and grid square.

Do Be a Square

Since childhood, we’ve heard, “don’t be square, join the fun.” In this case, I suggest you *do* become a square by finding your grid square along with neighboring ones and plan your “grid square

attack.” Depending on time available, level of expertise, and equipment, I suggest you look at two adjoining grid squares. If you want to go “hog wild,” look at the corners where four grid squares meet. Activating two grid squares is less labor intensive than four squares and would be a good place to start; especially as a beginner to VHF-and-above contests and you lack free time.

When looking at grid squares, look for public roads, open fields, and high loca-

tions such as hilltops, etc. Check the contest rules for minimum distances. For instance, in many contests, stations within the same grid cannot be closer than 1-kilometer (km) apart. One kilometer is not far, It’s only 0.62 miles. If I am in another adjoining grid square, I still use that 1-km rule if I am close to another rover (a station operating from multiple locations). HTs with rubber ducks can easily cover that short distance. In the ARRL September VHF contest, I used my Kenwood three-band HT for 222 MHz. Sure, most serious contesters use SSB or CW (Morse Code) on 222 MHz, but FM is allowed. Even if you and a few pals only have dual-band HTs, why not go to two nearby grids and activate them for points? It’s all part of the grid plan attack.

Our Plan

Rather than give a lot of scenarios, let me give you a brief overview of our grid square plan of attack in the ARRL September VHF contest. Herbert Ullmann, AF4JF; Harry Haeusser, WAØCNS; and your editor Ron, KOØZ, decided to spend a fun Saturday afternoon near Winfield, Missouri (grid square EM49). About a mile to the south is the border of grid square EM48 (*Photo B*). This is mostly farmland with gravel roads, but it is flat and there are spots along the road to pull over and operate.

Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Lock and Dam 25 is nearby (*Photos C and D*), which was a perfect setting for us to get on the air. Keep in mind, our intent is not to be “big guns” (highly competitive stations) in the contest, rather it is our attempt to have fun, to get out of the house for a little while, to activate a few grids, and to see if we can drum up some on-the-air activity other than just among ourselves.

Beforehand, AF4JF worked out the operating logistics. We met at Lock and Dam #25 in grid square EM49. Our plan was for each of us to be a rover and to activate grid squares EM49 and EM48. Harry and Herbert drove 1 km away and we worked each other on 144.200, 222.100, and 432.100 MHz in EM49. Next, Herbert and I drove a few kilometers to grid square EM48 where we both worked Harry. Harry joined me in EM48 and Herbert went to where Harry was in EM49. We worked each other again. Now it was my turn to go to EM49 so Harry and Herbert could work me from EM48 to EM49. You get the idea. Although Harry and Herbert had 222-MHz radios capable of SSB and CW, they could also operate FM. The entire



Photo G. Harry Haeusser’s, 1.2-GHz loop Yagi antennas along with some of his microwave gear on recent contest outing. (AF4JF Photo)



Photo H. Herbert Ullmann, AF4JF’s, rover setup in a high location in grid square EM47 overlooking the Ozark foothills. (AF4JF Photo)

On the Cover ...



“When I took this picture from 60 feet,” wrote Herb Krumich, K2LNS, “I never realized that a shadow of the tower with me on it was present.” And the shadow is all you can see of Herb in our cover photo, as he lowers his 4-element 20-meter beam on a tram line to a friend on the ground. Herb lives in Bear Creek, Pennsylvania, outside Wilkes Barre in the Pocono Mountains, where he is more active on VHF/UHF and microwaves than on the HF bands.

Licensed since 1958, Herb – often operating with friend Andy Furlong, WA2FGK – is a longtime VHFer, active on ten bands from 50 MHz to 10 GHz, taking advantage of his 2100-foot elevation to work VHF/UHF contests as well as EME (Earth-Moon-Earth). According to Herb, his QTH was selected first for ham radio benefits, and then his home was built there. The tower whose shadow is seen in the photo is just one of six, supporting antennas for HF, 6 and 2 meters; 222, 432 and 903 MHz; as well as 1.2, 2.3, 3.4, 5 and 10 GHz. He also has a rover setup with gear for 50 MHz through 10 GHz. Herb is also treasurer of the Murgas Amateur Radio Club in Wikles Barre. More info and photos (lots of photos!) may be found on the QRZ.com pages for both K2LNS and WA2FGK. (Cover photo by Herb Krumich, K2LNS)



Photo I. Herbert Ullmann, AF4JF, taking aim with his 1.2-GHz Yagi.



Photo J. Check out this multiband rover antenna setup at a Central States VHF Society conference.

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time, I used my Kenwood HT to activate 222.100 MHz. It fit the bill nicely. Basically, we made sure that all three of us worked each other on 2 and 1.25 meters, as well as on 70 and 23 centimeters.

Scoring

Most, if not all, VHF-and-above contests award higher point values for higher frequencies. For example, the ARRL January VHF contest awards 1 point for each complete 50- or 144-MHz QSO, two points for every complete 222- or 432-MHz QSO, four points for each complete 902- or 1296-MHz QSO and 8 points for each 2.3-GHz and higher QSO. Harry and Herbert brought 10-GHz stations with them. Unfortunately, my 10-GHz station was down for repairs. Grid squares count as multipliers; therefore, the more grids worked, the higher the score. We operated from two grids. We could have done more, but our goal was to simply get on the air and experiment with various antennas. This was my first contest as a rover and I scored over 700 points. Not too shabby, considering we were only contacting each other and having fun while doing it. Harry and Herbert had higher scores because they operated 10 GHz. Other competitive rovers in the contest made tens of thousands of points. They, too, had a lot of fun, but they rack up a lot of miles and they are constantly on the go. We decided to take a much more "laid back" approach.

Antennas

The topic of antennas is near and dear to almost every ham radio operator's heart. For the September 2022 ARRL VHF contest, I used a 2-meter and 70-centimeter loop antenna (*Photo E*) along with a 7-element 70-centimeter Yagi and 24-element loop Yagi. WAØCNS used a roof-mounted 2-meter Yagi, 222-MHz Yagi, a 70-centimeter Yagi (*Photo F*). He keeps

his 23-centimeter Yagi inside his van until he is ready to use it after making contacts on the lower bands (*Photo G*). AF4JF uses a roof-mounted 2-meter, 70-centimeter horizontally polarized omni-directional antenna. In addition, he sets up his antennas for 1.2, 2.4, and 3.5 GHz as well as 10 and 24 GHz.

Don't Get Bit (Actually, Do...)

Antennas are fun. Higher frequencies translate into smaller antenna element lengths. Microwave bands allow radio amateurs to experiment with very-high-gain antennas that few HF operators have enough real estate on which to erect them. However, don't let the allure of higher gain antennas impede you from dipping your big toe into the world of VHF/UHF contesting. Simple rubber duck antennas and dual-band HTs are enough to get in on a lot of the fun. Although I used my HT only on 222 MHz, all of us could have limited ourselves to HTs and made fewer points. However, we do have transverters and this contest gave us a fun opportunity to try them out.

I must caution you. Beware, after dipping your big toe to test out the water a few times, you and your ham radio buddies may be pleasantly surprised, and you'll want to get more involved, you'll be bit and the need for longer distances and more grid squares will come calling. Soon, directional antennas and weekend roving trips will be in the offing! Check out the photo of a rover's antennas at a Central States VHF Society conference (*Photo J*). Until then, why not break out the HTs, mobile rigs, and vertically polarized antennas and activate a few neighboring grid squares. You'll be glad that you did! It will be fun to recount over the air and at ham radio club meetings the successes and near successes of each trip. You may just inspire others to join in on the fun. Success breeds success! Thank you for reading *CQ* and I hope to hear you on the air.

– 73, Ron, KOØZ

Six-Meter E_s Season Approaches

Well, this is my March column, and I always try to make a point to promote 6-meter activity. Traditionally, in the Northern Hemisphere, our strongest opportunities on 6 meters come from Sporadic-E (E_s) propagation, from April through July. But as each sunspot cycle strengthens, we begin to see opportunities for other types of propagation, including F_2 on 6 meters. Recently, some impressive propagation has been reported, which is perhaps a combination of various methods, and you may expect this to continue through most of 2023. Recently, there has been a thread on the FFMA (Fred Fish Memorial Award) email group about various modes of propagation, and I thought you would find it interesting as well. I asked Frank Donovan, W3LPL, noted contesteer and all-around knowledgeable ham, to comment about the types of 6-meter propagation, and he offered the following, including a link to a very nice treatment of one particular mode, Trans-Equatorial Propagation (TEP):

W3LPL Says:

The F_2 ionospheric region and the E layer support multiple modes of ionospheric propagation enabling 6-meter DX contacts between many areas of the world.

F_2 region

- ~ mid-latitude and equatorial single and multi-hop F_2 propagation
- ~ TEP
- ~ oblique-TEP propagation

E layer

- ~ single-hop E_s propagation to Bermuda and the northern Caribbean
- ~ multi-hop mid-latitude E_s propagation to most of the same hemisphere
- ~ single-hop E_s coupled to TEP and mid-latitude F_2 propagation

Sporadic-E Propagation Coupled into TEP

Very long distance 6-meter contacts crossing into and across the equatorial region usually involve E_s coupled into TEP at one or both ends of the propagation path. TEP propagation is most-

ly north-south and oblique-TEP propagates *either within or across* the equatorial region.

It is often difficult to identify which types of propagation contributed to our DX QSOs. We can make reasonably informed judgements about the most likely propagation modes by applying basic knowledge of how 6-meter DX propagation modes vary with:

- ~ time of day
- ~ season of the year

~ solar activity, especially as measured by the 2800-MHz solar flux index
~ F_2 and E_s properties along the entire propagation path

Until 20 years ago, the holy grail of 6-meter DXing was mid-latitude and trans-equatorial F_2 propagation mostly from November through February during the 12 to 24 months closest to solar maximum of the three strong solar cycles (19, 21, and 22) from 1957 through 2002.



Photo A. Ken, K2ET, houses his mobile shack in his electric vehicle (EV) and, as you can see, is prepared for everything. (Courtesy of K2ET)



Photo B. Ken, K2ET, working stations as a rover during the ARRL January VHF Contest from the comfort of his EV. (Courtesy of K2ET)

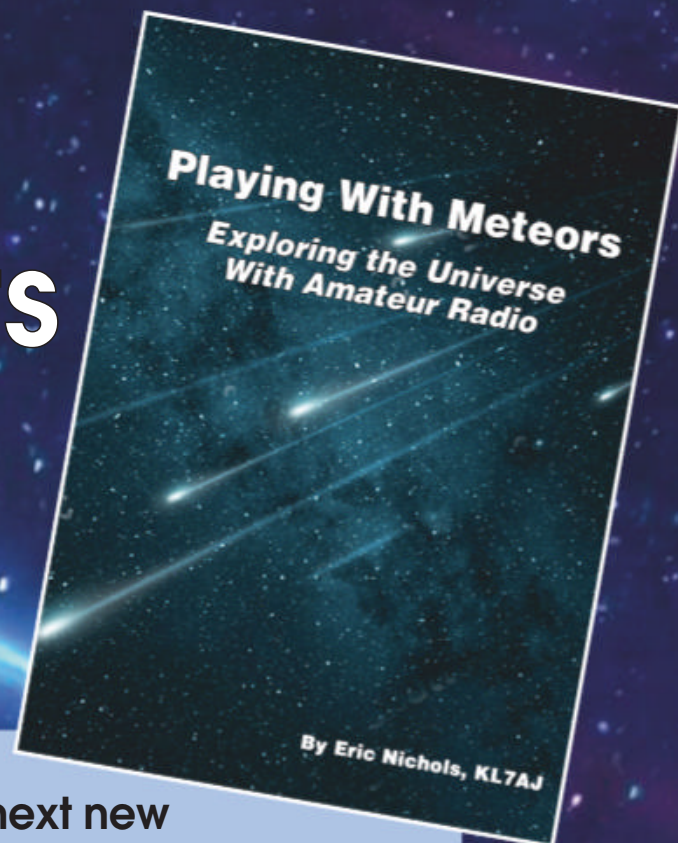
* <n4dtf@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Playing With Meteors

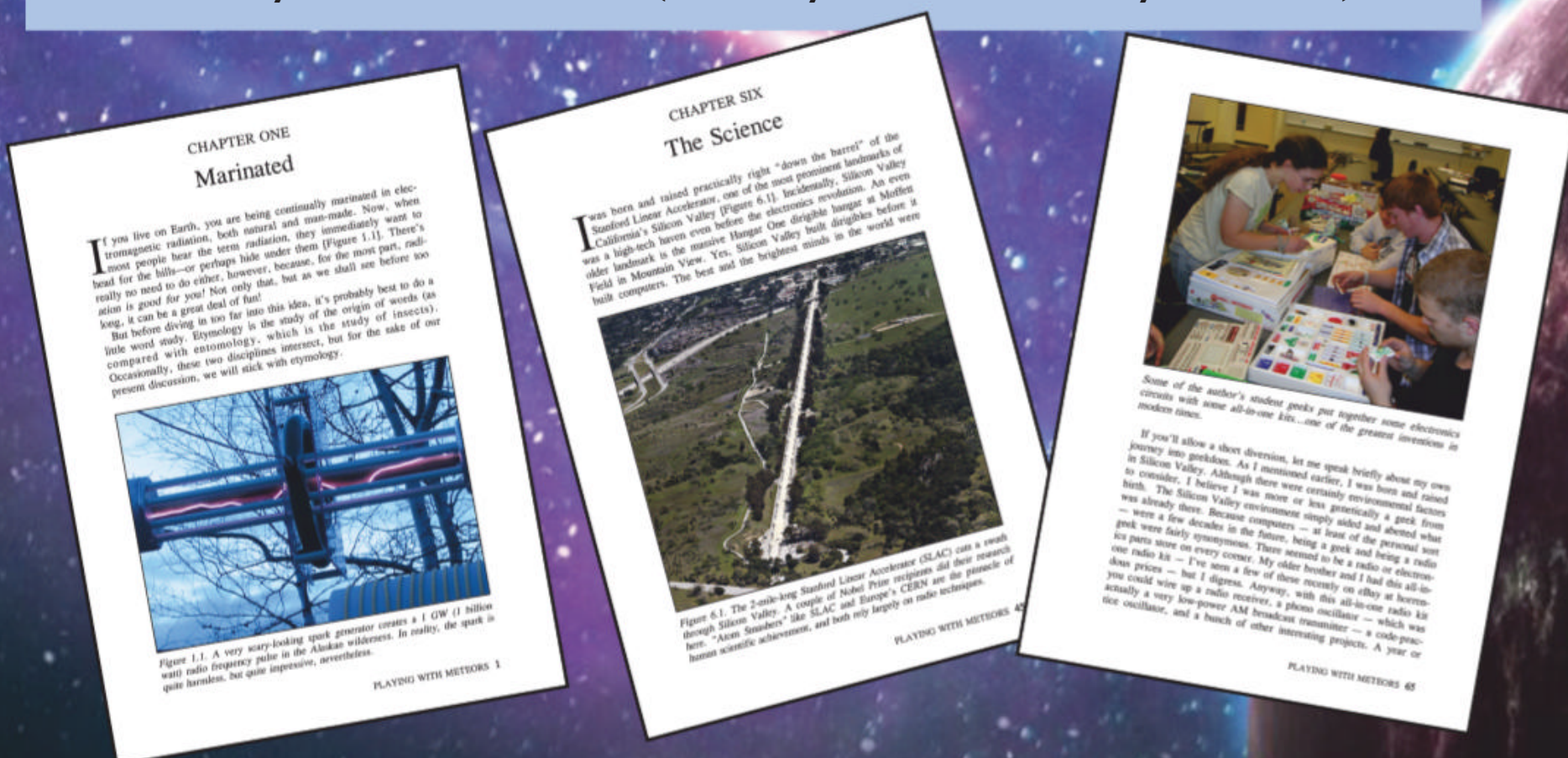
Exploring the Universe With Amateur Radio

By Eric Nichols KL7AJ



Wouldn't it be a blast to be a master of technology rather than to be at its mercy? Or better yet, to actually create the next new thing? While it's true that a lot of what we consider high-tech involves computer technology, an equal or greater part of the next new thing is going to involve wireless, also known as radio. In fact, our entire universe is connected by radio, and the entire universe is the radio amateur's sandbox.

In *Playing With Meteors*, author Eric Nichols takes you on a tour of the opportunities that amateur radio can bring you, and how you can leverage the knowledge you gain in "hobby radio" to a career in hi-tech, or just to being smarter than your "smart devices" (and maybe even some of your friends).



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Current solar cycle 25 has already recorded the strongest sunspot activity since 2002 and might develop sunspot activity similar to that which caused frequent mid-latitude and trans-equatorial F_2 propagation from November 2001 through February 2002.

F_2 mid-latitude propagation almost completely disappeared after February 2002, but 6-meter mid-latitude DXers began to capitalize on multi-hop E_s , and E_s coupled into TEP and oblique-TEP, making it possible for hundreds of 6-meter DXers to achieve 6-meter DXCC despite weak sunspot activity. In addition, the weak signal performance and popularity of FT8 enabled 6-meter DXers to thrive without much help from sunspots.

While mid-latitude 6-meter F_2 propagation occurs for just a few months during just a few years of strong solar cycles, a form of F_2 propagation known as TEP occurs throughout the entire 11-year period of every solar cycle. A phenomenon in the F_2 region known as the *trans-equatorial ionization anomaly* occurs every day and often enhances the maximum usable frequency (MUF) of F_2 propagation that crosses the equatorial region, sometimes causing the TEP MUF to exceed 50 MHz, even when sunspot activity is very low. During strong solar cycles, the MUF of many very long-distance propagation paths exceeds 50 MHz even without TEP ionization enhancement and E_s coupled into TEP is usually not needed.

TEP reflects from the parts of the ionosphere located from approximately 15° to as far as 25° north and south of the geomagnetic equator. In the Western Hemisphere, this ranges to the northerly enhanced F_2 ionization zone mostly over Venezuela and the southerly enhanced F_2 ionization zone mostly over northern Argentina and southern Brazil.

TEP-related propagation from mid-latitudes of North America to equatorial South America and Africa is usually via E_s coupled to the northerly enhanced F_2 ionization zone then propagating to the ground without propagating to the southerly enhanced F_2 ionization zone.

TEP usually has a weak seasonal peak in September and October and a somewhat stronger seasonal peak during April and May. During stronger solar cycles, TEP can occur during any month of the year and has a very strong peak in April and May.

See K6MIO's excellent article on 6-meter TEP, oblique-TEP, TEP-related, and mid-latitude E_s coupling to TEP begins on page 66 at: <<https://tinyurl.com/26auem6n>> (Thank you, Frank, for this helpful guide to 6-meter propagation! –ed.)

Before you worry too much about the mode of propagation, make sure you are listening and calling on 6 meters to take advantage of any openings. My standard habit is to keep a radio on 6-meter phone anytime I am in the shack (which is also my office). I generally monitor 50.125 MHz for starters, but remember that officially, 50.110 MHz is the DX calling frequency, so it is worth a listen and call occasionally there as well. I currently have a three-element beam up, so I get fairly broad coverage, but if you have more elements, and thus a more directional antenna, you may want to use a

loop antenna for listening to ensure you don't miss an opening in a particular direction. Many of us locally will call or text one another if we see an opening, and the alerts from DXmaps.com are useful in identifying openings. CW is another popular mode for 6 meters, so monitoring the CW segment is also advisable. Finally, the many digital modes available to us through WSJT-X have significantly expanded the depth of openings, and the length of the season, by allowing more contacts to be made even when conditions are marginal. Six meters is not for everyone, but many of us live and die with band openings, closings, or propagation changes. Please send along your experiences dur-

ing.

ing.



Tony, KG9OV's, comfortable environs inside his van. (Courtesy of KG9OV)



KG9OV's mobile roving van. (Courtesy of KG9OV)



The author's temporary shack that he used for the ARRL's January VHF contest while his shack, home office, and workshop are currently being remodeled. (Photo by N4DTF)

ing the upcoming E_s season, and good luck on the Magic Band!

ARRL January VHF Contest

As I write this, the ARRL January VHF Contest has just ended. I'm seeing reports ranging from dismal conditions — that was the case for me in EM55 — to outstanding. Location, times available to be on the air, and local weather conditions all played a role. In my case, it was a last-minute decision to participate, as I have dismantled my shack in an attempt to create a much better space for my shack, office, and workshop. More on that later. But I got my 9100 hooked up, and had 6 meters, 2 meters, and 432 MHz available. I made no contacts on 6 meters, two on 2 meters, and none on 432 MHz for a total operating time of approximately 4 hours.

I wanted to share the adventures of a couple of rovers, those brave souls — especially in the north during January — who ventured out into the elements to give us a chance at multiple grids and bands, while we stayed inside our comfy shacks.

Ken, K2ET, made his first rove in an electric vehicle (EV), putting nine bands on the air (Photos A and B). His excellent write up on the planning and execution of his rove is found at <www.k2et.net>.

Tony, KG9OV, made a solid effort in the Midwest, and you can check out Photos C and D for images of his mobile setup and antennas.

Finally, one of my two contacts was with Steve, AG4V, who is a regular

rover out of the Memphis area into the mid EM grids around the MidSouth. Always great to hear Steve on the air.

In the Shack at N4DTF

As previously mentioned, I am reworking my combination office, hamshack, and workshop. It's too early for pictures, but I will give you some insight into my thoughts and planning. The space in question is a typical two-car garage, roughly 25 x 25 feet square. My effort here is to improve and enhance the use of each of my three areas.

First, the office. I have plenty of space for my work, and thanks to a concerted effort to reduce paper, I need less and less storage space. In addition, while I still do a lot of live speaking engagements, I'm receiving more requests for video presentations, and it seems like almost every conference call these days is a video call. So, I'm adding better video and sound capabilities as well as a backdrop to improve the professionalism of the scene projected.

On the workbench side, my workspaces are currently too scattered, so I plan to implement a solid bench space along most of the two walls to provide better access to various tools and test equipment, and more counter space to work on. This includes everything from a drill press to electronic test equipment to a reloading bench. Finally, with the ham shack, I needed more space to have proper access to a high frequency (HF) rig, a VHF and above setup, and a boat anchor station comprised of a Hallicrafters Cyclone, HT-41 amplifier,

and SX-101a receiver. This will be accomplished with a larger desktop — 70 x 30 inches instead of 48 x 24 inches — and some shelving. One of my main goals here is to open the back of the operating desk for easy access to cables and connections. So, the desk will come out perpendicular from the wall, under a window, which has the appropriate pass-through connections, and be fully accessible in an "alley" bordered by bookcases. One of the first steps I've taken is to put all my existing benches and tables on wheels, to allow for easier arrangement, and possibly moving them again, because who doesn't eventually decide they need to change things up? Photo E shows my temporary operating position on a folding table for the VHF contest. The SX-101a is there for moral support. Or because I don't have anywhere else to put it right now.

That's all for this month. Please stay in touch and let me know about your on-air activities and ham shack projects.

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team convened on the beach to enjoy our first and only “home-cooked” meal on Kiska.

The Hardest Part

Captain Rick kept a close eye on the weather reports he received onboard the boat and would radio us with news of any impending storms and strong winds. We had already lost the one tent and we didn't have any “spares.”

The day before we were to depart, Rick radioed us and said the weather forecast for Kiska included a bad storm coming later that night but would be clearing up mid-morning. He said the weather would be good for about six hours, then another storm front would follow. That evening and night the winds and rain became pretty intense. At several times during the night, Hal said he was afraid the operating tent with him and Tim inside felt like it was going to blow away.

In the morning, there was no sign of the “break” Captain Rick described but the team began the task of tearing down K7K city, stations and antennas, and taking everything to the beach. The breakers on the beach were running about 3 feet so would have to wait to ferry our stuff out into the harbor and back onto the April Lane. We didn't keep count, but I would guess that getting everything onto and off Kiska Island required about 20 trips in the Zodiac.

By late morning, just as the weather forecast predicted, the winds calmed, the rains stopped and the sun actually came out, so we proceeded to take advantage of this “window” and start taking everything back to the boat. Alex once again was the designated Zodiac driver and did a fantastic job piloting the skiff off the beach and beyond the breakers. Most of us did get wet making the crossing. We also had a few occasions when Tim had to work his magic on the 5-horsepower outboard motor. There were some tense moments that had us holding our breaths when the motor would stop in the middle of the harbor and Alex would have to get the paddle out and manually paddle back to the boat or shore to bring the motor back to life. It seems that the black volcanic sand was finding its way into the motor's cooling water system, causing it to shut down. But finally, after nearly four hours of loading and unloading the Zodiac, we had everything off the island, back on the boat, and loaded into the eight totes lashed to the April Lane's afterdeck. All of us were dog tired but happy to be safely onboard. Clean, dry clothes were the first order of business once on the April Lane.

Lessons Learned

There is no doubt we took too much food with us. In truth, we probably had enough to sustain us for a month or longer. It

5 Band WAZ

As of January 15, 2023

2439 stations have attained at least the 150 Zone level, and 1112 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

As of January 15, 2023

The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (Zones needed on 80 or other if indicated):

CHANGES shown in **BOLD**

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
AK8A	199	17
DM5EE	199	1
EA5RM	199	1
EA7GF	199	1
H44MS	199	34
HAØHW	199	1
HA5AGS	199	1
I5REA	199	31
IKØXBX	199	19 on 10M
IK1AOD	199	1
IT9GSF	199	1
IZ3ZNR	199	1
JA1CMD	199	2
JA5IU	199	2
JA7XBG	199	2
JH7CFX	199	2
J14POR	199	2
JK1AJX	199	2 on 10M
JK1BSM	199	2
JK1EXO	199	2
K1LI	199	24
K3LR	199	23
K4HB	199	26
K5TR	199	22
K7UR	199	34
KZ4V	199	26
N3UN	199	18
N4NX	199	26
N4WW	199	26
N4XR	199	27
N6PF	199	23 on 10M
N8AA	199	23
N8DX	199	23
N8TR	199	23 on 10M
RA6AX	199	6 on 10M
RU3DX	199	6
RW0LT	199	2 on 40M
RX4HZ	199	13
RZ3EC	199	1 on 40M
S58Q	199	31
SM7BIP	199	31
SP9JZU	199	19 on 10M
USØSY	199	1 on 15M

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
VK3HJ	199	34
VO1FB	199	19
W1FJ	199	24
W1FZ	199	26
W3LL	199	18 on 10M
W3NO	199	26
W4LI	199	26
W6DN	199	17
W6RKC	199	21
W6TMD	199	34
W9OO	199	18 on 10M
W9XY	199	22
9A5I	198	1, 16
AB4IQ	198	23, 26
DL6JZ	198	1, 31
EA5BCX	198	27, 39
F5NBU	198	19, 31
F6DAY	198	2 on 10M & 15M
G3KDG	198	1, 12
G3KMQ	198	1, 27
HB9FMN	198	1 on 80M & 10M
I1EIS	198	1 & 19 on 10M
JA1DM	198	2, 40
JA1QJI	198	2 on 80M & 10M
JA3GN	198	2 on 80M & 40M
JA7MSQ	198	2 on 80M & 10M
JH1BNC	198	2 on 80M & 10M
JH1EEB	198	2, 33
KØDEQ	198	22, 26
K1BD	198	23, 26
K2EP	198	23, 24
K2TK	198	23, 24
K3JGJ	198	24, 26
K3WA	198	23,26
K3XA	198	23,34
K4JLD	198	18, 24
K9MM	198	22, 26
K11G	198	24, 23 on 10M
KZ2I	198	24, 26
LA3MHA	198	31 & 32 on 10M
N4GG	198	18, 24
NXØI	198	18, 23
ON4CAS	198	1, 19
OZ4VW	198	1, 2
RL3FA	198	2 on 80 & 10M
UA4LY	198	6 & 2 on 10M
UN5J	198	2, 7
US7MM	198	2, 6
W2IRT	198	28, 28
W5CWQ	198	17, 18
W7AH	198	22, 34

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
W9RN	198	26, 19 on 40M
WC5N	198	22, 26
WL7E	198	34, 37
Z31RQ	198	1, & 2 on 10M
ZL2AL	198	36, 37

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

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
W8CZN	2432	12/17/2022	194
IWØHQE	2433	01/12/1900	169
N6ZN	2434	01/02/2023	191
WB4QOC	2435	01/02/2023	180
I1YDT	2436	01/03/2023	170
WA5YOM	2437	01/05/2023	153
IT9GSF	2438	01/07/2023	199
4J6D	2439	01/14/2023	154

Updates to the 5BWAZ list of stations:

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
KB8VAO	2084	11/3/2018	182
W3/NH7C	1885	11/14/2014	200
JA1QJI	1988	4/21/2018	198
AA8SW	2371	5/11/2022	165
IK5ZUK	1908	6/8/2015	197
IK8YTA	1382	3/17/2004	185
IU8FRE	2201	4/9/2020	175
IK8GYS	1617	11/22/2008	156

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

5BWAZ #	Callsign	Date	All 200 #
1885	W3/NH7C	12/16/2022	1112

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, Jose Castillo, N4BAA, 6773 South State Road 103, Straughn, IN 47387. 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 Jose Castillo. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. N4BAA may also be reached via email: <n4baa@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

*Please note: Cost of the 5 Band WAZ Plaque is \$100 shipped within the U.S.; \$120 all foreign (sent airmail).

CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll

The CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 175 or more grid fields. Honor Roll listing is automatic upon approval of an application for 175 or more grid fields. To remain on the CQ DX Field Award Honor Roll, annual updates are required. Updates must be accompanied by an SASE if confirmation is desired. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. Please make all checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, KØKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604.

Mixed

K2TQC.....288	HA1RW.....239	WI8A.....219	KF8UN.....205	ON4CAS.....194	K2SHZ.....182
W1CU.....269	VE3XN.....239	HA1AG.....218	OM2VL.....205	HB9DDZ.....193	KJ6P.....180
VE7IG.....254	I6T.....230	JN3SAC.....217	K1NU.....204	N4NX.....192	W6XK.....180
HAØDU.....253	K8OOK.....229	WA5VGI.....216	K1NV.....204	HA1ZH.....190	W5ODD.....177
OM3JW.....253	N8PR.....229	HA9PP.....213	VE7SMP.....204	BA4DW.....188	NØFW.....176
W6OAT.....252	HA5AGS.....228	IV3GOW.....211	RW4NH.....203	K2AU.....187	WA9PIE.....176
HA5WA.....250	9A5CY.....227	W4UM.....210	HB9AAA.....200	K8YTO.....186	HB9BOS.....175
IK1GPG.....245	K9YC.....227	N4MM.....208	N5KE.....200	W07R.....185	NKØS.....175
OK1ADM.....245	VE3ZZ.....226	OK1AOV.....208	W3LL.....199	N3RC.....184	
K8SIX.....240	KØDEQ.....221	F6HMJ.....206	NIØC.....196	W9RPM.....184	

SSB

W1CU.....249	VE7SMP.....201	W4UM.....198	N4MM.....189	W3LL.....187	DL3DXX.....175
W4ABW.....202	KØDEQ.....198	JN3SAC.....192	WA5VGI.....189	NØFW.....176	

CW

W1CU.....254	KØDEQ.....214	DL2DXA.....209	WA5VGI.....197	N4MM.....186	N7WO.....175
HA5WA.....234	JN3SAC.....211	W4UM.....201	NIØC.....196	OK2PO.....184	
DL6KVA.....233	DL3DXX.....210	OK1AOV.....198	HB9DZZ.....189	N4NX.....177	

Digital

W1CU.....206	JN3SAC.....178	HA5WA.....177	KØDEQ.....175
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The CQ DX Field Award Program

Digital Endorsement	
JN3SAC.....	178
SSB Endorsement	
JN3SAC.....	192
Mixed Endorsement	
JN3SAC.....	217

The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$6. For non-subscribers, it is \$12. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00 each plus SASE. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are free. All updates and correspondence must include an SASE. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards may be found on the <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> website, or may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to CQ DX Awards Manager, Keith Gilbertson, KØKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604 USA. Please make all checks payable to the award manager.

CQ DX Awards Program

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The WPX Program

CW

4075.....	WA1LAD
4076.....	KG7YU

SSB

4461.....	KY4KP
4462.....	VE2HTC

Mixed

4538.....	K6DSP
4539.....	W2TI
4540.....	KQ4ADO
4541.....	W5MBG
4542.....	W2RLK
4543.....	N3JIM
4544.....	DL8MRE
4545.....	OH7CBC
4546.....	AD2BO
4547.....	KD5DDV
4548.....	IW1PVT
4549.....	IUØRBE
4550.....	NU4H

Digital

1873.....	WA1LAD
1874.....	K6DSP
1875.....	JJ1NRX
1876.....	JJ1SZA
1877.....	7N4EXO
1878.....	JK1VXE
1879.....	W5MBG
1880.....	K4JIP
1881.....	W2RLK
1882.....	N3JIM
1883.....	DL8MRE
1884.....	IW1PVT
1885.....	IUØRBE
1886.....	NU4H
1887.....	K6FXZ

CW: 400: WA1LAD, KG7YU. **600:** F5VHQ. **2000:** WA6KHK.

SSB: 550: WR7X. **650:** WA1LAD. **700:** W5UJ. **850:** IZ4DPV. **900:** W8KSC. **1000:** DL8MRE. **1100:** F5VHQ. **1950:** WA6KHK.

Mixed: 450: K6DSP. **500:** N3JIM. **550:** NR6AM. **600:** OH7CBC. **650:** W2RLK. **700:** KQ4ADO, NU4H. **900:** KF8QL, W1DNP, N4SV, W8KSC. **950:** WB8LEM.

1000: DL8MRE, N2TC, AD2BO. **1050:** JHØEYA, N1HO. **1100:** N6DSC. **1200:** WA1LAD, KM4VI. **1250:** IZ4DPV. **1300:** N4DJT. **1550:** JK1VXE, KC1UX. **1600:** WR7X. **1650:** MØHIH. **1700:** N8IK. **2250:** F5VHQ. **2500:** WA6KHK.

Digital: 350: W5MBG, K4JIP, KD5DDV, IUØRBE. **400:** JJ1NRX, IW1PVT. **450:** K6DSP, NR6AM, WB8LEM. **500:** N3JIM. **550:** WA1LAD, W2RLK. **650:** IZ4DPV. **700:** KQ4ADO, NU4H. **800:** N4SV, N1HO. **850:** KF8QL. **900:** W1DNP. **950:** N2TC. **1050:** JHØEYA. **1100:** N6DSC. **1150:** KM4VI. **1200:** JK1VXE, N4DJT. **1300:** N8IK. **1450:** MØHIH. **1500:** WR7X, KC1UX. **1600:** F5VHQ.

160 Meters: WA1LAD

80 Meters: WA1LAD, N4SV, AD2BO

40 Meters: WA1LAD, NR6AM, N4SV, W8KSC, JHØEYA, N3JIM, AD2BO

30 Meters: W1DNP, N1HO

20 Meters: WA1LAD, JJ1SZA, JK1VXE, KG7YU, W8KSC, JHØEYA, N3JIM, DL8MRE, AD2BO

17 Meters: N4DJT

15 Meters: WA1LAD, K6DSP, W1DNP, W8KSC, AD2BO, KM4VI, N4DJT

12 Meters: N8IK

10 Meters: WA1LAD, KQ4ADO, N2TC, N8IK, N4DJT

Asia: JJ1NRX, 7N4EXO, JK1VXE, DL8MRE, OH7CBC, N1HO

Europe: WA1LAD, W1DNP, JJ1SZA, N4SV, JK1VXE, KQ4ADO, JHØEYA, W2RLK, DL8MRE, OH7CBC, AD2BO, IW1PVT, IUØRBE, NU4H

Oceania: MØHIH, IZ4DPV, WR7X, JK1VXE

North America: WA1LAD, K6DSP, W2TI, JK1VXE, KG7YU, W8KSC, KQ4ADO, W5MBG, K4JIP, JHØEYA, W2RLK, N3JIM, KY4KP, AD2BO, N1HO, KD5DDV, NU4H, K6FXZ

South America: N1HO, N4DJT

Digital Bar: N6PEQ

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.

was like this with some of our other gear and supplies as well. I think this is a natural approach — you are going on a DXpedition and if you think you need four of one thing, you will take eight. You need 20 gallons of drinking water and you take 60, etc. The “I’d rather have

too much than too little” philosophy looms large in DXpeditioning. And nothing drives this point home more than when a team member himself loads, unloads, ferries, and sets up a DXpedition camp like we did at Kiska. It makes you realize maybe next time, we

The WAZ Program

SINGLE BAND WAZ

6 Meter	
202	KB8VAO, 25 Zones
203	IK8YTA, 33 Zones
204	FG8OJ, 30 Zones
10 Meter CW	
225	DF2RG
10 Meter Digital	
4	DF2RG
12 Meter CW	
113	DF2RG
12 Meter Digital	
8	DF2RG
12 Meter SSB	
61	DF2RG
15 Meter CW	
384	DF2RG
15 Meter Digital	
15	JR2TRI
17 Meter CW	
139	DF2RG
17 Meter Digital	
31	DF2RG
17 Meter SSBI	
70	DF2RG
20 Meter CW	
690	DF2RG
20 Meter Digital	
61	DF2RG
30 Meter CW	
173	DF2RG
30 Meter Digital	
22	K3FRK
23	DF2RG
40 Meter CW	
340	DF2RG
40 Meter Digital	
28	JA4FCV
29	DF2RG
40 Meter SSB	
126	DF2RG
160 Meters	
702	N4QS
703	MMØEAX
704	RQ7L
705	SP2EWQ

ALL BAND WAZ

CW	
1221	W3/NH7C
1222	EU3A
1223	DQ1P
1224	N6ZN

1225	IK8YTA
1226	I1YDT
1227	IT9GSF
1228	DF2RG
1229	W8PE

Digital

414	JR2TRI
415	W3/NH7C
416	WA1AAA
417	JK1TCV
418	JH5BKC
419	DL2RPN
420	K7QA
421	IK8YTA
422	DF2RG
423	HP2NG
424	HP1AT

Mixed

10365	W8CZN
10366	JR2TRI
10367	K4EEK
10368	WA1AAA
10369	NY1V
10370	JK1TCV
10371	IV3BLE
10372	K1BDC
10373	DL2RPN
10374	NT9E
10375	IK8WCP
10376	K7QA
10377	N6ZN
10378	WB4QOC
10379	IK8YTA
10380	DS5VTG
10381	WA5YOM
10382	IN3THU
10383	HP2NG
10384	AP2TN
10385	EA4CWW
10386	IUØHDC
10387	WØNBC

SSB

5548	ON8AH
5549	W3/NH7C
5550	WO2C

RTTY

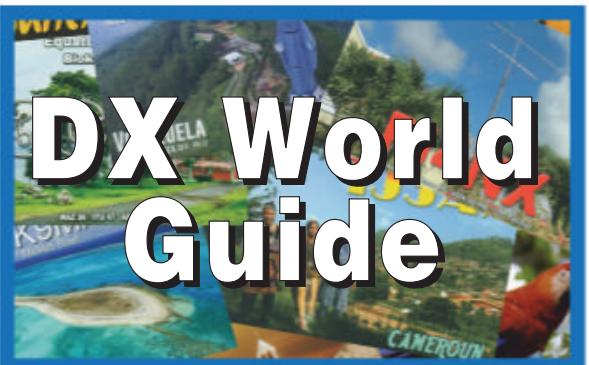
317	DF2RG
318	4J6D

Satellite

42	W5CBF, 27 Zones
43	S57NML, 32 Zones
44	JK2XXK, 25 Zones
45	4J6D, 25 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, Jose Castillo, N4BAA, 6773 South State Road 103, Straughn, IN 47387. 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 Jose Castillo. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. N4BAA may also be reached via email: <n4baa@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

*Please note: Cost of the 5 Band WAZ Plaque is \$100 shipped within the U.S.; \$120 all foreign (sent airmail).



DX World Guide

4th Edition!

By Franz Langner, DJ9ZB



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should take a little bit less food and backup gear / equipment. I think we made a lot of extra work for ourselves carrying around “dead weight” we did not use.

Statistics

K7K concluded with nearly 12,000 QSOs in the log and the statistics below speak for themselves. Because of proximity and the advertising we received in Japan about our DXpedition

and its 80-year Aleutian Campaign anniversary, the Japanese stations, as expected, were prevalent in our log. Europe was, of course, the hardest to work from our location but we were able to contact many European IOTA enthusiasts.

Being far from inhabited places, there was no RF noise and that allowed us to hear better than we were being heard. But being so far up north, the propagation was not as good as in the lower latitudes and we encountered many periods of time

The WPX Honor Roll

The WPX Honor Roll is based on the current confirmed prefixes which are submitted by separate application in strict conformance with the CQ Master Prefix list. Scores are based on the current prefix total, regardless of an operator’s all-time count. Honor Roll must be updated annually by addition to, or confirmation of, present total. If no up-date, files will be made inactive. Visit <<https://tinyurl.com/mrxuvvww>> for current listings.

MIXED

9676.....9A2AA	4763.....KW9A	3151.....NXØI	2465.....N6PM	1945.....N5KAE	1484.....FG4NO	1217.....AB1QB	1032.....DG5LAC	758.....N4JJS
8663.....9A2NA	4757.....I2MQP	3099.....N6FX	2420.....WA6KHK	1828.....K7LV	1480.....K4JKB	1204.....VA2IG	1023.....N4WQH	757.....WB3D
8196.....W1CU	4703.....IK2ILH	3077.....K1PL	2400.....N7ZO	1824.....WF7T	1462.....AC7JM	1201.....K9BO	1016.....W9QL	736.....JA3MAT
8188.....K2VV	4668.....JH8BOE	3028.....IK2DZN	2391.....WO7R	1821.....PY5FB	1462.....DL4CW	1167.....WA9PIE	1012.....NØVVV	711.....AG1T
7059.....EA2IA	4574.....JN3SAC	2992.....W2YR	2391.....IZØFUW	1746.....K6UXO	1447.....K3XA	1153.....N3CAL	1010.....VE3RZ	695.....W8WDW
6955.....KF2O	4461.....K1BV	2987.....AG4W	2386.....JH1QKG	1741.....N6PEQ	1422.....I2VGW	1148.....SP8HKT	1007.....AA4QE	682.....AI8P
6139.....KØDEQ	4423.....N1RR	2968.....AB1OC	2356.....NE6I	1711.....NS3L	1408.....NH6T	1141.....4F3BZ	1006.....NØRQV	678.....WE8L
5908.....ON4APU	4417.....WD9DZV	2963.....N3RC	2225.....JH1APK	1707.....K4WY	1398.....ES4RLH	1137.....YO5BRZ	1000.....WB6IZG	674.....N5JED
5859.....ON4CAS	4342.....WB2YQH	2697.....AK7O	2203.....KI1U	1684.....W1FNB	1361.....VA3VF	1136.....KO9V	999.....N3DF	661.....AL4Y
5715.....S53EO	4298.....VE3XN	2651.....HK3W	2176.....V51YJ	1672.....WU9D	1333.....AF4T	1116.....YU7FW	995.....PU2GTA	633.....T15LUA
5597.....N4NO	4241.....N6QQ	2642.....AA8R	2159.....VA7CRZ	1667.....AD3Y	1322.....AA4FU	1112.....N6MM	966.....W6WF	621.....K4HDW
5511.....N8BJQ	4215.....W3LL	2616.....9A2GA	2133.....KØKG	1643.....SV1DPI	1301.....KB9OWD	1107.....PY2MC	953.....JP1KHY	616.....AC6BW
5482.....VE1YX	4201.....YO9HP	2591.....IK2RPE	2113.....W2FKF	1639.....N7QU	1301.....K1DX	1100.....WA3GOS	919.....ON7MIC	605.....IW2FLB
5453.....YU1AB	3818.....K9UQN	2589.....DG7RO	2056.....NKØS	1616.....TA1L	1301.....KM5VI	1109.....KE8FMJ	908.....N2YU	
5409.....N6JV	3793.....AB1J	2583.....PA2TMS	2046.....YO8CRU	1590.....JF1LMB	1299.....JA6JYM	1088.....NJ4Z	889.....WU1U	
5387.....W9OP	3538.....9A4W	2583.....AE5B	2016.....N2WK	1570.....PY5VC	1295.....NIØC	1084.....KG4JSZ	866.....K2KJ	
5215.....I5RFD	3459.....W9IL	2550.....K6ND	1995.....JR3UIC	1568.....N3AIU	1280.....WF1H	1069.....IZ4MJP	857.....R1AV	
5172.....W9OO	3130.....SV1EDY	2457.....K5UR	1972.....K3CWF	1547.....KC1UX	1260.....UR6LEY	1058.....N6DBF	835.....K6RAH	
5018.....WA5VGI	3109.....W6XK	2538.....K4HB	1955.....NIØC	1524.....NH6T/W4	1219.....K6HRT	1036.....DL5KW	803.....AB1Q	

SSB

7045.....OZ5EV	3184.....N1RR	2576.....AA1VX	2129.....AE5B	1646.....VE7SMP	1258.....N1KC	1031.....K4CN	854.....K6HRT	700.....JA1PLL
6334.....9A2NA	3174.....I3ZSX	2568.....SM6DHU	2113.....W2FKF	1641.....AE9DX	1222.....YF1AR	1031.....IK8OZP	833.....DK8MCT	694.....KG4HUF
6145.....K2VV	3172.....YO9HP	2515.....W9IL	2112.....WD9DZV	1622.....K5CX	1187.....IZ1JLG	1022.....NW3H	808.....UR6LEY	690.....W6PN
5404.....VE1YX	3141.....DL8AAV	2483.....AG4W	2094.....I8LEL	1611.....W2ME	1183.....KI1U	1012.....KU4BP	802.....N6OU	684.....KO9V
5149.....KF2O	3139.....N8BJQ	2451.....EA3GHZ	2093.....W2WC	1587.....N3XX	1151.....W6XK	1006.....NJ4Z	801.....K3XA	675.....F1MQJ
4916.....EA2IA	3108.....I4CSP	2443.....JN3SAC	2084.....K5UR	1550.....IK2RPE	1150.....VE6BMX	1004.....K4HB	766.....I2VGW	655.....VA3VF
4410.....I2MQP	3104.....WA5VGI	2335.....KG1E	2076.....K2XF	1449.....N5KAE	1146.....SQ7B	1004.....WA5UA	763.....K4JKB	647.....YB8NT
4192.....KØDEQ	3067.....N6QQ	2327.....K1PL	2048.....W4QNW	1442.....DG7RO	1136.....K3CWF	978.....EA7HY	758.....IV3GOW	640.....UA9YF
3723.....I8KCI	2990.....KF7RU	2326.....CX6BZ	1955.....EA3NP	1389.....NKØS	1112.....NH6T	957.....W9QL	724.....WF1H	637.....K5WAF
3681.....N4NO	2984.....KI7AO	2209.....IK2QPR	1935.....SV1EOS	1386.....HK3W	1098.....K4CN	934.....PY5VC	724.....W3TZ	630.....W6US
3585.....SV3AQR	2946.....PT7ZT	2201.....NQ3A	1884.....WA6KHK	1386.....IK4HPU	1096.....JA7HYS	931.....YB1AR	717.....KØDAN	624.....K6KZM
3535.....KW9A	2903.....IN3QCI	2200.....N6FX	1879.....K3IXD	1371.....VE6BF	1093.....N6MM	929.....NS3L	717.....N3JON	606.....KJ4BIX
3456.....W9OO	2857.....4X6DK	2198.....AB1OC	1848.....AB5C	1338.....NE6I	1089.....IZ8FFA	919.....KA5EYH	714.....YB2TJV	604.....GØBPK
3416.....W3LL	2650.....IK2DZN	2183.....NXØI	1825.....KQ8D	1334.....EA3EQT	1089.....IT9ABN	893.....W9RPM	713.....JH1APK	
3348.....CT1AHU	2595.....EA1JG	2155.....K9UQN	1812.....K6ND	1264.....N6PEQ	1042.....IZØBNR	889.....N3AIU	710.....WA9PIE	
3274.....YU7BCD	2582.....PA2TMS	2131.....N3RC	1699.....W2YR	1262.....K7LV	1032.....DG5LAC	875.....K7SAM	700.....N4FNB	

CW

7543.....WA2HZR	4164.....WA5VGI	3031.....EA7AAW	2357.....W9HR	1708.....NIØC	1421.....KN1CBR	992.....F5PBL	821.....HB9DAX	620.....AF5DM
7200.....K2VV	4076.....I7PXV	2948.....IK3GER	2291.....N3XX	1691.....KI1U	1389.....IT9ELD	968.....K3CWF	783.....YB1AR	615.....JH6JMM
6024.....9A2NA	3974.....JN3SAC	2943.....N6QQ	2212.....AC5K	1672.....W2YR	1342.....VE6BMX	962.....K7LV	752.....K6HRT	608.....W9RPM
5392.....EA2IA	3804.....W9OO	2915.....KA7T	2203.....NXØI	1633.....W6XK	1235.....JH1APK	944.....AB1OC	743.....JA5NSR	600.....NY4G
5311.....N6JV	3773.....KW9A	2811.....OZ5UR	2022.....AF5CC	1620.....DG7RO	1220.....AA4FU	908.....NH6T	738.....NH6T/W4	600.....IK2SGV
5261.....KF2O	3647.....N1RR	2679.....W9IL	1998.....K5UR	1595.....PY5FB	1210.....DL4CW	897.....HK3W	732.....SQ7B	
5160.....N4NO	3504.....YU7BCD	2548.....EA2CIN	1973.....N3RC	1555.....K1PL	1196.....N3AIU	891.....DK8MCT	727.....JF1LMB	
5013.....W8IQ	3462.....K9UQN	2531.....I2MQP	1905.....WA6KHK	1508.....W6XK	1098.....LU5OM	890.....NS3L	722.....WA9PIE	
4916.....IZ3ETU	3279.....IØNNY	2497.....W3LL	1832.....N4YB	1483.....VE1YX	1088.....AE5B	889.....N3AIU	720.....K4CN	
4914.....KØDEQ	3220.....WD9DZV	2490.....N6FX	1762.....K6ND	1480.....WO3Z	1062.....K3XA	864.....YO5BRZ	652.....IK2DZN	
4886.....I3FIY	3214.....SM6DHU	2477.....VE6BF	1744.....NE6I	1458.....AG4W	1036.....DL5KW	848.....PY5VC	636.....NKØS	
4769.....N8BJQ	3041.....YO9HP	2424.....W2WC	1727.....K6UXO	1443.....WA2VQV	997.....N6PEQ	822.....N5KAE	629.....IV3GOW	

DIGITAL

3347.....KØDEQ	2251.....EA2IA	1759.....N7ZO	1426.....AB1OC	1108.....KE8FMJ	1002.....NØRQV	866.....SQ7B	750.....ON7MIC	636.....W9RPM
3137.....KF2O	2242.....HK3W	1727.....W2YR	1378.....K3CWF	1093.....KI1U	992.....N3DF	862.....JP1KHY	750.....NH6T/W4	611.....KO9V
2996.....W3LL	2345.....WA5VGI	1704.....IK2DZN	1353.....K1PL	1091.....VA3VF	992.....K9UQN	855.....R1AV	681.....PY5VC	600.....ADØFL
2978.....N8BJQ	2308.....N6PM	1638.....N1RR	1333.....W1FNB	1089.....AC7JM	983.....PU2GTA	812.....UR6LEY	680.....K2KJ	
2929.....WD9DZV	2217.....YO9HP	1643.....N3RC	1308.....NKØS	1060.....AF4T	966.....NS3L	811.....WF1H	672.....K9AAN	
2628.....W6XK	1836.....AG4W	1501W2/JR1AQN	1227.....ES4RLH	1054.....KW9A	947.....I2VGW	810.....N3CAL	670.....IV3GOW	
2558.....NT2A	1818.....W1EQ	1500.....JH1APK	1189.....JF1LMB	1051.....KH6SAT	917.....K7LV	800.....WA3GOS	668.....KA5EYH	
2518.....K2YY	1811.....NXØI	1459.....KC1UX	1149.....W9IL	1047.....RW4WZ	881.....NE6I	783.....YB1AR	654.....JA3MAT	
2345.....WA5VGI	1790.....JN3SAC	1461.....WU9D	1112.....AB1QB	1009.....GUØSUP	870.....WB6IZG	758.....N4JJS	640.....WA9ONY	

REMOTE OPERATION

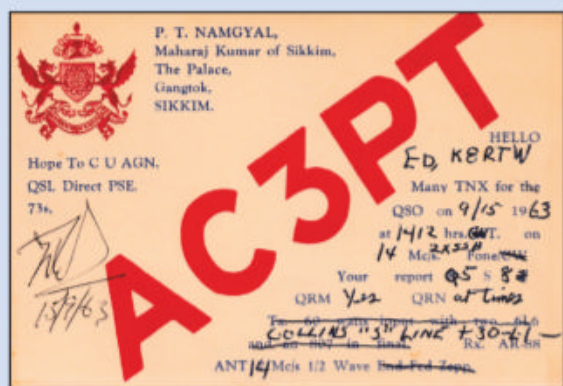
CW	MIXED	SSB	DIGITAL
7277.....K9QVB	4026.....N1RR	2953.....N1RR	671.....N1RR
3292.....N1RR			

QSL of
the
Month:
AC3PT –
King of
Sikkim



Here is the second installment

in our new “QSLs of the Month” series, provided by Tom Roscoe, K8CX, of <www.Hamgallery.com>. Tom provides the backstories as well as the card images. We hope you enjoy seeing some very cool QSLs from the past!
– N200



Palden T. Namgyal, AC3PT, The Palace, Gangtok, The Himalayan Kingdom of Sikkim. This was a super rare, now deleted, DXCC entity. (QSL courtesy K8CX Ham Gallery)

Palden T. Namgyal was born in 1923 and died of cancer in 1982. In 1949 Sikkim was an independent kingdom, and Palden was the country’s Maharaj Kumar, or king. He was the 12th and last official king of Sikkim. At the age of 6, he was a convent student; from 8 to 11 he studied to be ordained in the monkhood. In 1963, the king married Hope Cooke, a 23-year-old American debutante. This wedding brought much attention to Sikkim.

In 1975, Sikkim joined the Union of India, becoming its 22nd union state. There were clashes between Indian troops (who had already been in the country) and the Sikkim Royal Palace Guard.

That same year, Palden came to the U.S. to undergo cancer surgery. Due to complications from the surgery, he expired in New York City at the age of 52. His son from his first marriage was named the 13th Chogyal (king), but the position no longer has any official authority as Sikkim is now part of India.

– 73, Tom, K8CX

when propagation was marginal or non-existent, perhaps caused by disturbances across the polar path.

QSOs: 11,676
First QSO: 28-Jul-2022 07:37
Last QSO: 31-Jul-2022 09:08
Countries: 95
Unique callsigns: 5,205
CW: 3,605 (30.9%)
FT8: 6,218 (53.3%)
SSB: 1,853 (15.9%)

North America: 36.1%
South America: 0.7%
Europe: 17.2%
Africa: 0.2%
Asia: 44.3%
Oceania: 1.5%

Conclusion:

We thank all the sponsors: Individuals, clubs, and companies that supported us! Special thanks to U.S. FWS in

Alaska! And our QRZ page <https://tinyurl.com/yazp423j> has a myriad of interesting details and pictures.

DXpeditions to the difficult area of the globe are not easy to plan or to execute. There is always the unknown element that could take you by surprise or the force of nature that men cannot tame. And there are many small details that need to fit together like the gears inside a clock to make a DXpedition a success.

And although we are relying on technology to help us, in the end it is the team of PEOPLE put together by the team leaders, the DXpedition team, who works together in unison, each member bringing to the table his or her unique skills that gets the desired end result: The sound of the pileups from a rare DX entity.

And when things don’t work out as planned, you have to persevere as there is no failure except in no longer trying.

Looking Ahead

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

- SSB Results: 2022 CQ WW DX Contest
- A Skeleton Slot Antenna for HF Through 432 MHz
- Profile: Carolina DX Association
- The Bramham Balun

Plus...

- Ye Olde Octopus Curve Tracer
- Cyrillic Morse Code

And of course...

- Professor Heisseluft!

Do you have a hobby radio story to tell? A new circuit you’ve designed? An operating adventure? **CQ** covers the entire radio hobby. See our writers’ guidelines on the CQ website at <http://bit.ly/2qBF0dU>.

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awards

BY STEVE MOLO,* KI4KWR

CQ's Own USA Counties Award – USA-CA

Hope everyone who attended the Orlando Hamcation® a few weeks back enjoyed seeing the new amateur radio equipment coming in 2023 and checking out that dream station they want. This month, I want to cover a CQ award that may not get the exposure or activation that it did many years ago. The USA Counties Award, or USA-CA, is one that I know about but finding a station on the opposite end working on the same award is not going to happen unless some stars align and it magically happens. Or you hook up with one of the groups / nets that's focused on helping county hunters achieve their goals. Good Luck!

The USA-CA award program sponsored by CQ magazine is issued for confirmed two-way radio contacts with a specified numbers of U.S. counties under rules and conditions hereafter stated. This award is not just a once and done unless you only want to earn one of the seven available classes. Did I say seven classes? Yep, seven, with the first being 500 counties and the top being all counties — 3,077 as of this writing — that county-hunters refer to as, “the whole ball of wax.” At the 2,000-counties and above levels, you need to work all 50 states, while the initial 500 counties worked may be in any number of states.

Would there be any award without conditions or restrictions to make it a challenge? The award does apply to any licensed operator in the world so no worries, my fellow EU and JAs, you can achieve this award.

Something about the CQ awards is their management ... every award is very well managed with very few problems ever heard or emailed to me. When I do receive an inquiry, it is passed along to the relevant award manager and gets handled in a timely manner. Rules and procedures for the award are on the CQ website at <<https://tinyurl.com/ycxdmha7>>, and are reproduced below with a link for a complete list of counties by state, too ... enjoy.

Complete Rules — The CQ USA Counties Award (USA-CA) Program

A. Award Classes

The USA Counties Award is issued in seven different classes, each a separate achievement as endorsed on the basic certificate by use of special seals for higher classes. Also, special endorsements are made for all one band or mode operations, subject to the rules.

Class	Counties Required	States Required
USA-500	500	Any
USA-1000	1,000	25
USA-1500	1,500	45
USA-2000	2,000	50
USA-2500	2,500	50
USA-3000	3,000	50
USA-3077	ALL	50

*Email: <KI4KWR@cq-amateur-radio.com>



B. Conditions

1. USA-CA is available to all licensed amateurs everywhere in the world and is issued to them as individuals for all county contacts made, regardless of calls held, operating QTHs, or dates. Special USA-CA awards are also available to short-wave listeners (SWLs) on a heard basis.

2. All contacts must be confirmed by QSL, and such QSLs must be in the applicant's possession for identification by certification officials. Electronic verifications from sources approved by CQ are acceptable. A list of acceptable online sources may be found at <<https://tinyurl.com/yyzjzwur>>. (As of now, the only electronic confirmations acceptable for USA-CA are from eQSL.com. – ed.)

3. Any QSL card or other confirmation found to be altered in any way disqualifies the applicant.

4. QSOs via repeaters, satellites, and phone patches are not valid for USA-CA. QSOs using remote station technology are permitted, provided that all contacts are made over a direct RF path between the remote station and the station contacted.

5. So-called “team” contacts, wherein one person acknowledges a signal report and another returns a signal report,

while both amateur callsigns are logged, are not valid for USA-CA. Acceptable contact may be made with only one station at a time.

C. County Identity

1. Unless otherwise indicated on QSL cards or in an electronic confirmation database, the QTH printed on cards or entered an electronic confirmation database profile will determine county identity.

2. If no county name is provided by the contacted station, an online city and ZIP code search may be conducted to determine the county of contact.

3. For mobile and portable operations, county information stated on confirmations is the only acceptable proof of county identity.

4. In the case of cities, parks, or reservations not within counties proper, applicants may claim any one of the adjoining counties for credit (once).

D. Administration of USA-CA Program

1. The USA-CA program is administered by a CQ staff member acting as USA-CA Custodian, and all applications and related correspondence should be sent directly to this person's QTH.

2. Decisions of the Custodian in administering these rules and their interpretation, including future amendments, are final.

E. Record Book and Bookkeeping

1. The scope of the USA-CA Award makes it mandatory that applications be submitted in a specific format. Contacts must be arranged alphabetically by state and then alphabetically by county within each state. Information provided for each contact must include callsign, date of contact, band and mode, in that order. Computer-generated lists must be in a tabular format with separate columns for each field listed above.

2. A completed USA-CA Record Book (as available) or computer-generated listing of qualifying contacts constitutes the medium of basic application and becomes the property of CQ for record purposes. On subsequent applications for either higher classes or for special endorsements, the applicant may use additional Record Books to list required data, or he or she may make up alphabetical lists conforming to requirements.

3. Record Books are not currently in print, but existing copies will be accepted for all applications. At such time that Record Books may again become available, these rules will be

updated and notification will be published in CQ magazine.

F. Application

1. Make Record Book or computer-generated list entries necessary for county identity and enter other log data necessary to satisfy any special endorsements (band / mode) requested.

2. Have two licensed amateurs (General Class or higher) or an official of a national-level radio organization or affiliated club certify that QSL cards or acceptable electronic confirmations for all contacts as listed have been seen. The USA-CA Custodian reserves the

right to request any specific cards (or other confirmations) to satisfy any doubt whatsoever. In such cases, the applicant should send sufficient postage for the return of cards by registered mail.

3. Send the original completed Record Book (not a copy) or computer-generated listing, along with certification forms and handling fee to Brian Bird, NXØX, 4567 Caribou Lake Road, Duluth, MN 55811-9607. Fee is \$6.00 U.S. for CQ subscribers (subscribers must include a copy of a recent CQ mailing label), and \$12.00 U.S. for non-subscribers. Applicants outside the United States must include an additional \$6.00

Were you first licensed 25 years ago and licensed today?

Then you should join the Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc., celebrates Amateur Radio operators achieving 25 years in Amateur Radio and develops resources to assist young Amateur Radio operators in furthering their education through the QCWA Scholarship Program.

To Join or Renew, Visit:
<http://www.qcwa.org/join-renew.php>
For more information please contact om@qcwa.org

U.S. for postage if a certificate is requested. For later applications for higher class seals, send Record Book or self-prepared list per rules and \$1.25 U.S. For application for later special endorsements (band / mode) where certificates must be returned for endorsement, send certificate and \$1.25 U.S. for handling charges (\$6 U.S. for stations outside the United States). Note: At the time any USA-CA Award certificate is being processed, there are no charges other than the basic fee, regardless of the number of endorsements or seals; likewise, one may skip lower classes of USA-CA and get higher classes without losing any lower awards credits or paying any fee for them. Fees may be paid by check or money order payable to Brian Bird, or via PayPal. Applicants qualifying for the USA-CA All Counties Award (3,077 counties) have the option to purchase a plaque. Contact the award custodian for details.

4. Computer-generated contact lists, certification and witness documents must be sent on paper or by email, along with the appropriate fee, to the Award Custodian (address above), not to the CQ offices. Emailed applications may include an attached file in spreadsheet or other tabular format. and must include a listing of all claimed contacts, in alphabetical order by state, and by county within each state.

The USA-CA Award Program is sponsored by CQ - The Radio Amateur's Journal, P.O. Box 1206, Sayville, NY 11782. Questions? Send email to Brian Bird, NX0X, USA-CA Award Manager at <nx0x@aol.com>.

Links of Interest for this Award:

Printable state-by-state county maps of the United States: <<https://tinyurl.com/y59morxq>>

U.S. Counties with maps: <<https://tinyurl.com/bdf3pb6j>>
MARAC – Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, the pre-eminent county hunters' organization: <<http://marac.org>>
The County Hunter Web: <<http://countyhunterweb.org>>
County Hunter Dot Com: <www.countyhunter.com>

USA-CA Trivia

~ The USA-CA award was inaugurated by CQ in May 1961.

~ The first award custodian was Clif Evans, K6BX
~ CQ's Awards column (the one you are reading now) originated in July 1961, as the USA-CA column, written by K6BX. The USA-CA column transitioned to today's more broadly based Awards column in July 1967.

announcements *(from page 2)*

at the Northwest Florida Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Boulevard. Phone: (850) 359-9186. Email: <hamfest@w4zbb.org>. Website: <www.w4bzz.org>.

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO — The Rock Mountain Ham Radio will hold the **New Mexico TechFest** from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 18 at the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center, 1634 University Boulevard NE. Website: <www.nmham.org>. Balloon launch.

BUFFALO, MINNESOTA — The Maple Grove Radio Club will hold its **39th Annual Midwinter Madness Hobby Electronics Show** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 18 at the Buffalo Civic Center, 1306 County Road 134. Phone: (763) 537-1722. Website: <<http://k0lrc.org>>. Talk-in 147.000+ (PL 114.8). VE exams, ARRL card checking.

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA — The Kanawha Amateur Radio Club will hold the **38th Annual Charleston Area Hamfest and 2023 ARRL West Virginia Section Convention** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18 at the Beni Kedem Temple, 100 Quarrier Street. Contact Fred Vickers, WV8VF, (304) 421-1701. Email: <n8mw@arrl.net>. Website: <www.w8gk.org>.

LOOMIS, CALIFORNIA — The Sierra Foothills Amateur Radio Club will hold the **7th Annual Loomis Hamfest** from 7 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 18 at the Historic Loomis Train Depot, 5775 Horseshoe Bar Road. Website: <www.w6ek.org>.

MIDLAND, TEXAS — The Midland Amateur Radio Club will hold the **67th Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest and the 2023 ARRL West Texas Section Convention** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18 at the MLK Community Center, 2300 Butternut Lane. Email: <marc.w5qgg@gmail.com>. Website: <hamfest.w5qgg.org>. VE exams, DXCC / VUCC / WAS card checking.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA — The Scottsdale Amateur Club will hold Scottsdale SpringFest beginning 7 a.m., Saturday, March 18 at the Fender Musical Instrument Parking Lot, 17705 North Pacesetter Way. Contact Bill or James, <hamfestscottsdalearc.org>. Website: <www.springfest.scottsdalearc.org>. Talk-in 147.180+ (PL 162.2) or 443.575+ (PL 100).

STUART, FLORIDA — The Martin County Amateur Radio Association will hold the **48th Annual Stuart Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18 at the Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Highway (A1A). Website: <www.mcaraweb.com>. Talk-in 145.150- (PL 107.2).

ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA — The Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Spring Tailgate Swap Meet** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 18 at the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church, 5855 16th Street. Contact Charles Nelson <ke7uth@arrl.net>. Website: <www.zaarc.org>. Talk-in 146.910- (PL 146.2). VE exams.

JEFFERSON, WISCONSIN — The Tri-County Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Hamfest 2023** beginning 8 a.m., Sunday, March 19 at the

Jefferson County Fairgrounds Activity Center, 503 North Jackson Avenue. Contact: Mike, AE9MZ, (414) 455-5493. Email: <hamfest@w9mqb.org>. Website: <www.w9mqb.org>. Talk-in 145.49 (PL 123). VE exams.

PERRYSBURG, OHIO — The Toledo Mobile Radio Association will hold its **65th Annual Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, March 19 at the Owens Community College-Student Health and Activity Center, 30335 Oregon Road. Contact: TMRA, P.O. Box 9673, Toledo, OH 43697-9673. Website: <www.tmrahamradio.org>. Talk-in 147.27+ (PL 103.5). VE exams.

VIENNA, VIRGINIA — The Vienna Wireless Society will hold its **WINTERFEST!** from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, March 19 at the Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road. Email: <winterfest2023@viennawireless.net>. Website: <www.viennawireless.net>. Talk-in 146.910 (PL 77).

LEWISTON, MAINE — The Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club will hold its **2023 Hamfest and 2023 ARRL Maine State Convention** from Friday, March 24 through Saturday, March 25 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center, 490 Pleasant Street. Contact Ivan, N1OXA, (207) 577-5152. Email: <n1oxa@yahoo.com>. Website: <www.w1npp.org>.

FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA — The DeKalb County Amateur Radio Club will hold the **23rd Annual Hamfest / Tailgate Outing** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 25 at the VFW Fairgrounds, 151 18th Street NE. Contact: Carlton Floyd, W4CTK, (256) 630-4639. Email: <w4tkk@gmail.com>. Website: <www.w4dgh.org>. Talk-in 147.270+ (PL 100). VE exams.

FREDERICK, MARYLAND — The Frederick Amateur Radio Club will hold **FredFest 2023** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 25 at the Independent Hose Company Social Hall, 310 Baughmans Lane. Contact: Jeff, <ljfish1@comcast.net>. Website: <frederickarc.org/fredfest>. Talk-in 146.64

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club will hold its **11th Annual Swapfest** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, March 25 at the Elks Lodge #46, 5555 Good Hope Road. Email: <swapfest@w9rh.org>. Website: <<https://tinyurl.com/6cx92u4f>>. Talk-in 145.390 (PL 127.3). VE exams.

MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI — The Ozark Amateur Radio Society will hold its **Hamfest 2023** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 25 at The MARC, 822 W. Mt. Vernon Boulevard. Contact Zach Zullig, W0ZAC, 331 W. Cherry Street, Mount Vernon, MO 65712. Website: <www.w0oar.com>.

HENNICKER, NEW HAMPSHIRE — The Contooncook Valley Radio Club will hold the CVRC 2023 Ham Radio Indoor Flea Market from 8

(Continued on page 100)

We've Got Your Number (But is it Right?)

Tips on Correctly Copying Serial Numbers in Contest Exchanges

The last weekend in March and May each year, approximately 10,000 stations will be sending and copying serial numbers as the required exchange in the 48-hour CQWW WPX SSB and CW contests. Dozens of other contests use serial numbers, too, either as a standalone exchange or — as in ARRL Sweepstakes — as a variable part of a longer exchange.

How hard is it to copy a serial number correctly? In the log checking reports for almost 2 million QSOs logged in the 2022 CQWW WPX SSB contest, serial numbers were miscopied at a 3.0% rate; while callsigns were busted only about half as often, at a 1.6% rate. From a purely information-theory analysis, one might think that copying a serial number correctly would be easier than copying a callsign. After all, a callsign is often six characters, and each character in the callsign could be either a letter or digit, making 36 possible choices for each character. Serial numbers used in ham contests are shorter — four digits or less — and only made up of the 10 possible digits.

Contesters have a couple trick up their sleeves to copy callsigns more accurately. Foremost, a station calling CQ gives its callsign over and over on the same frequency, and this is a constant; contrasted with the ever-changing serial number. Assisted entrants going search-and-pounce may be able to verify a callsign with a spot on the same frequency coming in through a post to a Telnet cluster. The most effective CQing stations are making use of Super Check Partial — a dictionary of the most common callsigns — and are familiar with the most common domestic and DX callsigns heard on the air, to help them piece together callsigns through QRM and QRN.

But perhaps more than all the above, the WPX contest rules (like many big contests) have very different scoring policies for miscopied callsigns than for miscopied exchanges. An incorrect exchange leads to the loss of credit for that one QSO; a busted callsign not only results in losing that QSO, but also carries a point penalty of two additional QSOs. Savvy contesters pay heed to the rules and work much harder to avoid miscopying the call than the exchange.

We can break down the 3.0% of miscopied exchanges into five large groupings of categories. **Extra** digits are copied in 0.4% of exchanges, and digits are **dropped** by the receiver 0.6% of the time. Two adjacent digits in the serial number are transposed about 0.1% of the time; 1.4% of the time, only a **single digit was copied incorrectly**. The remainder of busted exchanges (0.5%) have more complex error syndromes. Let's go through some strategies for avoiding the most common of these mistakes.

A strategy to reducing **extra** or **dropped** digits begins with an awareness of what "typical" serial numbers are being exchanged in that phase of the contest. If you're starting late — Sunday afternoon — and sending very low serial numbers, you'll be frequently asked for serial number repeats by

Digit Sent	Thousands of times busted	Most commonly busted to
0	1.3	2
1	1.6	4
2	4.5	3
3	3.7	2
4	2.6	2
5	2.3	9
6	2.6	8
7	1.2	0
8	1.8	6
9	1.8	5

Table 1. The single-digit miscopy rate for the digits 0-9 in CQWW WPX SSB 2022, and the most likely bust for each digit. Data compiled from 2.074 million QSO records in the 2022 CQWW WPX public logs.

those who are used to copying much larger serial numbers. If you're in the opening minutes of the contest, you'll be suspicious of numbers much larger than 100; if someone says "13, 13" they likely are repeating the number 13 twice, rather than sending the number 1313.

When sending your exchange, one technique for making plain the magnitude of your serial number and ensuring your QSO party knows the correct number of digits, is to give it including "thousand" and "hundred." For example, when giving the serial 2121 I might voice "Two thousand one hundred twenty one" and avoid any possible confusion with the serial number 21 being repeated twice.

Table 1 shows the most common **single-digit copying** errors made in CQWW WPX SSB 2022 logs. The most commonly miscopied digit was "2", with "3" close behind, and this pair was most commonly mistaken for each other. The leading "t" and "th" sounds of these two digits are very similar, especially after passing through the restrictive SSB voice bandwidth, so we must depend on the trailing vowel sound "oo" or "ree" to carry the difference.

Another common bust pair seen in Table 1 is mistaking 5 for 9 and the reverse. The vowel sounds in "five" and "nine" are very similar. A common convention in aviation radio — ICAO convention, in fact — is to say "niner," giving an extra syllable to help differentiate these two digits in numeric communications. A complete list of ICAO numeric digit recommendations is online at <<https://bit.ly/3Hle8db>>. I can't say I've ever heard "five niner" in giving the 59 signal report.

In especially difficult QRM or QSB, when asked for a repeat of the serial number, it often makes sense to give it twice. I

email: <n3qe@cq-amateur-radio.com>

First Digit	% WPX SSB Occurrence
1	32%
2	17%
3	12%
4	9%
5	8%
6	7%
7	6%
8	5%
9	5%

like to include the word “number” before and between repeats; i.e. I’ll pronounce “number three six seven number three six seven.” It’s not necessary to again give the 59 signal report when asked for a repeat; in fact, those two digits may end up confusing the receiver into thinking they are part of your serial number if you give them during each repeat.

Table 2. The first digit of serial numbers copied in the WPX Contests are observed to closely follow Benford’s Law, with “1” being by far the most common first digit.

You may notice some **apparent irregularities in serial numbers** while you are waiting in a pileup to get through to a prolific station during the busiest hours of the contest. He may give the 1210 to one caller, then the number 1212 to the next caller. Is he skipping numbers? No, but he is using advanced Single Operator Two Radio (SO2R) techniques to work stations on a second band. He gave the intervening number 1211 to a station on a different band.

A follow-on from this is that you can’t assume that because the previous station was given 1212, that your QSO will

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon	bit.ly/3FyPiui
Mar. 1	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Mar. 1	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	https://ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
Mar. 1-2	AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	http://bit.ly/2WCGT2C
Mar. 4	SARL YL QSO Party	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
Mar. 4-5	ARRL SSB DX Contest	www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
Mar. 4-5	AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest	http://bit.ly/2WCGT2C
Mar. 4-5	Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	http://krs.ho.ua/openrtty
Mar. 4-5	Veron SLP Contest	http://bit.ly/2L9eT1L
Mar. 4-12	Novice Rig Round-Up	www.novicerigroundup.org
Mar. 5	SARL Hamnet 40M Simulated Emergency Contest	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
Mar. 5	UBA Spring Contest 80m CW	http://bit.ly/2KKAAtb9
Mar. 6	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 7	AGCW YL-CW QSO Party	www.agcw.de/contest/yl-cw-party
Mar. 8	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Mar. 11	YB DX RTTY Contest	https://rtty.ybdxcontest.com
Mar. 11-12	EA PSK63 Contest	https://tinyurl.com/hsfd5buy
Mar. 11-12	Idaho QSO Party	www.pocatelloarc.org/idahoqsoparty
Mar. 11-12	Oklahoma QSO Party	http://k5cm.com/okqp.htm
Mar. 11-12	North American RTTY Sprint	http://ncjweb.com/north-american-sprint
Mar. 11-12	RSGB Commonwealth CW Contest	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 11-12	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	www.kkn.net/stew
Mar. 12	AGCW QRP Contest	www.agcw.de/contest/qrp
Mar. 12	FIRAC HF Contest	www.firac.de/html/contest.html
Mar. 12	UBA Spring Contest 2m CW/Phone	http://bit.ly/2KKAAtb9
Mar. 12-13	Wisconsin QSO Party	www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm
Mar. 15	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Mar. 15	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 18	AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	www.agcw.de/contest/vhf-uhf
Mar. 18	PODXS 070 Club St. Patrick’s Day Contest	http://bit.ly/38ugUiF
Mar. 18-19	Maidenhead Mayhem Sprint	https://w9et.com/rules.html
Mar. 18-19	SARL VHF/UHF Analogue Contest	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
Mar. 18-19	Virginia QSO Party	https://bit.ly/3iXGNkX
Mar. 18-20	BARTG HF RTTY Contest	http://bartg.org.uk/wp/contests
Mar. 19	UBA Spring Contest 80m SSB	http://bit.ly/2KKAAtb9
Mar. 20	Bucharest Digital Contest	https://yo3test201x.blogspot.com
Mar. 23	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 25	FOC QSO Party	www.g4foc.org/qsoparty
Mar. 25-26	Veron SLP Contest	http://bit.ly/2L9eT1L
Mar. 25-26	CQWW WPX SSB Contest	www.cqwp.com
Mar. 26	UBA Spring Contest 6m CW/ Phone	http://bit.ly/2KKAAtb9
Mar. 27	RSGB FT4 Contest	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Mar. 29	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	https://ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Sasquatch Stomp	www.pnwqrp.org/sasquatch-stomp
Apr. 1	RSGB FT4 International Activity Day	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Apr. 1-2	EA RTTY Contest	https://tinyurl.com/hsfd5buy
Apr. 1-2	Florida State Parks on the Air	http://flspot.org

be number 1213. “Listening ahead” to get the first couple digits is fine, but be completely prepared to copy a serial number that that may be one or two higher than the most direct numeric increment.

Another odd pattern you may notice is that you work a loud station a few hours in on the first night on a low band and he gives you the serial number 312. The next morning you work the same station on a high band, and he gives you the number 65. Should you try to get a correction to the previous night’s serial number, as it appears to be out of sequence? No, you just worked a Multi-Two or Multi-Multi station that uses independent serial number sequences on each band, each band starting with 1.

The WPX contest, like nearly all modern contests, does not give a penalty for duplicate contacts. Still, you will likely run

across a station or two that, even though he is not in your log, tells you are a dupe and refuses to work you again. Often these stations will read back previously exchanged serial numbers from their log rather than go through another QSO with new serial numbers. If you run across this, it’s often most productive to take note of the station that claims you’re a dupe and simply avoid calling that station again in the contest or at least on that band. Efficient stations simply work apparent dupes with a new set of serial numbers, rather than insist on a possible correction of logs — a process that is tedious, as it takes longer than simply working the apparent dupe again, and certainly more error-prone.

The challenge of copying a completely variable and unpredictable exchange element in WPX can be key to important decisions affecting your accuracy and rate. If you are having

Apr. 1-2	Louisiana QSO Party	http://laqp.org
Apr. 1-2	Mississippi QSO Party	www.arlmiss.org
Apr. 1-2	Missouri QSO Party	https://bit.ly/3rkAl87
Apr. 1-2	PODXS 070 Club 31 Flavors Contest	http://bit.ly/2SESbDg
Apr. 1-2	SP DX Contest	https://spdxcontest.pzk.org.pl/2023
Apr. 3	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	bit.ly/3TxCrXl
Apr. 5	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	https://ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
Apr. 5	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Apr. 6	SARL 80m QSO Party	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
April 8	QRP Spring QSO Party	www.qrpcontest.com
Apr.8-9	FT8 DX Contest	https://europeanft8club.wordpress.com
Apr. 8-9	Georgia QSO Party	https://gaqsoparty.com
Apr. 8-9	IG-RY World Wide RTTY Contest	www.ig-ry.de/ig-ry-ww-contest
Apr. 8-9	JIDX CW Contest	www.jidx.org
Apr. 8-9	New Mexico QSO Party	www.newmexicoqsoparty.org/wp
Apr. 8-9	North Dakota QSO Party	www.ndarrlsection.com/index.html
Apr. 8-9	OK-OM DX SSB Contest	http://bit.ly/3ioS3Cl
Apr. 8-9	Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest	http://gc.qst.ru/en/section/32
Apr. 9	Hungarian Straight Key Contest	http://hskc.ha8kux.com
Apr. 9	International Vintage Contest HF	www.iv3ehh.it/vintage.htm
Apr. 9	WAB 3.5/7/14 MHz Data Modes	http://bit.ly/31yE4kT
Apr. 10	144 MHz Spring Sprint	http://bit.ly/3XM4RpW
Apr. 12	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Apr. 14-15	Holyland DX Contest	www.iarc.org/iarc/#HolylandContest
Apr. 15	DARC Easter Contest	http://bit.ly/3bOk9pd
Apr. 15	ES Open HF Championship	www.erau.ee/en/es-open-contests
Apr. 15	QRP to the Field	https://tinyurl.com/2s3zxah3
Apr. 15-16	CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	www.cqmmdx.com/rules
Apr. 15-16	Michigan QSO Party	https://miqp.org/index.php/rules
Apr. 15-16	Ontario QSO Party	www.va3cco.com/oqp/rules.htm
Apr. 15-16	Texas State Parks on the Air	www.tspota.org
Apr. 15-16	Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest	www.mulandxc.com/index/index
Apr. 15-16	YU DX Contest	http://yudx.yu1srs.org.rs
Apr. 16	ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Apr. 18	222 MHz Spring Sprint	http://bit.ly/3XM4RpW
Apr. 19	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	bit.ly/3TxCrXl
Apr. 19	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity	www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en
Apr. 22-23	SP DX RTTY Contest	https://tinyurl.com/yckz49rm
Apr. 23	BARTG Sprint75 Contest	http://bartg.org.uk/wp/contests
Apr. 23	North American SSB Sprint	https://ssbsprint.com/rules
Apr. 24	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	bit.ly/3TxCrXl
Apr. 26	432 MHz Spring Sprint	http://bit.ly/3XM4RpW
Apr. 26	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	https://ukeicc.com/80m-rules.php
Apr. 27	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	bit.ly/3TxCrXl
Apr. 29-30	10-10 Spring Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
Apr. 29-30	Florida QSO Party	www.floridaqsoparty.org
Apr. 29-30	Helvetia Contest	www.uska.ch
Apr. 29-30	UK/EI DX Contest, CW	www.ukicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php
May 27-28	CQWW WPX CW Contest	www.cqwpw.com

difficulty copying a caller's callsign, that's a very strong hint that you'll also find it difficult to copy his serial number. You might encourage him to try again later when conditions are more favorable. This factor weighs even more heavily in contests with much longer and complex exchanges, such as the ARRL Sweepstakes.

In the 2022 CQWW WPX SSB contest, several stations were consistently giving **serial numbers one higher, or one lower**, than what their log showed they had sent. These stations were not interpreting the visual clues given by their loggers, as to what serial number belongs to the current QSO. *Figure 1*

shows how color-coding of past vs. current serial numbers works in the popular N1MM+ logger. At the top, you'll see that I'm getting ready to work WX3B, I've typed his callsign into the left part of the entry window, and I'm seeing the number "100" in the "SntNR" box where the number I'll send is read from. But note, that the digits of SentNR are greyed out; this is a clue from my logging program that 100 was the serial number of my previous QSO. At the bottom, you'll see that only after I tab over to the RcvNR field do I get the serial number I should send, 101, and it is not greyed out. Several multi-op organizers make a policy of discussing the proper way of read-

ing the current serial number out of their logging program, and they have noted to me that operators that insist on writing callsigns and serial numbers on paper before entering them into the computer are most likely to make patterns of serial-number-off-by-one exchanges. If you're a visiting operator at a multi-op, and aren't familiar with the clues given by the logging software in use, I strongly advise doing some research on exactly how to read the correct serial number.

After several years of WPX entries, I noticed that the serial numbers I was copying seemed to **most commonly begin with the digit "1"**. This property has been noticed for many other large data sets. In 1938, physicist Frank Benford researched this phenomenon by tabulating the leading digits given in several diverse and readily available data sets, including the house numbers in street addresses, molecular weights tabulated in chemical handbooks, and the surface areas of rivers worldwide. This property of "1" appearing most commonly as the first digit in a wide variety of data sets is called **Benford's Law**.

I tabulated the first digits of serial numbers sent and received in the 2022 CQWW WPX SSB public logs in *Table 2*. Note that "1" as the first digit occurs for almost one-third of serial numbers; at the bottom of the table, "9" as the leading digit occurs only one-sixth as often. The frequency of leading digits in WPX is a close match to the theoretical prediction of Benford's Law. Benford's Law is applicable in this case because WPX serial numbers span four orders of magnitude and everyone in the contest starts with serial number 1. Note that this principle is not applicable to the last digit of a serial number, which will be equally distributed from 0 to 9. Benford's Law is not applicable to other fixed-magnitude contest exchanges, like the check year in Sweepstakes, or the zone number in CQWW, that follow age-based or geographically-based distributions. Read more about Benford's Law at <https://bit.ly/3Rgeiff> before the next contest.

March and April Contest Highlights

A second big phone contest is also held in March: The 48-hour **ARRL DX SSB** contest is March 4th and 5th. In this contest, DX stations work U.S. and Canadian stations. Hams in the W/VE send their state or province as part of the exchange; DX stations count these per band as their multiplier. W/VE sta-



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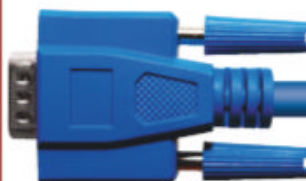


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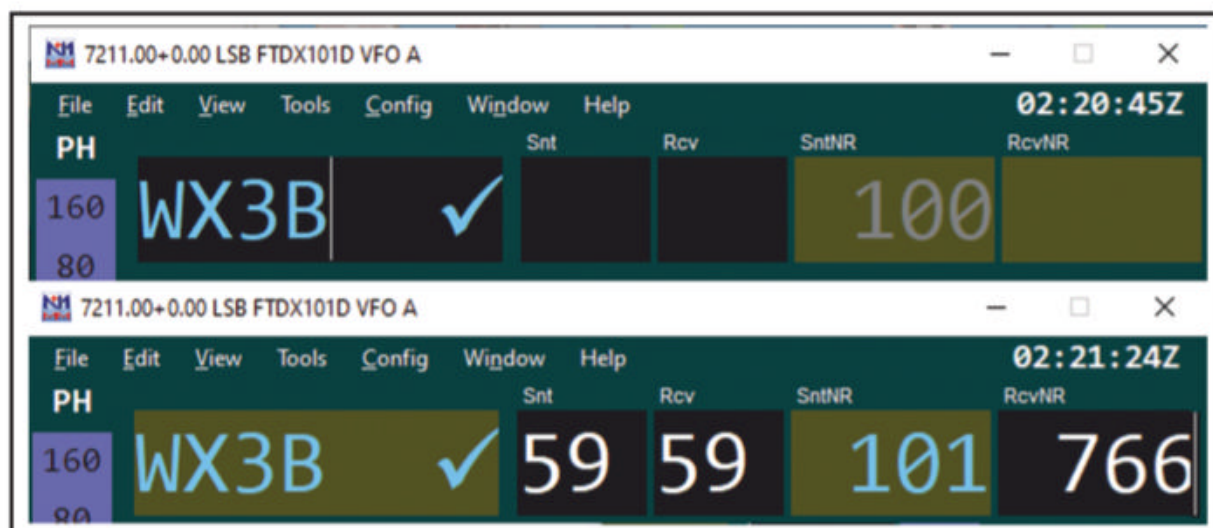


Figure 1. Top: Cursor is still in callsign box, and the serial number (greyed out) in SntNR is for the previous contact. Bottom: Cursor has been moved to the RcvNR box where a serial number was entered, and now SntNR is reading the correct serial number to send for this QSO.

tions count DXCC entities per band as their multiplier, and copy the transmitter power sent by the DX. While the most commonly heard transmitter powers heard as DX exchanges this weekend are “100 Watts,” “400 Watts,” and “Kilowatt,” be prepared to copy oddball numbers like “99 watts” and of course QRP stations will be sending a number of “5 watts” or less. Find the full ARRL DX SSB rules at www.arrl.org/arrl-dx.

The next weekend, starting at 0200

UTC March 11th, is the **BARTG HF RTTY** contest. Note that the sponsor, the British Amateur Radio Teletype Group, has recently set some stringent limits on the allowed frequencies for this event. Among these are a prohibition on QSOs between 14099 and 14101 kHz (requiring contesters to keep well clear of the DX beacon frequencies around 14100 kHz). Additionally, no RTTY QSOs are to be made below 3580 kHz on the 80-meter band, which I’ve

noticed has become the “overflow” region during the world’s largest CQWW RTTY and CQWW WPX RTTY contests as U.S. stations cannot transmit digital modes above 3600 kHz. Find the new BARTG band plan and full rules at <https://bit.ly/3jEqNEy>.

The first weekend of April has the **SP DX Contest**, sponsored by Polish Amateur Radio Union and the SP DX Club. Hams around the world work Polish stations, copying the one-letter province designator as the exchange; provinces count as multipliers on each band. Non-SP stations send a serial number. This contest had been cancelled in 2022 in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine as Polish citizens mobilized to accommodate a flood of refugees. The contest starts at 1500 UTC Saturday, April 1st, and runs for 24 hours. A helpful list of Polish province multipliers are in the full rules at <https://bit.ly/3jeRMqq>.

April 29-30th is the **Florida QSO Party**. This is one of the more popular QSO parties. Rovers move around handing out multiple Florida counties, and CW contacts count for more points than SSB, highly motivating heavy CW efforts. See <https://floridaqsoparty.org> for the rules.

propagation

BY TOMAS HOOD,* NW7US

Exceeding Expectations

Quick Look at Current Cycle 25 Conditions: (Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, December 2022: 113
12-month smoothed, June 2022: 81

10.7-cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, December 2022: 148
12-month smoothed, June 2022: 123

One Year Ago:

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, December 2021: 69
12-month smoothed, June 2021: 28

10.7-cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, December 2021: 87
12-month smoothed, June 2021: 103

As we pointed out before: One recent study suggests that Cycle 25 could be one of the strongest since record keeping began. Look at the progress of the cycle in *Figure 1*. The latest 10.7-cm Radio Flux for the month of January 2023 was 182.5, much higher than the predicted 100.4. Clearly, we are witnessing a much stronger cycle than predicted.

March Shortwave Propagation

March is one of the optimal DX months. As the spring equinox approaches, the gray line begins to run straight North and South. With the return of sunlight to the polar north, the higher high-frequency (HF) bands are quickly improving over conditions we witnessed during winter.

Ten meters will be a strong worldwide DXing band, with the most reliable propagation along north-south paths, plus strong but shorter openings occurring between stations on east-west paths into Asia and Europe. These paths will quickly disappear as we move into April, so don't miss out.

Twelve and 15 meters will be even more usable than the 10-meter band. We will find 15 meters staying open longer into the evenings, being the band of choice as we move through the month and into April. Daytime paths will not degrade much until midsummer. You will see more early closures if you live closer to the North Pole.

Seventeen and 20 meters will remain in good shape and both short- and long-path circuits should be reliable and solid. All nighttime paths will be wide open during March with prime-time being the evening hours in the U.S. as they are sunrise hours across Russia, Africa, and both the Near and Far East. Expect a lot of short- and long-path DX into these areas of the world.

Between sunset and midnight, expect DX openings on all bands between 20 and 160 meters, with occasional openings on 15 and 17 when conditions are high or above normal. Conditions on 30, 40, 60, 80, and 160 meters should favor openings to the east and south. These bands should peak for openings to Europe and Africa near midnight.

From midnight to sunrise, expect optimum DX conditions on 30, 40, 60, 80, and occasionally, 160 meters. Conditions should favor openings toward the west and south. Some

rather good 20-meter openings should also be possible toward the south and west during this time.

Daytime MUFs continue to drop and the planetary index (A_p) is on the rise, so take advantage of the current excellent conditions, and work the world!

VHF Conditions

Check for low-VHF short-skip openings during the daylight hours. Some short-skip openings over distances of about 1,200-2,300 miles may occur. The best times for such openings are during the afternoon hours.

Auroral activity often occurs during periods of radio storminess on the HF bands. Look for days where the A_p is climbing and when the K index (K_p) reaches 4 or higher. These are the days on which VHF auroral-type openings are most likely to occur.

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for March 2023

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-8, 13, 15-16, 18-21, 23-31	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 9-10, 12, 14, 17, 22	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 11	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: n/a	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: n/a	C-D	D	E	E

Where expected signal quality is:

A--Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9

B--Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9, with little fading or noise.

C--Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S6, with some fading and noise.

D--Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, with considerable fading and noise.

E--No opening expected.

HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

1. Using the Propagation Charts appearing in "The CQ Shortwave Propagation Handbook, 4th Edition," by Carl Luetzelschwab, George Jacobs, Theodore J. Cohen, and R. B. Rose.

a. Find the *Propagation Index* associated with the particular path opening from the *Propagation Charts*.

b. 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 4 will be excellent on March 1st through March 10th, good on March 11th, then excellent again the rest of the month.

2. Alternatively, you may use the *Last-Minute Forecast* as a general guide to space weather and geomagnetic conditions throughout 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 geomagnetic conditions. In general, when conditions are *High Normal* to *Above Normal*, signals will be more reliable on a given path, when the ionosphere supports the path that is in consideration. This chart is updated daily at <<https://SunSpotWatch.com>> provided by NW7US.

* P.O. Box 110

Fayetteville, OH 45118

Email: <nw7us@nw7us.us>

@NW7US (<https://Twitter.com/NW7US>)

@hfradiospacewx (<https://Twitter.com/HFRadioSpaceWX>)

There are no major meteor showers during March that could provide any VHF meteor scatter propagation. For a detailed list of meteor showers, check out <<https://tinyurl.com/rnfkd2d8>> for a complete calendar of meteor showers in 2023.

If you use Twitter.com, you can follow <[@hfradiospacewx](https://twitter.com/hfradiospacewx)> for hourly updates that include the K index numbers. You can also check the numbers at <<https://SunSpotWatch.com>>, where this columnist provides a wealth of current space weather details as well as links. Please report your observations of any notable propagation conditions, by writing this columnist via Twitter, or via the Space Weather and Radio Propagation Facebook page at <<https://fb.me/spacewx.hfradio>>.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for December 2022 is 113.1. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on June 2022 is 80.9. A smoothed sunspot count of 87, give or take about 9 points, is expected for March 2023.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton,

BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 148.46 for December 2022. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on June 2022 is 122.7. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for March 2023 is 122, give or take 7 points.

Geomagnetic activity level this month is expected to range from quiet to stormy, resulting in occasional degraded propagation this month. Remember that you can get an up-to-the-day **Last-Minute Forecast** at <<https://SunSpotWatch.com>> on the main page.

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 <<https://fb.me/spacewx.hfradio>> and <<https://fb.me/NW7US>> —speaking of Facebook— check out the *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine fan page at <<https://fb.me/CQMag>>. Also, please check out the new alternative social networking ham radio group at <<https://amateurhamradio.locals.com>> and please share this with your amateur radio friends and clubs.

– 73, Tomas, NW7US

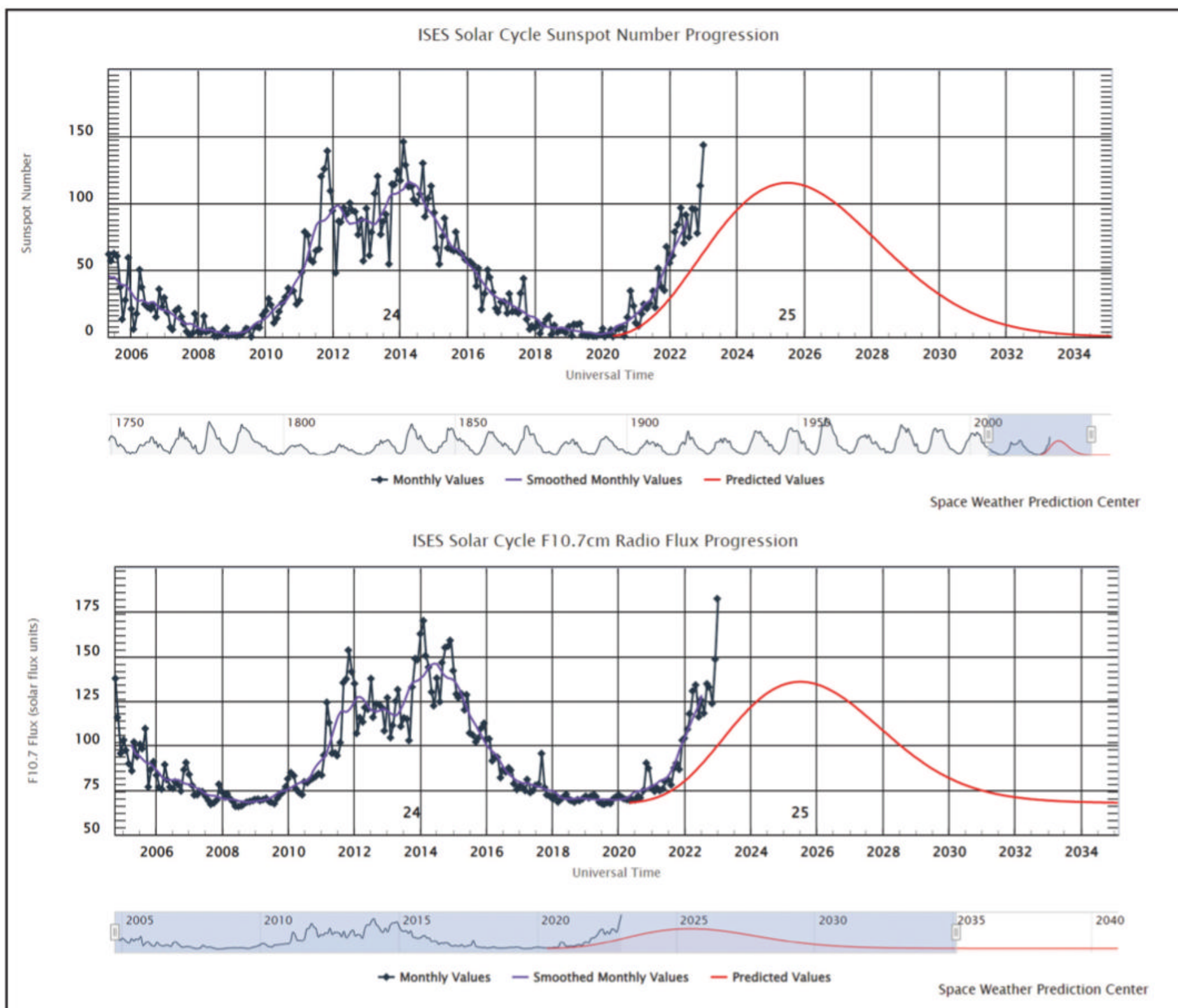


Figure 1. Cycle 25 is far outpacing the forecast! The latest monthly F10.7-cm exceeds any month in the last cycle, Cycle 24! The monthly sunspot count is also nearing the number at the peak of Cycle 24. And, we are not at the peak of this cycle, yet. We have potentially several more years to sunspot cycle peak, expected in 2025. (Courtesy of SWPC/NOAA)

announcements *(from page 92)*

a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, March 26 at The Hennicker Community School, 51 Western Avenue. Phone: (603) 428-3840. Email: <fest@k1bke.org>. Website: <https://k1bke.wordpress.com>. Talk-in 146.895- (PL 100). VE exams.

SOUTHINGTON, CONNECTICUT — The Southington Amateur Radio Association will hold its **Flea Market** from 8:30 a.m. to noon, Sunday, March 26 at Southington High School, 720 Pleasant Street. Contact: Bob, K1HSN, (860) 628-4808. Email: <w1cev@arrl.net>. Website: <www.chetbacon.com/sara>. Talk-in 147.345 (PL 151.4), 145.49, or 145.17 (PL 77). VE exams.

APRIL

CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI — The Alcorn County ARES will hold the April Fool – Jess Ables Memorial Hamfest from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 1 and from 8 a.m. to noon, Sunday, April 2 at the Crossroads Arena, 2800 South Harper Road. Email: <Harold.butler@me.com>. Website: <www.acades.reiselt.com>. Talk-in 146.925. VE exams.

CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA — The Green Country Hamfest 2023 and the 2023 ARRL Oklahoma Section Convention will be held from 4-9 p.m., Friday, April 7 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 8 at the Claremore Expo Center, 400 Veterans Parkway. Email: <info@greencountryhamfest.org>. Website: <www.greencountryhamfest.org>. Talk-in 147.090+ (PL 88.5). VE exams, DXCC / WAC / WAS / VUCC card checking.

HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE — The Port City Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Seacoast Amateur Radio Flea Market** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 8 at the St. James Masonic Lodge, 77 Tide Mill Road. Contact: Steve Roberts, KC1ILT, <kc1ilt@maine.rr.com>. Website: <www.w1wqm.org>. Talk-in 145.150- (PL 127.3). VE exams.

HAYES, VIRGINIA — The Middle Peninsula Amateur Radio Club will hold the 3rd Annual Gloucester Hamfest from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 8 at the Abingdon Ruritan Club, 8784 Guinea Road. Contact: Joy Safrenek, (757) 871-7772. Email: <w2jms2001@gmail.com>. Talk-in 145.370.

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA — The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society will hold **RARSfest** and the 2023 ARRL Roanoke Division Convention from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, April 8 at the Jim Graham Building, NC State Fairgrounds, 4285 Trinity Road. Contact: Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, (919) 630-9358. Email: <k4hf953@yahoo.com>. Website: <www.rarsfest.org>. Talk-in 146.64. VE exams.

CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO — The Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club will hold its 67th Annual Hamfest from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 15 at the Emidio & Sons Expo Center, 48 E. Bath Road. Contact: Bruce Ferry, (330) 790-1680. Email: <hamfest2023@w8vpv.org>. Website: <www.w8vpv.org/hamfest>. Talk-in 147.270+ (PL 110.9) or 444.850+ (PL 110.9). Free VE exams.

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE — The Sussex Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Georgetown Hamfest** and 2023 ARRL Delaware State Convention beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, April 15 at the Cheer Community Center, 20520 Sand Hill Road. Contact: Jamie, W3UC, (410) 202-7690. Email: <hamfestdelaware@gmail.com>. Website: <www.radioelectronicsexpo.com>. Talk-in 147.090 (PL 156.7). Free VE exams, DXCC / VUCC / WAS / WAC card checking.

ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO — The Pecos Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold the Second Annual PVARC Alien City Hamfest from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, April 15 at Beginnings, 3908 SE Main Street. Contact: Gerald Cox, W0COX, (575) 840-8586. Email: <w0cox@gmail.com>. Website: <www.pecosvalleyarc.com>. Talk-in 147.320 (PL 146.2).

STOUGHTON, WISCONSIN — The Madison Area Repeater Association will hold the 52nd Annual Madison Hamfest from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 15 at the Mandt Community Center, 400 Mandt Parkway. Phone: (608) 205-1994. Email: <hamfest@w9hsy.org>. Website: <www.w9hsy.org>. Talk-in 147.150+ (PL 123). VE exams.

ELIZABETH, PENNSYLVANIA — The Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club will hold the 51st Annual Amateur Radio / Computer Show 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, April 16 at the Elizabeth VFD Bingo Hall, 101 South 1st Avenue. Contact: Bill Powers (412) 260-5699 or Del Peterson (412) 974-9695. Email: <hamfestchairman@trarc.net>. Website: <www.trarc.net>. Talk-in 146.73. VE exams.

DOVER, OHIO — The Tusco Amateur Radio Club will hold its 2023 Hamfest, Computer & Electronics Show from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday,

April 22 at the Tuscarawas County Fairgrounds, 259 S. Tuscarawas Avenue. Contact: Rick Dingman, KE8URA, (303) 934-0575 or Cindy Gray, KE8JNN, (330) 340-4946. Email: <w8zx@n8bag.net>. Website: <www.w8zx.net>. Talk-in 146.730.

LANDING, NEW JERSEY — The Splitrock Amateur Radio Association will hold the 2023 North Jersey Tailgate Hamfest beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, April 22 at the Landing Park Recreation Complex, 165 Landing Road. Email: <hamfest@splitrockara.org>. Website: <www.splitrockara.org>. Talk-in 146.985- (PL 131.8). DXCC card checking.

SONOMA, CALIFORNIA — The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Hamfest 2023** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 22 at the First Congregational Church of Sonoma, 252 W. Spain Street. Email: <valleyofthemoonarc@gmail.com>. Website: <www.vomarc.org>. Talk-in 145.350 (88.5). VE exams, fox hunt.

ODENTON, MARYLAND — The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club will hold the **MMARC Spring Hamfest** from 7:30 a.m. to noon, Sunday, April 23 at the Odenton Volunteer Fire Department, 1425 Annapolis Road (Rt. 175). Contact: Bruce, AB3AC, (410) 456-2500. Email: <bmcpherson73@verizon.net>. Website: <https://tinyurl.com/2p935p6k>. Talk-in 146.805- (PL 107.2).

OCALA, FLORIDA — The Marion County Emergency Radio Team will air a special event station **KG4NXO** from 1200-2359 UTC, Saturday, April 29 to celebrate 20 years of amateur radio support for Marion County Emergency Management. Frequencies include 14.262, 7.262 MHz and D-STAR on 146.790 MHz REF 037. Request further information about Certificate & QSL at the website <www.mert20.org>.

SPRING GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA — The York Hamfest Foundation will hold the 2023 York Hamfest from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 29 at Elicker's Grove Park, 511 Roth Church Road. Email: <duane.sternee@yahoo.com>. Website: <www.yorkhamfest.org>. Talk-in 147.330+ (PL 123). Free VE exams, DXCC / VUCC / WAS / WAC card checking.

MAY

CADILLAC, MICHIGAN — The Wexauke Amateur Radio Club will hold the 63rd Annual Cadillac Amateur Radio and Computer Swap beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, May 6 at the Mackinaw Trail Middle School, 8401 S. Mackinaw Trail. Website: <www.wexauke.org>. Talk-in 146.980. VE exams, card checking.

CEDARBURG, WISCONSIN — The Ozaukee Radio Club will hold its 43rd Spring Indoor Swapfest from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 6 at the Ascension Columbia St. Mary's Center, W67N890 Washington Avenue. Contact: Tom Trethewey, KC9ONY, (262) 421-6351. Email: <swapfest@ozaukeeradioclub.org>. Website: <www.ozaukeeradioclub.org>. Talk-in 146.97- (PL 127.3).

SANDWICH, ILLINOIS — The Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club will hold **The DeKalb Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, May 7 at the Sandwich Fairgrounds, 1401 Suydam Road. Contact: Bob Yurs, W9ICU, (815) 757-3219. Email: <w9icu@arrl.net>. Website: <www.karc-club.org>. Talk-in 146.730- (PL 100).

TOLEDO, OHIO — The Lucas County ARES will hold its **Trunk Sale & Swap Meet** from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Sunday, May 7 at the Toledo Speedway, 5639 Benore Road. Phone: (419) 370-2882. Email: <swap@lucasares.org>. Website: <http://swap.lucasares.org>. Talk-in 146.940- (PL 103.5).

PRESCOTT VALLEY, ARIZONA — The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club will hold the 2023 Prescott Hamfest from 8 a.m. to noon, Sunday, May 13 at the Granville Elementary School, 5250 Stover Drive. Contact: John Stover, KT7P, <hamfest@w7yrc.org>. Website: <www.prescotthamfest.org>. Card checking.

STANWOOD, WASHINGTON — The Stanwood-Camano Amateur Radio Club will hold the **SCARC 30th Annual Electronic Flea Market & Hamfest** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 13 at the Stanwood Middle School, 9405 271st Street NW. Email: <scarchamfest@yahoo.com>. Website: <www.scarcwa.org>.

XENIA, OHIO — The Dayton Amateur Radio Association will hold the **Dayton Hamvention 2023** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, May 19; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, May 20; and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, May 21 at the Greene County Fair and Expo Center, 210 Fairground Road. Phone: (937) 276-6930. Email: <info@hamvention.org>. Website: <www.hamvention.org>. Talk-in 146.94- (PL 123). VE exams, card checking, special event station W8BI.

behind the bylines...

... a little bit about some of the authors whose articles appear in this issue.

Steven K. Smith, K3SKS (“Persistent Practice Produces Positive POTA Progress,” p. 25), retired five years ago from a career in electrical engineering. He is now putting his skills to use in building and improving the ham station that he shares with his wife, Judy, KC3JAS, who has become very active as an “activator” in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. A ham since 2017, Steven upgraded to Extra only three months after passing his Technician exam and is now a Volunteer Examiner himself, working with a group that conducts regular licensing classes, exam sessions and new ham workshops. He and Judy live in DuBois, Pennsylvania.

Bob Herklotz, K4HRK (“A Collapsible Tri-Band Antenna...” p. 33), is an Extra Class ham and a member of the Maury County Amateur Radio Club in Columbia, Tennessee. His lifelong interest in radio and electronics was sparked by listening to shortwave on his grandparents’ RCA “Magic Eye” console radio when just a kid. A retired auto industry maintenance planner, he is currently winding down his “retirement business,” Fresh Aero Aviation, to spend more time on other pursuits — like ham radio.

Nicholas Petreley, N2EWS [“The Continuing Anticlimactic Adventures of the Perverted V (Part 3),” p. 38], was an award-winning columnist for the computer journal *InfoWorld* in a former life; a teacher, consultant, and programmer in a former, former life, and is currently a technical consulting engineer for Cisco Systems, Inc. You can reach him at <nicholas@petreley.com>.

Tom Weaver, WØFN (“Learning Morse Code Instant Character Recognition,” p. 40), first became a ham in 1977 but let his license lapse and returned in 2018 — immediately jumping to Extra Class! After discovering CW Academy in 2019, he quickly became not only a code aficionado, but a CW Academy Advisor and, last summer, began coaching Instant Character Recognition — the subject of his article — for the Long Island CW Club. Until the COVID pandemic, he also taught indoor rock-climbing! Steven and his wife live in Des Moines, Iowa.

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Number groups after callsigns denote the following: Band, Final Score, QSOs, Zones, Countries, US/VE QTHs. An asterisk (*) indicates low power. Certificate winners are listed in boldface. Late logs are listed in italics.

2022 CQWW DX RTTY RESULTS

SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA

United States

District 1						
K5ZD	A	4,273,200	3102	100	289	211
NG1M	"	986,232	1187	68	167	142
AE1P	"	981,848	1226	62	168	126
KA1YQC	"	571,890	843	52	149	129
K2RB	"	258,213	460	50	124	75
W1GD	"	143,166	265	50	120	53
K1BZ	"	136,246	304	52	101	89
K1SM	"	117,820	330	34	72	66
K3IU	"	76,680	210	35	83	24
AA1SU	"	38,295	187	23	41	47
*W1UE	A	420,462	617	54	148	80
*W1HY	"	241,379	475	55	131	95
*K7RB	"	178,605	390	50	95	100
*W1DYJ	"	144,460	311	50	97	86
*K1VW	"	108,800	292	35	90	75
*W1IG	"	101,672	277	36	87	56
*AF1R	"	67,872	204	37	71	60
*KA1C	"	65,910	200	40	68	61
*WV1H	"	53,098	180	32	68	39
*KG1V	"	47,278	159	37	61	56
*KB1KD	"	22,932	130	23	43	32
*KC1SA	"	22,842	111	19	47	28
*W1ZFG	"	3,796	40	15	20	17
*N2HX	"	2,989	48	16	13	32
*AA1NK	"	1,694	72	21	23	33
*W1QK	21	123,684	467	24	68	40
*NY1E	"	49,162	271	18	44	32
*AB1J	"	8,208	75	15	25	17
*KC1RET	14	5,508	65	9	23	22
*K9JY	7	25,315	169	13	37	33

District 2						
K1LZ	AA	4,929,804	2956	115	365	228
W1DX	"	1,095,040	1025	92	251	129
W1ARY	"	519,479	737	64	163	134
K1AR	"	406,098	641	57	138	98
KB1W	"	340,083	576	42	130	89
NF1O	"	152,880	307	53	114	78
NE1F	"	138,402	280	52	106	75
WA1ZYX	"	99,414	342	31	67	91
KV1J	"	80,444	223	41	74	67
W1HS	"	16,926	106	21	40	30
N1MGO	"	4,896	50	9	21	18
*K1IG	AA	958,760	977	78	213	149
*KA2KON	"	381,364	637	42	134	92
*N1DID	"	208,740	364	53	134	58
*KX1X	"	91,164	224	52	95	66
*N1API	"	90,365	285	32	81	42
*WB1AEL	"	37,680	131	35	57	28
*AE1EZ	"	26,730	119	23	51	36
*K1TNX	"	16,422	93	32	42	28
*ND1X	"	15,228	76	23	50	8
*N1DCH	"	2,448	32	17	19	15
*W1MI	"	1,927	29	12	11	18

District 3						
WC3N	A	378,160	605	55	143	92
K2EJ	"	192,696	352	48	116	58
4U1WB	"	120,900	477	37	54	95
AK3B	"	116,630	308	48	94	76
N3DUE	"	101,972	260	47	86	79
N3MWW	"	100,700	271	40	86	64
K3UL	"	65,685	207	35	75	35
NT3U	"	55,296	246	23	46	75
KC3NNO	"	48,840	164	27	84	0
K3ATO	"	46,472	173	37	66	45
KG4USN	"	35,505	126	36	61	38
N3RM	"	35,500	136	30	71	24
NS3L	"	14,350	99	17	32	33
A13Q	14	142,128	540	17	56	39
N3RW	"	7,791	73	9	30	10
K3RWN	3.5	6,490	113	7	12	36
W3LL	"	2,640	45	5	12	16
*KC3SDJ	A	57,986	201	35	63	60
*A13KS	"	53,988	181	32	71	29
*K3LT	"	40,081	143	38	67	44
*KB3LIX	"	33,360	128	27	61	32
*AB3GY	"	30,607	146	28	41	58
*N3MLB	"	19,910	104	26	49	35
*N3JUNX	"	18,700	93	24	40	36
*N2MA	"	10,744	66	22	39	18
*WD8RYV	"	10,283	83	24	37	30
*KN1OLA	"	9,017	72	16	24	31
*K2PMD	"	6,612	61	13	25	20
*WF3W	"	2,030	39	18	24	16
*N3TKG	28	2,688	51	11	14	7
*W3ZGD	21	11,122	86	17	34	16
*KB3AAY	14	91,375	388	20	57	48
*KE3ZT	"	4,794	53	10	17	20
*K3UA	"	1,664	39	7	8	17
*WA3FAE	7	52,392	268	19	48	44

District 4						
AA3B	AA	5,452,090	3375	115	361	234
K3MM	"	3,210,300	2217	113	339	223
N3QE	"	2,583,999	1983	99	301	207
W3FV	"	1,808,460	1548	88	255	167
K3VW	"	1,445,995	1299	88	240	163
W3FIZ	"	1,437,735	1317	89	249	167
K3WJV	"	863,464	834	83	221	172
N3FJP	"	495,690	741	61	133	116
KD3TB	"	418,236	545	73	175	116
W3UL	"	302,395	507	66	134	107
N3AML	"	264,888	476	57	127	99
WT3K	"	249,655	422	58	130	57
NN3RP	"	209,096	455	36	112	88
NF3R	"	202,797	372	57	116	88
WA3AAN	"	190,720	411	44	114	98
NX3Z	"	133,515	319	44	106	65
K3MD	"	99,716	300	41	83	70
AG4Q	"	97,384	293	40	74	74
K3FH	"	81,286	225	44	78	72
K3OQ	"	56,112	206	18	57	37
WY3A	"	43,605	135	52	70	49
K3RMB	"	29,040	137	29	48	43
W2CDO	"	23,443	124	26	42	51
W3OU	"	22,338	96	25	47	30
KA3D	"	17,328	74	37	50	27
AA3S	"	16,324	89	12	42	23
KG5TA	"	14,946	84	30	32	44
KB3Z	"	12,615	87	21	39	27
N3FZ	"	10,318	75	17	35	25
K3AU	"	3,864	33	16	26	4
KA3YJM	"	2,091	34	13	13	15
NA3M	7A	83,570	317	20	66	51
*W3KB	AA	502,541	547	74	196	133
*K3AK	"	233,856	466	44	112	105
*AC5XK	"	227,971	536	50	109	118
*K3QP	"	182,971	392	37	113	79
*KC3SVR	"	109,817	299	38	93	62
*K3QIA	"	82,908	224	42	76	70
*N3AM	"	44,240	141	39	78	23
*KC3UD0	"	40,590	271	36	62	67
*N3GT	"	34,220	154	25	51	42
*W3TAS	"	22,684	108	27	44	35
*W3MAM	"	1,599	30	10	9	20
*W3DT	21A	10,230	118	17	28	21
*K3JSJ	7A	3,000	66	6	8	26

District 5						
KØZR	A	2,295,756	2072	87	243	192
AC8Y	"	835,052	1108	65	166	151
WS6X	"	601,839	836	65	168	136
A14WV	"	547,856	908	67	146	140
W4VIC	"	524,835	745	63	154	104
W4CQE	"	453,492	704	62	141	103
K4ZW	"	445,775	669	48	135	92
W4WWQ	"	296,980	480	63	143	104
N4CF	"	261,072	458	65	127	102
AD4TJ	"	206,184	408	61	111	92
ND8L	"	198,302	354	56	131	76
W3SA	"	193,200	400	47	103	90
W4BBT	"	170,478	463	50	85	111
K8KI	"	169,048	387	46	100	80
WF4W	"	158,916	391	52	90	104
W4UK	"	123,714	395	29	72	73
K7OM	"	121,142	311	61	87	90
W4OX	"	109,200	260	44	82	74
NN4SS	"	89,590	223	40	83	47
ND4G	"	76,824	205	42	78	74
K9EZ	"	74,481	255	36	66	81
N3KN	"	67,431	207	35	77	57
KØ8V	"	61,408	199	34	66	52
K3WR	"	38,771	146	41	58	38
K4NWX	"	32,943	121	41	57	41
K9GS	"	19,089	102	26	42	33
K4KZ	"	18,270	98	26	43	36
W7HJ	"	16,590	96	29	42	34
K4EES	"	13,674	85	22	31	33
AD5IQ	"	7,744	58	14	27	23
WØ4O	28	75,786	313	20	54	28
AA5JF	"	40,836	204	21	44	18
KEØL						

*N7VS	"	29,160	146	40	35	60
*KE7GKI	"	27,911	202	22	19	72
*KW7WP	"	22,317	136	29	26	74
*KB7BTO	"	20,944	122	28	30	61
*N7PWZ	"	20,700	135	24	24	67
*N7VGO	"	18,120	110	29	31	60
*KX7L	"	8,436	65	25	24	27
*KF7FK	"	7,739	80	18	15	38
*N7DSX	"	6,868	52	25	22	21
*K7QA	"	5,250	60	10	16	24
*K17DET	"	4,602	56	15	14	30
*AG7AB	"	2,970	40	15	12	27
*N0QJOY	"	588	19	8	5	15
*K7CNT	"	418	13	8	7	7
*N6LB	"	336	12	9	9	3
*K17RUP	"	96	6	4	3	5
*K7CM	21	21,505	156	18	30	37
*K7HKR	14	10,472	97	15	19	34
*WB7QMR	"	3,430	51	12	11	26
*WB3JFS	7	7,398	88	13	14	27
KA6BIM	AA	1,548,984	1566	106	224	224
KO7SS	"	1,183,890	1074	102	236	232
N7NM	"	868,175	1127	83	154	214
K7AR	"	753,819	911	79	179	173
W7ZR	"	590,580	934	75	135	176
KF7U	"	474,438	973	56	101	164
N7ZUF	"	384,744	656	74	132	122
W7GES	"	343,872	698	59	88	141
W0VQ	"	292,600	662	66	89	111
W7CXX	"	277,347	629	66	96	167
W7VJ	"	277,206	491	66	123	93
K7VIT	"	143,385	391	53	69	115
W07CQ	"	131,760	409	45	68	103
KN7K	"	122,266	376	52	57	117
NG7M	"	108,053	316	47	66	96
W7VXS	"	83,007	312	38	41	128
K9PY	"	65,190	223	52	53	100
K7BVT	"	62,900	218	43	48	79
K9DR	"	52,839	229	39	44	88
WR7T	"	35,400	160	39	46	65
K16QDH	"	32,868	203	25	36	71
W7BP	"	16,863	101	29	48	0
N6SS	28A	98,838	530	23	43	48
KY7M	"	2,911	36	13	15	13
N7AT	21A	349,475	998	29	88	58
W7MRF	3.5A	43,262	355	16	29	52
*WA0WWW	AA	149,898	314	63	93	102
*N7UJJ	"	142,290	411	60	65	130
*W6W6	"	81,000	278	45	51	84
*N1JM	"	29,866	169	35	31	71
*W7VC	"	26,962	155	26	21	75
*KB7AK	"	25,996	146	34	32	68
*K7UK	"	17,649	134	28	30	53
*WA7YAZ	"	9,438	80	21	20	37
*WS7I	"	6,270	103	14	11	41
*KD7LEE	"	4,480	60	18	13	33
*WM5F	"	1,218	24	15	13	14
*N9NA	"	1,148	28	11	10	20
W8TWA	A	228,888	397	57	119	88
K8RCT	"	16,405	106	19	35	31
*AA8CA	A	552,375	962	61	149	165
*WB8JUI	"	125,744	309	50	90	92
*NBWCP	"	109,760	288	46	82	68
*K4YJ	"	82,040	236	32	63	25
*AA8OY	"	79,344	238	30	72	69
*K7DR	"	73,500	257	38	66	71
*WB8TDG	"	72,192	257	42	60	86
*ND3N	"	64,711	296	28	43	92
*AA8SW	"	29,890	141	30	47	45
*K8DP	"	27,600	129	30	47	43
*WA8KAN	"	21,952	127	30	40	42
*AA8EN	"	20,313	135	25	33	53
*W8KNO	"	19,764	106	24	36	48
*NB8TCP	"	9,709	83	15	24	34
*K8CR	"	9,266	100	16	20	46
*W8YA	"	5,016	73	16	18	23
*K8AJS	"	4,560	52	18	19	23
*NB8AJM	"	2,760	29	17	19	10
*WA8UMT	"	1,125	18	9	12	4
*NB8EK	"	832	18	4	11	1
*WJ8SON	"	90	7	3	3	4
*W8AKS	28	11,275	99	17	27	11
*W8JGU	"	3,531	44	12	21	0
*WB8JAY	"	1,300	27	7	13	5
*K8VT	14	49,980	245	18	48	39
*NB8CWU	7	52,767	354	15	37	47
*W8TOM	"	30,744	257	12	26	46
K16DY	AA	702,119	941	49	151	119
W8JWN	"	419,498	735	63	148	138
KD8FS	"	326,400	539	64	144	92
K8JQ	"	242,484	690	35	77	130
N4EL	"	185,493	412	43	100	76
K8PK	"	167,400	388	49	95	104
AA4R	"	127,160	272	47	113	60
KA8G	"	62,640	195	33	83	28
W8BI	"	37,996	144	31	55	32
W8CAR	"	31,108	183	21	51	29
K8ESQ	"	29,500	110	31	62	32
WA8LRW	"	24,442	126	28	46	47
K8YE	"	16,647	98	29	29	35
*K16MM	AA	120,003	268	51	105	65
*AB8OU	"	22,791	125	26	39	42
*KD8VMM	"	3,234	33	14	24	4
*K8GT	"	930	16	12	11	7
W89WI	A	554,112	1005	50	112	126
K9UC	"	306,300	537	55	129	116
KC9EOQ	"	211,593	410	59	117	105
NT9E	"	176,850	364	56	114	100
K9DUR	"	119,110	317	37	86	92
AA9L	"	98,136	288	39	77	72
KG9N	"	63,792	227	28	58	58
K0VV	"	42,924	183	36	44	66
*WD9CIR	A	259,096	566	51	107	120
*WU9D	"	226,416	538	45	96	126
*W9YK	"	217,083	437	54	112	103
*KB9DVC	"	97,712	249	40	86	71
*KC9YL	"	64,558	228	30	62	77
*N9LYE	"	41,184	179	33	45	66
*KD9NHZ	"	38,052	196	26	42	58
*N9MR	"	35,532	126	37	60	29
*N9TNT	"	35,478	145	41	49	56
*WA9LEY	"	25,728	135	34	40	60
*W09B	"	19,610	105	26	40	40

*W9VQ	"	19,100	80	33	51	16
*W9KG	"	14,430	82	23	43	12
*KB9S	"	12,900	100	21	26	39
*WA9LKL	"	7,956	67	18	34	16
*KZ9V	"	980	20	9	9	10
*WD9IGL	"	600	18	7	6	12
*W9AKS	7	7,011	104	7	9	41
*KA9VLC	"	270	14	4	3	11
*NV9X	"	45	5	3	1	5
W9MR	AA	384,780	558	67	153	110
K9TI	"	279,648	510	61	123	104
K9CK	"	258,071	394	69	149	101
K9NW	"	189,707	285	74	150	63
W9FFA	"	168,075	386	50	94	81
AA9JS	"	140,309	362	59	102	90
K0TQ	"	114,608	284	40	89	79
N7US	"	108,064	270	37	75	64
N9TCA	"	43,865	120	48	77	30
KB0V	"	20,352	103	25	52	19
K9EL	"	10,001	50	30	40	3
W9PA	21A	272,976	705	31	94	51
N9LQ	"	26,650	137	21	44	17
W9ILY	14A	231,530	613	30	87	52
KC9EE	"	891	24	6	8	13
K9OM	7A	239,936	761	25	83	55
*N9TTK	AA	402,948	603	75	158	136
*N9UA	"	312,268	537	59	128	115
*N9SB	"	101,490	311	40	66	93
*WB9HFK	"	43,984	174	31	54	57
*KE9SA	"	37,120	148	33	55	40
*KY0Q	"	29,040	112	31	65	24
*WB9VGO	"	27,324	142	33	38	61
*WB9TFH	"	16,324	91	22	42	13
*N9VPV	"	9,945	69	20	35	10
*KD9OIN	"	1,428	24	10	13	11
*WA9IVH	"	1,092	28	12	10	20
*K9QH	"	928	27	7	4	18
*KD9NZB/AG	"	414	14	6	5	7
*AA9RK	"	315	14	5	3	13
*AB9YC	28A	12,312	136	16	28	10
W0MB	A	630,992	1058	68	163	118
K0JDR	"	486,506	681	68	160	121
K0AD	"	477,840	907	55	121	154
N0BUI	"	451,045	873	61	129	153
NG0E	"	345,066	627	54	117	118
WB0N	"	292,962	555	65	118	131
N0TA	"	287,056	682	63	94	151
K10F	"	265,200	600	49	105	106
W0ZQ	"	260,100	518	61	110	129
K0TC	"	242,757	540	53	102	88
KE0UI	"	217,056	585	55	75	136
W0ZA	"	136,206	483	42	58	107
W0ETT	"	63,684	205	42	62	79
K0VG	"	56,279	190	46	55	66
NF0N	"	46,818	166	39	59	55
K0FJ	"	31,007	195	18	37	46
N5TU	"	29,040	128	38	56	38
N6RSH	"	24,310	138	25	31	74
NR0T	"	22,264	103	35	48	38
WA0TXJ	"	15,753	106	19	31	39
AC0E	"	15,360	101	24	27	45
W8LYJ	"	10,324	109	21	18	50
WD5ACR	"	4,104	37	19	21	14
WA2PCN	"	3,552	52	10	10	28
W0TY	14	5,405	53	11	24	12
*N0UR	A	569,322	934	65	140	146
*W0IZ	"	180,681	579	50	63	116
*W0NY	"	143,165	568	29	47	133
*W0RX	"	123,606	278	55	94	69
*A160	"	98,064	274	49	79	88
*W0YJT	"	90,681	300	41	83	57
*KB0NES	"	86,275	285	47	64	92
*W0PI	"	70,224	244	34	61	73
*W0DC	"	60,120	201	38	63	66
*KB0GT	"	58,135	270	27	45	79
*W0PMO	"	53,985	214	43	53	81
*WA0LIF	"	37,120	173	26	54	48
*KD0OIX	"	35,894	220	24	20	93
*N00K	"	34,524	193	22	34	70
*KF0DTS	"	31,860	155	39	42	54
*K00Z	"	28,575	146	33	47	47
*W0ADL	"	24,676	125	30	43	51
*NE0DA	"	21,645	119	32	39	46
*WA0EJX	"	19,936	199	15	16	58
*K0YQ	"	12,986	89	25	25	36
*KF0ARE	"	10,700	113	21	15	64
*K0LQL	"	9,296	93	19	22	42
*AE0IB	"	6,156	51	1		

Cyprus						
P3X	AA	5,823,924	3257	118	377	139
				(OP: 5B4AMM)		
5B4AIF	"	20,355	123	20	38	1
Georgia						
4L2M	7	153,549	610	20	66	13
Hong Kong						
VR25XMT	AA	210,372	609	36	92	13
India						
VU2ZMK	A	489,632	843	47	153	8
*VU2FGQ	21	49,552	248	20	55	1
VU2DED	AA	222,807	402	50	146	1
*VU2GRM	AA	50,959	154	43	83	5
*VU2IBI	21A	127,942	437	20	66	20
Israel						
4Z5LY	A	803,136	1014	56	189	37
*4X6FR	A	523,004	858	45	145	22
*4Z5MY	21	944	21	3	13	0
*4X6FT	7	4,000	43	7	23	2
*4X1SB	AA	321,711	510	41	155	23
*4Z4AK	"	55,438	193	25	78	3
*4Z5FI	21A	178,992	558	23	66	24
Japan						
District 1						
JA1OVD	A	982,928	1023	91	190	87
JF1LMB	"	330,332	454	77	159	33
JH1SJM	"	253,644	351	86	142	48
JA1XRA	"	202,720	319	66	117	41
JA1IAZ	"	146,601	306	56	98	25
JH1CTV	"	143,780	304	56	97	29
JA1BWA	"	106,812	248	55	94	23
JA1QOW	"	95,274	215	53	88	17
JA1AYO	"	83,804	224	44	70	32
JH1HIC	"	19,106	87	25	40	17
JK1HIY	"	11,741	72	19	23	17
JA1PVX	"	11,310	68	18	24	16
JS1NDM	"	3,036	31	15	22	7
JL1JJD	"	627	11	7	11	1
JK1BAB	"	30	7	3	3	4
JR1NHD	21	54,035	183	30	53	24
JG1LHB	"	53,200	206	24	48	23
J11LNR	"	9,593	63	15	26	12
*7N2UQC	A	338,484	504	79	144	45
*JS1KKY	"	113,399	252	51	90	28
*JA1PCM	"	111,484	225	60	104	24
*JA1EMQ	"	104,961	228	56	91	30
*JK1JAS	"	103,592	206	61	100	23
*JF1WNT	"	97,682	226	52	85	32
*JR1AQI	"	75,600	197	48	71	21
*JK1NSR	"	70,966	184	43	75	19
*JA1ATM	"	54,656	169	41	69	12
*JJ1KZZ	"	41,040	116	46	74	15
*JA1IZ	"	31,302	122	33	44	17
*7K1VKU	"	28,645	134	27	47	11
*JH1BHW	"	27,948	113	36	51	15
*JA1IE	"	21,942	119	37	53	16
*JK1ESR	"	14,008	87	23	39	6
*JA1IQV	"	9,387	65	25	32	6
*JG1TGQ	"	8,910	55	25	36	5
*JK1FNN	"	6,318	43	21	23	10
*J1SAI	"	5,047	43	18	27	4
*JJ1MBU	"	3,800	42	17	29	4
*JH1KPT	"	3,496	35	20	20	6
*JA3GZE/1	"	2,016	23	16	18	2
*JA1DKU	"	1,395	21	13	13	5
*JA1GZK	"	464	11	6	7	3
*JA1EQO	"	390	10	6	6	1
*JF1WAM	"	75	7	7	7	1
*JG1CMT	"	30	3	3	3	0
*JF1OVA	28	7,134	65	15	25	1
*JH1KYA	21	47,472	192	23	52	17
*JA1SCE	"	40,020	174	24	48	15
*JG1UKV	"	37,932	167	24	49	14
*JJ1ENZ	"	29,645	143	22	47	8
*JH1BBN	"	25,806	138	22	41	6
*JE1RRK	"	19,044	101	18	40	11
*JA1RYC	"	10,535	77	12	31	6
*JA1DBG	"	4,608	52	13	19	4
*JA1WBX	"	3,234	37	11	16	6
*JF1AZQ	"	1,260	18	12	15	1
*JS1LQI	"	1,007	18	7	7	5
*JF1TEU	14	26,809	117	23	44	16
*JR1AKD	"	1,953	25	12	14	5
*JE1GZB	"	527	14	6	7	4
*JH1EYM	"	340	9	6	9	2
District 2						
JA2AXB	A	176,384	304	63	109	40
JG2REJ	"	70,744	182	45	78	25
JH2BTM	21	18,971	115	15	36	10
JF2CTS	"	16,920	107	18	35	7
JR2BCF	"	14,455	85	15	31	13
JF2FIU	"	5,566	46	12	27	7
*JA2FXV	A	122,544	254	62	99	23
*JE2BOM	"	73,084	174	53	86	12
*JA2GHP	"	68,680	185	43	75	18
*JG2DZM	"	24,864	104	30	50	4
*JM2LEI	"	22,102	100	32	49	5
*JQ2OUL	"	1,972	27	14	15	5
*J2IXA	"	1,716	21	12	12	9
*JK2AQT	"	1,173	19	8	8	7
*JH2MYN	28	19,520	125	21	38	2
*JF2AIJ	21	10,302	69	11	36	4
*JH2JNU	"	2,523	32	8	18	3

*JR2UQU	7	6	3	1	1	0
*JR1BFZ/2	3.5	196	23	2	3	2
JA2HYD	AA	166,320	299	65	112	33
JF2XGF	"	27,876	129	27	47	18
JH2FXK	"	20,930	89	30	42	19
*JE2CPI	28A	3,200	36	12	20	0
District 3						
JA3HBF	A	411,232	560	79	168	37
JE3RMQ	"	87,828	211	49	93	14
JR3RIU	"	68,666	198	47	72	20
JR3UIC	"	23,712	94	38	53	13
JP3UBR	"	10,349	57	31	40	8
JF3NDW	"	6,370	55	12	31	6
JA3BFX	28	6,760	62	19	32	1
JR3RIY	21	161,483	496	29	72	18
JA3VOV	"	8,730	76	15	26	4
JA3GOJ	14	4,536	41	14	19	9
JH3FUK	7	70,087	258	27	57	25
*JA3JM	A	94,563	233	57	91	23
*JF3DCH	"	79,650	210	51	81	18
*JH3WKE	"	57,820	175	49	71	20
*JA3JND	"	16,892	73	33	36	13
*JJ3QJI	"	13,286	78	28	34	11
*JH3GMI	"	13,172	71	27	38	9
*JK3DGX	21	29,896	156	19	51	4
*JH3QFY	"	4,235	43	11	17	7
*JR3GPP	"	2,850	36	9	18	3
*JA3RAZ	"	2,028	26	7	15	4
*JG3LDD	"	54	3	2	1	3
JM3UGA	AA	214,605	282	95	156	34
JR3BOT	"	36,188	123	35	52	22
JH3EQP	"	17,200	77	31	44	11
JF3LOP	28A	20,352	119	21	42	1
*J13KDH	28A	9,457	79	17	31	1
District 4						
JH4UYB	A	2,340,110	1789	104	269	109
JG4AKL	"	235,104	359	76	136	36
JH4CPC	"	87,864	188	51	87	30
JA4RED	"	54,120	166	37	60	26
JA4OPW	21	23,667	136	18	42	9
*J14WHS	A	177,060	362	63	104	28
*JE4MHL	"	69,120	207	42	71	22
*JA4RMX	"	35,182	127	33	57	8
*JA4EZX	"	870	19	13	14	2
*JA4PXC	"	20	2	2	2	0
*JH4CES	21	5,577	50	13	14	12
*JH4FUF	"	2,555	26	14	16	5
JR4OZR	AA	2,192,108	1720	102	276	100
JA4CZM	"	141,710	286	53	97	35
JR4VEV	7A	14,905	119	15	31	9
*JM4WUZ	28A	2,280	34	9	13	2
District 5						
JA5SUD	A	105,703	233	52	101	20
*JE5HTN	A	36,920	151	46	67	17
*JA5OXV	28	620	12	9	11	0
*JH5FTY	21	450	10	4	4	7
JA5FNX	AA	15,675	119	29	34	12
JE5JHZ	14A	1,197	21	5	14	0
*JH5HDA	AA	80,855	207	47	92	18
District 6						
JA6BZI	A	398,643	492	79	167	41
JA6FFO	21	448	11	6	7	1
*JR6YAA	A	88,968	300	46	69	17
				(OP: JR6AG)		
*JK6JAB	"	441	17	9	11	1
*JH6WHN	28	42,354	207	20	56	2
*JA6LJN	21	19,738	98	21	39	11
*JA6BCV	"	18,300	86	22	45	8
*JE6TUP	"	96	6	3	5	0
JA6MWW	AA	82,111	195	46	89	22
JE6QQN	"	70,905	189	41	77	27
JA6ZPR	14A	252,240	794	25	67	28
*JA6GCE	AA	1,330,755	1260	90	235	70
*JH6QIL	"	204,266	391	62	127	29
*JG6JAV	"	139,621	331	59	103	29
*JA6GMC	"	31,734	130	24	48	14
*JE6PJP	"	1,120	20	9	9	2
*JA6WFM	21A	194,688	480	28	84	32
District 7						
JH7QXJ	A	762,604	864	83	144	105
JA7IC	"	599,242	696	85	171	66
JG7AMD	"	472,416	600	77	153	66
JM7OLW	"	192,600	387	50	50	80
JA7ACM	"	163,746	299	55	91	52
JR7IWL	"	99,166	228	59	89	31
JA7LLL	14	49,400	186	24	50	26
*JA7MWC	A	64,944	173	50	71	23
*JR7ANB	"	24,934	99	27	50	14
*JP7						

*YO3VU	A	383,568	728	56	142	46
*YO9BCM	"	314,712	603	43	165	40
*YO6HSU	"	274,480	556	42	151	42
*YO3YV	"	272,814	540	50	165	31
*YO8RFS	"	183,064	450	35	129	32
*YO2LXW	"	108,836	343	37	118	6
*YO4SI	"	28,476	121	33	67	13
*YO2CMI	"	13,580	95	20	49	1
*YO2LDU	"	11,136	102	11	44	3
*YO2GL	"	8,568	66	18	39	15
*YO2MOO	"	2,535	33	11	28	0
*YO6PVX	"	35	4	3	4	0
*YO2IS	21	30,856	188	14	36	26
*YO4BXX	"	2,128	38	7	13	8
*YO5AXF	14	36,920	257	13	49	9
*YO4CVV	"	4,392	61	7	28	1
*YO6BGT	7	28,800	200	13	51	8
*YO4GO	"	6,975	77	9	33	3

YO7CW	AA	227,766	470	46	154	31
YO4NF	21A	36,068	242	16	43	12
YO9HP	14A	376,152	959	29	91	48
YO3JA	"	39,508	297	16	51	1
YQ6A	7A	180,000	567	25	80	39
(OP: YO6BHN)						
*YO4DG	AA	268,765	512	56	161	28
*YO2DFA	"	65,351	205	40	92	11
*YO4RDW	"	59,520	246	27	89	4
*YR2X	"	31,510	109	34	53	28
(OP: YO2LEA)						
*YO6CFB	28A	7,548	63	20	31	0

San Marino						
*T70A	14A	362,710	908	28	86	52

Sardinia						
*IS0BRQ	A	2,508	29	9	29	0
*IM0/K5AEQ	28	9,900	70	20	27	8

Scotland						
GM2V	28	8,856	119	6	30	0
(OP: GM3WOJ)						
GM7V	3.5	774	23	4	14	0
(OP: GM3WOJ)						

*GM5BDX	A	184,032	403	40	128	45
*GM3STM	"	75,616	261	29	87	23
*GM2TT	"	29,856	180	22	74	0
*GM4OSS	"	8,694	79	12	40	2
*GM6DX	21	9,284	146	8	36	0
*MM1E	14	450	14	3	10	2
(OP: MM0GOR)						
MM9I	AA	2,236,332	1770	96	320	137
(OP: GM0OPS)						
GM9A	"	868,180	1180	69	186	77
GM4Z	"	131,826	300	36	82	55
(OP: GM4ZUK)						
GM3S	7A	197,604	694	24	77	31
*MM2T	AA	243,410	488	45	150	46

Serbia						
YT3D	A	1,161,303	1080	87	226	116
YT8A	28	27,370	175	22	45	3
*YU1GU	A	27,945	116	28	78	9
*YT9WW	7	5,640	75	8	32	0
YU7BW	AA	869,312	1041	83	236	57
YT3X	14A	593,110	1364	33	104	48
YU5R	7A	427,094	1059	31	100	48
(OP: YT2AAA)						
*YT2U	AA	129,503	309	41	111	41
*YU1KT	"	113,448	366	36	125	2
*YT7E	14A	27,755	242	13	47	1
*YT2TNT	"	19,955	161	13	37	15
*YT9VM	7A	119,616	517	19	70	23
*YU3TA	"	13,716	135	9	44	1

Sicily						
IT9STX	14	287,400	829	23	77	50
IT9UFP	"	5,966	78	8	22	8
*IT9RBW	A	905,519	1279	59	190	88
*IT9FRX	"	114,696	364	42	90	45
*IT9MRM	"	104,438	315	37	91	30
*IT9ZZO	"	22,148	96	30	44	24
*IT9ACJ	"	20,367	133	25	65	3
*IW9BJP	"	8,976	68	19	46	1
*IR9D	21	196,812	574	31	81	42
IT9ESW	AA	189,837	326	62	149	56
IT9WDC	21A	167,808	450	30	81	41
IT9SSI	"	48,111	250	15	41	31
IT9VCE	14A	249,860	911	25	76	29
*IT9FTP	AA	14,688	64	33	54	9
*IT9RZU	28A	25,461	142	24	40	5
*IT9XTP	14A	274,736	813	27	86	41
*IT9IVU	3.5A	23,766	235	7	40	4

Slovak Republic						
OM3CFR	A	193,620	420	42	137	31
OM2VL	21	659,932	1316	33	107	56
*OM5XX	A	387,790	576	72	193	49
*OM5NL	"	308,760	591	47	145	56
*OM5TX	"	279,282	532	61	172	34
*OM5CM	"	155,124	428	37	129	20
*OM5MX	"	133,812	361	38	105	34
*OM7AG	"	24,288	144	23	66	3
*OM2WX	"	15,288	87	23	50	11
*OM3RJB	"	4,601	55	9	34	0
(OP: OM5MB)						
*OM6AI	"	896	28	3	13	0
*OM8WG	14	18,333	130	9	43	11
*OM8ATS	"	11,000	115	10	34	6
*OM8GRS	"	10,653	95	10	33	10
*OM3ZWA	3.5	35,478	348	7	46	1
*OM5KM	"	17,526	198	6	39	1
OM4MW	AA	226,341	387	70	144	35
OM3CV	14A	106,672	427	20	57	36
*OM8MF	AA	54,188	198	29	74	21
*OM7JG	"	714	14	8	11	2

Slovenia						
S51JQ	14	37,584	192	12	45	30
*S5/M0MPMA	"	35,136	130	28	61	33
*S50A	21	310,707	730	30	90	51
S52WWW	AA	344,560	688	41	142	53
S53F	"	84,231	190	51	118	22
S53M	14A	742,050	1562	35	107	52
(OP: S51FB)						
S57DX	"	457,794	1126	32	92	50
S52X	7A	558,386	1402	30	97	51
S51CK	"	363,440	1088	29	89	36
S53X	3.5A	138,838	759	13	60	21
*S53K	AA	808,840	958	75	209	81
*S56A	"	787,075	739	90	286	99
*S50SL	7A	2,375	56	5	20	0
*S51ZJ	3.5A	67,968	547	7	49	8

*S53NW	"	49,472	414	8	49	7
*S51W	"	41,904	398	6	43	5

Spain						
EA2DLX	A	568,176	989	42	150	75
EH2JDZ	"	119,928	340	24	67	61
(OP: EA2DR)						
EB5A	"	19,588	106	25	50	8
EB1IC	28	1,740	24	12	15	3
EA3OH	14	20,468	136	10	41	17
EA1DA	7	38,454	228	10	41	27
*EA3FZT	A	735,299	940	71	201	81
*EA3CI	"	684,080	885	62	189	89
*EA2XR	"	507,496	775	59	155	78
*EA3Y	"	260,820	481	44	155	53
*EA3F	"	189,224	402	44	121	52
*EA5/DL5EO	"	148,533	265	66	115	50
*EA3HKA	"	65,145	243	30	80	19
*EA3AKA	"	53,862	191	32	83	26
*EA1AY	"	52,328	194	29	79	16
*EA4HKF	"	45,080	197	29	78	8
*EA1AAP	"	43,160	155	31	79	20
*EB1CAR	"	41,652	156	24	58	35
*EA3CFV	"	36,138	181	26	85	3
*EA1EWY	"	32,700	138	23	51	26
*EA5MR	"	29,631	190	18	57	8
*EA3JW	"	29,070	149	21	53	16
*EA5KE	"	25,038	102	29	59	19
*EB5CS	"	20,790	85	28	48	23
*EA7HAB	"	4,371	42	12	26	9
*EA7Z	28	30,294	142	20	38	23
*EF7W	"	24,700	149	17	41	7
(OP: EC7KW)						
*EA5O	21	30,800	139	16	37	35
*EB3TR	"	17,484	133	12	34	16
*EA7K	"	13,969	99	14	34	13
*EC5C	14	66,810	317	18	61	23
*EA7JTP	"	14,634	136	7	39	8
*EA2BNU	7	7,920	126	6	29	1

EF7N	AA	3,061,829	2454	96	303	158
(OP: EA7KHB)						
EE4Y	"	2,509,740	1944	109	317	147
(OP: EA4GOY)						
EF1A	"	389,856	646	45	137	80
(OP: EA1X)						
EB5F	"	287,328	496	39	109	71
EA4FME	"	207,665	485	45	118	42
EA2DDE	"	165,866	298	54	126	59
EA5J	"	141,759	345	29	79	63
EA1AP	"	117,786	404	25	70	39
EA4R	"	19,388	131	17	54	3
EA2A	"	2,937	30	7	6	20
EA1B	14A	137,750	535	22	68	35

*EA4BAS	AA	886,256	1057	73	217	96
*EA2CCG	"	283,879	619	36	119	68
*EA2EVM	"	167,063	482	30	102	49
*EA5JDN	"	142,680	406	34	117	23
*EA5LU	"	129,360	398	40	123	13
*EC5KY	"	62,780	232	33	99	14
*EA2EVC	"	58,960	207	22	81	31
*EB1TR	"	34,505	251	14	47	6
*EB5CUZ	"	32,550	139	26	59	20
*EA4AFP	"	4,998	36	15	16	18
*ED2V	"	1,914	24	9	15	9
(OP: EA2CYJ)						
*EA1KP	28A	20,313	141	16	38	7
*EA1ADD	"	7,134	69	13	26	2
*EF5U	"	3,150	44	10	20	0
(OP: EA5U)						
*ED7O	21A	361,257	969	28	79	50
(OP: EA7EU)						
*EE5K	"	307,648	707	33	95	48
(OP: EA5DF)						
*EC7YY	"	139,020	444	25	71	44
*EA1CQ	14A	81,972	417	14	53	25
*EA5HJO	"	37,620	287	13	53	0
*EA3IAZ	7A	49,966	308	14	54	15
*EA5GIE	"	8,274	120	7	34	1

Sweden						
SM5ILE	A	424,512	782	54	174	40
SD1A	"	56,100	195	37	86	9
(OP: SM1TDE)						
SM3PZJ	21	90,736	368	23	67	16
*SM5FQJ	A	257,145	566	46	145	26
*SE6K	"	232,163	660	35	130	14
(OP: SM6FZO)						
*SM5ACQ	"	131,905	366	39	130	16
*SM7CIL	"	75,752	227	27	71	38
*SM5DXR	"	44,486	230	23	93	2
*SI3A	"	25,915	173	16	57	0
(OP: SM3LIV)						
*SM5MX	"	12,616	92	21	53	2
*SM6IQD	"	1,440	20	12	19	1
SM6MVE	AA	135,408	363	42	128	16
SM6YEC	"	5,304	53	17	34	0
SM2M	21A	482,600	956	34	112	54
(OP: SM2LIY)						
7S9A	14A	114,912				

Aruba			
P49X	A	5,619,984	3386
Brazil			
PW2L	A	3,140,436	2231
PY2KP	"	113,684	228
PY2EU	"	41,656	136
PY3LX	28	43,110	179
PY3TR	21	7,938	60
PY3TD	14	52,824	222
*PY2GTA	A	626,778	717
*PY1ZV	"	192,990	349
*PU2USK	"	61,854	208
*PY2WLM	"	21,208	102
*PU2VLW	"	19,656	90
*PY2EDU	"	19,228	90
*ZV2F	"	10,360	70
*PY4ARS	"	7,200	48
*PY3CAD	"	6,161	45
*PV8DX	"	720	13
*PR7KSA	"	72	12
*PU2WDX	28	113,940	370
*PY4TC	"	93,522	296
*PR8KW	"	49,984	216
*PU3VON	"	8,208	73
*PU7ASP	"	8,060	71
*PS7JN/P	"	7,222	71
*PY2QT	21	208,290	589
*PU1JSV	"	156,618	454
*PY2KO	"	53,833	206
*PY4LH	"	50,052	209
*PY2NY	14	303,750	700
*PY2DPM	"	11,505	68
PV2K			
AA		3,523,130	2341
PY5AMF	"	785,460	1051
PY5ZHP	"	633,672	740
PY2KJ	"	328,242	471
PY4EK	28A	93,312	336
PY2EBD	"	13,200	85
PY2XJ	"	684	17
PS7DX	14A	2,822	29
*PY1VOY	AA	331,500	535
*PV2OQBR	"	266,625	449
*PY1DX	"	192,600	385
*PY2ZR	"	166,599	381
*PY2XV	"	89,775	201
*PY6TS	"	84,364	202
*PY1FI	"	38,068	126
*PP5TI	"	17,381	76
*PY2FRQ	"	11,899	55
*PV8AAS	"	2,418	26
*PY4XX	28A	83,268	265
*PU3LTA	"	29,718	145
*PU2XFF	"	9,947	74
*PU2VNC	"	4,000	39
*PU8MGB	"	459	13
*PY2VZ	21A	97,902	319
*PT8DX	"	50,052	193
*PU8YPL	"	43,498	190
*PU8PSF	"	9,920	118
*PY2KC	"	7,869	66
*PY3DZ	7A	12	2
Chile			
*CB8E	A	262,182	438
*3G3O	"	242,811	428
*CE1PTT	"	97,844	323
*CB3CE	"	31,824	172
*CE3KRM	"	2,660	26
*CE3JSX	"	99	6
*CA3FJK	28	5,043	53
*XQ3SK	21	2,156	31
*CB3R	14	86,884	290
XQ1KZ	21A	276,246	668
*CE4PPC	AA	121,600	293
*CE3CMH	"	57,392	185
*HK3VHZ	A	9,792	61
*HK4ZZ	"	6,952	58
*HK3CFM	"	2,430	26
*HK4J	"	960	24
*HK3YL	21	70,000	272
*HK3DX	7	40,228	193
*HK6RF	"	19,404	101
*HK6F	3.5	294	11
*HK6J	AA	132,042	257
Ecuador			
*HC1JP	A	32	4
*HC7AE/1	21	6,031	64
French Guiana			
FY5KE	AA	2,878,500	2015
Suriname			
PZ5RA	A	2,273,708	1776
Uruguay			
*CX2DK	A	1,800,201	1576
*CX2AQ	28	114,540	347
*CX8AF	"	4,950	47
CX7SS	21A	660,813	1247
Venezuela			
YV4ABR	A	124,906	259
*4M1W	28	149,580	491
*YV6CA	21	50,641	210
*YV5AEP	7	493	12
QRP			
K2YG	A	375,760	615
CT1BXT	"	325,304	483
SP2UUU	"	285,108	515
HG6C	"	241,080	472
EA1GT	"	232,170	529
YL3FW	"	216,756	483
LZ7K	"	135,780	383

JH7UJU	"	135,424	302
PE2K	"	123,723	415
W6QU	"	111,666	297
DL2AMT	"	105,944	384
EW8G	"	87,502	345
WA3LXD	"	87,236	247
G4FPA	"	71,371	231
AA5KD	"	65,048	271
IK3BVD	"	51,480	191
JK2VOC	"	45,356	166
DK9BM	"	40,828	160
RV3DBK	"	36,218	198
PY2PLL	"	32,421	130
G3ZGC	"	30,302	138
DL8LR	"	27,588	101
WD0BGZ	"	26,660	117
YO4AAC	"	25,972	153
RQ7R	"	25,641	100
EA4U	"	17,200	98
VE3HG	"	15,895	84
YB1PEF	"	14,448	72
YD6ROA	"	10,476	121
DL1GBQ	"	10,075	80
F4FSB	"	9,798	69
LA3CLA	"	9,570	81
YC5YDD	"	9,240	85
DJ2GMS	"	6,726	59
N7J	"	6,615	66
DL/UL5VQV	"	6,426	71
YB3EDD	"	6,006	72
SV3AUW	"	5,184	54
IK3TZB	"	4,680	42
YB1DGG	"	3,700	42
YC8FEE	"	3,479	49
TA3OWL	"	3,042	39
DL2BIS	"	2,660	39
PU3VRW	"	2,211	36
DH1DH	"	2,170	38
TG9JMR	"	1,650	23
DF5GO	"	1,242	26
EE2A	"	1,222	24
KE5DXX	"	900	24
N6HI	"	720	16
N4NQY	"	462	14
CE4JW	"	270	8
JO1EEQ	"	90	19
BH6AOV	"	90	7
9W2EYR	"	32	6
VE2T	"	24	2
PP1WW	28	111,562	330
TI0RC	"	102,060	450
3G3R	"	24,320	139
WE6EZ	"	16,254	123
TA1BM	"	9,805	78
M7V	"	5,740	69
YO3DAC	"	3,366	36
PA2REH	"	731	16
IW2NRI	"	465	17
CE3ERM	"	100	16
OH5AG	"	8	2
JA6VZB	21	49,896	226
KD9MS	"	49,000	226
CO2AJ	"	36,582	186
SP4NKJ	"	32,619	179
JE1CAC	"	29,904	128
JR1NKN	"	20,274	131
YC4SIZ	"	13,413	120
YB8JEC	"	13,260	158
TI2BSH	"	12,525	110
OK1LV	"	5,040	47
YC0RXA	"	4,140	66
IW2ODC	"	3,535	36
SP6EY	"	2,883	35
JR2EKD	"	2,871	40
YB8XM	"	1,416	26
OH5LAQ	"	230	11
YU1NR	14	74,445	360
PB8DX	"	53,802	240
SV3IBQ	"	51,170	289
KO1H	"	43,022	248
DJ3HW	"	41,735	222
SP4LVK	"	35,640	214
YU1RH	"	25,506	171
W1IE	"	22,632	175
HA2GK	"	22,504	198
IK1RKU	"	17,754	131
XE1CT	"	14,472	105
IZ3NVR	"	10,440	86
R7RBE	"	9,400	83
DL2TM	"	8,684	85
J43POTA	"	1,596	46
UB4FFB	"	1,458	33
YO9JAZ	"	1,122	37
W4ER	"	1,020	22
OH5C	"	944	31
IW1BEF	"	720	22
LC9S	"	374	17
BH8PHG	"	312	14
IC8POF	"	6	1
ES2MC	7	57,333	314
YO4BEW	"	13,091	128
SV1CDN	"	7,920	96
VE3BFU	"	7,050	74
9W2JHZ	"	1,770	40
LX1NO	"	1,148	41
IU4AAJ	"	112	8
ON3DI	3.5	29,302	322
SN0E	"	9,504	155
HG5O	"	3,164	56
HA8BE	"	1,300	33
EA4FJX	"	544	21
OH5CW	"	160	12
JA5NSR	"	27	8

QRP ASSISTED

NORTH AMERICA

United States

District 2

K2AL	AA	94,800	275
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District 3			
K3HW	AA	49,640	154
N8URE	14A	30,438	174
District 4			
K14MZC	AA	4,095	39
WB4OMM	28A	7,248	64
N4J	14A	24,360	132
District 6			
K6JS	AA	22,082	125
K6CTA	"	2,520	37
District 8			
K8ZT	AA	16,830	112
District 0			
W7RY	14A	27,540	163
Dominican Republic			
HI3K	AA	88,312	276
ASIA			
Asiatic Turkey			
TA9J	AA	9,632	67
Japan			
District 1			
JM1NKT	21A	94,887	295
District 3			
JA4XHF/3	AA	144,918	279
JH3DMQ	28A	2,805	44
District 8			
JK8VPQ	21A	3,708	37
West Malaysia			
9M2S	21A	30	9
EUROPE			
Belgium			
ON6NL	AA	596,520	754
OQ4B	14A	37,584	216
Bosnia-Herzegovina			
E7AA	21A	54,514	253
Croatia			
9A2VX	21A	54	4
9A1CRT	14A	2,277	37
9A6TT	7A	8,360	114
Czech Republic			
OL6D	3.5A	21,805	250
England			
M0GVZ	AA	20,280	133
G0JSP	"	17,766	90
G5N	21A	15,048	122
France			
F1DHF	AA	45,630	172
F/E15KF	"	1,488	31
Germany			
DL6ZBN	AA	319,770	398
DD0VS	"	476	21
Italy			
IZ5IOM	AA	4,558	56
IZ8DFO	28A	2,156	29
IZ2QKG	14A	1,914	45
Poland			
SP9RQH	AA	48,720	169
SP3EMA	3.5A	14,736	166
Romania			
YO7BGA	AA	27,639	119
Serbia			
YU1LM	AA	201,188	485
Sicily			
IT9RJE	28A	5,106	54
Slovenia			
S59MZ	AA	24,564	127
Spain			
EA7Q	AA	76,033	279
EA5Y	28A	17,028	94
EA3O	3.5A	4	1
Ukraine			
UT2O	AA	8,320	83
OCEANIA			
Hawaii			
NH6O	AA	21,565	89
Indonesia			
YB2NDX	AA	18,423	95

*YD2UFR	5,226	72	12	27	0
*YC6HSK	3,965	60	23	38	0
*YC3BUE	1,830	43	12	15	3
*YD3BWK	1,375	25	10	15	0
*YD8MWM	1,311	71	8	11	0
*YC8CGK	936	31	11	15	0
*YD3BSB	840	28	9	15	0
*YC8IKU	12,000	121	16	34	0

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil					
*PU2VNC	4,000	39	14	19	7

CLASSIC

United States					
District 1					
NG1M	986,232	1187	68	167	142
AE1P	981,848	1226	62	168	126
KA1YQC	571,890	843	52	149	129
W1GD	143,166	265	50	120	53
*W1UE	420,462	617	54	148	80
*W1HY	241,379	475	55	131	95
*K7RB	178,605	390	50	95	100
*W1DYJ	144,460	311	50	97	86
*W1QK	123,684	467	24	68	40
*AF1R	67,872	204	37	71	60
*NY1E	49,162	271	18	44	32
*N2HX	2,989	48	16	13	32

District 2					
KU2M	384,122	1107	25	73	51
*AC2RL	209,296	395	49	120	85
*KR2D	84,600	206	44	86	58
*W2VTV	40,837	278	13	42	42
*K3WHD	24,225	116	24	51	20
*KD2CQ	154	7	5	6	3

District 3					
N3DUE	101,972	260	47	86	79
N3MWQ	100,700	271	40	86	64
W3LL	2,640	45	5	12	16
*KB3AAY	91,375	388	20	57	48
*KC3SDJ	57,986	201	35	63	60
*AI3KS	53,988	181	32	71	29
*K3LT	40,081	143	38	67	44
*AB3GY	30,607	146	28	41	58
*WD8RYV	10,283	83	24	37	30

District 4					
AC8Y	835,052	1108	65	166	151
WS6X	601,839	836	65	168	136
AD4TJ	206,184	408	61	111	92
W3SA	193,200	400	47	103	90
W4BBT	170,478	463	50	85	111
WF4W	158,916	391	52	90	104
ND4G	76,824	205	42	78	74
AA5JF	40,836	204	21	44	18
K3WR	38,771	146	41	58	38
K4NWX	32,943	121	41	57	41
*W4PJW	117,912	343	36	75	93
*AC4G	112,320	253	55	98	63
*K4FTO	110,448	291	42	82	84
*W4LC	99,712	390	18	61	49
*N4QI	97,614	283	40	78	69
*W4AFB	30,360	138	29	50	41
*K3YDX	16,912	83	31	40	41
*NC4MI	4,128	46	8	19	16
*NS4T	2,700	47	12	12	21
*WA3LXD	87,236	247	45	78	70

District 5					
WQ5L	794,313	1061	74	163	166
WA9JBR	144,807	318	50	97	90
AD5A	102,300	366	31	41	114
AA5SH	30,858	125	40	49	50
*NN5T	181,844	393	60	92	117
*WB5JJJ	156,870	370	54	96	99
*WA5LFD	145,200	332	63	98	103
*W5ITR	137,760	421	48	66	126
*KF5KWO	49,572	231	34	43	85
*WB5K	48,900	239	33	39	91
*W5KY	9,579	91	22	21	50
*AF5CC	5,450	80	12	15	23

District 6					
AJ6V	681,126	1057	76	120	170
K6XX	293,370	508	62	86	106
W6RKC	35,321	141	43	43	57
*KD6HOF	51,012	199	42	46	68
*W6RQ	49,749	217	38	43	80
*WZ6ZZ	49,452	220	38	34	84
*KF6RY	37,389	179	33	34	54
*N6BHX	10,527	79	27	21	39
*KG6YJ	3,306	41	20	16	22

District 7					
KU1CW	1,100,608	1311	98	171	195
K6XT	282,125	573	67	91	147
K7HP	188,669	387	75	86	138
WU7W	67,335	243	50	54	97
K7RAT	36,472	193	25	28	41
K7MY	15,520	104	26	31	40
*N7IR	433,784	675	69	121	154
*W7TMT	188,124	518	50	68	139
*N7DB	120,978	356	51	55	128
*NU7F	97,704	319	41	52	114
*K7AZT	64,959	248	39	43	95
*K7JQ	52,808	265	30	33	101
*KC7CM	21,505	156	18	30	37
*N7VGO	18,120	110	29	31	60
*K7HKR	10,472	97	15	19	34
*N7JI	6,615	66	20	14	29

District 8					
*AA8OY	79,344	238	30	72	69
*K7DR	73,500	257	38	66	71
*W8TOM	50,544	300	23	40	54
*AA8SW	29,890	141	30	47	45
*K8AJS	4,560	52	18	19	23

District 9					
W9WI	554,112	1005	50	112	126
K9UC	306,300	537	55	129	116
K0VW	42,924	183	36	44	66
*WD9CIR	259,096	566	51	107	120
*KC9YL	64,558	228	30	62	77
*KB9S	12,900	100	21	26	39
*W9AKS	7,011	104	7	9	41

District 0					
NG0E	345,066	627	54	117	118
N0TA	287,056	682	63	94	151
W0ETT	63,684	205	42	62	79
K0VG	56,279	190	46	55	66
*W0IZ	180,681	579	50	63	116
*W0PI	70,224	244	34	61	73
*K00Z	28,575	146	33	47	47
*K0GMK	1,927	37	12	13	16
*W0ZF	1,813	42	6	6	25

Alaska					
AL7LO	271,779	561	45	73	101

Canada					
District 1					
VO2AC	325,299	580	37	99	111

District 2					
*VE2OWL	63,732	178	35	64	42
*VE2GT	24	2	2	2	2

District 3					
VE3GYL	476,784	680	57	132	112
VA3WW	339,290	610	54	116	92
*VE3TM	346,880	537	50	127	94

District 7					
*VE7MID	21,973	151	14	21	38

Cuba					
*CO8NMN	593,920	869	53	108	159

Haiti					
*HH2AA	875,538	985	52	148	183
(OP: K6DTT)					

AFRICA

Angola					
*D2UY	774,613	944	42	129	116

ASIA

Asiatic Russia					
District 9					
*RC9T	115,817	291	38	112	1
*UA9OEX	53,504	175	43	82	3
*R8QAN	17,810	104	18	47	0

District 0					
*R0UT	46,515	171	31	73	1
*UA0LKD	9,400	98	16	24	7

Asiatic Turkey					
*TA4/OH2KW	306,000	690	34	117	2
*TA2MN	118,575	280	36	101	18
*TA4RC	32,190	114	37	66	8
*TA2FT	25,346	153	9	40	9

China					
*BD4RHV	12,430	91	18	31	6
*BG8PM	3,325	35	12	23	0

India					
*VU2FGQ	66,816	264	29	66	1

Israel					
4Z5LY	803,136	1014	56	189	37
*4Z5MY	1,300	25	4	16	0

Japan					
District 1					
JH1CTV	143,780	304	56	97	29
JA1QOW	95,274	215	53	88	17
JR1NHD	54,035	183	30	53	24
JA1PVX	11,310	68	18	24	16
*JS1KKY	113,399	252	51	90	28
*JA1ATM	54,656	169	41	69	12
*JJ1KZZ	41,040	116	46	74	15
*JI1BBN	25,806	138	22	41	6
*JK1FNN	6,318	43	21	23	10
*JA1GZK	464	11	6	7	3
*JE1CAC	29,904	128	22	44	18
*JO1EEQ	90	19	2	3	0

District 2					
*JE2BOM	73,084	174	53	86	12
*JR2UQU	6	3	1	1	0

District 3					
JR3RIU	68,666	198	47	72	20
JR3UBR	10,349	57	31	40	8
JA3VOV	8,730	76	15	26	4
*JR3GPP	5,428	45	17	26	3
*JG3LDD	54	3	2	1	3

District 4					
*JE4MHL	69,120	207	42	71	22
*JH4FUF	2,555	26	14	16	5

District 6					
JA6BZI	398,643	492	79	167	41
*JA6BCV	18,300	86	22	45	8
*JK6JAB	441	17	9	11	1

District 7					
JH7QXJ	559,251	705	79	124	94
JG7AMD	472,416	600	77	153	66
JA7ACM	163,746	299	55	91	52
*JA7MWC	64,944	173	50	71	23
*JL7OTC	5,712	50	21	28	2

District 8					
*JM8SMO	49,343	144	43	68	22
*JK8PBO	13,740	80	21	39	0
*JE8KKX	1,428	17	11	10	7

District 0					
JA0GCI	5,655	60	13	20	6
*JH0DUG	49,407	175	48	66	15
*JA0JHQ	3,440	39	14	19	7

Singapore					
*9V1HY	338	9	5	8	0

Taiwan					
BV4VQ	1,464	53	5	7	0

EUROPE					
Belgium					
ON7ET	52,481	137	40	64	39
*ON4CT	897,773	905	89	244	98
*ON5GF	31,486	145	18	53	20
*ON4CBA	14,175	167	7	32	6

Bosnia-Herzegovina					
E72U	121,204	252	42	99	52

Bulgaria					
*LZ3QE	339,768	684	48	145	49
*LZ2HT	35,062	196	21	72	1
*LZ1MC	20,610	122	21	69	0
*LZ7K	135,780	383	34	133	19
(OP: LZ3GW)					

*EA3AKA	53,862	191	32	83	26
*EF7W	33,575	171	20	51	8
			(OP: EC7KW)		
*EB3TR	17,484	133	12	34	16
*EA4U	17,200	98	22	55	9
*EE2A	1,222	24	8	18	0
			(OP: EA2SN)		
Switzerland					
HB9DOS	46,725	250	10	33	32
HB9HBV	36,952	140	32	78	14
*HB9AVK	163,728	354	45	139	32
Ukraine					
US2YW	230,346	496	46	116	39
*UT3SO	260,184	556	49	145	28
*UT3IJ	23,157	121	24	69	0
Wales					
*GW4HBK	11,468	125	8	34	5
OCEANIA					
Australia					
VJ3O	56,406	208	21	56	25
			(OP: VK3TX)		
Brunei-Darussalam					
V85RH	896,643	1045	79	175	43
			(OP: JO1RUR)		
Hawaii					
*KH6CJJ	695,824	769	71	89	154
Indonesia					
YB2MM	410,423	606	63	152	26
YC2BST	47,970	257	21	47	10
YC8DUL	23,436	124	26	53	5
YB7KE	7,632	80	13	22	1
YB8UTI	5,330	95	12	14	0
YB2HAF	1,650	24	10	15	0
*YB0NSI	208,638	416	57	124	20
*YB9UA	67,743	291	36	69	12
*YB1IUQ	55,275	296	17	54	4
*YD9UW	40,280	193	33	60	13
*YB1RYX	33,792	137	24	58	6
*YC0RNC/1	31,900	162	37	60	3
*YB9GV	30,942	237	14	40	0
*YB3BGM	10,302	86	15	35	1
*YB2TDP	10,281	73	25	39	5
*YC1BTG	8,680	78	19	37	0
*YB2CTE	5,248	83	11	29	1
*YD2UXA	782	45	6	10	1
*YC9VRJ/3	744	20	10	14	0
*YB1HDR/P	442	20	6	7	0
*YD9UAN	8	3	2	2	0
*YB1PEF	14,448	72	32	50	2
*YB8JEC	13,260	158	12	25	2
*YC0RXA	10,317	92	18	39	0
*YCSYDD	9,240	85	24	42	0
Philippines					
DU1IVT	14,008	154	15	19	0
SOUTH AMERICA					
Argentina					
LU1BJW	139,629	289	39	73	71
*LT9H	200,008	386	37	66	81
			(OP: LU3HY)		
*LW3DC	9,858	60	16	27	19
*LU7DW	608	18	6	8	2
*LT5A	490	13	4	3	7
Brazil					
*PY2GTA	626,778	717	59	163	96
*PY2NY	303,750	700	28	72	50
*PY1ZV	192,990	349	41	78	91
*PY2DPM	90,951	190	48	85	50
*PY2KO	53,833	206	18	43	40
*PR8KW	51,390	219	19	45	26
*PY4LH	50,052	209	18	41	38
*PU7ASP	19,923	101	24	37	26
*ZV2F	10,360	70	28	29	17
			(OP: PY2SFA)		
Chile					
*CB8E	262,182	438	44	86	92
			(OP: CE8EIO)		

*3G3O	242,811	428	38	58	111
			(OP: XQ3OP)		
*CB3R	86,884	290	23	44	40
			(OP: XQ3SK)		
*CE3KRM	2,660	26	13	13	12
*XQ3SK	2,156	31	9	14	5
*3G3R	24,320	139	13	18	33
			(OP: XQ3SK)		
Colombia					
*HK3VHZ	9,792	61	22	22	28
*HK4ZZ	6,952	58	27	32	20
*HK4J	960	24	14	10	16
Venezuela					
*4M1W	209,670	514	32	51	62
			(OP: YV1SW)		
*YV6CA	71,642	235	25	45	43
YOUTH ASIA					
China					
*BD4VGZ	76,752	242	40	78	5
EUROPE					
Bosnia-Herzegovina					
*E70AW	74,692	280	34	95	13
Croatia					
9A2ZI	2,743,698	1829	123	356	150
9A1CAL	41,870	170	26	61	19
			(OP: 9A3LET)		
*9A1CRT	2,277	37	7	26	0
			(OP: 9A7RA)		
Germany					
DM7XX	2,437,018	1622	118	366	142
*DO1JJK	5,328	53	10	27	11
Ireland					
*EI8KW	122,484	345	32	127	14
Italy					
*IU4FNO	110,547	231	52	128	33
Poland					
*SP8BRT	5,513	78	9	28	0
*SP9DLS	4,312	50	13	31	0
MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER NORTH AMERICA					
United States					
District 1					
*N1SOH	46,904	176	40	62	62
District 2					
*W2RC	13,515	92	17	43	25
AK2S	363,307	587	58	148	95
*NY6DX	1,857,136	1544	97	290	209
*K1RQ	127,971	301	54	102	85
District 3					
K3AJ	2,806,610	1989	107	302	201
K9RS	521,260	592	78	212	99
District 4					
AG4TT	2,334,960	1911	94	284	186
AD4ES	1,807,372	1788	83	226	167
W4MLB	1,312,486	1581	90	208	184
*N4SS	1,053,032	1051	86	239	147
District 5					
K5RZA	2,394,288	2086	111	278	235
District 7					
WA7AN	2,569,450	2187	114	280	256
WM7A	492,375	800	74	140	161
District 9					
NV9L	3,313,125	2302	110	305	210
K9YY	1,420,936	1468	91	226	165
District 0					
*WT0DX	591,890	1053	80	130	167
*KE0OR	21,300	118	25	40	35

Canada					
District 3					
VA3LML	598,264	790	58	151	123
*VE3RUA	252,992	449	50	84	134
Dominican Republic					
*HI8SDR	984,268	1002	74	176	162
US Virgin Islands					
*KP2B	3,868,931	2517	103	297	243
AFRICA					
Canary Islands					
*EA8DED	2,882,547	1989	85	294	134
ASIA					
Asiatic Turkey					
*TC3N	1,309,208	1571	52	177	67
China					
BH2RO	220,992	527	60	116	16
Thailand					
E2WRTC	953,837	1167	81	215	15
United Arab Emirates					
A65DR	223,665	496	31	107	17
West Malaysia					
*9M2U	141,638	390	33	100	1
EUROPE					
Bosnia-Herzegovina					
*E71EZO	24,220	166	21	49	0
Croatia					
*9A7T	1,828,908	1263	114	347	145
Czech Republic					
*OK1KKI	73,776	210	41	99	19
*OK1OFM	12,008	74	23	49	4
OK5Z	5,047,174	2710	137	433	196
OK1KSL	2,402,980	1875	98	320	130
OK7O	2,152,248	1644	100	298	154
OL1C	44,935	216	20	52	23
*OL1Z	873,595	1029	80	218	81
*OL7K	504,020	872	59	185	46
Denmark					
*OZ/DJ1XT	579,139	849	62	205	56
England					
G0BRC	316,710	702	40	145	45
European Russia					
District 3					
RA5AD	7,936	95	15	47	0
France					
TM1D	379,520	523	70	183	67
*TM6V	718,642	1024	66	201	79
Germany					
DL0HMK	1,083,980	1120	79	242	94
DL0GMH	7,137	55	22	38	1
DP6A	3,220,700	1921	130	401	169
DK050BN	2,749,545	1783	122	371	164
DA0T	1,110,564	1134	87	274	91
DM4M	189,200	310	71	176	28
*DQ4W	693,117	843	75	236	76
Greece					
SZ1A	3,763,900	2497	127	397	141
Italy					
IQ4FC	5,815,600	3096	139	439	197
IQ1DF	2,404,558	1720	117	335	146
IQ5AE	379,320	566	74	191	62
IQ3PN	375,747	797	51	149	51
IQ1VD	51,060	216	27	77	11
*IQ3RK	2,154,300	1501	118	366	161
*IQ2DN	202,072	375	52	115	65
Liechtenstein					
HB0DX	1,358,900	1484	84	281	63
Lithuania					
*LY5W	1,987,335	1611	114	333	120
Norway					
LN5O	89,378	341	27	105	2
Poland					
SP3KRE	23,545	147	23	61	1
*SP5KCR	25,755	168	22	60	3
SP8R	4,393,440	2521	132	427	161
SN5Y	1,334,328	1395	90	257	77
Portugal					
*CS5CRE	1,017,744	1369	69	206	89
Romania					
YO3GNF	95,784	276	33	101	22
Sardinia					
IQ0ID	960,384	1359	54	191	83
Serbia					
YT5A	2,005,899	1770	93	264	126
Sicily					
*IT9BLB	2,683,868	1694	127	386	161
Slovak Republic					
OM5M	2,576,970	1924	113	331	126
Slovenia					
*S51A	1,520,415	1196	113	322	130
*S57ZT	467,517	856	53	176	38
Spain					
*ED3D	501,585	915	57	161	63
Sweden					
SD3T	833,280	1312	56	198	56
SB7A	307,444	816	32	142	28

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HB9EP	33,490	178	16	43	26
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*US4EWY	101,992	488	23	94	5
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VK2RT	1,214,115	1155	73	156	144
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AH2R	584,425	851	53	122	66
Philippines					
*4D3X	69,972	316	34	39	11
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LT5D	404,202	535	65	140	98
Brazil					
PR2E	952,511	1057	60	142	141
Peru					
OA4O	414,990	574	52	103	110
Uruguay					
CX5A	855,896	1032	63	143	126
MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER UNITED STATES					
K3ODX	46,009	168	33	63	43
K9CT	6,869,018	4278	128	366	263
NJ4P	5,589,675	3581	121	362	252
KT7E	2,225,356	2370	97	207	228
K7BTW	2,123,280	2480	97	201	242
NA4DA	2,096,508	1951	90	247	179
W0YK	1,840,184	1793	106	235	243
N3DPB	619,080	758	79	193	130
NC1CC	558,245	743	68	180	111
AFRICA					
CR3DX	13,848,120	6015	130	414	248
EUROPE					
LA1K	192,657	657	27	95	27
OZ4GM	147,315	477	31	114	16
EC2DX	5,968,494	3842	125	379	203
IQ9RG	5,514,602	3496	133	388	188
PI4COM	5,400,014	3193	125	398	171
S50W	5,280,956	3386	128	374	181
DP7D	4,913,650	2974	126	403	166
DP9A	4,897,125	3131	126	391	158
IQ4FA	4,543,896	3083	115	352	162
C37N	2,928,938	2826	76	245	142
IO7T	2,233,440	1957			

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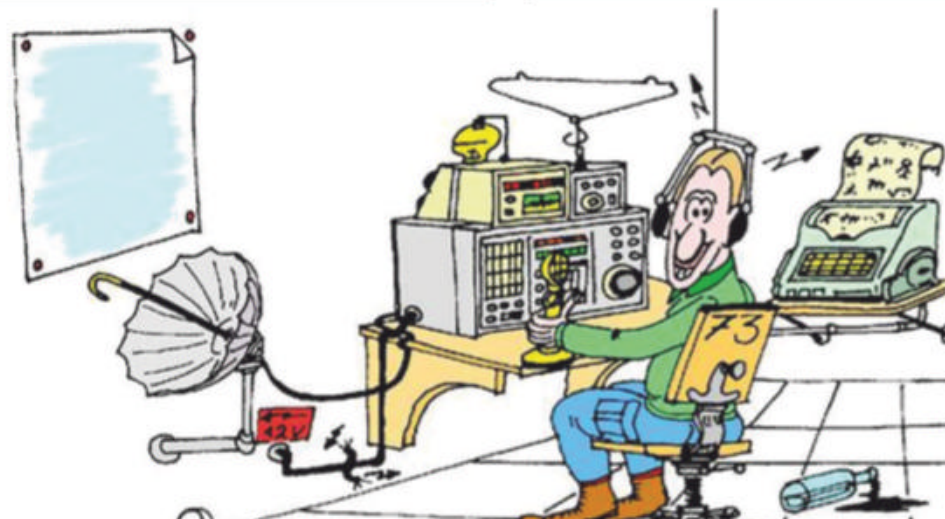
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