

Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
JULY 2023

CQ



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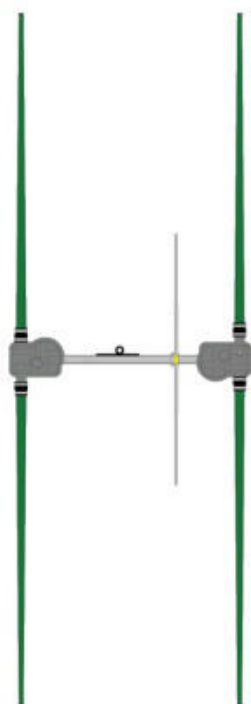
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On the Cover: Sunset on Malpelo Island during the record-setting HKONA DXpedition in 2012. K4UEE recalls the adventure in our DX column on page 78.

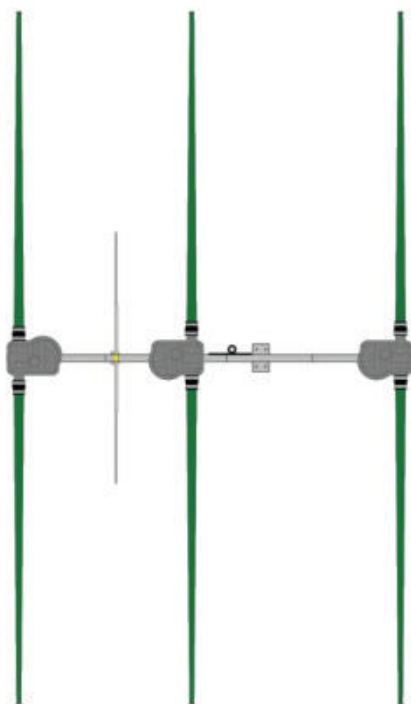
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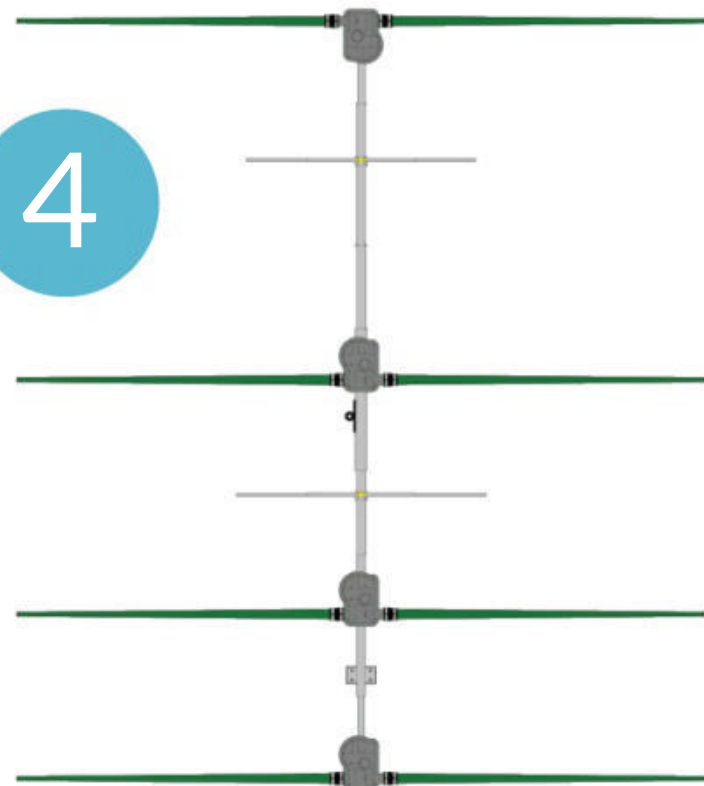
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Ralph Bolt - K0RO



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- High-Res Full-Color Touch Screen TFT LCD Display • Easy Hands-Free Operation w/Built-In Bluetooth® Unit • Built-In High Precision GPS Antenna • 1200/9600bps APRS Data Communications • Supports Simultaneous C4FM Digital • Micro SD Card Slot



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- Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power Within a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charger Included • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



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announcements

JULY

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA — The Murgas ARC will hold its **Firecracker Hamfest** starting at 8:00 a.m., Saturday July 1 at the Postal Employees Picnic Grounds, 1500 Roberts Valley Road. Contact: Terry Snyder, WB3BKN. Website: <<http://www.W3uu.org>>. Email: <wb3bkn1@gmail.com>. Phone: (717) 979-9515. Talk-in 147.075 (123).

PLAINS, PENNSYLVANIA — The Harrisburg Radio Amateurs Club will hold its **Murgas Hamfest and Computerfest** starting at 8:00 a.m., Sunday July 2 at the Polish American Veteran's Club, 2 South Oak Street. Contact: Herb Krumich, K2LNS. Website: <<http://murgasarc.org>>. Email: <wa2fgk@yahoo.com>. Phone: (570) 829-2695. Talk-in 146.61 PL 82.5. VE Exams.

CAMILLUS, NEW YORK — The Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse will hold its **Roger's RAGS Hamfest** from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday July 8 at the Camillus Elks Lodge, #2367, 6117 Newport Road. Contact: Jeryl Wright, NK2C. Website: <<http://ragsclub.org>>. Email: <wrightjk@aol.com>. Phone: (315) 727-2762. Talk-in 146.91/31 pl 103.5. VE Exams.

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA — The Wattsburg Wireless Association will hold its **NW PA Hamfest** starting at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 8 at the Greene Township Municipal Building, 9333 Tate Road Room 114. Contact: Larry Kemmler, KC3JBR. Website: <<http://www.wattsburg-wireless.us/>>. Email: <lkemmler@yahoo.com>. Phone: (814) 881-2689. Talk-in 147.315 CTCSS 186.2. VE exams.

MANSFIELD, OHIO — The Intercity Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Mansfield Trunkfest 2023** on Saturday, July 8 at the Richland Co. Fairgrounds, 740 N. Home Road. Contact: Danny Bailey, W8DLB. Website: <<http://iarc.club>>. Email: <w8dlb60@gmail.com>. Phone: (567) 899-3881. Talk-in 146.940 PL 71.9.

MILTON, FLORIDA — The Milton Amateur Radio Club will hold its **2023 Milton Hamfest** starting at 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., on Friday July 7 and 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday July 8 at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium, 4530 Spikes Way. Contact: Charles Tow, KN4VGY. Website: <<http://miltonarc.org>>. Email: <kn4vgy@gmail.com>. Phone: (850) 554-2109. Talk-in 146.700 CTCSS 100. VE Exams.

NORTH BEND, NEBRASKA — The Pioneer Amateur Radio Club will hold its **25th Annual Flea Market** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday July 8 at the North Bend City Auditorium, 741 North Main Street. Contact: Richard Mehaffey, KB0ARZ. Website: <<http://www.k0sw.org>>. Email: <4randjme@futuretk.com>. Phone: (402) 719-7342. Talk-in 146.67/07 MHz (100 Hz) or 443.900/+5 MHz. VE testing.

ORLANDO, FLORIDA — The Conway Baptist Church will hold its **K4KDI Summer Tailgate 2023** starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday July 8 at the South Conway Rd. Baptist Church, 6099 South Conway Rd. Contact: Jack Moyer, K4KDI. Website: <<http://k4kdi.square.site>>. Email: <k4kdi@hotmail.com>. Phone: (407) 443-1963.

OAK CREEK, WISCONSIN — The South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club will hold its **WI9SM Swapfest** from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday July 8 at the American Legion Post 434, 9327 S. Sheppard Ave. Contact: Karen Burris, KC9WQJ. Website: <<http://WI9SM.org>>. Email: <kc9wj@gmail.com>. Phone: (414) 578-0492. Talk-in 146.910 -offset PL 127.3.

ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA — **MAGIC** will hold its **MAGIC Tailgate** from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday July 8 at the Galilee Lutheran Church, 145 N. McCarrons Blvd. Contact: George Lavalley, N0SBU. Website: <<https://tinyurl.com/4ptn3syb>>. Email: <n0sbu@arrl.net>. Phone: (651) 429-5948. Talk-in 145.170 100. VE Exams.

SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA — The Rowan County Amateur Radio Society will hold its **Firecracker Hamfest** time TBA on Saturday July 8 at the Salisbury Civic Center, 315 S. Martin Luther King Ave. Contact: Ralph Mowery, KU4PT. Website: <<https://rowanars.org/>>. Email: <ku4pt@arrl.org>. Phone: (704) 279-4737.

TEXAS CITY, TEXAS — The Tidelands Amateur Radio Society will hold its **Texas City Tidelands Hamfest** from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday July 8 at the Charles T. Doyle Convention Center, 2010 5th Ave. N. Contact: Keith Bo Thomas, KT1AA. Website: <<http://www.tidelands.org>>. Email: <info@tidelands.org>. Phone: (409) 789-8160. Talk-in 147.140 tone 167.9, 442.025 tone 103.5.

ESSEX, MONTANA — **GFAARC** will hold its **Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest** time TBA on Friday July 14 to Sunday July 16 at the Glacier Meadow RV Park, 15735 US Hwy 2 East. Contact: Justin Carlson, KZ7A. Website: <<http://www.gwhamfest.org>>. Email: <justin@carlsonplace.net>. Phone: (307) 763-1907. Talk-in 146.52. VE Exams.

ALEXANDER, NEW YORK — The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Batavia Hamfest** from 6:00 a.m. onward on Saturday July 15 at the Alexander Firemen Grounds, 10708 Alexander Rd. Route 98. Contact: Luke Calianno, N2GDU. Website: <<http://w2so.org>>. Email: <luke48@gmail.com>. Phone: (716) 683-8880. Talk-in 147.285 PL 141.3.

ATHENS, TENNESSEE — The McMinn County Amateur Radio Club will hold its **19th Annual MCARC Hamfest** from 7:00 a.m. onward on Saturday July 15 at the McMinn County Expo Center, Athens Regional Park Decatur Pike. Contact: Susan Ward, KO4TEN. Website: <<http://mcminnarc.com>>. Email: <ko4tenqso@gmail.com>. Phone: (423) 333-5388. Talk-in 147.820 (-) 141.3. VE Testing.

BANDON, OREGON — The Cary ARC will hold its **50th Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday July 15 at the Ritter Park, 301 W. Lochmere Dr. Contact: Gary McElroy, N6BLU. Website: <<http://www.coosradioclub.net>>. Email: <n6blu@hotmail.com>. Phone: (530) 521-5091. Talk-in 146.610 (-) 110.9. VE Testing.

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA — The Coos County Radio Club and the Southwest Oregon Repeater Association will hold its **Coos County Radio Club Annual Hamfest and Swapmeet** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday July 15 at the Home of N6BLU, 87450 Batson Ln. Contact: Don Hurlbert, KW4DON. Website: <<http://caryarc.org/>>. Email: <caryarcn4nc@gmail.com>. Talk-in 148.88 -6 82.5.

CENTERVIEW, MONTANA — The Warrenburg Area Amateur Radio Club Inc will hold its **WAARCI Hamfest** from 8:00 a.m. onward on Saturday July 15 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds, 386 NW 145 Rd. Contact: Jason Snyder, WV3V. Website: <<https://tinyurl.com/2cp3dca9>>. Email: <meteorseeker@gmail.com>. Phone: (702) 526-4528. Talk-in 146.88 107.2 Tone.

ELYRIA, OHIO — The Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society will hold its **NOARSFEST** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday July 15 at Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Road. Contact: Carl Rimmer, W8KRF. Website: <<http://www.noars.net>>. Email: <noarsfest@noars.net>. Phone: (216) 256-9624. Talk-in 146.70 (110.9). VE Testing.

SHELBY TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN — The GM Amateur Radio Club will hold its **GMARC Trunk Swap** time TBA on Saturday July 15 at the Packard Proving Grounds, 45601 Fox Ln. W. Apt 106. Contact: Bobby Corr, N8CY. Email: <BobbyCorr@att.net>. Phone: (248) 346-2733.

SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA — The Sioux Empire ARC will hold its **SEARC Tailgate Hamfest and ARRL South Dakota Section Convention** from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday July 15 at the Westminster

(Continued on page 58)

Floods in Italy Cause Last-Minute Scramble for WRTC

WRTC-2022, the World Radiosport Team Championship already delayed a year due to Covid travel restrictions, will go on despite major flooding in the region of Italy where the competition is scheduled to take place. According to *Newsline*, several planned station sites were rendered unusable by the floods, but organizers say replacement sites have been found. At press time, the logistics for those new sites were still being worked out, but organizers were confident everything would be ready in time for the international competition on July 8-9. Additional donations were being sought to cover added expenses associated with these last-minute changes.

Hamvention® Reports Record Attendance

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has released its official attendance figure for the 2023 Hamvention®, reported at 33,681. This is an increase of 2,000 over 2022, the show's first year back after two pandemic-prompted cancellations. It is also a record for the Hamvention's "new" site at the Greene County Fair grounds and Expo Center, eclipsing the 2019 record of 32,472.

Anna Gomez Nominated to FCC; Carr and Starks Renominated

President Biden has nominated telecommunications attorney Anna Gomez to fill a vacant seat on the FCC and break the long-standing 2-2 Republican/Democratic tie on the commission that has blocked significant action. According to *RadioWorld*, Gomez currently works for the State Department, leading preparations for U.S. participation in the World Radiocommunication Conference scheduled for later this year. She served previously as deputy administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA – which serves many of the same functions of the FCC relating to federal government spectrum usage) and spent 12 years as an FCC staffer, rising to Deputy Chief of the International Bureau. Her nomination is subject to Senate confirmation.

Mr. Biden also nominated current FCC commissioners Brendan Carr, a Republican, and Geoffrey Starks, a Democrat, to serve additional terms. Carr has been a commissioner since 2017; Starks since 2019. The five-member FCC is structured to have at least two members from each major political party, with the fifth position filled by a member of the President's party.

ARRL Cements Relationship with Federal Emergency Response Network

The ARRL has renewed a long-standing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which keeps amateur radio as part of the "response ecosystem" in FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology Functional Guidance document. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the new MOA "emphasizes the importance of skilled amateur radio operators in times of crisis and the role of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) leadership within the emergency communications space."

The *ARRL Letter* also reports that the League has been invited to become a member association of SAFECOM, "a group of national thought leaders and officials within the emergency communications and response space that works to set (interoperability) standards at every level." SAFECOM is under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security's

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA. ARRL Emergency Management Director Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, will be the League's representative on SAFECOM <www.cisa.gov/safecom>.

Cass Awards Go to SP9FIH and TY0RU

In an effort to encourage DXpeditions to work as many different stations as possible (as opposed to working the same stations on multiple bands and modes), Club Log, DXLab, and the Northern California DX Club jointly award the Cass Awards each year to the single-operator and group DXpeditions which have worked the greatest number of unique call signs.

The sponsors report that the 2022 single-op winner, for the sixth year in a row, is Janusz Wegryzn, SP9FIH, who worked 10,771 different stations from St. Barthelemy Island during a two-week one-person DXpedition as FJ/SP9FIH.

The unlimited class, or group DXpedition, award for 2022 went to the team that operated TY0RU from Benin last October, contacting 33,553 unique call signs, a new record for the unlimited Cass award. The awards are named for the late Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, longtime publisher of the West Coast DX Bulletin. More information is available at <<http://www.cassaward.com>>.

California Ham Fined \$24,000 for QRM

A ham in California has been hit with a \$24,000 fine by the FCC for alleged interference with a net on 75 meters and failure to identify his station. The *ARRL Letter* reports that Philip J. Beaudet, N6PJB, of Burney, California, was cited for "willfully and repeatedly interfering with the radio communications of the Western Amateur Radio Friendship Association (WARFA) while it was attempting to hold a regularly scheduled net, and for failing to provide station identification on amateur radio frequencies." According to the report, FCC field agents monitored the transmission of recordings that caused interference and tracked the signals to Beaudet's home station.

Australian Government Gets Back Into the Ham Licensing Business

The Australian Communications and Media Authority – that country's telecommunications regulator – reportedly will resume direct licensing of amateur radio operators as of next February. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the agency had previously delegated amateur licensing to the Australian Maritime College, which decided not to renew the arrangement when it expires early next year. A corps of volunteer "assessors" (examiners) organized by the college will remain in place and will administer exams directly on behalf of the government.

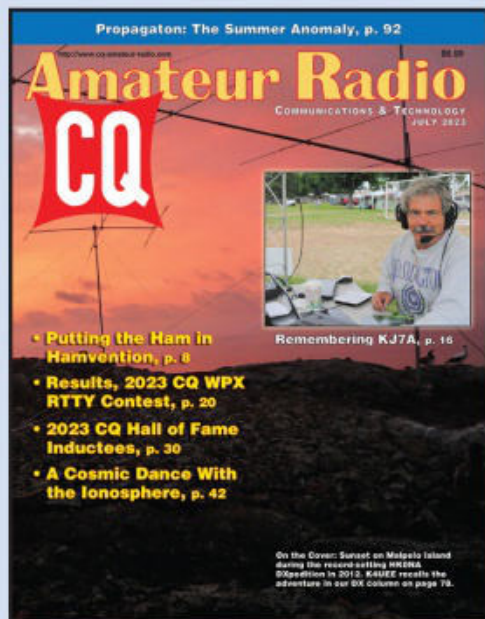
Take Your Own Photos From Space?

A new satellite being developed by students at Stanford University will allow amateur radio operators to download specific photos taken by the satellite and, if all goes according to plan, direct the satellite to take a picture on command. Different modulation techniques for transmitting the images will be analyzed.

According to the AMSAT News Service, the Sapling Magnifica satellite's primary mission will be to prove several key technologies needed for future Stanford Student Space Initiative satellites to host scientific payloads. The International Amateur Radio Union has coordinated downlink frequencies of 437.400 and 2427.00 MHz. Launch is tentatively planned for later this year. More information is available at <<https://github.com/stanford-ssi>>.

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JULY 2023 • VOLUME 79 NUMBER 7



On the Cover:

Malpelo Island in the Pacific Ocean is a tiny dot of land with sheer cliffs right up to the shore and a mountaintop accessible only by rope-climbing (or a helicopter). So, of course, it's a beckoning location for a DXpedition! A trip there in 2012 set records for numbers of contacts made. The HK0NA story and more photos are on page 78. Inset: Well-known ham "Chip" Margelli, K7JA, became a Silent Key in late May. See our remembrance on page 16. (Main cover photo by Manu Siebert, LU9ESD; inset photo by Gordon West, WB6NOA)



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columns

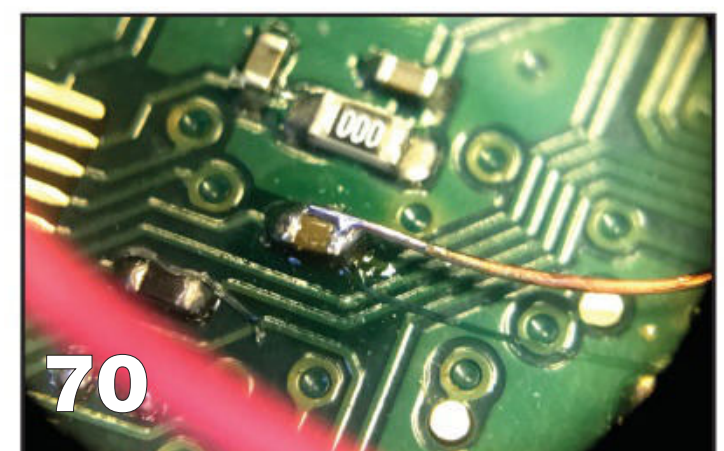
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zero bias: a cq editorial

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

The Ham Radio Family

This issue, at first glance, doesn't seem to have an overarching theme. We've got contest results, reports from Hamvention and the HamSCI workshop, Hall of Fame inductions, an island DXpedition, and more. But if you look a little bit under the surface, you'll see that there actually is an overarching theme, which is the people we get to meet through ham radio and with whom we share our radio adventures. This was brought home to me by the recent loss of three well-known hams, two of whom were former members of the CQ "family" (see News Bytes on the next page). In truth, we're all part of a big ham radio family, bound not by blood but by our common interest in what columnist Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, refers to as the "Magic in the Sky" and contributor Guy Immega, VA7GI, describes in his article (p. 42) as "a cosmic dance with the ionosphere."

Our two leadoff articles offer different perspectives from this year's Dayton Hamvention®, which gives some 30,000 of us (33,861 per the official count) the chance to get together in person, share experiences, learn from each other, see the latest gear, and scour the flea market for bargains. "Magic in the Sky" columnist AA6JR takes us along with a group of ham friends on a road trip to Dayton from southern California (p. 56). For contesters and DXers, their respective Dayton dinners provide a forum for recognizing the "stars" among each group with inductions into the CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame (p. 30). And this month, some of the world's top contesters will be getting together in Italy for the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) competition (p. 87). We also recall the teamwork and camaraderie involved in putting on a major DXpedition in this month's DX column (cover and p. 78).

In addition, the results article for the 2023 CQ WPX RTTY Contest (p. 20) takes a different approach from our typical contest articles, focusing this time more on the personal experiences of selected competitors in various categories than on simply recounting who had the top scores (those are in the various boxes and line scores).

Outside the world of contesting and DXing, the annual HamSCI workshop ("Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds," p. 32) provides another in-person networking opportunity, in this case reaching beyond the borders of ham radio to include professional scientists whose areas of research coincide with amateurs' areas of interest (the nature of the ionosphere, space weather, etc.). Amateur observations can provide the scientists with many more data points than they generally can acquire on their own, and of course, the hams can benefit from the greater understanding of various phenomena that will result from the scientists' research.

Finally among our people stories this month, VHF-Plus Editor N4DTF talks with Rob Sherwood, NCØB, about his performance ratings of various VHF/UHF+ receivers. Rob is typical of so many members of our ham "family," developing

It's summertime! Pack up your portable ham gear and enjoy some outdoor operating ... and maybe some family fun as well...

expertise in a certain area of the hobby and gladly sharing it with his fellow hams.

The fragility of those human connections also points up the importance of sharing our knowledge and experiences in a long-lasting format, such as a magazine or podcast. Our good friend Chip Margelli, K7JA, was a renaissance ham, involved in many different aspects of the hobby and extremely knowledgeable about most of them. He was always happy to share his knowledge, but more likely to do so verbally than in writing, so as a result, when we lost Chip in late May, we lost much of that knowledge as well.

We need to make sure to use the opportunities we have to really get to know each other, and not only in person. After all, we have an amazing social media tool at our fingertips, our radios. Just as I was getting started on this editorial, I was contacted by another "family" member – a reader and occasional author – who was asking for copy of my February editorial to post as a link from his column on <QRZ.com>. It was titled "The Lost (?) Art of Conversation," and encouraged readers to go beyond the brief information exchanges of contest, DX and FT8 contacts and take some time to also have real conversations with our on-air contacts, to make new friends or chat with old ones and learn more about and from each other than a signal report and QTH. I guess this month's editorial is kind of a continuation of that theme. We need to keep in mind that the primary purpose of all the technology with which we surround ourselves and learn about is to communicate, to make contact with other people in other places and to truly make the most of our "cosmic dance with the ionosphere" as we chase after the "magic in the sky."

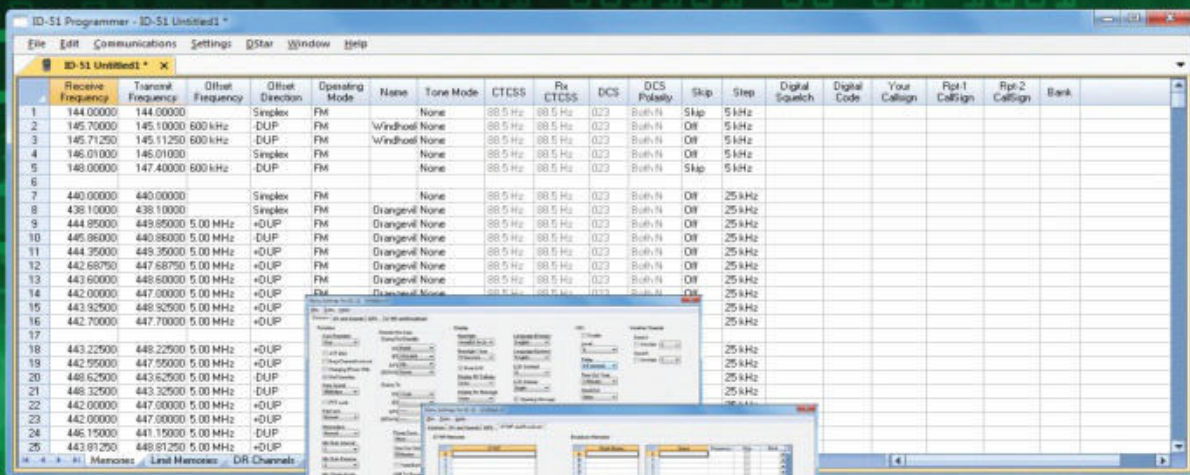
Also in This Month's Issue...

Even though we have a focus on people in this month's issue, we don't ignore the technology. Look for K3MT's "cheat sheet" on estimating path loss without a scientific calculator (p. 37); WA2NDM's dive into ultrasonic communications (p. 46); KØNEB's look at a new transmitter kit and a charging module for the KX-2 transceiver (p. 52); KH6WZ's exploration of the value of surplus gear for hams, especially for microwave applications (p. 66); N2IRZ's guide to voiding the warranty on a mobile transceiver to let it efficiently operate high-speed packet (p. 70), and NW7US's explanation of the "summer anomaly" in HF propagation (p. 92). As usual, we've got something for everyone, whether your primary interest is communication or components!

It's summertime! Pack up your portable ham gear and enjoy some outdoor operating ... and maybe some family fun as well, whether it's with your actual family or your worldwide ham family!

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

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Passages... K7JA, DL6RAI, WB2D, Silent Keys

The ham radio community lost three well-known amateurs in about as many weeks in late May and early June. The best-known was Charles "Chip" Margelli, K7JA, who was a leader of the amateur radio industry for over 40 years. You'll find a full obituary and remembrances of Chip in this issue on page 16.

In mid-May, just before he was to be inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, Bernhard "Ben" Buettner, DL6RAI, died as a result of a tower accident at his contest station in Aruba. As you'll read in our Hall of Fame article on page 30. Ben was a leader of the contesting community in Germany, and indeed, worldwide. He served on the CQ World Wide Contest Committee and was a major part of the organizing team for the 2018 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) in Germany. In 2014, he purchased the P49V contest station in Aruba from Carl Cook, AI6V/P49V (now an SK), and he was working on antennas there when his key was silenced by a tower accident.

Finally, former ARRL and CQ staffer Peter O'Dell, WB2D, passed away in early June. Peter and CQ columnist Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ, were the ARRL's public relations team in the 1980s when Owen Garriott, W5LFL, took ham radio into space for the first time, and Pete was the founding editor of the ARRL Letter. At CQ, O'Dell was

As we mourn the passing of these longtime leaders of the amateur radio community, we recognize the emergence of a new generation of leaders. Two examples are in this issue in the Hall of Fame article.

involved in a variety of special projects, including the launch of CQ's long-running series of buyer's guides, and he authored "Ham Radio Horizons – The Book" to introduce new and prospective amateurs to the hobby. After leaving CQ, Peter launched his own business helping hams learn Morse code through hypnosis.

As we mourn the passing of these longtime leaders of the amateur radio community, we recognize the emergence of a new generation of leaders. Two examples are in this issue: in the Hall of Fame article, you'll also meet Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, one of the newest members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, and in a separate article, "Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds," you'll read about this year's HamSCI workshop, coordinated by Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, who is emphasizing the value of amateur radio citizen scientists to ionospheric research.

What happens when your first-ever hamfest is the world's biggest? Associate Editor KB3UJW took the plunge to find out!

Putting the Ham in Hamvention 2023

BY SABRINA HERMAN,* KB3UJW

Even though I've been a ham since 2010, I haven't really actively participated in the culture. Since I joined *CQ* magazine earlier this year, I've gained a lot of technical knowledge, but I still hadn't really immersed myself. That all changed this past weekend at the Dayton Hamvention® in Xenia, Ohio. I threw myself right into the deep end of amateur radio society, and I'm happy to say it was a great swim!

For those new to the practice, hams all over the world attend swaps/flea markets/conventions that are typically referred to as hamfests. The Hamvention in Ohio is the largest of such meetings in the world. There were thousands of attendees, all eager to browse the gigantic flea market, check out the multiple exhibit halls full of merchandise, and attend scheduled panels about the hobby. And there was also plenty of fair food – the real reason I decided to attend.

I spoke with Deanna Skapiak, N2GSB, and her husband John, K2SY, who have been attending Hamvention since the late 1970s between the two of them. Their flea market table was set up next to mine, and they were delighted to talk about their experiences at the show. Deanna told me, "It's a great opportunity to meet up with people I only see a couple times a year at hamfests – and a great way to get rid of some old equipment!" She, her husband, and their friend Tom Kissner, W8WGT, posed for a photo in front of their table for me early on Friday of the show (Photo A).

As I was wandering around the grounds, I met with Kathleen Wright, the Executive Director at Greene County Convention and Visitors Bureau. She and her crew were manning a welcome station. While she's not a ham herself, Kathleen told me that in the years since Hamvention has moved to Xenia, she's made a lot of friends in the amateur radio community. One of those friends, Ron Cramer, KD8ENJ (now a Silent



Photo A: Tom Kissner, W8WGT, John Skapiak, K2SY, and Deanna Skapiak, N2GSB, posed at their flea market booth.



Photo B: At the AMSAT booth, the all-ham Papay family – (L-R) Carrie, K8CLP; Grace KE8RJU, and Doug K8DP – posed with their purple Arrow satellite antenna.

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Photo C: Chris Gannon, KE8UGC, from the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.



Key), inspired her to begin to study for the Technician exam herself. As of press time she hadn't taken the exam, but she assured me that by Hamvention 2024 she'd have her license.

There were a ton of different booths to look at during the show. The National Association for Amateur Radio (ARRL) had a giant booth full of things to buy and look at. The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) had a booth as well as

a panel; both were busy and very well attended over the weekend. Icom and other brands were also in attendance with large displays and plenty of people to explain the newest tech, and possibly sell you a few things at the same time!

One exhibitor that was of particular interest to me was AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. I enjoy educational programming, and they had it in spades. One of the things they were showing off was their purple Arrow antenna (Photo B). It was situated in their beginner's section, so I knew I was in the right place. I spoke to the Papay family, all hams— dad Doug, K8DP; mom Carrie, K8CLP, and their daughter Grace, KE8RJU. Grace has been in and around amateur radio her whole life, and obtained her license in March of 2021. This was her second year attending with her license, and she told me, "I love the (youth) forum, I love seeing my fellow youth. It's great to see people I only have ever talked to over the air! I also like spending time with my mom and dad." Doug told me that both of his parents were amateur radio operators as well, so it is certainly a family tradition.

In between staring at all of different sizes of antennas, I also made time to talk to some of the government and government-affiliated groups that had a presence at the hamfest. One of the people I spoke with was Chris Gannon, KE8UGC, who was with the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the National Telecommunications Division

(Photo C). He was hopeful about drawing more people into the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and said that the attendance at the Hamvention looked promising.

So far, I had managed to talk to flea marketers, regular attendees, staff, and the US government. All I needed to complete my set was to find an exhibitor to chat with. I was pointed in the direction of Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE, who owns and runs HFSignals. Ashhar employs women from his home country of India to hand wind the toroids that go into his equipment. I've been told by several sources that toroids are almost impossible to assemble on a mass production scale, and thus the handwork is necessary. Ashhar showed off one of his machines, the sBitx. He told me that it is an open source, high performance Hybrid SDR for the 21st century radio amateurs. Powered by an internal Raspberry Pi 4, it has CW/RTTY/PSK31/SSB and FT8 capability with logging software, macros, and spotting built in (Photo D). While I personally don't know what a lot of that means, I dutifully wrote it down for reproduction in this article. I've been assured it's quite cool.

I wound down my day with a stromboli purchased by my friend Matt Canel, KE8NZR. He and David Kazdan, AD8Y, were kind enough to let me sleep over in their hotel room during the show, as well as feeding and watering me. All in all, it was a nice dip into the large pond that is amateur radio. I'm sure I'll be more prepared for my next show!



Photo D: The sBitx transceiver from HFSignals.

73, KB3UJW

Hamvention 2023 “Good Morning Sunshine”

PHOTO ESSAY BY JOE EISENBERG,* KØNEB

Every year, most hams dread the weather possibilities when planning a visit to Hamvention®. Heat, cold, wind, rain, sleet, and storms all add up to make it challenging at times. This year was probably as perfect as possible. The week started out rainy but by dawn on Friday it was sunny and nice. Highs got up to the mid 70s and it was sunny. The dreaded rain in the forecast held off until late at night, and was not heavy at all, so the parking areas were solid and less dusty on Saturday morning when the very light overnight rain stopped about an hour before the gates opened for the second day. Temperatures in the upper 60s prevailed on Saturday and Sunday was sunny and mid 70s again.

Visitors to Hamvention should plan on spending an extra day before or after Hamvention to tour the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. There is no admission charge and for a first-time visitor at least 4 or 5 hours is recommended. I try to visit each year to see all the new exhibits. All previous Air Force One planes are on display and can be toured inside. There are lots of great old radios in each

one. Eisenhower’s Constellation even has a Hallicrafters shortwave radio next to his bunk!

For Hamvention 2023, there were plenty of food vendors and plenty to eat. The crowds seemed a lot larger this year to me, judging from parking and traffic

and the number of people in line for food. Forum attendance and flea market shoppers seemed way up as well.

A long-missing exhibitor returned – as Kenwood was there showing not only the company’s current products, but the new Analog/D-Star HT, the TH-



Photo A: Curtiss P-40E Warhawk at the National Museum of the Air Force. It’s worth it to add an extra day to your trip to visit here – but plan a full morning or afternoon to get the full experience. (All photos by Joe Eisenberg, KØNEB)

* Contributing Editor, CQ

Email: <k0neb@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo B: A B-52D Stratofortress in the Southeast Asia Gallery. And did we mention that admission to the Air Force Museum is free?



Photo C: Free golf cart rides made getting to and from the Hamvention parking area a lot easier. A big thank you goes to the Golf Cart Committee!

D75, to be available soon. No word yet on the price. The Parks On The Air tent outside was always busy as the large number of hams who have embraced this fun activity gathered there. All the inside exhibitors were accommodated without using any parking lot tents and the number of visi-

tors inside was steady throughout the weekend. Once again, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association held a "free entry" day on Sunday to bring in hams who could only attend on Sunday and that boosted the crowds Sunday morning. As to new kits, check out my upcoming column!



Photo D: There was no shortage of food or sunshine at the 2023 Dayton Hamvention.



Photo E: There were plenty of food choices this year and lots of hams enjoying a break.



Photo H: Kerry Turner, KB3KLT, does a lot of business selling supplies for the fast-growing Parks On The Air community.



Photo F: This nice-looking Johnson Viking Invader 2000 made its appearance in the flea market.



Photo I: Gary Hoehne, KB9AIT, and Terry Schilling, N9AOT, showing their latest Wolf River Coils antennas. These antennas have become popular among those doing Parks On The Air.

This year was probably as perfect as possible.

The crowds seemed a lot larger this year to me, judging from parking and traffic ...

Photo G: The Parks On The Air tent in the flea market was a very busy place.





Photo J: Kenwood returned to Hamvention with a new analog FM/D-Star HT, the TH-D75.



Photo K: Ray Novak, N9JA, was busy showing Icom's latest, including the IC-905.



Photo L: The new Yaesu FTM-500 made its Hamvention debut.

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Photo M: Michael Kalter, W8CI, presents a Spirit of Amateur Radio award to Steve Morgan, W4NHO.



Photo O: Dr. James Breakall, WA3FET, was presented the Technical Achievement award from Hamvention.



Photo N: The Delaware Valley Radio Association accepts the Amateur Radio Club Of The Year award at the annual Hamvention awards banquet.



Photo P: Carsten Dauer, DM9EE, from Germany is the 2023 Dayton Hamvention Ham Of The Year.

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Remembering “Chip” Margelli, K7JA, SK

One of the best-known amateurs of the past 40 years has become a Silent Key. CQ joins the contesting and DXing communities in mourning the loss of Charles “Chip” Margelli, K7JA, to cancer in late May 2023. We first received the news from his close friend and CQ Contributing Editor Gordon West, WB6NOA:

“Chip left us yesterday at 4:00 p.m., after spending weeks putting together Field Day station antennas and gear. That is all he would talk about – a great station on the air! He was ready for Field Day!”

He and Janet (KL7MF, Chip’s wife of 45 years) fought this fast-spreading cancer for months, with never a word to most anyone about his heroic fight. He passed away peacefully, with dignity, at his home, with Janet and his cat at his side. He gracefully closed his eyes, with piles of Field Day equipment and cables he prepared, ready for deployment, right next to his chair.

Chip never complained, never let on to his fight, and always had a smile for the upcoming Field Day event. So professional. He was always total positive in all that he could do for ham radio operators.

What a gentleman - a true fighter to the end. We are all heartbroken.”

Chip was a ham’s ham, a contester (and frequent winner), DXer, DXpeditioner, moonbouncer, weak-signal VHFer, satellite operator, and more. He was part of an international team that operated from BY1PK in Beijing in 1984, helping to usher in a rebirth of amateur radio in China. Chip was also a member of the ZA1A team that reintroduced ham radio to Albania in 1991; he also twice traveled to Cuba for joint US/Cuban amateur operations.

Chip spent three decades as the “face” of Yaesu in the United States, attending hamfests, visiting dealers, and introducing new gear. After leaving Yaesu, Chip worked for Heil Sound, Innovantennas, and as CQ Advertising Manager before leaving the hamfest circuit and working behind the scenes at Ham Radio Outlet. He couldn’t totally stay home, though, as he continued to be in high demand as a banquet speaker at conventions and hamfests.

Chip is perhaps best known among the general ham public for his 2005 appearance on “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” in which he and partner Ken Miller, K6CTW, sent a message in Morse code faster than the reigning texting-speed champion could type on his phone. Chip was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame in 2008 and awarded Russia’s E.T. Krenkel medal in 2021.

“In a hobby full of really nice and really knowledgeable people,” recalled CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, “Chip was without question one of the nicest and most knowledgeable. He was experienced in nearly every aspect of amateur radio and was always happy to share that knowledge as well as his many ham radio adventures. While Chip was on the CQ staff for only a short period of time, he and Janet have been part of the extended CQ family for many years. More than that, he was always just a good friend. We will miss him greatly.”

“OMG!” responded CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, when he heard the news. “Chip was the picture of good



Photo A: Chip Margelli, K7JA, on the air from the beach in southern California. (Photos courtesy Gordon West, WB6NOA)

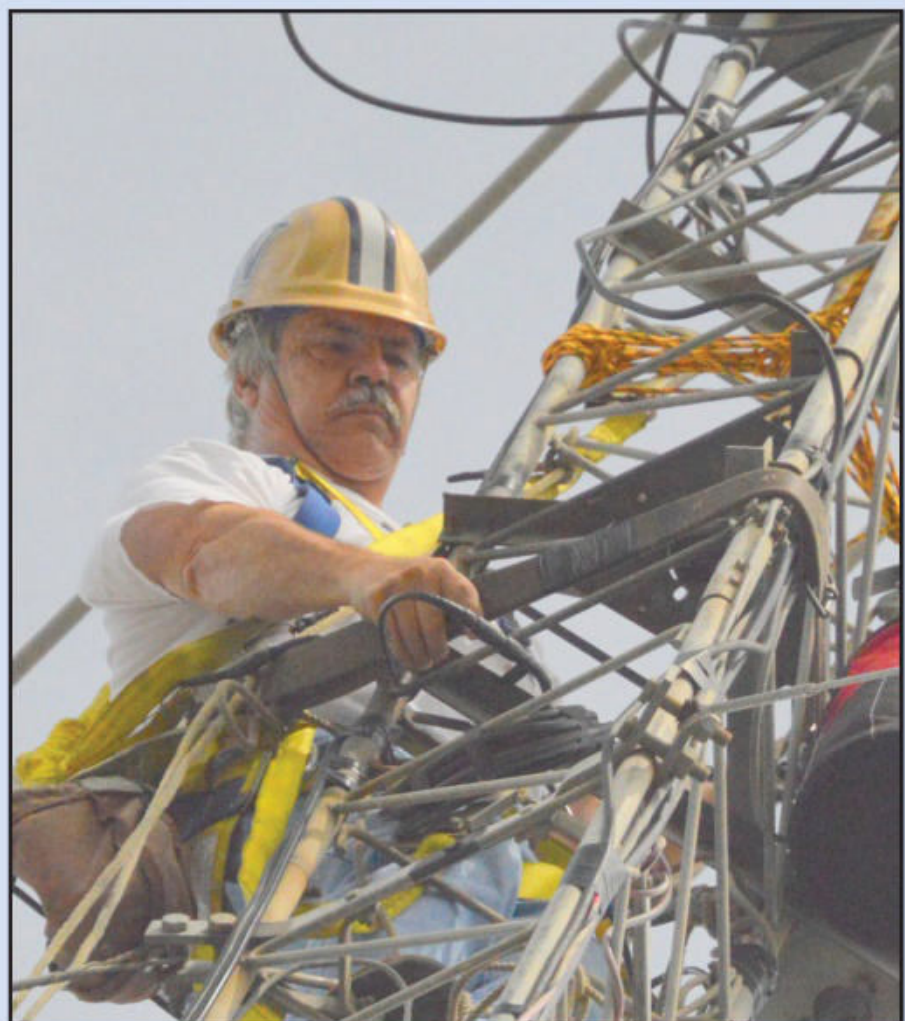


Photo B: Antennas and tower work were always high on Chip’s ham radio priority list.

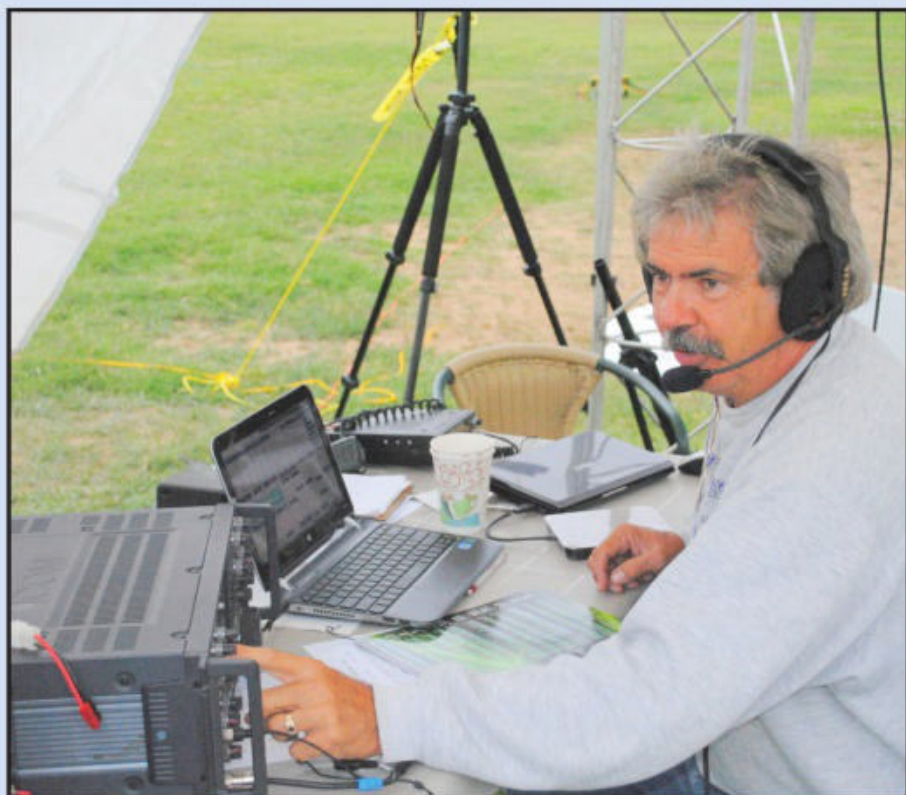


Photo C: ARRL Field Day was one of the highlights of the year for Chip. He was working on antennas for this year's running up until his final moments.



Photo D: Chip – seen here with his wife, Janet, KL7MF – loved to dress up in a wide variety of outfits for various hamfests and conventions.

health! He used to go out running at shows. He and Arnie (Sposato, longtime CQ ad manager, also SK) would be out early on a Sunday to do a few miles together. And he had just retired from HRO after a lifetime at Yaesu. Another old friend gone ... Certainly, we all know of those who were very sick and who we expected to leave us, but too often (others have) left us with no warning and no time to prepare our minds for the inevitable."

Internet Tributes

In the days following Chip's passing, hundreds of messages were posted online from all over the world, either expressing condolences or recalling the influence that Chip had had on them. Here is a sampling from Facebook:

Oscar Morales, CO2OJ: Today is a sad day for the amateur radio community because we have lost someone who



Photo E: Life was about more than just ham radio for Chip and Janet. Here, they join Gordon and Suzy West, WB6NOA and N6GLF, respectively, in a southern California tradition of deep-frying a Thanksgiving turkey on the beach!

made it his reason for being and left his presence in practically every facet of it for several decades. I personally met Chip in 1994 when he, Janet, and other US radio amateurs visited us to be part of the CO0FRC, the first Cuba-USA contest station that went on the air from the Bello Monte elevations, east of Havana, as part of the ARRL VHF QSO Party that year. It was a unique and wonderful experience and the foundation of a friendship that has endured over time. We met again at the 1995 CSVHFS (Central States VHF Society) Conference in Colorado Springs, where I participated alongside Arnie Coro, CO2KK, and later Chip visited us again with Janet and other US radio amateurs to put CO0US on the air and participate in the 2003 ARRL Field Day.

Like Chip, I was a lover of the 6 meters – the "Magic Band" – but unfortunately, openings between the Caribbean and the US West Coast were not frequent. So when I heard amidst a pile-up or during a contest, "CO2OJ, K7JA... Hi Oscar," the joy was doubled.

I can proudly say that Chip was, is, and will always be my friend, and throughout all these years, we have shared the joys and sorrows that life has given us: personally, on the radio bands, and more recently through the internet. Rest in peace, K7JA, and good DXing wherever you are.

Former colleague and close friend Katie Allen, WY7YL: There are no adequate words right now to express our sadness. The four of us grew from friendship to family over all of our years together working hamfests and nearby spots for fun after work was done, we visited each others' homes, and the highlight was traveling the Highlands of Scotland together. For years now, Chip and I started every day with a GM text, which would continue with random chats and funny memes throughout the day. I have so many goofy memes saved on my phone which I'll look at when I want to smile...Chip was larger than life and is leaving a deep chasm in the lives of his family and friends left behind.

Former colleague Doug Wynn, WY6NN: OMG ... I am at such a loss ... my Elmer, friend, inspiration in all things radio...When I joined YAESU in 1990 I was a young aspiring radio amateur... Chip was absolutely the greatest mentor a young ham could have. I can't even begin to express how he solidified my passion for the love of ham radio hobby. The stories of DXing, contesting, DXpeditions, experiment-

VHF Propagation

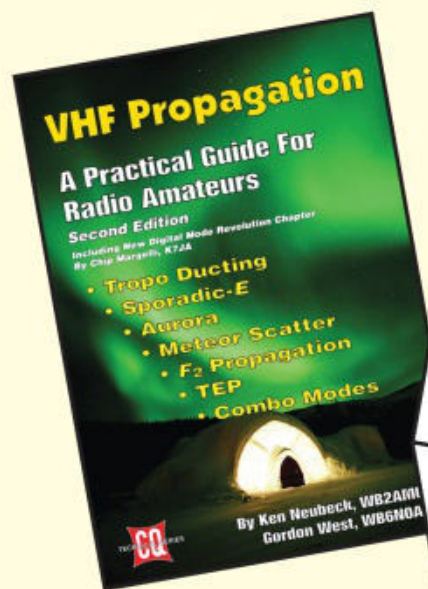
A Practical Guide for Radio Amateurs

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!

This 6 X 9, 148 page paperback is only **\$21.95**
(Plus applicable shipping charges.)

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Photo F: Just two days before cancer took him from us, Chip and Janet joined Gordon and Suzy at a California flower farm. On the wings of a butterfly...

ing with antennas, satellite radio, packet, giving me pointers, his humor of hams, and Japan and Japanese culture!

Champion contester and retired Admiral Scott Redd, KØDQ: Chip was a class act, an incredible operator and a faithful friend. He was a legend in transforming ham radio contesting. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with you.

ARRL Operations Director Bob Naumann, W5OV: Janet, I am deeply sorry to hear this. I have known Chip for 43 years. I had the great pleasure of working with him when he was doing advertising sales for CQ and he was really great at it. We crossed paths so many times I don't know where to start. I also feel a severe sense of loss and I am sure the global ham community will as well.

Teresa Gonzalez-White: One of my favorite Chip stories was watching him and my dear Jim, K4OJ (*also a Silent Key too soon – ed.*) and the other hams on the cruise using a toilet seat as a Morse code key. Wonderful memories!

Doug Grant, K1DG: Chip was the ultimate ham, larger than life in many ways. I will never forget his domination of the Sweepstakes contest in the 70s. I can still hear his “63 Washington”. It was always a treat to see how he would dress up for Visalia. Spock, cowboy, etc. And the tux when he emceed the banquet and breakfast.

His appearance on the Tonight Show (CW vs texting) was probably the single best PR event for ham radio ever. “How long have you been doing Morse code?” “43 years in ham radio”. And of course, he delivered the goods, beating the texters handily.

Ham radio’s Elvis has left the building. We are saddened by his early departure but we were enriched by having him in our lives.

All of us at CQ extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Janet and their entire family.

Summer is Sizzling with Deals...

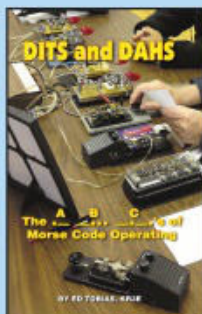


DITS and DAHS

The **A B C**'s of Morse Code Operating

by Ed Tobias, KR3E

This small but solid guide is the perfect read for those interested in learning or improving CQ operating techniques!



Within its pages you'll find

- The secret of becoming a proficient CQ Operator
 - Where and how to practice, practice, practice.
 - Straight Key or Paddle?
 - Adjusting your Straight Key or Paddle
 - Keyers, Iambic Keying and Bugs
 - Contests & Events, DXing
 - Operating QSK
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- and much, much more!**

6 x 9 Paperback \$15.95

Sloper Antennas

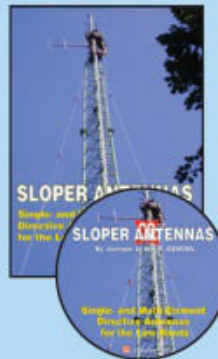
by Juergen A. Weigl, OE5CWL

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by Bob Haviland, W4MB

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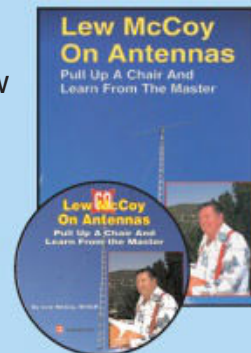
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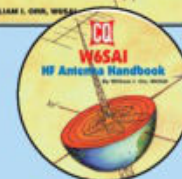
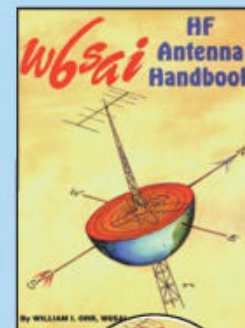
W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook

by Bill Orr, W6SAI

W6SAI was known for his easy-to-understand writing style. In keeping with this tradition, this book is a thoroughly readable text for any antenna enthusiast, jam-packed with dozens of inexpensive, practical antenna projects that work!

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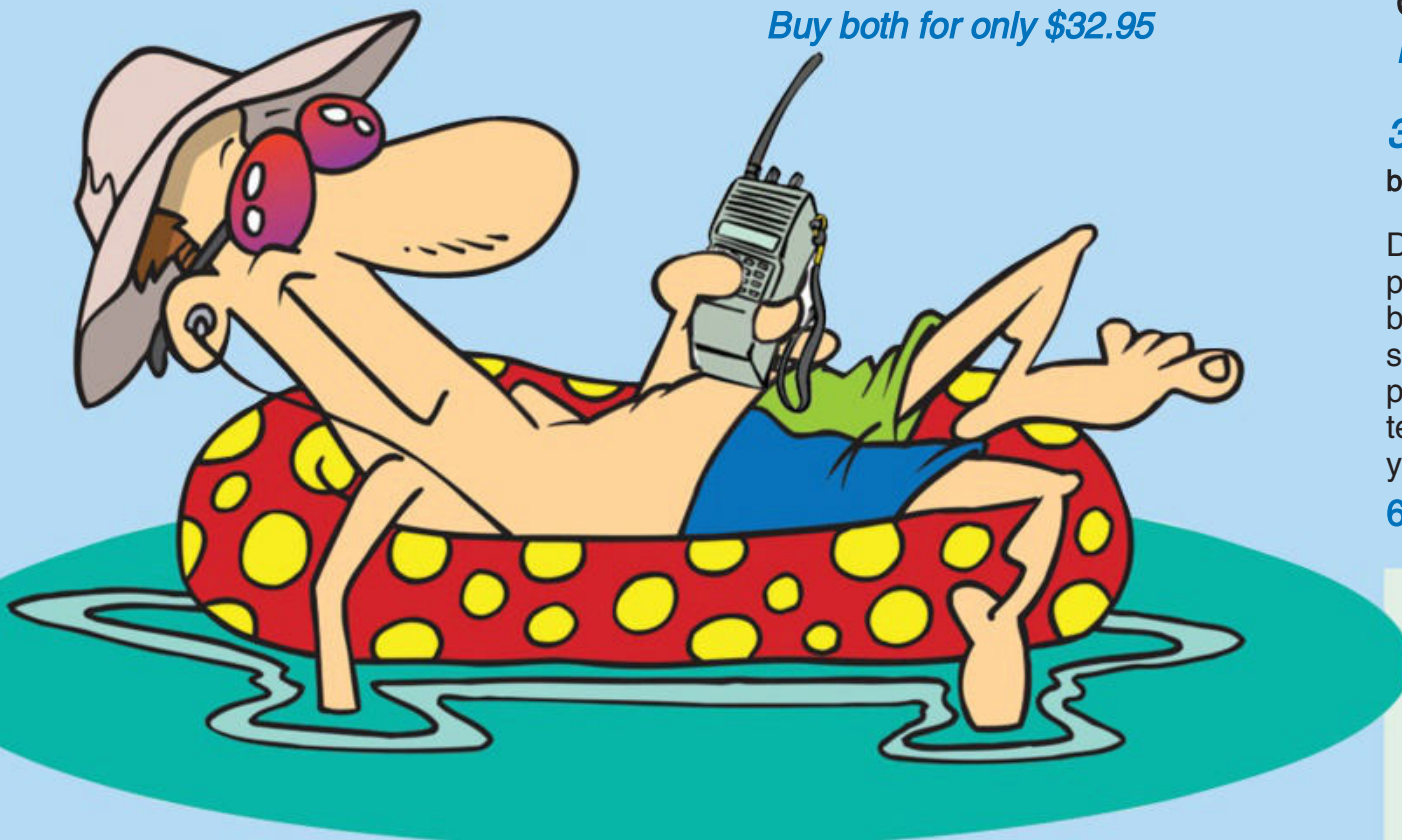


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by Dave Ingram, K4TJW

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Results of the 2023 CQWW WPX RTTY Contest

BY CHRIS TATE,* N6WM AND ED MUNS,# WØYK

In February 2023, RTTY contesters from around the world got on the air to celebrate a solid Cycle 25, with great upper band conditions, and the 20-meter band starting to change a bit. Thanks to it being winter, the low bands were not terrible so some great scores came in. Additionally, travel to DX locations seems to be getting more regular post pandemic, so there were lots of good prefixes from island locations and traveled-to destinations have stabilized and seem to be returning to normal.

This year we got an extensive amount of material from competitors and participants and we are grateful for that. We can only showcase some, so we appreciate all who submitted pictures and stories, and if we don't cover yours this go-round, there will be future opportunities, so keep the information coming!

This article we will showcase a few different types of efforts from around the world. You don't have to be a big gun to enjoy this contest! As always, comprehensive results are displayed in the included line scores, so be sure to check them out.

Alex, SA2SAA/7S2A – Sweden

Taking on a QRP effort can be quite a challenge for both sides of the QSO. Doing so from under the aurora adds an entirely new dynamic to the situation, as was the case for Alex Gromme, SA2SAA/7S2A who took on the challenge despite the well-lit auroral night in Sweden (Photo A). Alex passed on some of the pros and cons of this in the following statement:

“Good openings with Oceania and Asia at different times of the day, NA always present at night via Aurora-E, unfortu-



Photo A: So beautiful – it's definitely something nice to look at during any radio blackouts. (Photo credit Alex Gromme, SA2SA)

* Email: <n6wm@largeradio.org>

**Email: <ed@wØyk.com>

nately no reflection for Pacific via North Pole at night as it happened to me out of contest... in any case a good opportunity to work new countries for my DXCC-DIGI run and Challenge.”

Ali, HZ1ITT – Saudi Arabia

Ali, HZ1ITT was pleased to be on the air from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Photo B). And we were pleased he was QRV. It's always good to get the HZ prefix in the log.

John, N4MMR – USA (FL)

John Black, N4MMR, was pleased to get some interesting DX in the log during his low-power effort in the contest (Photo C):

“I was excited to land some RTTY contacts for the first time, including LX1HD (Luxembourg), 9A5D (Croatia), XE1YL



Photo B: Ali, HZ1ITT, and his nice shack in Saudi Arabia.

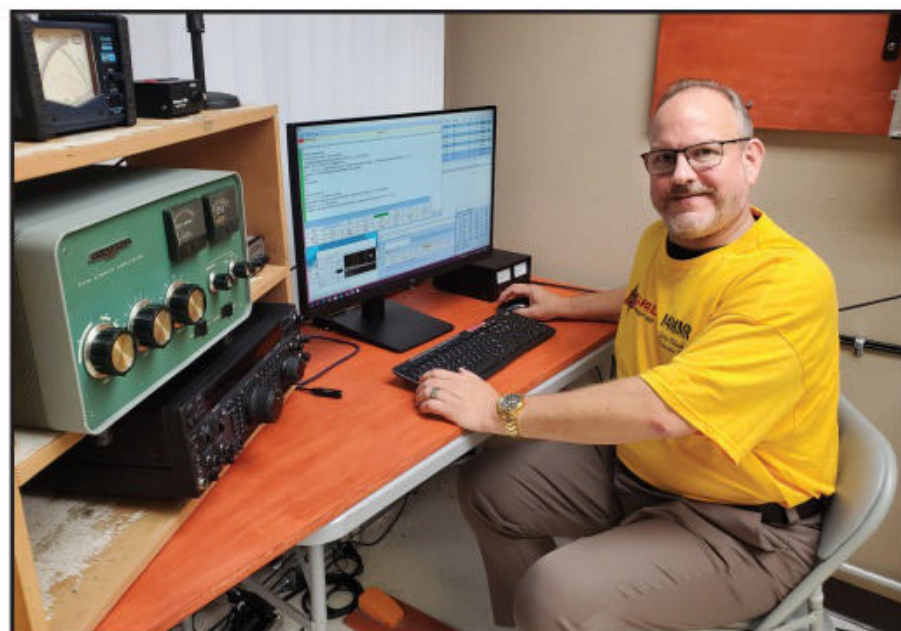


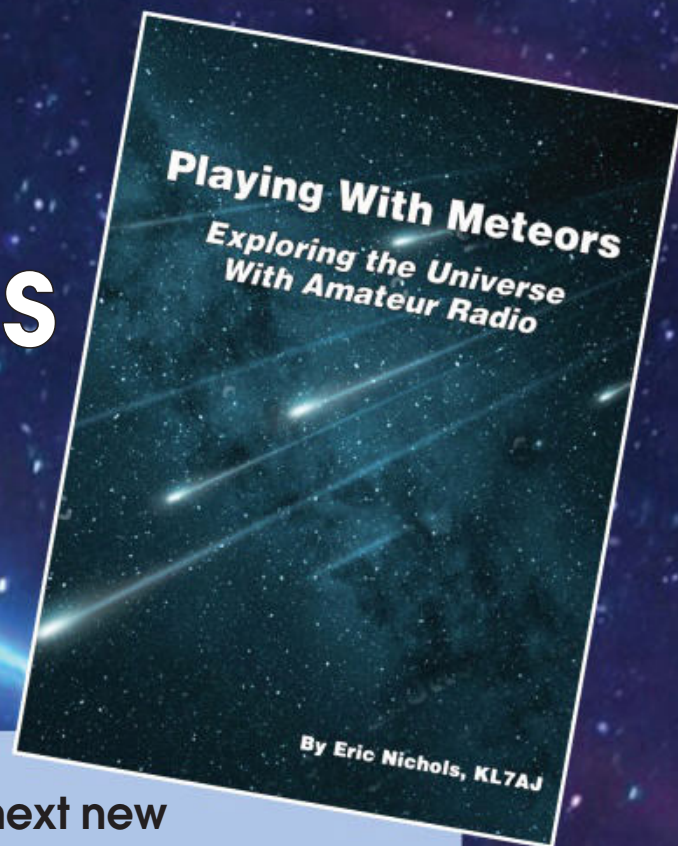
Photo C: N4MMR at his Florida QTH.



Playing With Meteors

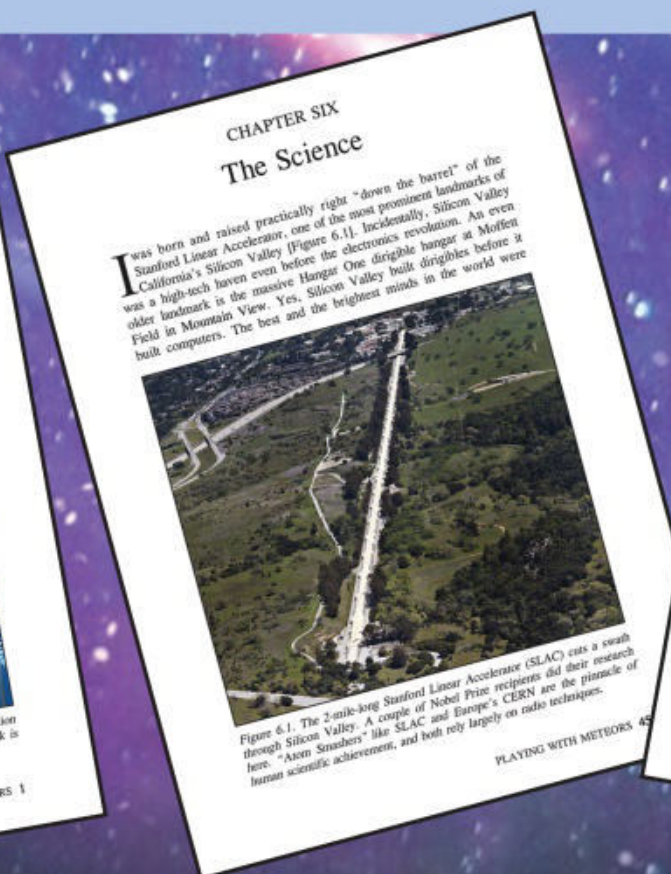
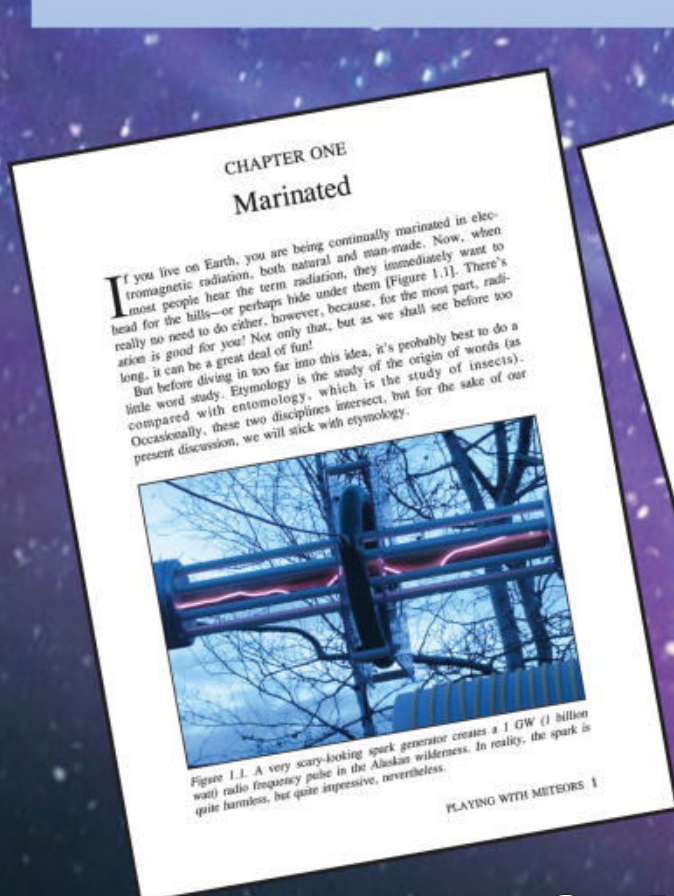
Exploring the Universe With Amateur Radio

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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2023 WPX RTTY TOP UNITED STATES SCORES

<p>SINGLE OPERATOR HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>AA3B8,024,898 AK1W (K5ZD).....6,330,405 KF3P (K3MM).....6,112,690 AC0C5,285,436 AD4EB.....4,179,618 WK1Q (K1MK @K1TTT).....3,966,795 K7RL3,550,008 KU1CW3,346,710 N3QE3,260,544 NF3R3,172,580</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>WD6T (@N6RO)1,319,094 KZ7X (K6LL).....1,301,016 K4WI.....1,207,980 KZ5MM (W5PR)1,107,150 NS1L (N6SS).....641,348 W9ILY619,918 WX6V337,120 WZ7ZR (W7ZR).....321,195 KS0AA131,446 K7IU118,197</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>NJ4U (K4EA)1,543,668 WV6I (N6WM)360,836 WF6C (N6XI)60,480 WQ3U17,372 KF0IQ779</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>W5TN20,592 W3IK11,560 W4SSF1,908 WA2PCN930 AA5AU819</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>KK9A2,375,712 W3LL1,777,937 K8IA689,724 WX5S316,250 NW2P4,836 N3RC36</p>	<p>3.5 MHz All Band</p> <p>NA5NN (K2FF)7,344</p> <p>LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>KU2M2,524,608 N4SS (W5MX)1,799,352 AH2O1,122,990 W4RN1,122,987 N8CWU915,875 WB2JVO (K2AL)792,819 WA2DNI770,628 W3KB768,504 AC5XK722,294 K0RC696,496</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>K5QR296,102 WO4O254,040 KF6RY (W6ZL)125,874 N9VPV117,912 AB9YC115,913 WB1AEL73,350 NK5G62,208 K7ULS58,368 N9LJX48,786 K4FT37,908</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>NG1R (W1QK)545,606 WA1FCN320,540 WN0L132,009 KC7CM75,144 N7DB73,340</p> <p>14 MHz</p> <p>W4LC111,776 K8VT94,815 N1GDD22,672 N8GU2,184 AC2IK2,016 W0ADL1,144 WA1YGT204 K3TW156</p> <p>7 MHz</p> <p>W2VTV226,380 WA3FAE205,110</p>	<p>NG6O (K6GHA).....152,096 W9AKS30,600</p> <p>3.5 MHz All Band</p> <p>WZ6ZZ84,280 KE0L1,450</p> <p>QRP All Band</p> <p>KZ0US (W7RY)646,990 KV2U (K2YG)618,786 KO1H356,400 WU5K (K5NZ)248,685 W6QU (W8QZA)115,415 WQ6X67,144 K4SAA50,944 AI9K40,800 KG2U16,380 AA8OY13,840</p> <p>28 MHz</p> <p>N8URE48,438 WE6EZ41,208 WD9FTZ34,969 KE6GLA10,906 N3MWQ2,774</p> <p>21 MHz</p> <p>KD9MS83,692 N0UR74,108</p> <p>MULTI-OP SINGLE-TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER All Band</p> <p>ND3D5,388,432 KS9R3,185,820 WM7A841,156 W4MLB598,662 AG6AU389,991 KD9V290,997 AK2S238,810</p> <p>MULTI-OP SINGLE-TRANSMITTER LOW POWER All Band</p> <p>WW4LL3,057,244 KA4RRU2,582,580</p>	<p>NY6DX2,084,914 NC1CC1,160,382 WB8SKP469,880 AB7HP2,773</p> <p>MULTI-OP TWO-TRANSMITTER All Band</p> <p>K9CT10,810,878 WV4P8,950,866 NC0DX5,701,110 KT7E3,709,321 K3CCR2,022,744</p> <p>MULTI-OP MULTI-TRANSMITTER All Band</p> <p>W3GH5,389,308 NW8S4,555,968 WA3EKL1,457,376 NW6P323,609</p> <p>ROOKIE HIGH POWER</p> <p>W9DCT1,008,807 W3FR225,280 KC3TAU174,563 KD2UBH151,466 KO6M97,152 N3AML32,994</p> <p>LOW POWER</p> <p>KC1RET560,986 K3AK215,433 KI5RQG89,000 KN1OLA59,502 NN6U32,592 W7VC29,925 KN6SID22,338 KQ4AAR20,910 KI5QPY19,012 KB7SDM18,693</p> <p>CLASSIC HIGH POWER</p> <p>KI6DY2,406,552 N1RM2,191,196 W3LL1,777,937</p>	<p>NG1M912,120 AJ6V748,879 N0TA667,320 W4CQE597,702 4U1WB (AJ3M)431,892 NN4NN (K3SV)274,052 K7JQ266,751</p> <p>LOW POWER</p> <p>NG1R (W1QK)545,606 K7DR320,120 N3CKI258,266 W2VTV226,380 W1DYJ225,944 W3DQS220,158 WZ4M192,660 W7TMT189,002 N7WLC182,850 AF1R181,440</p> <p>TRIBANDER/WIRES HIGH POWER</p> <p>N3QE3,260,544 NF3R3,172,580 K9OM2,082,417 AE1P1,979,364 AD5XD1,703,184 KZ7X (K6LL)1,301,016 N6ZFO964,429 W1HS943,056 WX2NJ (K2RET)887,880 W6SX844,770</p> <p>LOW POWER</p> <p>AH2O1,122,990 WB2JVO (K2AL)792,819 AC5XK722,294 N5SMQ505,500 KW1X436,800 WB8JUI434,603 KC2WUF414,636 K3RWN330,620 WG1V328,042 NN5T303,784</p> <p>YOUTH LOW POWER</p> <p>K5TRP224,264 KC1GDW15,939</p>
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2023 CQWW RTTY WPX BAND-BY-BAND BREAKDOWN — TOP ALL BAND SCORES

Number groups indicate: QSOs / Prefixes on each band

WORLD SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	80	40	20	15	10
K7RL	96/18	334/122	313/121	783/291	654/196
PJ2T	0/0	301/211	233/56	468/138	449/166
N6AR	54/23	437/245	337/116	273/99	382/184
*CR50	7/7	323/121	208/67	415/161	641/267
YT3D	187/120	363/152	181/64	167/74	365/206

USA TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	80	40	20	15	10
K7RL	96/18	334/122	313/121	783/291	654/196
N6AR	54/23	437/245	337/116	273/99	382/184
KI6DY	121/37	376/226	402/118	277/93	338/117
N1RM	47/17	530/310	350/99	144/45	218/85
AE1P	154/104	281/74	434/169	262/121	261/119

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

IQ4FC	273/92	936/430	864/177	584/176	783/175
*IT9RBW	145/58	957/405	305/114	465/155	360/157
9A5D	284/79	631/241	575/200	480/201	393/149
LZ5R	221/71	770/371	276/62	414/160	440/150
ND3D	171/58	684/322	540/150	463/137	397/145

USA MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

ND3D	171/58	684/322	540/150	463/137	397/145
KS9R	172/63	590/275	449/81	335/106	317/135
*WW4LL	70/15	687/377	374/97	317/133	228/96
*KA4RRU	164/56	505/262	183/46	308/126	376/155
*NY6DX	94/41	383/238	160/72	197/119	336/219

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

CR3DX	307/67	1129/325	1229/240	1296/246	1418/271
ED1R	330/121	926/281	943/205	1111/245	682/205
K9CT	348/70	858/279	817/205	1028/250	838/250
DP7D	516/175	852/290	452/110	776/211	696/231
DQ2C	569/212	851/272	526/127	553/186	520/174

USA MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

K9CT	348/70	858/279	817/205	1028/250	838/250
WV4P	344/74	770/299	659/117	859/224	899/288
NC0DX	231/28	614/213	575/129	821/294	736/206
KT7E	117/24	493/161	341/99	759/269	599/184
K3CCR	100/33	295/177	326/178	297/133	203/101

WORLD MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

9A1A	774/206	1355/321	1195/219	1124/225	852/197
DP9A	598/154	1165/344	909/207	848/202	662/154
W3GH	276/42	781/273	626/210	555/192	408/117
NW8S	288/82	577/210	568/150	626/204	364/132
DG4UF	330/123	625/251	387/124	394/165	235/108

USA MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

W3GH	276/42	781/273	626/210	555/192	408/117
NW8S	288/82	577/210	568/150	626/204	364/132
WA3EKL	141/60	256/167	214/111	211/112	194/114
NW6P	1/1	27/14	62/45	221/125	246/156



Photo D: MW9W/GW0KRL manning up his station in Wales.

Club Competition

CQ WPX RTTY is unique in its club competition as it is not combined with the CW and SSB versions but rather has a standalone club competition. We encourage you to get involved with your local contest club if you have not already. The key to a good club score is member participation, the more logs the better. This was demonstrated by the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) this year, with nearly double the logs of U.S. second-place Frankford Radio Club (FRC). A similar pattern was observed in Europe with the Bavarian Contest Club's win. Power in numbers. Congrats to both of these powerhouse contest clubs for their victory.

EUROPE TOP SINGLE OPERATOR ALL BAND

Station	80	40	20	15	10
*CR5O	7/7	323/121	208/67	415/161	641/267
YT3D	187/120	363/152	181/64	167/74	365/206
I22FOS	175/125	335/137	219/81	226/107	273/138
TF1AM	90/16	315/139	164/84	372/154	610/187
I4LCK	98/29	207/99	262/134	375/189	331/175

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE TRANSMITTER

IQ4FC	273/92	936/430	864/177	584/176	783/175
*IT9RBW	145/58	957/405	305/114	465/155	360/157
9A5D	284/79	631/241	575/200	480/201	393/149
LZ5R	221/71	770/371	276/62	414/160	440/150
S51A	367/113	572/284	310/136	410/168	306/129

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR TWO TRANSMITTER

ED1R	330/121	926/281	943/205	1111/245	682/205
DP7D	516/175	852/290	452/110	776/211	696/231
DQ2C	569/212	851/272	526/127	553/186	520/174
C37N	102/54	603/235	550/169	457/153	288/108
LA1ØØK	74/8	352/190	404/116	563/209	179/65

EUROPE MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER

9A1A	774/206	1355/321	1195/219	1124/225	852/197
DP9A	598/154	1165/344	909/207	848/202	662/154
DG4UF	330/123	625/251	387/124	394/165	235/108
DQ9Y	260/143	599/269	257/91	279/151	189/113
OZ4GM	340/153	403/118	240/127	289/145	110/61

2023 WPX RTTY CLUB SCORES

USA		
Club	# Entrants	Score
POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	66	41,805,515
FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	37	32,155,470
YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	30	27,210,381
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	37	25,728,469
SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	41	24,582,996
WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	19	10,526,508
ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	22	9,048,324
KANSAS CITY CONTEST CLUB	5	9,038,419
MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	18	6,490,499
SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY	5	5,755,684
SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	7	5,571,452
FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	16	5,300,402
TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	12	4,971,044
WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB	12	4,792,417
NORTHEAST MARYLAND AMATEUR RADIO CONTEST SOCIETY	13	4,528,447
GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	8	3,656,142
DFW CONTEST GROUP	12	3,116,210
ORDER OF BOILED OWLS OF NEW YORK	8	3,057,872
KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP	4	3,008,768
SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION	10	2,619,594
BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC	5	2,411,067
NIAGARA FRONTIER RADIOSPORT	7	2,006,089
ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	5	1,765,968
CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	7	1,716,675
HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	4	1,627,886
ROCHESTER (NY) DX ASSN	5	1,573,999
NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	4	1,114,306
SWAMP FOX CONTEST GROUP	9	1,097,824
PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE	4	583,196
CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	5	509,866
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	7	482,774
DUPAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	4	59,494

DX		
Club	# Entrants	Score
BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	113	99,887,129
ITALIAN CONTEST CLUB	95	61,389,421
INTEREST GROUP RTTY	26	46,300,292
CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	10	27,495,410
EA CONTEST CLUB	20	21,596,600
UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	32	19,626,600
SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB	7	14,066,119
CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	241	0,992,315
RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	39	10,303,718
BELARUS CONTEST CLUB	9	7,745,759
CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	6	7,696,295
ARAUCARIA DX GROUP	12	7,630,956
CONTEST CLUB SERBIA	6	6,458,582
CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	5	6,104,314
ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	6	4,250,506
VK CONTEST CLUB	7	4,103,753
RIO DX GROUP	17	4,066,497
CHILTERN DX CLUB	6	3,868,868
5NNDXCC	11	3,815,420
ARIPA DX TEAM	7	3,559,403
CATALONIA CONTEST CLUB	6	3,495,251
WORLD WIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS	5	2,754,756
SP DX CLUB	15	2,586,122
RTTY CONTESTERS OF JAPAN	11	2,168,823
YB-LAND DXING PASSION IS	76	2,024,876
RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB	5	1,720,921
THRACIAN ROSE CLUB	8	1,477,651
CZECH CONTEST CLUB	4	1,290,266
ARCK	6	989,607
LU CONTEST GROUP	7	879,036
GMDX GROUP	6	844,428
RUSSIAN DIGITAL RADIO CLUB	4	841,267
DANISH DX GROUP	5	702,546
RDRC	5	632,151
LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	4	602,484
CABREUVADX	9	555,973
CLIPPERTON DX CLUB	4	526,718
CONTEST CLUB BELGIUM	7	377,434
YB LAND DX CLUB	7	318,943
7A DX-CONTEST CLUB	9	310,018
ORARI LOKAL KEDIRI	5	91,904
RADIOFAROL DX GROUP	4	33,273

Club scores with 4 or more entries.

2023 WPX RTTY PLAQUE DONORS AND WINNERS

SINGLE-OPERATOR HIGH POWER

World: Jeff Blaine, ACØC. Won by: **P49X** (op. Ed Muns, WØYK)
North America: Marty Sullaway, NN1C. Won by: **Kristoffer Kerce, AL2F**
USA: Abroham Neal Software by K3NC. Won by: **Bud Trench, AA3B**
USA 7th Call Area: Hank Lonberg, KR7X in memory of Bob Wruble, W7GG.
 Won by: **Mitch Mason, K7RL**
Europe: FlexRadio Systems. Won by: **Stanislav Kostal, OK7W**
Africa: Vlado Karamitrov, N3CZ. Won by: **Manuel Angel Martin Brito, EA8DO**
Asia: Mike Trowbridge, KA4RRU in memory of Steve Veader, N4DXS.
 Won by: **UP7L** (op. Vladimir Dubinskiy, UN6LN)

SINGLE-OPERATOR LOW POWER

World: Gerry Treas, K8GT. Won by: **TM3Z** (op. Dimitri Cosson, F4DSK)
North America: Wray Dudley, AB4SF. Won by: **Marc Missalla, V31MA**
USA: Gerry Treas, K8GT. Won by: **Peter Bizlewicz, KU2M**
Europe: FlexRadio Systems. Won by: **IQ6AN** (op. Andrea Tonci, IK6VXO)
Oceania: Doug Faunt, N6TQS. Won by: **Kent Carlson, KH6CJJ**

SINGLE-OPERATOR QRP

USA: Jeff Blaine, ACØC. Won by: **KZ0US** (op. James Colville, W7RY)
North America: FlexRadio Systems. Won by: **Osmany Gonzlez Escobar, CO2OQ**

SINGLE-OPERATOR SINGLE BAND

World 14 MHz: Steve "Sid" Caesar, NH7C. Won by: **IQ1RY** (op. Filippo Vairo, IZ1LBG)
World 14 MHz Low Power: Kenny Young, AB4GG. Won by: **Savas Pavlidis, SV2AEL**
North America 21 MHz High Score: Doug Faunt, N6TQS. Won By: **Alexei Joaquin Morejon Cohen, CO2XK**
World 28 MHz: Steve Booklout, NR4M, and the "Goat Farm Gang".
 Won by: **PV2K** (op. Leonardo Zucon, PY2KNK)

OVERLAY CATEGORY

Rookie – Europe: Sponsored by Bavarian Contest Club, Won by: **Mick Cahill, EI6IKB**

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE-TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER

World: Rich Cady, N1IXF. Won by: **IQ4FC** (ops. IK4DCW, IK4HVR, IK4MGP, IU4OMO, IU4BDX, IW4EGX, IZ4NIC)
USA: John Lockhart, W0DC. Won by: **ND3D** (ops. ND3D, K3AJ, N8IVN, K3WA, WT3K, W3MAM)
Europe: Billy, GM6DX. Won by: **9A5D** (ops. 9A3AW, 9A3FRD, 9A3ID, 9A3SMS, 9A3VM, 9A5DU, 9A7Z)

MULTI-OPERATOR, SINGLE-TRANSMITTER LOW POWER

World: Ed Muns, WØYK. Won by: **IT9RBW** (ops. IT9RBW, IT9RGY, IZ2WFL)
USA: FlexRadio Systems. Won by: **WW4LL** (ops. WW4LL, NN9DD, K4NV, W4BOG, K1ZZI) – **New USA Record**

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TWO

World: Steve Bookout, NR4M, and the "Goat Farm Gang". Won by: **CR3DX** (ops. CT3DZ, CT3EN, OM2KW, OM3RG, OM3RM)
USA: CTRI Contest Group in memory of Chris, KA1GEU (SK). Won by: **K9CT** (ops. K9WX, KM9SPL, KD9LSV, KT9L, WT2P, K9CT)
Europe: FlexRadio Systems. Won by: **ED1R** (ops. EA1V, EA1P, EA1TL, EC1KR, EA4AOC)

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER

World: Steve Bookout, NR4M, and the "Goat Farm Gang". Won by: **9A1A** (ops. 9A5W, 9A9A, 9A6A, 9A7C, 9A7R, 9A8A, 9A7PP, 9A7EU, 9A7AS, 9A3BOX)
USA: BeLoud.US. Won by: **W3GH** (ops. KB3EYY, N3WMC, W3BUW, WC3O, AC3IE, NM3A, WQ3Q, K3WM, WA3GHW, KC3PXQ, WA3KFS, AC3Q, AC3GB, N2MA, K3STL, K3JAS, W3MLJ, AB3LS, AG3I, K3FAZ, AB3GY)

MULTI-OPERATOR, MULTI-TRANSMITTER DISTRIBUTED

Canada: FlexRadio Systems. Won by: **CJ2X** (ops. VE2CSM, VE2EBK, VE2FK, VE2NMB)

CLUB COMPETITION

World: Potomac Valley Radio Club. Won by: **Bavarian Contest Club**
USA: Northern California Contest Club: Won by: **Potomac Valley Radio Club**

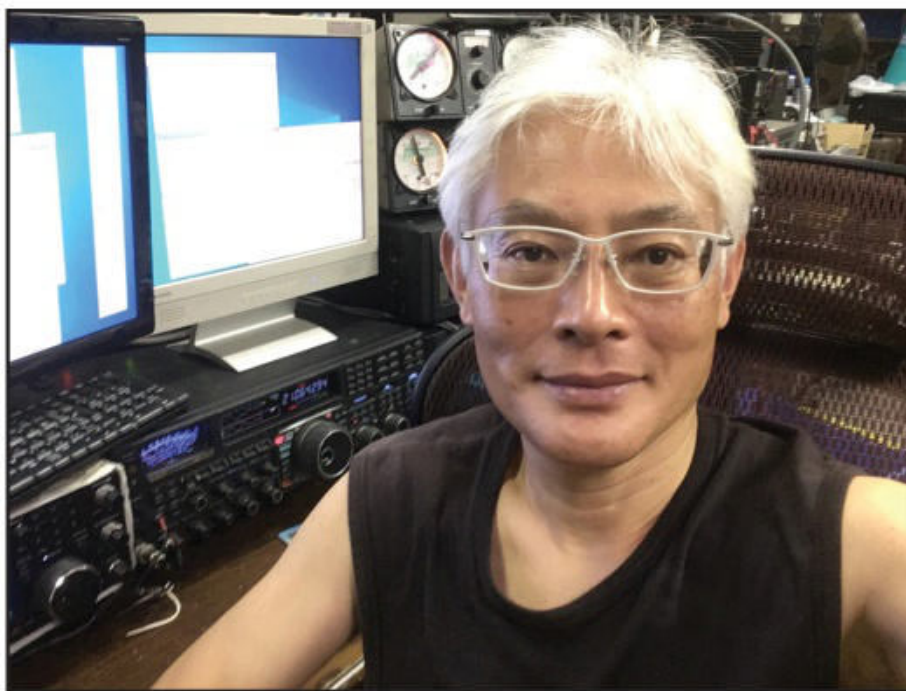


Photo E: JH4WBY enjoyed operating WPX SO2R from Japan.

Summary

Congrats to all the participants and plaque winners. And please view the complete results in the line scores. Conditions were good for this contest, with Cycle 25 starting to reach full swing. RTTY contesting can be fun, fast-paced and exciting!

Wall Hangings

Winning a plaque in a CQ WW contest is a great achievement, and often is one of the most coveted awards that one can hang on their shack wall. The opportunity to sponsor plaques is available, and can be great ways to establish regional excellence, or recognize a particular annual competition.

We would like to encourage you to review the plaques

awarded in this competition and reach out to the management team if you would like to sponsor one in the future.

Thank you for all the stories and photos from around the world! Keep them coming as a picture speaks a thousand words, and really enhances our coverage of this major worldwide RTTY WPX competition.

Please keep that in mind as you participate in these contests. Pictures of operators or teams of operators are the best. Send us yours for a chance to get it published in *CQ* magazine!

That's all for this time...

On behalf of the entire CQ RTTY management team: Chris Tate, N6WM; Ed Muns, WØYK and Rich Cady, N1IXF.

(Scores on page 96)

TOP SCORES IN VERY ACTIVE ZONES

<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 3</p> <p>K7RL.....3,550,008 N7GP.....1,782,810 NF6A.....934,570 VA7ST.....896,104 W6EU.....813,058</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 15</p> <p>YT3D.....2,566,256 IZ2FOS.....2,347,884 I4LCK.....2,234,194 *S51CK.....1,694,712 HG2DX.....1,016,178</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 4</p> <p>KI6DY.....2,406,552 N7WY.....1,768,200 NXØI.....1,070,399 ABØRX.....965,280 *N8CWU.....915,875</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 16</p> <p>EU8U.....1,738,275 *RA3Y.....1,484,964 UX5IO.....1,339,737 EW4A.....1,166,316 R5AN.....1,023,984</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 5</p> <p>N6AR.....2,653,326 N1RM.....2,191,196 AE1P.....1,979,364 VE2GSO.....1,978,470 W3LL.....1,772,880</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 20</p> <p>YO3VU.....1,346,080 YO3RU.....1,311,987 *LZ7X (LZ1UQ).....1,077,668 *YO6HSU.....736,568 *YO9BCM.....667,550</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 14</p> <p>*CR5O (CT7AJL).....2,614,108 G1N (GØURR).....2,147,850 OZ5W (SM5SIC).....1,848,174 DLØHMK (DF2HN).....1,781,605 *DJ4MX.....1,605,065</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Zone 25</p> <p>JH7QXJ.....887,692 JH7RTQ.....614,384 JA2AXB.....524,790 JR3NZC.....410,696 JA3HBF.....357,022</p>

Announcing:

The 2023 CQ World-Wide RTTY DX Contest

September 23-24, 2023

Starts 00:00:00 UTC Saturday Ends 23:59:59 UTC Sunday

Log Submission Deadline: 2359 UTC September 29, 2023

I. OBJECTIVE

For amateurs around the world to contact as many other amateurs in as many CQ zones, countries, and W/VE QTHs as possible.

II. BANDS

Five bands only: The 3.5, 7, 14, 21 and 28MHz bands. Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged.

III. CONTEST EXCHANGE

RST report plus CQ Zone (e.g., 599 05). Stations in the continental USA and Canada also send QTH (e.g., 599 05 MA). See IV.C.3. below.

IV. SCORING:

A. Score: The final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the sum of zone, country, and QTH multipliers. Example: 1,000 QSO points * (30 Zones + 70 Countries + 35 W/VE QTHs) = 135,000 (final score).

B. QSO Points: Stations may be contacted once on each band. QSO points are based on the location of the station worked.

1. Contacts between stations on different continents count three (3) points.

2. Contacts between stations on the same continent but in different countries count two (2) points.

3. Contacts between stations in the same country count one (1) point.

C. Multiplier: There are three (3) types of multipliers.

1. **Zone:** A multiplier of one (1) for each different CQ Zone contacted on each band. The CQ Worked All Zones rules are the standard.

2. **Country:** A multiplier of one (1) for each different country contacted on each band. The DXCC entity list, Worked All Europe (WAE) multiplier list plus IG9/IH9, and continental boundaries are the standards for defining country multipliers. Maritime mobile stations count only for a zone multiplier.

3. **W/VE QTH:** A multiplier of one (1) for each continental U.S. state (48), The District of Columbia and each Canadian call area (14) contacted on each band. Please use only U.S. Postal Service abbreviations to identify U.S. states (e.g., Michigan = MI, Massachusetts = MA, Ohio = OH, The District of Columbia = DC). Note: Alaska (KL7) and Hawaii (KH6) are counted as country multipliers only and not as state multipliers. Canadian call areas (14 total) are as follows: NB (VE9), NS (VE1), QC (VE2), ON (VE3), MB (VE4), SK (VE5), AB (VE6), BC (VE7), NWT (VE8), NF (VO1), LB (VO2), NU (VY0), YT (VY1), PEI (VY2).

V. ENTRY CATEGORIES:

A. Single Operator Categories: One person (the operator) performs all operating and logging functions. There is no limit on operating time or band changes. Only one transmitted signal is permitted at any time.

1. **Single Operator:** QSO finding assistance of any kind is prohibited (see VIII.2).

a. **High Power (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed 1,500 watts.

b. **Low Power (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed 100 watts.

c. **QRP (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed 5 watts.

2. **Single Operator Assisted:** Entrants in this category may use QSO finding assistance (see VIII.2).

a. **High Power Assisted (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed 1,500 watts.

b. **Low Power Assisted (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed 100 watts.

c. **QRP Assisted (All Band or Single Band):** Total output power must not exceed 5 watts.

B. Single Operator Overlay Categories: Any Single Operator entrant who meets the requirements may ALSO enter one of the categories shown below by adding the appropriate CATEGORY-OVERLAY line in the Cabrillo log file header. Overlay category entries will be listed separately in the results; scored as All Bands; and grouped by High Power and Low Power (includes QRP).

1. **Classic Operator (CLASSIC):** The entrant will use only one radio, no QSO finding assistance, and may operate up to 24 of the 48 hours — **off times are a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged.** If the log shows more than 24 hours of operation, only the first 24 hours will be counted for the overlay score. Receiving while transmitting is prohibited. Single Operator Assisted entries are not eligible for this category.

2. **Rookie (ROOKIE):** The operator was first licensed as a radio amateur less than three (3) years before the date of the contest. Indicate the date first licensed in the SOAPBOX field. Previous Rookie winners are ineligible for plaques in this category.

3. **Youth (YOUTH):** The operator was 25 years old or younger at the start of the contest. Indicate the birth year in the SOAPBOX field.

C. Multi-Operator Categories (all-band operation only): Any number of operators is allowed. QSO finding assistance is allowed. Only one transmitted signal per band is permitted at any time.

1. **Multi-Single:** Only one transmitted signal on one band permitted at any time (run station / signal). Exception: One — and only one — other transmitted signal (multiplier station / signal) may be used, if — and only if — it is on a different band from the run transmitted signal and the station worked is a new multiplier. The run and multiplier transmitted signals may each make a maximum of 8 band changes per clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). The log must indicate which transmitted signal (run or multiplier) made each QSO. The multiplier transmitted signal may not call CQ (solicit contacts).

a. **High Power:** Total output power must not exceed **1,500 watts** on any band at any time.

b. **Low Power:** Total output power must not exceed **100 watts** on any band at any time.

2. **Multi-Two:** A maximum of two transmitted signals may be used at any time, and they must be on two different bands. The log must indicate which station / signal made each QSO. Each station / signal may make a maximum of 8 band changes in any clock hour (00 through 59 minutes). Total output power must not exceed **1,500 watts** on any band at any time.

3. **Multi-Multi:** The five contest bands may be activated simultaneously. Only one transmitted signal per band is permitted at any time. Total output power must not exceed **1,500 watts** on any band at any time.

D. Explorer: The Explorer category allows amateurs to participate in the CQWW contest while encouraging innovation in operating strategies, station design, and technology adaptation. For full Explorer rules, go to <cqww.com/explorer.htm>.

E. Checklog: Entry submitted to assist with the log checking. The entry will not have a score in the results and the log will not be made public.

VI. AWARDS:

A single-band log will be eligible for a single-band award only. A log containing more than one band will be judged as an all-band entry unless specified as a single-band entry.

A. Certificates: Electronic certificates will be made available for download for everyone that submits an entry by the log deadline.

B. Plaques: Plaques are awarded for top performance in a number of categories. View the current list of plaques and sponsors at <cqwwrtty.com/plaques.htm>. Only one plaque will be awarded per entry. A station winning a plaque will not be considered for a sub-area award; the plaque will be awarded to the runner-up in that area.

VII. CLUB COMPETITION:

The club score is the total aggregate score from logs submitted by members. There are two separate club competition categories.

A. USA Clubs: Participation is limited to club members residing within a 250-mile radius circle from the center of club area.

B. DX Clubs: Participation is limited to club members residing within EITHER the DXCC country where the club is located OR within a 400-kilometer radius circle from the center of club.

C. General club rules:

1. National organizations (e.g., JARL, REF or DARC) are not eligible for the club competition.

2. Single-operator entries may only contribute to one club. Multi-operator scores may be allocated to multiple clubs as a percentage of the number of club members participating in the operation. The log entry must spell out the full club name (and club allocations if multi-op).

3. A minimum of four logs must be received for a club to be listed in the results. Checklog entries are not counted for the club score.

4. The word "reside" shall be defined as: To dwell permanently or continuously or to occupy a place as a person's fixed, permanent, and principal home for legal purposes.

VIII. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

1. Station location: The area in which all the transmitters, receivers, and antennas are located. All transmitters, receivers, and amplifiers must be within a single 500-meter

diameter circle. Antennas must be physically connected by RF transmission lines to the transmitters and receivers.

2. QSO finding assistance: The use of any technology or other source that provides callsign or multiplier identification of a signal to the operator, other than a single-channel RTTY decoder. This includes, but is not limited to, use of a multi-channel RTTY decoder, DX cluster, DX spotting websites (e.g., DX Summit), local or remote callsign and frequency decoding technology (e.g., RTTY Skimmer or Reverse Beacon Network), or operating arrangements involving other individuals.

IX. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL ENTRANTS:

1. Entrants must operate within the limits of their chosen category when performing any activity that could impact their submitted score.

2. A different callsign must be used for each entry. Only the entrant's callsign may be used to aid the entrant's score.

3. Do not exceed the total output power limitation of the chosen entry category on any band. Total output power on any band at any time is measured at the output of the active amplifier(s).

4. Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not permitted.

5. Remote operation is permitted if the physical location of all transmitters, receivers, and antennas are at one station location. A remotely operated station must obey all station license, operator license, and category limitations. The callsign used must be one issued or permitted by the Regulatory Authority of the station location.

6. Remote receivers outside of the station location are not permitted.

7. Only one signal on a band is allowed at any time. When two or more transmitters are present on the same band, a hardware device **MUST** be used to prevent more than one signal at any one time. Alternating CQs on two or more frequencies on a band is not permitted.

8. All requests for contacts, responses to calls, and copying of callsigns and contest exchanges must be accomplished during the contest period using the mode and frequencies of the contest.

9. Correction of logged callsigns and exchanges after the contest, by use of any database, recordings, email, or other methods, is not allowed.

10. Only 45.45-Baud, 170-Hz shift ITA2 mode is permitted.

X. LOG INSTRUCTIONS:

Electronic submission of logs is **required** for all entrants.

1. The log MUST show the following for each contact: Correct date and time in UTC, frequency (or band), callsign of the station worked, exchange sent, and exchange received. A log without all required information may be reclassified to Checklog. Contacts should be logged at the time they are completed. Stations competing for World and Continent awards must provide actual frequencies for all contacts in the log.

2. Single band entrants are required to include all contacts made during the contest period, even if on other bands. Only contacts made on the band specified in the Cabrillo header will be considered for scoring purposes. Logs with contacts only on one band will be classified as single-band entries.

3. The CABRILLO file format is the standard for logs. See <cqwwrtty.com/cabrillo.htm> for detailed instructions on filling out the CABRILLO file header. Failure to fill out the header correctly may result in the entry being placed in the wrong category or reclassified as a Checklog. Note: U.S. and Canada stations must indicate the station location in the CABRILLO header (e.g., LOCATION: OH); other stations indicate "DX" (e.g., LOCATION: DX).

4. **Web upload is the only method of log submission.** Web upload of logs is available at <cqwwrtty.com/logcheck>.

5. **Instructions for NON-CABRILLO electronic logs:** If you are not able to submit a CABRILLO format log, please contact the Contest Director for assistance with submitting another format.

6. **Entry Confirmation:** All logs received will be confirmed via email. A listing of logs received can be found at <cqwwrtty.com/logs_received.htm>.

7. **Log withdrawal:** An entrant may withdraw the submitted log for any reason within 30 days of the log deadline. Contact the Contest Director for instructions.

XI. LOG DEADLINE:

1. All entries must be sent **WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS** after the end of the contest: no later than **2359 UTC September 29, 2023**. Resubmitting an entry after the deadline will result in it being considered as a late log.

2. An extension may be requested at <cqwwrtty.com/contact>. The request must state a legitimate reason and must be received before the log deadline. Extensions are granted only upon confirmation by the Contest Director.

3. Logs submitted after the deadline may be listed in the results, but are not eligible for awards.

XII. JUDGING:

The CQWW RTTY DX Contest Committee is responsible for checking and adjudicating the contest entries. Entrants are expected to follow the rules and best amateur radio practices. Violation of the rules of the contest or unsportsmanlike conduct may lead to disciplinary action by the Committee.

A. Unsportsmanlike Conduct: Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Arranging or confirming any contacts during or after the contest by use of ANY non-amateur radio means such as telephones, internet, instant messaging, chat rooms, VoIP, email, social media, or websites.

2. Transmissions by the entrant on frequencies outside of license limitations.

3. Changing times in the log to meet band change or off time rules.

4. Taking credit for excessive unverifiable QSOs or unverifiable multipliers.

5. Signals with excessive bandwidth (e.g., splatter, clicks) or harmonics on other bands.

6. Running stations making more than three consecutive contacts without sending their callsign.

B. Audio Recordings: Any single oper-

ator entrant (see V.A.1) competing for a top five finish at the (a) World, (b) Continent, or (c) USA levels, including Classic Overlay, must record the transmitted and received audio as heard by the operator for the duration of the contest operation. The recording must be in a common format (e.g., mp3) and should include the audio to each ear as a separate channel. The recording must be a continuous recording (not a recording of individual QSOs). Time "off the air" (when not transmitting or receiving) does not have to be recorded. The recording may be requested by the Committee within 90 days after the log deadline to help adjudicate the log. The recording files must be provided by the entrant within 5 days of the request. **Failure to submit a requested audio recording may result in the reclassification of a log entry or disqualification.**

C. Disciplinary Actions: In the event of a violation, the entrant is subject to disqualification at the discretion of the Committee.

1. Disqualified entries will be listed at the end of the published results and are not eligible for an award.

2. Notification of Committee actions will be sent by email to the address provided with the log submission. The entrant has five days to appeal the decision to the Contest Director. After that time, the decision is final.

3. The Committee reserves the right to change the category of any entry based on its examination of the log or other information.

D. Log Checking: All logs are checked using custom software and human judgment.

1. Duplicate contacts are removed with no additional penalty.

2. Contacts with an incorrectly received exchange are removed with no additional penalty.

3. Callsign errors (bust) or callsigns not in the other log (NIL) are removed and receive a penalty of two times the QSO point value for that contact.

XIII. DECLARATION:

By submitting a CQWW RTTY DX Contest log, and in consideration of the efforts of the CQWW RTTY DX Contest Committee to review and evaluate that log, an entrant unconditionally and irrevocably agrees that he/she has: 1) read and understood the rules of the contest and agrees to be bound by them, 2) operated according to all rules and regulations that pertain to amateur radio for the station location, 3) agreed the log entry may be made open to the public, and 4) accepted that the issuing of disqualifications and other decisions of the Committee are official and final. If an entrant is unwilling or unable to agree to all of the foregoing, the entrant should not submit the entry or submit the entry as a Checklog only.

Questions pertaining to the CQWW RTTY DX Contest rules may be submitted through at <cqwwrtty.com/contact.htm>. Answers for many frequently asked questions can be found at <cqwwrtty.com/faq.htm>.

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Ships Fast From The Arkansas River Valley

Announcing:

2023 Inductees to the CQ Amateur Radio, Contest, and DX Halls of Fame

CQ Magazine is pleased to announce the induction of two new members to the CQ DX Hall of Fame, three inductees to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame (one of whom tragically became a Silent Key just days before the induction ceremony), and four new members of the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

The CQ DX Hall of Fame (started in 1967) and the CQ Contest Hall of Fame (started in 1986) were established to recognize those amateurs who have made major contributions to DXing and contesting, respectively. The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, started in 2001, recognizes those who have made major contributions to amateur radio as a whole, as well as radio amateurs who have made major contributions to society at large.

DX and Contest Hall of Fame inductees were announced at the respective Dayton DX and Contest dinners during Hamvention® in May. Here are this year's inductees:

CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

We have four new members of the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame this year, bringing the total number of honorees to 349. The 2023 inductees are:

Andrew "Andy" Andros, WØLTE (SK), and brother **Theodore "Ted" Andros, WØURN (SK)**, founders of Hy-Gain Corp. Their first antenna, the TH-3 triband trap beam, got the company off to a solid start. Hy-Gain went on to become a major antenna manufacturer for the amateur, CB, military, and diplomatic markets; later sold to Telex and then to MFJ Enterprises, which continues to produce Hy-Gain antennas, rotors, and accessories.

John G. "Jack" Curtis, K6KU (SK) – Revolutionized CW keying by developing circuitry for an iambic memory keyer and putting it on a chip. The chips were later integrated into many commercial transceivers featuring built-in electronic keyers.

Gerald "Jerry" Lawson, WA6LVN (SK) – Pioneer of home video games, leading the team that developed the first cartridge-based video game controller at Fairchild Semiconductor. This allowed users for the first time to switch between multiple games while using a single controller. He was also one of the few African-American engineers working in the computer industry as the first video games were developed.

CQ Contest Hall of Fame

The 2023 inductees to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame are:

Kirk Pickering, K4RO – A founding member, past president, and past vice president of the Tennessee Contest Group and webmaster of the TCG website, Kirk (Photo A) has hosted many new contesters at multi-ops from his home station. He is a three-time US winner in the ARRL Sweepstakes CW/QRP category and has been a regular top-ten finisher in multiple contests. He is also a past editor and

columnist ("Contesting 101") for the *National Contest Journal*.

Ken Claerbout, K4ZW – An accomplished contester both domestically and as DX, Ken (Photo B) has operated from over a dozen countries around the world. He is also a driving force in the ongoing training and mentoring of students at ET3AA, the radio club at the Addis Ababa University School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in Ethiopia. On a recent visit, he helped students install one of the few HF skimmers in Africa to feed the Reverse Beacon Network. He has served in multiple positions for the YASME Foundation and is past president of the Potomac Valley Radio Club. In that role, he began a series of contesting-related webinars that has morphed into today's Contest University.



Photo A. CQ World Wide DX Contest Director John Dorr, K1AR, presents 2023 CQ Contest Hall of Fame plaque to Kirk Pickering, K4RO, at the Contest Dinner in Dayton, Ohio. (Photo by Bob Wilson, N6TV)



Photo B. K1AR presents CQ Contest Hall of Fame plaque to Ken Claerbout, K4ZW, May 20th, 2023, at the Dayton Contest Dinner. (N6TV photo)



Photo C. Philipp Springer, DK6SP, accepts CQ Contest Hall of Fame plaque from K1AR for Ben Buettner, DL6RAI, who tragically became a Silent Key just two days earlier in a tower accident in Aruba. (N6TV photo)

Bernhard “Ben” Buettner, DL6RAI (SK) – An avid contester and contest administrator who operated from 49 different DX entities over his long career in ham radio, Ben was a co-founder and past president of the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC) and helped develop and maintain the club’s DX cluster, the first in Germany. He was also a past director of the Worked All Europe DX Contest (WAEDC). In that role, he spearheaded the conversion from paper to electronic logging and the introduction of electronic log checking. Ben was also a former member of the CQWW Contest Committee, served as IT manager for WRTC-2018 in Germany, and was a beta tester for Win-Test contest logging software. Ben tragically became a Silent Key just days before the Dayton Hamvention as a result of a tower accident at his P49V contest station in Aruba. His plaque was accepted at the contest dinner by Philipp Springer, DK6SP to take back to Ben’s family (Photo C).

CQ DX Hall of Fame

The 2023 inductees to the CQ DX Hall of Fame are:

Arecio “Al” Hernandez, K3VN – Al (Photo D) has been deeply involved in DX expeditions to many rare and difficult to reach destinations. He has traveled to more than 100 countries, operated from at least 20 of them and has participated in close to a dozen award-winning expeditions. Al is a prolific public speaker and author. His first DX expedition article



Photo D. Arecio “Al” Hernandez, K3VN (right), accepts his CQ DX Hall of Fame plaque from CQ Awards Editor Steve Molo, KI4KWR, at the Southwest Ohio DX Association DX Dinner on May 19, 2023 (Photo by Hal Turley, W8HC)



Phoro E. KI4KWR presents a 2023 CQ DX Hall of Fame plaque at the Dayton DX Dinner to Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA. (W8HC photo)

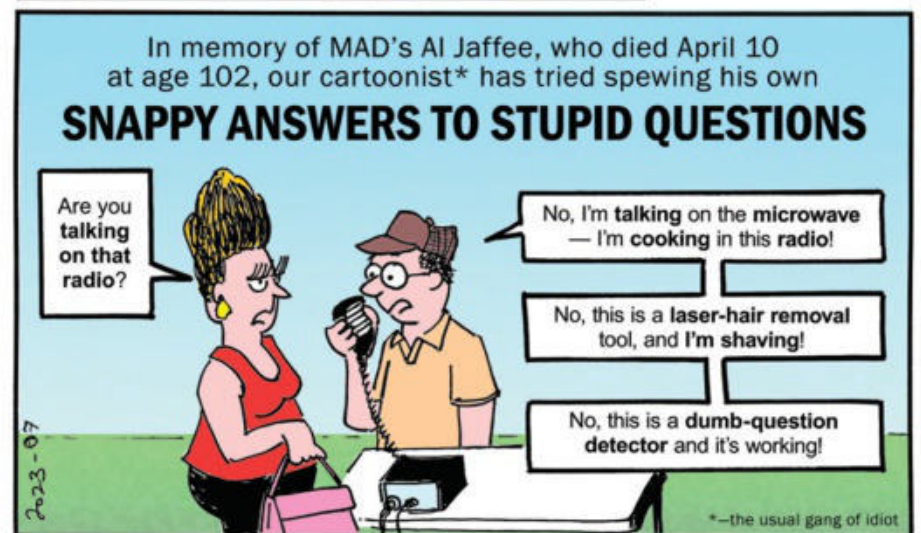
was published in CQ in 1976. He is an expert in electromagnetic interference and compatibility and holds seven patents in the field.

Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA – Adrian (Photo E) has been on 30 DXpeditions in just over seven years, including the recent 3YØJ expedition to Bouvet Island. He actively promotes amateur radio to young people in places that he visits (assuming it’s a location with people!) and is frequently the voice or face of various trips to the amateur community, appearing on interview shows and writing about the adventures for CQ and other publications. Adrian is also the tech support person for 4U1UN, the amateur station at United Nations headquarters in New York City and can frequently be found operating there when he isn’t traveling to some remote part of the world.

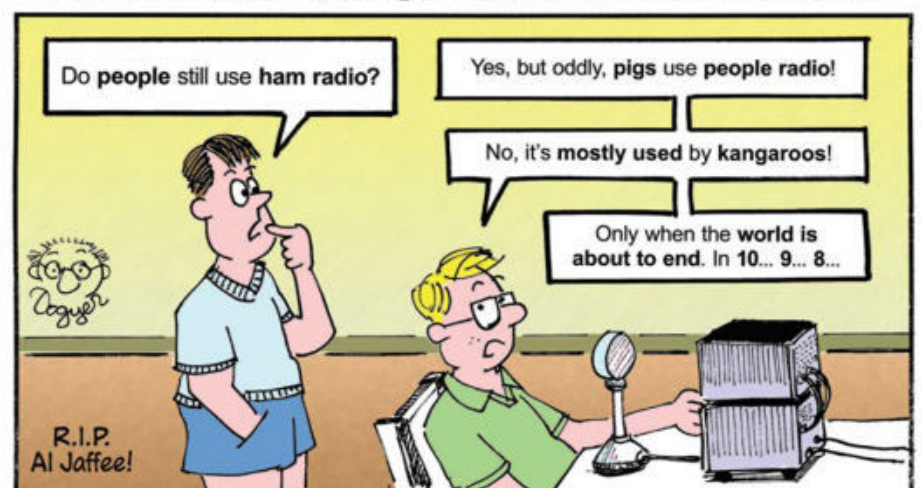
spurious signals

By Jason Togyer W3MCK
www.jaythurbershow.com

RIP-OFFS ARE THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY DEP’T.:



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A conference on the ionosphere and plans to learn more about it during two upcoming solar eclipses brought together ham radio citizen scientists and professional space scientists for a workshop in Pennsylvania. Even if you weren't there, you can take part in the research by getting on the radio.

“Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds”

An Overview of the HamSCI 2023 Workshop and the Upcoming Solar Eclipses

BY RON WILCOX,* KF7ZN



Photo A: The 2023 HamSCI workshop at The University of Scranton was well-attended by space scientists, college students and radio amateurs. (Photos by Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, except as noted)

HamSCI – the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, a collaboration between the amateur radio and professional space science communities (see sidebar for basic information) – held its sixth annual workshop this spring at The University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

This year was an outstanding success. It was hosted by The University of Scranton with major funding and support from the NSF (National Science Foundation), and ARDC (Amateur Radio Digital Communications). In addition, DX Engineering donated ten \$100 gift certificates, an ICOM transceiver for door prizes and an ACOM 1010 HF amplifier to the W3USR campus radio club. ARRL also donated books for the door prizes and to W3USR. These grants,

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financial aid, and support were a major factor in the success of the workshop. This year's theme was “Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds.” Organizations represented at the workshop included the ARRL, Youth on the Air Region 2 (YOTA), ARDC, NSF and NASA.

On Friday morning, the workshop received a warm welcome and introduction by Dr. Michelle Maldonado, Provost of The University of Scranton. One personal story she shared was how her grandparents and father would listen to the radio as it became a lifeline to their homeland, Cuba, and the importance of radio communication in their lives.

Presentations

There were different components to the two-day workshop. On Friday and on Saturday morning we were treated to a series of outstanding presentations (Photo A). In person presenters came from different countries including Canada,

Poland, and England, as well as the United States, with multiple universities and science organizations represented. There were virtual presenters from Canada, England, and Egypt. These presenters came from diverse backgrounds, giving us a rich and rewarding experience. This included highly technical backgrounds, college students (both undergraduate and postgraduate), and citizen science ham radio operators. All the presentations are available at <hamsci.org/hamsci2023>. The breadth and range of topics, all related to space weather and ham radio, were amazing. For those attending, there was the option of in person or virtual for the presentations.

There were presentation updates on the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station Project (PSWS), including the TangerineSDR, Grape Version 2, and ground magnetometers. While it is beyond the scope of this article to provide in-depth detail, here is a brief overview.

The Grape is a specialized HF radio receiver that measures Doppler shifts observed on the carriers of time standard stations such as WWV. The Grape is the low-cost version of the Personal Space Weather Station and is designed by John Gibbons, N8OBJ, an engineer at Case Western Reserve University. At the HamSCI workshop, John unveiled Grape version 1.12 and talked about progress with Grape Version 2, which will be able to monitor three simultaneous channels. While providing daily data for space weather research, they will be an important part of the research on eclipses. An excellent source with a more in-depth overview and explanation is Dr. Kristina Collins, KD8OXT's, paper at <<https://tinyurl.com/389kcwka>>, and the HamSCI Grape Website <<https://hamsci.org/grape>>.

The ground magnetometer module of the PSWS is used to monitor changes in Earth's magnetic field due to variations in currents in the ionosphere and space. Ground magnetometer measurements are an important part of HF radio propagation prediction, as it is this type of data that is used to generate the Kp index that is well known to the amateur radio community.

PSWS ground magnetometer kits were available for sale

to the general public for the first time at this year's HamSCI workshop. The kits were on display at the TAPR booth, with magnetometer engineers and scientists on hand to demonstrate. People interested in fielding a ground magnetometer should have a relatively rural site away from power lines, metal, and other things that might disturb magnetic field measurements. For more information see <<https://tinyurl.com/2ydj2z6u>> and <<https://hamsci.org/magnetometer>>.

TangerineSDR is a modular software defined radio project from TAPR and HamSCI. It will incorporate a highly stable oscillator and accurate timestamping. The current status of the TangerineSDR project was presented by TAPR member/engineer Tom McDermott, N5EG.

Looking Toward (But Not AT) Future Eclipses

With upcoming solar eclipses a significant focus of HamSCI, there were multiple presentations on this topic. In "A Few Science Questions that HamSCI Can Help Address During the 2023 and 2024 Eclipses," Dr. Gareth Perry, KD2SAK, of the New Jersey Institute of Technology, outlined some of the significant science questions that these eclipses may answer. For example: will the different geometries of the 2023 and 2024 eclipses as well as the fact that they are annular and total eclipses, respectively, have a significant effect on the asymmetry of the bottomside evolution of the ionosphere during the eclipse?

In "Engaging the Amateur Radio Community with the Festivals of Eclipse Ionospheric Science," Gary Mikitin, AF8A, HamSCI Amateur Radio Community Coordinator, gave an overview of the components of the Solar Eclipse QSO Party and HamSCI's progress to date. Finally, in "Two Solar Eclipses and A Solar Max: The Heliophysics Big Year," Dr. Esayas Shume from NASA gave an invitation from NASA to the public and academic community to participate in sun science activities during NASA's Heliophysics Big Year, which runs from October 2023 to December 2024.

There were multiple presentations on TIDs (traveling ionospheric disturbances), which are wave-like variations in ionospheric electron densities. Amateur radio operators are likely



Photo B: Gamal Zayed from Egypt (virtual), Matthew Downs from England, and Marcin Lesniowski from Poland, were among the international presenters at the workshop.

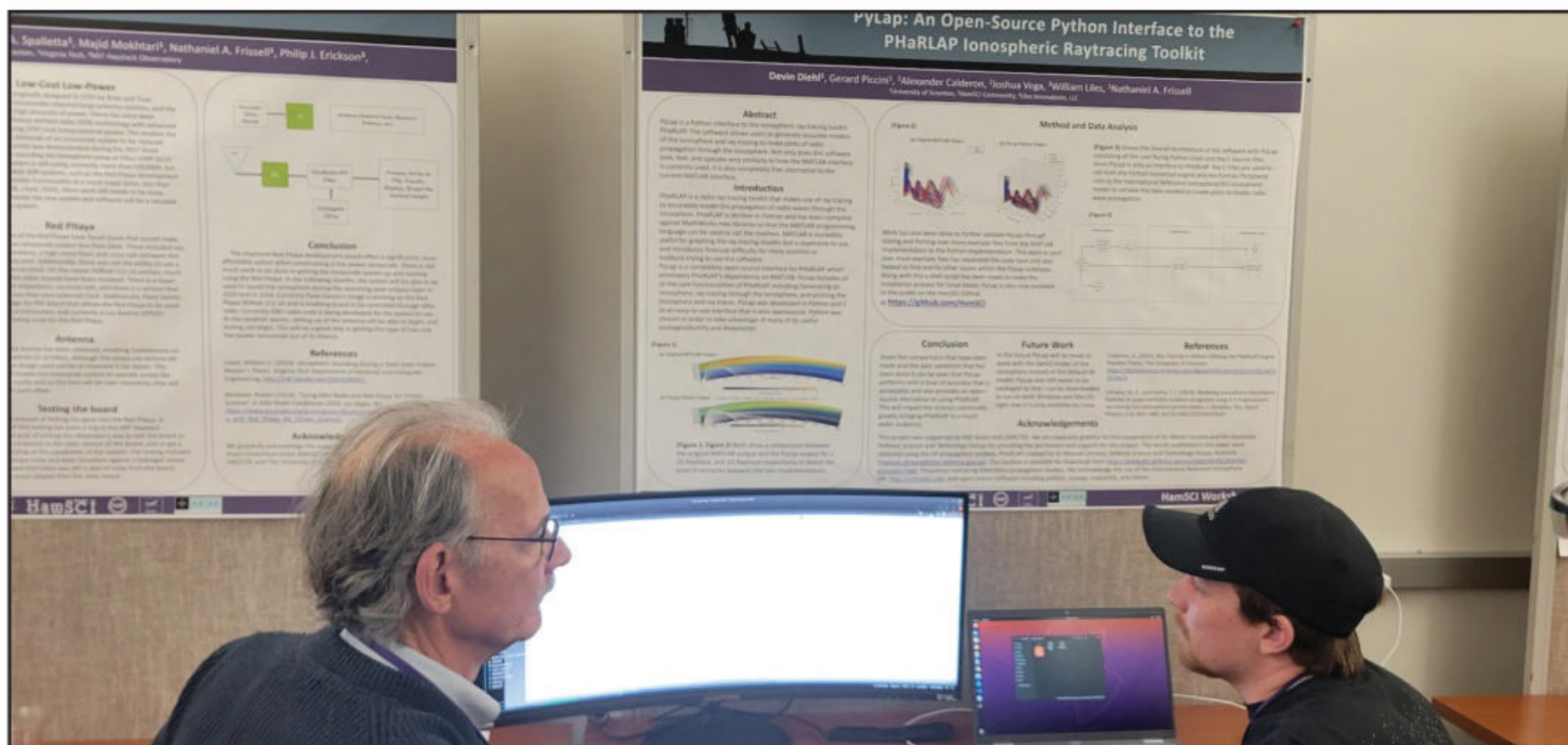


Photo C: Two of the posters from the workshop's poster session

most familiar with TIDs in that they are a typical cause of periodic HF fading (QSB). Visualizations and analysis of TID observations collected by WSPRNet, the RBN (Reverse Beacon Network), and PSKReporter amateur radio systems, as well as the professional SuperDARN ionospheric radar network, were a part of the presentations. Results suggested that sources of the TIDs include both energy from space (i.e., the aurora) and from the neutral atmosphere (e.g., the polar vortex). Presenters also showed effects of the Tonga volcano on the ionosphere, which was quite impressive.

Another presentation of interest was by Gamal Zayed from Egypt (virtual), Matthew Downs from England, and Marcin Lesniowski from Poland (Photo B). Their project, "Evaluation of Global Ionospheric TEC Using Simultaneous Observations from Amateur Radio Networks, International Space Station, and NeQuickG Model for Space Weather Prediction" (*TEC stands for total electron content – ed.*) was recognized as a global finalist in the 2022 NASA International Space Apps Challenge. This is a very significant achievement, as it is awarded to only the top 35 teams out of over 3000 submissions.

Posters and Demonstrations

After lunch on Saturday we were able to view the posters, operate radio station W3USR, visit the display tables, and view the exhibits. The posters were not posters in the traditional sense that many might think of (put away the crayons and chalk), but meeting scientific inquiry with an abstract, introduction, method, data, analysis, and conclusion as appropriate. They were three by four feet, and their topics were fascinating. Like the presentations, they explored experiments and topics related to ionospheric research and citizen scientists. A few of them can be seen in Photo C, with the rest to be found on <hamsci.org/hamsci2023e>.

A poster by Elaine Kollar, K3VQR (Murgas Amateur Radio Club), entitled "The Radio Priest, Scientist, Inventor, Artist and Naturalist," was about Father Joseph Murgas. Father Murgas emigrated from Slovakia to the United States in 1896 and became the pastor of Sacred Heart church in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (~20 miles south of Scranton). In 1905,

What is HamSCI?

HamSCI is the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation, a group that aims to bring together the amateur radio and professional space science communities for mutual benefit. HamSCI has the distinction of being one of 34 official NASA Citizen Science Projects (see <science.nasa.gov/citizenscience>). These are projects teaming up scientists and members of the public, who are called citizen scientists. The NASA website defines a citizen scientist as a volunteer who collaborates with scientists. According to NASA, this has led to thousands of scientific discoveries covering a wide range of scientific topics which you can view on their website.

HamSCI brings together scientists, ham radio operators, and those with an interest in space weather and space science. Our lead is Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, an assistant professor in physics and electrical engineering at The University of Scranton.

There are many intriguing questions and phenomena associated with the ionosphere and radio propagation. The HamSCI website lists some of those questions and the goals we are pursuing:

- How does the ionosphere respond to inputs from space and from the neutral atmosphere?
- How does the ionosphere couple with the neutral atmosphere and with space?
- What are the sources of medium and large scale traveling ionospheric disturbances?
- What are the causes of Sporadic E?
- How do disturbances such as solar flares, geomagnetic storms, and traveling ionospheric disturbances affect radio wave propagation?
- How does ionospheric science help amateur radio operators improve communications?
- How can I use my existing radio equipment to help with science initiatives?

The sixth annual HamSCI Workshop examined these and other questions.

he successfully demonstrated the first multi-tone radiotelegraph system in front of the U.S. Navy, investors, scientists, and the public, over the twenty miles from Wilkes-Barre to Scranton.

A sampling of other topics included:

- “Low-Cost Low-Power Ionosonde,” by Gerard Piccini, KD2ZHK (The University of Scranton).
- “Personal Space Weather Station Central Control and Database System,” Anderson B. Liddle and Nicholas Muscolino (The University of Alabama)
- “SDRs in Time and Frequency Metrology,” by Aidan Montare, KB3UMD (National Institute of Standards and Technology / NIST)
- “FDTD for Geophysical Applications,” by Apoorva Pedgaonkar (University of Utah)

We were able to walk through “Amateur Radio Through the Ages,” an exhibit of ham radio history with early to recent radios, testing equipment, QSL cards, and related gear from the early days of the hobby. Truly a fun stroll down memory lane. This was set up by Bill Gallagher WA3RA, and the Murgas Amateur Radio Club, K3YTL. Bill gave informative tours of these exhibits on Saturday afternoon (Photo D).

Banquet Keynote Address

Our keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet was Dr Patricia Reiff, W5TAR, from Rice University, speaking on “Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds” (Photo E). Dr. Reiff has a long and extensive history of involving students, lay people, and scientists in collaboration. Her background with NASA and the educational field was evident as she shared

discoveries by ham radio operators in the fields of science and how to involve everyone interested.

W3USR Special Event Station, VE Session, and Concluding Events

W3USR was set up as a special event station and those licensed were able to get on the air and make contacts for the station. We were given a tour of the future location of where their radio station will be permanently based. The college has allowed them to use a nice room with a great view from the fourth floor looking out over the campus and downtown Scranton. A nearly \$200,000 ARDC grant is providing for the construction of a high-end amateur radio station with HF, VHF, UHF, microwave, and satellite capabilities. Additional support for the station is provided by Dr. Mary Lou West, KC2NMC; Edward Hays, N6XEM, and DX Engineering.

For those wanting to get their ham radio license, there was a testing session put on by VEs from Scranton-Pocono Amateur Radio Club (SPARK) and the Murgas Amateur Radio Club.

Saturday night was our final dinner and goodbyes for many of us as we prepared to return home, looking forward to next year’s workshop.

Getting Involved: 2023/2024 Solar Eclipses

In 2017, we had a total solar eclipse here in North America. I remember being in Oregon with no vacancies in local motels, lines at the gas station and heavy traffic on the mountain roads. Later, as we were driving home across the flat desert of Nevada we could see this shadow, behind us, covering



Photo D: Ham radio history display (Photo by Ann Marie Rogalcheck-Frissell, KC2KRQ)



Photo E: Friday night banquet keynote speaker Dr. Patricia Reiff, W5TAR.

everything in sight and rapidly overtaking us, hovering over us, and then moving past. What an experience. Where were you? What were you doing?

I did not know it at the time, but ham radio operators and scientists were teaming up during the 2017 Solar Eclipse QSO Party event <hamsci.org/seqp2017>. Why were they involved? An eclipse is not just an exciting and fascinating event, it is an important opportunity to study the ionosphere under rapidly changing conditions (daytime to nighttime and back to daytime). This has led to important discoveries in the past about the sun, with a promise of more to come. These changes and discoveries can lead to an increased understanding of the ionosphere and its impact on satellites, radio communications, and GPS signals. Data from ham radio operators on the air during eclipses is a valuable contribution to this knowledge and research. Many operators were on the air then, and now that same opportunity is coming twofold.

There are two eclipses coming up. There will be an annular solar eclipse on October 14th of this year, and a total solar eclipse next April 8th. They are going to cut a swath across the continental United States, and ham radio operators will be able to contribute. To celebrate this and add to our knowledge of the ionosphere, we are having another Solar Eclipse QSO Party. We are asking as many operators as possible to be on the air and active during the eclipses. As in 2017, this will create important data which will then be analyzed, with results made available for everyone to see and will aid in the knowledge of space weather. There will be something for

everyone, including: 160-6 meters, all modes, WSPR, FST4W, and CW/digital beacons. Please see the HamSCI website, <hamsci.org>, for more information and details about the Solar Eclipse QSO Party. By going to the HamSCI website you will also find information about eclipses, space weather, HamSCI itself, past presentations, published papers, further sources and websites, and a speaker's bureau with topics that might be of interest or help. What we need and are asking for is operators on the air. Whether you are an avid contester or a newly licensed ham radio operator with little experience, this is the place for you.

Final Thoughts

My personal experience with this year's workshop/convention was extremely positive. There were topics, events, demonstrations, posters, presentations, and tours that covered so many facets of the ionosphere and space weather. This event was inclusive. Anyone with an interest in the science of space weather, wanting to be a citizen scientist or just contribute as a ham radio operator, was made to feel very welcome. There were many scientists involved as well. The theme of forging amateur-professional bonds was a total success. Thanks to everyone who aided in this accomplishment.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, for his help and guidance.

Sources

NASA Heliophysics <<https://science.nasa.gov/heliophysics>>

NASA Citizen Science <<https://science.nasa.gov/citizenscience>>

NSF Aeronomy Website (Provided ~\$50k of funding for the workshop, plus is the major funder for the PSWS project, the Grape Eclipse Project, and the MSTID studies): <<https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/aeronomy>>

ARDC Website <<https://www.ardc.net/>>

HamSCI website <<https://hamsci.org/>>

Roll your eyes skyward, mumble a bit, estimate the free space path loss between two antennas in half a minute while friends reach for their cell phones or calculators.

Free Space Path Loss Estimator

BY MICHAEL TOIA,* K3MT

Determining the signal loss in free space between two antennas involves just a bit of calculation, and estimating that loss (which is good enough for most ham radio purposes) can often be done in your head. Here's how to do it:

Loss, for isotropic antennas separated by

One wavelength:		22 dB
Distance doubles	add	6 dB
Ten times distance	add	20 dB

Next, subtract the gain of both antennas. Here's how:
We'll start with two 2-meter beams, 8 kilometers apart:

Separation Distance	Change	Loss
2 meters	Base	22 dB
20 meters	+20 dB	42 dB
200 meters	+20 dB	62 dB
2 kilometers	+20 dB	82 dB
4 kilometers	+6 dB	88 dB
8 kilometers	+6 dB	94 dB

Suppose antenna gains are: 5 dBi and 6 dBi, respectively.

Subtract $5 + 6 = -11$ dB

Estimated Path Loss: 83 dB

Corrections

In real life, of course, antennas are not always a convenient distance apart. So a correction factor needs to be applied to compensate for variations from either double or ten times the distance. Here are a few to get you into the ballpark (remember, all of these are estimates):

$\pm 12\% \pm 1$ dB $\pm 25\% \pm 2$ dB $\pm 32\% \pm 3$ dB

Here are a couple of examples of applying the correction factors:

Path length is 12% **less** than 8 kilometers:
Path length = $8000 - 960$ meters ~ 7000 meters
Estimated Path Loss: 82 dB

Path length is 25% **more** than 8 kilometers:
Path length = $8000 + 2000$ meters = 10000 meters
Estimated Path Loss: 85 dB

Path length is 32% **less** than 8 kilometers:
Path length = $8000 - 2560$ meters ~ 5500 meters
Estimated Path Loss: 80 dB

These calculations are scalable for various wavelengths and distances. Try plugging in some HF wavelengths (e.g., 20 meters) and international distances and see what you get. The results will be eye-openers!

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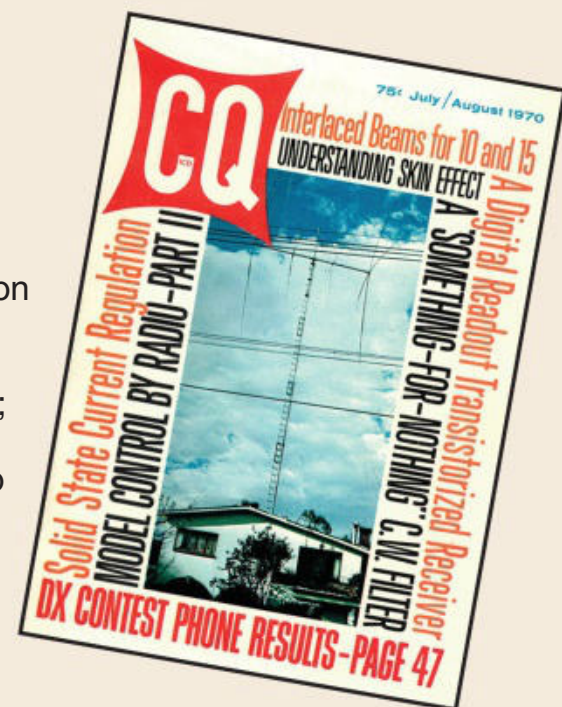
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CQ CLASSIC:

Touching Lots of Bases...

This month's CQ Classic is a reprint of our July/August 1970 DX column, which touches on several bases covered in this month's issue. First, it introduces only the fifth member of CQ's DX Hall of Fame, H. Dale Strieter, W4DQS (the DX Hall of Fame was started in 1967 and the first four members were Gus Browning, W4BPD; John Cummings, W2CTN; Dick Spenceley, KV4AA, and Danny Weil, VP2VB) – this year's inductees are introduced elsewhere in this issue. Among Dale's accomplishments were participation in the first two DXpeditions to Malpelo Island, which happens to be the geographic topic of this month's DX column! Plus, some timeless tips on keeping ham radio in the public eye! Enjoy!



BY JOHN A. ATTAWAY, * K4IIF

*“Unblemish'd let me live or die unknown;
Oh, grant an honest fame, or grant me none!”*

—ALEXANDER POPE

This month we honor a new member to DX-dom's most prestigious group, the DX Hall of Fame. This man is probably the least publicized major DX figure in the United States. Although he played a prominent role in the organization and operation of seven major DXpeditions during the past 12 years, his name is relatively unknown except among the people most knowledgeable in DX affairs.

His initial effort was the first DXpedition in history to Navassa Island, the KC4AF operation, in March, 1958 when he was W8DJN. What a way to begin! Also in this group effort were Don Chesser, W4KVX, then DX Editor of CQ; Jake Schott, W8FGX, now police chief of Cincinnati, Ohio; and other members of the Ohio Valley Radio Association.

Navassa was pretty hard to top, but for an encore he made an important contribution as an operator on the first DXpedition to Malpelo in March, 1961, when he, W6HAW, W9EVI, and W0NWX were guests of the Liga Columbiana Radio Aficionados. In 1962 he conceived and organized two DXpeditions by the Florida DX Club gang to Bajo Nuevo (HK0AB) and Serrana Bank (KS4BF).

For three years this man rested from firsthand participation in DXpeditions, but came out of retirement in 1965 to make a major contribution to the organization, procurement of gear, and actual operation of the first DXpedition to San Felix Island, CE0XA. In more recent time he has figured as an organizer and operator for the second HK0TU expedition to Malpelo in 1969, and the Ernie Hendry DXpedition to Navassa, also in 1969. Informed DXers know by now that this could be more than H. Dale Strieter, W4DQS, DX Hall of Fame.

In selecting Dale for this honor, your DX Committee took into consideration many contributions other than his activity in DXpeditions. Dale has always been a well-rounded DXer and overall amateur. Over the years, without publicity and fanfare, he has acquired, refurbished, and sent equipment into South America and Africa to help get new hams on the air. He served as QSL Manager for the 1961 HK0TU operation, and for ZD8J, HK1QQ, CE0XA, TJ1QQ, HK0AB, and KS4BF. He has been a section winner in many ARRL DX and Sweepstakes Contests, and finished in the top five nation-



Installation of Danny Weil, VP2VB, into the DX Hall of Fame at the West Gulf DX Club dinner on Monday, April 6, 1970. Left to right: Don Busick, K5AAD, West Gulf member of the CQ DX Committee; Danny himself; and Hal Sears, W5NC (ex-K5JLQ) a member of Yasm board during the “Danny days.” (Photo by WA5LES).



Hal Whitaker, CT3AS. Photo by Edna Brannen, WA4EPM, during her recent visit to Madeira.

ally in the c.w. division on several occasions. Dale is a past president of the Florida DX Club, a member of the All Operator's Club and First Class Operator's Club, and is currently Director of the Southeastern Division of ARRL. Congratulations Dale!

De Extra

If you told some of your casual acquaintances that you were a DXer how would they react? Would they think it was your fraternity, or maybe that you were confessing to a mental illness or a social disease? Would they start avoiding you? They might know what you meant, but I bet 98% wouldn't. Two years ago a couple of senior citizens strolled by my house and silently contemplated the stacked 40 meter beam and tribander at 60 feet in the backyard. Finally breaking the silence one remarked "why does anybody in this neighborhood think they need a TV antenna that big." If you mentioned in a conversation that you had stacked beams at your house they would probably think you were bragging about your wife's figure. However, that's beside the point.

The point is that amateur radio in general and DXers in particular have fallen pretty far behind in educating the public. Every time you read of an injunction against somebody's tower or of an amateur being sued for some ridiculous sum of money because of TVI it drives that simple truth home. Unfortunately, since we DXers and Contesters usually have the tallest towers and highest power in a particular area its all too likely to be one of our soul brothers who's catching the static.

I had an eye-opener recently when taking a taxi to the airport of a large northwestern city. I asked the cabby what he thought of ham radio. His answer was that "hams were sorta radio pi'neers in the 20's and 30's that spear-minted with shortwave and helped out the Red Cross during 'mergencies." He went on to say that "hams weren't around anymore. People like that repaired TV sets." Well brother it may come to that if we don't get busy.

What can you do? Plenty! First of all, never miss an opportunity to volunteer your station for public service. Mobile units can frequently be useful in crowd management and at many types of outdoor functions requiring communication between groups at separated locations. Use your imagination. On the spot talk-power is welcome in all kind of instances, some nobody has even thought of yet. Demonstration stations set up to relay messages and originate traffic at fairs, expositions, and large shopping centers get much favorable attention.

There is no finer use for your station than supplying communications for families of service men overseas, particularly those in southeast Asia. This can be done through MARS and through established nets. A note to ARRL should get you a listing of many other opportunities to help out J.Q. Public.

Service clubs are always seeking a fresh program and good presentations on amateur radio are very welcome. Over the years I've talked to Sertoma, Kiwanis, and Rotary clubs in at least 3 different cities, and have always been well received. All it takes is a dipole, a transceiver, and a little gab. A pre-arranged sked with a TG9, YV5, HK3, or KP4 is usually easy to arrange and a big hit. Encourage high school science teachers to become hams and set up stations in their schools. This is a very effective way to propagate the hobby.

No matter how you decide to proceed, don't be bashful about publicity. That's the name of the game! Write up your own press release if you have to. Type it dou-



Two top DXers pose on Tristan de Cunha. On the left is Andy, VE1 ASJ/HP9FC/H09FC/ZD9 - BP. On the right Ray, ZD9BP.

ble-spaced and your local paper will welcome it. They can't have a reporter everywhere all the time, and they need interesting items.

It's nice to sit back in the evening and admire the wall full of rare QSL cards and fancy certificates. Remember though, if we don't carry our weight, contemplating those cards and certificates may one day be the only activity still left for us.

DX Editor Away

If you mailed in your cards for WAZ during the month of June and they haven't been returned please stay cool. K4IIF was in Europe for most of the month and has a tremendous backlog of applications to process and letters to write. He hopes to have everything back to normal by mid-July.

Amateur Radio in India

Information for this article was sent to CQ by Mr. G. V. Sulu, VU2GV, well known Indian radio historian and chief promoter of amateur radio in India.

"Amateur Radio got its start in India right at the very beginning of Wireless itself. The late Sir J. C. Bose, who investigated the quasioptical properties of very short electromagnetic waves during the interval 1890-1900, is considered to be the first ham of India. Bose was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for his work on the response of plants to electric waves.

"No records of early conventional ham activities are available. However, we know that by 1923 a handful of VU hams were working DX stations in Australia and South Africa. By 1924 there were about 30 hams with a couple of small clubs, and by 1925 VU hams were communicating with all parts of the world.

"In 1924 when the Madras Presidency Radio Club transmitted programs through its station 2GR it was the beginning of broadcasting in India. In those days hams could broadcast music and other type programs as well. Club stations 2FV and 2BZ of Bombay and Calcutta followed Madras within a year. They broadcasted in the medium waves with 40-100 watts power. In 1925 the Radio Club of Bengal in Calcutta brought out the first monthly ham magazine entitled *Radio*. It was edited by G. Briggs, 2CZ, and included the Callbook.

"In 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company was formed and took over commercial broadcasting. Consequently Indian hams were prohibited from broadcasting and the power of their transmitters was restricted to 10 watts. To protect the interests of Indian amateurs during these difficult years the Indian Radio Society was formed in Bombay in 1929. It had about 100 members all over the country and published a monthly entitled *IRS Circular*. It also operated India's first QSL Bureau for 2 years, after which it was discontinued due to lack of interest in the part of the members. When

World War II broke out in 1939 all ham activity was suspended.

"When licenses were reissued after the war, there were about 40 hams. In 1948 VU2BU collected a band of enthusiasts at the School of Signals in Mhow and formed the Amateur Radio Club of India (ARCI). ARCI was responsible for bringing in more hams, particularly from the Defense Services. It ran regular contests, issued certificates, and organized an SWL League and a QSL Bureau. However, in 1952 when VU2BU was transferred the ARCI came to a standstill. Three years later VU2HM took over the work, shifted the club to Delhi, and registered it as a Society—the present Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI).

"By the close of 1968 there were about 480 amateurs in India including 14 ladies—with four OM-YL teams. There are now about a dozen ham organizations big and small, but no ham organization is recognized so far by the government of India. For all official purposes, however, the ARSI, RESI (Radio & Electronics Society of India, Bombay) and BARC (Bangalore Amateur Radio Club) are regarded as the principal amateur organizations in India—a de facto recognition, though not de jure!

"The present ham activity in India is largely the result of World War II surplus equipment. The shortage of foreign exchange doesn't permit imports, and the very limited demand doesn't permit local manufacture. Receivers like the AR-88, HRO, Super-Pro, SX-28, and BC-348s are still going strong. Transmitters are assembled with surplus components, with power limited to 150 watts. We have no 160 Meter band and only 10 kc on 80 Meters. The 40 and 20 Meter bands have a lot of VU activity, but only a few get on 15 and 10 Meters. The 6 Meter band has been withdrawn and only 3 or 4 amateurs have any equipment for 2 meters. There is no VU activity above 2 Meters.



At a recent party given in honor of Susi, HB9-AOE/4, when she was in New York. Standing: George, ex-Y02BO, Seichi, JA2ENU, Tony, W2QL, Mamoru, JA1ANE, Alan, K2EEK. Sitting: Harvey, WA2GBF, Serge ex-Y03LM, Susi, HB9-AOE/W4, Steve, WA2DHF, ex-GM5AHS.

“Out of the roughly 500 hams we have today, only about 150 are active with about 40 of them on s.s.b. using homebrew gear. Due to their simplicity, long-wire and wyndom antennas are popular though a few use dipoles fed with surplus coax. There are about 25 cubical quads. Only a handful of hams have measuring or test equipment with the exception of multipliers. Some have the BC 221 frequency meter, but it is a luxury for most. Two enthusiasts, VU6VU and VU2BB, have amateur TV licenses but haven’t taken it up seriously as of this date. VU2KV is the only RTTY operator, and so far there isn’t any space communication—not even reception.”

Next month—Amateur Radio in Czechoslovakia.

Preliminary Report from Aves Island *de YV5BPG/YV0BPG*

The following letter was written by Pedro on May 5, 1970:

“Dear John,

“We are writing this at the San Juan airport during a stopover from Guadeloupe to Caracas.

“Our Aves Island operation started late because of many unexpected problems, like for example the seizure of the Air France plane which was supposed to carry most of the gang from Caracas to Guadeloupe. If that wasn’t bad enough we ended up with a skipper who didn’t know the first thing about navigation, and who lied to us about a few things like the true speed of his boat. As a consequence we had the unusual experience of guiding the ship via YV0AI/MM, with the help of a Venezuelan merchant ship skipper who gave us the necessary calculations by ham radio to enable us to find the island. Late but safe we landed at Aves and operated until Sunday noon, at which time we had to shut down in order to make it back to Guadeloupe on the slow boat.

“Fortunately we had no technical trouble of major importance except some difficulty with our keyer and a certain degree of cross interference on some bands, as we were unable to separate the transmitters as much as would have been desirable.

“As of this moment it is only 12 hours after our landing on Guadeloupe after a sleepless week. Therefore we haven’t yet evaluated our logs to determine the effectiveness of the expedition. We do know that several stations, including ON4UN, HK3WO, XE1KS, W2PV, W3AZD, W3SS, and others, told us that they worked us on 5 bands. Incidentally, we maintained a strict policy of no schedules, no QSO Managers, and no listening for friends.

“Please accept this as an advanced report, and we’ll send a complete story with pictures, including an English transcription of the greeting to all amateurs from the President of Venezuela which was transmitted on 14195 kc.

“Unfortunately the trip was much more expensive than we had calculated. However we have covered the bills



Here is Antonio Gomez Sobrino, HI3AGS, one of our recent WPX winners. Antonio is now chasing WAZ and can be found around 14200 after 2330 GMT on weekdays. On weekends he frequents 21250 beginning at 1800 GMT. The gear includes an HT-37, 2-B and TA-33.



QRP'er John Thompson, W1BIH/PJ9JT operating from Curacao with his Ten-Tec, 5-watt transceiver. John QSO'd 300 stations in 32 countries on 20 and 40 meter c.w. These included VU via the long path, 6 VK/ZL's and 4X4. Sure the PJ9 call helped, but 5 watts!! That's A-OK.

with considerable sacrifice. Because of this contributions sent with QSL cards will be gratefully accepted. YV5BPJ is clearing house for contributions. The call signs and QSL routings are as follows:

YV0AI-Via W2GHK (operators were YV5's BPJ, BBU, BPG, & EL.)

VY0PP-To YVIPP (Leslie)

YV0LA-c/ o YV1LA (Janusz)

YV0BPG-Vi a YV5BPG (Pedro)

The other boys, that is our boss, Armando , YV5BPJ, YV5BBU, Jorge, and YV5EL, Migue, did not activate their YV0 calls.

“Never before has a DX Editor got the report before the operators had a chance to sleep in a bed.

73 es DX,

Pedro, YV5BPG;

Jorge, YV5BBU;

Armando, YV5BPJ

We all know that amateur radio is something very special. But why? And how is it different from other great hobbies? VA7GI offers some insights.

A Cosmic Dance With the Ionosphere

The Existential Joy of Amateur Radio

BY GUY IMMEGA,* VA7GI

Ham radio is the most diverse hobby in the world. No other pastime comes close. Radio amateurs erect experimental antennas, build electronic circuits, chat in Morse code, contact countries all over the globe, participate in radio contests, provide emergency communications, launch radio satellites into space, bounce signals off of the moon, and study sunspots. Hams run the gamut from geeky teenagers to Nobel laureates.

But diversity doesn't explain the unique appeal of ham radio. No creature on Earth can sense radio waves. Animals and plants respond to visible light. Sharks and platypuses detect electric fields. Some birds and foxes can detect the planet's magnetic field. But

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Photo A: Branly coherer with brass powder. (Photos by the author)

radio waves are too weak to be sensed. For millennia, humans dreamed of flying like birds, long before airplanes were invented. But nobody imagined invisible radio signals before Heinrich Hertz discovered them in 1886, when he used sparks to both generate and receive radio waves over short distances in his

lab. At the time, Hertz rightly concluded that his radio had “no practical application.” It was easy to make radio waves with sparks, but too difficult to detect them.

Guglielmo Marconi, among several experimenters building on Hertz's discovery, used a “coherer” (Photo A) to

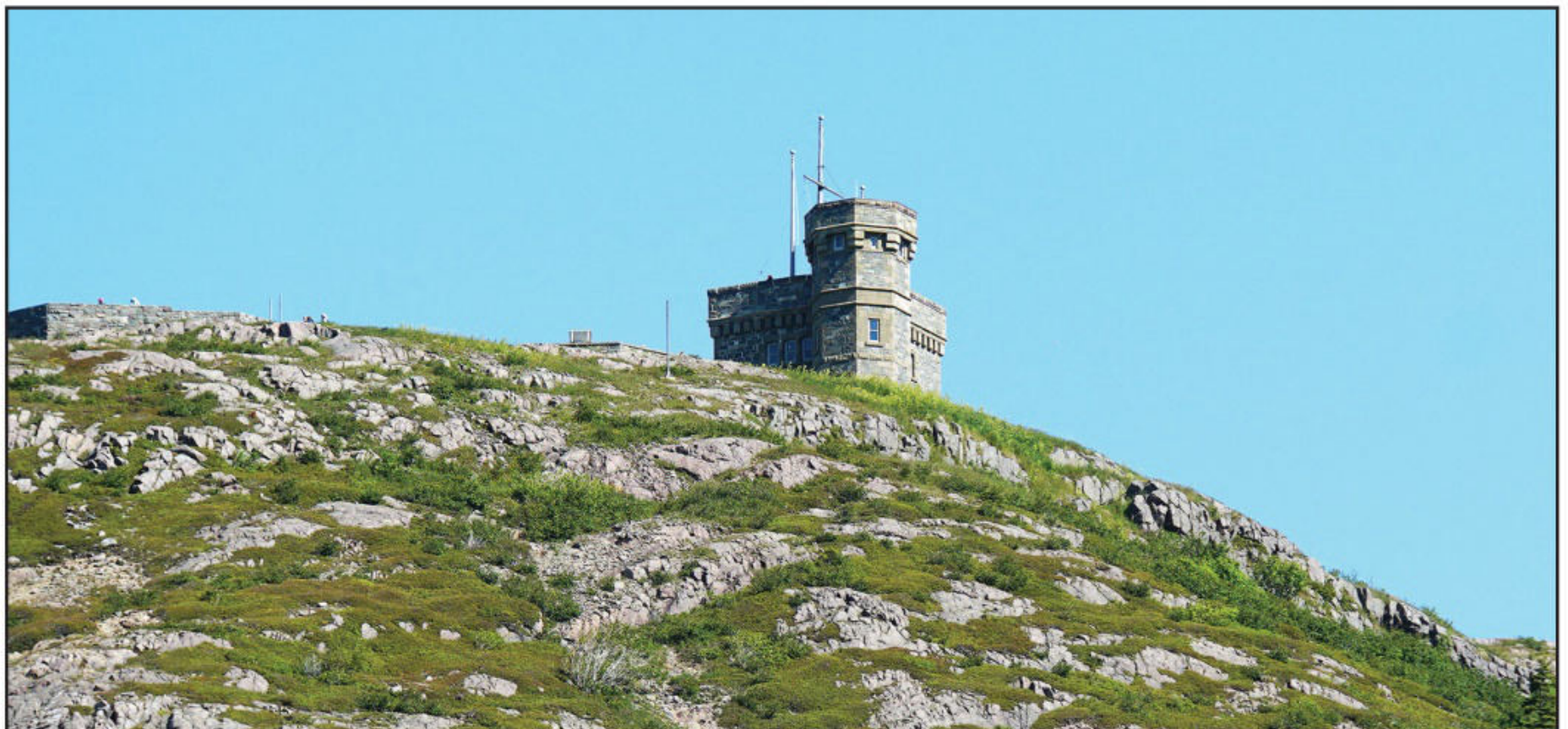


Photo B: Cabot Tower on Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland.

detect radio signals. Many bizarre coherers were invented. One form used a cup of mercury covered with a thin film of oil, with a small iron disk suspended above. A radio signal from an antenna broke down the insulating oil, activating a sounder. Another common coherer used metal powder that suddenly became conductive (cohering) when exposed to radio waves. Even today, nobody is sure how a coherer works. After the coherer, more-sensitive “cat whisker” crystal detectors were invented.

Imagine living in 1901, with many houses still lit by oil or gas lamps, messages sent overland by telegraph wires, and automobiles just beginning to be seen on our roads. Marconi had already shown that radio signals reached ships at sea. That year, at age 27, he climbed Cabot Tower on Signal Hill, a wind-swept promontory in Newfoundland (Photo B), and launched a kite tethered by a 500-foot antenna wire. Using a primitive coherer detector, he received the repeated Morse code letter S—*dit-dit-dit*—sent by a 10 kilowatt spark-gap transmitter in Cornwall, England. This was the first radio contact spanning the Atlantic Ocean. Although the demonstration was controversial, Marconi later proved the utility of radio and set up a regular transatlantic radio-telegraph service starting in 1907.

When Marconi received his Nobel Prize in 1909, he admitted that he didn't understand how radio worked. Not only did he not know how his coherer functioned, he thought that radio waves followed the curvature of the Earth. But we now know that electromagnetic radiation travels in straight lines—his radio signals should have been lost in space.

To explain transatlantic radio, Oliver Heaviside in 1902 theorized that ionized gas in space reflected radio signals. The ionosphere's existence was confirmed in 1923 and named in 1926 (it was originally referred to as the Heaviside Layer). Radio signals “skip” multiple times all around the planet, including bouncing off oceans.

Blind trial and error drove early radio progress. Inventors were motivated by a sense of wonder that invisible waves could carry messages over long distances. No imagined magic could match this power.

Today, radios use sensitive detectors and solid-state transmitters. Contacts are routine, but the skip is never certain. Signals travel at the speed of light beyond the horizon, even over the icy wastes of the North Pole, and are refracted and reflected back down to earth by a fickle ionosphere. These ran-

dom connections still drive ham radio. DXing for rare countries excites many amateurs.

A Personal Dimension

Beyond the arcane wonders of radio waves, there is a deeply personal dimension to ham radio. An ordinary individual, with modest equipment and skills, can send whispered modulations skyward, which may be heard by another ham on a remote atoll halfway around the world. It doesn't matter if the exchange is just your call sign, a per-

sonal identifier shared by nobody else in the world. To receive a reply is an existential joy, a momentary confirmation that you've been recognized by another person—irrespective of gender, age, nationality, or ethnicity—and that you're both alive and aware.

The delight is addictive—an existence proof that you're not alone in the ether. The experience is enhanced because radio signals are invisible to all other forms of life. You've done a cosmic dance with the ionosphere, confirming godlike powers.

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All of us should know that our cell phones, aka “mobile devices,” are really two-way radios disguised as phones or computers or both. But before smart phones, or even dumb cell phones that could only be used for talking and texting, there was a generation of mobile telephones that really, really, were two-way radios with telephone handsets. WØRW takes us back in time...

My First ‘Cell’ Phone

BY PAUL SIGNORELLI,* WØRW

A long time ago, before today’s cellular telephones, there were *mobile radio telephones* or *car phones*. In most cities, there was only one ‘cell’ (transmitter tower) per frequency so that frequencies (called channels) had to be shared by all users. That meant there could not be a whole lot of people on each channel. Cellular systems now reuse channels by using directional antennas and low antenna elevations so more people have access to the spectrum. Plus, digital technology makes it possible to share a channel without causing interference.

Back in the day, by which I mean the early 1960s, access to the mobile telephone system was very limited and the service was used mostly by doctors and lawyers who could afford the rental fees of \$420 per month (*roughly \$4200 monthly in 2023 dollars – ed.*), plus a monthly fee for service. The telephone company really liked those people who got the service and rented the radio telephone equipment. Anyone who wanted to use their own personal equipment was put on a long waiting list.

The FCC, however, made a special provision for people who wanted to use their own equipment, so the phone company had to give service to some of them. When you started this process of getting your own mobile telephone, you had to request an ‘Intent to Provide Service’ letter from your telephone company. That could take a year without being in a Priority Use Category, like being a doctor. A regular person got the lowest category, 7. Red Cross, doctors, etc. got Category 1. I was able to get a Red Cross authorization letter to qualify for Category 1. After I got my letter of intent from the phone company, I had to send it to the FCC to complete my application for a Domestic Public Land Mobile Radio Service license for my radio. There were also a few appli-

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Photo A: Early mobile phones looked a lot more like two-way radios than their current-day descendants. (Photos by the author)



Photo B: The Motorola FHTRU was typical of the mobile phones available in the 1960s.



Photo C: The Motorola HT-200 "brick" handheld could be tuned to operate on mobile phone frequencies. It didn't matter that you couldn't dial with it, as calls had to be placed through the mobile service operator.

cation and registration fees that went along with setting it all up. Another year could go by. My license was finally granted, KG6685, in 1963. That allowed me to operate on the telephone company frequencies of 43.38 MHz and 157.89 MHz (with two different units). The FCC called those the "ZM" and "YJ" channels (There were 10 low band channels, 11 VHF channels, and 6 UHF channels in 1964). The equipment (such as shown in Photo A) had to be "type accepted," tuned and labeled by an FCC-licensed commercial radio technician, narrow-banded and sometimes using crystal ovens. Now I could order the crystals.

Next, I had to send my FCC license back to the phone company with my final application and they then issued me my "telephone number," such as YJ 54321 or ZM 12345, You didn't use your FCC call sign.

After that, using the Mobile Telephone Service was easy. You would press the push-to-talk button and the "mobile service operator" would come on. You would give her *your* phone number. Then you would ask her to call the number of the person you wanted to speak to. She would dial, it would ring, and if answered,

you would be connected. All that with 30-to-60 mile ranges for only \$65 per month (in 2020 dollars, plus a little extra charge, \$2.50 per minute if you exceeded the free 30 minutes of monthly air time). The elite users had the Improved Mobile Telephone Service (IMTS), with multiple channels and a 'rotary dial' control head. They could access the system and dial their own numbers without operator assistance.

I had two phones in my car (ZM & YJ), so I could say: "Hold on, my other phone is ringing." I was actually able to rent my 'Comm Car' out to an aerospace company for some communication links from Edwards Air Force Base. That helped pay the bills.

My First radio was a Motorola 140D for 43 MHz and a Motorola FHTRU Handi-Talkie for 157 MHz, 1/4 watt (Photo B). It was modified to make it full duplex by jumpering the receiver filaments 'on' so the receiver would be 'on' during transmit and just use one 17-inch whip antenna. When you have a full duplex radio on a repeater system like that, you can hear yourself so it becomes immediately obvious when you get into a bad location. Finding a 'hot spot' gave the system a 4X range improvement. I replaced that radio with a Motorola HT-200, 1-watt, all-transistorized Handi-Talkie (Photo C). It was called the "brick." It worked on the YJ channel in almost every city in the USA but it could not operate full duplex.

My regular vehicle radio telephone had a Western Electric 106A tone decoder. It used a delicate rotary relay to decode the ring-out tones that the telephone company used to call you. The FSK tones were very slow and could easily be decoded by ear, which I did when using my handi-talkies. The Western Electric decoder could blow the auto horn or just display a 'call waiting'

light on the control head. If you didn't answer, the mobile telephone operator would hold on to your call information when you called back.

If you wanted to call some mobile unit in a distant city, you had to call your operator and ask for the long-distance operator, then ask her to call the mobile service operator in that distant city. She would then call the mobile. It really didn't take very long. There was no nationwide calling, you had to know where your friend was to call him. There were never any robo calls.

When several of the Red Cross mobiles were active at the same time, they could all talk car-to-car, plus one connection to a landline if desired. These were mostly all amateur radio operators using the public telephone system for the Red Cross because there was only one VHF AM amateur repeater in the area at that time. For local disaster operations, we also used the Red Cross national frequency 47.42 MHz.

Generally speaking, we were assigned to make disaster assessments, see that a disaster shelter was opened and find the shelter manager, then make sure that he could communicate with headquarters. After an earthquake in 1970, 20,000 people were evacuated and about to be flooded by a dam break. The shelter I was at had 1000 people, but they had no drinking water. The National Guard brought in a "water buffalo" (water tanker). The evacuees slept in the school gymnasium but every after-shock woke them up.

The shelter had pay phones but they became inoperative because they were jammed with quarters. There were no smart phones then. We were not able to handle any welfare traffic then because we too busy. (See additional information about this story in CQ magazine, June 2010, p. 62-64.)

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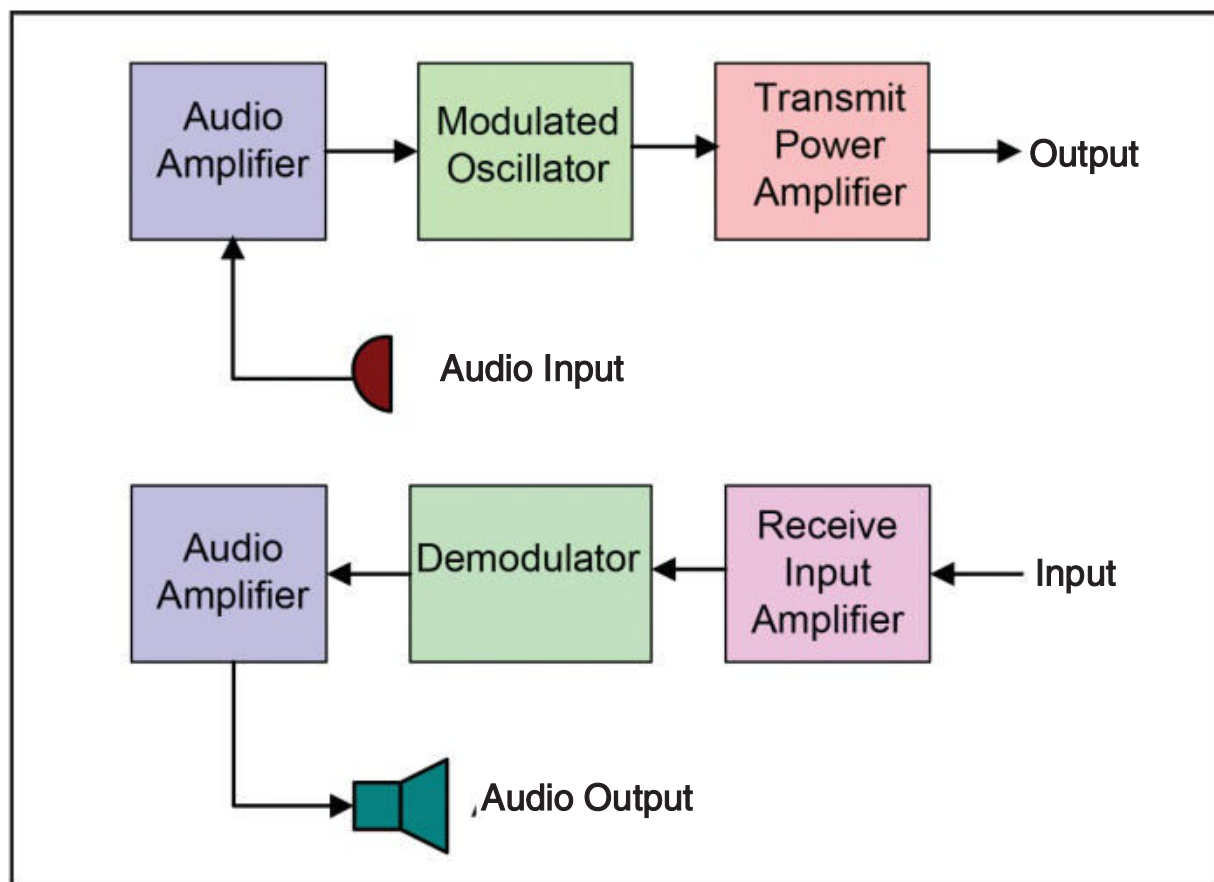
Ultrasonic Communications - Part 1

As amateur radio operators, most of us are familiar with the HF spectrum, plus VHF, UHF, and even microwaves, so what remains? As I mentioned previously, there are other areas that can be explored by our community. These can, perhaps, open areas that are not commonly used for routine communications, especially by experimenters who are not “locked down” with currently accepted limitations. One of these is communications via sound waves, and I don’t mean by just talking! I mean by a method that – while similar to electromagnetic waves – is not RF and is a good method with which to experiment. I hope this two-part series will encourage those who like to look at and consider new endeavors. I am talking about ultrasonic audio signals.

The range of human hearing extends from around 10 Hz up to an approximate limit of 20 kHz. The audio spectrum does not end here, however, but continues upward. The ultrasonic region is, in fact, well above the normal range of human hearing and by using known radio techniques can be copied with such ultrahigh sound waves. The block diagram shown in Figure 1 will be famil-

iar to “technical amateurs” but if you look closely, you will see that there is no RF circuitry at all. However, like RF, ultrasonic systems can use AM, FM, and even some digital techniques. Of course, there is a lot to learn and

although there is some work in this area and even some systems and products that do actually exist, perhaps experimentation by those who think “out of the box” like us can come up with something quite novel and ultimately useful.



*c/o CQ magazine

Figure 1. Basic Transmission System

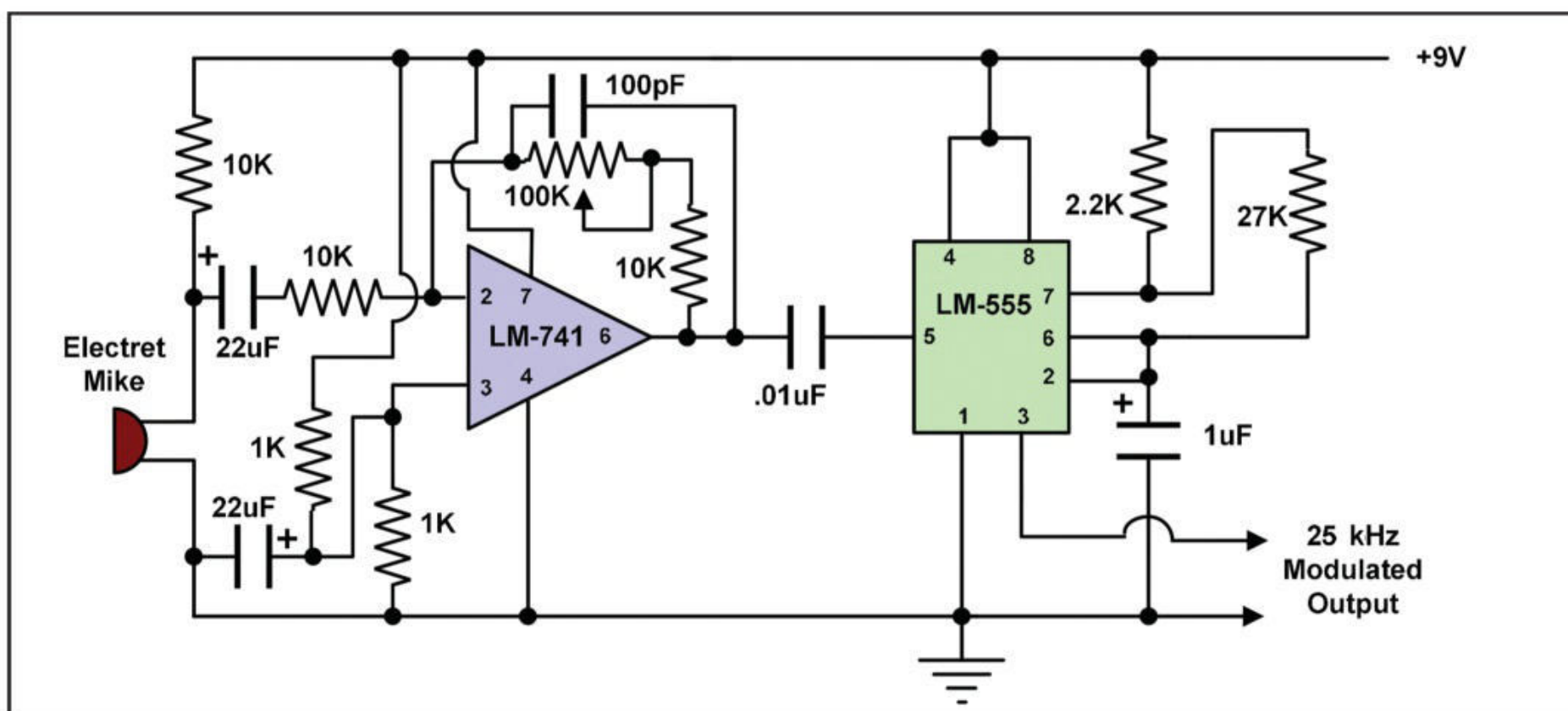


Figure 2. Audio Input Amplifier and Modulator System

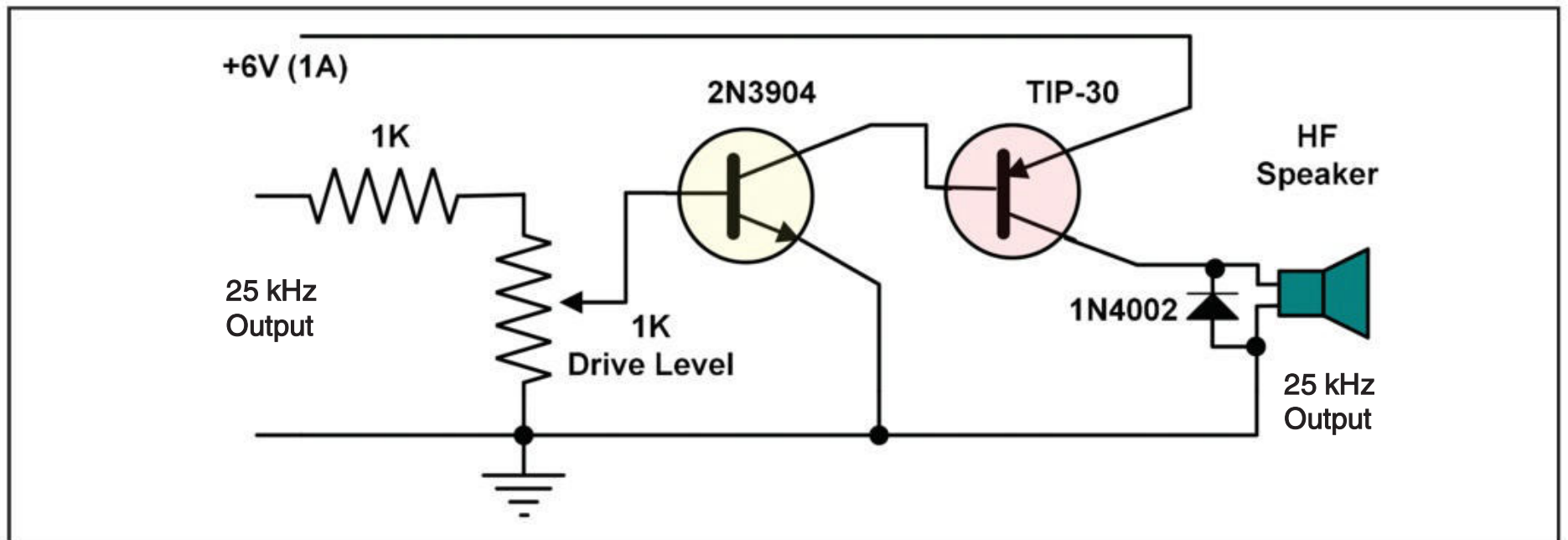


Figure 3. Ultrasonic Power Amplifier

Since this is a fairly complex system and probably somewhat new to our community, we will present details of the transmitter portion this month and finish with the receiver portion next month. Please also keep in mind that many portions of circuits that are described have been used in one form or another for non-ultrasonic applications but elaborate expansion and integration for into a complete system has not been done too carefully, at least by me. I leave that up to you, but this should at least be a good starting point.

Transmitter Design

Referring again to Figure 1, the basic scheme that I propose is to start at a frequency of around 25 kHz. This is a frequency well beyond human hearing and uses common available components. The schematic of the audio amplifier and modulator is shown in Figure 2. A common op-amp is used as a gain of 1 to 10 to compensate for the amount of audio required for good modulation without excessive distortion. This audio is then applied to a pulse rate modulated LM-555 multivibrator which varies the pulse rate (frequency) around the 25 kHz region. The final result is a modulated pulse train which you can see if you have an oscilloscope and speak into the microphone. If you just try to listen to the transmitter with a pair of earphones at some part of the circuit, you should not hear anything.

Finally, Figure 3 is the schematic of the power output stage. This portion of the system will raise the level of the modulated pulse train to the proper level to drive the "antenna" or output transducer which will be a tweeter type speaker. Although above the level of general human hearing many of these devices will respond to 25 kHz and they

can usually be "pushed" a little bit further if you are lucky. You will note that the circuit is not a linear amplifier, however, since the input signal is really just a series of pulses. It only has to be on or off during the proper portion of the input and provide a decent amount of power to the speaker "antenna." The diode shown across the speaker is to clamp back EMF voltages if present. This could be replaced with a small value capacitor to "round off" the pulses if desired. This circuit will require around 6 volts with a current of an amp or two. Depending on the actual high frequency speaker you choose, you may also have to adjust the drive voltage with the 1K potentiometer to be sure you do not draw too much current through the speaker and damage it. This can be calculated by subtracting the 0.7 volt transistor collector-to-emitter voltage drop

from the 6-volt supply and dividing the resulting 5.3 volts by the impedance of the speaker you use.

When choosing suitable speakers for this system, you should check the frequency response specification of various potential devices to be sure that your choice does have some sort of decent response at 25 kHz. Lower frequency response into the normal audio range is not important here and response into the normal audio range is not an asset. In this case, it's possible some of the high fidelity "tweeters" available would be better choices than common standard devices. When we describe the receiving portion of the system, we will discuss how one might choose to mount the two speakers.

Next month, we will complete the receiver circuit.

73,
Irwin, WA2NDM

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emergency communications

BY JOHN FERGUSON,* K3PFW

My (New) Station: Part 2

In Part 1 of “My (New) Station”, back in the March issue of *CQ*, I related some of the inspection and planning for the rebuild of the station here at the QTH as the multi-year renovation of my house is coming to an end. A lot has happened since then. I am back on the air with HF and V/UHF, going through a testing and evaluation stage. Everything tested so far is performing adequately. The rotor for the HF triband beam, which would turn but didn’t indicate direction, has been replaced. I couldn’t get the direct replacement for the T2-X, and at the recommendation of the tower contractor I hired, got the Yaesu G-2800. So far, I’m extremely pleased with the rotor and I love the preset and speed control features. The contractor’s concern was the size and weight of the Telrex TB6EM, an ‘oldie but a goody’ tribander with a 24-foot boom, full-size reflectors (the longest – for 20 meters – at 36 feet), and a very sharp beam width.

The operating equipment (Photo A) is back in place, the Yaesu FT-736R V/UHF quad band is back from the repair shop, and good as new. The primary HF is an Icom IC-756 Pro II and the secondary HF is my trusty old Kenwood TS-

870. The Icom 2710 dual band mobile for local repeaters and an Astron power supply round out the lineup. The Amp Supply LK-500ZA, although back on the operating table, is awaiting recapping (replacement of the hi-voltage electrolytics), due to its sitting around more than a few years now. Dry electrolytic capacitors, especially the older ones, don’t handle sitting idle for years very well. So, rather than risk a catastrophic failure, I’ll replace them. I will probably do the diode board, too, while it’s apart. As I’ve said before, I’m not a fan of high power, but that 500+ watts will give me another S unit at the other end of the QSO.

The patch panel (Photo B) is now sporting labels and getting populated with cables. Labels and a color code system help reduce frustration when making changes. Flexibility is a must, in my opinion, if you are going to succeed in supporting emergency and disaster communications. Antennas and other resources are terminated on the panel. Flexible coax from the individual pieces of equipment can then be connected to a particular antenna or resource. The goal is to have two antenna resources available for each band.

Outside, the enclosure at the bottom of the tower is getting spruced up with some paint, a shelf, and ground bar (Photo C). A 2-meter linear and pre-amp are being added to improve coverage with the VHF vertical on the top of the mast at 100 feet. With nearly 180 feet of RG-8 type coax from the

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Photo A. Operating equipment now in place on the homebrew desk.



Photo B. Patch panel, tucked away in the closet, now populated with cables and labels.

station to the tower, there's a lot of signal loss. The feedline up the tower is half-inch hardline with an RG-8U foam pigtail up the mast to the antenna. The addition of the linear and pre-amp had not been planned. However, during the testing and evaluation phase, with the help of Bob Speakman, N3HPA, we found that the loss, as mentioned, was significant. The necessary power supply, a spare from the collection around here, did not have a three-wire cord, so a little modification was done to provide a chassis ground. Grounding in the enclosure itself has now also been reworked with the addition of a copper ground bar. The tower grounding, after isolating it from other ground connections, was tested and found to be approximately five ohms. Not having a fancy "Megger," I use a load in series with the ground to be tested and measure the current when connected to the "hot" side of the commercial power; then measuring the voltage at the ground rod back to power line neutral, I can calculate the ground resistance using Ohm's Law. **DO NOT TRY THIS** unless you are very comfortable working with the 120-130 volts on the average AC line, and understand the safety precautions necessary to prevent a serious accident. This is not a recognized standard test,

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On the Cover



Sunset from the mountaintop on Isla Malpelo, a Colombian island in the Pacific Ocean that is really the peak of a 4000-foot volcano rising from the sea floor. This was the site of one of the two operating positions for the HK0NA DXpedition in 2012, recounted in detail in this month's DX column on page 78.

One aspect of the trip that we didn't have space for in the main article was the adventure involved in getting started on their adventure. Steve Wright, VE7CT, wrote in the original article in the INDEXA newsletter that the team met up in Colombia's capital city of Bogota, and then had planned to travel over land to the port city of Buenaventura, where they would meet their sea transportation, the *Sea Wolf*. But there was potential danger from rebels in the region so they decided to fly instead. But the Buenaventura airport is about 20 miles outside the city and the team had a hair-raising ride along jungle roads toward the city, only to be met by a protest (which had nothing to do with them) that blocked access to the only bridge to the port. They waited in a roadside café for a couple of hours and then got back into the gridlocked traffic to try to get to their hotel, since they'd been warned that the section of Buenaventura where they were stuck was very dangerous at night. Fortunately, everyone and everything made it OK but this was clearly a case in which getting there was not half the fun!

Our inset photo shows Chip Margelli, K7JA, who became a Silent Key in late May, operating Field Day. Chip was a prominent DXer, contester, and leader in the ham radio industry. Field Day was one of the highlights of the ham radio year for Chip, and he was working on antennas for this year's event until just before his passing. Our remembrance is on page 16. (Main cover photo by Manu Siebert, LU9ESD; inset photo by Gordon West, WB6NOA)

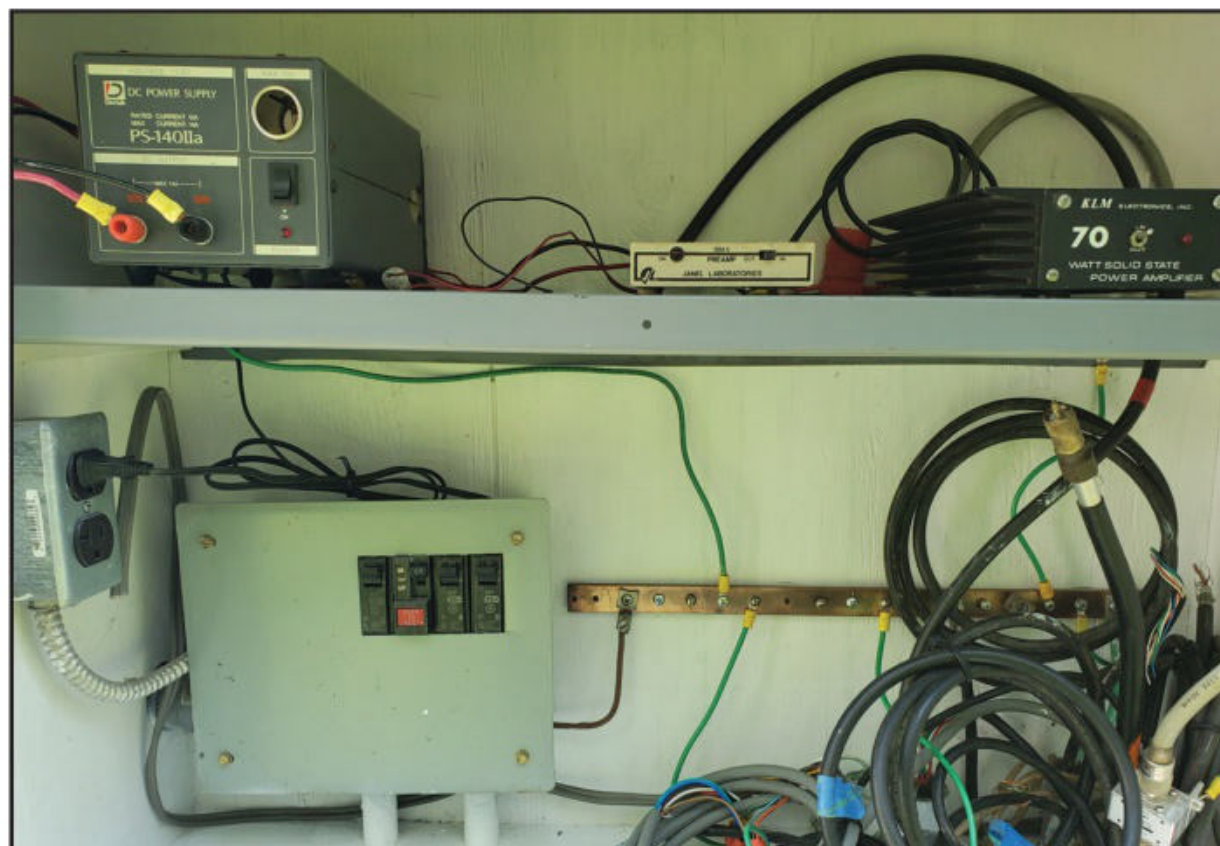


Photo C. Enclosure at the base of the tower, housing power panel serving sheds and dog pens, amp and pre-amp for VHF, and the cables from the tower connection to the runs to the station.

but if I get a low single digit value, I feel comfortable that the grounding is adequate. The tower has four ten-foot ground rods, and the four steel legs that are five feet in the ground, in concrete, effectively putting the eight "resistances" to earth in parallel. All feed lines are "broken" in the enclosure, allowing for testing and re-arrangement. Grounding pig-tails were added to all connections, or in the case of the VHF vertical, a surge protector. The enclosure was also a convenient location for the electrical panel that supplies the dog pens and storage sheds, and there is a permanent weatherproof outlet at the top of the tower, really convenient when working up there.

The other "ethereal adornments," a Buckmaster off-center-fed (OCF) dipole and a B&W folded dipole, are getting some much needed attention also. They both tested well and will get new rope. In the case of the OCF, it will temporarily be relocated to the position that I originally planned for the inverted-L. The Comet tri-band U/VHF vertical will remain as is. The B&W folded dipole is used as a receive antenna on HF. Its inherent lower noise pickup is a real help on the lower bands. Yes, I've heard the arguments against "folded loaded radiating dummy loads." An example, that I use repeatedly: the 15 MHz signal of WWV comes in here during the day at about 40 dB, with a noise floor of about 30 dB. Use the B&W as a receiving antenna, the noise drops by about

20 dB, the desired signal only about 10 dB, and now it's 20 dB above the noise. Folded dipoles are somewhat immune to most types of man-made noise.

On the "to do" list was the rebuild of a classic Carolina Windom 160® that came down in a Nor'easter quite a few years ago. The Carolina Windom is patented by Jim Thompson, W4THU, and was produced by his company, Radioworks, for many years. It was a solid performer on 160 meters, a band I want to get back and active on. It will also provide coverage of the HF bands. A unique feature of the antenna is the 22-foot vertical section of feedline that terminates in a 1:1 unbalanced to unbalanced balun (*also known as an unun – ed.*), effectively stopping unbalanced currents from the dipole from propagating down the feedline (Photo D). I mentioned in Part 1 that, when testing the present dipoles, we terminated the feedlines in the surge protectors to prevent the measurements from being affected by stray currents on the outside of the coax. The grounded surge protectors took care of that.

In order to accomplish moving the current Buckmaster OCF and hanging the rebuilt Carolina Windom 160, two new "skyhooks" were needed. Luckily the two acres here at the QTH have a number of tall trees. Two in appropriate locations were selected and equipped with a novel device called the Wouff Hang, developed by Ray Lewallen, W7EL¹ (Photo E). Bob Speakman,



Photo D. Feed for the Carolina Windom 160® showing the OCF balun, the 22-foot vertical section and the 1:1 isolating balun for connection to the feedline.

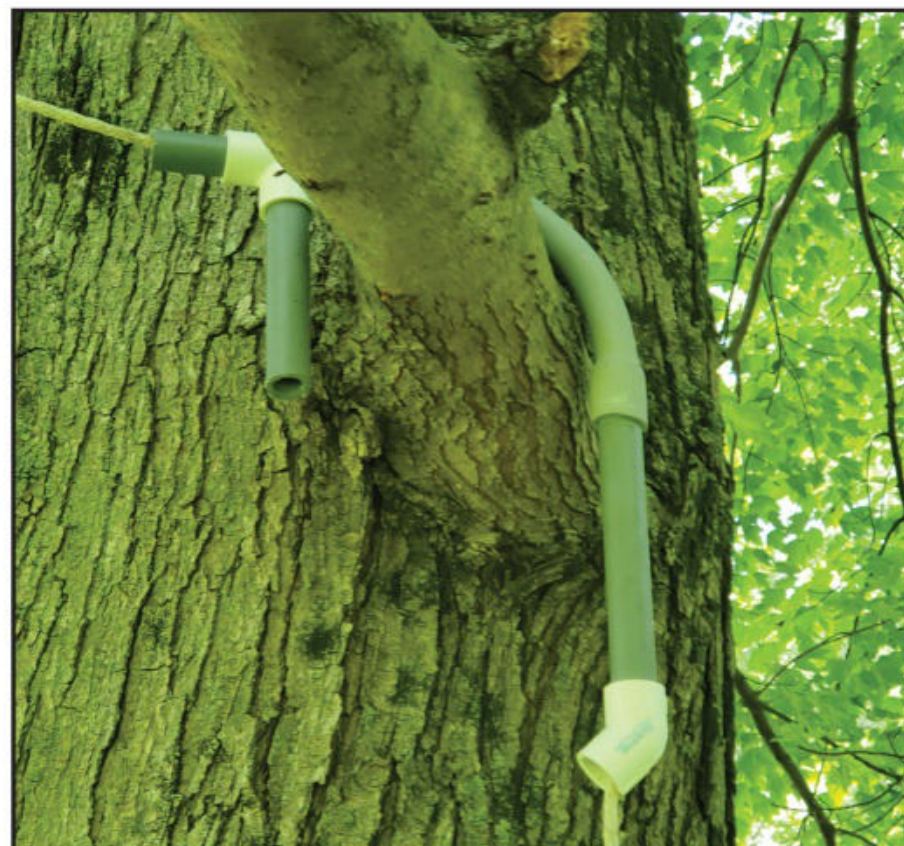


Photo E: The “Wouff Hang” over the limb. These can be installed from the ground, no need to climb, and prevent the rope from growing in to the tree. (see note 1 for more information)

Here’s a review of criteria for a station to be used in support of emergency and disaster communication that was used in planning this rebuild:

1. First and foremost is safety! Appropriate grounding and surge protection on all incoming lines to the station is an absolute must!

2. Power for the equipment must be adequate and fused properly.

3. Exterior structures for supporting antennas, towers, poles, etc., must be adequately grounded. The supporting structures themselves should be well designed to handle the loads presented by the antennas, feed lines, etc., in the expected severe weather for the area.

4. Flexibility. Can you easily reconfigure antennas and transceivers in the case of a failure or unusual need?

5. Do you have backup power, both short term (batteries) and long term (generator or solar)?

6. Is your station comfortable to work in? Can you reach all the critical equipment without moving from your chair – is it easily within an arm’s reach, and can you see what you’re doing when adjusting same?

7. Is the telephone in the station a POTS? (plain old telephone system). Your fancy IP phones and cell phones *will fail* in a disaster, as will the ‘cordless’ phones that require a wall wart to work. It’s not a maybe! The telephone on the desk here is a POTS, on solid copper all the way back to the CO (central office), with most of the infrastructure underground.

As far as operating in severe weather such as thunderstorms, that’s your personal decision. You alone are ultimately responsible for your own safety, and that of your family. If the station installation is safe and adequate, short of a tornado or flood, you should at least consider operating from there if there is a need, and you are comfortable doing so.

Until next month, 73, stay safe and enjoy this great hobby. And a little public service operating along the way wouldn’t hurt.

Notes:

1. QST Oct. 2019 pgs. 20 - 23 Roy Lewallen, W7EL, “The Wouff Hang”

N3HPA, was back to help move the OCF. A “spud gun” was used to get a fishing line over an appropriate crotch of the selected trees, and a line was pulled in place for one end of the antenna. The OCF dipole antenna and feed line were inspected while it was down. We got it back up in its temporary location without incident. The feed line now comes over the roof of the house and down to the surge protector enclosure. The Carolina Windom 160, at 265 feet in length, was a bit more of a challenge. It runs roughly north-south on the long dimension of the property. Being fed off center, the feedline for it will be conveniently near the tower, swing over to a leg, and come down the side to the enclosure at the bottom, where it will pick up an existing spare coax line to the surge protector enclosure and the patch panel. Yes, we pull spares when we can. I learned a long time ago, “material is cheap and labor is high, run extra when you can.”

There will be continued changes and additions moving forward. The interfaces for the sound card modes will be brought back out of storage, installed, and software updated. Winlink is rapidly becoming the ‘de facto’ digital mode for emergency and disaster communication, with VARA coming on strong as well. The rebuild has given me a solid base on which to continue to building, with another antenna in the works, an all-band HF vertical, probably to be featured in an upcoming column.

kit building

BY JOE EISENBERG,* KONEB

A Couple of Quickies

The NS-80+ Transmitter and a Charger Module for the Elecraft KX2

I often get asked about the availability of a low cost beginner's level kit, and for this issue I will take a look at one, as well as look at a kit designed to go into a radio that was not originally a kit. The Four State QRP Group previously offered a very simple 5 watt CW transmitter kit as the NS-

40. The NS-40 introduced the kit world to the idea of having inductors already part of the PC board, making for easier construction. Having no toroids to wind made this a very attractive kit (Photo A).

The NS-40 name is derived from the phrase "None Simpler." The original version did not have jacks for the con-

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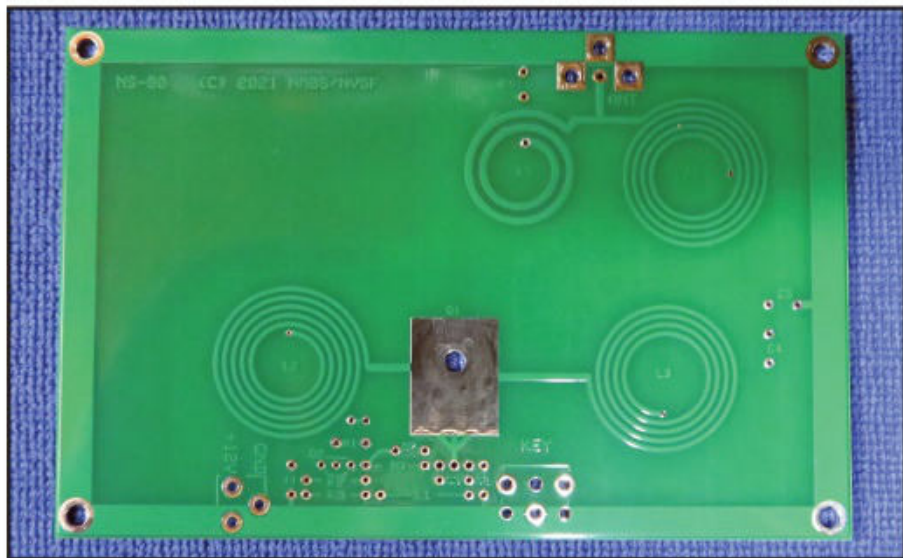


Photo A: The NS-80+ PC board front side. No toroids to wind as there are four inductors etched on to the board.

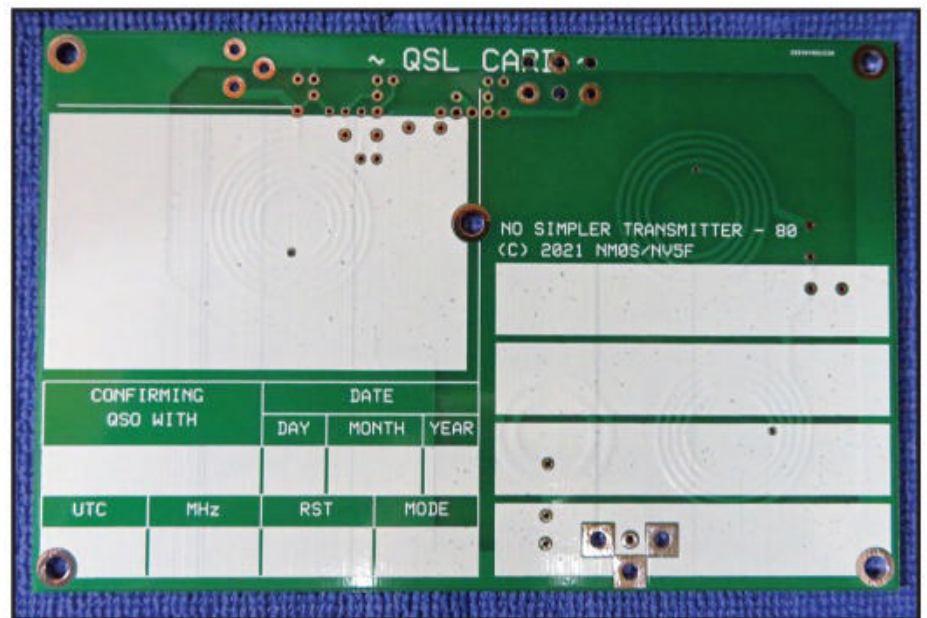


Photo B: The back side of the NS-80+ PC board has a QSL card form you can fill out with a Sharpie® to remember the very first QSO you make with this kit.

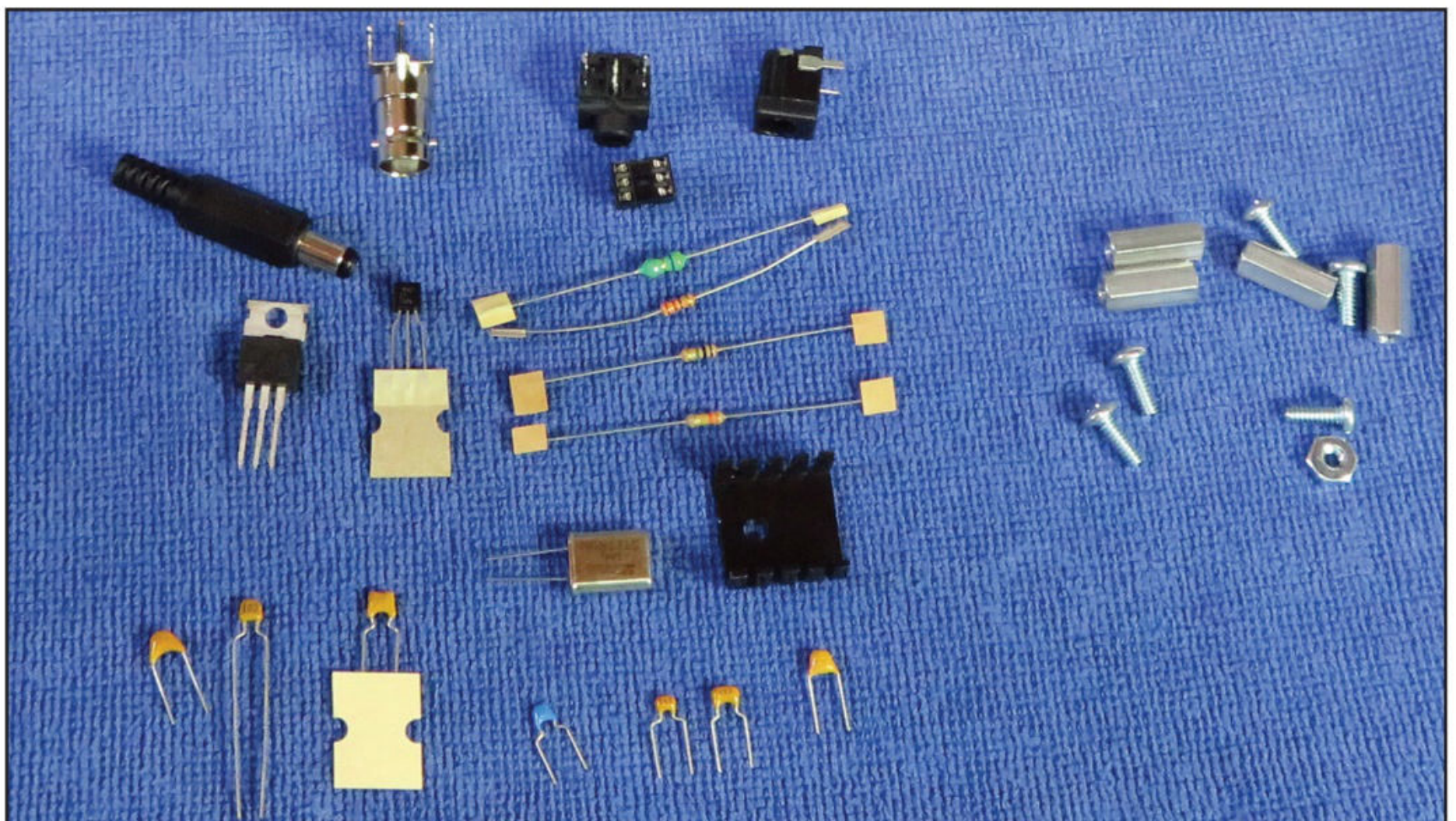


Photo C: There aren't very many parts, making this a great option for a beginning kit builder.

nections for power, RF output, and key (Photo B). Those inputs needed to be either directly wired to the board or “pig-tails” made to connect inline type jacks. The newest version has those jacks on the board for convenience. After its long run with the Four State QRP Group, the designer, David Cripe, NMØS brought the NS-40 back as the NS-40+ and

added the jacks to the board. The low component count and simple design makes this a great and low cost beginner’s kit that actually puts a signal on the air (Photo C). There are only three resistors, seven capacitors, a small RF choke, and two transistors – as well as the three jacks and the crystal that make up the parts list. In addition, there is

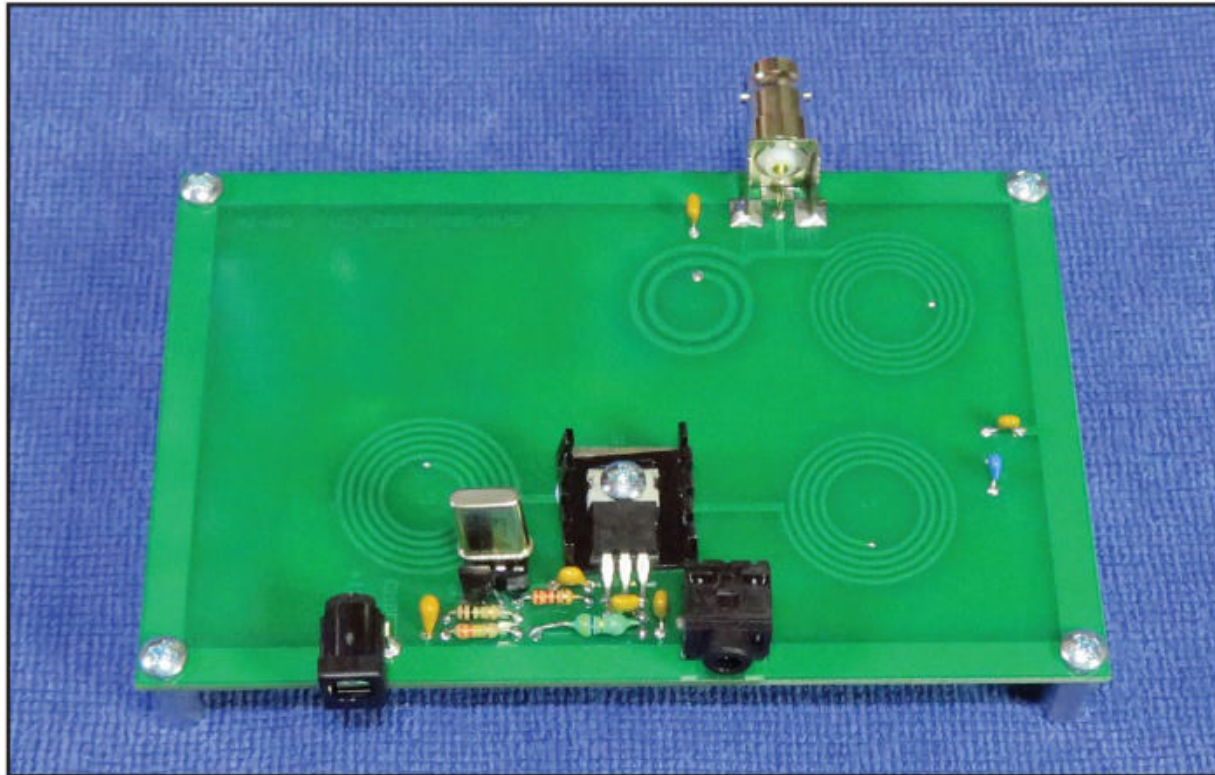


Photo D: When tested, this kit measured 5.5 watts output.

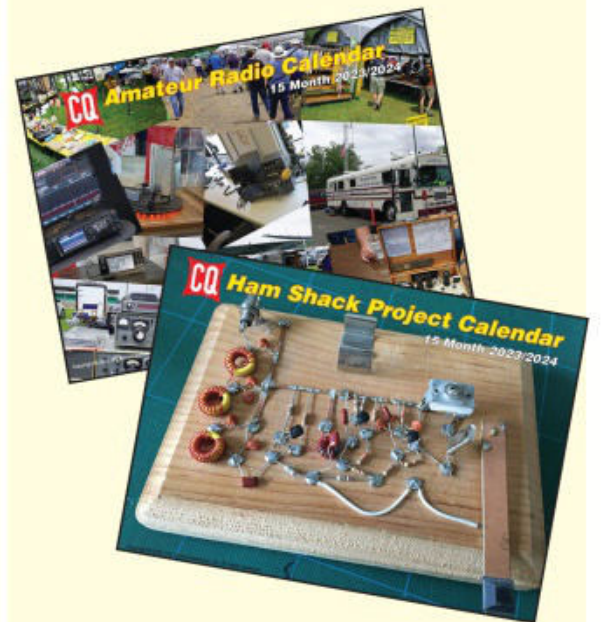


Photo E: After updating the firmware on the Elecraft KX2, the radio is now ready to be opened and the internal charging kit installed.

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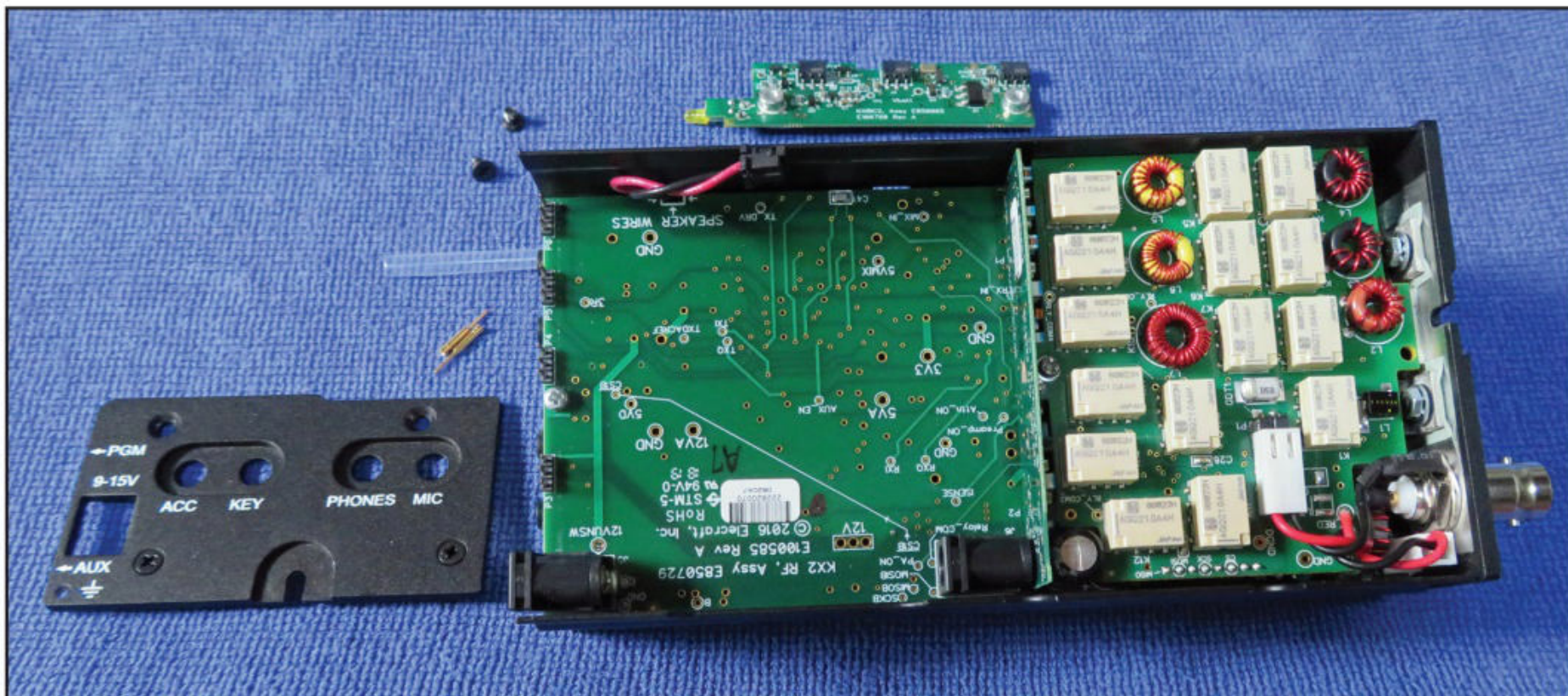


Photo F: Only the bottom and left side covers need to be removed.

some hardware that forms the legs to support the kit.

David has also released an 80-meter version of this kit, and that is the version I am assembling. Keep in mind that there is no T/R switching provided with this kit. There are a lot of very simple T/R switches you can build to perform that function and protect your receiver. The receiver is not part of this kit. The NS-80+ is almost identical to the 40-meter version save for certain band-specific component values and different numbers of spiral wound inductor turns etched on the PC board.

Assembly begins with installing the three resistors, followed by the seven capacitors. I highly recommend using a component tester to verify which capacitors you are installing as some are very difficult to read. After the capacitors are added, the choke is installed. The choke resembles a resistor but is green and thicker. The transistors follow the choke. It really can help heat dissipation if you add a dab of heat sink grease to the board where the large IRF-510 transistor is mounted. This helps evenly transfer the heat to the board and heatsink for the output transistor. I had some heatsink grease left over from replacing a computer CPU, which worked well.

A small IC socket is provided to fashion a crystal socket that allows you to use other 80-meter crystals besides the one provided with the kit. The kit is supplied with a “color burst” crystal, on 3.579545 MHz. These crystals are still very common and very inexpensive due to their use in television circuits and make for a QRP watering hole on 80 meters. You

can find crystals for other frequencies from Expanded Spectrum Systems at <<https://tinyurl.com/mwwd76pr>>, or from Rex Harper at <www.qrpme.com>. When testing this or any other kit that is capable of transmitting, be sure to connect a dummy load to the output first to be sure to protect the final output stage in case it is keyed on power up. Testing my NS-80+ kit on the bench got me about 5.5 watts output (Photo D). I was impressed by the nice clean CW keying. Set aside an hour to build the NS-40+ or NS-80+ if you are a beginner and less if you

are experienced. This kit also makes a great group or club kit building project. Order your NS-40+ or NS-80+ kits from NMØS Electronics at <<https://tinyurl.com/2hskfe7r>> for \$25 plus shipping.

Charge!!

The highly successful Elecraft KX2 transceiver had a sought-after feature that was lacking until now. The problem was that in order to charge the internal battery pack, you have to open the case, carefully disconnect the battery pack and then plug it into a special charger.

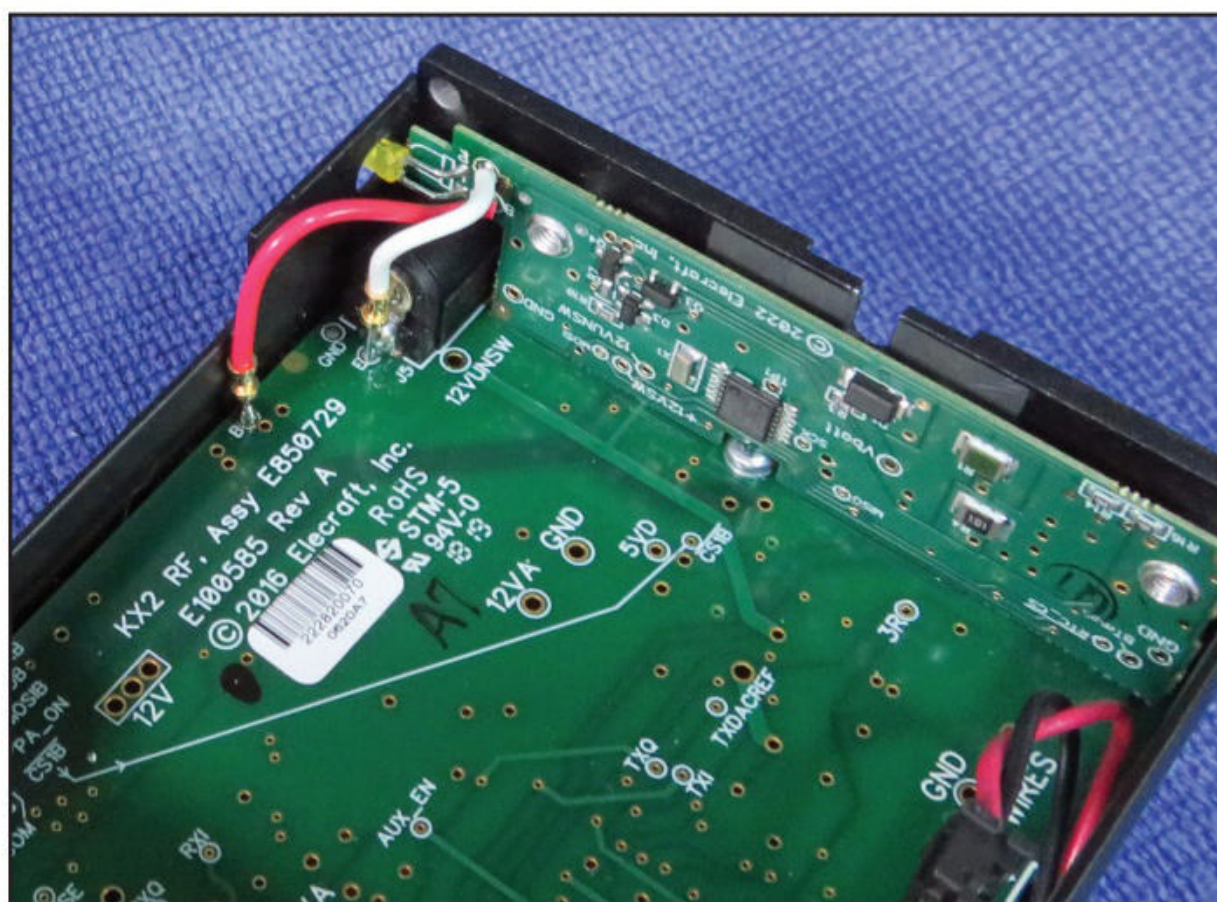


Photo G: The new charging option board is plugged in and wired to the main board.

The option to charge the battery internally from the external 12V source is now available and comes in the form of a module that replaces one that is not always present in the radio. The KX2 has the option of installing a module that enabled controlling remote coax switches or anything needing band change information. That module also has a real-time clock on it, a great thing to have on your radio's display while logging operations in the field. The newest option is the KXIBC2 module, which installs if the other option module is not already there, or installs after the other module is removed. This new module retains the real-time clock function, but eliminates the remote control functions of the older option board.

Since I never had the original option installed, I'll be gaining the internal charging feature and the real-time clock feature at the same time. Be sure to have the most recent version of firmware installed before beginning the installation. Check what is installed and update it if needed to the latest version using the Elecraft KX2 Utility software (Photo E). There are some parameters that should be set before beginning to be sure the radio finds and supports the new module. The whole process of installing this kit takes about 20 minutes at the most. One of the options involves simply soldering two wires to points on the main board. I found that by tinning the pin connectors on the two wires, the amount of time needed to make a good clean connection was a lot less (Photo F). One wire goes to the back of the power connector and by adding a little bit of solder to that part of the connector and tinning the pin, it goes together quickly and neatly. The other wire solders to a hole on the board. Caution is needed on this one to be sure not to poke it in too far. I simply tinned the hole and the pin and heated it up with my soldering tip and they bonded neatly together (Photo G).

The kit comes with a set of pins in case you want the board to be removed easily, but it is very rare that it would ever have to be removed. With the plug-in method being #2 and the solder-directly method being #1, I chose #1. The KXIBC2 kit for the Elecraft KX2 is available from Elecraft at <www.elecraft.com> for \$139.95 plus shipping (Photo H).

Be sure to watch for me at hamfests this summer, including the Oklahoma Ham Holiday, Huntsville Hamfest, and the ARRL New England/Hudson HamXposition.

Until next time, 73 de KØNEB



Photo H: The radio is reassembled and the new real-time clock is activated as well as the internal charging function. The charging rate is a bit slower than using the dedicated outside charger, but you no longer have to open the radio to charge the battery.

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magic in the sky

BY JEFF REINHARDT,* AA6JR

Road Trip – To Dayton!

The lead times required in publishing a magazine like *CQ* sometimes require the use of a time machine. Our ability (as writers) to travel forward is greatly limited, while your ability to look back (as a reader) is perfect. So as you read this, the entries below will be history; nevertheless, I ask you to go back in time to the days prior to this year's gathering at Dayton, or more accurately, Xenia, Ohio.

The ROMEO Club

Our ROMEO Club is a weekly gathering of ham radio friends where we enjoy a late breakfast, ergo the name: ROMEO as in **R**etired **O**ld **M**en **E**ating **O**ut. I can't attribute the origin of the name (it didn't begin with us) but I can vouch to some degree to its accuracy, although "old" is used in the context of ham radio, where everyone of the male gender is referred to as "old man."

It should be noted, we do not exclude YLs but so far, none has expressed any desire to join us. These weekly gabfests move around from restaurant to restaurant in our area of Southern California and over the many months have had a varying cast of participants, with perhaps a core of four, one of whom is your author. Most of the conversation revolves around our beloved hobby and the topics are many, including CW, lots of digital, EmComm, ARRL news, technical issues, operating events, and more.

So at a January meeting of this loose group, the topic of going to Dayton came up. Eyebrows were raised and various ideas were put forth. Some of us had been there before but all those visits were prior to the COVID era. We discussed the notion of flying in but then came the idea of a road trip. Four radio geeks spending just short of two weeks in a Toyota Avalon equipped with radios, suitcases, a few bags of Doritos, and maybe save some trunk space for purchases that may (or may not) be made while at the Ohio gathering. Across a few more meetings, schedules were checked, those with spouses obtained blessings and it was then

agreed, this could actually happen. John, Rob, Greg, and Jeff were actually going to do it. (Call signs of the participants intentionally excluded to protect the innocent, however, one can be found at the header to this column.)

It Becomes Real

Greg then upped the ante. At a subsequent weekly meeting he announced that he had already obtained his HamVention® ticket in the mail. Even though the actual trip was still many weeks away, this raised the sense of urgency and the others soon followed. Then came the discussion about a car to use. A poll of those at the table produced only one viable option, John's aforementioned Toyota Avalon. It was an easy choice, as the other options included a pickup truck, a smaller SUV, a compact, and a two-seat sports car. The latter would have made for high comedy with four six-foot participants trying to climb in. Brings back memories of the old college prank of VW bug stuffing attempts of the 1960s. But I digress. John's Toyota has good leg room and some radios already installed. Adding

HF for the trip is in the plan. Greg is an avid and accomplished CW operator. All I had to contribute was an ARRL Minilog book and a pen. Easy!

In the coming days, each of us promptly received our tickets from the event's organizers (kudos to the DARA folks for their efficiency) and a hotel accommodation on the east side of Dayton had been reserved for a three-day stay. We decided the hotels to and from the Dayton area will be "made up as we go along." Another meeting saw us spread a map of the USA across the table and plot our distances along the way. One-way distance, approximately 2,250 miles. (How lucky are you hams who live closer to Dayton??!!) To minimize hotel and road food costs, we figured we could do about 800 miles each day by sharing the driving duties. Ever the road warrior, last year I had driven solo coast to coast and back, so my "scouting trip" was of some value in terms of hotels, routings, and places of interest along the way. However, a target of 800 miles each day does not allow for extended days of touring museums and epicurean delights, at least not on the



Photo A: Even though Jeff's column was written before his trip to Dayton, this issue was put together the week after, so we were able to get you some photos! Here's the trunk of John's Toyota without much space for flea-market purchases (probably a good strategy, HI). (AA6JR photos)

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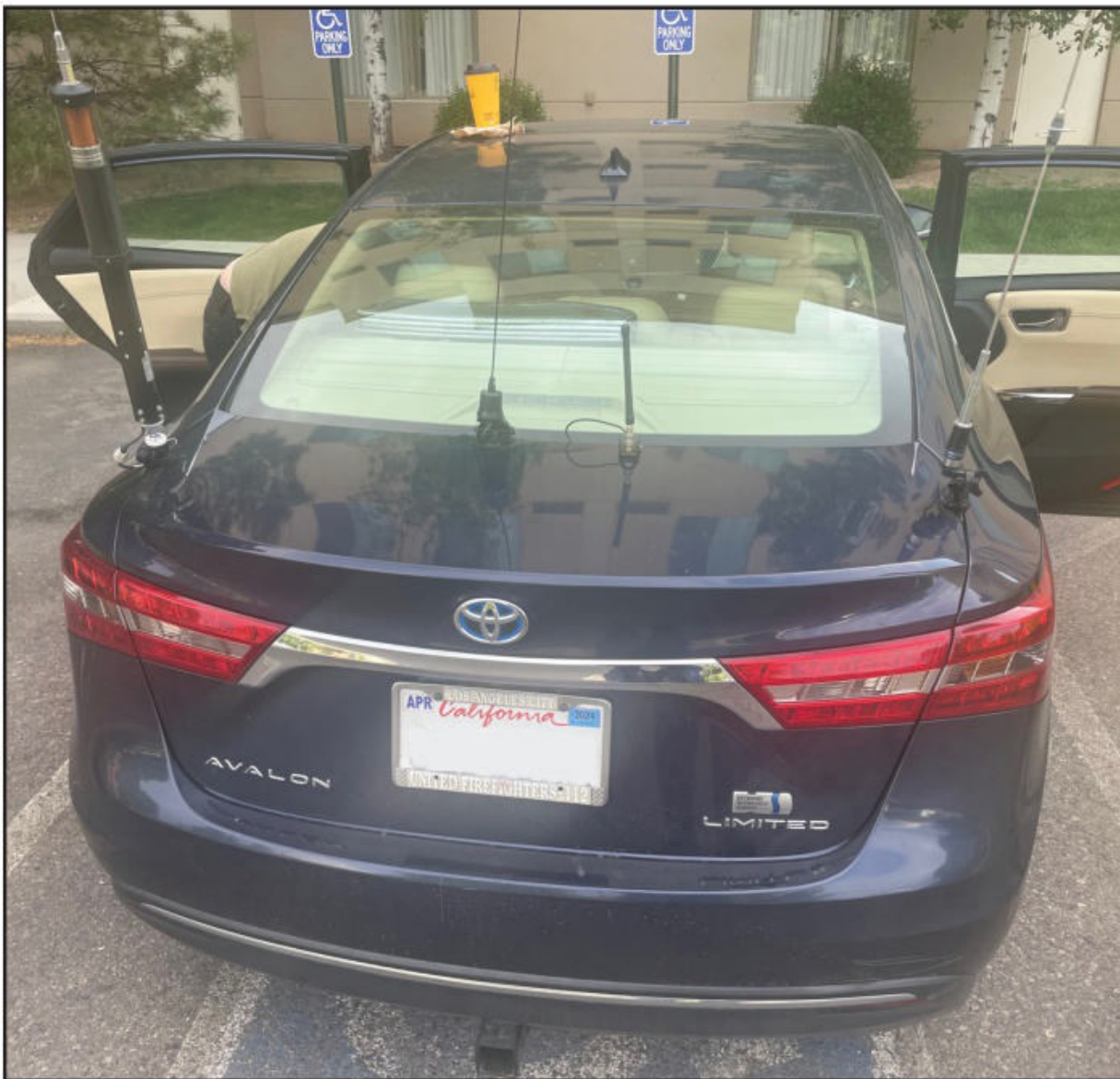


Photo B: Ready to work the world from the road – in addition to three hams, the car was loaded with radios for HF, VHF, and UHF.

way to the convention. There are also “wild cards” like construction and weather. One acquaintance warned us the new state symbol of Indiana is the orange and white construction barrel. The only person happy about that is the one who sold the barrels to the state. I’m guessing there must have been a great commission attached to that transaction!

The participants also agreed that travel costs would be split evenly, specifically gas and lodging. Each person is on his own for food (A ROMEO Club standard is separate checks) and any other incidental costs would be discussed.

Down One

A week prior to liftoff, we lost Greg to circumstances beyond his control. Family comes first and Greg’s priorities are in the right place. It’s a bummer in that we know he would have a great time at the convention, but he’ll also miss also working CW contacts while in transit across the 5,000 estimated miles we’ll cover over the better part of two weeks. His absence will also change the calculus of cost sharing, but such

are the breaks. We can still do this. We’ll also try to resell his admission pass at the Xenia fairgrounds.

The Lost Boys

Well, not really lost, just adrift across the Great Plains. We’ve been offered an after-Dayton invitation to overnight at the Indiana lake home of another ham, John and his gracious XYL Mary Ellen (also a ham). Their generosity gives us a chance to rest and recuperate before launching the return trip, not to mention saving a night’s lodging. Their company promises to be delightful in best traditions of Hoosier hospitality. And Mary Ellen is gracious in playing the role of Wendy to the Lost Boys of California wandering home after a (hopefully) productive trip to Ohio. Hopefully, we will have no encounters with Captain Hook – I hear he operates a towing service these days.

On The Road

With apologies to Jack Kerouac, we’re no match for Sal and Dean who hopped freight trains and rode their thumbs making their way across postwar America. But being in touch with the

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announcements (from page 2)

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PEOTONE, ILLINOIS — The Kankakee Area Radio Society will hold its **KARS-Fest** from 8:00 a.m. onward on Sunday July 16 at Will County Fair Grounds, 710 S. West St. Contact: Arthur Reis, K9XI. Website: <<http://w9az.com/karsfest.html>>. Email: <karsfest@gmail.com>. Phone: (815) 348-7752. Talk-in 146.94; 107.2 Hz. VE Testing.

AUGUSTA, NEW JERSEY — The Sussex County Amateur Radio Club will hold its **Sussex Hamfest** from 8:00 a.m. onward on Sunday July 16 at the Sussex County Fair Grounds, 37 Plains Road. Contact: Walter Murphy, N2WM. Website: <<http://scarcnj.org>>. Email: <n2wm@centurylink.net>. Phone: (973) 948-6489. Talk-in 147.300 +600 PL 151.4. VE Testing.

CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON — The Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society will hold its **Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society Tailgate Swap** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday July 22 at the Lewis County Mall Parking Lot, 177 NE Hampe Way. Contact: Grant Gienger, W3SWT. Website: <<http://www.cvars.org>>. Email: <w3swt@arll.net>. Phone: (360) 614-7926. Talk-in 147.060 110.9 and 146.520 simplex. VE Testing.

CLARK MILLS, NEW YORK — The Clark Mills Firehouse will hold **Radiocom 2023** from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday July 22 at the Clark Mills Firehouse Grounds, 7705 County Rd. 19. Contact: Grant Bob Decker, AA2CU. Website: <<https://www.uticaarc.org/>>. Email: <tbd2626@yahoo.com>. Phone: (315) 797-6614. Talk-in 146.76 (-600) K2IQ. VE Testing.

EAST GREEWICH, RHODE ISLAND — The Massie Wireless Club, N1EPJ will hold its **Tune-Up Flea Market** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday July 22 at the New England Wireless and Steam Museum, 1300 Frenchtown Road. Contact: Kenneth Carr, KE1RI. Website: <<http://newsm.org>>. Email: <ke1ri@yahoo.com>. Phone: (401) 491-9520.

LEBANON, TENNESSEE — The Wilson Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will hold its **Greater Nashville & Middle TN HamQuest** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday July 22 at James E. Ward Agricultural Center, 945 East Baddour Parkway. Contact: Michael Wright, N4MAW. Website: <<http://midtnhamquest.com>>. Email: <info@midtnhamquest.com>. Phone: (615) 210-5581. Talk-in 147.105 TSQL 156.7.

PIERPONT, OHIO — The Amigos Radio Club Ashtabula will hold its **Ashtabula County Hamfest 2023** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday July 22 at the Pioneer Picnic, 1809 Middle Rd. Contact: Andrew Walbridge, W8IJC. Website: <<https://tinyurl.com/ym7mj5rc>>. Email: <kc8oh.arca@gmail.com>. Phone: (440) 858-6370. Talk-in 146.895 MHz, PL-141.3.

PUEBLO, COLORADO — The PPRAA AND PARC will hold their **Megafest** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday July 22 at the CSU Pueblo / Occhiato University Center, 2200 Bonforte Blvd. Contact: Derek Brown, KØATV. Website: <<https://ppraa.org/megafest>>. Email: <dbrown719@outlook.com>. Phone: (719) 306-7834. Talk-in 146.790 CTCSS 88.5.

AUBURN, INDIANA — The Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association will hold its **Auburn Hamfest** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday July 29 at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, 1600 Wayne Street. Contact: John Chalmers, W9GOO. Website: <<http://w9ou.org>>. Email: <w9ou@arll.net>. Phone: (260) 927-5746. Talk-in 147.015 with 141.3 tone.

CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA — The Cumberland Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its **CVARC 2023 Hamfest and ARRL Pennsylvania State Convention** from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday July 29 at the CVAEMA Showgrounds, 1501 Criders Church Road. Contact: Jim Stephens, KB3ICU. Website: <<http://w3ach.com>>. Email: <cvarcw3ach@gmail.com>. Phone: (717) 504-7684. Talk-in 147.120 + 100hz. VE Testing.

SUTTON, WEST VIRGINIA — The West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council will hold its **ARRL West Virginia State Convention and Ham Fest** on Saturday July 29 at the Flatwoods Days Inn and Suites and the Flatwoods Conference Center, 350 Days Drive. Contact: Kenneth Caplinger, WV8KDC. Website: <<https://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/>>. Email: <wv8kdc@arll.net>. Phone: (304) 209-1778. Talk-in 145.290 PL 91.5. VE Testing.

WAYNESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA — The Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society will hold its **WCARS Hamfest** starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday July 29 at Smoky Mountain Event Center (Heywood County Fairgrounds), 758 Crabtree Rd. Contact: Randy Harris, KI4VLW. Website: <<http://wcars-club.org>>. Email: <rtsp71@aol.com>. Phone: (828) 298-6685. Talk-in 146.910 PL Tone 91.5. VE Testing.

WINCHESTER, INDIANA — The Randolph County Amateur Radio Club, Whitewater Valley Amateur Radio Club, and the Jay County Amateur Radio Club will hold their **East Central Indiana Hamfest** from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday July 29 at the Randolph County Fairgrounds, 1885 South US Highway 27. Contact: Jeremiah Cromis, KD9CCW. Website: <<https://tinyurl.com/mvb32zdc>>. Email: <inhamfest@gmail.com>. Phone: (765) 238-7467. Talk-in 147.300+, PL 110.9. VE Testing.

WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA — Washington Amateur Communications will hold its **WACOM Hamfest** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday July 30 at the Washington Crown Center Parking lot, 1500 W. Chestnut Street. Contact: Tom Wright, N3WS. Website: <<http://wa3com.com>>. Email: <n3ws@protonmail.com>. Phone: (412) 414-5627. Talk-in 146.790 (-shift) K3PSP repeater system.



Photo C: The “Lost Boys” of California stopped along the way at the Cadillac Ranch outside Amarillo, Texas.

actual surface of what many refer to as “the Flyover States” is a reconnection with the people and places that comprise America’s heartland. While some things are much easier than they were in “On The Road,” or even Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath,” some characteristics from those bygone eras are lost as well. On the plus side, financial resources, food and lodging are not a serious concern. But the days of rolling up to a Route 66 neon-signed motel with a “vacancy” sign are pretty much gone. Now you’re basically forced into making advance reservations and paying in advance from a cellphone. What’s lost is much of the person-to-person interaction among locals and fellow-travelers, both of which were often the source of support and suggestions in bygone days. We hope to make some of that up by patronizing “mom and pop” eateries when possible and perhaps visiting some points of interest on the return route. Another advantage will hopefully be the radio contacts we make on HF and maybe even VHF if we find active repeaters. My last cross-country journey produced no such luck, but hope springs eternal.

More to Come

So as this is being written on the eve of our departure, the outcomes are not yet known, which of course, is the setup for you to “stay tuned” to the next installment of this column a few months from now. I promise the follow-up report will not just be a summary of the numbers of bags of Doritos consumed or a revue on the rest stops along the route. But all this adventure (or foolishness) has come about because of a few brainstorming radio aficionados seeking to have some fun and adventure in pursuit of “The Magic In The Sky”.

gordo's short circuits

BY GORDON WEST, * WB6NOA

Are the New General Class Exams Tougher or Easier? And talking to space!

A new pool of questions for the General Class license exam just rotated in on July 1st. Some people say the new tests will be harder than the old ones, others say they'll be easier. In fact, the new exams will neither be tougher nor easier than the old ones, just a little bit different.

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), headed up by Roland Anders, K3RA, and Maria Somma, AB1FM, spent months working with their team of technical experts and educational teachers for a full blown "renewal" of the General Class question pool. In summary:

74 old technology questions were removed,
52 new technology questions were added, and
233 questions were updated, resulting in a net decrease of 22 questions in the pool, with about 430 to study

Roland commented on the process, "<ExamTools.org> provided us with statistics based on more than 5,000 exams administered."

For instance, when a distractor (wrong answer) was regularly chosen as a correct answer by the applicant, Maria and Roland examined it closely and, where necessary, edit-

ed or replaced it. They also deleted the too-easy and too-hard questions, based on the <examtools.org> statistics.

We can also thank Richard Bateman, KD7BBC, for all he has done with his hard work with his <HamStudy.org> site.

The 50+ NEW questions on the test bring in new technology Q & A test topics:

- Control operator in a foreign country
- Net management on HF
- Winlink and VARA
- FT8 operations & computer connections
- AREDN digital MESH operations
- Propagation A and K indices
- Ionospheric layers
- Hooking up amplifier ALC and DELAY circuits
- S-meter level changes in dB
- Solar panel regulation techniques
- Reactance and Impedance theory
- LC circuits and resonance
- Step up/step down transformer windings
- Power supply filter networks
- Impedance matching
- SDR overviews
- DMR, D-STAR, and system FUSION digital voice modes
- Random wire antenna topic & cautions on stray RF
- FCC RF exposure safety topics

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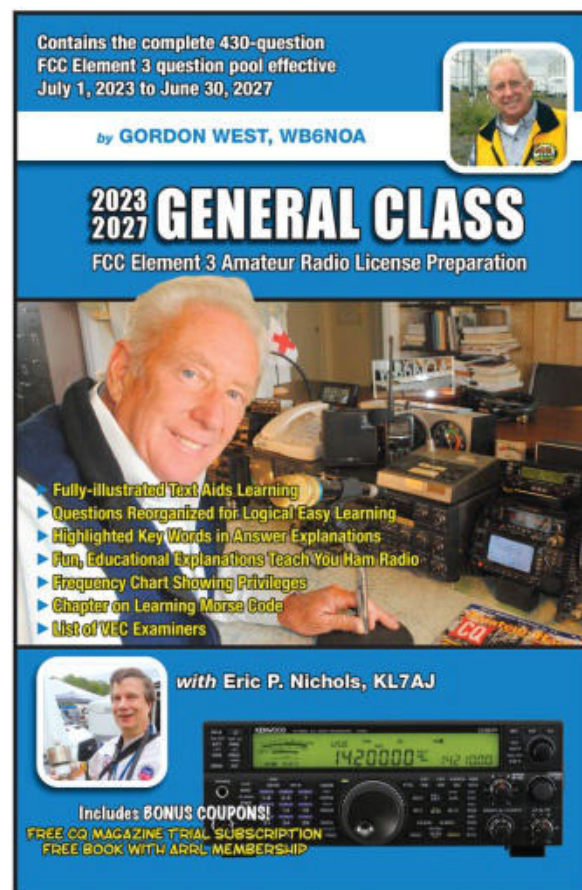


Photo A: Gordo's new General Class license manual covers the new question pool from which exams will be generated over the next four years.



Photo B: 437.810 MHz is where you will first hear signals coming up from the International Space Station's cross-band repeater as it begins a pass over your location.

Speaking about “anywhere in the world,” the International Space Station continues to be a sensation in back yards and school rooms across the country, and around the world. The students can see it in the sky at dawn and dusk a couple times per month.

Don't be overwhelmed with these new topics – after I studied them, I saw that each new question would fit in nicely and logically with my reorganized question lineup, complete with full new explanations, in my new 2023-2027 General Class book (Photo A) and audio course for improved comprehension and actually less study time!

More good news - many VECs are now offering remote exams to students not near an in-person test session. Applicants can test on their own computer, via Zoom, right at home.

Hang on – you might think of these remote exams as a clever way to hide cheat-sheets on the wall, or split screen your computer to help find the correct answer – NO WAY! With as many as 20+ accredited examiners staring at your screen, staring at your desk and room, staring at your eyes, or checking for a pal giving you A B C or D in Morse Code, it'll be almost impossible to cheat. The VEs running these remote exams, and their team members, get special training to nab and halt any exam that looks suspicious.

You can be anywhere in the country – actually most anywhere in the world – and line up a remote test session to upgrade, or as an accredited VE, proctor a test session over the internet. Write Stephen Hutchings, WM7X, at <stephen@hutchings.net>, and take some training, as I did, to work with him on becoming a contact examiner or regular VE remote examiner.

ISS Cross Band Fun

Speaking about “anywhere in the world,” the International Space Station continues to be a sensation in back yards and school rooms across the country, and around the world. The students can see it in the sky at dawn and dusk a couple times per month.

Students can *hear* the space station's packet transmissions easily, day or night, during a pass overhead, or a fleeting few seconds on a low elevation pass, every single day!

APRS packet is easily heard during a pass on 145.825 MHz, FM. APRS will also let you see who else is on, plus see the space station's ID, with a mobile radio or handheld with APRS message readouts. You can try and see yourself on APRS, through the space station, on SIMPLEX, 145.825.

Radio reception of the space station is easy, as the station is in a low earth orbit, up 230 to 290 miles in the thermosphere. It travels around our globe 15 times per day, at a speed of 17,000 miles per hour. The website <heavens-above.com> gives you lots of data on when it will travel over your station at dawn or dusk, when you can see it, and during the day or dead of night to actually hear it, and easily work it. Be sure and log into this fabulous site, to set your latitude and longitude when you first sign up for this free program. If you don't log in, the program will show your viewing position halfway around the world! You must log in to get the most of the website!

Now the fun and easy part about the on-board cross-band repeater. You will need a 2-band or dual-band 2-meter/440-MHz radio for this. Or splurge and use two



Photo C: This simple Yagi is all you need to work other hams through the repeater on the space station.

radios, one for the VHF uplink, and one for the UHF downlink. The cheapest of HTs will easily hear and maybe work the space station.

If you have never tuned in to the space station with your FM handheld or mobile transceiver, here is how to get started. First, find a pass, day or night, with the Heavens-Above website. Again, make sure you are logged in with your approximate latitude and longitude location, and click on “ALL” for passes, not just visible. This site will first give you visible passes, at dawn or dusk. You want ALL of the passes during day and night, so check the “ALL” box that gives you every pass for your location. Next step, monitor 145.825 for the sound of packet, during a pass in your area. This will confirm you understand the <heavens-above.com> passes, a very few visible, but a lot more during daylight, not visible. Again, be sure you ask for all passes each time you sign in. With those instructions, you'll have heard the APRS digipeater signal on a 60-degree pass. Your HT rubber antenna and mobile whip or a base station antenna will hear it fine on 2 meters VHF.

Now it is time to hear the UHF cross band repeater output chatter, and the exchange of grid square numbers, and brief transmissions from hams, out as far as 1,000 miles away. First, check for a pass that will have an elevation of at least 25 degrees above the horizon. Tune to the ISS downlink UHF



Photo D: Schools are regularly scheduled to talk to the astronauts through the ARISS program – Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

frequency. Downlink 437.800 MHz, +/- 10 kHz, or plink 145.990 with a tone of 67 Hz, APRS 145.825. Set your dual band radio for 5 kHz steps.

As the space station is just coming up at 17,000 MPH, Doppler shift will cause its UHF signal to be 10 kHz higher than when it is overhead. So first tune in 10 kHz higher as the ISS is coming up from the horizon, like 437.810 MHz (Photo B), then a minute later 437.805 MHz, then another minute later, 437.800 MHz at its peak elevation. When it begins to pass away from you, you will dial *down* in 5 kHz steps, like 437.795 MHz. So get several passes under your belt, hearing a single signal on UHF FM channel with lots of voices and their grid squares or city names.

When you look up the passes at <heavens-above.com>, and see one near overhead real late at night (when QRM is asleep), dial your HT or mobile to 2 meters, 145.990 MHz, with a 67 Hz CTCSS tone when transmitting. No Doppler shift needed for transmit on the 2-meter band.

Make sure your radio is transmitting on VHF, with tone encode ON, and your rig is *listening* to UHF. Double check you have your transmit tone encoding set at 67 Hz. Again, make sure you are transmitting on the 2 meter uplink frequency 145.990 MHz, T for tone on.

“WBX XXX , Delta Mike 13, listening”. Then unkey. Wow, you could hear yourself going through the International Space Station.

“WBX XXX, this is Tony, KX XXX Dallas. Good copy 73”
 “KX XXX SAN DIEGO, THANKS Tony....WBX XXX listening”

Then stand by for other stations wanting to work you, but let other hams share the fun, too – so don’t hog the single space station channel, and don’t hog this 4 or 5 minute pass! During evening passes, the receive frequency around 437.800 MHz is *packed* with signals. Hams are home from

work, and want to hear their own echoes. Lots of stations doubling! You might get through and hear your own signal come back via cross band from the space station, if you are on a mobile VHF 50-watt rig.

Vertical fixed antennas will detect a sharp drop in signal strength when the space station is overhead. This is because tall multi-section vertical antennas have a sharp null off the tip end.

On a handheld, keep rotating your HT for best reception, sometimes horizontal!

A handheld Yagi directional antenna (Photo C) will make a big difference on uplinking with a handheld to the ISS on VHF. And to hear the ISS downlink on UHF, the signal will be so strong, a rubber duck antenna will be fine to get started!

After the pass, log in to <www.ariss.usa.org>. This will give you the Amateur Radio International Space Station news. Become a regular cross band communicator, using any simple FM dual band rig, and support ARISS with a donation for all they do to keep our hobby relevant to kids and school demos!

If there is a school demo planned in your area (Photo D), the ISS will pause the cross-band mode for the school contact, and you can eavesdrop on the ISS talk-back at 145.800 MHz.

Remember, the space station does the cross band repeating, so you don’t need to own a cross band HT.

Again, get started with just a small HT with a rubber duck antenna, tune in 145.825 MHz to hear packet from the ISS when it is within “view,” and then listen to voices on 437.800 +/- 10 kHz.

The Heavens-Above site also has maps to show the ISS footprint for cross band coverage of each pass.

Best DX from your little HT to the International Space Station, and to hams in its cross-band footprint!

learning curve

BY RON OCHU, KOØZ

Playing With Meteors

Summer is here! HF bands continue to provide DX contacts. Ole Sol keeps things interesting, ionospherically speaking, with periodic intense solar flares, CMEs, and increasingly higher solar indices as we continue towards Cycle 25's solar maximum. Occasionally, HF DX may temporarily suffer with disturbed ionospheric conditions over polar paths. Conversely, VHF propagation may improve with auroral propagation and tropospheric ducting. Accurately predicting HF and VHF propagation openings becomes tricky in terms of timing. When will these solar/ionospheric interactions occur? And will they have any impact on a contest weekend? Sometimes, HF bands of interest will not be open. Whenever the bands, HF or VHF, are not open locally, this could be a good time to go to the bench to work on a project. Or if you're more in the mood to relax in a comfortable chair to pursue your ham radio interests, then why not grab a good radio magazine or book?

May I Suggest?

If inclining to recline is more to your liking, and you're looking for a good ham

radio book, may I suggest taking some time to read an entertaining, excellent, newly-released CQ publication, "Playing With Meteors, Exploring the Universe, With Amateur Radio" by Eric Nichols, KL7AJ (Photo A). Despite the title, Eric's book is not a primer on meteor scatter propagation; rather, it's the author's exploration of the importance of ham radio, its relevance to society in general, and people who become ham radio operators. Simply put, it's the author's hope that before the reader even finishes reading his book, he or she (if not already licensed) will feel compelled to join ham radio's ranks. It is an entertaining and non-technical book I just couldn't put down! I looked forward to discovering what each upcoming page offered. In my opinion, both newbies and experienced ham radio operators will benefit from Eric's observations and his perceptions in his latest book.

Because You Can

Nichols asks readers, "Why would anyone become an amateur radio operator in the 21st century? Of what practical value is amateur radio?" Especially today, almost everyone has worldwide communications available to them. Generations X, Y, and Z communicate throughout the world and make friends via social media and various gaming platforms. Zoom allows us to connect with audio and video via the internet. For non-radio amateurs, it's not too much of a stretch for them to wonder what ham radio has to offer them, that they don't already have with cell phones and the internet? Even more so when you consider all this is available without having to earn a license. An interesting question, *n'est-ce pas*? A question I am sure all of us have encountered from time to time.

An interesting question indeed, and one that Nichols addresses in his book's introduction. "The simplest, perhaps *dumbest* answer would be, 'because you can'." He continues by pointing out, "countless human endeavors with no practical value are partaken in for no other reason than that they are possible: fly fishing, rock climbing, frag racing, bungee jumping, breaking boards with your forehead, etc." Good points to be sure, but best of all, he figuratively

compares amateur radio to a technological baby. One never knows what ham radio is going to grow up into. Ham radio is over 100 years old – yet it continues to reinvent itself with new technologies that build upon the older ones! Nichols offers, "Think about any technology that you use [on] a daily basis ... almost without exception it was first explored on amateur radio." He further notes, before cell phones existed, radio amateurs pioneered and proliferated autopatch on repeaters. I, personally, entered into ham radio during the autopatch era. "Older hams" – do you remember club meeting debates as to whether or not it was permissible under FCC rules to call a tow-truck via the autopatch if your car broke down? Would the FCC consider that call a business transaction? Back then, a lot of hams joined a radio club for autopatch privileges. Today, cell phones have replaced autopatches. Still, ham radio clubs persevered, and they still exist! Nichols further points out the radio and television broadcasting began as amateur radio activities. Even the internet itself is an outgrowth of ham radio involvement. According to the author, "Amateur radio has always been, and it will continue to be, a steppingstone into a technological or scientific career." Furthermore, Nichols continues, "There is no better way to learn countless avenues of science and technology than amateur radio." I totally agree! My personal involvement with ham radio allows me to explore the physical sciences. Getting into amateur radio and staying involved with it only requires willingness to learn and to be involved.

Staying Involved

Learning and staying involved with ham radio isn't the exclusive domain of getting on the air or reading scientific, technical literature. Although, I described "Playing With Meteors" as a non-technical book, that's not to say this book does not include technical concepts. Quite the contrary. Skillfully woven and written, technical concepts such as electromagnetic spectra, motivation, radio as a window to the universe, a brief history of radio, DC to Daylight, the scientific hobby of radio, maker culture, natural radio signals such as whistlers,

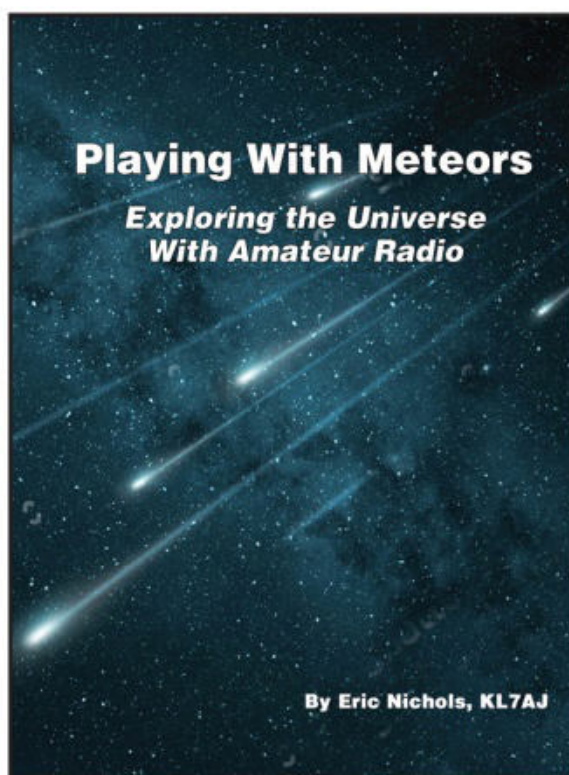


Photo A: Cover photo of Eric Nichols, KL7AJ's, latest book, "Playing With Meteors - Exploring the Universe With Amateur Radio"

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

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radio propagation and the impact of computers with radios unfold throughout the book in each subsequent chapter.

Personal Touch

Every writer strives to pen a page turner. Nichols accomplishes this precisely because his writing style is relaxed, entertaining, informative, and often humorous. Throughout his book, Eric gives readers personal glimpses into his ham radio life by narrating key moments. For example, in chapter two, “What is an Amateur?”, Eric writes about playing neighborhood soccer in fourth grade with “shirts” and “skins” being their only uniforms, having a lot of fun and it only cost them a few skinned knees and egos. “There were no soccer moms. Just kids who liked kicking balls around and getting our noggins knocked in from time to time. Totally unorganized, unsubsidized, and uncompromised. Purely amateur.” Therein lies Nichols’ premise sustaining ham radio; namely, it purely being *amateur*. He goes on to reminisce, “We played with radios...or things that remotely resembled radios. We built scary-looking contraptions that either emitted or received radio waves of var-

ious sorts. We didn’t spend a lot of time considering the legality of some of this thing called amateur radio. (The statute of limitations has long since lapsed on our miscreant radio activities, but nevertheless, don’t tell anyone!).” He continues, “For the most part, they were motivated by insatiable curiosity, something that seems to be in somewhat short supply with many of our youth, despite the instant availability of all kinds of amazing widgets. But this is the very definition of an amateur, someone who pursues some activity for the pure pleasure of pursuing it.” Reading this passage, I discovered Nichols was describing me as a youth, and unless I miss my mark, I bet he is describing you as well! I can relate. We can relate.

Not a Passing Fancy

Like Nichols’ description of youths with insatiable curiosity, I was drawn to amateur radio. I saved my money, and my first rig was a Johnson Viking II transmitter and a Hallicrafters SX-111 receiver. At first, my parents thought my ham radio interest was a passing fancy. I wasn’t able to get their permission to erect a dipole on top of our roof or to run coax cable into my bedroom. Instead, I



Photo B: A household telephone jack for a phone line’s twisted pair of wires. (Photos B-F from Wikimedia Commons)

would put up a dipole between two trees in the backyard and I would put a wooden door on concrete blocks to serve as a table. I would set up my transmitter and receiver and operate well into the night when weather allowed. My ham radio buddies would politely joke about my makeshift QTH by saying, “Every day is Field Day for you!” I was young

and I didn't mind the additional hassle. It didn't matter because I was on the air! Eventually, my parents gave me permission to finally erect a roof mounted dipole and to run coax inside. That was so long ago, but to this very day, thousands of QSOs later, I still get a thrill communicating wirelessly and meeting new people. By the way, and for the record, I don't miss the nighttime insect bites!

Wireless

I loved the notion of communicating with someone without the need for wires.

When I was a kid, a telephone needed wires (Photo B) and it certainly wasn't portable like today's cell phones. As a kid growing up in the sixties, my dad worked part-time for a drive-in theater (remember those?) as an attendant and he had a walkie talkie. He'd let me chat with other radio equipped attendants working at the drive-in and that began my love affair with two-way communications. I bet you can guess what I wanted to get for my birthday. Back in the day, walkie-talkies transmitted and received on the CB band. Like many "senior hams" today, I had my start in

two-way radio communications with CB. However, I also recall building a crystal radio receiver for the AM broadcast band. Later, I came across short wave radio broadcasts, collecting QSLs, and ham radio! Listening to ham radio operators communicate with each other around the world was pure excitement. Instead of just listening, ham radio allowed me to initiate a QSO! I made up my mind to earn a ham radio license and to get in on the fun. I left CB and never looked back. I was and I still am enamored with everything ham radio.

Enamored With Science

In chapter six of his book, Nichols shares with us some of his boyhood memories of growing up near the 2-mile-long Stanford Linear Accelerator in Silicon Valley and its nurturing environment for an inquisitive "radio nerd!" He realizes that not every budding radio amateur grows up with the resources offered in Silicon Valley, but he does realize, "anyone, anywhere can be a radio amateur! Amateur radio is still the most accessible pathway to a career or hobby in science." From my own personal experience, I most definitely agree with him! Throughout my tenure as a ham radio operator, I have met many influential individuals. Some of them are famous, but all of them mak-



Photo C: Aerial view of the particle accelerator at Fermilab outside of Chicago.



Photo D: The Very Large Array radiotelescope located outside of Socorro, New Mexico.



Photo E: Microwave Update Conference was held at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky.



Photo F: One of radio station WWV's omnidirectional HF antennas near Ft. Collins, Colorado.

ing meaningful contributions. Some are astronauts, some are engineers, and others are scientists. Because ham radio stimulated my overall interest in science, I've toured the Fermilab near Chicago (Photo C), toured the Very Large Array near Socorro, New Mexico (Photo D), and attended a conference at a NASA deep space radio telescope at Morehead State University in Kentucky (Photo E), just to name a few remarkable locations. While on vacation, the family and I made it part of our itinerary to see United States National Institute of Standards and Technology radio station WWV (Photo F) near Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Ionospheric Stories

One of the things I like most about Nichols's book is the personal narratives that relate his professional experiences with his amateur radio ones. A case in point is the author's professional involvement with scientific, ionospheric research with HIPAS (High Power Auroral Stimulation) and HAARP (High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program). The research done at these observatories indicates our ionosphere can act like a frequency mixer, a signal generator, or even an amplifier. The author points out this research employs RF power levels far exceeding amateur radio power levels; nonetheless, radio amateurs provided and continue to provide countless diagnostic functions requiring minimal or no transmitter power. Ham radio is

alive and well and it continues to contribute to science. One group that actively promotes this is the Ham Radio Science Citizen Initiative, or HamSCI. Check out HamSCI at <https://hamsci.org/> for yourself! (Also see a report on this spring's HamSCI workshop elsewhere in this issue. – ed.)

Nothing Left

I could go on and on sharing my favorite passages and insights into Nichols's book, but then I'd be guilty of robbing you, my readers, of your own discoveries with this intriguing book by leaving nothing left for you. A big takeaway for me is the many pathways ham radio offers us. I've told my ham radio students, "Ham radio will open many doors for you and offer you new horizons." This insight isn't only for amateur radio. When I taught literature, one of my lessons would be to ask my students to listen to a piece of classical music. I told them that instead of words and sentences, the instruments would tell a story. To bait their interest, I told them a major motion picture used the classical piece. Their job was to listen to the music, write down whatever emotion(s) they heard and how those perceived emotions contributed to the story's plot. I can assure you many a teenage eyebrow was raised with this lesson! I bet them that their paragraphs would be more similar than different. The piece I used was the composer John William's theme song for the motion picture

"Apollo 13." Generally, the gals heard a story of romance, excitement, emotional turmoil, hardship, and eventually romantic equilibrium. Gents tended to hear a thrilling adventure, daring, challenges, battle, reversal of fate, perseverance, and overcoming adversity. Who was correct? Well, both! In the context of the movie, the astronauts looked forward to liftoff, they were excited riding the Saturn V rocket on its battle to overcome Earth's gravity, only to have an engine failure, but persevering to an orbital equilibrium. Metaphorically, the same is true with our collective ham radio experiences.

Reminiscence and Perspective

It's fun to reminisce and to gain perspective through sharing each other's insights into amateur radio. Our past shapes our present and our present becomes our future. Storytelling, whether in oral or written form, is still the way we learn. There is still so much to learn, so much to discover, so much to share.

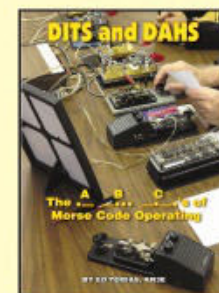
Thank you for reading CQ and I hope to hear you on the air with your story to share. 73, Ron KOØZ.

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the ham notebook

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY WAYNE YOSHIDA*, KH6WZ

The Wonderful World of Surplus - Revisited

I am lucky to live near the world famous “TRW Swap Meet” – it’s something I have visited since my teenage years. The location is actually the Northrop-Grumman campus in Redondo Beach, California, but most folks around the world know it by the original name, TRW. More formally, it is called the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club Swap Meet. See <https://tinyurl.com/mrybxc8x>.

Since COVID restrictions have been lifted, I started going back to this event, seeing old friends and buying useful or interesting things. As I have said many times regarding surplus materiel, I almost never buy something for what it is, but rather for what it can become.

I must add one thing that I feel very strongly about: If your purchase turns out to be defective, please do not sell it to someone else without disclosing its true condition. Sometimes a non-functioning piece of gear is exactly what the buyer wants or needs, especially if the item is rare and difficult to find. An example of this would be a collector of a certain radio who may be looking for a mechanical parts or hardware, such as knobs and enclosure or chassis pieces, or components or sub-assemblies inside.

Over the years I have found many extraordinary treasures, and there is usually a great story behind each of these discoveries. I have several examples of these finds below.

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

As equipment technology evolves and advances, finished products become obsolete and are scrapped or disposed of in another way, and are replaced with new systems.

Equipment from the 1970s and earlier includes many vacuum tubes, rather than solid state devices inside their cabinets. Some of the advanced sets were a hybrid combination of tubes and solid-state devices. Since many hams tend to keep their equipment for many years, it is not uncommon to see tube gear of some sort, even among the most modern station equipment.

The Collins receiver in Photo A is a good example of a nicely restored tube-based HF transceiver, seen at a local ham radio swap meet. The classic rigs and test gear contain many tubes and no transistors or microprocessors at all.

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



Photo A: This Collins R-388/URR receiver is a classic collectable. Although not rare, it certainly looks nice and clean.



Photo B: Vacuum tubes are still available in abundance if you know where to look.

email: kh6wz@cq-amateur-radio.com
Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/wayneTyoshida



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

Photo D: A capacitor and inductor tester should be in your tool kit if you build and test your own gear. This unit has been discontinued, but many modern multi-testers include a capacitance function.



Speaking of tubes, you may want to invest in a good tube tester if you have a lot of tubes in your collection. I purchased the military TV-7/U tube tester in Photo C on eBay several years ago. Although I don't use it often, a tube tester is the only tool that can test vacuum tubes. Other tube testers are available; check the websites mentioned in the References section for useful information.

Large air- or vacuum-variable capacitors and inductors, and multi-way, ceramic insulator wafer switches, all very useful for high power RF amplifiers and antenna tuners, are also frequently available as surplus, either as "new old

stock" (NOS) or used. Many modern versions of these components are not the same as these precision devices. These units are easily inspected, since a "bad" one would show visible signs of arcing or corrosion.

A capacitor tester, such as the one shown in Photo D, can verify capacitor and inductor operation, and an ohmmeter can verify whether or not switch contacts are working. Photo E shows an early stage in another restoration project, a Heathkit IT-28 capacitor checker. Although it is in pretty good shape as-is, I decided to un-build it and turn it back into a kit. I love the "magic eye"

tube on the front panel and am looking forward to putting it into use.

Speaking of old parts and restoration projects, I use an ultrasonic cleaner, filled with a weak solution of Krud-Kutter and water, to make parts sparkle like new. Other cleaning detergents can be used but avoid using corrosive cleaning agents when washing electronic parts and aluminum pieces in the ultrasonic cleaner.

Amazingly Exotic Items

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

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

Once one establishes a viable microwave band station at the one-watt level, a reasonable station upgrade would be to increase power. This requires transmit-receive sequencing, and a waveguide (rather than a coax cable) type relay. Just like vacuum tubes, some folks say waveguide relays are difficult to find, but a good microwave surplus hunter can find them at reasonable prices. A nice example of a surplus WR-90 waveguide relay can be seen in Photo F.

The 24-GHz solid state amplifier, shown in Photo G, is one of my best surplus-derived items. Simply unavailable several years ago, even as surplus, solid state, microwave, and millimeter-wave amplifiers in the 1-watt to 10-watt or more range are becoming available on the surplus market worldwide. This will definitely improve microwave frequency contest scores as hams discover and integrate high power into their systems.

Now take a look at Photo H. I found this large and heavy piece of surplus

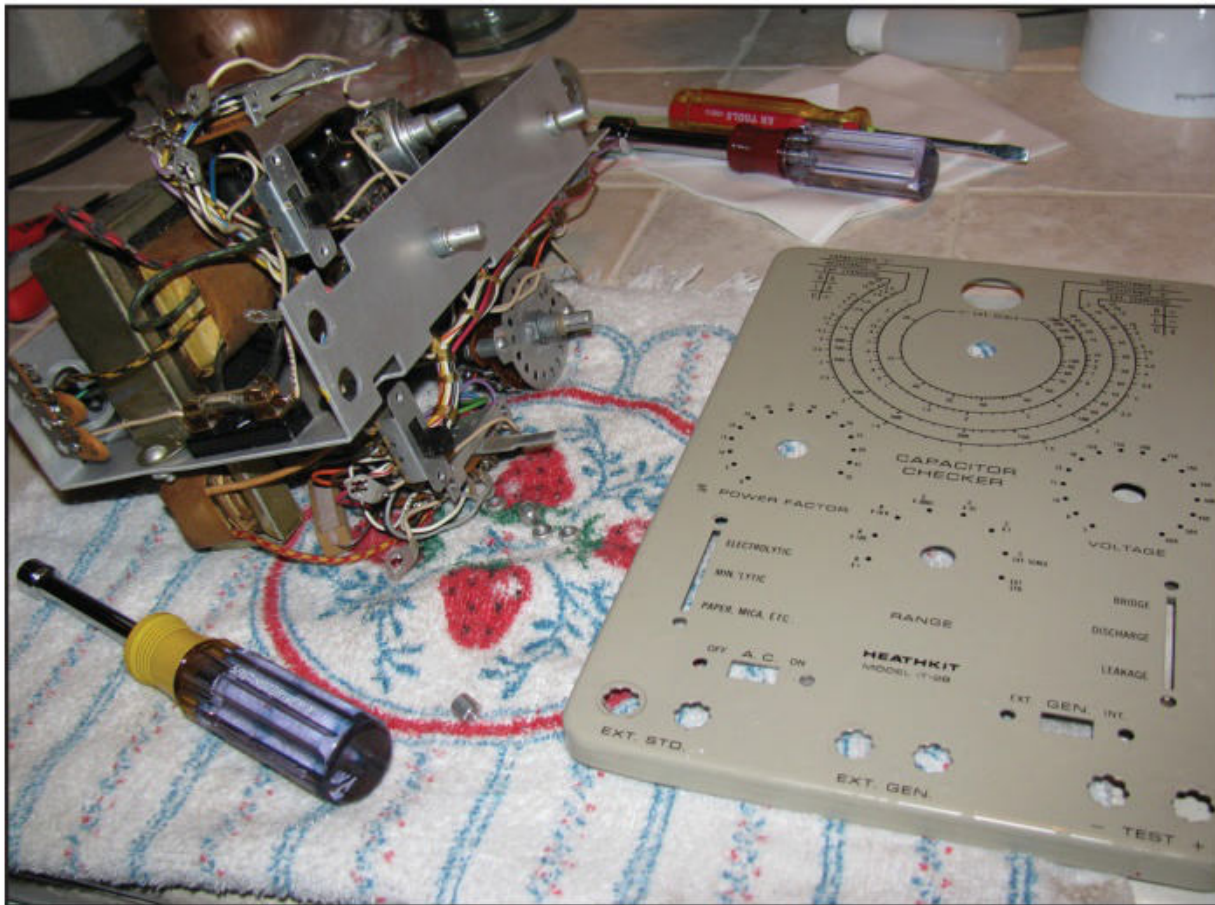


Photo E: I am restoring a vintage Heathkit capacitor checker. It should be a nice addition to my workbench.

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

ing-back guarantee. I peeked inside the cabinet, and to my surprise and delight, saw that the unit was not only very clean, it contained a whole lot of 10 GHz parts and assemblies. This was the first and so far, only time I violated my rule about buying an item I did not fully understand. However, in this case, I

behind the bylines...

... a little bit about some of the authors whose articles appear in this issue.

Ron Wilcox, KF7ZN (“Forging Amateur-Professional Bonds,” p. 32), has been a ham twice! Originally licensed in 1984, he let his license lapse and then returned to the fold 30 years later, in 2014. He is currently vice president of the Utah DX Association, an active volunteer examiner and a member of both the ARRL and HamSCI speakers’ bureaus. Ron has had a widely varied career, from mining underground while in college, to a long career in telecommunications and now, as a Registered Nurse Case Manager. Two of his sons are also hams.

Guy Immega, VA7GI (“A Cosmic Dance With the Ionosphere,” p. 42), returned to ham radio in 2015 after a 45-year absence. Before his retirement, he ran a company that designed autonomous robots for the International Space Station. Guy is currently a science fiction author. His latest novel, “Super-Earth Mother”, was published last month by Amazon.

Bob Allphin, K4UEE (Guest DX Editor, p. 78), is one of the most accomplished DXpeditioners of our time. He has led, co-led or participated in expeditions to eleven of the “top-ten” most-wanted DX entities and participated in eleven “DXpeditions of the Year.” Bob is a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, past chairman of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee and is on the board of INDEXA, the International DX Association. According to his <www.QRZ.com> page, he has visited 131 different DX entities and operated from 85 of them.

assessed what I could identify, and it was a great deal.

I asked a store employee about the unit, and he said it had just come in, and the \$350 is just a suggested selling price. Trying to contain my excitement as best as I could, I offered \$200 for the item, and he accepted the deal. It is truly an incredible find. Of course, the next step was to figure out how to get it home in my small coupe. I dragged the giant box out of the store and placed it onto the passenger seat and used the safety belt to secure it into place.

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

Test Equipment

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

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

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

When he got the unit home, he flipped the switch to the “INT” position, and the unit was fully functional.

Photo I shows the treasures I found at my most recent trip to the TRW swap meet. The temperature controllers will be turned into nice cabinets for my next

microwave or Maker Faire projects. The vintage VIZ Senior VoltOhmyst (vacuum tube voltmeter or VTVM), complete with probes, is nice and clean. Even the power cord is fine and does not need replacement. There is no evidence of battery leakage inside. And best of all, it works. The big analog meter will be a great instrument to put on display at the next Maker Faire.

As communications and radio technology advance in the

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

73, Wayne KH6WZ

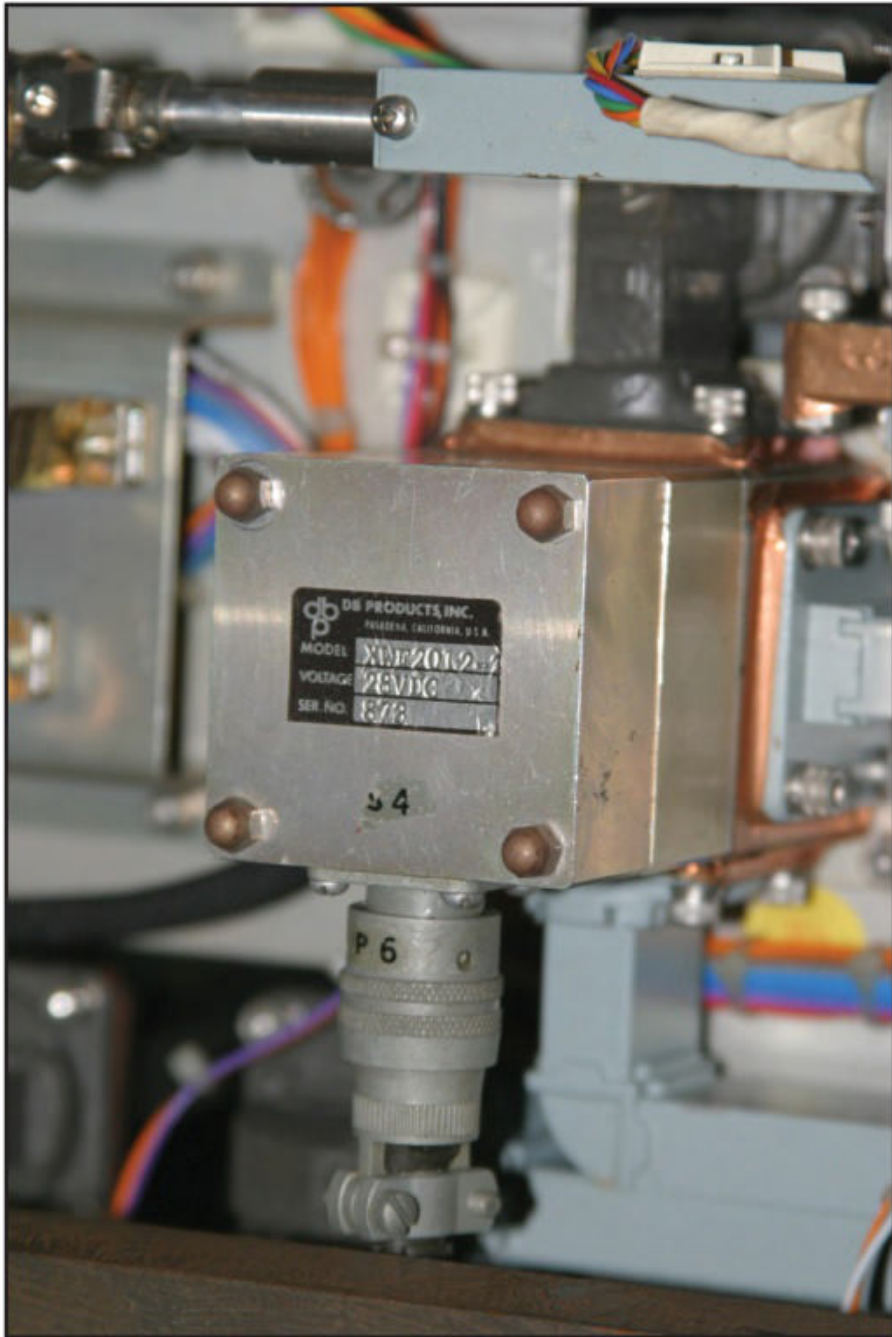


Photo F: One of the best places to find various microwave cables, connectors and waveguide is the surplus market. This WR-90 waveguide relay will be included in my next 10 GHz transverter system.

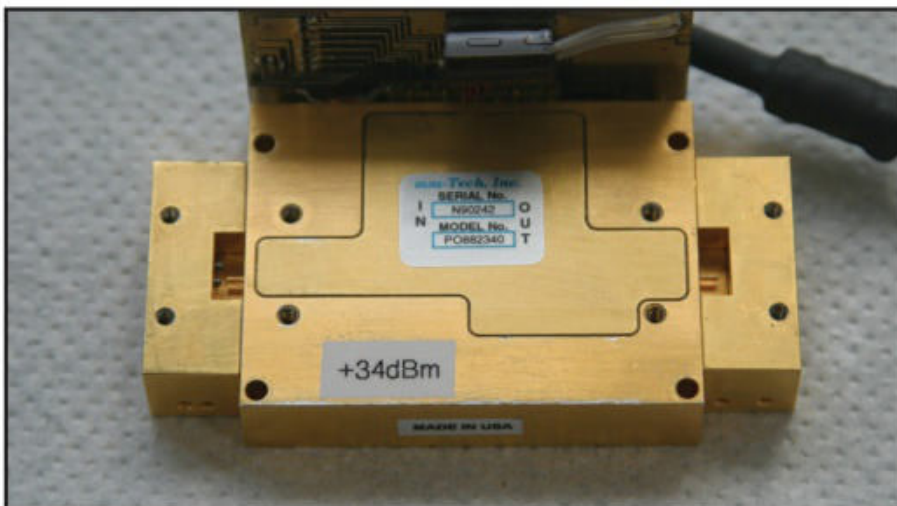


Photo G: This 24 GHz solid state amplifier is another example of a great surplus find.



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

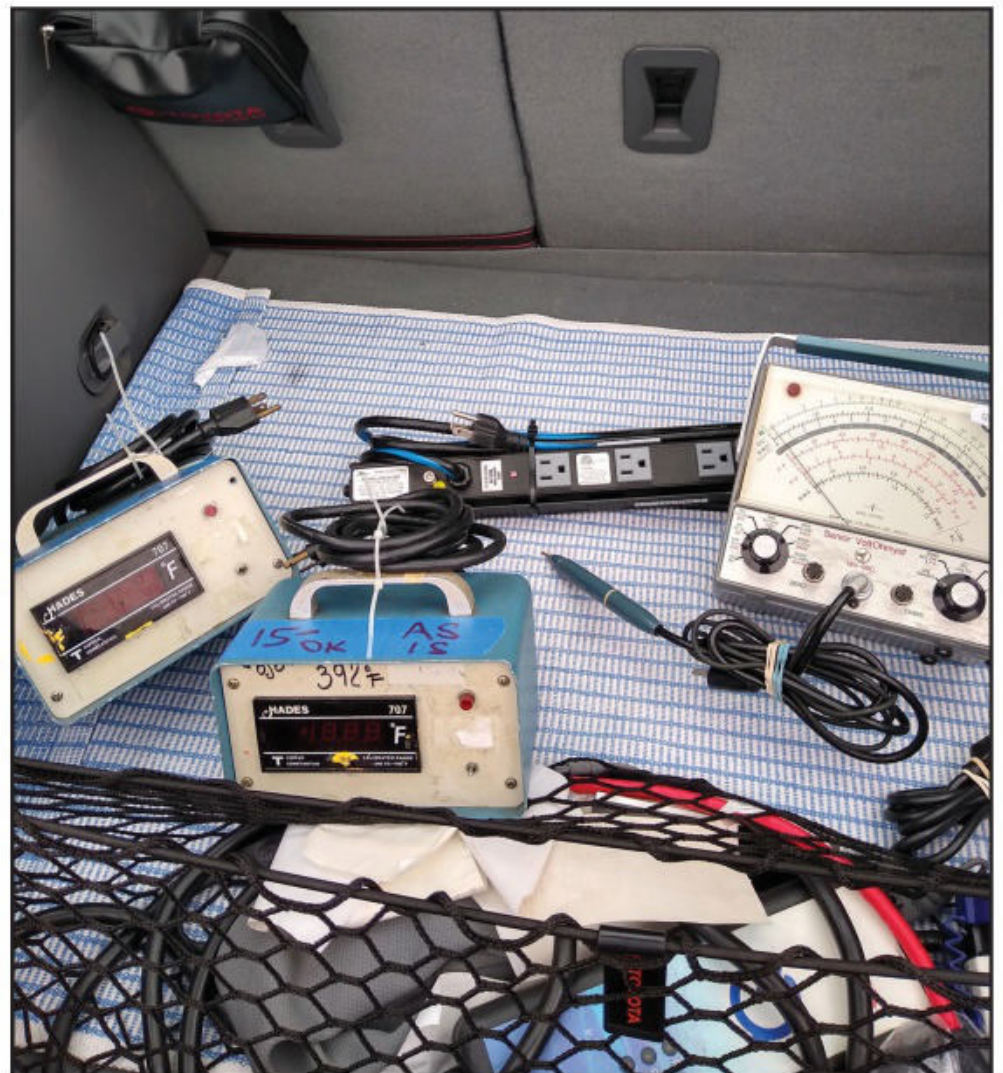


Photo I: A look at some of the treasures I picked up at the swap meet. The Senior VoltOhmyst is a well-known, classic instrument. The giant meter will look nice at the next Maker Faire.

digital connection

BY DON ROTOLO,* N2IRZ

A Revamped Radio for Higher-Speed Packet

The Yaesu FTM-3100R goes under the knife

Just a year ago, in the July 2022 issue of *CQ*, I detailed what it takes to convert the Kenwood TK-762G to run 9600 baud packet. Since then, I've found the performance to be somewhat less than ideal. Oh, it works, but you need a stronger-than-average signal for reasonable performance. My conclusion is that even the 'wide' IF filtering is just a bit too narrow. I've since relegated these radios to run 2400 baud IL2P which really delivers excellent performance, especially for the price.

Continuing my search for radios to run 9k6, I found the Yaesu FTM-3100R, the little sister of the (now discontinued) FTM-3200DR C4FM digital voice transceiver, minus the digital voice capabilities. Built on what appears to be the exact same main circuit board, this 2-meter radio features true FM, 65 watts of RF and is designed to run higher-speed packet, with minor modification. The specifications are available on the Yaesu website at <<https://tinyurl.com/FTM-3100R>>. Released back in 2016, the FTM-3100R is not on Yaesu's list of models to be discontinued any time soon.

Being fortunate enough to live just a few minutes from the local Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) store in Atlanta, I went for a visit and bought two FTM-3100Rs for about \$150 each, HRO's standard selling price <<https://tinyurl.com/y2wn9uky>>. Certainly not as inexpensive as those old Kenwoods, but still within reason, particularly for what they can do.

The first step towards voiding the generous 3-year warranty from Yaesu was to make sure both radios worked. I did not buy a programming cable, but with the excellent front-panel programming ability of the FTM-3100R, it turns out I really didn't need one. After a few minutes poking at the owner's manual, it was easy to set up the radio for packet. This included setting the desired frequency as the 'home channel', resetting the time-out-timer to 1 minute, and

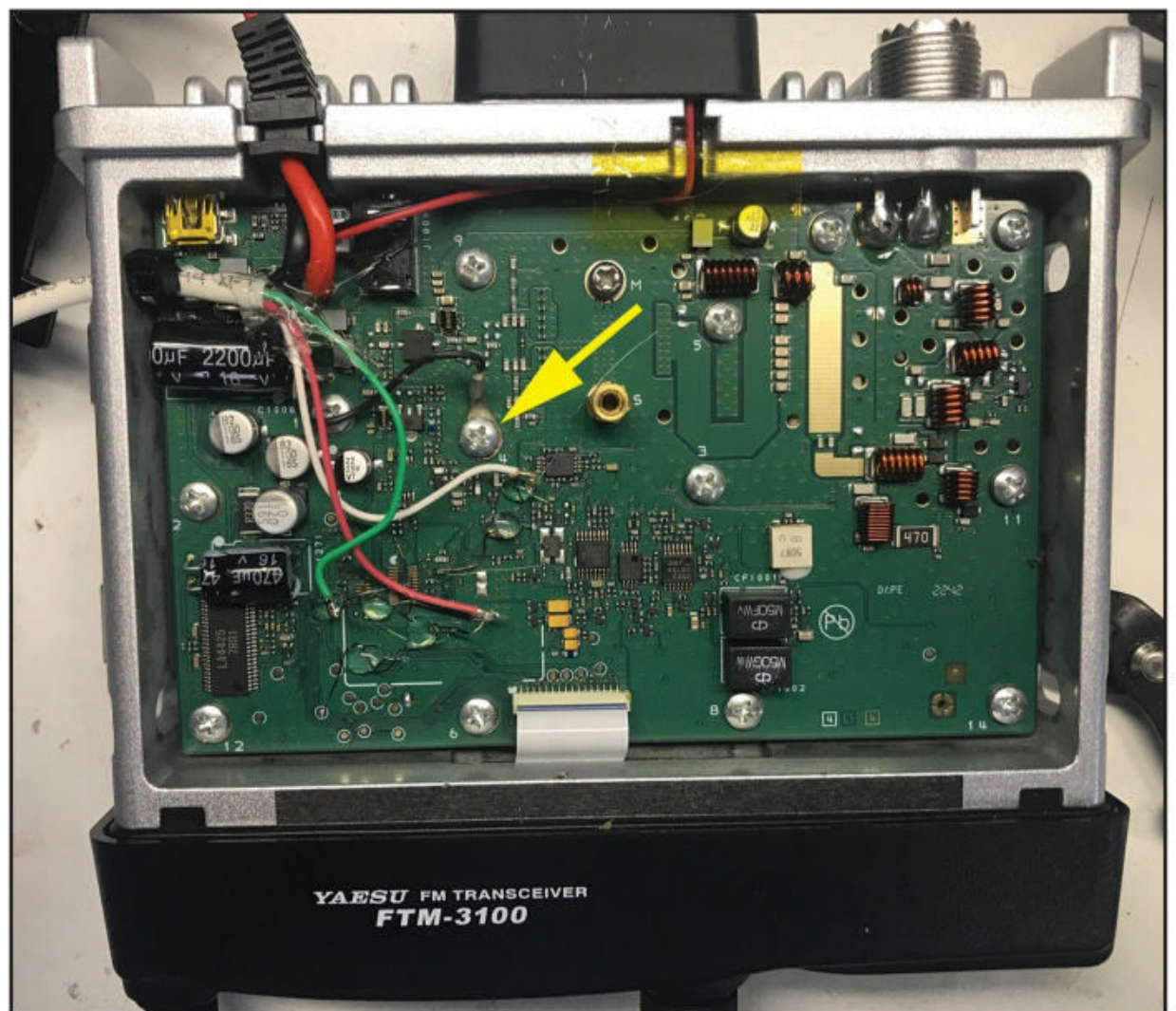


Photo A: The Yaesu FTM-3100R, my latest victim, after its recent surgery. The arrow points to the screw I used for the ground connection, and you can see the locations of the other connection points in Photos C and D.

changing the power-on display to show my callsign. While in the menu mode, I also verified that the CTCSS subtones and Digital-Coded Squelch (DCS) were off, the wide IF filtering was active, and the repeater shift was set to simplex.

Following instructions from Nino Carillo, KK4HEJ (of NinoTNC fame) on the TARPEN website <<https://tinyurl.com/TARPEN-Yaesu-mod>>, I opened up the radio and located the specified signal pick-off points (TXA, RXA, PTT, and Ground), which are all conveniently found on the top of the main board. Trust me, you do *not* want to have to access the bottom of this board.

To get the radio cover off, I removed the three screws and unclipped one side from the metal tabs on the side. The cover then lifted off. While this alone didn't void the warranty, these next few steps probably did.

Ground was the easy part, as it is found all over the radio – I picked it off from the screw highlighted in Photo A. PTT comes from a somewhat small but manageable gold-plated test point. Both TXA and RXA were supposed to come from specific vias, which are tiny plated-through holes in the circuit board used to pass signals from the top to the bottom and vice-versa. The original instructions called for removal of the green solder mask from each via and soldering to the little ring of exposed copper. I started with RXA.

My first attempt did not go well. I did manage to get a piece of solid 24 AWG telephone wire soldered to the via, but almost immediately tore it off (along with the copper circuit board trace), as seen in Photo B, which actually looks worse in person. And I was being extremely careful, as that via is only

*c/o *CQ* magazine

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

about 20 thousandths of an inch wide. The problem is that the signal comes up from the bottom of the board through this via, and now that I'd destroyed its connection to its plated-through hole, I was completely screwed. Thinking about that now-gone generous 3-year warranty and my clumsy hands, I put everything off for a night to think on it more carefully.



Photo B: This via pad carries the receive audio (RXA) signal directly from the radio's discriminator circuit out to the TNC. Despite extreme care and my 20x stereo microscope, this trace was badly damaged in the attempt, being broken and lifted from the board.

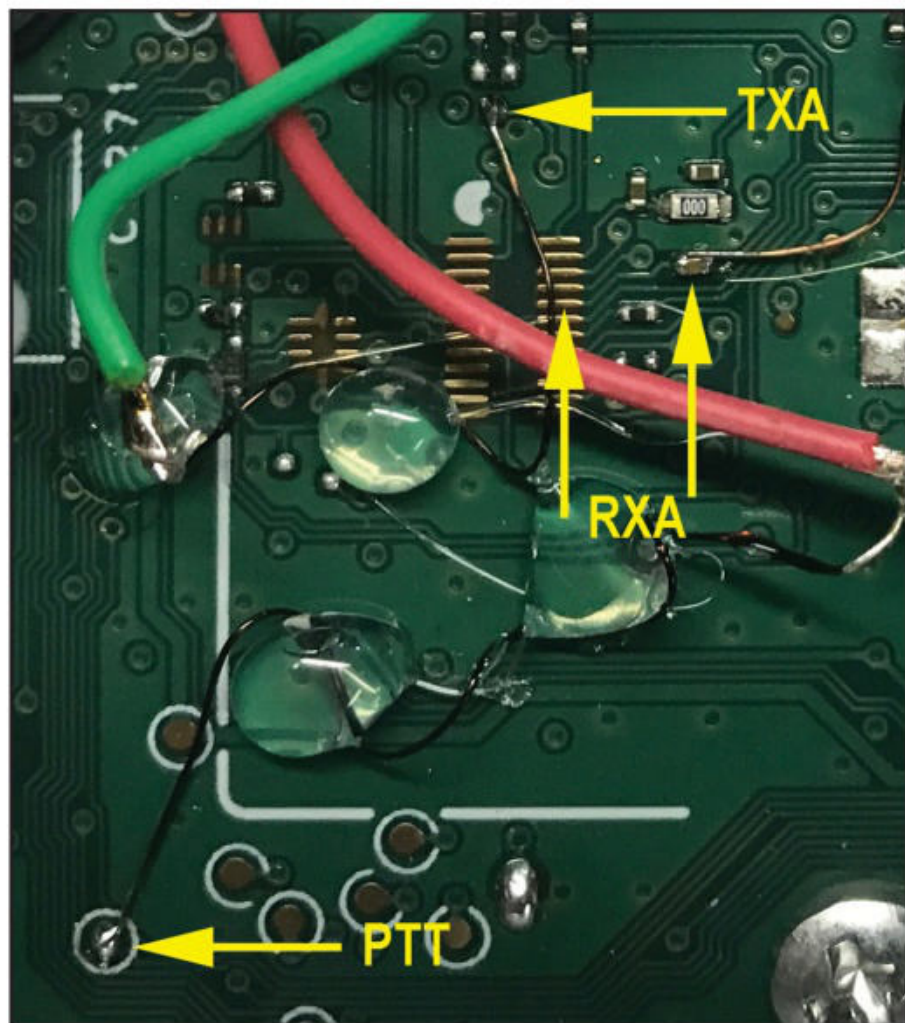


Photo C: A close-up view of the signal pick-off points. At top is TXA, taken from an unused pad for Q1051, center is RXA which can be either on the right side of C1353 or (if you bridge C1353 to short it out) the unused pad at pin 10 of J1006, and at the bottom PTT on TP1018. See Photo A for the ground point.

The next morning, with some coffee under my belt, I got a copy of the service manual (Yaesu sells them) to research my options. To make a long story short, I first identified a different location where I could still get that RXA signal despite the damage I caused. Then I came up with a completely new plan.

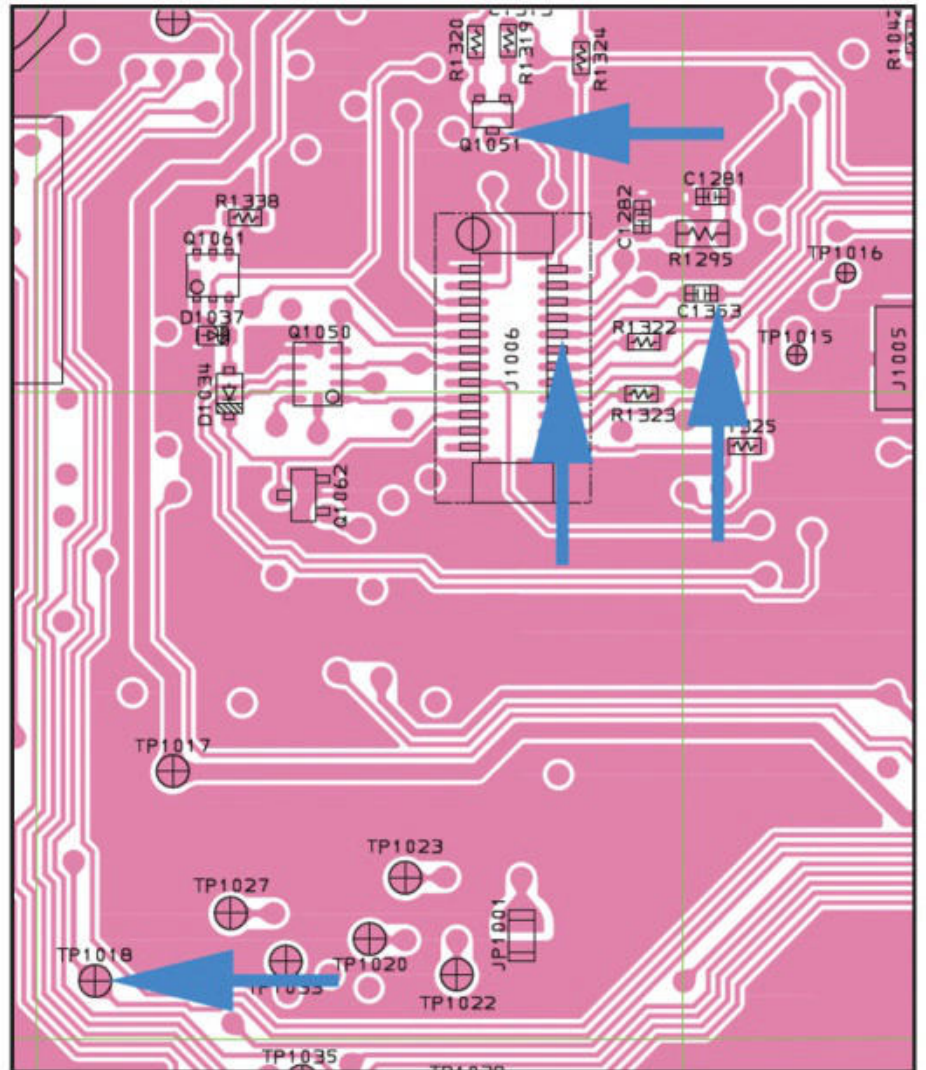


Photo D: The same view as Photo C, showing the circuit board component placement.

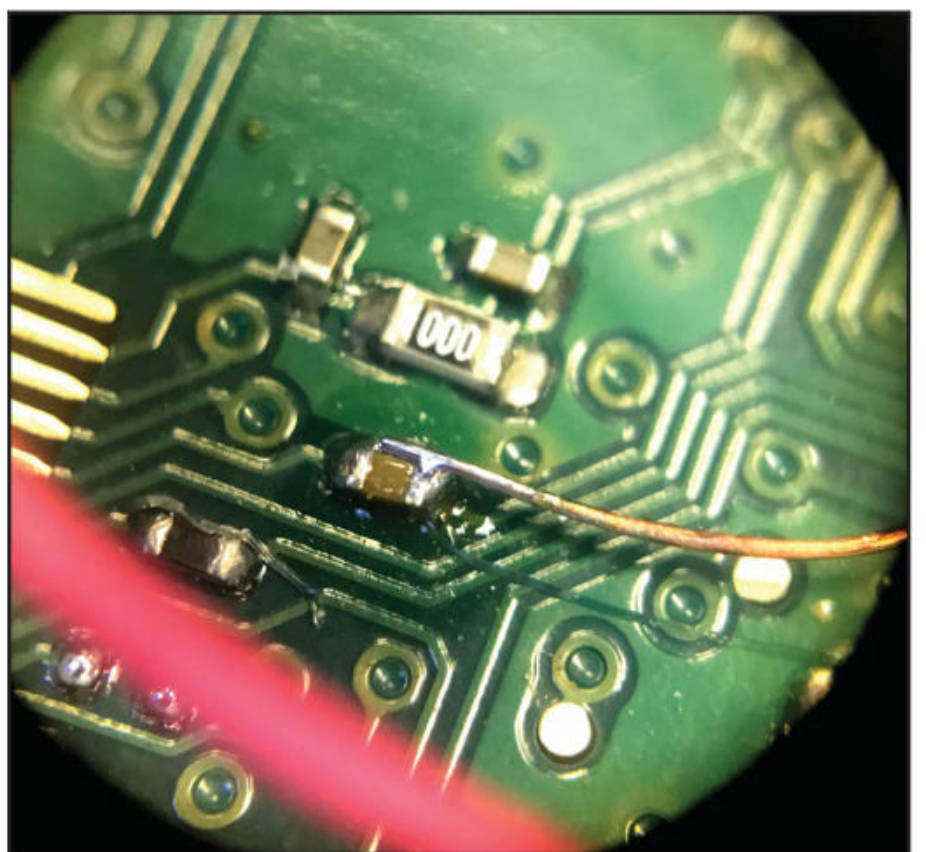


Photo E: A super close-up of my work at C1353 to pick off RXA, as seen through my 20x microscope. To understand the scale, consider that the 30 AWG wire seen is only 10 thousandths of an inch (0.010) wide.

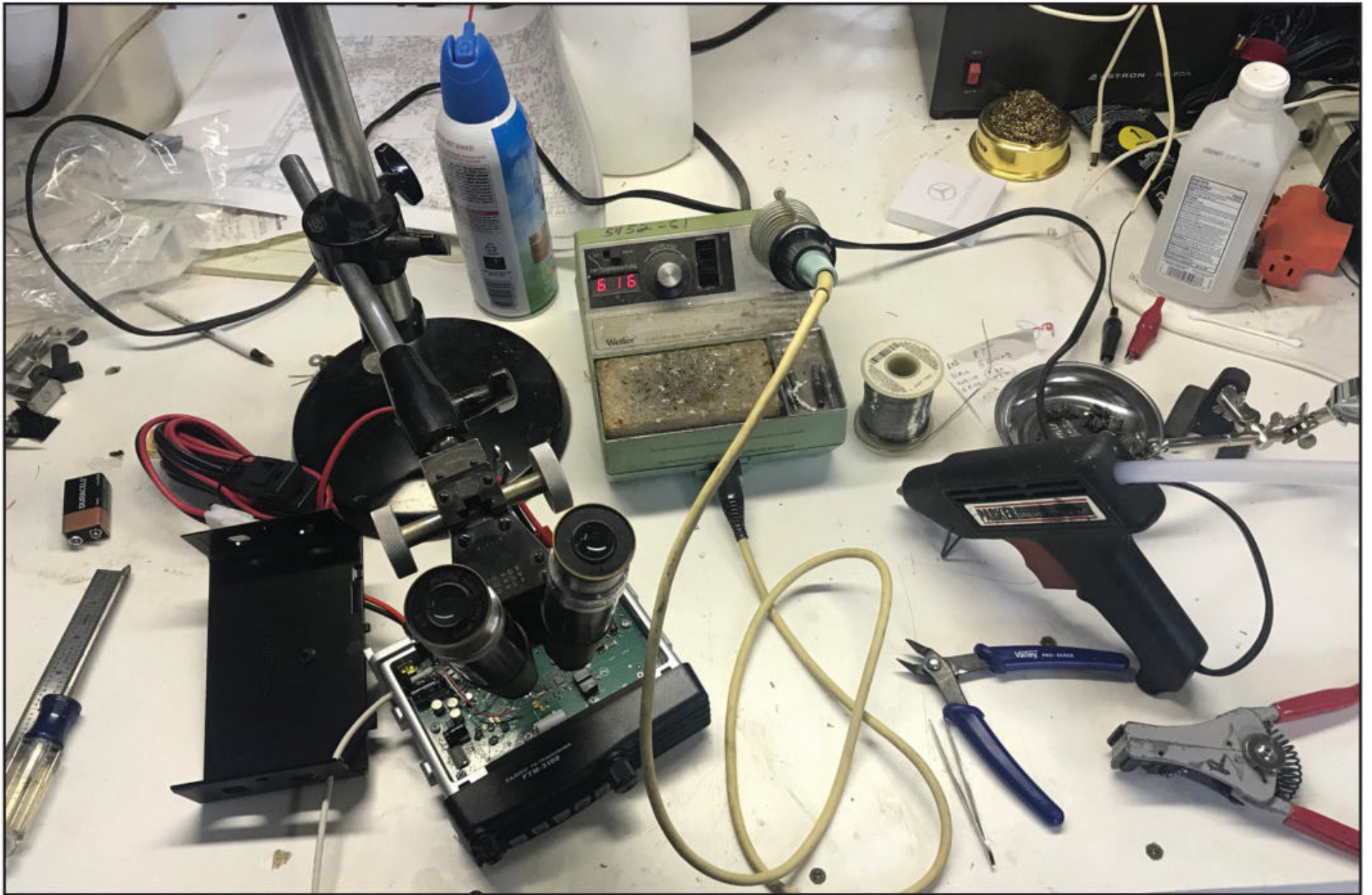


Photo F: Some of the equipment I used to make the modification. Most important for me was the 20x stereo microscope, since the components are very small. If you are not experienced in surface-mount repair or rework, or don't have the right equipment, you should consider finding someone who can help.

The first thing was to find more robust connection points for RXA and TXA. After poring over the circuit board layout and schematic, and looking through my 20x stereo microscope, I found them, not far from the originally recommended locations. These are shown in Photos C and D.

To connect to these extremely tiny spots on the circuit board, the plan is to use very fine wires to make the circuit board connections, then solder these to the much larger stranded wires leading out of the radio to the TNC connector. I ended up using 30 AWG magnet wire that I had in the shop, although 30 AWG wire-wrap wire would also be a good choice, and easier to strip. I used a sharp blade to scrape off the magnet wire varnish, then learned that my butane torch and some fine steel wool worked better.

My process was to first strip and tin both ends of the fine wire, clip one end to leave about 1/16" of exposed wire, and use hot-melt glue to fasten each wire's midpoint to the circuit board. I positioned the wires to be able to reach the needed contact spot without getting in each other's way. With the glue cooled and hardened, I carefully bent the free end of the wire to rest on the signal contact point without my having to hold it there. It may take a little fiddling but the wire is stiff enough to make it work. Get this right and the soldering is far easier.

Using my temperature-controlled soldering iron with a needle tip, I added a speck of solder and heat to the connection point and quickly connected the wire to the board. It sounds easy, but in fact was quite a challenge. My first attempt used a 1/16" chisel tip for the soldering iron, and this turned out to



Photo G: The soldering tip on the left was far easier to use than the one on the right.

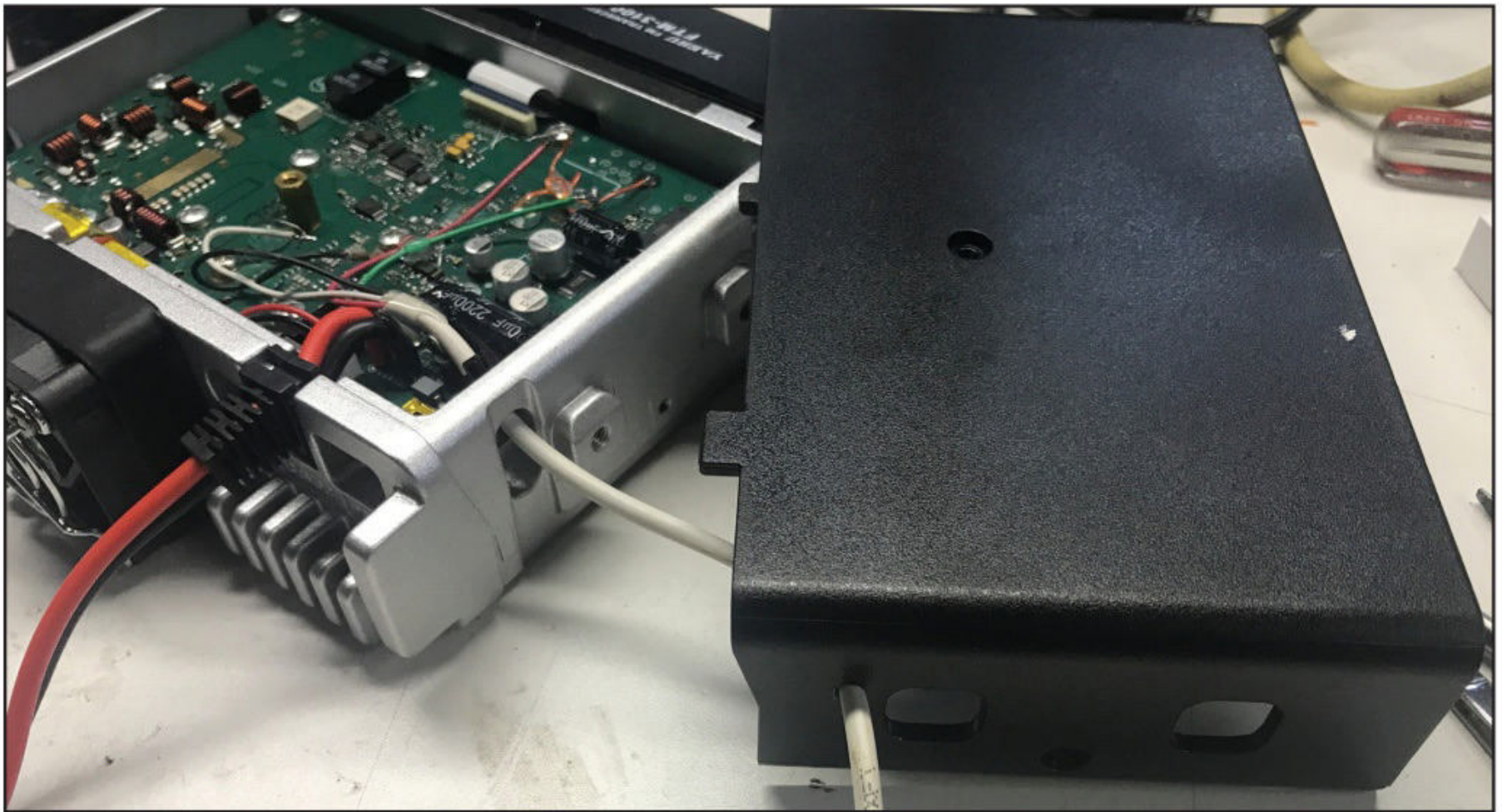


Photo H: Getting the wiring outside the radio case was actually quite easy: The hole in the plastic cover does not need to be precisely located, and is inconspicuous if you decide to undo the modification.

be way too large. Switching to the very fine needle tip made it easier, since now the tip was roughly the same size as the point being soldered. Even then, it was absolutely essential to have steady hands and a 20x magnifier (see Photo E).

I write this not to scare you, but to help you understand reality: These components are often the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Your unmagnified vision is simply not good enough to do this fine work, and neither is your typical soldering iron. Just a few seconds of excess heat on the board will lift off the copper and leave you with a fairly costly paperweight. If you have no experience with, and equipment for, SMD rework or repair, find someone who does. Some of the equipment I used is shown in Photos F and G.

Once the board connections are made, the other ends are soldered to the 24 AWG (or so) stranded four-conductor cable that will eventually connect out of the radio to the TNC. Don't use solid wire for this, as it will eventually break. A CAT-5 jumper cable has eight stranded wires in it (you need only four), or you can easily get something suitable elsewhere. Fasten this 4-conductor wire to the board with hot glue and run it through the hole in the side of the chassis, as seen in Photo H. I drilled a 3/16" hole in the plastic cover and carefully aligned things when reassembling the radio, including adding a zip-tie inside the radio case to provide strain relief. I did verify that the radio still worked normally before putting the screws back in.

I won't get into the TNC interface as I did with the Kenwoods, as this is really a function of the TNC. I expect to put these radios into service with NinoTNCs as I work to gain momentum for a TARP network in Atlanta. I'm not quite there, but I'm not yet discouraged.

As I write this, Hamvention is just a few weeks away, and I hope it all goes well. I expect to scour the flea market for bargains and things I can write about for you. As always, if you think of something, drop me a line.

Vy 73, Don N2IRZ



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Talking With Rob Sherwood, NCØB Plus a Surprise Encounter with MEARS

There exists a courtesy and camaraderie in ham radio that, at least for me, makes the hobby much more enjoyable. So many of our fellow hams have developed expertise in select areas of the hobby, and almost without exception are willing to share. Likewise, anyone at the other end of a QSO will have much in common with you, because of the shared experiences and interests that led both of you to an interest in ham radio, electronics, and related matters. This month, I am relying on the kindness of one of those hams who has developed great expertise in matters involving the performance of our beloved transceivers, to share with you some thoughts about overall shack performance.

One of the Ham Radio Workbench Podcast episodes that I've listened to a couple of times is the interview with Rob

Sherwood, NCØB, on receiver performance. Watch his interview at <https://tinyurl.com/mr2w7u62>. As you may know, Rob, through Sherwood Engineering, has developed a reputation as an unbiased evaluator of receivers, and offers plenty of information at <http://www.sherweng.com>. Recently, Rob was kind enough to spend some time with me to discuss matters specific to the VHF and above spectrum.

Before talking to Rob, I viewed, at his suggestion, a presentation he did for a European group, the Sutton & Cheam Radio Society, viewable at <https://tinyurl.com/44ej78bh>. I took a lot of notes and developed some questions from both this presentation and his interview on Ham Radio Workbench podcast. A couple of things really stood out, so let's address them first. I asked Rob about improvements in newer rigs with VHF capabilities. Rob mentioned (and he's got the numbers to prove it) that there has been minimal improvement in VHF and above transceivers over the last 30 years. The

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Photo A: New operating position for N4DTF.

primary new rig to consider is Icom's IC-9700. According to Rob, functionally, the 9700 is a much better radio than its predecessors. It has more features, including the excellent band scope that makes hunting for weak signal contacts a lot easier. But in terms of dynamic range, an important measure of receiver quality, there's been no real improvement. Rob believes that using newer HF rigs, especially SDR-based units, with transverters is a much better solution. This is similar to the advice we received recently from Mike Walker at Flex Systems.

Another "wow" moment for me was Rob's assertion that the so-called "brick" amplifiers often used for VHF and above are not very clean on SSB transmit. According to Rob, the FM/SSB switch on these units only changes the time constant – how fast the amp drops out, not the linearity. The result can be tremendous splatter on your signal, whether digital or voice, so pay attention to what the output on your particular device looks like. Overall, tube amps still are much preferred for high power on VHF and above, although some of the newer solid-state amps will certainly do a good job, though not with their full rated power. Again, monitoring your output, both with test equipment and via reports from the "other end" of your QSO, is important.

I think (I certainly hope) that many of us are concerned with improving our stations. New radios and antennas are cer-

tainly the most fun to attend to, but it is often the details that help us to ensure the cleanest, strongest signal possible, both on receive and transmit. Feedlines are extremely important. Last month, I included some comments from David Buckwalter, K3SK, regarding his experience with various feedlines. The key here is to use the best components you can. The higher in frequency, the more important line loss is ... but why settle for any more loss than you must? Starting with 6 meters and up, work on installing the best feedline you can. Sherwood actually recommends hardline for all transmission lines. There is, of course, a cost associated with this, as well as the difficulty of working with stiffer cabling, but in the end the quality of the signal and the longevity of the materials will pay dividends.

I pressed for more detail on areas to address in improving your station. Often, a VHF-plus setup includes your radio, a transverter, an amplifier, an antenna switch, and perhaps a preamp in line. All these connections serve as potential points of failure. Rob made sure that I knew that using adapters on cables (converting that SO-239 to an N connector for example) introduced a lot of loss into your transmission line. After talking with Rob I gathered up all those adapters and put them away in a drawer for emergencies. I'm now in the market for jumpers with N connectors built in. He also recommends using "full sized" coax for your jumpers, sized like



Photo B: New workspace for N4DTF showing IC-9100 undergoing 432 MHz connector repair.

RG8, rather than the thinner coax that may be more attractive for short runs. One never has to look far for a real life example of the importance of each link in your transmission line. While I was working on this column, a friend inquired about borrowing a wattmeter suitable for 2 meters. Seems his transmission on FM was a bit flaky, an issue that I and others had noticed when he attempted to check in to our simplex net. He wanted to be sure that his existing wattmeter was accurately measuring power and not a part of the problem. Ultimately, he was able to trace the fault to a short jumper that connected his radio to an antenna switch. By the way, his wattmeter was working fine. Remember that every part of your transmission line presents a point of failure, and periodic review of their performance is an important part of maintaining a quality signal.

Finally, we discussed noise in the shack. I know that a lot of you, like me, have eliminated many, if not all, of your “wall wart” power supplies in favor of direct connections, via connection busses, to a more stable, less noisy power supply. This is a worthy effort. Rob mentioned that he has replaced his Cat 5 wiring for networking with fiber optic cable, to reduce router birdies and protect equipment from EMP type noise and damage. While this may not be something you do all at once, it is certainly worth considering. The complexity of equipment in our shacks can certainly lead to more noise.

Rob is a veritable fount of knowledge on all things amateur, and especially in the categories of receiver and transmitter performance. I am grateful for his time and expertise, and I encourage you to look into his work and try to improve your own station. In the coming months, I will write about more of the conversation I had with Rob, including some of my efforts to implement his suggestions.

In the Shack at N4DTF

As I’ve mentioned a couple of times, I’m doing some rearranging in the two-car garage that serves as office, workshop, and ham shack (Photo A). I’ve gotten all my radio equipment back in place and am enjoying having a larger operating desk. I’ve also oriented the desk and my radios so that I have permanent access to the rear of the equipment without moving things around. This was accomplished by leaving an “alley” between the operating desk and some bookshelves. Changing cables, or adding devices, has never been easier. I’ve also begun repopulating my working spaces with test equipment and power supplies and already have a project back on the workbench. Photo A shows my operating position, and Photo B shows one of my workspaces with a project on it. The 432 MHz connector on my 9100 was damaged when someone (?) tried to insert PL-259 connector into it (Photo B). So a new chassis mount N female is on the way from W5SWL.

ON THE AIR – Operating Awards

I’m pleased to report that Dana Shtun, VE3DS, has received VUCC #177 on 222 MHz. Dana is a regular on 222 and other VHF plus bands, and operates from FN03. Congratulations, Dana!

Howard Reynolds, WA3EOQ, reports that he’s just had his QSLs counted/confirmed for 222 MHz, and also earned his VUCC on that band. According to Howard, his own grid, FM09, was the last card needed!

2M FM Simplex

On the evening of April 27, I was in a hotel in Abington, Virginia, doing what we consultants call “homework” to be

April brought some enhanced solar activity that resulted in spectacular aurora, both in terms of visible aurora and RF enhancement.

prepared for meetings the next day. I had my Kenwood TH-D74 scanning the 2 meter band, and heard traffic on simplex frequencies, specifically 146.535. This caught my attention because, as you may remember, my local simplex group here in the Memphis area runs a net every evening at 7:30 p.m. local time on that same frequency.

As I stopped the scanning and listened, it was clear that a net was also in progress on this frequency. A number of hams from the Mountain Empire Amateur Radio Society (great name, huh?) hold a simplex net at 8:00 p.m. local time on the fourth Thursday of every month.

On this evening, Travis Dyson, KB4TAD, was close enough to my hotel to hear me direct and relay me to the net. I subsequently traded emails with Travis and several others. I also copied Shane Tilson, KN4RBS, and Bob Walker, KX4DX’s, call signs during that night. The group was friendly and welcoming and I enjoyed getting to participate in their net. Dyson reported that many in the group monitor 146.52 regularly, so if you find yourself along Interstate 81 in southwestern Virginia, put out a call and see who comes back. Find out more about MEARS at <<https://www.swvamears.net>>.

(More) Aurora

April brought some enhanced solar activity that resulted in spectacular aurora, both in terms of visible aurora and RF enhancement. Our friend Paul Kelley, N1BUG, reported on the activity of Sunday evening, April 23 (local time) from his QTH in FN55. The following is courtesy of Paul, from the NEWSVHF email reflector:

Bz went strongly southward (to better than -30) after 0100Z. It took a while for aurora to rebuild since we would have been in the natural evening weakness in the auroral oval around that time, but eventually it got going. I made a couple of QSOs on 6, three on 2 and 7 on 222! Best distance on 222 was not spectacular: K9MRI in EN70. But after such a long dry spell I will take anything I can get! It appeared to peak around 0300-0400Z but the drop off after that may have been just a lack of stations being on the air. I didn’t try 432 since I only have 25 watts there.

It was also fun working K8RYU in EM99 on 2. My last QSO with him was in 2003, also on aurora. It sure was fun and I will be hoping for more!

Paul added some technical notes on his equipment:

*The good news is my 222 [MHz] stuff is working as it should. So is the 6 meter stuff. The 2 meter amp, however, is down to 900 watts for reasons unknown. I have never had what one might call a comfortable relationship with that amp. I am a tetrode guy. That is the first triode amp I have had in decades. I always seem to be at odds with it, as it wants to run very high grid current and low plate current when tuned for decent power out and reasonable efficiency. I don’t *think* it’s a bad tube as it will easily do 1.2 amps plate current under different loading conditions. Perhaps I am just not driving it hard enough with the available driver, or I am not tuning it correctly. Nevertheless it was previously managing 1200-1300W so something seems to have changed recently.*

That’s it for this month. Keep me posted on your operating activities and projects.

awards

BY STEVE MOLO,* KI4KWR

Two Brand New Indonesian Awards Hitting the World Stage

Hamvention in Dayton, Ohio, is the best when it comes to awards to announce or pass along to the CQ audience. For the five days I was at the 2023 show, at least three times a day someone would provide me with an award from around the world that could be the next challenge for those who chase “wallpaper.”

This month I will cover two from Indonesia, with one being a challenge for sure. The first is **Worked Indonesia Via Satellite** and all information is directly from the sponsoring Indonesian Islands Hunters Group (IIHG) webpage (Photo A). The rules are as follows (for all current information, go to <<https://iihg.net/portfolio/wis-award>>):

1. Award of Worked Indonesia via Satellite is issued to Radio Amateurs/SWL worldwide that can prove to have made 2-way radio contacts / heard with stations of Radio Amateurs situated on the Indonesian territory using amateur radio satellite.

2. All QSOs must be done on or after July 9, 1968.

3. must have made the QSOs /HRDs from same DXCC Entity.

4. Domestic and foreign operators operating portable such as YC2YIZ/0 or YB6/E21EJC are also valid.

5. Contact 10 stations working from Indonesia in 10 different call areas, using any amateur radio satellites.

6. Special Event Station of Indonesia (such as 7A~7I, 8A~8I, etc.) who worked on satellite communication can be used to replace missing call area. 1 SES for applicant from YB, and 2 SES for applicant from DX.

7. Same operator active from different call area will be counted as different stations. Example: YB8RW, YB8RW/5 and YB8RW/9 are different stations.

8. Different design of Worked Indonesia via Satellite will be issued to Radio Amateurs/SWL who are able to contact/hear 10 call areas of Indonesia using SAME one satellite only, such as IO-86, AO-91, SO-50.

YB YL Award

The second award is a Young Lady (YL) award for solely working YLs, the Indonesia YL Award (Photo B). Just as with the first award, the information is taken directly from the website at <<https://tinyurl.com/4njin4m7n>>. Something I have started to observe more frequently is the possibility of older awards getting updated and refreshed, so I strive to provide the most updated information possible.

Indonesia YL Award Rules

1. The Indonesia YL Award is issued to Radio Amateurs/SWL worldwide that can prove to have made 2-way radio contacts / heard in **Amateur HF bands** with stations of Radio Amateurs situated on the Indonesian territory.

2. All QSOs must be done on or after July 9, 1968.

3. Applicants must have made the QSOs /HRDs from same DXCC Entity.

4. Domestic and foreign operators operating portable such as YD1NAA/5 or YB7/JP3AYQ are also valid.

5. DX Station : Contact 5 YL stations working from Indonesia.

6. Indonesia (YB) station: Contact 5 YL stations working from Indonesia in different 5 call areas.

7. Special Event Station of Indonesia’s Mother Day and Kartini Day are also recognized as YL stations, and can be used for joker of missed call area.

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



Photo A: From the Indonesian Islands Hunters Group (IIHG) website, the cover image for the Worked Indonesia Via Satellite award.



Photo B: From the IIHG website, the cover image for the Indonesia YL Award.

8. Same operator active from different places will be counted as different stations. Example: YD1NAA, YD1NAA/5 and YD1NAA/p are different stations.

9. Different design of Indonesia YL Awards will be issued to Radio Amateurs/SWL who are able to contact/hear 10, 15, and 20 YL stations working from Indonesia.

Application instructions for both awards may be found on their respective pages on the IIHG website.

New Awards

If you know of a new award in your area that could use a worldwide announcement, please pass it along. The next few months will be new awards that have been passed along to me via Hamvention and several other engagements I attended this year that I never heard of or simply are brand new. Now is the time to use Solar Cycle 25 to our advantage and add some wallpaper to the shack for a few QSOs. Good luck and see you on the air!!

*HK0NA Malpelo Island DXpedition 2012****A Record Breaker and a Great Example of International Cooperation!***

BY BOB ALLPHIN,# K4UEE

Greetings fellow DXers! This month, I asked my old friend Bob Allphin, K4UEE, to introduce a look back to the 2012 HK0NA Malpelo Island DXpedition. We included a very nice somewhat edited article on HK0NA originally written for the INDEXA newsletter by Steve Wright ,VE7CT. I hope you enjoy this look back at one of the more awesome efforts made in DXpedition history! Enjoy!! – N200

You may be wondering why I would choose this DXpedition as one of my very favorites. After all, I have been lucky enough to be involved in eleven DXCC “top ten-ers” over the last 30 years, but this one really sticks out!

This DXpedition to Malpelo was special in many ways. First, it fell into my lap. In 2010, I attended the SEDXC (Southeastern DX Club) Christmas party and met a visitor from Colombia, Bolmar Aguilar, HK1MW. He was attending as the guest of another member. During the evening we talked about DXpeditioning (what else?).

He said he had a good friend in Colombia who was planning a DXpedition to Malpelo Island. Of course, I was immediately intrigued because HK0/M had been on my radar for years since it was currently ranked DXCC #12 most wanted. He asked if I was available to assist him in his efforts. Fortunately, I was between projects, and I immediately agreed to join them.

I would need help and I contacted Gregg Marco, W6IZT, and George Nicholson, N4GRN (my go-to guys in Atlanta), and in October 2011, we attended a full planning meeting in Barranquilla, Colombia. The three of us each made presentations as part of the team and new co-leaders. We met with Colombian members of the team and other guests. Several important decisions were made. First, safety would be paramount. And, because we had a good chance of setting a new QSO record, we would establish two operating sites, including one at the top of the mountain. The team would be expanded to 20 members. More radios, more power, more antennas, and more fund-

*email: <n200@comcast.net>
email: <k4uee@comcast.net>



Photo A: Sal Gechem, HK1T, one of the Fabulous Four, upon arrival! (All photos courtesy of the HK0NA team, via K4UEE)

ing support would be needed. Lastly, an advance team would go early to the island to set up the QTH infrastructure, antennas, power, and radios, etc.

Responsibilities were assigned ... the Colombian team members led by DXpedition leader Jorge Prieto, HK1R, would oversee all arrangements in Colombia including permits, transportation, a recon trip, and finally sending a team to the island to set up the camp infrastructure, two operating sites, antennas, generators, sleeping tents, etc. This would allow the rest of the team to begin operating almost immediately.

This was perfect from our standpoint. A lot of the demanding work was already done or in process. And we had

recruited top-notch teams, acquired radios, amps, antennas, and funding many times before. So, this was going to be a “piece of cake.” And to the man, the Colombian guys were all nice guys and easy to work with. We rapidly became compadres. It was explained to us that being a compadre was a step above being called an amigo!

Recently-acquired equipment was shipped to Colombia. Then in November of 2011, three of the HKs spent six days in Malpelo to assess the challenge. While there, the small contingent of Colombian Marines stationed on the island showed them how to climb to the top of the mountain. No previous DXpedition had ever operated from that location. As a result, Japan, Pacific and



Photo B: Bob Allphin, K4UEE, climbing to the Op A position (with a little help!)

west coast USA that previously had difficulty making QSOs would finally get a good opportunity.

Christmas Day, 2011, the advance team, whom we dubbed “The Fabulous Four” – Bolmar, HK1MW; Jim, HK1N; Sal Gechem, HK1T, and Faber Mosquera, HK6F – were transported to the island by the Colombian Navy. They expected to be there for about 6 weeks total. Upon arrival, Navy personnel and a contingent of Colombian Marines on the island helped move everything and everyone up the steep, 60-degree, 300-foot incline to the base camp which we would call OP B. For the next nearly three weeks, they established the camp infrastructure and set up the two operating sites with six KW stations at OP B and four 100W stations at the top of the island. OP A was another 650 feet above the main camp – not an easy task. They also rigged climbing ropes to assist the remainder of the team upon arrival.

We knew that this DXpedition would be strenuous and difficult due to the almost vertical terrain. Lots of climbing in addition to the normal rigors of a DXpedition. This was not going to be so easy after all!

To tell the entire story and for you to get a different slant from another team member, my very good compadre, Steve Wright, VE7CT, has allowed me to use excerpts from a fabulous article he wrote just after the HK0NA DXpedition and published to all INDEXA

The WPX Program

CW
 4090VE4GH
 4091K5BRY

SSB
 4488NA6MB
 4489IZ7VII
 4490DK7MM

Mixed
 4611VA7USD
 4612KK7ME
 4613NA6MB
 4614IZ7VII
 4615HB9GVF
 4616N5YT
 4617KI5QPZ
 4618KG5SSW
 4619AD2AG
 4620WD4ETU
 4621W6MEW
 4622LU6XQB

Digital
 1943AJ4NN
 1944VA7USD
 1945KK7ME
 1946NA6MB
 1947AD2AG
 1948JA3LVJ
 1949N5YT
 1950NØJDK
 1951KN6RSY
 1952KI5QPZ
 1953KFØFTC

CW: 700 KB4DE. 1100 JH7CUO. 2100 HB9DHG

SSB: 350 K4NWX. 400 IZ7VII. 550 NA6MB. 1200 HB9DHG. 1300 ISØHXK. 1600 EA3EQT

Mixed: 450 IZ7VII, KI5QPZ, AD2AG. 550 VA7USD, K1EHT, W6MEW. 600 KK7ME, KFØFBK, KA1SAW. 650 KIØHA. 700 KB4DE. 850 NR6AM. 950 K4NWX.

1000 IU1HGN. 1050 N2YU. 1100 LU6XQB. 1200 W5BR. 1250 KM4VI. 1300 NA6MB, VK3PIA. 1350 NA5WH. 1500 JH7CUO. 2150 PU4MMZ. 2200 EA3EQT. 2850 HB9DHG. 4000 KB1EFS. 7350 IK6DLK

Digital: 450 K1EHT, KI5QPZ, KFØFTC, AD2AG. 500 VA7USD, KIØHA. 550 AJ4NN, W6MEW. 600 KK7ME, KFØFBK. 700 K4NWX. 800 NR6AM. 900 N2YU, JK1BIB. 1050 NA6MB, IU1HGN. 1100 LU6XQB. 1150 W5BR. 1300 VK3PIA. 1350 NA5WH. 1400 JA7PKV. 1950 HB9DHG. 2250 EA3EQT. 3100 KB1EFS

40 Meters: NA6MB, K1EHT, AD2AG, VK3PIA, W6MEW, HB9DHG

30 Meters: NR6AM, HB9DHG

20 Meters: VA7USD, NA6MB, JA7PKV, AD2AG, W6MEW, HB9DHG

17 Meters: NA6MB, ISØHXK, JK1BIB, KM4VI, HB9DHG

15 Meters: NA6MB, ISØHXK, JK1BIB, HB9DHG

10 Meters: KK7ME, NA6MB, NR6AM, VK3PIA

Africa: ISØHXK, HB9DHG

Asia: NA6MB, ISØHXK, JA3LVJ, NA5WH, HB9GVF, KIØHA. W6MEW, LU6XQB

Europe: AJ4NN, KK7ME, NA6MB, IZ7VII, JK1BIB, K1EHT, HB9GVF, KIØHA, KB4DE, KFØFTC, AD2AG, WD4ETU, LU6XQB

Oceania: NA6MB, AA8SW, JA3LVJ, NR6AM, W5UJ

North America: AJ4NN, VA7USD, KK7ME, NA6MB, VE4GH, K5BRY, AD2AG, K1EHT, KN6RSY, KI5QPZ, KIØHA, KG5SSW, KFØFTC, AD2AG, W6MEW, LU6XQB, HB9DHG, K4NWX

South America: NA6MB, NR6AM, JH7CUO, HB9DHG

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.

members in 2012 [edited for space and reprinted here with permission from INDEXA (<www.indexa.org>) – ed.]. Here it is:

Malpelo Island—Mind Over Mountain

BY STEVE WRIGHT, VE7CT

It was sheer accident that upon hearing of a proposed DXpedition to Malpelo Island in 2012, via 'The Weekly DX' publication that I decided to investigate via the internet to see who was involved. To my surprise, two of my friends' faces appeared as part of the team that originally was comprised of the Jumanji Contest Club of Colombia; Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Gregg Marco, W6IZT, both previous DXpedition companions.

I immediately e-mailed Bob (with whom I had been on four DXpeditions in the past) to ask rather indignantly why I had not been apprised of this situation and (in a humbler manner) should the team be expanded for any reason that I be considered as a potential member of the team. 'Of course' said Bob, as if he were planning it all along.

That's where it all started and due to the very nature of Malpelo Island and the difficulties to be faced, it was decided that indeed the team should be expanded (at considerably more cost, of course) so that an all-out attempt be made to reduce the 'wanted status' throughout the world from #12 to 'off-the-charts' such that there would be no further requests for expeditions to the powers that be for many years to come.

In October of 2011, three members of the Colombian Contest Club headed by

CQ DX Awards Program

RTTY Endorsement

N9PA89

Mixed Mode Endorsement

K8SIX245

The basic award fee for subscribers to CQ is \$6. For non-subscribers, it is \$12. In order to qualify for the reduced subscriber rate, please enclose your latest CQ mailing label with your application. Endorsement stickers are \$1.00 each plus SASE. Updates not involving the issuance of a sticker are free. All updates and correspondence must include an SASE. Rules and application forms for the CQ DX Awards may be found on the <www.cq-amateur-radio.com> website, or may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to CQ DX Awards Manager, Please make checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, KØKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604 USA. We recognize 341 active countries. Please make all checks payable to the award manager. Photocopies of documentation issued by recognized national Amateur Radio associations that sponsor international awards may be acceptable for CQ DX award credit in lieu of having QSL cards checked. Documentation must list (itemize) countries that have been credited to an applicant. Screen printouts from eQSL.cc that list countries confirmed through their system are also acceptable. Screen printouts listing countries credited to an applicant through an electronic logging system offered by a national Amateur Radio organization also may be acceptable. Contact the CQ DX Award Manager for specific details.

The WAZ Program

SINGLE BAND WAZ

6 Meter

215ZL1RS 31 Zones
216JH1NYM 27 Zones
217F8CRS 25 Zones

10 Meter CW

226ZL3CW
227JA1GRM

10 Meter Digital

9W7AH
10K3EA
11JA4FCV

12 Meter CW

117AA6AA

12 Meter Digital

17N5AO

15 Meter Digital

23BD4VGZ
24JA1GRM
25K0DEQ
26SP6TRX

15 Meter SSB

692K0DEQ

17 Meter CW

145SP6TRX

17 Meter Digital

43JA7FVA
44JA1GRM
45N5AO
46JF8QNF

20 Meter CW

695N7TY
696LZ3DX
697NS3L
698JF8QNF

20 Meter Digital

81N0OB
82JR3PKO
83K4PKM
84EA3AGY
85OD5YA
86LU1BDR
87JF8QNF

30 Meter Digital

27W1OPD
28K0DEQ
29N5AO

40 Meter CW

344JA3RAR
345N7TY

40 Meter Digital

33OD5YA
34SP6TRX
35JF8QNF

80 Meter DIGITAL

8JF8QNF

ALL BAND WAZ

CW

1261KK7L
1262JH1NYM
1263W4TV
1264W2KA
1265IE2GAO
1266OH2IS

Digital

487N3NVA
488WX3P
489JA7FVA
490N7TY
491BD4VGZ

492KC1RET
493K1BJC
494JH1NYM
495AG5CN
496KE7BMG
497JR3PKO
498K0TC
499KB1FX
500W4TV
501AA8KY
502VA2CY
503JE2BSJ
504N5MB
505EA3AGY
506K4MVM
507JE3FOR

Mixed

10511N5UWY
10512W6ST
10513K0JQZ
10514VA3CW
10515GM0SCA
10516WE8L
10517N7MGW
10518LU9OZX
10519N3NVA
10520W9FG
10521WS4C
10522BD4VGZ
10523N3QQ
10524KC1RET
10525DL8TV
10526SP3JZI
10527IK7LKK
10528ND2O
10529JH1NYM
10530KE7BMG
10531JR3PKO
10532OM0ST
10533OK1NYD
10534W4TV
10535T12WMP
10536W2KA
10537N9MT
10538F4HHL
10539JE2BSJ
10540N3ND
10541N5MB
10542EA3AGY
10543G7VKK
10544W4MLN
10545OH2IS
10546K4MVM
10547JE3FOR

SSB

5566K9PSN
5567N3NVA
5568SP3JZI
5569W4TV
5570ON4CHN
5571VK4KX

RTTY

322W4TV

SAT

84SP5ULN 28 Zones
85IW7DOW 30 Zones
86W2GDJ 30 Zones
87VE4AMU 40 Zones

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, Jose Castillo, N4BAA, 6773 South State Road 103, Straughn, IN 47387. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$6.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$12.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to Jose Castillo, N4BAA. 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>.



Photo C: Gregg Marco, W6IZT (top), and Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z (closest), with an avian friend.

Jorge Prieto, HK1R, were given the opportunity of visiting Malpelo Island courtesy of the Colombian Navy in order to determine whether it was possible to find a way to the top of one of the three peaks as well to see for themselves the facilities that had been offered to them concerning utilizing one of the two buildings used by the Navy Marine garrison. They were shown a route up to the top of the peak on which a shipping beacon was located and subsequently determined that it was indeed possible to set up a small station.

After being invited to join the Colombian team (no doubt due to his

5 Band WAZ

As of May 15, 2023

2505 stations have attained at least the 150 Zone level, and **1144** stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

As of May 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
AJ9C	199	23
AK8A	199	17
DF2GH	199	31
DM5EE	199	1
EA5RM	199	1
EA7GF	199	1
H44MS	199	34
HAØHW	199	1
HA5AGS	199	1
I5REA	199	31
IKØXB	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
JI4POR	199	2
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
N4QS	199	18
N4XR	199	27
N8AA	199	23
N8DX	199	23
N8TR	199	23 on 10M
RA6AX	199	6 on 10M
RU3DX	199	6
RWØLT	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
VE2EBK	199	26
VK3HJ	199	34
VO1FB	199	19
W1FJ	199	24
W1FZ	199	26
W3LL	199	18 on 10M
W3NO	199	26

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
W4LI	199	26
W6DN	199	17
W6RKC	199	21
W6TMD	199	34
W9OO	199	18 on 10M
W8CZN	199	24
W9XY	199	22
ZL3CW	199	34
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
G4OWT	198	1, 27
HB9FMN	198	1 on 80M & 10M
I1EIS	198	1 & 19 on 10M
JA1DM	198	2, 40
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
K1G	198	24, 23 on 10M
KZ2I	198	24, 26
LA3MHA	198	31 & 32 on 10M
N4GG	198	18, 24
N5AO	198	22, 23
N7IR	198	17, 22
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
W5CWQ	198	17, 18
W7AH	198	22, 34
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
N3NVA	2492	04/20/2023	177
IZ0AEG	2493	04/20/2023	200

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
NO0B	2494	04/23/2023	175
WX3P	2495	04/23/2023	178
JA7FVA	2496	04/23/2023	155
JH1NYM	2497	04/24/2023	195
LZ3DX	2498	04/26/2023	200
OM0ST	2499	05/02/2023	181
W4TV	2500	05/06/2023	192
W2KA	2501	05/07/2023	170
KM3V	2502	05/07/2023	194
OD5YA	2503	05/10/2023	172
JE3FOR	2504	05/14/2023	178
JF8QNF	2505	05/14/2023	200

Updates to the 5BWAZ list of stations:

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
N4QS	2431	12/13/2022	199
W6WF	2213	5/10/2020	171
N7IR	1909	6/13/2015	198
W8CZN	2432	12/17/2022	199
WX3P	2495	4/23/2023	180
N7TY	2098	12/21/2018	196
KN7Y	2274	1/29/2021	184
N5AO	1934	6/2/2016	198
AA8KY	2448	1/29/2023	158
W4JS	2277	2/1/2021	188
N6PM	2254	11/4/202	193
EU3A	2019	5/18/2018	200
WI7P	2476	3/18/2023	180

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

5BWAZ #	Callsign	Date	All 200 #
2493	IZ0AEG	4/20/2023	1141
2498	LZ3DX	4/26/2023	1142
2019	EU3A	5/7/2023	1143
2505	JF8QNF	05/14/2023	1144

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	WO7R.....185	NKØS.....175
OK1ADM.....245	VE3ZZ.....226	OK1AOV.....208	W3LL.....199	N3RC.....184	
K8SIX.....245	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

N3RC.....326	DL6KVA.....233	DL3DXX.....210	OK1AOV.....198	HB9DZZ.....189	N4NX.....177
W1CU.....254	KØDEQ.....214	DL2DXA.....209	WA5VGI.....197	N4MM.....186	N7WO.....175
HA5WA.....234	JN3SAC.....211	W4UM.....201	NIØC.....196	OK2PO.....184	

Digital

W1CU.....206	JN3SAC.....178	HA5WA.....177	KØDEQ.....175
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RTTY

WK3N.....339 ..

reputation not only as an experienced DXpeditioner but also his capabilities as a good fund raiser), Bob decided it would be judicious to fly to Cartagena and meet with the organizers and to take along Gregg Marco, W6IZT, and George Nicholson, N4GRN, to determine the logistics that would be involved in creating a successful DXpedition. There it was decided to expand the team to twenty members. It was also decided that four of the Colombians (subsequently dubbed the Fabulous Four) would depart for Malpelo on Christmas Day to begin assembling antennas and station equipment that had already been shipped to Colombia from the US as well as to install safety lines to assist in climbing up from the shore up to the first staging area where the buildings were located (Op B). In addition, safety lines would be needed for the more dangerous areas on the way up to the mountain peak (Op A). Further attempts to install the antennas at OP A were thwarted by extremely heavy rains between Christmas and up to a week before the team was to arrive on the island. Nevertheless, the Fabulous Four ... did a magnificent job while away from their families at a time when family is so important, to pave the way for the rest of the team to 'hit-the-ground-running' and to commence immediate operation.

The late arrivals consisted of team leader HK1R; Pedro Allina, HK3JJH; Pedro Claver Orozco, HK1X; Franz



Photo D: Ready to hit the airwaves! From left, DJ9ZB, HK1R, LU9ESD, and PY5XX.

Langner, DJ9ZB; Manu Siebert, LU9ESD; Peter Sprengel, PP5XX; Bob, K4UEE; Gregg, W6IZT; George, N4GRN; Ralph Fedor, K0IR; Glenn Johnson, W0GJ; Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z; Bob Grimmick, N6OX; Gary Stouder, K9SG; Neil King, VA7DX; myself, VE7CT; our photographer, Gustavo Amórtegui, HK3ORE, and of course, Murphy himself! No DXpedition is ever complete without Murphy, who is a close friend of Robby Burns. You know ... 'The best laid plans of mice and men' ...

Our team assembled in Bogota, Colombia on the evening January 18th. The following day saw us all back at the airport to fly to Buenaventura, a port city on the west coast of Colombia where we would board the Sea Wolf to take us to Malpelo Island.

Once in Buenaventura, we checked into the beautiful colonial-type hotel, expecting to leave early the next day, only to be asked to meet at the boat around midnight for a very early morning (4:00 AM) start of our 28-hour trip

to arrive early morning in daylight at Malpelo a day and night later.

Malpelo Island lies some 240 miles off the west coast of Colombia and is only accessible by boat. It was formed volcanically some 18 million years ago and is basically the top of a mountain that stands some 4000 meters above the sea floor with about 300 meters above sea level projecting up almost vertically from the shore. There are several sharp craggy adjuncts next to the island that project upward to about 40 meters high. Some grasses are seen on these islets but we saw none on the main island itself, due mainly to the masses of omnivorous land crabs.

Previous DXpeditions were confined to the island's east side close to the water level being the only landing area and most certainly never more than 100 meters upward to where now stand two small buildings. This explains why it was difficult for areas west of the Midwest USA and Asia to make contact with previous DXpeditions due to the masking by the mountain to all signals in that direction. The buildings and an original *tangon* (a horizontal type of fixed gantry just above sea level for access via rope ladder to shore) were built about 1986 when the Colombian Navy established a small garrison to establish and enforce their sovereignty as well as to protect fishing rights in a 20-mile radius of the island and to connect the area to the Colombian territorial area off the coast of the mother country. A new tangon was constructed in 1999 and is the one existing today. Apparently a newer one still is planned with a hoist to lift a fast pursuit boat off the water and out of reach from the sea.

The Navy Marines number about eight and are rotated on a regular basis. A Navy vessel was in the area to constantly monitor and protect it from illegal fishing. Regular visitors are diving tours from Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama, but only 25 people at a time are allowed to go to the area in order to protect the marine environment. The boats on which these excursions travel must be totally self-sustaining as shore landings are not allowed except for dire emergencies. The island and surrounding marine environment is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is administered by the Parques Nacionales de Colombia. We were accompanied by a representative from the Parks, a young man by the name of Columbo. It was his responsibility to protect the flora and fauna of the island, including the marine environment and he had police powers to arrest fishing violators—of course, with the accompaniment of the Navy Marines!

Murphy was to strike early and we were forced to operate our six stations at OP B (the lower and main operating site) and OP A (the mountain top with the capability of four stations) without the planned Wi-Fi networking system. Hence the logs had to be downloaded from each position on a daily basis before uploading them for analysis and submitting to Bob, N200, our QSL manager for the 'Club Log' online lookup. It also became apparent that our 160-meter antenna at OP A gave us some disappointing results, plus the fact that we had to contend with solar flares during the second week of operation that wiped out some of the high frequencies during certain parts of the day – making it difficult to continue a good run of contacts. All in all, however, when the dust settled following the DXpedition and Gregg had a chance to examine the logs to merge and fill a few small holes (which he did), we were blessed with breaking a world record for tent-and-generator type of operation to the tune of more than 195,000 contacts. It did appear to us that we were being heard perhaps better than we were hearing the 'deserving.' If this was so, I can only attribute that to the height above sea level and the steepness of the slope toward

the ocean creating a lower angle of radiation for our antennas, hence a 'skip' or two less than the received signals, especially on the low bands.

This record would have been absolutely impossible if it were not for the young Marines and our boat crew faithfully doing the strenuous lifting, carrying of all drinking water, food,

QSL of the Month: AC4RF, Tibet

Robert Webster Ford, AC4RF (1923-2013), was a radio operator and British diplomat who worked in Tibet in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Tibet is now considered part of China, but was a separate DX entity until its deletion from the DXCC list on May 31, 1974.

In 1945, Ford joined the British Mission in Lhasa, Tibet's capital, as a radio officer. His contact in Lhasa was the legendary Reg Fox, AC4YN. After a year in Lhasa, Ford went to Chiamdo, capital of eastern Tibet (Kham) and established a radio link back to Lhasa.

In 1950, Ford was arrested by the advancing Chinese army, along with other Tibetan officials. The People's Republic of China accused him of espionage, spreading anti-communist propaganda, and causing the death of a Chinese official. Ford spent nearly five years in prison and was subjected to interrogation and "thought reform." He was eventually released and expelled in 1955.

In 1956, Ford began a series of new assignments for the British Diplomatic Service, serving in the Foreign Office in London, overseas in Vietnam, Indonesia, United States, Morocco, Angola, Sweden, and France; and as Consul-General in Geneva, Switzerland. The same year, he married Monica Tebbett, a childhood friend. They were married for 55 years and had two sons, Martin and Giles.

In 1957 Ford published the book, "Wind Between the Worlds," about his experience in Tibet. He retired in 1987 and was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire. After his retirement, Ford lectured in support of the Tibetan Government in Exile in various European countries, India, Australia and the United States. In 2013, he was given the International Campaign for Tibet's Light of Truth Award by the 14th Dalai Lama in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Robert Ford passed away at the age of 90 on 20 September 2013 in London.

73, Tom Roscoe, K8CX



This card from AC4RF was for a QSO made during his time working as a radio officer for the British Diplomatic Service in Chiamdo, eastern Tibet. "QSL of the Month" photos and information provided courtesy of the K8CX Ham Gallery <www.hamgallery.com>.



Photo E: Sunset at Op A, on top of the mountain. The photo was taken from one of three stations at the very top!



Photo F: Departure Day ... Back to air conditioning on the boat!

generators, fuel, operating tables and chairs, antenna equipment and everything else that was needed up the 60 to 70 degree slope from the tangon and in the hot muggy weather to supply our meals from the boat at least three times a day. They allowed us to continue oper-

ating without skipping a beat. (Had we operators been required to do everything, by the time we got set up to operate, it would have been time to leave.) The pileups were indeed massive from all directions at the beginning and were still of decent size when the time came

to disassemble the equipment in order to return to the mainland.

From the standpoint of degree of difficulty, Malpelo must be high on the list if not at the top from a physical aspect. Long before the expedition took place, we were advised by the MDs in our

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	4757.....I2MQP	3077.....K1PL	2391.....W07R	1746.....K6UXO	1422.....I2VGW	1141.....4F3BZ	1000.....WB6IZG	661.....AL4Y
8663.....9A2NA	4703.....IK2ILH	3028.....IK2DZN	2391.....IZØFUW	1741.....N6PEQ	1408.....NH6T	1137.....YO5BRZ	999.....N3DF	633.....TI5LUA
8196.....W1CU	4668.....JH8BOE	2992.....W2YR	2386.....JH1QKG	1711.....NS3L	1398.....ES4RLH	1136.....K09V	995.....PU2GTA	621.....K4HDW
8188.....K2VV	4574.....JN3SAC	2987.....AG4W	2356.....NE6I	1707.....K4WY	1361.....VA3VF	1116.....YU7FW	966.....W6WF	616.....AC6BW
7059.....EA2IA	4461.....K1BV	2968.....AB1OC	2225.....JH1APK	1684.....W1FNB	1333.....AF4T	1112.....N6MM	953.....JP1KHY	605.....IW2FLB
6955.....KF2O	4423.....N1RR	2963.....N3RC	2203.....K11U	1672.....WU9D	1322.....AA4FU	1107.....PY2MC	919.....ON7MIC	
6139.....KØDEQ	4417.....WD9DZV	2697.....AK7O	2176.....V51YJ	1667.....AD3Y	1301.....KB9OWD	1100.....WA3GOS	908.....N2YU	
5908.....ON4APU	4342.....WB2YQH	2651.....HK3W	2159.....VA7CRZ	1643.....SV1DPI	1301.....K1DX	1109.....KE8FMJ	889.....WU1U	
5859.....ON4CAS	4298.....VE3XN	2642.....AA8R	2133.....KØKG	1639.....N7QU	1301.....KM5VI	1088.....NJ4Z	866.....K2KJ	
5715.....S53EO	4241.....N6QQ	2616.....9A2GA	2113.....W2FKF	1616.....TA1L	1299.....JA6JYM	1084.....KG4JSZ	857.....R1AV	
5597.....N4NO	4215.....W3LL	2591.....IK2RPE	2056.....NKØS	1590.....JF1LMB	1295.....NIØC	1069.....IZ4MJP	835.....K6RAH	
5511.....N8BJQ	4201.....YO9HP	2589.....DG7RO	2046.....YO8CRU	1570.....PY5VC	1280.....WF1H	1058.....N6DBF	803.....AB1Q	
5482.....VE1YX	3818.....K9UQN	2583.....PA2TMS	2016.....N2WK	1568.....N3AIU	1260.....UR6LEY	1036.....DL5KW	758.....N4JJS	
5453.....YU1AB	3793.....AB1J	2583.....AE5B	1995.....JR3UIC	1547.....KC1UX	1219.....K6HRT	1032.....DG5LAC	757.....WB3D	
5409.....N6JV	3538.....9A4W	2550.....K6ND	1972.....K3CWF	1524.....NH6T/W4	1217.....AB1QB	1023.....N4WQH	736.....JA3MAT	
5387.....W9OP	3459.....W9IL	2457.....K5UR	1955.....NIØC	1484.....FG4NO	1204.....VA2IG	1016.....W9QL	711.....AG1T	
5215.....I5RFD	3130.....SV1EDY	2538.....K4HB	1945.....N5KAE	1480.....K4JKB	1201.....K9BO	1012.....NØVVV	695.....W8WDW	
5172.....W9OO	3109.....W6XK	2465.....N6PM	1828.....K7LV	1462.....AC7JM	1167.....WA9PIE	1010.....VE3RZ	682.....AI8P	
5018.....WA5VGI	3151.....NXØI	2420.....WA6KHK	1824.....WF7T	1462.....DL4CW	1153.....N3CAL	1007.....AA4QE	678.....WE8L	
4763.....KW9A	3099.....N6FX	2400.....N7ZO	1821.....PY5FB	1447.....K3XA	1148.....SP8HKT	1006.....NØRQV	674.....N5JED	

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.....K11U	1012.....KU4BP	802.....N6OU	684.....K09V
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	4076.....I7PXV	2943.....N6QQ	2203.....NXØI	1620.....DG7RO	1210.....DL4CW	891.....DK8MCT	722.....WA9PIE
7200.....K2VV	3974.....JN3SAC	2915.....KA7T	2022.....AF5CC	1595.....PY5FB	1196.....N3AIU	890.....NS3L	720.....K4CN
6024.....9A2NA	3804.....W9OO	2811.....OZ5UR	1998.....K5UR	1555.....K1PL	1098.....LU5OM	889.....N3AIU	652.....IK2DZN
5392.....EA2IA	3773.....KW9A	2679.....W9IL	1973.....N3RC	1508.....W6XK	1088.....AE5B	864.....YO5BRZ	636.....NKØS
5311.....N6JV	3647.....N1RR	2548.....EA2CIN	1905.....WA6KHK	1483.....VE1YX	1062.....K3XA	848.....PY5VC	629.....IV3GOW
5261.....KF2O	3504.....YU7BCD	2531.....I2MQP	1832.....N4YB	1480.....W03Z	1036.....DL5KW	822.....N5KAE	620.....AF5DM
5160.....N4NO	3462.....K9UQN	2497.....W3LL	1762.....K6ND	1458.....AG4W	997.....N6PEQ	821.....HB9DAX	615.....JH6JMM
5013.....W8IQ	3279.....IØNNY	2490.....N6FX	1744.....NE6I	1443.....WA2VQV	992.....F5PBL	783.....YB1AR	608.....W9RPM
4916.....IZ3ETU	3220.....WD9DZV	2477.....VE6BF	1727.....K6UXO	1421.....KN1CBR	968.....K3CWF	752.....K6HRT	600.....NY4G
4914.....KØDEQ	3214.....SM6DHU	2424.....W2WC	1708.....NIØC	1389.....IT9ELD	962.....K7LV	743.....JA5NSR	600.....IK2SGV
4886.....I3FIY	3041.....YO9HP	2357.....W9HR	1691.....K11U	1342.....VE6BMX	944.....AB1OC	738.....NH6T/W4	
4769.....N8BJQ	3031.....EA7AAW	2291.....N3XX	1672.....W2YR	1235.....JH1APK	908.....NH6T	732.....SQ7B	
4164.....WA5VGI	2948.....IK3GER	2212.....AC5K	1633.....W6XK	1220.....AA4FU	897.....HK3W	727.....JF1LMB	

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.....K11U	992.....N3DF	862.....JP1KHY	750.....NH6T/W4	611.....K09V
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.....K2YYY	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			



Photo G: The tangon with the team's transportation, the Seawolf, in the background.

group to get into shape from a cardiovascular standpoint in order to meet the expected challenge as well as to keep well hydrated while there. I am lucky in that there are some challenging hills where I live and a two month daily power walk for 45 minutes a day vastly helped me to be able to meet Malpelo on its terms. In retrospect, the climb from the tangon up the first third of the slope to

OP B was the most difficult due to steepness and the larger steps needed to get up (and down). The climb up to the mountain peak, while appearing to be tough, was not as difficult as we could take smaller steps and take our time. The most challenging aspect to reach OP A was a 60-foot rope climb to get on top of the mountain using what footholds on the rock face we could find and often wear-

ing a backpack. Once on top, it was well worth the trip to see the wonderful vista on the other side of the mountain with its islets. In addition, signals all around were very strong and we only required 100 watts output from that location.

A high point of the DXpedition was a tour around Malpelo Island itself in the Sea Wolf's zodiac. The caves carved out by the waves are truly spectacular and could have been traversed right through to the other side had there not been a heavy swell that would have made it dangerous at the caves' narrowest points to even consider trying it.

Of course, all this would not have been possible without the Colombian government—especially the Navy, the Ministry of Technology, Information and Communications for the license and the Parques Nacionales de Colombia.

–73, Steve, VE7CT

K4UEE Wraps Up

I would like to brag a little bit. After we were all safely home, we realized we had set a new world record for QSOs! There were 195,415 QSOs with an amazing 43,490 unique callsigns in our log. No one has ever made more QSOs on a non-fly-in, tent, and generator DXpedition. We are so enormously proud of this feat! Thanks to all the team and to our new Compadres in Colombia, S. A.

73, Bob Allphin, K4UEE

what's new

Ham Radio School Extra Class License Guide

Most ham radio license manuals take one of two approaches to presenting the material – either a textbook-style guide organized by topic, with relevant test questions at the end of each chapter or a question-by-question journey through the question pool, identifying the correct answer and explaining why it is the right choice. In the Ham Radio School “Extra License Course 2020 to 2024”, co-authors Stu Turner, WØSTU, and Bob Witte, KØNR, take a different approach, and use a multimedia format to help the reader both pass the test and understand the material.

They organize the book by subject area, and include **the correct test question answers, in bold**, as part of the discussion (see photo). There is a tab referencing each question number but the questions themselves are not published. Neither are the wrong answers, also called “distractors,” because, well, they’re distracting! So your mind retains those correct answers, introduced as part of the discussion, and will recognize them when they pop up on the license exam.

After completing each chapter, the reader may go online to the <hamradioschool.com> website and take a quiz using actual exam questions as well as links to additional resources. After finishing all of the chapters, the website offers practice exams, again using the actual questions and answers from the question pool. The authors encourage readers to repeat the practice tests until they are consistently scoring 85% or higher, and then go take the real license exam.

This book completes the Ham Radio School series of license manuals linked with online practice. It retails for \$29.95 and may be ordered from the school website at <www.hamradioschool.com/extra-prep>.



contesting

BY TIM SHOPPA,* N3QE

The IARU HF Championship Plus WRTC

The second weekend of July has an everybody-works-everybody contest: the 24-hour IARU HF World Championship. Not only are “regular” contesters on the bands working each other, but member societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) activate headquarters stations which count as multipliers. And to top it all off, there’s a contest-within-a contest, the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC), made up of 63 M/2 (multi-two) teams on from Italy this year.

The deep origins of this July contest can be traced to a one-off predecessor, the 1976 ARRL Bicentennial Celebration. This 48-hour event was held in late July 1976. It was hugely popular, with 2500 logs submitted – US stations celebrated their history by using as their exchange a number corresponding to the order of their state’s entry into the union. There were no multipliers, but action was livened up by allowing contacts on both voice and another mode (most commonly CW, but also allowed were SSTV and RTTY). US stations were encouraged to use their special bicentennial prefixes.

From 1977 through 1986, the IARU Radiosport Championship continued the lively July contest tradition, settling down on the second weekend in July. Stations operated for up to 36 hours of the 48-hour weekend and ITU zones (different from CQ zones; see below – ed.) were the exchange for all entrants. There were no multipliers, but DX activity was motivated by awarding 5 points for intercontinental QSOs, as opposed to just a single point for working stations in your own zone. VHF activity on both the 6-meter and 2-meter bands was also allowed.

A major revamp took place beginning in 1987. The new contest, called “The IARU HF World Championship,” began the current 24-hour period, and introduced not just ITU zones but IARU HQ stations as multipliers. The IARU HF contest was one of the last to include a category for assisted operators using telnet clusters for spotting, finally adopting the “Single Op Unlimited” category in 2015.

email: <n3qe@cq-amateur-radio.com>

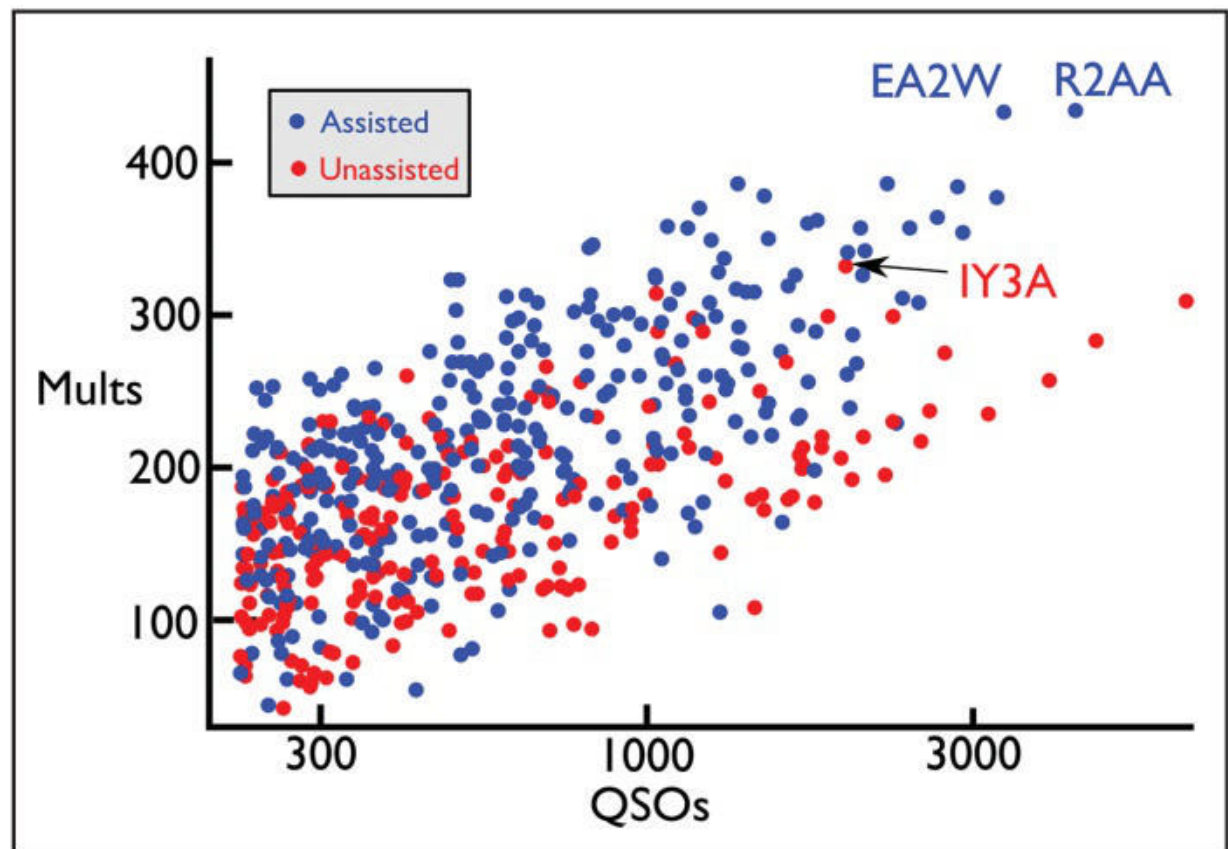


Figure 1. Multiplier vs. QSO cloud for single-operator entrants in the 2022 IARU HF World Championship contest. Assisted entrants (blue dots) have a substantial multiplier advantage over the unassisted (red dots), typical for any rich-multiplier contest.

IARU HF isn’t the only contest using the ITU zone as the exchange and/or multiplier. Other contests using ITU zones include the Russian Club Cup Contest, the Russian Radiosport Team Championship, the Black Sea Cup, Gagarin Cup, the Ham Sprit Cup, and LZ DX Contest. Let’s do a brief roundup of the ITU Zone scheme by starting with a map and trying to find the scheme behind these two-digit numbers.

The maps published by Tim Makins, EI8IC, at <bit.ly/43bdHR2> make clear that there’s a pattern to ITU zones. ITU Zones 01 through 10 are in North America. Zone 05, Greenland, is the rarest of the NA zones. Zones 11 through 16 are in South America, with the rarest zone, Zone 16, containing extreme southern Chile and Argentina.

Zones 17-35 cover Europe (with the exception of Spain and Portugal), European Russia, and Asian Russia. Zone 28, Central Europe, is the most commonly worked zone by far with astoundingly high representation in the IARU HF contest. The zones in this group covering extreme Northern Russia – ITU Zones 22-26 and 35 – are hard to find.

Zones 36-40 cover Spain, Portugal, Atlantic African islands, Northern Africa, and Middle East/Turkey. Zone 37 (Spain and Portugal) is the most common of these. Zones 38 (Libya and Egypt) and 40 (Iran) are rarely activated.

Zones 41 is India, and Zones 42-44 are in China, and are at least somewhat active. Japan is ITU Zone 45 and is very active in the IARU HF contest.

Zones 46-48, 52, 53, and 57 complete the coverage of Africa; 57 (South Africa) is on regularly for the IARU HF contest. Zones 49, 50, 54, and 51 span central Africa, and Zones 49 and 50 are Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Oceania coverage begins with zones 51 and 54, (Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Malaysia). ITU Zones 55, 58, 59 span Australia, Zone 60 contains New Zealand, and Zones 61, 62, and 63 cover the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, and Marshall Islands.

Zones 67 through 90 are rarely activated. If the staff of an Antarctic research station are on for IARU HF, you’ll find them handing out the zone numbers between 67 and 74. Zone 75 is in the extreme Arctic. Zones 76-90

are ocean regions with little regular ham activity; a big activation by a maritime mobile station would certainly liven up the IARU HF hunt for new multipliers.

To further add to the multiplier count, individual ham members of the IARU and the three IARU regional executive committees send the “AC”, “R1”, “R2”, and “R3” multipliers. In past years I’ve found that the best way to find these multipliers was to call CQ – the hams on the IARU Administrative Council and executive committees are not necessarily hardcore contesters and often are most comfortable being on the search-and-pounce side of the exchange.

Prepare for the IARU contest by downloading a call history file which has the HQ station exchanges prefilled. In the popular N1MM+ logger, select the “Associated Files” tab when you open the IARU HF contest module, click on the “Change” button next to the Call History section, and click “OK” to automatically download the default HQ history files. These are doubly valuable if you are entering the contest with spotting assistance (“Unlimited,” as the rules category is called) as they’ll let your logger highlight multipliers in the bandmap and available QSO windows as spots pour in through the contest.

The “reverse lookup” feature of your logger will be useful when a HQ station is giving out his exchange at each QSO but not necessarily identifying every QSO. For example, if I leave the callsign empty in the N1MM+ exchange field and type “RSGB” into the exchange portion, I’ll see in

my Check window that exchange belongs to GR2HQ station, and rapidly move past if I’ve already worked that multiplier on this band.

If you don’t enter assisted, a bandscope is a valuable tool in finding multipliers. The largest HQ stations are like beacons, with continuous operation on all bands and both modes for the entire 24 hours of the contest. They will have pileups – especially by cheerleading locals – at times, but you can always come back and find them with less congestion later, as they work the bands to complete saturation. The smaller HQ stations, once they are found by the assisted contesters, will trigger “packet pileups” that are intense and clearly visible on a bandscope’s waterfall display as a channel of intense activity. If the pileup is too thick, be sure to store them in your bandmap and come back to them periodically to see if you can grab them when the pileup is thinner.

To work the maximum number of mults, you’ll want to be on both CW and Phone. In 2022, five of the IARU HQ stations were only available on SSB. These were RCCR, SARU, FMRE, RCD, and VRONA. Additionally, the R2 mult was only on SSB. Similarly, four IARU HQ stations were only on CW: MRSF, FRA, MARTS, and SARS.

With up to 55 HQ stations, potentially 90 IARU Zones, and AC and R1-R3 representatives counting as mults per band, the IARU HF certainly qualifies as an event with a rich field of multipliers. What does this mean for the gap between assisted and unassisted entries? Figure 1 shows a scatter

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon	bit.ly/3FyPiui
July 1	RAC Canada Day Contest	https://www.rac.ca/contesting-results/
July 1	Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	https://bit.ly/3NDZghb
July 1-2	Original QRP Contest	http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/index.html
July 1-2	Marconi Memorial HF Contest	http://www.arifano.it/contest_marconi.html
July 1-2	DL-DX RTTY Contest	http://www.drcg.de/
July 1-2	NZART Memorial Contest	https://bit.ly/3wYqvx1
July 3	RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
July 5	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
July 8-9	10-10 Int. Weak Signal QSO Party	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
July 8-9	IARU HF Championship	http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship
July 8-9	World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC)	https://www.wrtc2022.it/
July 8-9	PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint	http://bit.ly/2FUmeOL
July 8-9	Veron SLP Contest	http://bit.ly/2L9eT1L
July 9	QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint	http://www.qrparci.org/contests
July 12	RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
July 12	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
July 15-16	CQ WW VHF Contest	http://www.cqww-vhf.com/
July 15-16	IARU Region 1 70 MHz Contest	https://bit.ly/3r1kqvT
July 15-16	North American RTTY QSO Party	http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
July 16	CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush	http://www.coloradoqrpclub.org/contests/gold.htm
July 16	RSGB International Low Power Contest	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
July 17	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
July 19	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
July 22-30	Maidenhead Mayhem Sprint	https://w9et.com/rules.html
July 22	YOTA Contest	https://www.ham-yota.com/contest/
July 27	RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
July 29	WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	http://bit.ly/31yE4kT
July 29-30	RSGB IOTA Contest	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
July 30	ARS Flight of the Bumblebees	http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/
Aug. 2	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
Aug. 5	European HF Championship	https://euhf.s5cc.eu/euhfc_rules/

plot of the multiplier-vs.-QSO cloud for assisted stations vs. unassisted stations in the 2022 IARU HF contest. The blue dot in the upper right is R2AA, who, with the help of assistance, rounded up 422 multipliers between the six bands. EA2W was close behind in multiplier count, with 432 multipliers. Unassisted stations maxed out at 330 multipliers with IY3A's effort.

WRTC 2022 (A Year Late)

I won't be on for the IARU HF with my home call. You'll find me, my teammate Rich DiDonna, NN3W, and 62 other teams activating with special Italian callsigns in the **World Radio-sport Team Championship**. WRTC 2022 (delayed a year because of Covid-19 shutdowns) takes place in the region around Bologna, Italy, and is a "contest within a contest" overlapping with the IARU HF. The Italian organizers have not yet announced the block of callsigns assigned to competitors, and you won't know which competitors are using which callsign until the 24-hour event is over. Please support this event on-the-air by searching out and working all WRTC competitor callsigns. You'll be able to watch the WRTC teams' scores as they rack up points in their own race among other top-tier contesters, on the leaderboard at the WRTC website, <<https://www.wrtc2022.it/>>. The WRTC organizers had a booth at Dayton (Photo A).

Get Ready For the WW Digi Contest By Practicing Your FT4 Contest Skills Every Thursday Night

The Northern California Contest Club has added a weekly FT4 contest to its Thursday night lineup which has long included half-hour RTTY and CW sessions. Peter Driessen, VE7AB, and Ed Muns, W0YK, introduced this event at the 2023 Dayton Hamvention® Digital Contesting session, and in its first week 25 hams listed their scores on 3830scores.com. Effective SO2R ops had almost 50 QSOs in the half-hour period; with my simpler single radio setup, I got 31 QSOs. The activity did fill out the whole hour. The propagation at the starting gun allowed at least a little activity on the 15-meter band; we rapidly moved to 20 meters, and the last ten minutes had plenty of activity on 40 meters and a bit of activity at the very end on 80.

The FT4 NS runs from 0100Z to 0130Z each Friday UTC (Thursday night in North America). If you follow the hints on the NCCC FT4 sprint website at <<https://www.ncccsprint.com/ft4ns.html>>, you'll be optimizing your exchange by reducing unnecessary acknowledgement cycles. The conventions of FT4 and FT8 contesting are a bit unusual for those used to making exchanges in non-WSJT modes; in particular, each QSO partner is sending their exchange in their first message. Ideally, this can shorten the entire QSO cycle to just two messages allowing for great on-air-efficiency and the high QSO rate that all contesters strive for. In their Hamvention presentation, Ed and Peter emphasized that any message you receive with a "R" or "RR73" constitutes a full acknowledgment, at which point you should log the QSO and move on to

Aug. 5-6	10-10 Int'l Summer Contest SSB	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
Aug. 5-6	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	http://bit.ly/2IJZcy9
Aug. 5-6	Batavia FT8 Contest	https://batavia-ft8.com/
Aug. 5-6	North American CW QSO Party	http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Aug. 6	SARL HF Phone Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Aug. 9	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
Aug 11-14	Olivia Digital QSO Party	https://groups.io/g/olivia
Aug. 12	FISTS Summer Saturday Sprint	http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html
Aug 12	Kentucky State Parks on the Air	https://k4msu.com/kypota/
Aug. 12	SARL Youth Sprint	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Aug. 12-13	Maryland-DC QSO Party	https://www.w3vpr.org/node/325
Aug. 12-13	Worked All Europe CW Contest	https://bit.ly/36ubggF
Aug. 16	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
Aug. 19-20	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
Aug. 19-20	CVA DX Contest CW	http://cvadx.org/
Aug. 19-20	International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – ILLW	https://illw.net/
Aug. 19-20	SARTG RTTY Contest	http://www.sartg.com/index.html
Aug. 19-20	North American SSB QSO Party	http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Aug. 20	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY	http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Aug. 20	NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	http://w2lj.blogspot.com/p/njqrp-skeeter-hunt.html
Aug. 20	FISTS Summer Sunday Sprint	http://www.fistsna.org/operating.html
Aug. 25-27	Hawaii QSO Party	http://hawaiiqsoparty.org/
Aug. 26-27	ALARA Contest	http://www.alara.org.au/contests/
Aug. 26-27	CVA DX Contest SSB	http://cvadx.org/
Aug. 26-27	Kansas QSO Party	http://www.ksqsoparty.org/
Aug. 26-27	Ohio QSO Party	http://www.ohqp.org/index.php/rules/
Aug. 26-27	YO DX HF Contest	https://www.yodx.ro/en/
Aug. 26-27	World Wide Digi DX Contest	https://ww-digi.com/
Aug 26-27	W/VE Island QSO Party	https://usislands.org/qso-party-rules/
Aug. 27	SARL HF CW Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 23-24	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	http://www.cqwwrtty.com

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Theodore J. Cohen, N4XX, George Jacobs, W3ASK,
Robert B. Rose, K6GKU (SK)



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Photo A. The WRTC 2022 booth at Hamvention 2023. From left to right: Fabio Schettino, I4UFH, vice-president of WRTC 2022; Tim Shoppa, N3QE, NA3 region competitor (and your columnist); Ted Edwards, W3TB, past president of Tennessee Contest Group sponsoring the NA3 site in Italy; and Rich DiDonna, NN3W, NA3 region Team Leader.

working your next station. If you're looking for someone to call, you'll note that the running station sending a "R" message, is also an effective solicitation – something like a "TU <MYCALL>" in a more traditional mode - saying that they are ready to be called by the next station, obviating the need for an explicit CQ.

The Thursday night FT4 sprints are not only a way to build your skills and advance the art of WSJT-mode contesting, they are also a great way to check out your station and software integration. If you're using the popular combination of WSJT-X digital mode software with the N1MM+ logger, carefully follow the instructions at <https://bit.ly/3qj2Aaj> to enable the decode list window that will help you select stations that will be new multipliers at each jump ball. I look forward to participating each week in all three modes of NCCC NS events.

July and August Contest Highlights

The IARU HF and concurrent WRTC competition in Italy start at 1200Z on July 8. Find full IARU HF rules at <https://tinyurl.com/jk44bx3u>. Note that while ARRL has allowed self-spotting for the ARRL contests since last fall, and the ARRL helps administer the IARU HF contest, the IARU HF isn't technically an ARRL contest and IARU HF rules still prohibit self-spotting (rule PROH.4.).

Sunspot numbers are going up which translates to plenty of action in the CQ World Wide VHF Contest from 1800Z

July 15 to 2100Z July 16. Keep in mind that when the bands are wide open, you'll find much higher rates on CW or SSB than on the FT8 digital mode. Grid squares are multipliers on each of the 6- and 2-meter bands, so be sure to ask for moves between bands from the fully equipped VHF stations on for this event. Full rules are at <https://cqww-vhf.com/rules.htm>.

The fast-moving 12-hour RTTY North American QSO Party is on July 15, followed by the CW and SSB NAQPs on August 5 and August 19. States, provinces, and North American countries count as mults per band; calling CQ on the 80 and 160-meter bands to rack up multipliers there (despite summertime QRM) is worthwhile. For the rarer states you find on the 40-Meter band, be sure to ask for a move to 80 or 160. Operate up to 10 out of the 12 hours; if you want to find west coast states on the low bands, it makes sense to take some off time in the mid-day and be on for the very last hour 0100Z-0159Z after the summer sun has begun to set in the far west. Find the complete rules at <https://tinyurl.com/aaxhb47y>.

The 24-hour World Wide Digi contest uses both FT4 and FT8 modes and uses the first two characters (the "field") of the grid square as a multiplier. The points are computed based on the distance between the two QSO partners, strongly rewarding activation of the longest paths on DX bands. It starts at 1200Z on August 26 and full rules are at <https://ww-digi.com/>.

Summer is Sizzling with Deals...



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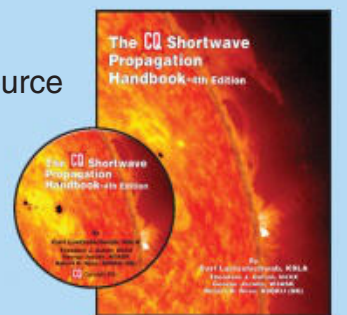
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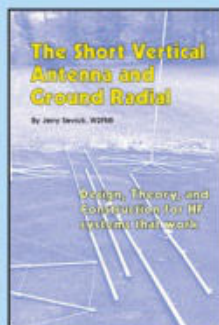
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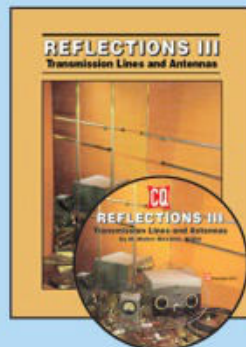


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propagation

BY TOMAS HOOD,* NW7US

The Summer Anomaly

Quick Look at Current Cycle 25 Conditions:

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, April 2023: **96**

Twelve-month smoothed, October 2022: **99**

10.7 cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, April 2023: **146**

Twelve-month smoothed, October 2022: **140**

One Year Ago:

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, April 2022: **76**

Twelve-month smoothed, October 2021: **45**

10.7 cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, April 2022: **131**

Twelve-month smoothed, October 2021: **93**

In the Northern Hemisphere, we are in the summer doldrums with lower MUFs (maximum usable frequencies) during the day, but higher MUFs (than winter) in the evening and night. In the other hemisphere, this is reversed.

With more hours of daylight during the summer, wouldn't the increased exposure to solar radiation cause greater ionization? The surprising answer is that, no, that is generally not the case. A look at many signal paths reveals that there are higher peaks during the winter daytime than during the summer daytime. However, during the summer night, those same paths may have higher MUFs than during the winter nights—the *Summer Anomaly*.

This seasonal variation is due to a change in the ionospheric chemistry with a shift towards more diatomic species and fewer monatomic ones (a species refers to the gas molecules which react to incoming solar energy). These molecules (diatomic species) are harder to ionize as they are more tightly bonded, leading to the lower levels of ionization, seen at <https://tinyurl.com/yxv99jsc>.

It was formerly believed that this anomaly was in part caused by temperature differences. This model held that during the Northern Hemisphere's winter months the atmosphere is cold and therefore denser, and that because the Earth is closer to the Sun, more intense daytime ionization occurs; thus, winter daytime critical frequencies are high.

During the long hours of winter darkness, on the other hand, it was believed that the ionosphere has more time to recombine, and nighttime critical frequencies fall to very low levels. Conversely, in the summer the F2 layer heats up, causing it to expand during the daylight hours. This results in a lower ionization density than is observed during the winter. This, it was believed, creates summer daytime F2-layer critical frequencies that are lower than winter values. Moreover, because of the longer hours of daylight during the summer, recombination does not occur to the extent that it does in winter. This would mean that nighttime F2-layer critical frequencies during the summer months are significantly higher than they are during the winter months.

As scientists continue to explore, our understanding of how the ionosphere works becomes ever clearer and more accurate. Research has revealed that the reason summer MUFs are lower during the day is due only in part to tem-

perature differences. The rest of the story lies in ion chemistry, not the thinning of the ionosphere.

In the lower part of our atmosphere, below 100 kilometers, atoms and molecules are well mixed by wind and temperature. Above 100 kilometers, atoms and molecules are distributed vertically by gravity according to their atomic weights. The heaviest atoms, argon, settle toward the bottom of the ionospheric layers, while the lightest atoms, hydrogen, extend to the greatest heights. The exact composition depends on temperature. In the winter, when atoms and molecules are colder, they move lower, in part causing the ionosphere to contain a greater density of oxygen atoms. During the summer, they move to greater heights as they warm up, and the ionosphere becomes dominated by a more even mixture of nitrogen and oxygen molecules. In this upper atmosphere, ionization is more affected by the geomagnetic field than by atmospheric turbulence.

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for July 2023

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1,5,8-13,20-21,23-26,28	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 2-3,7,17-19,22,29-30	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 6,16	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: 4,15,27,31	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: 14	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 July 1 through July 3, but fair on July 4, then good on July 6, and so forth.

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.

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Ionization is the creation of ions by atoms losing their electrons. This is caused by the energy of photons from sunlight breaking the electron away from the atom. In the absence of sunlight, these free electrons recombine with whatever nearby molecule or atom happens to be available.

Electrons do not always recombine with the relatively small number of positive ions available, but they may also become attached to some of the far more numerous neutral molecules, forming negative ions. This is a great thing for those who DX the lower part of the HF spectrum, as these electrons are not disassociated from the negative ions very quickly during the morning sunlight. Since these negative ions are more massive than electrons and positive ions, they do not absorb radio energy. This makes a morning window for low-band DXing.

During the summer, then, the ratio of atoms to molecules is less than the ratio during the winter. The makeup of the ionosphere during the winter favors the production of electrons from oxygen atoms over the losses of electrons by recombination in molecular interactions. Since the summer ionosphere has a mixture of nitrogen and oxygen molecules, more recombination takes place, and the ionosphere loses

some of its ionization. If one looks at a given summertime signal path and compares it with the same path during the winter, it is clear that the MUF will generally peak higher in the winter. However, the nighttime critical frequencies will generally be higher than in summer nighttime.

We'll continue diving into the science of the ionosphere and space weather, as well as using computer software tools that aid in understanding, analyzing, and predicting radio signal propagation. Stay tuned each month!

July Shortwave Propagation

Many DX hunters view July as the least exciting month of the year. With generally lower summertime MUFs, the highest of the amateur HF bands suffer some east-west paths that depend on the F-layer (the Summer Anomaly). When the 10.7 cm radio flux index climbs above 150, these paths open up, but remember that trans-polar paths suffer when the geomagnetic field is active or worse.

While F-layer propagation of the highest HF frequencies will be poor, radio signals near the Best Usable Frequency (BUF) will be stable over paths that could remain open for

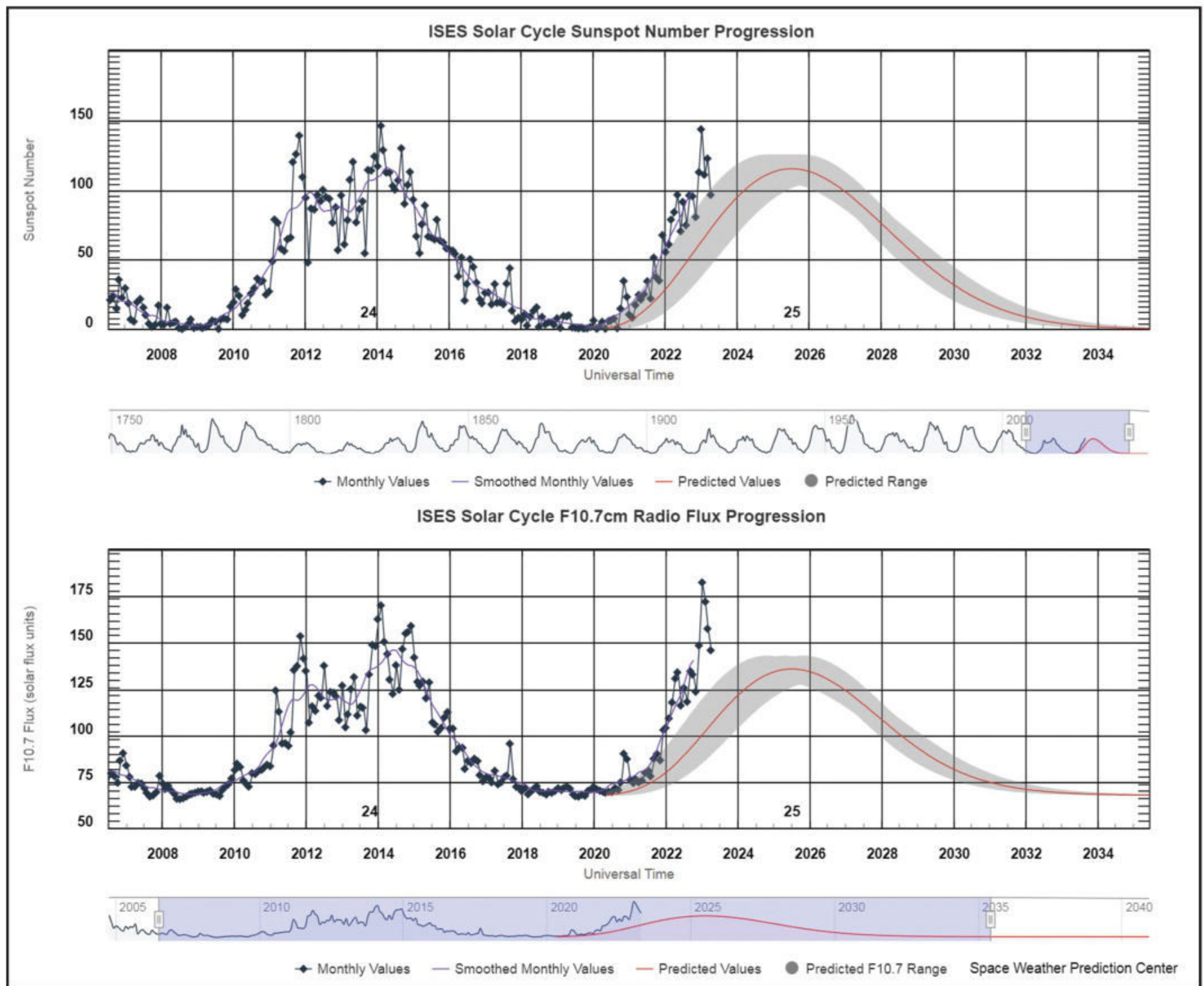


Figure 1: While the last few months were weaker in terms of solar activity, the first F10.7-cm peak of this Cycle 25 is higher than the first peak in Cycle 24. We can wish that the second peak in this current cycle will also exceed the peak of Cycle 24, a very likely scenario since most cycles have a double peak. Credit: SWPC/NASA

longer periods than during the winter and early spring season. In addition, July's sporadic-E ionization is near the year's seasonal peak. This should result in a considerable increase in short-skip openings on almost all high frequency amateur bands as well as the 6- and 2-meter bands.

Twenty meters should continue to be the best band for all-day (24-hour) DX propagation during the month. When conditions are at least Low Normal, the band is expected to remain open to one area of the world or another.

Peak conditions on 20 meters are expected for a few hours after local sunrise and again during the late afternoon and early evening, when the band should open in almost all directions. When conditions are at least Low Normal, expect 20-meter openings towards South America, the South Pacific, and Oceania until as late as midnight. When conditions are excellent, the band should also remain open to most other areas of the world past midnight.

Considerably greater F-layer DX openings are expected on 15 meters during July, many times the number of openings seen during the last several years. When conditions are at least Low Normal, 15 should occasionally open towards the south. Look for some short-skip openings into the Caribbean area and Central America as early as 10:00 a.m., with a peak expected to all areas of Latin America between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. local daylight time. When conditions are High Normal or better, the band may also open to Africa dur-

ing the late afternoon from the eastern half of the country, and to Australasia and the South Pacific area during the late afternoon and early evening from the western half of the country. Seventeen meters will act somewhat the same as 15, but openings will tend to be longer, and signals perhaps stronger and more stable.

Expect short-skip openings on 10 and 12 meters during July towards the Caribbean and possibly Central America as a result of sporadic-E ionization. When conditions are High Normal or better, an occasional opening deeper into South America may be possible, especially during the afternoon hours.

Overall, look for frequent short-skip openings on 10, 12, 15, and 17 meters between distances of 500 and 1300 miles. During the afternoon hours, skip may extend to beyond 2300 miles as a result of F-layer reflection. Short-skip openings should range between 250 and 2300 miles on 20 meters. Peak conditions are most likely to occur during the late morning and again during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Daytime openings on 40 and 30 meters should range

Figure 2 and Figure 3: Plan ahead! At 00:00, August 11, through 23:59, August 14, 2023 (UTC dates and times), the Olivia Digital DXers Club (ODDC on Clublog) is holding the annual August Olivia QSO party weekend. This is a sample certificate of participation available from the group (see <<https://groups.io/g/olivia>>), and a list of suggested calling frequencies on the HF bands. These are suggested starting frequencies, as we Olivia operators move up and down from these starting frequencies, based on band activity. Credit: Tomas Hood, NW7US, and ODDC



OLIVIA DIGITAL MODE HF SUGGESTED CALLING FREQUENCIES

The following are ONLY suggestions to aid in finding other Olivia signals

This listing shows **CENTER**, then **DIAL**, then the **number of tones and bandwidth**

CENTER	DIAL	# of Tones/Bandwidth
1.8390 MHz	1.8375 MHz	8/250 (ITU Region 1, etc; Primary International)
1.8270 MHz	1.8255 MHz	8/250 (ITU Region 2; Secondary International)
3.5830 MHz	3.5815 MHz	8/250
7.0400 MHz	7.0385 MHz	8/250 (Secondary International)
7.0725 MHz	7.0710 MHz	8/250 (Primary International)
10.1430 MHz	10.1415 MHz	8/250
10.1440 MHz	10.1425 MHz	32/1000 (Potential/If Legal)
14.0725 MHz	14.0710 MHz	8/250
14.1085 MHz	14.1070 MHz	32/1000 (International)
18.1025 MHz	18.1010 MHz	8/250
21.0725 MHz	21.0710 MHz	8/250
24.9225 MHz	24.9210 MHz	8/250
28.1225 MHz	28.1210 MHz	8/250

NOTE: **CENTER** is where you place the center of the software's cursor on the waterfall, and then click to select that center frequency on the waterfall. If you use the **DIAL** frequency from this list, then place your waterfall cursor center at the 1500-Hz offset up the waterfall (to the right of the left margin of the waterfall), and click to select that center frequency on the waterfall. This results in the software and transceiver being correctly tuned for the listed, suggested calling **CENTER** frequency.

between 100 and 600 miles, increasing to between 250 and 2300 miles after sunset. Look for openings up to about 300 miles on 80 meters during the day, extending out to the maximum short-skip distance (one-hop F-layer reflection) of 2300 miles during the hours of darkness.

Nighttime openings into many areas of the world are possible on 20, 30, and 40 meters. But seasonally high static levels may often make DX reception difficult on both 30 and 40 meters. High static levels are also expected to result in somewhat poorer DX conditions on 80 meters, although some long-distance openings are forecast during the hours of darkness. One-hundred sixty meters is virtually shut down due to the high static levels of summer. The best bet for 40-, 80-, and 160-meter DX openings is an hour or two before midnight for openings towards the north and east, and just before local sunrise for openings towards the south and west. Expect some 160-meter openings between sunset and sunrise for distances up to approximately 1300 miles, if the seasonally high static levels permit.

VHF Conditions

Statistical studies show that a sharp increase in sporadic-E propagation takes place at mid-latitudes during the late spring and summer months. During July and August, short-skip propagation over distances ranging between approximately 600 and 1300 miles should be possible on 6 meters.

Openings may also be possible on 2 meters during periods of intense sporadic-E ionization, with stations up to 1300 miles away. While sporadic-E short-skip openings can take place at just about any time of the day or night, statistics indicate that conditions should peak for a few hours before noon and again during the late afternoon and early evening.

During July you can expect 6-meter sporadic-E on at least 3 out of every 4 days. Openings may last from a few minutes up to hours.

Check <https://tinyurl.com/mr3nfzkv> for a complete calendar of meteor showers in 2023.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for April 2023 is 96.4. The twelve-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on October 2022 is 98.7. A smoothed sunspot count of 94, give or take about 9 points is expected for July 2023.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 145.86 for April 2023. The twelve-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on October 2022 is 140.4. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for July 2023 is 129, give or take 7 points.

Geomagnetic activity level this month is expected to range from quiet to stormy, resulting in occasional degraded propagation. 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



Last Year, our members worked thousands of hours for

NO PAY

And this year are well on their way to doing

EVEN MORE!

WHY?

Because they are giving back to their communities! They are helping with civic events, motorist assistance AND MORE, yes even emergencies and disasters, if needed!



CONTACT

**REACT INTERNATIONAL
301-316-2900**

Or write to
**REACT INTERNATIONAL
P.O. Box 21064, Dept CQ100
Glendale, CA 91221
RI.HQ@REACTIntl.org**

Number groups after call letters denote following: Band (A = all), Final Score, Number of QSOs, and Prefixes. An asterisk (*) before a call indicates low power. Certificate winners are listed in boldface. Late logs are listed in *italic*. (Note that country names and groupings reflect the DXCC list at the time of the contest.)

SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA

United States - District 1			
AK1W	A	6,330,405	2559 885
<i>K1LZ</i>	"	<i>5,860,030</i>	<i>2428 835</i>
<i>WK1Q</i>	"	<i>3,966,795</i>	<i>1634 771</i>
<i>AE1P</i>	"	<i>1,979,364</i>	<i>1392 587</i>
<i>KE1S</i>	"	<i>1,822,713</i>	<i>1029 573</i>
<i>W1HS</i>	"	<i>943,056</i>	<i>858 432</i>
<i>NG1M</i>	"	<i>912,120</i>	<i>847 440</i>
<i>K2RB</i>	"	<i>840,598</i>	<i>800 418</i>
<i>K1AR</i>	"	<i>669,798</i>	<i>678 381</i>
<i>W1ARY</i>	"	<i>579,852</i>	<i>671 364</i>
<i>K1VW</i>	"	<i>451,647</i>	<i>553 321</i>
<i>K1SM</i>	"	<i>442,890</i>	<i>557 342</i>
<i>K1BZ</i>	"	<i>265,406</i>	<i>381 262</i>
<i>W1GD</i>	"	<i>259,656</i>	<i>310 248</i>
<i>W1TO</i>	"	<i>179,872</i>	<i>292 224</i>
<i>KX1X</i>	"	<i>151,641</i>	<i>310 203</i>
<i>N1KM</i>	"	<i>99,828</i>	<i>216 177</i>
<i>K1RO</i>	"	<i>68,202</i>	<i>206 162</i>
<i>KB1QU</i>	"	<i>32,776</i>	<i>166 136</i>
<i>WV1K</i>	28	<i>1,361,073</i>	<i>1006 591</i>
NW2P	7	4,836	31 31
*KC1RET	A	560,986	643 358
<i>*KW1X</i>	"	<i>436,800</i>	<i>640 336</i>
<i>*WG1V</i>	"	<i>328,042</i>	<i>517 286</i>
<i>*W1DYJ</i>	"	<i>225,944</i>	<i>392 244</i>
<i>*N1MGO</i>	"	<i>220,590</i>	<i>388 258</i>
<i>*K1IU</i>	"	<i>197,036</i>	<i>347 217</i>
<i>*KA2KON</i>	"	<i>189,420</i>	<i>315 220</i>
<i>*AF1R</i>	"	<i>181,440</i>	<i>344 216</i>
<i>*N1DID</i>	"	<i>151,000</i>	<i>274 200</i>
<i>*KA1C</i>	"	<i>150,300</i>	<i>327 225</i>
<i>*WO1N</i>	"	<i>121,410</i>	<i>301 190</i>
<i>*KG1V</i>	"	<i>107,670</i>	<i>251 194</i>
<i>*WA1HXH</i>	"	<i>96,744</i>	<i>207 174</i>
<i>*W1CRB</i>	"	<i>77,922</i>	<i>231 162</i>
<i>*N1DCH</i>	"	<i>52,932</i>	<i>190 132</i>
<i>*K1IG</i>	"	<i>43,554</i>	<i>133 119</i>
<i>*KB1IKD</i>	"	<i>39,431</i>	<i>178 131</i>
<i>*N1RDN</i>	"	<i>21,560</i>	<i>105 98</i>
<i>*N1AAM</i>	"	<i>20,467</i>	<i>130 97</i>
<i>*KC1SA</i>	"	<i>17,472</i>	<i>115 91</i>
<i>*NA1S</i>	"	<i>17,370</i>	<i>101 90</i>
<i>*WA1LAD</i>	"	<i>17,177</i>	<i>98 89</i>
<i>*KC1GDW</i>	"	<i>15,939</i>	<i>99 77</i>
<i>*K1LHO</i>	"	<i>15,873</i>	<i>144 111</i>
<i>*K1DCT</i>	"	<i>12,024</i>	<i>78 72</i>
<i>*WB8IMY</i>	"	<i>9,858</i>	<i>67 62</i>
<i>*WA1N</i>	"	<i>7,140</i>	<i>62 60</i>
<i>*N1AM</i>	"	<i>5,225</i>	<i>60 55</i>
<i>*KQ4Y</i>	"	<i>273</i>	<i>14 13</i>
*WB1AEL	28	73,350	183 163
*NG1R	21	571,824	678 418
*N1GDD	14	22,672	152 109
<i>*WA1YGT</i>	"	<i>204</i>	<i>13 12</i>
United States - District 2			
AA2EQ	A	1,432,229	1185 521
<i>K4RUM</i>	"	<i>1,281,550</i>	<i>991 475</i>
<i>N2WK</i>	"	<i>1,234,455</i>	<i>886 515</i>
<i>W2CG</i>	"	<i>1,078,980</i>	<i>765 490</i>
<i>WA2CP</i>	"	<i>1,055,020</i>	<i>817 428</i>
<i>WT2J</i>	"	<i>981,387</i>	<i>842 431</i>
<i>WX2NJ</i>	"	<i>887,880</i>	<i>821 453</i>
<i>NR2C</i>	"	<i>728,700</i>	<i>661 420</i>
<i>K2NV</i>	"	<i>710,208</i>	<i>670 411</i>
<i>AA2GF</i>	"	<i>654,500</i>	<i>690 374</i>
<i>WB2NFL</i>	"	<i>554,040</i>	<i>684 360</i>
<i>KE2D</i>	"	<i>486,105</i>	<i>427 345</i>
<i>KF2TI</i>	"	<i>475,066</i>	<i>554 358</i>
<i>K2QB</i>	"	<i>450,918</i>	<i>528 369</i>
<i>WB2PJH</i>	"	<i>312,995</i>	<i>358 295</i>
<i>WB2NVR</i>	"	<i>277,877</i>	<i>445 269</i>
<i>N2RC</i>	"	<i>215,064</i>	<i>299 261</i>
<i>WA2MCR</i>	"	<i>192,696</i>	<i>426 248</i>
<i>NE2V</i>	"	<i>174,981</i>	<i>294 219</i>
<i>WS9M</i>	"	<i>161,551</i>	<i>331 221</i>
<i>KD2UBH</i>	"	<i>151,466</i>	<i>350 217</i>
<i>KM2O</i>	"	<i>129,168</i>	<i>228 184</i>
<i>KA2K</i>	"	<i>124,440</i>	<i>195 183</i>
<i>KA2AEY</i>	"	<i>61,256</i>	<i>208 152</i>
<i>WO2Y</i>	"	<i>60,236</i>	<i>193 148</i>
<i>WA2VIU</i>	"	<i>47,388</i>	<i>157 132</i>
<i>WA3AFS</i>	"	<i>24,472</i>	<i>92 92</i>
<i>AB2E</i>	"	<i>22,356</i>	<i>120 92</i>
<i>N2YBB</i>	"	<i>21,185</i>	<i>103 95</i>
<i>AD2BO</i>	"	<i>6,966</i>	<i>47 43</i>
<i>KC2KZJ</i>	"	<i>1,008</i>	<i>17 14</i>
<i>WB2WPM</i>	14	<i>3,250</i>	<i>54 50</i>
*KU2M	A	2,524,608	1422 648
<i>*AH2O</i>	"	<i>1,122,990</i>	<i>983 498</i>
<i>*WB2JVO</i>	"	<i>792,819</i>	<i>789 411</i>
<i>*WA2DNI</i>	"	<i>770,628</i>	<i>873 431</i>

<i>*KC2WUF</i>	"	<i>414,636</i>	<i>552 317</i>
<i>*WB2COY</i>	"	<i>352,500</i>	<i>574 282</i>
<i>*W2NO</i>	"	<i>294,872</i>	<i>359 328</i>
<i>*KS2G</i>	"	<i>258,075</i>	<i>394 279</i>
<i>*WA2QAU</i>	"	<i>234,011</i>	<i>402 241</i>
<i>*AC2XC</i>	"	<i>222,176</i>	<i>449 262</i>
<i>*NS2N</i>	"	<i>181,280</i>	<i>309 220</i>
<i>*W2JV</i>	"	<i>159,264</i>	<i>323 252</i>
<i>*W2RLK</i>	"	<i>104,340</i>	<i>275 185</i>
<i>*AG2S</i>	"	<i>101,376</i>	<i>246 176</i>
<i>*NM2K</i>	"	<i>94,520</i>	<i>214 170</i>
<i>*KW2O</i>	"	<i>93,310</i>	<i>196 155</i>
<i>*K2DAR</i>	"	<i>63,640</i>	<i>185 185</i>
<i>*K3WHD</i>	"	<i>56,330</i>	<i>179 131</i>
<i>*KG2F</i>	"	<i>39,183</i>	<i>149 111</i>
<i>*ND2K</i>	"	<i>36,160</i>	<i>145 113</i>
<i>*K2DD</i>	"	<i>31,624</i>	<i>148 118</i>
<i>*KD2SGM</i>	"	<i>15,433</i>	<i>65 61</i>
<i>*AC2OC</i>	"	<i>14,388</i>	<i>71 66</i>
<i>*K1NY</i>	"	<i>12,596</i>	<i>82 67</i>
<i>*W2YK</i>	"	<i>8,410</i>	<i>66 58</i>
<i>*W2DXE</i>	"	<i>5,453</i>	<i>47 41</i>
<i>*KA2WIK</i>	"	<i>480</i>	<i>17 16</i>
<i>*WA2CHV</i>	"	<i>65</i>	<i>5 5</i>
*K2SI	28	1,128	24 24
*AC2IK	14	2,016	40 36
*W2VTV	7	226,380	311 231
United States - District 3			
AA3B	A	8,024,898	2749 942
<i>KF3P</i>	"	<i>6,112,690</i>	<i>2272 877</i>
<i>N3QE</i>	"	<i>3,260,544</i>	<i>1616 672</i>
<i>NF3R</i>	"	<i>3,172,580</i>	<i>1781 730</i>
<i>KA3GIK</i>	"	<i>2,028,696</i>	<i>1255 617</i>
<i>K3WJV</i>	"	<i>1,768,536</i>	<i>1105 616</i>
<i>W3FV</i>	"	<i>1,689,050</i>	<i>1141 550</i>
<i>N3FJP</i>	"	<i>1,614,626</i>	<i>1118 562</i>
<i>K3WW</i>	"	<i>1,192,608</i>	<i>939 492</i>
<i>WC3N</i>	"	<i>1,123,474</i>	<i>937 458</i>
<i>WT3K</i>	"	<i>1,053,228</i>	<i>837 474</i>
<i>AA3R</i>	"	<i>764,736</i>	<i>665 448</i>
<i>KX2S</i>	"	<i>682,668</i>	<i>740 378</i>
<i>W2CDO</i>	"	<i>658,896</i>	<i>581 424</i>
<i>NY3B</i>	"	<i>557,784</i>	<i>579 366</i>
<i>KD3TB</i>	"	<i>555,396</i>	<i>585 372</i>
<i>K2LNS</i>	"	<i>479,950</i>	<i>569 331</i>
<i>K3TN</i>	"	<i>469,404</i>	<i>500 354</i>
<i>4U1WB</i>	"	<i>431,892</i>	<i>776 372</i>
<i>N3ALN</i>	"	<i>428,188</i>	<i>598 334</i>
<i>NT3U</i>	"	<i>424,396</i>	<i>515 322</i>
<i>AK3B</i>	"	<i>375,232</i>	<i>489 328</i>
<i>N3AM</i>	"	<i>291,276</i>	<i>315 279</i>
<i>N8WXQ</i>	"	<i>253,176</i>	<i>415 264</i>
<i>W3FR</i>	"	<i>225,280</i>	<i>386 256</i>
<i>KC3TAU</i>	"	<i>174,563</i>	<i>310 227</i>
<i>K3AU</i>	"	<i>173,706</i>	<i>333 221</i>
<i>KB3Z</i>	"	<i>160,928</i>	<i>270 214</i>
<i>W3MAM</i>	"	<i>150,285</i>	<i>324 215</i>
<i>NN3RP</i>	"	<i>149,935</i>	<i>276 191</i>
<i>N3BD</i>	"	<i>141,400</i>	<i>340 202</i>
<i>NG3R</i>	"	<i>128,060</i>	<i>226 190</i>
<i>W3OU</i>	"	<i>126,633</i>	<i>271 191</i>
<i>N3DUE</i>	"	<i>123,656</i>	<i>254 164</i>
<i>KE3GK</i>	"	<i>123,516</i>	<i>380 292</i>
<i>K3RMB</i>	"	<i>104,160</i>	<i>268 186</i>
<i>KG4USN</i>	"	<i>95,120</i>	<i>222 164</i>
<i>K3MD</i>	"	<i>86,271</i>	<i>199 193</i>
<i>K3QIA</i>	"	<i>80,840</i>	<i>208 172</i>
<i>N3FCP</i>	"	<i>77,736</i>	<i>207 158</i>
<i>AA3S</i>	"	<i>76,000</i>	<i>174 152</i>
<i>N1EK</i>	"	<i>69,615</i>	<i>195 153</i>
<i>NA7L</i>	"	<i>65,685</i>	<i>207 151</i>
<i>W3RE</i>	"	<i>64,529</i>	<i>188 173</i>
<i>N3AML</i>	"	<i>32,994</i>	<i>128 94</i>
<i>WY3A</i>	"	<i>28,083</i>	<i>127 111</i>
<i>K3CY</i>	"	<i>20,736</i>	<i>94 81</i>
<i>N3RM</i>	"	<i>11,324</i>	<i>91 76</i>
<i>W3GVX</i>	"	<i>7,740</i>	<i>61 45</i>
<i>K3TEF</i>	"	<i>475</i>	<i>19 19</i>
W3LL	7	1,772,880	859 498
<i>NA3M</i>	"	<i>1,278,576</i>	<i>736 468</i>
*W3KB	A	768,504	586 451
<i>*AC5XK</i>	"	<i>722,294</i>	<i>716 409</i>
<i>*KB3AAY</i>	"	<i>538,197</i>	<i>571 347</i>
<i>*K3RWN</i>	"	<i>330,620</i>	<i>565 305</i>
<i>*KQ3F</i>	"	<i>285,817</i>	<i>374 307</i>
<i>*N3FR</i>	"	<i>237,360</i>	<i>443 258</i>
<i>*K3AK</i>	"	<i>215,433</i>	<i>411 237</i>
<i>*AC3U</i>	"	<i>198,045</i>	<i>369 243</i>
<i>*KC3SDJ</i>	"	<i>134,521</i>	<i>297 193</i>
<i>*K3LT</i>	"	<i>123,713</i>	<i>301 193</i>
<i>*K3QP</i>	"	<i>120,132</i>	<i>252 213</i>
<i>*N2MA</i>	"	<i>111,414</i>	<i>248 186</i>
<i>*N3MLB</i>	"	<i>95,200</i>	<i>236 175</i>
<i>*AI3KS</i>	"	<i>82,560</i>	<i>212 172</i>
<i>*KE3ZT</i>	"	<i>80,907</i>	<i>196 149</i>
<i>*KC2VON</i>	"	<i>66,456</i>	<i>192 142</i>
<i>*KN1OLA</i>	"	<i>59,502</i>	<i>183 141</i>
<i>*WB8YYY</i>	"	<i>54,020</i>	<i>177 148</i>
<i>*AB3SX</i>	"	<i>51,737</i>	<i>182 133</i>
<i>*W3TAS</i>	"	<i>35,964</i>	<i>138 111</i>
<i>*AB3GY</i>	"	<i>26,796</i>	<i>113 87</i>
<i>*N3JNX</i>	"	<i>21,420</i>	<i>108 84</i>
<i>*N2LK</i>	"	<i>21,297</i>	<i>110 93</i>
<i>*AD2L</i>	"	<i>19,285</i>	<i>106 95</i>

<i>*K2PMD</i>	"	<i>16,281</i>	<i>97 81</i>
<i>*AJ3DI</i>	"	<i>15,200</i>	<i>102 80</i>
<i>*N5TB</i>	"	<i>11,932</i>	<i>96 76</i>
<i>*KC3SVR</i>	"	<i>10,602</i>	<i>64 57</i>
<i>*KC3WX</i>	"	<i>9,660</i>	<i>62 60</i>
<i>*KA2JAI</i>	"	<i>6,840</i>	<i>66 57</i>
<i>*N3WAS</i>	"	<i>4,725</i>	<i>49 45</i>
<i>*N3HRO</</i>			

*EA2BJM	"	444,852	485	324	*UX1VX	"	191,840	299	220	*YC1CKK	"	6,060	91	60
*ED4J	"	428,496	574	339	*UT5UML	"	180,375	324	195	*YC1TCA	"	6,016	51	47
			(OP: EA4HKF)		*UR5WCQ	"	153,903	227	183	*YC0AOM	"	5,952	71	48
*EA4FIT	"	386,232	469	308	*UT0CK	"	48,972	163	132	*YC4PSG/8	"	5,764	75	44
*EA2EVM	"	366,201	547	297	*US5CDH	"	42,020	148	110	*YB1ICC	"	5,456	44	44
*EA5HYJ	"	335,454	462	294	*US7UK	"	240	10	10	*YB2CTE	"	5,376	51	42
*EA11YK	"	199,368	377	234	*UR5LAM	28	233,448	352	284	*YC0JOY	"	5,232	56	48
*EC7YY	"	150,104	298	232	*UW5U	"	15,600	99	75	*YB7GRN	"	3,870	55	45
			(OP: EC7CC)							*YF2AIV	"	3,408	49	48
*EA3HKA	"	117,600	292	200	*UT2EF	21	147,744	302	243	*YD1CZE	"	2,673	39	33
*EE5O	"	116,820	219	180	*US0MM	14	135,135	324	231	*YD2BIU	"	2,257	44	37
			(OP: EA5ITJ)		*UW7LL	3.5	10,816	53	52	*YB9GDP	"	2,133	44	27
*EA7DUT	"	107,118	296	198						*YC7SQV	"	1,365	24	21
*EA1EWY	"	100,980	220	170						*YB1LRG	"	1,015	33	29
*EB5CUZ	"	99,876	228	164						*YB3COY	"	731	20	17
*EF5R	"	95,830	281	185						*YB1DFF	"	325	23	13
			(OP: EA5GOR)							*YF3AWZ	"	190	10	10
*EA5KE	"	89,394	187	141						*YD3BWK	"	100	6	5
*EA2EVC	"	88,234	196	157						*YB1HR	28	155,043	270	207
*EB5CS	"	88,000	224	176						*YB2VYY	"	43,197	132	121
*EA5LU	"	82,478	214	163						*YC1LIN	"	28,600	107	100
*EA2ESK	"	68,134	190	163						*YB1RKT	"	26,312	101	88
*EA2CCG	"	62,133	195	149						*YB3BGM	"	20,418	86	82
*EA3CFV	"	25,500	122	100						*YD3CZV	"	286	11	11
*EA3DNC	"	21,000	83	75						*YB1BML	21	165,834	285	222
*EA7KGK	"	5,300	56	53						*YD3ASV	"	86,390	202	163
*EA5LN	"	4,408	41	38						*YD1FRU	"	66,555	178	145
*EA5ERA	"	2,451	67	57						*YB9UA	"	47,328	190	136
*EA4AFP	"	1,139	17	17						*YB9GV	"	29,939	123	91
*EE3Z	28	115,444	243	196						*YB4KAR	"	21,845	103	85
			(OP: EA3NO)							*YB3ATK	"	18,834	93	86
*EA7VJ	"	31,694	114	106						*YB8JEC	"	17,739	119	73
*EA3OH	"	8,732	61	59						*YC1JEL	"	16,185	94	83
*EA4TX	"	7,332	54	47						*YB2SLF	"	9,240	70	66
*ED7B	21	546,270	594	393						*YD0BCG	"	7,315	60	55
			(OP: EC7ZR)							*YB1NIN	"	6,968	66	52
*EE7R	"	258,093	413	297						*YD1CHM	"	1,932	31	28
*EA5MR	"	55,998	190	153						*YC0NAN	"	1,288	24	23
*EF5U	"	37,698	149	122						*YC2MPF	"	25	5	5
			(OP: EA5U)							*YC4RWH	"	24	4	4
*EB3TR	14	70,666	218	178						*YD0AWA	"	4	2	2
*EA1DP	"	20,661	111	97						*YC2KJC	14	22,000	103	88
*EA3OW	"	4,753	51	49						*YB1JUS	"	4,592	50	41
*EA3CI	7	1,574,816	764	464						*YE4IJ	"	1,890	28	27
*EA3IAZ	"	212,796	280	207						*YB0MZI	"	1,624	37	28
*EA3MR	"	59,438	148	113						*YC1IFR	"	646	21	17
*EA1AAP	"	33,616	98	88						*YD9MBM	7	7,752	49	38
*EC5AN	3.5	29,584	91	86						*YD9UW	"	3,024	27	27
			(OP: EA3NO)							*YF3FBV	"	1,332	18	18
			(OP: EC7ZR)							*YC1RYX	"	1,326	17	17
			(OP: EA5U)							*YC1JDW	"	720	19	18
			(OP: EA3NO)							*YB3RYX	"	550	11	11
			(OP: EC7ZR)							*YB0OHG	"	506	13	11
			(OP: EA5U)							*YF4IDW	"	396	12	11
			(OP: EA3NO)							*YC3BUE	"	364	13	13
			(OP: EC7ZR)							*YC4SJA	"	252	12	9
			(OP: EA5U)											
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PY3TR	"	3,010	45	43
PV8DX	"	1,664	26	26
PV2K	28	2,205,096	1156	661
			(OP: PY2KNK)	
PY2CX	"	965,740	764	436
PY2EBD	"	11,532	63	62
PY3LX	"	1,176	21	21
PY2QT	21	301,500	400	300
PY5QW	"	78,894	184	162
PR7ZAJ	14	46,617	143	123
PY2XJ	"	1,653	31	29
*PY1FI	A	759,774	686	417
*ZX2V	"	370,880	453	304
			(OP: PY2XV)	
*PY1ZV	"	254,826	385	242
*PU2USK	"	149,720	286	197
*PY2WLM	"	38,625	154	125
*ZX89L	"	30,502	107	101
			(OP: PY7XC)	
*PY2ANH	"	24,273	102	87
*PP5ARF	"	19,624	95	88
			(OP: PP5TI)	
*PP5DZ	"	17,933	86	79
*PY2MIA	"	10,912	70	62
*PY4ARS	"	7,506	57	54
*ZV2F	"	4,515	51	43
			(OP: PY2SFA)	
*PR7KSA	"	667	27	23
*PU5KJN	"	168	12	12
*PU1JSV	28	566,605	535	379
*PY2UD	"	279,491	357	269
*PU2WDX	"	267,566	385	251
*PT8DX	"	177,660	301	210
*PY1KB	"	95,480	227	155
*PP5FZ	"	45,000	148	120
*PY1SAD	"	43,896	164	118
*PY4XX	"	20,054	96	74
*PU3VON	"	18,530	90	85
*PU4BOT	"	15,408	78	72
*PU3POE	"	10,557	72	69
*PU2XFF	"	8,892	58	52
*PY2ATR	"	8,848	62	56
*PY2VZ	"	5,060	46	44
*PU3LTA	"	1,007	19	19
*PY3CAD	"	656	16	16
*PY2TDB	"	8	4	4
*PU2UAF	21	124,740	253	210
*PU8YPL	"	37,152	134	108
*PU7ASP	"	1,755	29	27
*PY2NY	14	376,292	437	302
*PY3TD	"	25,830	115	105
*PY6TS	"	9,454	64	58
*PY2GTA	7	3,216	24	24
			Chile	
*CB8E	A	278,133	389	249
			(OP: CE8EIO)	
*CE3GRU	"	60,320	173	130
*CE3KA	"	18,810	111	90
*CE3RIF	"	17,628	94	78
*CE1WGM	28	395,616	473	312
*CA5GRF	"	188,100	323	209
*CE5AUC	14	1,071	21	21
			Colombia	
*HK3CFM	A	19,080	98	90
*HK4C	28	3,737	38	37
			Curacao	
PJ2T	A	2,889,831	1451	571
			(OP: WI9WI)	
			Ecuador	
*HC1JQ	21	217,620	325	234
			Falkland Islands	
*VP8YLJ	A	123,228	260	189
			French Guiana	
FY5KE	A	4,250,594	1822	734
			(OP: F5UII)	
			Peru	
*OA4DOS	A	231,549	350	237
			Uruguay	
CV7S	21	1,101,388	777	502
			(OP: CX7SS)	
*CX9AU	A	45,548	149	118
*CX2AQ	28	385,612	441	298
			Venezuela	
*YV5AEP	A	1,675	27	25
			QRP	
DK7HA	A	1,422,660	848	524
RM5F	"	1,053,763	1158	421
ON6NL	"	941,952	719	446
DF1MM	"	868,968	615	447
KZ0US	"	646,990	658	485
			(OP: W7RY)	
KV2U	"	618,786	705	378
			(OP: K2YG)	
SP50UUU	"	406,560	481	308
			(OP: SP2UUU)	
EA1GT	"	386,496	517	288
			(OP: EA1GT/QRP)	
KO1H	"	356,400	529	297
EA3F	"	285,975	381	279
OK4GP	"	272,952	314	223

WU5K	"	248,685	460	295
			(OP: K5NZ)	
IZ8JFL	"	228,589	308	227
YU1RH	"	223,139	351	251
HB2QRP	"	216,450	328	225
			(OP: HB9BAS)	
JH7UJU	"	130,427	256	167
RC1C	"	126,485	265	205
W6QU	"	115,415	275	205
			(OP: W8QZA)	
DL2DCX	"	114,632	252	184
PY2PLL	"	99,540	211	180
UT2SQ	"	97,760	195	160
DL5CV	"	95,776	209	164
JA4XHF/3	"	81,879	197	147
RV3DBK	"	70,854	206	147
WQ6X	"	67,144	259	154
OK7PZ	"	66,430	172	130
OK1DMP	"	64,960	149	140
CO2OQ	"	62,444	182	134
EA4U	"	57,822	169	138
YO7BGA	"	56,304	167	136
K4SAA	"	50,944	152	128
DD0VS	"	43,930	130	115
9M2TDX	"	43,890	172	114
CO2KY	"	42,601	152	113
PD8DX	"	41,688	134	108
AI9K	"	40,800	186	136
F5MGD	"	35,378	127	98
EW8G	"	34,594	123	98
JK2VOC	"	33,759	136	99
SP3PDO	"	26,602	104	94
			(OP: SP3TYJ)	
G4FPA	"	25,761	107	93
DL8LR	"	24,900	101	83
PE2K	"	24,541	109	97
JK1TCV	"	23,604	101	84
YB1PEF	"	20,254	113	82
DF5GO	"	18,091	95	79
SV1UH	"	17,920	93	80
KG2U	"	16,380	115	91
YU1LM	"	15,552	73	64
HF550MK	"	14,976	80	72
			(OP: SP9RQH)	
YD6ROA	"	14,283	109	69
AA8OY	"	13,840	89	80
DL2BIS	"	13,575	89	75
YV6BXN	"	12,296	62	58
R7KO	"	10,465	68	65
CO6EC	"	10,192	63	56
DH4BM	"	9,964	67	53
IZ5IOM	"	7,191	52	47
BH6KWC	"	5,750	52	46
DF5EM	"	5,720	55	52
TF2CT	"	3,456	37	36
DL8MDW	"	2,996	31	28
YO4AAC	"	1,736	30	28
LU1KCQ	"	1,113	25	21
VE3JZT	"	798	20	19
DL7AU	"	700	14	14
K8ZT	"	616	23	22
N6HI	"	600	26	20
I/PE4I	"	434	14	14
DK2FG	"	288	8	8
OK2SWD	"	180	9	9
LW6EGE	"	56	5	4
K3GDS	"	54	6	6
YC1HBP	"	48	7	6
7S2A	28	229,356	385	276
			(OP: SA2SAA)	
EA9E	"	222,780	340	237
CB3R	"	131,726	241	194
YO8WW	"	75,795	186	163
N8URE	"	48,438	154	138
IZ2JPN	"	43,152	137	124
WE6EZ	"	41,208	166	136
WD9FTZ	"	34,969	147	121
CM3EFM	"	33,810	142	115
VE3BFU	"	25,000	106	100
JA6WFM	"	12,740	72	65
KE6GLA	"	10,906	97	82
OM7PY	"	7,923	61	57
JH3DMQ	"	7,150	57	50
NP3V	"	5,382	48	46
EA4DUT	"	4,704	50	48
N3MWQ	"	2,774	40	38
PA2REH	"	2,464	30	28
GW5P	"	2,100	32	28
			(OP: GW0EGH)	
DL5SFC	"	1,725	26	25
YD2UFR	"	663	17	17
DO4ADH	"	435	17	15
EF8BBM	"	8	2	2
UA3QJJ	21	201,188	376	292
HG3IPA	"	148,764	303	231
			(OP: HA3JB)	
CO2AJ	"	119,280	266	210
SP4NKJ	"	118,405	271	199
KD9MS	"	83,692	225	196
DJ3HW	"	80,960	198	176
TI0RC	"	74,253	218	159
			(OP: TI2YO)	
N0UR	"	74,108	241	194
LY5G	"	73,513	216	163
HF20LVK	"	67,392	197	156
YO3DAC	"	51,538	162	146
UR2Y	"	45,552	166	146
			(OP: US0YW)	
JR1NKN	"	19,812	99	78
YC4SIZ	"	11,926	77	67
PY2CER	"	11,856	87	76
IZ2QKG	"	4,171	47	43

UT7AA	"	506	23	23
NH6O	"	300	10	10
YB8RAG	"	153	10	9
YB8LDK	"	153	27	17
YB2ERL	"	40	5	5
SF0A	14	286,124	464	307
			(OP: SM0LPO)	
YU1NR	"	59,130	179	162
ON3PAT	"	35,620	140	130
EA7JTP	"	28,290	132	115
TI2BSH	"	26,104	131	104
OQ4B	"	22,989	116	97
			(OP: ON4BHQ)	
YO4BEW	"	21,008	112	104
OK7N	"	9,039	73	69
LY4BF	"	7,503	66	61
9A5HZ	"	5,044	53	52
DL7EDU	"	1,450	30	29
IK2FTB	"	1,326	27	26
IU4PRA	"	1,222	29	26
IW2NRI	"	893	23	19
VK3GK	"	833	18	17
UV3RT	"	72	6	6
YO8OLY	"	40	4	4
DU7OK	"	8	2	2
SP4LO	7	147,420	216	182
I2/UJ2ZA	"	62,976	148	123
MM7BWK	"	41,040	105	95
GM1J	"	36,860	102	97
			(OP: MM0BQI)	
SP6EIJ	"	29,920	102	85
YD3AMT	"	112	9	8
BH5HGI	"	32	4	4
UT3N	3.5	159,698	241	187
			(OP: UT3NK)	
SP3EMA	"	119,184	195	156
M9N	"	59,780	134	122
			(OP: G7WHI)	
YL3FW	"	41,600	106	100
PA0AWH	"	5,112	40	36
EE2A	"	3,472	29	28
			(OP: EA2SN)	
JA5NSR	"	50	5	5

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER HIGH POWER

NORTH AMERICA

AK2S	United States - District 2	238,810	466	286
ND3D	United States - District 3	5,388,432	2255	812
W4MLB	United States - District 4	598,662	710	421
AG6AU	United States - District 6	389,991	697	343
WM7A	United States - District 7	841,156	934	446
KS9R	United States - District 9	3,185,820	1863	660
KD9V		290,997	497	279
AK9D	United States - District 0	284,229	734	297

NORTH AMERICA

VE3KTB	Canada - District 3	1,224,876	940	412
VA7MAY	Canada - District 7	1,125,432	989	392

ASIA

BH2RO	China	514,206	609	318
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EUROPE

LZ5R	Bulgaria	5,927,548	2121	814
9A5D	Croatia	6,384,930	2363	870
OK7O	Czech Republic	4,375,764	1662	788
OK1KSL		4,015,304	1758	724
G3B	England	2,335,320	1287	585
DP6A	Fed. Rep. of Germany	4,772,598	1809	807
DL1T		283,550	432	265
DQ9M		280,830	376	253
DJ1XT		221,850	338	255
OH2HAN	Finland	4,656,762	1922	811
OG70AD		604,992	663	368
TM0R	France	5,276,502	1956	846
TM1D		929,673	769	477

J42L	Greece 3,939,612	1762	703
HG7T HA3DX	Hungary 5,100,113 3,408,440	2180 1557	779 658
IQ4FC IQ2ZY IQ2CJ	Italy 11,821,950 1,477,782 268,660	3440 910 382	1050 522 266
SP3KRE	Poland 263,568	367	272
OM5M	Slovak Republic 1,448,184	878	498
S51A	Slovenia 5,369,270	1965	830
SD3T SK6D	Sweden 1,389,342 1,025,440	1135 863	514 442
UW4E	Ukraine 186,960	336	228

MULTI-OPERATOR SINGLE-TRANSMITTER LOW POWER

NORTH AMERICA			
*NC1CC	United States - District 1 1,160,382	861	534
*NY6DX	United States - District 2 2,084,914	1170	689
*WW4LL *KA4RRU *WB8SKP	United States - District 4 3,057,244 2,582,580 469,880	1676 1536 697	718 645 340
*AB7HP	United States - District 7 2,773	48	47
*WØPC	United States - District Ø 4,410	53	45
NORTH AMERICA			
*HI8SDR	Dominican Republic 81,082	165	142
*XE2N	Mexico 1,196	28	26
AFRICA			
*EA8DED	Canary Islands 4,219,306	1635	679
ASIA			
*TA4/OH2KW	Asiatic Turkey 711,722	679	346
*VU2DED	India 523,050	490	317
EUROPE			
*OE7XKJ	Austria 551,403	488	311
*E71FDE	Bosnia-Herzegovina 36,668	100	89
*9A7T *9A7B	Croatia 2,070,852 368,626	1012 456	623 298
*OL1Z *OK1OFM	Czech Republic 1,561,377 5,236	1030 47	489 44
*ES7A	Estonia 2,279,892	1203	626
*DAØBCC *DQ4W *DM3X	Fed. Rep. of Germany 2,710,350 2,512,890 871,794	1275 1344 768	634 615 407
*IQ2DN	Italy 981,950	780	479
*LA2L	Norway 76,254	176	142
*SP9ZPS	Poland 435,344	503	299
*Z66BCC	Republic of Kosovo 2,048,704	1154	538
*MSØWSG	Scotland 9,792	72	64
*YU5R *YU7KMN	Serbia 383,100 155,792	424 298	300 214

*IT9RBW	Sicily 6,652,387	2232	889
*ED3D	Spain 1,088,481	932	471
*8S8ØAA	Sweden 1,611,435	1105	515
*US4EWY	Ukraine 134,860	330	220
SOUTH AMERICA			
*PY2RH	Brazil 142,506	274	203
MULTI-OPERATOR TWO-TRANSMITTER UNITED STATES			
K9CT WV4P NCØDX KT7E K3CCR	10,810,878 8,950,866 5,701,110 3,709,321 2,022,744	3889 3531 2977 2309 1221	1054 1002 870 737 622
CR3DX	AFRICA 22,747,902	5379	1149
EUROPE			
ED1R DP7D DQ2C C37N LA1ØØK *ES5G *OL7K	12,552,932 10,698,840 9,426,468 4,377,272 2,374,344 993,711 331,299	3992 3292 3019 2000 1572 926 422	1057 1017 971 719 588 417 281
MULTI-OPERATOR MULTI-TRANSMITTER UNITED STATES			
W3GH NW8S WA3EKL NW6P	5,389,308 4,555,968 1,457,376 323,609	2646 2423 1016 557	834 778 564 341
ASIA			
JA6ZPR *JS1YDX	1,128,190 49,352	895 176	497 124
EUROPE			
9A1A DP9A DG4UF DQ9Y OZ4GM	20,431,824 13,979,736 4,426,311 3,941,613 2,465,528	5300 4182 1971 1584 1382	1168 1061 771 767 604
MULTI-DISTRIBUTED NORTH AMERICA			
CJ2X	5,638,320	2371	820
EUROPE			
IQ3ME DC6O IQ8QX	5,405,472 2,522,919 46,500	2254 1327 184	822 629 150
OCEANIA			
VK4SN 7E3E	3,684,765 10,304	1700 61	665 56
ROOKIE NORTH AMERICA			
*KC1RET	United States - District 1 560,986	643	358
KD2UBH	United States - District 2 151,466	350	217
W3FR KC3TAU N3AML *K3AK *KN1OLA	United States - District 3 225,280 174,563 32,994 215,433 59,502	386 310 128 411 183	256 227 94 237 141
*KQ4AAR	United States - District 4 20,910	106	85
W9DCT *KI5RQG *KI5QPY	United States - District 5 1,008,807 89,000 19,012	898 304 122	489 178 97
KO6M *NN6U *KN6SID	United States - District 6 97,152 32,592 22,338	334 143 165	184 112 102

*W7VC *KB7SDM	United States - District 7 29,925 18,693	173 140	105 93
*KFØADU	United States - District Ø 575	24	23
NORTH AMERICA			
*VE6SYD	Canada - District 6 15,257	82	73
ASIA			
JK1BAB	Japan - District 1 864	19	18
*9M2MAD	West Malaysia 2,838	30	22
EUROPE			
*OK3SN	Czech Republic 21,627	92	84
M9B	England 411,720	510	292 (OP: MØLKW)
*G5ROB *M7WFG *2E1LSI	133,248 4,522 1,848	250 41 23	192 38 22 (OP: G5LSI)
Fed. Rep. of Germany			
*DD5VL *DL9DX *DK1GP *DM7HB *DO1TLP *DO4ADH	286,764 96,824 48,789 8,134 16 435	358 221 169 55 4 17	276 152 139 49 4 15
*F4ITQ *F4IVC	France 573,447 129,090	582 275	329 195
*HA1NR	Hungary 103,626	260	202
EI6IKB	Ireland 999,440	840	403
IUØPVM *IUØRBE *IV3IPA *IU3QEU *IUØRAU *I/PE4I	Italy 762,354 523,973 366,885 113,022 3,735 434	690 546 433 244 48 14	369 331 263 189 45 14
*OM1HMI	Slovak Republic 132,475	249	175
EF5T	Spain 199,136	277	196 (OP: EA5JDN)
*ED4J	428,496	574	339 (OP: EA4HKF)
OCEANIA			
*YD8IKY *YC6HRI *YF7UFT *YDØBCG *YC3BUE *YD3BWK *YDØAWA *YD2UFR	Indonesia 35,308 9,020 8,427 7,315 420 100 4 663	130 66 75 60 13 6 2 17	91 55 53 55 13 5 2 17
SOUTH AMERICA			
*PU4BOT	Brazil 15,408	78	72
CLASSIC NORTH AMERICA			
NG1M *NG1R	United States - District 1 912,120 545,606	847 678	440 418 (OP: W1QK)
*W1DYJ *AF1R *N1RDN	225,944 181,440 21,560	392 344 105	244 216 98
WO2Y *W2VTV *NM2K *K3WHD *K2DD *W2YK	United States - District 2 60,236 226,380 94,520 56,330 31,624 8,410	193 311 214 179 148 66	148 231 170 131 118 58
W3LL 4U1WB	United States - District 3 1,777,937 431,892	859 776	498 372 (OP: AJ3M)
K3AU	173,706	333	221 (OP: K2YWE)
N3BD N3DUE *KC3SDJ	141,400 123,656 134,521	340 254 297	202 164 193

*SQ5CZP	7	262,404	294	222
*SP6BEN	A	106,444	202	178
*SP1DMD	"	55,120	155	130
*SP3MZ	"	24,940	94	86
*SP2HHX	"	3,444	48	41
*SQ6A	28	1,702	25	23
*SP3CMX	3.5	30	2	2

*CT1FOQ	A	Portugal 142,272	260	192
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YO3GNF	A	Romania 508,305	583	329
*YO9BCM	A	667,550	597	338
*YO5AXF	14	165,620	342	245
*YO3CEN	A	26,062	96	83
*YO9WHI	"	18,432	77	64
*YO3JW	21	180	9	9

*GM1J	7	Scotland 36,860	102	97 (OP: MMØBQI)
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YT3D	A	Serbia 2,566,256	1263	616
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IT9ODQ	A	Sicily 735,902	829	412
*IW9FDD	14	390,368	497	345
*IT9MRM	28	195,569	317	253
*IT9BGY	A	27,930	118	105
*IW9FI	21	25,272	121	104

*OM5KM	3.5	Slovak Republic 394,000	400	250
*OM5CM	A	90,190	178	145
*OM8MF	"	11,592	68	63

*S52OT	A	Slovenia 70,700	209	175
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EA1DA	7	Spain 234,422	256	199
*EA5HKZ	A	492,898	568	323
*EA5HYJ	"	335,454	462	294
*EA1IYK	"	199,368	377	234
*EC7YY	"	150,104	298	232

*EA3CFV	"	25,500	122	100
*EA1DP	14	20,661	111	97
*EA3F	A	285,975	381	279
*EA4DUT	28	4,704	50	48
*EE2A	3.5	3,472	29	28

HB9DOS	14	Switzerland 76,475	209	161
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UT5ECZ	A	Ukraine 216,975	297	263
UT2AU	14	33,512	147	118
*UT3SO	A	444,481	508	293
*US6CQ	"	405,805	505	293
*UT5UML	"	180,375	324	195
*UR5WCQ	"	153,903	227	183
*UT7AA	21	1,632	23	23

MC2I	A	Wales 657,915	603	345 (OP: GW5NF)
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*GW4HBK	A	9,558	62	59
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OCEANIA

*VK5NIG	28	Australia 1,768	26	26
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*NH6O	21	Hawaii 300	10	10
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YB2MM	A	Indonesia 144,400	292	190
YC8DUL	"	20,916	97	84
*YC2XCD	A	111,222	288	173
*YB9UA	21	65,540	190	136
*YB8RVI	A	48,732	169	93
*YC1LIN	28	28,600	107	100
*YB8JEC	21	21,888	119	73
*YB3BGM	28	20,418	86	82
*YB3ATK	21	18,834	93	86
*YC4PSG/8	A	5,764	75	44
*YB2CTE	"	5,376	51	42
*YB7GRN	"	3,870	55	45
*YD9UW	7	3,570	27	27
*YB9GDP	A	2,133	44	27
*YC1JDW	7	720	19	18
*YF3AWZ	A	190	10	10
*YB8LDK	21	153	27	17
*YD3AMT	7	112	9	8

SOUTH AMERICA

*LU7DW	28	Argentina 800	21	20
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*PY2NY	14	Brazil 376,292	437	302
*PY2UD	28	279,491	357	269
*PY2TDB	"	8	4	4

PJ2T	A	Curacao 2,889,831	1451	571 (OP: WI9WI)
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*CX2AQ	28	8Uruguay 385,612	441	298
*CX9AU	A	45,548	149	118

**TRIBANDER/WIRES
NORTH AMERICA**

AE1P	A	United States - District 1 1,979,364	1392	587
W1HS	"	943,056	858	432
W1TO	"	179,872	292	224
N1KM	"	99,828	216	177
K1RO	"	68,202	206	162
*KW1X	A	436,800	640	336
*WG1V	"	328,042	517	286
*N1DID	"	151,000	274	200
*K4SAA	A	50,944	152	128

WX2NJ	A	United States - District 2 887,880	821	453 (OP: K2RET)
K2QB	"	450,918	528	369
NE2V	"	174,981	294	219
AB2E	"	22,356	120	92
AD2BO	"	6,966	47	43
*AH2O	A	1,122,990	983	498
*WB2JVO	"	792,819	789	411

*KC2WUF	"	414,636	552	317
*KS2G	"	258,075	394	279
*NS2N	"	181,280	309	220
*KW2O	"	93,310	196	155
*KG2U	A	16,380	115	91 (OP: KA2D)

N3QE	A	United States - District 3 3,260,544	1616	672
NF3R	"	3,172,580	1781	730
W2CDO	"	658,896	581	424
N3ALN	"	428,188	598	334
W3MAM	"	150,285	324	215
W3OU	"	126,633	271	191
N1EK	"	69,615	195	153
*AC5XK	A	722,294	716	409
*K3RWN	"	330,620	565	305
*AC3U	"	198,045	369	243
*N3JNX	"	21,420	108	84 (OP: W3UL)
*WB3JIS	"	4,012	36	34
*N3MWQ	28	2,774	40	38

K9OM	A	United States - District 4 2,082,417	1066	653
N4TB	"	715,712	739	424
W4BBT	"	579,244	724	358
NR4O	"	293,343	433	277
N4TL	"	121,176	258	204
KT4Q	"	48,364	143	113
K4QQG	"	29,952	137	117
K3DNE	"	27,280	101	88
*N5SMQ	A	505,500	624	337
*AD4TJ	"	249,900	381	255
*K7RB	"	196,736	324	232
*AA5JF	"	140,400	256	216
*AA8R	"	68,832	193	144

AD5XD	A	United States - District 5 1,703,184	1381	592
AA5H	"	339,108	404	308
*NN5T	A	303,784	484	254
*K5QR	28	296,102	415	314
*AF5CC	"	1,225	25	24
*K5IX	A	190	10	10
*WU5K	A	248,685	460	295 (OP: K5NZ)

N6ZFO	A	United States - District 6 964,429	1038	463
W6SX	"	844,770	1059	435
W1PR	"	289,191	477	293
W8GJK	"	77,989	252	167
AB1U	"	27,160	160	97
*KD6HOF	A	23,100	122	100 (OP: W6RKC)

KZ7X	28	United States - District 7 1,301,016	1071	604 (OP: K6LL)
K7VIT	A	151,216	375	208
WG7X	"	91,871	345	191
WR7T	"	12,324	87	78
*N7DB	21	73,340	274	193
*WA7LNW	A	42,159	231	141

K8MM	A	United States - District 8 594,456	652	376
*WB8JUI	A	434,603	576	331
*KC8R	"	40,833	150	117
*AA8OY	A	13,840	89	80

W9Ily	28	United States - District 9 619,918	601	422
WA9IVH	A	22,088	106	88
*N9UA	A	145,173	331	217
*WB9B	"	122,815	277	203
*N9LJX	28	48,786	155	141
*WA9LEY	A	20,160	129	96

W5AP	A	United States - District Ø 693,880	855	418
WAØTXJ	"	11,840	88	74

*WZØW	A	171,825	382	237
*KKØU	28	24,196	102	92

NORTH AMERICA

AL7LO	A	Alaska 327,168	522	284
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*VY2LI	A	Canada - District 1 643,536	595	369
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*VE2BVV	A	Canada - District 2 1,117,464	854	461
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VE3SS	A	Canada - District 3 89,324	207	163
*VE3MGY	A	2,020,150	1266	550
*VA3FF	"	353,872	434	272
*VE3TM	28	242,760	341	269
*VE3EY	A	208,035	306	201

*VA6RCN	A	Canada - District 6 439,856	569	296 (OP: VE3RCN)
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*TI2OY	A	Costa Rica 595,647	623	351
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*NP4TX	7	Puerto Rico 234,780	292	215
*WP3GW	A	120,741	234	167
*NP3V	28	5,382	48	46

ASIA

RC9T	A	Asiatic Russia - District 9 323,046	409	262
*UA9OV	A	11,000	53	50

RAØFLP	28	Asiatic Russia - District Ø 526,110	536	355
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BA4TB	A	China 1,034,540	857	460
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H25A	A	Cyprus 112,338	182	158
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JR1NHD	A	Japan - District 1 222,984	345	228
JJ1XBQ	"	37,800	125	100
JH1HIC	"	35,868	118	98
*JG1LFR	A	630,086	642	311
*7N2UQC	"	477,750	545	294
*JG1XIO	"	196,301	334	203
*JF1WNT	"	96,135	204	145
*JA1MZM	"	40,071	138	111
*JA1IE	"	38,000	143	100
*JA1PCM	28	31,212	124	102

JF2FIU	A	Japan - District 2 33,124	123	98
*JA2FXV	A	179,707	309	187
*JA2GHP	"	89,996	222	149

JA3VOV	A	Japan - District 3 9,588	71	51
*JA3MIB	A	98,196	226	167
*JH3WKE	"	89,090	205	151

*JE4MHL	A	Japan - District 4 317,312	405	268
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*JH7IMX	A	Japan - District 7 43,152	138	116
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*JH8IYN	A	Japan - District 8 5,014	50	46
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JA9CWJ	21	Japan - District 9 79,632	193	158
JH9CEN	28	27,993	86	82
JA9CCG	A	21,996	101	78

*JJØPJD	A	Japan - District Ø 185,076	310	194
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*UN4PG	28	Kazakhstan 114,063	223	197
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*HZ1TT	A	Saudi Arabia 842,625	666	375
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*9V1HY	A	Singapore 1,920	29	24
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A65DR	21	United Arab Emirates 1,448,208	888	514 (OP: G7SLP)
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EUROPE

OE2LCM	A	Austria 84,875	216	175
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*EW7B	3.5	Belarus 494,648	434	292
*EW1P	A	292,864	420	286

*ON6YYY	A	Belgium 636,318	574	318
*ON4CBA	3.5	62,594	142	119

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JULY 2023

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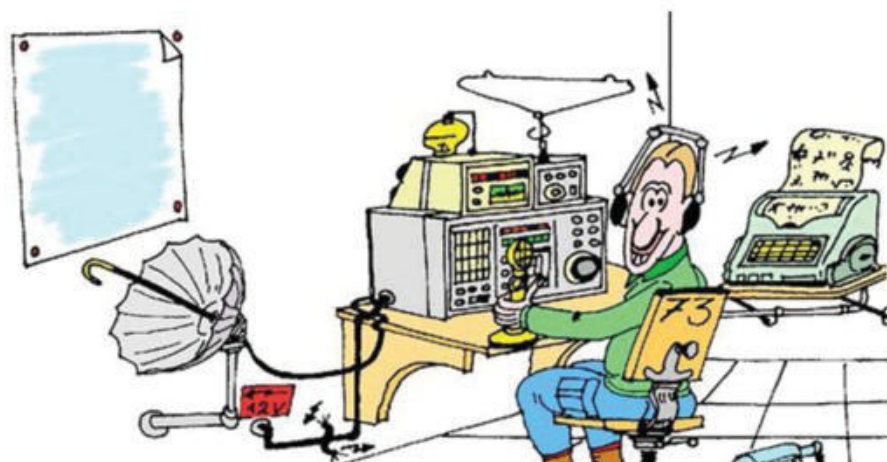
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