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# WORLD RADIO

Year 28, Issue 7

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year...

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World Radio History



## Leonids provide thrill of a lifetime

**H**ours of lost sleep were a small sacrifice to the many VHF and UHF enthusiasts who got the thrill of a lifetime working meteor scatter during the Leonid shower 16-18 November 1998. "For nearly all radio operators, it was spectacular," enthused Shelby Ennis, W8WN, of Elizabethtown, Kentucky. "This was the year of the fireballs."

Ennis and others also seem to agree that this was the year for long-distance contacts, possibly a few record-setting ones. "My biggest thrill was working Vermont on 2 Meters, which is over 1400 miles," said Larry Lambert, NØLL, who lives in northern Kansas. He said he encountered one "burn", or trail, that lasted nine minutes, during which he was able to work 11 stations.

Most, if not all, agree that the Leonids showed up a bit earlier than predicted, and this year's event was a shower, not a storm. Some predicted next year will be "the big one" that some had thought might happen this time around. Even so, all reports indicate gratifying results for those who partici-

pated in the event.

While high-speed CW has been the preferred mode for meteor scatter contacts, Ennis said that as a result of the numerous long-burning fireballs this time, SSB turned out to be "much more effective than HSCW." Ennis said HSCW worked best for times prior to the shower's peak, but SSB was "far more effective" once long bursts begin to appear.

Some stations were able to put several new grid squares, states and even countries into their logbooks. During the two days he operated, Bill Mitchell, KØWLU, in Minnesota, logged 124 stations in 99

grid squares on 2 Meters, using both SSB and CW and running just 90 watts into a Cushcraft 17B2 antenna. He operated for several hours on emergency power after he lost electricity at his house.

Arliss Thompson, W7XU, in South Dakota, reported "exceptionally good" conditions on the morning of 16 November. "I hope I'm around in another 33 years!" he said. Thompson worked several new grids and states on the bands from 50 MHz to 432 MHz, including his first-ever 432 meteor-scatter QSO with Patrick Coker, N6RMJ, in Lancaster, California, possibly a record at 2036 km (for

his part, N6RMJ reported dozens of MS contacts on 6 Meters through 70 cm). The 144.200 MHz gathering spot on 2 Meters had "so many signals that we couldn't copy anyone," Thompson said, expressing appreciation to those who moved off the calling channel to clear the congestion.

The Russian Mir space station and communication satellites came through the Leonid shower unscathed. The two cosmonauts aboard Mir took refuge in the Soyuz escape spacecraft during the peak of the meteor shower. During an earlier spacewalk, they had installed a meteorite trap to possibly catch some of the debris. — *ARRL Letter*

## FCC levies hefty fine on New Jersey Ham!!

**T**he FCC has levied a \$7,500 fine on a New Jersey Ham who interfered with a net operation on 40 Meter SSB. James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, of Waretown also was ordered off 40 Meters until further notice after the 18 October 1998 incident. The case against Thompson, 58, stemmed from interference complaints from other amateurs, including the Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC), which conducts a Sunday morning net on 7240 kHz.

The FCC charged Thompson with illegally retransmitting programs from a Standard

Broadcast station on 40 Meters and willfully interfering with the net. The FCC also said Thompson failed to properly identify.

The FCC issued an Official Notice of Violation 21 October. In replying to the NOV, Thompson admitted the violations, the FCC said 09 November. "Applying the Forfeiture Policy Statement and statutory factors to the instant case, we have determined a monetary forfeiture in the amount of \$7,500 is warranted," the FCC's notice said. Thompson has 30 days to pay the fine or appeal it. — *ARRL Letter*

## Upgrades held by FCC

**T**he FCC has temporarily set aside four amateurs' recent Extra Class license grants and privileges while it investigates alleged irregularities in the volunteer examination process that might affect them.

Letters went out on Tuesday 10 November 1998 to Elmer Smith, N3UNR, of Effort, PA; Philip DiGenova, N3UNS, of Bartonsville, PA; Wayne Bowden, AA3RT, of Millsboro, DE; and Kenneth L. Sharp, AA3RU, of Boyertown, PA. The letters request all four individuals return their Extra Class license documents and Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination to the FCC's License Processing facility in Gettysburg Pennsylvania.

An FCC official said they are looking into testing irregularities including allegations that some examinees might have been coached or given test answers. The FCC also goes to great pains to let the four amateurs know they are not being accused of any wrong-doing. The letter goes as far as telling each of the applicants the correspondence is not in any way a finding that anyone has engaged in misconduct. If the investigation conclude that it should grant their Extra Class license applications, they will be reinstated. — *Newsline*

## Restructuring comments

**A**n analysis of the first five hundred comments to the FCC on the Amateur Radio restructuring docket indicates Hams who have passed only a five word per minute code test do want access to the high frequency bands, but they are unwilling to undergo more testing to get there.

While five hundred comments out of a total Ham radio population of 750,000 is a relatively small number, it does show an unexpected trend — Technician class political activism.

There are really two license classes in this group. They are the codefree Technician class operators and the Tech Plus who have passed a five-word-per-minute test. Up until now, neither class has been particularly politically active except where FM, repeater or band planning issues are involved.

But their filings to the FCC on this issue are surprising everyone. They show that Technician and Technician Plus amateurs are aware of the restructuring proposal and they do have some very strong opinions on it. What they seem to be saying through their comments is that they want radiotelephone access to the high frequency bands. They are also saying that those who have not already done so are willing to pass a five word per minute code test to gain that access, but they also seem to imply that's as far as they, as a group, are willing to go. — *Newsline*





## On the cover

**"I SAID CQ!"** our first winning entry in our photo contest was submitted by Jules Kate, KK6TR, of Bass Lake, CA. Billy, his son, dropped the microphone and pinched his thigh just before the photo was taken. Jules wins a three-year subscription to **Worldradio**.

## DXers in the bayou

All the details of the New Orleans DX convention. — **page 20.**



## Hams with unusual needs get on the air

Unique ways our fellow Hams with special needs get on the air. — **page 49.**

## The magic of volunteering

A new Ham discovers the joy of volunteering for public service events — **page 11.**



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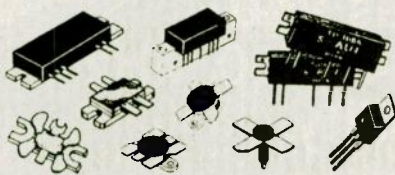
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# Publisher's Microphone

**M**agazines such as *Town & Country*, *Architectural Digest*, and *Vanity Fair* highlight activities of the upper crust. However, they take a back seat compared to our monthly new listing of the gentry who have become *Worldradio* Super-Boosters (Lifetime Subscribers).

- Danville Webber, W1PCD  
Bangor, ME
- Veronica Hicks, N4ODI  
Luthersville, GA
- Gerald Trimble, Jr., KC8HZ  
New Boston, MI
- Robert Luce, W9EFK  
Ben Lomond, CA
- Bob Cowan, KI7QI  
Lake Oswego, OR

The CW controversy continues to swirl. As proof of their position some state the maritime services and the military have dropped CW.

Just a few miles from Sacramento, CA, is the former Voice of America site at Dixon. A private company recently purchased the buildings and the antennas to facilitate CW communications with ships at sea!

The U. S. Army's Special Forces, (Green Berets), train their radio operators at 15 wpm according to a phone conversation this month with Fort Benning. For those not familiar with SF we'll mention they first have the grueling Ranger training, then go on to paratrooper training. Then it's on to SF training. All are also cross-trained in other specialties such as medicine or weapons, as well as foreign languages. Special Forces along with others such as Britain's Special Air Services are considered "elite" troops. It seems that the "elite" still use CW.

Greg Smith, ZS5K, writing in the magazine for South African amateurs, about this topic, said: "What happened to perseverance, achievement and over-

coming obstacles?"

This month, in a U. S. magazine, an amateur wrote about his friends, "They have told me they found the current elements 2 and 3A tests intellectually difficult." (Element 2 is: Novice Theory and Regulations. Element 3A is: Technician Theory and Regulations.)

From this quarter we believe they should be "intellectually difficult!" That's what a test is. If we don't want difficulty let's just issue, not licenses, but "permits." One can be enclosed in every box of Cracker Jacks.

To explain just how totally demanding all this is, today's ARRL license manual contains the very exact same questions that will be on the exam. It also contains the very exact same wrong answers on the exam. To make sure no one misunderstands what has happened, the License Manual IS the exam. And, different from yesteryear when the correct answer may have been 9 Ohms, the wrong answers were 90 Ohms, 900 Ohms, 0.9 Ohms (better get your work's decimal points in the right place), today the wrong answers will be 76 Ohms, 16 Ohms and 472 Ohms.

How far have we come? A few years ago Dick Bash printed the questions and the answers and *QST* would not accept his advertising and there were conventions that would not let him have a booth.

Difficult? The New York City school system is hiring math teachers from Austria. They can't find American math teachers so they have to import them. Yes, that's because math is difficult.

At our booth at the Pacificon convention, a *Worldradio* subscriber said that "dumbing down" is really lazying down.

The wailing is that if we don't lower standards not enough people will become amateurs and it "will wither away". Well, I remember when we had two movies about Amateur Radio made by Dave Bell, W6AQ, that were shown on local PBS stations and cable. Archie comic books (with an Amateur Radio theme) in the hundreds of thousands were distributed. Recently, Bill Pasternak, W6ITF, wanted to make a recruiting video, and he couldn't raise a dime from companies that have the most to gain.

The main problem regarding the number of new amateurs is that no one has heard of Amateur Radio. If anything is hidden, this is it.

In the words of Pogo, "We have met the enemy and they is us." —Armond, N6WR

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World Radio History



# Dr. Dave Larsen, N6CO,

## QSL manager for MIR

By Rick McCusker, KO6DJ

**T**hose of us who work DX have sent QSL cards to a QSL manager, in hopes of getting that special card to decorate the wall. But what if the DX station is not on Earth? The Russian space station "MIR" has had Amateur Radio aboard for several years, with thousands of QSOs with us earthbound Hams. I recently interviewed the QSL manager for MIR, Dr. Dave Larsen, N6CO. Dave is



a retired psychologist, and lives in the little town of Pine Grove, California.

**WR:** You are the QSL manager for MIR. How did that come about?

**DL:** I have been working MIR for 8 years. A friend and I were on HF one day. We were waiting for the Space Shuttle, and he said to tune to 145.550. I had my packet system going, all of a sudden I hear a packet burst, and I said, "What is U2MIR?" He said, "I don't know. Let me check my satellite book. That's a Russian satellite." I said, "Yeah, right, what do I do with it?" He said to try to connect to it. A voice came back and started talking to me. I thought it was a complete sham. It turned out to be Musa, one of the Russian cosmonauts on MIR. He said, "I'll catch you on the next orbit." At that time, I didn't even know what an orbit was. I knew absolutely nothing about MIR. I was using an old Icom 245, and I just waited. About an hour and twenty minutes later, he called and wanted to know where I was. I told him I was in the Silicon Valley. I asked where he was, and he said "I am on the space station MIR." We were talking in Russian, and he asked me where I learned the language. I told him that I used to hunt

Russian advisors in Viet-Nam. He said, "Oh, we are all friends now," and it became a joke between us. This was just after they had installed Amateur Radio onboard MIR. He was checking signal reports from various parts of the Earth.

Back then, if the U.S. did something the Russians didn't like, the crew would turn off the Amateur Radio for weeks at a time, until relationships cooled a bit. I sent a QSL card, but didn't get one in return. They had a QSL manager supposedly handing out QSL cards. But no one was receiving them.

I knew some of the astronauts going over to Russia for training, so I got to meet with them and after several fax messages going back and forth, I was appointed the QSL manager for MIR for everywhere except France. I actually produce the QSL cards here, and have them printed locally. I've been the QSL manager for three years.

**WR:** How many QSL cards have you handled?


**DL:** At least 2,000. 99.9% of the requests are legitimate. But I get cards with the prefix wrong. I get cards for U28MIR or other calls like that. I even get cards for dates when MIR has been off the air for several weeks. I know a lot of people who work MIR, and I have only run into one or two who have really been off the wall. I don't normally send a card out to an SWL. But when someone writes me and says that they are six years old and have cancer, sure, I'll send them a card. Maybe the card will give them the incentive to become a Ham. This last batch was incredible. Andy Thomas held a dual citizenship, mostly Australian, and you could sure tell he liked to talk to Australia.

**WR:** How did you get your start in Ham radio?

**DL:** In the Boy Scouts — way before I knew that girls existed. I had an old BC-266 receiver that worked well around the 40-meter band. It had three crystals in it. I scraped together birthday money, Christmas money and odd jobs for eight months to get a DX-60 and I had this old BC-224. My neighbors hated me. This one good friend I had was in MARS and he gave me his BC-610, and a bunch of other stuff including a 10K generator. My parents made me give the stuff away. I learned about Amateur Radio through a friend of mine. Her dad was a Ham. I asked him once what he was doing, and he said he was talking to another Ham in some country. He was using an old Heathkit SSB rig, an SP-600.

I was WN6TUN in 1966, in Livermore, California. From there I went to Technician, WB6ZFW, and held that while I was a helicopter pilot in the Viet-Nam war. Way back then you had to renew your license every two or three years, and mine expired during the war. When I got back, I petitioned the FCC to renew and they said, "no way."

I took a ten-year break from Ham radio after I got married. A good friend of mine came over to visit. He still had his license and we dug out an old 101 that I had buried in a closet. He fired it up and the thing still worked! I went down to Long Beach for the very next test. It was the last test the FCC gave. I went from nothing to General Class.



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I had a hard time with theory due to the head injury I got when I was shot down the second time. It took me three tries to pass the Advanced theory and two times for the Extra. I passed the code test four times, but it expired before I could pass the theory tests. The bottom line was I knew the Vanity calls were coming in, so I wanted to pass the Extra test so I could get my call. I put in for five different calls and got this one.

**WR:** Did you ever take a helicopter to altitude and get on 2 Meters?

**DL:** No, but I did it on HF. We had these really neat Collins rigs, and you could throw an antenna out the door and work stateside stations with not much of a problem. I used to ask for a phone patch all the time. I would never tell them exactly where I was. I wish I could get my hands on one of those rigs now! They were about the size of my TS-440, automatic everything, 0-30 MHz, and I haven't even seen them on the surplus market.

**WR:** I read somewhere that the Special Forces used the Collins rigs because the government radios wouldn't work. The story was that for a couple cases of beer, a helicopter pilot would take you up to 8,000 feet so you could call home.

**DL:** Exactly right. We did it all the time!

**WR:** Tell me about your experiences with Amateur Radio. How has this hobby affected your life?

**DL:** It has helped me tremendously. Professionally, if I went in somewhere for a job interview, I've been asked, "You're a Ham operator? Do you know so-and-so, or have you ever talked to 'x' country?" They forget all the usual questions to ask, and stick with the hobby! It seems like we are a fraternity. Several interviews have gone like that. The engineer doing the interview or the boss is a Ham, and it just goes from there. I have conducted interviews, and when I see that an applicant is a Ham operator, I automatically get the impression that this is an individual who knows what's going on, and has taken the time to learn a very worthwhile skill.

**WR:** Do you do any contesting?

**DL:** I help in a contest. I don't like the callsign, automatic 5-9 and wham they're gone. I like to talk to my friends on HF, and I like to have a conversation. It's bad enough with MIR, when it is one person, first come, first served.

## "The FCC field office was located right outside of Livermore, and my electronics teacher turned me in."

HF with a lot of people swearing and cussing, and everything else. It's the person with the most power, most of the time. I don't like it much. CW is not too bad for contesting. Last Field Day, I went up and down the band, and friends who were on SSB, I gave a contact to. I'm really not into the die-hard thing. Our club at Livermore High School entered a contest and came in second place.

**WR:** What antennas that you use?

**DL:** I have a couple of dipoles up and I can get into the bay area with a 60 over 9 signal. A lot of Hams will argue and work and cut an antenna to

the inch. I feel that if an antenna works, leave it alone. My best contacts with MIR are on an American Legion J-pole antenna they sell for \$25.00. I now have three of them up and they work great! Some people and their antenna claims are incredible. I can't believe that some people can claim a 3-element beam can out-perform a 20-element beam.

**WR:** What else have you done with radio that has been fun?

**DL:** In high school, I built a transmitter for my senior project that ran on 610 kcs. It was never supposed to operate, but I had fun operating it. I was transmitting to about 10 transistor radios at school and I wanted to know how far my signal was going, so I drove around trying to figure out how far I was getting out. The FCC field office was located right outside of Livermore, and my electronics teacher turned me in. They came in and told me it was a \$10,000 fine and five years in prison. They smashed that transmitter on the spot. It had two 6146 tubes, and they creamed it. I got an "F" on the project.

**WR:** What is the International Space Station going to have for Amateur Radio equipment?

**DL:** The ISS will have DC to light capabilities. They will have an HF and 6 Meter vertical antenna. It will be much more capable than MIR, as far as Amateur Radio goes.



### ELECTRIC RADIO

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In our 10th year, *ER* is a magazine for those who are interested in vintage ham/military/tube-type gear, AM operation and the history of Amateur Radio. Largest vintage-only classifieds anywhere! \$3 for a sample copy, refundable towards a subscription.

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**WR:** Are you going to be the QSL manager for the International Space Station?

**DL:** No. Each individual country will have a manager. In the U.S., I would imagine the ARRL will handle them or find an individual to do it.

*This interview is one of a planned series introducing some of the influential Hams who have shaped the hobby into what it is today. If you know or have heard of a Ham who has been influential, we would like to know about it. Please send any information you have to us.*

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## Virginia antenna law

In a recent battle, fought in the stately legislative halls of Richmond, determined Ham operators pushed hard and won passage of Senate Bill 480, entitled "Placement of Amateur Radio Antennas." On 01 July, the bill became law and was codified as section 15.2-2293.1 of the Virginia Code.

The law provides that "any ordinance involving the placement, screening, or height of antennas shall reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and shall impose the minimum regulation necessary to accomplish the locality's legitimate purpose. In localities having a population density of 120 persons or less per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no local ordinance shall (ia) restrict Amateur Radio antenna height to less than 200 feet above ground level as permitted by the Federal Communications Commission or (iia) restrict the number of support structures. In localities having a population density of more than 120 persons per square mile according to the 1990 United States census, no local ordinance shall (ib) restrict Amateur Radio antenna height to less than seventy-five feet above ground level or (iib) restrict the number of support structures. Reasonable and customary engineering practices shall be followed in the erection of Amateur Radio antennas. This section shall not preclude any locality, by ordinance, from regulating Amateur Radio antennas with regard to reasonable requirements relating to the use of screening, setback, placement, and health and safety requirements."

Proponents of the bill might have expected less of a fight over the law's modest provisions because the language

was crafted to follow the federal preemption policy adopted by the FCC in 1985.

Instead they were confronted by powerful lobby groups opposing any intrusion over local domination of antenna regulation. There have been a few other states, such as Massachusetts, that have enacted similar laws, but none have been "easy wins" and most have left plenty of room for disagreement over specific implementation issues.

In addition, none of these state preemption laws have any impact whatsoever on the significant number of Hams (and potential Hams) who live in apartments, condos, coops, or single family dwellings controlled by restrictive lease provisions and deed covenants. The Virginia law and others like it apply only to local ordinances, such as zoning and building codes, as well as fire and safety regulations. Your local homeowners association can continue to force you to tear down even a modest, barely visible dipole or refuse to

allow you to put up that lovely, though discreet, vertical. Towers and yagis? Just forget it.

Most amateurs observing the battles over these laws and everyday enforcement struggles are puzzled. Didn't the FCC resolve this issue in favor of Hams? What about the federal policy that encourages Amateur Radio and frowns on local restrictions? The answer can be found by taking a closer look at what the FCC actually did in September, 1985.

It's been 13 years since the FCC adopted the declaratory ruling the Ham community refers to as PRB-1. Officially, FCC Memorandum and Order 85-506, was entitled "Federal Preemption of State and Local Regulations Pertaining to Amateur Radio Facilities." Unfortunately, it was much more of a memo than an order.

The ARRL petition filed in July 1984, had sought "an explicit statement" that would preempt local ordinances that "preclude or significantly inhibit effective

## Amateur Radio Call Signs

The following shows the last call sign in each group to be assigned for each VEC Region under the sequential call system as of 4 November 1998.

For more information about the sequential call sign system, see Fact Sheet PR5000 #206-S dated August 1996, or contact the Federal Communications Commission, Consumer Assistance Branch, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245, toll-free 1-888/225-5322.

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4	AF4MH	KU4VX	++	KG4AQE
5	AC5RR	KM5TH	++	KD5FMT
6	AD6HE	KQ6YL	++	KF6TLR
7	AB7ZN	KK7QN	++	KD7DDG
8	AB8DK	KI8GX	++	KC8LDZ
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American Samoa	AH8R	AH8AH	KH8DM	WH8ABF
Alaska	AL0N	AL7RH	KL0QL	WL7CUY
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# Rules & Regs

tive, reliable Amateur Radio communications." What Amateur Radio got was a vaguely worded, virtually toothless directive. There is a lot of verbiage in the FCC's opinion that supports Amateur Radio and touts the reasons for limiting local interference, but the part of PRB-1 that actually "orders" anything states simply that "local regulations which involve placement, screening, or height of antennas based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to accommodate reasonably amateur communications, and to represent the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose."

The FCC itself called PRB-1 a "limited preemption policy," and added that it lacked the staff and resources to review state and local laws affecting amateur antennas. At this point, Joe Heller's Yossarian would have undoubtedly begun muttering something about "Catch-22," and he would have been correct. While using the magic word "preemption," the FCC was really suggesting local and state governments, recognizing the looming shadow of federal interest, would actually preempt

themselves!

The FCC said: "We are confident that state and local governments will endeavor to legislate in a manner that affords appropriate recognition to the important federal interest at stake here and thereby avoid unnecessary conflict with federal policy, as well as time-consuming and expensive litigation in this area."

Taking this bit of wishful thinking one step further, PRB-1 admitted that real preemption would require a lot more than a press release and copies of PRB-1 sent to state and local government officials. The FCC advised amateur operators dissatisfied with antenna restrictions to "use this document to bring our policies to the attention of local tribunals and forums." In other words, get yourself a lawyer and a team of lobbyists and do the best you can. As a preemption, PRB-1 is strictly "do-it-yourself."

While PRB-1 has offered some support for Hams like those in Virginia who are politically astute and willing to fight tax-supported local governments and well-heeled private interests, universal

relief from antenna restrictions is an unfulfilled promise. In addition, the FCC's position on private, contractual antenna limitations has been strictly "hands off." In a footnote to PRB-1, the FCC said that "our ruling herein does not reach restrictive covenants in private contractual agreements. Such agreements are voluntarily entered into by the buyer or tenant when the agreement is executed and do not usually concern this Commission."

Amateurs may be getting some help in this issue based on the heavy duty clout of the satellite TV industry. In next month's column, we'll take a closer look at the true extent of federal authority over local ordinances and private contracts restricting amateur antennas, as well as some very recent developments in applying federal preemption that may provide more leverage than PRB-1 for amateurs who can't quite make the DXCC honor roll by loading up gutters or operating mobile in the driveway. — *David Splitt, KE3VV can be reached at: 611 Utah Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20015 or e-mail: ke3vv@compuserve.com.*

## St. Paul Press looks at Amateur Radio

An article published by *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, on 02 November 1998, paints a gloomy picture of the future of Amateur Radio.

The article says Amateur Radio is facing stiff competition in 21st century telecommunications. Hams are wasting their time debating the finer points of Morse code and federal regulation, as innovations such as PCS telephones, home satellite receivers and Digital Subscriber Lines are threatening to pass them by.

With more than 718,000 licensed amateurs in the U.S. and more than 1.8 million amateurs active overseas, participation in the hobby has been soaring. ARRL membership stands at more than 175,000.

The article notes the amateur population is steadily growing older. The average age of licensed Hams in the U.S. is now 60, and FCC license num-

bers are down for the first part of 1998.

There's also pressure to squeeze amateurs off the radio dial. It notes a 1993 law directed the FCC to auction off radio frequencies, formerly doled out in lotteries and hearings, and the practice has turned out to be a gold mine for the federal government. With commercial broadcasting, cellular phones, pagers and even garage door openers crowding the spectrum, new radio-based services are ready to pay top dollar for almost any radio real estate.

Those who have read the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* article say it's probably the most unbiased assessment of the status of Amateur Radio published in a long, long time. — *W0QA, Newsline*

## Pope John Paul II, Special Event

All Amateur Radio clubs of St. Louis, MO will sponsor Special Event Station W0K during the Papal visit of Pope John Paul II, 26-27 Jan. 1999. Operations from the Monsanto Amateur Radio Association shack will be on 10-80 Meters, 24 hours a day. QSL with #10 SASE via KA0IAR, Rev. Mike Dieckmann, 703 Third St. Hillsboro, MO 63050.

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# The magic of volunteering in Amateur Radio

By Devon Day, KF6KEE

**I**t was 12:15 p.m., 10 July. The first runner, Randy Isler, had just crossed the fast-moving Cataract Creek toward the Sherman Aid Station, the fourth out of thirteen along the course. He moved with confidence and clarity. His personal support team stood by with warm food and words of encouragement. The team of volunteer Amateur Radio operators was also ready. Jerry Gray, an EMT from nearby Lake City, stood by with food, medical supplies, and the athletes drop bags. Our four-element beam was in place. We stood by, monitoring the race net control in Silverton on our 25-watt, Midland-13-510 mobile. Carol Lewin, KC6ECO, clutched her clipboard, ready to check off incoming runners. I stood by the large, laminated chart, ready to check in the first of the 82 runners scheduled to pass our check-in point in the next seven hours.

## Ticket to adventure

My experiences as a ham operator over the past year and a half have been extraordinary! When I first began studying for my license, I had no idea what wonderful experiences lay before me, adventures made possible because of my ability to use Amateur Radio. I was about to travel 853 miles from my home near the Queen Mary in Long Beach, California, to become part of a team of over 50 volunteer Amateur Radio operators who all serve as a part of a huge support team of over 225 that make the Hardrock 100 race possible.

## The Hardrock story

The Hardrock 100 is the most challenging "ultra" foot race in America. It began eight years ago and has grown in international popularity ever since. Experienced runners from Great Britain, New Zealand, and Germany participated with experienced Americans. The 82 starters began the race from

Silverton, Colorado. This year the race began in the rain on Friday at 6:02 a.m. The winner, Ricky Denesik, of Telluride, Colorado, cruised into Silverton 31

11,000 feet above sea level, breathing is a challenge in itself. But the challenge of running a total of 101.3 miles without sleep, and without any time out

for lengthy rest, leaves some runners disoriented. The elevation changes also pose problems for the communications team, but years of experience by the race organizers have resulted in a nearly perfect system that is as efficient as it is effective. Two teams of Hams had to hike all of their equipment into their aid station site.

Historically, only one third to one half of the starters finish before the predetermined time limit. This year, there were 38 finishers who crossed the finish line in Silverton before the 48-hour cutoff time. Any runner who checks into an Aid Station later than the designated time limit is

pulled from the race at that point.

## Our aid station

The Sherman Aid Station was graced by tall aspens and pine as well as beautiful flowers including the famous Colorado Columbine, wild pink roses, blue bells, and painted brush. One of thir-



Relaxing after the event (left to right): Jim Scott, W9KV; Carol Lewin, KC6ECO; Steve Blaylock, NØHGV; Devon Day, KF6KEE and Jerome Janisse, KAØUMT.

hours, 12 minutes, and 31 seconds later. Our challenge, as communicators, was to ensure the safety of the runners throughout the weekend.

## The race

The racecourse snakes its way from 7,500 feet to 14,000 feet across Handies Peak. The route forces runners to climb a total of 33,015 feet and descend the same in the course of the grueling race. In one challenging, 10-mile segment, runners climbed from 9,500 feet to 14,000 feet. It is a grueling race. Running at an average altitude of over

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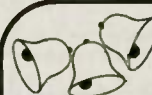
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teen such Aid Stations along the racecourse, Sherman is an abandoned mining camp, where gold, silver, copper, and lead were pulled from the ground as far back as 1877.

The site was divided from the incoming runners by the fast-running Catarack Creek. Runners could walk over a large fallen pine tree or brave the icy creek. The stream was only about 30 inches deep but the fast-moving water made it tough for some of the tired participants.

Rain poured on the runners and the station volunteers at about four in the afternoon on race day but the Aid Station was well covered, thanks to the volunteer fire fighters from Lake City who built a yurt, whose original design dates back to the nomadic Chinese of Khengis Khan. It is a covered dome that provided excellent protection in the country of extreme terrain and weather conditions. The runners stayed nice and dry while they ate and refreshed themselves.

I worked Sherman Townsite with Jim Lewin, WD6FET, and Carol Lewin, KC6ECO. Carol and I would check in the runners as they crossed Catarack Creek; my son, Chris and EMT Jerry Gray took over from there. Chris gave the runners their drop bags and poured water into the runners' bottles. Jerry's niece, along with her friend plus three volunteer fire fighters from Lake City, would give the runners sandwiches, feed them soup and all the Gatorade they could drink. When they thought they were ready, the runners checked out with Carol and me and took off for the next 10 miles of the race. Some stayed with us for only two minutes. As runners left, one of our communications team would call in athlete's numbers, their time in and out to net control in Silverton operated by tireless Molly Hardman, N3CHZ, Steve Blaylock, NØHGV, Jerome Janisse, KAØUMT, Jim Scott, W9KV, and a host of others.

The top finishers had family at Sherman Townsite. Moms and dads, coaches and friends set up their own aid

station. They had burgers cooking, dry clothes waiting, hugs, and words of encouragement. I felt those runners had a big advantage. I learned to quickly look up the runner's number, who had

who was obviously suffering from the demands of the first thirty miles. He departed from Sherman Aid Station only to return two hours later, withdrawing from the race. These "extreme"

runners seem to know their limitations.

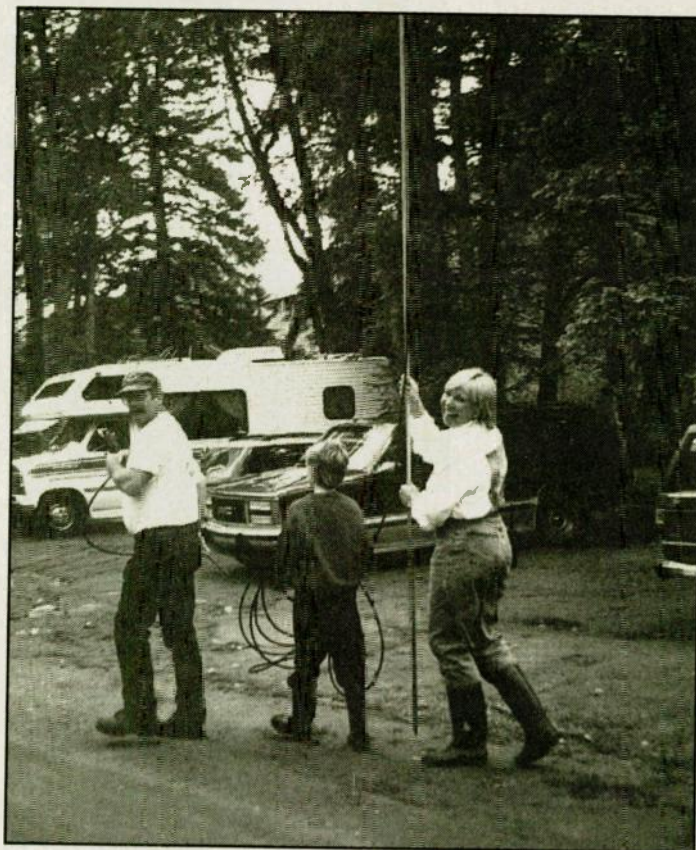
We had one competitor who failed to show up at our Aid Station by the cutoff time at 7:30 p.m. He had left Pole Creek Aid Station, ten miles back, but never made it to us. Nine-and-a-half hours into the race, there was no sign of the runner. I stood by the stream with a flashlight, hoping to help the runner find his way. I continued to monitor the race frequency, but I knew there was nothing I could do. Jerry Gray headed into the woods and came back with the runner 30 minutes later.

Jerry is not only well trained

in medical emergency procedure, he is a long distance runner himself. In another 30 minutes it would have been pitch black. That runner was dropped from the race and went back to town, safe and sound.

## A runner is missing!

The next morning, we were awakened by pounding on the RV door. It was the Lake City Sheriff. One man never made it from our sight to Grouse Gulch. He was five hours overdue. A search party had been formed on either side of that leg of the race. The sheriff wanted us to run communications with Silverton. We jumped up and got the radios on, as the search commenced. They found the runner an hour later, asleep. The organizers of the race take great pride in that they have never lost a runner. Given the immensity of the challenge, it is amazing. It is due to the incredible team of volunteers who work behind the scenes to coordinate the movements of the runners with race headquarters in Silverton.



Looking for the hot spot: Jim Lewin, WD6FET; Chris Nixon and Devon Day, KF6KEE.

no support people waiting for him or her, and call out the runner's name for encouragement. A runner would come in and shout out his number. "76 in." I'd call back, "Got you, Bill. We're ready for you." The runner's face would break from the concentration of the race for just a minute and smile. The Amateur Radio team did more than communicate "check in" and "check out" times, we became the surrogate family and friends. Most of the runners smiled as they left. They knew the Amateur Radio team was there for them and thanked us as they left.

One runner came in with wobbly legs,

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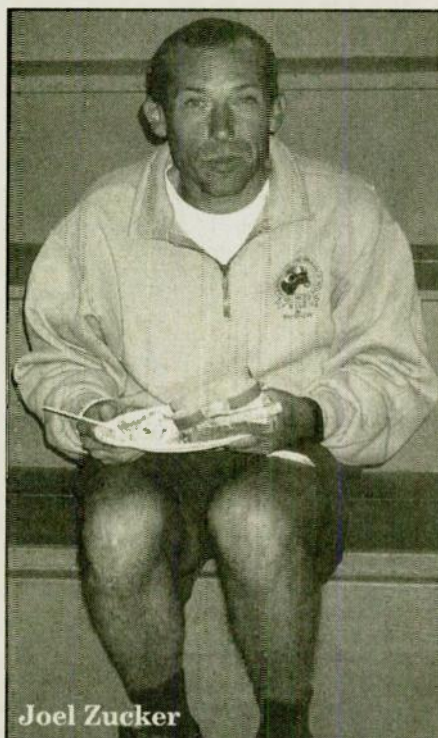


## The magic of Joel Zucker

One runner, Joel Zucker, stood out from the others. Joel immediately touched the hearts of the Amateur Radio operators and aid station volunteers who met him. It was Joel's third Hardrock 100 race. Joel was a librarian from Freeville, New York. Joel came into camp, I quickly checked out his number and said, "We got you Joel. How are you doing?" Smiling, Joel said, "Great and you need to treat me special. I'm the shortest runner here." I turned and looked at him and started laughing with him. His eyes were bright and after 30 miles of hard running, he was in a great mood. He unloaded his fanny pack and sat down to eat and get ready for the next leg of the race. He told us it was his third race and he would finish this one under the cutoff time, too. Unlike some of the other runners, Joel was relaxed and had time to talk to the others who were running the race for the first time. When he left, I shouted words of encouragement and watched him start off for the trail leading to Handies Peak.

On Sunday, during the awards ceremony, I saw Joel sitting by himself in the bleachers in the high school gym in Silverton. I asked him if I could take a picture of my favorite runner. The other runners hooted and teased him. He smiled and said, "I'd be honored." Later when Joel went up to get his lithograph for finishing the race, I snapped pictures like he was part of my family.

Two weeks later when I returned to Durango, Colorado, for a vacation with my family, I was devastated when handed a copy of the *Durango Herald*. There in the Sports Section was an article written by Eric Davidson announcing the death of Joel Zucker en route to the Albuquerque Airport from Silverton. My favorite runner was gone but he had touched my life in a special way. I was able to send my memories and those last pictures to his family,



who were overwhelmed by the response of the running and Amateur Radio community after his death. Plans are being made to name a trail of the race in Joel's memory.

## Victory!

At the awards ceremony on Sunday in Silverton, the Hardrock 100 winners received a signed, numbered lithograph created especially for the race. Six women ran the race and four finished. The top female runner came in fifteenth overall. Eliza MacLean, from Mebane, North Carolina, looked radiant as she accepted her awards. The top male runner, Ricky Denesik, walked easily up to the awards table, grinning broadly. He looked like he just took a walk in the park. The conditioning of these athletes is awesome. In addition to the lithographs that all of the finishers received,

both Eliza and Ricky won a golden mining pan for top overall times.

## The rewards of being an Amateur Radio operator

It was an important experience to be able to be a part of such a wonderful team of volunteers, to be treated as if I were part of the race family, to get some top-notch practice working Amateur Radio in a well-organized communications net, and to help to the runners. I was able to see some "knock-down" gorgeous country, that, as a tourist from California, I would probably never know about. I have become "rich in experiences" as result of being a volunteer in radio communications and was touched by the special magic of knowing Joel Zucker. Of all of my volunteer experiences in Amateur Radio, working radio for the Hardrock 100 has been the most rewarding. We were able to keep the runners safe, serve as encouragers, and assist the local sheriffs when one runner was lost. All of this occurred as a result of my new skills in Amateur Radio. It has been marvelous and completely rewarding, going far beyond my expectations. Amateur Radio is more than just technical operation; it's about people, too!

## New Jersey amateurs support Jersey Jamboree

Amateur Radio operators representing a large number of Northern New Jersey radio clubs provided communications support for the recent Jersey Jamboree. This first-time-ever event took place 9-11 October 1998 and drew close to 10,000 people.

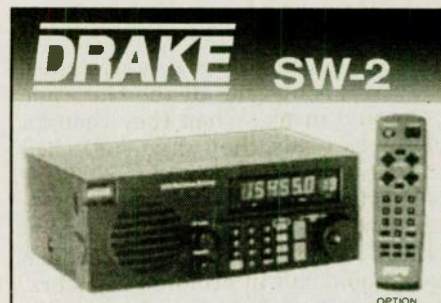
The Jamboree was held at Waterloo Village in Byram, NJ. The primary role played by radio amateurs was to assist police and Emergency Medical Service personnel and Scout leaders.

A rather unique aspect of the operation was that it was spread out over three counties. This required significant

planning with law enforcement and local officials to ensure the work of the amateur operators was clearly defined and their manpower was properly utilized. — *Newsline*

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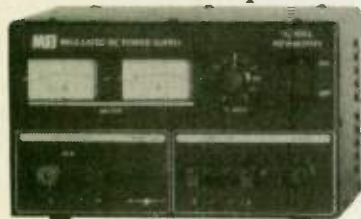
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WORLD RADIO, January 1999 15



# I get around....

By Jim Bennett, W9FW

I was first licensed as WN8QYS in Cleveland, Ohio in 1953. My first equipment was a converted BC-455 military receiver for 40 Meters and a Heathkit AT-1 transmitter. I later obtained my General license (W8QYS) and continued operating in Cleveland until I moved to California in 1960. Subsequent call signs were WA6OSH, AF6P, WA4UKJ, KM4P (Georgia, Florida, Texas, Virginia), WB0OTD (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), W9NTM and lastly W9FW from Crystal Lake, IL.

I was inactive for quite a long time due to antenna restrictions and a lengthy tour of duty with the U.S. Navy in the Viet-Nam war during the 60s and early 70s. I moved to Europe and lived in Italy and Spain for three years but was unable to dedicate any free time to Amateur Radio and subsequently did not attempt to obtain a license from either QTH. I was able to operate periodically from several U.S. Navy vessels but mostly for phone patches home to

family and friends. I then moved to Olangapo City, Philippines in 1973 but again did not attempt to obtain a DU call sign. Finally, on return to the U.S. in 1974 and employed by Collins Radio as a field engineer I was able to reactivate my station. I traveled extensively in Central and South America for Collins. From my Miami-based station I made many friends in the region and occasionally was able to personally visit those contacts during my travels.

Back in the mid 1970s there was a hotel operator in Switzerland and Liechtenstein who had advertised in *CQ* magazine about an Amateur Radio package which included lodging, meals, rental car, license assistance and use of the ham shack at each hotel. At that time I was living in Europe and had little difficulty in arranging my travel to Bad Ragaz, Switzerland and to Liechtenstein. I was given the call signs HB9XTU and HB0XTU. In the few days at each site, I worked several hundred stations and enjoyed the wonderful scenery as well. As a youngster, my Amateur Radio "elmer" was George Miller, W8AJH. I can remember many visits to his shack and his relentless search on 10 and 20 Meters for that elusive HB0 call sign. Back in those days, there weren't many operational Hams in Liechtenstein and the pileups were immense.

Unfortunately I was transferred to another region in 1982 and was unable to erect any antenna. I remained inactive from 1982 until 1992. In early 1992 I accepted an appointment with the U.S. Department of State and was assigned to the American Embassy at Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).



The author putting up a Gotham 2-El. 20-meter beam in 1956 at W8QYS.

Arriving in the Ivory Coast, I met a couple of the local amateurs who were most helpful in helping me break through the bureaucracy and red tape with the local Post Telecommunication and Telephone ministry. I was given the temporary call sign TU4EI in 1993 and worked over 10,000 contacts with that call sign until my permanent call sign TU5EV was obtained in 1994. This was just at the end of the last sunspot cycle, but from that location I had an excellent takeoff angle over the sea and was not adversely affected by what some consider to be poor propagation conditions. While there were several active hams in C.I. including TU5DX, TU2JL, TU2OP and TU2XZ, there was always a pileup when I got on the air. I really enjoyed my time there and the radio club members.

There are considerable requirements for licensing in Cote d'Ivoire to deal with. It takes a lot of coordination and patience to get a permit. The best suggestions I would make to anyone contemplating pursuing operating from Cote d'Ivoire (TU) would be to first establish contact with the local radio club or a local amateur for assistance and be prepared for a lot of paperwork and delays. A good starting point is to contact Jean-Jacques Niava, TU2OP, President of the Radio Club or Joel Perret, TU2OQ, who runs a photo lab a couple of blocks from the U.S. Embassy. The radio club meets every Saturday afternoon at their station, located on the grounds of a Ministry of Telecommunications listening post. Visitors to

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Abidjan might be able to arrange a tour of the site and the state-of-the-art surveillance equipment they use, which includes three mobile Mercedes vans with complete DF equipment. The PTT monitors and records everything from DC to daylight and they are very strict about controlling illegal transmitters. Equipment confiscation is not unusual when they find offenders. I found it interesting that after my departure in 1995, I received QSL cards for QSOs by someone operating from C.I. in 1997 using my TU4EI call sign. The incoming QSL cards have since ceased which leads me to believe that the "pirate" operator is no longer on the air.

During 1993-95 I operated 9L1/TU5EV from Freetown, Sierra Leone from the shack of Issam, 9L1IS. Since the country was in a state of civil war, I don't know if he remained there or not and have not had any contact with him since my departure in 1995. I regret I don't have any photos of these operations.

My operations continued in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in 1994-95 as 3C1/TU4EI and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso as XT2JB. I would have operated as EL/TU4EI from Monrovia, Liberia, except for civil unrest and our evacuation of personnel during that same period. Licensing in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Liberia was relatively simple and expedient. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet the Burkina Faso licensing chief during his visit to the 1994 IARU conference in Abidjan and for the assistance rendered by Ed Chamberlain, XT/TU5BA, the communicator at the Embassy in Ouagadougou.

In 1996, I operated in Bangkok, Thailand, as HSØ/KM4P and while there obtained call sign HSØZCJ. It is relatively easy for a U.S. licensed amateur to obtain a permit to operate from Thailand. The President of the Radio Club is John Narissara, HS1CHB, who also holds call sign N9WMS. John was most helpful to me and allowed me the use of the club station which at that time was located at the Asian Institute of Technology. They have since moved the station to downtown Bangkok. For anyone who knows Bangkok and the insurmountable traffic conditions, the new location should be much more accessible and convenient but may lack the vast array



The shack setup at TU4EI, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in 1993.

of antennas and towers. Fred Laun, K3ZO, was very helpful in setting me up with transportation to the club station in Bangkok. Fred periodically visits Bangkok and holds the call sign HSØZAR. Recently, I've worked George, HSØZAA in Bangkok from my current QTH in Chile. George was the first U.S. licensed amateur to obtain a reciprocal permit in Thailand.

My most recent DX operation was from Easter Island (CEØ/W9FW) in March 1998. This was only possible because of a QSO I had with Roger MacDonald, KF8OY. I ran into Roger on 20 Meters where he was operating as J68BW from Santa Lucia on one of his trips. Roger is the Captain of a Boeing 727-200 aircraft operated by Nomad Travel Club out of Detroit, MI. Roger's tour group was coming to Chile in March and I assisted him in obtaining his permit to operate as CEØ/KF8OY

from Easter Island. The airplane was participating in an international aircraft exposition here in Chile, and I accompanied Roger to Isla de Pascua after finishing the air show. This turned out to be a historic flight because it was the first time that a B-727 had landed on Easter Island. While Easter Island may not be as remote as some consider, it is a fact that it is the most isolated island in the world with regard to accessibility from any airport. Roger's airplane is a specially modified aircraft with extended range due to the new fuel efficient and quieter Pratt & Whitney JT-8D engines which were retrofitted through the Rohr Aircraft engineering design.

The airplane was met by the Governor of the Island, whom we had the pleasure of meeting in Santiago at the air show, and a group of local native dancers. Following a very enjoyable BBQ we each checked into our respective hotels. Roger had the misfortune of plugging his power supply into the 220 VAC outlet which effectively put him off the air.



In the beginning — W8QYS, Cleveland, Ohio. Rig is a Viking II kit and Collins 75A-4 receiver, 1956.

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Left to right: Jim, CEØ/W9FW, Enrique, XQØYAF and Roger, CEØ/KF80Y ready to depart Isla de Pascua. March 1998.

As luck would have it, I arrived without a hotel reservation and since there aren't too many hotels on the island, I frantically searched for an available room. Luck was on my side because

of some complaints by other hotel guests of telephone interference, Roger racked up over 500 contacts in one day. My operations were a bit more conservative since I spent some time touring the is-

Enrique Montero, XQØYAF, happened to be the owner of a hotel which had one room available. On top of that, he had a station which meant I didn't have to erect antennas nor use my equipment. So I loaned Roger my power supply, which put him on the air as CEØ/KF80Y. Outside

land and seeing the sights. I expect that Roger's tour group will return to Easter Island sometime in early 1999 and if I have the opportunity to do it again, I would like to return with him.

I've been operating here in Chile as CE3/W9FW since Jan. 98. I've established permanent residence here and am active on 80-10 Meters, CW/SSB/RTTY including WARC bands. With the improving band conditions I hope to have an opportunity to speak with many of *Worldradio's* readers. I should have a permanent call sign shortly and expect it will be XR3???. I operated the CQ WW SSB contest last October as XR3M.

Chile will be hosting the upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree here. They will operate as XR3J from 27 Dec.-06 Jan. I have been coordinating the licensing activities of 18 amateurs from around the world who will be operating the XR3J station. — So, as the title implies, I get around.

## Two days = two searches

The middle of June 1998 proved to be a busy period for the Amateur Radio operators in the area of St. Helena, Montana.

On 16 June a twin-engine aircraft loaded with mail disappeared during a storm. The plane had been on an instrument approach to Helena Airport and radar contact was lost in a rugged area bordered by Lewis and Clark, Jefferson and Powell counties.

The ARES net was activated at 2018 local time, and efforts to locate the missing aircraft began. Several Hams moved out with mobile RDF equipment, while others remained at home, hoping to hear a signal from the emergency locating transmitter (ELT). A brief signal was heard, and a bearing was obtained. The Hams and search and rescue units converged on the area, but no other signals were heard.

An Amateur Radio operator was requested by the search coordinator to be at the search headquarters to assist with communications and coordinate assignments with the other Hams in the field. The Hams were sent to several areas during the night where the

aircraft could have crashed. RDF gear was sent to each of these areas to monitor for further ELT signals, but nothing was heard.

At 0350, 17 June, the downed aircraft was found, and the Hams were released from the case. The pilot of the aircraft did not survive the crash.

### Search two

Forty-eight hours later, another aircraft was reported missing, under similar circumstances. This was also a twin-engine aircraft, and had disappeared about 30 miles northwest of Helena.

Amateurs were asked to assist in the search. Fixed stations and mobile units monitored the airwaves listening for another ELT signal. A mobile unit equipped with RDF gear and manned by Hams familiar with the area was sent into the area. Attempts to locate the aircraft at night with a ground search and RDF were unsuccessful.

As in the previous search, a Ham was

utilized at search headquarters for coordination of Hams in the field. The command post was moved during the night to the top of a mountain pass in the primary search area, and another Ham, familiar with the area, was assigned to assist at the Rescue Base and to contact the ARES coordinator if more help was needed.

Unfortunately, more assistance was not needed. The search was called off at 0500 when the downed aircraft was spotted by a search plane. Again, the pilot did not survive.

A total of 179 man-hours were put in by the amateurs on these searches, with an undetermined amount of savings to the local governments by using these determined and ready volunteers.

Involved in the searches were: Bill Erhardt, KA7YAO; Dwayne McNeil, KB7SYO; Bill Kornec, KC7CIS; John Curry, KC7EBL; Bob Solomon, KC7KKM; Wes Rowe, KC7PSE; Cliff Smith, KC7QLM; Sam Sperry, KC7VWA; Virgil Roper, KC7WBL; Maureen Fisher, KC7WBO; Donna Shelby, KC7WBP; John Coppick, KC7WLK; Terry Rowe, KC7YOW; Dwight Leonard, KC7ZPK; Brian Smith, KD7BIE; Bill Craft, KF7EP; Bill McGuire, N7MSI; Sherwood Warren, N7MSL; James Haslip, Jr. W7CK; Donald Heide, W7MRI; Stephen Farrell, KC7KKG; Daniel Stinson, KC7KKH; Bill Kornec, Jr. KC7NBU; Ken Clark, KC7RVR; Sandy Durney, KC7UCD, and Richard Weddle, KC7VVZ. (Ed. Thanks to Bob Solomon, KC7KKM, for submitting the information.) — Rick McCusker, KO6DJ

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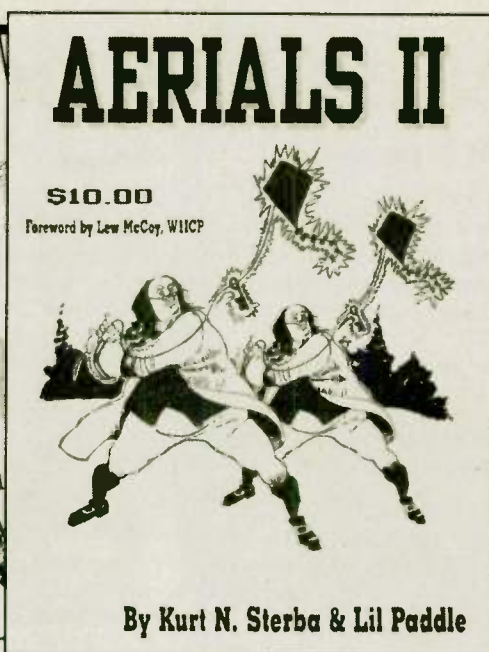
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# New Orleans DX convention

By John F.W. Minke III, N6JM

Once again the annual New Orleans International DX Convention was held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, right in the middle of the French Quarter. This year the event was the weekend of 14-15 August.

For the early arrivals, Friday had the usual presentations, most with a slide presentation. In addition, Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, of ARRL headquarters, was available for QSL checking.

The first of the three presentations was the 1997 DXpedition to Kure Island, narrated by Frank Smith, AH0W.

Silvano Amenta, KB5GL, of the Delta DX Association, and also on the convention committee, discussed his recent IOTA DXpedition to Providencia Island. Silvano is celebrating 50 years in Amateur Radio and was originally IT9SEZ. He came to the U.S. in 1977 and became a citizen in 1984. Providencia Island is one of the most wanted by the European DX committee and Silvano thought this would be an interesting one to operate from in celebrating his 50 years in Amateur Radio. Silvano said this island, along with Santa Catalina Island, is a very beautiful island protected by coral reefs and settled first by the English in 1629. After changing flags a few times these North American islands now belong to Colombia.

Silvano visited the islands during the off season and was able to pick accommodations best suited for his operations, which were on the northeast side of the island. He spent some ten hours of operating during his nine-day stay, two hours at a time. A total of 3,016 contacts were made in 92 DXCC countries. About half of the contacts were stateside. He mentioned one unusual contact where a Canadian station informed him that a station on Serrana Bank was calling him. It was a military station that was apparently lonely.

John Cantrell, WB4MBU, discussed his operating from Chad. John, who was first licensed at 14, was making his first visit to the convention. He had been sent to Chad as a

HF specialist for Engineering Technical Services. During his stay there he collected some 2,211 contacts. The contract allows for two months at a time and one month at home. According to John there were up to eight licensed amateurs there and by the time he left there were probably 20. John plans to be very active when he returns to Chad, so look for TT8JFC.

The rest of the day was allocated for socializing, dinner and more socializing at the Hospitality Suite, sponsored by Carl Smith, N4AA, of *QRZ DX* and *DX* magazine.

The Saturday morning portion of the convention began with the opening remarks from Stan Pulitzer, W5JYK, the convention chairman. Introductions were made by the president of the Delta DX Association, Don Boudreau, W5FKX,

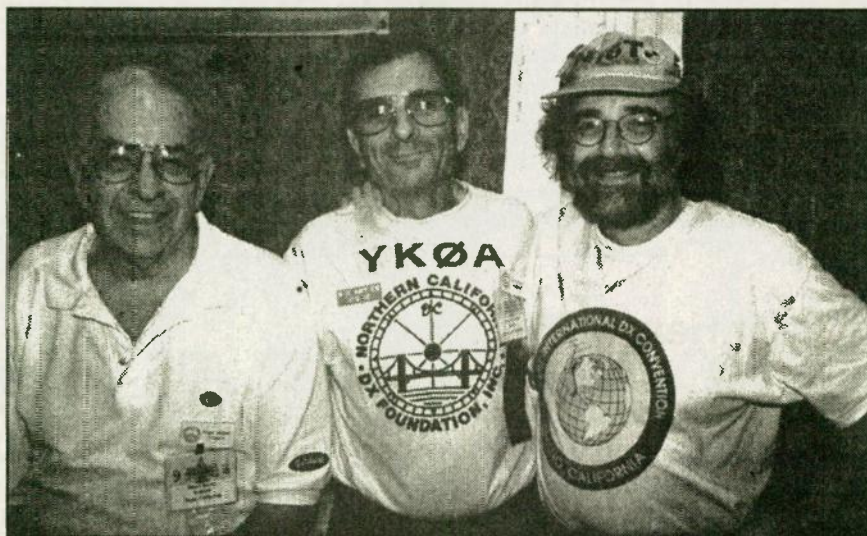
that included representatives from the Northern California DX Foundation, Len Gerdali, K6ANP, and Bruce Butler, W6OSP.

Len, who is the president of the NCDXF, explained the funding of the foundation towards DXpeditions and said it was based on where the entity is on the "most wanted" lists and its location, and it is not based on reference to Northern California. The NCDXF also maintains a large library of videos and slides for use during club meetings.

The League's new director of membership services, Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, was then introduced. Bill stepped out from checking QSL cards to explain the latest at the DXCC desk. The VUCC and DXCC are included, but these are two entirely different programs.

Of interest were the April operations to the Temotu Islands and the two FOØ operations. Bill said the Austral and Marquesas (the two FOØ operations) all seem to be O.K. and the work on the Temotu Islands had already been done. At that point he announced that the DXCC desk would begin accepting QSL cards for that operation on 01 October 1998.

Bruce Butler, W6OSP, gave a presentation on the famous H40AA Temotu Islands DXpedition. With the changeover in



Bruce Butler, W6OSP; Len Gerdali, K6ANP; Gary Shapiro, N16T.

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the new DXCC program from the English system of units to the metric system, this opened for review the possibility of some new entities. Bruce said that a total of 67,129 contacts were made with H40AA during the DXpedition. For a complete coverage on this operation please read the September 1998 issue of *Worldradio*.

The next speaker was Chuck Brady, MD. Chuck, whose call is N4BQW, has been a flight surgeon with the navy's Blue Angels, and more recently, has been with the space program. Chuck has spent some 400 hours in space. Chuck's topic was the Palmyra and Kingman Reef DXpedition but devoted most of his time describing his travel in space, which captured the interest of the audience.

Chuck said that Amateur Radio is what gave him his start or he would have wound up in the tobacco fields. A short film clip of what goes on inside the space shuttle during a launch was also shown. He said that it takes about four hours to get into a space suit and most impressive was his description of his feelings in space. With a bit of humor Chuck related the prayer given prior to the launch: "Dear Heavenly Father, please don't let these rookies screw this up, Amen." His initial launch was on 20 June 1996.

Chuck said one actually grows in space — he went from 5'10" to 6'2", but once back on earth one resumes his original height. What really grabbed attention was his statement that within the next 20 to 30 years we would be able to reach one-half the speed of light! For you non-technical types, that is 93,000 miles per second. He then mentioned that during re-entry into the earth's atmosphere there is so much force it's like the inside of a volcano.

Bert Beyt, W5ZR, was next on the program and discussed his experiences with SSTV — that source of funny noises near 14.230 MHz known as Slow Scan Television. Bert said there are presently over 100 different DXCC countries available that operate in that mode. SSTV is basically the exchange of pictures over the air.

SSTV was an Amateur Radio original developed by radio amateurs. As the name implies it was slow, taking some 114 seconds to complete a scan of a color picture. At the end of the scan many of the pictures had faded out. But with the use of computer programming this information is now put into memory for an uninterrupted picture. The original SSTV was in black and white and the time for a scan was 8 seconds, and sent as line information. Now with color the computer puts this all together.

The usual gathering on 20 Meters for those interested in this mode is between 14.230 and 14.233 MHz. Other frequencies are 21.340 and 28.680 MHz. During signal reports an example report would be something like 595, where the third digit is that of video quality.

Bert noted the first one to work 100 DXCC countries using SSTV was Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, of South Africa. There is a lot of DX out there operating in SSTV mode and it may be a bit more challenging than working SSB.

Gary Shapiro, NI6T, raised a question from the floor regarding clashes between contesters and those on SSTV. Bert said he had no excuses for them.

Tom Harrell, N4XP, discussed his participation in the ZK1XXP DXpedition to Penryhn Atoll in the North Cook Islands. Tom was first licensed at 13, receiving the call KN4TSJ in

1960. Sponsored by the Dateline DX Association the DXpedition took place during the period of 20-27 November 1997. Tom said the South Cooks are true islands, where the North Cooks are a collection of atolls and are not islands at all.

It took about a year and a half to coordinate this DXpedition which included seven team members including Sam Harrell, K8XP; Rick Neuman, N4RF; Richard Moen, N7RO; Richard Watt, KI6AN; Mike Furniss, WA6YBV; Michael Mraz, N6MZ; and ZS8IR. There were supply problems, which included 1200 pounds of equipment. It is very expensive to get equipment to that location which explains the lack of operations from the North Cook Islands.

Their host during their stay on Penryhn was Warwick Latham, ZK1WL, a very interesting fellow. He is in a very isolated location so he has to make do with everything he has. Tom said the humidity at that location which is the worst he has seen in the South Pacific. With the heat it is almost unbearable. Tom said that a total of 15,299 contacts



**Dr. Chuck Brady, N4BQW, shuttle astronaut and flight surgeon.**

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were made during the DXpedition.

The Saturday afternoon session began with the ARRL Delta Division Director, Rick Roderick, K5UR, with the latest on the DXCC 2000 program. Rick gave a short history of the DXCC program since 1966 when an attempt was made to eliminate the PHONE award. That failed as Five-Band DXCC was created two years later and the addition of the CW DXCC in 1975. The program has expanded since then with six people authorized to administer the program by 1996. Rick says that 40,000 DXers have participated in the DXCC program since 1947 and seven million records have been added to the computer system since 1990.

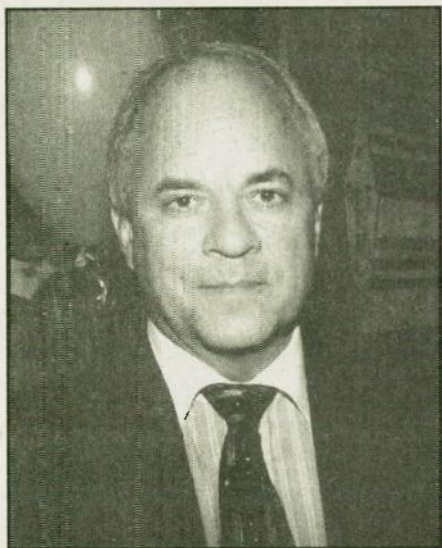
The annual list includes 7,700 members with 16,400 new applications and endorsements. In 1995 4,665 members were from the U.S. and Puerto Rico, which amounts to only 3 percent of the ARRL membership. There are 2,267 DX non-members of the League with 695 DX ARRL members.

Rick said DXCC 2000 was created to encourage broader participation, make the program more equitable, operate with a better understanding of the criteria, and improve the addition and deletion criteria.

The DXCC 2000 has two major pieces to it. The first was establishing the rules, already completed. This was particularly the part in defining a country, where it must be included in at least one of the following: the United Nations, International Telecommunications Union, or the International Amateur Radio Union. Also, the units of measuring distances were converted to

the metric system. The second part is the awards program.

In addition to the present awards, band awards for 20, 15, 17 and 12 Meters will become available at a later date. Perhaps the most challenging will be the DXCC 2000 Challenge, where one point is given for each band a DXCC is worked on, 6 through 160 Meters. This award will be endorsed for 1000, 1500, 2000 and 2500 points. A trophy will be awarded to the overall leader each



Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG

year, but will be once-in-a-lifetime only. Once an applicant wins the trophy he can't win it again. This trophy will be known as the DeSoto Cup.

In the final stage there will be 24 DXCC awards in all. The fees for these awards will be borne by the participants which will amount to 90 percent of the direct costs. There also will be a special DXCC during the year 2000, and QSL cards will not be required.

The processing of the DXCC program will be in four major sections. Electronic submissions will begin on or before 01 January 1999. Field checking of QSL cards will be reorganized and will include fewer checkers and there will be new requirements. The third will be the

implementation of the new DXCC band awards. 20 Meters comes during the second quarter of 2000; 15 Meters follows in the fourth quarter, and in 2001, 17 and 12 Meters will be available in the second and fourth quarters, respectively. Then there is the Challenge. Initially these new bands will not be accepted until the creation of those band awards. You can't submit 20 Meter band points until the second quarter of 2000.

Bob Magnani, K6QXY, and Allen Ferrera, WA6MXI, were next, speaking about 6 Meter EME. This is not a transmission mode but rather the method of bouncing your signal off the moon — Earth-Moon-Earth. And, of course, both the transmitting and receiving stations must be able to see the moon. The narrator showed slides of different antenna arrays he has used and also had an audio tape demonstrating the echo on his signals.

The evening program began with

Rick Roderick, K5UR, as Master of Ceremonies, who gave the introductions and opening remarks. The DXCC countdown was made and the final DXer left standing was Harold Smith Jr., W0RI, of Manchester, Missouri, with a total of 361.

Frank Smith, AH0W/OH2LVG, was presented with the convention's "DXer of the Year" award. Frank was the guest speaker where he dis-

cussed the XW30/XW30A DXpedition to Laos earlier this year. Initiated by Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, there were seven operators.

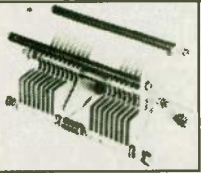
There was also a short DX quiz of 13 questions. The winner was Mark Gribble, KD4GYT. Charles Allen, W5DV, and Earl Smith, N5ZM, were second and third place winners.

Following the banquet the Hospitality Suite was again open to all attending DXers and hosted by Carl Smith, N4AA. Many of us gathered for social talk on the balcony overlooking Bourbon Street. This is the street blocked off from traffic each evening while tourists walk back and forth.

There were no events on Sunday and everyone was on his own to either visit the city or go home.



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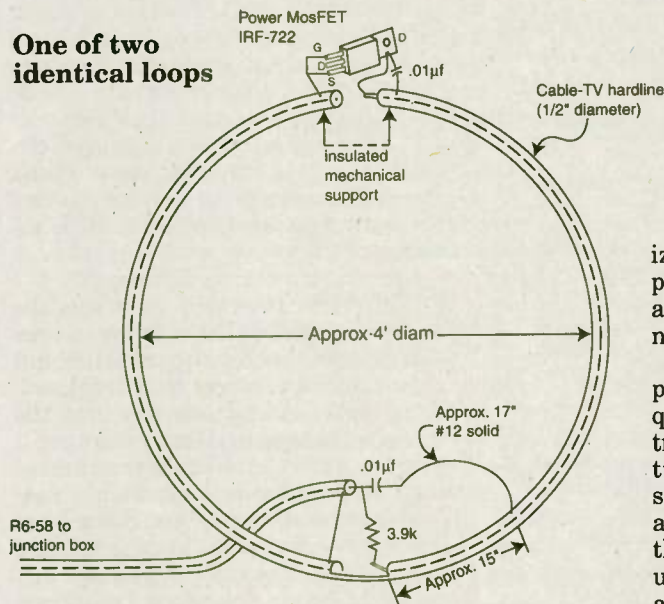


# Take back 40 Meters from foreign broadcasters

By O.E. Gardner, W9RWZ

**P**owerful foreign broadcast stations discourage much nighttime Ham activity on 40-meter phone. Although they are strongest late at night, they seriously interfere during the early evening hours when the short-skip distance is still suitable for stateside activity. This low-cost, easy-to-construct receiving antenna can change each interfering broadcast station into two almost pri-

## One of two identical loops

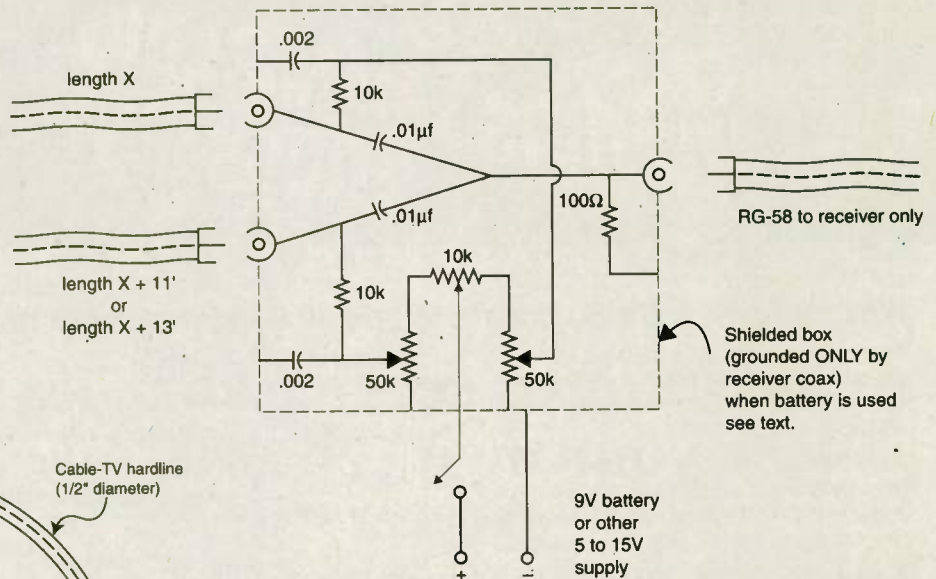


vate channels (USB & LSB), for those who care to experiment. Hams with conventional antennas will still avoid those frequencies.

This idea has been tried by many Hams in the past, but apparently no antenna has proved effective or reliable enough to gain wide acceptance.

Note that deliberately transmitting on foreign broadcast frequencies is permitted because U.S. amateurs have primary rights on our 40-meter band.

Plotting this antenna on ELNEC or EZNEC reveals why it can work so effectively. Two vertical loops in the same plane, separated by 1/8 wavelength and fed with 135 degrees phase difference (over real ground), yield deep nulls in both vertical and horizontal polarization at low and medium elevation angles. The cardioid pattern maintains a narrow cone-shaped zone that nulls out incoming waves of changing polar-



ization, and probably explains why this system is able to maintain its deep nulls for extended times.

Obtaining this improved performance requires rather precise control of phase and amplitude, along with good stability over times suitable for QSOs. All of these are accommodated using two High-Q loops of about 4-foot diameter, made from 1/2 inch diam-

eter surplus aluminum cable-TV coax, where the inner conductor is used only to deliver DC control-voltage to the varicaps. They are tuned with a varicap, which on this model, is the internal-diode of a 400-volt power MOSFET. It performs exactly as a varicap. Most other low-cost Power MOSFETs perform similarly.

The 135-degree phase separation is obtained by making one feed line longer than the other. But if the feed-tap on

one loop is oriented in the opposite direction, one feed line now need only be (electrically) 45 degrees, or 1/8 wavelength longer. The longer one attaches to the loop nearest the direction of the null. Termination impedances affect the accuracy of these phase shifts so it is prudent to allow for some change. Polyethylene dielectric with a velocity factor of 0.66 would be about 11 feet longer at 7.2 MHz. Cellular polyethylene dielectric would be about 13 feet longer.

With the required phase shift provided by the feed lines, the two High-Q loops can now be resonated near the exact frequency of the foreign broadcast station, to maintain good sensitivity. But since great accuracy in phase and amplitude is required, remote tuning with potentiometers at the operator position provide the necessary tweaking of these resonant loops to trim for small phase and amplitude changes that occur when the resonant frequency is changed. Each loop is tuned by its individual potentiometer in conjunction with a differential potentiometer which is common to both. One must accept that reaction will be very sharp to get 40 to 50 dB deep nulls, and very careful tuning will be required. It almost requires an AM carrier such as foreign broadcast provides, and even then, rapid QSB can be tedious.

Deeper nulls can be obtained if an isolated 9-volt battery is used at the junction box near the operator position,

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with the box grounded only to the three coax shields (see figure). Using an AC power supply instead of a battery adds stray capacitance and may degrade the nulls.

These loops were strapped to ordinary concrete blocks with rubber truck-tarp straps, and could be easily moved around the yard. Having the loops in exactly the same plane (as in a pair of eyeglasses) is not critical, but the center-to-center spacing should be fairly accurate at  $1/8$  wavelength, which is about 17 feet at 7.2 MHz.

Performance was very good, consistently nulling 15 dB over S9 AM stations down to the noise-floor at S1 and remaining there for extended time periods. A test generator with an AM tone, with strength about S7 (not in the null

area) was tuned exactly on frequency with a 40 dB over S9 foreign broadcast station (i.e. when only one loop was used conventionally). Of course it wiped out the test generator, but when the second loop was attached (having previously been tuned for null), the foreign broadcast was severely attenuated, and the S7 test generator now dominated. Audio cassette tape recordings were made to demonstrate this. A typical Ham station, not in the null zone, would be quite easy to copy.

An interesting, less important feature, is the ability to quickly utilize one of the loops conventionally for 160M or 80M (or both). Tuning the loop to 160M is done easily by attaching a shunt capacitance across the MOSFET with small alligator clips. A combination

fixed/variable of about 1700 pf resonates it. The MOSFET still provides just enough remote tuning to cover the 160M band. Sensitivity is very adequate as indicated by a winter-time noise-floor of S2, and strong signals reading at least 20 dB over S9.

Since this article is about receiving loops only, it is left to the reader to arrange a receive/transmit configuration. Note that the 400-volt MOSFETs will probably tolerate strong fields from your transmitting antenna without damage. But in the presence of very strong fields at close range, it might be very effective to reverse the DC voltage polarity to the MOSFETs during transmit to cause the varicaps to conduct lightly and partially short out the High-Q loops.

## Avoid inflated service charges — be your own repairman!

By Alex Coulter, WB6ZWG

**W**hen that Hi-Tech piece of Ham equipment fails to operate, these six basic steps will avoid inflated factory service charges, while giving you the satisfaction of "do-it-yourself" repair at minimal savings.

1. Reflect complete confidence as you approach the ailing equipment. Anyone present will be impressed, and the equipment will mistakenly think that you know exactly what must be done. When the equipment realizes that you have enough tools to construct a hydrogen bomb, it should begin working and you will be credited with the repair. If this step fails, you should proceed with confidence to the next step.

2. Visit your neighborhood library and check out a text book on the fundamentals of radio theory. Make yourself comfortable close to the ailing piece of Ham equipment so it can see what you are reading. Proceed slowly from page-to-page and give the appearance that you are absorbing the book's content with thorough comprehension. If this deception should fail to do the trick, proceed to step three.

3. This is a drastic step and should only be attempted after step one and two have failed. This effort should never be tried if your wife and children are present. After referring to the *ARRL Handbook* to be certain you have all the facts, begin reciting Ohm's law to the equipment. If this is done in an aggressive, and violent manner, the equipment will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you know something and will probably attack it while in an unbal-

anced frame of mind.

4. We all know that a poor, or porous solder connection can cause problems that may be detected by a slight jarring action. This may require anything from a two- to a ten-foot drop, preferably on a cement floor. Care should be taken to avoid chipping the cement. Although this is an approved diagnostic procedure, it is also a drastic step. If it should fail, you may advance to step five as an alternative.

5. With our infinite technological knowledge of electronic devices, we may suspect one or more components to be faulty. In keeping with the do-it-yourself, repair process, we choose to randomly replace a few transistors, resistors, diodes, capacitors and a tube or two. With a fragile circuit board removed, and firmly clamped in our shop

vise, we approach our delicate repair with a flaming blowtorch and acid-core solder. If we didn't know why the radio failed to work prior to step five, we do now. This takes us to our last step.

6. After installing the damaged circuit board, pack the ailing piece of junk carefully for shipment to the manufacturer. The following not should be included....

"Dear Manufacturing Company;"

"This radio is exactly as it was the day I purchased it. I have followed your operating instructions to the letter, but it refuses to perform as advertised. Since today is only one day over the extended warranty, I am returning it so you can repair the shoddy workmanship, or replace the unit with a new model at no charge to me. Since I am lacking the technical knowledge and proper tools, I would not attempt any nature of repair. Therefore, I must rely on your willingness to address this issue with consideration for customer satisfaction."

"Sincerely:

Mr. Craft T. Goodfellow, RU1TOO"

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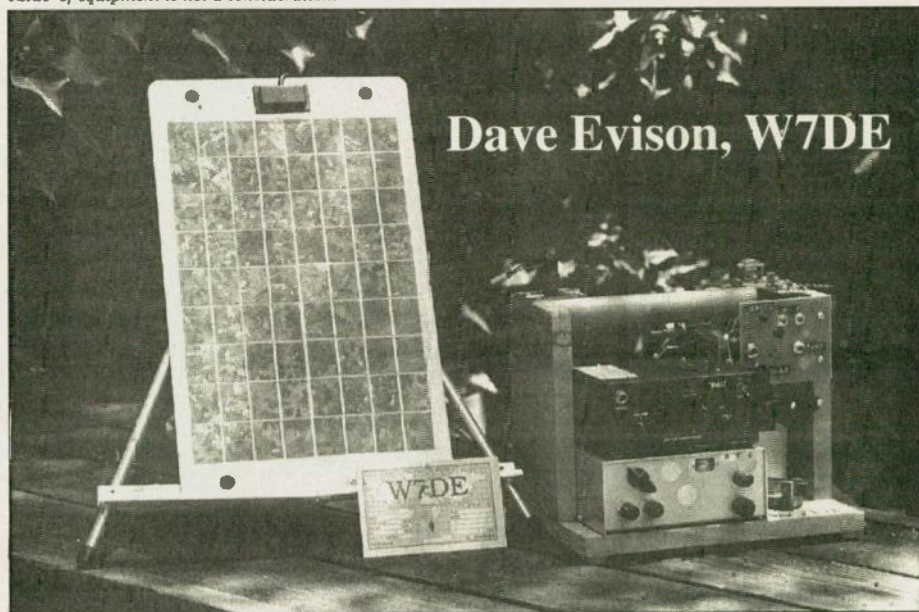
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Mail to:

**Worldradio Send-a-Friend**  
**P.O. Box 189490**  
**Sacramento, CA 95818**

## Station Appearance

Send *Worldradio* a picture of your shack and the staff will choose a winner to receive a free one-year subscription to *Worldradio*! Stations will be judged by neatness (wires tucked away, etc.) and accessibility of equipment. Monetary value of equipment is not a consideration.



**Dave Evison, W7DE**

**D**ave sent us this photograph of his nifty little 40 Meter QRP station. This station can be powered by a battery or an array of solar cells and fits very nicely in a small storage area. Throw in a dipole antenna and you've got a perfect QRP station you can take anywhere you go.

My portable solar station includes: QRP transceiver (TenTec 1340 QRP kit), antenna tuner, SWR meter, keyer (Wilderness Radio), paddle (Paddlette, gel cell battery (4.5Ah), charge controller, 10-watt solar panel (Antennas West), solar panel interface and tester, 4:1

balun, dummy load, frequency counter (part of keyer), signal generator and an expanded scale voltmeter. All of my equipment is homebrew except as indicated.

The portable station puts out three watts and covers 7.000 to 7.070 MHz. Its dimensions are 11"x11"x10" (0.7 cu ft.) and it only weighs 14 pounds. With the solar panel I get unlimited power during full sunlight (solar panel supplies sufficient output to charge battery during key down periods) and three hours nighttime operation on the batteries.

## Amateur "Hi"



Ever had a funny or strange experience with Amateur Radio, on or off the air? If so, type it up (or print neatly) and send it to us for consideration in our monthly AMATEUR "HI" contest. You could win a free year's subscription to *Worldradio*!

## Are you going to answer him or not?

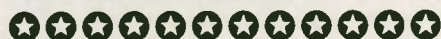
**WAYNE ROBERTSON, K4WK**

**N**ot long ago, I took my 8th-grade daughter and two of her friends on a day trip to a state park a few hours out of town. I had recently become a Ham, so I talked about it a

lot, and one of the girls, Claire, was quite curious (while my daughter and the other friend were totally disinterested). We'd been on the road about 30 minutes with my 2-meter radio on, but there had been no traffic. After a while, the repeater broke the silence and identified itself in a loud and deep voice "THIS IS W4DOC. GOOD MORNING." I ignored it, of course, and continued to drive, staring straight ahead, but out of the corner of my eye I saw Claire starting to fidget and finally she blurted out, "Well, are you going to answer him or not?"

## If you'd like copies

of *Worldradio* to pass out at a local hamfest, contact our editorial office 4-6 weeks prior to the hamfest.  
**(916) 457-3655**







## 100 Nations Award

In an effort to encourage personal communications among peoples around the world via Amateur Radio, **Worldradio** offers the *Worked 100 Nations Award* to those confirming two-way amateur communications with permanent stations in 100 distinct countries having a permanent, native population.

The purpose of the **Worldradio Worked 100 Nations Award** is to demonstrate the unique opportunity Amateur Radio offers for communications between international borders to further worldwide understanding.

The **W-100-N** is not a radio sport award as such, but a token of achievement in communication. At the same time, it offers all Amateur Radio enthusiasts several features not found in other awards.

1. **W-100-N** virtually eliminates the need to work geographic areas heard only during DXpeditions. Almost all national entities have amateur stations consistently on the air.

2. **W-100-N**, then, will be of perennial interest. The advantage to those stations having worked a national entity long absent from the air will be minimal.

3. **W-100-N** is difficult to achieve, yet is within reach of all moderately well-equipped stations whose operators utilize good communication skills.

### Rules

1. The *Worked 100 Nations Award* is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who can prove confirmation of two-way communications with government-authorized Amateur Radio stations in at least 100 different nations

of the world.

2. No contacts with stations using reciprocal calls will count toward this award, such as N6JM/UL7.

3. All contacts must be with land-based stations. Contacts with ships, at anchor or otherwise, and aircraft cannot be considered.

4. All contacts shall be made from the same country.

5. Only contacts made on or after 01 January 1978 will count.

6. The application shall include the following:

a. Letter requesting **W-100-N**.

b. List of contacts in alphabetical order by prefix showing nation, station call, date, band and mode.

c. A signed statement by two other licensed radio amateurs, General class or above that they have inspected the required QSL cards.

d. A fee of \$5 to cover the cost of the award.

7. All applications and requests shall be addressed to:

**W-100-N Award Manager**  
**Worldradio**  
2120 28th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818

8. There are no special endorsements to this award; however, endorsements may be made if the achievement bears such recognition. All modes and bands may be used.

Upon approval of an application for **W-100-N**, a certificate will be issued and the issuance of the award will be noted in a future issue of **Worldradio**.

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# Product Review

## HamCall CD-Rom Database

Buckmaster's latest version of their HamCall CD-Rom has taken call sign databases to the next level. The CD-Rom is now updated every week so when you order a new CD-rom, you will get data updated the previous week.

There are now over 1,512,000 call sign entries on this latest version. For U.S. you get call sign, class, name, address, license issue date, license expiration date, birth date (for most calls) previous class, latitude, longitude, grid square, county, time zone, area code, e-mail address, QSL manager, beam heading, distance, webpage address, and over 4,000 photographs. International calls include call sign, name, address and latitude/longitude. You can print labels for QSL cards and print all the information for a particular call sign.

System requirements are an IBM or compatible PC, DOS 3.1 or later, CD-Rom drive, and 640K of available RAM. To view the photographs you must have a VGA or SVGA adapter. The program will run on DOS or WINDOWS 95/98. It is year 2000-compliant (Y2K). Buckmaster has a toll-free technical support number for help with any problems you may encounter.

One feature that is missed at the *Worldradio* office is the ability to run the database on the Macintosh platform. The April 1998 version of the HamCall CD-rom could be used with a program for the Mac available on the Internet. The new version will not run with the same adapter. Until 1996, Buckmaster CD-ROMs included a Mac program.

I installed the program on my PC at home, and was impressed with the features on this program. You can search for information using several different fields,

and retrieval is very fast. Want to know how many Hams are in your zip code? This database will display the information for you.

All said and done, this is a very handy database for any Ham to have around the shack.

Available from Buckmaster, 6196 Jefferson Highway, Mineral, Virginia, 23117. Phone orders: 800/282-5628 or 540/894-5777. Fax orders: 540/894-9141. Additional information by email at: info@buck.com. Price is \$50, plus \$5 shipping and handling for U.S. addresses, \$8 for international orders. — *KO6DJ*

## Silent Keys

### LEE APPLEMAN, W6ELX

Lee Appleman died 21 September 1998. He was first licensed in the early 1930s. After Lee graduated from college, he became a licensed Electrical Engineer in California. During WWII, he worked at the U.S. Navy Receiver Station, "NPL" designing and installing "Vee" beam antennas. He also converted numerous fishing fleet radios to be operable on Navy frequencies and oversaw operation of the radio systems in operation at the 11th Naval District stations and sites. When the district was divided into two sections, Lee was appointed as the Chief Civilian Supervisor, responsible for all communication needs at Navy and Marine Corps stations and facilities in the northern area of the district.

After the war, Lee became interested in higher electronic technology and transferred to the U.S. Navy station at Pt. Mugu, CA. While working there, he discovered a need for clean and secure RF type screen rooms. He started his own business, "Topatron", and continued in business until he retired.

After retirement, Lee moved to Orcas Island, Washington. He built a house, became more involved in Amateur Radio and enjoyed sailing up and down the West Coast in his cabin cruiser.

Lee was a regular on several nets, and enjoyed keeping in touch with his buddies in California via Ham radio. — *W6DJ*

### OTTO DEDRICK, W6NGK

Longtime Chief Operator of the United Radio Amateur Club station, K6AA, Otto F. Dedrick, W6NGK died 15 November 1998 in San Pedro, Ca. K6AA is located at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro. He also served as an operator at W6RO, the station aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, Ca.

In 1928, he was a crewman aboard the frigate "Samson" which, at the request of

Admiral Richard E. Byrd, was brought from Norway to New York to be used on the South Pole expedition later in 1928. His father, Capt. David G. Dedrick, was in command of the ship. The ship developed engine trouble half-way into the trip, and they resorted to using sails for the remainder of the voyage which took 47 days. They had been presumed lost at sea.

Otto was licensed in 1932 in Groton, CT. and had the call of W1DBU. His family migrated to San Pedro in 1935, and he had been a resident of the city for 63 years. — *N6DYZ*

### DR. WILLIAM DOUGLAS, N5OBT

Personal physician to the seven original Mercury astronauts, Dr. Bill Douglas, N5OBT, died 15 November 1998 in Albuquerque, NM.

"Dr. Bill" served as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force, and took a leave of absence in 1959 to care for the astronauts. In order to communicate better with the astronauts, he insisted on going through the same training required of them. He remained with NASA through the flights of Alan Shepard, Virgil "Gus" Grissom, John Glenn and Scott Carpenter. He returned to Air Force duty in 1962, and retired as a Colonel in 1977. "Dr. Bill" was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 1992.

He moved to Albuquerque and obtained his Amateur Radio license in 1988. Bill was a past President of the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club and secretary of the Upper Rio FM Society, Inc. He recently journeyed to Cape Canaveral, Florida to see his good friend, John Glenn return to space aboard the space shuttle. "Dr. Bill" told his friends he wanted to check John Glenn's pulse before liftoff. He became ill during his return trip to Albuquerque. — *W5PDY*

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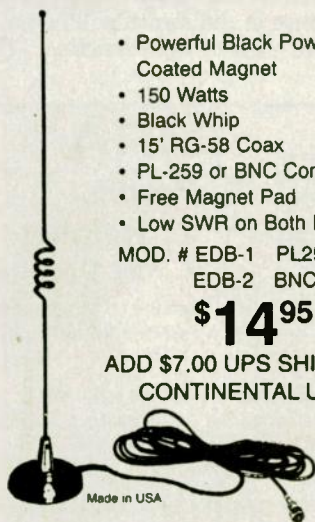
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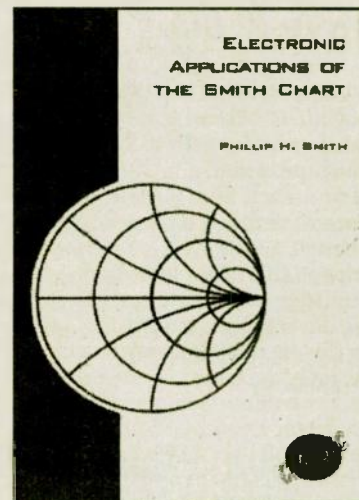


# The Smith Chart

## Electronic Applications of the Smith Chart

by Phillip H. Smith

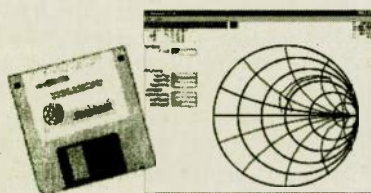
This is an updated edition of the original, classic reference book by the legendary Smith Chart inventor himself. This book describes how the Smith Chart is used for designing lumped element and transmission line circuits and includes tutorial material on transmission line theory and behavior, circuit representation on the chart, matching networks, network transformations and broadband matching. It also includes a new chapter with example designs and a description of *winSMITH* (see below).



**Our Price ..... \$59.00**

### *winSMITH*

An easy-to-use computerized Smith Chart for your PC



### **winSmith**, by Eagleware Corp

With *winSMITH*, engineers can have their PCs draw the Smith Chart and measure the distances from one point to another. Easily creates ladder networks of up to nine elements, which can be transmission line segments, inductors, resistors or capacitors, or user-defined elements. Schematic entry simplifies circuit definition, and the Smith Chart display makes manipulation of values a simple task. Can do frequency sweeps, fine or coarse tuning as needed, and provides precise numerical results.

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## Introduction to the Smith Chart

This video teaches the Smith Chart in 50 minutes. *Introduction to the Smith Chart* is all engineers need to start using the chart to solve all types of transmission line and matching problems. This is a painless way to learn about the chart, designed to accompany the book *Electronic Applications of the Smith Chart* and the *winSMITH* software package described above. An excellent way for young engineers to learn this important visualization tool and a good review for experienced engineers.



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WORLD RADIO, January 1999 29



# Letters to the Editor

## We're behind

In my opinion, I think it's about time on license restructuring. The U.S. is far behind the rest of the world on this matter. I'm all for the ARRL proposal.

I'm a Tech plus classic, as I took my General written examination in front of the FCC examiner. At that time it was called "Tech/General" written test. Just look at Canada with three classes of licenses, with a club license.

**John Beck, N7DYT**  
GLASGOW, MT

## Have some Ham pride

The "Publisher's Microphone" section of *Worldradio* is always one of the first things I read when my copy arrives. The column usually makes me think, as it should about what Amateur Radio means to me. The October issue was no exception.

The ticket of N9VOK is my second time into the service for me. While not to the extent that exists today, I had everything I needed to get started

as a Ham before I was licensed again. There was a complete two-meter station with outside antennas and masts. There were various HF equipment pieces set up to receive all bands. All of the transmit gear had the output locked in the off position. I did this to be sure that there would be no chance of accidental transmissions before my license arrived and I was legal.

By now you are wondering what this has to do with the October issue. The first license I EARNED was one of the dreaded (to some people, not me) Technician licenses. Techs are people, too. After some time, I have advanced to Tech Plus with CW privileges. The theme of pride in Amateur Radio is very strong and alive with me. The proposed changes for the service justifiably disturbs some people. Believe it or not, I want to earn my ticket privileges and use them to their full potential. However, (here it comes, folks) if they do go through I intend to use the new privileges as often and correctly as possible. Whether you reach for the sky (U.S. Air Force), be all you can be (U.S. Army), or are one of the few, the proud (U.S. Marines), the amateur service is one of the best ways to enjoy life and serve others, too. This operator doesn't know if the proposed changes would be good or not for the amateur community, whether the concerns are real or not. But what I

do think is that we must clear up the encroachment and misuse of the bands before they do not belong to us. Do we really want to lose our unique hobby? Have some Ham pride — Be A Good Operator!

**George R. Young Jr. N9VOK**  
CHICAGO, IL

## "Let's compare..."

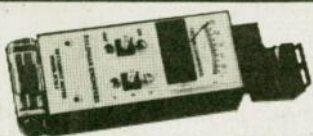
Taken together these two articles seem to me "to knock" the hobby of flying for no good reason. If you want to extol the virtues of Amateur Radio, then do so. There's no need to belittle someone else's choice to pursue a different dream.

Most of us, once bitten by a particular "hobby bug," will find it easy to spend more dollars than we really had initially planned. I found that true with both Ham radio and flying. There's no question that to fly in general will cost you much more than to operate a Ham rig. But they're very different pursuits.

I can still remember the thrill of my first HF contact. But I also will never forget the elation I felt when I first soloed. I just wish I hadn't waited so long to get my General license (age 61) and my Private Pilot License (age 62). When I recall how hard I worked to get the latter, it was annoying to have KO6DJ refer to it as a "piece of paper."

By the way, the CW training is very  
(continued on page 69)

### RF CURRENT METER



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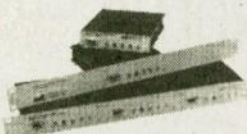


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## W-100-N

The following DXers have been awarded *Worldradio's* Worked 100 Nations certificates during the month of October 1998:

543. Euljae Lee HL5YAW 01 Oct. 1998

544. Wilton Mason WD5DNA 29 Oct. 1998

## CATZ

No satisfactory applications were received during October for our CATZ award. For those of you applying for this new award, list your contacts by the zone coordinates rather than just 1 through 24, and include the approximate position. Longitude is all that is necessary. In questionable positions list the city in the country, and if you have an atlas please look it up yourself. An application had to be rejected due to unknown locations such as VKØWH, HK6KKK, etc. Thanks.

## Tanzania (5H)

Ken Scheper, WA8JOC, reports Dave Heil, K8MN, is now 5H3US, his license being issued Friday afternoon, 02 October 1998, and is operating from Dar es Salaam for the next three years. Dave is active on all bands, 6-160 Meters, on CW, SSB and RTTY.

Shep is his QSL manager and prefers direct cards. Cards sent via the bureau system will be accepted, but will be processed about twice per year.

And, speaking of cards received via the bureau, you must realize that QSL managers pay for the incoming cards out of their own pockets. They must pay for the postage to receive cards from the bureaus just as everyone else does and pay for the postage to ship them to the outgoing QSL bureau. If you desire a card from a stateside manager, send it to him direct and please include an SASE, an envelope with your address in the middle of the front of the envelope and a 32 cent, unused, stamp placed in the upper right-hand corner.

## Malagasy Republic (5R)

According to *DX News Sheet* Ake Rosvall, SM7CIP, will be active from Malagasy Republic (AF-013) for at least another year signing with 5R8FU. He is expected to be installing antenna systems for 40, 80 and 160 Meters for the deserving low-banders.

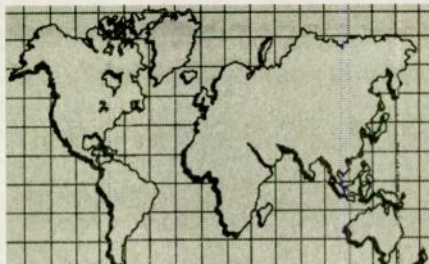
## Oman (A4)

*DX News Sheet* notes that Don Street, A45XU, formerly A92BE, is now active

from Muscat, and should be active there until January 2000.

## Andorra (C3)

During October there was some activity from Andorra, located high in the Pyrenees bordering France and Spain. The *Daily DX* had reported a station



signing with C30LDM on 10 Meters and was there on holiday for one week. Earlier there had been a report of a station signing with C31LJ. Also reported during the latter part of the month was C31HK (21.233 MHz at 1630 UTC) and C31SD (14.234 MHz at 1415 UTC) on SSTV.

It had been my understanding that licenses had no longer been issued to visiting DXers. Perhaps things have changed there and some more activity from Andorra will now be possible for deserving DXers.

## Eritrea (E3)

According to Bruce Richards, WD4NGB, the Space A DXpedition Group team members had some problems with the officials in Eritrea as they required a fee of \$500 from each operator for a permit to operate that would only be issued after they arrived, and they would not be allowed to operate as a group with one license. Bruce said

there was no safe place to ship excess baggage so they had to take it on the plane with them and were charged for the excess.

The planned operation was to be from two different hotels on opposite sides of town so they could run three stations 24 hours a day. Originally, the call was to be E31DX, but they were told that they would be issued calls beginning with E3ØAA. The planned operation was to begin on 05 November for about 12 days. The high cost of licenses narrowed the original crew of 20 operators down to 10.

Unfortunately, all this Eritrea information was received too late for advance warning in a monthly publication such as this. So, it is hoped that all deserving DXers were on their toes for this one. All donations should be sent to: Eritrea, c/o Bruce Richards, 533 Briarwood Drive, Clarksville, TN 37040.

Also very active during October was Jacky Calvo, who signed with E31AA, and had logged over 16,000 contacts by the middle of the month. He departed the country on the 26th.

There was another operation during October where Zoli Szoke, HA5PP, went to Eritrea and signed with E3ØHA.

## Ethiopia (ET3)

Steve Wilson, G3VMW, reports on the activity of his ET3AA DXpedition to Ethiopia, accompanied by Alan Ibbetson, G3XAG, and Andy Chadwick, G4ZVJ. The group managed to collect 10,300 contacts with 2,266 contacts on 10 Meters.

Steve said that they were often confused with the operation by Jackie Calvo, F2CW/ZL3CW, who was operating from Eritrea, as E31AA. There was no connection whatsoever.

ET3AA is the club station of the Ethiopian Amateur Radio Society in Addis Ababa. The team had two separate stations running at that station. Those who worked the team may send QSL requests to Steve or to the society in Addis Ababa.

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# DX World

## Amsterdam Island (FT5Z)

The FT5ZH DXpedition to Amsterdam Island (AF-002) by the Lyon DX Group should be in full swing as they planned to begin operating on 27 November for an around-the-clock operation. They plan a Christmas departure, so you still have time to work them, according to Jeffrey Pawlen, WA6KBL.

## Kerguelen Island (FT5X)

According to the *DX News Sheet* Helios Nacenta, FT5XN, will once again be active from Kerguelen Island (AF-048) in January.

## Midway Island (KH4)

The *Daily DX* notes that Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK, will be operating from Midway Island between 20 December and 2 January signing with NH4/NH6YK, and says there will be no work-related schedules to interfere with his DXing!

## East Kiribati (T32)

425 *DX News* notes that Chuck Corbett, T32NCC, is active from Fanning Island (OC-084) running 100 watts to a dipole with old car batteries charged by solar cells for power. Most of his activity is on 10 and 12 Meters. Refer to Chuck's address in QSL routes, and be aware mail turnaround in that part of the world takes about seven months. Some DXers suggest adding

"via Hawaii" in an attempt to speed up delivery. Refer to QSL Information.

Another amateur active from East Kiribati is Tuck Kuwada, T32BI, on Christmas Island (OC-024). Look for him near 14.260 MHz after 0130 UTC or 14.200 MHz after 0630 UTC. And, if you were active in the October CQ Worldwide DX Contest, you could have worked T32MP on Christmas Island, who was busy on all bands.

## Congo (TN)

The *Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin* notes Hazel Schofield, AL7OT, is back in the Congo doing missionary work for another year. She signs with TN7OT and often works a few stations after schedules with her home in Soldotna, Alaska.

## Cocos (Keeling) Island (VK9C)

The *Daily DX* reports Hide Kai, JM1LJS, will be operating from Cocos (Keeling) Island (OC-003) from 26 December through 2 January. Look for VK9CL on CW and SSB, 10-80 Meters.

Don't forget to look for George Taft, W8UVZ, and Charlie Summers, WØYG, scheduled to be active from VK9 between 13 and 20 February.

The European team of Erwin Fink, HB9QR, and Jack Laib, HB9TL, operating as VK9CQR and VK9CTL, respectively, were very active during their holiday to the island the last week of October. However, the validity of their

licenses was in question when Australian DXers commented that no such calls were in their licensing authority database. I'm sure there is an explanation for this. Their VK9XQR and VK9XTL Christmas Island calls were in the database.

## U.K. bases on Cyprus (ZC4)

David Griffith, ZC4DG, has been active from this one recently and has been reported on various spots. Try 18.150 MHz from 1400 UTC or 28.455 MHz around 1200 UTC.

## Campbell Island (ZL9)

Leith Jennings, ZL2AL, reports the ZL9CI Campbell Island DXpedition is now in the last stages of planning. The team consists of 11 highly experienced operators and will sail from Wellington 01 January aboard the 125-foot *Braveheart*. The expected duration of the voyage will be six days.

The team expects to be on the air by 10 January with six stations, depending upon the weather at the time of setup. They plan to operate through 24 January. They will be using all bands, 6-160 Meters with SSB, CW, RTTY, and possibly SSTV. As mentioned earlier, all donations should be sent to Ken Holdom, ZL2HU, 31 St. Johns Terrace, P.O. Box 56099, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand.

## IOTA

The following IOTA operations have provided validation material:

AS-135 BI4Q	Ping Island	Jun 1998
AS-136 BI4C	Changxing Island	Jul 1998
AS-137 BI5Z	Zoushan Island	Jul 1998
AS-138 BI5P	Pingtian Island	Aug 1998
NA-084 VE2/F6ELE	Harrington Island	Jul 1998
NA-084 VE2/F6HKA	Harrington Island	Jul 1998
NA-125 VE2/F6ELE	La Grande Basque Is.	Jul 1998
NA-125 VE2/F5HKA	La Grande Basque Is.	Jul 1998
NA-160 HR3/F2JD	Cayos Cochinos	May 1998
NA-176 VE2/F6ELE	Mingan Island	Jul 1998
NA-176 VE2/F6HKA	Mingan Island	Jul 1998
NA-177 VE2/F6ELE	Bonaventure Island	Jul 1998
NA-177 VE2/F6HKA	Bonaventure Island	Jul 1998
OC-013 ZK1SCQ	Rarotonga Island	Aug 1998
OC-013 ZL1SCR	Rarotonga Island	Aug 1998
OC-050 FO5JR	Rimatara Island	Jul/Aug 1998
OC-082 ZK1SCQ	Penrhyn Atoll	Aug 1998
OC-082 ZK1SCR	Penrhyn Atoll	Aug 1998
OC-121 3D2WD	Malolo Island	Aug/Sep 1998
OC-121 3D2WA	Malolo Island	Aug/Sep 1998
OC-156 3D2WD	Tavewa Island	Sep 1998
OC-156 3D2WA	Tavewa Island	Sep 1998
OC-159 ZK1SCQ	Mangaia Island	Aug 1998
OC-159 ZK1SCR	Mangaia Island	Aug 1998

The Chinese operations are brand new IOTA reference numbers and may be added to your IOTA directory, (letters 'h,' 'n,' 'q' and 'a,' respectively). A provincial reference number of NA-211 has been given to the W5BOS/7 September operation from Tillamook Rock off the Oregon coast and is awaiting confirmation.

## Roof Towers

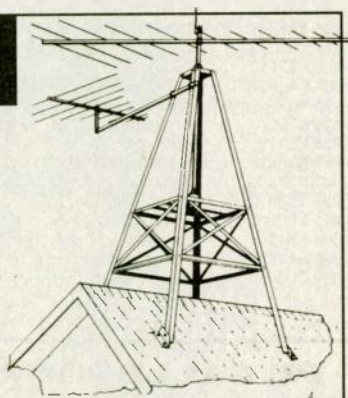
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RT-832	8.0	43.75	32"	8	6	4.8	120 lb.	36	\$234.00
RT-936	9.0	43.75	36"	18	13.5	10.5	130 lb.	78	\$394.00
RT-1832	17.5	37.62	32"	12	9	7.2	110 lb.	88	\$528.00



The BI7W Weizhou Island (AS-139) and KL7/K6ST Sledge Island (NA-210) operations are also awaiting confirmation.

Here is the usual section of monthly IOTA activity. Frequencies or times are not shown, but usually these IOTA types hang around 14.260 or 21.260 MHz, the standard IOTA gathering places. Don't forget to browse the CW bands as they can often be found there, and also the WARC bands. Jong Sool Choi, HL5FUA, is quite active, but he prefers 75 Meters; try listening near 3.793 MHz.

AF-018 IH9P	Pantelleria Island	24-25 Oct
AF-019 IG9/I20AEH	Lampedusa Island	01-02 Oct
AF-019 IG9/IK2MRZ	Lampedusa Island	21-23 Oct
AF-019 IG9T	Lampedusa Island	25 Oct
AF-030 ZD9/ZS1B	Gough Island	04 Oct
AF-045 6W1QV/P	Goree Island	17-18 Oct
AN-006 EM1LV	Galindez Island	01-31 Oct
AN-015 8J1RL	Ongul Island	26-28 Oct
AS-006 VR9SS/P	Lamma Island	14-17 Oct
AS-008 7K3EOP/1	Miyake Island	23-29 Oct
AS-015 9M2TO	Pinang Island	01-31 Oct
AS-015 9M2/J11ETU	Pinang Island	19 Oct
AS-017 JR6VDU	Okinawa Island	11 Oct
AS-017 JR6EA	Okinawa Island	07 Oct
AS-024 JS6LIH	Takotomi Island	05-13 Oct
AS-024 JS6PMR	Yonaguni Island	06 Oct
AS-026 HL4HLD	Cheju Island	30 Oct
AS-028 UA0QMU	Kotelney Island	06-26 Oct
AS-043 7K4STV/1	Hachijo Island	23-25 Oct
AS-043 JQ1USM/1	Hachijo Island	23 Oct
AS-044 UA0IAS/Ø	Shantarskiye Island	15-23 Oct
AS-045 HL5FUA	Ullang Island	05-29 Oct
AS-053 HS0/IK4MRH	Phuket Island	01-31 Oct
AS-079 JA5CKD/6	Miyako Island	01 Oct
AS-099 TA0S	Bozcaada Island	07-08 Oct
AS-099 TA1E/Ø	Bozcaada Island	02-03 Oct
AS-117 J13DST/3	Awajishima	03-26 Oct
AS-137 BI5X	Xiao Yangshan Island	01-02 Oct
EU-009 GM3IBU	Orkney Islands	18 Oct
EU-009 GM3POI	Orkney Islands	09-11 Oct
EU-009 GMØHTG	Orkney Islands	03-17 Oct
EU-010 MØBPP/M	Isle of Barra	13-14 Oct
EU-010 GM3J1J	Isle of Lewis	27-28 Oct
EU-010 GM3VLB/M	Outer Hebrides	10-12 Oct
EU-011 GB4SM	St Martin Island	02-05 Oct
EU-012 GM4AGX	Bressay Island	15 Oct
EU-012 GMØEKM	Shetland Islands	27 Oct
EU-016 9A1CPB	Brac Island	03 Oct
EU-016 9A4RV	Korcula Island	18 Oct
EU-020 SM1BIQ	Gotland Island	04-31 Oct
EU-028 IAS7MF	Elba Island	12 Oct
EU-029 OZ1ENH	Falster Island	06-28 Oct
EU-029 OZ1SDB	Als Island	02 Oct
EU-029 OZ8WW	Fyn Island	05 Oct
EU-030 OZ/DK5LQ/M	Bornholm Island	04 Oct
EU-030 OZ1GBS	Bornholm Island	07 Oct
EU-031 IC8WIC	Isle of Capri	15-17 Oct
EU-034 ES0NW	Hiiu Island	10-11 Oct
EU-036 LA4XGA	Frei Island	13 Oct
EU-037 SM7CRW	Oland Island	15-29 Oct
EU-037 SM7DLZ	Oland Island	05-13 Oct
EU-039 TM2F	Chausey Island	12-17 Oct
EU-042 DL4FCH/P	Pellworm Island	11-16 Oct
EU-042 DK8OL	Isle of Sylt	20 Oct
EU-046 LA2HGA	Kvaløya Island	18 Oct
EU-049 SV8DTD	Lesvos Island	31 Oct
EU-049 SV8DTL	Lesvos Island	11 Oct
EU-049 SV8CYV	Samos Island	09-26 Oct
EU-049 SV8/G3JZD	Lesvos Island	07 Oct
EU-052 SV8CS	Zante Island	19 Oct
EU-052 SV8JE	Kefalonia Island	07-28 Oct
EU-055 LA7QIA	Karmoy Island	31 Oct
EU-055 LA2PI	Stord Island	25 Oct
EU-057 DL4PM	Ruegen Island	18 Oct
EU-057 DLØMVP	Ruegen Island	03 Oct
EU-057 DJ2GLP	Hiddensee Island	13 Oct
EU-061 LA/DL4MN/M	Tjoerne Islands	11 Oct
EU-061 LA/DL4MN/M	Asmaløya Island	04 Oct
EU-072 SV8/DL8MCA	Skiathos Island	01-13 Oct
EU-075 SV8SM3CVM/P	Poros Island	02-07 Oct
EU-082 U1ZA/A	Kildin Island	25-31 Oct

## DX Prediction — January 1999

**M**aximum usable frequency from West Coast, Central U.S. and East Coast (courtesy of Engineering Systems Inc., Box 939, Vienna, VA 22183). The numbers listed in each section are the average maximum usable frequencies (MUF) in MHz for contacting five major areas of the world centered on Africa—Kenya/Nairobi, Asia—Japan/Tokyo, Oceania—Australia/Melbourne, Europe—Germany/Frankfurt, and South America—Brazil/Rio de Janeiro. Smoothed sunspot number = 130. Chance of contact as determined by path loss is indicated as bold \*MUF for good, plain MUF for fair, and in (parentheses) for poor. UTC in hours.

### CENTRAL U.S.A.

UTC	AFRI	ASIA	OCEA	EURO	SO AM
8	17	*11	17	*11	*17
10	(16)	11	*17	(11)	*17
12	(16)	11	*16	(11)	*24
14	33	*15	*31	21	*34
16	37	(14)	26	18	*38
18	*37	(14)	(21)	13	*40
20	*31	(13)	26	(12)	*41
22	26	23	32	(12)	*37
24	*21	(19)	32	11	*27
2	*20	(14)	22	11	*21
4	*19	(13)	20	11	*19
6	18	(12)	18	11	*18

### WEST COAST

UTC	AFRI	ASIA	OCEA	EURO	SO AM
10	(13)	*14	*18	(11)	*17
12	(13)	*14	*17	(11)	16
14	(13)	*14	*16	(11)	*32
16	(25)	*14	*26	17	*38
18	29	14	(20)	13	*40
20	30	(15)	25	(12)	*41
22	25	*28	31	(11)	*39
24	22	*30	36	(11)	*33
2	*18	*25	33	11	*22
4	*16	*18	22	11	*20
6	(15)	16	20	11	*18
8	(14)	*15	19	*12	*17

### EAST COAST

UTC	AFRI	ASIA	OCEA	EURO	SO AM
7	17	*11	(17)	*11	*18
9	16	11	*17	*11	*17
11	30	11	*16	*18	*25
13	*36	12	*31	*22	*35
15	*39	(11)	28	*22	*38
17	*39	(11)	24	*19	*40
19	*34	(11)	(22)	14	*41
21	*28	(19)	29	*13	*37
23	*21	(19)	32	*12	*28
1	*19	(14)	22	*11	*22
3	*18	(13)	20	*11	*20
5	*17	(12)	(18)	*11	*19

EU-095 F8C10/P	If Island	11 Oct
EU-095 F60YU/P	If Island	11 Oct
EU-123 GM3UTQ/P	Bute Island	03 Oct
EU-123 GM3UTQ/P	Sanda Island	01-02 Oct
EU-124 GM4SLM	Anglesey Island	14 Oct
EU-124 GWØGEI	Anglesey Island	04 Oct
EU-129 DL8LRZ/P	Usedom Island	26-27 Oct
EU-132 SP5PB/1	Ladko Island	02-03 Oct
EU-132 SO1VOX	Wolin Island	01-04 Oct
EU-133 R1ASP	Kotlin Island	02-21 Oct
EU-141 LA5SJA	Vardo Island	18 Oct
EU-146 PA3BTH	Burgh Haamstede Is.	04 Oct
EU-164 TK/DJ5MX	Corsica coastal islands	01 Oct
NA-019 KL7QK	Kodiak Island	10 Oct
NA-031 AA1ACP/P	Aquidneck Island	10-11 Oct
NA-031 W1LY	Conanicut Island	13 Oct
NA-034 KM4RX	Anna Maria Island	12 Oct
NA-036 VE7IM	Vancouver Island	14-31 Oct
NA-041 KL7IFP	Revillagigedo Island	09 Oct
NA-047 VE8TA	Baffin Island	30 Oct
NA-051 VE7TLL/M	Queen Charlotte Is.	21-30 Oct
NA-051 VE7QCR	Queen Charlotte Is.	18 Oct
NA-055 AK1L	Vinylhaven Island	08-31 Oct
NA-055 AA1KS	Moose Island	01 Oct
NA-056 CO4BM	Isle of Pines	11-23 Oct

NA-057 VE3BW/HR6	Roatan Island	20-24 Oct
NA-057 N7QXQ/HR6	Roatan Island	03-04 Oct
NA-059 NØ7F/KL7	Unalaska Island	01-25 Oct
NA-065 AD7U	Whidbey Island	07-20 Oct
NA-072 HP1XVH	Contadora Island	04-23 Oct
NA-072 HP1/DL1RBR	Contadora Island	22-23 Oct
NA-072 3E1DX	Contadora Island	25 Oct
NA-110 N4VA/P	Isle of Palms	31 Oct
NA-136 W1NLK	Sheffield Island	03 Oct
NA-138 N5VL	Amelia Island	02-08 Oct
NA-140 N4VA/M	Kent Island	30 Oct
NA-184 N6VV/P	St George Reef	17-18 Oct
NA-198 VO1BAR/P	Puffin Island	06-15 Oct
NA-199 FS5PL/P	St Martin coastal	04 Oct
NA-212 H76C	Cardon Island	06-10 Oct
OC-011 V63KU	Truk Island	01-31 Oct
OC-022 YC9BU	Bali Island	02-18 Oct
OC-024 T32BI	Christmas Island	08-13 Oct
OC-024 T32KV	Christmas Island	21-27 Oct
OC-024 T32MP	Christmas Island	24-25 Oct
OC-024 T32O	Christmas Island	17-21 Oct
OC-027 FØ5QG	Nuka Hiva Island	07-31 Oct
OC-027 FØ5QB	Marquesas Islands	06-14 Oct
OC-034 YC9WJZ	Island of New Guinea	03-31 Oct
OC-046 FØ5BI	Tahiti Island	13-30 Oct
OC-046 FØ5JV	Tahiti Island	13-23 Oct
OC-046 FØØPT	Moorea Island	09-30 Oct
OC-049 A35SO	Fafa Island	02-19 Oct
OC-049 A35ZL	Fafa Island	01-19 Oct
OC-051 FØ5FQ	Rapa Island	07-11 Oct
OC-059 V63AO	Kosrae Island	02-31 Oct
OC-070 YC8VIP	Ambon Island	01-31 Oct
OC-075 YC5TML	Batam Island	01 Oct

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# DX World

OC-075 YE5B	Galang Island	23-25 Oct
OC-084 T32NCC	Fanning Island	08-28 Oct
OC-106 YC5XIP	Natuna Besar Islands	23 Oct
OC-118 FW5XX	Futuna Island	01-23 Oct
OC-119 DU8ARK	Jolo group	08 Oct
OC-129 DU6RCR	Negros Island	05 Oct
OC-129 N7ET/DU7	Negros Island	05 Oct
OC-130 DU8DJ	Mindanao Island	04-05 Oct
OC-137 VK4LV	Bribie Island	18-26 Oct
OC-137 VK4CY	Lamb Island	02-17 Oct
OC-143 YC6DEM	Sumatra Island	03 Oct
OC-143 YB5QZ	Sumatra Island	01-30 Oct
OC-146 YC8BHC	Sulawesi Island	10 Oct
OC-147 YC9YKI	Irian Jaya Coastal	05-17 Oct
OC-148 YC9MKF	Timor Island	01-22 Oct
OC-149 H44NC	New Georgia Islands	03-21 Oct
OC-151 YC9LQA	Flores Island	02-20 Oct
OC-152 F08SUC	Tubuai Island	08-17 Oct
OC-169 A35RK	Ha'apai Island	19-28 Oct
OC-210 YC8TXW	Sangihe Island	03-25 Oct
OC-210 YC8RBC	Sangihe Island	13-26 Oct
SA-008 LU3XQ	Terra del Fuego	01-11 Oct
SA-008 LU8XW	Terra del Fuego	07-26 Oct
SA-008 LU1XSI	Terra del Fuego	04 Oct
SA-009 9Y4NW	Tobago Island	24-25 Oct
SA-009 9Y4/DK6WL	Tobago Island	30-31 Oct
SA-009 9Y4/DL4MEH	Tobago Island	28-30 Oct
SA-009 9Y4/DL4MCF	Tobago Island	26-31 Oct
SA-009 9Y4/DL4MDO	Tobago Island	28-31 Oct
SA-012 YV7AJ	Margarita Island	01-03 Oct
SA-024 PR2YL	Comprida Island	29-31 Oct
SA-024 PS2S	Comprida Island	29-30 Oct
SA-026 PP5JD	Santa Catarina Island	15 Oct
SA-026 PP5OW	Santa Catarina Island	11-30 Oct
SA-029 PY1BNE/P	Itacurua Island	14-17 Oct
SA-029 PU1KGG	Rio de Janeiro West	31 Oct
SA-046 PY7XC	Pernambuco State	03 Oct
SA-064 CE7AOY	Isla Las Huichas	19-20 Oct
SA-071 PV2E	Santo Amaro Island	22-24 Oct

During the 18-hour operation of N6VV/P from St George Reef (NA-184), some 1,187 contacts were logged (about 50 percent with Europe). The site is an abandoned lighthouse, located off the northern California coast near Crescent City and is not a very pleasant place to be. The IOTA community is grateful to both Lew Jenkins, N6VV, and Dan Ramsey, W7DR.

## 300 Countries Club

Those of you who have worked 300 or more DXCC countries might be interested in the new 300 Countries Club Award, sponsored by the Great Lakes DX/Contest Club.

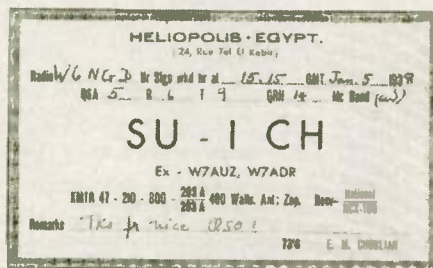
DXers can request an application form and return it with a donation of \$5. Prepare a list of contacts certified by two licensed Amateur Radio operators that they have verified the QSL cards. To request an application write: K9PXV, Great Lakes DX/Contest Club, 10058 Oak Island Drive, Laingsburg, MI 48848. Proceeds collected from this award will help future DXpeditions.

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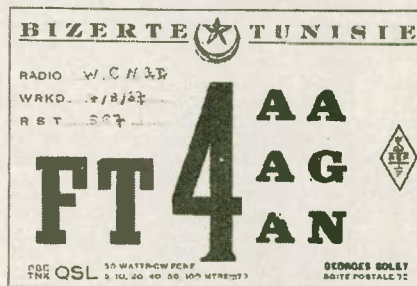


## Antique QSL Department

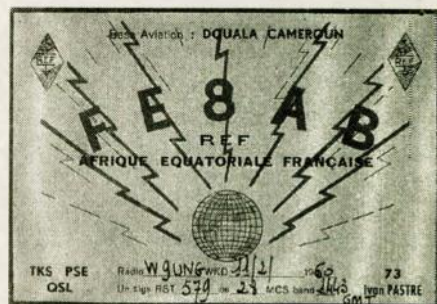
Lew Wilhelm, W7TB, provides us with some more of his QSL cards from the past. Lew worked SU1CH of Heliopolis, Egypt, from his dorm room as W6NGD while attending Arizona State in Tempe. Lew received a report of RST 569 one wintry morning 05 January 1938. The operator at SU1CH is shown as E.M. Chorlian.



The year before, also operating from his dorm room, Lew worked Georges Solet of Buizerte in Tunisia. The card shows three calls, and apparently all assigned to the same person. There was no indication which call he was using, FT4AA, FT4AG, or FT4AN.



Several years later while operating as W9UNG from the Midwest, Lew worked FE8AB in the French Cameroons in 1950. The date is indicated as 11/2 which could mean either November or February, depending upon the interpretation of writing dates. In those days many DX stations listed



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dates American style. The operator here was Ivan Pastre. A search through the Callbook on CD-ROM shows such a person with the present call of F3AT and is most likely the same person. As for the other two operators no such name was listed for either operator. Most likely, they have become Silent Keys.



Lew, associated with the Northern Arizona DX Association, became a Silent Key during the latter part of this past August.

## QSL Information

Recently, a suggestion was made of adding the words "via Hawaii" to the last line in the address to speed up delivery of mail to Fanning Island in Kiribati. One DXer contacted his local post office and was told they have prescribed routings for international mail and that the system is automated. Adding such words would be of no value and could only foul up the system. But Joel Magid, WU1F, reports that he helped design and install the automated system for the U.S. postal system and it does recognize the "via" very well. Joel says, "Using 'via Japan' when sending mail to Mongolia is common as the common defined route for Mongolia is sent via Moscow which is very unreliable. At some points the system will actually add 'via Japan' to get around mail backlogs."

So, our conclusion is that adding the words "via whatever" is a useful tool in addressing mail to hard to reach places in the world. Remember, the system looks at the last listed country in the address. A good one would be Cuba as I don't know what normal route the postal system would recognize due to the present relations the United States has with that country.

Steve Wheatley, KU9C, reminds the DX community of the pending postal rate increases effective 10 January 1999. Please include 33 cents postage on your SASE. Just because you send your request a few weeks prior doesn't mean you will beat the deadline. Often, the QSL manager is delayed in answering requests, which includes his wait for the logs from the DX stations he manages.

Charles Harpole, K4VUD, reports he has received his HSØACW and 9N1UD QSL cards from the printers and should be soon filling them out and mailing them to the deserving! In addition he also notes the lack of consideration of those requesting cards. So, for the benefit of those inexperienced DXers here are some simple requirements:

- Always include a stamped self-addressed envelope, folded once across the middle, with the flap turned backwards. A better way is to use business-sized envelopes addressed to the manager, and in that way your SASE need not be folded, which is preferred. Be sure to include the proper amount of return postage on this envelope and be aware of the postal increase coming up soon.

- Be sure to have your call sign on the same side of your QSL card as the report. If you use QSL cards that are printed on both sides (call and address on one side, and the contact information on the other), be sure that your call is also on the report side. This saves the

manager from having to continually flip cards over. Attractive as these cards may be, they are a pain if you have to keep turning the cards over and over.

- Although not a necessity, please include a green stamp (one U.S. dollar bill) for some of the larger operations. If you made several contacts, this is a matter of courtesy. If you worked a major DXpedition that was very costly, then one dollar per contact would be fair.


Thanks go to the following contributors for this month's column: 9K2HN, G3VMW, ZL2AL, WU1F, WD4NGB, W4SOD, K4VUD, W4WX, KQ4YI, WA6KBL, W7CF, W8EB, WA8JOC, K8MN, KU9C, Western Washington DX Club (WAØRJY), Northern Arizona DX Association (KI7LS), American Radio Relay League (NC1L), WebCluster (OH2AQ), 425 DX News (I1JQJ), The OPDX Bulletin (KB8NW), The Low Band

Monitor (K0CS), Island/DX News (N5VL), The Daily DX (W3UR), QRZ DX (N4AA), and DX News Sheet (G4BUE).

The bands are improving. Just look at the activity during the CQ Worldwide DX Contest in October. 10 Meters is beginning to be happy again. I was busy listening to 10 Meters the last day of the month (October) and the Europeans were rolling in. Let's hope it stays that way for some time now. 73 de John N6JM. — John F.W. Minke III, N6JM can be reached at: P.O. Box 310, Carmichael, CA 95609-0310 or via e-mail: n6jm@pacbell.net.

## 10 Meters is beginning to be happy again






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302VA	WA2NHA	9M2TD	JA4DPL	FR/F5SIH	F5SIH	RW3GW/O	RW3GW	XE1EZM	AC7DX	YL80GW	YL2GW	G4BWP Fred Handscomb, Sandholm, Bridge End Road, Red Lodge, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 8LQ, England
3VB8B	JF2EZA	9M2TO	JA0DMV	FR/G3SWH	G3SWH	RW9QA	RW9QA	XE1FES	W3HNK	YL80IX	YL2IX	
3W5FM	9M6H	9M6HX	DJ9HX	FR/SPSL	SPSL	RW9QA	W3HNK	XE1IDJ	XE1J	YL80MR	YL2MR	G4FAM Cris Henderson, Bellapais, Kelsey Lane, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3NF, England
3W6EZO	71LMFS	9M6JU	JA1RJU	GB100EGL	GW0ANA	RX10X/FUL	DL6EY	XE1NXX	EAS5X	YL80QP	YL2QP	G4ZVY Andy Chadwick, 5 Thorpe Chase, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 1UA, England
3W7TK	OK1HWB	9N7RW	G4ERW	GB100FI	GW0ANA	RY7W	UY5XE	XE1VIC	KV6U	YL80YN	YL2YN	GM3YTS Robert Ferguson, 24 Braemar Avenue, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 9ED, Scotland
4K0E	RW1AI	9N7SON	WA4SON	GB100LP	GW0ANA	RZ3AZO/1	RW3GW	XU1A	JH1AJT	YU0M/P	UY5XE	GM4FDM Tom Wyllie, 3 Kings Crescent, Elderslie, Renfrewshire, PA5 9AD, Scotland
4K1AFM	RW1AI	9Q2L	PA3DMH	GB100SFL	GW0ANA	S21J	K1WY	YX300S	JH1EVE	YM7SDS	WA3HUP	HA5YPP P.O.Box 1157, H-1245 Budapest, Hungary
4K1B	RW1AI	9R1A	PA3DMH	GB4MDI	GW0ANA	S790Y	KF80Y	XV6Z	K6SGD	ZD8JF	GW0ANA	HL1MSE In Kol Yu, Shibum APT 16-23, 50, Yoido-dong, Youngdeungpo-ku, Seoul 150-010, South Korea
4K1D	RW1AI	9V8ZB	JK3WSL	GB5FI	GW0ANA	S92AT	NJ2D	XV7TH	SK7AX	ZF2/WBGE	WBGE	HL1MSF Woo Jeong Nam, Shibum APT 16-23, 50, Yoido-dong, Youngdeungpo-ku, Seoul 150-010, South Korea
4K1F	RW1AI	9X/G4HCL	G4HCL	GC4BRS	GW0ANA	SK7DX	SM7DXQ	XX9AS	KU9C	ZF2GS	DL1DA	HL2IGU Ahn Kwang Phil, 526-2 Gan Seok Dong, Nam Dong Gu, Incheon 405-230, South Korea
4K1G	RW1AI	9XSEE	PA3DMH	GC4BRS/M	GW0ANA	SN04S	SP5ZCC	XX9TRR	OH2PM	ZF2NT	N2AU	HL5AEX Bak, P.O.Box 97, Kyongju 780-600, South Korea
4K1RR	RW3GW	9Y4VU	NY3Y	GC1M3U	K1WY	SO5UE	UY5XE	XX9TSS	JK2PNY	ZK19HX	DJ9HX	HL5FOP Ray, P.O.Box 97, Kyongju 780-600, South Korea
4K2RR	RW3GW	A22W0YG	WOYG	GI6YM	K1WY	SU0ERA	WA3HUP	XX9X	OH2PM	ZK2HX	DJ9HX	HL5OVH Malinee Chantrasmi, P.O.Box 195, Samsennai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand
4K3R/RW3GW	RW3GW	A22EW	KB2MS	GJOWFH	GOWFH	SU1EER	WA3HUP	Y1R	RW3LO	ZL8RS	ZL1RS	HL56NDK Sonthaya Phanthanyakit, 201/1 M. 3, Nakhon Dard, Srinakorn District, Sukhothai 64180, Thailand
4K3GW	RW3GW	A35XH	DJ9HX	GU6UW	G3XTT	SU1JOTA	WA3HUP	Y1R	VK4FW	ZP5/KE9NA	KE9NA	IK2DUV Giorgio Tosi, P.O.Box 83, I-21052 Busto Arsizio (VA), Italy
4K3MI	UY5XE	A35FK	W77SO	GW7K	GW0ANA	SU1MR	WA3HUP	YE2HBX	YB2BAB	ZS7SISG	ZS5BBO	J28JJ Jean-Jacques, P.O.Box 2669, Doha, Qatar
4K3RRC	RW3GW	A45XL	G4VUO	GW8K	GW0ANA	SU1RR	WA3HUP	Y1IAK	AD5W	ZW2Z	PY2ZI	JL1KFR Yoichi Tojo, #1-102, 5-37 Miyazaki 2 Chome, Cyo-u Ku, Chiba, 260-0806 Japan
4K3WQ	RW3GW	A61AJ	W3UR	H44YC	AA5BT	SU1SR	WA3HUP	Y1IHK	KK3S	ZX0Z	PY1LVF	JL3WSL Akio Naito, 31-500-5 Hikita, Nara-City 631-0843, Japan
4K4A/	UY5XE	A61AP	IK7JTF	HA4N9NC	OM2SA	SBLXR	WA3HUP	Y1IWL	N3PBX	ZX1Z	PY1LVF	JM1LJS Hideyuki Kai, 4-22-15, Takata-Cho, Kokoku-ku, Yokohama-City 223-0063, Japan
4K4EFM	RW1AI	A61AS	YQ3FRI	HFOPOL	SP3BGD	SW8LT	SV1ATV	Y1JWA	7M3VAL			JQ1USM Hiroyuki Tobata, 2-31-54-3 Jindaiji, Mitaka-city, Tokyo 181-0016, Japan
4K4BEU/P	UY5XE	A719/K2AI	IK7JTF	H14M	AD2X	W4WET						LA2KD Annar E.B.Kjemsvik, Holmlia Sentervel 33, N-1255 Oslo, Norway
4K4BVI	UY5XE	A92ZF	W3HC	H18/DJ41J	D8KZD	J23IW	DJ5IW					OM2SA Jural Sipos, 930 13 Trhova Hradská 550, okr.Dunajska Streda, Slovakia
4K4DV	RW3GW	AT2DPI	VU2DPI	H18/DL1XAQ	DL1XAQ	J23IU	DJ5IW					PR7AR Irapuan de Sousa, P.O.Box 60, Guarabira, Paraiba, 56200-970, Brazil
4K4I	UY5XE	AT2HLX	VU2HLX	H18/DL4JS	DL4JAN	J23VU	DJ5IW					PT2AW Paulo Cesar G.Milito, SHIS Q115 - Chacara 62, 71600-800 Brasilia (DF), Brazil
4K4RRC	RW3GW	AT3HKQ	VU3HKQ	H18DLUJ	AD4Z	T8BHN	JF1VXB					PY1MF Mark, P.O.Box 4664, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 20001-970 Brazil
4K5RRC	RW3GW	BA1DU	W3HC	HL5KY	W3HNK	T92T	9A6BSZ					PZ1DR R.Dawson, M.D., P.O.Box 396, Paramaribo, Suriname
4K80ADR	4K5CW	BA4TB	9A2AJ	HSO/AJ6UJ	JA6LCJ	T94B	N9JR					RU3AA Konstantin K.Khatchaturov, P.O.Box 1, Moscow 17588, Russia
4K8F	UN9AO	BABO	JH3DPB	HS1AV	JG3AVS	T94DO	DL1DF					RW1AI Mike Fokin, P.O.Box 2, St.Petersburg, 195009, Russia
4K9W	DL6KVA	BQ9P	KU9C	HS1NIV	W1ZS	T94J	T94JA					RW9QA Vlad Kondratenko, P.O.Box 1, Kurgan-38, 640038, Russia
4L1UN	IK7JTF	BSV5G	IK7JTF	HS1IRU	JG3AVS	T9						



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## What a great season!

**A**s this is written, the summer VHF DX season is winding down, and what a season it has been. DX is going out with a 'bang' and it's not gone yet. Some contacts have been downright amazing and it has not all been between stations in the U.S. Take Peter Zoch Sprengel, PY5CC, in Brazil (in grid square GG54re) who, on 28 July, made contact with a pair of stations in Israel.

According to Peter, at 1941 UTC he was on the International Calling Frequency of 50.110 MHz. He heard and contacted Christian Gomoiu, 4Z5JA, and Yehuda Lion, 4X6ON in grid KM72. That's a contact all three Hams will remember.

And there were lots more. Here's a sample of domestic postings from the VHF reflector that spell out what it was like to be on 6 Meters, 2 Meters and above from the end of August and early September of 1998:

From Chip Margelli, K7JA, on 26 August: "It is 0030 UTC 26 August, and the KH6HME beacons are coming in weakly on 144.170.0 MHz and 432.077.7 MHz into DM03."

From Ed Rodriguez, WP4O, on 26 August: "Just finished working a string of LU and CX stations. Worked, 26/27 August Osvaldo Porto, LU3EMK, at 2340Z, Gerry Salvador, LU8MBL, at 0000Z, and Carlos Guevara, LU8JBO at 0002Z."

From Carl Bledsoe, N9JBG, on 26 August: "AU was reported this afternoon in EU. Just starting to hear it on 50 MHz now, but nothing yet on 2 Meters."

From Russell Pillsbury, K2TXB, on

### This was my first aurora and I had a ball

27 August: "That WAS fun! I vote for more auroras like that one! On 2 Meters, worked W0PW in EM26 and K5CM in EM25 right at the end. After that I could hear K4QI calling 'CQ' with a strong auroral signal for about 15 minutes or so, but almost no other 'AU' signals. Watch for it to come back everyone!"

From Robert Dobson, WB5APD, on 27 August: "From EM84 hearing EN70 and FN53 on 2 Meters AU. David Olean, K1WHS, coming in very loud into N. GA EM84ak."

From Walter Short, N4SW, on 28 August: "...at 0000Z 144 has been open for 2 hours to the northeast. Grids EM76 to FN02 and up."

From Tom Provost, WA2YJF, on 28 August: "Oh Boy, this was my first aurora and I had a ball. Worked a bunch of new grids and states. I really need more power, I missed several contacts. I guess 70 watts isn't enough.."

From Kevin Bishop, N8ZJN, on 29 August: "It was short (opening) with

only three or four signals on the band. At 0401Z I started hearing the VE1SMU beacon at S5 and then worked Bob Spicer, VE1CZ, in FN85 with a 5-7 report at 0416Z. The VE1 Beacon was also in for about 45 minutes. The VE4VHF beacon was in and out at this time. At 0604Z I heard and worked Bill Preston, KL7XX, in BQ50 — I didn't hear any of the others, except for Larry Neufeld, VE4CPU, working KL7XX at 0625z."

From Oscar Gago, CO2OJ, on 29 August: "6M was open for almost all morning and afternoon, Saturday 29 August. Several beacons heard, mainly in the afternoon, but too few people on the band. Early in the morning, I heard a couple of stations working VP5KE on 50.126 MHz but I didn't hear him. Best DX was Tim Young, W3HHN, FN33, at 2140 UTC. I was only running 10 watts."

From Jon Jones, N0JK on 29 August: "VP5KE was active this morning around 50.126 MHz working stations along the east coast. QSL via N4KE."

From Michael Smith, VE9AA, on 30 August: "6M DXers rejoice! Things are looking up for the 6M crowd. Today in just the span of several hours I worked four continents and numerous 6M operators on the 6M liaison frequency of 28.885MHz. Hasn't been this good since Feb '92 (not here, anyway). PY5CC was peaking 20/s9 — wow!!"

From Brian Allen, N0VSB, on 08 September: "2 Meters is currently open from DM79 (Colo.) and surrounding areas to EN83. Also, hearing stations on 6 Meters at 21:13 Zulu on 9/8/98. Worked John Walker, WZ8D, and hearing other locals working him as well."

From Ed Rodriguez, WP4O, on 09 September: "Just worked Julio Genga, LU5EGL, in Mar De Plata Argentina 5/5. My report 5/9. No others heard. Calling 'CQ' at this moment on CW 50.110."

And so it continues. And you can feel everyone's enthusiasm for the "new DX" that is the result of Mother Nature's cooperating and providing the bands, and many newcomers learning that there is life after repeaters.

### The beacons to VHF/UHF DX

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# FM, Repeaters & VHF

a given band is 'open' and where it is 'open to.' While a few beacons are the product of national Amateur Radio societies around the world, most beacons are installed and maintained by other individual Hams. They are provided by these volunteers as a service to the worldwide Ham radio community. Let me tell you a bit about some of the people behind the beacons and the plans that some of them have in store.

Jordan Arndt, VE2SWL, is one of those beacon volunteers. Jordan lives in Alberta, Canada, and says that in the interest of promoting weak signal activity in his area, he is looking for help in locating some 'devices' that could be used for beacons on the 222, 432, and 1296 MHz bands.

Jordan says via the *VHF Reflector* that in Alberta there are some operators who have lost interest in VHF DXing because of the lack of activity. He thinks that beacons on these bands would help to spark a renewed interest. He also asks anyone who might have any ideas on using old Hamtonics transmitter boards or other radios to contact him via Email at: jordan@nucleus.com

Regular contributor Brandon Anderson, N8PUM, says via email he is taking beacons to new heights in frequency. Brandon recently finished installing the 5760.025 MHz beacon at EN65bx. Its call sign is N8PUM/B with the transmitter running 10 watts to a 16 dB feedhorn at 50 feet. Brandon says the antenna is pointed South toward grids EN51/52. He says he can see the Wisconsin border some 15-20 miles away with a clear view of the horizon from the antenna location.

Brandon will also be putting a new beacon on the air on 222.055 +/- 1kHz, using a new PAR 222 MHz halo antenna as an antenna. It will be located in grid square EN65bx and run 1 to 2 watts power. Please send all reports to N8PUM via email to: branande@nmu.edu.

Like everything else in life, nothing lasts forever. That's even true of Amateur Radio beacons and one South American nation recently lost two of them. Fred Carvalho, PY2XB, reports the demise of the PY2AMI and PT7BCN beacons. The only Brazilian 6-meter beacon left on the air is PY2AA. Since 1982, PY2AA has operated on 50.059 MHz running about 10 watts output power into a groundplane antenna. In 1995 the beacon was moved from downtown Sao Paulo to a suburban location owned by PY2DM. It's on

a plateau, about 50 miles from Sao Paulo with the antenna 60 feet above average terrain.

The PY2AA beacon is maintained by Fred Carvalho, PY2XB, and Mamiro Yoshizawa, PY2DM. Listen for it when the band is open to that area. More information and QSN reports go via e-mail to py2xb@integral.com.br

## VHF contesting — Caribbean style

More than thirty five years ago I became friends with Steve Crow, WA2CPX. Both of us remember the way we met in totally different ways, but nevertheless we have remained friends over the years and over the miles that have separated us. It was thanks to Stephen that I was able to learn to fly multi-engine in his AeroCommander 560E.

We also formed a loose-knit confederation of New York City and Northern New Jersey area Hams who all had common interests in Ham radio and flying. We were the "Flying Amateur Radio Team" and spent many hours aloft in Steve's airplane seeing just how far 6-meter AM signals could be heard or on the ground operating Field Day poolside. Our unofficial motto was: "Ham radio has to be fun!"

Fast forward our videotape of life. I made a quick side trip from the Huntsville Hamfest to Boca Raton, Florida, to see my father-in-law during his recovery from surgery. Thanks to Southwest Airlines not being able to get its

act in gear and its 737 into the sky on time, I arrived at Ft. Lauderdale International Airport well after midnight. It was still over 80 degrees at 100% humidity. It was at that moment that I remembered why I usually don't go anywhere near Florida in the summertime.

I spent the first day seeing "air conditioned" relatives but the second day devoted to visiting with friends I had not seen in a long time. Actually there were only two. Stephen, who is now K4CPX, and Renee Marlen, WB2BCO, whom I had not seen or spoken with in over three decades.

The last time Renee and I talked was on 6-meter AM in the early 1960s. She was the only teenage female on the local Ham bands back then, using a \$119.00 Lafayette HE-45 transceiver. Through the magic of some 'cyberspace' friends and America Online, we have been chatting regularly over the wired ether. With my wife, Sharon, we made a foursome for lunch at the famed Beverly Hills Cafe in Boca Raton.

It was Steve who stole the show. He is one of those very lucky people who was able to retire at a fairly early age. When he did, he bought his first boat in which he proceeded to sail around the world — taking Ham radio along with him. For the past few years he has headquartered himself in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he heads up a company called SAT-100. SAT-100 manufactures Direct Broadcast Satellite receiving equipment designed specifically for installation on cruising vessels, boats

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# FM, Repeaters & VHF



**Steve Crow, K4CPX, is skipper of the *Whitehawk*.**

and ships. Steve is the former owner of National Aircraft Instruments Corporation and has a solid background in engineering. He literally designed the SAT-100 marine DBS receiving system in his living room and retails it for about one-third of what the competition charges.

When he is not busy with SAT-100 or some other venture, you will find Stephen on board his 43-foot Defever trawler, plying the waters of the Caribbean. He is a regular on the Waterway Net (7.628 MHz), but one of his first loves has always been VHF contesting. And so he decided to outfit the *Whitehawk* for one of last winter's VHF contests.

The picture you see was taken near Georgetown, Great Exuma, Bahamas. The antennas are 2 elements on 6 Meters, 11 elements on 2 Meters and a 9 dB vertical on 70 cm. Using an Icom IC-706 for 6 Meters and 2 Meters and a Kenwood radio on 432 MHz, Stephen says: "...we blanketed the East Coast from Maine to Florida on six and two, working 47 grid-squares in the process."

Stephen says this was a two-man and one-dog effort. His partners were Ken Rorheim, KB9Y, along with "Shadow Doggie" who took the helm so the humans could operate. The threesome did not break any records for distance or

the number of stations that they contacted. But sitting just off Great Exuma, they sure had the kind of a fun time that few contest operations can ever hope to equal.

## On grid circling

Ever hear the term "grid circling"? Unless you are into 'Rover' operation, probably not. But "grid circling" has become the latest radio sport-within-the sport and its purpose is more contacts for all.

to be its first 2-meter repeater. It's on 147.300/.900, IDs as KA9SWI and has no PL at this time. The machine is open to one and all and has excellent coverage because it's located at the second highest site in the state.

The system is also used for severe weather reporting, search and rescue, and other community services as needed. The next time you are in beautiful Brown County, Indiana, Pete says: "...give it a try."

We are quickly running out of "Best



**The *Whitehawk* decked out for VHF contesting.**

As explained on the *VHF Reflector* by Paul Mackanos, K2DB, 'grid circling' takes place when a group of dedicated Rovers go out to four corners of a grid, and work each other in every conceivable configuration in each grid square. Then they move to the next four corners of four new grids, and do it all over again, and again, and again until the end of the contest.

Yes, I know it sounds like a lot of effort and it is controversial to many who favor the "traditional" stay-put approach. None the less "grid circling" is gaining in popularity and I suspect that you will see a lot more of it in contests and years to come.

## The Best Repeater In Town

Pete Lenges, KA9SWI, tells us the best repeater in Brown Co., Indiana has

Repeater in Town" reports. If you have one, send it to me by e-mail to [billwa6itf@aol.com](mailto:billwa6itf@aol.com).

## Southeastern VHF Society 1999 Conference

The Southeastern VHF Society will host its third annual conference 09-10 April 1999 in Atlanta, GA. A first call for presentations to be made at the 1999 conference and papers to be published in the conference proceedings (submissions due by mid-February). Contact program chairman Bob Lear, K4SZ, at P.O. Box 1269, Dahlonga, GA 30533, Tel 706/864-6229, email to [k4sz@stc.net](mailto:k4sz@stc.net).

In addition to the technical program, there will be preamp noise figure testing, antenna gain measurements, a flea market, banquet and door prizes. Further details will be announced on the web at: [www.svhfs.org/svhfs/](http://www.svhfs.org/svhfs/).

## Restructuring Amateur Radio: Can we just talk?

"Can we just talk?" That's the one-liner made famous by comedienne Joan Rivers in her stage shows and her abortive late-night talk show a few years

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back on FOX. But it's very apropos for what I have to say in regard to the topic of 'restructuring the U.S. Amateur Radio Service.'

This is the hottest topic that most amateurs are wasting their time worrying about. They are concerned about "lowered standards." They worry that the "CB-ers will come and take over the bands." They worry that this is all a precursor to the FCC outlawing the use of Morse code. They worry that their neighbor who never passed a Morse test might wind up with privileges they worked hard to attain. They worry about everything except what they should be concerned about. — whether or not there will even be an Amateur Radio service a decade from now.

Since everyone has an opinion on restructuring, I want to offer mine which is in turn based on a 1969 editorial in 73 magazine penned by the indomitable Wayne S. Green, W2NSD. To paraphrase Wayne, "...if the FCC did away with both the code and theory test, and if manufacturers packed a license to operate with every radio; and if you stood in Times Square, New York, with a truckload trying to give them away — you would have very few takers."

The problem we have in keeping Amateur Radio vital and alive has nothing to do with Morse testing — or no Morse testing. It has nothing to do with the number of written questions on a given test or their level of difficulty. It has nothing to do with the class of license a given Ham holds or if he/she will ever upgrade.

Rather it has all to do with our being so-called 'communicators' who do not have the ability and/or refuse to 'communicate' the wonders of Ham radio to those outside of the hobby/service. Amateurs, especially American amateurs, do all they can to keep Amateur Radio a secret from society. Then these same amateurs complain when society passes us by in favor of a cellular telephone.

If you do not 'toot your own horn' nobody is going to 'toot' it for you. What Hams, and their political representatives (aka ARRL) and all national societies (other than the JARL) do not understand is that you must sell the 'concept' of what Amateur Radio is, to the masses, before even a small percent of the masses will come to Ham radio to ask what it really is. Not get licensed, mind you. Rather, just to show a modicum of understanding that Hams exist, and why. And to know we Hams can do a lot more than they can with their "cell phone" or "CB set."

The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) seems to be the only national Amateur Radio society that understands this concept and spends a lot of money on advertising Amateur Radio to the public. JARL still turns out two to three professionally-produced 30-minute promotional films (usually distributed on video) every year. Every time a new one comes out I wind up with a copy. And we are talking really high quality — the kind of production value that in U.S. 'dollarettes' is, I estimate, at about \$250,000 per show!

By contrast, the ARRL may do one every decade, if that, and spends nowhere near that amount. Most other national societies have never done any public advertising at all. Advertising to the non-ham masses seems to be a concept not at all understood by most of the world's Amateur Radio political leaders.

On the other hand, the JARL leadership is smart. It knows that only advertising gets new Hams and new Hams mean more people joining JARL. They know that more Hams means more money spent on radios which in turn means more money spent by manufacturers developing new and more sophisticated radios that because of high volume can be sold at lower and lower prices. They also know that it means more people joining their society which gives them a broader base from which to operate and more cash to spend on advertising Ham radio to the people of Japan. This starts the cycle all over again.

So here is my opinion on restructuring. It's just not needed. I would rather see the ARRL and FCC take the funds that both are wasting on this latest license modification debacle and spend it with a good Madison Avenue advertising agency. Charge that public relations firm to get the words "Amateur Radio" on the lips of every man, woman and child in America. Especially the latter because it's today's kids who are the real future of the world, of our nation and of Amateur radio.

My wife may have said it best. One recent afternoon I was talking to a Ham friend about how to get teenage kids

away from the "www" and into Amateur Radio. Sharon was listening to us when she up and said (paraphrased): "...if you want to get more teens into Ham radio, have 'Sabrina, the teenage witch' do one of those television commercials aimed at the kids you are always talking about producing."

Now I work in television broadcasting but was at a bit of a loss as my forte is engineering and news. I sheepishly had to ask her: "Who's Sabrina, the Teenage Witch?" She told me to watch the 'competition network' on Friday night and find out.

I did as she suggested, and it took very little time before I completely understood. Kids seek role models and she is probably one of the most positive that they have today. But I doubt that the ARRL or anyone else could afford to hire her, or anyone else of that audience popularity, as a spokesperson to kids. Talent like this costs far in excess of what the ARRL would probably be willing to spend.

Yet this very talented young woman (I think her real-life name is Melissa Joan Hart) or someone like her is what is needed as a role model to interest this peer group in Amateur Radio. Having the character "Sabrina" saying something like "Ham radio is great. Why not become a Ham?" would do far more for overall growth in our ranks than anything the Washington or Newington bureaucrats could ever conceive.

That's my opinion. I welcome yours.

de WA6ITF — Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, can be reached at: 28197 Robin Ave., Saugus, CA 91350, e-mail: billwa6itf@aol.com, AOL: BILLWA6ITF, Netcom: newslines@ix.netcom.com, 24-hr voice/fax: 805/296-7180, e-mail only up to 50 kilobytes can also be sent to wa6itf@juno.com.

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## Equipment choices and familiarity

**S**implicity is not a bad thing. Complexity isn't bad either as long as some thought goes into the process. Consider the primary tool of our endeavor, the radio. One of the first VHF-FM radios I owned was a single channel rig that required crystals and a fair amount of tuning and tweaking. But it worked and was easy to operate. You turned it on, adjusted the volume and squelch, and talked.

One of the most complex radios I also owned at the time was an aircraft rig I used for ground-to-air coordination during search missions. The unit required separate transmit and receive antennas and had about 30 or so channels. Beyond selecting the correct channel and connecting both antennas, it was easy enough that another operator could step into the communications van and get right to work.

Today I "don't leave home without it." I'm not talking about a credit card, but my wallet with several "help" cards and my planner which has various pages dedicated to how to program and operate radios. Let's see, I've got a whole page of notes for my tiny Alinco DH-S41. The radio fits in a tiny pocket, but if I need to change its configuration, you need the manual. I've got several pages on how to configure my Icom H-16 and U-16, some repeater and remote base instructions, and a bundle of pages for my HF mobile. My wallet has cards on how to use the Icom marine and aircraft portables along with the Amateur Radio VHF and UHF rigs. Besides the gear that might go portable or mobile, I've got another set of notes in the shack in case something there needs changing.

### Operator confusion

This is all well and good, but what happens when another operator comes to assist in the shack or when I need to loan a rig to someone in the field. I would hate to have someone at the site of an air crash (with a loaned radio) and have the rescue chopper request a frequency change. It's not as simple as changing from channel A to channel B.

Recently I overheard a conversation during an emergency callout where one operator was asking others how to change the setup on one of the radios used at a communications center. Several operators were asked if they knew how to change the radio setup but none knew. Finally the operator discovered how to effect the needed change. Fortunately the change was not critical to providing emergency communications.

### Keep it reliable

This does point up several principles of emergency service: simplicity, reliability, and flexibility. Simplicity lends itself to the other two! The more complex a system becomes, the less reliable it is (more things to go wrong) and the less flexible it is (many things to change). Before you take umbrage, let's explore the reasons for a complex system.

Your communications system might require frequency agility (ability to

change to many frequencies) or need interconnectivity with other systems. You might need a secure link to send personal information such as names of deceased persons. There are reasons for a complex system and I would never rule one out simply for simplicity.

So here's the thought for the month: When possible, design your system from a response perspective. For example, pre-plan your frequency assignments and, where possible, include equipment that meets the need. Perhaps you have two emergency centers you would like to connect via packet radio. I have an old junker radio that is not always useable because of intermod (the old funnel front end design). When packet is connected to this rig, the speaker is muted and I don't hear the intermod, which (while irritating if you had to listen to it) isn't bad enough to prevent a good data link. It's a simple-to-use rig with a minimum of knobs and dials which makes it good to use in this application.

Let's say you have a simplex frequency your group always uses for on-scene coordination. Because it's simplex and not dependent on a repeater and you don't need a sub-audible tone, this fits well with older radios such as an Icom 2AT or a crystal controlled unit. This also applies to your computer connection to packet. An old 8088 or a 286 works great for a packet station. With proper startup files, you simply need to turn it on and you're ready to type. By using DOS you even avoid the blue screen of death. (Don't you think that would be a great QSL card for Bill Gates?)

OK, you say, but what if a complex system is needed? That's fine as long as you consider the baggage that comes along with that design. First among my design suggestions would be to include instruction manuals or help sheets with the installation. While it sounds silly, I recommend that you take the help sheets, laminate them with the thickest plastic you can get, punch a hole in the sheets and chain them to the radio or console. By connecting the instructions to the radio you prevent the knowledgeable operator from pushing them out of the way or perhaps storing them away in an unlikely place (a place where people would not normally look, especially in times of crisis).

### Label the cable

I would also label everything. If you've got a simple site with one run of coax, one power connector, etc., the need is not as critical. But what happens if you've got an HF antenna, several public safety antennas, a dual-band high-gain vertical and a beam? Labels now become critical. I would go so far as to not consider the project done until labels and instructions are firmly attached to the equipment and wires (including power, speaker, ground, and network).

Another idea you might use in a multiple radio environment is to place speakers in unusual places. In my shack I've put several speakers in the ceiling and a couple under the desk. When I've been operating for a long

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# Search And Rescue

period of time I get sleepy and my attention span shortens. There have been times someone has called, the signal was clear, but it just didn't register. (This usually happens when radio activity slows and I'm in a listless state of exhaustion.)

One remedy has been to route the audio to an unexpected location which zaps me to attention when the noise comes, for example, from under the desk or above and behind. It's the unexpected that grabs my focus which is a good thing if someone is unable to repeat the transmission because of my state of lethargy. One of the items in my "extended" grab-and-go collection is a small speaker with a long wire that allows me to route the audio, if needed, to an unexpected place when I get tired.

The audio I route to the "unexpected" is always the priority channel, or where I might expect the greatest need for action. This might be your on-scene channel, your aircraft channel, or the ground operations frequency — it's the place where your inattention would have the worst effect.

Another concern with complex stations are auxiliary audio sources such as scanners, stereos, computers with games, televisions, etc. These devices seem to become more popular, especially in emergency operations centers and communications centers built in the past few years. I presume the driving force is the need to be informed and connected with the outside world.

During some events it's good to have many sources of information. You might need weather data or obtain site information from a live media feed. Often I've been able to monitor other agency transmissions and relay information to air crews to improve coordination. The concern is that you use these sources for critical information and not for entertainment.

One such story involves a dispatch center, a television, and a football game. As the interest in the game grew, attention to calls became impaired. You can imagine the possible consequences. Because the TV was turned up, you could hear the game with every transmission (which is one reason to avoid over-amplified console microphones).

My most recent chuckle involved a youth who wanted to bring a computer game so he'd have something to do when things were slow. I can just imagine how much focus he would have had. Can you envision the scenario: "Hang on just a minute, I'm just about to escape the castle and I'm being chased by wizards." I don't think so.

As you design your response plans and equip communications centers, vehicles, and pack your portable gear, the complexity is up to you. I won't tell you to avoid new rigs or to not purchase equipment with lots of features — just understand what you're getting and how it fits with your purpose and design. And be sure you keep the instruction manual handy!

## Your response

Several months ago I railed on those that interfere with nets and other operations. I wasn't surprised to find that some of you have had personal experience with these folk and have discovered they're not always the newly licensed operator. In several of your stories, it was the Extra Class "operator"

making the choice to lower his or her standards. What a sad commentary.

I would caution any of us from entering the mental notion that poor operators have not passed the code and are newly licensed. It would possibly surprise us to discover who some of the culprits are!

## A new year

This year portends to be one of the most exciting. In a few months all of the "year" digits will change and it'll be 2000. With all the concern for the Y2K and all the media attention, I'll be glad when it gets here — whether or not I'm prepared for it. There are dire predictions concerning air travel, electric power, elevator safety, and on and on and on. When it happens on Saturday, 01 Jan. 2000 it will be nice to just get on with life and deal with what happens. We're an imaginative people and we'll deal with it. If some things didn't get fixed, we'll fix them. Trust me, it will be OK.

An article in *PC World* did suggest that we use common sense as we prepare for that day. Some of their suggestions were to have copies of important documents and financial records, have enough cash on hand for a week or two in case of banking problems, don't plan unnecessary travel, fill any medical prescriptions in advance of that day, and have a week of food and water on hand. Heck, that's good advice for any day of the month. I think I would add that I'd have my batteries charged and have my spare fuel tank filled for the generator, but other than that, sit back and enjoy a good football game.

I hope you've had a productive year and are looking forward to 1999. In the past months we've explored many topics and I hope I've prodded you to get involved and make a difference through your service to others. Use your common sense and discover what works best for you, your own group, and your own community. That's the challenge of public service. Some things work well everywhere, some ideas only work for you. I hope you keep thinking and trying different ways of tackling challenges and not let your mind (and the hobby of Amateur Radio) stagnate.

Until next month, keep prepared, enjoy life, make a friend, enjoy a QSO, and discover what's important. Best wishes from Salt Lake City! — *Jerry Wellman, W7SAR, can be reached at: P.O. Box 11445, Salt Lake City, UT 84147 or via e-mail: [ju@desnews.com](mailto:ju@desnews.com)*

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## MARACgate continues...

**T**he County Hunters MARACgate saga continues. This little fiasco just won't go away. The county hunters are now divided in several camps. There's the "let's crucify the mobile operator" (see my November 1998 article to learn more about Victim #1) crowd. There's the "it's the MARAC BOD's (Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club Board of Directors) fault" crowd who believe the BOD should resign. There's the "lawyers who accuse those they think are wrong and defend those they believe are right" crowd. And fortunately, there's the "Stop this nonsense!" crowd that wants to get back to just hunting counties. MARACgate truly is a 21st century controversial nightmare alive and well in our very own Ham shacks. Egad, I'm part of the fray by continuing to share the gossip.

First thanks to a couple of you for the compliments on my "politically correct" description of the MARACgate flap as I read it on the internet. Today, I still don't have facts to pass judgment on the original incident, but I certainly can share with you what I read on the county hunter forum and comment on what I believe is a decay in our county hunter fraternity. Hopefully this decay is short-lived.

In my last column, I described three victims of this mess: the mobile operator accused, the MARAC awards chairman (who thankfully did not step down), and the county hunter community. In the past few months, MARAC has polled its members twice: the first time to ascertain if MARAC should disallow contacts with the mobile operator and the second time to ascertain if the MARAC BOD acted according to the club's Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) and if they should step down. Time to add a fourth victim to my list, the BOD!

### MARAC BOD

Exhibit 1: a letter from Joyce Booth, WB9NUL, to the MARAC BOD. "To the Board: Skip Skaptason, WA0WOB has tallied the results of the recent report/poll of all MARAC members. He will submit the information for publication to the *RoadRunner* editor. After reviewing the actions of the officers, a total of 234 responses were mailed in as of 09 October 98. Letters continue to trickle in. In answer to the question, "Do you want the officers to resign?" 17 said "No, I support the officers and do not want them to resign," 13 members abstained and submitted comments, and there was one spoiled response with a note. 203 members said, "Yes, add my name to the list of those asking for their resignation." This would indicate that nearly 90% of the MARAC membership [those who responded] wants the officers to resign. As district director, I suggest that you look at what your constituents are saying and submit your input on the following resolution immediately. Therefore, I wish to submit a resolution asking for the immediate resignation of James Glasscock, W0FF, Edward

Brown, W0WYJ, Roy Glasscock, KC0JG, and John Leahy, N0DIA, for consideration at the 17 October meeting. In effect, the resolution has already been seconded by over 200 MARAC members including members of the Board of Directors. All records, accounts and other MARAC property should be handed over to remaining members of the Board of Directors. The Constitution and By-laws provides for an orderly process to fill the vacancies and to arrange for a future regular election. Meanwhile, the remaining 12 directors can

conduct the business of MARAC. Respectfully submitted, Joyce Boothe, WB9NUL, South Central Director"

Joyce's letter to the BOD definitely indicated that the majority of the MARAC members who responded to the poll are dissatisfied with the way the BOD handled MARACgate. Since the BOD was elected, they must act per the

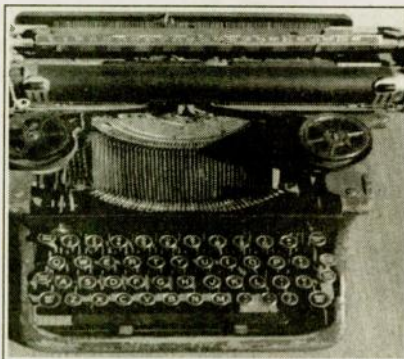
C&Bs and represent the interest of the general membership. A couple of county hunters and directors believe this controversy hit the board too early in their tenure...and that they should be given a second chance. It's very interesting; however, the director who is most liberal towards the BOD is one of the most conservative accusers of the mobile operator.

### MARAC BOD - Oct 98

It appears that Joyce's note above crossed in the mail with the October BOD meeting. Exhibit #2 is minutes from the October meeting where the BOD discussed recent MARACgate actions, but did not address the resignation resolution.

"The members of the Board from the St Louis area feel it's time to quell the untruths that have been permeating throughout the general membership since we took office. First, this group has never intended to dissolve MARAC. There is no management crisis as some would have you believe. The functions of MARAC continue to be run on a daily basis by the managers with the daily membership dues being collected, awards being given out, and mobiles continuing to put out counties. For some reason or reasons unknown to the St. Louis group, a conversation in passing with several attorneys who reviewed the Constitution and By-Laws and advised that the only way to fix the inequities in those documents was to dissolve MARAC and bring it up under a new Constitution, was twisted around and put out to the public without all the facts being known. The St. Louis group said 'no' to that recommendation, and we await the revisions from the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to resolve this issue and let the full membership vote on those proposed changes. The notion that the 'St Louis Group' fired the Awards Chairperson without just cause is simply not true. The Board has never questioned the quality of Roger's work. The only thing that was in question was the way Roger usurped the authority of the Board in making a decision concerning

**"MARAC is alive and well and will continue to serve its members."**



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# County Hunter

the (mobile operator) issue without the full consent of the Board. MARAC IS ALIVE AND WELL AND WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE ITS MEMBERS."

That's a relief, but what do we do about these 203 pesky members who don't want the BOD to continue to serve its members? Time will tell...but I won't! I'm tired of MARACgate and I don't think I should waste any more column space to report the happenings. This controversy will just have to continue without me reporting it. If you are interested in following the story, you can tune in to the county hunter forum: [www.delve.com/ch](http://www.delve.com/ch). So no more discussion about MARACgate here...

## The mobile op reappears

Well, just a couple more related paragraphs. Apparently the mobile operator is now deciding to get back on the county hunters' net and attempt to complete his quest to contact all the counties. Unfortunately, some of the county hunters say they won't contact him and don't believe he should be allowed to apply for the award. They believe if he was ruled guilty (rightfully or wrongfully) of not operating where he said he was, then how can we trust that he makes all the 3,076 county contacts? Hmmm, last time I checked, QSL cards were required for USA-CA. Anyway, the mobile operator believes he has every right to use the net to accomplish his goals and only the FCC can tell him he can't operate.

Okay, now I'm done. My hope is that this event will cause us to learn some lessons and the net effect does not damage the county hunter nets, the MARAC, the county hunter community and oh yeh, most importantly, my column readership. THE END!

## Humor heals?

Since we're all getting very tired of accusations and internet flames, Sonny Sanders, W5VDW, posted the following to get us to open our eyes and look at the big picture. "An English professor wrote upon the board 'Woman without her man is nothing' and instructed his class to punctuate it properly. The men wrote: 'Woman, without her man, is nothing.' The women wrote: 'Woman! Without her, man is nothing.' See how the same rhetoric can be interpreted or misinter-

preted?" In other words...time to move on! THE END! THE END!

## USA-CA

Six cheers for the latest recipients of CQ magazine's USA-CA award for contacting all 3,076 U.S. counties.

955 W3CR 09-15-98  
956 WD8CTX 09-23-98  
957 WD5DMH 09-24-98  
958 NX4W 10-15-98  
959 W6YLJ 10-20-98  
960 K6RLS 10-28-98

## Beyond USA-CA

Yes, some of you can't imagine hunting all 3,076 counties, but yet 960 have done it. What's really amazing is county hunters continue to collect counties a 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th (you get the idea) time. Sometimes they collect counties differently, by collecting YL contacts, CW contacts, 5-band contacts, mobile contacts, fixed contacts, contacts while mobile, contacts while standing on their head, etc. It's just amazing how many different ways county hunters collect counties. You would only understand this if you were a county hunter, because once you start...you're poisoned...that is, you're addicted! For illustration, of the 960 who have contacted all counties one time, 115 of them have done it twice, 62 have done it three times, 27 have done it four times and 32 have done it five times. I'm not sure how many of the 32 five timers have done it more than five times, but some of them probably have. When is enough, enough?

## E-Field mobile antennas

Previously I talked about the popularity of W9UCW mobile antennas and that Alan Fischer, K8CW, was taking over the business. E-Field is the name of Alan's company manufacturing these antennas. Alan's product list includes mounts, masts, resonators, multi-resonator adapters, hex studs for mounting,

studs for joining, quick disconnects for the base of the mast, springs, coax, and frequent flyer connectors for between masts. The mounts range from split ball body mount to stud mounts to aluminum mounts to magnetic mounts. The masts come with standard 3/8" threads and are 6061-T6 HT aluminum in one-, two-, three-, or four-foot sizes. The standard mast should be used by most mobiles, but E-Field also carries a super, heavy-duty mast which is a 5/8" diameter solid rod.

The resonators are the key element of the antenna and you need a separate resonator for each band. The multi-resonator adapter allows you to mount up to six (6!) resonators at the same time. The resonators are lightweight and strong and include the following features: broad frequency response, low wind resistance, up to 1000 watts PEP and weather and UV protection.

How much, you ask? Resonators cost from \$19.50 (10 Meters) to \$54.00 (160 Meters). But how much is a typical system, you ask again? Okay, let's assume I want a mobile antenna for 5 bands (75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters), I will use one mast (no studs needed), I want a ball mount, I'll use a quick disconnect to remove my antenna quickly, and a 12-foot piece of coax. The total cost is \$215. Ouch! The price, however, is reasonable as it falls in the middle of Hustler normal resonators (400w PEP) and Hustler's super resonators (2KW PEP). Consider also you are getting a high quality product that will perform better than Hustler antennas.

I encourage you to get a product list and order form from Alan by writing E-Field, 259 W. Cook Rd, Mansfield, OH 44907 or calling 419/756-7777. I believe you will be extremely satisfied with these antennas.

## Happy 1999!

Hope you enjoy your holiday season and Santa brings you lots of goodies including an E-Field mobile antenna system. May 1999 bring you all the remaining counties you need for your county hunter pursuits. God bless you and your family this holiday season and always. Until March, happy hunting! — Ace Jansen, N3AHA, 42857 Hollywood Park Places, Ashburn, VA 20147; [jansens@tidalwave.com](mailto:jansens@tidalwave.com).

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# Storm over the North Atlantic —a radio rescue

By Bob Dockery, WD4CNZ

**T**he storm and night flying made visibility extremely limited for the lead B-17G called "Satan's Playmate" on the final leg of the trip from the States to an English airbase. This leg of the trip from Iceland to Stornaway, Scotland meant 600 miles over the iceberg-laden waters of the cold, gray North Atlantic. If lost over this part of the world, there would be no survival and little evidence. The droning of the four huge engines turning props through the squalls gave little assurance of their situation.

The radioman's position on a B-17 was on the left side just behind the bomb bay. The radioman on this type of plane also doubled as the night photographer and waist gunner.

At cruising altitude, the outside temperature was bitterly cold and crept through boots and flight gear. The thin skin of aluminum gave little protection from the extreme cold and even less from enemy fire. The view out of the small window just to the left on the fuselage showed streams of water sliding by in the slipstream as the bomber droned through the dark sky. The dull glow of the radio dial lamps gave little comfort in the dreary cramped position. They had flown from the States to Newfoundland and then to Greenland and Iceland and were on the last leg of this tiring trip from America to the European theater of war.

The intercom crackled and the navigator asked if Harry could get a QDF (Q signal for true bearing). He did not say so but the compass had gone out and they were lost in the darkness. Only the navigator knew this just then. The pilot was flying on a course plotted before the onslaught of the terrific storm. As a single plane from a squadron of 21 planes, "Satan's Playmate" flew alone through the dark night. With

no stars to take a sighting they were literally flying blind!

Harry set to work encrypting the message into proper format using the codes for the day (all messages coming in and out were encrypted). A foul-up on putting the message together could mean disaster for the B-17 and its crew. A great responsibility was on the radioman's shoulders and all information came in and went out using Morse code — no voice mode was allowed.

Once the message was ready, he grasped the large, black knobbed key on the right of the operating desk and began tapping out the message to Scotland hoping they would be heard between the lightning crashes. Harry also hoped that he would be able to hear all of any return message over the noise of the engines and lashing rain. No response to the first try, try again, tune...carefully. There! Now a signal came out of the night asking for identification. Another Morse message went out giving the identification codeword. A few minutes passed, the violent storm still raging just outside, gale force winds trying to push the heavy plane off course.

The fortress kept flying through the pounding rain with all crew members keeping careful watch out of all available windows so that they would not collide with another plane blown off course coming from anywhere. One forgot the cold and cramped conditions trying not to think of what could happen on a night like this one.

The message finally came back saying to hold down the Morse key for a tone so a bearing could be taken. Harry held down the key for a long tone. Land stations could then triangulate and determine their exact position. This long tone would also allow the enemy to gain a fix on their position as well. That thought was always in the back of his mind and Harry tried not to think about that and the cold, dark waves of the ocean below.

After a few more minutes, an encrypted signal came back through the night giving a bearing in its encoding. Harry hoped the reply was from the Allies and not the enemy. They had been briefed about enemy stations giving false information resulting in planes being captured over enemy-held territory or ditching in the sea after running out of fuel. Harry also hoped he had heard and copied accurately under these trying conditions, for this kind of situation was no place for mistakes — even small ones.

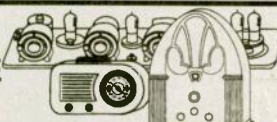
The navigator took the information, ran his calculations, and gave a new course heading to the pilot. With the course correction the bomber flew on in the raging storm. With lightning flashing all around and the cold creeping into every bone, they flew through that dark, stormy night in early 1945.

They peered out into the night wondering where they were and what was waiting in the darkness as the engines droned on.

As they neared what they hoped was the end of the trip, Harry was still hoping all of the information was correct. With the correct course, they descended from cruising altitude — still flying on instruments. Then the clouds broke ahead of them and they were right over the airfield at Stornaway, Scotland. The landing lights shone through the gloom and cheers when up from all aboard this B-17. They were safe and sound in Scotland! The radioman was the man of the hour!

Radio had been the only link through the darkness and without it and the skills of the Radioman, Technical Sergeant Harry Dover (we know as AA4GN) this mission would be only a war statistic for a B17G called "Satan's Playmate."

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



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## ARIZONA

**Arizona Repeater Association.** P.O. Box 35758, Phoenix, AZ 85069-5758. Operates 20 VHF & UHF rpters. in AZ. Meets 4th Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., APS Shure Building, 2124 W. Cheryl, Phoenix, AZ. Info: www.goodnet.com/indirect/www/ara 12/99

**Cochise Amateur Radio Assn., (CARA).** Meets 1st Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m. at club facility on Moson Rd., Sierra Vista, AZ. K7RDG/R 146.76(-) rpt. PL162.2. 5/99

**Old Pueblo Radio Club, (OPRC).** P.O. Box 42601, Tucson, AZ 85733. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7:15 p.m., Tucson Med. Cntr., Grant & Beverly St. in the AZ Rm. of the Volunteer's Bldg. (1st bldg. on the left going north off Grant). 2/99

**Tucson Repeater Assoc., P.O.** Box 40371, Tucson, AZ 85717-0371. Meets 2nd Sat./monthly, 7:15 p.m., Dept. of Emergency Mgmt., 130 W. Congress. Net Thurs. 7:30 p.m. 146.82(-), 146.88(-), 147.08(+), 448.550(-) & 145.15 Packet. 3/99

## CALIFORNIA

**Amador County Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 1094, Pine Grove, CA 95665. Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Jackson Sr. Cntr., 229 New York Ranch Rd., Jackson, CA. Info: call 146.835(-). 3/99

**Amateur Radio Club of Anderson, (ARCA).** Meets 2nd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m. Amer. Legion Post #746, 1709 Bruce Dr., Anderson, CA. Net every Tues., 7:30 p.m. on 146.64. http://www.snowcrest.net/bgorski/index.html 10/99

**Beach Cities Wireless Society.** P.O. Box 4016, San Clemente, CA 92674. Meets 2nd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Ole Hansen Beach Club, 105 W. Avenida Pico, San Clemente. Rptr. 146.025(+) PL 110.9. 8/99

**Coachella Valley ARC.** Box 11092, Palm Desert, CA 92255-1092. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 6:30 p.m., Portola Com. Cntr., 45480 Portola, Palm Desert. Info: Bill Dews, (760) 346-8611. Net Thurs. 7 p.m. 146.025(+) PL 107.2. 5/99

**Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc., WD6EZR.** P.O. Box 20661, El Sobrante, CA 94820-0661. Meets 2nd Sun./monthly (except May & Dec.), 0630, Baker's Square Rest. in Richmond, CA. Info: E. Caine, KA6OFR, (707) 996-0962. 1/99

**Downey Amateur Radio Club Inc., W6TOL.** Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., So. Middle School cafeteria, 12500 S. Birchdale, Downey, CA. VHF net W6GNS rpt. 146.175(+) Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 5/99

**Fresno Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 2nd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Ernie Pyle School, 4140 N. Augusta, Fresno, CA. 146.94(-) 223.94(-). 11/99

**Golden Triangle Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 1335, Wildomar, CA 92595. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7 p.m., Sharp Health Care, 25500 Med. Cntr. Dr., Murietta, CA 92562. Rptr: KE6UES 146.805(-) PL 100. Info: Norb Dean, AD6F, (909) 767-0449. E-mail: norbjudy@pe.net 7/99

**Livermore Amateur Radio Klub, (LARK).** Meets 3rd Sat./monthly, 9:30 a.m., City Council Chamber, 3575 Pacific Ave., Livermore, CA. Net Mon. 1900 on 147.12(+). For info: LARK Secretary, P.O. Box 3190, Livermore, CA 94551-3190. (510) 846-6513. 1/99

**Marin Amateur Radio Club (MARC).** W6SG. Box 9456, San Rafael, CA 94912-9456. Meets 1st Fri./7:30 p.m., Kaiser Hosp., Bldg. 2, Terra Linda, CA. (except Dec.). Sun. a.m. Club at Alto Bldg., 27 Shell Rd., Mill Valley. 9/99

**Motorcycling Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 2nd Sat./monthly, 8 a.m., Lake View Cafe, 2099 E. Orangethorpe, Placentia, CA, at 91 Fwy/Lakeview. Info: Ray Davis, KD6FHN, (714) 551-1036 or (714) 551-2010. 3/99

**Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 23222, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Meets 3rd Fri./monthly, 8 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA. Net Thurs. 7:30 p.m. on 147.06(+) PL 100Hz. Info: (510) 932-6125. 8/99

**This month ... Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, Inc., from Wheaton, IL, are winners of an MFJ Antenna Analyzer to share with its members. The club's name was selected at random from our "Visit Your Local Radio Club" listing.**

**Nevada County ARC.** Meets 2nd Mon./monthly, 7 p.m., Salvation Army Bldg., 10725 Alta St., Grass Valley, CA. Net Tues. 7 p.m. 147.015. Contact Linda Johnson, KE6HWE, lindasue@mail.telis.org (530) 273-2008. 8/99

**North Hills Radio Club.** Meets 3rd Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress, Carmichael, CA. Nets 8 p.m. Tue., Wed., Thur., 145.190(-) PL 162.2 and 224.400(-). For info contact: Bob, AC6HF, (916) 966-3654. E-mail: ac6hf@juno.com or http://www.ns.net/~NHRC 3/99

**Orange County Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 3rd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Orange County Red Cross, 601 N. Golden Circle, Santa Ana, CA. 146.550. Contact Bob Buss, KD6BWH, (714) 534-2955. 2/99

**Poinsettia ARC.** Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., First Christian Church, Telegraph Road & Teloma Drive, Ventura, CA. For info: George Myers, KA6WZR, (805) 644-1131. 4/99

**River City A.R.C.S.** Meets 1st Tues./monthly, 7 p.m., SMUD Bldg., Don Julio at Elkhorn, Sacramento, CA. License classes offered. For info: (916) 483-3293. 9/99

**Sacramento Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7 p.m. Sac. Blood Ctr., 32nd St. & Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Info net at noon on rpt. W6AKR 146.91(-). Steve Cates, KC6TEV, (916) 391-7341 or Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ, (916) 393-4775. 2/00

**Sacramento "Old Timers" Amateur Radio Society and Sacramento Valley Chapter #169 QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Assn.).** Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 8 a.m., Lyon's Restaurant, 1000 Howe Ave. For info contact Paul Wolf, W6RLP (916) 489-8112. 12/99

**Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assoc., (SCCARA) W6UW & W6UU.** P.O. Box 6, San Jose, CA 95103-0006. (408) 249-6909. Meets 2nd Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Hewlett-Packard, Bldg., #48, 19483 Pruneridge Ave., Cupertino. Net all other Mon., 7:30 p.m. W6UU/R 146.385(+), 442.425(+) PL 107.2. 5/99

**Sierra Foothills ARC.** P.O. Box 1005, Newcastle, CA 95658. Meets 2nd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Auburn Library (Beecher Rm.), 350 Nevada St. Thurs. nets 7:30 p.m. 145.430(-) PL 94.8, Sun. net 7:30 p.m. 28.415. 3/99

**South Bay ARC.** P.O. Box 536, Torrance, CA 90508. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Memorial Hosp., 3330 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA. Talk-in on WB6MYD rpt. 244.38(-). Info: (310) 328-0817. 8/99

**Southern California Six Meter Club.** P.O. Box 10441, Fullerton, CA 92635. USB Net Tue., 8:00p.m., 50.150. FM Rpt. Net Thurs., 7:30 p.m., 52.86/52.36 ct. FM Smplx, call freq. 50.300. Net Sun., 10 a.m. 50.40. 4/99

**Southern Sierra ARS.** Meets 2nd Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Veteran's Hall, 125 East F St., Tehachapi, CA. Contact: Caroline, KD6KMN, (805) 822-5995. 147.06(+), 224.42(-), 145.09(S) Packet. 1/00

**Stanislaus Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc. (SARA).** P.O. Box 4601, Modesto, CA 95352. Meets 3rd Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Stanislaus Co. Admin Bldg. 145.39(-) PL 136.5, 224.14, 440.225 PL 136.5. 3/99

**Tri-County Amateur Radio Assoc. P.O.** Box 75, Claremont, CA 91711-0075. Meets: 2nd Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Covenant United Methodist Church, corner of Towne Ave. & San Bernardino Rd. in Pomona, CA. 1/99

**Trinity Country ARC.** P.O. Box 2283, Weaverville, CA 96093. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, County School Adm. Bldg. in Weaverville, 7:30 p.m., Rptrs: WA6BXN 146.73(-) PL 85.4, W6HOR 146.925(-) PL 85.4. 11/99

**United Radio Amateur Club, K6AA.** L.A. Maritime Museum, Berth 84, Foot of 6th St. San Pedro, CA 90731. Meets 3rd Fri./monthly (except Dec.), 7:00 p.m. Monitors 145.52 Simplex 10 a.m.—5 p.m. 8/99

**Vaca Valley Radio Club.** Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7:30 p.m. (Board mtg., 7 p.m.) Vaca Fire Dist. Stn., Vine St. in Vacaville, CA. Rptr. WD6BUS 145.47(-) PL 127.3. Gerald Grossardt, (707) 447-0869. 5/99

**Victor Valley Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 869, Victorville, CA 92392. Meets 2nd Tues./monthly, 7:00 p.m., Presidio Recreation Cntr., 11100 Apple Valley Rd., Apple Valley, CA. Talk-in 146.94(-), PL 91.5. Net Sun. 7 p.m. 146.94(-). 2/99

**West Coast Amateur Radio Club, (WCARC).** P.O. Box 2617, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Fountain Valley Sch. Dist. office, 17210 Oak St., Fountain Valley, CA. 145.440(-) PL 136.5. For info: Jane, KD6ODV, (714) 531-6707. 12/99

**Westside Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 11092, Marina del Rey, CA 90295. Meets 4th Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., West Dist. Red Cross Bldg., 11355 Ohio Ave., W. Los Angeles, CA (VA Cntr. grounds). Net every Tues., 8 p.m. 146.67(-) except mtg. night. Website: http://www.qsl.net/warc Voice mail: (310) 917-1100. 7/99

**Willits Amateur Radio Society, (WARS).** P.O. Box 73, Willits, CA 95490. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7 p.m., Brooktrails Fire Dept. 2 NW Willits http://www.zapcom.net/WARS Talk-in: 145.13(-). PL 103.5. 9/99

**Yolo Amateur Radio Society.** Meets 1st Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Denny's Restaurant, 4120 Chiles Rd., Davis, CA. Contact Dave Nishikawa, KC6YFG, (916) 756-6375/Talk-in 144.430. 12/99

**Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club, (YSARC).** P.O. Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7 p.m., The Mall at Yuba City, 1215 Colusa Ave., Yuba City. 2/99

## COLORADO

**Bicycle Mobile Hams of America.** 46 states/6 nations membership. Annual Forum at Hamvention. Net: 14.253, 1st & 3rd Sun., 2000 UTC. Info, sample newsletter: SASE to BMHA, Box 4009-W, Boulder, CO 80306. 2/99

**Bolder Amateur Radio Club (BARC).** Meets 3rd Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., NIST Bldg., 325 So. Broadway, Rm 1107, Boulder, CO. Talk-in: 146.70(-) & 100Hz CTCSS. Info: (303) 380-6540, e-mail: BARC@pobox.com or www.thisistrue.com/barc.html 8/99

## CONNECTICUT

**Western CT. DX Club.** Meets 1st Tues./monthly, 8 p.m., Brookfield Com. Cntr. (on Pocono Rd. across from Brookfield P.O.) Info: contact Victor at: victoras@EROLS.com 2/99

## FLORIDA

**Gulf Coast ARC.** P.O. Box 595, New Port Richey, FL 34656. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Marchman Tech. Ed. Cntr., 7825 Campus Dr., Bldg. C, Rm C122, New Port Richey, WA4GDN rpters. 146.67(-) & 145.33(-), serving all of Pasco County. 11/99

**Indian River ARC, Inc., (IRARC).** P.O. Box 579, Cocoa, FL 32926-0579. Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Community Church of the Nazarene, 400 Crockett Blvd., Merritt Island, FL. 3/99

**South Brevard Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 2205, Melbourne, FL 32902. Meets 1st Tue./monthly, 7 p.m., Public Library, 540 Fee Ave., Melbourne, FL. 12/99

**Vero Beach ARC, W4OT.** P.O. Box 2082, Vero Beach, FL 32961. Meets 2nd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Emerg. Mgmt., Indian River County Admin. Bldg., 1840 25th St. Net Mon., 7:30 p.m. 146.64. 2/99

## GEORGIA

**Cherokee Capital ARS.** Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7 p.m., Ashworth Middle School, Calhoun, GA. 146.805(+). Info: Felton Floyd, AF4DN, (706) 629-0369. 12/99

**Dalton Amateur Radio Club, Inc., (DARC).** P.O. Box 143, Dalton, GA 30722-0143. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Magistrate Court Bldg., corner of Waugh St. & Thornton Ave., Dalton, GA. Info: Harold Jones, N4OTC, 706/673-2291. 4/99

**Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, (GARS).** P.O. Box 88, Lilburn, GA 30048. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Gwinnett Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Dr., Lawrenceville, GA. 147.075+ PL 82.5. Contact: Mike Swiderski, K4HBI, (770) 449-0369. 12/99

## HAWAII

**Big Island Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 1938, Hilo, HI 96721-1938. Meets 2nd Sat./monthly, 2 p.m., Keaau Community Ctr., behind Fire Station on Old Volcano Rd., Keaau. Talk-in on 146.88(-). Lunch, 11 a.m. Fridays, Pizza Hut, Puainakoa Twn. Ctr. 7/99



**Emergency Amateur Radio Club, (EARC).** P.O. Box 30315, Honolulu, HI 96820-0315. Meets 4th Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Lincoln Elem. Sch., 615 Auwaioimu, Honolulu. Nets: nightly 7:30 p.m., 146.88 & 146.80. Rptrs: 146.76(-), 146.80(-), 146.88, 146.98(-), 146.94(-). Info: (808) 256-6001, WH6CZB. 11/98

**Koolau Amateur Radio Club, (KARC).** 45-145 Mikihina St., Kaneohe, HI 96744. Meets 2nd Sat./monthly, 9:30 a.m., Hoomaluhia Botanical Garden., Kaneohe, HI. Info: (808) 235-3042. <http://www.chem.hawaii.edu/karc/> 8/99

## ILLINOIS

**Chicago FM Club Inc., (CFMC).** P.O. Box 1532, Evanston, IL 60204. 146.76(-) PL 107.2/224.10/224.18/443.75 PL 114.8. Ham help line: (773) 262-6773. Info net Tues., 9 p.m. on 146.76(-). Meets 3rd Wed./monthly, 8 p.m. 8/99

**Dupage Amateur Radio Club, (DARC).** P.O. Box 71, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Church, SE corner of Cass & Richmond, Westmont, IL. Net Sun., 9 p.m. on 145.25. W9DUP repeaters 145.25(-) 107.2PL, 442.55(+) PL 114.8, 224.68(-). Info: (630) 985-9256 6/99

**Fox River Radio League.** P.O. Box 673, Batavia, IL 60510-0673. Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Old Bank Bldg., 900 N. Lake St., lower level, Northgate Shopping Ctr. & Rt. 31, Aurora, IL. 8/99

**Hamfesters Radio Club, W9AA.** P.O. Box 42792, Evergreen Park, IL 60805. Meets 1st Fri./monthly, 8 p.m., Crestwood Ctr. Ctr., 139th & Kostner, Crestwood, IL. Nets: Sun. (local) 0100 UTC, 28.410 MHz; Mon. 9 p.m. 146.43 S., Packet Mailbox 145.65 MHz. Info: (312) 974-3291. 1/99

**Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club, (PAARC).** P.O. Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612-3508. Meets 2nd Fri./monthly, Red Cross Chapter House, 311 W. John Gwynn Jr. Ave., Peoria, IL. Voice mail: (309) 692-3378. Rptrs: 147.075(+) & 146.85(-). 6/99

**The Starved Rock Radio Club, W9MKS.** P.O. Box 198, Tabor St., Leonore, IL 61332. Meets 1st Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m. Rptr. net 7 p.m. Wed./wkly., 147.12(+). 1/99

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs, (WCRA).** P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189. Meets 7:30 p.m., 1st Fri./monthly, College of DuPage, Wheaton, IL. Rptrs: 145.39(-) (107.2), 224.14(-), 444.475(+) (114.8). Info: Ron Hensel, K9ZZE, (630) 365-0213, k9zze@aol.com 8/99

## INDIANA

**Land of Lakes ARC.** Meets 4th Tues./monthly, 7 p.m., Steuben Co. Annex Bldg., Angola, IN. For info: Theresa J. Limestahl, KB9NNR, (219) 495-5403. Call-in 147.180 PL 131.8. E-mail: llarc-k9hd@yahoo.com 7/99

## MASSACHUSETTS

**Quannapowitt Radio Assoc., Inc.** 6 Savin St., Burlington, MA 01803. Meets 3rd Thur./monthly, 7:00 p.m. at Wakefield Public Library, 345 Main St., Wakefield, MA. Sept. to May. Info: Jim Chamberlain, N1AKG, (781) 944-5098. 3/99

## MICHIGAN

**Adrian Amateur Radio Club, W8TQE.** Box 26, Adrian, MI 49221. Meets 1st Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Civil Air Patrol Bldg., Lenawee Co. Airport, Cadmus Rd., Adrian. ARAES net Sun., 9 p.m. 145.37(-). Info: Mark Hinkleman, NU8Z, (517) 423-5906. 4/99

**Genesee County Radio Club, Inc.** Meets 3rd Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Genesee Area Skill Center, Torrey Rd., Flint, MI. (810) 655-4360. 3/99

**Hiawatha Amateur Radio Assoc. of Marquette Co.** P.O. Box 1183, Marquette, MI 49855. Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., 108 Stratofort, K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI. For info contact: Richard Schwenke, N8GBA, (906) 249-3837. 10/99

## MINNESOTA

**St. Cloud Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Radio Club Bldg., 401 4th St. N., Waite Park, MN 56387. Info: (320) 255-1410, 146.94 or 147.015 or [www.w0sv.org/](http://www.w0sv.org/) 2/99

## MISSISSIPPI

**Jackson Amateur Radio Club, Inc.** Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Am. Red Cross Bldg., Riverside Dr., Jackson, MS 39202. 11/99

## MISSOURI

**Macon County ARC.** P.O. Box 13, Macon, MO 63552. Meets last Thur./monthly, 8 p.m., Macon R-I High Sch., rm. 167. Net every Thurs. at 8:30 p.m. 146.805. E-mail: nopr@onelist.com 12/99

## NEVADA

**Frontier Amateur Radio Society, (FARS).** Meets: 2nd Sat./monthly, bkfst. mtg. 8 a.m., Country Inn, SE cor. W. Sunset, Valle Verde, Henderson NV. Club info: Jim Frye, NW7O, (702) 456-5396 or Bill Scarborough, WA6ASI, (702) 269-9551. 8/99

**Wide Area Data Group, Inc.** P.O. Box 3132, Sparks, NV 89432. Meets 1st Sat./monthly, 8:30 a.m., Bonanza Casino/Restaurant, 4720 N. Virginia, Reno. Info: (702) 356-8200. Call on 147.30(+) MHz. 5/99

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Great Bay Radio Association, W1FZ.** P.O. Box 911, Dover, NH 03820. (603) 749-2970/332-9107. Meets 2nd Mon./monthly, 7 p.m., Rochester Community Ctr. Talk-in: 147.57. 1/99

**Port City Amateur Radio Club, (PCARC), W1WQM.** P.O. Box 1587, Portsmouth, NH 03802. Meets 1st Wed./monthly (Sept.-June), The Edgewood Ctr., 928 So. St., Portsmouth. Rptr. 146.805(-) PL 127.3, 110.9, 88.5. 10/99

## NEW JERSEY

**Bergen Amateur Radio Association, (BARA).** P.O. Box 304 Hackensack, NJ 07601. Meets 1st Sun./monthly, New Milford Elks Lodge, Patrolman Ray Woods Dr., New Milford, NJ 07646. Nets: 28.350 Mon. 9 p.m., 146.79(-) 9 p.m. Wed. 6/99

**South Jersey Radio Assoc., (SJRA), K2AA.** Meets Jan.-Oct., 4th Wed./monthly, 7:30 p.m. (Nov.-Dec. 3rd Wed.), Bloomfield Fire Hall in Pennsauken, NJ. Talk-in: 145.29(-) rptr. 8/99

## NEW YORK

**Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawandas, (ARATS).** P.O. Box 430, No. Tonawanda, NY 14120. Meets 3rd Tues./monthly (except July & Aug.), 7:30 p.m., Sweeney Hose Company, 499 Zimmerman St., No. Tonawanda, NY. Talk-in: 146.955(-) rptr. W2SEX. 12/99

**Genesee Radio Amateurs, (GRAM).** N.Y.S. Civil Defense Ctr., State St., Batavia, NY 14020. Meets 3rd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m. 147.285(+) W2RCX. 1/99

**Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 150131, Kew Gardens, NY 11415. Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, Hall of Science Bldg., 47-01 111 St., Flushing Meadow Park, 7:30 p.m. Info: Voice mail (718) 760-2022. 2/99

**PROS, Pioneer Radio Operators Society.** Meets 1st Wed./monthly, 7 p.m., Sardinia Town Hall, Savage Rd., Sardinia, NY. Net 9:15 a.m. Thurs. 3853 MHz. 3/99

**Suffolk County Radio Club, (SCRC).** Meets 3rd Tues./monthly, 8 p.m., Bohemia Rec. Ctr., Ruzicka Way, Bohemia, NY. Talk-in: 145.21(-) rpt. Info: W.S. Black, KB2YAP, (516) 289-5587. 4/99

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society.** Meets 3rd Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Methodist College, Fayetteville, NC. Talk-in: 146.91/31. Info: Kelly Kanode, N4EWG, (910) 867-4300. 4/99

**Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society.** Meets last Tues./monthly (except Dec.), 7:30 p.m., East Baptist Church, 6850 Monroe Rd., Charlotte, NC. Talk-in 146.94(-). Net 9 p.m. nightly. Contact: John Covington, W4CC, (704) 334-3900, e-mail: w4cc@w4bfb.org, website: <http://www.w4bfb.org> 12/99

**Stanly County Amateur Radio Club.** Stanfield, NC. Meets 4th Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m. Talk-in 146.985(-) for location. Wed. net 9 p.m. 146.985(-). Fri. tech net 9 p.m. 147.390(+). Phone: (704) 888-4815. 5/99

## OHIO

**Ashtabula County ARC.** Ken Stenback, W8KS (964-7316). County Vo-Ed School, Jefferson, OH. Meets 3rd Tue./monthly, 7:30 p.m., County rptr., 146.715(-). 12/99

**Clyde Amateur Radio Society (CARS).** Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg., Clyde, OH 43410. NF8E rptr. 145.35(-) and 442.625(+) MHz. Net Sun. 9 p.m. Info: E. Remaley, KA8CAS. 3/99

**Lake Erie Amateur Radio Assoc., (LEARA).** Meets at Dimitri's Rest., (Mid-Town Shopping Ctr.), Snow & Broadview Rd., Solon, OH, last Tues./monthly. Dinner at 6:30, mtg. at 7:30 p.m. (R.S.V.P. to Marv Grossman 440/349-8398 for dinner by 11 a.m. day of mtg.) 4/99

**Toledo Mobile Radio Association.** P.O. Box 273, Toledo, OH 43697; (419) 243-3836. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Luke's Barn, Lucas County Rec. Ctr., 2901 Key St., Maumee, OH. 147.270(+) Net every Sun. 8:30 p.m. 2/99

**Van Wert Amateur Radio Club, Inc.** P.O. Box 602, 1220 Lincoln Hwy., Van Wert, OH 45891. Meets 1st & 3rd Sat./monthly, 8 p.m. Call-in: 146.85(-). 2/99

**Western Reserve Radio Assoc.** P.O. Box 81252, Cleveland, OH 44181-0252. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Jenkins Communications Cntr., Main St., Olmsted Falls, OH. Info: B. Beckman, N8LXY, Pres., 146.73(-), 444.900(+) MHz. 8/99

## OREGON

**Central Oregon Coast ARC.** P.O. Box 254, Florence, OR 97439. Meets 2nd Sat./monthly, & every Wed./weekly, 9 a.m. for breakfast at Lovejoy's/Pier Point Inn. Net Wed. 7 p.m., 146.80(-). Info: 997-2323 or 997-4074. 1/99

**Central Oregon Radio Amateurs, (CORA).** P.O. Box 723, Bend, OR 97709. Meets last Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Bend Sr. Ctr., 1036 NE 5th, Bend, OR. 147.06(+) MHz. Info: (541) 389-7194. 9/99

**Keno Amateur Radio Club.** P.O. Box 653, Keno, OR 97627. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Keno Fire Stn. Rptr. 147.32(+)/K7ENO. For info: Tom Hamilton, WD6EAW, Telephone/FAX: (541) 883-2736. [wd6eaw@cdsnet.net](mailto:wd6eaw@cdsnet.net) 12/99

**Umpqua Valley Amateur Radio Club, Inc.** P.O. Box 925, Roseburg, OR 97470. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Douglas County Court House, Rm. 310, Roseburg, OR. Info: W6VDF/R 146.90(+) or (541) 673-2747. 6/99

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Butler County Amateur Radio Assn.** P.O. Box 1787, Butler, PA 16003-1787. Meets 1st Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Boy Scout Cntr., 830 Morton Rd., Butler, PA. Call-in W3UDX/R 147.36(+). Net 10:10 p.m. nightly. 12/99

**Mercer County Amateur Radio Club, W3LIF.** P.O. Box 996, Sharon, PA 16146. Meets 4th Tue./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Shenango Valley Med. Ctr. Farrell, PA. Net, Thurs. 9 p.m. on 145.35(-) W3LIF, Digi. 145.01. 3/99

## TEXAS

**Brownsville ARC (CHARRO).** Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7:00 p.m., Confederate Air Force Hangar, Brownsville Airport in TX. Coffee mtg. Sat./weekly, 10 a.m., Days Inn, Hwy 83 & Price Rd. Talk-in on 147.040(+). 4/99

## VIRGINIA

**Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club, (MVARC).** Meets 2nd Thur./monthly (except Dec.), 7:30 p.m., Mt. Vernon Governmental Cntr, 2511 Parkers Ln., Alexandria, VA. Contact: Bob, KT4KS, (703) 765-2313 or 146.655. 10/99

**Southern Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, W4QR (SPARK).** Meets 1st Tue./monthly Salvation Army Community Bldg., Hampton, VA. Repeaters 146.73(-), 449.55(-). VE Exam Info: (757) 898-8031, W4RTZ. 2/99

**Virginia Beach ARC.** Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., St. Andrews United Methodist Church, Tucson & Princess Anne Rds., Virginia Beach, VA 23462. 2/99

## WASHINGTON

**The Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 3rd Sat./monthly, 10 a.m., Salvation Army Renton HQ., 720 Tobin St., Renton, WA. Talk-in on 146.82(-) (103.5 CTCSS) rptr. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. 5/99

## WEST VIRGINIA

**Jackson County Amateur Radio Club.** Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Saint John Episcopal Church of Ripley. Net Mon. 9 p.m. on 146.67(-) WD8JNU/R. For info: D. Tennant, N8ZYB, Rt. 1, Box 188, Mt. Alto, WV 25264. 7/99

**Tri-State Amateur Radio Assn.** Meets 3rd Tues./monthly, 7 p.m., The American Red Cross, 111 Veteran's Memorial Blvd., Huntington, WV. 5/99

## WISCONSIN

**Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs, Ltd.** Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7:30 p.m., UWSP Science Bldg., A107. Info: Al Mallek, N9WBS, 246 Georgia St. North, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Call in on 146.985 or 146.670 5/99

*For information on how to get your club listed in "Visit Your Local Radio Club," plus receive many other benefits, write to:*  
**Club Liaison,  
Worldradio,  
2120 28th St.,  
Sacramento, CA 95818**



## How Hams help Hams with unusual needs get on the air

By Patrick Tice, WAØTDA

**M**y son, Will, was four when he mastered the monkey bars at the playground in the park. Day after day, he and I would walk to the playground, and he would run to the monkey bars, launching himself across what must have seemed a huge chasm, hand over hand. Tears of frustration flowed many times before he finally learned how to make it to the other side, but learn he did, and he was only satisfied when he could do it on his own, without help from dad!

The truth is that we all want to do things on our own. We cherish independence, and work hard to gain it, even from our earliest days. Of course, we soon learn that help is sometimes needed, but ultimately we seek to do things on our own without having to constantly ask for assistance. Three Hams who understand the importance of self-reliance are Dr. Tom Linde, KZØT, Clair Robinson, KØCJ, and Lyle Koehler, KØLR. They are all volunteers for the Courage HANDI-HAM System, and are focused on helping Hams with severe disabilities to get on the air.

At a recent Radio Camp, Tom and Lyle worked with Rick Jorgenson, KBØQPY, a camper whose disability makes it difficult for him to speak. Getting Rick on the air was a team effort. First, Lyle assessed the Toshiba laptop that Rick had brought to camp, and learned the software commands necessary to activate an attached speech hardware device. Then Tom worked with Rick to devise common phrases useful in a typical QSO. Both Tom and Lyle worked with Rick, practicing the phrases with the Toshiba's speech synthesizer and then getting on the air and working stations. Lyle devised a crude interface between the computer's speaker and the rig's microphone using rubber bands! Ultimately, though, Rick would not be satisfied to make every QSO a "team effort". He would want to get on the air on his own! Tom, a retired psychologist, offered to help Rick devise as many phrases as necessary to help him communicate independently, both on the air and off. The laptop would become a global communications tool. Lyle, dissatisfied with the rubber band interface, designed a true electronic interface that would allow Rick, or anyone who cannot speak, to feed a computer's synthesized speech directly into a radio. Lyle's device includes a VOX circuit, making switching between transmit and receive a simple matter!

Meanwhile, back at Courage Center, volunteer Clair Robinson, KØCJ, was



**Clair Robinson, KØCJ, Handi-Ham volunteer works on a new interface.**

working on another adaptive project. Clair and Lyle have both volunteered at Radio Camp, and both have worked with blind Hams. They knew that HANDI-HAMS had long offered simple electronic devices to blind operators who need to know the position of their beam antennas or whether their rigs were properly tuned. What Clair and Lyle found out was these devices could stand a bit of updating, and they began a collaborative project to do just that! Almost immediately, a change in circuitry made the HANDI-HAM Beam Heading Indicator a more accurate device. Blind users, hearing the audio output, would be able to position their antennas much more accurately. The Audio Tuning Device had become somewhat dated, though, as vacuum tube finals gave way to solid-state rigs. Although still useful for tuning outboard antenna tuners, it really would be better to provide a way for blind Hams to independently determine SWR without having to ask a sighted person to read a meter.

A circuit by Ben Spencer, G4YNM, first published in the July, 1994 issue of *QST*, seemed to hold the most promise.

Several beta versions were built, but again it took a team effort between Lyle and Clair to make the project really useful to blind Hams.

"Why not", they reasoned, "combine as many functions as possible in one all-purpose adaptive device?"

Work began on another G4YNM circuit, with Lyle and Clair designing a circuit board that would incorporate the function of



**Rick Jorgenson, KBØQPY**

the Beam Heading Indicator. A working prototype finally fit into the small aluminum project boxes already used for the Audio Tuner. When this device is finally produced in the HANDI-HAM shop by volunteers Rex Kiser, WØGLU, and Ken Williams, WØJKM, it will allow an extra degree of independence for blind amateurs, who will be able to check their antenna position and SWR with one useful adaptive device. Independence. We all want it, from the time we pull ourselves up and take our first steps. The volunteers at the Courage HANDI-HAM System know just how important that is.

California Radio Camp is 28 February-07 March 1999. For more information about Amateur Radio for people with physical disabilities, or for a circuit diagram of the KØLR VOX interface device, contact:

The Courage HANDI-HAM System, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55422; 612/520-0511; handiham@courage.org; Or on the Web at: <http://www.mtn.org/handiham>.

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World Radio History



## JOTA from one of scouting's heavens: Philmont

**"I** had a blast." These are the words John Galway, KH6JTE, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, used to describe Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), which took place 17-18 October 1998! Millions of Boy Scouts, Venturers (Explorers are now called Venturers due to changes made by the Boy Scouts of America), Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Amateur Radio operators residing all across the globe took to the airwaves during JOTA to promote Amateur Radio, learn about our hobby, experience it firsthand, and most importantly, to have fun! Many people, young and old, who are not involved in the Scouting movement enjoyed this event as well.

Venturing Crew 296 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, had their share of the fun from a location known to scouts and scouters all across the world for its beautiful land, unique terrain and unforgettable experiences — the Boy Scouts of America's Philmont Scout Ranch, located in northeast New Mexico. During this particular cold and very windy weekend, the Great Southwest Council, Boy Scouts of America, hosted CampExpo '98, a council-wide camporee that attracted over 1,500 scouts to Philmont to test their knowledge, compete in activities and show off their skills over a course of three days.

To earn a special award, every scout had to participate in ten specific activities, and Crew 296's Amateur Radio station was one of them! John Galway, KH6JTE, Crew 296 Adviser, Tim Moss, KC5WYH, and Richard Obenauf, W5GUZ, allowed scouts and scouters to experience our hobby firsthand. At the end of the weekend, 30-40 stations had been contacted, including RZ9CW of Russia and MØBSY of Scotland! This put many of the station's visitors in awe.

Literature about Amateur Radio as well as some of the popular books with test questions were on hand for the curious, and QSL cards were given to participants who took a shot at making a contact on the air. Galway noted that "many adults expressed an interest in Amateur Radio, primarily because of the ability to easily contact others through repeaters, rather than having to rely on cellular phones, when backpacking in the wilderness."

Galway also noticed that visitors found the station interesting because it was operated primarily by the youth, not the adults.

In all, many groups across the world, including Crew 296, had a ball over JOTA weekend! Start planning now for JOTA 1999, which takes place 16-17 October 1999! This event is the perfect activity to make people, both old but especially young, aware of Amateur Radio. But don't wait until then to begin promoting! Show your friends what we amateurs can do on the air right now, and encourage them to study for their license so that they can begin enjoying the awesome experience this hobby has to offer!

### LYRA - promoting Amateur Radio to youth

Are you a member of LYRA? If not, you need to join! It's free! The League of Young Radio Amateurs (LYRA) is an informal internet-based Amateur Radio club, that is perhaps the only national (or international) club run by and for the youth involved or interested in Amateur Radio. Since I first featured LYRA in the May 1998 Youth Forum column, membership has grown, and activities have been planned to promote Amateur Radio to young people — something Amateur Radio desperately needs, and can't get enough of.

The League of Young Radio Amateurs was founded in December 1997 by

Christopher Arthur, KT4XA, and Tony Olivero, N9ZWM. It was originally based on America Online in the Radio Communications Forum (Keyword "Ham"). Now it is based on the actual Internet, in addition to AOL, for even more exposure. As of the date this column was written, there are 43 active LYRA members residing all over the U.S., as well as many foreign countries such as New Zealand, Mexico, Canada and more! LYRA is also split up into 100 sections (similar to ARRL sections) to organize and promote local and section-wide activities, such as nets, contests and meetings. This is an excellent idea, and will prove to be valuable in the future as LYRA continues to grow!

Members of LYRA have also been active in popular HF contests, such as Jamboree On The Air, Field Day and the ARRL Sweepstakes. However, another emphasis has been placed on the contests: The goal is not only to contact as many amateurs as possible in the time period, but to also contact as many LYRA members as possible! And prizes are awarded to those LYRA members who meet that goal! There is currently a 20-meter net held every Monday at 1600 UTC on 14.255 MHz, upper sideband for young amateurs; however, the time and frequency may be changed to accommodate more Hams, so check the LYRA website for details (the address can be found later in this article).

More nets and calling frequencies to have QSOs with other members will be voted on when officer elections take place, which will be within a few months. In these elections, certain leadership positions, such as President, Vice President, etc., will be voted on, as well as future LYRA activities. The current Interim President is Brian Kiepora, KC8ESL, of Solon, Ohio, with the help of Chris Arthur, KT4XA, of Russellville, Alabama.

For anybody interested in this awesome club, be sure to check out the League of Young Radio Amateurs web site at [www.qsl.net/lyra](http://www.qsl.net/lyra). This site contains up-to-date activities, news, net announcements, contest announcements and membership information. You may also submit a convenient online form to become a member. As mentioned at the beginning of this col-

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## The Youth Forum

umn, membership is absolutely free. There have never been dues, and there will never be dues! Anybody 19 years of age or younger is welcome to join, whether they are involved in Amateur Radio or not!

The League of Young Radio Amateurs has certainly changed since it was founded in 1997. With your help, many more changes can be made. Join LYRA and spread the word! This is one excellent way of showing off our great hobby to the youth and interesting others to join our ranks!

You have just read about two excellent examples of Amateur Radio being promoted to people, especially the youth. Before I conclude, until next time, I would like to ask some questions that every single amateur should be asking themselves and others: What

are the large national clubs in the U.S., such as the ARRL, and around the world doing to attract young people to our hobby? Are they doing enough? What is your local club doing? Better yet, what are you doing? Remember, we as youth are the future of this hobby. In all reality, we will be the ones who determine whether Amateur Radio will fly or crash into the ground by our actions and involvement when the older folks "QSY." Keep this in mind, and do your part to bring Amateur Radio into the lives of its future — the youth.

I hope you and your family have a very safe, fun and happy Holiday Season! — *Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT* can be reached at: 1021 Dakota S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87108, or via e-mail: [n5zgt@swap.com](mailto:n5zgt@swap.com), and the web: [www.swap.com/~n5zgt](http://www.swap.com/~n5zgt)

## Inside Amateur Radio

The following story has been excerpted from *Inside Amateur Radio*, by the late Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ. The book can be purchased from Worldradio Books, P.O. Box 189490, Sacramento, CA 95818. Price is \$9.00 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. CA residents please add 70¢ sales tax.

### Deadly bread

"CQ, CQ!" a frantic voice from Colombia, South America, was calling. Col. Norman Friedman, W6ORD, was living in Rochester, N.Y. and had been idly tuning across the 20 Meter band one Sunday afternoon when he heard the urgent call.

"I pointed my beam antenna southward, answered and heard the Colombian say, 'I am also in contact on 40 Meters with a station in Venezuela. He needs help! Someone in a bakery has mixed poisonous powder with the baking powder. Persons eating the bread have become very ill. They need a certain antidote soon and no one here can find any.'"

Norm remembers, "They had attempted to contact the Health Bureau in Washington, D.C. but it was closed." The Colombian went on, "Could you phone the Venezuelan Embassy in New York City?" Norm did, letting the Colombian listen to the Spanish-speaking person who answered.

"No use, it's just the housekeeper," he translated.

Finally in desperation, Norm thought to phone his local newspaper, which he

correctly assumed had connections in Manhattan.

"We'll call you back, Colonel."

Fifteen minutes later, the newspaperman did phone. He had presented the problem to the New York City Police who had gone quickly into action, locating a hospital with the serum for the antidote. It was promptly being delivered to the next plane bound for Venezuela.

Norm says, "I relayed the plane's arrival time to the Colombian. He in turn relayed to Venezuela."

"The newspaper got a good story for the effort and the serum arrived where needed."

It had turned out to be an exciting Sunday, after all.

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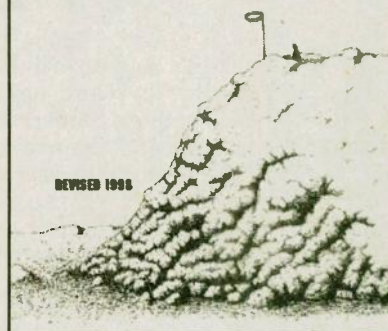
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# What is QCWA?

**T**his month's column will be devoted to a short history and objectives of QCWA, for those readers who are not members of the organization. The material is based in part on a brochure prepared a few years ago by our esteemed President Emeritus Leland Smith, W5KL, and on material in the QCWA Director's Guide.

The Quarter Century Wireless Association was organized in 1947 to "Promote friendship and cooperation among Amateur Radio operators who were licensed at least a quarter century ago." In 1947, a member had to have been licensed in 1922 or before!

It all began during a 10-meter round table one Friday night in November 1947. Six of the participants decided they should form an organization of Amateur Radio operators who had been licensed for more than 25 years.

Thirty-four old-timers attended the initial organizational meeting held 05 December 1947 in a restaurant in midtown New York City. John DiBlasi, W2FX, was elected President; George Droste, W2IN, Vice-President; Leon Hansen, W2FIT, Secretary, and David Talley, W2PF, Treasurer. Frank Lester, W2AMJ, proposed the name of the organization. The logo was developed from a cartoon in a 1923 *QST* accompanying an article "Rotten QRM" written by "The Old Man" himself, Hiram Percy Maxim (founder of ARRL; originally 1WH). Otto Eppers, W2EA, a commercial artist, made some minor modifications to the drawing, added some sparks and the letters "QCWA," and the QCWA logo was born. Membership grew rapidly within the first month, and when the Charter Member roll was closed on 31 December 1947 there were 54 Charter Members — five of whom are still with us (Frank Lester, W2AMJ, Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF, Clarence Seid, W2KW, William H. Kennedy, W2AS, and Robert E. Baird, W9NN).

QCWA's present Constitution states the purposes of the Association shall be (1) to promote friendship and cooperation among Amateur Radio (Wireless) operators who were licensed as such at least a quarter of a century ago, and (2) to operate exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes, entitling the Association to exception under the provision of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended, and more specifically to promote interest in Amateur Radio Communications and the advancement of the electronic art, making use of the reservoir of knowledge and experience represented within the membership of QCWA for the benefit of all radio amateurs and the furtherance of the Public welfare through Amateur Radio Communications to provide a scholarship fund for worthy students who are radio amateurs.



Nearly 30,000 radio amateurs have joined QCWA over the years. Present membership is nearly 10,000. Although the majority of these amateurs live in the United States, membership stretches from Australia to Zimbabwe.

A great deal of the growth and dynamic character of QCWA since it was founded in 1947 is a direct result of QCWA Chapters chartered across the continent and across the world. The original by-laws specified that QCWA officers and directors be

from the New York Metropolitan area. However, word of the new organization spread, and in 1951 a group of amateurs in Cleveland, Ohio, petitioned to become a chapter of QCWA, and in 1954 a second chapter was established in the Chicago area. From then on, chapters began springing up all over the country, and in 1966 the by-laws were changed to permit officers and directors of the national organization to be elected "at large." In spite of the great increase in QCWA membership over the years, the number of directors remained at five from 1947 until 1983, when the constitution was amended to provide for an additional five directors. Efforts were made to obtain candidates from each of the U.S. call sign areas and from Canada and overseas. Results of the following election produced directors from eight U.S. call areas, Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Every now and then, at gatherings of amateurs or during an on-the-air contact, the question is asked "Why should I join QCWA?" Leland Smith, W5KL (in the aforementioned brochure), responds as follows:

"QCWA membership is not for every radio amateur eligible to join. Many amateurs for one reason or other never join or

support amateur organizations, irrespective of the worthiness of the objectives of the organizations in what they may have done to protect amateur privileges or advance the communications art. Some amateurs are true loners and a few could care less whether or not Amateur Radio with its many opportunities for personal enjoyment, technical advancement, public service and developing lasting friendship with fellow amateurs will be available for future generations.

"QCWA membership often appeals to amateurs who want to be identified with and associate with some of the best known, respected, proficient and dedicated amateurs in the world. The knowledge that so many well-known amateurs have joined together in this unique non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the best interests of all amateurs, for now and for posterity, appeals to many.

"There are other reasons for joining QCWA. Membership in QCWA is for

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those amateurs who may enjoy the hobby, who appreciate the effect it has had on their lives, and want to share their experiences and talents with others for the good of Amateur Radio.

"QCWA membership is also for those who would like to participate in promoting more cooperation and good will among all amateurs and who would like to be a part of an organized effort to preserve our amateur traditions. QCWA membership likewise appeals to amateurs who are aware of the forces which would acquire our frequencies and reduce our privileges, amateurs who would like to be a part of a unified effort to defend our privileges.

"Membership in QCWA also appeals to altruistic amateurs who would like to support QCWA scholarship funding for deserving amateurs pursuing educational objectives. Others join QCWA so they can participate socially in chapter meetings and be a part of local activities for the good of Amateur Radio and the public interest.

"Some eligible amateurs recognize the importance of QCWA objectives as they may influence the present and future of Amateur Radio, but join principally to acknowledge approval and sup-

port for QCWA purposes. Others join not only to acknowledge support for QCWA objectives, but because they want to become active in some or all of the ongoing activities in QCWA. Either category is welcome in QCWA."

One of QCWA's most important activities is the scholarship program. QCWA scholarships are available to radio amateurs who are pursuing college level courses leading to degrees, regardless of license class or geographic location. One way QCWA members and others wishing to support the program can help is through bequests for a continuing scholarship in the name of the contributor or his or her family. Other members remember their friends who became Silent Keys by contributing to the Fund in their memory. There are no administrative costs charged to the principal or earnings on the Fund. Selection of awardees is accomplished at no cost by a Committee of the Foundation For Amateur Radio Inc. (FAR), Washington, D.C. (In 1998 the Foundation awarded 67 scholarships. Fifteen of these were funded directly by the Foundation or by its member clubs and grants. Other scholarships were funded by various organizations or individuals.

These included seventeen QCWA scholarships totaling \$13,300.)

QCWA's Memorial Scholarships are funded from a Trust Fund established for that purpose. All monies earmarked for the Scholarship Fund are deposited in interest-bearing accounts separate from the general funds. Only interest from the Scholarship Fund may be used for Scholarship awards; the principal amount remains as a perpetual trust fund. As such, should QCWA ever be dissolved, the Fund will be transferred to a charitable organization with the stipulation that the scholarship program be continued.

Contributions to the QCWA Scholarships program are directed to Jim Walsh, W7LVN, QCWA General Manager (see address at end).

If you now have an Amateur Radio license and were licensed 25 years ago you are eligible to join QCWA. It is NOT necessary that you have been continuously licensed during the twenty-five year period.

Additional information about QCWA can be obtained from James Walsh, W7LVN, General Manager, QCWA, 159 E. 16th Ave. Eugene, OR 97401-4017 or the QCWA Website: [www.qcwa.org](http://www.qcwa.org).

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# QRP survey

**W**ith the dawn of 1999, our five-year experiment surveying national, international and regional QRP clubs is taking a new tack toward 2000. Since January 1994, the *Worldradio* QRP column has presented an annual listing of QRP organizations, with a capsulated rundown of the 5 Ws and an H on each one: who, what, where, when, why and how.

What began as a tidy roundup five years ago, however, today is collapsing under its own weight.

Due in large part to the popularity and availability of Internet communication, the volume and fluidity of QRP organizations — especially across the United States — has reached critical mass. It's hard to find a square foot of terra firma that isn't actively represented by a QRP club of one kind or another. The regional scene is really exploding.

Is this a good thing? You bet it is. In the last few years QRPers have elevated low power operation into the consciousness of mainstream Amateur Radio as never before.

The cross pollination of low power organizations only reinforces QRP's foundation. There's a veritable breeding frenzy. And it's only going to get better.

But accurately keeping up with the scene in a once-a-year survey has reached a point of diminishing return. For us surveyors, the organizational landscape is changing so rapidly, an annual roundup runs the risk of being obsolete or

incomplete before it even gets into print.

So, what to do? Most QRP organizations in the United States and abroad, for that matter, have an Internet web site. While a club's plans and programs frequently change, web addresses, by and large, do not. At least not very often.

The accompanying chart provides a listing of regional, national and international QRP organizations with web sites, and their Internet addresses. Many of them are really first-rate and can tell you just about everything you'd ever want to know about their organization.

Cut it out, or make a photocopy and stick it on the side of your computer's monitor. You'll never be fumbling around for that club's web address again.

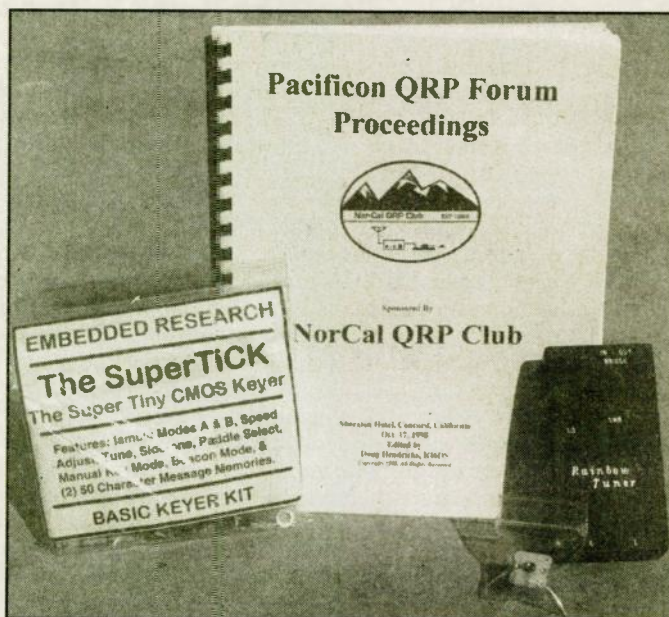
If you don't have access to the web, send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the clubs you're interested in contacting, and I'll be happy to mail you printed information.

And, if you're a member of a club not listed in the accompanying chart, drop me a line and we'll give a rundown of your group in an upcoming *Worldradio* QRP column.

## QRZ? de KI6SN

Speaking of new phases, you may have noticed that the call sign at the head of this column is KI6SN. That's no typo.

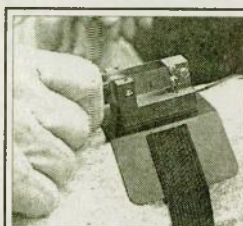
After using the call sign nu6SN during a yearlong commemoration of the pioneering QRPers of the 1920s, I've reverted to my old, favorite "kissin'" call letters. It's like welcoming home a long lost friend.



**A potpourri of QRP goodies to kick off '99: Embedded Research's new SuperTICK keyer, NorCal QRP Club's newly published Pacificon QRP Forum Proceedings, and Doug Hauff, KE6RIE's new Rainbow Tuner enclosure.**

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## Pacificon

From all reports, the West Coast QRP Symposium at Pacificon 17 October was a huge success. The QRP forums were packed to the ceiling, presentations were first class, and the NorCal QRP Club did a masterful job as host.

Two hundred bound copies of the symposium's technical papers were given away, at no charge to attendees. It's excellent reading, and if you can get your hands on a copy, by all means do so. It's packed with great writing from such QRP luminaries as Roy Lewallen, W7EL (A QRP Field Day); the Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV (G3RJV Six Pack); Paul Harden, NA5N (Solar and Geomagnetic Storms); Ade Weiss, WØRSP (QRP DXing and Propagation Predictions); David Fifield, AD6AY (The NorCal 20: How It Was Designed and Why); Bill Jones, KD7S (Be Your Own Cabinet Maker) — and many more.

## Atlanticon

Plans are in the works for an annual East Coast QRP symposium to be known as Atlanticon. Sponsored by the New Jersey QRP Club, it's being modeled on its West Coast counterpart. Several well known QRPers have agreed

to speak at the inaugural event: Dave Benson, NN1G; L.B. Cebik, W4RNL; Joe Everhart, N2CX; and Steve Weber, KD1JV.

George Heron, N2APB, of the New Jersey QRP Club is heading the symposium development program, and will announce dates and a location just as soon as they're firmed up.

## Rainbow tuner enclosures

Veteran QRPer Doug Hauff, KE6RIE, of the San Luis Machine Co., has custom designed an enclosure for the New

Jersey QRP Club's popular Rainbow Tuner. "It is machined from a solid piece of aircraft grade aluminum, designed for minimum size and maximum utility," Hauff writes. "The finish is MIL-Spec hard anodized, extremely durable."

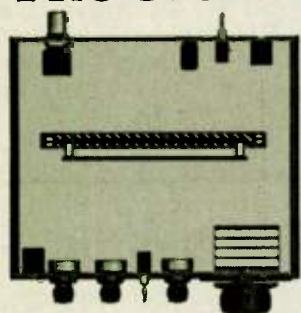
The enclosure comes complete with hardware mounting screws, a small allen wrench and a 325 picofarad variable capacitor for panel mounting — replacing the board-mounted trimmer in the tuner's original design.

Other off-board parts and hardware are all available from Radio Shack, and the manual lists specific RS parts numbers for just about everything you'll need.

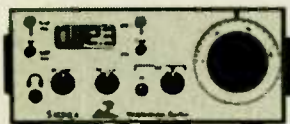
The enclosure is \$29, plus \$5 shipping for orders in the continental U.S.; \$10 DX. Write: Doug Hauff, KE6RIE,

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## New KC2 LCD Counter/Keyer/S-Meter/Wattmeter \$75

The KC2 is our newest QRP accessory, packing a 4-digit freq. counter, memory keyer, bar-graph S-meter and digital wattmeter into a 1"H x 3"W module! It's the ultimate add-on accessory for the Sierra and other QRP rigs. Draws only 7mA.

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## More TiCK talk

Software developers and avid QRPers Gary Diana, N2JGU, and Brad Mitchell, WB8YGG, take a licking and they keep on TiCKing. Their Embedded Research has produced yet another upgrade in its popular TiCK series of tiny CMOS electronic keyer kits.

Dubbed the TiCK-3 SuperTiCK, this latest incarnation includes all the features of the TiCK 2-B but adds two 50-character message memories.

The SuperTiCK's capabilities include iambic mode A/B, speed adjustment, tuning mode, sidetone, lefthand/righthand paddle selection, manual key mode, and beacon mode. It's programmed for 3:1 weighting, has a single-button user interface, draws only about three microamperes of current, and the speed is adjusted via the keyer paddles — there's no potentiometer to add bulk or weight to the kit.

The SuperTiCK's features come compliments of RISC-based microcontroller technology housed in an eight-pin chip. If you've never built something from Embedded's TiCK kit series, this is a great one to try.

The SuperTiCK kit is \$25. If you'd like only the CMOS chip, it's \$15. By the way, all of the TiCK series chips are interchangeable, and pin-for-pin compatible.

To order the SuperTiCK, or for more information, write Embedded Research, P.O. Box 92492, Rochester, NY 14692.

On the World Wide Web: [www.frontiernet.net/~embres](http://www.frontiernet.net/~embres), or via e-mail: [embres@frontiernet.net](mailto:embres@frontiernet.net). — *Richard Fisher, K16SN can be reached at: 1940 Wetherly Way, Riverside, CA 92506 or via e-mail: K16SN@aol.com.*

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## QRP ORGANIZATIONS ON THE WEB

**The Adventure Radio Society** [www.natworld.com/ars](http://www.natworld.com/ars)

**Alaska QRP Club** [www.ptialaska.net/~bhopkins/akqrp/](http://www.ptialaska.net/~bhopkins/akqrp/)

**Austin QRP Club** [www.flash.net/~k5hgb/aqrp.html](http://www.flash.net/~k5hgb/aqrp.html)

**Arizona ScQRPions** [www.extremezone.com/~ki7mn/sqrppage.htm](http://www.extremezone.com/~ki7mn/sqrppage.htm)

**Benelux QRP Club (Netherlands)** [www.xs4all.nl/~pa3asc](http://www.xs4all.nl/~pa3asc)

**British Columbia QRP Club** [www.asl-labs.bc.ca/wrarc/bcqrp.htm](http://www.asl-labs.bc.ca/wrarc/bcqrp.htm)

**Central Pennsylvania QRP Club** [www.kpsnet.com/wb3aal/Pages/Central PA QRP.htm](http://www.kpsnet.com/wb3aal/Pages/CentralPAQRP.htm)

**Colorado QRP Club** [www.mtechnologies.com/cqc/](http://www.mtechnologies.com/cqc/)

**Columbus (OH) QRP Club** [www.qsl.net/cqrp/](http://www.qsl.net/cqrp/)

**CW Operators' QRP Club (Australia)** [www.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/qrp.htm](http://www.alphalink.com.au/~parkerp/qrp.htm)

**DL QRP AG (Germany)** [home.t-online.de/home/klaro/dl0qrp.htm](http://home.t-online.de/home/klaro/dl0qrp.htm)

**EA QRP Club (Spain)** [www.eaqrp-c.arrakis.es/](http://www.eaqrp-c.arrakis.es/)

**Eastern Pennsylvania QRP Club** [www.kpsnet.com/wb3aal/Pages/epa-qrp.htm](http://www.kpsnet.com/wb3aal/Pages/epa-qrp.htm)

**G-QRP Club of Great Britain** [www.btinternet.com/~g4wif/gqrp.htm](http://www.btinternet.com/~g4wif/gqrp.htm)

**Grand Strand QRP Society (South Carolina)** [www.ipass.net/~aa4xx/gsqrp.htm](http://www.ipass.net/~aa4xx/gsqrp.htm)

**Indiana QRP Club** [www.accenttech.com/qrp/](http://www.accenttech.com/qrp/)

**Internet QRP-L Mailing List** [qrp.cc.nd.edu/qrp-l/](http://qrp.cc.nd.edu/qrp-l/)

**Iowa QRP Club** [www1.iastate.edu/~drcase/iowaqrp.html](http://www1.iastate.edu/~drcase/iowaqrp.html)

**JARL QRP Club (Japan)** [www.infoseed.co.jp/qrp/](http://www.infoseed.co.jp/qrp/)

**Knightlites QRP Club** [www.waterw.com/~knightlites/](http://www.waterw.com/~knightlites/)

**Long Island QRP Club** [www.hamtrader.com/liqrp/index.htm](http://www.hamtrader.com/liqrp/index.htm)

**Michigan QRP Club** [www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/2844/miqrp.htm](http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/2844/miqrp.htm)

**Mid-America QRP Association** [nic.kanren.net/~maqrp/](http://nic.kanren.net/~maqrp/)

**Minnesota QRP Society** [www.qsl.net/mnqrp/](http://www.qsl.net/mnqrp/)

**New England QRP Club** [www.eichhoff.com/neqrp/](http://www.eichhoff.com/neqrp/)

**New Jersey QRP Club** [www.njqrp.org/](http://www.njqrp.org/)

**NorCal QRP Club** [www.fix.net/norcal.html](http://www.fix.net/norcal.html)

**North Georgia QRP Club** [www.america.net/~w4qo/nogaqrp.html](http://www.america.net/~w4qo/nogaqrp.html)

**North Texas QRP Club** [www.hamcom.org/nortex.htm](http://www.hamcom.org/nortex.htm)

**NorthWest QRP Club** [www.scn.org/IP/nwqrp/nwqrp.html](http://www.scn.org/IP/nwqrp/nwqrp.html)

**QRP Activity Group of Berlin** [ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Peter\\_DL2FI/](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Peter_DL2FI/)

**QRP Amateur Radio Club International** [www.qrparci.org/](http://www.qrparci.org/)

**Regina QRP Group (Canada)** [www.gpfn.sk.ca/hobbies/rara/qrp.html](http://www.gpfn.sk.ca/hobbies/rara/qrp.html)

**S5 QRP Club (Slovenia)** [www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Vista/6978/](http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Vista/6978/)

**Southeastern Ohio Radio Adventure Team** [www.qsl.net/~wd8rif/seorat.htm](http://www.qsl.net/~wd8rif/seorat.htm)

**Southern California QRP Society** [www.qsl.net/wq6brp/](http://www.qsl.net/wq6brp/)

**SP QRP Club (Poland)** [dendro.sggw.waw.pl/~spqrpc/index.html](http://dendro.sggw.waw.pl/~spqrpc/index.html)

**Virginia QRP Society** [www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Bunker/7077/](http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Bunker/7077/)



# Websites for the DXer

**T**his month follows last January's column with a listing of 14 more web sites that pertain to propagation, the ionosphere, the sun, etc. Again, some are specific in nature, while others have links to many other sites.

Site number 1 is part of Jose Nunes', CT1BOH, home page. It gives a short historical graph of WWV numbers (from site 2 in my column from last Jan.), a short real-time hourly graph of k-indices, and a picture of the real-time northern and southern auroral ovals.

Site number 2 comes out of the Astronomical Applications Department of the U.S. Navy. It gives sunrise/sunset/twilight times for any desired QTH you input.

Site number 3 is home page of the Australian IPS (Ionospheric Prediction Service). It gives HF Radio and Space Weather Reports for all the major areas of the world.

Site number 4 is devoted to the activities of the Poker Flat Research Range run by the University of Alaska. Since it's up north, it provides a lot of data on the geomagnetic field and northern auroral oval.

Site number 5 has magnetometer data from many Canadian stations. This should appeal to those who have a desire to look at more detailed geomagnetic field data. Included are some very high latitude stations that give an excellent picture of what's going on way up there.

Site number 6 is an excellent source of information about the sun. It's devoted to the Big Bear Solar Observatory that's run by the New Jersey Institute of Technology. I can hear Ed McMahon saying, "EVERYTHING you wanted to know about the sun is at this web site."

Site number 7 is the Paul Kelly, N1BUG, home page. It has lots of VHF/UHF/SHF propagation information for those enthusiasts who like to operate above 30 MHz. It also has links to magnetometer data from JW, LA, SM, OH, VK, VE, and G.

Site number 8 is the home page of

Gerald Hall, K1TD. He is retired from the ARRL, and was an Assistant Technical Editor and Associate Technical Editor for the ARRL. It has an excellent propagation tutorial stressing the statistical nature of predictions. He also explains in detail the generation of the monthly QST propagation charts.

Site number 9 contains sunspot number data that is updated at the beginning of each month.

Site number 10 (actually 2 sites) presents more auroral oval pictures.

Site number 11 (also 2 sites) gives details on two propagation software packages available from the Solar Terrestrial Dispatch. One is Proplab Pro Version 2.0 (best known for its three-dimensional ray tracing ability including the effects of the Earth's magnetic field) and the other is SWARM (Solar Warning and Real-time Monitoring). I'll review these two programs in my next month's column.

Site number 12 is the home page of Rob-

ert Rosenbaum, K4UVT, and contains many links to solar data, ionospheric profiles, etc.

Site number 13 is the home page of James Mortensen, N2HOS. It has a discussion by Jim Coleman, KA6A, of propagation as it relates to contesting. Watch for future topics at this site.

Finally, site number 14 is the home page of John Terleski, WXØB. What's interesting is the StackMatch product that he offers — a switching device for monobander and tri-bander stacks. This ties in to my November column about the wide range of elevation angles that we need to receive.

Have fun with these additional sites. Next month I'll look at Proplab Pro and SWARM. An update on Cycle 23 will also be included.

— Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, can be reached at: 1227 Pion Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46845 or you can e-mail him at: k9la@gte.net.

## Web Site titles and addresses

1. **CT1BOH home page**  
<http://www.qsl.net/ct1boh/propagat.htm>
2. **Sunrise/Sunset/Twilight times**  
[http://riemann.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/docs/RS\\_OneDay.html#formb](http://riemann.usno.navy.mil/AA/data/docs/RS_OneDay.html#formb)
3. **Australian IPS**  
<http://www.ips.gov.au>
4. **Poker Flat Research Range**  
<http://www.pfrr.alaska.edu/~pfrr/>
5. **Canadian magnetometer data**  
<http://www.geolab.nrcan.gc.ca/geomag>
6. **Big Bear Solar Observatory**  
<http://www.bbso.njit.edu/>
7. **VHF/UHF/SHF propagation**  
<http://www.mint.net/~n1bug>
8. **K1TD home page**  
<http://www.concentric.net/~Jerrhall/>
9. **Solar data**  
[http://www.oma.be/KSB-ORB/SIDC/sidc\\_graphics.html](http://www.oma.be/KSB-ORB/SIDC/sidc_graphics.html)
10. **Auroral Ovals**  
<http://holly.cc.uleth.ca/solar/www/aurora.html>  
<http://www.sel.noaa.gov/pmap>
11. **Proplab Pro and SWARM**  
<http://solar.uleth.ca/solar/www/proplab.html>  
<http://solar.uleth.ca/solar/www/swarm.html>
12. **K4UVT home page**  
<http://www.QTH.COM/k4uvt/index.htm>
13. **Propagation and contesting**  
<http://www.n2hos.com/digital/prop4.html>
14. **WXØB home page**  
<http://www.arraysolutions.com>

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# They deserve it!

**I**t's come to my attention that some Hams object to my "attacks on people and companies." They don't like my manner. Well, maybe it's because I grew up in an era when if the teacher wanted to get your attention she whacked your hand with a ruler. The Boys' Dean used a large piece of wood (sometimes with holes drilled in it) applied to your rear end to get your attention. In the service, Sergeants had ways of getting your attention.

I don't namby-pamby or pussyfoot around. And, I have people's attention.

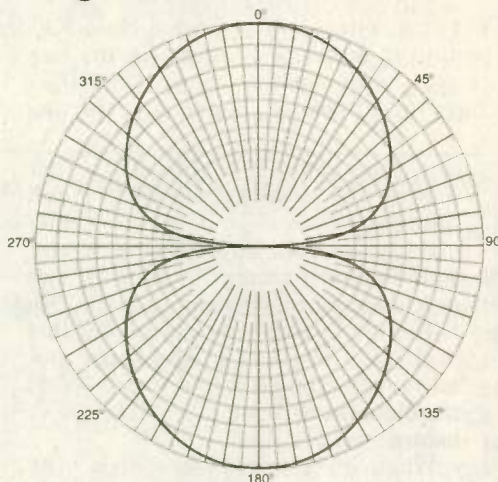
To the issue at hand. Have any of the people upset with my "attacks" ever asked themselves whether the companies mentioned actually and truly DESERVED being "attacked?" Maybe people are too polite these days. Or maybe they are in "denial" that they have been lied to all these years.

Let's take one example. For many years an antenna company advertised a three-element trapped Yagi on a short boom for which they claimed 8 dBd gain. What many Hams can't seem to grasp is that the manufacturer was really saying to them: "You stupid baboon. We know that you have never read a decent antenna book in your entire life and we can just blow this smoke past you because you are so woefully ignorant that you will fall for it."

When I point this out, there are Hams who are more upset with me than with the manufacturer who is practicing outright fraud on the unsuspecting.

When I quietly mentioned that it was somewhat doubtful that a particular advertised mobile vertical could beat "any other mobile antenna by 30dB" there were Hams who defended the advertiser and jabbed at me. What those Hams were really saying was, "Actually, I quite enjoy being told boldface lies by people who must think I am the absolute dumbest thing walking around."

At this moment, being sold in around 8,000 stores around the country, is a license manual with this statement in it:



"Never mount an antenna less than one-half wavelength from the earth. If you do, you will have tremendous signal distortion and an unpredictable radiation pattern with most of your signal going straight up." If I say: "That's pretty wifty," would that be an "attack" (or actually does it deserve being attacked?) or am I coming to the rescue of some truly conscientious Novice who not wanting "tremendous signal distortion" realizes he can get his dipole up only 120 feet instead of the (according to this book being distributed by a major company) 126 ft. level and therefore decides not to go on 80 Meter CW after all.

Just today, at a store, I was looking at a book published by Prompt Publications, a division of Howard Sams Co. They have about 100 books in their stable one of which is "The Right Antenna." I got to page 3-3 where I was told a 3-element Yagi has 7 dB gain and a 5-element Yagi has 15 dB gain. I was afraid of what the rest of the book would tell me and I stopped reading.

Bufoonery, is that too strong a word for a 15 dB 5L Yagi or is too weak a word?

There was a recent incident in which a man from an antenna company went all atwitter after I poked fun at what he had said. He pouted, stamped his foot and ran off in a snit telling his computer compatriots that because of Kurt N. Sterba he would not be coming back. That might be a good thing as he might be able to spend more time pulling out the mistakes in his instruction manuals or reading some good antenna books.

One amateur made a sneering remark about me. This was the same person who, as the head of a company, had a brochure out about his 5/8 wave 2M antenna. I quote the exact words: "The matching network required for the mostly restrictive (sic) 50-ohm feedpoint impedance of the 5/8 wave....." How many people at that company approved that brochure? "Restrictive?" Plus, since I (through other work) am one of the world's leading authorities on the 5/8 wave antenna all I can say is they must have measured theirs with a micrometer. The feedpoint impedance of the 5/8 wave (and this can vary with diameter, etc.) is actually around 200 ohms and is quite reactive on the capacitive side. But, they can make sneering remarks about me. Better they should look in the mirror. It appears that, like so many, they got impedance and resistance all balled up and made a muddle of it as many do.

I don't "pick on" as it has been called, young (of any age) amateurs who lack knowledge. However, when one flaunts his advanced degrees in a subject he must then accept the responsibility (and cajoling) when he misleads his fellow amateur.

Although, I do recognize taking responsibility for your actions does not seem to be very much in vogue these days.

When one writes books there is a semblance of authority attached. To put junk in the book is a violation of the trust the reader brings to the book.

Now let's look closely at an advertisement appearing in the November issue of a hammag published near the Big Apple. We are told that an antenna with but three elements on 15 Meters has 13.0 dB Maximum Gain. Now read that last sentence again very slowly. Was something missing? Congratulations, you found it! There is something rather

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--



important missing that should be attached to "dB". And that is of course, is dBi, dBd, or just what?

There is no (in this field) just dB. It has to be dB over something. The dB is not a value unto itself like 13 Volts or 8 Ohms, 5 Watts or 1.68 Amps. It ONLY expresses a RATIO. So, in this case where is related what this wonderful 13.0 dB is above? Above what?

A notation is that this is "@ One Wavelength." So, we may gather that this company is adding in the 6 dB ground reflection (which a dipole at the same height would also have) to the 6 dB of the Yagi antenna (over a dipole) and coming up with 13 dB over whatever. A loaf of sourdough bread perhaps?

The problem with this is that the type of Hams who need remedial reading courses and walk into walls will read that company's advertisement and say, "Gee, this antenna gives you 13 dB gain and the Hy-Gain gives you only 6 dB. I'm sure going to buy this one and not that old Hy-Gain."

But, then there will be, of course, those who think I am an absolute rotter for pointing this out to them. Having one's head in the sand is an easier path.

Then there was a flurry of activity about who I really am. Many agreed on a particular person. But one bright soul said it couldn't be him because he was associated with a company that had made outlandish gain claims and Kurt would have nothing to do with such a company. Quite true and I appreciated the vote of confidence and trust by that one astute individual in Nebraska.

Anyway, I've given instructions to stop faxing me stuff from that computer argument channel. I have enough else to do, and no end of sources for foolishness for all I have to do is turn on my receiver.

It's been said, in a derisive manner, that I "attack" people and companies. Recently a major university started a computer location in which they will be warning against all the bogus medical advice found on the computer channels. No doubt someone who believes that arthichoke hearts cure lumbago will be upset at the "attacks" the university will be making on the type of medical advice that is usually found only in supermarket tabloids and 23 Skidoo magazine.

At my age they say the first thing to go is your memory. However, I still remember a book geared for rank beginners. Right on page one the Novice was told to lay down a ground system consisting of 120 radials each a half-wave-

length long. Assuming a Novice was at least semi-bright he must have gone "Let's see now, 80 Meters times 3 feet is 240 feet." Half of that is 120 feet. So I have 120 feet of wire going in one direction from the vertical and 120 feet going the other way. That's a 240-foot diameter. Let's see, I'd have to run one wire east through our yard, across the street and into the next yard. Another wire would have to run west through the alley and into the next yard. Going north and south I'd only have to run those wires through the yards of two neighbors on each side."

The young man, who was reading this book off of a rack at a parts house quietly lowers the book and decides that needlepoint will be a less obtrusive hobby.

When I first wrote about that book and said that such was rather impractical advice to be given to a brand new Novice, I was accused, by many, of "beating up" on the writer and "nit-picking" by the author himself. The author was asked if he himself had the type of ground system he was advocating for others and no answer was ever received, much to my non-surprise.

I remember when I went after a company advertising 12 dB gain from a four-element Quad. Gadgetry, it was I that was the vicious mad dog "hurting the credibility of that company".

Isn't that bizarre! What should have occurred is that Hams armed themselves with cream pies, carried them to hamfests where that company had a booth at and let them have it straight in the kisser!

Have these companies no conscience at all? Have they no respect for their fellow Hams. No honor? They are trashing Amateur Radio.

By the way, I'm doubling my previously made offer to the "30 dB over any other vertical" antenna company. Just show up at any of those 75-meter mo-

bile shootouts. You don't have to win by 30 dB or any dB. Or win at all. Just show up, be measured like all the others and I'll donate \$1,000 to the charity of your choice.

For you see, I don't like to see my fellow amateurs led down that primrose path.

When an author writes that the 20M band is at its best at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, there should be someone who points out to the newcomer, (banging on the case of his receiver to bring it to life) that the statement he read was truly bonkers. Someone should make it clear that such a statement was (as we, in the radio biz, say) 180 degrees off. Or would such a person be making an "attack" on the dismal knowledge of the author of such an article. Should there be at least one place where (like the major university computer location) where rotten radio stuff is pointed out?

In a perfect world next month's issue of *QST* would have an editorial which would say, "For many years we carried an advertisement by a major antenna company. When you answered the ad you were sent material that said their trap three-element Yagi had eight dBd gain. There isn't a single soul at the ARRL Laboratory who agrees with that. We're sorry and we apologize."

In this Utopia, *CQ* would say, "In an article six months ago we wrote that radiation resistance and feedpoint impedance are the same thing. They are not, and here is the actual explanation....."

You know none of that will ever happen. So, for better (and certainly not for worse) you are stuck with your not-Kontrite Kurt.

Next month, cleaning up more junk published in major magazine articles and something immensely practical for those who work with matching stubs that you will not have read anywhere else.

"Hi-ho Silver and away." "Who was that masked man who just rode off?" "I don't know, but he left a silver bullet. I wonder what that circle and the figure eight on his white hat means?"

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## Logging accuracy

**W**ith the advent of computer-aided logging, contest organizers now have better means to analyze your log and find errors. As the organizers are the ones marking your entry, adjusting your score and possibly disqualifying you, you would do well to take a good hard look at your own practices, and make extra effort to make your log as accurate as possible.

What does logging accuracy mean? Most obviously, it means correctly logging the call signs of the stations you work, and copying the exchanges they send you. But what kinds of errors are there?

Transposing characters can be one obvious source of errors. We all make small typing errors, and in the rush of a contest, especially if you are tired, it can be very easy to reverse the order of a couple of characters (ie, VE2ZP rather than VE2ZP). As most of us are not touch-typists, we are often looking at the keyboard rather than the screen, and not editing as we go. In these cases, you may have correctly understood the call sign of the station you worked, but simply failed to type it in correctly. Similar errors occur when entering serial number exchanges.

Other errors are induced by a combination of weak signals, noise, impatience and fatigue. If you are trying to copy a terrifically weak signal, or in high noise conditions, your chances of making an error when logging that station increase if you let your desire to get on to the next station get ahead of you.

Other errors are just outright silly. There is a big difference between a "0" (zero) and "O" (the 15th letter of the alphabet). When I was running the contests for the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), a lot of people lost credit for logging VØ1 stations, QSOs they would not have lost if they logged VO1s instead.

### How do adjudicators find logging errors?

With computer-generated logs, adjudicators can pool all the entries received into a large database. From that pool,

### "Another source of busted call signs are the DXCluster packet networks"

they can look for such things as "unique" call signs — stations that appear only in the log of one entrant. While it is possible you may work a station who works you and no one else in the contest, such occurrences are rare. Further comparison may show that some of your "uniques" are very similar to the call signs of other stations active in the contest. If the adjudicators have an entry from one of these stations, and if that station claimed a contact with you at the time you claim, they can confidently judge that you may have incorrectly logged that station's call sign.

As well, if you claim a contact with a station, and you don't appear in that

station's log, your "not-in-log" QSO will be flagged. If it turns out that you assumed you made a QSO that you did not, you'll probably lose the contact. If, however, the other station miscopied your call sign, he or she will be the loser, not you.

Some of the errors you make will be made by other entrants, too. That does not necessarily mean those call signs will be blindly accepted by the adjudicators. They do compare those calls reported in entrants' logs with those in valid issue, and if you have logged a call sign that does not appear to be issued, you will lose the contact. As well, if, in an HF contest, you claim a contact with a station that has no HF privileges (ie, G8 three-letter calls, DD-prefixed German stations, ON1s, PDØs, etc.) the adjudicators may well conclude that this was a logging error and strike the QSO.

Another source of busted call signs are the DXCluster packet networks. Just as logging errors can occur, so can call signs be mis-entered when spotted on the cluster. If you pick up a spot and work a station without double-checking his or her call, you may well make a logging error. If, as some do, you use DXCluster info without declaring yourself to be in a correct category, an error may flag that fact to the adjudicators, and you may find yourself reclassified in the results.

"Busted" exchanges are another matter. In contests with serial number exchanges, the same computer analysis that reveals a miscopied call sign can reveal a miscopied serial number. When the exchange is a geographic designator, say for a Province, State, or region, it will pay be attentive when the other person sends you their information. On SSB, when working U.S. stations, make sure you know which two-letter designator means which state — MI means Michigan, not Missouri (MO) or Mississippi (MS). You may have copied "Mississippi" correctly, but if you enter it as "MI," that makes for a logging error. Similarly, "AL" means Alabama, not Alaska (AK). And in the Sweepstakes or the ARRL 160M contest, VO stations are in "NL" (Newfoundland-Labrador section), not the more normal "NF" which much logging software interprets as "North Florida." "LA" means the state of Louisiana, and

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World Radio History



"LAX" means the Los Angeles ARRL section.

In the CQ WW and IARU contests, much logging software will "guess" the zone of the station you work based on the call sign. Zone guessing is imprecise, especially when you are working stations in large, multi-zone countries like Canada, Australia, Russia and the USA. You can let the computer do the guessing, but check its guesses against what the station you work gives you in the exchange.

Even though most people will give you a contest RST of 599 or 59, not all do. You would do well to log reports other than the norm, as these may also be used by adjudicators to catch and penalize the sloppy among us.

## Paper logs are also scrutinized

While computers have made the log-checkers' jobs easier, those who log on paper are also subjected to some very close scrutiny. Some organizers will actually enter the data from paper logs into their databases, and conduct the same intense examination. Those who don't can still use that database when evaluating a paper log. You can be quite certain that if you make a top-ranked score, your log will be thoroughly examined for accuracy.

## What are the penalties?

In the CQ WW contests, the committee may strike the "bad" contacts you claim, and take the next three out of your log. Not only will you lose the QSO point value of four contacts, but if the bad contact or any of those following are the only station you have worked in a particular country or zone, you may also lose the multiplier. Others apply a different formula, but whether it's one QSO or four, zero multipliers or several that you lose, a few seconds taken to double-check a call or exchange may save you a record, a certificate, a plaque or an overall win.

The ultimate sanction is disqualification, and in extreme cases, you may not be permitted to enter the next year's contest. "Excessive unverifiable QSOs" is the euphemism used to describe many disqualified entrants. This can be an indicator of extremely sloppy logging, or in exceptional cases outright cheating by imaginative logging.

So, the pressure is on. It's your responsibility to make sure you turn in as clean a log as possible. Making the effort during the contest will ensure you

a better score when the results are published, and possibly save you some embarrassment. If you're sloppy or if you actually falsify your log, you will probably be found out. Pay attention! It will make you a better operator.

## Contest of the Month — North American QSO Parties

CW: 1800 UTC Saturday 09 January to 0600 UTC Sunday 10 January 1998

SSB: 1800 UTC Saturday 16 January to 0600 UTC Sunday 17 January 1998

(PST: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday)

(EST: 1 p.m. Saturday-1 a.m. Sunday)

The North American QSO Parties, twelve-hour contests sponsored by the National Contest Journal (contact ARRL for subscription details) take place four times per year. Two happen this month, and two more in August. The accent in these contests is on working other stations in North America, whether in Canada, the USA, Central America or the Caribbean Sea. You may work stations further afield, but the only multipliers are North American DXCC countries, Canadian Provinces and Territories and U.S. states. Interestingly, Hawaii, while a U.S. state, does not count as a multiplier in this contest. It's in another continent called Oceania.

There are a couple of interesting features to the NAQPs. First, all entrants are limited to 150W output, regardless of entry category. Second, the contest is 12 hours long, long enough to exploit propagation on each of the bands from 160 through 10, but short enough that your entire weekend won't be consumed by the event. Even that 12 is limited — single ops may only operate 10 hours. The exchange is a somewhat more friendly one — Name and QTH (State, Province, Territory or country). Some people take the opportunity to adopt a "nom de guerre." Don't be surprised if you work an unusually large number of deep-voiced "Monicas" or some other topical or amusing name.

As near as I can tell, the NAQP rose from the ashes of two earlier contests, the ideas for which were imports from my country. Older amateurs remember with great fondness the old VE/W contest, sponsored by the Montreal Amateur Radio Club (MARC). This was a contest where Canadians worked only Americans and vice versa. The VE/W was popular for many years, but died



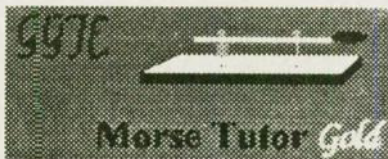
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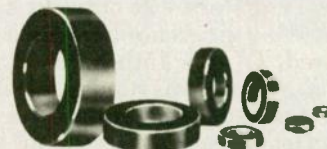


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# Contest Calendar

Contest	Date/Time	Bands	QSO points	Multipliers	Exchange	Entry Categories	Logs
ARRL RTTY Roundup	1800Z 2 Jan 2359Z 3 Jan	80-10M RTTY	1pt/QSO	Canadian Provinces, Territories, U.S. States, DXCC regardless of band	RST QTH	Single Op: All bands, high and low pow Multi-op, single tx	1mo. ARRL
Japan International DX CW - Low Bands	2200Z 8 Jan 2200Z 9 Jan	160-40M CW	1pt on 40M 2pt on 80, 160M Work JA only	JA Prefectures (50) JAs will send 2-digit prefecture no.	RST Ser#	Single Op: Both bands, single band Multi-op	1mo. Box 59 Kamata Tokyo 144
North American QSO Party - CW (NCJ)	1800Z 9 Jan 0600Z 10 Jan	160-10M CW	1pt/QSO	Canadian Call areas, U.S. States, other NA countries	Name QTH	Single Op Multi-op, two tx All entrants must run 150w or less	1 mo. K6ZZ or e-mail to k6zz@ccis.com
Michigan QRP Club January CW contest	0700Z 17 Jan 2359Z 18 Jan	160-6M CW	5pt/ QSO w/mbr 4pt/DX 2pt/US & Canada	U.S. States, Canadian Provinces & Territories, DXCC countries Total score x1.25 if you used a homemade TX or RX, x1.5 if all home-brew gear	RST QTH MI-QRP membership number	A- 250mW or less B- 250mW to 1W C- 1w to 5W D- Over 5W out	30 days N8CQA
NA QSO Party - SSB (NCJ)	1800Z 16 Jan 0600Z 17 Jan	160-10M SSB	1pt/QSO	Canadian Call areas, US States, other NA countries	Name QTH	Single Op Multi-op, two tx All entrants must run 150W or less	1 mo. WA7BNM or bhorn@hornucopia .com
ARRL VHF Sweepstakes	1900Z 16 Jan 0400Z 18 Jan	50MHz to microwaves	1pt/50 or 144MHz 2pt/220 or 432MHz 4pt/903 or 1296MHz 8pt/above 2304MHz NOTE: do not use 146.52 or any rpters	Grid squares worked on each band	Grid Square	Single Operator: Multi-band, single band, QRP portable (max 10w out) Rover (single or multi-op, operating from at least two grids) Multi-op Limited Multi-op (max four bands)	30 days ARRL or e-mail to contest@arri.org
Hungarian DX	0000Z 17 Jan 2359Z 17 Jan	160-10M CW	6pt/HA 3pt/DX 0pt/NA	Hungarian Provinces (20) and HA DX Club members worked on each band. HA stations will send a two-letter province abbrev. HADXC will send mem #	RST Ser#	Single op: All band, single band Multi-op: Single tx, Multi-tx	28 Feb Box 79 Paks H-7031 Hungary
CQ 160m CW	2200Z 29 Jan 1600Z 31 Jan	160M CW	2pt/VE 5pt/NA 10pt/DX 5pt/Mar.Mob.	Canadian call areas, U.S. states, other DXCC Countries.	RST QTH	Single Op Multi-op	1mo. K4JRB or CQ mag.
REF CW (France)	0600Z 30 Jan 1800Z 31 Jan	160-10M CW	15pt/France+terrs 5pt/F.terrs in NA	Departments of France (96), F6REF/00 on each band	RST Ser#	Single op: All bands, single band Multi-op SWL	15 Mar; BP 2129 37021 Tours Cedex France
UBA SSB (Belgium)	1300Z 30 Jan 1300Z 31 Jan	80-10M CW & SSB	10pt/ON 3pt/Eur. Union 1pt/other	ON Provs (8) + ON Prefixes + DXCC countries in European Union	RST Ser#	Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op, single tx SWL	30 days ON7LX
Vermont QSO Party (USA)	0000Z 6 Feb 2359Z 7 Feb	160-10M CW & SSB	1pt/QSO	Stns in VT work everyone, Others work VT stations only VT counties, VT club stations. VT stations count VT, NH and ME counties, U.S. states, Canadian provs and territories, DXCC countries on each band. Bonus QSO points: QSOs with W1OFW 2,000; W1OFW/M 5,000.	RST QTH	Single op high power, Single op QRP Club	1 Mar KE1BV
New Hampshire QSO Party (USA)	0000Z 6 Feb 2359Z 7 Feb	160-2M CW, SSB & FM	1pt/QSO Stns in NH work everyone, Others work NH stns only	New Hampshire counties (10) NH stations count NH cntys, U.S. states, Canadian provinces and territories +1 if you work any DX stations	RST QTH	Single tx: High Power, low power, QRP multi-tx: High Power, low power, QRP 50MHz and above	NH Club 1 Mar WB1ASL
Maine QSO Party (USA)	1300Z 6 Feb 0700Z 7 Feb	160M-70cm CW, SSB & FM	1pt/Fone QSO 2pt/CW QSO	x5 for QSOs with ME clubs Maine counties (16) ME stations count ME counties, U.S. states, Canadian provinces & territories, DXCC	RST QTH	Single op: High power, low power Multi-op Club QRP Mobile	30 days Portland AWA Box 1605 Portland ME 04104
Spanish RTTY	1600Z 6 Feb 1600Z 7 Feb	80-10M RTTY	1pt/NA 2pt/DX	x3 on 80, 40M Spanish Provinces (52), DXCC countries on each band EAs will send 2-letter province abbreviation	RST CQ Zone	Single Op: All bands, single band Multi-op, Single transmitter	9 Apr EA1MV
Delaware QSO Party (USA)	1700Z 6 Feb 0100Z 8 Feb 0500-1300 off time for all	160-10M all modes	1pt/Fone 2pt/CW, RTTY, digital	none	RST QTH	one category for all entrants	FSARC Box 1050 Newark DE 19715 deqsoparty@fsarc. org
North American Sprint CW (NCJ)	0000Z 7 Feb 0400Z 7 Feb	80-20M CW	1pt/QSO	Canadian Provs/Terrs U.S. States NorAm DXCC Countries	Ser# Name QTH	Single op all bands only Entrants may combine their scores to form a "team".	1mo. AC9A or e-mail to cwsprint@ contesting.com
Freeze Your B__ Off QRP Field Day	1600Z 7 Feb 0400Z 8 Feb	80-10M CW and SSB	1pt/QSO	U.S. states, Canadian Provinces & Territories, DXCC countries, plus special multipliers: x4 for Field- day-type location, x2 for alternative power, x2 for running less than 1w, x indoor temperature multiplier - x2 from 50-64F, x3 for 40-49F, x4 for 30-39F, x5 for 20-29F, x6 for below 20F	RST QTH Name Power indoor temp.	Single Op: home or field Multi-op: home or field Novice and Technician-class licensees	7 Mar AB7TT

Addresses: CQ — 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA; ARRL — 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA; Call sign — Callbook Address; Bands: The 30, 17 and 12M bands are never used in any contest. Official forms and complete rules may be available from me. Please send SASE for details.



# Contests

in the mid-1970s when the MARC's will to support it slipped away. The idea was modified by the Canadian DX Association (CANAD-X) for about ten years, when it was called the Can-Am contest. In this one, you could work your fellow citizens, but there were more points to be had for working stations across the border. CANAD-X's will to support the contest also failed, but the idea was too good to die. In the 1980s, NCJ took it up, modified it further and extended the boundaries to include the whole continent. The product of that initiative is the NAQP of today.

Here's how a typical QSO in the NAQP SSB might sound:

Station 1: "CQ Contest, Whiskey Alfa Six Victor Echo Fox, Whiskey Alfa Six Victor Echo Fox, Contest" (WA6VEF calls CQ very succinctly, and pauses to listen only a few seconds before calling CQ again.)

Station 2: "Victor Echo Seven Zulu Oscar" (VE7ZO replies by sending his call sign once.)

Station 1: "VE7ZO, this is Gary in California" (WA6VEF acknowledges VE7ZO's reply and sends his name and state.)

Station 2: "Roger, this is Jim in British Columbia" (VE7ZO confirms that he's received WA6VEF's information and replies in kind.)

Station 1: "Thank you, Whiskey Alfa Six Victor Echo Fox" (WA6VEF thanks VE7ZO for the contact and is now standing by for other stations to call him. If he gets no response, he'll call CQ again.)

The NAQP is fast-paced and fun. There is plenty of activity, but as everyone will be running lower power, the playing field will be a little more level for the less well-equipped operator. Many people use the NAQP to develop

their skills using two transceivers at once, so don't be surprised if many operators seem to be everywhere at once.

## Your log

NA by K8CC and *TR-Log* by N6TR both handle this contest very well, and you would be well-advised to use either of these logging programs for the NAQP. If you log electronically, you can e-mail your entry to the adjudicators at the addresses indicated in the calendar. E-mail is a great way to go, as you normally can get some immediate assurance that your entry has been received. As well, it's virtually free and faster than the postal system.

Paper forms are not available, so if you log on paper, improvise or adapt whatever forms you might have for some other contest.

## Other contests in January

Mid-winter is a great time for the low bands, and on the last weekend of January, CQ magazine sponsors the most popular 160M event of the calendar — the CQ WW 160M CW contest. If you are looking for Japan on the low bands, the Japanese magazine "59" sponsors that country's International DX Contest on 40, 80 and 160M CW.

There are also national contests focusing on Hungary, France and Belgium in January. Closer to home, ARRL sponsors two contests in this month: the RTTY "Roundup" and the VHF Sweepstakes; and the Michigan QRP Club invites you to take part in their winter-time party. There's no shortage of interesting smaller contests this month.

73, and good luck in the contests. — Dave Goodwin, VE2ZP/VE9CB can be reached via e-mail: [ve2zp@rac.ca](mailto:ve2zp@rac.ca); packet: VE2ZP@VE3XRV.#EON.ON.CAN.NOAM.

## 27th annual Straight Key Night on Oscar

AMSAT invites you to join in the 27th annual Straight Key Night on OSCAR, which takes place the evening of 01 January 1999. This event is sponsored by AMSAT North America for Amateur Radio satellite enthusiasts worldwide. Straight Key Night on the satellites is entirely unofficial. There are no rules, no scoring and no need to send in a log. All you need to do to take part is to simply call "CQ SKN" in the CW passband of any OSCAR satellite from 0000 to 2359 UTC or answer a CQ SKN call from another station. OSCAR Zero contacts count too. All SKN operating must be done with a straight hand key.

Those participating are encouraged to nominate someone they worked for recognition as having the "best fist." Nominations go by e-mail to [w2rs@amsat.org](mailto:w2rs@amsat.org). — AMSAT-NA, *Newsline*



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# Hamfests — January

## COLORADO

**Northern Colorado ARC Winter Superfest** 09 Jan. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Larimer County Fairgrounds (700 Railroad Ave.) VE exams, commercial exhibits, computer and radio goodies. Reserve tables from Jeanene Gage, NØYHY at 970/351-7327. For info. call: 970/352-5304. Talk-in: 145.115(-) or 146.85(-).

## FLORIDA

**Ft. Myers ARC Hamfest and Computer Show** 09-10 Jan. Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission \$5. Talk-in: 146.880. Vendors, dealers, computers, tailgating, free-parking, food. For info. contact Colleen Sammons, KQ4TR, 3667 Kelly St., Ft. Myers, FL 33901; Phone: 941/936-1431; Email: csammons@juno.com

## ILLINOIS

**Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs Hamfest and Electronic Flea Market** 24 Jan. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Oduem Exposition Center, Villa Park, IL. Admission: Adv. \$6 with 4 prize stubs. Door: \$8 with 1 prize stub. For Adv. tickets mail SASE to: WCRA, P.O. Box QSL, Wheaton, IL 60189. Vendors, computers & software, hourly prizes. Talk-in: 145.390(-). For info. contact: Donald F. Motz Jr., N9NYX Phone: 630/665-7757 Email: donlin@aol.com

## INDIANA

**Michiana Valley Hamfest Association South Bend Hamfest** 10 Jan. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Century Center (U.S. 33 N. at Jefferson Blvd.) Setup at 6 a.m. Talk-in: 145.290(-). For information send SASE to MVHA, 21970 Kern Rd. South Bend, IN. 46614, or call Denny, KA9WNR, M-F 7-10 p.m. EST at 219/291-0252

## MISSOURI

**Missouri Valley ARC and Ray-Clay ARC Northwest Missouri Winter Hamfest** 16 Jan. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ramada Inn, St. Joseph, MO (at I-29 and Frederick Ave.; exit 47 on I-29)

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**Nevada ARC Hamfest** 30 Jan. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Vernon County Fairground (Highways 71 & 54). Free Admission. Tables \$10; set up 6 a.m. Talk-in 147.135 For information contact: Nevada ARC, P.O. Box 567, Nevada, MO 64772; Email: dkimrey@ipa.net or kØcb@ipa.net/~dkimrey. Or see <http://www.users2.ipa.net/~dkimrey>.

## NEW MEXICO

**Albuquerque Winter Tailgate Swapfest** 30 Jan. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the corners of Montgomery and San Mateo Blvd. in Albuquerque. Free admission. For more information write Tom Ellis, K5TEE, 912 Lomat Ct. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112, or call 505/291-8122. Email: k5tee@qsl.net.

## NEW YORK

**Metro 70 cm. Network Giant Electronic Flea Market** 17 Jan. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lincoln High School (Kneeland Ave., Yonkers, NY. Free parking. VE exams. Tables \$19/first, \$15/additional, \$25 at door. Admission \$6, kids under 12 free. Setup 7 a.m. Talk-in: 440.425, 223.760, 146.910, 443.350. For registration call Otto Supliski, WB2SLQ at: 914/969-1053.

## NORTH CAROLINA

**Forsyth ARC Winston-Salem FirstFest** 23 Jan. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Dixie Classic Fairgrounds (Enter gate 5 off

Deacon Blvd., Exit U.S. Hwy 52 at Akron Dr. and follow signs). Admission \$5, tailgating \$3, indoor tables \$10. RV parking available. For more information call 336/723-7388, write: FARC Hamfest, P.O. Box 11361, Winston-Salem, NC 27116, or see: <http://members.xoom.com/w4nc/>.

## OHIO

**Tusco ARC Hamfest** 24 Jan. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ohio National Guard Armory, 2800 North Woster Ave., Dover Ohio. (I-77 exit 87, right on Country Road 74, through 1st traffic light intersection, on the right.) Admission \$2. Table \$8; set up 6 a.m. For information contact: Howard Blind, KD8KF, 6288 Echo Lake Road N.E., New Philadelphia, OH 44663; Phone: 330/364-5258.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Philmont Mobile RC Annual Auction** 13 Jan. 7 p.m. at Franklin Institute Science Museum (20th St. and Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia). Refreshments and admission are free. Sellers registration fee \$2 + 10% commission (max \$30) to club. Talk-in 147.03(+). for information write: PMRC, P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001-0088, or call Russ, W3CH, at 610/631-3401 ext. 902, email: russ@hdj.com

## VIRGINIA

**Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society Frostfest** 17 Jan. 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at The Showplace (3000 Mechanicsville Tpke. I-95 exit 75 to I-64 E, then exit 192, go 1/2 mile on left). Talk-in 146.88. Admission \$6, tables for dealers \$35, flea market \$15. For information write: P.O. Box 14828, Richmond, VA 23221, or call 804/739-2269, or see: <http://frostfest.rats.net>.



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# VE Exams

As a service to our readers, *Worldradio* presents a feature listing of those VE exams, times and locations which are sent to us. Please remember that our deadline for publication is three months in advance. For example, if your VE group is scheduling an exam for December, please have the information to us by mid-September. *Worldradio*, 2120 28th St., Sacramento, CA 95818. Please mark the envelope "VE Exams." List the location (City), any information examinees should have (advance regis-

tration, etc.) and the name and telephone number of a person to contact for further information. Examinees should bring their original license (along with a photo copy), two forms of identification (at least one should be a photo), and required fee.

p/r pref=pre-register preferred but w/i OK  
p/r=pre-register only—no w/i

w/i=walk-in only  
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State	City	Contact	Notes	State	City	Contact	Notes
<b>Alabama</b>				<b>Nevada</b>			
1/05/99	Mobile	David, WA4VAC 205/649-5229	p/r pref	1/16/99	Minden	George, WW7E 702/265-4278	w/i pref.
<b>Arizona</b>				<b>New Jersey</b>			
1/09/99	Tucson	Joe, K7OPX 520/886-7217	w/i only	1/09/98	Cranford	Hotline 973/377-4790	w/i pref.
<b>Arkansas</b>				1/16/99	Pennington	Don, AA2F 609/737-1723	p/r pref
1/16/99	Gassville	Phil, AB5ZU 870/425-7406	p/r pref.	<b>New York</b>			
<b>California</b>				1/03/99	Yonkers	Emily, AC2V 914/237-5589	w/i ok
1/28/99	Colton	Harold, AB6RN 909/825-7136	p/r pref.	<b>North Carolina</b>			
1/09/99	Cypress	Harrison, AC6TI 714/952-6114	w/i	tba	Brevard	Harrison, KO4RV 704/877-4757	
1/09/99	Harbor City	Elvin, N6DYZ 310/325-2965	p/r pref.			or 704/883-9096	
1/23/99	Lake Isabella	HOTLINE 760/379-2947	p/r pref.	<b>Ohio</b>			
1/16/99	Long Beach	Don, 562/420-9430	p/r pref.	1/02/99	Cincinnati	Herb, WA8PBW 513/891-7556	w/i pref
1/30/99	Pomona	Carl, WJ6N 909/356-1919	p/r	<b>Oregon</b>			
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# New Products

Information in "New Products" is supplied by the manufacturers to acquaint **Worldradio** readers with new products on the market.

## Hamtronics frequency synthesized UHF FM exciters & receivers

Ever since Hamtronics announced its new line of VHF FM exciters and receivers using new low-noise frequency synthesis technology, the most frequent question has been "when will they be available for the UHF bands?" Wait no more; they are here!

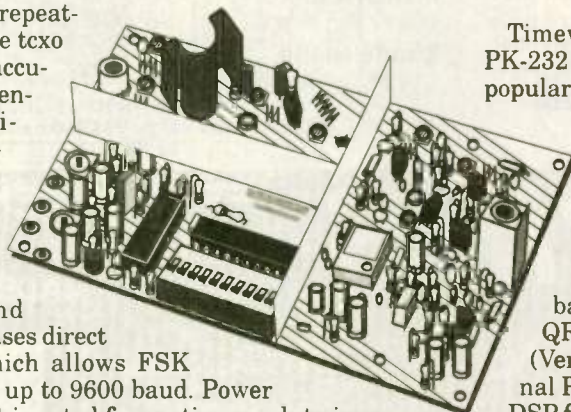
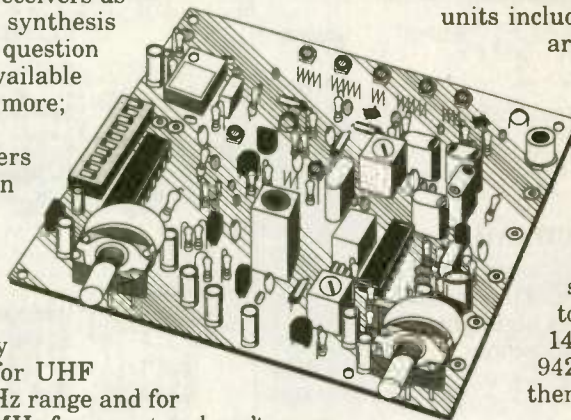
Hamtronics FM transmitters and receivers have long been popular for repeaters, voice and data links, control, telemetry, and other demanding applications. The new T304 Exciter and R304 Receiver provide high quality NBFM and FSK operation for UHF Ham bands in the 420-450 MHz range and for adjacent bands from 400-470 MHz for export and gov't services. Features include dip switch frequency selection, low phase noise synthesizer for applications, such as repeaters, commercial grade tcxo for tight frequency accuracy in wide range of environmental conditions, and fast delivery with no wait for channel crystals.

The T304 Exciter has exceptional modulation for voice and subaudible tones. It uses direct FM modulation, which allows FSK transmission of data up to 9600 baud. Power output is 2-3W and it is rated for continuous duty in demanding applications, such as repeater service. The R304 Receiver has the same fine sensitivity, selectivity, and squelch as other Hamtronics receivers. Both modules are designed to be easy to align and repair.

The T304 and R304 are available either in kit form or fac-

tory-wired and tested. The T301 Exciter is only \$149 for the kit or \$189 wired/tested. The R301 Receiver is \$179 for the kit or \$209 wired/tested. Because they are designed only for use in demanding applications, both kits and factory-built units include a tcxo as standard equipment; so there are no optional extras to worry about. Since there is no wait for channel crystals, units are kept in stock for immediate delivery.

For more details, you can view their entire catalog at their web site [www.hamtronics.com](http://www.hamtronics.com), which includes all their VHF/UHF transmitters, receivers, repeaters, converters, preamps, and accessories. For a printed catalog, you can write to Hamtronics, Inc., 65 Moul Rd, Hilton NY 14468-9535, or call 716/392-9430, fax 716/392-9420, or email [jv@hamtronics.com](mailto:jv@hamtronics.com). Please tell them where you saw this announcement.



## Timewave's Powerful DSP Technology Improves the PK-232!

Timewave's customers swear by their DSP filters and PK-232 owners love the flexibility and reliability of the most popular data controller ever built. The PK-232/DSP rolls it all into one! The PK-232/DSP upgrade kit brings a new kind of performance to the legendary PK-232 with sharp, accurate filters for all the data modes. Noise and QRM bounce off the new filters for cleaner copy with fewer errors than the old analog filters. Weak signals magically appear from the noise. The PK-232/DSP brickwall filters have tighter bandwidth and steeper skirts for improved noise and QRM rejection. A new version of the PK-232 firmware (Ver. 7.2) allows a wider selection of filters than the original PK-232, so the filter can match the mode. The correct DSP filter is automatically selected when you choose a new mode. In RTTY, Timewave's proven Twin Peak Filters pluck the mark and space tones from the noise and QRM for great copy. In PACTOR, the filter bandwidth automatically changes when the baud rate shifts in response to the error rate of the link. In Morse (CW), the operator can preset either 100 Hz

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# New Products

or 2W Hz bandwidth. European and American (WLO) tones are user selectable.

The PK-232/DSP supports all the PK-232 modes — PACTOR, VHF/HF Packet, AMTOR/SITOR, Baudot, ASCII, Morse, HF Weather FAX, TDM, and NAVTEX. This upgrade is user installable, compatible with all existing terminal software and is shipping now. DSP upgrades are available for the PK-232 for \$150 and for the PK-232MBX for \$125. All upgrades provide Mailbox, PACTOR, Gateway and APRS-GPS support. Information is available from Timewave Technology, 58 Plato Blvd. East, St. Paul, MN 55107, (651)222-4858 or at timewave's website [www.timewave.com](http://www.timewave.com).

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## Letters to the Editor

(Continued from page 30.)

helpful in indentifying radio navigation signals. I'm sure thankful that I have been able to accomplish both and would encourage others to do the same.

**David P. Bramhall, KF4GAF  
Seminole, FL**

*Ed. I wasn't "knocking" flying,*

*David. I wish I had the means to do both, as do a lot of Amateurs. I was merely comparing the cost of licensing and equipment for both hobbies. I would love to be able to cruise at 8,000 feet and call "CQ" on 2 Meters. I salute you, David, for taking on both hobbies, and being a retired Captain of my service, the U.S. Coast Guard.*  
— KO6DJ

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# Amateur Radio helps again

**W**hen Hurricane Mitch stalled over Central America, the resulting rains created a disaster of unprecedented proportions. In a 24-hour period, Mitch dumped over 72 inches of rain on Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Over 11,000 people are missing and presumed to have died in the massive mudslides and floods.

Amateur Radio operators throughout the world are now providing communications with the affected areas. Those amateurs who are still on the air in the region are directing relief efforts. Relief efforts are now in full swing, providing clothing, food and medical assistance to the survivors of this disaster.

As part of the communications effort, the Salvation Army's SATERN net operated on 14.265 MHz, and was very busy passing both relief traffic and health and welfare messages for concerned relatives throughout the world.

As more and more information was passed, the FCC declared a communications emergency and ordered U.S. amateurs off 14.265 MHz +/- 3 kHz on ei-

The ARRL is also helping in the effort to provide communications for the region. A shipment of 2-meter handheld radios, mobile radios and a complete repeater was shipped to amateurs in Honduras. The equipment is part of the ARRL's disaster equipment stock, and has been deployed on other disasters in the past.

Mike Heindl, KM6PC, is one of the operators devoting a lot of time to relief efforts. In addition to providing communications, Mike has been negotiating with several oil companies in California trying to obtain a shipment of aviation gasoline to Honduras. There is a shortage of fuel available for the aircraft flying supplies into the region. He is contacting families of survivors throughout the U.S. and letting them know about their loved ones.

This will not be a short term event. The Central American area will be in a state of emergency for months. Amateur Radio operators will continue to help, for as long as necessary.



**Dean Adraktas of KFBK radio in Sacramento interview Michael Heindl, KM6PC, about Amateur Radio relief efforts for Central America.**

ther side of the frequency, unless they were part of the assistance effort. This helped to insure the net continued without interference. Restrictions were lifted 17 November by the FCC. The Central America Emergency Net has been active on 7.090 MHz.



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