

Amateur Radio

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
AUGUST 2020

CQ



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- **Results, 2020 CQ WW 160-Meter Contest, p. 16**
- **CQ Reviews: Midnight Design Solutions “Phaser” Transceiver, p. 26**

On the Cover: Stephen Cruse, K3WHC, and William Koch, W2RMA, take part in a group microwave activity from rural central Pennsylvania. See pages 77 and 100.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 UPDATE

The COVID-19 pandemic has radically altered plans for any social gathering and hamfests and ham radio-related conferences are taking a huge hit. CQ urges all readers to please check with the organizers of these events to ensure the event will still be held.

AUGUST

TRUMANSBURG, NEW YORK — The **Tompkins County Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **Ithaca Hamfest** from 7 a.m. to noon, Saturday, August 1 at the Trumansburg Fairgrounds, NYS 96. Email: <ne2t@arrl.net>. Website: <http://tcara-ny.org>.

AVON, INDIANA — **Ham Emergency Radio Operation's (HERO)** will hold its **Tailgate-Hamfest** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, August 8 at the Avon Methodist Church, 6850 East Highway 36. Contact: Ken Kayler, KC9SQD, (317) 874-7068. Email: <kakayler64@hotmail.com>. Website: <http://hendricksares.org>.

ELKHART, INDIANA — The **Elkhart East Hamfest** will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, August 8 at the Northern Indiana Event Center, 21565 Executive Parkway. Email: <info@elkharteasthamfest.com>. Website: <www.elkharteasthamfest.com>. Talk-in 145.430 (PL 141.3).

FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA — The **Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society** will hold the **22nd Annual Ole Fashioned CFARS SwapFest** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, August 8 at the Cumberland County Shrine Club, 7040 Ramsey Street. Contact: David, KI4W, (910) 624-1394. Email: <n4ughpat@aol.com>. Website: <http://cfarsnc.org>. Talk-in 146.910- (PL 100). VE exams.

SINKING SPRINGS, PENNSYLVANIA — The **Reading Radio Club** will hold its **Hamfest** beginning 8 a.m., at Heritage Park, 992 Clematis Street. Contact Harry Hoffman, W3BVY, (610) 678-8976. Email: <harryhoffmanjr@juno.com>. Website: <www.qsl.net/w3bn>. Talk-in 146.91- (PL 131.8). VE exams.

O'FALLON, MISSOURI — The **St. Charles Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **SCARC Hamfest** from 7 a.m. to noon, Sunday, August 9 at the O'Fallon Elks Lodge, 1163 Tom Ginnever Avenue. Contact: Michael Maninger, KCØGKN, (636) 697-5381. Email: <scarc.hamfest@gmail.com>. Website: <http://wb0hsi.org>. Talk-in 146.670- or 145.330-.

RINGWOOD, NEW JERSEY — The **Ramapo Mountain Amateur Radio Club** will hold its **42nd Annual Hamfest** beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, August 15 at St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church Parish Center, 112 Erskine Road. Contact: Anthony Cassera, N2KDZ, (973) 839-3564. Email: <n2kdz@optonline.net>. Website: <www.qsl.net/rmarc>. Talk-in 146.49 (PL 107.2).

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS — The **Harvard Wireless Club, MIT Electronics Research Society, MIT UHF Repeater Association, and MIT Radio Society** will hold the **Flea at MIT** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, August 16 at the parking garage on Albany and Main Streets. Phone: (617) 253-3776. Website: <www.swapfest.us>. Talk-in 146.52 or 449.725- (PL 114.8).

JOPLIN, MISSOURI — The **Joplin Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **JARC Tailgater** from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, August 22 at the Joplin Convention Center Parking Lot, 3535 Hammons Boulevard. Email: <chairman@joplinhamfest.org>. Website: <www.joplinhamfest.org>.

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT — The **Candlewood Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **Western CT. Hamfest** beginning 8 a.m., Sunday, August 23 at the Edmond Town Hall, 45 Main Street. Contact: John Morelli, W1JGM, (203) 417-0160. Email: <hamfest@cararadioclub.org>. Website: <http://cararadioclub.org>. VE exams

OWENSVILLE, OHIO — The **Milford Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **2020 Cincinnati Hamfest** in conjunction with **W8DXCC** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, August 29 at the Claremont County Fairgrounds, 1000 Locust Street. Website: <http://cincinnatihamfest.org>. Talk-in 147.345+ (PL 123) or 443.450+ (PL 123). VE exams.

RENSELAER, NEW YORK — The **East Greenbush Amateur Radio Association** will hold its **19th Annual Hamfest** beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, August 29 at the East Greenbush Fire Department, 68 Phillips Road. Contact: Bryan Jackson <w2rbj@outlook.com>. Website: <www.egara.club>.

NEW KENSINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA — The **Skyview Radio Society** will hold its **2020 Swap N Shop** on Sunday, August 30 at their club grounds, 2335 Turkey Ridge Road. Contact John Italiano, WA3KFS, (724) 339-3821. Website: <www.skyviewradio.net>.

SEPTEMBER

LANCASTER, NEW YORK — The **Lancaster Amateur Radio Club** will hold the **Lancaster Hamfest** on Saturday, September 12 at the Bowen Road Grove, 3845 Bowen Road. Website: <http://w2so.org>. Talk-in 147.255 (PL 107.2).

SHEPERDSVILLE, KENTUCKY — The **Greater Louisville Hamfest Association** will hold the **Greater Louisville Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, September 12 at the Paroquet Springs Conference Center, 395 Paroquet Springs Drive. Website: <http://louisvillehamfest.com>. Talk-in 146.700 (PL 79.7) or 443.700 (PL 79.7).

WYOMING, MICHIGAN — The **Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association** will hold the **GRAHamfest 2020** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, September 12 at The Home School Building, 5625 Burlingame, SW. Contact: Steven Provost, AC8QE, <stprovost@provtechs.com>. Website: <http://w8dc.org>. Talk-in 147.26+ (PL 94.8). VE exams.

TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA — Special event station **W3L** will be on the air from Wednesday, September 16 through Friday, September 25 to commemorate the 243rd anniversary of the saving of the Liberty Bell. Frequencies include 14.240, 7.240, 3.840 MHz on SSB; 14.030 and 7.030 MHz on CW; 14.074 and 7.074 MHz for FT8. Website: <www.w3l.info>.

COLOGNE, MINNESOTA — The **SMARTS Radio Club** will hold **SMARTSFEST 2020** from 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday, September 19 at the Cologne Community Center, 1211 Village Parkway. Email: <contactus@smartsfest.org>. Website: <www.smartsfest.org>. Talk-in 147.165. VE exams.

REVLOC, PENNSYLVANIA — The **Cambria Radio Club** will hold the **First Annual HAM FEST** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, September 19 at the Revloc Fire Grounds, 547 Cambria Avenue. Website: <http://cambriaradio.com>. Talk-in 145.210- (PL 123).

SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE — The **Sevier County Amateur Radio Society** will hold the Sevier County Hamfest from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, September 19 at the Sevier County Fairgrounds, 754 Old Knoxville

(Continued on page 28)

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New Hope for Cycle 25?

A group of scientists is challenging the current consensus among solar researchers that Sunspot Cycle 25 will be similar to the now-ending Cycle 24, and predicting a cycle “of major proportions.” According to the *ARRL Letter*, the scientists, associated with a variety of institutions in the U.S. and the U.K., including NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the University of Maryland, say their calculations, using a mathematical technique known as a *Hilbert transform* to analyze 270 years of monthly sunspot numbers, suggest “that Sunspot Cycle 25 will have a magnitude that rivals the top few since records began.”

The group’s paper, posted online on Cornell University’s arxiv.org website, says their best estimate for Cycle 25 is a maximum level of 233 sunspots, predicting “with 95% confidence that the Cycle 25 amplitude will fall between 153 and 305 spots.” The consensus prediction of a NOAA / NASA-led panel of experts is for a relatively weak cycle, with a peak between 95 and 130 sunspots. This group is basing its far sunnier prediction on the expectation that 2020 will see an end to both sunspot and magnetic cycles on the sun, as well as evidence from the latitude of early Cycle 25 spots (higher than usual) that suggests a very active solar cycle. However, they conclude, “only time will tell.”

The full paper is online at <<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2006.15263.pdf>>.

Developing a “Sun Clock” to Predict Solar Storms

Some of the same researchers who are predicting a higher-than-average Sunspot Cycle 25 have also developed a “sun clock” to help predict periods of high solar activity, including solar flares and other events that can impact communications on Earth. The *ARRL Letter* reports that the group, led by Professor Sandra Chapman of the Centre for Fusion, Space, and Astrophysics at the University of Warwick in England, used the Hilbert transform to create a standardized map of a solar cycle. Their research, according to a paper published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, determined that transitions between quiet and active periods on the sun tend to be quite sharp, and their “sun clock” can provide information on when an active period may “switch on” or off.

More Than 70 Speakers Scheduled for “Virtual Ham Expo”

As we reported here last month, *QSO Today* podcast host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, is trying to fill the vacuum left by cancelled hamfests by organizing an online “QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo,” which will be accessible via your computer or mobile device on the weekend of August 8th and 9th. The event has drawn many major manufacturers and other vendors (including CQ) as participants, and the forums will feature more than 70 speakers on a variety of topics for both new and experienced hams. There will also be a youth track, led by Carole Perry, WB2MGP. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Scott Wright, KØMD, a well-known contester and Editor of the *National Contest Journal* who is also one of the leaders of the Mayo Clinic’s study on using blood plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients to help others fight the disease. Admission is free and pre-registration is encouraged at <www.qsotodayhamexpo.com>.

2021 Events Shaping Up as Mix of Online and In-Person Gatherings

Planning is under way for major ham radio events in 2021, despite continued uncertainty over the course of the coronavirus pandemic and restrictions associated with it. Both ARRL and

the Orlando Amateur Radio Club are hoping that large gatherings will again be permitted by the time of next year’s Hamcation in mid-February. ARRL has announced that the Orlando event will also be its 2021 national convention. Hamcation 2020 was the last big ham event held prior to the shutdowns resulting from COVID-19.

Organizers of the International DX and Contesting Convention, normally held in Visalia, California, have decided that their 2021 event will be held online and span two “3-day weekends” in April. According to the *ARRL Letter*, next year’s “Virtual Visalia” will be held from April 16-18th and April 23rd-25th, with no duplication of forums or other activities.

The Dayton Hamvention is hoping that we’ll all be able to get together in person again next May in Ohio. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association announced in June that Rick Allnut, WS8G, and Jim Storms, AB8YK, have been named 2021’s General Chairman and Assistant General Chairman, respectively.

CQ 40 ... MHz, Not Meters

Hams in three European countries — Ireland, Slovenia, and Lithuania — now have access on a secondary basis to frequencies in the 40-MHz, or 8-meter band. According to EI7GL’s blog <ei7gl.blogspot.com>, Irish hams have had permission to operate on the band since 2018, but were limited to crossband contacts with amateurs in other countries. With Slovenia and Lithuania coming aboard, actual DX on the band became possible. The first international contact was in late April of this year, between EI4GNB in Ireland and LY2YR in Lithuania. That was followed by a QSO on June 13th between LY2YR and S5ØB in Slovenia, and a June 15th contact between EI4GNB and S50B, using FT4, JT65, and single sideband. The latter QSO followed a 6-meter opening between Europe and North America.

Rescue Radio

Ham radio has once again proven its value in emergencies, with three different stories this month of rescues coordinated via amateur radio. All three come courtesy of the *ARRL Letter*. In mid-June, Alden Jones, KC1JWR, was hiking with a group on the Long Trail near his home in Vermont when he suffered a medical issue and lost consciousness. Fortunately, an EMT with Appalachian Mountain Rescue was nearby, but could not get a cell phone signal to call for help. Jones regained consciousness and was able to use his 2-meter handheld to get help via a nearby repeater. It took eight hours to get Jones off the mountain and to a hospital, due to its remote location. He reportedly made use of the time to talk up ham radio to the EMT, other rescuers and the helicopter crew that finally flew him to safety!

In May, Richard Tashner, N2EO, suffered a medical emergency in his Massapequa, New York, home. He couldn’t get to his phone but he could reach his DMR handheld, on which he put out a call for help. His call was answered by Maxis Johnston, GMØMRJ, in Scotland, who immediately put out a call for “anyone in the States.” He was answered by Ken Dix, KB2KBD, in Delaware, who contacted emergency services on Long Island and got help on its way, via a dispatcher who was amazed at the route the call took.

Finally, on June 25th, the Maritime Mobile Service Net helped arrange a tow for a disabled sailing vessel off the coast of Florida. Skipper Ian Cummings, KB4SG, turned to the 20-meter net for help because he was too far offshore to be heard on his VHF marine radio. The boat was drifting toward a shallow area where it would have been in danger of running aground. Net members were able to connect Cummings with a marine tow service. The Pacific Seafarers’ Net, which operates on 14.300 MHz after the MMSN secures for the night, kept in contact with Cummings until his boat was safely back in port.

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NDØB Earns Fred Fish Memorial Award (FFMA) #10

By Tony Emanuele, K8ZR

Stephen Cruse (L), K3WHC, and William Koch (R), W3RMA, are testing out a new system on the 24-GHz, band that turned into a microwave operating party. You can find more information on their operation on pages 77 and 100. (Photo by David Petke, K1RZ)



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30kHz-2GHz



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WIRES-X
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« Improved 66 ch GPS receiver included »



Amateur Radio Internet Linking Kit

HRI-200



C4FM/FM
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« Improved 66 ch GPS receiver included »

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ZERO BIAS: A CQ Editorial

BY RICH MOSESON,* W2VU

Let's Go Exploring!

Feeling a bit bored? Still mostly stuck at home, with mostly quiet HF bands (or rather, mostly noise)? Luckily for you, your monthly dose of ham radio therapy is here! Let's do some exploring together, both in the pages of this issue and on your radio.

We can start with our cover, joining K3WHC and W2RMA as they explore Blue Mountain in central Pennsylvania, where they set up their portable stations (with proper social distancing) to work some microwave DX. Part of a group of about a dozen microwave enthusiasts, their contacts on three bands covered distances of up to 200+ miles. You can read all about their adventures in "On the Cover" on page 100, and in this month's "VHF+" column on page 77. You can also read there about amazing conditions this summer on 6 meters, including openings criss-crossing the United States and even some from western North America into Europe!

As W2RMA explains in "On the Cover," the microwave bands offer a wide range of propagation fun, including ducts, tropo, rain scatter, and even airplane scatter. Bill says he keeps his 10-GHz gear in his car during the summer to be able to quickly take advantage of rain scatter opportunities. Worried about the cost of getting on a new band like 10 GHz? Check out this month's Antennas column, in which WA5VJB shows us how to put together an "X-band" receive station for the "cheap-ham-happy" sum of roughly \$40!

Our next few stops can be at the other end of the radio spectrum. The results of this year's CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest (p. 16) show that "Top Band" is the place to be at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. For the (slightly) more adventurous, KB5NJD is here every three months to guide us through the amazing things that are possible on our newest bands, 630 and 2200 meters. And you don't need acres of land for antennas, either.

Hams with few or no antenna options might enjoy exploring modes and apps that blend ham radio and the internet, such as "Peanut," the subject of our lead feature this month on page 12. Peanut was developed by a Dutch ham to link different digital voice networks, such as D-STAR, DMR, and System Fusion, which normally can't talk with each other. It also provides antenna-restricted hams with the ability to join on-air ragchews through their computers.

Speaking of digital, have you explored digital keyboard modes recently, such as FT8 and its variants? These weak-signal modes are keeping DXers busy even when their ears suggest that bands are dead. And have you checked out related modes such as WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) and RBN (the Reverse Beacon Network)? These incredible DX aids can alert you to band openings you might otherwise never have imagined, on bands the "common wisdom" tells you aren't even worth listening to. That same "common wisdom" tells us it's pointless to flip the band switch on our HF rigs to the "28" position at the bottom of a sunspot cycle. Yet, we've been seeing reports of excellent openings on 10 meters ... even without a sunspot in sight.

The next stop on our ham radio safari is in your own shack, specifically the workbench part of it. If you can't get out as



Tim Shoppa, N3QE, of Bethesda, Maryland, will be CQ's Contesting Editor as of next month's issue. (Photo courtesy N3QE)

much as you'd like to soak up the summer heat, heat up your soldering iron instead! Have you built a kit lately? How about a project from a magazine article for which you have to lay out the circuit yourself? Or one that requires you to dip your toes (figuratively only, please) into surface-mount soldering? There's a whole chunk of ham radio that has very little to do with making contacts. It's the technological "sandbox" in which we can build, design, and experiment.

Bottom line: There's never "nothing to do" in ham radio as long as you're willing to explore everything our hobby has to offer. Try something new. Who knows? You might get hooked!

73 to K3ZJ and Welcome to N3QE

This month's Contesting column marks the completion of five years as Contest Editor for Dave Siddall, K3ZJ. It is also his final column. As Dave explains in his column, his work demands have been increasing but he also felt the five-year mark was a good time to turn the column over to someone from a younger generation, as he puts it. At Dave's recommendation, he will be succeeded as Contest Editor, starting next month, by Tim Shoppa, N3QE.

Tim is very active in the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC), which he has served as secretary for several years. He also closely tracks individual contest and contest club activities worldwide. While Tim is a frequent guest operator at big multi-multi stations, the "antenna farm" at his home station in the Washington, DC suburbs consists of a single wire antenna. He is regularly at the top of the charts in the Tri-Bander / Wires category of the CQ WPX contests, and he had the top U.S. 80-meter score in the 2018 CQ DX Marathon. This gives Tim the benefit of a dual perspective on contest operating, both from "big gun" and "little pistol" stations, which he will begin sharing with our readers as of next month.

I want to thank Dave for carrying on the tradition of excellence in CQ's contesting column for the past five years, and for adding his perspective to a variety of matters. I also look forward to working with Tim. 73, Dave, and welcome, Tim!

– 73, Rich, W2VU

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

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OUR READERS SAY...

Violet is Not Red

The following letter was directed to "Math's Notes" editor Irwin Math, WA2NDM:

Hi Irwin,

I am a retired senior optical engineer, electro-optics physicist and was working with HeNe lasers. The wavelength was 632.8nm which translates to 474 terahertz (THz), so your statement that 484 terahertz is violet is wrong; that is in the red light frequency range.

Longer wavelength equals lower frequency and shorter wavelength equals higher frequency. Or ...

Lower = Longer / Higher = Shorter (LLHS)

My calculations are that
Wavelength = frequency
700 nm = 429 THz, and
400 nm = 750 THz.

– 73 de Phil Karras, KE3FL

WA2NDM responds:

Hello Phil,

Thank you for your comments. Sometimes I work a little too fast. In the future I will be sure to recheck my calculations. I, too, have worked in the THz region but my company manufactures fiber optic transmission systems and we use the common wavelengths of 850, 1310, 1550, and 1610 nanometers. My main goal in the column is to try to convince technically-oriented amateurs experiment in this region. The main reason for the wavelength to frequency calculation is to indicate that other than the fact that some wavelengths happen to be visible, they are still electromagnetic radiation and the possibilities are not completely known. Remember what Hertz and the others had when they started experimenting with the so called "Hertzian waves." In fact, I have a copy of a college physics textbook from 1902 that describes Hertz's experiments and states "while these experiments are interesting there is probably no real practical application."

Again, many thanks for your feedback. I appreciate it.

– Irwin, WA2NDM

Remembering KS4AA

Editor, CQ:

It was with sadness that I read about Eddie DeYoung, KS4AA, becoming a SK.

I met Eddie, his son (Raj) and wife (Mina) during the summer of 2004, a few days after they moved to Prescott, Arizona from Australia. Eddie and his wife were relocating to this area to be with their son who was entering as a freshman student at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. We quickly became friends and enjoyed hearing about his being a U.S. Air Force veteran and moving to Australia decades earlier, as well as the many DXpeditions in which he participated.

At that time, my Arizona ham shack was a 25-foot x 25-foot detached room with a full bathroom, storage, couch-bed, workshop, and two complete HF stations as well as a 2-meter / 70-centimeter operating position. Also, there was a large concrete slab on which antennas could be assembled. The ham building had its own heat-pump air conditioning system and natural gas. Needless to say, Eddie fell in love with the property and wished to make it his own. We reached an amenable selling price, but unfortunately because Eddie had lived outside the U.S. for many years, he didn't have a U.S. credit history and the bank wouldn't provide a loan, even with his substantial down payment.

Hence, Eddie and family purchased a mobile home; we ended up moving to Virginia to be close to my son; and KS4AA worked in Glacier National Park during the summer months.

We miss you, Eddie; Raj and Mina, you are in our prayers.

– Dick Diddams, W7QHE

Thanks, Jeff!

The following letter was directed to "Magic in the Sky" editor Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR:

Dear Jeff,

The Estero Radio Club would like to thank you for the wonderful article you wrote about our club for the April issue of CQ magazine ("The Monday Morning Breakfast Club"). We shared the article with the ham community in our area and it was warmly received.

We also copied it to our contacts with (Pacific Gas & Electric) and the (San Luis Obispo) County Office of Emergency Services, whom we support with emergency response activities. They were very complimentary of the article.

Thank you for this great article and we appreciate your support.

– 73, Bill Bailey, AE6EQ
Estero Radio Club President

(Continued on page 99)

NEWS BYTES



Anchorage VEC Goes to All-Electronic Testing

Over the past few months, we've been reporting on a variety of innovations in administering amateur radio licensing exams in a time of lockdowns and social distancing. Here's the next step ...

The folks who conducted the first volunteer-administered FCC amateur license exams 36 years ago now bring you the first totally online exam program. As of July 1st, all exams conducted by the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) have been using a web-based platform for both the tests themselves and the documents normally filled out on paper by both candidates and examiners.

The entire process is paperless, according to an announcement by the group. "Examinees will take their examinations on a computer that is connected to the internet. All documents will be electronically completed and signed by the examinee and VEs."

"The system not only renders one-time-use examinations for each individual examinee," the announcement continues, "but also can provide a live video / audio feed using the examinee's webcam / microphone. This feature has been utilized extensively during (the Anchorage VEC's) remote testing effort" as a result of in-person test session cancellations due to COVID-19.

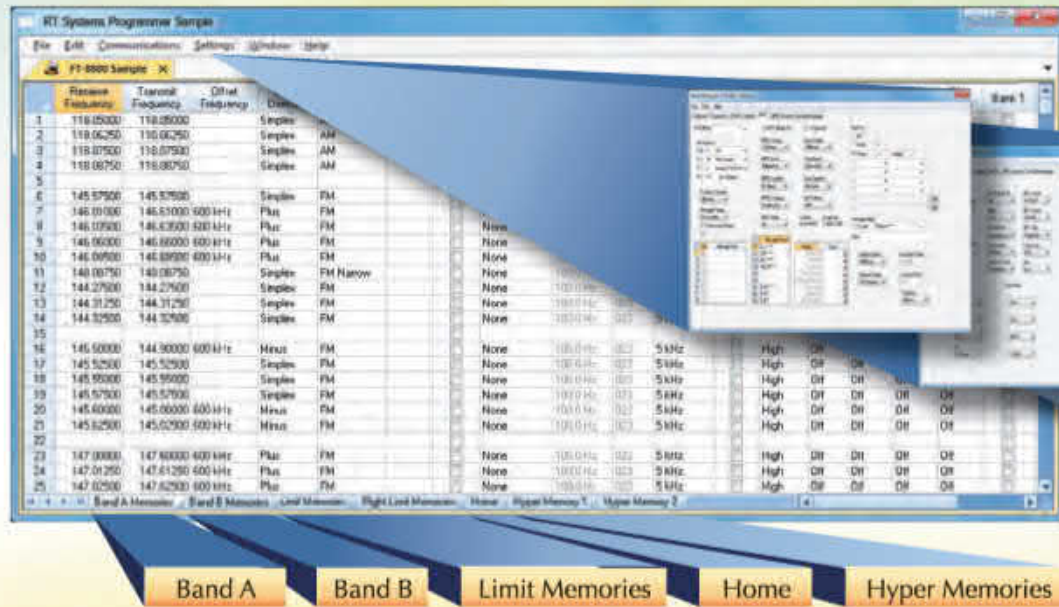
In addition, the group says, "(e)aminations are graded immediately and automatically. When video and audio monitoring is used, those data streams are recorded and become a permanent part of the examination record."

The Anchorage ARC is also able to file test results directly with the FCC almost immediately after the end of a test session, with new licenses or upgrades issued as quickly as one hour later.

[Tnx Craig Bledsoe, KL4E]

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KD8YVJ is 2020 Young Ham of the Year

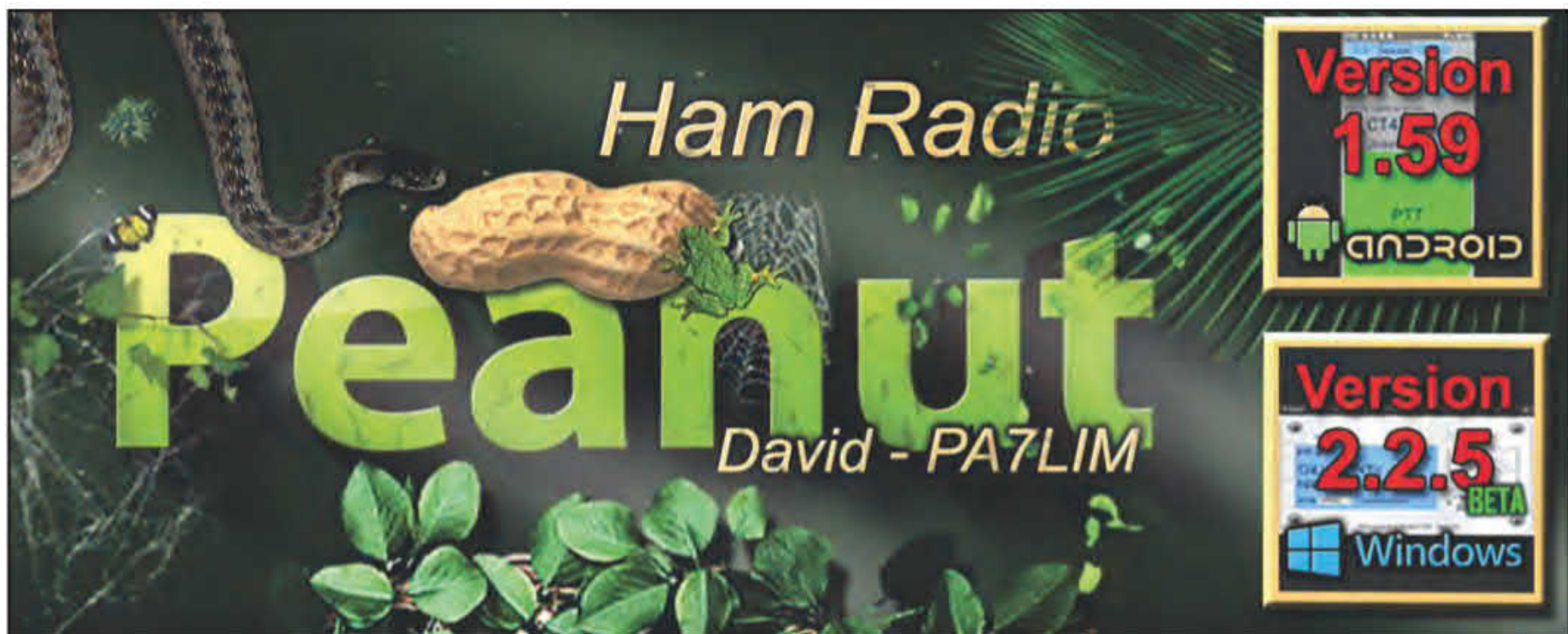
Christopher Brault, KD8YVJ, of Liberty Township, Ohio, has been named the 2020 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. CQ is a proud co-sponsor of the YHOTY program, along with Yaesu USA, Heil Sound, and Radiowavz. Brault, 18, is a 2020 graduate of St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati. Among his many activities and accomplishments, Chris operated from Costa Rica in 2017 as part of the Dave Kalter Memorial Youth DX Adventure program; he mentors other young hams in contesting as a leader of the Youth Contesting Program, is social media chair for the Youth on the Air (Americas) program and was supposed to be Assistant to the Director for this summer's (now-cancelled) inaugural YOTA camp in Ohio. Chris has also been very active with the West Chester Amateur Radio Association, WC8VOA, at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester, Ohio, where he has acted as a tour guide, operator, and contester for the club. He received the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Award for young hams in 2015.

Chris was also pictured (right) in the October 2018 issue of CQ, along with 2018 YHOTY winner Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO, remotely operating a contest from the lobby of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Huntsville, Alabama, during a power blackout!

The Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, Memorial Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is normally presented each year at the Huntsville Hamfest, which has been cancelled this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Alternate presentation plans were being made as we went to press. Congratulations, Chris!



2020 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Chris Brault, KD8YVJ (foreground), remotely operates a contest with 2018 YHOTY winner Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO (rear), from the lobby of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Huntsville, Alabama, during a power blackout! (Photo by and courtesy of Bob Heil, K9EID)



For the purist, no, this isn't "real" ham radio. But for the amateur living with significant antenna restrictions, it provides a way to stay in contact with other hams around the world ... for peanuts! K3BEQ takes us on a tour.

"Peanut" for Amateur Radio

BY MURRAY GREEN,* K3BEQ

If you are interested in communicating with radio amateurs worldwide with noise-free audio rich in high definition (HD) quality, may I recommend trying a relatively new program and app entitled "Peanut for Amateur Radio"? Developed by Dutch radio amateur David Grootendorst, PA7LIM, it allows voice communications using Windows™, an Android™ phone or network radio.¹ It also permits QSOs between DMR and D-STAR as well as offering gateways to P25, NXDN, Fusion, and WiresX. Designed exclusively for radio amateurs, it can be especially useful to those who reside in facilities with antenna restrictions.

The dynamic audio coupled with a very quiet noise floor virtually guarantees you will hear everything, even if you have hearing problems. It can also be used for mobile and portable operation with your Android phone or network radio. Similar in ways to Echolink (e.g., a D-STAR version perhaps), there is no comparison, however, to the Peanut HD audio quality when communicating with other Peanut users. It is addictive and once you



Figure 1. Peanut receive mode screen. See text for details.

engage in it, other audio systems will seem so much less.

Operating the Peanut Network Via Windows

Let's take a look at how you can operate the network from your desktop, Android, or radio. After registering (more on this below) and downloading the program, you will see an image similar to Figure 1 on your monitor screen. If a QSO is in progress in the "room" you join, the callsign and first name of the

transmitting station will appear on the screen (Figure 1 shows what another ham would see when logging into a room in which I was already in a QSO), along with the "room" name and other information. A room on a chat site is kind of like a special interest net, where people sharing a common interest "hang out." A drop-down list (Figure 2) shows all of the rooms available. The English Room, for example, is one of the more active rooms and has a host of DX stations who use it. It is not unusual to hear JA, VU, G, and A4 amateurs

* email: <k3beq@verizon.net>



Figure 2. A list of available “rooms” for QSOs may be accessed through a drop-down menu.

there, calling or having a QSO. It is not a constant stream of activity but enough to satisfy many amateurs’ desire to communicate.

After the QSO ends, you can call one of the stations by simply sliding the toggle switch under the meter to the right or by pressing your keyboard. The reverse applies as well. The meter shows incoming and outgoing audio strength. A 3-minute reverse count-down timer appears when the toggle switch is turned to transmit and the

screen turns to a different color, as seen in Figure 3.

If there are no QSOs in progress, no callsigns will be shown. Calling CQ is okay but most stations simply say: “This is (callsign) listening for a call,” as is common on analog repeaters.

There are over 20,000 hams registered to the Peanut network. In my operating experience, I find more activity on Peanuts than my local repeaters and Echolink. And where else can you call CQ and have an amateur opera-

tor from an exotic country answer you in HD audio quality absent of white noise, fading, and interference?

The listing to the right of the meter contains the rooms you select to automatically scan. (Scanning is available only on the Windows version.) The operator has the option of scanning or viewing the last stations heard via an icon at the top of the scan listing.

The local (within Peanut only) language-based rooms like English, Dutch, Spanish, Japanese, USA etc., are in HD quality. The rooms marked REF030C, XRF076C. etc., are linked to D-STAR and are transcoded with AMBE3000 chips located around the world. Referred to as “reflectors,” they are simply computer-based central points for repeaters and amateur operators to go to for communicating with each other.

A complete listing of all Peanut rooms and locations can be found at: <<http://peanut.pa7lim.nl/rooms.html>>

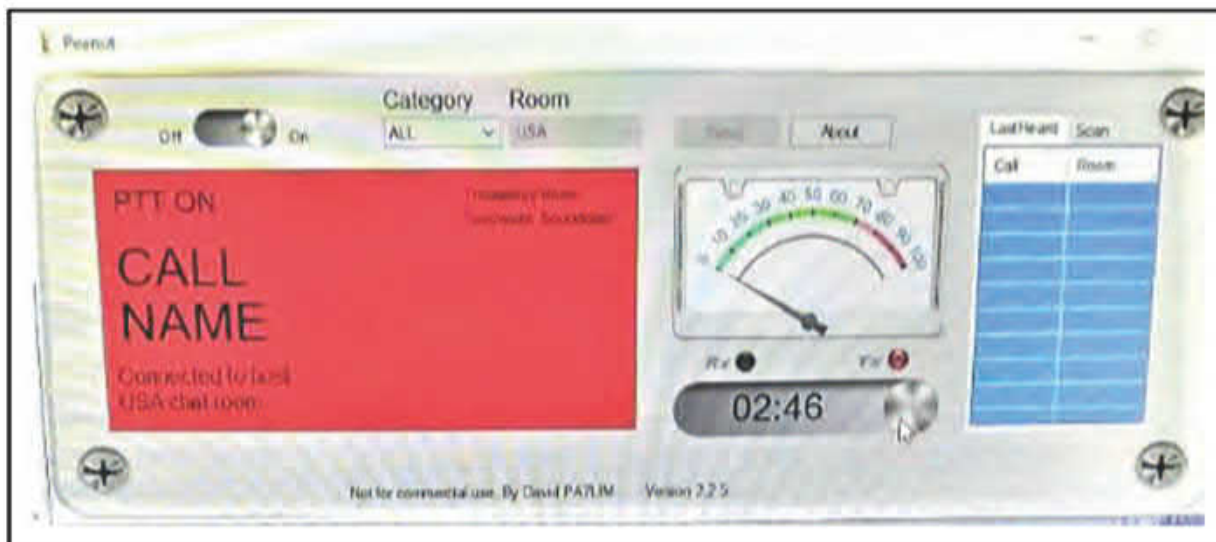


Figure 3. The Peanut display changes color when in transmit mode.

Registration

Since the Peanut network also provides access to D-STAR and DMR, a registration process is required for all three systems: To see if your call is already registered with either DMR or D-STAR, go to <<https://www.pa7lim.nl/callcheck/>>.

1. Peanut Registration:

a. To get access to the Peanut network, you need to register at <<https://register.peanut.network>>. A copy of your amateur radio license is required. Once you receive your Peanut code, you can use all HD local rooms and multiple D-STAR connected rooms.

b. Free Windows and Android software can be downloaded at: <www.pa7lim.nl/peanut/> (Windows 7 or higher with minimum .NET 4.5; Android 4.X or higher.)

2. DMR:Registration:

European users may register at: <<https://register.ham-digital.org>>; non-European users may register at: <<https://radioid.net/register#!>>.

3. D-STAR, D-PLUS Registration:

To access and see the D-STAR and D-PLUS reflectors (rooms starting with REF, REF 084C, etc.) you need a D-STAR USTRUST registration. You may register at: <<https://tinyurl.com/5l3m4h>>.

It Isn't Complicated!

Don't be intimidated by the registration processes. It is not that difficult. Just follow the instructions at each site. It may not always be immediate, so be patient. Once you are registered, you will receive applicable registration codes and be on your way to operating in the Peanut network.

There are over 20,000 hams registered to the Peanut network. In my operating experience, I find more activity on Peanuts than my local repeaters and Echolink.

Android there will be a push-to-talk (PTT) touch icon on the screen for transmitting and receiving (see *Photo A*). For network radios (*Photo B*), the microphone push-to-talk feature is used, just like on a traditional radio.

Dashboard

There is also a separate listing that shows amateur radio stations connected to specific rooms. This is a valuable tool to find out where the activity is. The listing updates every 10 seconds and is normally referred to as a *dashboard* (*Figure 4*). The listing can be accessed at: <http://peanut.pa7lim.nl/>. Place it next to the Peanut image in a split-screen view on your desktop monitor for ease of operation.

In Conclusion...

In my use of the Peanut network, I not only found incredible audio quality but instant contact with amateurs around the world who like to converse and exchange information. I have been licensed in the amateur radio service for 70 years and have yet to come across anything close to the HD audio experience of the Peanut network.

Peanut and other types of amateur digital systems are very sophisticated and maintained by very talented ama-



Photo A. An Android phone using the Peanut app. As shown, it is in the receive mode.

Things to Know from the Developer

Peanut developer David Grootendorst, PA7LIM, offers the following tips and information nuggets about the system:

- *Peanut is beta. Use it at your own risk.*
- *Do not use Peanut to interlink other systems!*
- *You do not have to disconnect to change a room! Just keep connected and select a room.*
- *Peanut for Android uses port 6667 UDP to the internet. It is NOT necessary to open ports from the internet to the Peanut device.*
- *You do not need an AMBE3000 vocoder (voice encoder) for Peanut to do D-STAR and DMR. So you have free digital voice.*
- *There is no iPhone / iPad version of Peanut. Apple does not support experimental projects.*
- *Peanut runs very nice on network radios like the Inrico TM-7.*
- *Do not drive and Peanut. Always watch the road!*
- *The app does not work in the background!*
- *You can also use Peanut on Windows with a DVAP (use an analog radio).*
- *I am not a company! I write code when I return from work and mostly at night.*
- *DSTAR reflector administrators can add their reflectors if they have an AMBE3000 server with ThumbDV or DVStick30. Complete solutions are from ZUM AMBE board and Japanese XLX team. see: <www.pa7lim.nl/ambeserve>.*

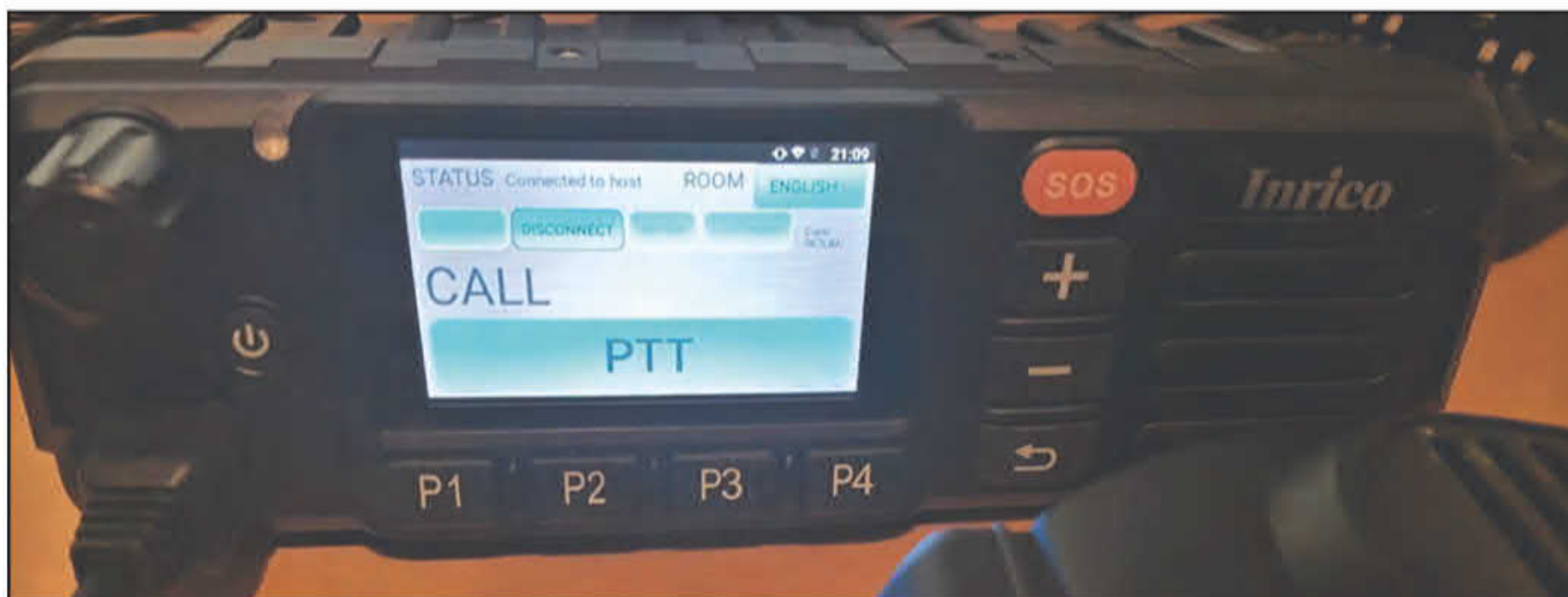


Photo B. A mobile "network radio" using Peanut. The screen shows no activity at the moment this photo was taken.

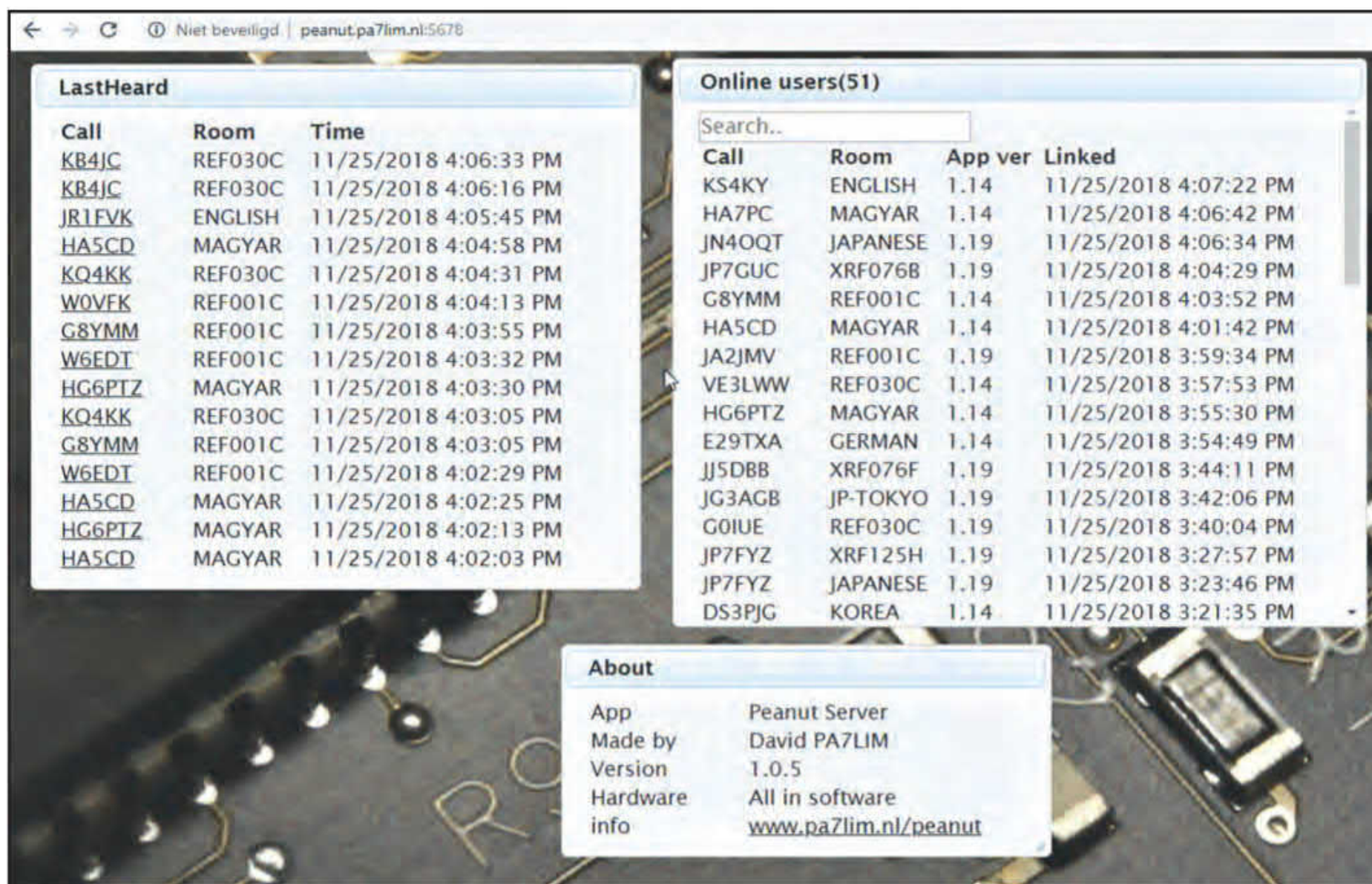


Figure 4. The Peanut dashboard displays lists of stations recently heard (top left), currently active (top right) and other information.

teur radio operators who have dedicated equipment, time, and funds so that you can enjoy the fruits of their labor, gratis. I am certain that once you try Peanut, you will reap the benefits of the digital world, find new friends to converse, and have an outstanding audio experience. Let's talk...

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Ian, G3ZHI, for his support and input to this article. Ian is a regular user of the Peanut network and can usually be found in the English room. He is a new and good friend.

Notes:

1. Network radio is a hybrid between traditional RF radios and the internet. Designed to look, feel and operate like a traditional two-way radio, network radios use Bluetooth or WiFi to connect to the internet through the cellular network.

About the Developer of the Peanut Network

David Grootendorst, PA7LIM, is a Linux / Network / Cloud consultant for a company in the Netherlands. He holds the Full Amateur license of the Netherlands, which is similar to the U.S. Extra Class. Peanut was an experiment that now has over 20,000 registered amateurs worldwide. For more of David's experiments on video and additional bio, go to: <www.pa7lim.nl/about/>.

On behalf of the amateur community, I want to thank David for his untiring efforts in developing the Peanut network. I consider him to be a pioneer in digital experimentation.

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Results of the 2020 CQWW 160 Meter Contest

Topband Can Be a Wonderful Obsession

BY ANDY BLANK,* N2NT

Few people would disagree that VY2ZM and K1LZ have a couple of the biggest 160-meter stations in the world. So where did they operate the 2020 CQ 160 Meter contest? Why, Mongolia, of course!

Chak, JT1CO, invited Jeff and Krassy to operate Multi-Op along with Roman, RN5M, and Sergey, UAØSC, at his fine station at JT5DX. With a 4-square and two Beverages, the team made 1.3M points with over 1,400 QSOs. I am sure they made a lot of people happy with a great multiplier and some All-Time New One (ATNO) QSOs.

Of course, that didn't stop Velimir, K3JO, from operating the K1LZ super station and taking top U.S. honors on CW, just edging out Jeff's brother Peter, K3ZM, by only 1.5%. The same results occurred on SSB with K1LZ and K3ZM, but conditions were not nearly as good as CW.

The top score in Multi-Op CW was earned by the S5 team with an amazing story of a "Field Day" setup on Lampedusa Island as IG9/S59A. With only 700 watts to the transmit antenna, and no in-band receiving capability, it was a challenge. They fought the elements and still scored nearly 3M points. Congratulations guys! Coming in second was the seasoned team of TAs and Ukrainian ops at TCØX, which were edged by less than 1%. A great job by both teams.

The Ironman Award goes to Stan Stockton, K5GO/ZF5T, who grabbed the combined score trophy on both modes. Stan's seaside QTH in the Cayman Islands is a 160-meter hot zone and his booming signal is quite amazing.

Many thanks again to the Bavarian Contest Club (BCC), which had 214 entries this year, which topped last year's 195. They almost doubled the next club down, Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) at 22M points. Additionally, the 40M point total is a full 25% higher than 2019. Congratulations to the BCC and thanks for your fantastic support of the contest. Clearing 10M total aggregated score are the Frankford Radio Club, Rhein Ruhr DX Association, Ukrainian Contest Club, and the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

The CQ 160 Committee is proud that the rules have been changed to allow Low-Power operation in the immensely popular Assisted categories. Until now, the rules only allowed High-Power operation. All scores are sorted in our official database, located at CQ160.com and can be sorted by categories.

A new record of 3,051 logs was received for CW. Single-Op Assisted was the most popular category with 1,362 entries, followed by 1,276 Unassisted entries.

CW Results

I always love quoting from the #2 U.S.A. Single-Op entrant Peter, K3ZM, who has a unique perspective on the CQ160



Here is Chak, JT1CO, with his good friend Krassy, K1LZ, having a great time with Chak's excellent station.

competition: "Did anybody manage to get the elusive Maine multiplier? :)"

There were 11 entries from Maine, with three scores over 1M points. K1LZ, K1DG, and K1A all did it, but K1DG was the only one of the three who was actually there! Bill, KO7SS, operated K1A from Arizona.

The conditions were fantastic on CW this year. Not quite a repeat of the once-in-a-lifetime conditions of 2009, but quite good. Propagation across the Atlantic was solid both nights. There were so many scores in the millionaires club, there are too many to list here.

It's a sign of the times that there are so many remote operations in use these days. K3JO's operation from K1LZ was done remotely to earn first place in the U.S.A. 2018 Single-Op winner N5DX returned to the category as a remote operator from N2QV, this time placing third in U.S.A. N2TTA and K4BAI both operated remotely as NP2P and PJ4A. They placed third and fifth, respectively, in the highly competitive Single-Op DX category. They couldn't overtake Uli, DL5AXX, who traveled to CR3W for the top spot, or Stan, ZF5T, for second place in the world; both operating the traditional way at the station sites. Stan is the father of N5DX, so remote operation can't be too far off for him as well.

In Single-Op Low Power, five stations were able to make over 1,000 QSOs: 3V8SF, MU2K, LY4L, KD4D, and 4O3A. Ash, KF5EYY, operated 3V8SF to the top World spot from

* director@cq160.com

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66

WIRES-X

Clear and Crisp Voice Technology

PLAQUE WINNERS AND DONORS

World Single Operator Combined SSB/CW
Stan Stockton (ZF9CW)
ZF5T
Donor: Ed Parish, K1EP

World Multioperator Combined SSB/CW
Valery Zhytkovich
EW5A
(EW6W, RD1A, RT1M, RT9T, RW1F,
EU6AF ops)
Donor: Juan Carlos Munoz, TG9AJR

CW

SINGLE OPERATOR
World
Ulf Ehrlich (DL5AXX)
CR3W
Donor: Paul Newberry, N4PN Memorial (by N4RJ)

U.S.A

VELIMIR DERIC (K3JO)
K1LZ
Donor: Milt Jensen, N5IA, Memorial by Arizona
 Outlaws Contest Club

Canada

John Sluymmer
VE3EJ
Donor: VE2XAA Memorial by Thor Stefansson,
 TF4M

U.S.A. - Zone 3

John Barcroft
K6AM
Donor: Bruce Butler – W6OSP Memorial

U.S.A. - Zone 4

Bryan Bydal
W5MX
Donor: Steve Schmidt, K4WA

U.S.A. - Zone 5

Peter H Briggs
K3ZM
Donor: Jim Monahan, K1PX

Africa

Luca Aliprandi (IK2NCJ)
D4C
Donor: James "Skip" Riba, WS9V

Asia

Pavel Kukushkin
UN9L
Donor: Missouri DX/Contest Club, K4SX

Europe

Pavel Pihoda (OK1MU)
OK6W
Donor: Emir-Braco Memic, E77DX

South America

John T. Laney III (K4BAI)
PJ4A
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

Oceania

Akito Nagi (JA5DQH)
KH7A
Donor: Will Angenent, K6ND

European Russia

Igor Avdeev
UA2FZ
Donor: CQ 160 Contest Committee

Japan

Shige Tsukeshiba
JH2FXK
Donor: Alabama Contest Group

North America

Stan Stockton (ZF9CW)
ZF5T
Donor: N4IN Memorial CQ Magazine

Southern Hemisphere

Oswaldo A. Santarone (LU5DF)
LU8DPM
Donor: Robert Kile, W7RH

World Assisted

Mathias Kolpe (DL4MM)
P4ØAA
Donor: Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB

Asia Assisted

Sergey Moskaev
R8TT
Donor: Jon Zaimes, AA1K

Europe Assisted

Krzysztof Sobon
SN7Q
Donor: DK5DC Memorial by DX-Hotel DM9EE

U.S.A. Assisted

Dennis Egan
W1UE
Donor: Akito Nagi, JA5DQH

U.S.A. Assisted – Zone 3

Larry Pace
N7DD
Donor: Larry Pace, N7DD

U.S.A Assisted – Zone 4

Victor A. Kean, Jr.
K1LT
Donor: Pete Michaelis, N8TR

Assisted – Zone 5

Bill Straw (KO7SS)
K1A
Donor: Potomac Valley Radio Club

World Low Power

Ashraf Chaaname (KF5EYY)
3V8SF
Donor: Akito Nagi, JA5DQH

U.S.A. Low Power

Mark Bailey
KD4D
Donor: Rich Kennedy, N4ESS

Asia – Low Power

Valery Strelchenok
UA9QM
Donor: Robert Kile, W7RH

Europe Low Power

Oleg Borisov (RL5D)
MU2K
Donor: DL1RK Memorial Petr Ourednik, OK1RP

Canada Low Power

Ric Guidone
VE3XL
Donor: Contest Club Ontario

World QRP

Arunas Vaglys
LY5E
Donor: Wayne Mills, N7NG

U.S.A. QRP

Marty Ray
N9SE
Donor: Bob Raymond, WA1Z

U.S.A. QRP - Zone 4

Charlie Hansen
NØTT
Donor: K9JWV Memorial by (WC7S)

Europe QRP

Rudolf Rueffer
DK7HA
Donor: Peter Voelpel, DJ7WW

MULTI-OPERATOR

World

Drago Turin S59A
IG9/S59A
(S51V, S52OT, S56N, S57DX, S59A ops)
Donor: Paul Newberry, N4PN Memorial (by N4RJ)

U.S.A.

John Crovelli
W2GD
(K2TW, KU2C, KZ2I, KS3F, N2HM, N2OO, W2CG,
W2GD, W2NO, W2RQ, ops)
Donor: WØCD Memorial (by K8GG and W8UVZ)

U.S.A. Zone 3

Lee Finkel KY7M
NA7TB
(KY7M, NA2U, KC7V, AA7A ops)
Donor: Tom Whitted, N7GP

Europe

Petr Clupny
OK7K
(OK1BN, OK1GK, OK1NS, OK3RM, ops)
Donor: Bob Evans, K5WA

ASIA

Ali Riza Ozsaran TA3EL
TCØX
(TA3A, TA3AER, TA3EL, TA3LHH, UA9CDC,
URØMC, US2YW, UT5ECZ, UT5EL, UW8SM,
UZ5DX ops)
Donor: Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM

SSB

SINGLE OPERATOR

World

Jeffrey T. Briggs
VY2ZM
Donor: Nodir Tursoon-Zadeh, EY8MM

U.S.A.

Velimir Deric (K3JO)
K1LZ
Donor: W4PZV/W4SVO Memorial (by NQ4I)

Canada

Peter Barron
VE3PN
Donor: Tom Haavisto, VE3CX

U.S.A. - Zone 3

Robert C. Lee
N7AU
Donor: Nate Moreschi, N4YDU

U.S.A. - Zone 4

Karl Brandt
ND8DX
Donor: Alabama Contest Group

U.S.A. - Zone 5

Peter H. Briggs
K3ZM
Donor: Brent Scott, WR5O

Asia

Vladimir Falshunov
R8WF
Donor: Jessica Beckling, KN4JJA

Europe

Branko Zemljak
S57C
Donor: James "Skip" Riba, WS9V

Asiatic Russia

Boris Khakimzyanov
UA9CAW
Donor: Steven "Sid" Caesar, NH7C

North America

Stan Stockton (ZF9CW)
ZF5T
Donor: CQ magazine – K2EEK Memorial

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

Oceania
Dave Sullivan
ZL2OK
Donor: Steve "Sid" Caesar - NH7C

Southern Hemisphere
Mario Raul Andraca Rivera
LU8DPM
Donor: John Rogers, WE3C

World Assisted
Petr Clupny (OK1BN)
OK7K
Donor: K9HMB Memorial by Ray Sokola, K9RS

Asia Assisted
Sergey Moskaev
R8TT
Donor: Chuck Dietz, W5PR

Europe Assisted
Rolandas Jokubauskas
LY4A
Donor: Curtis Rose, N2ZX

U.S.A. Assisted
Bud Governale
W3LL
Donor: Pete Michaelis, N8TR

U.S.A. Assisted – Zone 4
Bud Foster
K4ISV
Donor: Pete Michaelis, N8TR

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

U.S.A. Low Power
George Verciuc
W8CO
Donor: Tim Duffy, K3LR

Europe Low Power
Andrzej Lysakowski
SP5CJY
Donor: Contest Club Ontario

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

World QRP
Maksim Kesic
E77Y
Donor: John Rodgers, WE3C

MULTI-OPERATOR
World
Noah Gottfried (K2NG)
PJ4G
(K2NG, NE9U, KK9K, PJ4NX ops)
Donor: Southeastern DX Club

U.S.A.
Steve Kostro
N2CEI
(KØDI, N2CEI, K4SME ops)
Donor: Jerry Rosalius, WB9Z

Europe
Pavel Pihoda OK1MU
OL7M
(OK1CDJ, OK1CID, OK1JD, OK1MU,
OK2ZAW ops)
Donor: South Jersey DX Association, N2CW

Zone 3
Lee Finkel
N7T
(KY7M, N7NR, KC7V @NA7TB ops)
Donor: Paulo, PV8DX



This fine station belongs to Cort, K4WI, who was first place in Alabama on SSB Low Power.



Here is John, K4BAI, operating PJ4A remotely from the comfort of KU8E's QTH. He has a fast internet connection.

Tunisia, while RL5D traveled to MU2K for second place World. Mark, KD4D, used the super station of W3LPL for his U.S.A. victory.

This was the first year that we have been able to separate Low- and High-Power rankings in the Assisted category, a long overdue change. CQ160 regular Low-Power winner Brian, VE3MGY, pointed out he has the new North American record for Single-Op Assisted Low Power. It occurred to me that EVERYBODY has set a new Low-Power record for Single-Op Assisted. There will be a listing on our official website to reflect all these as well.

Of special note, and a tribute to the conditions, is the effort by Osvaldo, LU5DF, operating at the fine station of Mario, LU8DPM. Normally, QSOs from Argentina to the U.S.A. or EU are difficult due to the distance. But with a full size vertical and array of Beverages, they were able to make 488 QSOs and approximately 500K total score. Well done, guys!

In the most competitive category of Single-Op World Unassisted, there were no less than 16 scores over 1M points. But the top score of CR3W by DL5AXX really stands out, the only one over 2M points. However, that is nothing com-

2020 CQWW 160M CONTEST TOP SCORES

<p>CW</p> <p>USA</p> <p>K1LZ1,128,548 K3ZM1,112,238 N5DX1,065,912 K1DG1,023,435 W5MX729,270 NA8V703,948 N4XD667,584 W4CB666,600 W3BGN633,204 W5ZN590,117</p> <p>VE</p> <p>VE3EJ1,240,070 VE3DZ962,016 VE3AT831,512 VE3VN512,627 VE3PN474,117 VE6BBP419,616 VE3YT283,283 VE3KP237,830 VE3XL178,160 VE3BR167,165</p> <p>Zone 3</p> <p>K6AM414,468 W7QM358,992 K7RAT323,904 WJ9B235,969 AA6AA231,413 W6AYC204,952 AC6DD199,890 N7GP163,891 N7ZG153,840 N6RK146,219</p> <p>Zone 4</p> <p>VE3EJ1,240,070 VE3DZ962,016 VE3AT831,512 W5MX729,270 NA8V703,948 W5ZN590,117 W9RE530,292 VE3VN512,627 N2IC492,366 VE3PN474,117</p> <p>QRP</p> <p>LY5E388,275 DK7HA290,958 YL2QN232,532 HA8BE216,794 S52P207,309 S57M205,261 OL4W187,885 OK1LL164,800 N9SE159,100 EU1AA143,468</p> <p>DX</p> <p>CR3W2,272,064 ZF5T1,956,080 NP2P1,523,162 OK6W1,516,020 PJ4A1,474,667 KP2M1,448,912 D4C1,358,012 XE2X1,352,124 NP2J1,322,752 LY7Z1,297,032</p> <p>Zone 14</p> <p>EI5DI1,014,328 CR6K904,818 DL1AUZ903,540 DF9LJ706,414 MU2K574,752 OZ1LO563,530 GM3POI444,136 DL5SE409,590</p>	<p>SMØT386,863 DK6XZ341,360 EI7KD341,352</p> <p>Zone 15</p> <p>OK6W1,516,020 LY7Z1,297,032 S53A1,183,005 OHØR1,056,438 OM7RU778,146 HG5D756,276 9A2AJ728,178 LY4L545,776 4O3A502,980 OM5CD499,668</p> <p>Zone 16</p> <p>UX2X1,014,253 R7NW978,588 R8WF726,732 RA3XM489,552 RU3UR448,154 UT7NY435,288 EW1I400,932 RN1A385,360 UX1HW352,968 R3ST329,751</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>R7NW978,588 R8WF726,732 RT9A690,074 RA3XM489,552 RU3UR448,154 RN1A385,360 RA9MA373,503 R3ST329,751 R3FX309,463 RD4F264,180</p> <p>LOW POWER World</p> <p>3V8SF956,970 MU2K574,752 LY4L545,776 KD4D525,100 4O3A502,980 NØNI412,794 OK7Y382,120 9A1AA367,567 LY9A323,068 DL6KWN321,925</p> <p>LOW POWER W/VE</p> <p>KD4D525,100 NØNI412,794 WB8JUI270,300 N8II263,637 K1EP254,800 K5KU241,020 K3JT231,500 K1DC187,376 VE3XL178,160 VE3VSM157,960</p> <p>QRP W/VE</p> <p>NØTT130,950 N3CZ65,670 KØPK35,964 WB4MSG30,438 KKØU27,979 W9CC20,610 KEØTT19,395 K3TW19,366 KI4IO16,605 WB2CPU12,002</p> <p>MULTI-OPERATOR WORLD</p> <p>IG9/S59A2,941,390 TCØX2,746,668 P33W2,730,192 OK7K2,153,792 PJ2T2,141,644</p>	<p>EW5A2,041,068 RL3A2,016,540 4X2M2,005,560 UA7K1,937,250 9A1P1,822,620</p> <p>MULTI-OPERATOR W/VE</p> <p>VO2AC1,704,417 W2GD1,395,468 K3LR1,072,804 NR4M890,960 KØDI842,656 KM3T798,840 N1LN696,828 N3EB660,625 K2AX627,792 NA7TB588,672</p> <p>ASSISTED WORLD</p> <p>+P4ØAA2,156,011 +SN7Q1,659,711 +SN2M1,601,380 +OM7M1,501,360 +LX2ØI1,479,226 +MX5A1,438,490 +UA2FZ1,433,295 +LY4A1,367,380 +YL2SM1,314,036 +LY7M1,313,820</p> <p>ASSISTED W/VE</p> <p>+VA2WA1,191,360 +W1UE1,044,669 +K1A1,010,152 +AA1K979,104 +K3WW826,344 +K1LT807,380 +N3HEE784,655 +VE3RZ771,948 +K2AV709,800 +KVØQ693,328</p> <p>SSB</p> <p>USA</p> <p>K1LZ338,548 K3ZM302,736 ND8DX213,891 NA8V199,827 W3BGN183,440 W1XX181,645 K2XA160,290 W3TS114,595 W1OC112,995 K3ZO109,340</p> <p>VE</p> <p>VY2ZM745,461 VE3PN205,190 VE3MGY203,112 VE3DZ140,882 VA3AR117,355 VA3AC99,603 VA3NW38,581 VE3KP29,930 VE3VY19,807 VE3TW14,790</p> <p>Zone 3</p> <p>N7AU23,970 N7RK18,179 W6AFA14,250 K7IU10,560 W7ZB7,887 VA7EU7,056 AI6LY6,975 K7HP5,478 NG7M4,524 K7STO4,228</p> <p>Zone 4</p> <p>ND8DX213,891 VE3PN205,190</p>	<p>VE3MGY203,112 NA8V199,827 VE3DZ140,882 VA3AR117,355 KØIDX105,690 ND4Y104,082 VA3AC99,603 KØTT89,962</p> <p>QRP</p> <p>E77Y61,440 HA8BE54,264 R2FI24,570 EU1AA23,698 WB4MSG22,320 DLØAZ21,276 UT1WW20,628 YO8BSE19,314 OK1LL18,172 HA1TI14,924</p> <p>DX</p> <p>ZF5T623,370 ZF2AM465,360 S57C371,853 IK2YCW336,490 ES5RW301,000 SN7D260,455 YL7X223,040 SP9N204,544 SQ7CL164,777 LY5W159,689</p> <p>Zone 14</p> <p>EA3IBV76,750 SB6A64,920 DF2DJ64,100 DL2SAX58,056 M3D56,212 MIØM52,962 EG2CAI51,696 DLØESA47,360 DK1KC45,360 DG5MLA45,150</p> <p>Zone 15</p> <p>S57C371,853 IK2YCW336,490 ES5RW301,000 SN7D260,455 YL7X223,040 SP9N204,544 SQ7CL164,777 LY5W159,689 SN6M144,990</p> <p>Zone 16</p> <p>UX1UA149,292 US5D125,856 UT2AA87,400 R8WF84,398 RA3XM70,460 UA4LCH48,258 UR5TM47,463 RA1ZZ40,303 RC5Z39,780 UZ1U38,556</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>R8WF84,398 RA3XM70,460 UA4LCH48,258 RA1ZZ40,303 RC5Z39,780 UA9CAW36,735 RK3E33,966 RC2SB30,400 RA3RA25,806 UA1CUR25,760</p> <p>LOW POWER WORLD</p> <p>VE3MGY203,112 LY4L131,663</p>	<p>SP5CJY103,831 VA3AC99,603 W8CO89,205 OK1LRD84,832 LY9A84,214 SQZAX80,388 HA8WY63,102 OM5WW60,952</p> <p>LOW POWER W/VE</p> <p>VE3MGY203,112 VA3AC99,603 W8CO89,205 KB4OLM51,832 N2HMM51,747 W8GP51,012 N4XL48,730 NGØC40,698 VA3NW38,581 KS3D36,608</p> <p>QRP W/VE</p> <p>K3TW5,208 N8LJ4,825 K2MIJ4,290 W7BAK4,248 WB8DC2,720 W1RGA676 WØYJT630 VE6EX520 W1IG60 VA3MYC30</p> <p>MULTI-OPERATOR WORLD</p> <p>PJ4G538,164 OL7M533,808 EW5A496,524 HG8DX431,730 US1Q358,179 SP8R352,577 UA7K317,900 N2CEI311,115 N2CW306,976 S56P273,428</p> <p>MULTI-OPERATOR W/VE</p> <p>N2CEI311,115 N2CW306,976 WU2X267,145 W5MX169,338 W8PR154,356 K2AX100,809 N3DPB85,413 WR5079,168 NE3F66,642 K3CCR66,300</p> <p>ASSISTED WORLD</p> <p>+OK7K650,743 +LY4A610,416 +KP4KE479,412 +S54ZZ302,808 +LX2ØI286,556 +EA9/DL1MGB270,776 +MI5K267,064 +DK6WL262,352 +DK2OY233,064 +W3LL194,292</p> <p>ASSISTED W/VE</p> <p>+W3LL194,292 +N4RV164,410 +K4ISV140,466 +AA1K139,410 +K4XL135,660 +VE3CX131,089 +W1EQO129,244 +N2ZX115,024 +VE3CV114,895 +W3FOX99,162</p>
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*Low Power
+Assisted

pared to the High-Power Assisted category where 25 scores topped 1M. Again, the standout score is from another German: Mathias, DL4MM, operating from P4ØAA. Mat's score is the only one above 2M points on that list. The next 24 stations above 1M are mostly from Europe, with VA2WA, W1UE, and K1A all sneaking into the millionaire's club.

In the hugely popular Multi-Op category, there were a whopping 49 scores over 1M points, and eight over 2M! There were six 1M-plus scores in the Czech Republic alone. The

crew at OK7K took the top EU spot with 2.15M points and EW5A at 2.04M points. OK7K has 11 receiving antennas and managed over 500 U.S.A. QSOs. A surprise entrant into the CQ160 was the K3LR super station. They made a fantastic effort of over 1M points, but the seasoned N.J. shore crew at W2GD was victorious in the end.

Of special note is VO2AC who have tried to operate from a shore lighthouse QTH for the past 3 years. The weather finally cooperated, and their effort is the third highest Multi-

2020 CQWW 160M CONTEST CLUB SCORES

(Minimum of 3 three entries required for listing)

SCORE	#ENTRIES	CLUB	SCORE	#ENTRIES	CLUB
40,734,353	214	BAVARIAN CONTEST CLUB	472,061	3	OK1KMU
22,814,744	170	POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB	468,511	4	CZECH CONTEST CLUB
19,076,095	131	FRANKFORD RADIO CLUB	466,080	3	UR-QRP-CLUB
12,335,632	52	RUSSIAN CONTEST CLUB	460,051	5	BRISTOL (TN/VA) ARC
11,453,408	64	RHEIN RUHR DX ASSOCIATION	452,719	4	LA-DX-GROUP
11,367,691	101	UKRAINIAN CONTEST CLUB	393,793	13	DFW CONTEST GROUP
10,587,525	83	YANKEE CLIPPER CONTEST CLUB	393,310	15	WESTERN WASHINGTON DX CLUB
9,877,921	54	CONTEST CLUB ONTARIO	392,752	5	BIG SKY CONTESTERS
8,423,716	21	CROATIAN CONTEST CLUB	352,420	4	NORTH CAROLINA DX AND CONTEST CLUB
8,110,266	20	BALTIC CONTEST CLUB	321,823	6	CATALONIA CONTEST CLUB
7,054,444	42	KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY RADIO CLUB	318,910	4	R4F-DX-G
6,910,185	89	SOCIETY OF MIDWEST CONTESTERS	307,256	9	ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION
6,598,828	15	BELOKRANJEC CONTEST CLUB	298,798	3	OK1KQJ CONTEST CLUB
6,012,255	19	SLOVENIA CONTEST CLUB	293,646	5	NOT QUITE WORKABLE CONTEST CLUB
5,745,296	19	MAD RIVER RADIO CLUB	292,097	3	RADIO AMATEURS OF NORTHERN VERMONT
5,475,575	47	ARIZONA OUTLAWS CONTEST CLUB	252,542	9	ORCA DX AND CONTEST CLUB
5,166,850	42	SP DX CLUB	231,004	4	YO DX CLUB
5,070,981	20	CONTEST CLUB FINLAND	230,638	3	SRR
4,816,285	24	EA CONTEST CLUB	224,827	4	DONBASS CONTEST CLUB
4,467,047	15	LATVIAN CONTEST CLUB	218,505	6	MOTHER LODE DX & CONTEST CLUB
4,461,210	15	HUNGARIAN DX CLUB	213,286	3	LOMA DEL TORO DX CLUB
3,834,226	25	ITALIAN CONTEST CLUB	200,526	9	SWAMP FOX CONTEST GROUP
3,824,308	13	URAL CONTEST GROUP	199,182	5	CSM Craiova
3,779,536	13	BELARUS CONTEST CLUB	190,461	4	BLACK SEA CONTEST CLUB
3,733,725	16	CONTEST CLUB SERBIA	185,580	5	ARAUCARIA DX GROUP
3,369,738	11	UA2 CONTEST CLUB	179,537	3	IRKUTSK RADIO CLUB
3,332,506	28	FLORIDA CONTEST GROUP	174,315	8	VRHNIKA CONTESTERS
2,684,913	18	DANISH DX GROUP	167,290	6	TEXAS DX SOCIETY
2,678,443	18	NORTH COAST CONTESTERS	146,168	7	WEST PARK RADIOPS
2,653,497	7	WORLD WIDE YOUNG CONTESTERS	129,827	4	NORTH TEXAS CONTEST CLUB
2,630,001	12	VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY RADIO CLUB	120,288	3	GERMAN DX FOUNDATION
2,534,313	57	DEUTSCH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	115,235	3	GREAT SOUTHERN DX ASSOCIATION
2,438,712	12	SOUTH URAL CONTEST CLUB	112,907	3	SPANDAU DXERS
2,334,034	9	THRACIAN ROSE CLUB	112,886	7	RU-QRP
2,167,420	28	TENNESSEE CONTEST GROUP	110,247	3	HILLTOP TRANSMITTING ASSOCIATION
2,044,593	42	MINNESOTA WIRELESS ASSN	109,726	3	RCWC
1,999,619	12	SOUTH EAST CONTEST CLUB	108,320	4	BERGEN AMATEUR RADIOASSOCIATION
1,985,101	18	KENTUCKY CONTEST GROUP	107,702	5	PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE
1,965,301	8	MARITIME CONTEST CLUB	106,831	4	599 DX ASSOCIATION
1,883,714	10	ALRS ST PETERSBURG	101,343	4	CENTRAL VIRGINIA CONTEST CLUB
1,880,204	12	RUSSIAN CW CLUB	94,760	6	ARKTIKA
1,761,851	15	ALABAMA CONTEST GROUP	86,209	3	VORONEZH RADIO CLUB
1,725,190	9	VERON	83,271	4	GRANITE STATE ARA
1,624,395	12	GRAND MESA CONTESTERS OF COLORADO	77,028	3	SHENANDOAH VALLEY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION
1,596,003	3	CENTRAL SIBERIA DX CLUB	72,468	4	METRO DX CLUB
1,573,302	7	GIPANIS CONTEST GROUP	65,804	8	SPOKANE DX ASSOCIATION
1,533,470	3	MILARA CONTEST CLUB	63,958	3	SK5AA VASTERAS RADIOKLUBB
1,502,911	3	FLORIDA WEAK SIGNAL GROUP	56,700	3	KRIVBASS
1,362,726	3	CLIPPERTON DX CLUB	56,554	3	WOBLERS
1,294,469	10	CONTEST GROUP DU QUEBEC	56,469	3	BADGER CONTESTERS
1,290,695	11	CENTRAL TEXAS DX AND CONTEST CLUB	55,229	3	RADIO AMATEUR ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN GREECE
1,114,978	21	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	54,949	3	SOUTHWEST OHIO DX ASSOCIATION
1,113,114	31	NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTEST CLUB	46,474	8	NEW PROVIDENCE ARC
1,040,998	7	GM DX GROUP	43,458	3	VK CONTEST CLUB
1,030,536	18	HUDSON VALLEY CONTESTERS AND DXERS	41,682	3	THE VILLAGES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1,022,859	4	RIIHIMAEN KOLMOSET	35,876	9	KEYMEN'S CLUB OF JAPAN
1,017,550	5	TALL TREES CONTEST GROUP	33,868	3	ARCK
986,935	4	SHAKHAN CONTEST CLUB	27,017	3	NORFOLK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
888,926	5	LU CONTEST GROUP	22,026	4	TURKISH RADIO AMATEUR CLUB
870,654	3	FAZENDA ACTIVITY CONTEST GROUP	21,292	4	URE BAIX CAMP
843,335	10	KANSAS CITY CONTEST CLUB	20,675	3	BLRCI
829,413	10	NIAGARA FRONTIER RADIOSPORT	8,068	3	CALABRIA DX TEAM
755,679	13	WILLAMETTE VALLEY DX CLUB	6,448	3	PACIFIC NORTHWEST VHF SOCEITY
708,069	5	IOWA DX AND CONTEST CLUB	2,171	16	YB LAND DX CLUB
654,916	3	VERULAM ARC	438	9	ORARI LOKAL KEDIRI
641,475	7	DEEP DIXIE CONTEST CLUB	168	7	ORARI LOKAL BOGOR
628,238	7	CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION	158	9	SINGLE FIGHTER DX GROUP
620,394	6	CHILTERN DX CLUB	114	4	ORARI LOKAL BLITAR
611,299	4	RIO DX GROUP	76	3	CDR GROUP
604,156	3	OMSK REGION RADIOCLUB	45	4	CABREUVADX
591,604	8	CTRI CONTEST GROUP			

Op in North American history. Congratulations to VE9CB and VO1HP, along with Chris, VO2AC, for their great dedication to the contest.

Conditions were good enough this year to produce some big scores in the QRP section. World winner Arunas, LY5E, commented that the new rules allowing assisted operation for all QRP entries was a welcome change. He made an incredible 990 QSOs, breaking the K9AY record of 801 QSOs dating back to 2009. Marty, N9SE, had the highest QRP score in the U.S. with 714 QSOs. Well done, guys!

SSB Results

There were 1,471 logs submitted for SSB this year, up from 1223 in 2019. The transatlantic conditions on SSB were nowhere near as good as the CW portion.

The Multi-Op team at OL7M fought bad weather and bad propagation to North America and almost won the world. They almost doubled the winning total of QSOs from PJ4G, but the lack of 10 pointers and states for OL7M made the scoring difference. The margin of victory was on only 5K points.

In the U.S.A., the shore station of N2CW (the same location as W2GD on CW) was surprised by the Northern Florida team of N2CEI (who operates as KØDI on CW). N2CW had a slightly higher claimed score, but the positions changed after log checking. It is very unusual to win this category from south-

eastern part of the country. Congratulations, guys!

Jeff, VY2ZM, decided to return to the superstation on Prince Edward Island to operate SSB, and pilot it to the top World score in Single-Op High Power. He managed to squeak by the Cayman Island tag team of ZF5T and ZF2AM.

With depressed conditions, the U.S. competition was a bit tougher. But once again it was K3JO at K1LZ and K3ZM battling for the top spot. It was Velimir operating remotely from the new Maine superstation of K1LZ who was victorious again. The amazing unpredictabil-

ity of Topband means that in any given year the places can change. This was “Maine’s year” for sure.

And in Europe, only 35K points separated Branko, S57C, operating from S5ØC, and Gabry, IT9RGY, operating from the fine station of IK2YCW. Operating this contest from Europe is always a challenge due to the enormous QRM from the big guns. Congratulations to all the participants for sticking it out to the end.

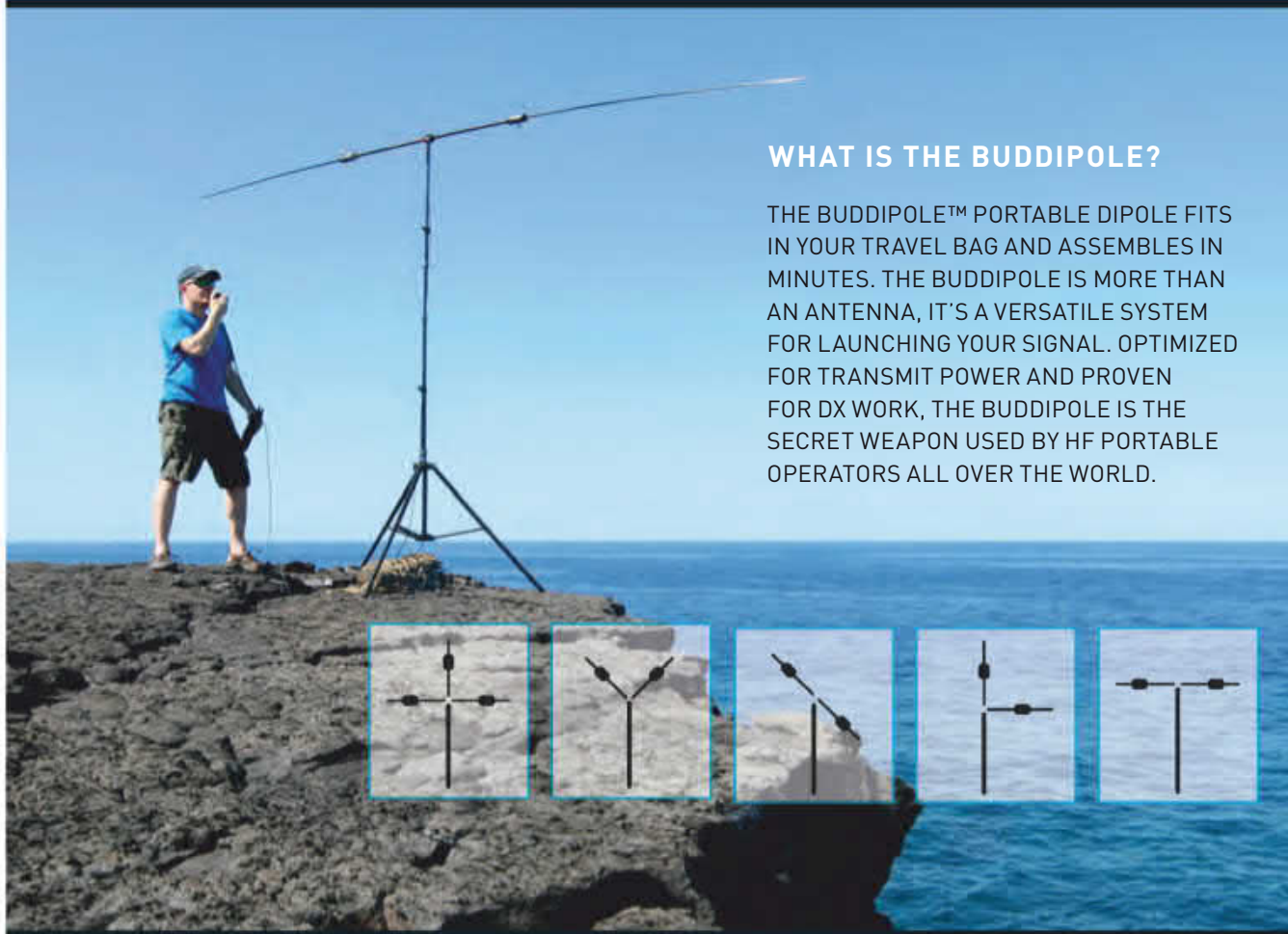
In the Single-Op Low Power category, our friend Brian, VE3MGY, blew away the competition with a score of



David, HC5DX, made some people happy on SSB with a fine multiplier from his mountaintop QTH at 8,300 feet in elevation in Ecuador.



Multi-Op Asia winner is the crew from Ukraine and Turkey of (not listed in standing order) TA3A, TA3AER, TA3EL, TA3LHH, UA9CDC, URØMC, US2YW, UT5ECZ, UT5EL, UW8SM, and UZ5DX.



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203K; the next station was LY4L at 131K. George, W8CO, repeated his 2019 U.S.A. Low-Power victory as well. In Europe, only two stations were able to crack 100K points: LY4L and SP5CJY.

In the wildly popular Assisted category, Petr, OK1BN, operating as OK7K, piloted the station to first place in the world. Coming in second was Rolandas, LY4A, with only 40K fewer points than Petr. The U.S. battle in Assisted resulted in Bud, W3LL, outlasting Rich, NN3W, operating at N4RV, by only 30K points. In the new Low-Power Assisted category, Glenn, K2FF, operating at NA5NN, took top U.S. honors. His only comment was “CQ Wyoming, CQ Wyoming ... where are you?” He just edged out N4BAA by only 2K points.

And Slavko, S57DX, who took top Low-Power World Assisted, makes this comment: “As expected LP is hard work!” Imagine if he tried QRP?

Speaking of QRP, somehow Max, E77Y, managed to make 302 QSOs with under 5 watts. This was a fantastic job given the conditions. Next was Bela, HA8BE, a long-time 160M regular, with 250 QSOs. Operating QRP on 160-meter SSB has to be one of the hardest things to do in a contest. Congratulations to all who stuck it out. Unfortunately there was no trophy sponsored for top USA QRP, but congratulations to Gene, WB4MSG, on taking first place!

The CQ160 Committee would like to take a moment to honor long time Topband enthusiast Herb Schoenbohm, KV4FZ. Herb became a Silent Key (SK) in April 2020 at age 84. He was a fixture on 160 meters and in most 160-meter contests as well. RIP Herbie, we will all miss you.

Obeying the Rules

This year it was necessary to disqualify one station (US1Q on CW). We have proof that a remote receiver located on

another continent was used to receive stations. This is a clear violation of the rules and spirit of the contest. While not all violations are as blatant as this, the committee receives many complaints from entrants every year. We wish to point out these violations in the hopes we can keep a level playing field in the future.

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

In closing, I would like to give special thanks to all those assisting me in making the contest a success, including: N6TR (log checking), K1DG (trophies), and K5ZD (webmaster).

Certificates for everyone are available for printing on our website at CQ160.com. If anyone would like a Log Checking Report, send an email to me at <director@CQ160.com>. Please specify which mode you are asking for and the call-sign used.

Trophies will be mailed shortly. Thanks to all for participating and see you in 2021. Remember all CQ Contests have a 5-day deadline for submitting logs. Check out the rules on CQ160.com for the latest information.

– 73, Andy, N2NT, Director CQ160 Contest

(Scores on page 102)

Announcing:

2020 CQ World Wide DX Contest

SSB: October 24-25 CW: November 28-29
Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; Ends 2359 UTC Sunday

Log Deadlines: SSB – 2359 UTC Oct. 30 / CW – 2359 UTC Dec. 4, 2020

Join more than 30,000 participants from over 200 DX entities and all 40 CQ Zones in the world's largest DX contest.

The CQ World Wide DX Contest (CQWW) offers 48 hours of non-stop DX-chasing fun with activity taking place from virtually every part of the world! Whether you are competing for awards, looking for a few new band-countries, or simply filling up your logbook, the CQWW offers something for everyone. Check out the Classic and Rookie Overlay Categories for even more chances to enjoy ham radio's premier operating event. Even though we are at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, the HF bands magically light up in the CQWW with activity levels that are unlike any other radio competition.

Some Contest Basics

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

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

Contacts are valid only on the 1.8-, 3.5-, 7-, 14-, 21-, and 28-MHz amateur bands (there is no contest operation on the 60-, 30-, 17- or 12-meter bands, nor on the 630- and 2200-meter bands).

Scoring

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

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

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

Entry Categories

The competition is divided into Single Operator and Multi-Operator categories. Single Operator categories also offer two additional Overlay sub-categories.

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

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

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

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

Classic Category – Allows the use of only one radio (e.g., Single Operator, 2 Radio operation is not permitted), no QSO finding assistance, and only counts the first 24 hours of operating time. Off-times are a minimum of 60-minutes during which no QSO is logged. Single Operator Assisted entries are not eligible for this Overlay category.

Rookie Category – Open only to operators who were first licensed as radio amateurs less than three (3) years before the date of the contest. Be sure to indicate date licensed in the soapbox field of your log.

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

Multi-Single: This category allows one transmitter to work any station. It may only change bands after 10-minutes on a band. Note: A second transmitter may be used to work multipliers only. This category has some very specific restrictions so please read the full rules carefully.

- High power: Up to 1,500 watts
 - Low power: 100 watts or less
- (There is no QRP category for any multi-op classification)

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

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

Awards

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

Submitting Your Log

Effective with the 2020 contest, paper logs will no longer be accepted. Logs should be in the Cabrillo format. Most logging software generates this file automatically. Upload your log on the Web at www.cqww.com/logcheck. The website also includes a utility to convert an ADIF-formatted log file if needed.

All entries must be sent **WITHIN FIVE (5) DAYS** after the end of the contest: No later than 2359 UTC **October 30, 2020** for SSB and 2359 UTC **December 4, 2020** for CW. Resubmitting an entry after the deadline will result in it being considered as a late log.

Only one entry is permitted for each callsign. If you submit a log multiple times, the latest log submission will replace any previous attempts.

Full Rules

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

You are strongly encouraged to review the rules and the frequently asked questions before the contest, especially for possible minor changes in some rule details from previous years. Any questions may be submitted via the online contact form at <http://cqww.com/contact>.

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In February, we brought you a “first look” at the Midnight Design Solutions Phaser transceiver, written by its designers, who explained the process that went into its development. Now, N1IXF shares his experiences building and using the kit to explore radio concepts, seek new contacts, and boldly go where digital modes can take you!

CQ Reviews:

The Midnight Design Solutions “Phaser” Transceiver Kit

BY RICH CADY,* N1IXF

I have been a fan of Midnight Design Solutions¹ since I purchased and constructed its Scaler Network Analyzer (SNA) kit to augment the test equipment I use to build and maintain my station. That kit provided a great tool to analyze my antennas, draw SWR curves, tune bandpass filters and plot their response curves, and add a variable frequency generator, an LC meter, and a crystal tester to my bench. When I bought the SNA kit, I joined Midnight’s Groups.io discussion forum³ and that’s how I recently learned of the company’s latest kit offering and the subject of this article ... the “Phaser,” a QRP digital mode transceiver.

Just before Christmas 2019, George Heron, N2APB, at Midnight Design Solutions announced that he had teamed with Dave Benson, K1SWL, of Small Wonder Labs fame, to offer a simple transceiver to operate in FT8 or another digital mode of your choice. Dave is well known in QRP circles and this is his first foray into kit design after retiring and moving to New Hampshire some years back. Dave and George provided a “First Look” at the Phaser in the February 2020 issue of CQ.² Since I love to build radio kits and enjoy learning about new aspects of ham radio, I thought about purchasing one of these kits.

I still find it “magical” that you can take a bunch of discrete electronic parts, hook them together, and then communicate around the world. While I have been active in digital radio using RTTY,

I hadn’t yet played with the recently popular FT8 mode. This kit, I thought, might give me the motivation I needed to try FT8 on the air with a QRP radio. After all, FT8 is supposed to be a weak-signal mode and operating QRP seemed like the perfect mate to that. The discussion forum was abuzz with interest and Rick, K3IND, posted a note asking

whether anyone there was interested in building his Phaser kit. I jumped at the chance to do that.

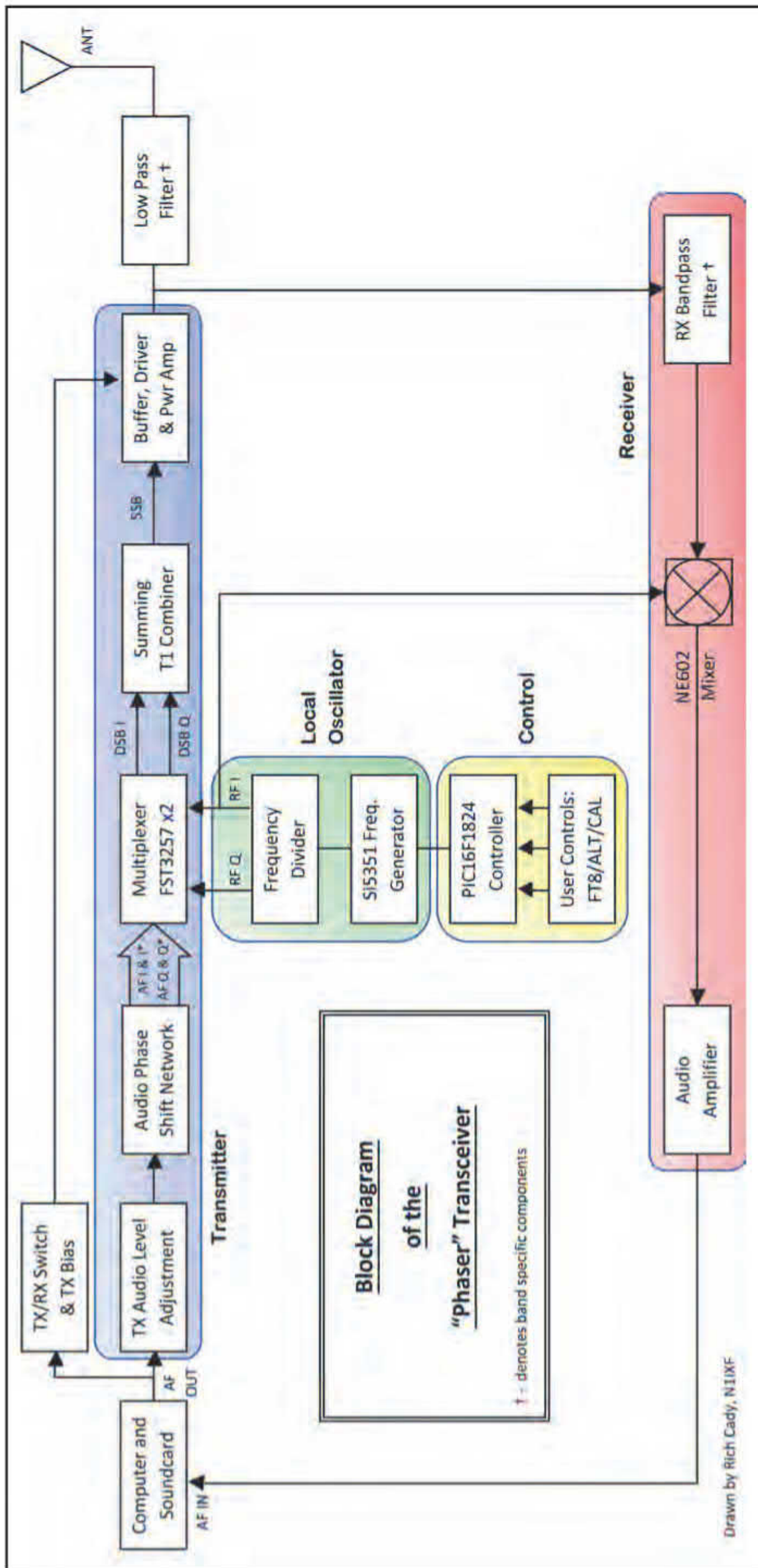
What is the Phaser?

The Phaser is a digital-mode transceiver using a simple direct-conversion receiver coupled with a 4-watt single-sideband (SSB) transmitter. This differs



Photo A. The Phaser transceiver kit came packed in three bags, two for the radio and one for the optional enclosure kit. Note the “parts card” in the package on the upper right to which various components are attached after sorting. (Photos / illustrations by the author)

* 5 Gregory Lane
Simsbury, CT 06070
n1ixf@arrl.net



from other simple digital-mode radios using a double sideband (DSB) approach to both the receive and transmit circuits. Dave used this DSB RX / SSB TX combination in his design criteria so that two Phasers could communicate with each other. As Dave explains, the SSB transmitter "... eliminates the issue of out-of-phase signal cancellation at the [other] Phaser's direct-conversion receiver." (See the block diagram in *Figure 1* for an overview of the Phaser's design).

As I write this, the Phaser is sold in single-band versions for 80, 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters, although Dave may be designing 10- and 60-meter versions as well. Each version differs only in the band-specific components required for their low-pass and bandpass filters; the core design is identical for all. As a measure of their success, in the two months since announcing availability of the Phaser, more than 300 kits have been sold.

The Phaser generates its SSB transmitted signal using a phasing method to suppress the unwanted sideband, hence the name. This phasing design departs from the more traditional SSB transmitter that uses a fixed-frequency filter and more complicated circuitry to suppress or eliminate the unwanted sideband and carrier. Instead, the Phaser's circuitry creates and sums "out of phase" DSB waveforms to produce a SSB signal that is then amplified and transmitted through a low-pass filter. The phasing design employed here can result in better than 30-dB attenuation of the lower sideband. This helps ensure that the transmitter suppresses the carrier and the unwanted sideband to the point that they don't create interference to others operating on those frequencies. For the interested reader, Dave has provided a theory of operation section in the assembly manual appendix. For those who would like details of the principles behind the I & Q (in-phase and quadrature) signals and summing that is the basis for the phasing design, I recommend viewing W2AEW's YouTube video #170 on that topic <<https://tinyurl.com/kbfe3pz>>.

With simplicity in mind, the Phaser employs two momentary switches and associated LEDs so the operator may select either the default FT8 "watering hole" frequency, 7074 kHz for the 40-meter version I was building, or an alter-

Figure 1. Block diagram of the Phaser transceiver from Midnight Design Solutions.

BEHIND THE BYLINES...

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

Murray Green, K3BEQ (“Peanut” for Amateur Radio,” p. 12), shifted his hamming earlier this year to internet-based remote systems (such as “Peanut”) after nearly 70 years of traditional on-air operation from his home station. Murray cites family health issues as the main impetus for this change, allowing him to stay in touch with fellow hams without needing to maintain a station and antenna system.

Rich Cady, N1IXF (“CQ Reviews: Midnight Design Solutions Phaser Transceiver Kit,” p. 26), has been licensed for nearly 30 years and primarily enjoys contesting, either as a “little pistol” from his home station in Connecticut or as a guest operator at bigger stations. He’s a member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.

Stew Gillmor, W1FK (“CQ Classic: Amateur Radio – A Hobby for All Seasons” plus update, p. 36), tells us a lot about himself in the 1980 “Classic” article we’re reprinting as well as his update on what he’s been doing for the past 40 years. Among many other things, Stew has made two working visits to Antarctica (where there’s a mountain named for him!) and now occupies himself with growing grapes and making small batches of wine! Stew is a frequent contributor to CQ.

Phil Karras, KE3FL (“Build an Adjustable Voltage Add-On for Your Power Supply,” p. 42), has been a ham since 1992, with primary interests in emergency communications, QRP, portable operating, building, and antennas. Phil holds bachelors and masters degrees in physics and is currently working on DNA identification databases and applications at the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory.

William Minikiewicz, W4FSV (“A Vintage Foxhunt, or ... Two Hams in Crash Helmets,” p. 46), has been a ham for over 52 years. He is retired from a career in emergency services and owns and operates breadboardradio.com, a ham radio kit company specializing in QRP kits.

native “ALT” frequency that can be operator-programmed to any desired HF frequency. If that alternate frequency is in the band you’ve selected for your model, circuitry in the transceiver allows for operation of other digital soundcard modes, such as JS8 (default), PSK31, FT4, RTTY, and SSTV. For HF frequencies *outside* of the ham band version purchased, the Phaser may still serve as a simple yet accurate signal generator.

Dave designed this kit to be a basic yet highly effective transceiver when coupled with a computer and its soundcard, thereby enabling audio modulating / demodulating of digital signals. He achieves this by keeping parts count and cost down, and by using time-tested components, like the NE602 mixer, while capitalizing on value performance parts, such as the Silicon Labs Si5351 frequency generator and the simple PIC controlling it.

The Kit

One day, kit #89 arrived via USPS in a small Priority Mail shipping box. Though I wouldn’t be able to start building the kit for a few days, I couldn’t wait to open the box. Inside I found three small plastic envelopes: Two of those contained all the transceiver parts for the 40-meter version of the Phaser, and the third contained all the pieces and parts for the optional enclosure (*Photo A*). There was no printed documentation, and that turned out to be a good thing. While I was building the kit, the documentation was revised several times and would have made a printed manual quickly out-of-date. All the documentation for the kit is available online⁴. The documentation includes band-specific assembly manuals, schematics, an excellent troubleshooting guide, and the assembly manual for the optional enclosure.

The manual I used was Revision A.8 and I found that both Dave and George do a great job keeping the documentation current based on feedback from builders posting their experiences, issues, comments, and questions at the Phaser discussion forum. I would encourage anyone thinking about purchasing or building this kit to peruse the messages posted on the forum. The messages posted there contain a wealth of pertinent information and kit-builders can benefit from the experience and mistakes of others. Perhaps the biggest benefit of the forum is that Dave and George are there to provide answers to many questions. It’s a great customer service. Thinking back to my

ANNOUNCEMENTS (from page 2)

Highway. Phone: (865) 446-4535. Email: <n4jtq@live.com>. Website: <http://seviercountyars.com>. VE exams.

ADRIAN, MICHIGAN — The Adrian Amateur Radio Club will hold the **Adrian Hamfest** from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday, September 20 at the Lenawee County Airport, 2651 W. Cadmus Road. Contact Mark Hinkleman, NU8Z, (517) 423-5906. Email: <cqnu8z@comcast.net>. Website: <http://w8tqe.com>. Talk-in 145.970- (PL 85.4). VE exams.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS — The Harvard Wireless Club, MIT Electronics Research Society, MIT UHF Repeater Association, and MIT Radio Society will hold the **Flea at MIT** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, September 20 at the parking garage on Albany and Main Streets. Phone: (617) 253-3776. Website: <www.swapfest.us>. Talk-in 146.52 or 449.725- (PL 114.8).

EAST STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA — The Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association will hold its **2020 Hamfest** beginning 8 a.m., Sunday, September 20 at the American Legion Post 346, 126 E. 5th Street. Phone: (570) 350-1185. Email: <wsk11@outlook.com>. Website: <www.qsl.net/n3is>. Talk-in 147.045 (PL 131.8). VE exams.

CARLTON, MINNESOTA — The Arrowhead Radio Amateur Club will hold its **HAM FEST** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, September 26 at the Four Seasons Sports Complex and Events Center, 90 Chestnut Avenue. Contact Robert Schulz, KCØNFB, (218) 481-7458. Email: <arac_hamfest@charter.net>. Website: <http://thearac.org>. Talk-in 146.940- (PL 103.5), 147.000- (PL 103.5), or 146.940- (PL 114.8). VE exams, card checking.

PLYMOUTH, MINNESOTA — The Twin Cities FM Club will hold the **Last Chance Tailgate Swap Fest** beginning 8 a.m., Saturday, September 26 at the West Medicine Lake Community Club, 1705 Forestview Lane North. Contact: AJ or Mike <nopvc@outlook.com> or <trustee.tcfmc@gmail.com>. Website: <http://tcfmc.org>. Talk-in 146.76 (PL 114.8).

BEREA, OHIO — The Hamfest Association of Cleveland will hold the **46th Annual Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show** from 8 a.m. to noon, Sunday, September 27 at the Berea Fairgrounds, 160 Eastland Road. Phone: (800) CLE-FEST (253-3378). Website: <www.hac.org>. VE exams.

OCTOBER

TOWAMENCIN TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA — Special event station **W3T** will be on the air from Thursday, October 8 through Friday, October 16 to commemorate the 243rd anniversary of the Tiwamencin Encampment by George Washington and the Continental Army. Frequencies include 7.074 MHz on FT 8; 75, 40, and 20 meters for SSB and CW. Website: <www.w3t.info>.

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS — The Harvard Wireless Club, MIT Electronics Research Society, MIT UHF Repeater Association, and MIT Radio Society will hold the **Flea at MIT** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday, October 18 at the parking garage on Albany and Main Streets. Phone: (617) 253-3776. Website: <www.swapfest.us>. Talk-in 146.52 or 449.725- (PL 114.8).

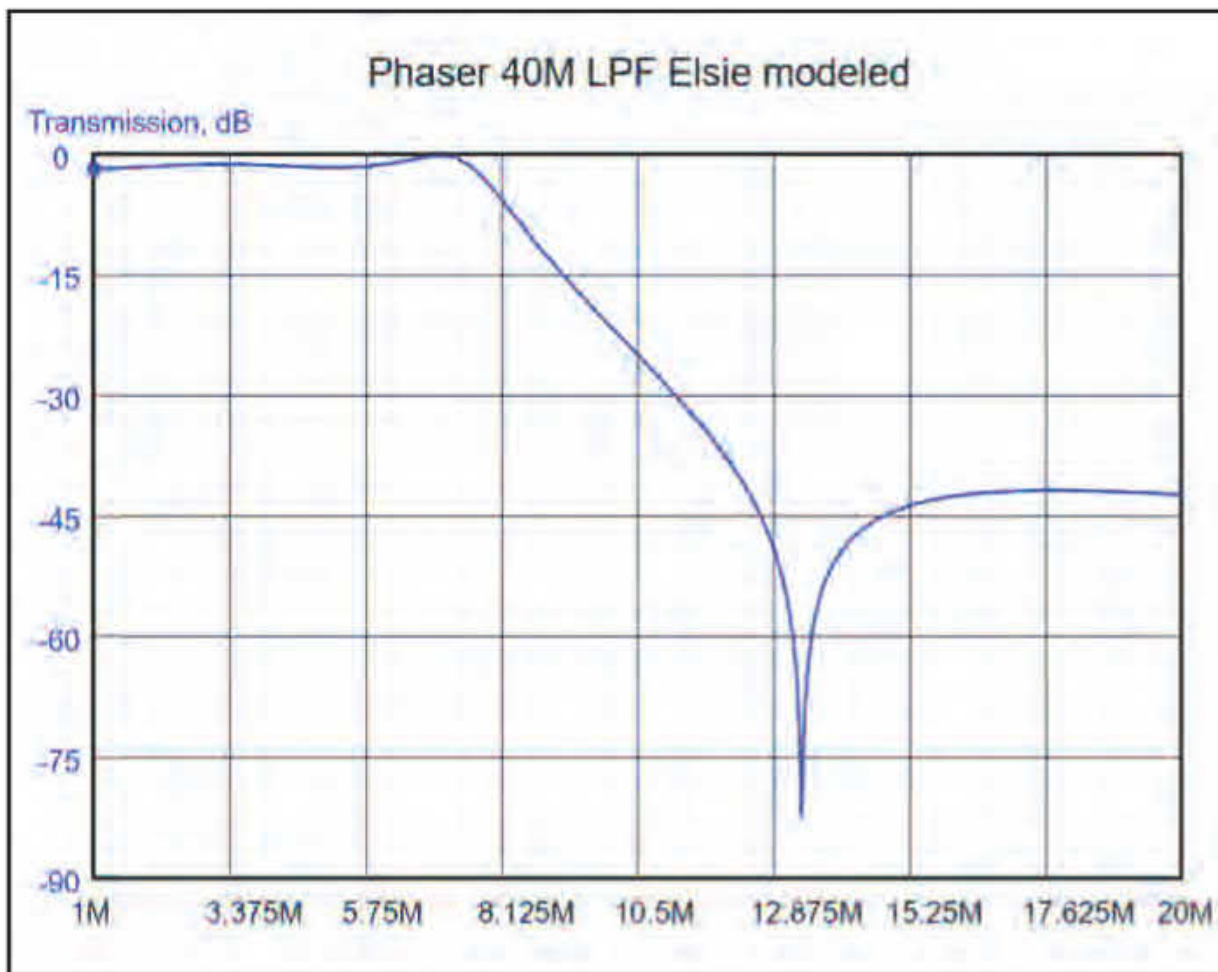


Figure 2. Modeled frequency response for the Phaser's 40-meter low-pass filter. The X-axis shows frequency (the "M" stands for megahertz, not meters!). Note the predicted sharp dropoff above 7 MHz. See Figure 3 for the measured frequency response.

early days building Heathkits and other designs, I am reminded that we easily take for granted the rapid access to relevant information we have today. It would have helped me better solve problems and issues that I encountered in constructing those kits if I had a forum where I could receive almost immediate feedback and suggestions.

A lot of attention has been paid to making the Phaser documentation and the kit itself "builder-friendly." For example, the assembly manuals are designed so that if they are printed in a double-sided format, the instruction steps are enumerated on the left-hand page while the component placement for that step is graphically illustrated on the right-hand page. No searching around a silk-screen layout for the parts locations and I found it helpful to use a highlighter to "check-off" the parts on the pictorial as they were installed.

An even better example of the care and attention that Midnight Design Solutions has shown is demonstrated by the "Parts Cards" used to package the kit's numerous parts. With the many other kits that I've constructed over the years, I am used to receiving bags of parts that are only sometimes organized by component type. Never have I seen the "kitting" method used by Midnight Design Solutions. Each com-

ponent is secured with tape to a heavy-weight paper card with corresponding part number(s). This virtually eliminates, or at least speeds, the first step encountered with all kits, the tedious inventory and sorting of bags of parts. I understand this is the brainchild of Larry, K3PEG, and in this kit, he has created separate cards for capacitors, resistors, semiconductors, band specific components, connectors, enameled wire, and miscellaneous components. However, I did find that the kit I received was missing one 2-pin male header and two of the 2-pin female jumpers. Based on forum comments, I knew that George would readily replace these missing components but, since I had these on hand in my "junk box," I didn't bother to ask for them. As recommended in the manual, I placed all the "parts cards" upright in a small cardboard box for safekeeping and pulled components from the index-like cards as I progressed through each assembly step.

Anticipating that some builders will need more help than provided in the assembly manual, Dave and George authored an excellent troubleshooting guide (available online). That guide also provides general suggestions to ensure the best possible kit construction. Since it contains additional step-by-step suggestions to narrow down problems and

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3CX3000A7	4CX20000C	3-1000Z
3CX6000A7	4CX20000D	4-400A
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their potential solutions, the builder may use this troubleshooting guide to dive deeper if encountering initial testing issues. Also included are versions of the Phaser schematic diagrams calling out the DC and AC voltages that should be present at various test points on the PCB. Of course, if a builder is still having problems after using the guide to troubleshoot, they can obtain almost immediate help by either reading about the problems / solutions other builders have encountered or posting their specific issue / question to the discussion forum. In the rare situation in which the problem is narrowed down to a defective component or mis-programmed PIC, replacement parts have been provided to the builder.

The printed circuit board (PCB) is roughly 4- x 4- x 1/16-inch fiberglass with etched copper cladding on both sides for an effective ground plane; holes are through-plated, a solder mask is provided with a silk-screen layout of component part numbers and critical orientations, including electrolytic capacitor polarity, diode cathode bands, and indexing for the semiconductors. The PCB has seven surface mount components that have already been factory installed, so the builder needn't worry about difficulty soldering fine pitched component leads.

While looking over the parts, I initially thought I might also be missing Q4 but found it on the "band specific" parts card with the heatsink already soldered onto its tab. That meant I wouldn't need to break out my large 3/8-inch chisel-style soldering iron to quickly heat and solder those parts together. I was also briefly confused when checking the 78L33 3.3-volt regulator (U8) as the component number on the package was 89M110E KY5033 TI. A quick search verified that

part was correct, as did forum comments from others encountering the same confusion. By the way, the builder will find it helpful to read these component values using an LED flashlight, illuminating the part at an oblique angle to make the lettering stand out. The kit provided a pair of #28 AWG wires already twisted together for construction of the bifilar wound toroid (T1), so there would be no need to use my hand drill to twist those.

Building the Kit

I found that assembly can be done with the usual kit-building tools, including small conical-tipped soldering iron, small diameter rosin core solder, diagonal cutters to snip the component leads flush with the PCB, a pair of tweezers, needle-nosed pliers, and a multimeter. I also found a small hobby knife helpful in removing the tape holding components to the "Parts Cards." While optional to the builder, using a PCB vise to hold the board was very helpful when I placed the parts and then flipped the board over to solder and clip leads. These days, I also take steps to avoid electrostatic discharge (ESD) when I construct circuits, using a static dissipative mat and properly grounded wrist strap as I work. While this is always good practice, it is especially important in the winter when the dry air and carpet in my station conspire to generate large static "shocks" as I move around.

Beyond the tools to build the kit, anyone constructing a Phaser with plans to use a laptop computer ought to consider purchasing a 4-pin TRSS (tip-ring-sleeve-sleeve) to dual 3-pin TRS (tip-ring-sleeve) audio adapter. My laptop has a single 4-pin TRSS jack to access both the headphone and microphone soundcard connections and I needed to adapt that

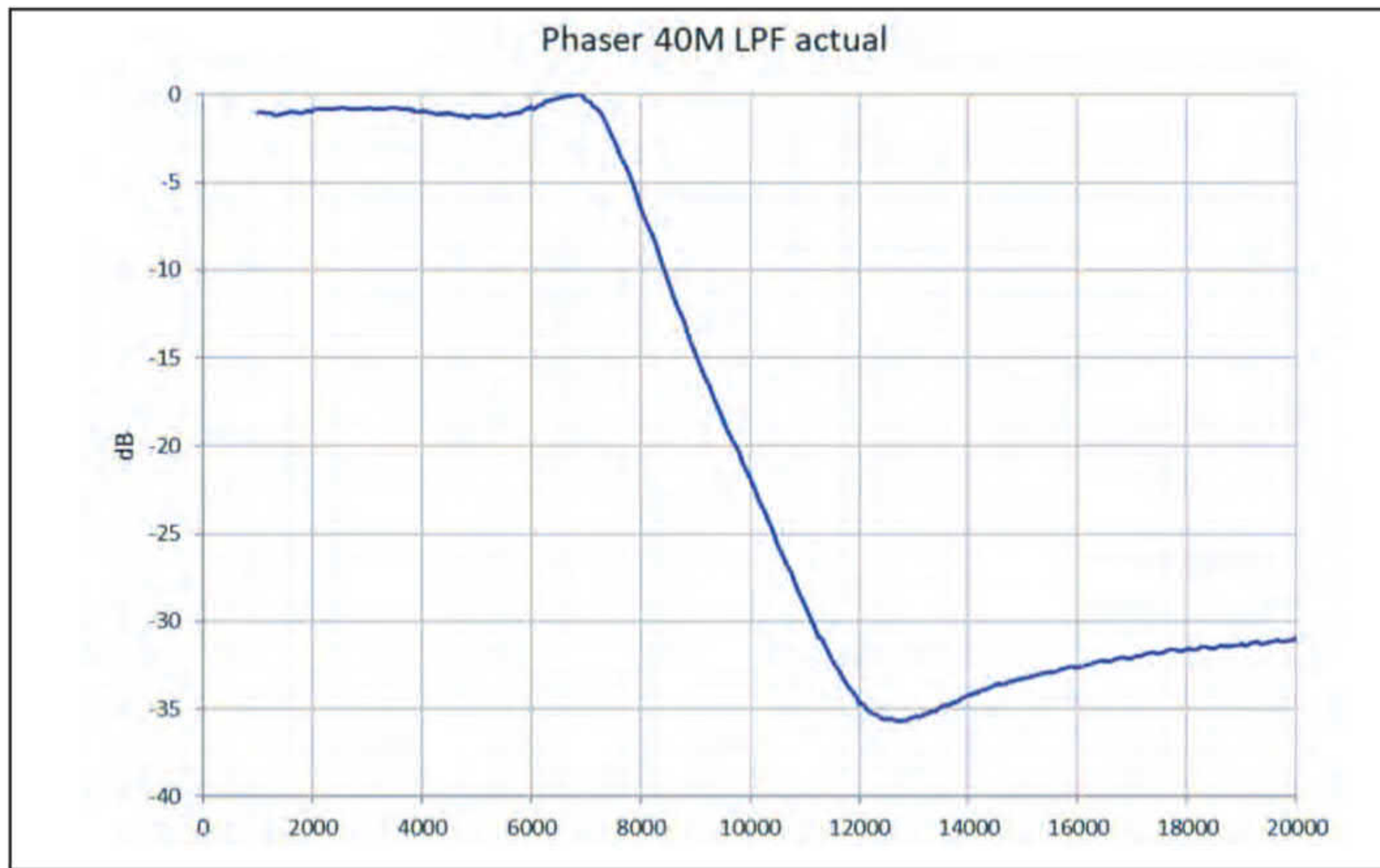


Figure 3. Actual frequency response for the 40-meter low-pass filter, showing the steep cutoff of frequencies above the 40-meter band.

connector type to the Phaser's two stereo 3-pin TRS audio connectors. Also, if you purchase the enclosure, I'd recommend using a longer 2.1-millimeter diameter male DC power connector. The one I had on hand was 10 millimeters long and I found that was too short to reliably mate to the Phaser's female power jack once the PCB was installed in the enclosure. The antenna connection is BNC, so plan accordingly if you use UHF connectors on feed lines as I do.

Based on the early comments from builders, I knew that some were having difficulty obtaining the expected 4 watts output from their fully-constructed kits and their solution may have involved removing turns from low-pass filter (LPF) toroidal inductors. Because of that, I decided that I would deviate from the recommended step-by-step instructions in the manual. I knew from other RF filter projects I had constructed that poor winding and turn spacing of the LPF toroids could result in lower power output and performance at the transmitter's operating frequency. So, I decided to build and test the LPF circuit on the PCB without any other circuitry and ensure that its response was optimal for 40 meters. Dave had included a nice description of the filter design in the theory of operation section of the assembly manual. To aid my further understanding, I used ELSIE filter simulation software⁵ to model the LPF's predicted response, given specific 40-meter kit component values (see *Figure 2*). Then I wound and installed toroidal inductors L5 and L6, capacitors C22 – 25 and the BNC jack. This gave me convenient and isolated circuit connections so that I could use my SNA to sweep the filter with RF in to the power amplifier (PA) side of the circuit and measure the RF out of the filter at the BNC jack. I used a 16-ohm resistor across the PA side to simulate the 12.5-ohm impedance of the PA collector circuit that wasn't yet installed. After doing this, I found that compressing and expanding the toroid turn spacing on L5 and L6 did little to change their inductance or the filter's center frequency. The LPF response I measured with my SNA is graphed in *Figure 3*. While this approach did help me learn and validate that the filter's predicted and actual responses are very similar, I decided that with careful attention to the number of turns in construction of L5 and L6 as outlined in the manual's appendix, it was really unnecessary to test the LPF in this manner. I think the builder can just proceed with the construction



Photo B. One mod the author made in building the kit was the addition of a red "transmit" LED on the front panel. See discussion in text.

sequence as recommended in the assembly manual and obtain effective results.

When installing any of the toroidal inductors on the PCB, be sure to carefully scrape off the enamel coating and pre-tin the wire with solder to ensure a good electrical connection. It also helps avoid future problems if you test the PCB pads to ensure there is continuity through the inductor, as an open connection here can be hard to find later.

Step-by-Step Assembly and Testing

The assembly manual groups the construction of the Phaser into six circuit blocks with each block tested before moving on to the next.

The first group focuses on constructing and testing the PCB's regulated +5 volts DC and +3.3 volts DC power supplies for the various semiconductor requirements. This step, like the subsequent ones, involves placing parts in their proper locations and paying careful attention to the orientation of the IC sockets and the flat sides of the voltage regulator TO92 packages against their corresponding silk-screened outlines. One thing that would have been helpful for the placement of the 19 – 0.1- μ F capacitors is a check-box listing of each of these part numbers. As mentioned earlier, I instead used my highlighter to "check off" the capacitors on the manual's pictorial. After completing the Group 1 assembly, you test the voltages at various PCB test points called out on the pictorial before moving to the next step. Since the kit uses sockets for the

ICs that are installed by the builder, I decided to also measure the VCC voltages at each socket. Note: my schematic didn't detail the +5 volt DC for U4 @ pin 8.

The second circuit block to be constructed is the transmit-receive (T-R) switching circuitry. Audio from the computer soundcard's speaker / headphone output serves to "key" the Phaser into transmit mode by sensing the audio-in voltage with a comparator (U9) and switches the transmit bias to drive the power amplifier (PA). Construction of the circuit is straightforward, though it would have been helpful here — and throughout the manual — to call out the resistors that are installed vertically in a separate listing from those that are installed flat on the PCB as the builder will want to bend the leads accordingly. The silkscreen makes this clear, but I like to bend the part leads before searching for their PCB locations. It is also helpful to straighten the pins on each IC, in this case U9, before trying to insert them into the sockets. That helps avoid bending a pin(s) under or away from the IC and it also makes it easier to insert the chip into its socket. To do this, I set the IC on its side with one row of pins against my static mat and roll it slightly to bend those pins into a more vertical orientation. I then do the same with the pins on the other side. I'd also suggest that as you line up the IC with the socket, you ensure that all pins rest between the two contact fingers of each socket location before pressing the IC down into the socket. That will ensure good contact mating for all the IC's pins and help avoid a bent pin. A

similar hint for installing other ICs is provided later in the manual.

When testing the T-R switching and measuring voltages, the builder toggles the “TUNE” button in the WSJT-X software to generate an audio tone that is fed into the Phaser and activates the T-R switching and TX bias. So, at this point in the assembly, I suggest downloading and installing the WSJT-X software.

Since I had zero experience with FT8, it took additional study to learn how to properly configure the software and adjust the soundcard settings. Reviewing the WSJT-X documentation and the Hinson tips, as suggested in the Phaser manual, really helped jump-start my ability to understand and use FT8. While the WSJT-X download⁶ is straightforward, I also had to change my laptop computer soundcard’s speaker / headphone advanced properties setting to utilize 16-bit, 48000-Hz (DVD Quality) with no audio enhancements; mute system sounds in the volume mixer; set the speaker level to mid-scale and my microphone level to 10%; install Meinberg NTP software⁷ and configure it so that my system clock was accurately synchronized. Fortunately, the Phaser assembly manual provides some key links and information in its appendix under “Quick Start.”

I also had to configure the WSJT-X software using its File>Settings menu and enter my callsign, IARU region, set the mode to FT8, change band to 40 meters, and most importantly for the T-R switching test — set the PWR slider on the right side of the WSJT-X window to full scale (uppermost position). I found, with my laptop’s soundcard output, when initially setting the PWR slider to mid-scale, my Phaser would not go into transmit. To ensure that I didn’t have an issue with my laptop, I tested its audio out by connecting my headphones and listening while I activated the “TUNE” button in WSJT-X. That worked fine, so I removed my headphones and connected the Phaser. A TX LED indicator would have been helpful at this point (more on that later). Placing the PWR slider at full scale provided enough audio voltage to trigger the Phaser into transmit for the voltage test.

Warning: Once you complete the kit, avoid overstressing the PA ... do not put the Phaser into transmit for more than 15 seconds. That will be plenty of time to measure the voltages and simulate an FT8 transmit cycle. Also, the builder should note that when the manual references the “top” pad test point, that is a reference to the rear of the board where the various jacks are located.

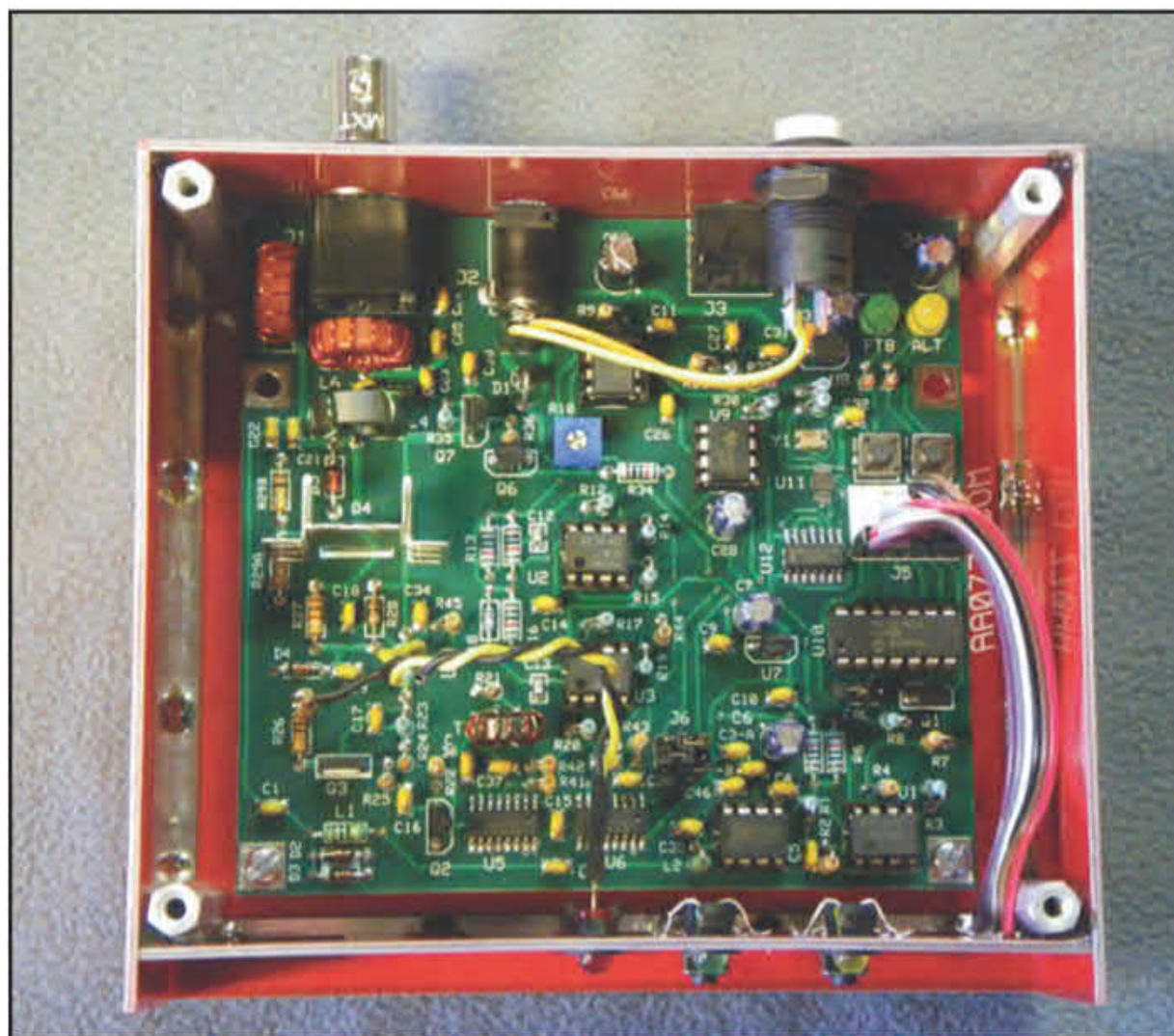


Photo C. The LED wiring is visible to the front left and center of the photo (see the twisted black and yellow wiring).

This orientation is later clarified in the manual when it calls for installation of the LEDs. When you measure the voltage according to the “Test #2 T-R Switching” instructions, the test point voltage should change from 0 volts DC to roughly the voltage level of whatever power supply you’ve connected to the Phaser’s power input jack. When you stop the “TUNE” function in the WSJT-X software, the voltage will slowly drop as there is no bleeder load on the circuit to bring that voltage down quickly (your multimeter has a high impedance, so it will only slowly drain off the voltage). This test result was a source of confusion for several builders posting to the discussion forum.

The next construction phase involves the circuitry for the local oscillator. The builder places all the components necessary for an operational frequency generator on the PCB. The Phaser uses a PIC16F1824 microcontroller IC to pass the frequency instructions to the Silicon Labs Si5351A frequency generator. The PIC comes pre-programmed for the particular band version of the kit, using code written by Craig, AAØZZ, and monitors the two momentary switches, S1 and S2, for operator inputs to: 1) change the Phaser’s frequency between FT8 default and the default

“ALT” setting (originally the JS8 frequency); 2) place the Phaser into a user-programmable alternate frequency mode, allowing the “ALT” default frequency to be changed to any HF frequency; or 3) place the Phaser into a one-time calibration mode to set the Si5351A for an exact output frequency. In the case of the 40-meter version, the FT8 default frequency should be set at 7047.0 kHz and you’ll use the “Calibration” procedure detailed in the manual appendix to fine-tune the output of the frequency generator circuit to place the carrier on that frequency. This procedure is easy to complete if you have access to an accurate frequency counter, but the assembly manual also provides alternate instructions to get close to the proper frequency by listening on another radio or by “peaking” the activity seen in the WSJT-X waterfall display. Some builders were not familiar with using a second radio to zero-beat the Phaser’s frequency generator. More detailed instructions were provided in the discussion forum in response to these questions, explaining how to set the second radio in CW mode, tune to the desired frequency for the Phaser’s carrier and then, using the CW sidetone, match the audio pitch of the Phaser’s carrier by pressing S1 and S2

accordingly to either lower or raise the carrier frequency. It is important that once the Phaser's carrier is set to the proper frequency, you remove the "CAL" jumper BEFORE removing power to the Phaser. The Phaser's PIC stores the calibration parameters in its EEPROM memory only when the "CAL" jumper is removed with the Phaser powered "on."

Next, the builder focuses on adding all the components for an operational receiver ... bandpass filter, NE602 mixer, audio amplifier, audio-out muting, and, in my case, the already installed LPF. While this construction was straightforward, I did find that I had to make my own audio hookup diagram to keep straight which jack was used for the computer's speaker / headphone output and which was used for the computer's microphone input. The manual labels these connections in terms of the Phaser's audio in and audio out, not the computer's audio in and audio out. Relabeling these connections in the manual's "Quick Start" instructions so they read speaker / headphone and microphone / line-in would be clearer ... at least the way my brain works.

The next assembly step details the construction of the audio phasing network and the transmit buffer amplifier. While the construction was straightforward, I encountered a thorny issue with the testing of this section. When I commanded the WSJT-X software to "TUNE," I couldn't hear any output on my second radio. I checked that I had installed all the parts correctly with the proper component values and checked for obvious soldering defects. Upon finding that all was as it should be, I reviewed the schematic and realized that R10, the trimmer potentiometer controlling the audio level, would affect the TX signal. I found the trimmer was fully counter-clockwise and I wasn't getting enough audio into the phasing network to create any signal at the transmit buffer amplifier. I confirmed the operation of the T-R switching by using my multimeter to measure the voltage change as described in the earlier test procedures for that circuit. Adjusting R10 fully clockwise, I could hear the upper sideband (USB) output at 7075.50 kHz, just where it should have been with WSJT-X set to "TUNE" with a transmit frequency of 1500 Hz.

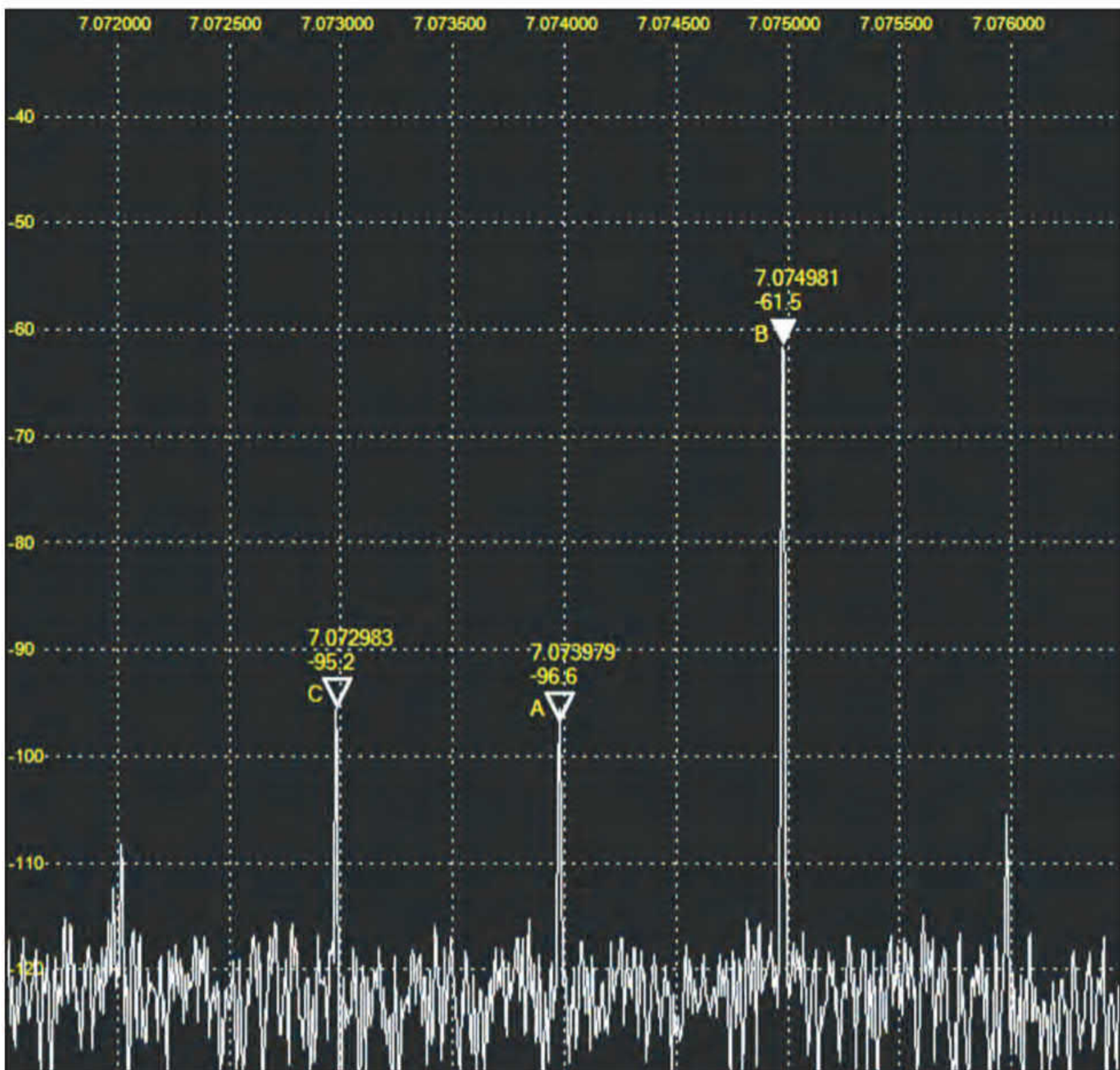


Figure 4. Spectrogram showing the more than 30-dB attenuation of the Phaser's carrier and lower sideband signal vs. the (desired) upper sideband signal.



Photo D. Rear panel of the Phaser enclosure. It is made from PC board material. Note the notches on the bottom and sides that help the pieces fit together more precisely.

At several points, I had issues with the level of the audio driving the radio. The soundcard settings are very critical to the Phaser's operation and this seems to be a common issue for others. As I alluded to earlier, I think these issues would have been easier to troubleshoot if the Phaser had a TX LED as a standard feature. That LED would provide an immediate visual indication that the

Phaser's circuitry was being switched into TX-enabled mode. Later, when constructing the enclosure, I added a TX LED to the front panel as was suggested on the discussion forum. That modification will also help prevent inadvertently keying the Phaser in TX for more than 15 seconds. You can see this modification in Photos B and C.

The final assembly places all the

remaining components on the PCB and completes the transmitter section. On the 40-meter version of the kit, the driver collector choke (L3) is placed in the PCB so that it is parallel to the left edge of the board. There is a second set of holes at the L3 PCB pads that is used in higher frequency band versions of the Phaser. Conveniently, this provided a TX enabled voltage pad that I later used to wire to the TX LED anode, with its cathode connected to a 1k-ohm resistor soldered to the ground side of nearby R26. Beyond the TX indication, who doesn't like blinking LED indicators?

Final Adjustment, Enclosure, and On-the-Air Testing

With the now completely assembled Phaser, I set about adjusting the TX audio levels as detailed in appendix 5 of the manual. Using a 13.8-volt DC power supply and with the R10 trimmer now fully counter-clockwise, I found that I had to adjust the WSJT-X "Pwr" slider on the right-hand side of that window to 90% to reliably place the Phaser in TX enable mode. Then, adjusting R10 to its fully clockwise position, I could obtain about 3 watts out, less than the expected 4 watts. In the discussion forum,

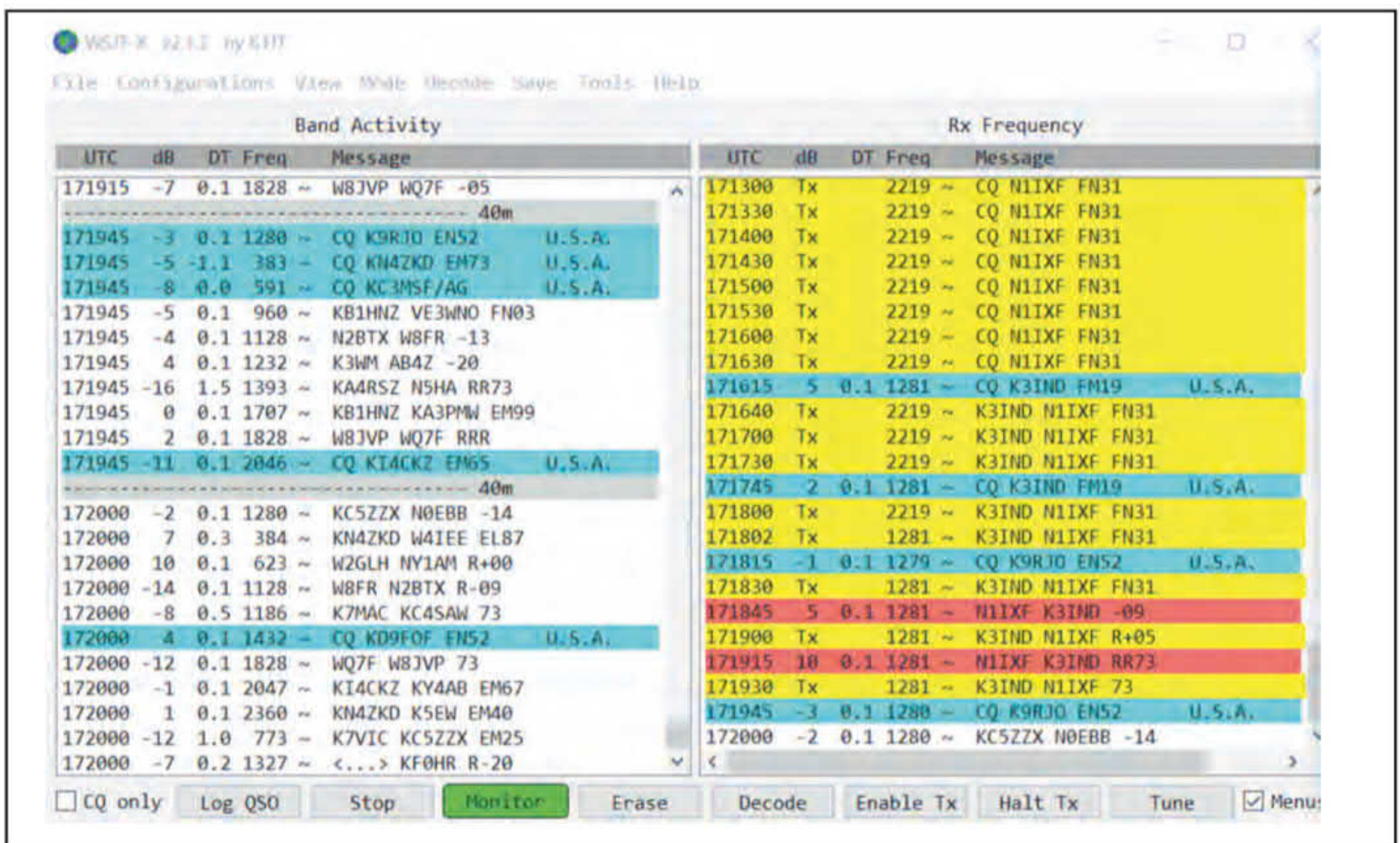


Figure 5. Screenshot of FT-8 QSO between K3IND, whose radio the author built, and N1IXF using that radio ... proof that K3IND worked his own radio!

Dave had suggested using a parallel 10k resistor across R9 to lower that resistance to 5k ohms. I pulled the 10k resistor supplied with the kit and replaced it with a 5.1k-ohm resistor I had on hand. That modification gave me some needed adjustment range with the R10 trimmer and I was able to set the power output to 4 watts PEP without turning the trimmer fully clockwise. Success with building and adjusting the kit. Now I just needed to see if and how it works on-the-air.

Enclosure

The kit I constructed included the optional enclosure. I highly recommend that enclosure since it provides an attractive finished kit, shields and protects the Phaser's circuitry, and is easily assembled. I had never assembled a PCB enclosure that had mating slots cut into the edges. These slots not only help the builder ensure accurate alignment of the sides, they make for a much sturdier construction (see *Photo D*). One suggestion I would make to improve the enclosure would be to provide a hole or two in the bottom panel so that the builder could more reliably secure the PCB to the enclosure. The enclosure is designed so that the board is held in place only by the BNC panel-mount hardware and the board intentionally "floats" on stand-offs that are not attached to the enclosure. I found that the PCB moved too much when I inserted audio cables into their jacks and it was hard to get a reliable insertion. Over time, I think that might lead to problems so, if I were building the enclosure for myself, I would drill at least one hole in the bottom panel, add an appropriate stand-off and firmly secure two points of the PCB to the case. I also found that the additional thickness of the rear panel made it difficult to get a reliable power connection using my 10-millimeter-long, 2.5-millimeter male coaxial power plug. The finished Phaser kit installed in its enclosure measures about 5 inches wide by 4.5 inches deep and 2 inches high.

I own an RSP2/Pro SDRplay receiver and have recently coupled that with Steve Andrew's software⁸ to have a very nice spectrum analyzer without spending any additional money. I thought it would be the perfect test tool to view the Phaser's transmit spectrum and see how much attenuation of the carrier and the unwanted LSB I was achieving. Since I wasn't sure what the power input limit of the RSP was and I didn't want to blow out the front end of my SDR, I used a small whip antenna on the SDR to pick up a sample of the Phaser's RF signal without any direct connection. I set the WSJT-X to send a 1000-Hz audio tone with the Phaser output connected to my 50-ohm dummy load. My results are detailed in *Figure 4* and they show the suppression of the lower sideband by almost -34 dB. While my test results are not absolute measurements, they still confirm the carrier and LSB suppression achieved by the Phaser's summing of the I and Q waveforms.

Summary

Beyond the fun and learning of the kit-building experience, I believe the Phaser represents a truly cost-effective way for a ham to engage in FT8 and other soundcard digital modes. This is especially the case for newer hams with HF privileges but not a lot of money to invest in radio or antennas. If they are willing to invest some time in kit building, they can experience the fun of DX. Additionally, the kit could easily form the basis for a club or instructor-led class in basic electronics or help hams looking to better understand radio.

The kit has plenty of modification possibilities ... use an Arduino instead of the supplied PIC microcontroller to set the radio's frequency, provide a small frequency readout, change

the user control interface, provide multiband capability with plug-in bandpass / low-pass filters, or serve as a signal generator with panel output of a wide range of frequencies. This transceiver could also form the basis of the perfect Field Day / portable FT8 station ... easily battery / solar-powered and carried to any site.

On the Air

So, how did I do operating FT8 with the Phaser on the air for the first time? Well, my first FT8 contact was with VO1CH in Newfoundland and, within the first hour of some off-and-on operating, I had worked 10 stations in four countries. With a few hours over the next few days, I worked 50 more stations and 13 countries, and I even managed to work a sked with Rick, K3IND, the ham for whom I built the Phaser, so he could say he had worked his own radio (see WSJT-X screenshot in *Figure 5*). Pretty good for an FT8 noob.

The Phaser described here costs \$90 (\$55 for the kit; \$25 for the optional enclosure, and \$10 for USPS Priority shipping within the U.S.). Details for overseas buyers are on the Midnight Design Solutions website.

Notes:

1. <<https://midnightdesignsolutions.com>>
2. Benson and Heron, "First Look: Midnight Design Solutions Phaser Transceiver," CQ, February 2020, pp. 32-37
3. <<https://groups.io/g/cwtd>>
4. <<https://midnightdesignsolutions.com/phaser>>
5. <<http://tonnesoftware.com/elsie.html>>
6. <www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html>
7. <<http://satsignal.eu/ntp/setup.html>>
8. <www.sdrplay.com/spectrum-analyser>

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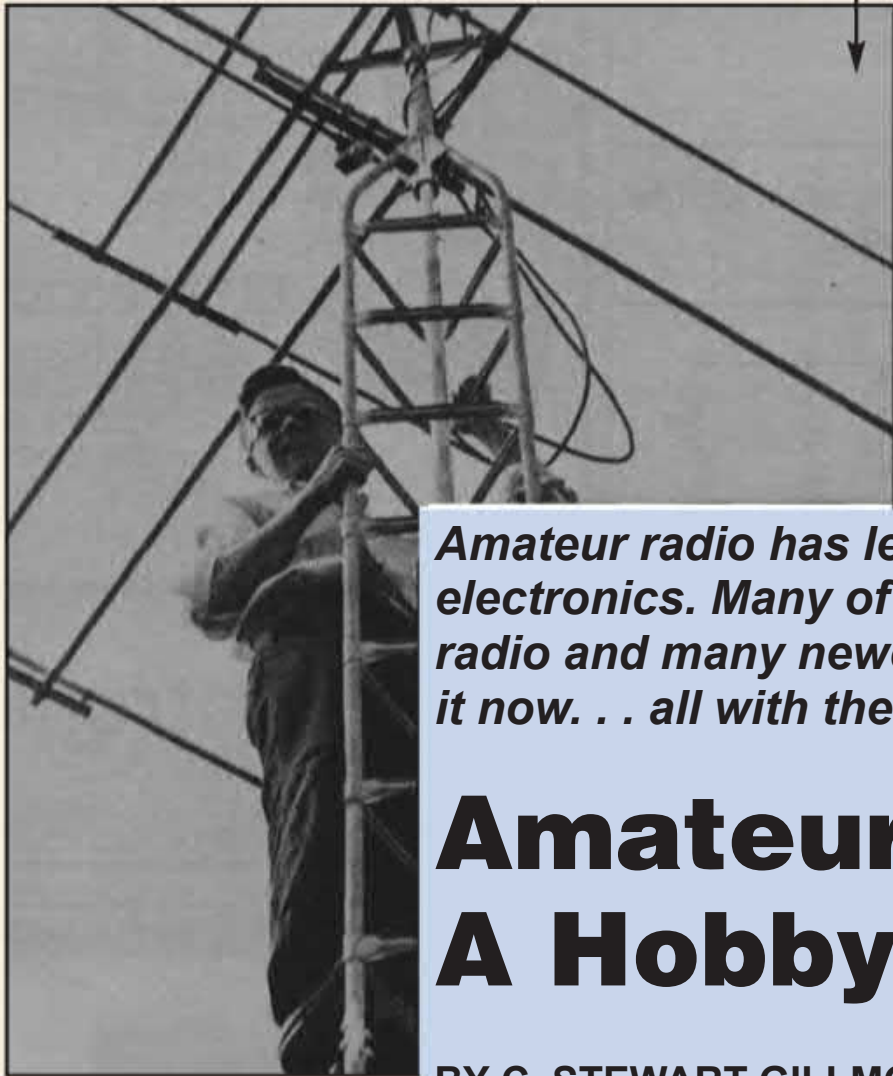


CQ CLASSICS

Over the course of our 75th anniversary year, we have occasionally brought you personal stories of readers for whom amateur radio has had a big impact on their lives and careers. Here's one more, but with a twist ... frequent CQ contributor Stew Gillmor, W1FK, shared this story of how ham radio helped shape his career back in our July, 1980 issue! We're reprinting it here as this month's "CQ Classic," followed by an update from Stew on the 40 years since! – W2VU

The author with his first amateur rig, a National SW-54 all-band receiver and a homebrew 807 transmitter, in 1953. →

The author on a tower with 10 and 20 meter beams in 1955. ↓



Amateur radio has led some of us into very active careers in electronics. Many of us can relate to W1FK's start in amateur radio and many newcomers today are experiencing a form of it now. . . all with the same excitement.

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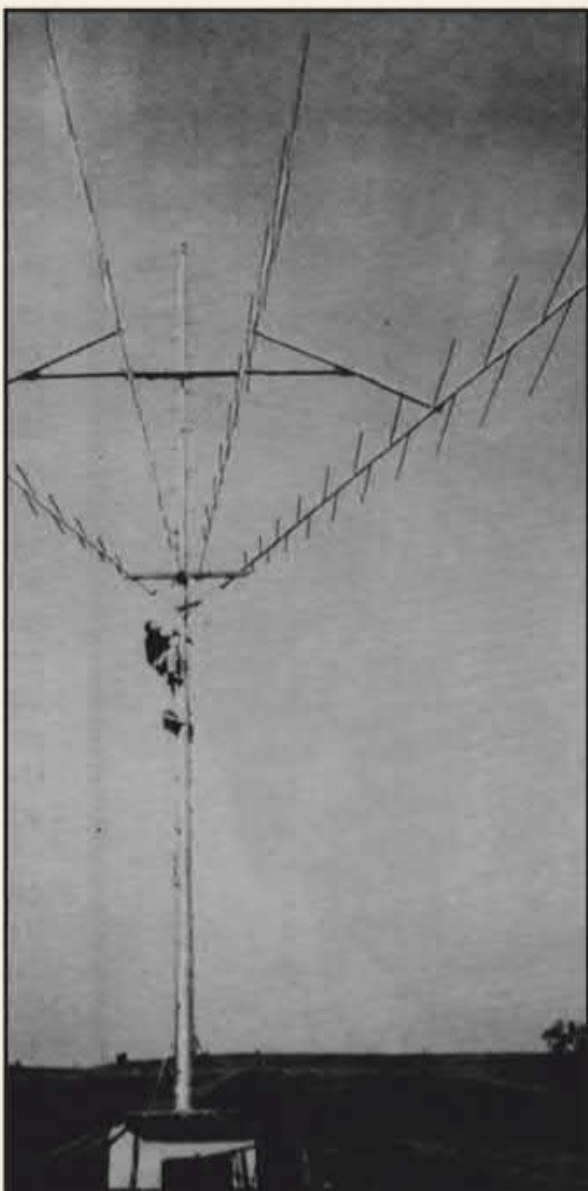
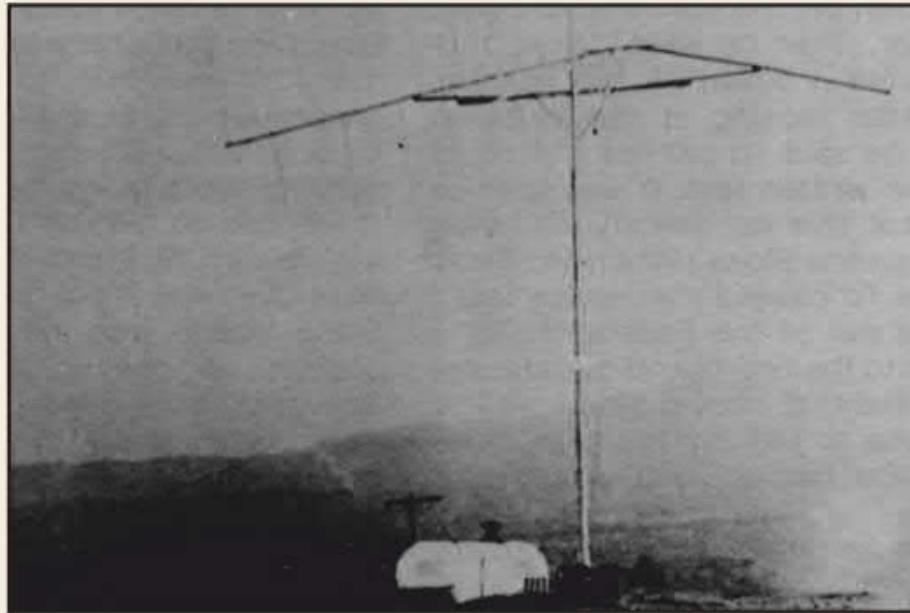
BY C. STEWART GILLMOR, W1FK

I first became interested in radio about 1947 as a Cub Scout, when I got a Morse Code buzzer and built a crystal set. Later, as a Boy Scout, I built a three-tube regenerative receiver and earned a radio merit badge. While working on the Scout badge I learned something about the existence of amateur radio. It seemed very exciting to be able to talk to other persons around the world from your own room. One day my dad told me that his cousin Charles, who lived in Independence, Missouri, was an amateur operator (WØHKC). I was an eighth grader at the time and my first visit to cousin Charles' shack was like a fantasy vision. His car had a mobile rig, and his basement study seemed to be full of exotic gear, including a "bug" key, a chrome-plated microphone, and several radios with more meters and dials than I had ever seen.

The result of this visit was that one Saturday morning I went from my home in Grandview, Missouri down to

Burstein-Applebee Radio on McGee Street in Kansas City. There I bought the ARRL "how to" manuals—"How to Become a Radio Amateur," "The Radio Amateur's License Manual," and "Learning the Radiotelegraph Code"—which cost 25¢ and 50¢ in those days. Armed with these I studied the code and radio theory and tried to listen to code on our RCA Victor record player and radio console. Unknown to me, one Fall day in 1952 my dad went over to Burstein-Applebee on his lunch hour and talked to a salesman, Clyde Fritz, WØDXE about an amateur receiver for a beginner. So on Christmas Day 1952 my folks surprised me with a National SW-54 all-band receiver. This fixed me for good and within six weeks I went to the Federal Building in Kansas City, went up to about the 2000th floor, and stepped off the elevator into a large, nearly deserted room. I remember the floors were highly polished, there were several long tables with chairs, lots of ceiling lights, and offices off to

The 84 element, 4 boom log periodic array and trailer, with the antenna in operation, 1960.



The log periodic array with the antenna in the storage position.

To prepare for the General Code test I debated whether or not to enroll in the Candler Code System course. Ted McElroy was the world champion at receiving c.w. (75.2 w.p.m. in a 1939 test in North Carolina, so the ads said) and he endorsed the Candler System. I figured that I was okay at the code, and so instead of the Candler course I rented a spring-wound paper tape machine for one month from the Instructograph Company of Chicago. This machine



could produce code at from 3 to 40 w.p.m. Now this was probably a pretty good idea, but it took so long for the machine to arrive that I used it only one day before I went down again to see Clarence Bloss at the FCC office. I remember Mr. Bloss really had to stretch to find 13 words in a string. In fact, I lacked one letter of having the minimum 13 word string. I had the word "BE—R." Bloss said to me, "Well, what letter do you think might go there?" I first thought of BEER but then decided the government probably wouldn't put the word beer into an exam, so I said "BEAR." Fortunately, I was right! I barely snuck by the code but I did okay on the written part, except that I think I missed all the schematic questions. (In those days, about 10% of the questions involved actually drawing circuit diagrams on the exam sheets.)

I had been earning money working as a soda jerk at Lyons Drug Store in a nearby hamlet called Hickman Mills.

One day, while goofing up on his order for a cherry coke, no ice, I met Bill, (WØZZV), who invited me over to see his shack. The result was that Bill loaned me a homebrew single-band 807 rig for 40 meter phone. Bill usually operated a beam on 20 meters but he also loaded his steel tower and got onto an evening farmer's net on 160. I never worked 160 in those days, but daytime 40 meter AM phone was about the same as nighttime 160 and I really enjoyed gassing away on 40. Bill's loaned rig was crystal controlled.

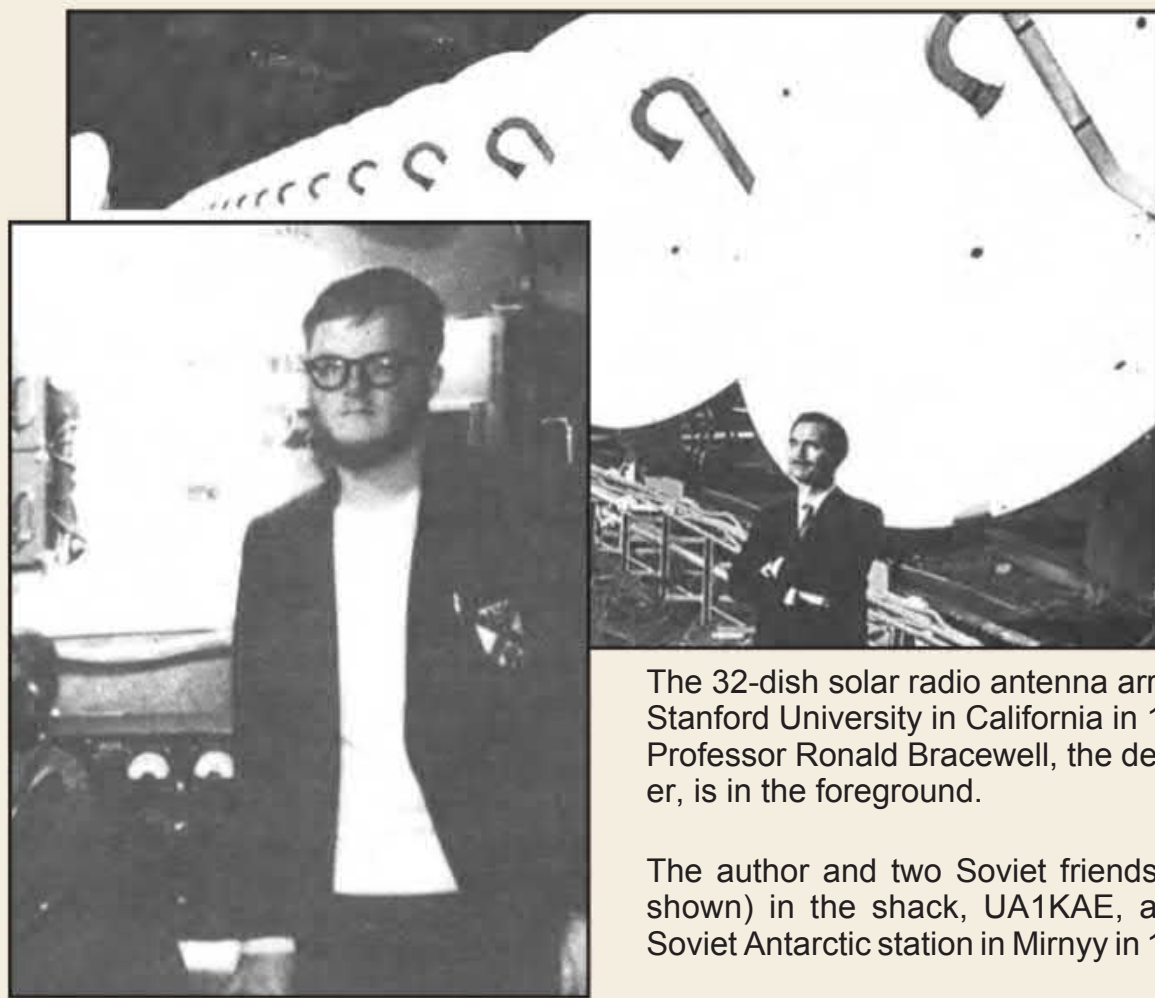
For those of you new to amateur radio it might seem difficult to believe today, but 25 years ago not only were Novices required to operate crystal-controlled rigs, but most other amateurs operated with crystals also, regardless of license. V.f.o.'s were sold separately, almost the way "linears" are sold separately today. Along the way I tried to build two v.f.o.'s, but neither ever worked quite right. At least part of this was my fault. I saved my money and the Viking Mobile V.F.O. Kit was the least expensive I could find. The trouble was that the mobile v.f.o. was about one-half as big as other v.f.o.'s and the only soldering iron I owned was a 200 watt job that was almost as big as the v.f.o. box. I *really* made a mess of it trying to solder the miniature tube sockets. Also, I had never heard of tools such as "solder suckers," etc. But it didn't matter all that much for, living in Missouri, I was not far from the center of the quartz crystal industry. Dozens of little outfits sold surplus crystals that oscillated in fundamental mode at frequencies up to about 10 MHz. Most amateurs purchased them in FT-243 holders, either playing safe and ordering them several kHz inside the band edges, or regrinding them.

Fooling around with crystals was fun and you had less than a buck to lose if you ruined one. Several methods of crystal grinding existed but most people followed instructions in the ARRL handbook. First you unscrewed the three screws on the cover of the little crystal holder, removed the crystal blank, and marked one corner with a pencil. Then you placed some grinding powder, or even toothpaste, on a piece of glass. Next you placed the crystal on the glass, put your index finger on a

corner of the crystal, and proceeded to make several “figure eight” motions with each corner of the crystal. After doing the four corners on each side, this would suffice to raise a 7 MHz crystal, for example, several kHz in frequency. You could even lower the frequency a little by rubbing the corners with a lead pencil. Too much of this fiddling, however, and you would end up having a crystal with uneven edges and corners and it would stop oscillating. 80 meter crystals doubled into the 40 meter band. 40 meter crystals doubled into 20 meters and sometimes tripled into 15 meters. Some people used 10.5 MHz crystals to double to 15 meters. Being “rock bound” wasn’t too much of a handicap since most people called CQ and then listened up and down the band 10 kHz or so. Transceivers were almost unheard of, and nearly everyone was working “split,” as we say today.

My family later moved to Kansas City, and I eventually upgraded to a used National NC-183D receiver and a Globe King 400 watt transmitter. I put up 3-element beams for 10 and 20 meters. I caught antenna fever about then and my beams were the first in a long series of h.f. antennas which I would build over the years. I worked mostly 40 and 20 meters in those days. I totaled a meager 16 countries in confirmed DX but I was more concerned with getting all 48 states. I still had three or four states to go for WAS when I sold my gear to go to college.

Once I got to Stanford University in California I started to hang around a part of the electrical engineering department called the Radio Propagation Lab (later called the Radio-science Lab). Several of the professors there were amateurs, the most famous being Mike Villard, W6QYT. Villard was instrumental in putting the first hi-power amateur s.s.b. transmitter on the air and was the inventor of the famous “Select-O-Ject” audio filter circuit, which the National Company sold as an accessory and also put into some of their receivers. Owen Garriott, the first amateur/astronaut, was a graduate student there when I was a student. Besides Villard, there were several other interesting professors. Ronald Bracewell was in the midst of constructing a 32-dish cross-shaped interferometer



The 32-dish solar radio antenna array at Stanford University in California in 1968. Professor Ronald Bracewell, the designer, is in the foreground.

The author and two Soviet friends (not shown) in the shack, UA1KAE, at the Soviet Antarctic station in Mirnyy in 1961.

antenna array on centimeter wavelengths to measure micro-wave radiation across the sun’s disk each day. I worked for Bracewell for a time helping clean earwig insects out of the waveguides with a long pole and a rag.

The secret to Bracewell’s 32-dish array was transmission line theory and the use of Fourier analysis, a fascinating but difficult mathematical technique that is part of all engineering and physics majors’ curricula today. My work, though conceptually not too difficult, was important, since an apparent change in signal from the array could be, for example, a change in noise from the sun or noise interference from a local ground source. Or, it could be due to a change in the dielectric constant within the waveguide caused by a family of earwigs strolling down the inside on their way to a nest!

The experience of being an amateur put me in good stead with Bracewell as it did also when I got a part-time job at Stanford Research Institute, where Professor Allen Peterson of Stanford was a consultant. At SRI I got to build lots of gear and antennas, including 10 meter yagis flown on a large airplane, v.l.f. antennas, and other interesting projects. While working for SRI one summer as a student I was sent to the Azores Islands. While there I noted strange (to me) noise phenomena on the

h.f. bands. Upon my return to Stanford, Professor Peterson suggested I had observed some solar radio bursts and said I should look into it further. To make the story short, Professor Bracewell and a colleague, Professor Von Eshleman, helped me with advice and materials when I decided to build a radio astronomy telescope for solar and Jupiter radio studies in the frequency range 20-60 MHz. Villard loaned me two 50 foot towers and I started to build a large 50 foot by 100 foot corner reflector at Bracewell’s solar astronomy field site. I designed the corner reflector feed to receive circularly polarized waves, so my corner reflector mesh had to have both horizontal and vertical wires. I didn’t have any mesh so I started to solder copper wire, joint by joint, to make a mesh with squares about one-half meter on a side. (Reflecting surfaces on such antennas, if not solid, should have mesh no larger than 1/16 to 1/10 wavelength to keep losses low and front-to-back ratio high.) When the mesh was well along in construction, it was destroyed by dairy cows which were allowed to roam over the Stanford field sites. I can still remember coming up one morning and seeing a giant tangled ball of copper wire which a cow had dragged all over the field.

Professor Eshleman bailed me out of this by offering me the use of an old

With apologies to Jimmy Hatto ... THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME!



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Looking Ahead...

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



- Memories of JY1
- Results: 2020 CQ WPX SSB Contest
- An Old-School Counter and Digital Dial

Plus...

- The Texas Star Multiband Antenna
- The HexBeam Revisited
- Antennas During the Pandemic

Upcoming Special Issues:

- October:** Emergency Communications
- December:** Technology
- February:** QRP
- June:** Take it to the Field

Do you have a hobby radio story to tell? Something for one of our specials? CQ covers the entire radio hobby. See our writers' guidelines on the CQ website at <<http://bit.ly/2qBF0dU>>.

So What Have You Done for the Last 40 Years?

BY STEW GILLMOR,* W1FK

We asked Stew to give us a brief update on his life and career from the time his now-classic article was published in 1980 until the present. Here's his update. —W2VU

Following up on my activities after the early 1960s, as described in my CQ article of 40 years ago, I continued my education with graduate work at Colorado and then Princeton Universities. During graduate school, I was surprised to learn that "Mt. Gillmor" in the Antarctic had been named for me. Finishing my Ph.D., I began a career of 40 years teaching at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. I retired in 2007 as Professor of History and Science.

One of the rewards of university teaching is the chance to work at other locations on research leave, which I was able to do in Paris (twice); Cambridge, England; and NASA, among others, as well as four years at Stanford. Another life interest of mine has been music. In the '80s and '90s, I led an 11-piece jazz orchestra. I also recorded and played with others around New England, in New York City, and New Orleans. The most musical fun was being the volunteer advisor to the Wesleyan University Pep Band for almost four decades.

Most of my publications (two books and four edited books, plus over 50 papers) concerned physics and engineering and their history. These included a lot of ionospheric and magnetospheric physics, as well as sociological and survey studies of the composition and growth of an international science community. My last book, *Fred Terman at Stanford*, (Stanford U. Press, 2004), is supposed to come out in a Chinese edition this winter.

The most rewarding thing for me as a teacher has been following the careers of my students. This list contains the chief medical director of a national children's medical system, a U.S. state governor, a very wealthy Silicon Valley engineer, newspaper editors, a U.S. national security intelligence executive, lawyers, writers, teachers, and more.

I have enjoyed writing occasional articles for 73 and CQ magazines over the past 40 plus years. My 100-foot cedar antenna pole and its six long "v" beams (CQ, Oct 2007) have survived the woodpeckers, but I lost several of the homemade 600-ohm feedlines in a hurricane about 7 years ago and the XYL wouldn't let me climb the pole after I turned 70. I have enjoyed telling CQ readers about my contact with hams while visiting Chile, Mexico, arctic Sweden, Jordan, and Cornwall, England over the past dozen years. At my retirement in 2007, I joined my wife's long interest in gardening by working with her to design and build a one-acre wine vineyard where we produce about four or five wines each year for self-enjoyment and for charity.

And finally, circling back to my boyhood, I clearly remember my early interest in physical sciences and my introduction to radio through the Cub and Boy Scouts and ham radio and its continuing influence on my career over the decades.



The Gillmor family today ... from right to left, Stew, W1FK; his wife, Rogene, and their daughter, Alison, all standing in front of the family vineyard in Connecticut. (Photo courtesy W1FK)

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trailer and a rotating steel pole which had formerly been used for meteor radar studies. Since I now had the possibility of building a moveable antenna, I designed a log periodic array to go along with my sweep receiver—oscilloscope—film camera setup. I cajoled various student friends to help me. These were usually amateurs who simply couldn't resist helping on antenna projects. Somehow the chance to help cut off the top of a 6-inch steel pipe with a welding torch while 40 feet in the air seemed irresistible. Professor Eshleman mentioned that, instead of my making a large array from scratch, he would loan me some extra parts left over from a big log periodic string array he was constructing for solar radar studies. I gladly accepted his offer. I extended the steel pole from 40 to 60 feet in height and added a large crossbar. I then joined four aluminum booms each with 21 elements to form a vertically polarized, 84 element log periodic array moveable in azimuth by motor and in elevation by hand pulley and ropes.

This array received well except near 26 MHz. This was attributed to coupling of the 26 MHz quarter-wave element sections, which were positioned extremely close to the steel pole. The antenna had approximately a 13 db gain from 20 to 100 MHz, and beam-widths of 40 degrees in the E-plane and 60 degrees in the H-plane. Each of the four booms was 40 feet long. This tied in with amateur radio again when I used the array in the Fall of 1960. *QST* magazine cooperated with me in securing the assistance of amateurs in the western U.S. and Canada to monitor radio noise before, during,

and after a solar eclipse. One of my fellow students worked on the analysis of this data after I left Stanford.

I left the university in late Fall 1960 to join the Upper Atmosphere and Space Physics group at the National Bureau of Standards at Boulder, Colorado. In this capacity I went as a guest ionospheric physicist with the Sixth Soviet Antarctic Expedition to Mirnyy, Antarctica, where I measured cosmic noise absorption at 30 MHz with a self-balancing receiver called a Riometer (See 73 magazine, June 1979). As in my previous jobs at Stanford University and at Stanford Research Institute, I am sure that my years of experience as an amateur helped me. There are many technical areas in which actual field experience is quite valuable. And amateur radio is a hobby in which one can gain this experience. For example, no one wanted to hire geologists in 1960, difficult as that may be to believe in 1980. Two of my friends, geology graduates, succeeded in getting good employment primarily because they were amateurs.

Young readers today might feel that ionospheric radio propagation and antennas don't offer the excitement they once did. Quite possibly true... but think of the other exciting areas into which you can be led by amateur radio: Solid-state electronics, micro-electronics design, noise and information theory, computers, environmental design (including consideration of TVI and other electromagnetic pollution problems), medical and space electronics, energy storage and transmission.... The list is *very* long and amateur radio can help you gain entrance into these areas.

The 12-volt power supply in KE3FL's garage is well used, but it could be even more useful, he thought, if there was a way for it to produce various lower voltage levels for projects with different power needs. A little digging and — voilà! — a new project for Phil, and now for you, to build ...

Build an Adjustable Voltage Add-On For Your Power Supply

BY PHIL KARRAS,* KE3FL



Photo A. My garage Astron power supply.

This project started when I was looking at my Astron power supply that I use in the garage for various jobs (Photo A): Recharging batteries, running amateur radios, running a DC battery drill, etc. I was thinking that it would be nice if the Astron could also have an adjustable output voltage for things that don't require 12.0-13.8 volts DC.

With this in mind, I went web-diving to search for adjustable power supplies and I came across the following description: "DC 4V-40V to 1.25-36V Buck Converter 200W 8A Module,"¹ (Photo B; less than \$6 on Amazon) which I thought would fit the bill by giving me an adjustable power supply up to around 13 volts and up to 8 amps.

If you want to find a buck converter, try searching on "Buck Converter 200W 8A Module." If you leave off the power / amp limits, you'll find larger versions up to 20 amps, but most of those that I've seen do not have the large variable resistor to adjust the voltage. Instead, they have smaller resistors requiring a screwdriver to adjust the output voltage.

I also bought Volt-Amp display-meters (Photo C) to see the output voltage and current. They're available on eBay for less than \$3. The ones I bought — listed as "DC 100V 10A LED Digital Display Volt Amp Meter" — required a minimum of 4 volts to run them and, since I wanted to see down to 1.2

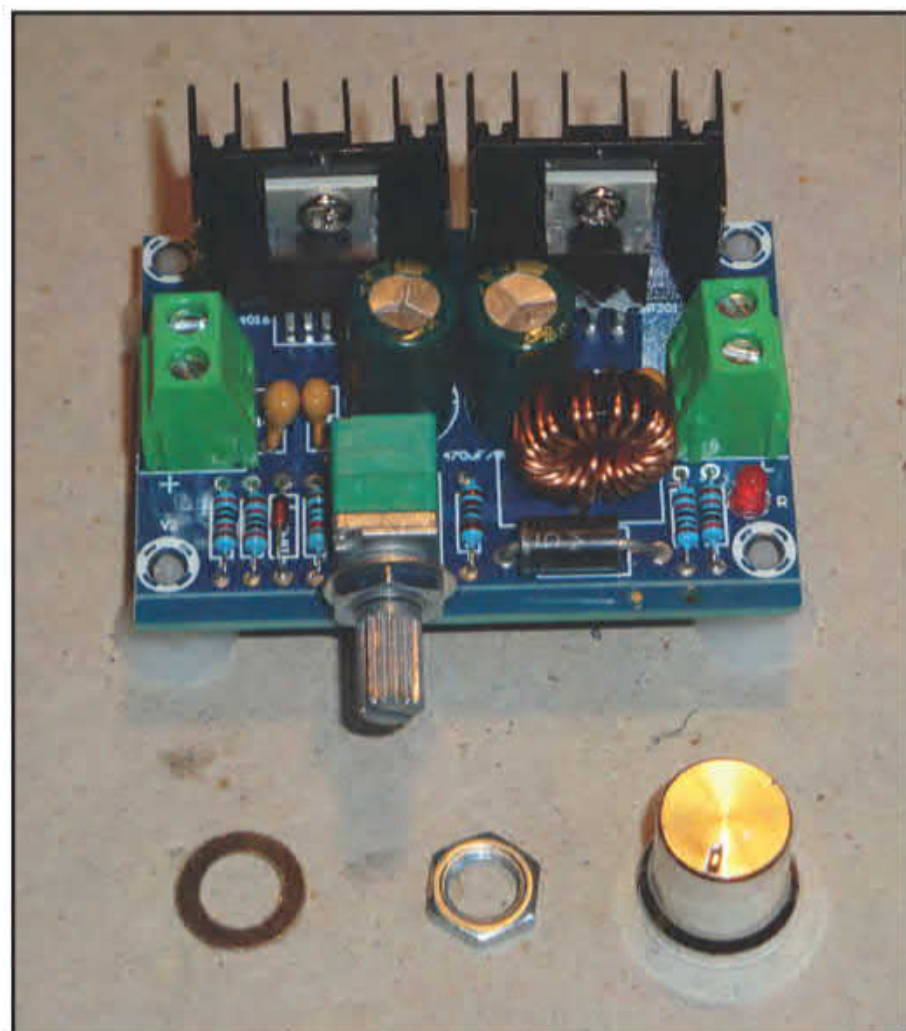


Photo B. The buck converter I purchased from Amazon.com.



Photo C. A voltage and current display, available on eBay for about \$3.

*Email: <ke3fl@yahoo.com>

KE3FL Website: <<http://cs.yrex.com/ke3fl>>

Karras' Corner: <<http://blog.solidsignal.com/author/philk/>>



Photo D. I needed to modify the voltage control knob in order to make it fit in my enclosure.

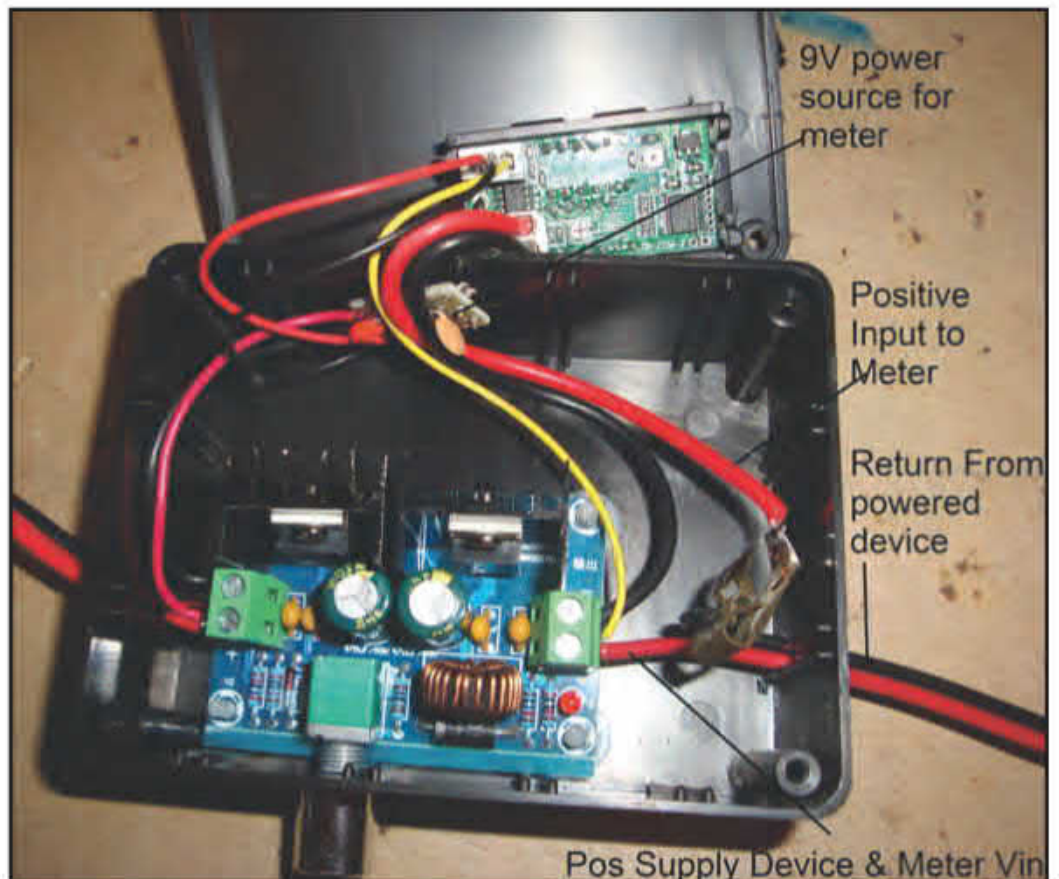


Photo E. Assembled buck converter and meter. →



Photo F. Tools I used to modify the box included a file, a Swiss Army knife, and a Dremel® tool.

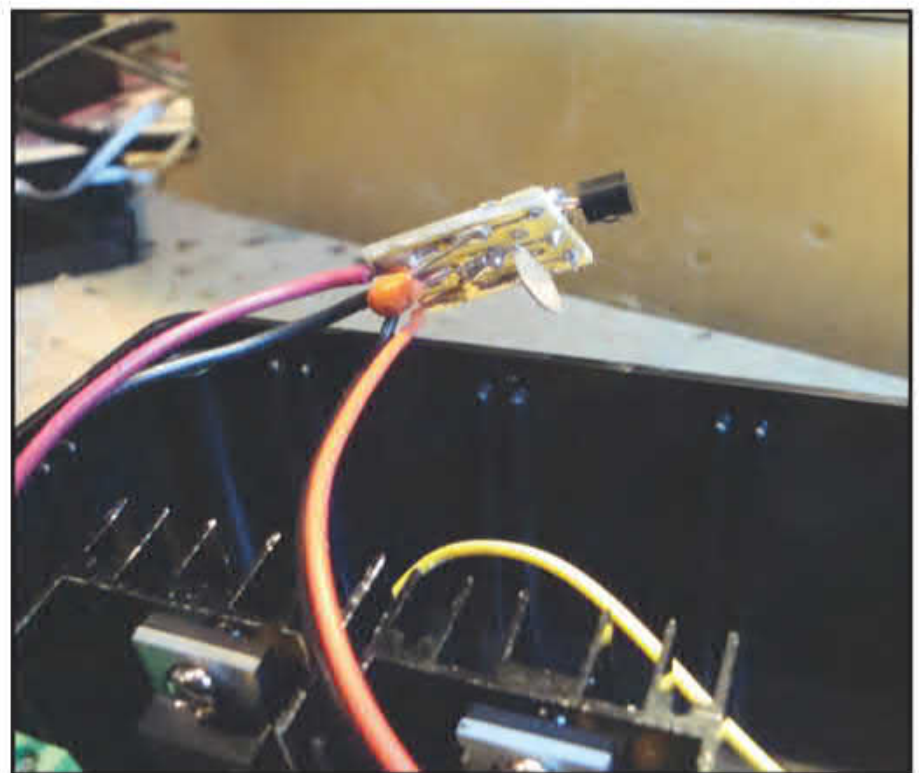


Photo G. Close-up of the 9-volt power supply board needed to power the display.

volts, I also built a 9-volt, 100-mA supply using a small 7809 regulator. If you want to find the displays on eBay, try searching on “Digital LED DC Voltage / Current Display / Meter.”

The one mistake the manufacturer made with the boards I purchased was that the resistor pot was recessed on the board and so I had to come up with a work-around. I chose to modify the knob as seen in *Photo D*. The newer boards now have the pot closer to the edge of the board so it can be mounted inside a box without any modifications.

Measure Twice, Drill Once

Putting this all together took me about four hours of measuring, drilling, cutting, and filing. I also wanted to be able to replace any of the parts / boards, so I modified a few things to allow all wires coming in to be either screwed or clamped to other wires or boards. In *Photo E*, the buck converter is in the box, the display is attached to the lid of the box, and the 9-volt board is tucked safely behind some large power wires.

I also labeled some of the wires in this photo. You can see that all wires are either screwed or clip-connected for easy removal and replacement of any of the boards, if needed.

To attach the display to the top cover, I used a Dremel® tool to cut the basic rectangle for the display. I then had to use a sharp knife to whittle away most of the excess and, last, a file to get it to fit as closely as I could make it (*Photo F*). *Photo G* is a close-up of the 7809 board, which provides 9 volts DC for the meter.

A Head-Scratcher

During my tests, I ran into a bit of a problem. The Volt-Amp display meter did not seem to be working correctly and it was measuring both the voltage and current much higher than they really were. It took me another day of testing to find the problem. In the end, I tripped over the problem by building a test setup for the displays using a 9-volt battery to supply power to the displays rather than my 9-volt circuit. All dis-

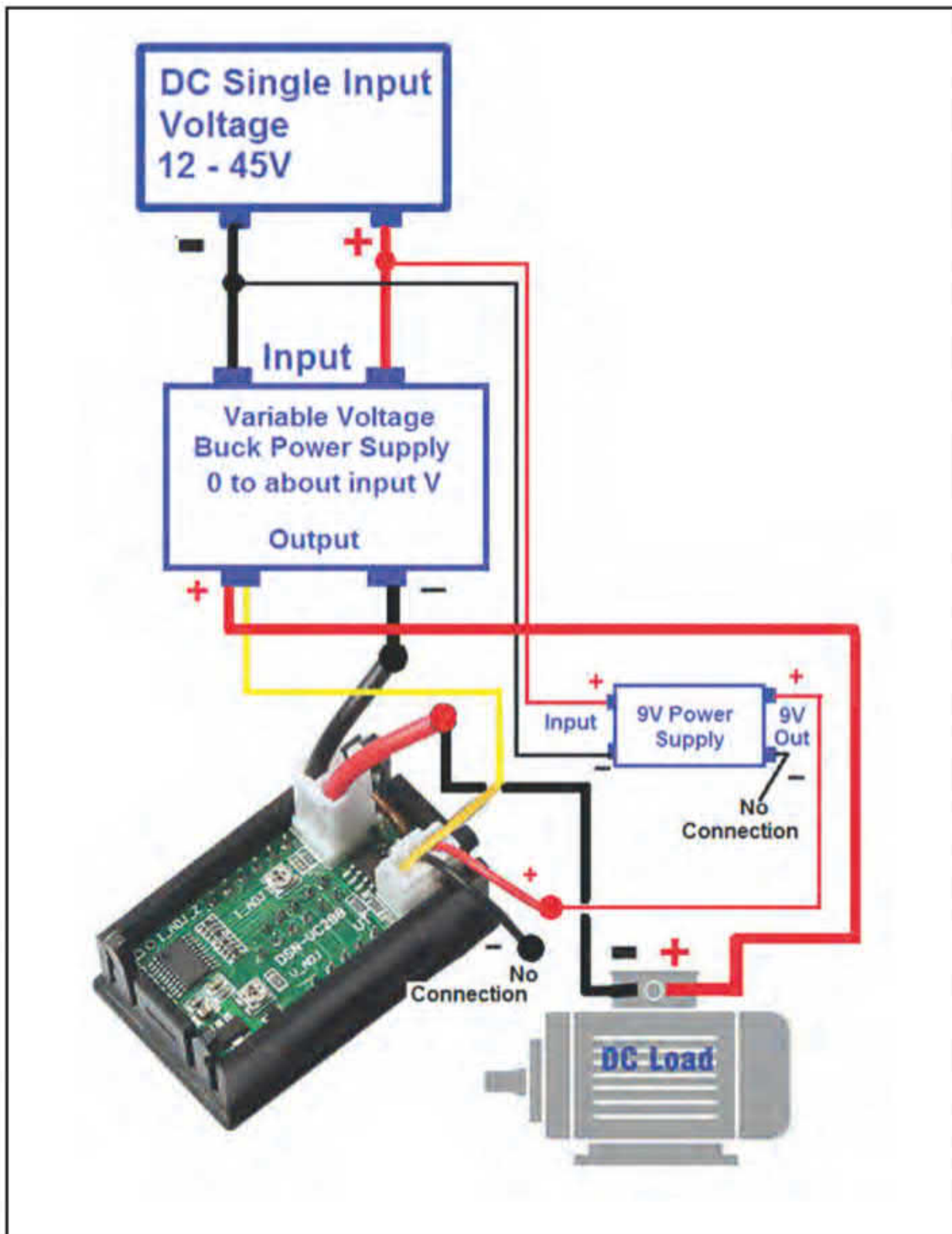


Figure 1. Common input power wiring for the buck converter, with my modifications to prevent a ground loop.

plays tested this way measured both voltage and current correctly within very reasonable errors. If they measured correctly with a battery but not my circuit, the problem had to be my circuit. But when tested, the circuit was working correctly and it was very stable.

This finally got me to thinking about ground loops. I disconnected the output return from the display that was going to the output return of the buck converter. This was easy to do because the display return wire was screwed into the output return of the buck converter. This fixed the problem of bad voltage and current readings. See the wiring diagram in *Figure 1*. In this version of the wiring diagram, you'll see where I have the wiring disconnected from the display's return.

To finish up, I used Anderson power connectors for both the input and output lines from the converter box so it can now be used with any of my larger single-voltage power supplies.

The last test was to adjust the output power to about 12 volts to run a 12-volt fluorescent lamp. In this test (*Photo H*), we see the meter showing that the voltage is 12.2 volts and the current is 0.54 amps.

The final image, *Photo I*, is of the converter box connected to my Astron SR-20A supply, and set to 9 volts.

A possible enhancement I'm thinking about is attaching a flexible fiber to the buck converter's power-on LED and bringing it out to the top of the box to show when the converter is actually on.

Notes:

1. The buck converter is used in SMPS (Switching Mode Power Supply) circuits where the DC output voltage needs to be lower than the DC input voltage. Read more at: <<https://tinyurl.com/ybmvxjtv>>.

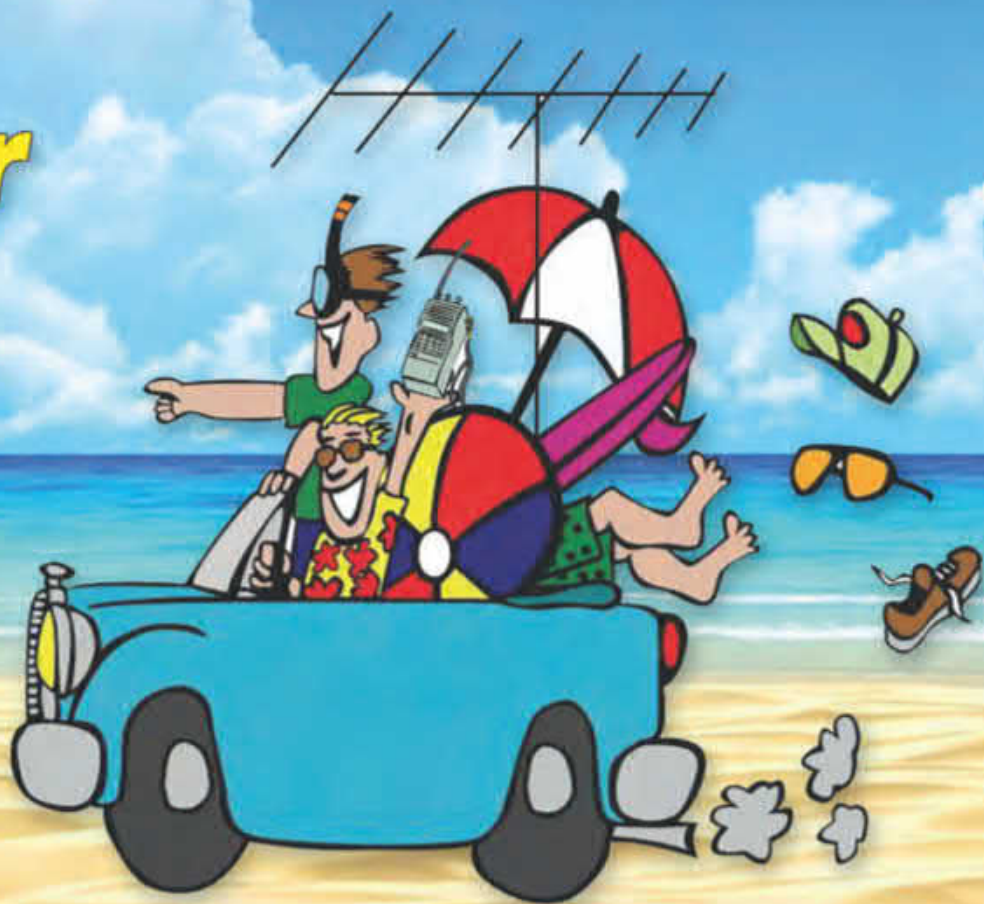


Photo H. Final test — setting the output to operate a 12-volt fluorescent lamp.



Photo I. Astron power supply and adjustable converter set to about 9 volts.

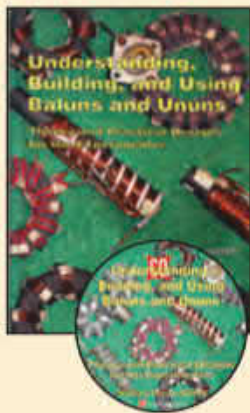
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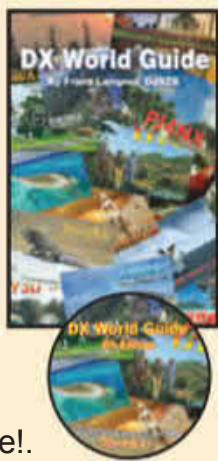


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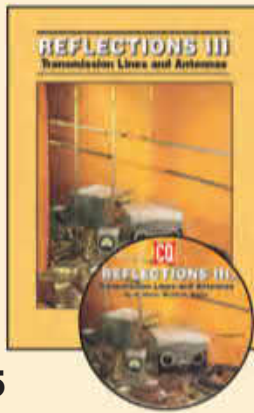


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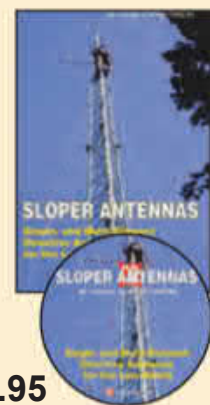
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Participants in the 1978 foxhunt in Schenectady, New York that included the author. Note the two participants wearing crash helmets ... they were in the pickup truck with an 11-element beam and compass. And yes, they won! (Photo courtesy of Peter Miller)

Amateur radio direction finding, better known as “foxhunting,” enjoys a long history. W4FSV writes about a recent foxhunt that triggered memories of another one 42 years earlier!

A Vintage Foxhunt, or ... Two Hams in Crash Helmets

BY WILLIAM F. MINIKIEWICZ,* W4FSV

One of our local ham radio clubs recently held a foxhunt. It all started when a guest speaker at a recent club meeting gave an interesting and enlightening program detailing methodology and technology required in the 21st century quest for the elusive radio-fox. In recent times, there has been a good deal of interest in the “radio sport” of foxhunting, also known as hidden transmitter hunting or radio direction finding. It seems that the interest has spawned more than a few magazine articles (*including a regular column in CQ –ed*), as well as electronic gadgets to aid in the search for the RF-emitting *Caninae Vulpes* (Latin for fox).

It seems that today’s premise is to find a tiny QRPp transmitter well-hidden in a location where nobody is likely to look.

* Email: <w4fsv@breadboardradio.com>

Our club foxhunt was so successful that the fox was never found. Yes, some hunters were close, but the prey survived to radiate another day. However, I think the event was a success. The most important thing about the hunt was that a few lessons were learned, a good meal was shared, and we got to work together. That fox won’t get away next time.

The Way We Were

Contemplating the day’s activities, I started to reminisce about a foxhunt that I had organized with my good friend Howie, W2AFD (SK) about 42 years earlier. It was the beginning of spring in upstate New York and the snow had melted, the trees were budding and hams were ready to emerge from the winter captivity of their shacks. I was employed by the local ham radio store and was able to get the owner to

donate a few nice prizes to be awarded to the first three teams to locate the fox. The event was scheduled and advertised mostly by word of mouth and via 2-meter nets. By the day of the event, there were 11 teams signed up for our hunt. Each team consisted of two or three participants. It would have been difficult to be a lone fox hunter in 1978. We were hunting in an urban concrete jungle in an area of about 20 square miles. In a time without GPS, cell phones, laptops or miniaturization, teams used paper maps, a compass and 2-meter beams to triangulate the fox. When a team got close enough, they used attenuation and handheld transceivers to close in. In this case, the fox was operating from a parked car sitting in a secret location.

Gentlemen, Start Your Engines

All of the foxhunting teams started at the same time from a pre-designated location. The fox transmitted on a 2-meter simplex frequency and kept transmissions short and on schedule. Precisely at 9:00 a.m., the teams were eagerly waiting to get their first directional fix from the "fox." The rules stated that the "fox" would transmit for one minute every 10 minutes and decrease power by half every third transmission. This allowed teams time to obtain three triangulation fixes to zero in a little closer before the power reduction. We did not disclose who the fox was until he first came on the air at exactly 9:00 a.m. There was a sense of excitement and amusement when the first 1-minute message was transmitted: "Welcome to the hunt from your fox, WA2FOX!"

WA2FOX was a friend of mine who was not very active except on high frequency and so his call was new to most, if not all, of the hunters. After a few chuckles and "where did you find him" comments, the hunt was on. It was quite a scene to watch as teams worked to find their first heading. Most used two- and three-element handheld Yagis, but there was also a loop or two, a two-element quad, and one very interesting 11-element beam mounted on the back of a pickup truck. I am not sure how safe it was for the ham operating the beam and compass from the truck bed while the driver plotted headings on the map and drove at the same time, but at least they were wearing crash helmets! (see photo)

For the next two hours or so, the streets of Schenectady must have drawn some very interesting looks,

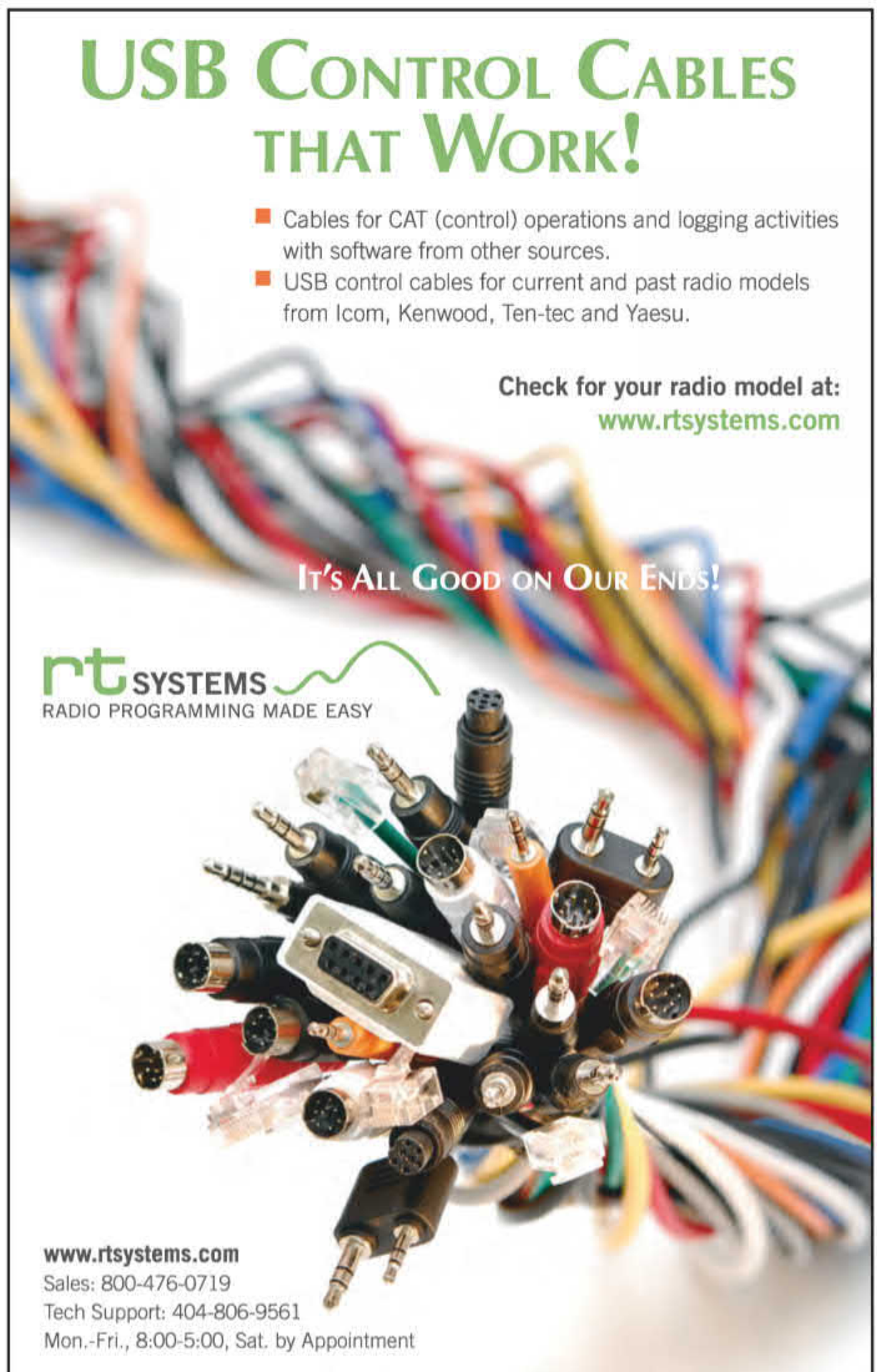
comments and concerns from drivers and pedestrians alike, although, I am not aware of any police reports.

Winners, But No Losers

About 10:30 a.m. the first foxhunting team arrived to greet the fox and claim first-place glory. Sure enough, apparently there is some truth in the old adage, "size matters." The team with the 11-element beam mounted on the bed of the pickup truck was indeed the first to arrive. It was only a couple of minutes before the next several teams

joined us in the parking lot of a city park, our secret location. By 11:00 a.m., all of the teams were present and accounted for. To celebrate our event, everyone was invited to a nearby Italian restaurant, where we all feasted on pizza and liquid refreshments while the winners received their prizes and we all shared team stories.

When I think about this vintage outing compared to today's foxhunts, one thing is apparent to me ... nothing changes, but nothing remains the same.




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MATH'S NOTES

BY IRWIN MATH,* WA2NDM

Balanced Video

Many experimenters are well aware of the characteristics and benefits of both the balanced and unbalanced configurations for audio signals. Normal unbalanced audio can suffer from electrical noise induced in the transmission line while a balanced configuration tends to reject common-mode noise while preserving desired signal fidelity. *Figure 1* shows a comparison of both examples to indicate how they are wired. This month, we would like to expand on this topic but in the area of conventional analog *video* since the use of similar balanced transmission techniques for conventional unbalanced baseband CCTV video offers some interesting and unique opportunities for the experimenter. As many amateurs who enjoy amateur television (ATV) are still involved with “old fashioned” analog video, this technique may come in handy to some.

The most common and familiar method for transmitting a conventional analog video signal is with coaxial cable. In addition, conducting the actual video signal using coax is relatively inexpensive and provides some degree of shielding from outside noise sources due to the shielded center conductor.

Coax does suffer from one problem, however. When you have to route an analog video signal from one point to another, the physical job of routing the coaxial cable can sometimes be a real headache, especially if you want a permanent, neat installation. This was the case in my home when we wanted to

install a small closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera to monitor the front door from my shack in the basement. We had no way to route the coax from the camera (not to mention the camera power) through the brick wall that constitutes the front of my house since the only wires at all were the push-button

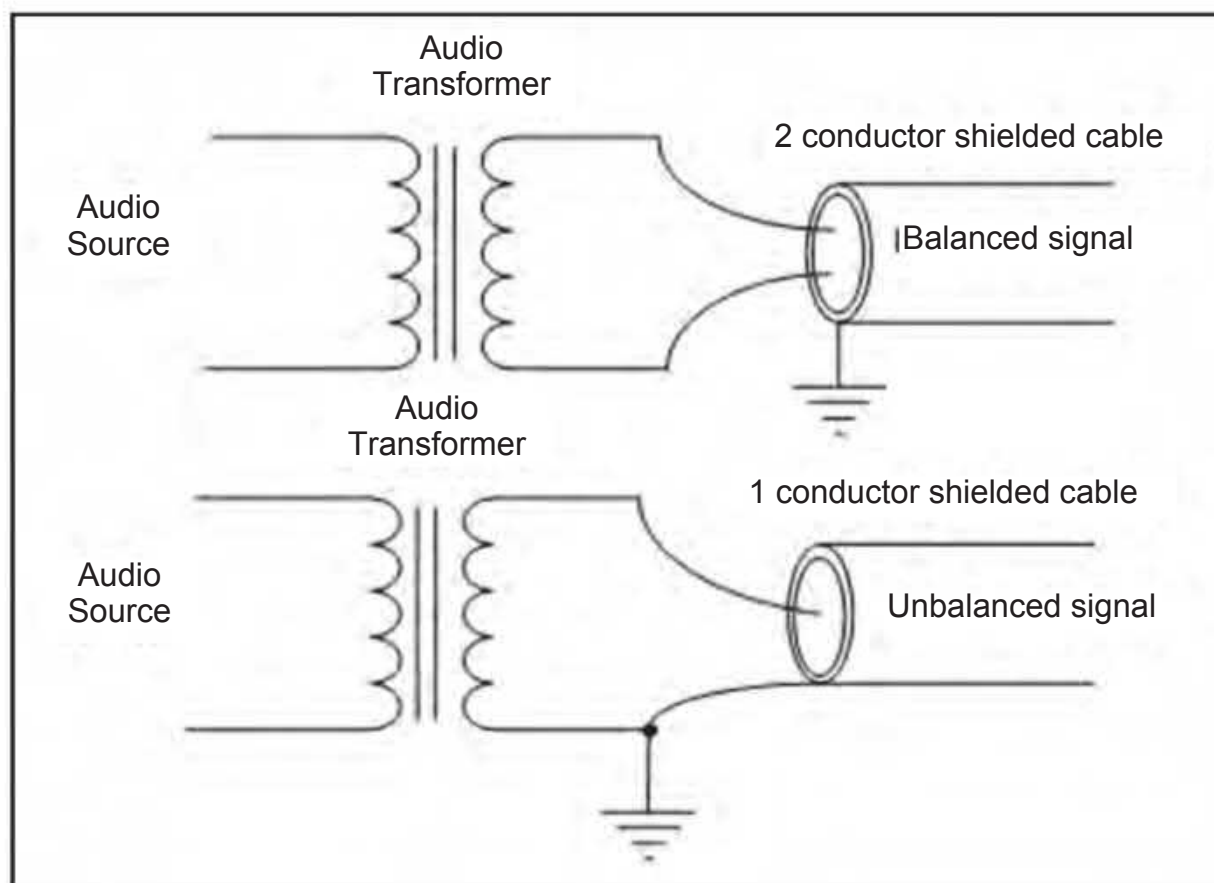


Figure 1. Balanced audio vs. unbalanced audio

*c/o CQ magazine

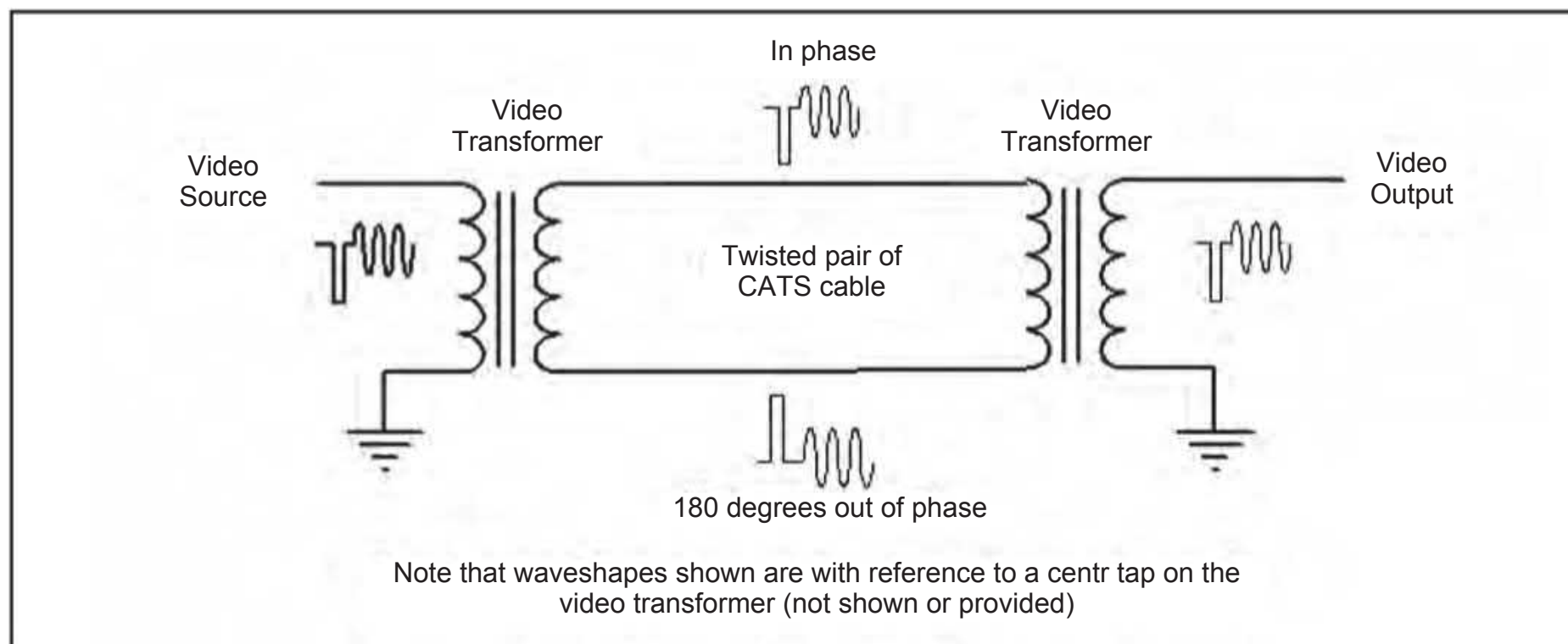


Figure 2. Balanced video showing typical waveshapes

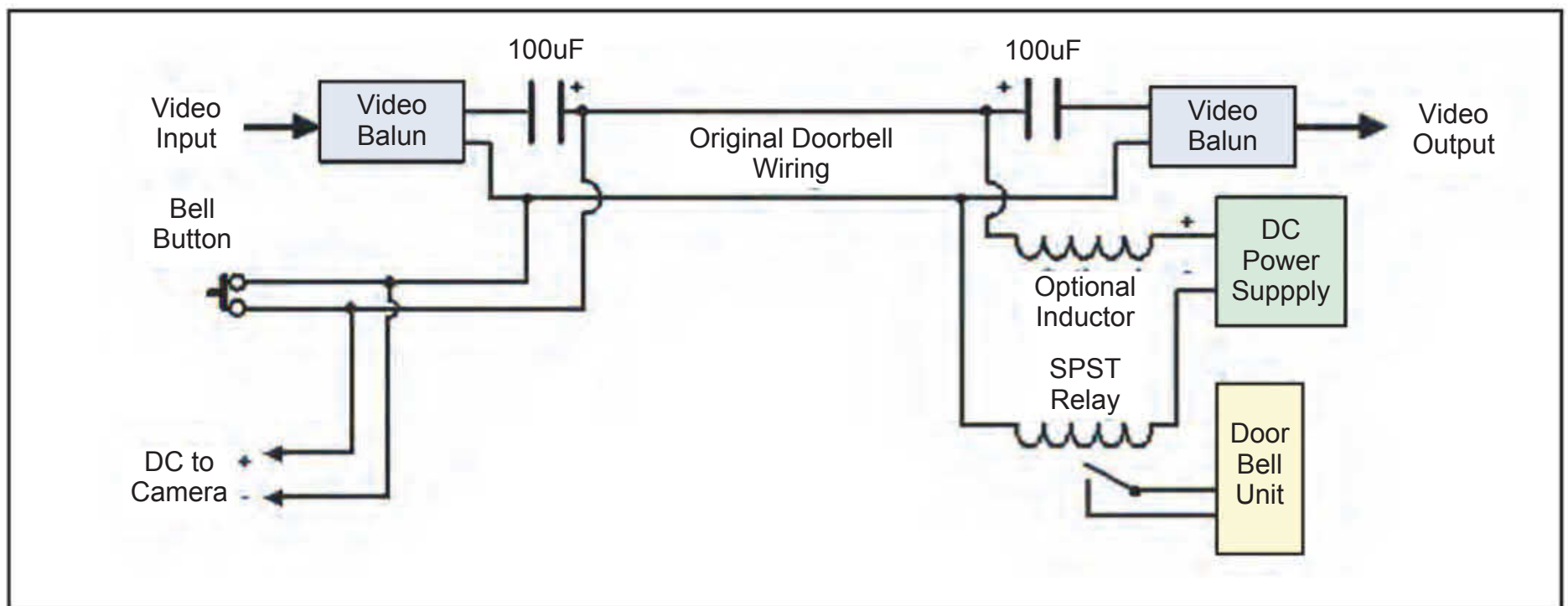


Figure 3. Final video doorbell circuit

leads from the existing doorbell button. However, those happened to be located in just the right place. After a bit of thought, I came up with a method of how to use these leads for both the doorbell and camera which resulted in the following neat solution.

There is a technique in use today with some CCTV installations that employs a simple twisted pair of wires, such as conductors in CAT5 cable or common telephone grade cable, for the transmission of video. This technique is similar to the audio scheme described above and operates by first converting the normally unbalanced video signal into a balanced differential signal. This is easily done with readily available transformers. The balanced signal is then applied to two copper conductors. At the receiving end another transformer converts the balanced signal back into a single-ended one. *Figure 2* shows this arrangement with the input and output unbalanced video and shows the two 180° out-of-phase in-between signals. Obviously, the transformer must have enough bandwidth to pass the 4- to 5-MHz baseband video signal, operate at the 75-ohm system impedance, and handle the 1-volt pp signal level. Fortunately, as I mentioned, such transformers exist. These transformers are called “video baluns,” are fairly inexpensive, and are stocked by most of the larger security and CCTV accessory dealers. They are also readily available on the internet by a simple search. The connectors on these devices are BNCs on the video ends and RJ-45 type connectors or terminal blocks on the balanced ends. They are designed to work with non-shielded twisted pair cable and installation is simply “plug and play,” as they say. Inexpensive “under \$10” baluns (per pair) can often transport video signals hundreds or even thousands of feet, depending on the quality of the wire and the actual transformers used. Since we will be using two-conductor doorbell wire instead of a carefully manufactured twisted pair cable, this will be a real experimenter’s project so the end results can be anything from spectacular to miserable. Obviously, this will require video baluns with terminal blocks instead of RJ-45 CAT 5 connectors.

Now to our final circuit. *Figure 3* shows the video camera / doorbell system. First, we modified the connections to the doorbell portion of the circuit by using a separate DC power supply and a small SPST normally-open relay. Note that the voltage from the power supply that is applied to the trans-

mission line wires (in addition to the video) is DC. If the common AC doorbell voltage were to be used, this would interfere with the video signal so we had no choice but to use only DC. In addition, the camera also needs DC to operate, which simplified the camera end. Two terminal block style video baluns were used for the actual video signal and these were isolated from each other with two 100- μ F capacitors, one on each end, so as to conduct the video but not short-circuit the DC. These capacitors could be increased in value if the low frequency portion of the video signal causes distortion or loss of stability with the monitor used. The relay and DC voltage were then chosen so that the normal current drawn by the video camera would not trigger the relay but was low enough to operate the camera properly. When the button is pushed, however, the additional current will short the camera but it will also increase it to the point where it will activate the relay and the doorbell will ring. Note that the impedance of the relay coil prevents shorting the video from the negative end of the power supply and the optional inductor prevents shorting the video from the positive end. These must be determined by experimentation for the parts you plan to use. The camera used was a low-cost device normally used for an automobile back-up camera (at 12 volts) but operated properly with less than a few mA at about 9 volts. The camera and relay power was obtained from a small low-power plug-in DC power supply.

The tiny video camera (which came with a hole saw for installation purposes) was mounted in a small plastic housing that also held the doorbell push-button and balun, and the result was a compact front door video monitor that did not require any coax over the 25-foot span to the monitor. The only actual “negative” with this setup is that the video is cut off temporarily when the push-button is pressed since it shorts the video line, but this did not cause any problem with our system. If you have a longer run, this “pseudo twisted” cable scheme may not work properly for you. You will then have to do some experimentation with relay coils, inductance values, and even capacitor values but you should be able to get it to work properly.

In my case, it did take a bit of work to get everything operating properly but the final result was just what I wanted. For those interested, the actual cost for everything including the camera did not exceed \$35.

– 73, Irwin, WA2NDM

COVID-19 and Other Causes Keep Some Stations Off the Air

Other Stations Return, While Canadian CFVP Fixes a Water-Damaged Antenna Site

~ Radio Exterior de España had its foreign language services interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but broadcasts resumed in early June. English begins at 2200 UTC, French at 2230 UTC, and Portuguese at 2300 UTC. REE uses 9690, 11685, 11940, and 12030 kHz.

~ Radio Nyawa Sarawak, a “new” one just a few months back, is now said to be off the air due to virus concerns. RNS used 11890 kHz and says it’ll be back.

~ Denmark’s World Music Radio (WMR) is back. The station is airing from 0700-2000 UTC on 15805 kHz. The broadcaster, based in Randers, is active Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, WMR has changed its reporting policy and will not confirm reports from receptions made on remote receivers.

~ The rumors about Radio Vanuatu, mentioned a column or two back, turned out to be true. RV is in operation 24 hours a day, namely at 0000-0700 UTC on 5040 kHz, 0700-1000 UTC on 3945 kHz, 1000-1830 UTC on 2485 kHz, 1830-0000 UTC on 3945 kHz, all of it in English.

~ All India Radio’s site at Kuresong is in line to receive a 50-kilowatt transmitter. The previous 10-kilowatt facility ended its run at the end of July.

~ Harold Sellers has received word from an engineer at CFVP that the ground around the station’s shortwave tower was found to be completely underwater. The engineer said that the station would have to replace a couple of grounding rods and the associated wire. Management hopes to be back on the air with their 100-watt Calgary station on 6030 kHz ASAP.

~ Egypt’s Radio Cairo has been inactive for sometime, presumably because of transmitter problems

*c/o CQ magazine



All India Radio is upping the power of its Kuresong outlet to 50 kilowatts.

~ Albania’s Cerrik transmitter site, already inactive for several months, won’t be on the air for some time, at least through the end of the A-20 broadcast period. No reason for the temporary closure of this CRI Relay was given.

~ Raydo Pilipinas has cancelled registrations for the A-20 season. And, in fact, it has not been noted active of late.

~ Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting’s English schedule is currently on the air from 1520-1620 UTC on 7410 kHz from the Sirjan site, and from 1920-2020 UTC, also from Sirjan. There’s also a report of 9665 kHz at just after 2020 UTC so the 2000+hour may not be fully accurate.

Reader Logs

Remember, your shortwave broadcast station logs are always welcome. But *please* be sure to double or triple space between the items, list each logging

according to the **station’s home country** and include your last name and state abbreviation after each. Also needed are spare QSLs, station schedules, brochures, pennants, station photos, and anything else you think would be of interest. The same holds for those amateur radio operators who also listen to shortwave broadcasts. I know you’re out there. You, too, are most welcome to contribute!

Here are this month’s logs. All times are in UTC. If no language is mentioned English is assumed.

ALASKA—KNLS, Anchor Point, 7355 with English sign-on at 1200 with announcements; it started out poor but was improving. (Sellers, BC) 9580 at 1128 in Russian, woman giving address, back to same man with an English hymn, 9735 at 1237 with man speaking in Mandarin with an apparent religious message. (Taylor, WI) 9730 at 1530 with woman speaking in Russian, 9760 also noted at 1530 with woman speaking in Chinese. (Barton, AZ)

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ALGERIA—Radio Algerienne, 7295 via France at 0520 with Qur'an recitations in Arabic. (Barton, AZ)

ASCENSION—BBC-North Atlantic Relay, 12095 at 2051 with promos and into program start with the usual Ascension squeal. (Taylor, WI) 15490 at 1945 in Hausa. (Brossell, WI)

BOLIVIA—Radio Mosoj Chaski, Cochabamba, 3310 at 1010 in Spanish, woman and man talking into indigenous music; reception was weak. (Taylor, WI)

BOTSWANA—VOA Relay, Mopeng Hill, 9885 at 1953 in Kinya, 15580 at 1939 on an endangered Hawaiian language. (Brossell, WI)

BRAZIL—(All in Portuguese –GLD)

Radio Clube do Para, Belem, 4885 at 0058 with ballads, man giving station ID and solid S-7 level. (Wood, MA)

Voz Missionaria, Florianapolis, 9665 at 2334 with an impassioned talk. (Brossell, WI)

Radio Nacional Amazonia, Brasilia, 11780 at 2230 with woman reading the news. (Barton, AZ) 0118 with Brazilian pop music, //6180. (Sellers, BC) 2040 with man and woman talking. (Brossell, WI)

CANADA—CFRX, Toronto at 1212 om 6070 with an interview on the pandemic and its impact on golf courses in Ontario. (Sellers, BC)

CHINA—China Radio International, 9415, Beijing at 2340 in Vietnamese; 9600-Kashi with news at 2104; 9630, Jinling at 2306 in Cantonese. (Brossell, WI) 9730, Beijing with drama program in English at 1316, //9870. (Sellers, BC) 11640, Jinhua at 0815 with man and woman speaking in Chinese; 12015 at 0815 with a powerful signal on an otherwise quiet band (at 1:15 a.m. local); 12015, Beijing with woman on schools in China. (Barton, AZ)

CNR-1 jammer, 6105 at 0113 from an unknown location and Radio Taiwan, with the jammer on top, woman and man alternating speaking in Mandarin, both //6180, CNR-1 was also //9555; Also 9555 with RTI-Kouhu at 2202 both in Mandarin and



China Radio International has (at least) suspended use of its Cerrik relay in Albania.

woman speaking over music; 1206 recheck had only the jammer. Others on 9680, 9585, and 15510. (Taylor, WI)

CUBA—Radio Progreso, 7465, Bejucal with jazz vocals from the '40s / '50s and male announcer in Spanish. (Barton, AZ)

Radio Havana Cuba, 6060, Bauta (frequency messed-up) at 0139 in English with *Mailbag* program, //6000 and 6145 were not on; 6060 in Spanish at 0205; 11800, Quivican (another mess-up), in Spanish at 0153 with Cuban music and spurs on 11810 and 11790. (Sellers, BC) 13780 at 1317 with Spanish station ID, several short bits by different people and several nearby interference "blobs." (Taylor, WI)

ECUADOR—HCJB / Radio Akhbar Mufriha, 7300 via **England** with man and woman speaking in Arabic at 2124. (Brossell, WI)

ENGLAND—BBC, 5930 via **Austria** at 0033 in Dari with a radio play. (Taylor, WI)

FRANCE—RFI, 7205, Issoudun in French at 2125. (Brossell, WI)

GREECE—Voice of Greece, 9420, Avlis at 2102 in Greek with music and announcements. (Brossell, WI); 2305 chant-like Greek vocals, female announcer with rechecks up to 0430. (Barton, AZ)

GUAM—Trans World Radio / KWTR, 9910, Medorn in Assamese with IS, station ID, and Southeast Asian music and male announcer. (Taylor, WI) 12035 in Thai at 1351. (Brossell, WI)

GUINEA—Radio Guineene, Conakry, at 2140 with commentary and announcements. (Brossell, WI)

INDIA—All India Radio, 9445, Bengaluru at 1905 ending news, then sub-continental music; 11560 at 1646 with talks in Russian. (Brossell, WI)

JAPAN—NHK Radio Japan, 7355 at 1100 switched to Russian at 1110; 12045 with pops at 1530 and man and woman speaking in Japanese. (Barton, AZ) 9820 via **Uzbekistan** at 0207 in Hindi man hosting South Asian music program. (Taylor, WI) 9855 via **Madagascar** at 2044 in French. (Brossell, WI)

Radio Nikkei One, 3925, Nagara at 1155 in Japanese but nearly buried by North Korean QRM from Voice of the People. (Sellers, BC) 6055 at 1144 with woman speaking in Japanese at length. (Taylor, WI)

MADAGASCAR—African Pathways Radio, 11825 at 0425 followed by a Bible message. (Sellers, BC)

Light of Life Radio, 11610 at 2123 in Mandarin. (Brossell, WI)

World Christian Broadcasting, 11610 at 2150 in Chinese, man preaching and a second closing transmission at 2158* (D'Angelo, PA) 11965 in Portuguese at 2110. (Brossell, WI)

MEXICO—Radio Educacion, 6185, Mexico D.F. in Spanish at 0530, female vocals, Cuban rhythms, and jazz piano. (Barton, AZ)

NEW ZEALAND—Radio New Zealand International, 5945, Rangitaiki at 1210 with female announcer and man giving news reports. (Barton, AZ) 6170 with Pacific news at 1305; 13840 at 0113 on relaxation of pandemic restrictions there. (Sellers, BC) 9700 at 0500, woman reading the news; 13840 at 0424 relaying BBC, RNZ station ID at 0432. (D'Angelo, PA)

NORTH KOREA—Voice of Korea, 9435, Kujang at 1309 with man reading the news in English. (Sellers, BC) 9665 at 1306 in Korean with a woman in a harangue; 11710 at 1251 in French with DPRK opera; annoying ringing sound, apparently from the transmitter, made it hard to listen. (Taylor, WI)

Pyongyang Broadcast Service, 3320 at 1145 with choral, soprano vocal, by 1300 was still audible, but too weak to determine the language. (Sellers, BC)

OPPOSITION—Voice of Oromo Liberation (via Germany to Ethiopia), at 1721 with man speaking in Oromo, poor reception with deep fades. (D'Angelo, PA)

Dandal Kura (via France to Nigeria), 11830 at 1855-1859*



Radio Exterior De España has restarted foreign language broadcasts, including English.

ending broadcast in Kanuri with an instrumental close. (D'Angelo, PA)

Voice of the People (South Korea to North), 3930 at 1254 with commentary by woman in Korean. (Sellers, BC)

Nippon No Kaze (via Taiwan to North Korea), 9465 in Korean at 1300 sign on. (Taylor, WI)

Voice of the People (South Korea to North), 3480 at 1029 in Korean with male announcer, second male perhaps giving station ID, contemporary South Korean music. (Taylor, WI)

Eye Radio (via Vatican [or Madagascar] to South Sudan), 7340 at 0429 in English. (Sellers, BC) 15410 via England at 1644 in Arabic. (Brossell, WI)

Radio Tamazuj (via Madagascar to South Sudan), man and woman speaking in Arabic, vocals at 0356, station ID and news. (D'Angelo, PA)

Denge Welat (via France to Turkey), 9525 in Kurdish at 0448 with domestic music. (Sellers, BC) 11530 at 2032 in Kurdish and non-stop Kurdish vocals, carrier cut at top of the hour. (D'Angelo, PA) 2048 man speaking in Kurdish and A cappella Kurdish music. (Taylor, WI)

"Radio Sana'a" (Saudi Arabia to Yemen), 11860 at 0115 with recitations, lively Arabic pop music. (Wood, MA) 2202, man speaking in Arabic, then an interview and a long talk. (Taylor, WI)

PHILIPPINES—Radlo Liangyou, 9400, Iba, in Mandarin at 1204 with male announcer, hymn and into a sermon. (Taylor, WI)

Radio Veritas Asia, 9700 via **Vatican** at 0013-0028* man speaking in Kachin, ending with flutes; woman closing the broadcast. (D'Angelo, PA) 0015 in Kachin jazzy bridge to Southeast Asian vocals, mand and woman talking. (Taylor, WI)

Far East Broadcasting, 9895, Iba at 1243 in Bahnar with Southeast Asian music and male preacher. (Taylor, WI)

PIRATES—Zeek's Attic, 6932u at 0004. **WTF Radio** at 0055 with rock. **Damn Skippy**, 6955u at 0000 with music and SSTV/FAX. **Ballsmacker Radio**, 6960u with station ID just before 0121, SFX of bowling ball hitting pins, progressive rock music, seemed to be a rain-themed program, woman gave email address: <ballsmackrr@protonmail.com>, still going at 0400. **Nordic Wind Radio**, 6925 at 2358, Animal songs, fade out by 0017. **KIND**, 6873u at 0018 weak with soft pops. **Wolverine Radio**, 6955u at 0039 with "baby"-themed program, station ID at

0112. **KDOG**, 6925u 0241 with 60 seconds of wolf SFX at 0144. **Evil Penguin Radio**, 6925u at 0230 with blues / rock and SSTV / FAX. **WDOG**, 6950u at 0034 with howling dog SFX, Elvis, seemed a canine-themed program, pop music from the '50s on. Seemed to go off at 0229. (Hassig, IL)

WTF Radio Worldwide, 6955 at 0042 with Jethro Tull, parody ads, final station ID, someone else closing. **Ballsmacker Radio**, 6960 at 0131 with Friday program, station IDs over bowling ball SFX. **Virus Radio 19**, 6907u at 2345, with Zeeky and mellow rock, talking about FM programming into older album rock and off at 0113. **WJAN**, 6925 at 0000 with barely audible

rock, man speaking at 0104, then more. **Radio Free Mars**, 6872 at 0013 techno stuff, generally poor with a het. **Damn Skippy**, 6930 at 0153 with SSTV, more rock. **KINK**, 6933 at 0133 with a couple of station IDs and more numbers. **Captain Morgan Shortwave**, 6950 at 0129, MOR, station ID and off at 0145. **KDOG**, 6925u at 0122 progressive rock music, SSTV psychedelic rock, more SSTVs. Off at 0147. **Evil Penguin**, via Mix Radio, 5050u at 0111 with '60s / '70s things. **Robin Hood Radio**, 6930u at 0115 with rock, mostly indistinct talk, station ID at 0154. **WDOG**, 6950u, '60s / '70s things, barking dogs, all songs were about dogs or related to. **Mix Radio International**, 12030 at 2316 with flutes at 2316 but barely audible and gone by 2353. **Best Smooth Jazz**, via Mix Radio, 5050 at 0111, including several by a group from Prague. (Taylor, WI)

ROMANIA—Radio Romania International, 7310, Galbeni at *2200-2237 with English service features; 7375, Tiganesti at 0120 man and woman speaking in French, station ID at 0123, more features. (D'Angelo, PA)

SAO TOME—VOA Relay, Pinheira, 12075 in Hausa at 2030. (Brossell, WI)

SAUDI ARABIA—BSKSA, 9555, Riyadh at 2217, long Arabic talk and vocals. (D'Angelo, PA) 9675 in Arabic at 2045. (Brossell, WI) 13710 at 1700 with the *Call to Prayer*. (Barton, AZ)


SINGAPORE—BBC-Far East Relay, 7465, Kranji, at 1440 with news in Dari. (Barton, AZ)

SPAIN—Radio Exterior España, 12030, Nobeljas at 2040 two men speaking in Spanish. (Brossell, WI)

ESWANTINI (Swaziland) — Trans World Radio, 9940, Manzini at 1927 in Lingali. (Brossell, WI)



SWBC DXers at one of their periodic meetings.

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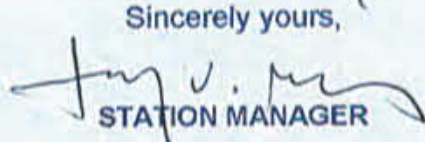
8 January 2001
Date

Dear Mr. Clapshaw:

Your reception report of our English broadcast on 11.885 mHz in the 15 meter band on 1 December 2000 from 19:00 to 19:30 UTC has been verified against our program log and found to be correct.

Thank you so much for your report. We shall highly appreciate it if you could again send us more reports including your comments and suggestions.

Our best wishes and happy listening!

Sincerely yours,

STATION MANAGER

ADDRESS: 4TH FLR., PIA BLDG., VISAYAS AVENUE, QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES. TEL. NO. 926-39-26. TEL/FAX 924-2745.
E-MAIL: pbs.pao@pbs.gov.ph

The Radio Philippine Broadcasting Service seems to have suspended shortwave broadcasting.



Eton Elite 750

When it comes to portable shortwave receivers, the venerable Grundig Satellit 750 stood tall among a crowded field as the radio that can listen to a wide selection of bands for an affordable price.

With the introduction of the Eton Elite 750, Eton Corporation picks up the mantle of the Satellit and carries it into the future with improvements to the internals while keeping the classic look of the Satellit.

Eton kept the dimensions of the Satellit for the Elite 750, measuring 7.24-inches high, 14.65-inches wide, 5.75-inches deep and weighing in at 7.1 pounds, keeping it rather portable. In addition, there are two large carrying handles on the front face.

Most of the original design on the front was carried over, including a large tuning knob on the right; LCD screen that displays the frequency, battery power, attenuation, and time; numerical keypad to enter frequencies or search the memory banks; speaker; analog S-meter, and numerous knobs that control RF gain, volume, bass, treble, and squelch.

The right side panel contains the antenna connections including a BNC and terminal-type for shortwave and FM reception while the back panel is where you can find the battery bank and a connection for a 6-volt DC input. On the top of the Elite 750, Eton added a 360° rotating AM antenna to help pull in weak signals.

Reception on the Elite 750 is quite varied as it can receive every radio wavelength including, AM, FM, long wave, shortwave, SSB, and the VHF aircraft band. Eton uses a digital-signal processing (DSP) unit to enhance tuning sensitivity and help filter out interference. Additionally, you may select between wide or narrow band with a knob on the front of the Elite 750.

With so many frequencies to choose from, Eton packed the Elite 750 with 1,000 channels of memory, 100 for each band plus 500 customizable channels to quickly recall your favorite station. If you just feel like spinning the dial, you can set the frequency step to 9-10 kHz for AM and FM.

There is a line-input jack so you can listen to your own media through the speaker as well as an audio output jack so you can listen to the audio from Elite 750 on another device.

Powering the Elite 750 are four D-cell batteries or you can connect it to a 6-volt DC power cord.

The Eton Elite 750 is available now and has a suggested retail price of \$399. For more information contact Eton Corporation, 1015 Corporation Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303. Phone: (800) 872-2228. Email: <info@etnincorp.com>. Website: <www.etoncorp.com>.

TAIWAN—Radio Taiwan International, 9740, Paochung at 1240 with local pop in Japanese and female announcer. (Taylor, WI)

THAILAND—Radio Thailand, 5875, Udon at 1112, Thai bells, English station ID then into Khmer. (Taylor, WI) 15590 at 0005-0030 with their English news program, nice station ID at 0011, PSA and commercials. (D'Angelo, PA)

TURKEY—Voice of Turkey, 9770 at 0415 with man speaking in Turkish and Turkish music. (Barton, AZ)

UNITED STATES—Voice of America, 7375 Woofferton, England, at 0437 with news and a station ID. (Sellers, BC) Deewa Radio / VOA Dhabbaya, 9840, **UAE** Relay in Pashto at 0215 with woman speaking at length. (Taylor, WI)

Radio Free Asia, 9800, Biblis, **Germany** Relay at 0212 in Uighur, man and woman speaking. (Taylor, WI)

Adventist World Radio, 9610 at 0047-0130* man giving long religious talk in Hindi, station ID, and contact info in Dzongkha. (D'Angelo, PA) 9800 via Nauen, **Germany** at 2111 in Nigerian English, hymn, man giving contact info. (Taylor, WI) 11985 via **Madagascar** giving contact info, closed at 1959; 15360 via **Sri Lanka** in Dindi at 1637. (Brossell, WI)

Trans World Radio, 7465, **Moldova** at 0047-0139*, man giving long religious talk in Dzongkha, station ID, and contact info. (D'Angelo, PA)

WBCQ, 6160 at 0127 man bragging about the U.S.A. and slamming China. (Sellers, BC)

WJHR, Milton FL, 15555 at 1710 with long-winded preacher then another on the Catholic Church and the Communist Party. (D'Angelo, PA)

Overcomer Ministry, 11600 via **Bulgaria** at 1606 with whatisname over-preaching. (Taylor, WI)

RAE, *Argentina to the World* program via WRMI at 0109 in English on cancelled concerts in Buenos Aires. (Sellers, BC)

Radio Prague, 5800 via WRMI at 0130. Quick sign then right into news headlines, //9395. (Sellers, BC)

World's Last Chance, 6015 via Woofferton, **England** at 2356 in Arabic with male preacher. (Taylor, WI)

VATICAN—Vatican Radio, 11625 via **Madagascar** in Amharic at 1746. (Brossell, WI)

VIETNAM—Voice of Vietnam, 9840 at 1130 with woman reading the news in English. (Barton, AZ)

QSL Quests

Rich D'Angelo reports results from Norddeutscher Rundfunk (6145) in Germany and VOA-Thailand Relay on 9880 kHz.

Back in the Day

Radio Clube do Lobito, Lobito, Angola, 4707 at 2156 on November 26, 1966 with its Portuguese domestic service.

Just Sayin' (...Continued from July)

Other SWLs got into studying antenna design and wrote several books on the subject. A few others got turned on exploring propagation mysteries, later giving speeches or seminars on the subject. Other authors wrote on utility transmissions, radioteletype, scanning. In short, if something is on the air, DX listeners have either written about it, collected listings on it, or investigated it. (*To be continued next month ...*)

Thanks For Your Logs

Much thanks to Harold Sellers, Vernon, BC; William Hassig, Mt. Pleasant, IL; Mark Taylor, Madison, WI; Bob Brossell, Pewaukee, WI; Steven C. Wood, East Dennis, MA; Rick Barton, Sun City, AZ; and Rich D'Angelo, Wyomissing, PA.

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

KIT-BUILDING

BY JOE EISENBERG,* KØNEB

Shields Up and More Building Time

As many of you know, the highlight of my year is the annual trek to Dayton for Hamvention®. I'm sure that many of you who attend regularly feel the same way. The hard decisions made by the Hamvention committee and the health directives issued by many states and localities made it impossible to hold this year's Hamvention, as well as nearly every other hamfest planned for this spring. I truly miss seeing my friends and all my readers when I travel to hamfests both near and far. With no hamfests to attend and many hams spending a lot more time at home, I have heard lots more on-air activity and have fielded a lot more email and online questions from kit builders. I am just glad that we are taking advantage of these trying times and using them for building our skills.

Face Shield Project

My 3D printer face shield project described in recent columns has continued, and the problems associated with running a

basic-level 3D printer around the clock have given me an opportunity to learn more troubleshooting and repair skills. I think my Amazon / UPS / FEDEX / USPS delivery couriers have gotten to know me very well. The biggest problem I have encountered so far is the replacement of what is often called the "hot end" or extruder. This is the part that heats up the filament and delivers it through the nozzle. The failure of my first extruder was caused by a malfunctioning integrated temperature sensor and heating element. I woke up one morning to an unholy mess of plastic looking nothing like what I was trying to print. Because the extruder wiring travels through a flexible wiring guide and into the main circuit board, the repair took a long time. It involved uninstalling the old hot end, tipping over the printer and removing the main board assembly, then fishing the wires out.

The reverse procedure of mounting the new hot end and passing the wires back through the guide and reconnecting them to the main board was followed by reassembly and using a number of zip ties to replace the ones removed during the process. The result of this experience was a new hot end, a new Bowden tube that feeds the filament from the extruder drive to the extruder, and a return to optimum per-

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e-mail: <k0neb@cq-amateur-radio.com>

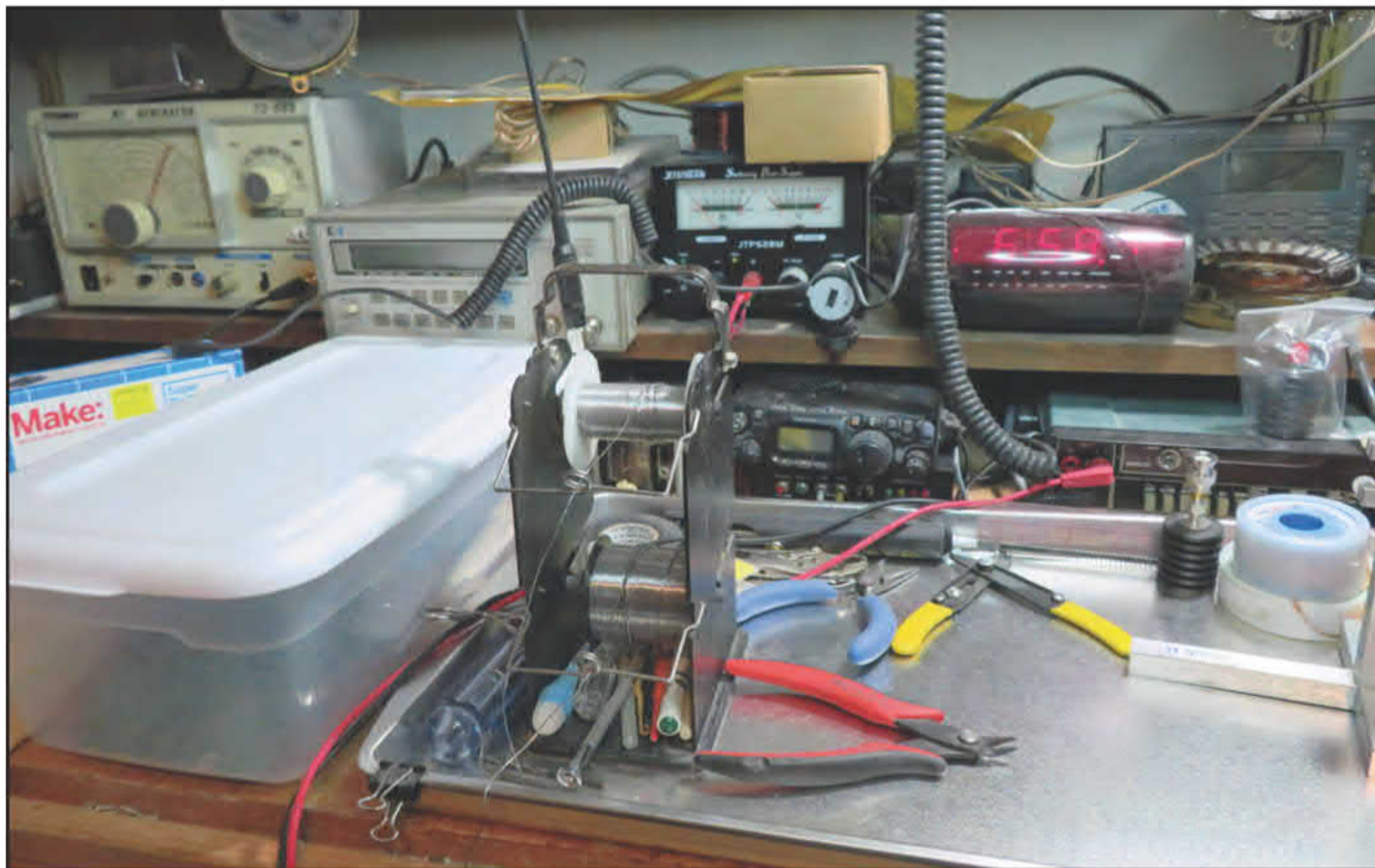


Photo A. The core work area of my kit-building bench is ready for a new kit! I always use a cookie sheet to prevent loss of parts and protect the wooden tabletop. The FT-817 serves as a test and reference receiver as well as a source of SSB or CW signals for testing. Nearby are a signal generator and an HP frequency counter.

formance. At least this model of 3D printer, the Ender 3 Pro, lends itself not only to repairability, but the ability to use improved parts and third-party enhancements to the parts to make significant improvements to the original printer.

Cleaning House

My additional bench time has also resulted in some improvements, allowing me to clear out the junk that has accumulated over 35 years, do some

rewiring, and utilize lots of plastic storage tubs for keeping needed parts and tools neatly under the bench. A couple of relatively recent flea market finds have made their way to the bench, including an HP frequency counter and a couple of simple signal generators. There is a bit more work to be done, primarily fine-tuning the arrangements and addressing RF coax/dummy load/antenna switching issues and grounding issues, but for the most part,

“Construction of the Phaser is stage by stage... the kit is supplied with all the parts carefully and clearly marked, and attached to nine cards”

I haven't been more comfortable at my own bench in over 30 years than I am now (*Photo A*). The Tektronix 465 oscilloscope still works, and now can feed its sample output directly to my counter. I placed a rubber bathmat under my bench stool to allow me to find dropped parts a lot more easily than in the carpet.

An item I found this past fall at a local surplus outlet has also begun its testing on my bench. It is a small industrial type switching power supply (*Photo B*). I have seen this type of power supply show up at hamfests and online, and so I will be looking into its performance. The supply looks like it was meant to be built into another enclosure and it is marked as capable of putting out 30 amps at 12 volts. There was a trimpot next to the terminal screws, and a tiny adjustment brought the output to 13.8 VDC. I used a surplus computer power cord and removed the end from the cord and exposed a couple inches of the three wires inside the jacket. I crimped and soldered the wires to spade lugs and connected the wires to the corresponding terminals on the power supply (*Photo C*). The three terminals were marked with a ground symbol (green wire), an “N” neutral position (white wire), and an “L” line or hot position (black wire). On the left were three positive DC output positions followed by three negative output positions. I paid only \$5 for this power supply which was still sealed in the box, so time will tell if this was a really good deal or not.

Phasers Up!

Of course, with the bench in a lot better shape, I was ready to dig into a brand new kit. The kit I have started on is the Midnight Design Solutions Phaser 40-meter SSB / digital mode / FT8 transceiver kit (*Photo D*). Similar to many other kits I have reviewed, this kit utilizes PC board material to form a very strong, predrilled and marked case for the finished kit. This kit was designed by Dave Benson, K1SWL, who is famous for his Small Wonder Labs kits. The transceiver puts out 4 watts of SSB, making for a nice power level suited both for use at home and while portable. These HF digital mode kits are available for 80, 60, 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters.

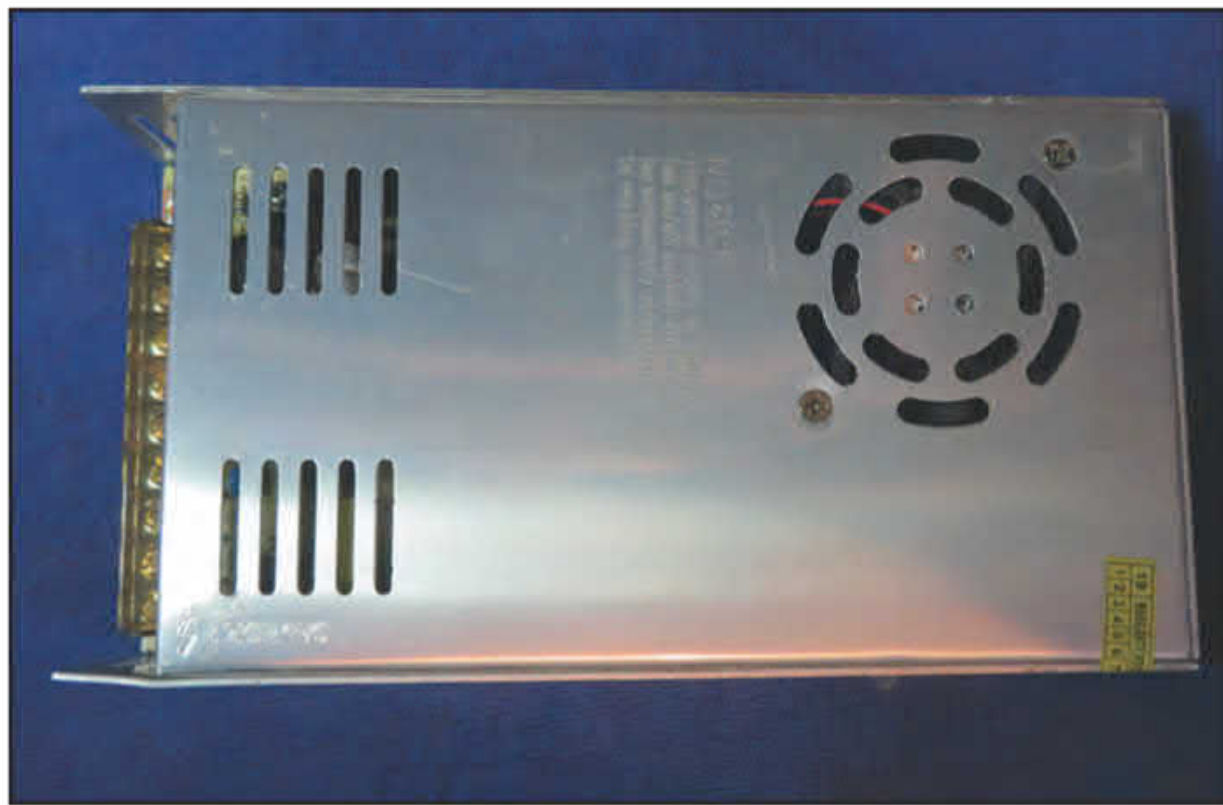


Photo B. The mail order surplus / returns store has a few gems of interest to hams, like this 30-amp, 12-volt DC power supply.



Photo C. The end terminal strip is marked, showing the AC input and the DC output terminals. The trimpot on the left adjusts the output voltage.

Engineers of **LDG**

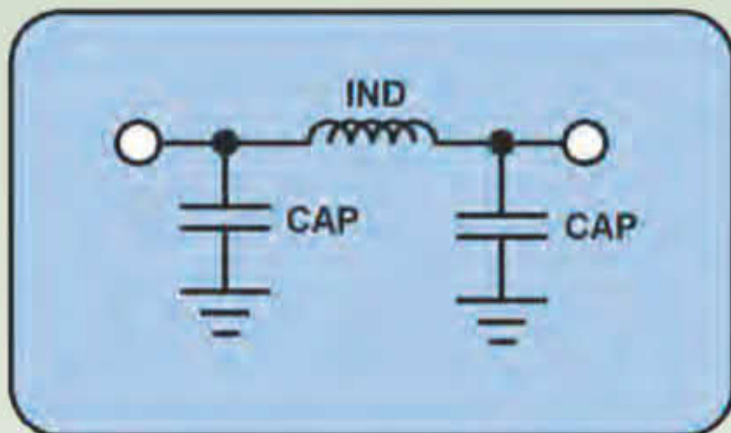
Mini-Notebook

Basic Tuners

Not sure which tuner design does what? It's confusing for everyone. Check out this handy chart of popular tuner configurations made with capacitors and variable or tapped inductors. Each one has its useful place in the Ham shack. LDG Tuners are Switched-L Networks for a balance of efficiency, size and tuning range. Visit www.ldgelectronics.com to learn more and see our full line of Ham Radio accessories.

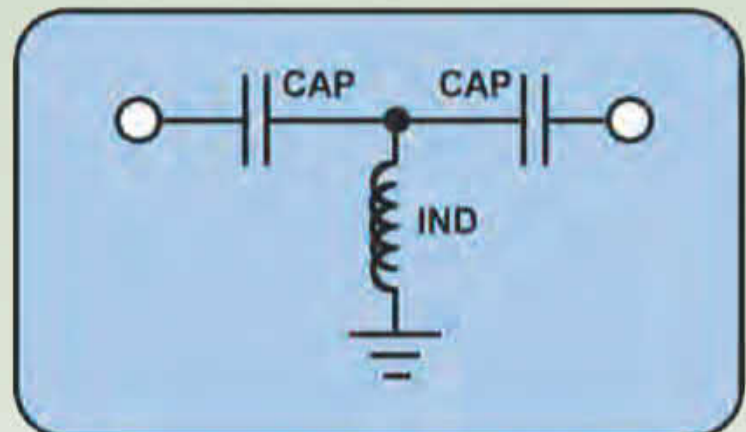
Pi Network

Widest Range. Used mainly for long wire and ladder line matching with its 100:1 SWR tuning range. Variable capacitors of 200pF and 470pF are obtainable through surplus, but large 20 μ H variable inductor values increases size and cost



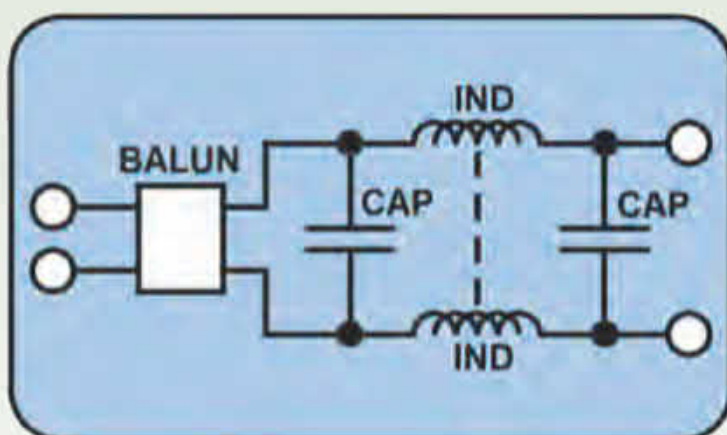
T-Match

Most versatile. Typically two variable 470 pF capacitors one 10 μ H variable or tapped inductor. Popular for manual desktop matching due to its 60:1 SWR range. Prone to False tunes. The variable capacitors must be insulated from enclosure ground.



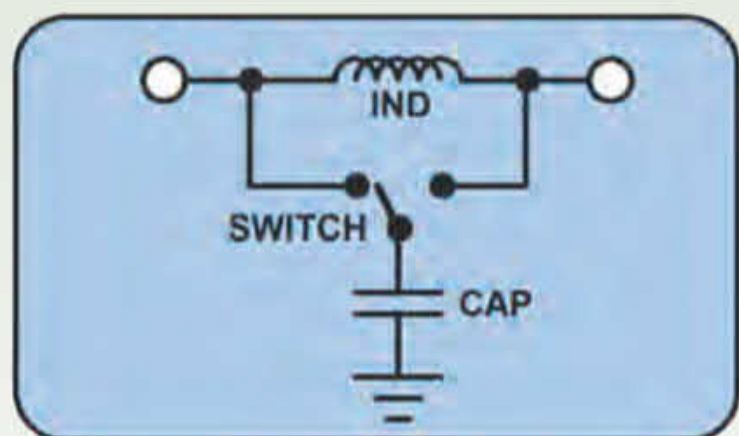
Balanced

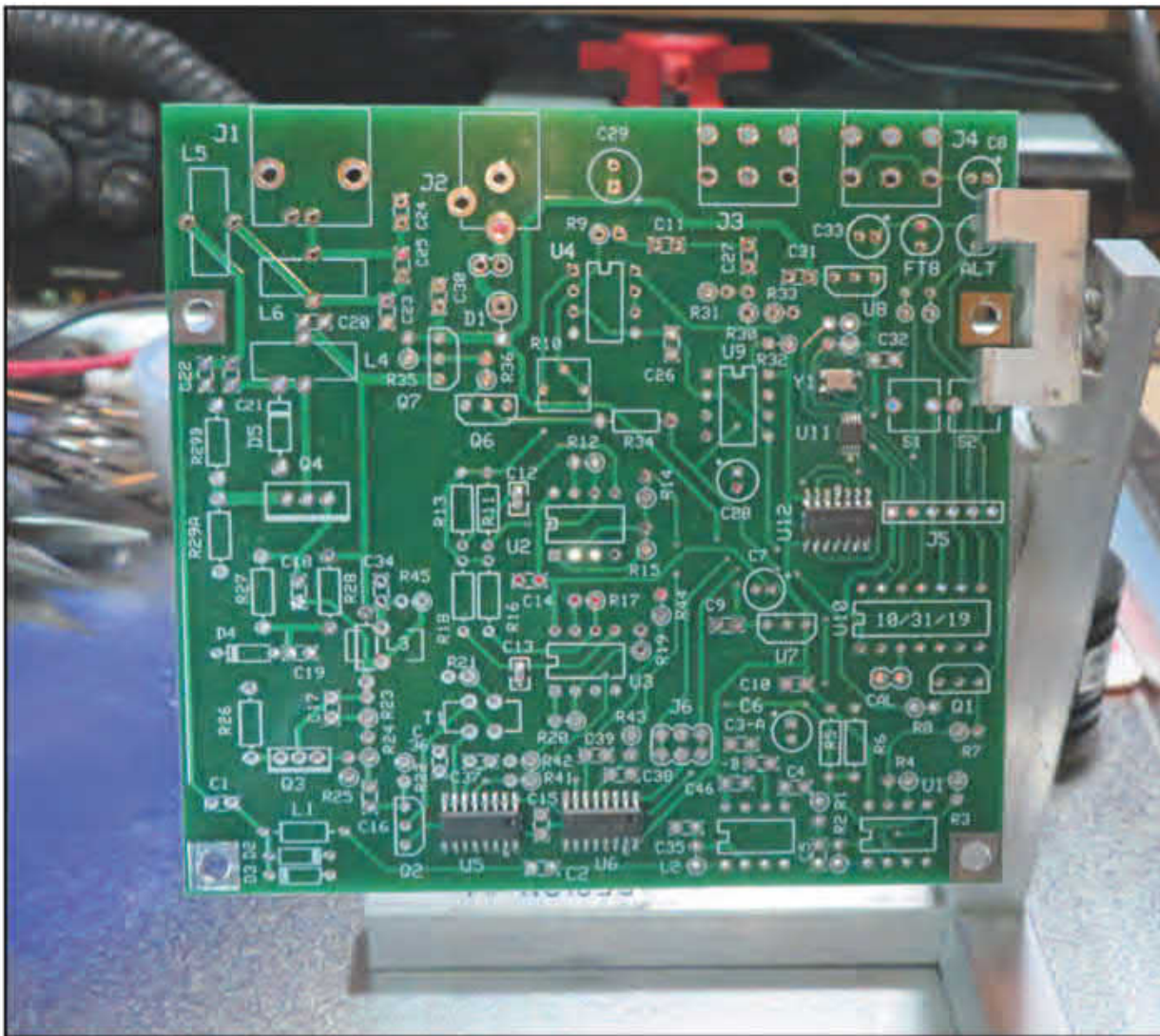
Lowest loss, but it has the most parts and makes it the most expensive. The 20 μ H inductors must be synchronized to turn at the same time and a 1:1 balun is used. Excellent for 450 ohm Ladder-Line and other balanced feedlines.



Switched-L

Most popular. Lowest parts count allows for smallest size and portable operation. One 10 μ H inductor, one 4000 pF capacitor, and one Hi/Lo-Z switch. A medium 10:1 range limits tuning on antennas with very high SWR.





With a current draw of just 1 amp on transmit, these kits are ideal for taking to the field.

Construction of the Phaser is stage by stage. Normally, I suggest sorting your parts so that each step has its parts in one place, but the kit is supplied with all the parts carefully and clearly marked, and attached to nine cards (*Photo E*). All the resistors are together on one card separated by values to minimize any confusion. All the band-specific parts are together on one card. Dave's suggestion is to place the cards into a small storage box so that they can be easily retrieved as needed. I happened to have an extra one of those after my bench-cleaning project, so that was a great starting point. The instructions include testing procedures for each stage of construction to maximize your chance of success. Be sure to have the proper test gear and power supply available before you perform each test. The Phaser kit may be ordered at <https://midnightdesignsolutions.com/phaser>.

N1IXF has an extensive review of the Phaser elsewhere in this issue and I will share my experiences with building it next month, so stay tuned!

– Until next time, 73 de KØNEB

Photo D. The PC board for the Midnight Design Solutions Phaser 40-meter HF digital mode transceiver kit. Notice the surface mount components are pre-installed, leaving just the through-hole components for the builder.



Photo E. All of the parts for the Phaser kit are already sorted and identified on nine cards. See N1IXF's review of this rig elsewhere in this issue. I'll be sharing my impressions next month.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

BY CQ STAFF

The ABCs of EmComm Abbreviations

Help Wanted – EmComm Editor

CQ is looking for a new Emergency Communications editor! If you belong to an EmComm group or have experience in all manners of emergency communications and can string together a few sentences explaining it to your fellow hams on a monthly basis, feel free to contact Editor Rich Moseson at <w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

Continuing our “back to basics” theme from last month, when we covered the basics of emergency and public service net operation, our focus this time is on the “alphabet soup” of abbreviations and acronyms that an amateur radio emergency communicator is likely to encounter. There are quite a few, since much ham radio EmComm work is done in cooperation with government agencies, and government agencies love their abbreviations and acronyms! For ease of reference, we’ll run through them in alphabetical order. (Advance apologies for any that we miss. Local and regional groups generally are not included.)

ACS – Auxiliary Communications Service, also often known as AuxComm — structure within local and county emergency management agencies under which volunteer communicators and communication groups, including ARES / RACES, CERT, and REACT, fit into the agencies’ overall structure.

ARC – American Red Cross <www.redcross.org> – The Red Cross is the primary non-governmental disaster relief organization in the United States, with affiliates around the world. Many amateur radio EmComm groups work closely with their local ARC chapters, and the ARRL (see below) has a memorandum of understanding with the Red Cross on a national level. Many hams are cross-registered as Red Cross volunteers.

ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service <www.arrl.org/ares> – This is the emergency communications arm of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). ARES groups are organized on local, regional, and section levels, under the supervision of ARRL Emergency Coordinators (ECs), District Emergency Coordinators (DECs), and Section Emergency Coordinators (SECs), all of whom are appointed by an elected ARRL Section Manager (SM).

ARRL – American Radio Relay League <www.arrl.org> – the national association for amateur radio in the United States. The ARRL represents amateur radio interests on a nationwide scale, administering ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency

Service) and NTS (the National Traffic System) and making cooperative agreements (memoranda of understanding) with other national organizations and government agencies. Elected division directors and section managers represent amateur radio interests on state and regional levels.

CAT (1-5) – Description of the strength of a hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, from Category 1 (CAT 1) through Category 5 (CAT 5), depending on the maximum sustained wind speeds. Here’s the breakdown from the National Hurricane Center: CAT 1: 74-95 MPH; CAT 2: 96-110 MPH; CAT 3: 111-129 MPH; CAT 4: 130-156 MPH; CAT 5: 157 MPH and higher. Categories 3 and above are considered major hurricanes. For more information, see <https://tinyurl.com/y9qvmmfq>.

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team <www.ready.gov/cert> – Community-based groups of trained volunteers to help supplement emergency responders in meeting a variety of needs. Organized nationally through FEMA and coordinated locally by municipal and county offices of emergency management.

DEC – District Emergency Coordinator – ARRL Field Organization volunteer who coordinates ARES response over an area encompassing one or more counties. Reports to the Section Emergency Coordinator.

EC – Emergency Coordinator – ARRL Field Organization volunteer who coordinates ARES response over an area encompassing a municipality or a county. Reports to the District Emergency Coordinator and Section Emergency Coordinator.

ECARS – East Coast Amateur Radio Service <http://ecars7255.com> – A service net primarily serving the U.S. eastern states. According to its website, “ECARS offers service to mobiles and fixed stations, including weather information, road conditions, emergencies, and signal reports.” The net meets daily on 7255 kHz, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. eastern time on weekdays; 8:00 a.m. to noon on weekends.

EF (0-5) – The Enhanced Fujita Scale of tornado intensity, ranging from EF0 to EF5. Here’s the breakdown from the National Weather Service <www.weather.gov/oun/efscale>: EF0: 65-85 MPH; EF1: 86-110 MPH; EF2: 111-135 MPH; EF3: 136-165 MPH; EF4: 166-200 MPH; EF5: Over 200 MPH.

EMA – Emergency Management Agency – Generally a state-level agency coordinating response to emergencies and disasters on a statewide level. Known in some states as the OEM, or Office of Emergency Management.

EmComm – Emergency communications



EOC – Emergency Operating Center or Emergency Operations Center – State, county, or municipal facility from which responses to emergencies and disasters are coordinated. Generally, representatives of all government agencies and voluntary groups involved in emergency response are all in the same room and may communicate directly with each other.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency <www.fema.gov> — Part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA is the primary agency responsible for federal response to large-scale disasters. In addition to providing direct assistance to disaster victims, it works with state and local emergency response organizations and provides a wide array of training to emergency responders, including amateur radio operators.

H&W – Health and Welfare – A category of amateur radio message either inquiring about the welfare of an individual in an emergency or disaster zone or reporting out on a person's status from an emergency zone. Abbreviated "W" in priority field on ARRL radiogram headers.

HSEEP – Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program – described by FEMA (see above) as "a common approach to exercise program management, design and development, conduct, evaluation and improvement planning." (See this column in the April 2020 issue for more on HSEEP)

HWN – Hurricane Watch Net <www.hwn.org> – A net that is activated whenever an Atlantic hurricane is within 300 miles of expected landfall. Main frequencies are 14.325 MHz during the day and 7.285 MHz at night. Purpose is to both disseminate storm information to people in areas likely to be affected and to gather reports from affected areas. Communicates regularly with the amateur station at the National Hurricane Center, WX4NHC.

ICS – Incident Command System – A standardized approach to emergency response now used throughout most of the United States. It is highly recommended that any amateur interested in emergency communications become familiar with ICS structure and forms, as amateur radio activity will likely be organized within that structure. FEMA offers various levels of training in ICS operations. Many of these courses may be taken online.

MARS – Military Auxiliary Radio System – MARS is a communications auxiliary to the U.S. Army <<https://netcom.army.mil/mars>> and U.S. Air Force <www.mars.af.mil>, performing a variety of functions including emergency communications as needed.

MIDCARS – The Midwest Amateur Radio Service <www.midcars.net> – A service net aimed primarily at providing contact and information for mobile stations in the Midwest. It meets daily on 7258 kHz between 8:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. eastern time.

MMSN – Maritime Mobile Service Net <www.mmsn.org> – Service net focused on ships, boats, and sailors. Meets daily on 14.300 MHz between noon and 7:00 p.m. EST and between noon and 8 p.m. EDT.

NGO – Non-governmental organization – Umbrella term for private organizations involved in emergency and disaster response, including such groups as the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and Doctors Without Borders. Amateur radio groups generally are not included under this umbrella because they usually work with or as part of these larger organizations.

NHC – National Hurricane Center <www.nhc.noaa.gov> – Part of the National Weather Service, the NHC is the focal point for forecasting and disseminating information on tropical weather systems in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and eastern

Pacific. Amateur station WX4NHC is located there and is active when a tropical storm or hurricane is threatening populated areas.

NIMS – National Incident Management System <<https://tinyurl.com/ybya48fm>> – Broad structure for consistent emergency response on national, regional, state, or local level. The Incident Command System (ICS) is part of NIMS.

NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration <www.noaa.gov> – Part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA includes the National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, National Severe Storms Center, and other weather-related federal agencies.

NTS – National Traffic System <www.arrl.org/nts> – The ARRL's nationwide system of message-handling (traffic) networks, including local VHF nets, sectional and regional HF networks, and the Transcontinental Corps. NTS nets generally operate daily in a structure that is parallel to ARES nets, which meet less frequently.

NWS – National Weather Service <www.weather.gov>

OEM – Office of Emergency Management – Government agency coordinating response to emergencies and disasters. May function on a statewide, county, or municipal level. Known in some states as the EMA, or Emergency Management Agency.

RACES – Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service <www.usraces.org> – A separate service within FCC Part 97 rules, RACES functions as part of local emergency management agencies and may be activated only by authorized government officials. It is administered nationally by FEMA. FCC rules limit the scope of RACES operations and training nets.

REACT – Radio Emergency Associated Citizen Teams <<https://reactintl.org>> – Frequently associated with CB, REACT teams also use amateur radio and GMRS to provide public service and emergency communications.

SATERN – Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network <www.saturn.org> – The amateur radio arm of the Salvation Army's emergency and disaster response organization.

SEC – Section Emergency Coordinator – Chief emergency communications manager for each ARRL section (generally a state or portion of a state). Reports to the Section Manager and is responsible for the ARES organization throughout the section.

SKYWARN <www.weather.gov/SKYWARN> – The volunteer storm spotter network of the National Weather Service. Many SKYWARN volunteers are hams and there are many SKYWARN nets on amateur frequencies. All SKYWARN volunteers are trained to identify and report potentially dangerous weather conditions, with a focus on severe thunderstorms.

SM – Section Manager – Elected ARRL official who coordinates the League's field organization in a state or portion of a state. Appoints the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) and other ARES leadership officials.

South-CARS – South Coast Amateur Radio Service <<http://southcars.com>> – Service net similar to ECARS and MIDCARS, South-CARS meets daily on 7251 kHz between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. eastern time.

Please let us know who and what we've missed and we'll do our best to provide a supplement in an upcoming issue. Send your updates to <cq@cq-amateur-radio.com> and put "Acronym Update" in the subject line.

Remember — We're heading for the peak of hurricane season. Keep emergency net frequencies clear for storm-related traffic and don't check into a net unless you have relevant information to offer or need assistance.

BY R. SCOTT ROUGHT,* KA8SMA

Have Radio – Will Travel

Earlier this year, I asked readers what topics they would like covered in future columns. To my surprise, several readers (newer hams) requested tips for setting up a successful portable QRP operation. Although some of this information has been covered in past columns, rather than push our new comrades to hunt for it, I have summarized several tips for making a successful QRP outing in this issue. If anyone has additional thoughts or tips, send them to me and I will include them as a sidebar in a future column. Also, we feature Jim Larsen, AL7FS, of Anchorage, Alaska in QRP Spotlight, our monthly segment dedicated to those QRPers who do a little more with less. Operating QRP from Alaska is nothing to scoff at and I think you will agree that what AL7FS has accomplished with milliwatts from the “Land of the Midnight Sun” is truly amazing.

Tip No. 1 – A Little Forethought

Before setting out on your QRP adventure, put some thought into your destination and setup. Operating from a picnic table at a local park is much different from hiking a trail to a remote area and setting up beneath a stand of tall pine trees. Perhaps you plan to operate from the tailgate of a truck, open hatch on an SUV, or from the trunk of a vehicle. My preference is the picnic table at the local park (yes, I am getting old). Whatever you decide, consider whether a chair or table is necessary for your type of operation. I made this mistake previously. After driving an hour to my lakeside destination, I discovered there were no picnic tables or benches to sit on. There was only a sandy beach to stretch out on and get a tan. Fortunately, there was a box store nearby where I purchased a collapsible table and bag chair. This debacle cost me over an hour of operating time and hit my wallet, too, since I already had a table and chair back home. As my wife periodically reminds me, I now have two chairs and two tables.

The type of portable operation will also dictate the size and style of your go-kit (items needed for your portable operation). If you intend to hike to your destination, a backpack equipped with lots of pockets for stashing items such as pens, paper, electrical tape, connectors, etc. and a main compartment for your radio equipment, battery, and antenna is probably your best option. Use a backpack that has zippered pockets. Pockets that close with buttons or latches may open while hiking, allowing items to fall out and be lost. My first backpack for portable operation had a single button for fastening each pocket shut. The buttons were always coming unfastened and I had to use safety pins to keep the pockets closed. This worked, but trust me, pockets with zippers work much better.

If you plan to operate from a local park or your vehicle’s tailgate, consider using a tote as your go-kit. Some larger totes are equipped with wheels and a handle for towing. It probably goes without saying that it is much easier to tow your equipment in a tote behind you as opposed to carrying



Photo A. This is dedication! AL7FS with his K2 on a wintry day in Alaska.

it. I use a 64-quart sized tote (approximately 24 inches long, 16 inches wide and 14 inches high) for transporting my gear. This is a good size and is not too difficult to handle if you do not have far to walk. If I had anything larger than my current tote, I would want it on wheels with a tow handle.

Other options for transporting your equipment include hard-sided waterproof cases, surplus ammunition boxes, and commercial grade enclosures designed for portable radio operations. The possibilities are endless, especially for QRP-sized equipment. Do what is right for you, but whatever you use to transport your equipment, ensure that it is sturdy, can be easily transported, and is / can be equipped with handles or a carrying strap to make transport safe.

Tip No. 2 – Pack It and Leave it!

Although this is my second tip, it is my number-one tip as far as importance. After assembling a go-kit, NEVER remove any items from the kit, except your transceiver and those accessories that may be needed in the ham shack (if you do not have a dedicated trail radio). Believe me, if you remove something from your go-kit, you will not have it when you

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



Photo B. WAØLPK (now AL7FS) in 1966 operating from his Atlantic, Iowa, ham shack.

Alaska

AL7FS

Jim Larsen
 3445 Spinnaker Drive
 Anchorage, AK 99516
 61 06'03"N, 149 49'25"W
 (BP51cc)
<http://www.AL7FS.us/>

ex-WAØLPK (1965-1984), A-1 Op, 2Mtr WAS#36 AK-QRP#003 SOCN#003 Alaska NorthStar#6C
 NWQRP#009 ECI QRP#013 IAQRP#016 SNOTS#019 Zombie#020 FPQRP#034 HIQRP#038 Polar
 Bear#85 QRP-CH087 ARS#109 NJQRP#109 QRP-LW114 NAQCC#120 ARQRP#122 CQRP#284
 MidCars#316 NEQRP#363 MQRP#618 Breakfast Club#779 Norcal#1074 SKCC #1517 AMSAT
 LMI922 SMIRK#3577 FISTS#4666 GQRP#5056 QRP-ARCI#6754 IO-X-#12094 VL Int #112244

Straight Key QRP
 Keyer QRPp

Tnx. QSL Pse

Confirming QSO with	Date (Z)	UTC	Freq / 2xMode	Pwr Out	Report
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Photo C. Sample AL7FS QSL card listing his achievements and memberships. Note the check box for QRPp.

wire, ground plane, and a portable magnetic loop antenna against one another to determine which antenna performed the best. Although this was not a completely scientific study, my results identified the inverted-V as the best performer, followed by the end-fed wire, ground plane, and finally the magnetic loop. A subsequent antenna test showed the same results. If you have not selected an antenna for portable use, it is worth considering the inverted-V or an end-fed wire. These antennas are easy to make and require only one support. I am a proponent of using trees (when available) for supporting antennas; however, if no trees are available, a portable mast may be necessary. I use the SOTABEAMS Tactical 7000hds, a heavy-duty telescopic mast that extends to 23 feet, when I am operating beachside or surrounded by barren land. What I like best about this mast is that it collapses to 23 inches for easy transport. If you are unsure about the availability of antenna supports at your destination, a portable mast belongs in your go-kit.

Tip No. 4 – Putting a Signal into the Ether

If you do not already have a QRP transceiver in mind for portable operation there are a lot of options available on the new and used market. Determining which modes (CW, SSB, digital) you plan to operate will help you quickly narrow your search. Also, before you begin researching transceivers, make a list of those options that are a must. This will vary from ham to ham depending on personal preference.

In my opinion, all-mode transceivers such as the Yaesu FT-817 / 817ND / 818, ICOM IC-703, Elecraft K2 and KX2, and the Ten-Tec 539 Argonaut VI will do most everything you need in the field. If CW will be your only mode of operation, then do not overlook LNR Precision's line of Mountain Topper transceivers. These little gems are a favorite among many Summits on the Air (SOTA) activators (*hence the name Mountain Topper –RSR*) because they are lightweight, small enough to fit into a coat pocket, and pull very little current (*a very important consideration since your power supply will likely be a battery –RSR*). Kit-built or homebrewed transceivers are also an option. Although these transceivers are typically CW only, kit-built SSB rigs are available and gaining popularity.

Do not forget the “non-QRP” radios that can be simply turned down to QRP levels (*power knobs do turn to the left –RSR*). There are many hams who take their more robust and often larger and more power-hungry radios into the field. ICOM's IC-7300 and the Yaesu FT-991A are two radios that

need it because you will forget to put it back. Sometimes the items left behind are not too crucial and a successful operation can still be had; however, if the power cord for your transceiver, or the microphone or key is left behind, your operation is finished before it started.

I suggest making a checklist and reviewing it before leaving your QTH. This also applies to repacking your kit before you leave the site. If using a tote, tape the checklist to the underside of the lid so it cannot get misplaced. If using a backpack, roll up the checklist, place a rubber band around it, and stash inside the main compartment. Be sure your checklist includes everything you need (and may need — like a table and chair), for your portable operation. Think through each step in setting up your portable operation. Remember, radio is only part of the equation. Human elements such as sunscreen, insect repellent, bottled water, snacks, etc., also need a place in your go-kit for a successful field operation.

Tip No. 3 – Up and Away

I believe the heart of any portable setup is the antenna and feedline. This is especially true for a QRP operation since no power can afford to be lost along a feedline. I use 300-ohm twin lead or 450-ohm window line as both are low loss, lightweight, and roll-up nicely for easy transport. Good quality coaxial cable is also fine if short lengths are used. Do not take a 100-foot roll of coaxial cable when only 30 feet of it is needed to connect the radio to the antenna. You would be surprised at how much power is lost in that extra 70 feet of coaxial cable rolled up next to your operating position, especially at QRP levels. If you use coaxial cable, pick a length (i.e. 40 feet or less) that will work for most situations and make a dedicated feedline. If the feedline is not long enough, then adjust to your surroundings by moving your operating location (i.e., picnic table) closer to the antenna's feed point so you do not need a longer run of cable.

There are many antenna options for portable setups. For the October 2018 column, I pitted an inverted-V, an end-fed

are gaining popularity in the field. The IC-7300 is small and light (less than 10 pounds) enough that it can be placed into a go-kit and taken to a park for an afternoon of operation. The IC-7300 can also be turned down to two watts, well within the realm of QRP.

Some transceivers come with electronic keyers, antenna tuners, digital mode interfaces, etc. already built-in. Think about your needs and operating habits and what you will need in the field. I know several QRPers who take a minimalist approach and work portable with a kit-built CW transceiver, earbuds, miniature hand key, and a resonant antenna cut for a single band. Some hams (including myself) pack a little more for their excursion including an external speaker, hand mic for SSB operation, and a portable antenna tuner so that one antenna (i.e., 40-meter inverted-V) can be used as a multiband antenna.

Tip No. 5 – Powering It Up

Be sure to choose a battery that provides the appropriate amount of power (current) to run your transceiver. Knowing the current demands of your transceiver and the duty cycle (how much time you will spend transmitting [pulling more current] versus receiving [pulling less current]) will help determine how much power is needed for your intended operation. Bioenno Power's website <www.bioennopower.com> has a lot of helpful information regarding battery considerations, including a duty-cycle table that can be used to identify the proper size battery for your operation.

Batteries do come with a price tag. Gel cell batteries (i.e. AGM, sealed lead-acid, etc.) are less expensive but much heavier than a lithium iron phosphate battery that is rated at the same power level. Do your research. Although lithium iron phosphate batteries are more expensive, they are better performers (have a longer runtime), have a much longer life span (number of charging cycles), and weigh a lot less (50% or more) than the average gel cell battery.

QRP Spotlight – AL7FS

This month we highlight Jim Larsen, AL7FS, of Anchorage, Alaska. AL7FS was licensed 55 years ago on March 7, 1965 with the Novice callsign WNØLPK. By November 1st of that year, he had upgraded to General Class and the "N" in his callsign was replaced within an "A" (WAØLPK). "I consider that I have been a QRP operator since about 1970. I may not have operated 5 watts way back then but I also have never operated an amplifier in the 54 years I have been licensed," says AL7FS. This is no small feat as ionospheric and geomagnetic conditions near the auroral zone greatly affect the HF bands, making all radio communications difficult, much less QRP. Although he has not used an amplifier on HF, he states "I did use an amplifier on 2 meters for EME. Even that was QRP of a sort, as I only operated with about 650 watts output. WAS #36."

AL7FS was lured to QRP because of the challenge low power presents. "The lowest (power) so far is 10 milliwatts CW. My first big contact was K7CT for 202,300 miles per watt." This contact earned AL7FS the 1,000 Mile Per Watt award offered by QRP Amateur Radio Club International. His best QRP DX contact to date was with ZL1MH (Waima, New Zealand) in August 2000. This contact was made with 450 milliwatts CW and equates to 1,549,111 miles per watt (yes, you read it correctly — over 1.5 million miles per watt). "ZL1MH was excited about the contact, too, and he reduced his power as low as he could get it. It was fun for him, too." Another memorable QRP contact recalled by AL7FS was when he worked W1AW. "I was pleased to work W1AW on 20 meters, my QRP to their QRP. W1AW was using a tuna

tin on 20 meters. Later the staff (at ARRL) gifted me the actual tuna tin used in that event."

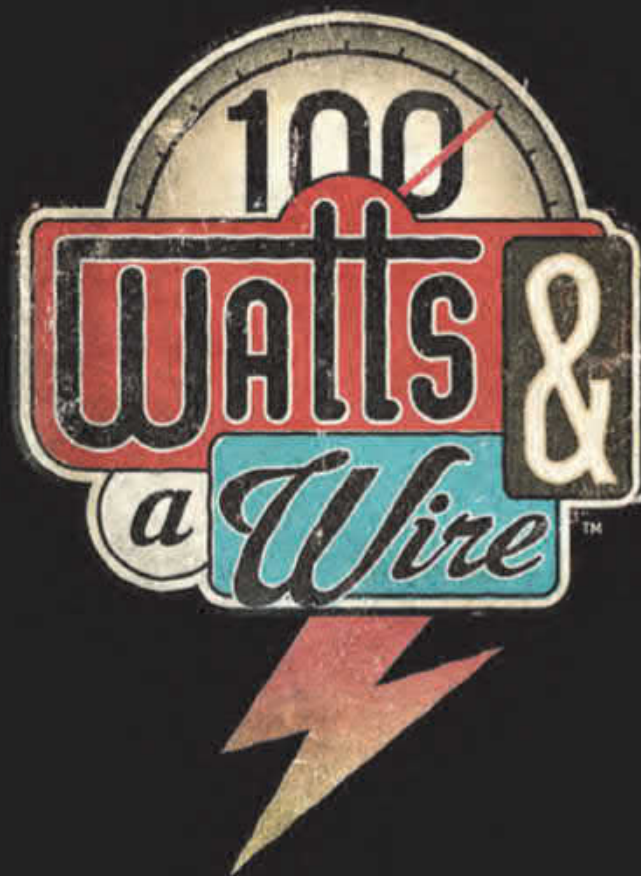
AL7FS's ham shack consists of a Kenwood TS-570D and two Elecraft K2s. "I built the first one (CW only) and the second was purchased because it had SSB and the DSP included. I purchased that rig from Lyle Johnson, KK7P, the inventor of the K2 DSP. I use a two-band 80/40 inverted-V at 35 feet and a KLM KT34A at 40 feet. I also have the Cushcraft WARC beam at 40 feet. All feedlines are RG-8. My 100-watt radios will all turn down to under 5 watts for QRP. I also have my TenTec Omni 6+, Elecraft KX1 and KX3, and a Kenwood TS-450S."

Although AL7FS has a true passion for QRP, as of November 2019 he is only operating with 100 watts until this lull in the solar cycle improves. "I rarely try to operate QRP from Alaska during this part of the sunspot cycle. It can be done on very rare occasions, but my QRP right now is at 100 watts. This is the lowest power level to support communications and that is often a challenge." AL7FS also indicates that due to poor solar conditions he often hears no signals on 20 meters and occasionally he can hear W1AW's high-power CW practice come through, but even that is not assured.

I would like to thank AL7FS for sharing some of his QRP achievements with us. His awe-inspiring 1,549,111 miles per watt QSO is an amazing feat and has given me inspiration to push the limits of QRP as we begin solar cycle 25.

In our next column, we will explore Parks on the Air (POTA), a program that many QRP operators are becoming involved with, and discuss how you can be part of the fun too, QRP-style, of course!

— Until October, 73, KA8SMA



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MOBILING

BY JEFF REINHARDT,* AA6JR

Something New

It's amazing to see the continuing evolution of amateur radio gear suitable for mobile installation and operation. If you think you've been staying up with technology, you may be surprised at what's now available. All you need to do is look at the many ads found in this magazine, particularly if you currently own gear that's five or more years old. Ever more capabilities are being incorporated into smaller radio packages, HF, VHF, UHF, digital + analog mode combinations, and more. Many new transceivers now come with detachable control heads and remote microphone mounts; not that long ago, only a few rigs had remote capabilities and those "separation kits" often came at considerable extra cost.

For those who want to get updated on the ham gear marketplace, the catalogs that are mailed to us and, of course, the websites of both retailers and manufacturers offer in-depth descriptions of transceivers that offer incredible coverage "from DC to light". As the old saying goes, though a bit exaggerated, today's mobile-ready transceivers are only limited by the number of antennas the operator chooses to place on the vehicle. And there's an ever-growing array of antenna and mounting choices to accompany today's newer multi-band rigs. Added features such as SSB operation on 6 meters, 2 meters, and 70 centimeters open a new world of mobile possibilities for many, especially during these summer months when Sporadic-E (E_s) and meteor scatter opportunities often appear. When you also consider the same rig might have HF and / or digital capabilities, the bevy of choices on which band and mode to use might compare to a lotto winner considering his or her next purchase.

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A 110-volt outlet found in the back seat of the author's 2016 Ford Fusion. A 12-volt port is located to the left.

The added prospect of a new solar cycle further sharpens the appetite for new adventures. During a previous solar peak, it was my pleasure to have an Australian contact while I was operating mobile on 10 meters, *using low power*. Conditions were just right and he sounded as though he was next door. I also bagged a gray-line contact with a ham who was mobile in Buenos Aires. The thrills abound, but only if you have the capability and willingness to experiment.

I have nothing against the 2-meter FM ragchew during the commute, but changing things up a bit by venturing into new territory can expand or rejuvenate your interest in mobile operations and give you some great stories to share on your *next* ragchew.

If you have not shopped for a new rig in some time, take some time to become familiar with the many versatile offerings to be found. The good news is that each manufacturer has something to offer and the quality of most gear is top notch. In what amounts to *great* news for you and me, once you've identified your desired operating profiles, it's difficult to make a bad choice. With many of this year's hamfests cancelled or postponed, you may also find retailers offering gear and accessories at enticing prices, in an attempt to move inventory that might have been sold at ham gatherings.

Something Old

Yes, there's a lot of new gear available, but let's take a look at a classic piece of gear that's still in use by many operators. The Kenwood TM-742A was (and for many still is) an amazing transceiver. Usually sold with two bands already installed, frequently 2 meters and 440 MHz, it offered the



The TM-742A/E programming kit from WA7YLI brings some much-needed memory management utility to Kenwood's vintage triband transceiver.

buyer the option to add a third band, which could have been 6 meters, 220 MHz, or even 1.2 GHz. The “extra” band came in the form of an optional module that was easily installed in the transceiver and *voilà*, you had a tri-band mobile or base radio with 100 memory channels on each band. I own three of these now-aged units and they have provided great service across two decades, going on three. The TM-742A was designed before the internet exploded into its current state and it’s difficult to recall the technical limitations of those days when compared to the ease of interfacing today’s new rigs with computers. What would have made the TM-742 “perfect” in my humble opinion would have been alpha-numeric channel labeling and the ability to upload / download channel data from the transceiver through a computer. To say the least, manually programming the radio’s many memory channels is an unpleasant, tedious task.

To the rescue came Larry Anderton, WA7YLI, who came up with a partial solution to the problem of programming a TM-742A/E. It turns out that “back in the day,” Kenwood designed the TM-742 to accept tone commands through its microphone port and Larry developed a hardware and software package that makes it possible to load the radio’s memory channels from a computer database.

The limitation is, you can only upload; it is not possible to download data from the radio into a database. Nevertheless, building the database once can save hours of manual programming in the event memories are lost due to a dead backup battery or other malfunction. It’s also handy for keeping multiple radios “in synch” with one another when it’s necessary to add or delete memory channel data. If you’re interested in seeing it work, there is a YouTube video showing how the package functions. Full disclosure: I do not know Larry and I was referred to his program by a friend who is also the (still) happy owner of the same transceivers.

Another Mobile Power Option

As we have discussed in previous columns, connecting a transceiver to your vehicle’s electrical system can be a challenge to do properly, given the power monitoring systems found in newer cars and trucks. In case you missed it, going directly to the battery with your rig’s power leads (as was done in the good old days) can be detrimental to the vehicle’s power management systems, so getting guidance from

the manufacturer or dealer on how to correctly connect your ham gear to your vehicle’s 12-volt system is an important step. They may be able to provide you with a tech bulletin on how to proceed. You might think that would be easy, given the number of vehicles in public safety or commercial service that use two-way communications. However, on several occasions, I have requested this information from the manufacturers via phone, through dealers, or manufacturer’s websites and sadly, continually run into bureaucratic brick walls that take on the endless loop of “ask the dealer” and the dealer replies, “ask the manufacturer.”

However, many newer vehicles offer another option for powering your gear — that is, a 110-volt AC outlet. Check to see if your newer vehicle has one of these, as they are becoming more common. The one found on my 2016 Ford Fusion plug-in hybrid is accessed in the back seat atop the center tunnel in a difficult-to-see location. Some SUVs and minivans have outlets located in the rear storage compartment.

By using a small but properly sized

portable switching power supply, you may be able to operate your rig off the vehicle’s 110-volt system, of course being sure to remain within the wattage specifications of the plug found in the vehicle. The maximum wattage specs can be found the owner’s manual. This option also offers the ability to power a remote setup when you’re in the field. So consider this clever work-around if you’re unsure how to connect your rig to your vehicle’s electrical system for DC accessories, or unable to route power cables through the vehicle due to obstructions. However, when using the AC outlet to power a ham rig, ensure the transceiver is properly grounded to the vehicle chassis using a good bonding method. Also be mindful to route coax antenna cables and antenna mounts away from the vehicle’s computer modules.

The “lazy days” of summer abound with great mobiling opportunities. I hope you can take advantage of adding to your open road enjoyment with some contacts you’ll enjoy telling others about at a later time.

— Happy Mobiling! Jeff, AA6JR

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Socially-Distanced Radio Foxhunting

“I have to say that hunting foxes has made the self-quarantine days much more bearable, and it gets me outdoors to boot!” Bill Curlew, KC1JTS, happily wrote that to the Connecticut Foxhunters email reflector. Gregory Vinci, N1ZXL, added, “This adventure is amazing. Besides playing radio, it has led me to some new and beautiful hiking places.”

Finding transmitters that your fellow hams have hidden, known as radio foxhunting, is different nowadays. Some forms of it may not be possible at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions, but socially distanced foxhunting can be done and it has been a welcome respite from days of isolation at home for many hams.

Foxhunting in the Nutmeg State

Connecticut’s foxhunters are a hardy bunch. They started 2020 with their traditional New Year’s Day mobile event, organized by Paul Gibson, N1TUP. They gathered at an old schoolyard in their radio direction finding (RDF) equipped vehicles, checked in, and then set out to find Paul within a 20-mile radius and within two hours. His fox squawked occasionally on the input to a local repeater as Paul prepared for a tailgate party to take place after the hunters arrived.

That would be the last time these hunters were all together in a group for many months. But it wasn’t the last foxhunt. Everyone had so much fun that Paul decided to bring back unattended foxhunting. On January 16th, he deployed his foxbox in the woods of Manchester. Hunters could cause it to transmit by sending a DTMF “1” on the fox’s simplex frequency, 146.55 MHz. That would tell the fox to transmit tones and ID for 30 seconds, then go back to sleep until commanded again.

Paul encouraged hams to see where they could bring up the foxbox and to report that on the email reflector¹ to help other hunters know where to start their quest. “Do not reveal its location,” he wrote. “Just give the location from which you are able to hear it and the direction if possible. You do not actually have to touch the box to claim finding it. Eyeball contact is sufficient.”

Lots of “heard it” and “can’t hear it” reports followed on the reflector. It was five days later that the first hunter spotted the foxbox. This hunt-when-you-can opportunity was so well liked that Paul put the box in another spot on January 31st.

To prove that they found the fox, hunters posted close-up photos that did not give away the location. The photos showed a waterproof military ammunition box with a whip antenna on top. Inside the box was a handi-talkie powered by a pair of 7-amp-hour sealed lead-acid batteries. The fox’s brain was a PicCon by Byonics.² PicCon is a versatile controller that can be programmed for single transmissions on command. It also can provide continuous signals, cycles of short transmissions, and even the transmission sequence for international-rules, on-foot hunts.

These unattended hunts continued through the winter, with the box being recharged and moved every two weeks or so. Snowy weather wasn’t much of a deterrent as more and more hams joined in. Social distance in a car wasn’t practical, so hunters sought the fox by themselves or with close family members.

On April 4th, a second foxbox was deployed in Connecticut, made by N1ZXL. Ten days later, there were four foxes available for hunters, including a new box by Dan Thayer, W1CDT, and a second by N1TUP. All were on the same simplex frequency, but each required a different subaudible tone. Hunters could listen to all if desired, or use their radio’s CTCSS function to concentrate on one at a time.

There are plenty of wooded areas in Connecticut and that’s where most of the hiding places have been. W1CDT wrote, “We don’t go near commercial property, private property (or) school playgrounds.” Usually the foxbox has been on the ground, concealed by brush, which limits its radio range.

Foxes Are Multiplying

As word of the Connecticut COVID-time foxhunting fun spread, foxboxes began to appear elsewhere in New



The snow-proof foxbox of Paul Gibson, N1TUP, lured Connecticut foxhunters to many wooded sites during the winter and spring months. A bicycle chain and lock prevents theft. (Photo by Dale Whitney, WA1UUU)

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From January 16th to June 11th, Connecticut foxhunters tracked down unattended foxes in 37 locations north, south, and east of Hartford. (Compiled by Joe Moell, KØOV)

England and beyond. In mid-May, Hampden County Radio Association members built a box and began to deploy it in western Massachusetts. The Woodmont Amateur Radio Association launched its first fox in New Haven County, Connecticut, on May 20th.

Jack Robinson, KA1GCZ, explained how the next generation of radio foxhunters is getting started: “Back in late February when the fox was hiding in Nevers Park, my son and his family were up from Maryland for a visit and I suggested that we go hunting. My oldest grandson, Edwin Robinson, KC3JBY, was very impressed. Since then, he worked with his dad, Michael, KB1DDS, to make his own fox and release it into the wild. With help from his Mom, Donna Dietz, N2SZ, he put up a web page with information on his fox.³ You never know what is going to grab a youngster’s interest.”

Unattended foxhunts like those in New England are a good alternative to the usual mobile hunt in which the hunters all start at a common site, then see which team can find the fox first or with least elapsed mileage. Hunters like to gather at the fox’s location to chat, then go to a restaurant for a meal or dessert. With restaurants closed or offering only take-out, and with social distancing mandated, some of the fun is absent. Many clubs around the country stopped mobile hunting for these reasons. Others were concerned about local mandates that prohibited gatherings of more than a few persons.

Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay area mobile transmitter hunters had lengthy email discussions about an order that prohibited leaving one’s residence except for certain approved purposes, one of which was “... to engage in outdoor activity and recreation.” Some saw this as approval for T-hunting, while others, particularly those in high-risk groups, decided to wait.

Chicago is one of the few localities that have continued a monthly series of weekend mobile hunts.⁴ Hunters stay socially distant at the start and finish, flashing their headlights to signal that they have found the hider. At the restaurant,



COVID-safe, on-foot foxhunters in the Cincinnati area on May 30th. Left to right are Matt Robbins, AA9YH; Brian DeYoung, K4BRI; Marji Garrett, KJ4ZKC; Cesi Dibenedetto, KD8OOB; Julie Dibenedetto, KE8IUU; Dick Arnett, WB4SUV; and Mike Minium. (Photo by Bob Frey, WA6EZV)

each family gets its own take-out food and everyone stays distant as they eat and chat in the parking lot.

Gathering While Staying Apart

Some stuck-at-home foxhunters are reviving a form of RDF contesting that dates back to the Mt. Wilson Repeater Association (MWRA) days in the 1980s. Part of each MWRA hunt was the beam-bearing contest, where both mobiles and those at home would take bearings on the hidden transmitter and submit to the hider. The winner was the listener whose bearing in degrees was most accurate.

A variation of this RDF contest is for all bearings to be shared among the participants and for each to use it to guess where the transmitter is hidden. The SigTrax app⁵ for iOS and Android is an easy way to determine the winner of either type of contest. Joe Domaleski, KI4ASK, of the Fayette County Amateur Radio Club in Georgia announced that such a hunt would take place there on May 9th.

KI4ASK wrote that there was only one rule: “Do not attempt to drive to the fox. We are only triangulating bearings, not doing close-in work to find it. You must stay at your home or within a 1/4 mile if you want higher ground.”

For those who prefer their foxhunts to be all on foot, it has been difficult to find opportunities. Most park officials consider a gathering for Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) to be an “event” and most localities have cancelled all permits for events. This has been a challenge around the world as it prevents radio athletes from gathering for the training they need to prepare for ARDF championships.

Radio-orientees in Australia are trying unattended ARDF sessions. The first was in Wattle Park in Melbourne. Five transmitters were set out in 137 acres, timed to send the classic

ARDF transmission sequence each day from 2 to 4 p.m. for eight days. Participants could come out on any convenient day, run the course, then turn in their GPS track and time to be included in the tabulated scores reported on the Web.

After a five-month hiatus, the Cincinnati Foxhunters Group finally assembled for a 2-meter practice and training session at Rentschler Park in Hamilton Ohio on May 30th. “We used a slightly different format,” wrote Bob Frey, WA6EZV. “Rather than have one individual place all of the transmitters, five of us drew numbers to determine which transmitter to hide and drew again to decide an area or zone in the park to hide their transmitter. This gave everyone a chance to hunt at least four transmitters.”

The annual CQ Worldwide Foxhunting Weekend (FW) was May 9-10th. COVID caused the cancellation or postponement of most of the annual FW events, including the Surrey Amateur Radio Club foxhunt in British Columbia; the Antennas-in-the-Park foxhunt in Fullerton, California; the San Diego Area T-Hunters on-foot session; and the family picnic and foxhunt of the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club in western Colorado. My email announcement of FW brought this response from Jaliya Jayampathi Lokeshwara, 4S7JL, in Sri Lanka: “Thank you very much. Our country is still on lockdown. Wishing you good health.”

No one knows what the future holds, so FW won't be rescheduled to later this year. But when local restrictions permit it and it can be done safely, foxhunt gatherings will resume and I will be eager to get your reports and photos.

Same Time Next Year

The COVID-19 pandemic caused postponement of the 20th annual USA Championships of ARDF, originally scheduled for June 9-14th in the Boston area. A firm decision has not been announced, but it is likely that these championships will take place in the same forests in June 2021. The ARRL ARDF Committee will decide and announce a decision later this year.

USA's ARDF Championships are qualifying events for the biennial World ARDF Championships. The World Championships were scheduled to take place August 30th through September 5th in Zlatibor, Serbia but were also postponed. It is the current plan of the international committee to hold them in September 2021 in the same locations. The three IARU regional ARDF Championships that would have taken place in 2021 will move to 2022, and so forth.

Some RDF fans have used their stay-at-home time to work on foxhunting gear. An example is Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK, of Albuquerque, who is collaborating with Charles Scharlau, NZØI, on Arduino-based ARDF transmitters. They have published details of an Arduino script that will create timing and tones for classic ARDF, foxoring, and other sprints. Also included are plans for a simple 80-meter ARDF micro-fox. The software is open source. For more information and to participate in the project, visit the Open ARDF website.⁶

Has hidden transmitter hunting resumed in your hometown? How have the foxhunters in your area adapted to COVID-19 restrictions? Are you using this time to improve your foxhunting equipment? “Homing In” readers want to hear about it, so keep sending your RDF-related news to me. Happy Hunting!

NOTES

1. <<https://groups.io/g/ctfoxhunter>>
2. <<http://byonics.com/piccon>>
3. <www.donnadietz.com/fox>
4. <<https://tinyurl.com/ydaewdwe>>
5. <www.amcept.com/sigtrax>
6. <<https://tinyurl.com/y9wppskl>>

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LEARNING CURVE

BY RON OCHU, KOØZ

Hollow-State, Solid-State Primer

CQ is in the middle of celebrating its 75th year of serving the Amateur Radio Service. Within those 75 years, technology and ham radio experienced tremendous change. Arguably, one of the biggest changes involved the transition from vacuum tube technology, which was state-of-the-art in 1945, to transistor, or solid-state, technology. Even though today's state of the art has progressed to integrated circuits and microcontrollers, tubes and transistors are still major components of ham radio technology. Let's take a closer look.

Hollow State

Vacuum tube technology, also fondly referred to as "hollow-state" because of the vacuum inside a tube's glass enclosure, revolutionized the field of communications. Before the advent of tubes (valves if you're from the UK), spark gap transmitters and cat's whiskers (crystals) were the primary means of generating and receiving radio signals. For many radio experimenters of the early 20th century, distances were limited to a few miles. "Brute force" was the rule de jour. More power output equated to a few more miles. However, positive changes were on the horizon. The first vacuum tube, invented in 1904, is credited to John Ambrose Fleming (Photo A), a British electrical engineer. Fleming's diode vacuum tube consists of two electrodes: The cathode is negative, and the anode, or plate, is positive (Figure 1). The diode tube will let electric current flow in only one direction (negative to positive), so it is used as a rectifier. In 1906, a brilliant inventor from Council Bluffs, Iowa, Lee De Forest (Photo B), invented the triode vacuum tube. De Forest discovered that by inserting a third electrode called a control grid between the cathode (negative electrode) and the anode (positive electrode) of the existing diode tube (Figure 2), he could amplify a signal! This new tube, he called the Audion (Photo C and Figure 3), revolutionized electronics and communications. The triode's ability to amplify signals made it possible to increase power outputs,

but even more importantly, allowed receivers to detect and amplify weak signals. Communication range for radio amateurs increased tremendously.

Basic Tube Theory

Vacuum tubes are glass enclosures with electrodes. The entire enclosure is in a near vacuum. The three basic elec-

trodes in a tube are the cathode (negative), grid and anode (positive), also called the plate. Tubes require much higher voltages than solid-state electronics. When a signal is applied to the tube's grid there is a large, corresponding swing on the tube's plate supply voltage as the electrons leaving the tube's cathode rush past the grid and



Photo A. British physicist John Ambrose Fleming, the inventor of the diode vacuum tube. (Except as noted, all illustrations courtesy of Wikimedia Commons)

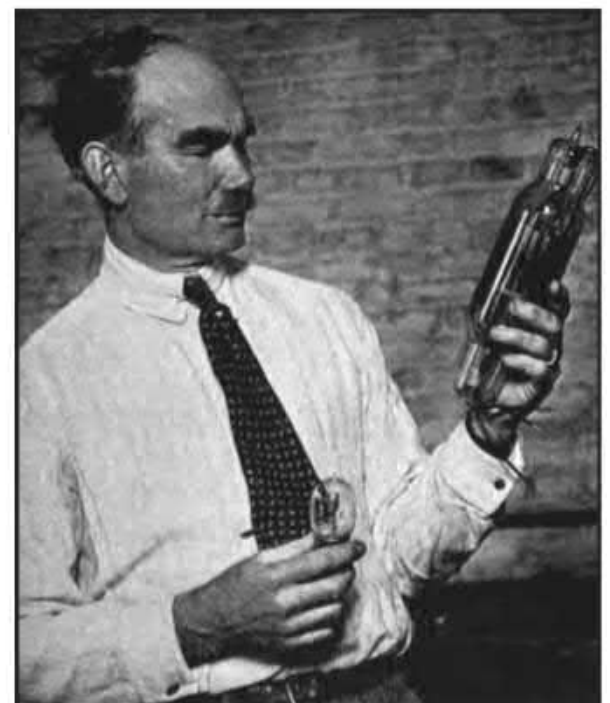


Photo B. Lee De Forest, inventor of the triode vacuum tube.

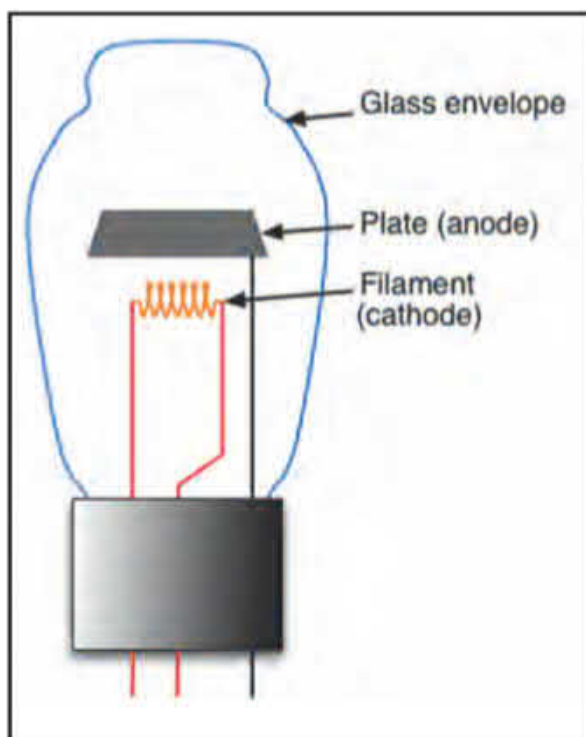


Figure 1. The first vacuum tube was the diode. Note the two electrodes the cathode (negative) and anode (positive).

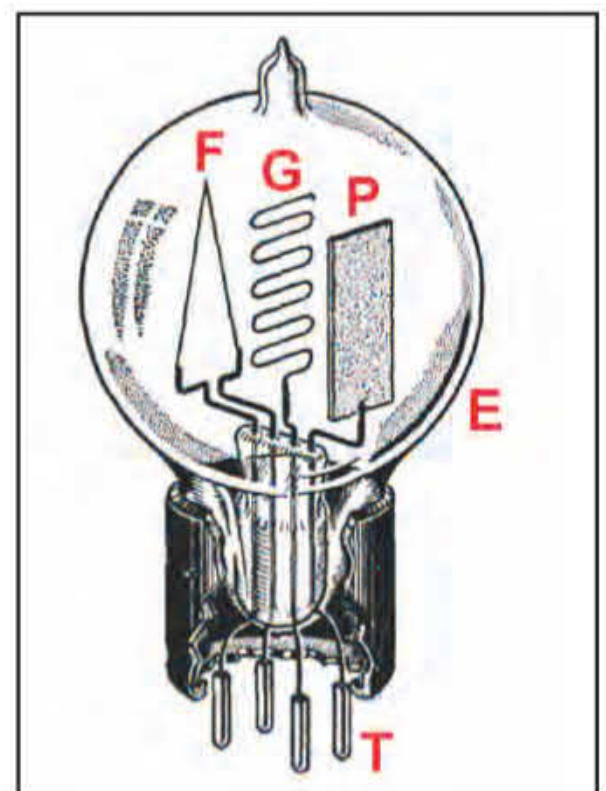


Figure 2. Illustration of the Audion tube, which is a triode. The filament acts as a cathode and there's a grid for signal input and an anode.

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



Photo C. An old tube from a 1920-era receiver mounted for display. (KOØZ photo)

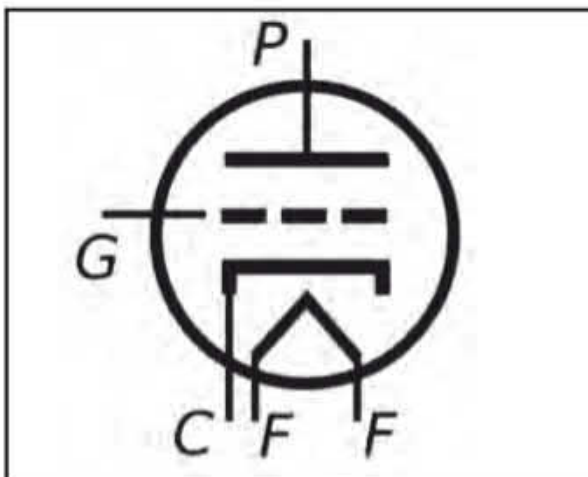


Figure 3. Schematic symbol for a triode. In addition to the cathode, grid, and anode, there's a filament that is used to heat up the cathode and speed up electron emission.



Photo D. A 3-500 C vacuum tube used in many HF amplifiers today.

collect at the anode's positive electrode. As the electrons pass through the grid, a voltage applied to that element modifies the electron flow on its way to the anode. This is how a vacuum tube amplifies a signal. Hollow-state technology relies on high voltages to produce signal amplification.

Hollow State Still Exists

Tubes are still utilized in electronics today; especially, when the application involves RF (radio frequency) power amplification. Popular RF power tubes

still in use today include the 4CX250, 6146, and the 3-500C. The popular Ameritron AL 80 amplifier uses a single 3-500 C tube (Photo D). Although tubes are still employed for higher RF power levels, it's important to note that RF power transistors are rapidly replacing tubes in ham radio legal limit (1.5-kilowatt) amplifiers. Tubes tend to be more "forgiving" of higher SWR (standing wave ratio) values, as well as open and shorted antenna circuits. By more forgiving, I mean they will, for the most part, not self-destruct when confronting



Photo E. Elecraft's new solid-state KPA 1500 HF amplifier. Like many solid-state amplifiers, it requires no manual tuning and it can deliver full, legal limit power output. (Photo from Elecraft website)



Photo F. Bell Laboratories physicists John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley, inventors of the transistor. Their invention revolutionized electronics and changed the world.

these conditions for short time periods. On the other hand, earlier solid-state amplifiers were far less tolerant. Recently, protective circuitry makes solid-state amplifiers far more forgiving and the declining prices associated with RF power transistors makes these amplifiers (example in *Photo E*) as affordable as their hollow-state cousins.

Advent of Transistors

Beyond a doubt, tube technology revolutionized radio communications in the first half of the twentieth century. Almost mid-way through the same century, a group of physicists working for Bell Laboratories turned electronics on its head with the invention of the transistor. Physicists John Bardeen, Walter Brattain, and William Shockley (*Photo F*), in 1947 invented the bipolar point-contact transistor. The tiny transistor led to the miniaturization of electronic circuitry. In addition, since transistors use



Photo G. An assortment of commonly used transistors.

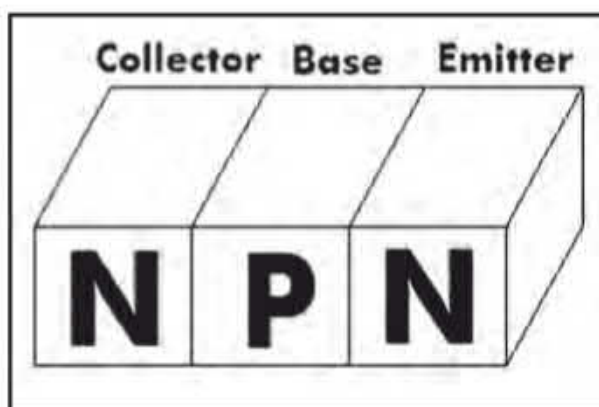


Figure 4. Diagram of an NPN transistor.

much less power than tubes, they generate far less heat, thereby extending the life, usefulness, and ruggedness of components.

Basic Transistor Theory

As we've seen, tubes use voltages to amplify. Transistors (*Photo G*), on the other hand, use current to amplify a signal. A signal placed on a transistor's input electrode will cause a subsequent rise in current that mimics the signal input. Like the triode tube, the transistor (*Figure 4*) has three electrodes: The emitter, base, and collector. These are analogous to the cathode, grid, and anode / plate, respectively, in a tube. Upon closer inspection we see a transistor is really two diodes placed back-to-back. Voltages are substantially lower with solid-state electronics (typically 5 to 50 volts DC) as compared to hollow state (300 to 2,000 volts DC). But as noted above, while tubes use higher voltages, transistors have higher current demands than tubes.

Bipolar Transistor Leads

A very common solid-state device is named the bipolar transistor. According to Wikipedia, "A bipolar transistor allows a small current injected at one of its terminals to control a much larger current flowing between two other terminals, making the device capable of amplification or switching." Bipolar transistors come in two flavors: NPN and PNP. NPN (*Figure 5*) refers to the three sandwiched layers which make up the transistor: Negative, positive, and negative. Conversely, PNP (*Figure 6*) refers to positive, negative, and positive layers. Although the leads to NPN and PNP transistors are the same (base, emitter, and collector), how they are attached in a circuit is critically important. If the emit-

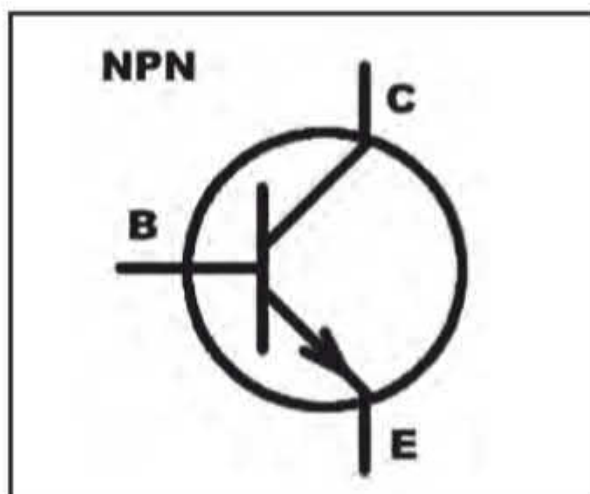


Figure 5. Schematic symbol for an NPN transistor. Note the emitter (the lead with an arrow) is Not Pointing IN towards base.

ter of an NPN transistor is connected to a positive power source, the NPN transistor won't function for very long. Likewise, if an emitter of a PNP transistor is connected to a negative power source, it won't function.

Circuit Functions

Ham radio equipment uses bipolar transistors for a variety of functions. RF signal amplification, for both transmit and receive, is a common function, but so is switching circuitry off and on. Virtually every aspect of modern transceiver circuitry involves transistors in some way.

In addition, computers heavily rely on solid-state switching circuitry to operate. Switching power supplies use transistors to convert household AC (alternating current) voltages and current to DC (direct current) voltages that we can use with our radios. The list goes on.

Scratching the Surface

This brief primer on tubes and transistors is only scratching the surface. There's a lot more to learn about both hollow-state and solid-state electronics. The semiconductor field has exploded in growth since the advent of the transistor. For example, integrated circuits (ICs) are made up of hundreds to thousands of microscopic transistors; thereby, further reducing the size of an electronic device. Multiple ICs, in turn, are packed into microcontrollers, which are essentially specialized computers on a chip.

The next time you gaze upon an electronic circuit, take a moment to contemplate and appreciate all the history within the past 75 years that went into making current electronics possible and functional. Thank you for reading CQ and 73!

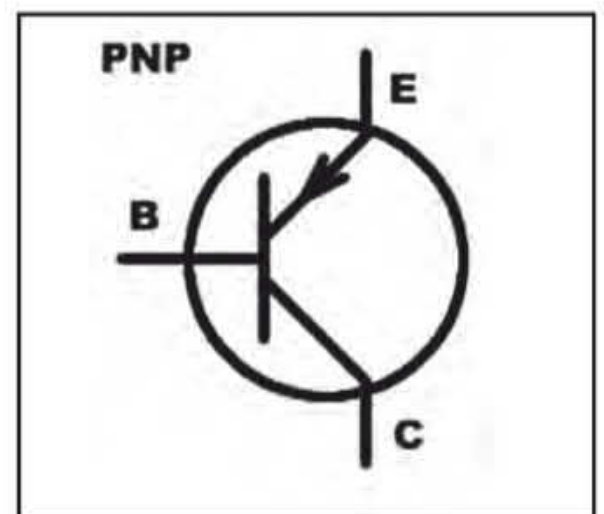


Figure 6. Schematic symbol for a PNP transistor. In this schematic the emitter is pointing in towards the base.

ANALOG ADVENTURES

BY ERIC P. NICHOLS,* KL7AJ

Ye Olde Gilbert Cell

HOW I DO IT

Coffee, coffee in my veins
Stimulate this writer's brains
Course right through my every artery
Make my verse more terse and smarter
By the teacup, by the mug,
Inspiration by the jug
Word and page, there's aught between us,
Time for caffeine intravenous
Is it madness? Do I sorta
Feel a throb in my aorta?
No, it's nothing, just a twinge
Time to start another binge

— Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ, 2004

As promised, we will explore the Gilbert Cell, or “four quadrant multiplier,” in this exciting episode of Analog Adventures. The Gilbert Cell is quite similar in function to the double balanced mixer (DBM) described in previous installments, but is capable of operating clear down to DC (0 Hertz). While the conventional DBM is capable of producing a DC *output*, the transformers on the RF (radio frequency) and LO (local oscillator) ports have lower frequency limits. These can, likewise, put a lower frequency limit on receivers that rely on the DBM. If you're interested in exploring our lowest-frequency ham band, 2200 meters, you will probably want to investigate the Gilbert Cell.

The Gilbert Cell is a recent innovation as far as analog circuits go, and unlike most other analog circuits, it really had no direct vacuum tube ancestry. It was invented by English engineer Barrie Gilbert in 1967 ... practically just yesterday in technological terms. There are a few variations of the Gilbert cell, but *Figure 1* shows the generic form of the circuit.

While you can certainly build the Gilbert Cell with discrete components (and we encourage you to do so, as always), it usually comes in the form of an integrated circuit, or *part* of an integrated circuit such as the famous NE602, SA602, NE612, and SA612 series of “radio on a chip” devices.

From a cursory inspection of the circuit, we see that, just like the DBM, it has three ports: IF (intermediate frequency), RF, and LO. However, all three of these ports are inherently balanced.

When properly constructed and biased, the Gilbert Cell is a true multiplier; the IF output voltage is always the perfect arithmetical product of the (instantaneous) RF and LO voltages. Naturally, this is a useful property for nearly any modulating or demodulating process. It also serves nicely as an ideal *voltage-controlled amplifier*, or VCA. One can use the RF input as a control port to control the gain of the LO to IF path. This makes the device a great choice for automatic gain control (AGC) of a receiver, either in an audio stage or an IF stage (or even RF stage). By the way, since the Gilbert Cell

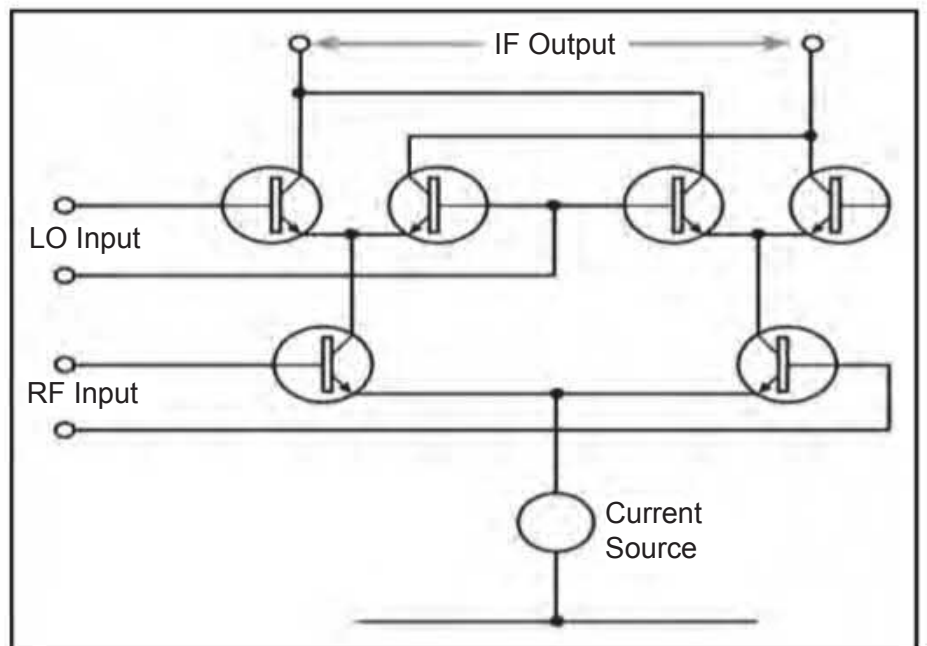
is an amplifier, you don't encounter the losses you would when using a passive DBM, although the gain is usually very moderate.

Being an arithmetical *operational amplifier*, it can also be used as the core of an *analog computer*, should you be inclined to build one. Actually, analog computational methods are experiencing a major renaissance ... not so much as stand-alone computers but as integral components of numerous signal-processing devices, from “DC to daylight.” We will be exploring these functions in detail in future installments, but I'd like to touch on just one manifestation here: The *logarithmic detector*.

The logarithmic detector has been used for ages in radar receivers, because of the necessity of detecting (demodulating) signals with huge differences of amplitude. Typical radar returns can have dynamic ranges of well over 200 dB. The logarithmic detector also finds use in cellphones and other communications systems.

Now, confining our thinking to AM signals, we know that an AM detector is essentially a rectifier. The detection is usually considered to be a separate function from whatever RF or IF amplification precedes it. But a logarithmic amplifier will also serve as an AM detector. Let's look at the log-amp from a strictly arithmetical standpoint. As we know, an RF signal is AC ... it has both positive and negative amplitudes, relative to some “ground” voltage. Well, if we take only the positive excursions of an RF signal and apply them to the input of a log-amp, we get the simple logarithm of the RF voltage. But what about the negative voltage excursions? Pull out your scientific calculator, punch in -2, and hit the LOG function. You will get an invalid input error. What does a log-amp do with an invalid input, i.e., a negative voltage? It gives you *nothing* out. So, by virtue of the characteristics of the logarithm itself, you have built-in (half wave) rectification ... or AM detection. Pretty slick.

Now, remember my passing comment about the Gilbert Cell being inherently balanced? It can be used as a *differential* or *push-pull* logarithmic detector ... or stated more obviously, a FULL WAVE detector. Even slicker. Full-wave detec-



Basic Gilbert Cell

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tors can have significantly less distortion than single-ended detectors. Are we having fun yet?

Cascades

As with any operational amplifier, VCAs (constructed with Gilbert Cells) can be cascaded to aid and abet the performance of a single device. Vast quantities of AGC control can be achieved by cascading multiple VCAs in a receiver's "gain chain." While there may not be too much demand for "extreme AGC" in the average ham transceiver, when it comes to instrumentation, such as measuring field strength, having a huge variation in available gain can be really handy.

Baseband

If I may be permitted to once again (very briefly) waltz into the digital domain, we can reiterate that *any* form of digital modulation can be created with a pair of double balanced mixers driven in phase quadrature. This is part and parcel of every modern digital signal processing (DSP) method. A pair of Gilbert Cells in quadrature is the ideal (and nearly universal) method of creating modern digital baseband signals. These baseband digital signals can be used to modulate another set of Gilbert Cell modulators at a higher frequency. In *theory*, there is no limit to how many tiers of modulation you can produce by such methods. For instance, you can modulate a carrier, use the result to modulate another higher frequency carrier, and use *that* result to modulate yet another, even higher frequency, carrier. While the *legality* of such methods might be questionable in amateur radio applications, there is no absolute physical limitation to the number of modulation tiers one can achieve.

Furthermore, while having just two balanced modulators in quadrature allows you to create any modulation scheme, it is sometimes more practical to use multiple balanced modulators with smaller amounts of phase shift ... quite commonly used in modern digital modes. I could go into that in great detail here, but our beloved digital columnist has probably covered this already, or at least will at some time. So I will return to my proper analog bailiwick.

Locking Things Up

We haven't forgotten our friendly local lock-in amplifier. Next installation we'll reconfigure our lock-in amplifier to take advantage of the Gilbert Cell, and learn a few other tricky tricks in the process.

Until then, keep the soldering iron hot, and the coffee pot full.

73, Eric KL7AJ

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ANTENNAS

BY KENT BRITAIN, WA5VJB

Ground Planes and Gigahertz

Let me start by saying that the quarter-wave vertical is a horrible antenna that can't talk much farther than you can throw your transmitter!

OK, now that I have your attention ... a quarter-wave vertical over a ground plane is a good antenna with a long history of excellent performance.

The difference is that ground plane. A proper ground plane needs to be about a half-wavelength across and in *Photo A*, we have a 1/4-wave 2-meter vertical with a good ground plane, in this case the roof of a van. Yet it is amazing how many hams will call that little PC board on the end of a 150-MHz, 1/4-wave whip in *Photo B* a ground plane. Wishful thinking!

You will be very disappointed putting just a quarter wavelength of wire on a small transmitter like that. The difficult part is that I can't tell you exactly how long it should be. Ideally it would be a half wavelength of wire, but a half-wave dipole fed at one end has an extremely high impedance. We are talking 1,000+ Ohms.

The ideal length depends on what impedances the transmitter can deal with, what inductors and / or capacitors are in the transmitter output, and just how big that PC board really is.

The only way I know to optimize the antenna is to put a long wire on the transmitter, a bit over one-half wavelength long is a good starting point. Turn on the transmitter, set up a receiver or spectrum analyzer 10 to 20 feet away. Get out your wire cutters and start trimming. Cut it off twice and it's still too short? That's why you have a soldering iron. Most of the time you will find max signal strength is with the wire about 0.4-wavelength long.

For you guys (and gals) who like to play with multiband HF dipoles, you can think of this PCB transmitter and 4/10th monopole as an offset feed dipole. I know, you would like something smaller, but physics is physics.

Satellite Antennas

Going to talk about AMSAT antennas for a bit here. In *Photo C* are some X-Band antennas for the AMSAT GOLF-T 3U satellite downlink. I can see the panic growing now. "10 GHz! I was going to use that Mad Money to buy a K4, but even that won't be enough!" Come on, we're cheap hams, too! How does about \$40 sound for a 10-GHz receive setup?

Back to *Photo C*. The center antenna is on Rogers 4350 PCB material, the end ones are on Arlon 25N material. Both are "space-qualified" PCB materials. In this case, the most important material specification is outgassing. In short, if the material has any smell, it flunks! If the PCB material has any oils or volatiles that can evaporate in a vacuum, it's a problem. These volatiles tend to condense on solar cells, reducing power. They also collect on optics, messing up star trackers and camera lenses, and even on the body of the spacecraft, reducing heat dissipation. In short, bad news, so these antennas are on materials that won't do that.



Photo A. Quarter-wave vertical over a good ground plane.

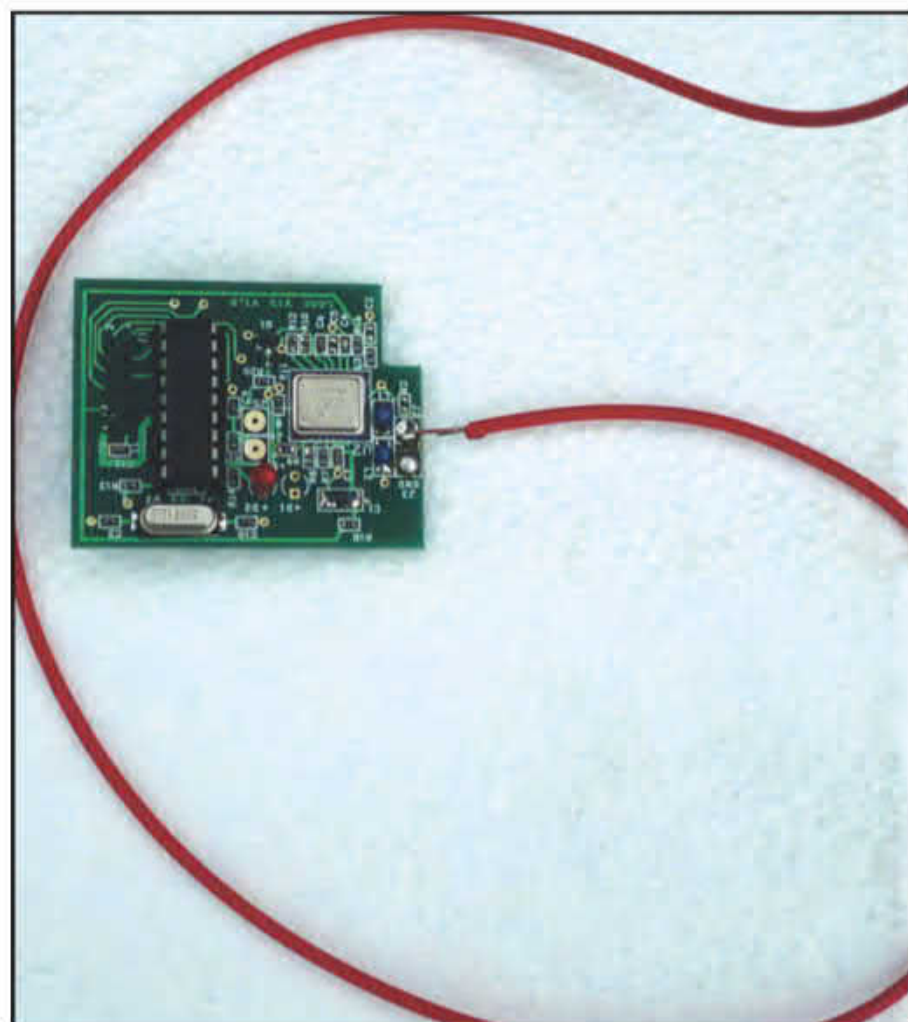


Photo B. Quarter-wave antenna NOT over a good ground plane.

email: <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com>

Step up to Top Performance with the HG3 Stepper Mag Loop!

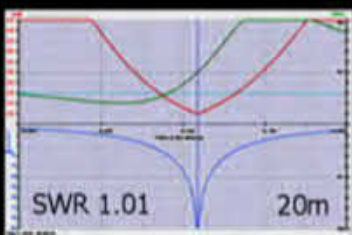
NEW!

The new HG3 stepper tuned Mag Loop Antenna (MLA) sets a new standard delivering unprecedented capability in remote tuning, performance and convenience for an MLA. It employs a proven, accurate and repeatable stepper motor design. Band selection, remote tuning, including optional loop rotation, is controlled via a microcontroller driving a high resolution stepper motor.

A built-in digital SWR bridge provides auto-tuning based on an SWR scan. This ensures compatibility with most radios. Manual tuning uses a convenient rotary encoder knob - no more finicky push buttons. The four-line LCD displays band selected, SWR, ERP, Cap value and more. The bottom line - count on top-notch RX and TX performance!

KEY FEATURES

- STEPPER MOTOR ACCURACY
- CONVENIENT REMOTE TUNING
- DISPLAYS BAND, SWR, ERP & MORE
- QUICK BAND SELECTION
- AUTO-TUNING BASED ON SWR
- 80m - 10m COVERAGE AVAILABLE
- NO COMPROMISE SPOT-ON TUNING
- MAX POWER: 100 W PEP*



A precise LC match at the desired frequency ensures spot-on tuning (red SWR, blue RL, green Z) and minimizes mismatch losses within the MLA's specified frequency range.

□□□ or □□□□□□□□□□ models, see specifications for limitations



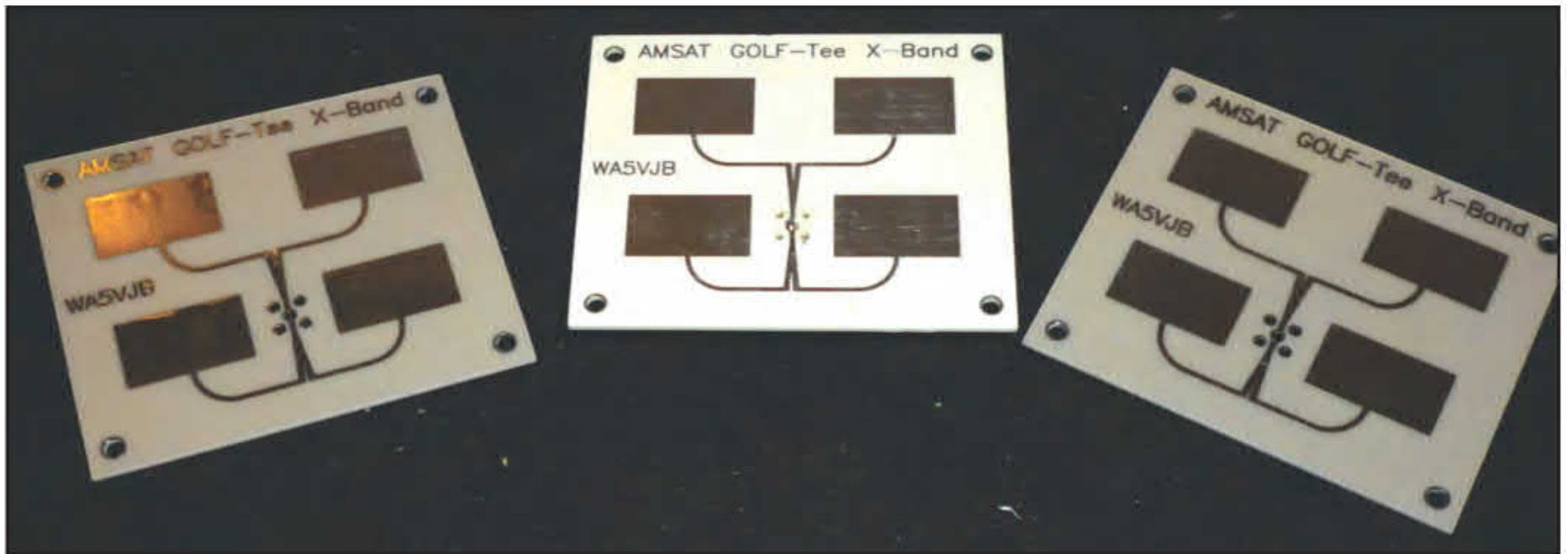


Photo C. AMSAT GOLF-T 10.45-GHz antennas (see text for details).

Most U.S. satellite TV systems use 30-MHz-wide channels with the different programs using different packets in that 30-MHz bandwidth. To downconvert those wide channels, a simple voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) with some kind of AFC (automatic frequency control) circuit is good enough. Great for satellite TV, but of no use for our purposes. In other countries, there are still quite a few narrow-band services on the direct broadcast birds. Now you have to have a converter with much higher frequency accuracy. In *Photo D*, in the upper right corner of the photo, is an OCTAGON crystal-controlled LNB (low-noise block downconverter). These are very popular with European hams using the QO-100 geostationary satellite. The downlink at 10,450 MHz comes out at 739 MHz. Now you can use a wideband receiver that covers 739 MHz or one of the \$10 USB dongles that picks up UHF TV stations.

The other two LNBs in the photo are ASPEN Eagle DTV36LNBs, which are also crystal controlled. In their case 10,450 MHz comes out at 463 MHz. A quick scan of eBay shows them selling in the \$10-\$20 range. Add a DC power source inserted to send power up the coax, and some coax, and we're looking at a 10-GHz receive system in the \$40 class. Hey, not as bad as you thought it was going to be.

But don't go out and buy a DTV36LNB just yet. We are looking at several other brands to see if any might work better in an AMSAT 10-GHz downlink. Now, at least, you have a good idea at what you need for one of these stations.

I have been active on 10,368.1 MHz SSB for many years, so I did some testing to see just how good one of these antennas might be for weak-signal



Photo D. Low-cost 10.45-GHz system for receiving 10.45-GHz AMSAT satellite downlinks.

work. From 1 to 15 minutes, it only drifted 9 kHz. And I wouldn't argue how much of that was in the signal generator, or the little spectrum analyzer looking at the CW signal. Certainly, these have possibilities for CW / SSB use. For AMSAT use, worst-case Doppler shift would be ± 200 kHz for an overhead pass at 10,450 MHz. The software guys are looking at digital modulators and demodulators for SDRs that can deal with this kind of frequency shift. Now that 9 kHz of drift is not an issue.

We are still looking at some of the path loss numbers, and hoping we can get away with just a modest horn on the LNB. I know the QO-100 geostationary satellite can be heard with just the LNB looking up at the bird. Very, very, weak,

but I've given 59s to weaker signals HIHI! We really don't want to go to a dish. Using something like a Direct TV dish means you have to track the bird to an accuracy of 3° or 4° while moving across the sky at about 20° a minute. GOOD LUCK!

Talk to Me!

Feel free to contact me with your antenna questions or suggestions for column topics. You folks do come up with some doozies at times and are always good fodder for a future column. Email your questions to <wa5vjb@cq-amateur-radio.com> or snail mail to my QRZ.COM address. For other antenna projects, visit <www.wa5vjb.com>.

VHF PLUS

BY TONY EMANUELE,* K8ZR

NDØB Earns Fred Fish Memorial Award (FFMA) #10

VHF Plus Calendar

ARRL 222 MHz and above Contest: August 1st & 2nd
ARRL 10 GHz and Above Contest: August 15th & 16th
Perseids Meteor Shower: Predicted peak August 11th – 12th
ARRL September VHF Contest: September 12th – 14th
ARRL EME Contest 2.3 GHz and Up: September 12th & 13th
ARRL 10 GHz and Above Contest (2nd weekend):
September 19th & 20th
ARRL EME Contest 50 to 1296 MHz: October 11th & 12th

The Fred Fish Memorial Award¹ was established by the ARRL in 2008 to honor Fred Fish, W5FF, for his many VHF accomplishments, most notably being the first to work and confirm all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. His other accomplishments included Worked All States (WAS) on 50 MHz – 432 MHz.² Fred and his wife, Lee, K5FF, were fixtures on 6 meters and considered the quintessential 6-meter operators. W5FF was awarded FFMA #1 and since the award's inception, the following have earned FFMA: W5OZI (2010), K5UR (2010), KMØA (2011), WD5K (2011), NØLL (2015), W7GJ (2015), AA5AM (2019), and W4UDH (2019.) This June, Bill Ockert,

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



Photo A. Bill Ockert, NDØB, the tenth person to earn the Fred Fish Memorial Award for working all 488 grid squares in the continental U.S. on 6 meters. (Photo courtesy NDØB)

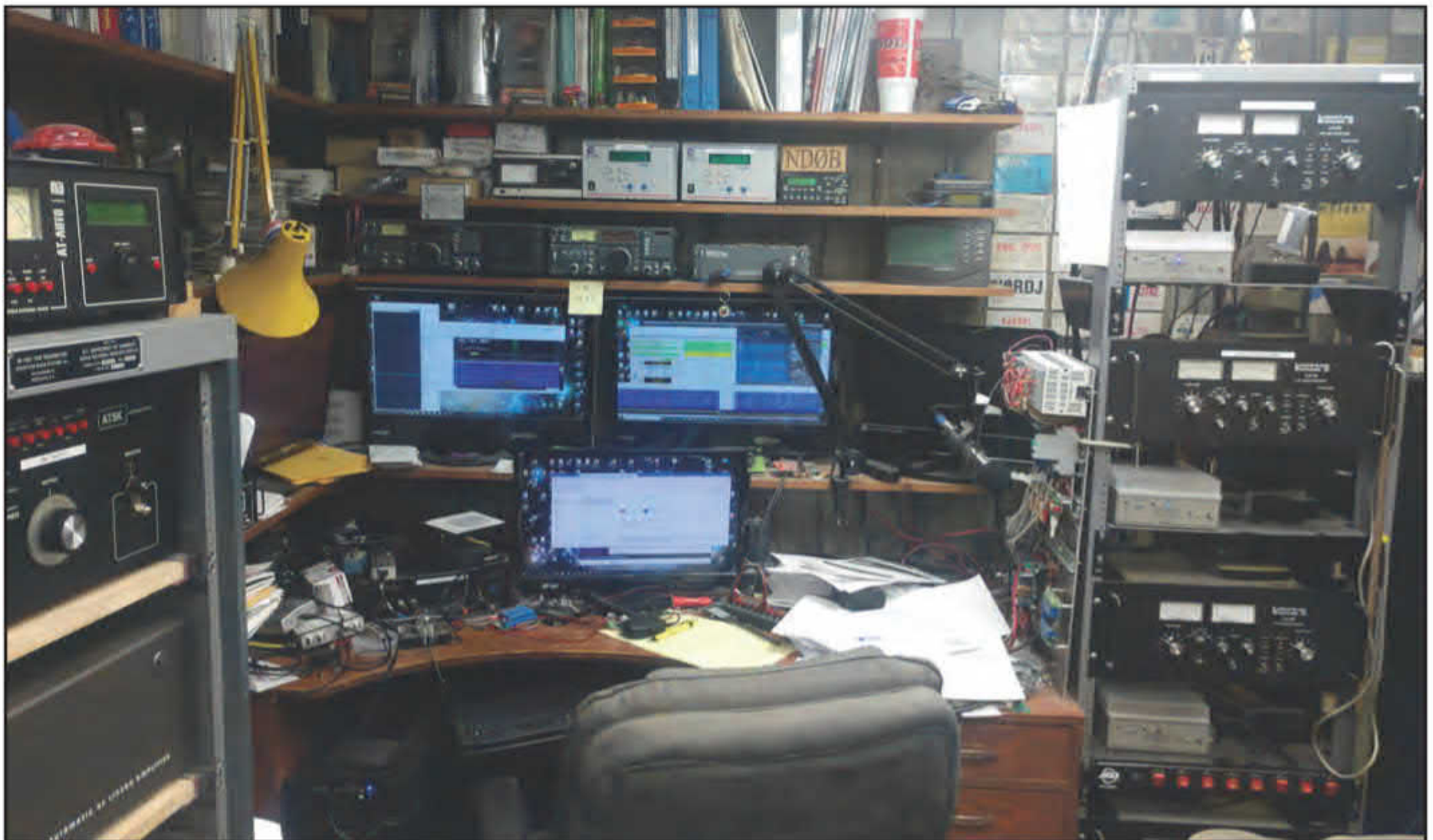


Photo B. NDØB's shack today. (Photo courtesy NDØB)

NDØB, in EN07 Cathay, North Dakota (Photo A), confirmed his last grid and was awarded FFMA #10.

Bill got started on 6 meters in 2004 when, on a whim, he loaded his ICOM 756 Pro III into his 160-meter G5RV dipole. Reading that the 6-meter calling frequency was 50.125 MHz, he called CQ a few times over the course of a few days with no answer. Unbeknownst to Bill, it was just the start of the sporadic-E (E_s) season and a few days later, when the band did open, he made 180 QSOs over a 12-hour period and concluded that “it was pretty darn fun!” He was hooked, and set out to earn WAS on 6 meters.

A day or two later, Bill received a telephone call from Rick Roderick³, K5UR, requesting a schedule. As Bill recalls, Rick stated that he was trying to duplicate W5FF’s achievement and work all 488 grids in the lower 48 states. Bill’s response was “sure, but who is Fred Fish and what is a grid?” K5UR patiently explained both and they worked the next day. Bill went back to chasing states and managed to work 37 states and 240 grids with the G5RV before erecting a seven-element 6-meter Yagi. By the end of his first season, Bill had completed WAS and when discussing his achievement with his good friend, NTØV, Dennis joked, “What’s next? Fred Fish?” The idea was planted and soon afterwards, Bill began his FFMA quest.

A second fortuitous QSO occurred a bit later when Bill saw a posting that David Schaubert, NJØW, while making his way from Arizona to Fargo, North Dakota, would be activating nearby EN15 on MSK441⁴. They worked initially on MSK441 but switched to SSB where David suggested that Bill follow his travels on PingJockey⁵ so that he could work him in other needed grids as he made his way to Fargo. He took David’s advice, becoming a frequent visitor to the site where he was coached by the regulars on how to operate meteor scatter. To this day, meteor scatter continues to be one of Bill’s favorite modes.

Initially Bill did not pay too much attention to collecting QSL cards, concentrating only on obtaining cards from new states worked. That all changed in pursuit of FFMA and he found himself sending out nearly 100 QSLs with SASEs, with a return rate at approximately 60%, for grids he had worked previously. He marks 2010 as the starting point with 240 confirmed grids. He surpassed his first-year goal of 400 worked by 20 grids. Learning from his early QSL experience, he made sure that cards were sent immediately and, by the close of 2014,



Figure 1. Grid confluence of DN55, DN56, DN65, and DN66. (Courtesy of W7GJ)

had worked and confirmed 485 of the 488 grids necessary for the award.

In 2015, FN67 Maine / New Brunswick was worked, leaving only CM79 and CM93. Grid CM79 along the northern California coast is mostly water, with just a tiny speck of land within its boundaries. It can only be accessed on foot with the nearest road a couple of kilometers inland in CM89. In 2017, Frank Letton, W6JTI, packed up his 6-meter gear and hiked to CM79, working Bill and leaving only one remaining grid to be worked.

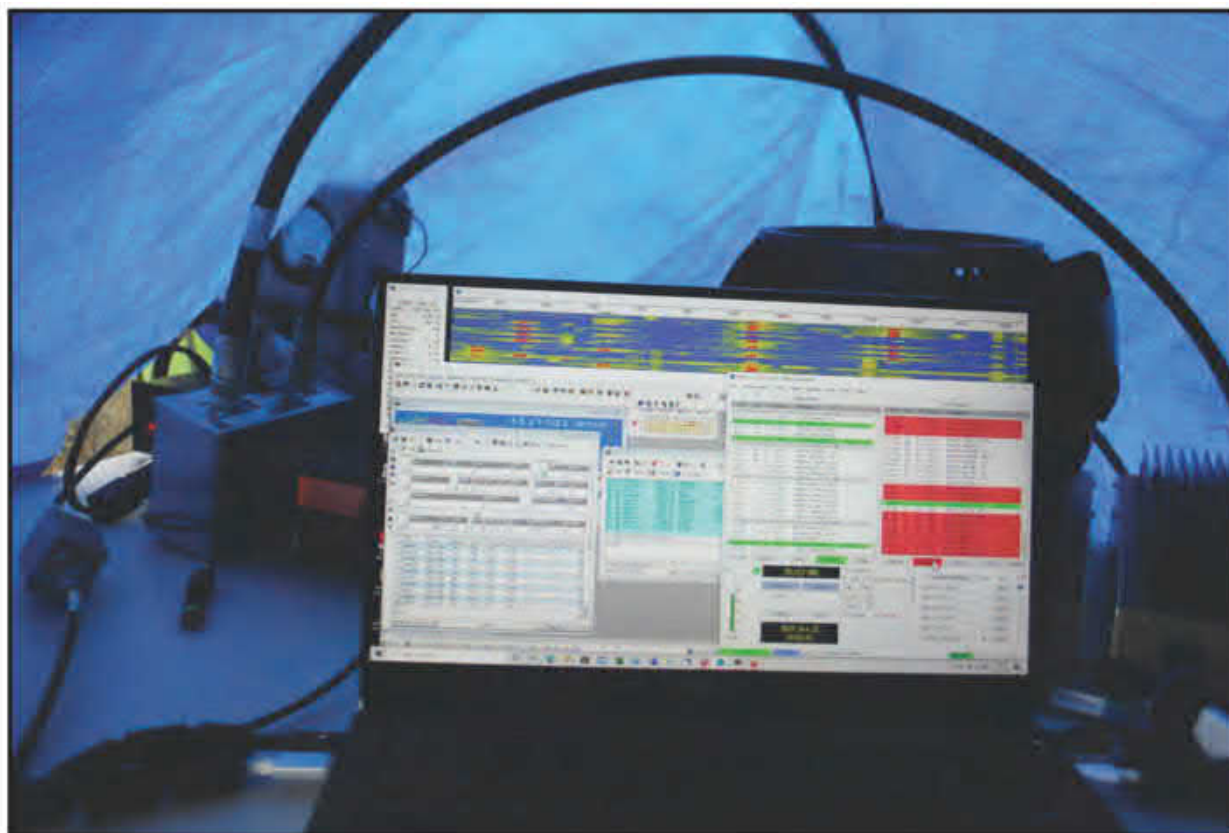
The “toughest nut” to crack according to Bill was his last — grid CM93 Santa Rosa Island, approximately 100 kilo-

meters off the coast of Los Angeles. There had been several DXpeditions to the island over the years but not a hint of propagation to North Dakota during any of those outings. However, on one of his several trips to the island, Peter Suchomel, AG6EE, reported that he had been hearing NDØB for several hours. After spending 18 hours over two days at the operating position (referred to as BIC⁶), AG6EE came up out of the noise just long enough to complete the QSO which was logged at 0016z on 20 June 2020.

After that QSO completing his long-awaited goal of achieving FFMA, Bill thought he would be jubilant — “bounc-



Photo C. Lance Collister, W7GJ, operating at the grid confluence of DN55, DN56, DN65, and DN66. (Photo courtesy KB7Q)



made special mention and is grateful for the assistance of Sharon Taratula, ARRL awards manager, during the application process.

W7GJ & KB7Q GridXpedition

Veteran international DXpeditioners Lance Collister, W7GJ, and Gene Shea, KB7Q, recognizing the need by a large number of operators for several rare grids in their home state of Montana, decided to stay close to home and activated grids DN55, DN56, DN65, and DN66 at their confluence (where all four grids meet — see *Figure 1*) from June 19th to June 22nd. All DXpeditions, domestic or international, require some level of planning and this effort started at the end of 2019 with discussions with the property owner, eventually leading to permission to operate from the site for a few prime days around the Summer Solstice.

KB7Q would operate 2-meter meteor scatter from DN65 and the DN56/66 line, and assist W7GJ with setting up the 6-meter station at the four corners (*Photo C*). Arriving late on the morning of the 19th, the respective stations were ready to go the next morning, Saturday June 20th. Starting the day before 1200z on MSK144, Lance switched modes to FT8 later when E_s made the mode viable. Most of the E_s was single-hop and because of the higher ground immediately to the northwest, most of the contacts into the Pacific Northwest were made by using E_s backscatter while W7GJ was aiming toward the southeast.

It rained several times on Sunday, requiring the equipment to be covered (*Photo D*) and Lance to take shelter. Despite the occasional rain, operation continued until the band faded out after a double-hop opening into southern Mexico. Over 300 contacts were logged on 6 meters using MSK144 and FT8. KB7Q managed 19 meteor scatter QSOs on Saturday from DN65 and 24 QSOs on Sunday from what Gene characterized as “an outstanding location” on the DN56/66 line (*Photo E*) with his best DX at 1,223 kilometers (760 miles). The duo made sure that they left the site as they found it and, other than the rain and Gene narrowly missing stepping on a rattlesnake, the effort went off as planned.

On the Bands

The conditions during ARRL June VHF Contest were very good to excellent for most of North America with many hours of E_s on 6 meters. There was a bit of

ing off the walls” but he reports he was mostly numb and still in disbelief of completing the task.

An Evolving Station

The equipment at NDØB has evolved over the past five years and today, a Flex 6700 drives a legal-limit amplifier (*Photo B*). A significant factor in the last two contacts was Simon Brown’s SDR Console program with a NOOELEC RTL dongle and, more recently, with an Airspy R2. On both the CM79 CW con-

tact and the CM93 FT8 contact, the combination resulted in being able to hear / decode signals on SRD Console before they were detected with the transceiver.

Bill would like to thank everyone who helped him in achieving his goal including David, NJØW, for 29 of the 488 grids worked; Gene, KB7Q, who was logged from 12 grids; and Marshall, K5QE, and his crew for activating a number of rare grids along the southern border. Of course, there were many others. Bill

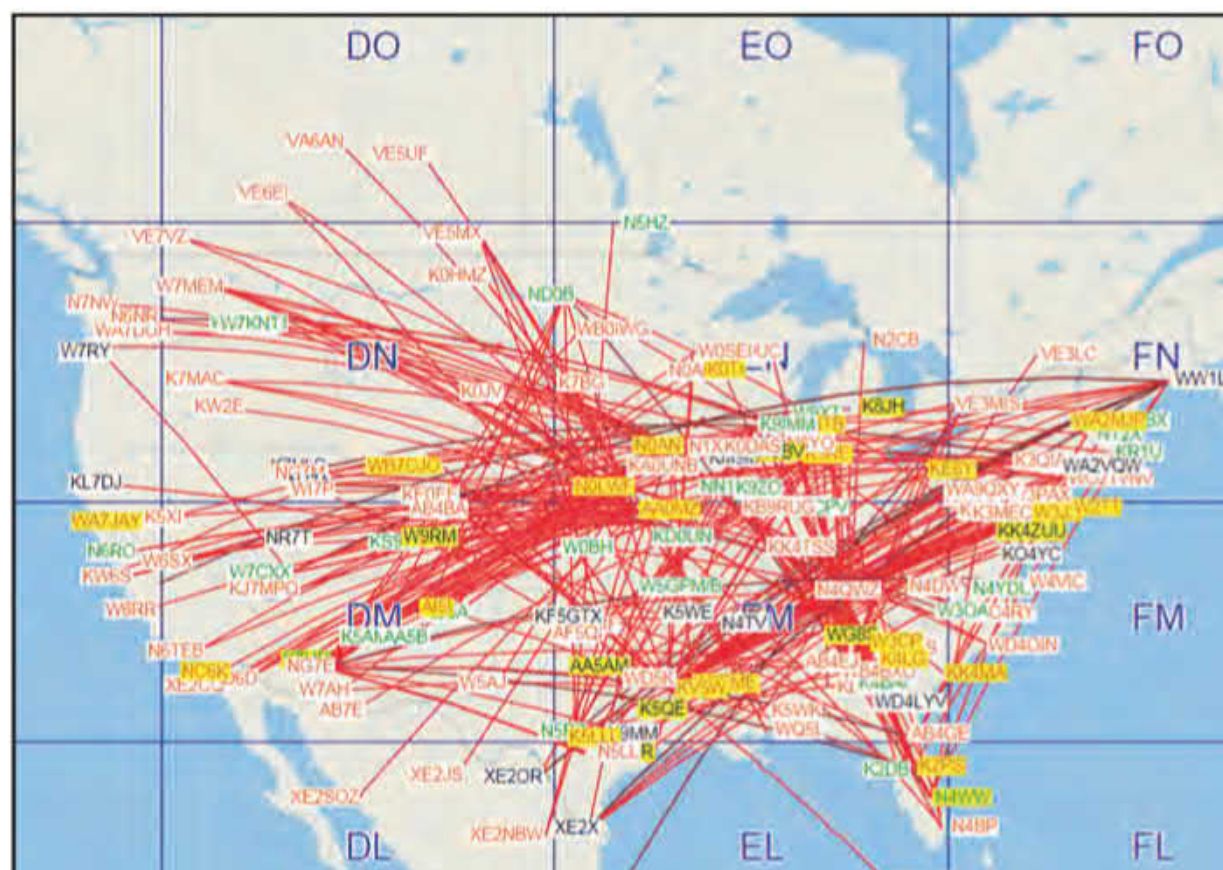


Figure 2. The 6-meter band at the conclusion of June’s ARRL VHF Contest. (Courtesy of DX Maps)



Photo E. Gene Shea, KB7Q, operating 2-meter meteor scatter on the DN56/DN66 grid line. (Photo courtesy KB7Q)



Photo F. K3WHC (L) & W2RMA (R) operating 10 GHz in FN10fe09pf. (Photo by K1RZ)

everything on 6 meters: CW, SSB, MSK144, FT8, and FT4 (with DX for some via digital or SSB / CW), requiring the most competitive stations to continuously reassess their mode / frequency decisions throughout the contest. See *Figure 2* for a snapshot of 6 meters at the closing bell of the contest at 0300z June 15th.

A week after the contest, when conditions had seemingly cooled off, the chatter on the chat pages quickly turned to the state of the E_s season with many lamenting that the 2020 season was not measuring up to past seasons. Activity reports from several operators underscore that 6-meter E_s is all about location, location, location. Mario Karcich, K2ZD, in FN21 filed a report a week after the ARRL contest that the 6-meter E_s season began for him on April 14th and as of June 22nd it was one the best seasons he has experienced during his 54 years on the magic band. He reports working or copying 71 DXCC countries on CW, FT8, or SSB including A92, KG4, KH6, OD, OHØ, UN8, and YT, to name a few of the more exotic DX entities. On June 8th, Mario worked TA1BM (Turkey) for 6-meter DXCC #212 and a day later, bagged TT8SN (Chad) for 6-meter DXCC #213. Tony Everhardt, EN81, reported that 6-meter conditions in northwestern Ohio were very good as he worked over 25 countries in Asia, Europe, South America, and the Caribbean in just a few days.

While anecdotally the post-contest E_s openings seemed fewer than earlier in the season, there were several notable exceptions. From June 24th through the 26th, the magic band was open from the West Coast of North America into Europe. Steve McDonald, VE7SL, in CN88iu worked Crete (SV9) and Sardinia (ISØ).

A sampling of West Coast-to-Europe QSOs include: Phil Krise, W6UC, in DM05jl worked EA7M IM76sr at approximately 9,500 kilometers (5,900 miles); and Hector Garcia, AD6D, in DM22rp worked OZ2PBS JO55xj at approximately 9,000 kilometers (5,600 miles) and S57RR in JN65um at

an amazing distance of approximately 9,900 kilometers (6,100 miles.)

Not all the activity has been on 6 meters. A group of 12 10- and 24-GHz operators took advantage of good weather and spent the last Saturday in May exercising their equipment, trying new paths and enjoying the day. Participants included: W3SZ, W2RMA, K3WHC, and W3HMS on 24 GHz, with K1TEO, W3IP, KM3G, N9ZL, WA3PTV, W3EKT, and N3RG on 10 GHz with K1RZ functioning as ringmaster. Best 10 GHz DX was approximately 350 kilometers (217 miles) — not bad given the time of year. This group will be out throughout the summer with their focus on learning, tweaking, and strategizing in anticipation of the first weekend of the ARRL 10 GHz and above contest in August (see *Photo F*).

And in the “I am not surprised” department, veteran millimeter-wave pioneer Barry Malowanchuk, VE4MA, reports that he worked VE4DDZ for what he believes is the first Canadian 122-GHz QSO. Using bare mixers and 12-inch dish with a subreflector at one end and an 18-inch offset feed dish at the other, the pair easily completed the QSO on SSB over a 1-kilometer path. The next step is to replace the bare mixer assemblies with VK3CV 122-GHz boards which will significantly improve both the transmit path (more power) and the receive path (lower noise figure.) Now that all the VK3CV 122-GHz boards have shipped, expect additional reports of 122-GHz activity from various operators in North America.

– 73 and CU on the Bands. Tony, K8ZR

Notes:

1. FFMA rules dictate that all QSOs must be made from within the same 200-kilometer circle. There are no tiers of progression or endorsements.
2. Source: ARRL FFMA Announcement 2008 PDF.
3. Current ARRL President and avid VHF operator.
4. The predecessor of the meteor scatter mode MSK144.
5. Meteor scatter website: <www.pingjockey.net>
6. Contesters' and DX chasers' term for “butt in chair.”

AWARDS

BY JIM HOUSER,* WA8JIM

The Ham Radio Honor System

Plus, Awards from Ireland, Canada, Ohio and Maine

During my time off on Memorial Day weekend, I had some free time to go back to my childhood. I sat and watched television episodes from my past. They reminded me of my younger years and where I used to live. All the neighbors knew your name, they were good friends, and were willing to help if you needed assistance.

In one of the television shows, a character said that “a stranger is just a friend we’ve never met.” That immediately made me start thinking about how that line is a perfect fit for ham radio.

While watching another TV show, it was mentioned that one of the characters was considered to be the most trusted person in the area, not only by his friends but also by his foes. Think about how long (if it were a real person) it would take to be trusted like that. That person would be considered very honorable. Which brings us to the “honor system” in the ham community.

Many award programs use the honor system for most applications. A general example: If you claim you followed all of the award rules and have the required confirmations to qualify, your word is accepted. However, the sponsoring group has the right to request your QSL cards or other certification of confirmations when you’re applying for the group’s certificate.

Keep a Log

If you are a paper chaser or plan to be, even though it is not required by the FCC, it’s a good idea to keep an accurate logbook and note the QSL cards that you receive. There are many sponsored awards that have rules that say, “QSL cards not needed,” but there’s nearly always another provision that says they may be requested. So, make the contact, put it in your logbook, send for the card, keep the QSL card when you receive one, obtain the award, and have fun doing it all.

Awards of Interest

Moving on to specific awards, we’ve got five sponsoring groups to spotlight this month:

We start off in Ireland with some of the many awards offered by, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), which is the national organization that represents hams in Ireland <www.irts.ie>. For the full history of the IRTS, follow the above link.

The Worked EI Counties (“WEIC”) Award (*Photo A*) is a good starting point. You would think the name would be self-explanatory; however, the rules need to be read to fully understand the title. The prefixes of the callsigns for this hunt are EI or EJ. All worldwide amateur radio operators and SWLs are welcomed to chase after this wallpaper. QSL cards are not needed but a certified log extract is required.

The log extract information will include dates, times, modes, stations worked, and the station’s county. An officer of a radio club or two amateur radio operators must certify the extract before forwarding it to the awards manager.

* email: <wa8jim@cq-amateur-radio.com>



Photo A. The Irish Radio Transmitters Society’s Worked EI Counties award.

Contacts for this award are valid starting January 1st, 1982. There is small fee of 5€, 5£ UK, or \$10 U.S. . The site reads, “Band endorsements will be available at the time of first application.” If your home station is other than Ireland, then your home station, mobile, and portable contacts are all accepted.

The requirement is to work 20 out of 26 counties in order to earn the certificate. There is a sticker that can be obtained by confirming all 26 counties. Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow are the counties on the award list.

Once you have confirmed contacting the stations and following all the award rules, send your request to the awards



Photo B. This certificate can hang on your shack wall if you contact hams in each of the 18 townships of Delaware County, Ohio. (Courtesy Delaware Amateur Radio Association)



Photo C. The Radio Amateurs of Canada offers the St. Lawrence Seaway Award for contacts with stations along the shipping route between the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. (From RAC website)

manager, who is currently Jim Holohan, EI4HH, 7 Hiltons Garden, Balinteer Avenue, Balinteer, Dublin 16, IRELAND. Jim's email address is <awards@irts.ie>.

State QSO Parties

Back in May of this year, I mentioned that contests are a good way of making contacts for award credit (see also last month's article, "Contesting Your Way to DX Success" by K5FUV. –ed), so you might want to join in. One specific type of contest is the state QSO party. A good example this month is the Ohio QSO Party, which will occur on August 22nd. The rules can be found at <www.ohqp.org>. Most state QSO parties use their state's counties as multipliers, and counties with

small ham populations are frequently on the air. You can use these QSOs to build up contacts for domestic awards such as ARRL's Worked All States (WAS) or CQ's USA-Counties Award (USA-CA). In addition, the club sponsoring the party usually has awards for the top winners.

When you're on the air chasing Ohio counties, there is an additional award you want to keep in mind. The Delaware Amateur Radio Association (DELARA), K8ES, sponsors a year-round certificate. The WADCO – Worked All Delaware County – award (Photo B) requires at least one QSO in each of the 18 townships of Delaware County, Ohio.

All contacts must be made after June 30th, 2012. All bands and modes, including repeaters, are allowed. No QSL cards are needed since you will be applying electronically at <www.k8es.org/wadco.htm>. You will also receive the award electronically and it is free of charge. There are endorsements for single modes, single bands, or for any five bands.

The townships that are in Ohio's Delaware County are: Berkshire, Berlin, Brown, Concord, Delaware, Genoa, Harlem, Kingston, Liberty, Marlboro, Orange, Oxford, Porter, Radnor, Scioto, Thompson, Trenton, and Troy.

Radio Amateurs of Canada Awards

The Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) is the national organization that represents hams in Canada. Its awards program offers plenty of certificates. See <https://tinyurl.com/y7bqtk3x> for a complete listing. There were two RAC awards that caught my attention. The first one was the Provincial Capitals Award and the second was the St. Lawrence Seaway Award (Photo C), which is the first I want to cover.

The St. Lawrence Seaway Award rules are as follow: Any contact from July 1950 to the present is valid for this certificate. Any band and mode is allowed. The fee is \$10 CDN for Canadian stations and \$10 U.S. for stations outside of Canada. Write your check or money order to Radio Amateurs of Canada.

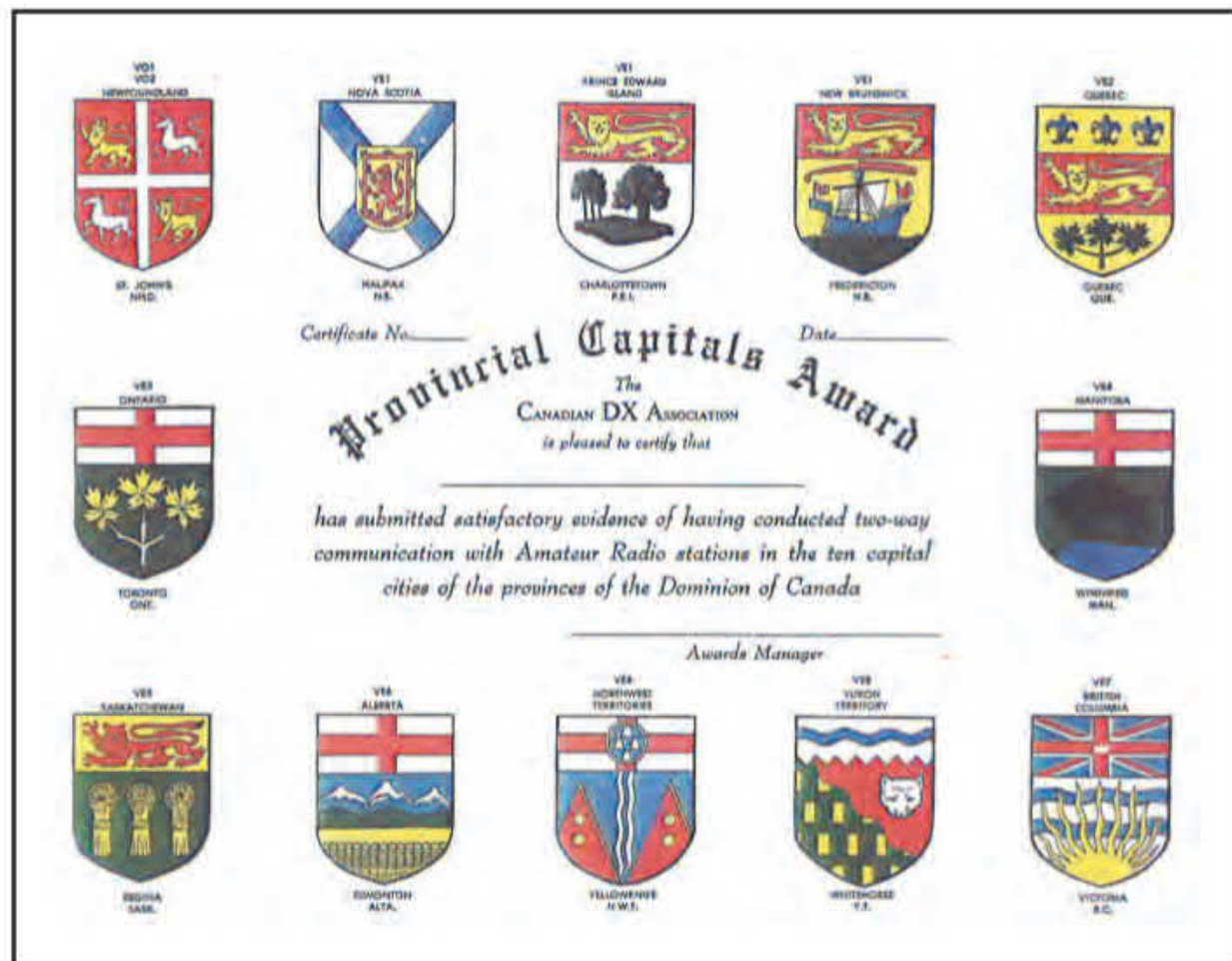


Photo D. RAC's Provincial Capitals Award requires that you make contacts with hams in the capital city of each of Canada's 10 provinces. (From the RAC website)

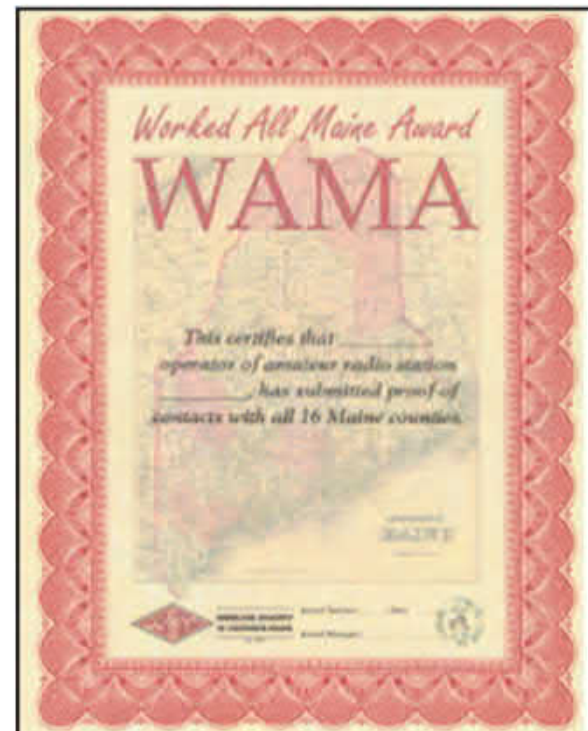


Photo E. Maine has 16 counties and you need to work all of them to qualify for the Wireless Society of Southern Maine's Worked All Maine Award (some of these counties have more moose than people so earning this award may be tougher than it looks!). (From WSSM website)

The following requirements come directly from the website: “Ten (10) contacts in different locations with VE stations along the route of the St. Lawrence Seaway. Of the 10 required, one (1) must be in each of the following areas: Thunder Bay, Greater Toronto, Greater Montreal, and Greater Quebec City. The remaining six (6) may be from any municipality located along the route.”

Send a list of contacts with the date, time, mode, and location of the worked station. The list needs to be certified by one radio club officer or two other amateurs. Therefore, do not send in QSL cards but ensure you have them in case they’re requested. You can find the application for this award at this website: <<https://tinyurl.com/y98vagj3>>. You can also send a SASE to the RAC requesting an application.

Switching over to the Provincial Capitals Award (*Photo D*), many of the rules are the same as the St. Lawrence Seaway Award. They include band, mode, cost, where to send your payment, how to write your checks or money orders, and how to get the QSL cards certified for the award.

However, there is one rule that is different, which is that one contact is needed in each of the 10 Canadian provincial capitals. They include the following: St. John’s, Newfoundland; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Fredericton, New Brunswick; Quebec, Quebec; Toronto, Ontario; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Regina, Saskatchewan; Edmonton, Alberta; and Victoria, British Columbia.

Again, you need two other amateurs to certify that you have the required confirmations, and you need to keep the QSLs on file. The RAC website states that “QSL cards must be in the applicant’s possession and are subject to random check.”

Applications for all RAC awards should go to: John Scott, VE1JS, RAC Awards Manager, 324 Church Hill Road, Sandy Cove, NS B0V 1E0, CANADA. Email: <scotts@sandycove-ns.ca>

And While We’re Up North

You hardly hear anything out of the State of Maine in the ham world. So I did some investigating and found the Wireless Society of Southern Maine, WS1SM. The link <www.ws1sm.com/Awards.html> delivers you directly to their awards program. They have some interesting opportunities for the paper chaser with seven different awards. There are general requirements and then each award has its own specific guidelines that need to be met.

Send your application to: WSSM Awards Manager, P.O. Box 6833, Scarborough, ME 04074, USA. Send questions by snail mail, I did not locate an email address for questions. All awards have a fee of \$8 U.S.

The club offers the Worked All Maine Award (*Photo E*) for all radio amateurs but not for SWLs. Confirmed contacts with stations in all sixteen (16) counties of Maine are required. All bands and modes are allowed. All dates are accepted. Do not use repeaters, IRLP, or Echolink for this award. Only three mobile or portable stations may be used for credit toward the award. Contacts with ships, aircraft, or via satellite are not allowed.

The 16 counties of Maine are: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo, Washington, and York.

The New England Writers Award was created because of New England being the birthplace and home of many famous writers, so it was designed to celebrate that heritage. Ten contacts are needed for the award, each from different towns associated with famous writers. The complete list of some two dozen locations is on the website. Modes, bands, date

limits, and land station rules are the same as Work All Maine Award, except that contacts via repeaters, IRLP, and Echolink DO count for this award. Sorry to report, no SWLs for this certificate.

There is also an “Activator” version of this award. Hams who initiate transmissions from at least ten (10) of locations on the list can receive an Activator certificate. I suggest that you go to the club website to print out a copy to have on hand. You can use it to easily mark off the locations once you have them confirmed.

Don’t Assume

A recommendation to all amateur radio operators and SWLs. Before you start chasing a certain award, contact the sponsor to ensure it is still being offered. During my wallpaper hunts, I have found that information can be spotty, or that different sites have different information for the same award. Sometimes there is no contact info, or not enough data for the rules. Therefore, I cannot stress enough, never assume. If there is a question about the rules, ask it. You will not regret it.

Looking Ahead

In September alone, seven state QSO parties are coming up should they stick to the calendar. They are Maine, New Hampshire, Texas, Iowa, Tennessee, New Jersey, and the Washington State Salmon Run. I repeat again that these are good times to be on the air in order to make U.S. contacts.

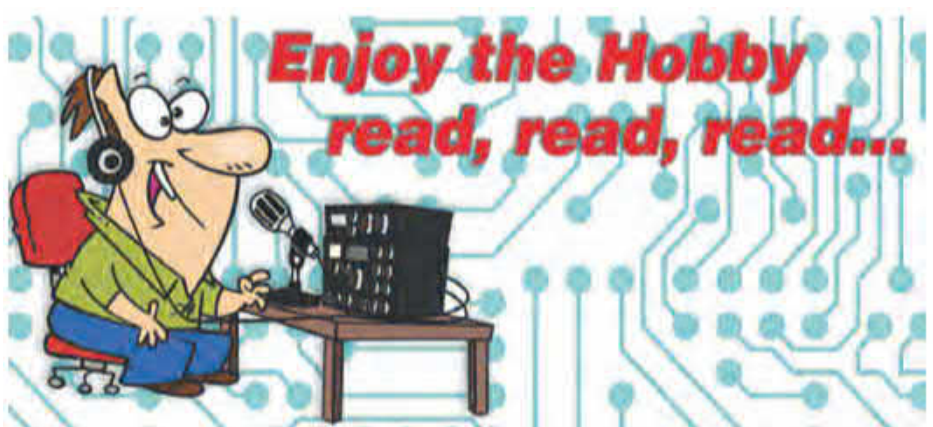
For a comprehensive list of upcoming contests, see the CQ Contest Calendar in each issue and on the CQ website (link from the highlights page for each issue), or the WA7BNM contest calendar at <<https://tinyurl.com/ya8w2pf4>>. You will start seeing a good collection of stations in your logbook and be able to apply for those awards even sooner.

Of course, chewing the rag, or having a long conversation over the air, is not bad either. It just depends on what your cup of tea is. If you don’t want to do voice, then there are other facets of the hobby to try, such as CW, digital, or satellites, just to name a few.

Note to award sponsors: CQ readers are interested in your short-term or year-round sponsored award. Get your information in early enough for CQ to publish for your award in order to make it known across the ham community. Send your information (at least three months ahead of time for short-term awards) to <wa8jim@cq-amateur-radio.com>. Please include a valid email address and a phone number should we have questions. A sample picture of the award (high resolution, please) and a link to the rules will also be needed.

I will see you on the air.

– Jim Houser, WA8JIM



KP2A/D Desecheo 1981 ... A Look Back

In the current reality of COVID-19, DXpeditions have all but stopped. We can probably expect this “pause” to last a while longer. In the meantime, I thought it might be fun to look back at some past DXpeditions so that we can all appreciate how DXpeditioning has evolved over time. This month, I will be looking back at the 1981 KP2A/D DXpedition to Desecheo. This was my third (ever) DXpedition, and my first “mega” DXpedition. If any of you faithful DXpeditioners would like to write up anything similar, let me know!

Here is a little history on Desecheo. The island lies about 13 miles off the coast of Puerto Rico and has a land area of approximately 360 acres, with a maximum elevation of 683 feet above sea level and no permanent supply of fresh water, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the island as a national wildlife refuge (for more info, see <<https://tinyurl.com/y9rhchc2>>). In the past, it has been used for a variety of purposes, including military bombing practice. It is currently closed to the public due to the presence of unexploded ordnance and visits may be made only by arrangement with the Fish and Wildlife Service. It is currently considered a separate DX entity under the ARRL’s DXCC program, although this was not always the case.

The first DXpedition to the island was KV4KV/D in 1978. The operators were John Ackley, KV4KV (KP2A), and Bob Denniston, WØDX. Unfortunately, this operation only counted for Puerto Rico since Desecheo did not become a separate DX entity until March 1, 1979. The first DXpedition that counted would be the KP4AM/D operation in March 1979. Operators were N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (KP2A), and KP4AM (W4DN). Although I don’t know the final QSO totals for this operation, it was clear at that time that another larger DXpedition was warranted. This became KP2A’s vision for the 1981 reactivation of Desecheo.

I first met KP2A while I was on the 1S1DX Spratly DXpedition. I originally was only acting as “support,” helping

coordinate things for the team led by Harry Meade, VK2BJL. But at the last minute, I asked Harry if I could join them, and he welcomed me along. I won’t rehash the Spratly DXpedition. However, it was during this trip that John asked if I could help him answer the backlog of KV4KV/D QSL cards for him. I agreed, and advised him the South Jersey DX Association members would happily assist. At a point after the Spratly DXpedition was over, John came down to our local (small) airport where we gathered at the home of Gary Medford, N2CW. John brought along with him a trunk full of



Gary, N2CW; Steve, WB2VFT (now KZ2I); and Pat, K000, sign release paperwork the night before departure for Desecheo.

* Email: <n200@comcast.net>



WB8ZJW and K8HV negotiate gasoline drum to Desecheo.



Bob, WØDX, manning the low-band station at operating site 2.



An exhausted team takes a break on the beach. (N2CW, KZ2I, WB2KXA, N5ADC, K8CW, and N2OO).

5 Band WAZ

As of June 15, 2020
2225 stations have attained at least the 150 Zone level, and
1056 stations have attained the 200 Zone level.

As of June 15, 2020
The top contenders for 5 Band WAZ (Zones needed on 80 or other if indicated):
CHANGES shown in **BOLD**

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
AK8A	199	17
DM5EE	199	1
EA5RM	199	1
EA7GF	199	1
H44MS	199	34
HAØHW	199	1
HA5AGS	199	1
I5REA	199	31
IKØXB	199	19 on 10M
IK1AOD	199	1
IK6DLK	199	1
IK8BQE	199	31
IZ3ZNR	199	1
JA1CMD	199	2
JA5IU	199	2
JA7XBG	199	2
JH7CFX	199	2
JK1BSM	199	2
JK1EXO	199	2
K1LI	199	24
K2RD	199	18
K4HB	199	26
K5TR	199	22
K7UR	199	34
K9KU	199	22 on 15
KZ4V	199	26
N3UN	199	18
N4NX	199	26
N4WW	199	26
N4XR	199	27
N8AA	199	23
N8DX	199	23
N8TR	199	23 on 10
RA6AX	199	6 on 10M
RU3DX	199	6
RW0LT	199	2 on 40M
RX4HZ	199	13
RZ3EC	199	1 on 40M
S58Q	199	31
SM7BIP	199	31
VO1FB	199	19
W1FJ	199	24
W1FZ	199	26
W3LL	199	18 on 10M
W3NO	199	26
W4LI	199	26
W4UM	199	23
W6DN	199	17
W6RKC	199	21
W6TMD	199	34
W9XY	199	22
9A5I	198	1, 16
EA5BCX	198	27, 39
F5NBU	198	19, 31
G3KDG	198	1, 12
G3KMQ	198	1, 27
HB9FMN	198	1 on 80 & 10
I1EIS	198	1 & 19 on 10
JA1DM	198	2, 40
JA3GN	198	2 on 80 & 40
JA7MSQ	198	2 on 80 & 10

Callsign	Zones	Zones Needed
JH1EEB	198	2, 33
K0DEQ	198	22, 26
K1BD	198	23, 26
K2EP	198	23, 24
K2TK	198	23, 24
K3JGJ	198	24, 26
K3LR	198	22, 23
K3PA	198	18, 23
K4JLD	198	18, 24
K5OT	198	18, 23
KI1G	198	24, 23 on 10
KZ2I	198	24, 26
N2QT	198	23, 24
N4GG	198	18, 24
NX0I	198	18, 23
UA4LY	198	6 & 2 on 10
UN5J	198	2, 7
US7MM	198	2, 6
W5CWQ	198	17, 18
W9RN	198	26, 19 on 40
WC5N	198	22, 26
WL7E	198	34, 37
ZL2AL	198	36, 37

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

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
RC2A	2217	2020-05-20	150
WZ8P	2218	2020-05-22	194
OH3OJ	2219	2020-05-27	200
OE1WEU	2220	2020-05-29	195
WB7QXU	2221	2020-05-31	186
IZ0BVU	2222	2020-05-31	176
JL1BTJ	2223	2020-06-01	164
K6KLY	2224	2020-06-06	192
UR5FEO	2225	2020-06-12	173

Updates to the 5BWAZ list of stations:

Callsign	5BWAZ #	Date	# Zones
SP8HKT	1793	2020-05-26	196
JR3UIC	1835	2020-05-28	194
W7AH	1311	2020-05-28	192
RC2A	2217	2020-06-03	160
W6WF	2213	2020-06-03	152
K3EA	2194	2020-06-10	180
N0VVV	1990	2020-06-12	162

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

5BWAZ #	Callsign	Date	All 200 #
2219	OH3OJ	2020-05-27	1056

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, John Bergman, KC5LK, 125 Deer Trail, Brandon, MS 39042-9409. The processing fee for the 5BWAZ award is \$10.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$15.00 for nonsubscribers. An endorsement fee of \$2.00 for subscribers and \$5.00 for nonsubscribers is charged for each additional 10 zones confirmed. Please make all checks payable to John Bergman. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. KC5LK may also be reached via e-mail: <kc5lk@cq-amateur-radio.com>.

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

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KV4KV cards that were not answered, as well as the logs and blank cards. Our members divided up the work and processed thousands of cards. I am not particularly aware of the politics of the time, but I can say that there was some "discussion" about whether these

would eventually count for Desecheo or for Puerto Rico. But the cards needed to be processed in any event and our team was up to the challenge.

John had organized a non-profit called the "International DX Foundation" (IDXf). He was in need of a group

The WPX Program

CW		4026..... N8ADO	4027..... E76MB
3961.....	HS8HEX	4028..... E24OYI	4029..... F4KKE
3962.....	AA8R	4030..... K0LB	4031..... AA6DY
3963.....	PG9HF	4032..... IU8LMC	4033..... KJ4EBE
3964.....	WB7QXU	4034..... K7HPN	4035..... N1JL
3965.....	4X1VF	4036..... I1YDT	4037..... K9XT
3966.....	NF5KF (REMOTE)		
3967.....	S530AZV		
3968.....	AK0MR		
SSB			
4294.....	KP4NRA		
4295.....	DL3SKY		
4296.....	IK3GBG		
4297.....	EA4CUN		
4298.....	WB7QXU		
4299.....	GM7NZI		
4300.....	NJ4Z		
4301.....	M0PTZ		
4302.....	N6DHZ		
4303.....	K0LB		
4304.....	AK0MR		
Mixed			
4009.....	HS8HEX		
4010.....	N6YQ		
4011.....	JH0JVA		
4012.....	VK5UR		
4013.....	KZ4M		
4014.....	WA6YOU		
4015.....	N1XAU		
4016.....	WB7QXU		
4017.....	VK4COZ		
4018.....	IK2GOQ		
4019.....	KB4DE		
4020.....	NJ4Z		
4021.....	NA6US		
4022.....	EI2JC		
4023.....	M0PTZ		
4024.....	N6DHZ		
4025.....	KA5VVI		
		Digital	
		1251.....	KN4AMX
		1252.....	VK5UR
		1253.....	KZ4M
		1254.....	N3VEZ
		1255.....	K3HPA
		1256.....	IK0AOC
		1257.....	N1XAU
		1258.....	JJ1BDX
		1259.....	KK8ZZ
		1260.....	ER1VS
		1261.....	NA6US
		1262.....	AC8GY
		1263.....	KA5VVI
		1264.....	N8ADO
		1265.....	E24OYI
		1266.....	KB4DPH
		1267.....	NR9H
		1268.....	NU0Y
		1269.....	K0LB
		1270.....	IU8LMC
		1271.....	N1JL
		1272.....	JF1ENF
		1273.....	JK1OSG
		1274.....	N2JNR
		1275.....	KX7N
		1276.....	W4DWS
		1277.....	F4KKE

CW: 350: W5UJ, NF5KF, AK0MR. 400: KB4DE, HB9BOI, S530AZV. 500: SV7CUD, WB7QXU. 550: HS8HEX. 700: 4X1VF. 800: MM0DXH. 1100: AA8R. 1200: F5PBL. 1300: K1PL.

SSB: 350: KP4NRA, M0PTZ, GM7NZI, K0LB, KW40V. 650: AK0MR. 700: DL3SKY. 750: HB9EFK. 800: NJ4Z. 850: DD9WL. 950: WB7QXU. 1100: SV7CUD, HB9BOI. 1550: MM0DXH. 2250: K1PL.

Mixed: 450: KZ4M, N1XAU, KA5VVI. 500: KB2S, N6DHZ, KM4VI, W5AFY, N1CEO. 550: HS8HEX, F4KKE. 600: NA6US. M0PTZ, IU8LMC, N2JNR. 700: WA6YOU, W6NCB, N8ADO, KE8FMJ, IU0AWH. 750: W5UJ, I1YDT. 800: WA6YOU. 850: LX2SM, K08V, NA5WH. 900: NJ4Z. 950: IW9DNI, DD9WL. 1000: K7CTV, E24OYI. 1050: JJ1BDX, JF20HQ. 1100: AK0MR. 1150: WB7QXU, K0LB. 1200: NS4P. 1350: HB9BOI. 1400: JA7FVA. 1750: CT7ANG. 1800: MM0DXH. 1900: JR3UIC. 1950: HB9EFK. 2050: SV7CUD. 2150: IZ0FUW. 2400: W07R. 2900: K1PL. 6100: ON4CAS.

Digital: 350: JJ1BDX, KK8ZZ, IK2GOQ, N1JL, JK1OSG, K9XT, DG2PX. 400: KA5VVI, N2JNR. 450: N3VEZ, W6NCB, N1XAU, N1CEO. 500: W3LMC, IU8LMC, JF1ENF, W5AFY. 550: LX2SM, NA6US. 600: WQ7F, IU0AWH. 700: WA6YOU, N8ADO, KE8FMJ. 750: JF20HQ. 800: WA6YOU. 850: K08V, NA5WH. 950: KN4AMX. 1000: K7CTV, E24OYI. 1050: JA7FVA. 1150: NS4P. 1250: K1PL. 1300: K0LB, IZ0FUW. 1500: CT7ANG. 1600: JR3UIC. 1700: HB9EFK. 1800: SV7CUD.

160 Meters: WB7QXU, N8ADO, NF5KF, IU8LMC, AK0MR

80 Meters: SV7CUD, KZ4M, MM0DXH, N8ADO

40 Meters: JA7FVA, KB4DE, NJ4Z, NA6US, KA5VVI, N8ADO, NF5KF, F5PBL, AK0MR, F4KKE

30 Meters: JA7FVA, W3LMC, WQ7F, N8ADO, KE8FMJ, K9XT

20 Meters: JA7FVA, KN4AMX, W6NCB, N1XAU, WB7QXU, MM0DXH, NJ4Z, 4X1VF, NA6US, M0PTZ, N6DHZ, WQ7F, N8ADO, E24OYI, K0LB, AA6DY, IU0AWH, DD9WL, AK0MR

17 Meters: DL6JZ, IZ0FUW, NS4P

15 Meters: JA7FVA, IW9DNI, LX2SM, CT7ANG, DL6JZ, NS4P, AK0MR

12 Meters: DL6JZ

10 Meters: MM0DXH, WR7X, NS4P, DD9WL

Africa: WB7QXU, I1YDT

Asia: HS8HEX, JH0JVA, VK5UR, JJ1BDX, WB7QXU, MM0DXH, 4X1VF, NA6US, M0PTZ, E24OYI, K0LB, IU8LMC, JF1ENF, JK1OSG, I1YDT, N2JNR, AK0MR

Europe: HS8HEX, JH0JVA, KN4AMX, DL3SKY, PG9HF, N3VEZ, WA6YOU, WB7QXU, ER1VS, IK2GOQ, NJ4Z, 4X1VF, EI2JC, W3LMC, M0PTZ, WQ7F, N8ADO, E76MB, E24OYI, F4KKE, K0LB, S530AZV, AA6DY, IU8LMC, I1YDT, AK0MR, N1CEO, F4KKE

Oceania: HS8HEX, VK5UR, JJ1BDX, WB7QXU, VK4COZ, NS4P, E24OYI, HB9EFK, JF1ENF, N2JNR, AK0MR

North America: JA7FVA, N6YQ, KN4AMX, KZ4M, N3VEZ, WA6YOU, K3HPA, N1XAU, WB7QXU, K3HPA, KB4DE, NJ4Z, NA6US, AC8GY, N6DHZ, KA5VVI, N8ADO, KB4DPH, NR9H, NF5KF, K0LB, N1JL, KW40V, IW0AWH, K7HPN, N1JL, N2JNR, DD9WL, K9XT, AK0MR, KX7N, W4DWS

South America: WB7QXU, MM0DXH, K0LB, AK0MR

Complete rules and application forms may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope (foreign stations send extra postage for airmail) to "CQ WPX Awards," P.O. Box 355, New Carlisle, OH 45344 USA. Note: WPX will now accept prefixes/calls which have been confirmed by eQSL.cc. and the ARRL Logbook of The World (LoTW).

*Please Note: The price of the 160, 30, 17, 12, 6, and Digital bars for the Award of Excellence are \$6.50 each.



18AVQ vertical on the rocks.

CQ DX Awards Program

New Awards – SSB

N2QL.....	2662
KP2/N2QL.....	2663

Endorsements – CW

W2OR.....	320
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to manage it publicly and he asked if we would be interested. So, SJDXA became the sub-organization that helped manage IDXF until the mid-1980s. One thing we were encouraging was for IDXF to fully sponsor DXpeditions, rather than provide funds to others. KP2A traveled around the globe quite a bit under the IDXF banner. But actual sponsorship of IDXF-funded DXpeditions began with the 1980 DXpedition to 9M6MU and VS500 / VS5GM / VS5KV with operators N2CW, N2OO, VS5TX, and KV4KV (KP2A). At that time, 9M6 (East Malaysia) was especially rare and VS5 was as well, although not quite as much. But John's dream was to reactivate Desecheo with



John, KP2A, operating.



N2OO logging. Yes, we used high-tech paper logs.



Barbara, WA2KCL.

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Dinghy arrives on calm day with more ops.

a large team and multiple radios. Thus KP2A/D was planned for June 1981.

Being that it has been 39 years since the DXpedition, I will admit that the memory is a little fuzzy. But I'll try to present the story as best as I remember.

John, KP2A, along with local KP4 ops and Pat, KØOO, worked locally in Puerto Rico to collect the necessary gear required for the two weeks needed to set up and run the DXpedition. John flew gear from his home in Saint Croix to a staging area in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. John borrowed a boat that he used to transport gear as well. The boat was about a 35- or 40-foot cabin cruiser. Because of the size of our team, it would need to make two trips but with Desecheo only about 15 miles off the coast, it wasn't too much of a problem. We also swapped out a couple of ops midway through the operation. In total, we had 18 on-island team members along with a lot of local support in Puerto Rico. Since this would actually be my very first "uninhabited island landing," I was ready to get wet. However, it was so calm upon arriving that when the dingy was beached, I was able to step right off onto dry beach sand. Didn't even get the bottom of my sneakers wet.

The first team would carry the generators, radio setups, and tent gear dropped off on the beach up to a helicopter pad that was about 20-25 feet above the beach. It required navigating a narrow dirt path uphill. We decided to set up our food area on the beach below the helicopter pad. Several of us set up our pup tents and air mattresses in the food area as well. Each operator was responsible for providing his / her own

sleeping quarters. Some had pup tents. Some just had an air mattress laid out on the helicopter pad. Some may have forgotten to bring something?

There really wasn't a specific plan for where exactly to set up most of the radios. It was understood that three would be set up near the helicopter pad. This would include a 20-meter station with a 4-element monobander, a 15-meter station with a 3-element monobander and a 20-15-10-meter station with a TH3 and a 5-element 6-meter beam stacked above it. All of these

antennas had rotors installed. The 15-meter station also had access to an 18AVQ vertical mounted DOWN the hill out on a rock near the surf. The vertical was used primarily on 75-meter phone.

Another radio site was located at a cove southeast of the helicopter pad. It required a long difficult hike down the beach. At this second location, one site would be for the 160-meter station handled mainly by Bob, WØDX. Another site was probably for 40 and 80 meters. The last site was one I remember well. By the time the other five stations were set up, everybody was exhausted. But we still had one full station to set up. We had a radio, a 20-15-10 TH3 tribander, and an appropriate tent. But it was a long hot hike down to that site. I remember "encouraging" Jim, WB2KXA, and a couple of others to help lug the gear to the site from the helicopter pad. This was to become a 20-15-10 CW station primarily. As such, we had a total of six tents with seven radios operational. (*The station on the helicopter pad was actually two, with one radio on 20-15-10 SSB and the other being a 6-meter station -BS*).

OK, now you are thinking that compared to today's DXpeditions, this all sounds kind of normal for any mega DXpedition. But let's look at this a little more carefully. The radio of choice at the time (remember, this is 1981) was the Yaesu FT901DM <www.yaesu-museum.com/ft-901.htm>. This fine

The WAZ Program

SINGLE BAND WAZ

6 Meter

153JA7MSQ, 25 Zones

20 Meter Digital

17JAØMRW
18LX2SM

160 Meter

638RZ1OA, 40 Zones
639KH6KG, 30 Zones
640UR5FEO, 30 Zones
641OE1WEU, 40 Zones

160 Meter Update

295K5RK, 40 Zones
599I1EIS, 39 Zones

ALL BAND WAZ

CW

1084WU4B
1085PV8DX
1086SP3MKS
1087WØUY
1088UR5FEO
1089DL8TG

Digital

160JA5DBE
161JH7QLR
162W7AH
163JA1BOQ
164IZØMYH
165SO4O
166KØLB
167YL3KW

Mixed

9862IW2JBB
9863EA3GEO
9864OK1UU
9865F8AOF
9866S57AX
9867LA9VBA
9868WA4USA
9869WØRMS
9870EA5GVJ
9871DDØVU
9872KØLB
9873UU8JW
9874W2SKI
9875LZ1VVV
9876IW9DNI

RTTY

303I8IEQ
304IWØBYL

SSB

5477WB7QXU
5478F8ARK

Rules and applications for the WAZ program may be obtained by sending a large SAE with two units of postage or an address label and \$1.00 to: WAZ Award Manager, John Bergman, KC5LK, 125 Deer Trail, Brandon, MS 39042-9409. The processing fee for all CQ awards is \$6.00 for subscribers (please include your most recent CQ mailing label or a copy) and \$12.00 for nonsubscribers. Please make all checks payable to John Bergman. Applicants sending QSL cards to a CQ checkpoint or the Award Manager must include return postage. KC5LK may also be reached via e-mail: <kc5lk@cq-amateur-radio.com>.



N2OO in our cook area. Notice all the cans of SpaghettiOs, etc.

radio had 6146B tubes in the finals, but a solid-state receiver. It weighed in at 40 pounds. We also had external VFOs, Yaesu FT101Es, and Dentron amplifiers and tuners. Let's not forget at least three generators and drums of gasoline. I think you get the idea. We had a huge amount of heavy gear that had to be stowed onto the boat, offloaded from the boat, lugged up a hill to the helicopter pad, and about half had to then be hand-carried or boated about 3/4-mile down the beach to our second operating site. Then everything had to be assembled, operated 24/7 for about 10 days, and then dismantled in reverse order, being careful not to leave anything behind. Looking back on this one brings back some great memories overall.

Here are a few vivid memories that I would like to share about this DXpedition. Our food was not luxurious. The 2009 DXpedition actually heli-

CQ DX Honor Roll

The CQ DX Honor Roll recognizes those DXers who have submitted proof of confirmation with 275 or more ACTIVE countries. With few exceptions, the ARRL DXCC Countries List is used as the country standard. The CQ DX Award currently recognizes 340 countries. Honor Roll listing is automatic when an application is received and approved for 275 or more active countries. Deleted countries do not count and all totals are adjusted as deletions occur. To remain on the CQ DX Honor Roll, annual updates are required. All updates must be accompanied by a SASE if confirmation of total is required. The fee for endorsement stickers is \$1.00 each plus SASE. (Stickers for the 340 level and Honor Roll are available.) Please make checks payable to the Award Manager, Keith Gilbertson. Mail all updates to Keith Gilbertson, KØKG, 21688 Sandy Beach Lane, Rochert, MN 56578-9604 USA.

CW

DL3DXX339	K4CN.....339	N7RO339	K8SIX.....338	K9OW334	W9IL329	N2LM321	W6WF309	K7CU.....282
HB9DDZ339	K4JLD339	NØFW339	KA7T338	PY2YP.....334	IKØADY328	ON4CAS321	KT2C307	PP7LL282
K4IQJ339	K4MQG339	OK1MP339	WA5VGI338	WG5G/334	OZ5UR328	W2OR320	K4DGJ.....307	WR7Q282
K9MM339	K5RT339	W3GH339	W1DF338	QRPP.....334	AB4IQ327	HB9DAX/319	W4ABW.....306	N2VW280
N4MM339	K7LAY339	W4OEL339	W9RPM.....338	WD9DZV334	K6CU326	QRPP.....319	K7ZM305	K4EQ280
WB4UBD339	K7VV339	W5BOS339	G3KMQ337	K2OWE.....333	KE3A326	W6YQ319	HA5LQ.....301	W8BLA.....280
WS9V339	K8LJG339	W7CNL.....339	KØKG337	K5UO333	EA5BY325	HA1ZH.....318	RN3AKK.....300	WB5STV.....277
EA2IA339	N4AH.....339	W7OM339	W7IIT337	N6AW333	KA3S325	N6PEQ.....318	WA9PIE.....298	YO6HSU.....275
F3TH339	N4CH.....339	W8XD339	K8ME336	W4MPY333	N3RC324	CT1YH.....316	K4IE295	
K2FL339	N4JF.....339	WK3N339	W6OUL336	K6LEB331	N7W0324	EA3ALV.....315	YU1YO295	
K2TQC339	N4NX.....339	WØJLC339	JA7XBG335	N7W0331	KEØA322	RA1AOB313	WA2VQV292	
K3JGJ339	N5ZM339	WØVTT339	F6HMJ.....334	OK1DWC331	YT1VM322	WA4DOU312	4XIVF286	
K3UA339	N7FU339	YU1AB.....339	K1FK334	K6YK329	4Z5SG321	Y09HP312	K6YR284	

SSB

AB4IQ.....340	K6YRA.....340	VE3MRS.....340	W4UNP339	HB9DQD.....335	KE3A332	K7HG.....327	IV3GOW312	F5MSB293
DJ9ZB340	K7VV340	VE3XN.....340	W9RPM.....339	IKØAZG335	N2VW332	K6GFJ326	N8SHZ.....312	W9ACE.....291
DL3DXX340	K8LJG340	VK2HV.....340	EA3EQT338	IW3YGW335	N5YY332	KE4SCY326	OK1DWC311	N3KV289
DU9RG340	K8SIX340	W3AZD340	K3UA.....338	OE2EGL.....335	K5UO331	KF4NEF325	KU4BP310	W6MAC289
EA2IA340	K9MM340	W3GH340	K7LAY338	VK2HV.....335	KC2Q331	W6WF325	W6NW310	K7CU287
EA4DO340	KE5K340	W4ABW340	K9HQM338	W4WX335	SV3AQR331	W9GD325	I3ZSX309	N5KAE283
HB9DDZ340	KZ2P340	W5BOS340	N4NX.....338	WB3D335	WØROB.....331	VE7EDZ324	G3KMQ308	IZ1JLG282
I8KCI340	N4CH.....340	W6BCQ340	YU1AB.....338	AA4S334	W6OUL331	WA5UA324	KA1LMR.....308	WA9PIE.....282
IK1GPG340	N4JF.....340	W6DPD340	4Z4DX338	EA5BY334	XE1MEX331	F6BFI.....323	RA1AOB308	WD8EOL281
IN3DEI.....340	N4MM340	W7BJN340	K1UO.....338	K9OW334	KD5ZD.....330	ON4CAS323	XE1MEX308	IWØHOU277
K2FL340	N5ZM340	W7OM340	N7WR338	PY2YP.....334	WA4WTG330	VE6MRT323	IK5ZUK.....307	AKØMR276
K2TQC340	N7BK340	W8ILC340	WA5VGI338	VK4LC334	WØYDB330	W5GT323	IØYKN306	NØAZZ.....275
K3JGJ340	N7RO340	W9SS340	W2CC338	W8AXI334	ZL1BOQ330	N6PEQ.....322	XE1MW305	SQ7B275
K4CN340	NØFW340	WB4UBD340	W7FP338	XE1J334	AD7J329	W4MPY322	K4IE304	
K4IQJ340	OK1MP340	WK3N340	W9IL338	CT3BM333	N3RC329	K8IHQ321	K4ZZR304	
K4JLD340	OZ3SK340	WS9V340	N4FN337	IK8CNT333	VE7SMP329	KW3W320	K7ZM303	
K4MQG340	OZ5EV340	XE1AE340	IØZV336	K8LJG333	WØULU329	TI8II320	4Z5FL/M.....302	
K4MZU340	VE1YX340	YU3AA.....340	K3LC336	N6AW333	CT1AHU328	Y09HP320	K7SAM.....301	
K5OVC340	VE2GHZ.....340	JA7XBG339	K8ME336	OE3WWB333	N1ALR.....328	W1DF318	KA8YYZ.....301	
K5RT340	VE2PJ340	KØKG339	EA3BMT335	WD9DZV333	N2LM328	XE1RBV.....317	4X6DK.....298	
K5TVC340	VE3MR340	W2FKF.....339	F6HMJ.....335	AA1VX.....332	AE9DX.....327	N7YB.....315	K2HJB295	

RTTY

N14H 338	WK3N 338	OK1MP 337	K8SIX 334	W3GH 333	AB4IQ 323	N4MM 302	K8ME 278
WB4UBD ... 338	N5ZM 338	K4CN 334	W9RPM 334	K3UA 332	K4WW 323	K4IQJ 300	IN3YGW ... 275



Desecheo Hilton by N2OO.

coptered in refrigerators and freezers full of food so that their sous chef could prepare meals. The 1981 DXpedition had the following variety of canned food to choose from, including SpaghettiOs, Dinty Moore beef stew, Hormel chili, and MORE SpaghettiOs. You had a choice of opening a can and trying to light a Sterno stove on the windy beach to heat it up in a pan, or just eat right out of the can, eliminating the need to attempt to turn on the stove and dirty a pan that would need to be cleaned. Most opted for the open and eat method. The only beverage I remember having was warm Carta Blanca Beer. But I'm sure we also had plenty of water. One vivid memory I have is that John, KP2A, would swim out to the boat and sleep there every night. One day he came ashore with ice cream from the boat! We all shared melting ice cream. Not many DXpeditions can relate to that, I bet. Not even the 2009 team. But later, as I recall the story, John had not originally planned on sharing the ice cream. However, the freezer on the boat was malfunctioning and rather than it going to waste, he brought it onshore to share with us! Did I forget to tell you how hot it was? Yeah, it was hot.

As I mentioned, sleeping arrangements were left to each operator. Gary, N2CW, and I brought small pup tents and cheap vinyl air mattresses. I remember that Gary's burst one night, leaving him sleeping on the broken coral on the beach

where we had set up. He wasn't happy. On particularly hot evenings, we slept in the open on the helicopter pad. That was an experience! Hermit crabs would come out at night and crawl over you. Our "potty" arrangements were of especially poor design. We had one of those little portable toilets that you would place a bag underneath. We eventually discovered a nice blowhole down the beach, which served us well. One of our operators was Barbara, WA2KCL, who was a real champ. I'm not sure how she managed except that I am pretty sure someone would stand guard whenever she needed to use the facilities.

When we first started setting up radios down at the second location, we had considered using a small old cable building for one. It was right on the beach, had a roof and was relatively cool inside since it was all concrete. After starting to set up inside, we quickly discovered that it was full of fleas! Argh! So, we couldn't use it. It would have been pretty nice without the fleas.

We had a ceremony for the first QSO. George, W1GKK, had worked every DXCC entity out there at the time except for Desecheo. So, John decided that we would start the DXpedition off by having each operator work George with our home calls / Desecheo. We all lined up on the helicopter pad and one after the other worked George. It was quite a scene, and I remember how excited George was when it was all over.

These are the things still in my memories about this fine DXpedition. The final tally was 43,000 QSOs which, for that time, was pretty darned good (I have the logs and can still confirm QSOs). Remember, we did not have WARC bands yet, and the radios took twice as long to set up as those in today's world. Even the generators were real tanks.

I hope this gives some of you a little insight into what the earlier days of DXpeditioning were all about. Remember one thing, the farther back you go, the bigger and heavier the gear. I can't even imagine what it was like to go to Navassa in the 1960s. Crazy stuff.

So, special kudos to the KP2A/D DXpedition team, many of whom are now SK. John, KP2A; Jim, K1MEM; Gary, N2CW; Dan, N2DT; Barbara, WA2KCL; Jim, WB2KXA; Stu, WA2MOE; Gary, K2UQ; Steve, WB2VFT (now KZ2I); Al, KQ4Z; Ron, N5ADC; Al, K8CW; Charlie, K8HV; Al, WB8ZJW; Bob, WØDX; Pat, KØOO; John, WØUN, and your author, N2OO.

If anyone has any stories that you would like to share, drop me an email at <n2oo@cq-amateur-radio.com>.



Looking down at the main three operating sites around the helicopter pad.

CONTESTING

BY DAVID SIDDALL,* K3ZJ

A New Contest QSL Strategy for the Fall Season ...

... and K3ZJ Says 73

Plus: Upcoming Contests: North American QSO Party (CW and Phone), DARC Worked All Europe FX Contest (CW and Phone), World Wide Digi DX Contest, JARL All Asia Phone Contest, ARRL September VHF Contest

I ordered a large stack of blank QSL cards when I began contesting. I filled out each card by hand, then sorted the hundreds of cards by country, found a box of appropriate size to pack them in, and lugged the box off the post office for shipment to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. It was labor-intensive, time-consuming, and relatively costly. Why some contesters have given up QSLs altogether is understandable.

But today there is a better method. Now I just create a log to answer QSL requests, check my master log for each QSO with one click, and then either copy the information into my QSL log or type it in. Periodically I upload the "QSL log" to a website, select the card that I designed for the correct location, make a couple of clicks — and done. Whether hundreds or thousands, my QSLs are printed in color on both sides, produced with the QSO information and addressee, and dispatched to bureaus, most of which are within easy reach of the QSL service itself in Europe.

This type of electronically-produced printed QSL was, I believe, pioneered by GlobalQSL operating in Israel. As noted below, that service appears to be continuing. Since most of my DX QSOs these days are during contests and predominantly with European stations, and I believe in supporting our national societies, I personally use QDURE in Spain. This saves months of time getting my QSLs into the European system and to the operators who requested a paper QSL or from whom I am requesting one.

Although the Spanish QDURE and similar German DARC QSL-Service were initiated in 2016, their availability is not widely known among American contesters. So below I make the argument for why even veteran contesters should answer QSLs and provide information on how to do so quickly and efficiently using an online QSL printing and delivery service. Tim Duffy, K3LR, has always led by example on QSLing, and below I tell a story about Tim and a young 12-year old contester.

The summer antenna season is coming to a close, and now the time is arriving to test out repairs and improvements. Below also are notes on the August and early September contests.

One final note: This is my last column. I have enjoyed exploring some of contesting's interesting facets with you over the past five years, from receive vertical arrays (which were under-appreciated as compared to Beverages back in 2015) and using audio predistortion to eliminate some of the sideband intermodulation products (still mostly a pipe dream, but with awareness building) to recounting the events leading up to and at the WRTC2018 in Germany.

My work pressures have increased during the pandemic, mostly due to clients who put trust in my work and find them-

selves short-handed or unable to handle some of the legal matters usually performed by their staffs. But it also is an opportune time to introduce someone with different and new ideas from a younger generation.

Tim Shoppa, N3QE, has been appointed your new contesting columnist and will start with next month's column. He was introduced back in the April 2018 column. I have observed his wise analyses after some of the contests he participates in, and I think that he will bring a fresh and interesting perspective to this column. I look forward to what is coming!

Tim operates many weekends in a variety of contests, doing so with a kilowatt but no beam antenna. If there were a world record for the most QSOs per foot of wire, he would own it. He has made tens of thousands (if not hundreds of thousands) of QSOs sent into the ether by \$20 worth of wire (a single 130-foot wire suspended by trees). This has required Tim to cultivate his operating skills rather than relying on hardware, and his accomplishments in this regard are noteworthy. He should inspire each of you to make the most of what you have and develop the operating skills to enjoy contesting no matter what your antenna situation may be. Most operators cannot have their ideal station, whether the limitations are location, antenna, available time, health, equipment, RFI, or some other factor. The most important element is to get on the air with what you have. Don't wait until you get that new antenna, or transceiver, or move, or whatever.

Welcome, Tim!

August Contests

North American QSO Party (NAQP): The CW NAQP kicks off the month starting at 1800 UTC on August 1st and running through 0559 UTC on August 2nd. The phone version follows from 1800 UTC on August 15th through 0559 UTC on August 16th. These events provide plenty of action without taking up the whole weekend, and several of the major contest clubs turn out their members for an inter-club competition tied to the event. Check the rules at <<https://tinyurl.com/zwsq9ek>>.

Worked All Europe DX Contest (WAEDC): The CW WAEDC occupies the weekend between the NAQP events. This is a qualifier contest for WRTC2022, so expect most of the big guns to be on. The contest runs from 0000 UTC on August 8th through 2359 UTC August 9th. The Phone weekend is from 0000 UTC September 12th through 2359 UTC on September 13th. The rules are at <<https://tinyurl.com/yykzpj7v>>.

World Wide Digi DX Contest (WW Digi): This contest, discussed in last month's column, is focused on FT4 and FT8 activity and will be held from August 29th beginning at 1200

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Calendar of Events

All year

Aug. 1	CQ DX Marathon European HF Championship	http://bit.ly/vEKMWD
Aug. 1	WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone	http://bit.ly/H2eMg5
Aug. 1-2	10-10 Int'l Summer Contest SSB	http://bit.ly/31yE4kT
Aug. 1-2	ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest	http://bit.ly/1FrFeBc
Aug. 1-2	North American CW QSO Party	http://bit.ly/2IJZcy9
Aug. 2	SARL HF Phone Contest	http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Aug. 6	NRAU 10m Activity Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Aug. 8	QRP ARCI European Sprint	http://bit.ly/2RTmcel
Aug. 8-9	Worked All Europe CW Contest	www.qrparci.org/contests
Aug. 8-9	Maryland-DC QSO Party	http://bit.ly/2vufgcb
Aug. 10	SARL Youth Sprint	www.w3vpr.org/node/325
Aug. 15-16	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Aug. 15-16	CVA DX Contest CW	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
Aug. 15-16	KCJ Contest	http://cvadx.org/regulamento
Aug. 15-16	North American SSB QSO Party	www.kcj-cw.com/e_index.htm
Aug. 15-16	SARTG RTTY Contest	http://ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf
Aug. 16	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY	www.sartg.com/index.html
Aug. 16	NJQRP Skeeter Hunt	www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Aug. 16	SARL HF Digital Contest	http://w2lj.blogspot.com/p/njqrp-skeeter-hunt.html
Aug. 22-23	50 MHz Fall Sprint	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Aug. 22-23	CVA DX Contest, SSB	http://svhfs.org/wp/
Aug. 22-23	International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend – ILLW	http://cvadx.org/regulamento/
Aug. 22-23	Ohio QSO Party	https://illw.net/
Aug. 22-23	RDA Contest	www.ohqp.org/index.php/rules
Aug. 22-24	Hawaii QSO Party	http://rdaward.org/rdac1.htm
Aug. 29	Kentucky State Parks on the Air	http://hawaiiqsoparty.org
Aug. 29-30	Kansas QSO Party	https://k4msu.com/kypota/
Aug. 29-30	YO DX HF Contest	www.ksqsoparty.org
Aug. 29-30	ALARA Contest	www.yodx.ro/en
Aug. 29-30	W/VE Island QSO Party	www.alara.org.au/contests
Aug. 29-30	World Wide Digi DX Contest	https://usislands.org/qso-party-rules
Aug. 30	SARL HF CW Contest	https://ww-digi.com
Sept. 2	UKEICC 80m Contests SSB	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 5	Colorado QSO Party	http://bit.ly/2MbaURB
Sept. 5	AGCW Straight Key Party	http://ppraa.org/coqp
Sept. 5	LZ Open SES Contest	http://bit.ly/1T5SC05
Sept. 5	Russian "Radio" RTTY WW Contest	www.lzopen.com
Sept. 5-6	All Asian DX Phone Contest	https://bit.ly/3eWEtDI
Sept. 5-6	IARC Region 1 Field Day	http://bit.ly/2TUaDqj
Sept. 5-6	RSGB SSB Field Day	http://bit.ly/3cC0HKf
Sept. 5-6	PODXS 070 Club Jay Hudak Memorial 80M Sprint	https://bit.ly/3dGfjZv
Sept. 6-7	Tennessee QSO Party	http://bit.ly/2MkaaNt
Sept. 7	RSGB Autumn Series SSB	https://tnqp.org/rules
Sept. 7-8	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	https://bit.ly/2XF8mSB
Sept. 12	OSPOTA Contest	www.miqrp.net/contest
Sept. 12-13	Alabama QSO Party	http://ospota.org
Sept. 12-13	ARRL EME Contest	www.alabamagsoparty.org
Sept. 12-13	SARL Field Day	www.arrl.org/eme-contest
Sept. 12-13	Russian Cup Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 12-13	Veron SLP Contest	www.qrz.ru/contest/detail/86.html
Sept. 12-13	Worked All Europe SSB Contest	http://bit.ly/2L9eT1L
Sept. 12-14	ARRL September VHF QSO Party	http://bit.ly/2vufgcb
Sept. 12-15	Texas QSO Party	www.arrl.org/september-vhf
Sept. 13	North American CW Sprint	http://txqp.net
Sept. 16	RSGB Autumn Series CW	http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
Sept. 17	Bavarian Contest Club QSO Party	https://bit.ly/2XF8mSB
Sept. 18	AGB NEMIGA Contest	https://bit.ly/2MDzviG
Sept. 19	Feld Hell Sprint	https://bit.ly/2AWBbRK
Sept. 19	FOC QSO Party	http://bit.ly/2JcbOwW
Sept. 19-20	All Africa Int. DX Contest	www.g4foc.org/qsoparty
Sept. 19-20	ARRL 10 GHz and UP Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 19-20	Iowa QSO Party 2017	www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
Sept. 19-20	New Hampshire QSO Party	www.w0yl.com/IAQP
Sept. 19-20	New Jersey QSO Party	www.w1wqm.org/nhqso
Sept. 19-20	QRP Afield	http://bit.ly/1nDlf8V
Sept. 19-20	SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest	http://bit.ly/2QACxFu
Sept. 19-20	Scandinavian CW Activity Contest	http://bit.ly/H0IqQf
Sept. 19-20	Washington State Salmon Run	www.sactest.net/blog
Sept. 20	BARTG Sprint 75	www.wwdx.org
Sept. 20	North American RTTY Sprint	http://bartg.org.uk/wp/contests
Sept. 21	144 MHz Fall Sprint	http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf
Sept. 24	RSGB Autumn Series Data	http://svhfs.org/wp/
Sept. 26	AGCW UHF/VHF Contest	https://bit.ly/2XF8mSB
Sept. 26-27	CQWW RTTY DX Contest	http://bit.ly/292ubSX
Sept. 26-27	Maine QSO Party	www.cqwwrtty.com
Sept. 26-28	Nancy Kott-Fists Memorial KNOWCW	www.ws1sm.com/MEQP.html
Sept. 28	RSGB FT4 Contest Series	http://fistsna.org/operating.html
Sept. 30	UKEICC 80m Contests CW	http://bit.ly/38xg9V7
		http://bit.ly/2MbaURB

UTC through August 30th at 1200 UTC. I would only note that experiences during the recent ARRL VHF contest and Field Day indicate continuing operator uncertainty and confusion about some aspects of using these modes in a competitive environment. All participants are urged to download the latest version of WSJT-X software before the contest begins and to become familiar with its operation. There are FAQs and other helpful information on the contest website. Rules, FAQs, etc. are at <<https://ww-digi.com>>.

JARL Phone All-Asia Contest (AA Phone): The 61st All Asia DX Phone Contest is coming from 0000 UTC on September 5th through 2400 UTC on September 6th. This contest is also a qualifying event for WRTC2022. Rules are at <<https://tinyurl.com/yc6by9qv>>.

ARRL September VHF Contest: The ARRL September VHF contest overlaps the WAEDC Phone contest. It will take place beginning at 1800 UTC on September 12th and run through 0300 UTC on September 14th. This will be another chance to gain experience with FT4 and FT8 in the contest environment, while also encouraging SSB and CW when the band will support the signal strengths necessary. Generally,

when the digital signals are showing is the -5 to -10 dB range, CW should be possible. (Note that the dB range in the digital modes relates to a 2.5-kHz bandwidth. It does NOT indicate that the signals are “below the noise floor” or that they “cannot be heard on your receiver”. –DS)

Time for a New QSL Strategy

Maybe you started out as I did. When I began contesting, I had ordered a large stack of blank QSL cards. After the contest I hand-wrote the cards and sent them via the bureau to most contacts. Then, after a couple of years, I reduced this to sending to the rare stations and answering the cards that I received from the bureau.

By the late 1980s, I started saving time by aggregating my electronic logs into a single file to find the QSOs for received cards and generate a paste-on label. Eventually I experimented with printing directly on cards, and also with printing the entire card, complete with QSO information, but these efforts were abandoned in favor of the simplicity of labels.

Looking at my latest cards received from the bureau, I can see that many operators still hand-write or use labels for their

Kids Love QSL Cards!



Kids still love to receive physical QSL cards from faraway places. Something about having the physical card in hand excites the imagination in a way that an electronic line item just doesn't do. With thousands of QSOs made during modern contest weekends, many contesters have migrated to electronic QSL services such as ARRL's LoTW, eQSL.cc, or ClubLog for their primary QSL chores.

As described in this month's column, paper QSLs can be generated from electronic logs and sent via the IARU bureau system inexpensively and with

much less work than many contesters may realize. Sending paper QSLs in response to requests is relatively easy using one of the services that will print and send your card via the bureau. The cards can be printed in color on both sides at very reasonable cost and little work by the operator.

The photos here show Frederik (age 8) and Klara (age 7), the children of Tom Dauer, DM9EE. Under the German regulatory system, for educational training purposes non-licensees, including children of any age, are permitted to operate under a licensee's supervision. A

distinctive callsign is assigned for training. The supervisor's privileges apply, so all modes, bands, and even high power are permitted. The special callsigns are recognized by their “DN” prefix. Tom's children use the educational / training callsign DN5HR under his supervision.

In the first photo, Klara and Frederik are checking out the exotic cards delivered by the mailman. In the second, Frederik is holding a card from well-known contesteer Fred Laun, K3ZO. Frederik has participated in some contests and is a budding DXer, with over 100 DX entities worked at age 8. His dad says Frederik is really happy when direct QSLs arrive from all over the world, such as Fred's after the Worked All Germany (WAG) contest last fall.

QSLing. Others run the card through their printer. But there is a new method that even speeds up the bureau process: Download a file of QSOs for which you want a QSL — which can be extracted from contest electronic logs — and transmit that file to a QSL service that will print cards and deposit them in the bureau, all for substantially less cost and time than having cards printed, filled out, and sent to the bureau.

I always try to be considerate of the different interests that operators have in making the effort to work me in a contest. Sure, every contest has its “big guns” who very adeptly make a quick QSO within seconds and then disappear into the ether. These guys definitely do not want to exchange QSL cards. And there are many operators who get on just to enjoy the moment and to see if their 100-watt transceiver and wire still get out. Many of these operators either don’t want QSLs anymore or they upload to Logbook of the World (LoTW) or one of the other electronic QSL websites and consider it done.

But then there are those operators who follow up a contest QSO with a paper QSL card, usually via the bureau but sometimes by direct mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope or, if DX, with a “green stamp” (dollar bill) or two. Often (not always) these are newer operators just starting out and looking to begin a collection of cards and still in wonder that a little radio and wire in a tree can traverse such distances.

Clearly the interest in QSLs continues among a portion of operators who get on the air and make contest QSOs. Some

of those are new kids and operators who are working toward this-or-that award. See the pictures of Frederik and Klara, who are being introduced to ham radio and contesting by their dad, Tom Dauer, DM9EE. One can almost sense the excitement in their smiles. An example of a simple QSL leading to other things is the story of veteran operator Tim Duffy, K3LR, receiving a hand-written card in 2016 from brand new operator Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO, who was 12-years old at the time. The K3LR operator had patiently completed and logged the 0-point QSO. See the sidebar for more. There’s also a short video at <<https://tinyurl.com/ydbjasjt>>.

We all want the amateur contesting population to renew itself on a continual basis, and QSL cards are part of the attraction for some substantial portion of those operators whom we would like to become more involved with contesting, or at least show up and work us on certain weekends. Many of the QSOs I make — and probably even more so for the more serious competitors with multiple thousands of QSOs logged in a weekend — are with non-contesters.

Reality is that most contest QSOs are not with other ardent contesters, but rather, with non-contesters who happen to tune across the band and decide to try to work some of the stations. Some call just to see if they are being heard with their 100-watt transceiver and wire, or some such. Others got on for the contest with an interest in trying to work the specific states, counties, or DX entities on this or that band need-

25 Records Shown (1-25)
Sorted by QSL Date (0.013560 seconds elapsed)

	Call sign	Worked	Date/Time	Band	Mode	Freq	QSL	Next
Details	W8I	W7JAX	2020-06-07 00:21:00	20M	SSB	14.30200	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	DM3PKK	2020-06-06 23:04:00	40M	CW	7.02000	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	DM3PKK	2020-06-06 14:30:00	20M	CW	14.00100	FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	IK4LZH	2020-06-07 02:34:45	40M	FT8	7.07636	ITALY	
Details	W8I	KB9LLD	2020-06-07 04:05:00	20M	SSB	14.20000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	IU4FLP/4	2020-06-06 22:45:00	20M	SSB	14.19800	ITALY	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	2E0NQA	2020-06-07 02:15:00	40M	CW	7.02900	ENGLAND	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	KE7ZAC	2020-06-06 15:44:00	20M	SSB	14.26200	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	K8QKY	2020-06-07 03:13:30	40M	FT8	7.07636	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I	2W0DOE	2020-06-06 22:47:00	20M	SSB	14.19800	WALES	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	N0ORQ	2020-06-07 02:34:00	20M	SSB	14.28800	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	N8MRB	2020-06-07 03:08:15	40M	FT8	7.07636	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	N8MRB	2020-06-07 02:10:45	40M	FT8	7.07636	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	W7WIA	2020-06-06 16:28:00	20M	SSB	14.26200	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	K8TED	2020-06-06 11:31:00	40M	CW	7.03500	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	K4JAF	2020-06-06 13:20:00	20M	CW	14.02000	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	WA7AA	2020-06-06 22:36:00	20M	CW	14.03200	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	AB1EP	2020-06-06 11:49:00	20M	SSB	14.16400	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	2E0WND	2020-06-06 23:04:00	20M	SSB	14.19800	ENGLAND	
Details	W8I	ZL1MTO	2020-06-06 10:02:33	40M	FT8	7.07612	NEW ZEALAND	
Details	W8I	N8PDX	2020-06-06 10:38:45	40M	FT8	7.07628	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I	N7RYP	2020-06-07 02:14:00	40M	FT8	7.07636	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I	S52D	2020-06-07 02:05:45	40M	FT8	7.07636	SLOVENIA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	WK8A	2020-06-07 03:17:45	40M	FT8	7.07636	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Details	W8I/STAYS SAFE	TA1CM	2020-06-07 03:12:45	40M	FT8	7.07636	TURKEY	Next

Most recent QSO record received 2020-06-11 19:55:36Z

ARRL’s Logbook of the World allows one to easily QSL for different locations and all possible callsign variations. In the case of the recent W8I/STAYS SAFE operation, five locations were used. Four of the five have QSLs on this page, indicated in green. Some QSLed to just the callsign “W8I” while others included the voluntary indicator “/STAYS SAFE,” so logs were entered under both variations. Because of limitations on letters using FT8, our digital operation had to drop a letter so that variation also was entered and the digital logs were uploaded for that variation too. All this was done in about 30 minutes of setup, which is pretty reasonable.

ed to increase their award totals. They will need the QSL to get their award. Many of the “major” awards accept electronic QSLs, but others require the physical QSL cards.

As noted above, I always tried to QSL requests, bureau and direct. This was time-consuming, and for several years I fell behind. With a family and demanding job, was I going to spend my limited time operating, or doing paperwork?

Electronic QSLs — For me, the advent of electronic QSL services therefore was viewed in a very positive light. As soon as possible after a contest, I submit my log to the contest sponsor and then also upload it to ARRL’s Logbook of the World (LoTW) and to e-QSL.cc. That way, those who need only an electronic QSL for awards are less likely to send me theirs by mail or the bureau. The e-QSL provides a picture of an actual QSL card, which can be downloaded and printed on demand. This satisfies those still looking for “paper” QSLs. Two additional services for which I sometimes receive queries are Clublog and QRZ logbook. All of these options employ relatively quick and painless methods to upload standard contest logs compared to the hand-writing of QSL cards in years past. None charge money for the service (although

there are fees for retrieving QSO credits from LoTW and eQSL requests voluntary donations to help keep it afloat). And, of course, the QSLs reach their destinations instantly, rather than weeks, months, or even years later.

For some, the downside of electronic QSLs by LoTW is that no physical cards or personal notes are included — it is just a bare electronic record confirming the QSO and showing station location, band, etc. Not having even an electronic representation of a traditional QSL card has made this option unattractive to some who found viewing the various QSL designs to be interesting for its own sake. The LoTW system also is based on matching callsign, band, and time. So if you copy one letter of the callsign incorrectly, or somehow seriously goof up on the time or band (which I have done when my PC crashed during a run), the match will not be made and neither you nor the other operator will know of the mismatch.

Since my purpose is to provide confirmations to others wanting them and there is no incremental cost of doing so, I upload my contest log as soon as I have submitted it to the contest sponsor. Since I operate in a rural area with limited to no internet, often it is several days later before I am home and submitting my log after a contest. Some operators delay until after the contest deadline for log submissions to, in their opinion, prevent another operator from confirming or correcting a QSO record related to the competition. As they say on social media, YMMV (your mileage may vary). I do not delay because I trust the honesty of other competitors and, in any event, my life is busy and this works better for me.

It is still amazing to me to see that as many as 20% of QSOs are QSLed on LoTW and e-QSL just a couple of days after the event. My confirmation rate has approached 10% within 24 hours and 30% of all QSOs within a week. *(My overall QSL average of all uploaded QSOs is 58-60% on LoTW. –DS)*

eQSL is different from LoTW in several respects. First, eQSL provides an electronic card that can be printed, and may include a message and a description of the other operator’s station or some interesting facts about the other operator’s life or location. Second, operators can view QSL requests, so like when we relied solely on bureaus and the postal service, one-letter miscopied in a callsign or incorrect QSO times (such as use of local time instead of UTC) will be seen and can be corrected. Third, some operators forget to change their settings and send their contest call QSL using their primary account and callsign. Not infrequently, when I check an unmatched QSL request against my log, I see what looks like a contest call at the same time / frequency from the same country. A quick check of the call on QRZ.COM often finds that the contest call is used by the same operator as sent the QSL, so I return a note reminding the operator to select the correct call when downloading contest logs. And finally, there are a few bogus QSL requests, about the same as I used to get in by mail before we had electronic QSLing. I usually just respond with by clicking “reject” and sending an NIL (not-in-log) message.

QSL locations and callsigns — It is not unusual for contesters to use their callsign at another station for a weekend contest. I have noticed, however, that too frequently the electronic log is entered into ARRL’s Logbook of the World (LoTW) or e-QSL without first setting up the new location. Even if within the same state, the county and Maidenhead (“grid”) locator can be different for the contest weekend QTH. So be sure to take care that your log is being entered with the correct grid locator, county, and state (at least!). Other operators depend upon correct information for awards.

By the way, one thing I learned in doing the QSLs for the recent W8I/STAYSAFE contest is that ARRL’s LoTW



J-P Sampola, OH6RX (OH6STAYHOME), and Tom Morton, K2GO (W8I/STAYSAFE) in South Korea after Tom was released from quarantine. See main text for more about the W8I/STAYSAFE operation.

Stay Home ... or Operating Remotely

For 24 hours on June 6-7, contesters and DXers participated in a special operating event to call attention to the “stay home” and “stay safe” health messages during the COVID-19 pandemic. Tom Morton, K2GO, had recently arrived in South Korea at the time of the COVID-19 contest. Confined to a mandatory 14-day quarantine for travelers, Tom used his hotel room Wi-Fi to connect to W4RN’s station in the Virginia countryside to operate W8I/STAYSAFE. (Mike, W4RN, ex-W4AAW, constructed the first all-remote multi-multi contest station. See the CQ’s Contesting column for June 2016 at pages 95-99.)

Meanwhile, J-P Sampola, OH6RX, was also in South Korea, remotely operating OH6STAYHOME. After the contest, Tom and J-P realized they were nearby, and when Tom finished his quarantine period, the two ops met for an eyeball, properly masked of course. (Both are in South Korea for work.)

accommodates different locations when simultaneously used with the same callsign. (*e-QSL is difficult to impossible for this, because each location must not overlap with another for the same callsign with the same date and time period.* –DS) In this process, I also observed that some operators drop everything after the “slash” when QSLing and some do not. This makes matching in the LoTW system difficult because “K3ZJ/p” will not match with just “K3ZJ.” So now if I operate with what is a “voluntary indicator” such as “/8” or “/” anything, I enter the log under two callsigns: One with the “/” designation and one without. This captures the full set of those looking for QSLs, and either version is technically correct for U.S. operations.

The accompanying picture of the LoTW entry for the W8I operation illustrates this. There was no apparent pattern to those who added the “/” information and those who didn’t. But entering the log under each variation (yellow highlighted) and for each different location used that weekend (green highlighted) allows everyone to receive a QSL tied to the actual location of the station worked. If you are on the other end — you need a confirmation from a station that signed “/” something — try submitting with and without the “/”.

New strategy for sending and answering QSLs, several national societies — such as Spain’s URE service, “QDURE” <<https://qsl.ure.es/en/comenzar>> and Germany’s DARC QSL-Service <<https://qslservice.de/shop>> — offer to print and send your QSL cards via the bureau system at a very reasonable cost. Both offer a discount to members, but even for non-members, the cost is reasonable — around \$110 U.S. for 1,000 cards, depending upon the Euro-dollar exchange rate at any particular time. Even for non-URE members, members of another national society (such as the ARRL) obtain a 10% discount off list price.

I have started to use URE, principally because their interface is in English as well as Spanish and easily understood, whereas that of the DARC appears to be only in German at this time. Their service appears to be in cooperation with the French and Argentine bureaus in addition to that of Spain. The service also provides for multiple different cards to be used within the same account, which for me is very useful. So, for example, I can create a card for my OZ/K3ZJ opera-

tions and another for K3ZJ at home and send QSLs from either of them, all within the same account and at the same price. This eliminates the need to have stacks of paper QSLs for each different location and separate accounts for each location or special operation.

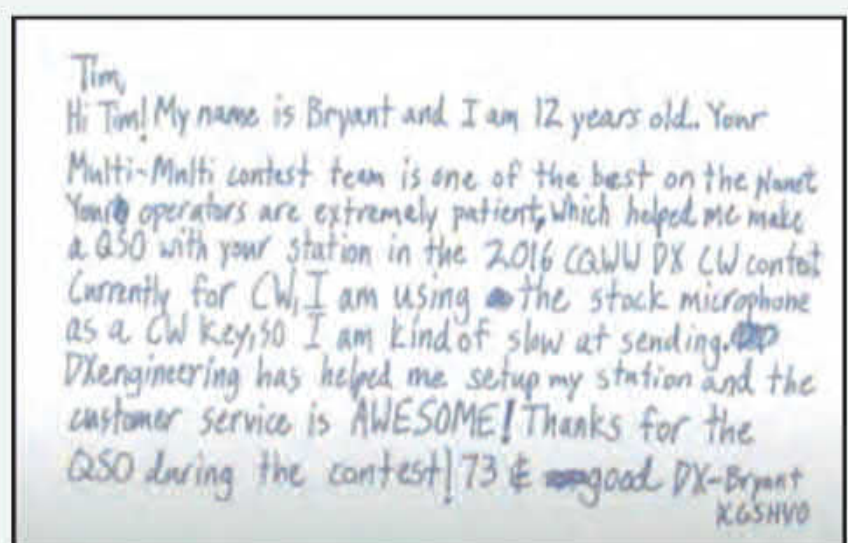
The cards themselves are VERY nice. Both the Spanish and German services offer two-sided color printing for the same base price. The user creates a card using the tools and templates provided (if desired) and uploads the log in ADIF format. Finished. The QSLs will be printed and entered into the bureau system. Since this is being done in Europe, delivery is much faster than sending cards to the European bureaus though the ARRL bureau. For U.S. contesters, at least on the East Coast, upwards of 80% of all QSOs generally are with European stations. The ADIF log can be the whole contest log, any selected QSOs from the log, or be an ADIF format log constructed just to answer cards received.

The pioneer in electronic QSL services was GlobalQSL. While I have not had personal experience with them, they appear to be in business and offer comparable QSLs and prices. The link to their QSL information page is here: <<https://tinyurl.com/yakzud5x>>.

Using any one of these services is a big improvement. No more having to order printed QSL cards, fill out each one by hand, sort hundreds of cards by country, box, and send them to the ARRL bureau, etc. The electronic services do all the printing, sorting, and mailing for me, and at less cost than possible using the old methods. The electronic QSL services are almost as revolutionary as the introduction of electronic logging. And hopefully this new ease for responding to the hundreds of QSL requests for contest QSOs will result in more operators helping build the new generation of contesters by responding to their QSL requests, one QSL at a time.

(*Editor’s note: As this issue goes to press in July, several postal agencies around the world are restricting international mail service with various countries due to COVID-19. As of the end of June, the U.S. Postal Service listed over 100 countries with which mail service is temporarily suspended. An updated list is at <<http://tinyurl.com/sxvuqwb>>.*)

– Until We Meet Next, 73, Dave K3ZJ



The High Value of a Zero-Point QSO

Contest QSOs and QSLs can lead down unexpected roads, even 0-point DX contest QSOs. Tim Duffy, K3LR, received a hand-written card from brand new operator Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO, after Bryant worked K3LR in the 2016 CQWW CW contest. Notwithstanding that in CQWW, U.S. stations are trying to work DX, not 0-point stateside contacts, the K3LR 40-meter operator spent considerable effort to

copy Bryant’s weak signal and logged the QSO. Less than two years later, Bryant was operating in a tent in the German countryside next to a huge sunflower field — at WRTC-2018! And today we hear Bryant on the air in many contests. This short video tells the story, and even includes a recording of the original QSO: <<https://tinyurl.com/ydbjasjt>>. Bryant was also the 2018 Newsline Young Ham of the Year.

PROPAGATION

BY TOMAS HOOD,* NW7US

Solar Wind and Coronal Holes

A Quick Look at Current Cycle 24 / 25 Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, May 2020: 0
12-month smoothed, November 2019: 2

10.7-cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, May 2020: 69
12-month smoothed, November 2019: 69

A_p Index:

Observed Monthly, May 2020: 6
12-month smoothed, November 2019: 6

One Year Ago: A Quick Look at Solar Cycle Conditions

(Data rounded to nearest whole number)

Sunspots:

Observed Monthly, May 2019: 6
12-month smoothed, November 2018: 4

10.7-cm Flux:

Observed Monthly, May 2019: 71
12-month smoothed, November 2018: 70

A_p Index:

Observed Monthly, May 2019: 7
12-month smoothed, November 2018: 7

Space is not a vacuum, at least in our solar system. The sun's atmosphere, which actually extends extremely far out from the sun, fills space in our system with plasma, a low-density gas in which the individual atoms are charged.

The temperature of the sun's atmosphere is so high that the sun's gravity cannot hold on to it. The plasma streams off of the sun in all directions at speeds of about 400 kilometers per second (about 1 million miles per hour). This is known as the *solar wind*.

The speed of the solar wind fluctuates, and carries with it magnetic clouds. These magnetic clouds are interacting regions where high-speed wind catches up with slow-speed wind. The solar wind speed is high (on average 800 kilometers per second) over coronal holes and low (300 kilometers per second) over streamers. These high- and low-speed streams interact with each other and alternately pass by the Earth as the sun rotates. These wind speed variations buffet the Earth's magnetic field and can produce storms in the Earth's magnetosphere.

Coronal holes are an extended region of the corona that have exceptionally low density and have "open" magnetic field topology. Coronal holes are largest and most stable at or near the solar poles, and are a source of high-speed solar wind. However, coronal holes situated at or near the solar equator tend to have the greatest impact on the Earth.

Coronal holes follow the rotation of the sun, taking about 27 days for a full revolution around the sun. This means that if the coronal hole lasts long enough, we'll see an influence on space weather every 27 days. When a coronal hole survives long enough to make it around a second time, the coronal hole is said to be *recurrent*. Coronal holes, then, are typically long-duration features, and since they spew out plasma at elevated speeds, they degrade ionospheric propagation for days at a time.

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The Earth has a magnetic field with a north and a south pole that is enclosed within a region surrounding the Earth called the *magnetosphere*. As the Earth rotates, its hot core generates strong electric currents that produce the magnetic field, which reaches 36,000 miles into space. The magnetosphere prevents most of the particles from

LAST-MINUTE FORECAST

Day-to-Day Conditions Expected for August 2020

Propagation Index	Expected Signal Quality			
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
Above Normal: 1-3, 6-12, 14, 17, 20-23, 25, 28-30	A	A	B	C
High Normal: 4-5, 13, 15-16, 18-19, 26-27, 31	A	B	C	C-D
Low Normal: 24	B	C-B	C-D	D-E
Below Normal: n/a	C	C-D	D-E	E
Disturbed: n/a	C-D	D	E	E

Where expected signal quality is:

- A--Excellent opening, exceptionally strong, steady signals greater than S9
- B--Good opening, moderately strong signals varying between S6 and S9, with little fading or noise.
- C--Fair opening, signals between moderately strong and weak, varying between S3 and S6, with some fading and noise.
- D--Poor opening, with weak signals varying between S1 and S3, with considerable fading and noise.
- E--No opening expected.

HOW TO USE THIS FORECAST

- Using the **Propagation Charts** appearing in *The New Shortwave Propagation Handbook* by George Jacobs, Theodore J. Cohen, and R. B. Rose.
 - Find the Propagation Index associated with the particular path opening from the Propagation Charts.
 - With the Propagation Index, use the above table to find the expected signal quality associated with the path opening for any given day of the month. For example, openings shown in the Propagation Charts with a Propagation Index of 1 will be fair on August 1 through 3, while August 4 and 5 will be poor to fair, and so forth.
- Alternatively, you may use the Last-Minute Forecast as a general guide to space weather and geomagnetic conditions throughout the month. When conditions are Above Normal, for example, the geomagnetic field should be quiet, and space weather should be mild. On the other hand, days marked as Disturbed will be riddled with geomagnetic storms. Propagation of radio signals in the HF spectrum will be affected by these geomagnetic conditions. In general, when conditions are High Normal to Above Normal, signals will be more reliable on a given path, when the ionosphere supports the path that is in consideration. This chart is updated daily at <<http://sunSpotWatch.com>> provided by NW7US.

the sun, carried in solar wind, from impacting the Earth.

The solar wind distorts the shape of the magnetosphere by compressing it at the front and causing a long tail to form on the side away from the sun. This long tail is called the *magnetotail*.

Let's look at the relationship between coronal material and magnetic fields. The corona is so hot that the gases in it lose some of their electrons in the powerful collisions between atoms. This plasma is a mixture of positively charged ions and negatively charged electrons.

An example of plasma can be seen by looking at a neon light. You are looking at plasma, energized to the point where light is emitted. Because plasmas are electrically conductive, they can steer magnetic fields. And they are steered by magnetic fields. These loops of magnetic force are stretched and dragged into interplanetary space by the inertia of the expanding plasma that spirals out as the solar wind. When these magnetic forces impact the Earth, they are

either diverted by or combined with Earth's magnetic field.

The speed of the solar wind fluctuates. During this year, we're seeing a range of solar wind speed of between 300-600 kilometers per second on average. When the solar wind picks up speed, and when the magnetic field lines that are stretched out on the solar wind pass the Earth, geomagnetic storms may be triggered. For radio signals, this could be a good thing or a bad thing, depending on the frequency and radio path.

The majority of geomagnetic disturbances are generated by the encounter with the magnetic fields, and the volume and speed of the solar wind. The ability of the solar wind to disturb the Earth's magnetosphere is a function of its speed and the strength and orientation of the magnetic fields. In the presence of a strong southward magnetic field component, a *connection* is made between the solar wind's magnetic fields and the Earth's magnetic fields (picture two bar magnets, where the north pole

of one connects with the south pole of the other).

The Earth's magnetosphere is formed from two essential ingredients, the Earth's magnetic field (which has much the same form as that of a bar magnet, and is from pole-to-pole), and the solar wind. When the solar wind and magnetic fields combine with the Earth's magnetic field, they alter the shape and intensity of this shield around the Earth.

The ionosphere is affected by these changes, either by an increase of ionization, or a decrease or even a depletion of ionization. Depressions in ionospheric density cause major communications problems because radio frequencies that previously had been refracting off the ionosphere now punch through. The Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) on a given radio signal's path can be decreased by a factor of two during an ionospheric storm event. Storm effects are more pronounced at high latitudes.

During the periods of minimal solar activity of a solar cycle, like the current solar cycle, we see far fewer coronal mass ejections than during the peak years of the cycle. However, we still see frequent recurring coronal holes. These coronal holes produce fast solar wind streams and at times spew out enough plasma to cause minor geomagnetic storms.

Low sunspot counts combined with coronal hole activity often contributes to days of very poor propagation on the high frequencies (30 MHz and below). When the solar wind speed is high (over 650 kilometers per second), when there's a release of solar plasma on that wind stream, and when the orientation of that wind stream is aligned to combine with the magnetosphere, the geomagnetic field will *open* to the incoming plasma, and aurora (the northern and southern lights) occurs. And that is when VHF comes alive for the exotic Aurora-mode propagation.

During August, we'll see days when coronal holes could dominate space weather. Solar activity will be low to moderate, too, as we are at the end of Solar Cycle 24 — possibly at the very beginning of Cycle 25. Major shortwave broadcasters have taken this into consideration, and have chosen frequencies that, with the high power and gain of their transmitting facilities, will overcome tough propagation into their target areas. But there may be days when it will be a challenge to hear the station you're hunting for. Amateurs, of course, don't have the high-power options available to broadcasters.

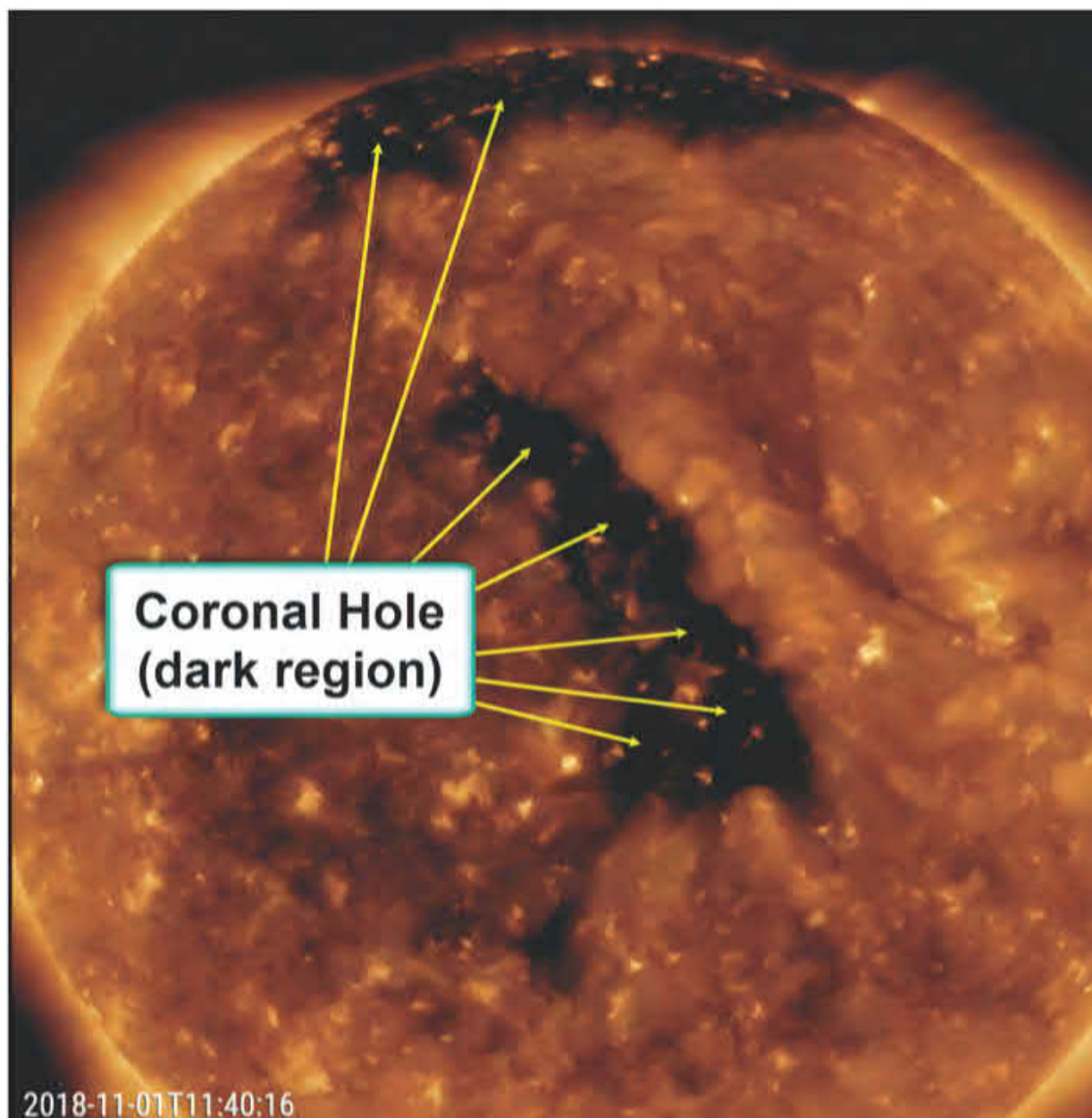


Photo A. The most distinctive feature on the sun in recent weeks, other than the surprise M1-class flare and some sunspots, is good-sized coronal holes. This slanted one is nearly centered on the face of the sun (this was during the period of Oct. 31st through Nov. 2nd, 2018). They appear darker in this wavelength of extreme ultraviolet light at 193 Angstroms. (Courtesy of SDO/AIA)

Stay tuned to this column for updates and an explanation of how all of this works. Take a look online at my up-to-the-day Last-Minute Forecast chart, available on my Space Weather and Radio Propagation Center at <<http://sunSpotWatch.com>>.

August Shortwave (HF) Propagation

Late August and early September are a difficult time of year to make accurate band predictions because conditions can change drastically from day to day. On many days, typical summertime conditions will continue much as they were during June and July.

On other days, conditions may be typically fall-like, with somewhat higher daytime usable frequencies and somewhat lower nighttime usable frequencies. When you add *equinoctial* conditions that can begin as early as late August, we often experience optimum openings between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres on the one hand, but periods of active to stormy conditions on the other.

Despite being at the start of Solar Cycle 25 with low solar activity, during the daylight hours good DX conditions should be possible on several bands: 15, 17, and 20 meters. Expect signals on the 17- and 20-meter bands to peak approximately during the 2-hour window immediately following sunrise and again during the late afternoon. These two bands, and to a lesser degree, the 15-meter band, will see openings for DX throughout the daylight hours. Fairly good DX openings should occur along an arc extending across central Africa, Latin America, and into the far Pacific area. Peak conditions should occur during the afternoon hours, but an increasing number of earlier openings should be possible by early September.

Between sundown and sunrise, 20 meters is expected to be the best DX band. However, with lower solar activity, the band in general will suffer. Openings might be possible to many areas of the world, some with surprisingly strong signal levels — albeit those openings will be rare. Until midnight, good DX conditions should be found for openings toward Latin America, the far Pacific and into Asia. You might even catch some activity on 17 or even 15 meters.

Fairly good conditions are also expected on 30, 40, 60, and 80 meters despite the high static level at times. Openings should be possible before midnight along an arc extending from northern Europe through Africa and into Latin America, the far Pacific, and Asia after midnight.

By late August it should be possible to work some DX on 160 meters during the hours of darkness. Conditions on this band, as well as on 40, 60, and 80 meters, will tend to peak just as the sun begins to *rise* on the *light*, or easternmost, terminal of a path.

For *short-skip* openings during August and early September, try 80 meters during the day for distances less than 250 miles, with 60 and 40 meters also usable. During the hours of darkness, both 80 and 160 meters should provide excellent communications over this distance.

For openings between 250 and 750 miles, use 30 and 40 meters during the day for distances up to 500 miles, and 20 and 17 meters between 500 and 750 miles. At night, 40 and 30 meters should be the best bands for this distance until midnight, with 80 meters optimum from midnight to sunrise. Try 60 meters, as well.

For openings between 750 and 1,300 miles, try 20 and 17 meters, as they should provide optimum propagation during the hours of daylight. Optimum conditions should continue on

OUR READERS SAY... (from page 10)

Gain vs. Amplification

The following letter was directed to QRP Editor Scott Rought, KA8SMA.

Dear Scott,

This letter is in regards to your recent article about operating QRP.

You do realize that antenna “gain” is not amplification, right? You don’t get more than five watts out of any antenna you put 5 watts into. I don’t know where you got this idea, but it’s flat WRONG. I hope before you write another article about “high-gain antennas” that you take some time to research what you’re talking about. When you write for a publication, it should certainly be factual information you present; otherwise you’re doing a huge disservice to the ham community by giving WRONG information. Here’s a definition for you:

Antenna gain and effective radiated power. The term antenna gain defines the degree to which an antenna concentrates radiated power in a given direction, or absorbs incident power from that direction, compared with a reference antenna.

It doesn’t amplify!

Please learn your subject.

— Sincerely,
Brian Lewis, N8XCO

KA8SMA responds:

Hello Brian:

Thanks for your comment. I assume this is in reference to June’s QRP column regarding the true meaning of QRP. I could not agree with you more on the definition of antenna gain. The column highlighted a debate between two hams, KS4AA (now SK) and KR2Q, who disagreed over whether a ham operating with 5 watts or less should be considered “QRP” if a high-gain antenna system is used. As you noted, antenna gain is the degree to which an antenna concentrates radiated power in a given direction or absorbs power from that direction in comparison to a reference antenna (isotropic radiator or dipole). The question is whether the intensification (antenna

gain) produced by the high-gain antenna should still be considered QRP since the 5 watts has been “intensified” into a more robust, stronger signal for the receiving station. As KS4AA indicated in his email (reprinted in the column) and noted by KR2Q, an antenna with around 13-dB gain would make the 5-watt signal *sound like* a 100-watt signal. A 13-dB antenna would be a monster and challenging to build, but even an 8.5-dB gain antenna (like some Yagis) would make a 5-watt signal sound more like 35 or 40 watts.

I do agree with your statement that 5 watts out is 5 watts out — no new energy is created, but the amount of intensification in a particular direction makes the signal sound much stronger. As they say, don’t spend your money on an amplifier until you have spent money on the antenna. For obvious reasons, more antenna gain is better.

I do hope this helps to clear the air.

— 73, Scott, KA8SMA

Unplug!

Editor, CQ:

I found Ron Ochu’s article on lightning protection (CQ, March 2020) to be excellent reading and packed with great information.

One comment I would like to make is that even in a station that is properly grounded and surge-protected, disconnecting the antenna cables from all equipment AND unplugging all equipment (radios, rotor control box, computers, etc.) from AC power is still a critical layer of protection from lightning. It is also *vitaly important* to unplug the AC power to the rotor control box from a power strip that is shared by other equipment. Don’t just unplug the power strip from the wall because this still leaves a path between the rotor control box (which, of course, is still connected to the rotor outside) and the other equipment plugged into the power strip, which can result in a lightning-induced surge reaching that equipment.

I should also mention that all of this disconnecting must be done in advance of the storm (or when you are going to be away from home). When the storm has started, don’t touch anything — at that point, it’s not worth risking your life to save your station from damage!

— 73, Gary Cachules, N2AMC

On the Cover...



Here's an example of how one thing can lead to another ... and another ... in ham radio. Stephen Cruse, K3WHC (L), and William Koch, W2RMA (R), wanted to test out new systems they'd assembled for 24 GHz. They scouted out a spot in central Pennsylvania to set up their gear and got John Jaminet, W3HMS, and Roger Behr, W3SZ, to listen for them at the other end of their planned patch, about 30 miles / 50 kilometers away. Next, David Petke, K1RZ, got involved and turned it into a microwave activity event with a dozen participants as described by VHF+ Editor K8ZR in his column (on page 77). Contacts were made on 5.7 and 10 GHz, as well.

According to Koch, "The objective was to make a 24-GHz QSO, so we set up at modest distances. W3HMS at 50 kilometers (31 miles) was worked by W2RMA and K3WHC." He said the longest distance covered on 10 GHz was with N3RG at 230 kilometers / 143 miles, and their best DX on 5760 MHz was W3SZ at 135 kilometers / 84 miles. Bill notes that the site was chosen using images from Google Earth but adds that it's important to check sites out in person as well, since "green attenuators" (leaves!) tend to grow up quickly.

Koch has been operating microwaves for about six years — he says his first QSO on 10 GHz was 75 kilometers (46.5 miles) across Lake Erie using 75 MICROWatts of power. He's now working on building an 11-band rover setup that will let him operate portable from 50 MHz to 24 GHz. Cruse has been on VHF / UHF for 45 years, adding 10 GHz two years ago "for a new challenge."

Koch concluded, "10 GHz is a wonderful band. Outside, enjoying the sun in places with great views; guys and gals who cooperate to make the Q; propagation fun: Ducts, tropo, airplane scatter, and rain scatter. Who could ask for anything more?" (Cover photo by David Petke, K1RZ)

these bands for this distance range after sundown and until midnight. Between midnight and sunrise, the best band should be 40 meters, but check 60 meters, too.

For openings between 1,300 miles and the one-hop short-skip limit of approximately 2,300 miles, try 20 and 17 meters during the day, with 15 meters also usable. After sundown, try 30, 40, and 60 meters, with 80 meters also providing good propagation conditions for this distance range.

VHF Propagation

Sporadic-E (E_s) propagation usually begins to taper off during August, but it should continue to occur fairly frequently. Some 6-meter E_s openings are expected during the month over distances of approximately 750 to 1,300 miles. During periods of intense and widespread E_s ionization, two-hop openings may be possible considerably beyond this range. Also check the 2-meter band for an occasional E_s short-skip opening between approximately 1,200 and 1,400 miles. While E_s short-skip openings may occur at any time, there is a tendency for them to peak between 8 a.m. and noon, and again between 6 and 9 p.m. local daylight time.

The Perseids meteor shower covers the period of July 17th to August 22nd. The peak is expected to occur between August 11th and 13th, and will be most observable in the Northern Hemisphere. The maximum hourly visual rate typically reaches 50. It is not expected to be a major shower, however.

Aurora? You would think that aurora would not be a frequent player at this point in Solar Cycle 25, but, with the continued expulsion by the sun of coronal mass into the solar wind, we have been observing occasional moderate auroral activity in the highest latitudes. Some of these have occurred even during the late spring and early summer this year. Auroral-scatter-type openings, on both the 6- and 2-meter bands, can range from a few hundred up to about a thousand miles, and they are usually characterized by very rapid flutter and Doppler shift on SSB signals.

For the very patient, check the six-meter band for possible trans-equatorial (TE) openings between 8 and 11 p.m. local daylight time. This type of propagation favors openings from the southern tier states into deep South America, with the signal path crossing the magnetic equator at a right angle. TE openings during August are rare, but they can occur. Very weak signals and severe flutter fading usually characterize them.

If you use Twitter.com, you can follow <@hfradiospacewx> for hourly updates that include the K index numbers. You can also check the numbers at <<http://sunspotwatch.com>>, where this columnist provides a wealth of current space weather details as well as links. Please report your observations of any notable propagation conditions, by writing this columnist via Twitter, or via the Space Weather and Radio Propagation Facebook page at <<https://fb.me/spacewx.hfradio>>.

Current Solar Cycle Progress

The Royal Observatory of Belgium reports that the monthly mean observed sunspot number for May is 0.0. The 12-month running smoothed sunspot number centered on November is 0.8. A smoothed sunspot count of 6, give or take about 6 points is expected for August 2020.

The Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory at Penticton, BC, Canada, reports a 10.7-cm observed monthly mean solar flux of 70.1 for May 2020, is 69.2. The 12-month smoothed 10.7-cm flux centered on November is 69.4. These low numbers staying steadily low is the clear indication of the minimum period between Cycle 24 and the new Cycle 25. The predicted smoothed 10.7-cm solar flux for August 2020 is 68.

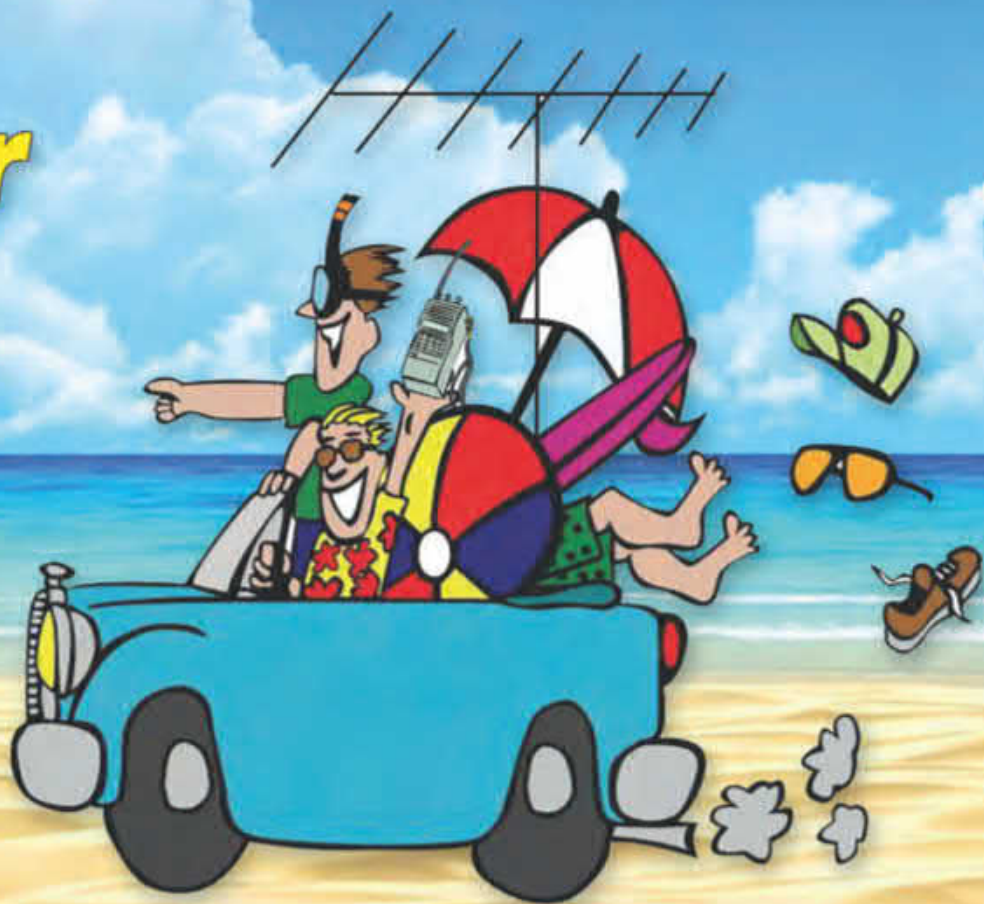
The observed monthly mean planetary A-Index (A_p) for May is at 6. The 12-month smoothed A_p index centered on November 2019 is 6.1.

Geomagnetic activity this month should be mostly quiet with fair to good propagation conditions, except for those days indicated in the Last-Minute Forecast during which we expect degraded propagation (remember that you can get an up-to-the-day Last-Minute Forecast at <<http://sunSpotWatch.com>> on the main page).

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and experiences regarding this fascinating science of propagation. You may email me, write me a letter, or catch me on the HF amateur bands. If you are on Facebook, check out <<https://fb.me/spacewx.hfradio>> and <<https://fb.me/NW7US>> — speaking of Facebook — check out the *CQ Amateur Radio* magazine fan page at <<https://fb.me/CQMag>>.

– 73, Tomas, NW7US

Get Ready for Summer!

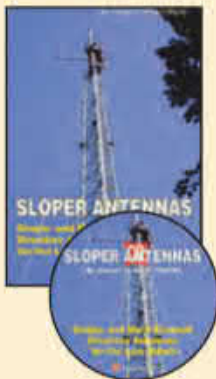


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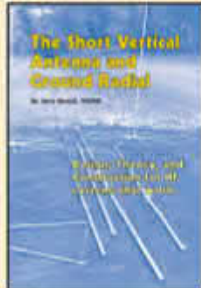


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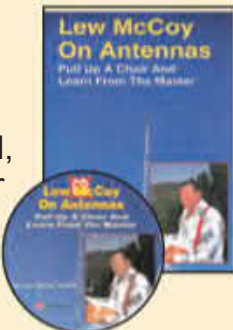


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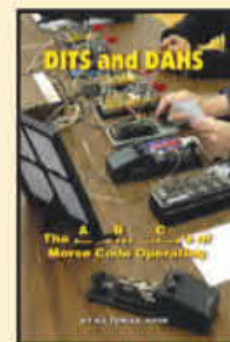
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Number groups after calls denote score, total QSOs, W/VE multiplier, countries worked. Total multiplier is the addition of the W/VE and countries. Multi-op scores follow single-op listings. An asterisk (*) denotes low power. State, province, and country certificate winners are listed in bold.

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CONNECTICUT			
K1ZZ	119,850	326	41 44
*W1ARY	55,205	350	43 18
*W1QY	48,849	328	43 14
KA1J	40,199	184	39 22
K1K1	31,752	211	33 16
K1BUBK	25,440	208	38 10
*W1EQ	18,204	198	33 4
*KC1ERO	10,272	125	29 3
*KC1SA	8,883	135	25 2

MAINE			
K1LZ	1,128,548	1414	55 79
K1DG	1,023,435	1497	56 77
KA1S	235,818	575	48 51
*W1LQ	73,219	308	40 33
*N1CGP	32,120	304	39 5
*KK7A	2,684	52	21 1

MASSACHUSETTS			
K5ZD	341,223	868	52 55
*K1EP	254,800	881	54 46
N1PGA	155,038	523	49 40
N1QY	70,448	387	45 23
*K1VUT	66,468	479	45 13
*N1DC	51,015	369	46 11
*K1SX	43,407	227	43 20
*N2AN	26,977	192	43 10
*KU1N	26,531	265	41 2
*N1NN	5,174	86	25 1
*NG1	1,728	45	16 0
*N1AW	1,411	34	17 0
*W01N	550	26	10 0
*WB1AEL	540	21	12 0
*N1YL	138	10	6 0

NEW HAMPSHIRE			
K1TR	222,775	763	53 42
*N1IX	49,350	389	40 10
*K1QO	39,540	241	45 15
*WA1T	21,266	137	32 17
AA1QD	14,491	132	36 7
*N1IMW	5,887	90	26 3
*KG1V	3,560	77	20 0
K1KXN	360	12	12 0

RHODE ISLAND			
W1XX	308,053	813	54 53
*K1MD	79,268	339	48 28
*AJ1DM	2,300	47	18 2

VERMONT			
N1UR	411,840	856	54 63
K1VMT	47,276	366	44 9
*K1ARR	1,683	42	17 0

NEW JERSEY			
*N2GM	81,508	424	47 24
*N2HMM	25,474	179	32 15
*WA2ALY	24,544	178	40 12
*KC2WJF	24,000	187	38 10
*KD2JC	12,771	155	27 6
*W3PR	7,359	91	31 2
*W21OC	1	0	1 0

NEW YORK			
N5DX	1,065,912	1611	57 81
W2XL	244,812	865	52 40
WS9M	218,296	551	54 50
K2NV	213,885	688	53 44
N2MF	163,210	522	50 45
*N2YB	147,846	725	54 28
NS2N	104,380	411	53 32
*A12S	53,170	312	49 16
K2UF	50,700	346	49 11
WU2M	43,615	326	43 12
*K2QO	40,370	292	43 12
*AG2AA	31,115	269	43 6
W4IPC	23,220	209	40 5
*N2BEG	19,881	182	44 3
*N2RI	18,720	196	34 6
WB2WPM	10,527	141	32 1
*NY2H	8,288	127	26 2
*K2NPN	6,496	94	28 1
*AC2OC	5,572	86	28 0
*W2YK	5,423	76	27 2
*W2EG	3,795	69	22 1
*KX1W	1,065	34	15 0
*N2JJ	920	20	20 0
*KQ2N	174	-2	0 6

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N5DX	1,065,912	1611	57 81
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K2UF	50,700	346	49 11
WU2M	43,615	326	43 12
*K2QO	40,370	292	43 12
*AG2AA	31,115	269	43 6
W4IPC	23,220	209	40 5
*N2BEG	19,881	182	44 3
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*K2NPN	6,496	94	28 1
*AC2OC	5,572	86	28 0
*W2YK	5,423	76	27 2
*W2EG	3,795	69	22 1
*KX1W	1,065	34	15 0
*N2JJ	920	20	20 0
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WB2WPM	10,527	141	32 1
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*K2NPN	6,496	94	28 1
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*N2BEG	19,881	182	44 3
*N2RI	18,720	196	34 6
WB2WPM	10,527	141	32 1
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*K2NPN	6,496	94	28 1
*AC2OC	5,572	86	28 0
*W2YK	5,423	76	27 2
*W2EG	3,795	69	22 1
*KX1W	1,065	34	15 0
*N2JJ	920	20	20 0
*KQ2N	174	-2	0 6

NEW YORK			
N5DX	1,065,912	1611	57 81
W2XL	244,812	865	52 40
WS9M	218,296	551	54 50
K2NV	213,885	688	53 44
N2MF	163,210	522	50 45
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*A12S	53,170	312	49 16
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WU2M	43,615	326	43 12
*K2QO	40,370	292	43 12
*AG2AA	31,115	269	43 6
W4IPC	23,220	209	40 5
*N2BEG	19,881	182	44 3
*N2RI	18,720	196	34 6
WB2WPM	10,527	141	32 1
*NY2H	8,288	127	26 2
*K2NPN	6,496	94	28 1
*AC2OC	5,572	86	28 0
*W2YK	5,423	76	27 2
*W2EG	3,795	69	22 1
*KX1W	1,065	34	15 0
*N2JJ	920	20	20 0
*KQ2N	174	-2	0 6

DELAWARE			
*N8NA	37,760	236	45 14
*WA3V	9,636	121	29 4
*W3ASW	1,890	42	18 0

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			
*W3DQ	21,360	169	39 9

MARYLAND			
*KD4D	525,100	1038	52 66
K3ZD	498,220	1016	55 61
WG3J	402,192	862	52 60
K3TC	216,800	607	52 48
AA3S	180,084	671	47 39
W3KL	142,080	546	47 33
*W3UL	64,377	292	41 28
*K3KU	57,950	392	49 12
*WK3A	55,638	311	48 18
*WA3FAE	54,936	418	44 12
NC3Y	46,386	365	45 9
KG4USN	38,254	157	36 26
*W3IUU	35,670	226	44 14
W3PH	20,726	206	38 5
*N3TE	19,932	183	38 6
*K3NDM	5,239	68	28 3
*W3VKD	392	10	4 4
*W3WTD	296	17	8 0

PENNSYLVANIA			
W3BGN	633,204	1189	56 67
K3UL	546,608	1030	57 70
W3TS	419,682	1099	56 57
WK2G	213,691	682	53 44
K3SWZ	145,209	382	47 50
N3XZ	90,446	301	44 38
K3JGJ	70,818	214	49 38
*WS3C	62,985	389	48 17
KY3W	45,920	354	47 9
KW3A	35,695	236	45 14
*N2EM	33,418	294	42 7
*WA1HEW	25,380	213	40 7
*N3LT	14,445	139	41 4
K3VZ	14,310	128	39 6
KA2C	10,260	91	27 9
*K3HW	3,570	67	20 1
*N3SW	1,944	33	23 1
*ND3R	1,620	39	18 0
NT2DR	1,204	17	9 5
*WB3LHD	1,139	32	17 0

ALABAMA			
AG4W	329,346	820	52 55
*K1DC	187,376	614	53 45
N4NO	61,540	356	49 19
*W5NZ	14,208	98	35 13
*KS4L	1,628	34	21 1
*W4MTM	432	15	11 1

FLORIDA			
NE8P	202,445	617	51 44
KJ4QHL	142,105	486	48 49
N4UM	76,032	421	48 24
*WB4TDH	73,264	328	47 29
AE2DX	46,830	255	47 23
*N4EK	45,656	364	39 13
N4FP	42,021	220	40 23
N4TB	39,061	192	45 22
*N4EH	28,072	197	45 13
W8IM	16,524	110	39 15
*W3USA	12,685	110	33 10
*K4SXT	12,212	100	33 10
*K8MR	11,600	118	33 7
*KM2T	9,912	93	34 8
*K2ZR	9,184	90	32 9
*K8RGI	9,158	96	30 8
*N4TJ45	4,180	22	16 3
NA4CW	1,680	15	0 14
*KN4DXT	160	10	7 1

FLORIDA			
NE8P	202,445	617	51 44
KJ4QHL	142,105	486	48 49
N4UM	76,032	421	48 24
*WB4TDH	73,264	328	47 29
AE2DX	46,830	255	47 23
*N4EK	45,656	364	39 13
N4FP	42,021	220	

Martinique			
FM5BH	762,600	919	53 71
FM4LV	1	1	0 0
Mexico			
XE2X	1,352,124	1545	59 79
*XE2NBW	1,632	20	14 2
Puerto Rico			
KP3MM	778,848	1030	52 62
*KP4MD	630	18	7 0
St. Lucia			
*J68HZ	102,480	193	40 44
U.S. Virgin Islands			
NP2P	1,523,162	1510	57 82
KP2M	1,448,912	1467	57 80
NP2J	1,322,752	1494	56 72

AFRICA			
Canary Islands			
EA8/EA4BQ	649,143	663	39 60
*EA8BQM	6,480	35	4 16
*EA8CN	3,375	24	5 10
*EA8TH	312	7	0 6
*EA8DHV	164	9	0 4
Cape Verde			
D4C	1,358,012	1178	49 67
Cueta & Melilla			
EA9/DL2JRM	1,099,082	1093	32 69
Madeira Islands			
CR3W	2,272,064	1741	51 80
Tunisia			
*3V8SF	956,970	1031	28 65

ASIA			
Asiatic Russia			
R8WF	726,732	973	7 74
RT9A	690,074	954	8 69
RA9MA	373,503	681	0 61
R9DX	195,316	492	0 44
*UA9QM	160,816	387	0 46
*RA9CCK	114,504	333	0 39
R0NN	90,597	352	3 36
RM9M	74,999	236	0 37
*U18C	53,400	214	0 30
*R0WC	50,368	203	0 32
*RJ9M	44,440	125	0 40
RK0UN	32,220	143	4 32
R9OK	24,955	111	0 31
RW9WT	19,359	82	0 27
*RT9YA	17,138	103	0 22
*UA9ADG	16,416	58	0 32
*R8MB	13,050	115	0 15
RD0L	10,488	56	0 23
*RU0SN	9,425	55	0 25
*R9QQ	6,195	55	0 15
*UA0LCZ	2,222	31	5 6
*RZ9P	1,712	41	0 8
R9TO	1,664	24	0 8

China			
*BD7OB	5,680	38	2 18
*BG1WNU	476	25	0 4
*BD7JNA	468	23	0 4
*BH6KWC	10	2	0 1
*BA4QO	5	1	0 1
India			
*VU2BGS	1,850	20	0 10

Japan			
JH4UYB	521,248	690	30 61
JA6BZI	96,690	223	13 42
JA7ACM	60,368	165	12 37
JK1OLT	46,665	145	12 33
JA7QVI	38,070	88	14 33
JR2PMT	34,390	124	10 28
JH6QFJ	33,841	93	11 32
JA6ELV	31,707	115	10 29
*JA6GCE	31,413	161	8 29
JA6LQJ	30,765	102	3 32
JR1IJV	25,789	84	10 27
*JA7KPI	25,095	88	11 24
JA6FFK	23,265	95	6 27
JA8DNV	23,010	68	12 27
J11AVY	22,630	113	7 24
*JE1SPY	22,120	152	9 19
JR3KQJ	18,645	64	7 26
JH2KKW	13,025	88	9 16
JA4OPW	12,350	79	9 17
JG3LGD	12,168	79	3 23
JA1LZR	11,284	50	12 16
JA9FHB	11,250	50	9 16
J14WHS	10,534	98	11 12
JA3IBU	10,396	63	10 13
JF1RYU	9,480	47	4 20
*JA7BEW	9,093	76	4 17
*JF2VAX	8,274	73	9 12
JA1JAT	8,088	41	9 15
JE20TM	6,864	39	6 16
JA4CZM	5,800	37	2 18
J11IXY	5,405	28	4 19
JL4DJM	4,875	43	0 15
*JF2FIU	4,592	65	2 12
*JK1LSE	4,275	75	1 14
JA1PIG	3,960	27	9 9
*JF2WXS	3,264	20	6 11
*JH2GZY	2,170	19	5 9
*JR2ALA	2,140	47	0 10
*JR6CSY	2,100	55	1 9
JH1HDT	1,800	13	2 13
JQ1CIV	1,450	19	0 10
JA6BWH	1,330	25	1 9
*JA1EMO	1,320	14	7 3
*JK8PBO	984	32	1 7
*JA6GPR	945	15	0 9
JR2UBS	920	12	0 8
JA1AYO	720	21	0 8
*JN1MSO	700	32	1 6
*JK1FOE	600	36	1 5
*JH4CES	558	14	0 9
*JH9CEN	420	22	0 6
*JA2AXB	300	7	0 6
*JH2XQY	300	7	0 6
*JH8DHV	270	10	0 6

*JE4URN	140	6	0 4
*JM7GTK	87	10	0 3
*JN1BBO	58	13	0 2
*JQ1COB	50	2	1 4
*JF3ROH	38	8	0 2
*JA2QVP	20	2	0 2
*JA3GZE	12	6	0 1
*JR1BVP	12	3	0 2
*JG5JXW	8	4	0 1
*JF1OPO	6	3	0 1
*JE1ILP	2	1	0 1

Kazakhstan			
UN9L	1,201,612	1410	12 80
*UN7CN	121,334	344	0 38
*UN7LDR	15,542	98	0 19
*UN6G	231	13	0 3

Kyrgyzstan			
*EX8MJ	39,725	135	0 35

Mongolia			
*JT1BV	11,688	64	0 24

Republic Korea			
DS2JJV	22,368	144	0 24
DS3HWS	16,236	69	8 25
HL2WA	1,791	34	1 8
HL4CEL	1,173	80	0 3
*HL2CFY	465	19	0 5
*HL4CFN	78	9	0 2

Thailand			
*HS6MYW	24	3	0 2

Uzbekistan			
UK7AL	101,850	256	0 42

EUROPE			
Andorra			
OH0R	1,056,438	1583	37 77

Austria			
OE2BZL	273,632	768	11 57
*OE2E	89,440	335	0 52
*OE6CUD	57,276	260	0 43
*OE1CIW	25,410	143	0 35
*OE8MOS	10,440	72	0 29

Balearic Islands			
EA6SX	119,568	431	3 50
EA6NP	820	10	0 10
*EC6DX	423	10	0 9
*EA6ZS	245	7	0 7

Belarus			
EW1I	400,932	885	15 69
EW2A	256,244	852	0 58
EW3LN	151,038	534	2 52
*EW2ES	132,296	565	0 46
EW8OM	90,680	438	0 40
*EW1TO	82,368	415	0 39
*EU8N	66,276	307	0 42
*EU1FQ	64,974	238	0 51
*EU8U	33,004	169	0 37
*EU1LR	21,510	142	0 30
*EW7DK	1,358	19	0 14

Bosnia-Herzegovina			
*E79D	162,864	586	0 54
*E74UK	148,115	517	0 55

Bulgaria			
LZ1YE	276,780	740	10 60
LZ5N	75,208	247	6 50

Crete			
*SV9MBH	12,506	92	0 26

Croatia			
9A2AJ	728,178	1284	24 78
*9A1AA	367,567	989	9 62
*9A3SM	112,812	435	0 51
*9A3PM	99,984	410	0 48
*9A2JK	5,175	38	2 23
*9A4W	488	14	0 8

Czech Republic			
OK6W	1,516,020	1850	44 88
OK1HFP	424,745	925	19 66
*OK7Y	382,120	868	20 62
OK8AU	373,312	950	15 61
OK10A	333,600	858	17 58
OK1AUC	294,579	814	14 57
OK1KPU	264,880	979	4 51
*OK1YM	253,704	828	8 54
*OL5Y	196,106	622	11 51
OK2EQ	193,675	624	6 55
*OK6N	179,096	578	8 53
*OK1DKR	164,862	612	0 54
*OK2MBP	156,927	630	4 47
*OK2BYH	152,728	404	12 56
OK1DWF	149,124	598	1 50
*OK2VWB	148,070	429	11 54
OK1EP	142,241	376	15 52
*OK1FGD	125,190	568	1 44
*OK8AW	117,404	484	2 47
OK1XC	107,830	542	0 41
*OL0A	107,408	454	0 49
*OK2QX	101,552	475	0 44
OK1AXB	98,118	434	0 46
*OK1MMN	97,848	360	6 48
*OK1MAW	91,227	392	0 47
*OK1DWQ	89,433	290	9 48
*OK2LF	87,984	390	0 47
OK1P	83,970	372	2 43
OK1PI	73,986	223	16 41
*OK2SGY	69,388	333	0 44
*OK2BRQ	65,188	313	1 42
*OK2PBG	62,604	267	3 44
OK1KTI	60,764	279	0 44
*OK1GS	58,040	302	0 40
*OK2BRS	56,320	295	0 40
*OK1LO	48,551	209	1 46
*OK2BOB	44,075	218	1 40
*OK2DIK	35,360	180	0 40
*OK1FU	32,523	187	0 37
*OK1DOZ	26,432	181	0 32
*OK2ABU	24,854	151	0 34
*OK7T	23,562	145	0 34
*OK1DPU	20,181	131	0 31
*OK6TW	17,545	131	0 29

OK1DW	5,640	24	6 18
*OK1FUK	3,654	34	0 21
*OK2BH	3,540	35	0 20
*OK1DXW	2,686	34	0 17
OK1DWJ	490	7	0 7

Denmark			
OZ1LO	563,530	893	34 75
*OZ1AAR	180,000	567	9 51
OZ2V	177,576	601	9 47
*OZ2SW	54,692	239	2 42
*OZ7BQ	36,080	171	0 41
*OZ5UR	10,017	76	0 27
*OZ5DX	4,410	42	0 21

England			
G5U	265,032	611	23 58
G3T	137,034	357	17 52
*G2X	97,008	404	1 46
G3VYI	53,922	246	1 42
G4AFJ	35,966	142	5 44
*M0SAR	32,382	155	4 38
*G4FEV	31,752	177	1 35
*M3X	31,122	162	0 39
*G4DDL	23,380	137	0 35
*M0MPPM	21,235	141	0 31
M0WLF	14,518	88	0 34
*G3ZRJ	13,497	77	1 32
*M0ORH	12,180	88	0 28
G3TDH	9,800	73	0 28
*G3WCB	3,960	45	0 20
*G4BEE	2,788	37	0 17
*G1SCT	660	15	0 10

European Russia			
R7NW	978,588	1351	30 93
RA3XM	489,552	972	22 72
RU3UR	448,154	842	24 74
RN1A	385,360	903	20 60
R3ST	329,751	799	15 66
R3FX	309,463	804	6 71
RD4F	264,180	700	5 69
UD4C	212,184	676	2 61
RA1AL	209,950	649	1 64
RZ3MM	205,969	715	3 56
*RT3K	174,000	601	3 57
RM6Y	141,596	566	4 48
*RU4I	132,096	559	0 48
*RN3KK	128,775	517	1 50
*UA1CUR	120,246	500	2 47
R30M	117,404	506	2 47
*RN5AA	116,450	492	2 48
RK7X	110,484	420	0 54
*RA6FYL	108,250	441	0 50
*RT4P	103,827	400	0 53
UA4K	93,196	403	0 46
*RA1WZ	88,219	387	0 47
*UA6AUA	87,006	342	0 51
R4MM	84,105	374	0 45
RN4W	82,532	357	0 47
*UA6AX	81,488	384	0 44
R1NW	77,616	335	1 47
*R7KX	76,884	381	0 43
*RM7C	73,542	377	0 42
UA6JQ	72,24		

W3FV	218,463	561	51	50
VVW3S	208,110	532	51	54
K3WJV	194,194	797	54	37
K300	158,304	294	37	59
*W3KB	153,024	409	50	46
K3PP	146,448	392	50	58
K3UA	140,490	451	49	41
K3RL	106,893	210	52	59
W3FIZ	102,706	291	43	46
*NJ3K	98,276	442	50	29
NF3R	78,150	347	47	28
K3FMQ	77,088	194	38	50
KD3TB	66,456	245	43	35
KB3Z	53,889	251	43	26
KU2C	46,008	188	41	30
K6ND	41,544	154	38	34
AG3J	39,900	248	45	15
N3RJ	31,955	197	39	16
W0BR	31,080	174	43	17
N3ZA	22,372	177	38	9
W3WH	21,522	153	41	10
W3EA	21,360	69	15	33
WA3AAN	14,796	174	35	1
*KN3A	8,070	108	27	3
K3WGR	5,076	32	12	15
ALABAMA				
N2NL	334,278	691	54	72
KR4F	211,258	599	53	53
AB4B	118,176	307	48	48
KX4X	70,585	183	52	43
W4RYW	67,040	240	49	31
W4UAL	49,840	239	46	24
K4CWW	34,272	207	47	16
K8KI	23,922	163	41	13
FLORIDA				
N4BP	478,728	1048	57	65
N4EXA	374,604	835	55	69
K5KG	313,408	716	53	65
W040	276,424	704	49	60
WX4G	163,696	248	42	62
K3SV	138,944	291	50	54
K9OM	105,984	293	46	46
KM4HI	81,012	262	45	41
NW7CW	60,789	299	41	28
K40D	47,310	346	43	14
AC2AC	32,067	134	35	28
WS4Y	28,912	222	42	10
*AA4NP	14,852	128	38	9
N4UJ	13,508	110	33	11
*K2SG	264	12	11	0
*N0SMX	48	6	4	0
GEORGIA				
AA5JF	49,206	349	45	14
*N4TOL	24,450	208	43	7
K4ZRJ	22,410	97	30	24
*N14Y	6,612	73	33	5
*K4VBM	2	1	1	0
KENTUCKY				
N4QS	276,533	717	54	55
ND4Y	150,241	616	52	39
K4FT	83,640	313	47	35
KB4QZH	48,620	238	46	22
*K4FN	29,224	241	46	6
*W4PF	7,920	92	33	3
NORTH CAROLINA				
K2AV	709,800	1320	57	73
WJ2D	218,922	484	52	55
*N4IJ	194,040	432	50	60
N4YDU	145,606	486	50	44
N4GU	98,784	263	46	50
K1KK	34,038	176	41	20
*K3TD	8,283	102	29	4
N3ND	3,096	57	24	0
SOUTH CAROLINA				
AA4V	353,760	797	54	66
K4YYL	87,300	294	50	40
W4MEL	26,106	177	43	14
TENNESSEE				
AD4EB	426,878	1039	58	64
K3IE	306,820	728	53	63
N4VV	198,275	411	49	54
AA4DD	153,648	411	51	46
N4ZZ	59,414	408	46	15
N4NA	51,389	295	51	16
*N4ARO	47,519	327	48	13
K3JWI	46,428	227	48	25
K4AFE	18,411	138	40	11
NS4X	10,728	130	32	4
KC4NX	1,045	11	0	11
VIRGINIA				
N4RV	649,306	1203	57	76
K4XL	581,406	1036	56	71
WS6X	439,125	870	56	69
W3IP	297,965	696	52	63
W4PK	263,304	646	51	55
N3UA	216,134	512	47	59
N3CW	191,586	512	54	57
W3YY	183,261	490	51	60
KE4S	176,027	411	50	53
N3JT	161,095	502	51	50
KG3V	114,312	302	44	32
N4CF	107,485	413	51	44
*W4PM	75,663	474	45	18
KA4RRU	66,171	292	45	24
K5VIP	63,376	357	49	19
NX3A	45,864	332	44	12
N6DW	45,085	180	42	29
W4VIC	43,680	233	33	23
KA4CDN	37,504	196	45	19
AD4TJ	21,744	185	40	8
KS0CW	14,036	127	35	9
W1IE	12,528	107	47	1
*N2QT	9,648	99	32	4
KG4W	5,664	28	2	22
*AB4SF	495	24	11	0
ARKANSAS				
W5KI	39,345	256	50	11
K5RM	32,433	242	47	10
LOUISIANA				
W5WZ	20,240	114	38	17
MISSISSIPPI				
W2GS	50,610	230	47	23
OKLAHOMA				
W5TM	202,752	788	56	43

K5UV	34,132	284	48	5
N5UM	32,025	205	47	14
TEXAS				
N5RZ	396,060	1134	58	57
K5BG	190,183	561	53	48
K5NA	145,537	299	54	65
K5KJ	124,614	574	55	31
K5NZ	119,691	460	56	37
AD5A	108,158	459	50	32
N5XZ	88,642	398	51	31
W0VX	34,928	234	43	16
N5XJ	32,835	244	45	10
N5WNG	19,451	139	44	9
W5PR	12,384	89	37	11
K5HTE	5,544	57	25	8
*WB0TEV	3,706	50	32	2
*KE5LQ	3,190	49	26	3
N5DD	742	17	12	2
CALIFORNIA				
W06T	120,360	524	54	31
W6DR	70,226	353	53	20
N6IE	69,509	348	51	20
K6SRZ	51,813	276	42	15
N6CW	40,832	244	39	19
K6RC	38,114	239	45	14
N5ZO	30,840	193	48	12
NC6K	28,037	222	44	9
WE6Z	22,000	148	44	11
KF6I	14,440	149	34	6
N3RC	9,952	135	28	4
AF6SA	3,668	50	23	5
W6MOB	1,950	33	20	6
*K9YC	1,908	42	15	3
N6GEO	1,560	42	13	2
N6PM	1,312	26	11	5
*W0GX	1,001	44	11	0
W6KC	344	20	7	1
NE6I	5	1	0	1
ARIZONA				
N7DD	482,632	1020	57	65
W0RIC	215,919	778	56	43
N7AT	157,505	640	53	32
AB7E	142,560	545	53	37
WA7AN	108,320	533	54	26
W6XI	102,600	342	50	40
*W7RH	79,200	378	51	24
K7FA	44,525	264	48	17
W7GES	37,944	217	45	17
K7WP	23,100	190	41	9
W6RW	19,581	107	46	15
K6LL	13,052	99	44	8
N7RQ	13,000	80	40	12
*K7GA	9,789	103	33	6
K3WYC	4,950	87	24	1
IDAHO				
KG7CW	183,222	749	55	32
K0IP	10,879	106	39	4
MONTANA				
N7IP	69,993	319	52	25
NEVADA				
K7XC	54,384	277	48	18
OREGON				
KA6BIM	177,177	676	54	23
K4XU	88,627	396	54	23
KU1CW	85,085	436	49	16
KN7K	19,760	217	34	4
UTAH				
K7NJ	410,193	1015	59	60
W7CXX	119,510	671	55	19
W7CT	105,120	498	53	19
K7UT	96,114	402	54	29
NS7B	6,370	72	31	4
WASHINGTON				
K7RL	80,580	349	53	26
W6OAT	40,114	214	46	16
K7SS	37,449	215	44	13
N7BV	37,164	267	47	10
K7BTW	19,504	126	35	11
*W7CD	14,491	102	34	9
KK7PW	7,260	92	26	4
NR7RR	3,536	52	22	4
K7EG	2,204	32	15	4
N7EPD	798	21	13	1
MICHIGAN				
W8MJ	544,000	1303	58	67
N8LJ	128,427	481	54	35
*K0ACP	46,970	315	51	10
*KE3K	33,496	263	47	6
W8/UT5UDX	30,085	224	47	8
K8VT	23,904	151	43	5
*NF8M	22,313	152	41	12
*K8GT	4,131	63	26	1
W8PI	3,741	47	25	4
OHIO				
K1LT	807,380	1375	58	82
N8TR	324,632	630	56	68
W3HKK	272,716	726	56	61
ND8L	167,388	427	52	59
*K8BL	71,610	293	49	28
*K8AJS	53,020	415	45	10
KA8G	51,520	211	43	27
W8EH	39,650	219	41	20
*K4YJ	32,016	204	43	15
N8IW	31,140	139	36	24
*K8LY	26,364	188	43	9
*W8KNO	24,795	237	41	4
*N8VV	15,795	150	41	4
N9RC	11,808	59	29	19
*K8CR	4,572	45	30	6
N8NB	4,320	31	20	12
K8ALM	3,556	43	24	4
*AA8SW	2,266	50	22	0
*AF8C	1,387	33	15	4
WEST VIRGINIA				
N3HEE	784,655	1284	57	82
NW8U	164,016	372	49	53
ILLINOIS				
KG9X	484,470	1109	58	68
N9CO	457,454	959	58	69
K9NR	382,104	1033	57	59
K9XD	328,782	1044	58	53
N9LQ	207,684	546	57	51
ND9G	178,398	592	56	43
AC9S	164,208	664	55	33

K9MMS	162,552	424	52	52
K9XW	137,804	501	54	40
K9NO	115,526	318	49	45
K9IUQ	114,205	335	48	43
*K9CS	52,765	374	52	9
*AB9YC	47,849	364	52	7
N2BJ	43,248	356	50	3
*K9PG	40,820	178	42	23
AI9T	39,813	199	47	22
*WA9LEY	37,620	270	47	10
W9YK	35,300	310	47	3
*N7US	31,104	241	49	5
*KG9IL	26,622	176	46	

US5IQW	94,986	328	3	51
*UZ1WW	84,329	339	0	49
*UR1HR	81,046	317	0	49
UR5E	78,318	257	0	57
UW3U	63,408	273	1	47
*UT8IM	55,960	296	0	40
*UX1UF	41,697	192	0	41
UW3HM	41,412	200	0	42
UT5C	39,292	159	0	47
*UT4WA	31,040	154	0	40
US1UP	27,775	73	7	48
*US0KW	26,765	90	2	51
UY5QZ	24,990	158	0	34
*UR3PA	21,870	151	0	30
US6EX	21,340	55	12	32
*UT0NT	17,280	118	0	30
*US5EOI	9,558	83	0	27
*UT3EK	7,155	50	0	27
*UT3WX	4,674	49	0	19
UW5U	4,280	38	0	20
US7VF	4,085	22	0	19
*UT2HC	2,934	36	0	18
*UT4EO	1,716	30	0	12
*UT1US	1,560	14	2	11
*US3EO	570	11	0	10
US0LW	330	6	1	5
*UX7UU	75	3	1	2

OCEANIA

Australia				
VK3TZ	260	10	0	5
Indonesia				
*YC2VOC	1,000	25	0	8
YC0SX	78	8	0	3
*YC1JGE	28	7	0	2
*YC1BIQ	24	10	0	2
*YB8RW	14	2	0	2
YC3ATK	8	4	0	1
YC6JRT	8	4	0	1
*YC9WH	2	1	0	1
*YE3WIL	2	1	0	1
Philippines				
DU6/N6SS	66,951	161	9	34

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina				
*LU2DX	13,134	47	18	15
*LW8DQ	378	9	1	6
Aruba				
P40AA	2,156,011	1518	56	87
Bonaire				
PJ4DX	75,772	104	23	53
Brazil				
PY1NX	21,960	60	4	36
*PY2KC	968	14	2	9
*PV8ABC	60	3	0	5
*PV8AAS	2	1	0	1
Chile				
CE2LR	140,400	187	41	37
Colombia				
HK1MW	32,625	75	34	11
Paraguay				
ZP9MCE	22,260	58	7	35
Uruguay				
CX6VM	735,000	597	50	75

MULTI-OP NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES				
MASSACHUSETTS				
NF1A	61,841	303	43	28
N1SOH	48,792	356	48	9
NEW HAMPSHIRE				
KM3T	798,840	1334	58	82
RHODE ISLAND				
W10P	68,524	287	50	24
NEW JERSEY				
W2GD	1,395,468	1780	58	88
K2AX	627,792	1139	56	76
DELAWARE				
N3DXX	472,160	891	55	75
MARYLAND				
K000	339,480	779	52	71
K3CCR	279,912	616	52	57
PENNSYLVANIA				
K3LR	1,072,804	1760	58	76
N3EB	660,625	1304	57	68
NJ3I	333,375	642	53	74
NE3F	250,560	587	51	57
W3MF	248,292	708	54	54
FLORIDA				
K0DI	842,656	1443	59	77
AD4ES	577,654	1125	55	66
N4WW	433,810	834	57	73
K2DM	30,576	201	37	19
NORTH CAROLINA				
N1LN	696,828	1370	57	75
TENNESSEE				
WK9M	37,314	276	46	8
VIRGINIA				
NR4M	890,960	1391	58	82
KC4D	525,624	1119	57	64
N4HB	369,600	951	52	58
OKLAHOMA				
K5CM	391,878	1059	58	60
CALIFORNIA				
NX6T	151,293	632	55	32
N6DZ	128,612	483	53	26
W6YX	115,672	536	51	25

ARIZONA				
NA7TB	588,672	1262	59	67
MONTANA				
K7QA	194,618	891	57	29
WASHINGTON				
W7VJ	117,290	629	54	20
MICHIGAN				
W8RT	378,078	786	54	68
OHIO				
WB2RPW	77,088	450	50	46
ILLINOIS				
N9EP	95,120	419	54	26
WS9V	69,441	383	49	30
WISCONSIN				
W9FZ	16,928	156	43	3
COLORADO				
N0KE	94,380	489	54	24
CANADA				
LABRADOR				
VO2AC	1,704,417	1621	58	85
QUEBEC				
VE20J	330,967	717	54	37
BRITISH COLUMBIA				
VA7MM	51,975	236	40	5

NORTH AMERICA

Dominican Republic				
H13AA	212,040	381	45	45
AFRICA				
African Italy				
IG9/S59A	2,941,390	2152	48	89
Madeira Islands				
CR3V	962,452	836	43	73

ASIA

Asiatic Russia				
RA9Y	1,173,600	1295	17	83
RD8D	1,026,348	1249	8	81
RWOA	810,495	1099	9	74
R8IZ	385,786	658	1	66
RZ9L	195,572	425	0	52
RK9CYA	85,444	250	0	41
R9WXX	35,950	169	0	25
RC0L	20,463	195	4	15
R0MM	1,315	55	0	5
Asiatic Turkey				
TC0X	2,746,668	2250	41	88
Cypress				
P33W	2,730,192	2076	41	97
Israel				
4X2M	2,005,560	1718	36	84
Japan				
JA3YBK	566,280	691	38	61
Mongolia				
JT5DX	1,318,812	1446	21	82
Republic of Korea				
6L0NJ	1,484	76	0	4
Thailand				
E2X	148,911	367	0	49
West Malaysia				
9M4C00	2	1	0	1

EUROPE

Aland Islands				
OH0Z	1,557,080	1859	44	96
Austria				
OE6U	145,310	506	3	52
Belarus				
EW5A	2,041,068	2101	47	101
EU1XX	472,149	1084	9	72
Belgium				
OT6M	1,277,328	1498	46	92
Bosnia-Herzegovina				
E7DX	1,576,740	1933	40	92
Bulgaria				
LZ9W	1,403,928	1666	44	92
LZ5R	1,240,248	1675	35	89
LZ7A	585,480	990	31	74
Croatia				
9A1P	1,822,620	1970	49	99
9A7T	544,946	1027	23	74
Czech Republic				
OK7K	2,153,792	2260	48	98
OL4A	1,804,498	2035	46	93
OK5Z	1,713,712	1975	47	96
OL1R	1,367,534	1701	46	91
OL1A	1,247,400	1616	42	90
OK1KSO	1,011,024	1442	41	77
OK7O	705,240	1174	34	74
OK6O	654,168	1230	27	70
OL1C	603,243	1159	30	67
OL1B	25,020	140	0	36
Denmark				
OZ5E	854,778	1362	34	75
England				
G4AQQ	584,592	892	37	77
G4IYY	426,384	667	33	75
G0AZH	23,636	116	5	33
European Russia				
RL3A	2,016,540	2089	51	102

UA7K	1,937,250	2094	48	102
UA4M	1,227,590	1576	40	93
RC3W	1,093,125	1530	32	93
RT4F	969,493	1419	27	92
RY6Y	740,272	1273	20	84
RA5G	725,328	1223	24	84
R7GU	1,729	30	0	13
Finland				
OH5Z	900,315	1386	31	86
OH4A	740,025	1335	19	80
OG9W	606,300	1097	19	81
OG70AD	44,360	219	0	40
France				
TM6M	1,681,425	1835	51	90
Germany				
DM7C	1,214,019	1697	38	91
DR5X	1,131,000	1549	43	87
DP7D	1,048,452	1597	38	85
DA2X	1,030,478	1495	40	87
DQ4W	947,422	1498	33	85
DR5L	748,000	1266	36	74
DP6A	743,301	1163	41	76
DR4W	621,191	1067	34	75
DL7AU	589,710	970	33	77
DL7A	436,220	1036	19	66
DK7A	432,060	878	28	67
DL0HMK	399,076	851	23	66
DF0BW	176,755	722	0	53
DK0TU	165,048	475	14	55
DM5A	26,381	150	0	37
Hungary				
HG8DX	1,568,160	1871	44	91
HG7T	961,491	1344	39	84
HG5A	904,591	1473	32	77
Ireland				
EI0R	1,422,560	1651	48	88
Italy				
IK2YCW	1,407,672	1757	45	88
IZ4BOY	974,259	1432	39	78
IQ3RK	533,208	929	33	71
IZ2KXC	486,214	879	26	75
IQ3ME	80,406	289	4	50
IQ5ZP	58,128	198	7	49
IK8YFU	3,888	43	0	18
Kaliningrad				
UA2FW	1,620,462	1997	39	95
Latvia				
YL7X	1,194,480	1634	40	86
Lithuania				
LY2XW	912,600	1465	28	80
LY2J	403,875	1025	9	66
LY4O	363,545	1066	9	56
Netherlands				
PI4DX	1,498,902	1772	46	85
PA8AD	873,600	1368	38	74
PA6NB	866,484	1318	36	77
PA6X	850,164	1291	42	74
Poland				
SP8R	1,578,067	1811	47	92
SN2B	1,128,596	1627	38	81
SO7M	459,440	1100	13	67
Romania				
YP5A	254,910	847	2	56
YO4KAK	2,760	36	0	15
Scotland				
GM6NX	144,152	338	11	63
Serbia				
YT0A	806,725	1206	33	82
Slovak Republic				
OM2Y	1,440,789	1796	40	93
OM4Q	450,140	1224	11	60
Slovenia				
S50W	1,221,400	1691	38	86
S53M	1,159,375	1574	42	83
S50C	1,101,244	1556	37	87
S53DIJ	770	12	0	11
S59T	550	10	0	10
S59EIJ	245	6	0	7
Spain				
EA2RCA	56,264	202	8	44
Sweden				
SK3W	1,732,290	1865	50	96
SJ2W	1,150,248	1498	43	89
SC7DX	415,096	873	20	68
SB3W	1,500	18	2	10
Switzerland				
HB7X	886,170	1406	37	72
Ukraine				
UZ3A	1,054,446	1491	33	89
EM30UCC	466,908	1113	12	70
UR4RWW	208,494	767	0	54
UW4U	84,667	401	0	43
UW6M	27,510	183	0	30

OCEANIA

Hawaii				
KH6LC	173,873	302	45	14
Indonesia				
7A2A	23,760	107	0	27
7B1B	12,272	67	2	24
7A1A	11,725	63	0	25
Philippines				
4D2X	78,329	218	3	34
SOUTH AMERICA				
Brazil				
ZW5B	78,864	137	23	39
Curacao				
PJ2T	2,141,644	1519	57	85

CHECK LOGS

4K6FO, 9A7Y, AA7G, DF2SD, DF8V, DL1EM, DL1HUH, DL2RUG, DL6KVA, DL6GUA, DL6JD, DL7CX, DM5EL, DM6WAN, E74SL, EA1AF, EA1YO, EA30, EA6NB, EA7BJ, EC5A, EW6F, GM4OSS, GU4EON, HA1DAE, HG1G, HG2DX, HG4W, IK5BOH, IZ3GNG, JA5EXW, JA5FNX, JH9DRL, JI3BFC, LA1U, LA9OI, LZ6E, M3M, N3IQ, N800, NB3R, OK1BLU, OK1HEH, OK2BZ, OK2OHA, OK2PAY, OK2SG, OK4MM, OK4RQ, OL6M, ON4CT, OT4A,
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*NN5T	735	23	14	1
*WA5DSS	162	9	9	0
KF5NRS	50	5	5	0
CALIFORNIA				
W6FAFA	14,250	167	33	5
AI6LY	6,975	108	29	2
*N6LL	3,197	55	20	3
KE6QR	3,094	85	17	0
*WN6K	1,460	35	19	1
KW6S	864	33	10	2
*KA9A	360	20	9	0
*WB6KDH	175	11	6	1
*W6REK	36	6	3	0
*K7XE	32	4	4	0
*W6JK	30	5	3	0
AG7JQ	24	4	3	0
ARIZONA				
N7RK	18,179	148	46	7
K7HP	5,478	70	30	3
W7ON	1,615	38	17	2
KB7AZ	1,152	29	16	2
*K7HKR	340	17	10	0
IDAHO				
KØIP	3,366	72	22	0
*KJ7YY	768	21	16	0
*W7TX	174	13	6	0
MONTANA				
*K7VIC	6,688	72	35	3
*AB5ZA	2,340	39	26	0
NEVADA				
WU6W	910	35	13	0
*N7XCZ	112	8	7	0
OREGON				
W7ZB	7,887	99	30	3
*AF7NX	1,717	51	16	1
*W7MTL	576	26	9	0
*KF7RSF	1	0	0	0
UTAH				
NG7M	4,524	72	28	1
KF7ZN	480	20	12	0
WASHINGTON				
N7AU	23,970	221	44	3
K7IU	10,560	145	31	2
K7STO	4,228	73	25	3
N7QOZ	1,590	47	15	0
*N7GCO	1,552	41	15	1
WX7P	1,513	37	17	0
*N7ZUF	1,260	45	12	0
KB7BTO	688	36	7	1
WG7X	590	25	10	0
KI7DG	584	32	8	0
*KE7ZAC	238	14	7	0
*KG7DAB	16	4	2	0
*KJ7LAN	12	3	2	0
*W7FZY	1	0	0	0
MICHIGAN				
NA8V	199,827	1016	55	26
*W8CO	89,205	694	53	4
*W8GP	51,012	446	49	3
N8OL	48,510	395	50	5
WN8HCV	8,584	110	37	0
*K8ZO	5,888	83	32	0
*K8MJZ	3,075	54	24	1
*KD8GBK	2,304	45	23	1
WM8Z	2,139	42	22	1
*K7DR	340	17	10	0
OHIO				
ND8DX	213,891	1031	55	28
K8RR	86,800	622	54	8
N8BI	78,660	613	50	7
W8MET	50,094	491	44	2
KW8N	40,700	364	46	4
*KA8CNI	26,673	240	46	5
*K8MJH	26,010	270	44	1
*WB8JUI	17,983	163	46	3
*KD8BB	15,951	185	37	2
*AB8OU	12,558	143	37	2
*W8KNO	10,450	124	37	1
*KG9Z	10,413	113	36	3
*N8HP	10,260	119	36	2
*K8VUS	10,222	118	37	1
*K8SVT	10,138	116	35	2
*N8IW	6,420	85	27	3
W8BI	6,048	87	30	2
*W8TB	5,730	85	28	2
*W8YU	5,490	84	29	1
*KB8UJZ	5,332	71	29	2
KE8NBC	4,340	64	30	1
*N8VWY	3,429	59	27	0
WA8ZIP	2,394	54	18	0
*WØ3X	1,843	41	19	0
*KD8MXE	1,258	34	17	0
*WB8PIY	994	31	13	1
*KA8BSA	765	21	17	0
*WB8WUA	432	18	12	0
WD8E	261	10	8	1
WEST VIRGINIA				
K8JQ	29,600	369	36	1
*N8II	14,134	166	33	4
K8GQ	10,000	103	37	3
N4RA	5,952	84	29	2
WA8KAN	5,239	74	29	2
*KA9NJW	1,230	38	15	0
ILLINOIS				
K9ZO	89,536	624	54	10
*N9LYE	17,252	215	37	1
*WB8BZK	14,534	148	41	2
*WR9L	12,600	129	40	2
*WØ9I	10,920	122	38	1
*WB9HFK	9,082	103	36	2
*KØPG	7,092	88	34	2
N9TO	4,256	64	26	2
WA9KIA	672	21	14	0
*KC9YDV	280	11	10	0
*KD9MS	2	1	1	0
INDIANA				
*KB9OZI	13,079	137	39	2
KJ9Z	9,842	113	36	2
*W9RE	9,028	100	34	3
K9LA	8,588	101	37	1

*K8VGL	8,512	100	37	1
*K9GX	7,750	118	29	2
*W9TC	5,053	70	29	2
N9MR	4,768	67	31	1
KJ9C	4,544	65	30	2
*AC9EZ	3,818	68	22	1
*WB9NOO	2,645	50	23	0
*W9MRH	2,400	47	24	0
WISCONSIN				
N9GH	22,896	184	50	4
*W9AV	14,196	151	41	1
ND9Z	13,735	145	39	2
*K9VER	3,744	66	26	0
NN9C	3,591	59	27	0
*AC9TO	208	13	8	0
COLORADO				
NØKQ	2,150	40	25	0
AKØBC	1,407	32	21	0
*AAØCW	768	24	16	0
*WAØEJX	8	2	2	0
IOWA				
NG7A	25,965	264	42	3
*NØGZ	20,972	196	47	2
KDØZV	14,760	149	44	1
NØDQS	10,620	93	40	5
*KØSRL	4,608	63	31	1
*KIØEO	1,121	28	19	0
*ADØH	504	18	14	0
KANSAS				
WØNO	70,943	525	53	8
WØBH	11,172	129	41	1
*NØYO	9,374	96	39	4
NØYET	5,742	80	31	2
NZØF	3,654	63	29	0
KDØEVS	2,314	43	25	1
KØAP	2,280	40	23	1
MINNESOTA				
KØTT	89,962	638	54	8
KØYR	59,177	450	54	5
*NGØC	40,698	366	49	2
KØMD	28,150	256	50	0
NØOK	15,980	151	44	3
NØUY	10,692	102	41	3
WBØVAK	10,542	99	39	3
K9WN	384	16	12	0
MISSOURI				
KIØI	66,154	483	54	8
*KØPHP	19,635	181	48	3
NØLBY	10,878	115	39	3
NWØM	2,398	50	22	0
K8MCN	944	28	15	1
NEBRASKA				
WØØBZ	17,484	173	45	2
*WBØQAF	4,096	61	31	1
NFØN	1,273	32	19	0
NORTH DAKOTA				
KØIDX	105,690	697	54	11
SOUTH DAKOTA				
*WØDT	18,277	173	47	2
CANADA				
NEW BRUNSWICK				
*VE9RLW	1,274	20	14	0
NOVA SCOTIA				
VA1RST	7,272	62	21	3
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND				
VY2ZM	745,461	1033	56	57
QUEBEC				
*VE2HAY	6,720	70	21	0
*VA2LQ	1,365	21	12	1
*VE2QV	1,183	20	13	0
*VE2GT	174	7	6	0
ONTARIO				
VE3PN	205,190	555	48	23
*VE3MGY	203,112	671	54	8
VE3DZ	140,882	499	48	10
VA3AR	117,355	488	44	5
*VA3AC	99,603	403	45	6
*VA3NW	38,581	192	38	3
VE3KP	29,930	154	39	2
*VE3VY	19,807	145	27	2
*VE3TW	14,790	108	28	1
VE3KZ	14,728	113	27	1
VA3SK	10,943	72	28	3
*VA3TTB	10,206	78	26	1
*VA3RKM	8,664	77	23	1
*VE3EUR	8,234	77	21	2
VE3MT	6,600	63	21	1
*VE3VN	5,612	50	22	1
*VE3SST	5,523	55	21	0
VE3BR	5,302	50	22	0
VE3EJ	5,103	50	18	3
*VE3LC	5,061	53	21	0
*VE3LMS	3,648	39	18	1
*VA3FN	550	11	10	0
*VE3BK	520	13	8	0
MANITOBA				
*VE4VT	10,268	64	33	1
SASKATCHEWAN				
*VA5KMG	203	7	7	0
ALBERTA				
VE6TK	2,640	27	20	0
*VA6RCN	252	9	6	0
BRITISH COLUMBIA				
*VA7EU	7,056	82	18	0
NORTH AMERICA				
Cayman Islands				
ZF5T	623,370	988	56	54
ZF2AM	465,360	792	56	49
Dominican Republic				
*HI8DL	240	7	1	5
Mexico				
XE1RF	3,003	30	17	4

*WP3UX	8,520	51	19	11
*WP4RF	2,268	20	0	14
AFRICA				
Canary Islands				
ED8W	21,132	60	12	24
*EB8AYA	4,536	27	0	18
Ceuta & Melilla				
*EA9E	2,112	20	0	11
ASIA				
Asiatic Russia				
R8WF	84,398	240	0	38
UA9CAW	36,735	131	0	31
R9CS	21,950	96	0	25
RZ9WUJ	5,148	47	0	13
RW9QA	4,411	51	0	11
*RZ9YN	1,232	25	0	8
RA9AEA	660	11	0	6
*R8MB	120	8	0	3
RKØUN	40	6	0	2
Asiatic Turkey				
*TA3LHH	7,416	43	0	18
*TA2LP	300	6	0	5
*TA4RC	260	6	0	5
Georgia				
4L2M	42,900	152	0	30
Isreal				
4Z5LY	34,110	118	0	30
Kyrgystan				
*EX8MK	150	7	0	3
EUROPE				
Austria				
*OE3WMM	53,655	309	0	35
OE1HHB	18,734	131	0	29
*OE2GEN	7,824	67	0	24
OE1XTU	1,890	27	0	14
*OE2IJL	288	7	0	9
Balearic Islands				
*EA6SA	3,060	36	0	17
Belarus				
EU4E	33,726	200	0	33
EW8R	29,977	185	2	29
Bosnia-Herzegovina				
*E77EE	13,857	88	0	31
Bulgaria				
LZ1YE	17,520	113	0	30
LZ2XF	16,744	127	0	26
Croatia				
*9A3SM	2,400	40	0	12
Czech Republic				
OK1KPU	119,790	544	2	43
*OK1LRD	84,832	396	2	42
OK1HFP	43,396	237	1	37
OK1OA	42,066	225	0	38
*OK2BRQ	35,013	221	1	32
*OK1K	29,222	156	2	36
*OK1BJ	22,214	164	0	29
OK2IUT	19,285	141	0	29
*OK2JHS	14,796	115	0	27
*OK1MJA	11,676	90	0	28
*OK2AK	9,880	82	0	26
*OK1FU	8,568	86	1	20
OK2EQ	7,820	71	0	23
*OK1XC	6,292	62	0	22
*OK6AB	4,921	56	0	19
*OK1KMU	3,920	55	0	16
*OK2QA	3,774	45	0	17
*OK2VIR	3,616	50	0	16
*OK1FUK	968	20	0	11
Denmark				
*OZ4NA	26,272	166	0	32
OZ1JZ	17,984	111	1	31
OZ1D	11,882	90	0	26
OV1RR	2,325	31	0	15
England				
M3D	56,212	204	9	43
G4AFJ	26,896	127	3	38
GØØIK	18,795	104	3	32
G4L	6,440	56	0	23
MØMCV	4,940	52	0	19
G1VWC	330	11	0	6</

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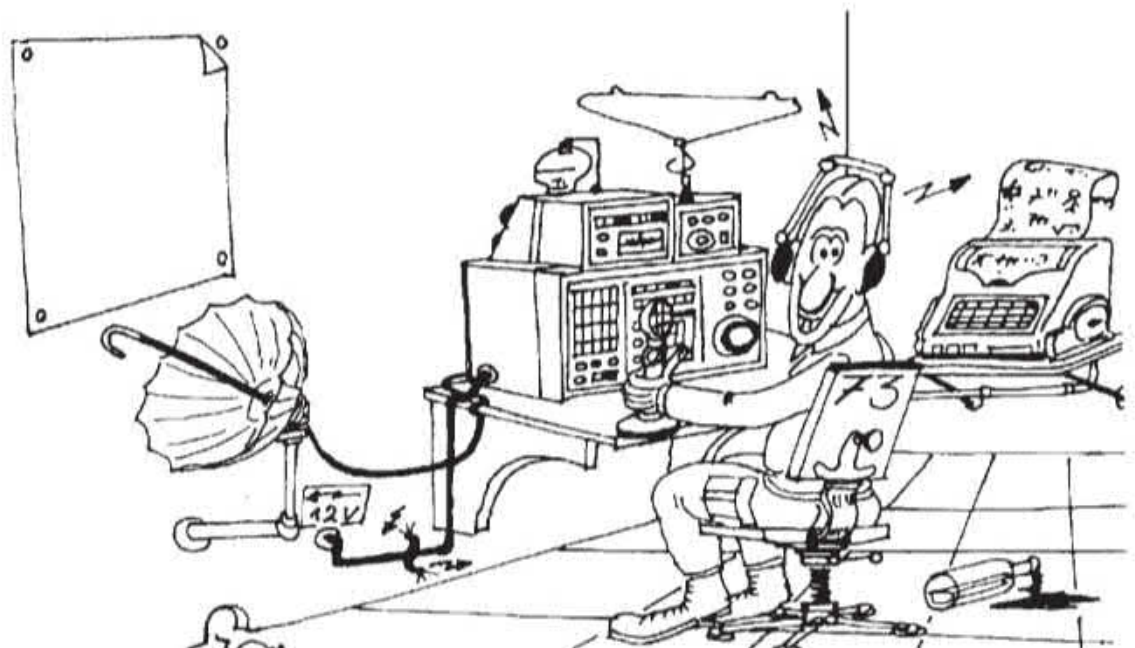
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