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WORLD RADIO

Year 28, Issue 1

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NEWSFRONT

Worldradio

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RSGB on Morse

The Radio Society of Great Britain says that it no longer supports mandatory Morse code testing for access to the amateur bands below 30 MHz. The national society will lobby the International Amateur Radio Union to try to get a rules change passed at the 2001 World Radio Conference to support the abandonment of the international statutory requirement for Morse testing.

The change in policy by the RSGB comes only eighteen months after its December 1996 announcement of the results of a survey on The Future of Amateur Radio in that nation. At that time, thirty percent of the society's members responded. Two-thirds said that Morse code should remain as an international licensing requirement.

The RSGB will propose to the nation's Radiocommunications Agency that a new class of Ham license be introduced in the United Kingdom, one that will give all amateurs access to the HF bands below 30MHz by passing a very simple slow speed CW test, possibly as slow as five words per minute. — *Newsline*

ICOM IC-706mkII giveaway

Icom America has announced a monthly drawing to give away a brand new IC-706mkII to a newly upgraded amateur. In the last week of each month, until April 1999, Icom will give away the rig to a winner drawn from all entries for the previous month. Any General or higher upgrade between 01 April 1998 and 31 March 1999 is eligible for the drawing. To enter, send a photocopy of your new upgraded license, a QSL card or a 3x5-inch card with your name, address and zip code to: ICOM America, Inc., "Hear Comes The Sun Giveaway" 2380 116th Aven NE., Bellevue, WA,

98004. Entries will not be returned, so be sure it is a photocopy of your license, not the original. Limit of one entry per upgrade. All entries must be received by 30 April 1999. Winners will be notified by mail, and winners will be posted on the Icom homepage. — *Las Vegas ARC Newsletter*

League calls members to action on 70cm petition

The ARRL says the recent Land Mobile Communications Council petition seeking access to 70 cm is "incompatible with continued amateur use of the band" and urges members to comment in opposition — not only to the FCC but to the LMCC's members. The LMCC has petitioned the FCC for immediate reallocation of 420 to 430 MHz and 440 to 450 MHz from the federal government to the Private Mobile Radio Service. Amateur Radio enjoys the use of 70 cm on a secondary basis to government radiolocation (military radar). The LMCC has proposed to share the two subbands with Amateur Radio, but has not said how sharing would be possible. The LMCC also seeks additional UHF reallocations in the intermediate and long term.

For those planning to file comments, specific information and recommendations plus a copy of the LMCC petition and a list of LMCC members are available on the ARRLWeb page at Error! Bookmark not defined..

Commenters should explain how the loss of access to 420 to 430 and 440 to 450 MHz would affect them personally and how it would affect the ability of hams to provide needed public service. "Even if you do not use these segments yourself, it is likely that loss of access would result in more crowding and interference in the part of the band, or in

another band, that you do use," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Don't overlook the fact that if you use linked voice or packet systems, it is quite likely that some of the links you rely on are in either or both of these segments."

Additionally, amateurs involved in public service communication can ask the government and non-government agencies they assist for written statements of support. Hams also should urge Amateur Radio organizations, especially those with interests in the 420 to 450 MHz band, to comment as well.

The LMCC, a nonprofit association, includes several well-known organizations such as the American Automobile Association, the American Petroleum Institute, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO), a frequent Amateur Radio supporter. The League suggests that ARRL members who also belong to one of the LMCC member organizations consider writing to inform the organization that the LMCC is acting contrary to your interests and requesting them to disavow the LMCC petition insofar as it affects Amateur Radio.

Sumner says ARRL members should not complain to members of Congress nor write angry letters to the FCC. "The LMCC petition is a private-sector initiative, *not* a government proposal," Sumner said. "By law, the FCC has to put the petition on public notice and invite comment. That's all the FCC has done with it." Sumner says that criticizing the FCC at this stage would be "inappropriate and counterproductive."

Sumner reminds members that nothing is going to happen overnight with the LMCC petition, and there will be at least one more opportunity for public comment. "Before the FCC can take the next step to

reallocate this spectrum, it must get the federal government to agree," he explained, because the government is the primary occupant. Then, the FCC would have to issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and solicit public comments on its proposal.

New Nebraska EC

Matt Anderson, KAØBOJ, has been appointed the Emergency Coordinator for Saunders County, Nebraska. He replaces Jim Sweeney, KBØDYY. — *Newsline*

1.2 GHZ THREAT

Amateur Radio could lose part of an important UHF band if the second civilian frequency for the global positioning system frequency is assigned an allocation at 1.2 GHz.

The Amateur Radio 23-cm band runs from 1240 to 1300 MHz. A decision on whether the new, second frequency will be 1205 or 1250 MHz is expected to be made in August. An allocation at 1250 MHz could mean the end of Hams in the band from 1240 to 1260 MHz.

In February 1997, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Defense announced an agreement assuring civilian GPS users of a second frequency. This frequency is considered essential for critical civilian GPS uses.

According to a Department of Defense news release, the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security has called for the establishment of a second civil frequency as part of a broader program to maintain U.S. leadership in aviation and satellite technology. This leadership position could come at a high price for Amateur Radio. — *FCC, ARRL, W5YI, Newsline*

Amateur saves lives

Retired Michigan Dr. Earl Weston, W8BXO, was monitoring the Intercontinental Traffic Net on 14.313 MHz from his suburban Detroit Michigan basement 21 April. A captain from a 50' sailing yacht, Heinze Schilling, HB9HFS, called in with

emergency traffic.

The captain was sailing off the coast of a small island in the Bahamas and was attracted by a flashing mirror. Four men, all believed to be Cuban refugees, were shipwrecked on that island. They had been there several days without food or water. The Coast Guard was contacted and within an hour a helicopter was overhead and landed to pick up the men. They were taken to the city of Nassau. — *Newsline*

Five-year-old passes 5wpm test

Saturday, 25 April, Ashley Kopacki, age 5, passed her 5 word per minute Morse code test at an ARRL VEC administered examination session hosted by the County Line Amateur Radio Club.

Ashley is a kindergarten student in Mount Olive, New Jersey. She frequently attends radio club meetings with her father, Dave Kopacki, KF2EW. She helps with the sign-in sheets, and is Official Cookie Taster. Ashley now has a year to study for the Novice written exam. — *Hudson Division Loop, Newsline*

Fund for Ian Varley aid established

Ian Varley, N2XUB, is in need of assistance from his fellow Hams. Ian, who has had epilepsy since childhood, is now suffering from failing eyesight and frequent seizures. Arrangements have been made to train a puppy to act as Ian's companion and to come to his aid in time of a seizure. The pup will be able to press an alarm pedal in the Varley home and stay by Ian's side until help arrives.

Having a dog like this will let him go back to enjoying his club meetings and helping out with radio communications at the various charity events with which he has been so active in the past. But the price of Ian's dog is \$4,300.

Any financial help Ian and his parents can get to help pay for the

dog would truly be appreciated. All donations go directly to "Sheppy's for Dogs" and marked to the attention of the 'Ian Varley Fund.' The address is Sheppy's Disability Dogs Inc., 125 Marie Drive, Clarksville, TN 37042.

For more information about the 'Ian Varley Fund,' you can e-mail to kf2sb@bestweb.net. — *N2TTO, Newsline*

Gary Stanford retires

Gary L. Stanford, W4FDP, the associate bureau chief in the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, has retired, effective 01 May. Stanford joined the Commission in 1961. An electrical engineer, he joined the Private Radio Bureau in 1983 and became acting chief of the Land Mobile and Microwave Division in 1986. Later that year, he was named to head the PRB's licensing division at Gettysburg and was elected into the Senior Executive Service in 1992. He retires as associate bureau chief for operations within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau in Gettysburg. — *ARRL Letter*



Worldradio

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Next month's columns will include 10-10, The Club Huddle, Computers & Basic Stuff, RFI & You, With the Handi-Hams, & YLs on the Air

Congratulations to Duane Angerhofer, WØZUS,

winner of a \$200 gift certificate (redeemable from MFJ).

His name was selected at random by the computer from the **Worldradio** subscriber list. Check here next month to see if your name has been selected.



Worldradio

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Worldradio (USPS 947000) is an international conversation. You're invited to participate.

Our goal is to be a valuable resource of ideas and

experiences beneficial to the Amateur Radio community. We publicize and support the efforts of those who bring the flame of vitality to this avocation. As readers, you are participants in an alliance of active radio amateurs concerned with reality, using radio as a communications tool to develop the skill, quality and full potential of Amateur Radio.

We emphasize the positive aspects of this great activity, and desire your contributions dealing with dramatic, personal and humanitarian uses of Amateur Radio. Articles for consideration may be submitted through the U.S. Postal Service or e-mail to n6wr@ns.net

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Publisher's Microphone

There are those who have withstood the demands of four years at West Point. Others have completed the rigors of paratrooper and/or ranger training. The British have their elite SAS force. But they all stand in awe, and at attention, when they see a highly courageous **Worldradio** SuperBooster (Lifetime Subscriber) walking by. The latest are:

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Kekaha, HI
- **HENRY GILLOW-WILES, KB7RTA**
Monroe, OR
- **TERRY DUMMLER, WQ7A**
Yelm, WA

Dayton!!! I have heard many call it the "Mecca." We'll have reports this month and next month with pictures of what is indeed the three-ring circus of Amateur Radio. One certainly would get their money's worth if all they did was attend the seminars.

There seems to be a great deal of talk that the Internet has hurt Amateur Radio by siphoning off people who would have become radio amateurs. It's said that young people find computers more technically challenging.

While some of that may be true, let us look at other avenues that are seeing decreases. Private pilot license

numbers are down. Applications to medical school are down. Can the Internet be blamed in those fields? No. It's just that becoming an Amateur Radio operator is hard. Learning to fly a plane is hard. Medical school is really hard. Avoiding what is difficult is the style of the day.

There are parents who are moving to smaller homes for the very purpose of being able to tell their adult children who want to move back in that there isn't any room for them. Life is hard and many want mummy and daddy to take care of them.

An indication regarding the improvement in HF band conditions is that the ARRL Outgoing Bureau reports 40% more QSL cards going out to DX countries than in the same month a year ago.

There's word that the FCC may require Social Security numbers on all applications. When asked why, there is some mumbling about that it is required because of money being paid (tax records and all that) Wait! The money is being paid TO the FCC not FROM the FCC into the bank account of some taxpayer. All this does smack a little of a "Your papers please" society. I remember when I received my Social Security card it said right on the card "Not to be used for identification." Obviously the government broke its word. And what's new about that?

Speaking of the FCC, either they don't know their own rules or are trying to pull a fast one. Stay tuned.

The "Ham Call" CD from

Buckmaster seems to have a better looking display and is faster to use than others we've seen.

With HF propagation improving HF mobile is becoming even more popular. We'd like to have a column on that topic. If you are thinking about volunteering, don't think that you have to write every single word yourself. Hopefully, and most likely, the hints and tips would come in from the readers. You would be the moderator.

Field Day is fast approaching, 27-28 June. If you haven't been involved before, now is the time. Those who get full value of the event are not those who just put in a few hours on a shift but instead erect the station, stay for the full grind and take it down. And if you hear a station with the call WR6WR, that's the **Worldradio** StaffARC. Stop by and say hello.

Field Day is also the best opportunity for media publicity for Amateur Radio. One sure-fire way to get a newspaper reporter out is to invite them to come at the time that you will be serving lunch!

Also, club members who have video cameras might create a half-hour program. An outlet for your documentary could well be the Access channel on your cable system. They are looking for material that is local in nature.

Just think of the good you could be doing. You may interest someone in Amateur Radio who would find greater meaning in this avocation than watching TV.

—Armond, N6WR

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FCC official promises more enforcement of rules

RICK McCUSKER, KO6DJ

Serge Marty-Volkoff, Regional Director, Western Region of the FCC Compliance and Information Bureau was introduced at the Visalia DX Convention banquet. During his brief remarks, he stated the additional help for Amateur Radio in enforcement of the FCC rules was on the way. I interviewed him for clarification of his statement after the dinner.

WR: You made the comment that we can expect some more enforcement action by the FCC. What does the FCC have in mind?

SMV: Well, we have a new bureau chief, Richard Lee, and he has been pretty much given the green light by our new chairman, Bill Kennard, to enhance our enforcement in all areas. Rich Lee feels that the duty of the Compliance and Information Bureau is to enforce all laws, and of course that includes the Amateur Radio service. For years, we have had some limitations in some areas, and now those limitations have been lifted.

WR: We know there have been some budget cuts in the FCC. Is this going to have any effect on this plan?

SMV: Well, we are already at a reduced staff. We had a reorganization about two years ago, and we lost a lot of people. So what you see now, is what you get. Even with that said, we plan to take action on those cases that we feel need action taken on.

WR: Are you planning on doing some more action with organizations such as the ARRL Official Observer program? We have heard in the past the OO's make documentation, tape record stuff, they send it in, and nothing ever happens.

SMV: Well, there are two components to this particular enforcement posture. One is the work that we do in the field bureau, the Compliance and Information Bureau, and eventually that has to go over to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the operating office that issues licenses, and they have to take administrative action against the licensees, such as revocation. We have

certain administrative processes that we go through, like the Notice of Apparent Liability, things of that sort. So it takes the effort of the CIB and the WIB to get something done.

WR: Are we going to see some more cooperation between the FCC and the Amateur Radio community to solve some of these major problems we have been having?

SVM: Well, we have always had a level of cooperation at the local level, it's just several years ago the ARRL came to the commission, specifically our bureau, and talked to the former bureau chief, and worked out an agreement where our bureau would only handle a certain number of cases, and these cases were basically screened through the ARRL and then they would come to us and say ok, these are three bad cases. And unfortunately even though the bureau conducted investigations, there wasn't a lot of follow-up on some of those cases for one reason or another.


WR: Is there any chance that we are going to see increased funding for the enforcement bureau as far as getting some more teams out in the field, maybe get some of these

monitoring stations put back in business?

SMV: Oh, I don't think that is in the cards at all. What you see is what you have, if anything, there may be some point in time when there will be even less people in the organization. The government in general is pretty much moving towards privatization, and I think we are seeing that at the commission now. So the Compliance and Information Bureau will probably have to live with privatization and find more ways to partner with industry to enforce the rules. Our chairman is very interested in self-certification in terms of other services. I think the ARRL has something before the commission to give them authority to go directly to the ALJ's (Administrative Law Judges) on these cases. That's pretty much in residence with the feeling of the commission at the present time. Our bureau supports that and one of the new mechanics by which the Amateur Radio community enforces itself.

WR: So the FCC is taking the stand, sure we will provide the backbone, but it is up to the Amateur Radio community to continue the self-policing practices and bring it to the FCC's attention.

SVM: No question about it.

Does this mean more enforcement for rules violations? I will let the individual reader decide. 

Israeli Ham satellite launch date

Israel confirmed the tentative launch date for the TechSat-1b Ham Radio satellite to be between 23-24 June. According to Assi Friedman, 4X1KX, the TechSat-1b Ham satellite will be very similar to the ill-fated TechSat-1a in the communications modes it will provide. It will use 9600 Baud Frequency Shift Keying and will have VHF and L-band uplinks, and downlinks in the UHF band. — *IRAC, 4X1KX, Newsline*

SAREX QSLs

The Dayton ARA has agreed to handle QSL duties for this fall's SAREX space shuttle STS-95 mission. The October flight will carry former astronaut John Glenn into space for the first time since the 1960s. Two Hams are also among the STS-95 crew. — *ARRL, Newsline*

Verbal Morse

The Morse code has a new supporters but not the kind you might expect. Radio operators, believed to be members of the Southern Sudan Peoples Liberation Army, have been heard on the 40-meter band. They are sending messages by vocalizing the Morse code in both English and Sudanese local languages. According to VK2EA, the pirate operators are actually speaking each dot and dash. Presumably they think it's giving them a measure of military security. — *Q-News, Newsline*



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NORM JEWELER, W3NRS

Land Mobile Communications Council strikes at Amateur Radio

RICK M^CCUSKER, KO6DJ

The Land Mobile Communications Council has filed a petition demanding reallocation of 420-430 and 440-450 MHz. The LMCC wants that portion of the "440" band reassigned with Private Mobile Radio Service as primary user, and Amateur Radio as secondary user on a "not-to-interfere" basis. Comments were due, on paper, by 01 June 1998.

The LMCC is a consortium of several corporations and organizations. The LMCC is made up of:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

American Automobile Association (AAA)

American Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)

American Petroleum Institute (API)

American Trucking Association, Inc. (ATA)

Association of American Railroads (AAR)

Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc. (APCO)

Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA)

Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA)

Forest Industries Telecommunications (FIT)

Forestry-Conservation Communications Association (FCAA)

Industrial Telecommunications Association (ICA)

Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA)

International Association of Fire chiefs (IAFC)

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)

International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA)

International Taxicab and Livery Association (ITLA)

Manufacturers Radio Frequency Advisory Committee (MRFAC)

National Association of State Foresters (NASF)

Personal Communications Industry Association (PCIA)

Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

UTC, The Telecommunications Association (UTC)

What does this mean for us?


The FCC cannot reallocate 430-440 MHz because it's an international allocation for Amateur Radio. They can reallocate these two portions, especially when you realize the potential for monetary gains by the government for license fees they can charge licensees.

Were you one of the smart Hams who sent a letter to your representative supporting HR3572? That is the bill designed to protect Amateur Radio spectrum from grabs just like this.

The interesting part of this story, is that the petition was filed on 07 May, with comments due by 01 June. Just a little over three weeks to get our comments on file. With that short notice, not one of the Amateur Radio magazines or newsletters had time to get the word out to the readers. It all depended on word of mouth to spread the word. With any kind of luck, Hams got the word and sent letters in by the comment deadline.

The ARRL is gearing up for this

fight. The ARRL letter of 08 May was the source of the information on this issue, with special updates continuing to appear on the ARRL homepage. The staff at *Worldradio* has offered its support to ARRL in this matter, and we will be providing ARRL with any information we receive on this threat. We urge our readers who are not members of ARRL to consider becoming a member. They need your support and are the only major organization with the clout to make a difference.

It doesn't look good. 

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Preparations continue for next WRC

With WRC-97 behind us, preparations already are underway for the next World Radiocommunication Conference. In fact, WRC-97 was barely over before the first Conference Preparatory Meeting for WRC-99 was held last fall. While it's not entirely clear right now if the next WRC will be held in 1999 or 2000, it's still being referred to as WRC-99. The ITU Council may decide the question of when WRC-99 will be held when it meets in Geneva. The decision could even be deferred until the 1998 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Minneapolis 12 October -06 November. At least for now, planning will continue on the assumption that the next conference will be held in the fall of 1999.

The FCC WRC-99 Advisory Committee held its initial meeting in February. FCC informal working groups have been meeting over the past few weeks.

Earlier this year, ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, represented the League on U.S. delegations to several ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) meetings in Geneva, Switzerland. Working Party 7C met in late February. This committee is responsible

for studies relating to the Earth Exploration Satellite Service that has been eyeing the 430 to 440 MHz band for use by synthetic aperture radars (SARs). These systems are capable of penetrating the upper canopy of a rain forest to monitor ecological changes. Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, who represented the International Amateur Radio Union, introduced an IARU paper expressing concerns with respect to the 420 to 450 MHz band. An ARRL-authored paper also was introduced by the U.S., expanding on the theme and reviewing the status of technical sharing studies.

Working Party 8A met in mid-March. This group — Amateur Radio's "home" in the ITU — is responsible for the amateur and the amateur satellite services, among others. Representing the IARU at this session was ARRL International Affairs Vice President Larry Price, W4RA. He introduced an IARU paper detailing progress in HF data communication in the Amateur Service and setting out the characteristics of PACTOR I and II, CLOVER, and G-TOR. Several ARRL papers also were submitted by the U.S. to update existing documentation.

Something called "fixed wireless

access" (FWA — and sometimes called wireless local loop) could become a hot topic for Amateur Radio at the next WRC. The idea is to connect user telephone or data equipment via radio instead of wirelines to an access point in the public switched telephone network. FWA proponents are looking at the suitability of more than 100 frequency bands between 27 MHz and 66 GHz — some of which involve amateur bands. A committee called Joint Rapporteur Group (JRG) 8A/9B is looking at FWA issues. Participants include those involved in the mobile and amateur services — from WP 8A — and the fixed service. Price also represented the IARU on JRG 8A/9B.

For more information on WRC-99 preparations, see www.fcc.gov/wrc-99. Thanks to Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and Steve Mansfield, N1MZA

ARRL asks FCC to support voluntary band plans

Following up on action taken at the January ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, the League has formally asked the FCC to equate observance of voluntary band plans with "good amateur practice." In a

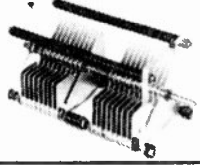
Amateur Radio Call Signs

The following shows the last call sign in each group to be assigned for each VEC Region under the sequential call system as of 04 May 1997.

For more information about the sequential call sign system, see Fact Sheet PR5000 #206-S.

| Radio District | Group A Am Extra | Group B Advanced | Group C Tech./Gen. | Group D Novice |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Ø | ABØHN | KIØMY | ++ | KCØDJX |
| 1 | AA1TO | KE1JP | ++ | KB1CTL |
| 2 | AB2FF | KG2OH | ++ | KC2DLZ |
| 3 | AA3RD | KF3BP | ++ | KB3CNN |
| 4 | AF4JM | KU4RI | ++ | KF4YFS |
| 5 | AC5PW | KM5QG | ++ | KD5ECI |
| 6 | AD6FE | KQ6VT | ++ | KF6QQZ |
| 7 | AB7XX | KK7NH | ++ | KD7BPI |
| 8 | AB8CM | KI8FX | ++ | KC8KAX |
| 9 | AA9VZ | KG9NK | ++ | KB9SSC |
| N. Mariana Is. | NHØE | AHØAY | KHØGW | WHØABI |
| Guam | ++ | AH2DH | KH2TJ | WH2ANW |
| Hawaii | NH7H | AH6PJ | KH7JP | WH6DEN |
| Amer. Samoa | AH8P | AH8AH | KH8DM | WH8ABF |
| Alaska | ALØK | AL7RD | KLØOO | WL7CUS |
| Virgin Is. | ++ | KP2CN | NP2KC | WP2AIJ |
| Puerto Rico | NP3W | KP3BG | NP3WH | WP4NNQ |

++All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.



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request for a Declaratory ruling filed 03 April, the League asks the FCC to affirm that amateur operation that conflicts with established voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans would violate FCC rules. Specifically, the League wants the Commission to confirm that Hams should be familiar with, and should abide by, voluntary band plans applicable to the bands they operate and to state that those who don't operate in harmony with those plans are not operating "in accord with good amateur practice." A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the ARRLWeb at www.arrl.org/announce/declreq.pdf.

The FCC has assigned rulemaking number RM-9259 to the request. The action is considered a bit unusual since RM numbers generally are assigned only to petitions for rulemaking, not to requests for a declaratory judgment. A complete copy of the League's petition may be found on the website listed above.

League supports lower vanity fee schedule

The ARRL says it supports the proposed lower fee to obtain a vanity call sign. The FCC proposed recently in its fiscal year 1998 fee schedule that vanity filers would pay just \$12.90 for the ten-year term, once the new schedule goes into effect later this year. That's the lowest fee in the history of the vanity program. Originally the fee was \$30; The fee jumped to \$50 in September of 1997.

In comments filed 22 April with the FCC, the League called the wide variation in fees over the life of the vanity program "clearly inequitable" and said the FCC should have handled the matter differently. The League called the proposed \$12.90 fee "reasonable" and urged its adoption "as soon as possible."

Privacy bill passes House, hits Senate

In a resounding 414-to-1 floor vote HR 2369, the Wireless Privacy Enhancement Act of 1998, passed the U.S. House of Representatives in March and now awaits action in the Senate. The house-passed bill includes a report that specifically resolves concerns that the ARRL raised with the staff of the House

Telecommunications Subcommittee.

When first introduced, the League feared it unintentionally could have outlawed all out-of-band operations including MARS and CAP, as well as most scanning and short wave listening. These fears — also voiced by scanner enthusiasts, volunteer fire departments and others — were addressed by the bill's sponsor, Louisiana Republican Billy Tauzin, when the bill was amended. However, the League was concerned that certain provisions in the bill could be interpreted as forbidding the modification of linear amplifiers for 10 and 12-Meters, as well as the modification of transceivers for MARS and CAP use.

In the days before the bill went to the floor, subcommittee staff worked with the League and with other involved parties to craft a committee report that would put our fears to rest. Committee reports are the official statement of "Congressional intent" on important legislation. The House voted on the bill and the report as a single package.

The report made it clear that the Committee did not intend the legislation to prohibit Hams from modifying linear amplifiers after purchase, as permitted by FCC rules, for use on 12 or 10 Meters, or from building or modifying one amplifier per year to enable this capacity.

The report also said that the Committee did not intend that the proposed law be interpreted to discourage manufacturers from providing MARS and CAP modification information. The report also clarified other concerns raised by scanner enthusiasts, short wave listeners and manufacturers. The report's full text can be found at ftp://ftp.loc.gov/pub/thomas/cp105/hr425.txt.

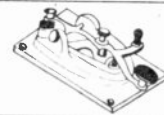
During the house debate on the bill, Tauzin and Florida Republican Cliff Stearns took time to praise the volunteer work of Amateur Radio operators in the wake of natural disasters.

There is no word on what the Senate plans to do about this legislation.

FCC grants Little LEO licenses:

The FCC's International Bureau has granted — subject to certain specified conditions — authorizations to four companies to operate non-voice, non-geostationary mobile-satellite systems in low Earth orbit (NVNG MSS or Little Leo systems). None of the operating frequencies are within amateur bands. Little LEO systems will offer data communications services, including two-way data messaging, vehicle tracking and remote meter reading to earthbound users.

Silent Keys



PAUL HEARNE, WB2GHI

Paul G. Hearne, WB2GHI, of Arlington, Virginia, died 03 May. Hearne was president of the Dole Foundation for Employment of People with Disabilities and president and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities. As director of the National Council on Disability from 1988 to 1989, Hearne helped to draft and press for

passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Hearne was among the first students to attend Long Island's Human Resource Center and the first person with a disability to graduate from Hofstra University Law School. Hearne went on to establish the first legal services office dedicated to people with disabilities.

Hearne was among those who helped to pass message traffic following the Alaska earthquake in 1964. He belonged to the Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club and had a substantial collection of vintage equipment. He also helped to found the Ham Radio Museum in Rockville, Maryland. — N1VXX, *Justice-for-All newsletter, ARRL Letter*

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Stew Gilliam, KI6M — DX banquet speaker

RICK M^cCUSKER, KO6DJ

The highlight of the DX Convention at Visalia, California, this year was the surprise guest speaker at the banquet, Stew Gilliam, KI6M, a well-known comedian, television and movie personality, and a Ham. I cornered Mr. Gilliam and was fortunate enough to record some of his thoughts.

WR: I'm from *Worldradio* magazine. Are you familiar with *Worldradio*?

SG: I am familiar with it, I read it a great deal. It's a great magazine, and I tried to time my call by reading *Worldradio*. Back in those days you published what the calls were, as they were going down, so I tried to get my KK6K call. I wanted a King Kong call.

WR: What did you get?

SG: I got KI6M.

WR: Did you actually try to get KK6K?

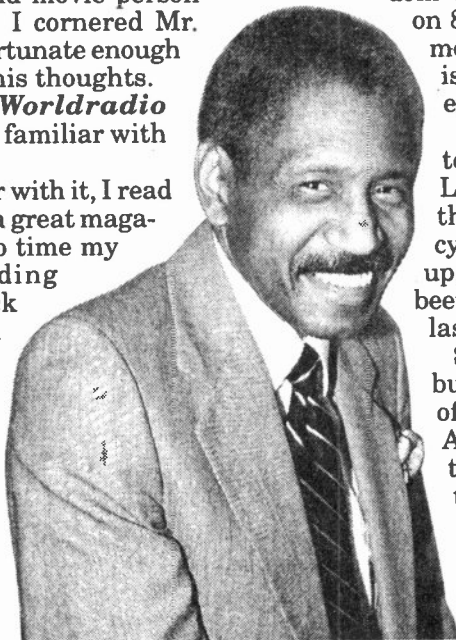
SG: Yes I did, because I had a great call before that, WD6FBU, which was Witch Doctor Six Full Blooded Ubangi. Nobody wanted me to change that!

WR: That's a pretty good call. That was a great presentation that you gave in there. Makes me wish I had brought my video camera instead of my other one.

SG: I try to have fun!

WR: How active are you?

SG: I am not as active as I was. Originally when I got my call, I was under contract with Universal, and they had me on hold for a series. They had me on hold for almost two years so I had the time to devote to one of my passions, Ham radio. So I had the time then, I had a station, and they were paying me to do nothing! The last 10 years, I just haven't had the time to spend at the radio. I love DX and I have enough DX cards to get into the club, but I just haven't



Stew Gilliam, KI6M, the mystery banquet speaker

been able to pursue it at all lately.

WR: What kind of setup do you have at home?

SG: I have an old Kenwood 850 with a KT-34 antenna, an old Swan amp, and a vertical, with an inverted V on 40 Meters and a random wire that I worked on 80 Meters. I have a modest station, but it is a lot of fun, and I enjoy it a great deal.

WR: Are you going to get back into it? Let me put it to you this way. The solar cycle is headed back up, and 10 Meters has been opening up for the last 3 or 4 months.

SG: I'm aware of it, but it is just a matter of finding the time.

And I'm in a situation at my home that I have to get up early in the morning to work DX, I can listen to CW and work CW all morning, but the moment I start working Phone, my voice wakes

up my wife, and I haven't remedied that situation yet. And that is the best time for me to work DX.

WR: Earplugs?

SG: For her?

WR: Yes, for her!

SG: That's a good idea, probably the only way I can work DX phone!

WR: What do you think of the new equipment?

SG: The new equipment today is fantastic. What else is there? The new stuff is on the moon!

WR: It can do everything but get up and dance.

SG: Or cook or clean or keep my wife happy.

WR: Where is your home QTH?

SG: My home is in North Hollywood, California. I live centrally located in the area of the studios, in Studio City.

WR: No CC and Rs?

SG: No CC and Rs. I do have 2

Meters in the car, and when I have to go somewhere, like Anaheim, I do use 2 Meters. My activity right now is really limited to 2 Meters. I've got to upgrade my rig. I have been lazy about that. I haven't upgraded my rigs at all, just because I haven't been active at all. Some of the new stuff is just gorgeous, you know? Makes your mouth water, and your credit card jump right out of your wallet.

WR: You are so right. I was at the Yaesu display and told Chip Margelli, K7JA that I wanted to do a product review of the new FT-847, and told him to let me know when to stop by and pick it up. It didn't work.

SG: It didn't work?

WR: No it didn't!

SG: I keep looking at the new Alpha stuff, and I want one of those in the worst kind of way. You know how that is. I would like to have one of those Signal Ones, but I don't have the time. I am real close to retirement, and when that comes, I am going to rebuild my station.

WR: Thank you for your time.

SG: My pleasure.

92-year-old passes CW test

British amateur Les Breeze, 2E1FXS, became the oldest UK citizen to pass a 5 wpm CW test. It was even more of a challenge for Breeze because he is blind. His wife, Doreen who is not a ham, studied with him in order to assist in learning the code by his wife, Doreen, who is not a Ham but Les is not finished yet. He intends to study the code and theory so he can upgrade to a full privilege UK Class A license. — *Newsline*

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Dayton Hamvention

— A rookie's point of view

RICK McCUSKER, KO6DJ

One of the pleasures of having been given the opportunity to be the editor of *Worldradio* is traveling to various activities around the country which are of major interest to our hobby. (It's a dirty job, but somebody has to do it, right?) For years, I have heard about the Dayton Hamvention, but had never been able to get there. (I have two teenage daughters, i.e., broke!) My wife, Joyce, had mentioned that one of these days, she wants to go to the national convention for counted cross-stitchers. My one word reply was "Dayton". She asked "What's Dayton?" I replied that it is the world's largest gathering of Hams. Well, she still hasn't made it to her convention, but I made it to Hamvention! (If she reads this, I'm in trouble!)

The first clue of how big this event actually is comes from the fact that motel and hotel rooms are sold out a year in advance in a 20-30 mile radius of the Hamvention site. As part of the pre-registration package, you're sent a diagram of the grounds with the location of all the exhibitors and flea market locations. 750 inside locations and several THOUSAND outside booths? Come on! I grew up in Southern California where the original flea market concept started. In the 1950s, drive-in theater owners got the idea to open the theaters on Saturday and Sunday mornings and sell the spaces to people selling stuff. Back then, they were huge! But nowhere near what I witnessed at Dayton!

What a perfect weekend to work some DX and gather a bunch of rare ones needed for your DXCC certificate. There must have been several disappointed DX stations calling "CQ" and not getting much of a pileup, because there were a whole bunch of Hams at the Hamvention.

Worldradio has a booth located in Hara Arena, a hockey facility. We were surrounded by most of the big players in the world of Ham radio. Across the aisle was the Granite Antenna Company, behind us was Ken-

wood, Standard Radio was on our left, and lots and lots of Hams coming to "Mecca" were on our right.

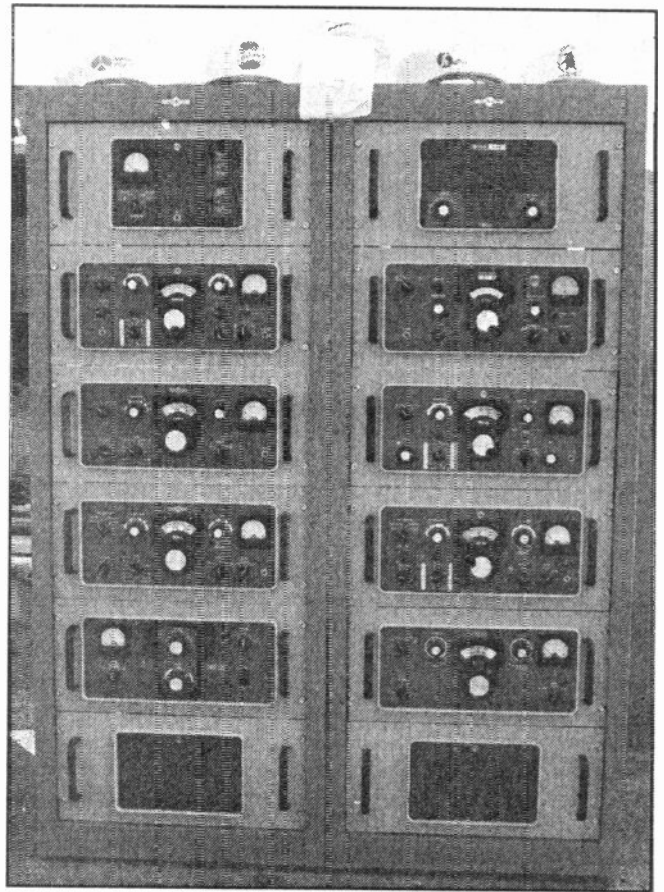
The weather was cooperative. Friday was very warm with a high humidity reading, with Saturday being cooler, and Sunday being flat-out perfect. The weather guessers had predicted rain and thunderstorms for Friday night and Saturday morning, but as usual, they were wrong. A couple of lessons learned were the need for warm weather clothing and sunscreen.

Anything, and I really do mean anything you could possibly imagine having to do with Ham radio, or being even remotely associated with a shack, or having been at one time in the same county with a Ham shack is available in the outdoor flea market area.

I ventured outside on Saturday morning to check out the bargains, and it was literally shoulder-to-shoulder in the flea market. One of the first things that I saw, and just

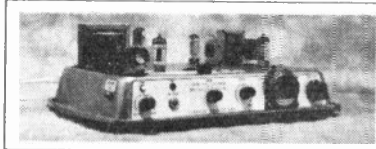
drooled over was a double wide rack, about 4 feet high, with the complete Collins "S" line installed. It was beautiful! (Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, right?) And of course, it already had a "SOLD" sign on it. I didn't bother asking how much it sold for.

Wandering around the area, you get the impression that people from all over the U.S. are here, displaying their treasures. And you would be correct. I saw people walking around with badges, caps and t-shirts with calls from everywhere. License plates on the vehicles verified that conclusion. Several Hams looking for "treasures" were from other parts of the world. Another lesson learned here; wear very comfortable shoes. You will be walking for hours, just on your first trip around the area. On your second trip through the aisles, you need a way to carry all of the stuff that you have purchased. I saw a lot of people wearing large backpacks, and I thought it would be a perfect way to overheat yourself. But it isn't! It's a perfect way to carry and store the stuff you are going to buy!



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All day, every day, there are several interesting forums to attend. If you interest is in MARS, there is a forum. You say your interest is in YL operating? Yep, there's a forum for that too! And DX, Contesting, ARRL, media relations, FCC, Bicycle Mobile Hams and my favorite, the Youth forum. Lots of fabulous information available, no matter what your interest is.

One thing that greatly impressed me was the parking lot. Most people look at their new cars and trucks as the means to transport themselves from point A to point B. Not us! We see it as the opportunity to transport our antennas. I saw an absolutely beautiful red pickup with a matching camper shell in the vendor parking area. It wasn't the color or make that made it so attractive. I counted 12 antennas mounted on the cab and the camper shell. Now that is a beautiful sight!

Everyone there was friendly, and several stopped by the booth to say "hi" and just chat for a couple of minutes. I met Hams that I have had a QSO with, but had never had an "eyeball" with them. It sure is nice to be able to put a face with a voice. I also met some of our columnists. I met Nancy Kott, WZ8C, our Positively CW columnist, and Stacey "ACE" Jansen, N3AHA, who authors the County Hunters column. I was surprised that they were so young! You would usually associate a columnist with someone sitting at a desk, smoking a big fat cigar, nasty disposition, mad at the world, right? Not true! I took a picture of Nancy to place at the head of her column, and you will be shocked by how attractive she is! And "ACE" is a handsome devil, too. YL Hams would love to get to know him!

Lessons learned? Bring double the amount of money your spouse will let you take. There are more than enough bargains here to spend it on. Take lots of warm weather weather clothing, including some form of shade for your head. Wear comfortable shoes. You will be doing a lot of

walking. Bring a backpack or something that you can use to carry your "new" stuff. And plan on at least two days to see everything. You can complete a lap around the entire grounds, but you can't possibly see everything there is to see in one day.

What impressed me the most? The number of people who come to

Hamvention. Especially when you hear Hams say they have been coming every year since they were old enough to get there.

Each one of them was a pleasure to talk to, bump shoulders with, and I really felt I had "arrived" at Hamvention.

See you there next year!

Hearing other voices

MARY PELAK

My dad is a Ham of the Amateur Radio variety. He has a radio shack in our basement. Voices from all over the world can come into the shack. A voice often heard in our house is not a human voice but the voice of a machine. But Dad says that mechanical voice has a rhythm and a musical inflection just like the sound of any foreign language. The language is Morse code, a system of dots and dashes used by radio operators everywhere. Each letter and number has a pattern of dots and dashes and some special Ham jargon has its own pattern. One of the patterns I always recognize is CQ, which means "seeking you," a signal you send out to try and establish a contact. Dad is currently up to 20 words per minute; masters of code can do 35. To operate a radio you need a license, and you can progress from novice to extra by passing a series of tests made up of code and a technical section.

Although Dad's license allows him to talk over the microphone, he prefers code. There is no need for small talk. He patiently sends out the pat-



Mary Pelak

terns that will spell out his call sign and location to the person receiving his signal. Hams often exchange information about their radios and antennas. If he swaps addresses with your contact, he will probably receive a QSL card in the mail. QSLs are postcards Hams send to confirm contacts from all over the world. Dad has tried everything in his quest to master the code. He even sent away for tapes called "The Rhythm of the Code" that has singers chanting the patterns of the code alphabet to a pounding beat in the background.

But mastering the code was much more difficult than he thought. As with any foreign language, it takes a lot of time and practice to master and be proficient at sending it. Dad found his avocation in the Amateur Radio airwaves learning a language that spoke to him through its practical purposes and its universality.

(Ed. Mary, 16, submitted the above as part of an English project. Her teacher is Mr. Thomas Jones at Wyoming Valley West High School, in Plymouth, PA. I am sending a copy of this issue to Mr. Jones. Maybe we can get Mary an "A" for the project.)

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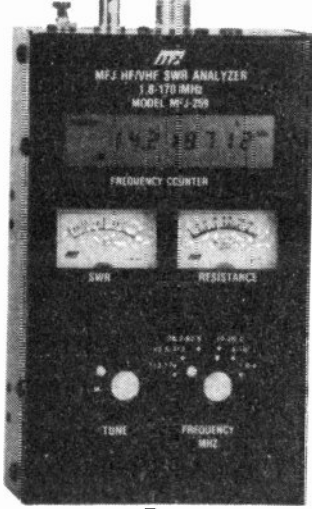
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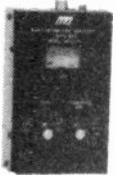
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MFJ 2 Meter FM Signal Analyzer™

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MFJ's revolutionary handheld 2 Meter FM Signal Analyzer™ lets you measure signal strength with over 60 dB dynamic range; check and set FM deviation of your packet and voice radios; measure antenna gain, beamwidth, front-to-back ratio, sidelobe suppression and actual feedline loss in dB.

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Only MFJ gives you tunable and programmable "brick wall" DSP filters

MFJ's *tunable* super DSP filter automatically eliminates heterodynes, reduces noise and interference *simultaneously* on SSB, AM, CW, packet, AMTOR, PACTOR, RTTY, SSTV, WeFAX, FAX, weak signal VHF, EME, satellite.

You get MFJ's *tunable* FIR linear phase filters that minimize ringing, prevent data errors and have "brick wall" filter response with up to 57dB attenuation 75 Hz away.

Only MFJ gives you 5 *tunable* DSP filters. You can *tune* each lowpass, highpass, notch, and bandpass filter including optimized SSB and CW filters. You can *vary* the bandwidth to pinpoint and eliminate interference.

Only MFJ gives you 5 *factory* pre-set filters and 10 *programmable* pre-set filters that you can *customize*. Instantly remove QRM with a turn of a switch!

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You also get MFJ's advanced *adaptive noise reduction*. It silences background noise and QRM so much that SSB signals sound like FM.

The *automatic notch* and *adaptive noise reduction* can be used with *all* relevant tunable pre-set filters.

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Narrow band signals like CW and RTTY jump out of QRM when you switch in MFJ's exclusive *tunable* FIR bandpass filters.

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3400 Hz. This lets you create *custom* filters for Voice, Data and other modes.

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The LMS algorithm gives you up to 20 dB of noise reduction. Noise reduction is adjustable to prevent signal distortion.

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If you don't like our pre-set filters, you can program your own -- an *MFJ exclusive!* Save center frequency/bandwidth, lowpass/highpass cutoffs, auto/manual notch, noise reduction -- all filter settings -- in 10 *programmable* filters.

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MFJ-1026
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lightning crashes from distant thunderstorms, electric drills, motors, industrial processes . . .

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of Packet, AMTOR, PACTOR, GTOR, Clover, RTTY, SSTV, WeFAX, FAX, CW -- nearly any digital mode. Automatic gain control, ON/OFF/Bypass switch. Plugs between transceiver and multi-mode. Uses 10-16 VDC or 110 VAC with MFJ-1312B, \$12.95. 4 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 5 in.

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Visalia DX convention

JOHN F.W. MINKE III, N6JM

The 1998 International DX Convention returned to Visalia this year. Sponsored by the Southern California DX Club, the annual event was held the first three days in May. Old timers can remember when this event was usually held in Fresno in January. This affair continues to grow and the facilities at the Holiday Inn were bursting at the seams with attendees near the 600 figure.

At 7:30 in the evening, although not shown in the program, was an IOTA Dinner. Lew Jenkins, N6VV, arranged this one to honor visiting IOTA representatives from RSGB, Martin Atherton, G3ZAY, and Neville Cheadle, G3NUG. Lew said it was his first anniversary in the IOTA program as he started just last year, headed off to Santa Catalina Island (NA-066) and made some 4000 contacts in 50 countries. His location was at Two Harbors for a good shot into Europe.

Later in the summer Lew and a few others headed north to activate some Canadian islands. They headed out to the Queen Charlotte Islands (NA-051) to operate in the IOTA Contest. They set the record for North America with over one million points. Following the contest they headed to Green Island (NA-118). Located in the Inside Passage along the B.C. coast, this island is hard to land on due to the swells. This operation was well appreciated as it was several years since the last operation from that group.

Hiroo Yonezawa, JA2EZD, briefly discussed his operation from Vietnam where he operated as 3W5EWB on CW from Con Dao Island (AS-130) last October. Also with him was Yuki, JI6KVR, who operated SSB as 3W5KVR. Hiroo had prepared a video for his presentation.

Tom Attwood, W6IXP, discussed his trip to Kayak Island (NA-157) where he operated in last summer's IOTA contest. He made 1,447 contacts.

Martin, G3ZAY, discussed the awards program and had some examples of the new certificates now being used. Martin said that you

could also have replacement certificates for the older forms for a fee.

At the conclusion of the program, Lew, N6VV, was awarded by the IOTA committee a plaque for his efforts in his recent IOTA DXpeditions and for organizing this meeting.

Dave Bell, W6AQ, the Master of Ceremonies, welcomed early bird DXers to the 49th annual gathering, and immediately turned it over to Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, the Southwest Division ARRL Director. He



Wolf Ostwald, DF2PY

welcomed Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Second Vice President of the ARRL; visiting directors, including Brad Wyatt, K6WR, Pacific; NM7M, Mary Lou Brown, Northwest; Lew Gordon, K4VX, Midwest; and John Kanode, N4MM, Roanoke. Also Vice Directors Art Goddard, W6XD, and Jim Maxwell, W6CF, of the Southwest and Pacific, respectively. Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, Honorary Vice President, was also recognized.

Fried also introduced members of our very important DX Advisory Committee, including Wayne Mills, N7NG, Chairman; Dick Moen,

N7RO; and Vince Thompson, K5VT. And members of the Contest Advisory Committee: Ned Stearns, AA7A and Bob Wilson, N6TV.

Dave introduced members of the panel that included: Jim Maxwell, W6CF, Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, our newly promoted Membership Services Manager at Headquarters, Vince Thompson, K5VT, Wayne Mills, N7NG, John Kanode, N4MM, and Lew Gordon, K4VX.

The first question was concerning the minimum size rule. Simply stated if the island does not meet the criteria, it just doesn't exist, and will not count in the separation rule determination. In other words, if this non-existing island were to lie between two other recognized islands, it would be treated as not there.

Then there was Eritrea (E3). Presently, it is apparently impossible to get a license to operate from there, and even Carl and Martha Henson cannot. They had been active from that one in the past and gave many a DXer a new one. There seems to be new people in authority there now.

And, then there was the subject regarding North Korea (P5). Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, said that no one will talk about this one as surely some one would jam it.

Other comments included subjects such as Chinese islands, with a reply that there is no change; and Hong Kong remains as is due to a separate IARU operating society.

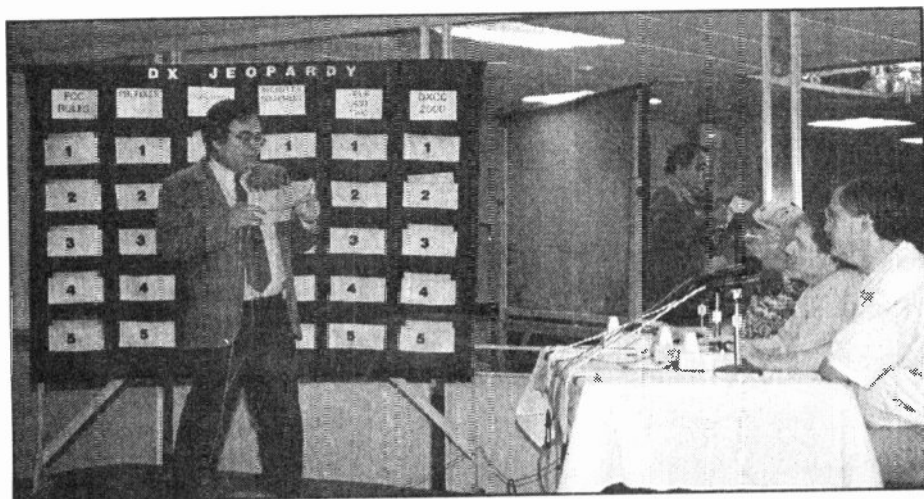
Someone also questioned 4U1WB, where Bill, K5FUV, suggested purchasing the latest copy of the DXCC Country List, which includes the rules for DXCC 2000.

The subject of expanding field checking of QSL cards was brought up. It was explained that new software was being developed for this where an import program from disc would be used. This won't include the Internet and will not be available until 1999.

There seemed to be some confusion on the minimum size rule. Wayne, N7NG, says the required minimum size is determined by a connected distance of 100 meters. Kingman Reef is only 75 meters, but was grandfathered in from the former list.

Bill, K5FUV, was asked about Electronic QSLing. He said it would be looked into, but it is unlikely. This also includes logs that have been sent in. However, if it takes longer

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Recent DXpeditions for 5, Alex...

than five seconds for a search, it will not be acceptable.

There was a question regarding a minimum contact rule, such as for IOTA that requires at least 50 contacts and 5 DXCC countries for a new IOTA island to qualify. This was brought up as that last North Korean operation only netted 17 contacts, with most of them with Japanese DXers. There are some DXers who felt that this was a selective operation. It was not and there was a big pileup. They just did not stop operating after the few contacts; it was the North Korean government that shut them down. A vote was taken from the floor regarding such a minimum contact rule and it was evident that DXers were not interested in such a rule.

It was mentioned that Southern Sudan (STØ) was the last deleted country. Any future removals from the list will be considered as if they never existed. All new entities to the list such as Temotu Islands (H40), will be accepted only after 01 April or 01 October each year as to allow all to have a chance to get a card. The DXAC should have a decision on our three new ones by this October 1st. And, they will not be field checkable for two years.

The Marquesas and Austral islands meet the rules for new entities. These two entities were also requested in the 1980s as they qualified as a "point 1" country (French Polynesia). The DXAC decided that French Polynesia did not qualify. Although the DXAC had erred they had made the decision in good faith. Therefore, this addition should not be retroactive. That charge would have been in 1988 when the separation distance was

changed from 500 to 225 miles.

There were some DXers who suggested that foreign DXers be appointed to the DXAC. The present DXAC includes all Americans and one Canadian. Fifty percent of the membership in DXCC includes such foreign DXers. It was explained that the DXCC program is a net loss to the ARRL and they are reluctant to give such control to non-members or out-of-country DXers. Jim, W6CF, suggested non-voting members, but this, too, was not accepted.

Following the DX Forum was a slide show of the ZK1XXP DXpedition to the North Cook Islands by Mike Mraz, N6MZ. The operation, sponsored by the Dateline DX Association, took place on Penrhyn Island during the period 20-27 September 1997 and was hosted by ZK1WL, a resident of the island.

The team made some 15,299 contacts from the island with 6,708 on SSB and 8,101 on CW. A good portion of the total contacts were with the U.S., which amounted to 10,000. Two of the team members, Dick Watt, KI6AN, and Dick Moen, N7RO, were at the convention.

During Saturday afternoon there was a CW Pile-up Contest, where the object was to pick out as many calls as possible from a prepared tape. This has been a popular event in the past and many DXers participated. Also available during the afternoon, was QSL checking for the DXCC awards program. It was here that many a DXer suddenly became aware of the new fee structure, such as the case where a gentleman had only one card to be checked. That cost him \$15; \$10 for the endorsement, and \$5 for the checking fee.

Frank Smith, AHØW/OH2LVG

presented "Midway to Kure, The Saga Continues." The adventure was that of the Midway-Kure DX Foundation and sailed from Midway Island to operate K7K on Green Island in the Kure Atoll. Activity from Kure had been almost nil since the LORAN station had been torn down in 1992. The group had been invited to go there as their behavior on Midway Island had been good. Accompanying them were four Fish and Wildlife people.

Sailing on the S.S. *Midway* to this most remote island in the world were the following: Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB; Kimo Chun, KH7U; Mike Goode, N9NS; Randy Martin, KØEU; Burt Myers, WØMY (formerly WØRLX); Erik Sjolund, SMØAGD; Frank, AHØW/OH2LVG; and Yuji Yoshitani, JA3IG/K1NT. They made over 27,000 contacts during their stay on Kure. He also mentioned that 1,100 were made on 160 Meters.

The final DX presentation for the afternoon was that of the Maldive Islands DXpedition narrated by Warren Hill, K7WX, of the Central Arizona DX Association. Listed as "8Q7AA DXing from the Indian Ocean", the DXpedition took place in January of this year. Warren spent much of the time explaining why on the lower bands that certain locations communication just was not possible due to the polar oval near both poles. Any signal path would be absorbed while passing through these belts. This applied to 40-160 Meters.

Saturday banquet

There was a large crowd at this gathering, some 595 souls. Dave Bell, W6AQ, introduced officers of the three major clubs — the South-

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ern California DX Club, the Northern California DX Club, and the San Diego DX Club. Visiting DXers were asked to stand, showing that six other countries were present.

During Friday evening there was an event in which participating DXers tried to identify DX operators from the past. There were 30 individual persons shown. Rusty Epps, W6OAT, was the winner, correctly identifying 23.

Then the Southern and Northern California DX clubs announced their DXers of the Year. The Southern California Club chose Will Angenent, K6NDV, while the honor in the northern club went to Gordon Girton, W6NW, formerly W6NLG.

Dave then introduced us to a special mystery guest speaker. The mystery guest was hilarious, and had us rolling in the aisles. At the end of his talk, Dave introduced the gentleman as Stew Gilliam, KI6M!

The guest presentation for the evening was Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, who talked about the recent 9MØC DXpedition to the Spratly Islands. Neville said the February 1998 DXpedition consisted of 15 to 20 operators and made some 65,542 contacts during 12 days of operation. This one was the first DXpedition from the United Kingdom in 20 years. They made 8,000 contacts the first day of operation. At times, during CW operations, they were clipping along at 300 contacts per hour. With a target of 40,000 contacts planned, they did rather well.

Sunday morning buffet

Following the buffet, Dave Bell, W6AQ, introduced the winners of the CW Pile-up Contest that took place Saturday afternoon. The winner was none other than Fred Laun, K3ZO, who correctly copied 60 out of 90 calls. It was stated that 45 calls were buried under other calls in the mess. Second place went to Jim McCook, W6YA, who correctly copied 57, and third place was Bob Locher, W9KNI, with 55 calls. The youngest person to take that test was only 12 years old with the oldest being 81.

Jim Neiger, N6TJ, mentioned that he began coming to this annual event in 1965 when he was only 25 years old and asked those that age and under to stand. There were a few young DXers present to stand. Incidentally, we know of one local DXer who was initially too young to attend the convention by himself and had to be accompanied by his father. That was Gary Stilwell, KI6T. Gary was at this convention and was accompanied by his son, Glen, WR6O, who is old enough to go by himself!

Then it was time for DX Jeopardy, an annual affair put on by the San Diego DX Club. This was hosted by John, K6AM. The three participants this year were Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, and Bob Johnson, W9XY. These three were the winners of the event held the previous day. The event went along well and by the time Final Jeopardy

was reached Jay was in the lead with Bob, W9XY, close behind. The final question was what entity was a DXpedition planned for 1999. Jay was the only one to correctly answer and was the winner. The DXpedition is Campbell Island.

Frank Smith, AHØW, then introduced Zorro Miyazawa, JH1AJT, who had visited Laos many times and was one of the operators of the XW3Ø and XW3ØA DXpedition. Frank narrated a slide show of the XW3Ø/XW3ØA operation, which included seven operators. Zorro also announced his intention to operate from Bhutan (A51) and is looking for two to three operators each from Europe, Japan, and the United States.

Wayne Mills, N7NG, one of the operators of the recent H4ØAA DXpedition to the Temotu Islands, discussed the DXpedition. Wayne said they had a chartered Twin Otter, and they bumped food and mail, plus the co-pilot, to make room for the crew and equipment. Twelve to 13 operators took part, but with only five on the island at any one time.

The final presentation was by Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, who recently operated from both the Austral and Marquesas islands with his son, Rob, W6KR. Just four days prior they had been operating as FOØFR. Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, who signed FOØMIZ, was also operating on the islands with them. Bob mentioned they did have some minor problems such as the antenna falling down after someone had loosened one of the guy wires and a dog chewed through the coax cable.

Wayne then presented Rich Bongeorno, WU6T, with a certificate for making the most contacts with H4ØAA. And, Bob did the same as Rich worked them on each band and mode. Some muttered DX hog. But, this isn't true as these were not duplicate contacts!

This concluded the 1998 International DX Convention. Next year it will be hosted by the Northern California DX Club at a location yet to be determined.

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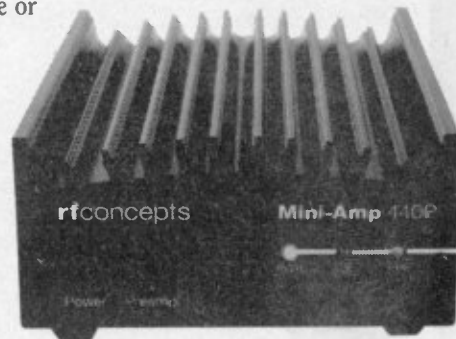
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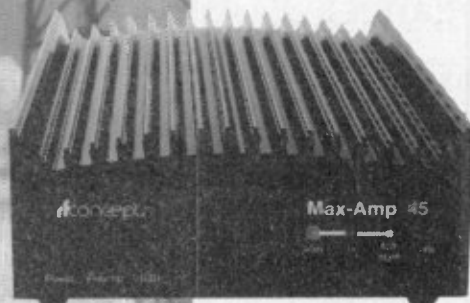
There are times your handheld radio needs a little "boost" to overcome distance or operating conditions. The rfconcepts Mini-Amp line is designed to help your HT get HEARD and using the preamp, receive more signals. Mini-Amps can add 10 ~ 15 dB gain to your signal, yet require just 5 amps @ 13.8 VDC to do the job. Perfect for mobile, base or field operations. With just 2 or 3 watts in, you can generate 20 to 30 watts out, giving your HT the "punch" of a mobile or base transceiver.

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A Dayton moment with Carole Perry, WB2MGP



Carole Perry, WB2MGP

RICK M^cCUSKER, KO6DJ

One of the most exciting moments for me at Dayton was the chance to interview one of Amateur Radio's heroes. Carole Perry was in attendance to speak at two forums this year. As she has done for years, Carole hosts the Youth forum, and is the speaker for the forum for educators.

The focus of the Educators' forum was to come up with innovative ways to reach young people, igniting an interest in Amateur Radio. Several school teachers were present in the audience, and Carole had lots of good ideas on getting them fired up about Ham radio.

After the forum, I had the chance to ask Carole a few questions.

WR: You have had some great success teaching Ham radio, you're famous throughout the Ham radio world as an educator. Where do you see the future of Ham radio going, as far as youth in Ham radio?

CP: Clearly I believe that Ham radio belongs in every school in the United States. It's a great motivational tool. It takes children who have no skills, or reluctant learners, and enables them to feel good in a classroom situation. The gifted children enjoy this as a challenging hobby and a way to get a license. So

I've incorporated it for everybody to learn from. I see the future from a classroom perspective, because that is where the future of everything is. And I see everybody being able to benefit from this in a classroom setting. That is my goal — getting this into as many different schools as I can.

WR: How long have you been teaching Amateur Radio in your classes?

CP: For the last 20 years I have been teaching 14 classes every term, which equals about 1,000 children a year coming through my program.

WR: Is Ham radio your exclusive subject, or do you teach science and other classes?

CP: Exclusively, that's it, the Ham radio program in my school.

WR: Amazing!

CP: Every child that goes through

that Intermediate school, that's 6th, 7th and 8th graders will have one session in the Amateur Radio class.

WR: So it's a required class?

CP: It's a required class. That's because we incorporate all the other school curriculum into that program. I teach geography, language arts, social studies skills, you name it, I teach it. It's on a need to know basis. That's the whole key to the program. They want to know, because it's something they just encountered on the air.

WR: Do you actually get a station on the air during class?

CP: Oh yes, absolutely. We have made SAREX contacts from my school, and we have a low band rig as well as local Ham radio operators who are very supportive of my program. We have VHF and UHF equipment, and the children experience all of it. Even ATV!

WR: Out of all your experiences in 20 years of teaching, what is your favorite experience?

CP: Wow, that's a hard one, of course, I have about 100 favorite ones. I love all the stuff with the astronauts. Those are my favorites. Speaking with them on the space shuttle is very exciting, but more exciting is when we get them at the Johnson Space Center, they can be more relaxed and casual. And one, Jay Apt, N5QWF, one of the astrohams, got on from the space center and conducted a lesson for my children over the radio. He had them go to the board and design a space suit. Then based on what they said they would incorporate, he added on what really goes into it, and so on. You could hear a pin drop in that classroom. It was a 90-minute unbelievable lesson. And that led us from there into some of the other things I do in the classroom.

WR: Other school districts have problems finding Ham volunteers to come into the classroom to demonstrate Amateur Radio. Any suggestions for educators who would like to do that?

CP: What I have found is that it's very unusual to find a Ham or a club that won't want to come in and offer a demonstration. If you're looking for that kind of thing, to put on a demonstration, contact your local PTA, volunteer to be a speaker, and put on a demo at the PTA meeting. They are always looking for interesting speakers to bring the folks out to the meeting at night. Volun-

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teer to go in and show them what Ham radio can offer to the school. You are bound to tickle someone's fancy, there will be a teacher, a principal or a parent who will want to have their children exposed to this. And don't go into the technical joys of Ham radio, they want to hear that their child may be able to talk to an astronaut in space using Ham radio. So go in there with your best foot forward, and make a good impression.

WR: In your opinion, what is the best thing to happen to Ham radio in the last 20 years?

CP: From my point of view, SAREX. Clearly the ability for young people, everyday average students to be able to get on a micro-

phone and speak with someone that has been in space is unbelievable.

WR: Any words for the young Hams just starting out?

CP: Have fun! Incorporate this into your daily routine, and get more friends into it. The more friends you have involved, the more friends that you have brought into it, the more fun you will have with it. It's a fun thing to do. It's a survival device, it's something you can have for safety reasons in today's world. Communications are always an advantage to have in your possession. Be the one that the other kids want to talk to to find out more information. You will be more popular with your group, and you will really have some fun.

What Amateur Radio means to me

4th place winner in our recent contest

**JOSEPH A. VALASEK,
K3MRT**

Amateur Radio is a journey where I meet wonderful people. In high school, my friend, K3GCT, wins the General race by overnight New Year's Day bus to Buffalo. K3ENF, SK, allows one short cigarette to time my Novice test. W3LDS, Uncle Tony, "shellac it and make a light out of it" appraisals of home brew work, slow scan, and Dayton trips. W3SFA — CW, Novice Classes and Elaine's "chocolate" times at the farm. WB3KDY's body cast, the "great fish," and family, KB3XT's blueberries, antennas, and Carmella's cookies. The Callbook late at night searching local calls and missing some. K3FOW's picnic, the twins, (his, not Kenwood's), Field Day, and the wedding. Hummell family and grandfather's sticky buns for my father after surgery. The Drexlers' visits and the Hamvention bus. SK WB3FNT and Pauline's homemade ice cream and toppings. Harry Crum, SK, boat races and RACES. KA3JNW, SR, whose daughter, now at Duquesne University called me "Morris Code." W3YEY and Leah, who always make you welcome on

Allegheny shores. Larry, KB3OG, the standard for net controls. All the men and women of the Fort Armstrong Wireless Association and the folks I'll forget as I write. Paul Quartz, SK, KB3VD, a kind neighbor. KN3ZAN, the strongest signal received (He was in the driveway). My XYL, Josie, who guided wires, dirt, radials, and people through the house and then wows us by becoming W3REN. The journey continues on the air or anywhere. People who better my life with happy and sad times. As I tune across life's band, a mix of faces, names, calls, and memories trace the dial, an unending wave of friendships; strong and weak; lost and found; and some gone forever in the ether. And I hope, when the Lord hears my call in that final DX pile-up, I'll be among the deserving.

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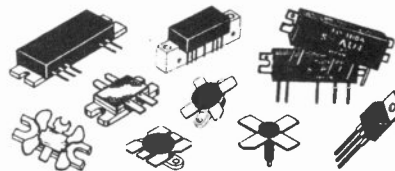
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Off the air

The Worldradio Club

A good number of years ago (8, 10, 12??), I celebrated my upgrade to General Class by attending a local Amateur Radio Swapfest and wrapped up the experience with a bonus...my name had been drawn to receive a complimentary one-year subscription to *Worldradio* magazine.

I came to appreciate the diverse interests represented by the columns and features in your magazine, and especially enjoyed the emphasis on PEOPLE. That one year of exposure prompted me to renew, and I've been a subscriber ever since.

I'm now the president of the club that handed me that complimentary subscription. When your recent mailing arrived and offered the "package" of fringe benefits to clubs for \$65, it was easy to recommend it to the membership.

The Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs, Limited at UWSP is now part of the *Worldradio* family, and I'm looking forward to seeing the happiness that those subscription prizes will bring at this year's swapfest. I'd like to thank you for what amounts to a delightful "win-win" marketing idea, and I'd especially like to thank you for your unselfish distribution of subscription prizes for these many years. I have personally benefited from your generosity, and I'd like to think that the hobby has benefited as well.

MIKE PAGEL, K9UW
Amherst, Wisconsin

(Ed; The Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs is now one of our participating clubs. They will be listed on the "Visit Your Local Radio Club" pages, and are eligible for the monthly club drawing for an MFJ analyzer. Your club can be a part of the Worldradio family. All it takes is a phone call, letter or email to us, and we will send you an outstanding offer for your members! You can also see the Worldradio club information on the Internet at www.wr6wr.com on the club page.)

Where are all the CW ops?

A little while ago, someone making the argument for retention of the CW requirement said "listen around the CW segments of our bands." The writer went on to assure us that we'd be amazed at all the activity there. Well, I took him up on it.

I didn't make any attempt to minimize (or maximize) my chances of hearing QSOs. My rig happened to be tuned to 3.933, so I just tuned down into the CW segment of that band. Listening up from 3.500 to 3.750, I found three QSOs under way. By comparison, I heard 25 QSOs on phone from 3.750 to 4.000. Well, the writer was right — I was surprised. I'd expected more CW activity.

Wondering if this was a fluke, I tuned to 30M. Not one QSO was heard there. Zero. Zilch — on the band that's supposed to be all FOR CW! The disparity in numbers of ongoing activity was greater on 20 and 17 Meters than on 75/80.

A week later, I tried it again. Same bands, different time of day. Results were almost identical.

Yesterday, after reading my latest issue of *Worldradio*, I tried it again. The time of day was different from the previous two. Again, no CW activity on 30M, and very little on the other bands. I didn't try the bands I haven't mentioned.

So where are all the CW ops? I

know they come out of the woodwork for the major contests and when there's a popular Special-Events station operating. The presence of larger numbers of operators at such times does not, however, militate in favor of the argument that CW "will always get through." The whole point of operating CW in the tests is to collect points, and to do so, you gotta go to quite a bit of effort to give points as well. The number of contacts made during a contest does not mean CW should be mandatory.

An attempt was made in May's issue of *Worldradio* to justify mandating CW by pointing to the use of CW in a case of a vessel in distress on the high seas. The attempt fails, however. The surviving family members of any seaman who might have perished in that incident would have immediately sued the shipping company for negligence, for not making sure they had modern voice and data communications capability on board. And they'd have won.

My problem isn't with CW or CW ops. I do use the mode, though infrequently. What distresses me is the proliferation of folks whose opinions are molded in concrete; whose attitude is "my way or the highway."

May I ask the following: if CW ability must be proven in order to earn a ticket, why don't we also demand that proficiency be demonstrated in operating other modes besides SSB and CW? Do we insist that a would-be op demonstrate the ability to make a satellite contact? To operate RTTY? Do we mandate testing in traffic-handling ability before awarding a license? No, we don't.

If, as is often repeated, we're stuck with mandatory CW testing because of treaties we've signed with other nations, it seems reasonable that all one should have to do is prove the ability to copy and decipher the code. Five wpm is quite enough to do that. So, let that be the requirement. Drop the 13- and 20wpm requirements.

The one thing, outside deliberate interference and on-air vulgarity, that turns more new or would-be ops off is for some self-righteous jerk to answer a tentative, 5wpm

(Continued on page 69)

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday:

- 1 to 6 pm: Seminars on RF Safety and AMSAT
- 3 pm: Registration opens
- 5 pm: Earlybird Drawing
- 5 pm to 8 pm: Exhibits open

Saturday:

- 7 am to noon: Flea Market open
- 9 am to 4 pm: Exhibits open
- 9 am to 4 pm: Forums and Technical Sessions
- 9 am to 11 am: Ladies' programs
- 9 am to 4 pm: Comm Vans open
- 9 am to 12 noon: VE Exams
- 9 am to 4 pm: Ham Station on air
- 11 am to 12 noon: Ladies Lunch
- Woman Gold Medalist speaks**
- 1 pm to 4 pm: VE Exams
- 4 pm to 5 PM: **ARRL FORUM**
- 6 pm to 7 pm: Social Hour
- 7 pm to 10 pm: Banquet= talk on **International Space Station**
- 6 pm to 12 am: Hospitality Rooms open for your enjoyment

12: am: Wouff Hong

Sunday:

- 8 am: DX Breakfast, Terry Dubson, K6JL - speaking on Papua New Guinea
- 9 am to 12 pm: Exhibits Open
- 9 am to 12 pm: Forums and Technical Sessions
- 12 Noon: Closing Ceremonies
- 2 pm: T-Hunt starts
- (Program details to be found on

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For more information, call Sybil Allbright, W6GIC, at (619) 278-4284

Friday Seminars: There will be two ARRL Seminars on Friday, Aug. 14.

The first will be on the topic of RF Safety and You.

The second will be on Amateur Satellites. Both will be from 1-6 pm.

There will be a charge of \$20 for ARRL members and \$25 for non-members.

Register with ARRL Headquarters or at the door. Space limited.



SPECIAL EVENTS

MT. WASHINGTON DXPEDITION

The Whitman ARC "WA1NPO" will be operating a special event from the "Tip Top House" at the summit of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire on 13 June 1998 at 0900-1500 EST.

Freqs: 3.970, 7.270, 14.270, 18.140, 21.370, 24.970, 28.370

Please call WA1NPO 13 June 1998. For certificate send QSL to: WARC, P.O. Box 48, Whitman, MA

KINCARDINE'S 150TH

The Kincardine DX Group special event station XK3K to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the town of Kincardine. Call sign will be used 26 July 1998 0000Z-08 August 1998 2359Z. Operations will be on all bands 80-10 Meters SSB and CW. Please send SASE for QSL to VE3EFX, Bill Hardie, 755 Johnston Crescent, Kincardine, Ontario, N2Z 1S5, CANADA.

SMALL TOWN SALUTE

The Stu Rockafellow ARS of Plymouth, Michigan, Special Events Station for their 2nd annual "Salute to America's Small Towns" 04 July. Call sign will be W8NJH and SSB target frequencies will be 7.270 MHz and 14.270 MHz. Hours will be 1200Z to 2000Z, 04 July 1998.

For certificate, please QSL with 9" x 12" SASE to: Dave Langston, KB8RAP, 1000 Town Center, Suite 1200, Southfield, MI 48075.

SS LANE VICTORY

The S.S. Lane Victory ARC will conduct special operations 11-12 July, 15-16 August, and 12-13 September, in support of the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of WWII, honoring the Merchant Marine veterans who lost their lives defending our country on Victory Ships. Services will be conducted daily from the ship while at sea.

Call is W6LV operating on 10, 15, 20 and 40, in the general portion of the band, and on VHF. Certificates

to verify contacts. Stations wishing a certificate must send a 9"x12" SASE with 55 cents postage, along with their QSL card showing their contact number to: S.S. Lane Victory ARC-W6LV, Attn: QSL Manager, P.O. Box 629, San Pedro, CA 90733-0629.

HERITAGE DAY

DELTAVILLE, VA: Middlesex Amateur Radio Group (M.A.R.G.) will operate Station KB4NGO, from 1300-1900 on Saturday, 04 July 1998, commemorating annual Deltaville Heritage Day Celebration. Lower General (80M, 10M phone and CW). For a certificate, send a 9"x12" SASE to: Fay Smith, P.O. Box 88, Hardyville, VA 23070.

EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT

The Fox Cities ARC (Appleton, WI) W9ZL Special Event station from the EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association). Fly-In and Convention (EAA AirVenture '98) at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh, WI.

SSB-HF operation will begin on

Friday 31 July-Sunday, 02 August. General portions of phone bands. RTTY operation will be mostly on 7085 and 14085. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily.

A special 8"x10" certificate is offered for contacts with proper QSLs.

QSL to Wayne Pennings, WD9FLJ, 913 N. Mason, Appleton, WI 54914.

LITTLE HOUSE

DeSmet, SD, Lake Area Radio Klub, Watertown, SD, Huron ARC, Huron, SD, Radio Research Club, Brookings, SD, Deuel County ARC, Clear Lake, SD, Special Event station KBØTAH, 1700Z 04 July-2200Z 05 July, from "The Little House on the Prairie (Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant)," on or near 3.870, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.415, and 50.135. Certificate: SASE to LARK, Box 642, Watertown, SD 57201-0642.

FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

The Canton ARC will operate W8AL 1300 24 July-2400 26 July to celebrate the annual Pro-Football Hall of Fame Festival.

Freqs: 7.265, 14.265, 21.365, 28.430

For certificate, send 9"x12" SASE to: Donald E. Perry, WQ8J, 968 Culverne Ave., NW Massillon, OH 44647.

WISCONSIN'S 150TH

Amateur Radio operators of Wisconsin in conjunction with Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial Celebration and the 27th annual Sawdust Days Festival will be on the air from 1700-0200Z General band portions of 10, 15, 20, and 40 Meters, SSB and CW. Call W9W. Send a 9"x12" SASE for the certificate to Mark Miller, N9WT, 336 W. 8th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901-5928.

129TH RESCUE WING

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association W6OTX will host a Special Event station 12 July 1998, 1800-2200Z, to honor the 129th Rescue Wing of the Air National Guard, Moffett Field Federal Air Station, Mountain View, CA. Operation will be on the General Class SSB segments of 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meters as well as VHF/UHF. For certificate, send SASE to PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

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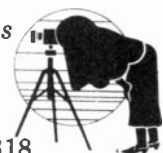
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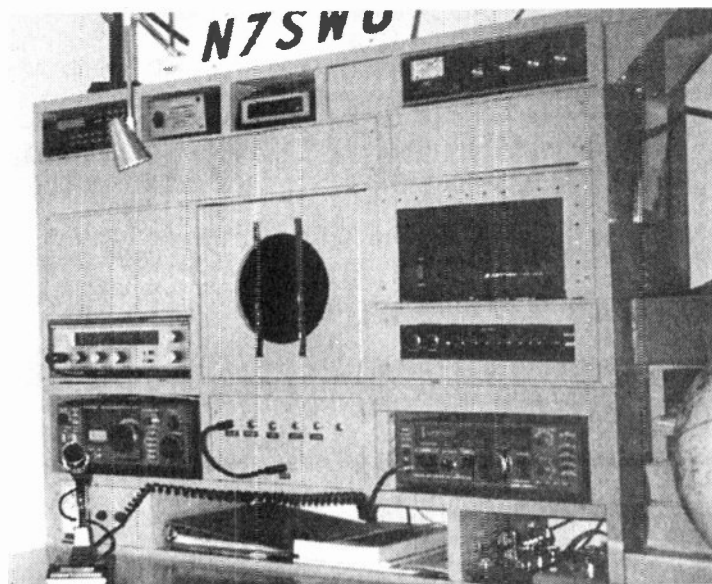
N7SWU

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

My older brother used to build one- and two- tube receivers, and we used to see how much "DX" we could hear on the broadcast band. He helped me learn code when I was about 10 years old (1931) and built an audio oscillator using a 201-A. We strung a pair of wires between our upstairs bedrooms and used to exchange messages. I started out experimenting with crystal sets. My senior year in high school, I was bitten by the Ham radio bug. I studied for the exam and built my first rig, which was a 6L6 xtal oscillator. Got my ticket in early 1940 and went on 40 Meters (W7IBC) using a modified National SW-3 receiver. I left Ham Radio in 1961 and returned to it in 1991 and was assigned N7SWU.

Present QTH has rules against antennas so had to string up my dipole under eaves of house which puts it only 7 ft. off ground. I am not exactly "burning" up the airwaves, but manage to work out once in a while. I have amassed 16 countries and 24 states in limited hours of operation, mostly 20 CW but like 10 and 15 SSB when propagation conditions are favorable. I am a member of ARRL, OCWA, and OOTC.

My equipment is: Bottom row left to right, Kenwood R-1000 SWL receiver, Audio patch panel, Kenwood TS-140 transceiver, second row: Realistic PRO-2 PSB receiver, speaker, Sony TR-8460 aircraft band receiver, 3rd row blank, speaker, Astron RS20A power supply for TS-140, Top row: Realistic PRO-2030 Scanner, Realistic 12-volt auxiliary power supply, MFJ 24-hr digital clock for UTC, MFJ 941-E antenna tuner for TS-140.



— Amateur "Hi" —



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Technical Difficulties

BERNIE PEAKE, N4CR

My interest in radio began in the late 1920s when my brother Ken and I built a crystal set we had seen in *Popular Radio Magazine*. Thanks to my neighbor, we had instant success.

After I graduated from high school, I began working at a newspaper and one of my duties was to supply the new local radio station, WKBN, with news bulletins that the newspaper felt were superfluous to their daily edition. WKBN was a wonderful station built by two local Hams.

There were nice accommodations

for WKBN, located several floors up in the local YMCA building in downtown Youngstown, Ohio. A convenient air shaft in the building provided room for the open-wire feeders which were attached to the antenna, a centerfed dipole which was strung between two high buildings. At 570 kHz, it was about 821 feet long.

(In the floors above the station were nice rooms rented by the YMCA to guests. One guest had purchased a radio and stopped at the radio shop nearby for a long coil of antenna wire. He let the wire dangle down the air shaft, but it refused to uncoil. So he took a glass milk bottle full of water, tied it to the end of the wire and let it hang down the shaft.

All went well until we had a hard freeze one winter night. The water in the bottle froze, bursting the bottle, causing the antenna wire to fly up the shaft and coil itself around the WKBN antenna feeders. When Carl, W8PH, the engineer fired up the transmitter...POW! The guest's new radio was completely incinerated. This program was interrupted due to technical difficulties.....

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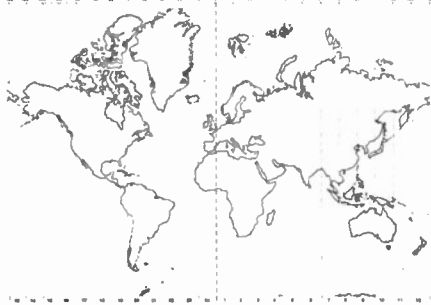
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WORLD RADIO, July 1998 25

Awards



100 Nations Award

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

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

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

in other awards.

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

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

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

Rules

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

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

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

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

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

6. The application shall include the following:

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

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

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

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

7. All applications and requests shall be addressed to:

W-100-N Award Manager

Worldradio

2120 28th Street

Sacramento, CA 95818

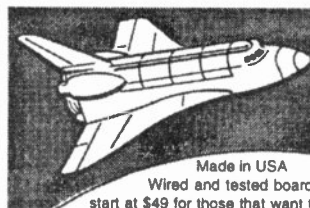
8. There are no special endorsements to this award; however, endorsements may be made if the achievement bears such recognition. All modes and bands may be used.

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



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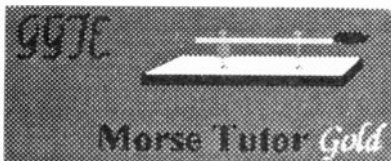
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DX WORLD

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Rotuma (3D2)

The group from the OK DX Foundation did manage to get to Rotuma and operated for one week beginning 04 April. The address for this organization is shown under QSL information.

Bouvet Island (3Y)

The December DXpedition to Bouvet Island has been further delayed and is now planned for the 1998-99 Austral Summer. Tony DePrato, WA4JQS, says because of environmental concerns they had no choice but to postpone the operation.

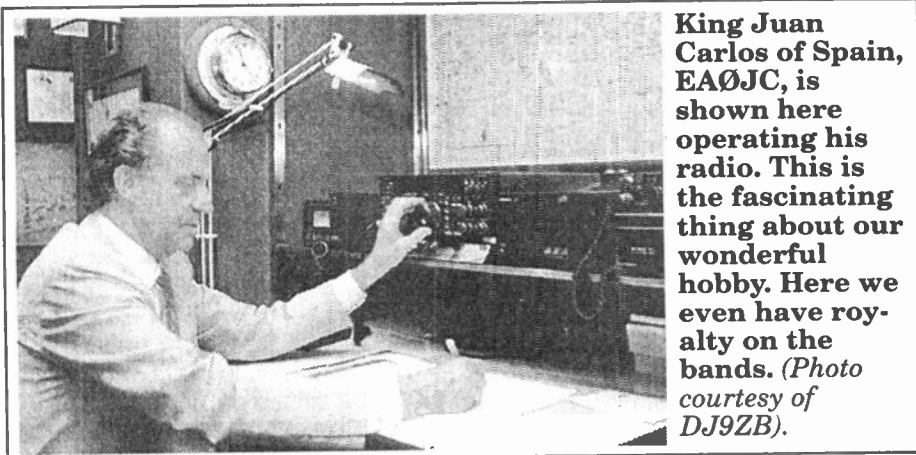
Madagascar (5R)

John Hallenberg, SMØDJZ, informs the DX community that Ake, SM7CIP, has been active from Madagascar since February signing 5R8FU. Ake has held previous calls of YA1AR and T5AR and Austrial expects to be in the country for a long time.

John is his QSL manager and also has logs for the other two mentioned calls.

St. Paul Island (CY9)

Mike Smith, VE9AA, is planning another DXpedition to St. Paul Island this summer 25 June-15 July. Mike is looking for serious operators who are willing to pay their own expenses, \$500 to \$700 per person. Interested parties should contact Mike via e-mail: ve9aa@hotmail.com or ve9aa@nbnet.nb.ca. They



King Juan Carlos of Spain, EAØJC, is shown here operating his radio. This is the fascinating thing about our wonderful hobby. Here we even have royalty on the bands. (Photo courtesy of DJ9ZB).

will use the same call as the last DXpedition, CY9AA.

New DXCC entities

With the new DXCC rules that took effect 01 April 1998, particularly the clause defining open water separation, there should be some "new ones" that will surface. The former separation was 225 miles with the new separation at 350 kilometers. A direct conversion would be 360 kilometers, but the sensible approach would be to round off to 350.

There are true-blue DXers out there that were just waiting for this change. The first of these was the H4ØAA DXpedition to the Temotu Islands (shown on most maps as the Santa Cruz Islands). A multi-national group arrived on Nendo Island (OC-100) several days in advance and even operated in the CQ Worldwide WPX contest as H44RY. However, contacts with H44RY count only as the Solomons, as it was before the 01 April date. Come that new start date, they were off and running.

According to *The Daily DX*, Dick

Sander, K5QY, was the first one to work the H4ØAA when they came on as scheduled, 2359 UTC, 31 March 1998 on 21.295 MHz. Martti Laine, OH2BH, was the operator, who began with "CQ this is Temotu Islands H4ØAA listening between 21.300 and 21.330 MHz." Dick picked right in the middle at 21.315 MHz!

Also operating from the Temotu Islands signing with H4ØAB was Jim Smith, VK9NS. Jim was operating from Pigeon Island (OC-065). During the afternoon of 01 May, California local time, H4ØAA had a good signal on 15 Meters CW. I tried, but myriad stations were calling and I didn't stand a chance. However, Jim was spotted higher in the band and there was very little competition at the time. Most likely this was due to the fact that many in the DX community were unaware that Jim was there and all concentrated on working the previously announced H4ØAA operation.

By Monday, 06 April the H4ØAA group were up to the 35,000 contact mark and added a fourth complete station, all running around the clock. With the Temotu Islands as a potentially new DXCC entity they wanted to make sure everyone had at least one contact, so they had two stations on 15 Meters SSB simultaneously. The two locations were a mile apart to eliminate interference. On 10 April I arose rather early

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(5 a.m.–1200 UTC) to look for H4ØAA on 40 Meters. There they were on 7.004 MHz. Operating simultaneously on SSB they were up on 7.065 MHz, listening between 7.181 and 7.190 MHz.

The H4ØAA operation closed down on 12 April 1998, at 1800 UTC, with more than 65,000 contacts. A few hours later they were on the way back to Honiara via chartered plane. There were no more than five operators on the island during any given period of time due to limited facilities.

Jim Smith, signing with H4ØAB remained on Pigeon Island until about 14 April and made some 15,878 contacts.

Now if the two DXpeditions to the Temotu Islands were not enough, there was a petition filed for adding the Marquesas and Austral Islands as two additional entities. Can you imagine the fury of all these DXers who are on top of the Honor Roll?

Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, signed with FOØMIZ from the Marquesas Islands (OC-027) briefly for a period lasting 56 hours and made 2,801 contacts the early part of April. He

later signed with the same call from the Austral Islands for four days. During his stay on that island Kan made 3,523 contacts with his first contact at 0314 UTC, 14 April with K6UT.

Next, Bob Ferrero, W6RJ, of HRO fame, and son Rob, W6KR, arrived on 13 April at Rurutu Island (OC-050), which is included in the Austral Islands. There they handed out contacts, signing FOØFI, with over 22,000 contacts logged. Kan was also on this island and they often interfered with one another until one of the three stations moved to another location one mile away.

Then Bob and his son went over to the Marquesas Islands after completing their FOØFI operation at around 1800 UTC 20 April, where they operated as FOØFR with their first contact 21 April, and continued until 28 April. Bob and Rob were reported to have made around 24,700 contacts from this one.

Kan left the Australs 18 April, where his last contact was at 2350 UTC on 17 April, and operated from some other parts of French Polynesia.

Bear in mind that the operation of these three gentlemen could not match that of the multi-operator operation of H4ØAA. After all, as Bob said, they had to eat and go to the bathroom sometime. However, this father and son team did an outstanding job! They were on the radio perhaps 18 hours a day!

The Daily DX notes there are resident amateurs in the Marquesas, including the calls FO5DS, FO5LZ and FO5MK. FO5QG has also been listed in the IOTA spots on the clusters. Most reports on these fellows are that they operate SSB outside the American lower limits! Jose, FO5QG, has been up as high as 14.190 MHz working between 0500 and 0800 UTC. He is located on Nuka Hiva Island, the largest of the Marquesas, the same island as the island Bob and Rob operated from. They also donated their Force 12 C3S antenna to Jose prior to leav-

ing the island, according to *The Daily DX*.

The QSL routes for all these DXpedition stations, FOØFI, FOØFR, FOØMIZ, H4ØAA and H4ØAB, are included in the section under QSL Routes. For a direct response please provide a self-addressed envelope (s.a.e.) with sufficient funds for postage. I understand VE3HO will accept U.S. postage as he mails from across the border. It is also recommended that you include a little extra to support the DXpeditions.

Malpalo Island (HKØ)

Pedro, HK3JJH, arrived on Malpalo Island as planned 04 April, signing with HK3JJH/ØM.

Pedro has operated from several IOTA islands earlier, and this is apparently the first one that also counts as a separate DXCC country — and a rare one to boot. If you missed him, don't worry, as there is a full-scale operation due in about another year.

Mongolia (JT)

The Italian DXpedition to Ulaan Baatar came on the air 07 April and signed with JT1Y. However, they had some serious problems that limited them to operating with only two stations. They left the area a week later.

Svalbard Island (JW)

Need this one? Look for Carlos, LA9PJA, who will sign with JW9PJA between 12 and 16 June. If you miss him there usually are several other stations active from this one, especially during the summer months.

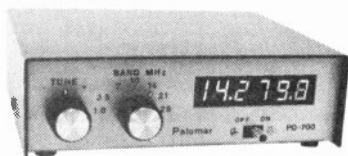
Midway Island (KH4)

The Daily DX notes that Marc, NH6YK, made some 900 contacts during his visit on Midway in late March. He'll return in June.

Navassa Island (KP1)

Dan Flaig, K8RF, is busy planning a DXpedition to Navassa Island later this year. The call is N1V. The reason for the one-by-one calls, explains Dan, is that the FCC will not issue call signs for uninhabited islands as they must have a legitimate mailing address. These one-by-one calls for special events are easy to obtain, thus the N1V call sign for Navassa Island.

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South Cook Islands (ZK)

During his stay on Rarotonga Island (OC-013) Guenther, DF4DI, logged almost 20,000 contacts signing with the call ZK1DI. His period of activity, which included 11,131 on CW, 8,481 on SSB, and 253 on FM, ran from 16 November 1997 to 31 March 1998. Hans, DK1RV, is his QSL manager.

Guenther had been heard often and a lot of the time on the WARC bands. Incidentally, when I refer to WARC, I mean 12, 17 and 30 Meters, to distinguish from the other HF bands. Every time I make this reference there is always some purist that has to inform me that all our bands are WARC bands.

IOTA

The WestNet DX Group will activate Great Saltee Island (EU-103) 25 June and run through 29 June, on all bands 2 through 160 Meters. Look for them on CW, SSB and RTTY, signing with EJ7NET. They will also be joined by the Saltee Dog DX Group from Switzerland.

The month of April produced much island activity. In Japan, the coastal islands group of Honshu (AS-117), which are normally hard to find, had several DXpeditions with these calls operating portable: JG1SZE, JP1TPG, JI3DST, JH4FBV and JR9MAR. Note that these islands can be located in one or more call areas.

The Scottish Activity Weekend (18-19 April) also produced much island activity in addition to that listed below. There were many other portable operations from these islands during the month.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| AN-006 EM1LV | Galindez Island | 01-22 Apr |
| AS-005 R0/US5IE | Dickson Island | 06 Apr |
| AS-006 VR2MM | Hong Kong Island | 02-03 Apr |
| AS-008 7K3EOP/1 | Miyaki Island | 17-30 Apr |
| AS-012 J16KVR/6 | Amakusa Archipelago | 19 Apr |
| AS-012 J13DST/6 | Amakusa Archipelago | 30 Apr |
| AS-015 9M2KT | Pinang Island | 04 Apr |
| AS-017 JR6AP | Okinawa Island | 15 Apr |
| AS-017 JR6EA | Okinawa Island | 08-23 Apr |
| AS-017 JS6LIH/6 | Okinawa Island | 11 Apr |
| AS-022 RK0QXY | Bear Island | 13-15 Apr |
| AS-024 JS6LIH | Yaeyama Islands | 03 Apr |
| AS-026 HL4HLD | Cheju Island | 18 Apr |
| AS-030 JR7CPN/JD1 | Iwo Jima | 14 Apr |
| AS-032 JO6PRM | Osumi Archipelago | 29 Apr |
| AS-038 UA0KCL/0 | Ayon Island | 16 Apr |
| AS-042 R3CA/0 | Sredniy Island | 02-08 Apr |
| AS-042 R0DJG | Sredniy Island | 01-15 Apr |
| AS-042 R0DAT | Sredniy Island | 02-15 Apr |
| AS-045 HL5FUA | Ullang Island | 01-17 Apr |
| AS-047 JH1HUK/6 | Kita Daito Jima | 28 Apr |
| AS-051 9M6QQ | Spratly Islands | 04-04 Apr |
| AS-053 E21AOY/8 | Phuket Island | 12 Apr |
| AS-053 HS0/K4MRH | Phuket Island | 03-30 Apr |
| AS-063 UA0QJG/0 | Andrea Island | 13 Apr |
| AS-079 JA5CKD/6 | Miyako Islands | 19-26 Apr |

DX Prediction — July 1998

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

CENTRAL U.S.A.

| UTC | AFRI | ASIA | OCEA | EURO | SO AM |
|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 8 | (21) | 18 | *20 | *16 | *17 |
| 10 | 24 | *14 | *18 | 16 | *18 |
| 12 | 30 | *18 | *17 | 20 | 22 |
| 14 | 34 | 21 | (16) | *22 | *28 |
| 16 | *36 | 20 | (15) | *24 | *32 |
| 18 | *37 | (17) | (15) | *24 | *34 |
| 20 | *30 | 23 | 29 | 22 | *36 |
| 22 | 25 | 26 | 34 | 18 | *34 |
| 24 | 21 | 26 | *37 | 16 | *28 |
| 2 | *19 | 25 | *37 | *13 | *23 |
| 4 | *20 | 23 | *35 | *18 | *20 |
| 6 | *27 | *22 | *30 | *20 | *18 |

WEST COAST

| UTC | AFRI | ASIA | OCEA | EURO | SO AM |
|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 10 | 20 | *22 | *19 | (15) | *21 |
| 12 | (18) | *17 | *17 | 16 | 19 |
| 14 | (23) | *20 | *16 | 20 | 26 |
| 16 | 27 | *20 | (15) | 22 | *30 |
| 18 | 29 | 17 | (15) | *23 | *33 |
| 20 | *30 | 22 | (22) | 21 | *36 |
| 22 | 25 | *26 | 32 | 18 | *33 |
| 24 | 22 | *29 | *36 | 15 | *29 |
| 2 | 19 | *31 | *37 | 13 | *24 |
| 4 | *20 | *31 | *36 | 18 | *21 |
| 6 | 27 | *29 | *33 | 22 | *19 |
| 8 | 23 | *27 | *24 | *20 | *17 |

EAST COAST

| UTC | AFRI | ASIA | OCEA | EURO | SO AM |
|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 7 | 20 | 18 | *23 | 14 | *18 |
| 9 | 23 | (15) | *19 | *17 | *18 |
| 11 | 29 | (18) | *17 | *21 | 22 |
| 13 | *33 | 21 | (16) | *23 | *28 |
| 15 | *36 | 18 | (15) | *25 | *31 |
| 17 | *36 | (14) | (15) | *25 | *34 |
| 19 | *33 | (17) | (21) | *23 | *36 |
| 21 | *27 | 21 | 32 | *21 | *34 |
| 23 | *23 | 23 | 36 | *19 | *31 |
| 1 | *20 | 24 | 37 | *16 | *26 |
| 3 | *16 | 23 | *36 | *16 | *22 |
| 5 | *24 | *22 | *31 | *18 | *19 |

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| AS-085 DS4CNB/4 | Soan Islands | 04-05 Apr |
| AS-095 UA0ZC | Bering Sea Coast grp | 16 Apr |
| AS-097 9M2/GM4YXI | Besar Island | 16-18 Apr |
| AS-133 XUX0 | Koh Poah Island | 01-05 Apr |
| AS-134 B13H | Shijutua Island | 24-25 Apr |
| EU-008 GM0UCB | Isle of Mull | 24 Apr |
| EU-009 GB2OWM | Orkney Islands | 25 Apr |
| EU-009 GM0IJV | Orkney Islands | 02-29 Apr |
| EU-009 GM0HTG | Orkney Islands | 01-26 Apr |
| EU-009 MM0BCR | Orkney Islands | 02 Apr |
| EU-010 GM0KCY | Isle of Lewis | 20 Apr |
| EU-011 GB0SM | St. Marys Island | 26-30 Apr |
| EU-012 GM0DJI | Shetland Islands | 21 Apr |
| EU-013 IC8JAH | Isle of Capri | 07-08 Apr |
| EU-016 9A4RU | Brac Island | 05 Apr |
| EU-016 9A2GF | Brac Island | 08-25 Apr |
| EU-020 SM1BIQ | Gotland Island | 15 Apr |
| EU-025 IT9GKQ | Sicily Island | 04 Apr |
| EU-031 IC8SDL | Isle of Capri | 16 Apr |
| EU-032 F5UJKP | Oleron Island | 22-23 Apr |
| EU-034 ES1QD | Baltic Sea Coast grp | 16 Apr |
| EU-036 LA8LA | Hitra Island | 04 Apr |
| EU-037 SM7DLZ | Oland Island | 02-15 Apr |
| EU-038 PA/DL1JZ | Texel Island | 02 Apr |
| EU-039 SV8DCY | Lesbos Island | 04 Apr |
| EU-042 DL5XB/P | Langeness Island | 10 Apr |
| EU-042 DJ3XG/P | Pellwork Island | 21-23 Apr |
| EU-042 DF8ZE/P | Amrum Island | 27 Apr |
| EU-048 F5GVH/P | Belle Isle | 20-23 Apr |
| EU-049 SV8CRI | Lesvos Island | 21-26 Apr |
| EU-049 SV8DTP | Lemnos Island | 25 Apr |
| EU-049 SV8CYV | Samos Island | 02-23 Apr |
| EU-052 SV8/K3ZAW | Corfu Island | 10-12 Apr |
| EU-057 DL1BK/P | Werner Island | 14 Apr |
| EU-057 DL4PM | Ruegen Island | 15-27 Apr |
| EU-057 DL7UMA/P | Ruegen Island | 03 Apr |
| EU-062 LA60P | Helligvar Islands | 08 Apr |
| EU-067 SV8/HB9EBC/P | Paros Island | 19-20 Apr |
| EU-067 SV8/I2Y0Y | Santorino Island | 22-29 Apr |
| EU-073 IJ7/K7XIE | San Paolo Island | 25 Apr |
| EU-096 OH1LU/P | Reposaari Island | 05-23 Apr |
| EU-121 EJG3PFS | Cape Clear Island | 01 Apr |
| EU-124 GC0STH/P | Anglesey Island | 24 Apr |
| EU-130 IL3/K8PGM | Martignano Island | 04 Apr |
| EU-130 IL3/K2DUW | Martignano Island | 04 Apr |
| EU-130 IL3/I22BKW | Isola di Marinetta | 05 Apr |
| EU-131 IZ3C | Venezia Island | 22 Apr |
| EU-133 R1ASP | Kotlin Island | 02-18 Apr |
| EU-135 SM2/ON4BDS/P | Holman Island | 17-18 Apr |

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|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| EU-136 9A4A | Pag Island | 01 Apr |
| EU-163 4N9BW | St Nicolas Island | 18-26 Apr |
| NA-010 VE1BVD | Cape Breton Island | 16 Apr |
| NA-019 WL7EM | Kodiak Island | 01 Apr |
| NA-019 KL7CYL | Kodiak Island | 13 Apr |
| NA-036 VE7IM | Vancouver Island | 04-19 Apr |
| NA-036 VE7NS | Vancouver Island | 03 Apr |
| NA-046 N1UF | Massachusetts State So | 29 Apr |
| NA-051 VE7QCR | Queen Charlotte Is. | 03-26 Apr |
| NA-051 VE7TLL | Queen Charlotte Islands | 28 Apr |
| NA-055 AK1L | Vinalhaven Island | 08-12 Apr |
| NA-056 CO4BM | Isla de Pines | 03-22 Apr |
| NA-057 N7QXQ/HR6 | Rotan Island | 05-28 Apr |
| NA-059 NO7F/KL7 | Unalaska Island | 10 Apr |
| NA-065 N7UX | Washington State North | 16 Apr |
| NA-066 KI6T/P | Santa Catalina Island | 02-3 Apr |

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|------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| NA-128 VE3ZZ/VE2 | St Lawrence Waterway | 12 Apr |
| NA-141 AE4YP | Orchid Island | 07-20 Apr |
| NA-142 W4AIX | Dauphin Island | 25-26 Apr |
| NA-198 VO1BAR/P | Puffin Island | 28 Apr |
| OC-022 YC9BU | Bali Island | 02-15 Apr |
| OC-022 YB9BV | Bali Island | 01-13 Apr |
| OC-027 FO0MIZ | Marquesas Islands | 10-11 Apr |
| OC-027 FO5QG | Marquesas Islands | 08-29 Apr |
| OC-027 FO0FR | Marquesas Islands | 22-28 Apr |
| OC-046 FO5QB | Tahiti Island | 08-16 Apr |
| OC-050 FO0FI | Rurutu Island | 14-20 Apr |
| OC-050 FO0MIZ | Rurutu Island | 14-17 Apr |
| OC-054 FW2EH | Wallis Island | 01-08 Apr |
| OC-059 V63AO | Kosrae Island | 01-27 Apr |
| OC-065 H49AB | Pigeon Island | 01-14 Apr |
| OC-067 FO5NL | Raiatea Island | 19-21 Apr |
| OC-070 YC8VHU | Ambon Island | 18-22 Apr |
| OC-070 YC8VIP | Ambon Island | 03-30 Apr |
| OC-088 YF7XND | Isle of Borneo | 05-06 Apr |
| OC-088 9M8SL | Isle of Borneo | 05-06 Apr |
| OC-100 H40AA | Nendo Island | 01-12 Apr |
| OC-121 3D2WP | Mana Island | 25-27 Apr |
| OC-129 DU6BG | Panay Island | 15 Apr |
| OC-136 VK3FRB | Phillip Island | 11-12 Apr |
| OC-137 VK4GP | Bribie Island | 06-17 Apr |
| OC-137 VK4CY | Lamb Island | 13-14 Apr |
| OC-137 VK4LV | Bribie Island | 22-27 Apr |
| OC-141 VK8KTC | Groote Eylandt | 15 Apr |
| OC-143 YC6DEM | Sumatra Island | 22-27 Apr |
| OC-144 YB4FIK | Belitung Island | 07 Apr |
| OC-146 YC8FMI | Sulawesi Island | 15-22 Apr |
| OC-146 YC8DEZ | Sulawesi Island | 01-15 Apr |
| OC-146 YC8SBY | Sulawesi Island | 02-29 Apr |
| OC-169 A35RK | Ha'apai Island | 03-29 Apr |
| OC-203 ZL4IR | Stewart Island | 21-23 Apr |
| OC-210 YC8TXW | Sangihe Island | 14-21 Apr |
| OC-210 YC8RBC | Sangihe Island | 14-29 Apr |
| OC-225 4H8TI | Turtle Islands | 26-28 Apr |
| SA-007 HK3JJH/OM | Malpelo Island | 04-05 Apr |
| SA-008 CE8ABF | Terra del Fuego | 10-21 Apr |
| SA-012 YV7AXM | Isla Margarita | 11 Apr |
| SA-023 PY6JJ | Bahia State North | 11-26 Apr |
| SA-026 ZY5YZ | Ratonos Island | 17-20 Apr |
| SA-068 8R1AK/P | Leguan Island | 12-21 Apr |
| SA-071 PY2JM/P | Sao Paulo State Centre | 18 Apr |

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|------------------------------|------------|
| EU-057 Ummanz Island | DJ3XG/P |
| EU-071 Vestmannaeyjar Island | TF7/DL3KUD |
| EU-106 St. Tudwal's Island | GW0RLU/P |
| EU-106 St. Tudwal's Island | MW0/ON5FP |
| EU-123 Bute Island | Otley ARC |
| EU-124 Anglesey Island | MW8Z |
| NA-100 Antigua Island | V26VG |
| SA-042 Para State West group | PQ8MM |

New DXCC Manager

Bill Moore, NC1L, has been appointed as Century Club's Branch Manager, effective 20 April 1998. Bill came to the ARRL in 1992 from the Otis Elevator Division of United Technologies Corporation. In his position as DXCC Assistant, he has represented the DXCC program at gatherings around the United States, and has been serving as the Century Club's Supervisor since 1996.

The title of Century Club's Branch Manager is correct as the position is responsible for the administration of all DXCC and VUCC awards. VUCC is the awards program that applies to operations on VHF and UHF.

Bill replaces Bill Kennamar, K5FUV, who in turn replaces Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, as Membership Services Manager.

New Orleans

Don't forget the annual New Orleans International DX Convention 14-15 August. As usual it will be at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in the French Quarter. Registration prior to 31 July costs \$60 and \$40 for

guests, which includes the banquet and evening hospitality suites. To register send your check (payable to New Orleans International DX Convention) to Michael Mayer, W5ZPA, 5836 Marcia Ave., New Orleans, LA 70124. For hotel reservations and special rate call the hotel at 504/586-0300. See you there!

DX Guide

Franz Langner, DJ9ZB, has released his latest version of his *DX World Guide*. Amounting to 353 pages, each DXCC country is represented, one per page. Important facts, such as prefix allocation, ITU zone, CQ zone, grid squares, etc., are all included.

Two sources have been given for this book, which sells for \$25 U.S. and includes the postage. Try Joe Kraft, DL8HCZ, Gruetzmuehlenweg 23, D-22339 Hamburg, GERMANY. This is a "cash only" situation. Do not send checks. Suggest registered mail as you are sending cash through the mail.

The original version of this book was very good, and the new edition should be the same. However, arrangements should be made with distributors in the United States to avoid the risky business of sending that much cash through the mails.

Antique QSLs

The following three cards represent three different decades and are from the collection of Leo Haijsman, W4KA, former WAZ manager of CQ.



The first card is for EP3AM of Tehran, Iran, whom Leo worked on 15 Meters SSB back in 1967. At that time calls in Iran were normally assigned the EP2 prefix, except for this one and possibly one other. The operator was listed as Hank, (Armin H. Meyer, the American Ambassador to Iran), whose present call is W3ACE.

Now a deleted country, HK0AA was the call used by this small DXpedition team in June 1976. The DXers shown in the photo are: (left to right): Bob Ferrero, K6AHV (now

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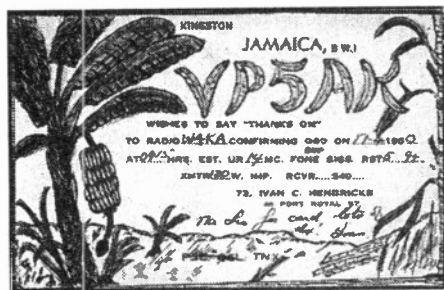
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W6RJ), Erik Sjolund, SMØAGD, and Francisco Velez, HKØBKX (now SK). The team operated for 67 hours and collected 6,300 contacts.



Now we step back a little further into history. On 17 April 1950, Leo worked VP5AK of Kingston, Jamaica, on 20 Meter PHONE (that's AM to you younger fellows). The card is rather colorful, with the banana call letters in yellow, leaves in green, border in black and the data in red. The tree trunk on the right is also yellow. Ivan C. Hendricks was the operator, who became 6Y5AK.

Where was your DX editor in April 1950? I was a junior in high school and never imagined that four years later I would be an Amateur Radio nut! Heck, that was the month I received my New Jersey driver's license and I had other priorities

QSL bureaus

There have been two recent address changes to our incoming QSL bureaus. Those of you who have calls associated with the 5th district should now send your envelopes to the Magnolia DX Association, P.O. Box 999, Wiggins, MS 39577-0999, and for Alaska it is now The Alaska QSL Bureau, P.O. Box 520343, Big Lake, AK 99652.

QSL information

Bob, K7LAY, informs the DX community that the batch of 5A2A QSL cards sent via the U.S. mail has been partially lost. If you have not received your card (provided you requested one) e-mail Dieter Voss at dvoss@t-online.de and he will send the missing cards.

In the QSL Routes several routes have been given as OKDXF, the OK DX Foundation. The address is P.O. Box 73, Bradlec 293 06, Mlada Boleslav, CZECH REPUBLIC.

Thanks go to the following contributors for this month's column: DJ9ZB, EI6FR, JA1ELY, JH1ORA, OH2BN, SMØDJZ, VE9AA, K1FK, K3ZO, K7LAY, K8RF, Western Washington DX Club (WAØRJY), Northern Arizona DX Association (W7YS), WebCluster (OH2AQ), 425 DX News (I1JQJ), *DX News Letter* (DJ5AV), *The OPDX Bulletin* (KB8NW), *Internet DX Mailing List* (VE7TCP), *The Low Band Monitor* (KØCS), *Island/DX News* (N5VL), *The Daily DX* (W3UR), *QRZ DX* (N4AA), and *DX News Sheet* (G4BUE).

More and more DXers are beginning to check out the internet. Most of my material comes via that source. Often a web-page is included and I have thought about printing it with the news. But, to DXers who are yet not surfing the internet this information would be useless. And those of you with internet capabilities already know it.

The conditions we have been experiencing during the last couple of years now really got a good shot in the arm with the DXpeditions to three new possible DXCC countries during the month. Each of you should have landed at least one contact with one of the DXpeditions. If you didn't you must have had your radio turned off. Don't tell me you were standing by with one of those list masters to take a list? Shame on you! 73, de John, N6JM.

License suspended

A Canadian Ham has had his license suspended for six months, after an investigation by Industry Canada proved that the Central Ontario amateur was the source of malicious interference to an area repeater.

The suspension follows an investigation about interference on the particular 2-meter repeater spanning a period of more than two years.

Industry Canada says the amateur cannot be named because it's between a private individual and the Government of Canada. Since it is considered personal information, it is protected under Canada's Privacy Act. — *Newsline*

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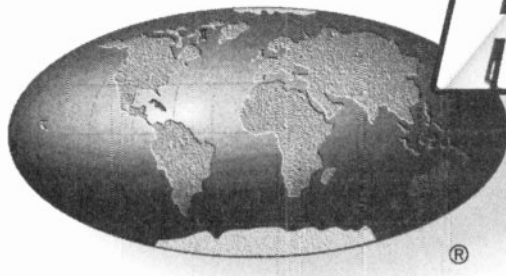
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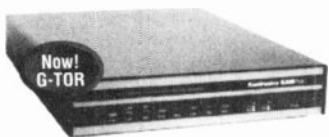
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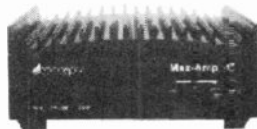
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Possible mandatory adherence to bandplan

The ARRL has filed its long-awaited request to the FCC to codify adherence to what have been, till now, voluntary bandplans. Following up on action taken at the January ARRL Board of Directors' meeting, the League has asked the Commission to equate observance of voluntary band plans with good amateur practice.

The League filed its request for a declaratory ruling on 03 April. In it, the national society asks for codification of several points of Amateur Radio operation. First it wants the FCC to affirm that any Amateur Radio operation that conflicts with established voluntary band plans, and which causes interference, or adversely affects those operating in accordance with these band plans to be considered as being in direct violation of FCC rules. It also requests the Commission direct that Hams should be familiar with current voluntary bandplans and that they are required to abide by them.

Finally, the ARRL wants the FCC to state that those radio amateurs who don't operate in harmony with those band plans are not operating

in accordance with good amateur practice.

The League has asked the FCC to issue this Declaratory Ruling as fast as it legally can. Others who oppose mandatory bandplans vow a court fight if the Commission proceeds without first issuing a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and permitting them time to comment.

PROPNet

With 6 Meters acting more like 15 or 20 these days, Hams are looking for faster and more accurate ways to know when the DX is rolling in. Not long ago Ev Tupis, K2IV, posted a novel idea to the *VHF Reflector*. Ev calls it PROPNet and I thought that the concept might be of interest to many of you. So, at right is the text of (most of) Ev's posting:

Connecticut coordination on the WWW

One state may soon have repeater coordination taking root on the world wide web. Connecticut, where the total failure of the Tri State Repeater Council left a large part of the Northeast with no viable repeater bandplanning effort.

Now, one Ham is acting to provide that state's repeater owner operators a method to keep up with what's happening in the world of repeaters in that state. Joe Szczech, K1IKE, says via the *Repeater Owners Remailer* that he is establishing a page to service the needs of Connecticut repeater owners. It's going together at <http://pages.cthome.net/ctrepeaters/>.

More importantly, Joe says he will also try to put together a separate Connecticut Repeater Owners remailer. The purpose of this group will be to discuss the future of repeater coordination in the Connecti-

Introduction to PROPNet

EV TUPIS, K2IV, ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

For those interested in charting 6-meter band openings, in near-real-time, PropNET is for you!

PropNET features the ability to monitor a nationwide (continent-wide?) beacon network, without having to manually tune through the beacon sub-band...because they (the "beacons") are all on the same frequency! You don't need to listen to white noise during times when the band isn't open, because your TNC will do that for you, and display any heard "beacons" to your computer monitor, superimposed on a MAP of north America!

Here's what you will need to participate:

1. A computer ("286-class or better..." 486+ & Windows will give "best results")
2. A TNC (The TNC needs to be TAPR-2 compatible or "better")
3. A transceiver capable of working on 53.530 MHz
4. APRS software!

Here's how it works. Set up your 6-meter FM station to use APRS on 53.530 MHz, "beaconing" every 15 minutes. You can even set the system up to give you an audible alarm when a "new" station's packet transmission is heard by your TNC. You go about your business in your shack. When you hear the "alarm", you can check the screen on your computer, and see if it's because a DX station packet was received by your station.

I've simplified the explanation, but the potential is truly there! By way of example, I am now on the channel, with an MFJ 'Dataradio' (10 Watts to an MFJ 1/2-wave vertical antenna) at my home. I have another one ready to go in my car, complete with a GPS, that will beacon my location, as I'm driving down the road.

Join me in this experiment. You can get more information (and the SHAREWARE APRS software) about APRS from the following URLs:

The Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio Site: www.tapr.org; The Kansas City APRS Webpage: www.kcaprs.org; A VERY complete WIN/Mac APRS Site: aprs.rutgers.edu/

Think about it. The potential for PropNET is huge! There will be no reason to miss another 6-meter opening. And if you hear APRS on 53.530 MHz the band may be open to Western New York!

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cut area. He also invites Connecticut repeater owners to take part in both aspects of this project. Input goes to Joe via e-mail at ctrepeaters@snet.net.

NFCC progress

The National Frequency Coordinators' Council (NFCC) came into existence with the approval of its Articles of Incorporation (District of Columbia); a set of Bylaws, and a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be negotiated with the ARRL. These documents were ratified by a very large majority of the nation's recognized frequency coordination entities 20 April 1996. Its first board of directors was subsequently elected in July 1996, and the MOU with the ARRL was finalized the following November.

Since that time, the NFCC has been involved in lengthy internal discussions on certification standards for Amateur Radio frequency coordinators and what procedure and format should be used to formally sign up various frequency coordination entities.

According to President Dick Isely, W9GIG, the NFCC has now completed these two major organizational processes. Dick says that 15 March 1998, a majority of the nation's coordination entities approved a set of NFCC Certification Standards. As result, there is now for the first time a mutually-agreed "yardstick" to measure frequency coordinator performance.

These are minimum standards and most coordinators already meet or exceed them in various areas. Those coordinators currently unable to meet these standards are encouraged to do so — but there is no deadline for compliance. NFCC officers and members will provide whatever technical assistance is requested to enable all coordination entities to meet these standards.

Also as of 15 March 1998, the following frequency coordination entities have formally signed up as NFCC members.

Alabama Repeater Council, Inc.
Alaska
Amateur Radio Council of Arizona
220 MHz Spectrum Management Assn. (S.CA)
Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (N.CA)
Southern California Repeater & Remote Base Assn. (S.CA)
Two Meter Area Spectrum Management Assn. (S.CA)
Colorado Council of Amateur Radio
Illinois Repeater Association, Inc.
Northeastern Illinois Packet Radio Frequency Council

Indiana Repeater Council, Inc.
Iowa Repeater Council, Inc.
Kansas Amateur Repeater Council
Kansas Digital Coordination Committee
Upper Peninsula Amateur Radio Repeater Assn. (Upper MI)
Minnesota Repeater Council
Missouri Repeater Council, Inc.
Nebraska Frequency Coordinator
New Mexico Frequency Coordinators Committee
Upper New York Repeater Council
North Dakota Frequency Coordinator
Ohio Area Repeater Council
Oregon Region Relay Council, Inc.
New England Spectrum Management Council (MA,ME,NH,RI) Area
Repeater Coordination Council of E.PA/S.NJ, Inc
Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council
SouthEastern Repeater Association, Inc. (GA,KY,MS,NC,SC,TN,S.VA,WV)
Texas VHF-FM Society
The Middle Atlantic FM & Repeater Council (MD,N.VA,E.WV)
Inland Amateur Coordination Council (E.WA,N.ID)
Western Washington Amateur Relay Association
Wisconsin Association of Packet Radio
Wisconsin Association of Repeaters
Wyoming WCARC

This list includes almost all of the large frequency coordination entities — those serving the heavily populated areas of the country. However, there are still quite a few organizations that have not submitted formal applications to join the umbrella group. Isley says that he understands some of these unsigned entities now have applications in process. Even though the deadline for initial sign-up has passed, NFCC membership sign-up is an ongoing process.

Completion of this initial sign-up period does mark a change in NFCC voting. From this point forward, only those entities that have formally signed up will be voting on NFCC business. As a result, Isley urges those coordination entities who have not yet formally signed up, to do so as soon as they can.

For and against privacy

About once or twice a month you will see a message like this pass

across the packet radio networks or the Internet rec.radio newsgroups: "I do dislike closed and private systems... who else has this view... PRO or CON let's hear from you. Do you favor more closed systems? Should the band open up to more open systems?"

Most of these responding sound like a cheering section to ban any system that's not carrier squelch and open to all: "The frequencies belong to all of us. It's time to run those closed repeaters off the air." But it's also not surprising to see someone come along with a statement like the following: "All repeaters are technically closed. You operate on any repeater system under the auspices of the repeater trustee. If he doesn't want you on his repeater — for whatever reason — it is his privilege to keep you off under FCC regulations."

Having been around repeaters since the days when they were AM, I can easily understand both sides of the argument. I see nothing wrong with closed systems on bands with low utilization or in those geographic regions where the bands are truly utilized. But in overcrowded urban areas, it is a totally different story.

This is not 1958; it's 1998. As such, I have to wonder if it is really apropos to tie up any frequency pair on a crowded band like 2 Meters (and also 70 cm in some localities) with a repeater that limits its access to a small group of people.

How do you feel about this rather controversial topic? I'd like to start a national dialogue through this column to see if it might not be time to limit closed and private repeaters to give spectrum-based some fair criteria acceptable to the majority of

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the nation's VHF/UHF users.

Submit (by e-mail only) your ideas on this topic. Limit your submission to a single, double-spaced typewritten page. As space permits, I will publish those comments which are based on sound technical and political presentation. If you submit something based purely on emotion, it will go to the circular file. The bottom line is that working together, maybe we can find a way to permit those who want 'privacy' to exist without their closed repeaters impacting negatively on the rest of the needs of the Amateur Radio community.

902 MHz beacon back on

Ed Parsons, K1TR, reports his 903.065 MHz beacon, located in FN42FM, was off the air or operating in an impaired state for the last couple of months. It has been repaired and Ed would appreciate any signal reports. Email them to esparsons@lucent.com

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the top of the World Trade Center in New York City. Del Schier, KD1DU, reports via the *VHF Reflector* that the beacon was established by Larry Lipitz, NY2US. It operates on 10368.210 MHz and runs 80 milliwatts output to a slot antenna. The location is some 2200 feet above the surrounding concrete average terrain.

VA antenna victory

A follow-up on last month's story about the group of Virginia Amateurs who decided to fight the established planned community lobbies for the right to have antennas — many said it could not be done, but Virginia amateurs did it anyway. As a result, Hams in that state may soon have the most Amateur Radio-friendly antenna laws in the nation. The Virginia state legislature passed SB-480 at 12:15 a.m. on Sunday morning 15 March. Governor Jim Gilmore signed the measure into law in mid-April.

SB-480 gives Virginia Hams what amounts to an inalienable right to erect an antenna system. The measure directs that all areas of the state be covered under PRB-1-like preemption language directing all communities to make reasonable accommodation for Ham Radio towers and antennas.

But it doesn't stop there. Areas of Virginia with population densities greater than 120 persons per square mile based on the 1990 Census cannot regulate antenna structures to less than seventy-five feet. Areas under 120 persons per square mile cannot regulate antenna structures to less than two hundred feet. And no area can regulate the number of support structures, meaning that Hams can put up as many antennas as they want.

As to restrictions? There is only one that is of any consequence. It says that reasonable and customary engineering standards for antenna erection must be followed in all locations. That in itself is also a posi-

tive step because it makes sound engineering a state mandate and takes away the benefit of localities having final say on engineering and structure erection.

In getting the measure passed, Virginia Amateurs defeated two of the most highly influential anti-antenna and pro local government lobbies in the state. The measure faced fierce opposition from the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties. When it was introduced 26 January, many observers gave the bill little chance of success. Now, its proponents are hoping it will serve as a model for other states.

Bob Ham, KK4IY, of Vinton VA, was the prime mover behind the bill. He worked with state Sen. John Edwards of Roanoke to get the measure introduced in the General Assembly and signed by the governor.


For more information, see <http://rbnet.com/~hamcotec/sb480.html>.

No I-Phone fees

Finally, if you use Internet Phone for repeater linking, we have some good news for you. For the time being, making calls over the Internet will remain free of tariffs other than regular Internet Service Provider fees.

According to news stories, in a late March report to Congress the Federal Communications Commission says it is not ready to conclude that the long-distance calls carried over the Internet or other data networks should be regulated as a telecommunications service. That could change, says the FCC, but not anytime soon.

Travels in August

Only one trip next month. That's to the Huntsville Hamfest where I get the privilege to present this year's Newsline Young Ham of the Year award. I hope to see some of you there. 

Reflections

Take a moment to reflect on what experiences you have had in Amateur Radio. If you have something to share with *Worldradio's* readers, write an article! All your news features and letters are happily accepted at our 28th Street offices (2120 28th St., Sacramento, CA 95818)

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See *Worldradio*, Oct. 1994 Issue.

The Youth Forum

Brian Mileschosky, N5ZGT
 1021 Dakota S.E., Albuquerque, NM 87108
 E-mail: n5zgt@swcp.com
<http://www.swcp.com/~n5zgt>

This month I am profiling Brian Kiepura, KC8ESL, of Solon, Ohio. I met Brian on America Online about a year ago. He is a great person, and is extremely dedicated to Amateur Radio! Brian became interested in Amateur Radio when his good friend Matt Pantages, KB8WPJ, showed him a copy of a Technician No Code study guide when they were shopping at a local Radio Shack store. Soon after, Brian began studying during his summer vacation to become a licensed Amateur Radio operator. In August 1996, his work paid off and he became a Technician No Code! He upgraded shortly thereafter to Technician Plus in January 1997, then to General in February 1998. His goal is to upgrade to Amateur Extra by the end of this year. Good luck, Brian!

As the only amateur in his family, Brian certainly enjoys the thrill of talking to people all across the world for free, without having to leave the comfort of his Ham shack. When I interviewed him on the telephone, he mentioned that talking to people using the Internet, "just wasn't enough!"

Brian spends much of his time homebrewing equipment, making contacts and assisting the Cuyahoga County SKYWARN group, where he spots and reports foul weather. In addition to being the vice president of the nationwide League of Young Amateurs (LYRA), he is also a member of many clubs including the ARRL, the Lake Erie Amateur Radio Association, and enjoys operating on the HF bands and 2 Meters using CW, SSB and FM. He is also

responsible for helping a 15-year-old schoolmate, Rob Snyder, KC8FXV, in becoming part of the Amateur Radio community! Such involvement in the hobby has allowed Brian to be nominated for the American Radio Relay League's Hiram Percy Maxim Award, which recognizes one Amateur under the age of 21 for his or her dedication to Amateur Radio.

When Brian and I were finishing up our interview on the telephone, he mentioned that everyone, both young and old, should "take the time to learn CW because it is well worth it. It creates many opportunities and allows one to enjoy the thrill of talking to places such as Tromelin Island," and other faraway places!

If you would like to meet Brian yourself, his email address is kc8esl@aol.com. He would be glad to hear from you! You may also visit his web page at <http://members.aol.com/kc8esl>. Thanks, Brian, for your dedication to the Amateur Radio community!

If you, or someone you know, would like to be profiled in an upcoming issue of *Worldradio* magazine's Youth Forum column, please contact me!

All great things must come to an end

In November 1996, I took the opportunity to become the Youth Forum columnist for *Worldradio* magazine. Now, as a busy college student and a person heavily involved in Boy Scouting, Amateur Radio and a job at Sandia National Laboratories, I have decided that it is time to pass this opportunity to someone else.

Being the Youth Forum columnist has been a great part of both my life and my Amateur Radio career. I have met many people, in person, via U.S. mail and through the Internet, and have also learned about just a few of the many exciting experiences Amateur Radio provides for the youth. I would like to invite any young Amateur Radio operator to become the next *Worldradio* Youth Forum columnist! Writing for this magazine is a great experience, and it does not require too much of a time commitment for those wondering if it does. However, it does require responsibility because of the deadlines that have to be met. What can you write about? Well, considering it could be

your column, you can write about anything you want that deals with Amateur Radio and will interest, motivate and encourage young amateurs, such as yourself. Should you have any questions or concerns about what exactly is involved in being *Worldradio's* Youth Forum columnist, you may contact me at any of the addresses at the top of this column. Send along any question or concern you may have, and perhaps even your phone number and I will be more than happy to enlighten you! If you are interested in becoming the next Youth Forum columnist, please contact Rick McCusker, KO6DJ, at *Worldradio* magazine within the next few months, but as soon as possible because November will be the last issue I plan to be writing for. Rick will take care of selecting the next Youth Forum columnist. You can find *Worldradio's* address and phone number by referring to the first few pages of this issue. It is a fun job, a great experience and I am saddened to let it go. But as the famous quote reads, "All great things must come to an end." It unfortunately certainly does have some meaning.

That does it for this issue! I hope you all will enjoy your summer! The HF bands are sounding really good right about now, so be sure to call "CQ" and fill some pages in the log-book! As always, I am open to topic suggestions and comments from everyone, so be sure to pass those along to me! Until next time, 73 de Brian, N5ZGT

Young Amateurs

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Reflections; a great QRPTTF

That panting you hear is a whole bunch of QRPers just now catching their breath after taking part in April's QRP To The Field (QRPTTF) contest — this year themed "Run to the Borders."

Sponsored by the NorCal QRP Club and organized by Joe Gervais, AB7TT, of Goodyear, AZ, the eight-hour competition had low power operators fanning across the country to operate from the borderlines of U.S. states and in some cases foreign countries.

Operators making contact with a border station got points for working two, three, and sometimes four states/provinces/countries — SPCs — in just one QSO.

Border stations and their locations on Gervais' QRPTTF "hit list" issued just before the start of the contest included: NJ/NY/PA (AA5YX); CA/OR (W6RA, KE6SLS); WI/MI (N9WR); UT/WY (WØYSE); ND/SD/MN (NØUR, KBØR); AR/MO/OK (KFØOV, KØBC); VA/TN/NC (N4ROA, N4DD); AZ/NM/XE (N7DZ, K7NX); NV/CA/AZ (N6KZ); DE/PA (N4JS); ID/WA (AB7TK); UT/CO (NØTU); KY/IL (KS4V); WI/IL (N9ZXL); GA/TN/NC (W4ED); NH/ME (KBØVCC); AZ/CO/UT/NM (WA5WHN with Special Event call sign N4C); RI/MA (WA1QVM); RI/MA/CT (KA1AXY); TX/OK (K5FO); NM/TX/XE (NA5N, K5OI, KI7MN, KI6DS); OK/MO/KS (KW5OK, WØCH); AZ/NV/UT (N7CEE, K7ZEN); NC/SC/GA (K4NK, AE4GX, N2PTW, K4PYM); ID/UT/NV (WA2IPZ); MS/LA (AC5JH, W5GIX); MT/WY (AB7CE); AK/VY1 (KL7JAF).

From the backyard operation here at nu6SN in Southern California, 40 Meters was full of activity, with border operations being hunted from

one side of 7.040 MHz to the other. It was a thrill to work a Four Corners (AZ/CO/UT/NM) QRP operation with Roger Hightower, N7KT, at the rig.

Interesting, too, was working some of the solo operators who ventured into the sticks without a border nearby. On 40 Meters I ran into good friend Cam Hartford, N6GA, who was operating QRPTTF with the Zuni Loop Mountain Expeditionary Force call sign K6ZNI from high in the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles. After making the official contest exchange, I lamented to Hartford that I was breaking a sweat under a relentless afternoon sun. "It's snowing here," he Morsed back with mock pity. We were only 50 miles apart.

As contests go, "Run to the Borders" ranks with the very best. Congratulations to the NorCal QRP Club, Doug Hendricks, KI6DS, and Gervais for putting on a great show.

AC6UV: QRPacific Crest Trail operations

Veteran QRPer and outdoorsman Gody Siason, AC6UV, of Lakewood, CA, is putting the rest of his life on hold to take a hike: the 2,700-mile Mexico-to-Canada Pacific Crest Trail.

His backpack manifest includes QRP gear for 20, 30 and 40 Meters during the five-month trip, which is taking him north from the Mexican border through California, Oregon, and Washington to the Canadian border.

Siason expects to keep regular schedules with fellow QRPers, including a weekly Saturday morning rendezvous on 7.040 MHz at 1530Z. He'll also be listening for QRPers sending his call sign, or calling "CQ PCT."

A web page is in development for AC6UV updates and QSL information. Meantime, if you have questions or comments, contact Frank West, KE6VHM, 18110 Iris Ave., Woodcrest, CA 92508, or e-mail:

ke6vhm@earthlink.net.

QRP ARCI membership update

QRP Amateur Radio Club International is now offering lifetime memberships and membership numbers to local and regional QRP clubs.

The program expansion is "a way for club call signs to be assigned a membership number to enable the calls to be used in QRP ARCI contests or other on-the-air activities," according to membership chairman Dave Johnson, WA4NID.

Traditionally, a station's QRP ARCI membership number has been part of the contest exchange during the organization's frequent competitions. Now, a local or regional QRP club trustee can apply for club membership and receive a membership number to be used for his or her organization.

QRP ARCI membership is \$15 for U.S. stations, \$18 for Canadians, and \$20 for DX.

For more information write: Dave Johnson, WA4NID, QRP ARCI Membership Chairman, 2522 Alpine Rd., Durham, NC 27707, or e-mail: WA4NID@amsat.org

Radio Havana goes QRP

Arnie Coro, CO2KK, host of "DX Unlimited" heard Sundays on Radio Havana, has been giving QRP some nice air time. He's been corresponding via e-mail with several prominent North American QRPers, including Paul Harden, NA5N, of Socorro, NM, who provided Coro with details of NorCal's QRPTTF competition.

Radio Havana is regularly monitored by shortwave listeners around the world.

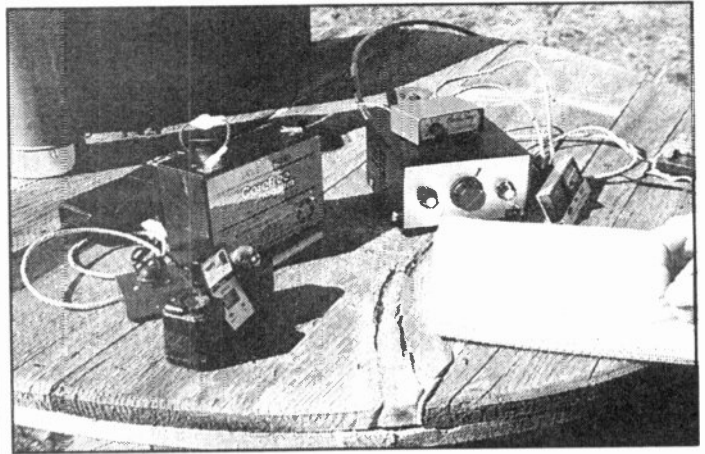
"DX Unlimited" is broadcast Sundays at 0130, 0330 and 0530Z on frequencies including 6.000, 9.820 and 9.830 MHz. Harden alerted QRPers subscribed to the Internet mailing list QRP-L that Coro starts each program "by calling 'CQ de RHC' in CW. Easy to find, and always an S-9+ here in New Mexico."

Announcing: KL7AQC/QRP

The Alaska QRP Club has been issued a club call sign: KL7AQC. According to club officer Bruce Hopkins, KL7JAF, the new call letters will be used frequently in QRP

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Left: Clif Sikes, AB5UA, takes the QRP operating position on the outskirts of his Earlsboro, OK, ranch during February's Freeze Your B__ Off QRP Contest sponsored by the Arizona ScQRPIons QRP Club. Above: A homebrew rig running 2 watts on 20 Meters was coupled with a 20-meter vertical during the contest. Sikes operated in 37-degree temperatures — a good warm-up for April's QRP to the Field Competition.

on-air events.

For more information about AK-QRP, either visit the organization's web page: www.ptialaska.net/~bhopskins/akqrp/, or drop an e-mail to: akqrp@eagle.ptialaska.net

QRP Bumblebees a-buzz

The Adventure Radio Society's second annual "Flight of the Bumblebees" competition is set for 26 July, sending scores of QRP operators buzzing to field locations reached by human power: bicycling, hiking, rowing, paddling, snowshoeing, skiing, for examples.

Multipliers are given for working the appointed field stations, which will be signing with "/BB" appended to their call sign.

The contest runs from 1700 to 2100Z, accommodating field operators in all four U.S. time zones to give them time to travel to their sites, set up their station, operate, and travel back to their home base.

The designated "bumblebees" are chased by home-based operators and by each other.

For complete details on the contest, exchange and scoring criteria, visit ARS' web site: www.natworld.com/ars or e-mail request to: nu6SN@aol.com.

In addition to the "Flight," contest manager Russ Carpenter, AA7QU, also administrates the organization's monthly Spartan Sprints, "Top

of the World" VHF and "Power of One" HF contests, and ARS' WAS/PQ (Worked All States / Portable QRP) program. He can be reached via e-mail at: russ@natworld.com.

'New' MFJ 90's Newsletter

The MFJ-90's Newsletter, started in October 1993 by Joe Falcone, N8TI (former AA8HV), in conjunction with the MFJ-90's Radio Club, is now being published by Paul Harden, NA5N, who is also the newsletter's new editor.

Harden moves into the post vacated by David Luscombe, W5RIF.

A forum for users of the MFJ 9000 series of QRP transceivers and other related gear, annual subscriptions to the *MFJ-90's Newsletter* are \$10 to the U.S., Canada and Mexico, and \$12.50 to DX addresses.

The four-page (8.5x11-inch) Spring 1998 edition included a welcoming note from the editor, an editorial looking at the QRP "State of the Union," a comprehensive, step-

by-step tutorial on how to align MFJ 9000-series transceivers, QRP news briefs, details on contesting, and MFJ-90's Member News.

For more information about the newsletter or to subscribe, write: Paul Harden, NA5N, P.O. Box 757, Socorro, NM 87801, or via e-mail: NA5N@Rt66.com

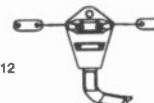
Buy and sell website

Karen Johansen, KC5FCU, of Metrie, Louisiana, announced that the ARES National web site has established a classifieds page. This, to help Hams buy, sell or trade equipment. This is a free service, and is located at www.ares.org — *KC5FCU, Newsline*


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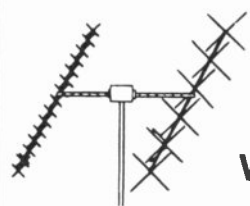
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Amateur Satellites



Terry Douds,
WB8CKI

344 E. Fifth Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130
e-mail: wb8cki@amsat.org

Hello everyone — hope your summer is going well. At the time of this writing, we are still anxiously awaiting news concerning a ride for the Phase 3D Satellite. Negotiations are still ongoing with the European Space Agency, and everyone hopes that good news will be heard soon. However, there is still a great deal of activity continuing with other satellites both in the air and yet to go up. I'll take this month to cover some of these activities.

The Techsat team has just confirmed that the tentative launch date for the TechSat-1b is currently 23-24 June. The launch will take place in Kazakhstan. A telemetry decode program with more info will follow shortly.

For those who don't remember TechSat, it is a communication satellite being constructed by an academic group of scientists and students at the Technion University in Haifa, Israel, and it will feature a packet store-and-forward mailbox operating at 9600 baud. Visit the TechSat web page at www.technion.ac.il/pub/projects/techsat.

TechSat-1a was destroyed during launch in 1997. TechSat-1b is a re-

placement for it. Just as a reminder, the TechSat-1b will be very similar to the TechSat-1a in the communications modes. It will use 9600 Baud FSK (like UO-22/KO-23/KO-25) and have VHF/L-band uplinks, with the downlinks in the UHF band. So if you have a 9600 baud setup operational, you should have no problems working TechSat-1b.

If you have been looking for an "Elmer" to help you with a satellite project, or have questions about anything having to do with satellite operation, get a copy of the March/April '98 issue of the *AMSAT Journal*. It gives a complete list of the AMSAT Area Coordinators throughout the U.S. and Canada, and for four countries outside of North America. The list gives names, calls, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses for all of these volunteers. If you need a hand, give one of them a call.

How do you get a copy of the Journal? Join AMSAT. Drop a note to Martha@amsat.org, or call the office at 301/589-6062 (FAX 301/608-3410). She will give you the information concerning membership. If you have no Internet access or a telephone, send her a letter at AMSAT, 850 Sligo Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910-4703.

John Melton, N6LYT/GØORX, has announced the preliminary release of his Java Satellite Ground Station Software at www.qsl.net/n6lyt. This software implements a fully automated Digital Store and Forward Satellite Ground Station.

It includes:
KISS Protocols
AX25 Protocols
Pacsat Broadcast and File Transfer Protocols
Message Composer
Message Viewer
Orbit Propagation
Satellite Scheduling
Radio Control

Rotor Control

The software has been successfully run on Windows/95, Linux, and Solaris.

John has been successfully using the software over the last few months with minimal problems, but he states that there is still work that needs to be done. The documentation, for example, is not yet complete, but there should be enough there to allow you to get started. Further documentation for developers is under construction.

John is interested in receiving email messages from anyone who decides to download and run his software. John may be reached at n6lyt@qsl.net. He is also interested in hearing from individuals who would like to aid in the development of his Java Satellite Ground Station Software.

For those of you with Internet access, a very interesting development has occurred, thanks to Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. Many of you are aware of the fact that Bob is "Mr. APRS", and has been working tirelessly on new applications for the APRS (Amateur Packet Reporting System). He has worked with many different people to develop software which would run on most PC Systems currently available. He has been working on establishing a network of linked ground stations to show the activities on the digital amateur satellites. The following is the progress on the MIR sites:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Maryland USA | on line full time |
| Madrid Spain | on line full time |
| Mexico City | in work |
| Texas USA | in work |
| Chicago USA | in work |
| Argentina | in work |
| South Africa | in work |
| Hawaii | ? |
| Taiwan | ? |
| California | ? |
| Australia | ? |

He is still trying to find links from Japan and many other areas.

To see the live combined TNC data stream, TELNET to 199.227.86.221 port 10001, DURING any pass over Maryland or Madrid. To see the daily captured PASS files over Maryland BROWSE to: <http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/mirex.html>

The South Texas Balloon Team is working on launching BLT-13 on 18 August 1998. It will include a packet digipeater with 70cm up and down-

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links, a Mode A transponder, and a 1.2 GHz TV transmitter with various sources available for video telemetry readings. They hope to place the balloon up approximately 100,000 feet, so those of you in the south will probably be able to receive something from this experiment.

For those of you considering applying for the W4AMI Achievement Award, the address for submission has changed again. You should now send the data to AMSAT at the address listed earlier in the article.

If you have Internet access, don't forget the Houston AMSAT net is brought to you weekly via Real Audio now "live," as well as being online as a file for two weeks following the net date. The file is now downloadable as well, so you can listen offline when you want to — in fact, I'm listening to last week's net while I finish typing this column! It's

a wonderful way to keep up with current happenings in the satellite world, and it is brought to you by Andy MacAllister, W5ACM, and Bruce Paige, KK5DO. Give it a listen — you'll get hooked!

The 13th AMSAT-UK Colloquium will be held at Surrey University, Guildford, Surrey, United Kingdom, starting Friday, 31 July 1998, and ending on Sunday, 02 August.

This year's event will include technical and operational matters as well as an International Amateur Radio Union forum.

If you have the opportunity to attend and would like more information, please contact R. W. Limebear G3RWL, 60 Willow Road, Enfield EN1 3NQ, United Kingdom, or contact him electronically via the following routes: e-mail: g3rwl@amsat.org; Packet Radio: G3RWL@GB7HSN.#32.GBR.EU; Satellite

AO16/19/22/23/25.

ICOM is currently touring around the country in a motorhome promoting their new radio gear, which includes their satellite radios. They are traveling to various stores and hamfests. If you would like information concerning their schedule, or are involved with a hamfest and would like them to stop by if possible, contact Pat or Ronnie at ICOM at 425/454-8155.

My space is quickly running out for this month. Stay tuned to the AMSAT News Service bulletins on the AMSAT Web Site (www.amsat.org) for current information concerning any upcoming launches. Keep your fingers crossed for some good news concerning a flight for Phase 3D! Keep working the LEOs and AO-10 (when it's available), and I'll look forward to working you soon on the birds!

Three types of Hams?

CLINTON HERBERT, AB7RG

I've been wondering, after well over a year on the BBS network, and a lot more on just about every other mode and Amateur band, I've seen, heard, and met quite a few different Hams and attitudes, and I've come to a conclusion of sorts — there are three different types of Hams.

1. The "disgruntled" Ham. This type of Ham is easy to find. They are very bitter (for unknown reasons) and really do nothing to help out their fellow amateurs. What they do is complain a lot, get angry, yell and/or cuss at their fellow amateurs, and are a general pain in the rear. They do not care about Amateur Radio, just themselves. Kind of depressing when you think about them for too long.

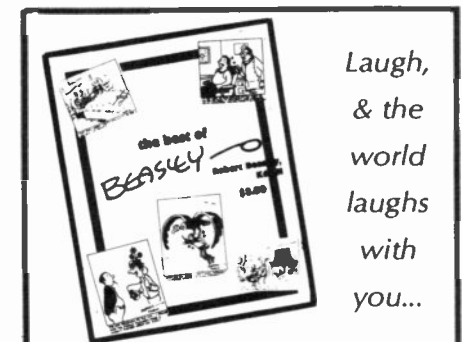
2. The Ham who wants help and/or is "new" to Amateur Radio. Now this Ham could end up like either the first type of Ham, the third type of Ham, or just get out of Amateur Radio out of disgust. (Then we all lose.) This type of Ham just needs a

helping hand, someone who's willing to help them set up their station or maybe even upgrade! They tend to find only the "disgruntled" Hams, and end up leaving the Amateur Radio service. Funny how most amateurs never even notice this type of Ham as they slowly fade away.....

3. The very rare Ham is the Ham who wants to help out, and does, in every way that he or she can. This can be in the form of joining ARES, becoming a VE, starting up Ham Radio classes (hey, a No-Code tech is perfectly qualified to teach!), setting up a Club station, helping out the community, or helping the second type of Ham. Keep in mind that this third type of Ham is very rare, and if you find one, don't lose touch. Too bad that this type of Ham seems to be a dying breed. They might not

be, if a few more "type two" Hams were helped out by say the "type one Hams," if they could get their act together. Yes, "type three" Hams care about Amateur Radio, and its future.

So, which "type" of Ham are you? Personally, I try my best to be a "type three" Ham. Food for thought! — Cedar Valley ARC



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July is the month in which all Americans are reminded of their independence and freedom. MARS members have freely chosen to use that freedom to volunteer to serve their country and all the people in it. While the sending of morale and welfare traffic has been the best known mission of Army MARS (and is still an important mission), the primary mission of Army MARS remains that of providing communications support during emergency situations — local, state, national, international. That primary mission can only be carried out, however, under the legal mandates that are part of every Federal agency. Under these mandates, Federal assistance must be requested by the local, county, or state authorities. Many MARS members wear two sets of emergency communications hats, thereby being able to serve through the channels in which they can be of the most value.

One area of emergency support not limited by these mandates is the sending of information to DOMS about any unusual occurrences from the outset with a continuing flow of information until the cessation of those occurrences. MARS has a standing agreement with DOMS to supply the EEI (Essential Elements of Information) reports which carry this information thus eliminating any need for delay. This provision of information is the most vital area of MARS emergency support.

Now the emergency support planners have valid information on which to base those plans and emergency support planners have two-way capability of communication from the sites of the occurrences. They never had this advantage un-

til Army MARS instituted its EEI program. With an unparalleled geographic network of highly trained operators, there is no corner in the country that is out of reach. In addition, MARS is available 24 hours per day 365 days per year. You will notice that I have not specified Army MARS in any of this discussion. Army MARS and DOMS instituted the EEI report program in 1993 and have fine-tuned the process ever since. Air Force MARS and Navy/Marine Corps MARS have been added to the program in the true spirit of interoperability. This is truly a three-service MARS mission.

Army MARS has always been known for its fine support of major disasters. 1998 has seen much activity with the opening of the year seeing floods, blizzards, tornadoes, and other natural phenomena. The service by the Army MARS volunteers continues even now with the operational professionalism that has long been a hallmark of Army MARS volunteers.

Volunteer week in April gave all of us pause to reflect on the role of volunteers in this country. The volunteers of all the MARS services are the heart and soul of these services and are the people who keep the programs operating so effectively. As Chief Army MARS, Robert Sutton, said in a message at that time, "It is this caliber of human understanding and desire to help our fellow citizens that has made MARS an outstanding organization."

Army MARS has a reputation of being up and operating for all the major emergencies that require communications support. Army MARS has also been called upon to serve in very localized unusual situations as well.

A case in point was the Army MARS support of local authorities in the tragic school shootings in Jonesboro, Arkansas. As Chief Sutton reported the activity in his Command Net Notes, "Although we were saddened by the tragedy, most of us were not aware of the commu-

nications support role that Army MARS provided during the aftermath — the local telephone system had become completely clogged and the cellular phone service also became inoperative. Faced with this situation, Mr. Jeff Shearman, AAT6JC, requested and gained permission to use the local MARS repeater for communications support. Additional MARS members were called into action to coordinate Red Cross and local government operations."

Armed Forces Day 1998 was a great success this year. The overall results are not available at this writing. The participation was most gratifying with many amateurs — both MARS and non-MARS, making crossband contacts and utilizing the opportunity to copy digital modes as well.

ARRL Field Day is immediately ahead of us all. With all of the available categories, there is no amateur or MARS member who could not participate in some way. This is an important program from an emergency standpoint, from a public awareness standpoint, and from an operator development standpoint. Besides all the serious standpoints, Field Day is a lot of fun. You might find yourself out in a field literally, on top of a mountain (in my area, you have to be part mountain goat), at a central location in civilization, or even tucked away in your own home. There are categories to fit all needs and abilities. I encourage all of you to take part in this annual event and get to know your fellow Ham community. The exchanges will be brief but the geographical latitude will be wide and most interesting.

Concurrent with and in support of the ARRL Field Day, MARS will also be running a Field Day along the same lines and categories as the ARRL Field Day. MARS members are encouraged to participate in both the Amateur Band search for fellow Field Day stations as well as the MARS frequency search for fellow Martians (as some people call us). Come join the fun.

Independence, freedom, all the attributes that make this country great are alive and well in the amateur ranks and in the MARS communities. Let's keep that flag flying and the spirit of America alive.

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**Club Liaison,
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Sacramento, CA 95818**

ARIZONA

Arizona Repeater Association. P.O. Box 35758, Phoenix, AZ 85069-5758. Operates 20 VHF & UHF rpters. in AZ. Meets 4th Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., APS Bldg., 21st Ave. & W. Cheryl, Phoenix. Info: (602) 849-0851. 9/98

Cochise Amateur Radio Assn., (CARA). Meets 1st Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m. at club facility on Moson Rd., Sierra Vista, AZ. K7RDG/R 146.76(-) rpt. PL 162.2. 5/99

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

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

CALIFORNIA

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

Beach Cities Wireless Society. P.O. Box 4016, San Clemente, CA 92674. Meets 2nd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Ole Hansen Beach Club, 105 W. Avenida Pico, San Clemente. Rptr. 146.025(+) PL 110.9. 7/98

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

Contra Costa Communications Club, Inc., W6EZZC/R. P.O. Box 20661, El Sobrante, CA 94820-0661. Meets 2nd Sun./monthly (except May & Dec.), 0630, Baker's Square Restaurant in Richmond, CA. Info: Ed Caine, KA6OFR, (707) 996-0962. 1/99

Downey Amateur Radio Club Inc., W6TOI. Meets 1st Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., So. Middle Sch. cafeterium, 12500 S. Birchdale, Downey, CA. VHF net W6GNS rpt. 146.175(+) Thurs., 7:30 p.m. 5/99

East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Meets 2nd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Albany Sr. Cntr., 846 Masonic Ave., Albany, CA. Info: S. Primbsch, (510) 741-8227. 145.11(-) MHz. 11/98

Fresno Amateur Radio Club. Meets 2nd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Ernie Pyle School, 4140 N. Augusta, Fresno, CA. 146.94(-) 223.94(-). 11/98

Fullerton Radio Club, Inc., W6ULI. P.O. Box 545, Fullerton, CA 92632. Meets: 3rd Wed./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Sr. Citizens Ctr., 340 W. Commonwealth, Fullerton. Net ea. Tue., 8 p.m. 147.975(-). Info: Bob Hastings, K6PHE (714) 990-9203. 7/98

Garlic Valley Amateur Radio Club (GVARC). Meets last Sat./monthly, 8:30 a.m., Gavilan Restaurant near Monterey exit, hwy 101, Gilroy, CA. Info: Hal, AC6LK, (408) 779-7787. Net Tues., 7:30 p.m. Club rpt. K6THR, 147.825(-). 9/98

Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society, (VEC). P.O. Box 508, Chico, CA 95927. Club call W6RHC, rpt. 146.85(-). Meets: 3rd Fri./monthly, 8 p.m. at 1528 Esplanade, Rm. 101, Chico. 10/98

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

Marin Amateur Radio Club (MARC). W6SG. Box 151231, San Rafael, CA 94915-1231. Meets 1st Fri./7:30 p.m., Kaiser Hosp., Bldg. 2, Terra Linda, CA. (except July & Dec.; contact Membership Chair., Pete Wolford, N6IYU, 924-1578). Sun. AM Club at Red Cross, San Rafael. 9/98

This month ... Starved Rock Radio Club, from Leonore, IL, has won an MFJ Antenna Analyzer to share with its members. The club's name was selected at random from our "Visit Your Local Radio Club" listing.

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

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club. P.O. Box 23222, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Meets 3rd Fri./monthly, 8 p.m., Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA. Net Thurs. 7:30 p.m. on 147.06(+)/PL 100Hz. Info: (510) 932-6125. 7/98

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

Orange County Amateur Radio Club. Meets 3rd Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Orange County Red Cross, 601 N. Golden Circle, Santa Ana, CA. 146.550. Contact Bob Buss, KD6BWH, (714) 534-2995. 2/99

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

River City A.R.C.S. Meets 1st Tues./monthly, 7 p.m., SMUD Bldg., Don Julio at Elkhorn, Sacramento, CA. License classes offered. For info contact Lyle, AA6DJ, (916) 483-3293. 9/98

Sacramento Amateur Radio Club. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 7 p.m. Sac. Blood Ctr., 32nd St. & Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Info net at noon on rpt. W6AK/R 146.91(-). Steve Cates, KC6TEV, (916) 391-7341 or Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ, (916) 393-4775. 2/99

Sacramento "Old Timers" Amateur Radio Society and Sacramento Valley Chapter #169 QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Assn.). Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, 8 a.m., Lyon's Restaurant, 1000 Howe Ave. For info contact Paul Wolf, W6RLP (916) 331-1830. 12/98

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

Shasta Cascade Amateur Radio Society, (SCARS). 2124 Airstrip Rd., Redding, CA 96003. Meets: 3rd Wed./monthly, 7 p.m. at the C.D.F. Conf. Rm. Grape St., near Parkview Ave., Redding, CA. Net 146.64, Wed., 8 p.m. 10/98

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

South Bay ARC. P.O. Box 536, Torrance, CA 90508. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Torrance Memorial Hosp., 3330 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA. Talk-in on W6MYD rpt. 244.38(-). Info: (310) 328-0817. 7/98

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

Southern Sierra ARS. Meets 2nd Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Veteran's Hall, 125 East F St., Tehachapi, CA. Contact: Caroline, KD6KMN, (805) 822-5995. 147.06(+), 224.42(-), 145.090(S) Packet. 1/99

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

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

Trinity Country ARC. P.O. Box 2283, Weaverville, CA 96093. Meets 2nd Wed./monthly, County School Adm. Bldg. in Weaverville, 7:30 p.m., Rptrs: WA6BXN 146.73(-) PL 85.4, W6HOR 146.925(-) PL 85.4. 10/98

United Radio Amateur Club, K6AA. L.A. Maritime Museum, Berth 84, Foot of 6th St. San Pedro, CA 90731. Meets 3rd Fri./monthly (except Dec.), 7:00 p.m. Monitors 145.52 Simplex 10 a.m.—5 p.m. 7/98

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

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

West Coast Amateur Radio Club, (WCARC). P.O. Box 26127, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Meets 3rd Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Fountain Valley Sch. Dist. office, 17210 Oak St., Fountain Valley, CA. 145.440(-) PL 136.5. For info: Jane, KD6ODV, (714) 531-6707. 10/98

Willits Amateur Radio Society, (WARS). 1712A South Main St., Ste. 73, Willits, CA 95490. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7 p.m., Brooktrails Fire Dept. (northwest of Willits). Talk-in: 145.13(-), PL 103.5. 9/98

Yolo Amateur Radio Society. Meets 1st Tues./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Denny's Restaurant, 4120 Chiles Rd., Davis, CA. Contact Dave Nishikawa, KC6YFG, (916) 756-6375/Talk-in 144.430. 10/98

Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club, (YSARC). P.O. Box 1169, Yuba City, CA 95992. Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7:30 p.m., Yuba City Police Bldg., 1545 Poole Blvd., Yuba City. 2/99

COLORADO

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

CONNECTICUT

Tri-City Amateur Radio Club. P.O. Box 686, Groton, CT 06340-0686. Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7 p.m., St. Lukes Lutheran Church of Gales Ferry on Rt. 12. Info: Bob Dargel, KA1BB, (860) 739-8016. 11/98

FLORIDA

Gulf Coast ARC. P.O. Box 595, New Port Richey, FL 34656. Meets 4th Mon./monthly, 7:30 p.m., 3852 Prime Place, New Port Richey. WA4GDN rpters. 146.67(-) & 145.33(-), serving all of Pasco County. 10/98

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

Port St. Lucie ARA. Meets 1st Fri./monthly, 7:30 p.m., St. Andrews Church, Prima Vista Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL. Contact: Roy Cox, KT4PA, (561) 340-4319. Call in 146.955(-). 11/98

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

GEORGIA

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

HAWAII

Big Island Amateur Radio Club. P.O. Box 1938, Hilo, HI 96721-1938. Meets 2nd Tue./monthly, 7 p.m., Army Reserve Center, 470 W. Lanikaula St., Hilo. Talk-in on 146.88(-). Lunch, 11 a.m. Fridays, Pizza Hut, Puainako Twn. Ctr. 7/98

Emergency Amateur Radio Club, (EARC). P.O. Box 30315, Honolulu, HI 96820-0315. Meets 4th Thurs./monthly, 7 p.m., Lincoln Elem. Sch., 615 Auwailimu, Honolulu. Nets: nightly 7:30 p.m., 146.88 & 146.80. Rptrs: 146.76(-), 146.80(-), 146.88, 146.96(-), 146.94(-). Info: (808) 833-6944, WH6CZB. 11/98

Search And Rescue



Communications

Jerry Wellman, W7SAR
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 e-mail: jw@desnews.com

plan. This includes getting your materials together, contacting others to help, preparing handouts, obtaining a meeting room or exercise site, etc. This step is also where you communicate with your helpers, participants, your group leadership, and do any advance publicity as may apply. An important part of the implementation is to delegate as necessary and motivate your helpers as best you can. The final part of implementation is the activity itself.

Third in our process is evaluation. Often you'll get immediate feedback from the participants. If they've stayed awake and stayed with you through the whole event you can learn from their reactions whether or not your event was worthwhile. Some activities lend themselves to a formal evaluation sheet or you might just contact some of the participants in person and simply ask for suggestions, ideas, and their reaction to the event.

Finally, you will want to take the suggestions, your observations, any ideas, and changes and roll them into your original plan. This is the revising step in the process. This is where you "learn" how to do it better for the next time. If you've done well, chances are you will be asked to do a similar event again and you want to make it even better.

A test case

Let's go through a scenario. You've been asked to conduct a 90-minute seminar on grab-and-go equipment for emergency response. In the planning step, you determine who your audience will be, how many might attend, and where the event will

take place. You decide that your objectives are to teach the inexperienced radio operator some of the basics and secondly give the experienced hands some ideas. Based on previous seminars you know an overhead projector is needed, as well as several large tables so you can demonstrate equipment ideas. You also know it's nice to have a couple of others help with the seminar. You decide on a tentative outline of what you want to discuss and list the equipment you'll use as show and tell.

As you implement your plan, you call a couple of helpers and divide up the equipment needs. You assign what topics each will cover and agree on a time and place to meet to get set up for the seminar. The event sponsor will take care of the advance publicity, the tables, and the overhead projector. You prepare your handouts and overhead slides, gather your gear, check with your assistants, and when the day comes, conduct the seminar.

During the seminar you watch the

Let's do a little teaching this month concerning how to prepare for and conduct an event. I've received several requests for "how to" ideas and believe this might be of some value. I'll define an event as just about anything you may be asked to do that involves others. This includes regular meetings, training presentations, exercises, community events, an actual response, etc.

You can find a number of texts and studies on how to plan for and conduct an event. There's even a career path that delves into project management — but we're not talking this complex an activity. What we want to do is present a brief guide to approaching an activity that, when completed, makes it of value to those who attend. The reaction you want from participants is that they'd be willing to attend again because it was not a waste of time.

I've used a rather simple four-step process: plan, implement, evaluate, revise. There's nothing complex about the process and it applies to every event I've been asked to undertake.

The first step is plan. Here you define exactly what you're going to accomplish. I usually list two or three major objectives. Limit yourself to no more than five major objectives. I once reviewed a training exercise plan which listed over 50 objectives — far, far too many to track, implement, or measure. Two or three is a good number. Part of the planning is then to decide what you're going to do to create an environment to accomplish your objectives.

The next step is to implement your

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participants. You see nodding heads in agreement as you make particular suggestions. You are asked many questions. The experienced participants offer their ideas that compliment your presentation. After the formal presentation, many of them stay around and the discussion continues. One of the event sponsors asks if you'd do this again for another group. You get the impression those attending felt it was worth their time to attend. You still ask what they thought and ask for ideas for "next time." A couple of experienced folk say they'd like to see more show-and-tell examples. One of the "new" guys wants more handouts with how-to-do-it instructions.

Finally, you take your observations and the suggestions and revise your plan for the next presentation. Over time you become better skilled at the process and presumably your presentations also improve.

You can apply this process to group meetings. Look around your next meeting and see if the expressions reflect that the meeting was worthwhile or was a waste of time. Ask for opinions. Change your plan as necessary and make the next meeting even better. Often we do meetings because "we have to" or someone "assigned us to." This does not mean the effort must lead to a boring or non-productive event. Success in any event is often related to the time you spent in planning and preparation before the event and the extent of evaluation you did follow-

ing the event. These two steps are, in my opinion, the most important.

Family Radio Service

Let me put in a plug again for the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) and the Family Radio Service (FRS). These two services operate on UHF-FM in the 462-467 MHz range and even share some frequencies. GMRS requires a license from the FCC and allows you to use increased power, base and mobile stations, and use repeaters. FRS does NOT require a license but limits you essentially to portable use with limited power. Each service has advantages and drawbacks.

FRS radios are getting cheaper by the day. You share ten channels with all users (a problem in congested areas) and you can use this for family or business. The range is poor because you're limited to portables and less than a watt of power. It's a quick-and-easy way to set up short haul links without licensing problems. I'd recommend these for base camp or command post coordination.

GMRS gives you ability to use base stations, gain antennas, mobiles, increased power, and repeaters. It involves a little more planning because you also need a license. GMRS is only licensed to individuals which means your club, business, or government agency cannot get a license. Users are limited to members of the immediate family so you cannot legally lend your license

to others in the group. With some planning, a number of your group could become licensed and use the service as an auxiliary channel for coordination and logistics. Many public safety volunteers make good use of GMRS and it's a great way to coordinate between volunteers of diverse, but coordinating, groups. (As a side note, the FCC did grant licenses to organizations in years past and continues to renew those licenses. Some groups still have those licenses and they allow group members to use GMRS for group business. The FCC does not currently issue new organizational licenses in GMRS — so if your group has one, it's a good idea to renew it and keep it current.)

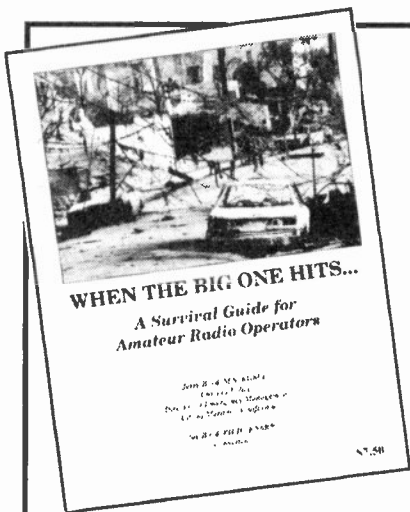
One example would be working with Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams, or REACT. Often considered only a Citizens Band Radio Service group, REACT often gets involved in emergency events and GMRS is a good way to coordinate.

Getting involved

Some of you have written asking how to get your Amateur Radio group involved in more traditional groups' emergency activities. My answer is to simply call them and look for ways your groups can work together. Your first step is to attend some of their training sessions and perhaps play a small role in an exercise or two. The key is to take tiny steps and do an effective job as you discover your niche.

Sheriff groups, Civil Air Patrol squadrons, government agencies, and private groups such as Mountain Rescue, are all often reluctant to invite "the public" into their circle of responsibility. Sometimes it is to protect their turf and other times it is a fear of the unknown. You've got to prove you're not a threat to what they do and must show you can benefit their effort.

Communications is often the weak part of any response and often what Amateur Radio does best. From my experience with public safety, CAP, and volunteer groups, communications is critical but often done poorly if NOT done by Amateur Radio. Let's look at your typical CAP or sheriff group. Their emphasis is most likely on flying or technical rescue and that's where they spend most of their money and time. You, as a radio person, spend your time on ra-



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dios, feedline, antennas, and the like. You're probably not going to buy an airplane to carry your radios around in and you're not going to rappel into your communications center. You're not a threat to their search and rescue focus. The key is to integrate with the group in a non-threatening manner.

Sometimes it's almost impossible. Many groups are highly territorial and will not admit they either don't know it all or cannot do it all. These groups often get offended if you even suggest that you could help them. You must also guard against this attitude in your group. I once heard from a Mid-Western group that became highly upset when another radio group was started within the same county. Each group would jam the other group's events, make rude comments, and generally re-enact the Hatfield/McCoy battles. The bottom line is that both groups were finally ignored and the radio service in question still retains a black eye. The sad part is there was far too much for one group to do and they could easily have cooperated and contributed greatly to the public service arena.

My best suggestion is that you work through a governmental agency. Most agencies are, at some level, led or influenced by an elected official. If you can get your foot into a door, you often get the chance to prove your mettle. Again, start slow, do a good job, and make a name for yourselves. If, for example, the county emergency services integrates you into their responses, you can often then begin to work with the sheriff and the sheriff SAR teams. It takes time. It takes work. It takes a lot of doing little things right, but it's the only way I know that you can get involved on a regular basis.

Gadget happy

Years ago when I would report to work as a police dispatcher, my first task was to tidy up my operating area. As I look back on why I did what I did, it was simply removing distractions and gadgets. I could do my job better when I focused on the task at hand. But I didn't learn the lesson of having too many distractions until later in my communications life.

In the mid-1970s I built what I thought was a super station. I was the CAP's state communications of-

ficer and literally filled one room with gear. It took several years but I saved my hard-earned money and purchased six Heathkit HW-18 radios. (They were state-of-the art then!) These radios were loaded with tubes and kept the room nicely heated. The various antennas allowed me to monitor vast areas of the country, or so I thought.

As I was cleaning out some storage boxes last week I found a photo of that "radio room." It brought memories of vast amounts of time spent keeping the equipment operational but not much time operating the equipment. I was always tweaking and tuning and replacing tubes. The room needed some special wiring to handle the load and before long there were simply too many gadgets to efficiently operate. These HW-18s also generated copious amounts of audio static making it almost impossible to focus on traffic on any one particular channel.

The lesson learned was simply simplify. As you construct mobile command centers, emergency communications trailers, or pack your gear for field deployment, carefully consider the distraction, or gadget, factor. We're obviously not going to leave all our gadgets home, but use some common sense in deciding how many you're going to include.

A critical factor is the setup and "fiddle" time required for a non-essential gadget that you've placed as a critical link. For example the remote switch someone took to a field

comm center. It was great, during the rainstorm, to remotely select antennas from inside the tent. However, the gadget was homebrew and poorly constructed. It often did not correctly select the desired antenna and caused equipment failure when two transmitters' outputs were connected directly together when the gadget glitched. We spent valuable time trying to get this gadget to work or trying to fix it. It might have been uncomfortable connecting antennas in the rain but more efficient to the operation than having damaged equipment and associated distractions with the additional gadget.

When you add components you increase the number of failure points. A simple setup is easier to use, maintain, get operational quickly, and to troubleshoot. I've often discovered that system complexity creates its own problems. When you set up a communications system or site, ask yourself, is this additional item needed and what will it contribute to the purpose of the installation? Often you'll discover simplicity saves time and creates fewer problems. You might have to go out in the rain but that outweighs having the whole setup fail.

Keep it simple.

Until next month, have a great summer. Get out in support of Field Day, find ways to be of service, discover ways to do better what you do. Best wishes from SLC!

What goes UP must come DOWN!

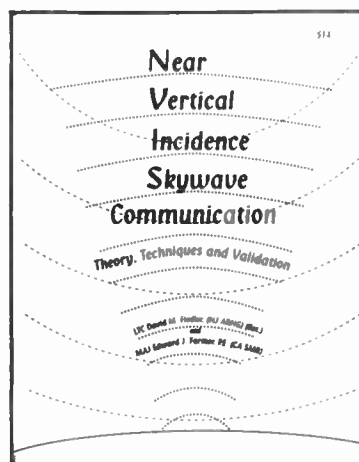
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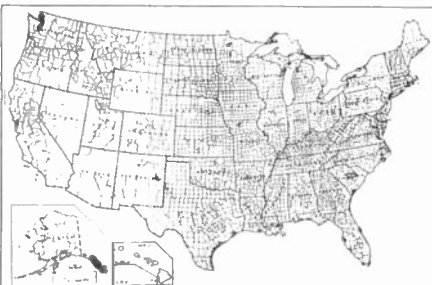
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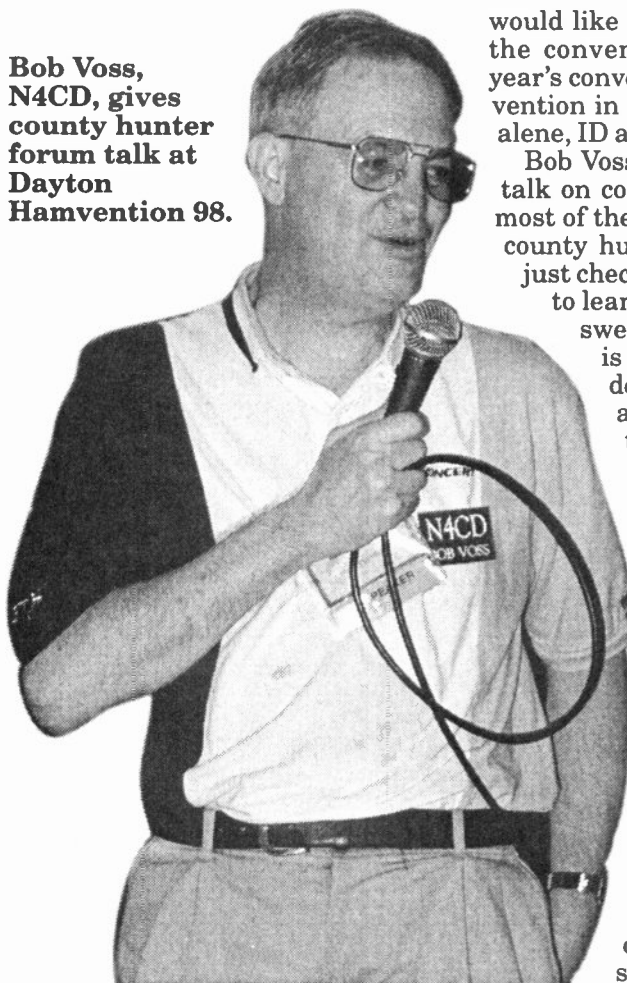
Dayton 98

My dad, Bill, K2HVN, and I made my first pilgrimage to Dayton and it was "awesome baby!" Something for everyone and a county hunter forum and county hunter dinner to boot. I counted roughly 100 folks at the county hunters forum at the Dayton Hamvention. John Sebastian, N8BGF, kicked things off by introducing Jim Glasscock, WØFF, who spoke about Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) and the MARAC officers.

Pete Peterson, K4QFK, then filled in for MARAC Award's Chairman, Roger Purdy, W2NWL, and gave a summary of all the MARAC awards. There are 38 different awards (some multiple awards with the same name, but different subtleties). Rather than discuss all 38 awards here, if you're interested in learning more about the awards, please send a self addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with 55 cents postage to Roger, W2NWL, 1 B Potomac Ln, Whiting, NJ 08759. I will tell you that MARAC has awards for contacting counties multiple times, for 5-band and YL chasers, for CW operators, and for mobile achievement. Perhaps the most economical news is MARAC does not require QSL cards to qualify for their awards.

Pete also talked about MARAC's sponsorship of county hunters contests and the regional mini-conventions and National convention. Pete talked a little about county hunting tools such as the coloring books and county hunter software. The major-

Bob Voss, N4CD, gives county hunter forum talk at Dayton Hamvention 98.



would like some information about the convention. If you miss this year's convention, the MARAC convention in 1999 will be in Coeur d'Alene, ID and in Michigan for 2000.

Bob Voss, N4CD, gave the main talk on county hunting. Although most of the audience were existing county hunters, a few folks were just checking out county hunting to learn more about it. Bob answered the question, "what is county hunting?" by first describing county hunting as fun. He then explained that county hunting provides a valuable emergency and priority net, opportunities to achieve awards and to help others, and provides fellowship at mini-conventions and the national convention. Bob contrasted county hunting from DXing by saying county hunters go out of their way to help other county hunters. Bob gave some tips on "running" counties mobile or operating as net control. He also gave some survival tactics to operating on the CW county hunters net. I will

take Bob's comments and other operating tips and provide more details in a future article.

One question asked when Bob concluded his talk was, "what about 75 Meters?" Years ago, the county hunters had a nightly net on 75 Meters (3.943 and 3.865 MHz were previous net frequencies) and it was very popular. Unfortunately, the net is not in operation today. Most felt the reason the net did not survive was battles on 75 Meters to keep a frequency and the general decline in county hunters interested in 75 Meters. Hopefully, we will see a resurgence of the 75 Meter county hunter net soon. By the way, K9GTQ contacted all 3,076 counties on 75 Meters, due in large part to the 75 Meter CH net.

It was great to visit Dayton and see some fellow county hunters. County Hunters seen at Dayton: N8BGF, K2HVN, K6PJ, WD5AAH, NØAKC, WD9EJK, NØDIA, WØFF, KC8FFD, KJ8V, KM8U, K4QFK, W9SUQ, WD8CTX, WD9GBH, W9GUY (ex WD9DCZ), AA9CW,

ity of county hunters using logging programs are using KWIKLOG by KJ4EJ (see information below).

Cliff Taylor, WB4FBS, spoke about this year's National convention in San Antonio, TX from 01 July to 04 July. MARAC is hosting the convention from the Omni Hotel, a 20-floor hotel with the hospitality suite on the 20th floor. Cliff has lots of plans for this convention and says the 20th floor is a great place to watch fireworks on the 4th after the banquet. If there's a chance you can attend this event, write Cliff at 22707 Red Mountain Dr, Elmendorf, TX 78112-6034 (e-mail: wb4fbs@aol.com) and tell him you

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KWIKLOG for Windows

The one county hunter program that is still supported and planning an upgrade is KWIKLOG PLUS. It provides a county hunter contact logging and awards tracking for all MARAC awards and the USA-CA. If all you need is software to track the USA-CA, a version of KWIKLOG called KWIKLOG Lite is available for free on the internet [<http://www.countyhunter.com/kwiklog/download.htm>].

KWIKLOG was created in 1992 by Willis, KJ4EJ for his personal use in tracking the 5-Star Award, which at the time of the awards inception, was not tracked by any of the major logging programs then available. The increase in popularity of the 5-Star Awards program brought about many requests from county hunters for the KWIKLOG Program, which was provided to county hunters free for the asking. Then requests for added features started pouring in, and by late 1993, KWIKLOG had become a larger program.

Continuing support and additional development costs started to escalate rapidly and for the first time in 1995, it became necessary to assign a cost to the program. Because of KWIKLOG's determination to stay abreast of the needs of county hunters, it's user-friendly screens, and it's dedication to customer service, the program has evolved to become the county hunter's foremost and widely used logging program for county hunters available today.

The program is now being distributed in Version 9.06 on six - 3 1/4" diskettes by Priority Mail with a 60-page illustrated Operating Manual at a cost of \$42.06 plus \$2.94 Florida sales tax of 7%. The new county line feature, described in "What's New", is now a standard feature in all KWIKLOG PLUS program distributions!

KWIKLOG PLUS automatically maintains 17 different awards including, USACA, Master County Hunter Award (Bingo), Mobile YL, All SSB, All CW, Big Rigs, Teams,

Master Gold, Millionaire, 5-Bands (10-15-20-40 80), 5-Stars, Transmitted counties, and a Special Book of your own design.

A book is the term used to represent a listing of all 3,076 counties of the USA used for most awards. The program determines the eligibility of all calls worked for the various awards, and automatically places the QSO data "in the books" as you Post your log. All books tracked are fully maintained and can be edited, needs viewed, and printed!

Four different call databases are maintained, one of which is by your own design. The program also accesses from within, Peach3, SamCD, and most other widely used call databases. The program is shipped with an up to-date list of all USACA numbers, calls and upgrades as well as a file of approximately 1200 active county hunters, which is used to expedite the logging of QSOs.

A minimum of typing is required for operation of KWIKLOG. Enter the two letter State abbreviation, the Call worked, the first letter of the county, signal report and if logging "live" that's about it except for pressing the enter key!

Also found in KWIKLOG on the Utility Menu are a number of sub routines used by amateur radio operators including DXCC, the complete ARRL countries list, Frequency Authorization lists, Prefix Allocations, MARAC information, WAS, Capitol cities worked, QSL card inventory and a "Shack" inven-

tory program excellent for insurance purposes. Also included are lists for Last County awards sent and received, and for the true computer guru, a program for handling the Net Control list of mobiles, etc.

If county hunters do it, then so does KWIKLOG PLUS! A help file is available at most menu screens for help on the subject of the menu! The program does not support mouse operation. (That will come in the KWIKLOG PLUS for Windows version in 1998!)

KJ4EJ plans to conduct seminars in July 1998 at the MARAC national convention in San Antonio, TX on computer logging and will demonstrate KWIKLOG PLUS for Windows 3.1, Windows 95, and Windows 98. KJ4EJ does not plan to release the program until the program is first demonstrated at San Antonio in July 1998. The Windows version of KWIKLOG will be available for sale at \$65.00 following the convention! (Upgrades will be available for \$20.00, \$30.00 or \$45.00 - depending on what version you started out with. (\$65.00 minus what you paid originally).

If you have a lot of QSOs in another logging program, perhaps KJ4EJ can convert those log files for inclusion in KWIKLOG PLUS! For more information, write Clarence A. Willis Jr, 5819 Peaceful Pass, Groveland, FL 34736 or send him an e-mail: kj4ej@aol.com.

Until September, happy hunting! 73, Ace, N3 aha!

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Upcoming traffic

Between the Florida 'Sun and Fun EAA Fly In' (April) and the 'CNE, Canadian National Expo' in August, Special Event stations seem to take the Summer off. Of course we still get to relay lots of Mother's and Father's Day, as well as Happy Fourth of July, messages. Keep traffic handlers busy and send traffic.

HXE

I mention in the last column that K4DOR, here in Virginia, reported that 9 out of 10 of his messages with HXE in the preamble did indeed get a reply. This resulted in a letter from N1LAH in Wayland, MA. Ralph says that he was surprised to hear this. He reports that, "I always ask the addressee for a return message whenever delivering a message with HXE and/or ARL Seven, and get only a 50% response. The others just decline and/or say they will call the sender on the phone, or drop them a note." This is par with my own experience. Perhaps the difference is that K4DOR has built up a local clientele who send messages to folks who want them and who want to reply. Probably on the other end of those who generally reply would be the person who gets a message from someone they don't know; i.e., roster traffic (a member of an organization sending folks on the roster a message). The paradox is that while we, as a society, are not listing our phone numbers and/or are using answering machines to screen calls, we then get 'online' and chat with complete strangers and discuss our innermost secrets.

Ralph adds he has become frustrated with the lack of response he gets when he adds HXC (report date and time of delivery to originating station) in the preamble. His reason for doing so is excellent. "I like to

indicate HXC whenever I'm originating traffic for someone for the first time. It is quite impressive when, within a day or two, I can report back to the sender the time and date their message was delivered. The impact is lost when I get no response and have to trace the message to each station who handled the traffic along the way. In fact on several occasions I have been unable to trace the message because I have received no response to my query to a station that I know received the message."

This corresponds exactly with my experience. My husband's and my extended families reside in California. Messages to them just disappeared. Traces were never answered. My understanding, after numerous inquires, is that due to a lack of Section Level nets, traffic is fed into a packet system. Once on packet, no one is responsible. There are great PBBSSs and not so good ones. But that's another story. Perhaps we need a list of Top Op traffic PBBSSs throughout the country.

Ralph suggests we might make an informal survey on using handling instructions. This would indeed be interesting. We have a special event station working a local mall during Christmas each year here in Virginia. I have tried to get them to do just that. Unfortunately, they always seemed interested but never got around to doing it. So, all Special Event stations — go for it, and let us know your results. If the traffic being moved is great, just sample

every 5th, 10th, or whatever message. But do keep it random.

Regions

According to ARRL's latest stats, and taking March as the example, Region 5 had the most traffic — 1407 pieces. I'm proud to say that Region 4 came in second with 1151. Region 1 was just behind with 1099. Looking at these stats on a bar graph is impressive. Unfortunately, way down at the bottom were Regions 3, 6, 9, and 12.

Net frequencies

It's 8:30 at night. You are the Net Control station of the Eastern Area Net. This is an important net. You have reps (receive and transmit) coming from Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, ECN, ARN, and collecting traffic for CAN and PAN. Throw in a few miscellaneous folks and you can have 20 stations with over 100 pieces of traffic to move. You listen on 3670 and, lo and behold, you find someone using the designated frequency. What do you do?

A) Tell the people to get off your frequency.

B) Ask the people if they would mind moving.

C) Move up or down; begin the net.

D) Call the net on top of the stations who had the nerve to use it. Sooner or later they will get the hint and move.

I hope all you net control stations chose B or C. If you tried B, and the stations agreed to move; I'm sure you thanked them profusely. Some net control stations must be choosing A and D. I've heard D and cringe — literally. I just received a note from a fellow traffic handler who says a CW (non-traffic handler) friend of his was rag-chewing with someone and experienced A. They had words and followed the pattern of D. It doesn't take much of A and D to make anyone not handling traffic think we are a bunch of rude (___s) — fill in the blank. I've also had the experience of running a net where no toes were stepped on, and yet a station will come out of the blue and make comments as to what he thinks of traffic nets. A and D cause this attitude.

'AA'

When sending the address, in Morse, 'AA' is used to indicate 'end of line.' W3WRE, in *The Michigan Net Newsletter*, explains how this



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probably came to be:

"When sending formal messages by CW, the first thing a beginner hears is 'don't send punctuation.' Separate the parts of the address from each other with the prosign AA. This is ironic, because in the American Morse Code (the 'Mother-Tongue'), the sound di-dah-di-dah is a comma and was doubtless the origin of our prosign. Originally, a correctly addressed letter was punctuated with commas following the name and street address, each of which was on a separate line. The comma was transmitted by Morse operators and thus AA came to mean that the receiving operator should drop down one line."

When I first started handling traffic about 15 years ago, AA was also used to separate traffic when listing it on a net — especially on the Eastern Area Net. When someone checked in with traffic for, say Regions 1, 3 and 8, it would be listed as: QTC 1RN 1 AA 3RN 1 AA 8RN 1 AR. This use disappeared over a span of several years.

Most Sections could use more traffic handlers. It's not just needing liaisons and NCSs; we need more outlets. Gary, KE4DNO, in Lake Helen, Florida, has been trying to do something about this for several years. He started a slow speed CW traffic net and tried sending messages to new Hams there. He has now expanded on that idea. For the past several months, he has been sending new Hams anywhere a message congratulating them on their license and mentioning the National Traf-

fic System. His beginning messages were long and included those who got a vanity call. After some complaints — too much traffic to places where there was no outlet, he seems to have left out new vanity calls and shortened the message to new licenses. These were wise changes. His message now reads: "Congratulations new license support the national traffic system 73" That's a check of 9 and can't get any shorter. I haven't seen many replies going back. A few ARL Sixty Sevens, and a couple of thanks for the message. Let me hear if anyone has found additional traffic handlers due to this message. It would make a nice article. If nothing else, it at least exposes new amateurs to the NTS.

Frequent messages

W7GHT publishes a list of frequent messages in his *Idaho Montana Net Newsletter*. Following Bill's example, I've done the same in my *Virginia Newsletter*. If you don't have someone to send them to you, make your own. That way, when you copy a check of 9 from KE4DNO, you can skip to the addresses — send BT. Even if you want to copy them again, you have the message for fills.

Newsletters

N9JIY, Mike, reports that the Wisconsin Net manager, KA9GBG, wrote a slick little booklet, which his son illustrated. He sends a copy to new checkins. He sent me one and it is neat. Mike says that he would be happy to share it with others. You

might send him an envelope and stamp to put it in. It's thin enough to be folded over and put in a business letter size envelope. Mike Greenfield, 2437 Magna Vista Dr., Jackson, WI 53037.


TP

The final word on TP is from Giles, KE3CR. He reports that TP probably stands for Telephone Pioneers. He thinks that they have QSO parties a couple times a year and run a few days each time. He delighted me by saying that this column is read by non traffic handlers. Thanks Giles. While I enjoy traffic handling, I enjoy even more, people who read.

While its the Pacific Area's turn to list its slow speed CW traffic training nets, a letter was received advising of the Nebraska net. It will be added to the Central Area list. In the meantime try 3540 KHz at 6:45 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday. WØAP, Mac, says: "For the past two years I have been putting together a slow speed CW net with the purpose of encouraging CW. We handle very little traffic and it is more of a howdy-do net, but maybe we can get some of the new Hams to begin handling traffic." Anyone who knows anyone in Nebraska, send traffic for Mac and his Group to handle.

CW slow speed nets

WCSNP(CA/OR/WA) 7:00 p.m. 3702 D
(SoCA) 7:15 p.m. 3598 D
(CA/NV) 9:00 p.m. 3705 D

Let me know of any slow speed traffic nets in your area. 

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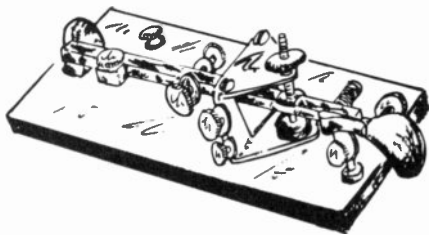
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Positively CW

Nancy Kott, WZ8C

P.O. Box 47 Hadley, MI 48440-0047
e-mail: nancy@tir.com

Some Hams are content to rag-chew at slow speeds and don't have a desire to go faster. This is fine! As long as you are getting on the air and having fun with Morse code, that is what is important. However, from the mail I get as a result of my work with FISTS CW Club, being a SysOp in the Compuserve HamNet forum and writing this column, I know many frustrated Hams want to go faster. "How can I increase my code speed?" is the most commonly asked question. After learning the alphabet, Hams seemingly reach a "plateau," a period where they can't make further progress. Usually they can copy 5 or 6 WPM fairly well, but they go to pieces above 7 or 8 WPM. The answer is simple: they have not adequately learned the alphabet.

They may deny this since they obviously must know the characters to copy 6 or 7 WPM. However, to copy CW at higher speeds requires more than merely recognizing characters — the recognition must be instantaneous. By instantaneous I mean the ability to recognize a CW char-

acter within a half-second after hearing its completion.

Bill Pierpont, NØHFF, author of "The Art and Skill of Telegraphy," puts it this way: "Associate the code signal with the printed letter so intimately that when you hear or think of one, the other immediately pops into mind. Instant recognition is what we strive for. We must develop that patient, receptive state of mind that allows us to recognize each character instantly and accurately as soon as it has been completed."

How do you find out if you have instant recognition? One way is to play a code practice tape. Listen to the tape; as each letter plays can you immediately say or write the letter? Or do you think "ummm...A" or "...dit dah...ummm...A"? If there is a split second delay in your recognition of the letter, then you haven't learned that letter to the point of instant recognition. A split second may not seem like much; it's not going to make much difference when you're going 5 or 10 WPM but when you get to higher speeds it's going to mess you up. The time it takes you to think "...ummm" before recognizing the letter will be long enough to make you miss the next letter after it. It will snowball to the point where you lose whole words. You may get enough of it to make sense of the copy, but you will not feel comfortable chatting on the air. It might discourage you enough to make you want to give up because you feel you are practicing and aren't making progress.

I'm sure you've heard the stories of legendary CW operators who can carry on a high speed chat on the air while drinking a cup of coffee and fielding questions from people in the room. These operators are comfort-

able with the code because it's so familiar they don't have to think about what they're copying.

Irene, WO8E, feels she is at a plateau. Even though she has passed the 20 WPM test and has her Extra class license she doesn't feel comfortable carrying on a conversation at 20 WPM. We wondered if she had instant recognition, maybe she didn't and this was holding her back. She listened to the code characters one by one and sure enough there are a handful of characters that she has to think about before identifying them!

Once you find you don't have instant recognition, how do you acquire it? There are two ways: the hard way and the easy way. The hard way is to proceed as you are doing, eventually instant recognition will come to you. With some people it may take years.

The simple way is to go back to the alphabet and learn it as it should have been done in the first place. Your first reaction is probably to think it would be a waste of time because you may feel you've already memorized the alphabet. But you've proved that you don't really know the letters because you don't have instant recognition of them yet. Once properly learned, the alphabet will produce faster speeds quickly and easily. The key is to overlearn the alphabet so it becomes so ingrained in your brain that it's second nature.

In psychology there is a "Law of Contiguity," which says that if two events occur no more than one-half second apart, the mind associates the two events. This means when a Morse code character is heard and it is followed within one-half second by a spoken letter of the alphabet, the mind will associate the Morse sound with the translation. The association works automatically, as a workman thinks "lunch" when he hears the noon whistle blow. But we quickly forget things learned by this association method, so we need to "overlearn" them to make the code a part of our permanent memory. Overlearning occurs when we continue to practice something we feel we have already learned.

However, boredom soon sets in when we go over and over material we think we've already mastered. This is why practice sessions should be short, two or three minutes at a time. Short, frequent practice ses-

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sions produce more results than fewer longer sessions. Concentrate, stay focused on your goal!

Determine what characters you don't recognize immediately after they are played and concentrate on these. You should be able to say the name of the character as the last dit or dah is heard. If you don't, add it to your list.

You can relearn the alphabet by using basic code tapes, listening to slow code on the air or even whistling it to yourself. It would be ideal if you could make your own tape concentrating on your problem letters, but don't omit the letters you already know. Remember, our goal is to overlearn the code: all the reinforcement you can get is good for you.

The key to success with this method is to say the letter within a half second of hearing it; hearing it


and quickly saying it — over and over and over. The INSTANT you recognize the letter being played, say it out loud as fast as you can. Use spare moments during the day to whistle the code under your breath and quietly say the letter to yourself immediately afterwards. Do it while driving, sitting at your desk at work (no one will even suspect!), during commercials while watching TV, anytime you think of it. Spending just a few minutes many times a day works wonders.

By tapping out the letter with your finger as you say the letter aloud or whistle it, you involve more of your brain's memory centers. This increases your learning efficiency by reinforcing instant recognition with what is called "motor memory." Doing a practice session right before you go to sleep has also been proven to help your brain commit material

to memory.

When you find that you have instant recognition with the letters, your code speed will increase effortlessly. Then you will get to the point where you can work on having instant recognition with common words. But that's a topic for another column.

I'm out of room for this month's column! Send me a business size, self-addressed, stamped envelope for more details about the psychology and mechanics behind Association and Overlearning and how it can help you overcome your code problems.

As always, I welcome your comments. Contact me at Nancy Kott, WZ8C, P.O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 or via email at nancy@tir.com. Please visit my home page at <http://www.freeyellow.com/members2/nananne>. 

Inside Amateur Radio

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

Early call

LENORE JENSEN, W6NAZ

It was only 6 a.m. when the ringing of his telephone awakened Loyd Sigmon, W6LQ, of Sherman Oaks, CA. Answering, he immediately recognized the voice of Bill Wilson, K6ARO (later to be the first U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican).

"Sorry to awaken you, Loyd," said Bill, "but have you heard about the disastrous earthquake in Nicaragua?"

Loyd had not, so Bill continued, "My good friend, Pat Frawley, called to ask if I could get through by Amateur Radio. His parents live there and the telephones are not working. Naturally, he's frantic to know if his parents are all right. I told him my antenna was down but I'd find another amateur."

Loyd quickly said, "Everything's working fine here, so give me their names and address."

He went to his station in the den and pointed his huge beam antenna southward; he warmed up the receiver, scanning "the band" for any-

one in Nicaragua. It took quite a while before he was sure he hadn't heard one, so he reached for his microphone and gave an urgent call: "CQ, CQ Nicaragua, this is W6LQ."

To his surprise, a girl's voice was calling him, "W6LQ, this is YN1IMO, Nicaragua."

Relieved and happy to make the contact, Loyd explained that he needed to know if an elderly couple was safe. The girl asked, "What's the name?"


After Loyd spelled it carefully, she came back, sounding amazed at the coincidence. "You won't believe this, but the Frawleys are my next door neighbors. I assure you they are all right. As you can imagine, our telephones are not working but I'll go over and bring them here to talk to you."

It was better luck than Loyd could have imagined. He immediately called Pat Frawley by phone with the good news, saying he'd call again as soon as they arrived at the amateur station. Pat said he'd phone and

cancel the private jet he had alerted, planning to fly down to find his folks.

Loyd remembers, "It was but a few more minutes when YN1IMO called to say Mr. and Mrs. Frawley were ready to speak into her microphone. I explained to them who I was and that I would have their son on the phone to talk with them soon.

"The ensuing conversation was interesting, to hear about the disastrous quake and how many of their neighbors' homes were badly damaged but not their own. They were relieved to be able to talk directly to Pat—and he was enormously grateful for the opportunity.

"I felt all my years of operating Amateur Radio stations had prepared me for this rewarding contact." 

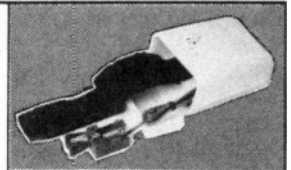
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Hello again

Hearty thanks to all the columnists who have filled in for me the last 4-5 months, and kudos for providing such interesting reading. Comments received were full of praise too. More on those columns next time. For now —

Convention mention

We're talking Big Time here, QCWA, 09-11 October, Palm Springs, California. You, and everyone else in U.S. of A, has always wanted to go there...sunshine forever, golf courses and tennis courts you can't count, restaurants for all tastes (sic), glitz, glamor. Notice I didn't mention sand. You can't find it. Or dry, you can't find that either. Instead you'll pass amongst flowers, green grass, fountains — there's even a hotel that takes you to dinner in a boat! And that's only for starters. Wait until you see what Chairman Don Doughty, W6EEN, and the entire Leo Meyerson Chapter of QCWA, in Coachella Valley, have planned for us!! Don and his team know how to do it.

Here's your invitation and here's how you register for the QCWA Fun in the Sun, 09-11 October this year. Open your *QCWA Journal*. Find the registration page there and that will give you all the information you need. Fill out, write check, paste stamp, and mail.

Don Doughty, W6EEN

Seems only fitting in announcing the above, that we follow through with a profile of the General Chairperson guy who's in charge of the event. The Host With the Most. Doing it big and doing it right is what Don Doughty is all about.

He's a native San Franciscan, transposed at the tender age of nine to Oakland. Fortune was smiling however, for it was here that Don

could not only see the KGO BC transmitting tower from his window, but when someone gave him a crystal set, Don put the two together in his head, and began planning a career in Amateur Radio.

Just before WWII, Don was sent to a boys' high school in the Santa Cruz mountains. All able-bodied men on campus had been conscripted for the Armed Forces or into war related jobs, so the students learned not only from books and the classroom, but from participating in practical matters around the school as well. This hands-on learning was not lost on Don and paid dividends in improvising and managing later in his life.

Meanwhile his interest in radio continued to grow so that when he entered University of California at Berkeley as an Electrical Engineering major, it was because of radio. However, a funny thing happened on the way to the rig. An uncle of Don's was into midget car racing. One day the midget was wrecked, and Don was there to help put it back together. This sparked an exciting interest in racing midgets, and pretty soon Don's expertise in the many facets of this, led to his being asked if he could develop a photo cell timer for the track. Of course he could, dropping out of college half way through his sophomore year to finish it.

A year and a half later, when he re-entered Cal, he switched to Mechanical Engineering. At the same time, he was hired by the University as a Research Assistant to work on a liquid metal heat transfer project. This led to Don's being tapped by the University to construct a wind tunnel, capable of winds to 450 mph, at the new Richmond Field Station. Meanwhile, not occupied quite enough, Don published technical papers in the *Journal of Aeronautical Science* and *Instrumentation* magazines.

Berkeley kept him interested, but Don was still fascinated with electronics. He bootlegged on 10 Meters using a surplus, souped-up BC-1335 tank radio. One day somebody opined, "Really, Don, you should get a license". So, in September, 1951, Don went legit, got his Novice ticket, WN6EEN, and upgraded a few months later. His first station was an SX28A, and a Globe Scout (hellooo, Leo). Don used this to better his code speed and a few months

later, upgraded again. Now, of course, he checks in as Extra Class.

Don continued at UC Berkeley and in 1954 received a Ph.D. in Engineering Science. He stayed on teaching and doing research, but after a year, decided it was time to make some money. So he made another obvious choice, as usual in line with his background and training, and went into installing back yard swimming pools. He put them in so well that in 1959, made another obvious choice, and with friends formed the Lafayette Savings and Loan Association, to become subsequently Chairman of the Board.

Don was too busy at this point to have much time for radio. He had tried to operate from a condominium but after the neighbors cut down his antenna a few times, he got the message. Back to the money game. Spending only about 20% of his time at the S & L, he branched out again and began building houses and developing subdivisions. Still not busy enough, he took up flying, got a pilot's license, and was appointed to the airport commission of the local airport. In 1982, his S&L merged into San Francisco S&L, and Don took up semi-retirement. Right.

In that mode he moved to a residential area called Discovery Bay. It had boats. Don bought a boat, a big one. Then he bought a dozen big boats, from Taiwan, up to 50-footers, and sold them. Meanwhile he got to know every harbor in San Francisco Bay and the Delta. And joined five yacht clubs. And he had fun.

During his career in S&L banking, he regularly worked with a particular Title Company. He was busy of course, but in this instance, not too busy to notice a particular escrow officer there. That she happened to be particularly attractive also, didn't delay his getting her name and somehow thereafter, his business always managed to be directed to her desk. A few years later he and Phyllis were married.

About 1977, Don and well-known DXpeditioner and Contestor Carl Cook, AI6V, met and talked a lot about Ham stuff. He also met Maurie Young, KN6M. Maurie had a 2-Meter handheld. Don had never seen one, so in his usual quick-study decision manner, bought one the next day. These two guys got Don excited about DXing and serious Contesting. Don flew Carl over the Sierra Nevada Mountains looking

for the ideal radio station location, resulting in Carl's purchasing atop a hill in Nevada City from which he won many a contest. It also resulted in Don's deciding he had to have a great DXing and Contest station too.

In 1987, Don and Phyllis decided to move to the desert. This decision was not lightly made because it took this cultured couple away from the San Francisco Opera, one of their longtime delights. Don carefully scoped out the whole Palm Springs area, finally choosing about five select (sandy) acres in the County, near Bermuda Dunes. Don has developed this spread in his usual nothing-is-impossible modus operandi, so that now it has grown five 100-foot towers, topped by appropriate beams and side mounts. Look up March 1995 *CQ* magazine. Don's on the cover, in his shack, smiling broadly — who wouldn't in that shack? Hardly need to mention who does all the engineering design and construction, including the initial tower climbing!

Don also runs a local two-meter

DX packet cluster node from a mountain top overlooking the Coachella Valley. As another public service, he and his industrious group organized Ham Radio University to act as Elmers for teaching and helping newcomers. Once a month, at Don's house, they administer FCC exams to their pupils.

During his several terms as President of the local QCWA group, Don developed and hosted with genial aplomb, a special meeting of the Palm Springs chapter every February. Word spread and it became a must-be-there, kind of mini-convention, attracting members from coast to coast. Now he's doing it even bigger: The National QCWA Convention, Palm Springs, 09-11 October, 1998. Will that be a great time? You'd better believe it — Don's Chairman. See ya there!

73 + 25, Jack, W6ISQ

Note: Portions of this story were excerpted from an article about W6EEN by Marguerite Troster in the Newsletter of the Northern California DX Foundation.

U.S. team to challenge world-class foxhunters

A team of U.S. hidden transmitter hunters plans to compete at the ninth ARDF World Championships. The U.S. team will represent the ARRL at the event, to be held 1-6 September in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary. More than two dozen countries are expected to send their best on-foot foxhunters to this world competition, being organized by the Varosi Radio Club in Nyiregyhaza.

The ARDF World Championships follow established IARU foxhunting rules, using standard orienteering maps, punches, cards, and control flags. During separate events on 2 and 80 Meters, five low-power "fox" transmitters are concealed in a large woods. The VHF and HF events are held on separate days. Each competitor uses direction-finding techniques to find as many foxes as possible within two hours.

There's room on Team USA for more foxhunters. Each competitor is responsible for his/her own transportation, food, lodging, etc. For information on how to participate, contact Joe Moell, KØOV at Box 2508, Fullerton, CA 92633; e-mail homingin@aol.com. Canadian amateurs should contact RAC National

ARDF Coordinator Perry Creighton, VE7WWP, 4011 Hollyridge Place, Victoria, BC V8N 5Z8 Canada.

For more on ARDF, visit the KØOV Web site, <http://members.aol.com/homingin/>. — *ARRL Letter*

Red Cross honors NY ARES/RACES

The American Red Cross chapter of Northeastern New York formally recognized Amateur Radio's role during the January 1998 ice storm by presenting New York State RACES with its 1998 Good Neighbor Award.

At a 28 April ceremony in Albany, New York, former SEC Anthony Pazzola, WB2BEJ, and former DEC April Stack, K2ZCZ, accepted the award on behalf of all New York State ARES/RACES members who supported the ice storm operations.

Pazzola and Stack, both officers for the chapter and members of the Northeastern New York Disaster Services Committee, received individual award certificates.

The award will be on display in the New York State Emergency Management Office radio room, known to New York amateurs as "The Bunker." — *April Stack, K2ZCZ, ARRL Letter*

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World Radio History

Inside Amateur Radio



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propagation



Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA
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e-mail: k9la@gte.net

I received my 5-Band DXCC award (work 100 countries on each of the 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, and 10M bands) in 1987 when we lived in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. I had expected to jump right into 160M DXCC, but it just didn't happen. I'd like to think that our move back north in 1988, my new job, and family activities (especially helping with our two boys in sports) kept me from doing it. In reality, though, I think I just wasn't ready to turn into a night owl again.

That's what it takes to work DX on the low bands — being somewhat of a night owl. Working 100 countries on 10M, on 15M, and on 20M was a daytime job. Working 100 countries on 40M really wasn't too bad — early morning and early evening effort. But working 100 countries on 80M was mostly a night time job. I can even remember getting up at 3 a.m. a couple times to work a DXpedition on 80M. It wasn't that 80M wasn't good enough early in the evening — it's just that the DXpeditions were on 20M in the early evening, then moved to 40M

later in the evening, then they finally moved to 80M in the wee hours. That wasn't good for me going to work the next day and it didn't score any points with my wife (and she's even a Ham), but it came with making the commitment.

Of course the problem with daylight on the lower frequencies is absorption in the D region. It's surprising how much absorption can occur at 1.8 MHz when your energy is going up through the D region in the daytime. It can easily reduce 100 watts to 1 milliwatt (50dB reduction), and that doesn't even consider coming back down through the D region or the free space loss due to distance. All those losses can put your signal strength way below the

sensitivity level of a distant station's receiver.

So we wait for darkness to work DX on the low bands. When the D region drops to its lowest density during the nighttime hours, the absorption drops to a very low value. Then all we essentially have to contend with is the free space loss, the ground reflection losses as the energy is hopping merrily on its way, and noise.

Most of the time for us here in the States, it's a simple matter knowing when to get on 80M and 160M. Do it when the path to the desired target location is in darkness. Those times aren't too tough a job to figure out for our common paths to Europe, Japan, and South America.

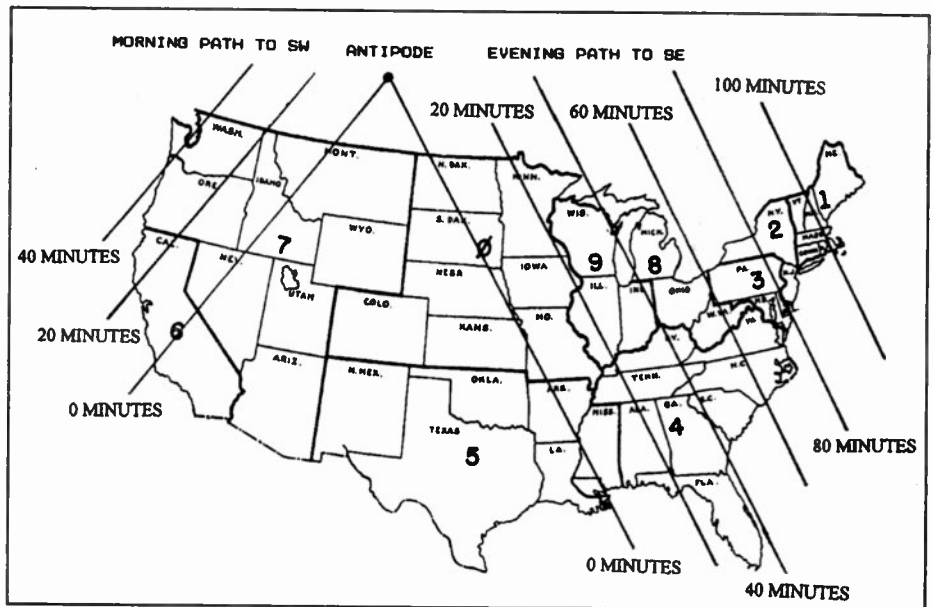
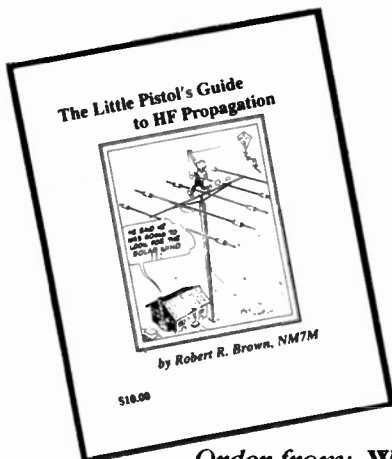


Figure 1. Contours of the duration of darkness along the path to VK0IR for January

Don't let the bullies kick sand in your face!



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For example, to Europe, we can get on at our sunset, and can work DX until European sunrise. Knowing the time difference, we can guesstimate our local time for European sunrise. Here in Ft. Wayne, we're five hours behind UTC, so a good guess for European sunrise is between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. If we need to know this more accurately (due to seasonal variation), we can use one of the many propagation prediction programs that give sunrise/sunset times for a given month for any given target location.

But this simple procedure can fall apart for very long paths. A good example was the VK0IR DXpedition in January of 1997. Heard Island is in the south Indian Ocean, and its antipodal point (the point on

the exact opposite side of the earth) was in VE5-land. This had a profound effect on propagation considerations.

First, the short path from the US/VE to VKØIR was determined by your location relative to the antipodal point longitude. If you were east of VE5, your short path was to the southeast. If you were west of VE5, your short path was to the southwest.

Second, for the low bands, the time of darkness along the path was also determined by your location relative to the antipodal point longitude. If you were east of VE5, your low band time of opportunity was in the evening after sunset. If you were west of VE5, your low band time of opportunity was in the morning before sunrise.

And if that wasn't enough, there was a large area in the U.S. Southwest that never had the entire path in darkness. Figure 1 shows this interesting circumstance for VKØIR to the US/VE in January. The contour lines show how long the path to VKØIR was in darkness. If you were on the East Coast, the path to VKØIR would be in darkness for more than an hour. Those in the Midwest had a correspondingly shorter opportunity. Those on the West Coast only had 30 minutes or so.

What about the large wedge centered on Colorado bounded by the two "0 Minutes" contour lines? Stations in this area would always have

some portion of their path to VKØIR in daylight, which means excessive D region absorption. These stations were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. So knowing sunset/sunrise conditions along and on both ends of the path can be an important factor in your low band DX efforts. It's also an important factor for planning DXpeditions, too!

What about propagation predictions on the low bands? That's a tough subject for one very good reason — most propagation prediction programs don't properly address magneto-ionic theory, which is the theory of electromagnetic wave propagation under the influence of a magnetic field (the Earth's). So those programs that work well in the higher HF range don't do so good on 80M, and especially on 160M. The only alternative most of us have is to know sunrise/sunset times and listen, listen, listen.

All these things make low band DXing tough. But these things which make it difficult also make it rewarding when a goal is achieved. Me? I finally started going after DXCC on 160M back in the fall of 1995. I'm presently at 96 countries worked with my TS-180S, my 1000W amp, an inverted-L compliments of a big tree, and a little EWE switchable between Northeast and Southwest (see February 1995 QST) for receiving. So the end is in sight — just a couple more late night and early morning sessions..... ☺

New packet network on Long Island

Long Island, New York has a new emergency services packet node. It came on the air on 18 April and is the culmination of the efforts of amateur packet network specialists in the ARRL's New York City and Long Island section.

The system is a node stack operating on the 50, 144, 222, and 440 MHz bands. It provides excellent coverage of mid-Suffolk County. It also creates a redundant path be-

tween packet systems operating near the towns of Jamesport and Huntington. System backers say that it enhances the existing emergency service infrastructure and makes a network that stretches the entire length of Long Island. — Hudson Loop, *Newsline*

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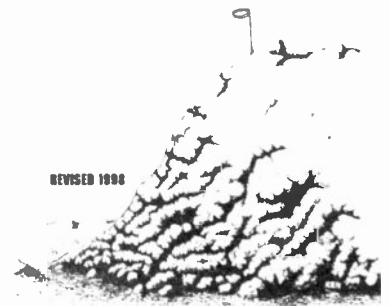
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SIX METERS

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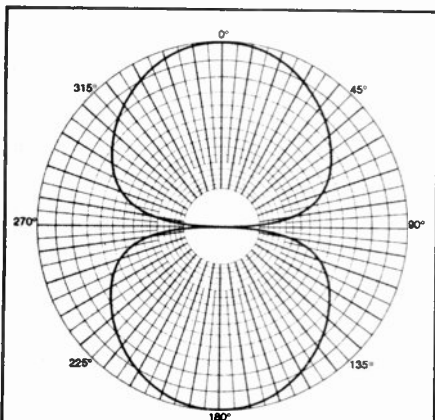
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AERIALS

Kurt N. Sterba

Information has come my way that someone has taken great umbrage at my remarks. This had to do with claims of a half-size antenna with "full-size" performance. I had said, and do say, that if the manufacturer had said "almost full-size" or "nearly full-size" I would not have written about it, nor this follow-up.

The manufacturer claims he is an honest man and I have absolutely not a reason to doubt that.

So let us continue. To the best of my knowledge, none of these claimants, over lo these many years of proclaimed antennas that would

defy the governing laws, have possessed an EE degree.

There is not a serious, professional-level antenna book that agrees with said claimants. It may surprise some but there is an entirely different, and much higher, level of antenna thought than is found in Lew McCoy's antenna articles in *CQ*. (That is not meant to take anything away from Lew at all, it is to point out the difference between amateur and professional. Besides, I know Lew enjoys seeing his name in print no matter what is said.)

Not only are there a great number of serious antenna books written by Ph.D.s, there are the periodicals issued by the IEEE in which the leading lights share their discoveries. It is amazing that none of these bright people, lifetime students of physics and electromagnetism, in industry, at university research labs, shortwave transmitting antenna companies and the like can create antennas with the parameters that come out of garages where the most sophisticated piece of test equipment is an Eico vacuum-tube voltmeter.

I think back to the 4L loop antenna that beat a 10L Yagi by seven S-units. I offered to pay his way to Dayton where he could enter that antenna in the measuring contest. He "couldn't get away" that weekend. I made the same offer for another measuring contest near him

on a different date. He "had other plans" for that weekend. I can't tell you just how very surprised I was that he couldn't ever get to a measuring test.

But to the issue at hand. According to the best knowledge currently available, cutting an antenna in half will result in a loss of about 1-1/2 dB. Now, granted, that's not the worst thing in the world and would probably not even be noticed at the receiving end. But, it is NOT "full-size performance" either.

Some time back I mentioned an antenna which was made up of a dipole bent into a square. Manufacturer made certain claims and went into orbit when I challenged them. I merely asked him to send me any notation from any literature that backed him up. I (in my quest to spread knowledge) sent him a photocopy of a page from *The ARRL Antenna Book* which essentially said he was full of prunes. I've never heard back.

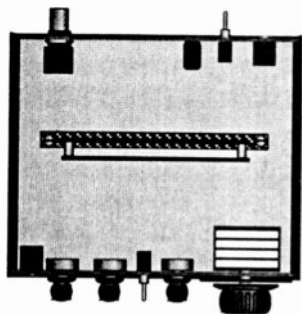
Allow me to digress for a moment, which will then lead back to the main topic. We have antennas (with "bionic" coupling) which are claimed will chew up Yagis and spit them out. The offered proof for that is that some Ham in Tasmania or somewhere won Oceania in the 15M low power category or some such. That means nothing. In reality, such is not "proof" but is merely considered as "anecdotal." Some years back, as recounted here, I would contact all continents (WAC) on patio umbrellas, rain gutters, ladders, wires draped on fences and the like, without making extravagant claims for the efficiencies of such.

I remember one claim about working Europe on a certain manufactured antenna. Turns out the antenna was on a cliff (W2) overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. A garbage can lid would have worked Europe from there.

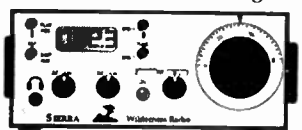
MFJ has a little box out of which comes a whip antenna about the length of an automobile's AM broadcast receiver antenna. DXCC has been worked (with 100 Watts) from the U.S. Midwest with that \$80 unit. Also, *CQ's* "Worked All Zones" (which is much more difficult than DXCC) has been obtained with that little box. MFJ, much to their credit, has never made any "almost as good as a dipole" claims or anything similar.

Lakeview, which is run by a good old boy, and with whose antennas

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The Sierra is the only compact, low-current, multiband QRP transceiver available. It uses plug-in modules to cover all HF bands. There's no chassis wiring--all components, controls and connectors are mounted on a single board. The superhet receiver has 5 poles of crystal filtering, RIT, and AGC, yet only draws 35mA! Power out is 2 to 3 watts, with fast QSK and no relays. The prototype Sierra is featured on the cover of the 1996 ARRL Handbook, and lab test results can be found in the June, 1996 issue of *QST*.

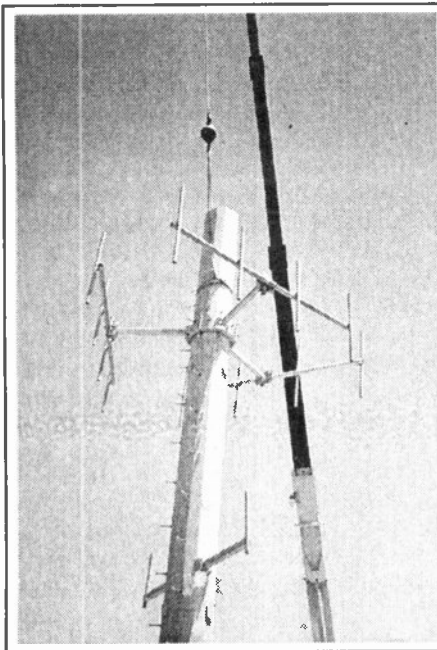
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City of Sunnyvale, CA, tower replacement project. What is on the top? A 2 Meter J-pole, with 2 more Amateur antennas at a lower level. — Photo by Walter Rees, WA6BAX

I've worked the world, says in his literature that short antennas are a "compromise." Bless his heart.

I will now suggest something that you will most likely never see happen.

The next time that some manufacturer comes up with one of those rhombics in a cigar box, let them TEST it in the view of others. Yes, granted, renting an antenna range can be expensive but a 40-acre piece of farmland can be found and rented for a day. My advice to the antenna company is to ask (and pay their travel expenses) Arch Doty, W7ACD, (better known to thousands with his call of K8CFU) and Roy Lewallen, W7EL, to observe the tests. Those two are real measurement people.

If you are in the South try to get Lew Gordon, K4VX, to observe. In the Northwest, Rush Drake, W7RM; in the Northeast, Joe Reisert, W1JR. Nobody will be able to push anything past those guys.

Unless an antenna has been truly tested, whatever being said about it is just talking trash. If the antenna company says they can't find any space to do the testing, ask them "How come those 75M mobile antenna shootout guys can find space?"

What we're looking at is gain readings in which an antenna is compared to a reference dipole, both having been in the exact same spot.

Do you have a good guess why you don't see that recounted in antenna ads?

Is it because many gain figures are coming out of the keyboard instead

of from the Field Strength Meter? Has Mr. Full Size Performance truly tested his antenna under the stringent conditions outlined here in recent columns? There is a small booklet issued by the Electronic Industries Association titled "Measuring Amateur Radio Antennas." It is truly worthwhile.

Sometime back there was an antenna with rubber belts, whizzing motors, a bandwidth of 10 kHz and a price tag that would have fed a family of three for months. I poked some fun at it and got a letter from a college professor that contained many formulas and references. Yawn, yawn.

What could have impressed me was something they never did, or at least never told anybody about it. I would have liked to have seen something like this: "On the 17th of July, at the football field of Seattle High School we set up our Bandsmasher Dumafloggy IV antenna. Using a 100W transmitter we took Field Intensity readings with the receive equipment located 400 feet away from the transmitting antenna. Our antenna was taken down and an old corroded Hy-Gain 14-AVQ with four radials, each a 1/4 wavelength long was put in its place. Our antenna beat the vertical by 1.46 dB." Or, "our antenna was only 0.96 dB down."

Is that the perfect test? Not exactly. But, it is at least something close! It doesn't even mean you can duplicate those results from your back yard while you shout to get the attention of the DXpedition operators on Hitareef Island. But, it is at least something! We can assume, if such a test as above is conducted, that at least RF has been applied to the type of antenna before you have purchased it. There is no assurance, of course, that production models will perform as well as prototypes.

What we're hoping for is that in setting up such a test that the Mongoose Antenna Company, after seeing their new antenna get whipped (by 12dB against a \$20 Lakeview

antenna on a mag mount positioned on an upside-down wheelbarrow), would at least have the common decency to say, "Well, it's back to the old drawing board!"

Back to half-size antennas. If you are driving at the edge of town you will see the blinking red lights on the AM broadcast towers. The station at 640 kHz has a tower about 365 feet tall. If they are a directional station (skewed pattern to protect (not interfere with) another station on the same frequency, some long distance away they may have two or more towers, phased in such a manner that the radiation is more prominent in the chosen directions.

There are some stations that have different patterns for day and for night time, which results in many towers. Somehow, all the bright people connected with AM broadcasting have been unable to figure out how to do the same job with towers half the size, which would obviously save them considerable money.

(Next month's column will present the writings of rather brilliant readers sharing their knowledge.)

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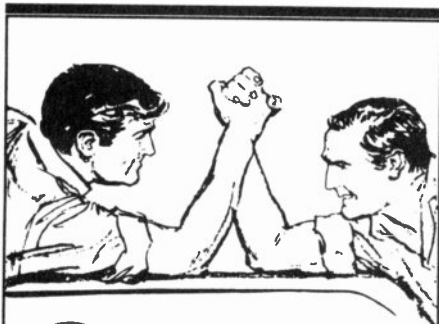
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Search-and-Pounce

In the March issue, you read about “running” — that is, calling CQ and trying to get stations to call you. This month, we’ll discuss “search-and-pounce” (S&P), the technique whereby you move slowly across the band calling new stations as you hear them.

S&P-ing is a skill that every contestant must learn to do well. There are times when, for whatever reason, you won’t be able to attract a lot of attention by calling CQ. On those occasions, the best way to keep up your “rate” (the number of contacts you make in a given period) is to scan the band and call every station you hear. If you run lower power, either as a Low Power (100W max) or QRP (5W max) entrant, S&P-ing will be means by which you make most or all of your contacts.

So, how do you do this well? Methodically, I suggest. Start at one end of the band, preferably the bottom end, and slowly move up, identifying each station in turn. A quick check of your paper dupe sheet, or plugging the call into your computer should tell you if the stations you hear are needed. When you’re sure that the station you want has just finished a contact, send your call once (proper phonetics on SSB, please), then listen. With a bit of luck, he or she will come back to you right away, and you can complete the contact with the required contest exchange. If your quarry comes back to someone else, listen to the way he or she is working people, and adjust your calling as appropriate. On SSB, make sure your RIT is off.

On CW, make sure that you call on the exact same frequency as the last person your target worked. If you’re unsuccessful after a few tries, move on to the next signal up the band. But if the station you’re after is a new multiplier, it may be worth your while to try a few extra minutes. Too much time spent working too few stations does your score no good.

As you read the next few paragraphs, keep in mind that more than 99% of the time in contests, people work “transceive.” That is, they transmit and receive on the same frequency.

If the station you’re after has a pile-up going, you would do well to listen carefully to how he or she is managing the mob. Listening to how other people manage to attract the attention of the rare one can often give you clues as to how the DX is handling things. Timing your call is very important, particularly on SSB, where signal strength and timing are the only means by which one station can stand out in a pileup.

On CW things are a little more flexible. Signal strength and timing are still important, but choosing the right frequency can be more important. On CW, you are normally listening in a 250 to 500Hz passband, where a variety of tones will be equally readable and copiable. Some people prefer to respond to signals at a higher note, some to a lower note. Your mission in a CW pileup is to judge if the person at the other end has a preference, and to place your signal so that the other person hears you at his preferred tone. With most modern transceivers, your side tone will be identical to the slight offset of your transceiver, and you can use your side tone as a guide. Adjust your VFO so that your side tone sounds the same as the note of the last person your quarry worked. Alternatively, in bigger pileups, it may be more useful to distinguish yourself from the throng by placing your signal near the edges of your target’s passband. The important thing is to be flexible, and follow the example of the ones who do attract the DX stations’ attention.

As you tune through the band, you may well hear other stations that would be new multipliers for you S&P-ing others. To work other S&P-ers, you might try jumping up in frequency a bit (500Hz-1kHz on CW, 2Hz-3kHz on SSB) and blindly calling that station. A quick one-by-one

call often does the trick, and you may snag a hard-to-work multiplier.

There are times when you want to S&P only for new multipliers. Searching the band for new ones can be very profitable, as many DX stations are content to simply “run” for the duration of the contest. As you move through the band looking for multipliers, you will hear clues about the locations of the stations you hear. Call sign prefixes are a good clue, and hearing someone give an exchange that indicates they’re a needed multiplier is another.

There are also clues that should tell you to move on. In the ARRL DX contest, for example, anyone sending a State is someone you can safely bypass without stopping to copy the call sign. In the CQ WW contests, you can safely bypass anyone sending a well-worked Zone, if you are certain you have already worked all the countries in that Zone. If you are desperate to find someone in a particularly far-flung location, it might be worth the risk to bypass very strong local-sounding signals you hear as you cruise the band.

To relate a personal experience, in the 1989 CQ WW DX CW contest, I entered as a 20M single-band entrant. By the time the contest was three-quarters over, I had worked 39 of the 40 zones, missing only Zone 22. Zone 22 includes India (VU) and Sri Lanka (4S), and I had heard but did not work two VU stations early in the contest. Knowing that 20M was often open to VU at 2300Z, near the end of the contest, I resolved to spend most of the last hour with my beam pointed to VU calling CQ. On that bearing, I worked many European and Japanese stations, but nothing from Zone 22. I took the last ten minutes to S&P, looking only for Zone 22. With only one minute to go, I found a weak, watery 4S7 running stations. I worked him on the second call, then the clock flipped over to 0000z. I found my last zone in the last possible minute of the contest. What a great way to end a contest!

There are exceptions to the “transceive” rule in contests. Some DX stations are so accustomed to working “split,” that is transmitting on one frequency and listening on another, that they do this in contests as well. On 80M SSB and in either mode on 160M, working split is fairly common practice for intercontinental QSOs in contests. When using SSB on 40M, working split is

more likely to be the rule, because most of the world has only 7.0-7.1MHz on 40M, none of which intersects with the U.S. phone band. When working split in either mode, your best strategy is generally to use your second VFO to find the exact frequency of the last station the DX worked, and call there. If you don't get through the first time, double-check to make sure you're transmitting where you should be.

S&P-ing is a very important skill, and the best S&P-ers invariably cut their teeth as DXers, and the skills you develop in one pursuit are often a great advantage in the other.

Contest of the Month — RSGB IOTA Contest

1200 UTC Saturday 25 July to
1200 UTC Sunday 26 July 1998.
(PDT: 5 a.m. Saturday 25 July to 5
a.m. Sunday) (EDT: 8 a.m. Saturday
25 July to 8 a.m. Sunday)

The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the national organization of Radio Amateurs in the United Kingdom, has sponsored the Islands-on-the-Air award since the 1960s. This award rewards con-

firmed contacts with identified islands or island groups around the world. Over the last sunspot cycle, interest in IOTA mushroomed, and many DXers include island-chasing as a major part of their interests. Just look at the DX column of this magazine or any other — you'll see plenty of references to IOTA activity. IOTA has really become a nice compliment to DXCC and WAZ for many DXers.

Four years ago, RSGB decided to create a contest based on IOTA, and like the award, interest in the contest has risen dramatically. The IOTA contest has become a "can't miss" event for many people. Its 24-hour format is very appealing, and the time frame couldn't be better for those of us in North America, particularly in the eastern half of the continent. Not many contests let you get a full night's sleep just before the starting gun. Even fewer offer a 12-hour category for those who can't put in a full-time effort.

As you might expect, much of the attention in the contest is focused on those who are operating from IOTA-recognized islands, and many island expeditions are organized for

this contest. Mainlanders are not ignored, however, and there are separate categories for Island-based and so-called "world" (ie. mainland) stations. There is no multi-op category for those not on an island, however.

This contest takes place on both CW and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10M. This contest offers mixed-mode and single-mode categories, so both ambidextreous and one-mode-only Hams can take part in categories all their own.

A typical IOTA Contest SSB contact might sound like this:

Station 1: "CQ Contest Victor Echo Three India Yankee Portable Seven" (VE3IY/7 calls CQ very succinctly, using standard phonetics.)

Station 2: "Echo Japan Zero Sierra India" (EJØSI replies just by sending his or her call sign once.)

Station 1: "EJØSI 59 524 November Alpha Zero Three Six" (VE3IY/7 replies to EJØSI, and gives him a signal report — the universal "5-9," a serial QSO number and his IOTA reference — Vancouver Island is NA-036, then listens for EJØSI's reply.)

Station 2: "Roger, 59 633 Echo Uniform One Zero Three" (EJØSI replies to VY2SS with a signal report, a serial number and his IOTA reference — the Saltee Islands are EU-103.)

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| FNB-4 | 12v | 750 mAh \$39.00 |
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| FNB-17 | 7.2v | 600 mAh \$30.00 |
| FNB-10S | 7.2v | 1200 mAh \$39.00 |
| FNB-12S | 12v | 600 mAh \$40.00 |
| FNB-25 | 7.2v | 600 mAh \$35.00 |
| FNB-26 | 7.2v | 1200 mAh \$44.00 |
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| PB1 | 12v @ | 1100 mah \$59.00 |
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| PB-13 | 7.2v @ | 750 mah \$37.00 |
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| PB-18 | 7.2v @ | 1500 mah \$47.00 |

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| EBP-10N | 7.2V @ | 700 mAh \$35.00 |
| EBP-12N | 12v @ | 700 mAh \$47.00 |
| DJ-F1T | | |
| EBP-16N | 7.2v @ | 750 mAh \$37.00 |
| EDP-18N | 12v @ | 600 mAh \$47.00 |
| DJ-180 DJ-580 | | |
| EBP-20N | 7.2v @ | 800 mAh \$34.00 |
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YAESU FT-11R /51R

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|-----------|--------|---------|
| FNB31, | 4.8V @ | 600mAh |
| FNB33, | 4.8v @ | 1200mAh |
| FNB33(s), | 4.8v @ | 1500mAh |
| FNB35SS, | 7.2v @ | 1500mAh |
| FNB38, | 9.6v @ | 600mAh |

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| BP-157(s), | 7.2v @ | 1500mAh |
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| Contest | Date/Time | Bands | QSO points | Multipliers | Exchange | Entry Categories | Entries |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| RAC Canada Day | 0000Z 01 Jul 2359Z 01 Jul | 160-2M CW & phone | 10pt/VE 20pt/RAC stns 2pt/DX | Can Provinces and Territories (12) worked on each mode on each band | RST Prov DX and VEO send Ser# | Single Op: All bands, Low power, single band Multi-op | 31 July 720 Belfast Rd Suite 217 Ottawa ON K1G 0Z5 Canada 30 Sep; Box 2285 Caracas 1010-A Venezuela |
| Venezuela SSB | 0000Z 04 Jul 2359Z 05 Jul | 160-10M SSB | 5pt/DX 3pt/NA 1pt/Own country | YV call areas + DXCC worked on each band | RS Ser# | Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op: Single or Multi-tx | 30 Sep; Box 2285 Caracas 1010-A Venezuela |
| Fourth of July QRP Sprint (Michigan QRP Club) | 2300Z 04 Jul 0300Z 05 Jul | 160-6M CW and SSB | 5pt/MI QRP Club Member 4pt/DX 2pt/VE or W non-member | US States, Canadian Provinces and Territories, DXCC worked on each band if either your TX or RX were home-made, multiply your score by 1.25. If both were home-brew, multiply by 1.5 | RST QTH & MI QRP club # | A-0-250mW output B-250mW-1W output C-1-5W output D-5W or more output | 30 days N8CQA |
| IARU HF Championship | 1200Z 11 Jul 1200Z 12 Jul | 160-10M CW & SSB | 1pt/ur Zone 3pt/oth NA Zones 5pt/DX | ITU Zones (75) worked on each band + HQ stations | RST ITU Zone | Single Op: All bands, both or one mode, Single band, Low power, QRP | 1 mo. ARRL |
| CQ WW VHF | 1800Z 11 Jul 2100Z 12 Jul | 50MHz and up | 1pt/50, 144 MHz 2pt/220, 432 MHz 4pt/902, 1296 MHz 6pt/2304MHz+ +1pt/CW QSO | Grid squares worked on each band | Grid square | Single op: Fixed, Portable, QRP Multi-op: Class 1 (all bands), Fixed or Port Class 2 (any four bands) Fix or Port Rover | 31 Aug Box 73 Oklahoma City OK 73101 USA |
| South-East Asia Net CW | 0000Z 18 Jul 2359Z 19 Jul | 160-10M CW | 1pt/QSO Work SEANET countries only | 3 pts/SEANET countries: A4 A5 A6 A7 A9 AP BV DU EP HL HS JA JD1 JY KH2 P2 S7 VK VQ9 VS6 VU V8 XU XV XW XX9 Y8 ZK ZL ZM ZL6 ZL9 3B6/7 3B8 3B9 4S 4X 8Q7 9K 9M2 9M6/8 9N 9V | | Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op: Single or Multi-tx | 31 Oct 9M2FK Box 13 10700 Penang MALAYSIA |
| Colombian Independence Day | 0000Z 19 Jul 2359Z 19 Jul | 80-10M CW and SSB | 5pt/HK 3pt/DX 1pt/NA 0pt/VE | HK Call areas + DXCC countries worked on each band | RST Ser# | Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op: Single or Multi-tx | 31 Aug Box 584 Santa fe de Bogota Colombia |
| South Pacific 160M | 0500Z 19 Jul 2359Z 19 Jul | 160M CW - SSB | 5pt/QSO Work P2, VK and ZL only | P2, VK and ZL call areas | RST Ser# | Single op: Mixed Mode, CW only, SSB only | 5 weeks ZL1AAS |
| Venezuela CW | 0000Z 25 Jul 2359Z 26 Jul | 160-10M CW | 5pt/DX 3pt/NA 1pt/Own country | YV call areas + DXCC worked on each band | RST Ser# | Single Op: All bands, Single band Multi-op: Single or Multi-tx | 31 Oct; Box 2285 Caracas 1010A Venezuela |
| Islands on the Air (IOTA) (RSGB) | 1200Z 25 Jul 1200Z 26 Jul | 80-10M | 15pt/IOTA 5pt/DX 2pt/QSO with your own country or IOTA reference | IOTA references worked on each mode (CW and SSB) on each band | RST Ser# +IOTA ref. If you are on an IOTA island | There are separate sections for stations on IOTA recognized islands and those elsewhere. In each of these sections there are the following categories: -24hr Single Op: Mixed mode, CW, SSB -12hr Single op: Mixed mode, CW, SSB -Multi-op single tx SWL | 28 Aug G9UFY |

Addresses: CQ — 76 N Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801 USA ARRL — 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111. Call sign — Callbook address
Bands: The 30, 17 and 12M bands are never used in any contest. Official forms and complete rules may be available from me. Please send SASE for details.
for more listings check the contest page on the Worldradio web site: www.wr6wr.com

Station 1: "Thank you. Victor Echo Three India Yankee Portable Seven" (VE3IY/7 thanks EJØSI for the contact, and is standing by for other stations to call him. If he gets no response, he'll call CQ again.)

If you are not located on an IOTA-recognized island, or if you are on the mainland, you have no IOTA designator to send, so your exchange will include only a signal report and serial number.

Your log

For this contest, your best bet may be good old-fashioned paper logging. Official forms are available from the RSGB, but your own forms or those adapted from another contest will almost certainly fit the bill.

To the best of my knowledge, there is only one piece of software that correctly logs and scores the IOTA contest — SuperDuper (SD) by Paul O'Kane, EI5DI. I'm a little reluctant to endorse SD. While it has a lot of features and does accurately calculate your score as you go, it has some significant limitations. For instance, SD won't allow you to network several computers, it doesn't allow you

to use an LPT port to send CW, and the partial-call checking routine works only on suffixes or prefixes.

If you are interested in trying SD, a shareware version for the IOTA contest only is available at www.blacksheep.org/~okanep

The deadline for entries is 26 August 1998, and you should send your entry to RSGB HF Contests Committee c/o S.V. Knowles G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Rd., Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, U.K.

Other contests in July

Here in the northern hemisphere, July is the time of mid-summer doldrums, with generally poorer conditions on all bands, and very high levels of atmospheric noise on the low bands. That's not to say that there's nothing doing on the bands. There's lots of DX to be worked, plenty of antenna work to be done, and some interesting contests to enjoy.


The biggest contest of July is the International Amateur Radio Union's (IARU) HF Championship. This world-wide DX contest takes place on both CW and SSB. Multi-

pliers are ITU Zones (see January *Worldradio* for more information) on each band.

Another interesting contest is the Radio Amateurs of Canada's Canada Day Contest. This contest takes place on Canada's national birthday, 01 July. This year Canada Day falls on a Wednesday, which although inauspicious for a contest, is a day off work for almost all Canadians. Like the IARU, there will be activity on both CW and SSB in this 24-hour contest. There will be lots of activity, and increasing numbers of U.S. amateurs have been taking part in this contest.

If you're really keen on a challenge, or if you want to prove the value of that DSP-equipped rig you just bought, consider the Australian- and New Zealand-sponsored South Pacific 160M contest. While it's mid-summer up here, it's mid-winter "down under" as VKs, ZLs and P29s are enjoying the quiet of top-band winter conditions.

July also features contests where the action focuses on Columbia, Venezuela and South east Asia.

73, Good luck in the contests. 

Hamfests July

Do you have a hamfest coming up? Send your information to our 28th St. office at least 2 months in advance of your event. We'll send prizes!



ARIZONA

The **Amateur Radio Council of Arizona** is sponsoring the largest free admission hamfest in the Southwest, July 24-26. I-17 exit 337 Flagstaff. Manufacturers, Dealers, Exhibits, Nationally renowned speakers, seminars, Huge Swap, Camping. Write: ARCA, P.O. Box 42003-312, Phoenix, AZ 85080-2003; 602/779-2722; Voice Mail, 602/439-4484; fax, e-mail: arcathill@aol.com. Reserve early. This is a **MUST ATTEND** event.

CALIFORNIA

Calaveras ARS will hold an Amateur Radio Flea Market Saturday, 18 July, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Utica Park, Angels Camp. Buyers free! Sellers \$5. Talk-in 145.170 (-), PL 100.00. For information call: Steve, 209/878-3829 or Susan, 209/795-0618.

San Diego County Amateur Radio Council (SANDARC) will hold a hamfest in San Diego, CA, 14-16 August, at the Town & Country Convention Center. Lots of commercial exhibits and seminars. VE testing will be given all day Saturday, 15 August, free of charge. Pre-registration for the convention is available until 01 Au-

gust by calling 619/278-4284. Special pricing for the hotel is available by calling 800/77-ATLAS. Pre-registration VE testing, call 619/475-EXAM. Info. available at: www.geocities.com/silicon_valley/lakes/8400/. Be sure to look for the **Worldradio** booth!

FLORIDA

The **Milton ARC** is sponsoring the Milton, FL, '98 Hamfest 24-25 July, Friday 5-9 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For info. contact Walter Yarbrough, WA4TFR, 850/994-7335 or Bill Couch, W4VY, 850/623-0592, e-mail: w4vy@aol.com. For reservation: Milton ARC, P.O. Box 4072, Milton, FL 32572-4072.

KENTUCKY

The **Monroe County ARC** Hamfest will be held in Tompkinsville, KY, 11 July at The National Guard Armory Highway 163. Setup 6:30 a.m. Doors open at 8 a.m. Tables \$7. Admission \$5.

VE testing and walk-ins are accepted. Door prizes and concessions. Talk-in: 146.775. For information or for tables call J. Bunch, 502/678-5784 or email David Welch, K4PL, at dwelch@glasgow-ky.com

MARYLAND

The **Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society (BRATS)** will hold its annual Maryland Hamfest and Computer Fest on Sunday, 26 July at the Timonium Fairgrounds. VE exams. Admission \$5, children under 12 free. Tailgating spaces are \$10. Vendor pre-registration is required. To register, call John Creel, WB3GXW after 6 p.m. at 301/572-5124.

Talk-in: 147.03 (+), 224.96, 448.325. Information at www.smart.net/~brat;

e-mail: brats@smart.net; call or fax: 410/467-4634; or write BRATS Hamfest, P.O. Box 5915, Baltimore, MD 21282-5915.

MICHIGAN

The **Straits Area ARC Swap & Shop** will be held on Saturday, 11 July at Emmet County Fairgrounds, Petoskey, MI. Prizes, commercial displays, refreshments. Talk-in: 146.68 (-) and 146.52. Adm: \$3, tables \$5. Testing 1 p.m. at Red Cross Bldg. Contact N8OIV, 616/347-7771.

MONTANA

The **Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest** 17-19 July at Three Forks Campground near East Glacier, MT. BBQ, dealers, contests, seminars, VE Exams, and activities for adults and children. Talk-in: 146.520. Visit the Hamfest Home-page: www.tlatech.com/hamfest/.

NORTH CAROLINA

Western Carolina ARS, Asheville, NC, hamfest will be on 25 July at the Haywood County Fairgrounds (Near Waynesville, NC), approx 25 miles west of Asheville. Take exit 24 off I-40 then south on Hwy 209 three miles or take exit 104 off US 19-23 then north on Hwy 209 one mile. Commercial dealers, covered flea market, tailgating. VE testing. Free parking. Food and refreshments by Haywood County Shriners with proceeds going to Shriners Childrens Hospitals. Dealer & Flea market info: Chet Allen, KE4VXC, (828)258-3954. E-mail KE4VXC@juno.com. Tickets: Bob Helton, KS4FX, P.O. Box 1488, Asheville, NC 28802. E-mail BHelton@interpath.com. Info: Tommy Queen, K4BNP, 828/258-2639. E-mail K4BNP@aol.com or K4BNP@juno.com. Tickets: \$4.00 advance. \$5.00 at gate. Talk-in: 146.76 and 146.91.

26th Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest will be held Saturday, 18 July. This event is sponsored by **Cary ARC**. Doors open 8 a.m. Talk-in: 147.15 (+). Tickets \$5 or \$4 in advance. For information contact:

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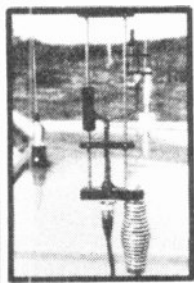
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<http://home.earthlink.net/~windjammer1/antennas.html>

CARC, P.O. Box 53, Cary, NC 27512.

The North Carolina Alligators Group Nets Firecracker Hamfest will be 11 July at 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Salisbury Civic Center, Salisbury, NC. Advance admission \$3 with SASE \$4 at the door (always free to XYLs). Price of admission allows set up outside for the Flea-Market. Tables in the air-conditioned center are \$5.00. Dealers setup, 3-9 p.m., check-in 7 a.m. Saturday. Names drawn on the 1/2 hour for prizes. Auction 1 p.m.

From Interstate #85, West/East Innes Street, turn left on South Boundary Street and the Fest is on the left. Talk-in on 146.520 simplex. Contact Walter (Alligator) Bastow, N4KVF, 3045 High Rock Rd., Gold Hill, NC 28071, tel. 704/279-3391 for information.

OHIO

The Wood Country ARC Ham-Rama 12 July, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Wood Co. Fairgrounds (Poe Rd & SR64). Indoor/outdoor flea market. Free admission and parking. VE sessions. Talk-in: 147.180/444.475 (77.0 Hz). For information contact: Shawn Hudson, KB8QEW, P.O. Box 534, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. 419/354-1811 or sjhudson@wcnet.org

Triangle ARC Hamfest at Columbiana County Fairgrounds 05 July, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Vendor setup 6 a.m. Free parking, refreshments. Talk-in: 146.70 and 146.805. Mobile check-in prize drawn at noon. Adm \$5, inside tables \$9 plus admission. Contact: Dick Sisley, K8JKB, 1218 Northside Ave., East Liverpool, OH 43920. Tel. 330/385-1245.

On 25 July, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. the **OH-KY-INARS Hamfest** at the Diamond Oaks Career Development Campus, 6375 Harrison Ave. just east of I-275 and I-74. Take I-74 to the Rybolt and Harrison Ave. exit. Go east on Harrison Ave. located on the right hand side (south side) of Harrison,

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less than one mile from the I-74 exit. Special seminars to develop technical understanding in Amateur Radio, transmitter hunt, vendors, outdoor flea market — free with admission. VE session, refreshments. Talk-in: 146.67. Admission: adv \$4, door \$5, 12 and under free; indoor vendor tables (with electric!) \$8. Dana Laurie, WA8M, 280 Hillcrest Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215-2610, 513/761-7388, rdl@one.net

Paulding County Amateur Radio Group Inc. 8th Annual Hamfest on Sunday, 26 July at the Park Lane Center on Fairgrounds Rd. in Paulding. Setup 6 a.m. Inside table \$5, outside table \$3. Gate free, accepting donations. Talk-in: 146.46/46 S, 146.865/265 R. For information contact: PCARG Inc., P.O. Box 86 or 10392 S.R. 500, Paulding, OH 45879; 419/399-4507 or e-mail: jlrhod@bright.net

The Van Wert ARC 11th annual Hamfest 19 July at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission \$5, parking free. VE Exams, Talk-in: 146.850/250. Preregistration by 12 July, send SASE or call Bob High, KA8IAF, 12838 Tomlinson Rd., Rockford, OH 45882; tel: 419/795-5763. Table reservations send SASE with name and address to: VWARC, P.O. Box 602, Van Wert, OH 45891-0602. Tables \$10 (8ft) includes one free ticket. Setup 6 a.m. Sunday After 5 p.m. Bob, WD9LPY, 419/238-1877, after 06 July call 419/795-5763.

PENNSYLVANIA

The Harrisburg Radio ARC Firecracker Hamfest 04 July 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Monaghan Fire Hall, Dillsburg, PA. Prizes, food, VE testing. Admission \$4: Tables \$12. Talk-in: 146.76 For information phone the HRAC AnswerLine, 717/232-6087

Jonestown Mountain Repeater Association Computer and Hamfest Saturday, 18 July at Beach Haven Carnival Grounds, Salem Township. Gate opens 8 a.m., setup 6:30 a.m. or earlier. VE testing 9 a.m. Grand prize drawing at 1 p.m. Admission \$5 Family free. Free tailgating. \$10 per 8-foot table. Door prizes. Talk-in: 145.130 PL 77.0 and 146.520 Simplex. For information contact: Charlie, AD3L, 717/864-2571; Dean, KE3WP, 717/542-4217; Mike, K3EVQ, 717/752-1334; Rich, N3YGL, 717/784-0488.

The North Hills ARC, Pittsburgh Hamfest 12 July 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Northland Public Library, 300 Cumberland Rd., Pittsburgh, PA.

Talk-in and check-ins will be on 149.09.

Free admission/parking. One free automobile-sized space per tailgater; each additional space \$5. The Hamfest is handicap/wheelchair accessible. For information contact: Bob Ferrey, Jr., N3DOK, at 412/367-2393, or via e-mail n3dok@pgh.net or North Hills Amateur Radio Club's web site: <http://nharc.pgh.pa.us>

TENNESSEE

The Cleveland ARC Hamfest Saturday, 18 July 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Bradley Central High School. Door prizes. Vendor booths and tailgating spaces available. Talk-in 147.180(+) or 146.925(-). Admission \$5, extra tickets \$1. Information contact: David Evans, WD4EZC, 423/472-1421; or Bob Gault, KD4NEC, 423/479-6260; CARC, P.O. Box 2683, Cleveland, TN 37320-2683; e-mail: carc@rocketmail.com

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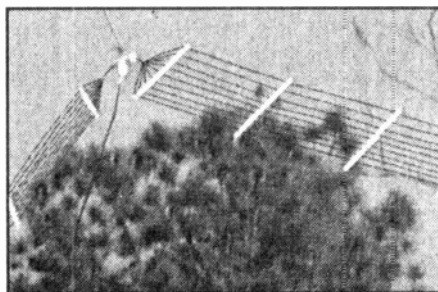
Sony offers its new radio scanners in electronic, hobby and specialty stores. The ICF-SC1 PC, includes the CD-ROM, interface cable, interface software and scanner for \$429.95 (MSRP). The ICF-SC1, is available for \$329.95 (MSRP). For more information, contact Sony at 800/222-SONY (7669).



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Dynamic Electronics Inc. is pleased to announce the release of the DP-9 and DP-9S Multiband HF Antennas. The DP-9 is nine full size dipole antennas separated with PVC spacers for 160-10 meters. Bandwidth is approximately the same as a single dipole with SWR less than 2:1 on each band allowing operation without an antenna tuner. Each antenna can be individually adjusted for resonance at any frequency within its band. There are no traps to fail allowing the antennas to handle maximum power. Only one cable with a PL-259 connector is required to connect to the SO-239 Socket. The DP-9 is 240' long.

The DP-9S antenna has coils placed in the center of each side for 160 Meters. The DP-9S is 140' long and has a 2:1 SWR bandwidth of approximately 30 Kilohertz on 160 Meters



and full bandwidth on the other bands. DP-9 costs only \$189 and the DP-9S costs only \$210 plus \$10 shipping to USA locations. For more information contact Dynamic Electronics Inc., P. O. Box 896, Hartselle, AL 35640, Tel.: 256/773-2758, Fax 256/773-7295, email: dei@whnt19.com, WEB www.hsv.tis.net/~dei

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THE HAMMARLUND SP-600-JX VIDEO

HI-RES COMMUNICATIONS has introduced a new addition to their line of repair and maintenance videos. With the introduction of the Hammarlund SP-600-JX Video, HI-RES COMMUNICATIONS has expanded their line of videos to include vintage radio gear from other manufacturers!

The Hammarlund SP600-JX Video is another high quality video produced for the vintage radio enthusiast. Chuck Rippel, WA4HHG, of R-390A Video fame, covers the tools, equipment and techniques required to properly work on this receiver. He then takes you step by step through the proper operation, modification, restoration and alignment of this classic. One of the most important sections of this video, however, is when Chuck shows you how to replace EVERY one of the old outdated capacitors which are found in most in the SP-600-JX receivers including the capacitors in the turret and RF strip! Chuck takes the mystery out of this very important part of any restoration! The benefits are immediately apparent when you listen to the improved audio from the speaker.

The Hammarlund SP-600-JX Video is priced at \$89.95! As always, purchasing any three or more videos from the Vintage Radio Video Library qualifies you for a 10% package discount! **Visa and Mastercard gladly accepted!**

For Mail Orders, add \$4.50 each for the first two videos for shipping in the USA. Additional videos are shipped at no extra charge.

For more information contact:

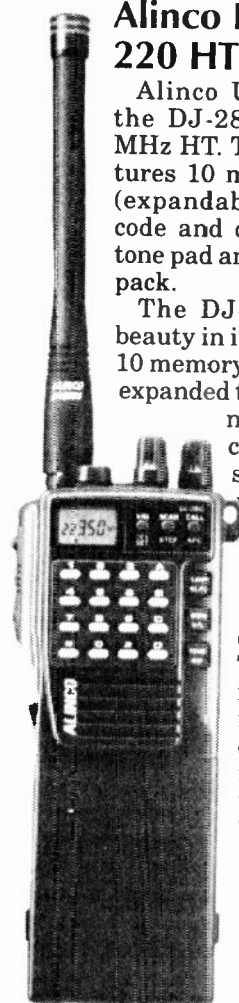
Floyd Soo (W8RO) HI-RES COMMUNICATIONS, INC. email: hires@rust.net http://www.rust.net/~hires.com.

Hams exempt from CB law

Hams have won a total exclusion from a new local jurisdiction CB radio enforcement bill before the U. S. Senate. This is a measure that will give state, city and other local governments the power to enforce federal regulations over 11 Meter CB radio operators and the interference that they cause.

Senate Bill 608's original version had no protection for Hams, so the ARRL met with Senator Feingold to hammer out new wording.

The measure, as redrafted totally



Alinco DJ-280T 220 HT

Alinco USA announces the DJ-280T, 222 — 225 MHz HT. The DJ-280T features 10 memory channels (expandable), CTCSS encode and decode, a DTMF tone pad and a NiCd battery pack.

The DJ-280T finds its beauty in its simplicity. The 10 memory channels can be expanded to 50 or 200 channels.

The DJ-280T can accommodate standard / non-standard repeater offsets and store in its memories the CTCSS encode/decode tones. The unit has flexible power requirements, operating in a range of 5.5VDC to 13.8VDC. Transmit power output will vary with input voltage to a maximum of 4 watts. The DJ-280T has an illuminated

display and can be modified for use on MARS frequencies, provided the proper operating permits are in place.

Owners of Alinco DJ-180 and DJ-580 radios will be pleased to find that accessories and battery packs are interchangeable with the DJ-280T. Among the accessory choices are NiCd battery packs, dry cell cases, cigarette lighter power adapter, a wide range of speaker/mic units, and memory expansion modules.

exempts Amateur Radio from its provisions. It was then presented as an amendment into Senate Bill 1618. That's the Consumer Anti-Slamming Act which was approved 12 May.

It's not yet known when the entire bill will come up for a vote in the House of Representatives. Feingold introduced the original version nearly two years ago, after receiving complaints from constituents of massive interference and the FCC's failure to act. — ARRL, *Newsline*

VE exam schedules

As a service to our readers, *Worldradio* presents a feature listing of those VE exams, times and locations which are sent to us. Please remember that our deadline for publication is three months in advance. For example, if your VE group is scheduling an exam for December, please have the information to us by mid-September. *Worldradio*, 2120 28th St., Sacramento, CA 95818. Please mark the envelope "VE Exams." List the location (City), any information examinees should

have (advance registration, etc.) and the name and telephone number of a person to contact for further information. Examinees should bring their original license (along with a photo copy), two forms of identification (at least one should be a photo), and required fee.

p/r pref=pre-register preferred but w/i OK w/i=walk-in only
p/r=pre-register only—no w/i w/i pref.=w/i preferred to p/r

| State | City | Contact | Notes | State | City | Contact | Notes |
|-------------------|---------------|--|-----------|--|----------------|---|-----------|
| Alabama | | | | Indiana | | | |
| 8/05/97 | Mobile | David, WA4VAC 205/649-5229 | | 8/15/98 | New Albany | Dick, K9RT 812/246-6377 | w/i |
| 8/8/98 | Rainbow City | Gene, KC4TFF 205/492-8194 or Lloyd 205/547-0358 | w/i | 8/2/98 | Terre Haute | Fred, K9EBK 812/466-2122 | p/r pref. |
| Arizona | | | | Iowa | | | |
| 8/8/98 | Tucson | Joe, K7OPX 520/886-7217 | w/i | 8/29/98 | Council Bluffs | Lorraine, AAØBS 712/322-1454 | p/r pref. |
| Arkansas | | | | Kentucky | | | |
| 8/15/98 | Gassville | Phil, AB5ZU 870/425-7406 | p/r pref | 8/11/98 | Hopkinsville | Steve, Kt4MT 502/885-1652 | |
| 8/09/97 | Siloam Sprgs | Mike, KJ5OP 501/524-8090 | p/r | 8/8/98 | Radcliff | Rick, AD4SM 502/352-2361 or Harold, AI4HB 502/352-0825 | |
| California | | | | 8/29/98 Council Bluffs West Community College Off Hwy 6, E. side of Council Bluffs | | | |
| 8/8/98 | Anderson | Al, 530/357-4834, N6BJ | p/r pref. | Maryland | | | |
| 8/09/97 | Brea | Robert, KD6DA 310/691-1514 | p/r | 08/20/98 | Towson | Bill, N3WD 410/HAM-TALK | p/r pref |
| 8/2/98 | Chico | Jackie, W6YKU 916/342-1180 | p/r pref. | Massachusetts | | | |
| 8/27/98 | Colton | Harold, AB6RN 909/825-7136 days or 909/685-6073 eves | p/r pref. | 8/15/98 | Melrose | Scott, WB1F 617/665-7654 | p/r pref. |
| 8/2/98 | Concord | Gene, WW6H 510/254-5090 | w/i only | Minnesota | | | |
| 8/29/98 | Culver City | Scott, K6PYP 310/459-0337 or Dave N3BKV 818/559-2572 | w/i | 8/01/98 | St. Paul | Ed, WØVC 612/636-0108 | p/r pref. |
| 8/01/98 | Culver City | Clive, AA6TZ 310/827-2538 | w/i pref. | Michigan | | | |
| 8/02&16/97 | Cupertino | Emmett, AE6Z 408/243-8349 | w/i only | 8/5/98 | Calumet | George, W8FWG, 906/337-2542 | p/r pref. |
| 8/16/97 | Downey | Wes, KA3DSE 310/923-5598 | p/r pref. | 8/1/98 | Iron Mountain | "Fuzzy", WD8HDP 906/246-3641 | p/r pref. |
| 8/30/97 | Escondido | Harry, WA6YOO 760/743-4212 | p/r | Missouri | | | |
| 8/29/98 | Escondido | Harry, WA6YOO 760/743-4212 | p/r | 8/15/98 | St. Louis | Ron, KBØDIY 314/510-3223 | p/r |
| 8/21/97 | Fountain Vly | Allan, AB6UB 714/531-6707 | p/r pref. | New Jersey | | | |
| 8/4/98 | Fremont | Dennis, K6DF 510/791-0914 | w/i only | 8/20/98 | Bellmawr | Diane, N2LCQ 609/227-6281 | w/i |
| 8/16/98 | Fresno | Charles, W6DPD 209/431-2038 | p/r pref. | 8/15/98 | Cranford | 24-hour hotline 973/377-4790 | w/i pref. |
| 8/15/98 | Glenn Ellen | Randy, 707/996-9252 | p/r pref. | New York | | | |
| 8/8/98 | Harbor City | Elvin, N6DYZ 310/325-2965 | p/r | 8/11/98 | Bethpage | Bob, W2ILP 516/499-2214 | w/i pref. |
| 8/22/98 | Lake Isabella | HOTLINE 760/379-2947 | p/r pref. | 8/8/98 | Leng Island | Al, W2QZ, 516/623-6449 | w/i |
| 8/16/97 | Long Beach | Donald, NN6Q 310/420-9480 | p/r pref. | 8/2/98 | Yonkers | Emily, AC2V 914/237-5589 | w/i ok |
| 8/18/97 | Mission Viejo | Louis, 714/951-0336 | p/r | North Carolina | | | |
| 8/31/98 | Montclair | Steve, 909/597-2249 | w/i pref. | 8/16/98 | Asheville | Steve, KC4ZYN, 704/645-3511 | w/i |
| 8/09/97 | Murphys | Lynn, AC6CY 209/736-4337 | p/r pref. | 8/8/98 | Azalea Coast | Jack, N2EMR 910/791-1566 | |
| 8/12/97 | Palm Desert | Don, W6EEN 760/345-8780 | p/r pref. | tba | Brevard | Harrison, KO4RV 704/877-4757 | |
| 8/30/97 | Pomona | Don, WA6HNC 909/949-0059 | p/r pref. | 8/15/98 | Burnsville | David, KK4PW 704/675-9044 or David, WA4LLR 704/675-9942 | w/i |
| 8/15/98 | Redwood City | Joe, KB6OWG 408/255-9000 | w/i only | 8/9/98 | Marion | Cecil, WB4UCF 704/668-3176 | w/i |
| 8/09/98 | Sacramento | Dick, N6DK 916/383-2113 | p/r | 8/8/98 | Robbinsville | Janet, KR4DU 704/479-3173 | w/i ok |
| 8/8/98 | San Pedro | Elvin, N6DYZ 310/325-2965 | p/r pref. | Ohio | | | |
| 8/13/97 | Santa Ana | Red Cross 714/835-5381 x140 | w/i | 8/1/98 | Cincinnati | Herb, WA8PBW 513/891-7556 | w/i pref |
| 8/30/98 | Sta. Barbara | Nancy, WR6V 805/967-4473 | p/r pref. | Oregon | | | |
| 8/15/98 | Stockton | Mark, W6DKI 209/465-7496 | w/i | Tuesdays | Bend | Bill, K7ZM 541/389-6258 | p/r only |
| 8/8/98 | Sunnyvale 1 | John, KG6XF or Gordon, W6NW 408/255-9000 | w/i only | 8/12/98 | Roseburg | Mel, AB 7DC 541/672-5884 | p/r pref. |
| 8/29/98 | Upland | Warburg, WA6HNC 909/949-0059 | p/r | Pennsylvania | | | |
| Colorado | | | | 8/1/98 Erie Norma, W3CG 814/665-9124 w/i only | | | |
| 8/8/98 | Col. Springs | Erik, KGØXE, 719/596-5345 | w/i | 8/6/98 | Philadelphia | Dusty, ND3Q 215/879-0505, 215/482-0386, 215/448-1139(tape) | p/r pref. |
| 8/8/98 | Denver | Glenn, WØIJR 303/366-0155 | w/i pref. | Puerto Rico | | | |
| 8/22/98 | Pueblo | Chas, 719/544-1613, or Russ, 719/542-2039 | w/i pref. | 8/29/98 | San Juan | Victor, KP4PQ 787/789-4998 | w/i |
| Florida | | | | Rhode Island | | | |
| 8/15/98 | Melbourne | Bill, WB9IVR 407/724-6183 | p/r pref. | 8/13/98 | Providence | Judy, KC1RI 401/231-9156; Al, NN1U 401/454-6848 | w/i pref. |
| 8/18/98 | Middletown | Paul Lux, K1PL 860/635-1742 | p/r pref | 8/30/97 | Slatersville | Bob, W1YRC 401/333-2129 | |
| Georgia | | | | South Carolina | | | |
| 8/29/98 | Dalton | Bert, N4BJZ 702/259-5625 or Harold, N4BD 706/673-2291 | w/i | 8/15/98 | Columbia | Ray, N4WR 803/345-3373 | w/i ok |
| 8/1/98 | Ellijay | Hugh, 4D4E or Dorothy, N4DTC 706/276-6660 | w/i | 8/1/98 | Greenville | Sue, N4ENX 864/967-0001 | w/i ok |
| 8/2/98 | Gainsville | Terry, K4FB 770/967-6364 | | 8/8/98 | Rapid City | Frank, NUØF 605/348-6564 | p/r pref. |
| Idaho | | | | 8/11/98 Spartanburg Peter, KI4KN 803/576-5566 day or 803/585-4919 eve | | | |
| 8/8/98 | Boise | Lem, W7JMH 208/343-9153 | w/i pref. | Illinois | | | |
| 8/26/98 | Grangeville | Larry AB7GY 208/983-2163 | w/i pref. | Anyday | Burr Ridge | Deni, W9DS 630/986-0061 | p/r |
| Illinois | | | | 8/16/97 | Morton | James, NT9C 309/266-6756 | p/r pref. |
| 8/8/98 | Oak Forest | David, NF9N 708/448-0580 | p/r pref. | 8/8/98 | Oak Forest | David, NF9N 708/448-0580 | p/r pref. |

(continued on page 69)

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VE exam schedules

(Continued from page 67)

Tennessee

| | | | | |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 8/10/98 | Blount County | Carroll, W4PCA | 423/982-5839 | w/i ok |
| 8/2/98 | Gallatin | Ronnie, KA4LUG | 615/452-0883 | |
| 8/20/98 | Jasper | Edgar, KF4CJ | 205/597-3863 | |
| 8/15/98 | Johnson City | Jim, AE4DA | 423/282-2490 | |
| 8/15/98 | Knoxville | Ray, W4CPA | 423/687-5410 | |
| 8/15,22/98 | Memphis | Stan, AC4CQ | 901/758-0661 | |

Texas

| | | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| 8/6/98 | Harlingen | George, K5MRT | 210/797-1762 | w/i ok |
| 08/11/98 | Houston | Harold, ND5F | 713/464-9044 | p/r pref. |

Virginia

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|-------------|----------|-----|
| 8/13/98 | Chesapeake | Pat, KE4URC | 421-9598 | p/r |
|---------|------------|-------------|----------|-----|

West Virginia

| | | | | |
|--------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| 8/8/98 | Huntington | Garry Ritchie | 304/733-1300 | p/r pref. |
|--------|------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|

Off the air

(Continued from page 22)

CQ call at a brisk 20wpm, and then berate the 5wpm operator when he or she cannot "keep up." That happened to me years ago during my very first attempt to get on the air. I blamed near quit Amateur Radio right then. I know two others who in fact did quit when subjected to such treatment.

Amateur Radio isn't a weapon, but too many ops try to use it as such. The attitude amongst these angst-filled individuals seems to be to keep Ham Radio as their own private preserve, with only a select few longtime on-air acquaintances allowed therein. That attitude can louse it up for everybody. Let's not perpetuate the pretense: CW has a place in Ham Radio, but no way should it, especially at high speeds, be mandatory.

BILL MAYERS, KG2DI
Canasota, NY

Antenna with a new twist

Just wanted to tell you that the article in the March issue by Bill

Petlowany, K6NO, "From out of the past — antennas with a new twist" was one of the most fascinating I've read in a long, long time! I have begun construction of a spiral coil to stick on top of my 36' base-loaded 160M vertical. The coil support is fashioned from a piece of pine wood with 4 radial arms of 1/2" Ash doweling 3' long for a total diameter of 6'. I am using aluminum welding wire of about 17 ga. for the coil. It is a bear to wind as the wire is springy and tends to jump out of the slots I've cut into the supports, but I can't wait to get it finished so I can try it out. I hope this wasn't an April Fool article that got printed in March by mistake! If what he says is true, this sort of coil could be a boon to us folks with small lots who work 40, 75 and 160. I'd love to see more about this sort of coil i.e., how to compute the support structure diameter, optimum wire sizes, etc.

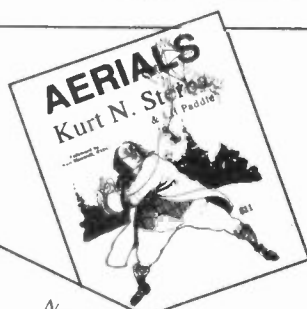
Keep up the good work...

BILL BROWN, W6ZUM
La Mesa, CA

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