

Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
AUGUST 2023

CQ

WA0CNS
24 ghz

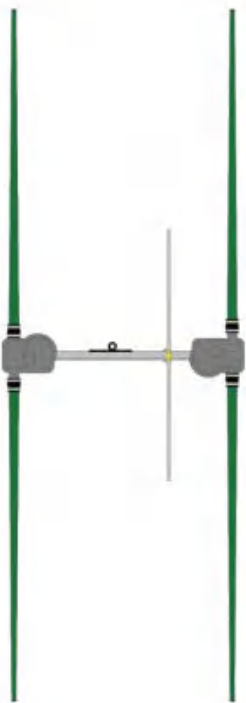
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On the Cover: Harry Hauesser, WA0CNS, of Ballwin, Missouri, operates multiple VHF+ bands in the June ARRL VHF Contest from High Ridge, Missouri (EM48) with a specialized software defined radio and Raspberry Pi. Details on page 32 and in the VHF+ column on page 82

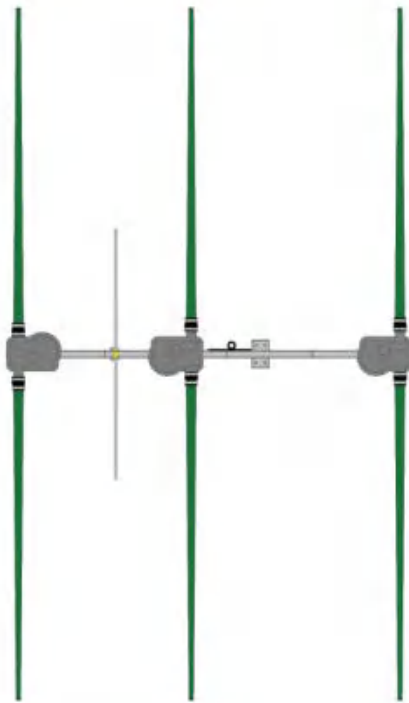
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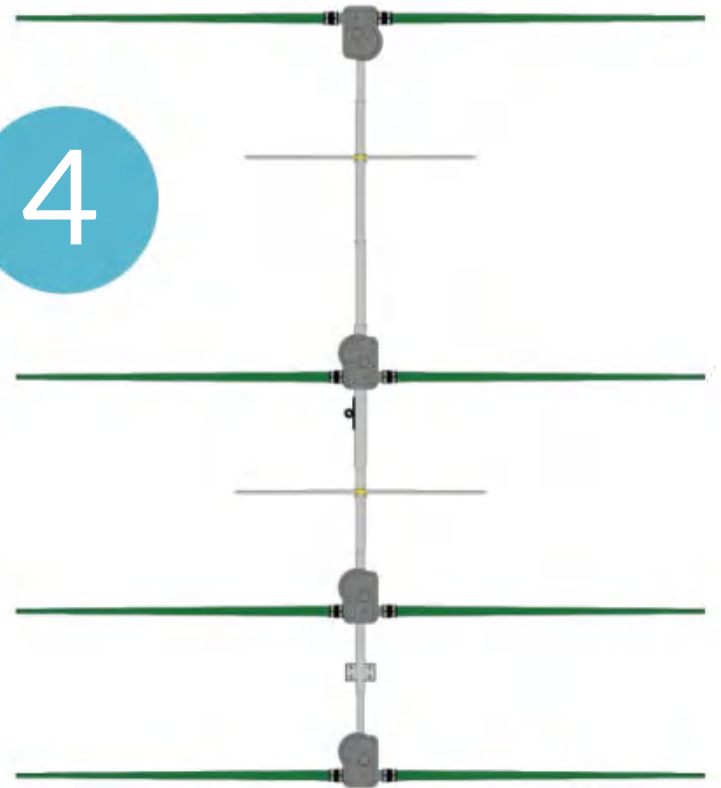
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announcements

AUGUST

CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS — The MACOUPIN, OKAW VALLEY, MONTGOMERY AND SANGAMON RADIO CLUBS will hold their West Central Illinois Hamfest from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds, 21249 Illinois Route 4. Contact: James Pitchford, N9LQF. Website: <<http://wcihamfest.com>>. Email: <n9lqf@arrl.net>. Phone: (217) 670-5777. Talk-in 444.250 / 103.5 K9MCE Repeater System. VE testing.

CENTRAL CITY, IOWA — The CEDAR VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold its Cedar Valley ARC Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at the Linn County Fair Grounds, 201 Central City Rd. Contact: David Cripe, NMØS. Website: <w0gg.org/hamfest>. Email: <nm0s@nm0s.com>. Phone: (319) 651-5879. Talk-in 146.735/192.8. VE testing.

ELKHART, INDIANA — The NORTHERN INDIANA K9DEW REPEATER NETWORK will hold the Elkhart East Hamfest from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at the Northern Indiana Event Center, 21565 Executive Parkway. Contact: Dewey Thrash, K9DEW. Website: <<http://elkharteasthamfest.com>>. Email: <elkharthamfest@gmail.com>. Phone: (574) 370-2436. Talk-in 147.330+ PL 131.8. VE testing.

GROVE CITY, OHIO — The ALADDIN SHRINE AUDIO UNIT will hold the 2023 Columbus Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at the Aladdin Shrine Center, 1801 Gateway Circle. Contact: Art Wilson, N8ART. Website: <<https://aladdinshrine.org/hamfest/>>. Email: <W8FEZAUDIO@AOL.COM>. Phone: (614) 256-5829. Talk-in 146.760 PL 123.0.

LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN — The RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the Riverland Amateur Radio Club Swapfest from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at the Bethany Church La Crosse, 3936 County Road B. Contact: Scott Cross, KB3MKD. Website: <<http://rarc.qth.com>>. Email: <kb3mkd@arrl.net>. Phone: (319) 432-1070. Talk-in 146.970 / 131.8. VE testing.

RAPID RIVER, MICHIGAN — The DELTA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will hold the U.P. Hamfest 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at the American Legion Post 301, 10584 N. Main. Contact: Maureen Potvin, KD8SDE. Website: <<https://k8pl.org/>>. Email: <kd8sde@gmail.com>. Phone: (906) 553-9439. Talk-in 147.150 (+600 / 100PL).

SINKING SPRINGS, PENNSYLVANIA — The READING RADIO CLUB, INC. will hold the Reading Radio Club Hamfest time TBA on Saturday August 5 at the Heritage Park, 992 Clematis St. Contact: Harry Hoffman, W3VBY. Website: <<http://www.qsl.net/w3bn/>>. Email: <harryhoffmanjr@juno.com>. Phone: (610) 678-8976. Talk-in 146.91/.31 (tone 131.8).

TRUMANSBURG, NEW YORK — The TOMPKINS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION will hold the Ithaca Hamfest from 7:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday August 5 at the Trumansburg Fairgrounds, 2150 Trumansburg Road/NYS Route 96. Contact: Joe Zawislak, W2IFB. Website: <<https://tcara-ny.org>>. Email: <jbz2@cornell.edu>. Phone: (607) 793-4349. Talk-in 146.970, 146.370 Tone 103.5.

VINTON, VIRGINIA — The ROANOKE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the Roanoke Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday August 5 at William Byrd Middle School, 2910 E Washington Ave. Contact: Darrell Little, KI4LLA. Website: <<https://roanokehamfest.info/>>. Email: <darrell@ki4lla.us>. Phone: (540) 885-2262. Talk-in 146.985 107.2. VE testing.

BERRYVILLE, VIRGINIA — The SHENANDOAH VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC will hold the 72nd Annual Berryville Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. onward on Sunday August 6 at Clark County Ruritan Fairgrounds, 890 W. Main. Contact: Larry Miller, KB6VAA. Website: <<http://www.hamfesters.org>>. Email: <kb6vaa@gmail.com>. Phone: (540) 325-8644. Talk-in 146.820 pl 146.2. VE testing.

PEOTONE, ILLINOIS — The HAMFESTERS RADIO CLUB will hold its Hamfesters 88th Annual Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. onward on Sunday August 6 at Will County Fairgrounds, 710 S. West St. Contact: Jim Riley, W9JPR. Website: <<https://berryvillehamfest.com/>>. Email: <w9jpr2016@gmail.com>. Phone: (708) 301-1863. Talk-in 146.52 MHz.

ABUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO — The ROCKY MOUNTAIN HAM RADIO CLUB will hold the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention times TBA from Friday August 11 to Sunday August 13 at the St. Pius X High School, 5301 Saint Josephs Dr. NW. Contact: Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT. Website: <<https://www.divisionconvention.org/>>. Email: <bpmiles@gmail.com>. Phone: (505) 463-9468.

NEW WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA — The ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB will hold the Pacific Northwest DX Convention times TBA from Friday August 11 to Sunday August 13 at the Inn at the Quay, 900 Quayside Dr. Contact: Dave Johnson, VE7VR. Website: <<https://pacificnwdxconvention.com/>>. Email: <djohnson@davetek.com>. Phone: (604) 603-2254.

CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN — The CHIPPEWA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the CVARC 2023 Hamfest from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday August 12 at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds, 225 Edward St. Exhibit Hall A. Contact: Wayne Johnson, W9CVA. Website: <<https://w9cva.org/hamfest>>. Email: <hamfest@w9cva.org>. Phone: (715) 600-1332. Talk-in 147.375/975 PL 110.9 W9CVA/R. VE testing.

FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA — The CAPE FEAR AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY will hold the 24th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Swapfest from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday August 12 at the Cumberland County Shrine Club, 7040 Ramsey Street. Contact: David Cowart, KI4W. Website: <<http://cfarsnc.org/>>. Email: <davidki4w@gmail.com>. Phone: (910) 624-1394. Talk-in 146.910 100 Hz. VE testing.

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO — The WESTERN COLORADO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the WCARC Hamfest and Swapmeet from 9:00 am onward on Saturday August 12 at the First Christian Church, 1326 North 1st Street. Contact: Chip Ferron, NØWKR. Website: <<http://www.w0rrz.org>>. Email: <chip.ferron@gmail.com>. Phone: (970) 261-2508. Talk-in 146.94 - 107.2.

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA — The TRI-STATE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC will hold the Tri-State Amateur Radio Association, Inc. 60th Annual Hamfest time TBA on Saturday August 12 at the New Baptist Church, 610 28th St. Contact: Teresa Killen, KD8QIH. Website:

(Continued on page 30)

FCC Considering Proposal for New Commercial Use of HF Bands

As traditional users of the shortwave spectrum move their operations to satellites and the internet, a group of businesses in the financial sector is seeking to use HF for high-speed, high-power data transmissions. The ARRL reports that the “Shortwave Modernization Coalition” has petitioned the FCC for use of multiple frequencies between 2 and 25 MHz with power authorizations up to 20 kilowatts. While *Newsline* reports that the FCC says that the proposed uses would not impact spectrum used exclusively by amateur radio, maritime or aeronautical services, the ARRL points out that some requested frequencies are immediately adjacent to amateur bands, which could be affected by high-power digital signals. Comments were due by July 31, with reply comments open until August 15. The full petition may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/dh5dbctb>.

Bill to Pre-Empt HOA Antenna Restrictions Reintroduced in Congress

A Republican Congressman from Ohio and a Democrat from Connecticut have jointly introduced a bill to force homeowners’ associations (HOAs) to allow amateur radio antennas in the developments that they control. HR 4006 would remove private land use restrictions that prevent amateur radio operators from installing and using “reasonable antennas” on property that they own or control. This month’s Learning Curve column is devoted to the bill and recommendations for encouraging your congressional representative to support it. The full text of the bill may be found at <https://tinyurl.com/vtvputst>.

Attendance Up at Europe’s Biggest Hamfest

The annual “HAM RADIO” show in Friedrichshafen, Germany, drew a crowd of over 11,000 attendees this year, up 10% from 2022, according to *Newsline*. The show, Europe’s largest, had close to 400 exhibitors, according to the *ARRL Letter*, including 149 commercial exhibitors and international associations (including ARRL), as well as 243 flea market vendors, an increase of 15% from last year. The show’s theme this year was “We’re all about STEM!” (science, technology, engineering, and math), and included many youth-focused activities.

JY1’s Ham Station Donated to RSGB

Jordan’s Queen Noor has donated the ham station equipment of her late husband, King Hussein, JY1, to the Radio Society of Great Britain. The king was very active on the ham bands and always introduced himself simply as “Hussein” to ham contacts. The *ARRL Letter* reports that RSGB is preparing a permanent exhibition of the JY1 station at its National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park.

Milestones: W5NYV Honored as a Woman of Influence in Engineering

Open Research Institute (ORI) co-founder and CEO Michelle Thompson, W5NYV, is among this year’s “Women of

Influence in Engineering,” a list assembled each year by the *San Diego Business Journal*. The *ARRL Letter* reports that Thompson, a third-generation ham, has been licensed for more than 25 years. Through amateur radio, she told the *Letter*, “I was drawn to the vocation of helping people navigate difficult rules and regulations that impeded their learning and success.”

Thompson is heavily involved in amateur satellite service regulatory reform and is a member of the FCC’s Technological Advisory Council. She is also chair of the San Diego section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and founder of the institute’s Information Theory Society.

Milestones: Bouvet Puts NF7E at the Top of the Honor Roll ... and in the Newspaper

When Bob Wertz, NF7E, of Flagstaff, Arizona, received his confirmation for working the 3Y0J DXpedition to Bouvet earlier this year, it was his 340th confirmed DX entity, putting him at the Top of the Honor Roll for DXCC, and that put him in the local newspaper! The *Flagstaff Business News* ran an excellent article on Bob, DXing, and ham radio in general. He was hoping that the article would draw prospective hams to the Flagstaff Hamfest (also mentioned in the article) on July 15.

It’s good to keep in mind that local newspapers and internet news outlets are always interested in stories about accomplishments by area residents and can often be good ways to promote amateur radio. The article can be found at <https://issuu.com/flagbiznews/docs/fbn0723hr> on page 14.

ARDC Grant Provides New Antennas and Satellite Capability for Museum Ham Station

A grant from ARDC, the Amateur Radio Digital Communications foundation, has allowed the radio club of the Vintage Radio and Communications Museum of Connecticut in Windsor to upgrade its antennas and add satellite capability to its demonstration station, W1VCM. According to the *ARRL Letter*, the new equipment includes a high-gain antenna system with computer-controlled tracking and a satellite-capable transceiver. While the museum focuses on vintage radio gear, officials feel a modern ham station complements the collections and helps to reinforce the history that has led to our current communications capabilities.

A New “OTA” – Scout Camps On The Air

There’s a new “OTA” program joining islands, summits, parks, and lighthouses on the air ... Scout Camps On The Air, or SCOTA. According to *Newsline*, the goal is to promote amateur radio operations from scout camps, non-camp Scout-operated stations and everyone else who works them. The program is the brainchild of Matt Murphy, KR8E. It is still in the formative stages. Interested hams are invited to follow progress or contribute to it by following the group on Twitter [@SCOTA_k2bsa](https://twitter.com/SCOTA_k2bsa) or on Instagram at [scota_k2bsa](https://www.instagram.com/scota_k2bsa).

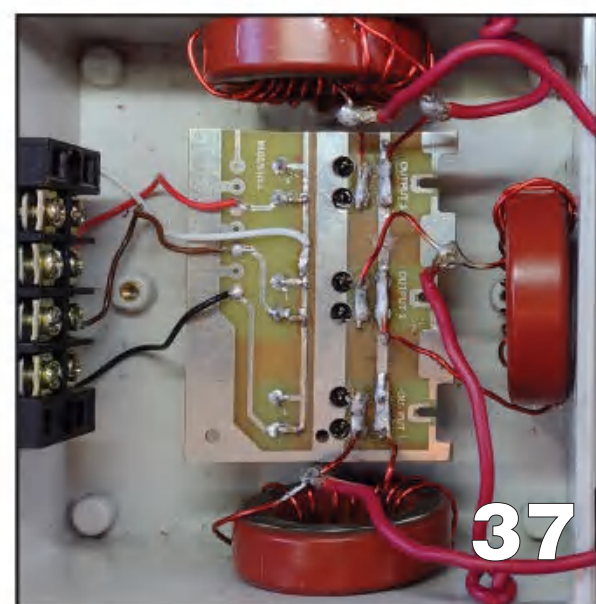
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Getting high (in frequency) ... Harry Hauesser, WA0CNS, of Ballwin, Missouri, operates the ARRL June VHF Contest from EM48 in Missouri. Details on page 32 and in the VHF+ column on page 82. (Cover photo by Ron Ochu, KO0Z)



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FOCUS ON Getting new members is the lifeblood of any organization. From the local Rotary club to the National High School Honor Society, getting in new folks is the only way to continue existing. Ham radio is no exception, and we at *CQ* celebrate each new ham that successfully tests into our worldwide club. Youth is found all over this issue, from collegiate foxhunts (p. 10) to the creative hijinks of the W8EDU club during Field Day (p. 8). We also take a look at what young hams in our community are up to at our hamfests, such as in our News Bytes section (p. 7). So this issue is really focused on hope – hope that the future of ham radio is as bright as solar cycle 25 seems to be thus far. We at *CQ* hope more and more young hams join the airwaves soon!

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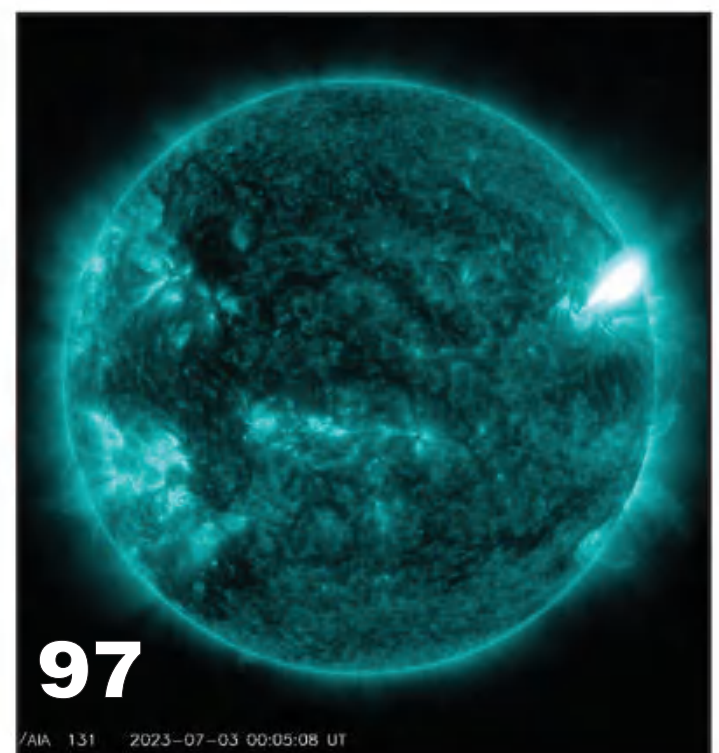
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BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

“Thank You for Your Service”

I'm writing this just after the 4th of July, when it's even more common than usual to hear people say “thank you for your service” to just about anybody in a uniform. This is great, of course, as long as it's sincere and not just a cliché, but that's a topic for another day and perhaps another forum. For this forum, though, it brings to mind the fact that there are more ways to serve one's country and community than with a gun (or a firehose). We hams illustrate that fact every day, and we are always happy to highlight examples of that service here in *CQ*.

The most common form of amateur radio community service that comes to mind is providing public service and emergency communications, something we have done since the earliest days of radio and continue to do today, often under very trying circumstances. We continue to be there “when all else fails” ... and it still does.

But another equally-valuable service that we perform is the use of amateur radio to promote careers and provide practical experience in STEM fields – science, technology, engineering and math. A key element of this service is that, while attracting more young people to the ranks of amateur radio is certainly a desirable side-effect, it is not necessarily the primary goal of these activities. Rather, the primary goal is to increase the ranks of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians, careers that are vital to our shared futures.

This month's issue illustrates several of these activities in its focus on youth and amateur radio, starting with our News Bytes column on the next page, which highlights the youth activities at the Dayton Hamvention®. That's followed by a report from the Case Western Reserve University Amateur Radio Club (p. 8) on how it used its Field Day station to teach antenna building to new and prospective hams, and to provide them with what was frequently their first opportunity to get on the air on HF. Next, we have a report from India (p. 10) on how a technical university there partnered with the local ham radio club to put on a foxhunt (hidden transmitter hunt) as part of its annual “Technobash” technical symposium. One hundred sixty students signed up (more than for any other activity) to learn about antenna design, signal measurements and more, in addition to hunting for hidden transmitters. We also introduce the 2023 Amateur Radio Newline Young Ham of the Year – W0AAE – who became interested in amateur radio at age 12 after visiting a museum ham station, and now has become a leader in the Youth on the Air Americas program as well as the Remote Ham Radio Youth Network. See his story on page 14.

Last month, we reported on the annual HamSCI workshop, held on the campus of the University of Scranton, that brings together scientists, students and ham radio citizen scientists to jointly explore the forces that determine how far we can

There are more ways to serve one's country and community than with a gun (or a firehose). We hams illustrate that fact every day.

communicate at any given time. Ham radio is unique in that it a) is fun and b) provides real-world practical experience in applying concepts and formulas that are otherwise just words and numbers in a textbook.

The bottom line here is that amateur radio can help stimulate interest in STEM careers and even help scientists learn more about our ionosphere and the role of cosmic forces on wireless communication, which has become an essential part of the global economy and our everyday lives. Hams who help in these efforts, whether by conducting or participating in programs like these or simply introducing the public to radio science through public demonstrations, are providing a service to our communities and our nation (even multiple nations) that, in the long run, coupled with emergency and public service communication, is important in its own way to our secure futures. So if no one has said this to you before, *thank you for your service!*

Join the CQ Family?

We are looking for help in a couple of different roles within the CQ family. WPX Award Manager Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, is looking for a volunteer to administer the WPX Honor Roll program. You'd need to be an active participant in the WPX program, preferably already an Honor Roll member, and have a good understanding of the ebb and flow of special prefixes issued by various governments on a temporary basis.

Also, “Listening Post” editor Gerry Dexter is back with us in this issue after a several-month absence due to illness. Gerry is going to be winding down his column over the next couple of months to focus more on his health. If you are one of our readers who enjoys listening as much as talking (or maybe even more!) and have the time and interest to gather information and write a monthly column on the monitoring side of the radio hobby, we'd love to hear from you. We're also interested in your thoughts on whether our reporting on what to listen to should remain focused on shortwave broadcasting or extend to aspects that may be a little less technically challenging but still provide interesting perspectives from around the world, including online and satellite sources. We'd like to hear your thoughts on these topics even if you are not in a position to consider taking on our monitoring column.

We hope you're enjoying your summer and getting a chance to make the most of the approaching peak of solar cycle 25, clearly the best cycle in a very long time. And once again, thank you for your service!

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

73,
Rich, W2VU

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	Receive Frequency	Transmit Frequency	Offset	Offset Direction	Operating Mode	Name	Tone Mode	CTCSS	Rx CTCSS	DCS	DCS Polarity	Skip	Step	Digital Squelch	Digital Code	Your CollSign	Rpt-1 CollSign	Rpt-2 CollSign	Bank
1	144.00000	144.00000			Simplex	FM	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Skip	5 kHz						
2	145.70000	145.10000	600 kHz	-DUP	FM	Windhoel	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	5 kHz						
3	145.71250	145.11250	600 kHz	-DUP	FM	Windhoel	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	5 kHz						
4	146.01000	146.01000			Simplex	FM	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	5 kHz						
5	148.00000	147.40000	600 kHz	-DUP	FM		None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Skip	5 kHz						
6																			
7	440.00000	440.00000			Simplex	FM	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
8	438.10000	438.10000			Simplex	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz					
9	444.85000	445.85000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
10	445.86000	440.86000	5.00 MHz	-DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
11	444.35000	445.35000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
12	442.68750	447.68750	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
13	443.60000	448.60000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
14	442.00000	447.00000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
15	443.92500	448.92500	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
16	442.70000	447.70000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
17																			
18	443.22500	448.22500	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
19	442.55000	447.55000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
20	448.62500	443.62500	5.00 MHz	-DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
21	448.32500	443.32500	5.00 MHz	-DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
22	442.00000	447.00000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
23	442.00000	447.00000	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
24	446.15000	441.15000	5.00 MHz	-DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						
25	443.81250	448.81250	5.00 MHz	+DUP	FM	Orangeville	None	88.5 Hz	88.5 Hz	023	Both %	Off	25 kHz						

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news bytes:

Young Hams in the Spotlight at Hamvention

Once again, the Dayton Hamvention® Youth Forum highlighted the accomplishments of young radio amateurs. This year, there were six presenters (see Photo A) describing their involvement in various ham radio activities and events. The forum coordinator, as always, was Carole Perry, WB2MGP, who also presented the 11th annual "Young Ham Lends a Hand" award to 16-year-old

(Continued on page)

Photo A: The young hams who made presentations at the 2023 Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum. From left: Lyle Strachan, KEØZNV; Javan Miller, W8UA; Collin Holdsworth, KØNNK; Forum Moderator Carole Perry, WB2MGP; Landon Baumgartner, KE8TJU; Katie Campbell, KE8LQR, and Grace Papay, KE8RJU. (Photos courtesy WB2MGP)



Field Day frequently provides newer hams with their first opportunity to operate HF. At W8EDU, the radio club of Case Western Reserve University, the focus is always on doing something new each year. Oh, and did we mention the Pink Pig?

The 2023 Field Day Experience for a University Amateur Radio Club

BY MATT CANEL,* KE8NZR and DAVID KAZDAN, AD8Y

The Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU, of Case Western Reserve University in Ohio held its annual ARRL Field Day exercise at the university farm's Pink Pig meeting house. The Pink Pig was indeed the farm's pig barn back in the day; it's now a pleasant if rustic gathering place with a large lawn and some quite high trees. Porky's sty has been transformed into hams' radio hangout, as it were.

Planning meetings began in January and then in earnest in April; we reviewed last year's debriefing notes, checked on last minute purchases, and assigned tasks. W8EDU does not target "winning" the contest, but we very much do have the goal at Field Day and at all of our events to have high engagement, happy attendees, good food, and fun operating. Sometimes, it is more important to bake bread on-site and then break that bread together than it is to have all transmitters running full duty cycle.

CARC members have decided to do *something* new each year for Field Day. We lost some club years to COVID-19 so for this event, much of the novelty was teaching newcomers how to "do" Field Day and amateur radio. We planned new antennas and a new power system. We sketched five antennas cabled to two transmitters and a VHF/UHF station. The club had six large pulled-from-service batteries donated to us from the Cleveland Clinic's engineering department. We deployed those as our main station power supply system. Their 12.6 volts at scary amperage ran an Icom IC-7300 and the club's go-box Yaesu FT-991a (Photo A). The tuners and bias-tees and the controlling laptops were all set up on that battery bank, rounding out our class 2A emergency power station. Our



Photo A. W8EDU Go Box with Yaesu FT-991a operating on one of the DXE-135 dipoles.

* E-mail: <mjc243@case.edu>

VHF/UHF station was powered by its own supply, the product of an undergraduate senior engineering project battery system. It used a 100 amp-hour (Ah) LiFePO₄ battery and a West Mountain Radio Epic PWRGate controller for similar off-grid, simulated emergency power.

Our undergraduate club officers were all out of town for summer work, so staff included alumni, the faculty advisor, community radio amateurs, university faculty who were interested in helping out, and other visitors and well-wishers. The youth working group ranged in age from 6 to 16. Everyone did something!

Our HF antenna farm comprised two DXE-135 dipoles, one of which we strung in a location we have been using for years facing east-west, and the other in a new location we chose perpendicular to the first dipole facing north-south. The theory behind this was that it would greatly reduce cross talk (a major issue at past Field Days) and indeed it did when we performed testing. We also hoped to have an east-west antenna and a switchable north-south one. Our biggest antenna endeavor, however, was a 160-meter full-wave loop (Photo B). We strung 558 feet of wire into the trees to form a nearly equilateral triangle. This loop proved challenging as there were several obstacles to loft it through and past. The loop traversed buildings, shorter trees and bushes between the main supporting greenery, and even vehicles and fencing which made some of the runs quite challenging to lay out. Once the wire was lofted, we were able to even it out and have the feed point almost 70 feet in the air, although the lowest point of the antenna sagged to 12 feet above ground.

VHF/UHF antennas, supported by two 8-foot masts, were a 6-meter Ringo Ranger a Comet GP-1 dual-band

2-meter/70-centimeter antenna. Our Ringo Ranger was damaged during deployment but a good sanding and careful reattachment of the broken part made the antenna functional and allowed for good operation. Field Day sometimes calls for field repairs; we'll get the antenna properly fixed soon while the problem is still fresh in memory. It's part of our debriefing document, begun as soon as the operating period was over and before cleanup of the Pink Pig began.

How'd we do? Pick the metric by which you wish to have that question answered. We certainly did not make a competitive score. About forty people, licensed or not, learned what a communications emergency constitutes and how amateur radio might help. They learned power systems and HF radio operations; they learned traffic handling by 'phone and by digital, and they learned knot tying and line handling. Some learned a bit of cooking and baking. Some learned a bit of music and acoustics. We learned that despite 6-meter openings, there weren't contacts to be had there, and 160 meters was the same but noisier. CW is fast, SSB is faster to learn although certainly not trivial. We all acquired new knowledge and skills in amateur radio, electrical and mechanical engineering, and human factors engineering plus project management. We demonstrated to ourselves and to our community that we could help provide both rapid and formal communications in an emergency.

So, we won! Thanks to all of the amateur radio operators and their friends out there for making Field Day a success *for all of us*. Bread recipes on request.

73 and GL di-dit



Photo B. The W8EDU crew lofting the 160-meter loop, directed by KB3VSC (in green shirt).

Amateur radio activities continue to offer great value for students, especially in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. At a recent "Technobash" at an engineering school in India, a ham radio foxhunt was the most popular activity among the students. VU2OOM has details.

Indian Ham Club Supports College Fox Hunt – A Great Success!

BY MANGESH PATIL,* VU2OOM

The G.S. Moze College of Engineering, Balewadi, Pune, India, in association with Pune Hams VU2RCP (the Amateur Radio Club of Pune) successfully held its Fox Hunt event this past March (Photo A) as part of the school's annual national level technical symposium, Technobash 2023. There were several events under Technobash 2023, including Roborace, blind coding, and more, but most of the entries from students were received for the foxhunt event (Photo B).

Over 160 students from across the college participated in the event, making it a great success. Preparation for Fox

Over 160 students from across the college participated in the event, making it a great success.

Hunt started with a Yagi-Uda antenna workshop a week before the event (Photo C). Commodore Ashish Saxena, VU2ANM, provided instruction about the Yagi antenna in theory as well as a practical demo on the subject. Students were excited to see the practical demo using the field strength meter (Photo D). They then conducted various measurements like vertical and horizontal polarization, directivity, gain, SWR, front-to-back ratio, etc., using the field strength

*Email: <vu2oom@yahoo.com>



Photo A: Pune Hams, VU2RCP, the amateur radio club of Pune, India, worked with the G.S. Moze College of Engineering's "Technobash 2023" to put on a very popular fox hunt. (Photos courtesy of the author)

meter and an MFJ antenna analyzer. After that, the students assembled ten Yagi antennas in the college workshop.

Students also learned about the hands-on activity of radio direction finding from Kunal Gautam, VU3YEJ, in preparation for the fox hunt, which created a lot of excitement (Photo E). Vilas Rabde, VU2VPR, shared some interesting facts and stories which excited the students even more. The fox for Fox Hunt was made by student SWL Vishnu under the guidance of VU3YEJ, your author, using a Raspberry Pi 3 microcomputer. For the hunt itself, there were 12 handhelds provided by participating hams.



Photo B: Students at the college created this tapestry to commemorate the transmitter-hunting activity.

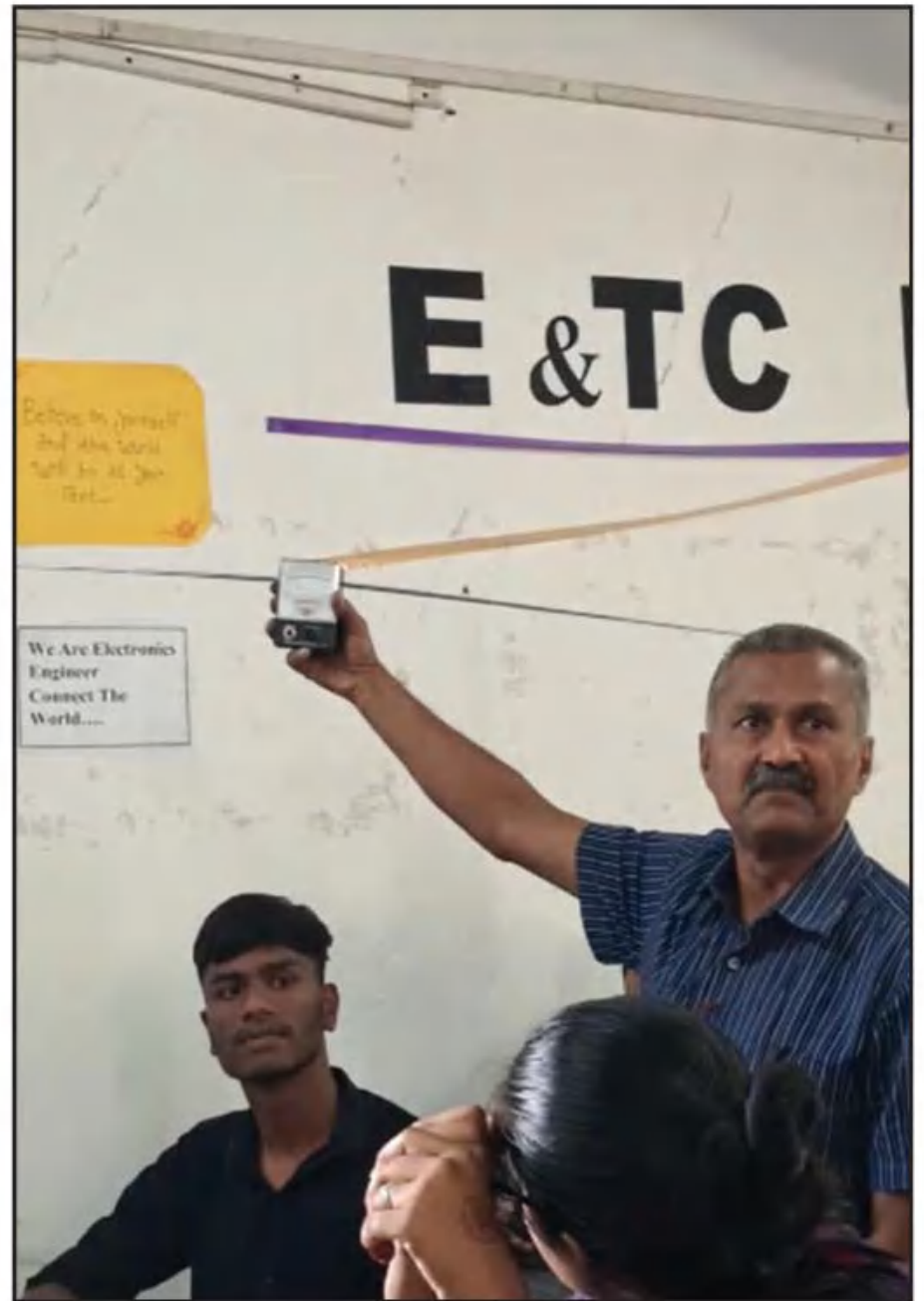


Photo D: VU2ANM demonstrated changes in signal strength with a field strength meter

Photo C: Commodore Ashish Saxena, VU2ANM, works with students during an antenna workshop prior to the foxhunt. The students built ten Yagis for the event.





Photo E: Kunal Gautam, VU3YEJ, instructs students in the art of hidden-transmitter hunting before the event got under way.



Photo F: More than 160 students signed up to take part in the foxhunt



Photo G: One of the teams gets ready to start chasing foxes!

With the knowledge gained by students, the fox hunt event was conducted on the 3rd and 4th of March (Photo F). As accommodating 160+ students was a tough task, groups of two students each were formed. Due to the limited number of radios and antennas, there were nine rounds conducted, each having a maximum of 7 to 10 groups (Photo G). On the first day, a total of six rounds were concluded. On the second day, three rounds were conducted.

Winners of each round were invited again for a final round, and first and second prize winners were decided based on the final 10th round. The final round was quite interesting, as there were two foxes hidden at random places by the VU2RCP group. The first fox was found in 5 minutes and 51 seconds by Mr. Harsh and Mr. Atharv. The second fox was found in 21 minutes by Mr. Anand and Mr. Bhavik. The VU2RCP group congratulated the prize winners and coordinator for their hard work.

For additional details, you can visit <<https://tinyurl.com/yc6bnwse>>.

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Ships Fast From The Arkansas River Valley

Each year, *Amateur Radio Newsline* selects an outstanding young amateur – generally from a group of highly-qualified nominees – to represent young people in our hobby as *Newsline Young Ham of the Year*. This year’s honoree is WØAAE.

Kees Van Oosbree, WØAAE, Named 2023 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year

BY STAFF

Nineteen-year-old Kees Van Oosbree, WØAAE, of Maple Grove, Minnesota, has been selected as the 2023 Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, Memorial Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Kees was honored for his leadership in helping other young amateurs through the Youth on the Air (YOTA)-Americas program and the Remote Ham Radio Youth Network.

A visit to a museum with an amateur radio station at age 12 sparked his interest in becoming a ham, Van Oosbree told *Newsline*. Studying on his own, he quickly earned his Technician and General Class licenses, then joined the Minnesota Wireless Association and developed his interest in contesting.

“HF was my life,” Kees said. “Contesting is pretty much my main thing in amateur radio although I do branch out and do other things.”



2023 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Kees Van Oosbree, WØAAE. (Photo courtesy Amateur Radio Newsline)

A visit to a museum with an amateur radio station at age 12 sparked his interest in becoming a ham...

“HF was my life,” Kees said. “Contesting is pretty much my main thing in amateur radio although I do branch out and do other things.”

Among those “other things” is the YOTA-Americas program, in which he has taken on a variety of leadership roles including the training of youth operators, serving as QSL manager for W8Y contacts made with YOTA campers and sharing his interest in remote operating.

He found a remote operating mentor in Ray Higgins, W2RE, owner of Remote Ham Radio, a service which rents time on world-class stations to hams with restricted spaces for their own stations or a desire to use state of the art gear without the investment of purchasing it themselves. Ray was in the process of setting up his RHR Youth Network when Kees joined the group. The Youth Network provides free access and unlimited airtime on a variety of dedicated RHR stations. (See <<https://tinyurl.com/3zsuu9nv>>)

“He gives us unlimited access to these highly competitive stations that use FlexRadios,” Kees explained. “I was able to do very, very well through that (in) DX contesting.”

Kees said he was one of five youth who were originally involved in the remote operating program. Now, he said, the ranks of youth remote operators have grown to near 100, and he has been instrumental in recruiting and mentoring new operators.

A 2023 graduate, and class valedictorian, of Heritage Christian Academy in his hometown, Kees will be attending Iowa State University this fall, where he plans to study aerospace engineering.

The YHOTY award will be presented to Kees during a ceremony at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama on August 19. Amateur Radio Newsline, CQ magazine, and Yaesu USA are primary sponsors of the award, along with Heil Sound, Ltd. and Radiowavz Antenna Company.

(Full disclosure: CQ Editor W2VU is a member of the YHOTY judging committee.)

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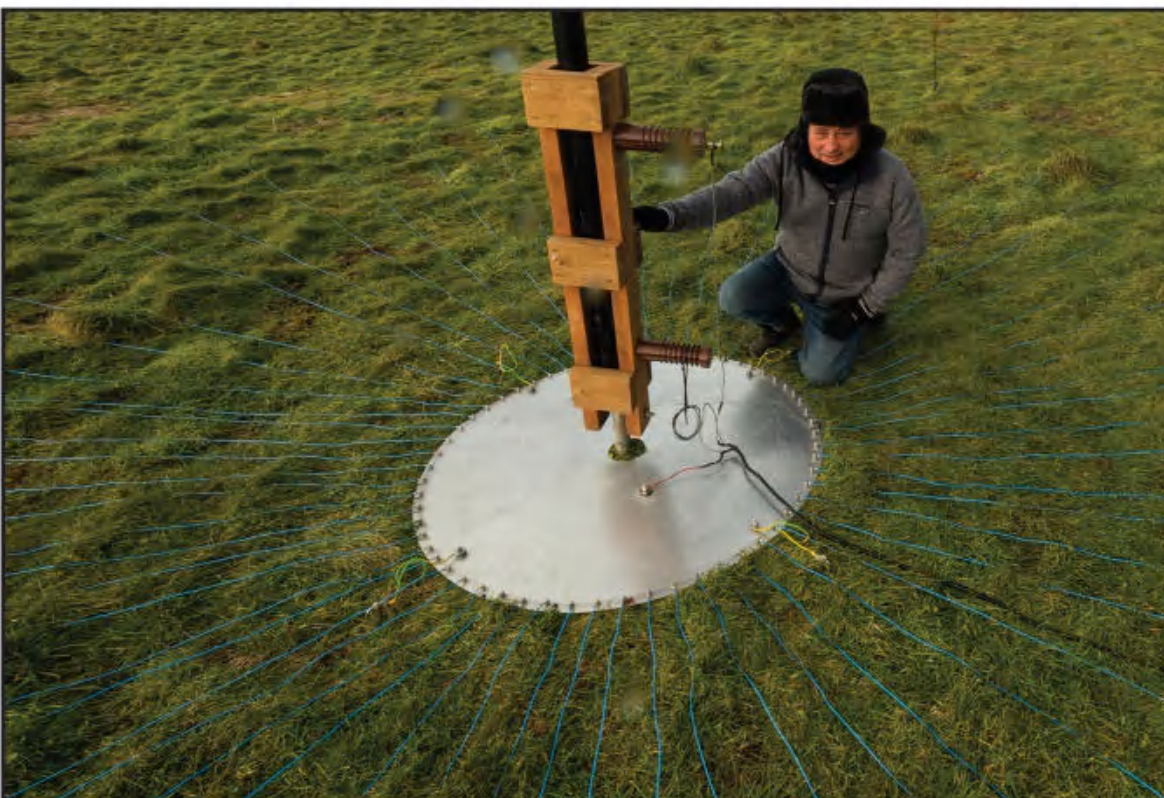
Results of the 2023 CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest

Top-Band Contesting During Less-Than-Optimal Conditions, Both On the Air and Off

BY ANDY BLANK,* N2NT



Bob Beebe, GU4YOX, as MJ5E just before contest start.



The MJ5E Topband vertical antenna radial plate with 2400 meters of radials.

The 2023 CQ 160 CW Contest, along with all other amateur contests, suffered this year from the Ukraine/Russia war. Log participation was way down as well, and this is due partially to the approaching solar maximum in Cycle 25 as well as the war.

Traditionally, we are now charting the log activity from prior years; this will be shown below. Participation was down slightly from 2022, and only nine stations were able to break 1 million points, which was down from 13 stations last year. SSB conditions were depressed again, similar to 2022. The highest score was from I5JVA, with 446K.

* <director@cq160.com>



Check out the MJ5E van.

Below is a comparison of logs submitted since 2015, with the peak year being in 2021.

CW Results

Conditions had the typical high sunspot signature, with high absorption for long haul propagation. Geography played a big part in the ability to make a good score, and specifically if you were centrally located between high density areas of activity, it was the only way to make a big score. Witness the scores from Wales, Jersey, African Italy and Labrador for examples of this.

The Millionaires Club was quite small again this year, with only the following entries breaking the barrier. All of these were CW scores. Congratulations to the

team at IG9/S59A for the highest score in the entire contest.

IG9/S59A	1,664,970
PJ2T.....	1,252,320
P40AA.....	1,202,571
P33W	1,165,682
VO2AC.....	1,126,800
E7DX	1,072,375
MW5B	1,067,664
S50C	1,030,302
MJ5E	1,004,435

Only MJ5E was able to accomplish the Millionaire's Club Single op unassisted! Congratulations to Bob Beebe, GU4YOX on this amazing job (see photo)!

There were also several noteworthy winners from 2022, although not necessarily in the same category. Congratulations to the following stations as repeat "contenders."

essarily in the same category. Congratulations to the following stations as repeat "contenders."

NA8V	K1LT	ND8DX
CR3W	KD4D	4L2M
KH7A	N0NI	ED8W
JH4UYB	K1LZ	OK1LRD
ZM4T	NA7TB	S54ZZ
K7NJ	VE3MGY	HG8DX

In the highly competitive multi-op category, aside from the team at IG9/S59A who ran away with the high score, there were three very close results.

VO2AC	1,126,800
E7DX	1,072,375
S50C.....	1,030,302

Special shout-out to VO2AC and VE3KG, who annually make the trek to a lighthouse on the coast of Labrador. They fought the elements in a Field Day-style operation, to make the highest score from North America. We decided to award them a trophy this year as well for their outstanding effort!

The most interesting story is the operation of Bob Beebe, GU4YOX, from MJ5E, mentioned earlier in the article. Bob managed the number 1 single-op unassisted score in the world. Here are some comments directly from Bob.

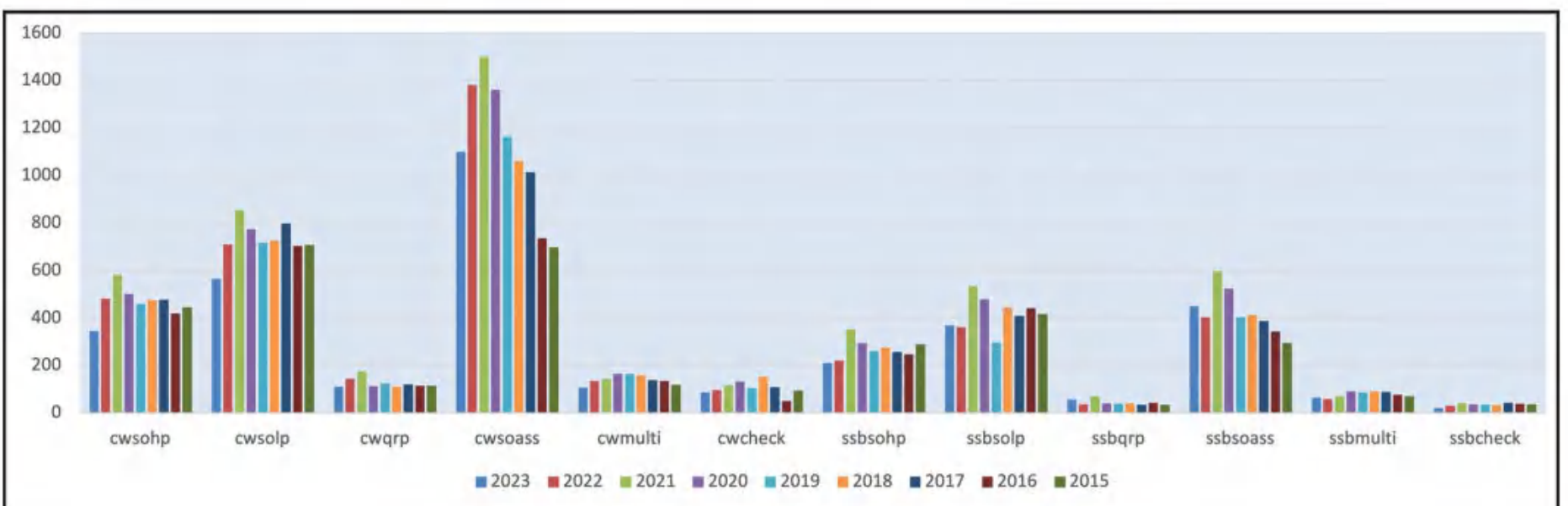
"The only British winner of CQWW 160 CW HP was Ron Stone, GW3YDX in 1989 and 1985, which was 34 years ago. That's a long time. Previously, GM3IGW/A in 1965 and G3GRL in 1964 (200 Qs). This is the first ever win for the Channel Islands. Ron became SK in 2023 and my win is dedicated to the memory of Ron."

There was a feature article in the May/June issue of the *National Contest Journal* about Bob's operation. Here is an excerpt to put it into perspective:

"I thought I would try a Field-Day style operation to try to improve my 160 con-

Year	CWSOHP	CWSOLP	CWQRP	CWSOASS	CWMULTI	CWCHECK
2023	346	566	112	1101	107	88
2022	482	711	146	1381	135	98
2021	583	854	175	1502	146	118
2020	501	775	113	1362	166	134
2019	459	719	125	1166	166	105
2018	475	727	112	1064	160	153
2017	478	798	122	1014	139	110
2016	420	705	115	737	135	51
2015	446	709	116	698	119	96

Year	SSBSOHP	SSBSOLP	SSBQRP	SSBSOASS	SSBMULTI	SSBCHECK
2023	212	369	58	450	65	21
2022	221	362	38	404	59	32
2021	352	537	71	596	71	42
2020	295	480	42	524	92	38
2019	261	298	39	403	87	35
2018	276	446	41	413	91	36
2017	258	409	36	387	90	44
2016	247	441	44	343	77	39
2015	290	418	35	295	72	37



2023 CQWW 160M CONTEST TOP SCORES

CW

<p>Single-Op USA</p> <p>K3ZM 788,240 AA1K 598,561 K1KI 530,725 NA8V 526,693 WF2W 490,968 N2MF 419,440 N4XD 398,454 KD4D 331,065 W5ZN 326,230 K1ZM 21,360 W3BGN 309,570</p> <p>Single-Op VE</p> <p>VE3JM 823,914 VE3DZ 738,108 VE3AT 668,322 VE3MGY 378,314 VY2WW 261,699 VA3AR 178,434 VE6BBP 172,250 VE3KP 141,657 VE3XL 134,792 VE3MM 103,820</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 3</p> <p>W8KA 125,510 K6NA 94,572 WJ9B 91,000 KH7X 88,725 N7IR 80,535 KC7V 72,256 W6AYC 60,480 K7RAT 54,208 N7GP 53,600 VA7MM 53,346</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 4</p> <p>VE3JM 823,914 VE3DZ 738,108 VE3AT 668,322 NA8V 526,693 VE3MGY 378,314 W5ZN 326,230 W9RE 227,682 W8CAR 186,235 VA3AR 178,434 W1NN 177,567</p> <p>Single-Op QRP</p> <p>DK7HA 179,862 OL1A 174,704 OL4W 135,405 E77Y 121,900 OL5Y 120,981 N0NI 113,091 OK1FKD 103,286 EA3O 102,856 S51Z 96,726 N9SE 82,080</p> <p>Single-Op DX</p> <p>MJ5E 1,004,435 CR3W 974,792 9K2NO 609,783 4L9M 552,244 OM5R 496,506 OM7K 484,677 GM4Z 458,810 EU4E 440,742 IV3SKB 439,236 KP2M 437,144 PA4VHF 392,124</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 14</p> <p>MJ5E 1,004,435 GM4Z 458,810 PA4VHF 392,124 SM2U 380,562 TM6M 342,606 DL0MCM 258,932 PA3EYC 254,610 DK5DQ 211,623 LC9X 196,020 DK8FD 195,432</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 15</p> <p>OM5R 496,506 OM7K 484,677 IV3SKB 439,236 IS0JHQ 388,790 9A2AJ 382,120 YT8A 330,008</p>	<p>OM5NL 283,751 YT9W 282,150 Z35F 272,205 OM2XA 267,075</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 16</p> <p>EU4E 440,742 UT5ECZ 113,360 RA3XM 94,446 RM2U 88,800 UW5KW 83,153 UT3SO 81,328 RX6LRU 67,980 EW2ES 63,999 UT5UGR 63,600 EW3LN 57,948</p> <p>Single-Op Russia</p> <p>RA3XM 94,446 RM2U 88,800 RX6LRU 67,980 RK3DK 53,460 R3OM 50,190 RA3UAG 50,102 RL6C 37,800 R1NW 33,336 R3ZJ 32,604 UA4UAR 19,776</p> <p>Single-Op Russia Assisted</p> <p>RW7K 642,912 RX3APM 517,884 RG2A 295,848 UA2FZ 238,720 RM4F 227,766 RV1CC 215,059 R8OM 206,016 R8WX 200,805 R3ZZ 190,968 R5WW 144,720</p> <p>Single-Op LOW</p> <p>VE3MGY 378,314 LZ4TX 373,907 TM6M 342,606 KD4D 331,065 YT8A 330,008 K1ZM 321,360 OM5NL 283,751 OM2XA 267,075 OL0A 265,536 DL0MCM 258,932</p> <p>Single-Op W/VE LOW</p> <p>VE3MGY 378,314 KD4D 331,065 K1ZM 321,360 W1NN 177,567 KG9X 153,497 VE3XL 134,792 W0UO 126,822 WD8DSB 115,441 VE3MM 103,820 K7SV 103,272</p> <p>Single-Op W/VE QRP</p> <p>N0NI 113,091 N9SE 82,080 K4XL 80,250 WB4MSG 47,850 WE9R 42,483 K4TO 41,310 K3TW 22,995 WB2CPU 21,528 WQ6X 21,060 K8ZT 15,337</p> <p>Multi-Op</p> <p>IG9/S59A 1,664,970 VO2AC 1,126,800 E7DX 1,072,375 S50C 1,030,302 HB0DX 978,768 SP8R 923,364 OM2Y 874,060 K1LZ 853,492 OL1R 838,605 HG8DX 834,460</p> <p>Multi-Op W/VE</p> <p>VO2AC 1,126,800 K1LZ 853,492 N2AA 709,341 K3LR 705,789 K1RX 690,305</p>	<p>K0DI 523,448 W1UE 512,658 N4RV 487,084 N1RR 440,990 VE2OJ 437,285</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted</p> <p>PJ2T 1,252,320 P40AA 1,202,571 P33W 1,165,682 MW5B 1,067,664 VE3EJ 974,208 9A5W 903,408 SN7Q 898,092 LY4A 892,254 VA2WA 863,052 LX7I 818,688</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted W/VE</p> <p>VE3EJ 974,208 VA2WA 863,052 AB3CX 539,136 N1LN 536,192 K2KW 487,084 AA3B 484,035 VE3VN 454,464 K1LT 438,700 K1AR 413,592 VE9HF 404,808</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted LP</p> <p>SN7O 395,600 OK2BFN 254,464 HA8WY 253,875 4Z5PN 242,896 OE6VIE 242,352 SP2R 240,448 G0BNR 239,967 YO3APJ 233,610 PA0O 194,004 SP7CF 193,192</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted LP W/VE</p> <p>N3HEE 162,708 WO1N 138,826 WB8JUI 121,286 NS3T 119,440 NJ3K 114,304 KX9RT 110,364 KK0U 99,200 K9MMS 81,213 VE3VY 72,432 WT9Q 62,048</p>	<p>VA3AR 90,720 K5TR 74,152 W4KW 72,561 WN8HCV 66,150 KW8N 55,100 VE3HJ 54,880 KD8TNF 43,562 K5RX 42,700</p> <p>Single-Op QRP</p> <p>K1ZM 57,120 RD3K 43,134 DL8LR 27,861 WB4MSG 24,381 HA1TI 23,925 DK2LO 23,800 PA2TMS 23,494 ON5RZ 14,950 DL2OE 13,472 9A/IZ3NVR 12,648</p> <p>Single-Op DX</p> <p>I5JVA 446,173 S53O 235,554 PA4VHF 183,313 LY5W 167,501 ZF2VE 166,140 YR8D 149,060 OK1LRD 116,466 OK4U 113,805 IK1PMR 110,211 OM7K 107,916</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 14</p> <p>PA4VHF 183,313 DK5NJ 73,436 DH1UK 57,150 M0NPK 54,912 DLONG 44,655 OZ11A 42,592 DG5MLA 38,608 DL4ZA 36,036 M0EBJ 35,508 F6FYA 35,013</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 15</p> <p>I5JVA 446,173 S53O 235,554 LY5W 167,501 OK1LRD 116,466 OK4U 113,805 IK1PMR 110,211 OM7K 107,916 YT9W 103,000 SP6LUV 100,744 YT8A 97,382</p> <p>Single-Op Zone 16</p> <p>EU4E 84,366 RC5Z 35,680 RW1A 25,262 RD1AH 23,030 UA3BL 13,980 RA9SDT 11,088 UT7NY 9,639 RT1M 8,096 R3DCB 8,046 UR5FEO 7,375</p> <p>Single-Op Russia</p> <p>RC5Z 35,680 RW1A 25,262 RD1AH 23,030 UA3BL 13,980 RA9SDT 11,088 RT1M 8,096 R3DCB 8,046 R3LCV 6,696 RZ9WU 6,308 RL5A 5,588</p> <p>Single-Op LOW</p> <p>VE3MGY 169,062 OK1LRD 116,466 SP6LUV 100,744 YT8A 97,382 LY4L 84,538 IK7YTT 73,723 WN8HCV 66,150 SP9DTE 62,832 HA8WY 60,120 SQ8MFM 59,508</p> <p>Single-Op W/VE LOW</p> <p>VE3MGY 169,062</p>	<p>WN8HCV 66,150 WA2QAU 42,328 N0NI 37,128 KS3D 36,623 VA3AC 30,566 AI6O 28,435 WD8DSB 25,326 N4RA 22,760 N8CWU 22,345</p> <p>Single-Op W/VE QRP</p> <p>K1ZM 57,120 WB4MSG 24,381 KD9NYE 1,349 K3TW 1,170 NN1DX 994 W7LG 912 N0LMQ 240 K8ZT 126 KC8ZKI 126 K2EKM 12</p> <p>Multi-Op</p> <p>S59A 346,480 HG8DX 341,201 LZ5R 258,020 SP8R 239,020 N2CEI 197,032 HA3DX 193,564 OL1R 191,202 N4RV 167,920 DR5Z 152,580 DP6A 145,851</p> <p>Multi-Op W/VE</p> <p>N2CE 197,032 N4RV 167,920 NE3F 78,246 WA3EKL 59,040 N1RR 54,400 K4TG 51,250 W4RN 38,869 AD4XT 33,255 W5SGL 28,980 W8UCO 23,352</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted</p> <p>LY4A 332,195 OM3TWM 216,512 HB9CXZ 195,804 SN7D 183,793 DK6WL 181,503 SP9N 179,684 SN9B 175,920 LZ4TX 172,142 LX1ER 149,820 G5K 146,475</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted W/VE</p> <p>K4ISV 136,323 WU2X 100,408 N0PB 78,993 N4SS 78,183 K3MM 77,860 K3JO 75,003 W3LL 73,842 K1EP 73,664 N2FI 69,443 VE3PJ 68,376</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted LP</p> <p>UA7K 95,004 S54ZZ 85,376 N4SS 78,183 K1EP 73,664 VE3PJ 68,376 N3AAA 65,094 SP/UR5AS 63,099 OK2BFN 60,808 OK6RP 55,040 LY7K 52,640</p> <p>Single-Op Assisted LP W/VE</p> <p>N4SS 78,183 K1EP 73,664 VE3PJ 68,376 N3AAA 65,094 VE3VY 36,290 KC9LA 31,819 WE9R 31,650 KG9X 25,452 WO1N 19,539 AE0DX 17,415</p>
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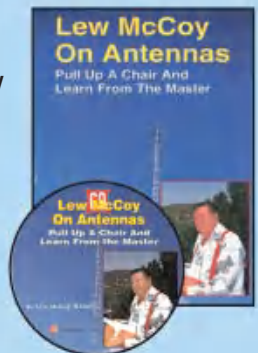
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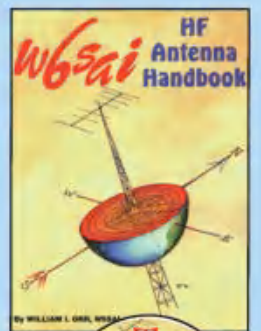
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test performance. I managed to lay 1,000 meters (3,281 feet) of ground radials under the vertical transmit antenna and installed a couple of 200-foot Beverage-on-Ground (BOG) receive antennas. The station was operated from a wooden summer house, which turned out to be particularly cold.

The physical effort in setting up a portable 160-meter station takes its toll, but with the island being small, if I forgot or needed anything, it was a short trip home to pick anything up. I did quite well in the contest, but after some reflection, I decided to make a more ambitious effort. My focus was to

put an even greater effort into the 2023 CQ WW 160 CW, and that it would be a Field Day-style contest expedition to Jersey, where I would use MJ5E.

It was a great contest expedition trip, full of apprehension and trepidation before leaving and all the detailed planning that went into it, but it seemed to work for everyone who made a QSO with MJ5E. Since the contest, I have received many QSL requests and letters from ops who said they'd waited decades for GJ to be on 160 competitively, so I am pleased my efforts made helped others."

PLAQUE WINNERS AND DONORS

COMBINED SSB/CW TROPHIES

World Single Operator Combined SSB/CW
Peter Briggs, K3ZM
Donor: Ed Parish, K1EP

World Multioperator Combined SSB/CW
Station HG8DX
(HA8DJ HA8DZ HA8DU HA8FM HA8KW HA8JV)
Donor: Juan Carlos Munoz, TG9AJR

CW TROPHIES

SINGLE OPERATOR

World
Bob Beebe (GU4YOX), MJ5E
Donor: DJ8WL Memorial by Bill Tippett, W4ZV

U.S.A.
Peter Briggs, K3ZM
Donor: Milt Jensen, N5IA, Memorial by Arizona
Outlaws Contest Club

Canada
Vlad Milutinovic, VE3JM
Donor: Mike Wetzel W9RE

U.S.A. - Zone 3
Frank Fusari, W8KA
Donor: Bruce Butler – W6OSP Memorial

U.S.A. - Zone 4
Greg Chapoton, NA8V
Donor: Steve Schmidt, K4WA

U.S.A. - Zone 5
Jon Zaines, AA1K
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR, and Sandy Raeker, N0QQ

Africa
Ulf Ehrlich (DL5AXX)
Station CR3W
Donor: James "Skip" Riba, WS9V

Asia
Muhammad Al Hashash, 9K2NO
Donor: Missouri DX/Contest Club, K4SX

Europe
Tibor Szabo (OM5WW), OM5R
Donor: Emir-Braco Memic, E77DX

South America
Mathias Kolpe DL4MM, P40AA
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Oceania
AKITO NAGI (JA5DQH), KH7A
Donor: Steve "Sid" Caesar - NH7C

Japan
Masaki Okano, JH4UYB
Donor: Alabama Contest Group

North America
Philip Allardice (KT3Y), KP2M
Donor: N4IN Memorial CQ Magazine

Southern Hemisphere
Holger Hannemann (ZL3IO), ZM4T
Donor: Robert Kile, W7RH

World Assisted
Jeff Maass (K8ND), PJ2T
Donor: Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB

Asia Assisted
Igor Booklan (RA3AUU), P33W
Donor: Jon Zaines, AA1K

Europe Assisted
Ian Pritchard (G3WVG), MW5B
Donor: Bill Salyers, AJ8B

U.S.A. Assisted
Michael Schwartzman, AB3CX
Donor: Akito Nagi, JA5DQH

U.S.A. Assisted – Zone 3
Riki Kline, K7NJ
Donor: Larry Pace, N7DD

U.S.A. Assisted – Zone 4
Victor A. Kean, Jr., K1LT
Donor: Pete Michaelis, N8TR

U.S.A. Assisted – Zone 5
Dennis Egan, N1LN
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club

World Low Power
Brian Campbell, VE3MGY
Donor: Akito Nagi, JA5DQH

U.S.A. Low Power
Mark Bailey, KD4D
Donor: Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

Asia – Low Power
Kunishige Shimokawa, JA6BZI
Donor: Robert Kile, W7RH

Europe Low Power
Todor Diamandiev, LZ4TX
Donor: DL1RK Memorial Petr Ourednik, OK1RP

Canada Low Power
Ric Guidone, VE3XL
Donor: Contest Club Ontario

World QRP
Rudolf Rüffer, DK7HA
Donor: EU1AA Memorial by Ilya Semichastnov,
R3XA/4L9M

U.S.A. QRP
Toni Radebaugh, N0NI
Donor: Bob Raymond, WA1Z

Europe QRP
Vlada Sladek, OL1A
Donor: Peter Voelpel, DJ7WW

MULTI-OPERATOR

World
Drago Turin, IG9/S59A
(S59A S57DX S54W S51V S52OT S50O ops)
Donor: Paul Newberry, N4PN Memorial (by N4RJ)

U.S.A.
Krassy Petkov K1LZ
(K1LZ K3JO NA1NA ops)
Donor: W0CD Memorial (by K8GG and W8UVZ)

U.S.A. Zone 3
Station NA7TB
(KY7M AA7A N7NR K9DR ops)
Donor: Tom Whitted, N7GP

Europe
Emir Memic, E7DX
(E76C E77DX E77EA ops)
Donor: Bob Evans, K5WA

ASIA
Izumi Yoichi ,JA3YBK
(JG3KIV, JG3MRT, JG3WDN ops)
Donor: Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM

Canada
Chris Allingham, VO2AC
(VO2AC VE3KG ops)
Donor: John Crovelli, W2GD

SSB TROPHIES

SINGLE OPERATOR

World
Carlo Bavecchi, I5JVA
Donor: Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM

U.S.A.
Krassy Petkov, K1LZ
Donor: Dr. Scott Wright, K0MD

Canada
Brian Campbell, VE3MGY
Donor: Tom Haavisto, VE3CX

U.S.A. - Zone 3
Frank Fusari, W8KA
Donor: Nate Moreschi, N4YDU

U.S.A. - Zone 4
Karl Brandt, ND8DX
Donor: Alabama Contest Group

U.S.A. - Zone 5
Peter Briggs, K3ZM
Donor: CQ 160 Contest Committee

Asia
Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M
Donor: Ron Lowrance, K4SX

Europe
LJUBO PINTAR, S53O
Donor: James "Skip" Riba, WS9V

Africa
Manuel Angel Martin Brito (EA8DO), ED8W
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

North America
Gerry Hull, ZF2VE
Donor: CQ magazine – K2EEK Memorial

South America
Sergio Lima de Almeida, PP5JR
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Oceania
Ronald Tremayne
VK3IO
Donor: Steve "Sid" Caesar - NH7C

Here are some comments from the single op leaders to bring the contest into perspective:

Perennial USA winner Peter Briggs, K3ZM has some interesting comments as usual; pay particular attention to the last sentence!

"I was able to work well to the west coast both nights and got two or three KH6's Friday night, then a VK6 at my sun-

Southern Hemisphere
Yohanes Budhiono, YB2DX
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

World Assisted
Rolandas Jokubauskas, LY4A
Donor: K9HMB Memorial by Ray Sokola, K9RS

Asia Assisted
Husamettin Aksogut, TA3NE
Donor: Chuck Dietz, W5PR

Europe Assisted
Vlado Ludrovsky, OM3TWM
Donor: Curtis Rose, N2ZX

U.S.A. Assisted
Bud Foster, K4ISV
Donor: Pete Michaelis, N8TR

U.S.A. Assisted - Zone 4
Phil Baldwin, N0PB
Donor: Pete Michaelis, N8TR

World Low Power
Brian Campbell, VE3MGY
Donor: Steve Molo, KI4KWR

U.S.A. Low Power
Gregory Poel (W8GP), WN8HCV
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR and Sandy Raeker, N0QQ

Europe Low Power
Vaclav Urban, OK1LRD
Donor: Contest Club Ontario

Assisted Europe Low Power
Simon Kopmajer, S54ZZ
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Canada Low Power
Kevin Smith, VA3AC
Donor: Rudy Bakalov, N2WQ

World QRP
Jeff Briggs, K1ZM
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

MULTI-OPERATOR

World
Drago Turin, S59A
(S51V S56DX S57DX S57UN S59A ops)
Donor: Rev. Paul Bittner, W0AIH Memorial by
WB9Z and NV9L

U.S.A.
Steve Kostro, N2CEI
(K4SME K0DI N2CEI ops)
Donor: Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z, and Val Hotzfeld,
NV9L

Europe
Station HG8DX
(HA8DJ HA8DZ HA8DU HA8FM HA8KW ops)
Donor: South Jersey DX Association, N2CW

USA Zone 3
Station K6YA
(KA6MZE AA6XV W4NJK KN6QI ops)
Donor: Paulo, PV8DX

rise Saturday morning. No JA yet. Never heard KL7QOW. At bedtime after the first night, my totals were as follows: 551,667 points 1,031 QSOs 56 Countries 57 States/Provinces. I had worked 320 EUs. Back on the air on Saturday at 2110Z and made 25 contacts the first hour. After that, the hourly total stayed around 30 to 40 for about nine hours. I was hoping to get close to 1,400 QSOs. A trip up the band during Saturday evening yielded a decent stream of EU contacts. I added 120 EUs the second night for a total of about 440, which is a pretty good result. Sunday morning was a grind after EU sunrise but it had a happy ending with two more VK6s and two JAs at my sunrise. Very grateful to the XYL for setting up my new WinKeyer and WinTest software. Maybe it's also time to discard my rotary telephone."

Riki Tucek, OM7RU, using the contest call OM7K to #10 in the world had this interesting experience:

"I spent weeks before the contest constructing a 5-circle RX vertical array (VE6WZ/W1FV concept). The electrical

part was optimised and tuned by Bel Ritzko, OM8AW (antenna guru of OMØM). The verticals provided outstanding performance, back and side signals are extremely suppressed. So, I was looking forward to the live test in the contest. It lasted 2.5 hours, then silence from all directions. One improper PTT sequencer setting caused a short, but fatal, peak towards the preamps. Two out of 6 were burned... Fortunately, I still have the K9AY RX array in the air. Conditions looked fine at the beginning, first night with a good opening to NA. There was no opening to the east on Saturday evening. The second night was worse, only a 2-hour NA opening in the morning, weaker than the first night. 69 W/VE in total. Fortunately, I was in the right place at the right time on Sunday evening. A nice eastern opening put 14 JAs in the log!"

Long time Topband contester and DXer Jon Zaines, AA1K, had the following experiences:

"Murphy struck early this year. Old age caught up with my K3LR parasitic



One of the mainstay ops at K3LR on 10 meters, George Gross, N3GJ, takes some time to try his hand on 160.

transmit vertical array after 25 years. Numerous repairs a few days before the contest made it operational but still it wasn't right. The single driven element worked just fine in omni mode. Then on Thursday I discovered a broken wire at the T top of one of the elements on my other transmit array, a broadside/end-fire setup of 4 elements. No time to fix it until Friday morning, so I did a climb to 70 feet, cutting into my pre-contest rest period. After my nap, I walked barefoot into our laundry room an hour before the bell and stepped into puddles of water. The washing machine had sprung a leak inside somewhere. So I spent a half hour mopping up all the water instead of doing final checks of the station."

Number 2 USA Multi Op N2AA (W2GD, et. al.) also chimed in with a tale of Murphy's woe.

"We apologize to our EU friends for being almost deaf the first night. It became obvious within minutes of the start our EU Beverage (two 310-meter-long elements phased) had catastrophically failed. In searching for an alternative RX solution, we discovered the low dipole strung in tree branches 8 feet off the ground (an antenna we rarely use) was capable of hearing most callers, including EU. Signals were way down, but it was something to work with overnight. We logged 231 ten-point contacts, mostly EU, using the dipole. Saturday night, the EU Beverage worked perfectly but the band didn't cooperate. Compounding our reception problems, the Hi-Z Four system was inoperative and unavailable as a back-up or for diversity reception. Despite nearly 20 man hours of diagnostic effort with added guidance from K7TJR spread over multiple site visits, we could not find the reason the system had low signal output."

By the way, N2AA and K3LR had their usual battle, swapping places this year.

N2AA 709,341
K3LR 705,789

The four regular operators of K3LR (Tim plus John Golomb, N2NC; Phillip Koch, K3UA, and George Gross, N3GJ) used just one radio and one op at a time. This is truly a testament to the capabilities of Tim's great station.

Also, in the "I worked the CQ 160 from a famous multi-multi station" category was Mark Bailey, KD4D, operating Low Power from W3LPL. Mark made 331K points, good enough for #4 in the world!

If you have ever thought about operating the CQ 160 contest, but just don't

have the room for a good antenna; check out the interesting story of Chris Bowne, AJ1G/M, who made 229 QSOs from his truck! Congratulations Chris!

"Operated strictly as a mobile from Stonington Point, Connecticut, overlooking Block Island Sound, Fisher's Island Sound, and the eastern end of Long Island Sound. This is the fourth 160-meter CW contest I operated in this season as a mobile from this location. It's been lot of fun tilting at windmills with a very small jousting lance! Finally made a QSO with Hawaii, KH6AQ, mahalo nui, we did it this time! My mobile station consists of an Icom 7100 putting 100 watts into a repurposed 1960s-vintage 2-MHz marine radio boat whip, 12.54 feet in length, center loaded

with a 30-inch-long small diameter solenoid-wound coil similar to that of a Hamstick, most likely was a Shakespeare Wonder Rod. The antenna is mounted on the left rear corner of a 2012 Tacoma 4x4 pickup. A small adjustable LC network at the base provides matching for use on 160 meters. No external radials were used, only the truck body is used for the counterpoise to keep it a true mobile."

And yet another portable operation was done by Steve Harrison, KØXP, making 281 QSOs from his trailer as well:

"I had forgotten how much fun the CQ WW 160 CW contest is. I had technical issues with both my trailer and the radio/computer setup, so was not able



Here is the very neat shack of SOLP CW entrant Fred Sanborn, KG9X. Fred can be heard in almost every CW event!



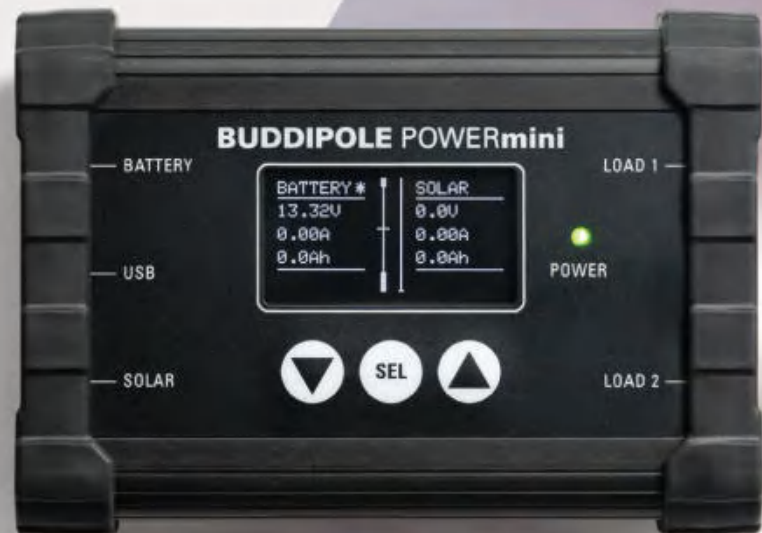
With a feed system inspired by K7SS, 'Stu' Hoar, N7ZZ's vertical froze him out of his pants.

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to get on until Saturday night. Imagine my surprise when several Europeans popped up during their gray line at 0430, and I was even able to work them with my makeshift, low inverted L, from the SoCal desert! “

Howie Naugle, K1TZQ, returned to the band after a long sabbatical to amass 716 QSOs. He said:

“This was a real blast! My first 160-meter contest since returning in 2020 from 35 years of inactivity. My present location has zoning limitations on towers, and the area lacks trees of useful height to put up an effective 160-meter antenna. A very good friend, John King, WA1ABI(SK), once said to me any antenna is better than no antenna, so I built a helically-wound 25-foot vertical for this band. I had no idea how this compromise antenna would do...I was pleasantly surprised.”

The top score from European Italy was the 2-man team of Luca Babolin, IK2PFL, and Stefano Galli, IK2JUB, at IQ2CJ.

“This year we participated as MS, just two full time ops, running a main RTX and an inband. First night closed with 750 QSOs, very promising. But the second day and the following night were very, very slow. Propagation toward far-

east was one of the worst, only JA4UYB worked 1h before his sunrise. Nothing else heard at our station. On the other side, good opening to NA both nights, had in log 210 USA, 22 VE; heard N6JV for some time, but we weren't heard in CA. Most QSOs in our log are with DL:

237, Italians: only 66. Overall, a little below the expectations, but we had great fun anyway!”

And interestingly, the #3 Multi Op team in the world at S50C was also a portable operation. But this one is a bit more complicated than the others.



Gil Lappay, 4F2KWT, looks very comfortable at his bedside station!

“Another great Team C effort with UFB live score competition with E7DX and others, hats off! Station built over two weeks (several afternoons) and will be fully dismantled after 3Y and ARRL CW operation. 1xFTDX101d 2xFTDX10, 1xTS590SG + 3na1 QSO generator with QRO and for CW skimmers 2x Perseus, 1x QS1R and Red Pitaya in public domain.”

The next time you complain about conditions at your QTH, think about the story of Fred Klein, KS7T who made 129 QSOs from lonely northern Montana:

“What else besides operate a contest can a guy do at 31 below zero (F)? No, I didn’t stay up all night, had to get under the warm covers sometimes. Besides, the horrible propagation due to ongoing negative polarity events on the sun caused openings to be short, plenty of QSB and alligators.”

And of special note was Ron Fitch, WQ6X, operating QRP from WA6TQT’s fine but slightly broken station. Ron managed 154 QSOs.

“This was a last-minute ‘find some time to run QRP’ exercise. This was my 2nd 160-meter QRP operation from the WA6TQT Super Station in ANZA. I had access to a crippled 3-Square vertical array that was STUCK in the N-E direction. I appreciate everyone’s patience with my WEAK signal. I’m beginning to get the hang of this QRP-thaing.”

SSB Results

Conditions once again were very similar to 2022, with very depressed propagation for long haul. Anyone who stuck it out deserves accolades, it was tough sledding. The highest score was only 446K from Carlo Bavecchi, I5JVA, just a bit higher than Carlo’s 2022 score of 418K. The next high-

2023 CQWW 160M CONTEST CLUB SCORES

(Minimum of 3 three entries required for listing)

SCORE	#ENTRIES	CLUB	SCORE	#ENTRIES	CLUB
25,708,654	244	BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	267,275	3	CS PETROLUL PLOIESTI
10,757,579	149	POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	245,788	3	SP-CW-C
10,210,457	102	FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	234,597	10	NORTHEAST MARYLAND AMATEUR RADIO CONTEST SOCIETY
8,716,933	93	YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB			CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION
6,151,728	45	CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	198,273	5	ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
4,669,749	67	RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	195,247	10	KANSAS CITY CONTEST CLUB
3,640,759	84	SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	166,409	4	WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB
3,612,573	27	SP DX CLUB	155,708	9	HSC
3,561,379	44	ITALIAN CONTEST CLUB	152,889	3	RIIHIMAEN KOLMOSET
3,497,771	17	CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	152,042	3	LA CONTEST CLUB
3,233,811	13	BALTIC CONTEST CLUB	151,143	3	TEXAS DX SOCIETY
3,136,507	20	MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	149,593	4	IVANOVO DX CLUB
2,731,349	10	BELOKRANJEC CONTEST CLUB	149,290	3	CONTEST CLUB BELGIUM
2,435,068	10	SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB	141,931	3	5NNDXCC
2,245,044	23	KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY RADIO CLUB	130,940	5	ARI PRATO
			111,266	3	HUMBER FORTRESS DX ARC
2,142,280	7	MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	110,705	5	SHAKHAN CONTEST CLUB
2,077,081	4	THREE A’S CONTEST GROUP	110,288	3	SK6AW HISINGENS RADIOKLUBB
1,970,281	19	EA CONTEST CLUB	107,566	3	BIG SKY CONTESTERS
1,934,011	28	UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	106,749	4	PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE
1,777,701	8	LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	105,598	4	BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC
1,762,033	9	CONTEST CLUB SERBIA			CATALONIA CONTEST CLUB
1,691,353	31	FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	103,254	6	CENTRAL VIRGINIA CONTEST CLUB
1,593,646	26	TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	102,132	3	HERMOSILLO CONTEST GROUP
1,565,426	6	HA-DX-CLUB	86,302	5	ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB
1,557,927	52	DEUTSCH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	85,178	3	THRACIAN ROSE CLUB
1,456,419	27	ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	79,798	9	HAMPDEN COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION
1,331,099	30	RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB	79,456	3	SK5AA VASTERAS RADIOKLUBB
1,290,106	4	RSGB CONTEST CLUB	78,950	3	WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB
1,242,653	42	MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	78,145	3	CSM CRAIOVA
1,057,790	11	CZECH CONTEST CLUB	77,062	7	RADIOKLUB SKOFJA LOKA S59DKR
1,025,329	4	CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	70,913	3	TURKISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB
1,015,003	16	NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	68,730	3	BAY AREA DXERS
1,010,564	16	SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	67,915	3	INTEREST GROUP RTTY
932,393	10	CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	67,820	3	SHENANDOAH VALLEY WIRELESS
891,967	15	HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	55,068	3	EHELDFORD AMATUER RADIO SOCIETY
889,531	6	WORLD WIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS	51,924	4	PZK OT-01
875,711	18	VERON	49,007	3	HILLTOP TRANSMITTING ASSOCIATION
869,710	17	KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP	43,622	3	PROVIDENCE RADIO ASSOCIATION
680,305	5	NIAGARA FRONTIER RADIOSPORT	34,085	3	VRHNIKA CONTESTERS
670,201	4	MILARA CONTEST CLUB	33,121	3	THE VILLAGES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
650,600	12	BELARUS CONTEST CLUB	31,849	11	RUSSIAN CW CLUB
636,142	11	CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	26,265	11	OKAYAMA DX CLUB
623,129	3	FAZENDA ACTIVITY CONTEST GROUP	25,643	4	SILVER COMET AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
519,866	5	DANISH DX GROUP	25,511	3	LA4O
508,385	10	GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	22,671	3	FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB
479,236	5	GM DX GROUP	21,012	3	SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION
475,630	12	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	20,572	4	VK CONTEST CLUB
471,529	7	CTRI CONTEST GROUP	19,491	6	VLADIMIR CONTEST CLUB
438,143	9	ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	15,002	6	RU-QRP
427,313	4	ALRS ST PETERSBURG	5,849	3	PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCEITY
374,043	4	ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION	5,613	3	ARAUCARIA DX GROUP
364,714	23	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	5,112	3	7A DX-CONTEST CLUB
348,810	5	CHILTERN DX CLUB	5,112	3	ORARI LOKAL BOGOR
347,630	12	DFW CONTEST GROUP	3,772	6	YB LAND DX CLUB
334,320	9	SWAMP FOX CONTEST GROUP	2,303	19	ORARI LOKAL KEDIRI
281,336	3	DEEP DIXIE CONTEST CLUB	1,452	18	CABREUVADX
278,570	5	IOWA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	1,179	17	
271,418	3	SPANDAU DXERS	490	6	
			38	3	

est score in the entire contest was the multi op at S59A with 344K.

Some interesting comments about activity from Japan were made by Topband experts Akira Asai, JA8RWU, and Sakaaki Ashikawa, JE1SPY:

"This was my third participation in this TopBand phone contest. The first one two years ago was my debut on 160m SSB from JA. Compared to the previous years, much less activity from Japan. Called CQ maybe for an hour in total with no luck even Still worked only ASIA so far on the TopBand phone." – Akira Asai

"It was the 3rd CQ 160m contest since the 160m SSB was lifted in Japan. The Japanese SSB band has a width of only 30 kHz from 1845 to 1875 kHz. JA stations can transmit on 1848 kHz low edge. In Europe and the United States, band plans are not laws and there are no penalties, but in Japan they are legal. So if we do not follow the band plan, we will be sentenced to imprisonment or a fine.

During the CQ 160m contest, in Europe and the United States, the entire 160m band is almost filled with SSB. However, from Japan, only about half of these operating (from) Western countries are in the Japanese SSB band, so it is not possible to call more than half of the stations. Western stations should sometimes watch the Japanese SSB band (1848-1875 kHz)." – Sakaaki Ashikawa

The #1 score in the USA goes to the superstation of K1LZ with Manu Siebert, LU9ESD, at the helm. He had the following to say to his fellow DXers:

"Thank you all for the QSOs and especially for your patience! The first night was a nightmare. If you were one of the many who called me and I couldn't work, I sincerely apologize.

The second night was more interesting, with some very strong signals from EU and a short opening with VK/ZL in the morning. Although I hoped to be able to make a higher score, it is all that could be done with the terrible propagation in this contest.

Thanks to Krassy Petkov, K1LZ, for letting me drive his Formula 1 for my first 160M experience. I am also especially grateful to Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, who constantly greeted me when passing through my frequency and asked me how I was doing. I knew his brother, Peter, K3ZM, would be in the same category, so it is my great honor and pleasure to share a radio contest. And also to my friend Velimir Deric, K3JO, the mastermind of the station."

And here is an interesting perspective from Ron Tremayne, VK3IO, who

managed to make 28 QSOs under tough conditions:

"Our Saturday evening was very low noise, so I could hear weak signals, but only five USA stations heard. Sunday morning, no Europeans heard, mostly due to very bad static noise here, but also due to no propagation. Compared to some other years, I would still consider this a good contest, even though I did not hear any pacific, NZ or Asia (JA) activity. Thank you all for participating."

And finally Karl Brandt, ND8DX, the perennial top scorer from Zone 4 had these comments:

"Missing the great runs into Europe of years ago. I was plagued by an existing RFI issue and sadly was greeted with a new RFI problem on the second night, rendering several Beverages almost useless. A BIG TU for those who hung in there and gave multiple repeats."

Obeying the rules

As we pointed out last year, the committee receives many complaints from entrants. We wish to emphasize these violations in the hopes we can keep a level playing field in the future.

- Use of remote receivers outside 100 kilometers (inside 100 KM allowed in Multi Op only)
- Use of excessive power
- Use of QSO finding assistance by Single Op who claim Unassisted
- Excessively wide signals, including key clicks and splatter.
- Operating outside band limits (below 1810 in IARU region 1, and using band edges)
- Unsportsmanlike conduct (such as frequency fights).

In closing, special thanks to all those helping out to make the contest a success, including Larry Tyree, N6TR (log checking); Doug Grant, K1DG (trophies), and Randy Thompson, K5ZD (webmaster). Certificates for everyone are available for printing on our website at <www.CQ160.com>.

If anyone would like a Log Checking Report, send an e-mail to me at <Director@CQ160.com>. Please specify which mode you are asking for and the call sign used. Trophies will be mailed shortly. Thanks to all for participating and see you in 2024!

Remember, all CQ contests have a 5-day deadline for submitting logs. Check out the rules on <www.CQ160.com> for the latest information.

73, Andy Blank, N2NT
Director CQ160 Contest

(Scores on page 103)

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Announcing:

75th CQ World Wide DX Contest

SSB: October 28-29, 2023 CW: November 25-26, 2023

Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; Ends 2359 UTC Sunday

Log Deadlines: SSB – 2359 UTC Nov. 3 / CW – 2359 UTC Dec. 1, 2023

Join nearly 40,000 participants from over 200 DX entities and all 40 CQ Zones in the world's largest DX contest.

The CQ World Wide DX Contest (CQ WW) offers 48 hours of non-stop DX-chasing fun with activity taking place from virtually every part of the world! Whether you are competing for awards, looking for a few new band-countries, or simply filling up your logbook, the CQ WW offers something for everyone. Check out the Classic and Rookie Overlay categories for even more chances to enjoy ham radio's premier operating event! Or, perhaps the rapidly growing Youth and Explorer Overlays may be for you! Regardless of your entry class, the bands magically light up in the CQWW with activity levels that are unlike any other radio competition.

Some Contest Basics

Each mode is a separate operating event that runs for 48 hours from 0000 UTC Saturday until 2359 UTC Sunday. SSB is the last full weekend of October. CW is the last full weekend of November.

Working stations is easy. Exchange and log a signal report and your CQ Zone number (e.g., 59 05 on SSB or 599 05 on CW). If you're not sure which zone you're in, visit <http://bit.ly/1BHtmsP> for more information. Generally speaking for USA operators, the US west coast is in Zone 3, the east coast is in Zone 5, and the rest of the lower 48 is in Zone 4. Western Europe is mostly Zone 14 and Japan is in Zone 25. Make sure to accurately copy and log the other station's call and zone.

Contacts are valid only on the 1.8-, 3.5-, 7-, 14-, 21-, and 28-MHz amateur bands (No WARC bands or 60 meters).

Scoring

Your final score is based on QSO points earned for each contact times the number of multipliers worked. Contacts with other continents count three points each. Contacts with the same continent, but different country, count one point (except in North America where they count two points). Same-country contacts earn zero points, but do count for multiplier credit.

Multipliers are the number of DXCC entities and Worked All Europe (WAE) countries, plus IG9/IH9, worked on each band plus the number of CQ zones worked on each band.

Don't worry about calculating your score; the CQWW Contest Committee's contest log checking software will do that for you when you submit a log. Most participants are using readily available contest logging software to help as well (e.g., N1MM+, Win-Test, etc.).

Entry Categories

The competition is divided into Single Operator and Multi-Operator categories. There are also four additional Overlay sub-categories (see below).

Single Operator (all bands or any single band) – only one operator finds, makes and logs all contacts in the following categories:

- High power: Up to 1,500 watts
- Low power: 100 watts or less
- QRP: 5 watts or less

Single Operator Assisted (all bands or any single band) – One operator may use DX spotting or other tools to help find contacts. Note that a CW decoder is considered assistance. The one operator must make and log all contacts in the following power categories:

- High power: Up to 1,500 watts
- Low power: 100 watts or less
- QRP: 5 watts or less

Available Overlays

(Note: You may not enter more than one overlay; a single overlay must be selected.)

Classic Category – Allows the use of only one radio (e.g., Single Operator, Two-radio operation is not permitted), no QSO finding assistance, and only counts the first 24 hours of operating time. Off-times are a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged. Single Operator Assisted entries are not eligible for this Overlay category.

Rookie Category – Open only to operators who were first licensed as radio amateurs less than three (3) years before the date of the contest.

Youth Category – Available to single operators who are 25 years old or younger at the start of the contest.

Explorer Category – Established to allow amateurs to participate in the CQ WW Contest while experimenting creatively with Internet-linked stations and other new technologies. The goal of this category is to encourage innovation in operating strategies, station design, and technology adaptation. Single- and Multi-operator entries are permitted. See <https://cqww.com/explorer.htm> for more information.

Multi-Operator – more than one person is involved in operating the station.

Single-Transmitter: This category allows one transmitter to work any station. It may only change bands after 10-minutes on a band. Note: A second transmitter may be used to

work multipliers only. This category has some very specific restrictions so please read the full rules carefully.

- High power: Up to 1,500 watts
- Low power: 100 watts or less

Two-Transmitter: Allows the use of two simultaneously transmitted signals on two separate bands. Each station may change bands as many as 8 times per hour.

Unlimited: Allows the use of one transmitted signal on each band.

Awards

Electronic certificates will be made available for everyone who submits an entry, provided that entry is submitted before the log deadline. Plaques are awarded to top finishers in major categories.

Submitting Your Log

Electronic logs should be in the Cabrillo format. Most logging software generates this file automatically. Upload your log on the web at <http://www.cqww.com/logcheck/>. The website also includes a utility to convert an ADIF-formatted log file if needed. Please note that paper logs are no longer accepted. All entries must be sent **WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS** after the end of the contest: no later than 2359 UTC November 3, 2023 for SSB and 2359 UTC December 1, 2023 for CW. Resubmitting an entry after the deadline will result in it being considered as a late log.

Only one entry is permitted for each callsign. If you submit a log multiple times, the latest log submission will replace any previous attempts. No further action is required.

Full Rules

The complete rules of the CQ WW DX Contest are available in English and 18 additional languages on the Web at <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm> as well as the CQ magazine website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com> (Look for link on home page or the CQWW DX Contest main page). In addition, there is a rules FAQ that provides additional answers to commonly asked questions.

You are strongly encouraged to review the rules and the frequently asked questions before the contest, especially for possible minor changes in some rule details from previous years. Any questions may be submitted at any time via the on-line contact form at <http://cqww.com/contact/>. The most important requirement for all competitors, however, is to have fun!

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CQ CLASSIC:

CQWW at 75: The First CQ World Wide DX Contest Announcement, August 1948

This fall marks the 75th anniversary of the CQ World Wide DX Contest, long the world's most popular amateur radio contest and, by some reckonings, the largest participation sporting event anywhere.

This year's CQWW contest announcement is elsewhere in this issue. For this month's "CQ Classic," we take a look back exactly 75 years, to the August 1948 issue, and the first CQWW announcement. While the rules back then were much shorter and simpler (remote operations over the internet were not an issue in 1948!), the basic structure of the contest has been remarkably consistent over three-quarters of a century! Here's a look at how it all started out...



Announcing...

CQ's World-Wide DX Contest

A new contest over the weekends of October 29 and November 5—separate weekends for phone and c.w.—awards for individual and group-operated stations—no limit on the number of contacts—zone and country multipliers on each band.

THE EDITORS OF CQ announce the forthcoming World-Wide DX Contest to take place on the weekends (U.S.A. time) of October 29, 30, and 31, and November 5, 6, and 7, of this year.

While the activity calendar for the amateurs is earmarked for many events during the year, it is felt by DX men everywhere that there is room for a truly international DX contest. The DX committee, in settling on the final rules, feels that this contest should be different from all others. The rules give the average DXer an opportunity to participate on an even footing with his

DX friends, and the rules favor no single country. In addition to the usual country multipliers on each band, the rules allow zone multipliers on each band as well. With this added incentive, the low frequency bands should see plenty of use. This goes for the foreign stations particularly, as it makes it very much worthwhile their time to work 40 and 80 meters in order to pick up extra zone and country multipliers. The DX man has a chance to use his own strategy in mapping out which is of the most value. For example, should he keep gunning for a zone or a country he needs on one band, or

LOG OF <u>W2BXA</u>		ZONE <u>5</u>	COUNTRY <u>U.S.A.</u>		DIVISION <u>CW</u>				OP. <u>1</u>				
DATE AND TIME (LOCAL OR GMT)	STATION	COUNTRY	SERIAL NUMBER		ZONE AND COUNTRY MULTIPLIERS								PTS
			SENT	RECEIVED	3.5 mc		7 mc		14 mc		28 mc		
					Z	C	Z	C	Z	C	Z	C	
¹⁰⁻²⁹ 1002 DST	J9ABC	OKINAWA	58905	58925							1	1	3
1007	VK2DI	AUST.	58905	57930							2	2	3
1045	PY1DH	BRAZIL	57905	56911					1	1			3
1056	G6QB	ENGLAND	57905	56914					2	2			3
1100	G2PL	ENGLAND	57905	57914					2	2			3
1103	WØYXO	U.S.A.	59905	59904					3	3			0
1110	W6SA	U.S.A.	58905	58903					4	3			0
¹⁰⁻³⁰ 1202	ON4JW	BELGIUM	57905	56914			1	1					3
1215	W7AMX	U.S.A.	57905	57903			2	2					0
1218	11MV	ITALY	56905	57915			3	3					3
1230	XF1A	MEXICO	59905	59906			4	4					1
100	XF1A	MEXICO	59905	59906	1	1							1
TOTALS					1	1	4	4	4	3	2	2	23
COUNTRY MULTIPLIER			1 + 4 + 3 + 2 = 10										
ZONE MULTIPLIER			1 + 4 + 4 + 2 = 11										
TOTAL MULTIPLIER			10 + 11 = 21										
CONTACT POINTS			= 23										
TOTAL SCORE			21 X 23 = 483										

CQ WORLD-WIDE DX CONTEST SCHEDULE		
TIME ZONE	STARTING TIME	ENDING TIME
GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT)	SATURDAY, OCT. 30, 0200	SUNDAY, NOV. 1, 0200
	SATURDAY, NOV. 6, 0200	SUNDAY, NOV. 8, 0200
U.S.A. EASTERN STANDARD TIME	FRIDAY, OCT. 29, 9:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, OCT. 31, 9:00 P.M.
	FRIDAY, NOV. 5, 9:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, NOV. 7, 9:00 P.M.
U.S.A. PACIFIC STANDARD	FRIDAY, OCT. 29, 6:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, OCT. 31, 6:00 P.M.
	FRIDAY, NOV. 5, 6:00 P.M.	SUNDAY, NOV. 7, 6:00 P.M.

could he offset this delay in trying to work a flock of 3-pointers. There is no limit as to the number of stations you can work in any one country. This factor should help fill in the less active hours.

Contest Period

The first weekend, October 29 to 31, will be for phone, while the second weekend, November 5 to 7 will be for c.w. Because the first weekend of the ARRL Sweepstakes contest, which follows the CQ DX Contest, is for

phone, the dates were chosen to afford a minimum of conflict. The reaction of participants to the short contest period will determine whether the CQ contest should be one or two weekends for each class (c.w. and phone) in succeeding years.

Divisions

Please read thoroughly rule number 3 on divisions and sections. It is absolutely necessary that you enter the correct section that is, either the oneoperator section, or

WORLD — WIDE DX CONTEST RULES

1. Contest Period: 0200 GM T October 30 to 0200 GMT November 1 for phone and 0200 GM T November 6 to 0200 GM T November 8 for c.w. (See time chart for local times and dates.)

2. Bands: The contest activity will be confined to four bands, 3.5, 7, 14, and 27-28 mc amateur bands.

3. Divisions and Sections: The competition will be divided into two divisions, c-w and phone. Each of these two divisions will be divided into two sections, the one-operator and more-than-one-operator section. Thus, there will be: (1) one-operator c-w section, and (2) more-than-one-operator c-w section; (3) one-operator phone section, and (4) more-thanone-operator phone section. Stations in each section will compete for awards only with others in the same section. C-W stations must work c-w stations, and 'phone stations must work 'phone stations only, - however, stations in the one-operator section, and stations in the more-than-one-operator section of both c-w and phone divisions may contact each other. Stations may enter in more than one section, but logs must be submitted for each section.

4. Equipment: There will be no limit to the number of transmitters and receivers allowed, and competitors may use the maximum transmitter power permitted under the terms of their licenses.

5. Serial numbers: C-W stations will exchange serial numbers consisting of five numerals, the first three being the RST report, and the last two being their own zone number. Stations in Zones 1 through 9 will prefix their zone number with zero (01, 02, 03, etc.). Phone stations will exchange serial numbers consisting of four numerals. The first two being the readability and strength report, and the last two being their own zone number. Phone stations in zones 1 through 9 will prefix their zone number with a zero (01, 02, 03, etc.).

6. Contacts: Contacts between amateur stations on different continents shall count three points; contacts between

amateur stations on the same continent but not in the same country shall count one point; contacts between stations in the same country, for the purpose of obtaining zone and/or country multipliers, shall be permitted but no points will be allowed for these contacts.

7. Multipliers: Two types of multipliers will be used: (1) a multiplier of 1 for each zone contacted on each band, (2) a multiplier of 1 for each country worked on each band.

8. Scoring: The contest score will be the sum of all contact points multiplied by the sum of the zone and country multipliers.

9. Awards: Certificates will be awarded to section winners in each division of:

- (1) Each U.S. call area
- (2) Each licensing area of Canada and Australia
- (3) All other countries

Certificates will also be awarded to each operator of each winning station in the more-than-oneoperator section.

10. Zones and Continents: The W.A.Z. boundaries as defined in "CQ-DX" and in CQ for January, 1947, and the recognized continental boundaries as used for W.A.C. will determine zone and continent boundaries. The W.A.Z. maps are reasonably accurate, but should any question arise as to the positive location of a station, the official definitions will be final. The latest official country list as published in CQ for May 1948, with any revisions announced since then will be used to determine country multipliers. Copies of the country list are also available from the CQ Editorial Office upon receipt of a stamped self-addressed envelope.

11. Eligibility: The contest will be open to all amateurs but CQ staff members are not eligible for awards.

12. Disqualifications: Falsification of logs or illegal operation in any manner will be cause for disqualification. The decision of the judges will be final in all cases.

announcements *(from page 2)*

<<https://www.qsl.net/w8va/>>. Email: <tkillen31@gmail.com>. Phone: (740) 550-3811. Talk-in 146.76/16 PI 131.8.

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS — The RENO COUNTY KANSAS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION will hold the Reno County Kansas Amateur Radio Association Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 12 at the Kansas National Guard Armory, 1111 N. Severance. Contact: Jerome Kahn, ACØRL. Website: <<http://rckara.org>>. Email: <acØrl@yahoo.com>. Phone: (620) 728-0840. Talk-in 147.120+ 103.5. VE testing.

OWENSVILLE, OHIO — The MILFORD ARC will hold the Cincinnati Hamfest (SM) from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 12 at the Clermont County Fairgrounds, 1000 Locust St. Contact: Ron Brooks, AC8MA. Website: <<https://CincinnatiHamfest.org>>. Email: <info@cincinnatihamfest.org>. Phone: (513) 706-0630. Talk-in 147.345 MHz (123.0). VE testing.

PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA — The TRCI will hold the Tidewater Hamfest and Swap Meet from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday August 12 at the Ambassador Club of Portsmouth, 364 Peninsula Ave. Contact: Carl Clements, W4CAC. Website: <<http://VirginiaBeachHamfest.com>>. Email: <w4cac@cox.net>. Phone: (757) 235-4813. Talk-in 146.850 PL 100.00.

POST FALLS, IDAHO — The KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (KARS) will hold the KARS Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday August 12 at the Farm Field, 2130 N. Meyer Rd. Contact: James Sibley, WA7NSJ. Website: <<http://www.k7id.org>>. Email: <jcsibley@me.com>. Phone: (509) 750-9200. Talk-in 146.980 (-), 127.3 Hz.

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA — The SHREVEPORT AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION will hold the Shreveport Bossier Hamfest from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 12 at the Louisiana State Fair Agriculture Bldg., 3206 Pershing Ave. Contact: Bob Davis, KB5RD. Website: <<http://www.shreveporthamfest.com>>. Email: <ke5cpl@gmail.com>. Phone: (318) 230-1242. Talk-in 146.82.

SPECULATOR, NEW YORK — The NORTHERN NEW YORK AMATEUR RADIO DISCUSSION GROUP will hold the Junk in the Trunk/Southern Adirondack Hamfest time TBA on Saturday August 12 at the Speculator Pavilion and Ball Field, 2834 State Route 30. Contact: Paul Palmatier, W2POL. Website: <<https://www.adkhamfest.org/>>. Email: <kd2ipc@outlook.com>. Phone: (518) 332-2092. Talk-in 147.165.

UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA — The UNIONTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club 73rd Annual Gabfest from 8:00 am onward on Saturday August 12 at the Uniontown Amateur Radio Club, 433 Old Pittsburgh Road. Contact: Cory Sickles, WA3UVV. Website: <<http://w3pie.org>>. Email: <wa3uvv@gmail.org>. Phone: (714) 822-8146. Talk-in 147.045 131.8.

ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — The NORTHERN BERKSHIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the NoBARC Hamfest from 7:00 a.m. onward on Sunday August 13 at the Bowe Field, 371 Old Columbia St. Contact: Eric Mazur, KA1SUN. Website: <<http://www.nobarc.org>>. Email: <k1ffk@yahoo.com>. Phone: (413) 743-9975. Talk-in 146.91 PL 162.2. VE testing.

O'FALLON, MISSOURI — The ST CHARLES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the St Charles Amateur Radio Club Hamfest from 7:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday August 13 at the O'Fallon Elks Club, 1163 Tom Ginnever Ave. Contact: Douglas Wheeler, KØHKK. Website: <<https://www.wbØhsi.org/>>. Email: <dwhlr51@gmail.com>. Phone: (314) 660-0674. Talk-in 146.67 & 145.33.

PHOENIXVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA — The MID-ATLANTIC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC) will hold the Valley Forge Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday August 13 at the Kimberton Fire Company Fairgrounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd. Contact: Bob Palin, N3JIZ. Website: <<http://marc-radio.org/hamfest2.htm>>. Email: <hamfest@marc-radio.org>. Phone: (610) 420-1535. Talk-in 145.130- / 147.060+ (PL 131.8). VE testing.

AVOCA, NEW YORK — The KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION will hold the Keuka Lake Amateur Radio Association Hamfest time TBA on Saturday August 19 at the Howard Community Center, 7481 Hopkins Road. Contact: Donna Fiske, KD2CZY. Website: <<https://klara.us/>>. Email: <fiskefamily@hughes.net>. Phone: (607) 346-6475. Talk-in 146.94 - 100Hz.

BRAINERD, MINNESOTA — The BRAINERD AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the Brainerd Tailgate Hamfest from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 19 at the Crow Wing County Fairgrounds, 2000 13th St. SE. Contact: Lyle Amundson, KØLFV. Website: <<https://brainerdham.org/>>. Email: <lmamundson@gmail.com>. Phone: (218) 330-5110. Talk-in 147.225 No Tone.

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA — The HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST ASSOCIATION will hold the Huntsville Hamfest and ARRL Alabama State Convention from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday August 19 and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday August 20 at the Von Braun Center South Hall, 700 Monroe St. SW. Contact: Mark Brown, N4BCD. Website: <<https://hamfest.org/>>. Email: <mark.n4bcd@yahoo.com>. Phone: (256) 503-8887. Talk-in 146.94 - 100Hz.

(Continued on page 44)

the more-than-one-operator section. It has been felt that many DX stations have used more than one operator and yet claimed single operator scores. In this contest, certificates will be awarded to all operators of each winning station in the more-than-one-operator section. Any violation of the rules which is substantiated to the satisfaction of the committee will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

The multipliers for countries and zones worked is the sum of the total number of zones and countries worked on each band. Notice particularly that the zones and countries worked on each band are added together, and their total is used as a multiplier of the contact points. As an example, if operation happens to be confined to 14 mc, and if 85 countries and 34 zones are worked, the multiplier is 119. If operation is on 14 mc, with 50 countries and 30 zones, 7 mc with 30 countries and 18 zones and 3.5 mc with 9 countries and 5 zones, then the multiplier is 142. It should be emphasized that contacts within your own country do not count for contact points, though these contacts do count toward country and zone multipliers just as though they were with DX stations. This should be clear from the sample log. Note that W2BXA gets both zone and country multipliers for working WØYXO, since this is the first contact in both U.S.A. and Zone 4. W2BXA also receives a zone multiplier for W6SA, as this is his first contact in Zone 3, but he gets no contact points for either contact.

In reading rule number 5 on serial numbers, an example might show up something like this: W2BXA might send a contest serial number such as 56905, or 58905, etc. The report would, of course, vary but the zone number would always be 05: C8YR might send 45923, or 59923, etc. Phone stations would, of course, use the same system, only the number would consist of four numerals. For example, on phone, W6DI might send 5803, indicating readability 5, strength 8, Zone 3.

To help you in keeping a contest log, we have prepared a large quantity of blank log sheets, and they are now obtainable by writing to CQ Editorial Office, 342 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. A stamped self-addressed envelope should be enclosed, or sufficient postage to cover a large manila envelope and any number of logs desired. Clubs desiring logs for a large group should send postage enable the operator to keep duplicate sheets and save the necessity of recopying. If homemade logs are employed, they should be submitted in the form shown. All logs must be postmarked before midnight November 30, 1948. If specifically requested, an acknowledging postcard will be sent upon receipt of the log. Any logs received which are postmarked later than November 30, 1948, positively will not be considered.

Separate receive antennas can be very helpful on the low bands as they can be designed to limit noise pickup. But antenna design programs such as EZNEC are focused on transmit antennas and these limitations must be accounted for in designing receive-only antennas. DK6ED shows us how he compensated for the program's shortcomings in a redesign of his double loop antenna for 160, 80 and 60 meters.

The DK6ED Double Loop (Version 3)

Latest Experiences on Resistive Terminated Loops Require a Redesign

BY DR. ING. CHRIS KUNZE,* DK6ED

Resistive terminated loops are my favorite receive antennas for the low bands. They are broadband and need no retuning when changing bands. They have a good front/back ratio, so local noise sources can be notched easily. I designed them using EZNEC, but with most of the antennas there was a major difference between the simulation results and the radiation pattern experienced from the built antenna.

Simulation Limitations

Every design needs a source to drive the antenna. As the NEC code is developed for transmit antennas, it presumes that the antenna is power matched to the source; that means that the impedance of the antenna and the source are equal. With the real antenna, I wanted to minimize the influence of the load, so I used high input impedance preamplifiers. But this idea was misleading, because it contradicts the simulation's limitation of power matching. The resulting radiation pattern can be simulated by a combination of a source and a high resistance representing the input impedance of the preamplifier. The antenna will lose a major part of its directivity. Figure 1 shows a power-matched loop in red and the pattern with a high impedance preamplifier attached in blue. This experience leads to the postulation that resistive loops must also be terminated at their feed point. Both impedances must be the same! To improve the radiation pattern, double loop systems are helpful. With these antennas, generally two resistive ter-

minated loops are mounted one behind the other. This leads to a smaller pattern but also to lower output. To join the loops, feed lines are needed. The simulation software always offers a feeder subroutine. But a closer look at the program's description shows that they must not be used with resistive termi-

nated loops. The program presumes that voltages and currents on the two lines are out of phase, so any signal picked up along the line will be nulled. With resistive terminated loops, voltages and currents are *in phase* on both wires, so the feeder will pick up signals on the way between the loop and the

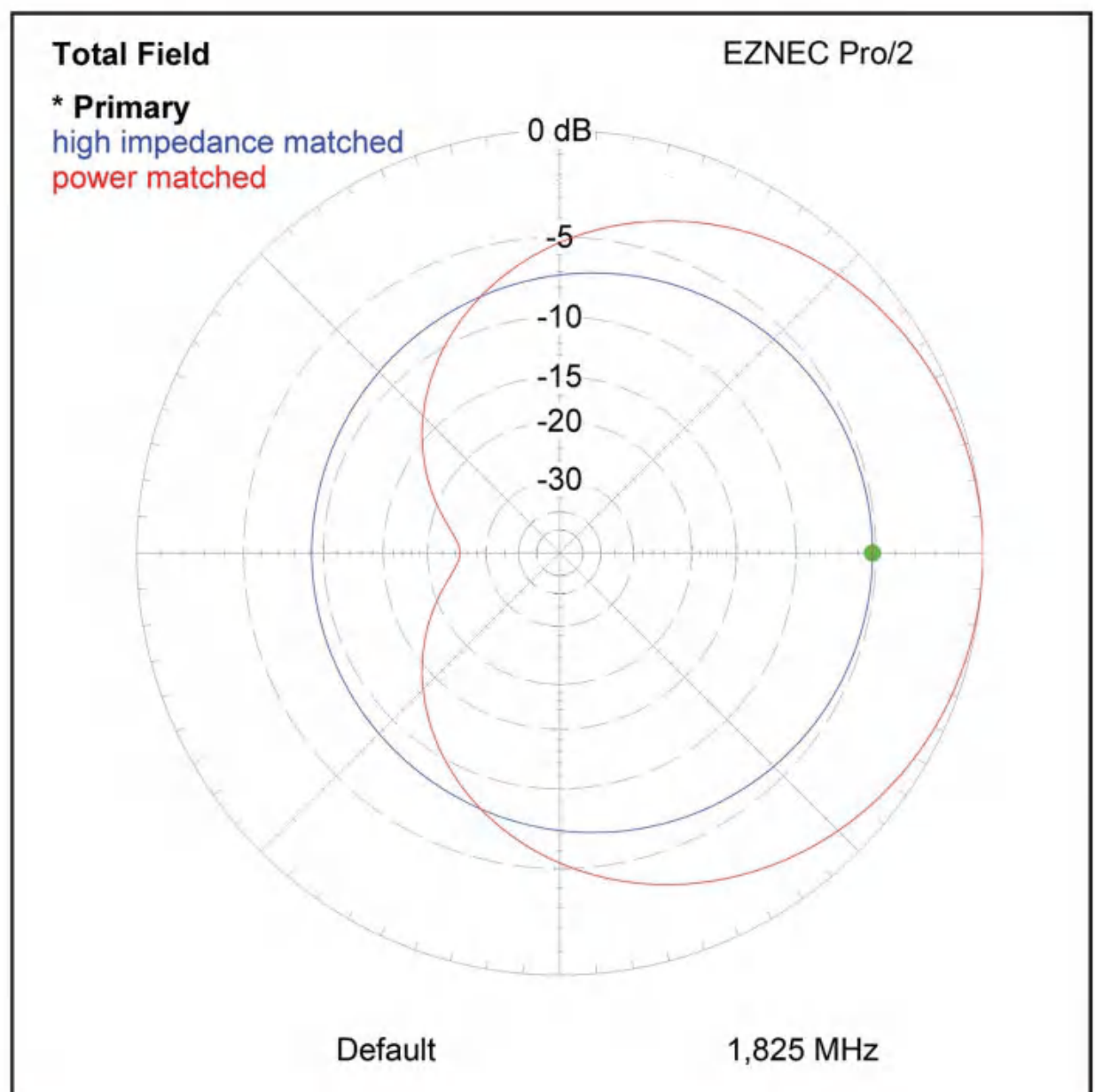


Figure 1: Influence of the output termination on the radiation pattern.

* E-mail: <kunzeco@yahoo.de>

On the Cover – August 2023



A grand slam for SLAMS? Harry Haeusser, WAØCNS, of the St. Louis Area Microwave Society, or SLAMS, operated the ARRL June VHF Contest from EM48 in High Ridge, Missouri, using a new multi-band microwave station built around the Analog Devices ADALM-PLUTO software defined radio and a Raspberry Pi computer. His fellow club members, Herbert Ullman, AF4JF, and CQ Learning Curve editor Ron Ochu, KOØZ, were about 40 miles away in EM49, so they could all work each other for points and multipliers, along with anyone else they could hear on the VHF+ bands. The ADALM-PLUTO is described as an “active learning module for students, hobbyists and educators” wanting to learn more about UHF and microwave communications. The unit covers 325 MHz to 3.8 GHz, but if you look closely at the photo, you’ll see that Harry had it running as high as 24 GHz. That’s because he was using a UK Microwave Group Project Langstone transceiver, which mashes up the ADALM-PLUTO with an extended frequency modification and a Raspberry Pi to operate from 70 MHz to 5.7 GHz, with experimental support for 10 GHz and 24 GHz. More info on the Langstone Project in on the UKuG website at https://wiki.microwavers.org.uk/Langstone_Project. See this month’s VHF+ column on page 82 for more about SLAMS and its activities. (Cover photo by Ron Ochu, KOØZ)

common feed point. Of course, this feedline can be simulated by two wires running close to each other. Even the impedance of the line can be taken from the program. But that picking up of signals on the way destroys the radiation pattern!

So feedlines between the loops must not be used, even if they are shielded.

New Design

Generally the radiation pattern of a double loop is significantly smaller than that

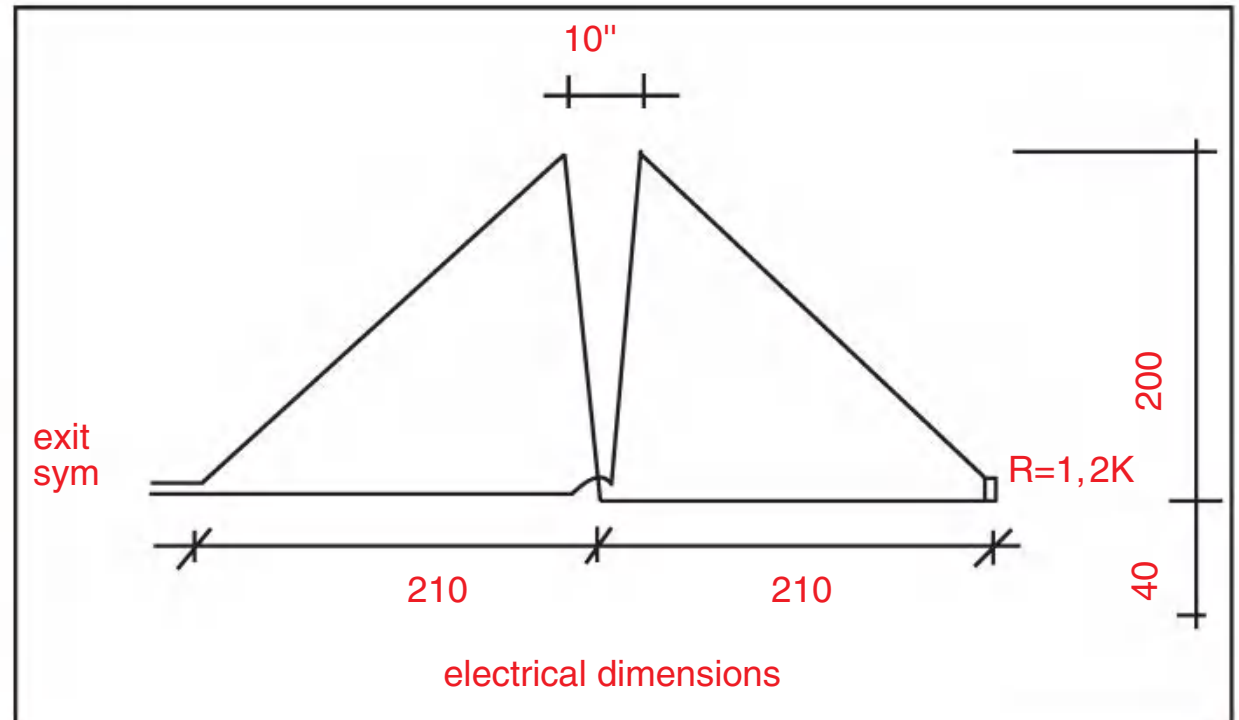


Figure 2: New design of a double loop.

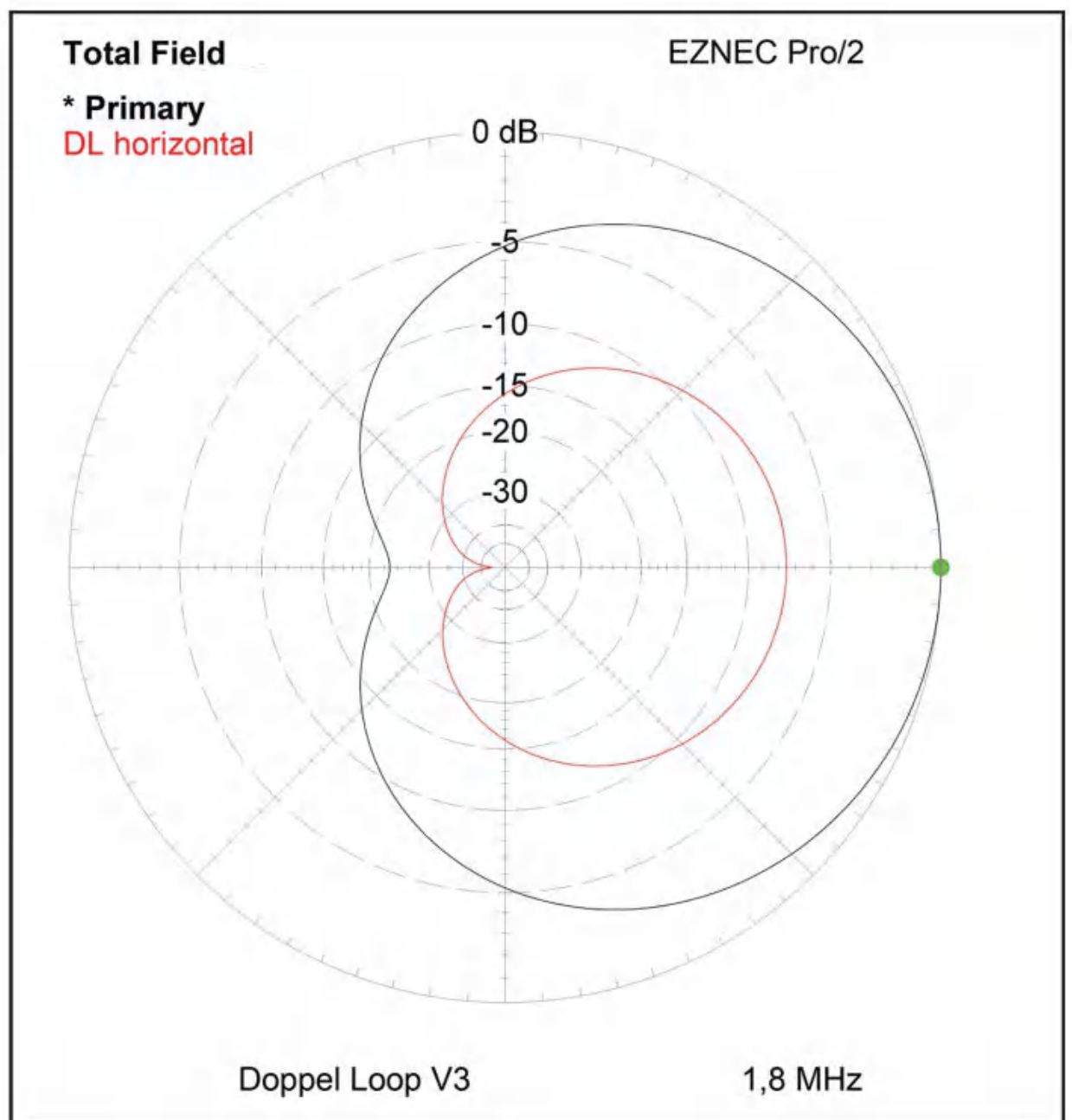


Figure 3: Horizontal pattern of the DK6ED double loop V3.

of a single loop. This is why I designed the new double loop system shown in Figure 2. It still consists of two loops behind each other. No feedline is required, because the loops are close and they are interlaced. This crossover inverts currents, leading to that smaller pattern. By aligning the antenna, I found

that a termination resistor of 1200 Ohms gave the best front/back ratio at my location. The resulting horizontal pattern is shown in Figure 3, the vertical one in Figure 4. Compared to the pattern from Figure 1, the opening gets much smaller and the front/back ratio increases. But the output power gets

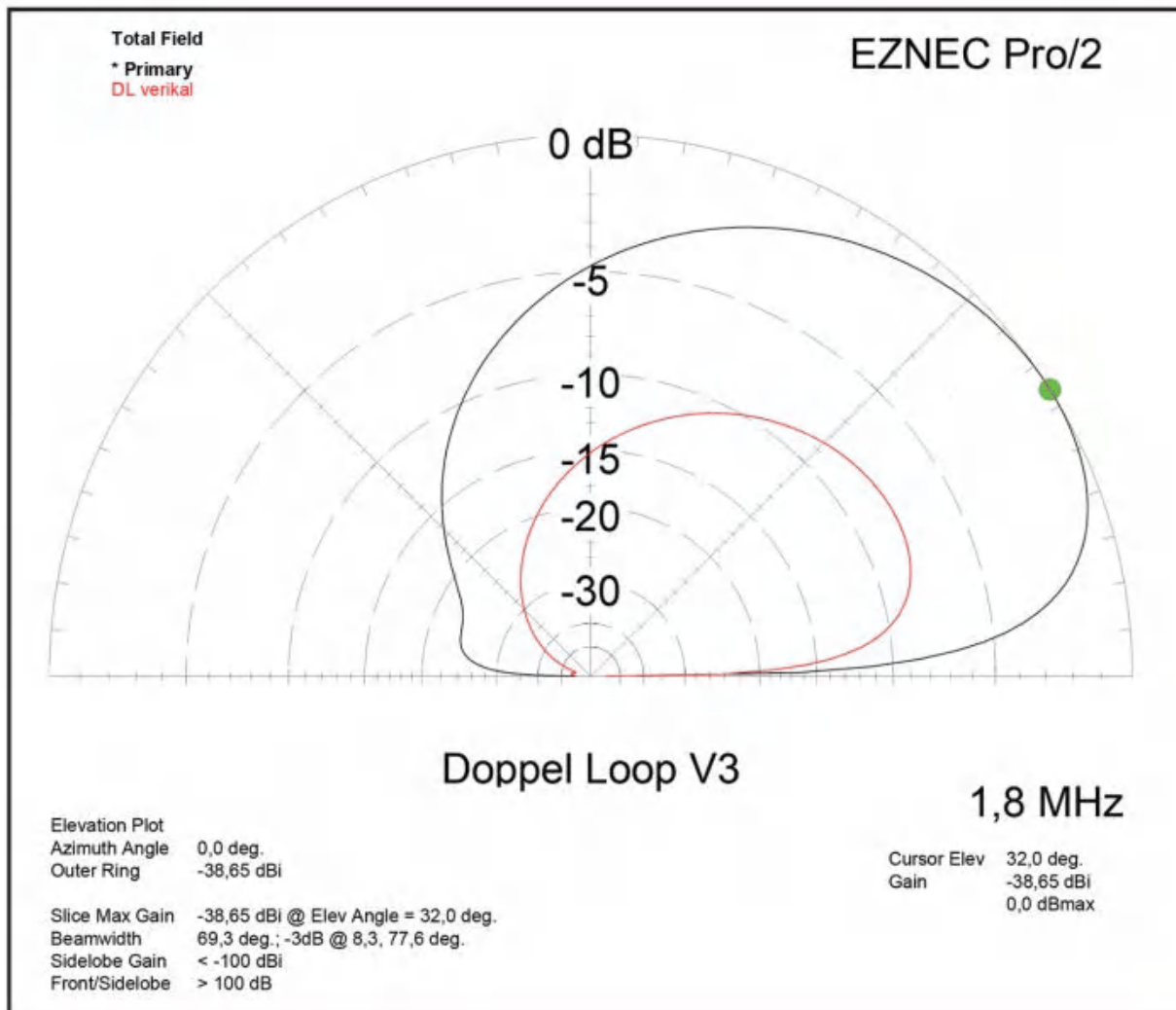


Figure 4: Vertical pattern of the DK6ED double loop V3.

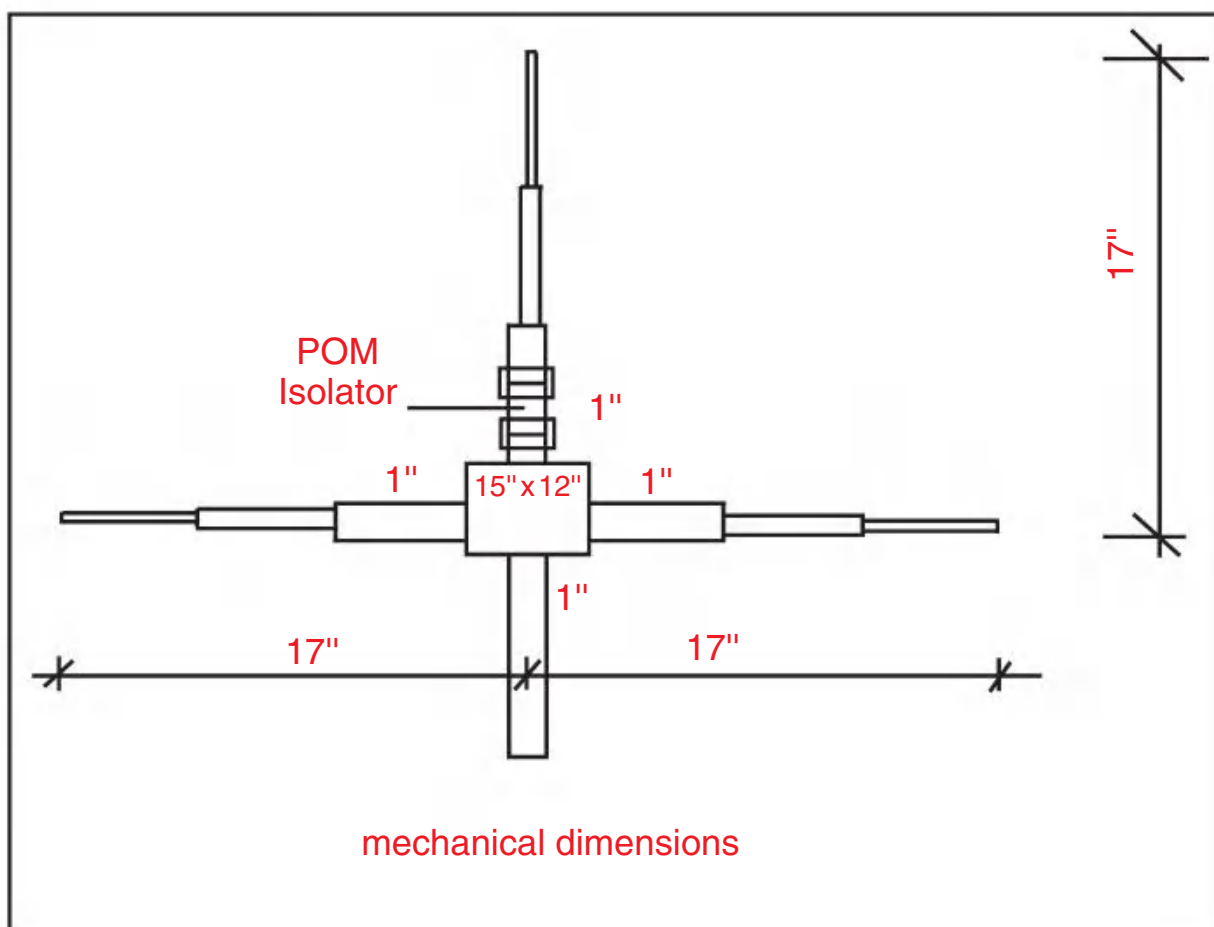


Figure 5: Mechanical dimensions of the double loop.

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3CX1200D7	4CX10000A	845
3CX1200Z7	4CX15000A	6146B
3CX1500A7	4CX20000B	3-500ZG
3CX3000A7	4CX20000C	3-1000Z
3CX6000A7	4CX20000D	4-400A
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lower, so a preamplifier becomes a must. Its input impedance must be set to 1200 Ohms.

Building the Antenna

The idea was to rotate the antenna, so its dimensions had to be limited. It can be built from fiberglass reinforced rods, but because of a better sideways stability I decided for aluminum construction. This leads to the mechanical dimensions shown in Figure 5. In order to avoid any influence from the basic construction on the radiation pattern, I decided to separate all arms of the system and the mast electrically. The central point of the system is shown in Photo A. This also includes the mast mounting. Because of the mechanical rigidity, the antenna wire itself is made from AWG 14 stranded steel wire. As the wires cross the center, they must be kept away from

the aluminum construction as shown in Photo B. Details of the top point can be taken from Photo C. Here the antenna wire supports the construction and it must be isolated against the aluminum construction. The complete antenna is shown in Photo D.

After the mechanical work is done, it's time to build a small amplifier which only consists of two transistors. The circuit is shown in Figure 6. As from the fundamental requirements the input impedance must be 1200 Ohms. But after a long series of experiments, I found that is extremely difficult to design such a medium impedance broadband preamplifier with an IMD performance required for the shortwave bands. So a step-down transformer (T1) is inserted between the loop and the preamplifier, reducing the antenna's impedance from 1200 to 300 Ohms. I had to accept that it reduces the volt-

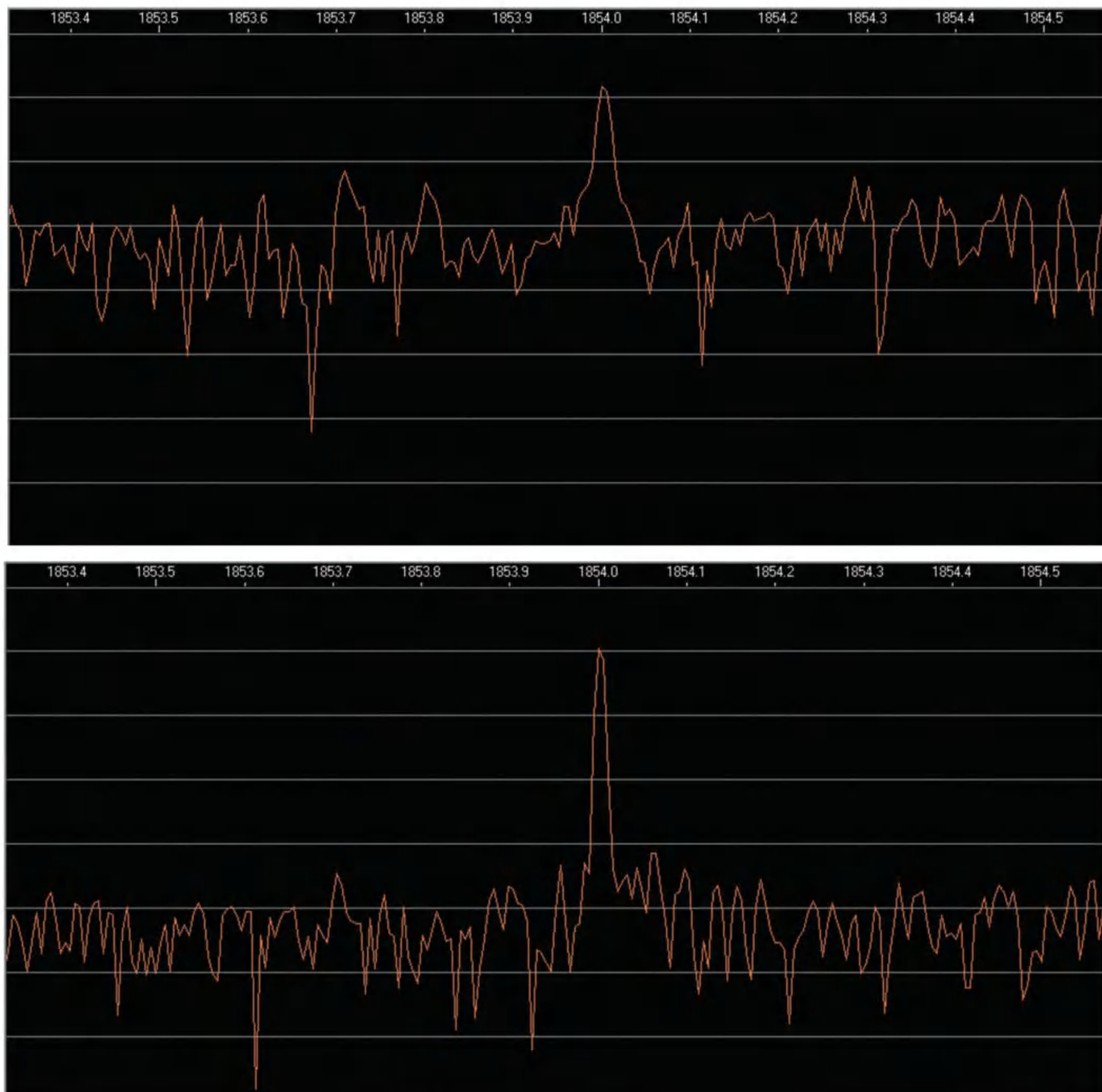


Figure 7: Signal/noise ratio between the transmit (top) and the receive (bottom) antennas

age at the input, leading to a higher noise figure, but all IMD issues were solved. This transformer also works as a voltage balun, matching the balanced loop to an unbalanced pre-amplifier circuit. For best symmetry, a special technique is used. First, I start with the 5 windings for the output; 5 windings for the input are next and finally followed by the next 5 windings for the output.

The amplifier itself consists of a Darlington stage as we know from MMIC designs. The OIP2 level reaches more than

20 dBm, the OIP3 is greater than 30 dBm. The noise figure reaches 2.5 dB at 10 MHz. The gain of this simple two stage circuit is sufficient for the double loop antenna. Too much gain might overdrive the receiver's input, causing more distortion. The output is designed for a longer feedline and three transformers are required. T2 is a voltage balun, T4 a current balun. They prevent the signals picked up from the feedline from reaching the preamplifier and making the antenna lose its directivity.

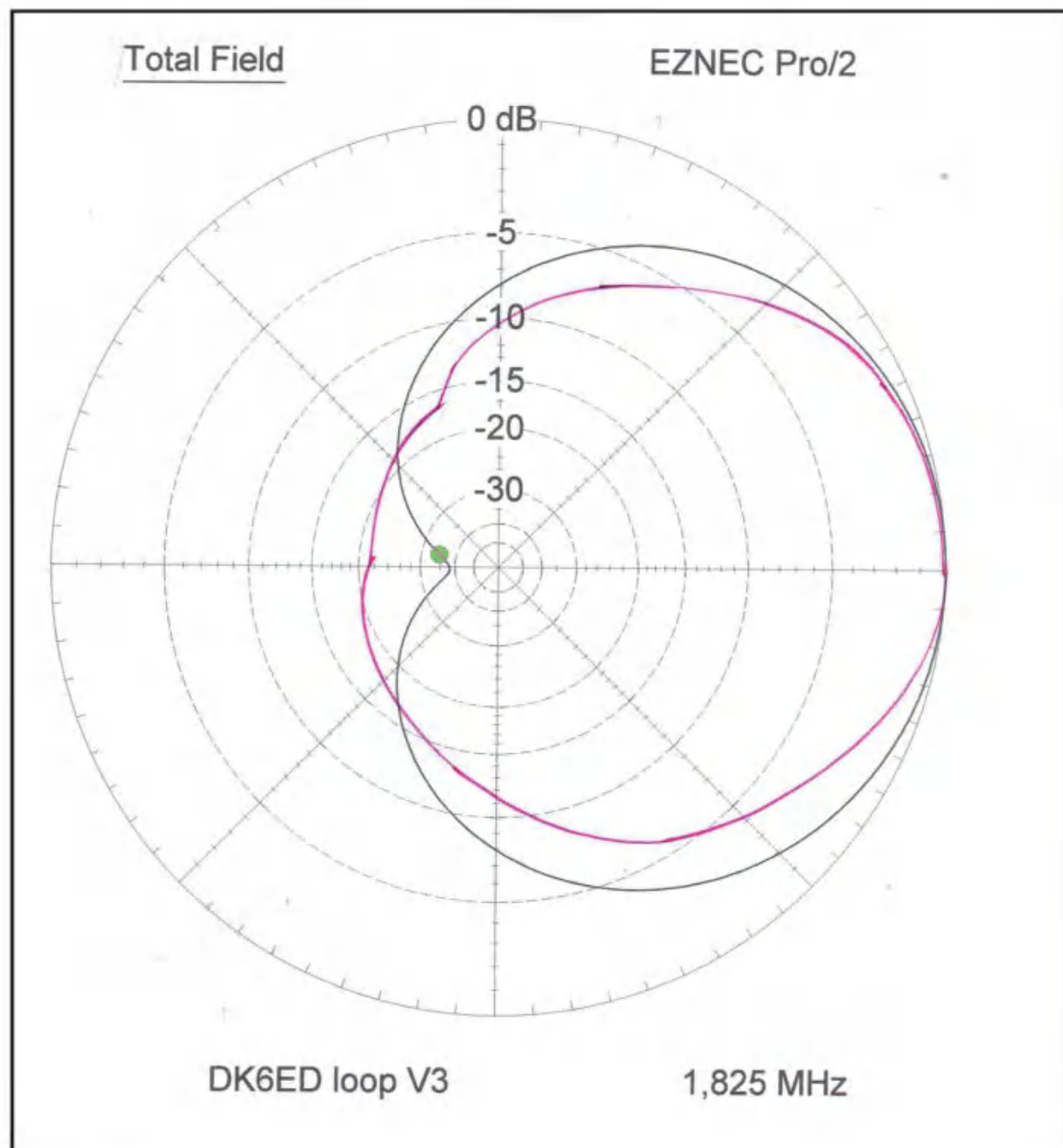


Figure 8: Comparing simulation results and the real antenna



Photo B: Isolating the antenna wire at the central point.



Photo A: Central point of the system.

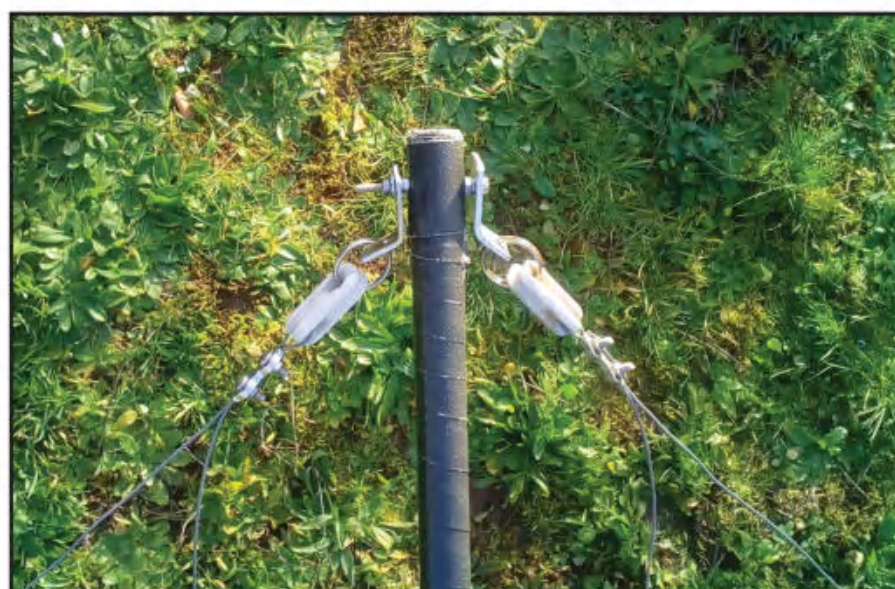


Photo C: Highest point of the system.



Photo D: The final construction.

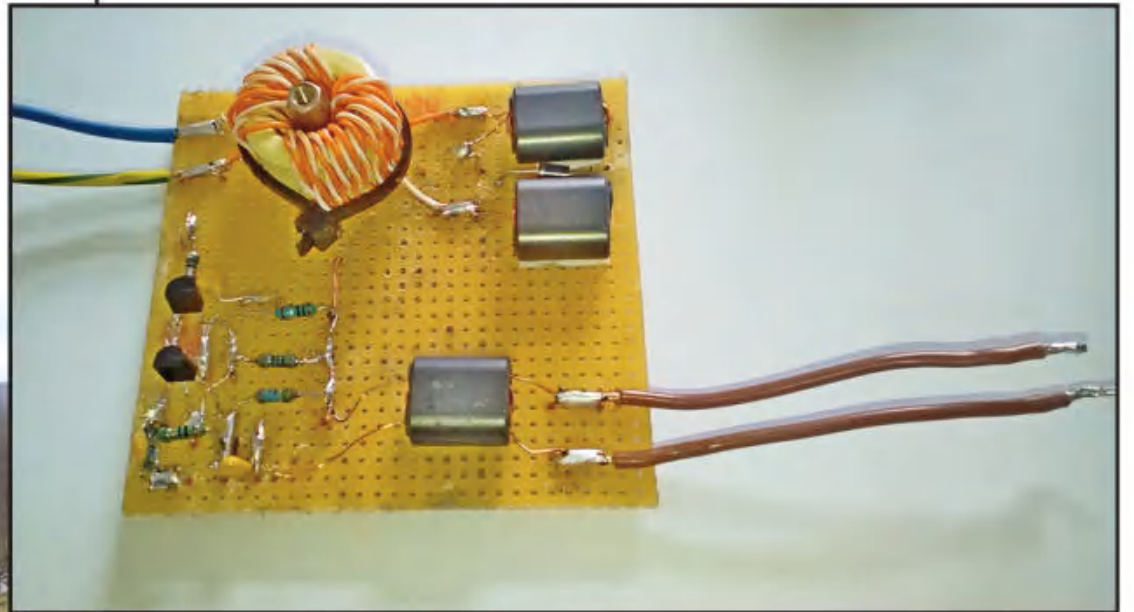


Photo E: Layout of the preamplifier

For shorter feedlines the baluns can be omitted. Transformer T3 is there for feeding the amplifier with DC. It shortens the line for RF and the signal reaches the T2 balun without significant loss. T3 can be omitted when the preamp is fed by a separate line. The preamplifier's construction is so simple that it can be built Manhattan style or on a simple board as shown in Photo E.

For the line between the antenna and the receiver, TV-SAT cable is highly recommended because of its better shielding. At the receiver end, one of the common bias Ts is needed to separate the signal and the DC supply. Here the supply can be turned off when transmitting. No further precautions are needed to protect the preamplifier's input, even when the transmit and receive antennas are close to each other.

Results

Receive antennas are required to improve the signal/noise ratio in a noise-polluted area. Because of its front/back ratio, this antenna can reduce distortions significantly. The

160-meter band is most critical as the antenna is very small. Figure 6 shows the difference between receiving a beacon on the transmit antenna and on the receive antenna at 2.7 kHz bandwidth. The difference is about 20 dB in favor of the double loop. This is also a first proof that the radiation pattern is close to the simulation's result. Details can be taken from Photo E. Simulation and the performance of the real antenna almost match after redesigning the double loop. The opening is a little smaller, and the front/back ratio a little less than simulated. From experience, I can say that the antenna can also be used on 80 and 60 meters. On higher frequencies, the circumference is getting too long relative to the wavelength, so the system loses directivity and must be redesigned.

To make sure, any NEC simulation program is a very helpful means to design antennas, but we have to understand and carefully watch its limitations.

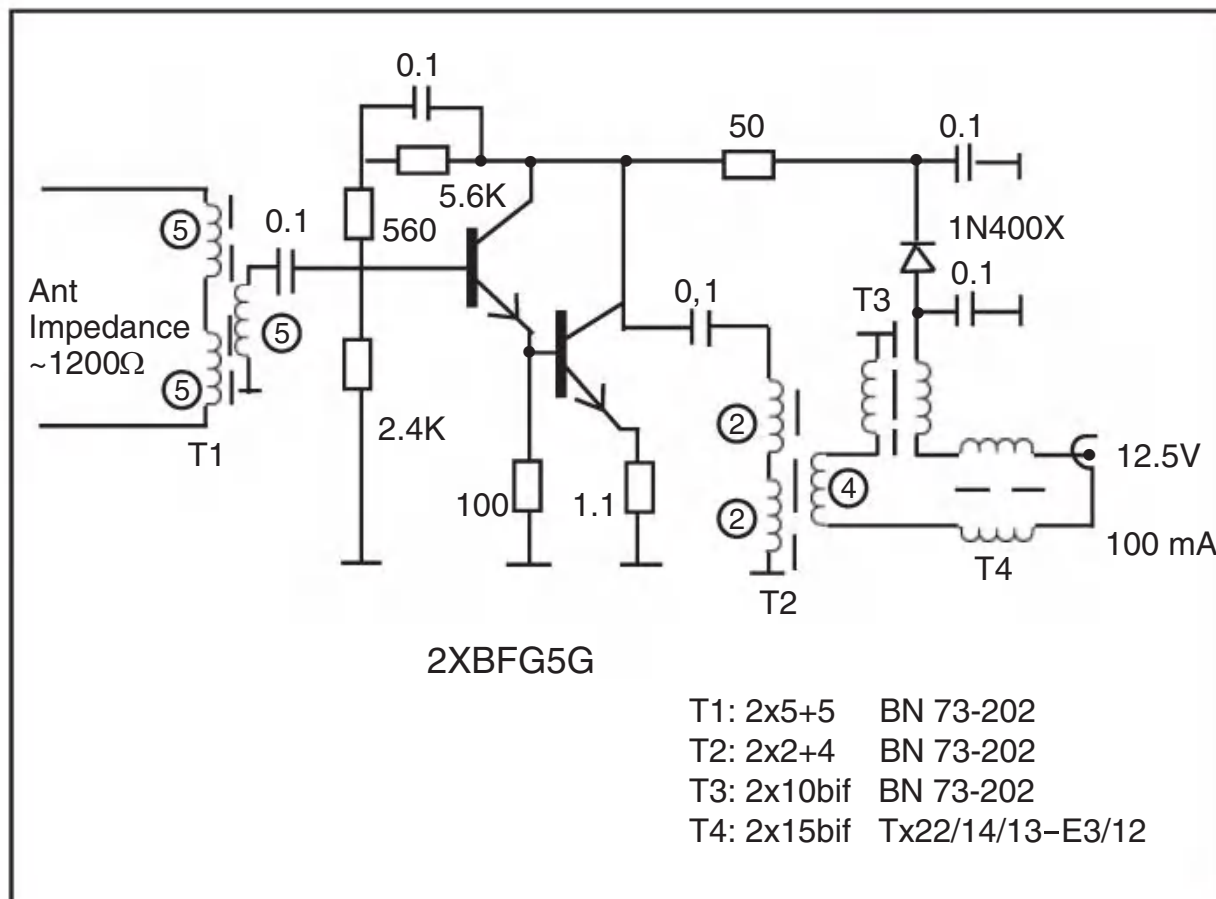


Figure 6: Circuit of the preamplifier.

Having an antenna that's resonant across the entire 80-meter band is a challenge. Commercial antennas with integrated tuning units are expensive, but KA2C offers a compact and low-cost approach to "rolling your own" step-tuned 80-meter dipole or inverted vee.

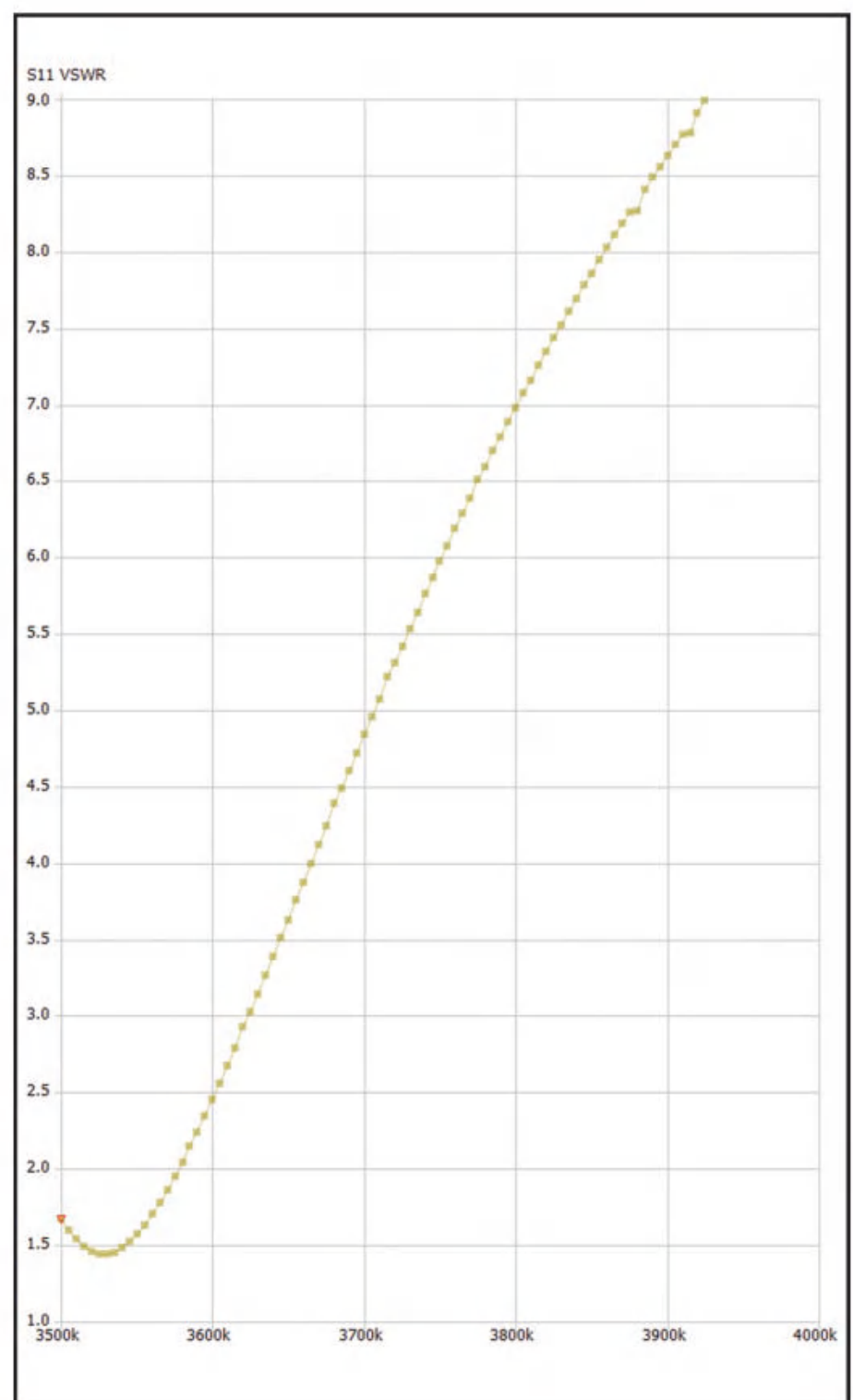
An Inverted Vee for 80 Meters with Integrated Tuning

BY NELSON SOLLENBERGER,* KA2C

Antennas for 80 meters rarely cover the full band with low SWR, including full-size dipoles, inverted vees, and verticals. Many solutions to this problem are used by hams, including desktop manual and automatic antenna tuners, remote antenna tuners, antenna broad-banding techniques such as cage dipoles, manual adjustments such as adding/removing pieces of wire to shift antenna resonance within the band, and other techniques. SWR and antenna efficiency/performance are not tightly coupled and good antenna performance with high SWR is possible, while poor antenna performance with low SWR is also possible. But low SWR (an impedance-matched system) can be important for safe and efficient operation of transmitters and amplifiers. Low SWR also minimizes coax cable transmission loss. For high power operation, a matched impedance system at 50 ohms results in operating voltages of only a few hundred volts while unmatched conditions with high SWR can result in thousands of volts that may cause failures.

High performance HF antenna products sometimes include an integrated antenna tuning function. SteppIR is well known for including antenna tuning in its antennas, including 80 meters, based on adjusting the physical length of elements. OptiBeam offers an 80-meter rotatable dipole as well as 2- and 3-element Yagis with integrated tuning using relays and loading inductors at the center of the antenna elements to cover 80 meters in four band segments, and Array Solutions has provided 80-meter Yagi solutions with similar features. General-purpose remote antenna tuning units are available, but units capable of the full legal power limit cost \$1,000 and up and are fairly large in size. But the use of integrated antenna tuning optimized and designed for low-cost full-size simple wire antennas appears uncommon for 80 meters. One exception is a simple 80-meter dipole with relay switched loading coils built into the antenna center unit available from Antennas-Amplifiers with two frequency selections for CW and SSB. Some hams have used relays and loading coils in some arrangements to provide an integrated tuning function.

This article describes a simple and low-cost inverted vee or dipole antenna for 80 meters with integrated tuning cov-



Figures 1-8: SWR plots using a nanoVNA for each of the eight switch positions of the integrated tuner, ranging from the bottom of the 80-meter band (Figure 1) to the top (Figure 8).

* 6275 Maxhiemer Rd
St. Thomas, PA, 17252
E-mail: <nelsonsollen@gmail.com>

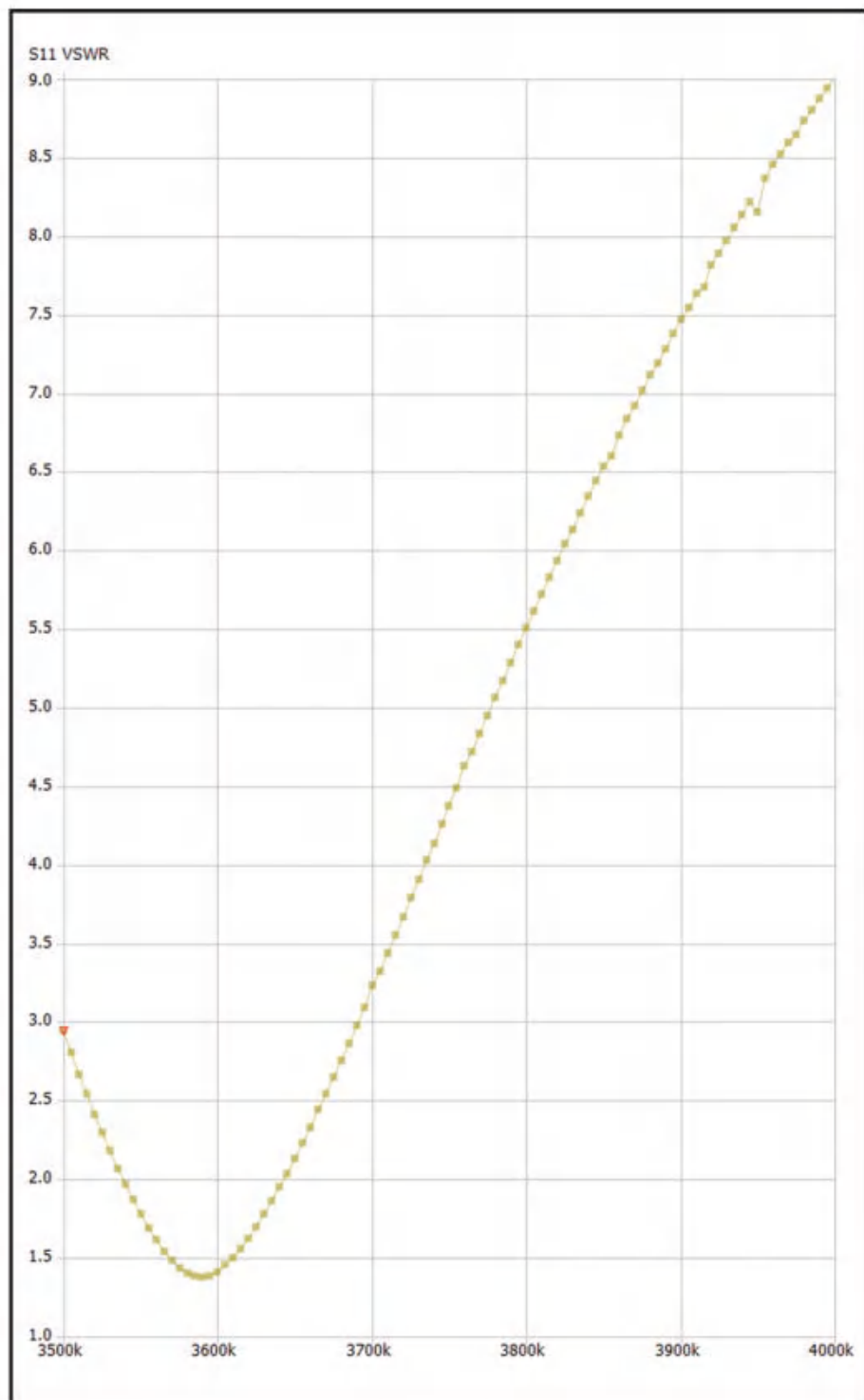


Figure 2.

ering 80 meters in eight frequency steps of about 70 kHz each at the full legal power limit, resulting in excellent matching across the entire band. Figures 1 through 8 show the measured SWRs for the 8 antenna tuning steps. When the best tuning step is selected, nearly all frequencies have an SWR below 1.5:1, with a few points showing an SWR between 1.5:1 and 1.7:1. A simple dipole or inverted vee for 80 meters typically has a 3:1 SWR bandwidth of only 250 to 300 kHz, and a 1.5:1 SWR bandwidth of less than 100 kHz.

This device is simple to build using only a few components. An antenna center box connects to a coaxial feedline going to the radio shack, and it replaces a balun or center insulator. In the center box, the signal goes first to an internal balun which provides an impedance matching function as well as a transition from unbalanced coax to a balanced circuit connecting to the two antenna elements of the inverted vee or dipole. The balun is followed by circuits containing three small low-cost relays to enable/disable three toroid inductors arranged in eight binary steps across the band to provide fine-tuning of the antenna. A printed circuit board from Far Circuits designed for a 1:6 remote antenna switch described in an April 2005 *QST* article by Bill Smith, KO4NR, was modified to mount three relays to appropriately enable/disable the

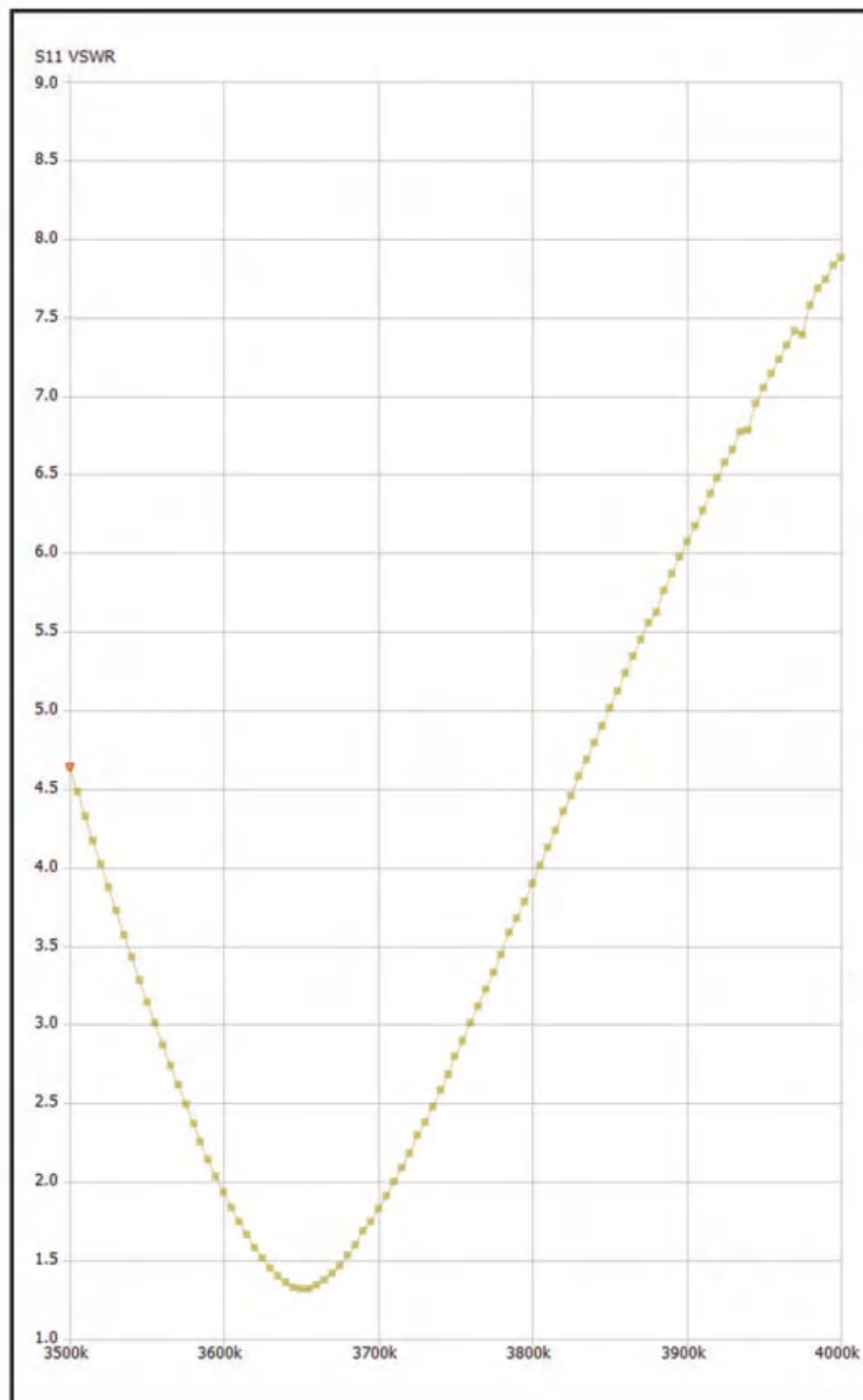


Figure 3.

three loading inductors. The largest inductor shifts the antenna resonance from the top of the band to near the middle of the band, and it is placed in series with one antenna element in the center box. The other two inductors, with values of about one-half and one-quarter of the largest inductor, are placed in series with the other element of the antenna. The two antenna wires are cut to resonant just below 4 MHz with no loading inductors enabled. In the radio shack, a control box contains only a 12 VDC power supply and a 3-pole 8-position rotary switch connected with a 4-wire control cable to the center box of the inverted vee and the three relay coils plus ground. The control cable can be run alongside the coax for the inverted vee and attached with outdoor electrical tape or tie wraps.

By integrating the loading inductors for tuning with the antenna center unit directly on the antenna elements and with an internal balun, several advantages result. A separate antenna tuner or other tuning box is not required. The SWR is low for the complete station including the coax, antenna switches, filters and the rig and/or power amplifier for the entire 80-meter band. Tuning is very simple to control by selecting 1 of 8 sequential center frequencies with a rotary switch. The cost of the components is low to support operation at the full legal power limit of 1500 watts in the USA.

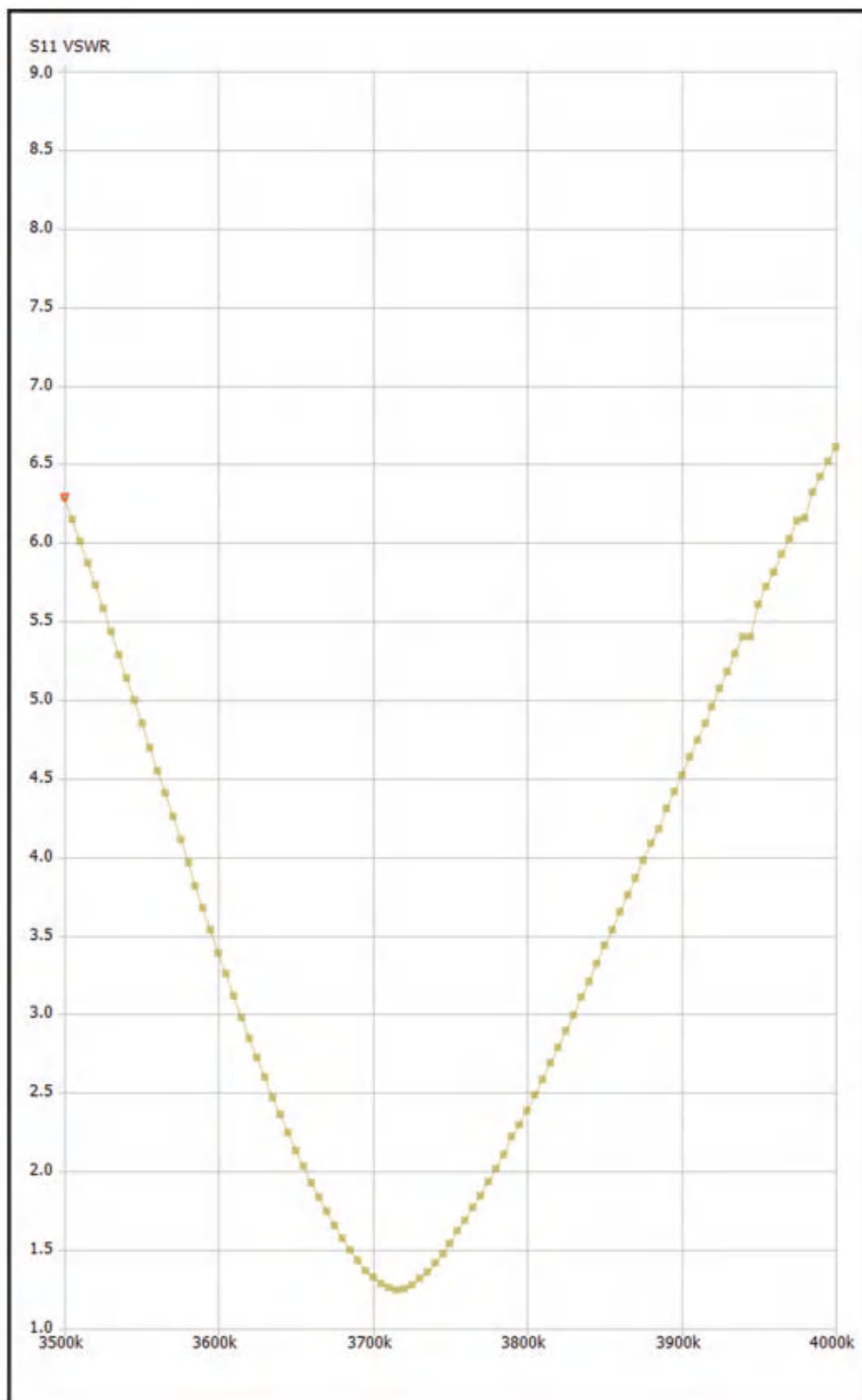


Figure 4.

While this design is for 80 meters, it could be scaled for 160 meters, which has a similar antenna bandwidth issue.

Precise matching of element lengths and of the loading with inductors of the two elements of an inverted vee or dipole is not necessary for the modest loading and frequency shifts required to tune across the 80-meter band for a dipole resonant at the top of the band. This is true because the impedance of a dipole changes slowly for small feed position offsets near the center of a resonant dipole. However, the radiation resistance of a shortened dipole decreases proportional to the square of the frequency, and this is the major side-effect of loading the antenna with inductance to lower the resonant frequency.

An inverted vee with the center at about 37 feet off the ground and the two ends at about 18 feet with elements of about 58 feet were used for the antenna. The modest height above ground and the inverted vee arrangement lower the impedance significantly from 73 ohms of an ideal resonant free space dipole. This resulted in a measured antenna resistance of about 40 ohms at 4.0 MHz (at resonance) going down to only 30 ohms at 3.5 MHz with loading. The SWR results show a minimal SWR very close to 1.0:1 at the top of the band, but rising to about 1.4:1 at the bottom of the band, which is consistent with the impedance results. With a higher antenna

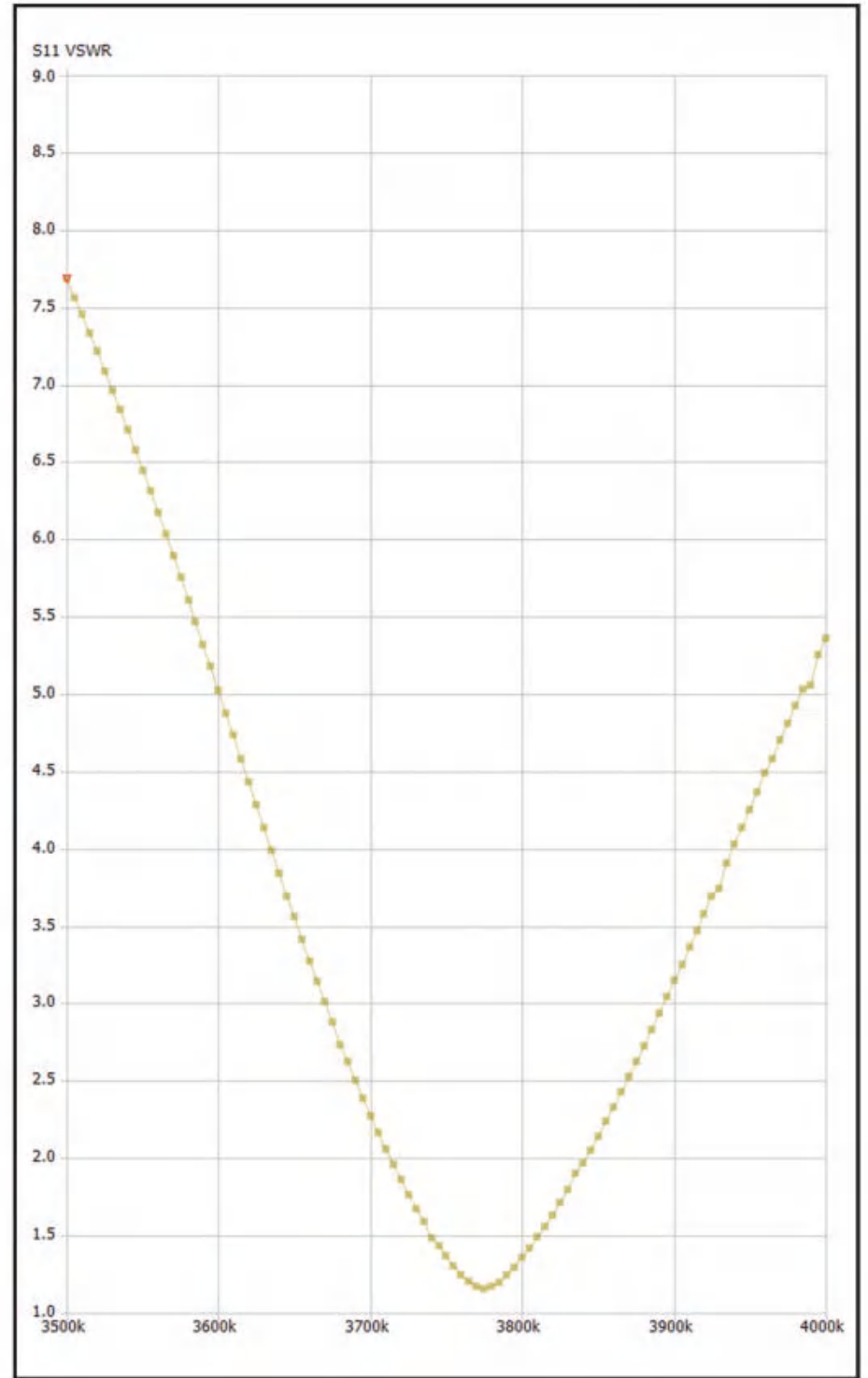


Figure 5.

or with other arrangements, the antenna impedance may be different. The balun can be easily adjusted with more/fewer turns on the primary or secondary to provide a good match.

Antenna Center Unit and Tuning Inductors

A schematic diagram of the antenna center unit is shown in Figure 9, and Photo A shows its interior. The center unit is built in an outdoor electrical box by Zulkit, just 5.9 x 5.9 x 3.5 inches in size, which is mounted with the lid down in order to protect the circuits from any moisture which may enter the box. A few small 1/16" holes are drilled in the lid for drainage. A balun is placed at the input to the center unit using an FT240-43 toroid core with 8 turns of #14 solid copper enameled wire for an unbalanced primary and 7 turns of wire for the balanced secondary. This provides a 50- to 38-ohm impedance matching function as well as an unbalanced-to-balanced transition. The wires on the balun toroid core are secured with tie wraps at the start and ending turns and in the middle of the windings, and they are spaced to provide high RF voltage isolation with the primary and secondary windings interleaved.

The balun is mounted next to an SO-239 connector and connects to the SO-239 for the coax in the lid of the electrical box. Epoxy can be used to secure the balun but the con-

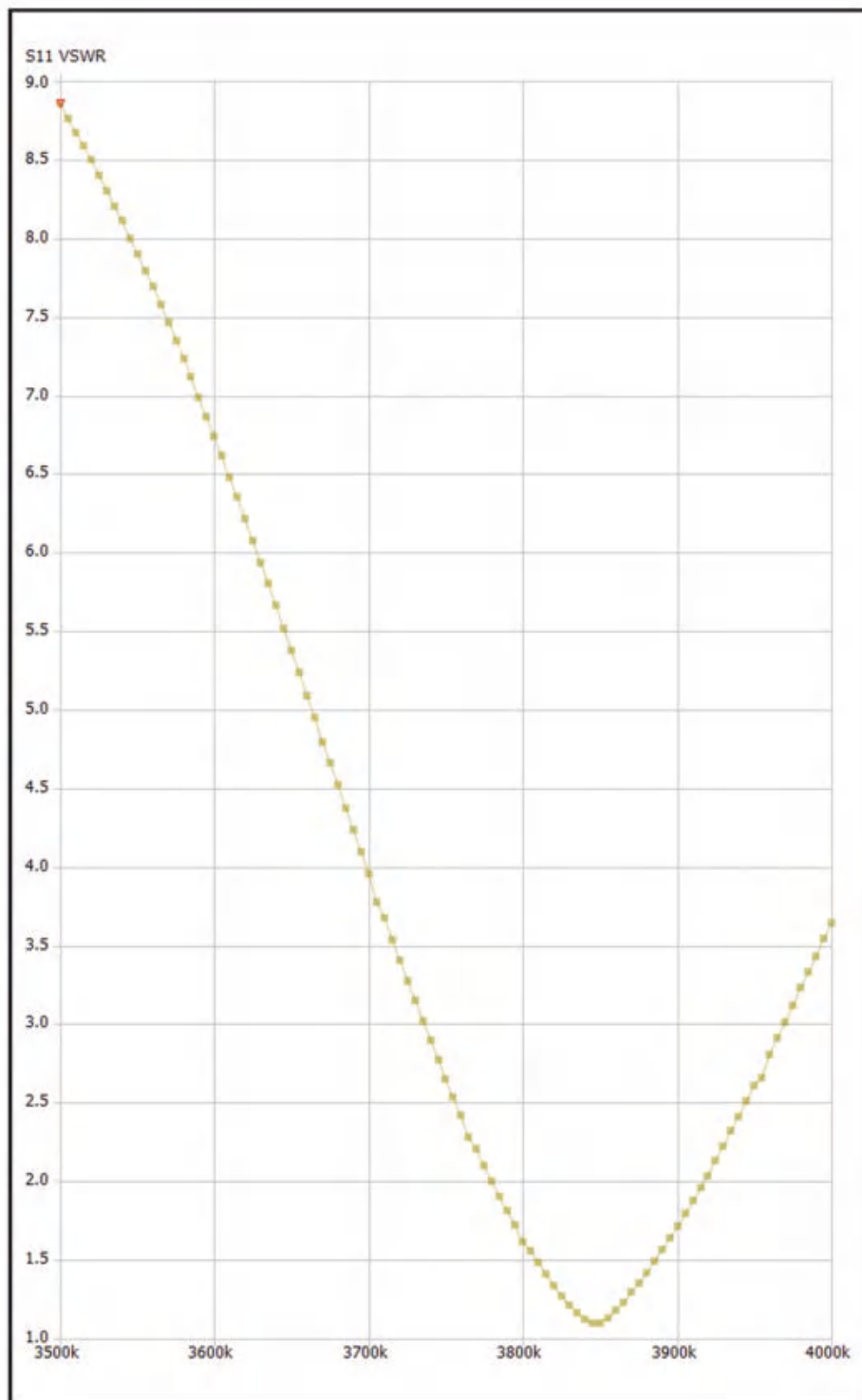


Figure 6.

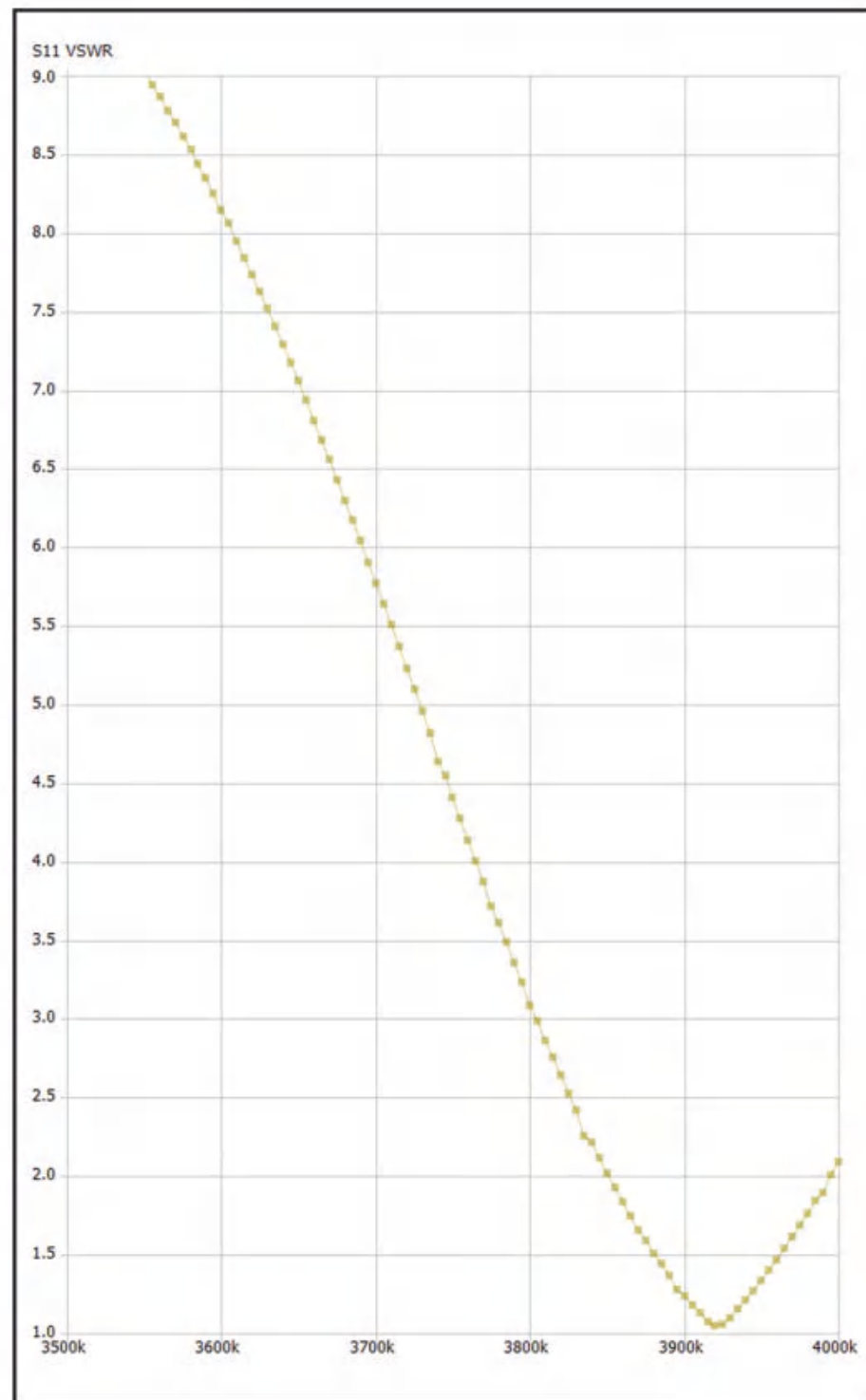


Figure 7.

nections to the SO-239 connector secure the balun fairly well. The balanced secondary of the balun connects to the toroid inductor loading elements in the main part of the electrical box with two #12 stranded copper insulated wires of about 6 inches in length. Those wires fold up into the lid beside the balun when the center box is closed and are guided into safe positions as it is closed to avoid contact with other parts in the box.

The PCB from Far Circuits contains an area for three relays on one side of the center and a similar area on the other side. One side of the PCB plus a small center area is cut off and discarded, leaving the area of the PCB for relays 1 to 3. The signal trace between output 3 and output 2 was cut with a Dremel® tool. The PCB grounds inactive relay outputs using the normally-closed relay connections, but that is not appropriate for this application, so those PCB connections to ground were removed by drilling out those holes with a 7/32-inch drill bit. Photo B shows the prepared PCB.

The three relays are Zettler AZ755s, and are also available from Far Circuits. Small eyelets are provided to place around each pin connecting to the relay contact prior to soldering to provide a good connection for the RC current.

In the first step, the three relays are mounted on the PCB; three small coil bypass surface mount caps, also provided by

Far Circuits, are soldered to the PCB; and four hookup wires for the three relay coils plus ground with lengths of about 6 inches each are soldered to the PCB with the other ends unattached. This assembly is then turned upside down and attached to the center of the electrical box with epoxy on the relay tops with the four wires facing away from box lid hinges.

Next, a 4-connection terminal strip is attached with epoxy as shown in Photo A, and the four wires from the three relay coils plus ground are connected to one side of the terminal strip. The control cable connects later to the terminal strip.

The third step is to prepare the three toroid inductors. The inductors are 19, 12 and 8 turns of #14 enameled copper wire wound on T200-2 cores, providing calculated inductances of 4.33, 1.73 and 0.77 μH , not including pigtailed, stray inductance and stray capacitance. Those factors increase the achieved circuit inductances, and EZNEC simulations of the antenna with three loading inductors to tune the antenna as desired produces values of 5.3, 2.7 and 1.4 μH .

The inductors are prepared with 6-inch pigtailed. About 3/4-inch of enamel is stripped from the end of each pigtail. Also, 3/4-inch sections in the center of four pigtailed are stripped to attach the two inputs from the balun and the two outputs to the wires which exit the center box to attach to the antenna elements. See Photo A and the schematic in Figure 9. The

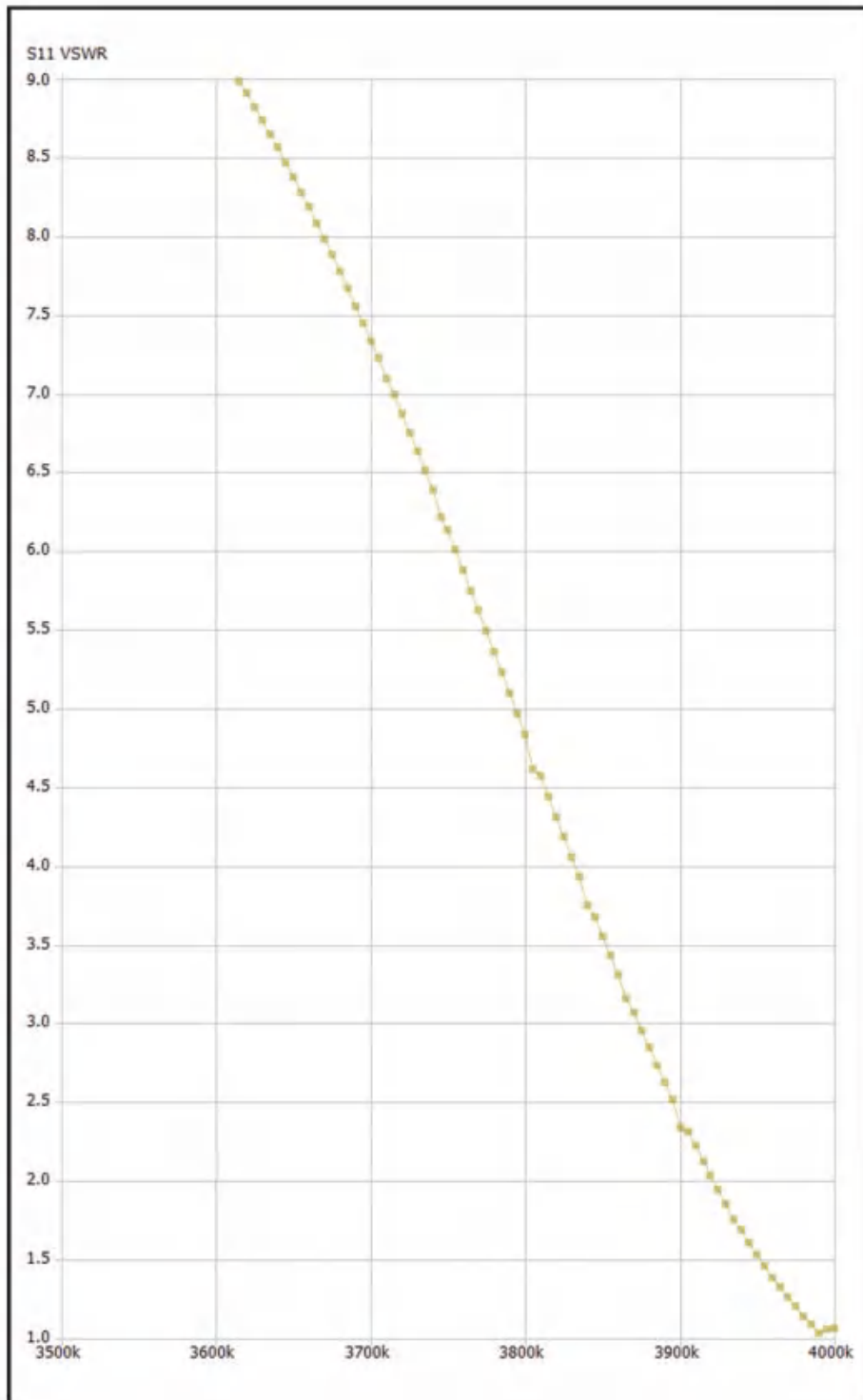


Figure 8.

three inductors are installed against three sides of the box and the pigtailed are shaped so that the end sections align with the appropriate two pins for each connection to the relays (each signal connection to a relay uses two pins).

The spacing between the relay pins is modest, and joining the toroid inductor pigtail ends to the traces on the PCB requires some care. It is important to keep the gap as large as possible due to the RF voltages involved during operation. An 80-watt soldering iron with a chisel tip of about 1/2" width was used. First, lightly tin the bare end of each pigtail. Then with the wire shaped to meet the PCB trace, place it on the side away from the gap between the pins using needle nose pliers. With the chisel spanning the two pins and trace on the relay, reflow the solder and press the pigtail against the pins and PCB trace. To prevent heat damage, the 80-watt iron should be used sparingly and for a period just long enough to reflow the solder and allow the pigtail to be pressed into position and held until the solder is cooled and hardened.

Antenna Control Unit

A schematic for the antenna control unit is shown in Figure 10. It is very simple, containing a basic 12 VDC power supply with a fuse, and a 3-pole 8-position rotary switch. The rotary switch is wired to provide binary encoded 12 VDC to

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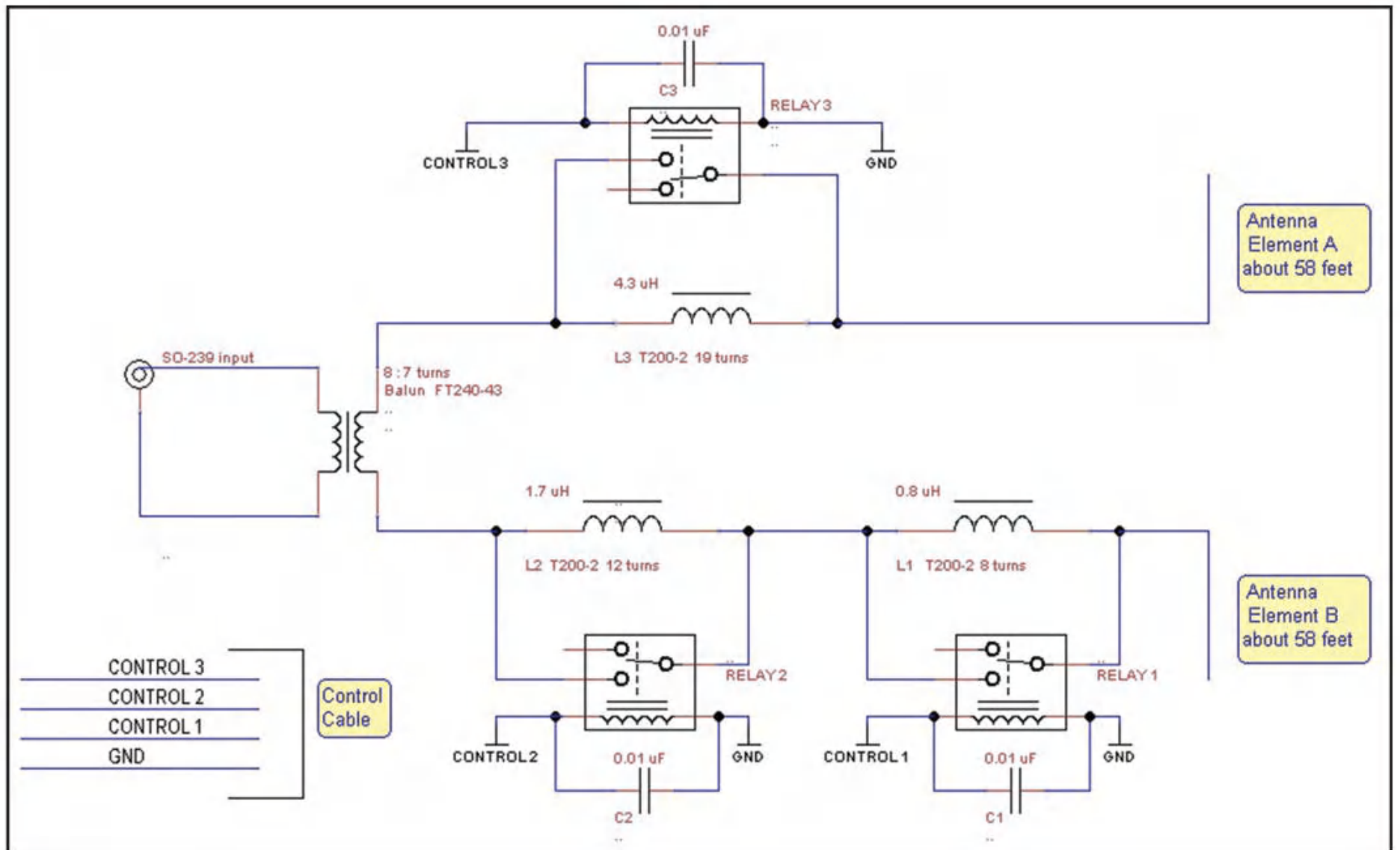


Figure 9. Schematic of the antenna center unit

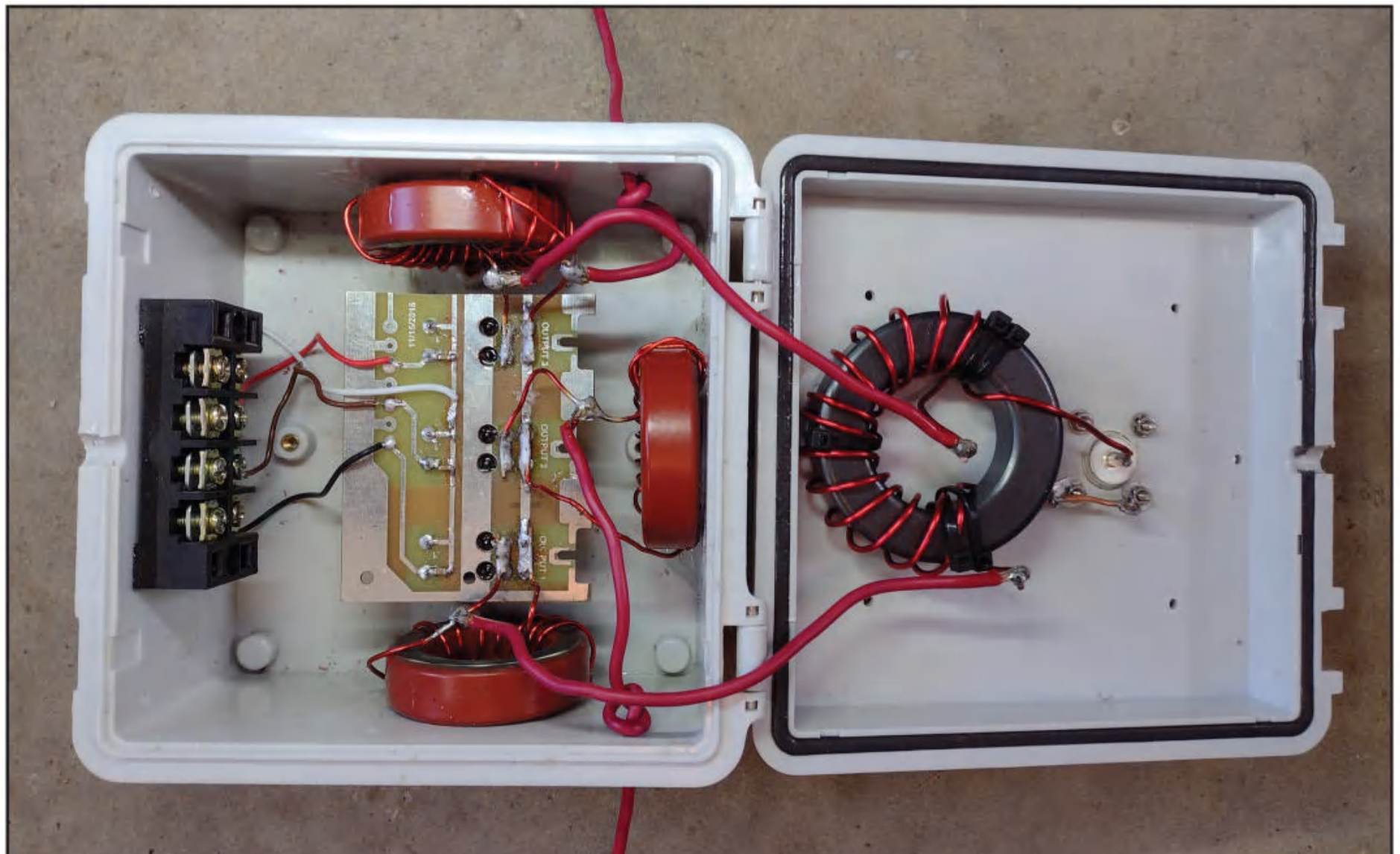


Photo A: Picture of the antenna center unit.

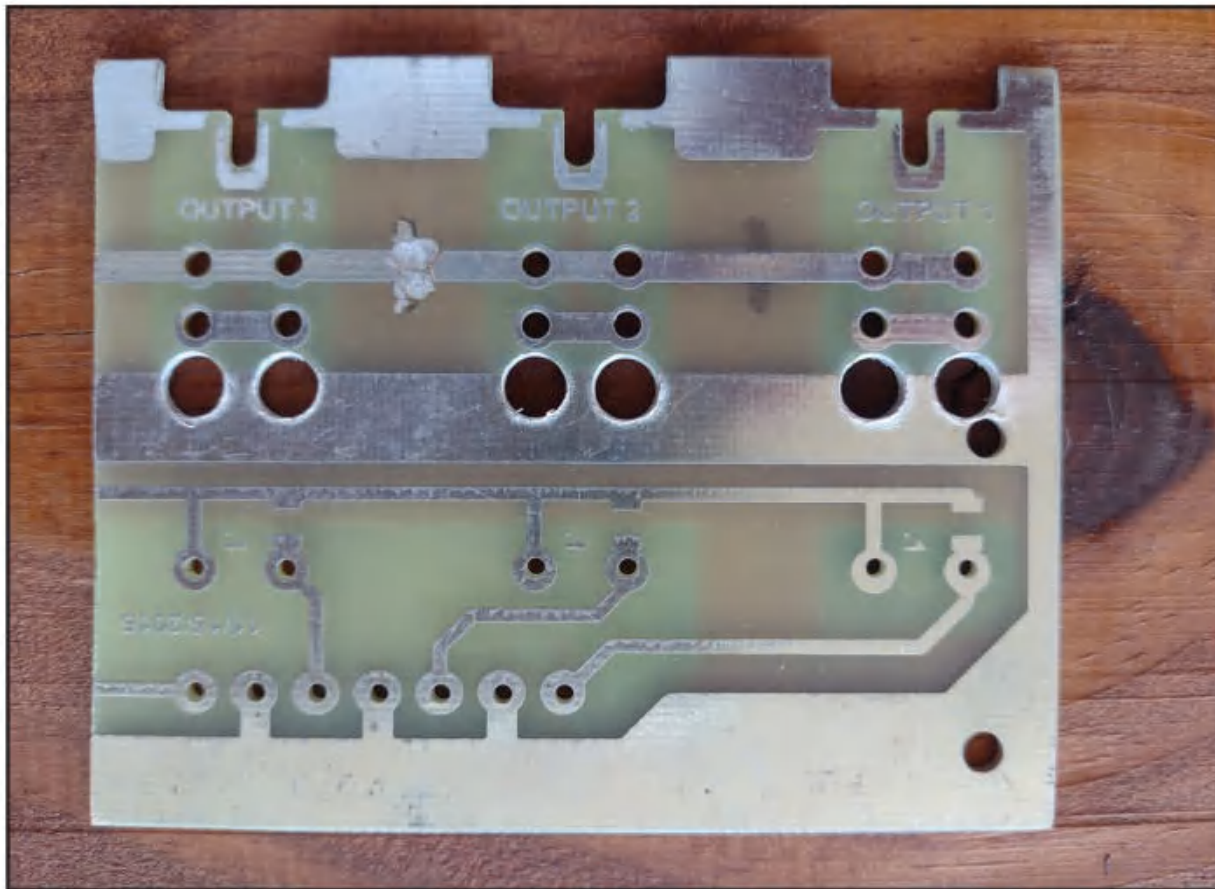


Photo B: The modified relay circuit board. See text for details.

the three relay coils in the antenna center unit. At the bottom of the 80-meter band, all three relays are inactive, resulting in open contacts for them, and the toroid inductors are active in the circuits providing loading to resonate the antenna near 3.5 MHz. At the top of the band, all three relays are active with 12 VDC connected to their coils, resulting in closed contacts for the relays, and the toroid inductors are shorted and inactive in the circuits to resonate the antenna near 4.0 MHz. When the antenna is installed, with the control box set to select a frequency near the top of the band, the antenna elements should be trimmed to tune the resonance to just below 4.0 MHz. A nanoVNA is convenient for tuning and measuring results.

The antenna control unit can be assembled in a small plastic electrical box or small electronics box and placed in a convenient spot on the station's operating table. The required rotary switch was found on Amazon for about \$15. In

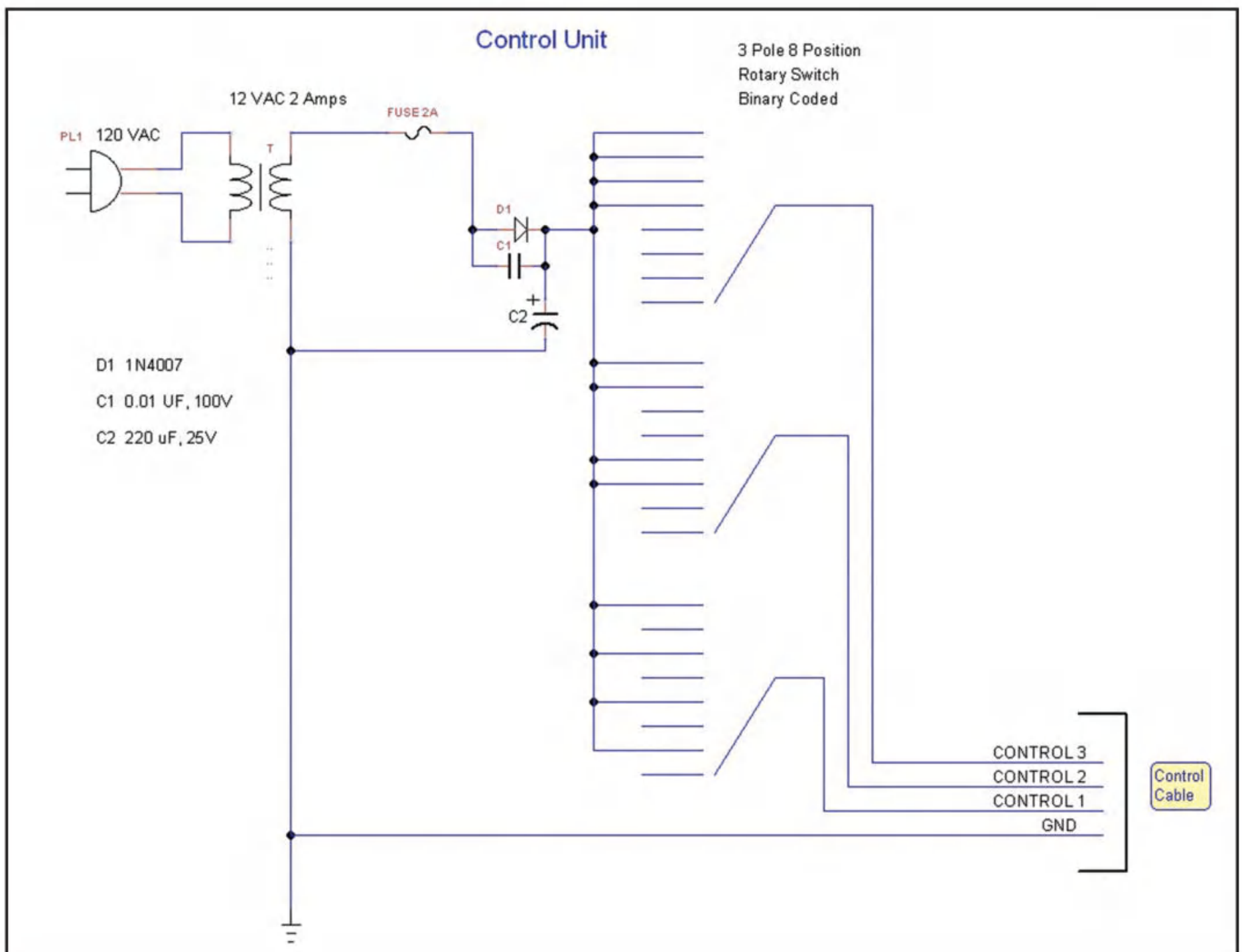


Figure 10: Schematic of the antenna control unit

some cases, 4-pole 8-position switches are available, which also work fine.

Tuning Relays

A number of manufacturers produce low-cost power relays in large volumes priced at several dollars in small quantities intended for usage as ON/OFF switches for 220/120 VAC power control. They typically support 16 to 20 amps of 50/60 Hz current with ratings of 4 to 5 KVA for power. These relays are very attractive for amateur radio usage, and they are commonly used in ham equipment such as remote antenna switches, remote antenna configuration switches and automatic antenna tuners. Specifications for these switches are rarely available for RF frequencies, but one key issue is that they are not used for hot switching of high-power RF. They are only switched when no RF power is present or with low power RF

available such as during automatic antenna tuning.

What about their properties when high power RF is present and the relays are either open or closed? When the relays are closed, the key issue is RF current carrying capability. At 50 ohms, 1,500 watts (the legal limit of RF power for USA hams) results in a current of about 5.5 amps RMS. With these relays rated at 16 to 20 amps for 50/60 Hz AC, they have good margins for operations near 50 ohms at the legal limit for RF with the contacts closed, even with large de-rating factors.

These relays are intended for 220/120 VAC operations, so the breakdown voltage rating of open contacts is a question. The open contact breakdown voltage is typically specified at 1,000 VRMS for 50/60 Hz. Multiple sources suggest that this value should be de-rated by about a factor of 0.8 to 800

VRMS for HF frequencies and especially for 2 to 4 MHz. Please note that this value and de-rating factor are much different than contact voltage breaking values with current present while opening the relay contacts, which involves breaking a corona discharge as the contacts move from a closed to an open position. Contact voltage breaking values are substantially more frequency-dependent than open contact breakdown voltage values. For this reason, these relays should not change position when high power RF is present.

The RF current at 1500 watts of power for 40 ohms impedance is 6.1 amps. The largest loading inductor is about 5 μ H, including stray inductance. That inductor then produces an RF voltage of 766 VRMS at 4 MHz, and the relay with open contacts must withstand voltage breakdown. An estimated rating for these relays at 4 MHz is 80% of the 60 Hz rating of 1000 VRMS or 800 volts, so the voltage rating of the relays is OK for 1500 watts of power. The antenna with integrated tuning was tested a few kHz from both the top and bottom of the band at about 900 watts without any problems. High duty cycle operation such as digital or RTTY modes near the legal power limit may lead to overheating of the balun or inductor toroid cores in this design, but SSB and typical CW operations should be fine at full power.

Conclusions

Integrated tuning is found in some high performance HF antenna products such as those from SteppIR, Optibeam, Array Solutions and others, but low-cost solutions for simple wire antennas are generally not available. For hams, integrated antenna tuning is especially desirable on 80 and 160 meters. Using three low-cost power relays and three toroid inductors, it is possible to build inverted vee or dipole antenna center units providing eight tuning steps across the band while operating at high power. An 8-position rotary switch in a control unit provides for selecting eight operating center frequencies resulting in SWRs less than 1.5:1 for nearly all frequencies (with several points between 1.5 and 1.7:1. An internal balun in the antenna center unit improves impedance matching as well as balanced drive to the antenna using coax to connect the antenna center unit to the radio shack equipment. A 4-wire control cable parallels the coax. Only a few components are required for this antenna center unit with integrated tuning and for the control box, and this solution can be easily constructed at low cost by most hams.

announcements *(from page 30)*

TAMPA, FLORIDA — The TAMPA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the TarcFest from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturday August 19 at the Tampa Amateur Radio Club, 7801 N. 22nd St. Contact: Bill Bode, N4WEB. Website: <<http://www.hamclub.org>>. Email: <n4web@hamclub.org>. Phone: (813) 382-9262. Talk-in 147.105+ PL 146.2. VE testing.

WINFIELD, INDIANA — The AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF NEWTON COUNTY will hold the ARANCI Hamfest from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 19 at the Christ Presbyterian Church, 7416 E 109th Ave. Contact: Michael Swiader, KA9E. Website: <<http://aranradio.com>>. Email: <ka9e@usa.com>. Phone: (815) 409-5070. Talk-in 444.250. VE testing.

CORTLAND, OHIO — The WARREN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION will hold the WARA Tailgate Swap Meet from 7:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday August 20 at the Mosquito Lake State Park, 1439 Wilson Sharpsville Rd (state route 305). Contact: Andrew Juchnowski, AB8MO. Website: <<https://www.w8vtd.com/hamfest/>>. Email: <hamfest@w8vtd.com>. Phone: (234) 238-2312. Talk-in 146.970- (100 Hz normally off).

MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS — The FEMARA will hold the Northeast HamXposition, ARRL New England Division Convention times TBA from Thursday August 25 to Saturday August 27 at the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel, 181 Boston Post Rd. Contact: Michael Raisbeck, K1TWF. Website: <<https://hamxposition.org/>>. Email: <k1twf@hamxposition.org>. Phone: (508) 574-5432. Talk-in 147.27/146.2, 223.94/103.5, 449.925/88.5. VE testing.

BARABOO, WISCONSIN — The YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB will hold the Circus City Swapfest time TBA on Saturday August 26 at the Badger Steam and Gas Engine Club Property, E3347 Sand Road. Contact: Thomas Harrison, N9PQJ. Website: <<http://yellowthunder.org/>>. Email: <n9pqj@arrl.net>. Phone: (608) 963-0762. Talk-in 147.315 PL123.0. VE testing.

BREWSTER, MINNESOTA — The NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL RADIO COUNCIL will hold the Northern Plains Regional Radio Council Hamfest time TBA on Saturday August 26 at the Brewster American Legion Post, 825 3rd Avenue. Contact: Randy Donahue, WBØZSO. Website: <<https://tinyurl.com/2s4ezbc3>>. Email: <wbØzso@arrl.net>. Phone: (605) 610-9419. Talk-in 146.67 - 141.3.

DAVENPORT, IOWA — The DAVENPORT RADIO AMATEUR CLUB will hold the 52nd Annual Davenport Radio Amateur Club WØBXR Hamfest from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday August 26 at the Iowa Army National Guard, 5300 West Kimberly Road. Contact: Robert Kordick, KCØOYK. Website: <<https://drac.club/>>. Email: <KCØOYK@ARRL.NET>. Phone: (563) 324-4832. Talk-in 146.8800 -0.6 MHz PL 77hz. VE testing.

JOPLIN, MISSOURI — The JOPLIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. will hold the Joplin Hamfest from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday August 26 and from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday August 26 at the Joplin Family Worship Center, 5290 E 7th St. Contact: Jim Scott, WBØIYC. Website: <<http://joplinhamfest.org/>>. Email: <jim.scott@scottelectronic.com>. Phone: (417) 781-2211. Talk-in 147.210 MHz PL 91.5. VE testing.

MACEDON, NEW YORK — The RARA and RVHFG will hold the RocCityNet Hamfest starting 7:00 a.m. on Saturday August 26 at the Log Cabin Restaurant, 2445 W. Walworth Rd. Contact: Michael Happell, W3MJH. Website: <<https://roccitynethamfest.com/>>. Email: <mjhappell@gmail.com>. Phone: (585) 402-5235. Talk-in 145.110. VE testing.

BRIGHTON, COLORADO — The DENVER RADIO CLUB will hold the DRC Hamfest from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday August 27 at the Adams County Fairgrounds, 9755 Henderson Road. Contact: Gerry Villhauer, WØGV. Website: <<https://wØtx.org/>>. Email: <wØtx@wØtx.org>. Phone: (303) 467-0223. Talk-in 145.490 or 448.625 PL 100.0. VE testing.

NEW KENSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA — The SKYVIEW RADIO SOCIETY will hold the Skyview Radio Society Swap N Shop from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday August 27 at the Skyview Radio Society Clubhouse, 2335 Turkey Ridge Rd. Contact: John Italiano, WA3KFS. Website: <<http://www.skyviewradio.net/>>. Email: <radiofreebob@gmail.com>. Phone: (724) 339-3821. Talk-in 146.640 131.8 PL.

You've most likely heard of audio books, and maybe enjoy listening to them. But what about CW books? WA4EFS has a project that can help you improve your cultural literacy and your Morse code skills at the same time!

The World's Great Literature ... in Morse Code!

BY LLOYD MILLIGAN,* WA4EFS

In this article I will attempt to give an account of my CW trainer in all its shameless excess. The “Mother of All Keyers” (MOAK, for short; Photo A) is now capable of conversing in Morse, not in the way an advanced modern chatbot would converse, but let's be candid, an exchange of signal reports is not exactly a fluid conversation, either! No matter, if conversation becomes too stilted, or if you need something to help you sleep, the MOAK will read to you from a book! How about a bedtime story—in Morse, of course?

The earliest version of this project dates to a ham radio club meeting several years ago at which one of the members passed around an Arduino Uno-based device he had made. This ‘show and tell’ made me curious to explore the Arduino platform. Around that same time, my wife, Rebecca Milligan, N4EFS, was learning Morse code, and had built the Arduino-based Morse trainer described by N4TL in the September 2016 issue of *QST*. I decided to design and build a similar device, as a way of learning about Arduino, and possibly to incorporate additional features that might be useful for training. The original MOAK user interface consisted of two push-buttons, a potentiometer (speed control), and a 4-line LCD. A photo and circuit description of this original project can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/yeyv83k4>.

Early iterations of the MOAK were not terrible. One original feature was pseudo-text. The MOAK generated a sort of gibberish that resembled English, though not actual English language words. Copying pseudo-text was perhaps more challenging than copying 5-

character groups. Sending practice consisted of keying back random strings that were displayed on the MOAK text-only screen, and optionally sounded-out (“Listen and Send”). However, sending practice was limited to paddle-keying—straight key practice was not supported, as it is in the current version.

I am not obsessed with Morse code, although I wouldn't fault anyone for imagining such. It is just that Morse is a timeless concept, and one that lends itself to applications of an evolving nature. The MOAK endured multiple iterations, some of which were document-

ed and some not. The main evolutionary change was to replace the LCD and buttons with a touch screen. That particular “enhancement,” based on the PJRC Teensy 3.5 development kit and HiLetgo 2.8-inch TFT, is described at <https://tinyurl.com/2yywsex5>.

Unfortunately, the Teensy 3.5 is no longer manufactured and is out-of-stock from the usual sources. You can get one on eBay, but might balk at the price! After sending my last Teensy 3.5 to a ham friend, I decided to port the MOAK (now in version 3) to the Teensy 4.1 platform. This more advanced mod-

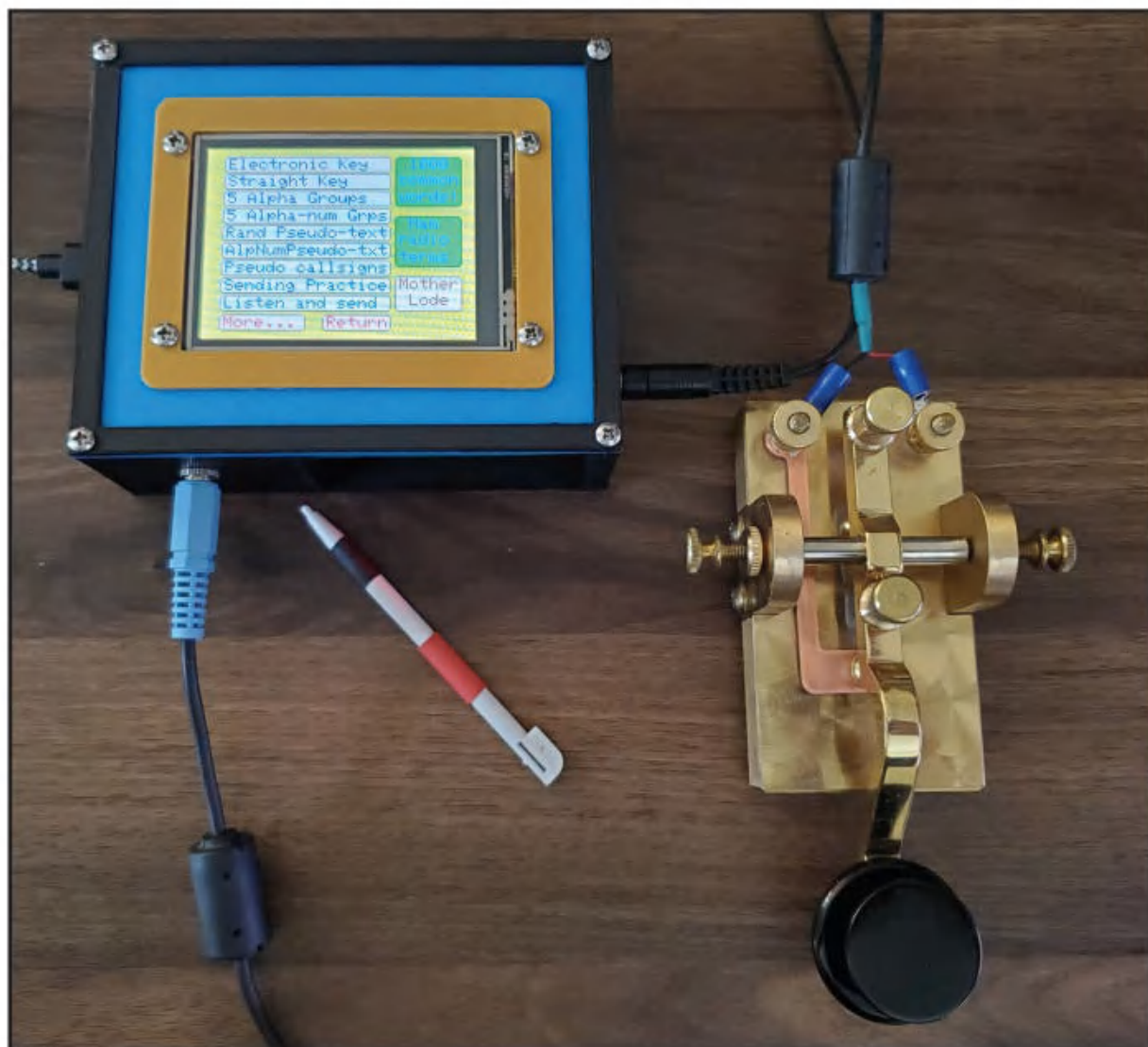


Photo A: Startup screen of WA4EFS's Arduino-based “Mother of All Keyers.”

* P. O. Box 533
White Rock, SC 29177
E-mail: himself@lloydml.net

ule remains readily available from multiple sources as of June 2023. When this effort was finished, I began to reflect on Teensy 4.1's features. In particular, the platform includes a built-in real time clock (RTC) and an on-board micro-SD card slot. Surely I should do something with these appealing features. That is when inspiration struck.

'Mother Lode' is the name I thought of to label an option that would exploit Teensy 4.1's integral micro-SD slot. MOAK version 3 had added the 1,000 most common English words as a new code practice option. English words were presented randomly, roughly in proportion to their frequency of occurrence. Obviously, with a micro-SD, it would be possible to store a massive amount of natural language text for Morse practice. Whole books could be stored, possibly whole libraries.

Micro-SD cards I had previously purchased or had seen on store shelves had multi-gigabyte capacity. I wondered if low-capacity micro SDs might be obtainable at proportionately lower cost. Books in text format require very little storage. The *King James Bible* consumes just over 4 MB as plain text, and most books (Photo B) take half this amount or less. As it turns out, small capacity micro-SD cards are readily available in multi-packs, and the cost works out to less than \$2 per unit.

Thousands of copyright-free books are available for download from Internet sources, perhaps the most prominent being Project Gutenberg.¹ Many are classics—well-known titles. The first book I downloaded for micro-SD card experimentation was *Moby Dick*. Right away it was clear that some sort of repackaging would be needed to facilitate using the book as a Morse practice source. The downloaded file starts with about 20 lines of metadata, while another 350 lines of copyright information and related material are appended to the end. The Morse application code would need to find the start of the actual book, and where the book itself ends. Fortunately, these locations are easily identified with the aid of Notepad++ (and probably other text editors in common use). Simply open the downloaded book in your favorite text editor. Move the cursor to the first character of the book text, bypassing metadata, and note its numeric character position. Do the same for the last character of the book. These two numbers should be inserted as a new line at the very beginning of the downloaded text file (first character position, space, last character position). The MOAK computes the

exact beginning and end of the book using the two values, taking into account the length of the inserted line.

Morse does not distinguish upper and lower case. The common part of Morse—the part that we ham operators routinely use—includes only a small subset of punctuation. Furthermore, as a general rule, accented characters, special symbols and such are not translatable to Morse. By good luck, my first test download *Moby Dick* was ASCII-encoded. However, a couple of subsequent downloads did not work at first because they were not plain text. It is important to save downloaded books as unadorned ASCII text encoding. I went a step further, replacing selected none 7-bit ASCII characters. For example, I substituted double hyphens '—' for dashes '-'. Maybe a single Morse dash would be better. Of course, any edits that change the character count should be made before pinpointing the start and end of the book.

Clearly it is not desirable to start natural language listening practice in the middle of a word, or even in the middle of a sentence. That is what happens when the excerpt is selected from a random character position between the start and end of a book. Better is to find the beginning of a sentence and start from there. Once all this was implemented and proven to work with the first example book, I downloaded several

additional books. Each had to be saved (in some instances re-encoded) as plain text (and with the file extension '.txt') in order to be usable in the desired way.

When the 'Mother Lode' option is chosen, the MOAK opens a random book and proceeds to a random spot in the book to begin its practice transmission from the beginning of the next sentence. The selected title (derived from the stored file name) is displayed on the screen. Text is sounded-out at the last previously selected keying or listening speed. If you don't like the MOAK's book choice or random starting place, touch 'Return' and select the option again (Photo C).

Keyed Control Sequence

As previously noted, Teensy 4.1 has an integral real-time clock. A 3-volt button battery (coin cell) suffices to maintain time when the Teensy is powered-off. So the MOAK could easily be made to announce time in Morse. But how would the user request the time? After adding the 'Mother Lode,' there was no room for another touch-button on the MOAK's main options screen. Furthermore, a Morse time announcement would be a short-duration phrase at best, not worthy of a dedicated option. This dilemma, together with a different unrelated concern, led to the keyed control sequence idea. The Morse stroke symbol '/' (dah-di-di-dah-dit) is normally used to modi-



Photo B: That book on your shelf that you've been meaning to read ... listen to it in Morse!

Sequence	Effect
/c	Clear ticker
/d	Annunciate date in Morse
/dMMDDYYYY	Set date to month day year
/n	New line
/s	Current speed in Morse
/t	Time in Morse
/tHHMM	Set time to hours mins (24-hr)
/x	Exit to main menu
/z	Toggle Eliza on/off
/8	Shortcut to 'Sending Practice'
/9	Shortcut to 'Listen and Send'
//	Display random BMP

Photo C: Keyed control sequences.

fy a callsign, for example to indicate that a station is operating from a different jurisdiction. However, I thought it would be safe to overload the symbol's meaning by insisting that a two-character control sequence, consisting of stroke and another character, be bounded by the space character. Keying '/t' would ask the MOAK to announce the time in Morse.

Once the control sequence concept was coded, then of course other uses for it sprang to mind. One of these became the most outrageous of the MOAK-4's soon-to-be-implemented features. But first I made a much more useful enhancement. Previously, the sending practice options worked only with an electronic key (paddle), not with a straight key. Electronic key speed was set using a touch-screen control in the 'More...' options group. With a straight key, it would be necessary to detect the user's actual keying speed and somehow match it. I had previously experimented with this idea in another project and sort-of knew what to do. After selecting the 'Straight Key' option, the user would key-in three letter Vs (di-di-di-dah). That would enable the MOAK to detect keying speed and decode other characters keyed at a similar speed. This method worked better than I recalled it having worked in my previous experiment from a few years ago. In any case, it occurred to me that if enabling straight-key character decoding in the sending practice options worked, why not also enable it for free-form sending practice in the 'Straight Key' option screen itself. The upshot was that the user can now key-in anything and have their keyed-input displayed as text in both the 'Electronic Key' and 'Straight Key' options. On exiting from either of these options, the type-of-key selection persists so that either straight key or paddle may be used for 'Sending Practice' or 'Listen and Send.' And that's not all...

Photo D: Joseph Weizenbaum.
(Wikimedia photo)



This may be where the MOAK-4 project jumped the rails. Once keyed-characters were being echoed in the type selection options, the effect was like sounding-out or exhibiting one side of a conversation—perhaps not an inappropriate complement to listening practice. On the other hand, it would be more interesting if the MOAK could reply to whatever was being keyed. I had a momentary thought of interfacing the MOAK with an AI (artificial intelligence) chatbot. Then I remembered 'Eliza.' In the mid-1960s, an MIT computer science professor named Joseph Weizenbaum (Photo D) came up with Eliza. His creation was a minor sensation in its day. It is fair to say that Eliza was the world's first chatbot, decades before the term 'chatbot' had been invented. Weizenbaum is today acclaimed as one of the founders of artificial intelligence.

Conversation with Eliza is stilted—it would be so in any language, but perhaps is even stranger in Morse. Eliza relies on spotting keywords in its input text. This part doesn't work if the Morse is keyed imperfectly. Let's say you mean to key 'dream' but slip and key two dots instead of one for the letter 'e'. Unlike Google, Eliza won't understand that 'driam' was meant to be 'dream'. Well, no harm or not much harm, because even with perfect keying, a conversation with Eliza is not likely to sustain interest for more than a few exchanges. Although it should be said that sometimes the combination of keyed text and Eliza's response can be quite funny. In truth, though, implementing Eliza on the MOAK was one of those things that could be done, and so it happened.

Physical circuit construction is simpler than for previous versions of the MOAK. The external keying circuit (level converter and relay) is omitted, though still supported in software and thus easily reinstated. In place of assembling the audio amplifier from discrete components I have substituted an LM386 sub-board.² Another simplification was to remove support for the two or four-row character cell LCD. Finally, although Teensy 4.1 analog and digital pins are not 5-volt tolerant, this should not pose a problem, as the SPI interface operates on 3 volts and no external 5-volt signal connects to the Teensy in this application.

The schematic (Figure 1) shows connections between the Teensy 4.1 (large middle rectangle) and the touch-screen (TFT SPI right), and also the LM386 sub-board. Layout of components is not critical. For the prototype, I glued the coin-cell battery clip to the left side (inside) of a 3D-printed enclosure. For reference, it may be helpful to compare Teensy pin numbers to those referenced in the Arduino IDE sketch. Note that the tone pin changed from DIO 8 in previous versions of the MOAK³ to DIO 7 in this revision. The square-wave tone that is produced by the microcontroller is smoothed by a low-pass filter consisting of three 2.2K resistors (1/4 watt) and

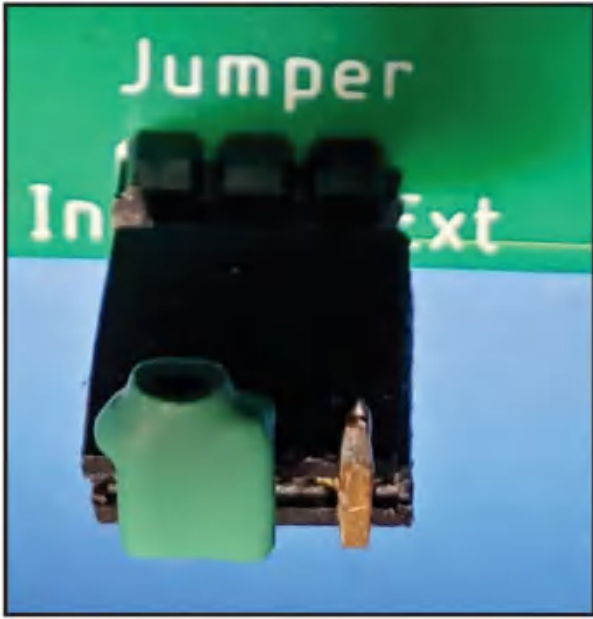


Photo E: Audio amplifier power jumper; shown with 5 volts (Int) selected.

three 0.22 μF capacitors. Output of this filter is coupled to the LM386 sub-assembly via a 10 μF capacitor and 1K trimmer potentiometer. The LM386 sub-assembly also includes a trimmer, but as this small board plugs into a header with the on-board trimmer facing downward, the latter is rather awkwardly situated for adjustment. Once the audio output level has been set, it should not need to be changed, whether used to drive headphones or an amplified speaker.

An important detail is the 3-pin header (Photo E) labeled 'Vdd Jumper' on the schematic (upper left). Jumping pin 1 to pin 2 (middle pin) supplies 5 volts (e.g., USB power) to the amplifier sub-assembly, while connecting pin 3 to pin 2 would supply an external voltage (e.g., 9 to 12 volts) to the amplifier, provided the unit has an external power supply connected. I have tested both configurations but generally use the 5-volt supply, as my unit is most often plugged into the computer by my desk.

The key jack is wired in the usual way for use with a paddle, dot side to tip and dash side to ring. However, the straight key connects to ring and ground, not tip and ground. (This is because I sometimes use my paddle as a straight key and prefer using the dash side in this way.) I made an adapter for my wife's straight key, with two female jacks, so that her key could be unambiguously connected either to her transceiver or the MOAK. For a MOAK parts list and additional construction suggestions please see note 4.

After a bit of vacillating, I decided to have prototype boards made (Photo F), in part so that I could verify (or not) the schematic, and in part for the fun of playing with them. I don't think it would be

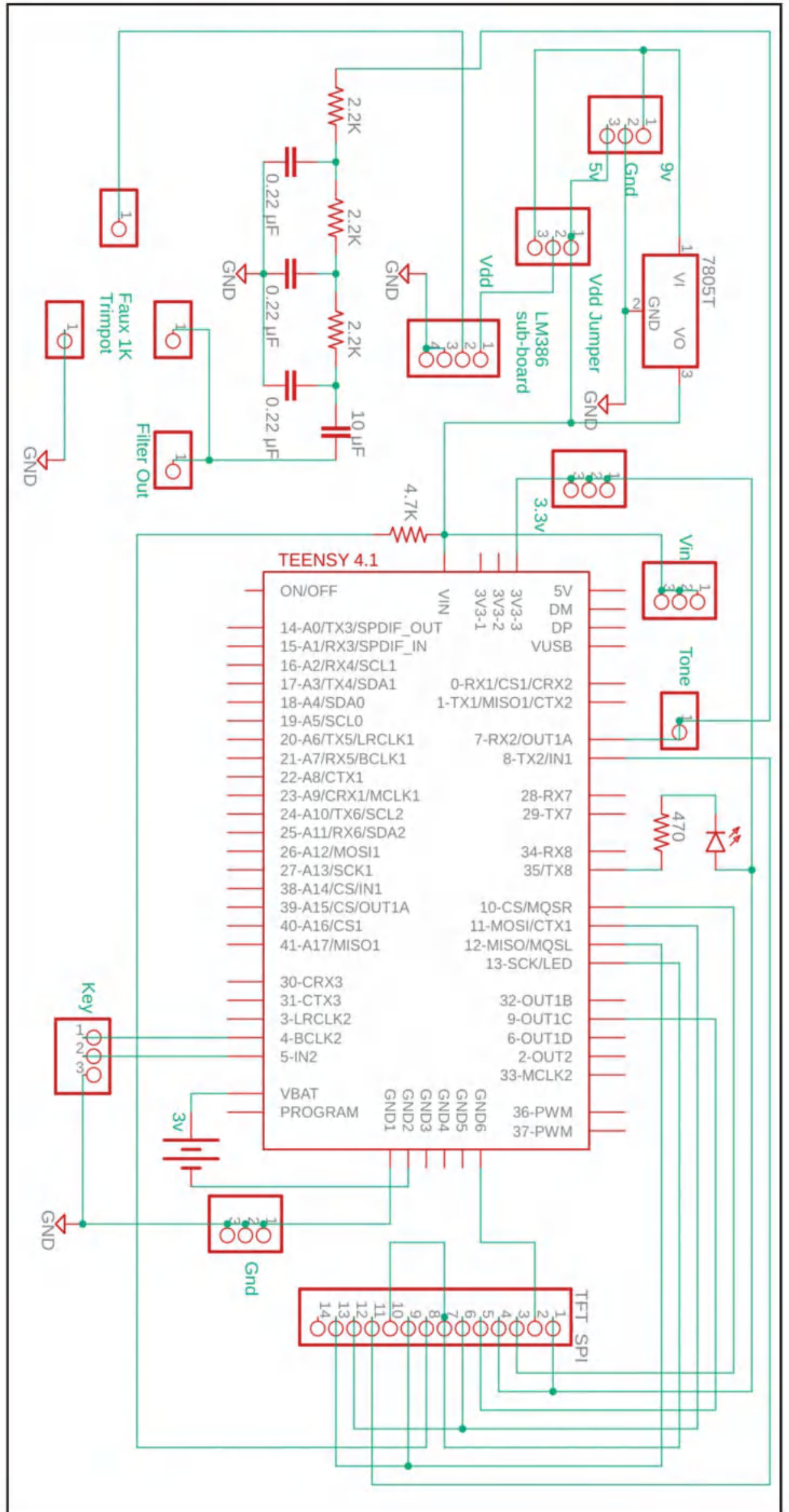


Figure 1: Schematic diagram.

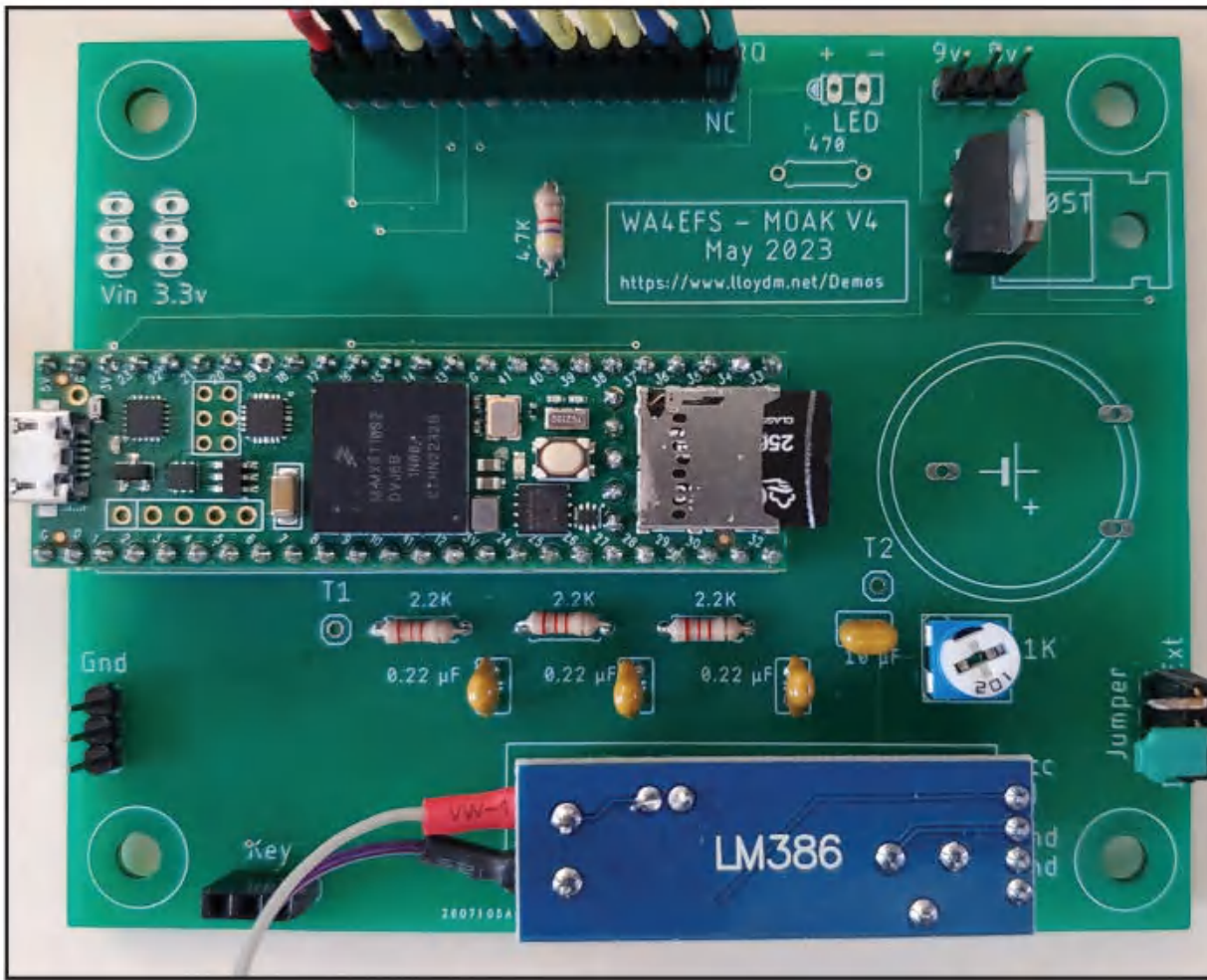


Photo F: Prototype circuit board.

possible to beat the price that JLCPCB⁵ charges to manufacture small two-sided prototype boards: five for \$2 (US). Shipping from China to eastern US via DHL (3 days) runs about \$20.

The project's application firmware (or software) consists of a Teensy 4.1 compatible c++ (Arduino IDE) sketch and four data files, three of these the same as in MOAK-3, and the fourth for the Eliza port. MOAK-4.1.7.zip⁶ should be extracted to the same structure as the zip archive: the sketch plus a sub-folder named Data, containing the four .c extension #include files referenced in the sketch. As packaged, the application can be opened and compiled in the Arduino IDE version 2.1.0. The application is also available in precompiled (hex) format, suitable for loading using the *Teensy Loader Program* from PJRC. This format is useful if you do not have the Arduino IDE or requisite libraries available. See the previously referenced 'construction suggestions' link (note 4) for details.

Chances are the MOAK will eventually acquire even crazier features than those in its current litany: Listening practice using 5-character groups (alpha or alphanumeric), using pseudo-text, or pseudo-callsigns or ham radio abbreviations, or the 1000 most common English words, or *the world's great literature*, plus sending practice using either a straight key or electronic key paddle to key back character strings that are displayed or sounded, or querying the date or time, or simulating two-way Morse communication by conversing with a very strange bot named Eliza. Those are the features that have something to do with Morse. The MOAK also has a screensaver that kicks in after 30 seconds of idling at the main options screen. Touching the screen or pressing the key restores the menu. I hope that the MOAK will prove helpful to those who want to learn Morse code or improve their skills in a fun and different way, and are willing to undertake the challenge of this project.

Notes:

1. <<https://www.gutenberg.org/>>
2. <<https://tinyurl.com/2h6ttune>>
3. <<https://lloyd.net/Demos/moak.html>> and <<https://lloyd.net/Demos/TFT.html>>
4. <<https://tinyurl.com/y6jp7jan>>
5. <<https://jlcpcb.com/>>
6. <<https://tinyurl.com/4v6y9spk>>

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the listening post

BY GERRY DEXTER

Positive Developments from Kyrgyzstan and Algeria

What's this? The word "positive" is rarely paired with shortwave news from the Kyrgyz Republic, which is always in the running against North Korea for first place in the world sleaze championship. It may even have slipped down a point or two, having allowed another broadcaster to operate - and a Christian one at that! The new station (the name is unclear so far) operates on 5130 kHz. The station targets Afghanistan, largely in Dari. The new guy's 15 kW is no match for the government's 100-kW giant on 4010. (Note Mark Taylor's tentative log further down of the rarely-noted Kyrgyz government station.)

Early May saw the emergence of a new Algerian station - ifrikya FM - dedicated to serving all of Africa. In addition to an FM channel, the newcomer will also be relayed on 13590 (Bechar) and 13790 (Ouargla). The new voice will broadcast in five languages and focus on politics, sports and cultural issues. I've no info yet on specific times but keep an ear on those frequencies.

Your shortwave broadcast station logs are always welcome. But please be sure to double- or triple-space between the items, list each logging according to the station's home country and include your last name and state abbreviation after each. Also needed are copies of QSLs, station schedules, brochures, pennants, station photos and anything else you think would be of interest. The same holds for your amateur radio operators who also listen to shortwave broadcasts...I know you're out there! You, too, are also most welcome to contribute!

Listener Logs

Here are this month's logs: All times are in UTC. Double capital letters are language abbreviations (SS = Spanish, RR = Russian, AA = Arabic, etc.). If no language is mentioned, English (EE) is assumed.

ALASKA- KNLS, Anchor Point, 7355 at 1228 on the war against terror (Brossell, WI); 11870 at 1200 with M/W in CC (Barton, AZ).

ALGERIA - Radio Algerienne, 17600-Bechar in AA at 2022 (Brossell, WI)

AUSTRIA - Adventist World Radio, 15265-Moosbrunn at 1620 in Urdu (Barton, AZ)

AUSTRALIA - Reach Beyond, 11900 at 1242 in Hindi (Brossell, WI); 15460-Kununurra at 1200 in Canarese, an Indian regional language (Barton, AZ).

BOTSWANA - VOA Relay, 15580-Mopeng Hill at 2136- 2201* with M hosting EE pop, ID before close (D'Angelo, PA)

BRAZIL (all in PP - gld) Radio Nacional Amazonia, Brasilia, 11780 with news at 1203. (Brossell, WI)

Radio Brazil Central, Goiania, 11815 with non-stop pop at 0035. ID and anmts at 0102. (D'Angelo, PA)

CANADA - Bible Voice, 11590 via Uzbekistan at 1320 with a Christian hymn, W preaching in KK (Taylor, WI); 15310-Nauen at 1602 in (I) Oromo. (Brossell, WI)

CHINA - China Radio Intl, 11900-Jinhua with "The World Today" at 1605, 12095-Urumqi with instls at 1345 to close when BBC-Krangi comes on; 13645 via Mali at 1710 with M in Swahili and African vocals, 15125 via Mali at 1630 in AA with African vocals at 1320 (Barton, AZ);



This building houses the headquarters of Bangladesh Betar.



A control room at the new ifrikya FM in Algiers, Algeria.

**c/o CQ magazine*



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Trans World Radio seems to be everywhere, including a big operation in India.

11955-Kunming in Malay at 1238, 12025 in KK at 1323. (Brosseil, WI)

GUAM - KSDA/Adventist World Radio, 12065-Agat at 1425 just above noise level in Chin but off suddenly at the half hour; 12080 in Telugi (Inda) at 1600 with music. Off at 1629. (Barton. AZ)

KTWR/Trans World Radio, 12040 in Karen at 1242. (Brossell, WI)

INDIA - TWR-India, 13690 via Armenia at 1430 in Hindi with W vocals. (Barton, AZ)

JAPAN - Radio Japan, 11815-Yamata at 1251 with a roundtable discussion in JJ

(Brossell, WI); 1400 with news (Barton, AZ).

NEW ZEALAND - Radio New Zealand 7245 with "News at Midnight" (Brossell, WI); 7440-Rangataiki at 1415 on the Anglican church in Barbados (Barton, AZ).

NORTH KOREA - Voice of Korea, 12015 with M and long talk in KK; on another date had FF at 1445 (Barton, AZ); 15245 at 1311 with anti-U.S. commentary (Brossell, WI).

OPPOSITION

Radioni Diree Shaggar (via France to Somalia), 15415 in Somali at 1010. (Brossell, WI)

Omria Media House (via Romania to Eritrea), 15385 at 1506 with W/M in Oromo (Taylor, WI)

Voice of Freedom (S. Korea to North), 5920 at 1 104 in KK with NK jammer (Taylor, WI)

Radio Denge Welat, (via Uzbekistan to Kurdistan), 17470 in Kurdish at 1327 (Taylor, WI); 1610 with M.E. music. (Barton, AZ)

Radio Tamazul (via Vatican to S. Sudan) on immediately after Radio Dabanga closed at 0430. (Barton, AZ)

Radio Dabanga (via France to Sudan), 15550 in Sudanese at 1615. (Brossell, WI)

PIRATES - WORK, 6932 via NAPRS at 0142, ID, long iazz bridge, rock-a-billy,

spy numbers. Nice QSL the next day ... Hobby Broadcasting, 6935u via NAPRS at 0147 with discussion between two pirate operators. Off at 0128 after ID and email... B Side Radio, 6925u at 0132 pgm of mostly big band iazz, talks about the music, ID and off at 0301 ... ACID, 6949.1 at 0157 with prock (Taylor, WI).

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED - Radio Free Whatever, Ball Smacker Radio, Dog House, KIPM, Cloudsplitter, Crapolla, Wolverine, Thunder Chicken.

PHILIPPINES - Radio Pilipinas, 15190-Tinang at 1900 in Tagalog, using many SS and EE words. (Barton, AZ)

ROMANIA - Radio Romania International, 9850-Tiganesri at 0346-0356* with M/W chatting in EE, nice ID and closing anmts at 0355 (D'Angelo, PA); 15200-Tiganesti at 1755 with ID at TOH, M in Romanian, domestic music (Barton, AZ)

SAO TOME - VOA Relay, 6080 Pinheira at 0418 with news, features and remote reports. (D'Angelo, PA)

SAUDI ARABIA - Al Azm Radio, 11745-Jeddah at 0024 with an AA drama pgm, later M interview another M (D'Angelo, PA)

SWEDEN - IBRA Radio, 12095 via Uzbekistan, at 0003, M with vocal, radio play in Bangla, W with contact info, then off (D'Angelo, PA).



Photo B: WB2MGP with "Young Ham Lends a Hand" winner Bernadette Wagner, KE8LWO, at the Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum

Bernadette Wagner, KE8LWO (Photo B), and Kees VanOosbree, WØAAE, age 19. The award recognizes young hams who have "given back" in some way to their community, school, neighbors handicapped individuals, seniors, or to military personnel in need of assistance.

According to Carole, Bernadette's dedication to recruiting other young people into ham radio, her involvement her local ham radio club, volunteering with the scouting community, her commitment to community service through her church, and her selflessness in helping her younger siblings are all examples of her outstanding character and her desire to make a positive impact on the world.

Kees, said Perry, is currently the QSL manager for YOTA Americas. He also handles public relations, scheduling young operators, managing logs, and recruiting operators. In addition, he is active in a Remote Ham Radio for Youth initiative where he assists all those who need help. (Kees was also named 2023 Amateur Radio Newline Young Ham of the Year, see page 14).

The Young Ham Lends a Hand program is supported by the Radio Club of America, Quarter Century Wireless Association, and Evan Rolek, K9SQG. The winner receives \$100.

TURKEY - Voice of Turkey, 7275-Emerlier at 0351, W with contact info, other anmts, sked, ID and off. (D'Angelo, PA)

UNITED STATES - WJHR, Milton, 15555 at 1922 with Tom Wallace, Bible thumping, ID and more religion. (D'Angelo, PA)

VATICAN - Vatican Radio, 15565-SM Galeria in Amharic at 1550. (Brossell, WI)

QSL QUESTS - Al Caravan Radio emailed D'Angelo a full data reply for 5910.

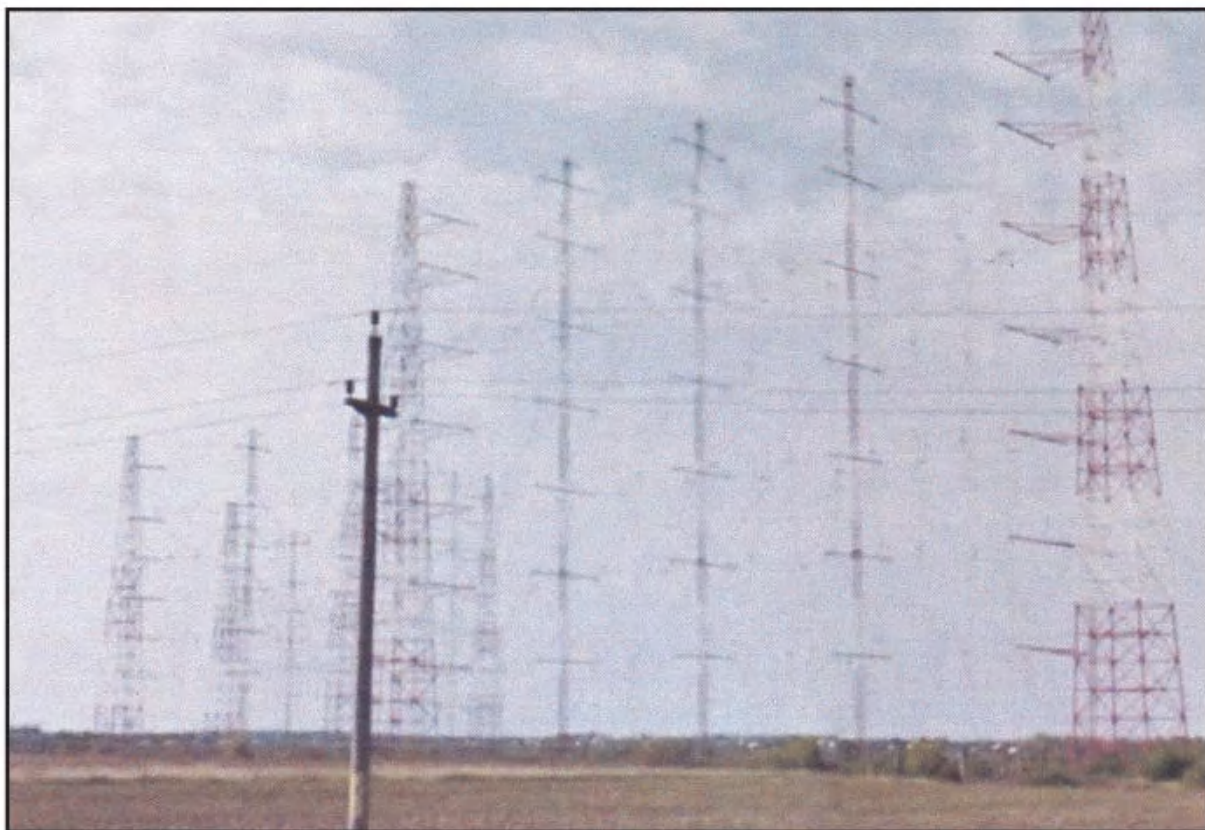
AS TIME GOES BY: Voix du Pathet Lao (clandestine), 9660 from Sam Neua in (I) Lao at 1212 on January 12, 1972

Just Saying...

My hospital stay put me way off schedule, so I was behind in getting the '23 WRTH. I'm just sayin', the new publisher, Radio Data Center in Freising, Germany, has every right to be exceptionally proud of their efforts. My only negative is the type face used, which I find rather hard to read! The continental maps are much improved and FM fans will find themselves well treated.

Thank You, Thank You

Back slaps, fist bumps and high fives to reporters: Mark Taylor, Madison, WI; William Hassig, Mt. Pleasant, IL; Rick Barton, El Segundo, AZ and Bob Brossell, Pewaukee, WI.



Tall towers at Tiganesti, part of Radio Romania International.



Seems almost everyone (including me!) began their shortwave careers with a Hallicrafters S-38b! (CQ archive photo by K2RED)

BY JOHN FERGUSON,* K3PFW

Ethereal Adornments – Part 1 *Basic antennas and how they evolved*

This is the first column of a series on antennas that we will revisit over the next several months. Granted, this is a column on emergency communication, but you are going to need an antenna or two if you plan on communicating. There is a reciprocity theorem that states, “Antennas work better when connected to a radio, and radios work better when connected to an antenna.” Ever tried to tune up your rig when you forgot to connect the antenna? Ever wonder why that darn antenna wasn’t hearing anything?

Antennas, their design and performance have probably been the subject of the more intense and emotional discussions in the amateur radio community over the years than almost anything else. Where did they come from? How did they evolve?

A History Lesson

The German physicist, Heinrich Hertz, around 1885, proved Maxwell’s Theory by creating and receiving electromagnetic waves, and thus radio was born. He found his discovery interesting but of little practical use. The Hertzian Antenna, which transmitted the first radio waves, we know today as the dipole. Hertz is also credited with the loop antenna, which he used as a crude receiver in his initial discovery, as well as the parabolic reflector we use in the SHF spectrum.

It was the work of an Italian nobleman, Count Guglielmo Marconi, that demonstrated the practical application of Hertz’s discovery, when in 1895 he was able to transmit and receive signals over a one-and-a-half-mile path. He went on the span the English Channel, and later the Atlantic. The antenna he used we now call the vertical.

From the simple dipole and vertical, the development of antennas over the last 130 or so years has produced some amazing and interesting designs. Among others, that evolution has brought us the Yagi, and parasitic elements. It is my intent to explain, without a lot of math, the relationships behind the common antennas we use today.

Different Antennas

In Figure 1, we see the basic dipole with the voltage and current distribution that we would expect. The length of the dipole as commonly used in amateur radio is functionally a half wavelength. The formula in Figure 2, “Lambda (Greek letter for wavelength) divided by 2 is equal to the quantity 492 (related to the velocity of light) times “K”, divided by “F”, the frequency of interest in Megahertz (MHz)”. This is the fundamental formula for establishing the physical length of a half wavelength conductor. The factor “K” is derived from a graph of the ratio of the conductor diameter to the half

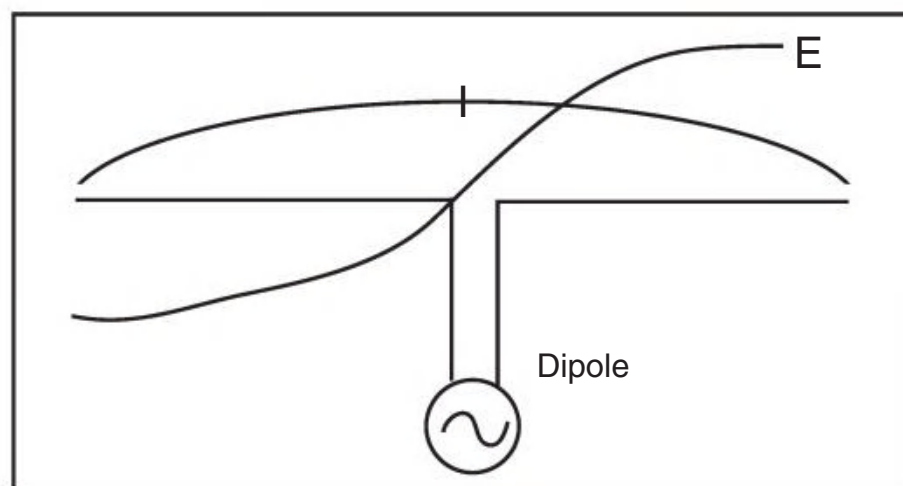


Figure 1: Dipole current (I) and voltage (E) distribution.

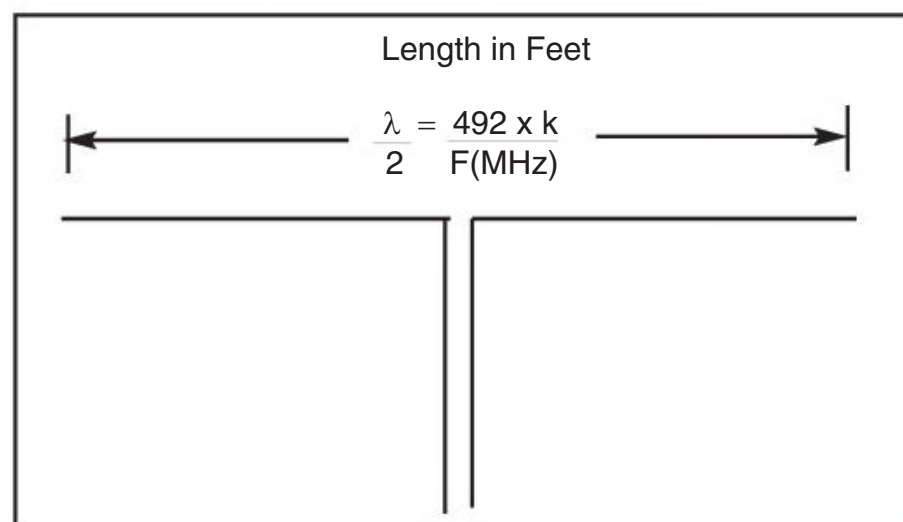


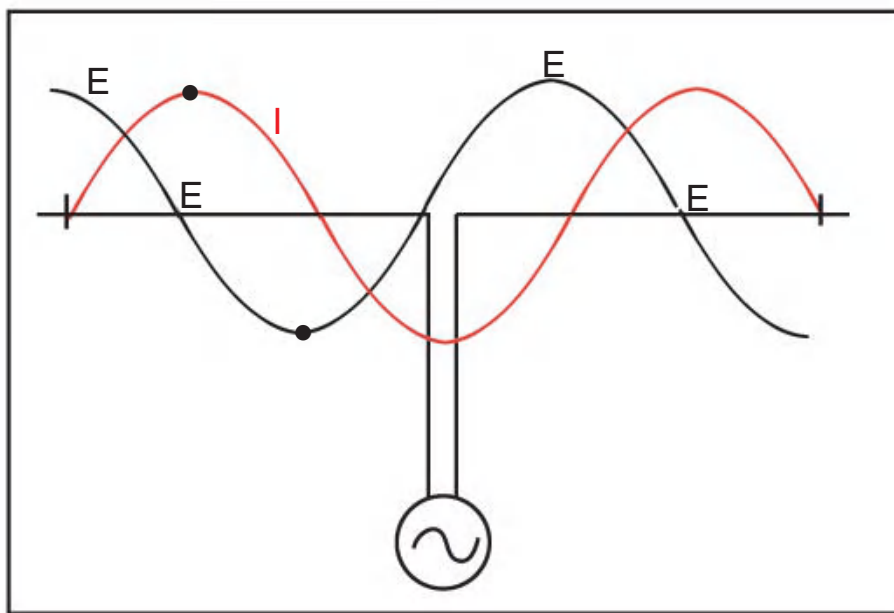
Figure 2: Dipole with balanced feedline.

wavelength of interest. The graph can be found in many resources such as the *ARRL Handbook*, the *ARRL Antenna Book*, and textbooks on the subject. However, if we are primarily interested in medium frequency (MF) and high frequency (HF) dipoles using wire, the number “468” may be substituted for the quantity “492 x K.” The factor “K” only becomes important as the diameter of the conductor becomes significantly large in relation to the wavelength. An example would be a piece of one-inch metal tubing for a dipole at 28.3 MHz. It would be shorter than a value derived by using good ol’ 468 by about 2.5 inches. In the VHF, UHF, and SHF ranges this issue becomes critical.

In Figure 2, the ‘elementary doublet’ as it is sometimes referred to, is the antenna that was used here at my QTH for years. It was my only antenna for 75/80 and 40 meters. I also used it in Air Force MARS on the region and area nets. Note that the dipole is inherently ‘balanced’ and should ideally be fed with a balanced feedline. Usually, this is the parallel transmission line commonly referred to as “ladder line.” Coaxial cable is inherently *unbalanced* (more on this in a moment). My dipole was 130 feet long, up about 50 feet, fed with lad-

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Figure 3: Third harmonic I and E distribution.



The comment sometimes made that “verticals radiate poorly in all directions” was probably due to ground losses.

fed antenna shelf is the end-fed “random wire.” The “random” means it’s not a resonant half wave at any frequency of interest. It’s usually fed with a 9:1 balun, and suffers from the same issue of currents on the outside of the coax shield.

Figure 6 is a schematic of the Marconi antenna, basically a vertical quarter-wave radiator as we know it today. It’s sort of like taking a horizontal dipole, turning it up vertically and smooshing it into the ground. It is no longer a balanced radiator like the dipole and can be, and often is, fed directly with coax. The current and voltage distribution is the same as half of the dipole in Figure 1. Technically, as half of a dipole, it’s called a monopole. The early commercial Marconi wireless antennas were necessarily huge, operating at wavelengths of 200 meters and greater. Much of the early maritime traffic was at 500 kilocycles (600 meters).

Since the vertical works against “ground,” losses in the ‘Earth’ contribute to loss of efficiency and reduced signal strength. The comment sometimes made that “verticals radiate poorly in all directions” was probably due to ground losses. Radials, conductors a quarter-wavelength long, spread out around the base of the radiator overcome ground losses. The magnetic mount mobile antenna on top of your car uses the metal roof as the ground. Commercial AM broadcast stations (550 – 1600 kHz) use vertical antennas with an extensive field of radials. A quarter wavelength at the low end of the AM broadcast band is approximately 447 feet. The two common variations of the vertical in Figure 7, the “folded monopole” and the inductively base loaded vertical appear in commercial and amateur antennas. Base loading with a coil of the vertical radiator allows for a shorter radiator, and practical HF antennas for the mobile operators. The use of “capacitive hats” and other top loading arrangements can also physically shorten a radiator for a given frequency. A good example of this is the “Inverted L” in Figure 8. This configuration might allow you to get a reasonably decent 160 meter antenna on a residential lot if there are a couple of tall trees or other types of “sky hooks”

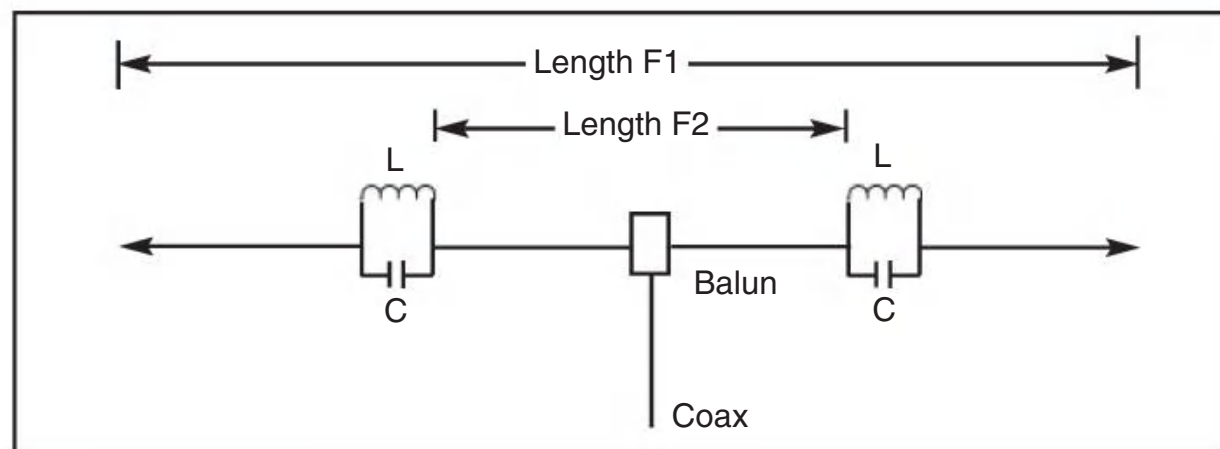


Figure 4: Two-band trap dipole.

der line. I used PVC conduit to route the feedline from where it entered the gable end of the house, through the attic, and down through the ceiling in the corner of the office/radio room. I used a balanced tuner, sitting on top of an equipment rack.

As technology has moved forward, and the “dip and tune” of the Pi network that us old-timers remember has passed. Today’s rigs, although they may have a “tuner,” are designed for coaxial cable. Yes, coaxial feedline is a neater, non-radiating (most of the time) solution. But dipoles don’t like it. Enter the *balun*, a transformer-like device that will change balanced (bal) to unbalanced (un), and vice-versa. A balun with a 1:1 ratio at the feed point of the dipole will allow it to be fed with coax, and not upset the balance.

Using the formula in Figure 2, we can calculate the half-wavelength fundamental operating frequency of a dipole. The HF allocations we have are harmonically related, and this is both a blessing and a curse. A dipole will operate quite well on its third harmonic, so a 40-meter dipole (7 MHz), will also work on 15 meters (21 MHz), as in Figure 3. It won’t work well on its second harmonic, unless the feed is something like the elementary doublet. The issue is the feed impedance. The two

band trap dipole of Figure 4 was a staple found in many manufacturers’ catalogs for years. Two parallel tuned circuits (traps), resonant at F2, effectively shortened the dipole to the higher frequency by isolating the ends. The two inductances also provided some “inductive loading” which allowed a physically shorter antenna for the lower frequency (F1). This helped fit an 80/40 trap dipole onto small residential lots.

So with multiple MF and HF allocations, size restricted real estate, and a small piggy bank, how do we operate multiple bands with minimal ethereal adornments? Hams are nothing but resourceful and creative. A relatively new entry on the multiband antenna scene is the End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) as shown in Figure 5. A high ratio, 49:1 or greater, balun matches the high impedance found at the end of a half wavelength wire to the unbalanced low impedance of coaxial cable and the modern transceiver input. Add an internal tuner in the rig, and you’re good to go. It’s not all “blue sky and calm seas,” however. There are feed line radiation issues with currents induced on the outside of the coax shield. A short counterpoise, or an “isolator” usually takes care of this. The isolator is a 1:1 unbalanced-to-unbalanced (unun) type of transformer. Also on the horizontal end-

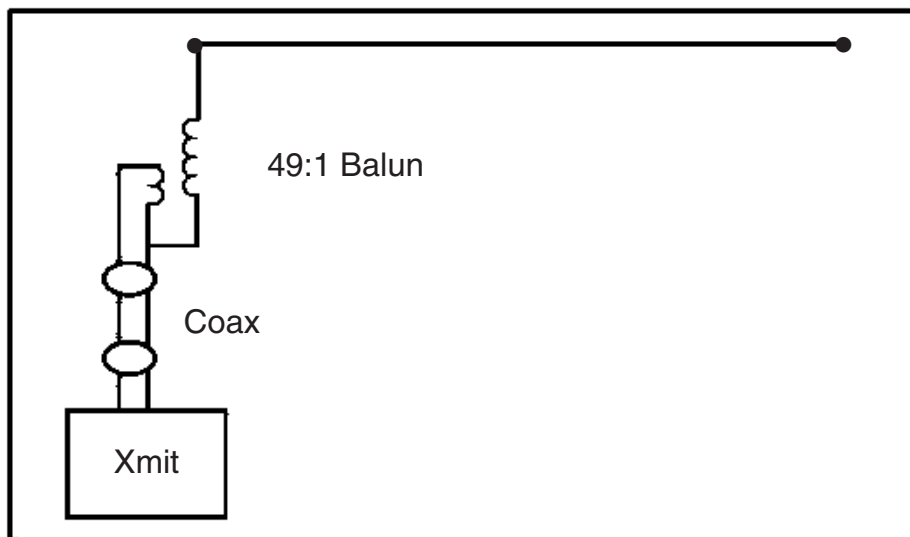


Figure 5: End-fed half-wave (EFHW).

Figure 6: Development of the vertical from a dipole.

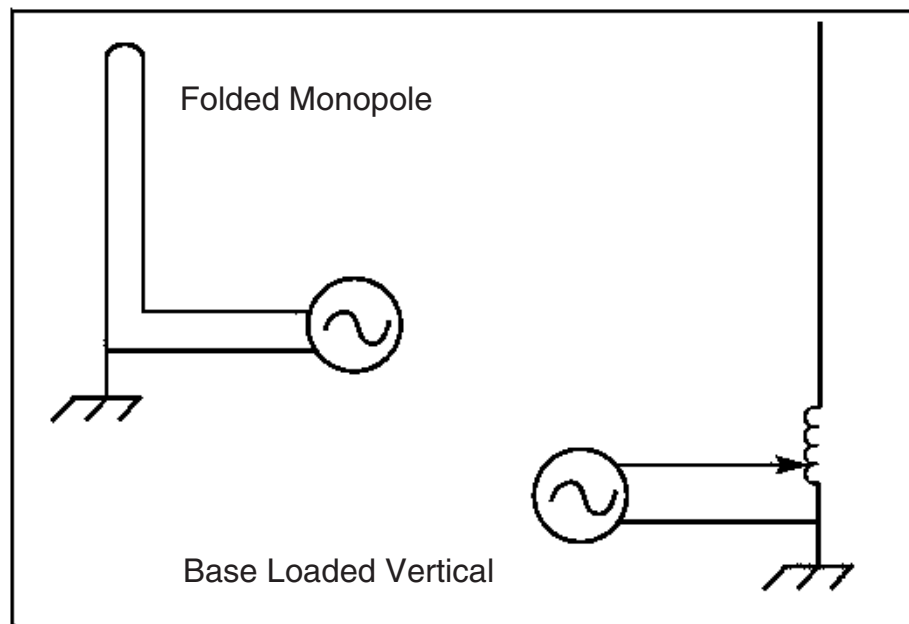
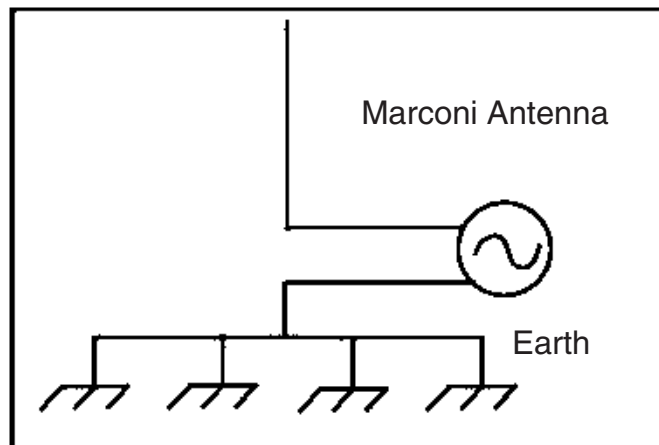


Figure 7: Vertical variations.

around. The “Inverted L” is sometimes described as a top loaded vertical, the horizontal wire acting somewhat as capacity top loading.

The range of antenna types and designs we have today evolved from the simple Hertzian radiator and its modification by Marconi and others. So what does all this mean for you, as you try to get a reasonable signal on the air? Study your unique situation. Review and evaluate what type of antenna might be appropriate for your individual situation. The more you narrow your search, the more likely you are to find something appropriate without wading through pages and pages of entries that don’t apply. The devil, you will find, is in the details. No one size or solution fits everybody’s situation.

For 30 meters (10.100 – 10.150 MHz) down to 160 meters (1.8 – 2.0 MHz), you are probably looking at horizontal wire antennas or a vertical. Horizontal dipoles are more likely to

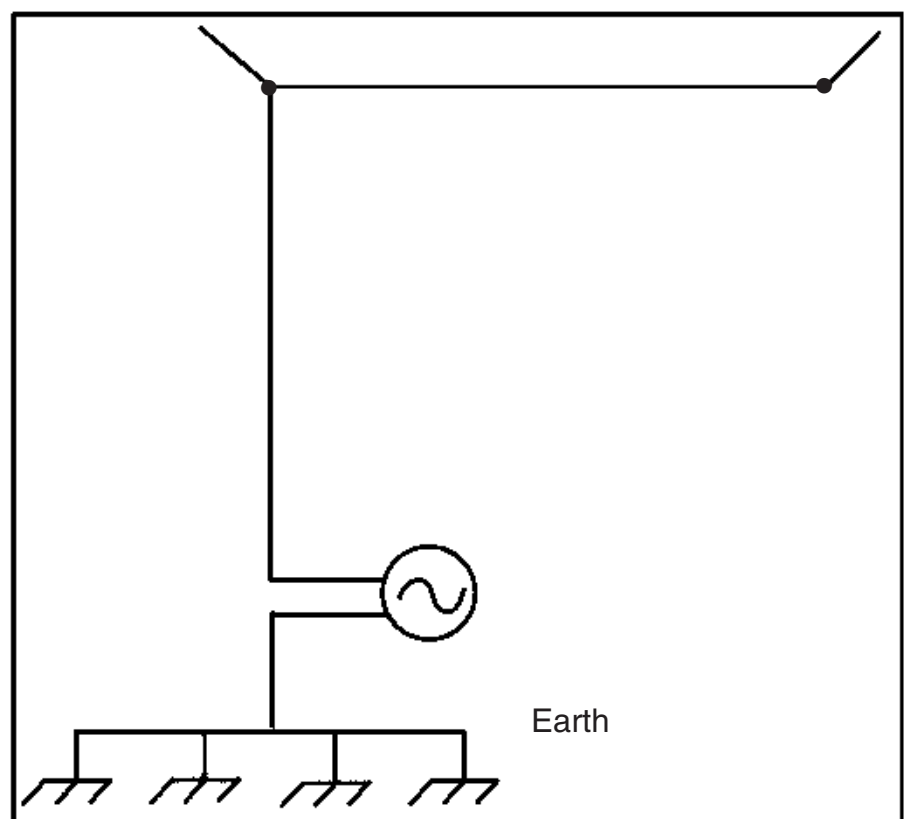


Figure 8: The inverted “L.”

get you a higher “take-off angle” than a vertical of any credible size. The take-off angle is the angle referred to the ground of the center of any major lobe of radiation. The height at which most hams are able to hang a dipole will not give you that nice pattern in the textbooks. That occurs when the antenna is at least a half wavelength above ground. Verticals of a good portion of a quarter wavelength tend to exhibit lower take-off angles, particularly over ground with good conductivity or an adequate number of radials. For 20 meters (14.000 – 14.350 MHz) and up, what you want to work, how much room you have, and the size of your piggy bank tend to make most of the decision for you. Beams, also known as Yagis (after their inventor, Prof. Yagi), are basically dipoles enhanced with elements called reflectors and directors. They offer directivity and forward gain. Wavelengths these frequencies are short enough that vertical radiators in the half and five-eighths lengths provide some inherent gain over the “quarter wave.”

It is impossible in 2000 words or so to even begin to cover all the details of even the most basic of antenna installations. The antenna itself, how it’s mounted, hung, etc. The type of feedline, tuner or no tuner, local coverage or DX; the list of details is lengthy. I would hope that the brief introduction to basic antennas will give you an idea of where to start your study and planning for the antenna(s) at your QTH and/or for deployable emergency/public service use. In future columns, there will be more detail on particular antenna types. There’s a 70-foot all band vertical in the planning stages here at the home QTH and I will most likely be sharing the details of the construction, installation and testing. A local ham, Bill Saunders, N3ID, has a favorite saying, “That which is not tested, will not work.” So do make testing part of your installation work.

Probably the most important thing to do is give priority to safety, in the design, in your work installing it, and in its operation. Then when you are all done, perform the now-required, as of May 3, 2023, RF exposure evaluation for controlled and uncontrolled areas. Then enjoy the fruits of your labor, and make some contacts. My station is now functional, so if you’re looking for an HF contact with Delaware, let me know and we will see if we can arrange a sked.

kit building

BY JOE EISENBERG,* K0NEB

A Long Schlep to Dayton and (a) Smoking Pot

My 42nd journey to the Dayton Hamvention was taken by car, around 800 miles each way from here in Nebraska. When flying, the amount of stuff you can bring with you is by nature quite limited. But this year, the things I was really after were quite small so I was able to drive. Of course, those were mostly kits and I brought a couple of them home with me.

For those who attended the Four Days in May seminars, a special treat was in store from Hans Summers, GØUPL (Photo A). Hans not only announced a great new kit, he had plenty of them there and ready for sale! The new kit is the QMX, a multiband SDR-based pocket-sized transceiver capable of both digital modes and CW operation. The kit is really kind of a merger



Photo A: Hans Summers, GØUPL, shows and sells his newest kit the QMX 5-band multimode QRP transceiver kit at Four Days in May during the Dayton Hamvention.

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Hamfest Hotline #5855



Photo B: From left, the new QMX pocket sized multimode transceiver kit, the QDX multiband digital modes only kit, and the QCX Mini CW single-band transceiver kit.

between the QCX Mini and the QDX kits, thus the QMX name (Photo B). It adds an LCD digital display and front panel mode and frequency controls of the QCX Mini to a multi-band SDR and promises in the future to incorporate SSB operation as well. Although SSB is not yet enabled in the QMX, it is one of many “magic” additions anticipated to be made by future upgrades to the firmware.

Summers stated he has incorporated lots of new undisclosed “magic” features into this kit, and as part of the assembly, you will be installing a microphone! The ability to add new functions to the QMX comes from the use of a CPU that is only using 25% of its capacity using the initial version of firmware. That gives it lots of space to add many more features. The form factor is identical to the QCX Mini single band CW transceiver kit. For portable operation, including SOTA and POTA, this kit is very small and capable of making many contacts while being compact and easy to operate. I have had great results on FT8 operating portable using my QDX, and the QMX has the same 5-watt digital mode output capability, but on 5 HF bands. The QMX operates on the 80-, 60-, 40-, 30-, and 20-meter bands.

Like the single band QDX, the QMX has a built-in sound card as well as CAT control, meaning only a USB cable is needed to operate digital modes with a PC. Like the QDX, all the surface-mount components are preinstalled. You only need to mount the through-hole parts, but keep in mind that those include 11 toroids. Many of these toroids are on

a very compact core and include a trifilar, as well as two binocular style toroids, and a multi-tapped toroid (Photo C). These are very similar to the ones seen in the QDX and QCX. However, one toroid will have 8 leads, including a couple of one-turn wires. These wires actually do not make a complete turn around the core and just pass through their respective holes. As I have said before, you count turns on a toroid by how many times the wire passes through the center hole, and in this case these two leads each just pass through their center holes without wrapping around them. This special transformer is part of the system for measuring SWR, a new feature.

There are several small PC boards that are broken apart from the main board to form the smaller boards that make up the QMX (Photo D). It is very important to sand or file off the rough parts left after separation to allow them to fit the case properly.

Some of the toroid leads are thick enough to not be able to be passed through the PCB holes if they are pre-tinned, so using an emery board to remove the insulation from those specified leads would be a good idea. For some of the others, tinning is OK. Make sure to carefully read the instructions for each toroid as you wind them and prepare the leads as the ability of tinned leads to pass through the board is different on each toroid. In my next column, I will go over the processes I have found that need to be highlighted and then complete my assembly of this great new kit.



Photo C: The QMX parts are sorted and ready to begin assembly. Other than a trimpot, there are no resistors to mount!

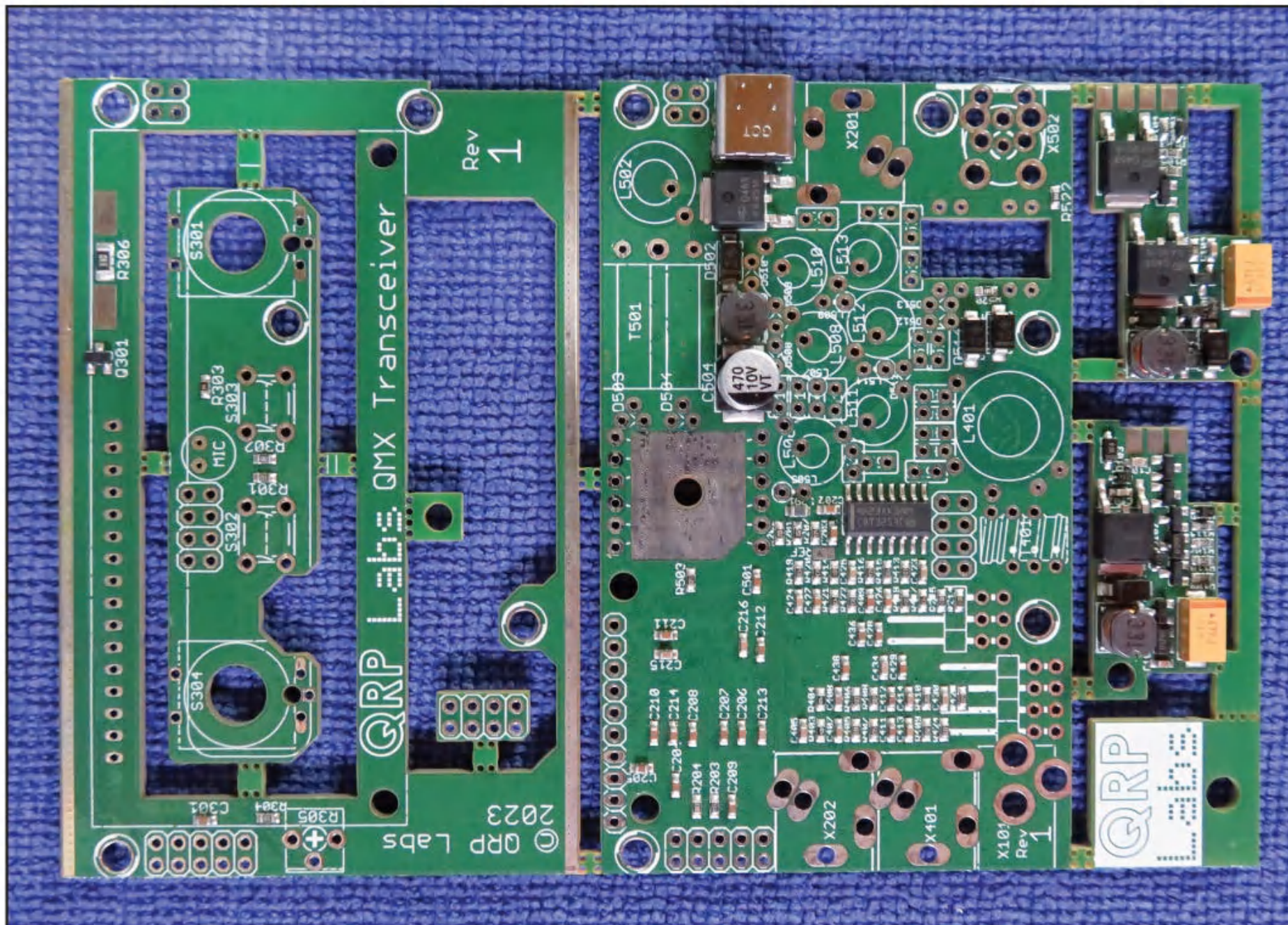


Photo D: The PC board is in multiple segments that must be separated before assembly. The QRP Kits logo segment on the lower right is actually a souvenir key fob tab!

You can order the QMX kits at <www.qrp-labs.com>, and I highly recommend ordering the matching case along with the kit.

Solder Pots

When working with kits that have a lot of wires that need to be prepared or toroids that can be tinned, a solder pot is a very useful tool. A solder pot allows you to tin wire leads and even strip and tin many toroid leads without having to hold a soldering iron and solder blob to the part. A solder pot is basically a bowl of hot melted solder that gives you a pool in which to dip wires as well as enameled wire leads. I found an inexpensive one on Amazon, but right after I got it I found that there are some drawbacks to this type of solder pot. The internal wiring has a ground lead rather loosely connected to a ground post that is painted, making for a poor or non-existent connection (Photo E). Should the heating element fail, it could allow the bowl or case to become energized with line voltage. Simply removing the bottom cover and using my Dremel® tool, I was able to grind off the paint on the lug side and then used a different screw of similar size and a nut to tightly secure the ground lug. I had success using 4-40 hardware (Photo F).

Solder for a solder pot is supplied in a 1-pound bar, and in order to fit the solder into the pot to be melted, it is best to use a hacksaw or other similar tool to cut the bar into smaller pieces, adding them in as the solder melts (Photo G). The solder suggested for a solder pot has no flux because that

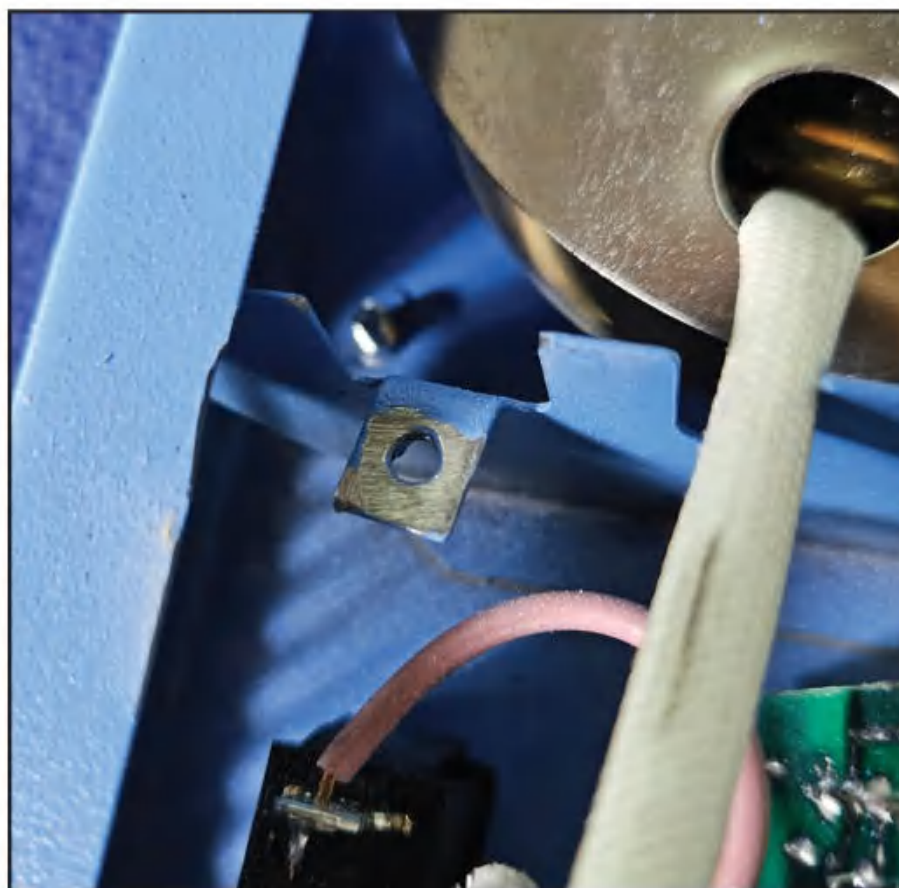


Photo E: The previously questionable ground connection with the paint taken off and ready to reconnect the ground wire.

would result in lots of toxic fumes as the flux was burned off in the process. Do not use solder that has any kind of flux at all. Even without flux there will be some smoke possible during the initial melting process. If flux is needed, the wire ends that need to be tinned can be dipped in liquid flux first. I found my solder pot on Amazon under a variety of names, but still identical for under \$30.

I will continue with my look at using a solder pot as well as my adventures with the QMX kit in future issues (Photo G). Until next time,
73 de KØNEB

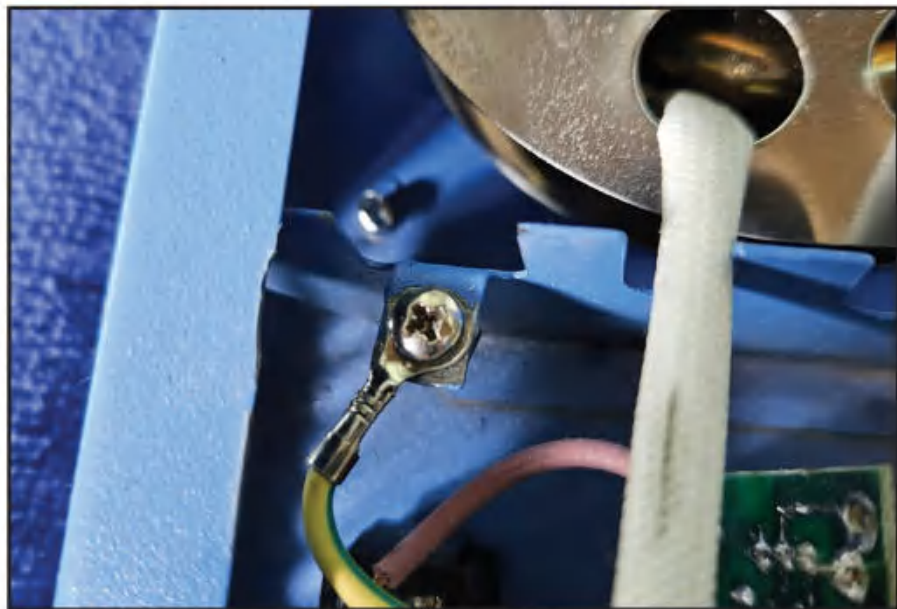


Photo F: The improved ground connection is complete and the case bottom is ready to be put back on.

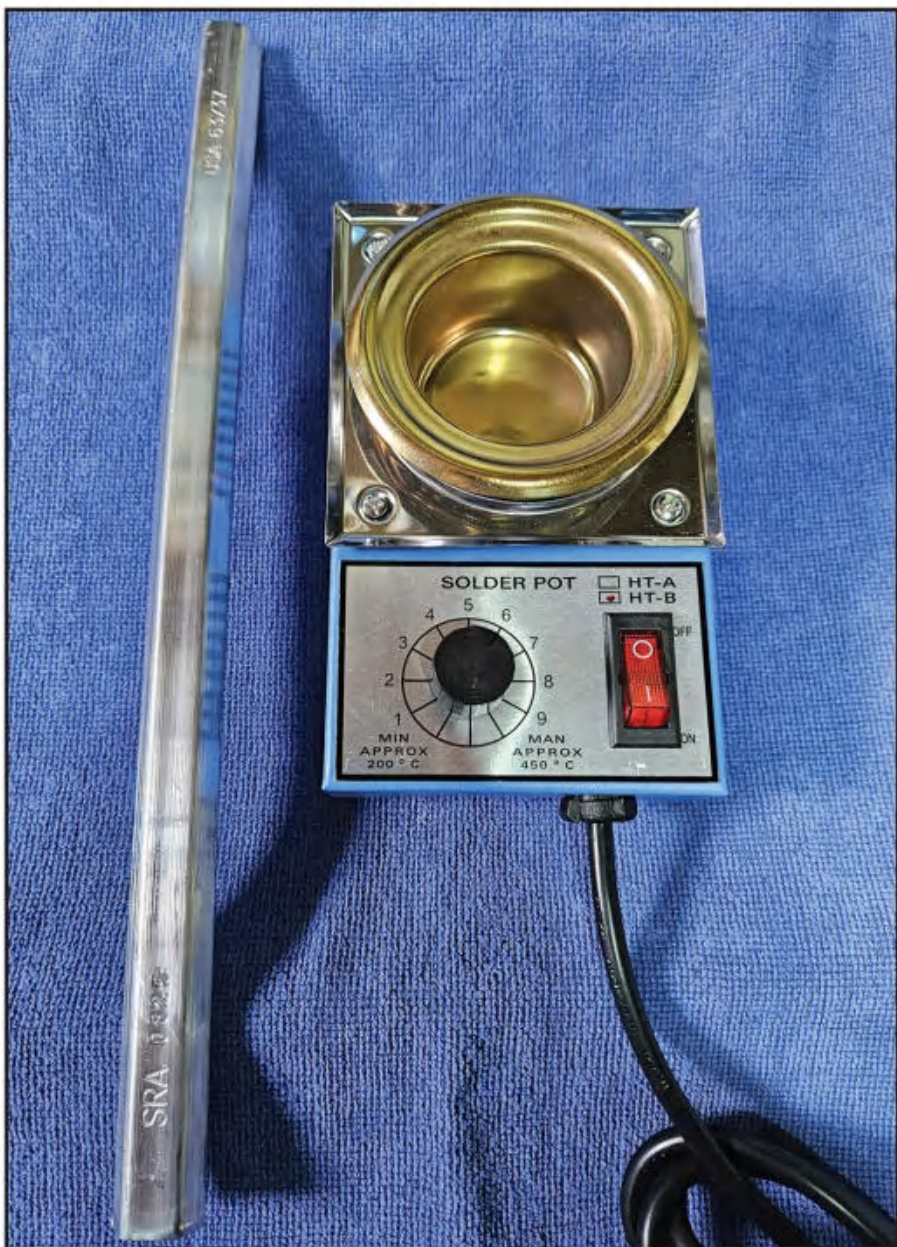
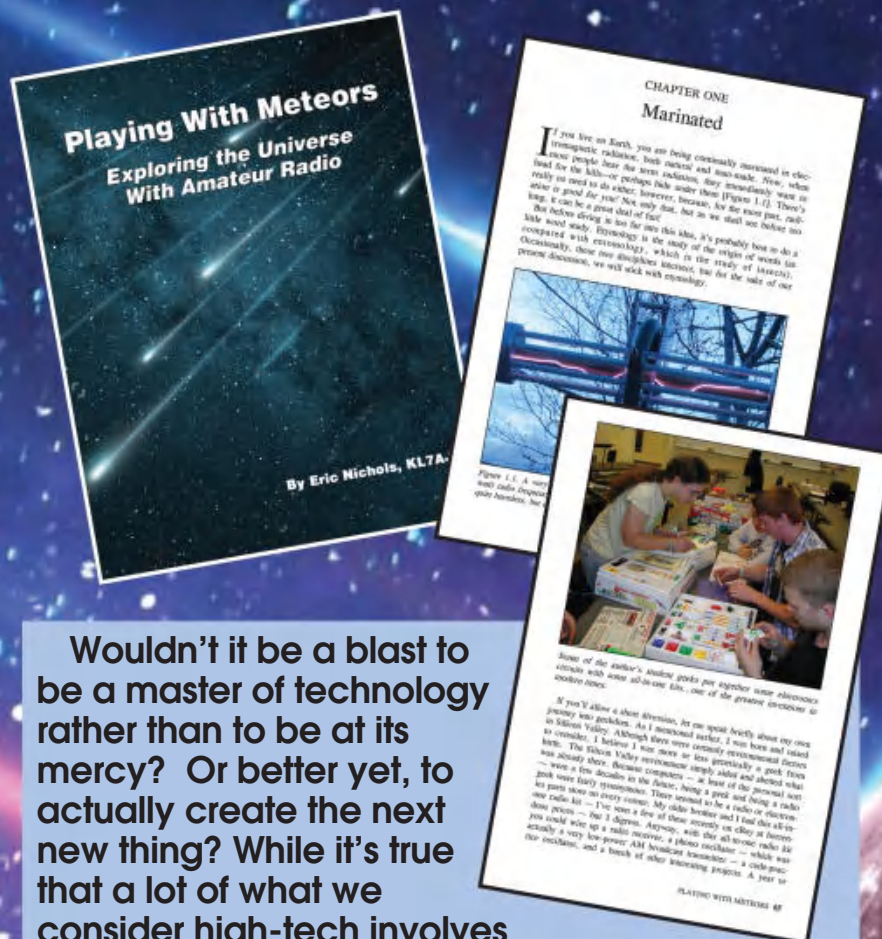


Photo G: The one pound bar of 63/37 solder is ready to begin being melted into the solder pot. Be sure to break it up using a hacksaw or similar tool to speed up the process.

CQ 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 being smarter than your "smart devices" (and maybe even some of your friends).

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learning curve

BY RON OCHU, KOØZ

H.R. 4006, All For One and One For All!

As a matter of courtesy, I try to avoid political, religious, and money discussions over ham radio. I try to heed the advice the Irish satirist Jonathan Swift gave in 1721, “You cannot reason someone out of something he or she was not reasoned into.” Sometimes these topics, especially contentious ones, can lead to arguments that can quickly generate more heat than light. Not a pleasant experience to be involved in either as a participant or a listener. As ham radio operators, we must constantly remind ourselves when we are on the air, we are ambassadors of goodwill. Our radio emissions know no geographical boundaries. However, for us to be on the air, we need antennas from which to tickle the aether (ionosphere).

Antenna Restrictions

Radio amateurs are finding it increasingly difficult to erect even modest antennas if they live anywhere close to a metropolitan area. Sprawling subdivisions come with HOAs (homeowners associations). According to Rocket Mortgage’s definition, “Homeowners associations – HOAs for short – are private organizations that oversee the management of some residential communities. HOAs establish sets of rules and regulations called bylaws for those living in the community to follow. They’re most often found in charge of common-interest communities, such as planned neighborhoods, townhouses and multi-unit apartment buildings or condominiums,” <<https://www.rocketmortgage.com/learn/hoa>>. Unfortunately, ham radio operators and their antennas are not always favorably found to be within the “common-interest” of some communities, partly as a result of boiler-plate language. Many HOA’s use already established, written guidelines and by-laws that exclude antennas. Three decades ago, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) struck a balance between localities and ham radio stations by requiring “reasonable” accommodations for amateur antennas. However, the FCC policy specifically excludes from its scope HOA requirements as voluntary private contracts.

Rural vs. Suburban – A Matter of Perspective

I’ve lived in both semi-rural and suburban America. Living in a St. Louis, Missouri metro suburb, I am restricted to one 40-foot tower/antenna structure. I needed to get a building/construction permit and to have it inspected. When I lived in central Illinois in a small rural town, the city did not require any building permits and I could put up as many towers as I wanted with no height restrictions! On the other hand, not far from my home, a homeowner kept a blue tarp over a storm-damaged roof for well over five years! When I moved back to my property in St. Peters, I brought my disassembled antennas and stored them in my backyard suburban lot. Within a couple of months, the city reminded me by letter that I could only have one tower/antenna structure. Evidently, some anonymous, nosy neighbor saw my neatly stored, disassembled antenna aluminum, and felt compelled to call the city.

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

Fortunately, I have my permit from thirty years ago, so nothing came of it, except for a reminder. In the rural area, hardly anyone cares, but in a metropolitan subdivision, just one discontented person can upset the balance. Both cases are a matter of perspective. Cell phones are a modern-day necessity. Cellular phone service needs towers. In rural settings, cell phone towers are in plain sight. On the other hand, suburban areas try to disguise cell phone towers as massive flag poles with huge flags (Photo A). Often, these cell phone towers are higher and more obtrusive than any typical suburban ham radio tower installation. For many city-lot dwelling radio amateurs, it may not be practical to move out into the country. For that matter, many rural counties are starting to adopt antenna restrictions. The problem of antenna zoning restrictions is no longer just an urban/suburban issue. At first glance, finding a reasonable compromise for hams may appear to be a losing battle. However, hope springs eternal

Another Perspective

Thankfully, there are reasonable politicians with vision and appreciate ham radio’s value to America’s national interests!



Photo A: A suburban cell phone tower masquerading as a flagpole in an area with antenna zoning restrictions.

Ham radio proves itself time and time again during emergencies by providing communications during the emergency and for public service events. *CQ* magazine provides ample coverage of these stories. Let's not forget that ham radio also further serves the national interest by providing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) training. Hams dedicate their personal resources to making technology work. A case in point – a few years ago, while I was living in central Illinois, an EF3 tornado tore through three rural counties. Before it was spent, it damaged a town that provided my internet service. I was without internet service for over three



Photo B: Representative Bill Johnson, OH-6 is a co-sponsor of bi-partisan H.R. 4006. (Source: Rep. Johnson's website)



Photo C: Representative Joe Courtney, CT-02 is a co-sponsor of bi-partisan H.R. 4006. (Source: Rep. Courtney's website)

days. I needed to send storm-related data files to the National Weather Service's St. Louis office. I used W9FE's HF Winlink gateway station (which did have internet capability) to transfer the files in a timely manner to the NWS. This is just one small example out of hundreds that ham radio operators make on a year-round basis. It's deeply gratifying when our elected officials recognize the Amateur Radio Service's contribution to our nation's national interest with supportive legislation. Especially when the proposed legislation is a truly bi-partisan, meaningful well-written bill that can positively affect radio amateurs.

House Resolution 4006

Earlier, I wrote, "I try to avoid political, religious and money discussions over

ham radio." However, (I was tempted to use the word, "but," but there is always a but, isn't there?) in the case of HR 4006, I wish to make an exception. This proposed bill not only recognizes the importance of the Amateur Radio Service, but it also provides concrete, factual reasoning as to why radio amateurs are vital to national interests. Most importantly, this proposed bill provides for enforcement of its provisions. This proposed bill will not give urban/suburban ham radio operators free reign to erect anything they'd like, but it does strike a *reasonable* balance with local regulatory agencies and radio amateurs. This bill offers a win-win compromise which should accommodate most interests. H.R. 4006 is bipartisan. Representative Bill Johnson (R) OH-06 (Photo B) and

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Representative Joe Courtney, (D) CT-02 (Photo C) are the sponsors of the resolution. H.R. 4006 isn't the first resolution supporting ham radio antennas to have been introduced before Congress. This House Resolution incorporates prior language used in past attempts to pass a "radio amateur antenna friendly bill." Congressman Bill Johnson released the following statement after introducing H.R. 4006, the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, to govern private land use restrictions on amateur radio: "Antennas are essential for all wireless communication, whether TV broadcasts, wireless internet, Wi-Fi, or amateur radio. Existing federal law provides for the installation of TV broadcast and wireless internet antennas and satellite dishes at private homes, but amateur radio antennas are not included in the statute as currently written. This bill would correct that."

"I reintroduced the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act to remove barriers to disaster and emergency communications and training, and to promote education in STEM subjects related to critically needed wireless technology," Rep. Johnson said. "Passage of this bill will promote developing and sustaining our nation's wireless future and facilitate and encourage amateur radio operations as a public benefit."

"As their actions during recent natural disasters such as Hurricane Sandy proved, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities' best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we've taken a strong step in that direction," added co-sponsor Rep. Courtney.

Why Bother?

One may ask, why should I even bother with this latest legislative attempt? Sine all politics is local and political subdivisions such as HOAs are encroaching on radio amateurs to erect even modest antennas in subdivisions, it behooves hams to advocate for our need to erect reasonable antenna structures. If we naively think, like in a Hollywood western, the calvary is going to save us in the nick of time, then think again. We, as ham radio operators, *are* the proverbial calvary and we *can* make a difference. After all, the squeaky wheel is the one that gets the grease. A bi-partisan bill, introduced early on in the legislative session has a better chance of passing both the House and the Senate.

Democracy can, at times, be infuriatingly slow. It takes repeated attempts to push a bill through the legislative process. Much like the process of water carving out a landscape over time, constant pressure brings about change. Does this resolution address every antenna zoning issue? No, but it does go a long way, if passed, to allow radio amateurs to erect reasonable antennas. If you care to read H.R. 4006 here's the link: <<https://tinyurl.com/htm7979v>>.

Participating in the Legislative Process

There are a number of things requiring a little time and effort that we can do to support H.R. 4006. For some reason, people are reluctant to contact their Congressional representatives. Congressmen have staff that tally up constituent emails, letters and phone calls urging the legislator to support or not to support legislation. If they only hear from lobbyists against H.R. 4006 and not from ham radio constituents, then the legislator may think there is little enthusiasm for it within the ham radio community in his/her legislative district. Remember the adage, "all politics is local?" Make your Congressperson aware you support H.R. 4006. Send an email or post a letter urging your legislator to co-sponsor H.R. 4006. It isn't hard to do and it will allow you to participate in the legislative process.

Talking Points

Your email to your congressman does not need to be lengthy. Include a few

talking points about why ham radio antennas serve our national interest. Ham radio provides emergency and public service communications. Ham radio creates a national pool of trained communicators. The Amateur Radio Service utilizes STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Ham radio operators are FCC-licensed. Urge your family and friends to send an email. The more the better! I remember a congressman from 40 years ago told me at the time, for every letter received regarding a bill, the staff calculated that between family and friends there were 20 additional constituents with the same opinion. I bet things haven't changed too much since then, except snail mail is replaced with email.

Phone Calls

If you're so inclined, make a phone call to your legislator's office urging him/her to co-sponsor H.R. 4006. It's highly unlikely you'll actually chat with the congressperson, but staff will gladly pass your message to the legislator. Legislators have an office in Washington D.C. and an office somewhere within their legislative district. A Google search will give you phone numbers and addresses.

Pay the Legislator a Visit!

Emails and phone calls are helpful. What's even more effective is taking the time out to visit your congressperson's district office. If Congress is in session, it isn't necessary to travel to Washington D.C. A visit to the legislator's district office is very effective. When I lived



Photo D: A photo taken five years ago of the Taylorville, Illinois, district office of Rep. Rodney Davis, IL-13.



Photo E: Congressman Davis's Taylorville district office secretary. She was very polite and receptive. We had a very nice, short meeting regarding ham radio antennas which resulted in the congressman co-sponsoring pro-antenna legislation.

in central Illinois, my congressional district was IL-13. The Honorable Rodney Davis was my congressperson. I urged local clubs to support a House Resolution similar to H.R. 4006 in our club newsletter. I printed up some letters urging Mr. Davis to co-sponsor the resolution and I brought them to the monthly club meeting. I asked club members to include their address and signature on the letter to prove they were constituents. Next, I made a trip to Mr. Davis's Taylorville, IL office (Photo D) one afternoon and introduced myself to his secretary (Photo E). She politely listened to me as I explained why I felt Mr. Davis should support the resolution and I gave her the letters. She was very nice and told me she'd send them to the congressman. It was a very pleasant visit and she thanked me for taking the time to make my views known. It took a total of ten minutes. Approximately two to three weeks later, I received a letter from Mr. Davis informing me that he would co-sponsor the bill! Unfortunately, that particular resolution was introduced late into the legislative session, and it never got onto the House floor for a vote. Selecting a club representative or two to pay your congressperson's office a visit can be a fun and very worthwhile activity. Why you're at it, invite the legislator to Field Day or a club meeting the next time he/she is back in town from Washington D.C. He or she just may take you up on the offer!

Contact the House Speaker

In addition to contacting your congressperson, and if you're enthusiastic, don't stop there. Email the House Speaker, the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, urging him to encourage the House to support H.R. 4006 and move it out of committee and put it to a vote on the House floor. If enough ham radio operators take the time to make their voices heard, then maybe, just maybe we can get this proposed bill out of the House and on to the Senate. If it gets to the Senate, then we will start this process over again with our respective state senators. Democracy is a deliberate process requiring a little work.

All for One and One for All!

Dumas' The Three Musketeers' motto of, "All for one and one for all" applies nicely to what we as a ham radio community can do to assist each other and our nation. Hopefully, this article's reasoning makes sense. Allowing everyone, especially urban/suburban ham radio operators to erect and maintain reasonable antennas does serve our nation's interest. Some rural areas are increasingly no longer immune from antenna zoning restrictions. To quote Ben Franklin, "An ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure." Thank you for reading CQ and I hope to hear you on the air. 73, Ron KOØZ

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BY JOE MOELL,* KØOV

Foxhunters Win Medals in the Lone Star State

“I had no idea what I was getting myself into.” That’s how Michael Hart, KC6MEH, replied when I asked about his first time competing in USA’s national championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF). Michael had limited experience at first, but by the time he went home, he was enthusiastic and eager to teach the sport to hams and Scouts in his hometown.

KC6MEH was one of 26 male and 8 female foxhunters who traveled to eastern Texas in mid-April for the 22nd annual USA Radio-Orienteering Championships. They came from nine states plus Ontario, Canada. All competitions took place in the 3026-acre Cooper Lake State Park (CLSP) near Sulfur Springs, Texas, which is about 95 miles northeast of the Dallas/Fort Worth airport.

New Mexico Orienteers was the hosting organization, using maps provided by the North Texas Orienteering Association. The Event Director was Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK; course designers were Nadia Schlarlau, KO4ADV (sprints), and Charles Scharlau, NZØI (all others). Additional logistics and communications support was provided by Backwoods Orienteering Klub and White Rock Lake Amateur Radio Club.

The main feature of CLSP is Jim Chapman Lake, a popular summer destination for boating, fishing, swimming and water skiing. The foxhunting courses were by the south shore. Tent and RV camping was available. Non-campers stayed in nearby hotels.



Matthew Robbins, AA9YH, demonstrates the FoxRex 3500 80-meter ARDF set by Rig Expert to first-timer Michael Hart, KC6MEH. (Photo by Bob Frey, WA6EZV)

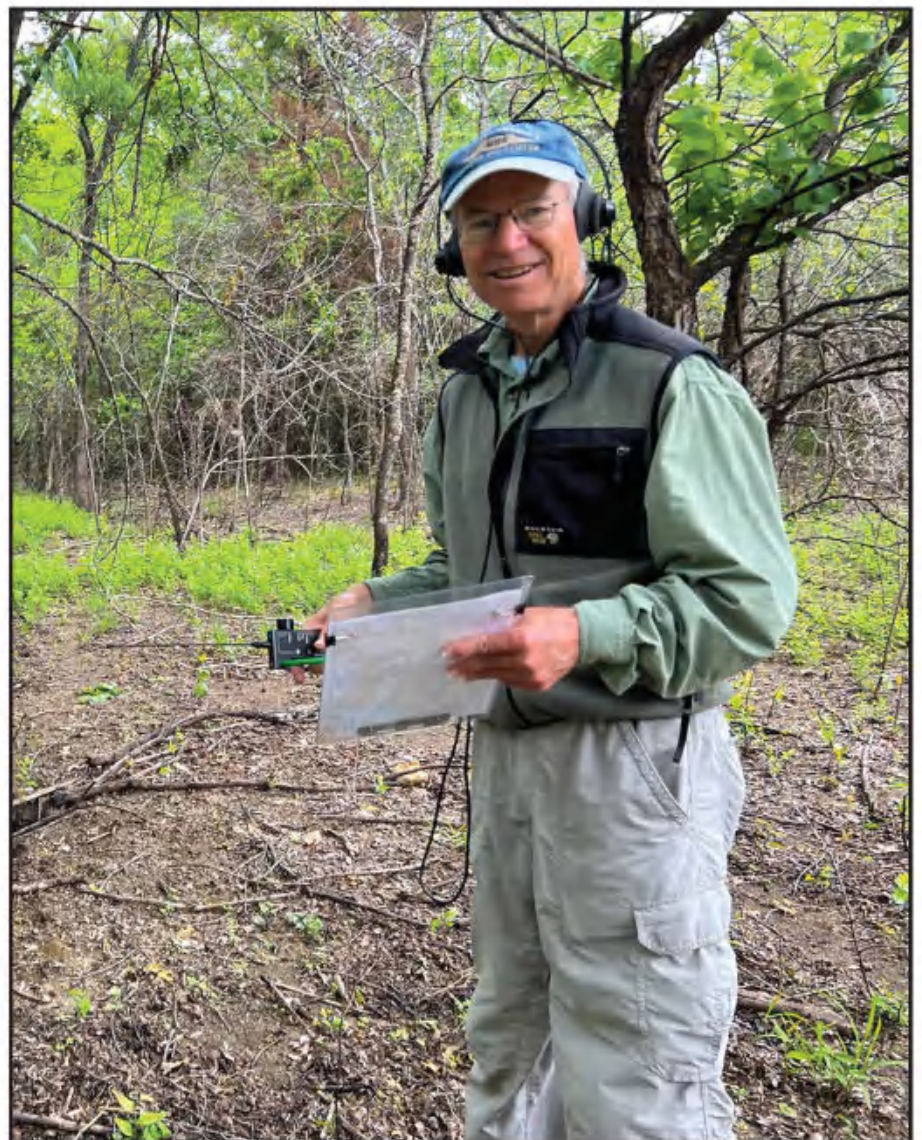
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The gathering point each day was a group shelter on the lakeshore. Practice, training and equipment testing took place on Wednesday, April 19, with transmitters on two-meter AM and 80-meter CW, in accordance with the detailed rules developed over three decades by committees of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

Start With a Sprint

Thursday was the first day of formal competition. The day’s event was the sprint, which was added to championship ARDF in 2012. A sprint course has two loops. The first has five slow-keyed 80-meter transmitters on one frequency, each transmitting for 12 seconds in sequence. The second has five fast-keyed 80-meter transmitters on another frequency, sending the same sequence. Competitors run through the start corridor leading to the area with slow-keyed transmitters.

After finding all of the required transmitters from the first loop in any order, they run through a spectator corridor to the area with fast-keyed foxes. After finding all required transmitters from this loop in any order, they run to the fin-



Bill Wright, WB6CMD, has been on ARDF Team USA to the world championships frequently since his first trip in 2016. He told me that he was happy about being consistent at this year’s national championships, taking second or third in his category in each event. (Photo by Ken Harker, WM5R)

ish line. After checking in at the shelter, competitors set out on a 3.2-kilometer trail hike to the starting area. According to competitor Bill Wright, WB6CMD, it was best not to hurry. "You don't want to wear yourself out before you even start and then have to walk back afterward."

The terrain in this part of Texas is much different from the runnable forests that are typical ARDF sites elsewhere. Bill explained, "The maps had been used for an orienteering meet three years ago. In that time, vegetation changes and those changes are usually for the worse. I saw white on the map and thought it's runnable, but it really should be dark green because I had to fight to get through it."

To make it easier and safer, the course designers kept the transmitters close to the many trails. But competitors had to discover this for themselves. "The map was pretty good for some parts of the course," says Bill, "but for some other parts it wasn't. The sprint area was OK and pretty level. It looked on the map like you could run through it, but I tried it and got chewed up by the vines."

Imre Polik, KX4SO, was fastest in M21 (males ages 21 to 39), which was the only category required to find all ten sprint foxes. He did the 2.6-kilometer course in 47:36. The fastest pace on the sprint course was that of Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI, who found his required eight transmitters on a 2.4-kilometer course in 25:48.

Friday's event was foxoring, another relatively new event that closely resembles classic orienteering because there are circles on the provided map near the continuously-transmitting QRP 80-meter transmitters. Competitors use their orienteering skills to get to the circle locations, then perform direction-finding to home in on the foxes that can only be heard there. The foxoring course was in another part of the south shore area, with a 1.2-kilometer hike to the start and then a hike back afterward.

Thunderstorms on Thursday afternoon kept the course-setters from completing placement of all of Friday's foxoring transmitters then, so the start of foxoring had to be delayed. One transmitter was non-operating, apparently damaged by a storm. It was a required fox for about half of the competitors. Most attempted to find the flag by sight once they had orienteered their way to the map circle. Norbert Linke discovered it in 3 minutes and 2 seconds and some others did it in less than four minutes. Norbert's total time on the 5.4-kilometer ten-fox course was 52:09.

On to the Classics

The first classic event took place on Saturday. These transmitter hunts are called classics because they were the first form of radio-orienteering, beginning over forty years ago in northern Europe and Scandinavia. Five transmitters are placed in a wooded area of 1000 acres or more. They transmit for 60 seconds each in rotating order on the same frequency.

Competitors are individually timed as they travel from the starting point to the finish, finding the transmitters required for their category along the way in any order. To ensure fairness, there are many additional rules for classic events, covering impounds, start procedures, course monitoring, protests and so forth.

Two sets of transmitters were in the woods this day, one set on 80-meter CW and the other on two-meter AM. Persons in the categories for men ages 21 through 59 sought the two-meter transmitters and all others looked for the 80-meter transmitters. Another lightning-caused problem was discovered this day when one two-meter transmitter would not transmit the standard MCW tones in the AM mode. It was switched



Tony Levand, AA9CC, studies his map and gets ready to begin an 80-meter course in 2022 with his large RDF loop. This year, he captured M60 gold on the two-meter course in the rain on Sunday. (Photo by Imre Polik, KX4SO)

to FM mode, which worked but was difficult to tune in on some of the European AM ARDF receivers.

On two meters, Vadim Afonkin found his required four transmitters on a 5.3-kilometer course in 1:10:40 for the best time of the day. Norbert Linke had five required transmitters to find and he did the 7.2-kilometer course in 1:22:17. On 80 meters, the best male time was turned in by Iurii Kolesnykov for three required transmitters on a 4.4-kilometer course in 39:40 and the best female time was by Adalia Schafrath-Craig for three required foxes on a 3.9-kilometer course in 56:45.

It is typical for 80-meter course times to be faster on average than equivalent two-meter courses. Eighty-meter signals do not reflect from terrain features to cause incorrect and confusing bearings like two-meter signals often do. The nulls on 80-meter ARDF sets provide sharper bearings than the pattern peaks of two-meter Yagis. In addition, 80-meter receiver-antenna sets are smaller, lighter and less awkward to carry than two-meter sets

A Day of Cold Rain

Sunday, the final day, featured another classic event. Those who hunted on two meters on Saturday sought 80-meter transmitters this day, and vice-versa. Once again, weather bedeviled the organizers, delaying transmitter placement. The original plan was to relocate all of them to prevent any unfair advantage of familiarity. However, many participants had tight travel plans and the weather delays threatened to keep them from finishing in time to make their flights home. So the 80-meter courses from Saturday were unchanged and only the short-course two-meter transmitters were moved. All competitors were on the honor system to not disclose any information about the Saturday courses to those who would run them on Sunday.

On eighty meters, the best time of the day was 44:04 by Norbert Linke for all five transmitters on a 6.7-kilometer course. On two meters, best time for four required transmitters was 1:22:48 by Tony Levand, AA9CC on a 4.6-kilometer course. For three required transmitters, best was



Adalia Schafrath-Craig won first place in the category for women age 19 and under in foxoring and both classic events. (Photo courtesy Robert Haddow, VE3RXH)

KO4ADV at 58:24 for a 4.3-kilometer course. AA9CC wrote that there was constant rain and 50-degree temperatures. “It was typical Chicago weather, but darn cold for Texas.”

Silver medalist William Wright, WB6CMD said, “I was much slower than usual. It was very muddy and slippery and I was being very cautious. I didn’t notice any problems with two-meter signal reflections because the terrain was pretty flat and we weren’t close enough to the lake to get reflections from the water. But I did notice that my bearings weren’t as trustworthy, perhaps because of the rain and wet trees. They were frequently in error by up to 45 degrees.”

Congratulations to all of the gold medal winners. They are, in alphabetical order: Elizabeth Afonkin (W19 sprint); Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI (M50 sprint 2m); Matt Craig (M50 foxor); Robert Frey, WA6EZV (M70 sprint foxor 2m 80m); Erin Hammer (W35 sprint 80m); Iurii Kolesnykov (M60 sprint foxor 80m); Natalia Leoni (W55 sprint); Tony Levand, AA9CC (M60 2m); Norbert Linke (M21 foxor 2m 80m); Nicolai Mejovoi (M50 80m); Alla

Mezhevaya (W45 sprint foxor 2m 80m); Imre Polik, KX4SO (M21 sprint); Adalia Schafrath-Craig (W19 foxor 2m 80m) and Nadia Scharlau, KO4ADV (W55 foxor 2m 80m).

What About You?

If you have been attending on-foot transmitter hunts in your area and can navigate your way in the woods with a map and compass, consider joining the fun at the next USA ARDF Championships, which will be near Chelsea, Michigan. Practices and competitions will take place over a full week in October 2024, with exact dates to be announced.

The Event Director will be Joseph Burkhead, KE8MKR. The championship courses will be designed by KE8MKR and NZØI. Medals will be awarded for each event in each of the IARU age/gender categories. Assisting will be members of the Southern Michigan Orienteering Club and the Chelsea Amateur Radio Club. As the details are firmed up, much more information will be posted in my “Homing In” website.¹

All in the Family

This year’s USA championships had a special feature, a family competition as reported by Matt Sanderson, KC9SEM, of Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Matt and his wife Patty, N9PLS, are long-time participants in the regular mobile transmitter hunts of the Chicago area. Their children, Jacob, KD9VLF, and Mackenzie, KD9VVU, have been riding along since infancy. “Jacob got his license during Field Day last year,” Matt told me. “Mackenzie got hers in October, so she was nine and he was eleven.”

Matt’s family attended a foxhunting forum at Hamvention where they met long-time Ohio radio-orienteer Bob Frey, WA6EZV. According to Matt, “Bob said, ‘Why don’t you come out and try it?’ So last year when the USA championships were in Virginia, my daughter and I went there. Mackenzie was nine at the time. I reached out to Ruth and Joseph² and they were very accepting of the idea that we could try this out together.”

KC9SEM and KD9VVU had such a good time in 2022 that the entire family decided to travel to Sulfur Springs for the 2023 championships. They wanted to compete against each other in two-person teams. There’s no provision for that in the IARU rules, but the organizers created a special two-meter family category for them on Saturday, the first

classic competition day. Their goal was to find four foxes.

Team 1 was Patty and daughter Mackenzie. “They found two of the transmitters,” Matt reported. “They thought they found a third one but it turned out to be one of the 80-meter foxes. Patty relied on Mackenzie to orienteer them around the trails. I think they did all right for Mackenzie being ten years old.”

Team 2 was Matt and his son. “Jacob did great,” said Matt. “I had the antenna and he had the clipboard with the map. I would ask where he thought we were. I had him draw bearing lines on the map and then asked where he thought the transmitter would be. I put it all on him. We found three foxes and I think we just missed the time limit by about 30 seconds. It was great because the organizers and other participants were very supportive,” Matt concluded. “We know we didn’t qualify for medals because we were teams, but it gave the kids experience and it was fantastic for them. It was nice to have people that we didn’t know welcome us with open arms, accept us



This family foxhunts together in Chicago almost every weekend. This year, they all went to the championships in Texas. Patty Sanderson, N9PLS, is Mom; Matt Sanderson, KC9SEM, is Dad, and the junior ops are Mackenzie, KD9VVU, and Jacob, KD9VLF. (Photo by Bob Frey, WA6EZV)



Bob Frey, WA6EZV, has been active in ARDF for over 20 years and has been on ARDF Team USA for the world championships. At this year's USA Championships, he medaled in all four events as he approached his 75th birthday. (Photo courtesy Adalia Schafrath-Craig)

and provide the opportunity to experience the sport."

Matt says he plans to take the family to Michigan next year for the USA championships. I'm sure that before long, Mackenzie and Jacob, as well as their parents, will be taking on the courses as individuals.

World Championships Later This Month

ARDF Team USA is now preparing for the 21st IARU World Championships, which will take place in Liberec, Czech Republic, from August 27 through September 2, 2023. There will be separate classic ARDF events on separate days for national teams on 80 meters and two meters, plus competitions in sprints and foxoring.

For the World Championships, each country may send up to three competitors in each of eleven age categories, in accordance with IARU rules. Based on 28 nations' letters of intent, there will be over 330 competitors at the world championships this year.

The Team Selection Subcommittee of ARRL's ARDF Committee has issued invitations to 14 men and 6 women, based on their participation in USA's 2022 and 2023 national championships and other qualifying events. If all of the

invitees travel to Liberec, this will be the largest ever USA ARDF team.

Get Ready for JOTA

Hams and Scout leaders are now planning the 66th annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), which will take place October 21-22, 2023. All over the country, Scouts will experience the thrill of talking with other Scouts on amateur radio. In some places, they will also hunt hidden transmitters.

I have worked with local Scout troops and councils for over 20 years to include radio direction finding at JOTA events. Reports of JOTA transmitter hunting activities have come in from around the country, but it is still being done in relatively few places. If your club likes to hunt transmitters, why not bring this adventure to the Scouts in your town? Remember, hunters do not need to be licensed hams.

If your local JOTA includes a cam-

poree or other outdoor event, put out some QRP transmitters, give antennas and receivers to the Scouts and take them out in twos and threes to find them. There are lots of helpful hints in the JOTA page of the "Homing In" website.³ For even more Scouting fun, help them get the radio merit badge using the new provisions that incorporate radio direction finding.⁴

My dream is for transmitter hunting became a part of JOTA activities in every state. Now is the time to talk to the clubs that will be sponsoring JOTA events in your area about selecting locations that are ARDF-friendly. I look forward to getting photos and stories of your JOTA transmitter hunts this year. Also, I'm writing up the results of this year's CQ World Wide Foxhunting Weekend,⁵ so if you haven't sent your club's report, now is the time. Tell us how your hunt brought out the newcomers and challenged the local experts. Happy hunting!

NOTES:

1. <<http://www.homingin.com/farsnews.html>>
2. Ruth Bromer, WB4QZG, and Joseph Huberman, K5JGH, organized the 2022 USA ARDF Championships at Triangle, Virginia. My report is in "Homing In" for August 2022.
3. <<http://www.homingin.com/joek0ov/jota.html>>
4. <<http://www.homingin.com/ARDFinRMB.html>>
5. <<http://www.homingin.com/joek0ov/nfw.html>>

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analog adventures

BY ERIC P. NICHOLS,* KL7AJ

Hard Copy

I occasionally think about things – it’s an activity I highly recommend. One of the things I recently thought about was the issue of whether a book (you know, one of those stacks of paper with symbols made of ink impressed upon the sheets) is an analog or a digital device. Because a book is *old* technology, one is naturally inclined to put it in the category of analog technology, which is nearly synonymous with *old*. However, since books are, for the most part, written in *black and white*, there is generally a strict demarcation between where ink exists and where ink does not exist, which implies that they are somewhat digital in nature.

Despite being sort of a high-tech guy, I like books. Lots of them. This is not to say that I don’t read a lot of stuff online...and submit a lot of stuff online...at least for the past twenty years or so. When I first started writing technical articles, I wrote stuff out *long-hand*, because I hadn’t yet learned how to type (though I could copy CW at 45+ WPM). After I discovered that fewer and fewer folks were willing to take my highly analog handwriting and convert it into decipherable semi-digital typed letters and words, I took the bull by the horns and learned how to type for myself.

Ecclesiastes 12:12 informs us, “And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.”

Despite this admonition, a relatively small number of us are compelled to continue to contribute to this flesh-wearying business. And despite wise King Solomon’s advice, I find many books in my library most worthy of much study, and quite frankly quite invigorating...at least to the mind, if not the flesh.

At one time, I had my books separated into technical/electronics texts, and everything else. After years of entropy, I find that my technical/electronics texts and everything else are fairly well shuffled on the shelves. Several visitors to my shack have commented that I must be a Renaissance



Photo A. Eric’s “top-shelf” books – both literally and figuratively

Man or something. Not really; I just have a lot of random books. I do have a large shelf full of all the classic literary works that everyone is *supposed* to have read but virtually nobody actually has. To my credit, I *am* actually, gradually, working my way through the “liberally educated human being” required reading list, the last being “Two Years Before the Mast”, by Dana. It really is a rollicking tale, highly recommended if you need more swash in your buckle.

The top shelf (quite literally) in my office has my most valued books (Photo A)...not necessarily the most frequently used ones. The “McGraw Hill Electronics Engineers’ Handbook” is probably the most authoritative EE book around, and it’s what I refer to whenever I run into an electron snag. The “English-Chinese Dictionary of Science and Technology” is a real treasure, given to me by a Chinese physicist when I was working at the Hipas Observatory...and trying to learn a bit of Mandarin in the process. To its right is “Miscellaneous Papers”, by Heinrich Hertz, published in 1896. This is probably my most valuable book. Photo B shows the frontispiece. This book was presented to a certain Frederick Ray.



Photo B. The frontispiece to “Miscellaneous Papers” by Heinrich Hertz. You can see why Eric considers it his most valuable volume ... and he picked it up at a garage sale in Fairbanks!

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How it ended up in Fairbanks, I'll never know, but I picked it up at a garage sale.

I also have a copy of Hertz' better known "Electric Waves", which I am re-reading for the something-teenth time. To its right is a pristine three volume set of Oliver Heaviside's "Electromagnetic Theory", a ponderous work indeed. And to its right, my treasured 1964 RSGB "Radio Communications Handbook", and to its starboard, two copies of William Orr's famous "Radio Handbook". Semi-finally, there's "Physical Design of Yagi Antennas" by David Leeson. And final finally, a stack of *Popular Electronics*, *Popular Mechanics*, and *Electronics Now* magazines from the dark ages. A few of my other volumes are in Photo C.

My dad was an aeronautical engineer, designing helicopters in Silicon Valley before it was Silicon Valley (or even Vacuum Tube Valley). Lots of folks don't realize that aviation and early aerospace dominated the region long before the Hewlett-Packard fellows opened their garage. For many years, I had dad's vast collection of classic aeronautical texts, which I finally donated to the UAF Aero Sciences department, so at least I know they're in good hands. It's always sad when you hear of beautiful, priceless collections of books going to landfills. Yes, books are big and bulky, and heavy, but



Photo C. A little more of KL7AJ's home office library.

they do deserve loving homes. Alas, it seems a lot of even respectable, venerable libraries aren't interested in classic book collections anymore.

I'm curious to hear what's in *your* library! What do you consider "must have" books for any radio amateur? As well as "must have" books for any human being. (I've found that occasionally, the

categories of radio amateurs and human beings actually overlap!)

I hope you've enjoyed this brief glance at the KL7AJ eclectic and electric collection. In our next adventure, we will revisit the NanoVNA and explore the lesser-known two-port network analysis.

Until then, keep them soldering irons sharp!
73, Eric

The Do's and Don'ts of Modding My Avalon and more

Spring has been a busy time – multiple trips, field activations, new antennas at the house, licensing classes, local hamfests, and family fun. My major trip was to Xenia, Ohio, for Hamvention. I drove with Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, and Rob Hanson, W6RH, in my Toyota Avalon hybrid, and it was a great adventure. Jeff reported on it in his “Magic in the Sky” column in the last issue of *CQ*.

For the trip, I had decided to use the IsoPwr to isolate the radio battery from the vehicle's electrical system, and to keep it charged. The Avalon starting battery is in the right rear wheel well, with an access cover in the trunk. Thank you, Toyota, for making this easy! I bought a new Group31 battery to use for radio and accessory power. The entire power and battery installation (Photo A) took less than 30 minutes, once I had the needed parts.

West Mountain Radio was out of stock on the IsoPwr, so I had bought a used one from one of the radio websites, like <QRZ.com> or <EHam.net>. I did an internet search and found that Impulse Electronics had one left in stock. I quickly made a phone call, let them know I wanted it and went to their website to complete the purchase. It was in my hands in three days. The used one took a week to arrive, but still with plenty of time for the install. Now I had two, with a plan. One would be for my Avalon and the other for my truck. No more attaching wires to the battery through the engine compartment.



Photo A. Power installation in the trunk of NS6X's Toyota Avalon hybrid. Vehicle battery is in the compartment behind the battery box. The West Mountain Radio IsoPower is mounted on top of the battery. The IC-7100 radio is beneath the TurboTuner2 for the Little Tarheel II antenna. The power distribution comes from the IsoPower to the PowerPole block and then to the IC-7100, FT-7900 and a PowerPole block in the passenger compartment.

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The IsoPwr took a set of positive and negative wires from the vehicle battery. It uses PowerPoles, so a quick installation of a set of PowerPoles on one end and ring lugs to connect to the battery. Heavy wire is not needed, as the only current is going to charge the battery from the vehicle battery. I used 10-gauge wire. The battery box for the radio battery had PowerPoles installed, so short positive and negative wires with PowerPoles on either end connected from the IsoPwr to the battery. The third connection on the IsoPwr is for the radios. I connected another set of 10-gauge wires to a PowerPole distribution block into which the radios were connected.

An Icom IC-7100 provided HF and backup VHF/UHF frequencies while a Yaesu FT-7900 was used for VHF and UHF. Antennas for the dual band VHF and UHF were a Comet and Diamond on a trunk lid mount (Photo B). The initial HF antenna was mounted on an MFJ trailer-hitch mount. I had the trailer-hitch receiver (Photo C) installed for the antenna and to carry a bicycle rack when not on the air mobile. We also had a Kenwood TH72A for APRS, with an external antenna. Family and friends tracked us across the country. The Power Pole block was used to charge cell phones, the Kenwood, and whatever else we came across that needed 12 volts.

Lido Products cup holder mounts were used to make a firm and secure mount for the radio control heads (Photo D). The Lido mount fits into a cup holder. The base expands to fill



Photo B. The Toyota Avalon hybrid ride of The Lost Boys, W6RH, AA6JR and NS6X. Two VHF/UHF antennas, packet antenna and the Little Tarheel II HF antenna.

the cupholder using a rotating screw-type ring, making the mount secure. I was not able to pull the radio out of the cupholder... It has worked well over the years, holding the control heads for not only the FT-7900 and the IC-7100, but an IC-706 and a KX-1 and KX-3. The radio affixes to the mount using the 1/4 x 20 threaded base. The entire mount and radio control head can easily be removed from the cupholder and placed in the trunk when the vehicle is left unattended. The control cables are simply popped out of the head.

A Bit Of A Problem With The HF Antenna Mount

The radios were mounted in the trunk using Velcro®. The Avalon was not affected by the RF, although the Tarheel did

not like the way I installed it. There were several problems I discovered in this setup. The first was that the MFJ hitch mount extended approximately eight inches. Likewise, it was about eight inches off the pavement. With three well-fed men, the car sagged a bit. Time for new shocks, maybe? The coax was routed along the bottom of the antenna mount based upon its design. We had a TurboTuner for the IC-7100 and Little Tarheel II that worked great, but no so much when the coax became pinched and the connector damaged when the car and mount would bottom out, scraping the pavement. The tuner continued to get an SWR match, although I found that the coax connector had been smashed, and the coax severed, at one of the mount scrapings.



Photo C. The MFJ hitch receiver mount that had a few issues with the lower-slung car, The car would bottom out, causing the antenna mount to drag, damaging the coax and coax connector. (See Photos E and F for more on this.)



Photo E. The Big Tarheel antenna would work better than the Little Tarheel II when on a hitch mount. This Tarheel mount, on a truck belonging to Larry Bever, K7TME, also has more ground clearance to help with not bottoming out. Larry's QERZ.com site has some gorgeous photos of his apparently remote home.



Photo D. The IC-7100 and FT-7900 control heads are mounted on Lido Products cupholder mounts that fit snugly into the vehicle's cupholders.



Photo F. K7TME also has his antenna system well grounded.



Photo G. Operators at the April Micro Field Day of <TheBoredNet.net> in the parking lot of Rancho Potrero Park in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, POTA park K-6048.

Several antenna and HF problems were solved at Hamvention after talking with the helpful Tarheel people. I had forgotten that the Little Tarheel II will not properly load when the coil is not mounted above surrounding car metal. I was happy to spend a few dollars more to buy a Diamond trunk lid mount from the Tarheel folks. The Big Tarheel would not have been a problem (see Photos E and F).

HF Problem Solved

The new mount was easily and quickly installed – it took about 15 minutes. The mount came with a short coax cable, so the antenna was connected, and signals were heard and people talked to. Solar weather activity did not help radio wave propagation, but we were finally able to make many decent QSOs, when the bands would briefly open. It was frustrating though, as I enjoy 10 meters. Due to conditions, not one QSO was made on 10 meters.



Photo H. Tom Essenpreis, KB9ENS, visited the <TheBoredNet.net> Micro Field Day from Gardena, California. He bought the Winnebago camper conversion of a Sprinter van and installed the electronics and radios.

We made SSB and CW QSOs on 20, 30, and 40 meters. I forgot a key, so used the mike push-to-talk switch to complete the circuit to send CW. A bit clumsy, but it worked. I first did that during a VHF contest. I was on a mountain, with multiple antennas set-up, and needed CW for 1296. So, I used the mike. It works.

Micro Field Days

During the COVID-19 lockdown, with many hams well into the most at-risk age group and living alone, a group of younger hams decided to check on the shut-in hams, to make sure that they were okay, and that they had someone to talk with, using their hobby. So The Bored Net was started, working morning and evening, seven days a week. The “agnostic group,” as the sort of leaders of the group describe it, continues to operate a daily morning net, except Sundays. As we have somewhat forgotten about COVID, and people, including hams, are able to get out, the <TheBoredNet.net> group started celebrating the outdoors and being able to be outside. This is not a unique system, as several groups around the country do something similar. Hams in Tucson, Arizona, and the Pacific Northwest QRP group operate once a month, even in June, and then the <TheBoredNet.net> finds an easily accessible location from which to operate portable and have fun. Ben Kuo, AI6YR, has loaded a screen door and a floor lamp as his antenna. He made QSOs thousands of miles distant with his screen door portable. One of the go-to locations is in a parking lot, in the Rancho Potrero area along Potrero Road that is in a POTA location, K-0648, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. On April 23 and again on June 17, about 10 stations were set up (see Photos G, H, and I) ≥ The site is a well-compacted dirt and decomposed granite parking lot with restrooms and trailhead access to the Point Mugu State Park, another POTA location.



Photo 1. The van conversion by Winnebago on a Sprinter chassis, brought to Micro Field Day by Tom Essenpreis, KB9ENS.

These micro Field Days can be a way to sort out station problems, learn about your equipment and how to operate portable, and most importantly to see friends, make new friends and to have fun. There are end fed half waves, verticals of many sorts, and for example I had my new BuddiHex out, with QRP radios, 100-watt radios, tuners, solar power to gasoline generators, and more. Think about getting together a group of your fellow hams to go to an easy public site and have some fun. The time is not about making many QSOs, but more about getting out and socializing in a simple manner. Some people even bring a picnic lunch. People have made their first HF QSO at these micro Field Days.

SARC Hamfest

I'll be going to several hamfests in the southwest this summer. Throughout Arizona – the Ft. Tuthill Hamfest is back as the Flagstaff Hamfest, and then into New Mexico and maybe again to Oregon. Saturday, June 17, the Satellite Amateur Radio Club had their first hamfest that was back at what was once the Union Oil picnic area, but now the New Love Picnic Grounds in Santa Maria/Orcutt California. When I began going to the event many years ago, it was held on Father's Day. I liked to spend my Father's Day at a Santa Maria BBQ and ham radio. Hamfests are a lot of work, and the SARC did a fine job.

The club usually meets the first Saturday of the month at their club headquarters on Vandenberg Space Force Base. A great location, and free use of the old building for a maintenance trade. The club keeps down the weeds and maintains the building.

While I had duties at the ARRL table (I am the Santa Barbara Section Manager), I did have a QRP HF radio sta-

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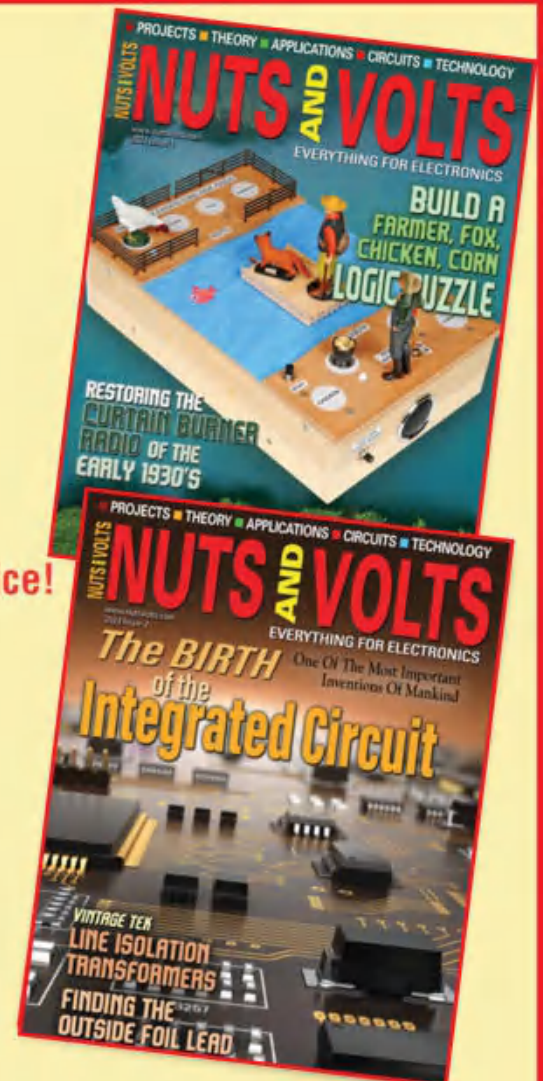
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tion setup where several hams, and a few non-hams, were able to make a few QSOs. An EFHW is something new to me. I am learning to use it effectively.

SEAPAC Convention

The ARRL Northwestern Division convention was held at the Seaside, Oregon, Convention Center (Photo J). I towed a small travel trailer that is not yet radioactive. That is a radio project to be completed soon. The old days of kerchunking a local repeater and finding a local ham to talk with are long gone. I found four people on repeaters, and 11 on 146.52. I would like to find out what is happening in the area, where to go for a good meal or where to not go, roads to avoid, and help when I run out of gas. (That used to be somewhat common for me, and part of the adventure for the kids. I have since gotten over that.)



Photo J. The rooftop mobile antennas of David Chan, WZ6X, on his Chevrolet Traverse while parked at the Seaside Convention Center for the SeaPac convention. David was also at the Satellite ARC hamfest in Santa Maria, California, a long mobile trip from his home in American Canyon

There are two weekends in August coming up on which lighthouses and lightships are recognized by operating an amateur radio station at the lighthouse.

I did find beautiful lighthouses that apparently have not been activated during Lighthouses on the Air weekend. There are two weekends in August coming up on which lighthouses and lightships are recognized by operating an amateur radio station at the lighthouse. For information about the events, and more go to arlhs.com/events/.

The Lido Products cupholders mentioned earlier were at a commercial booth at SeaPac and Hamvention (Photo K). I was able to work out a few ideas and issues with the products, specifically how to use them, and which one to buy.

This is my third Mobilizing Column. I have been having a good time preparing for the column, deciding what to write about. There is a lot of material to use. I like hearing from the readers. Let me know what you are doing for mobile radio, suggestions and more. I was at the Santa Barbara Radio Club meeting last week. There were two new hams who just passed the test and received their licenses. They knew nothing about operating radios, mobile or otherwise. Everything is new to them.

We may have talked about how important a ground is, and how to ground to a vehicle's chassis a few years ago. These two new young men, and hundreds more like them, don't know. They do not understand SWR, significance of the size of coax or the length and the correlation to the frequency being used, and many, many more topics. So ask questions. Seek help. Let me know what you would like to read about in this column. So until next time, give me a shout at NS6X@CQ-amateur-radio.com. Maybe we'll have a QSO one of these days.

72/73.



Photo K. The Lido cupholder mounts at the Lido Products display at SeaPac. The mounts expand in the cupholder to fit and remain snugly in place.

qrp: low-power communications

BY R. SCOTT ROUGHT,* KA8SMA

No Trees were Harmed in the Writing of this Column!

Exciting times are upon us as Solar Cycle 25 continues to strengthen, and I am hearing more and more stations operating QRP, and I am finding many of these stations are hunting and activating parks in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. POTA is a great way for QRP operators to get out in the field to test equipment and antennas as pipsqueak signals can generate huge pileups. I am looking forward to more POTA activations over the next few years as these outings satisfy my thirst for portable operation, provide a good venue for me to experiment with different antennas and configurations (I often deploy two or three different antennas at parks for side-by-side comparison) and most importantly, allow me to unwind after a long day at the office.

Stayin' Out of Trees

Over the past year I have heard scuttle that officials at some parks (both in and outside the POTA program) are asking hams to not use trees as antenna supports. I have always relied on "nature's poles" to support my antennas when I am in the field and am always careful not to damage branches or leave wires behind. I am aware that many states and municipalities, including my state of Michigan, have ordinances in place to protect trees and vegetation on public property. The ordinances generally state that no person shall fasten any sign, wire, rope or other material, or run any wire or rope through any tree or shrub, in any park or public place. I agree these types of ordinances are necessary for the common good; however, I believe those who enforce these rules need to exercise latitude when considering the circumstances at hand. For example, a hammock holding two people that is supported by a rope strung between two trees is different than a piece of No. 18 masonry line tossed into a tree to support an antenna constructed with 22-gauge wire. Depending on the park official's interpretation of the ordinance, explaining these types of differences can be a challenge, especially when you are visiting their park.

Although I have never had an issue at a park or any other location regarding the use of trees as antenna supports, I am making a change in my portable operations and moving to fiberglass telescopic poles for antenna supports. To quote Confucius, "A man who does not plan long ahead will find trouble at his door".

My go-to antennas for portable operations are the Inverted V and End Fed Halfwave (EFHW). I have found both to be excellent performers and are easy to erect as they require only one support. I have two telescopic poles that do a fine job in supporting these antennas, the SOTABEAMS Tactical 7000 HDS which extends to 23 feet and collapses to 23.5-inches and the Spiderbeam 10M Mini Fiberglass Pole which extends to 33 feet and collapses to 28.5 inches. These poles make great travel companions due to their small size when collapsed. Both poles are telescoping, meaning they have multiple tapered rods that pull out until the diameter of the rod being extended pulls up the next larger diameter rod. Each rod is secured with a friction fit that is achieved by pulling the rod

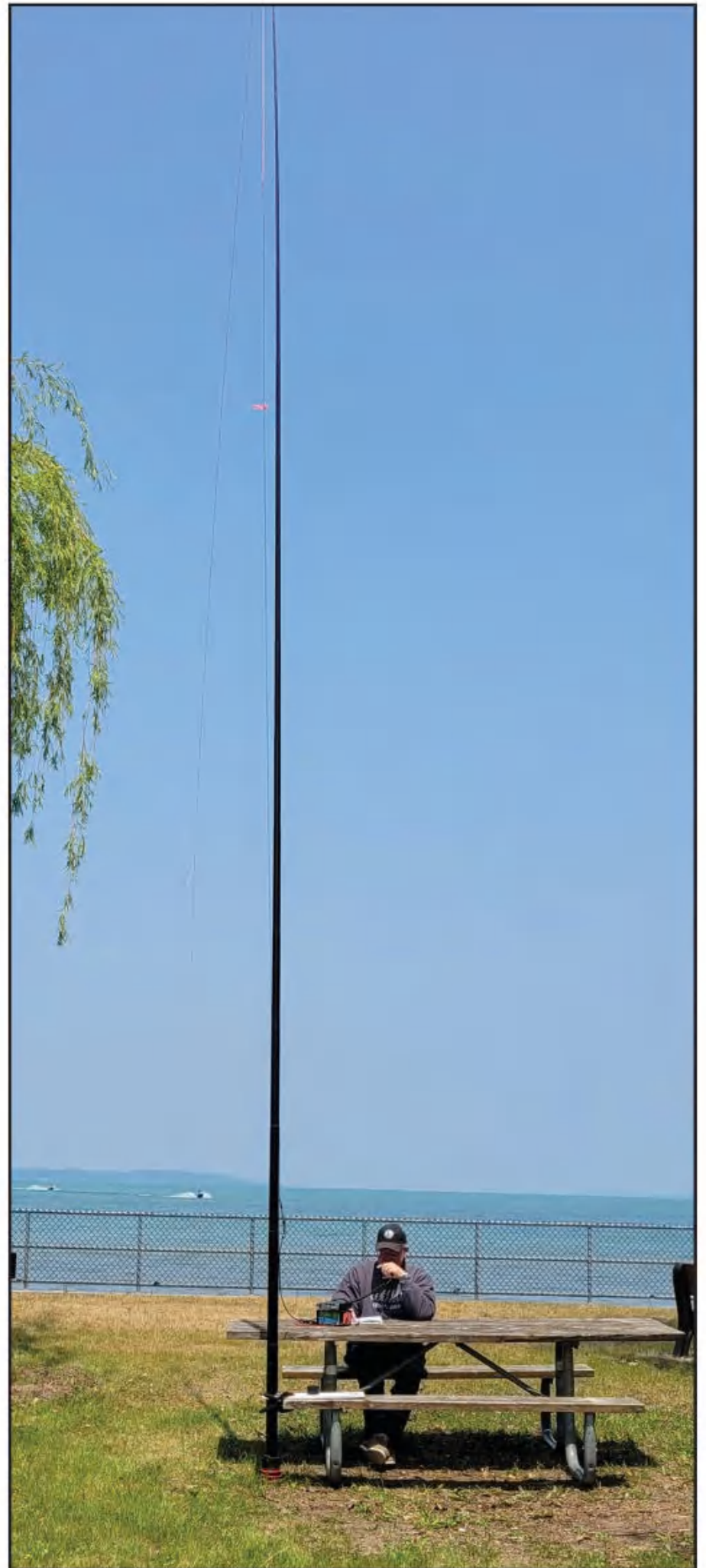


Photo A: KA8SMA operating portable with the Spiderbeam telescopic pole affixed to his operating position with the homebrew mounting system (Photo by Helen Rought).

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

upwards and giving it a twist to lock it in place. Collapsing the rods is achieved by untwisting each tapered rod and allowing it to slide downward.

Erecting these poles is simple and can be done in less than one minute as long as you do not use guys which adds more time and effort during setup. To keep the pole in the air without guys I homebrewed a mounting system that secures the pole to my operating position (usually a picnic table) and stabilizes the bottom of the pole to prevent it from moving around (Photo A).

I made my mount from a scrap piece of one quarter-inch plywood. The mount measures 20 inches (length) by 5 inches (width) and has a hole on each end for bracing each pole (Photo B). One hole is 2 inches in diameter and supports the SOTABEAMS Tactical 7000HDS and the other hole is 2.5 inches in diameter for the Spiderbeam. To make the holes I removed the end cap from each pole, positioned each pole approximately one inch from the ends of the plywood, and traced around the bottoms of the poles with a marker to create an outline for cutting. I used a jig saw to cut each hole. Prior to cutting I drilled a 3/8-inch hole near the center of each circle as a starting point. It is important that you use patience while cutting with a jig saw or your circles will become misshaped or larger than desired. As it turned out my hole for the Spiderbeam pole is a little larger than needed as I was working too fast and cut just outside the trace line. If available, a hole saw would be a better choice to complete this task. After cutting, I sanded the interior of each hole to remove any rough edges and painted the board.

To stabilize the base of the telescopic pole, I use a drink stake (Photo C). My wife purchased a set of these stakes (Cuisinart Model No. CDH-444) from an online vendor last year to use while

camping as they offer an easy and convenient way to keep your drinks off the ground while relaxing in a camp chair. She has yet to realize that I commandeered one from her set for my pole mount – Hi honey! Since the stakes are designed for cups that have a larger diameter than either of my poles, I wrapped two pieces of 1-inch (interior diameter) foam pipe insulation around the base of each pole to enlarge its diameter so they would have a snug fit in the drink holder (Photo D). The pipe insulation is fastened to each pole with zip ties and black duct tape. Due to the smaller diameter of the SOTABEAMS pole, I wrapped a second layer of foam insulation over a portion of the first layer so it would fit the drink holder.

Setup is easy! Upon arrival at a park, I claim a picnic table, remove the cap from my pole, slip it through the plywood mount and place the bottom of the pole into the drink stake. I then align the drink stake with the end of a seat on the picnic table and push the stake into the ground until the bottom of the drink holder is resting on the ground (I do not use the bottom rod that came with the drink stake). Also note that I wrap the coils of the drink holder with two zip ties to add stabilization, as they are “springy”. After the drink stake is in the ground, I secure the mount to the picnic table seat with a spring clamp (Photo E). I generally use one spring clamp; however, during windy conditions I add a second one. After the mount is fastened, I raise the pole to support either an Inverted V or an EFHW antenna. This setup gets my antenna quickly in the air, keeps my antenna support lines out of nearby trees and most importantly, I have no worries about the park police ruining my day of playing radio in the park.

Keep Your Pole Clean!

On Memorial Day weekend, I did a POTA activation at a local park and ran



Photo C: The drink stake I commandeered for stabilizing the bottom of the telescopic pole. Note the two zip ties around the drink holder. I do not use the bottom piece of the stake.



Photo D: Closeup showing pieces of pipe insulation wrapped around and fastened to the base of the Spiderbeam telescopic pole.



Photo B: The wooden mount for securing the telescopic pole to the operating position.

into trouble collapsing one of my telescopic poles. The rod at the top of the pole was locked in place and would not collapse. This was a first for me as I have never had an issue in collapsing a telescopic pole. After a few minutes of fiddling, I decided to push downward on the top section with brute force. After a few good pushes the rod slipped downward into place. When I got home, I erected the pole again and could feel friction between the rods while sliding them upward into position. I also noticed scratches on several of the rods, especially in the friction grip portions of each rod. A look inside the pole revealed sand and grit was lodged in the annular space between the walls of each rod. This quickly explained the scratches and the issue with collapsing the rods.

To fix this problem I unscrewed the bottom cap from the pole and removed each rod from the pole for a thorough cleaning. I washed each rod in the kitchen sink with warm water and dish soap, rinsed them off and then set them aside to dry. After the rods were dry I put the pole back together. Based on the amount of residue in the bottom of the sink I estimate there was less than a quarter teaspoon of grit and sand inside the pole...surely enough to create a problem. My question is, how did this material get inside the pole? I have operated in a lot of dusty and sandy environments (i.e., near dirt roads, sandy beaches, etc.) and suspect these locations, coupled with my not wiping down the pole to remove any particulates, is the root cause. To avoid this problem in the future, I am using a clean cloth to wipe down each telescoping section after each use and periodically disassembling each pole and washing the rods to remove debris (Photo F).

Prior to disassembling and washing the rods I applied a silicone spray (lubricant) to the pole in an effort to make the rods slide more easily. However, I discovered the lubricant loosened and moved grit around inside the poles, which made collapsing the rods more difficult. I therefore do not recommend using lubricant on the rods.

POTA's Plaque Event 2023

During the first weekend in June, I participated in POTA's Plaque Event. I was in the Rover category in which operators travel (rove) from park to park during the 48-hour contest, activating as many locations as possible. To activate a park one needs to make at least 10 contacts using any mode. I worked this event last year (2022) and placed 5th by activating

43 parks during the 48-hour period. There is no QRP category for the Plaque Event so those who do not increase their power (like me) are pitted against hams using more power. Although this may be a disadvantage, an effective antenna system and good operating skills will level the playing field. During this year's event, I was able to make the mandatory 10 contacts (using 5 watts) at several parks in less than 4 minutes when band conditions were good. When bands were not cooperative, it sometimes took as long as 30 minutes to activate a location. Thankfully the bands

were in good condition this year and I was able to activate 56 parks in 48 hours.

There were a couple of rules changes for this year's Plaque Event. The first was its separation from the Support Your Parks Weekend. In past years, the Plaque Event was held during the Summer Support Your Parks Weekend, which is the third full weekend in July. Earlier this year, POTA made the Plaque Event a standalone event as many hams requested an opportunity for activators and hunters to participate in a competitive event. The second change was eliminating multiple refer-



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ence parks (i.e., “N-fers”) and counting them as a single park for the Plaque Event. In other words, a park that qualified as a “2-fer” (a park that qualified as contacting two parks – a park within a park) would only be worth one park. This is a rule change that several other hams and I asked POTA to change for this year’s Plaque Event since some areas of the country (and world) have multiple parks embedded within another park, but many areas do not. This helped level the playing field so those who had the ability to activate multiple parks (2’fers, 3’fers, etc.) were equal with those who live in areas that do not have these types of parks.

I am aware that many in the QRP community have requested the POTA group create a QRP category for the Plaque Event. It is my understanding POTA cannot create categories for power levels since the logs are submitted only by park activators (not park hunters) and there is no simple way for an activator to distinguish between power categories when

making contacts with hunters. However, I am going to request the POTA group consider creating a QRP category for park activators since they are the ones submitting the logs and can identify their power level when submitting logs. We will find out where this goes.

Until October, 73

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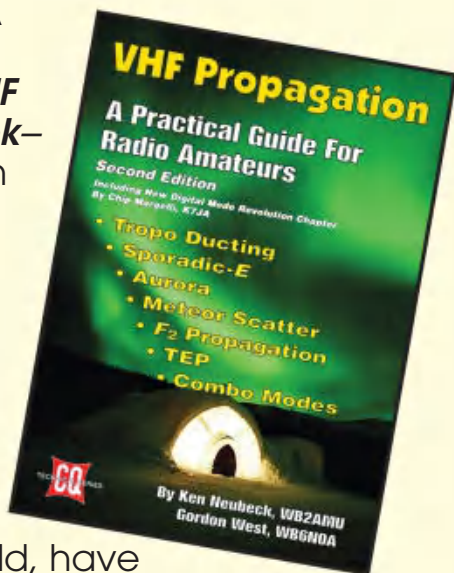


Photo E: The telescopic pole in position! The mount is clamped to the seat of the picnic table and the base of the drink stake is resting atop the ground.



Photo F: Preventative maintenance - my SOTABEAMS telescopic pole disassembled, washed and drying on a towel. Note the heavy scratching on the rods.

A 70-Centimeter "Kitchen Array"

BY BOB ROSE,* KC1DSQ & BOB GLORIOSO,# W1IS

WA5VJB has been very busy with his day-job and didn't have time this month to write a column. Two of our regular antenna article contributors, Bob Rose, KC1DSQ, and Bob Glorioso, W1IS, are filling in as guest editors with a look at an antenna that might even help you lose weight by making it harder to bake cookies! – W2VU

A batch of chocolate chip cookies cooling on an 11.5 x 16.5-inch stainless steel cooling rack was the inspiration for this project (Figure 1). There it was, the perfect reflector for a simple, inexpensive, 70-centimeter antenna.

Some online research followed,^{1,2} along with a few sessions on EZNEC to simulate a few configurations that could exploit the rack. We started with two of them in a corner reflector configuration and found that it provided performance similar to a 10-element Yagi, 13 dBi gain on a four-foot boom. As we pondered how to make a simple corner reflector out of two of the racks, we thought a comparison to a single reflector was worth throwing into the mix. That turned out to be a good idea as the principal difference was loss of a few dBi of gain and three to five dB of front-to-back ratio (F/B), though the F/B of the simple flat reflector was an acceptable 12 dB or 2 S-units. The SWR curve and patterns are shown in Figures 2, 3, and 4 respectively.

The design places a dipole approximately five inches in front of the reflector, Figure 5. The SWR can be adjusted by adjusting the distance from the reflector. Closer to the reflector lowers the impedance. Farther from the reflector increases it.

Construction

The photo of a completed antenna (Photo A) will help you understand the construction. Start with the rack by bolting a 4" x 8" x 1/16" piece of aluminum to the rack using 1/4"-20 bolts and large washers (fender washers will do) to cover the wires on the rack. Tape the aluminum to the rack and mark the aluminum to be drilled so the hole is centered over one of the grid spaces in the rack. We found putting the bolts diagonally across from each other near the top and bottom of the aluminum piece

works well. Drill and mount the aluminum plate. The remainder of the holes will also have to be lined up with the grid spaces in the rack. Keeping the plate on helps. Drill two 1/4" holes for the dipole supports that are positioned two grid spaces below the vertical center of the rack and two grid spaces to

the left and right of the horizontal center of the rack.

Next, cut a 2" x 4" piece of plexiglass to hold the dipole. Drill two 1/4" holes in the plexiglass centered on the dipole support holes and 1/2" from the edge of the plexiglass. The dipole supports use plastic threaded rods because metal

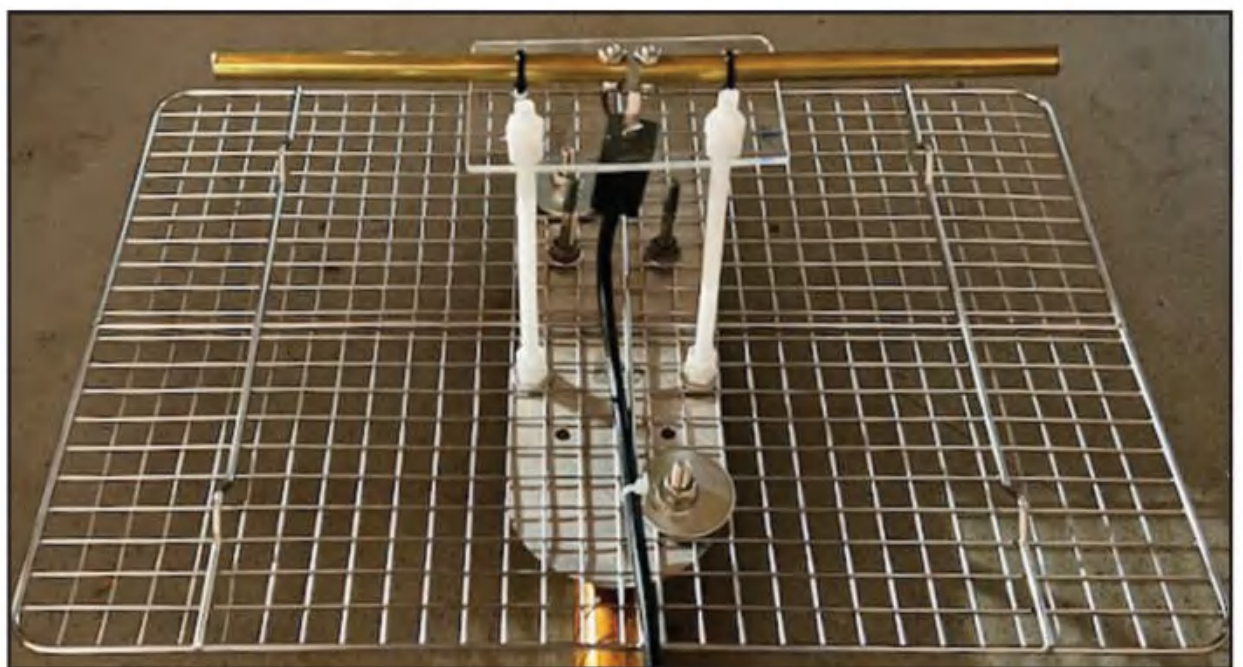


Photo A: The 70-centimeter "Kitchen Array."

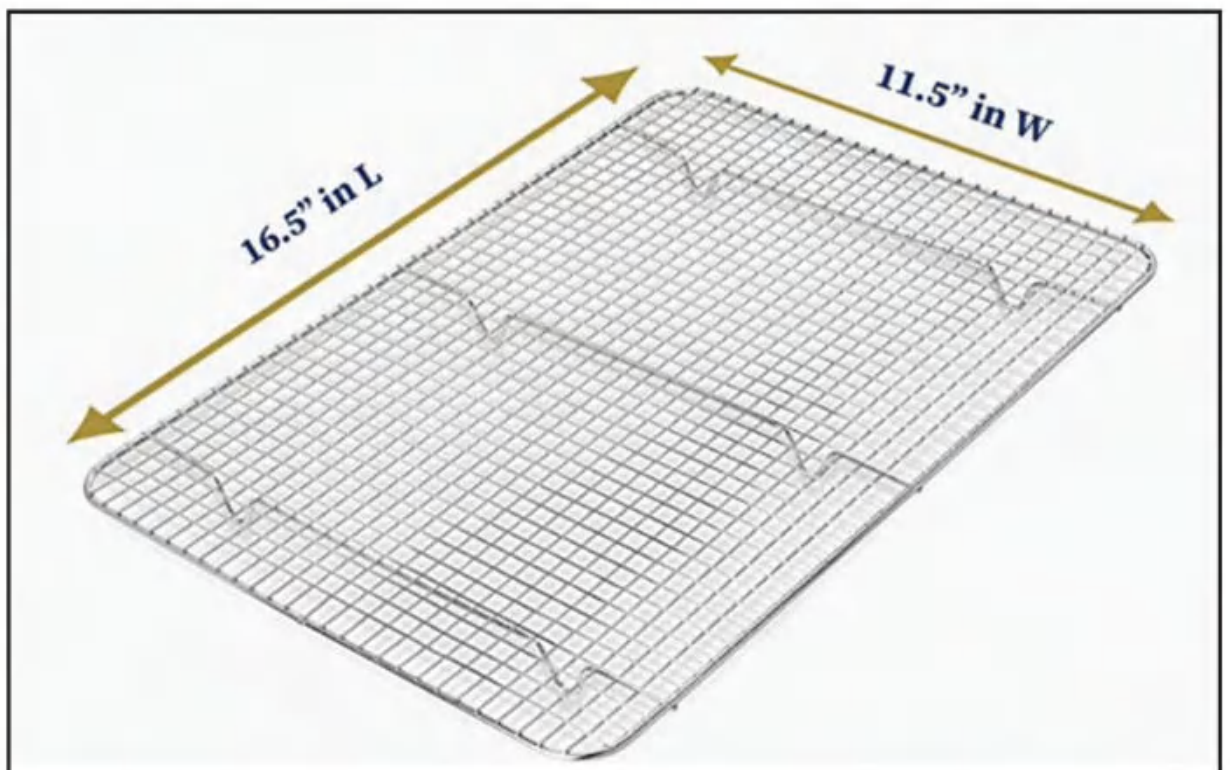


Figure 1: Cooling rack NO MORE!

* E-mail: <b.rose@comcast.net>

E-mail: <rglorioso@me.com>

rods detune the antenna, alter the pattern, and reduce the bandwidth. We used 1/4"-20 threaded rods made of Acetal® plastic because of its moisture resistance. These are available from McMaster-Carr for 2-foot rods.³ Cut two 8" lengths for the supports. Fasten them to the aluminum plate with Acetal 1/4"-20 nuts, also available from McMaster-Carr.⁴ Fasten the plexiglass dipole support to the support rods using Acetal nuts. The support plexiglass should be positioned 5 inches above the reflector. Mark the point on the plexiglass that sits above the center of the reflector. This will position the dipole over the center of the rack. Drill two 1/8" holes

spaced 1/2" apart along the long dimension of the reflector, centered on the center mark

Fasten the coax feedline to the dipole support plexiglass using 6-32 x 3/4" stainless steel screws with flat washers and nuts. Solder a #18 wire to the shield and wrap it around the head of the screw between two #6 washers. Wrap the inner conductor around the other screw between two #6 washers. Prepare each 5-1/2" dipole half with a 1/8" hole carefully drilled starting with a 3/32" drill 1/8" from the end. The dipole halves are fastened with a nut on the screw through the plexiglass connected to the coax below. Drill holes in the plexiglass for tie-wraps to hold the dipoles in position.

If you plan to mount this on a mast, drill holes in the aluminum plate to hold the appropriate U bolt. It may be mounted vertically or horizontally depending on the desired polarization. The bandwidth is wide enough to cover the entire 70-centimeter band.

Although the actual SWR of this antenna is quite low across the whole 30 MHz of the band (Figure 6) the length of the dipoles may be adjusted to give lowest SWR in the part of the band of most interest to you. You can adjust the lengths of each half of the dipole with a file or grinding wheel.

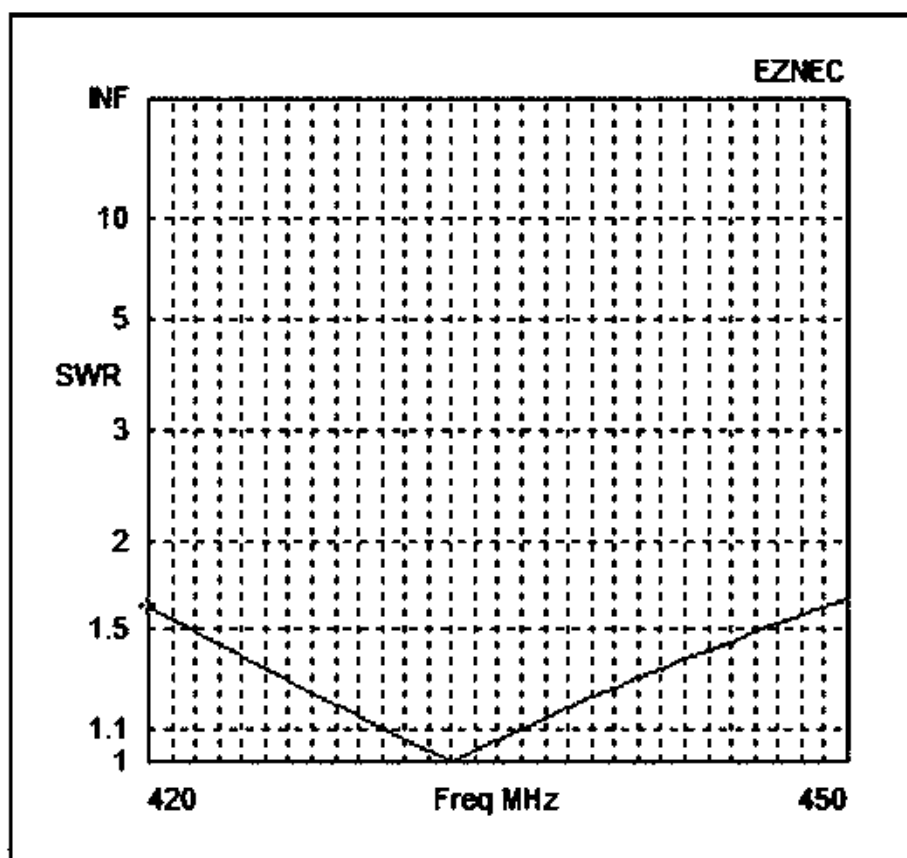


Figure 2: Modeled SWR curve.

Testing

The antenna was run through on-the-air tests at both short (50-foot) and long (2-mile) ranges and the measured F/B ratio

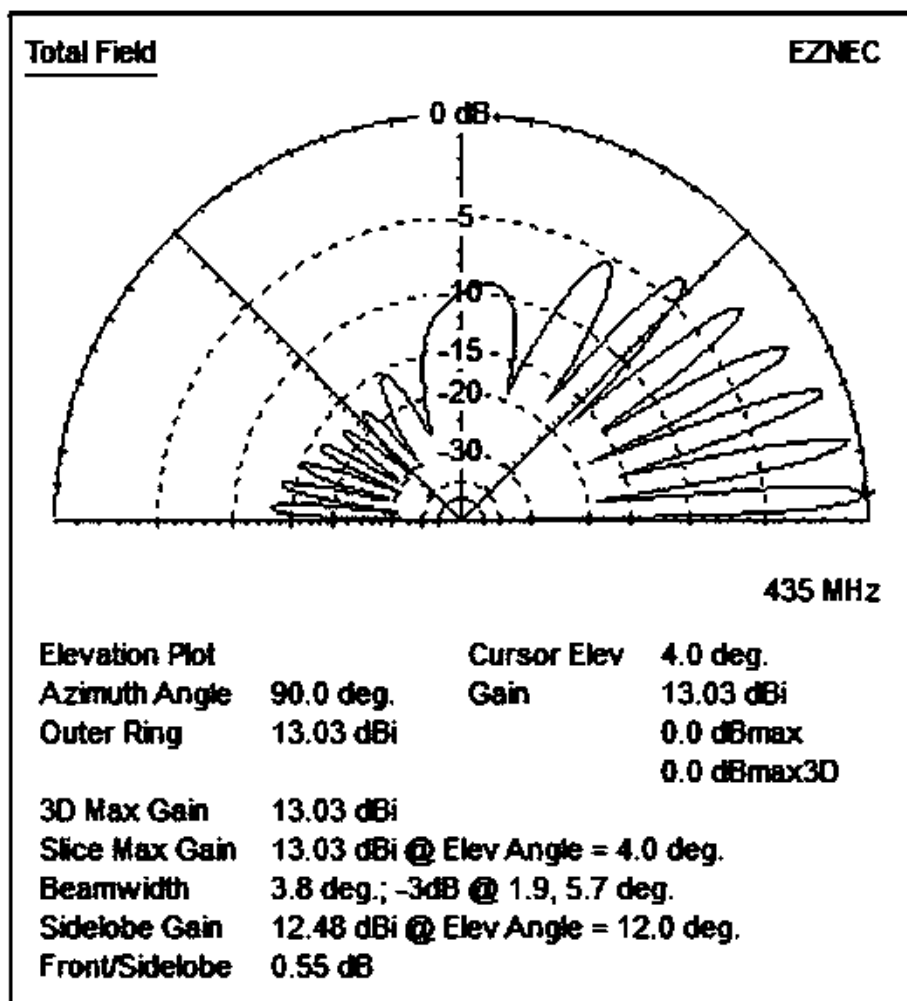


Figure 3: Elevation plot.

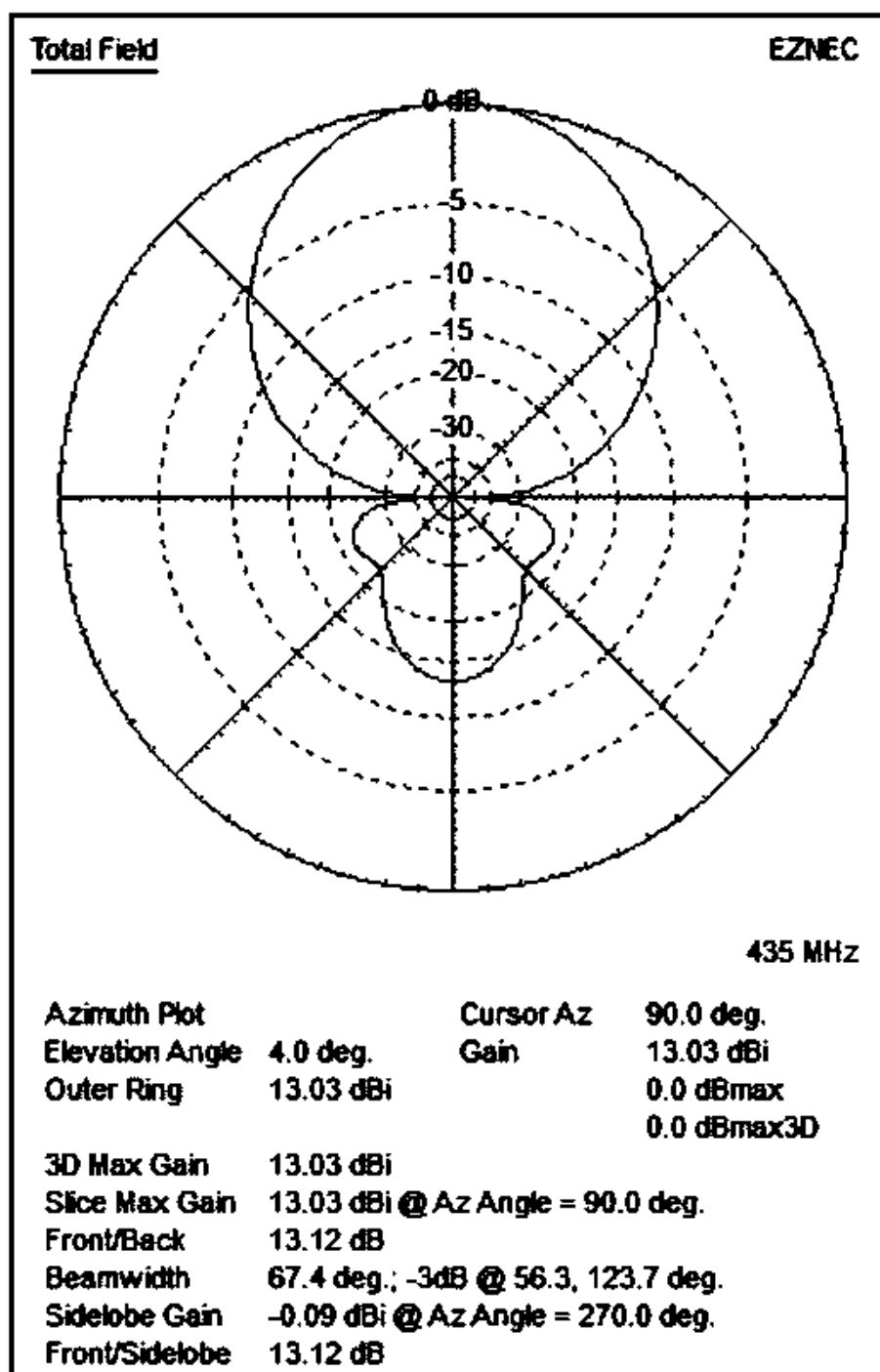


Figure 4: Azimuth plot.

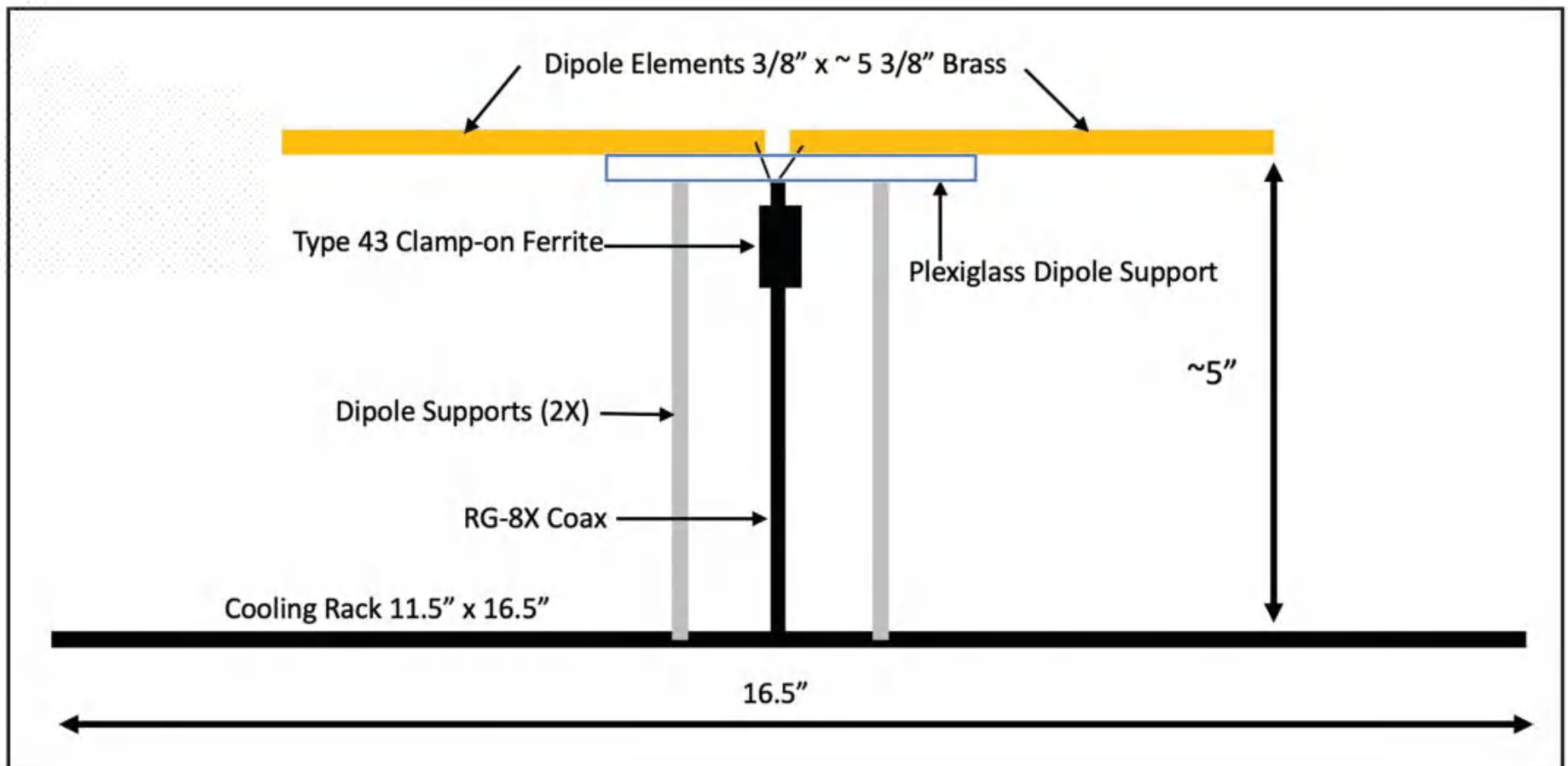


Figure 5: Schematic layout.

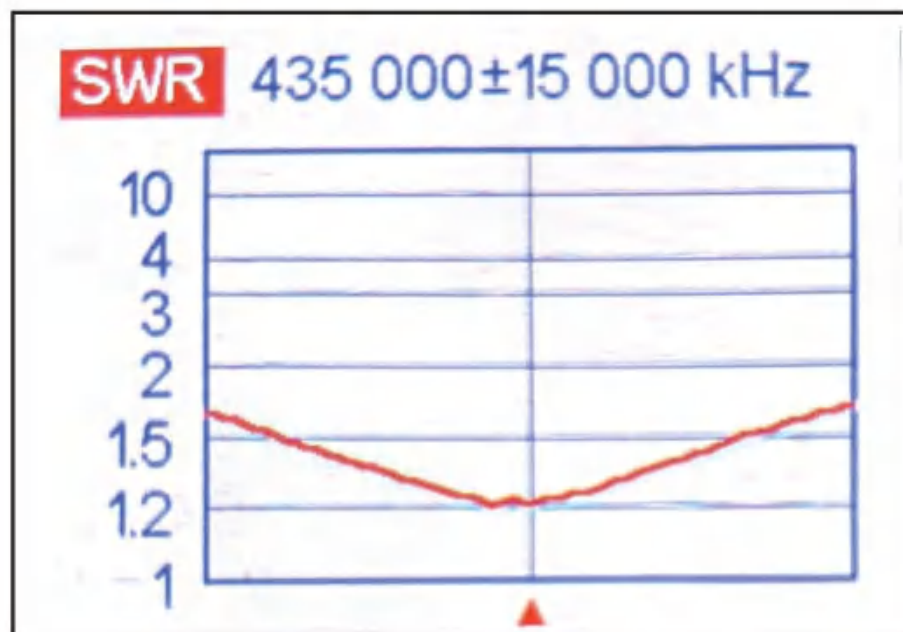
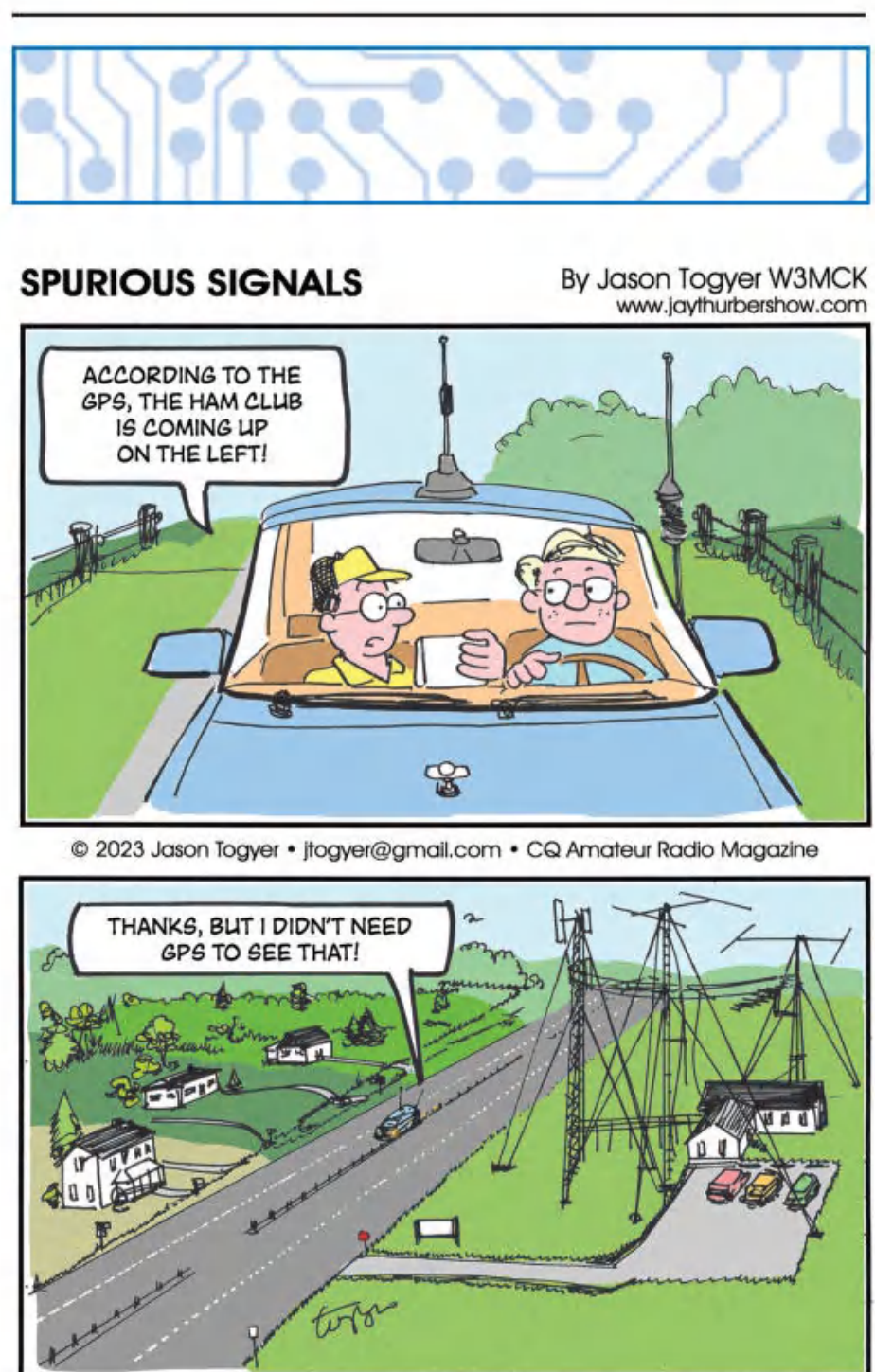


Figure 6: Measured SWR across the 70-centimeter band.

was consistently 2 S-units, or 12 dB, as predicted by our modeling. Measuring gain is a little trickier and was done in our short backyard range (50 feet) by comparing signal strengths of a dipole and the “Kitchen Array” driven by the weak signal from a Nano VNA configured as a signal generator. Again, the “Kitchen Array” averaged 1.5 to 2 S-units, or 9 to 12 dB gain, over a dipole as predicted by our simulations.

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1. Cebik, L.B., “The Flat-Plane Reflector for 432 MHz” <<https://tinyurl.com/2knd87vh>>
2. Glorioso and Rose (W1IS/KC1DSQ), “Wire Antennas 160 Meters to 70 Cm: Concepts, Construction and On-the-Air,” OCFmasters.com and Amazon.com
3. <<https://www.mcmaster.com/98873A200/>>
4. <<https://www.mcmaster.com/99223A029/>>



More on Antenna and Receiver Performance

Putting the best signal on the air is an important topic, and one I try to talk about a lot. The devil, as they say, is often in the details. Admittedly, buying a new radio is a lot more exciting than improving the quality of your feed line, but I will tell you that feed line and connector performance are critical to the success of your station. Last month, we talked about receiver performance in the VHF+ range, with help from Rob Sherwood, NCØB. I have much more from my interview with Rob that I'll share in coming episodes, but Rob sent me down a rabbit hole with talk about feed lines, including patch cables, and specifically with N connectors. He mentioned that Frank Donovan, W3LPL – who is well known to many hams as a world-class contester, educator, and all-around friend of our hobby – has been talking about problems with certain types of N connectors, especially those that feature a “floating pin.” Frank was kind enough to share some of his presentation materials with me, and his comments are below:

“My talk included a brief discussion of problems resulting from obsolete N connectors with floating pins that most hams using N connectors still have in their stations. The problem with floating pins is that most are improperly installed by amateurs *and* professionals. The pin depth must be precisely correct. If it is just 1/2 mm too long, it can permanently damage the mating female connector. Just 1/2 mm too short and the mating pressure to the female socket is inadequate for a reliable connection. If the coax is mounted vertically on a tower, migration of the center conductor of the coax can cause the floating pin to pull back, completely disengaging it from the mating female socket.”

Below are some talking points from Frank's 2022 Antenna Forum presentation:

N and UHF connectors are commonly used - both have insignificant measured loss on 6 meters

High quality silver-plated PL-259 UHF connectors - much more reliable center pin mating force than N connectors

Common N connector failures caused by pin installation errors

- unreliable mating caused by insufficient pin length and pin pullback
- damage caused by excess pin length and axial pin misalignment

Captive pin N connectors solve N connector reliability issues

- assures the necessary +/- 0.020 inch (+/- 1/2 mm) pin depth tolerance
- prevents connector damage caused by pin misalignment
- prevents unreliable connection caused by pin pullback

Never use cheaply made off-brand connectors and adapters. This includes nickel plated or “astro-plated”



Photo A. Example of silver-plated PL-259 from Newark Electronics.

connectors and adapters. Instead, use only name-brand silver plated connectors and adapters. (See Photo A for an example, from Newark, of an appropriate connector.)

Thank you, Frank, for helping us to better understand “connections”!!!!

Following up on a couple of points here, many of us must manage our resources (i.e., budget) so I want to emphasize Frank's point about N and PL-259 connectors doing equally well at 6 meters. At 50 MHz, the important thing is a quality connector and feedline. Above 50 MHz, and especially beginning at 432 MHz, line loss is a much bigger issue. N connectors, especially “captive” ones as described above, will make a difference, as will the quality of your feed line, including any jumpers you are using. Upgrade as you can, keeping this in mind.

One thing Rob, NCØB, mentioned to me was using dual shielded cables to further reduce loss. My point is this: Don't buy the first thing you see. Do a little research, ask questions of the vendor and of seasoned amateur operators and acquaint yourself with the performance of feed line relative to the frequencies you plan to operate. Bottom line: Use the best materials you can afford and realize you probably can't do it all at once. The performance of your radio and your antennas depends heavily on how well they are connected.

N4DTF in the ARRL June VHF Contest

I am happy to report that your humble editor spent a lot of time in the chair during this contest, thanks in part to a very patient and understanding XYL. Other than a couple of hours on Saturday dominated by thunderstorms, and church and family activities on Sunday, I worked as much as I could. My total was 53 stations on phone and 33 on FT8. My pattern was simply to tune the band and work as many phone stations as I could. When phone got slow, I switched over to FT8 and worked all I could, then went back. I was rewarded with a good number of new grids on 6 meters, thanks in part to some excellent roving work in many areas of the country.

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

Of course, Murphy came along and my IC-9100, which had worked well on FT8 earlier in the week, threw a bit of a tantrum, leaving me with only phone on 2 meters and 432 MHz. So those contacts were limited to a few local grids, nothing new or exciting there. I did call CQ on 144.200 late both nights, and early Sunday morning, to no avail. Not sure if it was a lack of band conditions or if everyone was on FT8. I'd love to have some reports from those around the country who did well on 2-meter phone, SSB or FM.

SLAMS in the June VHF Contest

From EM48, Herbert Ullmann, AF4JF, sent along a report on his group's contest operating, as well as their work to advance the use of the microwave frequencies in general. Thank you, Herbert, for sending this along:

The SLAMS abbreviation stands for "Saint Louis Area Microwave Society". We have 19 full members, but we are running an email reflector that has 58 subscribers. SLAMS is not an official club, we have no presidents, trustees, etc. We only have 3 moderators who maintain the blog, the Groups.io account and the activity. When we need to make a decision, we vote. That's what the "membership" is for – only members can vote.

The SLAMS group was founded on November 15, 2008, for one reason – to support microwave activities.

The one and only condition to become a SLAMS member is to be active on any microwave band above 900 MHz or at least work on it. We have no membership dues. We meet on monthly basis – one "in person" meeting and one "virtual". It's usually a breakfast meeting followed by a trip to nearby park where we test our equipment. During the COVID times, we started Zoom meetings every first Tuesday of the month (some exceptions, like July 4th). This turned out to be interesting for our members who live further away, so we keep both meetings now.

Although we have so many members, we do not have much activity in contests. The ARRL VHF this June was, as far as we know, only attended by Ron Ochu, KOØZ, Harry Haeusser, WAØCNS, and me (AF4JF), as rovers. Another of our members, Zack Widup, W9SZ, who lives farther away, attended the contest from portable locations but limited his bands due to damage his gear suffered during the last contest (the microwave sprint). Mel Whitten, KØPFX, attended the contest from his home QTH.

We have a tradition here in Saint Louis. The weekend of the June VHF contest is also the weekend of one local hamfest. It is close to the grid line, so we usually operate Saturday from somewhere else, then come



Photo B. SLAMS portable microwave setup by WAØCNS. See text for details.

to Granite City to attend the hamfest, have a group lunch in a famous local restaurant and then go to another grid (EM58) to continue contesting.

If you look at the article on our blog site <<https://tinyurl.com/mr2rs6es>>, you will see some pictures in chronological order. You will also see that we have held a “test session” one week before the contest, just to make sure our equipment was ready. (Photo B shows a typical SLAMS microwave setup in the field.)

Some highlights:

- I used new transverters from SG-Lab in Bulgaria for 902, 1296 and 2304MHz

- I used new rover setup with non-dish antennas on a rotor mounted on a luggage rail on my SUV

- Harry Haeusser, WAØCNS, used new multi-band microwave station he built using SDR Adalm Pluto and Raspberry Pi called “Project Langstone” <<https://tinyurl.com/ym8rkf5v>>.

- Ron, KOØZ, just received his 10-GHz station back from DEMI (Down East Microwave) where they repaired damage the transverter suffered during another outdoor activity

Our first day was a little unusual. Normally, we all go to Winfield, Missouri in EM49 and move around the EM48/49 grid line to work each other on all our bands (which means 50 MHz to 122 GHz, currently, except 78 GHz). This year, Harry went to High Ridge in EM48rl, close to his QTH and about 40 miles away from our (Ron’s and my) location in EM49oa. To make it more complicated, the road to our usual location in EM49pa (at the river dam and lock) was closed, so we had to go to a backup location which is on the hilltop, but this time of year is covered by foliage. That was a problem even on 2304 MHz, let alone higher bands.

Funny that we did not hear each other on 50 MHz with Harry – the propagation was good that day, but not for the 40 miles between us!

The second day was very rainy. We had very little attendance at the hamfest and outdoor operation was difficult, but we still managed to work each other in EM48 (Ron and I were in EM49 the first day). After the hamfest, Harry and I went to EM58as (Edwardsville, Illinois), set up one kilometer apart and worked each other on all our bands except 10 GHz and up (I forgot to bring my IF radio for these bands). Even so, it was still eight QSOs on eight different bands. I left Harry in EM58 to a spree of 50-MHz callers and returned to Saint Peters, EM48qs, to pick up my IF radio and set up in a local park to work Ron, who returned earlier from the hamfest. We worked each other on 10 GHz. As a bonus, we demonstrated the 10 GHz to two other local guys who became interested in the 3-centimeter band. We (the SLAMS) have a loaner 10-GHz rig (thanks to our member John Germanos, WB9PNU), so these newly interested guys can try it with us next time before they get their own station.

Thanks, Herbert, for an interesting report. That’s a lot of activity for a relatively small group of hams. It reminds us that microwavers are a friendly sort and more than willing to help hams who are interested in getting involved on these higher frequencies. If you are in the greater St. Louis area, please look these fine folks up and get involved!

Awards and Activities

I’m very pleased to report that Jeff Wheeler, W7JW, in EN82,

completed his Fred Fish Memorial Award on 6 meters during the recent ARRL VHF contest weekend. For those who don’t know, the FFMA is earned by making confirmed contacts with all 488 grid squares in the continental U.S. on 6 meters. Jeff is understandably excited, and offers the following comments:

“I’m happy to report that FFMA has been completed. I worked KN6UWK in DMØ2 on Saturday morning and AA5PR in DM53 Sunday morning. This morning all confirmed in LoTW and 3 QSLs checked locally; all submitted to ARRL Sunday afternoon.

A BIG thanks to both operators for being QRV. Thanks also to Al Bailey, K8SIX for all of his work in getting KN6UWK operational in DMØ2. While Al crowdfunded the KPA500, he paid for it upfront before starting the request for donations. He also purchased at his expense a hard cover transport case for the KPA500 and a new 7-element LFA, all before the 6-meter E season started. Al deserves recognition for his legwork, emails with Base commanders and suppliers.

Another BIG thank-you goes to John Klem, AA5PR, who built a cool little self-contained 6-meter remote trailer. I had emailed John several times over the past summers and he kept telling me, “stand by, I have a plan.” I didn’t know what he was up to until Saturday morning when he contacted me on Slack with his plan. While roving on his own during the contest, several times he took the time to log into his remote and look for me. On Sunday morning, he found me. His 100-watt, solar-powered, Moxon remote somewhere in DM53 exchanged pretty good reports on FT8 and the deal was done. FFMA from Michigan achieved.

Thanks to all the others, like AG6EE, KB7Q, ACØRA, et. al., who go out across this great country activating grids for the rest of us. Best of luck to all FFMA chasers this summer. I suspect another dozen FFMA will be issued in 2023.”

Again, Jeff, congratulations – we certainly owe a debt of gratitude to all those who rove and otherwise work to make it easier for us to make the needed contacts!

On the Air

Our friend Mario Karcich, K2ZD, reports continuing success in his quest for 6-meter DX. On June 13th at 2015 Z Mario worked D2UY for 6-meter DXCC # 223. According to Mario, D2UY was 0 DB here and gave him a -13db report. *Mario, keep up the good work and thanks for the report!*

Ed Locker, K5GUN, in grid EM50, reported 2-meter Es contacts during the VHF contest. At 2302z on June 11, he worked VE3DS on phone, and at 2336z he worked VE3MIS on 2-meter FT8. Ed says he basically waits all year for one good Es opening on 2 meters. Ed was running 100 watts from an IC-9100 into an eggbeater antenna! Well done, Ed!

At the end of May, Phil Miguelez, WA3NUF, reported that the 222.060 W3CCX/B beacon located at FN20tk is back on the air. Please send signal reports on this or any of the other W3CCX beacons to WA2OMY (<talgarth@comcast.net>) or WA3NUF (<PhilNUF@aol.com>).

Thanks, Phil, for letting us know. These beacons are important guides to propagation and we appreciate the effort required to keep them on the air!

That’s all for this month – please keep those reports of activity and projects coming!

Summer is Sizzling with Deals...



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The CQ Ham Shack Project Calendar which features fifteen spectacular color images of amateur radio building projects.



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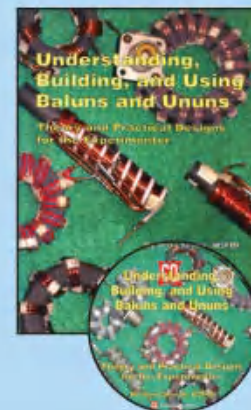


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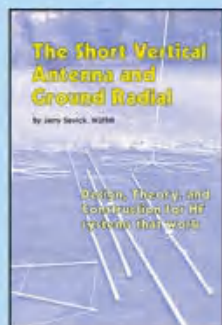
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Reflections III

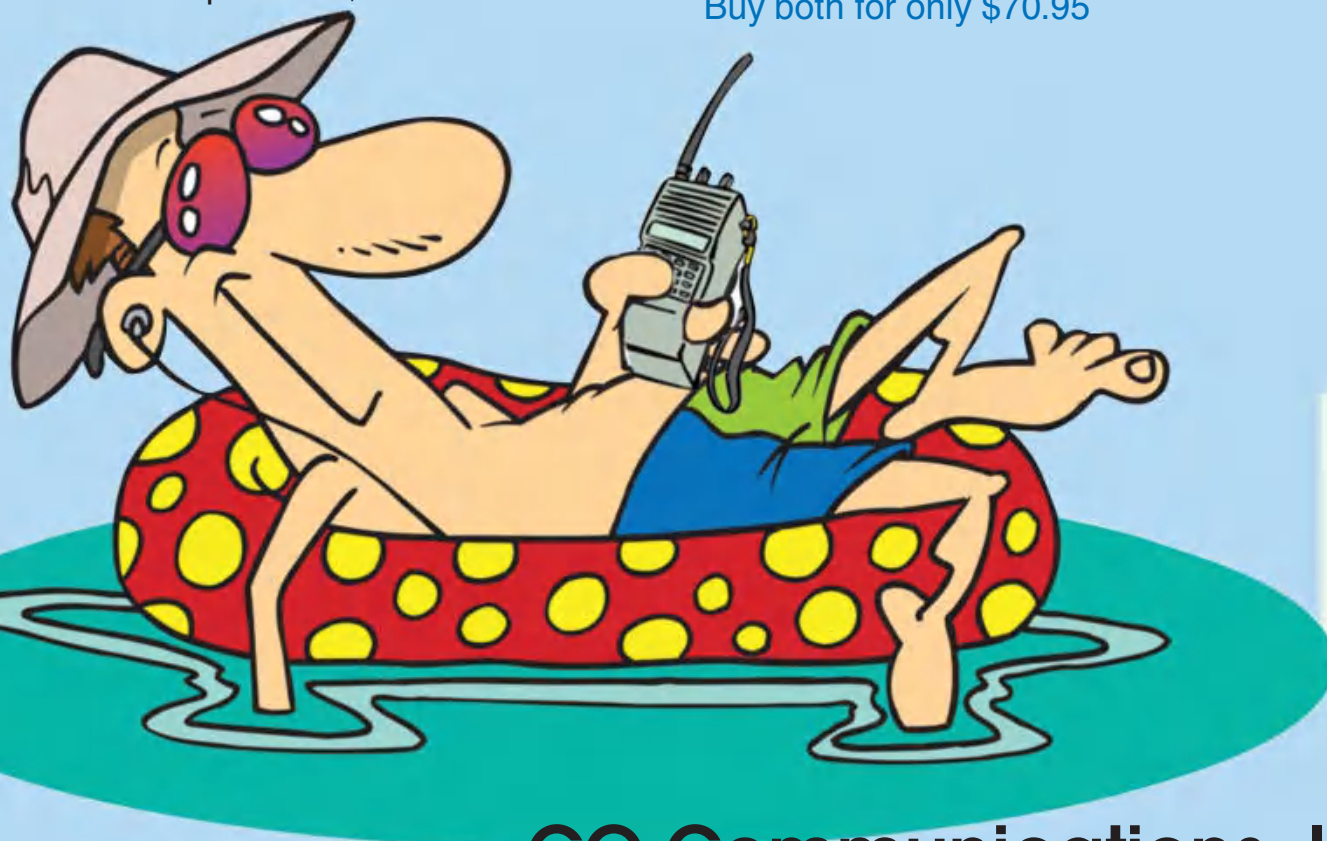
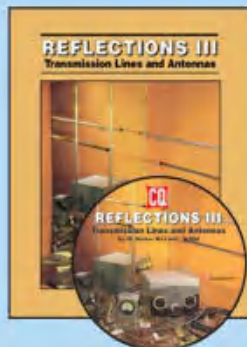
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awards

BY STEVE MOLO,* KI4KWR

Young Ladies Radio League Awards

While at the Dayton Hamvention® this year, a few members of the YLRL approached me to promote the awards they are offering in 2023. This group has eight awards available to obtain and we will cover each with a brief description and how to obtain. The information and illustrations are courtesy of the YLRL website, <www.ylrl.net>.

YLRL Annual Award

This year's YLRL Annual Award (Photo A), available only to YLRL members, is about working other YLs *over the radio*. Internet help is not permitted. Work 12 different YLs anywhere in the world. Contacts may be made by any communication mode used in amateur radio. Contacts made on Echolink do not count this year. The certificate is about using your radios and antennas to make contacts.

Log each YL contact with the following information: Their Call, Time (UTC), Date, Signal Report Sent and Received, First Name, Location or QTH. Contacts must be during the year 2023. There is a log sheet with this format that you can download from our website.

Send to Carol J. Laferty, YLRL Certificate Manager, 55 E. Cardinal Lane, Clearfield, KY 40313, or via email to <cjf1941@roadrunner.com>.

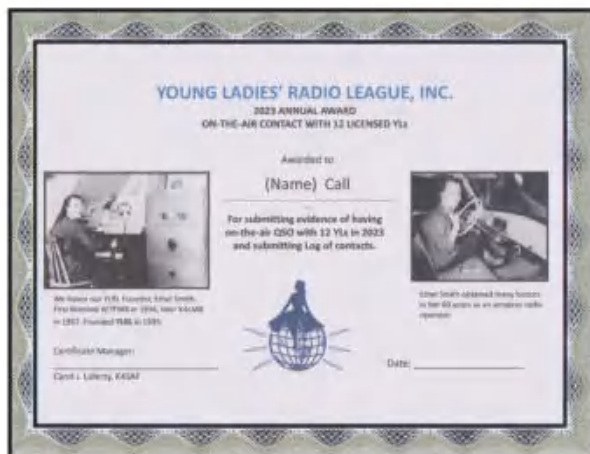


Photo A. The 2023 YLRL Annual Award is available only to current members of the Young Ladies Radio League (Images courtesy YLRL website).

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



Photo B. The YL Century Club award is earned by working 100 YL operators anywhere in the world. It is open to all amateurs.

YL Century Club (YLCC)

The YL Century Club award (Photo B) is available to any licensed amateur in the world.

Two-way communications must be established on authorized amateur bands, with stations, mobile or fixed, operated by 100 different duly-licensed women amateurs anywhere in the world.

The same YL using different call letters will NOT count.

Any and all amateur bands may be used.

List of claimed contacts must be arranged alphabetically by call sign.

Endorsements: Using the same method of confirmation as the original, endorsements will be made to the original certificate when 50 additional YLs are worked and confirmed.

Gold stickers will be awarded to applicants who have worked their additional contacts from the same country; otherwise, silver stickers will be awarded.

Please indicate whether you are applying for a gold or silver sticker when submitting your application.

Worked All States YL (WAS-YL)

WAS-YL (Photo C) is available to any licensed amateur in the world. Contact must be made with a duly licensed YL in each of the 50 states in the U.S.

The District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland.

There are no time or band limitations. In qualifying for this certificate, it is



Photo C. The WAS-YL award is issued for contacting a YL operator in each of the 50 U.S. states.

possible to work the SAME YL in another state.

The list of contacts must be arranged alphabetically by state A-Z.

Worked All Continents YL (WAC-YL)

Available to any licensed amateur in the world.

To earn WAC-YL (Photo D), two-way communications must be established on the amateur radio bands with YLs on the six continents: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania (which includes Australia and New Zealand).

Any and all authorized amateur radio bands may be used.

Contacts may have been made over any period of time, with duly licensed women operators.

Submit a list of claimed contacts alphabetically arranged by continent.



Photo D. WAC-YL is earned by contacting a YL amateur on each continent.



Photo E. Work YLs in 10 of the 40 CQ Zones of the World to earn this award.

Worked All Zones – YL (WAZ YL)

The WAZ YL award (Photo E) is available to any licensed amateur in the world.

Work YLs in 10 different CQ zones.

Any and all authorized amateur radio bands may be used.

Contacts may have been made over any period of time or QTH.

Submit a list of claimed contacts arranged numerically by CQ zone number.

For each additional 10 zones, a sticker can be added.

A plaque is available when all 40 CQ zones are confirmed.

DX-YL Award

The DX-YL award (Photo F) is available to any licensed amateur in the world.

Work 10 DIFFERENT licensed women operators outside your own country.

USA and possessions are counted as separate countries, as well as Alaska and Hawaii.

Any and all amateur bands may be used.

Contacts do not have to be with 10 different countries, just 10 different DX YLs. Use current approved DX country list.

The log must be arranged alphabetically by call sign.



Photo F. The DX-YL award requires you to work at least 10 YL operators outside your own country.

Endorsements: Stickers will be awarded for each 10 additional DX YLs, subject to the same confirmation as above.

When 100 DX YL contacts have been confirmed for DX YL certificate, you may apply for either the special paper certificate, or an engraved plaque.



Photo G. The YL-DXCC award goes to hams who work YL operators in 100 different DX entities.

YL-DXCC

The YL-DXCC award (Photo G) is available to any licensed amateur in the world.

Two-way communications must be established on authorized amateur bands with stations (fixed or mobile), operated by licensed YLs from 100 countries on the most current ARRL list of countries.

Any band or mode may be used.

The log must be arranged alphabetically by country.

Endorsements: After receiving the certificate, a silver sticker will be awarded for contacts with YLs in 25 additional DX countries. List requirements are the same as for the original application.

YL-Digital Modes

The YL Digital Modes award (Photo H) is available to any licensed amateur in the world.

Two-way communications must be established on authorized amateur bands with stations (fixed or mobile), operated by licensed YLs using digital modes only.

Contact must be made with 25 YLs using a digital mode (FT8/FT4, PSK31, RTTY, CW, SSTV, etc.). ALL contacts must be made using the same mode.

The log must be arranged alphabetically by call sign.

Endorsements: After receiving the first certificate, a sticker may be awarded for each additional digital mode in which 25 YL contacts are made. (i.e., if the first 25 contacts were made using



Photo H. For those hams who prefer FT8/FT4 and other digital modes, YLRL makes the YL Digital Modes award available for contacting at least 25 YL ops using digital modes.

FT8, an endorsement may be earned for making 25 contacts with YLs using another mode for all 25.)

An additional endorsement after that may be earned for CW contacts, SSTV contacts, or Hellschreiber contacts, etc.)

All certificates/awards have a specific log procedure. Details are available via <<https://ylrl.net/certificates/>>. Submission for the awards may be made via this website using a simple form with the log-book being uploaded at the same time.

Young Ladies' Radio League, Inc. Since 1939

For 75 years the Young Ladies' Radio League, Inc. (YLRL) has helped women find their voice in Amateur Radio with members of all ages and interests.



The YLRL sponsors a number of certificates for both YLs and OMs. Members can earn special YL Certificates.

YL-Harmonics is our bi-monthly publication highlighting what women are doing in Amateur Radio.

YLRL gives out scholarships to YLs each year.

For more information on the YLRL, the current dues amounts, weekly YL Net locations or how to join please go to our website at www.ylrl.org or contact the Publicity Chairwoman, Cheryl Muhr, NØWBV at n0wbv@earthlink.net. All Officer information is also listed both on the website and in each



edition of the magazine and you may contact any Officer as well.

With thanks to the OMs who encourage and support us.

Visit us at www.ylrl.org

BY BOB SCHENCK,* N200

INDEXA Celebrates 40 Years of Promoting DX



INDEXA

[Full disclosure: DX Editor N200 is the current president of INDEXA]

This September marks the 40th anniversary of INDEXA, the International DX Association!

INDEXA was first incorporated in 1983. What originally started as an “on the air” DX net evolved first into a repository for donated equipment supplied to DXpeditions or deserving DX stations. QSL card printing was also provided. As vendors and manufacturers came on board donating/loaning equipment to DXpeditions, INDEXA further evolved into a fundraising organization that would pass along support to DXpeditions. These funds would help offset DXpedition expenses. Over these 40 years, INDEXA further evolved into what it is today; one of the largest DX funding organizations in the world with over 1,000 members worldwide.

For further information about INDEXA, please visit their website at <www.indexa.org>. Annual dues are only \$20.00. I especially recommend watch-

*email: <n200@comcast.net>

ing the videos found under these tabs “INDEXA Overview,” “Humanitarian Fund” and “DXpedition Planning.”

To celebrate the 40th anniversary, INDEXA is announcing a special 10-day “on the air” activity called the “INDEXA QSO Party,” aka IQP, which is being organized by INDEXA board member Ralph Fedor, KØIR, for this coming September. Everyone is welcome to participate. His announcement follows:

INDEXA, The World of DX, and an Announcement BY RALPH FEDOR, KØIR

When you speak into your microphone, touch your paddle, or hit the enter key to unleash a digital signal, you

climb aboard your magic carpet and begin a journey to an unknown destination. The response may come from thousands of miles away. It may be from an old friend or someone you’ve never met before. You may never meet again, or you may become the best of friends. You never know.

This is the thrill, the magic, we as DXers know. We have an affinity for it and we develop a kinship of like-mindedness and rapport. We feel it when we meet casually on the air, in pileups, and at our gatherings and conventions. This day-to-day magic is punctuated by the exuberance we feel when we work a new country, a new band country, or a DXpedition to a rare and remote spot on our planet. All of us, worldwide, know this magic and

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SSB
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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.

are bound together by it. I know of no other hobby that can compare.

For forty years INDEXA, the International DX Association, has helped make this magic happen. It began with a few individuals supplying equipment to DXpeditions and has grown to an organization of over one thousand members and 15 board members and officials who collectively help make DX happen. The yellow INDEXA banner has flown over hundreds of INDEXA-sponsored DXpeditions and helped make millions of DXpedition QSOs possible. INDEXA's members and officials are from all over the world. This blend of worldwide voices helps INDEXA make good choices. You can learn more about INDEXA at <www.indexa.org>.

INDEXA's fortieth anniversary is in September of 2023. To mark the event and celebrate the unity and goodwill of amateur radio's DX community, INDEXA is sponsoring the

Everyone can work everyone. Be as casual or competitive as you like. Pause to say hello to friends if you wish. INDEXA membership is not required.

INDEXA Worldwide QSO Party, a ten-day on-the-air event running from September 1st through 10th of this year.

Everyone can work everyone. Be as casual or competitive as you like. Pause to say hello to friends if you wish. INDEXA membership is not required. The event will cover 160 to 10 meters and you may use SSB, CW, or RTTY in any mix you choose. The emphasis is on fun, but there will be QSO points, bonus points, multipliers, and plaques, and awards.

QSL of the Month Barbara Dunn, G6YL – UK's First Licensed YL



Photo A: G6YL's QSL card not only included a photo but a printed notation that she was a YL operator, just in case anyone had any doubts! "QSL of the Month" photos and information provided courtesy of the K8CX Ham Gallery <www.hamgallery.com>

G6YL, Barbara Mary Dunn, was born February 25, 1896, in Carlisle, Cumbria, England, and became a Silent Key in September, 1979. Licensed on April 14, 1927, she was Britain's first licensed YL.

It was in 1923 that Miss Barbara Dunn received her introduction to broadcast radio. She says it was "YLish curiosity" that prompted her to find out the meaning of certain scratchy signals which interfered with broadcast reception at her old home in Stock, Essex. Having discovered that these were spark signals from ships and coastal stations, she deserted the ranks of broadcast listening and set out to learn Morse code. She mastered the code entirely by listening on a crystal receiver on 600 meters. After five months of self-instruction, the code was copied at 20 WPM. At Christmas, 1925, a short-wave receiver opened up fresh fields. Many hams received useful reception reports, signed "B. Dunn." In 1927, with encouragement from a friend, Gerry Marcuse, G2NM, she was persuaded to seek admission to the ham fraternity. Her first 2-way QSO was on November 21, 1927 with G16YW. All pf Europe and much DX was worked. Most of her QSL card collection can be seen on <hamgallery.com> (Photo A and B).

73, Tom K8CX



Photo B: G6YL's shack featured QSL cards from her many contacts as well as the gear described on her QSL card as a Hartley transmitter and a receiver consisting of a "loose-coupled circuit, detector and one L.F." (That's LF, not IF – this was before the days of superheterodyne receivers that employed intermediate frequency circuits. – ed.)

what's new

Impulse Electronics "Grab-N-Go" Radio Package



Every ham involved in emergency communications should have a "go-kit," a complete station for emergency deployment that's ready to go when needed, so you don't have to spend valuable time finding and packing gear when every minute counts. If such a kit is something you've thought about but never found time to assemble, Impulse Electronics has a solution for you, its new "Grab-N-Go" radio package for quick deployment.

The Grab-N-Go is a completely self-contained station including everything from a radio and antenna to built-in solar charge controller, so you can directly plug in a solar panel generating up to 150 watts. Here's a rundown of what comes packed inside the custom carrying case:

- Anytone AT-779UV UHF/VHF 20-watt radio
 - Output Power: VHF>20W, UHF>18W
 - 500 channels
 - CTCSS/DCS encode and decode
 - DTMF+2Tone/5Tone encode and decode
 - 1.4 Inch TFT display
 - Tone Pulse frequency
 - Scrambler (*Remember – Codes and ciphers intended to obscure the meaning of transmissions are generally prohibited on amateur frequencies. – ed.*)
 - Comander
 - VOX function
 - FM broadcast
 - GMRS optional
- Bioenno BLF-1220A LiFePO4 20Ah Battery & Charger
- T320 Case with
 - 12 Volt PowerPole outlet
 - Automotive 12 Volt socket
 - Digital voltmeter with Type A and C USB QC3.0 charging ports
 - 150-Watt MPPT solar charge controller
 - Mag-mount antenna with cable included inside case

The "Grab-N-Go" package retails for \$629.95. Additional details and ordering information are available at <<https://tinyurl.com/4m9fy8yw>>.

The INDEXA Worldwide QSO Party will be listed on WA7BNM's Contest Calendar and the event website will come alive soon at <www.indexaqsoparty.com>. The website will give you detailed information on rules and regulations, the exchange, downloads, logging, a logging program, scoring, and log submissions.

Please join us and the amateur radio family from around the world to celebrate INDEXA's 40 years of sponsoring DX. It's a way for INDEXA to say "thank you" to our members and donors for their 40 years of support. We'll see you on the air.

The WAZ Program

SINGLE BAND WAZ

6 Meter	
218	.....K5RK 32 Zones
219	.....JN1GTG 37 Zones
220	.....N8DX 27 Zones
221	.....9K2GR 33 Zones
222	.....DF2GH 25 Zones
223	.....YO7NE 28 Zones
224	.....IK4CIE 26 Zones
10M CW	
227	.....YO7NE
10M Digital	
12	.....OE3SGU
12M CW	
118	.....N6PF
12M Digital	
18	.....JL1EEI
15M CW	
387	.....V51YJ
388	.....YO7NE
15M Digital	
27	.....YO7NE
28	.....KW4J
15M SSB	
693	.....WV6E
17M CW	
146	.....V51YJ
147	.....YO7NE
17M Digital	
47	.....W7HR
48	.....YO7NE
20M CW	
699	.....V51YJ
700	.....YO7NE
20M Digital	
88	.....IK0AOC
89	.....JG1EBU
90	.....W7HR
91	.....DM1HR
92	.....YO7NE
93	.....JE1LES
20M SSB	
1278	.....WV6E
30M CW	
175	.....SP2LNW
176	.....YO7NE
177	.....N6PF
40 CW	
346	.....YO7NE
80M CW	
115	.....DF2RG
116	.....YO7NE
160M	
709	.....JH1NYM 31 Zones
710	.....W0IZ 30 Zones
711	.....YO7NE 40 Zones

MIXED WAZ

Mixed	
10548	.....WV6E
10549	.....N2YF
10550	.....K5CD
10551	.....N9AZZ
10552	.....PA2IP
10553	.....IK0AOC
10554	.....JG1EBU
10555	.....EA4CY
10556	.....W1FP
10557	.....9A5BWT
10558	.....KD4EE
10559	.....VE3YXO
10560	.....IK2ULM
10561	.....JE2TLZ
10562	.....YT3H
10563	.....JE1LES
10564	.....JJ0WAJ
10565	.....NZ1I
10566	.....KW4J
10567	.....PY2OP
10568	.....7L1CDK
10569	.....JA8KPJ
10570	.....JA8MIO

SINGLE MODE WAZ

CW	
1267	.....HA2NA
1268	.....WV6E
1269	.....JL1RUC
1270	.....N2ZA
1271	.....YO7NE
1272	.....K4ZMV
1273	.....PY2OP
Digital	
508	.....HA2NA
509	.....N2YF
510	.....K5CD
511	.....K9FD
512	.....IK0AOC
513	.....JG1EBU
514	.....KI0HA
515	.....EA4CY
516	.....W7HR
517	.....G7IRN
518	.....W0IZ
519	.....K2WJ
520	.....YO7NE
521	.....JE1LES
522	.....N4QS
523	.....NZ1I
524	.....JA8KPJ
SSB	
5572	.....HA2NA
5573	.....WV6E
5574	.....V51YJ
5575	.....IK2ULM
5576	.....YO7NE
SAT	
88	.....JA1QJI 25 Zones
89	.....JA1GZK 25 Zones

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, Jose Castillo, N4BAA, 6773 South State Road 103, Straughn, IN 47387. The processing fee for 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>.

5 Band WAZ

As of June 15, 2023

2518 stations have attained at least the 150 Zone level, and 1147 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

As of June 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
IKØXBX	199	19 on 10M
IK1AOD	199	1
IT9GSF	199	1
IZ3ZNR	199	1
JA1CMD	199	2
JA5IU	199	2
JA7XBG	199	2
JH7CFX	199	2
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
SV8CKM	199	1
USØSY	199	1 on 15M
VE2EBK	199	26
VK3HJ	199	34

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
VO1FB	199	19
W1FJ	199	24
W1FZ	199	26
W3LL	199	18 on 10M
W3NO	199	26
W4LI	199	26
W6DN	199	17
W6RKC	199	21
W6TMD	199	34
W9OO	199	18 on 10M
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
K11G	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

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
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
JL1RUC	2506	05/16/2023	200
N2YF	2507	05/20/2023	152
K5CD	2508	05/26/2023	178
IK0AOC	2509	05/26/2023	160
VK4KX	2510	05/26/2023	151
WX4F	2511	05/27/2023	150
JL1UXH	2512	05/27/2023	196
SP2LNW	2513	05/27/2023	200
JG1AID	2514	05/28/2023	163
W7HR	2515	05/29/2023	185
W9VOB	2516	06/04/2023	158
YT3H	2517	06/08/2023	200
KW4J	2518	06/12/2023	168

Updates to the 5BWAZ list of stations:

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
SV8CKM	1251	3/2/2002	199
IK8GYS	1617	11/22/2008	193
N6PEQ	1932	4/17/2016	188
V51YJ	2057	7/1/2018	193
W0IZ	260	4/9/1984	195
K2WJ	2386	6/24/2022	171

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

5BWAZ #	Callsign	Date	All 200 #
2506	JL1RUC	5/16/2023	1145
2513	SP2LNW	5/27	1146

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 Awards Program

RTTY Endorsement

N9PA 89

Mixed Mode Endorsement

K8SIX 245

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, KØKKG, 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.



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CQ DX Honor Roll

The CQ DX Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 275 or more ACTIVE countries. With few exceptions, the ARRL DXCC Countries List is used as the country standard. The CQ DX Award currently recognizes 340 countries. Honor Roll listing is automatic when an application is received and approved for 275 or more active countries. Deleted countries do not count and all totals are adjusted as deletions occur. To remain on the CQ DX Honor Roll, annual updates are required. All updates must be accompanied by an SASE if confirmation of total is required. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. (Stickers for the 340 level and Honor Roll are available.) Please make checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, KØKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604 USA.

CW

DL3DXX.....339	K7LAY.....339	W8XD.....339	K1FK.....334	OZ5UR.....328	W6YQ.....319	K4IE.....295
HB9DDZ.....339	K7VV.....339	WK3N.....339	K9OW.....334	AB4IQ.....327	HA1ZH.....318	YU1YO.....295
K4IQJ.....339	K8LJG.....339	WØJLC.....339	PY2YP.....334	K6CU.....326	N4RF.....318	WA2VQV.....292
K9MM.....339	N4AH.....339	WØVTT.....339	WG5G/.....334	KE3A.....326	N6PEQ.....318	4XIVF.....286
N4MM.....339	N4CH.....339	YU1AB.....339	QRPP.....334	EA5BY.....325	CT1YH.....316	K6YR.....284
WB4UBD.....339	N4JF.....339	K8SIX.....338	WD9DZV.....334	KA3S.....325	EA3ALV.....315	PP7LL.....282
WS9V.....339	N4NX.....339	KA7T.....338	K2OWE.....333	K7CU.....324	RA1AOB.....313	WR7Q.....282
EA2IA.....339	N5ZM.....339	WA5VGI.....338	K5UO.....333	N3RC.....324	WA4DOU.....312	N2VW.....280
F3TH.....339	N7FU.....339	W9RPM.....338	N6AW.....333	N7WO.....324	YO9HP.....312	K4EQ.....280
K2FL.....339	N7RO.....339	G3KMQ.....337	W4MPY.....333	KEØA.....322	W6WF.....309	W8BLA.....280
K2TQC.....339	NØFW.....339	KØKG.....337	KØLEB.....331	YT1VM.....322	KT2C.....307	WB5STV.....277
K3JGJ.....339	OK1MP.....339	W1DF.....337	K9VKY.....331	4Z5SG.....321	K4DGJ.....307	YO6HSU.....275
K3UA.....339	W3GH.....339	W7IT.....337	N7WO.....331	N2LM.....321	W4ABW.....306	
K4CN.....339	W4OEL.....339	K8ME.....336	OK1DWC.....331	ON4CAS.....321	K7ZM.....305	
K4JLD.....339	W5BOS.....339	W6OUL.....336	K6YK.....329	W2OR.....320	HA5LQ.....301	
K4MQG.....339	W7CNL.....339	JA7XBG.....335	W9IL.....329	HB9DAX/.....319	RN3AKK.....300	
K5RT.....339	W7OM.....339	F6HMJ.....334	IKØADY.....328	QRPP.....319	WA9PIE.....298	

SSB

AB4IQ.....340	KE5K.....340	W7BJN.....340	W9IL.....338	WD9DZV.....333	KE4SCY.....326	KA1LMR.....308
DJ9ZB.....340	KM2P.....340	W7OM.....340	N4FN.....337	AA1VX.....332	KF4NEF.....325	RA1AOB.....308
DL3DXX.....340	KZ2P.....340	W8ILC.....340	IØZV.....336	KE3A.....332	W6WF.....325	XE1MEX.....308
DU9RG.....340	N4CH.....340	W9SS.....340	K3LC.....336	N2VW.....332	W9GD.....325	IK5ZUK.....307
EA2IA.....340	N4JF.....340	WB4UBD.....340	K8ME.....336	N5YY.....332	VE7EDZ.....324	IØYKN.....306
EA4DO.....340	N4MM.....340	WK3N.....340	EA3BMT.....335	W1DF.....332	WA5UA.....324	XE1MW.....305
HB9DDZ.....340	N5ZM.....340	WS9V.....340	F6HMJ.....335	K5UO.....331	F6BFI.....323	K4IE.....304
I8KCI.....340	N7BK.....340	XE1AE.....340	HB9DQD.....335	KC2Q.....331	ON4CAS.....323	K4ZZR.....304
IK1GPG.....340	N7RO.....340	YU3AA.....340	IKØAZG.....335	SV3AQR.....331	VE6MRT.....323	K7ZM.....303
IN3DEI.....340	NØFW.....340	JA7XBG.....339	IW3YGW.....335	WØROB.....331	W5GT.....323	4Z5FL/M.....302
K2FL.....340	OK1MP.....340	KØKG.....339	OE2EGL.....335	W6OUL.....331	N6PEQ.....322	K7SAM.....301
K2TQC.....340	OZ3SK.....340	W2FKF.....339	VK2HV.....335	XE1MEX.....331	W4MPY.....322	KA8YYZ.....301
K3JGJ.....340	OZ5EV.....340	W4UNP.....339	W4WX.....335	KD5ZD.....330	K8IHQ.....321	4X6DK.....298
K4CN.....340	VE1YX.....340	W9RPM.....339	WB3D.....335	WA4WTG.....330	KW3W.....320	K2HJB.....295
K4IQJ.....340	VE2GHZ.....340	EA3EQT.....338	AA4S.....334	WØYDB.....330	Ti8II.....320	F5MSB.....293
K4JLD.....340	VE2PJ.....340	K3UA.....338	EA5BY.....334	ZL1BOQ.....330	YO9HP.....320	W9ACE.....291
K4MQG.....340	VE3MR.....340	K7LAY.....338	K9OW.....334	AD7J.....329	XE1RBV.....317	N3KV.....289
K4MZU.....340	VE3MRS.....340	K9HQM.....338	PY2YP.....334	N3RC.....329	N7YB.....315	W6MAC.....289
K5OVC.....340	VE3XN.....340	N4NX.....338	VK4LC.....334	VE7SMP.....329	IV3GOW.....312	N5KAE.....283
K5RT.....340	VK2HV.....340	YU1AB.....338	W8AXI.....334	WØULU.....329	N8SHZ.....312	IZ1JLG.....282
K5TVC.....340	W3AZD.....340	4Z4DX.....338	XE1J.....334	CT1AHU.....328	K7CU.....311	WA9PIE.....282
K6YRA.....340	W3GH.....340	K1UO.....338	CT3BM.....333	N1ALR.....328	OK1DWC.....311	WD8EOL.....281
K7VV.....340	W4ABW.....340	N7WR.....338	IK8CNT.....333	N2LM.....328	KU4BP.....310	IWØHOU.....277
K8LJG.....340	W5BOS.....340	WA5VGI.....338	K8LJG.....333	AE9DX.....327	W6NW.....310	AKØMR.....276
K8SIX.....340	W6BCQ.....340	W2CC.....338	N6AW.....333	K7HG.....327	I3ZSX.....309	NØAZZ.....275
K9MM.....340	W6DPD.....340	W7FP.....338	OE3WWB.....333	K6GFJ.....326	G3KMQ.....308	SQ7B.....275

RTTY

NI4H.....338	N5ZM.....338	K8SIX.....334	K3UA.....332	N4MM.....302	IN3YGW.....275
WB4UBD.....338	OK1MP.....337	W9RPM.....334	AB4IQ.....323	K4IQJ.....300	
WK3N.....338	K4CN.....334	W3GH.....333	K4WW.....323	K8ME.....278	

DX World Guide 4th Edition!

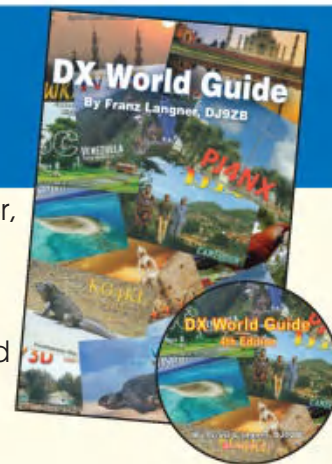
By Franz Langner, DJ9ZB

Known throughout the DX and DXpedition world as a meticulous and tireless operator, Franz Langner, DJ9ZB, is also noted as one of the most knowledgeable individuals in Amateur Radio in terms of documenting DXCC entities.

This is the fourth edition of his series of books bearing the title *DX World Guide*. It was first published in Germany in 1988 and followed by a second edition, also in Germany in 1977. The third edition, published in the U.S.A in 2012 was the first to use color throughout. This 380-page, fourth edition, also full color throughout, includes information on well over 300 DX entities.

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contesting

BY TIM SHOPPA,* N3QE

Maximizing Distance Scoring in the World Wide Digi DX Contest

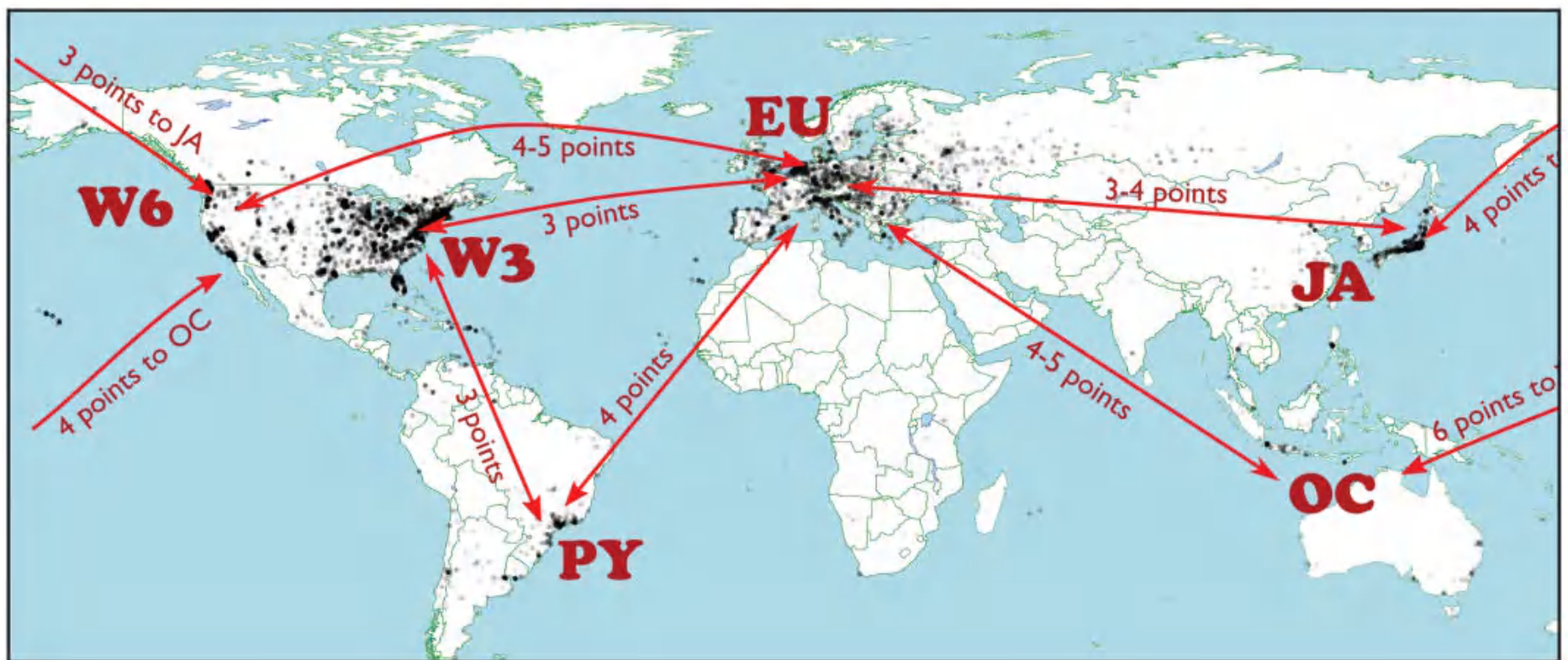


Figure 1: Common high-point-value QSOs in the WW Digi DX contest. Grey and black dots mark logs of high contest density; geographic information is taken from all 2022 ARRL public contest logs.

The last weekend of August will have the fifth running of the World Wide Digi DX Contest. In this 24-hour FT4 and FT8 contest, QSOs are awarded points based on distance-based scoring, and the first two characters of the locator grids count as per-band multipliers. Let's check out the recent trends in WSJT-mode contesting as we approach solar maximum, and can maximize our score and fun on August 26 and 27 this year.

DX propagation was astonishingly good in the second running of the ARRL International Digital Contest in the first week of June. The solar flux peaked near 170 that weekend and not only was the 20 meter band open all night (typical for summertime near solar max), I found the 15 meter FT4 and FT8 segments bustling with activity from Japan and Eastern Europe for several hours after my local midnight – an entirely new late-night high-band experience for me. Like the WW Digi contest, the ARRL digital contest also uses distance-based scoring, and finding all that juicy DX encouraged me to switch my plan from part-time operation to being on for all 24 allowed hours.

email: <n3qe@cq-amateur-radio.com>

So what directions, times and bands should we concentrate on for the highest point values? WW Digi awards at least 1 point for every QSO, no matter how close. Beyond this base, we rack up another point for each 3000 kilometers of distance. The circumference of the Earth is about 20000 kilometers, so the very most distant QSOs can earn up to 7 points. Figure 1 highlights with grey and black dots the parts of the world packed most densely with contesters; arrows show particularly important high-point value paths.

Contest stations in Australia and Oceania have a clear advantage in distance-based scoring; in 2022's WW Digi contest, ZM1A in New Zealand averaged 5 points per QSO, with almost every QSO worth between 4 and 6 points. South American stations also have a big advantage; the highest overall score in 2022 was from ZW5B's multi-multi team in Brazil, with an average of 4.1 points per QSO. For them, North American contacts were worth 3 points, and most European contacts were worth 5 points.

Contesters in North America and Europe will have a high density of 1-pointers in their immediate vicinity. By going to the highest-frequency open band available for DX, the skip pattern

will avoid many of the 1-point locals and a CQ is more likely to yield a 3-to-7-point intercontinental QSO. What will be the highest open band in the last weekend of August? The 20-meter band will likely be open for DX all night. During the day, the 15-meter band will be an excellent choice. If the solar flux peaks up again, 15 meters will be increasingly useful into the evening. For certain, most northern hemisphere stations will be able to rack up high-point value QSOs to South America on the 10 meter band; in August, it is not completely certain that 10 meters will open substantially between North America and northern Europe.

The WW Digi not just about points – it's also important to rack up per-band multipliers. Unlike VHF contests in which every individual 4-character grid square is a mult, in the WW Digi contest the multiplier is the first two letters – the "field" – that begins each locator grid. For example, both FM19 and FM18 count as the same multiplier, FM. Multipliers count per band in WW Digi, and as part of your planning, please take time to rack up some low-point value local mults even on the low bands. If we are lucky enough to avoid the worst of summer QRN, high multiplier counts of several dozen are possible on

the 40- and 80-meter bands with only moderate effort. Most US and EU stations with even a compromise 160-meter antenna will be able to work 4 fields as multipliers on 160 without much effort.

FT4 vs FT8 for Contesting

FT4 has gotten much more popular in both contest and non-contest HF usage in the past year. I've chatted a lot with local club member Tyler Stewart, K3MM, about FT4's short cycle time (7.5 seconds) and resulting higher QSO rate than FT8. He told me "FT4 has grown substantially, making it nearly a bottomless pit of contacts." His ARRL Digital contest stats show that 80% of his activity in that event was on FT4. I was mostly on FT4 myself in that contest, and I was very impressed with how contest activity and at least some non-contest activity have been shifting to the more rapid-fire FT4 mode. Almost always, if there were new contacts to make on FT4, I found myself preferring it over FT8.

We already talked about band choice and mode choice. Let's move on to contest vs non-contest segment choice. For example, on the 20 meter band, the segment of 14.074-14.077 MHz has non-contest FT8 activity no matter whether there's a contest on or not. During the Digi contest weekends on the most popular bands, designated "contest segments"

fill with contesters. The contest segment for 20-meter FT8 is 14.090-14.093 MHz. A full list of contest-preferred segments is in the WW Digi rules.

Note that on the low bands – especially 160 and 80 meters – you may not find any activity at all in the organizer-suggested contest segments. You'll likely only find any activity on 80- and 160-meter non-contest FT8.

Why would you prefer the contest segments? In the contest segments, you'll find the vast majority of both running and S&P (search-and-pounce) stations using "contest exchanges," including grid square but skipping over the signal report. In the non-contest segment, a sizable plurality of stations won't come back to your CQ with their grid square, but instead they'll come back with a signal report. Manually asking for the guy's grid square is unlikely to work – he's simply excluded it from his macros, he is likely running on full auto-sequencing, and he is not going to manually switch over to grid square. It seems very likely the majority of stations in the non-contest segment don't even know there's a contest going on.

For HF WSJT-X activity, stations arbitrarily pick either the odd or even transmit cycle; we are deaf to any transmissions on own transmit cycle. This leads to the need to at least occasionally flip cycles between odd and even, where you'll find a set of new callers and new CQing stations.

Calendar of Events

All year	CQ DX Marathon	bit.ly/3FyPiui
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/
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/H0lqQf
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/H0lqQf
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/regulamento-cvadx-2023/
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	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/regulamento-cvadx-2023/
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	NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	http://w2lj.blogspot.com/p/njqrp-skeeter-hunt.html
Aug. 27	SARL HF CW Contest	http://bit.ly/H0lqQf
Sept. 2	AGCW Straight Key Party	https://www.agcw.de/contest/htp/htp-en/
Sept. 2-3	All Asian DX Phone Contest	https://bit.ly/3CrQCho
Sept. 2-3	Colorado QSO Party	http://ppraa.org/coqp
Sept. 2-3	G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest	https://www.fistsna.org/operating.html
Sept. 2-3	RSGB SSB Field Day	bit.ly/3TxCrxl

Systematically switching between odd and even, FT4 and FT8, and contest and non-contest segments, will yield the most complete coverage of a band. In the ARRL Digital contest, I adopted such a plan: I started on odd-cycle in the FT4 contest segment. When rates started dropping, I switched over to the even cycle in the same segment for a whole new pool of callers. After that slowed down, I switched over to the odd and then even FT8 contest segments. After those began drying up, I finally moved to the non-contest segments, emphasizing S&P over running to avoid the problem of callers who respond to CQs without their grid square. After running through this full cycle on a single band, I could go back to where I started, with contest-segment FT4 on the same band, and find some new callers. Eventually I would start over on an entirely new band's contest FT4 segment and find different propagation to a different part of the world.

Note that the WW Digi contest has high power, low power, and QRP categories. My previous WW Digi entries were at high power, but the ARRL Digital mode contest – which does not allow more than 100 watts – made it perfectly clear that 24 hours of exciting activity awaits those who don't have an amplifier. I'll likely be going high power again for WW Digi, with the justification that it'll make it easier to work 80-meter and 160-meter multipliers through late-August QRM.

While you can enter the WW Digi by running just the WSJT-X software standalone, you'll enjoy it more and be alerted to mults on your band if you integrate WSJT-X with the N1MM+ logger. By following the detailed directions at the N1MM+ website <<https://bit.ly/3qj2Aaj>>, you'll be rewarded with an important new part of the N1MM+ user interface, the "decode window." You'll soon realize that during a contest the decode window is the preferred way of finding stations calling CQ. Available multipliers appear in the decode window with a red highlight and you should prioritize those while you're going S&P.

Weekly Practice Sessions

Rather than learn all the WSJT-X skills or test your station configuration for the first time in a big weekend contest, you have the opportunity now to practice WSJT-X mode contesting during the week, every week. The new Thursday night NS FT4 sprint began the last week of May, and the half-hour event was amazingly useful for me. The weekly 0100Z Friday session (that's Thursday evening for those of us in North America) has 15-20 contester participants and operating SO1R I've been able to consistently make 30 more or QSOs in the half hour. You can learn more about this event at <<https://www.ncccsprint.com/ft4ns.html>>.

Sept. 2-3	SARL Field Day	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 2-3	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80M Sprint	http://bit.ly/2MkaaNt
Sept. 3-4	Tennessee QSO Party	https://tnqp.org/rules/
Sept. 4	RSGB Autumn Series SSB	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Sept. 4-5	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	https://www.miqrp.net/contest
Sept. 6	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
Sept. 9	FOC QSO Party	http://www.g4foc.org/qsoparty
Sept. 9	OSPOTA Contest	http://ospota.org/
Sept. 9-10	Alabama QSO Party	http://alabamacontestgroup.org/aqp/rules/
Sept. 9-10	ARRL EME Contest	http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest
Sept. 9-10	Veron SLP Contest	http://bit.ly/2L9eT1L
Sept. 9-10	Worked All Europe SSB Contest	https://bit.ly/36ubggF
Sept. 9-11	ARRL September VHF QSO Party	http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf
Sept. 10	North American CW Sprint	http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
Sept. 13	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
Sept. 13	RSGB Autumn Series CW	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Sept. 14	Bavarian Contest Club QSO Party	https://bit.ly/42VQn9f
Sept. 15	AGB NEMIGA Contest	https://bit.ly/2AWBbRK
Sept. 16	Feld Hell on Wheels Sprint	http://bit.ly/2JcbOwW
Sept. 16-17	ARRL 10 GHz and UP Contest	http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
Sept. 16-17	Iowa QSO Party	http://www.w0yl.com/IAQP
Sept. 16-17	New Hampshire QSO Party	https://w1wqm.org/nh-qso-party/
Sept. 16-17	New Jersey QSO Party	http://bit.ly/1nDlf8V
Sept. 16-17	QRP Afield	http://bit.ly/2QACxFu
Sept. 16-17	SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 16-17	Scandinavian CW Activity Contest	https://www.sactest.net/blog/
Sept. 16-17	Texas QSO Party	http://txqp.net/
Sept. 16-17	Washington State Salmon Run	http://salmonrun.wwdxc.org/rules/
Sept. 17	BARTG Sprint PSK63	http://bartg.org.uk/wp/contests/
Sept. 17	North American RTTY Sprint	http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
Sept. 18	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Sept. 20	VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	http://www.ft8activity.eu/index.php/en/
Sept. 28	RSGB Autumn Series Data	bit.ly/3TxCrxl
Sept. 23	AGCW UHF/VHF Contest	https://www.agcw.de/contest/vhf-uhf/
Sept. 23	Masonic Lodges on the Air	http://cqmorelight.com/rules
Sept. 23-24	Maine QSO Party	http://www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html
Sept. 23-24	CQ WW RTTY DX Contest	http://www.cqwwrtty.com
Sept. 30- Oct. 1	AWA Amplitude Modulation QSO Party	bit.ly/3Qkdp4w
Sept. 30-Oct. 1	UK/EI DX Contest, CW	https://www.ukeicc.com/dx-contest-rules.php

Many folks (including me) have described FT8 as being slow and boring. That's certainly not the case for FT4, which moves twice as fast – just 7.5 seconds for the overall cycle, with at most 5-second transmissions. If you're going to click on a CQing station in the decode list in FT4, you have only a second or two to start transmissions – wait any longer and you're too late. The NS FT4 Sprint has attracted my attention over five consecutive weeks now, and I'm developing an understanding for some of the nuances of WSJT contesting.

One such nuance that I've become increasingly aware of is an element of chaos in WSJT-X modes because not everyone agrees as to when a QSO is actually complete. Ed Muns, WØYK, has been campaigning to reduce not-in-log (NIL) rates and unnecessary acknowledgement cycles in FT4/FT8 contesting by recommending everyone follow an optimal exchange pattern based on two fundamental rules. By following this pattern, not only will NIL rates be reduced, but on-air efficiency will be maximal. The first rule is: "Always log the QSO when receiving a R, RRR,

RR73, or 73 message". The matching rule for the QSO partner is "Always log the QSO when sending R, RRR, RR73, or 73 message". Note the high symmetry of these rules – both sides are using a single acknowledgement to recognize that the QSO is complete.

The recommended message sequence for the Thursday night FT4 takes this to the extreme; you can find a detailed breakdown of the optimal sequences at <<https://tinyurl.com/3b8v6ekz>>. Theoretically, both running and S&P stations with optimal exchanges can achieve one QSO every 15 seconds. Essentially, every acknowledgement message in FT4 contesting can be interpreted the same way as a "TU" in CW contesting or a "Thanks" in SSB contesting. Treat the "R", "RR73" or "73", as not just an acknowledgement of a complete QSO instructing your current caller to log you, but also as an invitation for a new caller.

August and September Contest Highlights

The CW and SSB modes of the North American QSO Parties are August 5 and August 19. All entrants are limited to no more than 100 watts, so you'll be able to be heard if you get on and call CQ with a simple station. Operate up to 10 of the possible 12 hours from 1800Z to 0600Z. Multipliers are per band so you'll optimize your score by planning for some off-time in daylight hours, allowing you to use the last two hours after the sun has set across all of the continental US to work valuable new mults on the opposite coast on the low bands. Full rules are at <<https://ncjweb.com/naqp/>>.

The second weekend of both August and September have these 48-hour Worked All Europe DX Contests on the CW and SSB modes. Stations outside Europe work European stations for QSO points and per-band mults. Additionally, you can exchange QTCs (simulated traffic exchanges) with European stations for additional points. With anticipated superb high-band conditions, I'm confident that even low power US stations will be asked for QTCs. Find full rules at <<https://bit.ly/3NUOzZQ>>.

The triumvirate of CQ World Wide DX contests kicks off in the last weekend of September with the biggest RTTY contest of them all, the 48-hour CQ WW RTTY DX Contest. I'll offer some advice on high-band solar maximum fall propagation planning in next month's column; until then you'll find the rules and rules FAQ for this one at <<https://cqwwrtty.com/>>.



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propagation

BY TOMAS HOOD,* NW7US

Fact or Fiction?

Quick Look at Current Cycle 25 Conditions:

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, May 2023: 138
Observed Monthly, June 2023: 163
Twelve-month smoothed, November 2022: 101
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2022: 107

10.7 cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, May 2023: 156
Observed Monthly, June 2023: 162
Twelve-month smoothed, November 2022: 142
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2022: 145

One Year Ago:

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, May 2022: 92
Observed Monthly, June 2022: 72
Twelve-month smoothed, November 2021: 50
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2021: 55

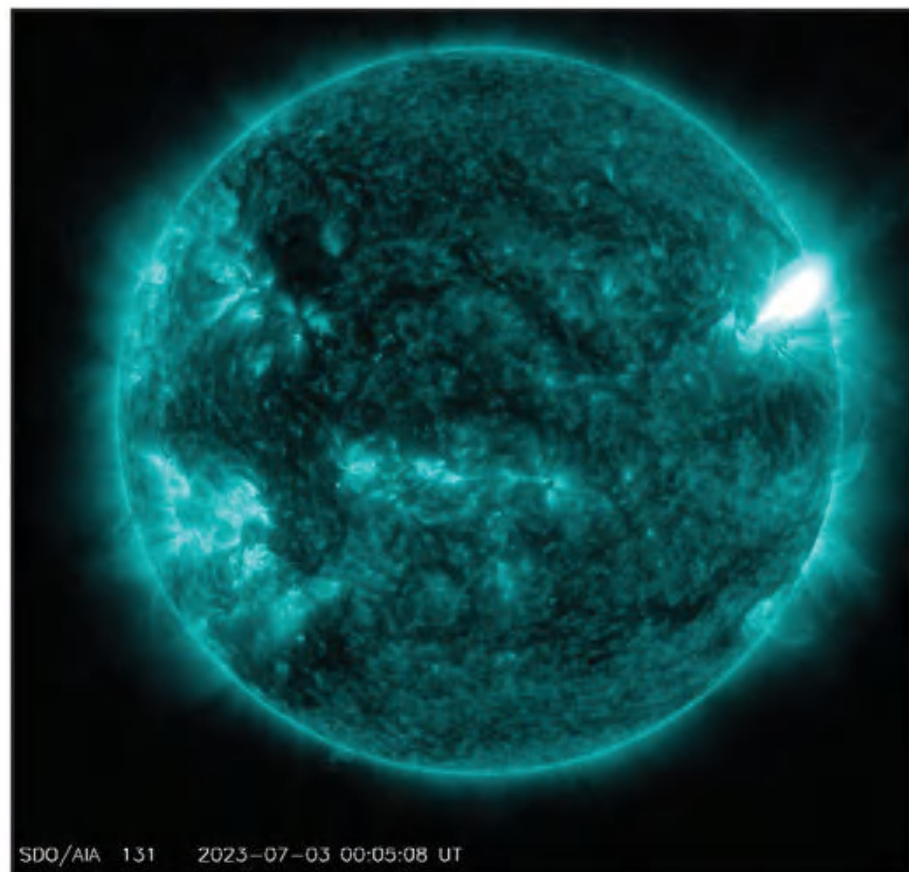
10.7 cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, May 2022: 134
Observed Monthly, June 2022: 116
Twelve-month smoothed, November 2021: 98
Twelve-month smoothed, December 2021: 102

You may have heard a fellow amateur radio operator make the statement, “a solar flare is heading our way, so conditions will be terrible.” Even in popular news media we find or hear statements like this. A report like, “A spectacular coronal mass ejection on July 4 sent a solar flare

heading our way at a speed of 1,400 kilometers per second. The flare, said to be of medium size, is likely to result in a solar storm with spectacular aurora and other space weather effects that have the potential to cause some communications, navigation, and power-grid problems.” Do a search on your favorite search engine for ‘solar flares heading our way’ and see at how popular this phrase has become. The problem with these statements is that they are inaccurate.

Is it true that solar flares head our way? In truth, the answer is one of clarification. Technically, solar flares do not head our way, in the way that these statements imply. Faithful readers of this column know that solar flares often trigger a complex series of events that may lead to the release of solar



This image, captured by the Solar Dynamics Observatory AIA instruments at the 131-Angstrom wavelength (invisible to the naked eye, but false-colored for our benefit), shows the eruption of an X-class (X1.1) solar flare from Active Region 3345 (AR3345), as the sunspot group's magnetic complexity triggered this very strong explosion. This burst of energy caused an R3-level radio blackout over the Pacific region, which is what was in daylight at the time of the flare. (Source: SDO/AIA, NASA)

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LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for August 2023

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal:	A	A	B	C
1-8,11-17,21-22,24-31				
High Normal:	A	B	C	C-D
18-20,23				
Low Normal:	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
9				
Below Normal:	C	C-D	D-E	E
10				
Disturbed:	C-D	D	E	E
n/a				

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.

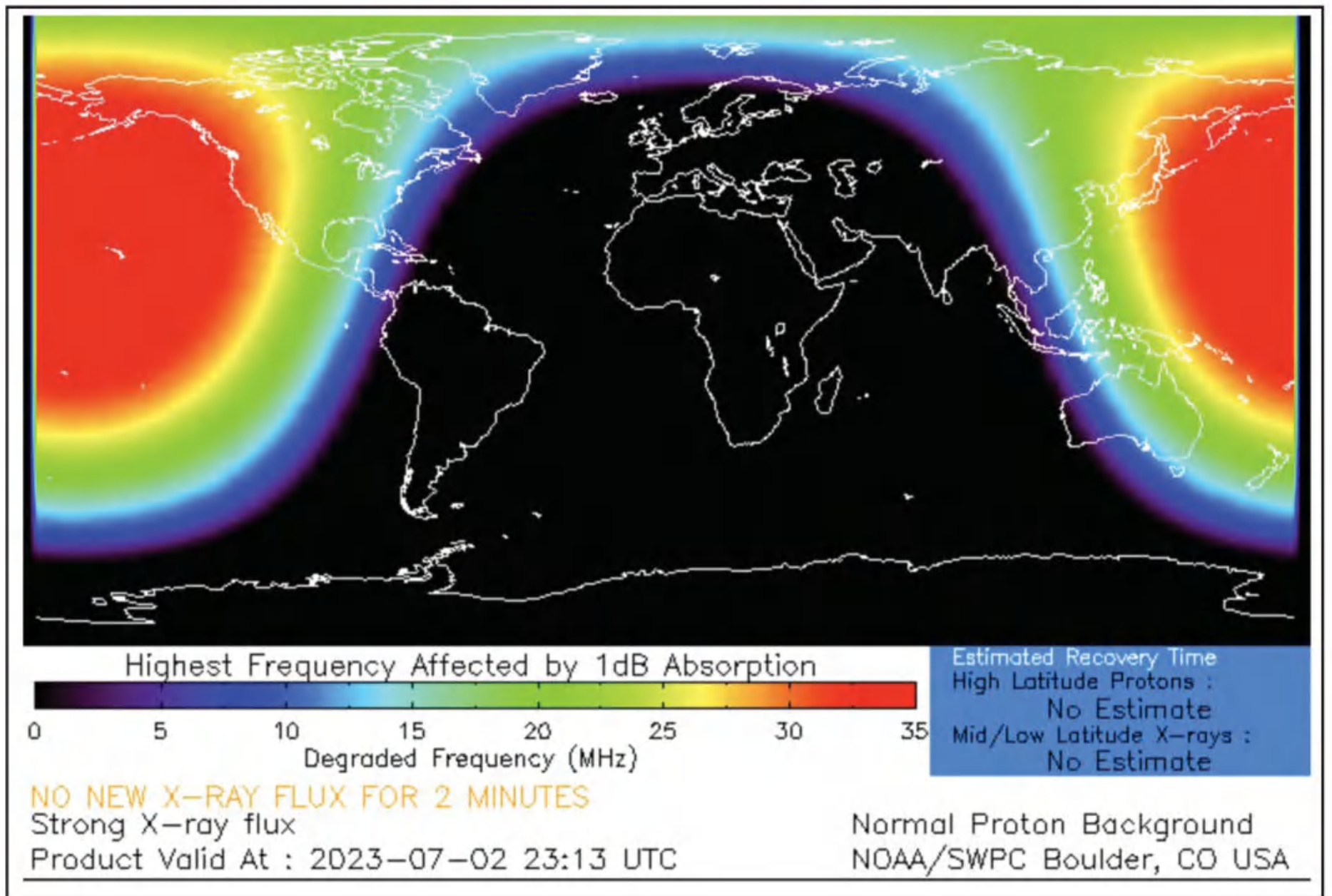
HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

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 August 1 through August 8, good on August 9, then only fair on August 10, 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.



At the peak phase of the X1.1-level x-ray flare, at about 2313 UTC on 2 July 2023, the energy of the flare (which only takes about eight minutes to arrive at Earth) triggered an R3 (strong) radio black out over the Pacific region as can be seen in this graphic. Even the highest bands on shortwave were affected, though not as strongly as the lower bands. (Source: NOAA/SWPC)

plasma clouds that do come our direction, but also know that the flare itself is a nearly instant release of energy much like the flashing of a flash bulb on a camera.

Solar flares are good examples of some of the most energetic natural explosive events known to man. Complex magnetic looping structures concentrated in an active sunspot region suddenly snap apart. Radiation is emitted across virtually the entire electromagnetic spectrum, from longwave radio frequencies, through the optical spectrum (the bright flash of a solar flare that is seen by the naked eye), to x-rays and gamma rays at the shortest wavelength end. The amount of energy released is the equivalent of millions of 100-megaton hydrogen bombs exploding at the same time!

This release of energy is nearly instantaneous—and because this radiation of light and radio energy travels at the speed of light, it takes only about eight minutes for the energy to reach Earth. When an x-ray flare occurs on the Earth-facing side of the Sun, it takes only eight minutes for the full impact of the flare’s energy to reach our planet! That’s why it is misleading for someone to say, “a solar flare is heading our way and the HF bands are going to be terrible tonight,” as if sometime in the coming hours, the results of the flare are going to make it here.

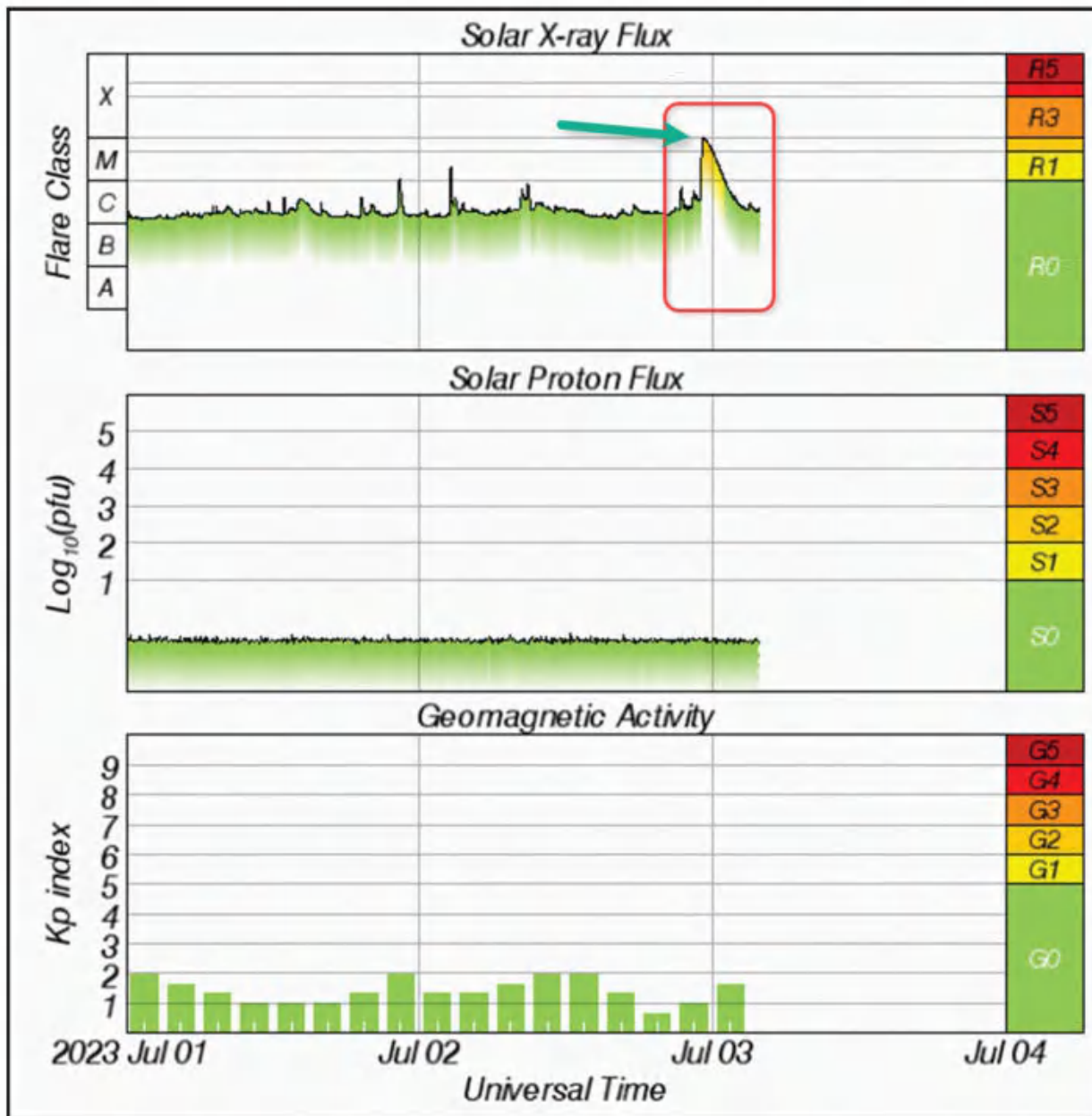
The x-rays from these events penetrate the lower ionosphere and cause the *D*-region, which acts as a sponge that soaks up radio signals, to become more energized. The more ionized the *D*-region, the higher the frequencies that are

absorbed, and the stronger the absorption of the lower frequencies. Thus, radio signals from distant locations that travel through a flare-enhanced ionosphere are absorbed and become inaudible. These fadeouts, what used to be called radio blackouts but are now known as “Sudden Ionospheric Disturbances” (SIDs), last only minutes for minor flares, to maybe an hour or more for the largest of flares. Once the flare is exhausted, the x-ray radiation fades, and the ionosphere slowly recovers to its normal level of ionization.

It might be that there is confusion about what may be heading toward the Earth, when people talk about a “solar flare is heading our way.” As all this magnetic energy is being released during the explosive moment of a solar x-ray flare, the Sun heats and accelerates the plasma caught up by the complex tangle of magnetic fields, and sometimes releases these plasma particles as huge clouds out into interplanetary space. These billion-ton clouds are known as coronal mass ejections (CMEs), and they ride the solar wind out away from the Sun.

A CME travels very fast, but not as fast as the speed of light. Depending on how intensely the plasma was ejected during the explosive solar flare, the coronal mass ejection could take anywhere between one to four days to arrive at the Earth. That is, if the CME is directed toward the Earth. Not all CMEs are ejected toward the Earth.

If a CME is directed toward the Earth, it can cause a lot of havoc. When they hit our magnetosphere, we could see the



Peaking at 2314 UTC at a level X1.1, the X-class x-ray flare was the strongest of the first days of July. Previous flares measuring in the low M-class range caused some degradation of propagation on lower bands, but no major radio blackout as was experienced during the X1.1 flare. (Source: NOAA/SWPC)

geomagnetic activity turn stormy, which will cause longer-term degradation of HF propagation, as well as trigger auroral conditions. Geomagnetic activity has the effect of lowering the ionization of the various ionospheric layers, which brings down the maximum usable frequency (MUF) over a given signal path. This lowering is much like what happens at night, when the ultraviolet radiation of the sun is blocked, and the ionosphere settles down. The stronger and longer the geomagnetic storm, the more depressed the ionospheric propagation becomes.

Some people think of the coronal mass ejection and the resulting geomagnetic storms collectively as a “solar storm.” This may lead some to think of this as the “solar flare that is heading our way leading to bad radio conditions.” But now we know that a solar flare is a nearly instantaneous event that affects radio propagation on the sunlit side of the Earth, with a possible longer-term event known as the coro-

nal mass ejection. But wait! There is one more related event.

Faithful readers of this column know that the Sun is always generating a solar wind. The solar wind is made up of protons and other particles that stream away from the Sun at varying speeds. When CMEs plow through interplanetary space, they plow through this gaseous material, first in the Sun’s atmosphere and then out in the solar wind. Shock waves in front of the CME can accelerate these protons in our direction, causing what we know as “the proton storm.”

When these accelerated protons of a CME are aimed toward the Earth, they penetrate our magnetosphere and are funneled down toward the polar regions, forced along the Earth’s magnetic field lines. These highly energized protons cause the D-region of the ionosphere to become highly ionized, effectively absorbing first the lowest wavelengths of the high frequency spectrum, to the highest of the shortwave spec-

trum if the proton storm is extremely intense. This is known as a “polar cap absorption” event (PCA), and can occur as quickly as within hours of an x-ray flare, or perhaps days after the flare. When a PCA occurs, and radio signals over the polar regions are absorbed, it shuts down radio paths between DX locations depending on the polar paths, such as between central Europe and the United States.

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!

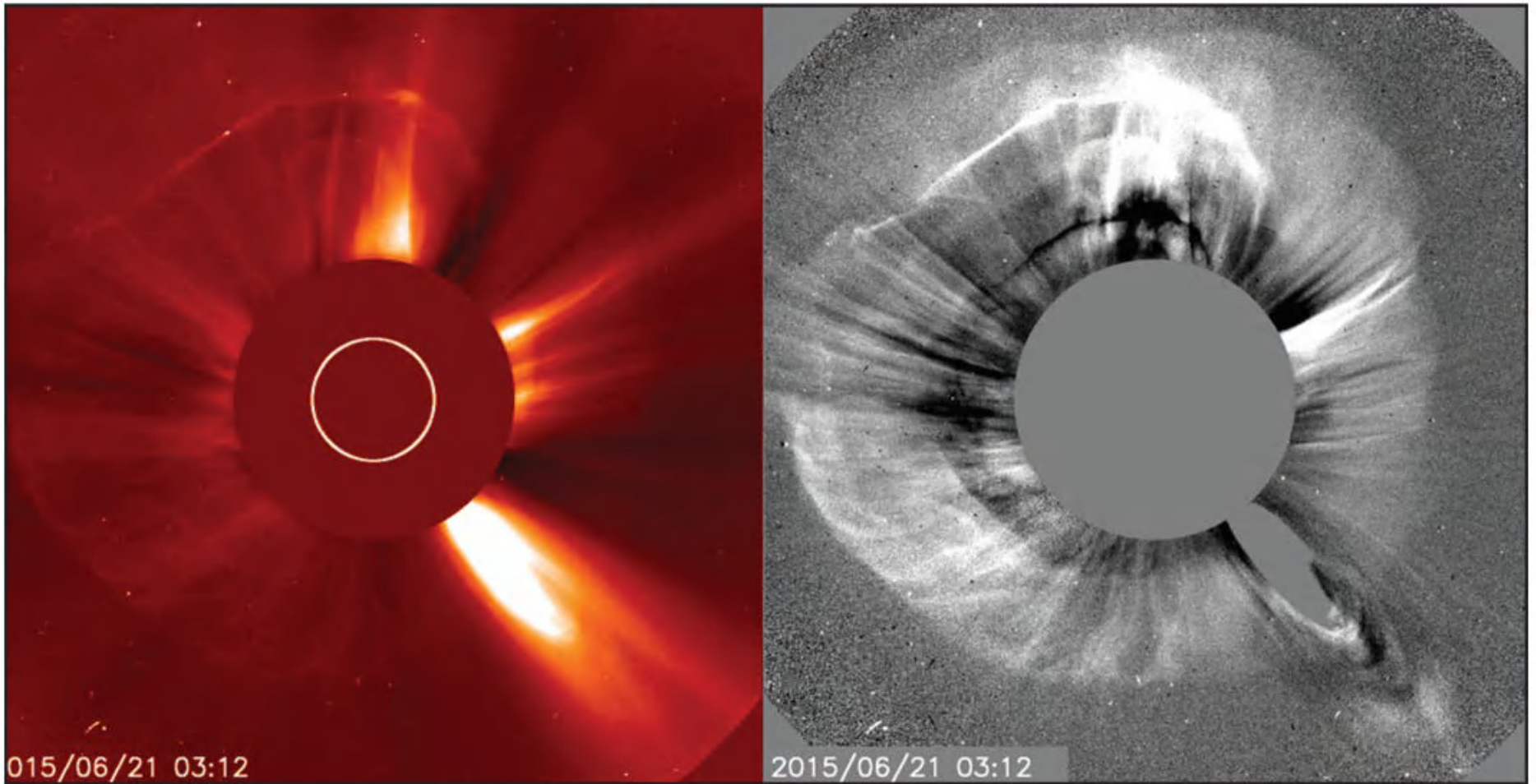
August Shortwave Propagation

At last! With August comes a shift from summertime toward wintertime ionospheric conditions in the Northern Hemisphere. While most days in August will exhibit summertime conditions, conditions will begin to conform more to a winter pattern of higher daytime and lower nighttime usable frequencies. Moving into August, summer conditions caused by the sunbaked, thinned ionosphere will prevail. But as we move into September, with less sunlight over the pole, the maximum usable frequencies (MUFs) should become higher, with longer windows on higher bands.

Being in mid-summer with moderate to high 10.7cm flux numbers, 20 meters will be the most used nighttime DX band, while bands up through 10 meters will become primary bands for DX during various times through the day, between many regions of the Earth. The low bands are too noisy and experience a high amount of absorption, even at night, up through the 40-meter band.

Daytime: While 10 through 20 meters should be open for DX throughout the daylight hours, peak signals are expected during an approximate two-hour window immediately following sunrise and again during the late afternoon. Good to fair openings occur on the 10- and 12-meter bands during the hours of daylight, particularly along an arc extending across central Africa, Latin America, and into the far Pacific area. Peak conditions should occur during the afternoon hours, but as we move into September, earlier and later windows will open.

Nighttime: Between sundown and sunrise, 20 meters is expected to be the best DX band, but there may be surprises on 17 and 15 meters. On the 20-, 30-, and 40-meter bands, openings should be possible to nearly all areas of the world,



View of a CME on June 20, 2015 from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, or SOHO. Earth-directed CMEs like this one are often called halo CMEs, because the material shooting off from the sun looks like a ring around the disk of the sun. This halo can be seen more clearly in the right-hand image called a difference image, which is created by subtracting two consecutive frames to see how the image has changed. If a CME is directed Earth-ward, the plasma cloud will interact with Earth and if magnetically oriented correctly can trigger geomagnetic storms, degrading shortwave radio propagation. (Credit: NASA/SOHO)

often with exceptionally strong signal levels. Until midnight, good DX conditions may be found on 15 and 17 meters for openings toward Latin America, the far Pacific, and into Asia. Fairly good nighttime DX conditions are also expected on 30, 40, and 80 meters despite the high static at times.

Openings should be possible before midnight along an arc extending from northern Europe, through Africa, and into Latin America. By late August it should be possible to work some DX on 160 meters during the hours of darkness. Conditions on this band, as well as on 40 and 80 meters, will tend to peak

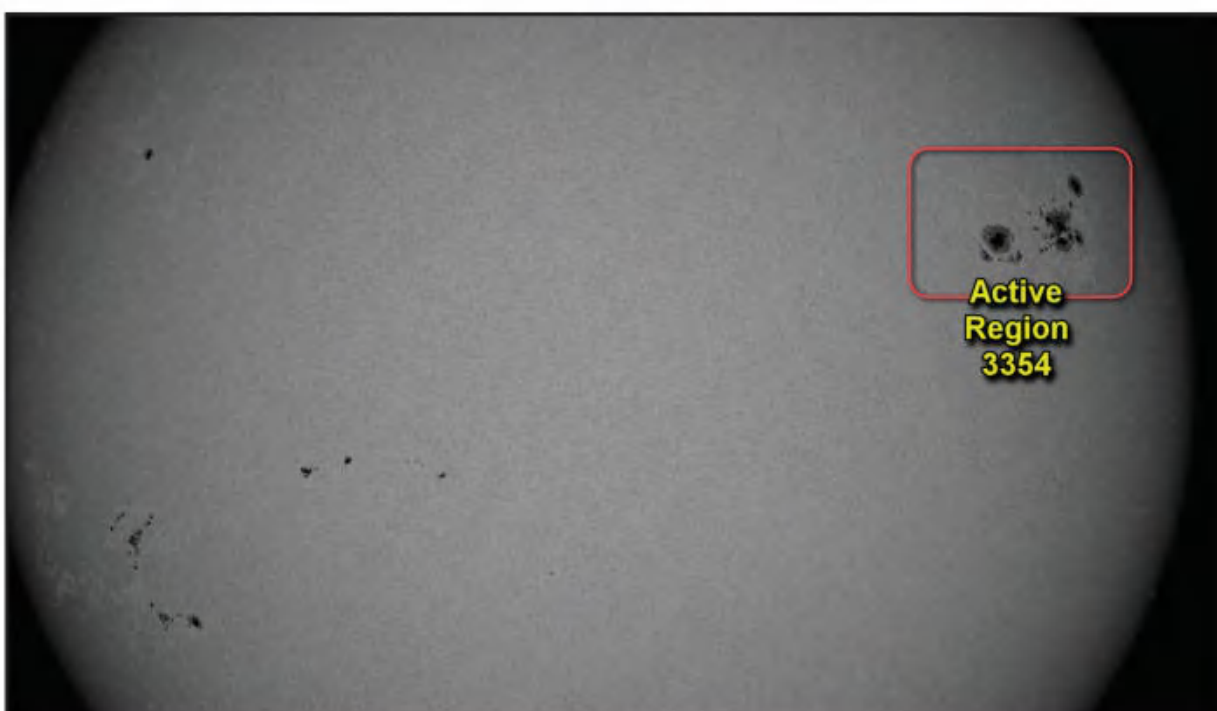
just as the sun begins to rise on the light, or easternmost, terminal of a path.

Short-Skip Conditions

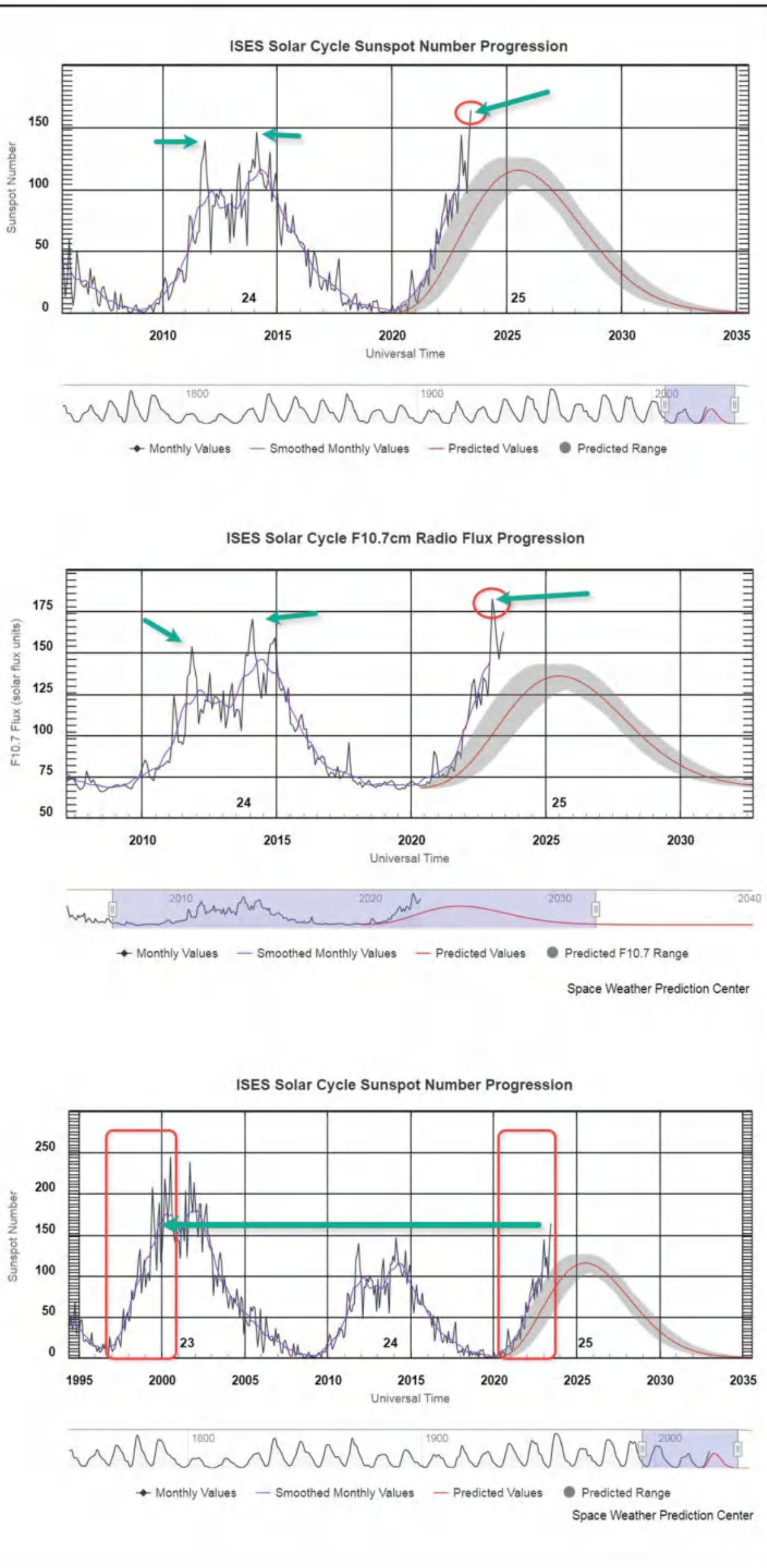
For openings over distances ranging between 50 and 250 miles, use 80 and 40 meters during the day, and 80 and 160 meters at night, as even with summertime noise, close-in communication can be had. Between 250 and 750 miles, the best bands should be 40 and 30 meters during the day, and 40 and 80 meters at night. For openings between 750 and 1300 miles, the best bands should be 20 and 17 meters during the day, with good openings also possible on 15 and 12 meters. From sundown to midnight try 40 and 30 meters. From midnight to sunrise try 80 meters. Between 1300 and 2300 miles, the best daytime bands should be 20 and 17 meters, with some activity on 15. Try the 30- and 40-meter bands during hours of darkness.

VHF Conditions

Sporadic-E propagation usually tapers off during August, but it may offer frequent opportunities on ten meters. Some 6-meter sporadic-E (E_s) openings are expected during the month over distances of approximately 750 to 1300 miles. Be sure to check the 2-meter band



The source of the X1.1-class x-ray flare on 2 July 2023 is Active Region 3354, as can be seen in this visible-light image taken by SDO with the HMI intensitygram instrument. That is a very large sunspot region, with a complex magnetic structure which became unstable, erupting in many M-class flares, and the X-class flare at the time this column is going to press. (Source: SDO/HMI)



for an occasional short-skip opening between approximately 1200 and 1400 miles. While E_s short-skip openings may occur at any time, there is a tendency for them to peak between 8:00 a.m. and noon, and again between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. local daylight time.

Aurora? There is a fair chance for aurora-mode propagation events during August this year. We expect coronal mass ejections (CMEs) this month, as well as the likely recurring coronal holes that will contribute to high-speed solar winds. The CME-related massive clouds of plasma will race toward the Earth on elevated solar winds after an x-ray flare and will trigger aurora and geomagnetic storms. Auroral-scatter-type openings, on both 6 meters and 2 meters, can range from a few hundred up to about a thousand miles, and they are usually characterized by very rapid flutter and Doppler shift on SSB signals.

Also, this month, for the very patient, check the 6-meter band for possible trans-equatorial (TE) openings between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. local daylight time. This type of propagation favors openings from the southern tier states into deep South America, with the signal path crossing the magnetic equator at a right angle. TE openings during August are rare, but they can occur. Very weak signals and severe flutter fading usually characterize them.

For a complete calendar of meteor showers in 2023 check out <<https://tinyurl.com/mr344zc2>> .

If you use Twitter.com, you can follow <[@hfradiospacewx](https://twitter.com/hfradiospacewx)> for hourly updates that include the K index numbers. You can also check the numbers at <<https://SunSpotWatch.com>>, where this columnist provides a wealth of current space weather details as well as links. Please report your observations of any notable propagation conditions, by writing this columnist via Twitter, or via the

There is no doubt any more that this sunspot cycle, Cycle 25, has already exceeded the peak of Cycle 24, and we are not even near the expected peak of the cycle! Both the F10.7-cm flux levels and the monthly sunspot count have reached higher peaks than we witnessed at all in Cycle 24. This is great news for 10- and Six-Meter F-region propagation (worldwide propagation, at that). The coming months of autumn and winter will be very lively with DX signals filling up the higher bands. (Source: NOAA/SWPC)

behind the bylines...

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

Matt Canel, KE8NZR (“The 2023 Field Day Experience for a University Amateur Radio Club,” p. 8), is a recent mechanical engineering graduate of Case Western Reserve University and is founder of 3D Music, LLC, which manufactures acoustically-accurate 3D-printed violins. Co-author David Kazdan, AD8Y, is a typical ham radio underachiever. He is an electrical engineer, holds a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, is a board-certified anesthesiologist and is currently teaching in the electrical engineering and computer science department of Case Western Reserve University. He is also the faculty adviser and station trustee of the Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU.

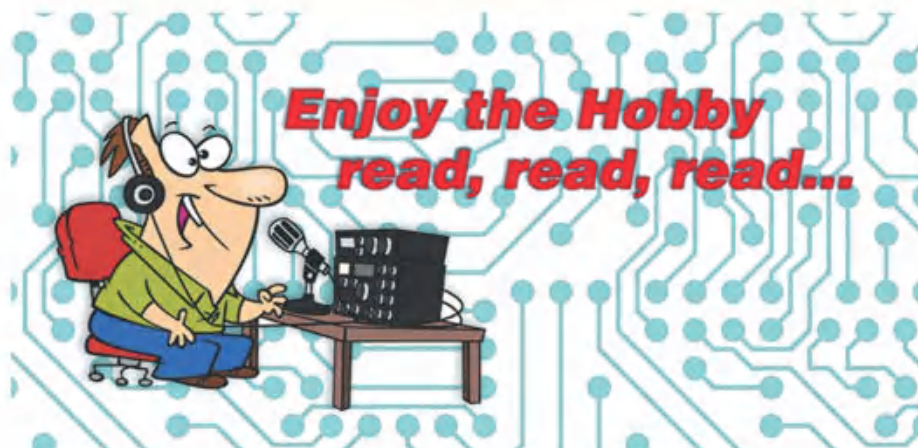
Chris Kunze, DK6ED [“The DK6ED Double Loop (Version 3)”, p. 31], was born in 1956 and has been licensed since 1972. He earned 5-Band DXCC in 1979 and DXCC #1 Honor Roll in 2002.

Chris holds a doctorate in environmental engineering and works as a structural engineer. He is also officer-in-charge of a German municipal fire brigade and busy in development aid.

Nelson Sollenberger, KA2C (“An Inverted Vee for 80 Meters with Integrated Tuning,” p. 37), owns a farm in St. Thomas, Pennsylvania and was originally licensed in 1970 as WN3PKU. His ham shack is really a shack – a separate building at the base of 40-foot foldover tower. See photos of his shack and the farm on his <QRZ.com> page.

Lloyd Milligan, WA4EFS (“The World’s Great Literature ... in Morse Code!” p. 45), was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland and emigrated to the United States at age 12. He was first licensed in 1961 and earned a Ph.D. in experimental psychology in 1970 but made a career change into computing in 1979. Lloyd and his wife, Becky, N4EFS, live in Chapin, South Carolina.

Guest Antennas editors Bob Rose, KC1DSQ and Bob Glorioso, W1IS (“Antennas: A 70-Centimeter ‘Kitchen Array’,” p. 79), are frequent contributors to these pages, generally writing about antennas but sometimes touching on other topics as well. They have recently published a book, “Wire Antennas 160 Meters to 70 Cm: Concepts, Construction and On the Air” (see <<https://tinyurl.com/3ppvceut>> for details).



Space Weather and Radio Propagation Facebook page at <<https://fb.me/spacewx.hfradio>>.

CURRENT SOLAR CYCLE PROGRESS

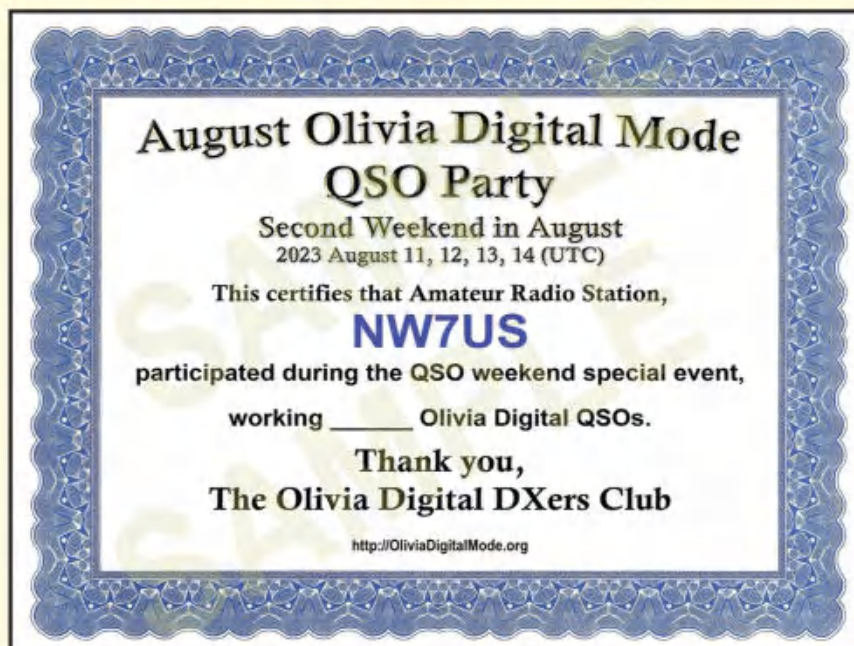
The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for May 2023 is 137.9, and for June, 163.4, which exceeds the peak of Solar Cycle 24! The twelve-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on November 2022 is 101.0, and on December, 110.03. A smoothed sunspot count of 104, give or take about 9 points is expected for August 2023.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 156.04 for May 2023, and 162.39 for June (exceeding Cycle 24’s peak). The twelve-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on November 2022 is 141.9, and for December, 144.8. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for August is 132, 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 e-mail 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.

Olivia Mode HF Weekend QSO Party



One of the great digital modes that affords you the chance to have a keyboard-to-keyboard ragchew is Olivia. Your columnist is an avid participant in on-air Olivia QSOs, and there’s a growing group of enthusiasts. We are planning our August 2023 Olivia Digital Mode on HF Weekend QSO Party, starting at 00:00 UTC on 11 August, 2023, and ending at 23:59:59 UTC on 14 August, 2023. For more information, please visit <<http://OliviaDigitalMode.org>> - and you may join our Discord Olivia Server with this invitation link: <<https://discord.gg/yktw8vC3HX>>. (Source: NW7US)

Table with columns for call sign, power (Watts), and other metrics. Includes sections for MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, FLORIDA, KENTUCKY, VIRGINIA, CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA, WASHINGTON, CANADA, SWITZERLAND, UKRAINE, WALES, OCEANIA, SOUTH AMERICA, and MULTI OP NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES.

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Table with columns for call sign, power (Watts), and other metrics. Includes sections for SP4GAP, SP6DNZ, SP7GIV, SP7WV, SP7YWL, SP7FWC, SP7QO, SP8PAI, SP8HZZ, SP8R, SP8GQU, SP8BVN, SQ8JLA, SP8BRQ, SQ3R, SQ3HM, SV9DJO, TM6M, UA4AK, UA4M, UA4LW, UA4LL, UP7L, UR7R, UR7X, UW1M, UR55MM, V31MA, V31XA, V31VQ, V31PS, VA6RCN, VE3RCN, VA7GI, VA7GI @VA7GI, VE2OJ, VE3AV, VE3OP, VE3ZY, VE3ICV, VE3MM, VE3MM @VE3MM, VE9ML, VE9ML (VE9BK), VO2AC, VO2AC VE3KG, VR2T, VR2EH, VY2WW, W0AIH, W0GTG, W0LL, W0FC, W1OP, W1DT, W1GS, W1UE, W1UE W1KM, W3GH, W3C0, W4AX, W4JR, W4CB, W2RU @W4CB, W4TG, W4TG N2AW, W7DRA, W7DRA @W7DRA, W7HJL, W7HJL, W7VJ, W7VJ KU7T, W8FB (TOM), W2ACP, (KC2GOW), WA3EKL, WA3EKL KB3VOC, WT3K, K6ZO, K3MYI, K3MTR, N3DPB, WB8WUA, WB8WUA @WB8WUA, WP3X, (KP4AA W1VE), WU4G, WU4G @WU4G, YLOA, YL2QA, YL5W, YL2GN, YL7X, (YL2LY), YQ6A, YQ6BH, YT0W, (YU1JW), YT5A, YT1AD, YT3M, YU1KX, YU2FG, YU5N, YU7AF, Y8A, YU1EA, YU5R, YU2AAA.

2023 SSB RESULTS SINGLE OPERATOR NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES

Table with columns for call sign, power (Watts), and other metrics. Includes sections for CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, ALABAMA, FLORIDA.

*YC1LJT	156	35	0	2	Poland	SP8DR	2,608	35	0	16	KB3Z	3,567	49	26	3	*WE9R	31,650	284	47	3	Denmark	OZ1FHU	48,222	254	0	38																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
*YC1IDB	152	34	0	2																							*YB1HDR	148	33	0	2	*YB1HR	144	32	0	2	YF1AJC	144	32	0	2	YE3DFB	136	30	0	2	*YB1JCD	78	39	0	1	*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1	*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0	14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18	45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP	50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21	0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V	6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain	EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
*YB1HDR	148	33	0	2																							*YB1HR	144	32	0	2	YF1AJC	144	32	0	2	YE3DFB	136	30	0	2	*YB1JCD	78	39	0	1	*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1	*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0																							14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18	45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP	50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21																							0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V																							6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																							EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
*YB1HR	144	32	0	2																							YF1AJC	144	32	0	2	YE3DFB	136	30	0	2	*YB1JCD	78	39	0	1	*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1	*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0																																													14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18	45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP																							50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21																																													0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V																																													6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																							EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
YF1AJC	144	32	0	2																							YE3DFB	136	30	0	2	*YB1JCD	78	39	0	1	*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1	*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0																																																																			14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18																							45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP																																													50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21																																																																			0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V																																													6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																							EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
YE3DFB	136	30	0	2																							*YB1JCD	78	39	0	1	*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1	*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0																																																																																																															14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18																																													45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP																																																																			50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21																																																																			0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V																																													6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																							EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
*YB1JCD	78	39	0	1																							*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1	*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0																																																																																																																																																																																	14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18																																																																			45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP																																																																			50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21																																																																			0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V																																													6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																							EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																																						
*YC1COZ	74	37	0	1																							*YB1BML	64	32	0	1	*YC2KME	64	32	0	1	*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18																																																																			45	YB0NSI	58	29	0	1	*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1	YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP																																																																			50	25	0	1	*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21																																																																			0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V																																													6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																							EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2	0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																			
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*YC1EBM	60	30	0	1	Serbia	YT1BD	1,694	26	0	14	KX4X	38,720	291	44	11	*AE0DX	17,415	182	41	2	England	G5K	145,530	426	18	45																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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*YB1JBV	54	27	0	1																							YC0AWI	52	26	0	1	YC0ATP	50	25	0	1																															*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1	YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21	0	1	*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43	6	KANSAS	1,826	40																																		22	0	Estonia	ES3V	6,630	50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32	16	0	1																											*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9														0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain																																				EA3F	10,426	85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23	European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1	PY9MP	4	2																																									0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP					Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0																																																																																																																																																																																																						1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1																																																																			Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX																																																																			994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS					K1ZM																							56,760	374	43																																													17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2																							0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE	1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240	12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA					KP4KE	7,860	51	26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria					OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																
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*YC1CBY	50	25	0	1																							YB3BGM	48	24	0	1	*YB0DOS	42	21	0	1																*YB2CPO	40	20	0	1	*YB1ELP	36	18	0	1	*YC1BYQ	34	17	0	1	Slovak Republic	OM7PY	5,136	42	0	24	K4WI	31,605	296	43																																																											6	KANSAS	1,826	40	22	0	Estonia	ES3V	6,630									50	0	26	*YF1AQS	32										16	0	1	*YB1FFH	30	15	0	1	*YB1OWI	24	12	0	1	YF1AJD	24	12	0	1	*YB1HBO	18	9	0	1	*YC1YU	6	3	0	1	SOUTH AMERICA					Spain	EA3F																											10,426																																																																						85	0	26	KN4PHS	13,202	149	38	3	FLORIDA	59,466	344	43	23																		European Russia	*UA7K	91,104	353	5	47	Brazil					*PU2USK	16	8	0	1	*PP5DZ	6	3	0	1	*PP5LTI	6	3	0	1																																																										PY9MP	4	2	0	1	Venezuela					YV2IF	140	4	2	2	QRP												Switzerland	HB9EHJ	5	1	0	1	N6AR	59,466	344	43	23	MINNESOTA	11,676	133	41	1	Fed. Rep. of Germany	DK6WL	180,096	636	14	53	NORTH AMERICA UNITED STATES					CONNECTICUT					NN1DX	994	34	14	0	MASSACHUSETTS																																					K1ZM	56,760	374	43	17	PENNSYLVANIA					W7LG	912	27	16	0	FLORIDA					K3TW	1,170	24	15	3	NORTH CAROLINA					WB4MSG	24,123	257	39	4	VIRGINIA					K2EKM	12	3	2																																									0	OHIO					K8ZT	126	9	7	0	KC8ZKI	126	9	6	0	ILLINOIS					KD9NYE																																1,349	31	19	0	MISSOURI					N0LMQ	240																																																																			12	10	0	CANADA					NORTH AMERICA																								KP4KE	7,860	51																																													26	4	AFRICA					ASIA					BI1JY	8	4	0	1	BI1NZZ	4	2	0	1	Japan					JH7UJU	14	7	0	1	EUROPE					Austria																									OE3MDB	4,347	41	0	21	Belgium					ON5RZ	14,950	115	0	26	Bosnia-Herzegovina					E70E	8,880	76	0	24	Croatia					9A/IZ3NVR	12,648	106	0	24	9A9I	8,901	77	0	23	9A4QV	1,586	25	0	13	9A5M	80	4	0	4	European Russia					RD3K	43,134	209	0	42	Fed. Rep. of Germany					DL8LR	27,084	200	1	36	DK2LO	23,800	181	1	33	DL2OE	13,472	103	0	32	DL2LDE	3,762	48	0	19	DM4KW	2,960	43	0	16	DL0AZ	376	13	0	8	DL9MFY	210	7	0	6	DL4XT	2	1	0	1	DL7HH	2	1	0	1	Finland					OH3KQ	3,536	46	0	16	Hungary					HA1TI	23,925	148	0	33	Netherlands					PA2TMS	23,494	138	0	34	PA3ETM	4,284	51	0	17	Norway					LA7WRA	1,380	23	0	12																																																																																																																																																											
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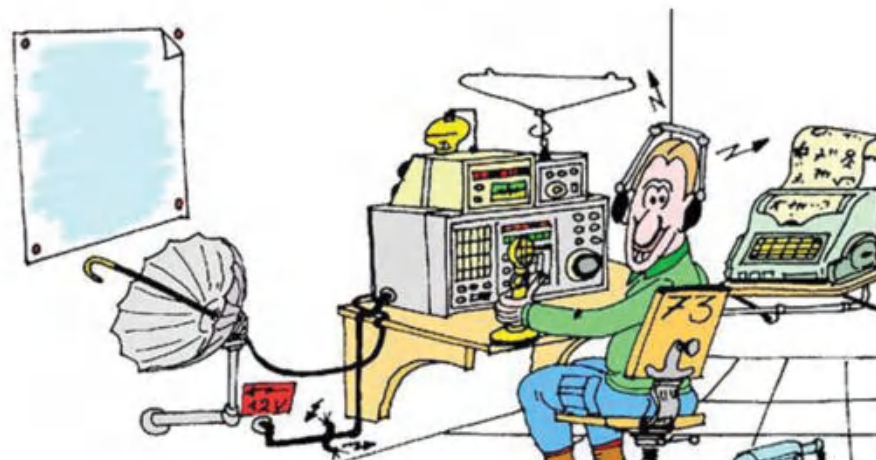
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